



JEANERETTE LANDMARK SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME NO. 1, ISSUE No. 4

September 2003

1st Annual Meeting Held by Landmark Society

The Landmark Society held its first annual meeting at 2:00 p.m., on Saturday, September 13, 2003 at the VFW Hall across from City Park in Jeanerette. The meeting was well attended by over 45 members and guests, who watched a power point presentation depicting the history of the Cypress industry, and some of the historic buildings in Jeanerette, including Lejeune's Bakery which was honored later in the day as the first business in Jeanerette to be listed



on the National Register of Historic Places. Reports on the financial status of the Society were given by the Treasurer, **Jacques Larroque** (above), and Hewes House Restoration project Architect, Paul Allain, presented plans and drawings of the Hewes House and described the two Phases of the project.

Eleven directors were elected to serve for the coming year, including eight of the nine directors who served over the last year. New directors are Hugh Junca, Pat O'Brien, and Mary K. Allain. Returning directors are Ray Allain, Tommy Granger, Dana Bourgeois, Peggy Parker, George McJunkins, Jacques Larroque, Arthur Verret, and Peter Patout.

The meeting marked the one year anniversary of the founding of the Society, chartered on September 16, 2002. It also was scheduled to coincide with the celebration of Historic Preservation Week in Jeanerette. (See inside for more about the week's activities).

Society awarded Atchafalaya



Basin Program Grant!

Sandra Thompson, Director of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources's Atchafalaya Basin Program, was a guest of the Landmark Society at its annual meeting and also took the opportunity to announce that the Society's grant application for funding of Phase I of its project had been approved. Phase I, which includes the purchase of the property, development of plans and specifications for the project, and exterior renovation of the Hewes House will cost \$144,000.00. Since the Society has already acquired the property, the DNR grant will provide \$72,000.00 for the remainder of the Phase I work.

Society President Ray Allain thanked Ms. Thompson for her support and also thanked Senator Craig Romero and Representative Troy Hebert, for their excellent support of the project and their help in securing the grant. He noted that this exciting development meant that the project was well on its way to realizing the goal of Society members and guaranteed that the restoration of the Hewes House would be started within the next year. Allain credited the link between the Cypress lumber industry and the Atchafalaya Basin as the primary reason that the Society's application for a grant was considered favorably. Another application is being prepared for future funding of Phase II of the project which, will involve improvements in City Park commemorating the industry.

(See more about the phases of the project on Page 3)

§ TREASURER'S REPORT §

The financial reports presented by Treasurer, Jacques Larroque, at the annual meeting, detailed the financial results for the first full year of the Landmark Society' operation. A Profit and Loss Statement (Income Statement), and a Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) were prepared covering the period from corporate inception on September 16, 2002 through the date of the meeting on September 13, 2003.

The Income Statement reflects that cash receipts totaled **\$155,414.81** by September 13, 2003. Pledges and in-kind donations bring the total raised, for matching grant purposes, to **\$247,905.86**.

Expenses incurred, for the first year of the Society's operation, total **\$8,119.03**. The major expenses include \$1,800.00 for property and liability insurance on the House, \$1,600.00 for the restoration art work, \$1,600.00 for office supplies, postage, and newsletter expenses, and \$1,500.00 for clerical expenses.

The Society's balance sheet shows assets of **\$172,595.78**, which includes the Hewes house property and cash on hand.

The balance of funds on deposit in the bank at September 13, 2003 was **\$74,620.24**.

EAGLE POINT PARK GALA

The South Lake Fausse Pointe Development Foundation Eagle Point Annual Gala was held on Thursday September 11, 2003 during Historic Preservation Week in Jeanerette, and according to all reports it was a great success.

Attendees at the Gala were quick to show their support for the proposed Eagle Point Park by helping to raise a total of \$19,900 to promote development of the 80 acre tourism park to be located on the outskirts of Jeanerette. The auction alone brought in more than \$13,000.00.

Sandra Thompson, executive director of the Atchafalaya Basin Program said the Eagle Point Park committee would be receiving an additional \$200,000.00 to begin the final design phase of the project. "I am confident the park will pay for itself. You have enough local support to build it up. I know of no other town that has worked so hard." Thompson said.

If you would like to be a part of this effort, contact: Kay Fortier @ 276-5372; Karma Champagne @ 276-6436; or Simone Champagne @ 276-6540.

LANDMARK SPOTLIGHT!

(The feature on this page in the last two newsletters called "What Have we Lost?", is being replaced in this issue, and for the foreseeable future, by the new name "Landmark Spotlight". We thought that instead of just focusing on what we have lost, we should also point out those landmarks that we are still fortunate to have in the community. So we will use this feature for both as the occasion may permit.)

LEJEUNE'S BAKERY

This quarter we will focus on the positive and Spotlight Lejeune's



Bakery, which was honored at the special function held by the Jeanerette Historic Preservation Commission, as the first business in Jeanerette to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the first Bakery in Louisiana to be so honored.

