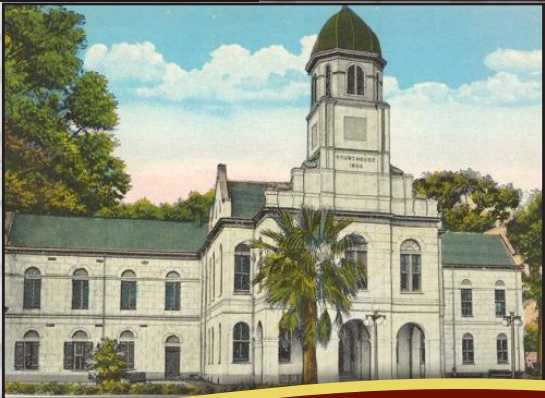
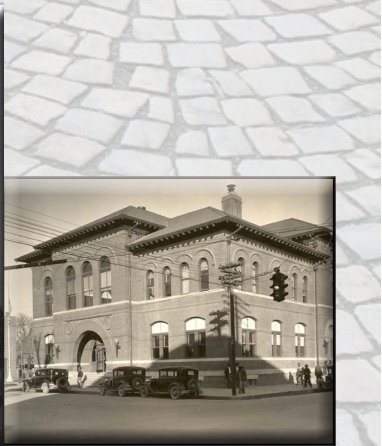


1720  2020

Opelousas

TRICENTENNIAL

HISTORIC WALKING TOUR



Experience the charm of one of
Louisiana's Oldest Cities



Bienvenue aux Opelousas



Welcome to Opelousas, one of Louisiana's oldest communities. Established in 1720 as Le Poste Des Opelousas, the community grew to become a crossroads of commerce. History lives on in our architecture offerings, historic districts, and in the museums that celebrate our storied past.

Opelousas is the Zydeco Capital of the world. The sounds of the rub board and accordion fill the air in celebration of this ingenious music style. Cajun and Swamp Pop also contribute to the musical heritage of Opelousas, creating a mix of sounds unlike any in the world.

Opelousas is known for its great food. Ingredients that are the basics of Cajun and Creole culinary creations can be found here. Roux, boudin, gumbo and seasonings are some of the legendary culinary delights known worldwide.

Some of Louisiana's pre-historic cultures inhabited this area for thousands of years. Historic Indian tribes including the Opelousas, were here when the Europeans arrived in the late 1600s. Opelousas takes its name from this tribal group. While the term Opelousas has been given various meanings including "black hair," and "black water," the most commonly accepted is "black leg," since legend tells us the tribe painted their legs black in contrast to their light skinned bodies.



French Courier de Bois ("runner of the woods," or hunters and trappers) carried on trade with the Opelousas Indians during the early 1700s. In about 1720, the French established a trading post that served as a stopping point for colonists traveling between Natchitoches and New Orleans.



By the time the Spanish took control of the Louisiana Colony from the French in 1763, Opelousas was a thriving outpost. Records indicate that one of the first Spanish Colonial land grants in the area was made in 1763 to Louis Pellerin, a French officer stationed at the Poste. In 1764, Pellerin laid out the town of Opelousas from the land he received.

Opelousas is considered a “cultural gumbo.” Since its beginnings as a community, it was known for its cultural diversity. When the first French settlers arrived in the early 1700s, many brought African slaves with them. German colonist arrived in the mid-1700s, and Spanish settlers arrived in the 1770s. Also later during that century and the beginning of the next, Irish, Italian, Scottish and other immigrants began arriving in the area.

In about 1765 the French speaking Acadians who were exiled from Canada by the British arrived in the Opelousas area. When they first came to Louisiana, the Acadians were not allowed to settle in Opelousas proper. Instead they were sent to the vast prairie lands of the area, and to the Bayou regions in the Attapapas territory. Later, their descendants moved into Opelousas and all of St. Landry Parish.

There was also the cultural group known as Créoles. The word Créole is derived from the Spanish expression “criollo” meaning a child born in the colony. Créoles are descendants of early French and Spanish colonist who settled Louisiana. Later during the 19th century the “Créole” population also included people of mixed heritage that spoke French fluently. “Créoles de Couleur,” or Créoles of Color, are descendants of French and Spanish colonist as well as Native Americans, Haitians and Africans. Famous Créoles include the pirate Jean Lafitte, a French Créole who lived in early Louisiana, and Amédé Ardoin, a Créole of Color, who made the first audio recording of Zydeco music.

After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the area was divided into two parts, the lower section, known as the Territory of Orleans, and the northern section, known as Upper Louisiana. The Territory of Orleans was divided into twelve counties, including the County of Opelousas. In 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. In 1807, Louisiana was divided into 19 “parishes,” named because of the strong Roman Catholic heritage of the state. The original Opelousas County then became St. Landry Parish, the same name as the local catholic church, named for the Bishop of Paris who served from 650-661 AD. A total of seven parishes were created from the original Imperial St. Landry Parish.



On April 30, 1812, Louisiana became the 18th state of the U.S. 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 when Union forces occupied Baton Rouge in May of 1862, Opelousas became the capital of Confederate Louisiana. Charles Homère Mouton, who served as the state's Lt. Governor in 1856, lived in Opelousas during that time and offered his home as the temporary residence for Governor Thomas O. Moore. From that time on, the Mouton Home was known as the Governor's Mansion.

Famous residents of Opelousas include Jim Bowie, legendary adventurer and hero of the Battle of the Alamo; General Garrigues de Flaueac, Napoleon Bonaparte's soldiers and a hero at the Battle of New Orleans; Susan Walker Anding, an advocate for the US Good Roads Movement; Louisiana governors Jacques Dupré and André Bienvenu Roman; Olympic gold medalist Rodney Milburn; Swamp Pop music legend Rod Bernard; the "King of Zydeco" Clifton Chenier; novelist John



Ed Bradley; Eula Savoie, founder of Savoie's® Cajun Food Products; James Joseph, U. S. Ambassador to South Africa; Hadley Castille, internationally known Cajun musician; cookbook author and chef Enola Prudhomme; Chef Tony Chachere, founder of Tony Chachere's Famous Creole Seasoning®; and Chef Paul Prudhomme, who is credited for introducing Cajun food to the world.



