

Packet

Thursday, October 31 to Sunday, November 3, 2019

TRADITIONAL VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE IN CREOLE NATCHITOCHES

Natchitoches and Cane River, Louisiana

GREEK REVIVAL SPONSOR

Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission



CREOLE PLANTATION SPONSOR

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SPECIAL PARTNERS

Cane River National Heritage Area
Natchitoches Events Center
Natchitoches Convention & Visitors Bureau
Natchitoches Service League

HOST ORGANIZATIONS

Institute of Classical Architecture & Art: Louisiana Chapter
Louisiana Architectural Foundation
National Center for Preservation Training & Technology
Cane River Creole National Historical Park

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INTRODUCTION

Traditional Vernacular Architecture in Creole Natchitoches is a four-day exploration into the classical-inspired Creole art and architecture of the Natchitoches area of Louisiana.

Hosted by the following organizations:

- **Institute of Classical Architecture & Art: Louisiana Chapter,**
- **Louisiana Architecture Foundation,**
- **National Center for Preservation Technology and Training,**
- **Cane River Creole National Historical Park**

Beginning on **Thursday, October 31 and ending Sunday, November 3, 2019**, this foray into Natchitoches Creole traditional vernacular architecture seeks to:

- 1) understand the human comfort aspects of living in the natural environment in a very difficult climate and how the colloquial architecture design facilitated this;
- 2) understand the sustainable design of working with local materials in the hands of European/French, Native American and African craftsman in building techniques and technology;
- 3) see the climatic responsive adaption of a more northern/cooler climate design to a hot and humid climate;
- 4) understand the universal design concepts with historic structures;
- 5) see how cultural influences work with French, African and Native American input to the local living conditions.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS:

- Architecture – 15 CEU/HSW
- Interior Design- 15 CE
- Landscape architecture: 2 CE
- Louisiana Real Estate - 8 CE credits

ICAA COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Andrew “Andy” Ferrell
Henley Hunter
Edward Cazayoux

ICAA FORAY PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Peter Patout
Michael Rouchell
George Schmidt

LAF COMMITTEE

Nicole Dufour
Melanie Lee

NCPTT COMMITTEE

Andrew “Andy” Ferrell

ABOUT THE HOSTS

INSTITUTE OF CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE & ART (ICAA): LOUISIANA CHAPTER



The Institute of Classical Architecture & Art is the leading nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the classical tradition in architecture, urbanism and their allied arts. The Louisiana Chapter of the ICAA is the most recent chapter of the Institute. ICAA-LA is dedicated to advancing the practice and appreciation of classical architecture and all its allied arts throughout the State of Louisiana. Louisiana is known for its unique architectural heritage that combines French Creole, Spanish and American influences, and the Louisiana Chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art believes that the lessons learned from this rich heritage can be applied to our new works, as well as to help aid those who

work to preserve and rehabilitate our historic architecture. **President: Kevin Harris.**

WEBSITE: <http://www.classicist-nola.org/>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/ICAALA/>

JOIN/RENEW: <http://www.classicist.org/membership-and-chapters/benefits-and-categories/>

LOUISIANA ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION



The Louisiana Architecture Foundation (LAF) is a non-profit corporation formed by AIA Louisiana in 1996 to fulfill the following mission, and goals. Our mission is to advance Architecture in Louisiana by serving as a link between the public and the architectural profession. This linkage includes public awareness of

architecture, public support for architecture, and public participation in processes that shape the environment. Our goals are: to promote an awareness and an appreciation of the influence of architecture and the process by which it is achieved; to be an independent and self-sufficient organization; to inspire and enable research that advances architecture in Louisiana; to foster responsible stewardship of our architectural heritage; and to become part of an information referral network for architectural information. **Interim Executive Director: Nicole Dufour.**

WEBSITE: <https://www.louisianaarchitecture.org/>

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/louisianaarch

JOIN: <https://squareup.com/store/louisiana-architectural-foundation/>

NATIONAL CENTER FOR PRESERVATION TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING



The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) helps preservationists find better tools, better materials, and better approaches to conserving buildings, landscapes, sites, and collections. It conducts research and testing in its own laboratories, provides cutting edge training around the U.S., and supports research and training projects at universities and nonprofits. NCPTT pushes the envelope of current preservation practice by exploring advances in science and technology in other fields and applying them to issues in cultural resources management. **Executive Director: Kirk A. Cordell.**

WEBSITE: <https://www.ncptt.nps.gov/>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/ncptt>

CANE RIVER CREOLE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK



Established in 1994, the Cane River Creole National Historical Park serves to preserve the resources and cultural landscapes of the Cane River region in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. Located along the Cane River Lake, the park is approximately 63 acres and includes two French Creole cotton plantations, Oakland and Magnolia. Both plantations are complete in their historic settings, including landscapes, outbuildings, structures, furnishings, and artifacts; and they are the most intact French Creole cotton plantations in the United States.

WEBSITE: <https://www.nps.gov/cari/index.htm>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/canerivercreoleNPS>

REGISTRATION

MEMBER PRICE: \$325

- Institute of Classical Architecture & Art
- Louisiana Architecture Foundation
- American Institute of Architects

NON-MEMBER PRICE: \$375

BECOME A MEMBER

BECOME a member of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art or Louisiana Architecture Foundation and get \$50 off-registration:

- **ICAA-LA:** <https://www.classicist.org/membership/>
 - For preferred chapter, choose “Louisiana Chapter” or preferred location.
- **LAF:** <https://squareup.com/store/louisiana-architectural-foundation/>

HOW TO REGISTER

Registration is limited to 45 individuals and registration to this event will close when maximum number of participants are reached. All registrants must pre-register and pay. There is no registration on the day of.

Online (preferred):

- Go to our **Eventbrite** page using the following link:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/traditional-vernacular-architecture-in-creole-natchitoches-cane-river-tickets-70071639159>

By Phone:

- Nicole Dufour, LAF – (504) 220-6945

PAYMENT OPTIONS

All major credit cards or debit cards.

QUESTIONS?

