

ROY HALL
1820 Calhoun Street
New Orleans
Orleans Parish
Louisiana

HABS NO. LA-1241

HABS
LA
36-NEWOR,
102-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Southeast Regional Office
Department of the Interior
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ROY HALL

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102-

Location: 1820 Calhoun Street, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana.
USGS New Orleans East, Louisiana Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
15/778100/3314920

Significance: The dwelling located at No. 1820 Calhoun Street is a contributing element to the Uptown New Orleans Historic District, a 750 block area listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. The Uptown district is significant on a state level for its diverse architectural collection of dwellings that were constructed during the period from ca. 1820 to 1935. The two-story Queen Anne residence, constructed ca. 1890, was the first single-family residence on the 1800 block of Calhoun Street. Of the district's total 10,716 buildings, approximately 574 were designed in the Queen Anne Style. No. 1820 Calhoun Street illustrates the diversity of residential architecture constructed during the latter phase of the district's development.

Description: Roy Hall is a Queen Anne dwelling situated on the east side of Loyola University's main campus, on Calhoun Street between Cromwell Place and Loyola Street. The dwelling is a two-story, three-bay, wood-frame building characterized by its complex roof massing, asymmetrical facades, and decorative detailing. The building is supported by a brick pier foundation. The principal wall planes are sheathed in horizontal wood siding, while the upper gables are clad in wood shingles. Scalloped wood shingles also are employed, creating a diversity of wall textures. The overall roof massing combines a steeply-pitched hipped roof intersected by smaller gable wings. The roofs are sheathed in asbestos shingles and ceramic tiles cap the main hipped roof ridges. Two corbelled brick chimneys are located on the lower roof slope of the dwelling's south side.

The primary (east) facade, oriented towards Calhoun Street, is dominated by a front-facing gable, with a projecting gable wing located off-center. The wall plane of the gable ends are sheathed in wood shingles. The first story of the front facade is spanned by an open porch supported by five square wood posts. Arched decorative woodwork and a spindlework frieze serve as decorative elements. Scalloped shingles ornament the wall surface between the porch roof and upper level of the facade. The main entrance, accessed from the front porch, is located off-center. Two full-length windows are aligned along the south of this entrance, and a single circular window occupies the north end. The second story has a two-bay open porch that is incorporated along the south side of the gable wing. The porch is supported by turned columns with bracketed eaves.

The rear (west) elevation is dominated by a two-story inset porch. The porch is supported by plain wood posts. Windows are wood-frame, two-over-two and six-over-six double-hung sash. The north side elevation is characterized by asymmetrically arranged fenestration and has a large, Queen Anne style window at its midsection. The wood-frame, double-hung sash is embellished with decorative, multi-colored glass panes and defines the interior staircase landing. The south side elevation is dominated by a two-story, polygonal bay window located off-center. The projecting wing terminates in a gable roof with exaggerated corner overhangs. Large, curved brackets support the underside of these projecting eaves.

The interior plan is organized around a narrow corridor that extends the full depth of the building on both the first and second floors. The main living spaces are reached along the south side of the corridor, while smaller rooms are located along the north side. The first floor contains a spacious front foyer, with the main staircase along the north wall. The open staircase is characterized by its geometric, carved newel post and turned balusters. The front room has two full-length windows symmetrically spaced on the front (east) wall. A fireplace is centered on the west wall. The wood mantle is carved in an organic design motif; colored tile is inlaid along the inside face and at the base of the fireplace. The center room has a large bay window occupying the entire south wall. A fireplace is located on the east wall.

The original second floor plan has been modified extensively under Loyola University's ownership. Rooms located off the corridor have been subdivided to accommodate office space, creating a series of smaller rooms. The front (east) end of the second floor contains two rooms that provide views of the streetscape below. The open porch is accessed through both of these rooms. The center room is dominated by a bay window along its south wall, similar to the room below.

On-site inspection indicates that the exterior of No. 1820 Calhoun Street has retained its overall composition and original materials, including the wood-frame, double-hung sash windows, open porches, and clapboard and shingle siding. The interior plan and architectural features, on the other hand, have been altered since its initial construction. Suspended ceiling panels obscure the full ceiling height. Carpeting has been installed over the original hardwood floors. Wall partitions and new doorways have been added to the second floor. Original door and window surrounds, consisting of bull's eye corner blocks at the upper frame, are intact throughout the building. The majority of door openings retain their original four-paneled doors, although original door knobs have been replaced. Door transoms have been replaced with wood panelling.

History:

Roy Hall is situated in a New Orleans street car suburb that was developed in the mid-nineteenth century, after local heirs subdivided their uptown property in 1854. Over the next decades, this tract of land was acquired by speculative developers for suburban residences. The first tracts were purchased between 1854 to 1867, and included eight squares on the lake side of Charles Street. Expansion into these new suburbs diminished during the Civil War, however, by the late 1860s, additional lots were sold. The Cotton Centennial Exposition of 1884 served as an impetus for further development of the uptown area. By this date, the New Orleans and Carrollton Railroad provided a means of transportation to this expanding residential suburb.

