

DATA SHEET

PH0699004

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 6 1979  
DATE ENTERED JUL 10 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 U. S. Post Office, Old --(8A1485) --

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

25 Southeast 2nd Place

NOT FOR PUBLICATION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(S)	<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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 Alachua County Schools

STREET & NUMBER

1817 East University Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Gainesville

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Florida

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Alachua County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Gainesville

STATE  
Florida

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old U. S. Post Office in downtown Gainesville was designed to serve as the focal and physical terminus of First Street south of University Avenue. The three and one-half story yellow brick building rests on a molded, cut granite base with water-table. The North facade is dominated by a monumental portico with six limestone Corinthian columns resting on low granite pedestals. The portico is richly detailed with carved limestone panels on the frieze and a cornice decorated with dentils and modillions, which continues around the building above the second story fenestration. The portico is capped with a limestone balustrade and flat, copper roof. The building has a hipped roof covered with clay tile. There are continuous moulded terra-cotta antifixae detailed with Anthemion motif above a limestone, sea scroll decorative band. Other carved limestone trim used extensively around the exterior include door and window surrounds, column capitals, keystone consoles, lintels and pilasters.

Load-bearing construction consists of a riveted steel framing system. The attic space is lighted by eight semi-circular headed copper sheathed dormers with bullseye windows. An ornate copper marquee protects the loading platform located at the southeast corner of the building where the mail originally entered and left the Post Office.

This building, with its elaborate interior and exterior detailing, was considered very grand for Gainesville in 1911. It boasted such refinements as bronze entry doors, elevator, steam heat, terrazzo and marble floors, and richly plastered interior cornices and ceilings.

The basement area consisted of storage space for mechanical equipment. The entire first floor was Post Office space, detailed with marble wainscot and trim, plastered walls and cornice in the public areas and 7 foot 6 inch high wood wainscot in the workroom. A mezzanine, divided into two areas, is located between the first and second stories. The larger area was used for storage space and the smaller functioned as a passage with "lookouts" into the Post Office workroom. The second floor was entirely devoted to the Federal Court and support facilities. It featured one large court room richly trimmed with wood floor, wainscot and pilasters; plastered panelled walls; and ceiling with ornamental plaster beams. The remaining area consisted of two judges' chambers, a district attorney's office, and the clerk of the court's office. The third floor, the least ornamental, housed the U. S. Land Office and miscellaneous jury and witness spaces.

The present condition of the interior indicates that superficial alterations have occurred during the years. Most original architectural ornamentation, remains intact except for the following changes. On the ground floor, several wood stud partitions have been added in the work room and public lobby areas, a drop ceiling conceals the original cornice, the marble and wood wainscots have been painted, and vinyl-asbestos tile covers the marble floor in the work room. On the second floor, the wood floor has been covered with vinyl-asbestos tile, and additional restrooms have been installed in the former District Attorney's office.

# 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 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 1909

~~BUILDER~~/ARCHITECT James Knox Taylor

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old U. S. Post Office is architecturally significant because it is one of the finest examples of Beaux-Arts Classicism in the State of Florida that has survived without significant alterations. The building, designed by federal architect, James Knox Taylor, is elegantly trimmed with carved limestone and moulded granite exterior details.<sup>1</sup> Construction was completed in March, 1911 at a cost of \$160,000.<sup>2</sup> The superintendent of construction was John Young.<sup>3</sup> The land on which the post office stands was donated to the city in 1903 by B. F. Hampton and J. M. Graham, prominent Gainesville citizens of that period.<sup>4</sup>

The three story building, which was designed to terminate the view on First Street south of University Avenue, was elaborately detailed and considered very elegant for Gainesville in 1911. It had the finest available mechanical systems of that time including steam heat and an elevator.

The building not only served as the Federal Post Office, but also housed the Federal Court and support facilities on the second floor, and the U. S. Land Office on the third floor. The building became surplus property and was leased to the Alachua County Schools for educational purposes on December 22, 1964.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> James Knox Taylor, Blueprints of Original Working Drawing executed on 11/25/08, photocopy on file at the Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Tallahassee, Florida.

<sup>2</sup> Gainesville Sun, December 17, 1911, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Gainesville Sun, July 18, 1954, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> Alachua County, Florida, Lease Agreement between U. S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Board of Public Instruction of Alachua County, Florida, Contract No. SA-IV-327, December 22, 1964, photocopy on file at the Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Tallahassee, Florida.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alachua County, Florida. Lease Agreement between U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Board of Public Instruction of Alachua County, Florida. Contract No. SA-IV-327, December 22, 1964. Photocopy on file at the Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Tallahassee, Florida.

(See Continuation Sheet)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than One  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	3 7 1 8 4 0	3 2 8 0 4 6 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A lot of land one hundred and twenty (120) feet from East to West, by one hundred and fifty (150) feet from North to South, fronting on the south end of East Main Street and Magnolia Street (as now constituted) and bounded East and West by extensions of East Main Street, twenty (20) feet and thirty (30) feet wide respectively, and bounded on the South by the continuations of said extensions, which are here brought together into a forty (40) foot extension of said East Main Street to Roper Street, and being Lot 1 of Graham and Hampton's Subdivision of Lot 3 of the Oak (Continued)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

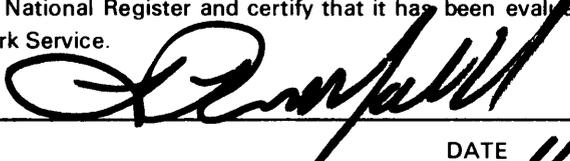
NAME / TITLE	
Jorge L. Currais, Preservation Architect	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management	October 5, 1978
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
Department of State, The Capitol	(904) 487-2333
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Tallahassee	Florida 32304

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

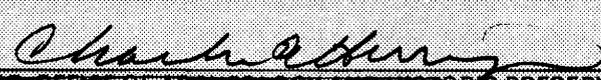
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

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 

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 1/30/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
	DATE <u>7.10.79</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST 	DATE <u>7/6/79</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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U. S. Post Office, Old  
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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Gainesville Sun. December 17, 1911; July 18, 1954.

Taylor, James Knox. Blueprints of Original Working Drawing Executed on 11/25/08.  
Photocopy on file at the Florida Division of Archives, History and Records  
Management, Tallahassee, Florida.

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Item Number 10

Page 1

Hall Plat, as per map thereof attached to the deed from James M. Graham, et al., to the United States of America dated March 20, 1903, and recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the County of Alachua, State of Florida, in Deed Book 58, at page 503 et seq.