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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUN 14 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 Prude House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy 5  N/A not for publication  
city, town Keachi  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 P. Tassin Leslie P. Tassin, LA State Historic Preservation Officer June 9, 1988  
Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Div of Historic Preservation, Dept of Culture, Recreation & 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:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Byers Entered in the National Register 7-14-88  
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)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

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Domestic/single dwelling

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Domestic/single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

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Greek Revival

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foundation 

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brick

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Italianate

---

walls 

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weatherboard

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---

Gothic Revival

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roof 

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asphalt

---

other 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Prude House (c.1870) is a frame one-and-a-half story galleried cottage with touches of the Greek Revival, Italianate, and Gothic Revival styles. The house enjoys a rural park-like setting off Louisiana Highway 5 about three miles south of Keachi. Despite a move and a few alterations, the house retains its National Register eligibility.

In 1968 the Prude House was moved some twenty miles within DeSoto Parish. It was originally located outside the small community of Stanley and is now located near the small town of Keachi. The setting is very similar and the compass point orientation is the same. (The house was previously located in a rural setting well back from the road, as it is now.) The upper story was moved intact and the bottom story in two pieces. As is often the case, the move was necessary to save the house from demolition by neglect. It had been abandoned for years, and while the owner was concerned about vandalism, he did not intend to maintain the house himself. He was not interested in selling the land, and sold the house on condition it be moved. The move has not affected the house's Register eligibility because the context for architectural significance is DeSoto Parish and the move took place within the parish.

The Prude House has a central hall plan two rooms deep with a rear "L" wing. The steeply pitched roof culminates in a pair of tall, narrow forward facing dormers. The five bay front gallery is unusual because it does not run the full width of the facade and is set under a hip roof which is distinctive from the main roof of the house. This unusual gallery may be at least loosely attributed to the Downingsque influence.

Greek Revival features include:

1. The basic trabeated front gallery with its unusual entablature which continues across the entire front of the house despite the fact that the gallery itself does not.
2. The gable end returns both on the roof and on the dormers.
3. The exterior window and door surrounds with their pediment shaped tops.
4. The front doorway with its transom, side lights, and pilasters.
5. The copious "homemade" denticular cornices and double cornices which trim the house.
6. The two aedicule style mantels, one of which features cutout lozenges. The lozenges are most likely a Creole carryover.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Prude House, DeSoto Parish, LA

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Italianate features include:

1. The two front doors with their round arch lights.
2. The pierced balusters on the front gallery.

The Gothic inspired latticework on the front gallery is thought to be original, as is the decorative scallop board nailed to the front entablature.

Alterations:

1. At one time there was a single bay side porch which gave access to one of the rear rooms. This feature has been lost.
2. The rear wing has been enlarged by incorporating the gallery into a recreation room.
3. A small side wing has been appended to the rear "L" wing.
4. The chimneys have been rebuilt.

Despite these changes, the house retains its historic appearance from the frontal view. In addition, major character defining elements such as the Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Italianate details remain intact.

Immediately to the rear of the house is a modern non-contributing garage.

**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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
architecture

Period of Significance  
c.1870

Significant Dates  
c.1870

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Builder: Allen Austin

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

The Prude House is of local significance in the area of architecture because it is a rare and distinctive archetype within the context of DeSoto Parish.

DeSoto Parish was settled principally in the two or three decades prior to the Civil War and is well known for its Greek Revival residential architecture. The roughly twenty surviving examples include mainly one or one-and-a-half story galleried cottages, a few one or one-and-a-half story residences with a pedimented portico, and a few more impressive two story examples. Although numerous and a vital part of the parish's architectural identity, most are fairly conventional examples of the style. Aside from this architectural flowering, the parish's residential patrimony consists almost exclusively of ordinary examples of the Queen Anne Revival, Colonial Revival, and bungalow styles or nondescript cottages and farmhouses.

It is against this background that the Prude House achieves its architectural distinction. It is one of very few residences to show a hint of the Downingesque taste of the mid-Victorian period. Specific features in this regard include the Gothic trelliswork and the Italianate pierced balusters. More importantly, the Prude House represents a local craftsman's colorful and idiosyncratic interpretation of contemporaneous architectural trends. This can be seen in the house's rather unusual proportions, its interesting gallery, entablature and roof configuration, and its numerous over-sized decorative bands of dentils and scallops. Overall, the Prude House has a bold and striking design which sets it apart from virtually every other historic residence in DeSoto Parish.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Prude family history communicated by Susie Prude, the neice of John T. Prude, for whom the house was built.

DeSoto Parish Historic Structures Survey, 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**

Acreage of property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 

1	5
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4	1	2	9	0	0
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3	5	5	7	1	0	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Please refer to enclosed scaled sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification Boundaries were drawn to discretely encompass the significant resource. Since the property was moved, there is no historic setting to recognize. Following the present property lines would have meant including a good bit of unnecessary acreage.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title National Register Staff  
 organization Division of Historic Preservation date April 1988  
 street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160  
 city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

# PRUDE HOUSE DESOTO PARISH, LA.

SCALE 1" = 50'

