

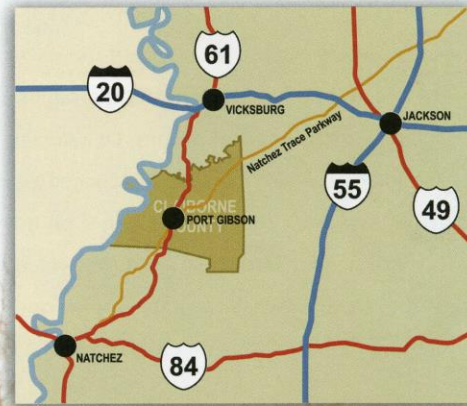
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## A HIDDEN MISSISSIPPI GEM

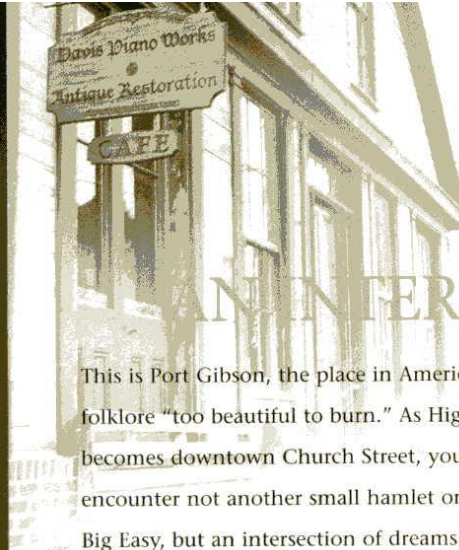
From Wyoming, Minnesota to New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S. Highway 61 is a freewheeling trip through America's heart. Intertwined with the mighty Mississippi, Highway 61 treats travelers not only to an America that is, but to an America that once was.

That's especially true as the famed highway meanders through the Mississippi Delta. Blues and barbecue echoing from Memphis fade into the Old South charm of Vicksburg and Natchez. And, in between these two Mississippi jewels, lies a hidden gem easily overlooked by the hurried traveler. But a gem it is, with more to it than meets the eye.







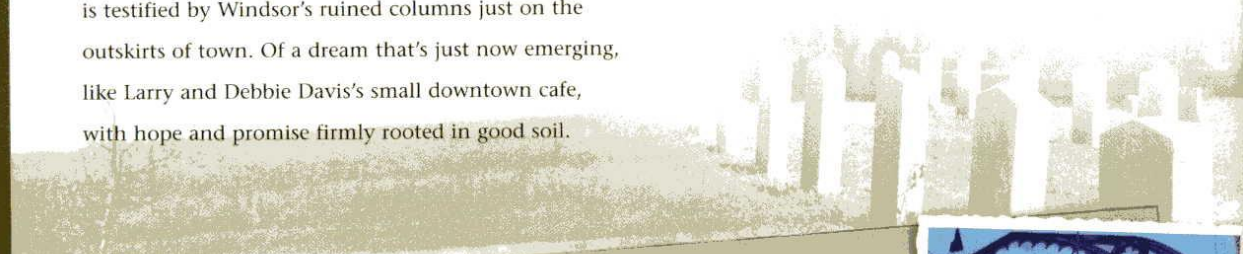
Davis Piano Works  
Antique Restoration



This is Port Gibson, the place in American Civil War folklore "too beautiful to burn." As Highway 61 becomes downtown Church Street, you'll soon encounter not another small hamlet on the way to the Big Easy, but an intersection of dreams. Of a dream that's past and can never be again, whose faded glory is testified by Windsor's ruined columns just on the outskirts of town. Of a dream that's just now emerging, like Larry and Debbie Davis's small downtown cafe, with hope and promise firmly rooted in good soil.

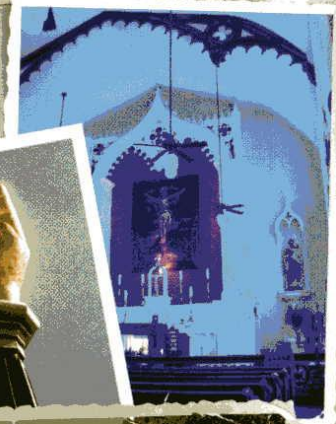


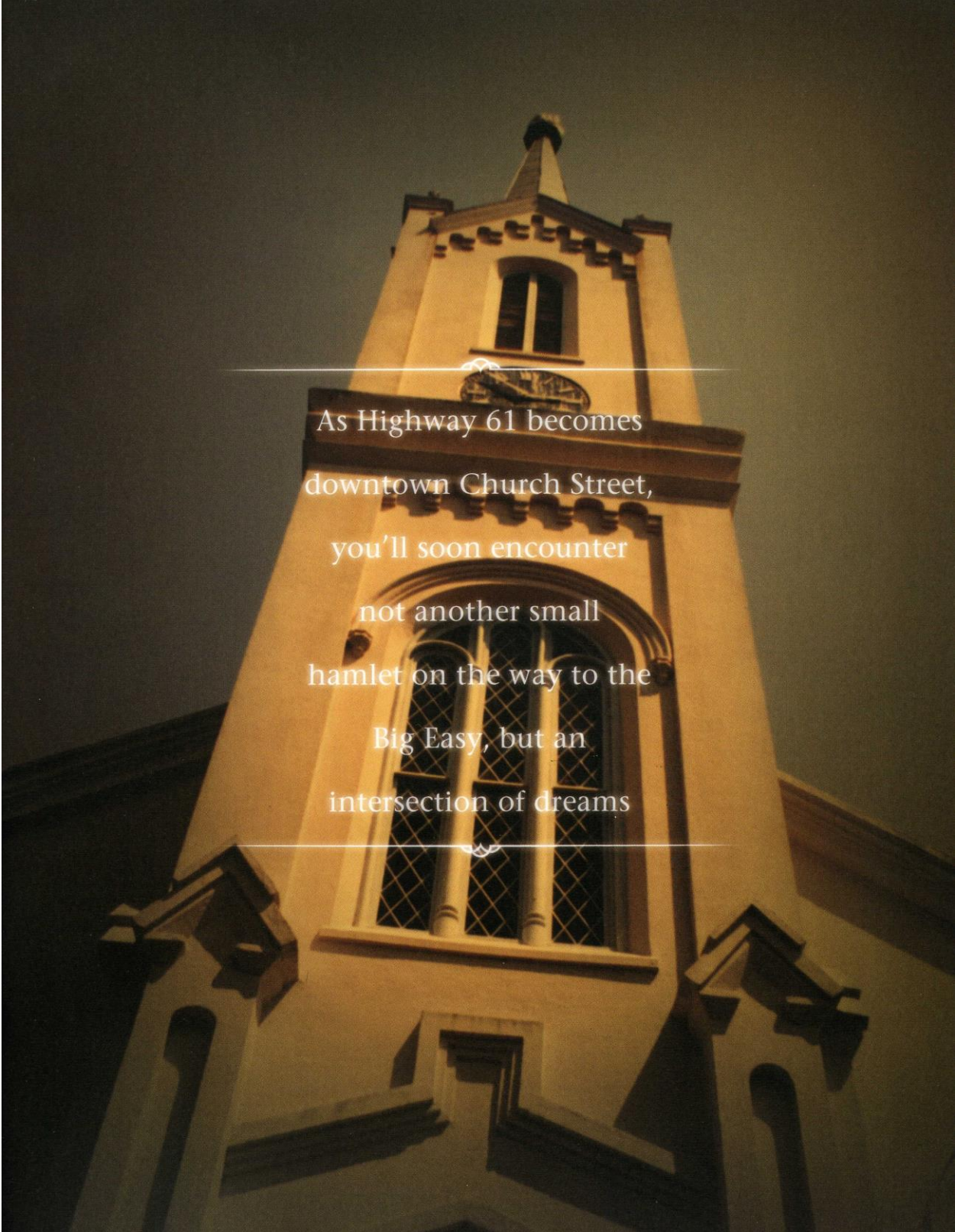
The people of Port Gibson and Claiborne County invite you to come and dream with them - at least for a day... perhaps for a lifetime. Either way, we're sure you'll discover a place that's timeless in its appreciation for its heritage, limitless in its hope for a better future.



