Canal St.
Historic District

Upon recommendation of Mayor Ernest N. Morial's Canal Street Study Committee, the New Orleans City Council voted November 15 to declare 9 blocks of Historic Canal Street a local historic district subject to the protection of the Central Business District Historic District Landmarks Commission.

The Canal St. district will be the city's eighth local historic district, four of which are in the Central Business District.

The downtown side of Canal Street has been part of the Vieux Carre National Register Historic District since 1966, but such designation offers protection only when federal funds are involved. The Vieux Carre Commission, established in 1936, has authority only to Iberville Street, adjacent and parallel to Canal Street on the downriver side.

Enclosed are news articles from the Times-Picayune covering this important event, and a photocopy of a photograph of Councilman Mike Early and Councilman Jim Singleton, who cosponsored the ordinance. The council voted 6 to 1 in favor of the ordinance.

Historic Canal Street, looking toward the river, with New Orleans City Councilmen Mike Early (left) and Jim Singleton (right) standing on the median, called “neutral ground” in New Orleans, because this strip divided the older French sector from the American sector of the city in the nineteenth century, the French preferring to remain separate from the Americans. The canal was never built, and eventually the area became the main street of the city. Canal Street was recently declared a local historic district subject to demolition and design review. Each councilman is standing in his own district, with the Vieux Carre on the left and the Central Business District on the right.