Established in 1884 by Oscar Lejeune as the "Old Reliable Bakery", the bakery continues to produce a legendary French bread which is prized near and far. Now under the management of Matt Lejeune, fifth generation family member to run the bakery, it's a popular stop for visitors to Jeanerette and a real treasure for the City of Jeanerette.

Presenting the plaque to the family at the ceremony on September 13th was Donna Fricker, of the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation. According to Fricker, the bakery is a remarkable survivor that represents a previous era embodying downtown commerce as it looked almost a century ago. "Jeanerette is extraordinary. You have so many wonderful buildings," said Fricker.

The Landmark Society offers its congratulations to the Lejeune family and wishes them continued success.

THE JEANERETTE CYPRESS LUMBER INDUSTRY HISTORICAL COMPLEX

The Landmark Society project of restoring the Hewes House has been combined with a proposal to make certain improvements to the Jeanerette City Park. This cooperative effort with the City of Jeanerette and DNR's Atchafalaya Basin Program will enhance the feasibility of both projects and recognize the historical connection between the Hewes House, the City Park, and the Atchafalaya Basin. The link between the three is not only geographic, but also economic and social. The proposed improvements, when combined with the exciting development of Eagle Point Park, will provide a comprehensive and fascinating historical experience for visitors to the area.

The expanded project proposal includes the following Scope of Work:

Phase I

Hewes House

- Architectural Plans and Specifications
- Topographic Survey
- Alarm System
- Exterior Repairs
- Exterior Painting

Jeanerette City Park

- Architectural Plans and Specifications
- Rendering for Promotion

Phase II

Hewes House

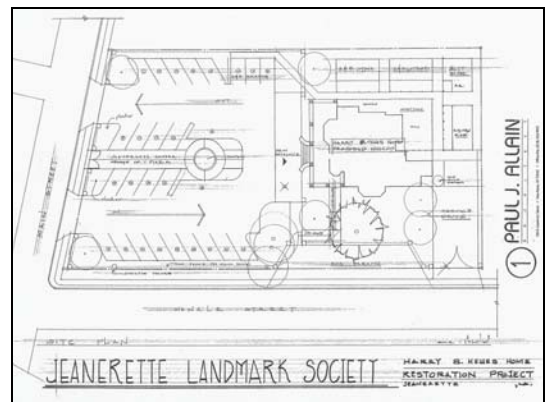
- Leveling House
- Reconstruction of Chainwalls
- Entrance Plaza
- Service Drive, Handicap Ramp, Bus Parking
- Exterior Kitchen, Restroom, Utility Building, and Bed & Breakfast Cottages
- Energy Code Criteria
- Electrical Upgrade
- Exterior Painting
- Interior Refurbishing and Display Cases and Cabinets

Jeanerette City Park

- Property Acquisition
- Relocate Road
- Create Picnic Area
- Install Free Standing Narrative Display Panels
- Install Walking Trail
- Install Bulkhead and Water Front Observation Decks
- Construct Pavilions and Commemorative Courtyard



Hewes House



Hewes House Site Plan



City Park Site Plan

BUSINESS PARTNER PROGRAM

on track!

The Business Partner Program is proceeding slowly but very successfully. We appreciate those businesses who have become members by contributing to our effort. Please note the businesses who have contributed and express your appreciation for their help by supporting the businesses who support the Landmark Society! Remember its an investment in our community.

Business Partner Members (\$250) and Other Donors who have made an investment in their community are listed below. Those who have contributed more than the annual membership fee are also listed in the Donor section.

MEMBERS

Cypremort Point, Inc.
Ronald R. Hebert, Inc
M. A. Patout & Son Ltd.
Schwing Insurance
Regions Bank

St. Mary Sugar Cooperative
Adeline Planting Company
Lejeune's Bakery
Herman Louviere & Sons, Inc.
Cleco

BellSouth
Louviere Brothers, Inc.
Chaney Lumber Company
Pat Caffery Real Estate
Reliant Energy

DONORS

Gus Fabrication
Robie's Food Center
Yellow Bowl Restaurant

Pat Caffery Real Estate
Boudreaux Henderson CPA
Bill Desormeaux - State Farm Ins.

BellSouth
Regions Bank

We welcome and thank new members and donors.

NEW BUSINESS PARTNER MEMBERS

Diego Ortega Woodworks

Martin J. Degravalle, M.D.

Jeanerette Sugar Company, Inc.

NEW INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Vickie B. Clement

NEW MEMBERS

Jeannie Wright \$1,000
Hugh Junca \$100

Will Langlinais \$1,000

Wilbur L. Allain, Jr. \$1,000

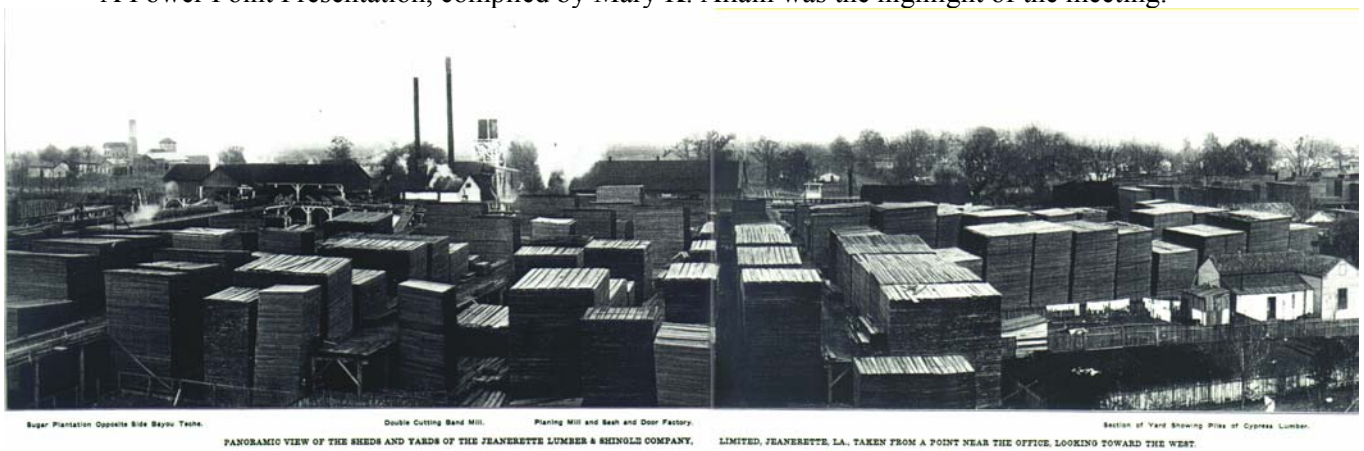
The Landmark Society welcomes each and every one of you. Your membership and contributions for the year 2003 are greatly appreciated!

We are reformatting our list of members and contributors. A full listing will appear in the December 2003 newsletter.

For those of you who couldn't make it to the annual meeting, we would like to share a few pictures of the meeting and a few of the historic images displayed during the power point presentation.



A Power Point Presentation, compiled by Mary K. Allain was the highlight of the meeting.



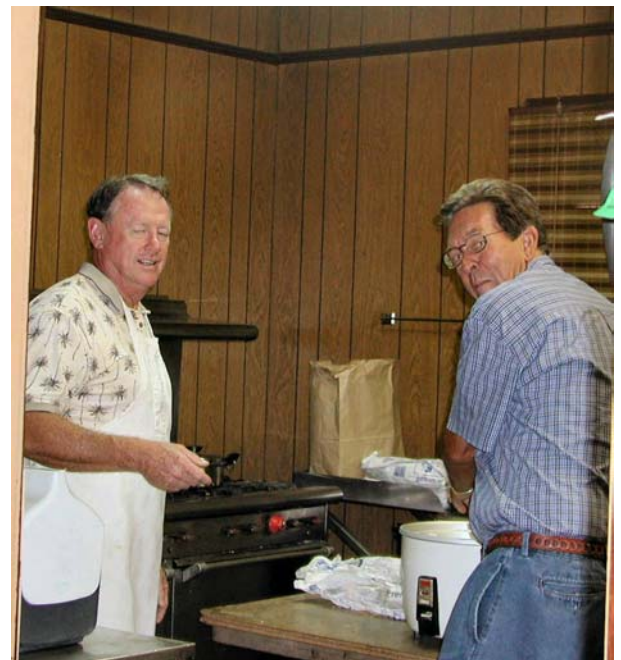
Panoramic View of the Jeanerette Lumber and Shingle Company Plant in downtown Jeanerette (Circa 1905).



A workman at Jeanerette Lumber.



Steamboat Sadie Downman.



A gourmet meal was served to members
Compliments of Hugh Junca and Tommy Granger.

JEANERETTE HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK



The first Historic Preservation week in Jeanerette was a great success! We wish you could have joined us for the celebration, but for those of you who couldn't make it we share a few pictures of the activities below. We hope you will be able to make it next year.



Trolley picking up passengers at the Masonic Hall for tours of the Jeanerette Historic District. The trolley rides were sponsored by the Historic Preservation Committee as part of its Historic Preservation Week celebration.

DON'T MISS THIS!



**In conjunction with the statewide
celebration of
the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase
the Jeanerette
Bicentennial Museum
will present an
Open House - October 13-19, 2003.**

**Free admission for the week of the celebration.
Hours 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

The Jeanerette Landmark Society is dedicated to the Preservation of Historic Landmarks - Promoting Education and Appreciation of History - and Improving the Quality of Life in the community of Jeanerette.