

Journey with the Louisiana Chapter of the  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE & ART

# *Spring Foray* **GREECE ARRIVES in EAST FELICIANA PARISH**



East Feliciana Parish Courthouse | Clinton, LA



Lawyer's Row | Clinton, LA



Brame-Bennett House | Clinton, LA

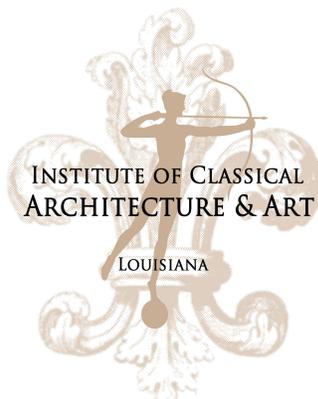


Marston House | Clinton, LA



Hickory Hill Plantation | Jackson, LA

**REGISTRATION LINK:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/icaa-la-spring-foray-tickets-33347296662>



**Join the ICAA Louisiana Chapter for our Spring Foray: *Greece Arrives in East Feliciana Parish* on Sunday, April 23, 2017, from 9:00 am- 2:45 pm.**

Throughout the day we will be visiting classically Greek-inspired buildings such as the Brame-Bennett House, Hickory Hill Plantation, Marston House and many more.

Morning coffee and pastries, a boxed lunch and bottled water will be provided.

Participants will need their own transportation from each venue.

For questions contact Peter Patout at [peterpatout@yahoo.com](mailto:peterpatout@yahoo.com), Stephen Stirling at [stevestirling@gmail.com](mailto:stevestirling@gmail.com), or Kevin Harris at [kharris@kevinharrisarchitect.com](mailto:kharris@kevinharrisarchitect.com).

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## **FORAY DETAILS & SCHEDULE**

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### Institute of Classical Architecture & Art (ICAA)

The ICAA is the leading nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the practice and appreciation of the classical tradition in architecture, urbanism and the allied arts through education, publication and advocacy. It publishes an academic journal called *Classicist* as well as the acclaimed book series called *Classical America Series in Art and Architecture*. <https://www.classicist.org>

### ICAA – Louisiana Chapter

The Louisiana Chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art is dedicated to advancing the practice and appreciation of classical architecture and all its allied arts throughout the State of Louisiana and especially in New Orleans. New Orleans is known for its unique architectural heritage that combines French Creole, Spanish and American influences, and the Louisiana Chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art believes that the lessons learned from this rich heritage can be applied to our new works, as well as to help aid those who work to preserve and rehabilitate our historic architecture. <http://classicist-nola.org>

### Transportation

Participants will need their own vehicle to transport themselves from each venue.

### Food & beverage

Morning coffee & pastries, a boxed lunch, and bottled water will be provided.

### Foray contact information

Peter Patout	ICAA Foray Co-Chair	504.481.4790	<a href="mailto:peterpatout@yahoo.com">peterpatout@yahoo.com</a>
Stephen Stirling	ICAA Foray Co-Chair	337.578.3189	<a href="mailto:stevestirling@ymail.com">stevestirling@ymail.com</a>

### Schedule

9:00-9:30am	Meet at the East Feliciana Parish Courthouse in Clinton, LA for registration, coffee and pastries: 12225 St. Helena Street (LA Hwy 10), Clinton.
9:30-10:45am	Tour the Courthouse and Lawyers' Row.
10:45am	Leave for Brame-Bennett House: 11120 Plank Road, Clinton.
11:00am-12:00pm	Tour Brame-Bennett House with restoration contractor Stephen Stirling.
12:00pm	Leave for Marston House: 11016 Bank Street, Clinton (park in rear).
12:15-1:15pm	Tour and boxed lunch at Marston House.
1:15pm	Leave for Hickory Hill Plantation: 6139 Highway 952, Jackson. 30-minute drive.
1:30-2:45pm	Tour Hickory Hill Plantation.

