

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0693961

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED DEC 19 1978  
DATE ENTERED JUN 27 1979

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Women's Gymnasium

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION** East-West Rd.

STREET & NUMBER  
See Continuation Sheet

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Gainesville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Second

STATE  
Florida

CODE  
12

COUNTY  
Alachua

CODE  
001

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund

STREET & NUMBER  
Elliot Building

CITY, TOWN  
Tallahassee

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Florida 32304

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund

STREET & NUMBER  
Elliot Building

CITY, TOWN  
Tallahassee

STATE  
Florida 32304

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7-DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Women's Gymnasium exemplifies the collegiate Gothic style. Its exterior fabric of brick and stone masonry and high segmented arch windows which extend along the north and south facades combine to convey the design style which was extremely popular on college campuses in the years preceding World War II. The building's most significant exterior feature is its eastern facade, which contains the main entrance. The entry is set within a segmented area, which is set between two tall buttresses. These rise to form a Gothic arch terminating in stone finials.

The building structural system consists of load-bearing brick masonry walls reinforced by buttress-piers below bearing points for the roof supports. The structure was remodelled in 1955, and this had as its most obvious manifestations the series of exposed steel trusses which support the roof, the concrete bond beam which caps the exterior brick walls, and clerestory windows on the north and south sides.

See Continuation Sheet

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1919

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William A. Edwards

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Women's Gymnasium is significant as the University of Florida's first permanent indoor basketball arena and assembly hall. It replaced a wooden structure which was demolished in February, 1919.<sup>1</sup>

When construction of the new building began in 1918, the twelve year old University of Florida lacked not only an adequate gymnasium but also a suitable assembly hall. Assemblies and chapel services for the university community had been held in a room in Floyd Hall, the Agriculture College Building since its completion in 1912.<sup>2</sup>

Construction commenced in the late summer of 1918; the Auditorium and Gymnasium Building had nearly reached completion by March of the following year.<sup>3</sup> At that point, however, the funds appropriated for the building were exhausted. President A. A. Murphree persuaded the people of Gainesville to contribute money to finish the building. He secured \$1050, money enough to accomplish his purpose. Murphree then joined with the mayor of Gainesville, to invite the New York Giants baseball team to hold their spring training session on the university campus, taking advantage of the new facility. The invitation was accepted, and the town and campus derived entertainment and publicity from playing host to the Giants.<sup>4</sup> Townspeople were thus able to reap immediate benefits from their collaboration with the University.

The Auditorium and Gymnasium became a focal point of activity for the university community. It was, alternately, basketball arena, assembly hall, chapel, dance hall, and movie theater for thousands of students and faculty members. William Jennings Bryan, a close friend of President Murphree, addressed the student body about the dangers of Darwinism during one of his frequent campus visits during the 1920s.<sup>5</sup>

The Auditorium and Gymnasium Building has performed many different functions during its existence. Other, newer buildings have taken over its main duties. In 1947, when the University of Florida became a co-educational institution, the Auditorium and Gymnasium became a center for women's recreational activities, a role in which it has served since that time.

(See Continuation Sheet for footnotes)

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arnett, William Tobias. "A Study of the Campus Planning Problem of the University of Florida." M.A. Thesis, University of Florida, 1932.

Bowman, Brian Paul. "Historic Building Survey, University of Florida Campus." Unpublished report, University of Florida Office of Planning and Analysis, passim.

(See Continuation Sheet)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than One, Building Only

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	3 69 6 20	3 2 8 0 6 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Building Only.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John A. Scafidi, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Florida Division of Archives, History & Rec. Mgt. DATE November 1, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Department of State, The Capitol

TELEPHONE

(904) 487-2333

CITY OR TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida 32304

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE

12/8/78

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

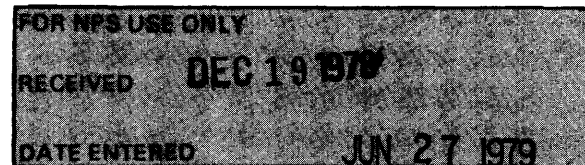
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 6-22-75  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Bill Johnson  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE June 26, 1979

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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

Women's Gymnasium  
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 2 PAGE 1

Situated on the University of Florida campus, Gainesville, Florida, on East-West Road; south of Murphree area dormitories, east of swimming pool and Florida Field, west of Richard Johnson Hall, southwest of Thomas Hall.

