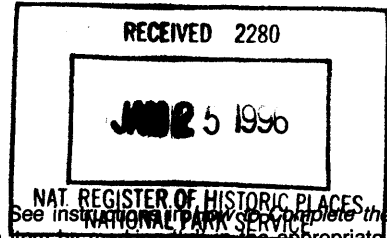


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on 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 "not applicable." 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 Melady House

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

2. Location

street & number 5800 England Drive N/A not for publication

city or town Alexandria  vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Rapides Parish code 079 zip code 71303

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.)

Geri Hobdy 1/11/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Geri 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 A. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 2/23/96  
Entered in the National Register

Melady House  
Name of Property

Rapides 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		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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

COMMERCE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other

**Narrative Description**

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

**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**

N/A

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

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. 1905

**Significant Dates**

c. 1905

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Melady House  
Name of Property

Rapides Parish, LA  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 3.6 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	15	546520	3466240
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

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 October 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.)

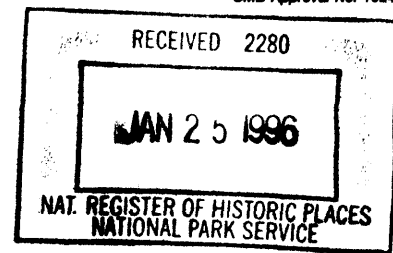
name Mrs. Grady L. Kelley, Jr. (318) 442-3237 (H)

street & number 5800 England Drive telephone (318) 487-5646 (W)

city or town Alexandria state LA zip code 71303

**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.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Melady House, Rapides Parish, LA  
Section number 7 Page 1

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The Melady House is a large two story frame residence built in a distinctly southern version of the Colonial Revival style. It enjoys a rural setting on Bayou Rapides amid numerous mature trees. Despite some alterations, most notably the lowering of the porch floor, the house retains the grand architectural character associated with what is termed by some the Southern Colonial style.

It should first be noted that there is some controversy concerning the date of the house. Because of its "Old South" look, it is thought by locals to be antebellum. There has to have been a house on the site by 1892 because in this year Joseph P. Melady, the patriarch of the family for whom the house is named, died at his house on Bayou Rapides, per an obituary notice. His widow lived on the property into the 1930s.

The architectural evidence, however, points clearly to an early twentieth century date (small round machine cut nails, stylistic details, hardware, etc.). Similar houses, for example, were being built in Lake Charles in the 1905-1910 period. It is possible that an older house was completely remodeled, which would account for the asymmetric Queen Anne influenced footprint, as described below. However, this is the only suggestion of an earlier house from the architectural evidence.

Although the house is not antebellum in age, it was built to look like a plantation house of the type popular on Louisiana's Great River Road. The reference, whether intentional or not, is to so-called peripteral style antebellum mansions such as Ashland (a grand mansion with colossal pillars on four sides). Of course, the Melady House is a vernacular early twentieth century interpretation of the Ashland look. Here the columns are on only two sides (the front and a side elevation). They are paneled and have molded capitals.

Unlike its antebellum inspiration, the house's footprint is not symmetrical. There is a central hall with two rooms on the north side and three on the south. The front room of the three room range extends forward of the central hall. Hence the entrance door gives the impression of being recessed. The wall of the north front room is then recessed slightly behind the central hall. The front entrance, with its transom and sidelights, has a small raised concrete porch which undoubtedly was added when the main porch floor was lowered.

Other exterior features include two over two windows and a second story balustrade with a geometric design reminiscent of Chinese Chippendale balustrades popular in the Colonial Revival.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Melady House, Rapides Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

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The interior is fairly simple in its detailing. Door surrounds are plain. The doors downstairs are of the raised four panel type with transoms, five piece gudgeons, and decorative brass hardware with an overall Victorian character. The hall and one room have narrow gauge beaded board wainscoting. The staircase, with its plain newel posts and balusters, rises in three flights. The upstairs doors clearly date from a later period, featuring five raised horizontal panels and Art Deco hardware. The house retains only one fireplace, and its mantel most likely dates from the 1920s or '30s.