### **Tour Historic Jackson and Clinton on your own**

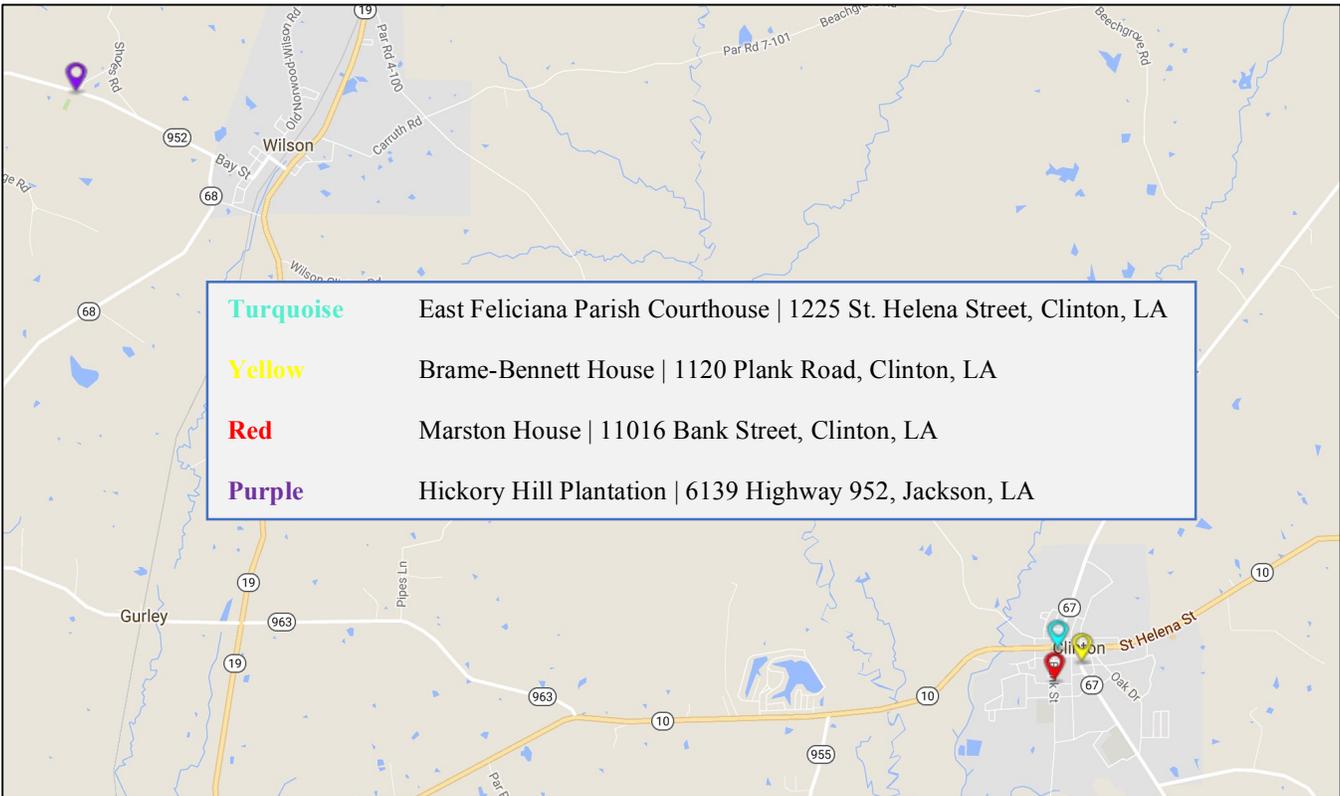
**With the help of Ms. Mildred Worrel, Ms. Audrey Faciane, and others, a list of other significant Classical sites will be provided for participants to view from the road.**

# PARISH & FORAY MAP



Figure 1: Courtesy map from NationalAtlas.gov

# ICAA SPRING FORAY MAP | CLINTON & JACKSON



## **GREEK REVIVAL IN THE SOUTH**

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### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Greek architecture did not become known in the West until about 1750-1760. (By contrast, Roman architecture was rediscovered and emulated much earlier in the Italian Renaissance.) It all began when British architect James Stuart visited Greece with Nicolas Revett in 1751. Stuart and Revett then published the multi-volume *Antiquities of Athens*, which to say the least, was less than a bestseller. “Athenian Stuart,” as he is sometimes known, designed a few small buildings in the Grecian taste. According to Penguin’s *Dictionary of Architecture*, by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, John Fleming and Hugh Honor, the earliest Greek Revival building is a garden temple at Hagley (England) by Stuart (1758).

Stuart died the unsung “father of the Greek Revival” in 1788, in the decade the style began to become fashionable. It culminated in England and other European countries in the 1820s and ‘30s. In America, the Grecian Style swept all before it, dominating for almost 30 years (roughly 1825-1855). While its forms and elements were virtually all derived from Europe, the style was embraced in the United States as nowhere else in the world.

If the American Greek Revival could be said to have an emblem, it would be the Greek temple form, with its strong columns and gently pitched pedimented roof. Jacksonian era Americans idolized the form, applying it to everything from churches, to courthouses, to office buildings, to homes, to privies, even to bird boxes. Of all the styles that gained favor in the United States prior to the Civil War, the Grecian is by far the most prolific, both in terms of numbers and geographical spread. Indeed, west of the Appalachians, Greek Revival buildings represent a great many communities’ earliest architectural heritage. And in a poetical sense, if there were an architectural stamp to mark a young flourishing America, still largely agrarian and Jeffersonian, where the greatest minds were still engaged in perfecting society, rather than in commerce, it would be the Greek Revival.

The Grecian Style was spread primarily through architectural instructional pattern books with plates showing elevations, details and plans – in short, everything the local architect, builder, artisan or carpenter needed. Some of the most prolific were Asher Benjamin’s *The American Builder’s Companion* (previously quoted), John Haviland’s *The Builder’s Assistant*, and Minard Lafever’s *Beauties of Modern Architecture*. The Grecian look was also spread through apprentice training which at the time was the primary means of training young would-be architects. (A university education in the field was a thing of the future.)

### **DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE AMERICAN GREEK REVIVAL**

The temples of ancient Greece were the inspiration for the Greek Revival; however, the style was modified somewhat to suit modern (nineteenth century) usage. Character-defining features of the American Greek Revival are as follows. (Louisiana variants are discussed in a separate section below.)

- Columns in the ancient Greek orders (Doric, Ionic, Corinthian) with an entablature above (a horizontal member between the column capitals and the roof).
- The Greek temple form was the American norm -- four, six or eight columns supporting an entablature and a pediment. Often square pillars were substituted for the round columns of Greek temples. The temple style appears both as a building in the shape of an actual temple (i.e., the portico spans the entire front) and as a pedimented portico appended to the front of a larger building.
- Where the temple form is not used, Greek Revival buildings may have a colonnade of columns across the front, or more simply, columns marking the entrance.
- Square head openings (windows and doors). (The round arch was unknown to the ancient Greeks.)
- Aedicule openings – an opening with a column each side supporting a section of entablature above. This classical framed unit appears in the form of main front door surrounds, surrounds for the more important windows, grand interior openings (such as between double parlors), and fireplace mantels.
- Shoulder, or ear, molded openings (exterior and interior).

