

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Allen-Barringer House (c.1906) is a two-story frame residence with features associated with the Queen Anne Revival and the Colonial Revival. It originally stood on a town lot in the city of Monroe, but was moved some seven miles southwest of the city in 1973 to its present location in a clearing in a rolling pine forest. The house is completely intact except for the chimneys, which are replacements, and the fact that one of the portico columns is missing. In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, neither of these constitute a serious loss of integrity.

The aforementioned move was necessary in order to save the house. It had been deserted for several years and was to be torn down to make room for an apartment complex. A Mr. Kenneth Lenard was told he could purchase the house if he agreed to move it off the property. In moving the house to its present location the character of the setting was radically changed. However, this should not be regarded as detrimental to the significance of the structure. It is regionally important within the state as an example of Colonial Revival architecture and does not depend on any local context for its significance or upon its status as a town or a country house.

Colonial Revival features include:

1. The plain, clapboard sided, hip roofed, rectangular form of the house.
2. The symmetrical five-bay articulation of the facade.
3. The imposing, slightly oversized, four column, pedimented, fluted Ionic portico.
4. The small, balustraded second story balcony set beneath the portico.
5. The frontal doorways on the first and second stories with their large transoms and side lights.
6. Much of the interior detailing. The living room hall is divided by a fluted Ionic columnar screen. In addition, the three ground floor mantels are based upon Adams mantel designs, though their columns, entablature and panels are heavier than in the eighteenth century prototypes. Also their overall proportions are more vertical. The mantels are ornamented with fluted columns and relief swags, garlands and urns.
7. The newel posts which are decorated with relief ribbons and swags.

Queen Anne Revival features include:

1. The ground story plan. Despite the impression the facade may give, there is no central hall. The ground story consists of three major spaces which are connected by means of massive sliding doors. A rectangular living hall occupies approximately 60% of the ground floor space and is set along the south side of the house. It has a large commanding mantel and a three flight, two landing staircase set behind a colonnade screen. Under the stair is a nook which contains a large beaded round head window set in a bay with a window seat. (There is also a small, one-story rear kitchen wing.)
2. The exposed beam ceilings in the living hall.
3. The high paneled wainscotting in the three main ground floor rooms.
4. The several leaded glass windows on the ground floor level.
5. The vast majority of the other windows; each of which has sixteen small panes in the upper sash and one large pane in the lower sash. The parquet floors in the ground story are not necessarily attributable to either the Queen Anne or Colonial Revival influence. They are, however, relatively high quality with inset fretwork borders.

Integrity

As mentioned previously, one of the portico columns is missing. The inside column on the south side of the portico became infested with bees and was removed by the previous owners. This

poses no structural threat to the house, though it constitutes an aesthetic defect in the integrity of the facade.

This, however, is mitigated by the following factors:

1. The house is in the final stages of restoration, and plans are underway to replace the missing column.
2. The lines, massing, fenestration pattern and basic design of the house are still easily recognizable.
3. The missing column is a simple aesthetic defect which can be easily corrected.
4. Taken together, the interior and the exterior constitute one of the most pretentious residences in northeast Louisiana. The loss of the column has not sufficiently lowered its value to the region to make it ineligible for the Register.
5. The house is an example of the work of a local architect. The loss of the column does not lower the value as such because the design is obvious even with one column missing.

Specific dates	c.1906
Builder/Architect	Architect: William Drago Builder: W. E. Allen

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
Criterion C

The Allen-Barringer House is significant in the area of architecture within the context of northeastern Louisiana as a superior example of both the Queen Anne Revival and Colonial Revival influences. Because the Allen-Barringer House is regionally significant within the state (i.e., within a ten parish area), it is being nominated for significance at the local level.

The exterior is significant as an outstanding example of the turn-of-the-century Colonial Revival style. In northeastern Louisiana the Colonial Revival taste was mainly manifested in the form of Doric porch columns applied to Queen Anne Revival cottages. Larger and more developed examples had Palladian windows, balustrades, and Doric galleries applied to two-story Queen Anne Revival houses. By comparison, the Allen-Barringer House has a fully developed neo-Georgian design complete with a central pediment and fluted columns. It shows a far more complete and sophisticated assimilation of the Colonial Revival taste than was commonly found in northeastern Louisiana at the turn-of-the-century. Indeed, it shares its "high style" quality with only a handful of other examples in the region.

The first floor interior is an important example of the Queen Anne Revival influence. This is partly because of details like paneled wainscotting, parquet floors, and beaded beam ceilings. But it is mainly because of the living hall with its window seat, its boldly three-dimensional staircase, its colonnade screen, and its large commanding fireplace. It is one of the few true living halls among the late-19th and early-20th century residences of northeastern Louisiana.

Major Bibliographical References

Research Report Submitted by Applicants. Copy located in Allen-Barringer House National Register file, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.