Doc Dubon House Link To Early Acadian, English Settlers

BUILT IN 1919 BY GUSTAVE-DUHON

An imposing landmark home on Doc Dubon Road, now owned by Andrus Pellerin, is a link to early Acadian and English settlers. Pellerin is a descendant of the original builders of the home.

The house was built in 1919 by Gustave Dubon, who was married to Jeanne Mathilde Whittington, daughter of Louis Whittington and Emilie Thibodeaux. Gustave is a grandson of James Alexander Whittington. He was the first of the Whittingtons to settle in Lafayette Parish, which was in about 1800.

James Alexander Whittington was a descendant of Richard Whittington, thirteenth Lord Mayor of London. James Alexander Whittington himself and his Whittington descendants acquired large landholdings in Lafayette Parish and are the land on which the Dubon landmark house is located.

Lived In Old Portion

Andrus Pellerin, a descendant of Gustave and Jeanne Mathilde Whittington, recalls that the family lived in the dining room and kitchen portion of the house. The kitchen was the home's fireplace. The family then suffered through the Great Depression, and Pellerin inherited the property from his father-in-law, Louis Whittington. This was put to use as a tenant house and remained in use as such until it caught fire and burned in 1949.

Partially through inheritance and partially through the purchase of additional property bordering his homestead, Gustave Dubon acquired some 400 acres of land. Records indicate that he bought property from William Whittington, Joseph Broussard, Louis Whittington and others. Gustave Dubon used the lumber from the Whittington's log house on the land he purchased from him to rebuild the dining room on his farm properties.

In his heyday Gustave Dubon's farming enterprise included the raising of cotton, corn, cane, potatoes, cattle, fowl and vegetables. There was also a syrup mill on the property. An accident in the mill caused Louis Whittington to break his leg. Pellerin interrupted his plans to become a doctor. Instead he shifted from USL to Louisiana College for a mechanical school degree in agriculture. After graduating, he moved to the family home to be with his mother and to manage the farms. He married Mathilde Whittington on Jan. 11, 1911. Mrs. Dubon died on Jan. 25, 1931. In the succession probate Ulysse Duhon, Louis' brother, acquired the house and moved into the family home. Louis built a home nearby (in which he still resides) and moved into his new home. For a time he operated a mechanical maintenance shop and later in the 1940's became division warehouseman for Halliburton until his retirement.

Grandson of Dubon

The original divided entry door was used as an entrance to the garage. Pellerin inherited the property through his mother and is purchasing the portions of the property.

As originally constructed by the Duhon family, the house included two double galleries across the front of the house, four parlors, two bedrooms, the former kitchen, pantry and a screened porch. The façade of the house is symmetrical with wide steps at the center of the lower gallery in line with the entry door with its divided transom above it and the side lights. There are two windows on either side of the door and three windows above it, and the upper level.

The second room on the right, formerly the dining room, has a bay window. The entry door opens into an entrance hall with two rooms opening off it on either side. The window on the left side of the room is in the right wall with the back of the staircase facing the front room. Each of these rooms has back-to-back corner fireplaces. A similar fireplace is on the second floor. Ceilings in the house are 10 feet high.

ENDS IN KITCHEN

LANDMARK HOUSE — This is the home built by Gustave Dubon in 1919, husband of Mathilde Whittington, on their farm on Doc Dubon Road. It is now owned by Andrus Pellerin, a descendant of Mathilde Whittington, grandson of James Alexander Whittington, who was the first Whittington to settle in this area. Pellerin has modernized the home. (Photo by Mario Mamalakis)

The spacious house is furnished with handsome antique pieces handed down in the family or acquired, including a mirrored, tiered hall tree, a buffet, marble top side table, china closet, etc.

The house, now modernized and dominating the area, includes all of the amenities for comfortable living, according to today's standards. Recreational amenities include the swimming pool and separate game room as well as the large playhouse.

Pellerin furnished this house with handsome antique pieces handed down in the family or acquired, including a mirrored, tiered hall tree, a buffet, marble top side table, china closet, etc.

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