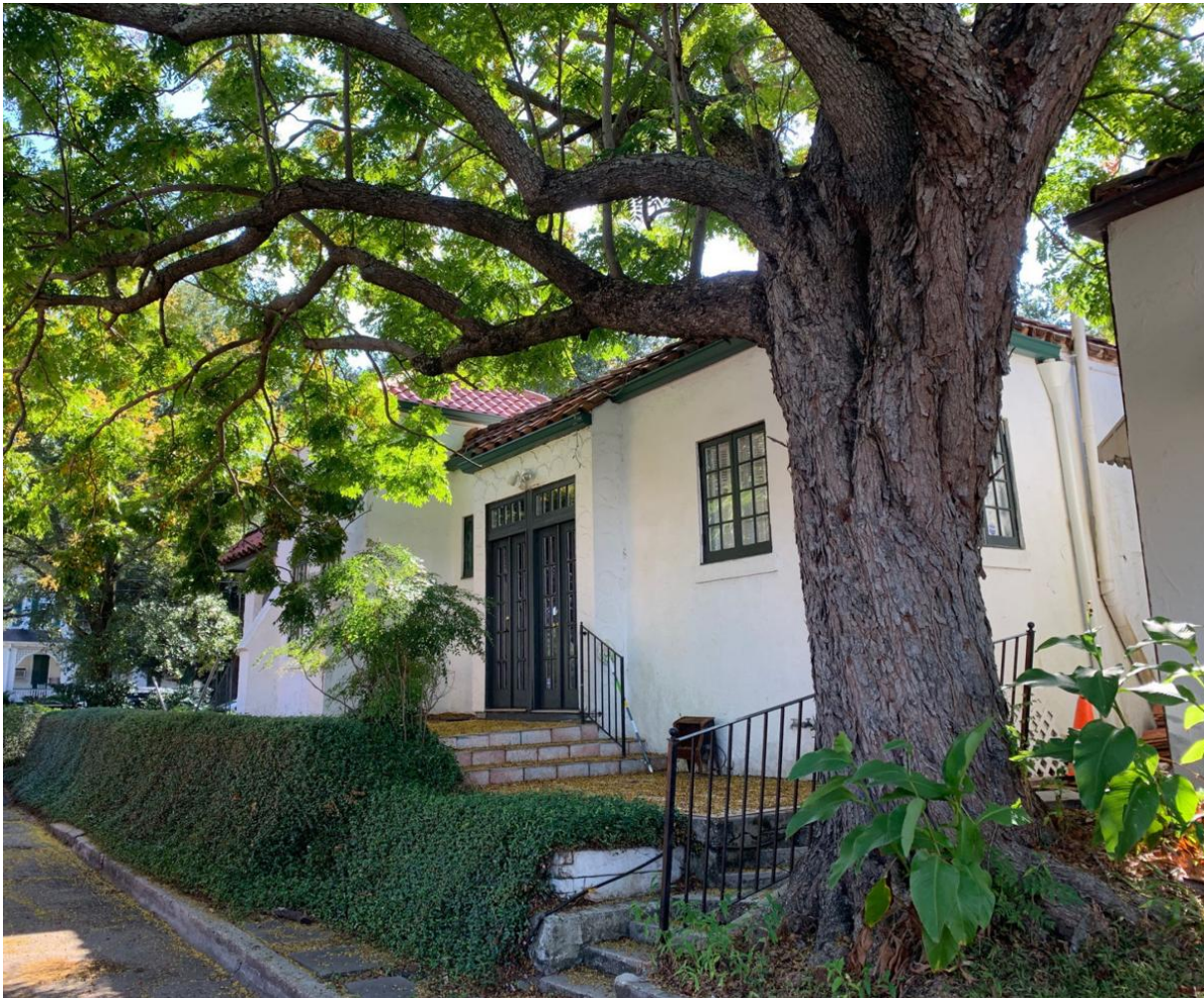


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Palm Terrace is little Los Angeles in the heart of Uptown

BY SUE STRACHAN | STAFF WRITER OCT 11, 2019 - 7:15 AM

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The homes on Palm Terrace, even this one that also faces St. Charles Avenue, have a distinctly California feel to them.

Photo by Sue Strachan for the New Orleans Advocate

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Steps away from the mansions of St. Charles Avenue is Palm Terrace, a one-block, Mediterranean-style time capsule that evokes the Los Angeles of Lauren Bacall and Humphrey Bogart. With 10 homes sporting red tile roofs and stucco walls, it feels like a movie set, nestled among St. Charles Avenue, Carondelet and Marengo streets.

The mix of Moorish and Byzantine, Spanish Revival and Mission elements wasn't unusual for the early 20th century, when new architectural styles, many from California, were being embraced. New Orleans, which had expanded its footprint by draining swamps and building new homes for a burgeoning middle class, was ready.

Palm Terrace was also part of the trend of developing private or semiprivate streets such as Audubon Place (1890s) and Boulevard (1915), Rosa Park (1890), Neron Place (1914), Wirth Place (1917) and St. John Court (1917).



This Palm Terrace home, located facing Carondelet Street, has a tower and domed ceiling.
Photo by Sue Strachan for the New Orleans Advocate

Palm Terrace's homes were designed by architect William E. Spink and landscaped by Swiss designer Sigmund Tarnok. Spink was also the architect, with Scott Joy, of the Pere Marquette building at 817 Common St., a 1925 high-rise building with Gothic flair.

Palm Court Terrace opened in 1926 with 12 homes. Ten are left: Two were torn down in 1963 to build a modern home on St. Charles

Avenue and Marengo Street.

No two homes are alike, though because they're set close together on sloped lawns, it can be hard to see where one building ends and the other starts.

The white or beige stucco single-story homes have loggias with arched openings, some with twisting Solomonic columns, casement windows and wrought iron elements. One even has a tower with a domed ceiling. Some entrances are in the front, while others are accessed via narrow steps leading up to terraces. The roofs are now red, but old photos indicate that they were once green.



Solomonic columns add a Byzantine flair to a home on Palm Terrace.

Photo by Sue Strachan for the New Orleans Advocate

The street was placed under the jurisdiction of the Historic District Landmarks Commission in 1987, so the exteriors cannot be altered, ensuring its unique charm is preserved.

Palm Terrace homeowner Tracey Moore said she'd always wanted to live on the unusual block. "I like the street – and Mardi Gras," she said, referencing its stone's throw proximity to the parade route.

It's Louisiana dreaming, every day.

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