

1. Hôtel de Bernuy



The home of businessman Jean de Bernuy retains many of its original features despite continuous remodelling works. Constructed in two stages between the 1500's and 1530's, this mansion house stretches across a substantial estate that comprised outbuildings, kitchens, offices, storage rooms, stables... Only the main elements remain to this day: two courtyards around which can be found the residential buildings, one in the Low Gothic style, the other featuring Renaissance décor inspired by Antiquity. From the small corner garden you can admire the buildings and the extremely tall staircase tower dating from the first phase of construction works. Its exceptional dimensions made this an architectural benchmark in Toulouse during the XVI Century. Thirty years after work finished, the mansion house became a Jesuit college. The doorway on Rue Lakanal dates back to 1606 and is attributed to architect Pierre II Souffron, recalling the venue's new purpose.

2. Hôtel de Pierre Comère



This mansion house giving onto Rue Saint-Rome and Rue Tripière has two faces; one devoted to its merchant activity and the other to the private life of its proprietor. This building, much like other "merchant houses", combines a commercial purpose, with boutiques facing the street, and the residential role of its courtyard. Pierre Comère, a merchant and trader, commissioned its construction from 1622 and 1626. At 3 Rue Saint-Rome, the mansion house's decor makes use of brick and stone. Note the arch that houses a boutique: originally, a second arch existed to its right. Perpendicular to this, at 9 Rue Tripière, architect Pierre Levesville designed a suspended frontispiece and decors of diamond-shaped points made of cut brick. It opens up onto its courtyard, with arches modelled on those of the former Capitole. Upon Pierre Comère's death, these buildings with two faces were split between his two heirs.

3. Hôtel d'Astorg - Saint-Germain



Jean Delcros in the 1530s, Jean Astorg around 1570, Guillaume de Saint-Germain around 1600... Successive owners modified this mansion house according to a complex blueprint. Open the doors to 16 Rue des Changes, which is accessible during the week. Beforehand, take a look at the façade that dates to the time of merchant Jean Delcros, and its windows with fluted pilasters. Once the threshold has been crossed, a covered passage leads you to the first courtyard. The building at the rear was built by the Capitoul Jean Astorg and features windows framed by moulded grips and sections of pilasters. Guillaume de Saint-Germain, also a Capitoul, had the building to the right constructed, as well as the passageways and wooden staircase, which are all remarkably well preserved. This jumble of courtyards and buildings illustrates the complexity of the way in which the mansion houses of Toulouse were constructed, with each proprietor adding their own elements to the building.

4. Hôtel Delfau



Built between 1493 and 1497, this mansion house was commissioned by merchant Pierre Delfau. With its boutique and its courtyard dominated by a tower staircase, it is characteristic of a type of mansion house building in XV and XVI Century Toulouse. As with the Hôtel d'Astorg, a business premises is located on the ground floor, whilst a long corridor leads to the living areas. In order to explore these, step up to an arched doorway at 20 Rue de la Bourse. The boutique and corridor still boast their original cross-ribbed vaults, examples of which are rare nowadays in the civil architecture of Toulouse. The courtyard stretches out towards the rear, as well as the tower and the walkways that lead to the various floors of the main body of the building. This mansion house changed hands in step with the owner's fortunes and misfortunes, just like so many others in Toulouse. François de Papus, an advisor to Parliament in 1618, was one such owner.

