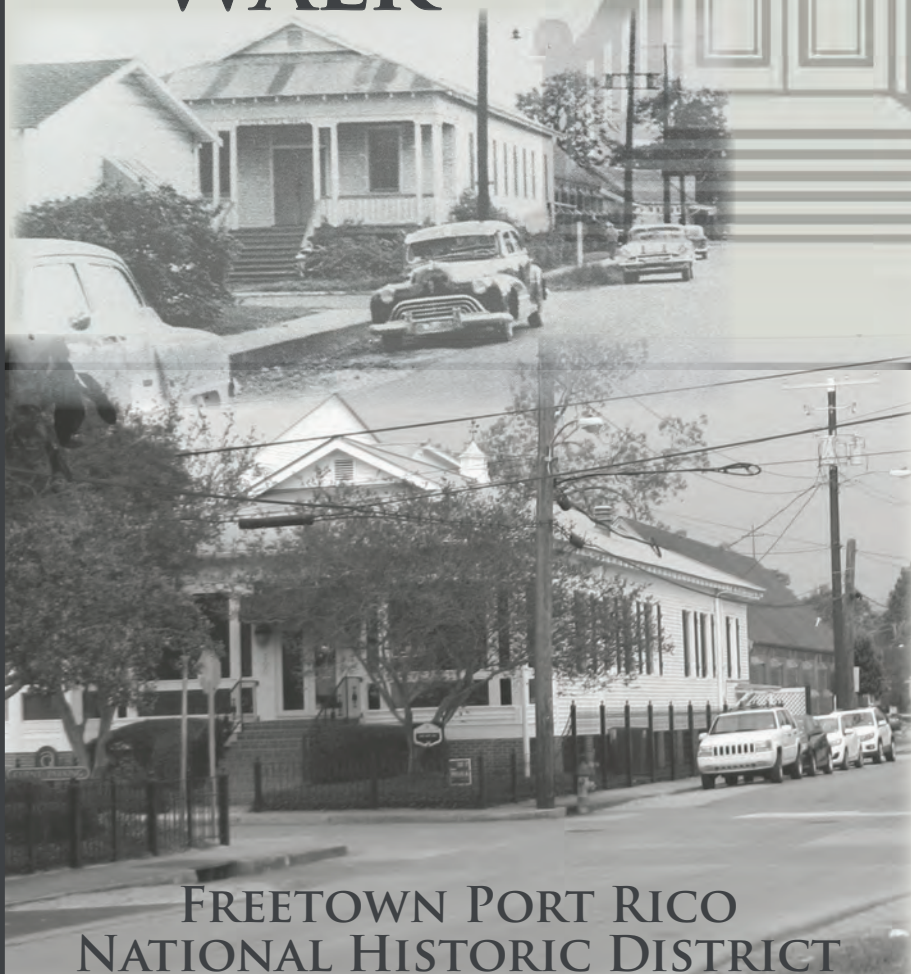


PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE OF LAFAYETTE

2017 HISTORY WALK



FREETOWN PORT RICO
NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT



Lâche Pas

at the Superette

600 lamar - freetown - lafayette - louisiane
337 - 534 - 4406 www.lachepasboucherie.com

| WELCOME to LÂCHE PAS BOUCHERIE | | |
|--|--|--|
| at The Superette | | |
| BREAKFAST | LUNCH | TODAY'S PLATE LUNCH |
| Plate ~ 2 eggs, grits or hash browns and a biscuit or toast...\$5 *add meat...\$2 Sandwich ~ 2 eggs, Texas toast mayo and mustard or butter and jelly...\$3 Biscuit ~ plain or butter and jelly...\$2 *egg biscuit...\$3 Burger ~ fully dressed, bacon, cheese and 2 fried eggs...\$8 Omelet ~ 2 eggs, diced onion, bell peppers and tomatoes w/ grits or hash browns and toast or a biscuit...\$6 Meats ~ bacon, smoked sausage, fresh sausage patty, tasso, boudin, patty or ham...\$2 Lagniappe ~ gravy, cheese, jalapeños, grilled onions, cabbage, single egg and tomatoes...\$5.04 *grits or hash browns...\$2 *French toast (2) and pancakes (2)...\$4 *Toast w/ butter and jelly (2)...\$1 | Burgers ~ mayo, mustard, cabbage, tomatoes, onions and pickles *Hamburger...\$6 *Cheeseburger...\$6.50 *Baconburger...\$7 *Bacon cheese burger...\$7.50 Sandwiches *Chicken salad...\$5 *B.C.T...\$5 *Fresh pork sausage...\$6 *Grilled cheese...\$3 *w/ ham, bacon or sausage patty...\$4 Fry Chicken ~ thighs and legs *1 piece...\$2 *Plate - 2 pieces, rice, beans and 1 side...\$8.50 Salads *Fry Chicken Salad...\$6 *Farm Salad...\$6 | BOUCHERIE Boudin...\$4/lb. Boudin balls...\$2 each Gratons...\$19/lb. Tout Qu'è Que Chose Onion rings...\$2.50 French fries...\$2 small / \$3 large Cheeses - Pepper Jack, Swiss or Cheddar |

PRESERVATION ALLIANCE OF LAFAYETTE SPONSORS:



Meet Glenn Armentor



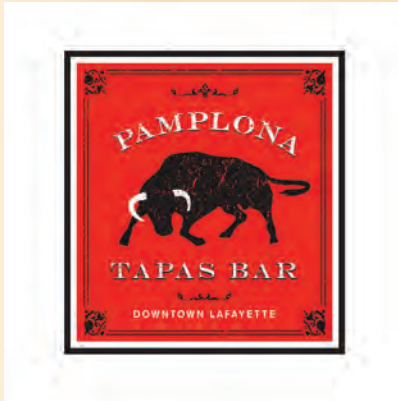
Glenn J. Armentor is a well-known attorney in Acadiana with 41 years of practice and more than 32,000 individual clients represented. As the managing partner for Lafayette's largest plaintiffs' personal injury law firm, Armentor handles a wide variety of law, including offshore accidents, workers' compensation, automotive accidents, environmental law, products liability, medical malpractice, sports injuries, catastrophic event injuries, and more.

Armentor grew up in poverty as one of 10 children. Before he reached the age of 18, he had already been arrested many times. Had it not been for the thoughtful intervention of friends, family and even total strangers, Armentor likely would have spent his life as a defendant in courtrooms rather than as one of the most successful attorneys in the South.

Armentor founded a **"Pay-It-Forward" Scholarship of Excellence** in his name at UL Lafayette in 2009, providing a **\$10,000 "full ride" scholarship** to at-risk students who display the spirit, work ethic, and character that is deserving of a chance for a better future.

"I don't want money. I want names."

IF YOU KNOW OF A DESERVING AT-RISK YOUNG MAN OR WOMAN, PLEASE GIVE US THEIR NAME BY EMAILING SCHOLARSHIP@GLENNARMENTOR.COM OR DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION AT www.GLENNARMENTOR.COM



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Many thanks to Mark Falgout and
his great team for helping
make today's events possible!

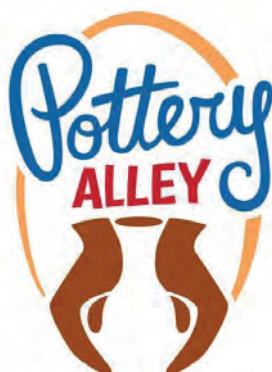


warehouse

FIVE ★ THREE ★ FIVE

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Preservation
ALLIANCE
— OF —
LAFAYETTE

