

ST. MARTINVILLE, LOUISIANA

Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site

A HISTORICAL JOURNEY



*Explore the history, lifestyle and culture
of the Creoles and Acadians
through guided tours of historic
Maison Olivier and grounds.*

*Displays and interpretive exhibits
based in the early 1800s are
housed in the Visitor Center.*

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HOURS Wednesday-Sunday, 9AM-5PM

ENTRANCE FEE \$4 ages 4-61

For generations, a blend of history and legend has drawn visitors to this place of incredible beauty and unique historical background. At Longfellow-Evangeline, visitors are introduced to the cultures of French-speaking peoples that settled along the Bayou Teche. Many visitors are familiar with the 1755 expulsion of the Acadians of Nova Scotia and their arrival in Louisiana as portrayed in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 1897 epic poem "Evangeline."



Once part of Louisiana's royal domain, Longfellow-Evangeline was first used as a *Vacherie*, or cattle ranch. Later, it was developed into an indigo plantation, and finally achieved its greatest prosperity as a sugarcane plantation. The central feature of our site is the Olivier Plantation Home built circa 1815 by a wealthy Creole family (shown on the reverse). The structure is an excellent example of a simple and distinctive architectural form called a Raised Creole Cottage, blending Creole, Caribbean and French influences.

In 1934, the property became the first park in Louisiana's State Park system and in 1974, the Olivier Plantation Home was designated a National Historic Landmark.



A reproduction of a small, rustic Acadian cabin is furnished with Louisiana cypress furniture. Along the banks of the Bayou Teche is the Acadian Farmstead, a reproduction of a single family home in the early 19th century. The site includes a family home, outdoor kitchen, garden and barn. In the pastures located adjacent to the barn, there are cattle of a type typical to those raised by the Creoles and Acadians in the 19th century.



The Visitor Center houses displays on the history, lifestyle and culture of both Creoles and Acadians.

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