



Old Mandeville Street Strolls Landmarks

"...to Mandeville, which nestles near the border of the lake with neighboring villas and charming summer residences stretching along the shore..... Then came the fury of a tropical storm, succeeded by a magnificent sunset in the midst of clouds of gold and fire seen beyond the giant trees." From a letter by Pere Pierre Alphonse Chocarne, May 17, 1867.

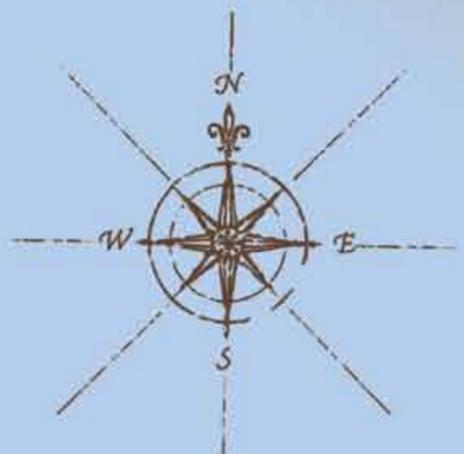
Sponsored by the City of Mandeville, Louisiana
Founded in 1834 by Jean Bernard Xavier Philippe de Marigny de Mandeville

Old Mandeville Historic Association
Jean Baptiste Lang House
605 Carroll Street, Mandeville Louisiana, 70448
www.oldmandevillehistoricassociation.org

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Lake Pontchartrain



Sources:

- Historic Survey of Mandeville, Louisiana by Sally Reeves, 2009.
- St. Tammany Parish, L'autre Cote du Lac, by Frederick S. Ellis, 1998.
- Mandeville on the Lake, A Sesquicentennial Album 1880-1990, C. Howard Nichols, editor, 1990.
- St. Tammany Parish archives, Covington, Louisiana.
- St. Tammany Farmer archives.
- Lake Pontchartrain, by W. Adolphe Roberts, 1948.
- 1834 map of Mandeville by Louis Bringier
- National Register of Historic Places website.
- St. Tammany Parish, by J. S. Glass, 1905.
- This Was Our Town, Mandeville, by Millie Fischer, 1967.
- Local lore.
- Old Mandeville Historic Association

Begin your journey of about 7 miles at:

- 675 Lafitte St. The Mandeville Trailhead, 1998. On the site of the former rail depot and a stop along the recent 'Rails to Trails' conversion, The Tammany Trace; it includes a Cultural Interpretive Center, market, amphitheater, and splash fountain.



Go west by car on Woodrow St. or by bike on the Tammany Trace to Carroll St., turn left (south):



- 605 Carroll St. Jean Baptiste Lang House in the Kierr Family Garden. Circa 1850, this Creole cottage was moved from the corner of Wilkinson St. and Lakeshore Dr. in 2012. After suffering heavy damage during Hurricane Katrina (2005), it was moved to this location by the city, and is being restored by the Old Mandeville Historic Association. Museum, gift shop, library, special events. oldmandevillehistoricalassociation.org

Continue south on Carroll St:

- 211 Carroll St. The Bible Church, originally dedicated as the Union Protestant Church, 1876. In 1886, C. H. Jenkins built the belfry for the bell, which is in use today.



- 201 Carroll St. St. Tammany Bank Building, 1907. Until the mid 1900s this area was 'downtown' with banks, general stores, schools, shops, churches, pharmacy, restaurants, hotels, rooming houses, and post office.



- The Mandeville Lakefront, 1834. This passive park, about one mile in length, was set apart by protective covenant by the town's founder, Jean Bernard Xavier Philippe de Marigny de Mandeville (1785-1868). On Lake Pontchartrain (so named in 1699 by Pierre LeMoynes, Sieur d'Iberville for the French Minister of Marine, Louis Phelypoux, Count de Pontchartrain), this is Mandeville's heart and soul. Once there were numerous private and public wharves, steamer traffic, an electric rail car, and bath houses. All that remains of this golden age (1870-1930) is the gazebo, which has been rebuilt many times (2100 block) and the fountain, once fed by a natural spring (2200 block).



Turn left (east):



- 2113 Lakeshore Dr. Rest A While. There are three surviving buildings of what was once a large complex: The largest is the Frapart Hotel, built in 1880. It is the last surviving 19th century hotel building left from Mandeville's golden age. It was known as the Margaret Rodd House for 100 years (1905-2005). The center Creole cottage is one of three built by Thomas Hynes in 1850. These guest cottages accommodated vacationers arriving via steamer to escape the heat and disease of the New Orleans summer. The buildings were moved back to make room for the larger Frapart Hotel in 1880. Only one remains on the property. In 1905, the Anderson family donated this expansive property to the International Order of the King's Daughters and Sons. For over 100 years this site provided respite for the poor, particularly women and children. An early member and supporter was educator and philanthropist Sophie B. Wright. The third building, a Craftsman cottage, was dedicated in 1916 as a memorial to her. Heavy damage to the property during Hurricane Katrina (2005) ended this long legacy of social good.



- 2025 Lakeshore Dr. This Creole cottage, circa 1849, is said to have been built and variously occupied by Marigny (town founder) family members. By the 1880s, it was operating as a casino/bar. The Bechac family acquired the property in 1916 and maintains ownership to this day.



- 2001 Lakeshore Dr. Justine, circa 1786, was moved by barge to this site in 2003 from the Bayou Teche area. It is adorned with fanciful woodwork depicting snakes, owls, and Indians reflecting its bayou heritage.

- 1951 Lakeshore Dr. Built as a tavern, circa 1850, this is Mandeville's only masonry building from the antebellum period. In the 1860s, it was part of a large complex of buildings known as the Soldiers' Home, where Drs. Dousan and Givens cared for Confederate soldiers until funding was lost, circa 1880.



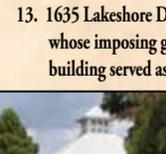
- 1815 Lakeshore Dr. Flagstaff, circa 1849. On the National Register of Historic Places, local lore attributes its construction to Joseph Vial, the builder responsible for several surviving Old Mandeville homes from this period. Extensive renovation in 1915, possibly following the destructive hurricane of that year, resulted in an updated Colonial Revival facade.



- 1721 Lakeshore Dr. Bertus-Ducatel House/Little Flower Villa, circa 1835. On the National Register of Historic Places, this Creole cottage once served as a retreat house (1943) for the Society of the Redemptorists who bestowed the name 'Little Flower Villa' in honor of Carmelite nun St. Therese of Lisieux.



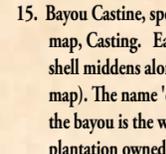
- 1717 Lakeshore Dr. Moore House/High Tide, circa 1840. Creole cottage on the National Register of Historic Places.



- 1635 Lakeshore Dr. Oriol-Sheen Cottage, circa 1849. This is a Creole cottage whose imposing gable and wrap-around galleries were turned to face the street. This building served as The Mandeville Yacht Club, 1893-1904.



- Bayou Castine Harbor. Battle of Lake Pontchartrain State Historic Marker.



- Bayou Castine, spelled variously as Castein, Castaine, Castaign and on the earliest map, Casting. Early settlers were the Acopissa Indians. Pottery Hill, one of their shell middens along this bayou, is on the National Register of Historic Places (see map). The name 'castein' is an Acopissa word meaning 'flea.' The east bank of the bayou is the western boundary of Fontainebleau State Park, named after the plantation owned by Mandeville's founder. The park is on the National Register of Historic Places.



Turn left (north) on to Jackson St.:



- 140 Jackson St. Pontchartrain Yacht Club, founded 1967. The first yacht club on this site was the Mandeville Yacht Club, 1921. The original building was destroyed during Hurricane Katrina (2005). This new complex was dedicated in 2007.

Continue north. If you are traveling by bike, turn left (west) on to the Tammany Trace. If by car, turn left (west) on to Montgomery St.:



- Between Montgomery St., Villere St. (Tammany Trace), and Little Bayou Castine. The Mandeville Cemetery sits on 5 acres of land set aside for this purpose by the city's founder. Established in 1860, there are documented gravesites dating from the 1830s.

Leave the cemetery by its southern gate, turn right (west). Follow the Trace or Villere St. to Lamarque St., turn left (south):



- 430 Lamarque St. The Dew Drop Social and Benevolent Hall #2, 1895. This is the oldest unaltered rural jazz hall in the world. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Friends of the Dew Drop watch over this city-owned historic site and schedule Spring and Fall Concert series. www.dewdropjazzhall.com

- 229 Lamarque St., Newell United Methodist Church. Established in 1865 by African-Americans, it is one of the oldest Methodist congregations in St. Tammany Parish.



Turn right (west) on to Claiborne St., then right (north) on to Marigny Ave., left (west) on to Jefferson St.:



- 1923 Jefferson St. The original town hall. This building has served many civic purposes since the construction of the new city hall on East Causeway Approach. The town was incorporated in 1840. The election of a mayor and five aldermen was decided. Boundaries were set, public buildings planned and ordinances written and passed. The city has records of elected officials beginning in 1869. Perhaps, this location was set aside for this public purpose around then. Just behind is the old jail, circa 1938, facing Madison St.



Continue west on Jefferson St. to Girod St.:

- 246 Girod St. E. Prieto and Sons, circa 1910. The old Prieto home is next door to this former general store.



Turn right (north) on Girod St.:



- 347 Girod St. The Allenton Hotel, built 1927, was once a popular destination with dance hall and dining room on the first floor and ten guest rooms above. During the construction of the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway (1956-1961), the building was a rooming house for workers.

Turn left (west) on Madison St.:



- 325 Lafitte St. Holy Family Hall was moved to this site by barge in 1897 from a monastery near Ponchatoula for the Sisters of the Holy Family. This organization of African-American sisters ran The Holy Family School for Negroes here from 1897 to the 1950s.



- 402 Lafitte St. Johnson House/Maison Lafitte, circa 1905. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this home was built for Mrs. Marie (Emma) Duteil Prudhomme who sold her residence at 2423 Lakeshore Dr. in search of a 'more retired section of town.' The elaborate cathedral vault of the Prudhomme family is a dominant feature in Mandeville's cemetery.

Turn left (south) on to Lafitte St.:

- Corner of Lafitte St. and Jefferson St. Lady of the Lake Roman Catholic Church. Founded as St. Teresa, the original building was of wooden construction and faced Jefferson St. The name change occurred around 1904. There is a painting hanging on the wall, just inside the entrance that depicts the drowning in Lake Pontchartrain of a young summer resident, Louis Alaux. The painting was done by his father, Alex, based on a sketch by Louis completed the day before his drowning. Its title is "Our Lady of the Lake." The church that stands today was dedicated in 1953.



- 301 Lafitte St. Griffin's Bakery/Raquet's (Racquet's), circa 1900. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its unusual gallery overhang and original brick oven (now gone).

Continue south to Lakeshore Dr. Turn right (west) on to Lakeshore Dr.:

- 2400 block of Lakeshore Dr. The photo shows one from a row of three imposing Creole houses built between 1835 and 1850. Only the center house, 2423, was built as a year-round residence by Theodule Verret, an early mayor and civic leader. 2407 was originally a hunting lodge, and this one, at 2441, was built by a New Orleans family as a summer retreat.



Turn right (north) on to Lafayette St.:



- 136 Lafayette St. This is the oldest house in Old Mandeville, circa 1777. It was moved here from Edgard, Louisiana in 1997. The posts, visible on the facade, indicate an early form of construction: 'bousillage entre poteaux' or moss, horse hair, and mud between posts.

Continue north. Turn left (west) on to Jefferson St.:

- 310 Lafayette St. The Maestri House, circa 1910. Built as a summer retreat for New Orleans mayor (1936-1946), Robert Maestri. This unique property covers two city blocks.



Continue west on Jefferson St. Turn right (north) on to Carondelet St., then left (west) on to Center St., immediate right (north) on to East St. Follow the racetrack across West Beach Parkway to West St. and back around to West Beach Parkway. Turn right (south) to Lakeshore Dr.



- West Beach Parkway Subdivision, 1925. Bounded by Monroe St., Lakeshore Dr., East St., and West St., this early development was before its time, boasting covenants, set back regulation, square footage requirements, and sidewalks. There was even the promise of water 'in perpetuity.' Constructed on the property of an early dairy farm (Mon Plaisir), the remnants of the Great Southern Lumber Co., and many tons of fill, the footprint forms a racetrack shape. This was a backup plan if the subdivision failed. It didn't. Bungalows, dating from the mid 1920s through the mid 1950s, filled the subdivision. Unfortunately, many buildings were lost in Hurricane Katrina (2005) resulting in empty lots and in-fill of new elevated homes.

Turn left (east) on to Lakeshore Dr.:

- 2726 Lakeshore Dr. Morel-Nott/Hanisee House, circa 1820s. This Creole cottage, on the National Register of Historic Places, predates the founding of Mandeville. Moved from its original location on Lakeshore Dr. between Foy St. and Lamarque St. in 1965 to save it from demolition, its footprint is clearly visible on Mandeville's first plan by Louis Bringier in 1834.



- 2600 block of Lakeshore Dr. Out in Lake Pontchartrain, the Shack, circa 1920s. Barely visible above the water are the remains of a destination of every Mandeville teenager for 3 generations. A remnant of an old weather station, it once stood high above the water providing the perfect diving platform and Christmas light display until Hurricane Katrina (2005).

- 2500 block of Lakeshore Dr. This live oak chenier of ancient trees draped in Spanish moss survives on the highest point along the entire shoreline of Lake Pontchartrain. These few additional feet above sea level protected this iconic stand from the most destructive forces of Hurricane Katrina (2005).



- The Seawall. The WPA replaced an original wooden seawall in the 1930s adding a 7000' concrete seawall, a 1200' wooden wall, and 150' concrete 'wings' out into the lake to 'catch wave-washed sand.' The 'wings' remain. The current seawall was constructed in the mid-1990s to repair damage by Hurricane Andrew (1992).

Follow Lakeshore Dr. to Lafitte St., turn left (north), and travel 6 blocks back to the Trailhead.