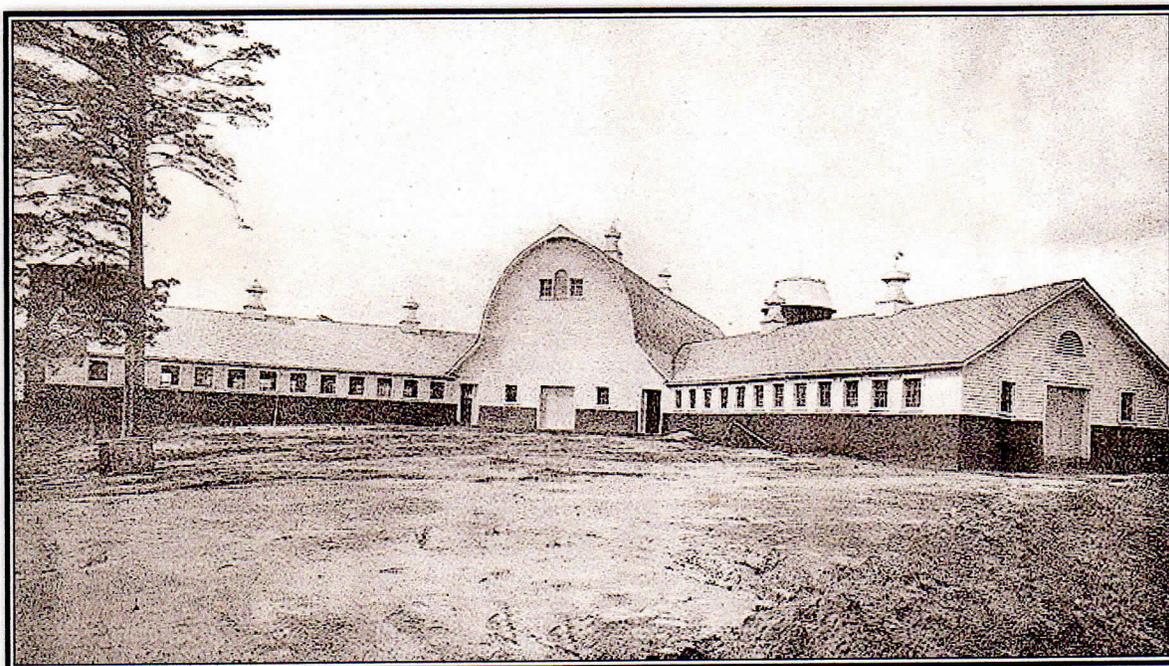


Central Louisiana State Hospital, Pineville LA

“The Old Dairy Barn”

By Kenneth G. Roy



NEW DAIRY BARN

Figure 1, Dairy Barn Completed in 1923

By Act of Legislation of 1902 the hospital was originally created for the colored, and by Legislative Act of 1904 was changed to include both white and colored. By spring of 1905 some 91 patients were transferred from East Louisiana State Hospital, Jackson Louisiana, and Dr. Clarence Pierson was appointed the first Superintendent of the hospital. By Legislative Act of 1924 the name of the hospital was changed from Louisiana Hospital for the Insane to Central Louisiana State Hospital¹.

On January 6, 1906 the new institution, then known as “The Louisiana Hospital for the Insane”, officially opened its doors². Although built to serve about 400 patients, this plan was abandoned before its opening. In 1904 the Superintendent of the Jackson Asylum had pointed out that his institution was overcrowded. In addition, 214 applicants were then awaiting admission. This influenced the Legislative of 1904 to pass an amendment expanding the program of the new hospital to provide for all patients from Insane District No. 2, which embraced all parishes all patients north of the Atchafalaya River. At one time the hospital was a community of some 2,500 persons (including employees) and represents itself as a complete

¹ Louisiana Police Jury Review; April, 1955; Article written by Arthur Seal, Superintendent

² Report of Louisiana Hospital for the Insane, to the Governor: 1906

cross-section of any large community. The mechanics of the institution's operation, to a large extent, reveal departments comparable to businesses in a large community.³

The hospital's farms including dairy, swinery, poultry, agricultural farms, and the like we get yearly produce used by the institution of a value close to one quarter million dollars. This accounts to large extent how we operate on approximately \$1.65 per day⁴. The swinery was located on Central Hog Farm Road located off of Rigolett Road in Pineville, the poultry farm was located at the rear maintenance entrance to the Forts Randolph and Buhlow State Historical Site.

In 1923, the administration built a dairy barn to serve the dairy needs of the institution, and to serve as occupational therapy as complementary to psychiatry, as it had the promise of meshing humanitarian values with science.

The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places on May 15, 1986. The Central Louisiana State Hospital Dairy Barn is of statewide significance in the area of architecture as a very unusual example of a farm outbuilding. The building is a 12,500 square foot structure, which was officially opened in 1923 at a cost of \$15,736. The barn is a two story frame structure with single story wings. It has a commanding position atop a knoll overlooking Lake Buhlow, which at the time of the barn's construction Lake Buhlow was a large grazing pasture for the cattle. The cattle were herded from the barn to the pasture through a tunnel under Highway 71. The clapboard sided structure features numerous light casement windows. The two wings project from the south end of the main block at angles, yielding an overall "Y" shape. The central two story block culminates in a massive curving gambrel roof with flared eaves. The enormous loft interior reveals the supporting structure, a series of continuous curving ribs made up of laminated boards which run from plate to plate. The attic is vented at the south end by a Serlian motif. Other than this the fenestration detailing is plain. The building's massing is enlivened by six roof vent stacks. Other noteworthy features include a rooftop crane on the eve of the north elevation, sliding doors made of planks, and original concrete floors.

It is a seventy-five cow dairy barn. It is perhaps of the Loudon plan (but it has a Gothic style roof) at the time it provided the institution with the necessary dairy production needed. At the time the construction was completed they purchased a good herd of Holston, Jerseys, and have added to the herd twelve Guernsey heifers and a registered Guernsey bull gotten from the best herds in Wisconsin.

During the years prior to 1920, the largest segment of the United States population was rural. By necessity, every pioneer became a farmer, growing crops and raising livestock for personal use. The largest building on the farm was the barn. It was used for the storage of farm products, for feed storage and to house animals. As farming evolved towards mass production, the need for barns grew.

Companies that sold mail order housing took an interest, and began to offer agricultural buildings in their mail order catalogs. Since 1986, Sears, Roebuck's history as a supplier of precut mail order homes has received much publicity, but few people are aware that Sears also offered agricultural buildings in its catalogs, including the Loudon Machinery Company. Less publicized have been the mail order farm buildings of Gordon-Van Tine, Aladdin, Montgomery Ward, and Harris Brothers, mail order companies that also sold residences. Initially, the barns offered in most mail order catalogs were primarily sold as "plans and materials", which meant that the buyer received a complete set of building plans and enough material to construct the

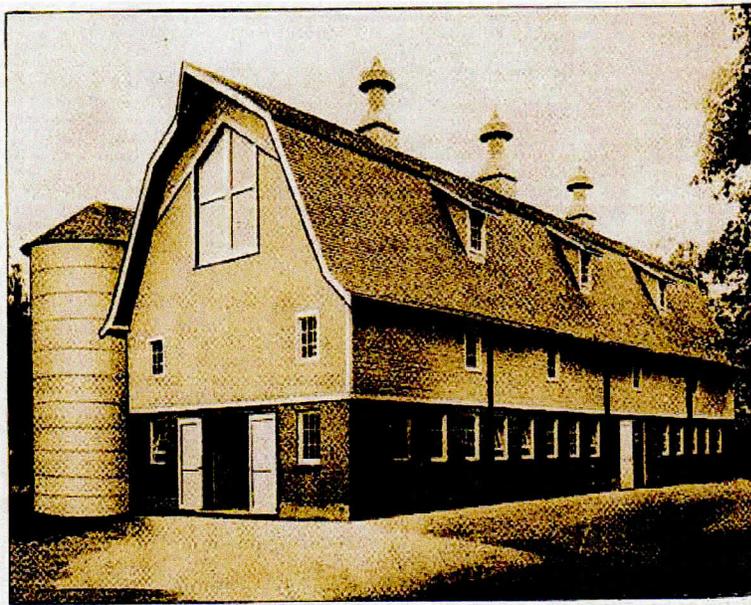
³ Central Louisiana State Hospital: Historical Background. March, 1971

⁴ Louisiana Police Jury Review; April, 1955; Article written by Arthur Seale, Superintendent

