Longwood's owners kept plantation ahead of its time

Vivian ran sugar cane plantations in Cuba, before 1900, Sabin Gianelloni gave the Y&M Railroad right-of-way through the plantation, and S.J. Gianelloni Sr. ran telephone lines to the house, company store and office. The large farm had a boardinghouse for seasonal workers, sawmill, a blacksmith shop and, near present day Nicholson Drive, a small jail.

Some plantation workers' houses were a considerable distance from fields and mills. They walked to work or rode horseback or on the plantation's narrow-gauge railroad. In 1950, Vivian Gianelloni in Cuba and S.J. Gianelloni in Baton Rouge undertook a renovation of Longwood. The brothers planned the work together, hand-selecting mahogany from Cuba for rooms. The wood, along with a chandelier, was shipped to Baton Rouge.

V.J. paid for the renovations. S.J. supervised the work. V.J. lived in Cuba until his death in 1957. His son, called Longwood home on their breaks from school.

The drive made a graceful approach to Longwood plantation house. The plantation was established in 1795 by Marianne DeCoux.

Remember when

Gladys, Julie Marie and Sabin Gianelloni photographed with car parked in front of Longwood Plantation.