**1. Name of Property**

<table>
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<tr>
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**2. Location**

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<tr>
<td>City or town: Columbia</td>
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**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 at the following level(s) of significance:

- national
- state
- [local]

Applicable National Register Criteria: [A] [B] [C] [D]

**Signature of certifying official/Title:** Kristin Sanders, State Historic Preservation Officer  
**Date**

**Signature of commenting official:**  
**Date**

**Title:** State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
Graves Homeplace
Name of Property

Caldwell Parish, LA
County and State

4. National Park Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other, explain: ___________________________

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

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<td>Public – State</td>
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Category of Property (Check only one box.)

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Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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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
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900
OMB No. 1024-0018

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.): Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
foundation: brick
walls: weatherboard
roof: tin
other:

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph
The Graves Homeplace is a Greek Revival farmhouse (contributing building) with its principal parts dating from close to before and after the American Civil War. Built on a cutoff of the Ouachita River, the c.1875 front portion is a sparsely detailed, central hall, two-story structure beneath a steep gabled roof. Its unusually wide hallway serves four first-floor rooms and contains a straight-run stair leading to a second-floor hallway serving two bedrooms and an attic space. Raised on brick piers, the building's five-bay front facade is comprised of six columns supporting a wide integral porch accessing its double-door entrance, which is flanked by side and transom lights. Architectural refinements on the primary elevation include tapered rectangular wood columns with chamfered Doric capitals, and the canting of both the window frames and the structure’s primary soffit. The older c.1850 rear ell is of the 'saddlebag' vernacular typology consisting of two rooms of equal size separated by a back-to-back chimney wall and a closet. Its antebellum construction is evidenced by square-nailed, vertical plank construction and relatively heavy framing. The yard of the Graves Homeplace contains a restored well house (contributing structure), two contemporary storage buildings (non-contributing buildings), patterns of nineteenth century camellias, crepe myrtles, and cedar trees and a large stand of bamboo. The house possesses a high degree of historic integrity through was only in fair condition prior to commencement of restoration in August 2017. Its restoration, completed in December 2020, entailed retention of as much original architectural fabric and integrity as possible, preservation of significant changes over time, and recovery of the property’s historic landscape.

Narrative Description
The Graves Homeplace reflects Anglo-American farm settlement along a cutoff of the Ouachita River in Caldwell Parish. Both the c.1875 Greek Revival front portion of the Homeplace and its c.1850 rear ell are sparsely detailed reflecting the resourceful values of nineteenth century rural northern Louisiana. The front portion of the Homeplace which faces West is a four-square, two-story wood frame structure with its rooms served by wide center halls at both levels. The relatively modest rear ell is of the 'saddlebag' house typology and was presumably an earlier domestic building on the property. The saddlebag's name derives from the appearance of its rooms being astride its low central chimney in the manner of a loaded horse saddle. The saddlebag ell at the Graves Homeplace
is a variant of the ‘double-pen vernacular form’, which due to its antebellum date may have served a ‘pioneer’s house’ during original settlement of the property or perhaps a slave dependency. (Newton, ML. 1985; Martin, L. 1989.) At the onset of ownership of the property by JQ Graves, Sr. in c.1875 it could have also served as a temporary dwelling while the front house was being constructed.

Raised on brick piers, the front building’s five-bay facade is comprised of six columns supporting a wide porch accessing its double door entrance which is flanked by side and transom lights. Four original six-over-six windows bracketed by louvered shutters flank the front entrance door. Architectural refinements on the primary elevation include tapered rectangular wood columns with stylized chamfered Doric capitals and the canting of both the window frames and the structure’s primary soffit. Shoulder or ‘ear-mounted’ openings are used throughout the interior and exterior of the house. (Fricker, 2010.) Such refinements of design and the quality of components such as windows, doors, shutters, and chimney pieces suggest that an accomplished ‘contract builder’ erected the front portion of the house. A J.Q. Graves, either the builder of the house, or his father, was noted in an 1850’s census record as being a housewright in an Orange Country, Virginia, seat of the family. Thus, the house was commissioned, if not built, by a discerning owner who was familiar with the building trades.

The rear porch of the original front house spanned the width of the house and was gradually enclosed beginning circa 1920. From at least this time an elevated breezeway connected it to the property’s semi-detached rear ell. From the 1920s the rear porch was partially enclosed to include a pair of adjacent bathrooms and the screening of its breezeway area. Transom lighting above the center hall’s rear double doors, exposed former exterior siding, and a window enlarged to be a door leading from the master bedroom to its adjacent full bath are evidence of this period of expansion. A pair of single six-pane sash windows re-positioned as side-by-side pocket sliders provide illumination for the two bathrooms. These windows were relocated from their original six-over-six single hung configuration in the west wall of the rear ell. In c.1975 the former screened in rear porch-breezeway area of the front portion of the house was expanded and enclosed to be the full width of the rear ell. Its wood frame walls were clad in drop siding which incorporated four new wood windows (a pair of two-over-two sash windows (facing east), one six-over-six sash window (facing north) and four single sash two-over-two windows configured as a strip window (facing south). A pair of exterior paneled doors (one facing east and one facing north) serve this modified mid-portion of the house.

