

1 OF 8

EXPERIENCE

New Orleans' Historic
Neighborhoods

Vieux Carré & Algiers Point

PRESERVATION RESOURCE CENTER ARCHITECTURAL GUIDE



NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

What's going down around here?

VIEUX CARRÉ

SPRING

Congo Square Rhythms Festival
Benefit tours of secret gardens and historic homes, hosted by various organizations
Easter Parade
French Quarter Festival
St. Joseph's Day
St. Patrick's Day
Spring Fiesta
Tennessee Williams Literary Festival

SUMMER

Bastille Day Fête
Coolinary – New Orleans Restaurant Month
Festigals
French Market Creole Tomato Festival
Go Fourth on the River 4th of July
Fireworks Show
Louisiana Cajun-Zydeco Festival
New Orleans Wine and Food Experience
New Orleans PRIDE
Red Dress Run
San Fermin in Nueva Orleans /
Running of the Bulls
Satchmo Summerfest
Tales of the Cocktail

FALL

Gay Halloween in New Orleans
Krewe of Boo Halloween Parade
New Orleans Burlesque Fest
Southern Decadence
Words & Music Festival

WINTER

Caroling in Jackson Square
Christmas New Orleans Style
New Year's Eve in Jackson Square
Mardi Gras Festivities

ALGIERS POINT

SPRING

Friends of Algiers Courthouse
Crawfish Boil

SUMMER

Wednesdays on the Point Concert Series

FALL

Oktoberfest
Algiers Point Home Tour

WINTER

Christmas Bonfire on the Levee

GO DEEPER

For details on these and other great New Orleans events year-round, see NewOrleansOnline.com/calendar



WE ASKED LOCALS

What is your favorite spot in the city?

DAVID SPIELMAN

PHOTOGRAPHER

Café Du Monde. In 1972 I moved to New Orleans, and within the first week I was having a café au lait and beignets. Nearly 40 years later it still ranks as one of my favorite places. No matter how the city changes, Café Du Monde remains the same. Arguably one of the best cups of coffee. Sitting there watching New Orleans be New Orleans!

KEITH JUNG

PRESSMAN

Four generations of us have been ordering muffalettas dressed with olive salad and a bottle of Barq's root beer at the Central Grocery, so when my dad asked to go there for his 86th birthday, it wasn't a surprise.

JACKIE DERKS

ADVERTISING

Friday lunch at Galatoire's. Reservations not accepted. Table hopping *de rigueur*. Regulars never miss a Friday, or you might as well live in Houston, they say. Tradition to the max.

ANGIE GREEN

FORMER DIRECTOR
SAVE OUR CEMETERIES

The Algiers Ferry. I might see a freighter pass by in the fog or pelicans dive into the river while I gossip with other regular commuters or just gaze at the French Quarter skyline with my morning cup of coffee. There's something incredibly romantic about crossing the Mississippi River by boat every day, and I feel so blessed that it's a part of my regular routine.

CELESTE BERTAU

WRITER AND VETERINARY
CLINIC RECEPTIONIST

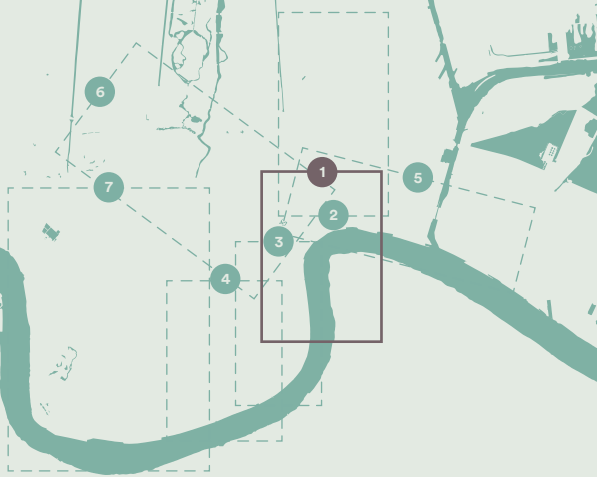
Thirty-four years ago while visiting New Orleans, I was lured into the Napoleon House by its warmly lit ambience and aura of history. It was on that night, while I sipped a Pimm's Cup at a table inlaid with a chessboard, that I decided to move to New Orleans. Two months later I was living in Carrollton and I'm still here, and I still love the Napoleon House.

CAROLYN PERRY

AUTHOR

Strolling early mornings in the Lower Quarter. Neighbors walking dogs greet one another. I buy a paper at the corner grocery, head to a coffee shop, and thank my stars I live in this enchanting neighborhood.

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 —



923 Tchoupitoulas St.
New Orleans, LA 70130
Phone— 504 581 7032
Email— prc@prcno.org
Hours— Mon–Fri 9 AM–5 PM

The mission of the Preservation Resource Center—

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

MAPPING & DESIGN BY—

Erik Kiesewetter / Constance
weareconstance.org

WITH SUPPORT OF —



2020 Saint Charles Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70130
Phone— 504 524 4784
Email— staff@notmc.com
Hours— Mon–Fri 8.30 AM–5 PM

New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation (NOTMC) is a private economic development corporation created under Louisiana State Law to foster jobs and economic growth by developing the tourism industry in New Orleans.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY—

Rebecca Ann Ratliff / NOTMC
notmc.com

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VIEUX CARRÉ



Photo— Olivia Moran

Today's Vieux Carré, also known as the French Quarter, is the 85-square-block original footprint of New Orleans. It is home to nearly 4,000 residents, many of whom work and shop in this walkable neighborhood. It is also the center of well-established and prominent citizen associations, some of the oldest and most significant buildings in the city, and the location of the oldest community theater and the oldest cathedral in the country. Hollywood celebrities and young entrepreneurs mix with older, long-term residents, keeping the neighborhood at once quaint and glamorously exciting.

Intimate but anonymous, New Orleans' oldest neighborhood has exerted a spell over writers and artists in its three centuries of existence, including William Faulkner, Tennessee Williams and Truman Capote. By the 1930s, however, this once-proud neighborhood of aristocratic Creole had fallen into neglect, and many called for its demolition. Instead, local activists fought for, and won, establishment of the Vieux Carré local historic district in 1936. Exterior changes to buildings are still governed today by the View Carré Commission, a city agency charged with ensuring that the *tout ensemble*, or historic

character of the neighborhoods' streetscapes, is preserved.

French Quarter architecture is a mix of Spanish, French, Creole and American styles. Look for a prevalence of Creole cottages, double shotgun houses, three-story masonry buildings that feature a middle entresol level, and galleried townhomes. Plastered walls and single chimneys reflect fire laws enacted after blazes virtually leveled the neighborhood twice at the end of the 18th century. Courtyards and arched fanlight windows are a gift of the Spanish influence, while American ingenuity is to thank for the proliferation of cast iron balconies. These lacy balconies, fragrant vines, vibrant colors and characters from all walks of life make a stroll through the Vieux Carré a transcendent experience.



Photo— Olivia Moran

ALGIERS POINT



It's a short ferry ride from the foot of busy Canal Street in New Orleans' downtown to bucolic Algiers Point, but the transition is dramatic. With great views of the Mississippi River and New Orleans' skyline, it's a quiet, seemingly untouched pocket of the city that was actually New Orleans' second neighborhood. Part of Orleans Parish since it was annexed in 1870, Algiers Point feels like a village, complete with schools, parks, children playing in the streets, and iconic neighborhood restaurants and bars. Artists and musicians, including some jazz pioneers, have long been attracted to the area for this reason. Many residents commute on the ferry for work, and have for centuries — the ferry connecting Algiers with the French Quarter was established in 1827.

Algiers was part of the land grant given to New Orleans founder Jean Baptiste LeMoyne, Sieur de Bienville, in 1719. It was subsequently acquired by Adrian de Pauger, one of the French engineers who laid out the Vieux Carré. By 1812 the majority of the land was part of the Duverjé Plantation. In 1819, Andre Seguin purchased land and created a boatyard, which led to the proliferation of shipbuilding and repair in the area. Stockyards and slaughterhouses also became prominent industry, and immigrants from Italy, Germany and Ireland, as well as African Americans, were attracted by this job market. At its heyday, there were six separate ferries that connected Algiers to New Orleans' east bank, including one capable of transporting railroad cars and livestock. With such vibrant industry, it's not surprising that Algiers also had 36 bars and several dance halls by 1911.

Once crowded by industrial warehouses, the Algiers levee today is a pleasant place to walk or bike, with a paved path that connects the town to neighboring Gretna. Look for pristine Victorian homes, charming shotguns and a variety of cafes and bars.





HISTORIC SITES OF INTEREST

1 FRENCH MARKET 1791
1235 N Peters St

First a trading site for Native Americans, this has been a market for the entire life of the city.

2 OLD US MINT / THE LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM 1835
400 Esplanade Ave

The only building in America to have served both as a United States and Confederate Mint. Designed by architect William Strickland in the Greek Revival style.

3 URSULINE CONVENT / ST. MARY'S CHURCH 1752
1100 Chartres St

The oldest building in the Mississippi River Valley, and the oldest surviving example of the French colonial period in the United States.

4 GALLIER HOUSE 1857
1132 Royal St

Designed by two of the city's most historically important architects, James and James, Jr. Gallier (father and son) as their personal home, this house museum shows what life looked like in the mid to late 19th century.

