

## Le Vieux Village du Poste des Opelousas (The Old Village)



**Jim Bowie Tourist Center:** This building, which serves as the Opelousas Tourist Center, was constructed to resemble a typical Cajun home of the 1800s. It has been on the village site since the 1970s. Located near the tourist center is a circular free standing building known as a pigeonniere or dovecote.



**Venus House:** Built around 1791, this house is one of the oldest Creole homes of its kind west of the Mississippi. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the home features walls made of mud and moss (bouisage). It is named after a former Indian Slave (Creole woman) named Venus who owned the home during the early 1800s. The house, which was donated by the Fontenot family, was moved to the village from its former location of Grand Prairie in the 1970s.



**Dr. Lafleur's Office:** This 1890 doctors office was donated to the village by the family of the late Dr. N.C. Lafleur. Originally located in Prairie Rhonde, LA, the doctor's office was built in around 1908. It was moved to the village in 1991.

**19th Century Outhouse:** Donated to the village by the family of Dewey Le Doux, this outhouse was constructed around 1890. It was moved from Prairie Ronde.



**La Chappelle House:** Donated to the City of Opelousas by Dr. Van Christian, this mid-1800 home was moved to the village with funds provided by the Preservationists of St. Landry Parish and the Opelousas Woman's Club. The home was originally located on the corner of Union and East Grolee Street.



**Andrepont Store:** Donated to the village by the family of Dewey Le Doux, this store was located in Prairie Rhonde, Louisiana. The building was constructed in the 1880's and operated as a country store for almost 100 years. Emar Andrepont, who was the original owner, was a well known fiddle-maker and a prominent citizen of St. Landry Parish.



In 2009, a former **Union Pacific Freight Depot** was restored to become the **Louisiana Orphan Train Museum**. The museum features documents, artifacts and memorabilia dedicated to those who were part of the Orphan Train Movement. Opelousas played a significant role in this movement by welcoming dozens of children who arrived on the orphan trains. The original depot was located on Court Street in Opelousas and moved to the village in 1991 with the support of the Opelousas – St. Landry Chamber of Commerce.



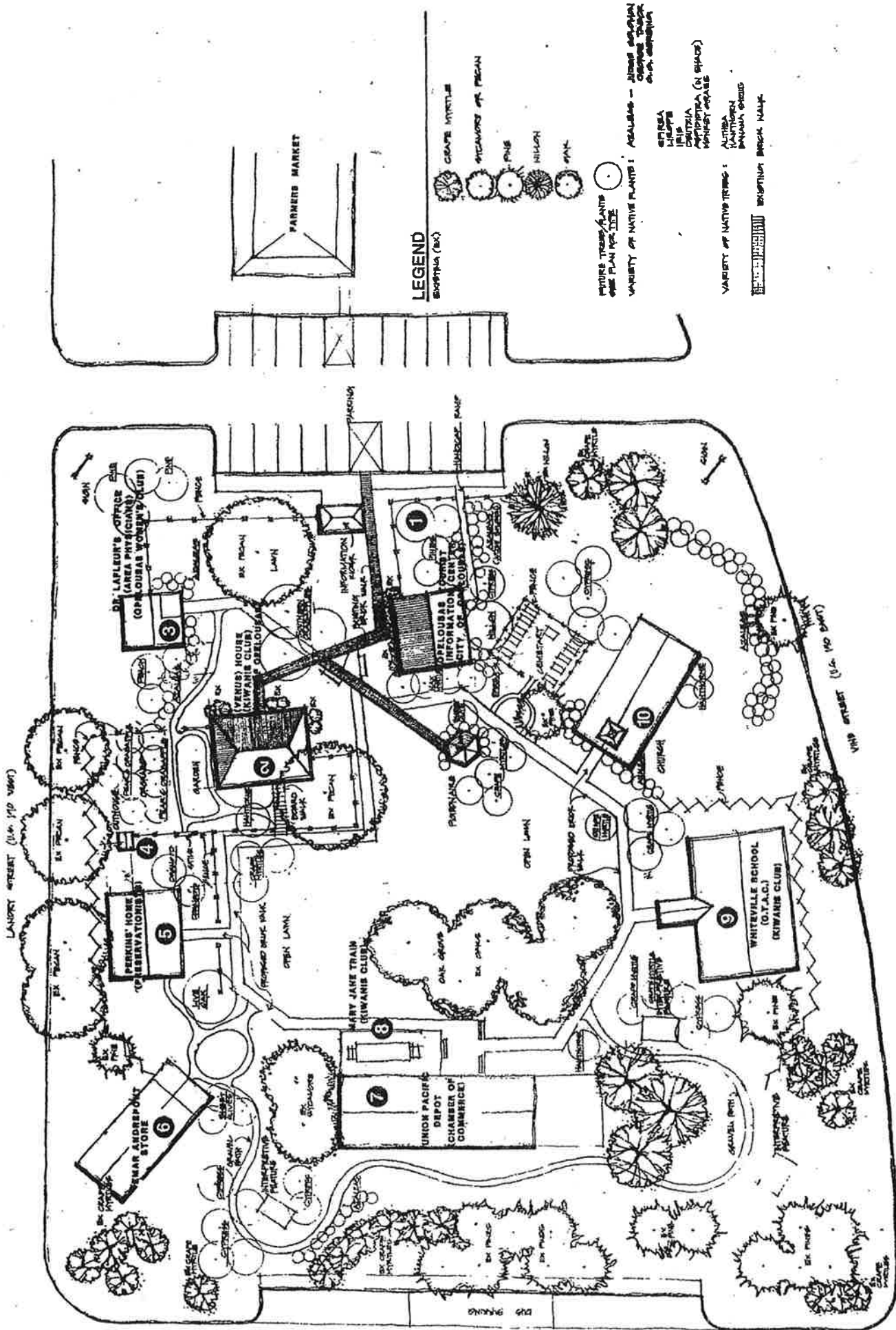
**Mary Jane Train Engine:** Formerly located on the Courthouse Square, this train engine was moved to the village by the Kiwanis Club of Opelousas. Built in 1904 by Davenport, Iowa Iron Works, the train served a record of 50 years. In 1959, local civic organizations purchased the train making it into an industrial monument.



**Whiteville School House:** Built around 1911, this two room schoolhouse was donated by Cleveland McCauley of Whiteville in North St. Landry Parish, it was moved from the area. This is one of the last country schoolhouses remaining in Louisiana. The schoolhouse move was sponsored in part by the Kiwanis Club of Opelousas and the Opelousas Tourism and Activities Committee and Friends.



**Church:** This former African-American Methodist Church was built in 1948. It was donated to the village by the Village of Palmetto, which also contributed to the cost of moving the building. The Opelousas Woman's Club donated funds to help restore the church.



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 HAMILTON AND ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS