

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 F. R. Jaenke House

other names/site number Miguez Funeral Home

2. Location

street & number 114 Davies Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Jennings N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Jefferson Davis code 053 zip code 70546

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.)

Gerri Hobdy 3/10/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Gerri Hobdy, Date
LA 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 certifying 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.) _____

Signature of the Keeper Delores Byers Entered in the National Register Date of Action 4/16/93

F. R. Jaenke House
Name of Property

Jefferson Davis 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	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	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)

FUNERARY/mortuary

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne Revival

Colonial Revival

Eastlake

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls aluminum

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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F. R. Jaenke House, Jennings, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

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The F. R. Jaenke House (1901) is a large, two-story frame structure located on a corner lot on one of Jennings' busiest streets. Although the home displays Colonial Revival decorative elements, it is primarily an example of the Queen Anne Revival style. Despite some alterations, its National Register eligibility remains intact.

Characteristics of the Queen Anne style found on the Jaenke House include:

- 1) a marked verticality emphasized by the home's two story height and tall hipped roof,
- 2) a complex roofline composed of several large cross gables and one dormer,
- 3) textured shingles in scalloped and diamond patterns,
- 4) a wraparound gallery with a projecting gabled entry pavilion,
- 5) a small upper porch situated beneath the large front gable, and
- 6) two square projecting bays. Located in the center of the structure on each side, these bays give the building a cross shaped footprint.

The home's combination of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival exterior ornament is an example of the mixing of stylistic elements common at the turn of the twentieth century. The decorative treatments include the following:

- 1) sets of triple and paired Tuscan columns rising from brick bases on the wraparound gallery;
- 2) the detailing of the second floor porch, which includes a bowed balustrade and triple Ionic columns rising from thick wooden bases. The columns support a frieze with laurel wreaths. The bases are sheathed in scalloped and diamond patterned shingles.
- 3) the decoration of the home's several gables as pediments with raking cornices. The gable on the roof's north (rear) side is sheathed in patterned shingles but displays no other ornamentation. However, the other four gables are treated more elaborately, as follows:
 - a) South (front) roof gable. The tympanum of this pediment is subdivided horizontally into two sections, both of which are

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covered by patterned shingles. In addition, the pediment features dentils, two oculi accented with keystones, and a small arched panel in the tympanum's peak.

- b) East (side) roof gable. This pediment is also subdivided horizontally and covered by patterned shingles. An applied decorative motif highlights the gable's peak.
 - c) Entry pavilion gable. The tympanum of this pediment displays a laurel wreath similar but more elaborate than those highlighting the small porch's frieze. No shingling occurs within this pediment.
 - d) West (side) gable. This tympanum is subdivided by a chimney and features an oculus on each side. It is also covered by textured shingles.
- 4) a dormer with gable end returns, textured shingles, and an Eastlake fan form within the arch of a Palladian motif; and
 - 5) a band of modillions beneath the right half of the front gable. The band consists of three block modillions and one large decorative bracket which terminates the row.

The building's important interior decorative features are a wainscoted entry hall with a richly paneled staircase occupying the front, southwest corner of the home; a set of pocket doors; period mantels ordered from a catalog; and an elaborate Eastlake grille and columned room divider separating the double parlors on the east. Three other original rooms are also found on the ground floor.

Alterations experienced by the Jaenke House since 1901 include:

- 1) the construction of a large rear one-story addition,
- 2) the lengthening of the side portion of the wraparound gallery toward the rear addition, the installation of beveled board and batten siding on the east side of the home's lower story behind the projecting bay, the replacement of the original wooden gallery floor and steps with brick, and the installation of a wrought iron balustrade in place of the wooden original,
- 3) the installation of aluminum siding,

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- 4) the replacement of the original oval glass front door with a push bar fire door required by code, and
- 5) the loss of the roof's finials and three chimney tops.

Despite these changes, the home retains its National Register eligibility. Although large, at least the addition is to the rear. Even from a three-quarter view, the original portion of the building is visually dominant. Though the addition of the aluminum siding is regrettable, the material is applied in a manner sensitive to the home's historic character and does not cover any of the building's decorative elements. The columns on the gallery extension replicate the home's original columns so precisely that it is difficult to tell that the extension is not contemporary with the house. In summary, the house still has all of the major features which mark it as an important example of the Queen Anne Revival style in Jennings, and its Colonial Revival features also survive intact. As a landmark in the town, the house is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

Non-Contributing Element

There is one non-contributing building within the nominated area. Constructed some time after 1943, it is a one-story hipped roof office with a flat roof wing. It is now covered by aluminum siding.

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

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

1901

Significant Dates

1901

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:

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

Name of repository:

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The Jaenke House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a landmark among the Queen Anne Revival houses which constitute the architectural heritage of the town of Jennings.

