

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received MAR 21 1985

date entered APR 18 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Sunny Meade

and/or common same

**2. Location**

street & number 819 Cary Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Jennings N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county Jefferson Davis Parish code 053

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

**4. Owner of Property**

name Alister B. and DeEtte G. Mahon 713-461-1274 (home)  
713-222-8222 (office)

street & number 1301 Nantucket Street

city, town Houston N/A vicinity of state Texas 77057

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson Davis Parish Courthouse

street & number State Street (no specific address) P. O. Box 799

city, town Jennings state LA 70546

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Sunny Meade (1899) is a two story, wood frame, Queen Anne Revival-Eastlake residence set on a large town lot in an older section of Jennings. The house has received only one noticeable alteration since it was built, and it is only a minor one.

Sunny Meade has an irregular plan, two rooms wide and three rooms deep. The only hallway is on the second story. The front and rear parlors open into each other through a set of pocket doors. Major rooms project from the house and are separately articulated on the exterior, which adds to the complexity of the massing. The house has two polygonal bays under gables, one gabled projection, a ten bay veranda with its own front gable, and a balcony built in the form of a turret. The balcony has a curving front ornamented with imbricated shingles. Imbricated shingles are also used in four of the five gables and on the conical balcony top. The exterior is copiously trimmed with rows of Eastlake spindles. They are set under the projecting gables, around the balcony top, and between the gallery brackets. The gallery brackets themselves are curved and feature inset spindles and drop finials. Besides giving an arcaded effect, these brackets also support the gallery's projecting front gable.

The interiors feature high molded baseboards and elaborately planed window and door surrounds with ornamented cornerblocks. Most of the decoration is done with a router and consists of stylized plant forms and grooves. The single downstairs mantel is in the golden oak Rococo style.

Sunny Meade's most lavish interior feature is the entrance hall. Although the room is large, its available space is almost completely taken up by a three flight overscaled staircase. A single attenuated Corinthian column rises from the principal newel post to terminate in a profusion of "carpenter's lace." All newels are paneled; most have urn finials and some feature inset ribbons and leaf forms. The ceiling features openwork beams and diagonally set beaded boards.

**Assessment of Integrity:**

Since construction, the only noteworthy change at Sunny Meade has been the enclosure of a rear gallery. In our opinion, this has made little impact upon one's appreciation of the house's architectural quality.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1899 **Builder/Architect** Builder: W. F. Humphrey

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Criterion C

Sunny Meade is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is undoubtedly the most important Victorian residence remaining in the town of Jennings.

The parish seat of Jennings traces its beginnings to the arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1880-81. The town became a prosperous rice growing center and was incorporated in 1888. A collection of historic photographs in the Jennings Public Library shows the grand residences of early Jennings. Although this cannot be regarded as a complete survey, the nature of the material suggests a boosteristic desire to record the town's finest homes. Hence one is on safe ground in assuming that most if not all of Jennings' first-rate residences are covered in this published collection. The recorded homes are mainly Queen Anne Revival structures with turrets, galleries, and richly ornamented gables. Most are two stories and all are fairly large. Of the forty-one residences recorded in the collection, twenty-five no longer exist, and thirteen which remain have been substantially altered. This leaves three (including Sunny Meade) which survive as good representatives of Jennings' Victorian residential heritage. Of these three, Sunny Meade features the most elaborate massing and the greatest amount of Eastlake ornamentation. In addition, it is the only one which has the semblance of a turret. In our opinion, it is the Victorian residential landmark of Jennings.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Morse, Walter D. "The Birth of Jennings." This compilation includes historic photographs of early Jennings residences. Available at Jennings Public Library. Historical sketch submitted by owner. Copy in Register file. 1900 and 1903 photographs of Sunny Meade (exterior and interior). Copies in Register file.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property @2/3rds of an acre

Quadrangle name Jennings

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UTM References

A 

1	5	5	3	2	7	0	0	3	3	4	3	9	5	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundary lines follow property lines. Please refer to attached property plat map.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff ASSISTED BY OWNER

organization Division of Historic Preservation State of Louisiana date January 1985

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-922-0358

city or town Baton Rouge state LA 70804

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

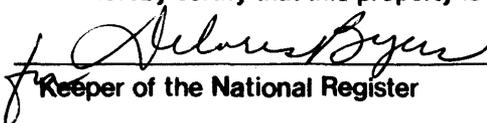
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date March 8, 1985

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 Entered in the National Register date 4-18-85

Attest: date

Chief of Registration