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2017 FREETOWN HISTORY WALK

A History of Freetown Port Rico Neighborhood



Freetown-Port Rico
National Historic District

FREETOWN HISTORY WALK

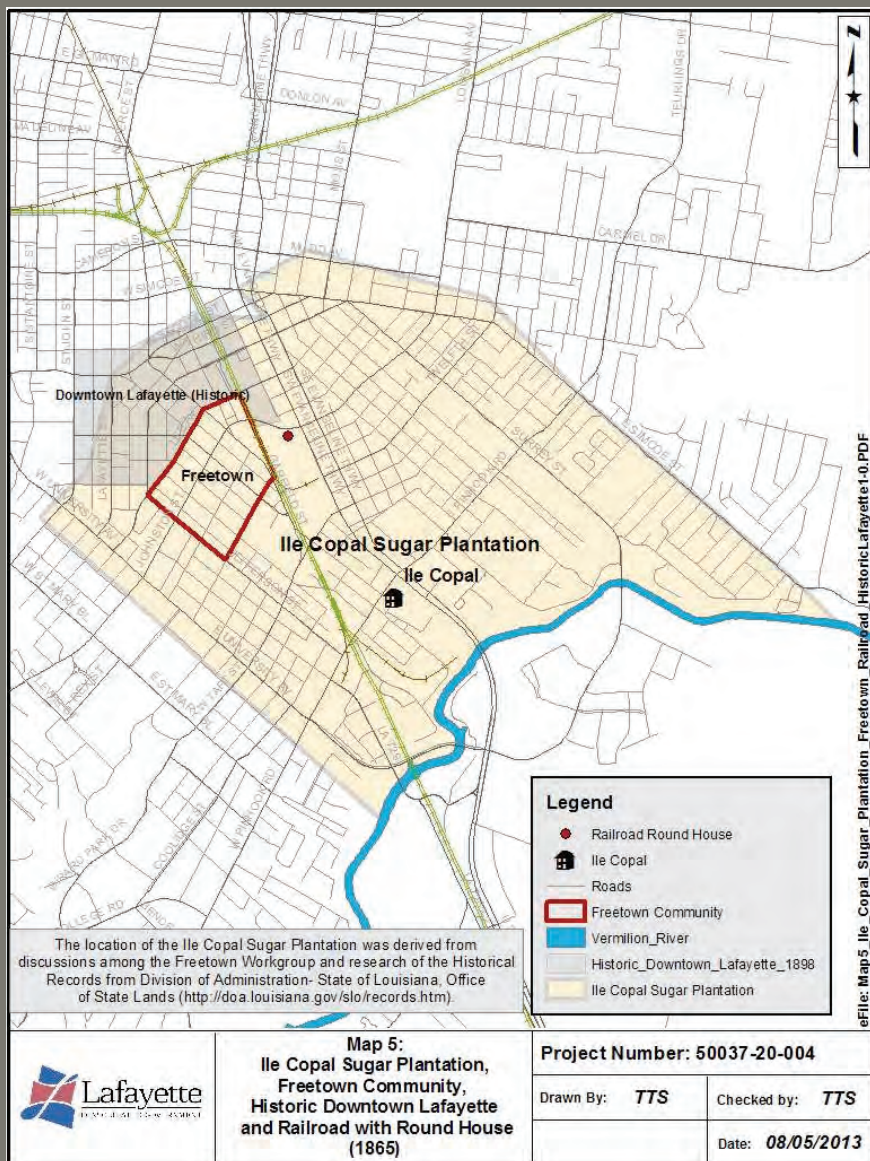
The Development of Freetown-Port Rico Historic District



Circa 1880 Good Hope Hall built to Commemorate the founding of the Good Hope Society

The People of Freetown

Freetown - Port Rico Historic District is a key part of Lafayette's history and is a place where residents of diverse backgrounds have throughout its history, lived in a mutually supportive community despite many obstacles. When racial tensions led to violations against human dignity and economic freedom, the people of Freetown worked together to help one another survive such hardships. They formed close ties and strengthened those ties by forming organizations such as the Good Hope Society.



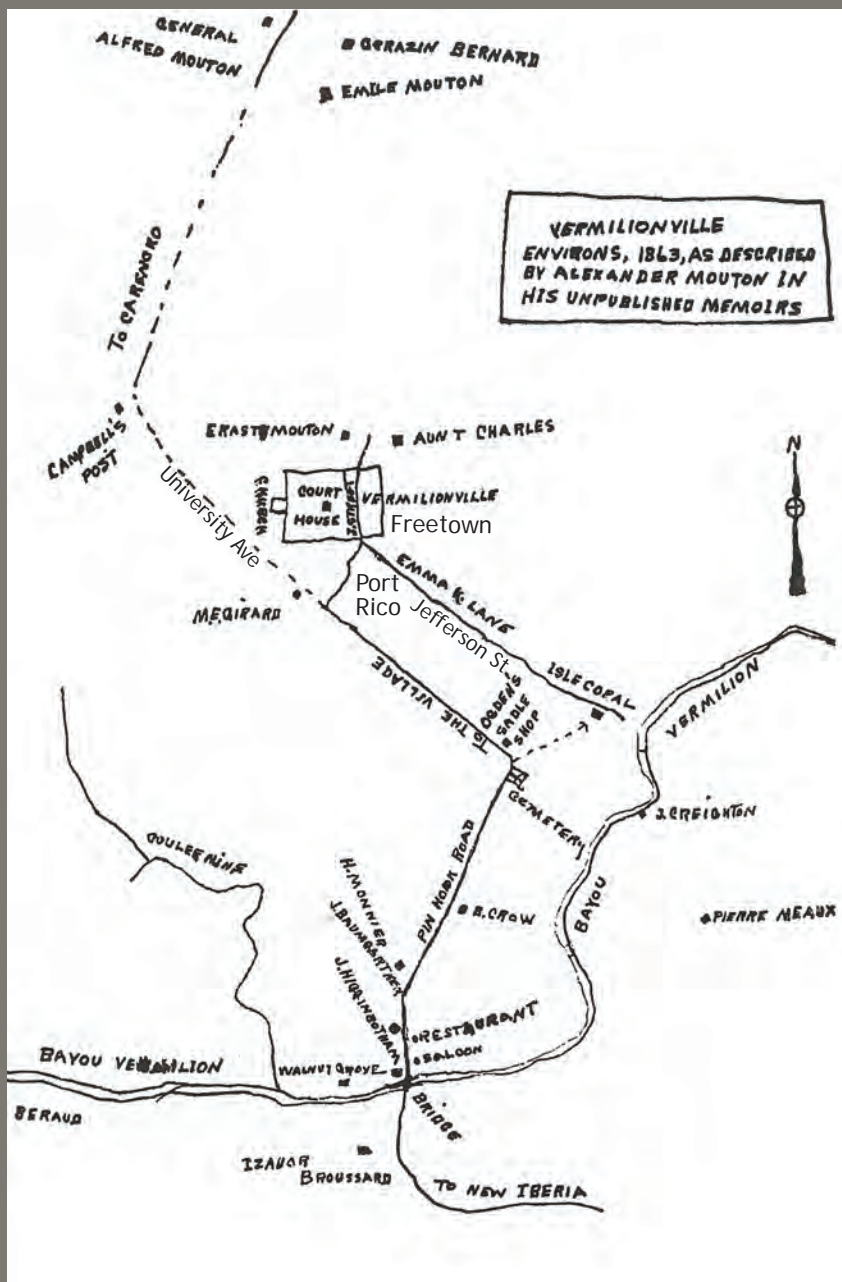
Excerpt from:
Freetown As It Was And As It Is
The Freetown History Project Final Report
 by

Dr. C. Ray Brassieur, Dr. Lionel Lyles, Dr. Michael S. Martin
 November 30, 2013



Hand Colored Photo of Ill Copal Plantation House taken c. 1900

The Freetown Port Rico neighborhood was originally part of a 1776 Spanish colonial land concession made to an Acadian immigrant, Rene Trahan. Around 1825, Rene Trahan's land and adjoining properties on both sides of the Vermilion Bayou came under the ownership of Alexandre Mouton (1804 - 1885). Alexandre was the son of Jean Mouton, founder of the town of Vermilionville (now called Lafayette). Alexandre's plantation, Isle Copal, (Ile Copal in French) operated until the end of the Civil War when the plantation's 120 African Americans were freed from slavery. Oral history suggests that several of the newly-freed persons settled on the west side of the plantation property in what is now known as Freetown-Port Rico Historic District.



1863 Hand-drawn Map of Vermilionville Environs
 from Alexandre Mouton's Unpublished Memoirs
 "The Attakapas Country- A History of Lafayette Parish, Louisiana"
 by Harry Lewis Griffin, Copyright 1959. Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA.

the Attakapas Region, thanks to the Lafayette Parish Police Jury who built several roads leading to Vermilionville, beginning in 1830. The success of rice farming, introduced in the area around 1850, also improved the economy of the Attakapas District's agrarian middle class who were unable to afford the large and laborious farming operations required for cotton and sugar.



1912 Map of Lafayette, LA



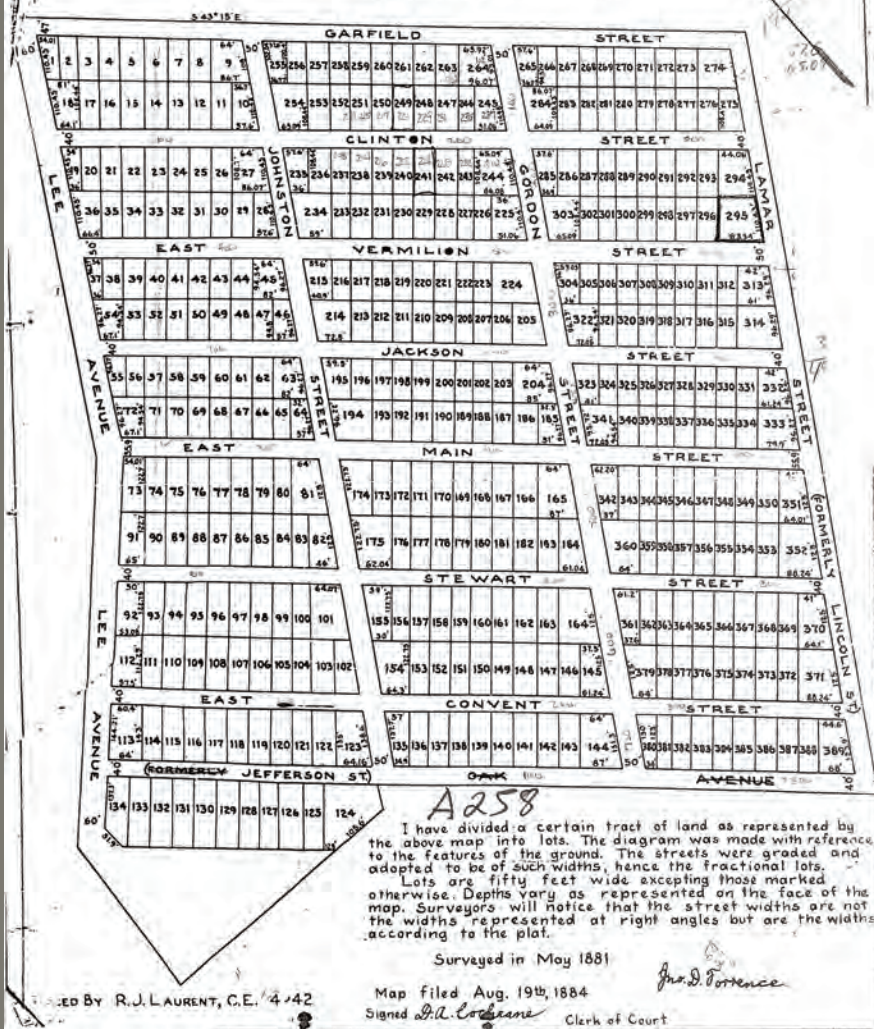
Early 1900s Hand-Colored Photo of Emma K. Lane, a small Oak-lined street
This is present-day Jefferson Street.

Vermilionville struggled through the Civil War and Reconstruction, but because small farms were capable of making a meager profit without the use of large numbers of laborers, Vermilionville was able to maintain a steady economy. By 1880, economic growth returned to Vermilionville by means of the newly-completed railroad line between Houston and New Orleans. In 1901 classes began at Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute (SLII), now UL Lafayette. Economic growth increased the demand for housing after 1880, as more people left rural areas for lucrative occupations in town.

MOUTON'S ADDITION

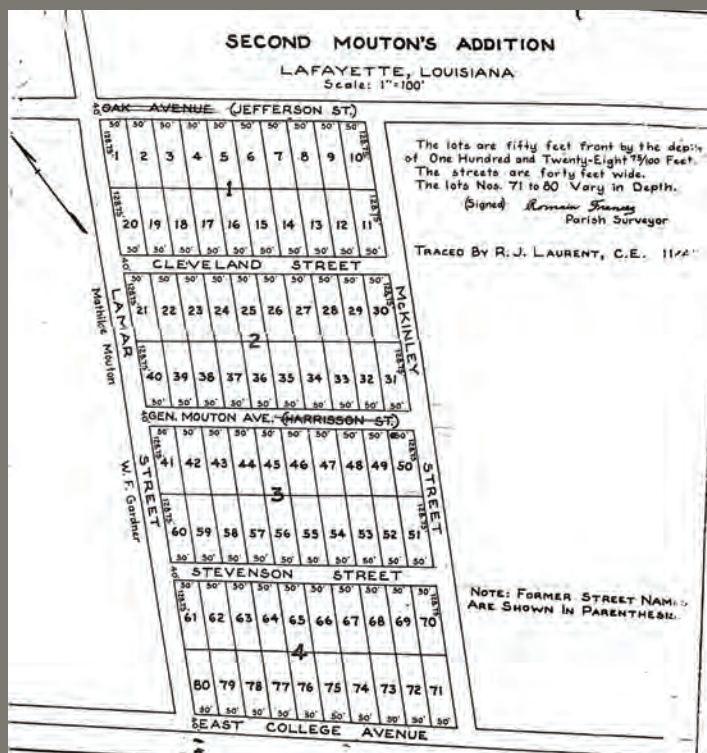
CORPORATION OF LAFAYETTE, LA.

Scale: 1"=150'



By 1884 Vermilionville changed its name to Lafayette, and by 1900 the small settlement was well on its way to becoming the center for higher education and retail sales in the district.

Alexandre Mouton subdivided approximately 75 acres of his plantation property into residential lots, and the neighborhood came to be known as Freetown. A second subdivision by Alexander Mouton was developed at the same time, closer to the college, which came to be known as Port Rico. Families with little to no wealth came to Freetown -Port Rico. Some, escaping a life of hardship and no opportunity, found a warm, caring, and thriving atmosphere in Freetown. Several prominent families of non-European heritage, such as African, Haitian, Syrian and Lebanese had roots in Freetown and are still known for their role in the success of Lafayette's development.



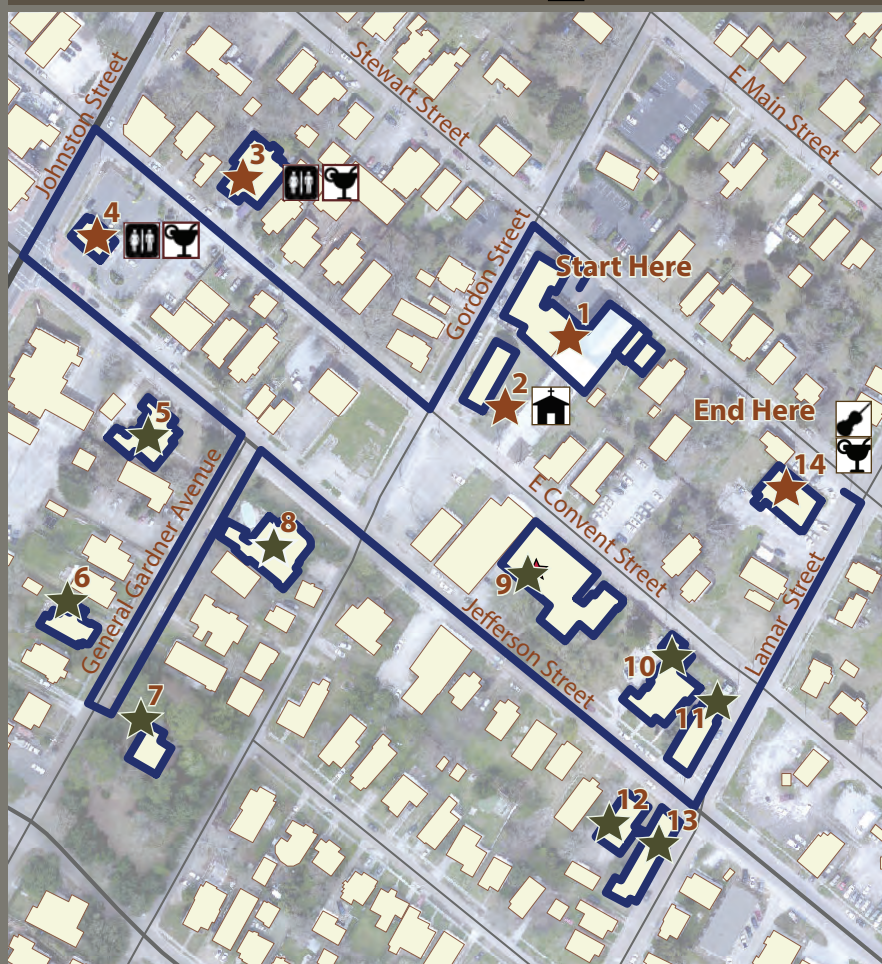
First Part

2017 Freetown History Walk

LEGEND:

- ★ Historic Open House
- 🚻 Rest Room
- 🎵 Music

- ★ Historic Info
- ☕ Refreshments
- 🏛️ Church



Freetown Tour
Route 1 of 2
Distance: 3/4 Miles

History Walk Tour 1

START at Glenn Armentor Law Firm at 300 Stewart Street
REGISTRATION

1. Good Hope Hall at 300 Stewart Street – Built c. 1880
FREETOWN HISTORY
2. Good Hope Chapel at 301 E Convent Street – Built in 1950
HISTORIC OPEN HOUSE
3. Blue Moon at 215 E Convent Street – Built c. 1933
REFRESHMENTS & MUSIC
4. Borden's Ice Cream at 1103 Jefferson Street – Built c. 1940
REFRESHMENTS
5. Petro House at 1118 Jefferson Street – Built c. 1935
PORT RICO HISTORY
6. Rodemacher House at 122 General Gardner Avenue – Built c. 1930
PORT RICO HISTORY
7. Griffin House at 129 General Gardner Avenue – Built c. 1925
PORT RICO HISTORY
8. Rodrigue House at 1206 Jefferson Street – Built c. 1910
PORT RICO HISTORY
9. Saint Anne Infirmary at 1317 Jefferson Street – Built in 1937
FREETOWN HISTORY
10. Saloom House at 1331 Jefferson Street – Built c. 1910
FREETOWN HISTORY
11. Saloom Store at 1335 Jefferson Street – Built c. 1912
FREETOWN HISTORY
12. Naomi House at 1334 Jefferson Street - Built c. 1920
FREETOWN HISTORY
13. Naomi Grocery Store at 1338 Jefferson Street – Built c. 1935
FREETOWN HISTORY
14. Acadian Superette at 600 Lamar Street – Built c. 1950
REFRESHMENTS AND MUSIC

Second Part

2017 Freetown History Walk

LEGEND:

- ★ Historic Open House
- ☼ Rest Room
- 🎵 Music

- ★ Historic Info
- ☼ Refreshments
- 🎵 Artist Studio



Freetown Tour
Route 2 of 2
Distance: 1/2 Miles

History Walk Tour 2

START at Acadian Superette at 600 Lamar Street – Built c. 1950
REFRESHMENTS AND MUSIC

15. Martin's Hat Shop at 312 Stewart Street – Built c. 1942
FREETOWN HISTORY

16. Butler House at 411 Gordon Street – Built c. 1928
FREETOWN HISTORY

17. Next House at 319 Jackson Street – Built 2013
FREETOWN NEW ARCHITECTURE

18. Cour House at 324 Jackson Street – Built 2014
FREETOWN NEW ARCHITECTURE

19. Francis Pavy Studio at 210 Gordon Street – Built c. 1955
FREETOWN ART STUDIO

20. Bendel Housekeeper Home at 318 Clinton Street – Built c. 1900
FREETOWN HISTORY

21. Studios on Garfield at 625 Garfield Street – Built c. 1935
FREETOWN ART STUDIOS

22. Warehouse 535 at 535 Garfield Street – Built c. 1935
REFRESHMENTS AND MUSIC



GOOD HOPE HALL

300 Stewart Street

Lafayette Historic Register Property #14

Built: circa 1880

Architectural Style: Modified French Creole

Added to Historic Register: May 2, 1991

Good Hope Hall was known originally as “True Friends Hall”. It was built by the True Friends Association in Freetown, a settlement that offered sanctuary and compassion to many newly-freed African Americans as they made the heroic struggle for economic survival after the Civil War. The original Freetown families, those who were not part of the enslaved Africans, such as the Martins, James, Moutons, Figaros and Cocos, played a prominent, benevolent role helping former slaves adjust to freedom. Good Hope Hall originally served as a meeting hall and a place for wedding receptions, celebrations and Catholic Mass. In the 1920s, it was one of the great jazz halls of America featuring jazz artists from across the country, including Louie Armstrong and Fats Pinchon. Presently, the building serves as offices for Glenn Armentor Law Corporation.



GOOD HOPE CHAPEL

301 E. Convent Street

Lafayette Historic Register Property #98

Built: 1950

Architectural Style: Romanesque Revival

Added to Historic Register: May 15, 2014

In 1950, Our Lady of Good Hope Chapel was built by the first African American Catholic Parish, Saint Paul the Apostle Church, serving parishioners living in Freetown, Port Rico and Mills Addition historic neighborhoods. Prior building the Good Hope Chapel, Catholic services were held in the historic, Good Hope Hall, located behind the Chapel. Of significant importance to Lafayette is the history of the Freetown neighborhood, a history beginning years before the sale of the Louisiana Territory to the United States. Prior to joining the U.S., it was legal for slaves to purchase their freedom with extra work or other tender. Communities of former enslaved peoples, were usually referred to as Freetown. They typically emerged in the early to mid 1800s throughout the east and south United States. In Vermilionville, by the end of the Civil War, the many families who had long ago settled in Freetown graciously shared with their newly-freed neighbors, the knowledge of how to make a living. The influence of these original Freetown families was significant to the development of early Acadiana.



BLUE MOON SALOON & GUEST HOUSE

215 E. Convent Street

Built: c. 1890 and 1933

Architectural Style: Creole Cottage

This Creole Cottage was moved several blocks from its original location, Downtown Lafayette at Vermilion and Jefferson Streets, to make room for the Gordon Hotel. The house originally belonged to the home of the McBride family, and then became C. E. Gahn's home. The house was moved to Freetown in 1900 using mules and logs. At its present location, it has previously been a family home and a flower shop. The large shed dormer and side porch were added to the structure in 1933, disguising the home's 19th century origins. Presently, the building is a youth hostel, and as the owners call it, "a home-grown honky-tonk where all kinds and sizes are welcome". Blue Moon Saloon presents itself as more than a music venue or place for a gig. It has become a place where world travelers, community organizations, families, artists, musicians and politicians rub elbows, dance, drink a few and thank their lucky stars they have the good fortune to spend an evening together in Lafayette, LA.



BORDEN'S ICE CREAM SHOPPE

1103 Jefferson Street

Built: 1940

Architectural Style: Commercial Vernacular

Borden's Ice Cream Shoppe was built in 1940 by the Levy family, a prominent Jewish family who moved to Vermilionville from Poland in 1858. Both the Levy and Plonsky families had emigrated from Poland to Vermilionville at the same time. Lazarus Levy and Flora Plonsky married in the late 1860s. By the 1900s, the Plonsky, Levy, Krauss, and Revillon families were related by marriage. Each family became successful in downtown Lafayette with their various trades as merchants, jewelers, undertakers, and builders. The Levy Department Store building still stands at the corner of East Congress and Jefferson Streets, at the present location of Teche Drugs. Flora Levy was at one time, the owner of Borden's Ice Cream Shoppe. Flora had worked her way up to a very responsible position at the First National Bank in Lafayette, and during her lifetime she accumulated a considerable amount of property, including the Borden's business. Upon her death, Flora left her entire estate to the USL Foundation, now UL Lafayette Foundation. In 2009, Borden's was purchased by Red Lerille, and it is now owned by Red's daughter, Kackie Lerille. It is now the only remaining Borden's retail shop in existence.



PETRO HOUSE
1118 Jefferson Street

Built: c. 1932

Architectural Style: Eclectic Revival & Craftsman

Joseph S. Petro, Sr., and Florida Dominique Petro built this house after many years of success with their Freetown grocery store and rental properties. They owned and operated their grocery together from the time they were married in 1926, and they built the store located at 600 Lamar Street, now called Acadian Superette. The Petro name originates in Castile, Spain with variations on spelling that include Perez, Petrez, Petriz, Pedrez, and others. It is an ancient Spanish name, originating between 420 AD and 711 AD. Mrs. Florida Petro was born in Saint Martinville to parents of Lebanese descent. Her mother was an Azar whose family ancestry can be traced back through the chiefs of the Tribe of Ghassan back to Noah's son, Shem. The Petros, like many early families in Freetown were known for their generosity of time and resources. Florida Petro was well known for her phenomenal fund raising, her amazing cooking, and for providing a home filled with singing, dancing, and unconditional love for family, extended family and friends. She also tirelessly gave her time to Saint Jude's Children's Hospital and was a beloved leader in the Cedars Club of Lafayette.



