Kent Plantation Home
Donated to Organization

Times News Service

ALEXANDRIA — It is just a matter of formality before the old Kent Plantation Home finds a new location.

The building committee of George M. Simmons Jr. Post No. 3 of the American Legion has voted to donate the building to the Kent House Incorp.

Kent House Incorp. is a non-profit organizationchartered to operate the building as a historic site. The building is the oldest existing structure in Central Louisiana.

For a time it was feared that the old home completed in 1802 might be razed.

The legion committee instructed attorneys to draft an act of donation which could be signed during the week. Included in the act is the stipulation that the legion has 30 days to remove all Legion property from the building. After that Kent House Incorp. has 90 days to move the building.

Also stipulated in the contract is that a reputable contractor be employed to move the building. The contractor will have to post a performance bond and a liability bond.

The historical organization plans to move the building from its Rapides and Texas Avenue site to its new location about three blocks away, across from MacArthur Drive on Bayou Rapid and outside of Alexandria.

The American Legion expects to make commercial use of the land.

The home was built on the 1795 Spanish Land Grant made to Baille Family. It was purchased by the American Legion in 1947.

The Kent House was formed this summer by a group of Alexandria who wished to preserve the building.

The American Legion originally intended to demolish the building, but now has agreed to give it to the group provided it be moved.