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

### NAME

- **HISTORIC** Pensacola Hospital
- **AND/OR COMMON** Old Sacred Heart Hospital

### LOCATION

- **STREET & NUMBER** North Twelfth Avenue
- **CITY, TOWN** Pensacola
- **STATE** Florida
- **CODE** 12

### CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
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### OWNER OF PROPERTY

- **NAME** Stephen F. Ritz, James F. Crawford, & B.N. Armstrong
- **STREET & NUMBER** 3733 Deloach Street
- **CITY, TOWN** Pensacola
- **STATE** Florida

### LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

- **COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.** Escambia County Courthouse
- **STREET & NUMBER** Government Street
- **CITY, TOWN** Pensacola
- **STATE** Florida

### REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- **TITLE** N/A
- **DATE**
- **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS** N/A
- **CITY, TOWN**

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**Property has not been determined eligible**
The Pensacola Hospital, a late Gothic Revival style building designed by A.O. Von Herbulis (Washington, D.C.), was constructed in 1915. The building is situated on an entire block located in the "East Hill" residential section of Pensacola, Florida, with its main (west) facade fronting along the eastern right-of-way of North Twelfth Avenue. The hospital complex consists of two buildings; the main building and a much smaller building immediately to the rear (east) of the main structure. Both buildings have the same architectural style.

Late Gothic Revival style buildings are generally more subdued in character than the earlier High Victorian Gothic style. Inspiration for Late Gothic Revival buildings is most often English. These buildings are usually of masonry construction. Great emphasis is placed on the verticality of the structure. The Late Gothic Revival style was especially suited for use in the design of multi-storied commercial buildings and functional buildings such as schools and hospitals. The design allowed for the repitious floor plans necessary for institutional use.

The fortress-like main hospital building is T-shaped and consists of two main parts: a four-story section with flanking three-story wings; and a three-story wing perpendicular to and connected at the center of the rear facade of the four-story section. The entire building sets on a raised basement.

The entire structure has a brick and reinforced concrete structural system. The walls are random ashlar quarry-faced Alabama sandstone with detailing (quoins, lintels, belt courses) of dressed faced Indiana limestone. The building has a crenellated parapet which contributes to its overall fortress-like mass.

The main (west) facade of the four-story building is symmetrical. As a result of its symmetrical design and in part due to its hospital function, window spacing is very ordered and regular.

The four-story main facade has a three-bay central section which protrudes slightly from the rest of the structure. The outer bays of this section are composed of pairs of 9/9 double hung wood sash windows on all four stories. The central bay contains the entrance which occupies the basement and first floors. The second through fourth stories each have a group of four 6/6 double hung sash windows. The bays in this section, as with bays of the other sections of the building, are delineated with exaggerated merlons in the battlement.

Flanking the three-bay central pavilion are three-bay extensions, which complete the four-story section of the hospital. Here, the outer bays have on all stories paired 6/6 double hung wood sash windows while the central bay has a 9/9 double hung sash window. This probably reflects a hall with flanking rooms in these sections.

Flanking the four-story central block are three-story, two-bay wings. The inner bay of each wing has two-window bays of 9/9 double hung wood sash on all floors. The outer-bay is composed on each floor of a tudor arched window with label hood mold which contains a band of four windows and glazing in the arch above the transom. Arched windows in this bay only extend from the second to fourth floors.

(See Continuation Sheet)
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pensacola Hospital is significant because of its architectural style as well as for its role in the medical history of Pensacola. The construction of a hospital facility in a city the size of Pensacola at the time was a considerable undertaking. The style, scale, and materials of the completed structure reflect its importance to the community. The building was designated in a style known to contemporaries of the time of its construction as English Gothic, now referred to as the Late Gothic Revival style. The massive building, finished in random ashlar sandstone veneer, is distinguished by a crenellated parapet and tudor arched entranceway. This detailing affords a castle or fortresslike appearance. Strong emphasis is placed on the verticality of the structure, especially in the orderly alignment of the windows. The building remains a unique example of Late Gothic Revival style architecture in Florida.

