

Describe the present and original (it known) physical appearance

Avondale Plantation Home (early to mid-nineteenth century) is a story and a half, frame, Greek Revival, raised residence which is presently located in an open, hilltop setting near the town of Clinton. Despite a recent move and numerous alterations, the house retains enough integrity to merit listing on the National Register.

In 1980 Avondale was moved 1 3/4 miles ("as the crow flies") from its original location. The move was undertaken in order to save the house. The old Avondale Plantation had long since become Camp Avondale, a Boy Scout summer camp. The Boy Scouts were concerned about the old house, but had no money with which to restore it and no practical use for it even if it could be restored. Prior to the move the house was badly deteriorated and was a potential prey for vandals. It would probably not have stood another ten years on its original site. Fortunately the present owners reached an agreement with the Boy Scouts to purchase the house, move it, and restore it.

Avondale is an early to mid-nineteenth century structure with a central hall with one large room on each side, a pair of end wall exterior chimneys, and a finished attic. It originally had two unusually wide aedicule motif mantels.

Since construction the house has undergone numerous changes. Surviving Greek Revival features include: (1) the five bay facade with its central front door which has a transom and side lights; (2) the large two panel doors; (3) the front gallery posts with their molded capitals; (4) a single mantel; and (5) the basic form and plan of the original house.

In its former location the house acquired two side wings beginning in the late nineteenth century. These were completely replaced after the move. Also, in the early twentieth century the front facade acquired three large dormers and the original flushboard front was replaced with clapboard. These features remain intact.

Assessment of Integrity:

(1) The Move: The distance involved (1 3/4 miles) is so short that the local context for the property's significance (the Clinton area) has not been violated.

(2) The Changes: Although the house has undergone numerous changes and has lost some of its original architectural fabric, it retains enough significant features to establish its identity as a Greek Revival raised plantation house. These features include: (a) the basic form of the house with its galleried front and pitched roof; (b) the five bay facade; (c) the central doorway with its transom and side lights; (d) the six pillar front gallery with its full entablature; and (e) the central hall plan. These features easily establish Avondale as a particular house type. This type is sufficiently rare in the Clinton area that the losses of fabric and the changes have not significantly diminished Avondale's value as an example.

Specific dates early to mid-19th century
Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
Criterion C

Avondale Plantation Home is locally significant in the area of architecture because, despite the changes, the form and essential characteristics of a Greek Revival raised plantation house are still recognizable. Houses of this type are all but gone from the eastern part of East Feliciana Parish. Although Clinton is close by, it does not have any significant cultural resources of the type represented by Avondale.

Clinton and the surrounding eastern half of East Feliciana Parish is an area which is known primarily for its grand two-story Greek Revival plantation houses with their colossal order columns and pedimented porticoes. The humbler, single story raised plantation houses represented by Avondale were at one time more predominant in the area. However, the type has all but disappeared, leaving Avondale as the sole surviving example.

Major Bibliographical References

Chain of Title, Researched by Mamie Austin Rouzan, East Feliciana Parish Courthouse