5. Hôtel de Nupces

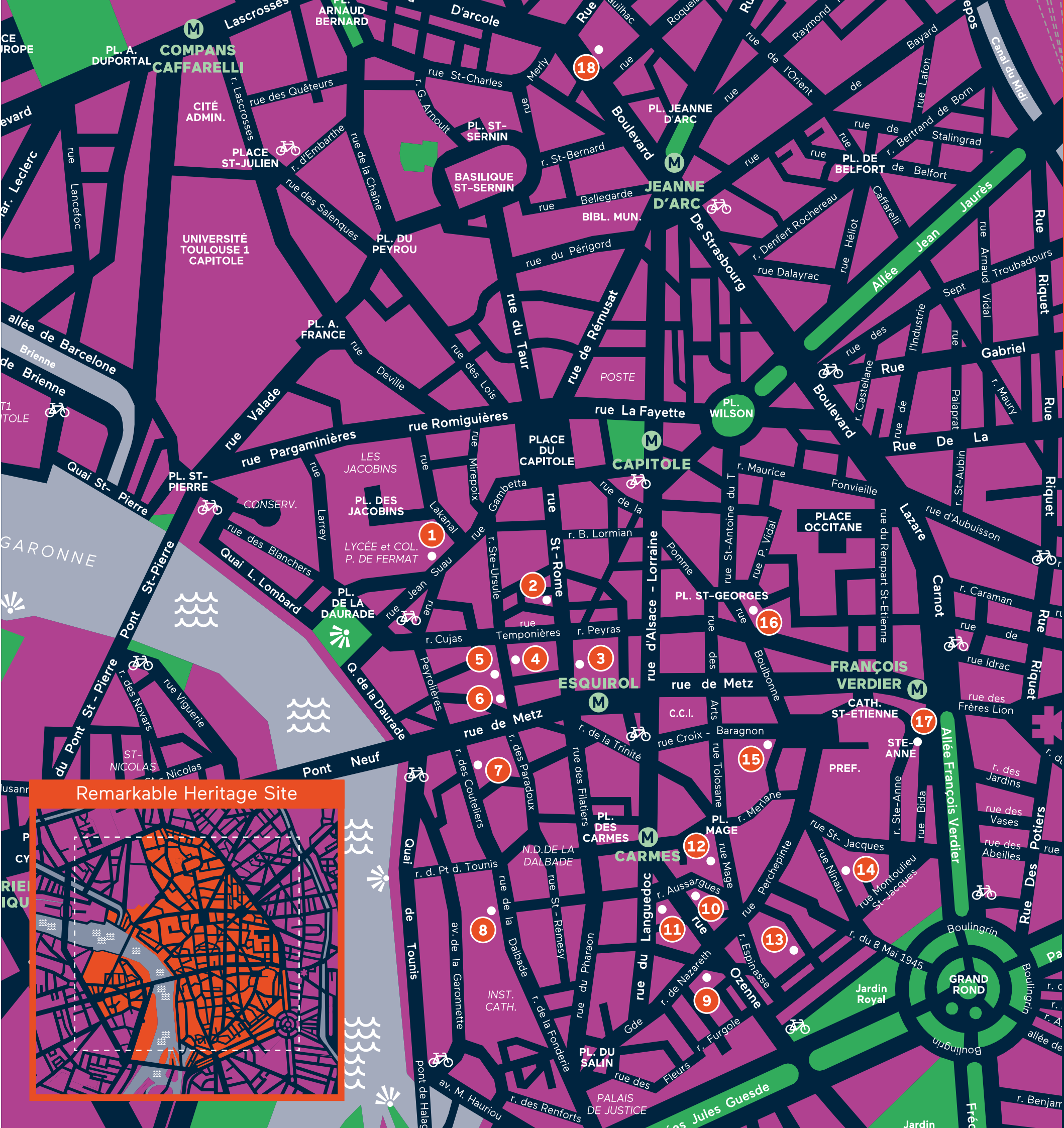


At n°15 Rue de la Bourse, parliamentarian Jean-Georges de Nupces had this monumental mansion house built in 1716, the only one in the neighbourhood to sit between a courtyard and gardens. Once you have stepped through the doorway flanked by imposing carriage wheels, you discover the courtyard of honour bordered by two wings set at right angles that housed the stables and storage rooms to the left and, to the right, the kitchens. The door to the main central building leads to a stone stairway that serves the main reception rooms. Ionic order and high ceilings set apart the first floor, which nowadays has been partitioned. A garden and its orangery, which is visible from 4bis Rue Clémence-Isaure, complete the ensemble. The layout and order of this mansion house exude a solemnity that could also be felt at the Hôtel de Pennautier in the previous century. Abandoned in the 1950s, a restoration project thankfully saved its façades.

6. Hôtel d'Assézat



In the XIX Century, Baron Taylor said that this mansion house was worthy of a Prince. It was, however, the home of businessman Pierre d'Assezat, who commissioned the building of one of the most harmonious and thoughtfully decorated private houses of the Renaissance. Several inheritances and a soupçon of patience allowed him to acquire the plots of land needed to begin construction of his mansion house, designed by architect Nicolas Bachelier, in March 1555. In accordance with Toulouse tradition in the XVI Century, the tower staircase, which here sits in a square corner, serves the living quarters of the main building. A ramp beneath the tower leads to the kitchens. The ensemble is rounded off by other amenities: a loggia and a walkway held up by imposing consoles adorned with volutes. Bachelier drew his inspiration from the plans of Sebastiano Serlio: other than the superposition of the order, note the tripartite design of the bays of the second floor, set out by the architect. The doorway surmounted by an oculus leads to the proprietor's office and, nowadays, provides access to the Jeux Floraux Hall.



The Remarkable Heritage Site

The historic centre of Toulouse is classified as a Remarkable Heritage Site (formerly known as a protected area) since 21<sup>st</sup> August 1986. It extends across 254 hectares, with 230 ha that fall under the city and 24 ha that form part of the Garonne. In 2016, the Conservation and Development plan was launched, outlining initiatives for promoting the site.

