

PH0022306

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Florida

COUNTY:
Escambia

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
MAY 3 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
St. Michael's Creole Benevolent Association Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:
1896-1928 St. Michael's Benevolent Social Club Hall

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
416 East Government Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Pensacola

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First District

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12

COUNTY:
Escambia

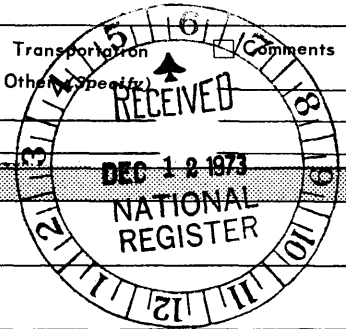
CODE:
033

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. Roy Stark and Mr. Bob Quigley

STREET AND NUMBER:
416 East Government Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Pensacola

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Escambia County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
South Palafox Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Pensacola

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D.C.

CODE:
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Florida

COUNTY: Escambia

ENTRY NUMBER: 574

DATE: MAY 9 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

(Check One)

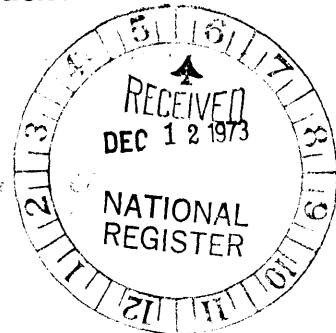
Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The meeting hall of the St. Michael's Creole Benevolent Association is a tall, single-story, single-gable, rectangular structure measuring (exterior dimensions) 31' 3/4" by 65' 11" and 28' 5" from water table board to peak of gable, with a roofed veranda, 6' wide extending across the front (south) facade and returning the length of the east facade except at the north end where an original wing interrupted the porch for 11' 3" and a later enclosure for restroom facilities was added taking another 15' 5" of the porch. The sills of this all-wood building rest upon brick piers 18" by 18" and 2' high, spaced 5' 6" apart. Walls are covered on the exterior by drop-siding with a 5" exposure and on the interior by wainscoating to a height of 4' 1" and the remainder by 2 1/2" horizontal boarding. Floor to ceiling windows, 10' 1" high and 3' 9" wide pierce the walls and can be closed over with louvered wood shutters on the exterior. The veranda roof is supported by fancifully turned posts at intervals of 7' with 3 1/2" high rails and turned balusters between. The original wood roof shingles of both building and veranda have been replaced with corrugated, galvanized sheet metal.

In 1926 a hurricane twisted the structure on its piers so the Association cut the piers down from their original 5' height to the present 2', at the same time installing on the interior two pair of iron tie rods set at angles so that each pair is tied to cross-brace itself. The rods are attached to the studding of the east and west walls of the hall. The interior space of the hall is uninterrupted except for a partition wall at the north end, creating a 10' wide kitchen and storage room.

Although the exterior of the building was painted white with green trim when the present owners purchased it in 1972, careful paint scraping supported the reminiscences of some older members of the Association who recalled the building as "a funny yellow" and red. The original yellow-gold was returned to the walls in 1972, with doors, trim, porch columns, and shutters in red, and the window sash in black.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1895-96

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Michael's Creole Benevolent Association's meeting hall represents a unique cultural and social group of the Gulf Coast region. Although during the eighteenth century "Creole" designated a pure French or Spanish heritage, since the mid-nineteenth century "Creole" has designated one who has a racially mixed background--usually French or Spanish and Negro. The gradual acceptance of the "Creole" designation, like the formation of their own social and charitable organizations, isolated this homogeneous sub-cultural group from increasingly unfriendly white society as well as minimized its associations with the Negro community. Creoles in Mobile and New Orleans formed special social organizations in the 1840's and 1850's; Creoles in Pensacola followed the example of their Gulf Coast neighbors and established special organizations in the 1870's.

In 1878 T. N. Dubraca and nineteen other Creoles organized St. Michael's Social Club, which they incorporated June 9, 1881. According to its By-Laws, the purpose of the club was "benevolent and charity in affording aid and relief to its members in case of sickness, misfortunes, or necessity..." Creole, Roman Catholic men over the age of fifteen who could provide letters of recommendation from two members were considered to become "brothers." For almost a century this club provided financial aid for members who were sick; paid doctor bills and expenses for medicine; and gave death benefits to the family members of a "brother."

