

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Breston Plantation House is set behind the Ouachita River levee in a grove of oaks approximately two miles north of the settlement of Riverton. Built in the 1830's by a French family, the one and one-half story house is characterized by both the Louisiana Creole tradition and by the Anglo-American Greek Revival.

The main Creole feature is the floor plan with its three front rooms, pair of rear cabinets and front and rear galleries.

Anglo-American Greek Revival features include:

1. the six-molded Doric posts and entablature of the front gallery
2. the six matching pilasters along the front wall of the house
- side 3. the five bay articulation with emphasis placed upon the center with a transom lighted front door
4. location of the three flight staircase in the center room
- the 5. the set of four massive folding faux bois doors which unite the center room with parlor creating what is in effect a Greek Revival double parlor
6. the pair of deeply sculpted ceiling medallions
- two 7. the Greek key fretwork motif in the two front dormers, which is repeated in the interior mantels
8. the fluted framing boards around the interior doors

Since the house was built, a late nineteenth century rear kitchen wing has been added. In the twentieth century the rear gallery has been glazed in and a modern kitchen has been installed.

Specific dates                      circa 1835

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)  
Criterion C

Breston is significant in the area of architecture as a superior example of a Greek Revival raised plantation house, embodying as many do both the Creole and Anglo American traditions. It is superior because it has three unusually pretentious elements:

1. the use of pilasters on the facade to echo gallery columns
  2. the unusual fretwork in the dormers and mantels
  3. The massive faux bois folding doors between the center room and parlor give the effect of a full double parlor as one might find in one of the great houses of Natchez. The fact that this degree of formality was achieved in such a small house, where a double parlor would normally have been impossible, is a tribute to the ingenuity of builder.
- full  
the

#### Major Bibliographical References

Conveyance Records, Caldwell Parish, Books A, B, C, E, L.  
Conveyance Records, Ouachita Parish, Book H

Cottingham, E. B., A History of Caldwell Parish, Louisiana, Columbia, Louisiana, The Caldwell Watchman-Progress, August 17, 1938.

Garner, H. Hal, Compilation on Breston Plantation, unpublished, Church Hill, Mississippi, 1979.

Williams, Douglas, Monograph, Breston Plantation, The Caldwell Watchman-Progress, July 25, 1868.

Woods, H. Ted, Caldwell Parish in Slices, Claitors, Volumes I, II; 1972, 1976.

Youngblood, Mrs. Uriah M., Breston Plantation Interview, Mac Ward, 1978.