Couple make their home
a living history lesson

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Brunswig and Jessie Sholars live on Royal Street in a Queen Anne Victorian house named The Rex House. The house was built in 1892 and is one of the oldest surviving houses in the city. It is considered a historical landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Sholars purchased the house in 2000 and have since restored it to its original glory. They have added modern amenities while preserving the historic elements of the house.

The house features a large front porch with gingerbread trim, a second-story balcony, and a cupola. The interior includes a spiral staircase, a chef's kitchen, and a music room.

The Sholars have also incorporated various art pieces into the house, including a large mural in the dining room that depicts the history of the African American experience in Baton Rouge.

The Sholars are passionate about preserving the history of their home and the city. They host tours of the house and participate in various events related to local history.

The Rex House is located at 343 Royal St., and is open for tours by appointment.

The Rex House, a historic gem, is a testament to the rich history of Baton Rouge and the Sholars' commitment to preserving it for future generations.
Home

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from her comfortable corner in the Victorian sofa. "Mother," she continues, "was a minister just like my father was. In fact, women's suffrage was nothing new to me, and my mother always did as much professionally as my father. All the women in our family did."

The foyer features a large hearth library table that came from belongings of her mother, the late Rev. Mollie Patterson Davis, and upstair in the bedroom are a marble-topped chest of drawers and commode which made a historic cross-country train trip to California years ago. For almost every historic piece, the Sholars have a tale to spin.

"We started at furniture, had furniture copied, ordered furniture, inherited some," says Sholars. "We accumulated a great deal."

"We asked questions, clipped out of the paper, bought books, read journals — and just kept on looking."

Conscious of color combinations always, Mrs. Sholars was the coordinator for the redecoration. She hung the wallpaper in several bath and bedrooms at The Rex House. The bathrooms are papered in metallic patterns, which she says "were very hard to hang." She makes draperies, reupholsters furniture, does needlepoint and sews.

The foyer has earth tone floral wallpaper put in by previous owner friend, Kevin Doogil of Ashwood Plantation. Rosewood and pale gold draperies, Oriental rugs, an original map of

Fred Fenn, who was Dorothy Rex, daughter of Frank Rex, for whom the house is named, opening louvered doors beneath a staircase which conceals freezer and storage.

Since the house had no kitchen 80 years ago, one had been added on. The couple found that the kitchen was in much worse disrepair than the rest of the house, so it was made of pine, not cypress as the rest of the house and it fell apart.

"We had to totally redo the kitchen. Modern day touches include a small TV with remote control."

"Most of our original paintings came from Spain," says Mrs. Sholars.

Over the mantel is a copy of a painting. The painting by A.W. Bennett, great-uncle of Sen. J. Bennett Johnston, is a scene from Reconstruction Days in west Monroe. Due to the size of the great-uncles has handcuffs and a pistol to his head, the other a pistol to his head," says Sholars. An occupation army in 1873 is arresting the men. To get his copy, Sholars had a photograph taken of the original, then sent it to California to be enlarged and put on canvas.

When we got the house we just threw everything furniture from California and Clinton — and went on a trip. We decided what we wanted to keep and gave the rest away."

Restoring buildings is a good way to keep retired people out of trouble," says Sholars.