



JEANERETTE LANDMARK SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME NO. 1, ISSUE No. 6

September 2004

HEWES HOUSE DNR GRANT DELAYED!

Assurances which we received in September of last year that the Phase I grant for project design, planning, and limited preservation work on the Hewes House, from the Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP) of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, would be available during the fiscal year beginning July 2004, have been called into question by the new administration. Reportedly, the previous administration over committed funds for capital projects, and the new administration is having to pull back on some of the commitments made. The State of Louisiana's fiscal problems have been much in the news lately, so it is no surprise that some capital projects will be effected.

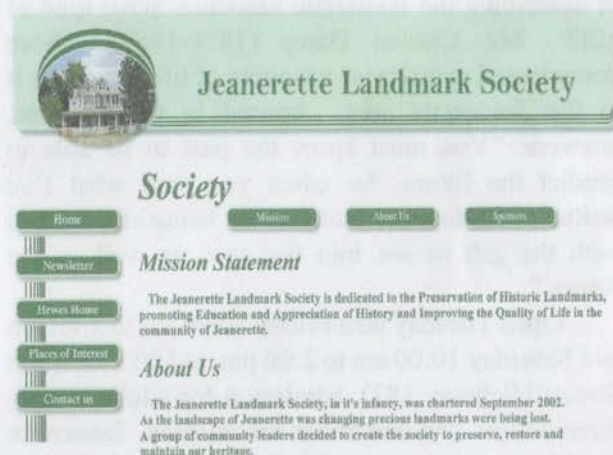
Sandra Thompson, at the meeting of the Iberia Parish Committee of the ABP in April, told President Ray Allain that she was confident that the Society Phase I grant would be funded, however it could be delayed until the 2005 fiscal year. She explained that about half of the ABF budget for projects, nearly 6 million dollars, was currently in Priority 5 of the capital outlay bill pending in the Legislature, and that the Landmark Society grant was in that category. Priority 5 projects apparently will not receive funding during the next fiscal year.

Members and supporters are urged to contact the Governor and your legislators and let them know that you support the funding of this grant. Although we will not receive funding this year, it is still possible that funding would be available in the next fiscal year. Please let your voice be heard and help us to increase the chances that the project will be funded.

SOCIETY WEB SITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Board member Mary K. Allain undertook the task of building a web site for the Jeanerette Landmark Society. A preview of the site was presented to the board at its meeting on April 30, 2004. The site will allow visitors to view the current newsletter as well as other articles and pictures of interest.

The site made its debut on the internet in August



of 2004. You can visit the site at the following address "www.jeanerettelandmarks.org". A larger image can be seen on page 4 of this newsletter. When you visit the site there is a page under the button "Contact Us" through which you can send an email to the Society. If you send us your email address, we will send you a notice to alert you when a new newsletter is published.

There is still work to be done on the site. The "Support" page requires some work, and we want to make sure that all donors want their names listed before we publish it. Other improvements and additions will be made over time. Our thanks to Mary Kay for the good work she did on this project.

LANDMARK SPOTLIGHT JEANERETTE BICENTENNIAL PARK & MUSEUM

TREASURED GIFT

"Treasured gift from our ancestors" is one way



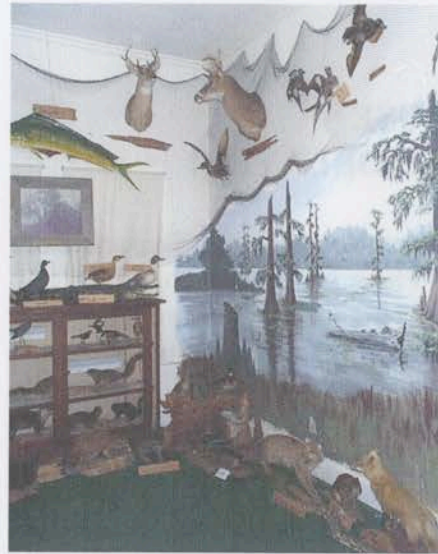
of describing the Jeanerette Museum. What kind of gift? Mr. Coldon Darcy (1879-1969), whose documented eyewitness accounts of life as he saw it in the Jeanerette area, housed in the museum, answers: "You must know the past to be able to predict the future. So when you read what I've written, bear in mind that you are being empowered with the gift to see into the past, as well as the future."

Open Tuesday thru Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, at 500 East Main Street (Highway 182), admission for adults is only three dollars, and one dollar for children. Jeanerette residents still are entitled to free admission. Admission includes a guided tour conducted by friendly, knowledgeable staff, eager to impart their intimate understanding of each and every exhibit placed in their care.



area over 200 years ago, and the actual pictorial

history, developed by the Center for Louisiana Studies of U.L.L, which was shown throughout the state, and Washington D.C., as accurately describing these 200 years, occupies one room. The exhibit also includes a viewing area where patrons are treated to two video presentations: "Sugarcane to Sugar" and "Combine Harvester". The overall effect is to show a 200 year industrial evolutionary process from its inception to present day.



