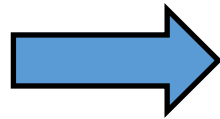


South side Dauphin and St. Joseph



From Royal Street



Look down Dauphin St to the West Alhambra Club

The Cowbellions performed their first tableau there in 1841.

When the Strikers organized in 1843, the Cowbellions held their balls in the Armory for a few years, although their tableau and visit with the Mayor was at the Mansion House.

In 1843 the Strikers followed their first parade with a ball at the Alhambra and it remained the site of their balls for many more years.

Alhambra

There was not much in the way of entertainment by the end of 1839. In addition to the worst Yellow Fever outbreak on record for Mobile, at least one third of the city was in ruins after a series of devastating fires. One of the only buildings left standing for entertainment was the new Alhambra barroom at 52 Dauphin Street, just west of Royal, on the southeast corner of Royal and St. Emmanuel.

Managed by Mr. William Chapman, the second floor above the bar was a private club, sometimes used for gambling but often converted into a theater or ballroom, particularly during the holidays.

The ceilings of the Alhambra were 25 feet high; the dance floor, 90' long and 40' wide.

Decription in *Picayune*, December, 1840



Dauphin Street facing east from Bienville Square c. 1900 Detroit Publishing Co., Library of Congress Photographs Division
The Alhambra was to the right in the foreground.

The most elegant establishment of its kind in the South is the Alhambra," of Mobile. It is principally devoted to a very spacious ball and barroom; and a band of colored musicians is connected with it, all of whom dress in Moorish costume. An up-country chap, gazing the other day with open mouth and admiration, cast his eye upon the name painted upon the sign, which bothered his slender notions of orthography, and he forthwith began to spell it aloud. A-l, al, said he; h-a-m, barn, ~~Alham~~-b-r-a-y, bray. Well now, said he, turning to a bystander, ~~aint~~ that a h-l of a way to spell Alabama?

Times Picayune, February 12, 1839

This year they grouped themselves into tableaux, illustrating costumes and characters of more modern history. Every national peculiarity had its representative, and as the motley crowd filed into the great Hall of the Alhambra, or with less ceremony gathered round the board of hospitable entertainers, in another part of our city, one might fancy them a delegation from all nations, an assemblage from all quarters of the earth, which representing truly the peculiarities of each people, made a fantastical ...

Alexandria Gazette, January 15, 1842



Mobile Register and Journal, December 7, 1841

"The Cowbellions" in former years paraded amidst the noisy clack of their inharmonious sponsors, cow-bells; but older days, it seems, have smoothed away this relic of barbarism.

Boston Evening Transcript, January 23, 1843

December 31, 1841 The First Tableau

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*-Alexandria Gazette (Alexandria, Virginia),
January 15, 1842.*



At Pine's Alhambra, the Strikers, the next oldest club, held
There were thirty-five of them in costume representing, we sup
something like the varied scene of a coronation in the middle a
and his court lead the pageant, followed by gentlemen ushers,
huntsmen, equerries, lords of the household, jesters, harlequin
members of the privy council, armor bearers, treasurer, keep
great seal, orders of knighthood, &c. &c. The dresses were ric
historical, and, what with banners, and jest and antics, the sce

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Alabama Planter, January 3, 1849

On New Year's Eve, 1846

The Cowbellions went to the Waverly after their parade and then to the
mayor's house. After a visit there, the group went to the Armory for their
ball.

The Strikers, on the other hand, visited "several private residences" and the
Mansion House. Then, they marched to the Alhambra for their ball.

The company marched to the Waverly
House; thence to the residence of the Mayor
of the city, where they were received with the
characteristic hospitality of that gentleman,
and thence to the Armory, where a regular
cotillon was danced, and Cyrus, the Great, hob-

A junior club, called the *Strikers*, also held
its anniversary on New Year's Eve. Its mem-
bers represented the Kings of England, from
Egbert, running down to James the second—
omitting Elizabeth and Mary, who were not
Kings, although sovereigns, and whose attire
was not suited to the occasion. The column
of this club was divided into eleven separate
divisions—each representing the lines of Eng-

Alabama Planter, January 3, 1847, 37.