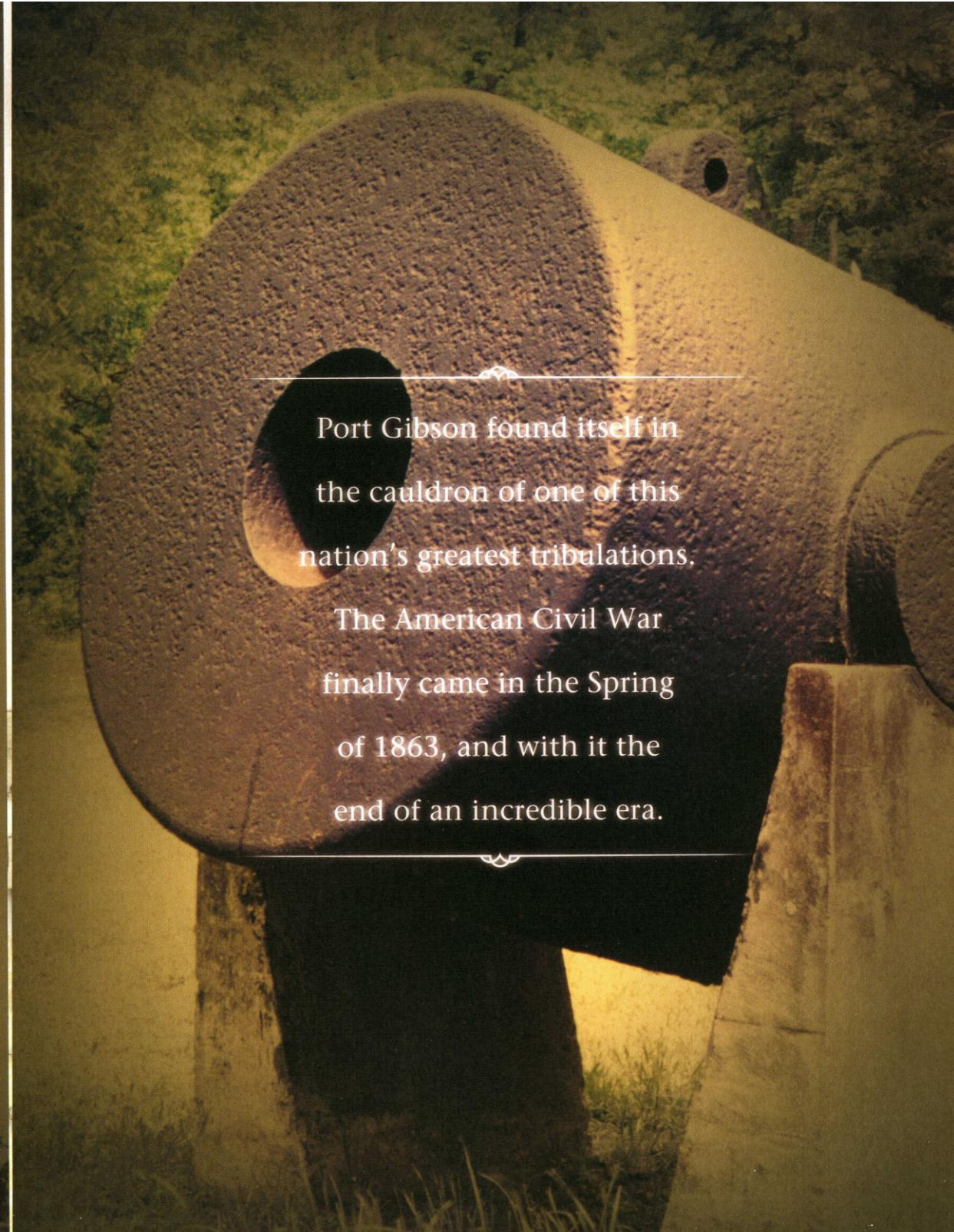
*With a good pair of walking shoes and an afternoon, you can take a trip back into old Port Gibson. In the historic downtown district you'll encounter pristine Nineteenth Century homes like the Engelsson House, whose grounds boast the oldest formal gardens in Mississippi, and other structures like the 1830 courthouse. Your tour wouldn't be complete without a visit to one of Port Gibson's historic cemeteries like Wintergreen, final resting place of founder Samuel Gibson and several soldiers from the Battle of Port Gibson.*

*You'll also see a wide array of houses of worship that symbolize the diverse cultures that have lived harmoniously beside one another for over a hundred years. Along Church Street you'll find St. Joseph's Catholic Church with its hand-carved altar and cobalt blue stained glass, and First Presbyterian Church with its famed sculpted hand crafted in honor of founding pastor Zebulon Butler. There's also the historic Gemiluth Chassid Synagogue, the oldest in the state, once home to Port Gibson's Jewish citizens who contributed so much to the city's cultural and economic life.*





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## END OF THE SOUTH'S GOLDEN AGE

Some say he came from the Carolinas, heading west through Tennessee. Like thousands of others of his time, Samuel Gibson braved wild and open country to stake a claim to land he could call his own.

He called it Gibson's Landing, a fair spot on the river for sending and receiving goods. When this trading post grew to become the third incorporated town in the burgeoning Mississippi territory, it acquired the name it still holds today - Port Gibson.

Port Gibson quickly flourished during the South's Golden Age as settlers found the rich delta soil good for growing cotton. They grew wealthy and built beautiful homes around Church Street, many of which still stand today. In less than fifty years, the ambitious dreams of Samuel Gibson and his kind were being realized.

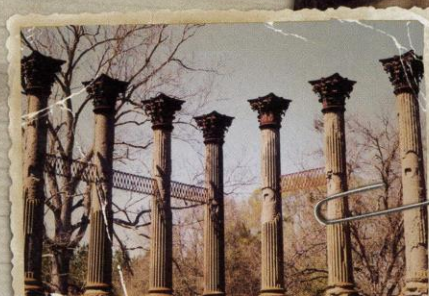
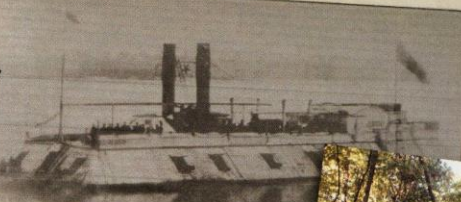
Their dreams, however, were not without conflict. Indeed, Port Gibson found itself in the cauldron of one of this nation's greatest tribulations. The American Civil War finally came in the spring of 1863, and with it the end of an incredible era.

