

# Historic Fullerton Lake Recreation Complex

Historic Fullerton Lake Recreation Complex was once the site of the Fullerton Sawmill and Town which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. Ruins & foundations of one of the largest sawmill operations in the South may be seen on the 1.0 mile Sawmill Trail. Experience the thriving town as it once was as you explore the site, while stopping at interpretive signs along the trail. Enjoy picnicking, camping, fishing, hiking, non-motorized boating, & a group pavilion.

Alcohol Plant Trail - 0.6 Miles ●  
Sawmill Trail - 1.0 Miles ●



## U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Kisatchie National Forest

Calcasieu Ranger District

9912 Hwy 28 West

Boyce, LA 71409

(318) 793-9427

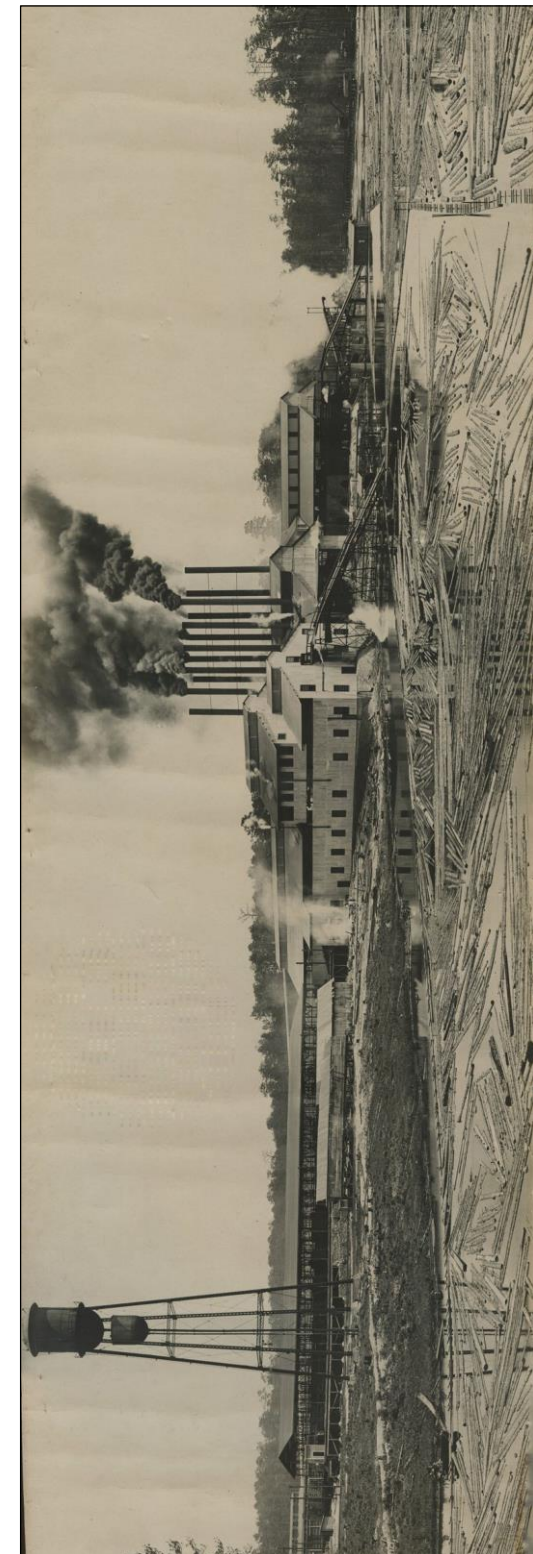
Join us for the annual  
Historic Fullerton Sawmill Day  
at the Fullerton Lake Recreation Complex  
3rd Saturday in October  
for more information call (318) 793-9427



Directions: From Pitkin, LA turn north on Hwy 399 & proceed 6 miles to the signed entrance road on the left.

For more information call (318) 793-9427 or visit [www.fs.usda.gov/main/kisatchie/home](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/kisatchie/home).

*Historic Fullerton Sawmill & Town*





## Fullerton Louisiana



The Fullerton story begins in 1890 when the Wright-Blodgett Lumber Company of Illinois purchased large tracts of pine timberlands in Vernon parish. With the coming of the railroad in 1897 the Gulf Lumber Company bought 106,000 acres of previously inaccessible Wright-Blodgett lands southeast of Leesville, Louisiana at a cost of \$6,000,000 in 1905. In 1906, S.H. Fullerton, president of the Gulf Lumber Company, decided to organize a mill located 6 miles north of Pitkin, Louisiana which would bear his name. The Fullerton site appealed to the Gulf Lumber Company as the ideal location for their mill site because of its abundance of oaks & spring-fed streams. Active operations of the mill began in March of 1907. Throughout its twenty-year existence, the mill was in operation day & night. However in 1927 the mill closed & became an abandoned mill town as the Gulf Lumber Company moved west. During its span, Fullerton had become the largest pine sawmill west of the Mississippi River & the second largest in the South.



## Fullerton~the Town

Fullerton, Louisiana (pop. 2,500-5,000) was named after its owner S.H. Fullerton. The town existed from 1907 to 1927, during which time the town had a hospital, dentist, commissary, café, post office, drug store, barber shop, public telephones, bank, feed store, Ford dealership, & even a jail. Modern living quarters were furnished by the company for a fee. These homes had electricity & indoor plumbing.



Company Housing

## Fullerton~the People

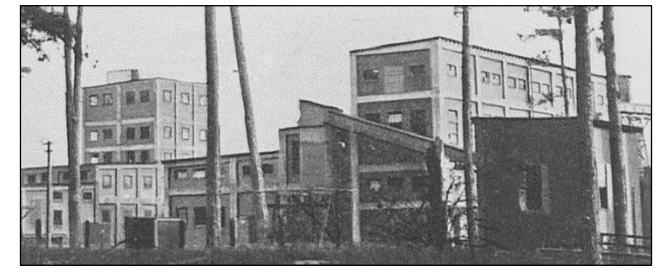
Community life included a “motion picture show” (theatre), dance pavilion, town band, baseball & basketball team, Boy Scout troop, & a public swimming pool. Fullerton also had an elementary & high school. Religious life was centered around both Protestant & Catholic churches & their related service organizations.



Commissary

## Fullerton~the Mill

Activities in Fullerton were regulated by the steam whistle of the mill. The days started & ended with a whistle as it announced the beginning & ending of the work day. One unique feature of Fullerton was that the employees were paid with cash, not paper script or tokens as did most mills. Also, Fullerton had the only alcohol plant in LA where wood chips & sawdust were converted into alcohol.



Alcohol Plant



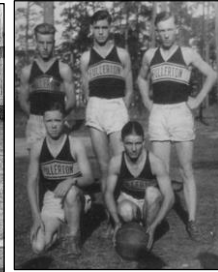
Post Office & Movie Theater



Pavilion



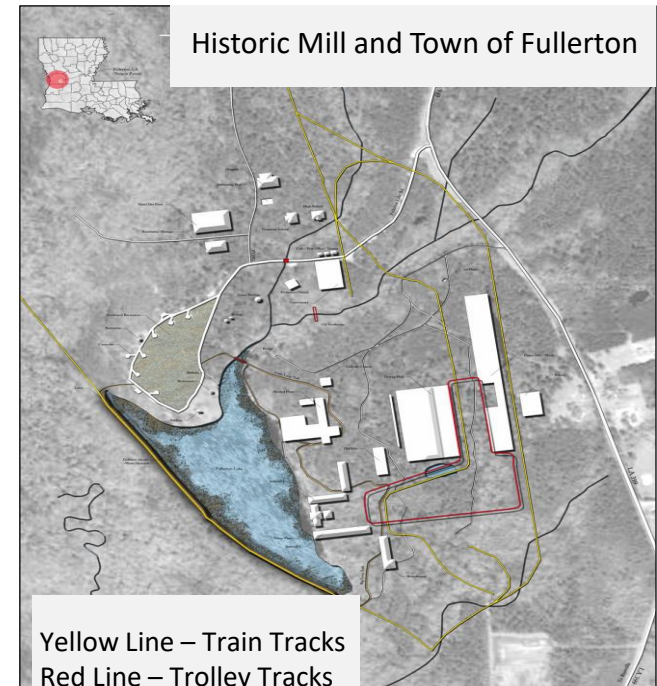
Swimming Pool



Basketball Team



Catholic Church



Yellow Line – Train Tracks  
Red Line – Trolley Tracks