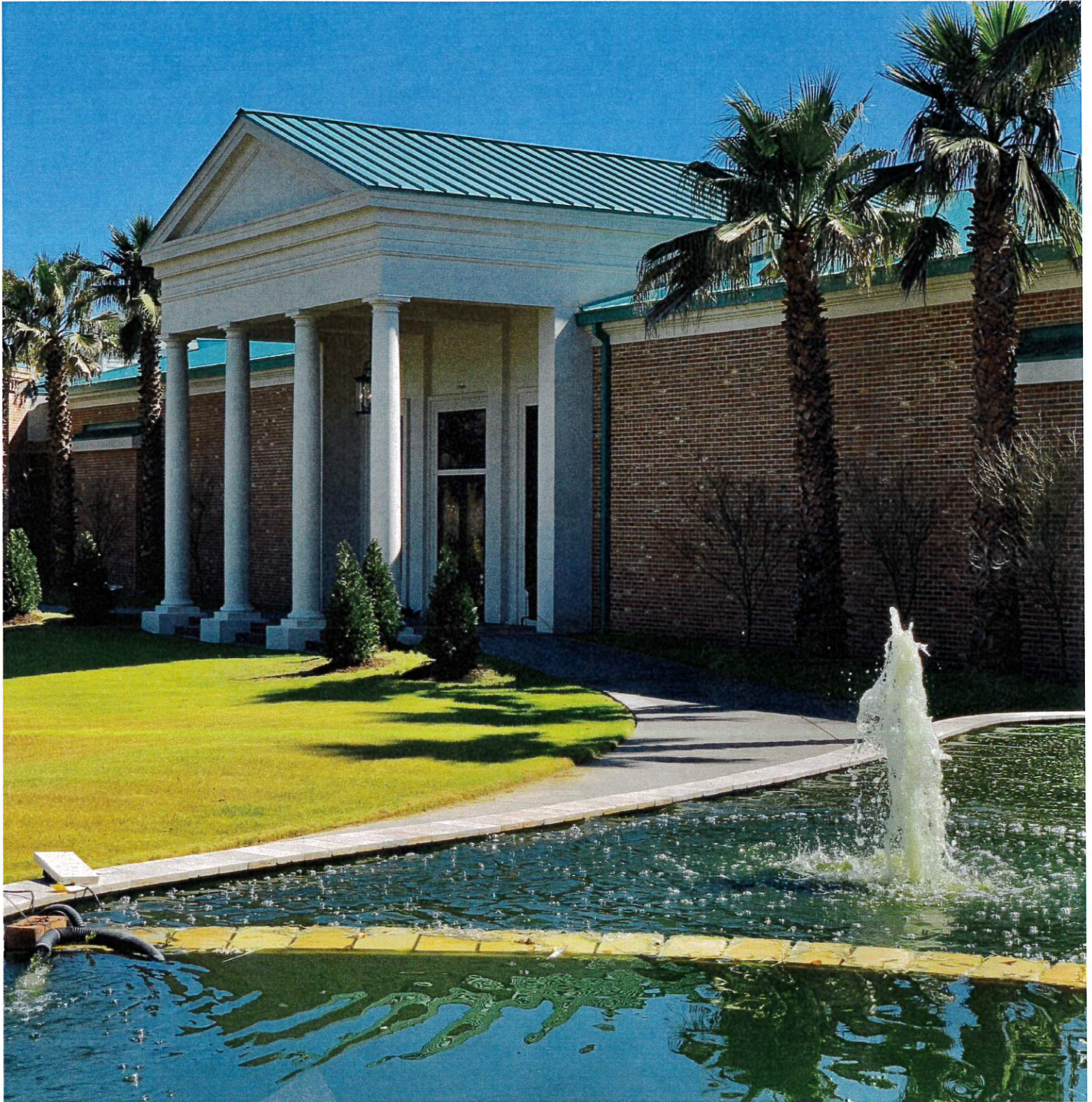


Welcoming banner to the Louisiana Great River Road Interpretive Center and Museum



Outside view of the Louisiana Great River Road Interpretive Center and Museum



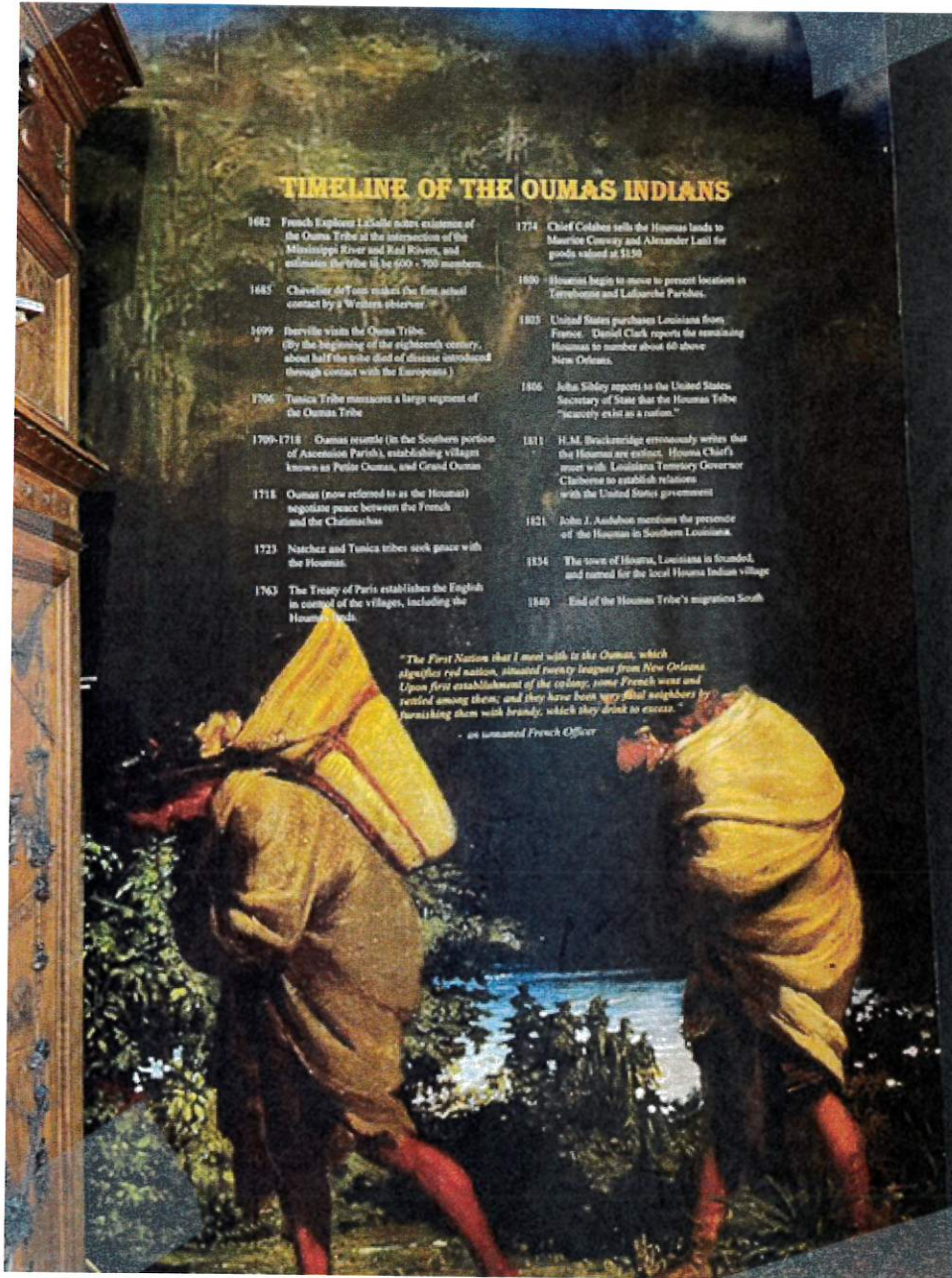
Entryway interpretive panels: Houmas Indians and Early Explorers

## TIMELINE OF THE OUMAS INDIANS

- 1682 French Explorer LaSalle notes existence of the Oumas Tribe at the intersection of the Mississippi River and Red River, and estimates the tribe at 500 - 700 members.
- 1685 Chevalier de Tonn notes the first actual contact by a Western observer.
- 1699 Bienville visits the Ouma Tribe. (By the beginning of the eighteenth century, about half the tribe died of disease introduced through contact with the Europeans.)
- 1706 Tunica Tribe massacres a large segment of the Oumas Tribe.
- 1709-1718 Oumas settle (in the Southern portion of Ascension Parish), establishing villages known as Petite Oumas, and Grand Oumas.
- 1718 Oumas (now referred to as the Houmas) negotiate peace between the French and the Chitimacha.
- 1723 Natchez and Tunica tribes seek peace with the Houmas.
- 1763 The Treaty of Paris establishes the English in control of the villages, including the Houmas lands.
- 1774 Chief Colahon sells the Houmas lands to Maurice Conway and Alexander Lattil for goods valued at \$150.
- 1809 Houmas begin to move to present location in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes.
- 1823 United States purchases Louisiana from France. Daniel Clark reports the remaining Houmas to number about 60 above New Orleans.
- 1866 John Sibley reports to the United States Secretary of State that the Houmas Tribe "scarcely exist as a nation."
- 1811 H.M. Brackenridge erroneously writes that the Houmas are extinct. Houma Chief's meet with Louisiana Territory Governor Claiborne to establish relations with the United States government.
- 1821 John J. Audubon mentions the presence of the Houmas in Southern Louisiana.
- 1834 The town of Houma, Louisiana is founded, and named for the local Houma Indian village.
- 1840 End of the Houmas Tribe's migration South.