Legend

- Green Spaces
- Viewpoint
- Metro Station
- Tramway Station
- Velo Toulouse Station

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Heritage Walks  
Mansion houses

Truly remarkable features of our streets, it seems we know mansion houses by heart... but do we really?

Urban residences of important figures prior to the Revolution, originally home to a family and their domestic staff, service rooms were normally located in the outbuildings, with stables and storage rooms on one side and kitchens on the other. Its arrangement and decor guided visitors from the official entrance to the private rooms and, depending on the period, to the main staircase, great hall, lounges...

Toulouse's Preservation Area features around 200 mansion houses or vestiges from the Middle Ages to the early XX Century. The emergence of the Capitoulat from a high-society of merchants and parliamentarians encouraged building of these homes designed by great architects, notably during the XVI and XVII Centuries. Following the Revolution, artists and industrialists joined this closed society by mimicking the proprietors of these beautiful homes.

The legends of the "pastel trader's" house, of the "capitulary" staircase tower and even of the "parliamentarian" mansion house between courtyard and garden are still alive today in Toulouse. These tended to be divided up among heirs or sold off due to the fortunes or misfortunes of the owner. Often open from Monday to Friday: explore these places of life, work and encounters that are so essential to understanding Toulouse.

7. Hôtel Dassier and Hôtel Tornié-Barrassy



Once separate buildings, these houses are now joined and are home to a hotel. As so often in Toulouse, the façade at 46 Rue des Couteliers offers no clues as to the remarkable features that lie behind it. This part of the mansion house bears the name of the Dassier family, proprietors from the start of the 1830s, to which we owe the neoclassical façade that gives onto the street. Once you pass through the carriage entrance you discover the courtyard and its regular façades of the XVIII Century, probably restored during the following century. The current dining room can be found in the living quarters that once belonged to parliamentarian Guillaume de Tornié (1525) and then to Capitoul Pierre Barrassy (1536). A Renaissance fireplace, one of the last in Toulouse, is sculpted with medallions adorned with portraits and the coat of arms of the Capitoul. A staircase from the XVIII Century, adorned with remarkable ironwork, depicts a serpent with an apple tempting Eve to sin...

8. Hôtel de Molinier and Hôtel de Clary (« de Pierre »)



During the Renaissance, mansion houses' erudite decors were inspired by treatises on architecture. Numbers 25 and 22 on Rue de la Dalbade illustrate this phenomenon perfectly. At n°25, François de Clary, the first President of the Toulouse Parliament, enhanced a mansion house built by Nicolas Bachelier with a new wing giving onto the street between 1609 and 1611. The proprietor was a cultivated gentleman and demonstrated this fact: the façade designed by Pierre II Souffron drew inspiration from the works of Andrea Palladio. The abundance of details taken from the prints of Jacques Androuet du Cerceau is also worth noting. The decorations on the street side were only completed in the XIX Century. Parliamentarian Gaspard de Molinier had already done much the same at n°22. The doorway to his mansion house is adorned with a fantastical bestiary, as well as with plays of relief and colour. Dating from 1556, it recalls the plans for a doorway by Sebastiano Serlio, whose Livre Extraordinaire was published just five years earlier.

9. Hôtel d'Avizard



This mansion house provides evidence of the importance of the use of chromatic brickwork, stone and plaster effects in Toulouse during the XVII and XVIII Centuries. Its excellent state of preservation reinforces its historical significance. Owned by parliamentarian Claude d'Avizard, its current form dates back to the late XVII Century. Its façade at 24 Grande Rue Nazareth is more carefully designed than that of its wing that runs along the small Rue Caminade, which is more austere. The central doorway alternates brick and stonework, whilst the interplay of shapes and colours stretch across the entire façade. Two balconies that are held up by powerful consoles indicate the presence of the state rooms above the street. Enter the courtyard and note the stables and storage rooms beneath the main body of the building, with the main entrance to the mansion house on the left giving access to the monumental ramp-on-ramp stairway.

10. Hôtel Dahus-Tournoer



As with other mansion houses in Toulouse, false machicolation and crenels are diverted from their original purpose here and used for their symbolic value. Built in 1460-1470, this mansion house at 9 Rue Ozenne originally stretched across a very significant plot of land. The Hôtel Maynier, on the other side of the street, was an integral part of this building constructed by Capitoul Pierre Dahus. Upon his death, it was split into two homes linked by outbuildings. These disappeared when the Rue Ozenne was laid around 1907. Guillaume de Tournoer bought the mansion house and began construction on the imposing tower staircase in 1533. Note the stylistic variations in the decor: the mullioned windows are Gothic, the doorway to the tower, with its low arch, is adorned with Renaissance motifs, whilst the pedimented windows on the top two floors of the tower date from the XVII Century.

