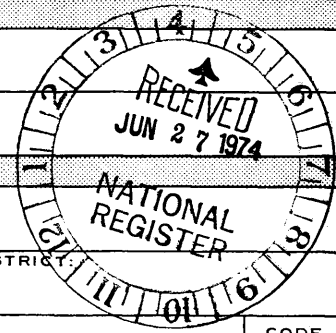


PH0015679

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida  
 COUNTY: Leon  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: SEP 9 1974



**1. NAME**

COMMON: First Presbyterian Church  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 102 N. Adams Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second  
 STATE: Florida CODE: 12 COUNTY: Leon CODE: 073

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee, Inc.  
 STREET AND NUMBER: A Non-Profit Florida Corporation  
 P. O. Box 566  
 CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Leon County Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER: South Monroe Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey  
 DATE OF SURVEY: after 1966  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Florida  
 COUNTY: Leon  
 ENTRY NUMBER: SEP 9 1974  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee was first organized in 1832 although construction on the building was not complete until 1838. This 1838 structure is, with some alterations, the same building which exists in good condition today. Timber used in the original structure was heart pine, pews were mahogany and the roof woodwork was mortised and pinned.

The building, as it presently exists, has an extended west end and a choir and organ loft has been added. In 1892 the two rows of sash windows in the north and south walls were replaced with "Gothic" pointed arched sash windows with diamond patterned muntins set into rectangular frames. On the interior these windows transcend both first floor and gallery. Also in 1892, the original mahogany box pews were removed and golden oak pews and pulpit were put in, only to have a modified type of box pew put back in 1932. At some time between 1892 and 1932 the steeple was removed to be replaced in 1932 with the original bell in place. Both the extension of the east wall and the addition of the choir loft were supervised by a local architect.

The church is classical in design with a large prominent east portico carried on four nearly colossal Doric columns, a plain entablature and cornice and pediment with clapboarded tympanum. The steeple is a three part composition topped with a slender spire. There is a clock face on each of the four sides of the second section and a pointed-arched louvered vent on each side of the third section where there is also a small urn on each corner. The main entrance to the church consists of double wooden doors with an equilaterally arched transom above. A series of pilasters define panels on the back wall of the portico. In recent years as the level of the street has been lowered with successive paving and widening, the stair to the entrance has been changed and a wrought iron railing added.

The plan of the church is similar to the plan of Old North with two longitudinal aisles and three groups of pews. Galleries extend across the top of the north and south elevations and are carried on hand hewn Doric columns. The pews are modified box type, with no doors, and are not original.

The building occupies a prominent position in downtown Tallahassee, facing on a major thoroughfare. It is well maintained and in excellent condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1838**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee is one of the oldest buildings in the State capital and the only church still standing which dates from Territorial days. As the original house of Presbyterian worship, it has been a focal point of Florida history for 150 years, the ties between Presbyterianism and Florida government being symbolized by the appointment of Reverend Henry White, a Presbyterian minister, as Chaplain to the Legislative Council in 1826. With the exception of certain alterations, the building remains as originally constructed, serving Tallahassee as a distinctive architectural landmark as well as a link with the origins and growth of the State.

With the grant of a charter to Tallahassee in November, 1824, after the city's designation by Governor DuVal as the territorial capital, settlers and officials began flocking to the area. The servicing of the religious needs of the new inhabitants was a primary concern of the various established denominations. The Methodists and the Episcopalians were the first to establish churches in 1827 and 1829, respectively. Between 1827 and 1831, the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church assigned missionaries to north Florida. In 1823, the Reverend Joseph Styles, an active Presbyterian evangelist, arrived in Tallahassee with a committee from the Georgia Presbytery to minister to the growing Presbyterian community. On November 4, 1832, after a "protracted meeting," the community voted to organize a church composed of two Ruling Elders and sixteen members. The new church was placed under the temporary care of Hopewell Presbytery of Darien, Georgia, and on February 16, 1833 it was incorporated by act of the Florida Legislative Council.

Subscriptions for a permanent church building were begun almost immediately, but not until June, 1835 were bids asked for construction. The lot selected was one of four designated by the Legislative Council along Park Avenue (then McCarthy Street) for church use. The building was completed in three years, all brick being made in a kiln belonging to Ruling Elder R. A. Shine. The total cost was \$13,370.60, of which the

(con't.)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See Attached Sheet

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N30° 26' 32"	W84° 16' 57"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Diane D. Greer, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Div. of Archives, History & Records Management DATE: Jan., 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Robert Williams  
Robert Williams

Title: Historic Preservation Officer

Date: June 11, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 9/9/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 26.74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

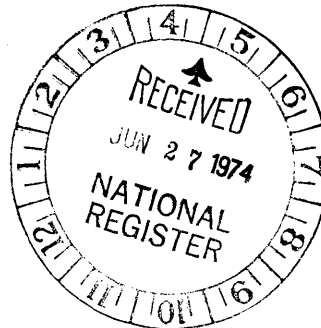
STATE	Florida	
COUNTY	Leon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		SEP 9 1974

(Number all entries) 8. Significance

-2-

building, pews and gallery cost \$10,253.60, the porch and steeple \$1,600 and the lots, blinds, pulpit lamps and accessories \$1,517. Financing was by the sale of pews, 40 of 44 being sold for a total income of \$12,500.00. On May 13, 1838, the First Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee was dedicated. The Floridian for May 5 of that year noted that "worshippers will by divine permission worship on Sunday the 13th. On this day the pews will be free and citizens invited to attend."

From its dedication to the present, the First Presbyterian Church has been associated with the history of Florida's capital city. As the city of Tallahassee prepares to celebrate the Sesquicentennial of its founding as Florida's territorial capital in 1824, the First Presbyterian Church stands on its original site as a visible reminder of the beginnings of the city and state.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Leon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
SEP 9	1974

(Number all entries) 9. Bibliography

"An Historical Sketch of the First Presbyterian Church," pamphlet, n.p., n.d.

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