

**Plaquemine's Forgotten Architecture** in the **National Register Historic District** consists of some 120 structures. Architectural styles of the Revival period and vernacular origin can be seen on commercial and family dwellings.

Historic buildings in their original location and condition on streets lined with oak trees, houses with decorative porches, and numerous wooden mill houses all contribute to the city's architectural legacy of the lumber industry days.

Iberville Parish was the center of South Louisiana's cypress timber and lumber industry which employed as many as 5,000 people between 1880 and 1930. Some corporations and individuals in the lumber business were:

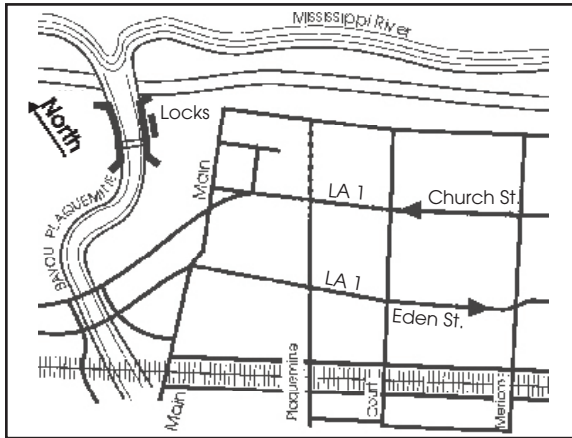
Anton Wilbert	1868
Henry Wilbert	1879
J. McWilliams & G. Seipple	1880
C. Brusle & S. Hiriart	1882
A. Wilbert's Sons, Inc.	1887
Plaquemine Lumber & Improvement	1887
Kearney & Deblieux	1890
Plaquemine Stave & Heading	1895
Baist Cooperage & Lumber	1898
Schwing Lumber & Shingle, Inc.	1901
R.I. Schwing Co., Inc.	1919
Soniat & Deblieux, Inc.	1920
S.B. Anderson & Son, Inc.	1923
Plaquemine Box & Veneer	1923
A.H.R. Lumber Co., H.H. Wiggin Lumber Co., Liebke Lumber Co., Louisiana Cooperage, Bayou Pierre Timber Co., Levert Lumber Co., and Moorman Oar Factory	

Source: "THE HEART OF THE SUGAR BOWL" by Albert L. Grace



*Brusle-Stassi Building*

**DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT**



Located on La. Highway One, surrounded by pre-historic Bayou Plaquemine and the mighty Mississippi River, coupled with a railroad in the center of the Historic District, gives the city a priceless sense of place. Along the way, see sugar mills in the midst of thousand of acres of sugar cane fields mixed with modern industries. Once a distributary of the Mississippi River, Bayou Plaquemine served as a major transportation route west of the River to the interior of Louisiana.



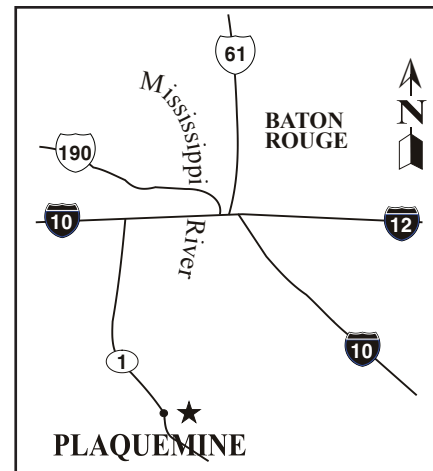
*Wilbert-Bishop Home*

**Tour Plaquemine's Architectural Legacy from the Lumber Industry**

**PLAQUEMINE** - an Indian word translated from the French - meaning persimmon. Step into our Iberville Museum and get acquainted with our local history - woven into state and national events. Browse through our irreplaceable built environment, where a variety of architectural styles still stands, a legacy from lumber industry of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. See on-going restoration and rehab of private and public buildings which contribute to the community fabric. Preservation enhancement continues to flourish with respect for the accomplishments and thoughts of the culturally diverse people who came to work and live here.

Visit our new Bayou Plaquemine WaterFront Park, adjacent to the Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site. Sample home cooked meals in our numerous cafes. Listen for the train's whistles as it rolls through the center of town. The Union - Pacific Railway tracks dates back to 1881 and is the second busiest line in the Nation. Shop at the Plaquemine Depot Market featuring arts & crafts.

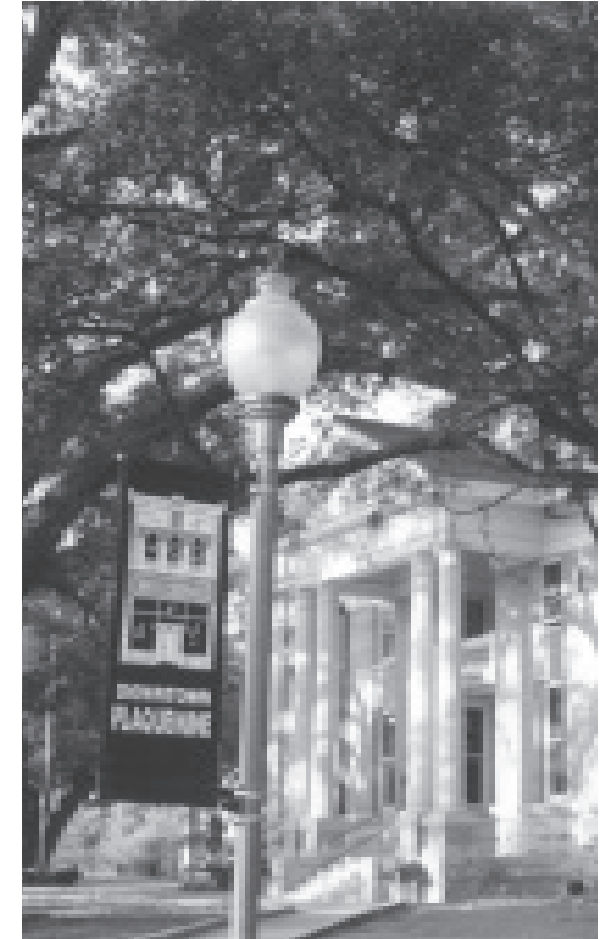
**DIRECTIONS:** Only 15 minutes from I-10 Baton Rouge Bridge - travel south onto La Hwy. 1 (a Louisiana Scenic By-Way). Cross pre-historic Bayou Plaquemine and enter the downtown Plaquemine National Register Historic District - located on banks of the National Heritage Mississippi River.



Plaquemine Main Street Program  
 P.O. Box 675 • 23640 Railroad Ave • Plaquemine, LA 70765  
 Phone: 225-687-3116 • Fax 225-685-1194  
 Web Page: [www.plaquemine.org](http://www.plaquemine.org) • E-mail: [plaqms@aol.com](mailto:plaqms@aol.com)

*Architectural  
 Tour  
 Historic District*

PLAQUEMINE, LOUISIANA



**PLAQUEMINE CITY HALL**  
 (1906)



Settlement Established 1775  
 Incorporated 1838  
 Louisiana Main Street City 1993

## FORGOTTEN ARCHITECTURE OF PLAQUEMINE



### *Greek Revival* IBERVILLE PARISH MUSEUM (1849) 57735 Main Street

The Museum is a classic example of Greek Revival architecture. The symmetrical, block-like buildings are reminiscent of Greek temples. The large gabled roof extends from the main roof, and the free standing Doric columns support the portico as a focal point. This style was unadorned, often painted white or neutral color. The Greek forms were thought to embody the ideals of democracy and was one of the most popular and long lasting styles for public buildings in America. The Museum building was the Iberville Parish Courthouse - 1849-1906.

Other Greek Revival Styles:

- St. Basil Academy-Freeman Home (1850)  
23515 Church Street
- Schwing-Middleton Home (1850)  
57845 Plaquemine Street



### *Romanesque Revival* ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH (1926) 57805 Main Street

This is a wonderful example of this type architecture. The front of the building, with its heavy round columns and heavy brick, gives a sense of mass and volume. The square tower, its narrow archways and low-pitched roof, are typical of the Romanesque style. The interior resembles an Early Christian Church, complete with open truss ceiling. The St. John School next door, now the Church Parish Hall and business office, is an Italian Renaissance.



### *Colonial Revival* CHARLES WILBERT-BISHOP HOME (1900) 58080 Main Street

This style, is a reinterpretation of the Georgian and Colonial styles with it's low, broad proportions and wide window openings. Built of cypress, it features a rounded gallery supported by 14 Corinthian columns. The dormer gables and area beneath the eaves display denticular cornices. The steps curve outward at street level, and are often referred to as "loving arms welcome."

Other Colonial Revival style:

- Joseph Wilbert- Durand Home (1905)  
23670 Church Street



### *Gothic Revival* EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMMUNION (1913) 58040 Court Street

It reflects the Gothic style with a steeply pitched roof and arched decorative windows. The one story brick church has miniature towers at the four corners of the belfry.



### *Italianate Style* BRUSLE-STASSI BUILDING (1889) 23410 Eden Street

The elaborate two-story brick Italianate commercial building has boldly articulated hood molded windows, paneled pilasters, and rich cornice. Advance manufacturing techniques and an abundance of raw materials led to mass-production of windows, doors, brackets, and elaborate moldings.



### *Beaux Arts* PLAQUEMINE CITY HALL (1906) 23640 Railroad Avenue

The Beaux Arts style encompasses a variety of architectural features popular in the U.S. - 1870-1920. This school of thought was taught at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The three-story parish courthouse, built in 1906, has a rusticated base and portico supported by double columns. The cupola top was destroyed by fire in 1946. Three courthouse buildings are in public use today in Plaquemine.

1. Greek Revival (1849) Iberville Museum
2. Beaux Arts (1906) Plaquemine City Hall
3. Modern (1985) Iberville Parish Courthouse



### *Neo-Classical* PLAQUEMINE HIGH SCHOOL (1911) 58060 Plaquemine Street

Neo-Classical is a strictly symmetrical style in an era of academic architectural revivals. Popularized by the Beau-Arts, it spread across America after the 1893 Columbian Expo in Chicago. Used principally in public buildings, usually with columns in groups of twos or threes, it is also noted for its monumental steps. First as a high school, later an elementary school, it now houses the Iberville Optional Educational Center.



### *Queen Anne Style* FREDERIC WILBERT-HEBERT HOME (1895) 57725 Court Street

This style vies with Victorian Gothic as most exuberant and eclectic style in color, forms and massing. Built of Cypress wood, this three-story house is an American version of Queen Anne style. The steeply pitched roof, fish-scale shingling, multiple dormers, and chimneys are part of that style. The elaborate millwork trim, balusters and spindles encircling the two-story galleries are part of the Eastlake design.

Other Queen Anne styles:

- Wilbert-Gulotta Home (1900) 58040 Main St
- Fritz Wilbert-Pitre House (1910) 23610 Church St



### *Dutch Influence* PLAQUEMINE LOCK HOUSE-STATE HISTORIC SITE (1909) 57730 Main Street

The lockhouse is a two-story glazed brick building with large arched windows, cast-iron gallery, and distinctive stepped gables. Early on, the Dutch developed skills in manufacturing and laying brick and structural framing that made possible the Dutch or gambrel roof. The parapet gable ends projecting above the roof were frequently stepped.



### *Bungalow* COTTAGE ON PLAQUEMINE STREET

Derived from the Hindu name "bangla", meaning a traveler's rest house, a bungalow is usually a small single story house. First popular in the west, it usually has a gable over the front porch and another slightly to the side of the body of the house. Columns on piers support porch overhangs of decorative exposed rafters. Massive chimneys are visible and windows are usually in multiples.



### *Shotgun Houses-19<sup>th</sup> Century* DR. CHARLES CLEMENT OFFICE (1850) 57820 Court Street

This original two-room Shotgun was the office of Dr. Charles Clement. The building was moved to this location due to the flooding of the River where his home and office once stood. It has Italianate scroll, sawn ornamentation and columns.



### *Eden Streetscape* ROTH BUILDING Corner of Eden and Plaquemine Street

The three-party, two-story brick party-wall building includes molded and paneled brick parapets. Stone quoins separate the three segments of the building. Corner entrance has original shopfront.



### *Main Streetscape* CAFÉ AND BANK BUILDINGS 57945 - 57935 Main Street

Brick Neo-Classical commercial style has full entablature and parapet. A second-story has open arcade with pilasters between arches. Another is similar with black and red patterned brick. Café is Italianate style and was renovated after a fire in 1994.

Many of the houses and commercial buildings built in the City of Plaquemine during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century were designed with prominent architectural features. With nine lumber mills located along Bayou Plaquemine, one having as much as six million board feet on its yard at any given time, surely the lumbermen were aware of architectural styles of the day. The lumber industry lasted from about 1870 to 1930, employing as many as 5,000 people. Research shows the variety of architectural styles produced during that time, and a legacy of when cypress lumber was considered King.

## STREETSCAPE

A streetscape is where two or more buildings in combination share elements of heights, proportion of facades, and spacing.



Check out additional links featuring  
Plaquemine Historic District and  
Plaquemine Main Street Program!  
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/louisiana/>  
<http://www.crt.state.la.us.crt/hp/lmsINTRO.htm>  
<http://www.mainst.org/>

This project funded in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, Dept. of the Interior through the La. Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation and City of Plaquemine Main Street.

CREDITS AND SOURCES:

Text by Sue G. Hebert

Excerpts from "America's Forgotten Architecture", National Trust for Historic Preservation, ©1976, by Tony P. Wren and Elizabeth D. Mulloy

Plaquemine National Register Historic District Inventory by Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation, 1989

"The Historic Architecture of Plaquemine" by Kayla G. Robison, AIA, 2000