*Several sites around Port Gibson - location of the largest American military amphibious landing before D-Day - yield unexpected treasure for Civil War enthusiasts. Just outside of town, down the same plantation road marched by Grant's troops as they entered Port Gibson, you'll discover Schaefer House - bullet holes and all!*

*Just North you'll encounter Grand Gulf Military Park, complete with a museum and period structures. There's also a camping area for RV enthusiasts and a picnic area near the Mississippi River.*

*Not far from Bruinsburg where Grant's troops crossed the Mississippi, you'll have a chance to visit the ruins of Windsor, aptly called the Parthenon of the South. Built on the eve of the American Civil War by planter Smith Coffee Daniell, II, the stately Greek Revival mansion survived the war only to be destroyed by an accidental fire in 1890.*

*All that now stands on the site just outside of Port Gibson are twenty-three fluted columns crowned with elegant iron Corinthian capitals. The stark beauty of the once grand house echoes the faded glory of the Old South.*

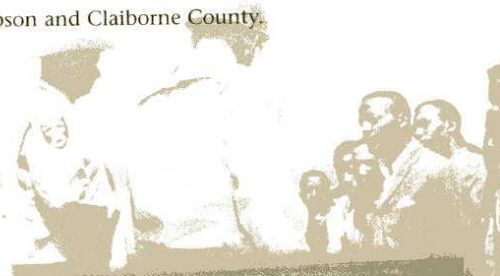




## A SPIRIT STIRS IN PORT GIBSON

But Port Gibson didn't die - rather, it fell asleep. The town tucked neatly away along U.S. Highway 61 hibernated for nearly a century. But, when the Civil Rights Movement and a revitalized regional economy roared across the South in the last half of the Twentieth Century, the town shook off its slumber. Like their founder nearly two centuries before, the citizens of Port Gibson and Claiborne County began to dream - again.

The same spirit that drove Samuel Gibson west - and that attracted other settlers to carve out a better life in the Mississippi wilderness - now stirs in the people of Port Gibson and Claiborne County.



*When Claiborne County's African American population organized voter registration drives in the 1960's, Port Gibson was forever changed. In pursuit of fair treatment, they also launched a ten-year economic boycott of white merchants. This later became the basis for a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision affirming the right to peacefully protest through economic boycott.*

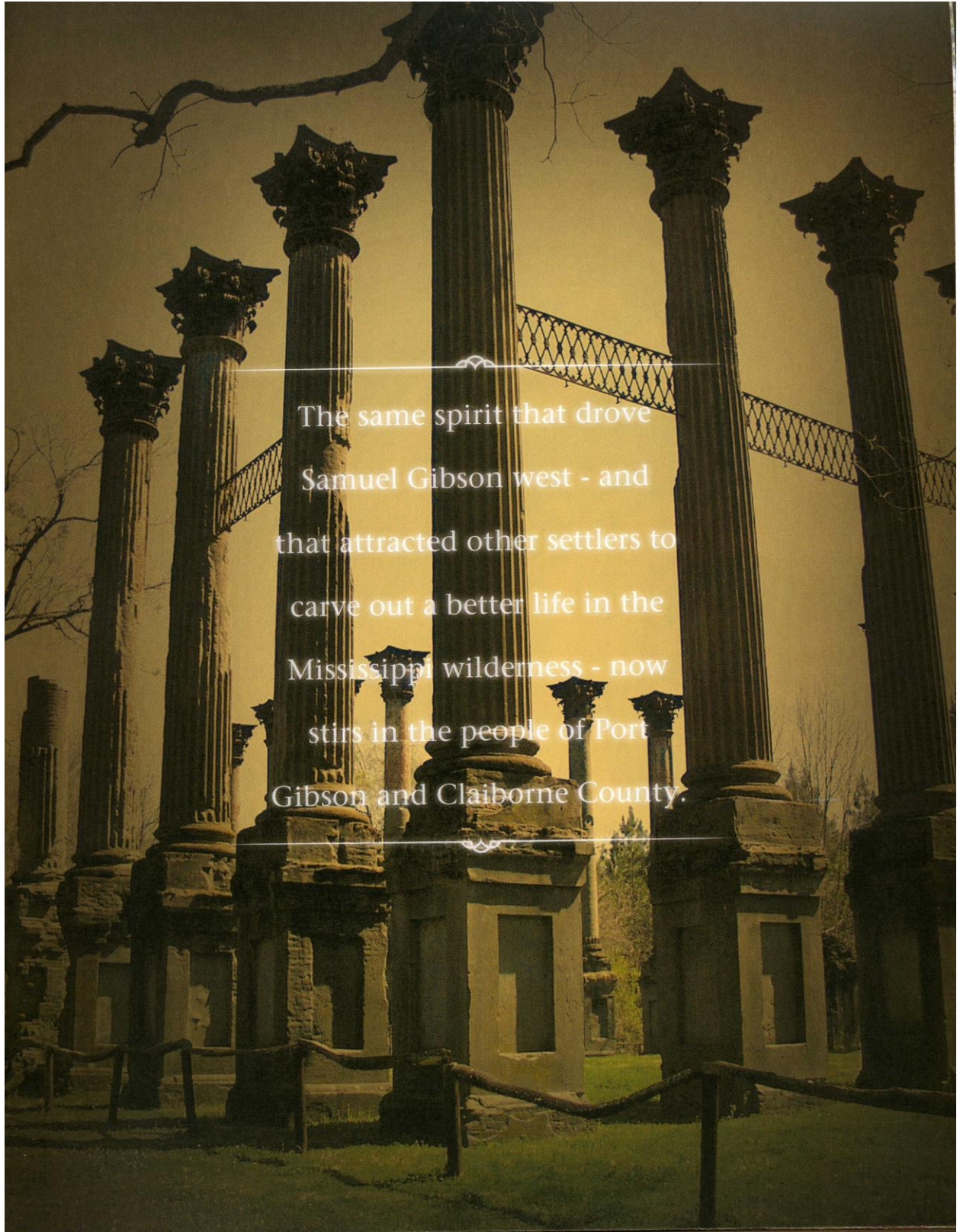
*Those were difficult days for Port Gibson. But, where slavery once flourished, there's now a community dedicated to solving problems together and helping each other fulfill their dreams for the future.*