Development of the lots did not immediately follow their purchase and several areas situated in the uptown region of New Orleans, referred to as "the country", remained rural into the late nineteenth century. Square 97, the site of Roy Hall, was purchased in 1869 along with 31 other parcels, or squares. As the uptown area's boundaries expanded, the city engulfed the earlier municipalities of Lafayette and Jefferson City, and by 1870, came under the jurisdiction of Orleans Parish.

According to an 1883 Atlas of New Orleans, Square 97 was surveyed but remained undeveloped. Three years later, in 1886, Loyola University purchased a portion of the

Foucher estate, a tract that fronted St. Charles Street and extended to Claiborne Canal. Between 1883 and 1890, the area between St. Charles Avenue and the river was expanded greatly.

In 1891, William R. Rhett and his wife became the first residents of this neighborhood after completion of the house at No. 1820 Calhoun Street. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of 1896 depicts three houses along this block of Calhoun Street, including No. 1804, 1820, and 1828 Calhoun. When Rhett purchased his residence at No. 1820 Calhoun Street, he was employed as the first assistant general freight agent of the Illinois Central Railroad. By the turn of the century, the Rhett's also had acquired a summer residence in Rolling Prairie, Wisconsin.

The property was improved over the years by the addition of several outbuildings, including a greenhouse depicted on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of 1909. The city directory of 1938 lists another resident, Joseph N. Edwards, as the occupant of No. 1820 Calhoun Street. Throughout the early and mid-1900s, the residence remained in single family ownership. By 1951, the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map records a garage on this property.

On August 18, 1961, Loyola University acquired No. 1820 Calhoun Street from Ragnvald P. Rordam. The university named the building Roy Hall, after Percy A. Roy, the president of Loyola from 1939 to 1945.

Project
Information:

This documentation was undertaken by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. on behalf of Loyola University, in fulfillment of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Loyola University, City of New Orleans, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). The proposed expansion of Miller Hall will require the demolition of three university-owned buildings along the 1800 block of Calhoun Street. These include Otis Hall, Roy Hall, and Gaudin Hall. These small-scale residential buildings will be replaced by a larger structure that is architecturally compatible with the surrounding academic complex.

Sources:

New Orleans City Directories, 1925-1990. Louisiana Collection, Howard-Tilton Library, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana.

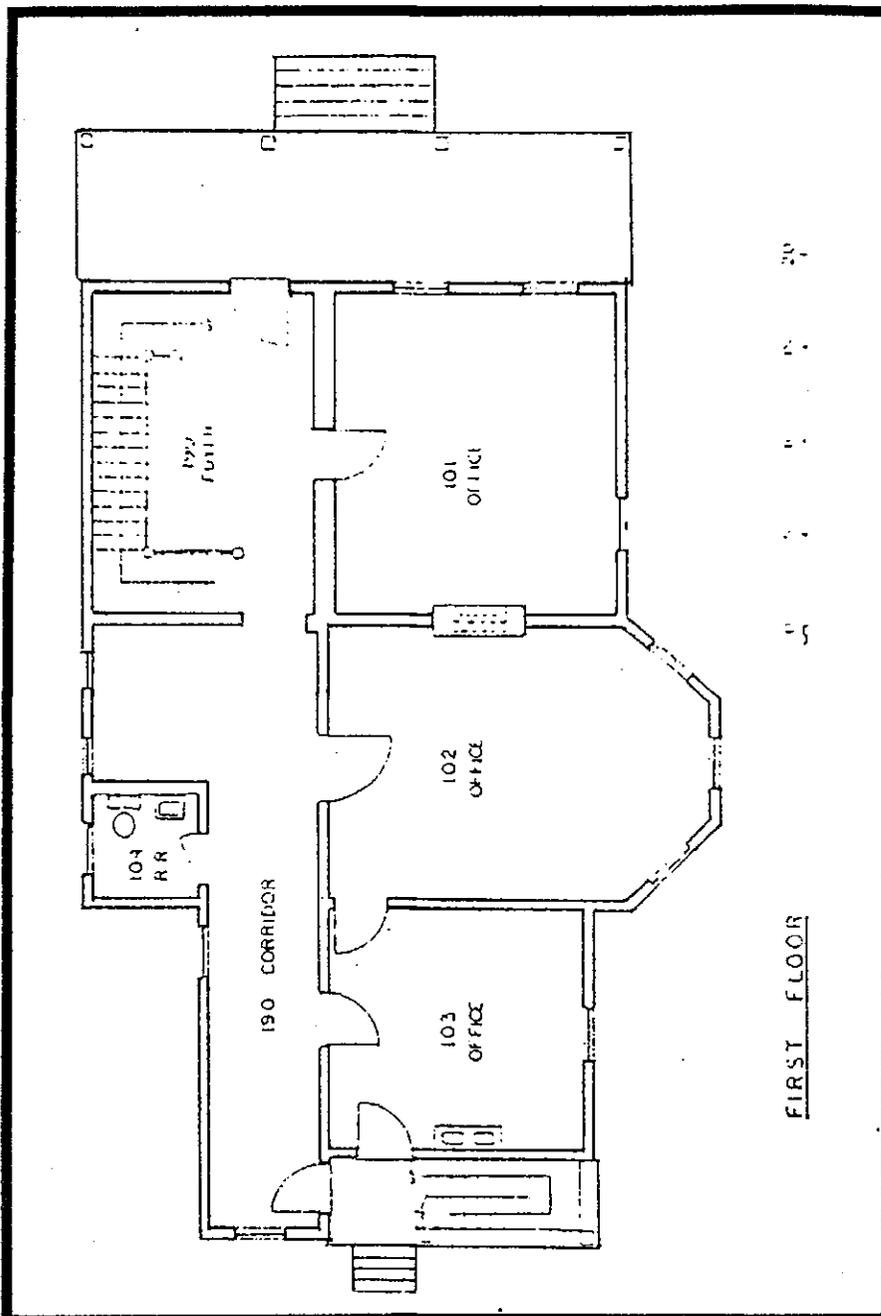
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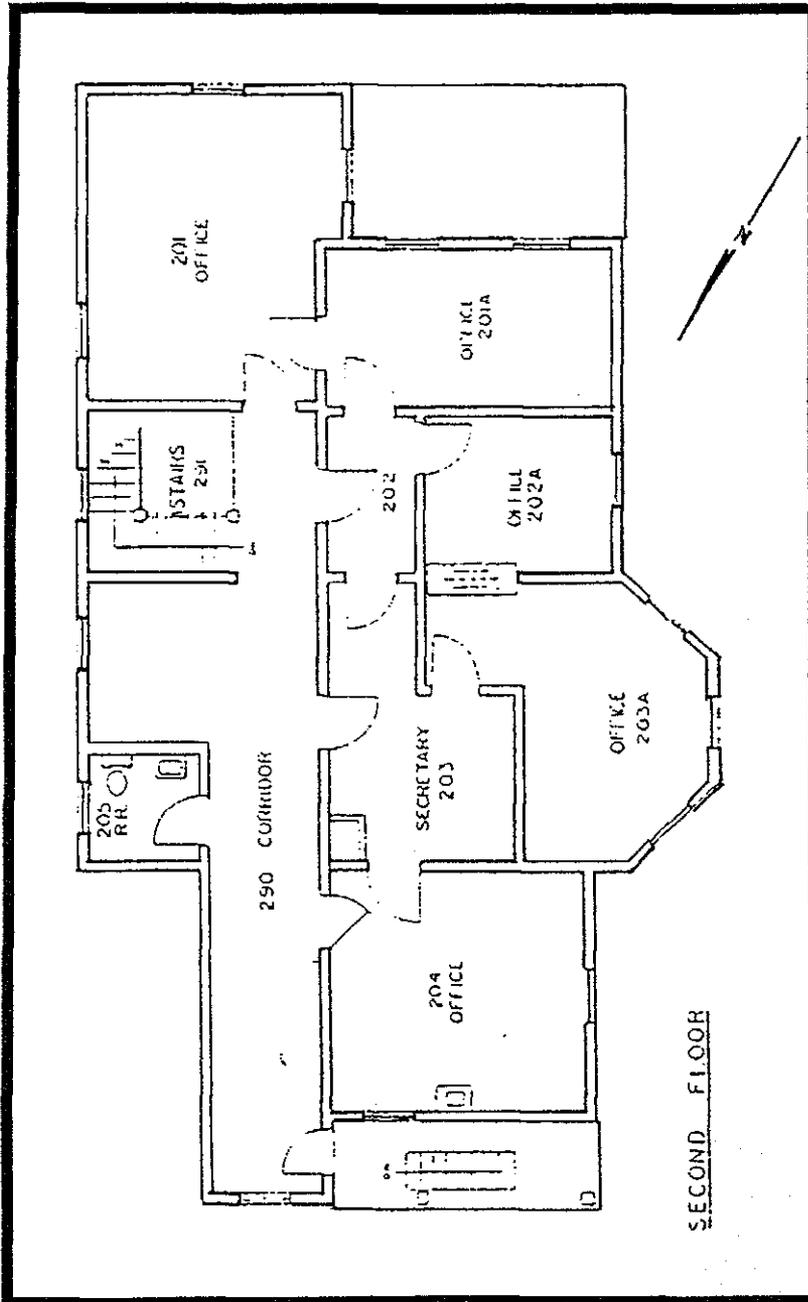
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Historian
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Photocopy of drawing (Architectural floor plans in possession of Loyola University, Physical Plant, New Orleans, Louisiana). FIRST FLOOR PLAN



Photocopy of drawing (Architectural floor plans in possession of Loyola University, Physical Plant, New Orleans, Louisiana). SECOND FLOOR PLAN