National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page ____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000340 **Date Listed:** 4/17/92 Citrus Citrus County Courthouse, Old FLORIDA Property Name County State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

uch Andrus

Signature of the Keeper

چ کے بلنے جن ہے کے جن کے بنداز کے بلنے کا جن اور کے اور کے تعریف کے اور کے اور کے اور کے اور کے اور کے اور کے ش اور کے بلنے کے بلنے کے بلنے کہ اور کی بلنے کے اور کی بلنے کے اور کے او Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 7

This nomination is amended to show granite as the foundation material, as indicated in the text.

This change was confirmed by phone with the Florida SHPO (4/19/92).

DISTRIBUTION: National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900s). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property							
nistoric name	Old Ci	trus County Co	urthouse				
other names/site number	8 Ci 1	61					
. Location							
treet & number	One Co	urthouse Squar	e	n/a	not	for publication	1
ity, town	Invern	ess		n/a	vicir	hity	
tate Florida	code	FL coun	y Citrus	code	017	zip code	3265
. Classification					<u></u>		
Ownership of Property		Category of Prope	irty	Number of Rea	ources w	ithin Property	
private		🔀 building(s)		Contributing	Nonc	ontributing	
🖌 public-local		district		<u> </u>	0	buildings	
public-State		🔲 site				sites	
public-Federal		structure structure			-	structures	
		🔄 object				objects	
					0	Total	
lame of related multiple	property listin	ng:		Number of con	tributing r	esources prev	viously
n/	<u>a</u>			listed in the Na	tional Re	gister0	
. State/Federal Age	ncy Certific	tion				-	
As the designated aut							
x nomination req	uest for deter	mination of eligibility	meets the docum	entation standards for	or register	ing properties	in the
National Register of H							ırt 60.
In my opinion, the pro		ts does not meet	t the National Rec		continuat	$\frac{100}{2}$ $\frac{100}{25}$	2
Signature of certifying of	ficial				Dat	•	
Florida State H	listoric P	reservation Of	ficer, Divis	ion of Histori	.ca⊥ Re	sources	

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification I, hereby, certify that this property is: $\overline{\mathbf{N}}$ entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)



OMB No. 1024-0018

1.15

Net. Retui

Date

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)		
Government: Courthouse	Government: Courthouse		
	Government: Government Office		
	Recreation & Culture: Museum		
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)		
	foundation <u>Concrete</u>		
See Continuation Sheet 7-5	walls Brick		
	Concrete		
	roof Ceramic Tile		
	other Metal: Aluminum		
	Metal: Copper		

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property		
	atewide ^X locally	
Applicable National Register Criteria 🕅 A 🗌 B 🔍 C]D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)]DEFG	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	1912	1912
Politics/Government		
	Cultural Affiliation	
	n/a	
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
n/a	Biggers, Willis R./Read-	Parker Construction
		<u> </u>

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

X See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

PLEASE SI	EE CONTIN	UATION	SHEETS
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	See continuation sheet
Previoue documentation on file (NPS):	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:
has been requested	State historic preservation office
previouely listed in the National Register	Other State agency
reviously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings	Local government University
Survey #	
recorded by Historic American Engineering	Specify repository:
Record #	
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of property1 acre	
UTM References	
A 117 3 7.0 2.10 3.19.0 3.20 B	
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
	_
	See continuation sheet
Verbai Boundary Description	
Courthouse Square as recorded in Plat Book 1, pa	ge 36: Parcel 17 195 20E.
Square plaza at the intersection of Main Street	(State Road 44) and Apopka Avenue.
	See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	
The boundary includes the land which has histori	cally been associated with the
courthouse.	
	See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Citrus County Historical Society/Barbara	F Mattick Historic Sites Specialist
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation	date 1992
street & number R.A. Gray Blq., 500 S. Bronough Stre	
city or town	

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number ____7 Page __1 Old Citrus County Courthouse, Inverness, FL

SUMMARY:

The Old Citrus County Courthouse is a 1912 square-shaped, two story with basement and attic building, located on the Court House Square in the commercial area of Inverness, Florida. The architecture is eclectic, incorporating major features characteristic of the Neoclassical, Italian Renaissance, Prairie School, and Mission Styles. The building is reinforced concrete faced with buff-colored brick. The central part of the building has a hipped, barrel clay tile roof over a mezzanine balcony, surrounded by areas which have a flat roof with a stepped parapet. A copper cupola with a clock face on each of the four sides is topped with a belvedere with miniature columns. Porticos with Tuscan columns are centered on each side of the building.

SETTING

The courthouse is located on a square acre of land situated one city block west of Cooter Lake in downtown Inverness. The land, commonly called Court House Square, is located at the intersection of Apopka Avenue, which runs north-south, and Main Street (State Road 41), which runs east-west. The corners of the Square are on axis with Apopka Avenue and Main Street (See Site Plan and Photo 1).

The landscape on the <u>main (west)</u> side of the building is dominated by a canopy of an eighty year old live oak and by a southern red cedar planted in the early 1940s. A flag pole is centered on the front walkway leading to the main entrance (Photo 2). Two veterans monuments are located on each side of the walkway and flag pole (Photos 2 & 3).

On the <u>east</u> side of the building two Canary Island date palms approximately fifty feet tall are located on each side of the center walkway and adjacent to the circular walkway around the building (Photo 4). Other trees and shrubs include Washingtonian palms, sabal palms, podocarpus, and lagustrum (See Landscaping Plan).

The setting remains basically the same as it was originally, except that there used to be an iron fence surrounding the Square (Photo 21), and eight Washingtonian palms once grew on each side of the square.

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Section number ____7 Page __2 Old Citrus County Courthouse, Inverness, FL

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The Old Citrus County Courthouse is a square-shaped, two story with basement and attic building, with a buff brick and cast concrete exterior. The basement level is marked by a water table, below which is granite instead of brick. The architecture of the building is eclectic, incorporating distinctive features of the Neoclassical, Italian Renaissance, Prairie School, and Mission Styles.

The <u>central block</u> has a low pitched, hipped roof covered with clay barrel tile, with wide boxed eaves and widely spaced paired and single brackets. An octagonal copper <u>cupola</u>, with four clock faces and a domed roof topped by a <u>belvedere</u>, is located at the peak of the roof. A round dormer is located near the edge at the center of each side of the hipped roof. Bands of windows with classical grills are located at the attic level under the eaves (Photo 1).

Two-story, <u>flat roofed areas</u> are attached to each side of the central block (Photo 5). Each elevation has three bays, marked by angular Mission Style parapets. The central bay on each elevation is a projecting <u>portico</u> supported by Tuscan columns, paired columns on the east and west elevations, and single columns on the north and south elevations (Photo 5). Tuscan pilasters are located on axis with the outer columns. A quatrefoil is located in the center of the parapets at each portico. The entrances on each elevation are approached by concrete steps. The <u>west (main) elevation</u> is distinguished by flared cheeks, capped with cast concrete. The east and west porticoes are also distinguished by balconies at the second story which are accessed by double doors (Photos 3 & 4).

Entrances on all four elevations are double, aluminum and glass doors with fixed transoms. <u>Fenestration</u> is single, six light awning windows, except on the east elevation where the windows are double. All windows have cast concrete sills and lintels (Photo 5).

INTERIOR

The <u>first floor</u> has two major hallways which intersect at the center of the building, a point marked by a mosaic of the

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Great Seal of Florida set into a terrazzo floor. The seal is distinctive because it shows a male Indian, rather than the traditional Indian maiden (Photo 6). The office corners adjacent to the rotunda are clipped (See Floor Plan). The halls have marble wainscoting with luan panelling above. Four-light, paired windows with transoms remain intact under the paneling (Photo 7). Original, turned, marble stairways with wrought metal banisters are located in the hallways near the north and south entrances (Photos 8 & 9). Modern recessed, turned stairways are located at the east and west entrances. The hallways have ten-foot ceilings, currently obscured by acoustical tile (Photos 6 & 8).

The <u>second floor</u> still houses the courtroom (Photo 10), although that space has been remodelled. The courtroom is located in the central area of the floor, encircled by small rooms (See Floor Plans). Most of the small spaces remain as originally designed, although some of their uses have changed. The second floor retains the original wooden floors which are now covered with carpeting.

Access to a <u>mezzanine level/interior balcony</u> (Photo 11) and up into the <u>clock tower</u> (Photo 12) is through a pull-down wooden stair located on the east side of the second floor (Photo 13). A bronze bell, cast by E. Howard & Company in Massachusetts, and the clock remain in use today (Photo 14).

Although much of the interior has been covered with panelling and acoustical tile, representative examples of the original features and finishes remain in place, including windows and doorways (Photos 15 & 16), fireplaces (Photo 17), safes (Photo 18), and plumbing fixtures (Photo 19).

ALTERATIONS

The major features of the Old Citrus County Courthouse remain intact. Exterior alterations include the addition of a handicapped ramp on the north elevation (Photo 1), the addition of a small outside entrance to the basement on the south elevation (Photo 20), and the replacement of the original wooden sash windows and doors with aluminum fenestration.

The copper belvedere clock tower has been painted over with aluminum paint. The original wooden clock faces were replaced with Plexiglass reproductions when the original clock was

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number ____7 Page __4 Old Citrus County Courthouse, Inverness, FL

mechanized. The original clock faces and wooden instruments are stored in the museum collections area.

