Walking & Driving Tour of Historic Franklin Area Homes

From the Main Street of Franklin, with its boulevard of cast iron street lamps, to the surrounding areas, lovers of historic homes will find much to enjoy in this self-guided walking and driving tour of the 34 properties highlighted within. Franklin and its surrounding areas are an Anglo-Saxon pocket within French Acadiana, with numerous examples of well-preserved Greek Revival architecture.

This tour is oriented from east to west, starting at number one: **Driving Tour–East**, *a* **Walking Tour** *in downtown Franklin and finally* **Driving Tour–West**. *The complete Driving Tour is detailed on one map, the Walking Tour on another. But whether you view all 34 or just a few of our noteworthy antebellum homes and plantations, you will experience an unforgettable glimpse of the past between the moss-covered live oaks on the Cajun Coast's boulevards and byways.*

All houses in tour are private unless otherwise noted.

Home descriptions by Dr. Thomas F. Kramer, member and past president of the St. Mary Chapter of the Louisiana Landmarks Society

CAJUN COAST
VISITORS & CONVENTION BUREAU

(800) 256-2931 • www.cajuncoast.com

Driving Tour-East

Map on page 2

1 Shakespeare Allen House

9105 Hwy. 182 in Centerville

With identical front and rear facades, this majestic Greek Revival home was built before 1853, probably by Simeon Smith. In 1861 it was sold by Thomas Hine to David Berwick, who donated the house to his daughter Louisa, wife of Dr. Shakespeare Allen. Occupied for many years by the Allen family, later owners were Woodmen of the World and Mr. and Mrs. James Emmet Luke. Present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Ray Seeger.

2 Joshua Cary House

9107 Hwy. 182 in Centerville

This handsome Greek Revival, constructed by Joshua Cary in 1839, was the home for many years of Mrs. Elizabeth Demaret Hawkins after she sold Frances Plantation. Other owners include Mrs. Gus Vetter and C. J. Peltier. Later owners Mr. and Mrs. Earl "Mike" Robicheaux completed an excellent restoration. Present owners are Mr. and Mrs. David Hanagriff.

3 Kennedy Hotel

9106 Hwy. 182 in Centerville

When William S. Cary sold this building to Nathan Lyman in 1855, the conveyance records describe the building as a "hotel house." Owned for 30 years by the family of Thomas Kennedy, who acquired the house in the 1870s, the Kennedy Hotel is now owned by Mr. Charles Luke.

4 Bocage-on-the-Teche

9600 Hwy. 182 near Centerville

Originally named Oakbluff, this beautifully proportioned Greek Revival mansion was built about 1846, probably by David Bell. It was the home of the Edmond Rose family for many years. Theodore Roosevelt was twice a guest in the home during the Rose ownership. In 1969 the 100-plus-ton house was moved by barge seven miles downstream to its present spectacular setting on the Teche by then owner Mrs. Fairfax Foster Bailey, who carried out a marvelous restoration. It is now the home of Dr. and Mrs. Steve McPherson.

5 Susie

9957 Hwy. 182 near Garden City

This almost square hip-roofed plantation house was built on part of the original Demaret tract about 1852 by Royal Harris. His widow married John H. Darnall and continued to live there until her death. Louis Kramer was a later owner. Susie was restored in 1970 by Mrs. Fairfax Foster Bailey. Its chimneys, unfortunately, were not replaced. A Harris tomb stands near the house.

6 Frances Plantation

10234 Hwy. 182 at Garden City

This circa-1810 plantation home was built by Louis George Demaret on a Spanish land grant. Home of Mrs. Elizabeth Demaret Hawkins for many years, Frances is named for the daughter of Louis Kramer, its 1879 purchaser. A splendid restoration was completed in the 1960s by Mrs. Fairfax Foster Bailey, descendent of the builder. Briquette-entre-poteau construction is featured.

