

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Daigle House (c.1880) is a large frame late Greek Revival cottage located in a mixed commercial-residential neighborhood near downtown Lafayette. Despite a few alterations, the house retains its National Register eligibility.

The five bay, pitched roof house has a central entrance leading to a stair hall. The interior is two rooms deep with chimneys set between rooms. There is a full front gallery and a smaller rear gallery set between cabinets. The front gallery features Doric posts with ogee molded capitals and an almost full entablature. The flush board facade has shoulder molded door and window frames with pediment shaped tops. The front also features two large dormers with pilasters, modest entablatures, and pediments. The sides of the house are ornamented with gable end returns.

The relatively plain interiors feature aedicule style mantels and four panel doors. Windows are six over six. Some of the interior door frames have pediment shaped tops.

Since construction the following changes have been made in the house ;

1. It appears that the present front gallery balustrade is a c.1900 addition,
2. The present rear wing also appears to be an addition,
3. A false gallery has been added at the rear and a portion of the old rear gallery has been enclosed,
4. A carport has been added on the side of the rear wing'
5. The interiors have been fitted with closets, bathrooms and plywood paneling,

Assessment of Integrity

Despite these changes, the house still retains the essential features which qualify it as a Greek Revival cottage, which is the basis of its significance. These include the basic form, the Doric post gallery, the facade fenestration, the pedimented dormers and the mantels.

Specific dates c.1880
Builder/Architect Builder: Jules Revillon

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
Criterion C

The Daigle House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is an important example of a Creole galleried cottage within the context of Lafayette Parish.

The galleried Creole cottage is identified in the Lafayette Parish Historical Sites Inventory as one of the parish's major nineteenth century house types. It is also a type which is associated with the parish's earliest buildings. Of the sixty-nine Creole cottages listed in the inventory, the Daigle House features the most impressive Greek Revival styling. Most of the parish's Creole cottages are plain with simple unmolded posts. Many have also been modified with bungalow or Eastlake details. The Daigle House is one of only eight examples which feature molded Doric posts and a more or less full entablature. Of these eight it is the only one with a full five bay facade. In addition, the Daigle House appears to be the only example with shoulder molded fenestration. Other examples in the parish have plain square head doors and windows. Finally, the Daigle House is one of only two examples which feature monumental dormers with pediments and pilasters.

Historical Note:

The house was built by Jules Revillon; however, it has been in the Daigle family for most of its existence.

Major Bibliographical References

Historical Sites Inventory, Lafayette Parish, Sections I and II. Prepared by the Lafayette Regional Planning Commission for the Lafayette Council of Governments, June 1976 and June 1977. Section II contains a historical sketch of the house.