



THE JEFFERSONIAN

JEFFERSON.....Preserving the Past



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Fall 1991/Winter, 1992

DEC. 5-7 & DEC. 12-14

"Magnolias & Mistletoe" theme for Candlelight Tour



Victorian Heights

The homes for the annual Jefferson Christmas Candlelight Tour have been selected and offer something for everyone in this quaint, warm little town on the banks of the Big Cypress. "Magnolias and Mistletoe" brings to Jefferson a celebration of the season with four beautiful old homes, each delightfully decorated with fresh greens, flowers (you may even see some Magnolias), mistletoe, and candlelight. These homes, rich with the flavor of the Old South, will be open for touring from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 5-7 and Dec. 12-14.

Victorian Heights at 301 E. Clarksville Street was built in the late 1890's by William E.

Singleton for his wife Victoria. Richard and Karen Penner purchased the house in 1986 as their dream home. They named it Victorian Heights for its namesake and for architectural style. The house features 11-foot ceilings, an ornate stairway, original wood floors, and an upstairs with unique turret and balcony bedrooms. Victorian Heights is currently being restored to its original splendor to recapture the era of a time not forgotten.

Secession Hall, built in 1856, stands as stately and genteel as the Old South itself. Hosting political forums and charming social affairs, it was the home of Judge William S. Todd from 1858 to 1864. A champion of Constitutional State's Rights, Judge Todd was an

influential delegate to the Special State Convention in Austin in 1861. Over the objections of Governor Sam Houston, Judge Todd and his fellow delegates, on February 1, 1861, signed the Ordinance of Secession, making Texas the seventh state to join the Confederacy. During the turbulent era of Reconstruction, and for the next 40 years, Secession Hall was owned by the prominent Terhune family. The historic integrity of the Greek Revival cottage is preserved and it is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. William, Montgomery. The house is marked with a State Medallion and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Torrants-Clopton-Spellings

House, now referred to as the Davanna House, is a restored Greek Revival Home built in 1860 by William P. Torrants. Torrants obtained the materials to build the structure from surrounding forests which produced the cypress and pine. Two single-panelled, hand-hewn pine doors, with original hardware and porcelain knobs, form the front door. Seven other original pine doors are in the house. In 1936, the Texas Historical Commission cited Davanna House as worthy of preservation and possessing exceptional architectural interests. A Historical Marker stands out front depicting this honor. This lovely and unique structure at 107 E. Clarksville is currently owned by Pat and Dave

Tuttle, former residents of Dallas, who moved here from New Orleans. Their furnishings include period family pieces dating from 1860.

The history of the Culberson Home, at 403 N. Walnut, began in 1880 when David Browning Culberson purchased the south half of Block 50 at a certificate of redemption sale. Shortly thereafter, Culberson and his wife Eugenia, built this fine old structure for their home. These two were the parents of Charles A. Culberson who became Governor and later a U.S. Senator from Texas. The Culberson Home is marked with a State Medallion from the Texas Historical Commission. Completely restored in 1988 by (See Magnolias, pg. 10)

Mardi Gras goes Hollywood

FEBRUARY
28 & 29
AND
MARCH 1, 1992



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The House of the Seasons was built in 1872 during the heyday of Jefferson, then the largest inland port in Texas. Benjamin H. Epperson, the builder of the house, was a prominent lawyer, political leader, entrepreneur and confidante of Sam Houston. The house is a fine example of the transition period between the Greek Revival and Victorian styles of architecture. In plan and overall form,

it is Greek Revival. However, in detail, the style is Victorian with certain Italianate characteristics. The most unique feature of the house is the cupola, from which the house gets its name. Each wall contains a different color of stained glass that creates the illusion of a season of the year.

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Known far and wide for its gracious old world charm, the Excelsior House presents a picture of Deep South luxury and tradition. A landmark in Jefferson, and indeed throughout the entire area, the Excelsior House is owned and operated by the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club. As a backdrop for many social functions, not the least of which are numerous weddings and receptions held each year, the Excelsior House is the hub of activity for visitors to the city.

The Garden Club was formed in 1939 and since has been the leader in many social and community activities. Sponsors of the Annual Historical Pilgrimage, they began by sponsoring a Dogwood Festival. When the dogwoods failed to bloom one year, the ladies decided to open some of the many historical homes instead. Thus developed what is now an annual event. The Garden Club purchased the Excelsior House in August of 1961.

It is believed that the northeast portion of the hotel, originally known as "The Irving House", was constructed shortly after William Perry acquired the property, probably about 1858-59. The southwest wing was thought to be added sometime between the end of the Civil War and 1872.

After Captain Perry's death, the hotel changed hands several times.

It was known briefly as the Exchange Hotel and Commercial Hotel. In 1877 the hotel was acquired by Mrs. Kate Wood and again became known as the Excelsior House.

Mrs. Kate Wood and her daughter, Mrs. Amelia Wood McNeely, operated the hotel jointly until 1902. From 1902 until 1920 the hotel was operated by Mrs. McNeely, who bequeathed the property to George S. Neidermeir and the Neidermeir family operated the hotel from that time until it was sold to Mrs. James I. Peters in 1954. Mrs. Peters began the restoration work that the Garden Club continued when they bought it following her death. Mrs. Peters brought in the beautiful fountain in the already famous courtyard.

When the Garden Club purchased the Excelsior House from Mrs. Peters' heirs, they began their restoration work. Although in good general repair, the lean years of the Depression had taken their toll.

The Garden Club then went to work to make the Excelsior House a showplace of the South, which it is today. The Garden Club formed the Jefferson Historical Restoration and Preservation Corporation, and they began by selecting "documentary" wallpapers. These papers are reproductions of

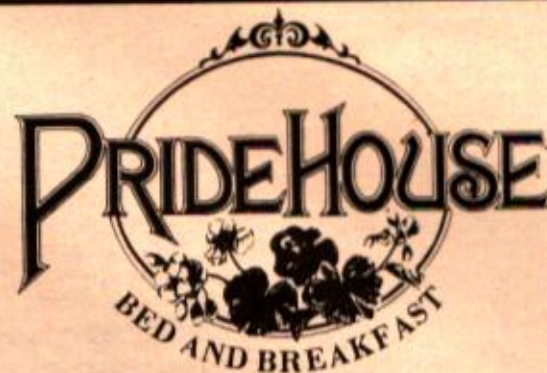
authenticated papers from the era. "Transportation" paper was chosen for the Jay Gould Room, and so on throughout the hotel.

Most of the furnishings in the hotel at the time it was purchased by the Garden Club had been in the hotel originally. The ladies then went to work refinishing each piece to restore it to its original beauty.