- Greek temple style doors with two tall vertical inset panels.
- Window and door openings with a slight point or pediment shape to the top.
- Carved, or cast plaster, acanthus, anthemion, or patera ornament (motifs used in ancient Greek architecture). This appears most often in ceiling medallions and on door and window surrounds.

## MATERIALS

In Greece, temples were built of marble painted in primary colors. But by the time they were discovered by Europeans in the eighteenth century, the paint was long gone, leaving the white marble. And to this day, people associate the Greek Revival with the color white – the white columned look.

Alex de Tocqueville, when touring America in the 1830s, admired from a distance a grouping of marble Grecian “palaces.” He was disappointed to learn upon closer inspection that they were in fact “white-washed brick” and “painted wood” – far less noble materials. In the United States the great majority of Greek Revival buildings are not of some fine stone, but of deTocqueville’s materials.

## THE LOUISIANA STORY

While the temple form was the national norm for the Greek Revival, it was not nearly as common in Louisiana as were other forms (see below). A notable institutional temple is the Center Building at East Louisiana State Hospital in Jackson (1853). Here local builder G. N. Gibbens shoe-horned four stories into a massive Ionic temple. Notable residential Greek temples are Madewood Plantation House (Assumption Parish, 1840-48, Henry Howard, architect, and the much smaller, **but finely detailed Brame-Bennett House in Clinton (c.1840).** Among the most interesting “temples” in Louisiana is a c. 1850 country store in Keachi, DeSoto Parish.

Most temple style Greek Revival buildings in Louisiana feature a pedimented portico attached to a wider façade. Easily the most impressive of these is Gallier Hall, dedicated in 1853 to serve as the New Orleans City Hall, James Gallier, architect. Here the richly detailed monumental portico almost, but not quite, spans the entire façade.

In Louisiana (and certain other Southern states) the Greek Revival often looked very different from the Greek temple form so popular elsewhere in the United States. The most common variants in Louisiana are the galleried cottage, the double gallery house, and buildings in “the peripteral mode.”

### Galleried Cottages:

The majority of Grecian buildings in Louisiana took their cue from the state’s well established Creole tradition of galleried houses and cottages. Louisiana architectural historian Joan Caldwell notes, “Greek Revival tendencies found a ready reception in the South on two accounts: the style was revered for its Classical antecedent, and it lent itself to the Region’s climate. Columns, porticoes and porches were practical features that met the need for shade and were provisions that let leisure be taken and conversation enjoyed as a natural part of living. In Louisiana, where galleried houses were an entrenched tradition, the Greek colonnade became an easy graft. The aesthetic and utilitarian combined seamlessly in Greek Revival architecture.”

So it was that the Creole cottage was fitted up with strongly proportioned columns (sometimes just posts with molded capitals), a deep entablature, and perhaps Grecian door and window surrounds. These classical features were often striking, robust and boldly formed, lending an air of consequence to even the smallest “Grecian” cottages. Excluding New Orleans, easily the majority of Greek Revival buildings in Louisiana take the galleried cottage form. “Cottage” is something of a misnomer, for they are certainly not always small. Roofs are more often gable-end than hip. Usually the larger or grander examples feature a broad hip roof.

### Double Gallery Houses:

In New Orleans the galleried tradition produced the now iconic double gallery house. Scattered across parts of the city by the hundreds (Garden District, Lower Garden District, etc), these two story wood frame houses

feature a Grecian gallery on each level. Sometimes the columns are simple wooden pillars with molded capitals on both levels. On the finer examples, and there are legions of these, the columns are fluted, with the Ionic order on one level and Corinthian on the other. As the Italianate style began to be popular, double brackets might be added above the columns of an otherwise purely Greek Revival house.

#### Peripteral Mode:

Probably the most impressive local variation is what architectural historian Henry Russell Hitchcock labeled the “peripteral mode.” This is a Grecian two-story building, most often a plantation house, without pediments, surrounded by colossal order columns. Typically, the grand white columns are on all four sides. At Houmas House, they are on three sides only. Peripteral houses are related to the grand two-story Creole plantation houses of previous generations, with their encircling galleries. (The only extant non-plantation houses in the peripteral mode are the East Feliciana and Claiborne courthouses.)

(Note: The foregoing narrative is not an exhaustive discussion of building types in the Greek Revival style in Louisiana. See the “Associated Property Types” section below.)

#### Floorplans and Interior Details:

Some otherwise Grecian residences in Louisiana featured the traditional Creole hall-less plan. But as the American taste finally triumphed in the 1830s and ‘40s, houses incorporated the American central hall or side hall plan. Greek Revival pioneer Benjamin Latrobe bemoaned the coming of these American style floor plans to Louisiana: “So inveterate is habit that the merchants from the old United States...have already begun to introduce the detestable, lopsided London house, in which a common passage and stair acts as a common sewer to all the necessities of the dwelling.”

Quite often (perhaps in a majority of instances) Greek Revival buildings in Louisiana have simple unadorned square head openings (doors and windows). More intensely styled buildings feature shoulder, or ear, molds on the openings. Occasionally openings have a slightly pointed top (in the manner of a pediment). Only in the most notable, generally architect- designed buildings, are openings ornamented with acanthus leaves, patera, or anthemions.

