Tezcuco Plantation Home was built in 1855, just preceding the Civil War, when Antebellum Greek Revival Architecture had reached the height of interior embellishment. The ceiling cornices and center rosettes in this house have marvelously executed plaster detail, and all the interior doors and window sashes still have the original false graining, (called "faux bois" by the French) which was painstakingly painted by hand. The side galleries are adorned with wrought iron work in the traditional grapevine pattern.

It is a French Creole home built on the River Road in the heart of an Acadian community, and is a variation of the earlier "French Plan" house which had a central hall running through the house from front to back. In Tezcuco's plan, the central hall terminates midway through the house where massive sliding doors open into a large rectangular dining room. The front corner rooms are each twenty-five feet square with fifteen foot high ceilings, yet in its day it was referred to as a "raised cottage".

Passing in front of the house is a circular drive lying beneath informal avenues of live oaks and magnolia trees which are draped with wisteria, honeysuckle, woodbine
jamin, married his cousin, Aglae, the daughter of Michel
Doradou Bringier of Hermitage Plantation. Benjamin built
more homes. All of the fine old homes that remain in this
area, with the exception of Houmas House, were built by
some member of the Bringier clan.

To understand the importance of this house, it is neces-
sary to give some historical background. The founder of
the Bringier dynasty in Louisiana was Marius Pons Bringier,
who left Provence, France for the New World,
paused briefly to consider Martinique, and finally mi-
 grated to the “Acadian Coast” on the banks of the Mis-
sissippi River in St. James Parish of Louisiana. Between the
present towns of Union and Central he established an
extensive plantation and in 1790 built a grand home known
as La Maison Blanche—later simply anglicized to White
Hall. Although the house burned in 1850 and the land was
subdivided long ago, local residents still refer
to the area
as White Hall.

His sons and grandsons built homes up and down the
river, his daughters and granddaughters married men with
the names Tureaud, Trudeau, Colomb, Kenner, etc. and
they built in the area, and cousins married cousins and built
more homes. All of the fine old homes that remain in this
area, with the exception of Houmas House, were built by
some member of the Bringier clan.

Marius’ daughter, Elizabeth, (known as Betzy) married
Judge Augustin Dominique Tureaud and they built a
home on Union Plantation, upriver from White Hall.
(This house has been moved away and the site is now
occupied by the Texaco oil refinery.) Their son, Ben-
jamin, married his cousin, Aglae, the daughter of Michel
Doradou Bringier of Hermitage Plantation. Benjamin built
Tezcuco in Ascension Parish, adjoining the northern
boundary of his father’s land. Tezcuco eventually came
into the hands of a nephew, Dr. Julien Trist Bringier, and
remained in the family until 1946.

Tezcuco (pronounced as it is spelled-TEZ-CC-CO)
was the Aztec name of a village in Mexico which was
built on pilings along the shores of Lake Tezcuco. It was
the final place of refuge for Montezuma during Cortez’
invasion of Mexico. Mexico City is located on this same
lake, but today it is a dry lake bed and the spelling has
been changed to the Spanish version of Tezoco. How-
ever, in Prescott’s “Conquest of Mexico” the original
spelling is used, and this is the one which Benjamin was
familiar with during his sojourn in Mexico. Tezcuco
means “resting place”. Surely the connotation of a resting
place built on pilings near the shore of a lake applied to
Benjamin’s concept of a restful home built on brick pillars
near the bank of a river.

The present owners, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Hollings-
worth Potts, Jr., wished to establish a rural medical prac-
tice, and in 1950 they were hunting for a home which
would house an inherited collection of antique furniture,
among which were immense mahogany and rosewood
antebellum bedroom pieces made by the famous New
Orleans cabinet makers, Mallard and Seignourer. By fan-
tastic good fortune this house and the furniture of the
same period were brought together in a perfect marriage.
The numerous collections, incidental pieces of furniture,
porcelain, crystal, toys, and oriental objets d’art represent
acquisitions of four generations.

The French doors at the entrance open into a receiving
hall which is now used as a parlor. This room has an at-
mosphere of great delicacy because of its fluted ceiling
cornices and rococo cast iron mantle piece. The guest
bedroom is graceful and feminine, the master bedroom
impressive and masculine, but visitors delight most in the
daughter’s scarlet bedroom, which contains a hand carved
walnut tester bed. The plantation kitchen was formerly
housed in one of the remaining outbuildings, but a hospi-
table working kitchen (shown in the first photograph) has
been established in an interior room of the house. The
“Art Nouveau” room is furnished in more recent “Turn-
of-the-Century” period pieces and contains a collection
of French cameo glass and Gallé tables. The elegance of
the long dining room is enhanced by a Tiffany chandelier,
an enormous mirror (original to the house), and Audubon
prints from the Elephant Folio.

One of the most unique features of the home is the doll
house, which is the outgrowth of a collection of miniature
furniture begun for daughter Nancy when she was two
years old. Many of the pieces are miniature reproductions
of Tezcuco furniture and were hand carved by Dr. Potts. Tiny
accessories have been collected through the years, and Dr.
and Mrs. Potts, and daughter and son-in-law, the William
Lee Jennes, continue to add to this collection of miniatura,
some of museum quality.

Below is a photograph of a bed in the doll house which
is a replica of the Mallard bed shown on the preceding
page.
Tezcuco is listed among the famous landmarks of the state in books on Louisiana, and its history and furnishings have been subjects of articles in national magazines. Surely few homes have been so completely furnished to the smallest detail, more lived in, or more thoroughly enjoyed by its owners and their friends, than Tezcuco. People who have enjoyed its warmth and hospitality never forget it.

Photographs by Robert H. Potts, Jr., M.D.

TEZCUCO PLANTATION HOME—
$2.00 Admission

GROUND FLOOR SHOPS—No admission charge
Including:
- Plantation Store and Acadian Market with small tables and small snacks to tide you through the afternoon;
- Antique Gallery and Fine Glass Room; nostalgic "Mini-shops," featuring an Old Candy Shop, Strawberry Patch, a Small Swamp full of stuffed beasties, the Stocking Stuffer (which celebrates Christmas 12 months a year); and the Weaving Room and Studio.

VISITING HOURS: Monday through Saturday
10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
(All rooms are air-conditioned)

Tezcuco Plantation is
30 miles from Baton Rouge
55 miles from New Orleans

Our location is on the River Road at Burnside (one mile north of the Sunshine Bridge on La 44.)

Our mailing address is
Rural Route 1, Convent, Louisiana 70723

Our telephone exchange is
Donaldsonville, 473-4250
(Area Code 504)