CONDUCTING HISTORICAL RESEARCH IN LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN

There are many sources of historical information, but there is no one place that contains all the information you may need on a topic. So thorough research involves some legwork. Below is a list of resources for conducting research on the history of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION RESOURCES

Selected Museums

There are a number of excellent museums dealing with the history of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. The following are some that will be useful for research purposes:

NEW ORLEANS:

- **Louisiana State Museum Complex**: call for group rates. (504) 568-6968. 751 Chartres St. 70116.
- **The Cabildo**: in Jackson Square presents many aspects of Louisiana in both traditional and interactive exhibits. (504) 568-8975. 701 Chartres St. 70116.
- **The Presbytere**: also in Jackson Square contains a permanent collection of historic interest as well as temporary exhibits on a variety of topics. (504) 568-6985. 751 Chartres St. 70116.
- **The Old U.S. Mint**: contains exhibits on jazz and Mardi Gras history. Research may be conducted at the Louisiana Historical Center at the Old U.S. Mint. (504) 568-6993. 400 Esplanade Ave. 70116.
- **Historic New Orleans Collection**: another source of historic documents and maps. There also are special exhibits scheduled on topics related to Louisiana history. (504) 523-4662. 533 Royal St. 70130.
- **Hermann-Grima Historic House**: depicts the lifestyle of a wealthy Creole family of the 19th Century. (504) 525-5661. 820 Saint Louis St. 70112.
- **Gallier House**: the restored 19th-century house of architect James Gallier. (504) 523-6722. 1132 Royal St. 70116.
- **Pitot House**: a restored 18th-century plantation house on Bayou St. John. (504) 482-0312. 1440 Moss St. 70119.
KENNER:

- **Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Museum and Cannes Brulee Native American Center of the Gulf South**: The wildlife museum houses a large collection of preserved Louisiana species of birds and mammals as well as a freshwater aquarium with native species. The Native American Center comprises an outdoor reconstructed Native American village and there is an active program of demonstrations of Native American culture, including building traditional structures, pirogue making, beading, dancing and story-telling. In Kenner, you can also see memorabilia from the old Pontchartrain Beach Amusement Park at City Hall on Williams Boulevard. *(504) 468-7232.* 303 Williams Boulevard at Rivertown, Kenner 70062.

MADISONVILLE:

- **Madisonville Museum**: features exhibits of local wildlife, Native American culture, and maritime history. Call ahead; only open on weekends. *(985) 845-2100.* 201 Cedar St. 70447.

LACOMBE:

- **Bayou Lacombe Rural Museum**: features artifacts from daily rural life of the 19th Century, information about the Choctaw Culture of the region, as well as Father Adrien Rouquette, local priest who lived with the Choctaws. *(985) 882-5146.* 61115 Saint Mary St. 70445.

ST. BERNARD:

- **Islenos Museum**: contains artifacts and exhibits pertaining to the Islenos culture from the Canary Islands. Descendants of Islenos settlers act as curators of the museum. *(504) 682-0862.* 1357 Bayou Rd. 70085.

SELECTED PLANTATION HOUSES:

The following three plantation houses are situated close together in St. Charles Parish. They could provide an opportunity for students to make comparisons and explore the French Colonial plantation life.

- **Destrehan Plantation**: a plantation house dating back to French Colonial days. *(985) 764-9315.* 13034 River Rd. 70047.

- **Ormond Plantation**: built before 1790, this is another French Colonial plantation house. *(985) 764-8544.* 13786 River Rd. 70047.

- **Labranche Plantation Dependency House**: French Colonial plantation house built in the 1790s. *(985) 468-8843.* 11244 River Rd., St. Rose 70087.

- **Tezcuco Plantation**: *(225) 562-3929.* 3138 Highway 44, Darrow 70725.
The regional libraries contain a wealth of information if you are willing to spend some time on research. Besides books on the shelf, libraries also have microfilm catalogs which are a valuable source for old newspaper and magazine articles. Several regional libraries have Louisiana Rooms or Collections and archives containing valuable information. These two resources contain reference-only materials, so be prepared to use a coin-operated copy machine. Cultural resource documents prepared by professional archaeologists are excellent sources of historical information, but are not always easy to access. Ask your librarian about these.

**New Orleans Public Library:** The central library on Loyola Avenue has been the official repository for historical information in the Greater New Orleans region for a long time, so it has a more complete collection the other parish libraries. Visit the Louisiana Room and the archives to collect information. (504) 529-7323. 219 Loyola Ave. 70112

**Jefferson Parish Public Library:** Jefferson Parish has a Louisiana Collection Room. Ask the librarian to help locate appropriate books on the topic you are researching. Remember to use the microfilm catalog. (504) 838-1100. 4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie 70001.

**Other Regional Libraries:** Call your parish library to find out details on its resources.

**University of New Orleans Library:** has a Louisiana Collection room and an archive section. (504) 280-6354. 2000 Lakeshore Dr. 70148.

**Tulane University Library:** has a Louisiana Collection room and the Hogan Jazz Archives. (504) 865-5685. 6823 St. Charles Ave. 70130.

**Contact the university libraries in your parish.**