In the 1870's, social life was gay in Jefferson, and the Excelsior House with its beautifully appointed drawing and dining rooms was the scene of many of the famed "Queen Mab" balls, a part of Jefferson's own Mardi Gras.

Travelers from all walks of life have crossed the portals. Everyone from Presidents to wandering minstrels have signed their name in the now-famous register, which dates from 1877. During the "boom" days following the Civil War, the Excelsior's register listed the names of planters, promoters, traders and visitors bent on an outing. Visitors can read the names of Ulysses S. Grant, President Hayes, Jacob Astor, W. H. Vanderbilt, Oscar Wilde, Jay Gould and many more.

Hotel guests are welcomed by volunteer workers who are members of the Garden Club. Luncheons and dinners are frequent at the Excelsior House. Private parties, clubs, conventions and various groups arrive daily to savor the delightful cuisine. Parties are served by reservation only. The famous Plantation Breakfast, reservations required, is served in the Sun Room overlooking the Old Courtyard.



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- GREEN ROOM** \$85.00
Formerly "The Study", shutter green walls - antique white wicker - white enamel and brass Queen bed, huge shower - upstairs.
- WEST ROOM** \$75.00
Rich Victorian red walls with Eastlake Walnut full bed - huge claw-footed tub with bubble bath provided. Anne Hockney wreaths and Sally Martin water colors - upstairs.
- GOLDEN ERA** \$100.00
Romantic 9-foot, half-tester bed set in stained glass bay windows - draped in old lace - King bed - double lavatories, large shower, fireplace - downstairs.
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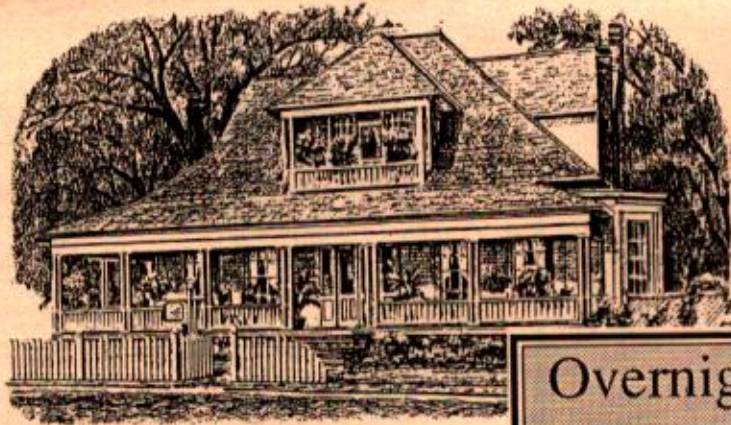
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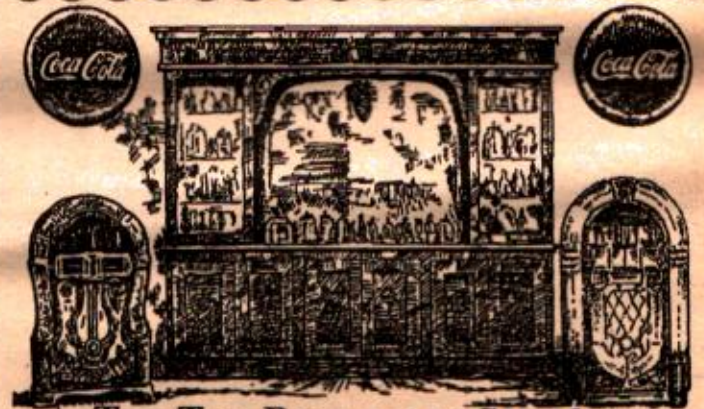


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The style of architecture, as described in The Magazine Antiques in its June, 1948, Texas Issue, is "a one story Neoclassic Form that has taken on Victorian trimmings". Its spacious rooms are furnished with antiques of the Federal, Empire and Victorian periods. Owned by Dr. and Mrs. Jesse M. DeWare III, the house, at the corner of Henderson & Vale Streets is open 9:45 a.m., Monday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday and by appointment.

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JEFFERSON WAS IMPORTANT PORT

Steamboat Trade on Big Cypress Bayou

The long, low moan of a steamboat whistle was once the signal for action along the Jefferson riverfront, as draymen, roustabouts, and the general populous readied for the arrival of another big steamer from New Orleans. It was an exciting time and rightly so. Jefferson was established in the 1840's along Big Cypress Bayou as a port providing a vital means of transportation in Northeast Texas.

At one time, perhaps for centuries, a massive natural log jam had made the Red River impossible for navigation. Boats could travel up the Red only as far as Natchitoches, La., some 100 miles south of Shreveport. By the 1830's, a method of removing massive logs and debris from rivers had been invented by the innovative, Capt. Henry Shreve. His invention, the snagboat, was simply a steam-powered pontoon

boat with a derrick and hoisting engine capable of removing embedded trees from the river bottom.

Along with a labor force and black powder, the snagboat, operated by the U.S. Engineers Dept., set to work on the "Great Red River Raft". They slowly arduously worked their way up from Natchitoches to a place that was later named for Capt. Shreve, and then the project was abandoned. The log jam was taking too much time and money, so the government withdrew the snagboats and sent them elsewhere. The "Raft" had actually gotten worse farther upstream and was deemed impenetrable, due to the fact that sediment, trapped by the debris, had completely filled in the channel of the Red for miles.

It was not long after the channel was opened to Shreveport that

settlers in East Texas began to see the possibilities of navigation in their area. Boats could travel up the Red to Shreveport, then enter Twelve Mile Bayou, which led to Soda Lake, Caddo Lake, and Big Cypress Bayou. Allen Urquhart, who owned land and operated a ferry at the future site of Jefferson, was able to see the dream become a reality, and this future head of navigation began to exist as a community in the early 1840's. It began to exist as a port by 1844, when Capt. William Perry, responsible for opening navigation on Big Cypress Bayou, brought the first boat to Jefferson. It was the 66 ton Steamer Llama, W. W. Withenbury, captain. Passage up the snag-infested bayou was difficult, but improvements would soon be made, enabling vessels in excess of 100 feet, some over 200 feet in length, to transit the

waterway.

From 1845 to 1849, Jefferson grew from three log houses to "sixty good houses and several well-supplied stores", according to an English visitor, Edward Smith. As the steamboat trade flourished, the architectural style of homes in Jefferson began to resemble those in New Orleans, particularly the raised cottage and Greek Revival influence.

In the mid 1800's, the best way to travel or ship freight was by water. It was cheaper, quicker, and safer than overland travel. Capitalizing on this fact, Jefferson soon became a thriving and prosperous port. Numerous goods of all types, from the most refined to the very basic arrived as steamboat cargo. People of all walks of life and nationalities arrived in Jefferson by way of a boat's gangplank. But it was what

left Jefferson on the freight deck of these floating warehouses that made Jefferson the largest inland port in Texas. Cotton, a major money-making cargo, was rapidly becoming the crop of choice across the vast acres of Texas.

