Historic Tour In Cheneyville, May 16

The Third Annual Historic Cheneyville Tour and Arts and Crafts Festival will be held on Saturday, May 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Places open on the 1981 tour are:

J.H. Collins House, now the residence of Robert L. Cox, Jr., was built in 1894 on property Collins purchased from the Cheney family. It remains virtually unchanged with the exception of French windows being changed to smaller ones. A central hall divides the two largest front rooms & transoms and side lights are at the front entrance. The present owner has recently opened an antique shop in his home.

Old Beulah Baptist Parsonage. Three rooms of the original structure, circa 1820, remain with high ceilings and wide floor boards but many additions have been made over the years. At one time stairs led up from the front gallery to rooms in the attic, which was then the owner's residence. Mrs. Leslie Sullivan possesses some beautiful furniture.

Trinity Episcopal Church. This beautiful and historic church, designed by Major William Henry Chase, was built in 1860 and in 1861 was consecrated by Bishop Leonidas Polk. The baptismal font, pews and chandeliers are among the original furnishings. The pane colored glass in the side windows was imported from England. Above the vestibule is the slave gallery. The bullet holes in the front door is a relic of a Civil War skirmish. Both the church and cemetery are on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Cedars. Owned by Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Pearce. Built circa 1813 by M. Davison, farmer and physician. This home has been in Mr. Pearce's family since 1875 when it was purchased by his maternal great-grandmother, Martha Shackelford Butler. They own many of the original furnishings and have family letters dating to before the Civil War. The Cedars is probably the most typical of the average residences of the antebellum planter, representing the Acadian style architecture. When built it faced the bayou and the separate kitchen, which has been removed, was a porch apart from the main part of the house.

Walnut Grove, Property of Mrs. Wanda (Betty) Lyles Skye. Paul Jabez Tanner, 12th child of Robert Tanner, built this fine example of Federal architecture between 1833 and 1840. Bricks for all 16 inch thick main bearing walls were made by hand on the place. Originally, the main living quarters were on the second floor and the kitchen stood apart from the house. In 1928 some alterations to add modern conveniences were made using material from the old Campton house at Meeker. The house stayed in the Tanner family until 1980 when it was purchased and beautifully renovated by Mrs. Skye. She has obtained some of the original furnishings and the remainder are from her own collection of antiques of that period. Five parallel brick pathways of the original formal garden have recently been exposed and the garden is being restored. An antebellum cabin, near the entrance to the grounds, has been restored and furnished. Local crafts are also displayed there. Walnut Grove is on the National Register of Historic Places.

A choir concert, sponsored by members of the Edgefield Baptist Church, will be held at the church at four o'clock. Artisans, craftsmen and tradesmen will market, display or demonstrate their specialties on the town's Front Street, in an open air market available to the public. Persons interested in participating in the market should contact Mr. Bob Cox at Box 14, Cheneyville, 71325, or telephone (318) 279-2474 for further information and exhibition applications.

Tour tickets may be purchased for $6.00 on or before the day of the tour at the Cheneyville Town Hall or at Farmers Bank on Front Street. Lunch may be bought at Doug's Market and tables and free coffee are available at the Town Hall. Cold drinks will be sold. Children under 10 will be admitted free with their parents.

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