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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 19 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Oaks  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy 172 N/A not for publication  
city, town Keachi X vicinity  
state Louisiana code LA county DeSoto code 031 zip code 71046

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Leslie Tassin 12/14/88  
Signature of certifying official Leslie Tassin, State Historic Preservation Date  
Officer, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Alvina Byer Entered in the 1/19/89  
National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls weatherboard

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roof asphaltother 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Oaks (c.1855) is a one story frame Greek Revival residence located in gently rolling countryside just west of the small community of Keachi. There have been some alterations, but none pose a serious integrity problem.

The hipped roof house has a conventional central hall plan with two rooms on each side. The five bay front gallery has square columns with typical 1850s capitals, end pilasters, and a full entablature. The entrance features an impressive aedicule style doorway executed on a grand scale. It is thirteen feet wide and has a particularly heavy entablature. Massive pilasters with molded capitals are complemented by more diminutive pilasters framing the door itself. The transom and sidelight muntins form a rectangular pattern. The front nine over nine windows feature jib doors complete with their original latches. The windows are shoulder molded with a pediment shaped top. Windows elsewhere are six over six with conventional square frames.

The Oaks originally had a rear gallery and a free-standing Greek Revival kitchen building located only one or two feet to the rear. The kitchen had its own gallery with an entablature and columns identical to the main house. In the late 1940s both galleries were enclosed and connected. (The gallery on the main house was obliterated except for the entablature, but two of the original four columns and a pilaster survive on the wing.) The resulting enclosed L-shaped gallery sloped to make the transition between the main house and kitchen. The present owners, who acquired the house in 1974, reworked the gallery floor, adding a step to make the transition. The two room kitchen dependency now contains a sitting room and a largely modern kitchen, but several original interior features remain, including two panel doors, simple door surrounds, an original pantry, and a chair rail with paneled wainscotting in the sitting room.

Noteworthy interior features of the main house include: (1) molded door and window surrounds with pedimented shape tops and shoulder molding; (2) pocket doors between the two rooms on the east side; (3) a chair rail in all of the rooms, with molded panels below in most cases; (4) two of the original four mantels. The one in the rear west room is very plain, while the one in the east rear room features a very heavy entablature, similar to the front doorway, and pilasters with inset panels with a round shape at the top. Doors are four panel and retain their original porcelain doorknobs and silver keyhole coverings in most instances. The central hall culminates in a wide rear doorway with a transom and sidelights like those on the front entrance.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Oaks, DeSoto Parish, LA

Section number   7   Page   1  

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Alterations (in addition to those previously mentioned):

- (1) A chimney has been lost on the east side (front room).
- (2) In 1988 an 1830s Greek Revival mantel salvaged from a local house was added to the west front room. (The original mantel, as well as the other missing one, were gone when the present owners acquired the house in 1974.)
- (3) A small bathroom was added on the west side between the chimneys.
- (4) The house was damaged by a tornado in November 1987 and three of the six front columns had to be duplicated. The corner column on the kitchen wing is also a duplicate.  
The reproduction columns are made of cypress.
- (5) The front gallery balustrade was also a tornado victim. The balusters were scattered all over the yard, and the top rail was damaged beyond repair. The balusters were collected, the top rail was reproduced, and the balustrade was reassembled.
- (6) The roof structure on the kitchen wing was completely destroyed by the tornado and had to be reconstructed.

Assessment of Integrity:

The foregoing alterations have not had a serious impact upon the house's Greek Revival character. Two mantels have been lost, but this is relatively minor in comparison to the impressive array of surviving Greek Revival features. The three replacement columns on the front gallery duplicate the appearance of the originals, and the capitals are all original. It is unfortunate that the kitchen dependency gallery has been enclosed, but the appearance is evident from the surviving features and could be fully restored.

There is a modern frame garage located adjacent to the house. Of course, it is a non-contributing element.

Historical Note:

The Oaks was built c.1855 by Henry F. Fullilove. Fullilove sold the house to Silas F. Talbert and his wife, Bella Horn Talbert, in 1877. It remained in the Talbert family until c.1960, then remained vacant for a number of years, and was purchased by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Donald B. Fisher, in 1974.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
architecture

Period of Significance  
c.1855

Significant Dates  
c.1855

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Oaks is locally significant in the area of architecture because it contributes to the distinctly Greek Revival architectural heritage of DeSoto Parish.

DeSoto Parish was settled between roughly 1840 and the 1850s by individuals from South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, and other nearby states. Of course, Greek Revival was literally the rage at the time, and DeSoto settlers embraced it with a vengeance. Although many examples from this architectural flowering have been lost, including the impressive Keachi Female College, an astounding number survive. Excluding New Orleans, DeSoto is one of three parishes considered to be major centers of Greek Revival architecture in the state. Whereas other parishes average about a half dozen Greek Revival residences, DeSoto boasts at least twenty, not to mention four churches, a temple fronted store, and a Masonic hall. Although a few of DeSoto's Greek Revival houses are impressive two story examples, none are "Gone With the Wind" piles. The one or one-and-a-half story examples tend to be galleried cottages (often with a hipped roof), although a few have a pedimented portico. It is also important to note that the Greek Revival in DeSoto was a rural phenomenon guided by local builders and carpenters who interpreted the style in their own way. This special heritage really represents the parish's architectural apogee. With the exception of a few landmarks, there has not been an architectural flowering in the parish since then.