Much of the cotton grown in the South was shipped to mills in the East and England. Jefferson was the closest port to many East Texas fields. Galveston, Texas' largest seaport, also capitalized on the need to ship cotton.

Boats leaving Jefferson would wind their way down through Louisiana on the Red River, enter the Mississippi at the mouth of the Red, and, in a few days, be in New Orleans. There, the cotton was unloaded, destined for the cargo holds of ocean going ships. It was this connection by water to New Orleans, a major cotton port, that (See Steamboat, pg. 16)

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The Captain's Castle

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The Captain's Castle, also known as the Rogers-McCasland home, was so named by Captain Thomas J. Rogers, a Confederate officer and local pioneer banker. In the early 1870's, he combined two older houses, one already located on the present site (the back part of the existing structure) and the other, an imposing landmark of Tennessee Planters Architecture (the two story front portion), he moved across town on log rollers, with oxen, from down on the river front. The moved in portion, built during the 1850's, is said to have been one of the town's most elaborate bawdy houses during its river boat heyday. This colorful old home, furnished with many antiques of

the period, has a Texas Historical Survey Medallion and is listed in the National Register of homes worthy of preservation. It was first restored by Judge Joe McCasland, a prominent local Attorney. Present owners are P. C. and Marian Sorensen. Overnight lodging is offered in the main house and a nearby Carriage House. Four rooms are available in the house with breakfast in the main dining room. Three rooms are available in the carriage house with breakfast served in a glassed-in, temperature controlled gazebo nestled under huge pecan trees. Breakfast at the Captain's Castle has become a Jefferson tradition.

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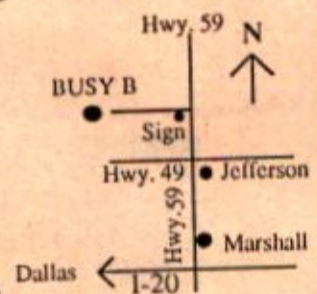
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c. 1890

Urquhart House
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THE JEFFERSONIAN
© Historic Jefferson Foundation

Published By

Historic Jefferson Foundation
Drawer 688
Jefferson, Texas 75657
903/665-2118

*A Non-Profit Civic Organization Dedicated to the
Preservation and Restoration of Local Landmarks*

Colleen Taylor, *President* Lexie Palmore, *Editor*
Katherine Wise, *Historian* Perry Chastain, *Editor Emeritus*

TOURS & ATTRACTIONS

1. **JEFFERSON TOURING COMPANY:** Info. for groups, tours, lodging, reservations, 665-3933. Located: Hotel Jefferson.
2. **JEFFERSON AND CYPRESS BAYOU RAILROAD:** Steam excursion along bayou and through historic areas. 665-3940.
3. **HORSE-DRAWN TOURS**
Whenever carriages are parked across from Museum. About 1 hour long. \$4.00 Adults, \$2 Children. Narrated tour of Jefferson. Available for groups, maximum of 20 to carriage.
4. **EXCELSIOR HOUSE HOTEL:** Austin Street. Tours every day, 1 and 2 p.m. \$2 Adults, \$1 Children.
5. **THE ATALANTA:** Jay Gould's private railroad car. Tours from the Excelsior House, 9-4. \$1 Adults, Children 50c.
6. **CARNEGIE LIBRARY:** Built in 1907. Open Tuesday-Friday 1-5 p.m. and Sat. 9-12 a.m. Closed Monday.
7. **JEFFERSON CROSSROADS MARKET:** S. Polk St. Fresh

- baked goods, cookies, Riverboat tickets, ice cream, tourist info. 665-2326.
8. **POLK STREET TROLLEY BUS:** Jefferson's only open air trolley tours historic downtown as well as the Old Oakwood Cemetery. Departs from Crossroads Market. 665-2326.
9. **CARRIAGE TOURS:** Horse-drawn carriage tour from Crossroads Market. Narrated. Available for weddings, parties, promotions. (903) 665-2326.
10. **GRAY'S MINIATURE CIRCUS:** 120 W. Lafayette. Musical antiques and arcade machines; circus memorabilia. 665-8533
11. **TURNING BASIN RIVERBOAT TOURS:** Relax on a 1 hour historic and nature tour of the Big Cypress Bayou, beginning in the Turning Basin of Texas' largest inland port. Located across the bridge, below the railroad trestle. Senior Citizen Rates. 665-2030.
12. **RIVERBOAT EXCURSIONS:** Experience the romance

- and mystery of the bayou. The one-hour narrated trip down the Big Cypress Bayou is the last 2.5 miles that the steamboats traveled during Jefferson's heyday. Purchase tickets at Crossroads Market. 665-2222.
13. **BATEMAN ALLEY:** Between Austin & Lafayette, and Polk & Walnut. Heritage Designs & Psalms 31 Homecrafts are located here.
14. **ANTIQUE DOLLS:** Located in Carnegie Library, 301 W. Lafayette. 50¢, 665-8911
15. **JEFFERSON MUSEUM:** Austin Street. 9:30-5 daily. Adults, \$1; Children through 18, 50¢.
16. **RIVER MUSEUM:** 222 E. Austin. Displays on every aspect of life aboard the great steamboats of the Mississippi System, including Big Cypress Bayou and Jefferson. 665-7372.

HISTORICAL HOME TOURS

17. **THE BEARD HOUSE:** Tuesday by appointment only. 665-7273.
18. **SECESSION HALL:** Jefferson at Alley. Open by appointment to group tours. 665-2164.
19. **CAPTAIN'S CASTLE:** Corner of Alley and Walker, in the Historic District. Group tours by appt. Refreshments. 665-2330.
20. **CULBERSON HOUSE:** 403 N. Walnut. Open Friday, Saturday 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Sunday one tour at 11:30 a.m. Group tours by appointment. 665-7265.
1. **FREEMAN PLANTATION:** Hwy. 49 West. One tour daily (except Wed.) at 2:30 during Feb., Spring, Summer, Fall tours at 2:30 & 3:30 (except Wed.) Group tours by appt. 665-2320.
2. **HOUSE OF THE SEASONS:** 409 S. Alley. Tours daily, 10:30 and 1:30; Sunday 1:30; groups by appointment. Adults \$4, Students \$2.50; 12 and under, \$1. 665-8880.
3. **ROSEVILLE MANOR:** 217 W. Lafayette. Guided tours daily at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and

4. **GALLEY THEATRE:** Fri. & Sat. 8:30 p.m., 121 W. Austin above the Galley Pub Restaurant. 665-2447 or 665-3641.
5. **HAYWOOD HOUSE THEATRE:** Fri. and Sat. performances, Dallas at Market Street. Oct. 4-Nov. 2, Haunted House and Magic Theater. For reservations: 665-8845.
6. **LIVING ROOM THEATRE:** One Woman Repertory Theatre. Sat. 8:00 p.m., 112 Vale St. 665-2310.
7. **OPERA HOUSE THEATRE:** "The Barrymore Incident", Nov. 28-30, 8:30 p.m., Upstairs Carnegie Library, 301 W. Lafayette. 665-2310.