Before its construction in 1915, smaller clinics, operated by private physicians, served the community. Most were in residences that were converted to hospitals or sanitariums. Until its construction, many patients were taken to other communities because they could not receive adequate care in Pensacola. This problem was remedied when a citizens' committee, organized as the Pensacola Hospital Association, which included Philip Keyes Yonge, Thomas W. Brent, Rabbi William Ackerman, Max L. Bear, the Reverend T. H. Kennedy, and Bishop Edward P. Allen, raised funds to build a modern facility. The committee invited the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul to become involved in the project. The structure was designed by the architect Albert O. Von Herbulis of Washington D.C. and Birmingham, Alabama, who was under retainer to the Sisters of Charity. During Von Herbulis' time in Birmingham, he also designed the West End Convent in that city, the church in Cullman, Alabama, the rectory of St. Augustine's in North Birmingham, and began work on Bernard College. Earlier, he had designed the Apostolic Delegation Building in Washington, D.C.

The Sisters of Charity continued to operate the hospital on Twelfth Avenue, first under the name of the Pensacola Hospital, and from 1949 to 1965 as Sacred Heart Hospital. In 1965, the hospital moved to a new site on Ninth Avenue. At approximately the same time, the nursing school was phased out and Pensacola Junior College assumed sponsorship of the program.

In 1969, the Pensacola Private School of Liberal Arts opened in the building, utilizing the basement and first floors. In 1979, the City of Pensacola condemned the building, forcing the school to move to an adjacent, more modern building. Efforts are currently being made to locate a new owner who would adaptively restore the structure.

(See Continuation Sheet)

Note: 2/10/82--Current owners intend to rehabilitate the building.
**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Escambia County (FL) Deed Books. 73, 643; or Book 591.


**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY** about 2.75 acres

**QUADRANGLE NAME** USGS Pensacola

**UTM REFERENCES**

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**QUADRANGLE SCALE** 7.5 Min.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

New City Tract Block No. 135

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

<table>
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<th>State</th>
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**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

**NAME/TITLE**

Rolla L. Queen, Historic Sites Specialist

**ORGANIZATION**

Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management

**DATE**

October 16, 1980

**ADDRESS**

The Capitol

**CITY OR TOWN**

Tallahassee

**STATE**

Florida

**TELEPHONE**

(904) 487-2333

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:**

NATIONAL __ STATE X 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**

[Signature]

**DATE**

10/28/80

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

[Signature]

Entered in the National Register

[Signature]

DATE 3/16/82

**KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

[Signature]

DATE

**CHIEF OF REGISTRATION**

GPO 921-803
The north and south facades of these terminal wings have three bays, each bay with the same tudor arch window and glazing pattern. The main entrance door is recessed at the center of the first floor level of the west facade. Approach to this level is by stone steps with heavily molded limestone coping on flanking walls. The entrance-way has a limestone tudor arch with a molded enriched archivolt. The windows in main section have flat limestone lintels with quoined limestone jambs. Sandstone and limestone belt courses are located at the first floor level and on upper stories at the window sill level.

The east three-story wing has seven structural bays: each, with the exception of the easternmost bay has 6/6 double hung sash windows. The last bay has the recurring tudor arch window motif. The east facade of this wing has three bays, with the upper stories containing the tudor arch window.

In the interior of the hospital, the original terrazzo floors are evident (in some areas the terrazzo is covered with tile): in the hospital wards the original oak floors are intact. The interior walls are plaster. Most rooms and hallways have about 14 foot ceilings and in most cases have not been lowered. The tudor arch detail is carried over to the interior design of the building. Many of the hallway arches are of this style as well as the windows on interior doorways to sun porches and hallways.

Immediately to the east of the east wing of the main building stands a three-story structure which is presently vacant. This building once housed the power plant as is evident by a large chimney towering above the eastern facade. The power plant was housed on the third floor, while the second floor was used for nurses' quarters and the third floor was used for nuns' "cells".

The building is rectangular, having three window bays in width and three structural bays in length. Windows are of 9/9 double hung sash and have limestone sills and heads. Limestone belt courses delineate the waternable and the roofline. A small one-story brick coal shed/boiler house, which predates the hospital is attached to the power plant on the east side. To the north of the power plant is a new brick structure which is used as a laundry facility.

Neither the hospital proper nor the power plant have been significantly altered. At some point a one-story masonry addition was constructed at the rear (east) facade of the east wing. A small portion of the loading dock on the south side of the main hospital was enclosed sometime in the 1950s. The owners of the building have not had enough money to maintain the building which has also prohibited any structural changes. The absence of such changes affords the hospital an architectural integrity that many buildings of this function and age have been unable to maintain.
BUILDERS — Evans Brothers (Birmingham, Alabama)
FOOTNOTES:


2 A. O. Van Herbulis, Interview with Reverend E. P. Allen, August 29, 1913.

3 Ibid.