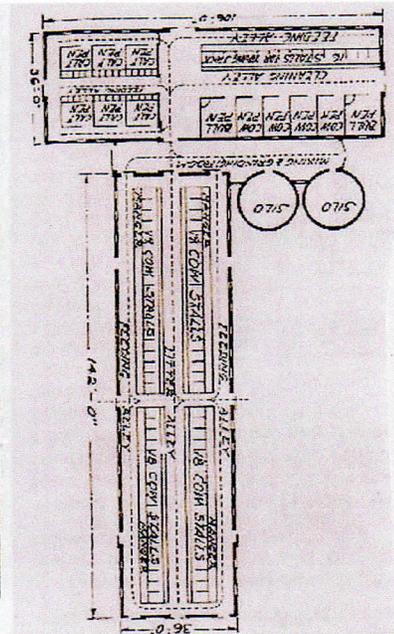
building. By 1918, barns were being offered as precut buildings. The exception to this was the Louden Machinery Company, which offered precut barns from 1910, as well as the machinery required to service these barns.

Precut, or "kit" buildings were an American innovation in building technology. As far as we know today, no other country has ever marketed such buildings. All the framing elements were cut to size at the mill, labeled with identifying numbers, and shipped by rail to the buyer, along with doors, windows, millwork, roofing materials, flooring, exterior siding, paint and varnish. Catalog advertisements claim that the buyer could save up to 30% of the cost of standard construction by choosing a precut building.

Barns were offered in all the basic styles popular with farmers. The popularity of a given design can be judged by the number of models offered in each style, and by the total number of years a particular model appeared in the catalogs, assuming that less commonly ordered models were soon discontinued. Most prevalent were designs for gambrel-roofed barns, followed by gabled, gothic, round and polygonal barns. Therefore, in the field, we would expect to see a larger number of gambrel style barns, and fewer of the gabled, Gothic, round and octagonal models.



Design 5333

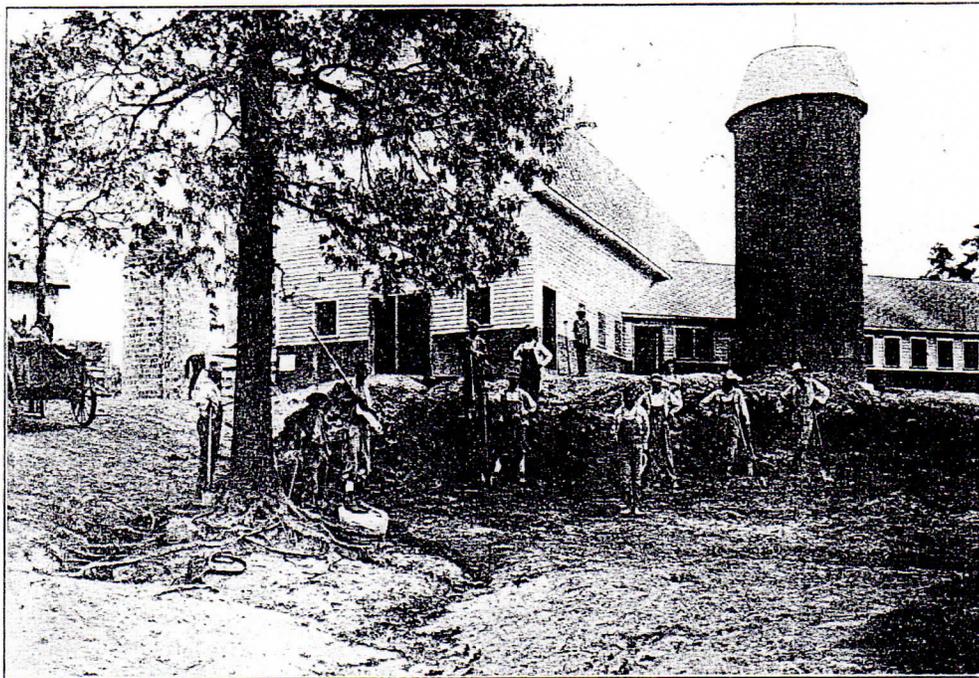


Louden Design # 5333, for 74 Cows—Bull, Cow and Calf Pens

This dairy barn was erected at the famous French Lick Springs Hotel, French Lick, in Indiana, which was owned by the Hon. Thomas Tagart. It was built after plans by our Architectural Department and represents an ideal dairy barn for a large institution. The milking barn is 36 by 142 feet built of brick and concrete, and is one story high and contains 74 cow stalls. For sanitary reasons, this milking barn contains no feed or bedding storage and is separated from the main barn by a covered driveway, which is also used as a feed mixing room. The arrangement is very convenient and may be added to at any time in the future without

