

Memorial Presbyterian Church Parsonage
36 Sevilla Street
St. Augustine
St. Johns County
Florida

HABS No. FLA-172

HABS

FLA

55-SAUG

13.

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. ^{HABS} FLA-172

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PARSONAGE

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Street Address: 36 Sevilla Street, St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida.

Present Owner: Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Present Use: Parish or Church House.

Statement of Significance: Henry M. Flagler donated this structure, along with the Memorial Presbyterian Church, to the First Presbyterian Church in 1890. A more detailed history of the entire "complex" at Valencia and Sevilla Streets can be found in the Historic American Buildings Survey "photo-data" book for the Memorial Presbyterian Church (FLA-170).

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Memorial Presbyterian Church - 1890 to present.
2. Date of erection: 1889-90.
3. Architect: Carrère and Hastings, 3 Bowling Green, New York. (John Carrère, 1858-1911; Thomas Hastings, 1860-1929.)
4. Builder: McQuire and McDonald (by this date "Flagler's 'official' builders").
5. Notes on original plan and construction of building: "The Church House [since its conversion to a parish house in 1926], at the north end of the church, was erected as the manse [parsonage]." Over 24 heliograph prints of the original architects' drawings and several rough architects' sketches for the church and parsonage are still (March 1965) in the possession of the church. Photocopies of several of these have been reproduced for the Historic American Buildings Survey and are a gift of the Memorial Presbyterian Church; these are included in this "photo-data" book and in the "photo-data" book for the Memorial Presbyterian Church (FLA-170). The following list, with brief descriptions, indicates the most important of the architects' drawings for the parsonage:

- a. "Parsonage Elevation (South)"
Heliograph with partial colored wash on linen-backed paper (1'-9" x 2'-4 1/4")
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"
"Carrère and Hastings, Arch'ts"
- b. "Parsonage Elevation (West)"
Heliograph with partial colored wash on linen-backed paper (1'-8" x 2'-4")
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"
"Carrère & Hastings, Arch'ts"
- c. "Parsonage Rear Elevation (North)"
Heliograph with partial colored wash on linen-backed paper (1'-8 5/8" x 2'-10")
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"
"Carrère and Hastings, Arch'ts"
- d. "Parsonage - First Floor Plan"
Heliograph on partial colored wash on linen-backed paper (1'-8" x 2'-7")
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"
"Carrère and Hastings, Arch'ts"
- e. "Parsonage Side Elevation (East)"
Heliograph with partial colored wash on linen-backed paper (1'-9" x 2'-4 1/4")
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"
"Carrère and Hastings, Arch'ts"
- f. "Parsonage Second Floor Plan"
Heliograph with partial colored wash on linen-backed paper (1'-8 3/4" x 2'-8 3/4")
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"
"Carrère & Hastings, Arch'ts"
- g. "Parsonage - Details and Interior Elevations"
Heliograph (1'-11" x 2'-6")
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"
"Carrère and Hastings"
A note in pen and ink indicates that "Pottier & Stymus" (spellings unclear) are to do detail carving.
- h. "Parsonage Reception Room"
Heliograph (2'-2 1/2" x 3'-0")
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"
"Carrère and Hastings, Arch'ts"
A note in pen and ink indicates "P & S to make all cups to Pilasters."

- i. "Parsonage - Plan of Hall"
Heliograph with partial colored wash (1'-11 1/4" x 1'-5")
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"
"Carrère & Hastings, Architects"
 - j. "Parsonage - Service Wing Elevation (South)"
Heliograph with partial colored wash on linen-backed paper (1'-8" x 2'-4")
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"
"Carrère and Hastings, Arch'ts"
 - k. "Parsonage - First Floor Plan - Cellar and Foundation Plan"
Heliograph with blue wash on linen-backed paper (1'-9" x 2'-10 1/4")
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"
"Carrère and Hastings, Arch'ts"
6. Notes on known alterations: "In 1926 . . . [the Parsonage] was converted into a parish house, through the generosity of Mrs. Louise Wise Lewis, and a large auditorium and stage were built on. The church parlors and social rooms, class rooms and offices, nursery and kindergarten, kitchens and dining hall are located in this building. Formerly the Sunday School was held in the chapel at the north end of the church. Now all the educational and social activities center in the church house. The church and chapel are used exclusively for worship."

B. Sources of Information:

1. Memorial Presbyterian Church, St. Augustine, Florida. Collection of heliograph prints of architects' drawings and sketches, dating in general from the late 1880's.
2. Memorial Presbyterian Church Society. The Flagler Story and Memorial Church. St. Augustine, Florida: Memorial Presbyterian Church Society, 1949. Tenth printing, 1963. (All quotations from this unpaginated brochure.)

C. Likely sources not yet investigated:

1. Local newspaper accounts contemporary with construction.
2. Session Minutes and Board of Trustees' Minutes of the Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Prepared by John C. Poppeliers
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
November 1965

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: The architectural style of the Memorial Presbyterian Church Parsonage is actually an eclectic composition of Romanesque, Byzantine, and Italian Renaissance motifs, which seem consciously to combine to evoke a Spanish "manner." The interior presents a more restrained appearance. The real architectural importance of the Memorial Church Parsonage - along with that of the other St. Augustine structures designed by Carrère and Hastings for Henry M. Flagler - is that it is among the first fairly large-scale examples of mass concrete construction since Roman times. Of particular interest is the fact that, although these buildings were elaborately decorated, the concrete surfaces were left unfinished and show the outline and graining of their wooden forms.
2. Condition of fabric: The Parsonage, which is of the same construction as the Church and forms an integral part of an architectural complex, has had major interior alterations made and a large wing added to the west. The structure has always been well maintained.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Number of stories: Two stories with three-story corner tower.
2. Over-all dimensions: Originally 57'-9" (front) x 47'-9" with side wing.
3. Layout: Originally rectangular with side wing. A later addition makes the structure almost rectangular.
4. Foundations: Mass concrete.
5. Wall construction: Mass concrete (left unfinished) with terra-cotta and brick trim.

C. Description of Interior: Irregular central-hall plan with large west side wing. A later side addition has made the general layout (shape) rectangular.

Prepared by John C. Poppeliers
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
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