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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 13 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 Liberty Lodge #123, F & A M
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number LA Hwys 5 and 172 N/A not for publication
city, town Keachi N/A 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>0</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>0</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 P. Tassin
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, State Historic Preservation Officer, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State or Federal agency and bureau _____
Date December 9, 1988

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:)

Richard Bryan 1/13/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls weatherboard

roof asphaltother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Liberty Lodge (c.1880) is a two story frame late Greek Revival Masonic hall prominently located in the small crossroads community of Keachi. Despite some alterations, the building retains its National Register eligibility.

The lodge has a curious history. What we know of it comes from Lodge Brother William H. Abington, who about 30 years ago examined lodge records which are now lost. His recollection, together with the architectural evidence, presents the following picture. Apparently Liberty Lodge was built c.1852 and severely damaged or outright destroyed by a tornado in 1880. It was rebuilt shortly thereafter using much of the original material. Although the rebuilding program maintained the essential Greek Revival style of the building (the Greek Revival taste being still current in Keachi), it is not known what specific design changes were made.

The present building consists of a shop below and a lodge meeting hall/ceremonial chamber above. The rear of the building contains ancillary rooms and an enclosed staircase which ascends to an anteroom to the meeting hall.

The lodge's principal architectural feature is its facade. This consists of a three bay entrance loggia with a fairly full entablature which is surmounted by a clapboarded second story with two windows. This in turn is surmounted by a full pediment with a similar entablature to the loggia. Under the loggia is a flushboard front with a central entrance door flanked by windows. Mid-nineteenth century salvaged elements include the columns, entablature and flushboarding of the loggia, the detailing of the pediment, and apparently the surviving six over six windows. It is difficult to tell if other elements of the present building are salvaged or if they were installed new in 1880. The interior is a hodgepodge of different types of tongue and groove beaded board. The meeting hall itself is completely modern with plywood paneling and an acoustical tile ceiling. Other changes include the replacement of the side windows with aluminum nine over six units, the addition of a side lean-to, and the installation of a metal fire escape.

Assessment of Integrity:

Despite these changes, the lodge still easily conveys its Greek Revival style, with elements including the loggia, the pediment, and two entablatures.

See continuation sheet

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.1880

Significant Dates
c.1880

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.

Liberty Lodge #123, F & A M is locally significant in the area of architecture because it contributes to the distinctly Greek Revival architectural heritage of DeSoto Parish.

Although it is a late example, the lodge shows the continuing Greek Revival taste in the later nineteenth century in DeSoto Parish. This area was settled in the antebellum period by individuals from South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, and other nearby states. They embraced the popular Greek Revival style and created an impressive architectural heritage which spans the Civil War. Although many examples have been lost, 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. Moreover, DeSoto is very unusual in having four Greek Revival churches, a temple fronted store, and Liberty Lodge. These non-residential examples show how the Grecian style was adapted for all types of structures from shops to institutional buildings. They also set the DeSoto collection of Greek Revival buildings far above those found in other parishes where virtually all the examples are residences. Thus the lodge helps DeSoto Parish present a more complete picture of the overall Greek Revival than can be seen elsewhere in the state.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Personal communication with William H. Abington, who in 1955 examined the now unavailable minute books of Liberty Lodge #123 F & A M.

Historic Structures Survey, DeSoto Parish, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.

- 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

Acres of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 15 414600 3561400
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Please refer to enclosed sketch map. Boundary lines follow property lines of the lot on which the lodge building stands.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary lines follow property lines of the lot on which the building stands.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

ASSISTED BY KEACHI HERITAGE FOUNDATION

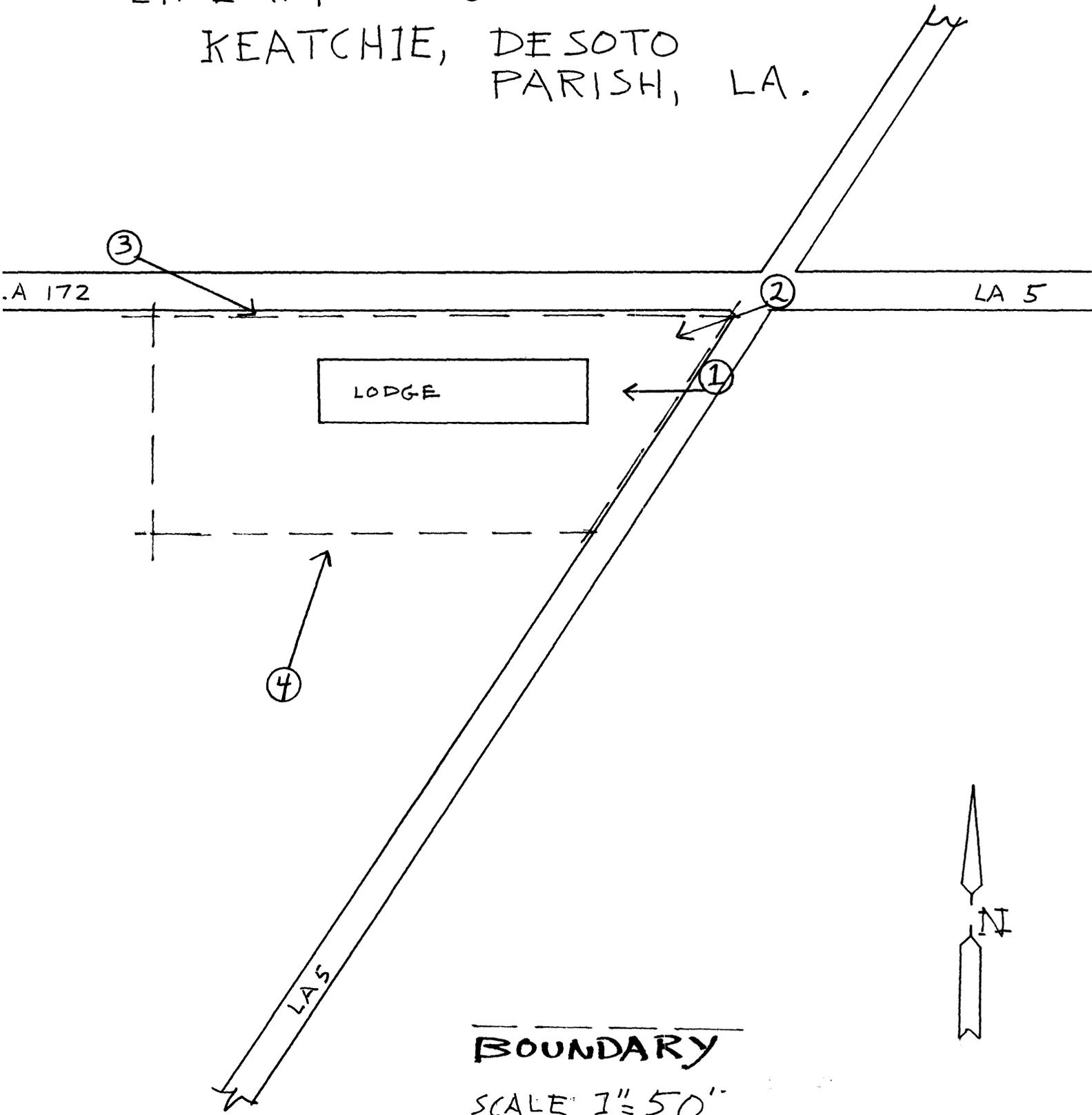
name/title National Register Staff

organization State of Louisiana date November 1988

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

city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

LIBERTY LODGE # 123 F&AM
KEATCHIE, DESOTO
PARISH, LA.



BOUNDARY

SCALE 1"=50"