

# THIS PROPERTY IS CONDEMNED



## BAY ST. LOUIS DEPOT

The Depot was built in Spanish Mission style in 1928. In the movie, *This Property is Condemned*, it served as the depot for the city of Dodson, Mississippi.

This scene captures Owen Legate (Robert Redford), on his way to the work yards at the Depot where he lays off several railroad employees due to cutbacks made necessary by the depression in the 1930's.



## BAY ST. LOUIS DEPOT (Interior)

Inside the Depot, the ticket window where Owen Legate is purchasing a ticket for Alva Starr (Natalie Wood), currently exists. He purchases the ticket in the hopes that she will join him in New Orleans after he leaves the city of Dodson.

1966 Paramount Pictures

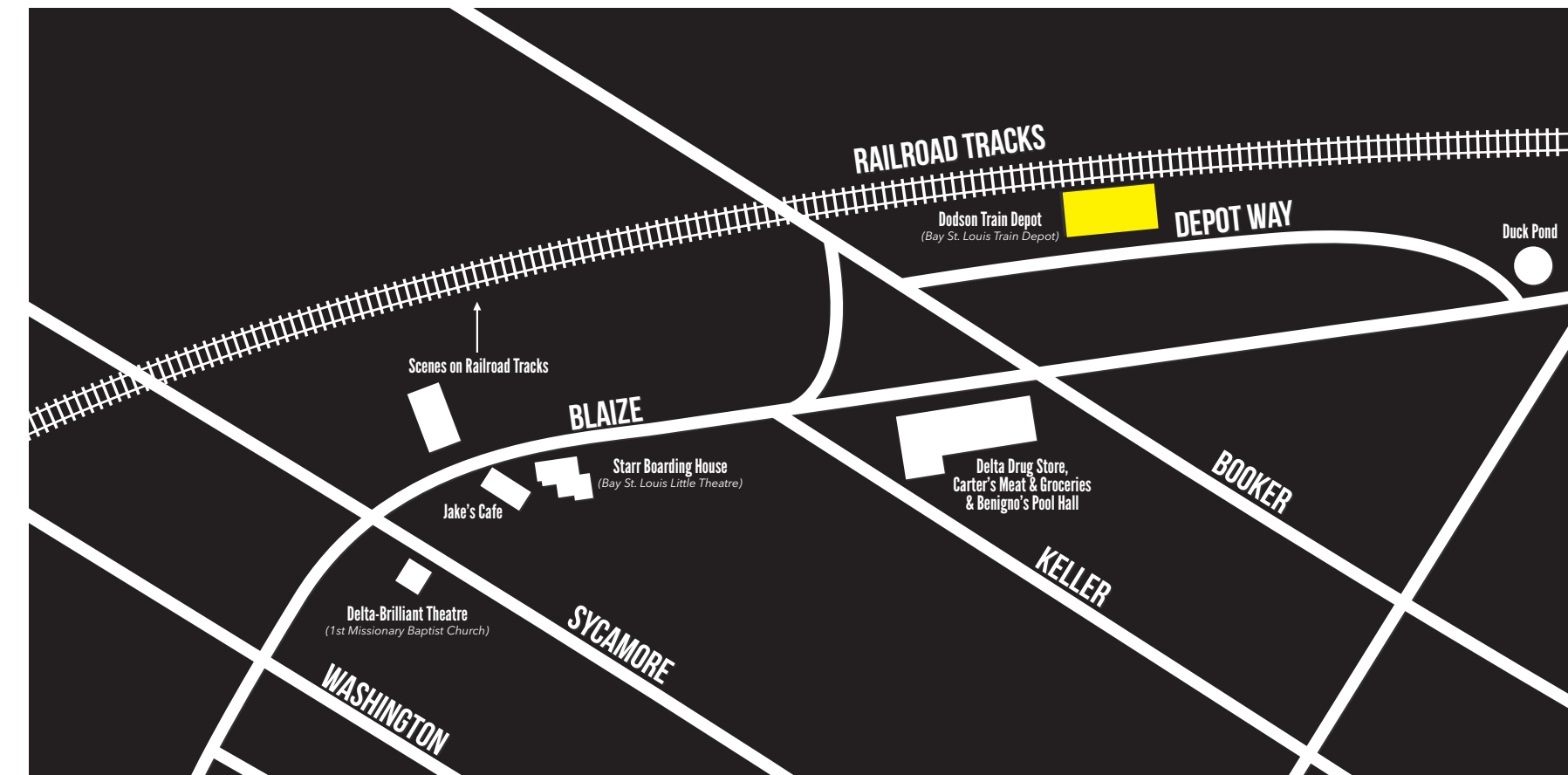
## THIS PROPERTY IS CONDEMNED PLOT

*This Property is Condemned* is a 1966 American drama film starring Natalie Wood, Robert Redford, Kate Reid, Charles Bronson, Mary Badham, Jon Provost and Robert Blake. It was directed by Sydney Pollack. The screenplay was written by Francis Ford Coppola, Fred Coe and Edith Sommer. This was Francis Coppola's first screen play. The film was released by Paramount Pictures and features cinematography by award-winning cinematographer James Wong Howe. The story was adapted from the 1946 one-act play of the same name by Tennessee Williams.