11. Hôtel Maynier known as « du Vieux-Raisin »



Named after a since disappeared inn, this mansion house at 36 Rue du Languedoc was connected to the Hôtel Dahus, with which it shares certain characteristics (crenels, false machicolation). Remodelled by successive proprietors, it stands as a little laboratory of Renaissance architecture. The great staircase tower was reworked in the XVI Century: note the medallions adorned with portraits above the windows. The two wings standing at right angles, featuring windows subtly decorated with grotesques, were built by Capitoul Béringuier Maynier between 1515 and 1528. Jean Burnet, Clerk of the Parliament, purchased the mansion house in 1547 and also undertook works. He enclosed the courtyard with a vaulted gallery surmounted by a terrace. The mannerist windows featuring atlantes and caryatids may date back to this time. Attributed to Nicolas Bachelier, their suppleness and expressiveness are depicted with great skill.

12. Hôtel d'Espie



Nestling behind a brick doorway at 3 Rue Mage, this mansion house combines comfort and ingenuity. This project proved to be the ruin of several families... best explored during the city's Heritage Days. Félix-François d'Espie entrusted these works to Hyacinthe Labat de Savignac. In order to maximise comfort and light, in 1750 the architect suggested a plan set between courtyard and gardens with the staircase on the left-hand wing, ensuring that the central body of the building would be devoted to the reception rooms. Almost entirely made of brick, this mansion house conceals a surprise: its attics are also brick-built, according to a technique invented by Espie who sought to design a fire-proof building. Declared bankrupt, he quickly sold on the mansion house to the Marquis de Chalvet, the Seneschal of Toulouse, who met his own ruin continuing its construction. Irishman Justin McCarthy Reagh acquired the property and completed the work in the late XVIII Century without changing either the distribution or the sequence of the façades, which boast a timeless elegance.

13. Hôtel de Pennautier



This mansion house at 16 Rue Vélane, built in a U-shape around a courtyard of honour, looks out onto one of the largest private gardens in the city. Best explored during the city's Heritage Days. Henri Reich de Pennautier, a parliamentarian, had this mansion house constructed between 1650 and 1654. It is from this period that the façades looking onto the courtyard date. Sober and regular, they are studded with bull's eye and dormer windows. This building was undoubtedly far less sober originally: the removal of the plasterwork in the early XX Century destroyed the colour effects of the façade. The outbuildings, demolished in 1963, stood on the other side of Rue Vélane. The mansion house was once the property of Jean-Gabriel Amable de Riquet, the youngest son of the designer of the Canal du Midi. It was he who commissioned the façade looking onto the gardens and the many interior decorations that date back to the mid-XVIII Century, which can sometimes be viewed during Heritage Days.

14. Hôtel d'Ulmo



Behind its wall pierced by a doorway and surmounted by a terrace, this mansion house at 15 Rue Ninau was developed around a set of medieval buildings. It houses a straight stone staircase, built ramp-on-ramp, with a resting platform between the floors, which is reputed to be one of the very first in the city. Jean de Ulmo, a magistrate, added this feature in 1529 to the right of an older building. Its presence is signalled by a triangular frontispiece, as well as a canopy, probably from the XVII Century. The top part of the old staircase tower to the left was removed, having become redundant. These works were financed by funds embezzled by the dishonest magistrate. Condemned in 1536, this mansion house was acquired by his accuser... Take the passageway to the right of the courtyard of honour that leads into the rear courtyard: before being turned into a garden, this area led to the stables and storage rooms.

15. Hôtel de Bonfontan



Philippe de Bonfontan, both Marquis and Capitoul, acquired what is now 41 Rue Croix-Baragnon in 1767. His mansion house brings a harmonious touch of neoclassical decor to the street. On the main façade, the three central spans form an amply decorated Avant-Corps, with a ring of windows running round the centre of the first floor. This façade is thoughtfully designed right up to its cornice, and contrasts with the simplicity of the adjacent façade: not as visible and far less ornate. The main entrance is slightly off-centre to the left. This shift allows the courtyard to form a regular rectangle despite the irregular shape of the plot. It is, nevertheless, extremely sober, with openings around its centre for the store rooms and stables. The terrace, set to the left, is not really a suitable space for formal use: it simply provides architectural symmetry.

