

PH0351270

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 27 1976
DATE ENTERED FEB 12 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
 Pincus Building
AND/OR COMMON
Zadek Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1 South Royal Street

CITY, TOWN
Mobile

STATE
Alabama

VICINITY OF
1

COUNTY
Mobile

CODE
01

CODE
097

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mobile Housing Board

STREET & NUMBER
151 South Claiborne Street

CITY, TOWN
Mobile

STATE
Alabama

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Mobile County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
109 Government Street

CITY, TOWN
Mobile

STATE
Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Nineteenth Century Mobile Architecture, An Inventory of Existing Buildings

DATE
January, 1974

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Mobile City Planning Commission

CITY, TOWN
Mobile

STATE
Alabama

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Completed in 1891 from plans drawn by Rudolf Benz, the Pincus Building is a fine example of the commercial use of late Victorian Eclecticism. Located on the corner of Royal and Dauphine, half a block from Bienville Square, the building occupies an important location in downtown Mobile.

Both massive and solid, the building is characterized by rampant surface decoration and broken bay levels. The rectangular, four-story, brick structure has been somewhat altered by the removal of a corner tower and the modernization of the rusticated-stone ground floor, but retains its flamboyant late 19th Century character and intricate detailing.

Each of the two street facades are controlled into bays by the vertical lines of decorated pilasters. The Royal Street facade has five bays, three of which are major and two of which are recessed minor bays. The central bay is formed by pilasters that rise to small ornate turrets that enclose a stylized palmetto acroterian that rises above the parapet on either side, while the south bay is framed by moulded pilasters rising four stories to form a semi-circular arch over the fourth floor window. This arch is crowned by a high pyramidal roof which is topped by an elaborate finial. The northwest corner, originally had the circular tower which has since been removed. Window and surface treatment of the wall closely resemble that of the original. The Dauphine Street facade is similar except that a crest, which was later removed, replaced the acroterian to accent the parapet line.

Wall surfaces throughout are activated by a variety of different brick patterns - billet, rusticated, and stylized floral carvings, while crenelations form mouldings beneath the horizontal string courses.

Square, segmental, arched and semi-circular windows are employed throughout the structure with the semi-circular window spandrels being filled with highly textured brick patterns or floral carvings.

The first and second floors of the interior were partitioned and modernized in the 1940's to accommodate a dress shop, while the two upper floors have remained relatively unchanged. Although in good structural condition, the building is in need of routine repair work.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1891

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Rudolf Benz

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pincus Building is a fine example of commercial late Victorian Eclecticism, and is one of the two remaining such buildings in the city which were designed by Rudolf Benz, a German-trained architect who designed several structures in late 19th Century Mobile.

Benz was a graduate of the Polytechnical School of Stuttgart, Germany and worked in Chicago, St. Louis and New York before finally settling in Mobile in the late 19th Century. In addition to the Pincus Building, his works in Mobile included several residences, the Athelstan Masonic Club, the Mobile Cotton Exchange, and the German Relief Building which is still standing.

Completed in 1891 for Abraham Pincus, a local merchant, the structure housed the E.O. Zadek Jewelry Company for many years and remained in the Pincus family until 1970 when it was purchased by the Mobile Housing Board. At present the building is being offered for sale to anyone willing to restore it for commercial use.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mobile City Planning Commission. Nineteenth Century Mobile Architecture: An Inventory of Existing Structures. 1974.

Mobile Daily Register. November, 1896.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .09 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	400320	3395740
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director and Ellen Mertins

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

DATE

August 20, 1976

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

STATE

Alabama 36130

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Miss B. Howard, Jr.

TITLE SHPO Ala.

DATE

August 20, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Clayton K. Kistner

DATE

12/12/95

DATE

12/6/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER