

The Dendinger House stands in the center of a large, landscaped block in the St. Tammany Parish community of Madisonville. A transitional house showing the influence of both the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles, the two-story frame residence was constructed in 1911. While the interior has experienced some changes resulting from a recent restoration, the home's National Register eligibility remains intact.

The Dendinger House has a central hall floor plan. Three rooms and a butler's pantry are located on one side of the hallway, while two additional rooms and front and rear stair halls are found on the opposite side. The second floor also has a central hall and contains bedrooms and bathroom facilities.

Characteristics of the Queen Anne style found in the house include the following:

1. a roofline featuring a gable, dormers and cresting;
2. corbelled chimney tops;
3. two hexagonal bays, one of which features 45 degree corner cuts and Eastlake brackets;
4. fish scale shingles in the front facing gable;
5. window sashes featuring multiple diamond shaped panes; and
6. a gallery which wraps around the home on three sides.

The home's Colonial Revival characteristics include:

1. the gallery decoration, which features Tuscan columns, a wide entablature, and a ceiling subdivided into bays by exposed beams. Additional beams outline the ceiling's edge.
2. a second story balustrade,
3. two elliptical bays, and
4. interior denticulated woodwork surrounding the doors and windows on the lower floor.

Other features of interest in the house include bracketed overhanging eaves, a jerkinhead roof on the rear elevation, two sets of interior pocket doors, original brass hardware on the doors and windows, and stained glass in the attic's two front windows.

During the above mentioned restoration, the following changes were made:

1. Several original pieces of woodwork were removed. These included a built-in bench located beside the stairway in the front stair hall, a heavy plate rack which encircled the dining room, and three mantels with their accompanying glazed tile hearths and surrounds. The latter were replaced by modern Colonial Revival style mantels milled in England.
2. New wainscoting was added to the lower floor's central hall, new bookshelves were built in the library, and new crown molding was installed in all the downstairs rooms.
3. The original kitchen was converted into a formal display space. However, the room's woodwork was left intact.
4. The rear screened porch was glazed in and improved. Italian ceramic floor tiles were laid, a small kitchen was installed on one side of the space and heavy screens were attached to the newly glazed walls. Similar screens were attached to the second floor rear windows. The original plain, straight exterior rear stairway was replaced by a double winder stair featuring a chinoiserie balustrade.
5. Four stained glass windows t two square windows on the front stair landing and

two diamond shaped windows on a side elevation) were removed. They were replaced by multi-pane sashes of clear glass which match the subdivided upper window sashes of the first floor.

Despite these changes, the Dendinger House appears remarkably as it did in 1911. Except for the four replacement windows, the facade and side elevations remain entirely intact. Furthermore, this change is not noticeable because the new windows match the sashes of the originals. Although architectural features have been removed from the interior, all the materials have been saved and are available for future restoration. The Dendinger House still ranks as the sole residential landmark from the 1890-1920 era in Madisonville, and as one of only two architectural landmarks from this period in the entire community. As such, it is a prime candidate for National Register listing.

Contributing Element

One original outbuilding stands on the property. Built at the same time as the house, the two story, frame structure served as a combination laundry, garage, and servants' quarters. It is being counted as a contributing element for the purposes of this nomination.

Significant dates	1911
Architect/Builder	Jenkins Brothers (contractors)
Criterion C	

The Dendinger House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is one of only two landmark buildings from the 1890-1920 era in the community of Madisonville.

Although the town was incorporated in 1817, the majority of its building stock appears to date from the 1890-1920 period of prosperity which resulted from a boom in the lumber and shipbuilding industries in St. Tammany Parish. However, most of the structures built during this period are relatively undistinguished. Although an occasional California bungalow can be found, most of Madisonville's period residences are small one-story shotguns, galleried cottages, Queen Anne style cottages, or folk bungalows. While some of these houses display Eastlake trim, the majority are unornamented. Thus, the large transitional Queen Anne and Colonial Revival style Dendinger House is the town's sole landmark residence from the 1890-1920 era. The community's only other architectural landmark from the period is the large, classically styled Madisonville Bank (National Register).

Historical Note

The house was built for Theodore Dendinger, Sr., a locally prominent businessman. Dendinger was Chairman of the Board of Dendinger, Inc., a New Orleans company whose subsidiaries included the Madison Lumber Company of Madisonville and New Orleans and the Dendinger Transportation Company of New Orleans. The latter operated boats and schooners between Madisonville and New Orleans and provided the first year-round automobile ferry service linking that city to Lake Pontchartrain's north shore. Currently serving as the headquarters of an interior design firm, the home remains under the ownership of Dendinger family descendants.

Major Bibliographical References

Site visit by National Register staff.

Historic Structures Survey of St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.