



St. Michele Plantation House in Houma, Louisiana

History

Bernard A. Marmande immigrated to the United States in 1870 from France. He settled along Bayou DuLarge in Houma, Louisiana and acquired the St. Michele Plantation property with the intention of raising sugar cane, cattle and horses. The original Plantation building burned in 1937 however, the family had grown and several other structures had been erected through the years. In 1958 a residence now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Marmande, Grandson of Bernard, was constructed. Additional square footage has been added to the structure on four separate occasions through the years. The structure today is comprised of 5,550 square feet with various sized footings and grade beam construction.

In 2008, after Hurricane Gustav, Mr. and Mrs. Marmande contacted Orleans Shoring regarding the elevation of the structure. While they had not experienced flooding in the living area, during the Hurricane Gustav floodwater had reached the garage. Wishing to



leave the home to their grandchildren they wanted to prevent the building from future flooding. After evaluating the home both aerially and from the ground Orleans Shoring realized this slab elevation would present a remarkable challenge.

Orleans Shoring has always considered itself a technology driven, high achieving get it done company. "When contacted by the Marmandes it was a challenge that had to be accepted" stated Christian Cancienne, owner of Orleans Shoring. "Even though our quoted price to perform the scope of work was \$30,000 higher than our competition,"



said Christian, “the Marmandes obviously trusted our reputation, honesty and quality of workmanship.

Excavation

More than three weeks was required to excavate, by tunnels under the structure. The excavation team, led by Luke Laffin, pushed eight-inch x eight-inch segmented block piles to refusal with most piles being between 35 and 40 feet deep. This was achieved by excavating below the thickened footing of the existing slab structure and using the weight of the slab itself and a hydraulic jack to push each individual pile to refusal. The refusal point for a pile has been reached when the jack being used no longer pushes the block into the soil but begins raising that section of the slab itself. This process continued for all 136 piles pushed under the structure.

The excavation team also had to bolt the four, separate slabs from each of the additions together with steel beams and anchors, by epoxy, into each slab. This was done to stabilize the structure during the elevation process and after the entire elevation was complete. The team also discovered that...

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