

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 Minden Historic District

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

2. Location

street & number Portions of Broadway, Elm, East and West,  
Fort and Lewisville N/A not for publication

city or town Minden N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Webster code 119 zip code 71055

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.)

Jonathan Fricker Sept 29, 1992  
Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker, Date  
Deputy 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) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Alonzo Byan

~~Entered in the  
National Register~~

Date of Action

11/5/92

**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	
53	15	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
53	15	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**

3

**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, Queen Anne Revival,  
Colonial Revival, Bungalow/Craftsman

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
walls weatherboard; stucco; brick  
roof asphalt  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

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

Minden Historic District, Webster Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

The boundaries of the Minden Historic District encompass seventy-one buildings, all but two of which are residences. Contributing elements range in date from c.1850 through 1942 and run the gamut stylistically from Greek Revival to Spanish Colonial Revival. The non-contributing element rate is twenty-one percent.

Located just north of the downtown, the nominated district has a very irregular street plan (see attached map). The most important buildings tend to be concentrated on Broadway, which is definitely the city's grand residential rue. Lots along the boulevard are larger than elsewhere in the district, and houses are often set well back from the road. There are numerous mature trees, as is true of the district as a whole. About one-third of the historic houses on Broadway are two or two-and-a-half stories. Interspersed among the larger, more "upmarket" residences are smaller, less pretentious houses. At the southern end of Broadway, near the downtown, are the district's only two non-residential buildings. One is the impressive Gothic Revival Minden Presbyterian Church (1923), and the other is a very historic looking Gothic Episcopal church built in 1950.

For the most part, the other streets in the district have small lots, with houses more densely packed. As is the case with Broadway, landmarks are scattered among more typical houses.

## BREAKDOWN BY PERIODS

c.1850-1860: (4%)

Minden was founded in 1836 and incorporated in 1850, although only three residences survive from this early period. Two are two story Greek Revival houses with narrow two story porticoes reflecting the width of the central hall (#s 12 & 57). These represent a local variation in the Greek Revival found within the region and nowhere else in the state. The archetype appears as both a plantation house and town residence. The third Greek Revival house has had its original one story porch across the front replaced, but its other early character defining elements survive (#50).

CONTINUED

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

Minden Historic District, Webster Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 21861-1890 (1%)

There is only one house from this period, a two story frame house with an elaborate Italianate gallery and decorative work around the principal windows and doors (#9).

1891-1920 (24%)

Stylistically, this category includes the Queen Anne Revival and the earliest wave of Colonial Revival. There, of course, is also a transitional period when a house might be Queen Anne in massing and other detailing but have a Colonial Revival gallery. Examples range from simple one and one-and-a-half story galleried cottages to major landmarks.

Landmarks from this period are:

- (1) McDonald House, 328 Lewisville (#55, N.R.), a two-and-a-half story turreted Queen Anne house.
- (2) 614 Lewisville Road (#58), a Queen Anne/Colonial Revival house whose porch curves to form a turret-like projection.
- (3) 101 Homer Road (#29), a large two-and-a-half story Colonial Revival house with a colossal Ionic portico.
- (4) Drake House, 1202 Broadway (#22, N.R.), a large two story Colonial Revival house with a colossal Tuscan pedimented portico.

1921-1942: (50%)

As is true of almost all historic districts in Louisiana outside New Orleans, this category accounts for the largest percentage of buildings. It includes bungalows and two story houses built along bungalow lines, later Colonial Revival houses, one Georgian Revival house, a 1920s Gothic Revival church, a 1920s Spanish Colonial Revival house, and various cottages from the 1930s. Some of the latter are unstyled, while others have steeply pitched gables and prominent chimneys, giving them an overall "Old English" look.

CONTINUED

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Minden Historic District, Webster Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 3

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Major landmarks include:

- (1) Minden Presbyterian Church, 1001 Broadway (#1), a large, elaborately styled Gothic Revival building with German-looking half-timbering motifs.
- (2) 1113 Broadway (#11), a two story Colonial Revival house with a one story pedimented entrance porch.
- (3) 1114 Broadway (#13), a two-and-a-half story Colonial Revival house with a Tuscan one story porch, modillions, and a handsome Palladian motif dormer.
- (4) 1300 Broadway (#24), a large Craftsman style house with a massive pent dormer and accented with rock-faced concrete blocks.
- (5) 521 East/West (#37, N.R.), a large two story Spanish Colonial Revival house with round arch windows and a spreading red tile roof (originally a house, now the Webster Parish Library).
- (6) 411 East/West (#52), a two-and-a-half story Georgian Revival residence with a Palladian motif entrance and elegant dormers.
- (7) 508 Fort (#61), a huge two-and-a-half story Colonial Revival house with a Mount Vernon style portico.