disturbing the established routine in case a larger plant becomes desirable⁵. The above designs very much resemble the CLSH dairy barn, although a few changes have been made. Our barn has a gothic style roof and no windows in the loft and is made of concrete on the first floor. At one time there were two silos on right side of the building and the rear, and our barn has only two vents in the loft. During the time of the planning stages there were two added wings to the plan, making it into its unique “Y” shape. **Note:** In all of my research on this subject, I have been unable to locate a barn of this design.

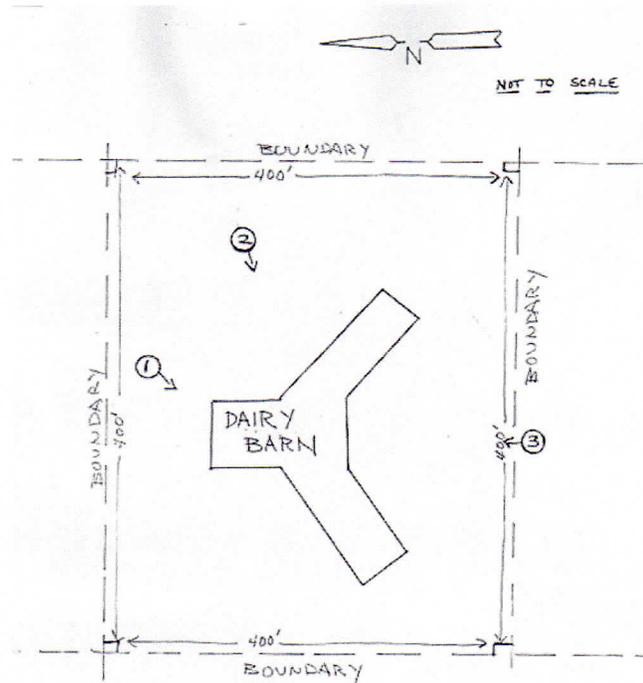
When we review the floor plan of Louden Design 5333 we see a layout of the possible design of the wings of our barn we know the wings were designed similarly by looking at the imprints on the floors. The outside walls would have been the feeding alleys and each cow had a window for ventilation, the middle lanes would have been the litter ally and possibly where the cows were milked. Our barn had two silos as can be seen in Figure 2. The foundations can be seen today. The barn proper was not used to house the cows. There are several rooms and we cannot properly identify their purpose although we can assume they served as maintenance.



Dairy Barn before being screened and manure removed.

Figure 2

⁵ LOUDEN BARN PLANS Louden Machinery Company Fairfield- Iowa 1919 pg 50



The boundary line is a 400' square whose center point is the center of the North-South roof ridge on the main portion of the barn. The sides of the square follow the cardinal directions. Approx 4 Acres

Figure 3

Upon visiting the old dairy barn we have concluded it was a kit from the Loudon Machinery Company. We identified some of the cow stanchions, and pulleys and railings with the Loudon Logo. Through the years since the hospital discontinued the dairy (we do not know when this was) business, the building served many purposes. At one time it served at the paint shop for the hospital, and now it is being used for storage.

