

History of the... *Old French House*

French colonist Louis Frasier is believed to have built this home in 1737 as an outpost of European culture on the shore of a new world. It is proudly and magnificently French, with the same high ceilings characteristic of the Vieux Carré apartments in New Orleans.

Frasier built his home of hand-made brick with wooden pegged columns of cypress. Slate for the roof came over as ballast in the holds of French sailing ships.

The brick-walled cellar is unusual in this damp region, yet it is so dry that previous owners have used it to store books. It now serves as the wine cellar.

The Old French House predates American Independence by more than three decades. French Governor Jean Baptiste Bienville commanded the entire Louisiana Territory from his quarters here.

Records are scarce, but we know the house remained with Frasier's heirs until 1820. Before joining the United States with the Louisiana Purchase, subsequent residents were of varied nationalities as the colony came under French, Spanish, German, and English influence.

The Old French House remained a residence until 1962 when it was acquired by Mary Mahoney, her husband Bob, and her brother Andrew Cvitanovich.

Great care has been taken to preserve the charm and character of this venerable landmark, with its exposed brick walls, heart-pine floors, and open fireplaces. Here you will enjoy superb food and drink in an atmosphere rich with the legacy of history.

Mary Mahoney's Old French House Restaurant is proudly in its third generation of management. The legacy of Mary Mahoney's continues to this day by Mary's children: Bob Jr. and Eileen, along with their children, Stacy, Caty, Trae, Nicole, and Josh; as well as by Andrew's children: Tony, Andrea, and Joanna. Together, they have created a restaurant and lounge offering the warmth and hospitality for which the house was originally built.



MARY CVITANOVICH MAHONEY

July 1, 1924 – December 29, 1985

- *First Woman in Mississippi Named Small Business Person of the Year 1982*
- *First Woman Named President of Biloxi Chamber of Commerce 1985*
- *Mary Mahoney Memorial Scholarship at Purdue University*

Mary Mahoney's Old French House "St. Patrick" Dish is named one of the 10 most memorable meals of 2011 by Forbes Online.

The best New Orleans restaurant outside of New Orleans, Mary Mahoney's has been the favorite of locals and Biloxi visitors since it opened in 1964. From the courtyard to the ivy covered walls to the menu, you would think you were at one of the iconic New Orleans eateries like Antoine's or Arnaud's- but the reality is that Mary Mahoney's is actually better than most of the top classics in New Orleans. It has everything going for it: history, character, charm and great food. It shocks me that it is not better known outside of Biloxi. While they are famous for their gumbo, the signature dish is the St. Patrick. Imagine traditional escargot, served in a baking dish full of little recesses each packed with a snail in rich garlic butter. Now imagine a customer comes in and likes the way it looks but doesn't want snails, so they substitute shrimp- and a legend is born! Today the St. Patrick is the fresh shrimp stuck into pasta shells swimming in decadent garlic butter, covered with cheese and topped with a huge pile of fresh lump crabmeat. This is the only "new" dish I tried this year so moving that I attempted to replicate it at home. – *As quoted by Larry Olmsted, Forbes contributing writer.*

Friends epitaph for Mary Mahoney

What can you say about a woman who built a small town restaurant into one of international recognition? She has prepared meals for leaders of the world. In Biloxi, she has served people from around the world; people of fame and people who will never know fame. All in the same manner.

There were never patrons or clients eating at Mary Mahoney's Old French House. There were only friends, new friends and old friends. A meal was an introduction to Mary, and a spirited conversation about your life and her life. Of course, she wanted to know if the food was good; but more than that, she wanted to know about you.

How many untold thousands have been touched by her love? How many have been helped? It is no accident that when someone joined her work force, they found a home. It is true that she has been given many awards and honors. But her glorious times were in serving her friends (everyone she met) at the restaurant.

As I sit now, halfway around the world and look at the

time-worn stone cities and proud people of her native Yugoslavia, I get a little more sense of her. In Dubrovnik, the sun falls into the Adriatic Sea, and the fishermen come home with their catch. There is no gentle beach to meet them, but the stone faced cliffs and mountains, out of which they carved their homes. Their faces are weather-lined, much like the faces of their cousins in Biloxi. And the sparkle of the eyes is there.

It is no wonder that Mary chose Biloxi as her home. The gentle sea, the fresh seafood, and another proud and strong people were calling.

She has left a beautiful legacy of love, and a beautiful family to continue building the service and companionship of the Old French House. However, the Spirit of Mary will always be with us, like the gentle gulf breeze that lifts our hearts. We love you, Mary. Say hello to God for us.

JOHN MICHEAL O'KEEFE
Biloxi



Mary Mahoney's

LUNCH MENU

❖ APPETIZERS ❖

- SHRIMP COCKTAIL - 15 BABY LAMB CHOPS - 19
CHARBROILED OYSTERS - (½ Dozen) - 16 BACK ROOM CRAB CAKES - 17
JUMBO BROILED SHRIMP - Platter - 38 or (½) 20
CRAB CLAWS - Fried or Broiled - (lb) or (½) - MP
PETITE FRIED SOFT SHELL CRABS - Platter or (½) or (¼) - MP
PRESIDENTIAL PLATTER - Crab Claws & Fried Petite Soft Shell Crabs - MP
OUR WORLD FAMOUS GOURMET SEAFOOD GUMBO - Cup - 7 - Bowl - 10

❖ ENTREES ❖

- QUEEN IXOLIB STUFFED FISH - 19 BROILED OR FRIED TROUT - 19
SOFT SHELL BILOXI - 16 SHRIMP & GRITS - 16
SHRIMP & CRAB AU GRATIN - 19 BROILED SALMON - 18
BAKED STUFFED SHRIMP - 19 FRIED GREEN TOMATOES - 16
FRIED SHRIMP OR OYSTERS - 18 GRILLED PORK CHOP - 17
STUFFED FLOUNDER - 19 GRILLED CHICKEN - 14
SEAFOOD BIENVILLE - 17 CHICKEN MARY - 15

❖ SPECIALTY SALADS ❖

Dressings - House, Blue Cheese, Thousand Island, Remoulade, Ranch, Caesar

- SEAFOOD SALAD - 23 GEORGE SALAD - 23 GRILLED CHICKEN SALAD - 16
(Shrimp & Crabmeat) (Lump Crabmeat & Boiled Shrimp) (Substitute Shrimp or Salmon - 4)
CAESAR SALAD - 12 SHRIMP SALAD - 18 BLACK & BLUE SALAD - 19
(Chicken - 6, Shrimp or Salmon - 9)

Serving Great Food for Over 58 Years!

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We recommend consuming thoroughly cooked food. Lump crabmeat products may contain shell.