

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **AUG 13 1986**

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Rolfs Hall

and/or common Horticulture Building

**2. Location**

street & number Buckman Drive, University of Florida N/A not for publication

city, town Gainesville vicinity of

state Florida code 12 county Alachua code 001

**3. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name State of Florida, Board of Trustees, Internal Improvement Fund.

street & number The Capitol

city, town Tallahassee N/A vicinity of state Florida

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Alachua County Courthouse

street & number P. O. Box 600, 201 East University Avenue

city, town Gainesville state Florida

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Univ. of Fla. Historic Buildings has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

Survey date 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records University of Florida

city, town Gainesville state Florida

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Rolfs Hall is a four story, L-shaped building in the Collegiate Gothic style, constructed in red brick in English bond, with cut stone detailing and intersecting pitched roofs of flat red tile. Distinguishing exterior features include projecting oriel bays and parapetted gable dormers on the north and west facades, parapets with quartrefoils and lozenges between the dormers, and a distinctive pattern of single double, triple and quadruple windows. The foundation and structural system are reinforced concrete.

Completed in 1927, and originally known as the Horticulture Building, Rolfs Hall was built to meet the needs of the rapidly expanding University of Florida agricultural program. The new building was designed to house functions of the Agricultural Extension Service, The Agricultural Experiment Station, The State Plant Board, and related classrooms.

The site selected was located between Floyd Hall (NR 1979), home of the College of Agriculture, and Newell Hall (NR 1979), which served the Experiment Station. Immediately to the south lay open ground, which is today the fully developed south half of the University campus, but at that time extended to the area known as "the farm." Pedestrian pathways lined with moss fringed trees and a few unpaved roads which would through this agricultural seat have since been replaced by Buckman Drive, running north-south between Rolfs and Newell and intersecting Union Road to the north and Stadium Road to the south.

In harmony with existing campus buildings, the first begun in 1905, Rolfs Hall was designed by the architectural firm of Edwards and Sayward in the red brick and gabled Collegiate Gothic style. Designed for possible expansion to the east and south, the building sets a six bay north-south axis of approximately 110 feet with an intersecting east wing at the north end, approximately 80 feet in length.

In 1937, architect Rudolf Weaver supervised the development of the fourth story, requiring some new windows, in shallow, flat roofed dormers behind the parapets. Egress stairs were subsequently added at the south and east ends of the building to meet fire code requirements. This was accomplished by an enclosed extension of the east wing, and construction of a detached stairwell with bridge connection to the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floor exits at the south end.

The red English bond brick contrasts with molded stone trim at the water table, stone window, surrounds with ancone or label cornices, north-west corner quoins, and dormer and parapet trim. Copper scuppers and downspouts are integrated on all elevations. A wreathed beehive plaque is set

## 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 checked="" 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** 1927 **Builder/Architect** Edwards & Sayward

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Rolfs Hall, constructed in 1927 as the Horticultural Building, is significant architecturally as one of the twelve existing Collegiate Gothic style buildings designed by William A. Edwards which formed the core of the University of Florida campus in the early 20th century. In addition, it is historically significant for its role in the development of the University's Agricultural Education and Extension Services programs.

The history of Florida agricultural education began in Lake City with the opening in 1884 of the State College of Agriculture. In 1888 the Agricultural Experiment Station was founded as a division of the college in response to the Hatch Act of 1887. In 1905 the state legislature provided for the consolidation of the state's existing institutions of higher learning into a single university for men. Following the designation of Gainesville as the location for the institution, the agricultural facilities were relocated to become a part of the new University of Florida campus. Peter Henry Rolfs was named as Dean of the College of Agriculture. (1)

Rolfs grew up on a farm in Iowa, and received his Master of Science Degree from Iowa State College of Agriculture in 1891. He began his professional career at Clemson University and the South Carolina Experiment Station, but in 1892 accepted appointment as a horticulturalist and biologist at the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station at Lake City, and by 1896 had made a major contribution to the control of disease in fruit trees. From 1901 to 1906, he served as plant pathologist for the United States Department of Agriculture Subtropical Laboratory in Miami, leaving that post to serve as Dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Florida from 1906 to 1920.