The south elevation of front portion of the house contains five windows, with two serving the second story bedroom with two serving the south parlor and one serving the master bedroom at the ground floor. All windows in the south, west, and north front portion of the house are single hung six-over-six ‘friction windows’, designed so that the lower sash may stay in the up position without counterweights. All wood sash windows have been restored, with retention of as much original glass as possible. Each six-over-six window of the front house has restored original five-foot operable shutters painted in their identical original color (leaf green). This and other original coloration of the house have been carefully matched in the restoration. All window sashes are painted oxblood red, and the general color of the house is white.

The south half of the east elevation of the front portion of the house includes the aforementioned side-by-side sliding windows which were relocated from the rear ell of the house in c.1920. The pair of chimneys in the front portion of the house that serve its four back-to-back interior fireplaces penetrate the main roof’s east elevation and rise approximately 12 feet to slightly above the roof line.
The north elevation of the front portion of the house precisely mirrors that of the south elevation. At its east end a set of 10-foot-wide steps leads to an equally wide shallow porch and kitchen entrance doorway dating from c.1975. This hyphen wall connected the rear of the front portion of the house with the rear ell. This side porch was found to be in poor condition due to roof water damage and in 2018 was set back four feet to facilitate better weather protection and to discretely distinguish the c.1885 front portion of the building from the c.1850 rear ell. The window and door in the side porch wall are in their original positions.

The central hall of the ground floor front portion of the Graves Homeplace serves two parlors (one north, one south), the master bedroom (at the southeast corner of the plan), and the kitchen (at the northeast corner), all of which contain fireplaces. A straight-run stair along the north wall of the hallway serves the second-floor center hall which is flanked by a pair of contained bedrooms. A new bathroom was placed within the attic space of the rear roof slope in 2018.

The front portion of the Graves Homeplace is balloon-frame construction (light stud framing) with its wood studs rising from sills at ground level to the attic level, and all exterior walls of the house are clad with either horizontal shiplap or drop siding. The front porch wall and all porch ceilings are sheathed in four-inch beaded board. The centrally located front entrance stairs on the primary elevation and the steps serving the kitchen entrance both date from the 1970s and have been retained. Handrails similar to the original front porch handrails were added to the front porch stair and kitchen stairs and at the edges of the east and south porches of the rear ell in 2020 as a safety measure.

All walls comprising the front portion of the Graves Homeplace have been conserved in their ‘as-found’ designs and materials. Some 90 percent of the six-over-six wood sash including their glass panes in the front house exterior are original and were restored with most of their original glass panes. Approximately 20 percent of the original five-foot operable shutters survived and were restored. Ten missing pairs of shutters including their hardware were identically matched with historic shutters found elsewhere.

All interior walls and ceilings of the front portion of the house are sheathed in four-inch beaded board. Floors are painted or stained six-inch tongue and groove pine. Interior moldings and opening enframements are simply detailed using dimensioned lumber and wood paneled doors with surface mounted door hardware are used throughout. The chimney fronts in all four rooms of the front house are spare Greek Revival in style. All moldings, doors and chimney fronts are original to the house have been preserved and their original color schemes have been respected. The original coloring of the walls and ceilings of the halls, parlors and bedrooms was left intact, in-painted as necessary, and sealed with tinted glazing except in the kitchen where its original color matched in solid oil base paint.

The c.1850 two-room ‘saddlebag’ ell of the Graves Homeplace consists of a pair of 16-foot square rooms separated by a back-to-back chimney wall and closet. The saddlebag’s square nails, heavier framing, and vertical plank construction are evidence that it predates the c.1875 balloon frame front house which utilized standard dimensioned lumber framing joined by a combination of square wrought and wire-cut (round) nails. The lateral west elevation of the ell was adjoined to the front portion of the house from at least c. 1915. It is assumed that both the c.1885 front portion of the house and the c.1850 saddlebag structure were moved together in their same physical relationship back on the site to their present position. The west wall of saddlebag was set about six feet from the east edge of the former rear porch of front portion. The ell’s south porch is in alignment with the front building’s center hall. From the time of complete enclosure and connection of the rear portion and the
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Name of Property

Graves Homeplace  Caldwell Parish, LA
Name of Property                   County and State

front portion of the house in c.1975 the west and southwest walls of the saddlebag have served as interior walls. The roof and bead-board ceiling of the ell’s south porch retain approximately half of its original kicked roof rafters and the roof slope and porch ceiling of its east porch is reconstructed anew in its as-found ‘pent’ form. A short wall containing a window and door separates the rear of the enclosed area between the front house and the south porch of the rear ell. A window in the southwest corner of the rear ell was cut down in 2018 to provide internal access to the rear ell from the front area via newly applied pair of historic French doors. In this area a four-foot length of historic vertical plank construction has been left unclad as a witness to the ell’s construction technology.