*"The First Nation that I met with to the Oumas, which altho' they are not a nation, situated twenty leagues from New Orleans. Upon first establishment of the colony, some French went and settled among them; and they have been very good neighbors by furnishing them with brandy, which they drink to excess."*

*— an unnamed French Officer*



# THE REDISCOVERY OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

## LETTER OF HENRY DE TISSOT, LEFT FOR LA SALLE FROM CHICAGO IN 1680

Letter of Henry de Tissot, left near the mouth of the Mississippi River for the French Governor of Canada, La Salle, with date of 1680.

March 21, 1680, I have the pleasure to bring to you the news of the discovery of the Mississippi River, which I have just discovered in the month of May 1680. I have just returned from a long and arduous journey, during which I have spent several months in the country of the Indians. I have just returned from the mouth of the Mississippi River, which I have just discovered in the month of May 1680. I have just returned from a long and arduous journey, during which I have spent several months in the country of the Indians. I have just returned from the mouth of the Mississippi River, which I have just discovered in the month of May 1680.

## EARLY LOUISIANA TIMELINE

- 1492 - Christopher Columbus discovers the New World.
- 1498 - John Cabot reaches the North American coast.
- 1499 - Amerigo Vesputi reaches the South American coast.
- 1500 - Pedro Álvares Cabral reaches Brazil.
- 1505 - Vasco Núñez Balboa reaches the Pacific Ocean.
- 1507 - Amerigo Vesputi reaches the South American coast.
- 1513 - Juan Ponce de León reaches Florida.
- 1519 - Vasco Núñez Balboa reaches the Pacific Ocean.
- 1521 - Christopher Columbus reaches the Americas.
- 1528 - Pánfilo de Narváez reaches the Gulf of Mexico.
- 1542 - Francisco Vázquez de Coronado reaches the Great Plains.
- 1565 - St. Augustine is founded in Florida.
- 1605 - Jamestown is founded in Virginia.
- 1607 - Roanoke is founded in Virginia.
- 1608 - Jamestown is founded in Virginia.
- 1614 - Captain John Smith explores the Chesapeake Bay.
- 1620 - Plymouth is founded in Massachusetts.
- 1629 - Jamestown is founded in Virginia.
- 1630 - Massachusetts Bay Company is founded.
- 1633 - Jamestown is founded in Virginia.
- 1636 - Maryland is founded.
- 1639 - Georgia is founded.
- 1642 - Rhode Island is founded.
- 1644 - Connecticut is founded.
- 1649 - New York is founded.
- 1650 - Delaware is founded.
- 1656 - Pennsylvania is founded.
- 1675 - Virginia is founded.
- 1676 - North Carolina is founded.
- 1680 - Henry de Tissot discovers the Mississippi River.
- 1682 - René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, explores the Mississippi River.
- 1684 - The first French settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1685 - The first English settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1689 - The first Spanish settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1690 - The first Dutch settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1695 - The first Swedish settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1702 - The first German settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1703 - The first Italian settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1704 - The first Polish settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1705 - The first Russian settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1706 - The first Portuguese settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1707 - The first Spanish settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1708 - The first French settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1709 - The first English settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1710 - The first Spanish settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1711 - The first Dutch settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1712 - The first Swedish settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1713 - The first German settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1714 - The first Italian settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1715 - The first Polish settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1716 - The first Russian settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1717 - The first Portuguese settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1718 - The first Spanish settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1719 - The first French settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1720 - The first English settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1721 - The first Spanish settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1722 - The first Dutch settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1723 - The first Swedish settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1724 - The first German settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1725 - The first Italian settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1726 - The first Polish settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1727 - The first Russian settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1728 - The first Portuguese settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1729 - The first Spanish settlement in Louisiana is founded.
- 1730 - The first French settlement in Louisiana is founded.

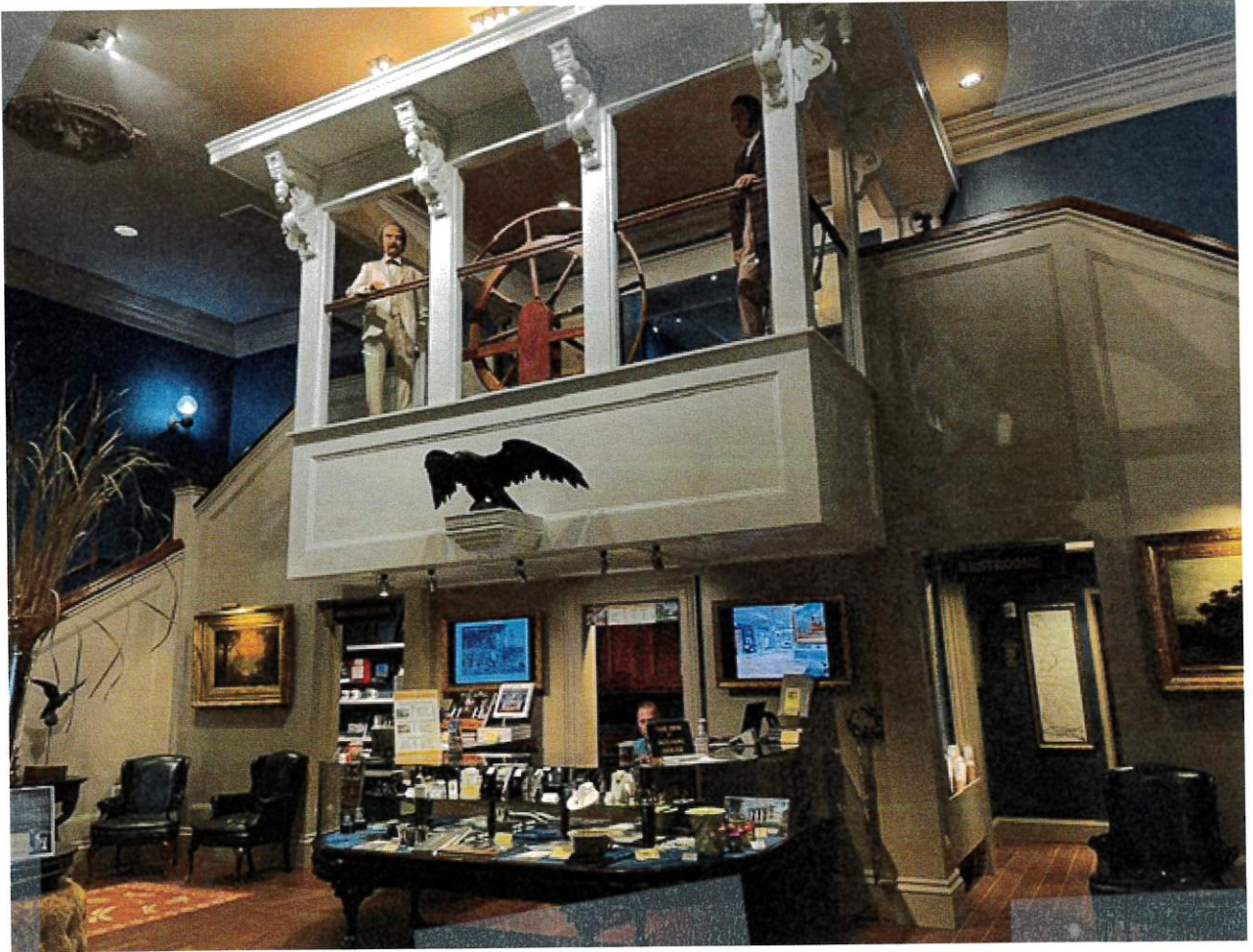


## BIRMINGHAM AND MOBILEVILLE FIND THE MOUTH OF THE MISSISSIPPI

The mouth of the Mississippi River was discovered by the English in 1682. The French had been exploring the river since 1674, but it was the English who first reached the Gulf of Mexico. The expedition was led by James Oglethorpe and included several other explorers. They traveled down the river and eventually reached the Gulf of Mexico. The discovery was significant because it established a direct trade route between the interior of North America and the Gulf of Mexico. The English then established the colony of Georgia in 1733, which was located near the mouth of the river. The colony was founded as a refuge for debtors and as a trading post for the region.

The first French settlement in Louisiana was founded in 1682. The French had been exploring the river since 1674, but it was the French who first established a permanent settlement. The settlement was founded by René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle. He traveled down the river and eventually reached the Gulf of Mexico. The settlement was founded as a trading post and as a refuge for French settlers. The settlement was successful and grew into a major center of commerce and trade in the region. The French then established the colony of Louisiana in 1763, which was located along the Mississippi River. The colony was founded as a refuge for French settlers and as a trading post for the region.





Steamboat Captain greeting passengers boarding – foyer to the Louisiana Great River Road Interpretive Center and Museum - the steps lead to a map room and below is a room dedicated to the naturalist painter, John James Audubon.



Exhibit of the Louisiana Purchase



Exhibit depicting the arrival of the Acadians. Many Acadians settled in the lower Louisiana Great River Road Region.