*Economic growth is essential for Claiborne County's "dream fulfillment." That's why they've established the Claiborne County Port on the Mississippi River.*

*A vital interstate transportation link, the Mississippi River helps American farmers and manufacturers hold down costs. That means they can compete globally. Good river access is critical.*

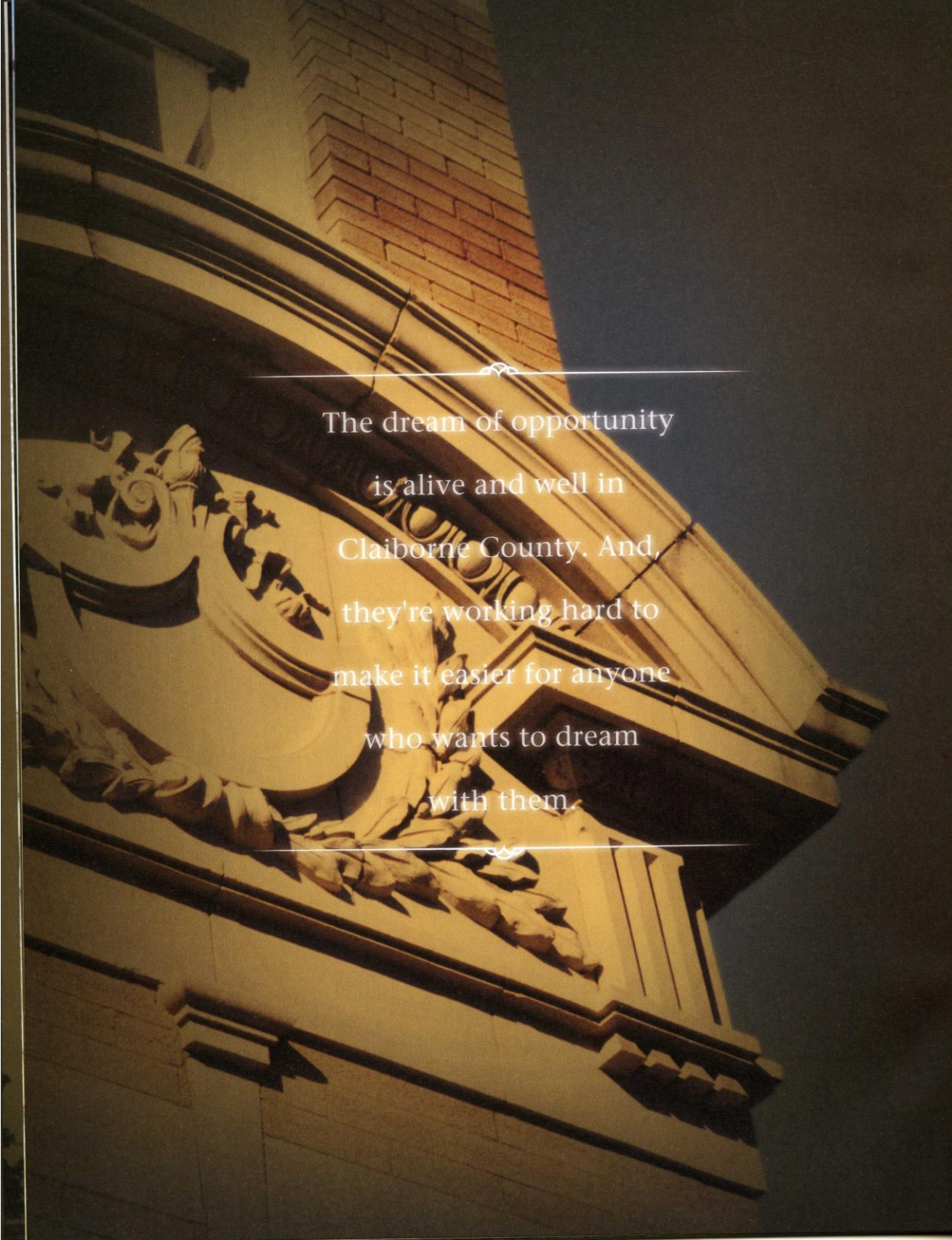
*The Claiborne County Port is poised to do just that. One of six state ports in the Mississippi River System, the ten-acre site adjoins a 400-acre industrial park. As the region around Claiborne County continues to expand economically, Claiborne County Port is ready to facilitate that growth with excellent access to river transportation.*





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# DREAM OF OPPORTUNITY LIVES

When early pioneers settled along the banks of the Mississippi at what would become Port Gibson, all that lay before them was an untamed wilderness. But, rather than see what they didn't have, they chose to see what they had and shaped their future on the opportunities before them.