7 Alice C. Plantation

10736 Hwy. 182 near Garden City

With architectural style said to reflect an eastern seaboard influence, this dignified plantation home was built by Jotham Bedell, who owned the property from 1846 to 1859, and named by a subsequent owner, John Calder, for his wife Alice. Home of Warren Foster for many years, recently it was carefully restored by Mr. and Mrs. Gary Drinkwater. A lofty appearance from the rear is among its notable features.

8 Dixie

11076 Hwy. 182 near Franklin

Charming and beloved Dixie was built by Hilaric Carlin about 1835. Purchased by Richard A. Wilkins in 1846, it was the setting for the marriage of Confederate General George Edward Pickett to Mrs. Wilkin's sister, Sally Minge, in 1851. The plantation was named Dixie when acquired by the first Governor and Mrs. Murphy J. Foster in 1883. Gov. Foster was later a U.S. Senator. The house is now owned by Mr. & Mrs. John Werner.

9 Arlington

11532 Hwy. 182
just east of Franklin

Called "a spectacular rescue in 1965 by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bauer," this magnificent Corinthian columned mansion was built in the 1830s by Euphroisie Carlin on a large Spanish land grant. It is said to have been spared destruction by Yankee forces during the Civil War because its mistress was from Indiana. First restored by Sully Martel in 1904, past owners Mr. and Mrs. John T. Johnson carefully maintained Arlington, which features great crossed halls, a front portico duplicated in rear and identical side porticos. Present owners are Dr. and Mrs. Matthew LeBoeuf.

10 Fairfax (Shady Retreat)

99 Main Street

This beautifully situated mansion was built in 1852 by John Barrett Murphy for his daughter Martha, wife of Thomas J. Foster. It was enlarged and modified in the 1930s by the builder's descendent, W. Prescott Foster. Interesting gallery windows have sliding lower panels. Fairfax is now a bed and breakfast and reception facility owned by Mr. Gary Blum.

WALKING TOUR

Map on page 3

11 Hanson House

114 E. Main Street

This gracious Greek Revival home was constructed about 1849 by Thomas Smardon, an Englishman. Louis Kramer sold it in 1883 to lumber magnate Albert Hanson, who tastefully enlarged the house to its present size and embellished it with his custom millwork. Hanson descendents have owned and improved the house for the past 128 years.

12 Palfrey House

200 Main Street

Featuring Temple of the Winds capitals on its fluted columns, this imposing Greek Revival was built in 1851 by Governor Joshua Baker for his daughter Fannie, who married Charles Palfrey. Acquired from subsequent owners by Mrs. Henry Palfrey in 1892, the home was restored in the 1950s by the present owner, Mrs. David H. Stiel Jr., a granddaughter of Mrs. Palfrey. The portico is repeated at the rear; an antebellum privy is a recent restoration.

13 Cypress House

300 Main Street

Built at the turn of the 19th century by Wilson McKerall, onetime mayor of Franklin, this architecturally eclectic house has a hipped roof, a beveled beaded glass door and one-story Corinthian columns supporting a second story balcony with a parapet. This is currently the home of Dr. and Mrs. Chris Ritter.

14 Magnolia Hall

302 Main Street

In 1966 Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Baughman built this carefully constructed house patterned after Lansdowne in Natchez, Miss. The elevated brick home is graced by a belvedere and a gallery bordered by four fluted Doric columns connected by iron gridwork. Magnolia Hall is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Duck.

15 Foster-O'Neil House

201 Main Street

This delightful Greek Revival cottage was built before 1851 by Thomas J. Foster, father of the first Governor Murphy J. Foster. Acquired in 1872 by Mayor Wilson McKerall Jr. and sold in 1895 to his son-in-law John A. O'Niell, the house is currently utilized as an office.

16 Mentz-Fleming House

203 Main Street

The facade of this house features four square two-story columns that support a pediment adorned by a quatre-foil window. The east side features an interesting bay window addition. Built circa 1890 by Phillip H. Mentz, it was the home of the Mahon family for many years and later the home of the Judge Robert Fleming family. It is now the office of the J. M. Burguieres Company.