We know you will enjoy this charming, storied place with its picturesque landscape, warm Southern hospitality, and Louisiana joie de vivre. Have a *Bon Temps!*





National Historic District Tour

1. St. Landry Parish Courthouse, 1939



118 S. Court Street



Built at a cost of \$280,000 as a WPA project, this Art Deco style courthouse is three-stories with a limestone façade. It features the original Art Deco lamps flanking the steps and a brushed aluminum spiral staircase inside. Also flanking the courthouse are two Victorian lamp poles that were placed on the square in the 1890s. Artwork on the building's facade above the entrance was created by renowned artist Angela Gregory. Since 1806, five courthouses have stood on the courthouse square. Also on the square are monuments to the parish's war dead including the Civil War monument (depicted by the Louisiana Brown Pelican, the state's bird, feeding its young), and others dedicated to soldiers who have served our nation during WWI, WWII and other conflicts. This is the heart of Old Opelousas, the center of a National Historic District since 1989.



2. Lawyer's Row, c.1860

136 – 100 W. Bellevue Street

Located across from the courthouse, between Market and Court streets, this group of commercial office buildings range in age from 50 to 150 years. Over the years, this historic section has been occupied by attorneys and was given the name, "Lawyer's Row." The east corner of this block that intersects with Court Street was known for years as Budd's Corner. This is because the Budd's family building was located there during the 1800s and into the early 1900s. At one time the Budd Building housed a liquor store and saloon as well as the Elk Restaurant, owned by Charles A. "Didee" Lastrapes. When the Budd Building was demolished (ca: 1922), a service station occupied that corner for many years, until the present building was constructed.



3. Union Bank Building, 1911



Corner of Court & Bellevue streets

The Union Bank & Trust Company opened in a small office on Bellevue St. on January 1, 1911. In April of that year, the bank moved into this newly constructed building. It later became Planter's Bank and Trust Company, and eventually First National Bank of St. Landry Parish. When the bank opened in 1911, the style of the building was described as "modern Grecian, built of pressed brick and marble, with artistic ornamental work offsetting the whole." A bas-relief of a pelican, can be seen today above the main door. Another special building detail is the original copper roof.



For many years before there was a bank building, a hotel, sometimes called the Eddy Hotel, sat on this property known as **Pitre Corner**. Owned by Charles Pitre, the hotel was destroyed by fire in 1904.



4. Lacombe Bldg - Rexall New Drug Store, c.1905 - 128 S. Court Street



Situated across from the courthouse, this building's ornately decorated tin ceiling makes it architecturally unique. The New Drug Store was opened in 1895 by. At one time during the 1930s, Opelousas seasoning icon and cookbook author Tony Chachere worked as a pharmacist for the New Drug Store, that had a popular soda fountain, where young people gathered in the afternoons and early evenings. This drug store sat next to the site of the old Lacombe Hotel that once stood on Court Street from the late 1700s until the 1920s. (Note: During the Civil War, that hotel was called the St. Landry Hotel, and was the meeting place of the Louisiana Legislature when Opelousas served as the state's capital from 1862-1863. The courthouse that sat across Court Street, constructed in 1847, served as the actual capitol building during this period. The hotel later was named the Eureka Hotel in 1875, and by the 1890s was known as the Lacombe Hotel, with Austin Lacombe serving as mine host. The hotel was demolished sometime after 1927.

5. Old Federal Building, c.1890 131 S. Court Street



This prominent three-story building, in Romanesque Revival style, has been an Opelousas landmark for well over a century. In 1933, the Federal Court Building and post office workroom were added and the entrance was moved from Landry Street to Court Street. The building sits on the site that once belonged to Manon Baldwin (1770s-1857), 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. During that time, this corner of Court and Landry streets was called **Manon's Corner**.



Opelousas Trivia Note: In 1847 on the southwest corner of Landry and Main streets Felix A. King (1819-1897) operated a wholesale and retail dry goods store. In the 1880s, the King store was demolished and a new building constructed for the First National Bank. That bank eventually became the St. Landry State Bank. In the 1920s, the building was remodeled and housed Winsberg's Department Store for many years. In 1977, the building was demolished, and a new building erected that today houses the St. Landry Bank and Trust Company, on the old **King's Corner**.

The King family lived in a beautiful house behind their business on the block that ran to Vine Street. The King family owned that home until 1897 when it was sold to the Dietlein family, and it sat on that property until 1974 when it was demolished.



King's Corner & Ealer's Corner

Across Landry St. on the northwest corner of Main today sits a building that was St. Landry Bank at one time. Before that, an earlier building occupied that spot from the 1840s, until 1906. It was the jewelry store of Charles Ealer, and that corner was known as **Ealer's Corner**.



6. Dietlein-Savoy Building, 1906 161 E. Landry Street



This one-story brick building features decorative bands of cast fleur-de-lis. For years it was the home of the Dietlein Jewelry Store, owned by Frank Dietlein who opened his business in 1894. In 1906, Dietlein replaced his original wood frame building with this brick one. Later the building housed Savoy's Barber Shop for many years. Today, the building is owned by St. Landry Bank. On the west side of the building is artist Tony Wimberly's mural depicting life in St. Landry Parish in the early 1800s, and also illustrates a chapter in the life of Jim Bowie, a one-time Opelousas resident who is known as a famed hero of the Battle of the Alamo.

7. Aaron Jacobs Buildings, 1916 108 & 106 E. Landry St.



These identical one-story brick buildings were constructed in 1916 for Aaron Jacobs. One building housed the Jacob's News Depot and the other the Kandy Kitchen. Over the years, many other businesses used these buildings including the Ladco Pharmacy, Singer Sewing Center and the Brass Rail. The buildings feature elaborate detailing and retain their period fixed awnings, complete with lion heads holding chains in place. On the east side of this building, the Seven Brothers Oak mural, by artist Robert Tinney, shows early settlers of the area dancing and celebrating under centuries old oaks.

8. Shute Building, 1924 102 E. Landry Street



Dr. Creighton Shute opened his drug store on this property in the 1890s. It became known as **Shute's Corner**. In 1924, the wood frame structure was demolished and a new brick building constructed to house Shute's general merchandise store and pharmacy. At one time, the Star Barber Shop operated out of the east side part on the first floor. This spot is significant in U.S. history because Clyde Barrow of the notorious "Barrow Gang," received his last shave here from barber Otis Welch. Federal agents killed Barrow and his accomplice, Bonnie Parker, in a gun fight just days later on May 23, 1934 in north LA.



9. Parish Trust & Savings, 1927 103 W. Landry Street



This two-story brick structure is adorned with a bas-relief eagle, two linear panels with stylized fretwork, and diamond shaped patterns above its windows. For many years it served as a bank. It now houses Java Square Café, where patrons can enjoy their coffee in the old bank's original vault. Before the bank building was constructed, the wood framed two-story store owned by Robert Chachere occupied this corner, known as **Chachere's Corner**.

Opelousas Trivia Note: In 1917, the Christman family opened their new bakery on Landry Street. Soon after they opened a restaurant and hotel, known as the Waldorf, a popular hotel of its day. May social affairs took place at the Waldorf, as well as meetings, banquets and other events. The building was demolished in 1984 in order to have a parking lot in downtown Opelousas. If you park on that lot today you can still see remnants the old tile floor, a remembrance of old Opelousas.



10. Landau Building - Sandoz Law Firm. c. 1906



113 & 117 W. Landry Street

The Joseph Landau family constructed this two-story Italianate stucco over brick building in 1906. It originally housed the Landau Clothing Store and many other businesses and professional offices over the years. The Acadian to Cajun mural, by artist Jerome Ford, on the buildings's east side, depicts the journey of the Acadians from Nova Scotia to south Louisiana.



11. Old Greco Building, 1921



123 W. Landry Street

From 1926 until he retired in 1990, this building served as Joe Greco's Shoe Repair Shop. In 1991 Or 1993, it became the Back in Time Restaurant & Gift Shop. In this café you will find great food, but also gifts and antiques, as well as the famous picture Opelousas folks call "September Morn." To know more about that picture, stop in and ask Miss Wanda. While there enjoy a glass of freshly squeezed lemonade and a delicious one-of-a-kind sandwich.



12. 19th Century Law Office, c.1845



129 W. 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 Dupré, who occupied the building during the late-19th century. Through the years, it has been used as a law office by several prominent attorneys, and at one time housed the Jim Bowie Museum & Tourist Center.



13. Jim Bowie Oak

W. Landry St. next to Homère Mouton Law Office

This giant live oak tree is over 350 years old and is named in honor of legendary adventurer and hero of the Battle of the Alamo, Colonel James "Jim" Bowie, who lived in Opelousas for part of his life. The Jim Bowie Oak is a charter member of the Louisiana Live Oak Society. The Jim Bowie Courtyard, located behind the oak, is built on the site of what is believed to be a blacksmith shop belonging to Bowie.

14. Homère Mouton Law Office, 1858



133 W. Landry Street

Law officembuilt in 1858 for Charles Homere Mouton, a judge who also served as Lt. Governor of Louisiana in 1856. He was married to a St. Landry Parish beauty, Celimene Dupre, the daughter of Lastie Dupre and granddaughter of Governor Jacque Dupre. The Dupre family and the Opelousas community were happy to have the Mouton family as new residents in 1858. They were welcomed in a big way during that year when they moved into their new home on the corner of Liberty and East Grolee streets in the city. The building was also the Jim Bowie Museum & Tourist Center at one time.



15. The Palace Café, 1954

135 W. Landry Street

Originally named the Palace Sandwich Shop, this restaurant was established in 1893. The old two-story wood frame building was also a boarding house. In 1927 George and Mary Doucas purchased the business and changed the name to the Palace Cafe. Immigrants from Greece, “Mama and Papa Doucas” specialized in Creole and Cajun dishes as well as some Greek specialties. Over the years, the couple’s children took over the restaurant until 2013 when it was sold to the present owner. Some of their famous dishes over the years included crawfish bisque, Pete’s famous fried chicken salad, and Steve’s baklava, which was one of the old world Greek recipes.. In 1954, the original building was demolished and the present building constructed at the corner of Market and Landry streets.



16. Christman and Riseman Hardware Store -1920

& Delta Grand Theatre -1934 - 120 S. Market St.

Originally built as the Christman and Riseman Hardware Store, the building was converted to a movie theater. The original Delta Theatre opened on April 1, 1934 by Collins Conrad of Breaux Bridge, who operated it for four months. It was then sold to Joe Guillory and later Southern Amusement Company, Inc. of Lake Charles. In the 1950s, the Delta Theatre was completely remodeled and air-conditioned. It reopened on June 4, 1955, with the latest equipment for CinemaScope pictures and wall speakers for stereophonic sound with a wall-to-wall screen. The renovation of the theater in the early 1990s has brought new life to the building.

