



JEANERETTE LANDMARK SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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SEPTEMBER 2011

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.



Open for Business

With the restoration of the first floor completed in the spring of 2010, the Hewes House has become a special site for local events.

The house was rented for private events, beginning in May of 2010, seventeen times. Birthday parties, showers, wedding receptions, rehearsal suppers, club and organizational meetings, wedding anniversary celebrations and funeral receptions have been held in the house. To learn more, read the president's message on page 3 and visit our website at JeaneretteLandmarks.org.

VIP Visit

John Hewes Flowerree, the great grandson and namesake of Harry B. Hewes, and son of Robert W. Flowerree Jr., visited the Hewes House in February of 2010, with his friend Diana.

John Hewes Flowerree is a farmer in Sun River, Oregon who, together with his father and other members of the Flowerree family, has been a major supporter of the Society's effort to restore the Harry B. Hewes House. John is personally one of the select Patrons of the Society having donated in excess of \$5,000.00 to the project. In addition to his generous financial support, John also provided copies of some historical correspondence between his great grandfather and his father, giving us all a fascinating look at their relationship and the qualities which had a great influence on his grandson Robert E. Flowerree, Jr., the former CEO of Georgia Pacific. Mr. Robert E. Flowerree, Jr. was the primary benefactor of the Society in its early years. Unfortunately, Mr. Flowerree passed away on May 1, 2006, at the age of 85, but due to the continued support of family members, like John, we hope to fulfill our goal of making this landmark a permanent part of the Jeanerette community.

We were extremely pleased that John took the time to visit and really enjoyed meeting him. The Mayor and several board members welcomed Mr. Flowerree and his friend to Jeanerette and the visit culminated in a luncheon at the Yellow Bowl Restaurant.

Preserve. Educate. Improve.

Spotlight



The Poirson-Wolford Home



According to his great grand daughter, Marie Barras Wolford, the house pictured in the Spot Light in this issue was built by Charles Alexandre Poirson, circa 1905. Mr. Poirson was a Notary and prominent man in the community. It eventually came to be the home of Dr. Lionel Wolford and his wife Carrie, the daughter of Poirson and his wife, Carrie Wilhelmina Korndoffer. At one time the property was identified as “Twin Oaks” in a Tour of Homes brochure printed in 1973. Today, those same twin oaks frame the front entrance of the home.

After the death of Mrs. Wolford, the house fell into serious decline and was on the market for several years. A number of potential buyers proposed to move it to another location. Luckily, Major Louis D. Lancon and his wife, Patricia purchased it in 2005 and have recently completed a beautiful restoration. He and his wife are avid antique collectors, and appreciate both the history and the beauty of the home. When he retired from active duty in the U. S. Army, Major Lancon moved his family, including five children, to Jeanerette and now make the house their home.



C.A. Poirson and his wife, Carrie.

Preserve. Educate. Improve.

Message from the President

Dear Members, Supporters and Friends:

It has been a while since I communicated with all of you, so I have a lot to tell you.

The lack of communication over the last few years was the result of all of the activity we have had on our project. Your board of directors and officers have been so busy with the renovation and improvement of the Harry Hewes House and property that there has been little time for newsletters. Beginning in 2006, and continuing through the present day, we have had over 15 subcontractors doing work on the house and property. Much of this work was done with your president acting as the general contractor, to save costs, and other members of the board have contributed time and energy to the effort. The Landmark Society has not only supervised all renovation and improvement work, but has also done all of the administrative work involved with the public grants. A considerable amount of time and effort has been devoted to these tasks, and virtually all of this work has been done by volunteers, as is almost all of the accounting and administrative work of the Society.

Following the initial grant from the Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP), which matched the \$72,000.00 grant we received from the Flowerree Foundation, we received two additional grants from ABP of \$100,000.00 and \$50,000.00 respectively. The first two grants were dedicated to the

restoration of the house and grounds, the third grant was used in part to construct the overnight cottages, and together with private funding from members and supporters, comprise over \$450,000.00 of improvements to the property made by the Landmark Society. We were able to complete the restoration of the first floor of the home; the complete reconstruction of the front and back porches of the main house; two completely remodeled restrooms on the first floor; painting and refurbishing of the entire exterior of the house; a cast iron fence, mounted on a concrete foundation, around the streets facing the boundaries of the property; and most recently the construction of a two unit overnight cottage structure on the rear of the property.

Last year, the Hewes House received a \$50,000.00 grant from the State Tourism Enhancement Fund, which we are presently using to help us complete and furnish the overnight cottages, as well as some repairs and improvements to the main house and grounds. Hopefully, we can receive similar grants in the future, but there is never any guarantee that this source of funding will continue.

We have done everything we can to make the house and grounds attractive to people who can use it for special events. In 2010, beginning in the spring, we rented the first floor and grounds of the house eleven times and gener-

Cont'd on Page 4

Jeanerette Landmark Society Brick Order Form

\$100 contribution

Instructions:

- 16 characters (letters, punctuation, spaces, etc.) per line.
- Three lines per brick.
- Include punctuation (i.e. periods after initials, periods after abbreviations).
- Each period is one character.
- Use '&' sign instead of 'and'.
- Capital letters only. No script.
- Be sure the entire letter is on the blank, with only one letter, comma, hyphen, period, etc. per blank.
- Allow one empty blank between each word. Each blank will serve as a space.

