

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Although Shady Oaks once enjoyed a rural setting, it is now a landmark within a twentieth century neighborhood of Lafayette.

The house itself is a two and one-half story, gallery fronted building with a brick ground floor, a frame second floor, and a pitched roof. It reflects the English influence brought to bear upon a French architectural tradition. English features include the central hall plan on the second and attic stories, the emphasis upon the center with transomed, sidelighted front doors, Federal dormers, 9 over 6 sash windows, and simple aedicule motif mantels. French features include the colombage second floor, the four room, hall-less plan on the ground floor, the French doors, and the diamond point paneling set in the ear molded door frames. The house is also noteworthy for its beaded beam ceilings and for its handsome molded Doric posts on both stories of the front gallery.

The house is well-preserved. The only changes are bathrooms, closets, and a rear extension.

Specific dates                    c. 1848  
Builder/Architect                Builder: Charles H. Mouton

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)  
Criterion C

Shady Oaks is significant in the area of architecture as a fine regional example of Greek Revival residential architecture. There are only 3 or 4 stylistically comparable houses in the area which achieve the pretension of two-story galleries. In addition, the house is an important part of Louisiana's architectural history because it illustrates the blending of English and French architectural traditions.

Shady Oaks was built in 1848 as the residence of Charles Home re Mouton, a prominent local jurist who served as lieutenant governor in 1856. The Moutons lived at Shady Oaks until the Civil War. The house changed hands several times before being acquired by its present owners, Mayor and Mrs. Kenneth F. Bowen.

#### Major Bibliographical References

Lafayette Parish Historical Sites Inventory, prepared by the Lafayette Regional Planning Commission, 1976.

Louisiana Almanac, 1979-1950.