

THE URBAN CREOLE TOWNHOUSE

STANDARDS: The material in this unit may be used to address the following Social Studies Standards:

G-1C-E4 H-1A-E3 H-1A-M4
G-1D-E1 H-1D-M6 H-1B-H1

DEFINITION/PURPOSE: Urban Creole building used for business and residential purposes

LOCATION: Exist in large numbers in New Orleans' Vieux Carre (French Quarter)
Two exist in Natchitoches and one in Baton Rouge

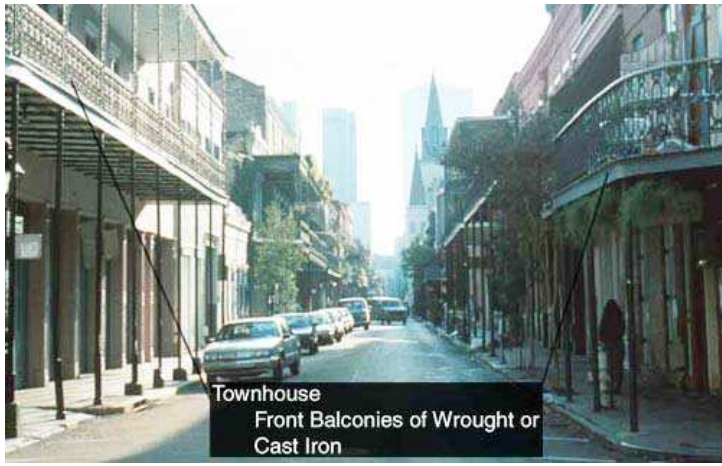
DESCRIPTION: Mutli-story building
Timber and masonry construction
Many are party wall structures; others have very narrow passages between selves and neighbors
Facade flush to sidewalk – i.e., no front yard or lawn
Dependencies (stables, kitchens, privies, slave quarters, etc.) attached to one side, resulting in "L" shaped building
Rear utilitarian courtyard (re-working of courtyards as gardens dates to 20th century)
Street-level carriageway connecting street to courtyard



Lacked interior halls and stairs exterior stairs accessed from courtyard
Lower level used for commercial space

Family area:

Main living area raised on second and higher levels
Narrow upper level front balconies with wrought iron banisters
cantilevered over sidewalk
French doors
Wraparound mantels
Rear galleries



ORIGIN: Related to urban “hotels” (town residences) in Parisian neighborhoods
Also related to closed-court farmsteads of northern France

EXAMPLES: Ducournau Square, Natchitoches, Natchitoches Parish
521 St. Louis, Vieux Carre, Orleans Parish
525 Royal Street, Vieux Carre, Orleans Parish

