Experience The Old South

Hidden Away at Mintmere

By Christy Guidry

Imagine a night in a Civil War era Plantation house surrounded by magnolias and oaks and furnished with Louisiana-made antiques. These images can become a reality at Mintmere.

Mintmere Plantation Main House

Mintmere Sugar Plantation, located on Bayou Teche and East Main Street in New Iberia, provides bed and breakfast for its guests. Tourists can rent one of the three suites in the main house or one of the two in a West Indies cottage on the grounds. For $100, a suite offering bedroom, bathroom, and sitting room can be rented. In the morning, a southern breakfast is served. The house and grounds may also be rented for weddings and receptions.

Although bed and breakfast is popular today, this plantation house in Greek-revival tradition, has served the community well. It was built in 1857 by Stanley and Millington Hartman. In its 129-year history, it has functioned as a steamboat station, a hospital during a yellow fever epidemic, Union headquarters for General Albert Lee during the Civil War, and a boarding house. In 1976, it was saved from demolition when Dr. Roy Boucvalt of Wyoming restored it to its original form. His efforts of preservation have been rewarded with a listing in the National Register of the Historic Places in the United States.

Built of cypress made to look like stone, the house features original white marble hearths, and beds with their original teesters. Antique lovers will appreciate the beds of the American Empire Period, a 12-foot pier mirror, and one of the oldest pieces in the house, a 1790 cherry armoire. Additionally, Dr. Boucvalt’s private collection of original Audubon prints adorn the walls of the parlor.

This remarkable structure offers much to those wanting to take a trip back to antebellum days. Sweet dreams await them at Mintmere.