

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

WASCOM HOUSE, TANGIPAOHA PARISH, LA

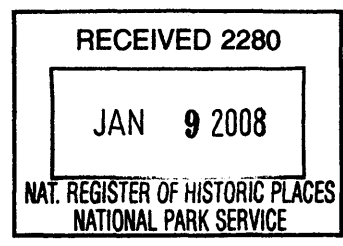
Page 1

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Wascom House
Other Name/Site Number: Kemp House



2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 303 East Michigan Avenue
City/Town: Hammond
State: Louisiana Code: LA County: Tangipahoa Code: 105 Zip Code: 70401
Not for publication: NA
Vicinity: NA

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
Nationally: Statewide: Locally: X

Signature of Certifying Official/Title: Phil Boggan, Deputy SHPO, Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

Date: 1-4-08

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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

Signature of Commenting or Other Official/Title

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

WASCOM HOUSE, TANGIPAHOA PARISH, LA

Page 2

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
Determined eligible for the National Register
Determined not eligible for the National Register
Removed from the National Register
Other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property
Private: X
Public-Local:
Public-State:
Public-Federal:

Category of Property
Building(s): X
District:
Site:
Structure:
Object:

Number of Resources within Property
Contributing
1

Non contributing
buildings
sites
structures
objects
0 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 0

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: NA

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NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

## WASCOM HOUSE, TANGIPAHOA PARISH, LA

Page 3

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

### 6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Domestic                      Sub: Single Dwelling  
Current: Vacant                         Sub: Not In Use

### 7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: Eastlake; Italianate

Materials:

Foundation: Brick  
Walls: Clapboard  
Roof: Asphalt Shingles  
Other:

#### Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Located in the Tangipahoa Parish community of Hammond, the Wascom House is a two-story frame double galleried residence. Although primarily a vernacular adaptation of the Eastlake style, the house also exhibits a slight Italianate influence. Built c.1897, it stands on a shaded lot in the town's northeast quadrant. Despite some additions and losses, the house retains its National Register eligibility.

The house's two-level main block is rectangular, with a one-story projecting wing centered on the rear elevation. Interior woodwork matching that in the rest of the house (see below) shows that this wing is original. Inside, the main block's floor plan is one room deep and two rooms wide with a narrow central stair hall separating the two rooms. The same plan is repeated on the second floor. The wing connects to the rear of the central hall and consists of two rooms, one in front of the other. A five-bay double gallery stretches the length of the façade.

Eastlake was a style of decoration in contrast to a complete style of architecture involving massing and other components. It was a collection of features that could be applied to buildings of various types. The same could be said of the Italianate style in Louisiana; for here, Italianate building forms and massing were often ignored in favor of grafting Italianate details onto local symmetrical house types. These tendencies are clearly seen in the Wascom House, where Eastlake and Italianate ornament are applied to the surfaces of a Louisiana double galleried house. The stylistic features present include:

1. Eastlake turned gallery columns resembling table legs.
2. large face boards that flank the gallery's columns, filling the top portion of each bay on both levels of the gallery's three sides. These boards are designed to mimic Eastlake brackets and are cut in curving motifs to imply brackets meeting at each bay's center. The designs of the first and second story face boards are different. Those on the upper level are delicate and feature two

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USD/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

## WASCOM HOUSE, TANGIPAHOA PARISH, LA

Page 4

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

scrolls at the center. The lower face boards are far heavier in appearance and feature carving suggestive of a knob.

3. curved brackets above the gallery's second level columns and slightly molded modillions installed between the brackets. Although they are Italianate, the brackets culminate in knobs that give them a touch of Eastlake flair. All of these features add to the three-dimensional quality associated with the Eastlake style.
4. a second-level balustrade composed of turned Eastlake balusters. The smooth appearance of the lower-level columns indicates that a balustrade was never installed on the gallery's first floor.
5. Eastlake interior woodwork, including a massive turned newel post and balustrade with turned members and door and window surrounds with bulls-eye corner blocks.

Other features of interest found on the exterior include an undecorated entablature outlining the three sides of the front gallery, a second (rear) entablature that turns at a 90-degree angle to form a return on each side elevation, six-over-six windows, a second story front door featuring a large glazed pane above multiple square and rectangular molded panels, and a transom and sidelights (with paneling beneath the latter) encasing the door on each level. In addition to its Eastlake woodwork, the interior also has molded baseboards, moldings decorating the sides of the stair's risers, four panel doors, and four identical vernacular mantels. Each is composed of a thin mantelshelf supported by brackets. The brackets, in turn, are supported by engaged, molded pilasters rising from tall bases. Finally, some of the home's original wooden floors survive.

The Wascom family expanded the house at least twice over the years. Some time before 1930 they enclosed an area that may have been a porch paralleling the east (right) side of the original projecting rear wing and slightly extended the wing's rear room beneath a shed roof. The roofs of both additions have exposed rafter tails in the Craftsman style. Later, they added a bathroom and porch on the west (left) side of the rear wing. Although this addition also has a roof with exposed rafter tails, it is absent from the depiction of the house in the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for 1930.

Non-historic changes to the house can be classified generally according to their time of occurrence, i.e., before or after Hurricane Katrina.

1. Pre-hurricane changes that happened over time include a) the removal of the chimneys; b) the replacement of the original first floor front door (probably identical to the surviving, partially-glazed upper gallery door) with a solid wood paneled door; and c) the installation of asbestos tile on some floors, linoleum over other floor surfaces, ceiling tiles in all the rooms, and bead board and (later) modern paneling over plaster walls in other rooms.
2. Work necessitated by Hurricane Katrina consisted of repairing the roof and replacing broken windows to prevent further water damage, installing new custom window and door screens, replacing some damaged clapboards, and major repairs to both gallery floors. These include replacing the joists and flooring and, on the second floor, replacing the handrail of the balustrade. Finally, two decorative face boards damaged by the storm have been collected and stored.

Of the above changes, the removal of the two decorative face boards is the most significant, and this

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USD/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

WASCOM HOUSE, TANGIPAHOA PARISH, LA

Page 5

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

loss is only temporary. The replacement of the lower floor's front door is regrettable, but the original door on the second floor does survive. The rear additions are not visible from the front and have had no impact on the home's important architectural features. Importantly, virtually all of the Eastlake features, and the Italianate details that also contribute to the home's three dimensional quality and architectural character, remain. As a landmark within the late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential architecture of Hammond (see Part 8), the Wascom House is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Applicable National Register Criteria: A\_\_ B\_\_ C X D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A\_\_ B\_\_ C\_\_ D\_\_ E\_\_ F\_\_ G\_\_ NA

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1897

Significant Dates: c. 1897

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Builder: Clavert (first name unknown)

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

The Wascom House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a landmark within the context of Hammond's sizable heritage of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century residential architecture.

Although Hammond traces its origins to the arrival of the railroad in the 1850s, the town was very small in the early years and did not grow rapidly until the late nineteenth century. In the late 1880s and the 1890s, with the aid of the Illinois Central Railroad, the town was promoted widely in the Midwest, causing a considerable influx of population from this region. Also, many Italian immigrants settled in the community. The principal reason, however, for the growth that occurred c. 1895 to c. 1915 was unprecedented prosperity in the strawberry industry.

