

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (Demolished)
South Street opposite Lafayette Square (south side)
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana

HABS No. LA-1103

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Richard Koch, District Officer
Queen and Crescent Building, New Orleans, Louisiana

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

First Presbyterian Church (Demolished)
 South Street opposite Lafayette Square (south side)
 (Between Camp Street and St. Charles Avenue)
 New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana

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The present owner of the site is the Government of the United States, which acquired it with the building thereon in 1938, for the erection of the present Federal Building. The vendor was the Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church, by whom the site had been owned continuously since 1835.

An earlier church was built on this site by the same Congregation in 1835, destroyed by fire in 1854, and rebuilt in 1857. This building was damaged by the hurricane of 1915, and repaired at a cost of \$100,000. It was demolished in April and May 1938.

Article in The Times-Picayune, Lafayette Square, New Orleans, April 18, 1938.

"A number of fine buildings congregated about beautiful Lafayette Square the new Presbyterian Church, of which Mr. Henry Howard was the architect ..."

Flashback New Orleans a Hundred Years Ago As The Picayune Saw It, August 4, 1857; The Times-Picayune, Lafayette Square, New Orleans, Editorial Page, August 4, 1957.

The following has reference to the first church to occupy this site: "The Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Square, had a tasteful chandelier of upwards of 3000 pieces, with 24 lights, made in Philadelphia by Messers Cornelius and Company, by order of the New Orleans Gas Light and Banking Company."

Flashback Ibid. April 29, 1842; April 29, 1942.

"Dr. B. M. Palmer, noted civic leader and one of the most active secessionists in 1861, ably served this church as its pastor from 1856 to 1902."

New Orleans City Guide, American Guide Series, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1938, p. 316.

Further information might be secured by investigation of the archives of the First Presbyterian Church, 5401 South Claiborne Avenue, New Orleans.

Prepared by Georgia Bertha Drennan
 June, 1958