La. Takes Over Kent House, Reveals Plans for Memorial

The state of Louisiana has taken title to Kent Plantation House, Central Louisiana's oldest landmark, W. A. Wilson of Alexandria, chairman of the State Parks and Recreation Commission, said today. The home will be completely restored and has become a state memorial and part of the state's parks system, he said.

Kent Plantation House Inc., a locally-formed non-profit corporation for the purpose of preserving the landmark, donated the 168-year-old home and two acres surrounding it to the state.

The property on Bayou Rapides road was bought by the corporation from the J. T. Compton heirs for $10,000. It is part of the original Kent Plantation and also a part of the large land grant that Pierre Baillio, the original owner of the home, received from the king of Spain during the Spanish domination of Louisiana.

Several months ago the home was donated to the preservation group by the George M. Simmons Jr. Post No. 3 of the American Legion, and it was moved to its present location by Kent Plantation House Inc.

Over $19,000 has been donated from all over the United States to help save the landmark and the efforts of the preservation group have received national attention.

Annan and Gilmer, Shreveport architects, have been employed by the state to handle plans for restoration of the home. They were the architects for the new governor's mansion in Baton Rouge and have designed several large homes in this area. William C. Gilmer will be in

(Turn to Page 2, Column 1)