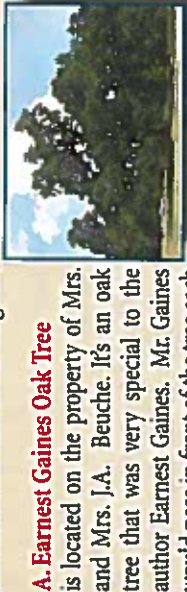


Welcome to Pointe Coupee Parish and False River.

You are now ready to begin your journey and investigate this beautiful area of Pointe Coupee. You will note that in these ten miles there is an abundance of history dating back to 1750. Your hike begins at Gaines Oak Tree and will take you along Louisiana Highway 1, through Oscar, Mix, and the City of New Roads. This trail was completed as an Eagle Scout Service Project by Kevin N. Cicero of Troop 66, (sponsored by the New Roads Lions Club) Istourma Area Council. Let's Begin...



A. Earnest Gaines Oak Tree is located on the property of Mrs. and Mrs. J.A. Beuche. It's an oak tree that was very special to the author Earnest Gaines. Mr. Gaines would pass in front of the tree each time he walked to the grocery store. He said he got the inspiration to write the *Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* sitting under that tree.



B. Riverlake Plantation House (Private) is located on LA 1 at Oscar, LA. The home has basic similarities to French houses in the Caribbean. It was built around 1790, on a French land grant issued to Isaac Gaillard. The main floor is made from cypress and bousillage over a raised brick basement. By 1823 the plantation included almost 2,000 acres, a cotton gin, a sugar-house, two pigeon houses, and 30 slave cabins. The home has been restored by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Cailet. The plantation is the birthplace of Earnest Gaines, the author of *Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* and many other novels.



C. Mount Zion Baptist Church is the church and first school of Earnest J. Gaines, author of *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman, A Lesson Before Dying* and other books, was built in 1931. It was located in Cherie Quarters of Riverlake Plantation. In order to preserve it, Earnest and Dianne Gaines relocated it to their property, a part of Riverlake on which they built their home.



D. North Bend Properties is an early Creole raised plantation owned by Julien Poydras from 1800-1884. It was originally four rooms wide on both floors and had broad galleries front and back. More rooms were added around 1850. This house is surrounded by many native plants such as crape myrtles, camellias, and sago palms.

E. Pleasant View Plantation

House is located just a few miles from Riverlake and the home was built in the early 1800's. The lower floor is entirely brick, with a single chimney that carries flues for four central fireplaces. It was the home for many Creole families and was the ancestral home of the Hewes family. It offers one of the most enviable views of False River. The beautiful gardens cover about ten acres.



F. Austerlitz Plantation House (Private) is located one mile south of Parlange. Austerlitz is situated behind a hedge of ancient camellias. It was built in 1832 by Antoine Decuir, a free man of color, and purchased by Joseph Aubin Rougon. A working plantation today, the house remains un-restored. The house and land still remain in the Rougon Family.



G. Mon Coeur - This home, furnished for modern living, towers amidst a setting of luxuriant greenery with massive columns. Featured in the home are mantles from the old de Marigny plantation near New Orleans. It was originally owned by Dr. Herman de Bachelie Seebold. The river viewed from the front porch is one of False River's most imposing scenes.



H. Parlange Plantation House (Private) was built in 1750 by Marquis Claude Vincent de Ternant on a land grant he received from the French Crown. It is a French Colonial house built of native Pointe Coupee material - Cypress and bousillage (mud, moss, and deerhair). The two octagon brick two-story dove-cotes (pigeoniers) fland the tree-lined driveway. Parlange is a National Historic Landmark. The present owner is Mrs. Walter C. Parlange, Jr. and children. They are relatives of the original owner/builder dating back to the 1700's.

I. Pointe Coupee Parish Museum and Tourist Center

is a cottage constructed of "piece sur piece" style. It was recently restored in its original location. The cottage is furnished in the early Louisiana style of a modest income family during the early 19th century. Admission is free. Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday 1-4 p.m. Closed on Monday and holidays.



J. Bonnie Glen (Private) was built sometime between 1805 and 1835 for Antoine Gosserand, the home was acquired and restored by a great-grandson Louis Henry "Bonnie" Gosserand in 1918. Henry Gosserand had a flock of sheep which provided wool for some rugs that are still in the home. Bonnie Glen was purchased by Louis D. Curet, a nephew of Gosserand, in 1963.



K. Randall Oak - It is said that the poet James Ryder Randall wrote the famous poem "Maryland, My Maryland" on April 26, 1861 at this site. The great live oak has a trunk that is 34 feet in circumference and is 40 feet high with a 134-foot spread from front to back. The Randall Oak marker was erected and dedicated by the ladies of the Pointe Coupee Book Club on April 26, 1938.



L. Mon Reve' was built in 1850 for Mr. & Mrs. Valerien Bergeron. This house was originally built as a raised Creole Cottage, but was later remodeled with Victorian accents. It later was purchased by Joe and Wenonah Scheuermann in 1937 and they lived at Mon Reve' until their deaths in 1989. It is now owned by their grandson Joe Hinckley and he operates it as Mon Reve' Bed and Breakfast.



M. Bergeron's Pecan Shelling Plant was built and founded in 1940 by H. J. Bergeron. The shelling plant is one of two in the state of Louisiana and is still owned and operated by the Bergeron Family. (Tours Available By Appointment).

N. Pointe Coupee General Hospital - The 60 bed facility was completed in 1969. It was funded by a 1% Sales Tax that was voted by the people of Pointe Coupee in 1965. Other buildings on the medical campus include Mental Health, Health Unit, Doctor's Office Complex, and the Acadian Ambulance Service.



O. Poydras High School Building The School was completed in 1923 and is named for the education pioneer Julien Poydras, the father of public education in Louisiana. It is now the Julien Poydras Museum and Arts Center. The monument in the front marks the burial place of Julien Poydras.



P. St. Mary of False River Catholic Church was built in 1823 on land donated by Mrs. Barthlemy Olinde. The present church has features such as the Stations of the Cross paintings and stained glass windows have been preserved. The windows imported from Germany in 1938 portray the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, tow of Christ's miracles and several symbols of the church. Masses are held and visitors are welcome.



Q. Pointe Coupee Parish Court House was dedicated in 1902 and is located on Main Street, New Roads, LA. The original building resembles a medieval castle. An annex was added and completed in 1940. It houses the Sheriff, Assessor and the Clerk of Court on the 1st floor, while the 2nd floor houses Court facilities. The unique feature of the building is that the 3rd floor was the parish jail.



R. Lejeune House (Private) is located at 507 East Main Street in New Roads and was built between 1800 and 1840's. The house was built originally for Francois Samson. It later became the home of the Francois Lejeune family. They had twelve children and not any of them were ever married. The present owners are Randy Harleson & Richard Gibbs.