

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A". For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lyons House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 315 N. St. Charles St. N/A not for publication

city or town Abbeville N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Vermilion code 113 zip code 70510

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Gerry Hobdy August 24, 1995
Signature of certifying official/Title Gerry Hobdy, Date
LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the 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:) _____

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper
Date of Action 9/29/95

Entered in the
National Register
Entered in
National Register

Lyons House

Name of Property

Vermilion Parish LA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne Revival

Eastlake

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

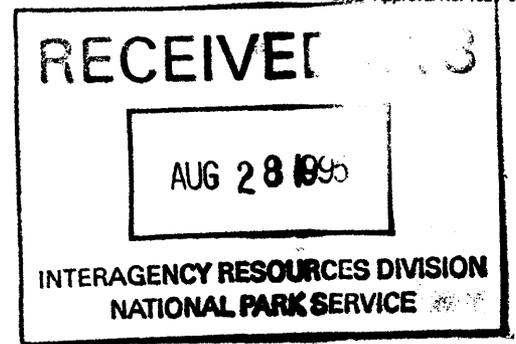
other Shingles

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lyons House, Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

The Lyons House (c. 1890) is a two story dwelling featuring Queen Anne styling and Eastlake trim. It stands on a large lot facing a busy through street within one of Abbeville's older neighborhoods. Although it has experienced some alteration since construction, it remains a strong candidate for National Register listing.

The home's original floorplan was asymmetrical. Its first floor contained a central hall and four rooms beneath cross gable massing (see attached sketch). Two of these rooms were located north of the central hall, while a third within this northern range projected toward the rear alongside a porch which extended the line of the central hall. The fourth room was located on the opposite, or southern, side of the hall. The second floor had a similar plan. The facade featured a double gallery. On the rear a gallery extended along the main block to connect with the previously mentioned porch of the rear projecting room. Most of the home's original floorplan survives, with changes being confined mainly to additions at the rear. These will be addressed in the alterations section below.

The stylistic features which give the house its Queen Anne character include:

- 1) the above mentioned four projecting rooms and their accompanying cross gable massing.
- 2) a polygonal bay located on the first story of the northern projecting space. This bay is highlighted by 45 degree corner cuts. In addition, the front projecting space has a curving front.
- 3) the presence of texture on some exterior surfaces. This texture is created by the use of shingles in three different patterns upon the home's large curved front facing projection and within its southern gable.

The home's Eastlake motifs include:

- 1) a front double gallery featuring cut-work gallery brackets with a Greek key motif, abacus-like screens outlining the roofs, and boldly turned columns with unusual abacus-like carving on their lower ends.

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Lyons House, Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

- 2) the front door, which features Eastlake motifs above and below a large glass pane
- 3) large solid brackets with floral motifs and ball drop ornaments decorating the 45 degree corner cuts and the front curving projection
- 4) two mantels
 - a) The more ornate of the two features paired elongated consoles, each of which is surmounted by a spindle which connects with an overhanging shelf bracket. This mantel's decoration also includes an abacus-like screen and an arcade motif displaying floral patterns within its spandrels.
 - b) The second mantel exhibits slender pilaster strips culminating in boldly formed brackets. Each bracket is surmounted by a platform shelf which is connected to the main mantel shelf by a pair of turned members.
- 5) door and window surrounds with both bull's eye blocks and blocks with floral motifs, and
- 6) the interior staircase, which exhibits heavy turned and squared newel posts.

Other period features found on or within the home included molded cornices and baseboards, beaded board wainscot in the central hall and within the stairwell, transoms above some doors, a set of pocket doors, small segmentally arched windows in three of the home's four gables, an entablature encircling the house at roof level, and vertical boards emphasizing each corner of the building.

Sanborn maps indicate that alterations occurred on the rear elevation between 1923 and 1929. These appear to have included the enclosure and possible outward extension of part of the back porch to create a downstairs bathroom and a hallway leading to it. This change gave the first floor's plan a cross hall configuration. A later owner added a breakfast room and utility closet to the corner where the rear room meets the main block. This addition included the small side porch space which had remained after creation of the downstairs bath and cross hall. At some point, the home's chimneys were cut off below the roofline.