17. Old City Hall-Opelousas Town Market, 1888

131 W. Bellevue Street

Built of handmade brick in 1888, this building was once the center of commerce when it served as the town’s market. The town had a market house long before that, as noted in records soon after Opelousas was incorporated in 1821. Other market buildings were constructed in 1853 and 1867. This building was an arcaded, open-air market with a hip roof and a large mansard cupola. In addition to fresh vegetables, fruits and other food items, it also housed a coffee shop, which often served meals such as “fat goose gumbo.” In the early 1900s, the building housed the Electric Light Supply Storage Co., and served as the Opelousas Public Library for a time. When



women won the right to vote during the 1920s, Opelousas ladies exercised their rights at the Old Town Market polling place. In 1932, the building was renovated into the neo-classical style, as it appears today, and served as the city hall until 1962.



Opelousas Historic District Tour

18. 19th Century Dentist Office, 1880

234 S. Court Street

Built by Dr. Charles Bercier, a local dentist, this Victorian style building served as a dental office for many years. Later, several physicians and other businesses used it.

19. Judge Gilbert Dupré House, c. 1890

312 S. Court Street

Prominent attorney, state representative, and later district judge, Gilbert L. Dupré, the great-grandson of Louisiana Governor Jacques Dupré, constructed this building. In the 1920s, Judge Dupré wrote one of the first political histories of St. Landry Parish.

20. Watkins-Saizan Home, c. 1888

405 S. Court Street

Built by Dr. Joseph Saizan, this home featured the first indoor bathroom in Opelousas. Restorations and additions through the years include 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.

21. Mosley-Boagni Home, 1922

410 S. Court Street

Built with cypress and pine flooring with lumber from one of the oldest academies in Opelousas, this cottage 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.

22. Petitjean Home, 1900

508 S. Court Street

This home was constructed by Dr. Ernest Petitjean. A detail to note is the green ceramic tile roof with each shingle weighing approximately five 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.

23. Gilbert Mistic Home, c. 1920

536 S. 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 home is constructed of pine.

24. Pierre Mistic Home, c. 1882

612 S. Court Street

For more than 100 years, this home 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 encircling porch. After a fire destroyed portions of the house, renovations made in 1950 simplified the architecture to a Georgian Colonial home.



25. John Thistlethwaite House, 1925
631 S. Court Street

Built by John Thistlethwaite and Charlotte Frere Thistlethwaite when they moved into Opelousas from Macland Plantation north of Washington. This Greek Revival home is made with cypress and features massive fluted columns. Mr. Thistlethwaite owned and operated Thistlethwaite Lumber Company and Macland Plantation just outside of the town of Washington. The family built this house in Opelousas so it would be easier for the younger Thistlethwaite children to attend school. In 1950, John Thistlethwaite's son, Hugh, purchased the home from his siblings and lived here until his death. Today, the Guidry family owns the home.



26. Lewis Home, c. 1888
711 S. Court Street

John Lewis, a prominent Opelousas attorney, built this Victorian home that features a formal living room and dining area reached by cut glass doors. Many beautiful cut glass windows are found throughout the home. The formal rooms feature hand painted ceilings with cherubs.

27. Persimmon Place, c. 1891
809 S. Court Street

Built by St. Landry Parish Judge William Charles Perrault and his wife Amanda Lastrapes Perrault, this house contains a parlor, living and dining rooms, four bedrooms, two porches and six fireplaces. It houses a rare, circa 1840s, six-foot beveled edge "diamond dust" mirror. The persimmon tree located in front of the home is over 100 years old and is believed to be one of the oldest producing persimmon trees in the state.

28. Trosclair Home, c.1891
812 S. Court Street

Built by former Opelousas Postmaster J.P. Trosclair in the 1880s, this Victorian style home includes five bedrooms, a formal living room and dining room, plus a kitchen and breakfast room.

29. W.C. Perrault Home, 1933
819 S. Court Street

Built by attorney W.C. Perrault, this home was constructed with cypress weatherboard. The surrounding block of residences all belonged to members of the Perrault family at one time.

30 McCain Home, c. 1902
119 W. Jefferson Street

Walton McCain, a former mayor of Basile, Louisiana, purchased this home and an additional 500 acres stretching west towards Railroad Avenue in 1922. He moved to Opelousas at that time to protect his family after an attempt was made on his life. This was the result of an order he gave that made it unlawful for Basile's saloons to remain open 24 hours a day. The house is built of Louisiana cypress, in the "Country Victorian" architectural style featuring 10-foot ceilings throughout.



31. Littell House, c. 1935
908 S. Market Street

Opelousas physician Dr. William C. Littell, who practiced in Opelousas from the late 1930s, and for several decades, built this simple one-story Colonial Revival home. Later Dr. Robert and Gillis Bienvenu Lockett owned the home.

32. Wier Home, 1939
431 S. Market Street

Built by Harvey Wier, the home is constructed with stone brought by train from West Texas and is reminiscent of a Spanish ranch style. Many fossils can be found in the stones that make up the exterior walls. The home once featured one of the first air conditioning systems built into the walls. The home features a bomb shelter-like cellar.

33. John Van Hudspeth Home, 1924
424 S. Market Street

This cypress and pine house is designed in the Georgian Cottage architectural style. The home is furnished with Victorian pieces containing a walnut marble top bedroom set from 1860. Exterior moldings were added in 1980, with the leaded glass entry installed in 1983.

34. Asher-Allen Home, 1900
330 S. Market Street

This family home was built around the turn of the century for Mr. and Mrs. Phil L. Asher. Asher was an entrepreneur and a champion of the multiple uses of cottonseed oil. He served as the bookkeeper at the Opelousas Cotton Oil Company, and in 1897 he helped Professor T. H. Harris establish the first business school in Opelousas. He was also a driving force behind the area's agricultural diversity. The Allen family has owned the home for several decades, including noted Opelousas artist J. A. Allen, who is the present owner.

35. Burleigh Home, c. 1905
322 S. Market Street

This Victorian home has been renovated throughout the years and now serves as a law office.

36. L. Austin Fontenot, Sr. House, c. 1890
313 S. Market Street

The L. Austin Fontenot, Sr. family purchased this lovely Queen Anne Revival home in 1918 from J. Austin Perkins. The home features a unique square turret on the northwest side of the building.

