East Baton Rouge Parish was created by ordinance of the Governor in 1811 and the town of Baton Rouge was incorporated in 1817. In 1833 there were only three brick stores in the town and the only method of travel and transportation was the Mississippi River. The old capitol building was built in 1847 and the building which now houses the school for the deaf was constructed in 1853 and was occupied by the first Louisiana State University. It is interesting to note that at that time the President and Commandant of Cadets of the State University was General William Tecumseh Sherman, later to become famous as a Civil War General.

Nine flags have flown over Baton Rouge as the emblems of the ruling powers in charge of its destinies: the fleur over of France, the flag of England, the flag of Spain, the flag of the Florida Republic, the tri color of France (Second French domination) the stars and stripes of the United States of America, the Sovereign State of Louisiana, the flag of the Confederacy, and today, the stars and stripes of the United States.

During the year many famous explorers passed down the broad expanse of the Mississippi River, including Iberville, DeSota, Marquis de Lafayette and others. Some of the most distinguished personages in American history have been guests in Baton Rouge, among them the Marquis De LaSalle and Wade Hampton of Revolutionary fame. It was the home of Gaines, Jessop and Taylor of the War of 1812 and General Winfield Scott, the conqueror of Mexico. The city has been visited by Andres Jackson and was the home of General Zachary Taylor when he was called to the presidency of the United States.

It has harbored such famous names as Grant, Lee, Sherman, Stonewall Jackson McClellan and Bragg, Rosecrans and Longstreet, Sheridan and Custer, names all closely linked in the past history of America.

The old state capitol building still stands as a monument and reminder of the earlier days of Baton Rouge, plans for which were drawn by a famous French architect and fashioned in the style of a medieval castle. It is one of the most striking examples of Gothic architecture in American history.
Famous old colonial mansions, characterized by their wide galleries, high columns and spacious interiors, are to be found in the city and surrounding country. Some of the most famous ante bellum homes in the South are to be found in this section and draw tourists from all sections of the United States. Many of them built more than a century ago stand as monuments to the glamour and fabulous days of the old South.

The Teche Country made famous by Longfellow's "Evangeline" is only an hour and half ride from Baton Rouge. There is St. Martinville, the home of Evangeline and new Iberia where the great moving picture "The White Sister" was filmed. There will be found the descendants of the Acadians where the French language is almost entirely spoken. This provides a trip long to be remembered.

Directly across the river from Baton Rouge will be found the great sugar plantations known as the "Sugar Bowl" of America where you may see the sugar refineries in operation and the conversion of sugar cane into granulated sugar. Probably no section in America furnishes the varied country side, the different peoples, customs and architecture that will be found within a short ride of Baton Rouge. This blending of the "Old South" with its background of history and romance with the great modern and industrial city of today makes this community an area of varied interests and inviting surroundings.

In 1909 Baton Rouge was a small agricultural town, cotton being the principal commodity produced in this area. River transportation was the only means of travel and for the transportation of freight. With the reduction of cotton production on the advent of the boll weevil this large industry was seriously curtailed and river transportation gradually decreased until a very small percentage of the cargoes it once carried were available.

Today Baton Rouge is a thriving city of 110,000 population with great manufacturing plants extending over a large area to the north of the city and with new industrial developments constantly over a large area to the north of the city and with new industrial developments constantly taking place. The industrial development started with the advent of the Standard Oil Company of Louisiana in 1909. This industry has developed...
The State of Louisiana is only exceeded by one State in the union, Texas, in the production of sulphur. One-fourth of all industrial alcohol in the country is produced in this state. The oil refineries in Louisiana are larger than in any other state except Texas and California and it is the leading state in the production of natural gas and carbon black. Louisiana ranks fourth among the salt producing states of the nations.

With all of these natural resources, its excellent transportation, educational and recreational facilities, Baton Rouge is destined to become one of the most important industrial and commercial cities in the South.

Baton Rouge has an excellent transportation system by the Mississippi River and other navigable streams afford water transportation for both barge and ocean going vessels making this city an important inland deep-water port. A 36 foot channel recognized and maintained by the Federal Government is available from Baton Rouge to the Gulf and nine foot channel for barge service has been completed in the Mississippi River to Minneapolis and St. Paul and the Ohio River to Pittsburgh to Minneapolis and St. Paul and the Ohio River to Pittsburgh and the Chicago industrial area by the Illinois River and Chicago Canal.

Three trunk line of railway serve Baton Rouge. Y. & M. V. (Illinois Central System), Missouri Pacific Lines, Kansas City Southern and L. &. A. Railroad and also has a direct connection with the Texas and Pacific Railroad on the west bank of the Mississippi River.

A net of hard surfaced highways radiates from Baton Rouge to all sections of the State. Baton Rouge is the center of one of the most fertile agricultural sections in the South.

Educational and recreational facilities have played an important part in the development of this city. Louisiana State University and Greater Agricultural and Mechanical College is located in Baton Rouge and this institution’s agricultural and industrial research efforts have been one of the best paying investments which the state has made. Through these efforts agricultural crops have been improved, new types of sugar
types of sugar cane have been introduced, cattle herds have been improved increasing the wealth and industrial developments of this section and research along other lines has developed new avenues of industrial and agricultural wealth.

This institution has grown from an enrollment of 1,800 in 1928 to an enrollment of over 11,000 in 1940. Along with this four high schools, two junior high schools, and sixteen grade schools provide Baton Rouge with an excellent educational system. One of the largest negro universities in the South is located in this city, along with a negro college, one negro high school and four grade schools.

Baton Rouge has excellent recreational facilities, two country clubs with 18 hole golf courses, swimming pools, tennis courts, etc., a city park with a 9 hole golf course, swimming pool, tennis courts, and other concessions. Lakes furnish excellent fishing and within a short distance will be found fine hunting and fishing. This section is known as the "Hunter's Paradise".

Baton Rouge is the capital City of Louisiana with practically all of the State departments housed in new 34 story capitol building and an additional office building. The capitol building is one of the most beautiful in the United States.

Baton Rouge has two airports, one within 4.5 miles of the city containing 200 acres of land, equipped for both day and night flying and now being used as a commercial and instruction field. The new East Baton Rouge Parish Airport contains 350 acres of land and is used at the present time as an important Army Air Base and for commercial flying. More than $5,000,000.00 has been expended by the Parish and the War Department in the construction of this field. Two Commercial Airlines, Delta Airlines, Inc., and Eastern Airlines, Inc., serve Baton Rouge with mail and passenger service.

Statistical data such as postal receipts, bank deposits and assessments are a good criterion by which to indicate the growth of a community.

Postal receipts have increased from $244,460.64 in 1935 to $701,569.46 in 1938.
1943. Bank deposits have increased from $13,418,143.24 in 1935 to $53,762,443.20 at the end of 1947. City and Parish assessments have grown from $37,212,602.00 in 1935 to $153,922,041.00 in 1944.