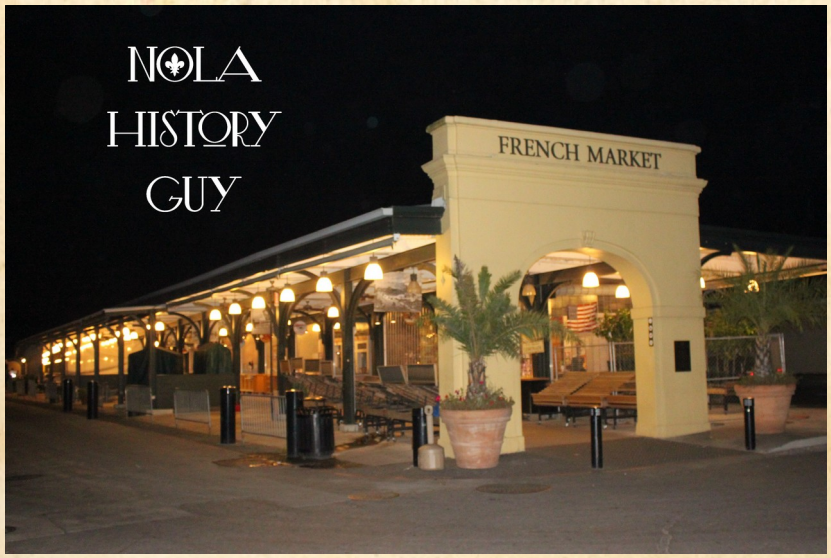


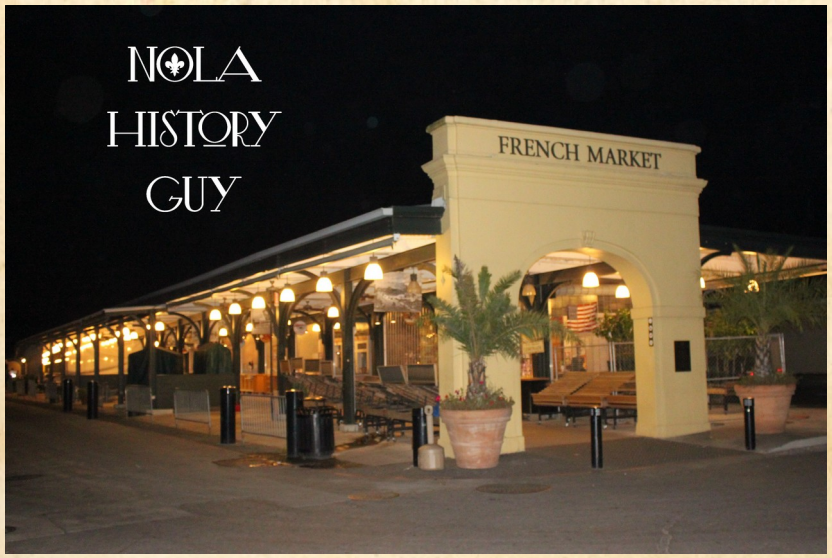
The Allard Plantation on Bayou St. John

Jefferson Parish Library
1949 2024
75 Years of Service

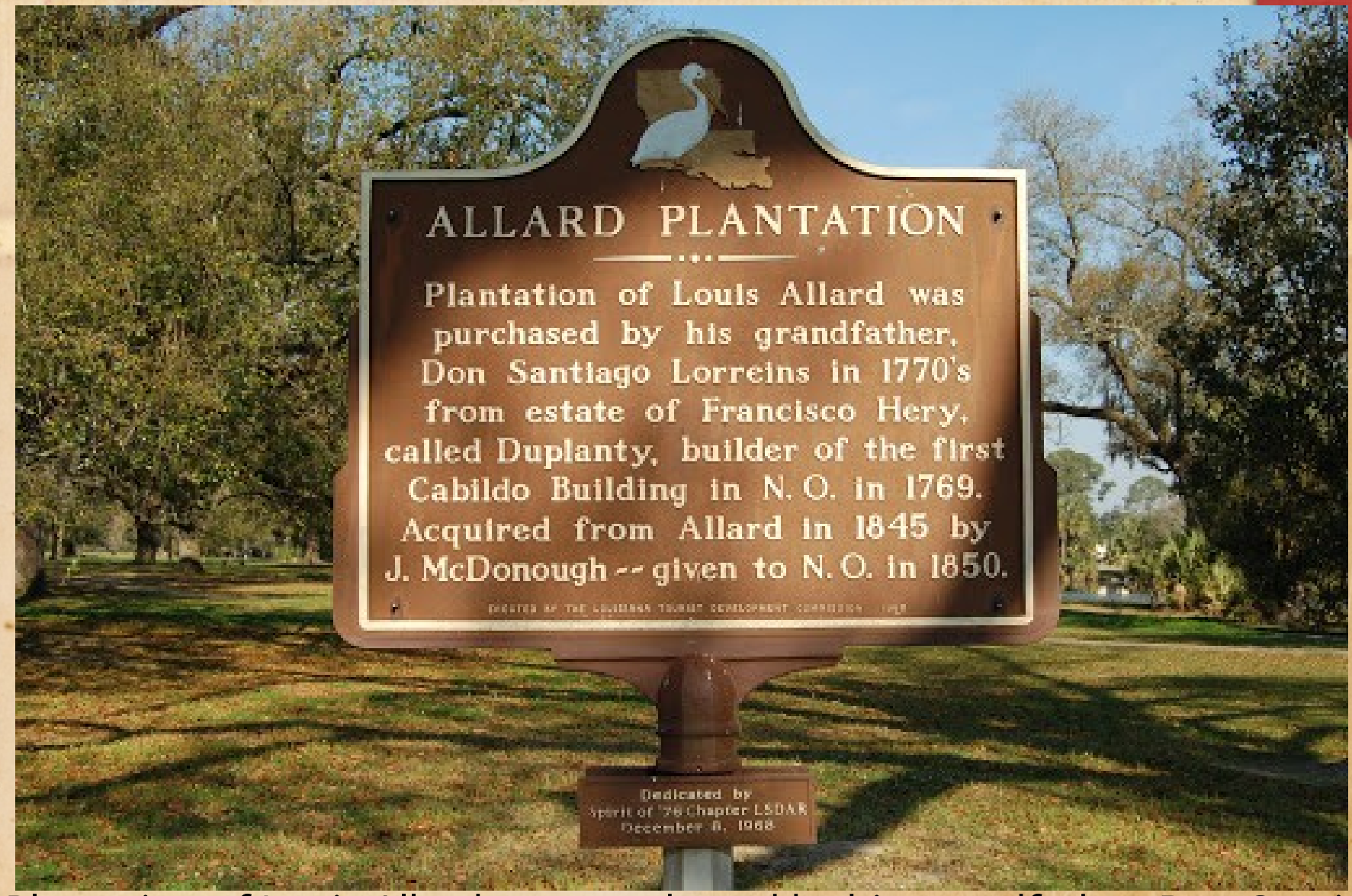
Edward Branley is the NOLA History Guy (edward@nolahistoryguy.com)

The Allard Plantation

- Introduction – Why Allard?
- Bayou St. John – Indigenous and Early Europeans
- The Allard Plantation
- Sugar Cane
- Allard House
- Three Oaks: Suicide, Dueling, Singing
- The Tomb
- McDonogh and City Park

