

Granville M. Semmes III
Owner/Manager of Granville Semmes Construction Co., LLC;
1510 Religious, LLC; 510 Race LLC; Race and Religious, LLC
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Friday, June 5, 2026

City Council of New Orleans
Clerk of Council
clerkofcouncil@nola.gov

City of New Orleans
CBD Historic District Landmarks Commission
Wendy Cargile, Chief Plan Reviewer
wcargile@nola.gov

Re: 510 Race St
Reference code: 7BFZCN

Dear Members of City Council and Ms. Cargile:

Please accept this letter as my request to appeal the decision of the HDLC at its meeting Wednesday, June 3, 2026, regarding the denial of retention of the deteriorated masonry and stucco.

As is true with the property at 1510 Religious Street, the historic home at 510 Race Street serves as an integral part of a Wedding & Events venue named Race and Religious. It has been successful for many years providing brides, grooms and their families and guests with the warmth and charm of an 1800's vintage New Orleans setting. Online reviews point to their satisfaction and appreciation of its ability to take them back into time. An important detail of that charm is the "patina" of the delaminated stucco and exposed bricks. Some reviews cite these very features and I feel that charm would seriously be hindered by modernizing or making it appear new. Instead, it resembles many of the classic and historic structures scattered throughout New Orleans.

I sincerely hope you will reconsider and re-evaluate the value one of the most notable features of the property. Race and Religious attracts patrons and visitors from all over the world – bringing in additional revenues to nearby hotels, restaurants and attractions.



Granville M. Semmes III

Photos Attached



Race + Religious

<http://raceandreligious.com>

4.5/5 (19 reviews) · Venue & event space in New Orleans, LA

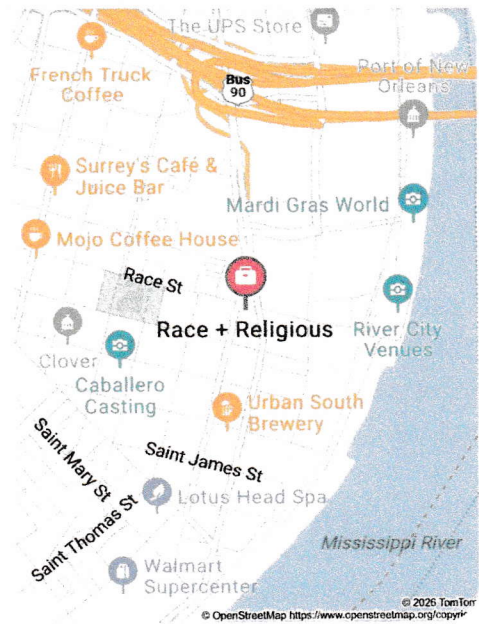
510 Race St, New Orleans, LA 70130 · 29 mi

Closed · Opens Mon 10 AM · More hours ▼

(504) 523-0890

Website

Directions



Ratings

4

(19)

About

Race + Religious is a historic and highly acclaimed wedding and event venue located in the Lower Garden District of New Orleans, offering a unique blend of historic charm and modern amenities.

Copilot Search



Race & Religious is a historic and highly acclaimed wedding and event venue located in the Lower Garden District of New Orleans, offering a unique blend of historic charm and modern amenities.

Overview

Race & Religious is situated at **510 Race Street, New Orleans, LA 70130**, at the corner of Race and Religious Streets raceandreligious.com. The venue occupies a **three-building property** that includes a **Greek Revival rowhouse and traditional Creole cottages**, all meticulously restored and adorned with handpicked antiques and curated artwork

herecomestheguide.com +1. Originally constructed in the 1830s, the property was transformed into a premier event space by owners **Bille and Granville Semmes**, officially opening for weddings in 2010 TheKnot.com +1.

