

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mayer Hirsch House was built in about 1910 on a narrow lot which was then a newly subdivided suburban residential area. Today, however, the area is partially given over to light commercial use.

The two-story, three-bay house is relatively small, having only four major rooms on each floor and no halls. A handsome, two-story, four-column portico embraces the entire front facade, giving the house considerable pretention. This impressive Neo-Georgian styling is achieved entirely with standard materials. For example, mass-produced, composite order, terra cotta capitals rest upon wooden shafts with ordinary beaded wainscotting used to approximate fluting. The second story balcony has a standard "colonial revival" balustrade and the double plate glass sash windows are common features of the period.

Of the two front doors, only the center one is original. In the 1940's, it was copied along with its small pane transom and side lights. The copy was installed off to the side of the original door, providing direct access from the front parlor to the portico.

The house is constructed of long leaf yellow pine both in the structure and the clapboarding. To the rear of the house is a one-story kitchen wing.

There is only one chimney to service all the rooms both upstairs and down. Consequently, all fireplaces are set in the corners of rooms around a central flue system. Mantels vary in style from "colonial" to "Rococo" but all are of the standard oak, catalogue-ordered type. The rooms flow together into a unified space when the sliding paneled doors are fully opened. This allows the staircase to be seen from many parts of the house, and to dominate much of the ground floor. This paneled staircase is the most significant feature of the house, occupying most of the largest room, the foyer. The elaborate sculptured and spatial intent of staircase design can be seen in the fact that it employs fully four flights of steps and two landings to ascend one story. The heavy newel posts and many balustrades add to its effect. The interior wainscotting is of high quality with long leaf yellow pine paneling rather than the usual vertical boards. Many of the old brass fittings, locks, and escutcheon plates remain. The upper portions of the walls are to be repapered as part of the on-going restoration.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 Ca. 1910 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Builder: Mayer Hirsch

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mayer Hirsch House is one of a number of boxey frame, turn-of-the-century residences in Alexandria. However, three features imbue it with a degree of architectural significance which makes it one of the most important houses in the city.

1. The paneled wainscotting is of unusually high quality for a relatively small house.
2. The handsome colossal order portico is a most impressive feature in the area. Moreover it is easily the grandest portico of any turn-of-the-century house in the city.
3. The staircase, with its four flights of steps and two landings, exemplifies the late 19th century tendency towards spatial and sculptural complexity in domestic staircase design.

Because there are relatively few fully developed Queen Anne Revival residences in Louisiana, there are relatively few period residences in which the staircase is a positive design element and a positive spatial element of the interior. This imbues the Hirsch House with architectural significance on the state level.

According to local tradition, the house was built by Mayer Hirsch about 1910. Hirsch obtained the land in 1909 through a sheriff's sale (See Sheriff's notice of sale, 20 March 1909, Rapides Parish Records, copy in National Register file for Hirsch House, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge). Hirsch was a Russian Jewish immigrant who came to America about 1885 at the age of thirteen and apparently prospered. He seems to have lived in the house from the time of its construction until his death in 1920 at the age of forty-eight (Alexandria Daily Town Talk, 12 November 1920).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sheriff's notice of sale of Lot 3 Block 7 of the Jackson Street Subdivision, City of Alexandria, 20 March 1909, Rapides Parish Records, copy in National Register file for Hirsch House, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge. [Obituary of Mayer Hirsch], Alexandria Daily Town Talk, 12 November 1920.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 1/4 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 5,2,5 2,2,0 3,4 6,3 6,2,0

B

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The boundaries encompass a rectangle approximately 50 ft. wide and 100 ft. deep centering on the house. These boundaries encompass the house and its lot.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE R. Paul Smith

ORGANIZATION _____

DATE _____

Feb. 1979

STREET & NUMBER _____

TELEPHONE _____

1216 Jackson Street

448-1885

CITY OR TOWN _____

STATE _____

Alexandria

Louisiana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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 _____

E. Bernard Carver

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE _____

5-14-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *[Signature]*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
[Signature]
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE _____

7-26-79

DATE _____

7/25/79