

# TAKE A CULTURAL JOURNEY

as you travel the Cane River National Heritage Trail, a Louisiana Scenic Byway. Stretching from the Spanish Presidio of Los Adaes to the southern tip of Natchitoches Parish, the highways and byways of the Cane River region will engage you whether your interest is in historic plantations, military history, Creole culture and cuisine, or the scenic beauty of the area's lakes, rivers, and forests.

## Cane River National Heritage Area

Cane River National Heritage Area is a largely rural agricultural landscape known for its distinctive creole culture that is still visible in our architecture, historic sites, food ways, and traditions.


Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc. is a not for profit organization that manages the congressionally designated Cane River National Heritage Area and works to protect, preserve, and promote the historic character and sustainability of the Cane River National Heritage Area region.

### FOR VISITOR INFORMATION:

**Natchitoches Convention and Visitors Bureau**  
780 Front Street, Natchitoches, LA 71457  
1-800-259-1714 | [www.CaneRiverNHA.org](http://www.CaneRiverNHA.org)

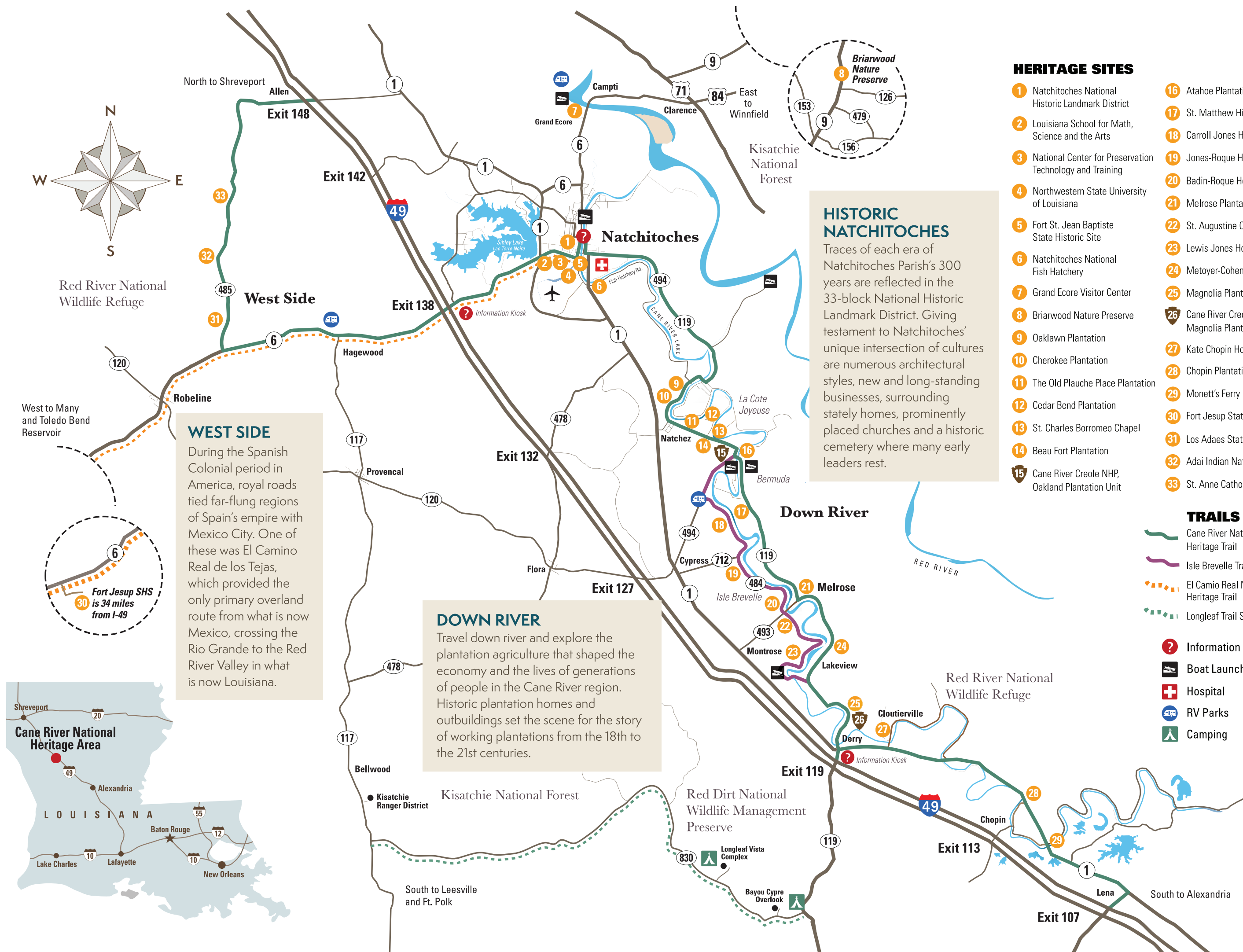
**Cane River National Heritage Area Office**  
1115 Washington Street, Natchitoches, LA 71457