17 Gates House

205 E. Main Street

This elegant Greek Revival raised cottage was built in 1851 by Alfred Gates of cypress processed at his lumber mill. The house features a hipped roof surmounted by a large belvedere. Home of the Matthew Bell family for 50 years and later owned by the Dr. Guy Aycock family. It was restored in 1965 by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brumby, the latter a descendent of the builder. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Patout III.

18 Bittersweet

301 Main Street

Distinctive Bittersweet was built about 1845 for S. C. Mathison by William Porter Allen, contractor and first mayor of Franklin, and purchased in the 1880s from Mathison heirs by Allen's son, Judge A. C. Allen, also a Franklin mayor. In 1972 owner Mrs. Joseph Alexis Blanchard carefully restored the house and added a rear wing for contemporary living. Bittersweet is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Dana Louviere.

19 Saint House

303 Main Street

It was built by Judge and Mrs. Percy Saint in 1908; Judge Saint later became attorney general of Louisiana. Home for many years of the Gaston Sigur family, the house is styled in the manner of the Wood-craft Movement and has columns shingled with overlapping weatherboard. This is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Supple.

20 Three Oaks

305 Main Street

The prodigious "Old Hine House" was constructed about 1850 on the present post office site on Willow Street. It was purchased in 1910 by George Palfrey, who moved the house to its present location, with the large Corinthian columns moved intact. Admirably restored by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Blevins, the home has been wondrously embellished by its present owner, Mrs. George Thomson.

21 Frere-O'Neil House

307 Main Street

This classic Victorian residence, replete with intricate fish scale shingles on the facade, was built about 1890 by Alexander G. Frere. Later the home of the family of Charles Austin O'Neil, Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, it is currently owned by the heirs of George B. Thomson.

22 Shadowlawn

906 Main Street

This striking Greek temple was built chiefly of northern pine in 1833 by Simeon Smith. The rear of his home was attached to a smaller 1807 Greek Revival building, which was originally a tavern operated by Barnes Hulick. Shadowlawn remained in the Smith-Berwick-Snowden family for a century and a half. Recently, the home was meticulously restored by the late Dr. Mildred Christian. In 2011 it was donated to the St. Mary Chapter of the Louisiana Landmarks Society by Dr. Alan Hoberman. **Open to the public.**

23 Trowbridge House

808 First Street

Of wooden peg construction, this all cypress dwelling was built about 1827 by Isaac Trowbridge. It is said to be the oldest two-story residence in Franklin. The late John Trowbridge, a descendent of the builder, represented 170 years of Trowbridge ownership. In the 1990s the house was restored by Ms. Billie M. Smardon, who then donated it to St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

24 Schwartz House

813 First Street

A Greek Revival cottage constructed between 1830 and 1832, it was occupied by the school of Miss Carolyn Burroughs before 1833. The dining room wing was added in the 1890s. Home of the Joseph Schwartz family from 1909 to 1993, it was restored during 1993-1994 by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Frere Kramer as a rental property.

Driving Tour-West

Map on page 2

25 Allain House

909 Second Street

This landmark colonial home built in 1832 by John Hartman housed the first bank in South Louisiana outside New Orleans from 1837-1847. Subsequently owned by the Dr. James Smith family for 70 years, it was occupied by Union forces during the Civil War. Restored in the 1920s by Paul Kramer, it was the home of the Charles Allain family for 40 years. Davy Crockett is reputed to have stayed here on his way to the Alamo. Allain House is presently the home of Dr. and Mrs. Fred Schwitz.

26 Oliver-Todd House

607 Second Street

An engaging well-designed Greek Revival built under recorded contract for Jules G. Olivier in 1854, it was acquired in 1874 by Dr. Charles Magill Smith, whose family owned the house until 1939, when it was divided into apartments and fell into disrepair. Purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Todd in 1988, it has been lovingly restored.

