

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Reiley-Reeves home is the only Queen Anne style residence with a two-story octagonal room, turret and steeple left in Baton Rouge, and it is one of the few homes dating from the early 1900's (c. 1910-11) still standing in the city.

The house boasts a robust, masculine style, built obviously without the guidance of a trained architect. It features simple, yet massive moldings; mop boards 1' deep; 14' ceilings on the first floor, and 12' on the second; and French windows nearly 10' in height. The core of the building (less the porch) is heart pine dropped siding.

The aforementioned octagonal corner turret is hardly apparent to the casual observer because it is entirely encompassed within the front and side galleries on the first and second floors. But it protrudes impressively above the roof, adding dramatically to the skyline of the house. One of the most interesting aspects of the house is its plan. The Queen Anne living hall is achieved not by coherent design, but by modifying the standard Louisiana central hall double parlor plan.

One of the rear parlors is combined with the central hall to create a wide "L" shaped hall. The rear parlor portion, which creates the "L," contains a massive, two flight staircase opposite a brick mantel fireplace. Another Queen Anne spatial feature can be seen in the massive, paneled sliding doors which connect the living hall with the dining room, and the dining room with one of the front parlors. When the doors are fully open the living hall, dining room and the front parlor are spatially united.

The interior remains with little alteration in its design except for wall coverings and for partial removal of the servants' stairway in the rear. The nine fireplaces and mantel surrounds are original, but have been painted. Architectural details and ornaments, interior and exterior, are of Queen Anne style and are most graphically illustrated by the heavy vaguely Jacobean stairway.

The original brick and plaster facade, the heart pine second story gallery, and the original fenestration are evident on the front and side (east and north, respectively) elevations. In addition, a contemporary underground, open-air cellar, roughly 8' deep and cemented, is in existence and use; the cellar was originally designed for a heating furnace and for coal storage. The south side of the front porch is designed as a porte-cochere with a very deep bottom step for mounting horses or entering carriages or old motor cars.

Foundation traces of several outbuildings of this city compound are visible today: the brick stable, buggy shed and barn floors and the floor of the outdoor wash-house, with its natural underground drainage receptacle. The cook's house, built at a later date than the main house, is still standing to the rear, on an adjacent piece of property.

The original roofing material of pressed tin shingles is now covered with modern asbestos roofing, but is extant; this original roofing may be seen on the turret, which is accented by a cast-iron steeple.

SPECIFIC DATES	1910-11
BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Owner George J. Reiley Builders: Edward Ross & W. F. Bangs

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Reiley-Reeves home is a massive, untutored, personal statement in the Queen Anne Revival which is very probably unique to the state. It is a combination of a Queen Anne turreted house with a heavily proportioned masonry arcade surmounted by a second story gallery. Although some turn-of-the-century plantation houses have Queen Anne features, it is the massiveness and dominance of the arcade which makes the Reiley-Reeves home unique. It lacks the fragility which affects much of the Louisiana Queen Anne; in addition its character does not depend upon pattern book or catalogue details.

Finally, the Reiley-Reeves home is the only remaining residence in the city of Baton Rouge with a Queen Anne turret and steeple. Moreover it is one of comparatively few Queen Anne residences in the state which features a fully developed living hall.

The Reiley-Reeves home was built by George Junkin Reiley, great-grandfather of the present occupant. Reiley was a large planter and investor from Blairstown Plantation in neighboring East Feliciana Parish, who desired a "town house" in Baton Rouge. He was one of two children of the Reverend John Arndt Reiley, of Blairstown, New Jersey, to survive the Louisiana yellow fever epidemic of 1876.

Reiley bought Lots 6 and 7 of Square 12 in Roseland Terrace, which sale was recorded August 1, 1910, from Zadok Realty, a company which developed the subdivision on the old Baton Rouge racetrack site.

Zadok Realty retained R. Swart, Civil Engineer of Baton Rouge, to draw up a plat for the subdivision, the map of which is attached also.

The Reiley-Reeves home was the first to be built in the Roseland Terrace subdivision, according to courthouse research. It is certainly one of the "key" houses on the main thoroughfare of the subdivision, Goldenrod Avenue (presently Park Boulevard).

A materialman's lien, dated October 17, 1911 and filed December (January) 6, 1912, provides fairly accurate dating of the construction of the house and also provides the names of the builders: Edward Ross and W. F. Bangs. This paper additionally contains very valuable information on hardware and construction items used in building the house.

The property has remained in the family since 1910 through acts of succession and sales.

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Act of sale and mortgage, Zadok Realty to George J. Reiley, COB 46, folio 148 and MOB 36, folio 90; Parish of East Baton Rouge.

Materialman's lien, George J. Reiley to Doherty Hardware Company, Limited, MOB 38, folio 263, Parish of East Baton Rouge- -----dated October 17, 1911; recorded December (January) 6, 1912.