Non-contributing Elements: (21%)

There are fifteen non-contributing buildings in the district, representing 21% of the building stock. Many are small brick ranch houses. Five are two story residences, but only one of these is truly intrusive in character (#21). The most interesting non-contributing element is the previously mentioned Gothic Revival St. John's Episcopal Church (#7), which although built in 1950, contributes greatly to the district's character.

It should be noted that a twenty-one percent non-contributing rate is fairly low for a Louisiana district outside New Orleans. Very importantly, the non-contributing buildings are sprinkled throughout the district and hence do not dominate in any particular place.

CONTINUED

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Minden Historic District, Webster Parish, LA

Section number   7   Page   4  

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Contributing Elements:

The district is significant as an outstanding collection of historic residences, with contributing elements ranging from c.1850 to 1942 (the fifty year cutoff). While certain houses obviously make a greater contribution to the significance than others, any 50+ year old building that has not been altered too badly should be considered a contributing element.

The Minden Presbyterian Church obviously does not relate to the district's status as an outstanding collection of historic residences. It, however, is easily individually eligible for the Register as one of the most elaborate and striking Gothic Revival churches in the region.

Alterations to Contributing Elements:

Overall, the district's contributing elements are surprisingly well-preserved. There are a few instances of vinyl or aluminum siding, sometimes sensitively applied and sometimes not. In no case, however, did the damage seem so severe that the building should be considered non-contributing. There are also a few instances of column replacement, sometimes with imitation wrought iron. Here again, the impact did not seem serious enough to merit a non-contributing designation.

CONTINUED

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Minden Historic District, Webster Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 5

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## INVENTORY

1. Minden Presbyterian Church, 1001 Broadway, Contributing Element. Large and elaborate 1923 brick Gothic Revival church with prominent side tower and half-timbering motifs in the front and side gables. Sympathetic additions to the side and rear read as separate buildings.
2. 1002 Broadway, Contributing Element. 1930s frame cottage with arched entrance porch under gable; fanlight over doorway.
3. 1101 Broadway, Non-contributing Element. One story brick ranch house.
4. 1100 Broadway, Contributing Element. 1920s frame bungalow with diamond pane windows. Original columns and balustrade replaced with imitation wrought iron.
5. 1103 Broadway, Contributing Element. 1920s frame house with bungalow details.
6. 1102 Broadway, Contributing Element. 1920s one and a half story frame house with hipped roof and hipped roof dormers.
7. St. John's Episcopal Church, 1107 Broadway, Non-contributing Element. Although this is a handsome historic-looking Gothic Revival church, it was built in 1950. Large L-shaped addition to the rear.
8. 1106 Broadway, Non-contributing Element. Two story brick house.
9. 1111 Broadway, Contributing Element. c.1880 two story frame house with elaborate Italianate gallery and ornamentation crowning the front doors and windows on the first floor. Aluminum siding; upper gallery posts replaced; originally had brackets on second floor gallery.
10. 1108 Broadway, Contributing Element. c. 1900 two story frame Queen Anne Revival house with side polygonal bay and wraparound porch. Imitation wrought iron columns; windows replaced.
11. 1113 Broadway, Contributing Element. c.1925 two story Colonial Revival house with one story pedimented porch and denticular cornice.
12. 1110 Broadway, Contributing Element. c.1850 two story frame Greek Revival house with narrow two story pedimented portico; gable end returns on the sides; wide doorways upstairs and down with multi-pane transoms and sidelights.

