Murat House Restoration Plan Is Praised

NEW ORLEANS — The president of the Louisiana Landmark Society Sunday praised Baton Rouge Mayor-President Dumas’ project to restore the Prince Murat House in Baton Rouge as "the best news we have received in some time."

Harnett T. Kane, president of the society, said Dumas’ project to save the 175-year-old plantation home was "the action of an intelligent and civic-minded executive."

Earlier this month, the East Baton Rouge Parish Zoning Commission voted to recommend a rezoning of the Prince Murat House property to make way for a multi-story apartment complex. The recommendation will be presented to the City-Parish Council in Baton Rouge July 28 for final action.

The society, according to Kane, "believes in the preservation principle" which dictates that an "important historical-cultural building should not be moved but should be maintained intact in the setting which gives it significance."

Kane also said his organization favored the plan of surveying other historical buildings in the parish as a part of the restoration, as Dumas has recommended.

Kane said that since last week’s zoning commission ruling, the Landmark Society headquarters here has been deluged with messages expressing concern about the building and offering suggestions.

He said representatives of the organization will attend the City-Parish Council meeting in July to express its position on the rezoning move.

At the society’s board of trustees meeting, the matter of financial contributions to save the home will be taken up, Kane said.