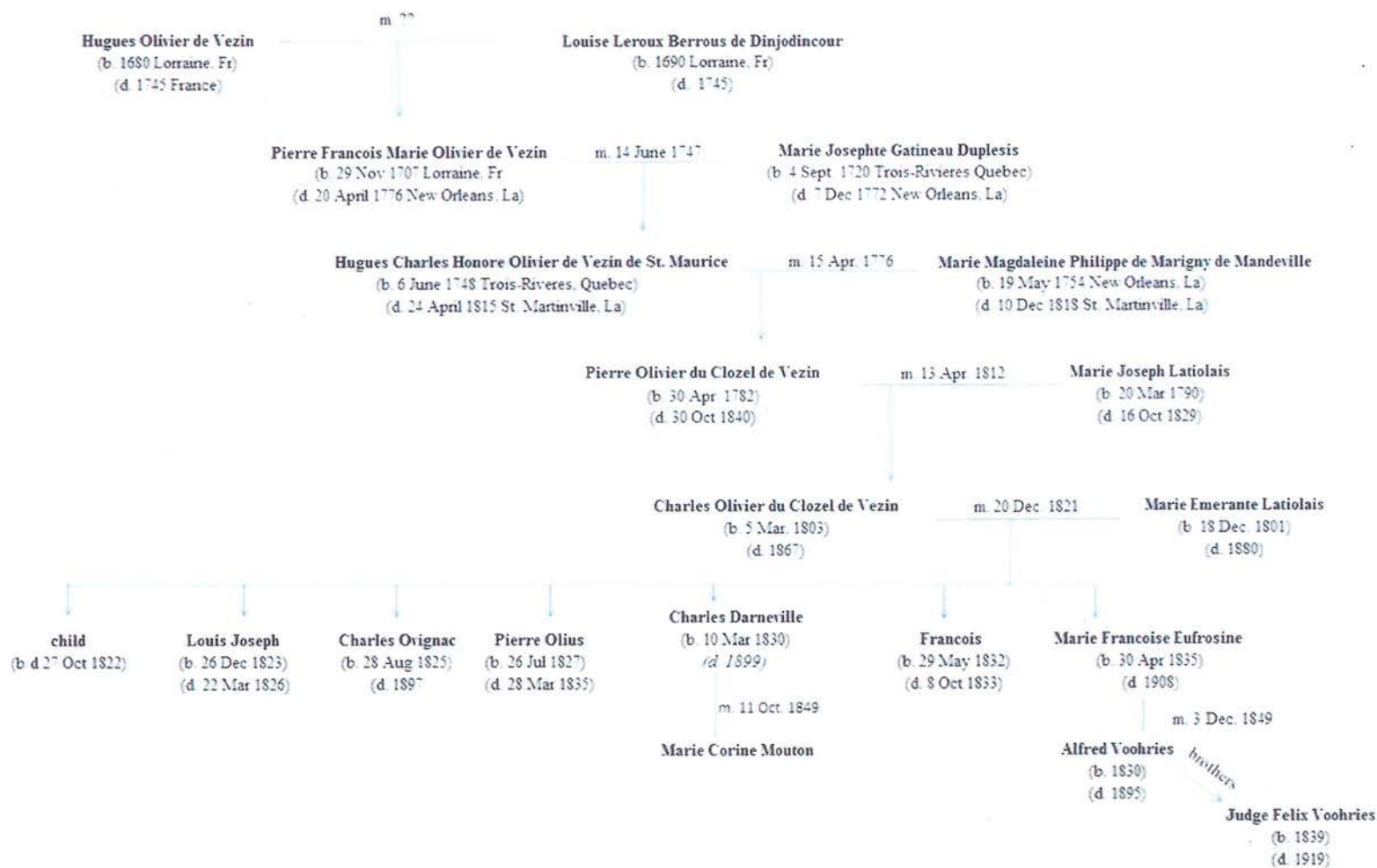


85
Welcome to



Longfellow-Evangeline
State Historic Site

Olivier Family Genealogy



Along the Path

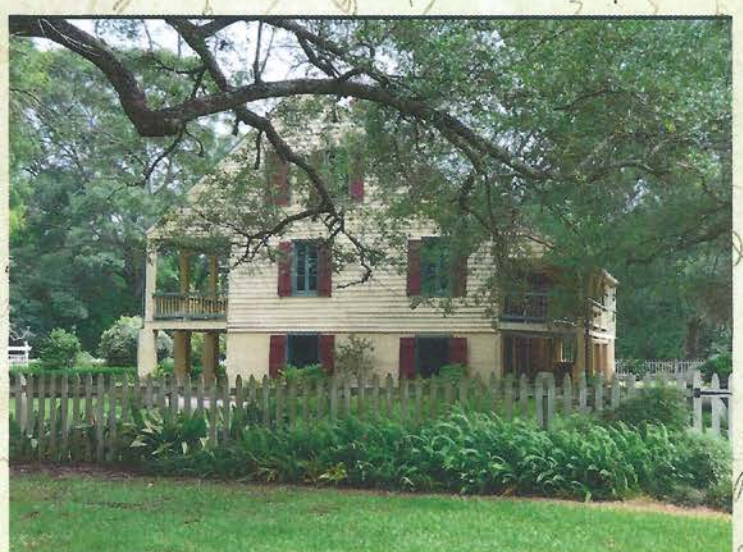
The monument of Judge Felix Voorhies was erected in 1965 as part of the 200th anniversary of the settlement of the Acadians in Louisiana. Judge Voorhies is recognized for his book *Acadian Reminiscences: The True Story of Evangeline*. This fictional book suggests that the mythic characters Evangeline and Gabriel were instead Emmeline Labiche and Louis Arceneaux. In spite of having no factual basis that either Emmeline or Louis ever existed, *Acadian Reminiscences* served to boost cultural pride for people of Acadian descent and helped to further draw attention to St. Martinville and the greater Bayou Teche region.