Venue Features

- **Indoor and Outdoor Spaces:** The venue offers whimsical indoor rooms, brick courtyards, a bougainvillea-lined courtyard, and a swimming pool area lit by gas lamps

herecomestheguide.com +1

- **Capacity:** Accommodates up to **275 guests** for standing events and **90 seated** for ceremonies or receptions herecomestheguide.com +1

- **Amenities:** Includes **two commercial kitchens, five bathrooms, four bedrooms, multiple balconies**, and fully equipped spaces for catering and bar services

herecomestheguide.com +1



a blessed Virgin statue rescued from a demolished church, reflecting New Orleans' rich cultural and religious heritage [herecomestheguide.com](#) .

- **Photogenic Spaces:** Every corner of the property is designed for photography, making it ideal for weddings, feature films, music videos, and commercial shoots

[messinascatering.com](#) .

Services and Packages

- **Event Types:** Weddings, elopements, rehearsal dinners, corporate events, and private parties [herecomestheguide.com](#) +1 .
- **Packages:** Options include micro weddings, petite weddings, and full-day or multi-day rentals, with pricing starting around **\$5,500 per event** [The Knot](#) +1 .
- **Planning Support:** The venue provides an experienced events team to assist with layout, vendor coordination, and day-of management [celiaroseevents.com](#) .

Visitor Experience

Guests and couples praise Race & Religious for its **unique aesthetic, cozy yet elegant atmosphere, and attentive staff**. The venue is celebrated for blending **historic authenticity with modern comfort**, offering a truly memorable New Orleans experience [WeddingWire](#) +1 . For more information or to schedule a tour, you can visit the official website at [raceandreligious.com](#) or contact them at **(504) 523-0890** [raceandreligious.com](#) .

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Race + Religious

[herecomestheguide.com](#)
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People also search for

race and religion New Orleans

510 race street New Orleans

race and religious New Orleans wedding

race & religion New Orleans

race and religious wedding

race street New Orleans

Official Site

[Race + Religious](#)
<https://www.raceandreligious.com>

Race + Religious

Race + Religious is a distinct wedding venue in the Lower Garden

About
Race + Religious is a wedding venue like no other, with...

Deep dive into race +...

[race and religion New Orleans](#)
[Gallery](#)
[510 Race Street New Orleans](#)
[510 race street New Orleans](#)



★★★★★ Jun 29, 2023

What a magical setting for a wedding! Unusual and quirky, it is still a very cool spot for a traditional ceremony! Certainly a unique NOLA experience for out of towners! Very authentic!



Helpful 1



Thanks 0



Love this 0



Oh no 0



Zoe F.

CA, CA

📷 1015 ⭐ 420 💬 102

★★★★★ Apr 22, 2021

WOW. JUST, WOW.

I don't really have the right words to describe how magical this venue is. As soon as you walk through the doors, you take a step back in time. The beautifully weathered buildings stand in front of you with delicately covered with foliage and original details. The inside of each building is equally as jaw dropping with era piece furniture and what seems to be original window treatments. Everything in this venue is perfect down to the hardware in the bathrooms.

The lay out is equally as fantastic, giving you nice separations between areas without making your event feel disconnected. The pool right in the middle, makes for the most fantastic pictures. Honestly, if you are thinking about having your wedding here and don't, you are a fool. There is NOTHING about this venue that isn't divine. I could only be so lucky to be able to attend another event here.



Helpful 5



Thanks 0



Love this 5



Oh no 0



Steve I. Elite 26

New Orleans, LA

📷 1111 ⭐ 678 💬 7648

★★★★★ Nov 15, 2014

📷 10 photos ⭐ ROTD Mar 31, 2015

In my opinion this is the #1 place in NOLA for weddings!!