CONTINUED

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Minden Historic District, Webster Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 6

- 
13. 1114 Broadway, Contributing Element. 1920s two and a half story brick Colonial Revival house with three bay one story porch, modillion cornice, elaborate fanlight, and Palladian style dormer.
  14. 109 Kirby, Contributing Element. 1920s one story frame house with bungalow style porch posts; vinyl sided.
  15. 111 Kirby, Contributing Element. c.1900 one story double shotgun with Eastlake columns and scrollsawn ornamentation in gable peak; vinyl sided.
  16. 112 Kirby, Non-contributing Element. 1940s simple one story frame cottage that is probably not fifty years old.
  17. 110 Kirby, Non-contributing Element. One story frame house that is not fifty years old.
  18. 106 Kirby, Contributing Element. 1930s one story frame cottage with two front gables; arched entrance porch; prominent side chimney.
  19. 1201 Broadway, Non-contributing Element. Badly altered two story frame historic building.
  20. 1200 Broadway, Non-contributing Element. Modern one story brick ranch house.
  21. 1203 Broadway, Non-contributing Element. Two story speckled brick "colonial" house. Appears to be an older house that was completely remodeled.
  22. 1202 Broadway, Contributing Element. Drake House, National Register. c.1905 Colonial Revival two story house with colossal Tuscan pedimented portico featuring a large Roman-looking lunette; single story wraparound Tuscan gallery; aluminum siding.
  23. 1205 Broadway, Contributing Element. c.1900 simple one and a half story Queen Anne Revival cottage; square post gallery; aluminum or vinyl siding.
  24. 1300 Broadway, Contributing Element. 1920s large one and a half story frame house with Craftsman influence. Massive overhanging pitched roof with prominent pent dormer with balcony. Rock faced cast concrete blocks accent the front gallery. Prominent exposed rafter ends.
  25. 1301 Broadway, Contributing Element. 1920s frame cottage with forward facing gable and rock-faced concrete block porch posts.

CONTINUED



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

Minden Historic District, Webster Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 7

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26. 1302 Broadway, Contributing Element. 1930s plain frame cottage.
  27. 1304 Broadway, Contributing Element. 1930s brick "English" cottage with steeply pitched gables and prominent front chimney.
  28. 1306 Broadway, Contributing Element. c.1930 one and a half story frame Colonial Revival cottage with arched portico and broken pediment doorway.
  29. 101 Homer Road, Contributing Element. c.1910 large two and a half story frame Colonial Revival house with colossal Ionic portico and a broad one story Ionic veranda.
  30. Elm Street, Non-contributing Element. Simple asbestos sided cottage-- probably not fifty years old.
  31. 618 Elm Street, Non-contributing Element. 1950s "colonial" brick ranch house.
  32. Elm Street, Contributing Element. c.1900 one and a half story frame Queen Anne Revival cottage with two front facing imbricated shingle gables and Eastlake gallery.
  33. 625 Elm Street, Contributing Element. c.1925 two story frame house built along bungalow lines with porte-cochere, prominent overhangs and brackets.
  34. 619 Elm Street, Contributing Element. c.1915 frame galleried cottage with front facing gable; porch columns and balustrade replaced with imitation wrought iron.
  35. 617 Elm Street, Contributing Element. 1920s brick bungalow.
  36. 613 Elm Street, Contributing Element. 1920s one and a half story cottage with prominent pent dormer and tapered porch posts.
  37. 521 East/West, Contributing Element. National Register, 1920s. Two story stucco Spanish Colonial Revival house with red tile roof. Now the Webster Parish Library.
  38. 515 East/West, Non-contributing Element. Modern brick ranch house.
  39. 510 East/West, Contributing Element. c.1910 Colonial Revival cottage with Doric gallery and gablet front.

CONTINUED

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Minden Historic District, Webster Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 8

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40. 507 East/West, Contributing Element. 1930s one and a half story frame "English" cottage with steep gable and prominent front chimney.
  41. 508 East/West, Contributing Element. 1920s frame bungalow.
  42. 503 East/West, Contributing Element. c.1900 one and a half story Queen Anne/Colonial Revival frame house with polygonal bay and pedimented entrance pavilion.
  43. 506 East/West, Non-contributing Element. Modern brick ranch house.
  44. 501 East/West, Contributing Element. 1930s two story brick house with arched windows and doors on the ground level; prominent front chimney.
  45. 504 East/West, Contributing Element. 1920s frame bungalow. Front porch enclosed.
  46. 419 East/West, Contributing Element. c.1915 frame story and a half cottage with Colonial Revival columns and hip dormer.
  47. 500 East/West, Contributing Element. 1920s frame bungalow; porch columns replaced with imitation wrought iron.
  48. 415 East/West, Contributing Element. 1920s frame and brick bungalow.
  49. 416 East/West, Contributing Element. 1920s frame bungalow.
  50. 413 East/West, Contributing Element. c.1850 two story frame house, center hall plan, one room deep, in the local Greek Revival style. Single story front gallery replaced.
  51. 410 East/West, Contributing Element. 1930s frame cottage with prominent front gables and fanlight over doorway; aluminum or vinyl siding.
  52. 411 East/West, Contributing Element. c.1930 two and a half story frame Georgian Revival house with Palladian motif entrance and handsome arched dormers.
  53. 408 East/West, Non-contributing Element. 1950s story and a half brick "colonial" house.
  54. 409 East/West, Contributing Element. 1920s frame bungalow.

