

LIVING WITH HISTORY IN NEW ORLEANS' NEIGHBORHOODS

Algiers Point



PHOTO: BRYON CORNELISON



It's a short ferry ride from the foot of Canal Street in busy downtown New Orleans to Algiers Point, but the transition is dramatic. Algiers Point is New Orleans' Brooklyn without the bustle, the place with great views of the city skyline and the Mississippi River. Part of Orleans Parish since the city annexed it in 1870, this neighborhood still has the feel of a village. That character has made "The Point" a favorite with musicians and artists. Initially, they also were drawn by affordable property, but the housing values have risen steadily over the last two decades and are comparable today to Faubourg Marigny and the Lower Garden District.

Algiers was part of the land grant given to New Orleans founder Jean Baptiste LeMoynes, Sieur de Bienville by the Company of the Indies in 1719 and was subsequently acquired by Adrian de Pauger, one of the French engineers who laid out the Vieux Carré.



PRESERVATION RESOURCE CENTER OF NEW ORLEANS
INVITES YOU TO EXPLORE THE LOCAL SIDE OF LIFE
ACROSS THE RIVER IN ALGIERS POINT,
"NEW ORLEANS' BROOKLYN WITHOUT THE BUSTLE."



WALKING TOURS

We encourage you to use good judgment and common sense in taking these tours.

TOUR A

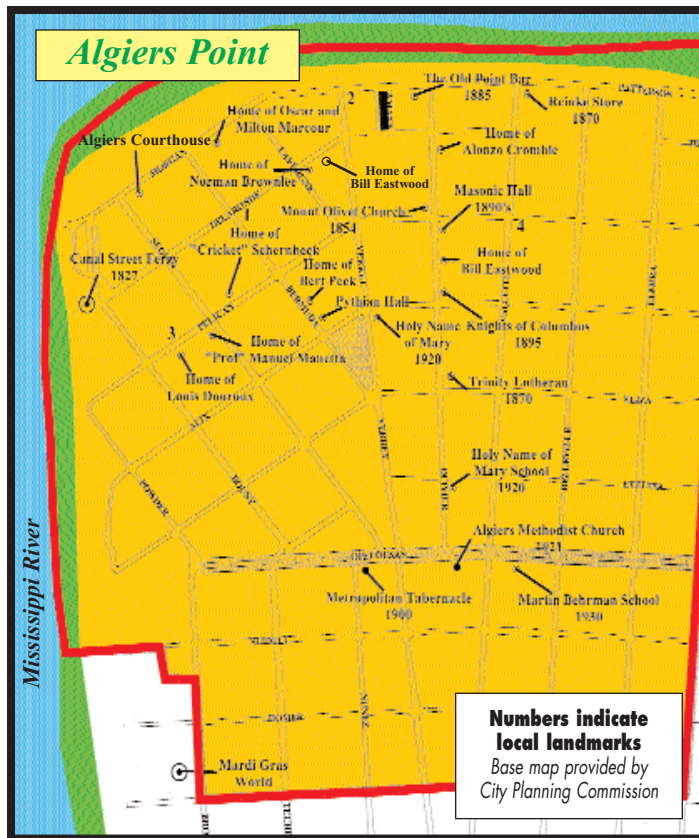
Ferry landing to Pelican Avenue

(walk) The ferry ride across the Mississippi is one of the most pleasant excursions, day or night, in New Orleans, and it's free unless you take a car. (Ferries run 5:45 a.m. to 11:45 p.m.

between the foot of Canal St. and Algiers Point.) Just opposite the ferry landing is the Crown and Anchor Pub where you're most likely to meet the natives of this 19th century village. The levee next to the landing is the planned site of the interactive Jazz Walk of Fame honoring the musical legends of New Orleans. Walk right along the base of the levee (Bouny St.) to Pelican Street. Citizens once lined the walkway outside 228 Pelican to see Martin Behrman, New Orleans' only Algerine mayor. In 1906 the corner store building at 239 Pelican was home to 17-year-old Manuel Manetta, who went on to become a famed jazz musician and music teacher. 302 Olivier St. (corner of Pelican) rang with hot music and dance steps in the 1890s when it served as the Masonic Hall with a dance hall upstairs. Across Pelican, the former boarding house at 244 Olivier was briefly the home of jazzman Papa Jack Laine. Mount Olivet Episcopal Church (1854) at 530 Pelican St. is the oldest surviving structure in Algiers. The tiny tiled-roof Gulf station (1930) was the longest continuously operated service station in the South until it closed in 1990. Across the street, on the site of a former fire station, whimsical Confetti Park invites kids with its colorful play equipment and a fence designed by artist Steven Kline. The Country Gothic Mount Olivet Church at 530 Pelican is Algiers' oldest church and a survivor of the 1895 fire that destroyed 250 homes here. The Greek Revival home at 705 Pelican (1848) was built by shipping and lumber magnate Francois Vallette and later served as one of Algiers' first funeral parlors. The Hubbell Algiers Point Library (1907) at 725 Pelican is one of four Carnegie grant library buildings left in New Orleans. In the next block, the historic Belleville School building has been adapted into condominiums. The end of Pelican marks the start of what were vast railroad yards until the 1950s. Instead of the din of railroad fabrication, you'll likely hear birds singing today. Turn one block left and double back on Delaronde St., or walk an additional block to the left to the restaurants and coffee shops of Patterson Street.

By 1812 it was the Duverjé Plantation, a small part of which Andre Seguin purchased and turned into the town's first boatyard in 1819. Shipbuilding and repair flourished along with stockyards and slaughterhouses. The railroads brought the enormous Algiers rail yard, stretching the equivalent of 22 city blocks from the river. These enterprises drew German, Irish and Sicilian immigrants, as well as African Americans, to Algiers. At its heyday, this sleepy town had six ferries to New Orleans' east bank, including one ferry capable of shuttling railroad cars and live-stock. With such vast enterprises employing hundreds of men, it's not surprising that Algiers also had 36 bars and several dance halls in 1911. The local scene benefited from the many musicians, including Henry "Red" Allen, Peter Bocage, Oscar "Papa" Celestine, "Kid" Thomas Valentine and Elizabeth "Memphis Minnie" Douglas, who lived in Algiers.

Once crowded with industrial sheds, the Algiers riverfront today offers three miles of levee for walking, biking and picnics. Theaters and corner stores have found new life as recording studios, glassblowing workshops and specialty stores. A walk through the streets of this village will reveal community parks, ancient oaks, and tidy Victorian cottages adorned with gingerbread woodwork. Detour to Mardi Gras World for a glimpse into the fantasy business of float making. If you'd like to stay the night, there are nearly a dozen bed and breakfasts in the Point.



TOUR B

Algiers Courthouse and Patterson Street

(walk) From the landing, walk left along the levee on Morgan Street. The "new" Algiers Courthouse (1896) at 225 Morgan St. was built on the site of the old Duverjé plan-

tation house after the fire of 1895. It is the third oldest continuously used courthouse in the state. Behind the courthouse, the former stable is slated for use as a museum of Algiers Point history. The "camelback" double house at 237 Morgan was the first home rebuilt after the 1895 fire. From 1920-23 this building was also the home of trumpeter Emmett Hardy, who reportedly once bested young Louis Armstrong in a cutting contest. Follow the levee as Morgan St. merges with Patterson Street. The levee at Patterson and Verrett affords one of the finest views of New Orleans. The bank building at 501 Patterson (1906/07) was designed by Emile Weil as home of the Commercial Germania Trust and Savings Bank, which catered to Algiers' resident German population. Proceed past Larkin Park, site of St. John's Market in the 1870s and later the Algiers Market, to reach The Old Point Bar, 545 Patterson. The corner store building across Olivier St. at

601 Patterson was the original home of Michael's Cajun Restaurant and Dance Hall. Both businesses spurred the revitalization of Patterson St. by bringing in excellent live music to this stretch of the riverfront. The area now offers a coffee shop and a fine dining establishment. From here, walk along Olivier St. with its ancient oaks and return to the ferry landing via Delaronde Street.

Other important Algiers Point buildings:

- **Converse House** (c. 1850), 511 Seguin: West Indies style villa, once a convent school.
- **Seger-Rees-Donner House** (1850), 405-407 Delaronde, large two-family Greek Revival double home built for a pair of sea captains and their families. The large double was a building style unique to Algiers.
- **Algy Theater** (1940), 446 Vallette St. This classic Art Deco movie house is now a glassblowing studio.
- **Metropolitan Tabernacle** (195), 501-509 Opelousas Ave. As Philip Foto's Folly Theater, this venue presented vaudeville, movies, and minstrel and musical acts in the teens and '20s. Emmett Hardy and Papa Jack Laine's Reliance Band played here.
- **630 Pacific Ave.** (1892) This "shotgun" home gained international fame when it was featured as a "This Old House" makeover in 1991.

Thanks to Kevin Herridge for use of "Over Da River" and "Brooklyn of the South" walking tours, which are available at Algiers businesses and the Preservation Resource Center.





- 1719 Algiers Point included in lands granted to New Orleans founder Jean Baptiste LeMoynes, Sieur de Bienville
- 1721 Adrian de Pauger acquires Algiers Point
- 1803 Louisiana Purchase
- 1812 Majority of Algiers Point becomes Duverjé Plantation
- 1819 Andre Seguin establishes first Algiers boatyard
- 1827 Ferry service instituted between New Orleans and Algiers
- 1837 First dry dock in Algiers
- 1840 Town of Algiers laid out as "Duverjéburg" on former Duverjé Plantation; Algiers first appears in City Directories
- 1853 Algiers railroad yards established
- 1895 Fires destroys 250 houses in Algiers
- 1950s Algiers railroad yard demolished
- 1972 Algiers Point Association formed
- 1978 Algiers Point named to National Register Historic District



Annual Neighborhood Events

- March: Algiers Courthouse Catfish Fry
- August: Night Out Against Crime
- October: Octoberfest
- November: Algiers Point home tour
- December: Algiers Courthouse 5K Classic Race; Christmas bonfires along the levee

Neighborhood Organizations

- Algiers Point Association (www.algierspoint.org)
- Algiers Historical Society
- Old Algiers Main Street Corporation
- Friends of Algiers Courthouse
- Algiers Economic Development Foundation
- Confetti Kids

The Crown and Anchor English Pub

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has promoted the preservation, restoration
and revitalization of New Orleans' historic
neighborhoods and architecture.*



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