

DAIRY BARN



On May 15, 1986, the Dairy Barn located at Central Louisiana State Hospital was entered into the National Register of Historic Places under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The Dairy Barn was originally constructed in 1923 with the builder being listed as J.H. Carlin. Mr. Carlin was also architect for The Rose Cottage, the original Morgue and Pathology Building, which was listed in the National

Register for Historic Places on September 15, 1983. Joseph H. Carlin was a patient at Central Louisiana State Hospital from September 13, 1909 to August 1, 1912. His record indicated that he became ill after he constructed a Catholic Church in South Louisiana. Very little is known of Carlin after 1912 with the exception that he served as the architect for The Rose Cottage and as the “builder” of the hospital’s dairy barn in 1923. It is assumed that Carlin was placed on “non-patient” or “guest” status upon his discharge in 1912. According to former superintendent Arthur L. Seale, M.D. this was a common practice in the early days of the facility. Instead of returning home, Carlin apparently remained at Central Louisiana State Hospital and worked with the Maintenance Department on a room and board basis. Unfortunately, there is no official written documentation available to that effect.

In the March 31, 1926 biennial Report of the Board of Administrators of Central Louisiana State Hospital of the State of Louisiana to the Governor, the following was noted under “New Buildings.” “The only new building of importance completed during the last biennium is the new model seventy-five cow dairy barn. It is built and equipped on what is known as the Loudon plan and it is hoped will meet the demands of our institution in aiding in the dairyman to provide more milk for our institutional use. The weakest department of our hospital equipment is the dairy. We now have a good herd of Holstein, Jerseys, and have recently added to the herd twelve Guernsey heifers and a registered Guernsey bull recently gotten from the best herds in Wisconsin. We have engaged a dairyman to take charge of the dairy and hope under his direction and management to make a success of this department.”

Structural repair and stabilization of the Dairy Barn was completed by Tudor Construction Company of Alexandria and was accepted on December 21, 1994. This project was very important since the building would have been lost if it had not been stabilized.

Central Louisiana State Hospital itself was created by enabling legislation, Act 92, in 1902. It was created to serve 42 of Louisiana’s 64 parishes, the area north and west of the Atchafalaya River.