



THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION
KEMPER AND LEILA WILLIAMS FOUNDATION

Manuscripts Division UPDATE

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LAND RECORDS AT THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION

Blood, name, and estate shape the lives of families and societies, but many historians think that land—or estate—is “the most important of the three” and “in the long run the most potent factor in securing continuity . . . through successive generations.” Here in Louisiana—itsself once object of the largest real estate transaction in American history—few subjects figure more constantly and prominently in the life and records of the state’s communities than the ownership and distribution of land. Documents recording original land distribution and settlement, as well as subsequent transactions and land tenure, fill courthouses and clerks’ offices; national, state, and municipal archives; the muniment rooms of corporations; and, of course, the shelves of research institutions like the Historic New Orleans Collection.

Building upon the core collection of outstanding materials assembled by General L. Kemper Williams, the research center of the Historic New Orleans Collection continues to acquire records about property holding and land use. Among the manuscripts division’s varied treasures are Spanish colonial land-grant records, the letter of Robert Livingston describing negotiations for the Louisiana Purchase to Secretary of State James Madison, nineteenth-century surveyors’ sketchbooks, and microfilm of Louisiana records held in distant repositories.

The Historic New Orleans Collection’s manuscript sources for research in land records may be considered under four major headings: collections of land records, single property land records, land records within other THNOC collections, and microfilm at THNOC of records held by other institutions. This

issue of *Manuscripts Division Update* presents only a brief summary for each collection: title, inclusive dates, language(s), item count, and (for collections of land records) a short description. In addition, relevant materials in the library and the curatorial division are described on pages 7-8.

JON KUKLA NAMED CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

Jon Kukla became curator of collections at the Historic New Orleans Collection May 1. A position newly created by the board of directors, the curator of collections heads the research center at THNOC, composed of the library and the manuscripts and curatorial divisions.

Dr. Kukla, who received a Ph.D. in American history from the University of Toronto, directed the publications program at the Virginia State Library and Archives for fourteen years. Under his direction, the library published an extensive and distinguished list of publications on southern history.

Charged to integrate the resources of the Historic New Orleans Collection for the advance of scholarship, Dr. Kukla is building on THNOC’s many strengths to extend its reputation as a center for research in southern history and culture.

COLLECTIONS OF LAND RECORDS

MSS 34. WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS PAPERS.

1836-1885; English; 17 items and 1 volume.

William H. Williams, surveyor for Jefferson Parish, surveyed property in the townships of Bloomingdale, Burtheville, Greenville, Gretna, Hurstville, Kenner, and Mechanicsham. This collection includes his draft of an essay about using floodways to prevent flooding from the Mississippi River.

MSS 79. SPANISH COLONIAL LAND GRANT COLLECTION.

1767-1823; English, French, Spanish; 21 items.

This small, thematic collection of records about the Attakapas, Baton Rouge, Lafourche, Natchez, Opelousas, and Orleans districts includes an inventory of structures on the German Coast and information about Indians, free persons of color, slaves, and women. Among the prominent persons represented are Joseph Chretien, father of planter Hypolite Chretien (1781-1839) who built Chretien Point plantation near Opelousas, and land developer Philip Hendrick Nering Bogel, alias Baron de Bastrop (1759-1827). Surveyors include Carlos Trudeau and the commandant and judge of the Attakapas and Opelousas posts, Alexandre François Joseph DeClouet de Piedra (1717-1789).

MSS 132. ROBERT LIVINGSTON LETTER.

1803; English; 1 item.

Writing as U.S. Minister to France, Robert Livingston informed Secretary of State James Madison that Napoleon Bonaparte, First Consul of France, was unexpectedly willing to sell the United States not only New Orleans, but the entire Louisiana territory. This letter details the negotiations between Livingston, Charles Maurice de Talleyrand, and François, marquis de Barbé-Marbois.

MSS 290. SURVEYORS' SKETCHBOOKS.

ca. 1841-1929; English, French; 650 volumes.

Composed of field notes and sketchbooks of surveyors working primarily in Orleans Parish, this collection preserves a wide variety of information, ranging from the subdivision of squares to floor plans and elevations. The sketchbooks are illustrated with pencil drawings and an occasional watercolor. Only the Jules Allou D'Hemecourt volumes are arranged according to district, but the other sketchbooks contain plans of squares in various districts. They are currently being indexed according to district and square.

