

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received FEB 28 1984

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Kidd-Davis House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 609 North Vienna N/A not for publication

city, town Ruston N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 parish ~~RRRXX~~ Lincoln code 061

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Lincoln Parish Museum and Historical Society (318) 251-0018

street & number 609 North Vienna

city, town Ruston N/A vicinity of state LA 71270

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lincoln Parish Courthouse

street & number Trenton Street (no specific address) P. O. Box 924

city, town Ruston state LA 71270

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Louisiana Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kidd-Davis House (1886) is a story and a half Italianate frame house which was greatly modified in the Colonial Revival style in the early-twentieth century. It is located on Vienna Street in Ruston's historic residential area and has received no noticeable alterations since the early-twentieth century remodeling.

Because the early-twentieth century renovation was so extensive, the Kidd-Davis House will be described as a single unit rather than as the product of two periods of construction. The only visual evidence of the original 1886 construction is the shallow arched windows and the front door with its transom and side lights.

The house has a complex shape, with a large pitched roof main block and a pair of small side wings. There is also a larger secondary side wing on the south elevation. To the rear of all this is a large multiple pitched roof back wing which terminates in a porte-cochere.

The interior features a wide central hall with a small staircase at the rear. All of the rooms have simple molded baseboards, chair rails, and window frames. Many of the doors are glass and some of the door frames have pediment shaped tops. One of the rooms features an Adamesque mantel.

Most of the house's Colonial Revival features are on the exterior. These include:

1. The thirteen bay fluted Doric gallery which encompasses the front half of the house.
2. The Chinese Chippendale inspired balustrade which surmounts the gallery.
3. The three Palladian windows in the upper half story, one of which is set in a large central dormer.
4. The two arched dormers which flank the previously mentioned large central dormer.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c.1920 Remodeling **Builder/Architect** Uncertain for c. 1920 remodeling

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Kidd-Davis House is locally significant in the area of architecture as a landmark in Ruston's heritage of late nineteenth-early twentieth century residences.

The Louisiana Historic Structures Survey has identified 718 50+ year old buildings in Lincoln Parish, most of which are in the City of Ruston. Virtually all of Ruston's older structures date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The majority of Ruston's older residences represent the Queen Anne Revival or bungalow styles. The Kidd-Davis House is one of about fifty residences which show some Colonial Revival influence. Most of these, however, are merely irregularly massed Queen Anne Revival houses with Colonial columns or else plain cottages.

The Kidd-Davis House features a monumental, symmetrical articulation which marks it as one of the landmarks of its style in Ruston. The front gallery is particularly impressive in this regard. Of the numerous Colonial Revival galleries in town, it is the longest. In addition, it is one of only three which is surmounted by a balustrade. Moreover, it is one of few which is symmetrical and one of few which features fluted rather than plain columns.

Historical Note (extracted from "a Case Study of Functional Preservation: The Kidd-Davis House of Ruston as Museum and Community Center" by Philip C. Cook, North Louisiana Historical Association Journal, Vol. IX (Summer 1978), 150-153)

The history of the Kidd-Davis House dates back to 1885, one year after the founding of Ruston. In that year, Leroy Madison Kidd, a merchant from the neighboring town of Vernon in Jackson Parish, moved his business to the recently established railroad town of Ruston. He bought a 300-foot square block from Robert E. Russ, city founder and namesake of Ruston. Kidd then sold the property to Charles H. Harris, who started construction of a house in 1886. Either during construction or soon after, Harris sold the property and the new house to Captain Milton B. Kidd, brother and business partner of the original owner of the lot. The Kidd family occupied the house until 1921 when it was sold to the Robert Wesley Davis family.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Louisiana Historic Standing Structures Survey, Lincoln Parish,
 Cook, Philip C. "A Case Study of Functional Preservation: The Kidd-Davis House of
 Ruston as Museum and Community Center," North Louisiana Historical Association
 Journal, Volume IX (Summer, 1978), pp. 150-153.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ .5 acre

Quadrangle name Ruston, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone			Easting					Northing							

C

Zone			Easting					Northing							

D

Zone			Easting					Northing							

E

Zone			Easting					Northing							

F

Zone			Easting					Northing							

G

Zone			Easting					Northing							

H

Zone			Easting					Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification See enclosed sketch map for description, Justification:
 Boundary lines were drawn to discretely encompass the significant resource, The northern and
 eastern boundaries follow curblines, as shown on the sketch map, The southern and western bounda-
 ries were cut closely in order to exclude nearby non-contributing elements (a small c.1940 nonde-
 script playhouse & a small 1920's latticework shed-type structure that does not contribute to the
 house's architectural significance).

