

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The J. Arthur Roy House (1901) is a two-story frame Queen Anne Revival-Eastlake residence located in a residential area not far from downtown Lafayette. Because it has been little altered since construction, the house easily retains its National Register eligibility.

The Roy House features a central hall plan with an elaborate staircase which ascends from the rear of the hall to the front. The overall rectangular form of the house is broken up by a slightly protruding side wing and two two-story polygonal bays, both of which are set under gables with corner brackets. The house also has a two-story front gallery and a single story side gallery, both of which feature Eastlake columns with brackets. The front and side gables are inscribed with Palladian window motifs. The first and second stories are separated by a broad paneled band. The front gallery is surmounted by a similar band.

The interior features wainscoting and five-panel doors with richly molded raised panels. Most of the doors have molded fascia board surrounds with Eastlake cornerblocks. The mantels are golden oak and most feature mirrored overmantels. Some of the downstairs openings are treated with Eastlake scroll sawn screens popularly known as "carpenter's lace."

The most noteworthy feature of the interior is the staircase. At the base it has two heavily paneled newel posts which are richly sculpted with Eastlake details. The stair turns the corner with a simpler newel post and then ascends to the balustraded second story stair well. The balusters are particularly interesting. In addition to a decoratively turned top and bottom, each features a central truncated paneled obelisk.

The only noteworthy change in the house since construction has been the replacement of some of the interior door transoms with wooden panels. In our opinion, this change should be regarded as minor.

Adjacent to the house is a modern frame garage which, of course, is listed as a non-contributing element.

Specific dates	1901
Builder/Architect	Builder: J. Arthur Roy Contractor: George Knapp Architect: Arthur Van Dyke

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)  
Criterion C

The J. Arthur Roy House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a landmark in Lafayette's heritage of late nineteenth-early twentieth century residences.

Of the sixty-nine 1880-1920 residences in Lafayette which are identified in the Lafayette Parish Historical Sites Inventory, twenty-one are a full two stories high. Of these twenty-one, the Roy House is the only one to feature two polygonal bays under gables (as opposed to one) as well as a two-story gallery. Moreover, the Roy House is the only one to feature a decorative paneled band between the stories. The Roy House interiors are also worthy of note. Scroll sawn screens are found in very few period residences in Lafayette. In addition, the Eastlake staircase is probably the most intricate and elaborate residential staircase in the city.

Major Bibliographical References

Historical Sites Inventory, Lafayette Parish, Section II. Prepared by Lafayette Regional Planning Commission for the Lafayette Council of Governments, June, 1977. This volume contains a historical sketch on the Roy House.