Some interior alterations to the building took place in the mid-1960s when air conditioning and one elevator were installed. The main courtroom was altered at that time and the interior balcony at the attic level was substantially altered and made inaccessible to the public. Most of the small spaces on the second floor, around the courtroom, however, remain as originally planned. During the sixties and seventies, partitions were added within each of the four quadrants on the first floor. Interior alterations also include the installation of panelling and carpeting; original finishes and fixtures, however, remain intact under those materials.

When the new courthouse was built across the street from the Courthouse Square in 1979, the original space use in the old courthouse changed. From 1984 to the present, the first floor has contained the county museum, archives, and special collections, located in the southwest and northeast quadrants. A State Senator and a Representative have district offices on the first floor. Record storage space for the Clerk of the Circuit Court is maintained on the first floor, and the second floor continues to function as the county court.

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Section number 7 Page 5 Old Citrus County Courthouse, Inverness, FL

Classical Revival: Neo-Classical Style Italian Renaissance Style Prairie School Style Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival Style

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Section number _____8 Page _____ Old Citrus County Courthouse, Inverness, FL

SUMMARY

The Old Citrus County Courthouse is significant under Criterion A in the area of Politics and Government as the oldest and most important public building in Citrus County. Its 1912 construction was a reflection of the prosperity enjoyed by Inverness and Citrus County at the turn of the century prior to World War I. It is significant under Criterion C as one of the area's most architecturally outstanding buildings, employing an unusual combination of the Neoclassical, Italian Renaissance, Prairie School, and Mission Styles. The Keeper of the National Register officially determined the building eligible for listing in the National Register on February 1, 1982.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Even though settlers first came to the Citrus County area in the 1820s, the area remained sparsely settled until after the Civil War. At that time, people seeking new opportunities came to this coastal frontier area along the Withlacoochee River to work the abundant timber and cultivate the land. By 1880, citrus growing and the lumber industry were firmly established as primary sources of livelihood. The local economy was soon given another boost when steamboat travel facilitated quicker shipping of perishable goods to markets and better transportation for newcomers to the area. Inverness, originally called Tompkinsville for its first settler, was established in the early 1880s; a post office was established there in 1882.

A significant person in the historic development of Citrus County was Austin S. Mann, a businessman from Ohio and New Jersey. Mann settled in the Crystal River area, in the northwest part of the present Citrus County c1872, where he practiced law and cultivated a 10-acre citrus grove, one of the largest in the He was elected state senator in 1883 for what was then area. Hernando County. On June 2, 1887, the legislature, led by Senator Mann, divided Hernando County into three new counties, the present-day Citrus, Pasco, and Hernando Counties. A temporary Citrus County seat was designated at Mannfield, in the center of the county, until a permanent location could be decided by county election. A political tug-of-war developed over whether Mannfield or Inverness would become the permanent county seat. In an 1891 election, Mannfield supporters lost by nine votes, and the county clerk and records were immediately hauled by mule drawn wagon to Inverness. Mannfield became a ghost town.

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On May 4, 1891, the Florida Orange Canal and Transit Company, supporters of the designation of Inverness as the county seat, conveyed one square acre of land in the town of Inverness to the Board of Citrus County Commissioners to establish a Court House Square. A wooden, two-story, Victorian Style courthouse was built and occupied the site for the next twenty years.

In 1894-95, a hard freeze ended citrus growing as a commercial industry in the county. A few years before the "Big Freeze", however, hard rock phosphate had been discovered in nearby locations. The shift from growing and shipping citrus to phosphate mining expanded the local economy. By the late 1890s, the Citrus County area was enjoying a "phosphate boom". A combination of over thirty U.S. and foreign mining companies conducted mining operations by 1909. Mine workers were sought from as far away as Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina. Within a brief time, the population quickly grew to more than 10,000 people.

The local phosphate boom abruptly ended, however, with the outbreak of World War I, because Germany was the largest importer of phosphate from Citrus County. As the mines closed, no alternative industry developed to replace phosphate. People looked elsewhere for work, and the population plummeted and remained fairly sparse until the 1960s.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

The turn of the century "phosphate boom" in Citrus County brought great prosperity and a substantial increase in population to the county. In June 1911, the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners responded to the economic good times and the need for an expanded government by adopting a resolution to erect a new courthouse building on the Court House Square to replace the twenty year old wooden building. It was to cost no more than \$50,000.

