Dubach Home Reflects History Of Community

By Nikki Plants
World Ruston Bureau

DUBACH — Much of the history of this Lincoln Parish community is reflected in the house now owned by Mr. and Mrs. A. Trammell.

The couple bought the house in May, 1971, and have worked to restore the house and its early 1900's furnishings.

The house, with galleries in the front and around one side, features ceilings made of cedar slats, brass chandeliers, antique bed, a solid oak mantle and posts, a Herrlehieck clock and a music cabinet with a fine reed organ from the early 1900's.

When one enters the Trammell home and gazes at the steep stairway, the crystal chandeliers and the needlepoint chairs, one cannot help feeling like he has walked into a scene from out of the past. And from out of the past comes the story of Dubach.

The town is located in the red clay hills of Lincoln Parish between Bayou D'Arbonne and the Middle Fort Creek. Two highways intersect here and the Rock Island Railroad is routed through the center of town.

Much of Dubach's history is related to the coming of the Railroad, but many settlers sold homes to come to the area years before because of the abundance of water, trees and good soil.

Most of the early settlers were farmers. Crops of cane, corn, cotton and sorghum were harvested each year, loaded on barges and keel boats and floated down the D'Arbonne to Old Pontoon located on the Caddo River. (The area Old Pontoon is now part of Pontoon Point.)

Education was an important part of the history of Dubach. As early as 1894, a two-room school was in operation. By 1910, 30 students were enrolled.

The success of the school system in the early 1900's encouraged the organization of a school district and passage of a five mill tax to operate the school.

In 1918 the Charles Southwood railroad track was built from the neighboring town of Unionville as well as many men with high hopes from the North.

Fred B. Dubach from Jan Clair, Wis. was one of the settlers arriving in the area in 1918. He built a lumber company which became the nucleus of the Southern District. Soon afterward, the small town was named for him.

Settlers continued to come to Dubach in the early 1900's. Most of them were of Scotch-Irish descent, from North and South Carolina, Alabama and Georgia.

In 1919 Fred built a two-story house complete with the standard fixtures and plumbing of the period which was cut entirely in his home. The large house featured 12-foot ceilings and a basement. He and Mrs. Dubach lived in the house for a short time but soon returned back to their old home.

In 1922 James and Mrs. Dubach sold their sawmill to T. L. James. Under the direction of T. L. and W. H. James, the Dubach Lumber Company operated until 1937.

James also bought the Dubach home. He and his family lived in the house until 1929, when he moved his family to Ruston and closed the lumber mill.

After the lumber mill closed down in 1929, the townspeople relied for a short while on their farming knowledge - but in 1923 a new lumber company began operations under the direction of G. L. Trammell.

Between the years 1921 and 1929, the town grew, and Dubach is a thriving community.

Another major industry came to Dubach in 1948 when gas was discovered in the area. This improved the local economy and the economic stability of the area.

In 1958 a new lumber company was established and bought the Dubach home.

The house remained vacant for three years until 1973, when Al Trammell sold it to his son, G. L. Trammell bought the house.

Today Dubach is a thriving, yet quiet, hillside town of Lincol Parish.

And situated a few blocks from the old downtown area is a little bit of the town's early history is kept alive in the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Trammell.