

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received MAY - 9 1984  
date entered

JUN 7 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Hart House

and or common same

**2. Location**

street & number 2108 Palmer Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town New Orleans N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county Orleans Parish code 071

**3. Classification**

| Category  | Ownership                                     | Status  | Present Use   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private   | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both                 | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                     | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government                   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                   |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military                     |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
|   |   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                    |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                   |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation               |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. David L. Whitley 504-861-7937 or 504-866-6477

street & number 2108 Palmer Avenue

city, town New Orleans N/A vicinity of state LA 70118

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Department of Conveyance, City Hall

street & number 1300 Perdido

city, town New Orleans state LA 70112

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Uptown New Orleans Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Preservation Resource Center

city, town New Orleans state LA

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moveddate N/A

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Hart House (1873, remodeled and enlarged c. 1890) is a medium size frame raised cottage with Gothic Revival, Queen Anne Revival, and Eastlake detailing. It is located in a turn-of-the-century residential area in Uptown New Orleans. Despite a few alterations, the house retains its National Register eligibility.

The Hart House began in 1873 as a simple, story-and-a-half, Greek Revival cottage, two rooms deep with a central hall. The only remarkable aspect of the house was its round head windows and doors.

In about 1890 the house was enlarged and given an elaborate decorative treatment. Polygonal bays were added on both sides. The one on the south side took the form of a large room with a separate entrance and a fireplace. The one on the north side, which extended an existing room, featured imbricated shingles on the exterior. The most conspicuous feature of the renovation was the front gallery treatment. Short stubby Eastlake columns were installed with large bracketed tops which formed a set of cusped Gothic arches. This work was surmounted by a vergeboard with quatrefoil cutouts. Vergeboards of this kind were also applied in the gables and as trim in various other places. The original roofline was treated with a large single balcony dormer with Eastlake pillars and an unusual basket weave trellis.

The renovation made extensive use of small square panes of stained glass in different colors. Even the pocket doors between the front and rear parlors have stained glass.

Most of the mantels in the house date from the renovation period. The most elaborate one is in the front parlor. It features pairs of turned Eastlake columns; Eastlake spindles, brackets and gouge work; and a fluted cove cornice. The original (1873) mantels remain upstairs.

Since the c.1890 renovation the old rear gallery has been enclosed and enlarged for a modern kitchen. A new screened porch has been added at the rear. In addition, the front gallery balustrade has been replaced, as have the two sets of front steps. Finally, modern bathrooms and closets have been installed. In our opinion, these changes should be regarded as minor given the total scope of the house's architecture.

To the rear of the house is a small c.1950 frame garage which, of course, is listed as a non-contributing element.

# 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/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900–                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

**Specific dates** 1873, c. 1890 **Builder/Architect** Toby Hart (Builder)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Criterion C

The Hart House is locally significant in the area of architecture because its Gothic Revival detailing makes it an important example of Victorian architecture within the context of New Orleans.

Residences in the Gothic style are one of the hallmarks of Victorian architecture. They gained nationwide popularity due in part to the pattern books of A.J. Downing and A.J. Davis. Yet the style and the books seem to have made very little impact in nineteenth century New Orleans. For example, the recently completed survey of Uptown New Orleans, which covers some 10,716 buildings, only identified nineteen examples of the Gothic Revival style, most of which are institutional buildings. Three Gothic Revival style residences are identified as landmarks in the survey report, one of which is the Hart House. Its Gothic styling can be seen both in the pointed arch and cusped gallery and in the elaborate use of quatrefoil vergeboards. The Hart House stands as an important rare local example of a national architectural phenomenon.

Historical Note (excerpted from New Orleans Historic District Landmarks Commission nomination form)

According to records in the Notarial Archives, the land on which this building stands was acquired by Toby Hart on January 31, 1870. Real estate assessment records for this period are incomplete, but the 1875 books indicate that Hart had built on the site by that date. Hart is first listed at this location in the 1874 Soards City Directory, and as Soards books were usually published early in the year, we can assume that the present house was constructed in 1873.

While no contract or other document has been found which associates an architect with the design of the house, it is highly likely that Toby Hart himself was responsible. Hart is listed in city directories of the period as a house painter and decorator. His office was located on Commercial Place, which implies that his was a very successful business. Many of the city's most noted architects had their offices on Commercial Place; so one can assume that Hart was often called upon to decorate the interior of their residential designs. His occupation required that he be knowledgeable regarding the latest trends in both architecture and the decorative arts, a background which could surely have given him the ability to design his own house.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

New Orleans Historic District Landmarks Commission Nomination Form for Hart House (based upon primary research in notarial archives, real estate assessment records, and city directories).

Survey Report for Uptown New Orleans. Prepared by the Preservation Resource Center, New Orleans. Copy on file in LA State Historic Preservation Office.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 1/4 acre.

Quadrangle name New Orleans, East, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

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| 1    | 5 | 7 | 7 | 8       | 1 | 6 | 0 | 3        | 3 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
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| Zone |  |  |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary lines follow property lot lines, as shown on the enclosed map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

ASSISTED BY OWNERS

organization Division of Historic Preservation  
State of Louisiana

date April 1984

street & number P. O. Box 44247

telephone 504-342-6682

city or town Baton Rouge

state LA 70804

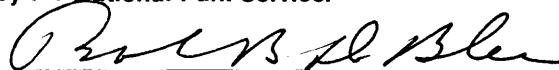
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer

Robert B. DeBlieux

date

May 7, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for   
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date

6/7/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

SQ. No. 105, BURTHEVILLE  
SIXTH DISTRICT

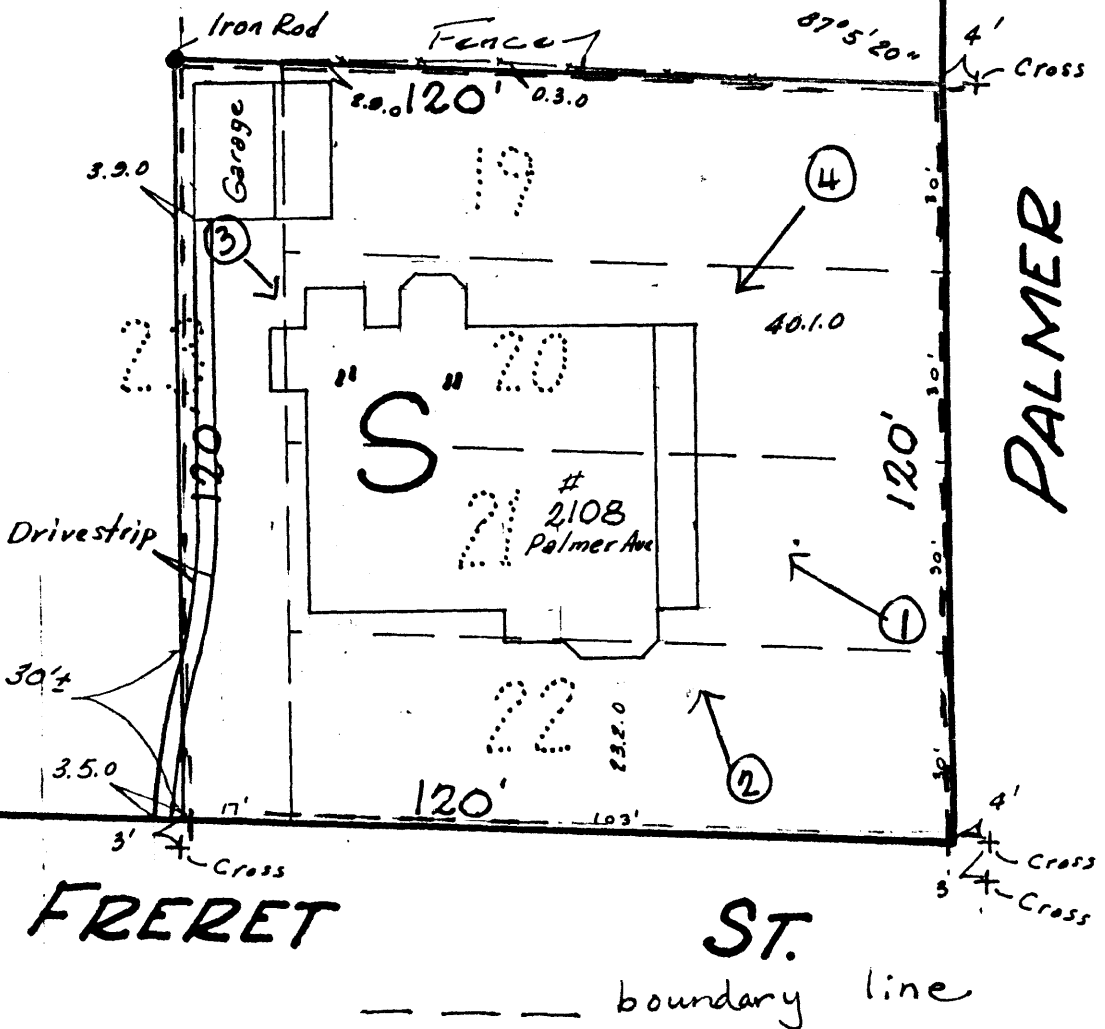
S. ROBERTSON ST. SIDE

HART HOUSE, NEW ORLEANS, ORLEANS PARISH.

CALHOUN ST.  
SIDE

AVE.

PALMER



New Orleans, La.  
Oct. 26, 1980

Survey certified correct. Made at the request  
of Mr & Mrs David Shraberg (80-20) & State Savings & Loan Ass'n.  
Gilbert, Kelly & Couturie, Inc., Surveying & Engineering

80-4533

M.D.C.

*And [Signature]*