Over the next several months, the county commissioners toured other counties which had recently built new courthouses and reviewed plans from architects as far away as Jacksonville and South Georgia. The commissioners particularly liked the 1908 Polk County Courthouse (NR 1989). When the original architect, J.R. McEachron, failed to produce satisfactory plans, Tampa architect, Willis R. Biggers, was hired on November 6, 1911 to

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draw up a scaled down version of the Polk County courthouse to fit Citrus County's needs and established budget. Little is known about Biggers, who practiced in Tampa from 1911 until 1917. In addition to the 1912 Citrus County Courthouse, he is known to have designed the Manatee County High School (1913), Plant City High School (1914, NR 1981), and the Springhead Public School in Hillsborough County (1914). He may also have designed the Old Seffner School, also in Hillsborough County, in 1910.

The old wooden courthouse was moved off the site and later sold to J. Frank Graham for \$1200. It burned down in 1913. The new, fireproof courthouse was constructed in less than a year for a final cost of \$55,885 by the Read-Parker Construction Company with C.B. Stage as the Construction Superintendent. The new courthouse was formally accepted on June 3, 1913. Electricity was installed within the following year.

With the coming of World War I, Citrus County's economic prosperity evaporated and growth came to a standstill. Although most of Florida grew rapidly during the 1920s and after World War II, Citrus County remained a rural, fairly sparcely populated area until the 1960s. The Old Citrus County Courthouse remained the only county court building until 1979 when a new courthouse was built across the street from Courthouse Square. The old courthouse still serves some court functions and houses the county archives, museum, and legislative representatives' offices. The building's historic significance, however, is tied primarily to 1912 because the construction of such a well designed and executed public building was a reflection of the prosperity enjoyed by Inverness and Citrus County in the first decades of the twentieth century.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Neoclassical Style

The Neoclassical Style was popularized by the World Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago in 1893. Buildings erected by each state at the exposition were to have a classical theme. Wide publicity for the event and attendance by people from all over the country assured a popularity of the style which lasted for nearly fifty years.

Neoclassicism recalled the simple architectural features and techniques of the Greeks and Romans. Its most distinguishing

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Section number ____8 Page __4 Old Citrus County Courthouse, Inverness, FL

characteristics include: use of the Ionic or Corinthian order for colossal columns, pilasters and engaged columns; flat or low pitched roofs behind parapets; horizontality; symmetry; and balance. Doorways often have elaborate, decorative surrounds based on Greek Revival, Adam, or Georgian precedents. Cornices often have dentils or modillions, and sometimes have a wide frieze band. Windows are usually double hung sash with various light configurations.

Italian Renaissance Style

The Italian Renaissance Style was used as a domestic style in the 1880s and 1890s, but gained its widest use after World War I. Characteristics of the style include recessed entry porches and full-length first story windows, and broadly overhanging, boxed eaves on low pitched, clay tile-covered, hipped roofs. Decorative brackets at the eaves help distinguish Italian Renaissance buildings from other Mediterranean styles. Other common details include: quoins, roof-line balustrades, pedimented windows, classical door surrounds, molded cornices, and belt courses. Walls are stucco over frame, stucco, or masonry; wood is never used.

Prairie School Style

The Prairie School Style was developed in Chicago under the leadership of Frank Lloyd Wright, and was popular in the United States from 1900-1920. It is horizontal, characterized by a low hipped roof with low hip dormers. Porches are low hip roofed and single story. Roofs are supported by either tapered wood columns on brick pedestals or large masonry pillars. Exterior finishes include clapboard, shingles, stucco, light colored brick, or concrete. Windows are hung in groups or bands, providing natural light in the interior. Window units are often wood casements or one over one, double hung sash.

Mission Style

The Mission Style was developed in California in the 1890s to emulate the Franciscan missions of the Spanish Colonial Period. This style incorporates stuccoed walls, clay tiled roofs, round arches, Spanish details, and open, spreading plans. Buildings are simple in form with little sculptural ornamentation. Curvilinear parapets, its most distinctive feature, are pronounced.

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ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Citrus County Courthouse displays some of the finest architectural features in the region. It is eclectic, incorporating features associated with four distinct architectural styles. The Italian Renaissance Style is reflected in the central block with its low pitched, hipped roof, covered with clay barrel tile, and wide boxed eaves, and the octagonal cupola with a belvedere. The heavy, squared lintels and sills on the windows also reflect the style.

The Neoclassical Style is represented by the porticoes with their colossal Tuscan columns and pilasters and classical architrave and cornice. Another classical feature is the grillwork at the attic level on the central block of the building.

The Prairie School Style influence is evident in the use of light colored brick and in several features of the main block of the building. Those features include the low hipped roof, wide eaves with paired brackets, and the band of grilled windows.

The Mission Style is present in the parapets over the porticoes, a departure from the usual use of classical Greek temple lines that are usually associated with the Neoclassical Style. The parapets have the typically Spanish style inlaid quatrefoils and small squares.

Such a combination of architectural styles is quite unusual, especially in the rural area around Inverness.

