

Augustus Poujoud House
105-107 St. George Street
St. Augustine
St. Johns County
Florida

HABS No. FIA-125

HABS

FLA.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. FLA-125

AUGUSTUS POUJOURD HOUSE

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Address: 105-107 St. George Street
St. Augustine
St. Johns County
Florida

Present Owner: Mary L. Tatlow

Present Occupant: Mary L. Tatlow, resident.

Present Use: Residence; Miss Lea Wells, Architectural
Office; vacant shop.

Statement of Significance: Because the Augustus Poujoud House has remained relatively unaltered, it provides an excellent example of construction and building techniques in St. Augustine in the period in which Spanish Florida was ceded to the United States.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

Historical research indicates that the Poujoud House was constructed c. 1820-30. Before that date the early house maps - i.e., the Juan Elixio de la Puente Map of 1764, the James Moncrief Map of 1765, the John de Solis Map of 1765, and the Mariano de la Rocque Map of 1788 - do not indicate that a building existed on the Tatlow house's site; only an empty lot is exhibited by the early maps for that location.

A wooden house was described as resting on or near the present Tatlow lot in 1816. Since the historic house is a thin walled, coquina-masonry house, however, it seems possible to suggest that the wood house was either destroyed, or incorporated into the later masonry structure. According to an architectural investigation conducted by the Historic American Buildings Survey team in 1960, the present structure was determined to be of an 1820-1830 vintage. The St. Johns County Archives corroborate that a house did exist on or in the immediate proximity of the Tatlow lot in 1830, but the structure is not clearly described. Except for the street floor changes, which were wrought in order to offer business locations on St. George Street in the nineteenth or twentieth centuries, the general fabric of the building has suffered few alterations since its initial construction.

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According to the Tax Rolls of St. Johns County the property is designated as Lots #1 and 2 (subdivision), Block 9 of the City of St. Augustine.

1. Original and Subsequent Owners:*

From unknown date prior to 1816 . . . F. X. Sanchez and Francisco and Marie Antonia Hill Sanchez

(St. Johns County Deed Book H, p. 234-235, March 10, 1829)

1816 . . . Jose Sanchez**

(St. Johns County Deed Book H, p. 234-235, March 10, 1829)

From unknown date prior to 1829 . . . J. M. Hanson (Mr. Hanson was the executor of Mrs. M. A. Sanchez)

(St. Johns County Deed Book H, p. 234-235, March 10, 1829)

1829 . . . Augustus Poujoud

(St. Johns County Deed Book H, p. 234-235, March 10, 1829)

1834 . . . James L. Pettegrii

(St. Johns County Deed Book L, p. 65, Dec. 25, 1834)

1841 . . . John Gue

(St. Johns County Deed Book Q, p. 366, Nov. 2, 1841)

1850 . . . Carolina M. Woolf

(St. Johns County Deed Book P, p. 241, Oct. 17, 1850)

1852 . . . George Burt

(St. Johns County Deed Book T, p. 27 and 871, Oct. 26, 1852)

*This chronological listing of owners concerns the probable owners who lived in the probable site of the Tatlow house. According to the conclusions of this research effort it is not possible to claim that this list is necessarily complete or that all these owners lived in the house that bears the present house's architectural design.

**The Francisco Sanchez family and Jose Sanchez owned the wood house which has disappeared from the site of the Tatlow house area.

1894 . . . Anna G. Burt

(St. Johns County Deed Book 6, p. 9-12, Feb. 20, 1894)

1925 . . . H. B. Day

(St. Johns County Deed Book 53, p. 724, Jan. 27, 1925)

1925 . . . A. L. Slater

(St. Johns County Mortgage Book 10, p. 211, Feb. 4, 1925)

1932-1940. Florida National Bank of Jacksonville (This bank was trustee for Anna G. Burt's estate)

(St. Johns County Deed Book 127, pages 341-43, Dec. 21, 1940)

1940 . . . Mary Louise Tatlow

(St. Johns County Deed Book 127, page 341-43, Dec. 21, 1940)

Bibliographical notation:

(The historical research for this report was extracted from the property transfer records of the St. Johns Record Archives, the Carnegie Record files and the library sources of the St. Augustine Historical Society, and the history files of the St. Augustine Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission. William A. Stewart's 1960 Architectural Study of the Tatlow house - which he called the "Slater House," for the Historic American Buildings Survey - was also employed as an informative source.)

2. Date of erection: The exact date of erection is unknown, but the house in its present form was probably finished c. 1820-30.
3. Architect and builder: The architect and/or builder of the masonry house remains unknown.
4. Original plans: The original plans of the house are not available.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: The structure has undergone only a few changes. Probably the only extensive remodelling occurred when the street floor of the residential building was renovated for business purposes during the nineteenth and/or twentieth centuries. It is important to mention that the building has always revealed a thin-walled, coquina masonry composition.
6. Old views: There are numerous late nineteenth and early twentieth century photographs of this old building in local files.

7. Sources of information: Most of this research was drawn from the Land and Deed Records of the St. Johns County Archives, the maps, Spanish Records, and Carnegie file house documents of the St. Augustine Historical Society and the St. Augustine Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission. 4.

B. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

The University of Florida's P. K. Yonge Library's Stetson Collection, Lockey Collection and British Colonial Records could offer more material relevant to the history of this house and other St. Augustine historic houses. The East Florida Papers collection in the Library of Congress (Washington, D. C.) and the Bahama Islands Colonial Records might likewise offer information pertaining to St. Augustine historic houses and sites.

Prepared by the St. Augustine Historical
Restoration and Preservation
Commission
St. Augustine, Florida
August, 1962

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural interest and merit: The date of construction of this house has been set approximately between 1820-30. Its particular architectural interest lies in the fact that it is an outstanding example of two story, relatively thin (1' - 0") wall, coquina masonry construction of the period. Additional architectural interest stems from the excellent craftsmanship and comparatively unaltered condition evidenced in this structure.
2. Condition of fabric: The present condition of the house is good, however no maintenance is being done and signs of disrepair are beginning to show. This condition is evidenced by the poor condition of the paint and an occasional sagging board.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Number of stories: Two.
2. Type wall construction: Coquina masonry exterior walls and wood frame interior partitions.

3. Layout: Rectangular.
4. Over-all dimensions: 40' - 3" (5-bay front) x 27' - 3".
5. Foundations: Exterior walls extend into the ground without modification. No information available.
6. Wall construction: Coquina masonry coated with plaster scored in a one by two foot horizontal pattern, simulating coursed ashlar construction.
7. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: There is a roofed cantilevered balcony on the west (front) at the second story level. There is a roofed porch on the east serving both floors. Both are wood post and beam construction. Exterior stairs connect the upper east porch to the rear yard.
8. Chimneys: There are two chimneys: one on the north exterior wall and one on the south exterior wall. Each of these chimneys has two fireplaces, one on the ground level and one on the second floor level. Both of these chimneys are coquina up to the ceiling in the second floor. Above this level the chimneys are brick. Of particular interest are the brick cornices and brick mitres at the tops of these chimneys.
9. Openings:

a. doorways and doors: The door frames are made from 4" x 4" timbers. The joints of these frames are mortise and tenon and are pinned together by wooden pegs. The trim and mouldings of these doors are conservative but decorative. The frames are set into bevells cut into the jamb face of the coquina masonry. A good level of craftsmanship and construction techniques were employed.

b. windows and shutters: The frames are 4" x 4" timbers; the joints of these frames are mortise and tenon, pinned together by wooden pegs. The frames are set into the bevells cut into the jamb face of the coquina masonry. Trim and mouldings, and craftsmanship and construction are of the same quality as those of the doors.

The exterior shutters on the windows are the two panel louvered type. It is not known whether these shutters are original.

10. Roof: The roof is a hipped roof with the ridge running north to south. There are no dormers. A plain wood cornice runs under the narrow eaves for the entire perimeter of the house. Balcony and porch roofs have separate, single slopes.

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C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The ground floor plan consists of five rooms and a central stair hall which runs from east to west. The westernmost portion of this stair hall has been recently partitioned off to form one of the five rooms. There are two rooms on the south side of the stair hall and another two on the north side. The northwest and southwest rooms each have a fireplace.

The second story floor plan consists of four rooms and a stair hall. There are two large rooms across the east end of the house and two rooms across the west end of the house, with a stair hall between the latter.

2. Stairways: There are two stairways, one interior and one exterior. The interior stairway is a single straight run from the central ground floor stair hall to the second floor stair hall. The exterior stairway connects the rear yard to the upper rear porch.
3. Flooring: Pine boards, six and eight inches wide, are used throughout the house.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster and wallpaper are used throughout.
5. Doorways and doors: There is a set of four panelled wooden folding doors between the northwest and southwest rooms on the second floor. These doors are each 1'-8 3/4" wide by 8'-0" high and have six panels.
- The remainder of the interior doors are also wooden and are of varying sizes and panel arrangements.
6. Trim: Similar to exterior trim previously described.
7. Hardware: Interior locksets are original metal box-case units bearing the manufacturer's coin mark. Keepers are cast iron. Exterior hardware appears to consist of more modern replacements, except for eye-bolt type shutter hinge pivots.

8. Lighting: Modern electric lighting; conventional ceiling outlets.

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9. Heating: There is no central heating source.

D. Description of Site:

1. Orientation and general setting: The north wall faces 4° east of true north. The house is set in the central portion of the city of St. Augustine. The street (St. George Street) upon which the house faces is one of the main commercial and tourist streets of the city. The house is surrounded by drug, furniture, clothing, and other commercial stores. The property upon which the house is situated contains a lot (to the east) with two houses on it. This lot and its houses were acquired subsequent to the building of the Poujoud house. The two houses on the back lot are presently being used as residences, and share the rear yard of the Poujoud house.

The Poujoud house opens directly onto a narrow (3'-6") sidewalk, which is the only set back between the house and the street. There are narrow (4'-0"/5'-0") alleys on the north and south sides. The house faces west (toward the street), and the east side opens into the yard and garden.

2. Enclosures: The alley on the north side of the house is separated from the street by a 3'-0" high wood picket fence and gate. The alley on the south side of the house is open to the street. The rear yard is enclosed by the house proper on the east, the adjacent building on the north and south, and by the additional lot houses on the west.

A high brick wall was built along the north property line, at the end of the nineteenth century, to "protect" this building from a large wood frame hotel erected immediately beyond.

3. Outbuildings: None extant except as mentioned above.

4. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: The rear yard of the house has not been maintained and signs of neglect are evident. It appears from the existing walks and planting spaces that the garden was, at one time, an important part

of the house setting. The existing path in the rear yard runs east between the two rear houses across the yard, curves to the north and finally runs through the north alley and onto the street. An early well also remains near the south edge of this yard.

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Prepared by William A. Stewart, Architect
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