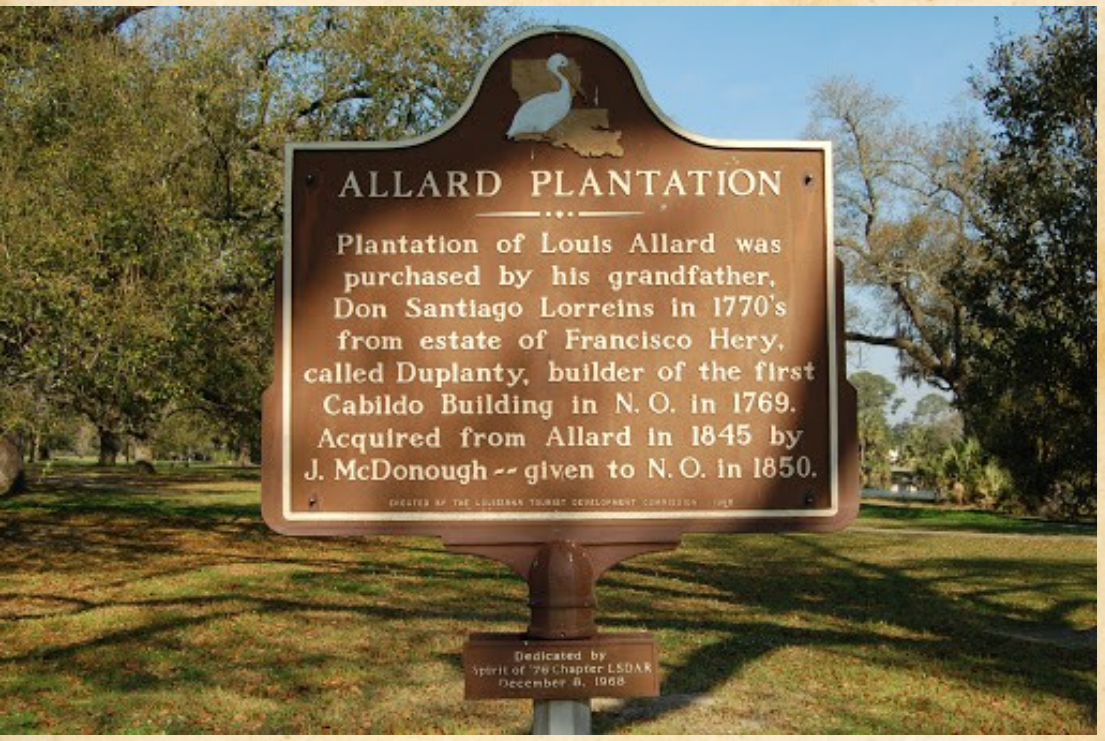


Introduction:
Why Talk About Allard?

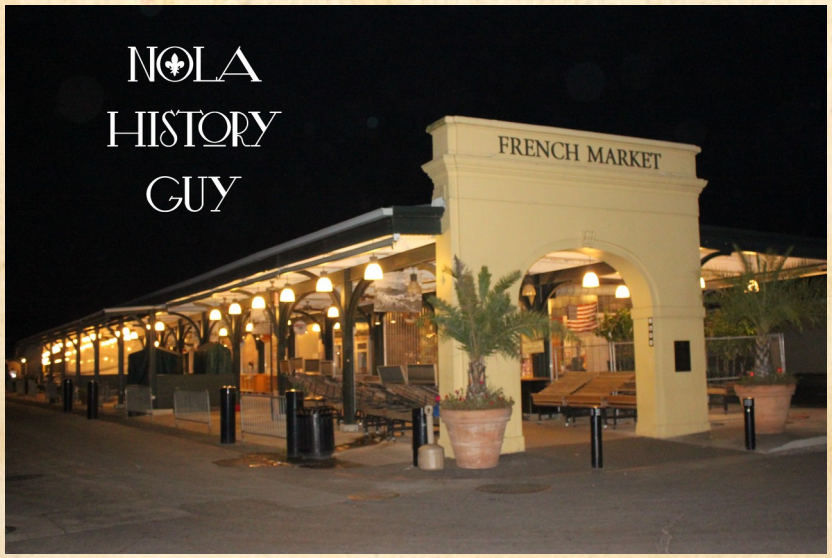


Plantation of Louis Allard was purchased by his grandfather, Don Santiago Lorreins in 1770's from estate of Francisco Hery, called Duplanty, builder of the first Cabildo Building in N.O. in 1769. Acquired from Allard in 1845 by J. McDonough —- given to New Orleans in 1850.

