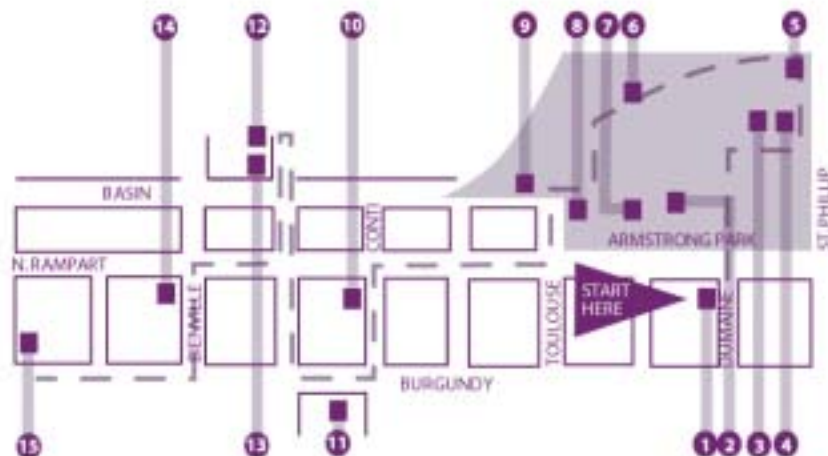


Treme Vieux Carre Storyville

tour map

HISTORY The area in this tour includes parts of Faubourg Treme, the Vieux Carre, and Storyville. Treme, a relatively low-density residential area with some commercial use dates from 1810, and is the third oldest faubourg (suburb), with Faubourg Ste. Marie (1788)—now the Central Business District—being the first, and Faubourg Marigny (1805)—below the Vieux Carre—being the second. The Vieux Carre, of course, is the original city founded by Bienville in 1718. Storyville, until it became the famous red-light district, was a small, relatively non-noteworthy residential area bordered by the Vieux Carre, Canal St. and St. Louis Cemeteries Nos. 1 and 2.

The parts of these three areas encompassed in this tour have all gone through great physical transformation, but retain just enough of their original elements to enable one to envision the way they looked at the beginning of the twentieth century.



1. CASIMO MATASSA'S RECORDING STUDIO. 840 N. Rampart St. This was the site of recording engineer Cosimo Matassa's first commercial studio. Aside from recording many of New Orleans most famous rhythm and blues artists, Cosimo also recorded many jazz greats such as Papa Celestin, Raymond Burke and the original Dukes of Dixieland.

2. ARMSTRONG PARK. 600, 700, & 800 blks N. Rampart St. Louis Armstrong Park occupies 31 acres, most of which were formerly historic structures in Faubourg Treme. Louis Armstrong's death on June 6, 1971, precipitated a plan by the City of New Orleans to develop a memorial to one of its favorite sons. A diverse community committee finally settled on a plan to turn the wasteland left over from a failed cultural center plan into a memorial park. In 1974, \$10 million was dedicated to the project. On April 15, 1980, the park opened, featuring a statue of Armstrong executed by noted sculptress Elizabeth Catlett.

3. PERSEVERANCE MASONIC LODGE. Armstrong Park. The Jazz Complex has many architectural elements that pre-date the park. The Perseverance Masonic Lodge No. 4 building, positioned at the former corner of St. Claude and Dumaine Sts., is arguably the oldest Masonic structure in the Mississippi Valley, and the existing hall seems to have incorporated large parts of buildings dated as early as 1810. It has a now-rare raised bandstand and was the site of much music.

4. LODGE KITCHEN BUILDING. Armstrong Park. The Lodge facility also contains a detached kitchen building to its immediate right, now housing local community music radio station WWOZ.

5. RABASSA HOUSE. Armstrong Park. The Rabassa House was moved hundreds of feet from a site on St. Ann Street to its new location adjacent to the kitchen building. This raised cottage was the residence of New Orleans architect and Treme resident J. N. B. de Pouilly. Along with many other notable structures, such as St. Louis Cathedral and St. Augustine Church, he designed the Girod Asylum, later the Colored Waifs' Home, where Louis Armstrong received his critical early musical training.

6. MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM. Armstrong Park. Designed in 1929 in the Italian Renaissance style by architects Favrot & Livaudais, it is a large arena-style facility that can be divided into two separate theaters. Innumerable events with jazz have taken place here over the years including about half of Louis Armstrong's return-trip performances.

7. SIDNEY BECHET MONUMENT. Armstrong Park. The Sidney Bechet monument was erected in 1997 during a celebration honoring the 100th anniversary of his birth. The larger-than-life head is a copy of one in Juan Les Pins, France, his adopted home.