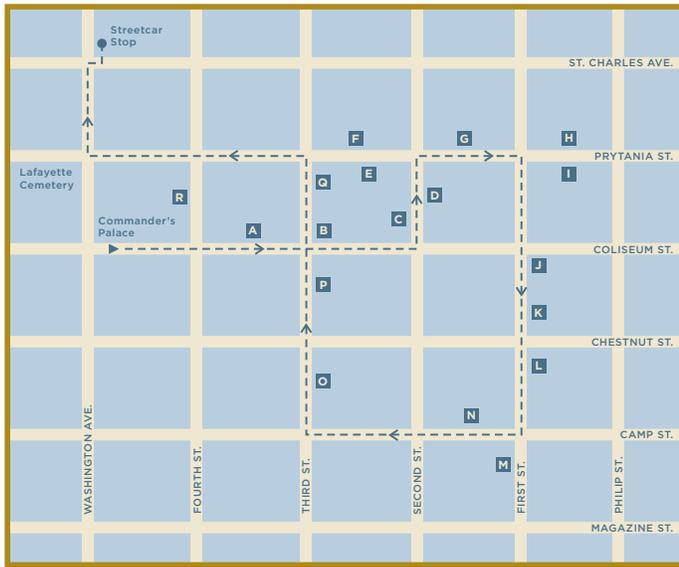


# A self-guided walking tour of the Garden District

COURTESY OF COMMANDER'S PALACE RESTAURANT



## COMMANDER'S PALACE RESTAURANT 1403 WASHINGTON AVENUE

This ornate Victorian building has been a New Orleans landmark known for its award winning food and many commodious dining rooms. When Louisiana officially joined the U.S.A. in the early 1880's, eager young Anglo-Saxons flocked to this promising territory to make their fortunes. Here, George W. Cable entertained Mark Twain, Jefferson Davis spent his last days, and in 1880, Emile Commander established Cammander's Palace.

## LAFAYETTE CEMETERY CORNER OF PRYTANIA ST. AND WASHINGTON AVE.

Laid out in 1833 by the original residents of the Garden District, this cemetery was nearly filled with persons who succumbed to yellow fever within its first 20 years. A well-kept cemetery, it is opened to the public. Above-ground, house-like tombs served the same family for generations.

- A 2627 COLISEUM STREET** The gingerbread trim and elaborate ironwork flatter this beautiful mansion, which has a magnificent ballroom inside.
- B 1415 THIRD STREET** Built in 1865 for Walter Robinson, a Virginia gentleman, this home represents an architectural style characteristic of the period preceding the Civil War. It is also believed to have had the fist indoor plumbing in New Orleans.
- C 1410 SECOND STREET** This Garden District mansion features Corinthian columns and stucco. Although most of these nineteenth-century homes have brick exteriors, they were either painted or stuccoes and then painted to resemble stone.
- D 1421 SECOND STREET** A true Southern-style home that shares similar characteristics with the house at 2507 Prytania, one can almost imagine the equally lovely Southern belles and gents enjoying a host of lively social events here.
- E 2504 PRYTANIA STREET** Owned by the Women's Opera Guild and open for tours, the home was built in 1859 for an American merchant. While the interior is decorated in a Victorian style, the home's exterior features a hybrid of Italianate & Greek Revival styles.
- F 2507 PRYTANIA STREET** This home was built in the early 1850's for Josephy H. Maddox, owner of the New Orleans Daily Crescent, an important newspaper during that time. Inside, the fireplace features original, hand-painted tiles that depict a bayou scene.
- G 2423 PRYTANIA STREET** Homes of this period were typical in that they were lavishly decorated inside and seemed to quietly harmonize with their lush outside surroundings.
- H 2343 PRYTANIA STREET** Designed in a free Renaissance style by James Freret, this lavish mansion was built in 1872. Its construction is believed to have cost \$100,000. Bradish Johnson, the original owner, was a wealthy sugar planter. Currently, the mansion is the private Louise S. McGehee School for girls. The school cafeteria was once a stable, and the gym is the refurbished carriage house.
- I 2340 PRYTANIA STREET** Believed to be the oldest home in the Garden District, it was built for Thomas Toby, a manager of a large plantations from Philadelphia. Located at the end of the city busline, it was nicknamed "Toby's Corner." The home is owned by a fourth generation family member.
- J 1331 FIRST STREET** A skull and some crossbones found under the floorboards of this home during the last renovation period created some excitement. However, the owners believe they were voodoo relics hidden long ago by some servants.
- K 1315 FIRST STREET** The beautiful and elaborate iron lace adorning this home portrays a romantic period of time – a time when affluent Garden District families often played host to Edgar Degas, Mark Twain and others.
- L 1239 FIRST STREET** Built in 1857 for \$13,000, the home exemplifies the typical New Orleans interpretation of the Greek Revival architectural style of that time.
- M 1134 FIRST STREET** This home, built by slaves, was owned by Judge Jacob U. Payne, a friend of Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederacy. Davis died in one of the rooms in 1889. It is a popular belief that Payne designed this house. Gentlemen of this era thought architecture was a necessary skill to possess.
- N 2427 CAMP STREET** Warwick Manor was originally a grand Garden District home, which served as a private school for children of affluent parents.
- O 1213 THIRD STREET** Nineteenth century guests who visited such elegant Southern homes stayed for weeks. Life centered around balls, theater and opera
- P 1331 THIRD STREET** Decorated in iron lace, this home was built in 1850 for Michael Musson, a prominent cotton merchant who was president of the Cotton Exchange and also served as the New Orleans postmaster.
- Q 1417 THIRD STREET** The renovated carriage house is well-suited for New Orleans tropical-like weather. It sits on land that was once part of several large plantations, which was later divided up into the Garden District and other small communities.
- R 1448 FOURTH STREET** Notice the interesting cornstalk fence at this house, which was built in 1859 for a wealthy merchant. The Italian villa style house cost \$23,750.