

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 13 1978  
DATE ENTERED NOV 21 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1** NAME

HISTORIC

The Dansereau House

AND/OR COMMON

The Caldwell Home

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

506 St. Philip Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Thibodaux

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd

STATE

Louisiana

CODE

22

COUNTY

Lafourche Parish

CODE

057

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. Vernon L. Caldwell

STREET & NUMBER

506 St. Philip Street

CITY, TOWN

Thibodaux

VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana 70301

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Lafourche Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

409 Green Street

CITY, TOWN

Thibodaux

STATE

Louisiana

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Cultural Resources of Thibodaux and Environs

DATE

1975-76

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Bicentennial Collection, Nicholls State University Library

CITY, TOWN

Thibodaux

STATE

Louisiana 70301

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dansereau House is set on a 1.3 acre lot in the commercial section of Thibodaux. The surrounding area is characterized by small shops, parking lots, and row houses. Because of its height, which reaches five stories at the cupola level, the Dansereau House towers above its surroundings. The only intrusion on the property is a one story concrete block building to the rear of the house which contains a swimming pool. The lot is landscaped with live oaks, sweet olives, camellias, azaleas and ligustrum.

It appears that the house began in the 1840's as a 1½ story central hall plan building with four large rooms on the ground floor. In the 1870's a second floor of a similar plan was added, along with a two tier gallery on all four sides. The house and galleries were surmounted by a massive mansard roof with a cupola. A new staircase was built to run from the first floor to the third floor mansard garret.

When the present owners took over the property, they made several changes. 1.) They removed all the fireplaces and chimneys. 2.) They enlarged the living room and the dining room on the ground floor by moving the interior walls toward the rear of the house. The only exterior change that was made was the installation of an elevator on the rear gallery.

The main block of the house is constructed of brick with brick partition walls. When the ground floor partition walls were moved, steel beams were inserted above the ceiling to bear the weight of the walls above. The lower tier of the gallery is constructed of brick arches and piers with wood columns on the upper tier. The roof structure is wholly of timber; the shingles have been replaced.

Aside from the Second Empire mansard roof and projecting frontal pavilion, the exterior is mainly articulated with pattern book Italianate details. These include the double arched windows in the dormers, the chamfered columns with brackets in the upper gallery and the combination of arches and piers in the lower gallery. They also include the octagonal cupola with its round arches, wooden voussoirs, brackets and multigable roof.

In contrast to the exterior, the interiors are plain. The only decorative features are Greek Revival shoulder molded doors on the ground floor, and a heavy newel post. Because the interiors are not a major source of significance, the interior modifications are of little consequence. In spite of the addition of the exterior elevator and pool shed, the front and sides of the house are not blocked or altered in any way. In any case, the galleries of the rear facade form such a strong pattern that the elevator is not obvious.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Dr. James Scudday-Henri Thiberge

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dansereau House is a fine example of a substantial Louisiana residence of the second half of the 19th century. This can be seen in its two story central hall plan, its surrounding galleries, and in its Italianate features. The Dansereau House is particularly noteworthy because the design incorporates a Second Empire mansard roof. The Second Empire never gained real popularity in Louisiana as it did in the North. As a result, the Dansereau House is one of a very few houses in the state with a mansard roof.

Of the historic houses in Thibodaux, the Dansereau House is by far the largest and grandest. It stands as a well known local landmark and is visible for many blocks.

Finally, the major portion of the Dansereau House was designed by the noted New Orleans architect, Henri Thiberge, who later formed a partnership with Henry Howard. Thiberge also designed the New Orleans Real Estate Exchange and the Leather-Buck House.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5	7	1	0	5	2	0	3	2	9	7	9	8	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

B 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries are formed by a rectangle on the corner of Fifth and St. Philip Streets approximately 160' x 200'.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Bertha Hillman

Revised by Jonathan Fricker

ORGANIZATION

Thibodaux Service League

DATE

2/21/78

STREET & NUMBER

306 Park Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Thibodaux

STATE

Louisiana

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 31, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11-21-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

