## **CULTURAL & HISTORY MUSEUM**



Situated within the Apalachicola Historic District, the Historic Holy Family Senior/Community Center is a Missionstyle building constructed in 1929 as a Catholic school serving the Black community. Over the years, the facility also functioned as a church and community hub before being deemed unsafe. The City of Apalachicola later acquired and renovated the property, reopening it as a senior center in 2012. This structure is a contributing property within the National Register of Historic Places, further emphasizing its historical significance.

Hammond Design Group - Architects









Upon being awarded the project, HDG and R+B initiated a collaborative process to engage the community in shaping the museum's design. This effort took on special meaning for Ruffin Rhodes, co-founder of R+B, whose family has deep ties to Apalachicola. His grandparents' home stood across the street from the Holy Family site, and he briefly attended the school as a child.

Ruffin's connection to the neighborhood fostered a unique sense of trust and pride among residents, who welcomed him as one of their own to lead this significant project. Community design charrettes brought together neighbors, including Ruffin's family members, to contribute to a shared vision for the museum. For Ruffin, the experience was deeply personal, evoking a sense of returning home to honor the community's enduring history.



Design charrettes held in the school's auditorium to garner community input

## **CULTURAL & HISTORY MUSEUM**

#### HISTORY

Mercy Paige, a Black resident of Apalachicola, wrote a letter in 1917 to Bishop Patrick Allen in Mobile, Alabama, requesting that he establish a mission in Apalachicola for Black people.

Nuns from the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family arrived on February 5, 1920 from New Orleans to serve the new mission in Apalachicola. Seventy-seven students enrolled, most of whom were non-Catholic, later increasing to eighty-five students in 1925. The Reverend Thomas H. Massey became priest at Holy Family in 1926 and as enrollments climbed, a dedicated school building was planned and constructed. The new Mission style school building was dedicated on August 28, 1928, and the school opened in 1929.

The building consisted of four large classrooms and an auditorium which was later used as a parish church when the parishioners outgrew their small church. In 1943, when Holy Family Mission celebrated its Silver Jubilee, there were 125 pupils enrolled in the school with four teachers. Two grades were housed in each of the four classrooms. On January 2, 1959, the Society of St. Edmund was assigned to serve Holy Family Mission.



Holy Family Mission Building



Catholic Nuns teaching local Students

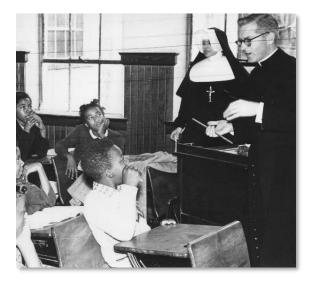
The building continued to be used as a school and church until 1964. In June 1968, the Sisters of the Holy Family withdrew from the Apalachicola Parish, as did the Edmundite Fathers, and the school closed. On July 1, 1968, Northwest Florida was transferred from the Diocese of Mobile-Birmingham to the Diocese of St. Augustine. Black parishioners continued to attend mass at the Holy Family Catholic Church until 1987. The school was subsequently used as a community center until the building became unsafe. In 2004, the City of Apalachicola obtained the building from the Diocese. With a variety of funds, including \$50,000 from the Franklin County Tourist Development Council and \$1.5 million from the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the building was renovated into a Senior Citizens Center and opened in 2012.

## **CULTURAL & HISTORY MUSEUM**

The historic Holy Family Mission School gave Apalachicola' African-American children a quality education from 1920 to 1968. It is a contributing building to the Apalachicola Historic District, placed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRIS #80000951) in 1980. It is also located within the locally designated Apalachicola Historic District.



Students during Communion



The Head Priest addressing Students

#### Architecture

In keeping with its Catholic heritage, Holy Family Mission School was designed in the Mission style. The style can be traced back to the California mission churches established during the 1700s. These missions were built as a symbol of Spain's claim to the New World. Originating in California during the 1890s, houses and buildings in this style were constructed throughout the western U.S. As fashionable architects and magazines began promoting the Mission style, it moved eastward. Like California, Florida looked to its Spanish heritage for architectural inspiration. In South Florida, the Mission style was among the most dominant styles during the Florida Land Boom years but less so in North Florida. The Mission style is sometimes confused with Mediterranean Revival due to similarities; however, the term Mediterranean Revival refers to an eclecticism and not a pure style. Generally, the Mission style is distinct because it lacks surface ornament and is therefore more restrained.

Holy Family Mission School fits a number of the character defining features of the Mission style. These include the rough stucco exterior surface treatment, a roof not visible behind the parapet, simple tile accents and arched entry ways. The main entrance contains a small Mission shaped niche above a shallow arched entrance portico trimmed with brick, housing double entrance doors with an arched, multiple light transom window. Six multiple light windows flank each side of the entrance, thus creating a symmetrical façade. The school's plan is T–shaped, with the auditorium projecting from the rear with large arched windows divided by pilasters. A simple metal coping runs along the parapet and a shallow brick apron runs along the foundation perimeter.

