

Opelousas Historic District Walking Tour

Experience the Charm of
Louisiana's 3rd Oldest City



OPELOUSAS

LOUISIANA





Rich in history and culture, the City of Opelousas is the third oldest city in Louisiana. Influenced by a mixture of nationalities, Opelousas has been the crossroads of Louisiana for centuries. From its architectural offerings to its role in the Civil War to its plentiful Cajun and Creole traditions, the city's diverse cultures are captured in many different ways.

Native Americans were the first inhabitants of the place we call Opelousas today. In fact, the city takes its name from one of the tribes, the Opelousas Indians. As far back as 1690, French trappers and hunters, "Courour de Bois," carried on trade with the Opelousas Indians. This trading post was also a stopping point for folks traveling between Natchitoches and New Orleans. The establishment of the French territory, le Poste de Opelousas in 1720 paved the way for one of the oldest European settlements in Louisiana. During the 1700s, even after the Spanish took over Louisiana from the French, Opelousas continued to serve as a commercial center for the area.

Records indicate that one of the first Spanish Colonial land grants to a settler in the Opelousas area was made in 1782 to Louis Pellerin, a French officer stationed at the Opelousas Poste. The establishment of le Poste de Opelousas brought a wave of nationalities to the area. French settlers brought black slaves with them; Spanish settlers began to arrive, followed by German settlers in the late 1700s and early 1800s. One of the most influential groups of people to arrive during the mid-1700s were the French speaking Acadians, who were exiled from Canada by the British. Equally important were the Creoles, people with various combinations of French, Spanish, African and Native American roots, whose legacy in Louisiana dates back to the 1700s. By the late 1700s, Irish, Italian, and Scotch descendants found their way to the agriculture lands of the district as well as free people of color (le gens de couleur libres) who arrived to take advantage of Spanish land grants.

As a result of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the area was divided into two parts. The lower part became known as the Territory of Orleans, now the State of Louisiana. This territory was divided into twelve counties, which included the County of Opelousas. In



Mouton, whose home in Opelousas became a temporary residence of the Governor at the time. As a courtesy to this, Mouton's home became the Governor's Mansion, a title it still bears today.

Other famous residents of Opelousas include Jim Bowie, legendary adventurer and hero of the Alamo and General Garrigues de Flaugaeac, a soldier under Napoleon who was a hero of the Battle of New Orleans, and Gov. Jacques Dupre. Clifton Chénier, considered the "King of Zydeco" was also born in Opelousas as were noted international chefs Tony Chachere and Paul Prudhomme.

The City of Opelousas offers a historic district depicting much of 19th and early 20th architecture. A suggested walking tour of historic Opelousas follows. We hope that you will enjoy this charming city, with its picturesque landscape. Further information about the history of the City can be found at the Opelousas Museum & Interpretive Center and Opelousas-Eunice Public Library.

1805, Opelousas became the seat of government for this County. A year later, the first Opelousas County Courthouse was built on a square in the center of town. Today, the area around the courthouse is designated as a National Historic District. In 1807, Louisiana was divided into 19 parishes. The original Opelousas County then became Imperial-St. Landry Parish. The name was taken after the St. Landry Catholic Church relocated here in March of that same year. Louisiana was admitted to the Union in 1812. Opelousas was formally incorporated in 1821 by a legislative act that included all land within one-half mile of the courthouse.

During the Civil War, Opelousas became the capital of Confederate Louisiana in May 1862 after Union forces occupied Baton Rouge. The Lt. Governor at that time was Charles Homere

Back in Time, c. 1921

123 W. Lundy
Built in 1921 by Joe Greco, this building served as Greco Shoe Repair Shop for over 50 years. In 1991, it became Back in Time Restaurant & Gift Shop.

1 St. Landry Parish Courthouse, c. 1939 118 SOUTH COURT STREET

Built at a cost of \$280 thousand dollars, the art deco style courthouse is a three-story building with a limestone facade. Since 1806, five courthouses have stood on the courthouse square. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

2 Lawyer's Row BELLEVUE STREET

Across from the parish courthouse, this group of office buildings is over 100 years old. Throughout the years, this historic section has been occupied by attorneys and was given the name, "Lawyer's Row." Some of the attorney's include: Boudreaux, Burleigh, Dylean, Garland, Godcau, Pavy and Thistlethwaite. Judge Benjamin Pavy, father-in-law of Carl Weiss, the young doctor who allegedly killed U.S. Senator Huey P. Long, had a law practice here.