The depression-era story takes place in the fictional Mississippi town of Dodson. Owen Legate (Robert Redford), working for the railroad which provides much of the economic base for the town, comes to town on an unpopular errand. Alva Starr (Natalie Wood), a pretty flirt who finds herself stuck in this small town and very much attracted to the handsome stranger.

## PRESENT USE

The Depot now serves as the location of the Hancock County Tourism Office and two museums: the Mardi Gras Museum featuring magnificent Mardi Gras costumes and memorabilia of the past that are put together in Bay St. Louis by renowned costume designer Carter Church in the utmost secrecy for parades in New Orleans. The building also hosts the works of one of Mississippi's legendary folk artist, Alice Mosley, who lived in the Depot District.



The exterior scenes of the film *This Property is Condemned* were filmed in this neighborhood in 1965 and released in 1966.

This map depicts many of the places you can enjoy today and snap shots of where the movie was filmed.



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## DEPOT DISTRICT

The Depot District serves as the city of Dodson, Mississippi in the movie, *This Property is Condemned*. This scene captures Owen Legate (Robert Redford), on his way to the Depot, talking with Willie Starr (Mary Badham). Directly behind Willie is an old burned out building where Fine Foods was once located.



## DEPOT DISTRICT

This scene depicts Willie with two young boys throwing rocks at bottles in the burned-out store. The boy on the far left is Ron Magee, a current resident of Bay St. Louis.

