

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED **SEP 30 1982**
DATE ENTERED

**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 Lane-Towers House

AND/OR COMMON
N/A

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
3730 Richmond Street

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Jacksonville

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4

STATE
Florida

CODE
12

COUNTY
Duval

CODE
031

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Jean B. Towers

STREET & NUMBER
3730 Richmond Street

CITY, TOWN
Jacksonville

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE
Florida

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Duval County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
330 E. Bay Street

CITY, TOWN
Jacksonville

STATE
Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

This property has not been determined eligible.

TITLE
Jacksonville Historic Sites Research Project

DATE
September 1980

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission

CITY, TOWN
Jacksonville

STATE
Florida

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

THE SETTING: The two acre Lane-Towers property is bounded by a six foot buttressed brick fence. The fence become three feet at the northwest streetside edge of the property and is topped with a three foot iron picket. The entrance is stone balloon capped brick piers to either side of a wrought iron gate in the Tree of Life pattern. Wrought iron lanterns hang from each pier. The house itself is barely visible through this entrance gate.

There is a herringbone brick driveway from this entrance which circles at the front of the house and forms an apron at the garage court on the northeast side. The front lawn is informally landscaped with large live oak and long needled pine trees. The trees are surrounded by azalea and camellia shrubs, planted when the house was built.

Behind the house is a slate terrace in ashlar pattern. It has a stone capped, low brick retaining wall. The terrace overlooks a broad lawn which leads to the St. Johns River, the southeast boundary of the property. There is a low retaining wall topped with a stone balustrade along the river. In the middle of the lawn is a large round pool and fountain which has been filled with shrubbery. To the southwest of the terrace is a small formal garden; to the northeast is a kitchen garden with grape pergola.

The plan of the house is the traditional Tudor E shape with two long wings on a northwest, southeast axis connected by a transverse wing from which the entrance advances slightly, forming the center arm of the E. The long wings advance from the transverse wing to form the outer arms of the E. They extend beyond the transverse wing to the rear of the house forming a central court which adjoins the rear terrace. The southwest wing contains the living room and library downstairs and the master suite and one large bedroom upstairs. The northeast wing contains the dining room, breakfast room, kitchen and pantry areas downstairs and four bedrooms and laundry upstairs. The transverse wing contains the entrance hall and Great Hall downstairs and a bedroom-sitting room suite upstairs. There are two large bays with flat roofs, one at the river end of the living room and one where the kitchen area extends beyond the northeast wing. This forms the octagonal shaped breakfast room, added just after the house was built.

The house is of vari-colored red brick laid up with protruding mortar in common bond. Some of the second story areas are done in half timber and stucco. The intersecting slate roofs are gabled with stucco and half timbering or brick noggering above the cornice line. Verge boards with strapwork between moulded margins and ridge pendants edge the gable ends.

All of the windows are metal casement with either wood or stone surrounds. They vary in size, plan and number of lites. All have multiple comes. There are several highly decorative windows with colored glass, concrete surrounds and mullions or carved breastplates. Entrance doors have quoin surrounds. Chimneys are broad, tall and the chimney stacks are laid up in various decorative brickwork patterns, with paneled flues, corbelled caps and chimney pots. There are copper gutters with decorated heads at each corner of the building. The house is large, approximately 100' by 50', with large interior rooms. The major masonry decor is tone quoins at the doorways, windows and wall margins and mezzo relivo carvings.

(See Continuation Sheet)

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 1928

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Marsh and Saxelbye (Jacksonville)
H.S. Baird (Jacksonville)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1928, the Lane-Towers House is one of the finest "Tudor Revival" homes built in Jacksonville, Florida. As designed by the prominent architects Wm. M. Marsh and Harold Saxelbye, this house incorporates many features characteristic of the style. The grounds, floor plan, interior and exterior finishes and details each reflect the skill and experience of the architects in designing "Tudor Revival" architecture. The house which has been owned by two of the most prominent families in Jacksonville, has had very few alterations.

The Lane Towers House sits in the middle of more than two acres of land on the St. Johns River at a point where the river is nearly three miles wide. The view from the back of the house is east and south to a point of land on the opposite bank of the river which is mostly undeveloped. This, despite the fact that metropolitan Jacksonville stretches for miles along both banks of the St. Johns. The house is about four miles from downtown proper and in an urban neighborhood. The front of the house is only barely visible from the street because the property slopes down towards the river. The effect is one of being out in the country.

