

YOUR HOUSE YOUR LIFE YOUR STORY

The woman who used to live here was a lot like you. She worked hard, picked her kids up from school, and she celebrated Carnival with her neighbors. *She was a New Orleanian in 1889.*

In some ways your lives couldn't be more different. But you would recognize a lot about her. She complained about politicians, worried about her kids, and she couldn't wait for Carnival. What ties you together is a shared experience and a similarity of purpose. The physical manifestation of that shared thread is the physical space you inhabit. The cypress. The plaster. The tile. The high ceilings. It's your home.

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1895 Painting of Creole cottage on the corner of Laharpe and Derbigny Street. Courtesy of Clerk of Civil District Court, Notarial Archives Division, New Orleans, Louisiana.

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Mrs. Johnson's family lived in her house in Treme for three generations.

We are linked to our past by our music and our traditions, and the historic homes we live in. It's the link to our past that we can touch and feel. The home you are moving into was carefully preserved as a link to our shared past. It was built over 100 years ago and you are its most recent steward. We hope you treasure it.



NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY

New Orleans' Sixth Ward, known as the Faubourg Treme, and the Seventh Ward have long been the home of the working class of New Orleans. Starting as large land grants to wealthy French patrons, such as Charles de Morand, Andres Jung, and Joseph Delfau de Pontalba, the land was subdivided into streets and contemporary lots between mid 18th and early 19th centuries by developers such as M. Claude Treme.

This carving off of smaller and smaller portions of real estate from the large land grants is the reason you now see newer, smaller homes surrounding the older, larger homes. So unlike most other American cities, New Orleans has been socio-economically integrated from its earliest history. Multiple nationalities shared their neighborhood and brick masons, cobblers, and dock workers lived next to ship captains and captains of industry.



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*Mardi Gras Indians passing
the parading tradition on in
the Treme.*

Over time, the demographic make up of Treme and the Seventh Ward has evolved from French, Spanish and Creole to Italian, Croatian, and Haitian to Anglo-American and Free People of Color. Traditionally the neighborhood had a mix of uses with all of your commercial needs within walking distance. There were even pleasure gardens for the residents' enjoyment.

The housing stock that is included in the Iberville Offsite Redevelopment ranges from Creole cottages built in the mid 19th century to bungalow style shotgun houses built in the early 20th century. There are several reasons that these historic homes are still standing. The older the house is, the older the lumber is. While New Orleans' climate is ideal for pests, termites tend to prefer soft woods first. One hundred years ago, New Orleanians framed their buildings with cypress, a very hard wood.

Additionally, the construction trades were apprenticed trades and great pride was taken in the construction of these homes. Many tradesmen were immigrants and free people of color who passed their knowledge on for generations. Because of this pride of purpose, the buildings standards were higher, even before building codes. Because of these high standards for con-



struction these homes remain standing a hundred plus years after their erection. Meanwhile their contemporary counterparts have an anticipated thirty year life span.

Every time a historic home is torn down and dumped into a landfill, the resources, of lumber, bricks, plaster and flooring are wasted. Materials of this caliber are too expensive to use in new construction. Every demolition creates a hole in the close knit fabric of our neighborhoods.

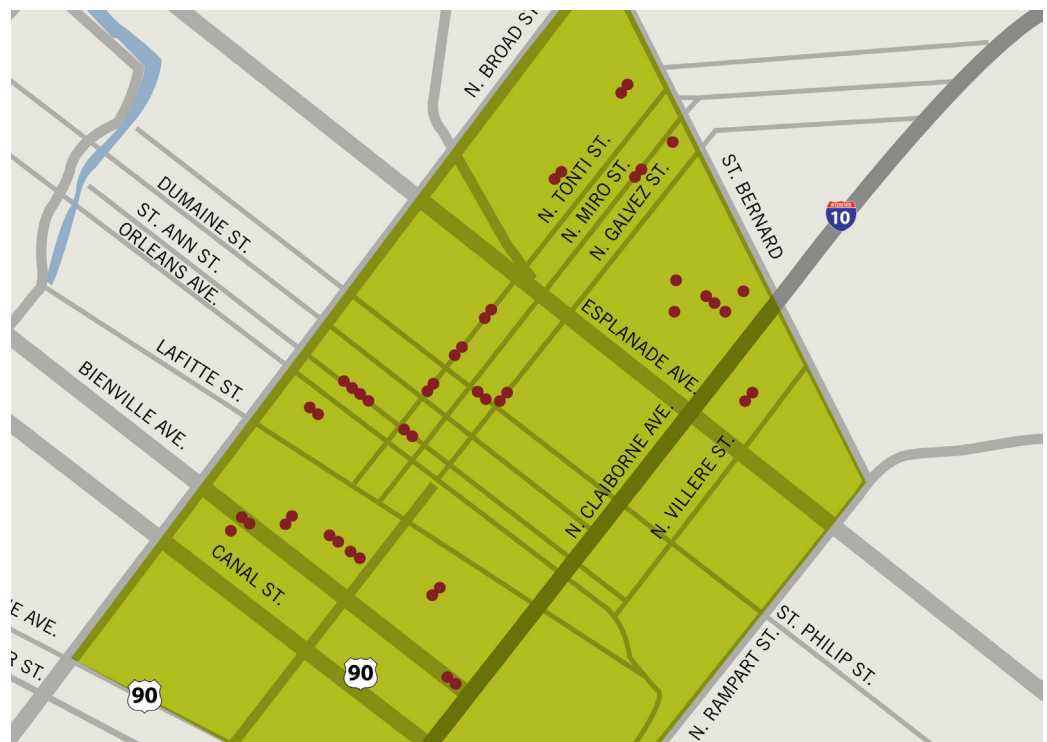
By renovating these homes it restores the neighborhood, both physically and socially. Continuing the history of a community of working class living within the city means that another generation will grow up with the traditions of culture, food and music that makes New Orleans unique.

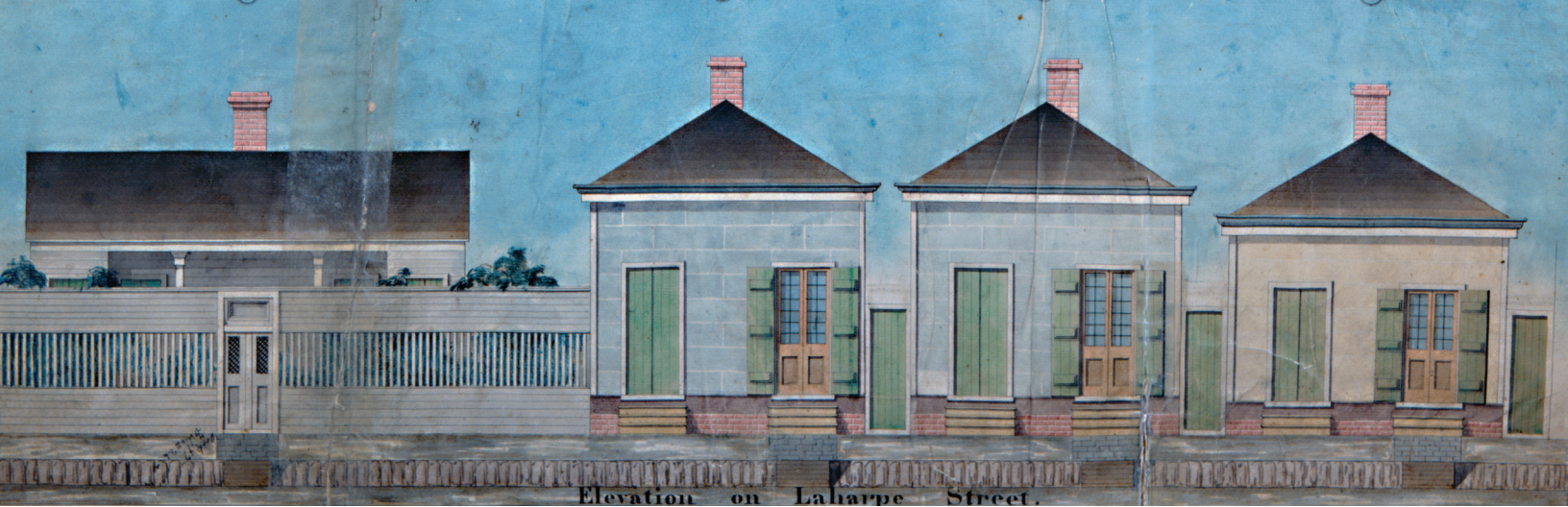
Treme and the Seventh Ward are the cultural homes of the great New Orleans jazz families as well as Social Aide and Pleasure clubs that supported African Americans in their time of need before they had access to life insurance. Together these groups have created the music tradition of the second line parade, with families gathering in celebration. Mardi Gras Indians and Skull & Bones troops honor the kindness of Native Americans to the African slaves and the importance of living each day to the fullest.

Before, during and after the renovation of 1001-03 N. Galvez Street.

Action Drawing of 2328-30 St. Ann Street from 1849. Courtesy of Clerk of Civil District Court, Notarial Archives Division, New Orleans, Louisiana. Photo shows the Redmellon renovation of 2541 St. Ann Street.

Map of the Iberville off-site homes in both Treme and the Seventh Ward.





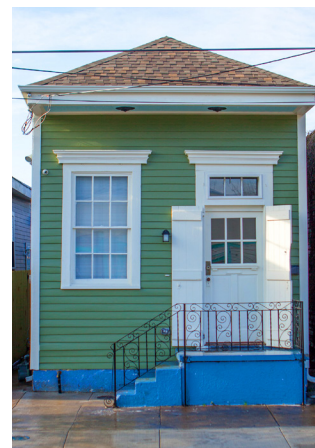
Blight elimination and neighborhood redevelopment are public policy goals of the City of New Orleans, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Redmellon Restoration and Development. New Orleans is unique. But the model can be replicated where there is a desire to preserve our past as we redevelop for the future.

Redmellon Restoration and Development is a mission driven development company that believes in preserving our past. The Iberville offsites are 43 units of single-family homes in the historic 6th and 7th Ward of New Orleans. Their rehabilitation was made possible through the cooperation and tireless effort of the following:



Above is the 1700 block of Laharpe Street in 1853. Courtesy of Clerk of Civil District Court, Notarial Archives Division, New Orleans, Louisiana

At right is 1704 Laharpe Street after renovation



Prudential

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NEW ORLEANS
REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY



Enterprise

Get involved in your neighborhood by contacting your neighborhood association listed here:

Downtown Neighborhoods Improvement Association
225-342-2779 | kultured@hotmail.com

Esplanade Ridge / Tremé Civic Association
jmarcal@bellsouth.net

Historic 7th Ward Neighborhood Improvement Association
504-905-3885 | lebranelegacyfoundation@yahoo.com

NEWCITY Neighborhood Partnership
504-821-7236 | sharris@providencech.org

Seventh Ward Neighborhood Association
504-343-0689 | seventhwardassoc@aol.com

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