Hammond has not been officially surveyed, but the Louisiana National Register staff is very familiar

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

## WASCOM HOUSE, TANGIPAHOA PARISH, LA

Page 6

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

with the resources there due to numerous visits and windshield surveys of the community. Its historic residential neighborhoods are mostly filled with examples of the Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman Bungalow styles, as well as unstyled cottages. There are also examples of transitional houses combining elements of more than one style. Many of the community's nineteen houses with at least some Eastlake detail fall into the latter category. Although six of these houses have more sophisticated ornament such as spindle screens, the norm for the Eastlake style in Hammond is houses displaying one or two types of more typical Eastlake ornament (usually columns or curved brackets) applied to otherwise simple façades. Despite being a vernacular adaptation of the style, the Wascom House competes successfully with the better examples for two reasons: 1) its bold and prominent use of large carved face boards in two designs mimicking Eastlake brackets, and 2) its use of Italianate details to help give the house the three-dimensional quality associated with the Eastlake style. Thus, there is no doubt that the Wascom House is an architectural landmark within the turn-of-the-twentieth century domestic architecture of Hammond. As such, it is a strong National Register candidate.

### Historical Note:

The Wascom House stands on a lot sold by Hammond founder Charles E. Cate to Mary Darouse on January 4, 1897. Mary Darouse married John Wascom, and the house remained in the hands of their descendants for many decades.

The house is one of two that Hammond residents call "twins" or "companions" because they have the same massing, footprint, and floor plan; have similar interior architectural ornament; stand side-by-side; and were constructed at approximately the same time. Additionally, they were erected by the same builder, a man named Clavert. The second house, known as the Randal House, is also being nominated to the National Register at this time.

The Wascom House eventually came into the possession of the Greater St. James AME Church, which is located at the other end of the block on which the twin houses stand. The church has already proven to be a good property steward by making the above-mentioned repairs after Hurricane Katrina. The congregation plans to rehabilitate both the Randal and Wascom houses for use by its youth ministry. It is believed that National Register listing will assist the church in raising funds for the restorations.

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NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

## WASCOM HOUSE, TANGIPAHOA PARISH, LA

Page 7

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

### 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brief history of Wascom House provided by applicant; copy in National Register file.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Hammond, Louisiana, May 1930.

Site Visit by National Register Staff

Windshield Survey of Hammond, November 13, 2007.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

Previously Listed in the National Register. (partially)

Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.

Designated a National Historic Landmark.

Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: #

Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other (Specify Repository):

### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: Less than an acre

UTM References:     **Zone Easting Northing**  
                          15    743770  3378020

Verbal Boundary Description: Please see attached plat map.

Boundary Justification:

Boundaries follow the property lines of the parcel on which the candidate stands.

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NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

**WASCOM HOUSE, TANGIPAHOA PARISH, LA**

**Page 8**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

Name/Title: National Register Staff, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

Address: P. O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Telephone: 225 342-8160

Date: Fall 2007

**PROPERTY OWNERS**

Reverend Lloyd Washington  
Greater St. James AME Church  
311 East Michigan Avenue  
Hammond, Louisiana 70401  
985 345-6414



# Wascom House

Hammond, Tangipahoa Parish, LA

**PLAT OF SURVEY SHOWING IMPROVEMENTS ON A 0.5161 ACRE TRACT, LOCATED IN SQUARE-15 OF THE HYER SURVEY OF THE CITY OF HAMMOND, PARISH OF TANGIPAHOA, STATE OF LOUISIANA.**

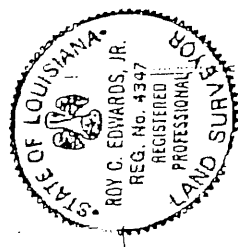
P.O.B.: 74.68'N75°20'23"E of the Southwest corner of Square-15 of the Hyer Survey of the City of Hammond.

Notes: (1.) I certify that this plat represents an actual ground survey, made on the ground on the date shown hereon and that no encroachments exist in either direction across any of the property lines.

