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HISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY AT STAR AND BOURBON PLANTATIONS: MILES 65.5-R AND 151-L. MISSISSIPPI RIVER

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FINAL REPORT

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there was a dwelling on the property at this time. However, on April 23, 1873, C.C. Millaudon sold his 2/3 share in Bourbon and other properties to his brother Henry who purchased a 1/6 share, and to Adolph Tamboury of St. James, who received a half share (COB 45, Folio 191, St. James Parish). Thus Henry Millaudon and Adolph Tamboury each had an undivided one half interest in Bourbon plantation. Tamboury was a resident of St. James, and Millaudon resided in New Orleans. For this reason, the former probably was the managing partner.

Tamboury and Millaudon continued to raise sugar at Bourbon until 1876, bringing in a crop of 185 hogsheads during the 1874-1875 season and 120 hogsheads (Table 3) during the 1875-1876 season. February 7, 1876, Adolph Tamboury transferred his half interest in Bourbon plantation to Marie Genevieve Millaudon, the wife of Tamboury was the dative William G. Mills of St. Martin Parish. tutor of Marie Genevieve, and he had received \$30,000.00 in her behalf from the successions of her grandfather Laurent Millaudon, her brother, C. Henri, and her sister, Madelaine. In order to settle this account, Tamboury transferred certain titles and interests to Marie Genevieve, including his half interest in Bourbon Plantation (COB 46, Folio 380, St. James Parish). weeks later, she sold her half interest in Bourbon and other properties to Pierre Louis Remy of St. James Parish for \$18,000.00 (COB 46, Folio 402, St. James Parish). Henry C. Millaudon sold his half interest in Bourbon and other properties to Elphege Poche of St. James on January 20, 1879. Thirty-nine mules and 10 carts on Bourbon were included in the act of sale (COB 47, Folio 334, St. James Parish).

Poche only operated Bourbon plantation in partnership with Remy for one year (Table 3). On March 15, 1880, Poche sold his half interest to Tecle Nicolle. Nicolle's name originally was Louis Lubislavich, and he was said to be an exiled Polish nobleman. After his purchase of the half interest of Bourbon, Nicolle purchased the adjoining upriver plantation, which, like Ferry's west bank residence, was named Home Place. Nicolle built a home, and he resided at Home Place until his death in the late 1880s (Bourgeois 1957).

Under the ownership of Remy and Nicolle, Bourbon once again began producing large sugar crops (Table 3). However, Remy's half interest in Bourbon was auctioned at a public sale ordered by the Circuit Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Louisiana, in the suit of "B. Fellows vs. P.L. Remy et al.", on January 16, 1886. Fortune Jaubert, a resident of St. John the Baptist Parish, purchased Remy's half interest in Bourbon and other properties for \$10,000.00 (A Hero Jr., March 16, 1886, NONA). Jaubert retained his interests in these properties for little less than one year. He sold his interests to Jean Teissier of St. James Parish. Besides receiving half interest in Bourbon Plantation, Teissier received half interest in:

Forty-nine mules, nine three-horse carts, with harnesses, one one-horse cart, with harness, two wagons, thirty hoes, six spades, eight shovels, fifty cane knives, one rotary harrow, one stubble digger, one manure distributor, fourteen two-horse plows, four four-horse plows, and two wheel barrows.

All of these movables were attached to Bourbon Plantation. Teissier paid Jaubert \$10,000.00 cash for his half interest in Bourbon and other properties (A. Hero, December 23, 1886, NONA).

According to the sugar and rice reports, Bourbon continued to be operated by Nicolle and Teissier until the 1889-1890 season (Table 3). Tecle Nicolle probably died in 1889 or 1890, and his interest in Bourbon Plantation was inherited by his children Arthur, Edward, Justina, and Edgar, and by a minor grand daughter, Ann Marie Adele. Edgar died in 1891, and the surviving heirs all received a portion of his estate. In order to protect the minor Ann Marie Adele Nicolle's interest, a suit, entitled "Arthur Nicolle et al. vs. Auguste Damare tutor et al." (22nd Judicial District Court, Parish of St. James #2712) was instituted. Damare, Ann Marie Adele's uncle, was an under-tutor. A family meeting was ordered as a result of this suit, and it was decided that it was in the minor's best interest to end the division of the property, and all co-owners of Bourbon Plantation, including Teissier, agreed that it should be sold by private sale. The plantation was appraised at this time at \$29,000.00. As a result of this decision, the Nicolles' half interest in Bourbon Plantation was sold on May 18, 1891, to Jean Teissier, for \$14,500.00, or for one half of the appraised value of the Plantation (COB 52, Folio 567, St. James Parish).

Teissier died on August 29, 1893, and between September 21-23, 1893, an inventory of Teissier's estate was taken. Figure 13 shows that many structures, including the sugar house and laborers quarters, were located on the property in the early 1890s. Teissier had acquired full ownership of Home Place Plantation at the same time that he purchased the Nicolles' half interest in Bourbon Plantation. No mention was made of a residence at Home Place at this time, and the plantation was appraised at \$7,000.00, whereas it had been appraised at \$15,000.00 in 1891 (22nd Judicial District Court, Parish of St. James #2712). Thus, it is likely that the residence had been destroyed, fallen into disuse and disrepair, or that it had been moved by this date. No mention of a residence is made in the inventory. However, there was a store on Home Place plantation at this date; the inventory gives a detailed list of its contents and stock, which were appraised at \$2258.45. In addition, \$2114.20 was found in a safe at the store (Succession of Jean Teissier, 20th Judicial District Court, Parish of St. James #1592).

