

1.2 Geographic Location/Parish Description

Lafayette Parish is located in south central Louisiana. It is surrounded by St. Landry Parish to the north, St. Martin Parish to the east, Iberia Parish to the southeast, Vermilion Parish to the southwest and Acadia Parish to the west. The parish has a total area of 270 square miles, making it one of the smallest parishes in the state.

The parish seat is the city of Lafayette which also serves as the commercial trade center for the region. Agriculture is predominant in the area with hundreds of acres planted in rice, soybean, sugarcane and vegetables. There are also large beef and dairy operations in the area. The Acadian Region is known too for its oil and gas industry. Lafayette Parish has a population of approximately 197,390.

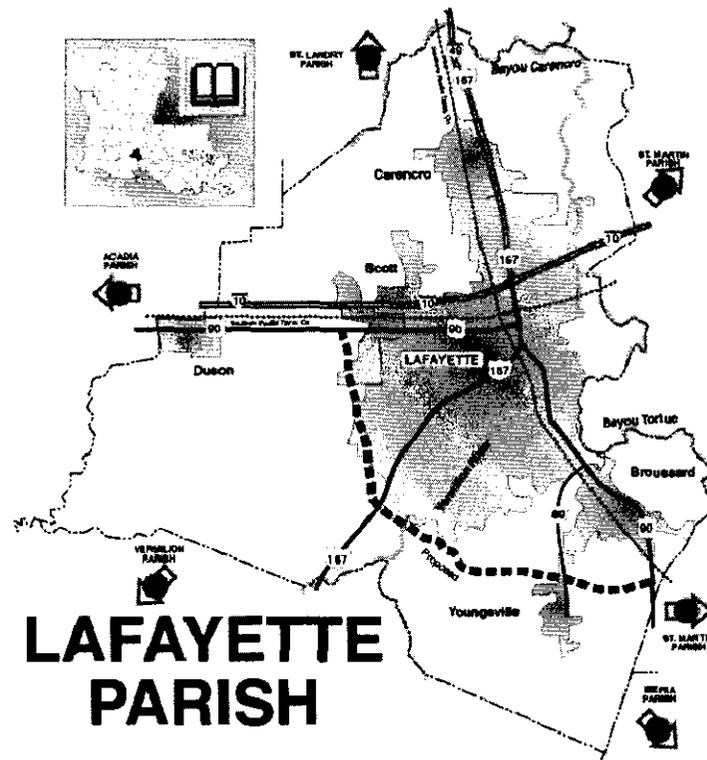


Figure 1: State Map Illustrating Lafayette Parish