

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sullivan House is set on a large wooded lot, with a moderately sized front lawn, and a backward sloping rear yard.

The house is generally symmetrical with a two and a half story central block set between a pair of larger projecting three story wings, each with a hip roof. There is a two story sun porch on the ballroom end of the house, and a one story porch on the kitchen end. The massing, which produces an overall stately effect, is generally attributable to the influence of the turn-of-the-century Renaissance Revival, as are the wings, where the third story windows are set within a widened frieze. Most of the exterior features must be viewed within the context of the "colonial revival." This includes the 3-bay colossal order gallery, which embraces the facade of the central block. It also includes a multi-pilastered front door, the ballroom front windows which are set within a Palladian window motif, and the three dormers. Most of the dormers are oversized versions of the Federal arched type, but the central dormer is larger than the rest, containing a Palladian window surmounted by an English swan neck pediment. All styling both inside and out is achieved with standard manufactured architectural features.

The central block of the house is one room deep, and the flanking three story wings are two rooms deep. The entrance hall amounts to a Queen Anne living hall, but the living hall elements are confined to one corner and are diminutive in proportion to the room. A colonial revival half-turn staircase has a paneled inglenook bench set in its side, with an adjacent fireplace. The back wall of the stair-landing is broken through with a framed opening which provides a vista from the entrance hall to the adjacent ballroom. Despite all of this, the rooms, for the most part, are large, airy, and plain. Several of the rear bedrooms and the breakfast room are lit by bands of leaded opalescent glass windows set at the shoulder level. There is also a hidden trap door to the basement.

Constructed of long leaf yellow pine with clapboard exterior, on a concrete foundation, the house is notable for its original colonial style sconces and for its original plumbing fixtures.

Since the house was built, the second floor balcony, behind the front portico, has been enclosed with glass. Although this enclosure mars the Classical effect of the portico, it does not effect the stately massing of the house. In any case, impending restoration plans call for the removal of the glass, and restoration of the old balcony.

SPECIFIC DATES	c.1907
BUILDER/ARCHITECT	William Henry Sullivan

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sullivan House has significance in three areas -- architecture, industry, and local history. The Sullivan House is a builder vernacular combination of elements from the Neo-Georgian, the Renaissance Revival, and the Queen Anne Revival. It presents a grand, dignified, and stately appearance which is unmatched by any other period residence in Bogalusa or its vicinity. Even though it is builder vernacular, the house is one of the best representative examples in the area of the general trend away from the irregularity of the larger Queen Anne houses at the turn of the century, and towards a more rigid, ordered, and mannered style.

Due to its association with its builder William H. Sullivan (1864-1929), the house is also of significance in the areas of local history and industry. Sullivan, according to historian Amy Quick,

was justly known as "the father of Bogalusa." As general manager of the Great Southern Lumber Company's operation in Bogalusa, he was in complete charge of the erection of the town in 1907-1908. Quick states that Sullivan "had instructions at all times to build the largest and best equipped plant in the world; to make the town a good town in which to live; to give the people good schools, churches, well arranged homes with electric lights, pure water, sewerage and all modern conveniences; to build good streets, good sidewalks, and to make the town so attractive that men who worked in lumber enterprises would be glad to live in Bogalusa. How well he succeeded in carrying out these instructions, Bogalusa citizens have attested for many years" (Amy Quick, The History of Bogalusa, the "Magic City" of Louisiana. Reprinted from Louisiana Historical Quarterly (Jan. 1946), p. 26).

Until 1914, Sullivan ruled Bogalusa as the "headman" of a huge lumber camp, and upon its incorporation that year he became its first mayor, ruling its civic as well as its business affairs until his death in 1929. Quick characterizes Sullivan's rule as "paternalistic," akin to that of a "benevolent despot." By 1929, under Sullivan's direction, the Great Southern Lumber Company had built a company-owned town of ten thousand people (Quick, p. 111). At the time of his death he was Vice President and General Manager of the Great Southern Lumber Company, Executive Vice President of the Bogalusa Paper Company, President of the Bogalusa Turpentine Company, President of the Bogalusa Stores Company, and a director of the New Orleans Great Northern Railroad. In addition, he was still Mayor of Bogalusa (Quick, p. 117).

The house was probably built in 1907 or 1908 and Sullivan lived in it till his death. The workers soon came to refer to the home as "Official Quarters." Its section of town was called "Little Buffalo" or "Buffalotown" since it was the residential district where many of the company officials who had come there from Buffalo, New York had their homes. The Sullivan house was, of course, the largest and grandest (Quick, p. 31; Al Hansen, "Sullivan's Castle is Being Restored," Bogalusa Daily News, 11 July 1978).

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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