Vermilion Parish Unveils Historical Marker

ABBEVILLE -- Louisiana catches up with some of its history Sunday as the City of Abbeville and the Vermilion Historical Society will unveil a French-language historical marker commemorating the founding of the city. The marker, to be affixed to one side of the existing bilingual English-language marker, is a gift of the State Office of Tourism and the Council for the Development of French.

James Domengeaux said, "It is fitting that the history of Louisiana, as well as that of the South, be remembered in the French language. With bilingual markers in appropriate places across the state, a truer picture of Louisiana history is presented to its own people and to the hundreds of thousands who visit us each year from out of state and out of country."

According to the last general census, Vermilion Parish is 69 percent French-speaking while the state's four million-plus population is a quarter French-speaking.

The marker reads in French: "D'abord appeleee La Chapelle, la ville fut fondee en 1843 par le pere Antoine Desire Megret, originaire d'Abbeville, France, et des terres achatent a Joseph LeBlanc. Incorporee par l'etat en 1850, Abbeville était devenue chef-lieu de la paroisse de Vermilion en 1845. Celebre pour son..."