



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Historic District Landmarks Commission

Algiers Point Historic District



*Designated 1993
Jurisdiction: New Orleans Historic District Landmarks Commission*

The Algiers Point Historic District is bounded by the curve of the Mississippi River on two sides and by Atlantic and Newton Streets on the other two.

Named for a navigation bend in the Mississippi River, Algiers Point was an independent municipality for 30 years from its founding, and even today it retains a quiet small town atmosphere. Bordered by the Mississippi River on two sides, and lying directly across the river from the Vieux Carré, Algiers Point continued to develop as a largely independent town well into the 20th century.

Algiers Point's economic origins began in a boatyard established in 1819 by Andre Seguin. The Algiers-Canal Street Ferry began in 1827 and has been in continuous operation ever since. Shipbuilding, repair and other riverfront endeavors flourished, and in 1837 a dry dock, said to be the first on the Gulf Coast, was established at the foot of present-day Seguin Street. By the 1850s, immense rail yards lined the riverside, providing employment to large numbers of residents and funding a period of intense development that lasted until the end of the 19th century.

The town of Algiers was annexed by the City of New Orleans on March 14, 1870 and continued to develop into the early 20th century. Martin Behrman, the longest serving mayor of New Orleans (1904-1920, 1925-1926), was an Algiers native who preferred his home office at 228 Pelican Avenue to City Hall.

Some of the early buildings from the 1840s still exist today, but the District is dominated by buildings in the Greek Revival, Italianate and Victorian styles, reflecting Algiers Point's period of greatest growth and development from 1850 to 1900. A devastating fire in 1895 destroyed hundreds of buildings in Algiers, and replacements were built in the styles of the time. As a consequence, many fine examples of early 20th century architectural styles can be found in the District.¹

¹ Information taken from the Algiers Point National Register of Historic Places nomination form and HDLC materials.



Neighborhood commercial buildings are common in the District



The building of Confetti Park on Pelican Avenue was a community effort



The home of Martin Behrman, New Orleans' longest serving mayor

LOCAL CULTURAL

- Algiers Point retains a village atmosphere and is isolated from the city of New Orleans by the natural barrier of the Mississippi River
- The Algiers-Canal Street Ferry was created in 1827, providing an easy commute for its residents
- Several buildings reflect the growth of Algiers Point as a self-contained community, including 2 movie theaters—the Art Deco Algy Theater and Phillip Foto's Folly Theater, both of which were adaptively reused
- Algiers Point includes a number of small parks along Verret Street
- The Eastlake ornamented Queen Anne style Martin Behrman House was the home of the City's longest-serving mayor
- The Vallette-Barrett House, built in 1848, is a significant example of the Greek Revival 2-story center hall
- Martin Behrman High School is an excellent example of the Mission Revival style and a local neighborhood icon



Front yard setbacks are typically shallow



One-story homes are common in the District



Iron fences enclosing small front yards are found in much of the area

URBAN FORM

Setting/Landscape

- On the majority of blocks, sidewalks are separated from roadways by a grass strip
- Street trees are prevalent, particularly on Opelousas Avenue
- Most homes are set back from the street with shallow front yards, sometimes enclosed by a cast iron fence
- The original brick sidewalks and lines of iron fences remain in much of the area

Massing/Form

- The majority of the buildings are residential, single story and raised above grade
- Most structures are of wood construction with gabled or hipped roofs

Styles/Types

- Styles commonly found in the District include Creole, Greek Revival, Victorian and Edwardian styles
- Rebuilding after the great fire of 1895 resulted in a number of Bungalow-style residences, as well as some Mission Revival and Moderne style buildings
- A number of 2-story double gallery type residences can also be found in the District

Public Spaces

- A number of small parks are used for relaxation and recreation

Commercial/Industrial

- Corner commercial buildings are scattered within the District, typically with living space above

This material is based upon work assisted by a grant from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior.

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