New Orleans Historic District Landmarks Commission
Nomination Report
210 State Street, former NOAH Campus
July 17, 2014

Meeting Date: July 17, 2014
Property Address: 210 State Street
Owner: Children’s Hospital
        200 Henry Clay Avenue
        New Orleans, LA 70118

Architect: Unknown, Mr. Stills (Director’s House)
Construction Date: 1830-1940
Significance: Social, Architectural

Figure 1. 210 State Street
History of the site:

210 State Street is the property address for an entire square bounded by Leake Avenue, Henry Clay Avenue, Tchoupitoulas and State Streets. Most recently known as the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital (NOAH), the site has been dedicated to medical institutions since the 1880’s. As a result, the square retains a bucolic, serene campus character anachronistic to the densely developed residential districts that surround it.

The land that 210 State Street occupies was part of the original land grant of Jean Batiste Lemoyne, Sieur de Bienville. By 1781, the plantation, which stretched 20 arpents along the river from present day Joseph Street to near the lower boundary of Audubon Park, was owned by Etienne de Boré, the first Mayor of New Orleans. De Boré is celebrated for transforming Louisiana agriculture by successfully producing a profitable sugar cane crop following the collapse of indigo production during the 1790’s. Following his death, the plantation was retained by de Boré’s heirs until 1831 when it was sold to Dominque Francois Burthe, first president of the New Orleans and Carrollton Railroad. Sugar cane production ceased on the property during the 1820’s and the land was used over the years for cattle grazing, sawmill and a brickyard. Polycarpe Fortier purchased the land in 1857 and operated a brickyard on the batture. The brickyard ceased operation during the Civil War and the land was eventually sold by Fortier’s widow. In 1883 the current site, which included several antebellum structures was acquired by the United States Marine Hospital. (Figure 2) The Marine Hospital was created by the Federal Government to care for sick and disabled seamen in the United Stated Merchant Marine. The Marine Hospital soon constructed a medical complex that included seven frame structures, one of which remains today. (Figures 3, 5 & 6)
In 1931, the 1880’s frame Marine Hospital was replaced with the present hospital complex. (figures 4, 7-11) The hospital complex includes a five–story, Renaissance Revival Style structure flanked by two, three- story buildings as well as five, detached, two- story, residential buildings, a gymnasium, gatehouse, Engineering and Maintenance building, Powerhouse with its iconic smokestack, Research building and retaining wall.

The hospital’s mission expanded over time and became known as the United Stated Public Health Service Hospital. Following cuts in Federal spending, the hospital site was sold by the Federal Government to the State of Louisiana in 1981. The State soon opened the State Drug Addiction Center which evolved into the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital. The New Orleans Adolescent Hospital was closed by the State of Louisiana in 2009 in and the site was sold to Children’s Hospital in 2014.
Selected structures:

Overseer’s House, Quarters #9

The oldest extant structure remaining on the site is known as the Overseer’s House or Quarters #9. This one-story, frame, Creole Cottage is believed to have been constructed during the 1830’s and expanded to include a Greek Revival style gallery and side wings during the 1850’s. Its footprint can be seen in the 1883 Robinson Atlas where it stood on the site prior to the purchase by the Marine Hospital. (Figure 1) The building likely originally consisted of four rooms with a cabinet and gallery suite of rooms at the rear, typical of Creole cottages of the era. (Figures 12-14) The building was rotated and relocated to the corner of the site to accommodate the construction of the current hospital complex during the 1930’s.

Director’s House or Quarters #3

This two-story, Italianate style structure was constructed in the mid 1880’s as part of the first Marine Hospital complex and was designed by Mr. Still, supervising architect of the US Treasury. (Figures 15-17) The Director’s house is a six bay, frame, asymmetric building with a gable end at one side of the façade ornamented by a heavy, bracketed cornice. The building originally included only the covered porch at the ground floor with wood turned posts and a carved wood balustrade. The upper gallery was added after 1903. The rear service wing is detailed similarly to the main structure, but may be a remodeling of an outbuilding dating from the 1850’s.
Conclusion:

As New Orleans grew during the 19th century, upriver plantations were gradually subdivided and sold as suburban residential developments. Transportation along the New Orleans and Carrollton Railroad allowed swift commutes from the business district to the garden suburbs. Plantations farthest from the city remained undeveloped longer and became natural locations for larger institutions seeking to relocate from the dense urban core. A handful of these sites remain intact but none include as rich an assemblage of architecturally and socially significant structures as the former NOAH campus. The buildings on the site have remained virtually unchanged since the construction of the 1930’s hospital complex. To walk on the campus is to step back into a specific moment in time when the City’s symbiotic relationship to the Mississippi River, now fettered by floodwalls and parking, still remained. The significance of the site lies not only in the structures themselves, but the grounds as well which includes many mature live oak trees. The staff recommends that the entire site including all structures and brick perimeter wall be nominated for study as a local landmark.
Photo Credits

   https://maps.google.com/maps?safe=active&rlz=1C1GGGE__US509US509&espv=2&ion=1&bav=on.2,or.r_cp.r_qf.&bvm=bv.70810081,d.b2U,pv.xjs.s.en_US.aVv1Ch1_8Aw.O&biw=2220&bih=1126&um=1&ie=UTF-8&q=210+state+Street&layer=c&z=17&iwloc=A&slg=29.916299,-90.123800&cbp=13,296.6,0,0,0&cbll=29.916291,-90.123783&sa=X&ei=jFbFU7nAMoSL8AHXzYGoDA&ved=0CB0QxB0wAA. Accessed on July 14, 2014

2. Notarial Archives Research Center and Historical Documents. 1883 Robinson Atlas, Plate 16.


Bibliography:
