

Historical Background on the New Orleans Drainage Canals

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PART 1

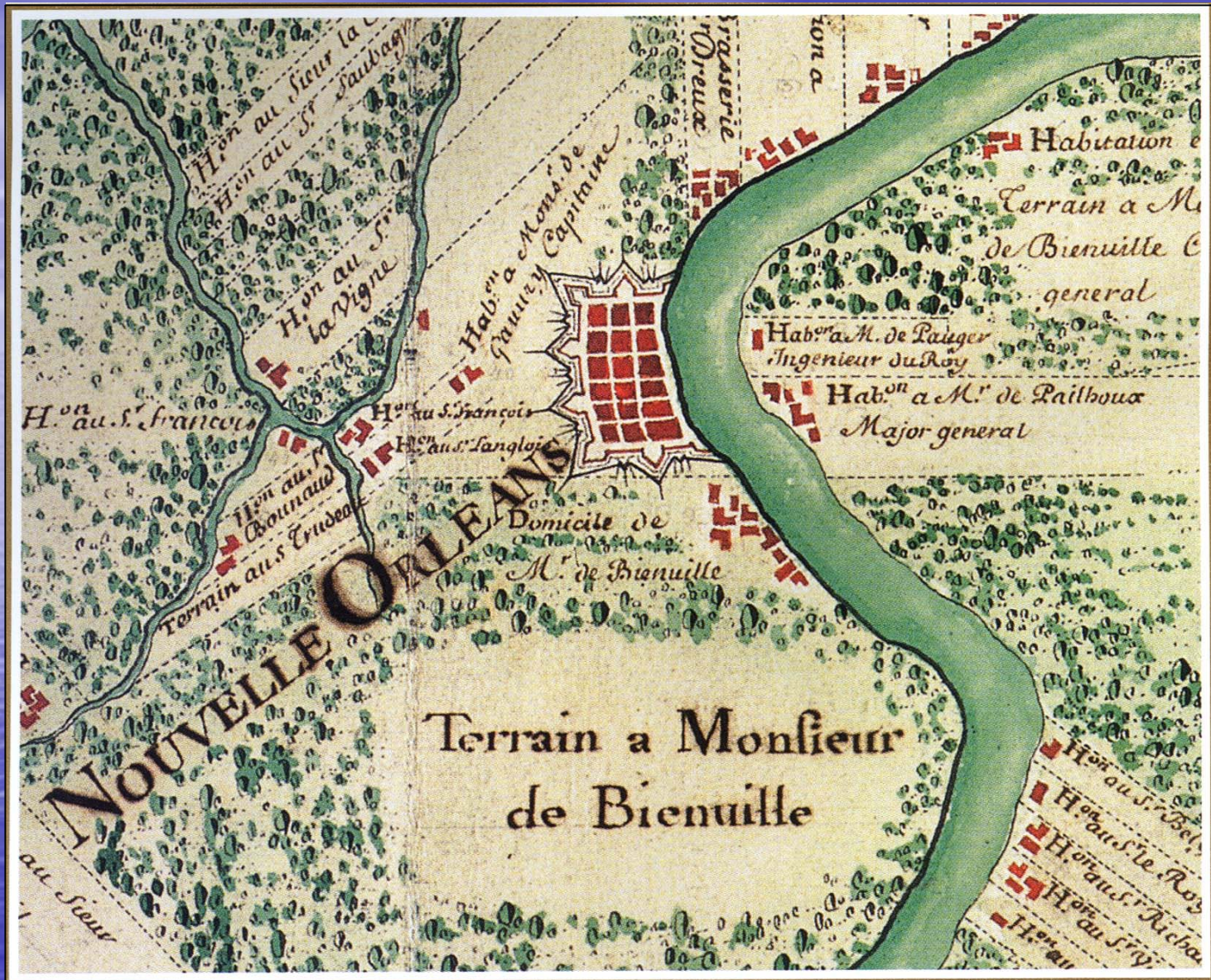
**ORIGINS OF
NEW ORLEANS**



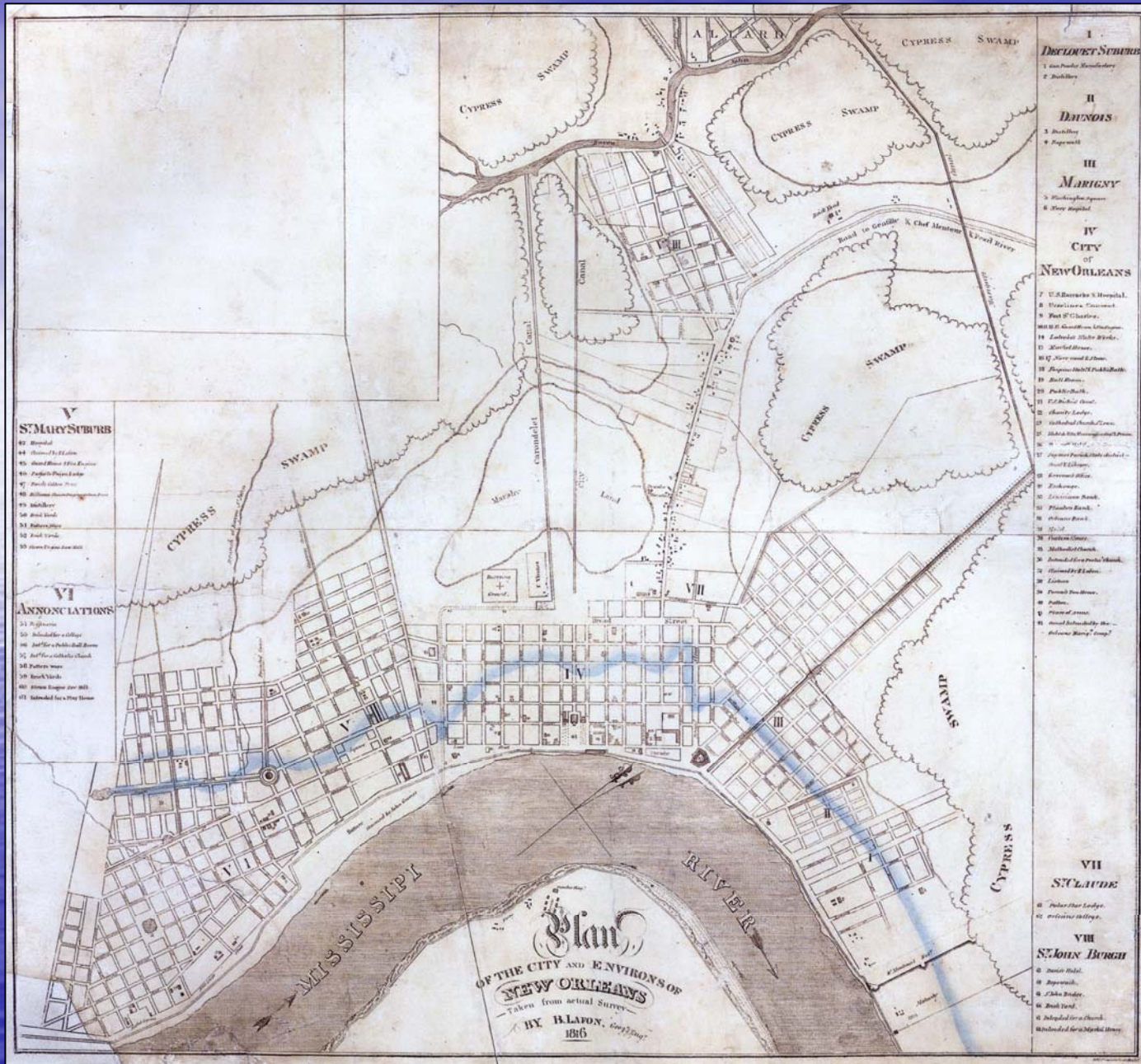
New Orleans is a deep water port established in 1718 about 50 miles up the main stem of the Mississippi River, on the eastern flank of the Mississippi River Delta.



New Orleans was established by the French in **1717-18** to guard the natural portage between the Mississippi River and Bayou St. John, leading to Lake Pochartrain. Note swamp contact, fresh vs brackish water

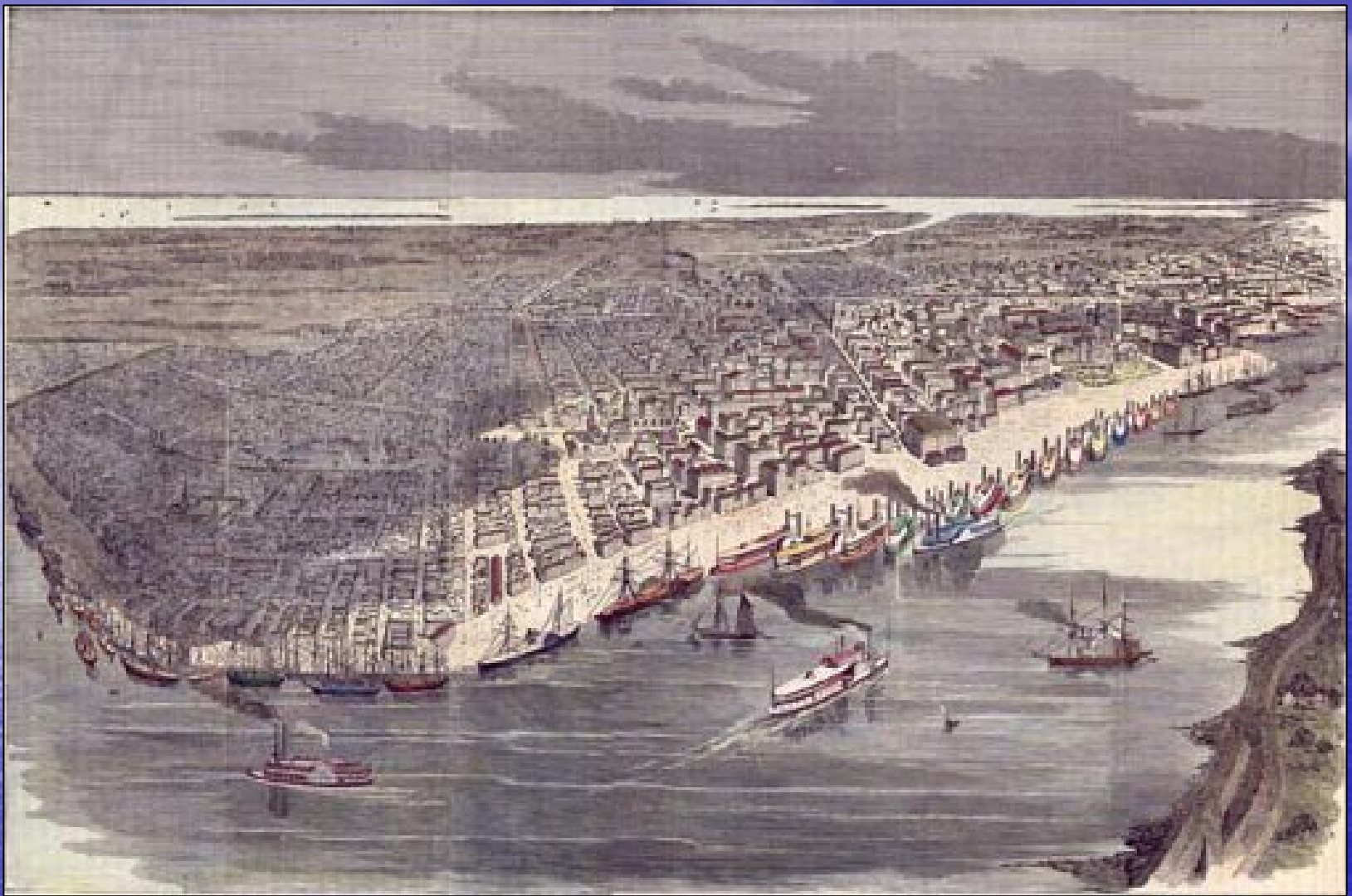


The formal settlement was laid out as 14 city blocks in 1721, with drainage ditches around each block. The original town was surrounded by a defensive bastion in the classic French style.



The first levee was erected in 1718; and the tendency to flooding during late spring and summer runoff came to characterize the settlement. Note "Cypress swamps" north of the city.

Areal limits of the flood of 1816 (blue)



- During the steamboat era (post 1810), New Orleans emerged as the major trans-shipment center for river-borne to sea-born commerce, vice-versa, and as a major port of immigration . 9th largest American port by 1875.