

PH0354198

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 3 1976
DATE ENTERED	005 3 1 1976

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 Isaacs.
 HISTORIC The Williams Mansion
 **
 AND/OR COMMON The (Milton H. Latter Memorial Library)

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 5120 St. Charles Avenue

CITY, TOWN New Orleans VICINITY OF 2nd Mrs. Lindy Boggs (NOT FOR PUBLICATION)
 STATE Louisiana CODE 22 COUNTY Orleans CODE 071

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>Library</u>

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME City of New Orleans

STREET & NUMBER 1300 Perdido Street

CITY, TOWN New Orleans VICINITY OF Louisiana STATE Louisiana

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Department of Conveyances

STREET & NUMBER 1300 Perdido Street

CITY, TOWN New Orleans STATE Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Curtis and Davis New Orleans Housing and Neighborhood Preservation Study
St. Charles Avenue Architectural and Structural Survey

DATE 1973 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS City Planning Commission, City Hall

CITY, TOWN New Orleans STATE Louisiana

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The architectural and contracting firm for the Latter Library was Favrot and Livadais, and construction was started and completed in 1907. The building has the same outward appearance as when it was constructed. Architecturally the style is an eclectic combination of Renaissance, English and French Baroque, and Edwardian. The building has three stories and a basement with a large porch across the front and extending partially around the two sides. It is constructed of stone with a red Spanish tile roof. The brackets which support the overhanging roof are arranged in a 2-1-1-2 manner typical of other work by the Favrot and Livadais firm. There are ten rooms on the main floor, originally consisting of a mansion library, a solarium, a formal dining room, a conservatory, an informal dining room, a kitchen, a butler's pantry, a breakfast room, a reception hall, and a Louis XIV French parlor. There were six bedrooms and four baths on the second floor with a large center hall. The third floor is one large room that was designed for parties and balls and has a large skylight in the center. The rooms are now used for library purposes.

In the mansion library and Louis XIV parlors are large canvas paintings glued to the ceiling and signed "de Rudder, Paris, 1858." These were originally in a house on Royal Street, but were installed in the Latter Library when it was constructed. Each of these rooms also contains massive hand-carved oak mantels and tapestry-like wallpaper. The other rooms have painted plaster walls with very elaborate woodwork and details.

In the rear wing is a service elevator from the basement to the second floor. It is open in the "birdcage" style with much Art Nouveau ironwork.

There were several stained glass windows on the grand staircase landing, but these have been removed, and stored for both protection and to admit more light into the area. The staircase itself is massive, although relatively plain.

The house faces onto St. Charles Avenue on a raised knoll surrounded with extensive landscaping and plantings. To the rear of the house is a garage in the style of the house. This garage was built to house one of the early automobiles in the city.

In 1948 the house was given to the city as a library. There have been no major changes to either the internal or external arrangement of the house other than the installation of shelving for books and the closing of several of the bedrooms upstairs, the removal of two bathrooms and the kitchen - all for additional library work and stack space. Except for these changes and the addition of the library fixtures and furniture, the house is original. (Refer to plan)

The present use has made the building "wear" to a certain extent, but there is an ongoing effort by the city to maintain the building in good repair.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) library	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Favrot and Livadais

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Milton H. Latter Memorial Library is significant in New Orleans primarily because it serves as a social document reflecting the zenith of Jewish social and economic life there during the early part of the 20th century. It illustrates the New Orleans adaptation of the "Newport approach" to architecture, clearly reflecting the society which produced it. Few buildings of this magnitude remain in New Orleans.

The house was constructed by Marks Isaacs, founder of one of the larger merchandising firms in the city, Maison Blanche. Isaacs is representative of the Jewish mercantile community in New Orleans at the turn of the century, and his house is an example of a mansion that the new "commercial money" produced. The Isaacs family lived in the house from 1907 until 1912, during which time the third floor ballroom was the scene of many grand social affairs.

After Isaacs died the house was purchased by Frank B. Williams. It was through this family association that the house became known as "The Williams Mansion." The most notable member of the family was Harry P. Williams, who was indirectly associated with the aircraft industry and was also a lumberman. He married Margarite Clark (one of the three most famous actresses of the silent screen along with Mary Pickford and Clara Bow), and they were the center of much social activity in the city. Williams was killed in an airplane crash in 1936, Mrs. Williams moved to New York, and the house was sold to Robert S. Eddy, the owner of a large furniture store on Canal Street.

