



EVERGREEN PLANTATION

4677 Hwy. 18, Edgard, LA 70049

985.497.3837

<http://evergreenplantation.org/>

Plantation Tours Monday through Saturday

11:30am and 2:00pm

Evergreen is a plantation complex of thirty-nine buildings, including a grand "big house" with its various dependencies and a double row of twenty-two slave cabins. All but eight of the buildings are antebellum. Although the sugar mill is no longer extant and the buildings have received some alterations over the years, Evergreen remains an amazing image of the South's plantation landscape.

The main house at Evergreen was created in 1832, when Pierre Clidament Becnel hired John Carver, builder and carpenter, to drastically remodel the two story French Creole residence he had purchased from the estate of his grandmother, Magdelaine Haydel Becnel. The remodeling, as recorded in an extant building contract, was so extensive that the present house should be dated 1832. The roof was demolished and a new one constructed, two rooms were removed, the present Greek Revival gallery with portico was added, etc. The walls and the Creole floorplan (minus two rooms) are all that survive from the earlier house.

As noted previously, this double row of cabins begins about half way down an oak allée. They are spaced at regular intervals fifty feet apart. Twenty are two room cabins, while in the middle of each row is a four room unit. All are of frame construction with wide drop siding on the facade, interior chimneys, and exposed beams on the gallery and interior. Some of the cabins retain pegged frames and corner bracing on the interior (a French joinery technique). The cabins apparently never had an interior wall finish; hence the framing is visible on the interior. A majority of the cabins retain their very simple wraparound mantels. Some of the cabins have wooden bars in the transoms. There is very little documentation on these buildings, although it is clear that they are indeed antebellum (i.e., slave quarters). The 1860 census lists Lezin Becnel and his brother (the then owners of the plantation) as having 103 slaves in 48 dwellings. The only known historic map of the plantation is the Mississippi River Commission map of 1876, which shows twenty-two cabins in the same configuration and location.

Information taken from the registration form for the National Register of Historic Places