Plantation of the Month

Synope Plantation House, a raised Creole cottage, has for over 150 years graced the Ouachita River area.

One of the largest Creole cottage type homes in the South, it is constructed of hand-hewn cypress native to the state. The boards are fastened with pegs and square nails. The house has wide floor boards, paneled ceilings and square columns in the front.

The interior is marked by four fireplaces and 12-feet high ceilings, which at one point reach 14 feet.

Also, the furnishings of Synope are of each period through which the house has existed. There are items of the colonial, Civil War and Victorian eras with a few exceptional pieces of black iron that are considered collectors' items.

Synope, the word has been passed down from the Greeks and means "heaven," is situated on a 1,500-acre plantation and surrounded by a landscaped, five-acre garden. Cattle raising and cotton and soybean farming are the major occupations of those who run the establishment. The garden features many native shrubs and flowers.

Located 10 miles north of Columbia on U.S. 165, this plantation was a Spanish land grant to Pierre Olivos and Richard King in 1783. In 1815 it was confirmed to Olivos with the name "Old Board." Since then it has passed through the hands of three parties until being obtained by the O. N. Reynolds family forty years ago. At one time it was given as a wedding present.

Today it is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. O. N. Reynolds and is open to the public daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is an admission charge.

For information about other fabulous Louisiana plantation homes, write to the Louisiana Tourist Development Commission, Box 44291, Baton Rouge, La 70804.