

Angelus (1907) is a grand two story frame residence in the Colonial Revival style. It stands on a large city lot within a historic neighborhood which fronts on one of Jennings' major thoroughfares. Although it has undergone some alteration over the years, the house remains eligible for the National Register.

Characteristics of the Colonial Revival style found in Angelus include:

- 1) a colossal entrance portico framed by twin sets of paired, fluted, Ionic columns. The columns also feature neckings decorated by anthemions.
- 2) a three bay, one-story gallery with fluted columns whose capitals and necking resemble those found on the colossal columns. The gallery extends across the facade behind the entrance portico. It is surmounted by a denticulated entablature and molded cornice.
- 3) a balustrade outlining the roof of the one-story gallery. The balustrade features paneled corner posts which support small decorative urns.
- 4) a second entablature and accompanying modillioned cornice which encircle the house at roof level beneath overhanging eaves.
- 5) Palladian motifs in the front dormer and one facade window, and
- 6) side and rear dormers whose gables are decorated as pediments with raking cornices.

Other features of interest include 1) leaded glass transoms and sidelights surrounding the entrance and one facade window, 2) stained glass transoms over other windows, 3) a paneled staircase, 4) a mantelpiece featuring a mirrored overmantel flanked by wolf's head trapezophorons, and 5) two semi-hexagonal bays. One is located on the second floor at the center of the facade behind the portico. The other is in the rear southeast lower floor corner room. The home's plan consists of a set of central hallways (an entrance and stair hall in the front, a service hall in the rear) flanked by two rooms on each side.

Although Angelus has experienced a number of alterations over the years, the most important elements of its Colonial Revival detailing, and thus its National Register integrity, remain intact. The changes include:

- 1) the removal of the roof's widow's walk, the installation of a marble floor in the entrance hall, the addition of ceiling medallions in some rooms, the cutting of a new door between two rooms, a change in a second floor bathroom window, and the removal of the home's pocket doors. These were replaced by folding louvered doors.
- 2) the removal of the wainscot from the rear southeast corner room and its reuse, after being cut down, in the home's front northwest corner room. After the wainscot's removal, new paneling and ceiling molding, a built-in bookcase, and a recessed bar were installed in the southeast room.
- 3) additions to the rear of the home. These include the enclosure of the back porch to create a bath and screened porch, the later conversion of the screened porch to create a utility room and back entry hall, and the modernization of the kitchen and its expansion by pushing out a rear wall to create a breakfast room. A double window was moved to the breakfast room's new wall from the central portion of the bay in the rear southeast corner room. In turn, that portion of the original bay was filled in by a solid wall.
- 4) the construction of a modern carport/storage addition in the Colonial Revival style. This structure is attached to the house by a covered walkway which connects with a large, modern rear terrace covered by a shed roof. Although the Colonial Revival columns decorating the carport and terrace match each other, they do not match the facade's original columns.

Despite these changes, Angelus retains the significant Colonial Revival architectural features which justify its Register nomination. Of particular importance are the portico with colossal

paired columns and accompanying full facade gallery, the gallery's rooftop balustrade, the roofline's modillion cornice, and the Palladian motifs on the facade. Angelus is the finest example of the Colonial Revival style in the community of Jennings and, as such, is a landmark within the town. For these reasons, the house is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

Contributing Element

A second frame structure stands on the Angelus property. It is being counted as a contributing element for the purposes of this nomination because it is at least as old as the house, and is perhaps somewhat older. The structure is one-and-one-half stories in height and has two front facing gables pierced by single windows. The first floor contains a narrow stair hall on one side. The rest of the first floor has lost one side wall, creating a large partially open space. The floor of this area has been covered with concrete. The second floor contains one large and one small room.

Non-Contributing Element: previously mentioned modern carport/storage building

Significant dates	1907
Architect/Builder	unknown
Criterion C	

Angelus is locally significant in the area of architecture within the context of Jennings because it is easily the city's best example of the Colonial Revival style and is a landmark within the town.

Although Jennings is known primarily as a center of Queen Anne Revival architecture, a number of Colonial Revival structures are also located in the community. In fact, a recent windshield survey by the Louisiana National Register staff identified a total of 37 Jennings buildings reflecting the influence of the Colonial Revival style. Yet, with one notable exception, they do not exhibit the same high quality of design and craftsmanship found in the city's Queen Anne patrimony.

Although sometimes quite large, the city's Colonial Revival buildings are relatively plain and undistinguished. The best of the lot run the gamut from a porticoed church to houses with colossal columns to residences which mimic George Washington's Mount Vernon because they have front galleries surmounted by balustrades. Yet, all are vernacular buildings whose stylistic features lack the architectural merit and integrity necessary to justify nomination to the National Register. The community's other Colonial Revival buildings are even less distinguished than the aforementioned examples. Some have only simple columns or pillars as their sole stylistic detail, while others lack columns entirely and display only a window or door decoration in the Colonial Revival style.

Angelus, the one exception in this undistinguished group, ranks as the city's only grand and finely executed Colonial Revival structure. It is the only house which combines a two-story entrance portico with a one story full facade gallery. In addition, its design exhibits more distinguishing Colonial Revival features than does that of any other building. These features are twin sets of paired, fluted Ionic colossal columns featuring anthemions; dentils; a balustrade with paneled corner posts and urns; Palladian motifs; and a modillioned cornice. With such a wealth of features, Angelus is a landmark, both among the other Colonial Revival and the Queen Anne style buildings found in Jennings.

Historical Note

Angelus was built by the Jaenke family. Herman Jaenke was born in Germany in 1858 and migrated to America with the rest of his family. As an adult Herman settled in California before moving to Jennings in 1888. He and his brother Frank were co-owners of a sawmill and planing mill. Herman Jaenke apparently planned to build a large house for his family but died in 1906 before construction could start. It was his widow, Nellie, who completed the house. The property now belongs to a grandson of the Jaenkes. The house is named in honor of the "Angelus" prayer.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Survey sheet, "Herman F. and Nellie E. Lane Jaenke". List of Old Settlers Representing 185 Families, donated to the Jennings Carnegie Public Library by Mrs. Meredith H. Necessary, 1934. This list was compiled by William F. Humphreys and daughter Willma L. Humphreys during the 1934 Jefferson Davis Parish Fair.

Windshield survey of Jennings by National Register staff.