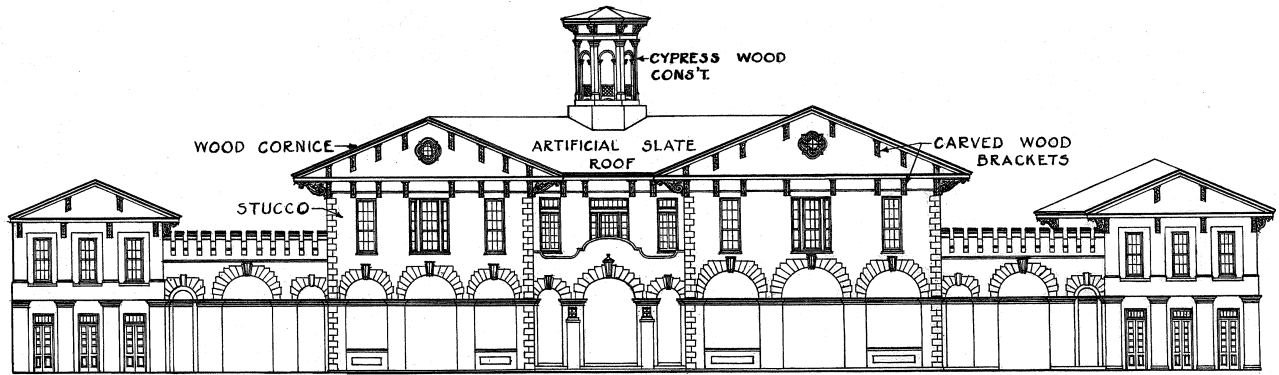


# History at Home: The Southern Market



## Purpose:

In these difficult times, simple activities can help keep children occupied during these trying times of social distancing. This activity gives children the opportunity to learn about one of Mobile's most prominent historic landmark buildings, the Southern Market, the building that houses the History Museum of Mobile.

## Info for Parents or Guardians:

You could share a little or a lot of the historical information and vocabulary that follows with children depending on their ages before you start the activity. This activity is geared towards children ages 8 and up. If the children are younger, speak in more general terms and provide a greater amount of help with the activity.

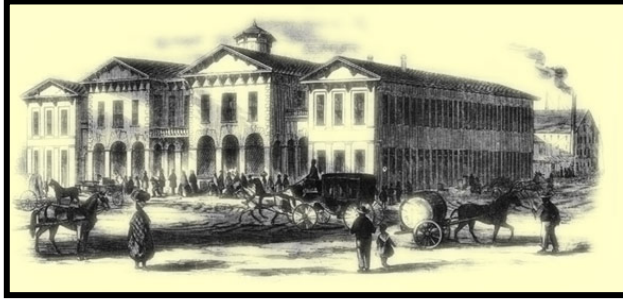
## Vocabulary:

1. **architectural elements:** the details and component parts that together make up the style of a house, building or structure.
2. **cupola:** A cupola is a small circular structure on top of a roof that consists of a dome over solid walls or arches. There is a cupola on the top of the Southern Market/Old City Hall building.
3. **quoin:** a decorative or structural cornerstone on a building that usually differs in color, texture, or size from the materials making up the adjoining walls. The Southern Market building has noticeable quoins on the corners of the building.
4. **bracket:** a device of wood, stone, or metal that projects from a wall to carry a weight. Brackets are often in the form of volutes, or scrolls, and can be carved, cast, or molded. The building has many brackets under the eaves or overhangs of the building. The brackets on this building are mainly for decoration. Notice the pretty scroll shape of the brackets.
5. **pediment:** A triangle shape on the front or back of a building formed by the angle of the roof. The Southern Market building has several pediments.
6. **arch:** a curved structure used as a support over an open space. Arches are very strong. They have been used in buildings for thousands of years. The front, or facade, of the Southern Market/Old City Hall building has many arches.



## History of the Southern Market/Old City Hall:

In the 1800s, the city of Mobile had public markets that served much the same purpose as modern day grocery stores. By 1853, the Government Street Market had become so crowded and dirty that it was a public embarrassment. The City of Mobile purchased land where they could build a new market. This land was in a square bounded by Government, Water, Church, and Royal Streets.



On December 27, 1855, while the new market building was under construction, the existing city hall burned. Because of this, the city passed a resolution in 1855 approving \$40,000 to complete and expand the building with offices for the mayor, city clerk, city treasurer, and two city boards. The building was completed by April of 1857.

The architect for the initial building phase was Thomas Simmons James, a Mobile architect originally from Virginia.

Mobile's City Hall and Southern Market complex contained four buildings and covered two-thirds of the block between Royal and Church streets. The buildings are stucco over brick with wood trim and brackets, and were designed in the Italianate style. The building has several **architectural elements** that are common to this architectural style including: **cupolas, pediments, quoins, arches, and brackets**. The top floor accommodated the Mayor of Mobile's office and served as the City Council's meeting place. When it opened in 1858, the second floor



Arches on the Southern Market. Notice the quoins on the building corner also.

was also headquarters for a few local militia units, most notably the Mobile Cadets. They held their training and marching practices here as well as their formal dances well into the late 1800s. The first floor of the building was the Southern Market of Mobile, the city's largest market, where licensed food vendors rented out stalls on the ground floor to sell meat, vegetables, seafood, and fruit.



Cupola on the Southern Market

Between 1997 and 2000, an addition was added to the back of the building in order to house the History Museum of Mobile's permanent exhibits. The complex has housed the museum since 2001.



# Create Your Own Southern Market!

## Materials required:

Legos or other interlocking bricks, Image of Southern Market building with architectural elements pointed out.

## Activity Directions:

1. First, look at the Southern Market Architectural Drawing that has the architectural elements on the building pointed out.
2. Once you have learned what the different architectural elements on the building look like, use legos or other interlocking bricks to make your own version of the Southern Market building in any color.
3. Try to include some of the architectural elements from the building: cupola, pediments, brackets, quoins, and arches.
4. We would love to see what you made. Show us by taking a photo and uploading it to the History Museum of Mobile's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/HistoryMuseumofMobile/>