RODEMACHER HOUSE

122 General Gardner Avenue

Built: c. 1930

Architectural Style: Vernacular Bungalow

This 1930s bungalow was built for Curtis A. Rodemacher, who served as an elected official in Lafayette and is the man for whom the Curtis A. Rodemacher Power Plant is named. Born in 1905, Curtis was the son of Carl August Gustav "Rademacher" of Dresden, Germany and Rosa Broussard of Abbeville, Louisiana. In Germany, the name Rademacher originates from the occupation of the family, and it means wheel maker. Curtis married Marie Begnaud, daughter of Honoré Begnaud and Azema Martin Begnaud of Scott. The couple lived in this house with their three children. Mr. Rodemacher was elected Trustee of Public Property, and his position included oversight of the Lafayette Utilities System (LUS). At that time, the governmental structure of Lafayette was a Trustee form of government in which there were 3 elected officials. There was an elected Mayor, an elected Trustee of Finance, and an elected Trustee of Public Property. Because of Mr. Rodemacher's many contributions to the City of Lafayette throughout his life, the 1952 Power Generation Station at 201 West Pinhook Road was renamed "Curtis A. Rodemacher Power Station" in his honor.



GRIFFIN HOUSE

129 General Gardner Avenue

Built: c. 1925

Architectural Style: American Foursquare

This house is a stately, two-story, central-hall residence, designed in the American Foursquare style incorporating elements of the Prairie School and Craftsman styles. The style was popular in the U.S. from the mid 1890s to the late 1930s. The structure was built as the home of author, professor and former Dean, Dr. Harry Lewis Griffin, (1883-1967). He was the Dean of Liberal Arts at Southwest Louisiana Institute (SLI), now UL Lafayette from 1921 to 1951. One of Dr. Griffin's finest achievements was his judicious and persistent work that led to SLI being accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges. Dr. Griffin was married to Lucile Meredith Mouton, a great granddaughter of the former Louisiana Governor, Alexandre Mouton (1804-1885), who developed most of Freetown-Port Rico. Lucille's father was Alexandre Mouton (1853-1938), an engineer and sugar refiner, who worked in Mexico and other parts of Latin America. With the help of his wife, Lucile, Dr. Griffin wrote the book, "The Attakapas Country - A History of Lafayette Parish, Louisiana". Much of what we know about the early history of Vermilionville is contained in his book, including the maps on pages 4 and 5 of this tour guide.



George Rodrigue House
1206 Jefferson Street
Built: c. 1910

Architectural Style: Eclectic Revival

This house was built by M. P. Langlinalis around 1890. It was originally a one story Queen Anne Free Classical house with an asymmetrical front porch curving around the front left side of the house. In the early 1900s the structure became the home of Dr. Olivier, who also treated patients there. Mr. & Mrs. George Rodrigue bought the house in 1972. They added the first floor in the 1980s, raising the original structure to the second story. The second floor was converted into a studio for Mr. Rodrigue, who had become a local artist of international fame. The building retains historic significance because of that association. Extensive modifications added in the 1980s include the brick columns on the first floor; the extensive expansion at the rear of the building; the 80'-long central hall, and the west side gable infilled with glass panes. These additions have altered the architectural style of the building, as the Queen Anne elements are no longer the more prominent. Dominant features include a diverse assortment of modern and historic elements on the more visible façades. Therefore, the style of the structure is referred to as Eclectic Revival.



SAINT ANN'S INFIRMARY
1317 Jefferson Street
Local Historic Property #84
Built: 1937
Style: Spanish Revival
Designated: February 17, 2011

Saint Ann's Infirmary is an important building in Lafayette's history because of both the prominence of the family that founded the clinic and also the benevolent medical service it provides the Community. It was founded in 1937 by the Saloom family and has the distinction of being Lafayette's oldest, continuously-run medical facility. Saint Ann's Infirmary is responsible for several "firsts" in Lafayette. Located in the historic subdivision of Freetown, it became the first medical facility in Lafayette to accept African American patients. Lafayette's first licensed architect, Mr. Bowen, designed the building, and Lafayette's first apothecary, Dr. Butler, supplied the facility. The building falls under the style associated with the Eclectic movement, occurring between 1880 and 1940. Inspiration from the Italianate style of the early 1800s is made evident by the prominent quoins at the front corners, Roman arches at the windows and doors, and exterior "crown molding" along the front façade.



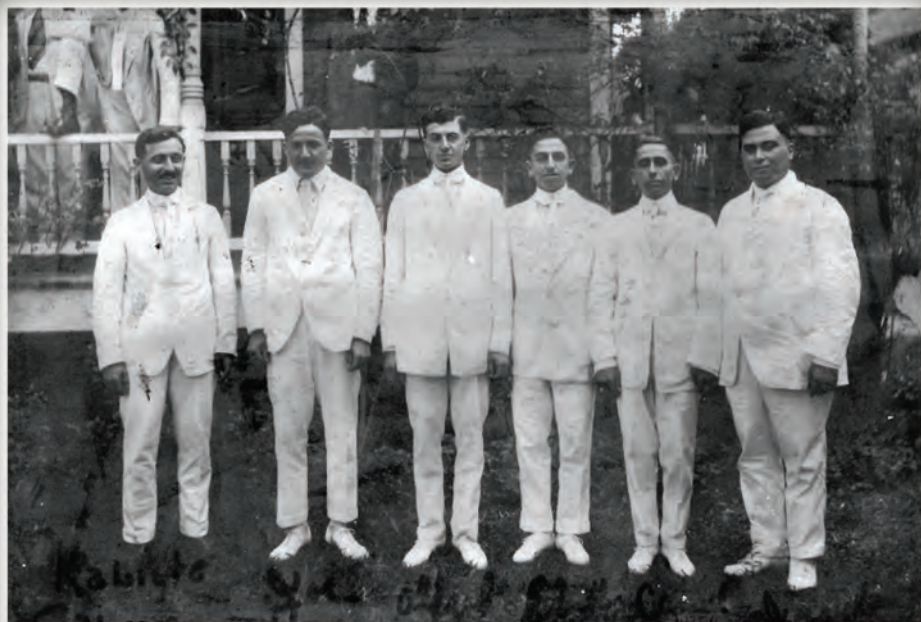
KALISTE SALOOM HOUSE

1331 Jefferson Street

Built: 1927

Architectural Style: Arts & Crafts

Mrs. Kaliste Saloom, Sr., built this beautiful Craftsman style bungalow in 1927. Twenty years prior to that, in 1907, she and her husband, began operating a general store, and like many mercantile buildings of the time, the building also included family living quarters. The Saloom family history can be traced back to mediaeval times in Deir el-Kamar, the ancient capital of Mount Lebanon, located about 25 miles southeast of Beirut. The original spelling of the family name was Sallum el-Kik, meaning Sallum of the House of El-Kik. In Lafayette, the Saloom family history begins in 1887, when Mr. Racheed (Richard) Sallum el-Kik, seeking opportunity and religious freedom in Lafayette, arrived in the U.S. via New York. He had just completed the lengthy customs procedure when he was robbed by strangers. Having no funds, he decided to make his journey on foot, working along the way. It took him three months to travel the 1500 miles. Soon afterwards, he was able to purchase land and open a dry goods store. In 1894 he brought his nephew Kaliste to Lafayette. Encouraged by their success, other family members followed, including young Kaliste's parents, Joseph and Habe, his younger brother, Camille, and his Aunt Helena.



Wedding Party (Kaliste Saloom, Joe Joseph, Alfred Boustany, Alexander Azar, Camille Joseph Saloom, and Joseph George Hannie) Hammond. Courtesy of University of Louisiana, Edith Garland Dupré Library, Special Collections, University Archives and Acadiana Manuscripts Collection.