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Lyons House, Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, LA

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Alterations made by the current owner include the installation of a denticulated cornice and ceiling medallions in the parlor and dining room, the removal of the more dramatic of the home's two original mantels from the front projecting parlor to the side projecting den and its replacement by a mantel made of marble, the addition of a wainscot and construction of built-in cabinets in the den, the replacement of the ceramic tile around the fireplaces, the insertion of a stained glass window in the downstairs bath, the modernization of the kitchen, the conversion of one upstairs room into a large bathroom and closet, the construction of another large closet adjacent to the rear bedroom and above the breakfast room, the insertion of antique French doors recycled from another Abbeville building into the breakfast room's exterior wall, the construction of a covered deck attached to the rear elevation, and the placing of canopies over several windows. In addition, the owner re-installed the original staircase, which had been removed and stored for a number of years.

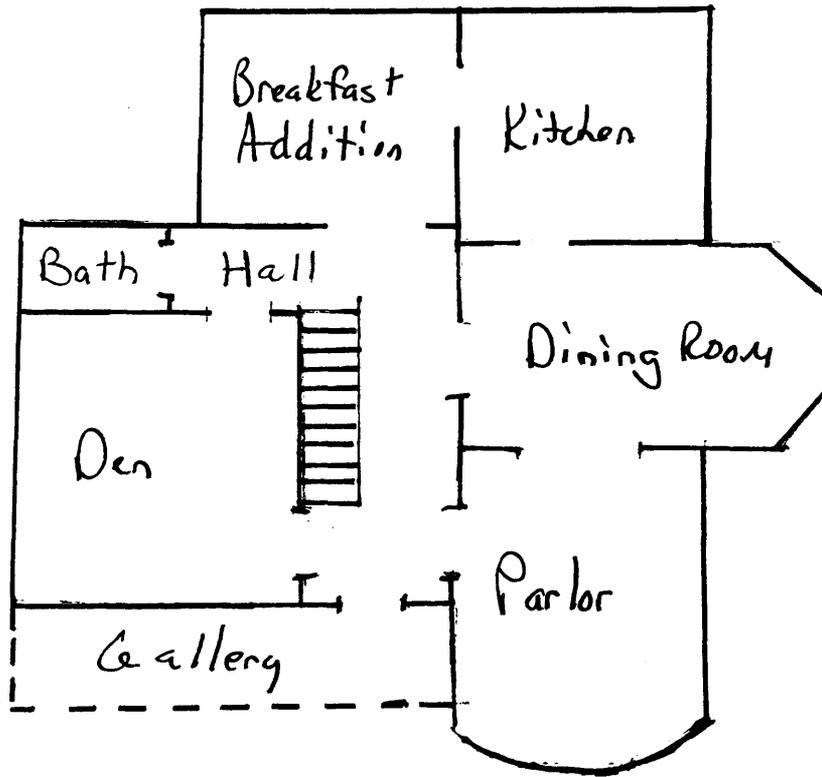
Because they have occurred at the rear or in the interior of the home, none of the above outlined changes have impacted the Queen Anne and Eastlake details which give the Lyons Home its architectural significance. Both its facade and three-quarter view survive virtually intact. The home's shingle treatment, unusually turned gallery columns and Greek key motif brackets make it a stand-out among the period houses within Abbeville. Therefore, the Lyons House ranks as a prime candidate for National Register listing.

Non-Contributing Element

At a rear corner of the property stands a small frame building with French doors. Although its gallery brackets match the Greek key motif found on the home's double gallery, this structure was built relatively recently by the current owner. Thus, it is being counted as a non-contributing element for the purposes of this nomination.

Lyons House

Vermilion Parish, LA



Lyons House
Name of Property

Vermilion Parish, LA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

N/A

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1890

Significant Dates

c. 1890

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Lyons House
Name of Property

Vermilion Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 1/2 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5
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5	8	3	5	4	0
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3	3	1	6	3	9	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date July, 1995

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

city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Faye Bordelon Summers

street & number 315 N. St. Charles St. telephone (318) 893-3037

city or town Abbeville state LA zip code 70510

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Lyons House, Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, LA
Section number 8 Page 1

The Lyons House is locally significant in the area of architecture as a superior example of the Queen Anne Revival style within the parish seat of Abbeville. It derives this distinction largely from its unusual and elaborate ornamentation.

