

Where life stands still
and moves forward
all at the same time...



The City of
Abbeville
someplace special on the bayou!

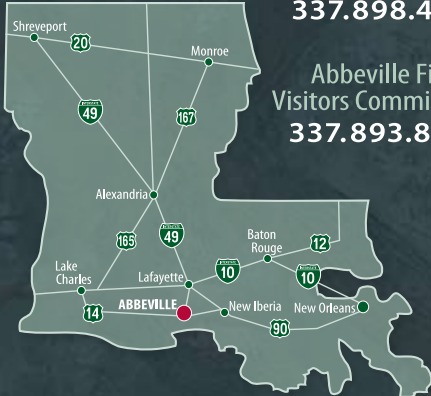
City of Abbeville
Post Office Box 1170
Abbeville, Louisiana 70511

cityofabbeville.net

Abbeville Tourist Center
337.898.4254

Abbeville Main Street
337.898.4110

Abbeville Film &
Visitors Commission
337.893.8550



The City of
Abbeville
someplace special on the bayou!
Founded in 1843

MUSEUMS • RESTAURANTS • HISTORIC DISTRICT



Venez voir
Abbeville



Keep Abbeville Beautiful!

— **ABBEVILLE, LOUISIANA** —
VERMILION PARISH IN SOUTH LOUISIANA



The statue of Father Megret in Magdalen Square is our memorial to the founder of Abbeville. However, he left his own crowning memorial — Abbeville itself.

Embedded in this crown are three jewels — the Courthouse Square, Magdalen Square, and St. Mary Magdalen Church. On the Courthouse Square we find peaceful resolutions of our legal and judicial matters. On Magdalen Square we find peaceful relief for our minds, both at rest and at play. In the St. Mary Magdalen Church we find peaceful resolution of our sorrows and of our sins.

These sites are perpetual memorials to this priest and to the sacrifices he made for Abbeville and for Southwest Louisiana. He gave his life in providing for the spiritual needs of his parishioners.

It can truly be said that Father Antoine Desire Megret died a martyr.

by Ken Dupuy

Abbeville

PAST & PRESENT

Welcome to Abbeville, the Vermilion Parish seat.

Abbeville was founded by Father Antoine Desire Megret in 1843, and named after his hometown in France. Here you'll find Cajun and traditional food in the area's 22-plus restaurants. From oyster bars to poboys the cuisine excels. Take a stroll downtown and visit the town square plus many shops featuring local artwork, antique or new furnishings and stylish clothing. Don't miss the local history museums, the Abbeville Cultural and Historical Alliance Center and the Depot where you can find a book outlining our parish history to take home with you. If you like, there are local guided walking tours available in French and English for groups of ten or more. There's also the Abbey Players Theatre, Planters Rice Mill, Steen's Cane Syrup Mill, as well as 100 year-old St. Mary Magdalen Church and the adjacent cemetery and Courthouse. It's the perfect spot to catch up on local politics being replayed by word of mouth underneath the giant oaks. You could say that's a dash of hot sauce in our perfectly seasoned culture. But wait, your day's not over. You haven't played golf or gone birding yet. We'll throw another dozen crabs in the pot because it looks like you're staying for dinner.



For additional historical information about Father Megret and Abbeville's early days visit **vermilionhistorical.com**



ATTRACTIONS & HISTORIC SITES

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church - 300 Père Mégrét
Built in 1911, St. Mary Magdalen boasts a Romanesque revival exterior and a cruciform shape interior, which is ornate and gracious. The magnificent stained glass windows were crafted in America. The present church replaces several other churches that were lost by either fire or hurricane. This historic church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

St. Mary Magdalen Rectory
Built in 1921 and is one of the most attractive rectories in the South. The rectory houses the resident priests and is rumored to be haunted by the ghost of a priest who died in the rectory.

St. Mary Magdalen Cemetery
Established in 1843 within the city of Abbeville. This Catholic cemetery contains over 500 marked and unmarked graves with many of the headstones engraved in French.

Magdalen Square
Abbeville's respite, known to all as simply "The Square" is the focal point of the downtown district. Its primary purpose as a gathering place for community event has remained unchanged. In the past, it has served as grazing pasture, a venue for street fairs, band concerts and medicine shows. As the gazebo indicates, the Square is still used for community events.



Abbeville City Hall - 101 North State Street
Although this building has been altered from its original state, it and the building which was previously located on this site have played an important role in the city's history. Once the site of the Veranda Hotel, the building was sold in 1928 and razed by the new owners who replaced it with a new modern building featuring - a roof garden. The new structure became the Audrey Hotel, which closed in 1978. In 1990, it was purchased and renovated to house the City's offices and is also known as the Hotel de Ville.

Vermilion Parish Courthouse - 100 North State Street
The present Courthouse, the third one built on this site, is located in the heart of Abbeville's central business district and is the most massive and distinctive building in the downtown area. Designed by famous architect, A. Hays Town, this Greek revival structure was built in 1953 and serves as the offices for the Vermilion Parish Police Jury and several other parish officials.

Abbey Players Theater - 200 South State Street
This brick building, circa 1910, once housed a saloon and served as such until 1981. It now houses the Abbey Players theater productions. Abbey Players Little Theater was formed in 1976 as a non-profit organization. After years of producing plays in various locations, the group purchased the building and stages four to six performances a year.

Guarino Blacksmith Shop Museum
304 South State Street
"If you can't find it anywhere else, we'll make it for you." the original Sam Guarino statement - a trademark. The blacksmith shop, circa 1913, was originally located at 210 South Jefferson Street. It was one of the few blacksmith shops in operation in a downtown area until 2004. It now serves the community with living history demonstrations and education in the art of blacksmithing. Tours are by appointment only.

The Abbeville Cultural and Historical Alliance Center Museum and Art Gallery -
200 North Magdalen Square
The Alliance Center is a joint effort of four community service organizations in Vermilion Parish - the Vermilion Arts Council, the Acadian Center, the Vermilion Historical Society and the Giant Omelette Celebration. The center displays rotating art exhibits, genealogy of the Acadians, historical documents, photographs as well as exhibits from international omelette celebrations.

Abbeville Main Street/Historic District
Twenty blocks of the Main Street District together with the residential historic district offer many architecturally significant properties and grandiose homes listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1994, Abbeville was designated as a Louisiana Main Street community. With the help of dedicated volunteers Abbeville's Main Street Program is hard at work preserving the historic essence of downtown Abbeville.

The Depot at Magdalen Place - 201 W. Lafayette Street
Originally located near the railroad tracks on the east bank of the Vermilion River, this Iberia and Vermilion Railroad Depot, c. 1894, is a one-story, wooden frame freight depot. In March 2000, the building was moved to its present location where it was renovated and converted to accommodate a gift shop. Also featured at its new site are a completely restored 1930 Cupola Caboose and a later model Bay Window Caboose.

Vermilion Parish War Memorial - Concord Street
The War Memorial was erected in 1990 as a dedication to the memories of the soldiers who lost their lives in the nation's wars and conflicts.

Chris Crusta Memorial Airport
The airport is located on Louisiana Highway 14. It features a 5,000' x 75' lighted and paved runway, non-directional beacon, GCO available and is a Class 2 airport.

Louisiana Military Hall of Fame & Museum
Serving as a tribute to the men & women of Louisiana who have served in the defense of the United States of American, each and every veteran from Louisiana will be recognized in this museum. When completed, it will be a place where veterans and their families can share their military service history and educate young people about the role the military has played in America's freedom and the freedom of countries around the world.

City Parks/Vermilion Parish Library - 337-893-2674, www.vermilion.lib.la.us
Abbeville's recreational facilities include ten parks and numerous youth sporting activities. A.A. Comeaux Park is the home of several youth baseball fields, tennis courts, football and soccer fields and recreational hall. A.A. Comeaux Youth is very proud to have hosted nine Babe Ruth World Series since 1974.

Abbeville Country Club - 10924 Veterans Memorial
Opened in 1927, the 18-hole "Abbeville" course features 6,149 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 72. The course rating is 75 and it has a slope rating of 125. The Country Club also features a clubhouse, pro shop, swimming pool and restaurant.



AREA EVENTS & FESTIVALS

Vermilion Carousel of Arts
Held in April
337.898.4114
abbevillemuseum.org

Daylily Festival & Garden Show
Held the weekend after Memorial Day
337.898.4110 • 337.893.2491

Louisiana Cattle Festival
Held the second weekend in October
337.893.6328
louisianacattlefestival.org

Giant Omelette Celebration
Held the first weekend in November
337.893.0013 • 337.893.2408
giantomelette.org

Downtown Abbeville Christmas Stroll
Held annually the first Thursday in December
337.898.4110

Other Events/Programs
AA Comeaux Youth Inc.
337.898.4209
Abbey Players Theatre
337.893.2442 • abbeyplayers.com
Le Bayou Legendaire Concerts
337.893.5760
VC-Carmel May Fest
337.898.0859 • 337.893.6636
Vermilion Boys & Girls Club
337.898.9745

Come take a stroll through the historic peaceful streets of Abbeville, Louisiana

For a complete list of parish-wide events, visit MostCajun.com