



E. J. Caire & Company store

The store was originally known as "Caire's Landing," the name given by Jean Caire, an immigrant who journeyed to Louisiana from France in 1842. Jean's son Etienne Joseph (E. J.) was only 10 years old when his father died, but the family kept the store running until E. J. graduated from Jefferson College as a pharmacist.

The business was a multi-purpose general store, a pharmacy, a dry goods store, and a hardware store, before it was turned into an early department store. For a time, the store was the pay station for area sugar cane farmers. The brick structure, built in 1850, became a store in 1860. A wooden structure was later added, and the brick building became a warehouse. The store obtained business locally and from patrons riding on passing riverboats. After many changes in venue, it closed in the middle 1970s.

In 2001, the buildings were added to the National Register of Historic Places. Surviving Caire family members would like to convert the two buildings into a museum. The former store is located on a stretch of River Road in Edgard that also contains the St. John the Baptist Parish Courthouse and the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.