

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Burnham House was built in 1890 and "Queen Annotated" in about 1900. It is a large, story-and-a-half, frame farmhouse located in a wooded rural area near Haynesville. Despite some post-1900 alterations, the house retains its National Register eligibility.

The Burnham House began in 1890 as a rambling cottage with a central hall plan. The house was nominally two rooms deep, but there was a rear kitchen wing which made one side four rooms deep. Noteworthy surviving features from the original house include a plank paneled dado, scroll bracketed mantels, six over six windows, four panel doors, a curious curving staircase, and a homemade denticular cornice in the hall.

In about 1900 the house was enlarged somewhat and given an extensive Queen Anne Revival treatment. The attic was enlarged and fitted with an enormous forward facing dormer with a hip roofed balcony. Octagonal turrets were added on the two front corners of the house, each with a faceted spire. A new front gallery was built which curved around the turrets to encompass the front half of the house. The upper walls of the turrets the second story balcony, and the gable of the large forward facing dormer were sheathed in imbricated shingles. The only noteworthy interior change was the installation of a beaded board dado in the central hall.

Since the c.1900 Queen Anne Revival remodeling, the house has undergone the following alterations:

(1) In the 1940's the c.1900 chamfered columns were replaced with the present plain square columns.

(2) In 1985 the north side gallery was partially enclosed and partially glazed in.

(3) Also in 1985 the rear gallery was glazed in and a rear deck with a gazebo was added.

(4) In about 1935 the present owner built a small shed-like addition to the back of the rear wing to house a heating/cooling unit.

Assessment of Integrity:

Despite the above described post-1900 changes, the house retains the principal features which contribute to its architectural significance--i.e., the turrets, the massing, and the numerous shingled surfaces. In addition, the change in columns has not made a major visual difference because the c.1900 columns were relatively plain.

Specific dates	c.1900 Queen Anne remodeling
Builder/Architect	1890 Builder/c.1900 remodeler: J. W. Burnham

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
Criterion C

The Burnham House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is an important example of the Queen Anne Revival style within the context of north-central Louisiana. (This includes the parishes of Lincoln, Union, Claiborne, Webster, Bienville, Jackson and Ouachita.)

North-central Louisiana, a distinctive area sometimes known as the "Hill Parishes," is mainly characterized by the Upland South culture. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the Queen Anne Revival was a decidedly urban influence in the region. But the several hundred examples found there today are fairly humble. Most are cottages with a two or three bay gallery across half the front and perhaps a single projecting polygonal bay under a gable.

The Burnham House is important within this group because of its superior architectural styling. It has an unusually large amount of imbricated shinglework, but more important is its massing. Its skyline is very elaborate, including two turrets, and it is the use of turrets which sets the Burnham House among examples of the first rank. Of course, a turret contributes much to the complexity of a house's massing, something which is very much a part of the Queen Anne Revival

aesthetic. Secondly, because a turret contributes very little extra floor space at considerable extra cost, it is certainly a luxury item. The Burnham House is one of only six Queen Anne Revival residences in the region to feature the use of a turret. In addition, it is the only one to feature multiple turrets.

Historical Note:

The Burnham House was once the center of a complex which included a sawmill, cotton gin, gristmill, general store and post office bearing the name "Burnham, Louisiana." J. W. Burnham, who built the house in 1890 and remodeled it some ten years later, was a lumber mill owner. The present owner is his great-grandson.

Major Bibliographical References

Historical sketch of house prepared by local historian Beverly Smith.

Louisiana Historic Structures Survey, Lincoln, Union, Claiborne, Webster, Jackson and Ouachita Parishes.