The Court House Square which was deeded to Inverness in 1891 formed a diamond in relation to the surrounding north-south/eastwest streets. Corners of the square were located at the cardinal points of the compass. When the 1912 courthouse was completed, it was oriented north-south and east-west, so that the elevations of the building face the corners of the square, rather than the sides. Because no major additions have been made to the building, this distinctive relationship between the courthouse and the Court House Square, which is an integral and distinctive part of the town plan, has been preserved, and contributes to the architectural significance of the Old Citrus County Courthouse.

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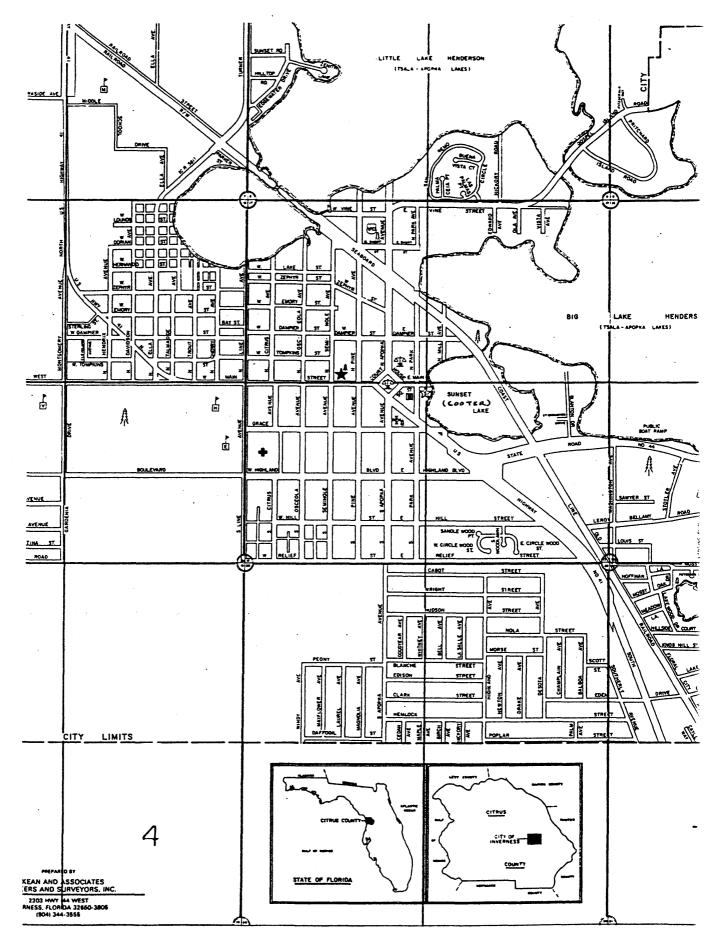
Photographs 1 Old Citrus County Courthouse, Inverness, FL

