Houmas House Plantation and Gardens
1800-1840
On the River Road • Burnside, Louisiana

Relive the magnificent plantation era
Where the country’s largest sugar cane plantation flourished
Where Southern planters made their fortunes and lived in grand style
THE PLANTERS
Vast fields of sugar cane surrounded Houmas Plantation... 20,000 acres in its heyday. It made fortunes for men like John Burnside, who bought Houmas and 12,000 acres for $1 million in 1858. And it was Burnside who saved Houmas from the ravages of the Civil War. A native of Ireland, Burnside declared immunity as a British subject and thus avoided occupation by Union Forces. Houmas House flourished as the greatest sugar domain in the state under Colonel William Porcher Miles in the late 1800s, producing 20 million pounds of sugar per year.

PRESERVING THE PAST
The grand old home fell into disrepair after the Great Depression, but in 1940 the house and remaining grounds were bought by Dr. George B. Crozat of New Orleans for his country home. He lovingly restored Houmas House to its pristine magnificence of 1840, returning its formal gardens to beauty beneath majestic, moss-laden live oaks, some more than 200 years old. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Houmas House is furnished with 1840s-period museum pieces of early Louisiana craftsmanship from Dr. Crozat's collection.

PLANTATION FAME
Houmas House was the setting for the movie, "Hush, Hush, Sweet Charlotte," starring Bette Davis, as well as other television and pilot films. It has been featured in numerous national magazines such as Life, House Beautiful and National Geographic. Today, the heirs of Dr. Crozat still live at Houmas House and have opened the mansion for all who enjoy reliving the style of the Old South, with its fine architecture, outstanding furnishings and lovely gardens.
Houmas Plantation was a tract of land along the Mississippi River purchased from the Houmas Indians in Colonial times by Maurice Conway and Alexandre Latil. It was Latil who built the rear house in the late 1700s, with characteristics of both Spanish and rural French architecture.

The magnificent Greek Revival mansion was built in 1840 by John Smith Preston and his wife, Caroline. Her father, Revolutionary War hero General Wade Hampton of South Carolina, had bought the property in 1812. Wisely, the Prestons preserved the original four-room dwelling at the rear. Later, it was attached to the great house by an arched carriage way.