

EXPERIENCE

New Orleans' Historic  
Neighborhoods

# New Marigny, Gentilly Terrace & Edgewood Park



## NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

### What's going down around here?

#### YEAR-ROUND

St. Claude Second Saturday Art Walk

#### SPRING

Stations of the Cross procession in St. Roch Cemetery on Good Friday

#### FALL

Gentilly Fest (in nearby Pontchartrain Park)  
All Saints Day family tomb cleaning and blessing at St. Roch Cemetery

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#### GO DEEPER

For details on these and other great New Orleans events year-round, see [NewOrleansOnline.com/calendar](http://NewOrleansOnline.com/calendar)





## WE ASKED LOCALS

# What is your favorite spot in the city?

### **JOHN STIRRATT**

WILCO BASSIST

One of my favorite places in New Orleans that always drives home the old worldness of my hometown is the anteroom of the chapel at the St. Roch Cemetery called Campo Santo, which on entering appears to be a crazed menagerie of sorts, with a dankness and smell that recalls the Middle Ages. Artificial legs, leg braces, glass eyes and other symbols of human malady are left as a declaration of St. Roch's healing powers. There is an absolutely archaic quality to the peeling walls, the spare change on the floor, and the patina evident on the plaster and porcelain anatomical parts, which reflects New Orleans decay at its absolute best and feels more like a shrine in Sicily than anything in the new world.

### **CHARLES WHITED, JR.**

ATTORNEY

St. Claude Avenue, and the Marigny, Bywater, St. Roch and Tremé neighborhoods, on the Second Saturday of every month when the artist cooperatives and art galleries have their openings. The streets and neighborhoods come alive.

### **PATRICK RABER**

GRADUATE STUDENT,  
LSU HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

My favorite place on Monday night is the Hi Ho Lounge on St. Claude Avenue. Why Monday? Because that's when the Bluegrass Pickin' Party happens. Anyone is welcome to bring instruments and sit down to play with a group of friends and strangers alike. No tips, no fame, just a love of bluegrass. And if that isn't enough, they sell red beans and rice from the kitchen at \$2 a bowl.

### **CHIARA JACOBSON**

ITALIAN TEACHER

Sunday night at Kajun's Pub on St. Claude Avenue when JD and the Jammers are performing. It's so unassuming, well, one could even call it a "dive," but the entertainment is so to my liking. Genuine blues — dreamy and delightful.

## NEW MARIGNY

The New Marigny is one of the city's best Katrina comeback stories. An area that suffered decline through the late 20th century, Faubourg St. Roch, as it is also known, has attracted inspired religious and civic leaders in the wake of the devastating storm in 2005. The neighborhood has reawakened and is repopulating at an impressive clip thanks to several new developments and thriving surrounding historic districts.

Part of early settler Bernard de Marigny's landholdings in the early 19th century, the area was first plotted as a neighborhood in 1810, named after its owner and largely developed between the 1830s and 1880s by French Creoles, German immigrants and Free People of Color. Several musicians either grew up in the neighborhood or lived here as adults, including Sidney Bechet, Manny Perez, Danny Barker and Paul Barbarin. Ferdinand LaMothe, better known as Jelly Roll Morton, used to sneak away from his Creole grandmother's home just off Elysian Fields Avenue to play piano in Storyville, which was, for two decades around the turn of the 20th century, New Orleans' legal red light district.

Convenient to both the Central Business District and the Vieux Carré, with a stock of charming historic homes and grand boulevards along both Elysian Fields and St. Roch avenues, the New Marigny has all the makings of a desirable downtown neighborhood. Suburban flight hit this neighborhood hard in the mid-20th century, and the construction of the I-10 overpass along the then-thriving Claiborne Avenue commercial corridor sent countless

residents and business owners packing. The neighborhood suffered from disinvestment. Local residents began organizing in the mid-1990s to fight the neighborhood's ills, however, with measurable success.

The neighborhood was established as a National Register Historic District in 1994, and the Faubourg St. Roch Improvement Association was founded in 1995. Post-Katrina, the revitalization of the historic



St. Roch Market and blighted homes in the neighborhood, coupled with continued leadership from local residents and concerned leaders, has seen this neighborhood turn a corner. Art galleries and new restaurants are thriving on St. Claude Avenue. Residents enjoy such diverse amenities as the at-times-surreal Saturn Bar and the Circle Food Store, an independent and locally owned grocery that was an integral part of life in the neighborhood for decades pre-Katrina and reopened several years after it flooded in the storm. As real estate prices can attest, the New Marigny is once again a desirable home for new and old New Orleanians alike.

## GENTILLY TERRACE

The founding of Gentilly Terrace as a European settlement happened soon after the establishment of the Vieux Carré, or French Quarter, in 1718. French colonists Mathurin and Pierre Dreux selected the natural levee along Bayou Sauvage as the site of their plantation in 1727, which they named "Gentilly" after the commune from which they came. Gentilly was essentially rural, with a small village located three miles from the Vieux Carré, through the 19th century.

Three developers took interest in the area at the beginning of the 20th century and advertised their new neighborhood as a place "where homes are built on hills" in 1909. "Hills" is an exaggeration, though Gentilly does sit on some of the highest land (four to five feet above sea level) in metro New Orleans and many of its lawns, do, in fact, sit atop man-made hills. Today, the neighborhood contains the largest collection of California Craftsman-style bungalows (built around 1910-1926) in the state, as well as English cottages and Spanish and Mediterranean Revival raised houses from the period of 1910-1940. Twenty-foot setbacks on all lots and the presence of venerable oaks on major boulevards create a park-like setting.

The establishment of Dillard University in 1930 and improvements in drainage technology further spurred development, and as early as 1900, streetcar lines that connected the neighborhood with downtown made transportation easy. Residents have long taken pride and initiative in this neighborhood; the Gentilly Terrace and Gardens Improvement Association was



founded in 1935. Gentilly Terrace was established as a National Register Historic District in 1999.

This neighborhood was one of the hardest hit in the whole city after Hurricane Katrina, with the levee failures sending over seven feet of water into the area. For those residents who did move back and rebuild, the process took years; many did not return. Many of Gentilly Terrace's original cottages were unsalvageable, having been ruined by mold and rot. However, those dedicated residents with the means to come back have rebuilt the area, thanks in large part to the dedicated

## EDGEWOOD PARK



Edgewood Park, a neighborhood within the larger Gentilly district of New Orleans, is the city's newest addition to the National Register of Historic Places, having been added in 2014. It was developed, along with other sections of Gentilly, as a middle-class streetcar suburb in 1909, and is still densely populated by modest cottages with ample setbacks for this urban location. The triangular neighborhood is bordered on the north by Gentilly Boulevard, on the south by I-610, on the east by Peoples Avenue, and on the west by Fairmont Drive.

It was initially developed thanks to a streetcar route along Franklin Avenue that connected Edgewood Park with the downtown. Long a quiet but almost self-contained area, complete with schools, churches, banks, and more, Edgewood Park has many long-time residents. Neighborhood institutions include Bethel Lutheran Church, built in the 1920s on Franklin

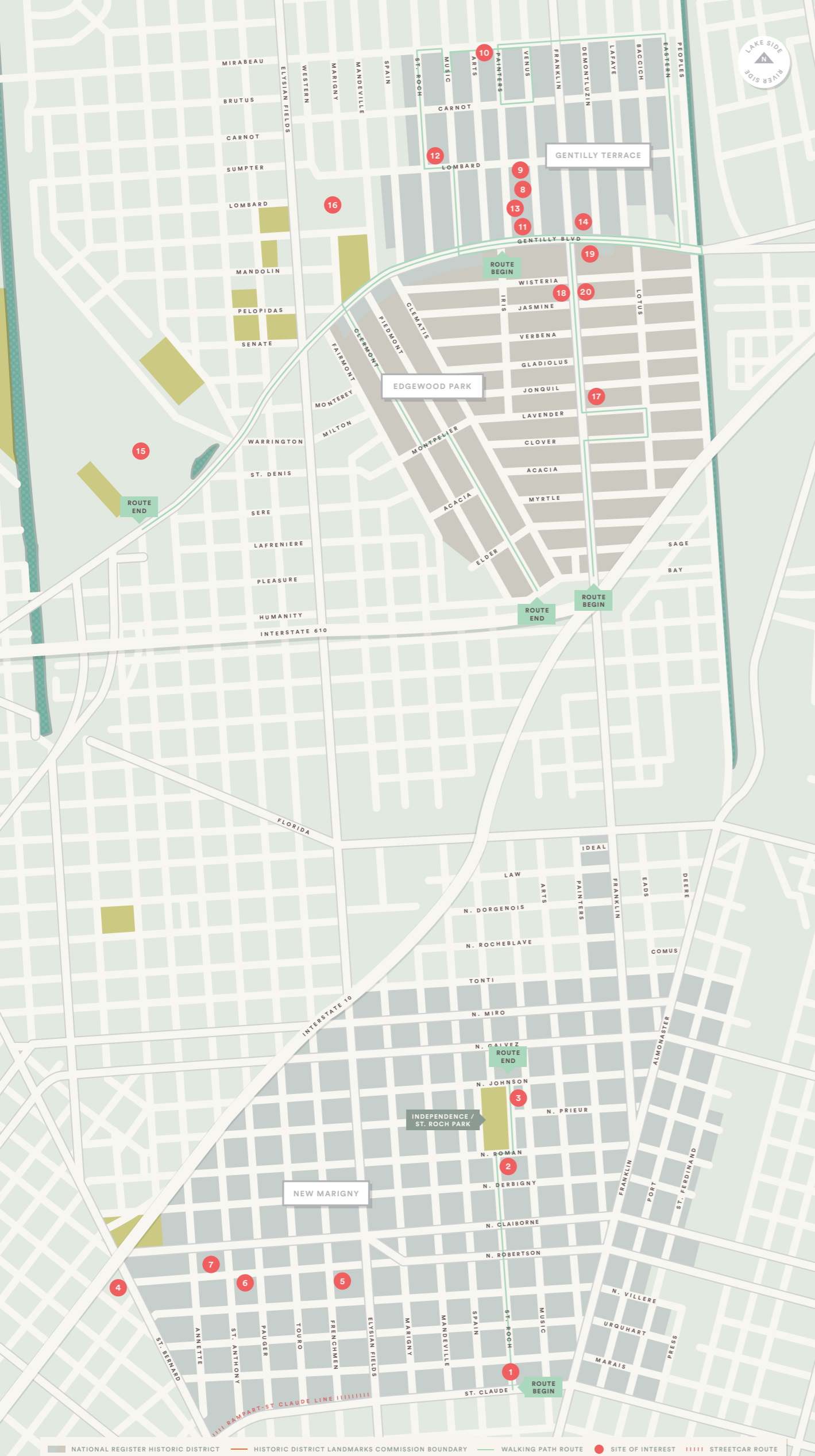


neighborhood association, which has organized efforts to keep citizens informed and help beautify the area once more with efforts such as planting trees. Residents also felt confident settling anew in their neighborhood after the US Corps of Engineers made substantial and lasting improvements to the levee system nearby. Today, Gentilly Terrace has reclaimed its laid-back, almost country feel. Convenient to the Lakefront and the University of New Orleans as well as downtown, it's attractive to both young families and older people.

Avenue, and St. James Major Catholic Church, constructed in 1928. The Craftsman style is dominant amongst the neighborhood's bungalows, shotguns, camelbacks and raised basement homes, while revival styles such as Tudor, Mediterranean and Colonial can also be found. The former Pierre A. Capdau School, located at 3821 Franklin Ave., was designed by E.A. Christy in 1922 as a landmark for the neighborhood in the Beaux Arts style.

The Edgewood Park Improvement Association developed the neighborhood in 1909. Its modern incarnation, the Edgewood Park Neighborhood Association, was founded in 2000, and its leadership proved invaluable in helping neighbors after Hurricane Katrina since the levee failure brought water to many rooflines of one-story homes here. Though some buildings were demolished and others were hastily repaired, the neighborhood still has its historic integrity intact.





## HISTORIC SITES OF INTEREST

**1 ST. ROCH MARKET** 1875  
2381 St. Claude Ave

Built as one of the City's many open air markets, this building was in continuous use until Hurricane Katrina. It sat empty for years until revitalization brought it back in 2014.

**2 ST. ROCH CEMETERY AND CHAPEL** 1876  
1725 St. Roch Ave

Features raised tombs typical for the city, and a chapel with offerings on view.

**3 OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH** 1931  
1835 St Roch Ave

A brick structure with ornate paintings, stained glass and a historic organ inside.

**4 CIRCLE FOOD STORE** 1854, 1938  
1522 St. Bernard Ave

This Spanish Colonial Revival-style building, complete with an arched arcade and Spanish tiled roof, was originally the site of the public St. Bernard Market, established in 1854. Circle Food Store opened in 1938 as the first African American-owned grocery store in New Orleans, but it offered much more than food; acting as the community hub. It flooded during Hurricane Katrina and was closed for nine years, and reopened after revitalization, in 2014.

**5 HOME OF JELLY ROLL MORTON**  
1441-43 Frenchman St

Ferdinand Joseph LaMothe, better known as Jelly Roll Morton, was a famed pianist, composer, bandleader, vocalist, and raconteur. He got his start in Storyville, once New Orleans' legal red light district, and went on to leave New Orleans and gain national fame.

**6 HOME OF LOUIS BARBARIN**  
1813-15 N. Robertson

Drummer Louis Barbarin lived at this address in 1927, and at 1723 N. Robertson from 1940-1946. Along with his brother Paul, Louis formed the revived Onward Brass Band in the 1960s.

**7 HOME OF PAUL BARBARIN**  
1724 N. Robertson

Paul Barbarin was a drummer, composer and bandleader who played with Louis Armstrong, King Oliver and others.

**8 HENRY CUCULLU HOUSE** 1912  
4478 Venus St

Important bungalow home designed by Edward F. Sporl

**9 4490 VENUS ST**

Exemplary Craftsman/Prairie-style house

**10 GENTILLY TERRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** 1926  
4720 Painters St

Designed by noted local architect E.A. Christy in the Craftsman and Swiss Chalet styles.

**11 3635 GENTILLY BLVD**

Home of original Gentilly Terrace developer R.E. Edgar deMontluzin.

**12 BIHLI HOUSE** 1912  
4615 St. Roch Ave

Arguably the finest California-style bungalow house in Louisiana. Built as the Gentilly Terrace Company House.

**13 BAYHI HOUSE** 1910  
4437 Painters St

Designed by H. Jordan Mackenzie, this two-and-a-half story Craftsman house is unusual in its design, also meriting it a local landmark designation with the Historic District Landmarks Commission.

**14 JAMES HOUSE** 1973  
4423 Franklin Ave

A minimalist design that pushed the envelope of architecture when it was built.

**15 DILLARD UNIVERSITY** 1930  
2601 Gentilly Blvd

Historic black college founded in 1930. The beautiful campus features many elegant buildings from the decade of its founding, and is anchored by a grand oak promenade.

**16 BROTHER MARTIN HIGH SCHOOL** 1969  
4401 Elysian Fields Ave

Top private Catholic, all-boys junior and senior high school.

**17 PIERRE A. CAPDAU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING** 1922  
3821 Franklin Ave

Designed by architect E.A. Christy, the former school features a restrained Beaux Arts style that stood out in the primarily residential neighborhood.

**18 MOUNT TABOR BAPTIST CHURCH** 1936  
4128 Franklin Ave

The only Gothic Revival-style building in the neighborhood.

**19 ST. JAMES MAJOR CATHOLIC CHURCH** 1953  
3736 Gentilly Blvd

This Mid-Century Modern church was built for a congregation founded decades before in Edgewood Park. The parochial school next door was built in 1928 but is no longer run by the church.

**20 BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
4127 Franklin Ave

This congregation, originally known as St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, was founded in the 1920s. The chapel on site today was built in the 1960s.

## WALKING / BIKING / DRIVING TOURS

### NEW MARIGNY

Start at the **St. Roch Market** (circa 1840) at the intersection of St. Claude and St. Roch avenues. It is a rare surviving example of a public, covered market that was once found in every neighborhood of New Orleans. Today, the revitalized market, which sat empty and blighted for several years after Katrina, has grocery and restaurant stalls to cater to local residents and tourists alike.

Beyond the market is **St. Roch Avenue**, a mostly residential boulevard with a wide central median. The shotgun houses and Creole cottages here are representative of the neighborhood as a whole. St. Roch Avenue was first an extension of Poets Street in the Faubourg Marigny, but later renamed after the magnificent Gothic Revival **St. Roch Cemetery and Shrine**, located on the right between N. Claiborne Avenue and N. Roman Street.

Follow St. Roch Avenue away from the Marigny to get to St. Roch Cemetery, and take some time to explore. During the yellow fever plague of 1868, Lutheran Reverend Peter Leonard Thevis of Holy Trinity National German Church in the Bywater promised to build a shrine to St. Roch, a French saint associated with infectious diseases, if his congregation was spared. **The Chapel to St. Roch** in the center of the cemetery, which faces St. Roch Avenue, is often sprinkled with ex-votos left by supplicants seeking the saint's intervention. The walls surrounding the cemetery are filled with wall tombs, but if you look closely, you'll also see 14 small shrines, one for each of the Stations of the Cross, where Catholics come for the Way of the Cross on Good Friday.

Outside the cemetery, the avenue diverges around **Independence Park**. Popularly known as St. Roch Playground, this New Orleans Recreation Department facility has been a launching ground for neighborhood baseball clubs since the 1940s. The two-block long green space faces **Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church**. The congregation, over 100 years old, was founded in 1911.

### GENTILLY TERRACE

Start at **3635 Gentilly Blvd.**, the home of Gentilly Terrace developer R.E. Edgar deMontluzin. Its shake shingle-covered exterior matches the Craftsman style of many of this neighborhood's homes. Tree-lined Gentilly Boulevard is an ancient route connecting Bayou Sauvage at the Rigolets (pronounced "RIG-uh-leez," an eight-mile-long strait that connects Orleans and St. Tammany Parishes) with Bayou Road and the present-day Vieux Carré (French Quarter). It is also known locally as Dreux Street in honor of French colonists Mathurin and Pierre Dreux, who established their plantation near here.

Follow descending street numbers to Music St. and turn right to pass two outstanding examples of Craftsman-style architecture at **4460 Music St.** (note the inlaid pebble details) and across the street at **4489 Music St.**

A left on Lombard Street, then right onto St. Roch Avenue — another of this area's beautiful oak-lined boulevards — brings you to **Bihli House**, 4615 St. Roch Ave. Built as Gentilly Terrace Company House in 1912, it is widely regarded as the finest Craftsman bungalow in Louisiana.

Continue up St. Roch to Mirabeau Avenue, one of the historic district's boundary streets,

and turn right, then right again to spy another fine example of Craftsman architecture at **4757 Music St.**

Get back to Mirabeau Avenue, turn right and walk two blocks, then turn right on Venus Street and check out number **4611**. Proceed to Carnot Street at the end of the block and then turn right and right again onto Painters Street to pass by the **Gentilly Terrace Charter School** at 4720 Painters St., itself a fine example of Japanese-inspired Craftsman architecture.

Return to Mirabeau Avenue, turn right and continue six blocks to drive past deMontluzin, Lafayette and Baccich streets — each named for one of the three developers of Gentilly Ridge, all of whom owned homes in the district. A right onto Franklin Avenue at Eastern Street will bring you back to Gentilly Boulevard. Turn left and proceed one block to view the **James House**, 4423 Franklin Ave., a minimalist cube that continued to push the envelope of architecture in this neighborhood when it was built in 1973.

Drive south and take a left back onto Gentilly Boulevard. Drive one mile to 2601 Gentilly Boulevard, the campus of **Dillard University**, a historically black liberal arts college that was founded in 1930 when two African American colleges (New Orleans University and Straight College), formed many decades before, in the late 19th century, merged into one school. The university was named in honor of James Hardy Dillard, a distinguished academician dedicated to educating African Americans. Park and take a stroll around Dillard's campus. Its layout, which was crafted by architect Moise. H Goldstein, took into consideration not only building placement, but tree placement as well. **The Rosa Freeman Keller Avenue of Oaks** in the middle of campus is an elegant lawn, lined with grand oaks, that was part of the campus plan from its inception. The southern end of the green is flanked by two buildings: **Rosenwald Hall and Stern Hall**. Rosenwald Hall was the first building constructed on campus, built in the 1930s in the antebellum-style to house the school's library and classrooms. (The library has since been moved.) Stern Hall, built to house the school's Division of Natural Sciences in 1948, is an exact replica of Rosenwald Hall on the exterior. The avenue of oaks leads to another of Dillard's historic buildings: **Kearny Hall**, the student union, constructed in 1937.

Hartzell Hall and Straight Hall, the campus's first two dormitories, are also historic, and were built in the 1930s to match Rosenwald Hall. Also of note is **Lawless Memorial Chapel**, designed in a L-shape by F. Monroe Labouisse in part to accommodate an incredible live oak tree on site, constructed in 1955.

### EDGEWOOD PARK

Drive into Edgewood Park after exiting Highway 610 onto Franklin Avenue. As you approach the sign for Edgewood Park, the lanes suddenly are shaded with a canopy of old live oak trees. On either side of the street are modest historic homes in a variety of styles. Most are Arts and Crafts-style bungalows, though there are also Mid-Century Modern-style houses, Spanish Colonial Revival and more.

Take a right onto Clover Street. The raised double at **2684 Clover St.** is said to be the oldest in the neighborhood, owned at one time by the same people who owned the Edgewood Park Nursery. It is rumored that the nursery is the reason why many of the surrounding

streets have plant and flower names.

