FOR USE AS A GOURMET RESTAURANT

Victorian Landmark In Broussard Is Being Converted

By MARIO MAMALAKIS
Special Features Writer

EDITOR’S NOTE: This is the first of a two-part series on a landmark Victorian house in Broussard that is being converted into a gourmet restaurant. The second part will be published on Sunday, Sept. 21.

A landmark Victorian house at 406 Second Street in Broussard is currently undergoing extensive renovations by its new owners.

After more than 70 years as a residence, the structure is being converted for use as a gourmet restaurant with an international menu. It will be known as The Restaurant St. Julian.

Several prominent families of the area are historically connected with the house, including the St. Juliens, Comeauxs and Roys.

The house was built Circa 1900 at a cost of $4,800 by Aigiale Monte and Alice Guidry as the residence of Emile Comeaux and his wife, the Cecile Lena St. Julian. Comeaux was born May 17, 1877, the son of Demas Comeaux and Marie Raymond. His wife was the daughter of Gustave St. Julien and Marguerite Helene Roys, and the great granddaughter of Louis Demarre St. Julien.

Her maternal grandmother, Helene, whose father died when she was very young, lived with her uncle, Pierre Benoit Roy, and his wife Louise St. Julien in Youngsville (Royville).

Prior to the construction of their home on Second Street, the Comeauxs lived in the house adjacent to the mercantile store and post office that Comeaux and L. F. St. Julian operated. Comeaux served as post master at Broussard. Following his death in 1912, his wife became post mistress.

Records indicate that Comeaux acquired five lots of 25 feet each in Block Four of the Town of Broussard from John L. Rosier on May 30, 1906. On April 9, 1907, he purchased an additional lot from Broussard, thus giving him ownership of lots 11-20 in Block Four. He built his house on the first of lots 11-20.

The Victorian style of architecture used in the design of the house provided many interesting features. The treatment of the roof was of note. To the right the cupola has an onion shaped metal top. At the center of the roof, which was originally of slate, there is a raised square roof that was employed by a cupola. Along the ridges of the various roof levels there was a gingerbread trim. A number of lightning rods were also placed at ridge points on the roof. The chimneys for the various fireplaces rise through the roof.

The front facade of the house, if the cupola is eliminated, is symmetrical. A generous gallery wraps around two sides of the house. Wide steps at the center of the gallery is in line with the double entrance. At either side of the front door are identical semi-octagonal bays. The house feature French windows all of which were trimmed with green shutters. Originally there were no screens on the windows. Later, however, half screens were added. The gallery is supported by slender Doric columns. The house sits on brick piers about three and a half feet high.

The balcony at the front of the house between the two galleries once had a balustrade. A similar balcony was at the back of the house.

The front door opens into a wide hall, which extends to the back. It opened onto the back gallery, which had steps at either end as well as in the middle. The wide hall opens into each of the rooms on either side of it. Just beyond the parlor on the left is a fireplace with built-in bookshelves. The room, which is separated from the hall by the living room by sliding door to ceiling doors, is the dining room. It features a stained glass bay window. A common chimney accommodates the hall, the dining room and the living room fireplaces. There is a window in the mirror above the mantel of the living room fireplace.

A breakfast room opens off the dining room and back of it is the kitchen. Which at one time featured a wood burning stove as well as an oil stove kept in one of the large kitchen pantries.

On the right of the hall are three bedrooms and the bathroom. The master bedroom, the front room, the middle room both open in to the bathroom. Both the master bedroom and the living room have the semi-octagonal bay windows.

The handsome staircase leading to the unfinished upper floor is on the right wall of the hall. The hall thus serves as the focal point of the floor plan.

The hall was furnished with lovely antiques collected by Mrs. Edmond Comeaux. The yard, bordered by a picket fence on one side, was filled with shrubbery, flowers and fruit trees. There were also accessory buildings, including a carriage house and a coop for the chickens.

Grandchildren of the Comeauxs recall the sumptuous meals prepared at the Comeaux home and spent time on the gallery with smudge pots of sulphur to keep the mosquitoes at bay.

The design of the house was so pleasing to Mrs. Gustave St. Julien, also on Second Street and now converted and being used commercially as The Broussard Steak House.

The Comeauxs purchased the property from Mrs. John Yongue for $11,500. Later, Mr. John Yongue purchased the property from Mrs. John Yongue for $10,500.

The parlor door, on the left is a fireplace with built-in bookshelves. The room, which is separated from the hall by the living room by sliding door to ceiling doors, is the dining room. It features a stained glass bay window. A common chimney accommodates the hall, the dining room and the living room fireplaces. There is a window in the mirror above the mantel of the living room fireplace.

