DOWNTOWN PINEVILLE: POINTS OF INTEREST

1 NATIONAL CEMETERY: located off Main Street on Shamrock, was started in 1867 for Civil War dead, moving 1400 veterans there the first year, almost half of which are unknown. In 1911, 1500 more unknown veterans were moved there. Now more than 8,000 graves are located in the cemetery, including five German POWs from World War II and two Seminole Indian scouts.

2 MOUNT OLIVET CHURCH: established in 1854 and dedicated by Bishop Leonidas Polk, "The Fighting Bishop of the Confederacy". During the war the church was used by the Union forces and is believed to have been spared burning because of this. The chapel is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. The cemetery behind it contains the graves of Governor T. O. Moore, U. S. Senator J. H. Overton, Henry Hardtner, "Father of Forestry", and other notables.

3 RAPIDES CEMETERY: located on the site of the 1700's French outpost "Post de Rapide" with the 1792 grave of the first commander, Commandant Etienne Maraffret Layssard I. This cemetery and the neighboring Hebrew and Methodist cemeteries were the original burial grounds for area residents because of the high elevation of the Red River banks on the north side of the rapids.

DOWNTOWN ALEXANDRIA: POINTS OF INTEREST

5 ALEXANDRIA MUSEUM/VISUAL ARTS CENTER: is housed in the original Rapides Bank building. Built in 1898 by Colonel George W. Bolton, Confederate army veteran and the first President of the Louisiana Bankers Association, it was the first permanent commercial establishment constructed after the torch of the Union armies destroyed the town in 1864. Anything remaining was washed away when the area flooded in 1866.

7 HOTEL BENTLEY: this turn-of-the-century landmark was built by lumberman J. A. Bentley, who, according to legend, was denied service at another local hotel because of his casual dress. Numerous stars of stage and screen have stayed here, as have some of the most important military men. Eisenhower, Mark Clark, George S. Patton and others laid strategy for battles when Central Louisiana was the training ground for hundreds of thousands of troops being sent overseas during WWII.

9 RIVER OAKS SQUARE ARTS & CRAFTS CENTER: this lovely original residence of the Bolton family is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It now houses studios of local artists whose works qualify, and browsers are allowed to peek over the shoulders of artists at work.

10 ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL: erected in 1898 on the site of the old Flint-Casson plantation which was headquarters for General George Custer when he was given command over Louisiana and East Texas during the Reconstruction Period. The 25-year old "Boy General" used harsh measures to bring about better troop discipline. A practical joke by the Third Michigan Cavalry triggered an uprising and resulting mutiny: praised on their smart appearance, at the next review 90 troopers appeared with their uniforms on backwards. Custer declared the entire regiment mutinous and arrested the troops. The sergeant was court-martialed and sentenced to be shot. The firing squad was to shoot Custer in mutiny. At the execution, Custer rode before each man, his blue eyes challenged each one. The guns burst, the sergeant fainted without being shot, and Custer had no further insubordination.

12 CHARNLEY HOUSE: probably the oldest residence (now a law office), it is a New England style cottage built by Julius Levin, the original owner of Schnack's Jewelry and a prominent lumberman.

13 ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM: in 1907 donations were received from the S. S. Brown and Andrew Carnegie Foundations for the first public library constructed after the others burned. It now houses an interesting collection of papers, books and photographs relating area history.
ALEXANDRIA-PINEVILLE
Downtown Points Of Interest

LEGEND:
1 National Cemetery
2 Mount Olivet Church
3 Rapides Cemetery
4 Rapides Regional Medical Center
5 Alexandria Museum & Visual Arts
6 Alexandria Hilton & Convention Centre
7 Hotel Bentley
8 Convention Hall/City Hall
9 River Oaks Square Arts & Crafts Center
10 St. Francis Xavier Cathedral
11 Rapides Parish Main Library
12 Charnley House
13 Historical & Genealogical Library/Museum

A Weiss & Goldring Dept. Store
B D'Amico's Restaurant
C Caplan's Men's Store
D Schnack's Jewelry Store
E Guaranty Bank & Trust Co.
F Rapides Bank & Trust Co.
G O'Neal's Department Store
H Wellan's Department Store