PERIQUE FARM HOUSE

Rare French Creole Gem Along River Road Circa 1840



OFFERED FOR \$825,000

2834 Louisiana Highway 44, Paulina, LA 70763

2 bedrooms & 2 bathrooms

1,901 square feet living area | 5,122 total square feet | 4.25 acres

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION
PHOTOS
DESCRIPTION22
ARCHITECTURE
GENERAL INFORMATION25
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
Creation of St. James Parish27
Location27
History
Geography
Bonfires in St. James Parish
Perique Tobacco
FLOOR PLAN
MAPS
HISTORIC INFORMATION
ARTICLES43
REFERENCES
REALTOR



INTRODUCTION & PHOTOS

Welcome to Perique Farm House!

I'm thrilled to offer this wonderful historic French Creole architectural gem, named after the famous tobacco farmed exclusively in the area. This 180-year-old house is in almost pristine condition! Perique Farm House sits on 4.25 acres bordering the mighty Mississippi River. It is indeed a rare find to be in such great condition, to be an architectural treasure, and situated near both Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

Please keep reading. I invite you to delve into Perique Farm House's fascinating history, and do enjoy the magical photos.

Please reach out with your questions soon as an estate this inviting won't last long!

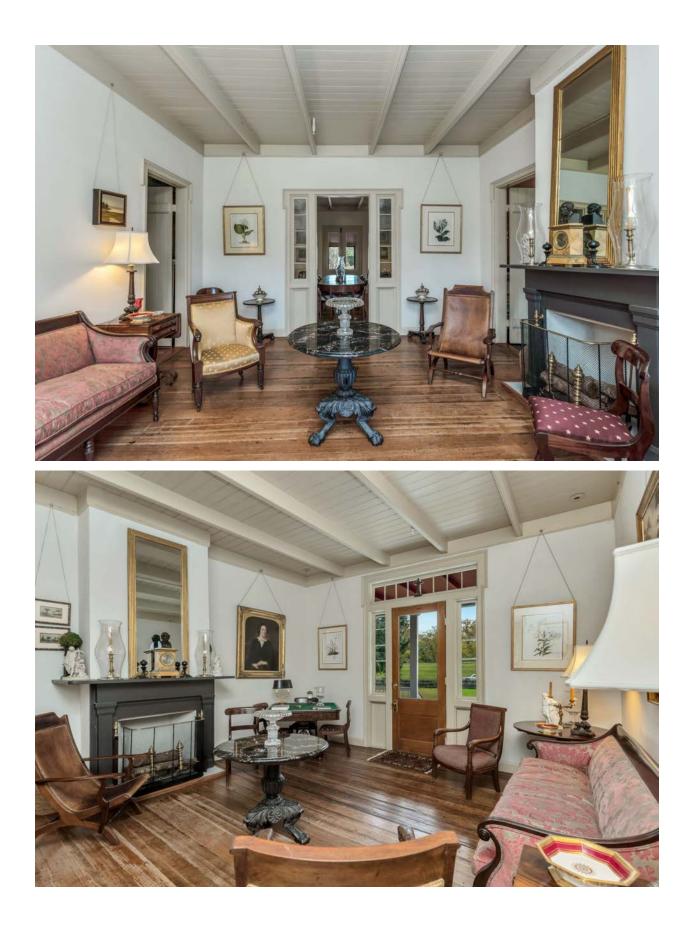
Peter





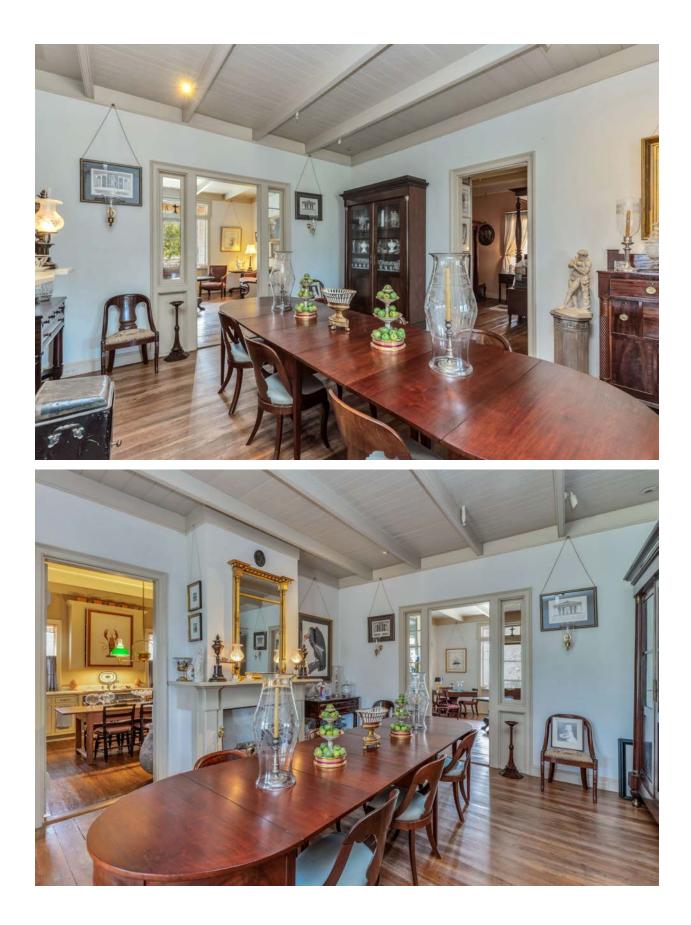


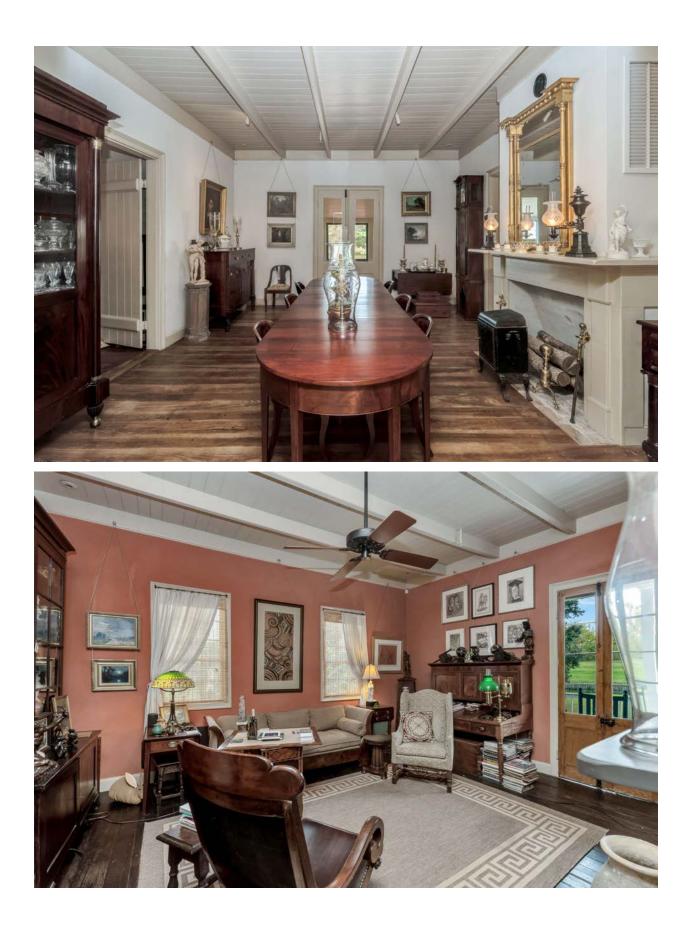










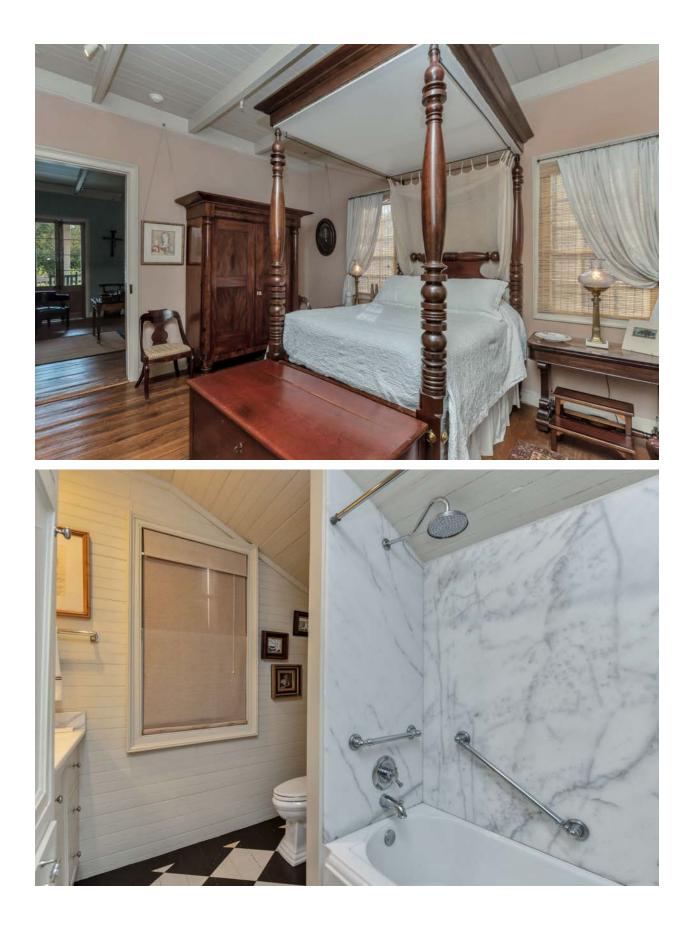




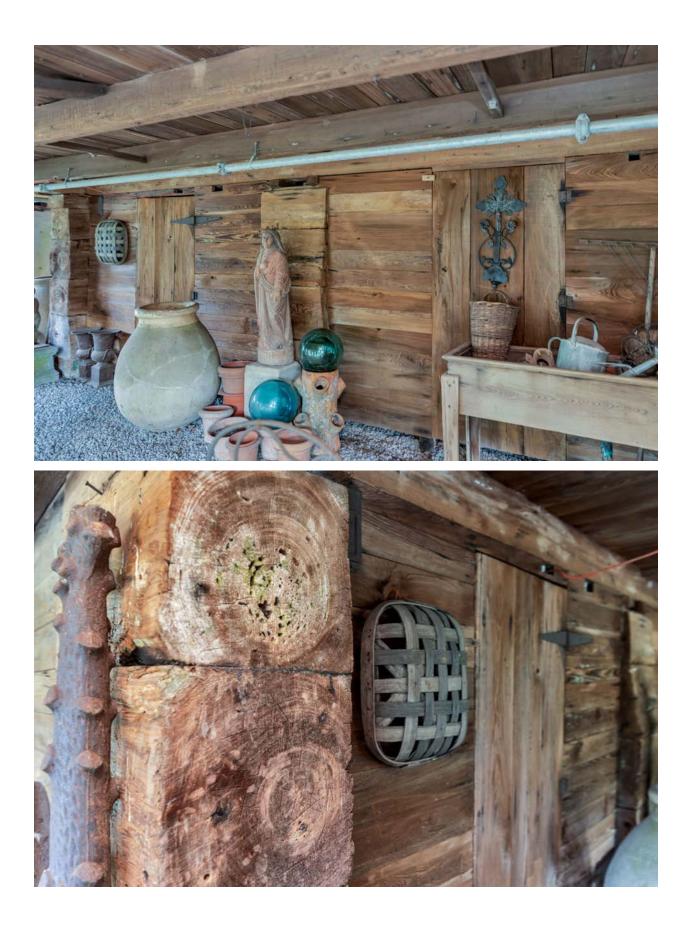
















DESCRIPTION

Historic French Creole Perique Farm House The Schexnayder/Brignac-Genre/Little Texas Home

Historic French Creole "Perique" Farm House, is named after the local tobacco crop famous in the area. This 180-year-old house is in almost pristine condition!!! The house sits on 4.25 acres that borders the mighty Mississippi River.

This classic Creole beauty was built on the east bank of the Mississippi River in St. James Parish around 1840 by a German Creole family. Ceiling heights in the main rooms are 10'7". The very large front porch looks out on historic River Road and environs. Acquired by the present owner in 2006, a sensitive full restoration was completed in 2008. The work was performed with a discerning eye and was carefully completed to preserve original materials and the overall integrity of the historic nature of the house. Central air and heat, a commodious modern kitchen, and two bathrooms were part of the remodeling.

Historic "pieux" fencing was used to enclose the front yard and appropriate fencing was used in the rear yard. The total fenced area is approximately 2.2 acres, providing ample room for outdoor activities. There are three outbuildings in the back of the property;

- A small house that could potentially be renovated into a guest house, currently used as storage. This structure measures 28'5" ?x 38'4", which is 1,090 SF.
- A metal shop building with a garage door, measuring 24'2" x 40'5", which is 970 SF.
- There is a 3-bay garage with a dirt floor, measuring 20' x 30', 600 SF. This garage building is in much need of repair, or could potentially be torn down.

These square footages are approximate and are not included in the dimensions for the main house.

The home is ideal for either full-time living or a weekend home retreat. Perique is one hour from the French Quarter/New Orleans and one hour from Baton Rouge. It is 45 minutes from Little Texas - Perique Plantation House to the New Orleans International Airport (MSY). Houmas House Plantation is a 30-minute drive, and Manresa is 10 minutes away. Oak Alley and Laura Plantation are right across the river.

November 21, 2023 | 22

ARCHITECTURE

Originally constructed about 1840, this phenomenal French Creole house, with later sensitive Greek Revival additions, is a remarkable surviving example of River Road architecture on the east bank of the Mississippi River in St. James Parish. A very unusual feature of the house is that it is raised seven feet above grade on large, rectangular, stacked cypress blocks.

