

## Describe the Present and Original (if known) Physical Appearance

### The main building:

A 2-1/2 story frame house of Greek Revival design. The lumber used in its construction was virgin heart pine, cut on the place. The six fluted Ionic columns are of cypress, holding up the roof of the one-story gallery on the front. The rear gallery columns are octagonal in shape. Foundations are composed of bricks made on the place. A coat of white paint was applied to the front of the building in 1970. The other three sides have had no paint since the original was applied. The blinds of cypress are dark green. The double front doors and the slatted doors in front of them are surrounded by glass panels above and on each side.

The whole house has the original pine flooring. The 13-foot walls, downstairs are white plaster and the woodwork carries the original paint, grained to imitate oak. The two front rooms have windows to the floor, in the front, and wooden casement doors may be opened to the gallery. The two front downstairs rooms have black marble mantel pieces with natural lighter graining. The base boards of these rooms are painted to resemble the marble of the mantels. Original oak graining on the woodwork of the one on the east is in very fair condition. The plastic medallions on the ceilings of the two front rooms were removed in 1916 to install gas lighting fixtures which have since been removed following installation of electricity. These are stored in the attic rooms. Dimensions of the front rooms are 18' by 21' and the rooms in rear are 18' by 15'. At the rear of the hallway a stairway with walnut railing and supports leads to the second floor and on up to the top floor. There is a hallway on each of the upper two floors. The rooms here are of the same dimensions as the rooms below them except for the dressing rooms at the front of the upstairs hall. With a fire place in each room, the mantels are of wood and the doors were originally painted to resemble mahogany. The original paint remains on some of the baseboards and doors. The second-floor ceilings are eleven feet and the ceilings of this floor are made of wood, while the third floor ceilings are plastered, presumably to help in fire prevention. The two chimneys serve each room of the first and second floors but the third floor rooms do not have chimney openings and the chimneys go up through the middle of these two rooms. Original paint on the third floor is in good condition.

### Originally:

The house had matching one-story wings, with galleries, extending from the rear of the house and forming a court-yard, with the wing galleries on the inside of the court-yard. Demolished in 1926, the wing foundations are still discernible to the rear of the present existing structure. The octagonal columns which supported the roofs of the wing galleries are in storage in the ancient smoke-house, nearby. Beyond the east wing was the original kitchen some distance from the end of the wing, together with a second room which originally served as the house-servants dining room. This building was demolished in 1950. The east wing of the house consisted of a dining room with a fireplace between it and a smaller room where servants kept food warm on the open hearth. There was a store-room on the north end of the wing with a cellar beneath it.

The west wing consisted of two rooms, along room the width of the wing which was used as a library and study later, in 1872, was consecrated by Bishop Gregg as an Episcopal Chapel.

The servants quarters were located in an area northeast of the house and the remains of the brick chimneys of 44 houses can be found. This area contains numerous springs which made it possible for each house to have a separate water supply. The original smoke-house still stands and is used as a barn. It is in need of repair. The old slave church was moved in 1872 to the present location of the Bethel Baptist Church approximately one and 1/2 miles north east of Land's End.

In front of the ten-acre lawn were six gazebos (or summer houses) built for the daughters of the original owner. They were made of lattice-work and were octagonally shaped. Some of the brick used as floors for these are still easily located.

There are time-worn ruts of the stage-coach road connecting Land's End with Shreveport and other towns are still discernible on the west side of the lawn.

Much of the original furniture remains in regular use.

#### Statement of Significance

Land's End Plantation was established in 1835. The information is borne out by the following:

An historical marker located near the front gate of the lawn by the La. Tourist Commission and sponsored by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America and dedicated November 14, 1970, reads as follows: "Land's End Plantation, est. 1835 by the Colonel Henry Marshall, signer of the Louisiana Ordinance of Secession and Constitution of the Confederate States of America; Member of First Confederate Congress. House built in 1857, used as hospital after Battle of Mansfield, 1864." The above should establish the historical significance.

Census of 1860 shows the production of 394 bales of cotton, 10,000 bushels of corn, 2,000 bushels of sweet potatoes, value of animals slaughtered \$2,000 and maintenance of 628 farm animals on 2,000 cultivated acres. Total acreage of the plantation at that time 8,000 acres. The above shows the agricultural significance.

Architecture previously described.

Objects of art and literature still in the household will verify the significance of art, also literature. Music cabinet full of valuable music verifies the significance of the music at the time.

The owner was an officer in the South Carolina Militia and lost two sons in the Confederate Army. He organized and equipped a company of Confederate Cavalry.

He was a politician of note during the period of the War Between the States.

#### Major Bibliographical References

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