Foundation President

Steve Horton

Dear NHF Members,

As I write my final letter as president of Natchitoches Historic Foundation, I look back with pride on the past six successful years the organization has enjoyed. I am especially proud of what we have accomplished as an organization in the past year.

When NHF was established in 1994, our main goals involved education and preservation. Annually, we as a board evaluate ourselves on how effective we were on implementing educational awareness in preservation as well as how our organization’s resources have benefited preservation. These last two years have been exceptional.

You’ll notice in this edition of The Foundation that we have remained active on such pertinent issues as the Church Street bridge and tourism, to name a few. Projects such as these are time-consuming, and take a very dedicated group of people to see such projects to completion. I applaud the Service League of Natchitoches for their continued work on the Prudhomme-Rouquier House. Even though I feel like I have “lived” the restoration through my wife’s eyes, I watch as a preservationist and community member how literally 150 women have pulled together for such a worthwhile cause. This project is only one of many.

Our work in preservation is ongoing, and will only grow as the city does. Remain active by keeping up with the progress in the community. Down the road we will all benefit from our cause.

I look forward to my continued involvement with NHF for the next few years as its past president.
Membership Drive Begins

Jo Stamey and Bob Knipmeyer have started mailing out membership notices to all past members. NHF needs your help to continue our endeavors in preservation of our historic city.

If you have not received your letter, please call Jo Stamey at 352-8084, or Bob at 357-1657.

At present, we have 240 members. Also, if any of you would like to volunteer to work at one of the houses on Tour, or help in any other projects, please let us know. Thank!

St. Augustine Historical Society’s Projects

NHF Board Member Theresa Morgan, who represents the St. Augustine Historical Society, reports that the Society’s projects for this year include the Badin Roque House, St. Charles Chapel, and St. Matthew School.

Theresa says as soon as Nowlin and Associates present an engineering report to the group, restoration work will begin on the Badin Roque House.

The Society has assumed the responsibility and upkeep of the St. Charles Chapel with the intention of developing the Chapel into a St. Augustine Church Parish museum.

At this time further consideration and investigation is being made into the possible use of the St. Matthews High School complex as another project, Theresa reports.

NHF congratulates this outstanding organization for their work in restoration and preservation in their area.

Tourism Up and Climbing

NHF Board Member John Puckett serves on the Natchitoches Tourist Commission Board and reports good results from an advertising blitz in regional and national publications.

A budget of $200,000, co-opt with the Louisiana Travel and Promotional Association, assisted in getting the word out on our city and all it has to offer. One of the main targets for advertising is in the Dallas and Houston suburb areas and East Texas in general, as well as surrounding states.

Lately, Natchitoches has received national coverage in Southern Living, Colonial Homes, and Southern Lady magazines.

The Christmas hardback issue of Victoria also had a feature of Bobby DeBlieux’s bed and breakfast, Taunt Huppe. John says tourism is up dramatically according to 1999 figures. There were 21,464 mail requests in 1999 compared to 11,032 in 1998; 11,292 telephone calls versus 8,100 in 1998.


In 1999, visitors from the States were stronger in number from Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, California, and Arkansas. Top international countries were France, Germany, Venezuela, Canada, and England. Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission Hotel/Motel occupancy tax collected in 1999 topped 1998 total by $21,180, John reports.

Natchitoches Historic Foundation feels that our dedication and work with preservation and restoration in our historic city is an important factor in drawing tourists to our area. We believe the benefits of historic preservation result in the tourism dollar and we understand what it means to the economic well-being of Natchitoches.