

Francis Louis Desmazieres Store & Residence
San Antonio, Texas.

HABS No. 33-A-2

Bexar Co.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 33

Historic American Buildings Survey
Marvin Eickenroht, District Officer
San Antonio, Texas.

FRANCIS LOUIS DES MAZIERES STORE & RESIDENCE
MARTINEZ AND SOUTH ALAMO STREETS
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

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The present owner of the property is J. E. Elgin, who also occupies the residence. He bought the property from the Martine Estate in 1905. The downstairs part of the Store is now a saloon.

Des Mazieres died in France in 1862 and willed the property to his brother and sisters, Charles, Constant, Sophie and Celine. After Charles' death in 1865, the property passed into the hands of the sisters, one of whom had married a Martine, at one time a clerk in Des Mazieres' store. In this manner, Martine came to be administrator of the Estate, and the property finally passed into the hands of the Martines.

The upstairs of the residence was originally two large rooms, which have been divided with wood partitions to provide four rooms and a hall. The two-story wooden bathroom on South Elevation showing on photographs has been omitted on the drawings, and is quite modern.

The North Porch on the residence (showing in photographs) is a recent addition. The cantilever porch or Gallery on the Store was originally supported by iron braces. The first story posts were put in by Captain Elgin.

The space between the two buildings was originally a drive-in gate, and was filled in with the two-story building showing on photographs, in 1922, by Captain Elgin.

The Store was built by Francis Louis Des Mazieres in 1853, and the construction of the House followed in 1854. The upstairs of the Store was turned into a Gaming Room shortly after the completion of the building; this probably brought about the construction of the Residence. There are no records of Architects or Builders, with one exception. Mr. Kampmann was the stone mason on the Residence. The Store was built of lime and gravel concrete.

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The entire establishment was used as a headquarters by General Twigg prior to the Civil War, the Store serving as his office. The day after Texas withdrew from the Union and before she joined the Confederacy, Twigg's surrender was received by Judge Devine, Col. Lockett and Sam Maverick.

General Twigg is reputed to have entertained lavishly, and among his guests were many notables. Mrs. Sarah E. Eager, who still lives nearby, says that at one of these social functions Robert E. Lee made the statement, "If Virginia secedes, I go with her".

Mrs. Eager and Captain Elgin are the chief sources of information regarding the property. Captain Elgin, who was a Reconstruction Day Minute Man and a Ranger, still enjoys good health in mind and body. Mrs. Eager was the first American white child born in San Antonio.

Author Max C. Frederick

Approved Marion Siebenroht