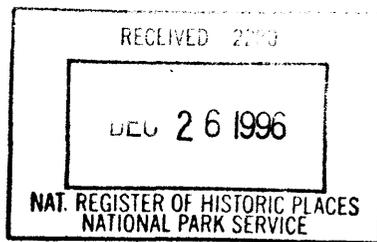


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1611

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bynum House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 604 Grammont N/A not for publication

city or town Monroe N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Ouachita code 073 zip code 71201

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jonathan Fricker 12/13/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

1-25-97

Bynum House
Name of Property

Ouachita Parish, LA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Eastlake

Queen Anne Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other shingles

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Bynum House, Monroe, Ouachita Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 1

The Bynum House (c.1895) is a one story frame residence in the Eastlake style with some Queen Anne Revival influence. Located in a modern commercial area in downtown Monroe, the house was recently rescued from demolition, and a rehabilitation project using the 20% tax credit is underway. Alterations have been minimal since the historic period.

The house acquired its present configuration in stages between construction c.1895 and 1920, as evidenced by Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps. An 1898 map shows the present two room wide main block with a rear one room ell wing and a second longer ell wing with its own roofline. A side gallery extends down both ells. By 1909 a one room addition had been built at the rear of the main block, next to the ell. All of this survives except for the original secondary ell, which was evidently rebuilt sometime in the early twentieth century. By the 1920 Sanborn map, the present secondary ell appears to be in place. It is shown as it is now with a small room at the end of the gallery.

The Bynum House is elaborately articulated on the facade. There is a gable end main block, two rooms wide, with the roof ridge running parallel to the street. Projecting off-center from the main roofline, toward the street, are two overlapping gables with fishscale shingles. Set beneath the rear gable is a prominent polygonal bay. The gallery begins with the forward most gable and connects to the main block in an overall L shape. A tiny secondary porch is found on the east side of the house. Adding to the "busy" nature of the facade are brackets accenting one of the bay's forty-five degree corner cuts, large four over four windows on the bay, a four over six sliphead window providing access to the main porch, and no less than three doors (two opening into one room and one opening into the other).

While Queen Anne influence can be seen in the facade's massing and fishscale shingles, most of the decorative details are in the Eastlake taste. The main porch and tiny secondary porch feature fairly elaborate turned columns with an abacus-like design, abacus-like spindlework screens, and brackets with a cutout sun ray design and a ball drop. The corner of the polygonal bay is ornamented with the same brackets and a ball drop at its edge. The original balustrade with its turned balusters has been removed temporarily due to in progress work on the porch floor. It is on site, and a photograph is provided. Also in the Eastlake taste are the two elaborately worked front doors off the main porch. Very similar but not quite identical, they feature various turned members, scalloped trim, incised stylized floral and plant forms, and a cutout floral design at the top.

CONTINUED

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Bynum House, Monroe, Ouachita Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

The house is well preserved on the interior, retaining all of its original detailing with the exception of one of the three original mantels. The most elaborate of the two surviving mantels displays various decorative devices, including curving members, molded panels, a shelf with spindlework and brackets, and a scalloped design with a ball drop at the center. The second mantel has boldly formed pilasters with a bull's eye at the top of each. Above each bull's eye design is a bracket. Persian columns accent the firebox.

Certainly the most interesting feature of the interior is a wide arched opening between the east front room and a narrow, long "alcove" at its edge (see photo). It is to this space that the door off the tiny secondary porch leads. The opening's surround is boldly three dimensional. Its shape is reinforced by thin molded bands and bull's eyes. Crowning the composition is a decoratively cut keystone with incised designs.

Other details in the original rooms include reeded door and window surrounds with bull's eye cornerblocks, doors with four raised panels and movable transoms above and molded baseboards. The walls are of boards which were originally covered with wallpaper over cheesecloth. The present plans are to finish off the interior with 3/8 inch sheetrock.

Assessment of Integrity

Non-historic alterations have been confined to the loss of one mantel and the enclosure of the porch on the second ell. The house retains all of its character defining exterior detailing and almost all of its original interior character.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1895

Significant Dates

c. 1895

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Bynum House, Monroe, Ouachita Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The Bynum House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a superior example of the Eastlake taste within the City of Monroe.

Monroe is one of Louisiana's larger cities and among its oldest, tracing its origins to a fort established there in the late 1770s. However, despite this long history, there are relatively few residences in the city which predate the Colonial Revival and bungalow styles, due to great prosperity in the early twentieth century from a lumber boom and the discovery of a major natural gas field. The Division of Historic Preservation's Historic Structures Survey reveals that of Monroe's 1,276 buildings over 50 years old, only 32 display elements of the Eastlake style. Most of these are small low-key examples which could best be described as featuring only one or two hesitant touches of the style. Only seven can be termed major examples because of their consistent and fully developed articulation. The Bynum House is among this small number of obvious landmarks. It is particularly interesting because a considerable amount of detailing is confined to a fairly small area -- i.e., the facade. Complexity is achieved through an L-shaped main porch plus a diminutive secondary porch and a bracketed bay. Also, the Eastlake porches are fully developed, featuring turned columns and balusters, spindlescreens, brackets, and ball drops. Finally, two quite elaborate doors add to the overall intensity of the detailing.

Historical Note:

The house at 604 Grammont was owned by Charles E. Bynum from 1900 until 1944 as rental property. Because the house changed renters so often, it is being named for Bynum. In 1944 it was acquired by Florence G. Harvey and was owned by her heirs until 1996, when it was purchased by the present owners, Merlin and Jane Smith. As noted previously, it had been condemned and was scheduled for demolition. The Smiths are in the process of restoring the house.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Bynum House, Monroe, Ouachita Parish, LA
Section number 9 Page 1
 10 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sanborn Insurance Maps, Monroe, 1890, 1893, 1898, 1903, 1909, 1913, 1920, 1926, 1932, 1950.

Title research done by owner.

Historic Structures Survey, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Boundary description: Lot 1, Block 8, Hart's Addition, City of Monroe.

Justification: Boundaries follow property lines of parcel of land upon which nominated resource is located.