Louisiana Places

Marsh Island

Marsh Island (Iberia Parish) is one of several names given to Avery Island, the largest and most striking of the “Five Islands” that rise above the marshes and savannas of this region. Like the other islands, Avery Island overlies a coastal salt dome. Nearly round in shape and with an approximate diameter of two miles, Avery Island is completely surrounded by sea marsh and swampy thickets. At the center is a cluster of small hills comprising 1,884 acres of high land that slopes off gradually into the surrounding fringe of marsh.

Toward the close of the eighteenth century John C. Marsh, a settler from New Jersey, acquired Avery Island as a grant from the Spanish government and established large sugar plantations on it. While Marsh produced salt from the springs for the use of the American army in the War of 1812, he evidently attached little importance to their development. Marsh Island acquired its name from this owner.

Source: Louisiana, A Guide to the State—Clare D’Artois Leeper