Museums

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CLUB CAFE: 109 N. Polk. Oldest operating cafe in Jefferson, specializing in Southern homestyle cooking. Breakfast 6-10:30; Lunch 11-2:30.

CROSSROADS MARKET: 102 S. Polk St. Bread & pastries, homemade cookies, box lunches; Tickets to most attractions.

DAIRY QUEEN: 402 S. Walcott (Hwy. 59 South). Hamburgers, Ultimate Burgers, Country Baskets, Blizzards and Shakes.

EXCELSIOR HOUSE: 211 W. Austin. Plantation breakfasts served only to hotel guests and

those with reservations. Luncheons and dinners to groups of 16 or more. Reservations only. 665-2513.

GALLEY PUB: 121 Austin St. Noon buffet; dinner 5-10 p.m. Closed Sunday & Monday. Reservations advised. 665-3641.

THE GROVE: 405 W. Mosely. Breakfast: 8-10 Saturday & Sunday, Lunch: 11-2 Saturday & Sunday, Dinner: 5-9 Friday & Saturday. 665-2638.

JEFFERSON'S OLD-FASHIONED HAMBURGER STORE: 101. Market St. Homemade pies and gourmet hamburgers. Open Tues. - Fri. 10:30 - 3:00, Sat. & Sun. 10:30 - 8:00.

MINT TULIP: 123 W. Austin. Coffee Saloon & Ice Cream Emporium. Featuring light lunches, homemade soups, sandwiches.

ONEY'S RESTAURANT & CLUB: 301 Polk. Open 7 days a week, 11-9 serving seafood, steaks and sandwiches. Club 3-12. Live entertainment. 665-2211.

PLANTATION RESTAURANT: Hwy. 59 South, next to Best Western. Breakfast buffet 6:30-10:30; Lunch buffet 11-2; Dinner 5-7:30. 665-2131.

SHERRY INN RESTAURANT: Hwy. 59 South. Open 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. every day. Plate lunches, salad bar, steaks, seafood. Breakfast served anytime.

STILLWATER INN: 203 E. Broadway. Fine food prepared in chef-owned restaurant and private club. A complete dining experience in a charming old home. Dinner Wed. - Sun. 6-10. Reservations. 665-8415.

Bed & Breakfast Inns

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ROWELL HOUSE: 301 S. Alley, 665-2634.

RUTH'S B&B: 321 N. Walnut. 665-2189.

RUTHERFORD HOUSE: 402 Polk St. 665-7480.

SINGLETON VIRGINIA CROSS: 401 Soda St. 665-8594.

STILLWATER INN: 203 E. Broadway. 665-8415.

TURNER'S COTTAGE: 210 E. Henderson. 1-800-843-6443.

TWO SISTERS' INN: 207 S. Bridge. 665-8633, 1-800-828-6032.

URQUHART HOUSE: 301 Walker. 665-8442.

WATSON-STALLCUP HOUSE: 313 Walnut St. 665-2189.

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Lodging

BEST WESTERN HOTEL: Hwy. 59 South; 65 guest rooms; swimming pool, jacuzzis, hot tub and spa. Family-style restaurant. 665-3983.

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HOTEL JEFFERSON: 124 W. Austin. 24 rooms, with private baths. Furnished with antiques. 665-3956, 665-2631.

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Gifts

THE BAZAAR: 211 N. Polk St. A collection of shops, including antiques, wearing apparel, woodcrafts and jewelry.

THE CANDLE STORE: 125 Polk St. Hand-carved decorative candles, Christmas store.

CITY DRUG: 109 W. Lafayette. Gifts, sundries, Jefferson memorabilia. One of few remaining soda fountains, featuring the "best limeade in Texas."

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Gifts

Bait.

PROVERBS 31

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LEO'S: 119 Polk St. Leo's offers crystal as a specialty. Cambridge, Rosepoint, Caprice, American Patterns, lamps, porcelain, brass.

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THE OLD STORE: 123 Walnut St. Advertising memorabilia, antiques of all kinds, unique one-of-a-kind collectibles. Open every day 9-5.

THE OLD STORE II: 226 Polk St. Walnut and mahogany Victorian furniture. Nice selection of primitives, porcelain, China and cutglass. 9:30-5.

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RIVER CITY MERCANTILE: This large shop emphasizes accessories from elegant to primitive. Early Stratfordshire wares, Majalica, copper and glassware featured.

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WALNUT STREET MARKET: 121 Walnut St. Antiques, collectibles, arts and crafts. Open every day.

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AUSTIN COTTAGE: 406 Austin St., P. O. Box 488, Jefferson, TX. 75657. 1-800-727-2204.

BAYOU BOUDOIR: 410 Vale St. 665-2688.

CAPTAIN'S CASTLE: Alley & Walker Sts. 665-2330.

COTTAGE OF JEFFERSON: 307 Soda St. 665-8802.

COTTONWOOD INN: 209 N. Market St. 665-7207, 665-2080.

DAVANNA HOUSE: 107 E. Clarksville St. 665-8238.

DIXON GUEST HOUSE: 207 Dixon. 665-8442.

THE FADED ROSE: 1101 Line St. 665-2716.

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3251.

THE GUEST HOUSE: 511 W. Austin. 665-8774, 665-8922.

