

Potts/Sonier Live Oak

Upper Bayou Terrebonne
3214 W. Main Street -Hwy 316
Gray, LA

[Google Maps](#)



This gracious live oak located on what was once the Potts/Sonier properties was originally part of the Hedgeford Plantation in Gray, Louisiana. The property had many owners before being acquired by Elmo Bergeron, Sr. and family. This Notable tree, owned by Evelyn Bergeron Autin, is located passed the Bayou Blue caution light on the right and across the street from a two-story structure at 3213 West Main Street known as the Bayou Chapter Southern University Quarter Back Club.

Owners of the original land grant were Jean-Mary Pitre aka Campo and Laurent Pichoff, and then from Campo, the property moved into the ownership of Phillip M. Sargent in 1831, who sold the property to Leandre Bannon Thibodaux. After that period, in 1835, Richard Ellis, the owner of Ducros Plantation, owned the property. Immediately after Ellis, the next owner was Francis L. Mead.

In approximately 1847, Major John Calvin Potts purchased and took ownership of the grounds. Possibilities exist that Potts was the planter of the trees because he built the house at this time and lived in it for 22 years. The master brick mason who built the house, a brother of Major Potts, was the senior brick mason for the construction of the Louisiana Capital Building in Baton Rouge, on the Mississippi River, which is called, affectionately, "The Castle."

The Potts home, now known as Sonier, was built using heart cypress throughout the house. Pott's brother directed the work, creating the outer solid brick walls on the first floor and briquette-entre-poteaux (brick between

posts) on the second floor. The inside walls are plaster consisting of mud, lime and animal hair.

Potts served in the Confederate Army and declared bankruptcy upon returning after the Civil War, thereby, the property was sold at a sheriff's sale. In 1868, the property and home were sold to Henry S. Leverich, followed by Richard Lloyd in 1870. Documents indicate that for the first time in Terrebonne Parish history, the property was subdivided into plots making this the first subdivision in Terrebonne Parish. In 1872, Hedgeford including the Potts home became property of P.A. Thibodaux, then Frank Clemmon (1877), Emilie Gautreaux (1878), and Louis Turner in 1878.

This all changed in 1878, when Joseph U. Boudreaux and his wife Rosalie Malbrough bought the house and surrounding property. Since then it has been owned by their family members. Joseph's daughter Alice married Oscar Bergeron. The home remained in the family, and in 1899, the house welcomed Alcide Sonier and his wife Elise Crochet Sonier, who purchased the house and property. Descendant, Lily Sonier Rogers (d. 1979) lived in the house for a time but had no children. Elmo P. Bergeron, Sr. (d. 1982) then inherited the property. The home is now owned by Boudreaux and Sonier descendant, Elmo Bergeron Jr. and is visible from 2626 West Main Street.

- Story written by Laura Browning



Photos by Trudy Voisin Hebert