The Acadian barn was built in Grand Coteau, La in 1840. This barn, acquired by the State in 1994, was in fact considered to be one of the oldest structures in Grand Coteau. This mid-19th century Cajun and Creole style barn features hipped roofs over carriage/ wagon enclosures and a high pitched roof to accommodate rainfall. The structure is raised off of the ground to allow for the flooding common to South Louisiana. The entire barn (including the roof) is made of cypress.

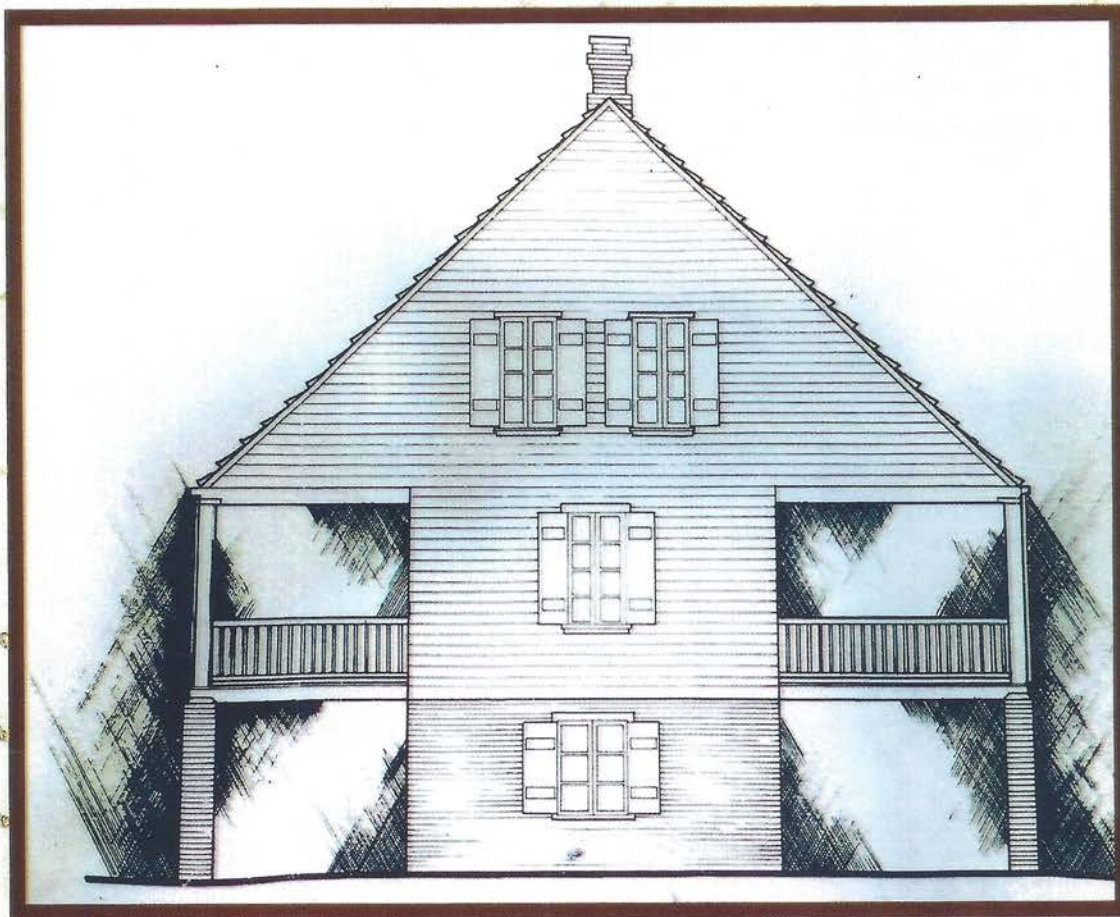
all at once - its a sister work
stone this, I know neither lions nor laughter co

