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OPERATION COMEBACK UPDATE

by Maryann Miller
photos by OC staff

OC's "Tree House" receives hundreds of visitors



OC's renovation of 4804 Dauphine St. in Holy Cross was the featured "demonstration house" for Restore Media's Traditional Building Show.

The "tree house" – named for the 60 ton pecan tree that bifurcated it during Hurricane Katrina – at 4804 Dauphine St. opened its doors to hundreds of architects, historic building product manufacturers, neighbors and others in the construction trades during Restore Media's Traditional Building Exhibition and Conference, October 17. The 1870s Greek Revival shotgun home has a single-family floor plan akin to that which was originally built on this ample corner lot carved from the old Jourdan Plantation in Holy Cross. The fine renovation features top-of-the-line product innovations like ceramic neo-slate roof tile and a small duct high velocity air cooling system that received constant comment during the six conference open houses. Reviews were rave: "graceful," "classy," "highly functional floor plan" and, "I wish I lived here!" The three bedroom, two bath property is for sale for \$249,000 (including appliances). Contact Maryann Miller at (504) 636-3046 or mmiller@prcno.org.

Additional grants awarded



5124 Dauphine St. (left) and 717 Deslonde St. in Holy Cross

Two Operation Comeback renovations, at 5124 Dauphine St. and 717 Deslonde St. in Holy Cross, were recently awarded funds to offset the cost of repairs due to Katrina damage. The funds help with specialty repairs like stripping thick glue residue from heart of pine wood flooring, matching dimensional "flush board" tongue and groove walls (discovered behind flooded, moldy Sheetrock), repairing wind-blown operable, louvered shutters and milling custom front doors to replace those damaged by rescue efforts in the hurricane's aftermath. Special thanks go to the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation Office of Cultural Development.

Bringing up the rear

Like many modest historic buildings, the rearmost rooms were in advanced states of disrepair in each of the rescued-from-the-wrecking-ball homes at 711 Caffin Ave. and 717 Deslonde St. Renovations to date have included repairing foundations and load bearing walls to accommodate rear rooms with full-height ceilings and in-scale windows. Watch for additional upgrades (like plaster repair at 711 Caffin Ave. and a side addition at 717 Deslonde St.) to each of these charming Eastlake-style Holy Cross homes.



711 Caffin Ave.