French Quarter Historic Homes and Museums

Look behind the neon and find another French Quarter, a place and a culture born centuries ago and still changing every day.

The historic homes and museums listed below are operated on a nonprofit basis by groups other than the National Park Service and help preserve the historic and cultural heritage of New Orleans’ French Quarter or Vieux Carré (“old square”).

Properties are keyed to the map on the back. Please call for current admission prices and to confirm days and hours of operation and holiday closings. Most sites have bookstores/gift shops.

Beauregard-Keyes House (1826) 1113 Chartres St. 504-523-7257
Family home and birthplace of chess master Paul Morphy. Residence of Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard. Later the home of novelist Frances Parkinson Keyes (Dinner at Antoine’s). The home features a formal French garden. Open Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Admission fee.

Gallier House (1857) 1118-32 Royal St. 504-525-5661
Built as his private residence by noted architect James Gallier, Jr. Restored to reflect the taste and lifestyle of mid-1800s New Orleans. Includes a kitchen, indoor plumbing, and early bathroom. Guided tours. Open Monday–Friday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Admission fee. Joint tickets available for Gallier and Hermann-Grima houses.

Hermann-Grima House (1831) 820 St. Louis St. 504-525-5661
Restored home shows “American” influence on New Orleans after the Louisiana Purchase. Open-hearth cooking demonstrations Thursdays from October through May. Guided tours. Open Monday–Friday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Admission fee. Joint tickets available for Gallier and Hermann-Grima houses.

Historic New Orleans Collection (Museum and Research Center) 533 Royal St. 504-523-4662
The collection complex on Royal Street includes two historic homes, a bookstore and gift shop, and permanent and changing exhibits on Louisiana history and culture.

Williams Gallery has changing exhibits ranging from New Orleans cooking to duck decoys to the history of the Sugar Bowl. Open Tuesday-Saturday 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Sunday 10:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Free.

Williams Residence (1890) is an 1800s townhouse remodeled for a 20th-century lifestyle. Open Tuesday-Saturday 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Guided tours at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. Admission fee.

Mereiult House (1792) houses the Louisiana History Galleries with exhibits from the earliest European explorers to today using original maps, documents, prints, photographs, and rare books from the collection’s research departments. Open Tuesday-Saturday 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Guided tours at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. Admission fee.

Williams Research Center (410 Chartres St., 504-598-7171) provides researchers with state-of-the-art access to extensive research collection about New Orleans and Louisiana. Open Tuesday-Saturday 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free.
The Cabildo (1799)
701 Chartres St.
Headquarters of colonial government and site of the Louisiana Purchase transfer. Exhibits trace Louisiana history from European exploration through the Civil War to modern times. Tuesday-Sunday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Admission fee; ticket sales end at 4:15 p.m.

The Presbytere (1792)
732 Chartres St.
Begun as a priests’ residence but never used by the priests; completed by the Americans in 1813. Permanent exhibit Mardi Gras: It’s Carnival Time in Louisiana. Tuesday-Sunday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Admission fee; ticket sales end at 4:15 p.m.

Madame John’s Legacy (1789)
632 Dumaine St.
A rare example of French colonial home design. Tuesday-Sunday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Admission fee; ticket sales end at 4:15 p.m.

The Old U.S. Mint (1838)
400 Esplanade Ave.
Now used for historical exhibits. United States coins were minted here for 71 years. Tuesday-Sunday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Admission fee; ticket sales end at 4:15 p.m.

1850 House (1850)
523 St. Ann St.
Located in the Lower Pontalba Building, the house recreates a pre-Civil War New Orleans town house. House currently closed. Bookstore and gift shop open Tuesday-Saturday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Friends of the Cabildo Walking Tours begin here.

Friends of the Cabildo Walking Tours
Begin at the 1850 House, 523 St. Ann St. Tours last about two hours and emphasize the history, folklore, and architecture of the French Quarter. Tuesday-Sunday 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Tour fee. Group tours available. 504-523-3939.

New Orleans Pharmacy Museum (1823)
514 Chartres St.
504-565-8027
Constructed for Louis Joseph Dufilho, Jr., the first licensed pharmacist in the United States (1866). Includes a mid-1800s apothecary shop with medicines, surgical instruments, journals, and a rare 1855 soda fountain. The courtyard has an herb garden. Admission fee. Call for current hours.

Old Ursuline Convent (1745)
1100 Chartres St.
504-529-3040
The oldest French structure in the Mississippi River valley and the only one to survive from French colonial times. No longer used as a convent; now houses exhibit areas and the archives of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Self-guided tours. Open Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Admission fee.