In 1895 the members constructed a meeting hall on Government Street less than a block away from Seville Square. The hall was dedicated on January 12, 1896, by the Reverend Father Fullerton of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, and on January 21, 1896, the Creoles celebrated their 18th anniversary as a society in their new social hall. According to the Pensacola Daily News, the party was "...a most enjoyable affair. The hall was beautifully decorated and fully fifty couples participated in the dancing and enjoyed the elegant supper that was spread." For the next eighty years, the hall served as the center for Creole social life; dances, receptions, parties, and youth events such as boxing were

(con't)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

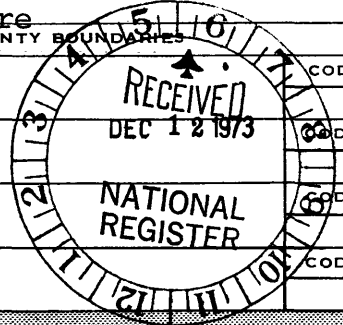
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N30 24 37 "	W87 12 32 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1/2 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard S. Hagen, Chief, Bureau of Research & Restoration
Linda V. Ellsworth, Assistant Historian

ORGANIZATION: Historic Pensacola Preservation Board DATE: 2/19/73

STREET AND NUMBER: 200 East Zaragoza Street

CITY OR TOWN: Pensacola STATE: Florida CODE: 12

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: 12-5-73

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/3/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5.2.74

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Florida	
COUNTY	Escambia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	1974	DATE
	MAY 3	

(Number all entries) 8. Significance

-2-

held here as well as the monthly and special meetings of St. Michael's Creole Benevolent Social Club.

St. Michael's Benevolent Social Club merged assets and membership with the Creole Catholic Benevolent Association in 1928 and formed St. Michael's Creole Benevolent Association. The group continued to be active until the 1960's. In 1971, with the membership dwindling, the members decided to dissolve the association and the sale of their meeting hall in 1972 marked the final disposition of their assets.



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Florida	
COUNTY	Escambia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		MAY 3 1974

(Number all entries) 9. Bibliography

Constitution & By-Laws of the Creole Catholic Benevolent Association, revised October 17, 1897.

Constitution & By-Laws of the St. Michael's Creole Benevolent Association, revised August 5, 1958.

Escambia County Courthouse, Pensacola, Florida. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Escambia County Records. (Subgroup: deeds).

Pensacola Daily News, January 21 and 22, 1896.

Pensacola City Directories, 1898, 1905, 1911, 1913.

Sanborn Map Company, Map of Pensacola, Florida; 1892, 1897, 1903.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME		
COMMON St. Michael's Creole Benevolent Association Hall	AND/OR HISTORIC 1896-1928 St. Michael's Benevolent Social Club Hall	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS) MAY 3 1974

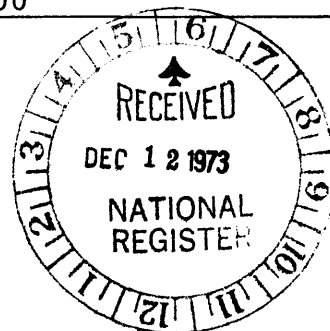
2. LOCATION		
STATE Florida	COUNTY Escambia	TOWN Pensacola

STREET AND NUMBER

416 East Government Street

3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE Pensacola Atlas	DATE 1954	SCALE 1"=100'

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.





MATCH SHEET NO: 74

SEVILLE
SQUARE

334.29'

60'

17

345.08'

36.84'

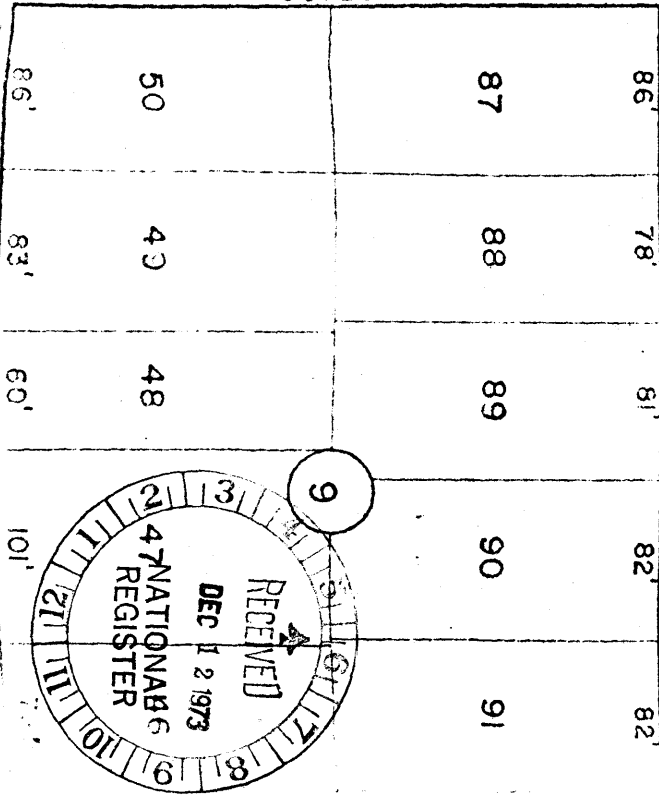
23

348.52'

ALCANIZ

337.25'

STREET



55.5'

GOVERNMENT