27 Chadwick House

615 Third Street

This enchanting traditional Louisiana cottage was built about 1850. Purchased from Isaac Trowbridge by Charles Chadwick in the late 1870s, the house was occupied by the Chadwick family until 1971. Rescued by George B. Thomson that year, the cottage was completely restored. Home of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Gillespie for many years.

28 Rugby

609 Adams Street

Named for the famous English school, Rugby was erected in the late 1850s by the Rev. J. W. Dunn as an Episcopal boarding school for boys. Purchased by Alfred Gates in 1869, it was later leased for a hunting lodge to J. J. Pringle, famous 19th century snipe shooter, who is reputed to have dined on snipe tongues and champagne. Home for many years of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Foster Frere, the latter an Alfred Gates granddaughter who had grown up at Rugby. More recently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Todd, who restored the house in 1939. Now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donelson P. Stiel. Private.

29 Grevemberg House

407 Sterling Road

Impressive Greek Revival townhouse built about 1851 by attorney Henry C. Wilson. Acquired in 1857 by the widow of Gabriel Grevemberg, Frances Wycoff Grevemberg, who occupied the house until her death in 1871. Owned by members of the Caffery family for many years. Now the St. Mary Parish Museum and owned by the City of Franklin, Grevemberg is entrusted to the St. Mary Chapter, Louisiana Landmarks Society, which has effected a monumental restoration. Open to the public.

30 Oaklawn Manor

Irish Bend Road
3296 E. Oaklawn Drive

Situated in a vast live oak grove, this colossal Greek Revival showplace of the South was built in 1837 by Alexander Porter, a native of Ireland and a distinguished Louisiana statesman. The walls of this monumental building are 20 inches thick. Henry Clay visited Oaklawn in 1842. palatial restoration in the 1920s by Capt. Clyde Barbour, who in his younger days had viewed the deteriorating mansion from his paddle wheeler on the Teche and vowed that someday it would be his. A second grand restoration was completed by Mr. and Mrs. George Thomson in 1964. Presently the home of former Governor and Mrs. Murphy J. Foster, Jr. Open to the public.

31 Hilaire Lancon House

3934 Irish Bend Road

Originally situated on Grand Cote Plantation off Cypremort Road, this typical Louisiana Creole cottage was built about 1848 by the Weeks family and was called "the Canal House." Purchased by Hilaire Lancon in 1877, it remained his residence until 1913. In 1992 the house was moved 23 miles by truck to its present location on Irish Bend Road and restored with great care by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Stirling.

32 Darby

606 Main Street

One of Louisiana's finest examples of French Colonial architecture, Darby was built by Alfred Hennen near the end of the 18th century. It is probably the oldest extant building in St. Mary Parish. Home of Agricole Fuselier Jr. in the earlier 1800s, it is named for François Darby, its 1856 purchaser. Later owned by John Baldwin, for whom the town is named. Acquired and beautifully restored for bank use in 1969 by the St. Mary Bank and Trust Co.

33 Heaton

2194 Chitimacha Trail between Baldwin and Charenton

Built by Albert Heaton in 1853, this arresting Italianate villa was moved by barge in 1966 from Franklin and restored in its present location by Mr. and Mrs. H.H. Dinkins. The house is an Alexander Jackson Davis design which appeared in A. J. Downing's "The Architecture of Country Houses" in 1850. Hurricane Andrew in 1992 necessitated another meticulous restoration by owners, Mr. and Mrs. Mel Battle, the latter a daughter of the Dinkins family.

34 Albania

21066 Hwy.182 near Jeanerette

Immense grand cypress mansion in a splendid setting was built between 1837 and 1842 by Charles François Grevemberg. His wife, Euphemie, was the daughter of Agricole Fuselier, builder of nearby Alice Plantation (Fuselier). This home features a magnificent unsupported three-story spiral staircase. Albania was willed by Isaac Delgado in 1909 to the City of New Orleans and was purchased in 1957 by Mrs. Emily Cyr Bridges, who occupied the house for many years. Now owned by renowned artist Hunt Slonem.

Published September 2016
© Cajun Coast Visitors & Convention Bureau