People tour Houmas House Plantation on April 29 in Burnside. The family that owns Houmas House Plantation has agreed to sell the house to an unidentified New Orleans man for $2.9 million.

Houmas House has central air conditioning and heating, which Crozat installed, but it needs to be upgraded, Bennett said. The new owner also may need to make plumbing improvements and structural and roof repairs. A sprinkler system also may be in order to prevent the historic home from meeting the same fate as Tezcuco Plantation in Darrow, which burned a year ago.

The house and its furnishings have been preserved fairly well, said Neal Aulford, lead auctioneer and owner of Neal Auction Co.

"Most of the furniture has remained untouched at Houmas House," he said. "It's been well-maintained."

"The house is really something beautiful, a touch of history that you don't see anymore," Turk said. "It's given us a wonderful place to go, and Uncle George had the knowledge and foresight to keep it alive for the people of the area."