Special features of the house are enumerated in the *National Register Form* for completed in 1992. Below are the first set of features that relate to Creole architecture:¹

- Hipped roof with knee-wall support systember, representative of the last stage in the use of the Norman truss roof system in Louisiana
- Hand hewn mortised and pegged frame
- Bousillage walls
- A rare surviving original floor plan which displays the geometry associated with Creole architecture. The home is three rooms wide, and each of these rooms is equal in size. In addition, the building has a second range of equal sized rooms behind the first.
- Two sets of French doors on the front facade
- A front gallery with exposed beaded ceiling beams
- Exposed beaded ceiling beams in all six of the home's original rooms
- One wraparound mantel

The elements of the home that reflect the updated Greek Revival decorative features are as follow:

- The main entrance, which features an eight light transom, five pane sidelights, reeded pilasters flanking the single door, and a Greek shoulder molding motif outlining the entire ensemble
- Simple Greek shoulder molding around the French doors which serve as the facade's secondary entrances
- An interior opening featuring five pane sidelights and the Greek shoulder molding motif.

¹ National Register Nomination Form - Little Texas November 21, 2023 | 23

This opening connects the home's two center rooms.

- Simple Greek Revival mantels composed of smooth pilasters, molded bases and capitals, plain entablatures, and very plain mantel shelves
- Dormers featuring pilasters with molded basis and capitals

Additional alterations beyond those that occurred during the Greek Revival period are as follows:

- A rear gallery was added sometime during the late nineteenth century
- A renovation project, largely on the interior, occurred in 1923-1925. The plastered bousillage walls were covered with five inch double beaded tongue and groove boards. Cabinet rooms were added to the rear gallery. The newly created loggia was screened. A modern French door was installed in the opening between the center rear room and the loggia. Formerly only shutters protect this opening. New flooring was installed, and an interior kitchen was created in the right rear room.
- A 1928 levee setback necessitated that the house be rolled back. In the process, additional brick piers were added to the monumental cypress supports.
- Later in the twentieth century, the right rear cabinet was expanded to create a laundry and pantry, while the left cabinet was converted into a bathroom.

GENERAL INFORMATION 2834 Louisiana Highway 44, Paulina, LA 70763

PROPERTY

Property description: LOT 1 (2.2180 ACRES OR 240.87 X 423.31) ON HWY.44 IN T, 12 S.,

R.5.E. (PART OF BATTURE IS INCLUDED) BOOK 346-1 ENTRY NO. 100635

Lot Size: 4.25 acres on both sides of Highway 44, extending into the batture on the Mississippi

River on the south side of the property

Parking: On-site

Easements: None

HOUSE

Stories: One

Foundation: Raised on high piers seven feet above grade on large, rectangular, stacked cypress blocks.

Living area: 1,901 Square Feet

Total area: 5,122 Square Feet

Ceiling Heights - Main House Ceiling Height - 10.6 feet

Ceiling Heights - Ceiling Slopes from 8'4" to 6'6". 1/3 of the room is 8'4" and then slopes

downward

Bedrooms: 2

Bathrooms: 2

Roof: Metal

Utilities - Gas: Atmos

Utilities - Electric: Entergy

Utilities - Water: St. James Parish

Utilities - Sewer: New Septic system was installed in 2008

Termite Treatment: There is no termite contract, but twice a year both houses are treated for domestic and Formosan termites. This treatment has occurred each year since the present owner acquired the property.

Fireplaces: There are two fireplaces which are closed off and inoperable.

INCLUSIONS

Sub Zero Refrigerator, Wolf Stove, Maytag Washer, Maytag Dryer, GE Warming Drawer and Microwave, and Bosch Dishwasher. All ceiling attached light fixtures and fans. Two (2) sugar kettles in the front yard - one to the right and one to the left of the house. Pari fo cast iron birds on gate posts. Old wooden water cistern.

EXCLUSIONS

All other movables

ZONING

Zoning description: Single Family Residence
Zoning Compliance: Legal
Highest and Best Use: Residence
St. James Parish Parish Tax ID#: 0300081990

FEMA FLOOD ZONES

House and land are FEMA Flood Zone X2.

See FEMA flood map for clarification, included in this portfolio.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Creation of St. James Parish

St. James Parish, located midway between New Orleans and Baton Rouge on the mighty Mississippi River and divided in two by the Father of Waters, is one the original nineteen parishes created on March 31, 1807, by an act of the Orleans Territorial Legislature. Prior to its creation as a civil parish, St. James Parish formed a part of the "Comte' d' Acadie" or Country of Acadia, which was composed of the old ecclesiastical parishes of the St. James and "The Ascension," commonly referred to then as the First and Second Acadian Coasts.

The original seat of government was in St. James on the west bank of the river, but in 1869 it was changed to the east bank, near the "Convent of the Sacred Heart" and a new courthouse was erected. This structure was destroyed by a fire in 1970 and another was built in the same location. In 1971 the present courthouse was constructed. The area is now known as Convent and is at present the parish seat.