Allard Plantation

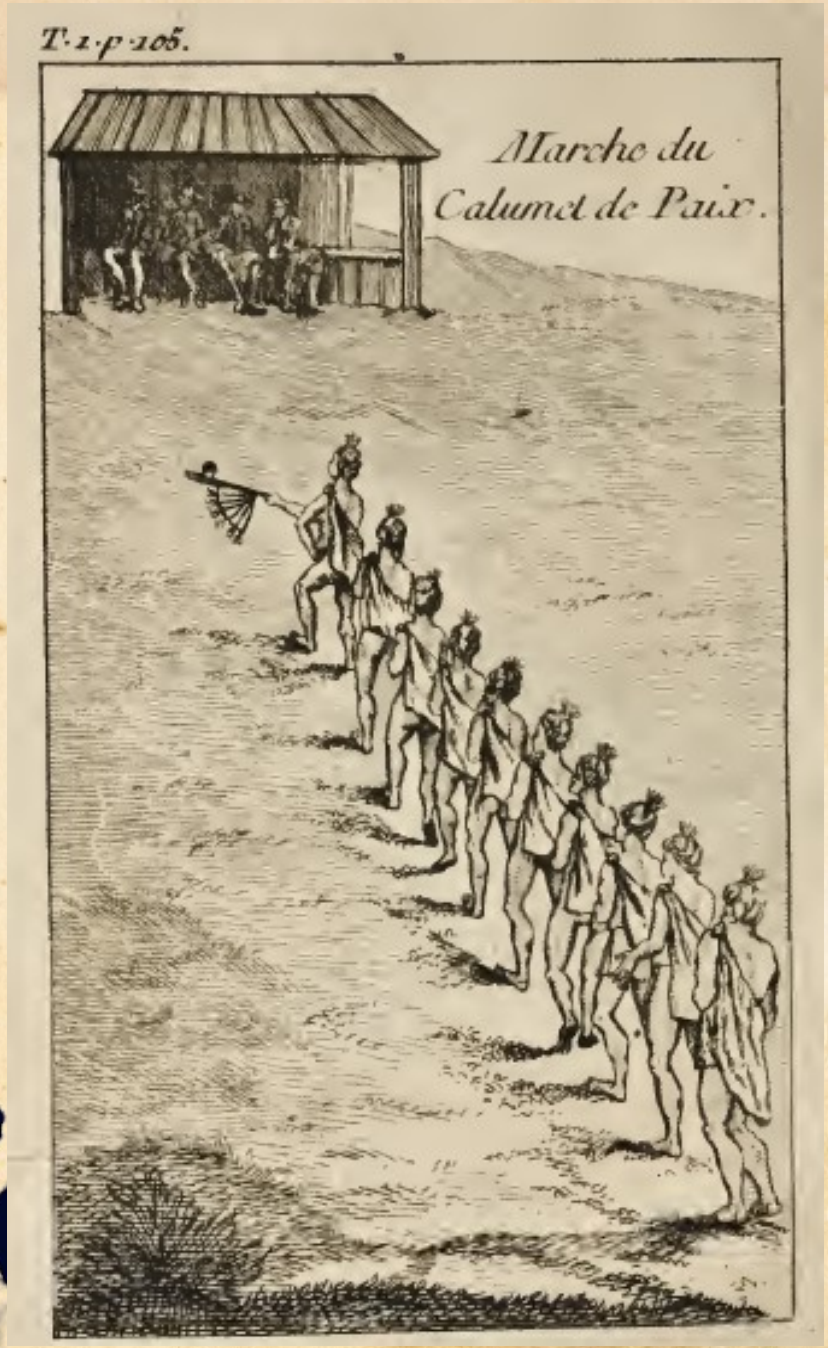


- Important area to the Indigenous
- Plantation dates back to Spanish Colonial period
- Later becomes our largest public park



Indigenous on the Bayou

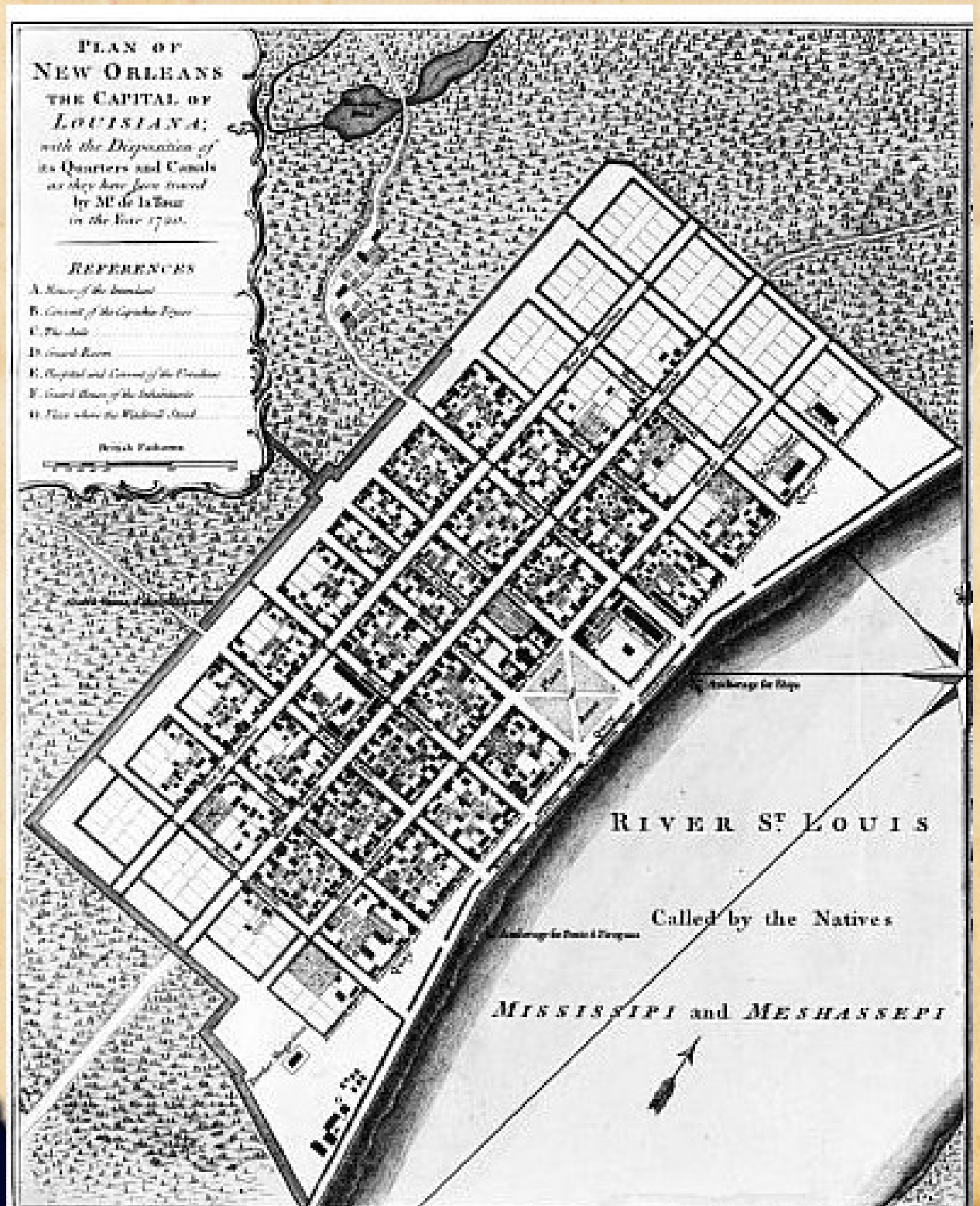
Antoine Simon Le Page Du Pratz



- "History of Louisiana," 1754
- Lived two years along Bayou St. John (BSJ)
- Owned a Chitimacha girl who taught him her culture
- Lived with the Natchez and documented their culture

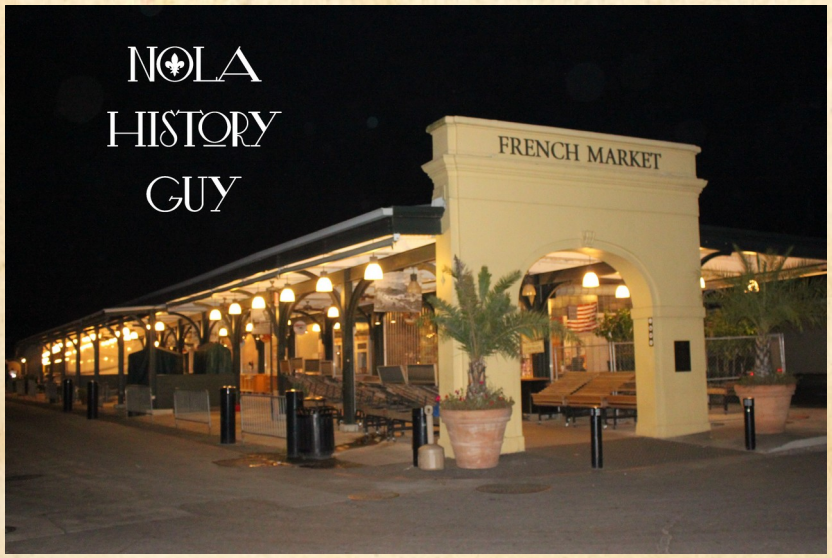
Chevalier d'Aubant

- LEGEND! (via Gayerre)
- Comes to New Orleans with Bienville
- Moves out to Bayou St. John, with consent of the Choctaw living there.
- Princess Charlotte, daughter of the Duke of Brunswick fakes her death to live with d'Aubant
- Also a version of this tale, set in Mobile



- Bayou Road, originating from New Orleans, 1747 map
- Carondelet Canal connects city and bayou in 1795