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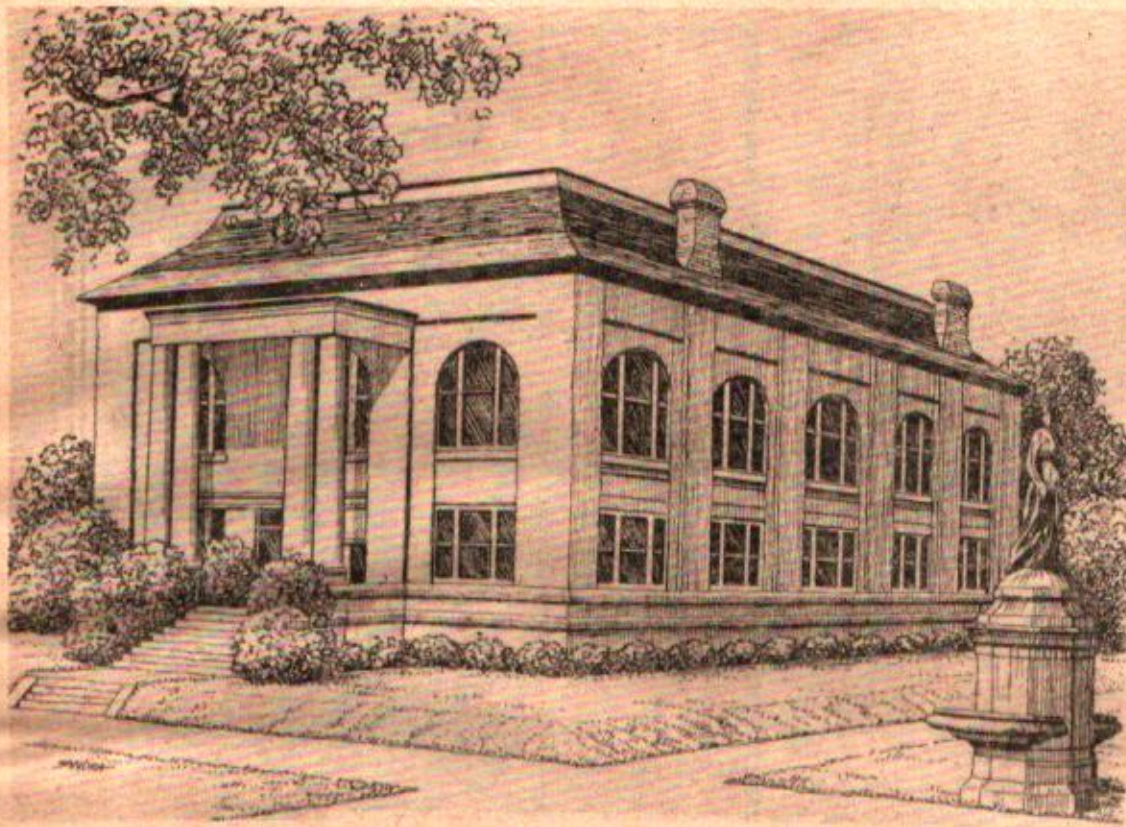
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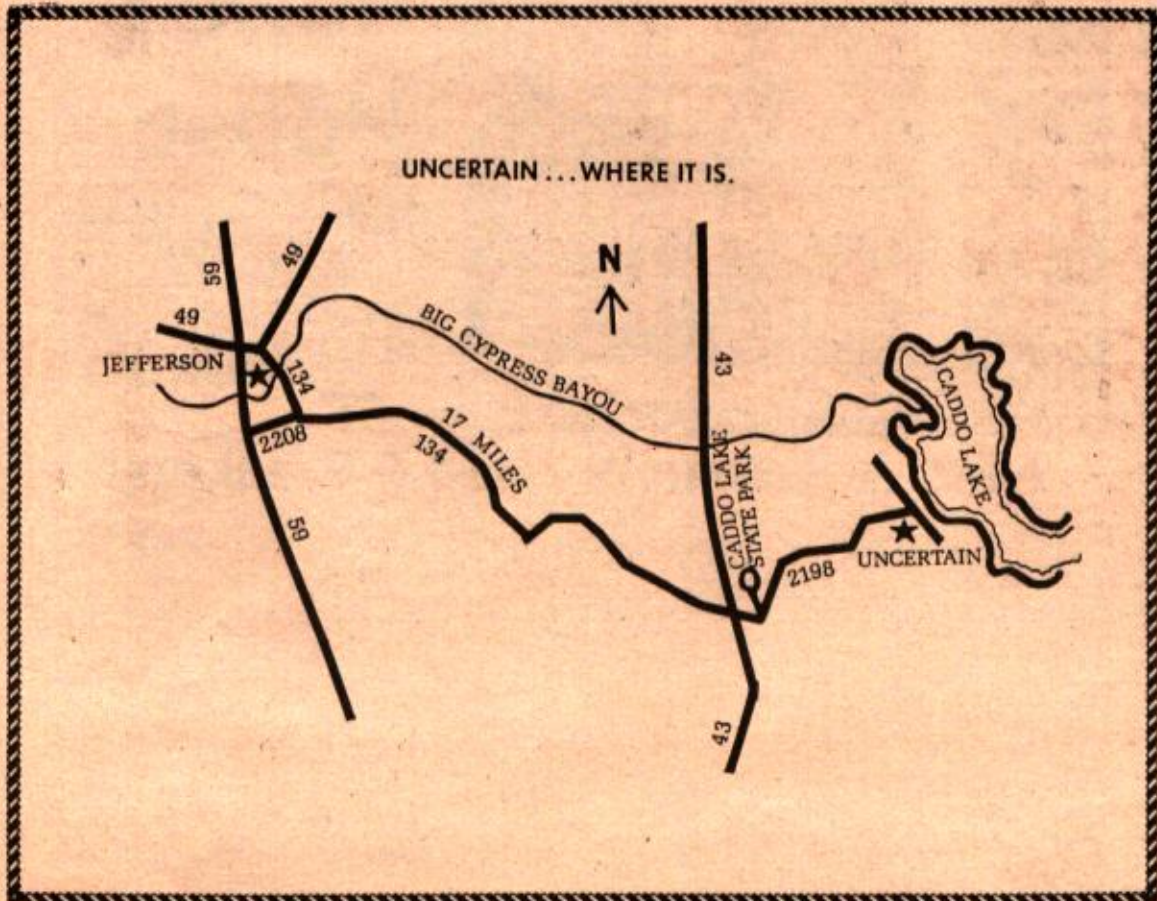
210 W. Austin Featuring THE CYGNET ROOM Upstairs Jefferson, Texas 75657
 A Nice, Quiet, Intimate Private Club (Free Memberships)



The Carnegie Library

With a population of less than 3,000, Jefferson, Texas, has three libraries. The Carnegie Library (pictured above) was founded in 1907. It is one of the few remaining Carnegie Libraries in Texas. The building at the corner of Market and Lafayette streets houses over 6,000 volumes. Genealogy and family history is an area of special research interest at the Carnegie Library. The collection includes valued books and genealogical records and a genealogical research group meets monthly at the Library. The Jefferson Historical Society and Museum was founded in 1948 and originally located in the Carnegie Library building. Since 1965, the Historical Society has been in its own building, the old Federal Court House, at the corner of Market and Austin streets. The Historical Society Library is housed in the Lucille Blackburn Bullard Memorial Archives. The collection of about 1,200 volumes includes a particularly good selection on Texas and East Texas.

