

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Duplex House (c.1895; enlarged c.1910) is a large two-story frame residence with Queen Anne Revival and Colonial Revival elements. It is located on a large lot in downtown Youngsville. Despite a few alterations, the house retains its National Register eligibility.

Evidently the Duplex House began in about 1895 as a single story cottage with an off-center projecting bay and a front gallery. In about 1910 the house was enlarged to two stories and given a Colonial Revival treatment. The only major visual element in the house which survives from the earlier period is an elaborate Eastlake mantel with burl panels, spindles, six shelves and a mirror. The mantel is located in what is now the dining room. It is not known if this was its original location before the 1910 renovation.

The house has a central hall on each floor with an ample staircase which features an arched window at the landing. The staircase has four newel posts, each of which is surmounted by a molded top and a glass pineapple. The parlor and dining room are connected by pocket doors.

The exterior features an off-center gable with a two-story projecting bay which is articulated with sets of colossal paneled pilasters. The front gallery features colossal pillars on pedestals which match the pilasters on the bay. The house is surmounted by a pyramidal roof with four widely proportioned gabled dormers which serve to enliven the massing. At the rear of the house is a single story one bay porch.

Since the c.1910 renovation, the following changes have been made in the house:

1. Most of the interior doors and all interior door surrounds have been replaced,
2. The front door has been replaced,
3. All but one of the mantels have been lost,
4. Modern cornices have been installed in some of the rooms

Despite these changes, the house retains the features which contribute to its significance.
(See Item 8)

To the rear of the house are two old sheds which are listed as contributing elements because they demonstrate that at one time town residences had outbuildings. The garage located to the side of the house is less than fifty years old and is listed as a non-contributing element. In addition, there is a tractor shed to the rear of the house which is less than fifty years old and is also listed as a non-contributing element.

Specific dates c.1910
Builder/Architect Builder - c.1910 renovation - Pierre Alcide Duplex

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
Criterion C

The Duplex House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is the architectural landmark of the Youngsville area.

A windshield survey of the historic resources of Youngsville conducted by the National Register staff revealed 154 50+ year old structures. Most of these are bungalows, cottages or unpretentious frame stores. There are also five larger cottages with gables, dormers, and broad galleries.

The Dupleix House is conspicuous among this group because of its size and pretension. It is undoubtedly the largest older residence in Youngsville and it is the only one which is a full two stories high. It also has a certain monumental quality which other contemporaneous buildings lack. This is partly due to the fact that the house is set back from the road on a large well-treed lot. But mainly it is because of its boldly articulated projecting bay, its impressive colossal pillars, and its unusually complex roofline. In summation, the Dupleix House stands as the grand residence of the Youngsville area.

Major Bibliographical References

Windshield survey of Youngsville and the immediate vicinity conducted by National Register staff, April 1984.

Conveyance Records, Lafayette Parish,

Mamalakis, Mario. "Youngsville Landmark House," If They Could Talk, Acadiana's Buildings and Their Biographies. 1983.