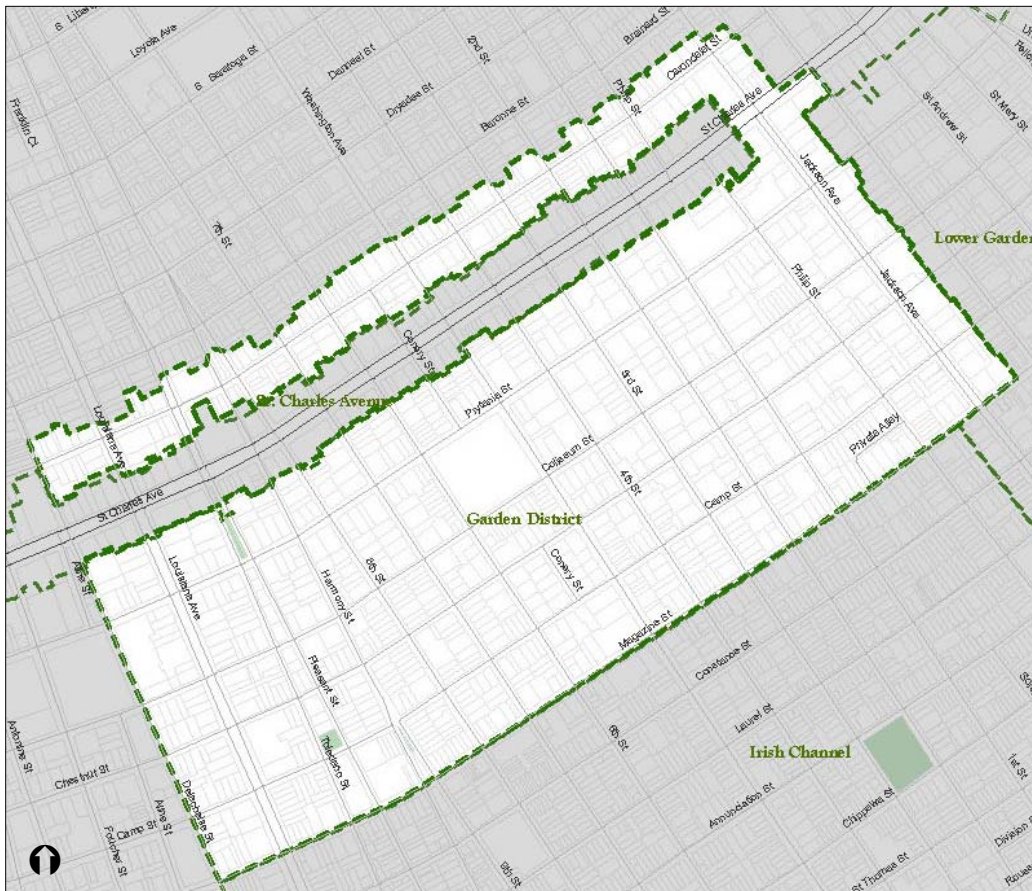




CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Historic District Landmarks Commission

Garden District Historic District



*Designated 2007
Jurisdiction: New Orleans
Historic District Landmarks
Commission*

*The boundaries of the
Garden District Historic
District are roughly
Magazine Street, Josephine
Street, Carondelet, and
Delachaise Streets, omitting
parcels facing along St.
Charles Avenue except at the
intersection of Jackson
and Street.*

*The HDLC provides design
review of proposed new
construction, and a public
hearing for all proposed
demolitions. The HDLC is
also able to cite property
owners for failure to
maintain their buildings
properly, preventing
further deterioration and
potential blight.*

Established by New Orleans' American elite in the late 1840s, the area now known as the Garden District quickly developed as a bastion of architecturally notable residences nestled in lush grounds on oak-lined streets. A very early example of a luxury suburb, it was dubbed the "Garden District" by travel writers as early as 1852.

In addition to its grand residences, the area is made up of more modest homes in many sizes and styles, as well as a cemetery (Lafayette Cemetery No. 1), a shopping corridor (Magazine Street) and a large public avenue (St. Charles Avenue).

Most of the area we now call the Garden District was originally platted as the Faubourg Livaudais, created from the Livaudais plantation in 1832. In 1833, this area became the City of Lafayette and was not incorporated into the City of New Orleans until 1852.

The Garden District remains a tightly knit community still occupied by families who have been a part of New Orleans' most famous social traditions since the 19th century. Each year during carnival season, the flag of Rex

can be seen flying from many Garden District homes, signifying that the residents include a former King or Queen of Carnival.

The architectural development of the Garden District can be divided into five distinct periods: the first wave of construction in the financial boom of the 1840s, a second phase beginning in 1852 with the annexation of the City of Lafayette by the City of New Orleans that ended with the Civil War, a third phase following the Civil War and lasting until the financial crash of 1873, a fourth phase from about 1880 until the turn of the 20th century (the last era of major construction) and more sporadic construction of individual structures in the last century.

The Garden District is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and designated a National Historic Landmark.¹

¹ Information taken from the HDLC's designation report for the Garden District Historic District.



Lafayette Cemetery No. 1, is one of the City's most historic cemeteries



Commander's Palace is a local culinary landmark



George Washington Cable Residence is an individually designated Landmark

LOCAL CULTURE

- Lafayette Cemetery No. 1 is one of the City's oldest cemeteries
- One of the most widely known restaurants of New Orleans, Commander's Palace, is located in the District across from Lafayette Cemetery No. 1 on Washington Avenue
- The novelist George Washington Cable resided on 8th Street from 1874-1884 and his former home is now a designated National Historic Landmark

- The Gothic Revival Style Trinity Episcopal Church is both an architectural landmark in the District and a part of its social fabric, with a history in the neighborhood that stretches back to the 1840s
- A long-time gathering place for Garden District residents is The Rink, a shopping complex at the corner of Prytania and Washington, which was built in the 1880s as the Crescent City Skating Rink
- The Toby-Westfeldt House (1838), a Greek Revival-style "suburban villa" is known locally as "Toby's Corner" and is said to be the oldest building in the neighborhood



Many homes sit on very large and lushly landscaped lots



Cast iron fences can take fanciful forms, like this "Cornstalk Fence"



The District also is home to modest homes with Victorian fronts

URBAN FORM

Setting/Landscape

- Many houses were built in the center of double lots (60' x 120') surrounded by landscaped grounds, often bordered with substantial cast iron fences and in some cases masonry walls
- Even most smaller homes are graced with small front yards often bordered by ornamental wrought or cast iron fences
- While grander homes may have parking on the grounds, many residents rely on street parking

Massing/Form

- Majority of buildings are residential, 2-story and raised above grade
- Majority of residential buildings are of wood or stuccoed masonry construction with gabled or hipped roofs

Styles/Types

- Antebellum period residences were often Greek Revival style raised center hall cottages, side hall townhouses or 2-story, 5-bay center halls with double galleries
- In the later antebellum period, a number of large mansions, some having grounds covering a half city block or more, were constructed in varying styles
- Shotgun cottages began appearing in the late 1840s, and were constructed until the early 20th century
- In the second half of the 19th century the Italianate style was popular and houses were more complex in plan
- From 1873 through 1910 a large number of residences in the Queen Anne and Eastlake styles were constructed

Commercial/Industrial

- Historic commercial buildings on sections of Magazine Street form a continuous streetscape with façades at the front lot line that extend to the side lot lines

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