

# 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.

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### 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



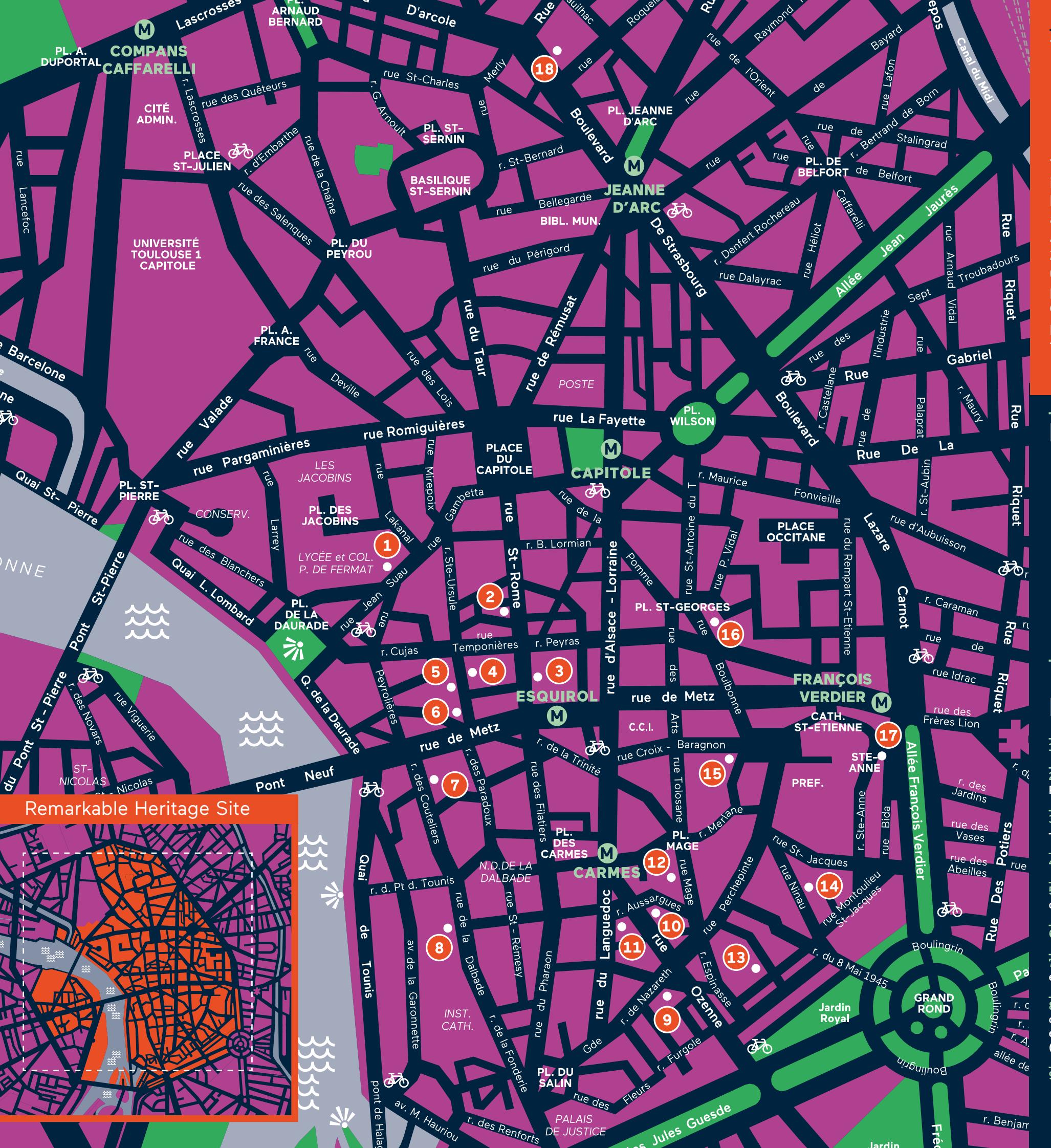
Built between 1493 and 1497, this mansion house was commissioned by merchant Pierre Delfau. With its boutique and its courtyard dominated by a tower staircase, it is characteristic of a type of mansion house building in XV and XVI Century Toulouse. As with the Hôtel d'Astorg, a business premises is located 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 Pupus, an advisor to Parliament in 1618, was one such owner.

### 5. Hôtel de Nupcés



At n°15 Rue de la Bourse, parliamentarian Jean-Georges de Nupcés 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-lsaure, 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.



## 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.



Toulouse  
Patrimoine  
d'Avenir

### 7. Hôtel Dassier and Hôtel Tornié-Barrysy



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



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



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.