

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Allen House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number Smyrna Road and 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N/A not for publication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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	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.

*Jonathan Fricker*  
Signature of certifying official

Jonathan Fricker, LA Deputy SHPO

June 21, 1988  
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:)

*Julius Byers*  
Signature of the Keeper

7-28-88  
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.**

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The Allen House (c.1848) is a frame Greek Revival dogtrot located in a semi-forested setting outside the small town of Keachi. Although there has been a move, a turn-of-the-century rear wing, and some in-kind replacement, the house easily retains those features which contribute to its significance as a Greek Revival dogtrot within Louisiana.

In 1969 the Allen House was moved some ten miles from its original location just inside Caddo Parish to its present location in DeSoto Parish. The move was necessary in order to save the house from demolition by neglect. The property upon which it was located was a tree farm with no resident owner or caretaker. The house was in bad repair and had become a haven for transients. The owner of the property was concerned about the house's future and sold it to the present owner on condition that it be moved. It was cut in half down the middle of the dogtrot corridor and moved to its present rural setting, which is very similar to the original. The house originally faced north-northwest. Now it faces west. The Allen House is significant on the state level, so the move has not affected its National Register eligibility.

The house is a single story open dogtrot, two rooms deep with a fairly shallow pitched roof. Walls exposed to the weather are clapboarded, while sheltered walls are sheathed in tongue and groove flush boarding. Interior walls also feature flush boarding. The five bay front gallery features a full entablature and Doric posts with molded capitals complete with necking. Both of the principal rooms have Greek Revival aedicule style mantels with molding matching the front gallery. The present six over six windows are in-kind replacements.

**Alterations:**

- (1) In about 1900 a single room kitchen wing was appended to the rear.
- (2) When the house was moved, the two chimneys had to be rebuilt.
- (3) When the present owner acquired the property and moved it, the two corner columns were rotted beyond repair. The present ones are in-kind replacements.
- (4) The window frames were also missing and/or in poor repair. The present ones are in-kind replacements based upon what was left.
- (5) When the present owner moved the house in 1969, only a portion of the balustrade was remaining. The present one is an in-kind replacement. (It is not known if the balustrade there in 1969 was original or not.)

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

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Allen House, DeSoto Parish, LA

**Section number**   7   **Page**   1  

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Assessment of Integrity:

In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, none of the above changes has significantly compromised the architectural integrity of the Allen House. It is still obviously an open dogtrot house in the Greek Revival style. The replacement of the two columns is not a serious problem because it was done in-kind.

**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.1848

Significant Dates  
c.1848

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 Allen House is of state level significance in the area of architecture as an outstanding manifestation of the Upland South Culture. It is important as a very rare example of a styled dogtrot, in this case, Greek Revival.

Upland South was one of the dominant cultural groups in Louisiana, representing in many places the pioneer phase of settlement. The Uplanders first appeared in Louisiana in the 1790s, and by the 1850s, they dominated in both the northern part of the state as well as in the eight parishes in southern Louisiana known as the Florida Parishes. After the Civil War they pioneered settlement in the western part of the state as well.

One of the architectural hallmarks of the Upland South Culture was the dogtrot house; indeed, it was the largest house type associated with the culture and in many ways the symbol of agricultural attainment. But despite its high status among the Uplanders, the average dogtrot was an unpretentious house with no architectural treatment whatever. The Allen House is a rare exception to this, being a dogtrot house with full-blown Greek Revival styling, including a classical gallery with a full entablature and aedicule style mantels. Survey data and staff knowledge of the state indicates that there are only about a half dozen comparable examples in Louisiana. Virtually all of these are in the northwestern part of the state. Although the Uplanders settled in much of Louisiana, the Northwest is the only area where their building tradition was strong enough to develop high style aspirations. This created a generation of "half-breed" houses. The Allen House is a very good example of this, being both a handsome Greek Revival residence and a dogtrot house.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Conveyance Records, Caddo Parish Courthouse.

Historic Structures Survey, Claiborne, DeSoto and Webster Parishes. 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	6	0	5	0
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3	5	5	8	2	5	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 to-scale map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

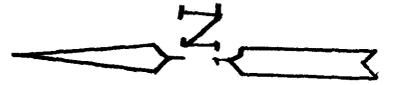
Boundaries were drawn to discretely encompass the significant resource. Since the property was moved, there is no historic setting to recognize. Following the present property lines would have meant including a good bit of unnecessary acreage (over 100 acres).

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Historic Preservation 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 Louisiana zip code 70804

ALLEN HOUSE  
DESOTO PARISH, LA.



SCALE 1" = 25'