The rear ell of the house was in fair condition at the onset of restoration of the property in 2017. Two of its principal floor beams had broken in two areas, due to rotted ends, causing the ceilings in these areas to sag. The collapse of the south porch of the ell allowed rainwater to damage the structure’s exterior wall in this area though its pair of doors and doorways remained intact. The central chimney collapsed when temporary shoring was removed in 2018. In the restoration of the saddlebag deteriorated beams were reinforced and most of the bricks of the collapsed chimney were reinstated in the chimney’s exact reconstruction.

The gabled roof of the rear ell is penetrated by a low chimney at the mid-point of its ridge. The c.1915 stamped metal shingle roof of the rear ell was found to be beyond repair in 2017 due to fallen trees and water damage which also caused the partial collapse of the structure’s south and east porches. Both the south and east walls of the restored elevations of the rear ell are protected by restored porches in their original L-configuration that intersect at the structure’s southeast corner. The rebuilt gabled roof corner of the ell approximates what existed before collapse of this portion of the building. This porch system is served by a pair of concrete steps likely dating from the 1920s. The south wall of the rear ell contains two doors and a six-over-six single sash window at its east end. The eastern window of the ell’s south elevation was balanced by an identical window at its west end which remained a feature of an interior wall in the enclosed connecting passageway between the two structures.

The east wall of the ell is protected by a one-story porch which at least dates from 1915 judging from the age of its brick pier supports. The east porch was enclosed in c.1975 with horizontal strip windows set above a knee wall which, after recording, was removed in 2017 due its collapsed condition. The east elevation of the ell contains one door and a six-over-six sash window. The windows have been removed, removed thus permitting restoration of the porch of east elevation of the ell. This pair of six-light horizontally configured windows were restored and used to replace an arrangement of four destroyed or missing four-pane sashes set in a series at the mid-section of the house’s south elevation.

The north elevation of the ell is straight, sheathed in drop siding, and contains two six-over-six sash windows which are symmetrically placed. All of the rear ell’s windows are approximately 15% larger in dimension than those of the front portion of the house and none had shutters. Two of the structure’s four screen doors have been restored and returned to their original locations. The new standing seam painted roof of the rear ell is meant to be stylistically consistent with the period and character of the building and harmonious with the color of the preserved c.1915 stamped metal shingle roof of the front portion of the house.

The interior spaces of the rear ell including their chimney pieces and the closet room were restored to their original plan and appearance while retaining most of their original materials. An abandoned unlined stove flue projecting on the inside the east wall of the east room was retained though is
unusable. All exterior walls, windows and doors of the rear ell are restored to their original colors of white, dark red and light green respectively.

During the documentation phase of the recent restoration when the relatively early date and construction details of the rear ell were noted, a decision was made to restore it at all costs. With some 95% of the building’s earlier design and materials being discernable, approximately 25% of the fabric of the building required restoration which was done ‘in-kind’. The restoration of the exterior of the rear ell was undertaken in 2018 and its interior was restored in 2020. Both interventions entailed retention and restoration of as much original architectural fabric of the structure as possible, an estimated 75% of the c.1975 form of the building.

The present plan of the Graves Homeplace retains the form of the house as of the mid-1970s, after which little changed except for its increasingly unkempt appearance due to deferred maintenance. From between the late 1920’s and the mid-1970’s the plan of the Graves Homeplace also changed remarkably little, save for the further development enclosure of the area that connects the front and rear portions of the house.

Both the front portion and the rear ell of the Graves Homeplace were moved directly back approximately 150’ to its present site in c.1915 possibly due to the widening of the river road to be an early paved stretch of LA Route 165. Family history recalls the “use of a large mule team” to haul both buildings to their present positions. The stamped galvanized metal shingle roof of the house, which replaced a cypress shingle roof, likely dates from this time.

The philosophy of the Graves Homeplace 2017-2020 restoration was to make as few changes to the ‘as-found’ design and materials of the house as possible. Where restoration of historic building fabric was required ‘in-kind’ materials and compatible construction techniques were used. Improved modern amenities include new bathroom fixtures, except for the tub, in the master bath and all new fixtures in the guest half bath. A new full bath was constructed at the second-floor level within the rear roof attic space. The present kitchen is in the house’s original kitchen location. New gas, electrical and plumbing systems, batt insulation, and ceiling fans were added. The house currently has either period or historically sympathetic furnishings.

The Graves Homeplace is roughly centered in its seven-acre property and faces 1.5-mile-long Davis Lake which was formerly part of an oxbow shaped stretch of the Ouachita River. The property is located on the highest point of Davis Lake Road which retains its narrow country road appearance. Prior to construction in 1929 of the levees that presently contains the Ouachita River, the farm properties along Davis Lake had access to the river channel during the high-water season. The Homeplace was the seat of approximately 1200 acres of mostly adjacent farmland owned by descendants of JQ Graves until 2018.

The Graves Homeplace today consists of the restored house and rear ell, a restored well house which protects a large subterranean cistern (contributing structure), and two new equipment storage buildings located behind the house (non-contributing buildings). Etched into the cement parging of exterior surface of the wellhead in two locations is the name J. Q. Graves, September 9, 1894. This is its likely date of construction. The bell-shaped cistern is approximately ten feet deep, eight feet in diameter at its base, and has a draw shaft that is 30 inches in diameter. The well house is a one-story structure, eight by ten feet in plan, and is accessed by with a low corner entrance door. Its corrugated metal gabled roof is raised on a post and beam frame and its walls on all sides consists of spaced one-by-four-inch wood slats set in a diagonal pattern. Found in 2017 to be in fair condition with its
wall posts failing, the well house was restored in Fall 2020 to its late nineteenth century appearance using matching materials and craftsmanship. The roof and gables are original and approximately one half of the structure’s original posts and diagonal required replacement in-kind. The well house sits approximately 130 feet in front and slightly to the northwest of the principle Homeplace structure. It collected rainwater from roof of the house in its original location before it was moved back on its site in c.1915.

In 2017 the corrugated metal roofs of two other ancillary buildings, likely dating from the 1920’s, were found collapsed to the ground. One structure was an automobile storage or repair shed and the other was a small shed containing a hot water heater and a few yard implements. The automobile shed was located in relation to the entrance drive approaching the house from the northwest corner of the site (at the corner Davis Lake and Gore Roads) and the shed containing a water heater was located approximately 40 feet from the southeast corner of the front portion of the house.

The salvageable remains of a poultry coop (also from the 1920s) located in the southeast corner of the property were preserved as the frontispiece of small storage barn in 2019. Its east wall consisting of horizontally placed one-by-four-inch wood slats, its corner posts, and the low centered access door were all that remained standing of this building. This surviving wall was stabilized and repaired, and new walls built of salvage wood were added as the building’s north, east and south elevations. The timber frame board and batten structure is protected by a new corrugated metal roof. A second wooden lawn maintenance equipment storage barn set further towards the rear of the property was completed in September 2021. The previously described restored well house should be considered a contributing structure, whereas the modified chicken coop and new barn storage buildings should be considered as contemporary ancillary buildings built along the lines of traditional farm buildings in the area.

The mature landscape is a key feature of the Graves Homeplace and considerable effort was expended in preserving its surviving historic plant materials. Plantings that have been in place since at least the turn of the twentieth century include patterns of cedar trees, camellias, crepe myrtles, yews, a large stand of giant bamboo, and what has been described by a former State arborist as possibly the largest Ginkgo tree in Louisiana. Other sizable trees include oak, pine, magnolia, elm, and pecan trees. Four large cedar trees parallel to Davis Lake Road likely date from the 1850’s. Further set back from the road are 14 large camellias mostly planted two rows, and 11 crepe myrtles are concentrated both near the Well House and parallel to the south side of the main house. A few pieces of a hand-hewn picket fence along the road in front of the house have survived and will serve as the basis for its restoration. On the verso of a c.1931 photo of the fence found in a family archive was inscribed “Picket fence dating from before the Civil War.” Most other large trees and ornamental plants at the Homeplace date from the late nineteenth century.

Assessment of Integrity
The location of the Graves Homeplace property boundaries and its key historic landscape features have not changed since the late-nineteenth century. Its’ two main access points, from directly in front of the house and from the northwest corner of the site, remain in use.

The Homeplace residence has retained its basic design and setting since its construction after the American Civil War. Both the front house dating from c.1875 and its rear ell addition dating from c.1850 changed remarkably little, except that both buildings were moved approximately 150 feet directly back on their site in c.1915. The main house and the well house have been preserved in its present location for over a century. There likely was always a floor level connection between the front
The feeling and association of the history of the Graves Homeplace have been preserved from its early years through to the recent restoration and presentation of the property. The scale of the wooden farmhouse, set back on its site though visible from the public right of way, with its preserved large yard and historic plantings is an impressive evocation of the area’s late nineteenth century cultural landscape. The house had a rough-hewn picket fence along the lakeside road which is no longer present. Pecan trees in a portion of a former orchard border the house at its southern edge. A restrictive covenant on the property to the east and south of the Homeplace assures only residential development and tree lines block out most modern development in the area. The Homeplace’s treelined riverbank and its ownership of the land beneath Gore Road bordering the north of the property further assure the rural context of the site.

The current owner and restorer of the Graves Homeplace is a lineal descendant of James Q. Graves, Sr. who assembled the farm property and built the house. Members of the Graves family lived at the Homeplace from the mid-1870s through the mid-1930s, after which farm managers occupied the house. Through extensive archival and building research the history of the property is recorded and preserved, along with maps of the area, and images of historic personages associated with the house. Much of this history is on view within the house and since completion of its restoration the Graves Homeplace has served on several occasions as a heritage tour destination and event place.

A recent restoration of the Graves Homeplace which occurred between August 2017 and December 2020 respected the seven key aspects of architectural integrity as much as possible. Where there was missing hardware, damaged siding, and a collapsed chimney they were replicated both in their
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design and materials. All conservation interventions at the property have been extensively documented. In addition, the previously overgrown site was cleaned up, saving all the mature trees and plants that could be saved, and reinstating the feeling and association of the historic house and grounds to its scenic location along Davis Lake and the Ouachita River.

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.)

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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history</td>
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Criteria Considerations:

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<td>C</td>
<td>A birthplace or grave</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>A cemetery</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>A reconstructed building, object, or structure</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>A commemorative property</td>
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<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years</td>
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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.): Architecture

Period of Significance: 1850-1875

Significant Dates:

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion D is marked above): N/A

Architect/Builder (last name, first name): Unknown and/or James Quarles Graves, Sr.

Period of Significance (justification): The period of significance spans the construction dates of the two primary components of the house.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary): In around 1915, the c.1885 front house and the c.1850 saddlebag structure comprising the Graves Homeplace were moved straight back on the site approximately 150 feet to their present position. The resource meets Criteria
Consideration B because it is nominated for architectural significance and remains on the same property with a setting compatible to its original setting.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph  (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Graves Homeplace represents a relatively intact late nineteenth century farmstead situated along the Ouachita River in Caldwell Parish, Louisiana. Due to its restrained and relatively late Greek Revival style, its material intactness, and its relatively early construction date among remaining buildings in the parish, the Graves Homeplace complies with Criterion C for architectural significance at the local level. Construction detailing of the c.1875 front portion and c.1850 rear portion of the house, entailing balloon frame versus vertical plank framing assembled with differing timber dimensions and nail types, reveal the different dates of the principal parts of the house as well as the resourcefulness of its builders. The Greek Revival entrance elevation the Homeplace with its distinctive Doric colonnade represents the prominent and long enduring classical architectural style in the Southern and Eastern United States. The building’s engaged front porch leads to the wide central hall of the front portion of the house which reflects a popular floor plan in the region since the early 1800s. (Martin, 2000, 21.) The rear portion of the Graves Homeplace represents the re-purposing of an earlier vernacular building called a ‘saddlebag’ structure, composed mainly of two rooms served by a back-to-back fireplace, which was retained for its utilitarian value. The design of the Graves Homeplace reflects the continuity of the classical tradition in American architecture as a cultural symbol in rural North Louisiana.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Brief History of Columbia and Caldwell Parish
The Graves Homeplace reflects a common historic land development pattern in Louisiana in the form of farmsteads and trading settlements situated along navigable waterways. In the 1804 the length of the Ouachita River was first mapped by the William Dunbar Expedition commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson. The river’s features within the present Caldwell Parish area, including Native American villages and pioneer settlements, were noted by the expedition. During French and Spanish domination of the region from 1682 until 1803, a few sparse settlements of hunters gradually evolved to become trading locations such as an area near Harrisonburg established by Sieur de Vilmont and a settlement by Sieur de Cantillion higher up the Ouachita River in what is now Caldwell Parish in 1718, and Ft. Miro established in 1785 by Don Juan Filhoil (renamed Monroe in 1819). The first settlement of the 19th century in what is now Caldwell Parish was established before 1815 at Prairie De Cote, later to be called Copenhagen. Only a small cemetery remains of this village settled by pioneers from Denmark. (Martin, 1993, 4.) Other French settlements near the present site of Columbia were begun by Ursin Landrenau of Pointe Coupee Parish. Other families such as the Pooles, Heberts, Girods, Brandins, Duchesnes and the Oliveaux migrated to the same area. Members of some of these families are buried in a former Native American river mound 2 miles upstream from Columbia, located by the present intersection of Hearn Island Drive and Davis Lake Road. The steamboat “James Monroe” was the first to ply its way up the Ouachita River in May 1819, having likely stopped at what is now Columbia.

On March 6th, 1838 the Legislature of the State of Louisiana created the Parish of Caldwell from lands formerly in Catahoula and Ouachita Parishes. The parish was named after a prominent landowner. Located at a narrow point of the Ouachita River the town of Columbia served as the seat of Caldwell Parish and became a prosperous and regionally important steamboat port. It served Monroe, thirty miles to the north as well as points further upstream into Arkansas. The Ouachita converges with the Black and Red Rivers in Jonesville to the south which allows access to the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico.

For nearly a century, from 1819 to 1910, the Ouachita was the great highway of commerce and transportation for the entire Ouachita Valley. A major steamboat line was established by two Columbia men, Captains Jack
and Fred Blanks, in the early 1880’s. Some of the most famous boats of the river—the Ouachita Belle, John Hanna, Corona, Fred Blanks, and H. Hanna Blanks—were built by these brothers. The Blanks line dominated the Ouachita River trade for a generation. (Ibid. 5.) Laura Blanks (1851-1936), wife of the J.Q. Graves, builder of the Graves Homeplace, was a member of the large Blanks family. Whereas the Ouachita River was the regional main street of the 19th century, it would yield to the railroad during development in the 20th century. In 1889 the Houston, Central Arkansas and Northern Railroad constructed a line 25 miles north and south of Monroe which was extended by Missouri Pacific Railroad from Columbia south to Alexandria. In the 1930’s U.S. Highway 165 was constructed parallel to this rail line which connected the new lumber towns of Grayson, Kelly and Clarks. (Ibid.)

The alluvial plains of the east bank of the Ouachita, across the river from the hilly terrain of Columbia and the remainder of the parish, have long been considered especially productive agricultural land. A civic claim in the area at the turn of the twentieth century boasted that the region is on the way to being “the breadbasket of America”. The town and parish grew over its nearly 190-year history. While there were skirmishes between Union and Confederate troops in the area Columbia suffered little damage during the Civil War, save for destruction of its ferry.

Land settlement from the early nineteenth century in the Caldwell Parish area evolved in three stages. The first was gradual ‘Americanization’ since 1803 of the prior large French and Spanish land grants involving plantations established along the Ouachita River and others which flowed into it. Such antebellum plantations were usually created by both large and small slaveholders with examples being Synope and Breston Plantations. The second period and pattern of land development followed the Civil War when plantations were sub-divided into tenant farms with areas rented to freed blacks or poor whites through the system known as “sharecropping”. A farmer would be responsible for planting and harvesting about 20 acres. (Martin, 2000, 6.) Thus occurred the abandonment of the former slave cabins to the rear or flanking the “big house” and the creation of a housing system dispersed across the land holding. Simultaneously, some plantations were divided and portions sold into small ownerships. During a third pattern of land development there was an increase in the number of small farms in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The rural landscape of North Louisiana became perforated with houses reflecting the currently popular national design features, including the Late Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Neoclassical, Bungalow, and Ranch styles. To the rear would be the ancillary outbuildings necessary to support farming operations. (Ibid. 10.) Many of the cotton, soybean, corn and hayfields of Caldwell Parish and the region today are operated in the same traditional farmstead settlement pattern consisting of a primary domicile of its owner, with home and farm support buildings nearby and set to the rear of the property. The architecture of the c.1875 Graves Homeplace primarily reflects the latter two abovementioned periods of development. In this case, the longstanding pattern of a river plantation settlement with workers housing to the rear was adapted to the times with the creation of a post-bellum late Greek Revival river house with an antebellum vernacular structure appended as a rear ell.

Since the first half of the 19th century river plantations such as Synope (1820s) and Breston (1840s), followed by others such as the Graves Homeplace and Martin Homeplace (both dating from the 1870s) were family seats and centers of farm production which, along with steamboat and later railroad and modern road systems, have been key to the economy of Northeast Louisiana. Despite changes to its transportation systems, subsequent development of the timber industry and some suburbanization, the farmlands along the Ouachita River in Caldwell Parish largely retain their integrity as distinct historical cultural and agricultural landscapes in North Louisiana.