On the most basic of Louisiana Greek Revival houses the mantels might be the only interior features that could be categorized specifically as Greek Revival. The simplest, and most common, Greek Revival mantel is in the aedicule style (an entablature resting on two columns, seen as a unit). In the vast majority of houses, the “columns” are simple molded pilasters. The most “high style” Greek Revival buildings in the state have plaster ceiling medallions formed of Grecian favorites such as anthemions or acanthus leaves. On the larger houses, pocket doors (in a Grecian frame) separate double parlors.

#### Materials:

In Louisiana as a whole there are more wooden Greek Revival buildings than brick or plaster-over-brick. There is no native stone. So, when stone is seen, it has been imported – for example, granite piers defining the ground level of Greek Revival commercial buildings in New Orleans and marble mantels on the finest of residences. On some finer homes the wooden mantels and door frames might be false-grained to resemble a different wood (faux bois) or marble (faux marbre).

It is in the Greek Revival period that cast iron first begins to come into its own as a building material, mainly for column capitals, lintels and chase decorative balustrades (the latter in contrast to the florid cast-iron balconies and galleries of the Italianate style).

#### Architects:

The vast majority of Greek Revival buildings in Louisiana were “builder jobs.” Professional architects of the day were almost entirely confined to practicing in New Orleans. The city was home, for a brief period, to Benjamin Henry Latrobe, America’s first professional architect, one-time architect of the U. S. Capitol, and the

designer of the country's first Greek Revival buildings. His design for the New Orleans Waterworks (1811) included a strongly proportioned pedimented portico and an octagonal tower reminiscent of the Tower of the Winds in Athens. No longer extant, this may well be Louisiana's first building seriously incorporating elements of the Greek Revival. Latrobe did not come to New Orleans until 1819. His potential career in Louisiana was cut short by his death from yellow fever in 1820.

Less well known but far more prolific architects designing in the Greek Revival were James Dakin, Charles Dakin, James Gallier, J. N. B. de Pouilly, William Freret and Henry Howard. Of these, only Howard appears to have practiced much outside the Crescent City.

#### Date Range:

At the national level, the heyday of the Greek Revival is generally recognized to be the period 1825 – 1855. Realistic dates for Louisiana would be 1830 – 1861 (the latter when the Civil War commenced and construction virtually ceased). But Greek Revival-style buildings continued to be constructed in rural Louisiana for a couple of decades after the War's end. These, no doubt, were merely following established builder tradition and were probably no longer conceived of as Grecian.

There were also periods of transition. In the early days there were Grecian looking buildings that had some hangover Federal Style features – most notably a Federal elliptically arched fanlight over the front door way. Towards the end, with the rising tide of the Italianate taste, there were Grecian buildings with some Italianate features – most notably scroll brackets at the entablature level. In this transition phase, just when a building stops being mainly Grecian and starts being mainly Italianate can be difficult to parse. These transitional houses are quite plentiful in New Orleans, and when surveying a historic district, staff of the Division of Historic Preservation has used the label “transitional Greek Revival-Italianate.”

#### Geographical Range:

Before the advent of large-scale railroad construction in the state (1880s), much of Louisiana was a wilderness. Thus, Grecian buildings tend to be confined to regions reachable by water – New Orleans, bayou towns, Mississippi River Road towns and plantations, interior steamboat port regions. Some older wagon road towns in northern Louisiana also have a heritage of Greek Revival architecture. Finally, there are three rural Louisiana parishes that are widely recognized as centers of Greek Revival architecture: East Feliciana, DeSoto and St. Mary.

#### Associated Property Types:

- Temple-form (temple spanning entire façade) commercial, public and residential buildings (unusual in Louisiana).
- Large two story buildings with a temple-style pedimented portico (i.e., a pedimented portico attached to a larger façade).
- One or one-and-a-half story houses (gable end and hipped roof) with a gallery spanning the façade.
- Double gallery houses (New Orleans) – a two story house with a gallery on each floor spanning the façade.
- Peripteral mode (plantation houses and 2 courthouses – Claiborne and East Feliciana parishes).
- Galleried public buildings (Pentagon Barracks, Baton Rouge; Center Building, Centenary College, East Feliciana Parish).
- Two story houses with colossal columns spanning the façade (with no pediment or portico). These are similar to the peripteral mode, but have colossal columns only on the façade.
- Churches. These are almost always simple country churches with a temple shape.
- Occasionally in Northwest Louisiana, one finds the marriage of the Upland South dogtrot with the country Greek Revival style (a milled lumber dogtrot with a Greek Revival gallery and other details).
- Party wall commercial buildings (almost entirely in New Orleans). In general, these are similar to prototypes in other parts of the country – Greek Revival piers (granite or cast-iron) forming the

shopfront with a three to five bay façade crowned with a heavy entablature (sometimes with a denticular cornice). Generally, these buildings do not have galleries.

- In New Orleans, free-standing, masonry, generally red brick, three-story houses with an entablature and a Greek Revival doorway.
- In New Orleans' Vieux Carre (mainly), party wall masonry buildings with Greek Revival details and cast-iron galleries across their street frontage. Sometimes these galleries are original; sometimes they were added later in the more florid Italianate taste.
- Greek Revival complex (unusual – only examples in Louisiana would be Manresa House of Retreats, St. James Parish; Jackson Barracks, Orleans Parish; and East Feliciana Courthouse and Lawyer's Row, Clinton (admittedly not all the law offices are Greek Revival).
- Historic districts with a significant complement of Greek Revival buildings – most notably in New Orleans.
- In South Louisiana (mainly New Orleans), above-ground tombs with either a temple shape (i.e., with a pediment) and Greek Revival details or a squarish mass with Greek Revival details. These tombs sometimes bear Grecian funerary details (for example, inverted torches).