In 1948 the house was sold to Harry Latter, a prominent real estate broker, and he gave the house to the city for use as a library as a memorial to his son, Milton H. Latter, who was killed during the Second World War. The Latters also provided for the renovation of the building, which has continued in Library use until the present time.

The City of New Orleans has maintained the Latter Library, which is used extensively by people from all parts of the city. The style and size of the building have made it well suited for its present purpose, and it serves as an excellent example of adaptive reuse of an older building in New Orleans.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Presley, Merikaye. "Latter Library: A Lot More Than Books." New Orleans Times-Picayune-Dixie Roto Section. New Orleans, La. November 5, 1972. Article based on interviews with Mrs. Latter and employees of the library.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.64

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	778960	3313960	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE George A. Rummel III - Planner

ORGANIZATION

New Orleans Historic District/Landmarks Commission

DATE

Aug. 1975

STREET & NUMBER

Room 9W, City Hall, 1300 Perdido 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

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.

SIGNATURE

Ruth S. DeCompte

TITLE

Assistant State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

April 30, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/21/96

DATE

10-18-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED SEP 16 1976

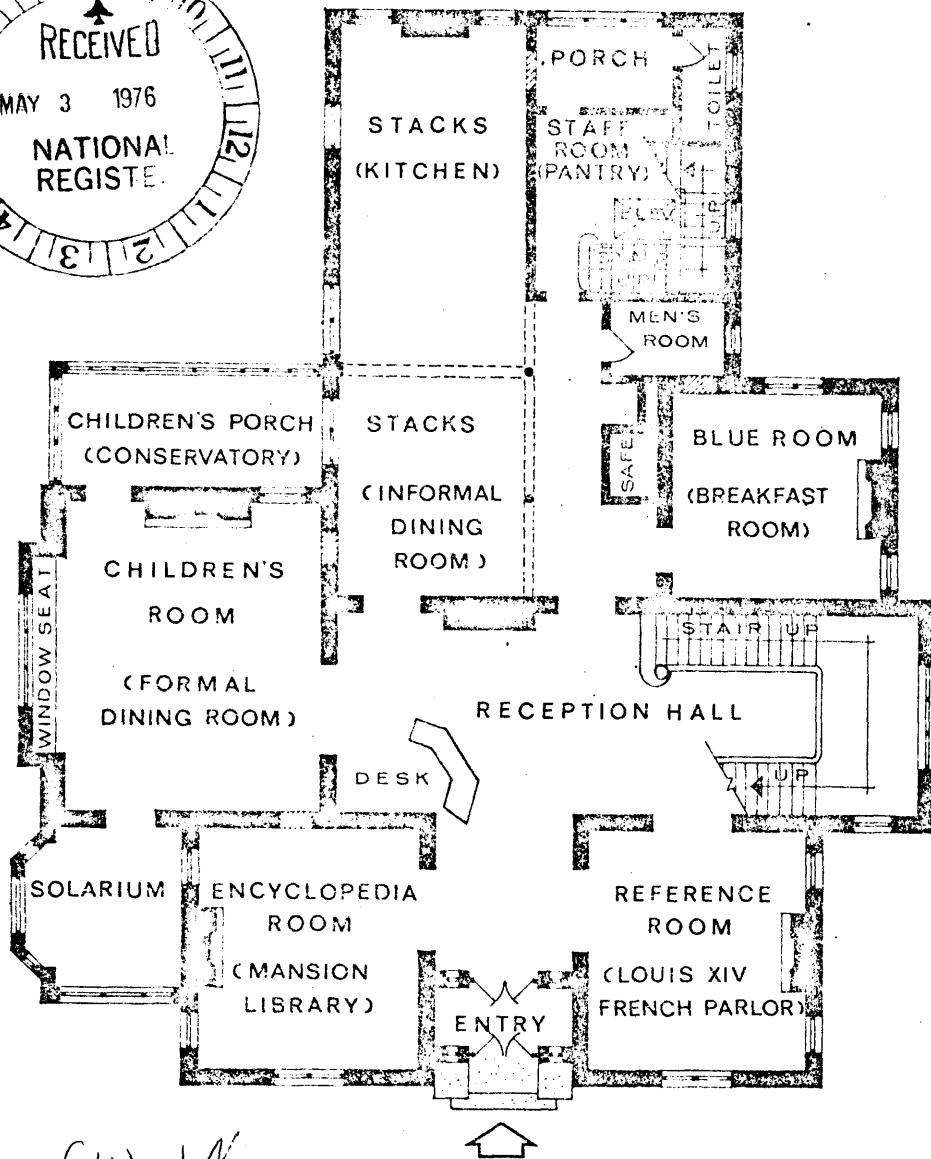
DATE ENTERED OCT 21 1976

THE ISAACS HOUSE OR MILTON H. LATTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

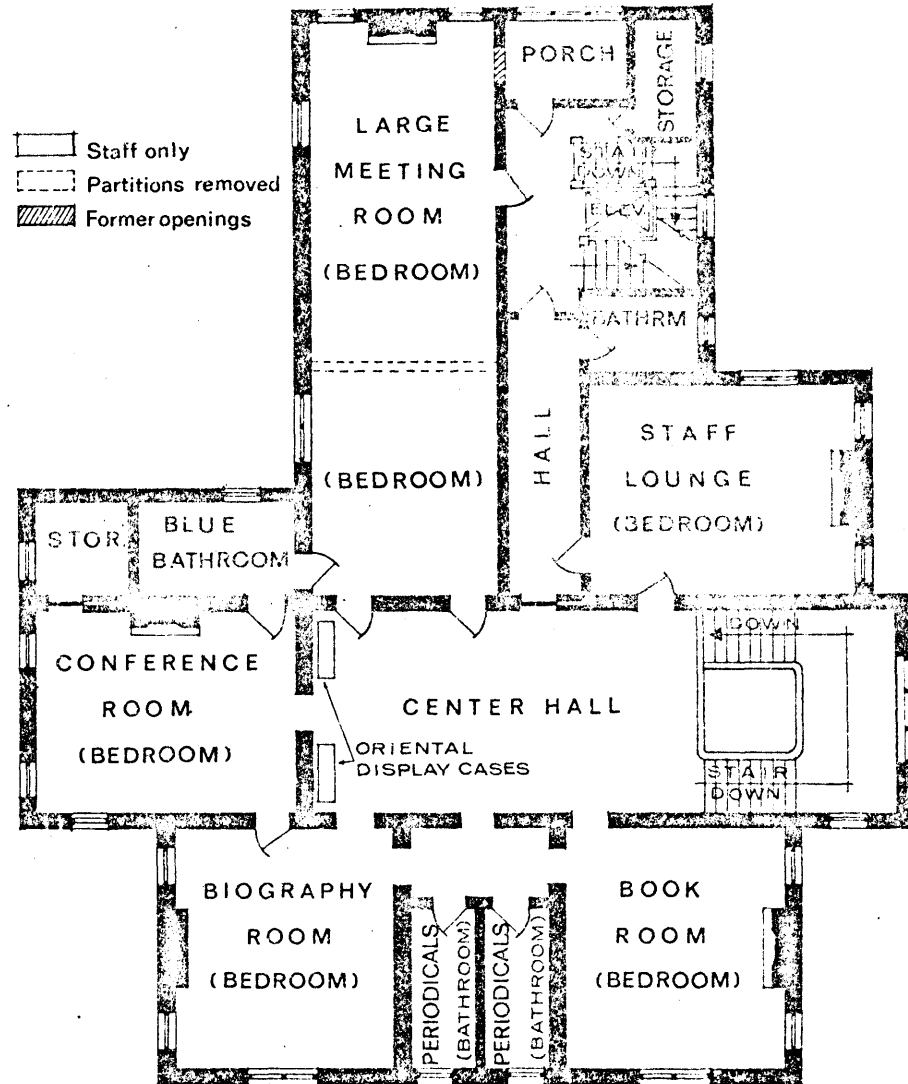
ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE

The Latter Library reflects the grand and elegant style in which New Orleans entrepreneurs at the turn of the century wished to live. Favrot and Livadais, who designed the house, was the largest and most prominent architectural firm in New Orleans at the time. In addition to designing other important residences in the city they were responsible for major civic and commercial projects such as the Municipal Auditorium and the Cotton Exchange. The house is located on a portion of St. Charles Avenue lined with impressive residences of equal or nearly equal size. The impact of this house is greater than that of its neighbors, however, since the grounds compose an entire city block.



(d) ↓
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 NO SCALE

- Staff only
- Partitions removed
- Former openings



SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 NO SCALE