

Nottaway Plantation

Two hundred feet behind the Mississippi River sits the largest antebellum plantation house in the south. Located in White Castle, Louisiana, the plantation house with its Greco-Italian architecture was built by John Hampden Randolph in 1859. Its 53,000 square feet includes 64 rooms, 7 staircases and 5 galleries. Randolph and his wife, had 11 children.

The cost of building Nottaway then has been estimated at \$80,000. According to an inflation calculator, using the period 1870-2016, today the cost of Nottaway would be 1.5 million dollars.

The name of the plantation came from Nottaway County, part of Randolph's Virginia past, where he was born.

The plantation consisted of 6,200 acres with 155 African-American slaves who worked nearly 1,000 acres of sugar cane fields, formerly cotton. The slaves were also used in the building of Nottaway hauling Cyprus trees and drying them.

Nottaway was spared during the Civil War by a gunboat officer, who had been a guest there. The building was sold by Mrs. Randolph in 1889, following the death of her husband. In 1980, Nottaway was added to the National Registry of Historic Places.

Sources: (<https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/louisiana/not.htm>) (<http://culturelocker.com/story/2014/Louisiana-Nottaway.html>) (<http://grist.org/living/more-anger-please-why-ani-difranco-s-slave-plantation-retreat-was-worth-protesting/>)





Randolph had anthracite coal from Pennsylvania shipped to Nottaway. The transporations involved over 1100 miles. The ashes from the fireplace fell into a pit where they were used to make soap.





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