



WHAT HAPPENED

Owen Brennan moved his restaurant from Bourbon Street to 417 Royal St. in 1956.

Before Owen Brennan moved his restaurant to 417 Royal St., it was owned by the family of chess master Paul Morphy.



Brennan's famous pink facade on Royal Street

Owen Brennan opened Brennan's Vieux Carré restaurant in 1946, and 10 years later moved to 417 Royal St., where Brennan's became a popular spot for locals and celebrities. The restaurant served Creole and French classics, like turtle soup, and invented new ones, like bananas Foster.

A young Ella Brennan worked in the restaurant, as did brothers and sisters including Richard, Owen Jr., Adelaide and John. In the 1970s, some of the siblings, led by Ella, took over Commander's Palace and turned it into another stalwart of the local restaurant scene.



Both the Royal Street Brennans and the Commander's Brennans expanded, with more than a dozen restaurants, including Mr. B's Bistro, Red Fish Grill, Ralph's on the Park and SoBou.

In the mid-1970s, a rift in the family caused it to formally split. In 2002, the family went to battle over the use of the family name on Dickie Brennan's eponymous steakhouse.

Members of the family battled again over the legacy of Brennan's Restaurant on Royal Street when the restaurant was foreclosed upon and bought from under Ted Brennan by cousin Ralph Brennan in a tax sale.

After a multimillion-dollar renovation, Brennan's reopened in 2014.

What began as a relatively modest restaurant on Bourbon Street sparked a family dynasty of restaurants and a battle over the Brennan family name.



Slade Rushing is chef of the renovated Brennan's.

Owen Brennan in front of his original Vieux Carré Restaurant on Bourbon Street.



Eggs Sardou is on the menu for Brennan's New Orleans brunch.



Ella Brennan created the famous Bananas Foster at Brennan's in 1951 for a dinner honoring New Orleans Crime Commission chairman, Richard Foster.