

Victoria Hall

A History

The Home for the Aged, established June 26, 1860, was "to provide a comfortable home for persons above the necessity of receiving direct charity yet of means too limited to enable them to live in that condition of life to which they had been accustomed under more prosperous conditions" (1st Annual Report, 1861)

Finances for this undertaking were provided by generous citizens and by public subscription. An endowment fund was established and the interest from its investments was used to run the Home. The residents were charged a small annual rent.



The first residence suitable for ten women was in a rental house on Gottingen Street. Demand was such that larger premises had to be found. The present property was bought and the existing house which had belonged to Senator William Roach was extended. 24 ladies moved in in 1863

Twenty years later the residence was again too small to accommodate the number of women seeking admission. The house was razed. A new larger residence, designed by eminent architect Henry Frederick Busch, was officially opened on January 15, 1885.

In 1906 the name of the residence was changed to The Old Ladies Home and in 1970 it became Victoria Hall.

Since 1884 the building and its residents have seen many changes and challenges including three wars, the depression, the Explosion, the introduction of health care and old age pensions. Nevertheless, Victoria Hall continues to offer outstanding residential services to approximately 40 full time residents at an affordable rent which is subsidized by the endowment fund.

For more history of Victoria Hall and the men and women who have volunteered their time to ensure its continuation since 1860, you may be interested in *Victoria Hall: A History 1860-2000* by Eileen Riley. Copies are available from Victoria Hall for \$20.00 plus \$5 shipping & handling.