

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0687855

FOR NPS USE ONLY
NOV 15 1978
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED DEC 9 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

Sommerville-Kearney House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1401 Delachaise Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

2nd - Lindy Boggs

STATE

Louisiana

CODE

22

COUNTY

Orleans Parish 71

CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Medical Offices

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Drs. Arthur Burdon, Charles Rodney Smith, William Mark Dean,

STREET & NUMBER

and Mr. David Talmage.

1401 Delachaise Street

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

__ VICINITY OF

Louisiana

STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Notarial Archives, Civil District Court

STREET & NUMBER

721 Loyola Avenue

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

1401 Delachaise Street was built between 1890 and 1891 for Walter Byers Sommerville, an associate justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court in the early 1900's. This house is a rare example of the Louisiana Raised Cottage, transformed into a Queen Anne cottage.

The unidentified architect of the cottage retained the essential characteristics of the raised cottage form, including front gallery, masonry basement level and central hall floor plan. Its exterior, however, conveys the spirit of the Queen Anne style through picturesque massing and a play of forms and textures.

The axial arrangement of the traditional raised cottage has been done away with by the asymmetrical placement of a gabled bay on the Prytania Street side of the front gallery. (photographs one and two) The gable has two recessed windows and an oculus window. The bay has a pair of full-length windows opening onto a narrow balcony and another pair (now doors) onto the front gallery. Juxtaposed to the rectangular and angular bay is the semicircular projection of the gallery railing on the Coliseum Street side, suggestive of a turret.

Dominating the facade elevation are the angular lines of the multiple gables. The two dormers repeat, on a diminishing scale, the bay gable. The vertical emphasis is continued with the steep roof, tall exterior chimneys and slenderly proportioned turned posts supporting the front gallery.

The side elevations also manifest a concern for picturesque massing. An octagonal bay, topped with a balcony, projects from the Coliseum Street side. (photograph three) The shape of this projecting bay contrasts with the angular lines of the roof gable and the softer ones of the fan and oculus windows in the gable. On the Prytania Street side, a rectangular bay, flat-roofed, extends from the first and second levels. (photograph five)

A diversified surface treatment adds to the picturesqueness. The facade and lower side elevations received drop siding. Covering the side gables is clapboarding. Shingles are located in the gable of the front bay and in the larger of the dormers. The traditional use of brick at basement level adds to the contrast in texture.

The traditional central hall floor plan does not reflect the exterior irregularity, nor any of the openness of Richardsonian Queen Anne. The only concession to contemporary innovations is offered by the bays. Flanking the central hall (treated as only a passageway) are the formal rooms (parlor, library and dining room) on the Prytania Street side and two bedrooms on the other side. The kitchen is separated from the dining room by a pantry. Extending across the rear of the house, positioned as earlier rear galleries, is a long room with an alcoved pantry and a bathroom at one end. Between the bedrooms is another bathroom, located in the octagonal bay.

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 15 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 29 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

On the second level, one large bedroom is on each side of the central hall. At the front end of the hall is an elliptical arched nook provided by the space of the larger front dormer.

The interior detail is sophisticated but, as the floor plan, reflects earlier New Orleans architecture, rather than the newer trends of Queen Anne interiors. Ornate marble mantels are in the formal rooms. (photograph 6) Simpler pilastered ones are in the bedrooms. (photograph 7) Original ceiling centerpieces are intact in the parlor and downstairs bedrooms. (photographs 8 and 9) The dining room and the stairway wall have wainscoting. Sliding doors connected the parlor and the library and the downstairs bedrooms.

The exterior of the cottage remains unaltered with the exception of the front stairs and several window openings that have been made into doors. Although the interior has undergone renovation into doctor's offices, the original floor plan and the decorative detail have been retained.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION
—1400-1499	—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE
—1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	—MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
—1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	—COMMERCE	—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION
—1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)
		—INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1890-91 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of 1401 Delachaise Street is architectural. It is a rare example of a raised cottage in the Queen Anne style and, as such, represents the amalgamation of the national style with local building traditions. Although vernacular in that the style was adjusted to local building practices, the cottage transcends the "builder's" type by its coherent and competent design.

