

A NEW ORLEANS HISTORIC WALKING TOUR:

ALGIERS POINT WALKING TOUR

RIDE THE FERRY TO ALGIERS POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT

Settled 1719

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Walking distance from the French Quarter

Cross the mighty Mississippi River on the Canal Street-Algiers Point ferry, in continuous operation since 1827

Walk the quiet streets of this 19th century village and discover “New Orleans’ Best Kept Secret”

**ALGIERS POINT HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD SELF-
GUIDED WALKING TOUR.**

Suggested Route (approx. 2 miles)

Leave the ferry terminal; *(turn left [downriver] on Morgan St., or spend a few minutes on the Mississippi River levee enjoying the spectacular view of the skyline of New Orleans or watch the boats drifting by. For the bird watchers, the batture (the area of foreshore between the levee and the river) is a haven for pelicans, cormorants, egrets, hawks, owls, gulls and numerous smaller birds). Imagine, in the mid-19th century, seeing steamboats, dry docks, lumber yards and railroad tracks crowding the riverbank.*

1. 225 Morgan St., Algiers Courthouse, 1896. The Richardsonian Romanesque style building was constructed after the Algiers Fire of 1895, when approximately 200 homes were destroyed, to replace the Duverje plantation home (1812) that had served as a courthouse. The present courthouse is the third oldest continuously used courthouse in the State of Louisiana. Feel free to enter and

browse this interesting building and check out the Algiers' Jazz exhibit in the foyer.

2. At the rear of the courthouse is the Algiers Carriage House & Jail.

(On leaving the courthouse, continue downriver on Patterson, or for a better view, get back up on the levee, to the corner of Verret St.)

3. 501 Patterson St., Canal-Commercial Trust & Savings Bank (originally the Commercial Germania Trust & Savings Bank), 1907. Designed by noted New Orleans architect Emile Weil in the Classical style with marble facing and terracotta brackets and is a New Orleans historic landmark.

(Continue on Patterson to Larkin Park)

4. Larkin Park. Site of St. John's Market in the 1870's and later the Algiers Farmer's Market, this pocket playground was dedicated in 1926 to honor Father Thomas J. Larkin, S. M., who served 18 years as a much loved and respected pastor in the parish of Holy Name of Mary. It was redesigned and rebuilt in 1989 by the Algiers Point Association.

(Continue on Patterson and turn right on Olivier St.)

5. 200 block, Olivier St., 1850's-1890's. Well-kept homes built over a fifty year span feature a wide range of architectural styles including Greek Revival (205), Italianate (221, 222, 224), Eastlake (209), Queen Anne (236), and Creole cottage (239). Notice the carriage house in the rear yard of 236 and the uniquely New Orleans raised bungalow at 228.

(Turn left on Pelican Ave)

6. 718 Pelican Ave., c.1871. Italianate style two-story with a beautiful leaded glass door and a fine example of Corinthian pillars. The brick banquette (French for sidewalk) was unearthed in 1986. Note the Gothic fence, which supports the owners' favorite roses.

7. 813 Pelican Ave., Belleville School, 1895. Built on the site of John Hughes' Hotel.

(At the end of Pelican Ave., was the site of the Algiers Railroad yards, 1853-1950's. The yards were two blocks wide and extended 22 blocks from the river to the Orleans parish line. Railroad engines and cars were constructed and repaired in the yards, and a massive ferry transported both passenger and freight cars across the river to continue their journey to the East and West coasts. Founded in 1852 as the New Orleans, Opelousas & Great Western Railroad, these yards eventually became part of the Southern Pacific system and in their heyday employed approximately 4000 men, which could account for the fact that in 1911 Algiers boasted 39 saloons, 20 of which were in Algiers Point)

(At this point, turn around and backtrack on Pelican Ave.)

8. 725 Pelican Ave., Hubbell Algiers Point Library, 1907. This was originally the site of Eureka Hall, a lodge hall and early music venue. This Italian Renaissance style building is one of four remaining Carnegie Grant buildings in the city and one of two that are still used as libraries.

