

copy

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE Louisiana	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. XI - IV - V - XIX
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Jackson Square (Place d'Armes)	4. APPROX. ACREAGE one acre
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) Vieux Carre, New Orleans	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) City of New Orleans	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

Here, in the heart of the French capital of Louisiana, twice in three weeks the inhabitants stood breathlessly waiting while their allegiance was shifted from Spain to France to the United States. At noon on November 30, 1803, they jammed into the old Place d'Armes and stood there silently in a torrential down-pour, waiting for the announcement from the balcony of the Cabildo that Louisiana had passed once again to French possession. On December 20, in circumstances similar to those of the previous ceremony, they heard that their allegiance again had been changed, and saw the flag of France hauled down, to be replaced by the Stars and Stripes. With that symbolic flag-raising, the United States received the greatest single accession to its territory in the history of the nation.

Status: Jackson Square, hub of the French Quarter through the years, has an unceasing attraction for visitors. As a public park, it offers winding walks along tree-shaded paths, comfortable benches for the weary pedestrian, and fascinating vistas of the Cabildo, St. Louis Cathedral, and the other historic buildings which ring the square. In the center, dominating the park, are the heroic statue of Andrew Jackson and the flagpole marking the site of the symbolic transfer of sovereignty to the United States.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works) Stanley C. Arthur, Old New Orleans (New Orleans, 1936); J. A. Robertson, ed., Louisiana Under the Rule of Spain, France, and the United States, 1785-1807 (2 vols., Cleveland, 1911); Charles Gayarre, History of Louisiana (4 vols., New Orleans, 1903); E. Wilson Lyon, Louisiana in French Diplomacy, 1759-1804 (Norman, Okla., 1934); A. P. Whitaker, The Mississippi Question, 1795-1803 (New York, 1934).

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, IIABS, etc.)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Good	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Public park	13. DATE OF VISIT May 12, 1958
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature)		15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE Dec. 3, 1958

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)