Room With a View of History

Library's Baton Rouge Room full of bits and pieces of city's past

By LAURIE SMITH ANDERSON

A collection of Sanborn insurance maps in the Baton Rouge Room shows Baton Rouge's development between 1923 and 1951. Anita York says the maps show the location of an undertaker's business where the Centreport Library now stands.

A small, leather-bound diary of Lt. Col. Eben P. Stanwood, a Union soldier stationed in Baton Rouge during the Civil War, reveals what daily life was like for the military during 1863.

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Architects interested in preserving old buildings frequent the Baton Rouge Room to find out more about histories. Prospective homeowners interested in buying property in Parish Town and Beauregard Town find the collection of interest. In addition, some library patrons interested in local history like to browse through the room.

If we don’t have it, I sometimes refer patrons to the State Archives at SU’s Hill Memorial Library. But I’d be surprised at the extent of what we have here,” York said.

Anyone interested in visiting the Baton Rouge Room or donating to the collection can visit the Centrals Library downtown or call 225-4964.