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Hampton Dunn
HISTORIC PENSACOLA’S MOST HISTORIC STRUCTURE

By HAMPTON DUNN

PENSACOLA --- Some call it the "Widow Troulett" House, others refer to it as the "Charles LaValle" House. But the scholars maintain this is "without doubt the most original historic structure left and may be the oldest surviving house in Pensacola."

And so in 1969, the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board rescued the ancient building which originally stood at 111 West Government Street, where it was threatened, and moved it to a new site on Church Street, next to the Hispanic Museum, and then restored for exhibition. This is in Pensacola’s exciting Historic District at Seville Square.

The plot on which this interesting and very original house stood was part of an original grant made by Governor George Johnstown to Robert Ross Waddel Dec. 8, 1766, who sold the property the next year to James Thompson, a Pensacola merchant and member of one of the most important families in colonial America. The origin of this house is as yet unknown. Its architecture is that of the 18th century, but its exact building date is unknown.

Earle W. Newton, former director of the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board and before that director of the Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board, said "The Widow Trouilet House is the most original example of the typical French Creole cottage we have discovered."

The structure is remarkable for the early and original character of its interior, Newton reported. In its four rooms, the only replacement seems to be the wood floor in the southwest room. Its wood frame contains brick nogging in all walls, even interior portions, to which plaster was directly applied.