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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

12 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 Blanks House

other names/site number Adams House

2. Location

street & number 333 Wall Street NA not for publication

city or town Columbia NA vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Caldwell code 021 zip code 71418

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 12/6/94
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:)

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

M. J. M. [Signature]

11/2/95

Blanks House
Name of Property

Caldwell 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.)

NA

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)

MIXED

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

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): NA

- 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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1900

Significant Dates

c. 1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property @ 3/4ths of an acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 [1, 5] [5, 8, 7, 3, 9, 0] [3, 5, 5, 2, 1, 2, 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.)

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 November 1994

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 Marie Adams and Family

street & number P. O. Box 848 telephone (318) 649-2246

city or town Columbia state LA zip code 71418

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.).

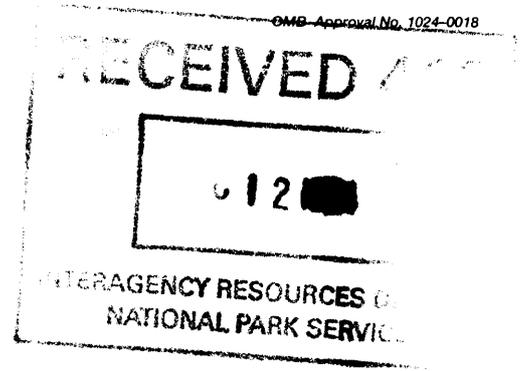
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form 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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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Blanks House, Caldwell Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1



The Blanks House (c. 1900) is an eclectic mix of several styles popular at the turn of the twentieth century. Therefore, the dwelling is being classified as of "mixed style" for the purposes of this nomination. The two-story, frame structure stands on a lushly planted lot on a residential street in the Caldwell Parish community of Columbia. The building has experienced some alteration since its construction, but its facade remains very much intact. Thus, the home remains eligible for National Register listing.

In terms of number of features present, the characteristics of the Colonial Revival style appear at first glance to dominate the home's appearance. These traits include:

- 1) a symmetrical facade.
- 2) large triple lower floor facade windows displaying multiple panes in an elongated diamond-like pattern in their upper sashes and large single panes in their lower sashes. Similarly subdivided single windows are found on the facade's second level and within an oriel-like projecting bay on the northwest side of the home (see below).
- 3) the suggestion of an entrance pavilion created by centering a gable atop the roof of the front gallery. This gable is supported by slender paired columns which rise from brick bases partially covered by stucco. The gable is pierced by an oculus window.
- 4) additional slender triple wooden columns located at the corners of the gallery. These also rise from brick bases partially covered by stucco.
- 5) the decorative treatment of a second floor balcony located above and behind the gable of the entrance pavilion. This balcony also features slender triple columns; however, these rise from wooden rather than brick bases. A solid clapboarded balustrade spans the space between these two bases. Although not specifically Colonial Revival features, a transom and sidelights surround the door opening onto this balcony.
- 6) simple entablatures outlining the front gallery, a side porch, and three sides of the home's main block.

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Blanks House, Caldwell Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

- 7) a semi-circular window piercing the gable of a large front attic dormer (see below). This window is distinguished by a keystone.

Despite this seeming preponderance of Colonial Revival motifs, other styles also contribute significantly to the appearance of the home. For example, the influence of the Queen Anne is seen in the two cross gables which extend outward from the building's hipped roof and the large bays which project on each side of the structure. One of the gables takes the form of a large front facing dormer opening to an attic level balcony which has lost its railing. The other is a large projecting gable at the rear. The two bays which stand on the front corners of the home are two stories tall and feature Gothic Revival style crenelated parapets. A third bay takes the form of a Gothic, oriel-like projection which contains a landing for the main stairway. The fourth bay, square in shape, projects from the rear elevation. The home also has overhanging bracketed eaves and an Eastlake staircase distinguished by ball drop ornaments.

The building's floorplan is unusual because it contains few square rooms. Instead, many of the rooms on both floors have either a large bay, at least one angled wall, or both. Although the first floor's plan has received some alteration (see below), the original plan survives largely intact on the second floor. Here a cruciform plan hall separates sizeable bedrooms filling each corner of the home. The hall culminates in a large central polygonal space. With the exception of the previously mentioned staircase and a dining room ceiling featuring beams applied in a spoke-like fashion, the home's interiors are simple and typical of the period.

The house has experienced the following changes since its c. 1900 completion:

- 1) The construction of a garage and storage building to one side of the home. It is connected to the historic house via a covered walkway.
- 2) the widening of the front entrance and the installation of double doors. The original single leaf door was then installed on a side entrance.
- 3) the previously mentioned changes to the first floor's plan, which are summarized as follows:

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Blanks House, Caldwell Parish, LA

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- a) During the residence of the second owner, the house was expanded on one rear corner in order to provide a two-room apartment for the owner's daughter. Although this addition survives, the wall separating the two rooms has been removed to make a larger single room used as a den. At one end of this room a staircase now rises to the second floor.
- b) The walls between the lower floor's original two front rooms and hall have been removed, a mantel flanked by two sets of French doors has been installed in the rear wall of the enlarged space, and the space's original baseboards and cornices have been replaced. The purpose of these alterations was to create a very large living room stretching across the front of the home.
- c) A modern kitchen has been installed.
- 4) changes to the upper floor, including the expansion of a rear porch and its conversion into a kitchen, the installation of two modern baths (one of which occupies part of the cruciform plan hall between two bedrooms), the addition of a fiberglass rosette to the ceiling of the upstairs polygonal central space, and the laying of linoleum over the upstairs hall's floor.
- 5) the removal of the home's original chimney and construction of a new chimney at the rear.
- 6) the loss of a balustrade at the level of the attic dormer.

Although this list of alterations may seem long, the majority of the changes have occurred either at the home's rear, its side, or in the interior of the building. The facade is virtually unaltered. As a large and prominent architectural landmark within the community of Columbia, the Blanks House is a prime candidate for National Register listing.

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Blanks House, Columbia, Caldwell Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The Blanks House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is an architectural landmark in the town of Columbia.

Although the river port town of Columbia was incorporated in 1847, there is nothing left to represent its early development. In fact, the town's oldest surviving structures date from the turn-of-the-century. With the exception of two landmark commercial structures, one landmark church, and the Blanks House, Columbia's historic buildings are undistinguished from an architectural standpoint. The Historic Structures Survey for Caldwell Parish shows that the town's historic building stock, with the previous exceptions, consists of plain one-story Queen Anne cottages, low-key bungalows, and equally undistinguished twentieth century commercial buildings.

Against this architectural background, the Blanks House is noteworthy in the following respects:

- 1) It is one of the largest historic structures, and is the largest residence, in Columbia.
- 2) In contrast to the conventional historic building stock described above, the house features an exotic blend of Gothic, Colonial Revival, Queen Anne, and Eastlake features. Thus, it is the most highly styled residence in the town.

Historical Note

Some citizens of Columbia believe the Blanks House to have been built in 1870, and signs indicating that date have been placed over two of the building's entrances. However, the architectural evidence strongly suggests a c. 1900 date for the home.

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Blanks House, Columbia, Caldwell Parish, LA

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Historic Standing Structures Survey for Caldwell Parish, Louisiana.

Site visit by National Register staff.

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

Description: The nominated property is labeled "L. R. Adams, Jr." on the attached property plat map.

Justification: Boundary lines follow the property lines of the parcel of land upon which the nominated resource is located, per the attached plat map.

