

THE HISTORY OF STERLING GROVE

NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA



Circa 1820 Charles Mouton Plantation House



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LAFAYETTE PRESERVATION HISTORY WALK
HELD ANNUALLY IN THE SPRING

History of the Development of Sterling Grove



1820 Charles Mouton Plantation House

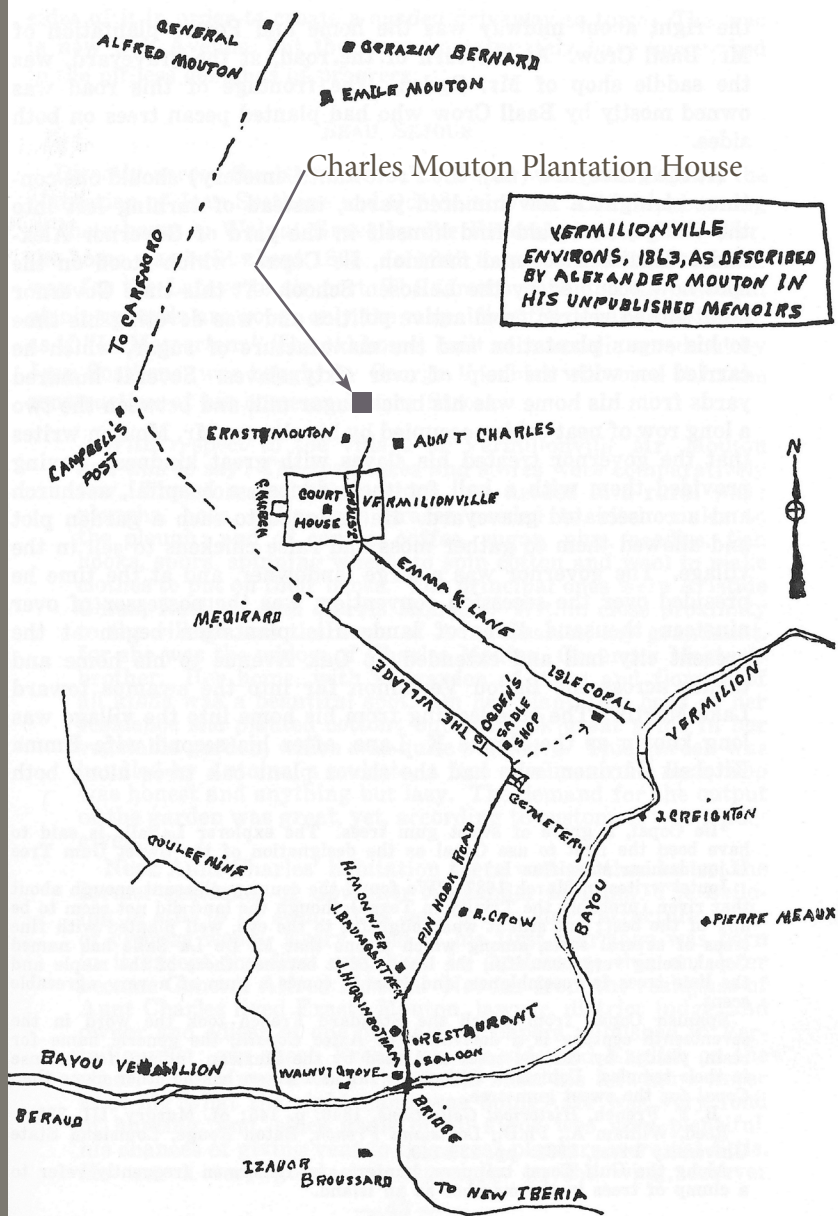
The Early Years - A Background

Sterling Grove National Historic District encompasses properties that were subdivided from the plantation of Charles Alexandre Homere Mouton (1823-1912). He was known as Charles Homere and was the grandson of Lafayette's founder, Jean Mouton. Just before 1850, Charles Homere inherited the property from his father, Charles Mouton (1797-1847). The plantation home was built around 1820 by widower, Charles Mouton, at the time of his second marriage to Marie Julie Latiolais in 1821.