The house has most of the classic features of "Tudor Revival" which had its origins in Elizabethan England. It has an E plan where wings extend forward at each end of a rectangular block. The inner stroke is provided by the projecting entrance porch. The wings extend to a much greater degree towards the back, or Riverside, forming a center court. The materials are brick, stucco, and half timbering. The roofs are gable and the chimney stacks very ornamental.

The interior materials are ornamented plaster ceilings and walls, large fireplaces and oak paneling and floors. There are brass and pewter lighting fixtures. Smaller interior rooms lead off a large main hall and overhead gallery reached by a broad open stairway of oak with decorative newels.¹

The architects for this house were the firm of Marsh and Saxelbye whose other buildings on the National Register of Historic Places include Epping Forest directly across the river.²

Mr. William Mulford Marsh was born and trained in Jacksonville, Florida, around the turn of the century. He trained in the office of Talley and Sumner, noted local architects.

Mr. Harold Saxelbye was born in Hull, England. He was educated at the Royal Institute of Architects and apprenticed under B.S. Jacobs, a noted English architect. Mr. Saxelbye came to New York in 1904 to work for Mr. Jacobs on the Hudson River and Pennsylvania Railroad Tunnels. The firm then proceeded to build the Long Island Railroad Tunnel. Mr. Saxelbye designed all the above ground facilities for this project. Mr. Saxelbye remained in New York with the firm of Thompson and Frohling until 1914 when he came to Jacksonville to form his partnership with Mr. Marsh which was to last more than thirty years. The Lane-Towers House was built in 1928 when both men were at their best professionally, working on major projects in Jacksonville and throughout

(See Continuation Sheet)

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.22 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	7	4	3	2	2	4	0	2	2	4	1	0	9	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ann McDonald/Larry S. Paarlberg, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management August 13, 1982

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

The Capitol

(904) 487-2333

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Tallahassee

Florida

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

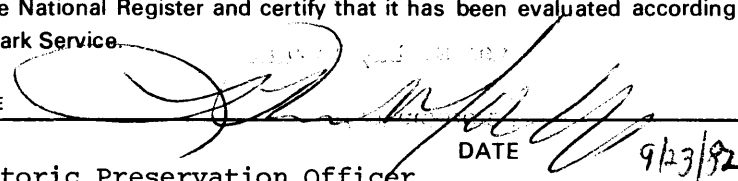
NATIONAL

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

L. Ross Morrell, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

9/23/82

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Bonnie Dwyer

DATE

11/10/82

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: Patrick Andrus

DATE

11/8/82

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The northwest or front facade has the entrance advancing slightly off center from the transverse wing. It has buttressed margins and battlemented crown. The Tudor shaped paneled door is recessed in a plain frame with stone cavetto moulding, drip and quoin surrounds. The spandrel is carved with a foliated pattern. It is flanked by wrought iron lanterns. Above the door is a three lite cross window set in a Tudor arch with stone drip, sills, quoins and mullions. The window itself is described in the interior. The entrance becomes crenelated above the main roof line. It is capped with stone coping. A string course marks the cornice and has gargoyles at either end. The center battlement has a carved crowned herald flanked with foliage.

The wall of the transverse wing is vine covered brick on the first story and pegged half timbering on the second. There is a single casement at each end of the wall of the first story. To the left of the entry door is a Tudor arched window with stone drip and surrounds. The comes are diamond shapes. There is a four lite window with wood surrounds on the second story. A small hip roof dormer with a two lite casement window marks the attic space above.

The northeast wing face is brick to the cornice with half timber and brick noggering in the gable above the cornice. The first story is vine covered brick with a pair of three casement windows. They have stone sills. The second story has a single lite casement window flanking a pair of casement; all have stone sills. There are a pair of casement windows with pegged wood surrounds in the gable end.

The southwest wing face is of vine covered brick on the first story, stucco and pegged half timbers on the second and third. An exterior brick chimney with stone capped buttress rises off center through the west roof slope. It has paneled flues with corbelled cap and round chimney pots. There is a strap iron anchor attached on the second story. At the first story, two cross windows flank the chimney. They have a stone drip, quoin surrounds and sills. On the second story there are casements directly above the first story ones with pegged wood surrounds and quatrefoil cutout breastplate panels of wood. To the northeast is a smaller window with a diamond shaped breastplate formed by timbered knees. There is a double casement window in the gable end.

The western end of the transverse wing is vine covered brick on the first story. The second and third stories are pegged half timbers and stucco. The first story window is a four lite cross with stone moulded drip, mullions and quoin surrounds. There are two pair of casements directly above it with pegged timber surrounds and diamond shaped breastplates. There is a pair of casements in the gable end.

