## Frances & Mary Daks

Downtown West 238 Gabasse Street Houma, LA <u>Google Maps</u>





When walking along Gabasse Street, one will likely take notice of two magnificent oak trees on the property, planted years ago by the original owners of the property, Dr. and Mrs. Henry Ellender.

These Live Oaks drape their branches high above the fence surrounding the property at 238 Gabasse Street. Estimates put these trees at 150 years old, well before the house was constructed in 1937.

Sponsored by owners Marg G. and Roy H Baker the trees were registered with the Live Oak Society in 1985, "Frances" measured 13 feet 1 inch and "Mary" measured at 12 feet.

According to Susan Baker Niette, her parents – Roy H. and Frances G. Baker – purchased the property in 1968. Soon after the purchase, Mr. Baker made it a mission to register the trees to preserve and protect their natural beauty and the original certificates still hang in the house. The trees are named "Mary" and "Frances" in honor of Susan's mother, Mary Frances Gray Baker.

Susan fondly remembers playing under the canopy of the trees, but she also admits to being a little apprehensive

about all the critters who make their homes in the fallen leaves around the trees. The trees are home to countless squirrels, cardinals, and even an owl. Although the street view of the trees is absolutely beautiful, the view from the upstairs bedrooms' window seats provide any daydreamer with the perfect backdrop for dreaming and thinking.

The property owned by Mrs. Baker with caretakers Susan and Mike Niette will continue the family tradition of caring for 'Mary and Frances', as they are truly beloved members of the family.

Measurement Information from the book "Visiting with Some of Terrebonne Parish's Oldest, Wisest Trees" authored by the Mulberry Elementary School 4-H Club (1993-1994). Story written by S. Myers McAllister



Photos by Trudy Voisin Hebert