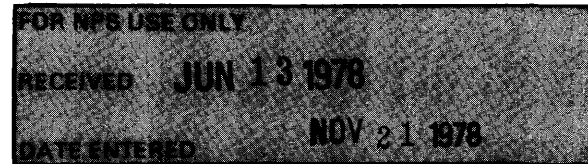
DATE

11-20-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

PRIMARY SOURCES

1. United States to Joseph Malbrough, Gales and Section Edition Vol. 2, p. 415, No. 258, Lafourche Parish Courthouse, Thibodaux, LA.
2. Joseph Malbrough to Henry Johnson, December 8, 1813 Acts of 1816, p. 56, Lafourche Parish Courthouse, Thibodaux, LA.
3. Henry Johnson to Henry S. Thibodaux, January 17, 1818 C.B. "14" p. 363, Lafourche Parish Courthouse, Thibodaux, LA.
4. Henry Johnson to Henry S. Thibodaux, October 16, 1823 C.B. "B" p. 89, Lafourche Parish Courthouse.
5. C.B. "R" p. 441, April 12, 1842, Lafourche Parish Courthouse.
6. Mrs. H.S. Thibodaux to James A. Scudday, May 26, 1842 C.B. "S" p. 91, Lafourche Parish Courthouse.
7. Dr. James A. Scudday to Edward Murphy, March 10, 1848 C.B. "Z" p. 140, Lafourche Parish Courthouse.
8. Succession of Marguerite Albert, wife of James A. Scudday to Francois Philip Dansereau, May 8, 1861, C.B. No. 9, p. 52, Lafourche Parish Courthouse.
9. C.B. No. 22, p. 602, March 20, 1886.
10. Hercules Dansereau to James E. Keefe, March 10, 1898 C.B. No. 31, p. 369, Lafourche Parish Courthouse.
11. James E. Keefe to Hercules Dansereau, March 10, 1898 C.B. No. 31, p. 370, Lafourche Parish Courthouse.
12. Mrs. Mathilde Dansereau, wife of Richard S. McMahon, et. al. to Dr. Henry Dansereau, December 2, 1919 C.B. 51, p. 69, Lafourche Parish Courthouse.
13. Succession of Dr. Philip J. Dansereau, State of Louisiana, 17th Judicial District Court No. 4335 Probate, Lafourche Parish Courthouse.
14. Dr. Henry Dansereau, et al. to Vernon L. Caldwell, Jr., April 6, 1948 C.B. 132, p. 389, Lafourche Parish Courthouse.
15. Copy of architect's drawings of H.R. Thiberge, Lafourche American Revolution Bicentennial Collection, Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, Louisiana.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

16. Sentinel, Weekly publication of Lafourche Parish, September 1, 1881, p. 1.
17. Sentinel, weekly publication of Lafourche Parish, December 25, 1875.
18. Sentinel, weekly publication, July 26, 1879.

SECONDARY SOURCES

1. Litt. Martin papers, Nicholls State University Archives, Thibodaux, LA.
2. Abstract of title for the property of Vernon L. Caldwell, Jr. by J.A. Lovell.
3. Bicentennial Architectural Inventory of V. L. Caldwell Home. Bicentennial Collection, Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, LA.
4. Interview of Victor McGee, descendent of Henry Howard, 927 Dante Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. November, 1976.

