

OPELOUSAS MUSEUM OF *Art*



Wier House

The Joseph Richard Wier Memorial Building, c. 1820
National Register of Historic Places 1995

Museum Hours: Saturday 9 - 5 p.m.
Tuesday - Friday 1 - 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday, Monday & January
Open to groups by appointment

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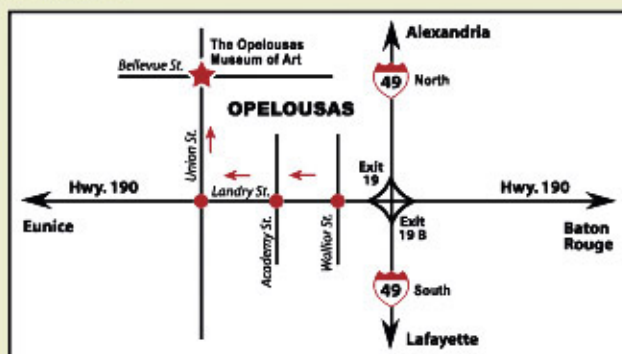
Photograph © 1998 by Philip Gault

Two museum experiences in one!

The museum features loan exhibitions from major museums and private art collections. A rare Louisiana example of classic federal architecture, Wier House now serves as The Opelousas Museum of Art. The imposing dual archways on facing brick walls in the main entrance hall and the unusual cellar dirt floor confirm local accounts that the original brick structure was first built as a single story English-style tavern in the early 1800s. In 1828 the second story addition and installation of the Monticello overdoor fanlight, dignified Adam mantelpieces, and structural iron tie rods marked conversion of the building to family use.

Opelousas city fire maps commissioned from the New York surveying firm Sanborn-Perris Map Company in 1896 indicate a one story extension and the former location of a number of outbuildings, including a detached kitchen, two stables, and several outhouse structures. Delft pottery and glass table pieces were uncovered during landscaping.

Harvey J. Wier purchased the building in 1945 for use with his two sons in their oil and gas leasing business, and in 1995 the building underwent a complete restoration and use as the stately and beautiful Opelousas Museum of Art.



Supported by the
St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission