

NEW ORLEANS HOME AND GARDEN

# Madewood Plantation House, featured in Beyonce's "Lemonade," sells to new owners

Updated Mar 9;  
Posted Mar 9



Madewood Plantation (Photo courtesy of  
Keith Marshall)

**By Susan Langenhennig, [slangenhennig@nola.com](mailto:slangenhennig@nola.com),  
NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune**

Madewood Plantation House, the 172-year-old National Historic Landmark in Napoleonville, has sold to new owners, changing hands for the first time in more than half a century. Keith Marshall, whose family has owned the property since 1964, sold the famous house to New York artist Hunt Slonem on Thursday (March 8).

Listed at \$2,650,000, the property sold for \$1,750,000 after extended negotiations, Marshall said.

Slonem, a native of Maine who graduated with a degree in art history and painting from Tulane University, owns two other plantation homes in Louisiana: Albania Plantation House in St. Mary Parish and Lakeside Plantation in a rural area about one hour north of Baton Rouge.

Madewood is considered one of the finest examples of Greek Revival plantation architecture in the country. Renowned architect Henry Howard designed the house for Colonel Thomas Pugh. It was completed in 1846.

More than a century later, Keith Marshall's mother, Naomi Marshall, bought the property in 1964 for \$75,000 and oversaw a total restoration, working with the late preservation architect F. Monroe Labouisse and others.



Keith Marshall, and his wife, former Times-Picayune travel editor Millie Ball, have been the stewards of Madewood for decades, overseeing the property as a bed and breakfast as well as a popular location for film, television and video productions. It featured prominently in the film "The Beguiled" and in Beyonce's "Lemonade" video. The house also has been featured in photo shoots in Vogue magazine, countless travel publications and books on the architecture of Louisiana and Henry Howard's career.

During the Marshalls' ownership, Madewood was the site for several music and cultural arts events, including the Madewood Arts Festival, Music at Madewood and the Birdfoot Music Festival.

Keith Marshall said the sale was bittersweet. "There are two Madewoods: the landmark mansion itself, and the ambiance my family created and nurtured in the house for 54 years," he said. "We've maintained it as a family home, not a tourist destination. Guests have told us that Madewood was the highlight of their trip to the US -- that we've made them feel like family."

---

"And how many people can say that they've produced 16 operas in their home, thanks to the contributions of the New Orleans Opera Association," he added.