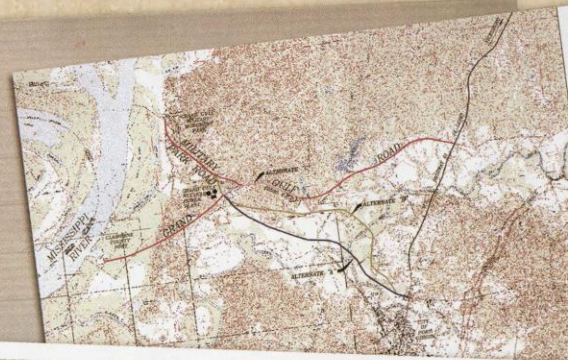
Two centuries later, their descendants are doing the same thing. They aren't wringing their hands over what they don't have - they're excited about what they have, and what they offer to visitors and new "settlers" alike.

That's not to say that the resources available couldn't be improved on - indeed, Claiborne County is in the midst of major renovation to their economic infrastructure, with even more to follow. This progress isn't to replace or destroy their heritage, but to enhance it with better roads, better amenities and better opportunities for economic growth.

The dream of opportunity is alive and well in Claiborne County. And, they're working hard to make it easier for anyone who wants to dream with them.

*Claiborne County is currently realizing major improvements to its transportation infrastructure that promise a positive impact on future growth. The four-laning of U.S. Highway 61 through Claiborne County continues at an even pace, and construction of a new connector access road to Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Plant will soon get underway, providing a safer and more economical route to the facility and the Claiborne County Port.*

*Alcorn State University has been a good neighbor to Port Gibson. The historically African American institution has blessed the region not only with its excellent academic environment but also as a rich resource of graduates who remain to contribute to the progress of Claiborne County. The university is also proving itself a viable economic partner with plans underway to develop commercial and recreational opportunities along a new Highway 552 economic development corridor.*





## A FUTURE ROOTED IN THE PAST

***“The problems of the world cannot possibly be solved by skeptics or cynics whose horizons are limited by the obvious realities. We need men who can dream of things that never were.”***

**John F. Kennedy**

Pioneers like Samuel Gibson once dared to “dream of things that never were” Where sandy banks nudged muddy waters, they saw a trading post. Where tangles of forests hid fertile soil, they saw fields of cotton. And where only wild game then roamed, they saw a town where people could build a better life for themselves.

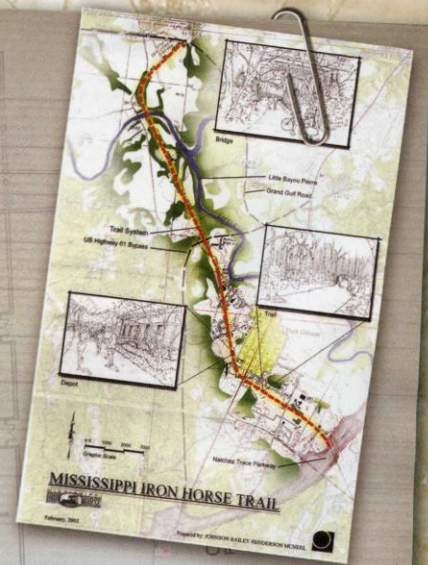
The current inhabitants of Port Gibson are also daring to “dream of things that never were.” Looking down the corridor of time they see better access for visitors, indeed new areas dedicated to their pleasures and comforts. They also see a more attractive economic climate for businesses that thrive on the natural resources Claiborne County offers.

