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Destrehan Plantation

The lower Mississippi Valley is home great parts of Louisiana history; among these great parts is the New Orleans Plantation Country. Many of the preserved plantations hold great stories of Louisiana history, but none are as fascinating as the Destrehan Plantation. The Destrehan Plantation lies on 4 acres of land and sits off of River Road in Destrehan, Louisiana. The plantation is now apart of the River Road Historic Society as a non-profit organization. Through the years the plantation has seen many renovations and changes throughout its history, but it still holds the beauty and stories that made the plantation what it is today.

The, what is now very famous plantation, was constructed in 1787 by Charles Paquet. Paquet sold his work of art to a profitable indigo farmer, Robert Antointe Robin Delogny. When Delogny passed away in 1792 the plantation was passed down to his son-in-law Jean Noel Destrehan. The first major change to the plantation was the transition, during the 19th century, from an indigo plantation to sugarcane. The appearance of the plantation was also altered during this century. The original columns were replaced with Greek Revival Doric columns and semi-detached wings were also added. (Destrehan Plantation)

Destrehan Plantation is not only famous for its beauty as a home, but for the accomplishments of the man that owned it. Still available for viewing in the restored plantation is the document, signed by Thomas Jefferson, appointing Jean Noel Destrehan and other to the New Orleans Territorial Council. Destrehan was very active in helping write the territorial and state law of Louisiana and he also helped perfect the granulation of sugar. (Destrehan Plantation | Since 1787) Another note worthy event at Destrehan Plantation was in 1811 when the trial of the famous Slave Revolt took place. There was also the legend that Jean Lafitte, the famous 19th century French pirate in the Gulf of Mexico, had visited the plantation with great frequency. This legend brought many people, searching for hidden treasure, to the plantation. These treasure seekers came to the plantation and ripped down the walls in search for this great treasure. (Destrehan Plantation - A Louisiana Legacy)

During the 20th century Louisiana was making the change into a more industrial society, rather then purely agricultural. At this time the plantation was being used as a facility for one of the prosperous oil companies. (Destrehan Plantation) In the year of 1968 a local group of friends grew concerned for the well being of this great piece of history. They formally requested that Amoco Oil Company make some repairs to the plantation to secure the property against intruders. After these wise suggestions were made, Amoco should great willingness to donate the historic property to the non-profit organization, River Road Historic Society. (Destrehan Plantation | Since 1787)

In 1978 the history was preserved when the house opened to the public for tours. Although the house has undergone many renovations to safely preserve its structure, the plantations history still remains intact. Through the 225 years of the plantations existence, the plantation has been a huge part of Louisiana history and remains open to share its story with anyone who visits. The Red River Historic Society tries to bring people back in history as they tour the plantation. Costumed guides, indigo dying, sugar cane processing, and craft demonstrations are all offered to help bring the visitors a little closer to history. (Destrehan Plantation - A Louisiana Legacy)

Works Cited

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