



# ARCHITECTURE

EHLINGER & ASSOCIATES

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**Madewood Plantation**

Madewood is near Napoleonville, LA. It was built between 1840 and 1848 for Thomas Pugh and designed by the noted architect Henry Howard, the author of many other famous mansions in the New Orleans area, and plantation houses. This issue's limited edition print of a sketch by Ladd P. Ehlinger is of the facade facing Bayou Lafourche that is nestled in a grove of oaks and magnolias. Madewood is the main house for a group of plantations acquired by Pugh in the 1830s and 1840s that totaled over 10,000 acres. Most of this acreage was planted in sugarcane, the most profitable crop at the time in south Louisiana.

Madewood is a jewel among jewels. There are still many of the 19th century plantation homes existent, especially on Bayou Lafourche, but few match the grandeur of Madewood. The six Ionic columns spring from a classical Greek temple stylobate, rather than from pedestals as at other plantations, and support a simple entablature and pediment with a fan decoration. The second floor line is carried just inside the columns so that their verticality dominates, and has a very delicate wooden balustrade.

The floor plan consists of the two story main house with a one story wing on each side. On the first level, the main house

flanking both sides.

The construction is of brick (made on the property) walls with stucco and plaster supporting timber spanning members with plastered ceilings also. The stucco is scored to resemble stone blocks and is painted white. The floors are of heart pine, door frames, doors and moldings of tidewater red cypress. The shutters are painted a dark green. The door frames and moldings are painted to resemble oak (faux bois). Each doorway is signed by the artist, Cornealius Hennessey. Elsewhere, the mantels have been painted to resemble marble.

The wealth created by planting, harvesting, and processing the juices from sugar cane actually began at the Etienne de Bore Plantation, which is now Audubon Park in New Orleans, in 1795. This revolutionized agriculture in Louisiana and elsewhere, because de Bore was the first to crystallize sugar and plant cane on a commercial basis rather than indigo. The great fortunes that were made in sugar paid for the plantation mansions.

The Harold Marshal family purchased Madewood in 1964 and completed a major restoration by 1978. It is currently owned by their sons. The facility has been converted to a bed and breakfast, and it is well worth staying there to see it.

contains a central hall with a flanking double parlor on one side and a library and dining room on the other. The right wing contains bedrooms and the wing on the left contains a ball room and service rooms. The plan upstairs repeats the central hall with bedrooms

## EPA vs. Private Property Rights

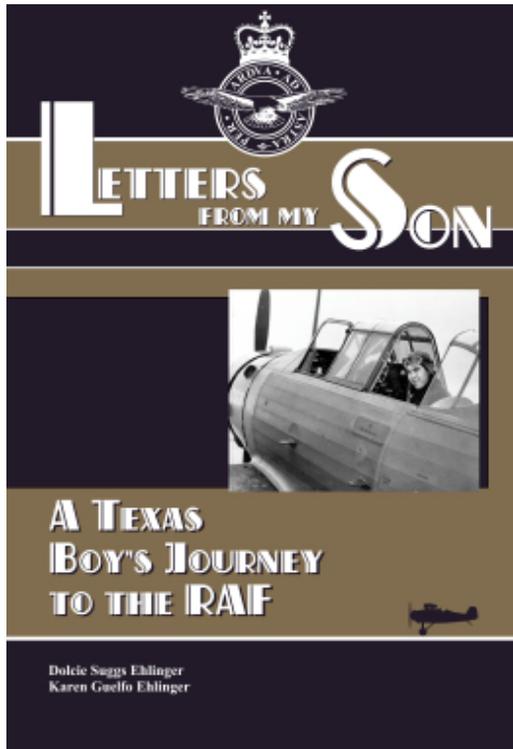
A big battle is brewing over the basic rights of individual property use. Recently, E&A wrote about FEMA's increased involvement in zoning and construction on a local level; but the authority in those instances is still on the local level, and there is no additional impediment to redress of grievance than with any other zoning or code dispute. If you have a problem, you can still go before the zoning/variance board and be heard, as well as have your day in court.

This time, the EPA is assessing its "zoning" powers directly on individuals, and denying them reasonable opportunity to contest the EPA's ruling. Under the Clean Water Act, the EPA has the authority to deem lands protected if they are wetlands, and to prevent development on said lands without a federal permit and environmental review of the design.

The case in question, *Sackett v. EPA*, involves a couple who bought a piece of property in upstate Washington that bordered a lake. They had received all of their local permits, had been informed by the local Army Corps of Engineers that they did not need a federal permit, and they had begun preparing the property for construction. That's when the EPA stepped in with a stop work order, declared their property a wetland, and threatened to fine the couple if they didn't restore the land to its prior state.