Contact: Eddie Cazayoux: edwardjc@centurytel.net

Or

Nicole Dufour: ndufourlaf@gmail.com

ACCOMODATIONS: CHATEAU SAINT DENIS HOTEL

ADDRESS

751 2nd Street, Natchitoches, LA 71457

PHONE NUMBER

318-951-4105

ABOUT

The Château Saint Denis Hotel, a French Creole-inspired boutique property in the heart of the downtown Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District, a 33-block district. The Château Saint Denis Hotel derives its name from the French explorer, Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, who in 1714, established the first trading post making the area the first European settlement in the entire Louisiana Purchase.¹

GROUP FOLIO#

#249639

Reserved block of rooms available. Call ahead.

ROOM TYPE AND SPECIAL GROUP PRICE

Single	Double	Triple	Quad
\$149.00	\$149.00	\$159.00	\$169.00

ONLINE REGISTRATION

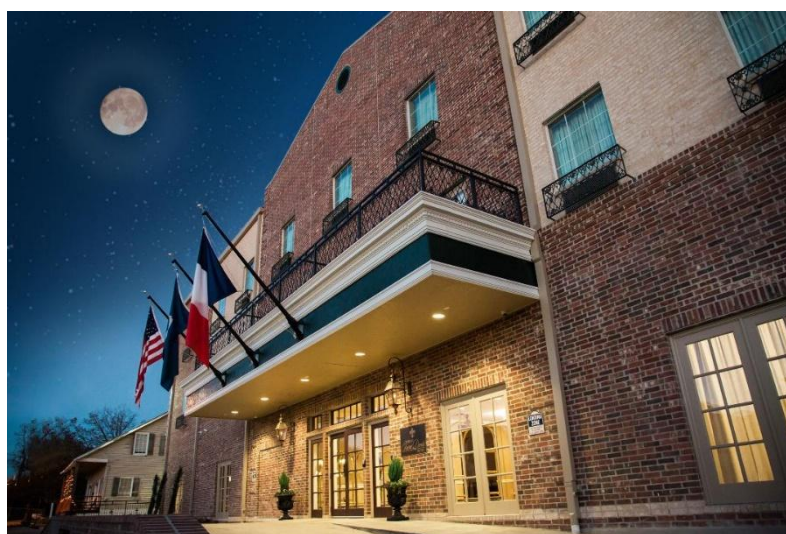
www.chateausaintdenis.com

CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT POLICY

Check-in time is 4:00 p.m. and check-out time is 11:00 a.m. The hotel will make every effort to accommodate early arrivals and late departures. Requests will be handled on an individual basis and will depend upon the hotel's availability.

EXPIRATION OF GROUP RATE AND ROOM BLOCK

October 1, 2019



¹ Château Saint Denis Hotel. Accessed May 8, 2019. <https://www.chateausaintdenis.com/>

FORAY ITINERARY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, NATCHITOCHES

- Day Check into hotel – Chateau St. Denis. Rooms are discounted for this stay/event.
- 3p Registration and check-in at **Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site**, 155 Jefferson Street, Natchitoches. Transportation on your own.
- 3:30p Orientation video introduction to the colonial experience in the Natchitoches, LA, settlement, circa 1714 and following. Followed by a guided tour of the Fort.
- 5:15-7:30p Evening cocktails, beer and wine and heavy hors d'oeuvres at the **Samuel Guy House**, 309 Pine Street, Natchitoches.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, NATCHITOCHES

- Breakfast On your own.
- 8:30-9a Registration at **National Center for Preservation Training and Technology (NCPTT)**, 645 University Parkway, Natchitoches. Transportation on your own.
- 9a Lectures at the, second floor, NCPTT.
- Kirk A. Cordell, Executive Director, will welcome guests and introduce the NCPTT. Water and coffee served during lectures.
- Lecture by Jeffrey Girard, MA: CULTURE AND HISTORY OF THE NATCHITOCHES AREA.
- Lecture by Cybèle T. Gontar, PhD Candidate: VERNACULAR LOUISIANA FURNITURE.
- Lecture by Eddie Cazayoux, FAIA: CREOLE BUILDING TECHNIQUES.
- 12p Brown bag lunch at the NCPTT.
- 1:15p Leave for the **Louisiana Museum and Sports Hall of Fame**, 800 Front St, Natchitoches, in the Historic District in individual cars. Best to park at the Chateau St. Denis for the afternoon tours. It's 1 mile away.
- 2:15p Welcome by Mayor Lee Posey at the new pavilion, **Rue Beauport Riverfront**, along the Historic District riverbank.
- 2:45p Guided tour of the **Natchitoches Historic District** in two groups.
- 5p Evening and dinner on your own.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, CANE RIVER

(Transportation will be provided for the group on this day only.)

- Breakfast On your own.
- 9a Leave the Chateau St. Denis – Be in the vans and ready to go.
- 9:30a Tour **St. Augustine Catholic Church**. Introduction by Dr. Harlan “Mark” Guidry.
- 10a Tour **Badin-Roque House**. Introduction by Dr. Harlan “Mark” Guidry.
- 10:45a Visit **Yucca (Melrose) Plantation**. Assemble in the barn.
Welcome by Melrose Staff with for history/background of the plantation.
- Lecture by Patricia Becker, author: **CANE RIVER BOHEMIA: CAMMIE HENRY AND HER CIRCLE AT MELROSE PLANTATION**.
 - Introduction by Tommy Whitehead, co-author: **CLEMENTINE HUNTER: HER LIFE IN ART**; co-editor: **CLEMENTINE HUNTER: THE AFRICAN HOUSE MURALS**.
- 11:30a Divide into three groups:
- Tour the African House, additional comments by Mr. Whitehead on the murals on the second level.
 - Tour the Big House with Melrose Staff.
 - Tour the Yucca House, the oldest building on the plantation, with Eddie Cazayoux, who restored Yucca.
- 12:45p Depart Melrose with your van group for the **Oakland Plantation** unit of the Cane River National Historical Park for a box lunch in the Pavilion.
- 2:15p Break into three groups to tour the plantation:
- Tour main floor of Big House
 - Tour plantation store
 - Tour ground floor of Big House
- 3:30p Depart Oakland Plantation with your van group for Cherokee Plantation. Pass by:
- St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Chapel. A mission church of St. Augustine.
 - Sompayrac House. Moved from Campti, LA.
 - Beaufort Plantation. Narcisse Prud’homme House.
 - Oaklawn Plantation. Built by Prud’homme, restored by Robert Harling.
- 4p Tour **Cherokee Plantation** with a introduction and tout by Tommy Whitehead and John H. Stubbs.
- 5:30p Drop guests off at Chateau Saint Denis Hotel - Dinner on your own.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

- Breakfast On your own.
- 9:30a-Noon Drive, on your own or carpool, to 321 Starlight Point, Natchitoches. Introduction by Jeff Carbo on landscape architecture design and tour two residential gardens on your own.
À LA FIN. HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS FORAY!

