

## Louisiana History

The first settlers came to the town site of Louisiana in 1817. They included James Stark who brought with him scions of fruit trees. These were to become the stock for what is the oldest nursery in the United States. The retail garden center (located on Georgia Street can still be visited.

The Port of Louisiana, one of the major ports on the Mississippi River, was alive with goods and arriving passengers on their way West. The Chicago and Alton Railroad rail bridge built in 1873 and still in use today is the 3rd oldest railroad bridge crossing the Mississippi. The bridge connected the East and West parts of the country and broke the steamship monopoly. Steamers did continue to operate into the middle of the last century. Crossing the Mississippi was mainly by ferry until 1928 when the citizens through private funds built the still active Champ Clark Bridge (now U.S. Hwy 54).

Politically Louisiana was divided during the Civil War. The Bacon House (end of Kentucky Street) housed a Union Garrison and the Hardin House (Main Street) was said to have sheltered Morgan's raiders. U.S. Senator John B. Henderson was a major contributor to both the 13th & 16th Constitutional Amendments while Champ Clark became a Speaker of the U.S. House Representatives. Governor Lloyd Stark (house on Georgia Street) may very well have replaced Harry S. Truman on the Democratic Ticket had it not been for the Pendergast Syndicate. During WW II Louisiana was the site for a prisoner of war camp established to house German and Italian soldiers.



Overlooks at the River Front and the Riverview Cemetery offer excellent views of the City and Mississippi River. Located at the top of Main Street is Henderson Park, named after John Brooks Henderson.



The Louisiana Visitors and Convention Bureau funded these 'walking tours' brochures for Historic Louisiana. One introduces some of the commercial Mesker exteriors located in the Downtown Historic District while the others focus on Main Street and Third Street historic homes and buildings.

[www.visitLouisianaMo.com](http://www.visitLouisianaMo.com)

### For more in-depth information

To find out more about the history of Louisiana please visit us at

[historic-la-mo.com](http://historic-la-mo.com)



**The Louisiana Historic Preservation Association (LHPA)** is made up of businesses and individuals dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of our historic properties, images and materials.

Also visit Preserve Louisiana Images at <http://cdm.sos.mo.gov>

P. O. Box 447, Louisiana, MO 63353

## Historic Buildings

# THIRD STREET



**Louisiana Historic Preservation Association**

.....

## 405 N THIRD STREET

The home was built for Edward G. McQuie in 1858. Edward G. McQuie was a pioneer settler in Louisiana. Born in 1804, McQuie moved to Louisiana with his parents in 1824. He established a successful dry goods business. McQuie's daughter Mary Frances married Lt. Col. Pembroke Senteny in the newly finished mansion on September 27, 1858.



Colonel Senteny became commanding officer of the 2nd Missouri Infantry (Confederate)

## 303 N THIRD STREET

The Fannie and William English House. Built in the 1850's, its early owner was William English born November 13, 1809 at Lee's Lick, Harrison County, Kentucky. He married Fannie L. Summers in December 1831. William and Fannie moved to Louisiana about 1844 where they raised a family and lived the remainder of their lives. He was taught to be a bricklayer by his father and was a founder of Louisiana's first library in 1847. Mr. English was the bricklayer for the two most prominent contractors in Louisiana during the period from 1850 to 1875.

He is responsible for the brickwork in every Baird & Ruggles and Conrad Smith building. It is believed that English completed the brickwork for the 1854 Watson Seminar, the 1866 Pike County Courthouse, the Edward



McQuie mansion at 405 N. Third and the Conrad Smith House at 720 South Carolina.

## 203 N THIRD STREET

Built for Marx Lesem of Lesem & Bro a large dry goods business in Louisiana. The second owner was W.W. Birkhead, a dentist, and the famous daughter May Birkhead who was one of the very first to report on the sinking of the Titanic. This two-story, Gabled Ell house has foundation, brick walls and early or

original 4/4 windows. The house was built in 1870 of Tuscan architecture, which is an offshoot of Italianate, but without extensive decorative detail.

In 1949 apartments were arranged on the two floors. Since 1997 the house has been restored with the owners home on the first floor and apartments above. A central front entrance contains a beautiful staircase to the second floor with a walnut handrail.

**121 N THIRD STREET** - Louisiana Public Library Louisiana's Library is among the first ten Carnegie libraries in the state of Missouri. In 1904, Andrew Carnegie pledged \$10,000 if citizens of Louisiana

would purchase a site and provide for the building's upkeep. Carnegie made his fortune in steel during the industrial revolution. He gave his fortune away to libraries, schools, music halls and other causes. The Gothic Revival design executed in native limestone, is a pristine example of the thousands of Carnegie libraries built across America. The building was placed on the National Historic Register in 1996. An addition was added for children's areas and handicapped accessibility.



.....

## 120 N THIRD STREET

The Wahl Annex. This two and a half story Queen Anne house has a stone foundation, rusticated stone and brick walls, a hip roof and a two and a half story tower. Built in 1883, the home was owned and operated for fifty years as a primary residence to Mrs. Ruth Wahl-Goins and served as an annex to the Wahl Hotel. It later served as an artist's residence, gallery, gift shop and Bed & Breakfast for the community.

## 220 N THIRD STREET

The Third Luce-Dyer House. William Luce built the Luce-Dyer House in 1856 for his son Homer. Listed in 1982 on the National Register of Historic Places, the house had as its second owner the Hon. P. Dyer, a member of the House of Representatives who sold it in 1879 to US Senator John B. Henderson, author of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery. Among the previous owners

was Judge Eugene Stark, whose family occupied the house from 1902 to 1981. The architectural style of the home is Georgian – Italianate, typical of the Little Dixie area, but with details distinctly Louisiana.

The interior was decorated under the supervision of restorationist- designer Robert Christie. Damaged by fire in 2016 this beautiful home is being restored.

## 314 N THIRD STREET

This property, lot 163 old town Louisiana, was divided into three sections. Not until 1905 did Edna Williams own two lots together. On the 40-foot lot was built a Colonial Southern style frame house with rounded veranda porch.

## 318 N THIRD STREET

Robert and Orsa Bryson Williams built the dark red brick bungalow located in the middle of the three hundred block of North Third Street. Mrs. Williams was the granddaughter of John Bryson who homesteaded the land where the original town of Louisiana is situated. The interior contains seven walk-in closets, very unusual for its time.

## 322 N THIRD STREET

This two-story white frame home is thought to be the second oldest home in Louisiana. Portions of the original log home were discovered when the home underwent exterior remodeling in 1966-67. The stairway and fireplace are parts of the original home.

## 402 N THIRD STREET

The Dr. George I. Bralley House. Built in 1871, the large Italianate, ten-room residence contains some of the finest millwork in Pike County.

It also boasts the most elaborate cornice in the City of Louisiana. This home was purchased in 2004 after being placed on the 10 Most Endangered List by Missouri Preservation. All structural elements have been restored.