Image 6 of 7

By 1906, before the rest of Racheed's family moved to Lafayette, and being Kaliste's only relative in the area, Racheed became adamant that Kaliste should return to Lebanon to find a bride. Kaliste, therefore, returned to his home country, and shortly thereafter met the young beauty who would become his wife. After a formal courtship lasting a full year, Kaliste, then 21, received consent to marry Miss Asma Ann Boustany, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Frem Boustany. The couple returned to Lafayette by way of Paris and New York and opened the Saloom general merchandise store at the corner of Jefferson and Lamar Streets. The Salooms remained at this location throughout their lives and brought up the following seven children: Miss Alice Saloom, Miss Beatrice Saloom, Dr. Clarence J. Saloom, Mrs. Mary Agnes Saloom Azar, Judge Kaliste J. Saloom, Jr., Mrs. Isabelle Saloom Haik, and Dr. Richard G. Saloom.



SALOOM DRESS SHOP

1335 Jefferson Street

Originally Built: 1910

Architectural Style: Commercial Vernacular

For most of its existence, this mercantile building has been associated with Mrs. Kaliste Saloom, Sr., daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Frem Boustany, of the internationally-acclaimed Boustany family of authors, scientists, historians and ecclesiastical scholars. It was at the young age of 15, that miss Asma Boustany married Kaliste Saloom. They began their life together in Lafayette at this location, operating their general merchandise store. In 1925, 18 years after their marriage, Mr. Saloom died unexpectedly. Mrs. Saloom continued operating the store and also continued the generosity and benevolence for which she and her husband had become well known. Mrs. Saloom was especially known for her goodwill within Freetown during the difficult years of the Great Depression and World War II. The benevolence of Mrs. Saloom and her dedication to Lafayette's progress continues to be enjoyed today. It was she who first dedicated land grants for the construction of Kaliste Saloom Road and donated the property for Lafayette's Fire Station #7. The Saloom Store became Saloom Dress Shop in its later years. Mrs. Saloom's daughters, Alice and Beatrice became co-owners of the store and continued operating the store after their mother retired in 1957.



NAOMI HOUSE
1334 Jefferson Street

Built: c. 1938
Architectural Style: Arts & Crafts

The Naomi House was built around 1938 by Alcide Naomi (1873-1960) and his wife, Ida Mahtook Naomi (1875-1938). They were married in their home land, Beirut, Lebanon, and immigrated to the United States with their first-born son, George A. Naomi. The Naomis were among the 80 or so families who moved to Lafayette from Lebanon, beginning in the latter part of the 1800s through the decade preceding the First World War. One of the primary motivations for this first wave of emigration from Lebanon was for economic reasons. In 1909, the Naomis built the grocery store on the corner next door to this house, and after years of success, they built this stylish Craftsman Bungalow home. They had nine children, many of whom remained in Lafayette. One son, Paul Jacob Naomi, opened Paul's Jewelry which is now owned and operated by his three children., P. J. Naomi, Jr., Nancy Naomi, and Patricia Naomi.



NAOMI GROCERY
1338 Jefferson Street

Originally Built: c. 1909
Architectural Style: Vernacular Storefront

The Naomi Grocery was originally built around 1909 by Alcide Naomi and Ida Mahtook Naomi. The original structure included two small dwellings attached at the rear of the building along Lamar Street. The earlier store front included a covered porch along Jefferson Street. The porch wrapped around the corner and extended beyond the edge of both Jefferson and Lamar Streets. The streets were paved with gravel at the time the store was built, and it was fitting for the entrance porch to extend beyond the sometimes muddy street edge. Around 1938, the Naomis built the Craftsman bungalow next door. The store was remodeled and the dwellings in the rear were removed to add more floor area to the store. In the 1940's after the store was remodeled, Howard Joseph Cornay, Sr. opened a hardware store called Home Supply Company. Later, he opened a second business in the same location that sold butane gas called Home Gas Company. Howard Cornay was the brother of Ray Cornay, who developed the Saint Streets neighborhood. After Joseph Cornay's business moved from this building to Cameron Street, a number of businesses occupied the building. Most recently, the building was beautifully restored by the Desormeaux Foundation.



ACADIAN SUPERETTE

600 Lamar Street

Built: c. 1950

Architectural Style: Mid Century Modern

This property is mostly associated with the Joseph and Florida Petro family who built this Mid Century Modern grocery store in the 1950s after over 25 years of success in the grocery business in Freetown. Mrs. Florida Dominique Petro was born in Saint Martinville in 1910 to parents, Paul Dominique and Catherine Azar Dominique. The Azar family lineage can be traced to back to biblical times, being part of the Ghassan tribal family, Habeeb. Young Florida married 27-year-old Joseph S. Petro at the age of 16. The couple worked side by side in their grocery store, and as their business grew, so did their family. They had three children, Rosemarie, Joseph, Jr., and Cathy Petro. Joseph, Jr. worked at the family grocery, and in time became a co-owner. Mrs. Florida Petro also purchased numerous properties in Freetown, for rental income. Florida Dominique Petro was known to be a "larger-than-life" person whose incredible strength was complemented with compassion, grace and dignity. She was the rock upon which a large family, rich in tradition, was built. She taught her family with great love and by example to always answer the call of those in need.



MARTIN'S HAT SHOP

312 Stewart Street

Built: c. 1942

Architectural Style: Vernacular Storefront

Martin's Hat Shop operated at this address in Freetown between circa 1942 and 2008. The history of the business goes back to 1915, when the hat shop was located at 115 W. Cypress Street, not far from the Jefferson Street underpass. John Martin opened the shop after training in New Orleans, learning the specialized art of crafting, cleaning, blocking, and restyling hats. The building on Cypress Street burned twice, and John decided the business would be safer next door to his house. He moved the business to this location around 1942. John's son, John Martin, Jr., and his wife, Thelma Goodie Martin, joined the business shortly after the move. They continued the business after John Sr.'s retirement in the early 1960s. Before 1960, hats were a necessary part of the everyday wardrobe, and hat shops like Martin's were plentiful. By 1960, Martin's Hat Shop was the only shop of its kind between Houston and New Orleans. Customers from all over the U. S. shipped their hats to Martin's. After John Martin, Jr. died in 1976, Thelma continued the legacy of Martin's Hat Shop until her retirement in 2008. She often spoke fondly about the wonderful time she and her husband had throughout their lives, listening to music and dancing in the shop as they worked together at a craft they both loved.