*Cover art courtesy ©Cane River Art Corporation features renowned folk artist Clementine Hunter's painting of Melrose Plantation and documents the historic structures originally constructed by the descendants of enslaved people of color. Hunter's paintings are noted for depicting everyday life in the rural South, specifically Cane River in the first half of the twentieth century.*

 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND THE ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

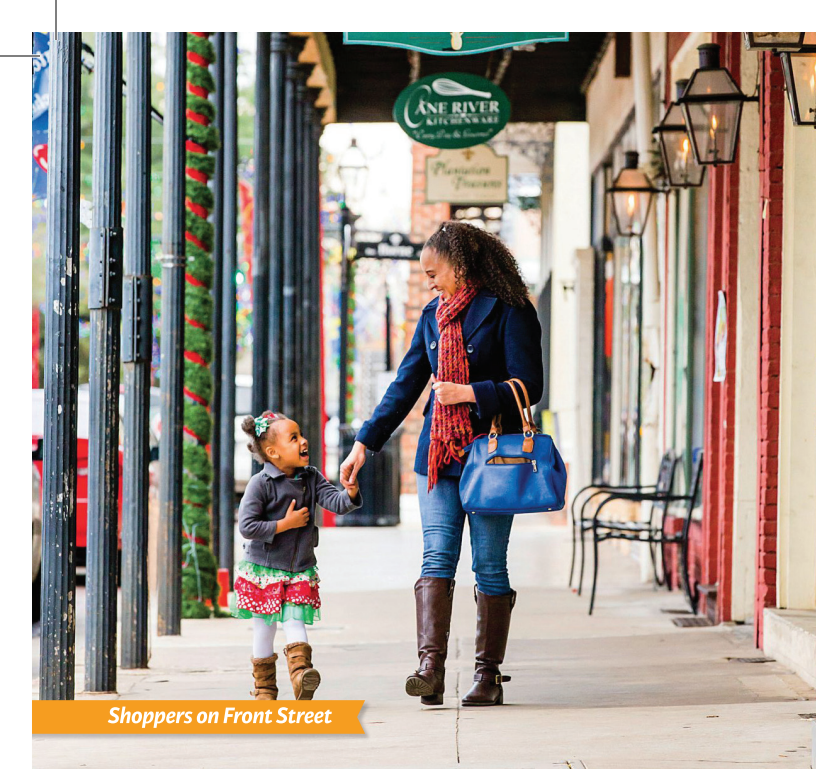


[CaneRiverNHA.org](http://CaneRiverNHA.org)



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Shoppers on Front Street

## CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE TRAIL

Immerse yourself in the Cane River region's rich history and vibrant living traditions. Take a leisurely drive along the river roads. Explore historic homes and plantations and hike local trails. Spend a night or two in a bed and breakfast. Shop and dine in the historic heart of Natchitoches. Take a cultural journey along the Cane River National Heritage Trail.

### 1 Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District

Natchitoches, the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase territory, was established as a French trade outpost in 1714. The National Historic Landmark District, which fronts Cane River Lake, includes many historic homes, churches, and commercial structures.

### 2 Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts

### 3 National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

### 4 Northwestern State University of Louisiana

### 5 Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site

The historic site explores the stories of 18th century French colonial life in the New World. Living historians guide tours through the replica of the French fort, and a visitor center recounts the area's colonial history. Open daily, admission charged.

### 6 Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery

The Facility sits on the site of a historic Caddo village. The hatchery raises sport and endangered species and includes an aquarium that features native aquatic species and historic displays.

### 7 Grand Ecore Visitor Center

The facility, overlooking beautiful Red river, features exhibits on the natural and cultural history of the region. The site contains remnants of Civil War earthworks. Open, Free Admission.

### 8 Briarwood Nature Preserve

Briarwood is the birthplace and home of Caroline Dormon, a world renowned naturalist, author, artist and the first woman to be hired in the United States Forest Service. The Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve strives to carry on the work started by Miss Dormon by preserving wildflowers native to the south and educating the public on how natural forest ecosystems work.

### 9 Oaklawn Plantation

*National Register of Historic Places*

Oaklawn's picturesque main house, constructed in the 1830s, sits at the head of the thirds longest oak allée in Louisiana. Private residence.

### 10 Cherokee Plantation

*National Register of Historic Places*

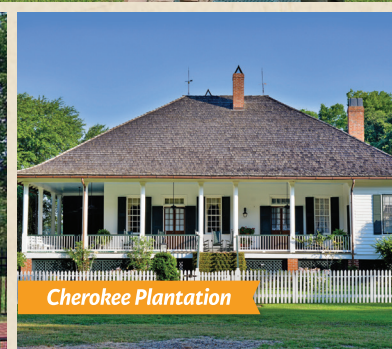
The 1830s plantation is named for the Cherokee roses at its front gate. The elegant main house is typical of early Louisiana plantations. Private residence.



Oakland Plantation



Grand Ecore Visitor Center



Cherokee Plantation

### 11 The Old Plauche Place Plantation

An antebellum Greek revival cottage, the Old Plauche Place Plantation is the only Cane River plantation still possessing riverfront with no intervening roadway and therefore only its rear is visible ¼ mile from HWY 494, nestled among the live oaks and magnolias of the Cane River Lake. Private residence.

### 12 Cedar Bend Plantation

*National Register of Historic Places*  
Cedar Bend is a 19th century French Colonial house once owned by Gabriel Prud'homme and his wife Algae. Family tradition states that during the Red River Campaign, the family raised the French flag outside the house to save it from destruction. Private residence.

### 13 St. Charles Borromeo Chapel

The chapel historically served as a mission church of St. Augustine Catholic Church in Melrose. It represents the only known instance in the United States of a white mission congregation sponsored by a church whose members were primarily people of color. Privately owned.

### 14 Beau Fort Plantation

*National Register of Historic Places*  
Built in the early 19th century, Beau Fort reflects the Creole construction techniques as well as the lifestyles of early French planters. Private residence.

### 15 Cane River Creole National Historical Park, Oakland Plantation Unit

*National Historic Landmark*  
Oakland Plantation is the most complete Creole plantation in the South. The historic agricultural landscape holds the main house, the plantation store, and 27 additional outbuildings. Together these resources tell the story of a plantation from 1789 to 1960. Open daily, free admission

### 16 Atahoe Plantation

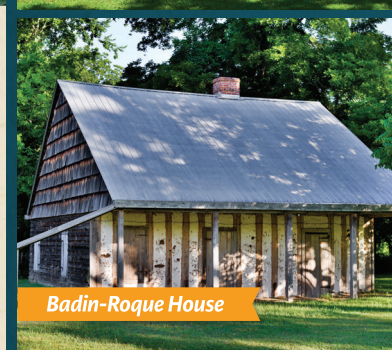
Formally established in 1873 by Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme, Atahoe was once part of the Prud'homme owned Bermuda Plantation. Bermuda was renamed Oakland Plantation in 1873. Private residence.

### 18 Carroll Jones House

*National Register of Historic Places*  
This Creole Plantation house was built around 1818 by Francois Roubieu and is the oldest house in the parish to be raised a full story. Following the Civil War, the house was purchased by John Carroll Jones, an African American, who moved here from Tennessee. After settling in Rapides Parish, Jones married Catherine Clifton, a Choctaw woman, and relocated to Natchitoches Parish after the Civil War. Jones became a wealthy farmer, owning several thousand acres and two homes by 1890. Private residence.



Melrose Plantation



Badin-Roque House

### 17 St. Matthew High School

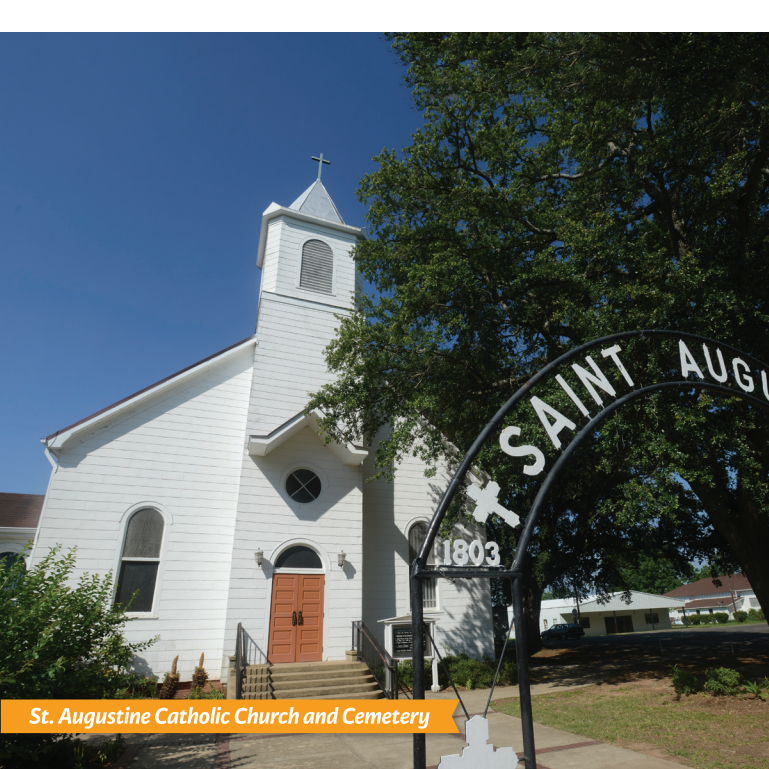
*National Register of Historic Places*  
Founded in 1916 adjacent to Saint Matthew Baptist Church, the school was formally established in 1952. The St. Matthew School is recognized for its pre-eminence in education of African American children prior to school integration.

### 20 Badin-Roque House

*National Register of Historic Places*  
This bousillage house offers a look at Cane River Creole frontier life. It is one of a handful of structures remaining in the U.S. built in the style known as poteaux en terre (posts in the ground).

### 19 Jones Roque House

*National Register of Historic Places*  
Constructed in 1845, this is one of only a few intact Creole cottages in the Cane River region, with two of the best examples of Creole wrap-around fireplace mantles with the original faux finish. The building has been moved and restored. Private residence.



St. Augustine Catholic Church and Cemetery

## ISLE BREVELLE TRAIL

The Isle Brevelle community has been the home and heart of Louisiana's Cane River Creoles since the late 1700s. This community provides the region with stories of traditions of family, community, and cultural renaissance. In places like Badin-Roque House, Melrose Plantation, and St. Augustine Catholic Church and Cemetery, you will gain a new appreciation of the complexity of culture in our nation.

### 21 Melrose Plantation

*National Historic Landmark*

This legendary plantation was established by a family of "gens de couleur libres" (free people of color) around the time of the Louisiana Purchase. A 20th century artist retreat, Melrose was the home of Clementine Hunter, a nationally renowned folk artist. Open daily, admission charged.

### 22 St. Augustine Catholic Church and Cemetery

*National Register of Historic Places*

Founded in 1803, St. Augustine is the first Roman Catholic Church established by and for people of color in the U.S. Today, the church symbolizes the heart of the Cane River Creole culture. St. Augustine is the first traditional cultural property to be added to the National Register of Historic Places in Louisiana.

### 23 Lewis Jones House

*National Register of Historic Places*

The Lewis Jones House is a one story frame French Creole house with bousillage infill. A date of 1847 is inscribed under a stair leading to the attic. Private residence.

### 24 Metoyer-Cohen Plantation

The Metoyer-Cohen Plantation house is a 19th century home located on the original Spanish land grant given to Dominique Metoyer, son of Marie Thérèse Coin Coin in 1796. Private residence.

### 25 Magnolia Plantation Home

*National Historic Landmark*

The plantation house is the area's largest. The original house was constructed in the 1830s, burned by the Union Army in 1864 and rebuilt in the 1890s. Private residence.

### 27 Kate Chopin Home Site

*National Historic Landmark*

Kate Chopin, a 19th century feminist writer, resided in the town of Cloutierville from 1880-1883. It was her experiences in Cloutierville that led her to record history, folklore, and lifestyles of the people of Cane River. The home was destroyed by fire in 2009. The site remains a National Historic Landmark.

### 28 Chopin Plantation

Lands of this plantation were once owned by Oscar Chopin, husband of the late 19th century feminist writer Kate Chopin.



Cane River Trail Ride



Cane River Front



The Quarters at Magnolia Plantation Unit

### 26 Cane River Creole National Historical Park, Magnolia Plantation Unit

*National Historic Landmark*

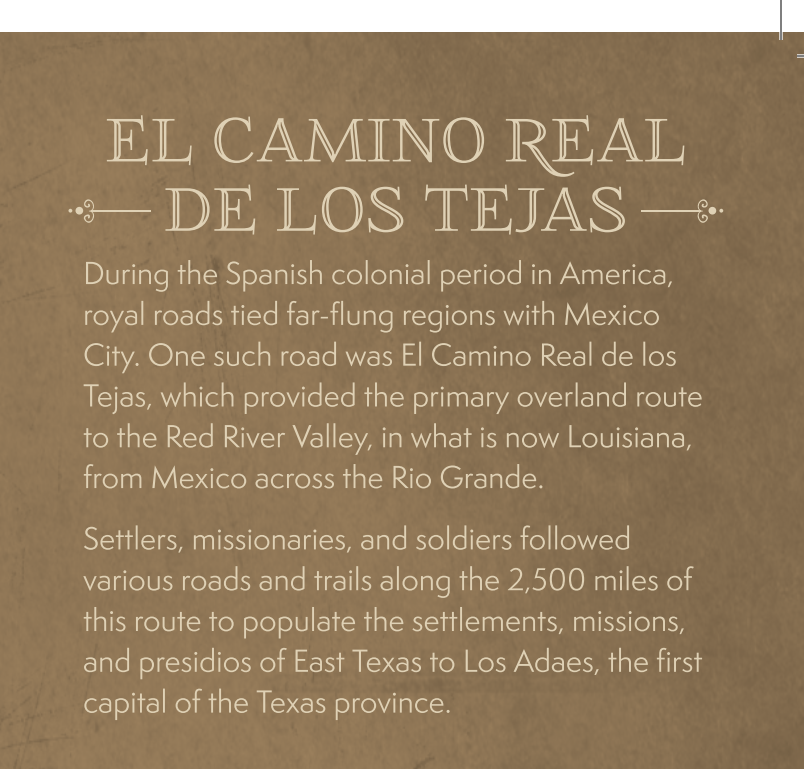
The plantation outbuildings comprise the agricultural and industrial portion of an extensive Creole cotton plantation. The plantation store, the quarters, the overseer's house, the blacksmith shop, and the cotton press tell the stories of the working life on a plantation. Open daily, free admission.

### 29 Monett's Ferry

The Civil War battle of Monett's Ferry, Red River Campaign, was fought here in April 1864. Union troops pushed through Confederate lines on their retreat south to Alexandria.

### 30 Fort Jesup State Historic Site

*National Historic Landmark*  
Zachary Taylor was the first commander of Fort Jesup, the American fort built in 1822. The fort was a gateway for Westward expansion and the staging ground for U.S. troops in the US-Mexican War. Open daily, admission charged.



During the Spanish colonial period in America, royal roads tied far-flung regions with Mexico City. One such road was El Camino Real de los Tejas, which provided the primary overland route to the Red River Valley, in what is now Louisiana, from Mexico across the Rio Grande.

Settlers, missionaries, and soldiers followed various roads and trails along the 2,500 miles of this route to populate the settlements, missions, and presidios of East Texas to Los Adaes, the first capital of the Texas province.

### 31 Los Adaes State Historic Site

*National Historic Landmark*

This is the site of an 18th century Spanish mission and presidio. Built in an effort to cease French expansion, it served as the capital of Spanish Texas for over 50 years. Open daily, free admission.

### 33 St. Anne Catholic Church

*National Register of Historic Places*

Built in 1916 this church is a rare example of Gothic revival architecture and the fourth building erected by Adai tribal members. St. Anne serves as the mother church of the Adai Indian Nation.

### 32 Adai Indian Nation Cultural Center

The history of the Adai Indians is linked with the French and Spanish as allies through trade and military alliance. The center features exhibits on historic and contemporary American Indian culture. Call for appointment, (318) 472-1007.



Adai Indian Nation Cultural Center



Fort Jesup State Historic Site