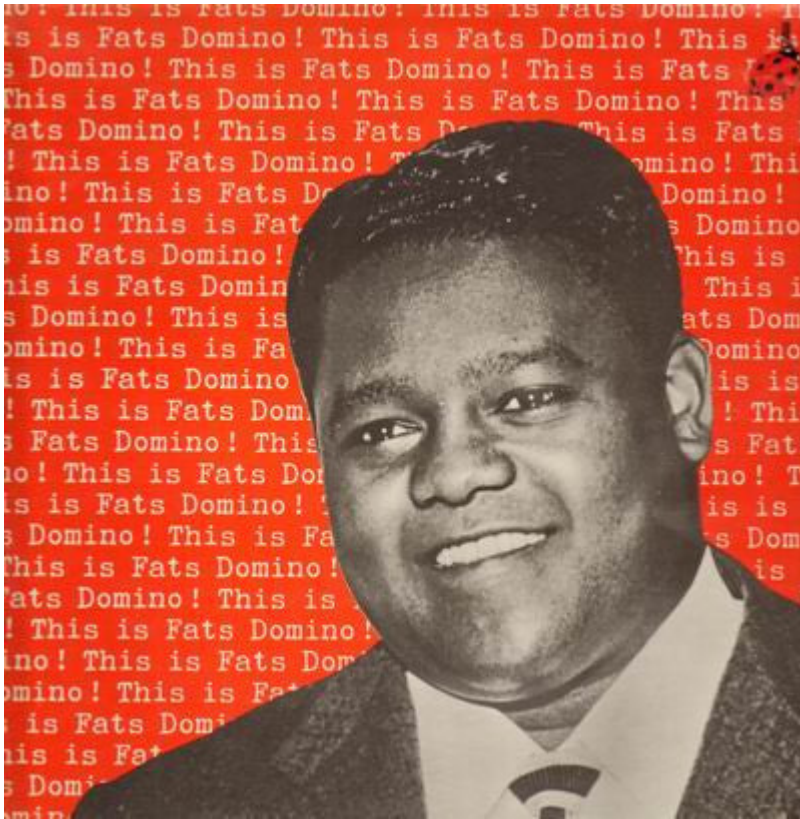




Fats Domino covered "Blueberry Hill" in 1956 after hearing Louis Armstrong's version. Sammy Kaye and The Glenn Miller Orchestra also had recordings of "Blueberry Hill," but it was hearing his fellow New Orleans' native that convinced Domino to give the song his treatment. He had already asserted himself as one of the earliest stars of rock and roll with 16 hit singles, including "The Fat Man," "Ain't That A Shame," and "I'm Walkin'." His version of "Blueberry Hill" became his most successful hit, sitting at number one on the R&B chart for 11 weeks, number two on the Billboard Juke Box chart and selling five million copies within two years of its release. The song was included on his third album, *This Is Fats Domino!*, released in 1956. The popularity of his music made his record sales only second to Elvis.

Elvis Presley told *Jet Magazine* in 1957 that Domino was the true king of rock and roll but Domino told the Hearst organization that same year that the music being called rock and roll was actually R&B and he had been playing it in New Orleans for 15 years. Domino was one of the Black artists that integrated audiences and he survived four riots at his shows,

even jumping out of the window to escape cops spraying tear gas. His fame grew with movie appearances in *Shake, Rattle & Rock*, *The Girl Can't Help It*, *The Big Beat*, and a television performance on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. He also had an appearance in the TV special *33 1/3 Revolutions per Monkee* in 1968. Domino continued to record after the early successful days of his career and he always managed to remind the public of his presence in every decade after his initial rise. In 1980, he had a cameo in Clint Eastwood's *Any Which Way You Can*. Domino was in the first class of artists inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1986. His rescue during Hurricane Katrina in 2005 was televised and he was seen again in the third season of the New Orleans-based show *Treme* in 2012.

Domino passed away in 2017 at the age of 89 of natural causes. Led Zeppelin, Elvis, and Little Richard released versions of "Blueberry Hill" after him, but of all the recordings of the song, Domino's version is the one credited with making it a rock and roll standard.