New Orleans is rich with extant representatives of the nineteenth century architectural styles. There is, however, a notable lack of good examples of the stick, eastlake, Queen Anne, and, to a lesser extent, shingle styles. Many late nineteenth century and early twentieth century dwellings in New Orleans's suburban neighborhoods reflect the popularity of the Queen Anne style after the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876. Built a decade or so after the style had run its course on the architectural front, these local examples, usually or simple shotgun and two-level form, acknowledge the style only through a casual application of characteristic details.

The unknown architect of 1401 Delachaise evinces a more comprehensive understanding of the intent and spirit of the Queen Anne style, than do the builders of other local "Queen Anne" houses. His design expresses the renewed interest in picturesqueness and the submerging freedom from set architectural rules. His massing and contrasting of shapes and textures reveal a knowledgeable familiarity with national trends. It is interesting to note the similiarity between this cottage and figure 67, "Farm House in the English Rural Style" in A.J. Downing's The Architecture of Country Houses. Downing's designs, of such national impact, had never broken through the persistence of local building types.

Judge Walter Syers Sommerville lived in the cottage from its construction in 1890-91 until 1906. He then married and moved further uptown. His two spinster sisters remained in the house until 1921. Dr. Harold Kearney then owned the property from 1935 to 1976.

The lot upon which the cottage was built was originally a portion of the estate of Jerome Toledano in the Faubourg Plaisance. From 1860 to 1887, Pierre Benjamin Buisson, a French born land surveyor, owned the suburban property, then a larger lot extending to Louisiana Avenue. Buisson's home was in the center of the lot, facing Louisiana Avenue. The house was in front of the rear lot acquired by Sommerville in 1890.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Christovich, Mary Louise et al. New Orleans Architecture: The Esplanade Ridge (Vol. V). Gretna, La., 1977.

Downing, A. J. The Architecture of Country Houses. New York: Dover Publications, 1969.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	7 8 0 8 4 0	3 3 1 3 1 9 2 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached plat map.

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

Hilary S. Irvin ; F. Monroe Labouisse

ORGANIZATION (891-1578) (524-5308)

DATE

October 9, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

1452 Jackson Avenue

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.

SIGNATURE

J. Bernard Carter

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

11 Oct 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

Manella

DATE 12/29/78
MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE 12-29-78

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 15 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 29 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

In summary, 1401 Delachaise is of local significance in that it is a rare and well-executed example of a Louisiana Raised cottage in the Queen Anne style.¹ The cottage is of national significance in that it is representative of the development of the Queen Anne style during its period of dissemination and nationalization. Created several years after the heyday of the style on the eastern seaboard, the design of 1401 Delachaise is tempered by local traditions, and differs from earlier eastern examples.

¹The Cresson House, 2800 block Esplanade Avenue, is a raised cottage in the "Queen Anne" style. Built in 1902, its style is really more typical of late Victorian gingerbread than of the Queen Anne. Its form has moved away from that of nineteenth century raised cottages toward that of the early twentieth century.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 15 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 29 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

