

The first inhabitants of what would become Iberia Parish, Louisiana, were American Indians, who migrated to the region about 12,000 years ago. They were drawn particularly to the roughly 2,000-acre geographical oddity now called Avery Island, which is actually a salt dome located about three miles inland from Vermilion Bay. There the Indians boiled the island's briny spring water to extract salt, which they traded to other tribes as far away as central Texas, Arkansas, and Ohio.

By the eighteenth century the allegedly cannibalistic Attakapas tribe inhabited much of south-central and southwestern Louisiana. (The name Attakapas translates as "Man Eater.") Despite the Attakapas' fierce reputation, during the eighteenth century European settlers trickled into the region, which they dubbed the Attakapas District.

In 1779 a group of Spanish settlers under the leadership of Francisco Boulligny settled in Attakapas, and established a community on Bayou Teche called Nuevo Iberia (New Iberia). As historian Glenn R. Conrad has observed, "It is today the only remaining town in the state of Louisiana to have been founded by the Spaniards."

They were joined by French and Acadian settlers, and by 1788 the community consisted of about one hundred ninety individuals. (British troops had expelled the Acadians from their Nova Scotian homeland earlier in the century, and the first exiles arrived in Attakapas in 1764-65. Over generations they and the other ethnic groups with whom they intermarried on the south Louisiana frontier developed into a new ethnic group, the Cajuns.)

With these settlers of European descent came Afro-Caribbean slaves and the gens de couleur libre ("free persons of color"). The latter occupied a middle tier between enslaved blacks and free whites; by 1870 their descendants had formed a large Creole enclave at Grand Marais, in southeastern Iberia Parish. After the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, these French, Spanish, Acadian, and African inhabitants were joined increasingly by Anglo-American settlers.

During the early 1800s sugar cane became the region's principal crop, and so it remains today. Each September the arrival of the harvest and ginning season is celebrated in Iberia Parish with the Sugar Cane Festival, founded in 1941.

The area that would become Iberia Parish was hotly contested by Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War. Their battle lines moved back and forth through the area, and Union troops twice looted the town. They also seized the Weeks family mansion, now called "Shadows-on-the-Teche," and used it as a command post — but not before it, too, was looted. As a Union officer noted, "the boys were allowed to go through it, sack, pillage and destroy every article within its walls."

In 1868 Iberia Parish was created from parts of St. Martin and St. Mary parishes, with New Iberia being appointed its seat of government.

That same year local resident Edmund McIlhenny grew his first commercial crop of tabasco peppers, which the following year he marketed as TABASCO® brand pepper sauce. That world-famous condiment is still manufactured in Iberia Parish. Its home, Avery Island, also boasted the nation's earliest solid rock salt mine, first excavated in 1862 — an event that prompted Union gunboats to attack the island.

Although sugar continued to play a vital role in Iberia Parish, during the twentieth century oil became a major component of the local economy. Oil was first discovered in Louisiana in 1901, and numerous petroleum-related businesses were soon operating out of Iberia Parish — not only because of its oil deposits, but also because its proximity to the Gulf of Mexico and offshore drilling platforms. The Inland Port of Iberia opened to service the oil industry, both locally and worldwide. Many of the world's offshore drilling rigs and platforms are fabricated in this massive port facility.

Today Iberia Parish thrives as a center of sugar, oil, and salt production, and draws over 100,000 visitors annually to its bayou-country attractions, including the Shadows-on-the-Teche plantation home and Konriko rice mill in New Iberia, the Tabasco factory, Jungle Gardens, and Bird City wildfowl refuge at Avery Island — to name only a few.

Sources: Jim Bradshaw, *The Daily Advertiser's History of Acadiana*, No. 6, Iberia Parish (25 November 1997); Glen Conrad, *New Iberia* (1986); David C. Edmonds, *Yankee Autumn in Acadiana* (1987); *Encyclopedia of Cajun Culture* (s.v. "Iberia Parish"); Morris Raphael, *The Battle in the Bayou Country* (1990).

too hot to pass up!

HISTORIC DISTRICT

Shopping, Dining, the Arts, Lodging

KONRIKO®/Conrad Rice Mill

Tour America's Oldest Rice Mill & Company Store

Shadows-on-the-Teche

Plantation Home & Garden Tour

TABASCO® Brand Products

Free factory tour & Country Store

Jungle Gardens of Avery Island

Garden Tour, Bird Sanctuary, Ancient Buddha Temple

Jeanerette Sugar Museum

History of Sugar Processing Exhibits

Rip Van Winkle Gardens of Jefferson Island

Joseph Jefferson Home, Garden Tour, B & B cottages

Antique Rose Ville

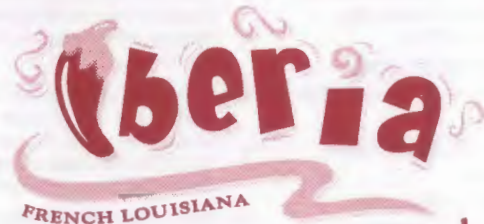
Garden Tour, High Tea & Dining

Bayou Teche Museum

Teche area, History, Culture & Exhibits



New Iberia's historic commercial district won the 2005 Great American Main Street Award® sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation®



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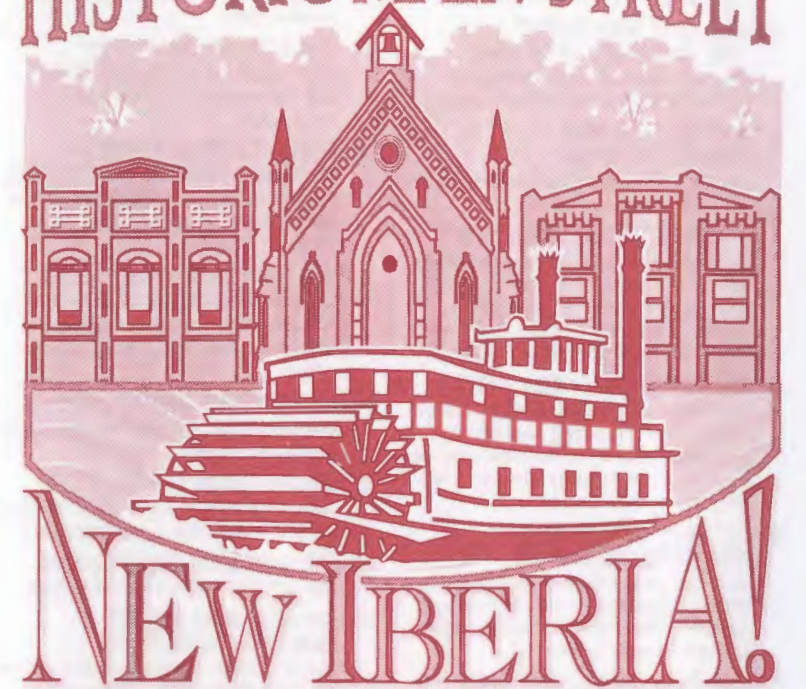
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HISTORIC MAIN STREET



NATIONAL REGISTER RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT WALKING TOUR

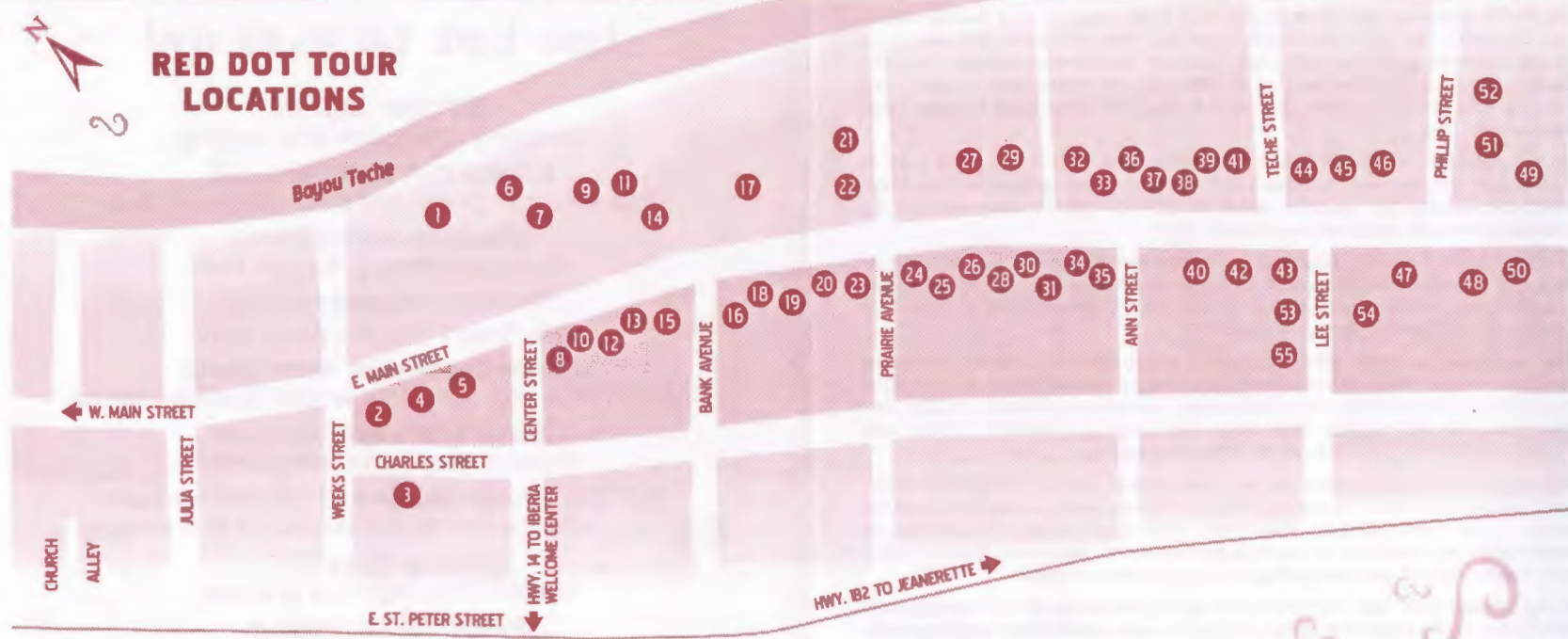
Experience the setting captured in the famed Dave Robicheaux novels of New Iberia, native and award-winning author,

James Lee Burke.

RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TOUR

- 1 **317 EAST MAIN STREET c.1834 - NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK**
Two-and-a-half story, brick, 7 bay, colossal columnar Greek Revival plantation house.
- 2 **300 EAST MAIN STREET - THE OLD POST OFFICE c.1903**
One-story Georgian Revival building with arched fenestration and a columnar cupola.
- 3 **109 WEEKS STREET - SYNAGOGUE c.1903**
One-story brick building vaguely Romanesque, with half-timbered front gable.
- 4 **314 EAST MAIN STREET c.1870**
One-and-a-half story Colonial Revival cottage with Doric columns. Charles Koch, a German immigrant purchased the property from executors of the estate of Mary Clara Weeks Moore, the first mistress of the Shadows.
- 5 **320 EAST MAIN STREET c.1902**
Two story brick commercial building, columns added c.1925. The building was originally a one-story railroad office. The second story was later added and it became the home of New Iberia Mayor Alpha Fontelleu.
- 6 **333 EAST MAIN STREET - THE WEEKS HOME c.1910**
Built by the descendants of David Weeks, the builder of The Shadows. Two story frame neo-Greek Revival residence built as a copy of Shadows-on-the-Tedde.
- 7 **405 EAST MAIN STREET c.1892**
Two story frame Queen Anne Revival house with well-developed Eastlake details.
- 8 **412 EAST MAIN STREET c.1880 - house-modified in 1910**
Two story frame mansard roof house with massive c. 1910 Colonial Revival gallery.
- 9 **417 EAST MAIN STREET - FELIX PATOUT HOME c.1890s**
Two story frame Queen Anne Revival house with well-developed Eastlake details and mansard roof tower.
- 10 **424 EAST MAIN STREET c.1920s**
One story frame Colonial Revival residence with widely proportioned Doric portico.
- 11 **425 EAST MAIN STREET c.1890s**
Two story frame Queen Anne Revival residence with modest Eastlake details. Charles Weeks Home. Charles was the son of David and Mary Clara Weeks, builders of Shadows-on-the-Tedde.
- 12 **438 EAST MAIN STREET c.1920s**
One story frame bungalow with partially enclosed porch.

- 13 **442 EAST MAIN STREET - MAISON MARSELINE c.1897**
One story frame semi-octagonal fronted shotgun house partially encircled by an Eastlake gallery.
- 14 **THE GROTTO ERECTED TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES IN 1941**
as a memorial to the pioneer families of the parish.
- 15 **446 EAST MAIN STREET - ESTORAGE-NORTON HOME c.1900s**
Large two story elaborate frame house, built along bungalow lines by Edward Estorage completely of cypress.
- 16 **504 EAST MAIN STREET c.1910**
Large frame two-and-a-half story Colonial Revival house with Palladian window and pedimented gable; bungalow porch added c. 1920.
- 17 **511 EAST MAIN STREET c.1930**
One-and-a-half story White Pine style Colonial Revival with handsome colonnade.
- 18 **512 EAST MAIN STREET c.1920**
Large frame bungalow with sets of casement windows and unusual arched columnar porch.
- 19 **520 EAST MAIN STREET c.1930**
One story brick vaguely medieval cottage.
- 20 **534 EAST MAIN STREET - HEAVEN'S ACRES c.1880**
William Southwell Home. A two story, galleried, frame, late Greek Revival townhouse. Has remained in the same family's possession since construction.
- 21 **541 EAST MAIN STREET c.1930**
One-and-a-half story, large rambling frame neo-Creole house with early 19th-century style details.
- 22 **THE GEBERT OAK c.1831**
This Live Oak tree was planted over the grave of an infant twin of Elizabeth Morse Marsh soon after the child's death in July of 1831. The Gebert family placed the tree in registry of the Live Oak Society.
- 23 **544 EAST MAIN STREET - THE PERRY HOUSE c.1880**
William Schwing Home moved from Center Street to this location by oxen in 1876. One-and-a-half story, frame, four bay late Greek Revival cottage. Dormers added later.
- 24 **604 EAST MAIN STREET c.1890**
Frame shotgun house with open side gallery and Eastlake details.



- 25 **608 EAST MAIN STREET c.1890**
Frame shotgun house with open side gallery and late Greek Revival details.
- 26 **616 EAST MAIN STREET c.1900**
One story frame galleried cottage.
- 27 **623 EAST MAIN STREET - STEAM BOAT GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE c.1886**
Built by Mayor John Emmer who used his brick kiln located east of his home. Cyr House. Two story, brick, galleried urban mansion. Home of Paul Cyr, Lt. Governor under Huey Long. Present columns added c.1940.
- 28 **624 EAST MAIN STREET c.1890**
Frame shotgun house with elaborate Eastlake porch.
- 29 **625 EAST MAIN STREET c.1920s**
Large frame bungalow.
- 30 **630 EAST MAIN STREET c.1925**
Two story stucco Mission ersatz Villa with shallow arch porch.
- 31 **640 EAST MAIN STREET c.1900**
Two-and-a-half story frame Queen Anne Revival house with semioctagonal bay and broad encompassing gallery.

- 32 **647 EAST MAIN STREET c.1920s**
Old rambling brick house stuccoed and made into a bungalow in the 1920s.
- 33 **651 EAST MAIN STREET - VICTORIAN DOLLHOUSE c.1890**
Large frame one story Queen Anne Revival cottage with imbricated shingle gable. Columns replaced.
- 34 **656 EAST MAIN STREET c.1890**
Two-and-a-half story Queen Anne Revival house with two semioctagonal bays and an Eastlake gallery. It was the first telephone office in New Iberia.
- 35 **664 EAST MAIN STREET c.1850**
Greek Revival cottage similar to small plantation house of the period. The second oldest home in the Historic District built by John Miller, owner of Orange Island, now Jefferson Island.
- 36 **667 EAST MAIN STREET c.1920s**
One-and-a-half frame bungalow with exceptionally massive columns.
- 37 **701 EAST MAIN STREET c.1920s**
One-and-a-half story rambling frame bungalow.
- 38 **705 EAST MAIN STREET c.1920s**
One Story small frame bungalow.

- 39 **707 EAST MAIN STREET c.1920s**
One Story small frame bungalow.
- 40 **712 EAST MAIN STREET c.1900**
One story frame Queen Anne Revival cottage. Porch modified in the bungalow style.
- 41 **715 EAST MAIN STREET - THE BURKE HOME c.1920s**
One-and-a-half story brick ersatz medieval manor house.
- 42 **718 EAST MAIN STREET c.1900**
One story frame rambling Queen Anne Revival cottage.
- 43 **724 EAST MAIN STREET c.1880**
One story frame cottage with Doric gallery and Italianate tower in the rear.
- 44 **727 EAST MAIN STREET c.1930**
One story frame White Pine style Colonial Revival cottage.
- 45 **729 EAST MAIN STREET c.1890**
Segura Home. One-and-a-half story frame plantation house size cottage with hesitant Eastlake touches.
- 46 **775 EAST MAIN STREET c.1890**
Two story frame well-detailed Colonial Revival house.

- 47 **812 EAST MAIN STREET c.1910**
Impressive two story frame Colonial Revival house with pedimented portico.
- 48 **826 EAST MAIN STREET c.1920s**
One story frame Creole cottage with bungalow details.
- 49 **829 EAST MAIN STREET c.1890**
Frame Eastlake cottage.
- 50 **830 EAST MAIN STREET c.1890**
Elaborate frame Eastlake cottage.
- 51 **200 PHILIP STREET c.1902**
Frame late Greek Revival cottage.
- 52 **202 PHILIP STREET c.1920s**
Frame bungalow.
- 53 **119 LEE STREET c.1890**
Frame late Creole cottage.
- 54 **120 LEE STREET c.1920**
Frame bungalow.
- 55 **122 LEE STREET c.1920**
Large frame bungalow.

"NEW IBERIA HAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MAIN STREET IN THE COUNTRY." - author James Lee Burke