37. Veazie-Pavy Home, c. 1905
130 W. Vine Street

Edward Veazie built this Queen Anne Victorian style home in 1905 at a cost of \$5,000.00. His daughter Marie Aline,



and husband Paul Pavy, later owned the home. Built with Louisiana cypress, it features a rare hand carved cypress staircase. On the exterior, brick columns support the triple wood columns around the home. Of interest is the



brass-cupped pitched roof over the domed section of the hom, and the frescoes found in the gables are hammered aluminum. Paul Pavy was the brother of State District Judge Benjamin Pavy, who was gerrymandered out of office in 1936 by his political rival, Huey P. Long. One of Pavy's sons-in-law, Dr. Carl Austin Weiss, was the alleged assassin of Long.



38. Dupré-Pavy House, 1927
119 W. Vine Street

Dr. Felix Octave Pavy and his wife, Fannie Estilette Dupré Pavy, built this home on property donated to Fannie by her mother, Fannie Estilette, the wife of State District Judge Gilbert L. Dupré. This simple pyramidal roof cottage property cost \$5,000 to build.

39. Old Lassalle - Boudreaux Home, 1891
332 W. Landry Street

Opelousas businessman Joseph Lassalle, who migrated to the town from Canada in 1872, built this Victorian home for his family in 1891. His Lassalle grocery business was located across Landry St. from home. The home features 12-foot ceilings and is easily spotted standing proudly on its own hilltop. The home was purchase in the late 1970s by Emily and Fred Boudreaux, and lovingly restored by the couple.

40. Jacobs Home, c. 1920
232 S. 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 architecture. Note the large classical columns on the full-height entry porch and the elaborate front door. This house was once the home of Adolph Jacobs. Jacobs was the owner of Dietlein & Jacobs Wholesale Grocery Company in Opelousas, established during the late 1890s.

41. Sheriff Swords - John Fakouri Home, 1907
306 S. Liberty Street

St. Landry Parish Sheriff Marion L. Swords, who was killed in July 1916 by the fugitive Helaire Carriere, built this unique Queen Anne style house. Sheriff Swords built this home for a little more than \$12,000 between the years 1906-1907. When it was completed, it was known as one of the finest homes in South Louisiana. Mary Swords Deballion, the sheriff's daughter, also lived in this home before she married. Mary was responsible for saving the beautiful Louisiana Iris, a native plant that is so loved today. Since 1932, John Fakouri, Sr and his family members have owned the home.



42. St. Landry Lumber Company, c. 1890
207 N. Railroad Avenue



This is the oldest business in Opelousas still operating in its original building. Founded as Skiles Lumber Company in about 1888 by Alonzo C. Skiles, this unique two-story Queen Anne Revival structure is one of the last remaining lumberyard buildings in Louisiana. It represents the era of the Louisiana Lumber Boom of 1885– 1930. **NR: 1989.**



43. Rozas Home, 1939

209 N. Liberty Street

This Colonial Revival style home made of cypress wood was built at a cost of \$50,000 for Dr. Sidney J. Rozas and his wife Alice Boagni- Rozas. The massive columns along the

front of the home were made in Chicago and shipped to Opelousas. The home's floor plan includes five bedrooms, four baths, formal living room, and dining room with crystal chandeliers. It also has an outside maid's quarters.

44. McBride Home, c. 1890

219 N. Liberty Street

Built at the turn-of-the 20th century, this house has been owned by different family through the years including the Elms, Boagni's and McBrides. It is constructed of cypress in a Victorian design with red pine floors. Throughout the home are plaster medallions and heavy millboard woodwork.

45. Old Governor's Mansion site

231 N. Liberty Street



The lovely home that once stood on this property was very important to the history of Opelousas and Louisiana. Built in the 1850s by Opelousas attorney Theodose Robin, the home was later purchased in 1858 by Charles Homer Mouton, a district judge who served as Lt. Governor of Louisiana in 1856. Mouton, his wife Celimene Dupre (granddaughter of Governor Jacques Dupre) and family lived there following this purchase. When Opelousas became the state capital of Louisiana during the Civil War, the home was used by Governor Thomas Overton Moore from May of 1862 until September of 1862 when the governor moved from Opelousas to Rapides Parish, and later to Shreveport. Since that time, the home was always referred to as the Governor's Mansion, and was said to be the oldest remaining governor's mansion in Louisiana. Following the war, the home was owned by several different families, and was entered on

the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. The home was in the process of being restored to its former elegance when it was destroyed by fire on July 14, 2016. The property is presently



owned by the Oldest Governor's Mansion in Louisiana Foundation, Inc. (OGMLA), a 501-c3 non-profit corporation, and is in the process of being developed as a historic site.

46. James Robert Home, c. 1900

233 W. Grolee Street

Originally located in Rapides Parish, the home is constructed of pine and cypress and is furnished with English and French pieces including an antique walnut Jenny Lind four-poster bed. The leaded front glass entry takes its design from a prominent home in New Orleans.



47. Old Ray Homestead, 1853
346 W. Bellevue Street



Dr. James Ray built this one and one-half story plantation style home for his bride, Margaret Mitchell Hill, daughter of Dr. George Hill, a surgeon and scientific sugar planter of that era.

During the Civil War, in March of 1862, the Confederate Army used the home as the 9th Brigade Medical Headquarters, with Dr. Hill serving as chief surgeon. Built off the ground, brick covered with cypress, the home has both Creole and Anglo-American Greek Revival elements. Of note is an oriental lightning rod above the home and the old horse hitching post in front of the home. The massive oaks that form a canopy around the home are over 200 years old and are all members of the Louisiana Live Oak Society. The home is owned by Bellevue St. Baptist Church.