3 Union Bank Building, c. 1911

CORNER OF COURT AND BELLEVUE STREET

This building once housed the old Union Bank and Trust Co. Later it became Planter's Bank, then First National Bank of St. Landry Parish. In recent years, the building has served the St. Landry Parish District Attorney's Office. The style of the building, known as Beaux Arts, features a Mansard roof, columns around the front door, and smooth surface masonry exterior walls. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (pictured below)



4 The New Drug Store, c. 1895

128 SOUTH COURT STREET

Situated across from the Parish Courthouse, the New Drug Store was built in 1895. The building's ornately decorated tin ceiling makes it architecturally unique. The drug store sat next to the site of the Lacombe Hotel.



11 Homer Mouton Law Office, c. 1840

133 W. LANDRY STREET

Laste Dupre, a wealthy St. Landry Parish landowner and the man who organized the first area bank, built this law office around 1840 for his son-in-law, Homer Mouton. Mouton served as Lt. Governor of Louisiana from 1858-1860. During the Civil War when Opelousas became the state capital, Mouton's home served as the Governor's mansion. The building is constructed of handmade brick. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (pictured above)

12 The Palace Café, c. 1927

135 W. LANDRY STREET

Originally named the Palace Sandwich Shop, founded by Mama George and Papa George Doucas, it is the oldest restaurant still operating in Opelousas. The original building, which also housed rooms for traveling salesman, was demolished in 1954 and replaced with the new modern facility. Today, the business is operated by a descendant of the Doucas family.

13 Old City Hall-Opelousas Town Market, c. 1888

131 WEST BELLEVUE

Built of handmade brick, this building was once the center of commerce when it served as the City Market. In the early 1900s, the building housed the "Electric Light Supply Storage" and served as the Opelousas Public Library for a while. When women won the right to vote during the 1920s, Opelousas ladies exercised their privilege for the first time by casting their votes at the Old Town Market polling place. In 1932, the building was completely renovated in the neo-classical style to serve as Opelousas City Hall. Located on the Courthouse Square, the building is owned by St. Landry Parish Government. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

14 19th Century Dentist Office, c. 1880

20 The Mistic Family Home, c. 1882

612 S. COURT STREET

Called the "Old Mistic Home," for nearly 100 years it has been occupied by descendants of Pierre Mistic, who bought the home in 1912 for his family. Built of cypress and oak, it was originally a mid-Victorian two-storied structure complete with a steeple and entering porch. After a fire, renovations in 1950 simplified the architecture to a Georgian Colonial with fewer bedrooms and the addition of a breakfast room and closets. Originally the home had five bedrooms, a formal parlor and dining room, study, and den.

21 John Thistlethwaite Home, c. 1925

631 SOUTH COURT STREET

Built by John Thistlethwaite, this Greek revival home is made with cypress and features massive fluted columns. Mr. Thistlethwaite owned and operated Thistlethwaite Lumber Company and Maclean Plantation just outside of the town of Washington. In addition to two staircases, the home holds two mirrors that once hung in Spanish Colonial Governor Alexandria O'Reilly's (Bloody O'Reilly) mansion when he was Governor of the Louisiana Territory in 1769. In 1950, John Thistlethwaite's son, Hugh, purchased the home from his siblings, where he lived until his death.

22 Lewis Home, c. 1888

711 SOUTH COURT STREET

John Lewis, a prominent attorney in Opelousas, built this beautiful Victorian home featuring a formal living room and dining area reached by cut glass doors. Many beautiful cut glass windows are found throughout the home. In these formal rooms are hand-painted ceilings with cherubs. The wing on the right of the home is not original; however, was kept as close as possible to the existing structure. An exterior curving front gallery surrounds the living room with floor length windows and carved exterior accents.

23 The Judge W.C. Perrault Home, c. 1891

809 SOUTH COURT STREET

This cypress home was built by Imperial St. Landry Parish Judge William Charles Perrault and his wife Amanda Lastrapes Perrault. Judge Perrault's grand-daughters, Dorothy and Gladys Edwards, then owned the home. It contains a parlor, living and dining rooms, 4 bedrooms, 2 porches and 6 fireplaces. It houses a rare, circa 1840s, 6-foot beveled edge "diamond dust" mirror. After the turn of the century, additions were made to the rear of the home and to the south side of the home. The over 100 year-old persimmon tree in the front yard is believed to be one of the oldest producing persimmon trees in the state.

