Broussard, La.

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THROUGH PRESERVATION

Historical Society Looking
To ‘Put Broussard On The Map’

By CHERRY W. HOWELL
Adviser Area Writer

BROUSSARD

Acadiana’s rich heritage
open a lot to its history. A
drive along some of the rural
roads and through some of
the small towns provides
more of the architecture
of another age and provides
much of the atmosphere
this area has for visitors.

Some of these areas are
listed in the National Regis-
ter of Historic Sites. How-
ter knows that when
they’re in the area, these
are the places to go.

On such a trip that has
seemingly been overlooked
until now is the Town of
Broussard.

Broussard, set slightly
apart from the mainstreet
activity, Lafayettes, and
beautiful old

The Broussard Historical
Preservation Society is try-
ing to change all that. It is
a loosely-organized group
that wants to see Broussard put on
the map so that visitors

The information on
the architecture in Broussard will
be completed by September,
and a listing will then be sent
to the state Department
of Culture, Recreation and
Tourism in Baton Rouge.

There it will be put in
the city’s records and
submitted to the state for
approval.

Buildings may be rejected
at this point if the informa-
tion does not meet the criteria
established by the state.

Approval

For example, any build-
ing 90 years old may be
eligible,” said Jonathan
Prizer of CBT, who will put
the information into applica-
tion form. “But not every
building 90 years old can be
considered an historic site.”

If the state approves the
application, they will then
be sent on to the national level
where, if approved, the town
and its history will be listed in
the National Register.

If all goes as planned,
there will be three official
historic districts in
Broussard. The first will be
the main street corridor and
its interesting streets, in-
cluding the building that has
been restored as the office of
the Broussard Bank.

The second district would
incorporate the area next to
the railroad tracks, including
the Broussard Steak House.

The third area is along the
Broussard Avenue, includ-
ing the area of the Bilboad
Sugar Mill and the Old
Broussard Estate.

Some people worry that
this status will prevent them
from working on their homes
as they wish. But this is not
true, according to Bilboad.

He said that the restrictions
simply maintain that the
original facade and porches
may not be altered.

The Broussard Historical
Preservation Society has
other long-range plans as
well as designating the town
an historic site. After the
districts are established in
the city, the group would like
to have a museum built to
make the city even more
attractive to visitors.

The group then plans to
stage a large celebration to
mark the 160th anniversary
of the founding of the town in

We’d like to get together
with the other groups in the
city and plan a great big
centennial celebration,”
Bilboad said. “After all,
that’s where the heritage
we’re trying to preserve all
began.”