TERRE TOUJOURS ACADIENNE

Mme. Evelyne Petry Goller not only planned her home and supervised its construction she employed only Acadian craftsmen. Authenticity was assured because Mme. Goller, an Acadian culture consultant, also consulted several other experts in the same field. The home is in the Nina Community on La. Highway 347 between Breaux Bridge and Henderson.

When Evelyne Petry Goller, Acadian culture specialist, decided to build a home, she decided, of course, on an Acadian home in an authentic Acadian area.

As a result, Mme. Goller is now putting finishing touches on what may very well be one of the most thoroughly researched examples of Acadian architecture and craftsmanship.

The site is on a seven-arpent she prepared for the building of the most thoroughly researched Acadian family in Vermilion Parish. Practically all her life, girl through womanhood, Mme. Goller was her husband's Acadian home in a restrained style, beside the Nina Community because she felt that area was most appropriate to her interests in preserving the language, customs and culture of the Acadian people.

The builder had the benefit of other experts in Acadian architecture, but she made the plans and supervised the construction of her home. She chose as her builders, men of Acadian descent, Jesse LeBlanc and John Harry Guidry and she insisted on hiring only Acadian craftsmen.

"I only wanted Acadians...because the Acadians have remained good craftsmen and I wanted a good house..." she explained. "We must continue what we've inherited and this architecture is a phase that we must preserve."

"Secondly, I wanted the Acadian builders to be sensitive to detail."

The exposed beams throughout the ceilings of the lower floor support the second story and give strength to the entire house. The beams, found in the New Iberia area, were stained for a rustic look.

The lower floor includes the porch which, in true Acadian fashion, lies under the peaked roof of a master bedroom, dining room, living room, library, kitchen and bath. The upstairs is not quite complete but will include two bedrooms and a bath. The upper floor is served by the traditional exterior stairs on the front porch and also by an inside stairway. A between-the-wall chimney serves back-to-back fireplaces in the living room and library.

Sheet rock, today's equivalent of bousillage (mud plaster mixed with hair or dried moss) in looks and insulating quality, was used on the interior of all the walls. Four-inch wide pine boards cover the floors and red brick pillars hold the building about three feet above ground.

The front porch, typically Acadian, boasts the traditional stairs to the 'garconniere', a hanging wooden swing, and a banistered railing. The two front entrances have French doors with porcelain knobs and cast iron hardware. All doors, front and interior, are cypress. Several of the interior doors were obtained from salvage simply because they were cypress and authentic. The door shutters are solid wood.

Mme. Goller also gave her expert attention to furnishing her home in a restrained style, befitting her desire to hew to the line of authenticity. Her bedroom, for example, is furnished with a tester bed, complete with a handcrafted quilt made by Mme. Goller. A fine antique marble-topped dressing table and double-doored armoire, both in excellent condition, complete the bedroom furnishings.

Included in the living room furnishings are a spinning wheel, which Mme. Goller intends to learn to use, a sofa and family-type chairs, including a child's rocker which was her husband's. Although not yet installed, the French culture and heritage. This interest is reflected in the displays on her fireplace mantel.

BY SPECIALIST EVELYNE PELTRY GOLLER

Acadian Home Built In Acadian Area

BY ALTON BROUSSARD

Advertiser Staff Writer

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