

# Developer plans to convert McDonogh 31 building into high-end apartments

Posted by Mid-City Messenger at 10:53 am Featured, land use, schools  
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<http://midcitymessenger.com/2015/01/15/developer-plans-to-convert-mcdonogh-31-building-into-high-end-apartments/#more-8767>

Jan 15<sub>2015</sub>



*A local developer plans to turn the old McDonogh 31 school into high-end apartments and condos (Google Maps).*

*by Fritz Esker, Contributing Writer*

The old McDonogh 31 building in the Bayou St. John neighborhood may soon turn into high-end apartments and condos.

CCNO Development, a local real estate developer that has been in operation in New Orleans since 2007, announced at a recent neighborhood meeting plans to renovate the building, located at 800 N. Rendon Street.

CCNO successfully bid on the property in November 2011, but the sale was not completed until late 2014. The company is still in discussions with the city of New Orleans, Louisiana's State Historic Preservation Office, and the National Park Service about the proposed condo, a company official said.

Pierre Walker, a representative of CCNO who spoke at Monday's Faubourg St. John Neighborhood Association meeting, said CCNO will honor the history and architecture of the neighborhood.

"(We plan to) do a deliberate, discreet, and perfect historical renovation of the original building," Walker said.

CCNO would update the main campus and turn McDonough 31's cafeteria building so it faces the street, but otherwise keep the design the same, Walker said.

The property also features four lots that CCNO will build single-family homes on with off-street parking.

Walker said neighborhood support for the project is important and that he will bring designs of the buildings to future FSJNA meetings in order to get input from neighbors.

When asked when the project would be finished, Walker said CCNO was currently unable to estimate a completion date.

Sarah Stogner, a Faubourg St. John resident, said the development would be good for the neighborhood.

"I'm so excited," Stogner said. "I'm looking forward to seeing the improvements."