In order to contest the EPA's determination of their property as a wetland, they would first have to file the EPA's permit, and do all of their contesting within the EPA, as no outside authority oversees the EPA's rulings. The permitting and fees could easily run over the cost of the property and house they were planning to build; an unreasonable burden to place on most individuals. Furthermore, even if the *Sackett's* complied with the EPA's process, there's no guarantee they would have anything resembling a fair hearing, nor a fair ruling.

*(EPA vs. Private Property Cont...)*



Order an advance copy of Dana and Karen Ehlinger's new book!

## Letters from my Son

From Safe Goods Publishing

Rooted in the great state of Texas, the adventures of Early Willson Junior immerse the reader in life during the depression, the beginnings of World War II and society goings on.

*Perhaps many of you have not had the experience of taking a trip by air, for you who have not, I am going to tell you of a trip I took from Austin to San Antonio, Texas.*

*I boarded the fast monoplane at the Municipal Air Port, Austin, Texas. In a moment I saw a man, dressed in a white suit, board the plane; on his cap I could see the letters "Chief Pilot". The motors were gunned up very much, and presently the small plane was rolling across the field. Faster and faster it went, and in a second we shot into the air.*

*The town of Austin looked like a large checker board spread out in every direction. When we started on our cross country flight, we were flying very high and going very fast, but to me it seems we were going slow. The below country reminded me of a large patchwork quilt I have seen Mother making.*

*We flew over rivers, small towns and farms. On coming into San Antonio, we flew over. "Randolph Field". We flew over the heart of town, and on out to Winburn Field, where we came down for a graceful landing.*

*As long as I live I shall consider this as the most outstanding trip that I have ever had.*

-Robert Early Willson, Jr. 1934, age 15

Dolcie Suggs Ehlinger and Karen Guelfo Ehlinger  
Available December 2011 at most bookstores.

Pre-Publishing Price: \$22.95 includes postage & shipping. For an advance, autographed copy which will be shipped to you early in November, 2011, order at [www.LettersFromMySon.com](http://www.LettersFromMySon.com), or mail a check to:

Dana Ehlinger  
c/o Ehlinger & Associates, PC  
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Metairie, LA 70001-1399

And so it began. A journey that would take a simple boy from Texas to the big city of New York to rub elbows with Dorothy Lamour and Cab Calloway, on to the historic field from which Howard Hughes and Amelia Earhart soared into record books, and finally across the ocean to "give his all" in World War II with Churchill's celebrated Royal Air Force of Britain. A journey that lay hidden in a trunk for almost fifty years and a story unspoken by a family unable to ever stem the pain of their loss. And it began in a dusty box of letters that Early Jr. himself told of his exhilarating and tragic life's journey.

### EPA vs. Private Property Cont.:

So, the Sacketts' case is headed for the Supreme Court, where, hopefully, something resembling common sense will prevail. Unfortunately, whatever the Supreme Court rules, this case will largely be about the procedural issues regarding the EPA's enforcement and pre-enforcement of their authority over wetlands, and not about how the EPA determines a wetlands designation, or any other restrictions they may wish to place on land use regarding the Clean Water Act.

If the Sacketts are successful, the result will likely be some method and process introduced, by which individuals contesting the EPA's enforcement of the Clean Water Act, can go through to

address their grievances. This is in keeping with the right to a speedy, fair trial - one which won't bankrupt an individual.

The case will be about the Sacketts' denial of a day in court with the EPA due to lack of clear and accessible procedures, cost of bureaucratic fees, and lack of outside authority over the EPA's self-governance and enforcement.

While a win for the Sacketts would go far to control the long arm of a bureaucratic institution that is clearly abusing its powers, it is doubtful that it will put an end to the Kafkaesque tactics now being employed.

To put it into regional context for some of our readers - imagine if you bought a piece of property in Lakeview; an empty

lot where no one rebuilt after Katrina. Sewer, water, and power hook-ups are available. You've been through all the permitting processes, have it designed to meet all of the FEMA flooding requirements, and the bulldozers are out spreading fresh dirt. Then, someone from the EPA shows up and declares it a wetland, pointing to a circa 1900 map showing the area as "backswamp", and claiming the government's goal is to restore the land to its natural state, 120 years ago.

Sound ludicrous? Read about the Sacketts before you laugh: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jun/28/couples-case-against-epa-to-be-heard/>

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