

The Miles-Hanna House (1892) is a frame one story Queen Anne house with Eastlake details. It is located on a fairly spacious corner lot just north of the old downtown. Most of the noticeable alterations have been at the rear.

The house's Queen Anne influence can be seen in its massing. There is a hip roof with a gabled projection in the front which features a polygonal bay. Spanning the remainder of the facade is an Eastlake porch under a shed roof. Extending from the rear of the main block is a gabled ell wing.

The house's Eastlake influence can be seen in its details. The three-bay front porch has turned columns with an abacus-like design and a balustrade formed of turned members. Accenting the columns are scrollsawn brackets. The front door and screen door feature Eastlake motifs as does the parlor mantel. The latter is ornamented with slender decoratively turned colonnettes (a pair on each side), and the entablature has a band of decorative trim with an abacus-like design.

The house's other three mantels, which are identical, feature molded pilasters with a bull's eye design at the top and a mantel shelf supported by a bracket at each end. Most of the doors feature four raised panels and movable transoms with their original hardware. Door and window frames are formed of unornamented boards. Windows are four over four.

The main block of the Miles-Hanna House has a central hall with two rooms to the south and two to the north. A single flight of stairs ascends to what was originally an unfinished attic. Running perpendicular to the central hall behind the north range of rooms is a cross hall. Beyond this hall is the dining room/kitchen ell wing.

Changes to the house since construction include:

(1) The previously mentioned cross hall originally culminated in a gabled side porch, as documented in an old photo. Remaining is the doorway, which features a four panel door with sidelights that are hinged to open in the manner of doors.

(2) At some point in the historic period a shed roof bathroom was attached to the rear room on the south side.

(3) The ell's shed roof porch has been almost entirely enclosed (date unknown but some of the work is clearly of a more recent vintage). Surviving are some of what must have been the original porch posts. They are boxed pillars similar to those shown in the old photo of the gabled side porch.

(4) A simple shed roof carport is attached to the rear of the ell.

(5) Within the last few years the attic has been finished off, and thin sheetrock has been installed in the downstairs rooms. With the exception of the cross hall, which retains its original flush board walls, the walls originally were covered in paper over cheesecloth.

(6) The original front and ell wing wooden steps have been replaced with concrete steps. Both have modern iron railings.

(7) The chimneys have been cut off at the roofline level.

Assessment of Integrity:

All in all, the Miles-Hanna House is relatively well preserved on both the interior and exterior. Most importantly, the house retains all of its original character defining Queen Anne and Eastlake features and hence its Register eligibility.

Significant dates 1892
Architect/Builder unknown
Criterion C

The Miles-Hanna House is locally significant in the area of architecture as a landmark within the town of Delhi (population of about 3500). It achieves this distinction as a very

Delhi was a tiny unincorporated hamlet until the coming of the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Railroad in the early 1880s. By 1900 there was sufficient population for the community to be incorporated as a village, and in 1919 it was incorporated as a town. In 1920 the population was 980. Located in the rich delta land of northeast Louisiana where cotton was king, Delhi was a shipping center for area farmers.

It is interesting that while Delhi developed in the Queen Anne-Eastlake era, today such houses are quite rare. In short, while a middle-class Queen Anne cottage of the type represented by the Miles-Hanna House would be typical in many Louisiana communities, it stands out in Delhi. The area's history plus other sources (mainly recollections) indicate that there were once various examples of the Queen Anne style in the community; however, today there are only two. The other example, also one story, is more elaborate, but it has been asbestos sided. The remainder of Delhi's historic buildings consist of low-key folk bungalows, plain cottages, and twenty or so typical commercial buildings from c.1900 to c.1940. Within the foregoing context, the Miles-Hanna House meets the National Register definition of local significance. It is a landmark within Delhi to even the casual observer.

Historical Note:

The house was built for Harriet Purvis Miles and Frank A. Miles, Sr. in 1892 on three lots purchased that year. The couple had married in nearby Rayville October 28, 1891. The last family member to live in the house was their daughter Emma Miles Hanna. She and her husband, Frank Hanna, had moved into the house after World War II to care for her widowed father, who died in 1952. Emma remained in the family home until her death on September 20, 1989, in her 94th year. The house is now owned by the Town of Delhi and operated as a local history museum.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Division of Historic Preservation windshield survey of Delhi.

Miles, Frank A., Jr. *My Family: Purvis-Miles*. Privately published, 1994.

Historic photo showing side gabled porch, in possession of Miles-Hanna Museum.