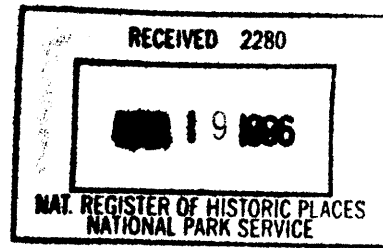


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 McClendon House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 309 McClendon N/A not for publication

city or town West Monroe N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Ouachita code 073 zip code 71291

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 March 13, 1996
Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker, Date
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 4-18-96
Edson H. Beall
Entered in the National Register

McClendon House

Ouachita Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

- private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

- building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne Revival

foundation brick

Eastlake

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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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

McClendon House, Ouachita Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 1

The McClendon House (c.1895) is a frame one story Queen Anne house with Eastlake details. It faces the railroad tracks across from downtown West Monroe in a neighborhood of modest early twentieth century houses. The house is in a good state of preservation due to a virtually complete exterior restoration accomplished within the last year.

The McClendon House's Queen Anne influence can be seen in its massing. There is a high hip roof with a gabled projection in the front and a porch under its own hip roof. The front projection features a polygonal bay. There is a pitched roof ell wing to the rear.

Within the last two years the house was rescued from demolition by neglect by the City of West Monroe and a historic preservation support group interested in developing a local history museum. When the city embarked upon the project, the house was obscured by vegetation and there had been various unsympathetic alterations, including the addition of an unattractive dormer on the front and additions off the side of what had become a largely enclosed front porch. Restoration work on the exterior is virtually complete, with the exception being the replacement of the present concrete front steps. The restoration work was based mainly upon historic photos showing parts of the house and clues found in the architectural evidence.

The work involved removing the additions to the side of the front porch and replicating almost all of the porch's details. Two surviving turned Eastlake pilasters were copied for the columns. The balustrade was completely gone. It was reproduced based upon an old photo. Roughly half of the scrollsawn ornamentation in the front gable peak had to be reproduced due to deterioration. The spindlework accenting the forty-five degree corner cuts on the front bay is original, but the scrollsawn brackets beneath were added as part of the restoration as were matching brackets on the gallery. The brackets on the bay are not there in a 1940s photo; they were added based upon the architectural evidence. The restoration team noticed "ghostmarks" along the bottom of the spindlework indicating that brackets had once been attached. There is also a vertical member beneath each section of spindlework to which the new brackets attached quite nicely, indicating that this perhaps was their original purpose. The bracket design is a copy from a similar Queen Anne house in the area. Whether the house originally had brackets on its gallery cannot be documented at this time. The old photo which aided in replicating the balustrade does not show the tops of the columns, and there was no architectural evidence remaining. The restoration team made their decision based upon the recollections of a gentleman in his 80s who had lived in the neighborhood much of his life. Also, it would have been typical for the gallery to have had brackets.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

McClendon House, Ouachita Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

Other exterior work included new brick piers and the removal of two windows on the rear elevation to make room for exhibit space. Otherwise, the house retains all of its original openings, although the glass (two over two) has been lost in two side windows and will have to be replaced. Also surviving are the front and rear doors with their Eastlake ornamentation. A remaining item of work to be done on the exterior is the replacement of the present concrete front steps with wooden ones. The original newel posts were found on the property and are in storage. Unfortunately, the chimney had already been removed when the city acquired the property.

Work on the interior is just beginning. The house has a central hall plan with two rooms on each side with a short ell kitchen wing. Back-to-back fireplaces with Eastlake mantels service the two rooms on the eastern side. The two rooms on the western side were apparently heated by stoves as is clear from marks in the ceiling indicating flues. The interior presently has a rough appearance because the cheesecloth has been removed from the walls revealing the boards underneath. Thin sheetrock is to be installed. The millwork includes a beaded board wainscot in the hall and dining room; bull's eye cornerblocks on the door and window frames in the hall and western two rooms (parlor and dining room); and plain surrounds in the remainder of the house. Almost all of the doors are original, featuring four raised panels and movable transoms with their original hardware.

