The Old State House was constructed in 1882 replacing the first State Capitol which was destroyed by fire during the War Between the States. This building is in good condition and is interesting with its unusual architecture, spiral staircase, wrought iron fence and other outstanding features.

To the west can be seen the mighty Mississippi River flowing on its way to the Gulf. The bridge over the river was completed and dedicated in 1940. The fast growing Port of Greater Baton Rouge is located on the west bank of the Mississippi River as well as the Town of Port Allen, Louisiana. Ferry Boats, some of the very few operating in the nation today, may be seen crossing the river from Port Allen to Baton Rouge. Many large sugar cane plantations are on the west side of the river.

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To the immediate north is Our Lady of the Lake Hospital, where the late Senator Huey P. Long died in September, 1935. Further north is the huge industrial area where Esso Standard Oil Company, Ethyl Corporation, Solvay Process Company, Grace Chemical Company, Gulf States Utilities, Consolidated Chemical Company, Kaiser Aluminum, and other industrial plants are located. The Division of Employment Security reports that Baton Rouge has approximately 130 manufacturing establishments employing 18,000 workers.

Ryan Airport and Southern University are located north of the city.

To the northeast is Istrouma High School, the Old Airport, Sacred Heart Church, and the Baton Rouge Trade School.

In a southerly direction is the Governor's Mansion, Louisiana State University, the Old State Capitol Building, and the St. Joseph Catholic Church.

The formal opening of Louisiana State University at its present site was in 1926. The campus consists of around 300 acres covered with beautiful oak and magnolia trees. Its 700 buildings and equipment is valued at $56,000,000. Last year's enrollment was more than 10,000 students. The L.S.U. football stadium seats 65,000 or more.

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In 1853 the present St. Joseph Catholic Church was erected to replace a smaller one and this one was later remodeled and enlarged into the present building. It is also the site of the first Catholic Church in this section.

On the present Capitol Grounds bordering the University Lake is an Old Arsenal erected by the Spanish in the early 1700's. The building is reputed to be one of the oldest in this area with brick walls and ceilings approximately five feet thick and surrounded by a wall ten feet high. Between the Arsenal and the lake is a high circular mound on which stands two large cannons. It has never been definitely established if the mound is of Indian origin or is a part of the original fortifications.

West of the Capitol on Third Street are the Pentagon Buildings constructed during the period 1819 to 1829 to house U.S. troops. Among the many famous soldiers quartered there were Wade Hampton, Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and Jefferson Davis. In sharp contrast to the many places of historical value in Baton Rouge are the ultra-modern State Welfare, Library and Highway Buildings surrounding the Capitol which within themselves depict the State's progress.

These are some of the spots to be viewed from atop the Capitol Building. Further information about the many interesting places to visit in Louisiana can be obtained from the Tourist Bureau located on the First Floor of the State Capitol Building.