1966 Paramount Pictures

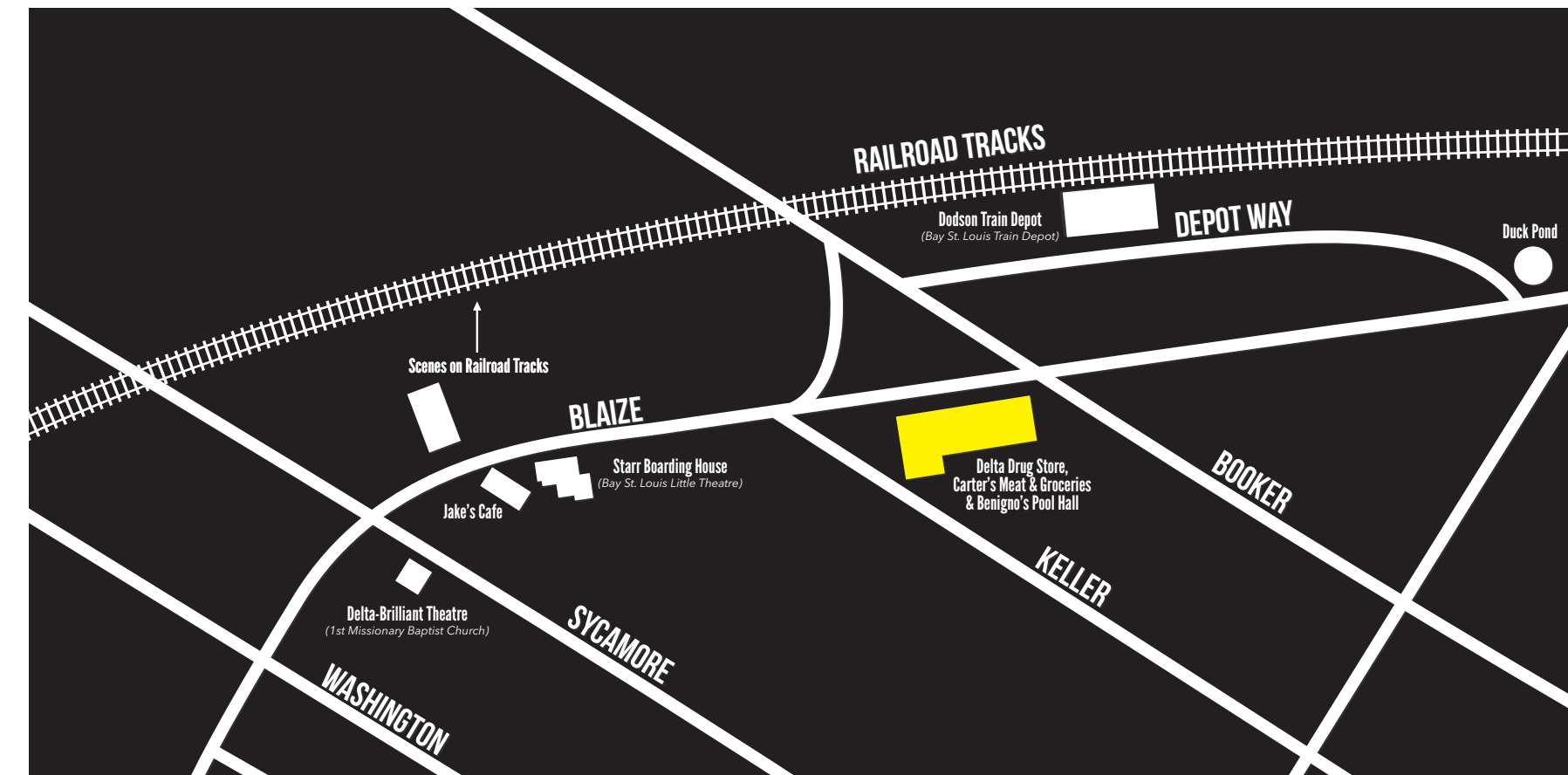
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## PRESENT USE

Depot District now serves as the location of several restaurants and other establishments that provide a "local flavor" of the Bay St. Louis coastal community.



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## STARR BOARDING HOUSE

The Starr Boarding House, a main setting in the movie *This Property is Condemned*, served as the hub of social life in the small railroad city of Dodson, Mississippi. This scene captures Alva Starr (Natalie Wood) talking with a suitor played by Robert Blake, with Owen Legate (Robert Redford) looking down at them from his boarding room window.



## STARR BOARDING HOUSE

After the Starr Boarding House falls into ruin, the city of Dodson condemned the property, hence the title of the movie *This Property is Condemned*.



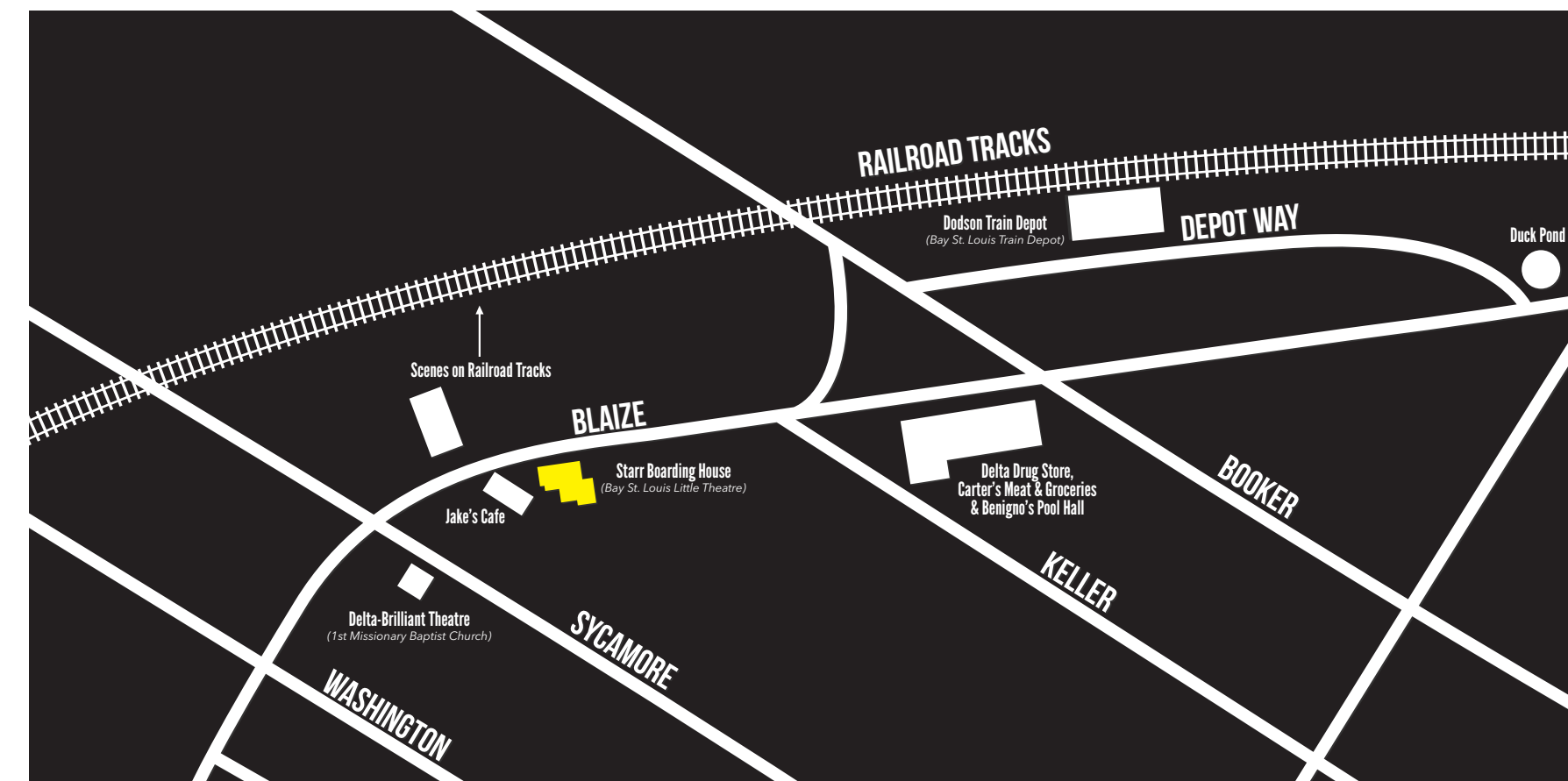
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## PRESENT USE

The movie's title "This Property is Condemned" became a self-fulfilling prophecy. Following Hurricane Katrina, the building was scheduled to be demolished and the Bay St. Louis Little Theater (who lost their original building to Katrina) came to the rescue and today has a year-round performance schedule and an annual "Stella Yelling Contest" as a tribute to Tennessee Williams.



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## DISTRICT DEPOT WEST

Several buildings that still stand were featured in the movie *This Property is Condemned*. This scene shows Owen Legate (Robert Redford) and Alva Starr (Natalie Wood) leaving the picture show. The facade of the First Missionary Baptist Church was modified to resemble a small town movie theater.



## DISTRICT DEPOT WEST

This scene features Robert Blake's character sitting outside Jake's Cafe, waiting on Owen who is returning from the picture show. Following this scene, Owen was attacked by workers laid off by the railroad.

