

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Green-Lovelace House (c.1830) is a story and a half, frame, provincial Greek Revival cottage located in a rural setting about two miles north of the town of Sicily Island. Despite several changes, the house retains the essential features which make it significant.

The central hall plan, pitched roof plantation cottage is raised about four feet above the ground on brick piers. The five bay square post gallery has molded capitals and a heavy clapboard frieze. Although the facade has a central front door, the overall fenestration pattern is asymmetrical. On the north side of the front -door is a pair of six over six windows which light what was presumably a bedroom. On the south side is a more widely spaced pair of windows with a four panel door between them which gives access to what was presumably a parlor. Both the bedroom and parlor have aedicule motif mantels with elaborately molded shelves. Behind the parlor and front bedroom are two smaller rooms, neither of which have fireplaces. The staircase, which ascends from the rear of the hall; is enclosed. The front portion of the enclosed understair is used as a closet. This feature appears to be original to the house. The upper half story of the house contains two bedrooms with fireplaces and mantels which are similar to the ones below only simpler. The small pane fretwork style transoms above the front and rear hall doors are probably the house's highest style feature. All of the interior walls are sheathed in random width planks. The floors are covered with four inch tongue and groove boards. All original windows are six over six and all doors consist of four flat panels.

Since construction the following changes have been made in the house:

- (1) In the late-nineteenth century a rear board and batten kitchen wing was added and the rear porch was screened in.
- (2) Later the front and rear hall doors were replaced with pairs of modern French doors.
- (3) A few of the original six over six windows have been replaced with modern windows.
- (4) A double window has been installed in one of the rear rooms downstairs.
- (5) One of the interior doors has been replaced.
- (6) The front steps, have been replaced.
- (7) A small portion of the hall has been enclosed for a bathroom.

Assessment of Integrity:

Despite the above changes, the house retains the essential features which establish its identity as a Greek Revival cottage. This identity, of course, is the basis for its significance.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Green-Lovelace House is architecturally significant on the local level as an important example of a provincial Greek Revival plantation cottage. It is one of the few remaining examples in Catahoula Parish, where once they must have been numerous. In addition, among those that have survived in the parish, it is probably the finest.

The importance of the Green-Lovelace House, within the context of Catahoula Parish, can be illustrated by examining the census schedules of 1860. On the eve of the Civil War, there were thirty-seven large slaveholdings (i.e., fifty or more slaves) in the parish. Of these, the average size per slaveholding was 80.4 and only eight involved individuals who did not reside in the parish. In addition, there were undoubtedly numerous slaveholdings of less than 50. Given the above, it is clear that there must have been numerous Greek Revival plantation houses and cottages in Catahoula Parish on the eve of the Civil War (probably at least 40). However, as far as the State Historic Preservation Office can determine, there are only three remaining examples. Consequently the Green-Lovelace House is of special importance in the architectural heritage of the parish.

In addition, of the three that do survive, the Green-Lovelace House is probably the finest.

One of the other examples has been extensively altered, including a complete remodeling of the interiors and the addition of a second story porch on what was once a simple pitched roof. The other comparable example is in a good state of preservation, but it is somewhat later than the Green-Lovelace House and some of its details reflect the Victorian taste. It is therefore a less pure example of the provincial Greek Revival than the Green-Lovelace House with its square post, molded capital gallery, its aedicule motif mantels, its transoms, and its heavy clapboard frieze.

Major Bibliographical References

Conveyance Records, Catahoula Parish

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