LSU Rural Life Museum & Windrush Gardens

Through the foresight and generosity of the Burden Family, the LSU Rural Life Museum remains intact for future generations to learn and to enjoy the life-ways of the rural people of Louisiana. The purpose of the LSU Rural Life Museum is to increase the appreciation of our heritage and the way of life of our ancestors, their hardships, toils, visions, inspiration, and determination by preserving something of the architecture and artifacts from our rural past.

The LSU Rural Life Museum holds the largest collection of Louisiana vernacular architecture and the most extensive collection of material culture artifacts from the 18th and 19th centuries. The museum includes 32 buildings, which spread over 25 acres that are divided into four areas:

The Working Plantation consists of a complex of buildings: post office, commissary, overseer’s house, kitchen, slave cabins, sick house, smoke houses, blacksmith shop, sugar house, pigeon co, and chicken house. These are authentically furnished to reconstruct most of the major activities of life on a typical 19th century working plantation.

The Folk Architecture (Upland South) section consists of buildings with divergent forms of construction, illustrating the various cultures of Louisiana: a split cypress barn, country church, pioneer’s cabin with corn crib and potato house, cemetery, dogtrot house, log house, 19th century jail, and syrup house.

The Gulf Coast Region section adheres to Creole (or South Louisiana) structures and demonstrates their culture that consists of two Acadian houses, barn, and shotgun house.

The Exhibit Barn contains a vast collection of artifacts and treasures dealing with everyday rural life up to the early 20th century.

Map Legend:

1. Bergeron House
2. Outdoor Oven
3. Acadian House
4. Shotgun House
5. Split Cypress Barn
6. Grist Mill
7. Chicken Coop
8. Kitchen
9. Kitchen Garden
10. Outhouses
11. Slave Cabins
12. Sugar House
13. Church
14. Pigeon Co
e
15. Smokehouse
16. Overseer’s House
17. Sick House
18. Well
19. Sugarcane Grinder
20. Statue of Uncle Jack
21. Garden House
22. Pigeon Co
e
23. 4-Hole Outhouse
24. School House
25. Blacksmith’s House
26. Cemetery
27. Commissary
28. Jail
29. Pioneer’s Cabin
30. Post Office
31. The Barn
32. Potato House
33. Corncrib
34. Visitor Center
35. Dogtrot House
36. Syrup House
37. Sugarcane Grinder
38. Columns
39. Entrance
40. Stoker Barn
41. Stoner-Athens House
42. Cattle Pen