ONEZIPHORE COMEAUX HOUSE RESTORED BY MOSELEY'S

'Preservation Fever' Saves Another Landmark Home

by MARIO MAMALAKIS
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"Preservation Fever", which seems to spreading in Acadiana, has "returned to life" in this century's turn of the century house.

Now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mosely, the house is on the corner of Votet the School and Eraste Smith Roads. Built in the 1890's by Oneziphore Comeaux, the house has been renovated over the years by its various occupants.

Oneziphore Comeaux, popularly known as "Ti Frere" (little brother), built the property, where he built his home, on Jan. 3, 1886 from Eiol Benoit for $75. The triangular piece of property contained some 25 superficial arpents and bordered Benoit's property on the north; the Charles Comeaux property on the south and on the west facing the public road. The years that followed "Ti Frere" had many other land transactions, including purchase of a 40-acre tract across the road for $1,000. He was the son of Charles V. Comeaux and Azema Benoit and married to Aurelia Broussard.

Sold in 1953

The property was continuously occupied by members of "Ti Frere" family and descendants until its sale by heirs of Aurelia Broussard on Feb. 7, 1952 to Kossuth Willis and Eraste Smith Roads. Built in the 1890's by Oneziphore Comeaux, the house is characteristic of the transitional architecture between the French colonial and Anglo-American styles.

LANDMARK HOME - Built at the turn of the century, this Oneziphore Comeaux home is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mosley. Located at the corner of Votet School and Eraste Smith Roads, the house is the architectural style of the house is that of the transition period between the French Colonial and Anglo-American. Its chief element of design is its symmetry. The steps are at the center of the front gallery. The front door is at the center of the house with a window on either side. The balcony is also centered. Six Doric columns support the roof of the side gallery. There are turned balusters between the columns and at the sides of both the front gallery and the balcony. The roof, with its 40-degree pitch and the T-shape of the house recall an earlier Creole type of structure.

However, the central hall and the second story balcony are characteristic of the Anglo-American architectural style. At the rear of the house there are side galleries on either side.

The front door glass at one time was etched "glass curtain." An accident during its occupancy by the Mosleys caused it to be broken. It has been replaced with stained glass. Prior to electricity being used in the house, there were gas ceiling lights in the downstairs hall.

Open Off Hall

Rooms open off either side of this central hall. At the present time the hall ends at the kitchen. The room now used as the kitchen was formerly the dining room. A door from the dining room opened on to the rear side galleries. To enter the kitchen, which was back of the dining room, one had to go out on the side gallery to reach the kitchen. There is now a door from the dining room into this former kitchen, which has now been divided into a utility area and laundry. A window on the north wall of this room was used formerly to pass food trays out to field hands.

The two pentagon-shaped front rooms were once both parlors. Now the one on the left is the family room.

The present dining room back of the living room was once a bedroom. There is a door leading from this room onto the north side gallery. The room back of the right front room was formerly a bedroom. It has been divided to provide for a guest bedroom, bathroom and hall.

There are transoms above all the inner doors as well as above the front door. All have their original hardware, which is interesting from the standpoint that "preservationists" are also rediscovering American hardware. Often in the rural areas, they were locally made by blacksmiths.

Three Fireplaces

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