In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, all surviving examples of the style are significant because they contribute to the parish's architectural identity as a center of Greek Revival architecture. Except for the five two story examples, it would be arbitrary to separate the other roughly comparable residences into gradations of importance. Distinguishing features of The Oaks are its Greek Revival gallery, impressive front doorway, front gallery windows with shoulder molding and pediment shaped tops, two mantels, and shoulder molding and pediment shaped door and window surrounds found throughout the interior. The Oaks derives additional distinction as the parish's only Greek Revival building with a styled Greek Revival dependency, albeit somewhat compromised by alterations.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Conveyance Records, DeSoto Parish.

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
  - previously listed in the National Register
  - previously determined eligible by the National Register
  - designated a National Historic Landmark
  - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
  - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

- Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of property @ 4 acres

UTM References

A 

1	5
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4	1	1	5	1	0
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3	5	6	1	0	9	1	0	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification Boundary lines were chosen to discretely encompass the significant resource. They do not follow property lines because doing so would have meant including hundreds of acres of vacant land.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

ASSISTED BY KEACHI HERITAGE FOUNDATION

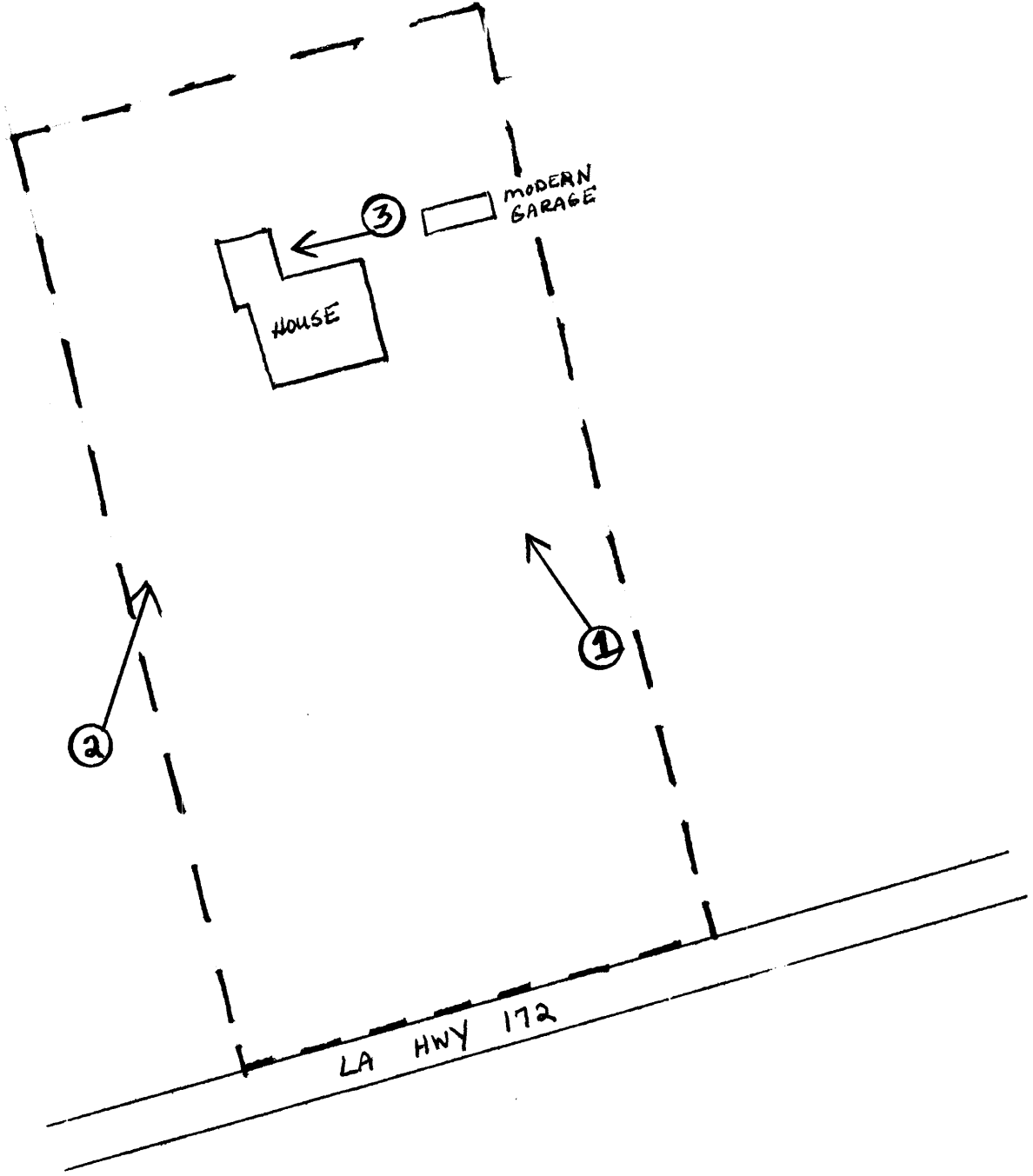
name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date November 1988

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Current owners: Mr. and Mrs. Donald B. Fisher  
 Rt. 1, Box 13  
 Keachi, LA 71046



"The Oaks"  
Keachi vicinity  
DeSoto Parish  
LA

1" = 100'

--- BOUNDARY