This place is just unique. No other city has the architecture that NOLA has and Race & Religious fits right in with the city. It was built in the 1800's and is the perfect place to wow your guests at your special event. Guests from other states come here and are amazed. They all comment how they have never been to a wedding venue like this. I don't even have to write anymore. Just look at the





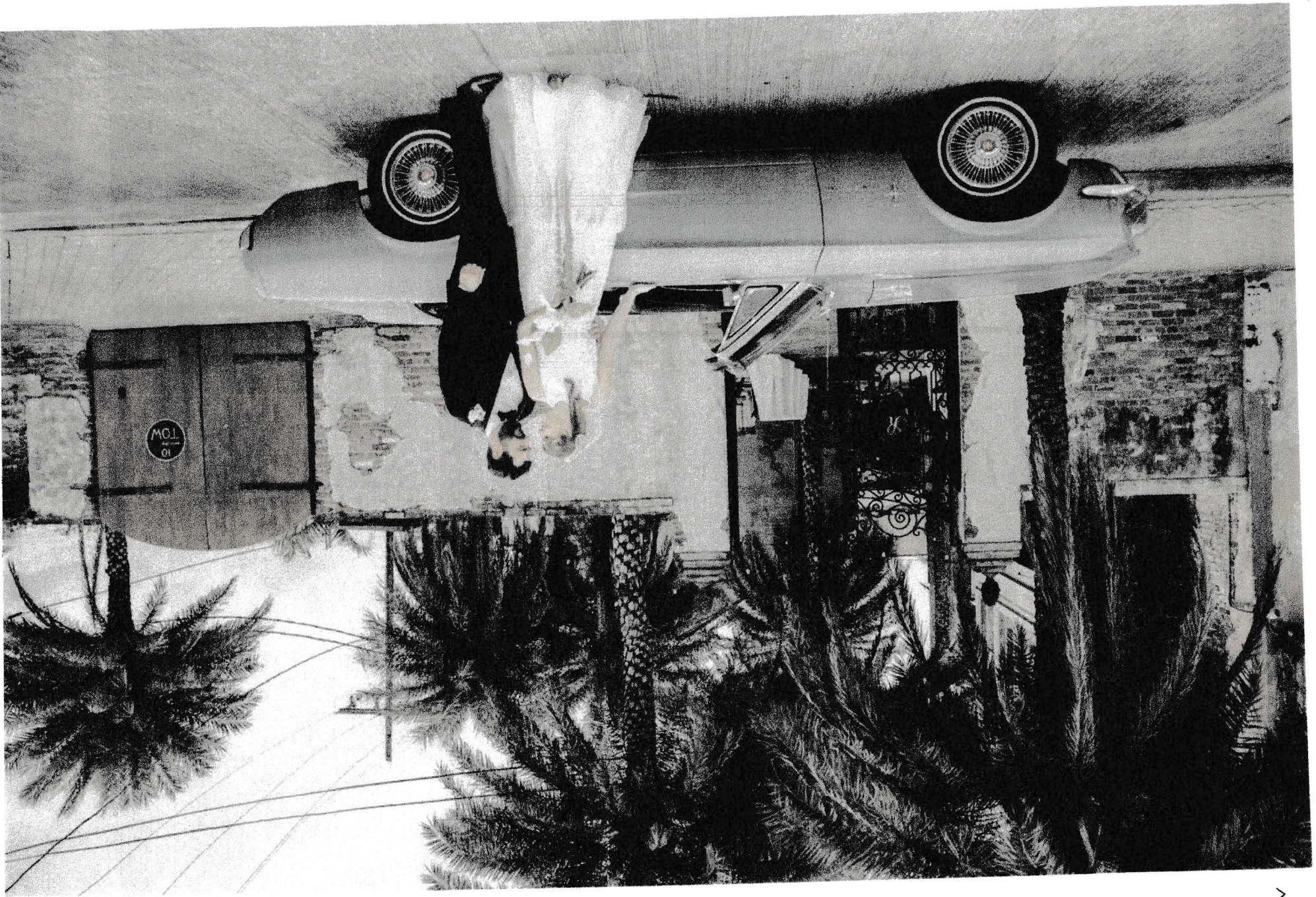
All





All










 OF THE HONORARY
Tiffany Manno
 OF THE HONORARY
Tyler Robertson
 ON THE DAY, TO BE AT THE MARRIAGE
 SATURDAY, THE TWELFTH OF OCTOBER
 TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY FOUR
 AT FIVE THIRTY IN THE EVENING
 AT THE MARRIAGE
 THE MARRIAGE
 AT THE MARRIAGE