

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 5

PALAFOX HISTORIC BUSINESS DISTRICT
PENSACOLA, ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FL
DESCRIPTION

Gothic Revival

Gothic architecture emerged in Western Europe during the late Middle Ages, and gave rise to many monumental cathedrals characterized by the pointed arch, rib vaults, and flying buttresses for exterior support. The resurgence of the Gothic Style was part of the Picturesque movement in the 19th century, characterized by irregularity, variety, and dramatic appearance. Common elements of Gothic Revival architecture include asymmetrical styling, steeply pitched roofs, and doors and windows with pointed arches.

St. Michael's Catholic Basilica at 21 North Palafox Street, (ES01177) (Photo 12) is an example of Gothic Revival architecture constructed in 1886. The three story-height masonry church is faced with smooth stucco over brick and features Gothic-style ornament. Gothic features include pointed arched windows and doorways, and spire topped towers of differing heights on the northeast and southeast corners. The church has been a prominent landmark within the district since its construction. With a cross-shaped plan, this church features pointed arch windows set along the first floor on the north and south sides, singular windows along the front (east) facade, and paired windows in upper stories of the northeast and tallest tower. The window arrangement along the first floor is punctuated by stepped buttresses, which are also found on the building corners. The current church doors are mahogany with carved religious symbols, although historic photographs suggest it originally had traditional wood doors with three rows of recessed panels (Figure 1). The gabled east front of the church has a recessed entryway protected by an arched silhouette, with a wheel window directly above and flanked by two arched windows. A statue of St. Michael is affixed under the gable apex in a protected niche. Decorative horizontal banding visually separates the heights of both towers, varying between raised cross shapes, blind arcades, dentil courses and reeding. The northeast tower, which presumably holds the church bell heard through the louvered arched openings, features an architrave with crenulated reeding detail set below miniature spires at the four corners. Three of the spires, on both towers and the front gable peak, are topped with a cross-shaped finial. The roofing material is copper metal sheeting that has developed a striking green patina, although early historic photographs suggest it had a patterned shingle roof as popular during the Victorian-era.

The northeast corner and south facade reflect alterations since initial construction. The southeast corner is modified from a two-door arched entryway into a single window set in the north side. Two arched windows that flank the main entrance became square entryways, and the modification of the front entrance allows ADA access via a ramp to the north. Most windows appear to have protective glazing over the original stained glass installations, which comprise of twenty-three original figural painted windows attributed to the Emil Frei Art Glass Company of St. Louis.



33 North Palafox Street, Palafox Historic District Pensacola, Escambia County, FL. Cynthia Catellier, 07/30/2011, Location of original with photographer, Viewing southwest, Photo 19 of 50



33 North Palafox Street, Palafox Historic District Pensacola, Escambia County, FL. Photographer unknown, circa 1894, Location of original Florida Memory Project PR08496, Viewing west, Photo 20 of 50

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 7

Georgian Revival

Georgian Revival architecture is directly tied to the work of British architect Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1723), who studied Italian architects from the 16th century, especially Palladio. In the United States, Georgian Revival architecture had its earliest manifestations in Williamsburg, Virginia at the College of William and Mary's Wren Building, the Governor's Palace, and the Capital. Hallmarks of Georgian design include rigid symmetry, axial entrances, geometrical proportions, hipped roofs, and sash windows. Although this style appeared early in United States history, it continually experiences resurgences in use due to the popularity of the classical form.

Built c.1912, the two-story Georgian-Revival style **St. Michael's Rectory** at 19 North Palafox Street (ES01176) has been in continuous use as the rectory for St. Michael's Catholic Church since its construction (Photo 15). The building, with noted Italianate influence, has a low-pitch hip roof with an exaggerated overhang supported by brackets. Elongated consoles support the overhang at corners. A narrow brick chimney pierces the south roofline. A gable-topped front portico supported by brick columns protects the front door, flanked by three-quarter height sidelights and a full width transom. Quoins line the sides of the masonry building and a belt course lies just below the second story windows and wraps around the side elevations. The first story windows are topped with keystone arches, painted to match the exterior brick. Historic images show the building to be unpainted brick, with one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows. The building currently reflects three-over-one replacement vinyl windows. The building currently reflects three-over-one replacement vinyl windows.



19 North Palafox Street, Palafox Historic District Pensacola, Escambia County, FL. Cynthia Catellier, 07/30/2011, Location of original with photographer, Viewing west, Photo 24 of 50