Bienville House

A FRENCH QUARTER BOUTIQUE HOTEL

A BRIEF HISTORY

For many years, the area near the riverfront, wedge-shaped Square No. 8, between Decatur and N. Peters, Bienville and Conti, had been forlorn and neglected. Abandoned warehouses, a vast rice mill, a syrup manufactory and a fire hall seemingly awaited the wrecking ball.

Under the 1936 amendment to the State Constitution, establishing the Vieux Carre as a historic community to be treasured and protected forever, the riverfront had been designated as a natural and legal boundary. A city ordinance of 1946 arbitrarily realigned this boundary, selecting the woods' side of Decatur instead. In 1963, The Vieux Carre Property Owners challenged the city's right to supercede a state constitutional provision. The supreme court agreed and the boundaries of the Vieux Carre were restored to their historic posture.

Suddenly Square No. 8 had a future as well as a past. The Bienville House is a storied site and building with a colorful past. If its future matches either, it should enjoy a singular success.

The notable and the noble have been linked with this land.

In 1835 the ground floors of the two buildings were store fronts and the upper floors were well-known as the North American Hotel. Planters Rice Mills occupied one of the buildings in 1846.

In 1967 it was converted into an 82 rooms facility from a grain warehouse. It was purchased by the Monteleone in 1976.

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