

Colonial WordPress Theme: Template File Inventory

In order to customize your theme, you must be aware of the files that come with the theme and what they each do. The following is a list of each file, followed by a detailed explanation of each file.

1. home.php
2. style.css
3. header.php
4. footer.php
5. archive.php
6. search.php
7. tag.php
8. index.php
9. page.php
10. page_blog.php
11. sidebar.php
12. comments.php
13. functions.php
14. 404.php
15. README.txt
16. Screenshot.png

Also , there are two folders in the theme; an “images” folder and a “plugins” folder. I’m only going to list the files in these folders that you will likely use. For instance, many of the files in the “images” folder are used for styling the design of the template, and won’t need to be touched. These files will be explained in other tutorials as they are needed.

Images

1. about.jpg
2. footer.png
3. footer_blank.png
4. header.png
5. logo.png
6. logo_blank.png

Plugins

1. wp-gbcbf
2. limit-post.php

Home.php

This file controls the contents of the home page. It pulls the latest post from the “Properties” category (more on that later), the about image (located in images/about.jpg), the about text and link to an about page (set using the theme options), as well as a recent listing of blog posts from the “Blog” category.

Style.css

This file sets the name of the theme (in the very top section), and controls the style of the entire template using CSS.

Header.php

This file controls the content of the header section. It also initializes much of the HTML code for the template.

Footer.php

This file controls the content of the footer section. It also closes out much of the HTML code for the template.

Archive.php

This file controls the output of archives such as “by date” or “by category”.

Search.php

This file controls the output of any searches that users may do on your site.

Tag.php

This file controls the output of any tag archive listing.

Index.php

This file controls the output of any single blog post. It also calls the comments.php file (more on that file later).

Page.php

This file controls the output of “Pages” (not posts). When you set up a page in the WordPress Write panel, this template will show that page.

Page_blog.php

This file is a “Page Template” file, which controls the output of the page you define as your “blog page”. In order to set up a blog page, create a new Page (Write > Page) and name it “Blog”. Then scroll down to the “Page Template” section and choose “Blog Page”, then publish the page.

Sidebar.php

This file controls the sidebar on Pages, Posts, and Archives.

Comments.php

This is the comments template file. It controls the look of your comments on single posts. It is not recommended that you edit this file.

Functions.php

This file is a set of custom code to make the theme work properly. It is not recommended that you edit this file.

404.php

This file controls the output of the page that is shown to visitors when a page they requested doesn't exist.

README.txt

This file is a basic overview of the theme. It is recommended that you read this file before installing or using the theme.

Screenshot.png

This is the screenshot that is displayed in your "Presentation" section in your WordPress admin panel. It helps you identify the Colonial theme using an image, rather than just a title.