

PH 05 05498

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 4 1977

DATE ENTERED MAR 21 1978

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

**

Emanuel Building (Bank of Mobile), National Banking Association

AND/OR COMMON

Staples-Pake Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

100 North Royal Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Mobile

VICINITY OF

1

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alabama

01

Mobile

097

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

X COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

X YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. B.H. Pake, Mrs. Alfred Staples, Mrs. Sidney Van Antwerp

STREET & NUMBER

Pake-1805 Government St.; Staples-165 Levert Avenue; Van Antwerp-1703 Hunter Ave.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Mobile

VICINITY OF

Alabama

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mobile County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

101 Government Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Mobile

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

Constructed in the 1850's as a three-story brick building typical of the late Federal architecture in Mobile, the Staples-Pake Building was remodeled in 1903 by George B. Rogers. The structure occupies the northeast corner of North Royal and St. Michael streets with Roger's Italian Renaissance facade facing onto St. Michael.

The north and east exterior walls, screened by surrounding buildings retain the characteristics typical of the earlier period. The brick bond is five rows of stretchers between headers, the hipped roof has a non-projecting cornice with string course and the windows have straight arches and sills of contrasting material.

When the Emanuel Building was acquired for offices by the newly organized Bank of Mobile, extensive alterations were undertaken which resulted in the Italian Renaissance facade of Indiana limestone facing St. Michael Street and a corresponding stuccoed and scored west side facing Royal. The upper stories, accented with stringcourses, were capped with a cornice with dentil and multiple mouldings and a paneled parapet above. This cornice was removed around 1960 and the wall was finished smooth from above the straight arches over the third story windows.

The ground floor of the St. Michael Street facade consists of four dominant entrances interspaced with large glass windows, into which two minor entrances were introduced. The two westernmost entrances have massive double leaf mahogany doors with etched medallions in beveled glass lights and handsome Greek design hardware. Square medallion reliefs flank these entrances.

The major alterations to the ground floor consist of the treatment of the three easternmost entrances. The fourth entrance, originally an arched opening flanked by pilasters and large lights, now has pairs of Doric columns flanking the doorway. Oval windows surrounded by a fruit garland and ribbon relief are placed between each pair of columns with rectangular windows below. The fifth entrance, originally identical to the third, has been altered in its framing and wall surface treatment. The stucco covering is unscored and the semi-circular arched driveway opening, which formed the sixth entrance, has been squared off.

Fewer alterations have occurred on the western side, where a short series of windows have been bricked over.

The interior of the bank room retains some of the finer Neo-Classical detail in the mahogany ceiling trim and door framing. The imported Pavonazzo marble wainscot with ornated bronzed grills remains. While the ceramic tile floor of the banking room has been covered over, it has been retained in the lobby of the rental office section where a fine three-story staircase is located. The present owners are planning restoration of the structure in the near future.

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 checked="" 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 c. 1850 and 1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT George B. Rogers

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Staples-Pake Building is both architectural and commercial. Initially constructed in the 1850's as office space by a Mobile cotton broker, Jonathan Emanuel, the structure was remodeled in 1903 by George B. Rogers, a prominent Mobile architect, and is one of the few documented buildings designed by him. The 1903 remodeling was for the Bank of Mobile, which was active in the growth of financial institutions in the city.

The Mobile City Directory for 1852 lists Jonathan Emanuel, the owner of the building, as a cotton broker at the corner location. Emanuel was a property owner and prominent businessman who later became president of Mobile Mutual Insurance Company. A total of nine cotton brokers are listed in the 1852 Directory at numbers corresponding to the Emanuel Building. Commission merchants are also listed at this location. City Directories for the 1860's through 1880's indicate various insurance companies at the location and the 1878 Hopkins City Atlas indicates that the Southern Express Company was in the southwest corner of the building.

In 1903 the Emanuel Building was acquired for offices of the new organized Bank of Mobile, National Banking Association, under certificate of authority No. 7062 from the Comptroller of the Currency dated December 11, 1903. At this time George B. Rogers was hired to redesign the structure. The bank opened for business on April 2, 1904 and was active in the growth of financial institutions of the city. It was the first federal depository in Mobile in some 25 years.

A number of Mobile's most prominent business leaders composed the directorate and staff. Michael J. McDermott served as president, Sidney Lowenstein was the vice-president and Thomas J. O'Conner was the cashier. The directorate consisted of John J. Blacksher, H.W. French, A.G. Levy, Joseph H. Lyon, Edwin Macartney, M. J. McDermott, S. Lowenstein, Thomas J. Potter, Andrew Van Antwerp and M.J. Vickers.

The bank closed in 1917 but the building continued to be occupied by a variety of business firms. A sampling of the occupants from 1920 includes Page and Jones, steamship agents; Huffstettler Shorthand School; and, Herman and Hynde, a real estate firm. C.L. Hutchinson, another important Mobile architect also had his offices in the building. For a period of some five years, until 1926, the building was referred to again as the Emanuel Building in City Directories, but in 1927 it was referred to as the Staples-Powell Building, a name it retained until 1938 when the current owner's names were designated.

The building has continued as a place of active commercial use. The main banking room is today occupied by a prominent real estate and insurance firm. Both Mr. Alfred Staples, now deceased, and Mr. B.H. Pake have been well known in business, civic and social activities in Mobile since the early part of the 20th Century. The rental offices of the building continue to be occupied as well.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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The anticipated restoration of this building should insure its place in Mobile's architectural and economic history in the coming years.