

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' 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

For more in-depth information

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

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

MAIN STREET



Louisiana Historic Preservation Association

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105 N MAIN

Located in the 3rd block of the original town since the mid-1800's this two-story brick building offers a quaint storefront with living accommodations on the second floor.



109 N MAIN

The Henry J. Shull House was built circa 1916 and is a one-story, double-entry house with a weatherboard siding, a gable roof and a central bay front porch.

121 N MAIN

This one-story, industrial style brick building was originally built in 1936 by the City of Louisiana as part of the water treatment plant. In 2003 the building was renovated to accommodate an art studio/gallery and living area. Of note is the charming old stone wall attached to the property, the only remaining evidence of an opera house, which once stood at this address. The restoration of Burnett-Buell opera house wall, funded by the LHPA, was completed in 2008. (front cover)

123 N MAIN

The LaCrosse Lumber Company Building was built circa 1901. This two-story brick commercial building has a flat roof and a three-bay façade.

217 N MAIN

The James D. Davis House was built circa 1868 and is a two-story brick I-house.

223 N MAIN

The John T. Rule House was built circa 1875 and is a two-story, L-shaped house has a stone foundation, brick walls, a hip roof and Italianate detailing.



303 N MAIN

The house was built around 1904 and sold to Francis Murphy in May of 1950 (owner of J&M foods). The property was originally sold to Silas and



Elizabeth Farber for the sum of twelve hundred dollars on March 1, 1873. Its side placement makes it unique. The interior of the home provides lovely river views.

315 N MAIN

This one and one-half story home was built circa 1874 and was the John H. Gamble House. John H. Gamble was born June of 1842 to John and Sarah Heck Gamble. November 8, 1866 John married Mary Alice Long in Adams County, Illinois. The 1875 Louisiana city directory has him partnered with Joseph S. Irwin in a business of dry goods, boots and shoes, hats, caps and notions.

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400 N MAIN (The Younker House)

In 1858 this home was built for Silas Farber an early resident of Louisiana. Silas Farber was born 1817 in Ohio. The first mention of him in Louisiana's history is February 13, 1847 when he was appointed to a committee charged with drafting a constitution and by-laws for the Library project. The home boasted ten fireplaces, slave quarters and gas lighting. The middle floor that is approximately seven hundred and fifty square feet was used as a guest suite.

320 N MAIN

This southern style house was once the home of Paul C. Stark Sr., Vice President of Stark Bros Nurseries and Orchards. The two-story brick house with a third story cupola is one of the most elaborate and highly intact Italianate houses in Louisiana. This house was built for Captain James Johnson in 1854. James Johnson worked as a steamboat captain and supposedly drew inspiration for his home from the magnificent antebellum mansions he saw in Natchez, Mississippi. He wanted to build his own version on a bluff along the Mississippi River. He created the cupola so that he could view the approach of the steamboats. James Johnson was born in Kentucky and came to Pike County with his father when he was five years old. The Irwins and the Jordans, two of Pike County pioneer families owned this property consecutively until Mr. Stark purchased it.



300 N MAIN

Completed in 1844, the Hardin House remained in the same family until 1970. During the Civil War, eleven of Morgan's Raiders were reputed to have been hidden here by then owner Dr. Neil Hardin, a southern sympathizer. Gloria Harden and Dr. Hardin's son Cam were silent film stars. Today, Gloria Hardin's scholarship benefits students.



220 N MAIN

The JW Barre House was built circa 1906. This one and a half story, frame house is an excellent example of Queen Anne styling. The Queen Anne features include projecting bay windows, clipped corners, and decorative shingles in the gable ends. The house has a stone foundation, a hip roof with projecting cross gables, and weatherboard siding. The front porch, which covers 3/4 of the front elevation, has unique round wood columns with narrow wood batten decoration and simple wooden railings.

200 N MAIN

This one-story brick and stone building with Classical Revival detailing is located on the northwest corner of North Main and Tennessee Streets. The windows have stone sills and stone hooded lintels. The front porch has five round wood columns with Corinthian capitals. The building serves as the LaCrosse Lumber General Office and was built in 1910.



120-122 N MAIN

The Hassler Brothers Vinegar Factory was built circa 1890 and is a large brick industrial building sitting on the corner of North Main Street and Tennessee. It consists of two sections: a two-story section on the south and a three-story section on the north.

