Mario Mamatolakas

Tante’s Bonne Cuisine is the latest purveyor of mouth-watering Acadian food to be the chefs for the food, are Joseph and Valerie Bourque and their eight-room house restaurant.

The landmark structure, built originally on a tract of land between Sunset and Church Point, has been moved twice and is now in Lafayette Parish on the frontage road about 3 miles north of Evangeline Downs. The house is now owned by Keith and Ricki Arsement, who have adapted it and are operating a restaurant in the 100-or-more-year-old house.

In the settlement of the estate of Valerie and Odile Bourque, in 1979 to be moved off the property to James Joseph LeDuc and to Dorothy Lavergne. Michelis moved the house a few miles distant and planned to renovate it and live in it. However, he sold it on June 29th, 1982 to Keith and Ricki Arsement with having renovated it.

Roof Was Dismantled

The roof was dismantled in eight-foot sections, laid on the house and the house lifted onto a flat bed truck for the move. The nine mile distance to its present site on the frontage road of Highway 167 North, was operated a Perforating Gun Repair Service, had been in business since the previous February to diversify his business activity. He saw the need for the ad of the landmark house and decided to purchase it for adaptive use as a restaurant building.

Only minor changes were needed to adapt it for use as a restaurant. The front gallery was extended outward to provide a larger area for the food and became a pro: operated a dairy on the 18 acres, and also a bed and breakfast establishment, as chefs “Tante’s Bonne Cuisine,” open from 5 to 10 p.m. on weekdays, 5 to 11 on weekends, on charge for a good car and horses.

The bricked front steps were made of bricks from the old high school building in Carencro. The attractive beveled ovals glass from doors are original to the house. The door to the ladies rest room was the faculty lounge front door of the old Carencro high school, exit and entry signs are also from that school. These were the only changes made. The rest of the doors, flooring, ceilings, are original to the house. The stained glass window in the front gable is the original.

Reflects The Era

The decor of the restaurant reflects the era of the house. There are four choice antique pieces in the hall. Again, the ad of the cashier’s area are photographs of Valerie and Odile Bourque. The cashier’s counter top was made from the doors of Odon and Dorothy Lavergne, who are twins; Vicky Lavergne, Juanita Hollier, Elaine Boudreaux and Tony Boudreaux, all of Sunset.

As a further touch of authenticity, the Arsements have painted the walls of the landmark house as a home of good food and good fellowship and with the family back-up of a great chef and grandparent as chefs “Tante’s Bonne Cuisine,” open from 5 to 10 p.m. on weekdays, 5 to 11 on weekends, and at noon on Sunday, is all to a good start.

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