Location

St. James Parish is bounded by Ascension Parish on the north, St. John the Baptist on the east, Assumption on the west and southwest, and Lafourche on the south.²



Location within the U.S. state of Louisiana

https://www.stjamesla.com/240/Parish-History#:~:text=Creation%20of%20St..of%20the%20Orleans%20T erritorial%20Legislature. Accessed 11/16/2023 November 21, 2023 | 27



Louisiana's location within the U.S.

Population (2020)• Total20,192• Density78/sq mi (30/km²)Time zoneUTC-6 (Central)• Summer (DST)UTC-5 (CDT)

Website www.stjamesla.com

St. James Parish (French: *Paroisse de Saint-Jacques*) is a parish located in the U.S. state of Louisiana. The parish seat is Convent.^[1] The parish was created in 1807.^[2] St. James Parish is a part of the New Orleans–Metairie, Louisiana metropolitan statistical area, sitting between New Orleans and Baton Rouge on the Mississippi River. According to the 2020 United States census, the population was 20,192.^[3]

History

St. James is one of the state's nineteen original parishes, created by act of the territorial legislature, March 31, 1807. The original seat of government was the community of St. James, on the west bank of the Mississippi, but this was moved in 1869 to what is now Convent, on the east bank.

St. James Parish is part of the Acadian Coast. While it is possible that some Acadians did arrive prior to 1755 or between 1755 and 1764, the first documented group of Acadians [4 families: 20 individuals] arrived in New Orleans in February 1764. The arrival was documented in a letter dated April 6, 1764, from Governor D'Abbadie to his superior in France. They were settled along the Mississippi River in present-day St. James.

St. James is known for its tradition, Bonfires on the Levee, which takes place every Christmas Eve. Residents build large bonfires along the River levee, lighting them all at nightfall. The townsfolk tell the children that the purpose of this tradition is so Papa Noel can easily see his way down the Mississippi as he is delivering gifts.

St. James is the only cultivation site in the world for Perique tobacco, introduced by an Acadian exile, Pierre Chenet, whose nickname was "Perique." It has been produced by his descendants for nearly two centuries (now covering only a 300-acre (1.2 km²) tract) and is in great demand by large tobacco companies.

Geography

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the parish has a total area of 258 square miles (670 km²), of which 242 square miles (630 km²) is land and 16 square miles (41 km²) (6.4%) is water.^[4] It is the fourth-smallest parish in Louisiana by land area and second-smallest by total area.

Bonfires in St. James Parish



The area of Louisiana now known as the River Parishes (St. James, St. John and St. Charles) was settled in the early 1700's by the Old World French and Germans. These early colonists brought with them the knowledge of both summer and winter bonfire customs and traditions which they had known in their native lands. By sharing this knowledge with their many descendants, they provided the inspiration for a practice which has evolved into one giant celebration—the present-day Christmas Eve levee bonfires!

Of necessity, survival and the establishment of a new colony were the principal concerns of the French and Germans who first settled along the lower Mississippi River. These early colonists undoubtedly built a few celebration fires, but early history of the area has failed to record any information about this. As a result, as the bonfire custom increased in recent generations, so has speculation about the origin and development of tradition.

For example, one of the more recent and increasingly popular explanations is that the bonfires were a "Cajun tradition", first used to light the way for "Papa Noel", the Cajun version of Santa Claus. This charming version, although improbable, has been depicted annually in front of a Paulina, LA business establishment where a levee scene shows "Papa Noel" with his pirogue drawn by alligators named Gason, Ninette, "Te-Boy", Celeste, Suzette, and others.

Some Acadian exiles from Nova Scotia settled in St. James Parish as early as 1765, with many more arriving in the 1780's, but "Papa Noel" was not yet known to them. It was on New Year's Eve that the little French children received their gifts.



Photo of Alligator bonfire structure. Courtesy of WWL TV, New Orleans

In South Louisiana of old, Christmas was a strictly religious observance, and it was New Year's Eve that was marked by the exchange of gifts and the "reveille" to see the old year out and to greet the new year. In "Cabanocey: The History, Customs, and Folklore of St. James Parish", published in 1957, the author, Lillian Bourgeois, tells of this custom of celebrating New Year's Eve with a gathering of family and friends who enjoyed a gumbo supper, eggnog and the burning of huge cone-shaped bonfires on the batture, the land area between the base of the levee and the water's edge. With the passage of time, these activities gradually moved to Christmas Eve.



Some have also offered the theory that the bonfires served as navigational signals to guide ships along the river, or were used to light the way for the faithful to attend Midnight Mass.

Through 1865 letters, it has been established that the summer feast of St. John the Baptist was then celebrated in neighboring St. John Parish (known as the Second German Coast) with the lighting of fires and the homecoming of relatives who lived away.