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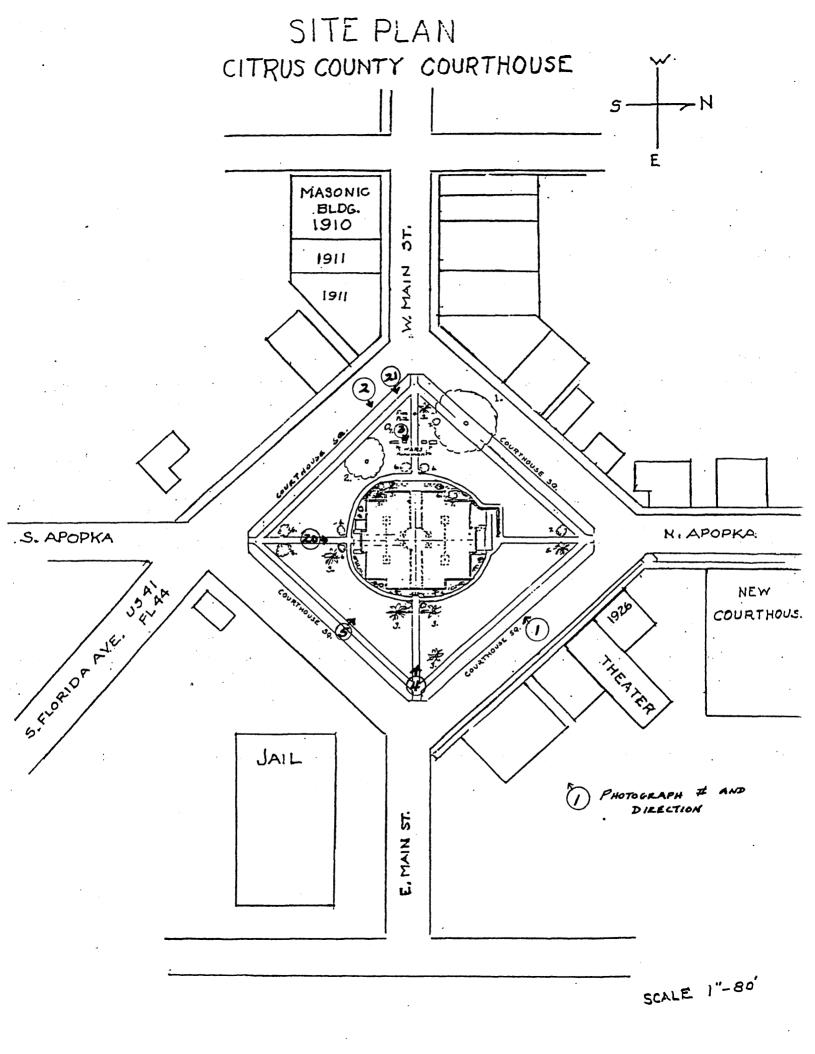
1	1) Old Citrus County Courthouse, Number One Courthouse
T	Square
	2) Inverness, Citrus County, FL
	3) Bruce Roberts 4) 1990
	5) Citrus County Archives
	6) Aerial view, showing N & E elevations; camera facing
	SW 7) 1 of 21
7 +	- 1 5 and the same for the following shotomorphy unlogg
	ms 1-5 are the same for the following photographs, unless ed otherwise.
2	6) W elevation, showing landscape features; camera
	facing E 7) 2 of 21
_	
3	6) W elevation, showing veterans monuments and 1979 courthouse to the N; camera facing E-NE
	7) 3 of 21
	() E cloudtions company foring W
4	6) E elevation; camera facing W 7) 4 of 21
_	
5	3) Pauline Lansden 4) 1991
	6) S & E elevations; camera facing NW
	7) 5 of 21
6	6) Florida State Seal in rotunda, first floor; camera
	facing E
	7) 6 of 21
7	6) Original interior windows, first floor, NW quadrant
	7) 7 of 21
8	6) First floor, showing stairway, terrazzo floor and
	marble wainscoting; camera facing S
	7) 8 of 21
9	6) S stairway
	7) 9 of 21
10	6) Courtroom on second floor; camera facing NW
10	7) 10 of 21

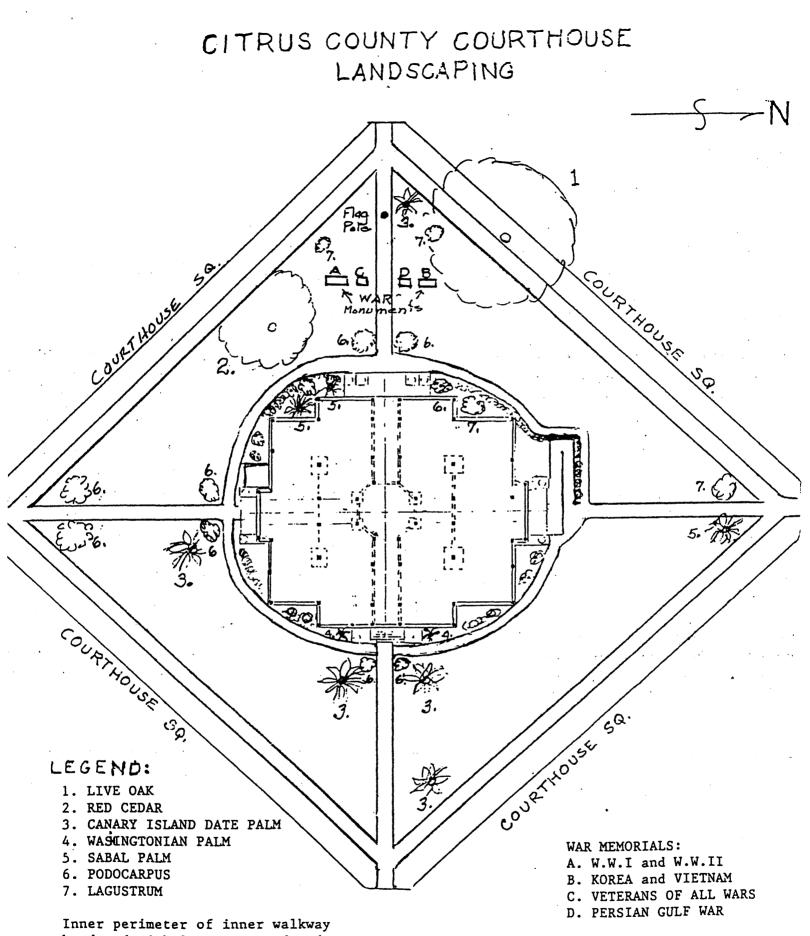
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	Photographs 2 Old Citrus County Courthouse, Inverness, FL
Section num	ber Page
	6) Interior of balcony, showing classical grillwork 7) 11 of 21
	6) Detail of wooden stairway and substructure of clock tower
	7) 12 of 21
	6) E balcony, showing pulldown stair 7) 13 of 21
	6) Detail of E. Howard & Company clock mechanism and bell and hammer
	7) 14 of 21
	6) Example of original interior windows, door, woodwork, and finishes
	7) 15 of 21
	6) Original door in balcony area 7) 16 of 21
	6) Original fireplace (mantle not original) 7) 17 of 21
	6) Example of original vault, first floor 7) 18 of 21
	6) Example of original plumbing fixtures 7) 19 of 21
	3) Pauline Landsden 4) 1991 6) S elevation, showing entrance to basement 7) 20 of 21
	3) Unknown 4) c1912-1915 6) W elevation; showing main entrance and original
	fence 7) 21 of 21



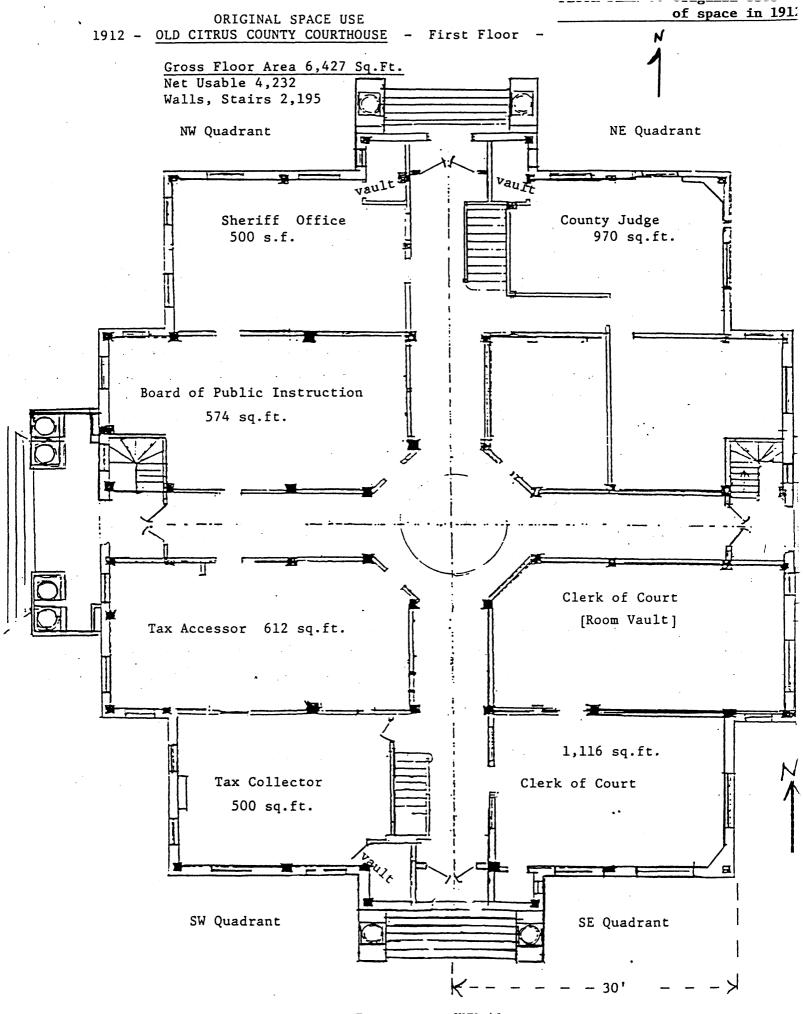
City of Inverness, Citrus County Florida



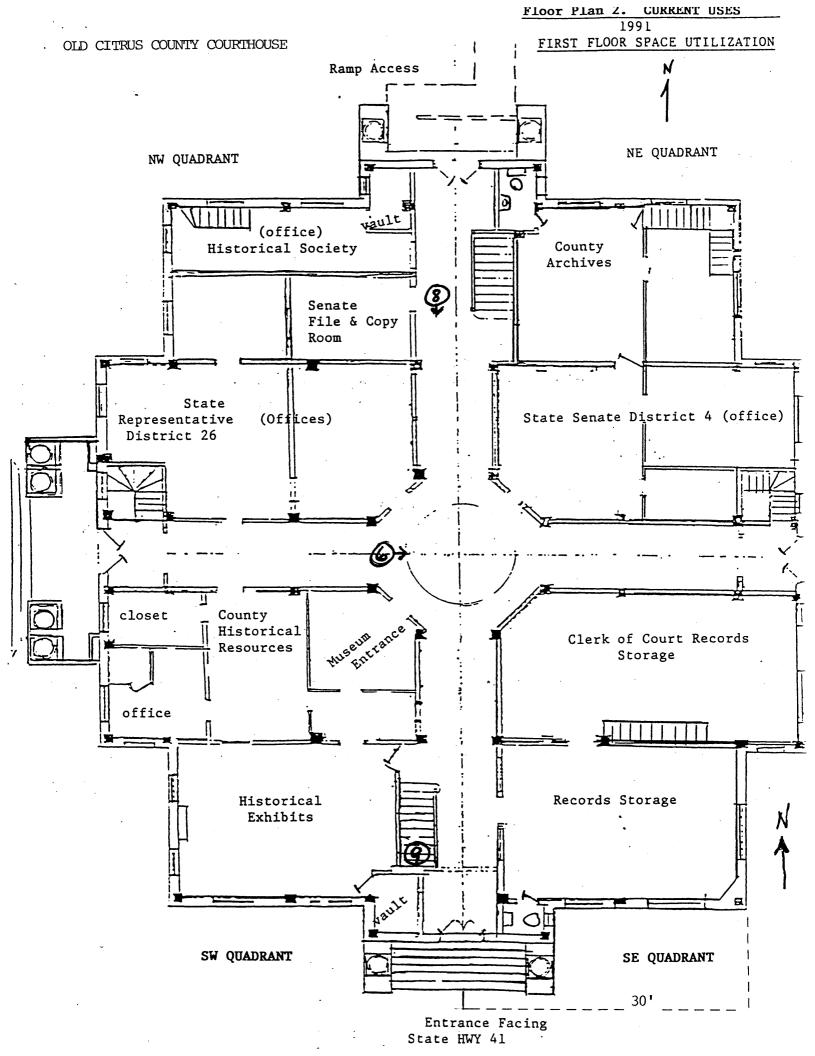


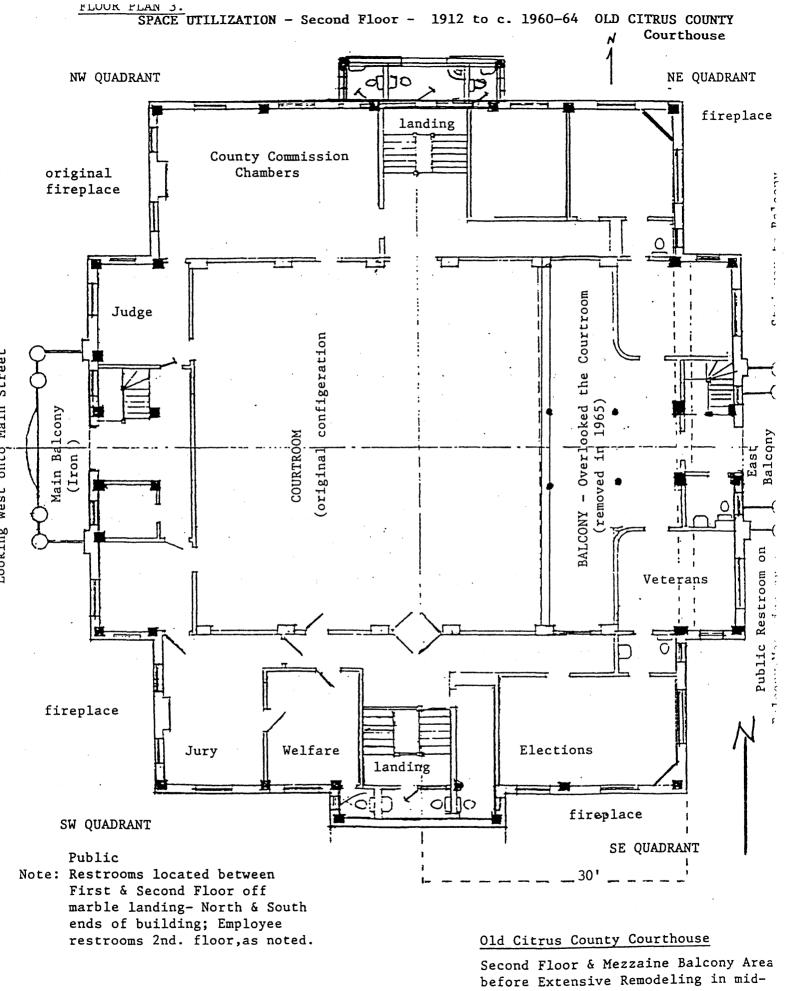
bordered with lagustrum and podocarpus

SCALE 1"- 33"



Entrance on HWY 41





1960's era.

Looking West onto Main Street

OLD CITRUS COUNTY COURTHOUSE - Second Floor - Space Utilization 1987 to

(current)19

