

Leblanc Plantation Oak

Bayou Grand Caillou
3879 Grand Caillou Rd
Hwy 57

[Google Maps](#)



Over 125 years ago, Jean Baptiste Leblanc built a home on Grand Caillou Road with timbers from the back of the property for his 25-acre sugar cane plantation residence. This property is located, today, at the Grand Caillou Elementary School which is surrounded now on both sides by Leblanc heirs.

Prior to the construction of the school, in the 1960s, there were two large buildings built by Leblanc for his residence which burned to the ground. Slave inventory of the 1860s, shows Mr. D. S. Cage working the cane fields for Mr. J. B. Leblanc with 113 slaves in Ward 11.

Right before the school is the property of Leblanc's great grandson, Kirby Matherne Jr, who purchased his mother's inherited share of this plantation. Years before, his father, Kirby Matherne Sr. around mid-1930's picked a special place to propose to his future wife, Hilda Picou, the daughter of Eusebe Picou and Stella Leblanc. Located on her grandfather's plantation stood an old oak tree near the road that remains today as testimony of time, good days and memories for the Matherne family. Under this tree, he would declare his love for her and in a scene we can all imagine, a young couple in love. 'Just a guy asking a girl to be his wife' and she said, "Yes"

This Live Oak tree also became special to their son as well, because in the early 1990s, Kirby Jr. set the same scene for his proposal to Caroline Thompson, his wife. Memories came flooding into his mind, his eyes swelled with tears as he spoke about this tree. He said it gave him the "Frissons" (goosebumps).

Because of its location, the name of "Leblanc Plantation Oak" is given to this tree, but it was there long before the plantation was built. Although this Grand Ole tree is not on Kirby Jr's property, it is right next door and on the front of the property very near the road and is kept mowed and taken care of by Kirby Jr. The trees owner is Donald Leblanc, a relative who lives in Metairie, LA and the rest of that property is wooded. Kirby estimates the tree to be about 150 to 175 years old. Story written by Trudy Voisin Hebert.

<http://www.acadiansingray-Leblanc>



Photos by Trudy Voisin Hebert

