

Robinson Hall, located on the campus of Louisiana Tech in Ruston, was built in 1939 to serve as a men's dormitory. The three story brick Colonial Revival building features cast concrete details. It survives unaltered on the exterior, although the interior has been completely modernized.

Robinson Hall represents a distinct phase of the Colonial Revival. After World War I, the Colonial Revival entered an academic phase in which architects designed buildings which actually resembled real colonial buildings. Some produced archaeologically correct copies while others borrowed details from various periods of colonial architecture to produce buildings evocative of the period. In short, American colonial architecture was the inspiration for buildings like Robinson Hall.

The dorm's red and brown brickwork resembles the textured effect found on colonial buildings where burnt headers were used. The building has a three-part composition, consisting of a long middle block with shorter end sections set at right angles, yielding an overall "I" footprint. The end sections are emphasized by gabled parapets. Two small dormers are found on the front and back of the main block. The locations of the building's four staircases are clearly evident on the facade. A staircase in each end section is marked by a composition consisting of two multi-pane windows of unequal size with a paneled area between. The two windows and paneled area are set within a frame which features shoulder molding. Crowning the entire affair is a swan neck pediment with a swag, and above that, an oculus with keystones in cast concrete. Below is a cast concrete aedicule style entrance pavilion with a dentil band in the entablature and paneling on the interior side walls. The two staircases on the main block are marked by a round arch composition, again with two windows of unequal size with a paneled area between. Here the entrances are simpler, consisting of a small brick hipped roof pavilion with a recessed entrance featuring a cast concrete keystone and paneling.

Robinson Hall's other numerous windows are also strongly articulated, featuring small panes, fairly thick frames, and a jack arc with a prominent keystone in cast concrete. Those on the ground story (except for the rear) have a panel below.

Assessment of Integrity:

As noted previously, the interior of Robinson Hall is completely modern in character. However, it should be noted that it was always a very utilitarian, unornamented interior, consisting of dorm rooms off hallways. Because the exterior survives completely unaltered, there is no question that a student from the historic period would recognize the building.

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| SIGNIFICANT DATES: | 1939 |
| ARCHITECT/BUILDER: | Neild, Somdal & Neild (Architects) T. L. James & Co. (Contractor) |
| CRITERION: | A |

Robinson Hall is of local significance in the area of education because it is an important component of a critical chapter in Louisiana Tech's history, the great construction boom of the 1930s which increased the physical plant by one-third, including numerous major buildings. See the multiple property cover form "The 1930s Building Boom at Louisiana Tech" for a fuller statement of significance. Robinson Hall was named for W. C. Robinson, who served as Tech's president from 1899 to 1900.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

See the multiple property cover form's bibliography.