This article appeared in the Franklin Banner-Tribune in spring 1964, as well as The New Orleans Times-Picayune, The Lafayette Daily Advertiser and most other Louisiana dailies proving that the State Bond and Building Commission and the State Board of Education had approved of donating to the Art Museum project in Lafayette.

USL Foundation Museum

OLD MARTIN HALL WILL NOT FADE AWAY — it will live on!!

BUY A BRICK — or many bricks — be a part-owner of a new building to be built with the materials from the soon-to-be demolished historic and beloved Martin Hall, held in sentimental esteem by so many Southerners.

The establishment of the University of Southwestern Louisiana Foundation Museum can become a reality with the financial support of the alumni, organizations, businesses and other interested parties.

Mr. Maurice Heymann, Lafayette business man and philanthropist, has donated three acres of land valued at about $300,000 (on the corner of St. Mary Boulevard and Girard Park Drive) with the stipulation that the Foundation raise the necessary funds to erect an appropriate building for an Art and Cultural Center. This location is a corner from the spot on the campus where the new music building will be.

The USL Foundation is asking the aid of the Alumni to raise the necessary funds for the construction of the building. The cost of this is estimated at about $200,000, and if enough of our alumni buy bricks at $10.00 each, it could easily be raised.

Mr. Fred Bates, president of the Foundation and prominent Lafayette geologist, has stated, "A strong and active museum program at the University can do much to raise the cultural level of the people of Southwest Louisiana.

"We on the Foundation feel that no more fitting memorial to Old Martin Hall could be erected than having its bricks rising again in a center of Acadian culture whose influence will be strongly felt throughout this area."

"This University now maintains an active art center which plays a natural role in the academic work of the institution and functions as an instrument of enjoyment, education and research. However, the art center activities and art collection of the University has far outgrown the limited physical facilities of Brown Ayres Hall. This is a statement by President Fletcher which appears in a brochure on the Art Museum published last year by the Foundation.

Friends of the University have already donated more than forty-seven paintings and other objects of art by old masters, modern and contemporary artists, valued in the thousands of dollars. This collection would be housed in the exhibit building of the proposed museum and would serve as a nucleus to which future acquisitions could be added.

A. Huys Town, '22 (A.I.A.) has designed the proposed museum in the tradition of eighteenth century Louisiana architecture. It will consist of a two-story administration building and a one-story exhibit building. The administration building will be completely surrounded on the outside by two galleries, an upper gallery supported by white brick-and-stucco pillars and lower ground-level gallery with a brick floor. The columns will support a wooden entablature (wainscot) a cornice, and a hipped slate roof with ridges of old terra cotta tiles.

The administration building will be divided by a large central hall and will have a spiral stair in the alcove. There will be three parlor on the first floor which will be furnished in the early Louisiana tradition. The upper story will house the administrative offices of the Foundation. It is also planned that space will be provided for the use of the Alumni Association, perhaps for offices, and entertaining in the parlors would be available. A suggestion was made to the effect that there might be a "Signature Room" where the walls would be of bricks with the names of donors inscribed so that a lasting record of their generosity would be in evidence. This room would be especially significant for alumni activities.

The exhibit building will be composed of a foyer, a large grand hall with a stage, display rooms, lecture rooms, workshops and storage rooms.

The site, with its large oak trees, will be landscaped in the Louisiana garden tradition, with brick walks and walls.

The State Bond and Building Commission in December, 1963, approved the request submitted through the State Board of Education that the use of materials from the old building necessary for the construction of the Museum be allowed. With the granting of this approval, the Commission also allocated $25,000 for the demolition of the old building and $30,000 for resurfacing and paving of a parking lot which is to be made where the building formerly stood.

Thus with the property available, the materials available, the funds for the construction of the Museum must be made available and it is for this purpose that the Foundation is asking for donations that is tax deductible, of course.