

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 Ilgenhurst

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 402 W. Nezpique N/A not for publication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 1/3/93  
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 Melora Byrum **entered in the National Register** Date of Action 4/1/93

Ilgenhurst  
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	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</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)

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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Ilgenhurst, Jennings, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

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Ilgenhurst is a c.1895 two story frame Queen Anne Revival house located on a corner lot in an old residential neighborhood in Jennings. Alterations on the exterior have been relatively minimal, and the interior is virtually unaltered.

The pitched roof house has a one room deep, three rooms wide main block with a slightly off center gabled rear wing. The wing has a shed roof one story side section. The facade features a one story shed roof gallery which extends across the front and down the side. It is punctuated at the center with a projecting pedimented entrance pavilion surmounted by a prominent gabled balcony. The gallery and balcony's delicate tapered fluted columns are not typical, reminding one of cast-iron columns, except in wood. The eastern side gable, the balcony gable, and the tympanum of the entrance pavilion feature intricate shingle patterns. The eastern side gable is particularly outstanding, exhibiting several different shapes formed by different combinations of scalloped and sawtoothed shingles. There is also a pattern resembling blind arcading. The western side gable is the plainest, featuring only one pattern of shingles. The transomed front entrance with its Eastlake door is flanked by narrow one over one windows. The tops of the door and window frames extend slightly beyond the side members and feature molded cornices.

As noted previously, the main block of the house is three rooms wide and one room deep. The central room is a very spacious stair hall so large that it reads as a room. Behind this range of rooms is a long dining room. Upstairs, bedrooms are grouped off a central landing providing access to the balcony via double windows.

Noteworthy interior features include:

- (1) richly molded, quite pronounced door, window and closet surrounds featuring bull's eye corner blocks;
- (2) a corner pantry with the same woodwork;
- (3) two sets of decoratively paneled pocket doors;
- (4) two columnar mantel/overmantel sets;
- (5) decoratively laid oak floors in the entrance hall and dining room;
- (6) a staircase with bulbous balusters and an intricately carved, heavy newel post with bull's eye motifs. Atop the squarish post is an urn.

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As the staircase ascends, it pierces a wall. What is unusual is that the opening is ornamented with the corner block woodwork described previously, including a section on the ceiling.

Alterations since construction are as follows:

- (1) The rear wing's side gallery was enclosed to form a sunroom and lengthened slightly to connect with a kitchen/laundry room addition across the rear. Connected to the sunroom by a short covered walk is a carport with a storage room.
- (2) Shutters have been installed on all windows.

Assessment of Integrity:

What is noteworthy at Ilgenhurst is the degree to which the house retains its historic character rather than the changes mentioned above. Except for the shutters, the alterations have occurred at the rear, allowing the original house to be visually dominant. All of the house's character defining features survive intact.

Non-contributing Element: previously mentioned modern carport

**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.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Ilgenhurst  
Name of Property

Jefferson Davis Parish, LA  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** less than an acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>115</u>	<u>532600</u>	<u>3343420</u>
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

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 January 1993

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 Mr. and Mrs. Logan Nichols

street & number 402 W. Nezpique telephone 318-824-5382

city or town Jennings state LA 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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Ilgenhurst 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 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.

Ilgenhurst is a component of this important architectural heritage. Its most distinguishing feature in this regard is the elaborate shinglework found in the gables, a hallmark of the Queen Anne style.

Historical Note:

The exact date of construction for Ilgenhurst is not known. Unfortunately, the appropriate section of town is not shown on Sanborn maps until 1915. The house is shown in a 1907 promotional tract and identified as the A. M. Arthur residence. Arthur M. Arthur and his wife, Annie Ilgenfritz Arthur, came to Jennings in 1891 from Iowa.



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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, "Arthur M. Arthur and Annie Ilgenfritz Arthur". 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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# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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## Boundary Description

Lots 7 and 8 of Block 3 of the S. L. Cary Subdivision of the  
City of Jennings

## Boundary Justification

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