Louisiana's diverse, colorful and sometimes dangerous wildlife is attractively represented with expert taxidermy mounts in the "Swamp Room".

The main museum cannot house all of the

exhibits, so an annex building has been added for the "Cypress Room", "Mardi Gras Room", "Black History Room" and the Library History of Jeanerette.

In fact there are so many exhibits they overflow out into the yard. So part of the tour is conducted outdoors under the stately trees along the life giving water way that was for the cajuns what the Nile was for the Egyptians, the bayou Teche. After the tour, if you care to stay awhile beneath the canopy of trees next to the water there are; picnic facilities, a large playground for the kids, and a Shoppe which features offerings from local artists, and craftspeople to browse through.

The staff and volunteers who maintain the Jeanerette Museum cordially invite everyone to come share the treasured gift our venerable ancestors bestowed upon us all. You can begin by going to their web site: [www.Jeanerette Museum.com](http://www.JeaneretteMuseum.com)

Financial Report

JLS treasurer Jacques Larroque reports: The beginning cash balance on 1/1/2004 was \$79,149.25. Value of the house and property in front of the house is \$120,572.00. YTD as of 8/27/04, receipts were \$3,775.60, expenses were \$3,542.91. Total contributions to date, including in-kind, were **\$297,989.00**.

WE CAN DO IT WITH YOUR HELP!

By Raymond E. Allain

I was both encouraged and inspired by an article that I read in the Lafayette Advertiser on Sunday, July 11, 2004. The article was about the historic Alexandre Mouton house and the efforts by a group of community minded volunteers to acquire and restore it. The group, "Les Vingt Quatre", named after the 24 women who started the organization in 1932 as a social club, undertook the project in 1956, when they acquired the home for \$13,500.00. A museum association was formed and, over the succeeding years they raised money for the restoration by collecting change at teas, and by selling cookbooks. The restoration began with eliminating modern conveniences, such as the bathroom that had been built onto the second floor. Gradually, the restoration progressed little by little, room by room, as money became available. The home became the city's official tourist bureau in 1959 and kept that designation until 1974. In 1989 the city granted \$25,000.00 to the association for restoration. Today the house has been restored to its original historic condition.



Alexandre Mouton Home in Lafayette

The one room house was built in 1812 by Jean Mouton, founder of Vermilionville. In 1825, Alexandre Mouton, the son of Jean and first Democratic Governor of Louisiana, and his wife added three rooms to the structure in 1826. Today, Lafayette has a real historic jewel of which it can be justly proud, and the City owes it to the efforts of the civic minded ladies of "Les Vingt Quatre."

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY FOR 2004!

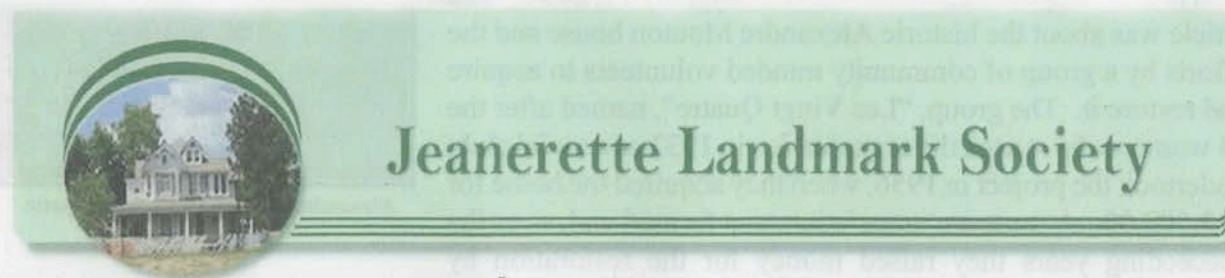
We have not been very diligent in asking for members to renew their memberships and pay their dues for the current year. As a result, collections have been very limited this year. If you have not already sent in your membership dues for 2004, please do so now. We would like to have all memberships renewed prior to the annual meeting presently scheduled for September 18, 2004. In order to be eligible to vote at the membership meeting, and to receive the other special benefits of membership we need for you to renew your dues subscription.

Individual - \$100.00 per year Business/Corporate - \$250.00 per year

In addition to membership renewals, if you know of any interested persons who we can send a mailing inviting them to become members and lend their support to our efforts, please let us know.

Below is the home page of the new Landmark Society Web Site created by Mary K. Allain. The site will be updated and improved over time, but you can visit it now at

“WWW.JEANERETTELANDMARKS.ORG”



Society

Home

Mission

About Us

Sponsors

Newsletter

Mission Statement

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.

Hewes Home

Places of Interest

About Us

The Jeanerette Landmark Society, in it's infancy, was chartered September 2002. As the landscape of Jeanerette was changing precious landmarks were being lost. A group of community leaders decided to create the society to preserve, restore and maintain our heritage.

Contact us

Use this application to renew your membership or to sign up new members.

