Sleek Mantel Origin Cloaked in Mystery

By HOWARD JACOBS

THE MAGNIFICENT hand-carved mantel off of the old mayor’s parlor in Gallier Hall was distinguished by two huge male figures, one supporting it at each end, related our informant. Inquiring, she was told that the ornate mantel of black wood dated back to the Italian Renaissance.

A few days later she visited the old Levert home at 3413 St. Charles, whose contents were being sold prior to demolition of the residence. To her surprise a similar mantel greeted her eyes, differing only in the respect that it was a lighter wood and two hand-carved female figures upheld it.

In a conversation with Miss Genevieve Levert, who resided there, she learned that a woodworker named Marinozzi had been summoned to the house several decades ago to construct a pedestal for a large clock. Glancing at the mantel nearby while measuring for the pedestal, the artist exclaimed: “Why, I hand-carved that piece.”