Today, Breaux Bridge (population c. 7,000; area c. 2,500 acres) is a modern community served by several churches; a modern hospital; public and private schools; a public library; religious, fraternal, social, and civic clubs; facilities for cultural, recreational, and social activities; and an active volunteer fire department. Signs of prosperity are the many real estate and commercial developments, and an increase in the financial establishments.

One of Breaux Bridge's main attractions is its cuisine—especially that of the crawfish. The restaurants of Breaux Bridge were the first to offer crawfish on their menus. It was here that the famous (crawfish) étouffée was created. Although crawfish were served in restaurants in the early 1920's, this famous cuisine did not gain worldwide recognition until 1959 when Breaux Bridge, celebrating the Centennial of its incorporation, was designated the "CRAWFISH CAPITAL OF THE WORLD" by the state legislature. Today, Breaux Bridge is world famous for its preparation of this delicacy.

The restaurants of Breaux Bridge and nearby Henderson continue the area's long-established tradition of fine cuisine by serving thousands of satisfied diners each year. Just as many people visit the area's dance halls, in keeping with the Cajun spirit of "laissez les bons temps rouler!"

Breaux Bridge Louisiana

"Crawfish Capital of the World"

HISTORY OF BREAUX BRIDGE

The town of Breaux Bridge has its origin in a settlement made by Acadians in the vicinity where, according to tradition, Agricole Breaux built a bridge across the Bayou Teche in the early 1800's. Breaux's wooden bridge was of great importance to the habitants (farmers) of the upper Teche, for it provided access to the road on the west side leading south to St. Martinville. By the 1840's, Breaux Bridge had replaced St. Martinville as the trading center of the upper Teche and was sharing the prosperity of the Teche area. The growth of population necessitated the establishment of a church parish in 1847. In 1857, a large wooden church replaced the small chapel, and two years later (1859) Breaux Bridge was incorporated.

The burgeoning prosperity of the community was halted due to conflicts occurring before, during, and after the Civil War. However, by the 1880's, the area had begun to flourish again largely as a result of the profits reaped from the sale of sugar cane and cotton. Evidence of progress were improvements such as a new steel bridge replacing the old wooden one, railroad and telephone service, electric lighting, and small manufacturing enterprises. Breaux Bridge boasted a publicly supported school system, a bilingual weekly newspaper, a band, and a dramatics and literary society.
Downtown
Breaux Bridge was once used as a crossing point for cattle headed down Bayou Teche to market in New Orleans. With its covered sidewalks, downtown Breaux Bridge is reminiscent of an old frontier town.

Crawfish Festival
Internationally known, the CRAWFISH FESTIVAL originated in 1960 as an outgrowth of the BREAUX BRIDGE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION (1959). The festival promotes the crawfish industry, and it attracts tens of thousands of visitors to Breaux Bridge to eat, dance, and make merry in celebration of the tasty crawfish.

Corner Bar
Originally a general store operated by Charles Rees around the turn of the century, the building now houses a popular dance hall featuring Cajun music and good times.

Church
Cajuns have traditionally been devout Catholics about whom it is said "when they play they play hard, and when they pray they pray hard." St. Bernard is the main Catholic church in Breaux Bridge. Built in 1934, the present building is of French design.

Bakery
The ovens of the Breaux Bridge Bakery were built of hand made bricks in 1910. Still owned by the original family, the bakery has been in continuous operation since its founding and still features fresh French bread daily.

Atchafalaya Swamp
The Atchafalaya Basin is the largest freshwater swamp in the United States. Just a few miles from Breaux Bridge, it provides much of the fish and seafood that grace the tables of this area. It is a breathtakingly beautiful sight.

Sugar Mill
The Breaux Bridge Sugar Cooperative is a mill owned by area farmers. Sugar is one of the principal crops and industries of the Breaux Bridge area.

Late Victorian
This lovely Victorian home was designed by the nationally famous architect George F. Barber, of Knoxville, Tn. The plans were bought through the mail in 1899 by Breaux Bridge physician Dr. Arthur Guilbeau. This house remained in the original family for several generations and is still a private home.

Acadian
This house is of typical Acadian design, with the steeply pitched roof and the long front porch characteristic of Acadian houses. Built by Valerite Thibodeaux before the Civil War, this house is still occupied by descendants of the original family.

Greek Revival
This fine Greek revival house was built in the early 20th century by a physician, Dr. Louis Fourgeaud.