Boscobel Cottage
Bosco, Louisiana

Boscobel Cottage (circa 1820) was built by Judge Henry Bry and served as a residence while the neighboring “big house” BOSCOBEL was being constructed. Boscobel means “beautiful woods.” The cottage was subsequently used as an overseer’s house. As first built, this was a one story ell shaped building with three rooms and a central hall, front and rear gallery, detached kitchen and dependencies.

Hewn timbers approximately 9 x 12 with mortise and tenon joinings were used in the foundation. Cypress and blue poplar were mainly used in the framing. Sassafras wood was used in the walls and ceiling of the drawing room and hall. The pine floors in all the rooms are 5”-6” wide and 1 1/4” thick.

Originally modified Federal-West Indies in style, the house was enlarged in 1840 (date incised in the chimney added at that time) at which time it began to take on its present simple Greek revival style.

The interior of the house is distinctly late Federal with only minor changes. Two original Federal mantels remain; a third has been partially restored, and a fourth, which was original to the 1840 addition, also remains.

Most of the hardware is, if not original, very early and much of the original glass remains. Mouldings, where not original, have been copied from fragments found during restoration (1976).
Boscobel is one of the very few upland plantation cottages extant. Extraordinarily fine materials and detail make it comparable to its big-house, Boscobel, which was one of the few "grand plantation" homes built in Northeast Louisiana. The big house fell victim to neglect and is no longer standing. Boscobel Cottage, however, stands proudly among champion pecan trees and lovely grounds to serve as a reminder of grander days gone by. Primary restoration complete, it is now furnished and decorated to reflect the two primary periods (1820-1840) of its development with authentic furnishings and appointments.

Boscobel Cottage is entered in the National Register of Historic Places. It is a private residence and is open by appointment only.

TOUR INFORMATION
Convention and Visitors Bureau
Phone (318) 387-5691

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Boscobel Cottage is located off Highway 165, approximately 14 miles south of Monroe, facing the Ouachita River.