NEW ORLEANS 300 1718 ~ 2018 TRICENTENNIAL

From *Bienville* to *Bourbon Street* to *bounce*. 300 moments that make New Orleans unique.



WHAT HAPPENED

Adrien de Pauger arrived in New Orleans on March 21, 1721, and carried out orders to plan the city.

Some of most lasting physical ties to New Orleans' beginnings are the **streets of the French Quarter.**

In 1721, just three years after it was founded, engineer Adrien de Pauger, working with chief engineer Louis-Pierre Le Blond de La Tour, created a street grid plan for the city that is still used today.

He didn't align the streets with cardinal north, south, east and west, or with the Mississippi River. Instead the first street was placed so it was balanced southwest to northeast against the bend in the river, and streets were placed behind it in a grid pattern. Plans for later subdivisions, including the Treme, followed this pattern, and continue to perplex visitors today.



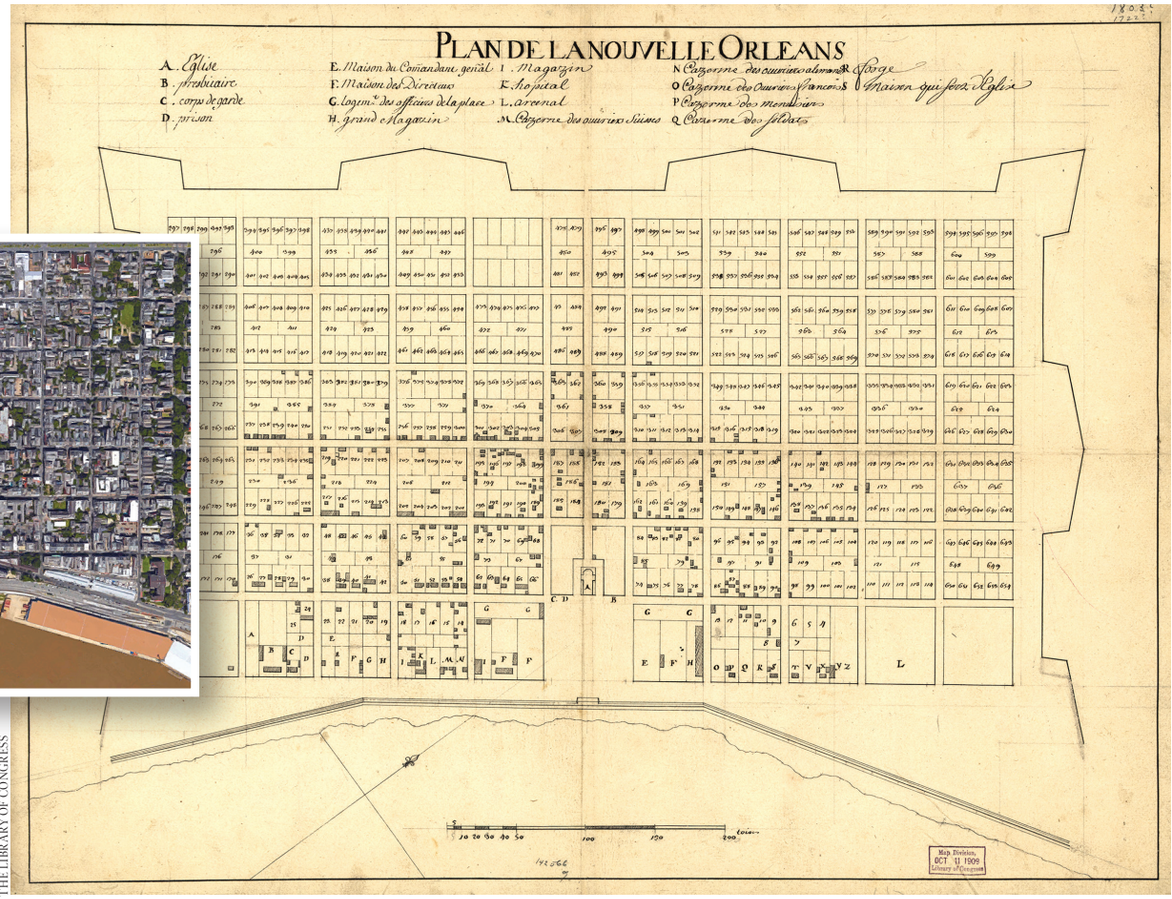
GOOGLE MAPS

De Pauger centered the grid around a place d'armes where he located the city's first church. That area, now called Jackson Square, is still the heart of New Orleans with St. Louis Cathedral, the Presbytere and the Cabildo.

De Pauger named the streets on the grid in a political nod to those in power: Bourbon, Royal, Dauphine, Bienville, Conti and Orleans. A street in the Marigny was later named after Pauger.

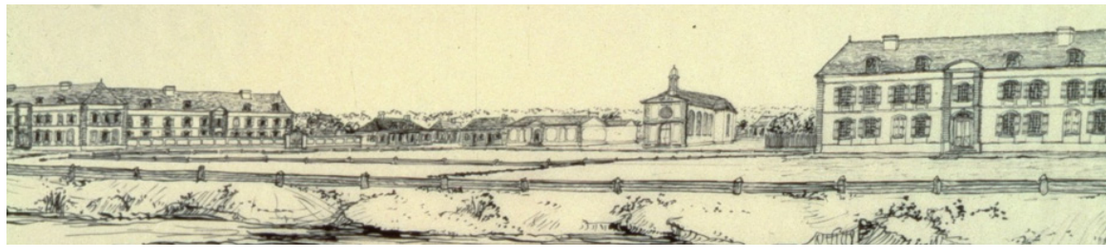
But by the time de Pauger finished his plan, there were already settlers in the city — on sites not included on de Pauger's plan. A hurricane in 1722 cleared most of the development away and allowed de Pauger's plan to be implemented.

De Pauger also designed the original St. Louis Church. De Pauger died in 1726, a year before the church was completed. According to a history of the St. Louis Cathedral, de Pauger asked to be buried under the unfinished church, a wish that was apparently granted.



THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

This Plan de la Nouvelle Orleans, dated 1722, is one of the oldest hand-drawn maps of New Orleans. While it was unsigned, it is thought to be prepared by Adrien de Pauger, or under his direction. The plan is still evident in today's French Quarter.



THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION

This sketch by de Pauger shows the basic layout of the Place d'Armes, including the church that he designed and finished after his death.