Affinity

MOULEDOUX | BLAND
LEGRAND | BRACKETT
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, NEW ORLEANS

Volume 4, Issue 3 March 14, 2024

By: Natalie Morris

Where She Stayed

New Orleans homes are internationally known for a rich melding of French, Spanish, and Caribbean architectural styles while continuously evolving to the often-tropical climate. The women that have resided in these homes are similarly world-renowned, multi-cultural, and adaptive, as demonstrated by their lives and spaces.

Howard Allen Frances O'Brien, now known as novelist Anne Rice, spent a significant part of her childhood in her aunt's home at 2301 St. Charles Street.[1] It was granted to M J Falgoust, Inc. for $0 on January 1, 1972.[2] Today, M J Falgoust, Inc. is a real estate company that owns 66+ commercial and residential properties in Orleans Parish.

Three-time Grammy winner and civil rights activist Mahalia Jackson grew up in the Black Pearl neighborhood, residing with her aunt at 7456 Pitt street until she moved to Chicago in her teens.[3] The only even number address on the block today is 7450 Pitt Street, which sold for $337,500 in 2021 to a private resident.[4]

[1] https://www.frommers.com/destinations/new-orleans/walking-tours/walking-tour-2
[2] https://nolaassessor.com/property-search/
[3] https://acloserwalknola.com/places/mahalia-jacksons-birthplace/
[4] https://nolaassessor.com/property-search/

Dorothy Mae DeLavallade Taylor was the first African-American woman to be elected to and serve in the Louisiana House of Representatives (1971-1980) as well as the New Orleans City Council (1986-1994). She was raised at 2508 Josephine Street;[5] the 2500 block of Josephine is the present-day site of the Mahalia Jackson Elementary School.

Elizabeth D.A. Cohen was the first woman licensed to practice medicine in Louisiana.[6] One of her former medical offices is located at 1032 St. Charles Ave.[7] The address was most recently home to the bellowed bar and music venue Circle Bar, which hosted some truly fantastic shows in its 21-year run from 1999-2020.[8] It closed after the property owner and one of the richest women in Louisiana, Phyllis M. Taylor,[9] advised she would excuse rent owed from March 2020 through December 2020 ($6,800.00/month) with the condition rent payments would resume January 2021, and the lease would be not be renewed in December 2021. Circle Bar owners elected for the last call option, and the property has remained vacant for the last three years.

Actress Jennifer Coolidge purchased her home facing Coliseum Square Park on 1228 Race Street for $655,400.00 on May 5, 2005.[10] She is best known to geriatric millennials as “Stifler’s Mom,” and to the younger millennials and Genz Z as “Tanya McQuoid.”

---

[5]https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2442/images/M-T0627-01428-00570?ssrc=&backlabel=Return&pId=122037744

[6]https://cfmedicine.nlm.nih.gov/physicians/biography_348.html

[7] https://www.myneworleans.com/layers-of-history/

[8]https://www.nola.com/entertainment_life/keith_spera/circle-bar-caught-between-coronavirus-and-an-expiring-lease-ends-an-era-as-it-closes/article_a177fbca-0dda-11eb-bb69-73abdd97d55b.html

[9] https://images.forbes.com/lists/2005/54/9YGL.html

[10] https://nolaassessor.com/property-search/

Oretha Castle Haley and her sister Doris Jean Castle were illustrious civil rights activists.[11] They moved to Treme from Tennessee with their parents as children, residing at 917-919 N. Tonti Street.[12] It was most recently sold to a private owner for $315,000.00 in 2021.[13]

Sophie B. Wright began her career in education at the age of 14, when she opened a day school for girls at her family home located at 141 Race Street. The home, and the area, are no longer residential. The closest recording is for the 13-acre commercial property at 301 Race Street, sold to Ernest N. Morial Convention Center for $45,000,000.00 in 2000.[14]

From this small collection, we can see that architecture of the homes in New Orleans is as diverse as the New Orleans women of achievement who lived in them. These women, their stories and homes are timeless, adding considerable flavor to our treasured city's cultural gumbo. And best of all, now you know where they are.

[11] https://www.amistadresearchcenter.org/single-post/nola4women-oretha-castle-haley-doris-jean#:~:text=The%20social%20activism%20of%20sisters,parents%20and%20brother%20around%201947.
[12] https://apnews.com/article/oretha-castle-haley-national-register-historic-designation-d26617e29618bad308e91907ac346620
[13] https://nolaassessor.com/property-search/
[14] https://nolaassessor.com/property-search/