



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Historic District Landmarks Commission

Faubourg Marigny Historic District



*Designated 1978
Jurisdiction: New Orleans Historic District Landmarks Commission
The Faubourg Marigny Historic District is bounded by Esplanade Avenue, St. Claude Avenue, Press Street and the Mississippi River.*

Faubourg Marigny was the one of City’s earliest suburbs, located immediately downriver from the Vieux Carré on land subdivided from the plantation of one of New Orleans most colorful historical figures. Antoine Xavier Bernard Phillippe de Marigny de Mandeville came into an enormous inheritance at a young age and is remembered for the fine style in which he squandered it, developing his faubourg and introducing the game of craps to the city in the meantime. He apparently took a close personal interest in the design of the new faubourg that would bear his name. He appeared especially to have taken great delight in naming its streets. While some street names have stayed the same—most notably Frenchmen Street and Elysian Fields Avenue (originally Champs Elysees)—Craps, Love, Victory, Bagatelle and Good Children Streets have, sadly, been renamed.

The Faubourg Marigny was largely populated by Creole families, free people of color and immigrants, including many Germans. Numerous early homes in the Marigny were built for free women of color. The Marigny is home to Creole cottages and many ornamented shotgun dwellings; with a number of corner stores, 2-story mixed use corner buildings, and fine Queen Anne or Eastlake style Victorian 2-story residences.

Unfortunately, the area entered a difficult period starting in the 1950s, as families who had lived in the area for many years began to move out of the city to the suburbs. Inappropriate development and blight started to negatively impact the area.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, a rising interest in the neighborhood’s history, culture and architecture led to a campaign to protect it. In 1971, it was given protection through a special historic preservation zoning ordinance, the first since the creation of the Vieux Carré Commission in the 1930s. Over the past 40 years, much of the area’s historic architecture has been lovingly preserved and restored. Frenchmen Street’s commercial buildings in the blocks closest to the French Quarter now house an eclectic mix of music clubs, restaurants, cafés and small businesses. The District also includes an industrial section of brick and metal buildings concentrated towards the Mississippi River.¹

¹ Information taken from the Faubourg Marigny National Register of Historic Places Nomination.



The St. Roch Market was a local destination for food and produce



New Orleans Public Library
Louisiana Division/ City Archives

Washington Square Park is surrounded by a mid-19th century iron fence.



Frenchmen Street offers entertainment and dining to residents and tourists

LOCAL CULTURE

- The St. Roch Market was constructed in 1875 and provided food and produce to neighborhood residents
- One area landmark, Holy Trinity Church on St. Ferdinand Street, was founded for German residents in 1853, and is easily recognizable for its twin bell towers
- Washington Square Park was designated as a green space during the neighborhood's formation and serves as a place for community events

- Elysian Fields Avenue was the first street in New Orleans to extend from the riverfront to Lake Pontchartrain
- The New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts, devoted to educating local students in the arts, is located in a riverfront complex of adapted industrial buildings abutting Press Street
- Many small local restaurants and bars are scattered through the District, while restaurants and music venues on Frenchmen Street tend to serve a wider audience



Creole cottages were built without front yards



This double shotgun has a small fenced front yard



This 2-story Creole style corner building has a wrap-around gallery

URBAN FORM

Setting/Landscape

- Most buildings are set directly on the street creating a dense urban fabric
- Some shotguns have small front yards edged with ornamental iron fences
- Rear yards of Creole cottages are often walled or enclosed and can include former service buildings

Massing/Form

- The majority of buildings are residential, 1- to 1½-stories, and raised above grade
- The majority of residential buildings are of wood or stuccoed masonry construction with gabled or hipped roofs

Styles/Types

- Common styles include Creole, Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Eastlake and Arts and Crafts

- Shotgun cottages began appearing in the late 1840s, and continued to be built until the early 20th century
- Architectural character is dominated by 2 house types: 1½-story Creole cottage and 1-story shotguns in 2, 3 and 4-bay configurations, some with side halls or galleries
- The commercial corridor located along St. Claude Avenue includes a variety of building styles and types

Public Spaces

- Washington Square Park is the heart of the District

Commercial/Industrial

- Commercial buildings are scattered throughout the District, residential in character, of 1- to 2-stories, located on a corner, with a corner entrance, a gallery or canopy over the sidewalk and display windows
- The institutional and warehouse buildings are typically of brick or metal construction, no taller than 3 stories, and scattered throughout the District with a concentration towards the Mississippi River

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