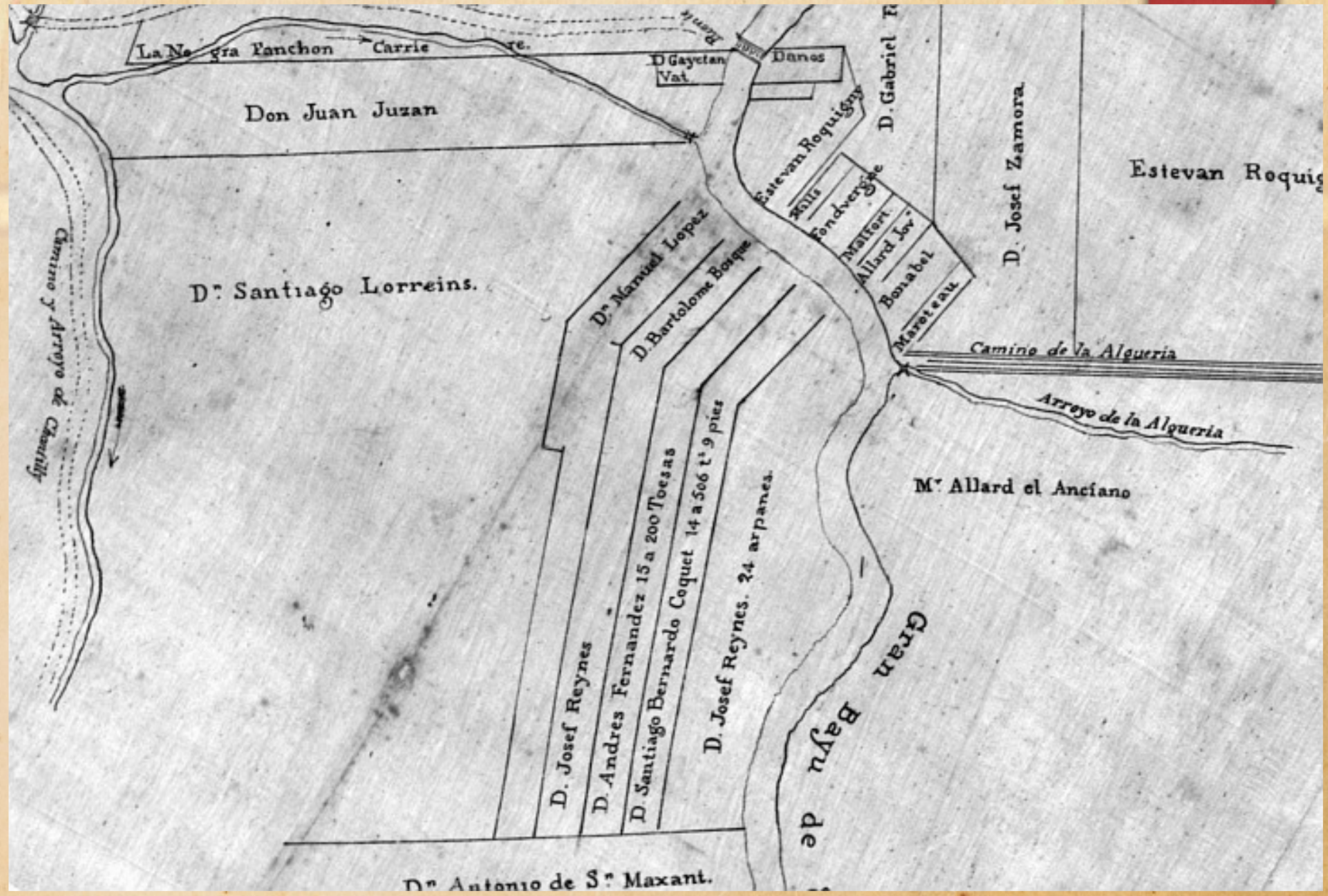
- Map of Metairie Road/Bayou Metairie, Bayou St. John, Bayou Gentilly, 1798
- (via Catherine Campanella)



The Allard Plantation

Hery to Allard

- Original land grant to Francisco Hery (aka Duplanty)
- Don Santiago Lorreins purchases the Hery estate (1770s)
- Lorreins dies, his daughter, wife of Louis Allard, inherits


La Negra Panchon
Carrie
re.
D Gayetan Vat.
Danes
Don Juan Juzan
D. Gabriel
D. Josef Zamora
Estevan Roquig
Estevan Roquigne
Mills
Fondvergne
Malfort
Allard Jor
Bonabel
Marteau
Camino de la Alguerria
Arroyo de la Alguerria
Dr Santiago Lorreins.
Dr Manuel Lopez
D. Bartolome Boque
D. Josef Reynes
D. Andres Fernandez 15 a 200 Toesas
D. Santiago Bernardo Coquet 14 a 506 t. 9 pies
D. Josef Reynes. 24 arpanes.
Mr Allard el Anciano
Gran Bayu de
Dr Antonio de Sr Maxant.
Camino y Arroyo de Chauby

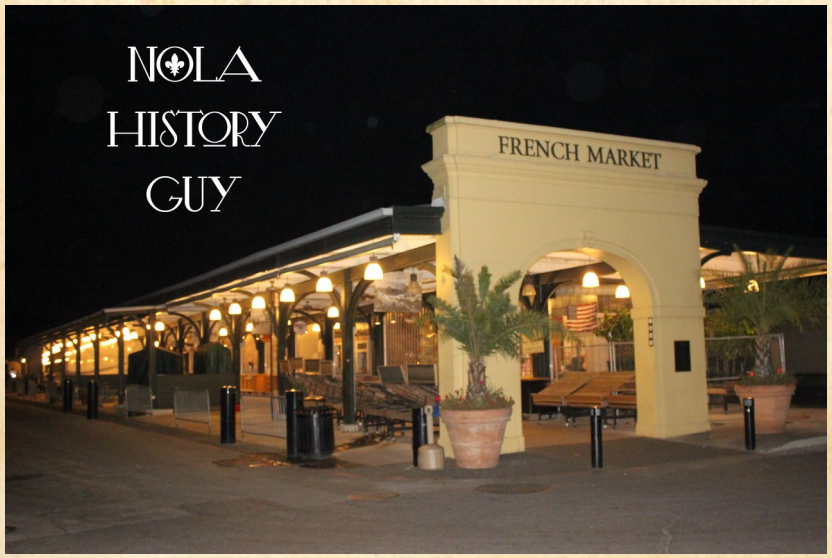
1819 map

Gran Bayu de
D. Josef Reynes. 24 arpanes.
D. Josef Reynes
D. Andres Fernandez 15 a 200 Toesas
D. Santiago Bernardo Coquet 14 a 506 t. 9 pies
D. Bartholome Barque
D. Manuel Lopez
D: Santiago Lorreins.
Don Juan Juzan
D. Josef Zamora
Camino de la Algueria
Arroyo de la Algueria
Camino y Arroyo de Chanilly

1819 map

Maxan
Castillon
Elkins
Profit
St JOHN
Milne
Roquigni
Metairie Road
Alard
BAYOU
Judge Martin
Nicolas
Bermudes
Martel
Lebeau
Dareautel