Surveyors, engineers, and draftsmen represented include Arthur M. de Armas (1850-1903), Charles Arthur de Armas (ca. 1824-1889), George de Armas (active 1882-1914), George W. R. Bayley (ca. 1824-1876), Richard T. Bond (1874-1914),

Daniel M. Brosnan (1849-1906), Henry C. Brown (active 1869-1914), Linus W. Brown (active 1884-1906), George H. Grandjean (1846-1900), Jules Allou D'Hemecourt (1819-1880), Nathan B. Johnson (active 1870-1905), Charles Uncas Lewis (1841-1921), Edgar Pilié (1844-1912), Gilles Joseph Pilié (1789-1846), Louis Pilié (1820-1884), George C. Pruschen (active 1910-1942), Henry W. W. Reynolds (1833-1911), Walter Joseph Seghers (1883-1929), and Alcée Jacques Villeré (1831-1908). D'Hemecourt, the most renowned of the nineteenth-century New Orleans surveyors, followed in the footsteps of his civil engineer and surveyor father, Jean Charles Allou D'Hemecourt. Other family dynasties of surveyors represented in this collection are Gilles Joseph, Louis, and Edgar Pilié and Charles, Arthur, and George de Armas.

80-1-L. LAWYERS TITLE SURVEY RECORDS.

ca. 1820-1970; English, French, Spanish; 292 linear feet and 443 volumes.

Using the substantial body of materials acquired from Lawyers Title Insurance Company, researchers may examine the property descriptions, land surveys, and identities of buyers, sellers, notaries, and surveyors in the land-transfer records that outline the history of individual pieces of land. Researchers wishing to trace the process of municipal land development, subdivisions, and land transfers can explore the transaction files, which provide great detail about individual pieces of land at the time of transfer, as well as tract books, conveyance books, and transcript records that contain less detail but provide broad chronological perspectives of areas or lots.

Transaction files, ca. 1900-ca. 1970.

Although the contents of individual transaction files vary, a typical dossier contains some or all of the following items: 1) property description (giving physical description of the land, location in reference to faubourg, tract, plantation, or district, and references to early surveys, buyers, sellers, prices); 2) surveys or sketches based on surveys; 3) copies of wills; 4) court proceedings and other legal documents; 5) tax records; 6) title chains; 7) records of liens, new construction, repairs, or paving; 8) notes and correspondence from title searches; 9) title insurance policies; 10) restrictions on utilization of property, alterations to existing structures, and new additions. These records are accessible by district and square numbers.

Tract books, 1820s-1900s.

Tract books provide simple sketches of squares, with enclosing street names, and a chain of transactions for property within each square that lists buyers, sellers, lot numbers, and dates of transaction. Entries in these volumes (which include listings of old street names and square numbers from alternative identification systems) are accessible by current district and square numbers.

Conveyance books, 1827-1876.

Conveyance books record details about land transfers such as vendor and vendee, notary, date, suburb, a property description, street names, and citations to plans and their locations. Entries in these volumes are found by conveyance number.

Transcript records, 1876-1967.

Transcript records repeat information similar to that found in conveyance books but are arranged and accessible by recorded dates of transaction.

83-3-L. LAND TENURE RECORD COLLECTION.

1793-1836; English; 5 items.

This collection of land tenure records involves figures such as Bennet H. Barrow, the most prominent antebellum planter in the Florida parishes, and John Sibley, a physician, Indian agent, Louisiana politician, and planter. Surveys prepared by Pierre L'Hermite and Andre LeSage concern East Baton Rouge Parish, Pointe Coupée Parish, and the Natchez District.

83-44-L. RECORDS OF ERNEST A. CARRERE'S SONS REAL ESTATE.

1892-1982; English; 120 linear feet.

The Carrere real estate records provide a cross section of properties throughout New Orleans. For social and economic history, the papers offer a wealth of construction details, costs of repairs, wages, and comprehensive data about changing property values. Material in this collection is arranged by owners' names and by addresses.

83-92-L. OLIVER STOCKWELL PAPERS.

1968-1977; English; 88 linear feet.

Attorney Oliver Stockwell represented the State of Louisiana in two U.S. Supreme Court cases involving the state's boundaries. The first case involved the Sabine River boundary between Texas and Louisiana, a subject of controversy since the Louisiana Purchase. The second case, *United States vs. Louisiana*, concerned the coastal boundaries of Louisiana. Stockwell's papers include surveys, correspondence, photographs, and printed records of these cases.

83-101-L. BARTHOLOMÉ LAFON LAND TENURE RECORDS.

1798-1820; French, Spanish; 4 items.

This collection documents Bartholomé Lafon's controversial claim to land located between New Orleans and the suburb of Ste. Marie. In 1798 Lafon successfully petitioned the Spanish government for the land and permission to establish a foundry on the property. Although the U.S. government confirmed his claim, Lafon's dispute with the city lasted many years and was settled only eleven days before his death in 1820.

84-21-L. SURVEY PLATS COLLECTION.

1837-1862; English; 3 items.

The geographical areas represented by these survey plats are Amite, the Teche and Atchafalaya regions, and Orleans Parish (District 1, Square 228).

84-129-L. LOUIS H. PILIÉ DEPOSITION.

1874; English; 1 item.

The deposition given by Louis H. Pilié in the case of the *New Orleans Canal Banking Co. vs. the United States* concerned the Canal Bank's claim to title of lands originally granted to Louis Lebreton, including a large portion of Metairie Road and part of Carrollton. Pilié's deposition in United States District Court presents a detailed account of surveyors' records, methods of surveying, and the general development of Orleans Parish.

88-48-L. 1850s LAND TENURE RECORDS.

1854-1859; English; 3 items.

This collection contains information about Carrollton and Faubourg Bouligny in Orleans Parish and "Labarre or Metairie Road" in Jefferson Parish.

89-8-L. WILLIAM H. WILDER PAPERS.

1869-1876; English; 4 items.

William H. Wilder was appointed Deputy Surveyor of Louisiana in 1869. His papers include varied certificates and appointments, as well as an 1871 letter thanking Wilder for the use of his private papers, which included original surveys by Bartholomé Lafon and Carlos Trudeau, to reconstruct documents lost in a State Land Office fire.

89-50-L. MANCHAC LAND TENURE RECORDS.

1794-1822; Spanish, English; 5 items.

Two plats, created by Carlos Trudeau, dating from 1794 and 1799 (an 1822 copy), describe land near Bayou Manchac.

89-60-L. GILMOUR RESIDENCE COLLECTION.

1852-1882; English; 5 items.

Thomas C. Gilmour, an English cotton merchant, built his Garden District residence at 2520 Prytania Street in 1853. The asymmetrical facade of Gilmour's house was an early use of the Italianate style, although Victorian fashion was imposed in an 1890 renovation. Included in the collection are land records and a building contract for the residence (District 4, Square 199).

EL 11.1984. LOUISIANA LAND SURVEYS.

1787-1827; English, French, Spanish; 838 items and 4 volumes.

This collection of more than one thousand surveyors' drawings, certifications, and notes is divided into series, based

upon organization, region, surveyor, or physical composition. The surveys are indexed by date, location, surveyor, and names of land owners (grantees as well as owners of adjacent lands). This familiar collection has been cited by a variety of titles, such as "Trudeau Papers" and "Spanish Land Grant Papers." The following is a general content description of each series:

Alpha-numerical (1786-1803); English, French, Spanish; 309 items.

Districts, parishes, or areas: Ascension, Attakapas, Barataria, Baton Rouge, Bayou St. John, Biloxi, Concordia, Feliciana, German Coast, Lafourche, Mobile, Natchez, New Feliciana, Orleans, Pointe Coupée.

Surveyors: William Atchinson, Christopher Bolling, Patricio Cegart, Luke Collins, Jr., William Cooke, Hugh Coyle, Rafael Croquer, F. Dubois, Guillermo Dunbar, Samuel Fairlands, Vicente Fernández, François Gonsoulin, John Lovelace, Pierre François Missonnet, Vicente Pintado, Carlos Trudeau, Jean Baptiste Verret, William Vousdan, Juan Pedro Walker.

Natchez-Bouligny (1786-1798); English, French, Spanish; 247 items.

Natchez District.

Surveyors: Guillermo Dunbar, John Lovelace, William Thomas, Carlos Trudeau, William Vousdan.

Natchez-Canonge (1787-1797); English, French, Spanish; 69 items.

Natchez District.

Surveyors: Guillermo Dunbar, John Lovelace, Carlos Trudeau, William Vousdan.

Natchez-Pedesclaux (1789-1793); English, French, Spanish; 5 items.

Natchez District.

Surveyors: Guillermo Dunbar, William Vousdan.

Natchez-Undocketed (1787-1801); English, French, Spanish; 17 items.

Natchez District.

Surveyors: Guillermo Dunbar, Carlos Trudeau, William Vousdan.

Natchez-Bound Volume (1788-1797); Spanish; 1 volume with 81 surveys.

Natchez District.

Surveyors: Guillermo Dunbar, Carlos Trudeau.

Various Surveys (1788-1802); English, French, Spanish; 50 items.

Districts, parishes, or areas: Arkansas, Attakapas, Avoyelles, Baton Rouge, Caña Quemada, Concordia, Feliciana, Iberville, Lafourche, Lake Pontchartrain, Natchez, New Orleans, Opelousas, Rapides, St. Bernard, and Tchoupitoulas.

Surveyors: Luis Andry, Christopher Bolling, Henry Cassidy, William Cole, Luke Collins, Jr., Hugh Coyle, Samuel Fairlamb, François Gonsoulin, Francis Meeker, Joseph Rabassa, Uriah Smith, Carlos Trudeau, William Vousdan, Juan Pedro Walker.

Trudeau Field Survey Book (1800); Spanish; 1 volume with 39 surveys.

Districts, parishes, or areas: Barrio de Chantilly, Bayou Barataria, Bayou St. John, Camino de Chantilly, Canal Carondelet.

Bound Volume-Oversize (1818-1823); English, French; 1 volume with 92 surveys.

Districts, parishes, or areas: Feliciana, Lafourche, Pointe Coupée.

Surveyors: Garrigue Flaujac, William Fulsom, Pierre Louis L'Hermite, Joseph Nicholas.

Le Sage Surveys (1819-1824); English, French; 116 items.

Districts, parishes, or areas: East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge.

Surveyor: André LeSage.

Rapides Parish (1819-1821); English; 19 items.

Rapides Parish.

Surveyor: Kenneth M. Crummen.

Feliciana Parish (1818); English; 16 items.

Feliciana Parish.

Surveyor: A. G. Scott.

St. James Parish (1821-1827); French; 1 volume with 23 surveys.

St. James Parish.

Surveyors: Auguste Bonnet, Louis Bringier.

SINGLE PROPERTY LAND RECORDS

MSS 39. BIENVILLE PLANTATION SURVEY.

1737 (copy dated 1783); French; 1 item; Orleans Parish.

MSS 82. BALLARD LAND PATENT.

1860; English; 1 item; Section 30, Township 15, north of Red River.

MSS 87. ADAM BOYD SUCCESSION.

1806; Spanish; 1 item; West Baton Rouge Parish.

MSS 90. CLEMENT LAND SALE.

1826; English; 1 item; Iberville Parish.

MSS 91. SPANISH COLONIAL LAND SALE APPROVAL.

1804; Spanish; 1 item; Baton Rouge District.

00-15-1. PHEBY FUGUA WOODS LAND PATENT.

1844; English; 1 item; Terrebonne Parish.

59-205-L. PIERRE VILLARCEAUX MCCARTY LAND TRANSACTION.

1855; English; 1 item; Orleans Parish (District 2, Square 264).

70-71-L. CHARLES GOULON LAND SALE.

1878; French; 1 item; Orleans Parish (District 2, Square 89).

76-11-L. JULIUS KOCH LAND TENURE RECORD.

1903; English; 1 item; Orleans Parish (District 4, Square 198).

76-58-L. MAGNOLIA GROVE SUGAR PLANTATION ACT OF SALE.

1815; copy dated 1822; English; 1 item; St. Bernard Parish.

77-47-L. KLOPPENBURG LAND RECORD.

1853; English; 1 item; Orleans Parish (District 1, Square 434; District 3, Square 15).

81-71-L. CANE RIVER SURVEY PLAT.

1830; English; 1 item; left bank of Cane River, 25 miles below Natchitoches.

81-76-L. ASCENSION PARISH LAND ABSTRACTS.

1938; English; 8 items; Ascension Parish.

82-7-L. BARRIO DE SAN JUAN SURVEY.

1800 (copy dated 1847); Spanish; 1 item; Orleans Parish.

82-10-L. ALEXANDER MILNE, SR., ACT OF SALE.

1837; English; 1 item; Orleans Parish; Milneburg.

84-4-L. JEAN DELASSIZE PETITION FOR LAND CLAIM.

1829; French, English; 1 item; St. Tammany Parish.

84-20-L. SAMUEL COOK LAND SURVEY.

1806; English; 1 item; Natchitoches Parish.

84-122-L. CHÊNIÈRE MICHOU (CHÊNIÈRE PERRILLIAT) SUBDIVISION.

1887; English; 1 item; Lafourche Parish.

88-1-L. RICHARD BURKE LAND TRANSACTION RECORD.

1854; English; 1 item; Orleans Parish (District 4, Square 58).

89-30-L. G. M. PLIQUE LAND GRANT.

1827; English; 1 item; Orleans Parish (District 2, Square 21).

89-32-L. JOHN MCDONOGH LAND TRANSACTION.

1809; English; 1 item; Orleans Parish (Faubourg Ste. Marie).

LAND RECORDS WITHIN OTHER THNOC COLLECTIONS**MSS 65. GRIMA FAMILY PAPERS.**

1788-1814; French, Spanish; 14 items; Orleans Parish.

MSS 102. BUTLER FAMILY PAPERS.

1778-1975; English; 2034 items; Iberville, Lafourche parishes.

MSS 118. GILMORE FAMILY PAPERS.

1843-1888; English; 10 items; Plaquemines Parish.

MSS 125. LAUSSAT PAPERS.

1769-1804; French, Spanish; 606 items; includes instructions for the transfer of land title records from France to the United States.

MSS 165. FURCY VERRET PAPERS.

ca. 1752-1875; French; 53 items; Orleans Parish.

MSS 170. DYMOND FAMILY PAPERS.

1853-1952; English; 1300 items; Plaquemines Parish.

MSS 171. BOULIGNY-BALDWIN PAPERS.

1710-1900; English, French, Spanish; 165 items; Orleans Parish.

MSS 181. BROU-RIVET PAPERS.

1802-1953; English, French; 325 items; St. Charles Parish.

MSS 182. CANE RIVER COLLECTION.

1817-1871; English, French; 1410 items; Natchitoches Parish (Cane River).

MSS 190. PROVOST FAMILY PAPERS.

ca. 1823-1948; English, French; 1478 items; Iberia Parish.

MSS 222. MOSES GREENWOOD PAPERS.

1844-1952; English; 810 items; Arkansas.

MSS 225. BRADISH JOHNSON PAPERS.

1855-1920; English, French; 277 items; Plaquemines Parish, also Woodlawn, Carroll, and Orange Farm plantations.

MSS 241. O'BRIEN-LASERE FAMILY PAPERS.

1634-1909; English, French; 41 items; Orleans Parish, Shieldsborough, Mississippi.

MSS 259. HOPKINS FAMILY PAPERS.

1828-1959; English; 517 items; Biloxi, Mississippi.

MSS 265. JAMES ROBB PAPERS.

1827-1861; English, French, Italian, Spanish; 3000 items; Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, Orleans Parish, Texas, Virginia.

MSS 295. TREMÉ FAMILY PAPERS.

1827-1869; 24 items; English, French; Orleans Parish (Faubourg Tremé).

MSS 300. FRANCIS A. PLOUGH COLLECTION.

1790-1854; French, English, Spanish; 54 items and 1 bound volume; Natchitoches, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. James, Pointe Coupée parishes.

88-50-L. BRADISH JOHNSON CO. LTD. PAPERS.

1837-1938; English; 1 item, 8 volumes; Plaquemines Parish.

89-2-L. ROGER AND RAYMOND WEILL COLLECTION.

1811-1907; English; 8 items; Concordia Parish.

EL 22.1981. ROBERT JUDICE COLLECTION.

1771-1942; English, French, Spanish; 501 items; Ascension, St. James parishes.

MICROFILM OF RECORDS IN OTHER INSTITUTIONS

WILLIAM L. CLEMENTS LIBRARY: LOUISIANA MANUSCRIPTS.

1787-1802; 1 reel.

This collection of 148 land grants was acquired by William L. Clements in 1921 and donated to the University of Michigan as part of his extensive collection of Americana. The names of 245 persons appear in these grants for land in the Ascension, Attakapas, Baton Rouge, Tchoupitoulas, Concordia, Feliciana, Galveztown, Natchez, Opelousas, Pointe Coupée, Rapides, St. Bernard, St. Charles, and Valenzuela areas. The collection provides information about some persons mentioned in the Louisiana Land Surveys. *Louisiana and Mississippi Lands* by

Winston de Ville (Ville Platte: Evangeline Genealogical and Historical Society, 1985) is a guide to this microfilm edition.

AYER MANUSCRIPT MAPS: NEW ORLEANS, MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND FORT BALIZE.

c. 1722-1726; 1 reel.

Six maps of New Orleans and the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico taken from the holdings of the Ayer Collection of the Newberry Library of Chicago are included on this microfilm. There are two plans of New Orleans, three maps of the Mississippi River, and a plan of Fort Balize.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS: LOUISIANA.

1939-1970; 7 reels.

Topographic maps produced for the United States Geological Survey are arranged in alphabetical order by city on six reels of microfilm. Reel seven, produced by the Louisiana State Department of Highways, shows highways, roads, and streets throughout Louisiana.

PAPERS OF VICENTE SEBASTIAN PINTADO.

1787-1842; 6 reels.

The papers of Vicente Sebastian Pintado (1774-1829) at the Library of Congress reflect his official duties as alcalde, commandant, and surveyor general of Spanish West Florida from 1799 to 1817. The material related to land surveys, land purchases, and deeds includes correspondence, bills of sale, court transcripts, testimonies, notebooks, surveys, plats, land grants, manuscript maps, and petitions. Sixty-two maps, charts, plats, and land surveys show the coastal area from West Florida to the Mississippi River and particularly the Baton Rouge, Feliciana, Mobile, and Pensacola districts. These land records are supplemented by correspondence between Pintado and his corps of surveyors in Louisiana and Florida, including Joseph Collins, Ira C. Kneeland, Pedro Reggio, and Patrick Tegart. The microfilm (reel 1) includes a finding aid prepared by Kenneth Fones-Wolf.

SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAPS, LOUISIANA.

1885-1970; 15 reels.

The published maps of the Sanborn Map Company were designed to assist insurance agents in determining the risk of fire for properties. The manuscripts division has microfilm of maps for New Orleans and seventeen other Louisiana towns and cities that show the size, shape, and composition of residences and commercial buildings, as well as streets, property boundaries, building use, water mains, and fire hydrants. An important source of information about urban environments, the Sanborn maps are arranged to facilitate access by street address. The original volumes are in the Library of Congress.

SPANISH ARCHIVES MICROFILM COLLECTION.

The manuscripts division's extensive microfilm copies of records in Spanish archives, described in *Manuscripts Division Update 7* (1988), contain relatively few land surveys because documents relating to property, wills, and marriages were to remain in the United States after the Louisiana Transfer. Exceptions are found in:

Archivo General de Indias.

Maps and Plans from Diverse Sections of the Archives of the Indies.

1580-1813; 1 reel.

Districts, parishes, or areas: Ascension, Barataria, Bayou St. John, Metairie, Natchez, Pointe Coupée, St. John the Baptist, Tchoupitoulas, Valenzuela.

Museo Naval.

Louisiana Documents.

1766-1830; 1 reel.

Rapides District.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE PLAN BOOKS.

1874-1881; 1 reel.

From the Louisiana Division of the New Orleans Public Library, this microfilmed collection of plan books shows all New Orleans municipal districts, except the fifth and seventh. Each plan book begins with a map of the district, generally divided into wards and squares, and sometimes showing the page numbers of plans. Plan books for the first, second, and sixth districts provide only subdivisions of the squares; those for the third and fourth districts show building placement for most squares; those for the first and sixth districts include broadsides announcing the division of squares and the auctioning of lots. Some volumes also contain original sketches or copies by Arthur de Armas, D. M. Brosnan, Albert G. Blanchard, John Braun, C. A. Heden, Jules Allou D'Hemecourt, Charles G. del Isle, Louis H. Pilié and Herman Wehrman.

BOUND RECORDS OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE RELATING TO PRIVATE LAND CLAIMS IN LOUISIANA.

1767-1892; 8 reels.

A joint publication of the Historic New Orleans Collection and the National Archives (M1382).

Primarily concerning the present state of Louisiana, this collection is part of the National Archives Record Group 49, Records of the Bureau of Land Management. Private land claims are considered to be those based on grants, purchases, or settlements made before 1803 while Louisiana was under French and Spanish rule. The records are bound according to

the board of land commissioners or land commissioner, land office, location, or type of claim, and include a variety of documents ranging from reports by land commissioners to transcripts of French and Spanish documents.

UNBOUND RECORDS OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE RELATING TO PRIVATE LAND CLAIMS IN LOUISIANA.

1805-1896; 2 reels.

A joint publication of the Historic New Orleans Collection and the National Archives (M1385).

Like the Bound Records, these records form part of the National Archives Record Group 49 and were accumulated by Division D (Private Land Claims) of the former General Land Office relating to claims in Louisiana under French and Spanish rule. The collection includes letters received from land commissioners, patent certificates, orders for surveys, plats and survey notes, and miscellaneous documents relating to private land claims in Louisiana.

LIBRARY

The Vieux Carré Survey, available in the library of the Historic New Orleans Collection, provides ready access to essential information about pieces of property in the French Quarter of New Orleans. The files of the Vieux Carré Survey comprise some 130 ring binders arranged by the 108 squares within the boundaries of the Vieux Carré. For each square the Survey presents a modern map, profile drawings of buildings on each side of the block, a color-coded evaluation chart indicating the historical and architectural significance of each structure, Sanborn maps of 1876 and 1896, copies of early maps when available, and a color-coded chart showing construction materials of each building.

Then for each property within a square, the Survey presents some or all of the following information: photographs (usually one from the early 1960s, another from 1979, and any old documentary photographs that were discovered), maps, plans, newspaper and magazine clippings, and a chain of title. Some photographs of watercolors in the Notarial Archives and measured drawings are also included.

Chains of title are excerpted from the official city documents in the Conveyance Office and the Notarial Archives. They begin with the most recent property transaction and trace ownership back as far as the succession of title information could be followed. Descriptions of the property or its buildings, quoted from a variety of sources, supplement many chains of title.

A Guide to the Vieux Carré Survey by Florence M. Jumonville is available from the shop at the Collection for \$3.95.

CURATORIAL DIVISION

The curatorial division of the Historic New Orleans Collection preserves visual records of many of its holdings, including architectural drawings by such noted architects as James Gallier, Sr. and Jr. The curatorial division has slides and black-and-white photographs of 5039 watercolor drawings of properties in the New Orleans Notarial Archives.

Maps in several highly detailed atlases identify individual buildings in New Orleans. Especially useful are the 1883 *Atlas of the City of New Orleans . . .* by E. Robinson and R. H. Pidgeon, the 1877 *Plan of the Third District . . .* by John F. Braun, which covers the city below Esplanade Avenue, and original copies of *Insurance Maps of New Orleans . . .* by Sanborn and Co. dating from 1908, updated to ca. 1939. The 1978 edition is also available.

Of forty categories of curatorial holdings, those of most interest to property researchers include architecture, city views, and street scenes. Extensive collections of mounted photoprints, stereographs, and postcards are available. Two large photographic collections also provide invaluable visual resources for research about historic properties. These include the work of commercial photographer Charles L. Franck, which shows buildings and streets in New Orleans between 1917 and 1955, and the images of Clarence John Laughlin, which show buildings in New Orleans and other cities, as well as Laughlin's evocative depictions of plantations.

THE RESEARCH CENTER:

Jon Kukla, Curator of Collections

MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION:

Alfred E. Lemmon, Reference Archivist

Taronda Spencer, Head Cataloger

Angelita Rosal, Registrar

Lynn D. Adams, Manuscripts Assistant

John D. Barbry, Manuscripts Assistant

Joseph Scott, Manuscripts Assistant

LIBRARY:

Florence M. Jumonville, Head Librarian

CURATORIAL DIVISION:

John A. Mahé II, Senior Curator

The manuscripts, library, and curatorial reading rooms are open to researchers from 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Inquiries by mail and telephone are welcome at (504) 523-4662. Each year the Historic New Orleans Collection, a non-profit operating foundation, adds thousands of research materials to its holdings through purchases and tax-deductible donations.

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