



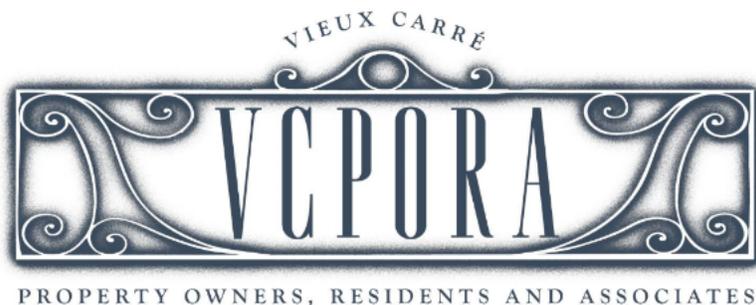
Vieux Carré <info.vcpora@gmail.com>

VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Saturday, August 21, 2021

1 message

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Sat, Aug 21, 2021 at 11:39 AM



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Condolences: Louis Sahuc

It is with heavy hearts that we mourn the passing of Louis Sahuc. A talented photographer and staunch neighborhood activist, Louis was often affectionately referred to as the "Guardian of the Square" for his advocacy around Jackson Square, which his Lower Pontalba gallery, Photo Works, has faced since 1995. Louis was also a resident of a coveted second floor [Lower Pontalba apartment](#) for over 30 years, which he graciously opened up for an *At Home in the Vieux Carré* event in the past.

His ardent love for the French Quarter was evident in his body of work, from breathtaking architectural shots to moments of celebration in beloved neighborhood haunts, like Galatoire's and the Napoleon House.

Last Friday, friends gathered under his balcony with To Be Continued Brass Band for a second-line in place. He passed peacefully the next morning, on Saturday, August 14. Read more about the second-line send away [here](#).



FQEDD Update

On Thursday, the French Quarter Economic Development District Governing Authority, led by Councilmember Kristin Palmer, levied the security tax voters approved in April to fund supplemental police patrols in the neighborhood. These collections will begin on October 1, 2021. The quarter-cent sales tax will be collected on all retail and service sales, except hotel rooms, in the French Quarter for the next five years.

Per the ballot language, the initial \$2 million collected is dedicated to [POST Certified](#) supplemental police patrols and any additional revenue will be divided between additional patrols and public safety programs, including homeless assistance. The program will be administered by the [French Quarter Management District](#) (FQMD) to operate the “[blue light patrols](#)” that utilizes an app-based reporting system.



Filming Notice

Thursday, August 26, 2021

9:00a.m. - 9:00p.m.

Armstrong Park

Crews will be filming scenes for a television show in front of Armstrong Park on Thursday, August 26, 2021 between 9:00a.m. - 9:00p.m.

No parking signs will be posted on the 700-800 blocks of N. Rampart between Orleans & Dumaine and the 700 block of N. Rampart between St. Peter & Orleans.

See our [Facebook post](#) for more information.



#FQThenAndNow

We hope you don't scare easy because today we're talking about a famously haunted building in the Vieux Carré! Welcome to this week's #FQThenAndNow with the [VCCF](#). Our house, better known as Morro Castle, is situated on the corner of Burgundy & Barracks.

While this series is still available on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), we have decided to include both posts in the Weekly Vieux to make them more accessible to non-social media users. The "[Then](#)" [background information](#) has been graciously provided by the VCCF.

Then:

This is [1301-05 Burgundy Street](#) (or [1001-03 Barracks Street](#), your choice) in 1943. Known as Morro Castle, this unique structure features scored-granite exterior

walls and a prominent centrally located carriageway on the Barracks side. A 1937 Times-Picayune article states that original construction was started in 1836 by Paul Pandelly and finished in 1838 Pierre Soule. The Historic New Orleans Collection's Collins C. Diboll Vieux Carré Digital Survey posits that the change in ownership mid-construction was due to an economic collapse which could only be the Panic of 1837.

No one seems to know definitively why it's called Morro Castle. A 1970 Times-Picayune article states that it was also known as the "Haunted Spanish Barracks" and that for Spanish soldiers, the name Morro Castle was a synonym for Spanish Fort. There are three other Morro Castles: one in Puerto Rico and two in Cuba. A 1924 New Orleans States article reports that this one was specifically named after the one at Havana, but does not provide a reason. There are some known inaccuracies in this article; however, it does give a lovely description of the interior! Here is [the description](#) of the interior (you'll need your [New Orleans Public Library Card](#)).

Visit the [Vieux Carré Virtual Library](#) to see more historic images.

And...Now:

The construction on this blue-rated, transitional style building had begun in 1830 but was stopped in 1836 when the economy collapsed at the start of the Panic of 1837. According to a 1966 newspaper, the "haunted Spanish barracks" were never actually barracks, but rather the building sits on land that was once a part of the "fortification" land owned by the Spanish crown during their early 19th century rule over New Orleans. After French rule was reinstated in New Orleans, the land was passed around until 1830 when the Englishman Paul Pandelly purchased it and began building the grand granite castle. An article from 1937 claims that the building was completed in 1838 by Pierre Soule, whom newspapers also credit with "fit(ing) it up luxuriously" during the Civil War.

While the building and its namesake, Morro Castle, has puzzled historians since the late 1800s, historians and residents alike can attest to one thing for sure – it's a little spooky. An article from 1924 describes Morro Castle as having been haunted by "disembodied guests" for the past 50-100 years. A story from 1930 titled "[History and description of the haunted Spanish barracks in New Orleans, Louisiana, including its past prisoners and torturing techniques,](#)" describes men encased in one of the cement walls as well as ghoulish rats. A young man in 1932 claims his smashed and bloody finger was caused by one of these roaming spirits.

What are some of your favorite ghost stories in the French Quarter?

Don't forget to follow #FQThenAndNow for more fun (and sometimes fantastical) facts about the Vieux Carré!

See y'all next week.

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