

Describe the present and original (it known) physical appearance

Buckmeadow is a large, rambling, brick and frame, Carolina I house which was built in three stages between about 1840 and 1930. The house is located on a large, low lying plantation near the northern tip of Lake Providence. Despite numerous alterations, the house retains enough integrity to merit listing in the National Register.

Buckmeadow has a complex history of accretionary growth. The structure began in about 1840 as a brick Carolina I house with two rooms on each floor and a single story front gallery which also encompassed the sides. Aside from the basic form and fenestration pattern, the only features which remain in the house from this period are the two wooden Greek Revival mantels and the square brick gallery posts.

In the late-nineteenth century the house underwent a major addition and renovation project which included the following:

1. A second frame I house was appended to the south side which more than doubled the length of the house.
2. The old brick post gallery was extended to encompass the addition.
3. A portion of the north gallery was enclosed. The front of the enclosure was faced with imbricated shingles.
4. A new pitched roof was built over the roof of the original house to match the roofline of the aforementioned south addition.
5. The area under the eaves was treated with four tiers of imbricated shingles. The end gables were shingled as well.
6. All floors were replaced in the original portion of the house.
7. All doors and windows were replaced in the original portion of the house. The new doors were built of panels and wainscoting with chamfered edges on the panel surrounds. Exterior doors had groups of small glass panes in place of the upper panels.
8. The two downstairs rooms in the original house were combined into a large living hall which had a fireplace and a staircase. The living hall atmosphere was enhanced by the use of heavy chamfered ceiling beams. This beam treatment was repeated in the large downstairs room of the south addition. Each of the chamfered beams is set off by three-quarter-round trim.
9. The porch ceiling was replaced.

Sometime about 1930 there was another renovation which included the following:

1. Some of the exterior of the late-nineteenth century portions of the house were fitted with asbestos siding.
2. All eaves were fitted with exposed rafter ends in imitation of the bungalow style.
3. The rear shed area was extensively reworked for bedrooms and kitchen space.

#### Assessment of Integrity

The significance of Buckmeadow is dependent upon its identity as a Carolina I house. By definition this is a two-story gable roofed house one room deep, with two rooms downstairs, a single story gallery across the front, and a single story shed across the rear.

The present house still fits this definition because, for the most part, subsequent additions have followed the original lines of the house, thus continuing the I house structural tradition. In short, Buckmeadow still looks like an I house. Also, even though the late-nineteenth century renovation combined the two original downstairs rooms, it added a second large room which kept the requisite

plan of two major rooms. In any case, the Carolina I is a house type which is so rare in north Louisiana that even a considerably modified example would still be considered significant.

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Assessment of Integrity:

The late-nineteenth century alterations have not obscured Buckmeadow's identity as an I house. It still has the basic form and traits of the I house type -- i.e., a two story structure, one room deep, with a long gallery across the front and a one story shed across the rear. The enlargement of the house reflected the continuing I house tradition in American folk building. Although the I house dates back to the colonial period, it did not go through its final phase until the late-nineteenth century. So the fact that Buckmeadow was enlarged in this fashion should not be regarded as a local oddity but rather as part of a continuing vernacular style. So, in our opinion, Buckmeadow still stands as an example of the I house tradition. In fact, because it was built in two stages, it shows the continuity of the tradition in a way that other major known examples do not.

In answer to the questions posed in the return sheet:

1. There is no evidence to suggest that the sizes of the openings in the original portion of the house have ever been altered. In any case, the fenestration size and pattern resembles other early to mid-nineteenth century I houses in Louisiana and Mississippi.
2. The pitch of the gallery roof has not changed. The late-nineteenth century gallery extension duplicated the original pitch. The original house roof is still extant beneath the late-nineteenth century roof. The pitch of the old and the new roofs appears to be approximately the same.
3. In the 1930's the eaves were reworked, but this was the extent of roofline alterations.

Overall, we feel that the 1930's renovations are minimal and that Buckmeadow retains the integrity of its late-nineteenth century appearance. Of course, it is debatable whether the house retains the integrity of its c.1840 appearance, But Buckmeadow is significant as an example of the I house tradition and that tradition embraces both the c.1840 period of construction and the late-nineteenth century period of construction.

Specific dates            c.1840 and c.1890  
Builder/Architect        Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)  
Criterion C

Buckmeadow is locally significant in the area of architecture as a rare example of a well known early Louisiana house type -- the Carolina I. The context for evaluation are northern Louisiana, and more specifically, East Carroll Parish.

As far as the State Historic Preservation Office is aware, there are only three extant examples of Carolina I houses in northern Louisiana. Of these, Buckmeadow is the only one which features brick construction.

In addition, Buckmeadow is significant within the context of East Carroll Parish. Virtually the parish's entire building stock reflects either Greek Revival taste or a later style. Because it is an I house, Buckmeadow is the only structure in the parish which is distinctively pre-Greek Revival both in form and in tradition. The I house is usually viewed as a two-story version of the typical English medieval hall and parlor cottage Hence Buckmeadow's architectural roots extend much further back into history than those of any other structure in the parish.

Major Bibliographical References

Conveyance Records, East Carroll Parish