LINE 1

LINE 2

LINE 3

See Reverse.

Cont'd from Page 3

ated over \$3,000.00. Rentals were had for wedding recep-
tions, showers, civic club events, birthday and anniversary
celebrations, and several sit down dinners. This year, we
have not yet surpassed our 2010 rentals, but then, to date,
we have relied solely on word of mouth and have not spent
anything on advertising. This is about to change. We will
be entering the house and cottages into Parish and State
advertising programs and hope that interest and activity
will increase.

With the completion of the overnight cottages, we will
be able to offer accommodations to overnight visitors to the
City of Jeanerette and the Hewes House by the fall of this
year, and hope to generate revenue from rentals which will
help to fund operation and maintenance of the project. The
availability of overnight accommodations should also com-
pliment the event schedule and the type of events we can
hold. Since the cottages will be the only overnight accom-
modations available in Jeanerette, we hope to serve not only
the project, but the community as a whole.

Notwithstanding our success in renovation and improve-
ments, we have a long way to go before the house will be
complete and fully functioning. The second floor has yet
to be renovated and the museum component of the project
will still require a lot of work. We still need your help and
support, now more than ever. So, we ask that you renew
your membership for 2011, and make whatever donations
you can spare to the project. We still have many spaces
available for memorial bricks on the Walk of Honor, at the
modest cost of \$100.00 per brick, and we will be happy to

engrave your name or the name of someone you want to
remember to be placed on the Walk. (Use the form below to
place your order.)

I am proud to say the Jeanerette Landmark Society has
one of the smallest administrative cost structures in the
non-profit world. Since we started the Society in 2002, we
have received over \$280,000.00 in private funding, over
\$280,000.00 in public funding, and over \$325,000.00 in
in-kind contributions, while our total compensation, paid
to three people who served at various times, has been less
than \$26,000.00. Less than 3% of the funds donated to the
project have been devoted to compensation for persons
performing administrative and management services for the
Society. Pretty Remarkable!

We will be celebrating our 9th anniversary this Septem-
ber and will have our annual meeting at the Hewes House
on Saturday, September 17, 2011. We hope you can make
arrangements to be with us.

Thank you all again for all of your help and support. We
could never have gotten this far without the generosity of all
the wonderful members, supporters and friends, like you,
who have seen value in our effort. Please keep up your sup-
port and participation, if you can.

With gratitude and best regards, I am
Very truly yours,

Raymond E. Allain
President



Brick Order Form

Make checks payable to: **Jeanerette Landmark Society**

Mail orders to:
Jeanerette Landmark Society
P.O. Box 467
Jeanerette, LA 70544

Contacts:
Ray Allain: (337) 276-5004
Dana Bourgeois: (337) 276-3843 or (337) 578-9803

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

PHONE

AMOUNT PAID

CHECK NO.



Hewes House Overnight Cottages

On the rear of the grounds of the Historic Hewes House, there are two recently constructed overnight cottages offering accommodations to visitors to the City of Jeanerette and the Hewes House.

The cottage structure was built to compliment the house in the same architectural style, and has two identical units opening on to the rear patio of the home. Guests can park on the grounds, next to the cottages, inside of the gated property.

Each cottage has a queen size bed, an efficiency kitchen, and a small bathroom with tub and shower combination. The kitchens have a double sink, under-counter refrigerator, microwave oven, toaster oven, coffee maker and dinner and flat ware. Each cottage also has a flat screen TV with free 42 channel cable service, free local phone service and free wireless internet service.

The rate is \$100.00 per night. Long term rates are available. Because we are a small non-profit, there are no sales taxes, but there is an 8% occupancy tax.

Contact us for information on discounts available for members of the Jeanerette Landmark Society.

At present, we do not have breakfast available at the house, but special arrangements can be made upon request, and there are several nice places in Jeanerette and New Iberia (10 miles West on LA Hwy 182) where you can purchase meals if you wish to eat out.

Hewes House Rental Fees

Business or social club meetings

- (Less than 25 people) \$150
- (25-50 people) \$300

Social functions other than weddings/receptions

- (Less than 50 people) \$150
- (50-100 people) \$300
- (101-150 people) \$600

Weddings and/or receptions

- (Less than 50 people) \$400
- (50-100 people) \$600
- (101-150 people) \$800

For more information or to make a reservation: Call (337) 578-9803.





Jeanerette Cypress Lumber Industry Historical Complex

Phase II–Cypress Plaza

If you recall, in the September 2003 issue of the JLS Newsletter, we spoke about the long range plan to develop the “Jeanerette Cypress Lumber Industry Historical Complex.” The original plan was to link the Hewes House, home of the founder of the Jeanerette Lumber and Shingle Company, to that company’s original mill site, which was located on Bayou Teche where City Park is now located and across the street from the Hewes House.

