

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 10 1979 DEC 13 1979
DATE ENTERED

**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 Thiesen Building

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 40 South Palafox Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN Pensacola

VICINITY OF 1st

STATE Florida CODE 12 COUNTY Escambia CODE 033

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Kenneth L. & Faye C. Fulghum, Jr. and John H. & Kathleen F. Hinman

STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 12317

CITY, TOWN Pensacola

VICINITY OF STATE Fl. 32581

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Escambia County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Pensacola

STATE Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in the Commercial Style, the five story Thiesen Building was completed in 1902. Of the five stories, the first has been the most drastically altered. The original west central arched entryway was removed in the 1950's to give the building its present "modernized" appearance. The windows on the south side, which have been enlarged sometime between 1910 and 1940, were also bricked-in sometime after 1945. The horizontal terra cotta banding and the scrolls and urns above the arched entryway have also been removed.

The second story on the west and south facades, is highlighted by horizontal rusticated brick. Heavy terra cotta keystone consoles visually support the horizontal terra cotta banding between the second and third stories. The frontispiece above the original entry features swags and wreaths in relief and dentil molding, and the window is flanked by pilasters. Louvered wood panels have been installed within the past five years, covering the original 1/1 DHS and awning window combinations.

The third and fifth stories on the west and south sides present a unified appearance. Monumental brick pilasters run between the windows and have simple terra cotta bases and ornate terra cotta Corinthian capitals. Half pilasters with simple capitals support applied terra cotta archivolt over each set of paired 1/1 DHS windows. The paired windows of the third and fourth stories have cast iron colonettes for mullions; the fifth story windows are arched with solid spandrels in the arch and a bullseye window centered above them. Above the third and fourth story windows on the east and south sides are ornamental terra cotta window spandrels with grotesques in low relief. Terra cotta consoles, extending into the roof architrave are over each bullseye window on the fifth story. The building has a full entablature on the west and south facades. The three upper stories retain their original appearance. The east and north sides of the building are not articulated.

Although the interior has been modified over seventy years of use, much of the original oak woodwork, oak doors, and room divisions remain. Some rooms on the upper floors have pressed tin ceilings; radiators from the original steam heat system are intact; and there are several early washrooms (closets within an office area which contain a marble washbasin).

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 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 +1901

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Morgan & Dillon (Atlanta, GA)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thiesen Building is significant because it is representative of the optimism of Pensacola's business community at the beginning of the twentieth century. The building is architecturally significant because it was the first structure of its type in Pensacola. At the turn of the century, the port was increasing its volume of shipping, the city's population was increasing, and the timber and lumber interests were showing larger and larger profits.¹ These factors coalesced to convince civic leaders that the Pensacola boom was going to continue. During this period, the construction of the Thiesen Building (1901), the Citizens and Peoples National Bank (1908), the American National Bank (1909), and the San Carlos Hotel (1910) reflected the mood of the region.

Christian Thiesen was a Danish Immigrant who settled in Pensacola in 1882.² He soon became successful in the real estate business and a leader in the community.³ Thiesen contracted with the Atlanta architectural firm of Morgan and Dillon and the construction firm of Wills and Broughton to build Pensacola's first commercial "high rise". By March, 1901, the foundation was almost finished, and in March, 1902, Thiesen held an informal opening of the building complete with a concert in the roof garden of his five story building.⁴ Thiesen's son, John Henry, recalled that, "at the time, by some of the local Pensacolians he was considered rather foolish to erect an office building of that height in Pensacola. It was the tallest at the time, and the first to have a mechanical (sic) operated passenger elevator."⁵ Thiesen's building was also the first in the city to offer its tenants steam heat, janitor service, and other amenities.⁶

The building was the center for a variety of commercial activities from 1902 until the early 1970's. Kress's 5¢ and 10¢ store occupied one first story storefront from 1902 to 1913 when the Bon Marché department store moved in. Lawyers, realtors, doctors, insurance agents, and architects occupied the building as well as such firms as the German-American Lumber Company, Robinson's Point Lumber Company, Consolidated Naval Stores Company, and the Choctawhatchee Navigation Company.⁷

By the 1950's, many of the firms began to move out, and by 1974,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Armstrong, H. Clay. History of Escambia County, Florida. St. Augustine, Fl.:
The Record Company, 1930.

Escambia County (Florida) Deed Books K, 1, 13, 22, 23, 26, 229, 354; or
Book 821.

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one (1)

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	4 7 9 3 4 0	3 3 6 4 2 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that part and parcel of land known as lots 229 and 230 of block 30, Old City Tract.

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

Terence H. Nolan Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Florida Division of Archives, History & Records Management

DATE

7-20-79

STREET & NUMBER

The Capitol

TELEPHONE

(904) 487-2333

CITY OR TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida 32301

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

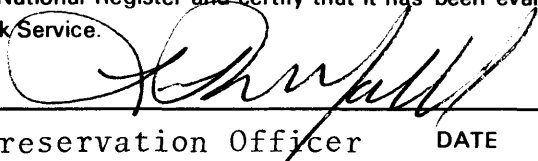
NATIONAL

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



9/26/79

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Sally Gold
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST: [Signature]
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/13/79

DATE

12/10/79

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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as the downtown area continued to deteriorate, the Thiesen Building was vacant.

¹James R. McGovern, The Emergence of a City in the Modern South, Pensacola, 1976. p. 8.

²H. Clay Armstrong, History of Escambia County, Florida, St. Augustine, 1930. p. 227.

³McGovern, p.6.

⁴Pensacola Daily News, March 31, 1902.

⁵John Henry Thiesen to Kenneth Fulghum, May 10, 1976. Located at the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board.

⁶Pensacola Daily News, October 2, 1902.

⁷Pensacola City Directories, 1903, 1905, 1911, 1913, 1916, 1921-1922.

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Letter, John Henry Thiesen, AIA, to Kenneth Fulghum, Jr., May 10, 1976.

McGovern, James R. The Emergence of a City in the Modern South: Pensacola, 1900-1945 (privately printed, 1976).

Pensacola City Directories 1903, 1905, 1911, 1913, 1916, 1921-1922.

Pensacola Daily News, 1901-1903.

Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Part I. Washington, D.C.:
United States Census Office, 1901.