Castle rises over prairie in Acadiana

By Miles Haxton
State Editor

CROWLEY — "Every man's home is his castle."

That's been the lifelong attitude of Leo Desermans of Crowley, says his son Philip, who has built a home over 25 years, he's been here for 25 years, and it's his family's home.

Desermans said his father had always wanted to build an antebellum-style home on the property and had planned to do so for 25 years.

The project began in 1987 when his father, who is also a retired attorney, bought a 50-acre property in Crowley, La., and began building the house.

The home was built to look like a French chateau, and it has six bedrooms, five bathrooms, a study, a library, a game room, a gym, a theater, and a swimming pool.

The home is a two-story structure with a wraparound porch, and it is surrounded by a fountain and a small garden. It was completed in 1993.

The home is currently valued at over $1 million, and it is considered one of the finest examples of antebellum architecture in Louisiana.

Another less ornate room is even larger. The many bathrooms have been furnished with high-end fixtures. In three of them, water spouts from the corner of the ceiling. The wings are the hot and cold water faucets. Other fixtures feature fish fixtures.

Ten different crews of bricklayers and carpenters worked on the exterior construction because of the different heights, angles, and curves. About 30,000 bricks were used in the construction, which was called for 12-inch-thick exterior walls. Another 15,000 bricks were used in the construction of the 15-foot-tall wall.

The first floor of the home is a three-story glass stairway, and the second floor is a spiral staircase. It is considered one of the finest examples of antebellum architecture in Louisiana. The home is currently valued at over $3 million, and it is considered one of the finest examples of antebellum architecture in Louisiana.
Castle: On Prairie

"We're about 90 to 95 percent complete." Phil Deorsumant

Although the house is not yet finished, it is being set up for a "Parish Road 5" sign of the new church. Because of its unique location and its unobstructed view, the church has been designated as the site for several locations. Exterior walls are to be painted and the inside will be decorated.

"Thank God they haven't taken my house," says Deorsumant who has been deployed by Sheriff Kim Goss and authorized to protect his property.

Deorsumant's home is currently occupied by a nonprofit organization and is a destination for the organization's activities.

The organization is dedicated to the preservation of French and European heritage, education, and culture.