#### National Register Registration Requirements:

The following is a list of the broad range of arguments that have been used successfully, or may be used, in National Register statements of significance under Criterion C (architecture).

##### National Level:

- Rare example of a Greek Revival historic district. Grecian buildings almost invariably survive singly, either in rural areas, or in a town or urban setting characterized by numerous other buildings of many periods – mostly later. An entire architectural ensemble fully characterized by the Greek Revival taste would be nonexistent in many states and very rare in the others.
- A superior, well-detailed, grand or especially imposing example of the peripteral mode, as a regional Greek Revival variant, adding considerable richness to the overall national Greek Revival heritage.

Because there are a large number of notable Greek Revival buildings in America, it would be challenging to list a Louisiana building (other than the peripteral mode just mentioned) on the National Register at the national level. At present, the only non-peripteral Greek Revival building in the state that has been accorded national significance is Gallier Hall, a grand temple-style design designated a National Historic Landmark in 1974.

##### State Level:

- Superior examples of regional prototypes such as peripteral mode (plantation houses and institutional buildings), galleried houses, or institutional galleried buildings as supporting Louisiana's architectural identity within the Greek Revival genre.
- A temple-style Greek Revival building as following the national norm but being unusual in Louisiana. Because temple style buildings are fairly rare within the state, almost any example that retains integrity would be NR eligible at the state level.

##### Local Level:

- Rare surviving example of simple Greek Revival country church. (These are not full temples, but have a temple shape.)
- Local landmark in a community or parish where almost all the buildings are much later. Such Greek Revival buildings are eligible because they represent the area's earliest architectural heritage.
- Superior example within a given local geographical context – i.e., town, parish, Great River Road. Some of the successful nominations in the past have used the 1860 census schedules to provide a context – specifically, the list of large holders of enslaved people. These numbers provide important clues to wealth – i.e., plantations of this size would most likely have had major Greek Revival residences.
- There are three parishes in Louisiana that are centers of rural Greek Revival architecture (non-New Orleans): DeSoto, St. Mary, and East Feliciana. Here one might find numerous good examples. In the past National Register staff in the Division of Historic Preservation have argued successfully that any example retaining integrity is eligible at the local level because it contributes to the parish's distinct architectural identity.

- The marriage of Upland South house types (in this case dogtrots) with the Greek Revival taste. All known examples are in Northwest Louisiana.
- Greek Revival tombs have generally been listed as part of above-ground cemeteries containing numerous tombs in various popular nineteenth century styles. They have been recognized for their identity as examples of Louisiana’s distinctive above-ground burial tradition and not as Greek Revival structures per se.

#### Architectural Integrity:

Integrity is as critical to National Register eligibility as is significance. In other words, the building as built may have been of great architectural significance, but it has lost many of its character-defining elements – those features that make it Greek Revival. Hence it would not be eligible.

As much as one might like a set of guidelines that would consistently act as an integrity filter for National Register candidates, it is simply not possible. Whether a candidate has “lost integrity” for National Register purposes must be decided on a case-by-case basis, per National Park Service guidance.

The fundamental thought process is as follows: What are those features that make the building Greek Revival – the character-defining features of the Greek Revival? Which ones survive? Which ones have been lost? Which ones have been replicated? Replication is an issue, no matter how well done. Quoting National Register Bulletin 16A (“How to Complete the National Register Registration Form”): “Not only must a property resemble its historic appearance, but it must also retain physical materials, design features, and aspects of construction dating from the period when it attained significance.”

Columns, typically wooden in Louisiana, are a particular problem, for they are often critical to Greek Revival identity. With the state’s subtropical climate, columns rot and are replaced – sometimes in kind, sometimes not. Occasionally one finds a perfect replication based upon copying a surviving gallery pilaster. Whether column replacement or replication equals “not eligible due to loss of integrity” has to be decided on a case-by-case basis, depending on the number and quality of other surviving original Greek Revival features. For example, a simple country Greek Revival galleried cottage with a replicated gallery (no matter how perfect) and no other surviving Greek Revival features, other than its form, would generally not be eligible due to loss of integrity. But the prognosis would be different for a Greek Revival house with a gallery replication that also retained various other notable Greek Revival features (shoulder- molded surrounds, mantels, etc.). In this example, the candidate retains (in original fabric) the bulk of its Greek Revival features. It can still convey, in original features, its identity as a Greek Revival galleried cottage.

This document was prepared for the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation by:

Jonathan and Donna Fricker

Fricker Historic Preservation Services, LLC

First Draft: September 2009 Final Draft: February 2010

## **EAST FELICIANA PARISH COURTHOUSE (1840)**

12225 ST. HELENA STREET, CLINTON, EAST FELICIANA PARISH, LOUISIANA 70722

*United States National Register of Historic Places, 1974, #74002249<sup>1</sup>*

*United States National Historic Landmark, 1974<sup>2</sup>*

Present Owner: Police Jury

“The East Feliciana Parish Courthouse stands as a monument that has suffered few alterations from its original appearance as completed in 1840. Designed by J. S. Savage and built by Lafayette Saunders, the Courthouse stands as a two-story brick building surrounded by a Doric colonnade. Saunders, when his construction bid of \$23,000 was accepted, resigned as a member of the East Feliciana Parish Police Jury... Today, only four courthouses built in Louisiana before the Civil War are still used for parish proceedings. Aside from the Clinton, East Feliciana Parish, they are found in Thibodaux, Lafourche Parish, St. Marinsville, St. Martin Parish, and Homer, Claiborne Parish. Some courthouse alterations in recent years to the Clinton Courthouse included cutting vents in chimneys and putting lights on the roof. Original specifications confirm that the East Feliciana Parish Courthouse is minimally altered from its appearance as completed in 1840.”<sup>3</sup>



*Figure 2: East Feliciana Parish Courthouse. Tribute statue to the Confederate soldiers in front. Courtesy of the R.D. Vernon Blog.*

<sup>1</sup> See the National Park Service’s “National Register Information System”

<sup>2</sup> See the Listing of National Historic Landmarks by State.