## **CULTURAL & HISTORY MUSEUM**

After several design charrettes, the HDG/R+B team provided the city and community with 2 conceptual options for the museum beginning with Site Plan options:

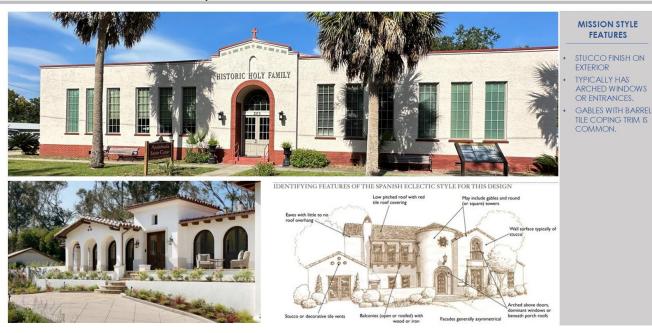
#### SITE PLAN



In gaining an understanding of the goals, objectives, and design intent of the community HDG/R+B provided an option that paid homage to the mission style of the existing Holy Family Senior Center and a more modern option that tended to look forward telling the story of the neighborhood and region.

## **CULTURAL & HISTORY MUSEUM**

#### DESIGN CONCEPT A | MISSION STYLE



THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE AND HISTORY | 1.16.2024

HAMMOND Devise GROUP, LLC

rhodes + brito

#### FLOOR PLAN OPTION 1



## **CULTURAL & HISTORY MUSEUM**

#### **DESIGN CONCEPT A**



VIEW FROM 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET (DR FREDERICK S. HUMPHRIES ST) THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE AND HISTORY | 1.16.2024



#### rhodes + brito ARCHITECTS

#### **DESIGN CONCEPT A**

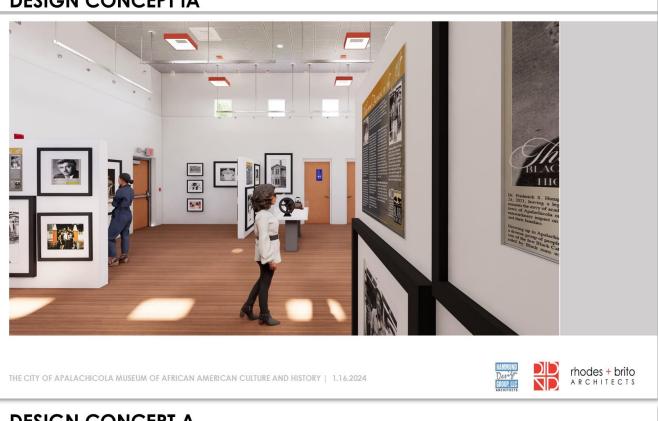


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## **CULTURAL & HISTORY MUSEUM**

#### **DESIGN CONCEPT iA**



#### **DESIGN CONCEPT A**



VIEW FROM 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET (DR FREDERICK S. HUMPHRIES ST) THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE AND HISTORY | 1.16.2024



# **CULTURAL & HISTORY MUSEUM**

#### **DESIGN CONCEPT A**



#### VIEW FROM 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET (DR FREDERICK S. HUMPHRIES ST) THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE AND HISTORY | 1.16.2024



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## **CULTURAL & HISTORY MUSEUM**

#### DESIGN CONCEPT B | MODERN



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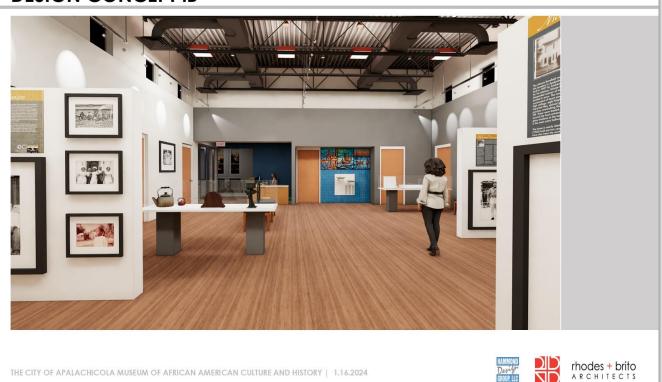
#### rhodes + brito ARCHITECTS

#### FLOOR PLAN OPTION 2



## **CULTURAL & HISTORY MUSEUM**

#### **DESIGN CONCEPT iB**



#### **DESIGN CONCEPT B**



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### HAMMOND DESIGN GROUP, LLC - CONCEPTUAL PHASE

ARCHITECTS

## **CULTURAL & HISTORY MUSEUM**

#### **DESIGN CONCEPT B**



VIEW FROM CORNER OF AVENUE K (MONROE ST) AND 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE AND HISTORY | 1.16.2024



#### rhodes + brito

#### **DESIGN CONCEPT B**



VIEW FROM 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE AND HISTORY | 1.16.2024



# **CULTURAL & HISTORY MUSEUM**

#### **DESIGN CONCEPT B**



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# **CULTURAL & HISTORY MUSEUM**

THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE AND HISTORY



#### THANK YOU!

CONCEPT DESIGN PACKAGE 1.16.2024