JEANERETTE LANDMARK SOCIETY

Application For Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Return to: _____

Jeanerette Landmark Society
P O Box 467
Jeanerette, LA 70544-0467

Dues Payment Enclosed _____
Individual \$100 annually _____
Business \$250 annually _____

President's Open Letter to Members and Supporters

Dear Members and Supporters:

You've probably been wondering what happened to our newsletter schedule. We've been waiting to see what would happen with two developments on the public front which threaten to delay our efforts to restore the Hewes House, before we went to print.

To begin with, our new Governor announced, shortly after taking office early this year, that the previous administration had over committed the state budget, and that there was insufficient money to fund all of the promised work. Concerned that our Phase I grant for planning and design would not make it into the new state budget, I wrote letters to the Governor and the new Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, Scott Angelle with copies to our local legislators, asking for their help in keeping our project in the budget. I also spoke personally with Sandra Thompson and received her assurances that she would do all she could to provide the funding we needed. Although, we had been promised that our Phase I grant of \$72,000.00 would be funded in this fiscal year, I learned that, in fact, our project had not made it into the formal legislative request for Atchafalaya Basin Program funding. Nevertheless, Ms. Thompson assured me that this was not a problem, because funds were appropriated to the Program as a lump sum; she had flexibility in disbursing the funds allocated to the program, and there was still a possibility that we would receive the funds. To date, I have heard nothing from any of these officials and so I must conclude that it is unlikely that the project will receive state funding this fiscal year.

Secondly, the Mayor of the City of Jeanerette has informed us that the City does not have sufficient funds to provide the minimal annual support that had been proposed for the Landmark Society in the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement which had been approved by the Board of Aldermen in principle. The agreement was contingent on the receipt of state funds and if state funds are not appropriated for the project, the Mayor did not feel that the City could provide local funds under the agreement.

So what does that mean to us? It simply means our project can still succeed but that it will take a little longer to accomplish than we thought. And it also means that we're going to have more of a feeling of self accomplishment, because we're going to be more responsible for the final success of our project.

An application has been filed with the state to have the Hewes House listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and we are assured that it will receive favorable consideration. New board member Pat O'Brien has agreed to spearhead the preparation of a grant application to the Save America's Treasures program funded by the U. S. Department of the Interior, and she believes that we have an excellent chance of qualifying for this grant. If successful, the funds would not be available until next year, however the grant may be sufficient to cover all costs of restoration. Presently, plans are being made to hold an annual fund raiser to coincide with our next annual meeting in September. And, thanks to the efforts of Mary K. Allain, another new board member, a web site for the Society is presently under construction and we hope to have it on line within the next several months. We have secured new tenants for the Hewes House. Rick Zolecki and his wife Mary moved in on August 1st. They will be paying utilities and maintaining and repairing the house in exchange for occupancy. This decision will save money on the monthly insurance premiums, ensure that the house is protected and maintained, and provide a working headquarters for JLS activity.

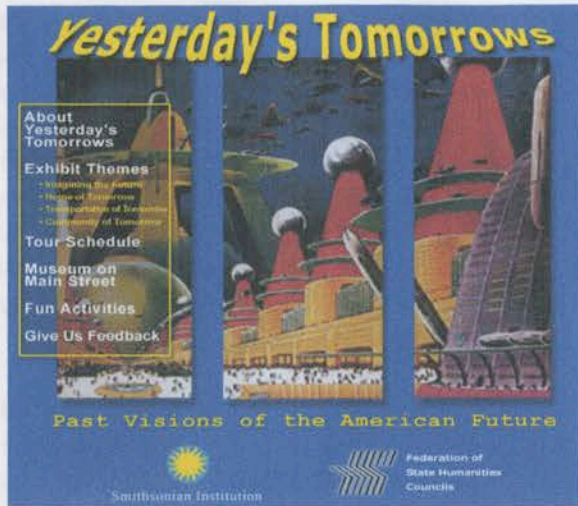
Please renew your membership for the year and help us to sign up new members. Every little bit will help.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

Sincerely,
Raymond E. Allain

PLEASE RENEW YOUR LANDMARK SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP TODAY !

We are very grateful for your past support. The donations and memberships purchased in the first year of the Society's existence have made it possible for us to make incredible progress. But we are entering a critical phase of the project now and we need for you to renew your membership by sending a check for 2004 today. To ensure that our grant applications are favorably considered, we must show continued local support for the project. Please help us make this project a reality by renewing now.



Jeanerette Bicentennial Museum to Host Smithsonian Exhibit

From October 2, 2004 to November 13, 2004, the Museum will host a Smithsonian Exhibit called "Yesterday's Tomorrows" The theme is Examining the history of the future teaches us about the past. This exciting event will focus attention on the local museum and offer a wonderful cultural opportunity for local residents. **Be sure to put the date on your calendar and visit the museum during this event.**



JEANERETTE LANDMARK SOCIETY

P. O. Box 467
Jeanerette, LA 70544

Stamp

Mailing label