

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Ethridge House is a rare Greek Revival residence built in 1900. The one-and-a-half story frame cottage is located adjacent to the Red River levee in an old residential section of Colfax. Despite various changes made in 1945, the house retains its late Greek Revival galleried cottage appearance.

The Ethridge House is a very backward-looking house from an architectural standpoint. Upon first glance, it looks like a fairly typical five bay galleried Greek Revival cottage of the mid-nineteenth century. The columns, with their molded capitals, necking, and base, are echoed by pilasters; the central entrance transom has small panes of glass; and the gallery wall is flushboarded. The latter is something usually seen on pre-Civil War houses in Louisiana, with later examples usually having a clapboarded surface. Certain other features, however, are clues to the house's late date. These include the large dormers front and rear, the two over two plate glass windows, and the narrow gauge clapboarding. In addition to these exterior clues, as well as those on the interior, the date of 1900 seems to be well established. The current owner's father purchased the house in 1907 from the man who had it built.

As originally built, the house had a central hall in the front portion which widened at the rear to form a central dining room. Two rooms flanked the central hall and two smaller rooms flanked the dining room. The only change in this plan has been the removal of the wall separating the central hall and the east front room. The capacious semi-finished attic is sheathed in natural wood beaded boards.

The transition between the front central hall and rear dining room is marked by a prominent staircase which turns the corner as it descends, culminating in the central hall. The staircase's turn-of-the-century date is evident in its massive turned newel post and boldly three-dimensional character.

In 1945 the house was turned ninety degrees because a recently completed levee virtually abutted the front gallery. At this time an original rear kitchen wing was severed at a point even with the eave line of the main roof. The small remaining space was reworked for use as a closet and bathroom. The chimney, which was located between the two eastern rooms, was lost as a result of the move, and the two mantels were removed. A final alteration made in 1945 was lowering the ceilings throughout the house. In 1969 the eastern corner of the rear gallery was enclosed. Two of the columns and part of the entablature remain.

Assessment of Integrity:

Fortunately, all alterations have occurred to the rear or on the interior. The house's significance rests upon its status as a late Greek Revival galleried cottage, an identity which is established by the frontal appearance, which remains entirely intact.

A non-contributing carport/garage is located to the immediate rear of the house.

Significant dates	1900
Architect/Builder	unknown
Criterion C	

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

The Ethridge House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it represents the earliest style to be found in Colfax and hence is a significant component of the town's architectural heritage.

Both the parish of Grant and the parish seat of Colfax were created in 1869. Except for an old jail that may date from the Reconstruction era and an 1883 Italianate house, the town's earliest buildings are from the 1890 -1910 era. These include the nominated building, three Italianate commercial buildings, an Eastlake shotgun, a very plain Gothic Revival church, and a dozen or so Queen Anne Revival cottages, only two of which stand above the norm. Although the Ethridge

House dates from the same period, it represents an earlier taste from a stylistic standpoint. Although it is a vernacular version of a style normally thought to have gone out of fashion some years before, it is nonetheless the town's only example of the Greek Revival. As such, it is significant in the architectural heritage of Colfax.

Historical Note:

The property in question was purchased in 1899 by T. Q. Long, and he had the house built in 1900. On February 4, 1907, Long sold the property to Emuel Allen Ethridge, the present owner's father.

Major Bibliographical References

Windshield survey of Colfax by National Register staff.

Conveyance Records.

Personal communication with the owner, Mrs. Nettie Bourg, whose father purchased the house in 1907.