Shushan Airport

Edward Branley is the NOLA History Guy (@NOLAHistoryGuy)

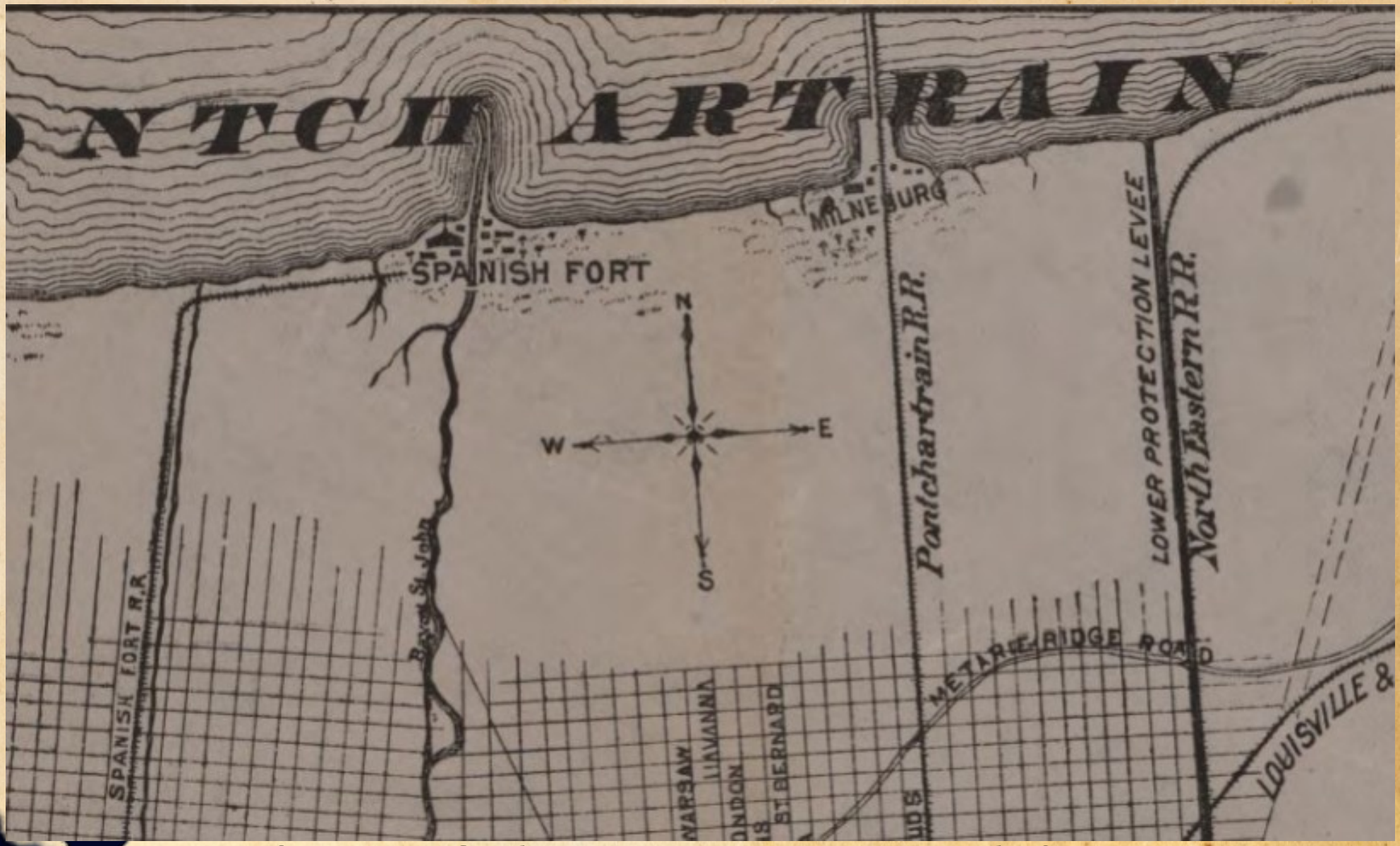
Shushan Airport

- Origins
- Authorization and Construction
- Abe Shushan
- 1930s
- World War II
- Post-War
- Modern Lakefront Airport

Origins

- Milneburg Lease
- Industrial Canal

Milne and the Lakefront



Map of New Orleans, F.F. Hansel & Bro, 1893

Industrial Canal

- Authorized in 1914
- Construction began 6-June-1918
- Canal Operations began 5-May-1923
- Seabrook Railway Bridge opened in 1920s

Authorization and Construction

- Early 1920s – Fishing Camps
- 1922 – Abe Shushan proposes Lakefront "improvement" including the seawall
- Improvement package cost: $15 million, $4 million of which is for an airport
- 1929 – Huey Long signs off on improvements.
- Legal delays push back projects to 1931

Fishing Camps

UNO Special Collections (http://library.uno.edu)

Seawall Construction

UNO Special Collections (http://library.uno.edu)

Abraham Lazard (Abe) Shushan, Sr.

- Born in Reserve, LA (1894-1966)
- Worked at Shushan Brothers, dry goods company owned by father and uncle
- Long-time supporter of Huey Long
- President, Orleans Parish Levee Board

Shushan's Highs and Lows

- Land reclamation, the seawall, and the airport
- Accused of voter fraud in 1932
- Airport named for him in 1934
- Tried on Federal tax and money laundering charges, 1935 (was acquitted)
- Airport renamed in 1935
- Convicted of wire fraud, 1939
- Photo: Shushan in 1941
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Airport Re-named

UNO Special Collections (http://library.uno.edu)

The 1930s

Airport opens in 1934

The 1930s

Pan-American Air Races 1934

The 1930s

- Moffett Hanger

The 1930s

- Banquet at Moffett Hanger, 9-Jan-1934

The 1930s

- Postcard, 1935

The 1930s

- Hangar Number 5

122nd Observation Squadron

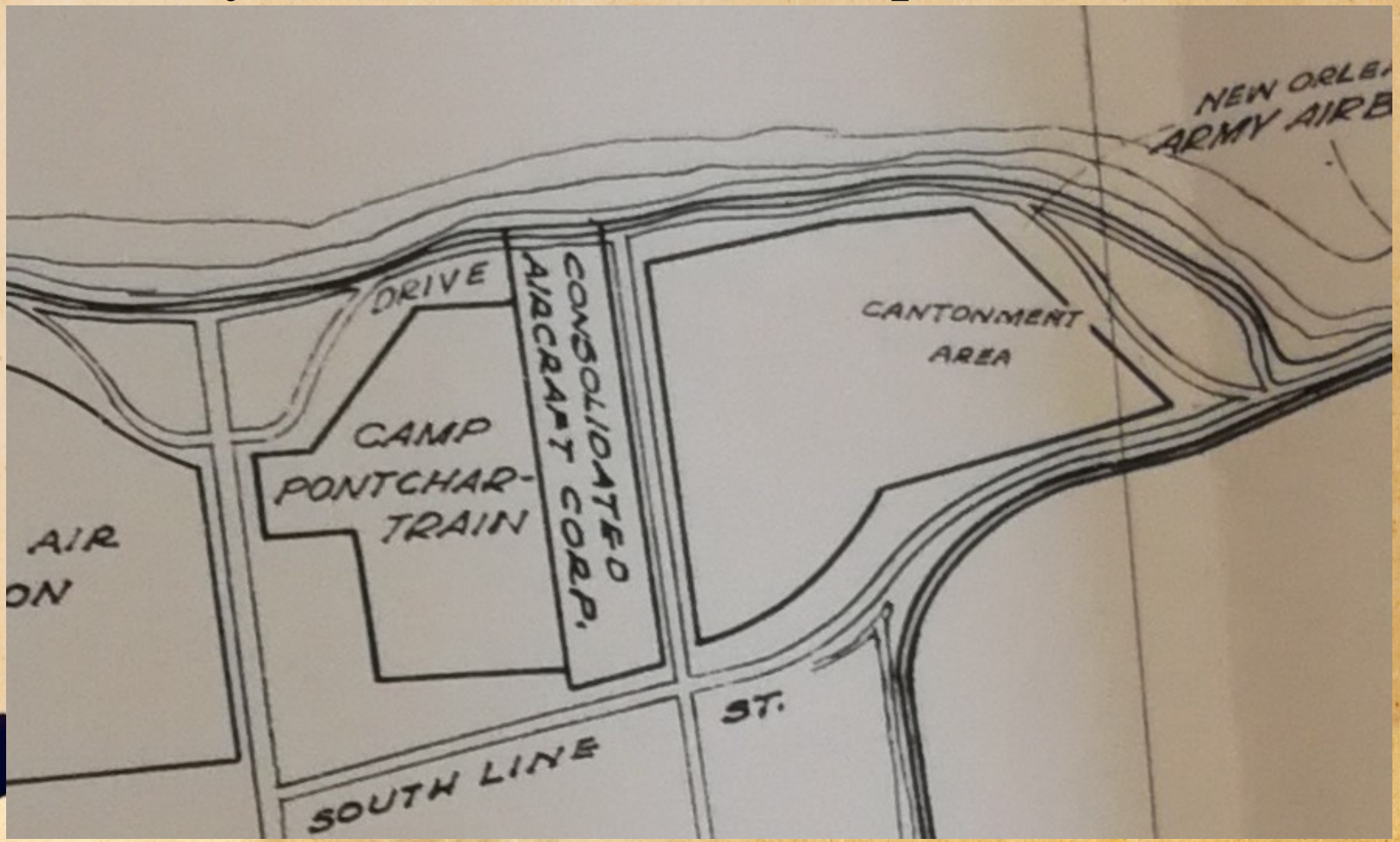
- “Army Cantonment”
- 122nd Observation Squadron
- West: Squadron Base
- East: Airfield (at Sushan Airport)
- Now NEW – Lakefront Airport
- Base becomes Camp Leroy Johnson
- 1964 – Base closes, land goes to LSUNO

122nd Observation Squadron

- North American O-47

122nd Observation Squadron

- Military Construction/Development



122nd Observation Squadron

- “Bomber Base”

122nd Observation Squadron

- Seabrook Railroad Bridge Links base and airport

122nd Observation Squadron

- The Bridge, Present Day

122nd Observation Squadron

- WPA upgrades to taxiways and runways

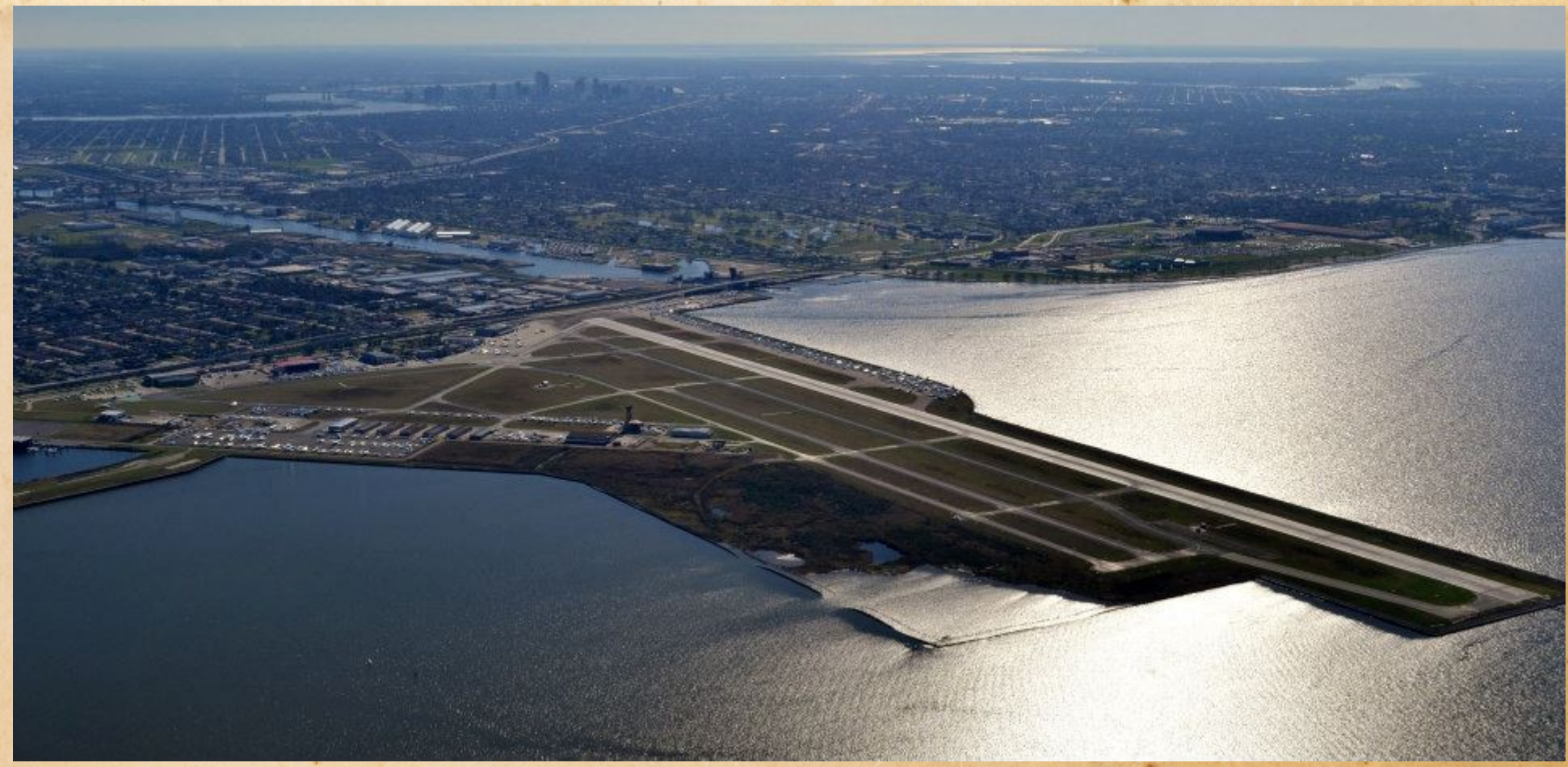
122nd Observation Squadron

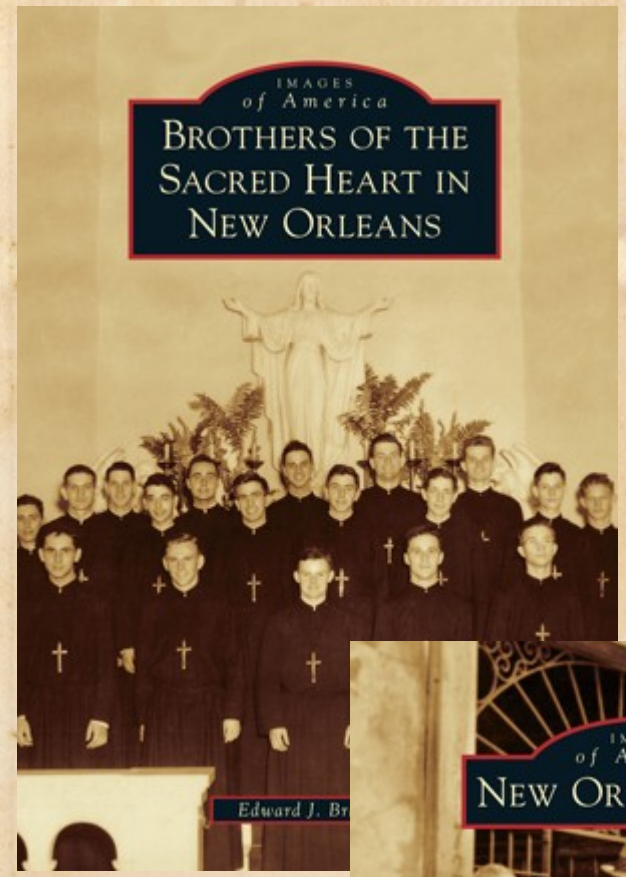
- Squadron Hangar at Airport

Post-WWII

- 122nd Bombardment Squadron 1946
- B-26 Invader aircraft, later F-86L Interceptors
- Now located at NAS/JRB New Orleans in Belle Chasse

Lakefront Airport Today

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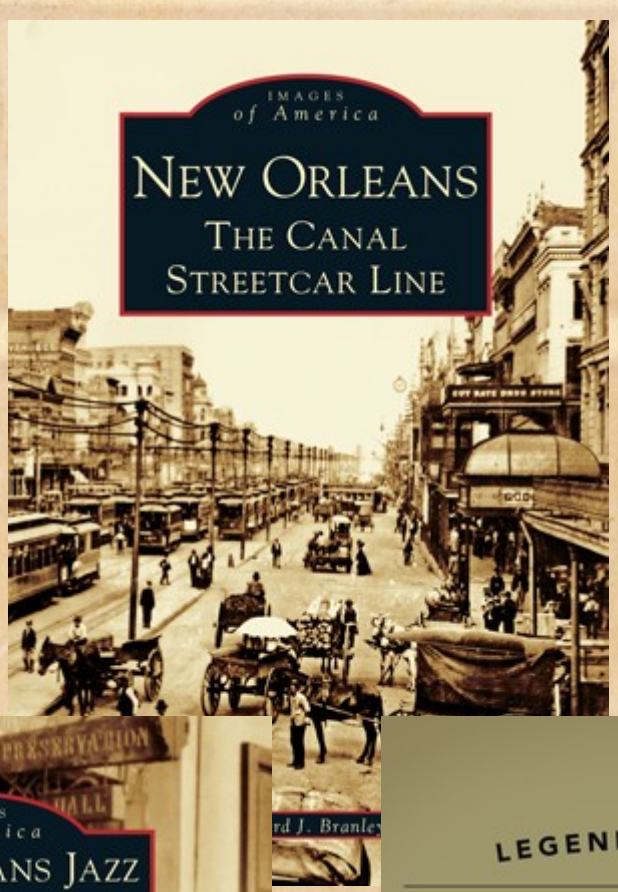
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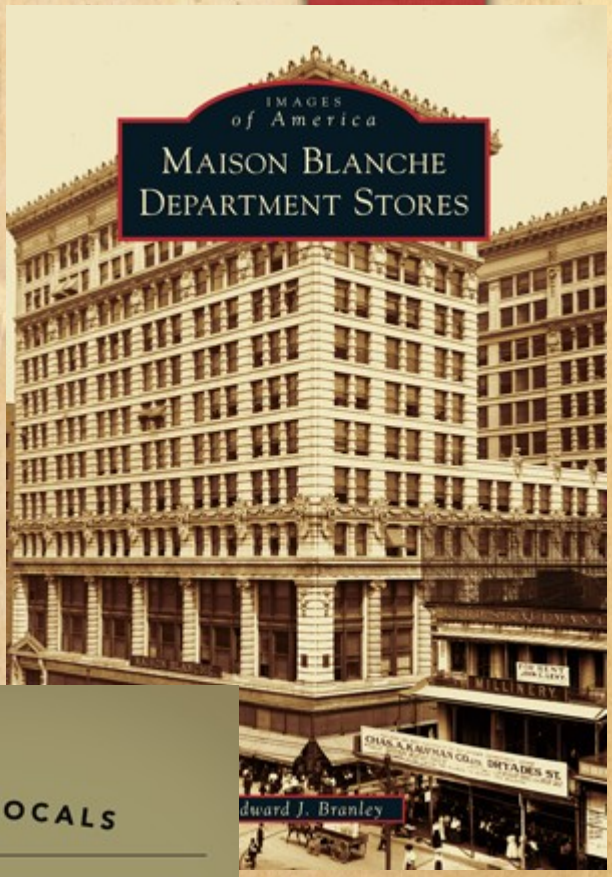
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PRESERVATION HALL
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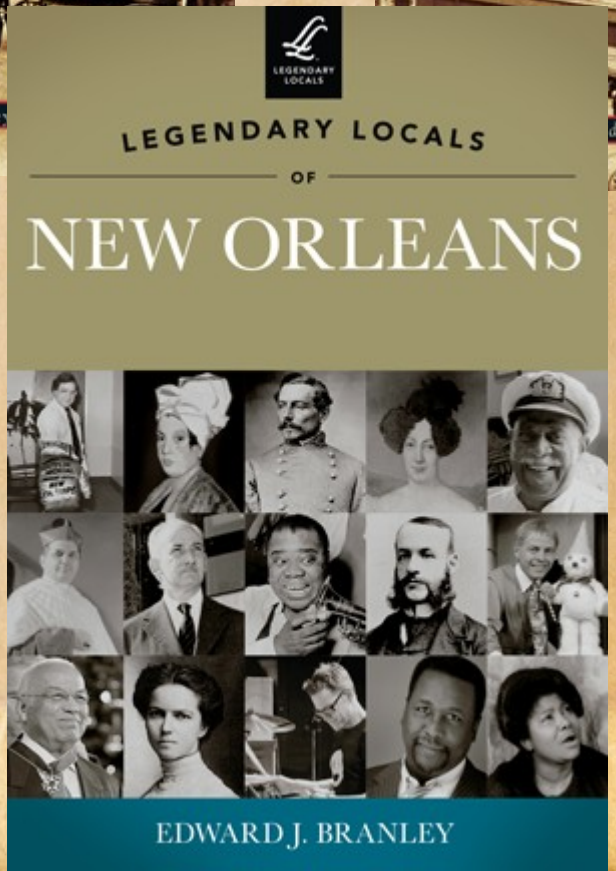
LEGENDARY LOCALS
OF
NEW ORLEANS
EDWARD J. BRANLEY

KRAUSS

BRANLEY

EDWARD J. BRANLEY

KRAUSS

The New Orleans Value Store

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