

LA PETITE ECOLE occupies a building as varied in its history as any in the Vieux Carre!

The structure in its present state, shows clearly the various changes in architectural interests and developments from its early plans.

A restoration program, now in its early stages, has been of unusual interest to the school-children "historians," who are learning at first hand of the social changes that may come about through the course of time. From a mansion to an apartment house to a school!

The addition of the stair area, with its stained glass windows of the early 1900 period, is in sharp contrast to the leaded windows of the front door of an earlier day. A serious fire in the slave quarter section in 1918, brought about the building of the overhanging portion and the enclosure of the slave quarter gallery. The wide floor boards on the second floor are typical of the Creole houses of the period. The simple, plain proportions of the woodwork around the doors and windows in the main building are also

typical. The mantels are not noteworthy -- an ornate wooden or tile type having replaced the fine, simple mantels of an earlier time. Interesting are the plaster rosettes in the ceiling of the hall and first classroom, which was once the parlor of the house. The lotus leaf and blossom design reflect the influence on decoration of Napoleon's Egyptian campaign, and so may indicate the date of the building of the house. The large front rooms were divided when the house was made into apartments. The divided portions have been allowed to stand for the present and are now used as workrooms for each classroom. The huge doors which once made possible opening the two front rooms as one for fete day occasions of Creole times, may be seen in the second classroom. Beautifully patterned tile floors which once were the floors of the pantries and kitchens, lie under the wooden floors of the nursery play rooms.

The children of LA PETITE ECOLE have great hopes of seeing the home of their beloved school restored to as much as possible of its original state. Their lively interest is constantly being gratified by the zeal of parents and friends.