1828 map



Sugar Cane

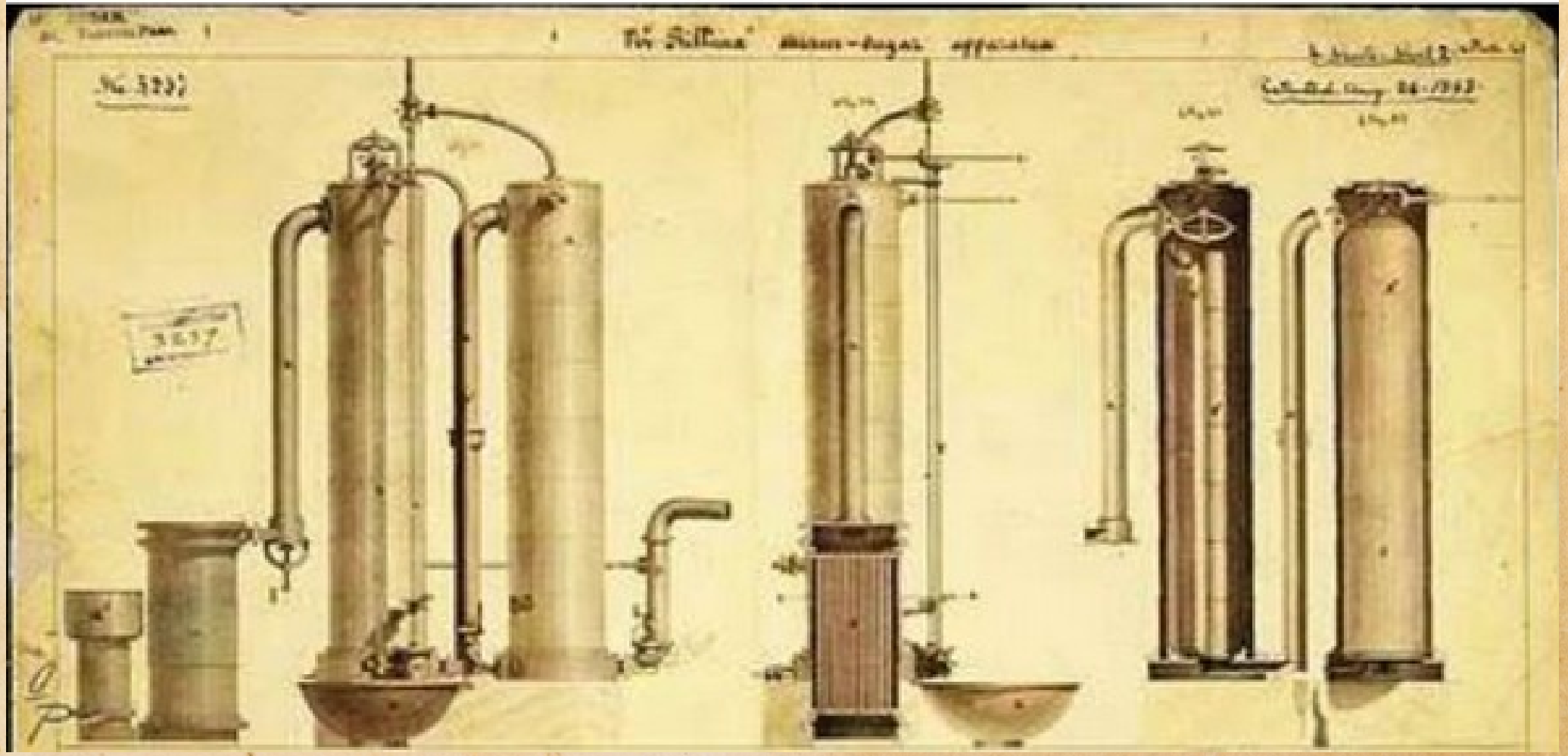
Colored lithograph by Petit after a drawing by Theodore Bray; Depiction of the harvesting of sugar cane on a plantation by enslave people. In the foreground left a so-called pondo, a flat-bottomed vessel with which the cane was transported to the plantation

Granulating Sugar

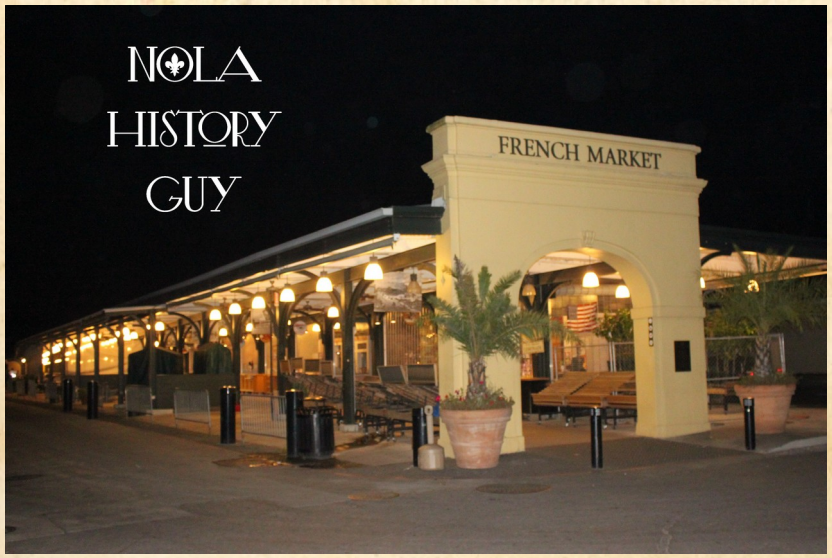
- Cane stalks cut up and boiled in kettles
- Stalks removed, sugar sinks to bottom.
- Drain kettle, extract sugar, start again.
- Average lifespan of enslaved on a sugar plantation = 7 years
- (Whitney Plantation via “prissyme” on Flickr)

Norbert Rilleux
Multiple Effect Evaporator

- 1806-1894
- Enslaved in New Orleans
- Educated in France
- Developed the Multiple Effect Evaporator
- Patented in 1846



Multiple-Effect Evaporator, 1846



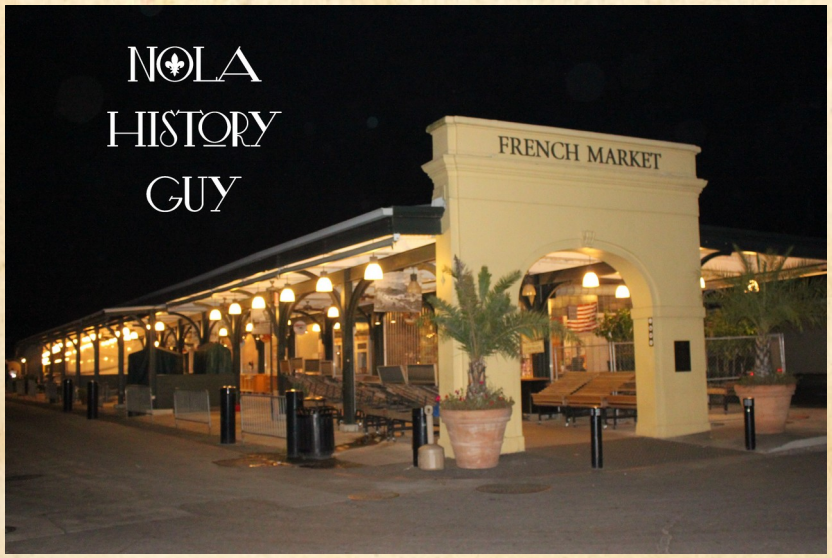
Allard House

Julius Robert Hoening's 1898 painting by titled „Plantation and Oak Tree“ (Allard Plantation).

“On the bank of Bayou, or river St. John, on the land known in our days as Allard's plantation, and on the very site where now stands the large and airy house which we see [shown here], there was a small village of friendly Indians. From the bank opposite the village, beginning where at a much later period was to be erected the bridge which spans the Bayou, a winding path made by the Indians, and subsequently enlarged into Bayou Road by the European settlers, ran through a thick forest, and connected the Indian village with the French settlement of New Orleans”

--Charles Gayerre (via Campanella)

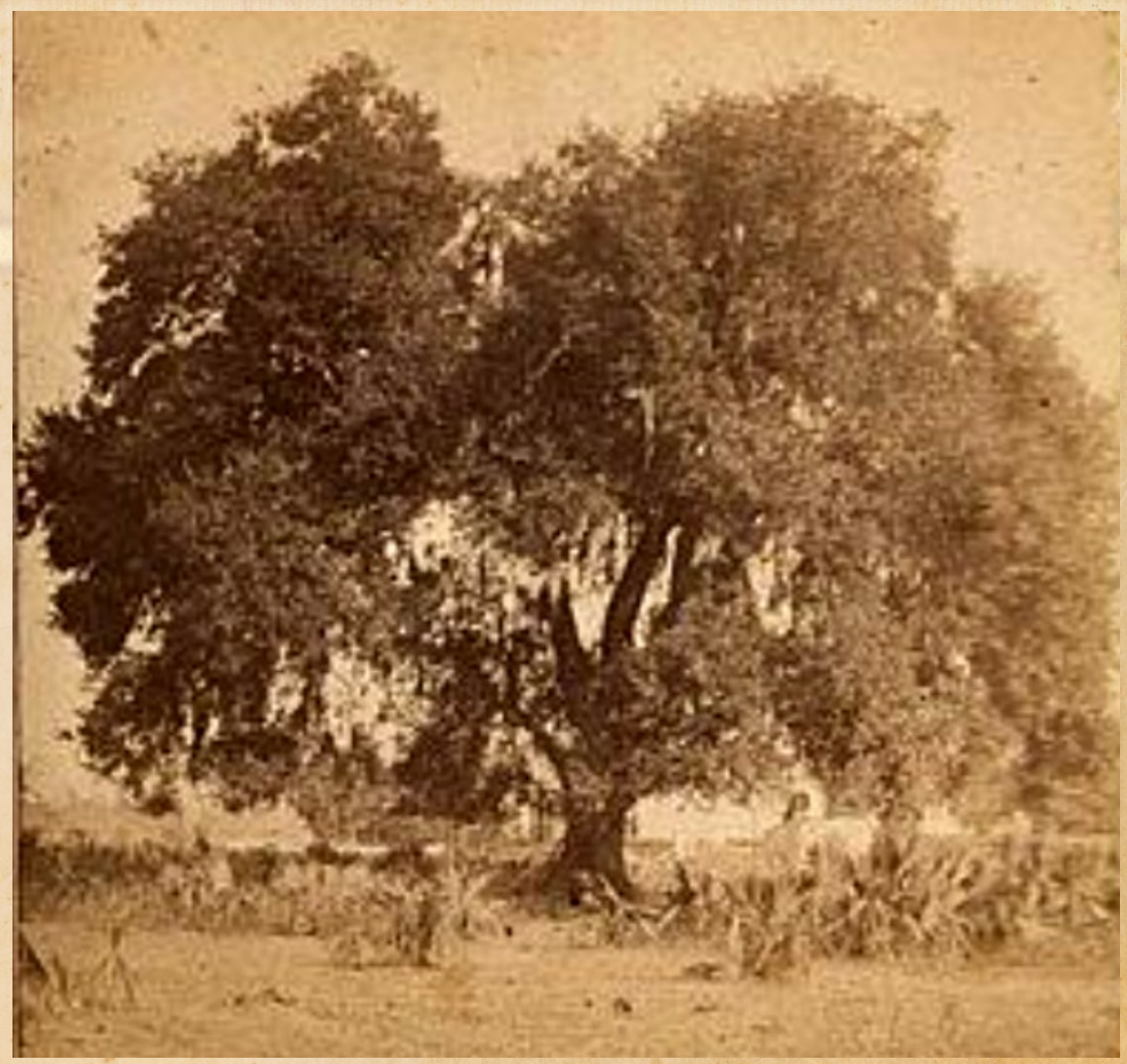
Allard House is NOT the McFadden House (Christian Brothers School), which was built in 1909



Three Oaks
(Suicide, Dueling, Singing)

Suicide Oak - sixteen men took their lives over a period of twelve years, in the 1890s into the 1900s (1909 postcard)

Suicide Oak

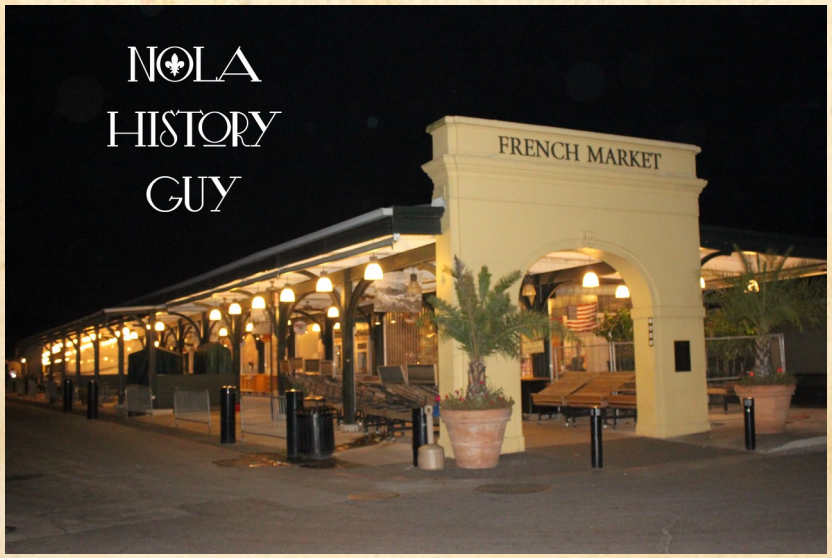


Dueling Oak, 1860s (Blessing)

Dueling Oak, 1930s (WPA)

Duel Re-enactment, 1930s (WPA)

Singing Oak, along Bayou St. John

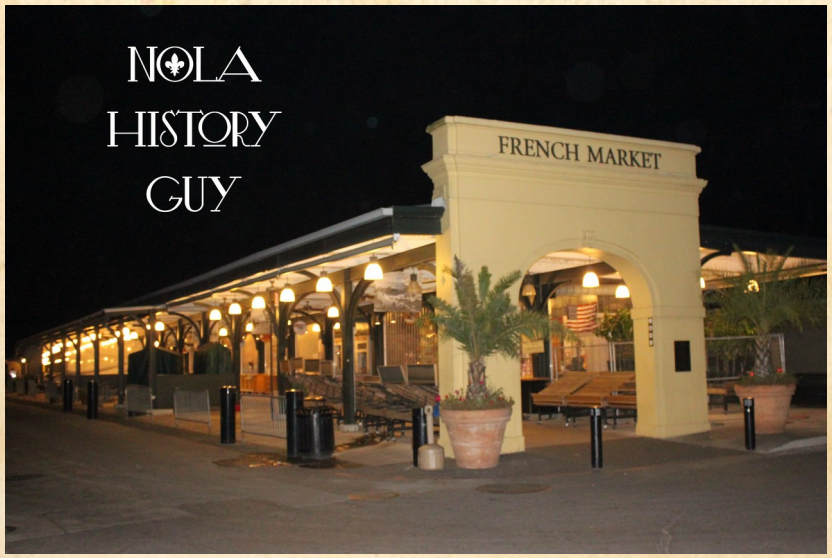


The Tomb

The Tomb Under Dueling Oak, 1930s (WPA)

The Tomb

- Louis Allard not buried here—he's in St. Louis Number 2
- It was later believed Robert Allard (Louis' brother, d. 1837) was there, but family said that was inaccurate.
- Park never corrected any of this, thinking the "mystery" attracted visitors.
- Park acknowledged was not an Allard burial place, tomb was removed in 2011



Sale to McDonogh / City Park

Allard Family Fortunes Turn

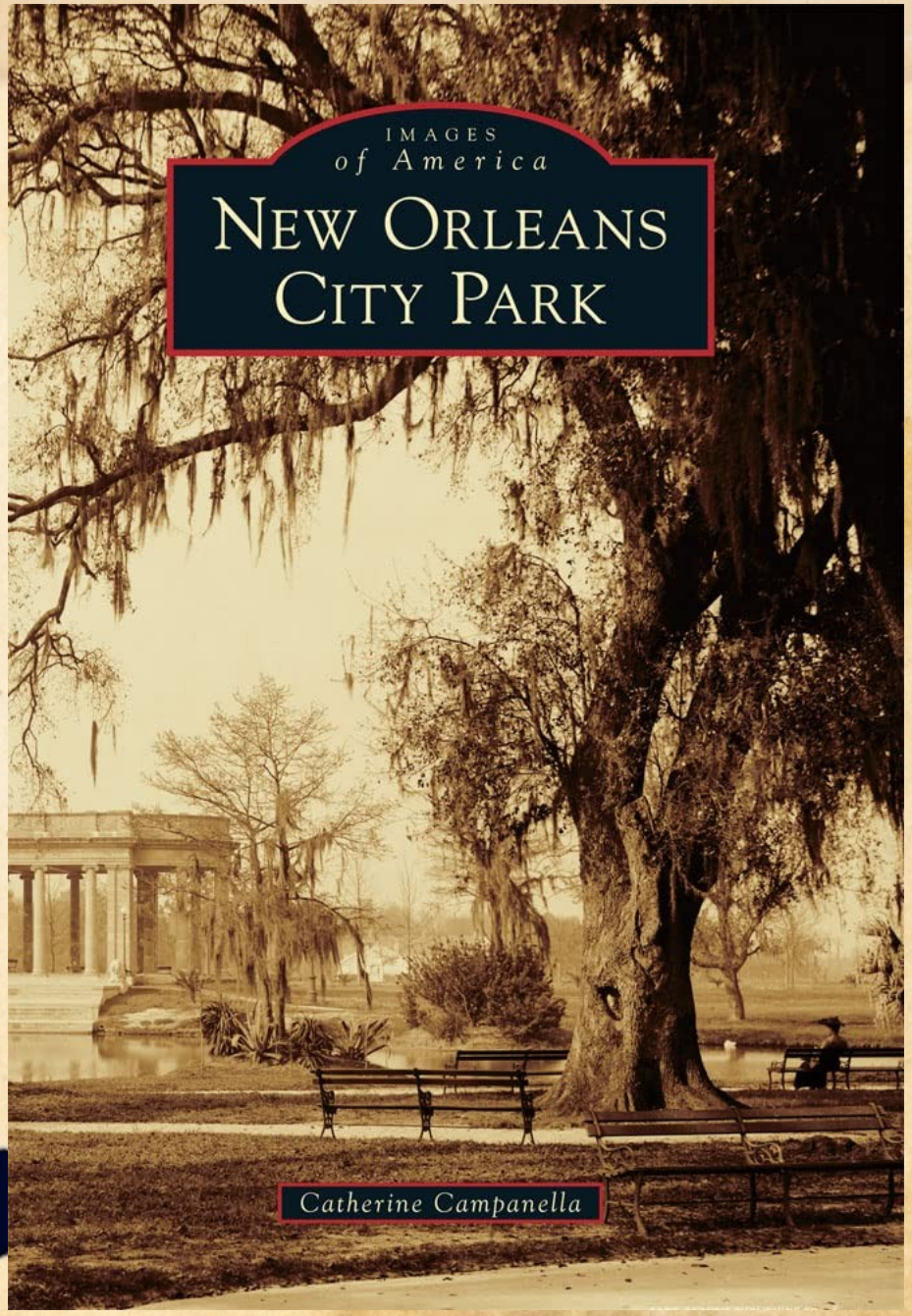
- 1845 – Plantation seized by city for back taxes
- John McDonogh buys at a municipal auction. He allows Allard to live there until his death in 1847.
- McDonogh dies in 1850, wills land to the city

City Park

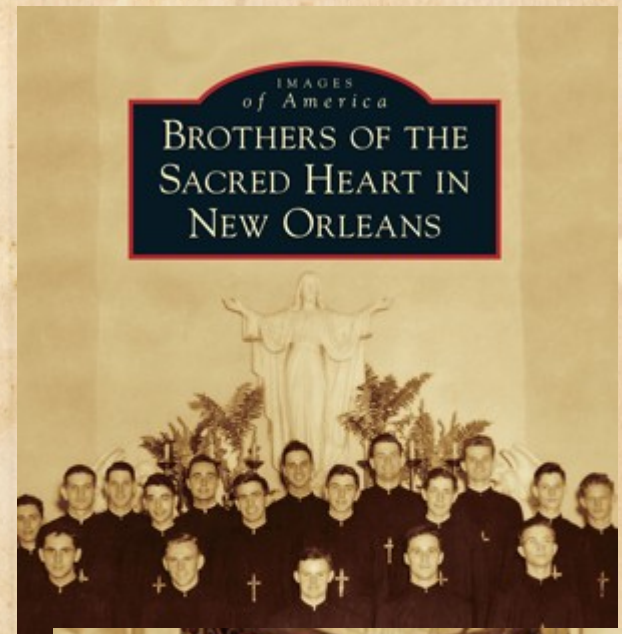
- Louisiana Legislature authorizes creation of “New Orleans Park” in 1870
- Originally ~300 acres
- Expands to 1300 acres in 1927