1966 Paramount Pictures

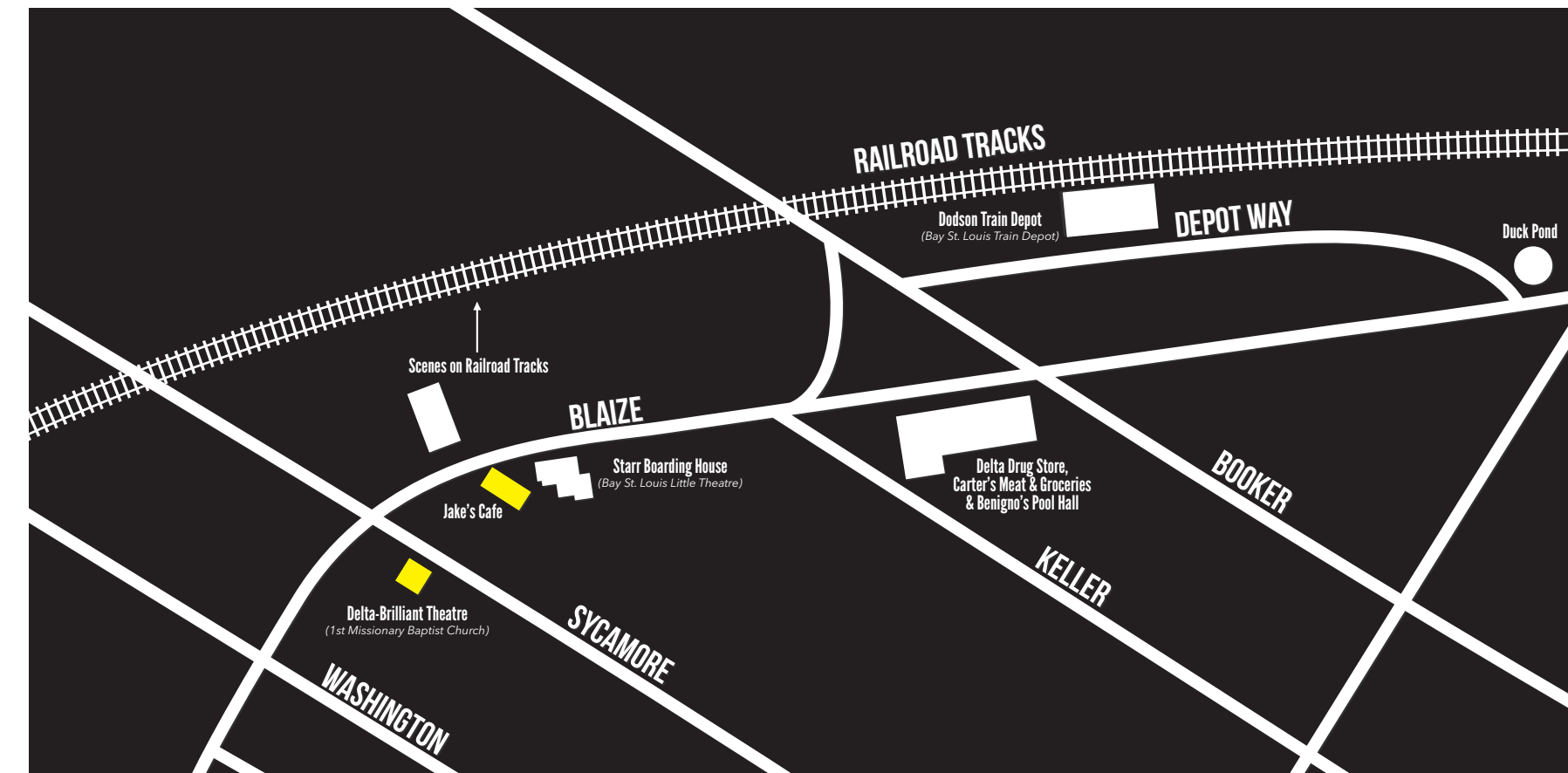
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## PRESENT USE

Exterior scenes includes the First Missionary Baptist Church and a retail shop.



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## THE STORY UNFOLDS...

In the movie *This Property is Condemned*, Willie Starr (Mary Badham), mentions that her mother had gone away with a strange man and that Willie lives alone in the condemned boarding house. The “boarding house” was in this state of disrepair when the movie set was selected. The city of Bay St. Louis was putting in sewage and water at the time of the filming and all the roads were dirt due to the construction project, perfect for depicting the 1930’s depression period setting.



## THE STORY UNFOLDS...

*This Property Is Condemned* is a 1966 film in which Willie Starr (Mary Badham) tells the story of her dead sister Alva (Natalie Wood) to Tom (Jon Provost), a boy whom she meets on the abandoned railroad tracks of Dodson, Mississippi in the 1930’s. The viewer sees this story using flashbacks to the time when Dodson was a viable railroad town and Alva as still a big part of the town’s life.

1966 Paramount Pictures

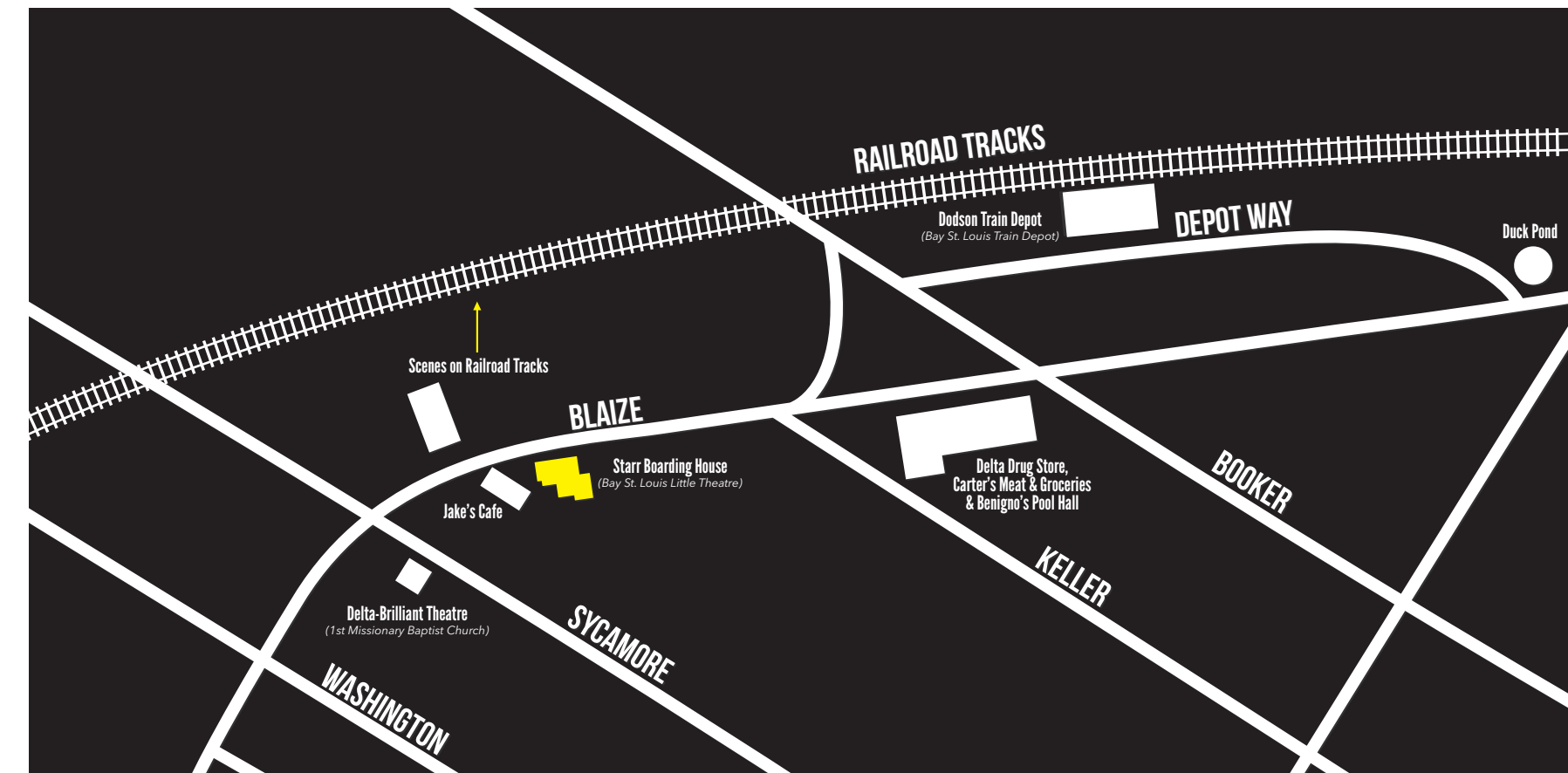
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