

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Cashpoint Plantation House (c. 1875) is a late provincial example of a Greek Revival raised cottage of moderate size. It is located off Louisiana Highway 71 in the flat cotton farming country of southern Bossier Parish. Several alterations were made in the twentieth century; however, in the judgment of the State Historic Preservation Office, the house retains sufficient integrity to warrant listing.

Cashpoint was built in about 1875 as a 1 ½-story, pitched roof, central hall plan, raised plantation house with a rear kitchen-dining room wing. The frame house was built with one major room each side of the hall and a single rear cabinet.

In the twentieth century the following changes in plan were made:

- (1) The central hall was removed. The northwest wall of the hall was removed yielding a plan consisting of two rooms of unequal size.
- (2) The rear gallery has been glazed in as has the side gallery on the kitchen wing.
- (3) The rear portion of the kitchen wing gallery has been walled in.
- (4) The garret has been renovated for bedrooms and a bathroom.

The house has a five-bay facade and a square post gallery with molded capitals. The entablature is simply detailed and unusually large. All exterior walls have clapboard siding, including the walls which are set under galleries. All windows are 6 over 6 with much of the original glass. The windows on the front gallery reach to the floor. Both the front and rear central doors have transoms and side lights. Shutters are of both the fixed and movable louver type. The rear gallery stair is original.

Although the house is essentially a Greek Revival raised cottage, there are two features which were inspired by the later Italianate taste. These are the front doors with their large round head panels and the jig sawn balustrade work.

The floor boards are original as are the four-panel interior doors. Only one of the original mantels remains. Of the other two mantels in the house, one is new and the other appears to date from about 1920. The present owners have installed shallow moldings around some of the ceilings. Many of the original brass locks and escutcheon plates remain, one of which is patent dated 1869.

There are two exterior alterations which are visible from the front. These are the new brick front steps and the side stairway which provides direct outside access to the garret.

Despite the alterations, the house still retains the strong lines and all of the characteristic detail of a provincial Greek Revival raised cottage. It is still clearly recognizable as an example of a type which is rare in Bossier Parish. Therefore, the changes have not significantly lowered its value to the parish.

Specific dates c. 1875
Builder/Architect Builder: Thomas Pickett

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
Criterion C

Cashpoint Plantation House is significant on the local level in the area of architecture because it is one of very few examples of the Greek Revival in Bossier Parish.

Bossier Parish was a rural parish which was settled mainly by small farmers. Most of the surviving old residences in the parish are unpretentious Queen Anne Revival cottages or rural cabins. There are also some larger late Victorian residences in the towns of Midway, Bossier City, and Plain Dealing.

Given this context, Cashpoint is significant in two respects:

- (1) It is far more pretentious than the contemporaneous cabins and farm cottages in Bossier Parish which date from the third quarter of the nineteenth century. In contrast to these structures, Cashpoint is a "full blown" classical galleried plantation house with a full entablature.
- (2) It is rare in Bossier Parish both as an example of a Greek Revival raised cottage and as an example of the Greek Revival taste.

Major Bibliographical References

Chain of Title Search, Bossier Parish Conveyance Records

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Louisiana. Nashville: Southern Publishing Company, 1890, p. 143.

NOVEMBER 1983 ADDENDUM

New information has come to light regarding the history of what is now known as Cashpoint Plantation House. The builder was actually Elam Sparks Dortch and the date of construction is closer to c.1880. (The c.1875 date in the original nomination form was based solely upon the architectural evidence.) In about 1909 the house was moved from the front to the rear of Mr. Dortch's property, which resulted in a change in the configuration of the rear wing. It went from a "T" position to an "L" position on the back of the house. In addition, the house was not raised as high off the ground in its new location. This move does not affect the house's National Register eligibility because it was moved only a short distance within the parish which is the context for its architectural significance.

We are also informed that the house was named Ash Point in its original location and re-named Woodlawn when it was moved to its present location. Henceforth Ash Point and Woodlawn will be the historic names for the house and Cashpoint will be the common name.

This new information was provided by Richard D. West, a grandson of Elam Dortch. West lived with his grandfather as a child and is well acquainted with the history of the house.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Staff knowledge of historic structures in Northwest Louisiana, based upon extensive site visits over a combined 30+ years.

Menn, Joseph K. *The Large Slaveholders of Louisiana - 1860*. New Orleans, Pelican Publishing Co., 1964.