

Crescent Farms Plantation Oaks

Lil' Bayou Black

4084 Hwy 311

Houma, LA

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Crescent Farm Plantation, 4084 Hwy 311, contains many live oaks, but only one registered with the Live Oak Society. (LOS Registry # 3404) At registration, the tree measured 18' and named Sharon A. Thompson for the wife of the landowner at that time. Possibilities exist that the planting of these trees came about around 1837 at the time that William A. Shafer purchased the property as a land patent from the US Government. Crescent Farm Plantation includes 15.4 acres.

The property became a center for plantation operations in northern Terrebonne parish. In 1960, Milhado Lee Shaffer documented the history of the property including Williams Shaffer's hiring of a Philadelphia architect to build and furnish the home. By 1907, the Argyle Planting and Manufacturing Company run by F. A. Bonvillain, president, owned the plantation and continued to produce sugar cane crops.

In 1969, private owners purchased and restored the home, laying an elegant landscaping foundation for the grounds. They spent two years remodeling which included raising the four-fireplace house. During the restoration, the removal of one of the four mantels revealed a hidden message, a hand-written note and dime dated 1849.

The home, described as a raised Creole Acadian style characterized by a broad roofline. Adorned with evenly spaced windows and the second-floor front porch centers with an exterior entrance stairway. This home maintained operable window shutters and was adorned with a generous gallery. In 1998, the Andrew McCollam family formed the Crescent Farm Plantation LLC with Edmund McCollam as manager.

Today, the law offices of St. Martin & Bourque occupy the home and grounds. The firm commissioned Labouisse & Waggoner, noted New Orleans architects for restoration and maintenance efforts to turn the building into an Acadian style mansion/office.

Upon description of the grounds, the elaborate oaks take precedence and fill the areas with nature's ornate branching and dappled shade. Information provided by Linda Brashaer and story written by Trudy Voisin Hebert.



Photos by Trudy Voisin Hebert

