

The Walking Tour



Seville Square

The first attempt to settle Pensacola in 1559 was made somewhere in the vicinity of Ft. Barrancas. In 1721, a second Spanish settlement was begun on Santa Rosa Island and by 1754, it had begun to thrive. On the mainland, in the area which is now Seville Square, there stood only a wooden stockade called Ft. San Miguel.

That same year a hurricane virtually destroyed the island settlement and most of the survivors fled to San Miguel, thus beginning the third and finally successful settlement of the city on its present site.

The British came in 1763 and built a stockade and Seville Square was a cleared area outside its east walls. As the area within the old stockade devel-

oped, the cleared area on the east became known as Seville Square.

Since that time, the old square has seen many changes of fortune — Savage Creek Indians paraded there in 1813, waving scalps of 250 men, women, and children slaughtered in the nearby Ft. Mims Massacre.

Later, Union soldiers rode their horses across it and finally, in the 1870s, it became the social center of a city riding high on the great lumber boom. Most of the homes facing the square were built during that era.

Seville Square will be included in the walking tour beginning May 14 sponsored by the Pensacola Historical Advisory Committee.