Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

PH0022322
STATE:
Florida
COUNTY:
Gadsden
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

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	(Type all entries complete applicable sections)					\dashv	11:	
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li ·	United States Arsenal - Officers Quarters							
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	Florida State Hospital - U.S. Highway 90 REGISTER							
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3. CLASS	IFICATION CATEGORY	T			T	ACCESSIBLE		
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☐ Di:	strict Building	∑ Public	Public Acquisition:		X Occupied	Yes:	\neg	
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	□ Object	☐ Both	Being Cons	sidered	☐ Preservation work	☐ No		
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				(Check One)		
CONDITION	☐ Excellent	∑ Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed
	(Check One)				(Che	eck One)
	☐ Alter	ed	☐ Unaltered		☐ Moved	☑ Original Site

In a letter from Chattahoochee dated December 5, 1835, the writer mentions that the arsenal in that city is under construction. He says, "The brickwork of the main building is completed and the building will, when finished, give the place an interest and worth it could never otherwise possess".

The original buildings in the complex included officers quarters, barracks, magazines, business offices, and a barn, all of brick. All but the magazines were enclosed by a wall twelve feet high and thirty inches thick. The arsenal proper formed a quadrangle of four acres at its exterior walls. Nine of the original thirteen buildings were erected to face the quadrangle formed in part by the back walls. (See attached diagram)

The present administration offices for the Florida State Hospital are housed in the original officer's barracks. elegant in appearance, the two-story structure has a central section of brick with the end rooms on both stories having been stuccoed over. There are one-story wings on either end of the buildings which are of frame construction. details are focused on the central section of the building and take the form of arching brackets springing from square posts and an elaborately carved balustrade. These Victorian details were probably added in the late 1880's although this has not been documented. The entire wall surface of the east elevation is divided into fourteen equal sections. This has been accomplished through the grouping of windows with pilasters between the groups and the placement of the porch posts, all at regular intervals. This geometric division of the wall surface gives a feeling of solidity to the building. The main entrance is a small late Georgian doorway with a cornice on brackets and a transom above the panelled door. Windows are six light sash on the central section and four light sash on the wings. One dormer window projects from the hipped roof which has a brick chimney at each of its four corners. The foundation of the house is high, sitting well above ground CFNF Bellow Method 6 1971 level and latticed between its supporting piers. ground is a large basement area used originally as servants quarters and having numerous fireplaces. NATIONAL

The rear of the building repeats the basic pattern of the front, but in reverse order. The two-story verandaction is the tiny central section of the building which is one-story in height. The central projecting gable is supported by four Doric columns with a plain architrave above. Balustrade and arching brackets match those on the front and stone quoins have been added to the brickwork.

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FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

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Construction of the arsenal in what was at that time, a wilderness, was quite a feat. When suitable building stone could not be found along the banks of the Apalachicola River, it was decided that bricks would be made on the site. Benjamin Chaires was contracted for this purpose and the bricks were made from alluvial clay heavily tempered with sand. English artisans were imported to do the bricklaying. Early in 1835, granite arrived from Maine for the sills, caps and coping. The arsenal was finally completed in 1839 having been five years in the building.

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REGISTER

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as A	Ippropriate)		
☐ Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	∑ 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known) 1839		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropriét	ð .	
Abor iginal	ducation	Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering EIVE	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	# Hodustry 1 6 1973	losophy	Present site of
☐ Agriculture	Invention 1	Science	Florida State
☐ Architecture	andsque TIONAL	<u> </u>	Hospital (menta
☐ Art	Archite BOOSTER	Social/Human-	institution)
☐ Commerce	☐ Life ature	itarian	
☐ Communications	X Military 27 Fini	Theater	
Conservation	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first existing reference to an arsenal at Chattahoochee was in the form of a resolution offered to the Legislative Council of the Territory on January 31, 1832. Joseph M. White, the Territorial Delegate in Congress secured inclusion of an item "For an arsenal in Florida, twenty thousand dollars," in the "Appropriations for the support of the Army for 1832." This was approved April 5, 1832. Selection of the site for the arsenal was made by Evt. Second Lt. John Hills. The land which he selected was then in the public domain and was reserved for the arsenal by presidential order. Since there were no available building materials and a lack of skilled workmen nearby, it would seem that the only significant advantage of the site was available transportation on the river.

Construction of the arsenal proceeded slowly due to unreliable labor and building materials not delivered on schedule. It was finally completed in 1839, with the project having cost a total of \$226,932.50.

At the beginning of the Civil War, the arsenal was used for mustering the Confederate troops into service. In the Spring of 1862, the Sixth Florida Infantry was organized here. At the close of the war the request was made and granted that the arsenal be used as a State Penitentiary. The condition of the arsenal in 1869 was described by the Commander of the Penitentiary as follows: "During the war it was occupied by the Confederate Army and fell into bad repair, and met with little better treatment in United States hands."

In 1876, the buildings were taken over by the Florida State Hospital for use as a mental institution. The Florida State Hospital is one of the largest institutions of its kind in the United States. Many improvements and additions have been made to the complex since it became a hospital.

9. MAJOR	BIBLIOGR	APHICA	L RI	EFERENCES								
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12. STATE	LIAISON	OFFICE	i ci	RTIFICATION			N,	ATIONAL	REGIST	ER VERI	CATIO	
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the c-iteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is: National State Local Date Title State Liaison Officer I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. National Register. Director, Office of Archeology and distoric Preservation and Park Service Preservation Date The National Register. Director, Office of Archeology and Distoric Preservation Date The National Register. Date The National Register Reg												
Date	May :	10, 1	973	3			Date	Keepe		lational R	legister	

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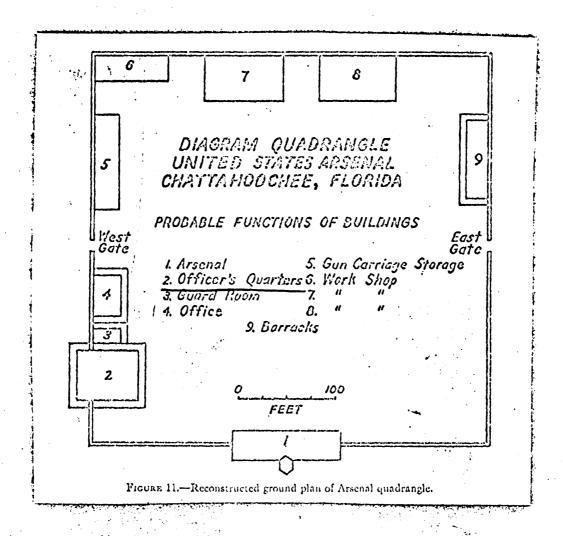
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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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 Reservoir Area Florida-Georgia. (Bureau of American
 Ethnology, Bulletin No. 169), Washington, D.C., 1946.
- Soldiers of Florida. Tallahassee: Prepared and published by the Board of State Institutions, 1903. (no author or editor)
- Stanley, J. Randall. <u>History of Gadsden County</u>. Quincy, Florida: Gadsden County Historical Commission, 1948.
- The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1880-1901.

 Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office. Series I, Vol. I.
- United States Laws, 1835. Vol. VIII, Chapter 650, p. 585.





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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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STATE	
Florida	
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Gadsden	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
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I. NAME				
common: United States	Arsenal - Office	rs Quarters	. 41	15
AND/OR HISTORIC: Mt. Vernon	Arsenal or Chat	tahoochee Ar	senal	
2. LOCATION			ZÝ Pr	Deiter.
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. REQUIREMENTS				
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS				
1. Property broundaries where requir	red.		•	