24 The W.C. Perrault Home, c. 1933

810 SOUTH COURT STREET

This prominent three-story building features a Romanesque Revival style. In 1933 the Federal Court Building and post office workroom were added and the entrance was moved from Landry to Court Street. The building sits on the site which once belonged to Mannon Baldwin, a free woman of color and prominent businesswoman. As well as serving as Baldwin's residence, the property was also a boarding house and tavern. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

6 Shute Building, c. 1924

102 E. LANDRY STREET
Built by Dr. Creighton Shute, this building was known as Shute's Drug Store for many years. The old Star Barber Shop occupied part of the building. For over half a century, the barber shop was one of Opelousas' most visited landmarks. It was the place where Clyde Barrow of the notorious "Bonnie and Clyde" was given his last shave by Opelousas barber, Otis Welch. Two days later Bonnie and Clyde were killed on a dusty road in Bienville Parish in north Louisiana by federal agents.

7 Savoy Building, c. 1905

118 E. LANDRY STREET
This is a one story brick building with rusticated concrete block front, elaborate parapet with central raised portion, plasters with block capitals projecting above the roofline. It also features decorative bands of cast fleur-de-lis.

8 Sandoz Law Firm, c. 1905

117 W. LANDRY STREET
This large two story Italianate stucco over brick building is located across from the parish courthouse and serves the Sandoz & Schiff law firm. At one point in time, part of the building was the Waldorf Hotel, which was owned by the Christian family. You can still see the mosaic tile of the hotel in the building's nearby parking lot.

9 19th Century Law Office, c. 1845

129 WEST LANDRY STREET
This one story Greek Revival law office is constructed of Louisiana Cypress. It was sold on October 10, 1850 by George King, the first judge of the Parish of St. Landry, to Lucius Dupre, who occupied the building at the time. Throughout the years, the building was used as a law office by several attorneys and at one time housed the Jim Bowie Museum. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

10 Jim Bowie Oak

W. LANDRY STREET next to the *Homer Mouton Law Office*
This giant live oak, which is over 350 years old, is named in honor of Jim Bowie, the famous hero of the Battle of the Alamo who lived in Opelousas for part of his life. The oak has a circumference of 19-feet and is a charter member of the exclusive Live Oak Society. *(pictured top center)*

style building served as a dental office for many years. Later, it was used by several physicians as well as insurance claim office.

15 La Garconniere, c. 1900

312 SOUTH COURT STREET
Built in the later part of the 19th century, this building last served as a local boy's home. Originally, the building was constructed by prominent attorney, state representative, and Judge Gilbert Dupre, the great-grandson of Governor Jacques Dupre. In the 1920's, Judge Dupre wrote one of the first political histories of St. Landry Parish. Gilbert Dupre made it his home until the time of his death.

16 The Watkins-Saizan Home, c. 1888

405 SOUTH COURT STREET
Built by Dr. Joseph Saizan, this home featured the first indoor bathroom in Opelousas. The home has had many restorations and additions through the years including closing in the front gallery for bedroom purposes. Many beautiful panels of cut glass are found around the home as well as frescoes and gingerbread work. The home is bound by an original wrought iron gateway. Originally, the main structure consisted of a main hallway with four rooms off to the sides. There is also a secret room in the home. For years, the home was owned by Josephine Watkins-Wright, the daughter of Dr. Saizan.

17 The Mosley-Boagni Home, c. 1922

410 SOUTH COURT STREET
Built with cypress and pine flooring with lumber from one of the oldest Academies in Opelousas, this cottage home underwent major renovations under the ownership of Mrs. Josephine Mosley, daughter of E. B. Dubuisson, who married Vincent Mosley, a prominent lawyer, cattleman, and civic leader. A screened front porch was added in 1941, and the upstairs completed in 1950.

18 The Pettiean Home, c. 1900

508 SOUTH COURT STREET
This home was constructed by Dr. Ernest Pettiean. A detail to note is the green ceramic tile roof with each shingle weighing approximately 5 pounds. Many of the window panes are individually beveled, and a high vaulted ceiling can be found in the formal dining room. The beautiful Camellia trees in the yard are over 100 years old.

19 The Gilbert Mistic Home

536 SOUTH COURT STREET
This beautiful and spacious Federal Colonial home was built by long time Opelousas dentist Dr. Gilbert Mistic, son of Pierre Mistic, and his bride, Marie Louise Mayer. It was the first home to be built on this block. The exterior of the home is constructed of pine and inside classic woodwork adorns the top moldings. The home has two large bedrooms, a parlor, and formal living and dining areas.

cypress weatherboard, the surrounding oak or residences once belonged to members of the Perrault family. In 1987, Marie and Reggie Dupre renovated the home adding the south wing, rear garage and fence. Furnished with contemporary furnishings with Victoria accents, the home has 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, a study, and a sun-porch.