Item Number 8

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<sup>1</sup>Florida Alligator, March 5, 1915, p. 2, c. 2-3; December 10, 1915, p. 2, c. 1-2; January 23, 1919, p. 1, c. 3; February 27, 1919, p. 4, c. 4-5; University Record, VII: 2, May 1912, pp. 24-26.

<sup>2</sup>Florida Alligator, September 24, 1912, p. 1, c. 1; January 23, 1919, p. 1, c. 3.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid, August 2, 1918, p. 1, c. 1; March 7, 1919, p. 1, c. 5.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., March 7, 1919, p. 1, c. 5, p. 4, c. 4-5; March 28, 1919, p. 1, c. 3; March 29, 1919, p. 1, c. 4-5.

<sup>5</sup>Florida Alligator, October 24, 1919, p. 1, c. 2; January 20, 1922, p. 10, c. 3-4; February 24, 1922, p. 1, c. 2; September 24, 1922, p. 2, c. 4; January 24, 1925, p. 1, c. 4.

See Continuation Sheet

Item Number 9

Page 1

Florida Alligator, March 5, 1915; December 10, 1915; October 10, 1917; May 1, 1918; August 2, 1918; January 23, 1919; February 27, 1919; March 7, 1919; March 29, 1919; March 28, 1919; October 24, 1919; January 20, 1922; February 24, 1922; September 24, 1922.

Proctor, Samuel. "The University of Florida: Its Early Years, 1853-1906." Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Florida, 1958.

"Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Preservation of Significant Buildings and On-Campus Sites, May 24, 1977." Report directed to University of Florida Executive Vice President, Dr. Harold P. Hanson.

University Record, May 1919, XIV: 1, pp. 19-20

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

As at other state universities, expressions of the collegiate gothic style of architecture on the University of Florida campus probably constitute a logical response to a felt need for a sense of dignity and timelessness. The founding of the completely new campus in 1905, the necessity for designing and constructing many new buildings in rapid succession, together with constraints imposed by dependence on legislative sources for the major portions of university funds, made for utilitarian expressions of the style. Thus, the architecture of early University of Florida buildings descends in general rather than specific fashion from earlier collegiate gothic designs.

The buildings are of substantial masonry construction, accented by the familiar stone arches and terra cotta trim; gables are steep, particularly for an area which is free of weather which would make steep roof pitches desirable. These elements of the prevailing style of college and university construction were utilized freely to achieve a specific purpose at the new Gainesville campus, to create the impression of age and substance.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The University of Florida traces its roots to 1853; however, that early date is significant for the foundation of the East Florida Seminary, only one of several components consolidated in the Buckman Act of 1905. That Act identified and addressed the need for a comprehensive system of higher education for Florida by creating three new institutions from the colleges, seminaries, and institutes which had hitherto received state monies. The new institutions included schools designated for women, blacks, and men. The last became the University of Florida.

After lengthy discussion, the Board of Control, set up under the Buckman Act to superintend higher education, decided to locate the men's institution at Gainesville, home of the East Florida Seminary. Since the Seminary buildings were in rather poor condition, the Board decided to establish a new campus for the University rather than renovate the older Seminary structures. A comprehensive plan for the new campus was designed by William A. Edwards of the South Carolina architectural firm of Edwards and Walter. Edwards later designed most of the campus buildings erected before the Second World War.

Edwards' campus gradually grew to include specialized and multiple-purpose structures devoted to both academic and vocational courses of instruction in the liberal arts, education, agriculture, the sciences, law, and other fields. The University of Florida was the state's earliest concrete symbol of a commitment to comprehensive education for men, and the institution retained that position until 1947, when Florida State College for Women, successor to the Buckman Act's Florida Female College, was designated a co-educational institution, Florida State University.