

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Kell House (c.1910) is a rambling Queen Anne-Colonial Revival frame house located on a large lot near the center of the parish seat of Tallulah. The only alterations have been the enclosure of a small portion of the gallery and the installation of paneling on the interior.

The plan has an irregular cruciform shape culminating in a large central living hall which has a quarter turn staircase and a corner fireplace. The stair derives a certain monumentality from its two massive oak newel posts with their ornamental panels and oeil-de-boeuf motifs. On one side of the living hall is the "music room," which terminates in a polygonal bay. It too has a corner fireplace. On the other side of the living hall is the dining room with the large kitchen beyond. Between the living hall and the dining room is an enclosed staircase which ascends directly from the outside. Evidently it was originally a servants' stair.

This complex floor plan is encompassed on four sides by a continuous single story wraparound Tuscan gallery of twenty bays. There is also a secondary rear gallery. Principal downstairs rooms connect with the gallery by means of large plate glass sliphead windows. The exterior is sheathed in narrow gauge clapboard. The gently picturesque roofline features articulated gables with pedimented proportions and scrollwork vergeboards. There is also an off-center pent dormer.

The interior features Colonial Revival mantel-overmantel sets with mirrors and simple entablatures over the doors and windows.

Alterations

In the 1920s the east corner of the gallery was enclosed for a kitchen extension. This was fairly sensitively done, using large windows and leaving the columns exposed on the exterior. Thus this change, although regrettable, has not significantly marred the house's appearance.

More recently, the interior walls have been covered with plywood paneling. This change should be regarded as minor and purely cosmetic because no mantels, moldings, or openings were affected. A coat of paint would bring the interiors fairly close to their original appearance.

Significant dates	c.1910
Architect/Builder	unknown
Criterion C	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Kell House is of local significance in the area of architecture as an architectural landmark within the context of the parish seat of Tallulah. Although the town was founded in 1857, floods and other factors have taken their toll on the building stock. Today there are perhaps 100 50+ year old residences, most of which are plain bungalows, nondescript cottages, or Colonial Revival cottages. There are also a handful of fairly generic Queen Anne Revival cottages. The Kell House is one of very few residences that stand significantly above the norm in Tallulah. It is two stories with a broad, gently picturesque front which is easily the longest residential facade in town. The wraparound Tuscan gallery particularly enhances the house's landmark status, being easily the most architecturally impressive residential gallery in Tallulah. The typical residential gallery of the period

has simple square posts rather than Tuscan columns and only three or four bays, whereas the gallery at the Kell House wraps around following the profile of the house for a total of twenty bays. Finally, the Kell House features a fully developed Queen Anne Revival living hall, something found on only the finest, most urbane examples of the Queen Anne Revival taste. Undoubtedly it is the only living hall in town.

Major Bibliographical References

Windshield survey of Tallulah conducted by National Register staff, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.