



Welcome to
Crowley
 WHERE LIFE IS
 RICE AND EASY!™

AT THE "RICE CAPITAL OF AMERICA" EVERYONE HAS A SMILE AND A WARM WELCOME. WE INVITE YOU TO GET TO KNOW US A LITTLE BETTER. WE ARE A CITY FULL OF HISTORY AND ARE PROUD OF OUR HERITAGE.

CROWLEY HAS EARNED THE DESIGNATION AS A NATIONAL ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION'S "TREE CITY USA." WE ARE ALSO RECOGNIZED AS A NATIONAL MAIN STREET COMMUNITY.

SPEND A DAY IN CROWLEY AND ENJOY A DOWN-HOME DAY IN THE SOUTH. VISIT OUR HISTORIC SITES LIKE THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE, THE RICE THEATRE, THE LSU AGCENTER RICE RESEARCH STATION AND OUR VAST HISTORIC DISTRICT. BE SURE TO EAT AT ONE OF THE LOCAL RESTAURANTS. TAKE A RELAXING STROLL DOWN HISTORIC PARKERSON AVENUE TO VISIT ONE OF THE UNIQUE SHOPS OR THE GALLERY, FEATURING LOCAL ARTISTS AND THEIR CRAFTS. ALSO, WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR SPECTACULAR EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR SUCH AS MARDI GRAS, JULY FÊTE AND THE INTERNATIONAL RICE FESTIVAL. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS, GO TO WWW.CROWLEY-LA.COM.

**COME VISIT US HERE IN CROWLEY.
 YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME.
 WE'LL BE WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU.**



Crowley features three major festivals a year: Carnival d'Acadie, International Rice Festival and July Fête.

Carnival d'Acadie is a Mardi Gras celebration that holds true to the cultural roots from which the tradition originated. Carnival d'Acadie is held on Mardi Gras day.

The International Rice Festival was first held in conjunction with Crowley's 50th birthday in 1937. The festival has gained international fame over the years and has been attended by celebrities such as Senator and Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Senator Barry Goldwater. The festival features two parades, rice cooking and eating contests, entertainment, arts and crafts and all types of food. The festival is held annually on the third weekend of October.

July Fête is an old-fashioned July 4th celebration complete with a parade, music, children's activities, fireworks and a softball tournament.

For more information call us at **1-866-665-4642** or visit our Web site at www.crowley-la.com.

Crowley,
Louisiana
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SPECIAL EVENTS

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GRAND OPERA HOUSE 505 NORTH PARKERSON AVENUE

In 1898, Dave Lyons, a deputy sheriff and a livery stable owner, began building an opera house at a cost of \$18,000 with seating for 1,000. Lyons opened the Grand Opera House on November 23, 1901, when Crowley was just a village with a population of 4,000. 800 patrons went to see Harry Ward's minstrels.

For 39 years traveling road companies performed in Crowley, which was ideally situated on the Southern Pacific railroad between New Orleans and Houston. Busby Berkeley's extravaganzas, the opera "Faust," Irene Dunne in "Irene," "The Way of the Cross," and Prima Donna of the Paris Opera, Madame de Vilchez Bisset, were but a few of the long list of famous names and shows presented on stage.

Jack Dempsey and Jess Willard, Babe Ruth, Buffalo Bill and Pawnee Bill, Huey Long, William Jennings Bryan, Clark Gable and Enrico Caruso were a few of the famous who made personal appearances on this stage.

When Dave Lyons died in 1940, the Grand Opera House closed its doors and remained untouched for 60 years. The opera house is currently undergoing \$2.5 million in renovations to the second floor opera house and third floor ballroom. Tours and performances will begin in the summer of 2008. Complete restoration will be done by the summer of 2008. For more information call 337-785-0440.

RICE THEATRE 323 NORTH PARKERSON AVENUE

The Southern Amusement Company built the art deco movie theatre in 1940. Before its scheduled opening date in August of that year, the theatre was damaged by a flood caused by a hurricane and had to be renovated before it finally opened in January 1941. The newly renovated theatre now features live shows. For more information call the city of Crowley at 337-788-4103 or visit our web site at www.crowley-la.com.



DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

Take a trip back in time with a journey to historic downtown Crowley. This area of the city maintains its original turn-of-the-century atmosphere. Some merchants are restoring the buildings to their original color themes and trimmings.

Visit First National Bank, 126 North Parkerson Avenue. When constructed in 1920, this seven-story "skyscraper" was the tallest building between Houston and New Orleans. It is currently the tallest building in Crowley.

The downtown district holds many unique shops, with merchants who are ready to show you their treasures. While shopping in beautiful historic downtown Crowley, take the opportunity to enjoy delicious cuisine at one of our tasty restaurants.



HISTORIC DISTRICT

Citizens of Crowley work hard to preserve their city's history and heritage. The Crowley Historic District is a shining example of their hard work. Because of the large Midwestern influence, all of the superb Victorian residences feature Queen Anne-style architecture and Eastlake galleries. This type of architecture is unique to the Crowley area and cannot be found in such quantities anywhere else in the state. Crowley has more than 200 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places.

Among those buildings are the School-de-la Houssaye House, 704 East Third Street. This building was constructed as Crowley's first public school in 1887 and is one of the oldest buildings in Crowley. In 1893, the schoolhouse was purchased by a private owner and remodeled as his personal residence.

The Lawrence-Hoffpauer House, 219 East Second Street, is a colonial revival residence built in 1906 by W.W. Duson as a wedding present for his daughter, Mamie Duson. The home has remained unchanged throughout the years. The William Hoffpauer family currently owns the home. Percy Lawrence was one of the organizers of the First National Bank and helped to build the seven-story bank building.

Information is available at City Hall, the Acadia Parish Tourist Commission, Crowley Chamber of Commerce and the Main Street office for a driving or walking tour of the historic business and residential districts.



CROWLEY CITY HALL 425 NORTH PARKERSON AVENUE

Located in the restored Crowley Motor Company building, Crowley City Hall is home to the Rice Interpretive Center and the J.D. Miller Recording Studio.

Crowley earned the title "Rice Capital of America" by milling more rice annually than all other rice-producing countries in the world combined. Also contributing to this title is the large number of rice mills that line Mill Street.

The Rice Interpretive Center focuses on the rice industry. Watch a video on the history, growing and production of rice and take a look at the old machinery and other exhibits associated with the rice industry. Then take a driving tour down the Rice Trail. From rice mills to the LSU AgCenter Rice Research Station to Crystal Rice Heritage Farm to rice and crawfish farms, you will get a glimpse of this fascinating industry.

A recreation of the J.D. Miller Recording Studio is located on the top floor of Crowley City Hall. In 1946, he decided to open his own studio and produce records using local talent on his own labels. Miller was also a songwriter for a Nashville publishing company and wrote several hits. His most famous, "It Wasn't God Who Made Honky Tonk Angels," was recorded by Kitty Wells in the early fifties.

Miller's studio is the oldest recording studio in continuous existence in the state of Louisiana and is best known for its Cajun, zydeco, blues and country releases from artists including: Happy Fats, Slim Harpo, Lightnin' Slim, Lazy Lester, Jimmy C. Newman, Clifton Chenier, Doug Kershaw, Nathan Abshire, Sammy Kershaw, Warren Storm and Sonny Landreth. The studio has also seen inspirational artists such as John Fogerty and Paul Simon, whose Grammy Award winning CD "Graceland" was partially recorded at Master-Trak. Watch a video in the studio theatre that chronicles the history of this studio — a place where legends performed.

