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Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop now has official T-shirts and other merchandise for sale. For details, call: (504) 616-4846 . ShortSleeve Shirts: White \$16.00, Black \$18.00. Long Sleeve Shirts: White \$22.00, Black \$24.00. Hats: \$16.00. Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop has long boasted the reputation of being not only the most historical bar in town, but also the most fun nightspot in New Orleans for tourists and locals alike. This is a piano bar like no other. Please enjoy these videos of our own Piano Man, Mike Hood. Then come by and experience it here in person. Left: Our late, great Piano Man, the legendary Johnny Gordon. Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop--built between 1722 and 1732 by Nicolas Touze, is reputed to be the oldest structure used as a bar in the United States. In 1722, further building is recorded by a realty transfer set down by one Don Andres Almonester. The structure and fence are in the old French Provincial Louis XV or Briquette-Entre-Poteaux style used in French Louisiana. The building escaped two great fires at the turn of the 19th Century, due to slate roofing. Such slates are presently used by artists as canvases. Between 1772 and 1791, the property is believed to have been used by the Lafitte Brothers, Jean and Pierre as a New Orleans base for their Baratavia smuggling operation. The legend is based on the fact that the property was owned by the family of Simon Duroche a.k.a. Castillon and the wily privateer Captain Rene Beluche. Castillon was a rather record-shy adventurer and entrepreneur. Captain Beluche commanded his ship "Spy" in Lafitte's Baratavian fleet. Although the owners of the property, Jean Baptiste Dominica Joly LaPorte probably lived on the premises, it is within reason that the Lafittes could have used the place as city base for negotiations with potential buyers of their goods. It is unlikely that a wealthy Creole would agree to meet at home on Royal Street, Bourbon and St. Phillip was probably regarded as a safe and convenient neutral ground. Like most New Orleans legends, Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop is a jumbo of truth and French, Spanish, African, Cajun and American embellishments. Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop Bar, 941 Bourbon Street, New Orleans, LA 70116 Click the map above for directions from your location. PHONE: (504) 593-9761 EMAIL: info@lafittesblacksmithshop.com Jean Lafitte -- privateer, entrepreneur, sailor, diplomat, spy, hero of the Battle Of New Orleans. Lafitte led a colorful and mysterious life in the New World. It is unclear where and when Lafitte was born, but his presence in New Orleans and Bartaria dates about 1770. He was the man to see for whatever one wanted. In 1814, as the British lay at the mouth of the river, Lafitte rushed powder, flint, and troops to General Jackson at Chalmette. Rather than a poorly supplied, out-manned force, the British stepped into a screaming hell of pirates, woodsmen, Indians and free people of color, under cover of a dense fog and an even more dense anti-British attitude. The British were routed. His good deed done, the "hero" headed to sea and more familiar deeds. CLICK HERETOCONTINUE.

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