

**Louisiana Division  
New Orleans Public Library**

## New Orleans Telephone Exchanges Through the Years

Adapted from a list compiled by David Grant, 1978

Originally, New Orleans telephone exchange names were chosen to reflect a specific locality (e.g., GAlvez [Street]) or part of town where the exchange was located (e.g., BYwater). Later, the phone company compiled a list of exchange names that were unlikely to be mispronounced (e.g., TYler; WAlnut). In the late 1950s, telephone numbers were expanded to seven digits in order to fit into the long distance direct dialing system then being instituted. The use of exchange names was discontinued nationally in the mid-1960s in order to provide a greater number of prefixes.

**The following were used with four digits (example: CAnal 5555):**

Exchange	Area Used	Years Used	Converted to
ALgiers	West Bank	1906	1955 to FOrEst 1 & 6
AMherst	Lakeview/Midcity	1947	1959 to HUnTer 6
AUdubon	Lakeview/Midcity	1928-1933; reinstated 1936	1959 to HUnTer 8
BYwater	Downtown	1942	1957 to WHitehall 9
CAnal	CBD	1941	1959 to JACkson 2
CEdar	Metairie	1941	1959 to JACkson 2
CHestnut	Uptown/West Bank	1941	1955 to TWInbrook
CRescent	Downtown	1928	1957 to WHitehall 7
EDison	West Bank	1951	1955 to FIlLmore 1
EVergreen	Gentilly	1952	1960 to ATwood 8
EXpress	CBD	1952	1960 to JACkson 9
FAirview	Gentilly	1952	1960 to ATwood 2
FRanklin	Gentilly	1927	1957 to WHitehall 5
GAlvez	Lakeview/Midcity	1911	1959 to HUnTer 2
HEmlock	Downtown	1906	1927 to FRanklin, plus four digits
JACkson	Uptown/West Bank	1909	1956 to TWInbrook 5
MAgnolia	CBD	1938	1960 to JACkson 3
MAin	CBD	1879	1937 to MAgnolia, plus four digits
OFFicial	CBD (used by telephone company)	before 1935	1958 to LAFayette 9

RAymond	CBD	1928	1957 to JAcKson 5
TEmpLe	Metairie	1947	1955 to VErnOn 3
TUlane	CBD	1948	1961 to JAcKson 4
TYler	Uptown/West Bank	1949	1955 to TWinbrook 9
UNiversity	Carrollton/West Bank	1948	1956 to UNiversity 6
UPtown	Uptown/West Bank	1903	1956 to TWinbrook 7
VALley	Downtown	1947	1957 to WHitehall 3
VIctor	Downtown	1948	1957 to WHitehall 4
WAlnut	Carrollton/West Bank	1910	1956 to UNiversity 1 & 5

**The following were used with five digits (example: WHitehall 0-1234):**

Exchange	Area Used	Years Used	Converted to
ARabi 1, 9	St. Bernard	1961-1962	271, 279
ATwood 1, 8	Gentilly	1960-1962	282, 288
CHestnut 2	N.O. East	1960-1965	242
EDgewood 1	St. Bernard	1956-1962	271
FIlmore 1, 7	West Bank	1955-1962	341, 347
FOrest 1, 2, 6, 7	West Bank	1955-1962	361, 362, 366, 367
HUNter 2, 6, 8	Lakeview/Midcity	1959-1962	482, 486, 488
JAcKson 2, 3, 4, 5, 9	CBD	1957-1965	522, 523, 524, 525, 529
LAfayette 9	CBD (used by telephone company)	1958	529
PArk 1, 9	Kenner	1960-1962	721, 729
TWinbrook 1, 5, 7, 9	Uptown	1956-1965	891, 895, 897, 899
UNiversity 1, 5, 6	Carrollton	1956-1965	861, 865, 866
VErnOn 1, 3, 4, 5	Metairie	1956-1965	831, 833, 834, 835
WHitehall 0, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9	Downtown	1957-1965	940, 943, 944, 945, 947, 949

**Any current 3-digit prefix not listed above was introduced after the use of exchange names had been discontinued.**

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