The home of David Guidry, now owned by David Edmonds, is nearing the 200-year mark. The house was built by one of the original Acadian settlers near Carencro, and its history is rich in the Civil War skirmishes in the area.

**By MARIO MAMALAKIS**  
Special Features Writer

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of a two-part series on the "L'Isle de Caren Cro" that is nearing its 200th birthday. The house was built by one of the original Acadian settlers near Carencro, that figured prominently in the Civil War skirmishes in the area.)

"L'Isle de Caren Cro" or "The Carencro", a house that is nearing the 200-year mark, was built by one of the original Acadian settlers near Carencro, that figured prominently in the Civil War skirmishes in the area and that is now occupied by descendants of the original builder.

Jean Mouton, the founder of Lafayette, David Guidry's house and plantation was across the Bayou Carencro from the plantation of Jean Mouton. It was near the crossing of the old Vermillion-Opeleous stagecoach road in an area known to the older residents of Buzzaud's Prairie.

In the Civil War, the house was occupied by Union soldiers, and the family was forced to leave their home. After the war, the house was renovated and later became a hospital for Union soldiers.

The house is known for its unique architecture, with cypress siding and brick replacing the walls. The interior has been altered very little from its original look.

Dr. Edmonds has been restoring and renovating the house himself, and the exterior has remained in the hands of a descendant of the original builder. It's present owners, Dr. David Edmonds and Lucinda Sibille Edmonds, have been living in the house with their children for the past 10 years.

The house is pre-1863 and is covered in the book "L'Isle de Carencro: Nearing 200-Year Mark" by MARIO MAMALAKIS. The book grew out of his search of the records of the house and has the 1979 Literary Award of the Louisiana Library Association.

Thelismar returned home after the Union Army departed. He was 41 at the time of his death on Oct. 22, 1871. After his death his wife, like so many other families during the trying period after the Civil War, was forced to give up the plantation. Eugene Petrin came into possession of the property in the 1870s.

Of the estate were to later give the house to his wireless. Joseph Sibille, a grandson of David Guidry, was married to Dr. Ben Guidry. Theil's acres of land sticking to his Union Army, of the Guidry family back in the house. Joseph and Louise Guidry lived in the house with their five children: Therese Louise, Mrs. Edmonds' mother; Howard, Lucille, Lowell and Marie. Dr. and Mrs. David Edmonds acquired the house about 10 years ago and three acres of land surrounding it through Mrs. Edmonds' aunt, Marie Louise Sibille. The house, important from the standpoint of its architecture as well as from its involvement in the Civil War and its use as a meeting place for the Vigilance Committees, has taken on a new lease on life, since the Edmonds have moved into it. They have plans for its renovation and wish to keep its authenticity intact.

**Copyrighted 1980 Mario Malaikis**

**EARLY ACADIAN HOME** The remodelled home of David Guidry and Modeste Bordat Guidry, now occupied by the David Edmonds family, outwardly belies the fact that the structure was built in the 1820s. The interior retains its original features. (Photo by Mario Malaikis)

**ORIGINAL FIREPLACE** The east front room of the David Guidry home built in the 1850s. Features the fireplace shown above on the east wall of the house. It is still functional. The panel strip in the shape of a cross on the wall is repeated in other areas of the walls of the two front rooms and were supposedly placed there to appease the restless spirits of Yankee soldiers, who died in the house, when it was being used as a makeshift hospital during the Civil War. (Photo by Mario Malaikis)