

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on a 9.3-acre tract of land fronting on Lake Concordia and located about 200 feet from the edge of the lake, Roseland is a one-and-a-half story, frame, Greek Revival dwelling set upon tall brick foundation piers. The rear slope of the gabled roof is pierced by two, interior, brick chimneys, and the front slope of the roof contains two gabled dormers featuring molded pilasters that enframe windows filled with six-over-six, double-hung sash. One dormer, identical to the front dormers, is located on the rear slope of the roof and lights the second-story stair hall. The northeasterly five-bay facade is fronted by a gallery supported by molded and paneled box columns which are echoed on the ends of the facade by pilasters with side returns. The columns and pilasters were originally linked by a railing consisting of molded handrail and wooden spindles clustered and bound in a sheaf-of-wheat pattern, as documented in an old photograph. The columns support a full, molded entablature topped with a central, molded and paneled, pedimented cresting. The entablature was once further enlivened by acroteria that, like the railing, will be reconstructed as part of the restoration of the house. The front wall of the house, which was originally plastered and scored in imitation of stone is finished by a molded base with single fascia. The windows of the front wall feature symmetrically molded surrounds with corner blocks and central tablets. All windows of the house are filled with six-over-six, double-hung sash. The entrance doorway of the center bay consists of a single-leaf, molded, two-paneled door enframed by fluted, turned, attached columns. Sidelights set over molded panels are located between the turned columns and attached box columns, both of which serve to support a full molded entablature. Unusual for the area is the absence of a doorway transom.

The interior floor plan is a double-pile plan with central passage. The passage is divided midway by a partition wall which contains a molded, elliptically arched opening with keystone. The opening was originally filled with triple-leaf doors matching the other interior doors of the house. The four downstairs rooms are identically trimmed with doors having six, molded panels; symmetrically molded doorway and window surrounds with corner blocks; molded panels beneath all windows; molded baseboards with a single fascia; and wooden, pilastered mantel pieces. Both rear rooms contain original fireplace closets which retain some of the original wooden pegs and possibly original paint colors. The staircase is enclosed and is entered at the rear of the central passage on the easterly hall wall. The stairway is entered in a series of winders that make a quarter turn and continues in a straight flight, in a northeasterly direction, before terminating in a second series of winders that make a quarter turn before leading into the upstairs hallway. The staircase features a turned newel post and rectangular-sectioned balusters on the second-story level. The two, second-story bedrooms, located on either side of the central passage, were originally unheated and, like the hallway, were trimmed with simple beaded bases with architrave door and window surrounds. The doors are six-paneled and molded like those of the first story.

An original, one-story wing was attached to the western end of the rear of the house and was demolished in 1946. A new wing in the same location has been constructed by the present owner.

Addendum by SHPO

Specific dates	1835-50
Builder/Architect	unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Roseland is possibly the most architecturally significant, pre-Civil War residence original to Concordia Parish, Louisiana. Before Mississippi became a state in 1817, Concordia Parish had already become principally a planting province for the wealthy planters of Natchez, located just across the Mississippi River. By 1860, over 81% of the land in Concordia-Parish was owned by absentee landlords, most of whom lived in Natchez (D. Clayton James, *Antebellum Natchez* [Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968], p. 148). As a planting province, Concordia Parish never had a large number of architecturally significant residences. Probably built in the late 1830's or early-1840's for John Johnson, Roseland was constructed as the principal dwelling of a resident Concordia Parish planter (Population Schedules, Concordia Parish, Louisiana, 1850, p. 156). Although its well executed, Greek Revival millwork would render Roseland an architecturally significant residence in any environment, its location in Concordia Parish increases its historical and

architectural importance. Although twice moved within the parish, the frequency of house moving in the river parishes of Louisiana, coupled with the architecture significance of Roseland within the context of Concordia Parish, lessens the impact of the move on the historical and architectural importance of the house. Stylistic evidence supports a mid-1830's to 1850 date of construction for Roseland, which was apparently constructed as the residence for John Johnson who began, in 1331 (Concordia Parish Deed Book F:37), to acquire sections of what would eventually become a 2,440 acre plantation (Deed Book N:625). Johnson was listed in the 1850 census as having a real estate evaluation of \$73,000, making him one of the wealthiest resident planters of the parish (Population Schedules, Concordia Parish, Louisiana, 1850, p. 156). Unusual stylistic similarities indicate that Roseland was erected by the same builder who constructed Richland, located not far from Natchez in Jefferson County, Mississippi, or that one of the two houses was copied from the other. Roseland Plantation was located about twenty-five miles south of Vidalia, Louisiana, and was located on the river. The house was moved in 1965, approximately 500 feet from its original location to permit construction on the levee. Used as a hunting camp and tenant house for most of the twentieth century, the house was empty and neglected when it was moved in 1977 to Lake Concordia, where it is being restored as a residential rental residence.

Addendum by SHPO

#### ADDENDUM BY STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (CONSULTANT PREPARED NOMINATION)

##### Item 7 - Description

###### Summary Paragraph:

Roseland Plantation House (1835-50) is a one-and-a-half story Greek Revival structure located on Lake Concordia one mile east-southeast of the town of Ferriday. In 1977 the house was moved approximately 28 miles from its original locale to its present site. Despite the move and some alterations, the house easily retains its National Register eligibility.

###### Assessment of Integrity:

Despite the alterations described in the consultant prepared nomination, the house still retains the features which establish it as an important example of Greek Revival architecture within Concordia Parish.

###### Mitigation of Move:

The house now faces northeast, whereas originally it faced south. But this has been the only change in the character of the setting. Roseland still enjoys an open rural environment, free of intrusions, with a levee nearby. In any case, the house was moved in order to save it. In the former location the family which owned the land had elected to demolish the house because it was an encumbrance to farming. The present owner agreed to take possession of the house with the condition that it had to be moved. Finally, Roseland was not moved out of the area which is the context for its significance (i.e., Concordia Parish). Hence the move has not compromised the house's Register eligibility.

##### Item 8 - Significance

###### Summary of Significance:

Roseland is locally significant in the area of architecture as Concordia Parish's finest Greek Revival residence. It has the requisite trabeated front, classical style dormers, and impressive size. But unlike other examples in the parish, it features free-standing Doric columns flanking the front door, a pediment tablet over the entrance, and an arch in the hall.

###### Major Bibliographical References

Concordia Parish, Louisiana. Clerk of Court. Deed Books F, N, O, P, D3.

James, D. Clayton. Antebellum Natchez. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968.

United States. Bureau of the Census. Population Schedules, Concordia Parish, La., 1850.