25 The Trosclair Home, c. 1891

812 SOUTH COURT STREET
This Louisiana cypress home was built by former Opelousas Postmaster J.P. Trosclair and his wife. The home, which features a Victorian style, includes five bedrooms, a formal living and dining room.

26 Veazie-Pavy Home, c. 1905

130 WEST VINE STREET
This lovely Queen Anne Victorian style home was built by Squire Alfred Veazie. His daughter Eleene and her husband, Paul Pavy, later owned the home. Built at a cost of \$5000, it is made with Louisiana Cypress and features a rare hand carved cypress staircase. The home also has a servant's staircase in the kitchen area. On the exterior, brick columns support triple columns around the home. The front gallery extends around the home on both the upper and lower levels. A special note of architectural design is the pitched roof over the domed section of the home which is actually a brass cupped roof and the frescoes found in the gables are hammered aluminum. *(pictured below)*



27 The Burleigh Home

322 SOUTH MARKET STREET
Built around 1905, this Victorian home has been renovated throughout the years and now serves as a law office.

28 The J.A. Allen Home, c. 1900

330 SOUTH MARKET STREET
This old family home was built around the turn of the century for Mr. and Mrs. Phil Asher. It has been owned by the Allen family for several decades. J. A. Allen, a noted Opelousas artisan lives here.

29 Wier Home, c. 1939

431 SOUTH MARKET STREET
Built by Harvey Wier, this home was built with stone brought by train from West Texas. Many fossils can be found in the stones. The home once featured one of the first air conditioning systems built into the walls. The cistern in the backyard made the cooling system work.



30 The Hudspeth Home, c.1924

424 SOUTH MARKET STREET
This cypress and pine home was built in 1924 and restored in 1976. The home reflects the Georgian Cottage style.

31 Old LaSalle Home, c.1886

332 WEST LANDRY STREET
This Victorian home was built by the LaSalle family. It features 12-foot ceilings and is easily spotted standing proud on its own hilltop. The home was purchased in the 1980s and refurbished.

32 John Fakouri, Sr. Home, c.1908

306 SOUTH LIBERTY STREET
This irregular style house was built by former St. Landry Parish Sheriff Marion Swords, who was killed in 1916 by Hillary Carriere. Prior to Sheriff, Swords served as assessor of St. Landry Parish. John Fakouri purchased the home in 1932. The house has many doors and transom windows.

33 Jacobs Home, c.1920

232 SOUTH LIBERTY STREET
This Neoclassical style home was a popular design in the early part of the 20th century. The style used decorative elements typical of ancient Greek and Roman buildings - a revival of the ancient architecture of great civilizations. Note the large classical columns on the full-height entry porch and the elaborate front door. Adolphe Jacobs owned this home. He was also the owner of Dietlein Et Jacobs Wholesale Grocery in Opelousas, built around 1906.

34 Ray Homestead

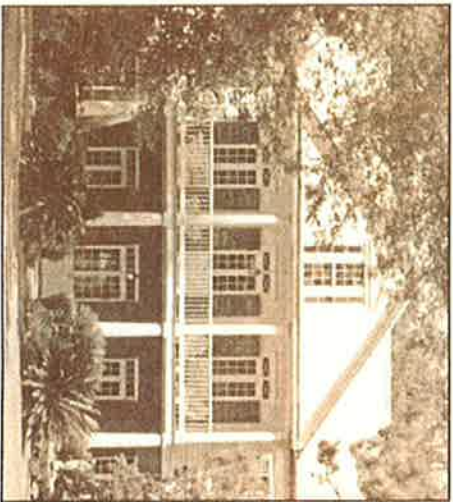
346 WEST BELLEVUE STREET
This 1½-story plantation style home was built in 1853 by Dr. James Ray for his bride, Margaret Mitchell Hill, daughter of Dr. George Hill, a surgeon and scientist/sugar planter of that era. During the Civil War, the home was used by the Confederate Army as the 9th Brigade Medical Headquarters when Dr. Hill served as chief surgeon in March of 1862. Built off the ground, brick covered with cypress, the home has both Creole and American Greek Revival elements. Of note is an oriental lightning rod above the home. The massive oaks that form a canopy around the home are 200 years old and are all members of the Live Oak Society.