9. 705 Pelican Ave., 1848. This Greek Revival two-story center hall home was built by Francois Vallette who had interests in shipbuilding and lumber importing in Algiers. Vallette Street is named for him. The Barrett family was later residents and operated one of Algiers' first funeral parlors from their home.

10. 530 Pelican Ave., Mount Olivet Episcopal Church, 1867. This Country Gothic church is the oldest surviving structure in Algiers. It originally faced Olivier Street, but was moved in the 1890's to serve as a hall for a brick church, which was demolished in 1960. The stained glass windows are from that 1894 structure. The congregation dates from 1846.

11. 300 Olivier St., the Old Masonic Hall, 1890's. In addition to its service as a lodge hall, this building was the Algiers Recorder's Court, a police station, and a tax assessor's office.

(Continue along Olivier St.)

12. 342 Olivier St., Knights of Columbus Home, 1895. A grand family residence with Eastlake details, stained glass windows, and a porte-cochere. It has been the home of the Santa Maria Council No.1724, Knights of Columbus since 1915. The home served as hospital for Algiers during the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918.

(Turn left on Alix then right on Vallette)

13. 446 Vallette St., 1940. This Art Deco style former movie theatre, the "Algy," has been converted into a glass blowing studio and serves as reminder of the times when commercial buildings stood on almost every block.

(Cross Vallette St. onto Eliza St. so that the former Holy Name of Mary School is to your left)

14. International School of Louisiana (formerly Holy Name of Mary School).

(Corner of Eliza and Olivier Sts.)

15. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1911. The congregation was organized in 1875 by German families in Algiers and the first church was soon built on the lot just to the left of the present

structure. The Gothic/Colonial Revival style church was built with lovely period art glass windows.

(Continue on Eliza St. to Verret St. and turn right)

16. McDonogh Park (to your left, between Bermuda, Verret and Alix Sts.), known locally as the “Bermuda Triangle,” offers a large play area centered by the Algiers War Memorial. This was the site of McDonogh No.4 School, the first public school in Algiers and a 1907 fire station.

17. Holy Name of Mary Church, 1929, corner of Verret and Alix Sts. The church is built in Tudor Gothic style with over 75 stained glass windows (several from the Meyer firm of Munich, Germany) and beautiful marble and artwork from an earlier church. The Catholic parish in Algiers was established in 1848, and a small wooden church was built across from the Duverje home on Morgan St. In response to a growing population, the congregation first built at this location (a mid-19th century site of voodoo dancing and a Federal prison camp during the Civil War) in 1870.

18. 346 Verret St., Rosenthal’s Drug Store. A popular hang out with a soda fountain in the 20’s and 30’s, this large corner store was originally Kleinkemper’s Grocery. A Hibernia Bank branch operated at 340 Verret St. where the façade shows square pilasters and store windows of a different style from the main building. On the Alix St. side of the building notice the service wing extension which was used as living quarters for servants.

(Continue on Verret St. to Confetti Park)

19. Confetti Park, corner of Verret St. and Pelican Ave. Algiers’ first firehouse was built here in 1851. The small beautifully maintained playground was a legacy of the Duverje family and was playfully redesigned using a grant from the Arts Council of New Orleans.

(Turn left on Pelican Ave.)

20. 446 Pelican Ave., the Gulf gas station, 1930. The longest continuously operated service station in the South until it closed in 1990, the tiny tile roofed brick structure was the model of efficiency and customer service at the beginning of the automobile age.

(Turn right on Lavergne St.)

21. 405-407 Delaronde St., 1850. Corner of Delaronde and Lavergne Sts. This large double-galleried Greek Revival two family home with Gothic railings was built for sea captains and railroad men Augustin Seger and Thomas Rees. The large double is unique to Algiers and reflects the prosperity of the owners. The magnificent live oak tree in the side yard is about 200 years old and one of four similar aged oaks on the Point.

(Turn left on Delaronde St.)

22. 237 Bermuda St., 1896. This was the home of Dr. & Mrs. W. H. Riley. Built in the very latest style to reflect the owner's status in the community and replaced a similar size home which burned in the 1895 Fire. This Neoclassical Revival home is a style popularized by the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition and has several Tiffany-style windows at the front and north side and shows a return to a simpler, less ornamented architectural style. Its large double lot provides a spacious side yard, unusual in Algiers Point.

(Turn left onto Bermuda St.)

23. The 300 block of Bermuda St. is notable for the continuous line of iron fences in front of homes embellished with 19th century gingerbread. Fencing at the front property line was common in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; cast and wrought iron or wooden

picket fences were the norm for large or more modest homes. Many Algiers Point fences have been lost to damage, disrepair, or a desire to “modernize.”

(Turn right on Pelican Ave.)

24. 228 Pelican Ave., 1897. The former home of Martin Behrman, longest serving mayor of New Orleans (1904-1920, 1925-1926), and the only mayor from Algiers. Behrman’s home office was in the right bay of the structure, and Algerines wishing to visit him gathered on the porch and on the sidewalk to wait with their petitions. His Eastlake ornamented Queen Anne home is in a block of homes with fine late-Victorian details, all of which were constructed soon after the Great Fire of 1895.

(Turn right at Bouny St. and head back up the cobbled street towards the ferry terminal. For the Jazz lover, try the Robert E. Nims Jazz Walk of Fame on the levee or the two self-guided Jazz Tours of Algiers [available www.algiershistoricalsociety.org], or search out these other points of interest.)

A. 511 Seguin St. An 1856 Creole cottage with a steeply pitched West Indian-style roofline and front façade roof extension, which forms the front porch. The home was originally a convent built for the sisters of Mount Carmel on the corner of Alix and Seguin Sts. and later moved to this site. The sisters established the first school in Algiers at the former site in 1870.

B. Delcazal Park, where Verret and Seguin Sts. meet Opelousas Ave., was the original site of the Duverje cemetery and chapel. The remains of the Duverje and Olivier families and their slaves were moved in 1916 to Metairie Cemetery, and the land was donated to the City as a playground.

C. The Opelousas Ave. live oaks were planted in 1913 as part of the “City Beautiful” campaign that originated with the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893.

D. 425 Opelousas Ave., Fire Station, 1925. This structure was built on the site of an earlier 1897 fire station.

E. 501 Opelousas Ave., Love’s Outreach Christian Church, was formerly Philip Foto’s Folly Theatre, built in 1915 as a vaudeville and early silent screen theatre. Built on the earlier site of Algiers first playground, which opened in 1913.

F. 637 Opelousas Ave., Algiers United Methodist Church, 1922. This Colonial Revival church replaced an earlier building, at the corner of Delaronde and Lavergne Sts. that was damaged by the hurricane of 1915. The exceptional faceted glass windows were installed in 1979. The Algiers Methodist congregation was organized in 1844.

G. 648 Opelousas Ave., the former Sts. John Masonic Temple, 1926. The site of Jazz dances through the 20’s and 30’s and later served as the Algiers Post Office.

H. 715 Opelousas Ave., Martin Behrman School, 1929. The Spanish Revival Colonial style school was the first public high school in Algiers and retains its decorative stonework, terracotta roof tiles and ornate bell tower. The clock was repaired in 1997 after being dismantled during World War II.

I. 630 Pacific Ave., 1892. The renovation of New Orleans’ most famous “shotgun” house was seen on PBS Television’s “This Old House” in 1991. The floor plan of the shotgun is arranged with all the rooms in a straight line from front to back allowing a bullet shot from the front door to pass out of the rear door without hitting anything. This home was originally a double, or two family, shotgun, and has been converted into a single.

J. 701 Patterson St., Renecky Shoe Company Store, 1870's. A well-preserved example of a corner store with residence above that retains its cast iron railed balconies over the sidewalk and features the original stained glass window signs. The second floor was formerly a meeting and concert hall.

K. 509 Wagner St., 1916, the former home of "beat writer" William S. Burroughs in 1948-49, Jack Kerouac and Neal Cassady being two of his visitors. His books include "Queer," "Naked Lunch" and "The Soft Machine." This home is outside of the Algiers Point neighborhood and can be reached by a 15 minute walk downriver from the Renecky Shoe Company Store on the levee or Patterson St., then turn right on Wagner St.

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