Moss and Davis Postcard Circa 1900

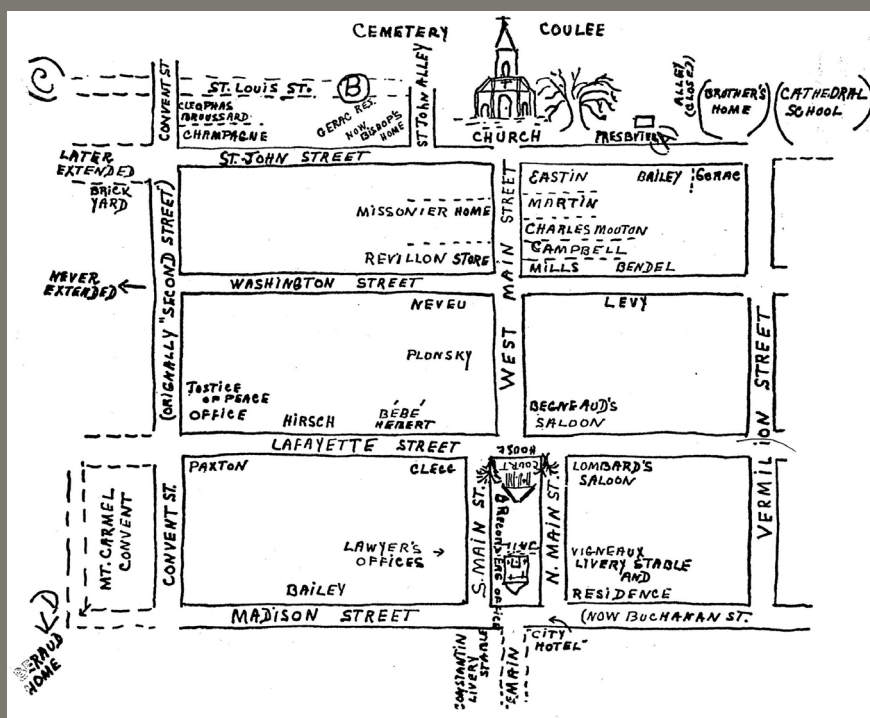
Before 1900 Everything outside of downtown, beyond University Avenue, Simcoe Street and Johnston Street, was rural, agricultural land, populated with moderately-sized plantations. They were owned by families with the names of Reeves, Mouton, Girard, Greig, Daigle, Broussard, Beraud, Leblanc, Martin, Trahan, Billeaud, Crow, Kennedy, Montgomery, and others. Sterling Grove was built at a time when the Industrial Revolution generated economic growth throughout the civilized world. In Vermilionville, the arrival of the steam locomotive in 1880, began to transform the small town from a remote, frontier village to a fast-growing center of commerce and distribution.



1863 Map of Vermilionville Environs

"The Attakapas Country- A History of Lafayette Parish, Louisiana" by Harry Lewis Griffin, Copyright 1959. Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA.

The village of Vermilionville became Lafayette in 1884. It was unique at that time, because its population included a relatively large middle class. Small plantations were not self-sufficient like large plantations. On small plantations it was more economical to use independent artisans such as leather craftsmen, wheel rights and blacksmiths, rather than provide all needs using plantation labor. Therefore, artisans and merchants selling services and goods to local plantations were in ever-increasing demand in Vermilionville throughout the late 1700s and early 1800s. These artisans formed Vermilionville's emerging middle class.

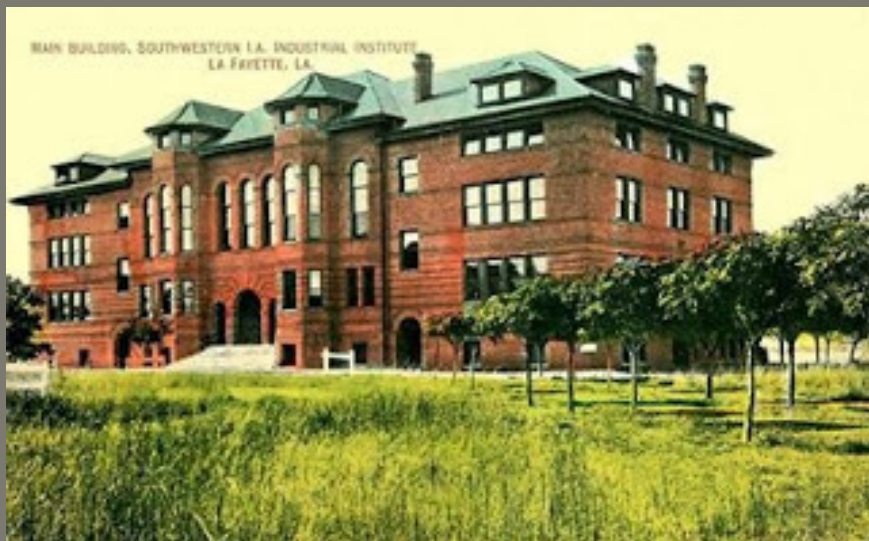


1880 Map of Downtown Lafayette

With the Industrial Revolution came the automobile, the steam locomotive, machinery to mass produce things like turned wood and other components of building materials. There was a surge of economic growth throughout Europe and the U. S., and Lafayette was no exception. The evidence of a surge in growth can be seen in the large amount of home building that occurred between 1900 and 1910. Seventeen (17) new subdivisions were created along the edges of Lafayette during the first decade of the 20th century.



1912 Map of Lafayette showing Sterling Grove on the Edge of Town



Postcard - 1902 Martin Hall Southwest Louisiana Industrial Institute
Postcard is courtesy of an Anonymous Donor to the Preservation Alliance of Lafayette

Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute, (SLII), was founded in 1900, further boosting Lafayette's population growth. During the first decade of the 20th century, many people made the transition from rural, agricultural occupations to more urban occupations. There was an increase in jobs connected with SLII, the railroad, food and lumber distribution services, as well as retail products and services needed by Lafayette's growing population. Sterling Grove was developed during this period of economic growth.

HOUSES ON THE TOUR

STERLING GROVE (and Vicinity)

1. 1925 Saint Genevieve Church - OPEN until 2:30 pm

2. John Nickerson House - c. 1891 OPEN

Walk by 319 N. Sterling: c. 1907 Felix M. Latiolais House

Walk by 324 N. Sterling: c. 1893 Givens Townhouse

Walk by 333 N. Sterling: c. 1904 Don A. Greig House

Walk by 339 N. Sterling: c. 1904 Walter Scott Torian House*

3. Charles Mouton Plantation House - circa 1820 - OPEN

Walk by 801 Mudd: 1926 N. P. Moss School

4. Hanley Gueno House - 1900 - OPEN

5. Barrois House - c. 1902 OPEN

Walk by 435 N Sterling: c. 1905 Dr. Babcock House

Walk by 443 N. Sterling: c. 1903 James McNaspy House

Walk by 449 N. Sterling: c. 1898 Mrs. H. T. McMillan House

Walk by 351 Elizabeth: c. 1904 McFaddin House

Walk by 603 Mudd: c.1900 Donelson Caffery House

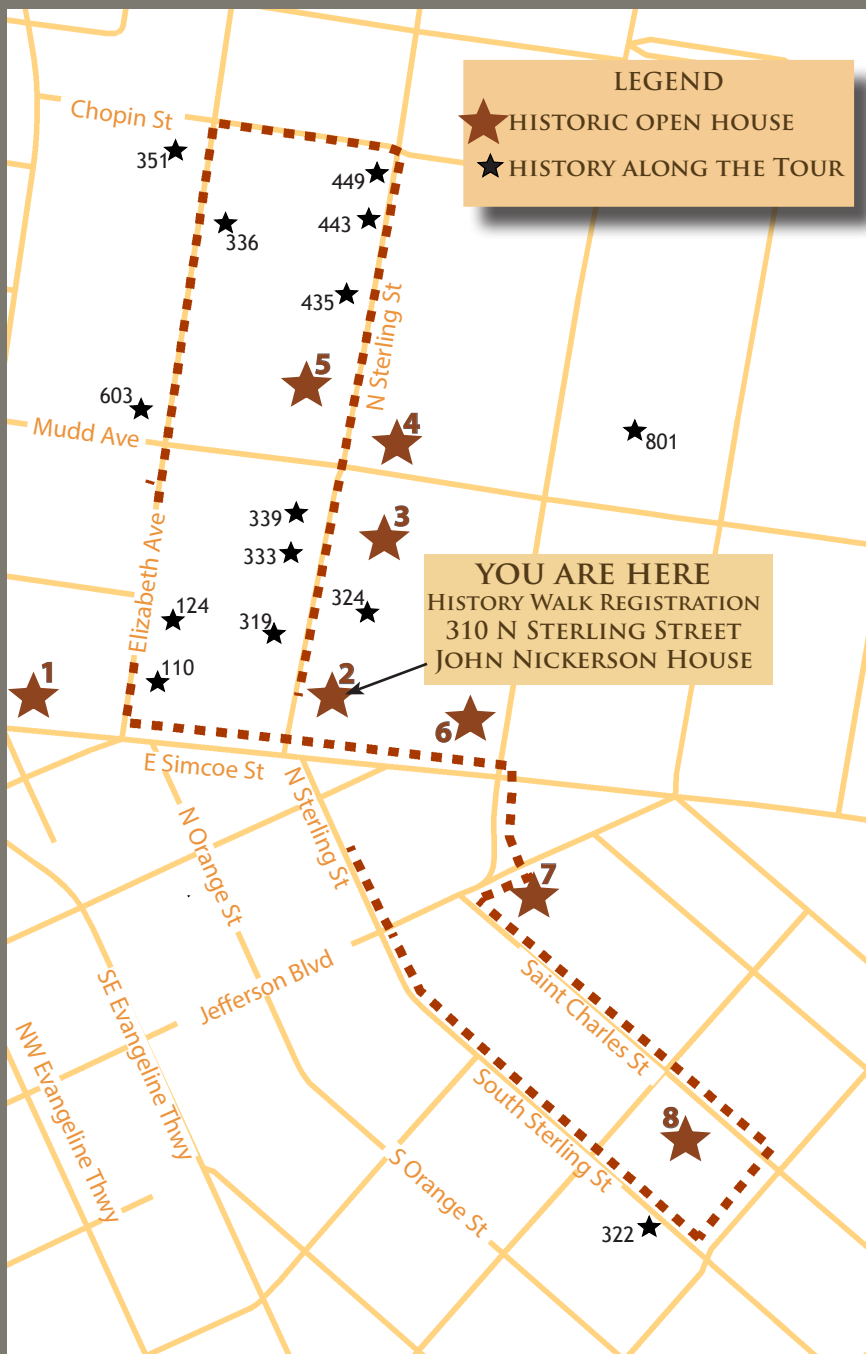
6. Nickerson-Chappuis House - 1931 - OPEN

7. Prudhomme-Begnaud House - c. 1906 – OPEN

8. Moss House - c. 1904 - OPEN

Walk by 322 S. Sterling: c. 1905 Mrs. Oscar Couret House

*Refreshments and historic discussions inside the enclosed porch.



Tour route shown above is 1.3 miles long.

Open House until 2:30 pm only



Saint Genevieve Catholic Church
417 E Simcoe Street

Built: 1925 Enlarged: 1938
Style: Romanesque Revival

Saint Genevieve Catholic Church was built to address the need for a place of worship on the north side of Lafayette. Railroad underpasses were not built until the 1940s, and after the railroad was completed in 1880, Lafayette's north side residents faced long wait times for trains. Thanks to a generous donation from Mr. Henry Lastrapes in 1925, Father William Turlings, Pastor at Saint John the Evangelist church, was able to build a chapel on Simcoe Street for parishioners who lived north of the tracks. The church was named Saint Genevieve for the patron Saint of Paris, which also was Mr. Henry Lastrapes' mother's name. In 1938, side wings were added, enlarging the church to its present size. Lafayette's population had more than doubled between the 1925 and 1938, and between 1925 and 1950, with the success of the University and the oil industry, Lafayette's population grew from 8,000 to more than 33,000.



JOHN NICKERSON HOUSE
310 North Sterling Street
Local Historic Property #93
Built: circa 1891
Style: Queen Anne Revival
Designated: April 18, 2013

This beautiful Victorian style home was built circa 1891 on property that was originally part of the Charles Mouton Plantation. It was built by John Nickerson, an architect from Simcoe, Ontario, Canada, on a two-acre tract located at the edge of town. John Nickerson designed the structure and contracted two Canadian carpenters to build it. Simcoe Street was named by John Nickerson. John, his wife Elizabeth Ransome Nickerson, and their children were the home's first occupants. In 1900, John Nickerson's son, John Cameron Nickerson, married Isabelle Judice, whose family founded the Town of Scott. They became the second generation to occupy the house. John and Isabelle's daughter, Bella Nickerson, married World War II Veteran, Richard Chappuis, and their family became the third and fourth generations to live in the house. The Nickerson, Judice and Chappuis families have all made many significant contributions to Lafayette's civic, cultural, educational, and economic development.



HISTORIC HOUSE

319 North Sterling Street

Circa 1907: Felix and Louise Martin Latiolais

The style of this house is called the Cajun Prairie Queen Ann style. It was widely popular at the turn of the 20th century in South Louisiana. It was the home of Felix M. Latiolais and his wife, Louise Martin from 1915 until the Louise's death in 1927. Felix was the first City Marshall for Lafayette, and served as Sheriff from 1914 to 1924. Felix M. Latiolais was one of three children born to Dr. Felix C. Latiolais and Jenny Beauchamp. Felix M. Latiolais was married on February 14, 1906, to Louise Martin, daughter of Agnon Edgar Martin and Julie Martin. Their family of four daughters and three sons were brought up in this house.



GIVENS TOWNHOUSE
324 North Sterling Street
Local Historic Property #85
Built: 1893
Style: Eastlake
Designated: March 15, 2012

Givens Townhouse was built by “Sallie”, Sarah Lyle Torian Givens. Sallie grew up on the Pinckney sugar plantation near Patterson, Louisiana during the 1800’s. She was married shortly after the Civil War and moved to Corpus Christi, Texas at a time when all of Texas was considered wilderness where the “wild savages” lived. Sallie’s husband, John S. Givens, practiced law and served as a Judge for the Corpus Christi area. When John Givens died in 1887, Sallie and her three children moved back to Lafayette to be close to her two brothers. Sallie built this house to look like an Eastlake house she had seen in Lake Charles. Eastlake is a type of Queen Anne Victorian architecture that achieves its picturesque look using multiple gables, bays, and balconies with an abundance of turned balusters, spindles and pierced wood.



HISTORIC HOUSE

333 North Sterling Street

Circa 1904: Don A. Greig

Don Greig was the nephew of Martha T. Greig, the owner of a large portion of the property in Sterling Grove National Historic District. Martha's parents, John and Angelica Greig were plantation owners. Their summer home and plantation were located at the East end of Simcoe Street, where present-day Oakbourne Country Club exists. Martha was married to Dr. Francis Sterling Mudd. The subdivision they developed was recorded in 1901 as Mudd Addition, five years before Martha's death.

MUDD ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF LAFAYETTE, LA 1901

Charles Mouton Plantation House

LAFAYETTE
CE 1
MUDD
ADD.
THE TOWN
OWN

LAFAYETTE, LA.

"No Paris"
7. Addition with
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Frank and Glenda Vincent invite you join them here
on the front porch for refreshments and historic details!
Refreshments Sponsored by Upstart Exploration.

HISTORIC HOUSE

339 North Sterling Street

Circa 1904: Walter Scott Torian and Hariette Weeks

This was the summer home of Walter Scott Torian and Hariette Weeks. Walter was the brother of Sallie Torian Givens who built the house at 324 N Sterling Street. Hariette Weeks was a member of the Weeks family who owned Shadows on the Teche Plantation. Hariette's great-grandfather, John Moore, was a former U. S. Congressman and Judge. She was also the niece of was Weeks Hall, the gentleman who developed Weeks Island.



CHARLES MOUTON PLANTATION HOUSE

Bois de Chênes

338 North Sterling Street

NATIONAL REGISTER PROPERTY

Historic Property #6

Built: circa 1820

Style: French Creole

Designated: November 1, 1990

This structure was built by Charles Mouton (1797-1848). Charles Mouton was a son of Lafayette's founder, Jean Mouton (1754-1834). The house and property were once part of Jean's plantation of over 300 acres. Charles, also a planter, acquired the property from his father in 1818. He built the house just prior to his marriage in 1821 to Marie Julie Latiolais, daughter of Joseph Latiolais, a French Creole of La Pointe, Louisiana. Charles and Julie Mouton's son, Charles Homer Mouton, was elected Louisiana Lieutenant governor in 1855,. He inherited the property in 1854 from his father. Over the years, several neighborhoods have been carved from the once vast plantation. Today, the plantation house is located within Sterling Grove National Historic District. It is now the historic bed and breakfast, Bois des Chênes, owned and operated by Charles Mouton descendent, Coerte A. Voorhies, Jr., and his wife, Marjorie Dehart Voorhies.



N. P. MOSS SCHOOL

801 Mudd Avenue

Local Historic Property #39

Built: 1926

Style: Jacobean Revival

Designated: May 3, 1995

N. P. Moss School was built around the same time as its sister public school, Lafayette Elementary. Both were built to help ease the pressure on Lafayette Parish School System, caused by the increasing population growth experienced in Lafayette at the beginning of the 20th century. The design of this school is included in the broad style called the English Style. It was the traditional style for many education and civic buildings at of the time, normally classified into two subcategories: Collegiate Gothic and Jacobean Revival. The style that most influenced the façade of N. P. Moss School, is the Jacobean Revival style which is relatively uncommon for Louisiana. The Lafayette Parish School Board successfully refurbished the building in 2012 and renamed it, “N. P. Moss Preparatory School”.

Open House Sponsored by Saint Street Inn



HANLEY-GUENO HOUSE

CHATEAU DU PARC

406 North Sterling Street

Local Historic Property #41

Built: circa 1900

Style: American Foursquare

Designated: April 3, 1996

A shoe salesman built this stately American Foursquare house after buying the property from Martha T. Greig, wife of Dr. Francis S. Mudd. However, the owner of most notoriety is Joseph Raoul Jeanmard, whose brother, Bishop Jules Jeanmard, lived in the house for about a year during the construction of Saint John Cathedral and Saint John Rectory, L'ancien Évêché. The Jeanmard Family is also credited with being the first to bring Azalea plants to Lafayette. Some of the oldest Azaleas in Lafayette can be found on this property. Hanley-Gueno House is named after the owners who carefully restored and occupied the house for over 35 years prior to 2007. They are also well known for creating the Baroque Neapolitan crèche, now on permanent exhibit at Saint John Cathedral Museum.

Open House Sponsored by Café Vermilionville



BARROIS HOUSE

(formerly SNODGRASS HOUSE)

411 North Sterling Street

Local Historic Property #44

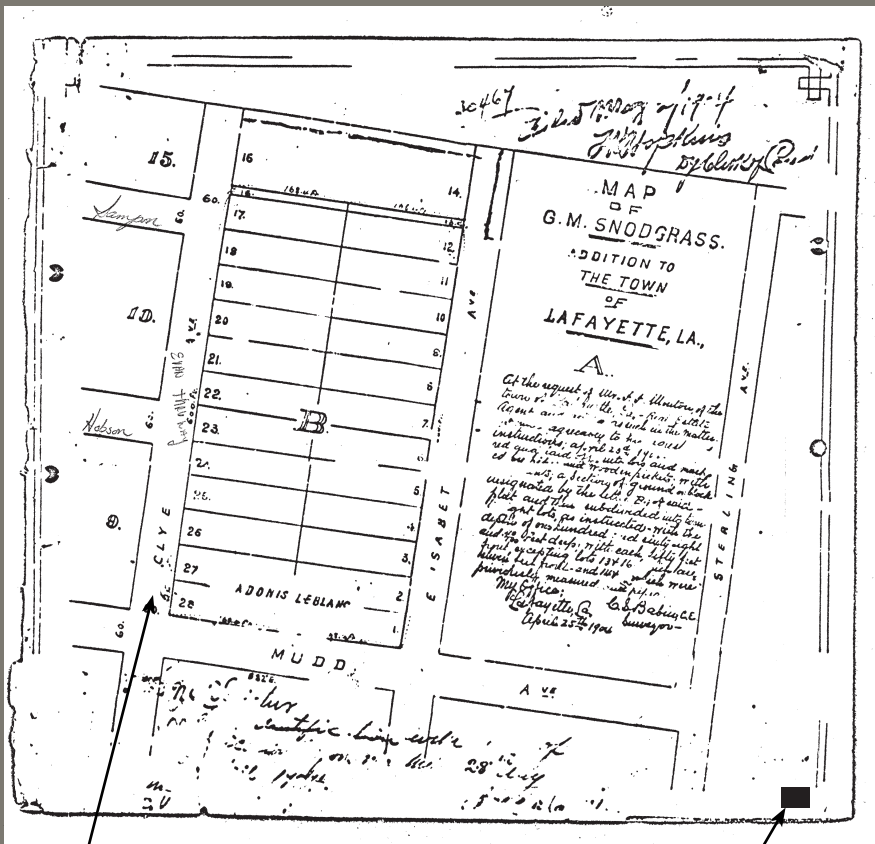
Built: circa 1902

Style: Queen Anne Revival

Designated: September 4, 1996

Barrois House was built by Mr. G. M. Snodgrass, the developer of this part of Sterling Grove. The house is a fine example of Victorian architecture, a style made possible by the Industrial Revolution in the 1800s. Industrialization permitted many complex architectural elements to be mass-produced and transported at relatively low costs. Victorian styles clearly reflect the ease of creating architectural ornamentation with its extravagant use of complex shapes and detailing. The grand scale of Barrois House is impressive, but not unusual for its time. The turn of the 20th century was a period of significant economic growth. Barrois House is named for Dr. & Mrs. William Barrois who purchased the house in 1970 and restored it to its original grandeur.

G. M. Snodgrass Addition to the Town of Lafayette, LA
1904



Charles Mouton Plantation House

Clye Avenue is now NW Evangeline Thruway.



HISTORIC HOUSE

435 North Sterling Street
circa 1905: Dr. Babcock

The property on which this house stands was purchased from Martha T. Greig, wife of Francis Sterling Mudd. The house was built by Dr. Babcock around 1905. Dr. Babcock may have built the house as a spec house. Shortly after purchasing the property from Mrs. Mudd, D. Babcock built the house and sold the property to W. Scott Heywood, who used the house as rental property. Heywood converted it to a duplex around 1914. In 1936, Felix H. Mouton, former Lafayette Parish Clerk of Court, bought the house, and restored it to a single-family residence.



HISTORIC HOUSE

443 North Sterling Street

Circa 1903: James McNaspy

Anna M. Blanchet, wife of James McNaspy, purchased this property from George M. Snodgrass in 1903. The home was built by McNaspy shortly thereafter. McNaspy was a Civil War Veteran from Kansas, and reportedly the first plaster craftsman in Lafayette. He did the original plaster work on this house. In 1922, James and Anna's son, Emmet, inherited the property. Emmett's brother, C. J. McNaspy was the first Athletic Director at UL Lafayette. The now-demolished McNaspy Stadium was named in his honor. Emmet lost the home during the Great Depression, and in 1939 it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Michot.



HISTORIC HOUSE

449 North Sterling Street

Circa 1898: Mrs. H. T. McMillan

Shortly before 1900, James McNaspy built this house for his daughter, Mrs. H. T. McMillan. It was the last house on the north edge of Lafayette's suburbs. Until the 1940s, everything north of this house was farmland. When this house was built, it was not uncommon for suburban lots to be deep enough to accommodate a horse for transportation, and or a milk cow. This house and many in the neighborhood like it, included property that spanned the entire depth of the block. The depth of Mrs. H. T. McMillan's lot once spanned the entire block to Elizabeth Street.



McFADDIN HOUSE

351 Elizabeth Avenue

Local Historic Property #92

Built: circa 1904

Style: Queen Anne Revival

Designated: April 18, 2013

The property where this house is located was originally part of Charles Homer Mouton's Plantation. The house on this property is believed to have been built shortly after the property was purchased from George M. Snodgrass early in 1904 for \$300. Thomas T. McFaddin and Robert H. McFaddin were sons of Judge Theodore Alexander McFaddin, (1842-1916). Judge McFaddin was the first Justice of the Peace in the town of Vermilionville when that office first opened in 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Theodore A. McFaddin were also one of the original founding members of the Presbyterian Church of Vermilionville, organized in 1875. Robert H. McFaddin was an unmarried and well known owner of the corner grocery store that was located near Saint John Cathedral. Thomas T. McFaddin was married to Mary Eugenia Bradley, and they had no children.



HISTORIC HOUSE

603 Mudd Avenue

Circa 1904: Donelson L. Caffery

This house was built by Donelson L. Caffery who was a former U. S. Senator, a distinguished soldier in the American Civil War and a sugar plantation owner. His great-grandfather, Colonel John Donelson, was co-founder of the city of Nashville and was the father-in-law of President Andrew Jackson. This house was originally built on Parkerson family property downtown at the corner of Garfield and Taylor Streets. It was built across Garfield Street from Ambassador Charles D. Caffery's House. In 1952 the house was moved to its present location by Ray. A. Delahoussaye. It remained in the Delahoussaye family for several decades. Presently, it is a rental property belonging to Blazek Company, LLC of Lafayette.



HISTORIC HOUSE

124 Elizabeth Avenue

Circa 1900: Frank S. Domengeaux

This house was built by Rudolph Domengeaux and his wife, Marie Marthe Mouton. They were the parents of Attorney James Domengeaux, and former Judge Jerome E. Domengeaux. Jerome also served as Mayor of Lafayette between 1956 and 1960. James is well known for his long tenure as Chairman of the Council for the Development of French In Louisiana (CODOFIL), and before that, for serving as U.S. Congressman.



HISTORIC HOUSE

110 Elizabeth Avenue

Circa 1900: Rudolph Domengeaux

This house was built by Frank Domengeaux, a former long-term employee of the U. S. Post Office in Lafayette. For many years, young people in the neighborhood gathered at this home and played on the vacant land that surrounded the house. The vacant land was referred to as the “Barnyard” because of the many animals that lived there, including an alligator.

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NICKERSON-CHAPPUIS HOUSE

631 East Simcoe Street
Local Historic Property #78
Built: 1931

Style: American Bungalow
Designated: September 24, 2009

This house is arguably one of the largest and most welcoming American Bungalow homes in Lafayette. It has the rare distinction of remaining, for over 80 years, in the family credited with its construction. Both the Nickerson and Chappuis families have significant histories in Lafayette. This beautiful Arts & Crafts style bungalow on Simcoe Street was built by John Cameron Nickerson and son-in-law, Wick B. Vernard, at the Vernard's sawmill in McNary, Louisiana, near Alexandria. It was transported via water transport to Lafayette. John Cameron Nickerson, Sr. and his wife, Elizabeth Ransome Nickerson, moved to Lafayette in 1878 from Simcoe, Ontario, Canada when their son, John Cameron Nickerson, Jr. was 18 years old.



PRUDHOMME-BEGNAUD HOUSE

708 Jefferson Boulevard
Local Historic Property #68

Built: circa 1906

Style: Colonial Revival

Designated: September 15, 2005

Prudhomme-Begnaud House was built by Gaston Mouisset to serve as Andrew Prudhomme's residence sometime between 1903 and 1906. It was designed in the style considered at the time to be of truly American origin, the Colonial Revival style. Colonial Revival style came about during a time of extreme patriotism, when people in the South and other parts of the country were inclined to romanticize about the era prior to the Civil War. Throughout the Colonial Revival period, many homes were designed to resemble the antebellum Greek Revival structures of the early to mid 1800s. In 1941 Mr. Prudhomme sold the house to Mr. Louis Begnaud. Louis Begnaud is well known as the founder of the Mellow Joy Coffee Company in Lafayette. Today, the Prudhomme-Begnaud House serves as an holistic mind/body wellness center called the Camelia House.



MOSS HOUSE

212 Saint Charles Street
Local Historic Property #81
Built: circa 1904
Style: Queen Anne Revival
Designated: October 21, 2010

Many small neighborhoods were developed around railroad stations following the growth of the railroad in the late 1800s. In 1902, a portion of the area near Lafayette's train depot was subdivided as part of the Nickerson Addition. Moss House was built around 1904 and was one of the first houses in Nickerson Addition Subdivision. It was purchased in 1936 by Jefferson Moss, and later in 1947, by his nephew A. J. Moss, Jr. and his wife, Jeanne. They occupied the home for over half a century. In 2003 it was sold to its present owner. A key feature of the Queen Anne style is the abundant use of embellishments such as the pierced aprons on all gables and the fish scale siding on the larger dormer window. Some time after the Queen Anne Style's popularity waned, the Colonial Revival style became fashionable as people began to fancy the look of pre-Civil War antebellum homes. Popularity of the Colonial Revival style is evidenced by the four evenly spaced Greek-revival concrete columns. These were added later, replacing the original, Queen Ann style turned-wood posts.



HISTORIC HOUSE

322 S Sterling Street

Circa 1904: Mrs. Oscar Couret

This was a spec house built by S. R. Parkerson, developer of this subdivision. The house is most notably identified with Mrs. Oscar Couret, who purchased the house in 1921. The subsequent owner, Mrs. Maurice Chaisson, was their daughter. Mr. Parkerson, was one of the first developers in Lafayette, who built for speculative purposes. The neighborhood was built to accommodate the ever-increasing demand for housing near the relatively new railroad station in Lafayette.

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