The Edmonton Comeaux landmark home in Broussard, now being renovated for use as a gourmet restaurant, is nearing completion, according to J.T. Chargois, one of its owners. The other owners are Lee Bob Cox and John Yongue.

Chargois said that the front gallery will be glazed in for use as a "Garden Room."

There will be an awning entrance and a vestibule before entering into the main part of the house. Care is being taken to maintain the basic design of the Victorian house, which was constructed in 1908.

The upper floor is being completed for use as the cocktail lounge. The Restaurant St. Julien, as the business will be known, derives from the family name of Comeaux’s wife, who was Cecile Lena St. Julien.

Comeaux, who was retired, had two children. Walter Comeaux, Sr., served as sheriff of Lafayette from 1894-1896. He was one of the Broussard Councilmen, was prominent in Civil Defense, served on the Louisiana Parole Board from 1902-1906, and worked with Judge Richard Putnam for the U.S. Western District. He was educated at St. Cecilia, St. Charles College and Holy Cross.

The time of his death he was the senior partner in the Comeaux & Sons Real Estate Agency and was also an oil lease broker. Walter and Carmen Emilie LaBelle Comeaux had eight children: Carmen Emilie (Mrs. Lawrence Granger), Billie Gall (Mrs. Douglas B. Brinkman); Blanche Marie (Mrs. Bill Y. Kentner); and Walter St. Julien Comeaux, Jr., all living in Broussard, Louisiana.

Louis dropped the “de” in his name and began using the abbreviation "St." His brother, who went on to Canada, dropped "de" and used only "Julien" for his name. The broilers never met again.

Louis came to Louisiana and settled near Carencro, where records indicate he bought land in 1899. He married Della Marguerite LeBlanc. No children were born of this marriage. His wife was killed and Louis was falsely accused of her death by her brother, who was actually trying to kill Louis, and killed his sister instead. After a long imprisonment, Louis was cleared of the charge on testimony of two slaves who witnessed the incident.

Moved To Broussard

On his release from prison, Louis Derenneen "dit St. Julien" sold his Carencro property and moved to Broussard, where he built an Acadian-type home on land acquired through a Spanish land grant. Derenneen acquired additional land through the years and became an important land holder. In 1887 he was married to Anastasia Broussard. The marriage contract dated Dec. 14, 1894 at the St. Martinville church.

This is the background of the early families connected with the Victorian home built by Edmonton Joseph Comeaux and his wife Cecile St. Julien and now renovated, refurbished and brought back to its former grandeur for commercial use as the RESTAURANT ST. JULIEN.