

LANDRY STREET



ACADEMY STREET



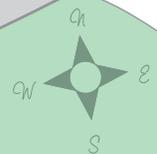
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PARKING



*Le Vieux Village is a historic rural museum located in the city's historic gateway corridor. The village offers visitors a glimpse of early rural life in St. Landry Parish.*

**HISTORICAL PARK AND MUSEUM**

Among the many historic buildings, the village includes one of the oldest Creole homes west of the Mississippi River, a 19th century doctor's office and country store, and a schoolhouse from 1911. Inside the Opelousas Tourist Information Center, you'll also find the Jim Bowie Display, which contains old photos, knives, guns and memorabilia about the legendary adventurer who once lived in Opelousas. The village is also home to the Louisiana Orphan Train Museum. Village Tours are provided free of charge Tues through Friday at 10 am and 2 pm and by appointment by calling 800-424-5442 or visit us at [www.cityofopelousas.com](http://www.cityofopelousas.com).



VINE STREET

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## *Le Vieux Village de Poste des Opelousas*

French for “the old village,” Le Vieux Village is a collection of restored historic structures from Opelousas and from the surrounding areas. The village depicts the unique and diverse historical and cultural heritage that is Opelousas. Although the village showcases structures from the mid-1700s to the mid-1900s, Opelousas is interwoven into the development of Louisiana at a much earlier date. Opelousas was founded in 1720, making it the third oldest city in Louisiana. Take a step back in time at Le Vieux Village and relive our unique history!

### **Venus House, c. mid- to late 1700s**

This French Creole style home was originally located in the small community of Grand Prairie. The house is named after its former owner and occupant, Marie Francois Venus, a free Creole woman of color, who lived in the home during the 18th century. The Venus House is one of the oldest houses of its kind in the Lower Mississippi Valley.

### **Dr. Lafleur’s Office, c. 1908**

This turn of the 20th century doctor’s office, built by Dr. Ertemon Lafleur, was originally located one mile west of the junction of Louisiana highways 103 and 104 in the community of Prairie Ronde. The office is a reminder of how medical practice has changed in rural Louisiana.

### **19th Century Outhouse, c. 1890**

Originally located in the community of Prairie Rhonde, next to the Emar Andrepont home, this 19th century cabinette features an uncommon three seat design.

### **La Chapelle House, c. 1840**

Clerk of Court records indicate the home was built by Herbert La Chapelle, a French Canadian who moved to Opelousas where he purchased land on October 18, 1822. The front part of the house has French doors and windows and a staircase that led to the garçonnière, a place where the boys slept in these types of homes.

### **Emar Andrepont General Store, c. 1880**

Built in the 1880s by Emar Andrepont, this building is typical of an old “general” country store. Like most general stores of the late 19th century, the Andrepont store was the original “one-stop” shop. Farmers and townspeople bought everyday items like hardware, bulk foods and clothing from the local store.

### **Union Pacific Depot, c. 1900**

Originally located on the east-west railroad route of Union Pacific, this building was once used as a freight depot and it is one of the last train depots of its kind in Louisiana. Today, it houses the Louisiana Orphan Train Museum.

### **Mary Jane Steam Engine, c. 1904**

Built by Davenport, Iowa Ironworks Company, the Mary Jane Steam Engine was a wood-burner and, at its best speed, traveled 25 miles per hour.

### **Whiteville Schoolhouse, 1911**

This building is typical of a two-room country schoolhouse. It was built at a time when horse drawn carriages transported children to school. The school’s original location was the northern St. Landry Parish community of Whiteville. Generally, each room served three grades. This schoolhouse is an example of Greek Revival architecture.

### **Palmetto Methodist Church, 1948**

This small, single frame wood structure was built in 1948 as a house of worship for the African American Methodist congregation in the small, rural St. Landry Parish village of Palmetto. The church, known as St. Joseph Methodist Church for Colored People, served the faithful until services ceased there in the late 1980s.

### **Jarrell Home, c. 1898**

The history of this house dates back to 1898 when it was the property of Dr. Vincent Boagni, a noted Opelousas physician and cattle farmer. The home is a Queen Anne Cottage that was popular between 1880 and 1910. The house was once the childhood home of Opelousas native, Bishop Michael Jarrell of the Catholic Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana.

### **Pigeonnier, c. 1970s**

French for “dovecote,” pigeonniers were popular in Louisiana from the 1750s to the late 1800s. The architectural style was brought over from the Normandy, France area. Its original function was to house pigeons. It is one of only two reproductions at the Village.

### **Acadian House, c. 1970s**

This building, which once served as the Opelousas Tourist Information Center, was constructed to resemble a typical Cajun home of the 1800s. Popular from 1765 to 1900, the Acadian home was made from Louisiana cypress. It is one of only two reproductions at the Village.