



The interwoven history of St. Domingue — now **Haiti** — and New Orleans predates the founding of the city.

Haiti was the jumping off point for Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville when, in 1698, he traveled to the Gulf Coast to establish a settlement.

But it was a century later that Haiti and Haitians had a true impact on New Orleans. In 1791, as slaves started revolting in Haiti,



Many educated free blacks from Haiti, shown here in 1796, left for New Orleans in the early 1800s.

whites and free blacks flocked to New Orleans where they influenced, among other things, the rebuilding of the city after the fire of 1794 with their Creole cottages and other infrastructure.

Though the Spanish governor and later, American officials, tried to stem the flow of Haitian immigrants over concerns of

spreading discontent and revolution, the efforts were futile. In 1809, New Orleans' population was doubled by an influx of about 10,000 Haitians by way of Cuba — including 3,100 free persons of African descent. These free men and women of color grew an already large population of free persons of color in the city.

And together, the Haitian Creoles and the original French Creoles continued to build a largely French society, even as the United States took over the territory.



Slave revolts, like the 'Burning of the Plaine du Cap - Massacre of whites by the blacks,' in 1791 led to a mass exodus of free blacks and whites from Haiti, and prompted Louisiana officials to ban the import of slaves from there because of fears they would spark slave revolution.



The influence of Haiti is obvious in the architecture and color of New Orleans' townhomes and Creole cottages. Images of Haiti are on the left, while New Orleans is on the right.