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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

SEP - 1 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See ~~NATIONAL PARK SERVICE~~ the ~~NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES~~ *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 Foster, J. E. House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 314 W. Academy Avenue N/A not for publication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 August 30, 1994
 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 Edson H. Beall Entered in the National Register 9/30/94 Date of Action

Foster, J. E. 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		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other shingles

Narrative Description

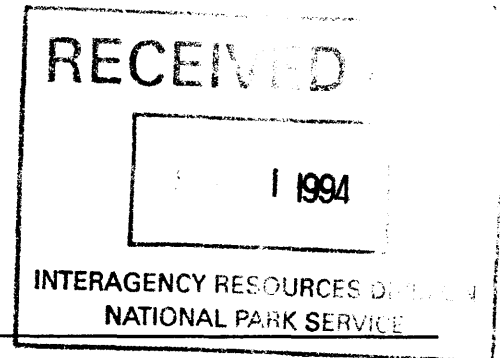
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Foster, J. E. House, Jennings, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1



The Foster House (c.1900) represents a builder's interpretation of the Queen Anne Revival. The large two-and-a-half story frame house is located in a late nineteenth/early twentieth century residential area of the parish seat of Jennings. The most noteworthy change in the house's appearance is a side extension.

The Queen Anne influence can be seen in the house's massing and the extensive use of shinglework. The massing is particularly unusual. The facade is dominated by a steep over-scaled gable with a double pitch. The upper part of the gable is incorporated into the roofline, while the sides of the lower part are sheathed in wooden square cut shingles. The front of the gable is richly textured, featuring various elaborate shingle patterns. The corner of the house beneath the gable is cut at a 45 degree angle to create what is in effect half of a polygonal bay. The areas above and below the windows in this bay also feature multiple shingle patterns. The angle is accented with decoratively cut brackets and a ball drop. Elaborate shingle patterns are also found on the side gables of the house. The rear gable is sheathed in square cut shingles.

The windows on the house are accented with details which can perhaps best be described as builder's Italianate. Each window has a multi-layer cornice and decoratively cut members which resemble the tops of pilasters. Most of the windows are one over ones. Diminutive windows are found in pairs in the side and rear gables.

Given the elaborateness of the exterior detailing, the plain interior comes as a surprise. The floorplan consists of one large room across the front, two rooms behind it, and a kitchen across the rear. Between the middle two rooms is an entirely functional staircase which is entered from the large front room. Behind the stairs is a very small passageway providing access between the two middle rooms. The corner fireplace features a standard mantel/overmantel from the period. Door and window frames are unusual in that the horizontal member flares outward at the corner in a manner suggestive of a jack arch. (Those in the kitchen are modern copies.) Wide door-less openings are located between the front room and the two behind it.

Alterations since construction:

(1) The house has received a sizable extension to the west side. It consists of a one story extension beyond the porch and a two story extension to the main block.

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(2) The present porch with its square posts and balustrade is modern. The balustrade extends over the previously mentioned addition. A photo published in a 1907 promotional piece shows that the porch originally had slender round columns grouped in threes and resting on bases. There was also a balustrade.

(3) A carport/storage room was added to the rear.

(4) The previously mentioned early photo shows a decoratively cut oval applied to the upper part of the front gable where a small window is now located. Curiously enough, the window features the same builder Italianate detailing found elsewhere on the house. Perhaps it was an early alteration and the detailing was copied. Or perhaps a window frame removed when the side addition was built was re-used.

(5) The ceilings have been covered with acoustical tiles.

Assessment of Integrity

The most notable of the above alterations is the side extension which detracts from the overall verticality of the house. Of secondary importance is the loss of the original front porch. While the side extension cannot be mitigated, other than to note that its sheathing matches the original, the porch has not made a dramatic difference. The original porch was not a strong stylistic statement, and the present one is not visually jarring.