The southwest wing is brick with stone string courses below the second story windows and above the first story windows. It is divided by an exterior chimney which has a slate capped buttress. The chimney rises above the roof with eight sided star shaped flues, corbelled caps and chimney pots. On the first story, four lite cross windows with stone drip, mullions and sills, and quoin surrounds flank the chimney. To the left of the chimney on the second story are a pair of casement windows with stone sills. To the right is a four lite casement window with stone drip and sills and quoin sides.

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The southeast face of this wing overlooks the river. Its feature is a pentagonal bay built of brick with stone quoins at the margins. It is united with the wing by the continuing string courses below the second story windows and above the first floor. It has a flat roof built up with a stone coping. There are pairs of two lite cross windows with stone lintels and sills and quoin sides in the three larger walls, with identical casement windows on the shorter wall at the second story. Stone mullions create two lites on the second story casement window. The main roof line end is a gable edged with strapwork between moulded margins and a ridge pendant. There is a single casement with pegged surrounds and pegged half timber and stucco in the gable end. The courtyard side of this wing is brick with stone string course below the second story. There is a french door of glass and metal jalousies at the center of the first story. It is set in a plain frame with transom. It has a stone drip and quoin sides. There is a four lite casement above it on the second story.

The transverse wing on the courtyard is brick with a stone string course below the second story. A large gable roofed dormer pierces the roof at the center of the wing. The gable edge is strapwork between mouldings. Pegged wood beams with stucco between cap four casement windows which have pegged wood surrounds. Below the dormer is a four lite cross window with stone mullions, lintels, sills and quoin sides and moulded drip. There is a decorative spandrel with quoin margins between the first and second story windows. At the center is a knight's helmet over a plain shield with foliage surrounds. This is flanked by candelabrum pilasters. Each outer panel is bontounee cross with boss set in a lozenge with foliage surrounds. Below this spandrel is a four lite cross window set in Tudor arches. It has stone drip and sills, cavetto moulding, mullions and quoin sides. The transom has a shield of colored glass at the center of each arch. To the right on the first floor is a Tudor arched doorway with glass and metal jalousies. It has a stone drip, cavetto moulding and quoin sides.

The northeast wing is of vine covered brick on the first story and stucco and pegged half timber on the second. On the courtyard side, a square wood oriel window rests on carved brackets at the center of the second story. There is a french door of glass and metal jalousies set in a stone frame with transom below the oriel window. It has a moulded stone drip and quoin sides.

The southeast face of this wing has a five lite cross in the center of the first story. It has a stone drip cavetto moulding, mullions and quoin sides. On the second story is a pair of three lite casement windows with pegged wood surrounds and lozenge breastplates. The gable end is stucco and pegged half timber with a single casement window.

On the outer face of the northeast wing the second story echoes the courtyard side. In the first story is a six sided bay with flat roof built up with stone coping. The walls are vine covered brick. A french door of glass and metal jalousies is set in a Tudor arch. The decorative tympanium is a shield with foliated surrounds. A cross window of two lites faces the northeast. The reentrant angle has a two lite casement at the second story. The remaining walls of this wing are of vine covered brick.

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The northeast face of the transverse wing is pegged half timber over brick to the cornice line. It has a three lite casement window in the gable end which is clipped. It faces the kitchen court. An exterior chimney with paneled flues and corbeled cap and twisted chimney pots rises above the northwest slope of the roof. Casement windows in singles and pairs line the second story. A doorway with a shed roof to the left of the chimney leads into the butler's pantry on the first story.

X At the northeast margin of the house is a covered passageway made of brick with a slate roof and floor, which connect the house and garage areas. The doorway to the kitchen is set in the main house at one end and the door to the laundry set in the garage at the other. The entrance court side of the passageway has a window with turned wood grille and an elliptically arched doorway of brick voussours to allow vehicles into the kitchen court beyond. The passageway from the house and the garage with living quarters above form an L at the front of the house creating a garage court at the northeast edge of the property. The garage is four bays built of brick with wood overhang hung doors. A laundry is at the end of the passage opposite the kitchen door. Adjacent to the laundry is a door and stairway leading to the living quarters above. A large flat dormer with triple casement windows flanking a pegged half timbered void pierces the southwest gable slope. The gable ends are french doors set in pegged half timber and stucco. On the southeast is a wood balcony on metal pole supports. It has an aluminum canopy. Both seem to be modern additions. Under the balcony is a four lite casement window.