Creole Architecture



Maison Olivier is an example of a raised Creole cottage. The Creole cottage is a regionally distinctive type of architecture that persisted in southern Louisiana for almost two hundred years. Common characteristics of the Creole cottage include: 1) broad galleries; 2) whether one or two stories high, there is only one principal story, where most of the family living takes place; 3) exterior stairways; 4) seldom presence of interior hallways; and 5) some type of solid infill material set between wooden posts in the walls (collumbage). In the case of this plantation, the infill is bousillage, a mixture of moss and mud. The overhang of the roof provided cover for the porch while also preventing the sun from heating walls.

Maison Olivier (Pierre)



Maison Olivier was built around 1815 by the slaves of Pierre Olivier du Clozel de Vezin, a French nobleman (and also a Creole). Initially the four room house was used as a work house, a place for Pierre to stay during the busy harvesting and planting seasons. His family would sometimes visit him here, but would prefer staying in their larger home located in St. Martinville. The Pierre Olivier family owned about seven hundred acres of property which initially was used as a cattle vacherie. The Oliviers' attempted to grow cotton and indigo and eventually determined that sugar cane was more profitable.

Maison Olivier (Charles)



In 1840, upon the death of his father, Charles Olivier inherited the family sugar plantation. He converted the four-room work house into what would become his family home. He achieved this by closing in a set of porches and adding another set of porches on what was then considered to be the back of the house.

(This picture does not accurately represent the time period Charles Olivier lived in the plantation home, but is the oldest we have on file.)

The Office

The walls on the first level of the home are fourteen inches thick, solid brick. Each brick was handmade by slave labor using clay from the nearby Bayou Teche. This makes the room cave like, holding whatever coolness comes from the night.



The fireproof safe has sand in the walls to protect the valuables from the heat. It was made in New York in the mid 1800's. The safe also has a hidden keyhole!

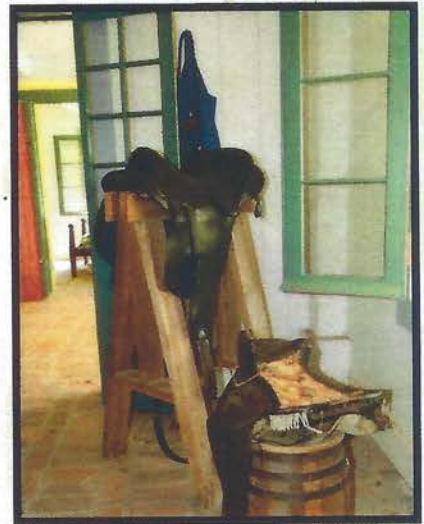


The quill was one of the writing tools of the period. Goose and turkey feathers worked the best!

Work Room



Laundry tools



Gentleman's saddle and lady's side saddle



Rat trap



Various tools including a theodolite (a surveyor's measuring tool)



Swinging butter churn (baratte a cuerre)



Hand hewn cypress panels



Blacksmith bellows (le soufflet de forge)



Forged metal pieces

Dining Room



The device you see above the table is called a "chasse mouche" which is French for fly chaser, as there was no term for ceiling fan at that time. In the introductory video you saw an adult male slave pulling the 'chasse mouche', but it was more likely the job of a child slave.