FORT ST. JEAN BAPTISTE STATE HISTORIC SITE

ADDRESS

155 Rue Jefferson Natchitoches, LA

DATE & TIME

Thursday, October 31, 2019, 3p to 3:30pm

ABOUT

The Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site is a replication fort based upon original blueprints and extensive archival research in Louisiana, Canada, and France. It is located on Cane River Lake (formerly the Red River), a few hundred yards from the original fort site. Construction began in 1979 under the direction of the late Samuel Wilson, Jr. and the Louisiana Office of State Parks. Building materials were obtained locally, and many 18th-century techniques were employed in the replication. Nearly 2,000 treated pine logs form the palisade and approximately 250,000 board feet of treated lumber went into the construction of the buildings. All of the hinges and latches were handmade at a nearby foundry. The original fort was established around 1716, when Sieur Charles Claude Dutisné was sent to Natchitoches with a small company of colonial troops to build and garrison an outpost that would prevent the Spanish forces in the province of Texas from advancing across the border of French Louisiane. This strategic outpost was named Fort St. Jean Baptiste des Natchitoches.²



² Courtesy of Cane River National Heritage Area.

SAMUEL GUY HOUSE (1850)

ADDRESS

309 Pine Street, Natchitoches, LA 71457

DATE & TIME

Thursday, October 31, 2019: 5:15p to 7:30p

ABOUT

The Samuel Guy House was built in 1850 by Samuel Eldridge Guy. The house was the centerpiece of a working plantation and was located in Mansfield, Louisiana. The house remained in the Guy family for 150 years. The home is two stories and is of Greek Revival architecture and contains such features as an ornate, oversized front entrance and Greek temple dormers, which are unique to the area. It also contains a symmetrical floor plan featuring a central hallway flanked by two rooms on either side. The house was moved from DeSota Parish and restored.³



³SAMUEL GUY HOUSE: BED AND BREAKFAST: <http://samuelguyhouse.com/>

NATIONAL CENTER FOR PRESERVATION TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING (NCPTT)

ADDRESS

645 University Pkwy, Natchitoches, LA 71457

TIME

Friday, November 1, 2019 from 9a to 12:30pm.

ABOUT

NCPTT was founded in 1994 on the campus of Northwestern State University of Louisiana in Natchitoches, Louisiana. In May of 2001, the Center moved into its new headquarters in the recently renovated Women's Gymnasium, and renamed the building in honor of Lee H. Nelson, the distinguished National Park Service architect and preservation pioneer. Lee H. Nelson Hall is one of the oldest surviving structures on the Northwestern State University campus.

The genesis of NCPTT began in September 1986 when the US Congress' Office of Technology Assessment published *Technologies for Prehistoric & Historic Preservation*. The assessment cited the critical need to establish a federally funded institution "as a mechanism to coordinate research, disseminate information, and provide training about new technologies for preservation."

One of the strategies for implementing the OTA report findings was the recommendation to establish a "Federal Center for Preservation Technology" within the Department of the Interior.

Recommendations for a national research and development organization devoted to technical issues in preservation were adapted into legislation as part of the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1992. The legislation established the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, an advisory board (the Preservation Technology and Training Board), and the Preservation Technology and Training Grants program as major components of a new "national initiative to coordinate and promote research, distribute information, and provide training about preservation skills and technologies."⁴



⁴ From the NCPTT website.

LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM AND SPORTS HALL OF FAME (2013)

ADDRESS

800 Front St, Natchitoches, LA

DATE & TIME

Friday, November 1, 2019, 12:30p to 1:15p.

ABOUT

The Louisiana State Museum and Sports Hall of Fame is located in Natchitoches, the oldest settlement in the Louisiana Purchase. Set on the banks of the Cane River Lake, the project is inspired by the riverfront setting, early sustainable practices and the 17th century bousillage building technique brought to the region by French settlers.

The Museum's interior reflects the region's fluvial geomorphology – the transformation of the landscape from centuries of carving by the meandering river. Sculpted from 1,100 unique cast stone panels, the interior seamlessly integrates building systems and serves as a canvas for exhibitions and films.⁵



⁵ Trahan Architects.

RUE BEAUPORT RIVERFRONT (2017)

ADDRESS

Riverwalk in CBD Natchitoches

DATE & TIME

Friday, November 1, 2019, 1:30p to 2p.

ABOUT

Constructed by Pat Williams Construction for \$2,956,000 and designed by Carbo Landscape Architecture, the Rue Beauport Riverfront was completed in December 2017 for the riverfront of the City of Natchitoches. Construction of a Riverfront Park and associated structures. Park components include two access points from Front Street, pedestrian circulation, boardwalk, parking lot adjustments, amphitheater, planting and irrigation. Structures include a restroom building, pavilion and related utility improvements.⁶



⁶ <https://www.patwilliamsconstruction.com/projects-gallery/rue-beauport-riverfront/>

NATCHITOCHES HISTORIC DISTRICT (1984)

ADDRESS

Natchitoches; Roughly bounded by 2nd, 4th, Jefferson, and Parie Sts. and Williams and College Avenues.

DATE & TIME

Friday, November 1, 2019, 2p to 5p.

ABOUT

The Natchitoches Historic District is a mixture of late 18th century, 19th century, and turn-of-the-twentieth century Victorian architecture. The City itself, the oldest permanent settlement in the state, actually dates from 1714 with the founding of Fort St. Jean Baptiste de Natchitoches by Louis Antoine Juchereau de Saint-Denis. For over a century it was an important trading center with the west. Its location on Louisiana's Red River permitted direct shipping from New Orleans, and it soon became an important link in the pack train trails.

The Natchitoches Historic District is significant architecturally to the state of Louisiana as well as the nation because of its number of buildings within the District constructed of boussilage type materials. These buildings are the only ones in this state in a concentrated area of this type of construction. Naturally there are various boussilage constructed buildings located throughout the state but in scattered locations. The largest boussilage type construction in the South and possibly in the United States is located in the Natchitoches Historic District. The house is commonly known as the Prudhomme-Rouquier house at 436 Jefferson Street. It is presently under restoration. It was constructed in 1806. Boussilage construction is a mixture of mud, moss or deer hair placed between posts. Batting is used to hold the boussilage in place until it is dried. Whenever a gallery overhang was in the house design, this boussilage was left exposed. However, if it was in an area of the building that could become wet, it was covered with a clapboard. Of course the boussilage constructed buildings within the District are of great importance; however the colonial, antebellum and Victorian structures are of great significance also. It is this unique correlation of architectural designs that we believe makes the Natchitoches Historic District so unusual. The setting on the Cane River is superb. The City of Natchitoches has adopted the necessary ordinances to protect this District and the property owners have wholeheartedly accepted this designation and are cooperating completely.



ST. AUGUSTINE (ISLE BREVELLE) CATHOLIC CHURCH (1829)

ADDRESS

Highway 484, Melrose, Natchitoches Parish, LA

DAY & TIME

Saturday, November 2, 2019, 11a to 11:30a

ABOUT

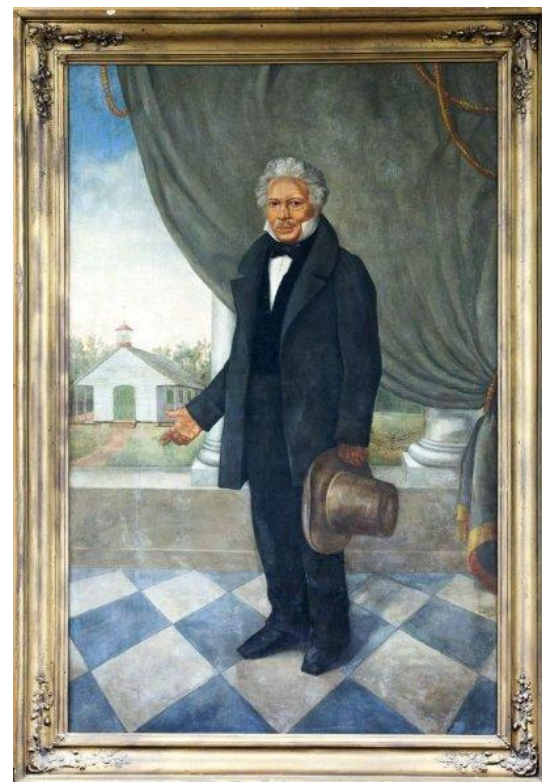
The Creole Church. At the heart of every Creole community is the Catholic Church. In the case of Isle Brevelle, religious practices and church services were held as early as 1803, when the first church was established there by community patriarch Augustin Metoyer. Significantly, St. Augustine Catholic Church at Isle Brevelle is the first Roman Catholic Church established by and for people of color in the United States, and it has served the Creole community continuously for 200 years. Generations of Metoyer's descendants have been baptized, married and buried there. It is where the community has gathered through the years, and it is where the community still joins together for dances, church fairs, First Communions, Toussaints (All Saints' Day) processions, midnight mass at Christmas and other community celebrations.

Religious observances remain an important part of Creoles' everyday lives. For example, *prie-Dieu* (kneelers) and family shrines are traditional elements in a Creole home, as are rosaries, crucifixes, prayer cards and statues of patron saints.

Throughout the antebellum period and beyond, Creoles farmed according to the ecclesiastical calendar—collecting sassafras on the Feast of Assumption (August 15), for example, or refusing to turn soil on Good Friday because of the belief the ground would bleed. Family feasts often followed mass on holy days, bringing together members of extended families for celebrations of both family and faith.⁷



St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church, Highway 484, Melrose, Natchitoches Parish, LA. Historic American Buildings Survey, date unknown:
<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/la0451.photos.210393p/resource/>



Nicolas Augustin Metoyer
<https://civilwartalk.com/threads/marie-therese-metoyer-coincoin-and-melrose-plantation.115970/>

⁷ Cane River National Heritage Area.

BADIN-ROQUE HOUSE (1769-1785)

ADDRESS

11 Highway 484, Natchez, LA

DATE & TIME

Saturday, November 2, 2019, 11:30a to Noon

ABOUT

The Badin-Roque House is an example of an early Creole building style known as *poteaux-en-terre* (posts-in-ground). In this style, the vertical timbers that make up the frame of the house are placed in holes that are later filled with stones or dirt. This building method was popular amongst early French settlers between the years 1769 and 1785. Surviving examples of this style are rare due to the posts' high susceptibility to water damage in Louisiana's wet soil. It is believed that the Badin-Roque House is the only remaining building of its type in Louisiana and one of only a handful in the country. The simple one-story cottage has *bousillage* walls (a mixture of mud, Spanish moss and deer hair), an outdoor kitchen and a spacious porch situated under its large overhanging roof. The house was originally built by Jean Baptiste Metoyer, grandson of [Marie Thérèse Coincoin](#) and Claude Thomas Pierre Metoyer. Metoyer was a French soldier and planter, and Marie Thérèse was an African slave owned by Metoyer and later freed by him. Children from their 25-year liaison formed the core of the Cane River Creole community in Isle Brevelle. The Catholic Diocese of Natchitoches later purchased the house and converted it into the first convent and school for St. Augustine Catholic Church. The church sold the house in 1859. It passed through the hands of several owners over the next few decades before being acquired by the Badin-Roque family. The Catholic Diocese of Natchitoches later purchased the house and converted it into the first convent and school for St. Augustine Catholic Church.