35 The Rozas Home, c.1939

209 NORTH LIBERTY STREET
This Colonial Revival home was built behind a beautifully landscaped yard, by Alice Boagni-Rozas and her husband Dr. Sidney J. Rozas, for \$50,000. The home is constructed of cypress, with massive columns along the front which originate from Chicago. It includes 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, formal living and dining rooms with crystal chandeliers,

39 Labyche-Estorge Home, c.1827

417 SOUTH MARKET STREET
Built by French colonist Pierre Labyche, this Antebellum home, which was built with slave labor, exemplifies a transition from the area's popular Creole architecture to Greek revival. Constructed of cypress and handmade red brick, it features beautifully hand-painted ceilings. Pierre Labyche married the widow Estorge of Grand Couleau who had four children, including Dr. J.L. Estorge. During the Civil War, when troops were in Baton Rouge, there was a battle to the North and South of Opelousas. Patients who were wounded there were treated here on the front lawn by Dr. J.L. Estorge. Today, one of his descendants, Judith Estorge, owns the home. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. *(pictured below)*



40 Calla-Kerr, c.1930

519 NORTH COURT STREET
Constructed solely of Louisiana cypress, this bungalow style home features five bedrooms, a grand foyer and a formal dining room. The home is named Calla-Kerr after owner Robbie Sebastian's favorite canvas flower and after his great-grandfather Judge Ennis Shaw Kerr, the first District Judge of Opelousas. Of special interest in the home is a four poster Empire style C. Lee bed made in New Orleans in 1864 for his great-great-grandfather, Rudolf Mayer, who invented and patented the first breech loading rifle.

41 Morning Glory, c.1883

509 NORTH COURT STREET
Built by the Alex Sandoz family, this lovely home located on the corner of Bloch and Court Streets was restored in the 1980s by the late John Van Hudspeth, a local interior designer. This Victorian home has an unusual summertical

46 Sydney Sandoz Home, c.1909

411 NORTH UNION STREET
This lovely home on the hill was built around 1909 by Sydney Sandoz, Sr., the son of Jacque Sandoz and founder of J.B. Sandoz hardware store.

47 J.B. Sandoz Store, c.1878

312 NORTH MAIN STREET
This is the second oldest business in Opelousas still in operation. At the time it was built, it was the largest hardware store in the United States. Jacque B. Sandoz purchased the existing business from a Mr. Jobin, and it is still owned and operated by the Sandoz family.

48 The Brick Sidewalks

GROLEE STREET
These old brick sidewalks date back to the early 1800s, a large section was traced back to 1838. The bricks, along with those on Court Street, are the only original bricks to exist in Opelousas.

49 Yesterday, c.1900

420 EAST GROLEE STREET
This summer cottage was built by Celestine Chachere Brooks, the widow of Tom Brooks. Over the years, it has been owned by six different families and is also known as the Vance Miles home.



50 Old Terracina & Lupu's Grocery Store, c.1880

430 E. GROLEE STREET

36 McBride Home

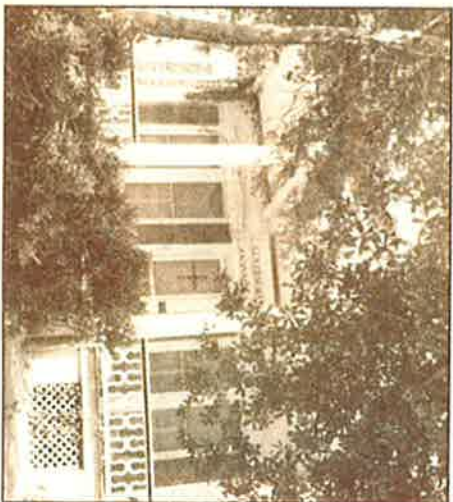
219 NORTH LIBERTY STREET

Located next to the "Governor's Mansion," this lovely turn of the century home is owned by Missy and Billy St. Cyr. This home was built in the late 1890s and has passed through families such as the Elms, Boagnis, and McBrides. The home is constructed of cypress in a Victorian design with red pine floors. Throughout the home are plaster medallions and heavy millboard woodwork. Practically all the windows in the home are original.

37 Governor's Mansion, c. 1848

231 NORTH LIBERTY STREET

The handsome Greek Revival home was originally built in 1848 by wealthy planter Lasite Dupre for his daughter Celine and her husband Homer Mouton, who later became Lt. Governor of Louisiana. When Opelousas became the state capital during the Civil War, the home served as the Governor's Mansion. The back of the home is almost identical to the front of the home and originally featured an octagon cupola on the roof. The ceilings in the home are 15 feet tall and the interior walls are plastered. There are three bedrooms, a dining room, ballroom, and Italian marble mantelpieces in each. It is the oldest remaining Governor's Mansion in Louisiana. (pictured below)



38 The James Robert Home, c. 1900

233 WEST GROLEE

Originally located in Rapides Parish, the home is constructed of pine and cypress and was purchased by Dr. and Mrs. James Robert from James and Alice Dupre. It is furnished with English and French pieces including an antique walnut Jenny Lind four-poster bed. The leaded front glass entry was designed from a home in New Orleans.

in 1881. The symmetrical design forms scaling areas in four major rooms.