In 1912 the State Plant Board was formed to pursue methods of wiping out the then rampant citrus canker, and was organized as a part of the agricultural education framework. In 1915 the Agricultural Extension Service was founded as provided by the Smith Lever Act of 1914. As Dean of Agriculture, Rolfs also served as the Director of the Experiment Station, Director of the Extension Service, and State Plant Board Commissioner. Following his resignation from the University of Florida, Rolfs continued his professional career in Brazil, where he founded the Escola Superior de Agricultura y Veterinaria. (2)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Gainesville East

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	7
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 Zone 

3	7	0
---	---	---

 Easting 

1	4	0
---	---	---

 Northing 

3	2	8	0
---	---	---	---

4	8	0
---	---	---

B 

--	--

 Zone 

--	--	--

 Easting 

--	--	--

 Northing

C 

--	--

 Zone 

--	--	--

 Easting 

--	--	--

 Northing

D 

--	--

 Zone 

--	--	--

 Easting 

--	--	--

 Northing

E 

--	--

 Zone 

--	--	--

 Easting 

--	--	--

 Northing

F 

--	--

 Zone 

--	--	--

 Easting 

--	--	--

 Northing

G 

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 Zone 

--	--	--

 Easting 

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 Northing

H 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

### Verbal boundary description and justification

A square plot extending 10 feet on each side and centered on the main building as described within the nomination.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Tate, D. Primelles

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date May 2, 1986

street & number DAHRM, The Capitol telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida

# 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 *Clayton W. Kemp*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date Aug. 6, 1986

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 9-11-86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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in the south bay of the west parapet. Oriel bays at the west and north facades project from the second floor line and terminate with polychrome chequer-work parapets at the fourth floor line.

Windows are double hung throughout, but vary in size and number of lites from floor to floor. First and second floor windows are 9 over 9 and are of equal size. Shorter windows on the third and fourth floors are 6 over 6 and 4 over 4 respectively. A basic pattern of triple and quadruple windows, repeated on all floors, predominates; although double and single windows are found at the southwest corner and on the north facade.

The main roof system consists of simple, intersecting pitched roofs of flat red tile. The secondary roof system includes the four gabled dormer projecting to the plane of the north and west facades and five flat-roofed dormers at the fourth floor level. The main roofs are pierced above the fourth floor level by four curious little hip roofed dormers.

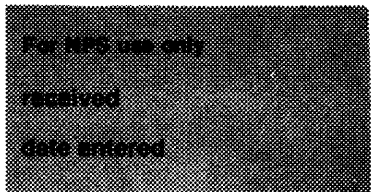
The parapets between the dormers are pierced with stone ornament alternating quatrefoils and lozenges with rosettes, admitting light to the fourth floor windows. Cut stone panels with varied organic details are equally spaced along the cornice. Detailing continues around the building to the southeast where a courtyard is formed by the intersection of the east wing. Here a multi-flue brick chimney projects above the intersecting gable valley.

The building is entered from the south into a double loaded north-south corridor. At the junction of the two building corridors was the office and study of the director, who originally headed the Experiment Station, the Extension Service, and the State Plant Board, as well as the College of Agriculture. The remainder of the first floor spaces were designated for the vice-director for Extension Services, district agents, and editor.

The second floor housed the Experiment Station Library, Agronomy, Veterinary Science, and Poultry Husbandry. The third floor was used for Nursery Inspection (the State Plant Board) and Entomology. The fourth floor (now closed) was completed in 1937 for the use of Forestry. Although interior alterations have visually obscured much of the original interior fabric, they have been accomplished with partition walls which have not permanently damaged the interior architecture.