Scale: 1 inch = 75 feet  
 Boundary: ————

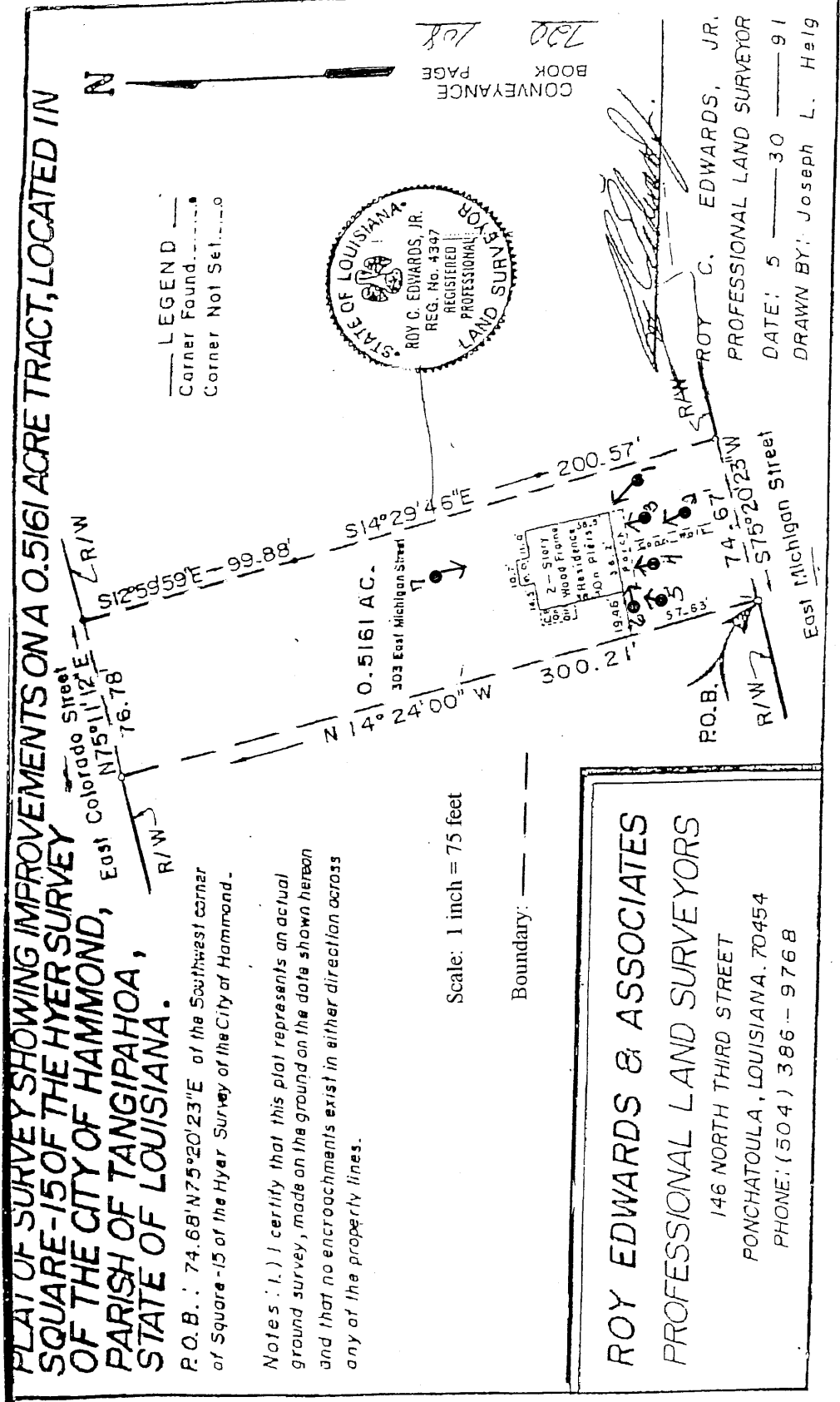
N

LEGEND  
 ——— Corner Found  
 - - - - - Corner Not Set



ROY C. EDWARDS, JR.  
 PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR  
 DATE: 5 — 30 — 91  
 DRAWN BY: Joseph L. Heig

CONVEYANCE BOOK PAGE 730 708



**ROY EDWARDS & ASSOCIATES**  
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