

Describe the present and original (it known) physical appearance

The Lemoine House (1916) is a brick one-and-one-half story Arts and Crafts style house located on a large lot on the outskirts of the small town of Moreauville. The enclosure of a loggia is the only noteworthy alteration the building has received.

The Lemoine House consists of a main block with a side wing and a rear wing. The main front room of the house is a combination entrance hall and living room. Behind it is the dining room, which is reached through a large pair of sliding doors. The rear wing contains a kitchen, bedroom, and bathroom. The side wing contains three bedrooms and a loggia. There is also a cellar.

The brick exterior is enlivened with slightly jutting projections, protruding belt courses, and an elliptical arch entrance porch. (The porch features arches on three sides.) The loggia on the side wing is flanked by brick niches. There are also ornamental extended eaves, splayed pent dormers, and a red pantile roof.

The house is entered through an elliptical archway which is filled with elaborate beveled glasswork, including a transom, side lights, and two glass doors. The interior walls and ceilings are treated with bagasse board which is worked into ornamental panels using wood moldings. Mantels in the major rooms feature brick fronts surmounted by heavy wooden cornices. The house retains most of its original lighting fixtures as well as many of its original bathroom fixtures.

The only major change in the house since construction has been the enclosure of the loggia, which was originally screened. This work preserved all of the original exterior detailing. In our opinion, it has had a minimal impact given the otherwise unaltered state of the house.

To the rear of the house is a contemporaneous cistern which, of course, is listed as a contributing element.

Specific dates	1916
Builder/Architect	Builder: Thomas A. Lemoine Architects: Favrot & Livaudais, New Orleans

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
Criterion C

The Lemoine House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a rare example of the work of an important architectural firm within the large rural parish of Avoyelles.

There are some 812 50+ year old buildings in Avoyelles Parish recorded in the Louisiana Historic Standing Structures Survey. Of these, 649 are residences dating from the period c.1880 to c.1935. About half of these are unpretentious vernacular types such as shotgun houses, late Creole cottages, single and double pen houses, or bluffland houses. There are also 177 residences in the parish which reflect the Queen Anne-Eastlake or Colonial Revival influences. Finally, there are 152 examples of the bungalow influence, virtually all of which are fairly ordinary.

The Lemoine House is very unusual among period residences in Avoyelles Parish because it reflects the work of an urban high style architectural firm rather than a local builder or contractor. The house is believed to be one of only two buildings in the parish designed by the noted New Orleans firm of Favrot and Livaudais. As such it has a distinctive Arts and Crafts design which sets it apart from virtually all other period residences in the parish and which bespeaks its high style origin.

Although no specific study has ever been done on the firm of Favrot and Livaudais, there is general agreement that it was a high style, competent, professional group of architects and that it was extremely prominent in the early twentieth century. Practicing the historicism which was then in vogue, it grew to be perhaps the largest architectural firm in New Orleans, the state's largest, most cosmopolitan urban center. For many years Favrot and Livaudais and Emile Weil vied for business across Louisiana. It is an open question as to which of these firms ultimately had the larger practice, but there is no question that they were the two major architectural firms in early twentieth century New Orleans. Favrot and Livaudais' best known works include the Hibernia Bank Building and the Cotton Exchange Building, both of which are landmarks in the New Orleans central business district.

The firm also designed numerous public buildings, including courthouses, schools and libraries across the state.

Major Bibliographical References

Avoyelles Parish Historic Structures Survey, LA State Historic Preservation Office.

Architectural plans for the Lemoine House, dated 1916, Favrot and Livaudais.