

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The T. L. James House is a two-story wood frame residence which reflects the late Italianate and Colonial Revival tastes. Built in 1884 and remodeled in 1926, the house has a central hall plan, two rooms deep, with a rear kitchen "L" wing. It is located in the old residential section of Ruston a few blocks from the downtown area and has been altered very little since the 1926 remodeling.

The following features date from the original 1884 period of construction:

1. The basic plan and configuration of the house, including the polygonal bay on the north side.
2. Most of the windows with their molded surrounds and pediment shaped tops,
3. The rear gallery columns.
4. The two remaining chimneys,
5. All but one of the mantels, The original mantels are heavy in proportion and feature boldly molded panels and deeply cut flutes.
6. Most of the interior moldings, doors, door surrounds, etc.
7. The paneled wainscoting in the hall,
8. The staircase with its heavy balusters and faceted, paneled newel,

The following features date from the 1926 remodeling:

1. The present facade treatment with its Palladian looking combination of a colossal Tuscan pedimented portico surmounting a wide single story gallery.
2. The denticular entablature which surmounts the building.
3. A few of the windows.
4. The present front doorway with its fanlight and side lights.
5. The fluted pillars in the central hall.
6. The Adamesque mantel in the north parlor.
7. The wide columnar opening in the dining room.
8. The denticular frieze in the north parlor.
9. It appears that the rear porte-cochere dates from 1926, hut this is not certain. If it was built after 1926, it certainly was not much afterwards.

Recent changes include the loss of the upper half of one of the north chimneys, the replacement of a set of pocket doors with a vinyl accordion style door, and the installation of a rear fire escape. In our opinion these changes should be regarded as minor given the total scope of the house's historic architectural fabric.

To the rear of the house is a five bay garage which is contemporaneous with the 1926 remodeling. It is listed as a contributing element because it dates from the period of significance and because it illustrates the type of outbuildings pretentious 1920's residences had.

Specific dates 1926 remodeling
Builder/Architect Builder for 1926 remodeling T. L. James

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
Criterion C

The T. L. James House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is the finest example of the Colonial Revival style in the city of Ruston.

The Louisiana Historic Structures Survey has identified 718 50+ year old buildings in Lincoln Parish, most of which are in the city of Ruston. Virtually all of Ruston's older structures date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The majority of Ruston's older residences represent the Queen Anne Revival or bungalow styles. The James House is one of about fifty residences which show some Colonial Revival influence. Most of these, however, are merely irregularly massed Queen Anne Revival houses with Colonial columns or else plain cottages.

The T. L. James House is conspicuous among this group because it is the only one which features a colossal pedimented portico. This marks it as the apogee of the Colonial Revival style in the city. The house has a handsome distinctive neo-Georgian articulation which links it with high style tendencies of the day in larger cities. This cannot be said of many of Ruston's other period houses, most of which are neither stylistically advanced nor architecturally pretentious.

Historical Note:

The home now called the James House was built by Colonel Thomas Cunningham Standifer. He purchased the land from Robert E. Russ for \$450 on January 3, 1884, and proceeded soon thereafter to build the house. It remained in the Standifer family until 1913, T. L. James purchased the property in 1921 and remodeled the home in the Colonial Revival style in 1926.

Major Bibliographical References

Louisiana Historic Standing Structures Survey, Lincoln Parish.

Conveyance Records, Lincoln Parish.

Historical sketch submitted by owner. Copy in Register file.