



West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc. b

WHERE NORTHWEST FLORIDA HISTORY COMES ALIVE!

ORGANIZATIONAL SCOPE

Florida statute created the Historic Pensacola Preservation and Restoration Commission (HPPRC) in 1967. In 1972, the HPPRC became the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board (HPPB), operating under the Florida Department of State. HPPB was transferred to the University of West Florida in 2001, becoming West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc. (WFHPI), a direct support organization of the University of West Florida. WFHPI manages and operates the T. T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum, Historic Pensacola Village, Pensacola Historical Museum, and Arcadia Archaeology Mill Site. The mission of WFHPI is to collect, preserve and interpret the history of Northwest Florida. We are a multifunctional organization that operates archive, research, publication, preservation, and museum initiatives. We currently host approximately 12,000 school children annually as well as 60,000 traditional visitors. An additional 10,000 children annually visit the current children's Discovery Gallery exhibit in the T. T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum.

HISTORIC PENSACOLA VILLAGE

Pensacola is a city rich in history. First settled by Spanish explorers in 1559, Pensacola is one of North America's first European settlements. Historic Pensacola Village is located on the site of a later 18th century Spanish fort, Fort San Miguel, and what would become modern downtown Pensacola. Historic Pensacola Village is a historic house museum and museum complex in the heart of downtown Pensacola, consisting of twenty five properties in the National Register, listed Pensacola Historic District. Ten of these properties are interpreted facilities that are open to the public. The "Village" showcases nearly 450 years of Florida History.

Guided Tours:

Guided tours of four buildings in Historic Pensacola Village are currently offered three times daily at 11 am, 1 pm, and 2:30 pm. This walking tour consists of one city block

and lasts approximately 90 minutes. Visitors will walk through the 1805 **Lavalle House**, 1871 **Dorr House**, 1890 **Lear-Rocheblave House**, and the 1832 **Old Christ Church**, one of the oldest church buildings in Florida, known for its architecture and preservation. All tour buildings are subject to availability. Entertaining and knowledgeable guides lead guests through historic buildings filled with authentic period pieces. A tour of Historic Pensacola Village is a journey of Pensacola through the years. Visitors experience Spanish frontier Pensacola, the genteel Victorian era, through the “Roaring Twenties.”

Self-guide Museums:

Historic Pensacola Village also offers four self-guided museum exhibits. Inside the **Museum of Industry**, one may explore the natural resources, industries, railroads, and deep-water port that tied Pensacola to world markets. Peek into quaint shops on the wooden sidewalk or climb aboard the trolley in the **Museum of Commerce**, a recreated late 1800s downtown Pensacola streetscape. Visit the “Roaring Twenties” of Pensacola in the **Manuel Barrios Cottage** and find the beginnings of our technological world. West Florida’s early African American heritage from Spanish exploration to the age of Jim Crowe and Reconstruction is displayed in the **Julee Cottage**, highlighting our rich and fascinating multi-cultural history.

Archaeology:

Spanish and British colonial life exists just inches below the ground and in the shallows of Pensacola Bay. Visitors find the archaeological foundations of our city by walking the **Colonial Archaeological Trail**, revealing the presence of those who walked before us. The Colonial Archaeological Trail leads visitors through the heart of Historic Pensacola Village and the T. T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum with the assistance of an educational brochure located at information desks and trail-side plaques.

Living History:

Costumed guides welcome visitors into Historic Pensacola Village on a regular basis, sharing early colonial life-ways and offering various programs highlighting Spanish Colonial Pensacola.

COST: Visitors must purchase a ticket for admission to Historic Pensacola Village. The information and ticket center is located in the Tivoli High House Gift Shop at 205 East Zaragoza Street.

Prices: Adult tickets are \$6.00, Discount tickets of \$5.00 are offered for AAA Members, Senior Citizens 65 years or older and active military, and children ages 4-16 are \$3.00. Tickets are good for one week.

HOURS OF OPERATION: Historic Pensacola Village is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am until 4 pm, during normal operating hours. Guided Tours at Historic Pensacola Village are offered three times daily at 11 am, 1 pm, and 2:30 pm. Tours begin in the Tivoli High House Gift Shop. The site is closed for major holidays. Please see our website for current information.

T. T. WENTWORTH, JR. FLORIDA STATE MUSEUM

This elaborate Renaissance Revival style building was the height of architectural fashion when it was built as Pensacola's City Hall in 1907. Currently utilized as a state museum, it houses a virtual treasure trove of artifacts, Americana, and West Florida history. The T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum houses two floors of permanent and rotating, or traveling, exhibits and a hands-on children's exhibit, the Discovery Gallery, located on the third floor. Most notably, the first floor exhibit, *Pensacola: City of Five Flags*, houses artifacts from a 16th century shipwreck. Archaeologists believe it to be the remains from Don Tristan DeLuna's flagship and the 1559 Spanish expedition, making it a shipwreck of state and national significance.

