Round Table Club

6330 St. Charles Avenue

Built as a private residence by grocer Christopher Doyle in 1896, this imposing building was originally elaborately ornamented on the outside. Urns and a gooseneck railing surrounded a second-story balcony, applied garlands decorated the porch, and yet another balcony surmounted the rounded bay. The architect is unknown, but records tell that the home was built in one year for $10,000.

In 1919 it was sold to the Followcraft Club, which was dedicated to the discussion of literary, artistic, and scientific topics. This was renamed after a member dedicated a round table brought from Ireland.

The decorative windows, very much in vogue in expensive homes at the turn of the century, are assumed to have been part of the original construction. They feature several characteristics already seen on this tour: opalescent glass, the sinewy lines of Art Nouveau, and a secular theme with an allegorical figure. Given the inclusion of opalescent glass in the large stairway window, we assume that they were made in the United States.

European and British glass studios did not incorporate innovations like opalescent glass, which was colorful even with interior lighting (and thus could impress guests), rather than needing sunlight streaming through. Opalescent glass and three-dimensional glass beads (rondels) are reliable markers of American glass.

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