The basin and pitcher were for hand washing before meals. Water was collected and stored in wooden cisterns.



Hot coals were placed in the bottom of the food warmer.

Houseslave's Room



A first floor bedroom would not be for a family member or guest but more likely a tutor or houseslave. The expression "Good night; sleep tight" originates from use of the rope bed in the 1700's. When the rope stretches, the mattress sags.

Upstairs Back Porch



The rear porch slants to allow rain water to drain off during heavy storms. Keep in mind that Charles Olivier closed in the original porch. The floors of the lady's salon and the girl's room are slanted as they were the original porch.



When Charles converted the work house into a family home the work included creating a room in the attic for his sons called a garconierre.

Girl's Room



Hair curler
(ferre à friser/frisoir)



Typical bed shared amongst several children.



Wash stand and chamber pot



Tea set

Trunks were used to store clothes and blankets. Closets were not common as they took up too much space in the home.

Main Bedroom



Rolling pin bed made in New Orleans in 1803. The bed is solid walnut and was the style of the wealthy Creoles in Southern Louisiana.



Wash stand, shaving mug and toothbrush (made of carved animal bone and boar's bristles)



Amoire from 1776



Prayer kneeler (prie Dieu) common as the majority of Creoles at in the 1800's were Catholic.



Chamber pot (pot de chambre)

Main Bedroom, cont.



On the wall in a shadow box is an example of hair art. Creating art with human hair was popular during the 1800's. The hair corsage you see here was most likely created in memory of a deceased loved one.

The bousillage you see here contains a mixture of mud, moss and crushed oyster shells. It was used for insulation, outdoor ovens, chimneys and exterior walls.



Paper and scissor made "friendship offering" created in 1837. Cut into the center are the words "Sweet is the memory of distant friends-like the rays of the departing sun it gleams tenderly yet sadly on the mind. CB"



Front Porch



In Louisiana, if you have a live oak tree that is over one hundred years old on your property, you can have the tree registered with the Live Oak Society. You are then able to give that particular tree a name. Once the tree has been successfully registered, it is somewhat protected from future development. Here you see the Gabriel Oak, estimated at over 350 years old. Longfellow-Evangeline SHS currently has eleven trees registered with the Live Oak Society.

Although leaves appear evergreen, live oaks are actually deciduous for a few weeks in the early spring. The Spanish moss you see hanging from the oaks can be found on other species of trees and is not harmful to its host.

Gentleman's Parlor



The gentleman's parlor is one of the two original rooms located on the second floor. The central chimney found in this room was designed to simultaneously heat all of the four original rooms. Two hundred years ago it was customary for the gentlemen and ladies to separate during certain times of the day. The gentlemen would retreat to their parlor for drinks, cigars and political discussions, while the ladies would retire to read novels or embroider.

stand this, I know neither lions nor laughter co

Gentleman's Parlor, cont.



Marie Corine Mouton Olivier
1833-1901



Charles Darneville Olivier
1830-1899

Lady's Salon



Shepherd's chair typically used as a lady's sewing chair. Yarn and lace would be stored in the cubby below. On cold winter nights, the chair could be turned toward the fireplace and the wings on either side would help to keep the heat in.



Period piece of art made with chenille and satin fabric.

Outbuildings



Mortar and pestle used to grind corn for cornbread and sassafras leaves for filé.

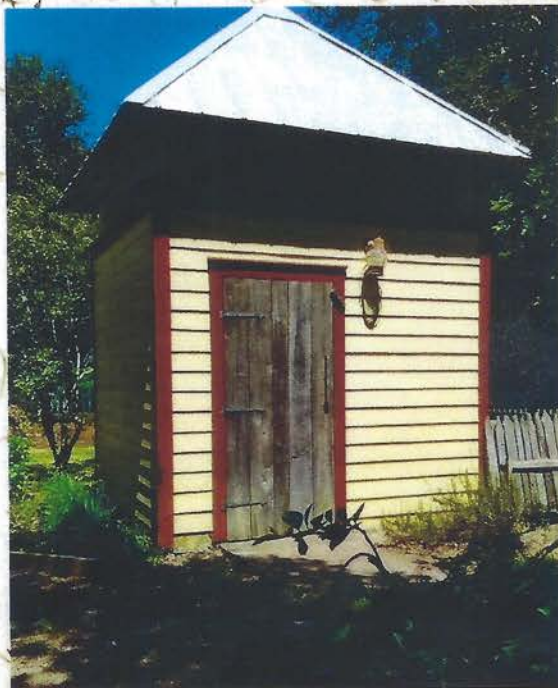


Oven



Sausage stuffer

Plantation kitchens were located away from the main house due to the risk of risk of fire as well as smoke/heat. This kitchen was built in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps.