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	National Register Staff Division of Historic Preservation	ASSISTED BY William Davis Green, President, Lincoln Parish Museum & Historical Society, 1801 North Trenton, Ruston, LA 71270 (H) 318/255-7934 (O) 318/263-8491
organization	State of Louisiana	Jan. 1984 date
street & number	P. O. Box 44247	telephone (504) 342-6682
city or town	Baton Rouge	state LA 70804

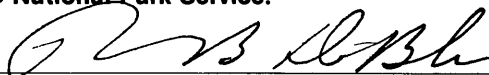
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

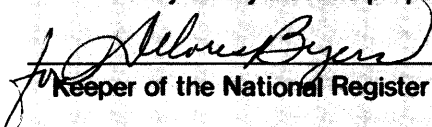
date February 23, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 3/29/84

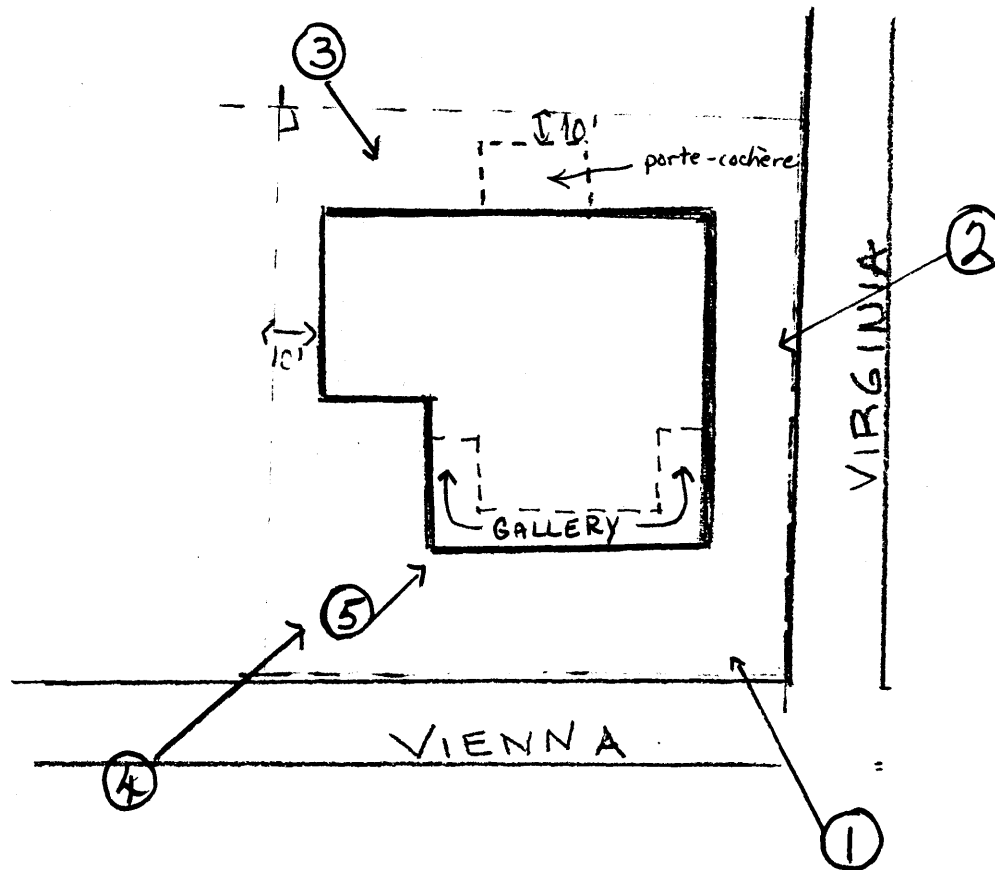

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

KIDD-DAVIS HOUSE RUSTON, LINCOLN PARISH



NOT TO SCALE

NORTHERN AND EASTERN BOUNDARIES FOLLOW CURBLINES. SOUTHERN AND WESTERN BOUNDARIES PARALLEL BUILDING ELEVATIONS, EACH AT A DISTANCE OF 10', AS SHOWN.

--- boundary