In 1979, the St. Augustine Historical Society purchased the house, eventually operating it as historic site. The house has been under restoration since 1999.

The Badin-Roque House is located on Hwy. 484, several miles south of Natchitoches in Natchez. The house is open to the public by appointment with the Creole Heritage Center at 318-357-6685. The Badin-Roque House has also been documented by the [Historic American Buildings Survey](#).⁸



⁸ Cane River National Heritage Area: *Badin-Roque House*, <https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/caneriver/bad.htm>

YUCCA (MELROSE) PLANTATION (1794-1814)

ADDRESS

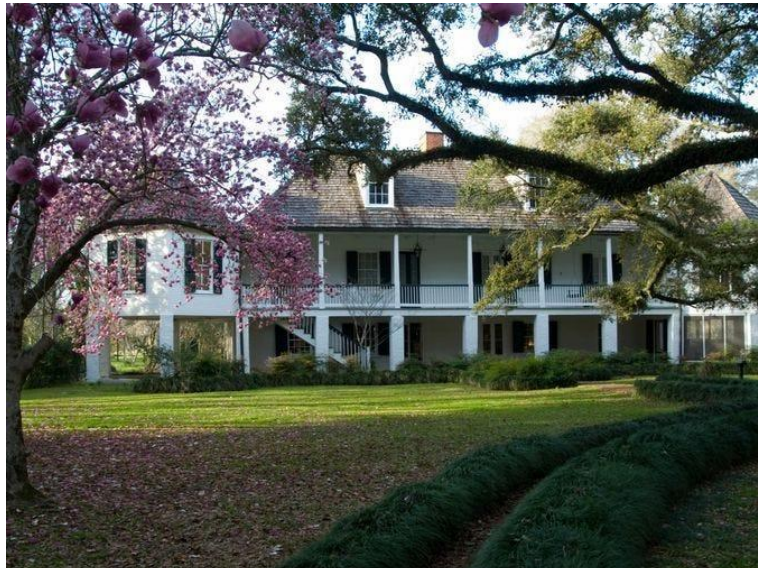
3533 Highway 119, Melrose, LA

DATE & TIME

Saturday, November 2, 2019, 9:30a to 10:45a

ABOUT

Yucca Plantation, now known as Melrose, is a 200-year old cotton and pecan plantation located on the banks of Cane River Lake. The plantation has nine standing historic buildings, three of which bear explanation here. The oldest of these is Yucca House, built between 1796 and 1814. This French Creole cottage served as the first big house for the plantation. The second building is the African House, constructed sometime between 1800 and 1830. Many have speculated that it was built to resemble traditional African homes, although others claim its inspiration comes from French barns. Finally there is the current big house, which was completed in 1833. This *bousillage* building has been remodeled numerous times and has several additions, including two distinctive hexagonal towers, known as *garçonières*, flanking the front gallery.



Louis Metoyer originally acquired the land in 1795. Metoyer was the second son of Jean Baptiste Metoyer, a French planter, and Marie Thérèse Coincoin an African slave owned by Metoyer and later freed by him. He and his descendents built and managed a plantation here until 1847, when it was sold to the Hertzogs, the family that owned Magnolia Plantation. Joseph Henry later acquired the land and moved his family onto it in 1898. He died the next year and the property was passed on to his son, John Hampton Henry, and his daughter-in-law, Cammie Garrett Henry. Miss Cammie, as she was known, was a college-educated woman who was fond of culture and society. She started an art colony at the plantation that became one of the most popular in the South, entertaining such famous names as William Faulkner, Lyle Saxon and William Spratling. During the Henry era, famed "self-taught" artist Clementine Hunter also got her start at Melrose, where she worked as a cook and painted in her spare time. She became the first African American to have a solo exhibit at the New Orleans Museum of Art. Her work depicts daily life in the rural South prior to the mechanization of agriculture.

In 1971, the plantation was donated to the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches (APHN). The organization has conducted numerous repairs and restorations through the years. APHN still maintains the plantation and gives tours of the grounds daily.⁹

⁹ Cane River National Heritage Area.

OAKLAND PLANTATION (c. 1790)

ADDRESS

4286 Highway 494, Natchez, LA

DATE & TIME

Saturday, November 2, 2019, 12:30 to 4pm

ABOUT

Oakland Plantation was founded by Jean Pierre Emanuel Prud'homme, who began farming the area in 1785 and received a Spanish land grant in 1789. Eight generations of his French Creole family lived and worked on this land, managing to keep the physical complex intact for two centuries. Because of the integrity of the resources here, the site has been designated as a National Historic Landmark.



The plantation's first cash crops were tobacco and indigo, followed by cotton in the 1800s. According to family tradition, the Prud'hommes were the first family west of the Mississippi

River to farm cotton on a large scale. As textile mills in the north increased their demand for cotton, the use of enslaved labor increased in cotton-growing plantations such as Oakland. In this way the industrial revolution in the northern states encouraged the expansion of the plantation labor systems of the south.

The skills and strengths of enslaved African-Americans are evident in the buildings they constructed at Oakland Plantation (originally called Bermuda). The proficiency of enslaved blacksmiths such as Solomon Williams, for example, can be seen in iron latches and hinges, in numerous grave crosses from the slave cemetery, and in a collection of skillfully made well-drilling tools found on Oakland Plantation.

Descendants of many enslaved workers remained at Oakland as tenant farmers and sharecroppers throughout the 20th century. These farmers sought to glean a small living as well as a bit of freedom from their labors. The vibrant African-American communities in the Natchitoches region today trace two hundred years of cultural history to this fertile land surrounding the Cane River.

Today, nearly 60 historic buildings of Oakland Plantation remain, set within a rural, picturesque cultural landscape. The store, pigeoniers, cook's cabin, overseer's house, tenant cabin and various outbuildings are all open for self-guided tours. The main house is guided tour only.

CHEROKEE PLANTATION (1839)

COORDINATES

N 31° 41.300 W 093° 01.933

DATE & TIME

Saturday, November 2, 4 to 5p

ABOUT

Cherokee Plantation is an example of an early French Creole plantation house. It is elevated six feet off the ground on brick piers. The timbers are hand-hewn cypress and the walls are filled with bousillage made from Spanish moss, animal hair and mud from Cane River. The exterior of the house is covered with wooden siding and the interior bousillage walls are painted white. It is believed that the house was built in 1839, a date which coincides with the purchase of the property by Emile Sompayrac.

Sompayrac was a young Frenchman who, oral tradition holds, lived a cavalier lifestyle and was an enthusiast of hunting and gambling. His romantic and adventurous lifestyle was best represented by a duel that took place at the plantation the very first year he owned the property. In the summer of 1839, a political argument between a prominent Whig, General F. Gaiennie, and a Democrat, State Representative General P. E. Bossier, escalated to open incriminations in the local newspaper. To put an end to the feud, Bossier demanded a duel. Gaiennie accepted the offer and chose rifles, considered the most deadly weapon of the time. The duel took place that autumn on the grounds of Cherokee Plantation. Though Gaiennie fired early, Bossier won the duel, shooting his opponent through the heart. According to local legend, political tensions surrounding the duel led to the death of eleven more citizens, including the suicide of General Bossier in 1844.

Emile Sompayrac died shortly after the Civil War. His wife, Clarissa, slowly sold the plantation off in pieces. The land switched hands many times over the next few years and continued to be an active plantation through the first half of the 20th century. The plantation is currently owned by the Murphy Nolan family of El Dorado, Arkansas, who have done much to restore and maintain the house for future generations.¹⁰



¹⁰ Cane River National Heritage Area.



TWO RESIDENTIAL GARDENS ON STARLIGHT POINT

ADDRESS

321 Starlight Point, Natchitoches, LA 71457

DATE & TIME

Sunday, November 3, 2019, 9:30a to Noon

ABOUT

Walk the grounds of two residential gardens designed by CARBO Landscape Architecture. Jeff Carbo of CARBO Landscape Architecture will discuss about the design and building for the environment.

- A Main House
- B Garage
- C Cook House
- D Pool
- E Boathouse
- F Pigeonair
- G Barn
- H Greenhouse
- I Entry Garden
- J Rose Garden
- K Camellia Garden
- L Courtyard
- M Circle Garden
- N Bog Garden
- O Vegetable Garden
- P Pecan Orchard
- Q Mayhaw Orchard
- R Fruit Orchard
- S Compost Area
- T Cane River



WELCOME BY KIRK A. CORDELL

ABOUT KIRK

Kirk A. Cordell was appointed Executive Director of the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training in Natchitoches, LA, in 2002. He is a LEED AP with more than 30 years of experience in the National Park Service and has served in a number of preservation-related positions during his career. Prior to coming to the National Center, he headed the Park Cultural Resources programs in the Southeast Region of NPS, after working in its cultural resources planning, preservation tax incentives, and SHPO review programs. He previously worked as an architectural historian for the Louisiana SHPO.

Under his leadership, NCPTT has become a national leader in applying science and technology to the preservation of historic structures, landscapes, archeological sites, and materials, and has been the recipient of awards from professional and advocacy groups. He spearheaded NCPTT's research and training partnerships with a range of preservation organizations, including APT, AIC, USICOMOS, and the AIA's Historic Resources Committee.

A native of Richmond, Virginia, Cordell was an Echols Scholar at the University of Virginia, where he received a bachelor's degree in architectural history, and completed graduate work in architectural history and preservation planning at Cornell University. He serves on the advisory boards of the Tulane University and College of Charleston preservation degree programs and was invited to present the biannual Morrison Memorial Lecture at the Historic New Orleans Collection in 2012.



LECTURER: JEFFREY GIRARD, MA

TITLE OF LECTURE

Culture and History of the Natchitoches Area

ABOUT JEFF

Jeffrey Girard (M.A. The University of Texas at Austin) was on the faculty at Northwestern State University of Louisiana and served as regional archaeologist for the Louisiana Division of Archaeology for more than 25 years. He worked with landowners in the identification and preservation of cultural resources on private and state land, carried out research projects, and promoted awareness of cultural resources through public presentations. He has published papers in several edited books and journals, and co-authored the book *Caddo Connections, Cultural Interactions within and beyond the Caddo World*, 2014, Rowman & Littlefield. His book, *The Caddos and Their Ancestors, Archaeology and the Native People of Northwest Louisiana*, was published by LSU Press in the spring of 2018. He currently is working on a grant from the Cane River National Heritage Area to organize collections and records at the Williamson Museum, Northwestern State University.



LECTURER: CYBÈLE T. GONTAR

TITLE OF LECTURE

Vernacular Louisiana Furniture

ABOUT CYBÈLE

New Orleans native Cybèle Gontar is a Ph.D. candidate in American art at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Ms. Gontar taught art history at Montclair State University, FIT, and Sotheby's Institute of Art. After completing a Smithsonian Predoctoral Fellowship at the National Portrait Gallery, she returned to New Orleans to found Degas Gallery in the downtown Arts District of New Orleans and to complete her dissertation: *Josef Francisco Xavier de Salazar y Mendoza and Jacques Guillaume Lucien Amans: Portraiture, Identity and Plantation Society in New Orleans, 1790-1890*. She regularly teaches a course on New Orleans art history at Tulane University: *Global New Orleans: Art and Material Culture in the Gulf South, 1718-present*. Ms. Gontar has lectured extensively and her publications appear in many journals including *Common-Place: The Interactive Journal of American Life*, *Cultural Vistas* (Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities) the *Metropolitan Museum's Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History* and *Metropolitan Museum Journal*.

Her exhibition and catalogue *Salazar: Portraits of Influence in Spanish New Orleans, 1785-1802* appeared at Ogden Museum of Southern Art from March-September 2018. Her forthcoming catalogue and exhibition, *The Butterfly Man of New Orleans: The Search for a Lost Louisiana Cabinetmaker, 1810-1825*, inspired by the tenth anniversary of the landmark publication *Furnishing Louisiana: Creole and Acadian Furniture, 1735-1835* (Holden, Bacot & Gontar, THNOC 2010), will open at the Louisiana State Museum's Cabildo on November 22, 2019.



