The Lower Garden District comprises the five plantations of Soulet, La Course, Annunciation, Nuns, and Pontalba, but the last having been subdivided by Barthélémy LaFon by 1809. The first three, as the upper limits of Bienville's Plantation, were always within the city of New Orleans.

The majority of the buildings standing today date from the period 1840 to 1870. The area was the first to be developed primarily with villas, detached homes with gardens, rather than with townhouses. All types of architecture were used. However, the two most consistent urban elements influencing the neighborhood have been the rail system on St. Charles Avenue and the park system, including Annunciation Square and the eleven block long spine of Coliseum Square and its finger parks.

The neighborhood began a decline in the second quarter of this century, which was unfortunately accelerated by the conversion of many homes to multiple units in the 1940's and the construction of the Mississippi River Bridge in the 1950's.

In 1971 the neighborhood was given its new name, the Lower Garden District, and within a year extensive restoration began and it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.
TOUR

NOTE: This is a self guided tour of exterior facades only.

1420 EUTERPE. FREEMAN'S BUREAU. Built circa 1847, it became the home of John Thoroughgood in 1854. Condemned in 1864 by "Silver Spoons" Butler and used as the freeman's Bureau during reconstruction. It was returned to M. Thoroughgood after the Civil War, and maintained by his heirs until 1940. Although the architectural details are simple early Greek Revival the impression is grand because of the balcony that surrounds the house. photo

1717 COLISEUM PLACE. This fine two-story Greek Revival house, built in 1856, was one of the first homes restored on Coliseum Square. Renovated in the 1860s and again at the turn of the century. The raised walls was built by the William Pritchard family between 1849 and 1869. The mansard roof was added later. This house was the Naval District Headquarters when the famous Storyville edict was Issued in 1917. 1741 COLISEUM. Circa 1847. This is one of the most outstanding Greek Revival homes on the Square.

1749 COLISEUM. GRACE KING HOUSE. Greek Revival house was built in 1849 for Frederick Riedelwald. In 1871 John Henry purchased it and embellished it in the French Regency style with chandelier, doing room frescoes, parquet floors and stained glass. Grace King, the New Orleans author, bought the house in 1904 and lived here with her sisters until her death in 1912. 1228 RACE ST. MOORE & KENNER: BAKER HOUSE. Begun in 1861, construction was halted during the Civil War and finally completed in 1867. Designed by New Orleanian Henry Howard, an architect noted for many of Louisiana's finest plantation houses. One of the few houses in the neighborhood used continuously as a single family dwelling. see photo

1309 FELICITY. This unadorned villa was built in 1860 by James Freer, noted New Orleans architect, for his own family. 1328 FELICITY. Italianate villa dates from the 1870s.

1332 FELICITY. Italianate townhouse dating from the 1860s with cast iron gallery.

1805 COLISEUM WATERFALL-MORRISON HOUSE. This late Greek Revival raised cottage has been the residence of three Mayors of New Orleans.

1200 FELICITY. Feltisity United Methodist Church. The tops of the towers were removed from this late Gothic Revival structure, built in 1883.

MAGAZINE ST. Rows of Greek Revival commercial buildings with 2nd floor residences were developed in the 1850s between Richard St. and Josephine St. This was the first commercial development outside the area now composing downtown and is still a center of diverse commercial activities including banks, railroad and restaurants.

2002 MAGAZINE ST. Bohemian home of Nick La Rocca, famous Jazz cornettist and leader of the Original Dixieland Jazz Band. LaRocca's father was an Italian cobbler in 1896 and the shop is still a shoe store today.

2023 CONSTANCE ST. T. B. L. was built in 1855-57 by the Irish Catholics at a cost of $110,000, the spires were never completed. Spanish Mission. Mass at 10 AM. Sunday.

2130 CONSTANCE ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH. Erected 1855-60 by the Redemptorists and German Catholics; this is one of the finest Baroque brick churches in the United States. The left tower is the most outstanding feature of the church. The high altar was built by, Myers, of Munich, Bavaria. Blessed Father Seelos is buried under the altar. Sunday Mass is at 4 PM.

1014 JACKSON AVENUE. This restored Italianate house was built in 1873.