A Baton Rouge Showplace

Goodwood Plantation, a showplace in Baton Rouge, has played many roles during its colorful history.

Built in 1853, Goodwood is the home of the Lewis W. Babin family. The mansion stands on 39 acres, the remainder of a 4,000-acre, 18th Century land grant from England’s King George III to Mrs. Babin’s forebears.

At one time Goodwood was a plush nightclub; at another, an apartment house. Then it was a movie set—filled with an odd assortment of characters from Otto Preminger’s movie, “Hurry Sundown.”

It’s said Preminger wanted to use the house for movie scenes at first glance, and fell in love with it when he stepped through the front door into the 12-foot-wide center hall and viewed its stately, sweeping staircase.

In Preminger’s hands, Goodwood underwent another change. Its simple plaster walls were covered with heavy paneling, and in one downstairs room, the 15-foot ceiling was lowered several feet to bring it within camera range. Several pieces of family furniture were used in the film.

The mansion, at 7307 Goodwood, sits back from the road. It’s reached by a gravel driveway which loops to form a semicircle by the home’s veranda. The mansion’s style is Greek Revival. It has a neoclassical facade and a broad second-story gallery supported by four round columns.

Its construction is sound: It was built to last, and it has. Most of the lumber used in its construction was taken from longleaf pine stands on the plantation property.

The broad central hall bisecting the house terminates with a deep veranda at the rear. The double parlor of years past is now a living room and a dining room. A small kitchen to the rear of the dining room has a hand carved cypress mantle. A library in the front of the house was once a bedroom.

The ceilings downstairs are 15 feet high; those upstairs, 16 feet. Fireplaces in most rooms have black marble mantles. Those in the parlor are white.

The exterior walls are brick, as are the four columns across the front of Goodwood. Square brick columns support a gallery at the rear of the house.

Of interest to visitors are the built-in washstands found in all the rooms which were once bedrooms. The stands are marble topped and still have their original set-in bowls of hand painted Wedgwood china. Water flows from brass spigots. Mrs. Babin points out that Goodwood was one of the first houses in the area to have running water—supplied by large attic cisterns.

Goodwood is undergoing another renovation, its first using period antiques and family furnishings. “I’m furnishing it by degrees,” Mrs. Babin hastens to add.

Its gleaming white walls and its rich gold-and-burgundy drapery ideally comple-

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plement the mahogany and rosewood furniture, gold leaf mirrors and crystal chandeliers. Green velvet draperies are used in the upstairs bedrooms.

A handsome bookcase-breakfront in the library was made from woods found on the property. It's a family heirloom.

One of the most interesting features of Goodwood is its garconniere, (bachelors' quarters) which is currently being restored. This charming structure is separate from—and believed to be older than—the main house.

Square columns around three sides of the garconniere support an upstairs gallery. The ground floor is brick. One room has a large fireplace once used for cooking. When renovation is completed, the garconniere will be used as a guest house.

Library draperies are gold and burgundy shades. Mahogany and rosewood furnishings are period antiques—or treasured family heirlooms.

Second room of double parlor has become dining room. Room's highlights are huge mirror and crystal chandelier.

Goodwood has garconniere (bachelor quarters) separate from—and believed older than—the main house.

It is gradually being restored.
per fireplace sparkles with reflections from wood fires.

Downstairs sleeping quarters include the master suite—plus a bedroom for Mary Ann, the Browns' teen-age daughter. Two large guest rooms are upstairs.

Mary Ann's room stands off to itself in one wing of the house. Its color scheme is red, white and blue—with white walls over a blue wainscoting. The antique tester bed has a handmade patchwork quilt for its coverlet. Shutter doors, painted blue, conceal locker space. Wallpaper here is blue and green.

Focal point of the master suite is a handsome English drop-front secretary. Twin beds have antique spreads and cornices covered in a quilted fabric, which is repeated in the lining of the hangings over the bed and in the tieback curtains at the windows. The eagle-patterned paper in the master bath is gray-green.

The kitchen area has all the charm of a country kitchen: rustic cabinets, raw beams, pine flooring. Brown's collection of antique duck, snipe and goose decoys is arranged around the walls. For extra working space in the kitchen, there's an antique table.

One end of the wide room is a sunny sitting room-breakfast area, where oriental rugs and embroidered pillows on the sofa create a mellow atmosphere. Small windows permit a view of the rear garden and countryside. One wall serves as a small art gallery where prints, maps and paintings add color.

Lobdell plantation sits on nine scenic acres east of Baton Rouge.

Bed cornices in the spacious master bedroom are covered with a quilted fabric, which is cleverly repeated in tieback curtains at the windows.

See Garden Guide On Next Page

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