LECTURER: EDWARD J. CAZAYOUX, FAIA

TITLE OF LECTURE

Creole Building Techniques

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF LECTURE

This lecture will talk about who and how the buildings of this area were designed and constructed using local materials, Native American, European & African influences, and human comfort for a hot and humid climate.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

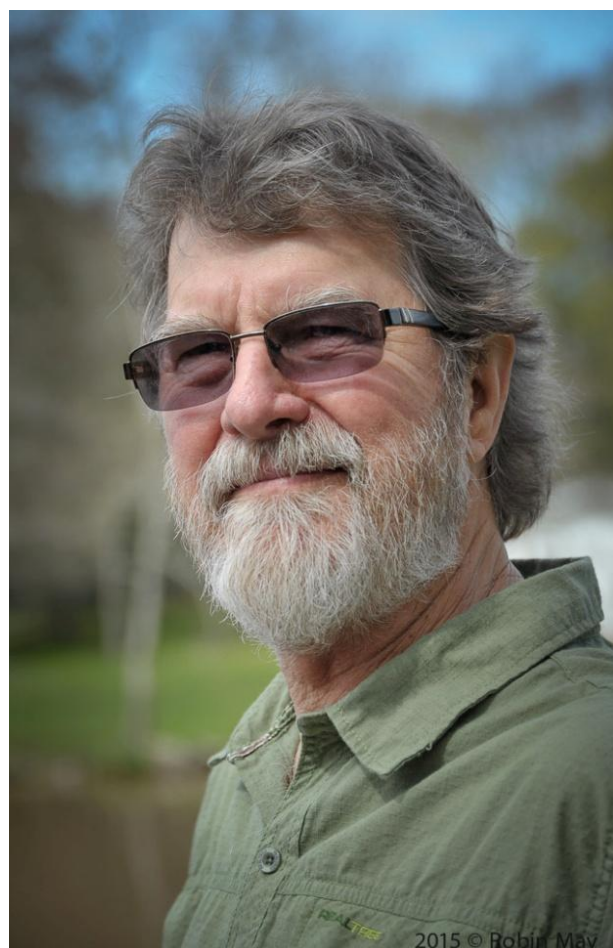
Edward (Eddie) Jon Cazayoux, FAIA is an architect whose firm, EnvironMental Design, practices sustainable architecture and historic preservation.

He is a member of the US Green Building Council and American Solar Energy Society. He has received awards for his work from the US Dept of Energy, US Dept. of the Interior, US Green Building Council, AIA Louisiana, and the State of Louisiana-Energy Division. Eddie is a retired Professor of Architecture in the School of Architecture & Design at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where he taught for 30 years and was the Director for 13 of those years.

He has been awarded Distinguish Professor by his University and held the Regents Professorship in Architecture. He was elevated to Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects and awarded Professor Emeritus by the University.

He has a Masters of Architecture and a Masters of City Planning from Georgia Tech. He received his undergraduate degree in Architecture from the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now known as the University of Louisiana at Lafayette).

He has written three books on sustainable design and historic preservation. He has received many grants for his research and work in sustainable design & construction and historic preservation. He has presented papers on sustainable design and French colonial architecture & settlements throughout the world.



LECTURER: DR. HARLAN “MARK” GUIDRY, MD, MPH

TITLE OF INTRODUCTION & COMMENTS

Preserving Louisiana's History & Heritage

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC

Before Roots and before Forgotten People, a junior high school teenager sought his identity by questioning his elders and later acquiring a personal collection of church, government, and family-owned records. His discoveries gave birth to a story about a unique Franco-American people, uncovering a nearly forgotten heritage and a personal genealogical tree rich in generations of multiculturalism. His initial work culminated in his first written product, “Back to Our Roots,” at the age of 19, for which he was honored as the “Grand Family Historian” in 1981.

ABOUT DR. MARK

Dr. Mark Guidry, is no stranger to the world of history and heritage. Mark has received many awards and honors as a writer, speaker, historian, and preservation leader. His preservation work started with Louisiana's "Grand" families - Dupre, Goudeau, Lacour, Metoyer, & Ray - his maternal ancestors who formed a tight network of extended relatives from Cane River to Goudeau, Louisiana. Smiling, he calls himself a "Louisiana mixed breed" - half Creole and half Cajun in heritage. His father's multicultural Acadian heritage originates from the South Louisiana communities of Abbeville & Grosse Isle.

Self-driven, he travelled to Isle Brevelle in 1979 at the age of 18 where he found and immediately enamored his cousin, Lee Etta Dupre Coutii, "Tante Lee." She was the most referenced Isle Brevelle descendant in Forgotten People and was recognized at Creole Heritage Day 2000, as the "First Known Creole Historian & Preservationist." Courageous Tante Lee shared her knowledge and spoke out at time when Creole heritage was rarely discussed in public. "Cher Neveu," Mark Guidry, carefully documented Tante Lee's oral history which spanned generations from Augustin Metoyer to his daughter-in-law, Perine Metoyer Dupre to Tante Lee.

Mark is an accomplished board-certified physician executive - the Chief of Staff of the Alexandria VA serving veterans in a 23 parish area of Louisiana through several community clinics, including the one in Natchitoches. As a healthcare executive, he has also received numerous awards, including the 2016 Texas Statewide Public Health Award for improving the public's health in Texas.