<sup>3</sup> Courthouse and Lawyers’ Row National Park Service. <https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/louisiana/crt.htm>



Figure 3: Clinton Courthouse, Saint Helena Street, Clinton, East Feliciana Parish, LA. Library of Congress. Photographer: Richard Koch, April 1936. Showing scaffolding erected for Works Progress Administration (WPA).



Figure 4: Photographer: Richard Koch, August 1936. View under south colonnade. Library of Congress.

## LAWYERS' ROW (1840)

12228 WOODVILLE STREET, CLINTON, EAST FELICIANA PARISH, LOUISIANA 70722

*United States National Register of Historic Places, 1974, #74002249<sup>4</sup>*

*United States National Historic Landmark, 1974<sup>5</sup>*

Present Owner: Four separate owners

“The five buildings comprising Lawyers' Row face the Courthouse across Woodville Street on the north side of the public square. These, like the Courthouse, are Greek Revival in style and painted white. Dating from the 1840s, the two brick offices at the east end of the row and the frame buildings at the west end of the row are alike in having tetrastyle porticos averaging 20 feet in width. The other two buildings each have seven columns under level cornices. A full Greek Revival Courthouse opposite five adjacent law office buildings of harmonious design form an ensemble unique when first completed and even more remarkable for having survived largely intact...The Courthouse and Lawyers' Row, painted in a pristine white surrounding a public courtyard, provide a scenic view of a past that has survived completely intact. Lawyers' Row is located across from the Clinton Courthouse and currently contains offices.”<sup>6</sup>



Figure 5: Lawyers' Row in Clinton, LA. 2009, February 26.

<sup>4</sup> See the National Park Service's "National Register Information System"

<sup>5</sup> See the Listing of National Historic Landmarks by State.

<sup>6</sup> Courthouse and Lawyers' Row National Park Service. <https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/louisiana/crt.htm>



Figure 6: Lawyer's Row, 1938. Photographer: Frances Benjamin Johnston. Library of Congress.

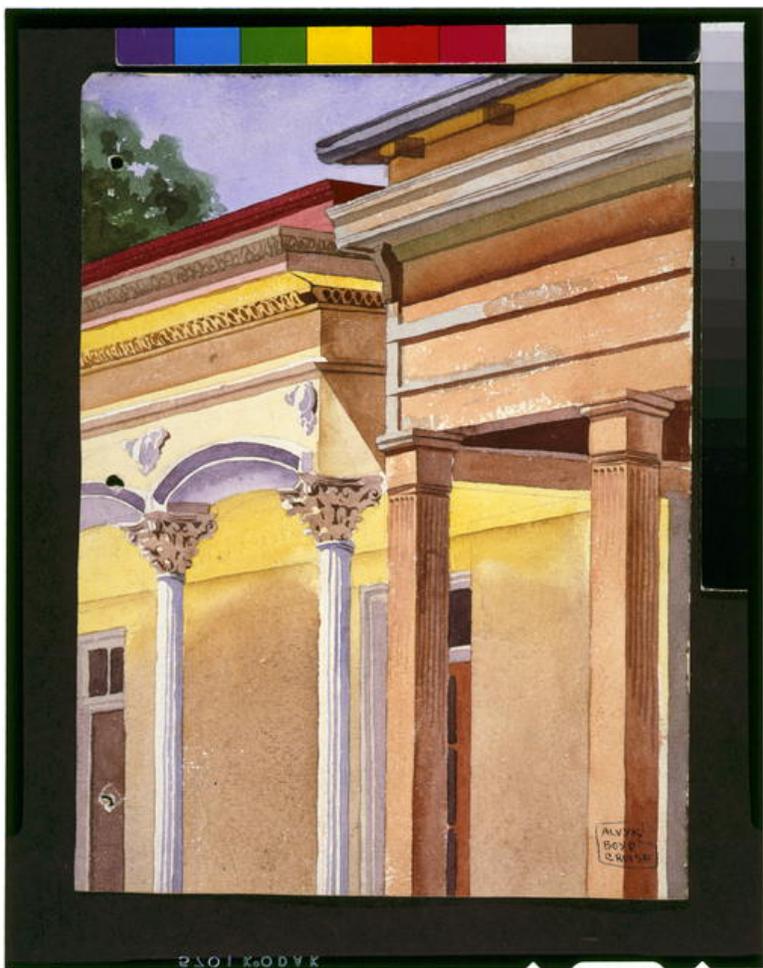


Figure 7: Detail of porticoes of buildings, Lawyers' Row, Clinton, LA. Alvyk Boyd Cruise (Artist). Between 1935 and 1939. Library of Congress.

## BRAME-BENNETT HOUSE (1839)

11120 PLANK ROAD, CLINTON, EAST FELICIANA PARISH, LOUISIANA 70722

*United States National Register of Historic Places, 1973, #73000866*<sup>7</sup>

Present Owner: Brian Frazier

Clinton was selected as the parish seat because it was located on high-ground, and it quickly became known as a prominent center for law and education. When the Clinton & Port Hudson Railroad was established in the mid 1830s, the town found prosperity as a cotton trading point for a large area. This prosperity reflected itself in the high-style, antebellum buildings and later Victorian designs, which can be seen throughout the area.<sup>8</sup> The Brame-Bennett House is a brick and stucco Greek Revival structure of an unknown architect or builder, is across the street from another NRHP nominated building, the Boatner/Record House. “... in America where the Greek Revival attained a nationwide popularity it enjoyed nowhere else. Indeed, it has been said that in America “the country was studded with ‘temples’ from courthouses down to bird boxes. . . A superb smaller example is the beautifully detailed Brame-Bennett House in Clinton”.<sup>9</sup> The Historic American Building Survey took photographs and drawings of the house in the 1930s.<sup>10</sup>



*Figure 8: Brame House. 1938. Photographer: Frances Benjamin Johnston.*

<sup>7</sup> See highlights of NRHP nomination: <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/la/East+Feliciana/state.html>

<sup>8</sup> Obtained from Clinton Historic District Design Guidelines. May 2012.

<http://www.crt.state.la.us/Assets/OCD/hp/grants/certifiedlocalgovernment/design-guidelines/Clinton%20Louisiana%20Historic%20District%20Design%20Guidelines.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> See the full State of Louisiana Office of Cultural Development Article: <http://www.crt.state.la.us/cultural-development/historic-preservation/education/louisiana-architecture-handbook-on-styles/greek-revival/index>

<sup>10</sup> The Library of Congress holds 30 photos of the “Braeme House” with alternate spelling of “Brame”:

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/search/?q=braeme%20house>

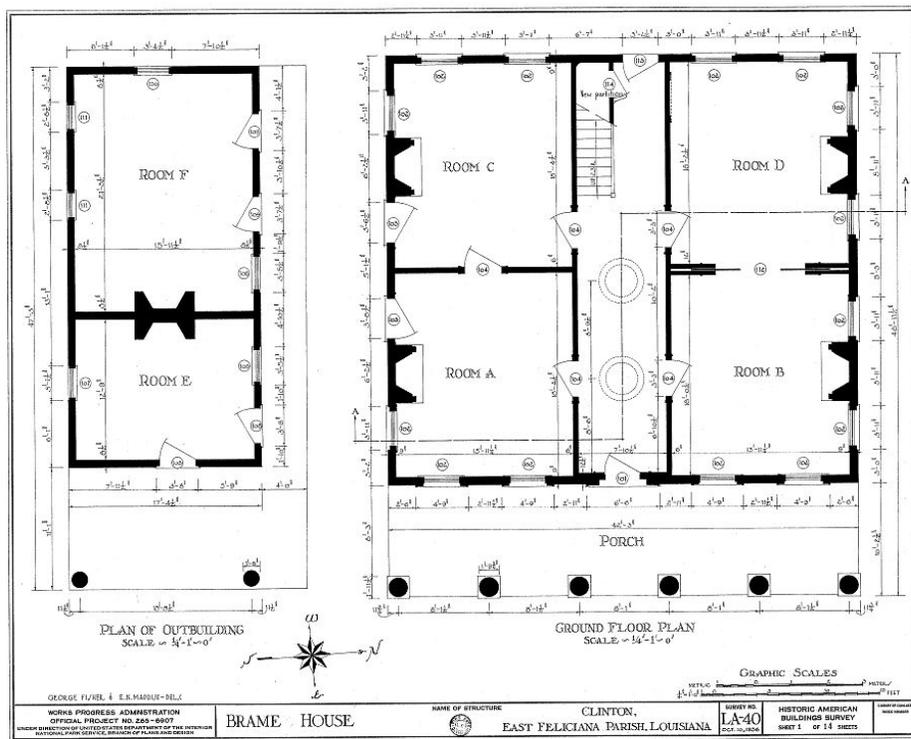


Figure 9: Brame House HABS Floor Plan. October 10, 1936.



Figure 10: 1834 Cylindrical gazebo over rainwater well/spring. Taken 1938. Photographer: Frances Benjamin Johnston.

## MARSTON HOUSE, 1837

11016 BANK STREET. CLINTON, EAST FELICIANA PARISH, LOUISIANA 70722

*United States National Register of Historic Places, June 29, 1972, #72000551*<sup>11</sup>

Present owner: East Feliciana Parish

“The Marston House is located in East Feliciana Parish near the Silliman Institute in Clinton, LA. In 1837 the Union State Bank of New Orleans began construction of a Greek Revival edifice as a branch office on property it had purchased the previous year. Large Ionic capitols atop six monumental columns, gray plaster scored to resemble stone, and galleries at the front and rear are distinguishing features. Tebbs’ photographs concentrated on these architectural details.<sup>12</sup> Running sort on funds in the wake of the Panic of 1837, the bank accepted Henry W. Marston’s (1794-1884) offer to complete the building at his own expense in the 1840s with the provision that he become the bank’s cashier and occupy the top floor as his residence. Marston, who also owned Washington Place Plantation (later known as Ashland), purchased the property in 1851. He and his wife, Abigail (Abbie) Fowler Johnson (1811-1888), operated the plantation. Their daughter, Abigail (Abbie) Louisa (1849-1935), inherited it upon her mother’s death and established an elementary school on the ground floor.. The Bulow W. Marston Estate assumed ownership following Abbie’s death in 1935. Six years later, the estate gave the property to East Feliciana Parish, which in turn leased it to the East Feliciana Pilgrimage and Garden Club for a term of ninety-nine years beginning in 1958. True Heart Feliciana, Inc. a foundation created by the Marston heirs, recently developed a preservation plan for the building.” After 2005’s Hurricane Katrina damage, in 2013, it was restored by James G. Marston III, Henry Marston’s great-great-grandson.<sup>13</sup>



Figure 11: 2009 photograph of Mraston House from Waymarking.com. Waymark Code WM5WZF.

<sup>11</sup> Read the full NRHP Description and Statement of Significance:

<http://www.crt.state.la.us/dataprojects/hp/nhl/attachments/Parish19/Scans/19014001.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Robert Tebbs Collection in the Louisiana State Museum:

<http://louisdl.louislibraries.org/cdm/search/collection/RTC/searchterm/Marston%20House/order/nosort>

<sup>13</sup> Blitzer, Carol Anne. "Story of Clinton's 175-year-old Marston House one of revival and survival -- and there's the bank vault". *The Acadiana Advocate*. October 23, 2015.



*Figure 12: Marston House in the Robert Tebbs Collection in the Louisiana State Museum. 1926. Image 1956.087.015b.*



*Figure 13: Marston House Ionic columns and gallery detail. Robert Tebbs Collection in the Louisiana State Museum. 1926. Image 1956.087.016b.*

## HICKORY HILL PLANTATION (CA. 1812)

6139 HIGHWAY 952, JACKSON, EAST FELICIANA PARISH, LOUISIANA 70748

*Built of hickory, ash, hard pine and butternut from the surrounding woodlands*

Present Owners: Mike and Mary Jo Salmon

Hickory Hill Plantation is located in the Wilson Post Office, East Feliciana Parish, eight miles north of Jackson and two miles west of Wilson. Built by Captain David McCants of Charleston in 1810, the Greek Revival residence is a two-story with attic, eight-room brick house, 32' x 45', two-story porch at the north entrance supported by four large, brick, two-story Tuscan columns (stuccoed) two round and the corner ones square.<sup>14</sup> Photos from the Louisiana Digital Library and the Library of Congress show various 1930s conditions.<sup>15</sup>



Figure 14: Hickory Hill Plantation 1938. Photographer: Frances Benjamin Johnston. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. JC-J7-LA-1248.

<sup>14</sup> Obtained from the *Written Historical and Descriptive Data* from the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS): <http://cdn.loc.gov/master/pnp/habshaer/la/la0500/la0580/data/la0580data.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> Photographs from the Louisiana State Museum, Robert Tebbs Collection. ObjectFileName: rt000004: <http://louisdl.louislibraries.org/cdm/search/collection/RTC/searchterm/Hickory%20Hill%20Plantation/order/nosort> and the Library of Congress, Carnegie Survey of the Architecture of the South <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/csas200801473/>



*Figure 15: From the Robert Tebbs Collection in the Louisiana State Museum; the overgrown vegetation creates an image of ennui. 1930s. Image 1956.087.004.*



*Figure 16: From the Robert Tebbs Collection, of the Louisiana State Museum; detail of the fireplace mantle. 1930s. Image 1956.087.007.*

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First page photo credits:

*Figure 1:* East Feliciana Parish Courthouse. Circa 1840, Greek Revival, Clinton, LA. 13 August 2006. Photographer: Galen Parks Smith.

*Figure 2:* Lawyer's Row. Flickrriver.com. Photographer: Paul McClure DC. "Jackson to Abita Springs, Louisiana".

*Figure 3:* Brame-Bennett House. Clinton, LA. Waymarking.com. 21 February 2009. Accessed 31 January 2017. [http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM5WQV\\_Brame\\_Bennett\\_House\\_Clinton\\_LA](http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM5WQV_Brame_Bennett_House_Clinton_LA).

*Figure 4:* Marston House. Clinton, LA. Townofclintonla.com. <http://www.townofclintonla.com/banks?lightbox=dataItem-ija9tqnw1>.

*Figure 5:* Hickory Hill Plantation. Near Wilson, Louisiana. Home of Captain David Scott McCants, C.S.A. Becky Bass Bonner & Josephine Lindsay Bass. Rootsweb.ancestry.com. Web. 29 May 2005. Accessed 1 February 2017. <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mysouthernfamily/hickoryhill.html>.

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# ACCOMMODATIONS IN EAST & WEST FELICIANA PARISHES

## RECOMMENDED LODGING ACCOMMODATIONS:

- **Clinton, LA**
  - Wildflower Inn, (2 blocks from the Courthouse), (225) 683-5738
- **Ethel, LA**
  - Ethel is 5 miles from Jackson.
  - St. Gemme de Beauvais, (225) 645-3245
- **Jackson, LA**
  - Jackson is 15 miles from Clinton.
  - Old Centenary Inn, (downtown Charter Street), (225) 634-5050
  - Milbank House, (Downtown Jackson), (225) 634-5901
- **St. Francisville, LA**
  - St. Francisville is 20 miles from Clinton.
  - Best Western, (225) 635-5851
  - The Francis, (225) 635-0033
  - Butler Greenwood Plantation & Bed and Breakfast, (225) 635-6312
  - Shadetree Bed & Breakfast, (225) 635-6116
  - The Myrtles Plantation, (225) 635-6277
  - St. Francisville Inn, (225) 635-6502

## MAP OF SURROUNDING CITIES:

