

## **The origins of 502 Frenchmen**

**Julian Adolphe Lacroix, a freeman of color, acquired the property at 502 Frenchmen Street between 1830 and 1840. He built the current building in 1838. In the 1850's he purchased the lots at 1407-11 Decatur and had all of the buildings enclosed in a façade of granite lintels. He and his family lived upstairs in a lavishly furnished apartment, This building set the tone of Frenchmen Street as a commercial corridor. This building is deemed prominent among extant buildings by Sam Wilson (architectural historian, educator, preservationist and civil activist) often referred to as the Dean of Historic Preservation in New Orleans.**

**Because these early suburbs still bear the stamp of the cultural fabric they wove, the history of the “free people of color” and their impact is important to the understanding of the true nature and character of our city and what it should mean to preserve it.**