

LIVING WITH HISTORY IN NEW ORLEANS' NEIGHBORHOODS

Tremé



PHOTO: KATHERINE LAWSON HART

PRESERVATION RESOURCE CENTER OF NEW ORLEANS
INVITES YOU TO EXPLORE THE LOCAL SIDE OF LIFE IN
TREMÉ, A MULTICULTURAL AND COSMOPOLITAN
CREOLE DEVELOPMENT THAT EMERGED AS A BASE OF
AFRICAN-AMERICAN POWER IN THE MID-19th CENTURY.

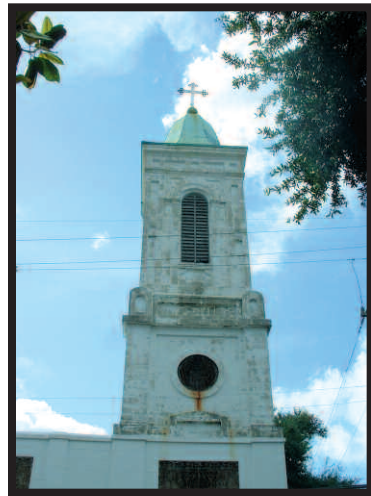


Tremé retains the feel of an old Creole New Orleans neighborhood. Second line parades and jazz funerals are still common, while several neighborhood bars are gathering places for musicians. Its architectural integrity and African-American heritage has drawn new residents from all over the country. At the same time, many Tremé families proudly trace their heritage in the neighborhood back four and five generations. Many old-timers can remember the days when musicians informally jammed on neighborhood stoops or around the woodsheds in the evenings. The National Park Service Jazz National Historic Park, scheduled to open in Armstrong Park in 2004, is encouraging more new residents and the development of visitor-oriented businesses.

Tremé has been a multicultural, cosmopolitan community from its beginning. Immigrants and people of color were among the earliest residents here, and refugees from San Domingue, both black and white, who flooded into the city between 1790 and 1810, swelled their numbers. Tremé emerged as a center of African-American power in the mid-19th century when Rodolphe



Desdunes, Thomy Lafon, and other free blacks who organized opposition to slavery and restrictive race laws lived here. The same figures endowed educational facilities,



orphanages and religious institutions to serve people of color. Tremé was formally established as a neighborhood of New Orleans in 1810, but people had been settling along the high ridge of the Bayou Road from Lake Pontchartrain to the gates of the city long before that. The first improvement here, in about 1721, was a brickyard established by Company of the Indies' employee Charles de Morand, who later added a tile works, or *tuilerie*, on the same grant. By the 1790s, de Morand's plantation just beyond the bayou gate was in the hands of Claude Tremé, who developed part of his land into streets and began selling lots in 1798. The city purchased the 40-acre development in 1810 and formally annexed it in 1812.



The Morand-Tremé plantation house became the home of the College d'Orleans, then the main building of the Carmelite Convent. Its demolition in 1927 marks the loss of one of New Orleans' most important historic buildings.

TOUR

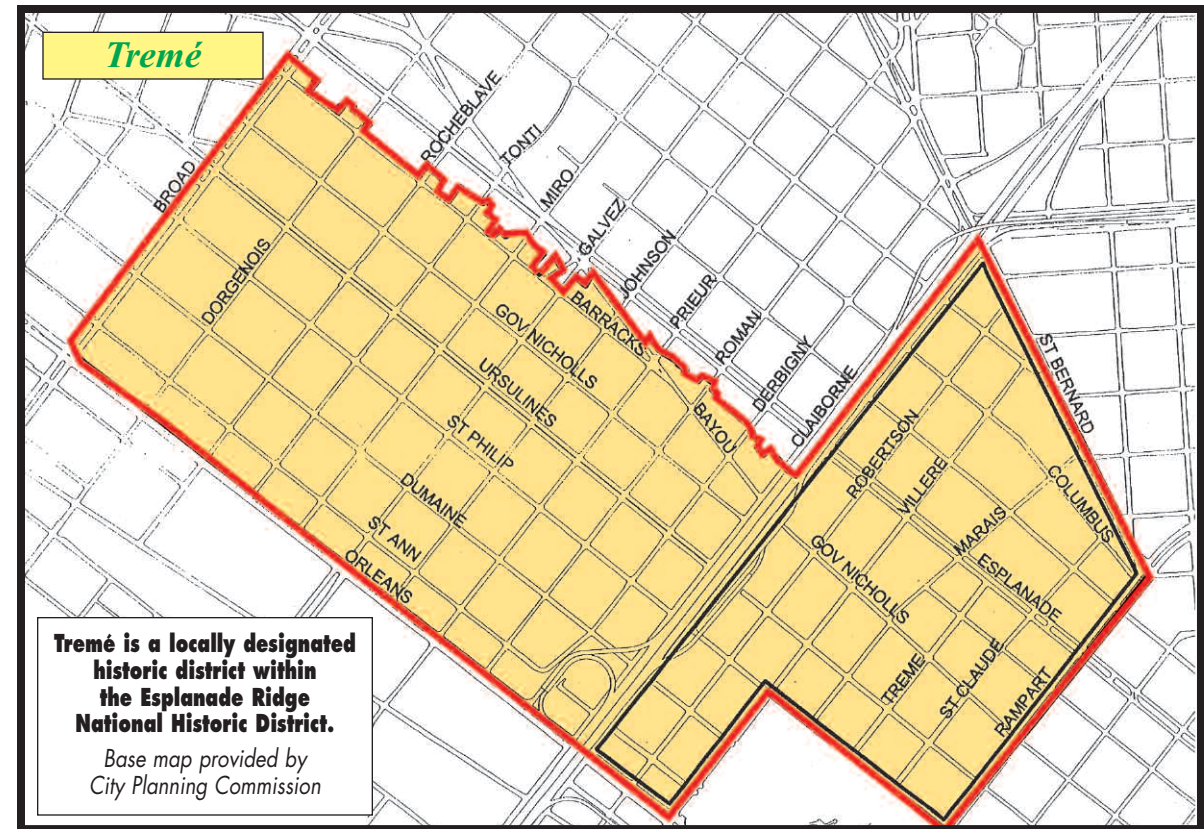
We encourage you to use good judgment and common sense in taking these tours.