LECTURER: PATRICIA AUSTIN BECKER

TITLE OF LECTURE

Cane River Bohemia

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF LECTURE

A National Historic Landmark with a complex and remarkable two-hundred-year history, Melrose Plantation near Natchitoches, Louisiana, was home to many notable women, including freedwoman and entrepreneur Marie Thérèse Coincoin and artist Clementine Hunter. Among that influential group, Cammie Henry, the mistress of Melrose during the first half of the twentieth century, stands out as someone who influenced the plantation's legacy in dramatic and memorable ways. In *Cane River Bohemia*, Patricia Austin Becker provides a vivid biography of this fascinating figure. Her books may possibly be autographed before or after the lecture.¹¹

ABOUT PATRICIA

Patricia Austin Becker teaches English and creative writing in Bossier City, Louisiana. She is the author of *Cane River Bohemia: Cammie Henry and Her Circle at Melrose Plantation*, LSU Press, Baton Rouge, LA, 2018. Drawing heavily from the collections in the Cammie Henry Research Center, in the Watson Memorial Library, at Northwestern State University, Becker presents an intimate portrait of Cammie Garret Henry, a native of South Louisiana, who moved to Melrose Plantation in Natchitoches Parish in 1899. There, she worked tirelessly to restore the property. In the process, she developed a colony of artists and writers who, while enjoying the hospitality of the plantation, left a tangible legacy of work. An artist, Alberta Kinsey, is credited with essentially launching the career of Clementine Hunter, when Kinsey left her art supplies behind when she departed from a visit to Melrose.

Other members of the "Circle" were Lyle Saxon, Ada Jack Carver, Harnett Kane, Roark Bradford, William Spratling, Doris Ullman, and Sherwood Anderson. Cammie Henry also compiled an extensive collection of books and papers relating to the history of Louisiana, many of the latter finding their way into her celebrated scrapbooks, which are the core of the Cammie Henry Collection. Surprisingly, it appears that Cammie Henry had little, if any, knowledge of Marie-Thérèse Coincoin, the progenitor of a clan that considers Isle Breville, where Melrose is located, their spiritual home, and a legend in her own right. Additionally, Cammie Henry was a weaver, a gardener, and made quilts.



¹¹ Notes on authors and additional reading compiled by Henley Alexander Hunter.

SPEAKER: TOMMY WHITEHEAD

TITLE OF INTRODUCTION & COMMENTS

Clementine Hunter: Her Life and Art

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC

The granddaughter of slaves, Clementine Hunter was born around Christmas 1886 and led a hardscrabble life, picking cotton on local plantations with her family. Around 1900, they moved to Melrose and began to work in its fields—an event that would prove fortuitous for both Hunter and the world of folk art.

Hunter, who produced at least five thousand paintings, was working almost until she died on January 1, 1988, at the age of 101. His book may possibly be autographed before or after the lecture, *Clementine Hunter: Her Life and Art*.¹²

ABOUT TOMMY

Thomas “Tommy” Whitehead is a Professor Emeritus of Journalism at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA, and serves as a special consultant to the President of the University on special projects.

Whitehead was also instrumental in locating original Clementine Hunter works for inclusion in the collection of the National Museum of African American History and Culture at the Smithsonian. Mr. Whitehead will also serve as our guide to Cherokee Plantation.

Tommy Whitehead and Art Shiver are the co-authors of *Clementine Hunter: Her Life and Art*, LSU Press, Baton Rouge, LA, 2012. Both Whitehead and Shiver knew Clementine Hunter. Whitehead has written and spoken about the artist to various audiences around the world. They are also the co-editors of *Clementine Hunter: The African House Murals*. NSU Press, Natchitoches, LA, 2005.



¹² Notes on authors and additional reading compiled by Henley Alexander Hunter.

SPEAKER: JEFFREY K. CARBO, PLA, FASLA

TITLE OF INTRODUCTION & COMMENTS

Landscape Design for two residential gardens on Starlight Point

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC

Walk the grounds of two gardens designed by CARBO Landscape Architecture. Jeff Carbo of CARBO Landscape Architecture will discuss about the design and building for the environment.

ABOUT JEFF

Jeffrey Carbo is a Landscape Architect with over thirty five years experience in professional practice and is the founding principal of Carbo Landscape Architecture.

He is a 1985 graduate of Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture at Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, and holds professional licensure as a Registered Landscape Architect in the State of Louisiana. He is also registered in Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas, Alabama, Tennessee, North and South Carolina. Jeff is a member of the LSU College of Art and Design Dean's Circle and serves on the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture Alumni Advisory Council. In 2007, Jeff received the LSU College of Art and Design Distinguished Alumni Award and was a member of Forever LSU Campaign Cabinet. In 2011, Jeff was inducted in the LSU Alumni Hall of Distinction, the highest honor given to LSU graduates.

Jeff has been a speaker at numerous state, regional and national conferences as well as design conferences and garden organizations throughout the south regarding the firm's work and philosophy. Jeff has overseen over 80 award winning CARBO projects throughout the Southeastern United States.



ADDITIONAL READINGS

Natchitoches and the Cane River region have been featured in many books. The following are just a few of them:¹³

Mills, Gary B., *THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE: CANE RIVER'S CREOLES OF COLOR*, Revised Edition by Elizabeth Shown Mills, LSU Press, Baton Rouge, LA., 1977, 2015.

The "bible" for an understanding of the rich culture and history of the Natchitoches and Cane River area, particularly the influence of Marie-Thérèse Coin and her descendants by Claude Thomas Pierre Metoyer. As Mills notes, "Creole is a culture, not a color." The Forgotten People, LSU, Baton Rouge, 2015, page xvii. This book helps to separate fact from fiction.

Seale, Richard, DeBlieux, Guidry, Harlan Mark, *NATCHITOCHES AND LOUISIANA'S TIMELESS CANE RIVER*, LSU Press, Baton Rouge, LA, 2002.

A beautifully illustrated volume, with an introduction by Robert Harling, giving a overview of the area, with an emphasis on its unique history.

Haynie, Sandra Prudhomme, *LEGENDS OF OAKLAND PLANTATION: THE PRUD'HOMMES OF NATCHITOCHES PARISH*, Haynie, LaPress Co., Shreveport, LA. 2001.

Hunter, Henley Alexander, *MAGNOLIA PLANTATION: A FAMILY FARM*, NSU, 2005.

These two volumes, authored by descendants of the original owners of both Oakland Plantation and Magnolia Plantation, portions of which comprise units of the Cane River Creole National Historical Park, bring the insight of family to those sites.

¹³ Additional reading compiled by Henley Alexander Hunter.

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