Researchers on Jefferson and Northeast Texas history will find titles in this collection missing from many college libraries. The newest library in town is the Thomas Jefferson Library and Research Center, sponsored by the Historic Jefferson Foundation at 107 Vale street. The Historic Jefferson Foundation was formed in 1984 and began the library in 1987. The Foundation library includes nearly 300 volumes with a particular focus on the life and thoughts of Thomas Jefferson, for whom the city of Jefferson is named. This collection also includes material on the Revolutionary and early Constitutional history of the United States. Each of the three libraries in Jefferson encourages students and interested patrons to take advantage of the research material. Each library has working space and facilities available, and welcomes researchers to use them during their open hours.



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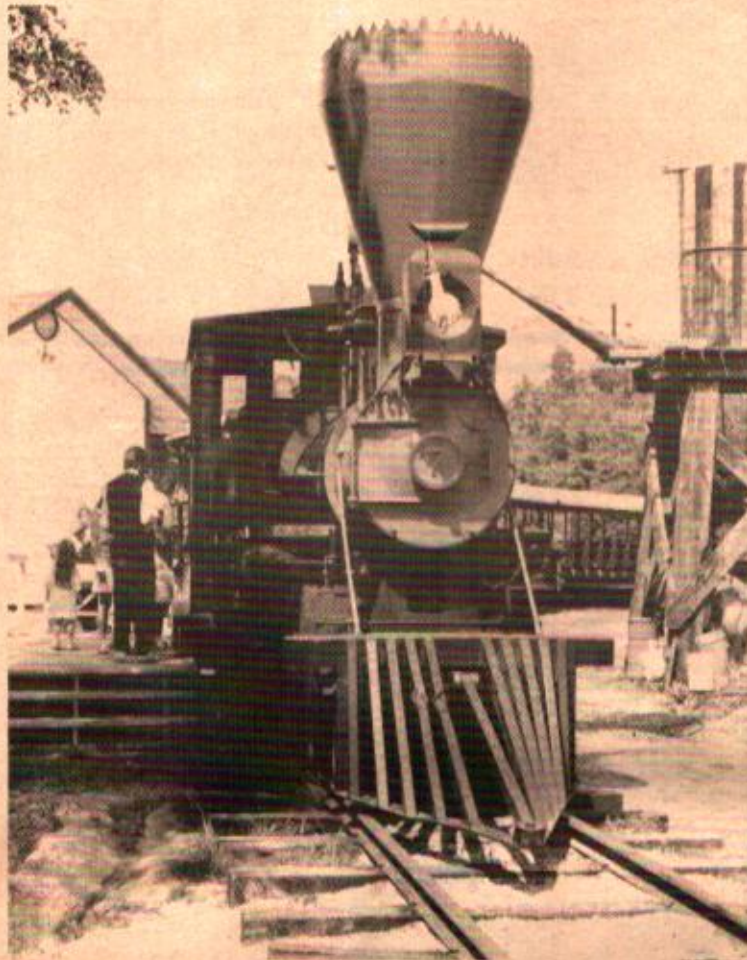
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Jefferson & Cypress Bayou Railroad

The Historic Jefferson Railway Co., Inc. recreates the golden era of steam railroading through a scenic 3-1/2 mile ride on the Jefferson and Cypress Bayou Railroad. Rides on the live steam, narrow gauge railroad run along the historic bayou that made Jefferson the Riverport to the Southwest in the 1800's. Trains run daily. Check the posted schedule at the depot, located at the east end of Austin Street, or call (903) 665-2592.

Steamboat

Continued from pg. 8

made Jefferson the port of choice for many Texas cotton growers.

The trip from Jefferson to New Orleans might take a week, or two, depending on river conditions and stops along the way. It was a voyage of several hundred miles one way, made lengthy by the winding nature of the river. Overland, New Orleans is less than 400 miles away, but few people in those days would attempt such an arduous journey by land. It would be physically exhausting, dangerous, and could take several weeks. Moving thousands of bales of cotton by land was extremely slow and required a caravan of wagons. But, this is how cotton was brought to Jefferson, across Texas, resulting in wagons lined up for miles, waiting to unload.

River trade to Jefferson was always on the increase, even during the Civil War and Reconstruction, up until 1873. At this time the railroads were beginning to compete with the boat trade to such an extent that a decline in river business was the result. Also, but totally unrelated, the remainder of that pesky log jam on the Red River was finally removed with the use of a new invention, nitroglycerin.

It was that part of the raft above Shreveport that was diverting water into the Caddo Lake area and creating a fine navigable waterway to Jefferson. That removal of the raft would hamper navigation on Big Cypress Bayou was a well known fact, and plans were made to construct locks and dams to



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Large front porch with rocking chairs
Built between 1855 & 1880

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Tours Daily at 9:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
For Information Call (903) 665-7273

The house was built by Adin Powell about 1860 as a three room single story home in the Greek Revival style. Additions were made over the years with the second story and long porches added about the turn of the century. It was converted to a five room Bed & Breakfast in 1989 and contains full modern amenities. The house was named Roseville Manor after the extensive collection of over 1000 pieces of Roseville Pottery on display. Pottery was manufactured in Zanesville, Ohio, from 1890 to 1950 and the pieces have become sought after by collectors. The manor is on tour daily at 9:30 and 2:30 except Tuesday which is by appointment only. (903) 665-3933.

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Escape to the privacy of this spacious rustic rock lodge set on the shores of beautiful Lake O' the Pines, nestled in a natural pine and hardwood forest with native plants, animals, and birds. Come walk the nature trails exploring native foliage and private ponds. Sit on the wide decks and watch eagles soar, beavers build dams, and deer graze. Experience beautiful sunrises and sunsets, and listen for the crickets, frogs, and whippoorwills to lull you to sleep. Relax by the large rock fireplace with a good book from the private library of Historian and Published Author, Fred McKenzie, AVINGER, TEXAS USA.

This lake front lodge, a family home, is designed with a large meeting room, vaulted ceilings, rock fireplace, and stained glass windows. It will accommodate Retreats and Receptions. The bedrooms are spacious with private entrances, balconies, CH/A, ceiling fans, and private baths. All rooms are decorated in its own unique style with lovely antiques and family possessions. Arrangement for catering, special requests, boat tours, and kitchen access are available. Fly into the private 3000' airstrip. Smoking on decks or in garden only. No pets.

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Victorian Floral & Christmas Floral
Jewelry, Watches, Purse, & Acces.

Something for Everyone! *2nd room on sight*

211 North Polk - Jefferson, Texas
In "The Bazaar"

Steamboat

Continued from pg. 16

compensate for this, but they were never carried out due to the diminished trade. Lowering of the water was not as detrimental as one might think. There was still a navigation season of seven months out of the year well into the 1890's. But, because of the railroads, steamboat trade to Jefferson never made it past the turn of the century.