Located on the Vermilion River, the town of Abbeville is much older than its present historic building stock would indicate. It traces its founding to 1843, when Father Antoine Desire Megret purchased a tract of land on the river for construction of a chapel. The town that developed was incorporated in 1850, and in 1854 it became the parish seat of newly created Vermilion Parish. Apparently the town was very small and grew slowly until the coming of the Iberia and Vermilion Railroad (soon to be the Southern Pacific) in 1892. With the coming of the railroad, Abbeville emerged as a major rice processing center. Like other southwestern Louisiana towns such as Crowley and Jennings, Abbeville benefitted enormously from the "Great Louisiana Rice Boom" of the turn of the century in which mechanized agricultural techniques previously used in the Midwest for wheat production were brought to the prairies of Acadiana for the large-scale production of rice.

Because of the railroad and the rice boom it made possible, Abbeville grew rapidly (from a population of 1200 in 1895 to 2500 in 1907) and prospered greatly, as can be seen in its historic building stock. Despite its early founding, there are believed to be no buildings in the town which predate c.1890. Queen Anne Revival houses such as the Lyons House reflect the frenzy of building that occurred in Abbeville at the height of the rice boom (c.1895-c.1910). In fact, from the standpoint of residences, the town has a strong Queen Anne heritage. Based upon an almost comprehensive survey and extensive SHPO staff knowledge, it is estimated that there are 50 to 60 houses in the town which reflect the Queen Anne/Eastlake style, ranging from the extremely plain to the very elaborate. Put in perspective, these 50 to 60 houses represent about one-fourth to one-fifth of the town's overall historic building stock.

A review of these 50-60 examples by the State Historic Preservation Office revealed that roughly 18 were of sufficient quality to merit Register consideration. These 18 emerged as superior examples within Abbeville because of their massing and/or ornamentation, both of which are hallmarks of the style. The Lyons House is among the most significant of the eighteen largely because of its extensive and unusual ornamentation and its massing. The home's boldly turned columns with abacus-like carving on their lower ends are very unusual when compared to the

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Lyons House, Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, LA

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standard Eastlake column treatment, and its Greek key motif brackets are also unusual. Its double gallery features spindle screens, a detail found on only a small minority of the town's fifty to sixty Queen Anne/Eastlake houses. Finally, the home displays the texturing (formed by three patterns of shingles) and cross gable massing which are identifying characteristics of the Queen Anne style. This texturing is found on only a small minority of Abbeville's Queen Anne houses.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Division of Historic Preservation, Standing Structures Survey of Abbeville, Vermilion Parish,
Louisiana.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for 1923 and 1929.

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Continuation Sheet**

Lyons House, Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, LA
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Legal Property Description:

A certain lot of ground, together with all improvements thereon, together with all rights, ways, privileges, servitudes and appurtenances thereunto belonging, located in the City of Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, Louisiana, having a front of one hundred twenty-two (122) feet on the west side of North St. Charles Street, a depth on its northern boundary line of one hundred forty-four and 5/10 (144.5) feet, a depth on its southern boundary of one hundred forty-five and 05/100 feet, and a rear width of one hundred twenty-two (122) feet, and being bounded on the north by Lot 7 of the Marbury Addition to the City of Abbeville, on the south by Lot 5 of said addition; on the east by the said North St. Charles Street, and on the west by Lots 13 and 14 of said addition.

Being the northern thirty-one (31) feet of Lot 5 and all of Lot 6 of the Marbury Addition to the City of Abbeville as shown by a plat prepared by J. E. Schexnayder, Registered Land Surveyor, dated November 13, 1975, a copy of which is annexed to original conveyance #232669 of the Vermilion Parish, Louisiana public records.

Boundary Justification: Boundaries follow property lines.