**Criterion C: Greek Revival Architecture and Graves Homeplace**

As viewed within a wider context, Leopold Arnaud writes in his Foreword of architectural historian Talbot Hamlin’s seminal portrayal of Greek Revival in America: “This manner called ‘Greek Revival’ penetrated almost all sections of the country. It moved westward with the advancing frontier and is seen in surprising refinement and beauty in localities which were wilderness but a few years before. The designers of this period seemed to possess an innate talent for adapting the new architectural fashion to the requirements of the region, preserving traditional usages, accepting local building materials, and conforming to climatic exigencies.”
not, however, be considered a 'dogtrot' since its central hall was always enclosed. Lestar Martin's lumber 'dogtrot' with a Greek Revival gallery and other details.)” (Fricker, 7.) The Graves Homeplace would be one of six surviving nineteenth century river houses situated along the east side of Ouachita River in Caldwell Parish. The hilly terrain of the west side of the river prevented agricultural settlement. Other National Register listed buildings within ten miles of the Graves Homeplace are Synope and Breston Plantations and the Martin House, the latter of which is three quarters of a mile away towards the parish seat of Columbia. These three listed properties, plus two other somewhat similar c.1880 non-NRHP listed farmhouses also along Davis Lake Road, are currently occupied as residences. Since the early 1990s, the Martin House has served as a rural life museum. All are thus generally well preserved. The Graves Homeplace represents a time-tested building design in Louisiana, the two-story central hall residence with an ell extension to the rear. Numerous histories of Louisiana Architecture from notable architectural historians such as Samuel Wilson, Jr. in his Guide to the Architecture of New Orleans (1998) to Karen Kingsley in her Buildings of Louisiana (2003) cite the evolution and popularity of the center hall in residential architecture from the American Period after 1803. The prevalence of the classic revival at the national level from the mid18th through the mid19th centuries as ‘America’s national style’ is well portrayed in Talbot Hamlin’s Greek Revival Architecture in America (1944) and Roger Kennedy’s Greek Revival America (1989). More specific stylistic surveys of the region cite further possibilities of classicized domestic forms with centrals halls as in Jonathan and Donna Fricker’s The Greek Revival (2010): “Occasionally in Northwest Louisiana, one finds the marriage of the Upland South dogtrot with the country Greek Revival style (a milled lumber ‘dogtrot’ with a Greek Revival gallery and other details).” (Fricker, 7.) The Graves Homeplace would not, however, be considered a ‘dogtrot’ since its central hall was always enclosed. Lestar Martin’s Folk Styled Architecture in North Louisiana, Vol. II The River Parishes denotes five central hall houses in Caldwell Parish (Martin, 2000, 122.) Louisiana’s statewide context for the Greek Revival style also explains that “The majority of Grecian buildings in Louisiana took their cue from the state’s well established Creole tradition of galleried houses and cottages. Louisiana architectural historian Joan Caldwell notes, ‘Greek Revival tendencies found a ready reception in the South on two accounts: the style was revered for its Classical antecedent, and it lent itself to the Region’s climate. Columns, porticoes and porches were practical features that met the need for shade and were provisions that let leisure be taken and conversation enjoyed as a natural part of living. In Louisiana, where galleried houses were an entrenched tradition, the Greek colonnade became an easy graft. The aesthetic and utilitarian combined seamlessly in Greek Revival architecture.’” (Fricker, 3-4).

Of the three Greek orders (Doric, Ionic and Corinthian) the order selected for the Graves Homeplace entailed six tapered rectangular columns with stylized Doric capitals consisting of chamfered angles supported by tapered square columns, with no base, supporting an entablature. Shoulder or ear mounted openings are used throughout the exterior and interior of the house and the white colored building references white marble used in antiquity. The Homeplace was planned with attention to detail and craftsmanship and includes some unusual refinements including its canted (upward sloping) front roof soffit which was likely a means of enhancing air circulation through the house during warmer months. Its engaged 10-foot-deep front porch supported by its sparsely detailed Doric colonnade is one of the structure’s most distinctive character defining features. The continued use of an earlier structure to serve as the rear ell of the front house reflects both a predecessor construction era at the site and the resourcefulness of its owners. The Homeplace stands today both as witness to both earlier and subsequent farm building designs in the area and the resourcefulness of its owner and likely builder, James Quarles Graves Sr., who was listed in census records as a housewright in Orange Country, Virginia before moving to the Columbia at close of the Civil War.
Homeplace is smaller in plan and less grand in its Greek Revival details than Synope and Breston Plantations which are earlier, however the Homeplace is approximately fifteen percent larger in size (plan and volume) than the three other houses in its immediate area. This size difference may represent the difference in capacity and ambitions of its builder. The Graves Homeplace stands today as a landmark in both the community and parish where almost all the buildings are much later. As Louisiana’s Greek Revival context notes, “Such Greek Revival buildings are considered eligible for National Register listing because they represent the area’s earliest architectural heritage.” (Fricker, 8).

According to regional architectural surveys, the rear ell of the Homeplace preserves one of the few remaining ‘saddlebag’ houses, also known as a ‘settler’s house’, in North Louisiana. (Martin. 2000. 21 & 119.) The other one in the immediate area is at the Martin House, which was also re-purposed as a rear ell and moved back in c.1915 from its original site along with its c.1878 front house. Both stand as witness to the remains of a distinct cultural landscape of late nineteenth century farmsteads on rich agricultural lands with water access.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

The rear portion of the Graves Homeplace is a re-purposed earlier attached ‘saddlebag’ house consisting of two rooms, a back-to-back central fireplace, and front and side porches. The nominator has not been able to find records of who originally built or owned the saddlebag building. Land records indicate that the S.B. Fluitt and W.C. Reddit families owned land in the area from before the Civil War and JQ and Laura Graves likely purchased the saddlebag house and its land on which it stood from one of these families. The repurposing of earlier buildings for their utility value was not uncommon in the area. The nearby Martin House consists of a c.1878 front house with an earlier rear saddlebag ell appended similar to the Graves Homeplace. The Martin House also has the exact same interior beaded board walls, exterior siding and the same chevron patterned metal shingle roof.