Reproduction pigeonier

Outbuildings, cont.



Reproduction
blacksmith
shop (la
forge) built
in 2005.



Reproduction
guest cottage
(petit-maison)
built in 2005.

Maison
Olivier
through
the years



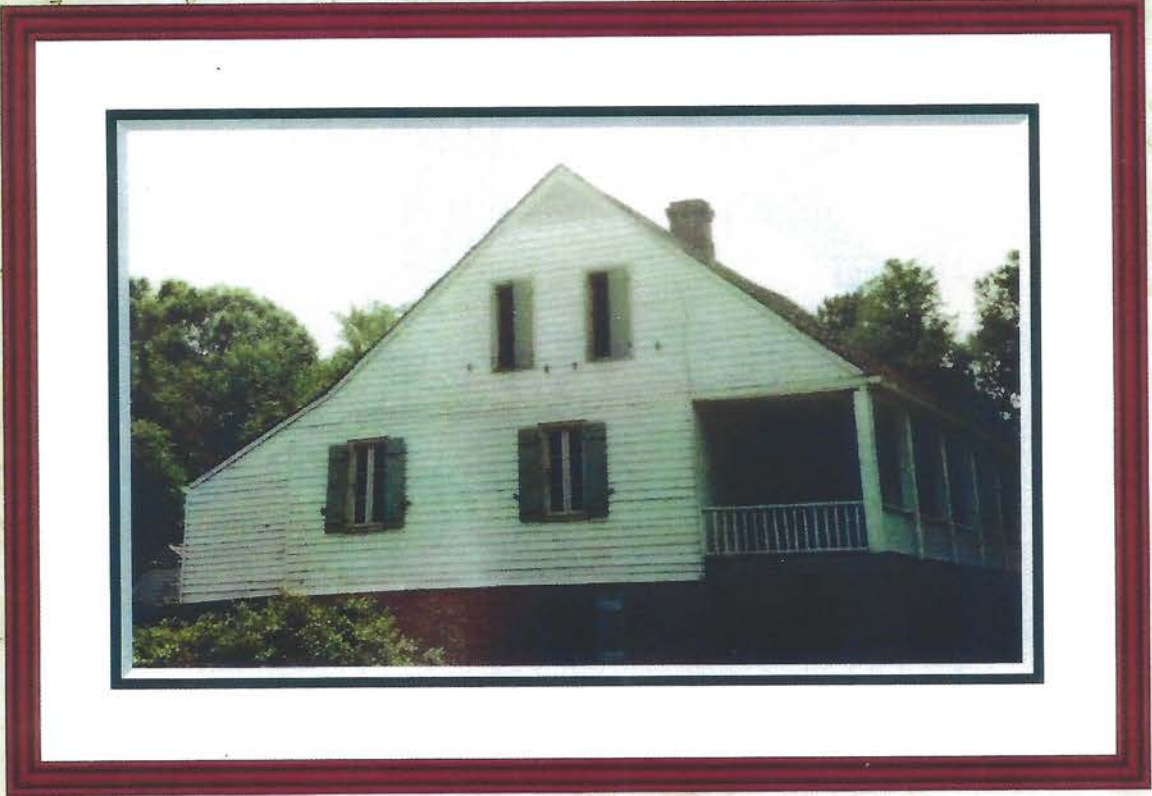
and Slave Quarters - Acadia House, St. Martinville, La.



St. Martinville, La.



stand this, I know, neither tears nor laughter can



I value peace & good will much more than
money or
Eight or
four to
I am
day & night
like to
part the
tragic or
egg with
all at once. As a sister woman you can understand
this, I know, neither tears nor laughter can

Preserving the past
for the enrichment
of future generations



This document made possible through the collaboration, hard work and dedication of Les Amis de Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site, Christi Disher, and Debbie Miller