

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 3 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 Tewell House

AND/OR COMMON
The Steeg House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1503 Valence St.

CITY, TOWN
New Orleans

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
2nd - Lindy Boggs

STATE
Louisiana

--- VICINITY OF
CODE
22

COUNTY
Orleans

CODE
071 ✓

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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Moise S. Steeg

STREET & NUMBER
1503 Valence St.

CITY, TOWN
New Orleans

STATE
Louisiana

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registrar of Conveyance Office

STREET & NUMBER
Civil Courts Building, 420 Loyola Avenue

CITY, TOWN
New Orleans

STATE
Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE New Orleans Community Renewal Program

DATE
1969

--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Special Collection Division, Howard Tilton Library, Tulane University

CITY, TOWN
New Orleans

STATE
Louisiana

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 Tewell House, an Italianate style raised villa, is located on its original corner site. The area surrounding the building is residential, with a majority of the large houses in the vicinity dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The spacious lot, enclosed by an iron fence contemporary to the building, includes a front yard of sixteen feet and a landscaped side yard of twenty-eight feet. Within the rear yard, which measures thirty-five feet from the house to the rear lot line, there is a twentieth century garage and a utility building which are not visible from the street. The entrance to the garage, though visible from the side street, does not represent a major intrusion since it cannot be seen when facing the front of the house.

The main entrance to the house is approached via a straight stair centrally located on the eight foot deep gallery or portico. Inside, there are four rooms of equal dimensions located off of the central hall; double parlors to the lake side and two rooms, now used as a guest room and a study, to the river side. The original doorway between these two rooms has been removed and covered by sheetrock in the bedroom and built-in bookcases in the study. The side windows in the study have also been covered over. The dining room is located directly behind the double parlors. The bay in this room was added during the first decade of the twentieth century, the dating having been determined by Sanborn maps from immediately before and after this period. According to the owner's records, the wing opposite the kitchen was built as a sun porch in 1936 and remodeled as a master bedroom in the late 1950's. The central hall of the second floor is approached by a half-turn winding stair. There are two bedrooms located off this hall, in addition to a small sitting room in the front dormer.

Information found in conveyance records, tax assessment records and city directories suggest a construction date of 1870. Available primary research materials do not give the name of an architect or builder. The one-and-one-half story frame house is raised on four foot high brick piers that are laid in an irregular bond. The six inch thick exterior walls are covered by drop-lap siding on the entrance facade and waterboards on the side and rear. The siding used on the bedroom addition and the service buildings duplicates the original weatherboard treatment.

The most characteristic Italianate style details found on the exterior of the building are the paired brackets on the gallery entablature and the paired, round-arched windows in the front dormer and side gables. Other original window openings and the entranceway are square headed and have entablatures with molded cornices. The entranceway entablature appears to be supported by panelled pilasters. The existing doorway within the entrance has side lights and a transom surrounding a four-panelled door. Although dating from a late 1950's remodelling, this doorway with its restrained classical details is sympathetic to the style of the building. The entrance gallery is supported by fluted Corinthian columns connected by a wood railing with turned balusters.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

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7. Description (cont'd)

The interior stairway has a large turned newel post and delicately turned balusters. Other original interior features include the molded cornices, the door and window surrounds, and the interesting wooden parlor mantels. The configuration and detailing of these mantels is similar to that of contemporary marble mantels. The Rococo-inspired ornamental facings of the fireplace openings are of cast iron. The only significant interior elements which have been removed are the ceiling medallions.

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 Built 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tewell House is an outstanding example of an Italianate style raised villa, a residential building type employed by prosperous New Orleanians during the 1860's and 1870's. Unlike many other raised villas that have had dormers replaced or foundation levels enclosed or altered, the entrance facade of the Tewell House is unaltered except for the doorway. The sophisticated detailing of the fluted Corinthian gallery columns, the front dormer and the paired windows in the side gables are finer than those on many of the raised villas remaining in New Orleans. Moreover, the large, well landscaped side yard conveys the impression of a spacious garden setting better than do the lost of many raised villas that were never as large or have lost front footage due to subdivision.

The neighborhood in which the property is located is known as Faubourg Bouligny, named after Louis Bouligny who purchased plantation land from Wade Hampton in 1916. The plantation was subdivided in 1834 by Samuel Kohn and Laurent Millaudon who had bought it in 1831. The Millaudon family, one of the wealthiest in Louisiana, retained ownership of the square upon which the Tewell House is located until the late 1860's.

James E. Tewell owned the property when the house was constructed c. 1870. The city directory for 1871 lists Tewell as being the Administrator of Waterworks and Public Buildings for the city. The Tewells operated the Valence Institute in their home from about 1879 until 1895. The Valence Institute was a boarding school for "young ladies and little children." The Tewells sold the property in 1899.

During the twentieth century, the property has been owned by several prominent citizens, the three most noted being A. Stanton Merril, Harry McCall, Jr. and Moise S. Steeg, Jr. A. Stanton Merril, who purchased the property in 1951, was a Vice-Admiral of the Navy noted for his military victories in the Pacific during World War II. The house was owned from 1955 until 1972 by Harry McCall, Jr., a noted attorney and King of Carnival in 1976. McCall sold the property to Moise Steeg, a prominent local attorney. Steeg has served the city as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the New Orleans Museum of Art and as the first Chairman of the New Orleans Historic District Landmarks Commission, and remains active in many civic and social organizations.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Real Estate Conveyance Records, Registrar of Conveyance Office, New Orleans, La.
 Sanborn Maps, various years, Tulane University, New Orleans, La.
 Soard's New Orleans City Directories, various years, New Orleans Public Library.
 Tax Assessment Records (microfilm), New Orleans Public Library.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 7,7,9 4,6,0 3,3 1,3 8,8,0

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries encompass a rectangle on the corner of Pitt Street and Valence Street, approximately 150' x 175'.

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 Karen Graham Wade, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION New Orleans Historic District Landmarks Commission

DATE March 1978

STREET & NUMBER 1545 Camp Street

TELEPHONE _____

CITY OR TOWN New Orleans

STATE Louisiana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

J. Bernard Lemer

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 26 June 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

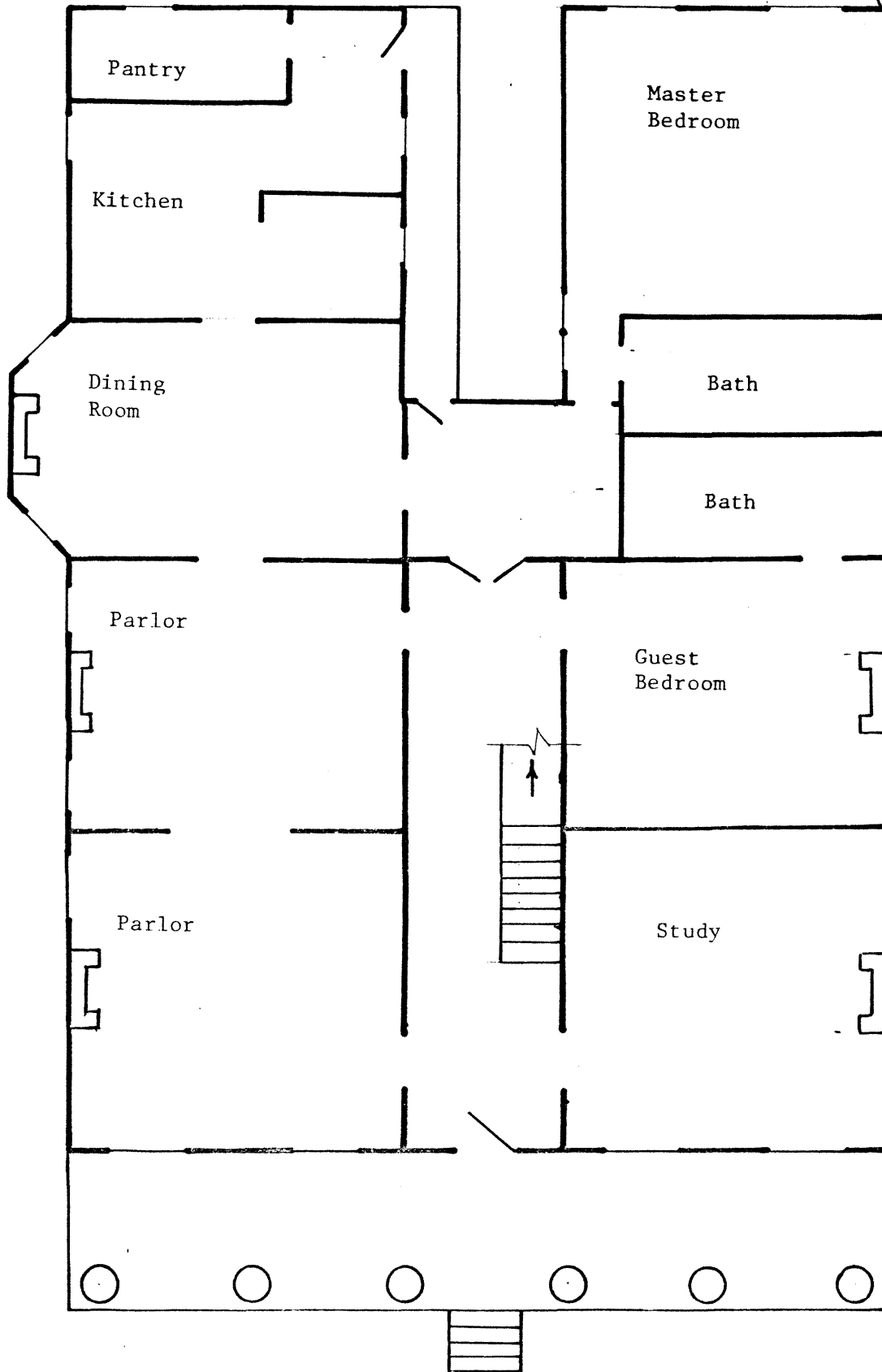
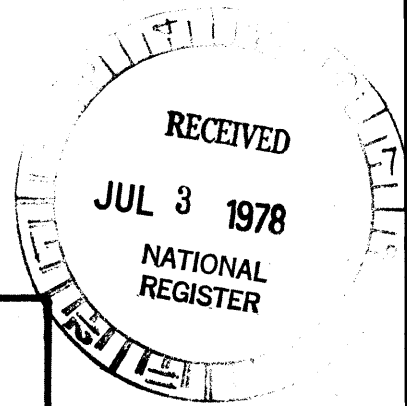
Charles King
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11-21-78

ATTEST *Marion Sheff*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 11-20-78

The Tewell-Steeg House
1503 Valence Street



Tewell-Steeg House
Second Floor

