

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Greensburg Land Office is located adjacent to the St. Helena Parish Courthouse entrance on the courthouse square. The common bond brick structure has one room and a single end wall chimney. The building is entered through a small portico which has two massive brick Doric columns. There is no frieze. The gable roof was replaced in the late nineteenth century. The only major interior feature is a large paneled Adams mantel which dwarfs the room.

Specific dates c.1820's
Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
Criteria A and C

The Greensburg Land Office is significant in the area of architecture as a good example of a small rural office building in the Greek Revival style. It is of a type commonly found in the Eastern states as well as in nearby Lawyer's Row in Clinton (NHL), but which is seldom in other parts of Louisiana. Although some towns had them, all but a few were sacrificed to downtown redevelopment in the later nineteenth century.

The Greensburg Land Office is also significant because it housed the St. Helena District Land Office, which serviced the entire Florida Parishes. Although Congress had in 1812 organized a land district out of the Florida Parishes, no provision had been made for the surveying of the private claims and public lands in this area. On March 3, 1819, however, Congress officially named this region the St. Helena District and provided for its survey. It was here that Florida Parish residents applied for American patents to their lands. In fact, this can be seen as but one of the many steps involved in the Americanization of Louisiana. In 1843 the land office was removed from Greensburg to Baton Rouge.

The structure is currently being used as a Veterans' Administration Office. It is 1 of the 2 or 3 oldest public buildings still in use in the Florida Parishes.

Major Bibliographical References

Downs, Raymond, "Public Lands and Private Claims in Louisiana, 1803-1820," LSU thesis, 1960.
Statutes At Large, 15th Congress, 1819.

Letter dated October 9, 1843 from General Land Office to the Register of the Land Office, Opelousas indicating removal of office to Baton Rouge, copy located in Greensburg Land Office National Register File, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.