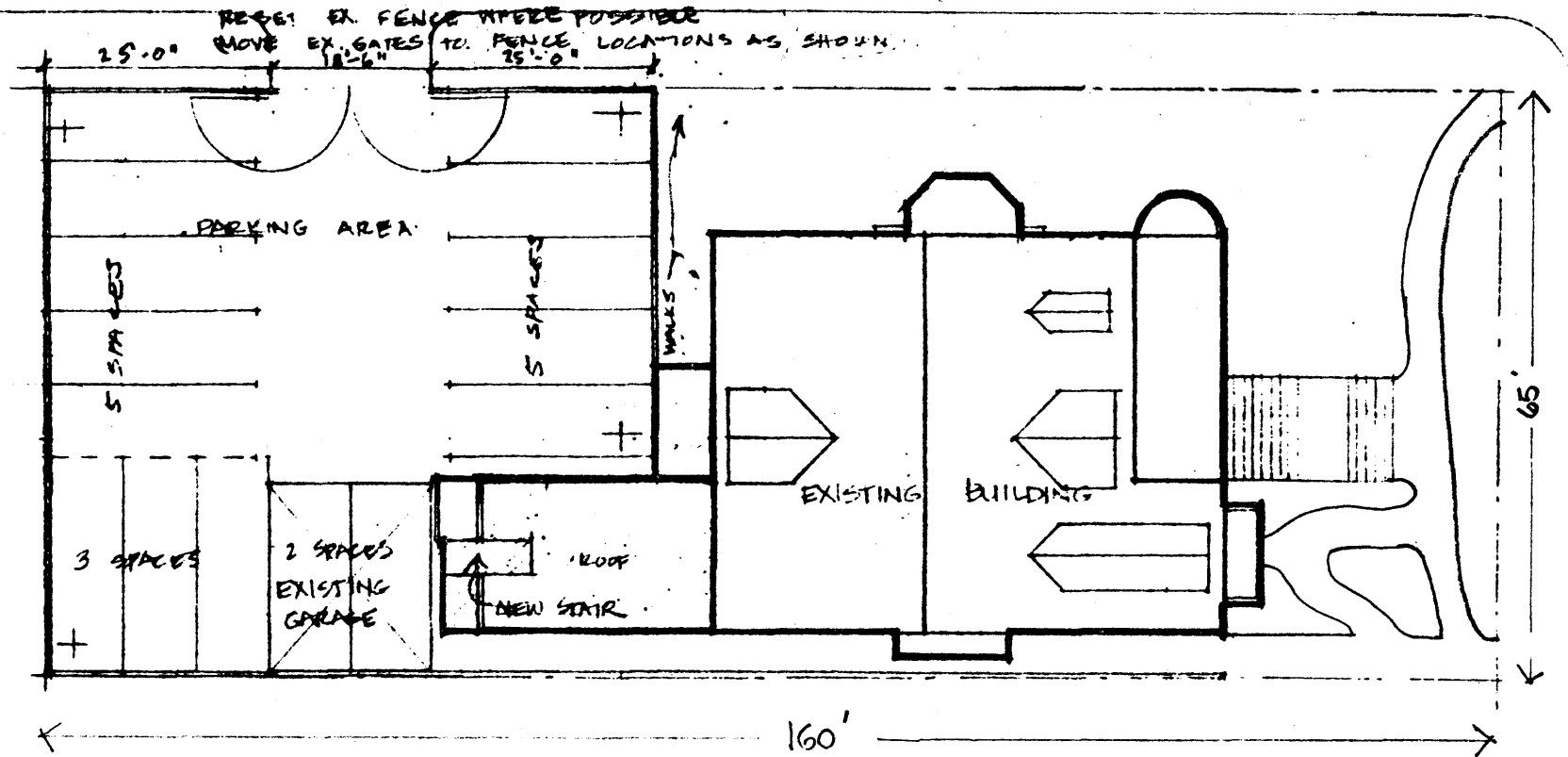
Scully, Vincent J., Jr. The Shingle Style and the Stick Style (rev. edit.)
New Haven: Yale University Press, 1955.

City Directories. Special Collections. Tulane University.

Notarial Acts. Notarial Archives. Civil District Court. New Orleans.

Sanborn Insurance Maps. Special Collections. Tulane University.

- COLISEUM STREET -



SITE PLAN

SCALE 1"=20'

ZONE "MS" - BLOCK 332

← LOUISIANA AVENUE

PRYTANIA STREET
↓