5 BEAUREGARD-KEYES HOUSE 1826
1113 Chartres St

This raised center hall house, today a house museum, was home to Confederate General Pierre Gustave Toutant, who ordered the very first shots of the Civil War to be fired, and later Frances Parkinson Keyes, a noted author of over 50 books.

6 MADAME JOHN'S LEGACY 1788
632 Dumaine St

One of the oldest buildings left standing in the Vieux Carré and one of the finest existing examples of 18th-century Louisiana Creole residential design, done in the French West Indies style.

7 ST. LOUIS CATHEDRAL 1718/1849
615 Pere Antoine Alley

The headquarters of the Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans and the oldest continuously active Roman Catholic Cathedral in the United States. The current cathedral dates to 1849 though the site has been the city's most important church since its founding.

8 PRESBYTÈRE 1791
AND CABILDO 1795
701 / 751 Chartres St

The Cabildo served as the seat of government in New Orleans during the Spanish colonial period. It was the site of the signing of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, and was used as a courthouse for over a century. Today this and the Presbytère are part of the Louisiana State Museum.

9 JACKSON SQUARE 1721
700 Decatur St

Declared a National Historic Landmark in 1960, this historic park, originally the city's *Place d'Arms*, features an equestrian statue of US President and Battle of New Orleans hero Andrew Jackson that was erected in 1856.

10 PONTALBA BUILDINGS 1850
St. Ann–St. Peters along Jackson Square

The Parisian style of these matching red-brick, four-story buildings built by the Baroness Micaela Almonester Pontalba to house retail shops on the ground floor and residences above inspired the rest of the city, as evidenced in the proliferation of cast iron balconies throughout the French Quarter.

11 1850 HOUSE MUSEUM
523 St. Ann St

12 THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION 1792
533 Royal St

13 GIROD HOUSE / NAPOLEON HOUSE 1814
500 Chartres St

14 FAULKNER HOUSE 1840
624 Pirate Alley

15 BANQUE DE LA LOUISIANE (BRENNAN'S) 1795
417 Royal St

16 GALATOIRES 1831
209 Bourbon St

17 ANTOINE'S RESTAURANT 1825
713 St. Louis St

18 HERMANN-GRIMA HOUSE 1832
820 St. Louis St

19 US CUSTOM HOUSE 1848/1881
423 Canal St

20 ALGIERS COURTHOUSE 1896
225 Morgan St

Built on the site of the original Duverjé plantation house, it is the third-oldest continually operating courthouse in Louisiana.

21 SEGER-REES-DONNER HOUSE 1850
405-407 Delaronde / Private residence

Originally built for a pair of sea captains and their families. The large double was a building style unique to Algiers.

22 CANAL STREET FERRY LANDING 1826
Morgan Street / Canal Street at the River

This ferry stop location has been in continuous use for almost 200 years.

23 CONVERSE HOUSE 1850
511 Seguin / Private residence

West Indies-style villa that was once a convent school.

24 THE OLD POINT BAR 1885
545 Patterson Dr

25 MOUNT OLIVET CHURCH 1854
530 Pelican Ave

26 ALGY THEATER 1940
446 Vallette St.

27 COMMERCIAL GERMANIA TRUST AND SAVINGS BANK BUILDING 1906
501 Patterson

WALKING / BIKING / DRIVING TOURS

VIEUX CARRÉ

Exploring the Vieux Carré, or French Quarter, by foot will afford visitors the opportunity to truly see, smell, feel — experience — the original city of New Orleans. Within this one-square-mile neighborhood are many unique pockets.

A stroll down *Esplanade Avenue* and the blocks behind it give a glimpse into the residential side of the French Quarter, so start at the corner of Esplanade and N. Rampart Street and walk down Esplanade towards the river. The soaring ceilings and classic details of the mansions and three- and four-story townhomes have made Esplanade Avenue an esteemed address since it was first divided into plots in 1812.

Turn into the neighborhood by taking a right on Burgundy Street. Pass *Cabriní Park*, a precious greenspace beloved by locals, and walk towards the river. Turn left on Bourbon Street to go back to Esplanade, noting how serene Bourbon Street is in this section of the French Quarter, compared to its party-centric stretch closer to Canal Street. At the foot of Esplanade, a visit to the Louisiana State Museum inside the *Old U. S. Mint* brings New Orleans' music to life as you see Louis Armstrong's cornet, Fats Domino's piano and other items in the permanent collection.

Next to the Old U.S. Mint is the historic *French Market*, which has existed on the same site since before 1791. Established as a Native American trading post, this was a major site of commerce through the city's establishment. It was essentially the Italian market during the 1920s, when Italian-American immigrants populated the Lower Quarter and sold fresh fish, meat, produce and baked goods on the site.

Stroll up scenic *Governor Nicholls Street* to see a mix of Classical Revival and Creole architectural styles. The *Thierry-Reagan House* in the 700 block is said to be the oldest Greek Revival House in the city. Walk north to see several important historic sites — the *Ursuline Convent*, the *Beauregard-Keyes House*, the *Gallier House*, *Madame John's Legacy*. The different buildings styles speak to the overlap of American and Creole cultures.

Make your way back down to *Decatur Street*. Walking towards Canal on Decatur, past antique stores and clothing shops, one can satisfy their appetite at classic New Orleans' eateries: have a muffaletta sandwich at *Central Grocery* (923 Decatur St.), beignets at *Café Du Monde* (800 Decatur St.) or a fancy meal at *Tujague's* (823 Decatur St.), the second-oldest restaurant in New Orleans (circa 1856).

Turn towards the Mississippi River to stroll through *Woldenburg Park*, or turn towards *St. Louis Cathedral* to explore *Jackson Square*, *Louisiana State Museum* historic exhibits in the *Cabildo*, *Presbytère* and the *1850 Historic House*, and shops in the upper and lower *Pontalba Buildings*. Peek behind the cathedral to see *Pirate's Alley* and houses where *William Faulkner* (624 Pirates Alley) and *Tennessee Williams* (710 Orleans) once lived.

Stroll along *Royal Street*, one of the most famous strips of antiques shops in the country, or take *Chartres Street* for an opportunity to stop in at the *Girod House / Napoleon House*, a National Historic Landmark built in 1794, for a legendary Pimm's Cup.

A stop at *The Historic New Orleans Collection* brings the neighborhood and region's history to life through a number of award-winning

exhibits. On this side of the Quarter, your most difficult decision will be where to have dinner — fare at historic restaurants such as *Galatoire's*, *Antoine's*, *Brennan's* and *Arnaud's* provide unforgettable experiences.

ALGIERS POINT

The ferry ride across the Mississippi from the foot of Canal Street to Algiers Point is one of the most pleasant excursions, day or night, in New Orleans. Just opposite the ferry landing once arriving in Algiers is the *Crown and Anchor English Pub* (200 Pelican Ave.), a long-time local hangout for residents of this 19th-century village.

Walk along the base of the levee to *Pelican Street*. In 1906 the corner store building at 239 *Pelican* was home to Manuel Manetta, who went on to become a famed jazz musician and music teacher. 302 *Olivier St.* rang with hot music and dancing in the 1890s when it served as the Masonic Hall with a dance club upstairs. Across *Pelican*, the former boarding house at 244 *Olivier* was once the home of jazzman Papa Jack Laine. Built in 1854 in the Country Gothic style, *Mount Olivet Episcopal Church* is the oldest surviving structure in Algiers. The tiny tiled-roof *Gulf Station*, built in 1930, was the longest continuously operated service station in the South until it closed in 1990. Across the street, whimsical *Confetti Park* invites kids with colorful play equipment and a fence designed by artist Steven Cline.

The Greek Revival-style home at 705 *Pelican*, built in 1848, was constructed by shipping and lumber magnate Francois Vallette and later served as one of Algiers' first funeral parlors. *The Hubbell Algiers Point Library* (725 *Pelican*) was built in 1907 and is one of four Carnegie grant libraries left in the city. In the next block, the historic *Belleville School building* has been adaptively reused in an impressive preservation project as a senior living facility.

Walking along the levee back towards the ferry landing, you will encounter the circa-1896 *Algiers Courthouse*. It is the third-oldest continuously used courthouse in the state. Follow the levee as *Morgan Street* merges with *Patterson Street*. The levee at *Patterson* and *Verrett* affords one of the finest views of New Orleans. The bank building at 501 *Patterson* was designed by famed local architect Emile Weil in 1906 as the *Commercial Germania Trust and Savings Bank*, which catered to the neighborhood's resident German population. Proceed past *Larkin Park* to reach the *Old Point Bar*. The corner store building across *Olivier St.* at 601 *Patterson* was the original home of *Michaul's Cajun Restaurant* and *Dance Hall*. Both businesses spurred the revitalization of *Patterson Street* by bringing in excellent live music to this stretch of the riverfront. Continue to wander around this mostly residential, peaceful neighborhood, noticing as you do the proliferation of PRC jazz plaques on the shotgun houses and galleried homes. Algiers was once a haven for artists and musicians, and indeed still is.

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

Create your own itinerary, get inspired by celebrities and find their favorite places to eat, drink, and play in New Orleans at FollowYourNOLA.com