JUN 18 1978

MODERN ELEVATOR



DEN

KITCHEN

NEW WALL

NEW WALL

ORIGINAL LOCATION OF WALLS

LIVING ROOM

DINING ROOM

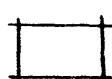
HALL

LOCATION OF REMOVED FIREPLACES

GALLERY



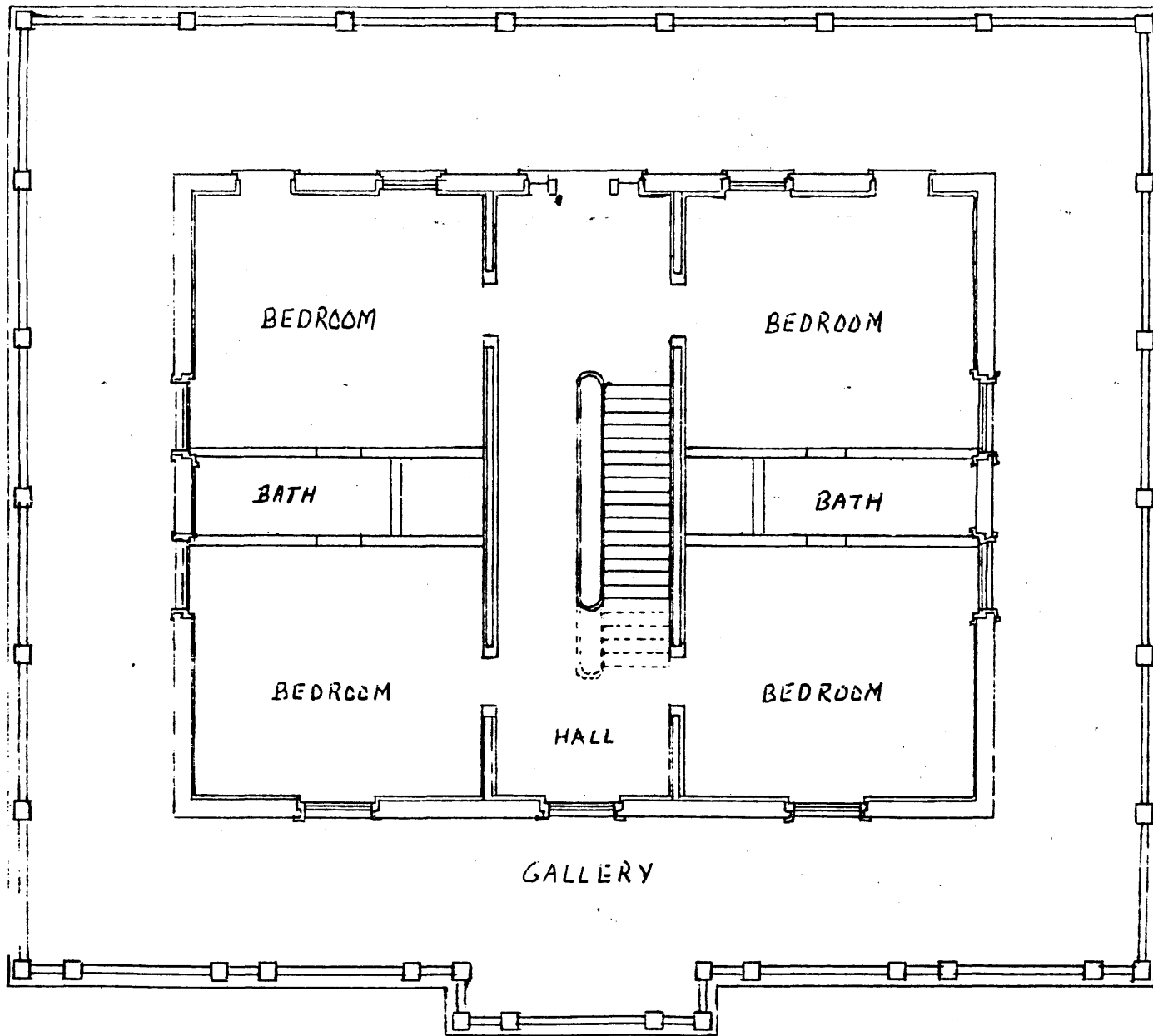
1840S PORTION  
ORIGINALLY 1 1/2 STORIES