9. Major Bibliographical Resources

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)


Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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  
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey  

15
Graves Homeplace
Name of Property

Caldwell Parish, LA
County and State

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____________________________________

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 7 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:__________
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: N32º 08' 09.81" Longitude: W92º 04' 00.99"
2. Latitude: N32º 08' 05.44" Longitude: W92º 04' 04.72"
3. Latitude: N32º 08' 04.04" Longitude: W92º 03' 57.26"
4. Latitude: N32º 08' 09.69" Longitude: W92º 03' 55.36"

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The Graves Homeplace is bordered by the water edge of Davis Lake to the West, Gore Road to the North, a property fence and tree line to the East running parallel to current LA Hwy 165, and a private property division line, marked by timber posts, ten feet to the north of a drainage swale on the neighbor’s property to the South.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The Davis Lake and Gore Road boundaries of the seven-acre Graves Homeplace represent original property boundaries dating from the 1850s. The rear (east) boundary and side (south) boundaries delineated where adjacent Homeplace agricultural lands began prior to 2018.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: John H. Stubbs
organization: Building Conservation Consultant
street & number: 639 Pine Street
city or town: New Orleans state: Louisiana zip code: 70118
e-mail: Jhstubbstime@gmail.com
telephone: 504 4508225
date: _______________________________
Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Graves Homeplace  
City or Vicinity: Columbia  
County: Caldwell  
State: Louisiana  
Name of Photographer: John H. Stubbs  
Date of Photographs: 2018-2021

Photo 16: Front house west elevation, camera facing southeast

Photo 17: West (front) elevation, camera facing southeast

Photo 18: West and south elevations, camera facing northeast

Photo 19: Front porch detail, camera facing northeast

Photo 20: South elevation, camera facing northeast

Photo 21: Rear ell, camera facing northeast

Photo 22: Rear ell southeast porch corner, camera facing northwest

Photo 23: Rear ell south porch, camera facing northwest

Photo 24: North elevation, camera facing southwest

Photo 25: Storage building (non-contributing building), camera facing south
Graves Homeplace                        Caldwell Parish, LA
Name of Property                       County and State

Photo 26: Storage building (non-contributing building), camera facing southeast

Photo 27: Wellhouse and cistern (contributing structure), camera facing northeast

Photo 29: Center hall interior stair

Photo 30: Center hall to connecting passageway

Photo 31: Center hall from connecting passageway

Photo 32: South parlor

Photo 33: South parlor northwest corner

Photo 34: Southwest corner of rear ell passageway showing c. 1850 vertical plank construction

Photo 35: Kitchen fireplace

Photo 36: Dining area

Photo 37: Second floor south bedroom

Photo 38: Rear ell – study room

Photo 39: Rear ell – media room, camera facing east

Photo 44: Pine and crepe myrtle on grounds

Photo 45: Cedar trees on grounds

Photo 46: Camellia on grounds
Graves Homeplace
Name of Property

Caldwell Parish, LA
County and State

Figure 1: Front porch prior to restoration
Graves Homeplace
Name of Property

Caldwell Parish, LA
County and State

Figure 2: Rear ell with collapsed porch prior to restoration
Graves Homeplace
Name of Property

Caldwell Parish, LA
County and State

Figure 3: Rear ell with collapsed porch removed
Graves Homeplace  Caldwell Parish, LA
Name of Property County and State

Figure 4: Rear porch enclosed prior to restoration

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
Graves Homeplace: Exterior Photograph Locations

Note: Number and Arrows situate approximate Photograph Location.
Arrow Denotes Photograph Direction. Number indicates page of photograph in document.
Graves Home Place - First Floor Plan
Note: Number and Arrows situate approximate Photograph Location. Arrow Denotes Photograph Direction. Number indicates page of photograph in document.
West Elevation
West and South Elevations - Front House
West Elevation Porch
South Elevation
Restored Rear Ell & Connecting Passageway
North Elevation
Coop-Shed Building Adapted to Storage Building
Center Hall Stair
Center Hall to Connecting Passageway
Center Hall from Connecting Passageway
South Parlor looking East
South Parlor Northwest Corner
Southwest Corner of Rear Ell & Passageway showing c.1850 Vertical Plank Construction
Kitchen Fireplace
Dinning Area
Second Floor South Bedroom
Rear Ell - Study Room
Rear Ell - Media Room looking East
Pine & Crepe Myrtle
Cedar Trees
Heritage Camellias