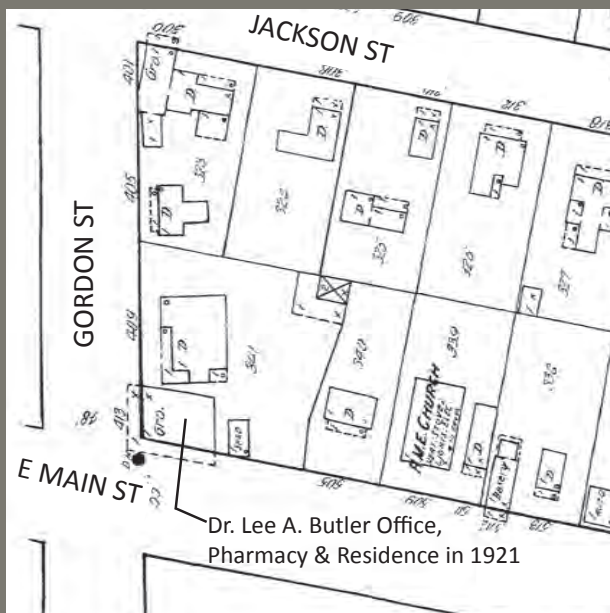
DR. LEE A. BUTLER HOUSE

411 Gordon Street

Built: c. 1910

Architectural Style: Prairie Queen Anne

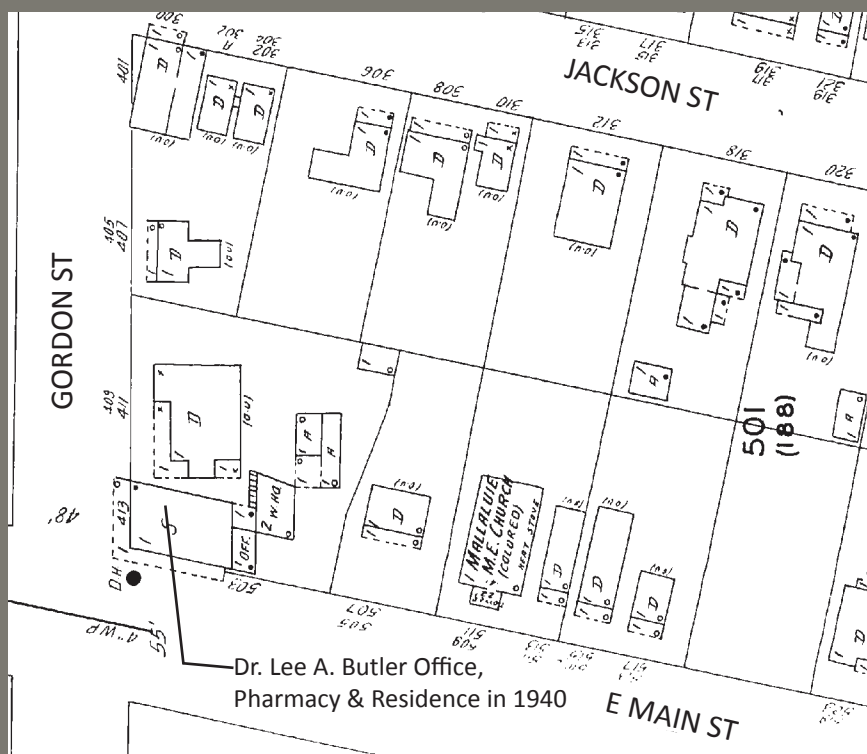
For years, many residents fondly remembered their visits to Dr. Butler's Drug Store on Gordon Street. It was known as a place that provided affordable health and comfort to the ill and large vanilla ice cream cones to youngsters. Dr. Butler's story is important to Freetown because it represents a very special African American success story. Lee A. Butler, born in 1868, was raised on various farms in St. Martin Parish. His parents were former slaves who moved around between various farming positions. They worked along the Bayou Teche between Parks and Arnaudville during the last half of the nineteenth century. By some unknown circumstances, Lee Butler was able to elevate his status from farm boy to physician. He accomplished this during the very difficult times of Jim Crow inequity and racial segregation. Well into his 50s, Dr. Butler moved from Breaux Bridge to Freetown where he acquired an existing residence and grocery store located here, at the southeast corner of Gordon and E. Main Streets. The pharmacy was removed sometime after 1960. Only his former residence remains at this location.



Southeast Corner of Gordon and E. Main - Office, Residence and Pharmacy of Dr. Lee A. Butler, Sanborn Map 1921, Sheet 11

According to the 1870 census, Lee Arthur Butler was a three-year-old toddler living near Parks, Louisiana. He lived with his father, Coleman Butler, a laborer born in Mississippi, his mother Elmira, born in Tennessee, and two brothers, Albert and Andrew. The Butler family was listed as mulatto and according to the 1880 census, were living near Cecilia. At that time, Lee was 12 years old, living with his parents, six siblings, and an 18-year-old border named Emma Goldston. Lee's father and his brothers, Albert and Andrew, were listed as farm laborers. During the next forty years, 1880-1920, Lee Butler's life changed drastically. We are left to wonder how the son of a non-white field hand from St. Martin Parish moved into the professional ranks of society. On the national scene, historians characterize that forty year period as a transition from the Reconstruction, through the Gilded Age, and into the Progressive Era. But for blacks living in Louisiana during that period, life was a continuation of social and economic constraints and a struggle for human and civil rights.

Lee Butler's experience was quite exceptional. By 1920, Butler, age 50, was listed in the census as a medical surgeon. He owned a home in Breaux Bridge, and lived there with his wife Louisa (age 36), and daughter Frances (age 9). Their household also included Paul Vallire, a nineteen year-old yard laborer. It is unknown how or where Dr. Butler attained his medical training, as such educational opportunities were rare for African Americans of his day. By the time Butler was old enough to attend a medical school, Howard University in Washington D. C., and Meharry Medical College of Nashville, were open to blacks studying medicine. An opportunity closer to home occurred in 1889, when Butler was around 21 years old. That is when Flint Medical College of New Orleans University began offering medical training to African Americans.



Although as of yet, we have found no solid evidence to indicate which medical school(s) he attended, the 1940 Federal Census recorded that Dr. Butler had received four years of college education. Solid evidence does suggest that Lee Butler attained significant statewide respect as a physician. In May of 1920, at the New Orleans meeting of the Louisiana Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association (LMDPA), he was elected secretary-treasurer of that association. The following year, in May of 1921, Dr. Butler attended the 17th annual session of the Louisiana Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association, held in Shreveport. At that meeting, he was elected treasurer. The LMDPA was an affiliate of the National Medical Association (NMA), formed in 1895 as the first national organization of African American physicians. When the 1930 census was recorded, Dr. Lee A. Butler at age 61, lived at 409 Gordon Street in Lafayette, along with his wife Louise (age 39), and daughter Frances (age 19). His occupation was listed as physician in general practice. By 1940, Dr. Butler's daughter Frances had married a man from Tyler, Texas, named McCoy Gibbs. The couple lived with Frances' parents on Gordon Street. At the age of 72, Dr. Butler was listed in the 1940 Lafayette City Directory. His listing read:

Butler Lee A (c; Louise V), Physician and Surgeon, Supt of Goodhope Sanitarium and Owner L A Butler's Drug Store, h 409 Gordon, Tel 686-J

An entry for the Goodhope Sanitarium is also recorded in 1940 Lafayette City Directory:

Goodhope Sanitarium Inc. (c), Clarence Parker Pres, Lee A Butler V-Pres-Supt and Mgr, Wallace James Sec Treas, Full Hospitalization Facilities and Accommodations, 221 Cameron.

Narratives about Dr. Butler and his house are excerpted and paraphrased from: Brassieur, Dr. Ray C. Lyles, Dr. Lionel. Martin, Dr. Michael S. (2013) "Freetown as it Was and as it Is". Lafayette Louisiana: The Freetown Final Report. Print.



NEXThouse
319 Jackson Street
Built: 2013
Architecture: Sustainable Contemporary

This home was created by the UL Lafayette Building Institute's Neighborhood Infill Program which aims to reclaim abandoned property and create affordable, efficient housing, while giving UL graduate students hands-on experience. The home demonstrates the success of a unique public-private partnership whereby a public trust lends money to the university who in turns serves as architect and developer, designing, building and selling the home. Sustainable features include energy-efficient appliances, 14-foot high ceilings, and ventilation to cool the interior. Solar panels on the roof offset energy costs and functional shutters protect the home during storms. Its front porch, kitchen and rear patio flow into one another, which makes the home ideal for entertaining and reflects Acadiana's Cajun and Creole hospitality. The NEXThouse sets a precedent in the at-risk neighborhood within which it was built; first, by being the first new home built in over 30 years and second, by achieving the National Green Building Standard level of Bronze while maintaining a market-rate price tag.



COURhouse
324 Jackson Street

Built: 2013

Architecture: Sustainable Contemporary

The COURhouse is named for its interior courtyard. The French word, “Cour”, means “courtyard”. It is the third sustainable home in the UL Lafayette Building Institute’s Neighborhood Infill Program, through which students design energy-efficient homes and build them on vacant lots. One characteristic of the homes in this program is a design that uses building materials that are traditional for the area and interpreted in new, fresh ways. The home’s prominent feature, a centralized courtyard, connects the living room and kitchen to the outdoors, offering residents a sense of openness. The courtyard is accessible also from the master bedroom. The front porch is wrapped in reclaimed cypress wood from an 1800s home in Arnaudville, Louisiana. Clerestory windows and sliding glass doors allow light to flood the spacious living room. The home was designed according to LEED Silver criteria, with features such as the solar panel system on the roof, an instantaneous gas heater, advanced wood framing, and energy-efficient appliances.



PAVY STUDIO

210 Gordon Street

Built: c. 1955

Architectural Style: Vernacular Storefront

Pavy Studio was originally built as a residence and converted to a retail shop sometime in the late 1940s. It is a good example in terms of design, workmanship and materials, for a neighborhood retail store in Freetown at the time it was converted. The building retains its original wood storefront windows, full-width porch, metal awning, and double door entry. In addition to its architectural integrity, the property includes historic significance from its association with local artist, Francis X. Pavy. As a child, Francis studied art under the direction of Elmore Morgan Jr., and in college he studied music, ceramics, animation, painting, print-making and sculpture. He graduated in 1976 with a Fine Arts degree in Sculpture. In 1977, Pavy started working in a glass shop, making leaded and beveled glass windows, and in 1982 he opened his own glass studio. He adopted painting as his primary medium in 1985, citing his glass work as a primary inspiration for his painting work. Pavy's work has been well received regionally, nationally and internationally with one-man exhibitions in New York, Los Angeles, Houston, Aspen, New Orleans, as well as in France and Switzerland.



BENDEL HOUSEKEEPER'S HOME

318 Clinton Street

Built: c. 1900

Architectural Style: Victorian Shingle/Eastlake

This house was built by Henri Bendel (1868 - 1936) for his beloved, long-time housekeeper. Henri was well known for his generosity to employees, family and friends. In addition to this house, he also built a house for his sister, now called La Maison Française and located on UL Lafayette Campus at 1511 Johnston Street. Henri was born in Vermilionville, to William Louis Bendel and Mary Plonsky Bendel. Henri's father died in 1874 when Henri was six years old. His mother was an astute businesswoman who owned and operated a retail furniture outlet, a drug store, a dry goods store, and an undertaking parlor. She remarried in 1878 to Benjamin Falk, who would become one of the most successful Lafayette businessmen of his time. They operated a dry goods store, above which was Falk's Opera House. In 1894, Henri Bendel married Blanche Lehman, a daughter of Aaron Lehman and a member of the Henry Lehman family. Henri had exceptional fashion designing skills, and by 1895 he opened a ladies accessories shop in Greenwich Village. The French-speaking Bendel enhanced his store's exclusivity by importing fashions from Paris, and in 1907, he began branding the brown and white striped boxes that are still identified with the Henri Bendel company today.



POTTERY ALLEY
 625 Garfield Street
 Built: c. 1935

Architectural Style: Vernacular Warehouse

The history behind this building goes back to the time before the property belonged to Southern Pacific Railroad which later merged to become Union Pacific Railroad. There is a tragic tale associated with this building. In the early 1900s, a large amount of wine was made improperly with bad alcohol not intended for human consumption. The bad wine caused blindness, and the wine was confiscated and stored in this warehouse. Unfortunately, transients illegally entered the warehouse through the floor, and consumed the wine. For many years afterwards, Lafayette was host to a significant number of blind transients because of this tragedy. Today, a much more positive history is in the making. Pottery Alley opened its doors in 2007 and quickly became Lafayette's premiere retreat for clay artists. Students of all skill levels enjoy trips to Pottery Alley to take part in their fun, informational classes and workshops. Pottery Alley offers six electric wheels, several hand-building tables, a wall extruder, and slab roller. They also mix their own glazes in the studio. The studio is open for Art Walks, and the space is available for parties.



WAREHOUSE 535
535 Garfield Street

Built: c. 1935

Architectural Style: Vernacular Warehouse

This warehouse was built on land leased from Southern Pacific Railroad shortly before World War II by J. P. Gerami and two business partners to house their "OK Wholesale Grocery". Within a few years, Gerami bought out his partners and closed the grocery business. For many of the subsequent years, it was used as a warehouse for Gerami Floor Coverings, but was also periodically leased for other ventures. Mr. Herbert Schilling used the warehouse for his Budweiser products, and later, Sammy Abraham used it for Pearl Beer and Miller Beer, before moving his operations to Pierce Street. Alex Mahfouz used the building to sell discount clothing, and Montgomery Ward used the building, as well. Perhaps the most celebrated tenant was Dudley LeBlanc, who used the building to bottle and warehouse his famous Hadocol Vitamin Elixir. Eventually, Gerami resumed the use of the building for his flooring and interiors business. Among the many projects Gerami completed throughout South Louisiana using this warehouse space, is the furnishing of interior curtains and floor coverings for the original Lafayette General Hospital.



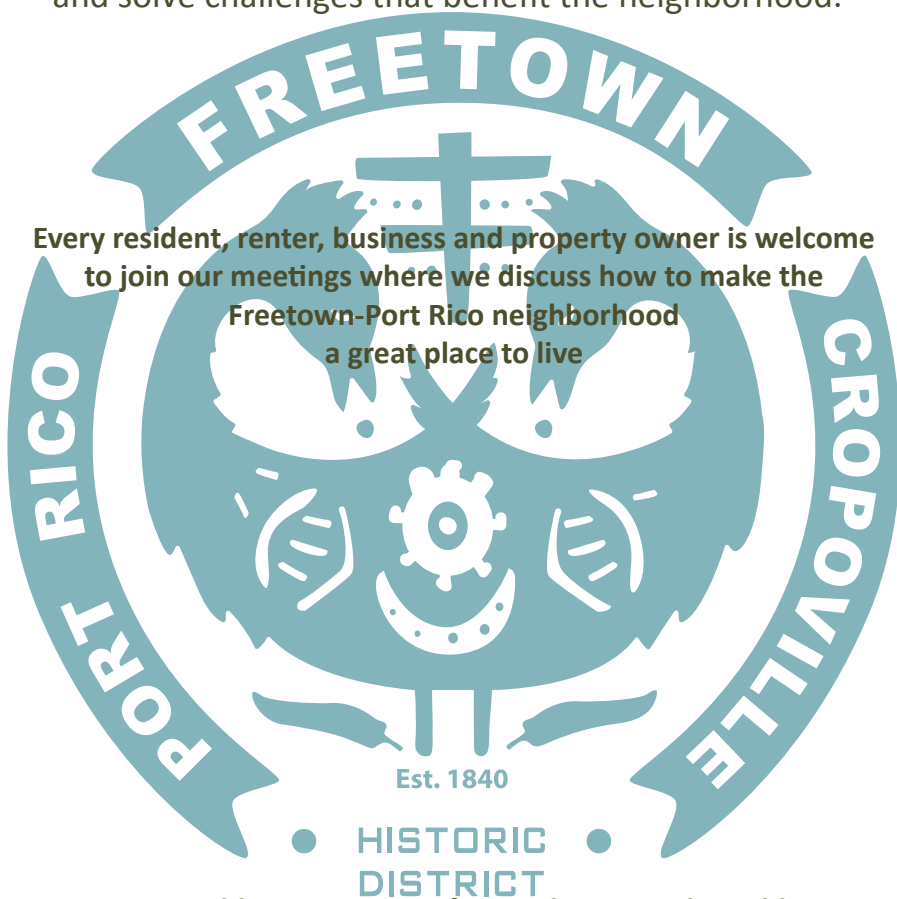
In early 2015, the property and building were acquired by Mark Falgout and his wife, Nicole LeBlanc. They immediately began a major rehabilitation project, cleaning up the original longleaf pine floors, repairing sidewalks and building hand crafted millwork, resulting in one of Lafayette's most impressive adaptive reuse projects. Warehouse 535 building is now a state of the art performance venue, sitting on 2 acres of land, that includes a back deck that extending across the entire length of the warehouse. This beautiful facility can boast green rooms where performers can relax when they are not performing, loading docks, ample capacity, two bars, and a spacious parking lot. The 600-capacity event venue with its 330 square foot stage that extends 22 feet in width is complemented by The Rhum Room, a Hemingway's Cuba bar, and a yet-to-be-leased restaurant space.

Freetown Family Fair is at
Warehouse 535
Beginning at 5:00 PM
Please Stop by after the History Walk!

The Freetown-Port Rico Coterie was established in 2006, and is currently working to incorporate as a non-profit organization. Its board is comprised of residents and business owners from within the neighborhoods' boundaries of Pinhook Road, University Avenue, Johnston Street, and the Evangeline Thruway.

Coterie:

"A group of neighbors who join together to create plans and solve challenges that benefit the neighborhood."



Every resident, renter, business and property owner is welcome to join our meetings where we discuss how to make the Freetown-Port Rico neighborhood a great place to live

Our monthly meetings are free and open to the public.

When: 5:30 PM on the second Tuesday of each month

Where: Acadian Superette, at 600 Lamar Street, Lafayette, LA 70501

Free: Plate lunch style meals are served after the meeting

~ Compliments of Lâche Pas Boucherie ~

We want to hear from you! Visit www.freetown-portrico.org or email FPRCoterie@gmail.com for more information!



Preservation
ALLIANCE
— OF —
LAFAYETTE