

Black Twin Sisters Buy Woodland Plantation, Site of the Largest U.S. Uprising of Enslaved People



Twin sisters Jo and Joy Banner bought the Woodland Plantation in LaPlace, Louisiana for \$750,000 through their non-profit, [The Descendants Project](#). The Banner sisters founded The Descendants Project to “preserve and protect the health, land, and lives of the Black descendant community located in Louisiana’s River Parishes.”

The Woodland Plantation is the site of the largest U.S. uprising by enslaved people. In 1811, Charles Deslondes and 25 other enslaved Africans took liberation into their own hands by killing the slave owners of Woodland Plantation. They marched toward New Orleans, recruiting over 500 enslaved people from other plantations. The uprising was eventually stopped by the military and rebels were executed with their [heads severed and spiked](#).

The Banners plan to operate the Woodland Plantation in a way that recognizes the history of the enslaved descendant community there, offering genealogy resources for those in the community who may be interested in researching their ancestry, and providing a space to have conversations about environmental injustice, Jo Banner said.

Recently, The Descendants Project [has been fighting](#) to keep Greenfield Louisiana LLC, a grain elevator export company, from building a plant in the Louisiana River Parishes area already oversaturated with oil and chemical companies, giving the community the sobering moniker of Cancer Alley. The industrial companies that populate Cancer Alley are along [the same route](#) that Deslondes and the rebels of the 1811 revolt took during their journey that started at the Woodland Plantation, which [was added](#) to the National Register of Historic Places in 2017.

Source:

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