At the southwest margin of the house is a six foot brick wall which connects to the brick fence which surrounds the property. There is a wrought iron gate through to the formal garden in the center of the wall.

LANE-TOWERS HOUSE INTERIOR

Through the entrance door is a small passage under the stair landing. On the right is a Tudor arched hall door leading to the library. The hall contains a wood bin and bar on the southeast wall and men's toilet on the northwest wall. On the left of the entrance is a cage lift added in the 1950's. Under the cage lift platform is a Tudor arched door leading to the butler's pantry. There is a ladies' restroom on the northwest side opposite a room-sized safe. Further along the passage is a large storage closet opposite a door which leads to the half basement. Just beyond this entrance passage to the southeast is a two story entrance hall. It has a random ashlar slate floor. Oak paneling with bead and cove moulding and nail head bonds reaches to the second story, forming wainscoting for the stair which wraps to the right. A short flight of bull nosed steps leads to a small landing. Above this cross landing is a large Tudor arched stone cross window with three lites. Each lite is multipaned with leaded mullions and repair comes. Four of the lites are decorated with colored glass. The center panel is St. Andrew slaying the Dragon. Over the St. Andrew is a battlemented tower. To the left of St. Andrew is a raven. To the right is a lion. The final stairway flight leads to a Tudor arcade. The entire

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stairway and arcade has a dark oak turnpost railing rather like a balcony. The newel posts along the stairway are decorated with lion, gnome, elephant and pelican grotesques. The alternate newels are boxed urns. The wall above the wainscotting are antiqued plaster. The ceiling is also antiqued plaster between dark oak beams. A gothic lamp hangs from the ceiling.

To the southeast of the entrance hall is a Tudor arched doorway of terra cotta which supports a polychromed wrought iron gate. To either side hangs a matching wrought iron lantern. Through this gate and down two steps is the reception hall. Light streams through a four bay window which overlooks the terrace, a broad lawn and the St. Johns River beyond. The mullions of this window are oak with beaded edges. It has leaded glass antiqued with repair comes. The transom of four Tudor arches are decorated with a herald of colored glass. The reception hall walls are of antiqued plaster. The ceiling is of oak beams with chamfered edges and pegged mortise wood brackets. The chandelier is gothic corna lucis of six lites. It is matched with wall sconces on each wall. The doorways from the hall are Tudor arched terra cotta with return head moulding on the head and jamb. The spandrels are incised with dragon, lion, griffin and dolphin motifs. A small paneled door to the left of the window leads out to the terrace.

To the southwest is the twenty four by thirty foot living room. At the southern end is a entrance void with a step up and chamfered beam support into an eighteen by ten foot bay which overlooks the lawn leading to the St. Johns River. The room is dominated by a large recessed fireplace in the center of the southwest wall. Set in a Tudor arch with oak panels to the arch spring, it has six panels of linenfold carving topped with billet moulding over it. The fireplace itself is of carved terra cotta. There are brass sconces on either side. It is incised with six quatrefoil and boss. The spandrel is a dragon. The chimney back and jamb are layed up in chevron patterned firebrick.

The fireplace is flanked by four lite cross windows. The bay has a six lite cross window with four lite casement to either side. A french door on the east wall leads to the terrace. The ceiling is chamfered beams which rest on ogee brackets on the shorter axis. Plaster and cross beams run northeast-southwest. A six arm chandelier hangs from the center of the ceiling. The floor is oak veneer planking.

A Tudor arched double panel door on the north wall leads to the library which is shelved on three walls. A Tudor arched door on the east connects with the entrance passage. Cupboards under the north and west casement windows are for storage and hide heating radiators as well. Above the shelving is a trayle frieze between bead and cove moulding capped with billet moulding. The plaster ceiling and wall space above the moulding are decorated with figures and Tudor roses. The plain fireplace on the north wall is surrounded by rectangular oak panels, some of which become hidden compartments. There is a six lite candelabrum in the center of the ceiling. The floor is oak veneer planks. The windows are a pair of cross windows flanking the fireplace and a four lite cross window on the southwest wall. They are recessed behind rectangular panels.

The dining room is at the east end of the Great Hall through the Tudor arched

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double paneled door. The walls are paneled in yellow heart pine with deep crown cornices done in a Louis XVI mode. The plaster ceiling has a carved plaster medallion center from which hangs an eight light pewter chandelier. The side walls have matching wall sconces. The terra cotta fireplace on the east wall is flanked by pilasters crowned with carved consoles which support the mantel. The frieze is incised with a herald and foliated pattern. A swinging door on either side of the fireplace leads to the butler's pantry on the north and the morning room on the south. On the south wall is a five bay cross window. On the west wall a small door leads to the terrace.

The morning room was added to the house in 1928. It is at the river end of the service wing just to the east of the dining room. It is octagonal in shape with wall spaces alternating with a casement window on the east, doorways to the butler's pantry on the north and the dining room on the west, and to the terrace on the south. The ceiling is a gold leafed dome. Cavetto and billet moulding cap an incised rinceau. From the center hangs a prism chandelier of four tiers. The walls are framed with an antiqued oak moulding, the wall paper is Japanese porcelain wrappers glued together into a scene which depicts Oriental birds and foliage. Each wall is a different scene. The floor is oak veneer planks.

The service wing is large (30' x 36') and contains a kitchen, pantry and dining area, a butler's pantry with oak and glass cupboards and a china and silver pantry. There is a stairway to the second and third floors from the butler's pantry.

The second floor rooms lead off the long gallery over the entrance hall through Tudor arches. The Master suite over the living room contains an alcove or sleeping porch, a bedroom with a fireplace and bath and dressing area with large closets. To the north is a large bedroom and bath. A bedroom, sitting room and bath overlooking the terrace runs the length of the gallery. Two bedrooms separated by a sitting room and bath are over the dining room. There is a sewing room and laundry at the east end of the gallery. There are two smaller bedrooms and bath at the north end of this wing. The third floor is used for storage but could easily become living space equal to that on the second floor.

The original plans and drawings for the Edward Lane House are on file at Saxelbye, Powell, Roberts and Ponder, Architects, Jacksonville, Florida. These plans and an additional incomplete set now owned by Mrs. Wm. Towers show that the house has remained unaltered from the time it was built (Building Permit Number 210, February 16, 1928) with the exception of the addition of the Morning Room and the Cage Lift. Plans for the Morning Room are dated May 29, 1935. The Cage Lift was added in the late 1950's during Mr. Lane's last illness (no records of installation available in public records). The complete set of plans contain more than fifty sheets an unusually high number for architects to prepare in the 1920's and they are quite detailed. The Morning Room has become an essential room and one that has been used constantly by both families. The Cage Lift is a simple mechanism and could be easily removed.

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the State of Florida.³

Mr. Saxelbye's English background is plainly evident in his handling of the design of the Lane-Towers House. This is not just superficial Tudor details applied to an incompatible design, but the work of a skilled and experienced architect who had a firsthand knowledge of the great Elizabethan Houses such as Blickling Hall and Montacute Hall.⁴

The Edward W. Lane, Sr.'s built their house on the St. Johns River after many years in the Springfield area of Jacksonville in a house also designed by Marsh and Saxelbye. Mr. Lane traced his family to Elizabethan England. General Lane's family settled in Savannah, Georgia, in 1791 after serving with distinction in the American Revolution. Edward Lane moved to Jacksonville in 1903 when he founded the Atlantic National Bank. He was active in the civic, social and political affairs of Jacksonville and Florida. The house was a home to the Lanes for more than forty years. It also served as a focal point for cultural activities by various musical and artistic groups before there was a local theater or art gallery. Numerous musical concerts were given at the house.⁵

The William B. Towers purchased the house from the Lane estate. The Towers family is also prominent in the community, having come to Jacksonville from Quincy in Gadsden County where the family settled before the Seminole War of 1835. Mr. Towers' great-grandfather Charles served with distinction during that war and also the Civil War. He was a Justice of the Florida Supreme Court.⁶

Throughout its history this house has been opened to the general public as a fund raising vehicle for such groups as the Red Cross, Heart Fund, Symphony Guild and many others, including Riverside Avondale Preservation.⁷

FOOTNOTES

¹Yarwood, Doreen, The Architecture of Britian, pp. 96-102.

²Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission clipping files.

³Dovell, Ed, Florida Historic Dramatic Contemporary, Vol. III, pp. 86-87.

⁴Norwich, John J., Great Architecture of the World, p. 169.

⁵Gold, Pleasants Daniel, History of Duval County, p. 354.

⁶Cash, W.T., Story of Florida, p. 307.

⁷Lane, Mrs. Ed. W., Jr. and Mrs. Wm. B. Towers' personal recollections.

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This property is bounded on the northwest by the thirty seven hundred block of Richmond Street, on the southeast by the St. Johns River. The northeast and southwest boundaries are marked by a six foot high buttressed brick wall which separates it from the neighboring properties at 3710 Richmond Street and 3804 Richmond Street.