



The Hale Bathhouse

The Hale was constructed in 1892-93, replacing an earlier Hale Bathhouse. The building underwent extensive renovations in 1919 (design by George Mann and Eugene Stern of Little Rock), and again in the late 1930s (design by Thompson, Sanders, and Ginocchio of Little Rock). The latter renovation changed the facade from neo-Classical Revival to Mission Style in 1939-40. The Hale is 12,007 square feet, including 5,614 square feet on the first floor, 3,968 square feet on the second floor, and 2,425 square feet in the basement. The building ceased operation as a bathhouse in 1978.

The Hale is generally rectangular in plan and is two and one-half stories in height. The building is primarily a brick and concrete structure, reinforced with iron and steel. By 1919, the neo-Classical building had a hierarchy of fenestration typical of that style: rectangular windows on the ground floor with arched windows on the second floor. The 1939 remodeling included changing the rectangular window openings of the sun porch to arched window openings like those on the second story. The hip roof was covered with red tile. The classical segmental arch over the main entrance became a simpler Spanish bell gable. The brick was covered with stucco, and wrought iron grilles were placed over the two windows flanking the entrance.

The front desk in the lobby is marble. Most of the interior hardware is brass. Wall finishes varied from plaster to marble to tile.