The structural system is reinforced concrete with columns along the corridors. Steam heat was originally provided through radiators. Ventilating transoms were provided over the half glazed interior doors. The building is in good condition, but in need of interior rehabilitation to meet current functional, aesthetic, and code requirements.

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Under Rolfs' leadership, the University's agricultural programs were firmly established, and the impetus he had given to their development continued beyond his departure, with the result that the need for additional facilities soon became critical. Once again, William A. Edwards, who had served as the principal architect for the University since its inception, was commissioned to design a major campus building.

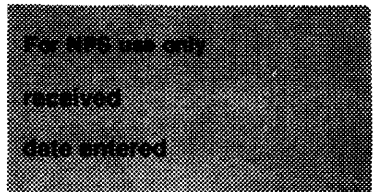
William A. Edwards (1866-1939) graduated with the first class of Mechanical Engineering at the State University of South Carolina and was practicing under the firm name of Edwards and Walter in Columbia, S.C. in 1905. From 1908-1912 he maintained an independent office in Atlanta; in 1912 he joined William J. Sayward in organizing the firm of Edwards and Sayward, where he practiced for more than twenty-five years as a member of the American Institute of Architects. In addition to twelve existing buildings on the University of Florida campus, Edwards designed buildings for Florida A&M University, Florida State University, Columbia Theological Seminary and the University of South Carolina. His work also included numerous public schools, stores, theaters, park buildings, as well as the Tallahassee Exchange Bank, Unitarian Church of Atlanta, Post Office and Court House at Columbus, Georgia, and the Hotel Thomas in Gainesville. (3)

Originally known as the Horticultural Building and later renamed in honor of Rolfs, the new facility was completed in 1927. It is the latest of the twelve existing buildings on the campus designed by Edwards, ten of which have previously been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It therefore reflects the culmination of Edwards' influence on the architectural character of the original University of Florida campus.

The Horticulture Building was the third building in the University's agricultural complex, which included Newell Hall (NR 1979) and Floyd Hall (NR 1979), both designed by Edwards. It was designed primarily to provide administrative offices for the various academic programs, but also to house the Experiment Station Library, and the editorial office of the Extension Service weekly publication. Completion of the fourth floor in 1937, provided additional administrative space for the forestry program. (4) The educational and field extension service programs carried out from Rolfs Hall have profoundly influenced all aspects of citrus culture, crop farming, animal husbandry, and forestry, from the successful control of a devastating Mediterranean Fruit Fly infestation in 1929 to the development of the pulpwood forest industry in the 1930's and 1940's. Today, Rolfs Hall continues to house the Agricultural Extension Service functions, and provides classroom space for the School of Agriculture.

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FOOTNOTES:

- (1) Dr. W. W. McPherson, History of IFAS and Florida Agricultural Education, Manuscript Draft of Book and Interview to Susan Tate, 1985.
- (2) Agricultural Experiment Station Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1895-6, Lake City, p. 14.; "P. H. Rolfs, Former Agricultural Leader Dies at Gainesville," College of Agriculture, University of Florida, Agricultural News Service, Vol. 29, No., 36, March 2, 1944, p. 1.
- (3) "William Edwards and the Historic University of Florida Campus: A Photographic Essay," Florida Historical Quarterly. Tampa: Florida Historical Society, January, 1979, pp. 327-336; "William A. Edwards," Biographical Dictionary of American Architects. Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co. 1956.
- (4) Rolfs Hall/Horticulture Building Architectural Drawings, University Plants and Grounds Department.

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University of Florida, "Master's Thesis, University of Florida, 1932.

McPherson, W. W. History of IFAS and Florida Agricultural Education,  
Manuscript Draft of Book and Interview to Susan Tate, 1985.

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

University of Florida Archives.

University of Florida Plants and Grounds Department, Architectural

Drawings and Specifications for Rolfs Hall/Horticulture Building (12).

University Record, 1955 and 1956.