A recently discovered 1871 picture shows members of the Lacoul and de Lobel Mahy families gathered around two bonfires built on the levee in Front of Laura Plantation in West St. James Parish. The men pictured are wearing coats and the women are wearing hats, but the time of the year is not specified.

In 1989, a local study of the development of Christmas Eve bonfires in the River Parish was completed. Many older residents of their descendants were interviewed to learn their knowledge of the history and traditions of the custom.

In a personal interview with H. D'Aquin Bourgeois, son of George B'Ourgeois, a St. James Parish native born in 1855, I learned that the elder Mr. Bourgeois, an enterprising merchant, had built Christmas Eve levee bonfires in front of his New Camellia Plantation store as early as 1884. Throughout the year, he collected wooden shipping crates, some as large as 3'x5', in which merchandise for his store had been shipped. These crates, along with old lumber, were used to construct a Christmas Eve bonfire for the pleasure of local residents and the children of his store patrons. The blazing bonfire, the sound of exploding fireworks provided by the store owner, and the gleeful sounds of the children attracted riverboat crews who interrupted their travel to join in the celebration. Bonfires at this location continued until 1930, and in later years grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the original builder resumed bonfire construction at the same site.

Another 1869 interview with Mrs. Hilda Gabb Cambre, a St. James native born in 1901, revealed that she had known Christmas Eve yard bonfires during childhood days spent on her grandfather's Magnolia Plantation in West St. James Parish. The bonfires, built with any type wood available, were part of a festive occasion where lanterns were placed in the trees and eggnog was served to guests. In later Christmas seasons, kerosene-soaked cotton balls were lit and rolled down the levee.

In increasing numbers, people born in the decade of World War I, in the 1920's and 1930's recalled small yard Christmas Eve fires and told of the gradual resurgence of the larger levee bonfires. Vividly recalled by some were the levee bonfires built by the families on Welham Plantation, first in the pasture and later at the base of the levee.

During World War II, bonfire building ceased, but was resumed with increased enthusiasm in the post-war years. Slowly, the structure became more standardized in size, shape and materials used. Willow, growing in profusion along the river bank, became the wood of choice. In the mid-1950's, a residential subdivision developed along the River Road between the towns of Lutcher and Gramercy. With more young families living near the levee, the bonfire building custom exploded"

Chainsaws replaced axes, hatchets and hand-saws. Logs and cane reeds were transported to the levee top by pick-up trucks rather than muscle power and determination. The structures retained the traditional tepee shape, but the precisely cut lots became artistic masterpieces. Non-traditional bonfires gradually emerged in the shape of plantation homes, riverboats, and trains - structures of such beauty that it seemed a shame to burn them.

With increased press coverage of the levee bonfires, the once-quiet River Road soon became the site of a giant party. Thousands of on-lookers arrived in private automobiles, motor homes, riverboats and tour buses to join local revelers in the Christmas Eve celebration.

As the number of bonfires and spectators grew, more stringent regulations about materials and construction became necessary. Environmental concerns about pollution resulted in a ban on the burning of rubber tires or toxic materials. The swamp replaced the river bank as the source of willow logs, As the number of bonfires and spectators grew, more stringent regulations about materials and construction became necessary. Environmental concerns about pollution resulted in a ban on the burning of rubber tires or toxic materials. The swamp replaced the river bank as the source of willow logs. Safety concerns created construction size and spacing limitations which were spelled out in building permits.

Little did early French and German settlers of this area dream that the bonfire legacy left to their descendants would one day make Christmas Eve a VERY special time in the River Parishes.

http://festivalofthebonfires.org/history/, accessed November 20, 2023

Perique Tobacco



"Perique", Photographs by Charles Martin

Perique /pə'ri:k/ is a type of tobacco from Saint James Parish, Louisiana, known for its strong, powerful, and fruity aroma. When the Acadians made their way into this region in 1776, the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes were cultivating a variety of tobacco with a distinctive flavor. A farmer named Pierre Chenet is credited with first turning this local tobacco into what is now known as Perique in 1824 through the labor-intensive technique of pressure-fermentation. It is reported by authorities on tobacco that Perique is based on a variety of Red Burley (USDA Type 72) leaf.^[1] The Tobacco Institute says perique has been shipped out of New Orleans for more than 250 years and is considered to be one of America's first export crops.^[2]



An antique jar for dispensing perique tobacco, produced only in Louisiana.

The tobacco plants are manually kept suckerless and pruned to exactly 12 leaves through their early growth. In late June, when the leaves are a dark, rich green and the plants are 24–30 inches (60–75 cm) tall, the whole plant is harvested in the late evening and hung to dry in a sideless curing barn. Once the leaves have partially dried but are still supple (usually less than 2 weeks in the barn), any remaining dirt is removed and the leaves are moistened with water and stemmed by hand. The leaves are then rolled into "torquettes" of approximately 1 pound (450 g) and packed into hickory whiskey barrels.

