

## THE *PIGEONNIER*

- STANDARDS:** The material in this unit may be used to address the following Social Studies Standards:
- |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|
| G-1C-E4 | H-1A-E3 | H-1A-M4 |
| G-1D-E1 | H-1D-M6 | H-1B-H1 |
- DEFINITION:** Pigeon houses
- PURPOSE:** Provide meat for planter's table  
Provide fertilizer in the form of collected droppings
- LOCATION:** Often found on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Creole plantations  
Located at front, side or rear of plantation house or with other outbuildings  
Sometimes paired and symmetrically placed flanking the plantation house
- DESCRIPTION:** One-and-one half or two-story structure  
Usually square; more elaborate ones were octagonal with cone shaped roofs  
Upper story:  
Holes provided around pigeon chamber to allow birds to fly in/out  
Interior contained nesting boxes in which pigeons would roost  
Usually reached by a ladder  
Lower story:  
Used for variety of purposes such as:  
storage  
office  
*garconnier* (separate residence for men)
- ORIGIN:** In France, only members of the gentry were permitted to keep pigeons  
In Colonial Louisiana *pigeonniers* were considered status symbols  
*Pigeonnier* may be descendant of late medieval towers which ornamented French castles and manor houses.
- EXAMPLES:** Parlange, Pointe Coupee Parish  
Whitney, St. John the Baptist Parish

