

Live Oak Plantation Oaks

Bayou Grand Caillou
Hwy 57 Coast Guard Rd
Dulac, LA

[Google Maps](#)



The live oaks, living and dying, at the Dulac Coast Guard Station and the area they mark was once known as

Live Oak Plantation. The property was part of the original land granted by the Spanish governor to Louis Cossier in the late 1780s and purchased by John A. Quitman in 1829-1830, that included the West side of Bayou Grand Caillou as well as the pointe then called Goats field.

The site was once the scene of a stately Georgian-style home built for the former Mississippi



Governor, John A. Quitman. The area of the former Live Oak Plantation later became the playground of Grand Caillou residents visiting 'Dulac Beach' for summer swimming enjoyment. Once known as Live Oak, the surrounding community later became Dulac. (*Live Oak picture from I Dug Up Houma Terrebonne, Wurzlow, Series*)



Judge John A. Quitman, Portrait https://www.findagrave.com/wiki/John_A.Quitman, Biography

After the [Great Storm of 1856](#), the Voisin and Luke families moved to the Dulac area. The families had suffered catastrophic family losses with the death of their mother, sister and other family members during the storm. Ancient shell-covered burial mounds at the mouth of Bayou Grand Caillou, marked the property owned by the Anthony Luke family. The area had been a fishing settlement called Bayou La Butte, only accessible by boat. During the Civil War, the areas around the mounds reinforced with lumber created 'Fort Butler', named after the Butler family of LaCarpe

Plantation. Later, in 1861, it was renamed Fort Quitman by the Confederate General Mansfield Lovell, in honor of John Quitman owner of Live Oak Plantation. In 1862, with the fall of New Orleans to Union forces followed by the abandonment of the fort which housed 5 C.S.A. officers and 140 soldiers at one time. Dulac locals, Leonard Voisin and Raymond Luke joined the Confederate Army but their brothers, Joseph Voisin and Anthony Luke, lent their services to the cause by running blockades, slipping through enemy lines, and providing everything from guns to food supplies to their Confederate brothers. After avoiding the Union's efforts to find the infamous boat used by the blockade-runners called, "The Fox" the day finally came on May 8, 1862, when Voisin and Luke were arrested by Union soldiers and their (oyster) boat confiscated. *Compendium of the War of the Rebellion: Battles, Louisiana 1862: F. Dyer.*

The decades of hurricanes have taken a toll on the remaining live oak trees and surrounding community; but coastal erosion, natural and man-made elements, forced the disappearance of the old fort, which now lies underwater according to testimony of those who knew its location. [Eyes of an Eagle: Civil War](#) Today, the presence of the Coast Guard Station, graced by the remaining live oaks, stands as an Aid to Navigation Team (ANT) military base for Homeland Security. The trees and Coast Guard Station serve as reminders to the days of the plantations, a C.S.A. fort, and times gone by. These live oaks are best viewed from Hwy 57. Story written by Trudy Voisin Hebert.



Photos by Trudy Voisin Hebert