48. First Baptist Church, 1952
326 W. Bellevue Street

The First Baptist Church of Opelousas was founded November 6, 1880. Following a series of revival services held

at the courthouse by Dr. W.C. Friley, then Corresponding Secretary of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, and Rev. Edward Kelley, a small congregation was formed. The first wood frame meeting house was erected on Bellevue Street in 1883. In 1952, the current brick building was constructed. Today it is home to Bellevue Street Baptist Church.



49. Labyche-Estorge Home, 1827
417 S. Market Street



Built by slave labor for Cahors, France native Pierre Labyche, this Antebellum home, exemplifies the 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 of Jean Estorge, Marie Theresa Castille of Grand Coteau. Jean and Theresa had five children including Dr. Joseph Leonard Estorge. During the Civil War, when fighting broke out around the Opelousas area, wounded soldiers were treated here on the front lawn by Dr.



Estorge. Today, the home is still owned by descendants of Jean Estorge. It was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in October of 1982.

50. Calla-Kerr, c. 1930
519 N. Court Street

Constructed solely of Louisiana cypress, this bungalow style home features five bedrooms, a grand foyer and formal dining room. The home is named Calla-Kerr after owner Robbie Sebastien'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.



51. Morning Glory, c. 1883

509 N. 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. The Victorian home has an unusual symmetrical design which was created by Opelousas architect Tilghman George Chachere, Sr. in 1881. The symmetrical design forms seating areas in four major rooms.

52. Edward Benjamin Dubuisson House, 1927

419 N. Court Street

This distinctly southern Colonial Revival mansion was built of cypress and pine on the site of an earlier family home. The home was built by E. B. Dubuisson, who was a planter, banker and district attorney of St. Landry Parish for many years. 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 staircase; a wine cellar, unusual to the homes in this area; and, servants and guests entrances in the rear. It was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in February of 1997.



53. DeLaRue-Chachere Home, c.1882

125 W. 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's® Famous Creole Seasoning. Tony's father, Tilghman George Chachere, Sr., was a prominent Opelousas architect. The home features bouissage walls covered with cypress. On the west side of the home is a servant's entry with a lattice archway which was extremely popular in its day.

54. Marguerite Chretien (Lacombe Home), 1821

124 W. Grolee Street

One of the oldest home in Opelousas, Etienne Fouillade built this French Creole house for Marguerite Chretien in 1821. Constructed of cypress over mud and moss walls, the original contract for the home is on file in the St. Landry Parish Clerk of Court's Office and is the oldest contract found to this date in existence in the office. The original contract for the home called for two front rooms with a central fireplace and three back rooms. While the home has been renovated many times throughout the years, all of the original rooms are intact.

55. Opelousas City Court Building, 1907

127 E. Grolee Street

This building, built by J.B. Sandoz, was the first three story building in Opelousas. Over the years, this building also housed Fields & Larcade Furniture Store and Abdalla's Furniture Store. In its early years, the exterior had wrought iron balconies looking down on Main Street.





56. Opelousas Sanitarium, c. 1886
217 N. Main Street

This building, located on the corner of Grolee and Main streets, was the business and residence of J.C. “Kossuth” Sandoz. Later, it became the first hospital in Opelousas and was known as the Opelousas Sanitarium. It features 8,400 square feet of high ceilings and hand-carved woodwork. As with the city court building, the exterior of this building once had wrought-iron balconies.

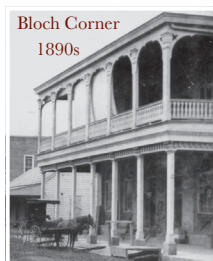


57. Leonce Roos Building, c. 1900
214 N. Main Street

Opelousas merchant Pascal Delbueno had this building constructed to use for his grocery store. Later it became the site of Leonce Roos Antiques. Roos was famous for not selling some of his prized antiques, as the price tag would simply read, “No Sale.”

58. Abdalla’s Furniture Building
Opelousas City Hall - 1948
105 N. Main Street

This corner played an important role in the commercial history of the town. Known as Bloch corner, the store of Joseph Bloch occupied this property from the late 1850s and for almost 50 years. Later it became the City Hotel and then the Elk’s lodge. The original building burnt down in 1948 and was replaced with the one standing today. This new building was home to Abdalla’s Furniture Store, and later Schiff Furniture, as well as Hargroder Insurance Company. It was renovated in 2005 to house the Opelousas City Hall. Located on the north side of this building is Robert Baxter’s Zydeco Capital of the World mural, which remembers the pioneers and award winners of zydeco music. Opelousas is the birthplace of zydeco.



59. Hope, Hook & Ladder Fire Co. #1, 1935
116 N. Union Street

One of the earliest fire companies in Louisiana, Hope, Hook and Ladder was organized in 1871. In 1901, a wood structure, that featured a curved façade on the northwest side, was completed.



The present structure was built at a cost of \$9,500. It houses the Firemen’s Museum, containing many artifacts of firefighting in Opelousas over the past 100 years. It is the third oldest volunteer fire company in Louisiana. Also of interest is the mural, *Early Fire Fighting: A Tribute to Lelle*, by a group of local student artists under Cindy Pitre’s direction. This painting depicts the fire truck named for Marie Céleste “Lelle” Dupré Robertson.

60. Wier Building, c. 1820
106 N. Union Street



Significant in the area of architecture as one of St. Landry Parish’s very earliest buildings and a rare example of the Federal style in the parish, this house is also called the Hebrard Home. In 1945, Harvey J. Wier purchased the building for use as an office. In 1995, the building was completely restored and opened as the Opelousas Museum of Art. Today the building is privately owned.



Opelousas Trivia Note: On the corner of Union, North and Main streets once stood a guesthouse called the Union Hotel. From 1822 to 1894 it hosted many visitors and provided a venue for huge balls and entertainments. Besides the Union Hotel, it was also known as the E. Claude House. In 1894 the old hotel and other nearby buildings were destroyed by fire. Since then other structures have occupied the property where the old hotel once stood. Today the Opelousas Elk's Lodge and the Main Street Liquor Store building, now hosting **Arpeggio's Lounge and Event Center at 204 North Main St.**, sit on the property.

