Committee Makes Study of 10 Parishes

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DONALDSVILLE, La. — A report on historical landmarks in the Capitol Region of Louisiana holds for those who have rapport with the past an opportunity for happy hours of research into earlier eras that have provided some of today's most magnificent monuments.

Compiled by a historical committee of the Capitol Region Planning Commission, the study reaches into the 10 parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana.

The study notes that 1805 marked the only change in Ascension boundaries when Manuel's Island was annexed to Livingston Parish. Belle Helene, built in 1841 for Duncan F. Kemner and his bride, Nanine Bringier, and then named Ashland, lost a "collection of rare wines and liquor" when the house was ransacked in the Civil War.

The Hermitage is said to follow "the planning 'Laws of the Indies' except for its square plaza." The land on which Thomas House stands on the river road along the Mississippi originally belonged to Indians of that name. A colonial grant gave it to Marquis D'Aucoin, and this city's founder, William Donaldson, once owned it.

Moving into East Baton Rouge parish which has housed the Capitol of the State since 1849, it is noted that the Old State Capitol has walls 45 inches thick.

Charlet House is described as "one of the few remaining examples of the houses built in the historic Spanish Town," which was laid out in 1806 "by order of Don Carlos de Grod Pre, Governor of the Spanish District of West Florida."

George III of England in 1776 granted to Thomas Hutchings the land on which Goodwood is situated, named for an English mansion. Among distinguished visitors to the Pentagon Barracks were Lee, Grant, Lafayette, Sherman, Custer, and others, reads the account.

The Felicianas were divided in 1824 at Thompson Creek, and eight years later another boundary change gave East Feliciana better access to the Mississippi river. Among students at the Old Centenary College here were Jefferson Davis and Walter Parlangue.

The Shades carries rifle ball reminders of the escape of Major E. A. Scott, owner, through the rose garden in the Civil War.

Live Oaks in Iberville parish's Rosedale stands where it is because its architect-builder-owner, Charles Dickinson first saw his land in flooded conditions. He "climbed on oak tree and chose the only dry spot for his home" built in 1832.

Mound Plantation near Marinatown was built in 1860 by Austin Woolfolk. He came to the Bayou Grosse Tete area in the 1820's, "remodeled a house built on three Indian mounds and named his plantation for them." Only one Indian mound remains, partly leveled.

Springfield Courthouse in Livingston parish dates to a year prior to 1832 and is of Colonial style. It is of brick with an outside stairway winding to the second floor.

In Poinciana parish Judge Joseph Decuir bought land for Austerlitz "from two Indian chiefs." The Mississippi has changed the land of the Tabut House "until the river road is almost at the front door." And, goes the report, "Zachary Taylor, whose name is associated with V a l e n d a, only visited here. A relative of his, however, did own it at one time."

Land Office in St. Helena Parish's Greensburg is of classical revival style built before 1810 and has been bank, courthouse, land office and Veterans' Affairs office.

Named for Governor Thomas O. Moore, Camp Moore in Tangipahoa parish was a principal training and recruiting center for the Confederate Army.

When Pierre Joseph Favit "turned in his command at the Fort of the Piaumines below New Orleans to the French" he purchased the land for Monte Vista in West Baton Rouge parish from Alexander Parin. The year was 1800. His son Louis completed the building.

According to tradition the plotting for the West Florida Rebellion took place at a Highland, Locust Ridge, in West Feliciana parish. This home is of "virgin cypress and blue poplar with hand-carved wainscoting and door frames."

Rosebank, near Bains, is said to have been an old Spanish inn established in 1790 by O'Connor, who served as Alcalde. "Rosedown, near St. Francisville, was furnished by the Turnbull family with "materials which they brought from Europe in their wide travels."

The gardens were also planted with European varieties.