



# NATCHITOCHE\$ BED AND BREAKFAST

— Home to Natchitoches, Louisiana's Award Winning Bed & Breakfasts —



## Weekend Events at a Glance

### *Friday, December 20*

- 10:00am Historic Downtown District Walking Tour with Cane River National Heritage Area-  
780 Front St. Suite 100 (318) 356-5555
- 1:00pm NSU vs. Southern-New Orleans Basketball Game- Prather Coliseum- 220 S Jefferson
- 4:00pm Holiday Kids Fest-Downtown Natchitoches Riverbank
- 5:00pm Christmas Tour of Homes ([www.nhfla.com](http://www.nhfla.com))
- 6:00pm Gospel Night on the Riverbank- Downtown Natchitoches Riverbank
- 6:00pm Colonial City of Lights- Fort St. Jean Baptiste 155 Jefferson St.
- 6:00pm Dark Woods Christmas in the Park- Dark Woods Adventure Park 4242 University Parkway
- 7:30pm Live Music at Mama's Oyster House- 608 Front St. (318) 356-7874

### *Saturday, December 21*

- 9:00am Christmas Tour of Homes ([www.nhfla.com](http://www.nhfla.com))
- 10:00am Holiday Kids Fest-Downtown Natchitoches Riverbank
- 10:00am Historic Downtown District Walking Tour with Cane River National Heritage Area-  
780 Front St. Suite 100 (318) 356-5555
- 10:00am-3:00pm Sampling in the Kitchen at Cane River Kitchenware-  
732 Front St. (318) 238-3600
- 12-2:30pm and 7-9:30pm Live Music at Flying Heart Brewing & Pub-108 Mill St. (318) 238-2337
- 3:30pm Live Music on the Riverbank ft. Louisiana Sidemen- Downtown Natchitoches Riverbank
- 6:00pm Live Music on the Riverbank ft. Uncle Paul & Bayou Blue- Downtown Natchitoches Riverbank
- 6:00pm Colonial City of Lights- Fort St. Jean Baptiste 155 Jefferson St.
- 6:00pm Dark Woods Christmas in the Park- Dark Woods Adventure Park 4242 University Parkway
- 6:30pm Live Music at Hana- 750 Front St. (318) 356-0989
- 7:00pm Live Music at Riverside Reserve- Riverside Reserve 104 Mill Street
- 7:00pm Drone & Firework Show- Downtown Natchitoches Riverbank
- 10:00pm DJ and Dancing at The Loft- 530 Front St. (318) 352-1579

[Judge Porter House](#) | [Queen Anne](#) | [Violet Hill](#) | [Andrew Morris House](#)

See current and upcoming event posters at: [www.natchitochesbandb.com/upcomming-events](http://www.natchitochesbandb.com/upcomming-events)

[Download a visitor's guide](#)

[Natchitoches Convention and Visitors Bureau](#)

780 Front Street, Suite 100, Natchitoches Louisiana 71457

800-259-1714



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## *The Santa Claus House: A Natchitoches, Louisiana Christmas*

### *Story*

BY SADIE MAGGIO DARK

Once upon a time, in a small town lived a mother, father and four children. One day, a week before Christmas, they closed their family business to go shopping in Shreveport, sixty miles away. Getting up early they took their two older children to school and with their four-year-old son, Barry, and baby daughter, Peggy, drove to the big city.

The first place they stopped was a large department store, and, of course, sitting on a "throne" atop a brightly decorated Christmas platform, was Santa Claus. "Oh, Mama," said the son excitedly, "Can I see Santa". Since there was a long line of children waiting to see Santa, the mother answered, "Barry, let's wait until we finish shopping, then we'll come back to see him."

Barry followed patiently while his mother and father did all their Christmas shopping. Then they hurried to return home, for they had to be back in time to pick up their other two children at school.

Barry, seeing that they had left the city, said, "Mama, we forgot to see Santa." The mother felt terrible, and kept apologizing but knew they didn't have time to go back. Barry, seeing his mother so sad said, "That's all right Mama, I'll see Santa next year."

The following October, tragedy struck the family. Barry was taken from them. The people of the town were devastated. They contributed money for a memorial in Barry's honor. The mother and father purchased two large swing sets; the seats shaped like horses. The city employees, on their own time, installed them in the children's park on Amulet Street.

A few years later, going to town, the mother noticed city workers stringing Christmas lights across Front Street. With Barry still close in her heart, she immediately drove to the mayor's office. She said to the Mayor, "If you build a Santa Claus house, I'll see that Santa will be there every night during the Festival Season".



Then she told him the story of Barry not getting to see Santa.

While the house was being built, the mother went to the president of several men's clubs asking if they would be responsible for Santa being there every night. They all said they would gladly help.

The mother, each year, bought a new Santa Claus suit, also, candy canes, for Santa to give to the children. Every morning she cleaned the house, so it would be ready that night for Santa and the children. Years later, when sickness made the mother unable to care for the Santa's House any longer, she asked one of her nieces to continue for her. The niece was a teacher, so each day after school she would sweep the house, collect the children's letters to Santa and saw that they were "mailed" to the North Pole. Each year a new Santa Claus suit and candy canes were purchased.

The niece carried on until she retired. Knowing that she would be visiting grandchildren who lived out of town and wouldn't be able to be there most days, she asked another niece if she would take care of the Santa Claus House.

Now, for over fifty years, the Santa Claus House opens each night from the Sunday after Christmas Festival Day to the day before Christmas Eve, so that no child in Natchitoches and the surrounding area, will ever have to say, "That's all right Mama, I'll see Santa next year."

[Judge Porter House](#) | [Queen Anne](#) | [Violet Hill](#) | [Andrew Morris House](#)

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