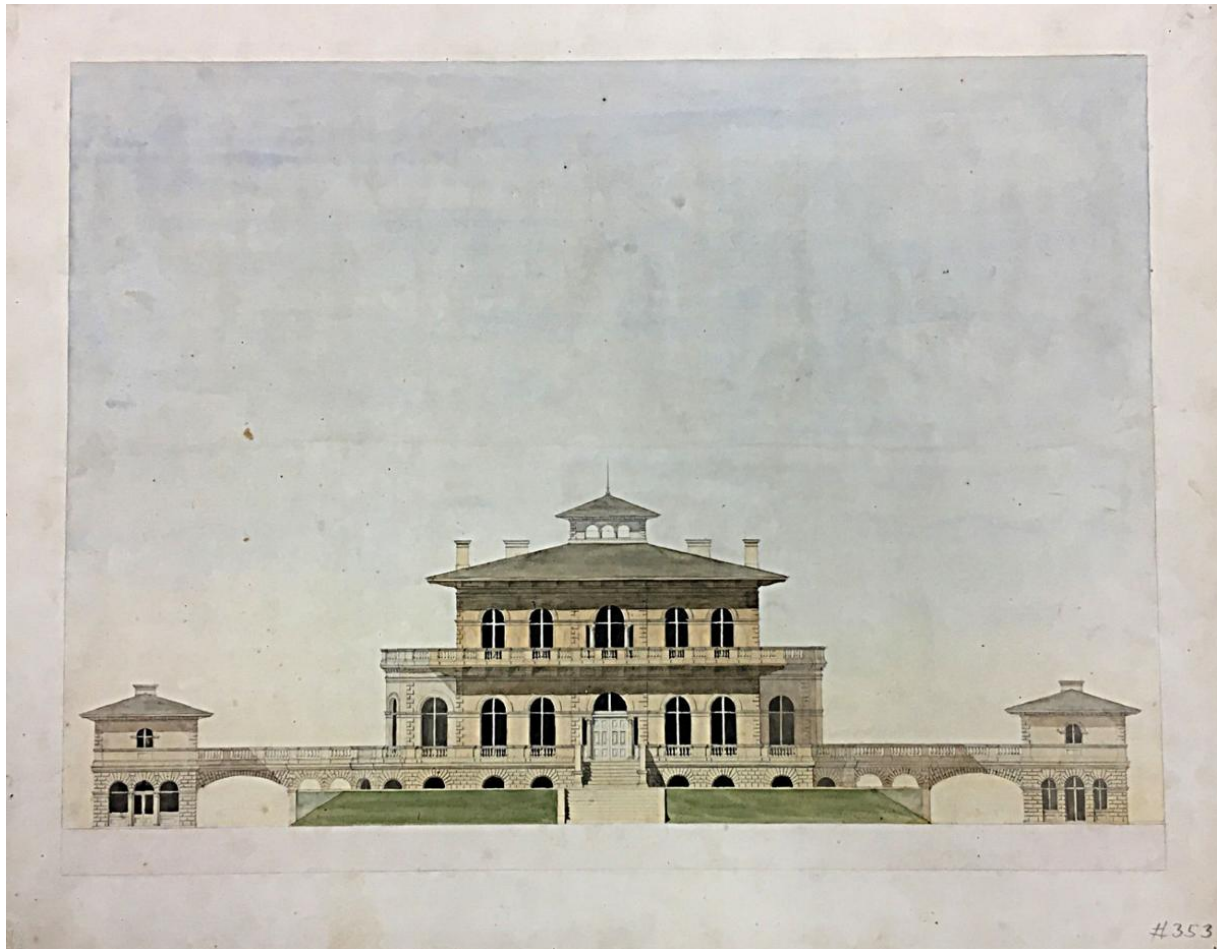


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Luling Mansion off Esplanade a site of opulence, tragedy

BY SUE STRACHAN | STAFF WRITER JUL 5, 2019 - 6:30 AM

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Watercolor rendering of the Luling Mansion by Gallier & Turpin, architects, 1865.

Courtesy of Tulane University Special Collections Southeastern Architectural Archive

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Every week, Inside Out will showcase a drawing or photograph of a residence, commercial building or slice of life from New Orleans' past.

The house off Esplanade Avenue looks like it belongs in the rolling hills of Tuscany, a faded Italianate mansion still radiating its original grandeur.

The Luling Mansion was built as a residence for Florence Luling, a German immigrant and cotton merchant. It was designed by James Gallier Jr., who also designed the French Opera House and Gallier House, his personal residence in the French Quarter and now a museum.

Completed in 1866, the Luling Mansion had 22 rooms and was set on 80 acres extending to Bayou St. John. The formal grounds included a lake with an island. Luling and his family lived there for a brief time: Tragedy struck, and two of his sons drowned in the bayou. He sold the

property about 1870 to the Louisiana Jockey Club, as the house was ideally located near the New Orleans Fair Grounds Race Course.

After the club sold the house in the early 20th century, the accessory wings of the house, which contained kitchens, stables, a billiards parlor and a bowling alley, were demolished, and the property was developed as a bungalow neighborhood by architect Leon Weiss. The house was divided into eight apartments, which are still rented today.

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