42 Edward Dubuisson Home, c. 1827

419 NORTH COURT STREET

This distinctly southern Colonial mansion was built of cypress and pine on the site of an earlier family home. The home was built by Edward B. Dubuisson, who was a planter, banker, and District Attorney of St. Landry Parish. The grounds are graced with large oak trees and crepe myrtles. The massive columns are cypress and the lower level windows are beveled glass. The home also features a grand stair case, a wine cellar unusual to the homes in this area, and a servants and guest entrance in the rear.

43 DelaRue-Chachere Home, c. 1882

125 WEST LITTELL STREET

Located on the corner of Court and Littell Streets, this house became the property of the DelaRue family by an act of exchange between John Ogden and Frank DelaRue. For many years it was owned by the Chachere family who married into the DelaRue family. This is the childhood home of the late Tony Chachere, famous chef and founder of Tony Chachere Creole Seasoning. The home features bouissage walls covered with cypress. The front of the home faces east unusually. On the south side of the home is a water well which still works today. On the west side of the home is a servant's entry with a lattice archway which was extremely popular in its day.

44 Marguerite Chretien (Lacombe Home), c. 1821

124 WEST GROLEE STREET

This French Creole bouissage home was built in 1821 for Marguerite Chretien by Etienne Fouillade. Marguerite married Honore de la Chaise, the last colonial commandant of Le Poste de Opelousas. Constructed of cypress over mud and moss walls, the original contract for the home is on file in the St. Landry Parish Clerk of Courts Office and is the oldest contract found to this date in existence in the office. The original contract for the home calls for two front rooms with a central fireplace and three back rooms. While the home has been renovated many times throughout the years, all original contracted rooms are intact.

45 Opelousas Sanitarium, c. 1886

CORNER OF GROLEE AND MAIN STREET

This building was the business and residence of J.C. "Kassuth" Sanduz. Later, it became the first hospital in Opelousas and was known as the Opelousas Sanitarium. The hospital was run by Dr. O.P. Daly, who became director of both Charity Hospital in New Orleans and Lafayette Charity Hospital. It features 8,400 square feet of high ceilings and hand-carved woodwork. In its early years, the exterior had wrought-iron balconies.

decade. For over 62 years, it was home to Terracina and Lupio's, a place which offered freshly made authentic Italian products. Today, the building is currently serving as a business again.

51 The Morrinhveg Home, c. 1903

610 EAST GROLEE STREET

This was the home of the Morrinhveg family for many years. It was built extremely high off the ground adding for some ventilation in the summer heat. Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd-Boulet restored the home to its original beauty and added on some modern conveniences like a swimming pool. In the 1990's, Louisiana author John Ed Bradley owned the home.

52 The Childs Home, c. 1910

619 GROLEE STREET

Built around 1910, this home is known as the Childs Home. The home has beautiful interior woodwork and cut glass window panels along the top of the windows. It remained in the hands of the builder's two daughters until 1990 when the home was sold.

53 The Smith Home, c. 1906

626 EAST GROLEE STREET

Built of cypress by a lawyer named Peyton Sanduz, the father of 8 children, this home was purchased in 1968 by Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Lawergne. The home has changed hand several times from the original owner and is thus referred to as the Old Smith Home. Heavily adorned with gingerbread designing, it reflects the Victorian period. The front and sides of the home are decorated with a fleur-de-lis wreath design and many arches and gables with a special note to the three steeple balls near the windows. The staircase is hand-carved with wood imported from France and contains five original fireplaces with carved mantels. Downstairs has a formal dining room, two bedrooms and a kitchen with a den. Upstairs, another kitchen and two bedrooms. The third floor still serves as an attic. The cement pillars in the yard at one time had chains connecting them often used for roping horses and buggies.

54 The Donald Elder Home, c. 1880

701 EAST GROLEE STREET

This lovely Victorian Cottage, built around 1880 by Jim Chachere, is one of the oldest homes in the area.

