

Vieux Carre (Old Square, French Quarter)

- Oldest neighborhood in New Orleans
- blends Spanish, French, Creole and American styles together
- The [Great New Orleans Fire \(1788\)](#) and another great fire in 1794 destroyed most of the Quarter's old French colonial architecture, leaving the colony's new Spanish overlords to rebuild it according to more modern tastes. Their strict new fire codes mandated that all structures be physically adjacent and close to the curb to create a firewall. The old French peaked roofs were replaced with flat tiled ones, and wooden siding was banned in favor of fire-resistant [stucco](#), painted in the pastel hues fashionable at the time. As a result, colorful walls and roofs and elaborately decorated ironwork balconies and galleries, from the late 18th and the early 19th centuries, abound
- **In 1917, the closure of [Storyville](#) sent much of the vice formerly concentrated therein back into the French Quarter, In the early 20th century, the Quarter's cheap rents and air of decay attracted a [bohemian](#) artistic community, a trend which became pronounced in the 1920s.**
- **the war produced a larger, more permanent presence of exotic, risqué, and often raucous entertainment on what became the city's most famous strip.**

The Great New Orleans Fire

- The **Great New Orleans Fire (1788)** (was a fire that destroyed 856 of the 1,100 structures in [New Orleans, Louisiana \(New Spain\)](#), on March 21, 1788, spanning the south central [Vieux Carré](#) from Burgundy to Chartres Street, almost to the [Mississippi River](#) front buildings. An additional 212 buildings were destroyed in a [later citywide fire](#), on December 8, 1794.
- The [Good Friday](#) fire began about 1:30 p.m. at the home of Army Treasurer Because the fire started on Good Friday, priests refused to allow church bells to be rung as a fire alarm. Within five hours it had consumed almost the entire city as it was fed by a strong wind from the southeast. The fire destroyed virtually all major buildings in the then-city (now [French Quarter](#)), including the church, municipal building, army barracks, armory, and jail.







In the city of New Orleans, the term Creole cottage tends to be more narrowly defined as a 1 ½-story house with a gabled roof, the ridge of which is parallel to the street. The house normally has four squarish rooms with no hallways and is built up to the front property line. The primary difference between these cottages and those elsewhere is the lack of a full front porch.