The tobacco is kept under pressure using oak blocks and massive screw jacks, forcing nearly all the air out of the still-moist leaves. Approximately once a month the pressure is released, and each of the torquettes is worked by hand to permit a little air back into the tobacco. After a year of this treatment, the perique is ready for consumption, although it may be kept fresh under pressure for many years. Extended exposure to air degrades the particular character of perique. The finished tobacco is dark brown - nearly black - very moist with a fruity, slightly vinegary aroma.^[3] The fruity aroma is the result of hundreds of volatile compounds created by anaerobic fermentation of the tobacco. Many of these are responsible for the flavors of fruits and are often found in wine.^[1]

Often considered the truffle of pipe tobaccos by connoisseurs, perique is used as a component of various blended pipe tobaccos, as many people consider it too strong to be smoked pure. At one time, the fresh and moist perique was also chewed, but none is now sold for this purpose.

November 21, 2023 | 35

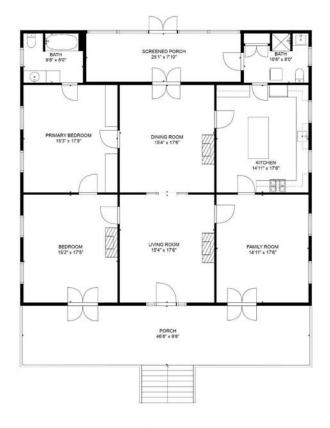
Pierre Chenet's granddaughter, Coralie Decareau, married Celestin Poche in February 1829, and the Poche family has been involved in the cultivation and processing of Perique tobacco through current times. By the late 1990's, Perique had fallen out of favor, and the number of farmers growing it had dwindled to just one. But interest in the variety rebounded, and as of May 2017, the number of growers planting Perique tobacco commercially in Saint James Parish has risen to 25.^[2]

While traditionally a pipe tobacco (and still available from some specialist tobacconists), perique can also be found in Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company's perique cigarettes under the Natural American Spirit brand in an approximately 1 part to 5 blend with lighter tobaccos. These cigarettes are marketed in a black box (Perique Rich Robust) and in a gray box (Perique Rich.) Loose tobacco for rolling is sold by the same company in black pouches.

Perique is also featured in the Mysterioso line of cigars made by the Connecticut Valley Tobacconist. Mysterioso is available with a genuine Connecticut shade wrapper, genuine aged Louisiana Perique, and Honduran tobacco.^[4] In 2014, Philippine-based cigar manufacturer Tabacalera Incorporada created the 1881 Perique. These cigars use Louisiana Perique alongside Brazilian and Philippine filler tobacco.^[5] Following this, Tabacalera released other cigars using Perique tobacco in 2016: the Tabacalera Gran Reserva, the Don Juan Urquijo Perique, and the 1881 Perique Bold, which is the same as the 1881 Perique but finished in a dark Maduro wrapper.^[6]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perique, accessed November 20, 2023

FLOOR PLAN



Estimated areas GLA FLOOR 1: 1901 sq. ft, excluded 660 sq. ft Total GLA 1901 sq. ft, total scanned area 2561 sq. ft

Sizes and Dimensions are approximate, actual may vary and is not guaranteed.



