

Louisiana PASS

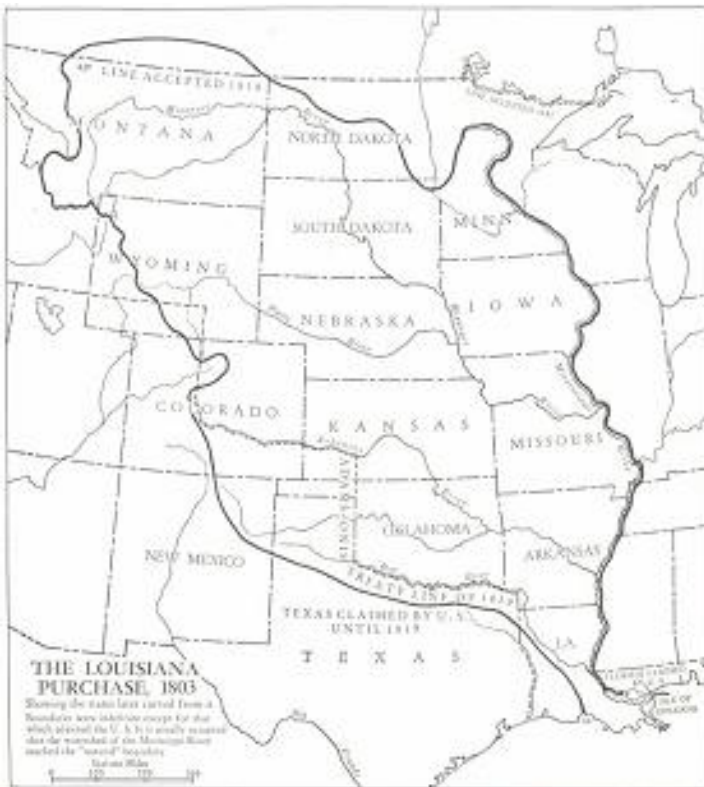


Photo courtesy of Osage County Historical Society

For more information on the Louisiana Purchase, click on one of these links:

[All about the Purchase](#)

[Map and brief history](#)

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The Louisiana Purchase

On April 30, 1803, Napoleon sold the Louisiana Territory (about 828,000 square feet) to the United States. Want to know how much it cost? It was fifteen million dollars. That sounds like a lot, but it was actually quite cheap: only four cents per acre! Practically overnight, the United States doubled in size to become one of the largest countries in the world.

At the time, Thomas Jefferson was president. Originally, all he wanted was free navigation of the Mississippi River and a piece of land on the lower Mississippi. He was delighted when France decided to sell the entire territory, giving the United States most of what would become Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, North Dakota, Texas, South Dakota, New Mexico, Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Montana.

Although the United States was getting a good deal on this huge piece of territory, there were some major issues with the purchase. For one, Thomas Jefferson didn't have the constitutional right to purchase lands without the consent (or permission) of the states. Also, many American citizens were worried that this new land would cheapen the value of their own properties. In spite of these concerns, the Louisiana Purchase still took place and went on to become the greatest real estate deal ever!

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To Information Station 