1870S PORTION  
2 1/2 STORIES IN HEIGHT

GROUND FLOOR

John W. Dugan  
Appraiser



BEDROOM

BEDROOM

BATH

BATH

BEDROOM

BEDROOM

HALL

GALLERY

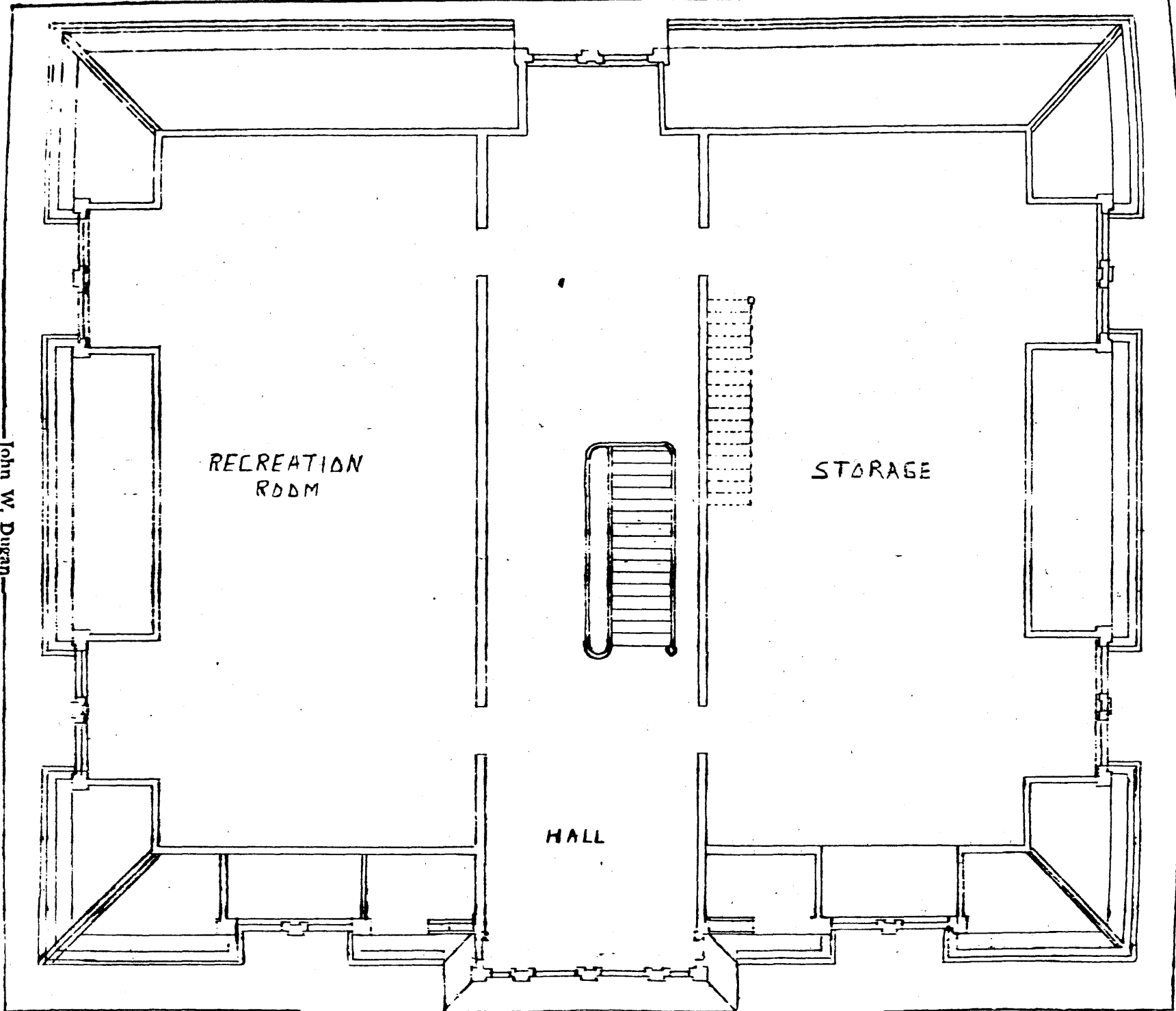
SECOND FLOOR ✓

John W. Dugan  
Appraiser

JUN 2 1907

60





John W. Dugan  
Appraiser

JUN 1 1978