

Magenta Plantation Oaks

Lower Bayou Terrebonne
1233 Hwy 55
Montegut, LA

[Google Maps](#)



Beautifully draped in Spanish moss, the old Magenta Plantations' trees mark the spot where once stood the home of William Fields built prior to the 1830s in Montegut. The home was originally named "Magenta" after a wild flower that grows in the West Indies, where the custom there was to plant these flowers near the graves of the British. Fields resided on the islands learning and training to raise sugarcane before he came to Terrebonne parish.

There are eight live oaks in the grouping at the present now known as the "Amanda -Magenta Plantation" house in Montegut. The largest of the trees measures more than eighteen feet in diameter and the smallest tree measures twelve feet. The largest tree, visible from Huey P. Long Street, has a tree house in the branches. Based on current calculations, it is possible that the largest tree is over 200 years old. Six of the trees are visible from 1233 Highway 55, and two of the trees are visible from Huey P. Long Street. Fields may have planted the largest and oldest of the trees, but the original home was demolished and a second house built about 1850, prior to the Civil War, which still stands today. This house has been renovated, remodeled and restored many times and does not resemble the old Fields home. Other residents of the home have been J.M. Dupont, Jean Pierre Viguerie, Eugene Pierre Fields, Allen A. Sanders, Freddy Ruiz, Allen and Sylvia Roddy and Michael and Eva Keen. Once called the "Freddy Ruiz house" by local Montegut residents, prisoners of WWII actually worked the fields

during his ownership in the 1940s. Fields descendant, Tilden Fields related a story once published in the Houma Courier of his mother (Margaret Lebouef-Fields) dying tragically after falling down the back steps late in a pregnancy. Only 18 months old, he and his 4-year-old sister were raised by relatives. The last Fields in the home sold to the Sanders family in the early 1920s. <http://www.houmatoday.com>

During the Roddy's residence, Sylvia reported witnessing canned goods falling from pantry shelves without a good reason, she heard sounds of a child crying and unexplained knocking sounds, as well as at night mysterious lights moving throughout the house.



The Magenta flower
[Wikipedia Link](#)

When the Keens remodeled and opened the home as a Bed and Breakfast, the ghost stories were told to guests for entertainment. The live oaks on Main Street near the old Post office in Downtown Houma and identified by the Live Oak Society as "George and Martha Washington" were planted by the daughter of Allen A. Sanders, with seedlings from Magenta. Only "George" remains across the street from the courthouse. The Amanda-Magenta property is currently owned by William "Butch" Harte of Baton Rouge. –Story written by Laura Browning.

[Fields Ancestry](#)



Photos by Trudy Voisin Hebert

