

LIVING WITH HISTORY IN NEW ORLEANS' NEIGHBORHOODS

Uptown



PHOTO: MARY FITZPATRICK

PRESERVATION RESOURCE CENTER OF NEW ORLEANS
INVITES YOU TO EXPLORE THE LOCAL SIDE OF LIFE
UPTOWN, THE NATION'S LARGEST NATIONAL REGISTER
DISTRICT WITH OVER 8,000 HISTORIC BUILDINGS.



"To the typical Uptowner, New Orleans was Uptown," writes author Margaret LeCorgne.

The Uptown National Register Historic District, beginning upriver of the Garden District and stretching to Broadway, is a self-contained residential world. It's a place

where late 19th-century homes are scrupulously maintained and small-scale restaurants and shops reinforce the feeling that you live in a village, not a city. Some of the best private and parochial schools in New Orleans make this neighborhood attractive to families.

Because smaller shotgun and camelback houses are so abundant, especially close to the Mississippi River, Uptown draws renters and younger homeowners as well.

Uptown was part of lands granted to Louisiana Governor Jean Baptiste LeMoyne, Sieur de Bienville in 1719, then divided into smaller plantations in 1723. Sugar was first granulated on one of these, the de Boré Plantation, in 1794, and a major brickyard had developed on the Bouligny Plantation by 1820.





Subdivision began when Faubourg Plaisance, now the area around Louisiana Avenue, was carved from the Wiltz Plantation next to Lafayette City in 1807. Upriver plantations followed suit by subdividing, a process encouraged in 1835 when the owners of Carrollton Plantation and several developers introduced the New Orleans and Carrollton Railroad. In 1850 seven faubourgs, or developments, combined to form Jefferson City (between Toledano and Joseph streets), which was then in Jefferson Parish. New Orleans annexed Jefferson City and the settlements of Hurstville, Bloomingdale, Burtheville and Greenville, all of which are now part of Uptown, in 1870. By that time, prominent citizens had already begun building urban villas on entire squares along St. Charles Avenue. As land values rose, the squares were subdivided to permit more homes. It wasn't until the 1884-85 World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition on the present-day site of Audubon Park, however, that the areas away from St. Charles experienced a building boom.

Today's Uptown retains many of the grand homes built in the 1890s along St. Charles Avenue and in exclusive cul-de-sac developments like Rosa Park. On oak-shaded streets intersecting St. Charles, frame houses with ample galleries are the norm. Closer to the river, more modest shotguns built to house 19th-century workers are steadily being refurbished, insuring that this premier urban residential neighborhood for over a century will continue its legacy of gracious living.

TOURS

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

TOUR A

A ride on the streetcar is a fine way to survey the course of New Orleans' upriver march during the 19th century. Uptown proper begins at Louisiana Avenue, where the Wiltz family subdivided their plantation into

Faubourg Plaisance in 1807. You're now passing through Jefferson City, a separate entity within Jefferson Parish until 1870. Milton H. Latter Memorial Library (1907), 5120 St. Charles, is the only grand St. Charles house Uptown open to the public. Many of the galleried wooden mansions lining St. Charles are attributed to Thomas Sully, though Favrot and Livaudais, Emile Weil, Henry Howard, and other important New Orleans architects are also represented here. Beyond Joseph Street, plantations developed into faubourgs one at a time, with the result that streets paralleling the river often jog and twist to meet one another. Temple Sinai (1927, addition 1970), 6227 St. Charles, is home to New Orleans' oldest reform congregation, while Gothic Holy Name of Jesus Church (6367 St. Charles), built in 1914 for the Jesuits of Loyola University, is a landmark for Catholics in the city. The passage between Audubon Park and Tulane and Loyola universities is one of the prettiest in New Orleans. Just beyond Tulane, Audubon Place is a private street where some of the city's showiest turn-of-the-century mansions sit on 100-foot-wide lots. The large white corner house (built in 1907) just beyond the gates to the Audubon Place was occupied by United Fruit Company magnate Samuel Zemurray before it was donated to Tulane University to serve as the president's home.



TOUR B

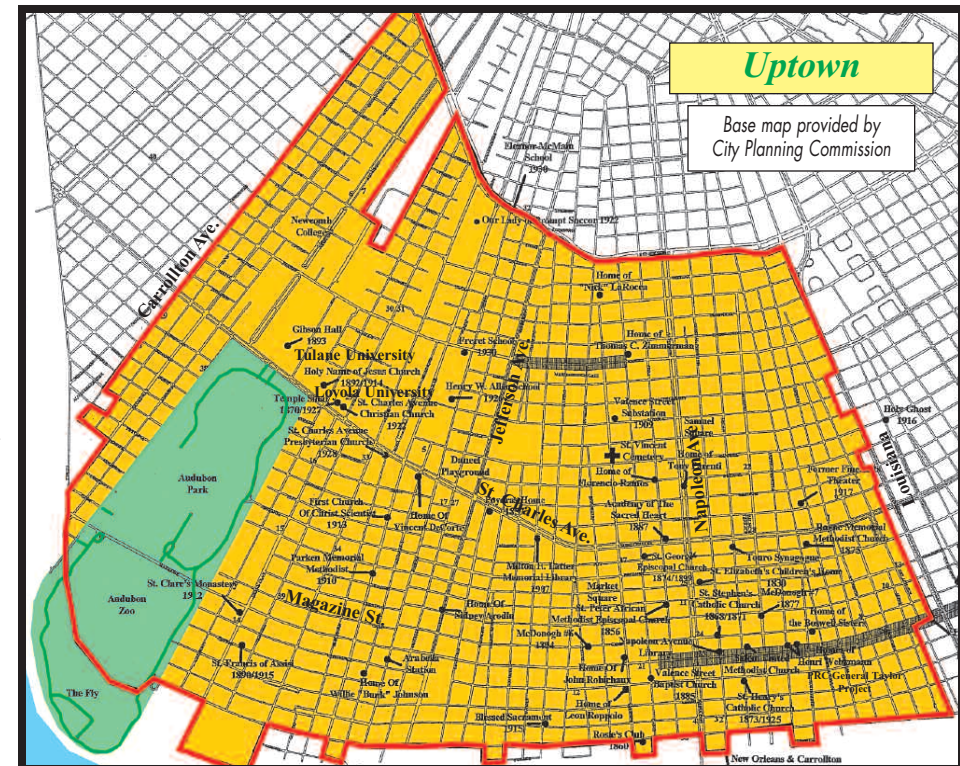
Walk/Ride It's impossible to understand Uptown's energy without lingering on Magazine Street, though you can survey this mixed-use thoroughfare from the Magazine Street bus (#11) if you prefer. Close to

Louisiana Avenue, antique shops and design studios share the street with hardware stores and lunch spots. Lawrence Square at the corner of Napoleon and Magazine was part of the original plan of Jefferson City. The New Orleans Academy of Art, an art school and gallery at the corner of Valmont, did much to revitalize the area when it was founded in 1978. Beyond Jefferson Avenue, retail stores and coffee shops jostle for space. The abandoned Arabella Bus Barn (c. 1880) has

found new life as an attractive natural foods and gourmet store, and this, in turn, is spurring new activity. At Henry Clay Avenue you'll pass the convent of the Order of Franciscan Poor Clares (720 Henry Clay Ave., 1912), an Irish order set up in this location to serve poor immigrant workers. Magazine passes here through the back of Audubon Park, affording views of both the Audubon Golf Course and the zoo before joining Leake Ave. at the levee. Follow the curve to discover Uptown Square, site of the Tuesday morning Crescent City Farmers' Market, at the end of tree-lined lower Broadway which divides Uptown from the Carrollton historic district.

TOUR C

Bike Uptown's shaded streets and Audubon Park are irresistible to bike riders. A good tour would take in Audubon Park, with attention to the houses that line its perimeter on Exposition Blvd. (pedestrians only) and Walnut Street, a time capsule of early 20th-century middle class comforts. From here, cross St. Charles Avenue and duck up Newcomb Blvd., one of several exclusive residential parks developed Uptown between 1891 and the late 1930s. Turn right on Freret to pass through the campuses of Tulane and Loyola, then turn right at Calhoun and return to St. Charles Ave. From here it's hard to go wrong.



Proceed straight ahead up Calhoun, or turn left and meander on residential streets paralleling St. Charles. Palmer, Webster, Henry Clay, Prytania, and Joseph streets and any one of the residential parks jutting off Freret also bear exploring.





Neighborhood Associations

- Alliance of Uptown Neighborhood Organizations
- Audubon Area Zoning Association
- Audubon Boulevard Association
- Audubon Riverside Neighborhood Association
- Audubon Street Neighborhood Association
- Baronne Street Neighborhood Association
- Boulogny Improvement Association
- Calhoun-Palmer Association
- Delachaise Neighborhood Association
- Faubourg Delachaise Neighborhood Association
- Faubourg Marengo Neighborhood Association
- Magazine Street Merchants Association
- Milan St. Neighborhood Association
- St. Charles Neighborhood Association
- St. Charles Ave. Merchants Association
- Soniat Square Association
- Touro Boulogny Association
- Upper Audubon Association
- Uptown Neighborhood Improvement, Inc.

- 1719 Bienville granted lands that include present-day Uptown
- 1723 Bienville divides upriver end of his grant for sale as plantations
- 1794 Sugar first granulated on de Boré Plantation, now Audubon Park
- 1803 Louisiana Purchase
- 1807 Wiltz Plantation divided into first subdivision Uptown
- 1833 New Orleans and Carrollton Railroad (later the St. Charles Avenue Streetcar) chartered; begins operating in 1835
- 1834 Plantation home of Gen. Wade Hampton with Upperline and Napoleon Avenue as upper and lower limits
- 1850 Jefferson City incorporated
- 1855 Delachaise Plantation subdivided into Faubourg Delachaise
- 1870 Jefferson City annexed by New Orleans
- 1871 City of New Orleans purchases Foucher (formerly de Boré) Plantation
- 1883 Magazine and Prytania streetcars extended to Exposition Blvd.
- 1884-85 World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exhibition spurs residential building Uptown
- 1886 Exposition grounds renamed Audubon Park
- 1891 Rosa Park, first of Uptown's residential parks, established
- 1894 Tulane University relocates to St. Charles Ave.
- 1904 Loyola University establishes campus on St. Charles Ave.
- 1930s Merz Memorial Zoo in Audubon Park built with WPA funds
- 1977 Audubon Zoological Society and Friends of the Zoo revive zoo
- 1985 Uptown New Orleans established as National Register Historic District

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