



*Figure 2 Picture of the Rutgers House ca. 1934, under the ownership of the Clark sisters*

## Ownership

Henry Rutgers purchased the land from John G. Camp and his wife Rhoda for \$500 on May 1, 1847. After Henry Rutgers' death in 1861, his wife, Jane, owned the house until her death. In 1889, Henry's niece and her husband, Clementine and Edward LeRoy, inherited the house. The LeRoy family then sold the house to Erastus W Clark on September 20, 1893 for the price of \$3,000. Minnie Clark inherited the house from her father. Upon her death in 1953, the house was donated to the Salvation Army. The Tallahassee Garden Club purchased the house in 1954 (Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board).

## Sources

Figure 1 Tallahassee Garden Club - Tallahassee, Florida. 196-. Black & white photonegative, 3 x 5 in. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/9859>>, accessed 24 March 2017.

Figure 2 The Rutgers-Clark home at 507 North Calhoun Street - Tallahassee, Florida. ca 1934. Black & white photo print, 8 x 10 in. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/33118>>, accessed 24 March 2017.

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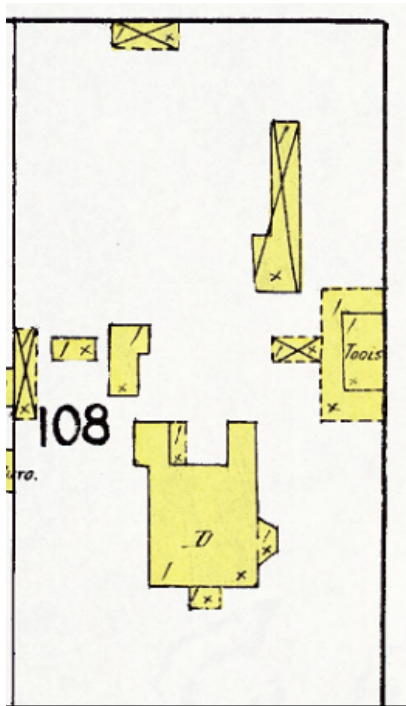
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*Figure 1 Picture of the Rutgers House from the 1960s*

# THE RUTGERS HOUSE

*Tallahassee Garden Club  
507 N Calhoun Street  
Tallahassee, Florida*



*Image from the 1916 Tallahassee Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing house and outbuildings. Courtesy of the University of Florida Digital collections, George A Smathers Libraries*

## Construction

The House was built in 1848 by George Proctor, an entrepreneur and free black man (Warner 66). He was the son of Antonio Proctor, a government interpreter to Native Americans. George and his wife, Nancy, had six children, including Senator John Proctor. George is credited with building many historic houses in town, including the Randall-Lewis House and the Knott House.

The Rutgers House was originally six rooms, with four downstairs and two upstairs.

## Henry Rutgers

Henry Rutgers, a relative of the founder of Rutgers University, was born about 1810 in New York (1850 Florida Census). He married his wife, Jane, on August 29, 1835 (Christian Intelligencer of the Reformed Dutch Church Vol VI no.266). The exact date of his arrival in Florida is not known, but he bought land in Florida as early as 1838 (US General Land office record 1796-1907). Henry was a banker (Dunn 1). He and Jane did not have children, and upon his death in 1861, Jane became the sole owner of the house (Rutgers' probate papers).

## LeRoys

Edward LeRoy and his wife Clementine were married in 1856 (New York Evening Post marriage Announcements April 14, 1856) and inherited the house from the Rutgers. Despite owning the house, it is unclear if they ever lived in it. Census records show them living in New York throughout the time the house was in their possession (US Federal Census, New York, 1870, 1880, 1890). It is possible it was used as a summer home.

## Clarks

Erastus Clark was born in May 1846. The place of his birth is not certain, but was either Georgia or Connecticut. He married Roselle Gallie on October 20, 1869 in Leon county (Leon County Marriage Records 1803-1960, Ancestry). They had two daughters. Janie Clark born in 1871, and Minnie born in 1873. Erastus was a Jeweler and owned a store on Monroe Street (US Federal Census, Florida Census 1920, ancestry). Roselle died in 1911, and Erastus died in 1916. The house was left to Minnie Clark, who lived there with her sister. On March 30, 1915, Minnie married Lewin Spear (Index to Leon County Marriages, Ancestry). The 1920 census shows all three members of the household owning the family jewelry store, which they apparently expanded to sell books (US Federal Census, Florida Census 1920, ancestry). Lewin died while fighting a fire at two cotton warehouses on November 30, 1930 (*Tallahassee Democrat*). Janie passed away in 1939. Minnie died, most likely from a heart attack, on September 9, 1952 (death certificate). Having no children, she left the house to the Salvation Army. The house was purchased by the Garden Club in 1954 (Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board). The Clark family is buried in the Old City Cemetery.