



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 "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 Williams House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 407 Texas N/A not for publication

city or town Mansfield N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county DeSoto code 031 zip code 71052

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

June 3, 1994

Signature of certifying official/Title Geri Hobdy, LA Date
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:)

M. J. M. 10/1
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

7/22/94

Williams House
Name of Property

DeSoto 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)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	_____	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)

Greek 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.)

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Williams House, Mansfield, DeSoto Parish, LA

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The Williams House is a one story frame Greek Revival residence located near downtown Mansfield. It is set at one corner of an otherwise undeveloped city block. Family history indicates that the house was built shortly after the Civil War, which is quite believable given the architectural evidence. Hence, c.1870 is being used as the date of construction for this submission. Despite various additions over the years, the house's original Greek Revival character is dominant.

The hipped roof house has a five bay gallery featuring boxed columns with molded capitals and matching pilasters. An entablature with a dentil band in the architrave encircles the main block. Exterior window and door surrounds feature pediment shaped tops. The prominent front entrance has two sets of pilasters, side lights and a transom. A similar treatment is found on the rear doorway. The Italianate influence can be seen in the rounded shapes of the transom windows. Facade windows are of the six over nine slip head variety, while other windows on the main block are six over six.

The Williams House has a typical Greek Revival floorplan -- a central hall with two rooms on each side. Noteworthy features include four panel doors and four matching mantels with pilasters, an entablature, and a molded shelf. The walls and ceiling in the hall are sheathed in flush boards, as are the ceilings in the four rooms.

Modifications to the house have consisted entirely of additions rather than loss of original features. They are as follows:

- (1) A rear gallery and an ell wing were added c.1900. The rear room in the ell, the kitchen, may be an older structure incorporated into the addition. The rear gallery and part of the ell gallery were enclosed c.1920.
- (2) An addition was made to the west side of the main block, probably in the 1930s. This involved converting a window in the west front room into a door.
- (3) A small polygonal bay was added to the east side of the main block to house a bathroom, again, probably in the 1930s.

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Williams House, Mansfield, DeSoto Parish, LA

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- (4) A small polygonal bay was added to the side of the ell in the 1990s.
- (5) A chair rail and picture molding were added to the central hall c.1900.

Assessment of Integrity:

Of course, the most important additions are those to the sides of the main block. While they disrupt the symmetry, it should be noted that they are recessed, allowing the original Greek Revival house to remain visually dominant. What is perhaps of equal or more importance is the fact that the Williams House retains all of its original Greek Revival character-defining features, as noted above.

Williams House
Name of Property

DeSoto 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 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.1870

Significant Dates

c.1870

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:

Williams House
Name of Property

DeSoto Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property @ 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 5	4 3 4 0 0 0	3 5 4 4 6 5 0
	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.)

Block 11, Town of Mansfield, measuring 198' x 198'.

Boundary Justification Boundaries follow property lines. Block 11 has historically been associated with the house.
(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 May 1994

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

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana 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 Terry L. Sebren

street & number 407 Texas Street telephone (318) 872-2764

city or town Mansfield state Louisiana zip code 71052

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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Williams House, Mansfield, DeSoto Parish, LA

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The Williams House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it contributes to the distinctly Greek Revival architectural heritage of DeSoto Parish.

DeSoto Parish was settled between roughly 1840 and 1850s by individuals from South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia and other nearby states. Of course, Greek Revival was literally the rage at the time, and DeSoto settlers embraced it with a vengeance. Although many examples from this architectural flowering have been lost, including the impressive Keachi Female College, an astounding number survive. Excluding New Orleans, DeSoto is one of three parishes considered to be major centers of Greek Revival architecture in the state. Whereas other parishes average about a half dozen Greek Revival residences, DeSoto boasts at least twenty, not to mention four churches, a temple fronted store and a Masonic hall. Although a few of DeSoto's Greek Revival houses are impressive two story examples, none are "Gone with the Wind" piles. The one or one-and-a-half story examples tend to be galleried cottages (often with a hipped roof), although a few have a pedimented portico. It is also important to note that the Greek Revival in DeSoto was a rural phenomenon guided by local builders and carpenters who interpreted the style in their own way. This special heritage really represents the parish's architectural apogee. With the exception of a few landmarks, there has not been an architectural flowering in the parish since then.

In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, all surviving examples of the style are significant because they contribute to the parish's architectural identity as a center of Greek Revival architecture. Except for the five two story examples, it would be arbitrary to separate the other roughly comparable residences into gradations of importance. Distinguishing features of the Williams House are its Greek Revival gallery, entablature with a dentil band in the architrave, impressive front doorway, windows with pediment shaped tops, and four mantels.

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Williams House, Mansfield, DeSoto Parish, LA

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Historic Structures Survey, DeSoto Parish, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.