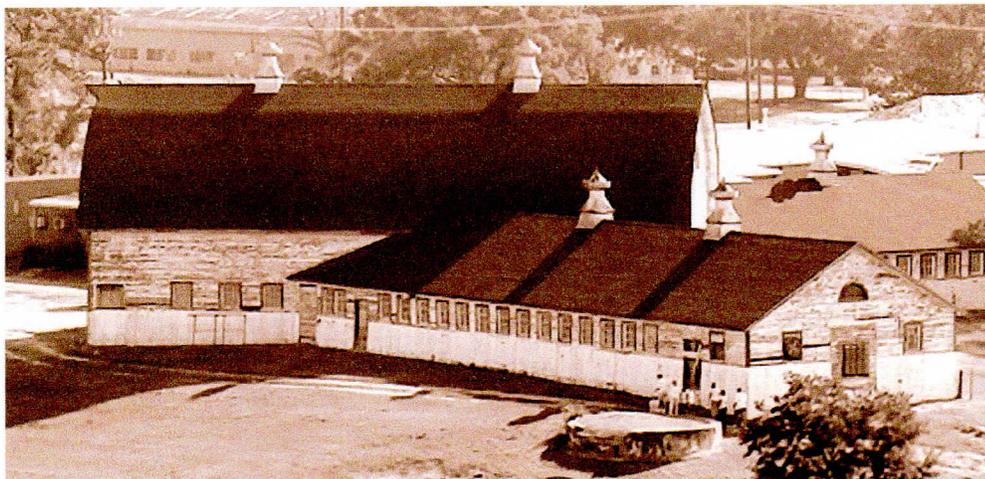


Figure 4 Aerial View of the Dairy Barn Today

The construction of the barn makes for an interesting story. The builder of the barn was Joseph Hermance Carlin, born Abt. 1869 in Rayne, Louisiana. His father was Joseph Onesiphore Carlin. In the 1880 Federal Census, Joseph O. Carlin is listed as living at Saint Mary, Louisiana, and working as a sugar planter he was age 46, also listed was his wife Lucile Fontenot Carlin age 43, and their four children including their second son Joseph H. Carlin age 12.



Figure 5, Joseph Hermance Carline 1869 - 1923⁶

Joseph H and his brothers were partners in a construction company. On February 14, 2006, in a telephone interview with Maxine Moffett, wife of Charles Moffitt, son of Myrtle Carlin, third child of Joseph H. Carlin, stated Mr. Carlin suffered a nervous breakdown, possibly because of depression and his failing construction company.

Joseph Carlin was admitted to Central Louisiana State Hospital in September 13, 1909, due to his mental condition, and remained a patient until August 1, 1912, for a total of two years and ten months.

It is assumed that Mr. Carlin was placed on “non-patient” or “guest” status upon his discharge in 1912. According to one of the former superintendents, Arthur L. Seale, M.D. this was a common practice in the early days of the facility. Rather than returning home, Mr. Carlin apparently remained at the facility and worked with the Maintenance Department on a room and board basis. Unfortunately, there is not any official documentation.

⁶ The “H” in Hermance is silent in French. The surname is Italian. Joseph’s ancestors came from Italy and France to Louisiana in three generations.

In 1917, a pathological laboratory (later named Rose Cottage) was constructed. At the time, large state mental hospitals were the hub of psychiatric treatment as well as research. Thus the pathological laboratory served as a focal point for the facility. The architect and builder for the project was J. H. Carlin, the said information is documented on the corner stone of the building. Its construction is rather unique. The overall square footage is 1,192 square feet. The outside dimensions are 38' X 20'. The building has two stories. It has a porch composed of 326 square feet, bathroom that totals 94 square feet, and a hall that is composed of 40 square feet. There are two entrances on the ground floor, front and rear. The exterior is concrete field stone. Interior walls and ceilings are plaster. The first and second floors are concrete.

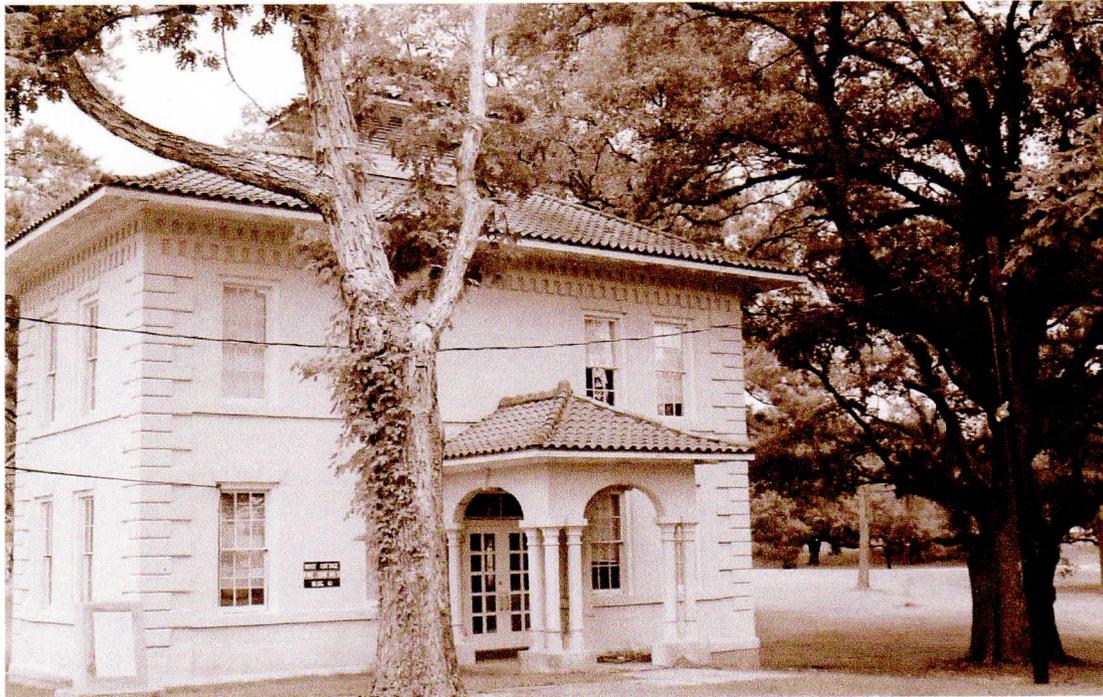


Figure 6 Rose Cottage

In 1928, 27 autopsies were reported by Robert H Foster, M.D. and the two year period from 1932-34, when 8,308 laboratory procedures were performed, Foster's autopsies reported 63 out of 186 deaths. Dr. Arthur Seale, former hospital administrator, stated that the autopsies were performed in the pathology building's first floor while the lab, where histology and microscopic preparations were done upstairs. "In those years we were trying to get recognition as a classified unit, postmortem examinations were required for research and teaching." Years later, when the building was no longer required for use, it was used for occupational therapy and the "Rose Cottage was suggested by the employees who did not like the idea of working in a former morgue⁷.

Today Rose Cottage has been converted to a museum that exhibits various artifacts collected over the history of the hospital including art work and pottery and various objects. The museum is free to view by the public. To gain access, please call the hospital switch board for more information.

⁷ Commemorative Calendar: Central Louisiana State Hospital, The Rose Cottage

In the Federal Census of 1920 all patients and residence of Louisiana Hospital for the Insane were listed. Joseph Carlin and his family are residence of Louisiana Hospital for the Insane. They are listed as living in dwelling number 12, Joseph is listed as head of household, and renting, his age is 50. The family consisted of Julian Fontenot, his wife age 40 and Beulah age 19, Myrtle age 14, Cal age 11, Beatrice age 6, Edwina age 4 and Corinne age 2. The three oldest children were attending school. Joseph's occupation is listed as a carpenter for the hospital.⁸

The Superintendent of the hospital was required to present a biannual report to the Governor. I think it is worthy to mention some commendations Mr. Carlin received in these reports:

1912: Report - It is estimated that by the labor of able-bodied patients, with no salaried superintending architect over them, that thousands of dollars have been saved for the state.

1914: General and extensive have been the repairs and improvements made during the past two years. This work has been mostly accomplished by the head carpenter, Joseph Carlin with the assistance of patients more or less skilled in carpentry.

1916: This year J. H. Carlin was promoted to one of the Subordinate Officers of the hospital. Repairs and Improvements - Under the active supervision of the head carpenter, Mr. Joseph Carlin, the buildings and other institutional property such as fences, gates, bridges, etc., have been kept in an excellent state of repair. This has been no small undertaking for though this is comparatively a new institution, the material used in its construction was of such ordinary character and the workmanship of such poor quality that deterioration has been very rapid and extensive, necessitating very general repairs. (p.14, 15)

1918: Repairs and Improvements - On account of poor material having been used in the four buildings first erected for the hospital, their deterioration has been rapid, and while repairs have been made to meet requirements, the head carpenter, Mr. J. H. Carlin, reports that extensive repairs will be absolutely necessary in the next two years. Besides keeping buildings in a fair state of repair, all gates, bridges, fences, etc., in the entire reservation have been kept in order throughout the past two years. What few permanent improvements have been made are excellent and a credit to your administration. These comprise a small but adequate and beautiful pathological building, a building to house and protect the valuable machinery and pumps of the drainage plant on the river, a handsome and imposing double column entrance gate, and a raised and enlarged roof over the power plant. Another two hundred ton silo has been added to the dairy outfit and additional milk rooms have been installed to meet the requirements of the State Board of Health. Mr. Carlin, head carpenter, is not only finished in carpentry, but is as skilled in concrete work and design and is due great credit for the amount and character of work accomplished in his department. (p.13, 14)