Today, little is left of that great steamboat era, and it is difficult to imagine those big boats and the flurry of activity on the Jefferson riverfront. For those interested in those times, one can still travel the route of the old riverboats by embarking on a one hour narrated cruise down the Bayou and by visiting the River Museum at 222 E. Austin Street. These two attractions offer an in-depth presentation of what once made Jefferson tick, and what will always give it that special feeling of a river town, waiting expectantly for that distant, deep-sounding whistle.

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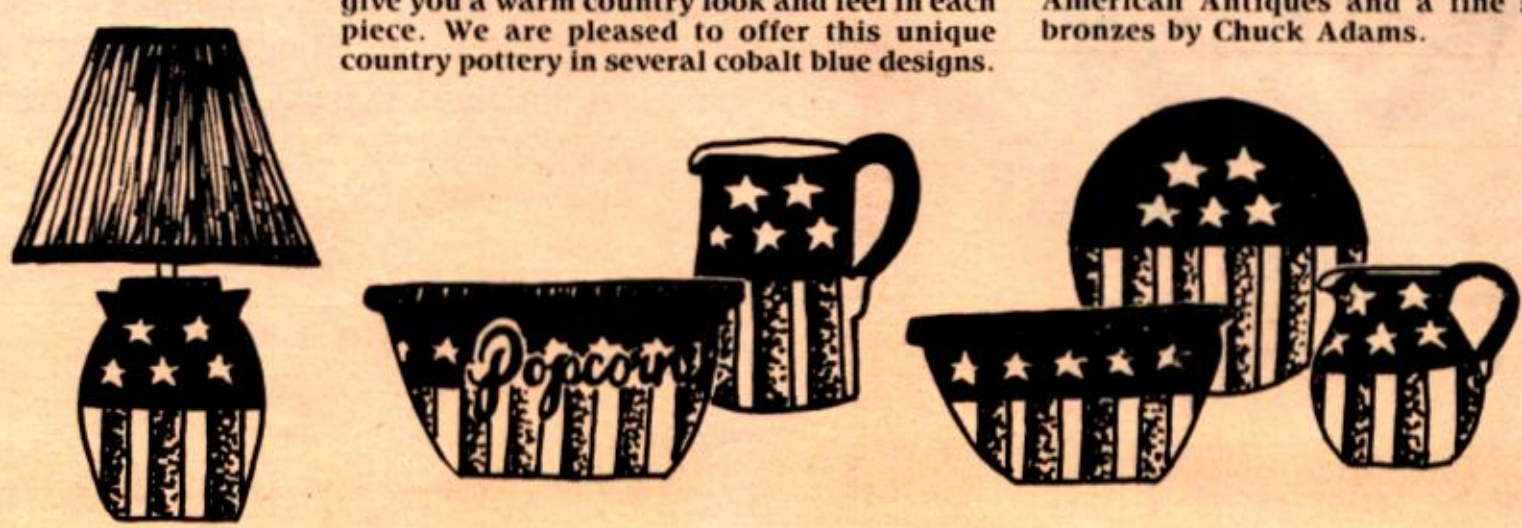
Pottery is a tradition in East Texas where available native clays have drawn potters for over a century. Steamboat Warehouse, established in 1979, carries on the tradition of handthrown, handpainted stoneware.

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When in East Texas visit our pottery shop in historic downtown Jefferson. Browse through our store which served as warehouse and hardware store during Jefferson's heyday when steamboats docked at our Big Cypress turning basin, bringing goods from New Orleans to this thriving inland port. Enjoy the atmosphere of this 19th Century general store. You will find our first quality pottery as well as seconds and one-of-a-kind pots.

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Museum Committed to Master Plan



Jefferson Historical Museum

The Jefferson Historical Society and Museum, committed to a Master Plan that will preserve and protect its century old structure, entered this decade with vitality. Led by a board of directors with a vision for the year 2000, the Society, in April 1990, celebrated the one-hundred year anniversary of construction of the museum building and set its sights on a restoration that will best maintain the varied and valuable collection within.

Authorized by an act of Congress in 1887, the former Federal Courthouse and Post Office was constructed with funds appropriated by three different acts. When the district court was moved from Jefferson, the building became

available and was purchased in 1965, by the Jefferson Historical Society for use as a museum.

A collection of some 1,000 items that had previously been housed in the Carnegie Library was moved to the four-storied red brick edifice on the corner of Austin and Market Streets.

The collection soon quadrupled and now contains close to 12,000 items. The Museum is one of the most interesting sites in the city. An integral part of that interest culminates in the Moseley Art Gallery located on the second floor. Filled with fine European paintings and a sampling of some of America's best artists, the gallery displays bronzes once in the collection of George Churchill,

cousin of Sir Winston; wood carvings, cloisonne, Capo-di-Monte, French bisque, Belleek China, and other art glass.

Included in the appointments of the room are lamps of Venetian glass, a Dresden carriage pulled by lovely white horses, a Flemish tapestry, and Bokhara rugs. Of great beauty is a delicate 19th Century French desk with folding top and extra panels inlaid with mother-of-pearl landscapes. Other French pieces include an open-back French settee and matching chair with hand-painted designs on the back panels and upholstered in pink satin, a French bisque clock, and a platter from one of Napoleon's chateaus.

Lovers of fine needlework will enjoy the example of English embroidery, using more than 40 different colors of thread, dating to about 1810. The Hobart Key Indian collection almost fills the Indian Room with artifacts from the Caddo tribe, which inhabited this area, and for whom Caddo Lake was named.

The basement area is a dream world of early Texana. A country store complete with churns, tools, dishes, pans, bottles, wooden wares, coffee grinders, corn shellers, candy jars, and a full-sized steam engine fill the west end of the area.

Grand pianos, organs, small musical instruments, hand work, figurines, China ware, art glass, jewelry, and Kay Butler's art work are among the hundreds of other items on the first floor. Also on the main floor is the Culberson family case, honoring the distinguished family who lived in Jefferson in the late 1800's, the Mabry exhibit, Sam Houston case, Moseley case, a doll collection, fan collection, and Civil War exhibit.

The third floor and recently restored Garret Room are devoted to pioneer furnishings and children's toys. A stairway leads to a glass door with a view of the attic with its heavy beams and trusses, perhaps the next and final area for expansion. The Jefferson Museum truly offers something for everyone and is open to the public for a nominal fee 364 days a year.



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Powder Magazine is Reminder of Town's Role in Civil War



The year was 1863. Jefferson, a dominant port city and a growing metropolis, was teeming with activity. Stevedores were loading stern-wheelers with bales of cotton, weapons of war, beeves and shoes. At wharf side, troops of Trans-Mississippi C.S.A. were waiting to board. Overhead the battle flag of the Confederacy snapped back and forth in a stiff breeze. And "cotton" from nearby cottonwood trees swirled through the air.