55 The Sloane Home

741 EAST GROLEE STREET

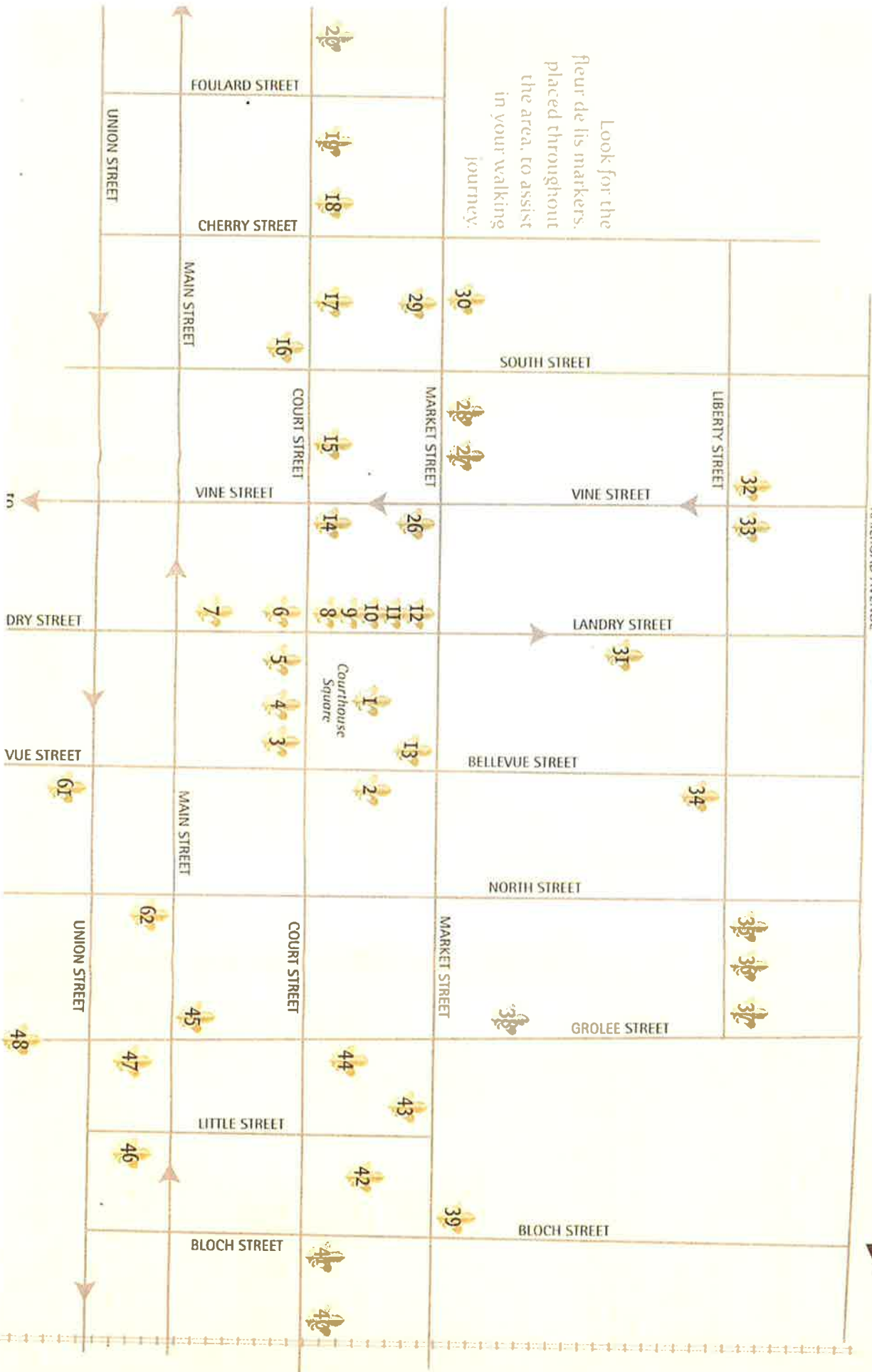
Built in 1904, this home was renamed "Maison Rose" by its owners Brandon and Sharon Lowrey. All of the furniture predates the house. The floors are pine and the woodworks are cypress. It features six fireplaces.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD

RAILROAD AVENUE



Look for the fleur de lis markers, placed throughout the area, to assist in your walking journey.



56^o The Pulford-Caldwell Estate, c. 1900
704 EAST NORTH STREET

This estate was built before the turn of the century around the late 1800s by Dr. Pulford, a noted town dentist. The home is constructed completely of Louisiana cypress with a large 8' wide foyer entrance. Classic curved woodwork can be found throughout the home on baseboards complete with acorn adorned corners. In 1910, Dr. Pulford added four hand-carved mantels to the home which were made in New Orleans complete with hand-painted and baked hearth tile. For many years, the home was owned by the Caldwell family who ran a successful dairy on the grounds.

