



Preserve St. Landry

Newsletter of the Preservationists of St. Landry, Inc.

WHO WE ARE

Preservationists of St. Landry, Inc., is a nonprofit dedicated to the maintenance and preservation of the historic Michel Prudhomme House (aka Ringrose) in Opelousas, Louisiana, as a tourist and cultural center.

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Repairs!

Due to a lack of funds, repairs to the Prudhomme House were put off. With the help of a \$50,000.00 grant from the Paul and Lori Prudhomme Foundation and fundraisers such as the May Brunch and the November Picnic on the Lawn, the Board of the Preservationists of St. Landry was able to hire Manor “Butch” Love and Greg Brandl to remove the rotten boards and beams on the front and back galleries, fix the railings in the front gallery, and replace the rear stairs.

The contractors worked carefully to preserve or repurpose the old wood that was original to the house, and to seamlessly incorporate the old with the new. The look of the house hasn’t changed much in 50 years, and the replacement of rotten wood with newer, treated wood will

insure that the structure is preserved for future generations.

After the Preservationists acquired the house in 1975, a study was made to determine original paint colors for the exterior, the galleries, the shutters, and the exterior doors. All of these received a fresh coat of paint under the supervision of Greg Brandl.

These latest repairs are in addition to the repairs recently completed to the roof, the gutters, and the drainage. All told, the Board has spent about \$100, 000.00 over the past two years on structural repairs. Future projects include work on the corn crib, the pigeonier, the bathroom, and other projects. Meanwhile, the Board maintains the grounds, the plumbing, the air conditioning, and pays the insurance. The Board is thankful to the St. Landry Parish Tourism Committee, the Opelousas Noon Rotary Club, Jason Juguet, Magic Seasoning Blends, and all donors, supporters, and volunteers who have contributed to the effort to preserve and promote this historic property.

Speaker Series



The Speaker Series continued over the past few months. Parish Archivist Larry Callier, Jr., gave a program on the new Archive building operated by the Clerk of Court, and he presented details about the ancestors of Pope Leo XIV who lived in St. Landry Parish in the 1700's.

Tommy Dejean spoke about the Civil War activities in the Parish and about his collection of Civil War memorabilia.

A feature entitled "Swapping Stories" was initiated, where the public is invited to come for coffee and share their memories of their childhood and early adult years.

Basket Collection

A collection of Native American baskets was donated to the Preservationists by Sheila Davlin, a fashion designer who lived in Opelousas for many years, and the baskets have been on display at the House. The Board elected to sell the basket collection to make room for events and to raise money for needed renovations. Anyone who is interested in purchasing the collection or who has a contact with a dealer or a Native American tribe should contact the Board.