Current Exhibits

First Floor Exhibits:

Pensacola: City of Five Flags

T. T. Wentworth, Jr.: Life of a Collector

You've Got Mail: History of U.S. Postal Service

Second Floor Rotating Exhibits:

Black Ink: African American Press in Pensacola

Women's Fashion - Hoops to Hips: Swimming Suits

"Magnificent Obsessions" Cabinet of Curiosities – Coming Soon: A collection of early 20th century Native American artifacts

Going Downhill Fast: Derby Days in Pensacola

Pensacolians During the Civil War

Third Floor: *La Frontera de Pensacola: Discovery Gallery*

La Frontera de Pensacola: Discovery Gallery

The T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum is often filled with happy children playing in the Discovery Gallery, named, *La Frontera de Pensacola*. A hands-on exhibit on the third floor, the Discovery Gallery was specifically designed for younger children, ages pre-school to second grade. This dynamic exhibit recreates Colonial Pensacola and complements the *Pensacola: City of Five Flags* exhibit on the first floor, teaching all visitors about the early heritage of Pensacola. Parents with children are asked to sign in at the front reception desk.

Children engage their imaginations as they explore a wooden stockade fort, a Spanish ship, a Creek Chickee house, a trading post, and a replica of the 1805 Lavelle House in Historic Pensacola Village. Each location incorporates educational panels to teach about life during the Colonial period. Not a frown will be found as children, donned in colonial costume, trade pelts and beads for supplies, man the fort, transfer goods from the ship, or row a canoe by the Indian Chickee in this recreated historic atmosphere.

"I think this is a wonderful opportunity that not everyone in the surrounding area has discovered yet," said Dena Bush, Museum Education Coordinator. "Children don't stop moving when they arrive, their eyes as big as saucers! You don't come across many museums that offer a hands-on experience like this for younger children. It offers a unique dimension of a family visit to the museum." Museum staff highly encourages parental involvement during play time and to focus children on the educational purpose of the exhibit.

T. T. Wentworth, Jr.: "The Gift of a Lifetime"

Theodore Thomas Wentworth's passion for collecting began in 1906, at the age of eight, when he picked up a one dollar gold piece that washed up on Pensacola Bay. A short time later, while playing near an old Indian burial mound, he found several arrowheads and a few shards of pottery. Unable to resist, he picked them up and a museum collection was born. These first few pieces of Florida history became one of the largest private collections in the Southeast. In 1983, Mr. Wentworth hoped to secure the preservation of his work by donating his entire collection of over 100,000 artifacts to the state of Florida. At the same time, the city of Pensacola donated the 1907 City Hall building to house the new museum. On March 5, 1988, the old City Hall building was dedicated as the T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum. Community members deemed Mr. Wentworth's donation a "Gift of a Lifetime."

Since T.T. Wentworth's death in July 1989, the spirit of preservation and collection of Florida history lives on through the resources both at the T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum and Historical Pensacola Village. Thousands of visitors catch a glimpse of what everyday life was like for the citizens of Pensacola due in large part to the collections and leadership of T.T. Wentworth, Jr.

COST: The T. T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum is open for **free** to the public.

HOURS OF OPERATION: Museum is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am until 4 pm, during normal operating hours. The third floor Discovery Gallery closes at 3:45 pm. Museum is closed for major holidays.

PENSACOLA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Pensacola Historical Museum houses various exhibits on Pensacola history and is open for free to the public, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm. The Pensacola Historical Museum currently displays exhibits on local military history, Native American history, the multi-cultural characteristics of Pensacola and maritime history. Currently on display on the first floor is "Collard Greens and Artistic Scenes," an exhibit on WPA projects and the work of local women during the 1930s.

ARCADIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL MILL SITE

The Arcadia Mill Archaeological Site offers visitors an historical experience as well as the opportunity to visit a unique archaeological site and wetland ecosystem. Arcadia Mill is located at 5709 Mill Pond Lane in Milton, Florida. Arcadia Mill represents the largest 19th-century water-powered industrial complex in Northwest Florida. This site is the location of a multi-faceted antebellum operation that included a water-powered sawmill, a lumber mill with planning and lathing machines, grist mill, bucket and pail factory, shingle mill, cotton textile mill, and even an experimental silk cultivation operation. Although the complex only operated from 1817 to 1855, it played a pivotal role in the political and economic development of Northwest Florida.

Unfortunately, little in the historical record describes the site, its construction, or operation. No maps, drawings or photographs are known to exist. Furthermore, very little of the site complex is above ground, which makes it a unique archaeological destination. The Santa Rosa Historical Society and the University of West Florida conducted historic and archaeological investigations to document the archaeological remains of the mill complex and interpret the site. Archaeological excavations were undertaken in 1990

and 1991. Dozens of local citizens volunteered their services to the project and thousands of people visited the site while the archaeological field work was underway.

After a trip to the Visitor Center and Museum, visitors can enjoy a leisurely walk on an elevated boardwalk through the archaeological remains of the mills, across Mill Pond Creek and through the swamps associated with this historic water-powered operation. Guided tours and school programs are available. Arcadia Mill is open for free to the public, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm, and welcomes visitors and school classes throughout the year. For further information on Arcadia Mill, please visit their web site at www.historicpensacola.org/arcadia.cfm.

CONTACT and LOCATION INFORMATION:

Administrative Offices/J. Earle Bowden Building:

P. O. Box 12866, Pensacola, FL, 32591

Telephone: 850/595-5985 Fax: 850/595-5989 Website: www.historicpensacola.org

Historic Pensacola Village/ Tivoli High House Gift Shop:

205 E. Zaragoza Street

Telephone: 850/595-5993

T. T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum:

330 S. Jefferson Street

Telephone: 850/595-5990

Pensacola Historical Museum:

115 E. Zaragoza Street

Telephone: 850/595-1559

Arcadia Mill Archaeological Site:

5709 Mill Pond Lane, Milton, FL, 32583

Telephone: 850/626-3068