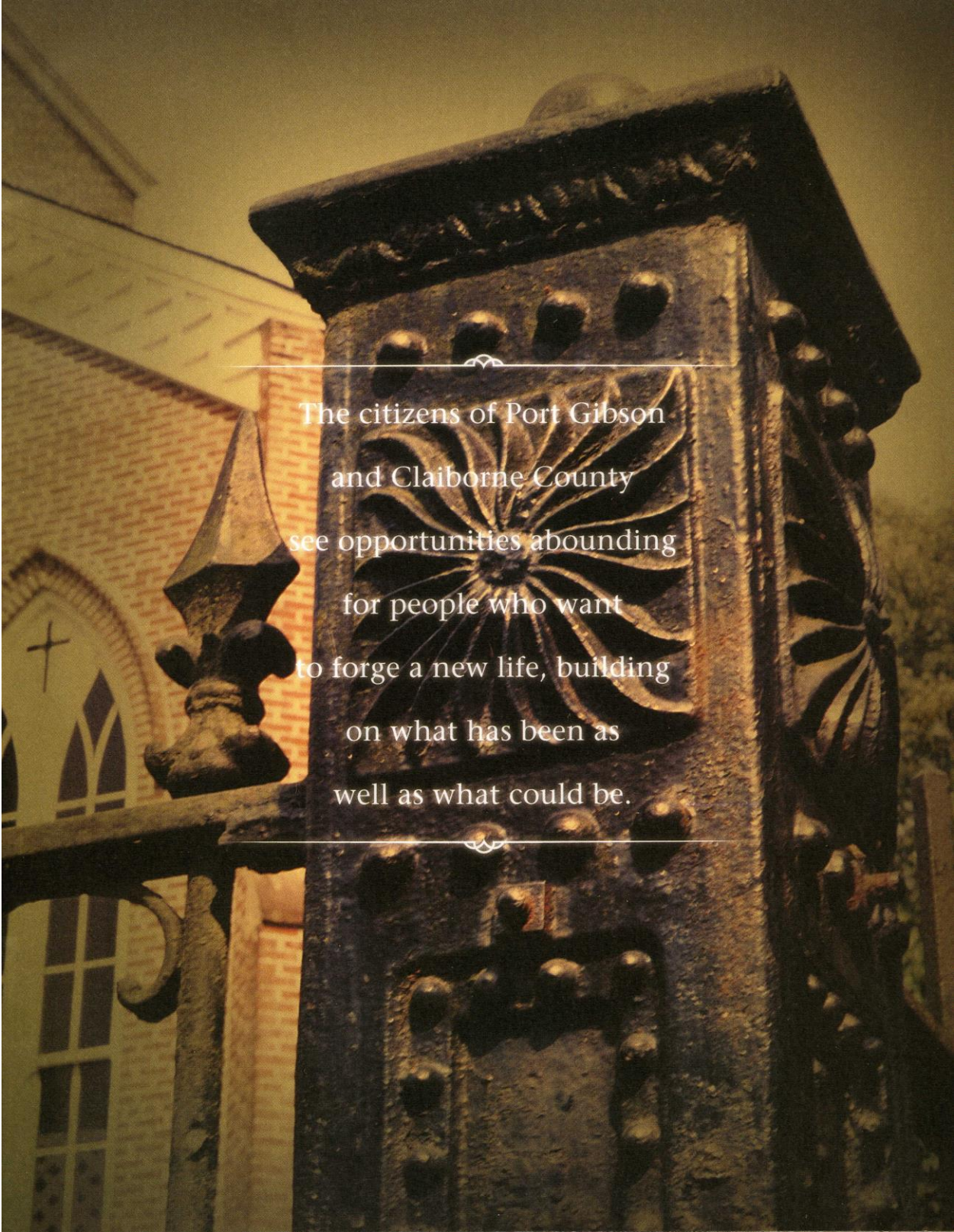
Above all, they see opportunities abounding for people who want to forge a new life, building on what has been as well as what could be. Blending the old with the new, they see a future rooted in the timeless past, reaching for limitless possibilities.

*The people of Port Gibson believe in old-fashioned Mississippi hospitality. In other words, if you're going to have guests over you ought to make their visit as comfortable - and memorable - as possible.*