1920: Repairs and Improvements - This work has all been under the direct supervision and able management of Mr. J. H. Carlin, head carpenter, without any help but patients, except for a very short time he had a carpenter to push the completion of the new potato house. Mr. Carlin is to be commended for the fine showing made in his department. (p.16)

1922: Painting - Painted Carpenter's Cottage inside and out. (p.14) Repairs and Improvements - Repaired and added rooms to the residence of the Head Carpenter. (p.21) All of this work has been under the direction and able management of Mr. J. H. Carlin, head carpenter, and with one exception all of his help have been patients. He is to be commended not only for his splendid

⁸ 1920 Federal Census, Louisiana

work but for his untiring energy and his patience and kindness to the unfortunate men under his control. (p.22)

Unfortunately Joseph Hermance Carlin died November 28, 1923 at the age of 54, shortly after the dairy barn was completed. According to his Catholic death record he died of lobar pneumonia⁹. His body was taken by train to Rayne Louisiana. Where he was buried at St-Joseph Catholic Church Cemetery, and unfortunately his grave is unmarked.. His wife Julian Fontenot and her seven, children one at breast returned to Rayne, Louisiana. Julian later married Charles Edward Moffitt on December 11, 1928 in Acadia Parish.¹⁰



Figure 7 Corner Stone of Rose Cottage

⁹ A lobar pneumonia is an infection that only involves a single lobe, or section of the lung caused due to Streptococcus pneumonia, Easley vaccine preventable.

¹⁰ St-Joseph Catholic Church, Rayne, Louisiana; Record of Internment 1922.



Figure 8, Cornerstone of the Dairy Barn

Plea for Necessary Restoration

It is my goal to create a committee, whose responsibility would be to restore the Dairy Barn to its original state. This will be a large undertaking and it will require the expertise of many different people. For example we must determine the actual layout of the floor plan and identify how the equipment was laid out and identify the purpose of the various rooms. In order to acquire funding for its restoration, this would be one of our first projects. Anyone interested in joining, or if anyone who has stories and or photographs or artifacts they would like to share, please contact Ken at k5msl@suddenlink.net.

Justification of Restoration

When considering the restoration of the Central Louisiana State Hospital Dairy Barn, more than the impact of benefits on economic development should be factored into the equation. Other benefits include:

- *According to the Red River Waterway Commission with the building of Forts Randolph and Buhlow State Historical Site: Additional income generated for the city, region, and state, related to this particular site would amount to \$3,000,000 in direct impacts from outside visitors and \$60,000 in new tax receipts. And this does not include revenues generated by the Fort Buhlow Recreation Area with baseball fields, soccer fields, restrooms and a state of the art boat landing*
- *Opportunities for education in conjunction with area schools*

- *Its value as a piece in the overall historic fabric of the area*
- *Not only would Dairy Barn project provide economic development in terms of possible visitor generated income,, but also in increase in land values of surrounding properties*
- *Additionally, this project holds the potential to initiate a series of other projects which would support and complement the barn site while creating additional economic development*
- *The O.K. Allen Bridge is more than 70 years old, and by all accounts, it will not live to see 80. When completed the **Fort Buhlow Bridge** will provide better connection between two parts of U.S. Highway 165—MacArthur Drive on the Alexandria side of the river and the Monroe Highway on the Pineville side. It also will provide a better connection to Interstate 49 from the Pineville side, important since much of Pineville is industry is located along U.S. Highway165*
- *The overwhelming majority of the citizens of Central Louisiana would like to see the Dairy Barn resorted. At one time or another everyone in the area over the past 87 years and have enjoyed the splendid sight of the beautiful barn as traveled over highway 165.*

Article Sent to:

The *Country Roads* Collection- Editor
Statewide Publication on Historical Places to visit.

The National Barn Alliance- Editor, Keith Cramer
National Newsletter on Barn Restoration in the USA

Louisiana Cultural Vista – Editor, Michael Sartisky, PhD.
State Publication on the History of Louisiana

The Alexandria Town Talk- Editor, Mr. Sharkey
Local News Paper

National Trust for Historical Preservation- Editor
National magazine focusing endangered building in the USA needing restoration

The Louisiana Historical Society- editor, Michael Martin
Publication dealing history of Louisiana

Cenla Focus- Editor, Will Harp
Local news publication