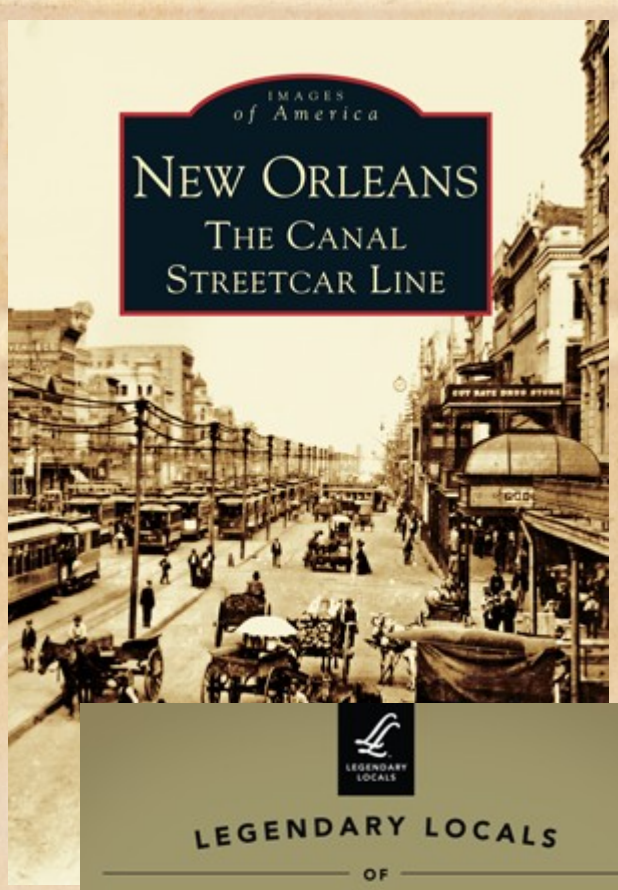
The Peristyle

New Orleans City Park



- Author – Catherine Campanella
- Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series.
- Available at all the usual suspects


IMAGES
of America
BROTHERS OF THE SACRED HEART IN NEW ORLEANS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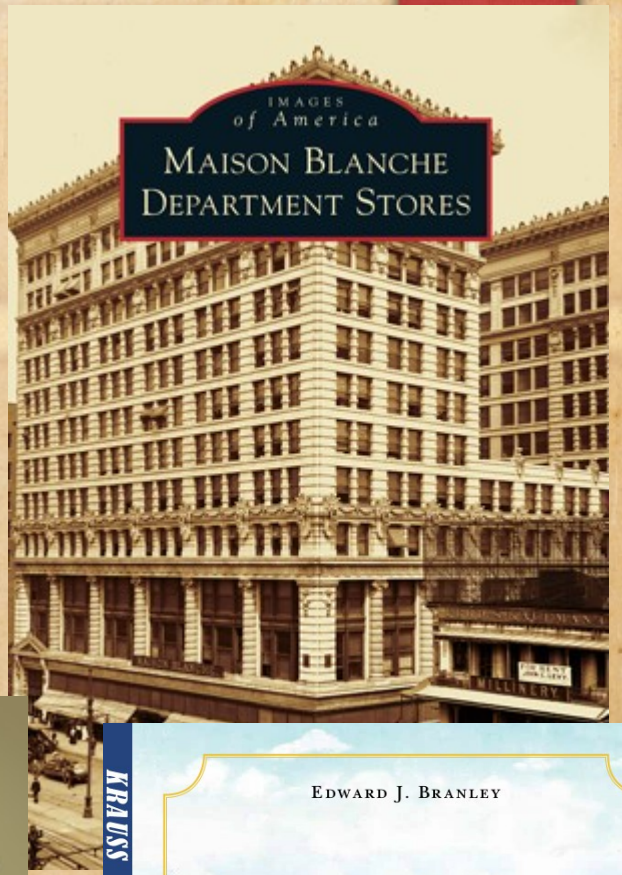
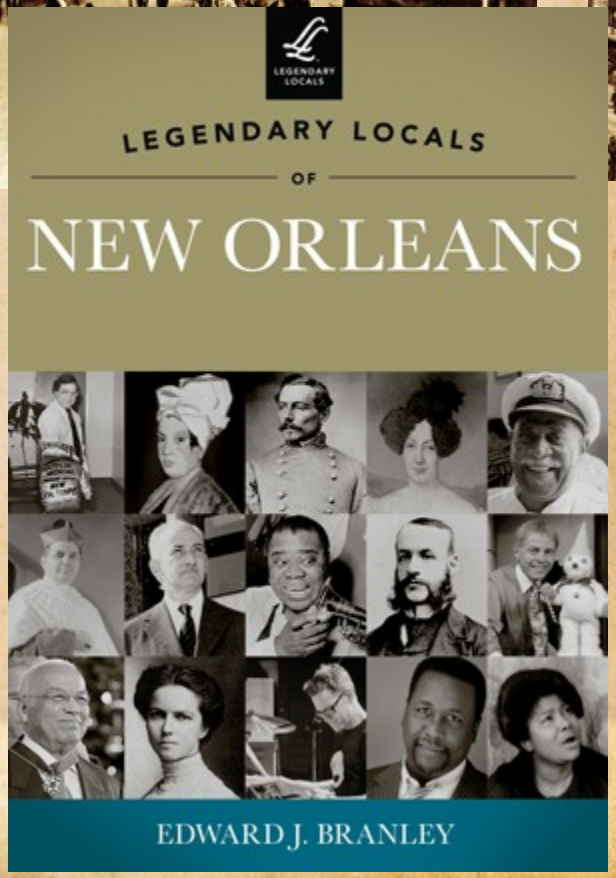
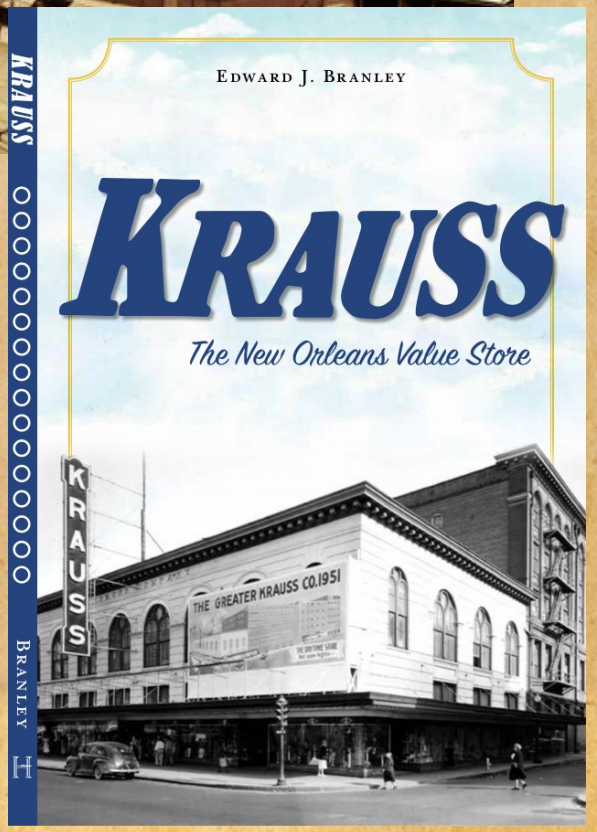
of America
NEW ORLEANS
THE CANAL STREETCAR LINE


IMAGES
of America
MAISON BLANCHE DEPARTMENT STORES

IMAGES
of America
NEW ORLEANS JAZZ
Edward J. Branley


LEGENDARY LOCALS
OF
NEW ORLEANS
EDWARD J. BRANLEY


EDWARD J. BRANLEY
KRAUSS
The New Orleans Value Store
KRAUS
THE GREATER KRAUSS CO. 1951
KRAUSS
BRANLEY

Friends of the Cabildo
French Quarter Walking Tours

www.FriendsOfTheCabildo.org

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