MAPS

FEMA flood map for 2834 LA-44 Paulina, LA - Zone X2



LOCATION MAP

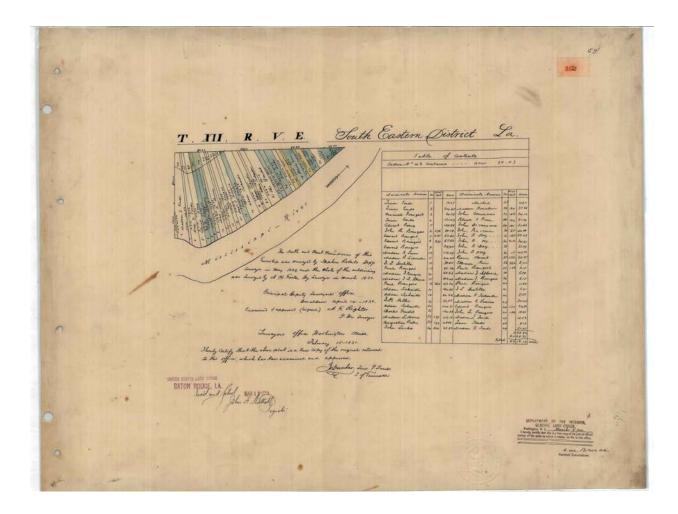


2834 Louisiana Hwy 44, Paulina, LA. Per St. James Parish Tax Assessor website

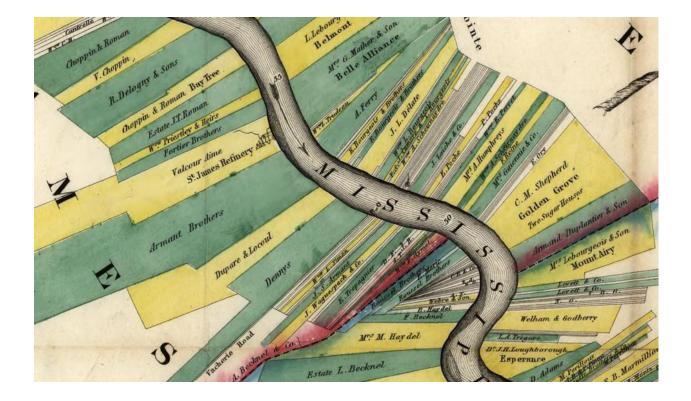
REGIONAL LOCATION MAP

Columbia 55 Perique French Creole Farm 49 House (165) Hazlehurst Magee **Q** 2838 LA-44 65 55 Jena Ferriday 61 84 Brookhaven est Natchez (84) (98) (51) Homochitto National Forest ia McComb Columbia 89 Marksville 55 19 Bogalusa Poplar Franklinton (71) St Francisville 49 (71) le Platte Opelousas Picayune (190) Hammond Covington e **Baton Rouge** 12 Ponchatoula Mandeville 10 Slidell Gonzales Lafayette 10 ley 10 10 Broussard 0 Abbeville New Iberia **New Orleans** Belle Chasse Thibodaux (90) Morgan City (90) Houma

HISTORIC INFORMATION



The image above is dated 1831, and shows the property now known as Perique.



1858 Norman's Chart of the Lower Mississippi River. Property now known as Perique was listed under the ownership of Wow. A. Schexnayder, which matches the historical record of ownership.

ARTICLES

https://www.louisianalife.com/a-place-called-perique/, Accessed Nov. 14, 2023.

https://www.nola.com/entertainment life/home garden/classic-creole-cottage-in-the-river-parishe s-becomes-home-for-landscape-designer/article_04c96b27-ec43-5cd1-b0ac-e18d36c1c530.html, accessed Nov. 14, 2023.

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Campbell, Marie McDowell Pilkington. 1981. "Nostalgic Notes on St. James Parish, Louisiana: Then and Now. Baton Rouge, LA: Privately Published.

National Park Service. 1992. National Register Nomination Form for Little Texas/Genre House, Paulina, LA.

https://www.stjamesla.com/240/Parish-History#:~:text=Creation%20of%20St.,of%20the%20Orle ans%20Territorial%20Legislature.

REALTOR Peter W. Patout

Realtor & Historic Properties Specialist Talbot Historic Properties Licensed in Louisiana & Mississippi

Peter Patout a native of south Louisiana and grew up among the sugar cane fields of the Bayou Teche country. He has been a resident and property owner in the French Quarter of New Orleans for 30 years. Additionally, he owns a historic family home in Patoutville, Louisiana. A consummate ambassador for Louisiana, Peter's family have been land and plantation owners for twelve generations along the Gulf Coast. Peter studied architecture for two years and received a business degree from University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He also studied Louisiana Architectural History at Tulane University in New Orleans. Peter founded the Natchez Crepe Myrtle Festival and is now working diligently to start a Louisiana Native Iris Festival, with the first event planned for March of 2025.



Blending his passions for art and architecture, Peter is a founding board member of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art/Louisiana Chapter. As a member of its program committee, he has spearheaded forays to Iberia Parish and Natchitoches, with forthcoming jaunts to Shreveport and Covington.

You'll find or sell the most beautiful and significant historic homes with Peter's expertise. His clients agree. Note more than 20 five star reviews at <u>zillow.com/profile/PeterPatout</u>.

As Peter likes to say, "Architecture is art." He would be honored to represent you!



REALTOR & BROKER



Tracy Talbot *Realtor & Historic Properties Specialist* Talbot Historic Properties Licensed in Louisiana & Mississippi

Tracy Talbot is from the Bayou Lafourche area not far from Madewood Plantation. Her parents owned the land where the Woodlawn Plantation home once stood. While attending Louisiana State University she obtained her Louisiana Real Estate License. Once completing her business degree at LSU Tracy moved west to Colorado. There she worked for a commercial real estate company and opened its residential division. She held a Colorado license at this time. Tracy relocated to San Francisco and got involved in the art business. When returning home to Louisiana she was able to combine art and architecture in her real estate business.

She started Talbot Historic Properties in 2001 in the French Quarter, and extended her market as far as Albania Plantation in St. Mary Parish and Lakeside Plantation in Pointe Coupée Parish. Tracy's passion is to combine smart business with historic preservation.



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