The front door opens into a wide hall, which extends to the back. It opened onto the back gallery, which had steps at either end as well as in the middle. The wide hall opens into each of the rooms on either side of it. Just beyond the parlor on the left is a fireplace with built-in bookshelves. The room, which is separated from the hall by the living room by sliding door to ceiling doors, is the dining room. It features a stained glass bay window. A common chimney accommodates the hall, the dining room and the living room fireplaces. There is a window in the mirror above the mantel of the living room fireplace.

The Comeauxs purchased the property from Mrs. John Yongue for $11,500. Later, Mr. John Yongue purchased the property from Mrs. John Yongue for $10,500.

The parlor door, on the left is a fireplace with built-in bookshelves. The room, which is separated from the hall by the living room by sliding door to ceiling doors, is the dining room. It features a stained glass bay window. A common chimney accommodates the hall, the dining room and the living room fireplaces. There is a window in the mirror above the mantel of the living room fireplace.

The front door opens into a wide hall, which extends to the back. It opened onto the back gallery, which had steps at either end as well as in the middle. The wide hall opens into each of the rooms on either side of it. Just beyond the parlor on the left is a fireplace with built-in bookshelves. The room, which is separated from the hall by the living room by sliding door to ceiling doors, is the dining room. It features a stained glass bay window. A common chimney accommodates the hall, the dining room and the living room fireplaces. There is a window in the mirror above the mantel of the living room fireplace.

The Comeauxs purchased the property from Mrs. John Yongue for $11,500. Later, Mr. John Yongue purchased the property from Mrs. John Yongue for $10,500.

The parlor door, on the left is a fireplace with built-in bookshelves. The room, which is separated from the hall by the living room by sliding door to ceiling doors, is the dining room. It features a stained glass bay window. A common chimney accommodates the hall, the dining room and the living room fireplaces. There is a window in the mirror above the mantel of the living room fireplace.

The front door opens into a wide hall, which extends to the back. It opened onto the back gallery, which had steps at either end as well as in the middle. The wide hall opens into each of the rooms on either side of it. Just beyond the parlor on the left is a fireplace with built-in bookshelves. The room, which is separated from the hall by the living room by sliding door to ceiling doors, is the dining room. It features a stained glass bay window. A common chimney accommodates the hall, the dining room and the living room fireplaces. There is a window in the mirror above the mantel of the living room fireplace.

The Comeauxs purchased the property from Mrs. John Yongue for $11,500. Later, Mr. John Yongue purchased the property from Mrs. John Yongue for $10,500.

The parlor door, on the left is a fireplace with built-in bookshelves. The room, which is separated from the hall by the living room by sliding door to ceiling doors, is the dining room. It features a stained glass bay window. A common chimney accommodates the hall, the dining room and the living room fireplaces. There is a window in the mirror above the mantel of the living room fireplace.

The front door opens into a wide hall, which extends to the back. It opened onto the back gallery, which had steps at either end as well as in the middle. The wide hall opens into each of the rooms on either side of it. Just beyond the parlor on the left is a fireplace with built-in bookshelves. The room, which is separated from the hall by the living room by sliding door to ceiling doors, is the dining room. It features a stained glass bay window. A common chimney accommodates the hall, the dining room and the living room fireplaces. There is a window in the mirror above the mantel of the living room fireplace.

The Comeauxs purchased the property from Mrs. John Yongue for $11,500. Later, Mr. John Yongue purchased the property from Mrs. John Yongue for $10,500.

The parlor door, on the left is a fireplace with built-in bookshelves. The room, which is separated from the hall by the living room by sliding door to ceiling doors, is the dining room. It features a stained glass bay window. A common chimney accommodates the hall, the dining room and the living room fireplaces. There is a window in the mirror above the mantel of the living room fireplace.

The front door opens into a wide hall, which extends to the back. It opened onto the back gallery, which had steps at either end as well as in the middle. The wide hall opens into each of the rooms on either side of it. Just beyond the parlor on the left is a fireplace with built-in bookshelves. The room, which is separated from the hall by the living room by sliding door to ceiling doors, is the dining room. It features a stained glass bay window. A common chimney accommodates the hall, the dining room and the living room fireplaces. There is a window in the mirror above the mantel of the living room fireplace.

The Comeauxs purchased the property from Mrs. John Yongue for $11,500. Later, Mr. John Yongue purchased the property from Mrs. John Yongue for $10,500.

The parlor door, on the left is a fireplace with built-in bookshelves. The room, which is separated from the hall by the living room by sliding door to ceiling doors, is the dining room. It features a stained glass bay window. A common chimney accom