61. Frank DelBueno House, 1921
413 N. Main Street

This bungalow house was built for \$3,000. The location of this home was in convenient walking distance to the passenger railway station, which brought family and visitors to the DelBueno home during the Great Depression.

62. Sydney Sandoz Home, 1909
411 N. Union Street

Sidney Sandoz, Sr., the son of Jacques Sandoz who founded J.B. Sandoz Hardware Store, built this lovely home on the hill. Sidney ran the family hardware company after his father's death. When he died his son Sidney, Jr. took over.

63. Opelousas Museum & Interpretive Center, 1934
315 N. Main Street

Built by the Sandoz family, this building was a former library, a church and a funeral home. In September 1992, it became the home of the city's history museum, created by the Opelousas Tourism & Activities Committee and the City of Opelousas. This museum showcases various objects and artifacts relating to the history and culture of the city. Learn about the Native Americans, Cajuns, Creoles, French and Spanish. Discover the area's important role during the Civil War and learn about famous Opelousas residents such as Olympic gold medalist Rodney Milburn and Grammy Award winner Clifton Chenier.

64. J.B. Sandoz Hardware Store, 1952
312 N. Main St.

This is the second oldest business in Opelousas still in operation. The store began as a blacksmith shop owned and



operated by Mr. Joseph Jobin. Jacques Benoit Sandoz, who was an apprentice of Jobin, married Jobin's daughter after her father's death in 1877. In 1878, the business was renamed J.B. Sandoz. In 1892, J. B Sandoz moved his business to Perrodin's Hall, and opened a new carriage repository. A few years later, Sandoz purchased that building on the corner of Main and Grolee streets and it became a hardware store. In 1953, the old building was demolished and the present building constructed. Business is still owned and operated by the Sandoz family.

65. Brick Sidewalks, c. 1830s
East Grolee Street

This section of brick sidewalks date back to 1838. The bricks and those on Court and Bellevue streets, are the only original brick sidewalks still existing in Opelousas.



Opelousas Trivia Note: Perrodin's Hall once stood at the corner of Main and E. Grolee streets. In 1882, Perrodin brothers, Jules and August purchased the building which was originally designed for a cotton seed oil mill, near Victor Bourdin's Mill on Bayou Tesson at the corner of Grolee and Market streets. The building was dismantled and rebuilt on Main at Grolee Street on the lot where Perrodin's Lumberyard stood. It was then used as a large warehouse and Opera House. The upper floor was the Opera House. The lower story was used as a carriage emporium and other things. In 1886 when a fire destroyed the St. Landry Parish Courthouse, the temporary courthouse was set up at Perrodin's Hall until the new building could be constructed. Perrodin's Hall is said to have the first electric lights in Opelousas.

66. Yesterday, 1900

441 E. 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. Mr. Miles was a former Clerk of Court for St. Landry Parish. The home was named Yesterday when it was purchased and restored in 1974 by the Andrepont family, who resided there for over 20 years.

67. Terracina & Lupo Grocery Store, c. 1880

430 E. Grolee Street

The Lupo family purchased this building in 1915. The family added the store front a short time later. The building served as their home and store. For over 62 years, it was home to Terracina & Lupo's, a place that offered freshly made, authentic Italian specialties. Today it is the home of Yam Country Pies, LLC.

68. Mornhinveg House, c. 1903

610 E. Grolee Street

This was the home of the Mornhinveg family for many years. It was built extremely high off the ground adding for ventilation in the summer heat. Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd Boulet restored the home to its original beauty and added some modern conveniences such as a swimming pool. In the 1990s, renowned fiction author, and Opelousas native, John Ed Bradley owned the home for a number of years.

69. Childs Home, 1910

619 E. Grolee Street

The simply cottage style home has beautiful interior woodwork and cut glass window panels along the top of the windows.

70. Old Smith House, c. 1906

626 E. Grolee Street

Built of cypress by Opelousas attorney Peyton R. Sandoz for his wife and eight children, the home has changed hands many times. It is referred to as the Old Smith Home, since it was purchased in the 1940s by F. "Cook" Smith. In 1968 Anthony Lavergne purchased the home, and today it is owned by his family. This Victorian home is adorned with beautiful gingerbread accents, complete with a fleur-de-lis wreath design, arches and gables. The staircase is hand-carved with wood imported from France, and it contains five fireplaces with carved mantels. The cement pillars in the yard at one time had chains connecting them for use as hitching posts for horses and buggies. The large grotto in the front of the home contains a stone replica of Michelangelo's Pietà.



71. Donald Elder Home, c. 1880

701 E. Grolee Street

This lovely Victorian cottage was built by Jim Chachere. It is one of the oldest Victorian cottages in the area.

72. Sloane Home, 1904

741 E. Grolee Street

Also called Maison Rose, all of the home's furnishings pre-date the house. The floors are pine and the woodwork is cypress. It also features six fireplaces.

73. Pulford-Caldwell Estate, c. 1900

704 E. North Street

Dr. F. J. Pulford, a noted Opelousas dentist who practiced from 1891 until the 1920s, built this estate. Dr. Pulford also served as an Alderman on the Opelousas City Council in the early 1900s. The home is constructed completely of Louisiana cypress with a large eight-foot wide foyer. Classic curved woodwork can be found throughout the home on baseboards and moldings complete with acorn adorned corners. In 1910, 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 Caldwell family, who ran a successful dairy on the grounds, owned the home.

74. Mayer Home, c. 1874

629 E. Bellevue Street

This striking restrained Greek Revival and Italianate style home is made of cypress on three foot, six inch raised brick pillars and was built for the *Opelousas Music Man*, Rudolf Adelbert Sebastien 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 Empire for more than 30 years. Mayer moved to Louisiana in 1852 and married Mary Dunnon O'Rourke. The home has remained in the family since it was first built. The ceilings are twelve feet throughout the home with a beautiful Louisiana cypress staircase in the foyer. Dr. Mayer's famous revolving medicine cabinet, and an armoire originally owned by Louisiana Governor Francis T. Nichols, also graces the home.

75. LA Memorial United Methodist Church, 1955

515 E. Bellevue Street

Opelousas is known as the "Cradle of Louisiana Methodism." Missionary Elisha W. Bowman established the Methodist church here in 1806. It is the oldest Methodist church congregation west of the Mississippi River. The present church sits on the site where two earlier churches existed. The property for the church was purchased in 1857 from the Fonda family.



**Methodist
Church
1907**



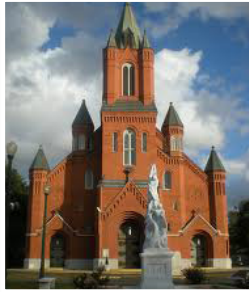
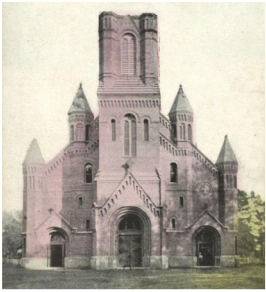
76. Abdalla Home, 1939
427 E. Bellevue Street

Known as prominent Acadiana merchants, this was once the home of the Anthony Abdalla family. The home is constructed of redwood in the New England style of architecture, which is unusual to the South. The copper canopy accents this property.

77. J.J. Bowden Home, 1857
420 E. Bellevue Street

Built by Antoine Christman for his wife, the former Malvina Bengueral, the home later became occupied by Fannie Bowden and then her nephew, Rev. Walter Bowden. Built of cypress, it is an Acadian Cottage style home with cypress doors and a cypress mantle. It also features pine floors. The ceilings are twelve feet throughout the home and the fireplace is still in use today. During the Civil War, Union soldiers camped across the street from the home.

Northside Tour



A. St. Landry Catholic Church, 1908-09
1020 N. Main Street



This cathedral-size church is the third building to sit on this elevated track of land. Founded in 1770 by French Capuchin friars, it is the second oldest church parish in the Lafayette Roman Catholic Diocese. The current edifice is a Gothic form of structure with Romanesque motifs. The stained-glass windows were made in France by German artisans. The building was designed by noted Opelousas architect Tilghman George Chachere, Sr. When this building was constructed in 1908-09, the bricks of the old church, built in 1828, were used as its foundation. The church archives and records, located in the old Marianite Sisters of Holy Cross convent behind the church, are a treasure trove to genealogist and historians alike, as its records date back to the 1770s.



B. St. Landry Catholic Cemetery, c. 1798
980 N. Union Street

This historic cemetery contains graves that date back to the 1790s. Veterans from various wars are buried here, along with old, prominent families of the Opelousas area. Louisiana Governor Jacques Dupré and his wife are buried here, as well as one of Napoléon Bonaparte's soldiers, General Garrigues de Flaueac.



C. Michel Prudhomme House, c. 1770

1128 Prudhomme Circle

This French Colonial house is believed to be the oldest structure still located in its original location in St. Landry Parish. Built by Michel Prudhomme, who donated a large track of his land to build St. Landry Catholic Church, the home was later owned by the Ringrose family and some folks today still refer to it as “Ringrose Plantation.” During the Civil War the home was used to house Union officers. It features one of the largest camellia trees in the country which produces a beautiful flower called Opelousas Pink. Also on the property is an original pigeonier, constructed of hewn Louisiana cypress.



D. Teurlings T. Lafleur Home, c. 1860

1015 N. Main Street

Located directly across from St. Landry Catholic Church, this building at one time served as the church’s rectory. During the Civil War, it was commandeered to house Union Col. Thomas E. Chickering, when he served as the Federal Military Governor of Opelousas. Later, the house served as a general merchandise store.

E. Mt. Olive Baptist Church, c. 1950s

227 W. Church Street

This church traces its beginnings to 1897, when it was one of only two private schools for Blacks. The school was called the 7th District Baptist School and later changed its name to the Black Academy at Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

F. Meyers House, c. 1840

633 N. Union Street

Originally built along the Bayou Teche near Port Barre, this house was moved to its current location in the 1800s, before the Civil War.

G.. Holy Ghost Catholic Church

747 N. Union Street

The largest Catholic Church parish for Blacks in the United States, Holy Ghost Church was organized in 1920.

Father James A. Hyland, C.S. Sp. Of the Holy Ghost Fathers was appointed the first Pastor during that year. The present church building was constructed in 1948 on land donated to the church by the family of Joel H. Sandoz, an early Opelousas newspaper publisher who founded the Opelousas Courier in 1852. The Sandoz home stood on this property for over a century prior to the church’s construction.



Opelousas Trivia Note: Catholic schools were the first organized schools in Opelousas, dating back to the 1850s. The town’s Catholic schools included St. Mary’s Academy, Academy of the Immaculate Conception, Ursuline Convent of Opelousas, St. Joseph’s Academy, St. Joseph College, Holy Ghost School, and today Opelousas Catholic School located on Prudhomme Lane near St. Landry Church. Pictured here are Holy Ghost School in the 1920s and the Ursuline Convent in the late 1860s.



This project was partially funded by a grant from the Louisiana Certified Local Government Program.

This project has been financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior through the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior.

-AND-

This program received federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, or sexual orientation in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to:

Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service
1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240



Be sure to visit Le Vieux Village du Poste des Opelousas on Hwy. 190 at the east entrance to the city.

CITY OF OPELOUSAS TOURISM
Opelousas Historic District Commission



828 East Landry, Opelousas, La 70570

337.984.5227

337.948.5229

www.cityofopelousas.com