Remember when
... the City Club building was the U.S. Post Office? City Hall?
Department of Public Works? The building at the corner of North
Boulevard and North Fourth Street, erected in 1894, turns 100 this
year. The City Club, a private club that leases the building from the
city, moved in when municipal offices moved out in 1955. The
building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in
1980. The City Club made the news earlier this month when the
club's mostly male membership voted to retain a rule that excludes
women from the club's Men's Grill. The building almost met the fate
of many other old buildings in Baton Rouge in the mid-1950s when
the city moved out and the lease holder, City National Bank,
announced plans to raze the building for a parking lot and drive-thru
for the bank next door. Some Baton Rouge businessmen
approached City Hall with the idea of turning the building into Baton
Rouge's first downtown business club. City National's Lewis Gottlieb
agreed, after reserving enough space for a bank driveway and drive-
up window. This is how the building has looked over the years: at
top left it was the U.S. Post Office, circa 1900; at bottom left, City
Hall, 1938; at top right, Department of Public Works, 1950s; at center
right, City Club with ivy-covered walls, 1966; at bottom right, City
Club with porch roof enclosed, present day. Do you have a,
photograph for Remember When? Call 387-2464, write or visit The
Foundation for Historical Louisiana, 900 North Blvd., Baton Rouge
LA 70802.