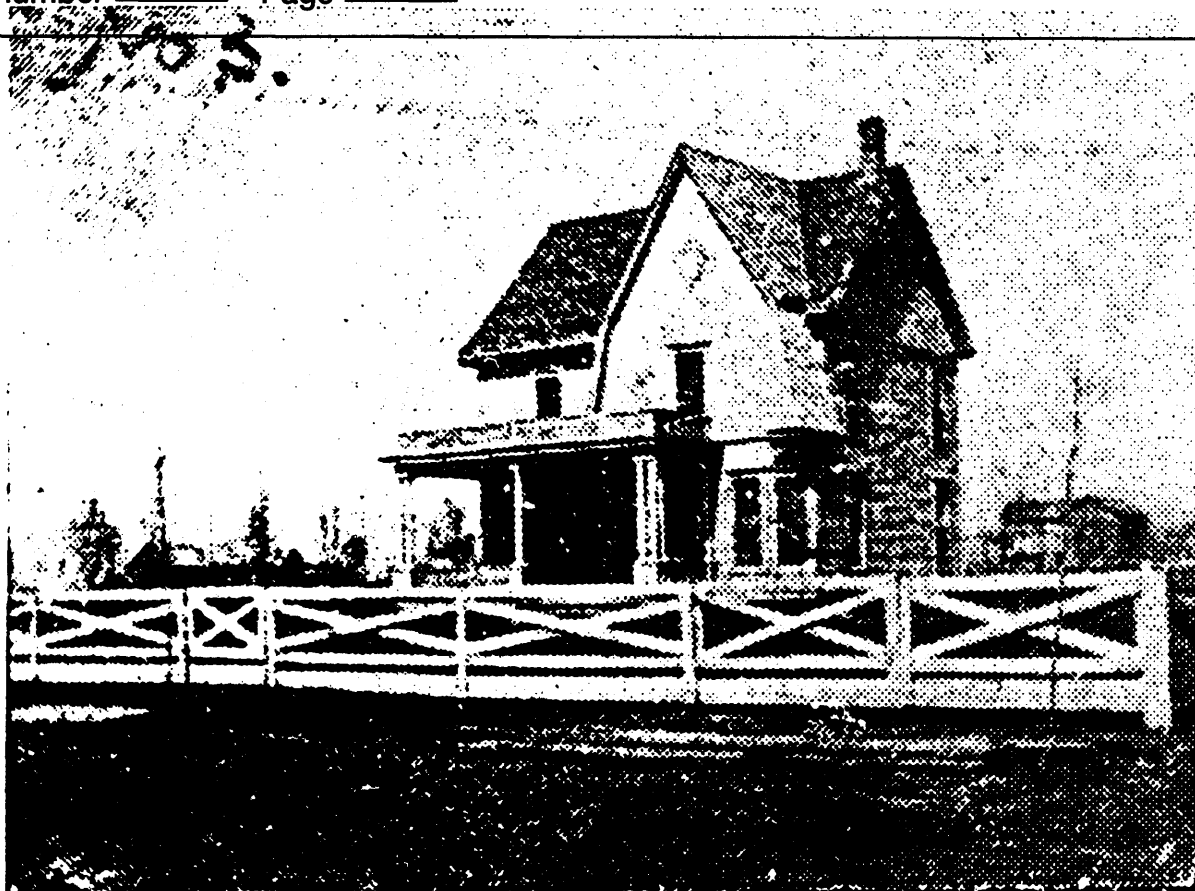
Despite the side extension and porch alteration, the Foster House retains the bulk of its original, character defining styling, including all of its elaborate and extensive shinglework and a distinctive double pitched gabled projection which dominates the facade.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Foster, J. E., House, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

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J. E. FOSTER
314 W. Academy Ave.

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.1900

Significant Dates

c.1900

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:

Foster, J. E. House
Name of Property

Jefferson Davis Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than an acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5
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5	3	2	6	6	0
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3	3	4	3	5	2	0
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2

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3

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4

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date July 1994

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Florence H. Constant

street & number 314 W. Academy Avenue telephone (318) 824-7165

city or town Jennings state Louisiana zip code 70546

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Foster House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it contributes to the distinctly Queen Anne Revival 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 of New Orleans. The other two are the nearby towns of Crowley and Lake Charles. 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 galleried 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 some unusual interpretations of the Queen Anne and 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.

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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 during the past five 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 contrast, 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 Foster House is an important component of this patrimony. With its prominent double pitch front gable, it is among the town's most distinctive Queen Anne houses. Also, its shinglework, in terms of the amount and variety, makes it one of Jennings' finest examples of the style.

Historical Note:

The property in question was purchased from S. L. Cary by Dr. John E. Foster December 7, 1899. Foster retained ownership until June 1, 1918, after which there have been a series of owners. (A summary of the chain of title can be found in the National Register file, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.)

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Foster, J. E. House, Jennings, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Conveyance Records, Jefferson Davis Parish. A summary of the chain of title can be found in the Register file, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

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.

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Continuation Sheet**

Foster, J. E., House, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA
Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Description

Lot 30, Block 32, Cary Addition to the City of Jennings, said lot measuring 66 feet along Academy Avenue by a depth of 188 feet.

Boundary Justification

Boundaries follow the property lines of the lot historically associated with the Foster House.