Bourbon Plantation, located immediately downriver from Home Place, was appraised at \$35,000.00. The appraisal price included the mules, agricultural implements, carts, etc. In addition, the standing crops were appraised at an additional \$12,00.00. The

total value for the Teissier estate was \$128,735.40 (Succession of Jean Teissier, 20th Judicial District Court, Parish of St. James #1592).

Teissier's children Marguerite, Emilie, Noemie, and the minors Fernand and Louis Gaston, were recognized as his sole heirs and placed in possession of their father's property (COB 54, Folio 488, St. James Parish). Teissier's heirs continued to operate the plantation for cane growing after his death (Table 3). During the 1904-1905 season, Charles V. Frey, Noemie Teissier's husband, apparently took over the management of Bourbon Plantation (Table 3). Then, in September, 1907, Marguerite, Fernand, Emilie (wife of William D. Dow), and Louis Gaston Teissier, an emancipated minor over 18, sold their undivided 4/5 interest in Bourbon to Noemie Teissier Frey:

A certain sugar plantation known as Bourbon Plantation, situated in the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, on the left bank of the Mississippi River at about fifty-five miles above the City of New Orleans, measuring sixteen arpents front on said river by eighty arpents in depth on the lower line and sixty-five arpents on the upper line, bounded above by Home Place Plantation...and below by the property now or lately belonging to Vinzuile Bourgeois. (C.J. Theard, September 3, 1902, NONA)

Buildings, improvements, machinery, livestock and agricultural implements attached to the plantation also were included. Home Place Plantation also was conveyed in the sale, as was a third parcel of property. The consideration for the sale was \$55,000.00 for all three parcels, which were sold exclusively to Noemie Teissier, since she and Charles Frey were separate in property according to their marriage contract (C.J. Theard, September 3, 1907, NONA).

After Noemie Teissier came into possession of Bourbon, she and her husband may have ceased growing sugar, since no crops were reported after this date. (Table 3). It also is possible that they were selling the cane, which was processed elsewhere. A 1913 plat of the property shows that the sugar house still was standing at this time, although many other plantation structures were destroyed during the building of a new levee (Figure 14). Bourbon still was described as a sugar plantation when Noemie Teissier sold the plantation in February of 1916 to Colonial Sugar Company of New Jersey. Included in the sale was Home Place Plantation. Excluded was a parcel on the upriver side of Bourbon Plantation, riverward of the railroad, which Teissier retained. Included in the act of sale was a plat which shows that this latter parcel included a dwelling within a fenced yard. Since this land was retained by Teissier, it probably was her residence (F. Soule, February 18, 1916, NONA).

The act of sale stated that the dwelling and improvements were

located on the lot which Teissier retained, and no mention was made of improvements on the property conveyed to Colonial Sugar Co. Yet the plat clearly shows three structures on the conveyed property. The largest of these is the sugar house, which therefore still was extant at the time of Colonial Sugar's purchase of the property (F. Soule, February 18, 1916, NONA).

The twentieth century history of Bourbon Plantation is initially tied to that of Colonial Sugar Company, which was established in 1896 on Golden Grove Plantation in Gramercy, Louisiana, downriver from the project area under consideration Colonial originally produced only raw sugar, but in 1912 the company began refining sugar. Two years later, Colonial acquired a number of other plantations in St. James Parish in order to obtain a reliable supply of raw sugar for the refinery. Bourbon was one of those plantations, although it is unclear if Colonial subsequently undertook substantial modifications of the Bourbon sugar house and grounds to ready it for the purpose. It seems likely that improvements were made during this period, since Bourbon's sugar house was not used for ten years prior to Colonial's acquisition of the property. Map data (Figures 14 - 16) show that between 1913 and 1928 several cabins, a residence, a shed, and a barn were erected on the property. Sugar production at Bourbon ended during the late 1920s, and Colonial grew rice on the plantation from 1930-1933 (Andy The chronological Deslatte, personal communication 1983). placement of these sequential events suggests that the major flooding of 1927, when the river "crossed the old Grande Pointe Road and filled the fields" (Andy Deslatte, personal communication 1983), may have led to the introduction of rice to the area. sugar house at Bourbon was dismantled in 1930, and the heavy machinery and attendant parts, including the crusher and flywheel, were loaded onto a barge and shipped upriver, reportedly to Detroit, Michigan (Andy Deslatte, personal communication 1983). As will be seen, the purposeful and complete dismantling of the Bourbon sugar house was reflected archeologically in an absence of artifactual remains from the sugar house area. The sugar house foundations were left intact following the dismantling of its facilities. However, in 1933 Humble Oil drilled several "dry hole" wells around the great house, one of which was located less than forty feet from the structure. Cement well pads were laid in the area, and some damage was done to the structure (Andy Deslatte, personal communication 1983). Colonial sugars continued to hold title to the property until the 1950s. Changes in the site's setting subsequent to 1933 are discussed below, in the section entitled "Site Destruction Processes."