

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 T. C. Mahaffey House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 802 Cary N/A not for publication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

3/3/93

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

Belore Byrd entered in the National Register

Date of Action

4/8/93

T. C. Mahaffey 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	
3		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
3	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

Eastlake

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls weatherboard

roof asphalt
other

Narrative Description

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

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Continuation Sheet**

T. C. Mahaffey House, Jennings, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

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The T. C. Mahaffey House (c. 1895) is a large, frame, two-story Queen Anne Revival style residence with an elaborate Eastlake gallery. It is located on a well-shaded corner lot in one of Jennings' older residential neighborhoods. Although it has undergone alteration, its National Register eligibility remains intact.

Queen Anne style characteristics found in the home include:

- 1) a complex roofline featuring multiple planes and tall chimneys,
- 2) a prominent polygonal bay,
- 3) a two-story turret modified from its original configuration. A historic photograph shows that the turret once had a faceted third floor and a conical roof surmounted by a finial. Evidence suggests that the upper portion of the turret was destroyed by a fire of unknown date.
- 4) a marked verticality emphasized by the home's two story height and the presence of corner boards and engaged pilasters. The pilasters are located at the major angles of the turret and the bay.
- 5) an Eastlake wraparound gallery with turned columns and balusters, ball drop and jigsaw ornamentation outlining the roof, and intricately cut brackets. Each bracket consists of two superimposed cut shapes.
- 6) a small second story side porch or balcony whose balustrade is composed of Oriental looking geometric designs. The balcony's shed roof hood is supported by a bracket.

In addition to these features, the house is encircled by an entablature below the main roof. The interior is relatively plain, with the floorplan and stairhall being the only features of interest. The floorplan is slightly unusual because the entrance opens directly into a large room which fills the entire front of the home. Interestingly, the large bay on the east and the turret on the west form integral parts of this space. Behind the large room are another room, a hall providing access to the kitchen, and the stair hall. The winding staircase is paneled on its under side, and the lower portion of the stair terminates in a thick, molded and paneled newel-post.

In addition to the changes to the turret described above, alterations to the Mahaffey House include the following:

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T. C. Mahaffey House, Jennings, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

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- 1) the addition, during the historic period, of a screened porch created by expanding a small first floor porch on the eastern side elevation. Later the screened porch's roof was repaired or replaced.
- 2) the replacement of the home's two original hipped roof dormers with gable roof dormers. It is uncertain whether the originals were destroyed in the fire or changed during a subsequent re-roofing.
- 3) the replacement of the gallery's front steps, the accompanying loss of the original steps' railing, and the removal of one column in a set of paired columns which stood to the immediate left of the steps. (The paired columns appear in a historic photo.)
- 4) the replacement of the original front door with a door and sidelights consisting of multiple panes of glass, the replacement of several interior doors with similar multi-pane doors, the addition of paneled ceiling beams to the large front room, the addition of a denticulated cornice in several rooms, and the apparent replacement of two of the home's original mantels with mantels which appear to be from the early twentieth century. One of these mantels has been almost entirely covered by a large piece of mirrored glass.
- 5) the removal of a mantel in the kitchen, the modernization of that room, and the enclosure of a small porch on the rear behind the kitchen.

Despite these changes, the T. C. Mahaffey House retains the majority of its Queen Anne features, as detailed above. Thus, the house contributes significantly to Jennings' identity as a center of the Queen Anne Revival style. Very importantly, even in its altered form, the house is still one of the city's best surviving Queen Anne residences, as explained in Part 8.

Contributing Elements

Two contributing elements, both built at the same time as the house, are located on the property. The first is a one-story, one room, frame wash house with a small gallery featuring two turned Eastlake columns. This building is now used for storage. The second contributing element is a one-and-one-half story frame carriage house. Although this building has lost its swinging doors, its integrity is otherwise intact. It now serves as a garage with storage space upstairs.

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:

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

Name of repository:

T. C. Mahaffey 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	5 3 2 8 4 0	3 3 4 3 8 4 0
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 LA 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 Rebecca W. Martin-Swift, Rhonda Martin Delaney, Matthew Durward Martin

street & number 802 Cary telephone 318-824-0719

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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T. C. Mahaffey House, Jennings, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

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The T. C. Mahaffey House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it makes an important contribution 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

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T. C. Mahaffey House, Jennings, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

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Queen Anne Revival style are gone. Two of the most important examples were lost 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 Mahaffey House is an important component of this rich architectural heritage. Although altered, it retains the majority of its significant Queen Anne features, including the verticality which distinguishes Jennings' houses from the state's Queen Anne norm. Furthermore, certain features make it one of the town's best surviving examples of the style. It is one of only two surviving turreted houses, when once they were numerous. In addition, its Eastlake gallery is the most impressive in town. Other Queen Anne houses have Colonial Revival galleries, altered galleries, or simple Eastlake galleries with turned columns and perhaps spindlework. By contrast, the Mahaffey gallery is boldly three-dimensional, following the shape of the turret, and features intricate Eastlake detailing, including ball drops, jigsaw ornamentation, and prominent brackets with superimposed patterns.

Historical Note

T. C. Mahaffey was born in Pennsylvania. He moved to Southwest Louisiana in 1884 and soon prospered. In addition to the house described above, Mahaffey built a major hotel in Jennings and operated a real estate firm.

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T. C. Mahaffey House, Jennings, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

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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, "Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Mahaffey". 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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Mahaffey House, Jennings, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

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Boundary Description

South 50 feet of Lot 7 and all of Lot 10, Block 13, Cary's
Addition, Jennings, Louisiana

Justification

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