16. Hôtel de Lafage



The Capitouls took advantage of a fire in part of Place Saint-Georges to create unified façades. Guillaume Cammas, architect of Le Capitole, designed this mansion house project in 1747. Henri-Joseph de Lafage, General Syndic of the States of Languedoc, was chosen to undertake this work. This was a very advantageous deal: part of the costs of the work would be assumed by the city. With a streamlined aspect, the façade of thirteen bays is enlivened by the central Avant-Corps and its frontispiece. The arcades were devoted to trade, providing additional revenue to Lafage. Approaching the grill of the carriage door you can see the oval-shaped courtyard, which communicates with a now disappeared garden. The more private rooms, used for family life, are set here, whilst the larger formal rooms look out over the square. Finally, take note of the staircase that dates back to 1753, heralding the end of the building's construction.

17. Hôtel, 27 allées François-Verdier

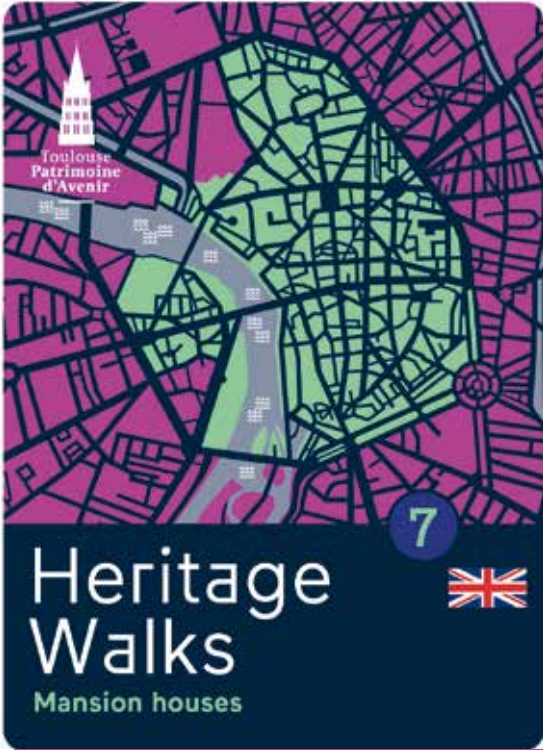


This home with the allure of a Bourgeois house can be found on the site of the former Cathedral quarter, destroyed and rebuilt after the Revolution. Whilst its façade on Rue Sainte-Anne dates back undoubtedly to the Ancien Régime, the building offered a totally different face to the Allées François-Verdier following the dismantling of the ramparts during the 1830s. The monumental style and symmetry of its composition and the presence of outbuildings, here surmounted by terraces, provide it with all the characteristics of a mansion house. The decor is mostly concentrated in the wings: Doric pillars, a frieze of palmettes, frontispieces... The decorative elements in moulded terracotta are straight from the catalogue of the Virebent Factory. Beyond the doorway you can discover what once was a garden: the boulevard, formerly a promenade that encircled the city. In passing, be sure to note the cast iron rings attached to the wing on the left, designed originally for tying horses.

18. Hôtel de Pauilhac, Hôtel Marsan and Hôtel Calvet



Built in 1859 by the father of gymnast Jules Léotard, this mansion house was bought in 1888 by the Pauilhac Family, co-founders of the Job paper mill. The three heirs, two sisters and a brother, divided up the property in 1905. They undertook a number of works here, designed by Barthélémy Guitard. Juliette Pauilhac and her husband, Antoine-François Calvet, had a new mansion house built at n°76 Boulevard de Strasbourg in the Neo-Louis XVI style, with neoclassical décor that imitated stonework. Geneviève Pauilhac and Jules Marsan occupied the central section giving onto the street, whose façade with five spans is adorned with a central bow window. The son, Georges Pauilhac, inherited n°72. At the rear of the courtyard, head towards the neo-Gothic building and its doorway surmounted by a knight: this is home to his collection of weapons. Considered the "last great armoury of Europe", it was purchased upon his death in 1959 by the Musée des Invalides.



This new special edition of Heritage Walks invites us to enjoy a sensory, aesthetic and historic immersion into the heart of the ancient city centre of Toulouse. Safeguarded and proudly showcased, there are 142 listed mansion houses within the city's Remarkable Heritage Site zone, and around 210 dotted all over the centre, not to mention the countless patrician houses that reflect greatly ambitious architectural development projects of their times.

These provide evidence of the commercial, artistic and political life of Toulouse from the medieval period until the early 20th Century, painstakingly built from stone with timeless elegance, 18 sites that now present a heritage that is solemn and breathtaking!

An exceptional treasure!

Jean-Luc Moudenc  
Mayor of Toulouse  
President of Toulouse Métropole

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