

Foreword

Old Turnerville is one of those clusters of aged houses and a country store or two that seem to sprout from nowhere at intervals along both sides of the Mississippi River in south Louisiana.

Turnerville, on the west bank of the river about 100 miles above New Orleans, was once an island plantation bounded by the Mississippi, Bayou Plaquemine and Bayou Jacob. The two bayous, about a half mile apart, flowed from the river toward the west, meandering a bit until they merged, creating a triangular shaped island on the edge of the Atchafalaya Swamp.

After the town of Plaquemine, on the southern side of the junction of the Mississippi and Bayou Plaquemine, experienced a boom in the 1860s, the plantation on the opposite side of the bayou was subdivided. For some informal reason, the area took on the name of one of its early residents and entrepreneurs, Benjamin Franklin Turner, who owned and operated warehouses that serviced the riverboats.

After the plantation was subdivided, its sugar cane fields were taken over by houses, all built of virgin cypress from the nearby swamp. Marietta's House was one of them.

This very special house and many of its neighbors still exist.

Tucked away between La. Highway 1 and the Mississippi, Old Turnerville, now incorporated into the City of Plaquemine, has managed to retain the mood, the atmosphere of bygone days.

Marietta's House is a monument to those simpler times.