

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Byerley House (c. 1902) is a one story frame Queen Anne Revival style dwelling with exterior Eastlake embellishments. It is located in the community of Lake Providence, the seat of East Carroll Parish. The house stands on a large, unlandscaped corner lot in an older residential district near the southeastern shore of an oxbow lake. Although it has experienced a move and some loss of interior fabric, the home's National Register eligibility remains intact.

The Byerley Home's Queen Anne features include:

- 1) asymmetrical massing with five cross gables.
- 2) textured surfaces, including beaded board siding on the facade and gable peaks combining fishscale, diamond, and crescent shaped shingles.
- 3) a wraparound gallery, and
- 4) one rectangular and one hexagonal bay. The latter is highlighted by forty-five degree corner cuts surmounted by scalloped Eastlake brackets with pendants.

The home's other Eastlake features include turned gallery columns and circular grilled vents piercing each of the building's major gables. The home is also distinguished by an entrance with transom and sidelights, a glass and paneled door displaying a dentil band above the glass, tall two-over-two windows facing the gallery, and a built-in cabinet in the dining room. The floorplan lacks a center hall and is three rooms wide with a large ell attached at the rear.

The Byerley House was moved in 1991 in order to save it from imminent demolition. Although it now faces a different direction, it still stands on a large corner lot just as it did before. It also remains within its original residential neighborhood, standing only one block from its former location. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps indicate that the elf's side porch and part of its rear porch were enclosed subsequent to the home's construction. Although the exact dates of these additions cannot be documented, they appear to be from the early twentieth century. Except for the loss of its mantles, the building has experienced no other changes. Thus the facade, its most important architectural feature, remains entirely unaltered. As an intact and extremely rare example of the Queen Anne Revival style within Lake Providence, the Byerley House is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

Also located on the property is a modern brick garage. It is being counted as a non-contributing element for the purposes of this nomination.

Significant dates	c.1902
Architect/Builder	Unknown

State Significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Byerley House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a rare surviving example of the Queen Anne Revival style within the community of Lake Providence.

Although Lake Providence was founded in 1833, two major incursions of the Mississippi River levee destroyed much of the earlier town. The historic downtown commercial area dates mainly from the early twentieth century. In the late nineteenth/early twentieth century the community experienced a modest wave of residential construction. Because the Queen Anne Revival style was at the apex of its popularity at this time, it is reasonable to assume that many of these new homes reflected that style. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps appear to verify the assumption that there were once more numerous examples of the Queen Anne style in the town. For example, the 1909 map identifies approximately 156 Lake Providence buildings as dwellings. Of these, 29 display a configuration reflecting the projecting bays and wraparound galleries associated with the Queen Anne style. However, very few of these dwellings have survived. Indeed, at least three important

examples have been lost in the last ten years, leaving only four notable Queen Anne style houses remaining. The Byerley House is one of these survivors.

Historical Note

The home was originally built for Frank Byerley, Sr. His son Frank, Jr. was a well-known aviator for whom the local Lake Providence airport is named. Byerley, Jr. was a veteran Army pilot who served in World War I and later worked as a commercial pilot for the Detroit News. His career also included a period of bush-flying in the Alaska wilds. The home is now owned by Doorway to Louisiana, Inc., a private group which is restoring the building for use as a visitor's and community center.

Major Bibliographical References

Site visit and windshield survey of Lake Providence, LA by National Register staff.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Lake Providence, LA, 1909.