Walk/Drive Begin at the gateway of Armstrong Park (St. Ann Street at N. Rampart Street). In the late 1960s, the park's construction caused 12 blocks of historic Tremé to be razed, but a handful of historic structures, including the 1830 Perseverance Hall, remain and will soon house the National Park Service Jazz National

Historic Park's Visitor Center. Walk down N. Rampart to Ursulines St. and turn left one block, then right on St. Claude Ave. (named for early developer Claude Tremé). A former funeral home at 1116 St. Claude Ave. now houses the Backstreet Cultural Museum, a trove of Mardi



Gras Indian and Social Aid and Pleasure Club costumes and lore (open Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.) Across the street, St. Augustine Catholic Church, designed by J.N.B. de Pouilly, was built at the request of free blacks in 1841 as the city's first racially integrated church. The site of the Morand-Tremé Plantation, demolished in 1927, is now an asphalt playground. In the 1980s the owner of 1220-22 and 1224-26 St. Claude Ave. linked the backyards to create a hidden park inside this urban block. The same owner later built a new house across the street at 1225 St. Claude Avenue and modeled it after an 1836 Creole cottage in order to fit in with the neighborhood's historic fabric. This is the home of the 2003-04 president of the Preservation Resource Center. Turn left at the end of the 1200 block onto Barracks St.,



walk two blocks to Marais St., and turn left to Governor Nicholls St., the last leg of Bayou Road before the Vieux Carré. Some of the oldest land grants in the New Orleans area lined this path, and the plantation home built on one of those early grants, the Meilleur-Goldthwaite House (1829), is now the New Orleans



African American Museum (1418 Governor Nicholls St., open M-F 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.) The angled building across Marais St., at 1500 Governor Nicholls St., houses a project of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art. Here you'll find artwork on display that has been created by children from St. Marks' Community Center, located a few blocks away at 1130 N. Rampart Street. Turn left on Gov. Nicholls. At the corner of N. Rampart St. and Governor Nicholls St., you'll pass the offices of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, organizers of the annual New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. This building also stands on the site of an earlier Creole cottage owned by artist Edgar Degas from birth until 1862, when he sold it through his Paris notary.



- 1718 Earliest known land grant along Bayou Road
- 1728 Earliest record of first Morand plantation house
- 1765 Earliest definitive records of Morand-Tremé House
- 1780s Map notes residence of "one of the earliest recorded persons of color to own land on Bayou Rd."
- 1798 Claude Tremé begins selling lots
- 1810 City of New Orleans buys 40 acres from Tremé
- 1812 City annexes Tremé
- 1812 Morand-Tremé House and grounds set aside for College d'Orleans; college building constructed sometime before 1815
- 1820-1860 500,000 immigrants flood New Orleans, chiefly Irish, German and French
- 1823 College d'Orleans closes
- 1826 School for free black children opens in former Morand-Tremé House
- 1836 New Orleans split into three municipalities, with Tremé divided between the First and Third municipalities
- 1840 St. Augustine Catholic Church built for African American Catholics
- 1840 Carmelites purchase Morand-Tremé House and operate a school for white and black students
- 1852 Municipalities combine into single city government
- 1898-1917 Tremé between Iberville, N. Robertson, N. Basin and St. Louis street set aside as "Storyville"
- 1926 Morand-Tremé House demolished
- 1960s 12 blocks of Tremé demolished for proposed cultural center (now Armstrong Park)
- 1969 Elevated expressway along N. Claiborne Ave. completed
- 1980 Esplanade Ridge National Historic District established, including all of Tremé
- 1998 Local Tremé historic district established

Annual Neighborhood Events

- April: Tremé Community Fair
- August: Night Out Against Crime
- September: Labor Day/Black Men of Labor Annual Parade

Neighborhood Associations

- Esplanade Ridge and Tremé Civic Association
- The Tremé Consortium
- Esplanade Preservation Association



2301 Orleans Avenue • 822-9506
"In business since 1941 and grateful to the community"



Published by
PRESERVATION RESOURCE CENTER
OF NEW ORLEANS
923 TCHOUPITOULAS STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130
504/581-7032
www.prcno.org

Since 1974 the Preservation Resource Center has promoted the preservation, restoration and revitalization of New Orleans' historic neighborhoods and architecture.



This brochure is made possible by a generous grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities