

Ardoyne Tree Grove

Lil' Bayou Black

2678 Hwy 311

Schriever, LA [Google Maps](#)



Photo by Trudy Voisin Hebert

The grove of live oaks at Ardoyne Plantation, located at 2678 Hwy 311 age estimates a time of over 125 years. The property purchased in 1888 by pioneer John Dalton Shaffer, Louisiana Senator and the home reflects the generations of family members who have resided here in Terrebonne Parish. Shaffer built his wife, Julia Richardson Cutliff, a Victorian home overlooking Little Bayou Black in 1890-1894. Many of the oaks and other trees growing at the time of construction enhanced the beauty of the new home.

The ridge and the house became known as Ardoyne, names for a district in Scotland, chosen by the family. Architects W. C. Williams and Brothers of New Orleans built the home of Red Cypress and pine. Factories in St. Louis milled the timbers harvested on the property and returned to Louisiana readied for the building process.

Ardoyne listed on the National Historic Register as the largest and most elaborate example of rural Victorian Gothic architecture that remains in the State of Louisiana. Furniture and books as well as original antiques grace this historic home. [NHR Terrebonne](#)

This family connects to the last governor of Louisiana under the Spanish flag, Nellie Custis, George Washington and Robert E. Lee as per Ardoyne Plantation website.

Ardoyne operated as a sugarcane plantation using a diverse workforce of migrant workers of African, Italy and German descent. The post-Civil War operation was an example of the transitions to the Industrial Revolution from slavery.

Between 1973 and 1975, several trees were registered with the Live Oak Society and sponsored by J.D. Shaffer descendant, Margaret Minor Shaffer. The Oaks represented a grand era. Number 508 "Ardoyne Bealle" measured 18'6" at the time of registration and then Numbers 532 to 538 - Ardoyne Little Bealle 1-7 followed. Present owners, Lee and Susan Shaffer said that they realize the home's importance and significance to the history of Terrebonne Parish.

In August 1992, Hurricane Andrew damaged the grove of live oaks, pecans, and other trees. Although most of the trees survived and the grove recovered, they suffered damaged again by the winds of Hurricane Gustav. Many live oaks and pecans remain, standing tall and proud, a testament to robust roots and strength of trees over 100 years old.

In 2008, the Ardoyne Plantation home and grounds were the scene for the filming of the psychological thriller, "The Deadline". Portions of other movies filmed there include "Crazy in Alabama" and "Tribute".

[Southern Historical Collection](#)



Photo courtesy of [Ardoyne Plantation Website](#)