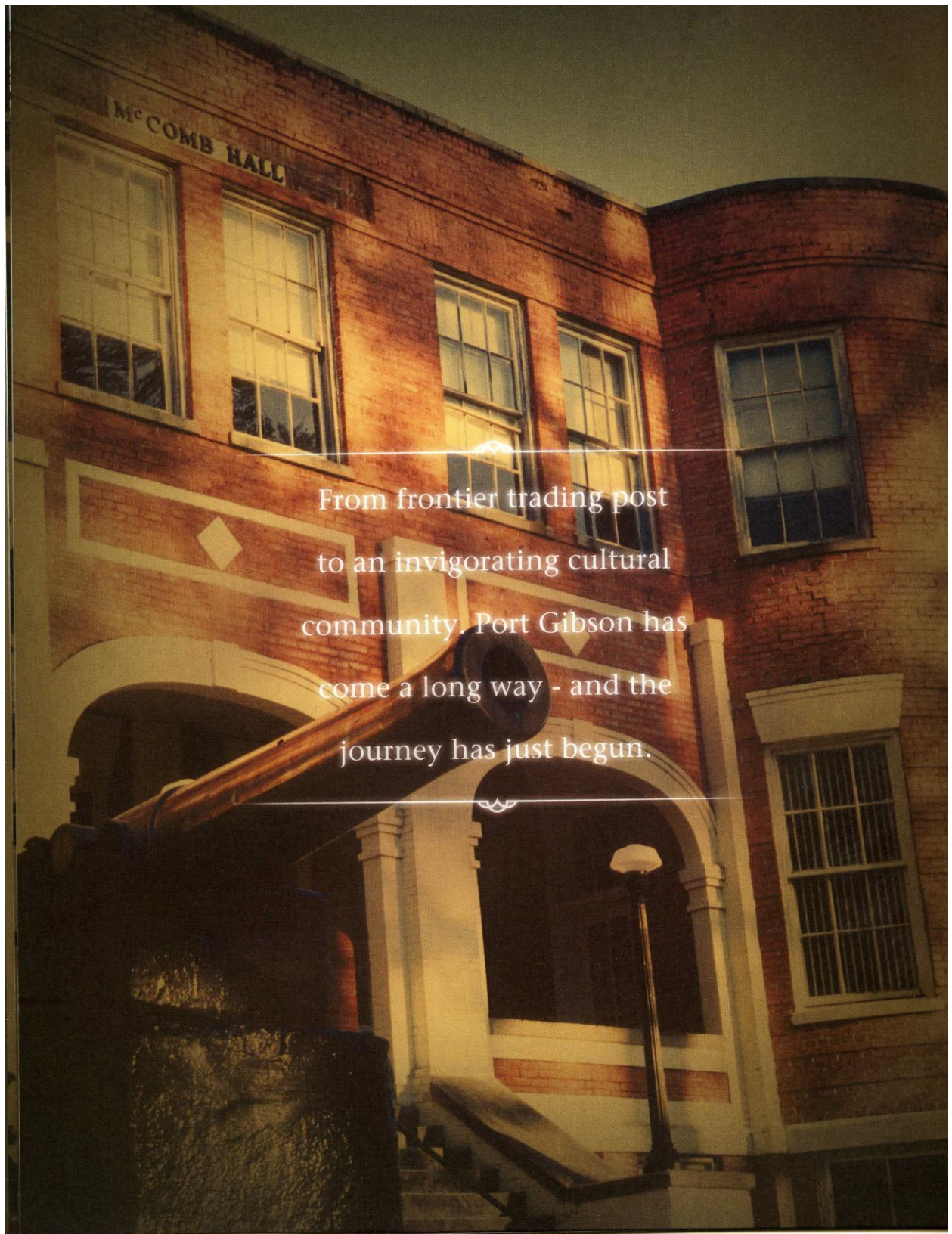
*That's why they've initiated Port Gibson 2020, a comprehensive plan to develop a visitor-friendly tourist district. The plan begins with a new bypass road for U.S. Highway 61 that would reroute commercial traffic away from downtown. The plan then calls for a new visitor's center located near the new highway with easy pedestrian access into Port Gibson's historical district.*

*By the way, this won't be your garden-variety visitor's center. Think of it as more of a visitor's park with plenty of room for accessible food and lodging development and a proposed civic center perfect for meetings and conventions. Nearby, the proposed Iron Horse Trail, a recreational trail built on an abandoned railroad right-of-way, would pass on its five-mile journey from the historic Natchez Trace Parkway to breathtaking hardwood vistas along Bayou Pierre just north of Port Gibson.*





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# PORT GIBSON'S RIVERS AND ROADS

It might be said that the story of America is one of rivers and roads. It's the story of the Shenandoah, the Missouri, the Colorado; of the Cumberland Gap, the Oregon Trail, Route 66. By rivers and roads we tamed the west, fought wars and traded goods. Rivers and roads define our past and they will undoubtedly determine our future.

From frontier trading post to an invigorating cultural community. Port Gibson has come a long way - and the journey has just begun. They invite you to come, by river or road, and see America as it was - and how it will be tomorrow.

That has been the story of Port Gibson. It was born on the banks of America's mightiest river. It came of age beside that old trading route, the Natchez Trace. Now, as it enters its third century of life, that same Mississippi River and U.S. 61 will be the river and road to a brighter future for Port Gibson.

Come to Port Gibson on the Mississippi. Timeless in its appreciation for its heritage. Limitless in its hope for the future.

**PORT GIBSON 2020 PLAN**  
**Tourism Development District**

PORT GIBSON BATTLEFIELD TOUR TO WINDERS AND GUN RANGE, PIONEER HOUSE, AND VISITOR CENTER

FULL-SERVICE HOTEL

RESTING HALL, SOCIAL CLUBS, ENTERTAINMENT ARENA

RESTAURANT

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

FARMERS MARKET, ANTIQUE, BELL-OPICES, SATYRES, COPPER SHOPS

FULL SERVICE COFFEEHOUSE CENTER

PORT GIBSON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

OLD TOWN SQUARE OFFICE, ART GALLERIES, PERSONAL SERVICES AND BUSINESSES

ST. MARY

**PORT GIBSON 2020 PLAN**  
**Tourism Development District**

PROPOSED PLAN SHOWS THE APPLICABLE ZONING AND DISTRICTS FOR THE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT. THE PLAN IS SUBJECT TO THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE PORT GIBSON PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE. THE PLAN IS SUBJECT TO THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE. THE PLAN IS SUBJECT TO THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE.

SCALE IN FEET