Turn left on Lotus and left again on Lavender to get back to Franklin Avenue. Take a right. Driving towards Gentilly Boulevard, pass the Beaux Arts style **Pierre A. Capdau School** at 3821 Franklin Ave. This 1922 building was a school for most of its life, but also served as a senior citizen center. At time of printing, it was closed. On the next block, 3929 Franklin Ave. is a great example of the Mediterranean Revival style prevalent in the neighborhood. A few blocks ahead on the left, the circa-1936 **Mount Tabor Baptist Church** (formerly Gentilly Methodist Church), at 4128 Franklin Ave., is the only Gothic Revival-style building in the neighborhood. It served as a disaster recovery center for the community after Hurricane Katrina, and also has been a Head Start school. Directly across the street, **Bethel Lutheran Church** at 4127 Franklin Ave., once known as Saint Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, was founded in the 1920s. Today there is a Craftsman-style rectory on site, and a chapel built in the 1960s.

Turn right onto Gentilly Boulevard to admire the genteel homes lining the grand boulevard. Note the combination of blond brick with spiral Solomonic columns at 3720 Gentilly Blvd. **St. James Major Catholic Church**, a few doors down at 3736 Gentilly Blvd., was built in 1953 in a simple Mid-Century Modern style with long planes and clean lines. Though relatively new compared to some of the neighborhood's buildings, the congregation is older, having been established at the turn of the 20th century in a building on St. Roch Avenue. The school next door, once part of the church's campus, is now leased to a local charter school operator. The school, built in 1928, has handsome decorative brickwork and a Spanish tile roof. The design of this building matches many Mediterranean Revival-style homes in the immediate vicinity.

Make a U-turn at Peoples Avenue and drive down Gentilly Boulevard to continue to admire the large bungalows and homes that, set on hills and large lots, are really more like gracious estates. Notice the elevation of many of the homes; the Gentilly Ridge was settled early by Europeans, and traversed for centuries by Native Americans, due to its high elevation. The boulevard, covered by a canopy of gorgeous old-growth oaks, features homes in many styles: Spanish Colonial and Mediterranean Revival, Arts and Crafts, Mid-Century Modern, even Tudor (**3650 Gentilly Blvd.**).

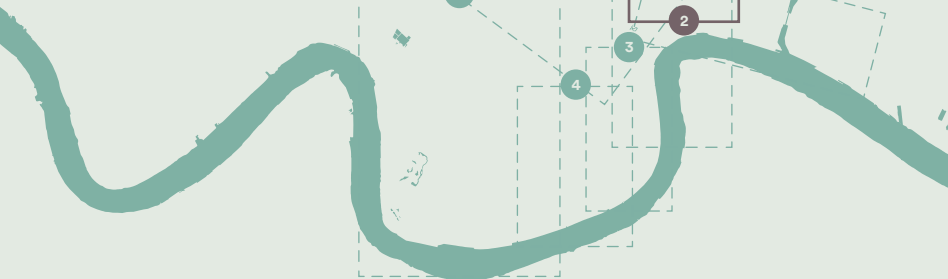
Continuing on Gentilly Boulevard, the grounds of **Brother Martin**, a private all-boys high school, appears on the right. As you approach Fairmont Drive, the boundary of Edgewood Park, you can see how the landscape changes dramatically outside of the historic district, with modern strip malls, drive-thrus and parking lots becoming prevalent. Take a left onto Clermont Drive, instead, to see modest residences informed by the architectural styles prevalent in the neighborhood. **4129 Clermont Dr.** is a good example of Colonial Revival style; one street over, **3420 Piedmont Dr.**, is an example of the Tudor style.

**Sites in red are numbered on accompanying map. Use caution, trust your judgement and be aware of your surroundings as you explore New Orleans.**

### GO DEEPER

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## EXPLORE



### HISTORIC DISTRICTS—

- 1 Vieux Carré and Algiers Point
- 2 New Marigny, Gentilly Terrace and Edgewood Park
- 3 Upper & Lower Central Business District and Lower Garden District
- 4 Irish Channel, Garden District and Central City
- 5 Faubourg Marigny, Bywater and Holy Cross
- 6 Mid-City, Parkview, Esplanade Ridge and South Lakeview
- 7 Broadmoor, Carrollton and Uptown
- 8 New Orleans' National Register Historic Districts

### A PROJECT OF—



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The mission of the Preservation Resource Center—

To promote the preservation, restoration, and revitalization of New Orleans' historic architecture and neighborhoods.

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