

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Sterling Grove Historic District is a residential area comprised of fifty-nine buildings which date mainly from the period 1890 to 1934. Most of the buildings are located along the district's two major streets, Sterling Street and Elizabeth Avenue. The district is located in a large residential neighborhood not far from the Lafayette central business district. Twenty-eight percent of the buildings are classified as non-contributing elements; however, in the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, the district retains its historic character and hence its National Register eligibility.

Large and small residences occur side by side in the district as do residences of different styles. This mixed character is undoubtedly the result of the area's gradual growth over several decades. Of the two major streets in the district, Sterling Street is the grander. It has large lots, live oaks, deep setbacks, and a mixed one and two story scale. Elizabeth Avenue has a more or less consistent one story scale with houses set nearer the street.

The only non-residential feature of the district is the St. Genevieve Roman Catholic Church complex, which consists of an imposing c.1925 brick Romanesque Revival church (Building #40), a c.1930 Colonial Revival parish hall (Building #41), and a two story brick rectory (Building #39). There is also a related single story school building further up Elizabeth Avenue (Building #47).

#### Architectural Styles and Development

The district is part of what was once Lieutenant Governor Charles Mouton's plantation. His plantation home (Building #5) was built in 1848 and is the district's only pre-Victorian building. The two-and-a-half story galleried house features a combination of Creole and Greek Revival elements with Greek Revival as the predominant style. The house is individually listed on the National Register.

With the coming of the railroad in 1880, the old town of Vermilionville (renamed Lafayette in 1884) began to engulf the surrounding plantations. This growth was accelerated by the establishment of Southwestern Louisiana Institute in 1900. The new city of Lafayette was becoming an urban center.

As a result of this growth, thirty-eight percent of the district's buildings date from the period between 1890 to 1910. There is a large Italianate residence with a two story shallow arch bracketed gallery (building #1) as well as a curious chalet inspired house featuring vergeboard gables. But most of the district's turn-of-the-century buildings feature a more orthodox period treatment. There are six Eastlake houses, two of which are galleried cottages and four of which are more elaborate Queen Anne Revival houses with bays and gables. Six of the district's thirteen major Queen Anne Revival residences feature Colonial Revival columns in addition to the usual bays and multiple gables. None have turrets. There is also a large rambling Colonial Revival galleried cottage.

Post 1910 Colonial Revival residences in the district tend to dispense with bays and multiple gables and rely upon Colonial details applied to a squarish form for their effect. The most impressive example of this is a large "American Foursquare" with Corinthian pillars and heavy modillion cornices (Building #6). Other Colonial Revival residences of this period are one story high and feature simpler detailing.

As one might expect, the majority of post-1910 residences in the district are bungalows. These are all typical medium size examples which could have been found in any town of the period.

The district's most elaborately styled building from the post-1910 period is undoubtedly the St. Genevieve Church with its strong Romanesque character. It is an exception to the general lack

of precise historicism in the district. It is also an exception to the district's overall proclivity for frame construction and wood siding.

Other buildings from the 1910-1934 period include a vaguely medieval cottage (Building #15) and a two story Queen Anne Revival residence which received an extensive Mission style treatment in the 1920's (Building #20).

Contributing Elements:

Because the district is significant as Lafayette's finest grouping of 50+ year old buildings, all buildings over 50 years old are listed as contributing elements if they have not been modified beyond recognition.

Intrusions:

The district's only large intrusion is a two story rectory (Building #39) Almost all of the others are low scale single story residences; hence their impact is minimal. Moreover, intrusions number some twenty-eight percent of the district's buildings, which is within the normally acceptable range.

Alterations to Historic Buildings:

Of the forty-three contributing elements in the district, less than a fourth have been noticeably modified. There are three instances of replaced porch columns, two instances of replaced siding, two instances of porch enclosures, and one replaced front window. There have also been three side carport extensions built and a bungalow front porch extension which appears to be over fifty years old (see Building #7).

Purely by happenstance, the vast majority of these changes have been made to the district's later and lesser contributing elements--i.e , cottages and bungalows. These still have their infill value, and for the most part the district's larger and more pretentious buildings retain their full architectural integrity. Hence, in our opinion, the Sterling Grove District retains its historic character and consequently its National Register eligibility.

The City of Lafayette surveyed the Sterling Grove Historic District and produced the following date categories:

pre-1860	1 building	2%
1860-1900	9 buildings	15%
1901-1934	33 buildings	55%
intrusions	16 buildings	28%

STERLING GROVE HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY

1. 310 N. Sterling St.(c. 1890)  
Two story, wood frame Italianate residence with brackets and shallow arches. Contributing Element
2. 318 N. Sterling St. (c. 1900)  
Single story, wood frame, multi-gabled Queen Anne Revival residence with Colonial Revival porch. Contributing element
3. 324 N. Sterling St. (1893)

- Two story, wood frame, Queen Anne Revival residence with two story bay, Eastlake gallery, and imbricated shingles. Contributing Element
4. 330 N. Sterling St. (c. 1925)  
Single story, wood frame, Colonial Revival residence with double columns and arched, pedimented portico. Contributing Element
  5. 338 N. Sterling St. (1848)  
Two story, brick and frame, Creole and Greek Revival style plantation house (National Register). Contributing Element
  6. 406 N. Sterling St. (c. 1915)  
Wood frame "American Foursquare" residence with pedimented porch, double Corinthian pillars, and a heavy modillion cornice. Contributing Element
  7. 515 East Third St. (c. 1890)  
Two story, wood frame, chalet style house with decoratively cut vergeboards Central gabled porch and pent dormer added c 1920 Contributing Element
  8. 305 N. Sterling St. Intrusion (c. 1955-60)  
Single story, wood frame ranch house
  9. 311 N. Sterling St. Intrusion (1963)  
Single story, brick veneer ranch house.
  10. 319 N. Sterling St. (c. 1910)  
Single story, wood frame, Queen Anne Revival residence with square pillar porch and polygonal bay. Contributing Element
  11. 323 N. Sterling St. (c. 1925)  
Two story, wood frame, vaguely Colonial Revival "salt box" style house. Contributing Element
  12. 325 N. Sterling St. Intrusion (1980)  
Single story, wood frame movable house.
  13. 333 N. Sterling St. (c.1900)  
Single story, wood frame, multi-gable Queen Anne Revival residence with corner polygonal bay and Colonial Revival porch. Side carport added c. 1940. Contributing Element
  14. 339 N. Sterling St. (c.1925)  
Single story, wood frame bungalow' Side carport added recently. Contributing Element
  15. 345 N. Sterling St. (c.1930)  
Single story, wood frame, vaguely medieval gabled cottage. Contributing Element
  16. 411 N. Sterling St. (c.1900)  
Two story, wood frame, multi-gabled Queen Anne Revival residence with two story bay, imbricated shingles, and Colonial Revival galleries. Contributing Element
  17. 415-17 N. Sterling St. Intrusion. (c.1950)  
Single story, wood frame duplex.

18. 427 N. Sterling St. (c.1927)  
Single story, wood frame bungalow. Side carport added c. 1950. Contributing Element
19. 435 N. Sterling St. (1905)  
Large, story and a half, wood frame cottage with Colonial Revival gallery. Contributing Element
20. 443 N. Sterling St. (1903)  
Two story, wood frame, Queen Anne Revival residence renovated c. 1925. Received stucco finish, pilasters, and Spanish tile roof. Contributing Element
21. 449 N. Sterling St. (1899)  
Two story, wood frame, multi-gable Queen Anne Revival residence with elaborate Eastlake gable apron and gallery. Contributing Element
22. 336 Elizabeth Ave. (1902)  
Large, story and a half, wood frame cottage with Eastlake gallery Contributing element
23. 328 Elizabeth Ave. (1931)  
Single story, wood frame bungalow. Contributing Element
24. 301 Elizabeth Ave. Intrusion. (c.1960)  
Small, single story, wood frame union hall.
25. 603 Mudd Ave. (c.1900)  
Story and a half, wood frame, Queen Anne Revival residence with imbricated shingles, Colonial Revival gallery, and arched form in front gable. Recently a front window was replaced. Contributing Element
26. 609 Mudd Ave. Intrusion. (1965)  
Single story, wood frame ranch house.
27. 615 Mudd Ave. (c.1930)  
Single story, wood frame bungalow. Contributing Element
28. 606 Mudd Ave. Intrusion. (c.1950)  
Small frame cottage.
29. 604 Mudd Ave. Intrusion. (c. 1945)  
Single story, wood frame cottage with asbestos siding.
- 29a. 604 Mudd Ave. Intrusion. (c. 1945)  
Two story, wood frame garage.
30. 220 Elizabeth Ave. (1915)  
Single story, wood frame, late Queen Anne Revival cottage. Contributing Element
31. 214 Elizabeth Ave. (c.1910)  
Single story, plain, wood frame cottage. Contributing Element
32. 204 Elizabeth Ave. (c.1925)  
Single story, wood frame bungalow. Contributing Element

33. 124 Elizabeth Ave. (1905)  
Single story, wood frame Eastlake cottage. Contributing Element
34. 120 Elizabeth Ave. Intrusion. (c.1950)  
Single story, wood frame cottage.
35. 116 Elizabeth Ave. (c. 1930)  
Single story, wood frame bungalow. Columns replaced. Contributing Element
36. 110 Elizabeth Ave. (c.1900)  
Single story, wood frame, Queen Anne Revival residence with gable apron and Colonial Revival porch. Contributing Element
37. 106 Elizabeth Ave. Intrusion. (c. 1950)  
Small, single story, wood frame bungalow.
38. 102 Elizabeth Ave. Intrusion. (c.1945)  
Single story, wood frame cottage. Columns installed upside down.
39. 417 E. Simcoe St. Intrusion. (1963)  
Two story brick rectory. International Style.
40. 417 E. Simcoe St. (same address as above) (c. 1925)  
Large, brick and concrete, Romanesque Revival basilican church with round bays, round arches, a corbel table, and a very slightly Gothic central tower. Contributing Element
41. Evangeline Thruway, Parish hall. (c.1930)  
Single story, wood frame building with multi-gabled front and Palladian style entrance.  
Contributing Element
42. 113 Elizabeth Ave. (c.1930)  
Small, single story; wood frame bungalow. Contributing Element
43. 117 Elizabeth Ave. (1902)  
Single story, wood frame, multi-gable, Queen Anne Revival residence with polygonal bay, arched gallery, imbricated shingles, and a half-timber style front gable. Contributing Element
44. 503 Greig St. (1906)  
Single story, wood frame, Queen Anne Revival residence with Eastlake gable apron and gallery. Contributing Element
45. 515 Greig St. (c.1930)  
Single story, wood frame, asbestos sided bungalow. Contributing Element
46. 521 Greig St. (1903)  
Two story, wood frame, Queen Anne Revival residence. Contributing Element
47. 201 Elizabeth Ave. Intrusion. (1951)  
Single story brick school building.
48. 221 Elizabeth Ave. (1915)

Single story, wood frame, late Queen Anne Revival residence with polygonal bay and double gable roof. Contributing Element

49. 527 Mudd Ave. Intrusion. (c.1970)  
Two story, wood frame, "A" frame house.
50. 309 Elizabeth Ave. (1921)  
Single story, wood frame bungalow with oriental screenwork above columns. Contributing Element
51. 313 Elizabeth Ave. (c. 1930)  
Single story, wood frame, gabled bungalow. Contributing Element
52. 321 Elizabeth Ave. (1906)  
Single story, wood frame cottage. Porch columns replaced. Contributing Element
53. 327 Elizabeth Ave. (1931)  
Single story, wood frame bungalow. Contributing Element
54. 331 Elizabeth Ave. (1934)  
Single story, wood frame, Colonial Revival residence with Mount Vernon style porch. Contributing Element
55. 333 Elizabeth Ave. Intrusion. (1906)  
Badly altered, story and a half, wood frame cottage.
56. 343 Elizabeth Ave. (c.1930)  
Single story, wood frame bungalow. Contributing Element
57. 347 Elizabeth Ave. (c. 1920)  
Single story, wood frame, late Queen Anne Revival residence with imbricated shingles; porch columns replaced. Contributing Element
58. 351 Elizabeth Ave. (1904)  
Two story, wood frame, Queen Anne Revival residence with two story polygonal bay and Eastlake gallery; aluminum sided. Contributing Element

NB: Because there is a building labeled 29A, there are actually 59 buildings in the district.

Specific dates            1848-1934  
Builder/Architect        N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)  
Criterion C

The Sterling Grove Historic District is locally significant in the area of architecture because, taken as a cohesive unit, it is clearly the finest grouping of older structures in the City of Lafayette.

In the past thirty or so years Lafayette has experienced an oil boom with rapid redevelopment and the resultant loss of much of its patrimony. There are a handful of isolated landmarks in the central business district, but the area has lost its cohesive historic character because of modern infill and a high incidence of greatly altered historic buildings. There are a number of rather fragmented older residential areas, but they are mainly characterized by bungalows and low key cottages.

Sterling Grove is without a doubt Lafayette's most distinguished grouping of 50+ year old buildings. It is the only one which features a significant component (38%) of Victorian and Edwardian buildings. Moreover, the district contains a full-fledged Greek Revival plantation house--one of only three two-story Greek Revival houses in the city. It also contains what is thought to be the city's only example of decorative Victorian vergeboards. In addition, the district has a large and impressive Italianate galleried house which is one of only three Italianate residences in the city. Aside from these earlier buildings, the district is distinguished by an unusually varied collection of post-1910 structures. In addition to the usual bungalows, there is an impressive Romanesque Revival church, a Mission style house, a pedimented Colonial Revival house, and what is thought to be Lafayette's only pretentiously styled "American Foursquare" house.

#### Major Bibliographical References

Historical sketch and inventory prepared by City of Lafayette, copy in Register file, LA State Historic Preservation Office.

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