CONTINUED

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Minden Historic District, Webster Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 9

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55. 328 Lewisville, Contributing Element. McDonald House, National Register. c.1900. Two and a half story frame Queen Anne/Colonial Revival residence with prominent corner turret, two story entrance porch and sweeping veranda which follows the curve of the turret. Partially vinyl sided.
  56. 401 East/West, Contributing Element. 1920s one story cottage with bungalow style porch posts; front porch partially enclosed.
  57. 610 Lewisville Road, Contributing Element. 1850s two story frame Greek Revival house with narrow two story pedimented portico.
  58. 614 Lewisville Road, Contributing Element. c.1900 frame Queen Anne/Colonial Revival one story house with turret-like projection on the gallery.
  59. 315 East/West, Contributing Element. 1920s frame bungalow.
  60. 311 East/West, Contributing Element. 1920s two story frame house built along bungalow lines.
  61. 508 Fort, Contributing Element. 1920s two and a half story frame house. Originally a Federal-Greek Revival house; remodeled in the 1920s with a Mount Vernon style portico and prominent dormers. Retains impressive original interior woodwork.
  62. 612 Fort, Non-contributing Element. Plain two story frame residence.
  63. 515 Fort, Contributing Element. c.1910 one story frame Queen Anne cottage; gallery enclosed by moving wall forward c.1930.
  64. 509 Fort, Contributing Element. 1920s two story frame house built along bungalow lines; porte-cochere.
  65. 507 Fort, Contributing Element. c.1900 one story frame Queen Anne cottage with polygonal bay, Eastlake gallery and imbricated shingle gable.
  66. 505 Fort, Contributing Element. 1920s one story frame house with massive segmental arch gable and coupled Colonial Revival columns.
  67. 501 Fort, Contributing Element. c.1915 two story boxy plain frame house; one story gallery with tapered posts wraps around the side.
  68. 318 Lewisville, Contributing Element. 1930s two story plain frame house.
  69. 310 Lewisville, Contributing Element. 1930s one story frame cottage with bungalow type windows and one bay gabled porch.

CONTINUED

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Minden Historic District, Webster Parish, LA

Section number   7   Page   10  

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70. 304 Lewisville, Non-contributing Element. Plain one story frame galleried house.
71. Lewisville Road, Contributing Element. 1920s frame bungalow.

**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.1850-1942

**Significant Dates**

c.1850-1942

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Minden Historic District, Webster Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

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The Minden Historic District is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is easily the most impressive historic residential area in Webster Parish. It achieves this distinction because of the number, range and quality of styled historic residences.

Except for Minden and examples of log construction, Webster Parish's residential patrimony is undistinguished. The other nine incorporated communities, all quite small, have few styled historic residences. A typical community has a handful of very generic Queen Anne cottages and bungalows sprinkled among plain historic cottages and non-historic houses.

Against this background, the architectural significance of the Minden Historic District is evident to even the most casual observer. Not only does it represent the parish's only concentration of styled residences, but examples range from the Greek Revival to 1920s and '30s styles such as Spanish Colonial Revival. Indeed, almost all major residential styles within this time frame are represented, including Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne Revival, Colonial Revival, Bungalow/Craftsman, and Spanish Colonial Revival.

The Minden Historic District is also noteworthy for the number and quality of landmarks within its boundaries. About one-third of the historic buildings are of sufficient quality to be individually eligible for the Register within the context of the parish, and in some cases, a wider regional context. Many of these are mentioned specifically in the narrative portion of Part 7. As noted, three of the buildings in the district are already listed individually on the Register for their architectural significance.

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

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

Minden Historic District, Webster Parish, LA

**Section number**   9   **Page**   1  

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Webster Parish Historic Structures Survey. Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.



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

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

Minden Historic District, Webster Parish, LA

Section number 10 Page 1

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Boundaries were drawn to encompass the concentration of architecturally significant buildings. Areas outside the boundaries are characterized by pedestrian older buildings and/or less than fifty year old buildings.