

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Kateland is a rambling frame galleried house built in four stages between c.1830 and c.1920. It is located in a rural setting behind the Red River levee about four miles north of the town of Boyce. Despite alterations and additions, the house retains its National Register eligibility.

Kateland began in about 1830 as an open dogtrot house two rooms deep with a broad front gallery. This early part of the house can still be seen. Each of the two front rooms has a central front door flanked by a pair of six over six windows. The east front room has a very unusual transitional aedicule motif mantel with freestanding Doric colonnettes and a wide frieze which is ornamented with a pediment shape and deeply cut fan forms. A more orthodox Greek Revival mantel was at one time in the west front room. It has since been moved to another part of the house. All of the doors in this first part of the house are of the four panel type.

In the 1880's the central dogtrot corridor was enclosed with double doors flanked by side lights. Also, the house was extended westward with a new large room. Finally, much of the original front siding was evidently replaced.

In about 1900 a large rear wing with a side gallery was built. It is here that the aforementioned Greek Revival mantel is located.

In the 1920's the side gallery of the rear wing was enclosed and the front gallery columns were replaced.

On the whole, the interior detailing is plain throughout the house. The only exception are the two mantels previously mentioned.

The present owners have expanded the c.1900 rear wing eastward to create a den and kitchen. They have also built a small extension on the west side.

Assessment of Integrity:

Kateland is significant because it is the only remaining structure in the parish which can trace its architectural development from before the Civil War (see Item 8). Although the house has been altered and enlarged, enough early nineteenth century features survive to represent the pre-Civil War architectural heritage of the parish. Surviving early nineteenth century features include the basic galleried pitched roof form of the house, the fenestration pattern on the facade, the doors and windows of the original portion, and the two mantels. Also, the mantels are significant in their own right and, of course, remain intact.

Specific dates c.1830
Builder/Architect Builder: uncertain (see historical note below)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
Criterion C

Kateland is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a landmark within the context of Grant Parish.

Grant Parish (1869) is a medium size rural parish with four incorporated towns and three hamlets. One would think from this that the parish would have a sizable complement of historic

structures, but this is not the case. For example, a comprehensive windshield survey conducted by the State Historic Preservation Office National Register staff revealed that Kateland is one of only twenty-two major 50+ year old residences in the parish. (In this case the term major residence means any house which is more substantial than a Victorian cottage or a bungalow.)

Of these twenty-two major historic residences, Kateland is the only one with architectural features dating back to the early nineteenth century. Also, as far as the State Historic Preservation Office can determine, it is the only extant structure of any kind which traces its development from before the Civil War. Surviving early nineteenth century features include the basic galleried pitched roof form of the house, the fenestration pattern on the facade, the doors and windows of the original portion, and the two mantels.

Kateland's status as the only known extant pre-Civil War structure in the parish is especially important. Although Grant Parish was not created until 1869, it was certainly not unpopulated before the Civil War. Because of the alluvial river bottom land along the Red River (twenty to thirty miles of river frontage), there were several large antebellum plantations in what would become Grant Parish. Undoubtedly the largest of these was the Calhoun estate, which was valued in the 1860 census at over one million dollars. Meredith Calhoun is shown in this census as owning 709 slaves.

Parishes flanking the Red River between Alexandria and Natchitoches, of which Grant is one, suffered great physical damage during the Red River campaigns of 1863 and particularly 1864. Burning, pillaging, and destruction or confiscation of the cotton crop were the subjects of official investigations by the United States.

Given the aforementioned pre-Civil War agricultural development, it is obvious that there must have once been several plantation houses and numerous support buildings in the parish. (One of the latter, a large brick antebellum warehouse, was demolished only within the last couple of years.) However, as far as the State Historic Preservation Office can determine, Kateland is the only remaining structure from the pre-Civil War era. Hence it is of singular importance in the parish's architectural heritage. Although altered and enlarged, it is nonetheless all that is left to represent an important period in the parish's history.

Kateland is also locally important because it features the parish's finest decorative woodwork. The elaborate mantel in the east front room is believed to be Grant Parish's only hand-carved mantel. As far as the State Historic Preservation Office is aware, the rest of the parish's decorative woodwork dates from the late nineteenth century or later and was made by machine. (Although the State Historic Preservation Office was only able to conduct a windshield survey, it was evident from the date and exterior appearance of the buildings that Kateland was the only house which could possibly have high quality pre-Civil War interior woodwork.)

Historical Note:

Kateland was purchased in 1875 by Colonel E. G. Randolph and has remained in his family since. According to family tradition, the original owner was a Mr. Ryan, who named it after his daughter Kate. But, as far as the State Historic Preservation Office can determine, there is no written documentation for this information. According to the present owner, the plantation was called Kateland when his grandfather purchased it in 1875.

Major Bibliographical References

Windshield survey of Grant Parish conducted by National Register staff, LA State Historic Preservation Office, January 20, 1984.

Harrison, Mabel Fletcher and McNeely, Lavinia McGuire. Grant Parish, Louisiana: A History. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1969.

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Louisiana. "Col. E. G. Randolph." Nashville: Southern Publishing Company, 1890, pp. 520-521.