The following alterations have occurred since construction:

(1) The house originally had to have had a raised porch. An old but undated photo shows the present concrete grade level porch. Bushes prevent one from seeing the column bottoms. Undoubtedly the old porch floor and column bottoms rotted. When the present owner acquired the house the columns were resting on brick piers which presumably were the original porch piers. The space between the top of each pier and the bottom of the shortened column was filled in with concrete in a flared shape. Because the concrete sections and brick piers were in poor repair, the present owner covered them with wood as part of a recent rehabilitation project. However, the wooden boxing will be removed soon to ensure that the project meets *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards* for tax credit projects. (The National Park Service felt that the pier and concrete treatment should be retained because it was part of the historic evolution of the house and had been there as long as anyone could remember.)

(2) In the late 1940s or 1950s a low glassed-in addition was made across the rear of the house encompassing the home's original one story pitched roof kitchen wing. Although the kitchen wing is still obvious on the exterior, it is not on the interior.

(3) The present owner recently installed ceiling medallions and a denticulated cornice in the central hall.

### Assessment of Integrity:

Although the lowering of the porch floor is obviously a noticeable alteration, the house still retains its overall grand white-columned look and hence its National Register eligibility (see Part 8).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Melady House, Rapides Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 3



Photo showing column bottoms as they were prior to a recent rehabilitation project.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Melady House, Rapides Parish, LA  
Section number 8 Page 1

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The Melady House is of local architectural significance as one of the most distinctive examples of the Colonial Revival style within the context of Rapides Parish.

Created in 1805, Rapides is a large parish with extensive rural areas and the city of Alexandria, with a population of about 55,000. It was surveyed for the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation in the mid-1980s. The survey identified 4,932 buildings over 50 years old. Rapides experienced extensive Civil War action; indeed, portions of Alexandria were burned. Because of this and more modern re-development, little survives in the parish from the antebellum period beyond about a dozen medium size plantation houses. The parish's most voluminous architectural legacy dates from the early twentieth century, encompassing resources ranging from a low-key Chicago style skyscraper, to a flamboyant Beaux Arts hotel, to a number of impressive churches, to thousands of residences. Most of the latter display either no style or elements of the Queen Anne Revival, Colonial Revival or bungalow styles. Most of the larger, more impressive residences (which number about 50 and of which the Melady House is one) reflect the Queen Anne and/or Colonial Revival tastes.

The Melady House is conspicuous among this group because of all the parish's Colonial Revival residences, it most closely resembles a real antebellum Greek Revival plantation house. It is the finest example of what has been noted by architectural historians as a significant trend in the Colonial Revival movement in the South -- the tendency to espouse the "white columned" look of the increasingly romanticized "Old South." The Melady House, when seen from the three-quarter view, as was intended, strongly evokes peripteral Greek Revival plantation houses such as Ashland, as previously noted. Indeed, the overall look is so convincing that to the untrained eye it appears to be an actual antebellum house.



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Melady House, Rapides Parish, LA

Section number   9   Page   1  

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Historic Structures Survey, Rapides Parish, LA SHPO.

Conveyance Records, Rapides Parish.

Death notice for Joseph T. Melady, dated October 9, 1892, copy in Register file, LA SHPO.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Melady House, Rapides Parish, LA

Section number 10 Page 1**Legal Property Description:**

A certain piece, parcel or tract of ground, together with all buildings and improvements thereon and all rights, ways and privileges appertaining, being, lying and situated in Rapides Parish, Louisiana, and being a tract of land containing 3.617 acres located in Section 82, Township 4 North, Range 2 West, Rapides Parish, Louisiana and more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the point on the northerly right-of-way of England Drive where the boundary common to the Grady Kelley tract and Rapides Parish School Board property intersects the right-of-way. This point is designated as Point "A" on the plat of survey by James Wooten of the Grady Kelley tract dated June 16, 1989. Thence along the right-of-way of England Drive South 58°47'33" West a distance of 117.26 feet; thence South 42°02'48" West a distance of 206.95 feet; thence South 39°57'35" West a distance of 333.03 feet to the point of beginning; thence leaving the right-of-way of England Drive North 36°44'54" West a distance of 274.26 feet; thence North 40°01'32" West a distance of 205.52 feet; thence North 56°58'54" East a distance of 336.35 feet to the center of the Irish Ditch; thence along the center of the Irish Ditch South 50°38'53" East a distance of 374.19 feet to the northerly right-of-way of England Drive; thence along the right-of-way South 42°02'48" West a distance of 91.42 feet; thence South 39°57'35" West a distance of 333.03 feet to the point of beginning.

Justification: Boundaries follow property lines of parcel of land upon which nominated resource is located.