Changes to the interior include:

- (1) the above mentioned wall surfaces
- (2) the replication of a section of the wainscoting which had been removed when a closet was added to the hall
- (3) the insertion of a wide opening with multi-pane glass doors between the parlor and dining room and the replacement of the door leading into the parlor from the hall with a multi-pane glass door, both done in the teens or '20s.

Assessment of Integrity:

Thanks to the restoration project outlined above, the McClendon House is in a much better state of preservation than it was previously. Admittedly, most of the Eastlake decoration is new, although it either replicates the original, where the original is fully documented, or is of an appropriate type, as discussed above. Even with the replaced fabric

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

McClendon House, Ouachita Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 3

taken into account, the house is a local landmark as a rare surviving example of the Queen Anne taste.

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:

McClendon House
Name of Property

Ouachita 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	8	2	2	8	0	3	5	9	5	8	0	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

2

Zone		Easting						Northing						

3

Zone		Easting						Northing						

4

Zone		Easting						Northing						

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 February 1996

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 City of West Monroe

street & number 2305 N. 7th St. telephone 318-396-2600

city or town West Monroe state LA zip code 71291

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.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

McClendon House, Ouachita Parish, LA
Section number 8 Page 1

The McClendon House is locally significant in the area of architecture as a landmark within the City of West Monroe. It achieves this distinction as a rare surviving example of the Queen Anne Revival style.

Located across the Ouachita River from Monroe, West Monroe traces its ancestry to two small steamboat ports of the antebellum period -- Cottonport, where the present downtown is located, and Trenton, to the north. The town of West Monroe, however, was not chartered until 1889, owing its existence directly to the arrival of the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Railroad earlier in the decade. The new town's economy, as had been the case with Cottonport and Trenton, was based on cotton (shipping, warehousing, cotton compress, cotton seed oil plant, etc.). Later the town benefitted from the discovery of natural gas near Monroe in 1916.

It is interesting that while West Monroe developed in the very years when the Queen Anne Revival was the style for residences, very little survives in the city from this period. Of the roughly 200-300 historic buildings in West Monroe, it appears that only one dates from before the late nineteenth century. The overwhelming majority are from c.1915 through the '30s. With the exception of about a half dozen or so landmarks, this patrimony is modest, being comprised mainly of low-key bungalows, plain cottages, and plain early twentieth century commercial buildings. While a middle-class Queen Anne cottage of the type represented by the McClendon House would be typical in many Louisiana communities, it stands out in West Monroe. The area's history plus Sanborn maps and old photos indicate that there were once numerous examples of the Queen Anne style in West Monroe; however, today there are only six. All of the survivors are similar in that they are one story cottages with a forward projecting polygonal bay. All but two, the candidate and one other, have had noteworthy alterations (porch replacement, dormer addition, side addition). Within this context, the McClendon House meets the National Register definition of local significance. It is a landmark, within its context, to even the casual observer.

Historical Note:

The house takes its historic name from Mrs. Sallie Nixon McClendon, who purchased the home in 1904 and lived there until her death in 1915. Subsequent owners were the J. D. Wilkins family, the Charles Harrell family, and the Lester Boatright family. In 1994 the City of West Monroe purchased the home from the Boatright estate for adaptive reuse as a local history museum.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

McClendon House, Ouachita Parish, LA
Section number $\frac{9}{10}$ Page $\frac{1}{1}$

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Old (1940s?) photos showing portions of the house, copies in National Register file, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Windshield survey of West Monroe conducted by National Register staff, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Boundary Description: Boundaries follow the property lines of the lot on which the house stands, said lot being located on the southeast corner of McClendon and Third streets. The lot is 85 feet in width (from the corner of McClendon and Third) and 95 feet in depth between parallel lines.

Justification: Boundaries follow property lines.