The State Historic Preservation Office considers Jennings to be one of three centers of Queen Anne Revival architecture in the state outside New Orleans. The other two are the nearby towns of Lake Charles and Crowley. Jennings and Crowley were settled by Midwesterners beginning in the mid-1880s, and the already established town of Lake Charles received a massive influx of Northern immigrants at that time.

Jennings was just a stop on the recently completed Southern Pacific Railroad when S. L. Cary, who is regarded as its founder, migrated there in 1883 from Iowa. At that time, there were only four buildings, including the depot. Due to Cary's promotional efforts, what was once a mere spot on the southwestern prairies became a thriving rice boom town of transplanted Midwesterners. Employed by the railroad as an immigration agent, Cary had attracted about one hundred fellow Iowans to Jennings by the end of 1883. The town had sufficient population to be incorporated as a village in 1888. By 1890, the population was 412, and by 1900, it had increased almost fourfold. The settlers came from various states in the Midwest, but the majority were from Iowa. Midwestern migration continued in the very early years of this century, spurred by the discovery of oil in 1901.

The houses these Midwesterners built, on the whole, do not resemble the typical Queen Anne Revival house in the state, but instead are more like the national norm. The standard Queen Anne residence in Louisiana is a one or one-and-a-half story conservatively styled cottage with a polygonal bay and perhaps some shingling and gable peak ornamentation. By contrast, Jennings had a heavy concentration of two and two-and-a-half story Queen Anne houses, reflecting the Victorian fondness for marked verticality. These houses also tended to be more elaborately ornamented and massed than was typical in Louisiana -- i.e., resembling more closely textbook examples of the style. In addition, there were various striking houses from the period that defy easy categorization, sometimes reflecting various Victorian Era stylistic influences. It should be noted that this special heritage represents the town's architectural apogee. The surviving building stock in Jennings reveals that there has not been an architectural flowering since then, with the exception of a few notable landmarks. In short, the town's Victorian houses are its architectural identity, so-to-speak.

Sadly, Jennings has suffered a dramatic loss in its historic building stock. Historic photos reveal that, clearly, the town's most splendid examples of the Queen Anne Revival style are gone. Two of the most important examples were lost

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in the last three or four years. The extent of this depletion can be seen in a compilation of historic photos published in the 1960s which shows some fifty major two story Queen Anne houses, the vast majority of which are quite elaborate. Ten sport turrets or towers. Of these fifty landmarks, only ten survive. If one takes into account all two story Queen Anne homes in the town, the number totals about 20, some of which are too plain or too altered to warrant Register nomination. It should be noted that this is a large number for a Louisiana town the size of Jennings (roughly 12,000 population). By way of comparison, the large city of Shreveport has only about six examples.

In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, roughly ten of the Jennings Queen Anne houses are of sufficient quality and integrity to merit Register listing. Each is significant because it contributes to the town's identity as a center of Queen Anne Revival architecture.

The Jaenke House makes a major contribution to this rich architectural heritage. With its Queen Anne complex massing and verticality, wraparound gallery, elaborate multiple shingle patterns, and Colonial Revival decorative features, the residence ranks as one of the city's most visually stimulating structures. Thus, it is a landmark illustrating the apogee of the Queen Anne Revival style in Jennings.

Historical Note

The house was built for the Frank R. Jaenke family in 1901. Jaenke was born in Germany in 1861, but his family migrated to America when he was a boy. Jaenke lived for a few years in Wisconsin, then moved to Iowa. There he married Dorothy Coffin in 1886. The couple moved to Jennings in 1888. Jaenke and his brother were co-owners of a sawmill and planing mill. The house was sold to Dr. Harriet Spiller Daggett in 1920 and later was converted into apartments. In 1935 Adam Miguez purchased the property. Miguez installed his family in the second story and converted the first floor into a funeral home. The house still serves as the Miguez Funeral Home, and the business is now run by Miguez's two daughters.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Morse, Walter D. "The Birth of Jennings." This 1960s compilation contains numerous photographs of early Jennings residences. Available at Jennings Public Library.

Riser, Henry LeRoy. "The History of Jennings, Louisiana." M.A. thesis, Louisiana State University, 1948.

Souvenir: Jennings, Louisiana, Products and Industries. Published by Walter D. Morse, 1907. This promotional piece contains numerous photographs of Jennings residences.

Survey sheet, "Frank R. Jaenke". List of Old Settlers Representing 185 Families, donated to the Jennings Carnegie Public Library by Mrs. Meredith H. Necessary, 1934. This list was compiled by William F. Humphreys and daughter Willma L. Humphreys during the 1934 Jefferson Davis Parish Fair.

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Boundary Justification

The eastern, southern and western boundaries follow property lines. The northern boundary cuts close to the rear of the nominated resource in order to exclude non-contributing elements.

Jaenke House

Jennings, Jefferson Davis Parish
Louisiana