Down the bayou and away from the center of the town, officers in "Confederate Grey" directed the construction of three matching brick buildings for the storage of gunpowder. They were told to lay the locally made brick in "Flemish bond" for added strength. Eight feet of the walls would be twelve inches thick. Circulation in the buildings would be air passages built into the walls.

The powder magazines were constructed away from town as a safety measure and was across the river from Jefferson, on the Marshall side, since most of the gunpowder was brought from manufacturing plants by wagon from Marshall. Steamboats transporting powder were not allowed at the Jefferson riverfront with this highly volatile material on board. Thus, boats loading cargos of powder did so as they left town, heading downriver for Confederate forces in Louisiana.

Pitched tents surrounded the work area, as Confederate troops were posted for duty. Twin cannons guarded the waterway approach. Stacked rifles placed all on notice that Jefferson was an armed city.

Near the magazine site, slaves were working with pick and shovel digging out an inlet for ships to dock.

Other slaves were chopping and stacking wood for ships' boilers.

In 1864, General Nathaniel Bank's Union Army embarked on a flotilla of gunboats up the Red River. His plan was the destruction of the Trans-Mississippi as an effective fighting force. Special target areas were towns with military depots and arsenals, such as Jefferson.

On April 8, 1864, General Richard Taylor's defending army met and defeated the invaders at Mansfield, La., only 70 miles from Jefferson. Victory celebrations were tempered with gloom, for in other parts of the South the Confederacy was being brought to its knees. By the second day of June, 1865, all Confederate armies had surrendered. Legend has it that before the Confederate soldiers left Jefferson for home they buried the cannon in an unknown spot and hid the powder in the graveyard.

Soon after, the initial elements of the victorious Union Army arrived from Shreveport and marched into the undefeated and unconquered Jefferson. It would shortly be Reconstruction time, and "Union Blues" would prevail.

The occupation troops remained in Jefferson for about six years. After this departure in 1871, one of the magazines was taken over by local hardware dealers. They used it to store blasting powder. The other magazines remained unoccupied. Over the years, slowly, brick by brick they vanished to make patios, walks, floors and walls. Finally the need for the remaining building lessened and it too was abandoned. In succeeding years, it was used for storage and there were times when people lived in its cramped quarters.

Today, the Historic Jefferson Foundation is moving to restore the remaining powder magazine, stabilizing the structure and preventing further deterioration. Archaeological research will also shed more light on this period of Jefferson's history. It is also anticipated that the building will be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, as it is one of only a few of these structures still standing.



The River Museum

Red River steamboats await cargo and passengers at New Orleans in the 1860's. The B.L. Hodge #2 (right) and the Monsoon (second from right) paid visits to Jefferson. More photos of steamboats are on display at the River Museum, 222 E. Austin, as well as artifacts, maps, models, and much more. The museum is open week-ends and by appointment, adults - \$2.00, children - 50¢, and teens are free. Group tours can be arranged at any time by calling (903) 665-7372.



The Sterne Fountain

In 1913, the children of Jacob and Ernestine Sterne had a bronze fountain cast by J.L. Mott in New York in honor of their parents. The Italian sculptor, Guiseppe Moretti, recreated Hebe, the mythological Greek Goddess of Youth.

Jeffersonians are proud of their sculpture, and it is truly one-of-a-kind. We are happy to share it with all who come to visit, and hope that it will touch your life in some way as it has touched ours.

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Mardi Gras celebration to feature "Hollywood"

Mardi Gras Upriver will visit tinseltown as "Mardi Gras goes Hollywood", the theme for the 1992 Mardi Gras celebration. The dates for this exciting event will be Feb. 28, 29 and March 1, 1992.

The Krewe of Hebe, the organization responsible for Mardi Gras is one of Jefferson's youngest civic groups. The group was formed in December 1989 to organize and oversee a Mardi Gras celebration in Jefferson. The Krewe named themselves after Hebe, the Goddess of the Fountain of Youth. A statue of Hebe can be found atop the Sterne Fountain located at the intersection of Lafayette and Market Streets.

Mardi Gras is certainly not new to Jefferson. In the 1870s, Jefferson had a huge Mardi Gras celebration known as the Queen Mab Celebration. It revolved around a parade and costume ball with Queen Mab and her royal court reigning over the festivities.

The Krewe has worked incredibly hard to put on this event each year and their hard work paid off when the first year over 10,000 people attended and last year saw crowds of over 20,000. The Krewe is already hard at work planning this fabulous weekend of fun and frivolity and promises Mardi Gras Upriver 1992 to be bigger and

better than ever.

Mardi Gras will have three exciting days of events this year. Some of the highlights will include a torchlit parade through the downtown area followed by an opening ceremony on Friday night. A full day of events is planned on Saturday including music, arts and crafts, street performers, and the grand Krewe of Hebe parade at 3 p.m. Sunday will boast another fun-filled day with music, performers and a grand children's parade Sunday afternoon. The Junior Historians will be performing all weekend in McGarity's Saloon with an old-fashioned saloon show.

Returning to Mardi Gras 1992 by popular demand will be Willie Arthur Smith and his Marching Cobras from Kansas City. Those who have seen the Cobras before know what an exciting group they are, and those who haven't are in for a real treat.

Many other exciting events and special attractions are still in the planning stages, and the Krewe of Hebe and all of Jefferson invites everyone to visit Jefferson for this celebration and...

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David Boyle arrived in Jefferson in 1871 with the idea of an ice machine. The patterns were made in the old Charles McKeon shop and the first plant set up at the W.J. Williams sawmill on Big Cypress Bayou. This site proved unsuitable, so the ice machine was moved to the Scott place where there was a cool spring. This first plant was operated by Scott and Boyle. Mr. Boyle's ice plant made 31.2 tons of pure ice in the hot summertime.

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Noted Attorney, David B. Culberson (1830-1900) built this Greek Revival style residence in 1880. Mr. Culberson served as State Senator and Representative, and U.S. Congressman. He defended Abe Rothschild in the famous Diamond Bessie murder trial. One of his sons, Charles A. Culberson (1855-1925), was Governor of Texas (1895-1899) and later, U.S. Senator (1899-1923).

The House has 14-foot ceilings, five fireplaces, and a secret passageway. Floors are original six inch wide heart of pine boards cut and planed in Jefferson. All the interior doors are original to the house and are wood pegged. Completely restored in 1988 by Mr. & Mrs. John F. Stewart, the present owners and residents, the house has classical architectural detailing throughout, and 17th - 19th Century English and Continental furnishings. Arrangements may also be made for garden parties & weddings, April through October.