

## Churches

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church** on Catholic Hill was built in 1893 from plans drawn by Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard.



For the first time since the days of Spanish rule, Roman Catholic faithful would have a resident priest.

The present **United Methodist Church** on Royal Street replaced the flood-damaged church built in Bayou Sara in 1844. The original bell was retained and summons the faithful today.



**Grace Episcopal Church** was established in 1827 when the newly ordained W.R. Bowman came to visit his sister Mary Stirling and found a waiting flock. The present church was completed in time for Easter Day 1860. Severely damaged in the Civil War by gunboats, it was not consecrated until 1891.



**St. Mary's Episcopal Church** was built in 1857 to serve the antebellum plantation community around Weyanoke.

Deconsecrated in 1947, the haunting beauty of this Gothic Revival brick chapel, an austere elegant setting for weddings and funerals even when emptied of its pews, has fueled ongoing enthusiasm for its preservation.



**St. John's Episcopal Church** was built in 1873 on land donated by the Lemon family with money given by Vincent David Walsh who married into the family. Next to the church is the Lemon/Walsh family graveyard. Both are in use today.



## Rural Homestead

To visit the Rural Homestead is to experience the lifestyle of rural southerners in the 1820s. Native materials, hand-hewn cypress shingles and ancient timbers present a faithful recreation of what "home" meant to the plain folk of the nineteenth century South.



Throughout the Homestead, local volunteers demonstrate the skills they learned first-hand growing up in rural West Feliciana: open hearth and wood stove cookery, candle making, quilting, cotton carding, spinning, and weaving. Shingles are rived and ground is broken by mule and plow, all to the sound of home-grown music makers.



## 2019 Tour Information

**Daytime Tours • \$40**  
**9:30 am - 5:00 pm**

(Sunday private homes are open 11 am - 4 pm)  
Tickets are good for all three days and include the following:

- Five Private Homes & Two Private Gardens
- Birding Talks & Tours
- Rosedown Plantation, State Historic Site
- Afton Villa Gardens
- 19th Century Churches
- Recreated Working Rural Homestead
- Authentic 1820s Costumes
- Costumed Children Dancing
- Charles Reinike Art Exhibit - Market Hall
- Audubon's Birds of the Felicianas Exhibit - Audubon State Historic Site

**Friday Night Entertainment • \$25**  
**6:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

Includes the following:

- Cemetery Tour (last tour/8:15 pm) Grace Church
- Hymn Singing - United Methodist Church
- Wine & Cheese Reception (begins at 7 pm)
- Period Costumes
- Charles Reinike Art Exhibit - Market Hall
- Royal Street by Candlelight

**Saturday Night Entertainment • \$60**  
**7:00 pm - Light Up the Night, Soiree**

Live Music, Fine Food, Drinks, and Dancing

**All Inclusive Package available**

- \$115 See website for details

Advance tickets can be purchased online at

**[westfelicianahistory.org](http://westfelicianahistory.org)**

**Call for special group tour rates**

**Historical Society Museum**

**11757 Ferdinand Street • P. O. Box 338**  
**St. Francisville, LA 70775 • (225) 635-6330**

*St. Francisville, La*

48TH ANNUAL

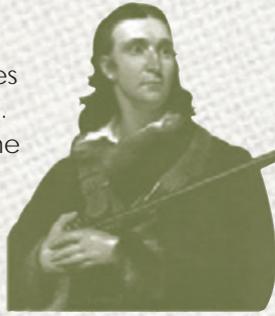
**AUDUBON  
PILGRIMAGE**

**MARCH 15, 16 & 17, 2019**



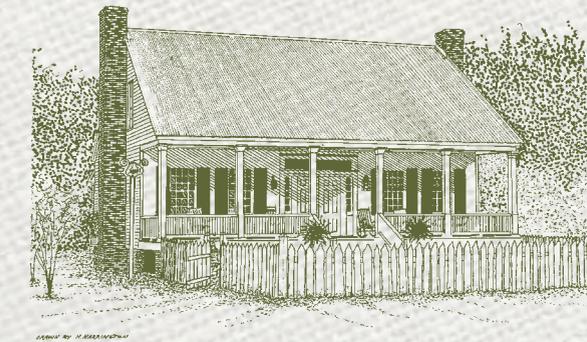
**[www.westfelicianahistory.org](http://www.westfelicianahistory.org)**

*When* flamboyant artist-naturalist John James Audubon arrived in the St. Francisville area in 1821, he said the rich lushness of the landscape and flourishing birdlife “all excited my admiration.”



Having set for himself the staggering task of painting all the birds of this immense fledgling country, Audubon found the inspiration for dozens of them while residing at **Oakley Plantation**. Both he and wife Lucy tutored area plantation children to fund publication of his *Birds of America*.

In celebration of Audubon's stay, the West Feliciana Historical Society's annual pilgrimage has, since 1972, permitted privileged visitors an intimate glimpse of Audubon's scenic, unspoiled Happyland.



**SUNNYSIDE**, built in 1838 in Pointe Coupee, was disassembled, trucked across the Mississippi River bridge in 1997, then meticulously reassembled on the Tunica Trace, retaining its original floorplan. A fine example of vernacular architecture, its bluffland design is eminently suited to the historic Weyanoke community and its period landscaping anchors house to site as if it's been there for centuries. Historian David Floyd and wife Marla have raised two children there.

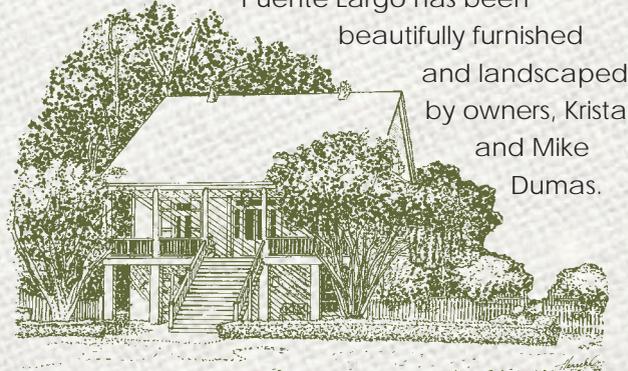


**LAUREL HILL PLANTATION** was purchased in the 1830s by Judge Edward McGehee, founder of the early standard-gauge West Feliciana Railroad that hauled cotton through this plantation country to the Mississippi River port at Bayou Sara; in the 1870s daughter Caroline and her husband Duncan Stewart enlarged the original small Carolina-I structure to accommodate their growing family. Beautifully restored, it is now the property of Jimmy and Mary F. Hatchette.



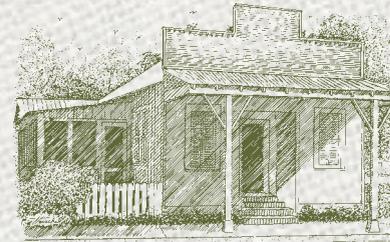
**BRASSEAUX HOUSE**, quintessentially charming cottage complete with Victorian gallery trim, picket fence and climbing roses, was built in 1895 by Albert Sydney Brasseaux, who was named for his father's commanding general in the Civil War. Its architectural style is called southern dogtrot, and its extensive sloping back yard shows why St. Francisville is called the little town that's two miles long and two yards wide. It is now home to the vibrant young family of Liz and Magruder Hazlip.

**PUENTE LARGO** built in the 1850s in Tangipahoa and moved to West Feliciana in 1997, is a handsome raised Creole cottage with four large rooms and spacious hallway on the upper premier etage, above what had been an unfinished ground-floor storage for wagons and buggies but is now closed in. Broad front stairs access the upper gallery. Used as a field hospital during the Civil War, Puente Largo has been



beautifully furnished and landscaped by owners, Krista and Mike Dumas.

**COFFIN HOUSE**, a tiny stepped-roof structure built around 1903 right on St. Francisville's main thoroughfare, proves history is nothing if not dynamic and shows the amazing adaptability of even the most unassuming of historic structures. Previously used for strictly utilitarian purposes, it is now a delightfully cozy pied-a-



terre for doting visiting grandparents, Don and Harriet Ayres.

**AFTON VILLA GARDENS** approached by a serpentine avenue of live oaks underplanted with azaleas, surrounds the romantic ruins of the Gothic Revival mansion which burned in 1963. Formal parterres and terraced vistas comprise landscaped acres restored by Genevieve Trimble and her husband, the late Morrell Trimble.



**ROSEDOWN** was built in 1834 by Daniel Turnbull and his wife Martha Barrow, who on their European wedding trip gleaned the inspiration for the 27 acres of formal gardens surrounding the stately, double-galleried house. Approached by a magnificent allee of enormous live oaks, Rosedown is now a National Historic Landmark.

*Costumes* worn by Pilgrimage workers reflect the authentic dress of the 1820s and received national recognition from the American Association of State and Local History.



*Royal Street*, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, by day offers costumed children dancing the Maypole and playing nostalgic singing games. By candlelight on Friday, enjoy hymn singing in the United Methodist Church and Graveyard Tales in Grace Churchyard. The evening ends with Wine & Cheese featuring period costumes and musical revelry.

*Exploring Nature & Birding*

Join us for Exploring Nature & Birding in the Felicianas where John James Audubon roamed the woods to collect bird specimens and paint over 60 of his *Birds of America*. There will be several spectacular morning events included with the purchase of your 2019 Audubon Pilgrimage ticket.

