



## WDSU

*In the  
heart of  
New Orleans*

Brulatour Courtyard, which was built in 1816, has the distinction of being one of New Orleans' oldest landmarks and is probably the most photographed and painted patio in the country.

Although the Courtyard now bears the name of its second owner, Pierre Brulatour, the building and courtyard were built in 1816 by Francois Seignouret. A native of Bordeaux, France, Monsieur Seignouret was a wine importer by trade and a furniture designer by hobby. After the battle of New Orleans in which he fought valiantly on the fields of Chalmette, Monsieur Seignouret designed and built the structure as a combination living and business quarters.

Soon, horsedrawn carriages were entering the long archway from Royal Street. They circled the courtyard's graceful centerpiece before discharging their passengers. The section at the rear of the patio, originally a stable and hayloft, has been converted to accommodate a second and third floor in relatively recent years. The second floor of the front section of the building is actually an "entresol", or mezzanine, where Monsieur Seignouret stored his casks of delicate Bordeaux wines. The stairway under the classic Spanish arch at the left-rear of the court rose to the mansion's slave quarters and kitchen area. On the third floor, overlooking both Royal Street and the courtyard, were the elegant rooms where the family lived and entertained.

The years were not kind to the house as it passed through many hands. Then at the dawn of the century, the decaying old structure was bought by William Radcliffe Irby, a philanthropist, who began to faithfully restore its early grandeur. He installed a magnificent huge organ and dedicated the central room on the third floor to the appreciation of fine music. The organ still functions perfectly and is used on special occasions. The largest room on the Royal Street side of the top floor served as an ornate ballroom, and many debutantes from New Orleans' finest families made their first formal debuts there.

Since 1949, the Brulatour mansion has housed the executive offices of the Royal Street Corporation, and the studios of WDSU Radio and Television. WDSU-TV was one of the first commercial television stations in the United States, and is an affiliate of NBC-TV. The station has carefully restored, preserved and maintained the mansion's original classic beauty.

Considered among the outstanding works of architecture in the Vieux Carre, the mansion and the courtyard continue to reflect the grace, charm, and "old world" atmosphere of the historic Vieux Carre. The stately wrought-iron gates, which frame the patio, form a scene which has become the identifying symbol of the Royal Street Corporation.



Royal Street Corporation  
 Owner of WDSU AM-FM-TV  
 Would like to thank you  
 for your reception report.



*Lindsey Riddle*  
 LINDSEY RIDDLE  
 Vice-President Radio & TV Engineering

WDSU-AM  
 1280 KC  
 NBC  
 5,000 watts

WDSU-FM ✓  
 93.3 MC  
 All Stereo  
 100,000 watts

WDSU-TV Channel 6  
 All Color NBC-TV  
 100,000 watts video  
 20,000 watts audio  
 Antenna Height 976 feet

ROYAL STREET CORPORATION  
 520 ROYAL STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LA.



**WDSU**

*Brulatour Courtyard...*