57^o Charles Mayer Home, c. 1874
629 EAST BELLEVUE STREET

This handsome, Louisiana Planter's Style home is made of cypress on 3 1/2' raised brick pillars and was built by Rudolf Adelbert Sebastian Mayer, a professor of music who was born in Germany. Professor Mayer invented the first breech loading rifle patented to M. Martini and was used by the British Army for over 20 years. The professor moved to Louisiana in 1852 and wed Mary Dunnon O'Rourke and the home has remained in the family ever since. The ceilings are 12' throughout with a beautiful teakwood staircase in the foyer, a beautiful milled suite and Dr. Mayer's revolving medicine cabinet and an armoire originally owned by Governor Francis T. Nicholls.

58^o Louisiana Memorial United Methodist Church
515 EAST BELLEVUE STREET

Opelousas is known as the cradle of "Methodism" in Louisiana. This church parish is the oldest west of the Mississippi River. The history of the first Methodist church in Louisiana began in October of 1805 when Bishops Asbury and Whatcoat sent Elisha W. Bowman as "Missionary to Louisiana." Bowman formed a church in 1806. The present church, located on the corner of Bellevue and Lombard Streets, was built in 1955 on the site where two earlier churches existed. The property for the church was purchased in 1857 from the Fonda family.

59^o The Abdalla Home, c. 1939
427 EAST BELLEVUE STREET

Known as the pioneer merchants of Acadiana, this was once the home of the Abdalla family. The home is constructed of redwood in the New England style, architecture unusual to the South. The home houses four bedrooms. To the rear is a back gallery that has been glassed in. Of special note is the copper canopy and flashings and picket fence constructed with Louisiana cypress.

60 | 1. Bowden Home

420 EAST BELLEVUE STREET

Originally built in 1857 by Antoine Christman and his wife, the former Malvina Bengueral, the home later became occupied by Fannie Bowden and then her nephew, Rev. Walter Bowden. Built mainly of cypress, it is an Acadian Cottage style design with pine floors represents one of the older style homes found in Opelousas. The ceilings are 12' throughout the house and the fireplace is still in use today. Above the foyer, the staircase makes a loft platform before turning again to the upstairs.

61 The Hebrard Home

106 NORTH UNION STREET

A rare example of classic federal architecture, this 2-story building made of handmade brick and cypress, is one of the oldest structures in Opelousas. The original structure was first built as a single story English tavern in the early 1800s. In 1945, Harvey J. Wier purchased the building for use in the oil and gas business. In 1995, the building was completely restored as the Opelousas Museum of Art. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

62 Leonce Roos Building, c. 1900

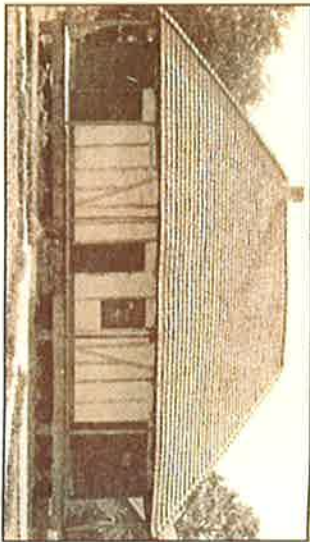
214 NORTH MAIN STREET

This downtown merchants building was built at the turn of the century by Pascal Delbueno as a grocer's store. Later it became the site of Leonce Roos Antiques. In front of the Main St. entrance, above the ornate balustrade, is the original owner's name.





Other Area Historic Attractions



Le Vieux Village (The Old Village) - 828 East Landry
This charming historical village offers a glimpse into the past.

The village includes an 18th century Creole house as well as 19th and early 20th century buildings.

Little Zion Baptist Church - 128 North Academy
Organized in 1867, this is the oldest Baptist church in Opelousas.

St. Landry Lumber Company - 207 North Railroad
The late nineteenth/early twentieth century retail lumberyard dates back as far as 1890.

Holy Ghost Catholic Church - 732 North Union
Established in 1920, the church has one of the largest African-American congregations in the United States. Inside are original paintings depicting Bible stories with an African-American theme.

Michel Prudhomme Home - 1152 Prudhomme Circle
Believed to be the oldest home in the area, this beautiful French Colonial plantation was built around 1770 by Michel Prudhomme, a prominent landowner. During the Civil War the house was used as quarters by Union officers. One of the largest Cannelia trees in the country can be found on the grounds.

St. Landry Catholic Church - 1020 North Main Street
The present church was constructed around 1908, but the history of the church goes back to the mid-1700s. The first marriage of Jim Bowie is recorded in the church.

St. Olive Baptist Church - 227 West Church Street
The church was organized in 1891. In 1897, when there were few local schools for Blacks, the 7th District Baptist School was founded and housed in the original church building on this site.



City of Opelousas Tourism

Opelousas Historic District Commission

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