In 2006, we got an opportunity to provide a geographical link between the Hewes House and the old mill site at City Park, by assisting the City of Jeanerette in acquiring and improving the land between the two sites and creating Cypress Plaza. It took 5 long years from receipt of the first state grant, in the amount of \$100,000.00, obtained by Representative Troy Hebert to acquire the property and build the improvements. A second grant was obtained in 2007 by Senator Craig Romero, in the amount of \$120,000.00 to aid in the cost of improvements. The Iberia Parish Recreation District No. 1 and the Ward 8 Recreation District (Jeanerette area) together matched the state grant and contributed \$30,000.00 and \$90,000.00 respectively. The project also benefitted from in-kind contributions made by the Iberia Sheriff’s department, who demolished the prior buildings and removed the debris, and the Landmark Society which provided all of the administrative and legal work involved

in the project. Construction was completed in June of 2011 and the Plaza will be open for public use in September.

The improvements can be seen in the pictures above, taken from the second floor window of the Hewes House, which show the plaza area in 2003 and after the work in 2011.

The plaza will provide much needed off street parking for both the Hewes House and the fairs and festivals held each year in City Park. The open air covered pavilion can be used for expanded festival activities, special functions held in connection with events at the Hewes House, concerts, farmer’s market, art shows, and numerous other public activities. The concept is that the plaza will tie into the Cypress Lumber Industry theme and will be linked to the Atchafalaya Basin, the source of the Cypress Lumber that provided the raw materials for this industry for over 50 years.

Improvements to City Park, in Phase II of the project will complete the overall theme by providing the setting for historical displays highlighting the mill and the paddlewheel river boats used during that period. With the cooperation of the City of Jeanerette officials, we hope to continue working toward improving this Bayou side park and displaying the history of the lumber industry for the education and enjoyment of residents and visitors to our community.

Honor Roll of Supporters

Ongoing support of the Landmark Society is realized through memberships and contributions. Memberships presently include 17 Patrons who have contributed \$5,000 or more, 41 Lifetime Members who have donated \$1,000 or more and Annual Members and Business Partners who pay dues annually. We recognize with grateful appreciation all who have contributed to our success.

PATRONS (\$5000 +)

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Allain, Raymond E. and Rebecca
Akers, J. Clark
Akers, William B.
Atchafalaya Basin Program
City of Jeanerette
Cox Communication, Inc.
First National Bank of Jeanerette
Flowerree, Jr., Robert E. (1921-2006)
Flowerree, John Hewes
Frank Beaulieu, Sr. L.L.C.
Flowerree Foundation
Louisiana Dept. of Natural Resources
Pat Beaulieu Family
Paul Allain Architect
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Shelton, Neal R. & Shelton Electric

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Flowerree, Elaine D.
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Flowerree, Soames Stewart
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Simmons, Judge Cameron & Tia

Simmons, Nanine
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Woods, Ellen F.

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Hoffpauir, Angela
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Lorio, Justin Michael
Malahmeh, Dr. Adel
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Mekash, Janice
Meyer, Monique A.
Migues, Alfred "Freddy"
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Minvielle, Frank
Minvielle, Joyce
O'Brien, Pat
Parker, Peggy
Parsons, Beth Migues
Patout, Judith
Patout, Mark
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Rosamond, Kathleen
Rosamond, Tanya
Rosamond, J.B.
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Allain, Jr., Christopher
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Bourque, Christina
Champagne, Karma
Courville, Ronald
Fitch, Deano
Fitch, Jerome
Foster, Mike
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Kern, Kenneth
Labiche, Wayne
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Legnon, Ted
Lejeune, Loretta

Long, Elina Motty
McDaniel, John V.
McGowen, Charles
McJunkins, Amy
Moresi, George P.
Romero, Senator Craig
Schwing, Jules "Tony"
Schwing, Barbara
Shelton, Robert
Shelton, Raymond
Venden, Manon Robicheaux
Viator, Annie Landry
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BUSINESS PARTNER MEMBERS (\$250)

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Centerpoint Energy/Reliant Energy
Chaney Lumber Co.
Cleco

Cox Cable
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Maison Teche Nursing Home
Menard Brothers
MidSouth Bank
Neal's Electric
Odyssey Creative, LLC
Regions Bank
Robies Food Center
Ronald R. Hebert, Inc.
Schwing Insurance
St. Mary Sugar Cooperative
State Farm Insurance
Wayne Labiche Engineering
Yellow Bowl Restaurant



Jeanerette Landmark Society
P.O. Box 467
Jeanerette, LA 70544



Sugar Plantation Opposite Side Bayou Teche.

Double Cutting Band Mill.

Planing Mill and Sash and Door Factory.

Section of Yard Showing Piles of Cypress Lumber.

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE SHEDS AND YARDS OF THE JEANERETTE LUMBER & SHINGLES COMPANY,

LIMITED, JEANERETTE, LA., TAKEN FROM A POINT NEAR THE OFFICE, LOOKING TOWARD THE WEST.