

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Grove (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)

other names/site number LE179

2. Location

street & number 100 West First Avenue N/A  not for publication

city or town Tallahassee N/A  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Leon code \_\_\_\_\_ zip code 32303

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Alissa Potane, Deputy SHPO 2/12/19  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register  See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) Accept

Additional Documentation

Signature of the Keeper

Joe [Signature]

Date of Action

4/25/2019

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
1	0	sites
0	1	structures
1	0	objects
5	2	total

**Name of related multiple property listings**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

FUNERARY: cemetery

GOVERNMENT: government office

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum

FUNERARY: cemetery

GOVERNMENT: government office

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Criteria A, B, C, and D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, landmark, survey, engineering record.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Areas of Significance: Politics, Architecture, Military, Exploration/Settlement, Commerce, Conservation, Social History.

Period of Significance

ca. 1825-1968

Significant Dates

ca. 1825, ca. 1840

Significant Person

see continuation sheet

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State Agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of Repository

#

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property roughly 10.33 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	6	7	6	0	8	9	4	3	3	7	2	0	6	9
	Zone		Easting					Northing							
2	1	6	7	6	1	0	6	1	3	3	7	2	0	7	1

3	1	6	7	6	1	0	6	9	3	3	7	1	8	8	6
	Zone		Easting					Northing							
4	1	6	7	6	1	0	5	9	3	3	7	1	8	8	6

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrew Waber, Historic Preservationist

organization Florida Division of Historical Resources date April 2018

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (850) 245-6430

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund

street & number 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard telephone

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**SUMMARY**

The Grove consists of a little over ten acres set in the middle of the city of Tallahassee. The property consists of a large two-story circa-1840 brick residence known as the Call-Collins House, a small single story cottage known as the Burr Cottage and an associated outbuilding, a small family cemetery dating back to the 1820s, and a repurposed, non-contributing outdoor bathroom building. There is also a circa-1840 underground cistern located adjacent to the Call-Collins House. The Call-Collins House is a large two-story brick Greek Revival Style residence that features a prominent full-height portico supported by four Tuscan columns. The exterior facer brick on the building was made with the use of a steam-powered brick press, which was revolutionary technology for the frontier conditions of Florida at the time. The building also features four chimneys and a hipped roof. On the rear (north) side of the building is a historic 1950s-era two-story addition built by the Collins family. This addition, which contains the Florida Room, effectively rerouted the main entrance into the building through the rear. The interior of the building's original core is Georgian, with central hallways and four rooms on the first and second floors. The building contains wood floors on the first and second floors with no under floors. There a basement level, which was used during the Collins period as an office and storage space. This level was traditionally used as a kitchen until the construction of the rear addition in the 1950s. Major alterations to the building include the construction of closets in the rooms, the replacement of interior basement floors, the construction of an elevator and wheelchair ramp for ADA purposes, and the modernization of the building, which includes the installation of HVAC systems, new plumbing, new electrical work, fire suppression, and security. The original slate shingles on the roof have been replaced by modern composite shingles. Despite these changes, the building retains sufficient integrity to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The boundary expansion includes the one-story Burr Cottage, which is located on the north side of the property, was constructed in 1939 by Grove owner Reinette Long Hunt. The cottage is a simple wood frame building with a gabled roof and brick pier foundations. It features a central living room, two former bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, and an enclosed sunroom. The circa 1978 sunroom addition onto the north side of the building, which was originally an enclosed porch, is non-historic and the kitchen wing onto the building is an enclosed former porch onto the building. The associated detached car shelter building, despite condition issues, retains a high degree of integrity.

The small cemetery, known as the Call-Collins Family Cemetery, is the oldest extant resource associated with The Grove, predating the Call-Collins House. The oldest known burials in the cemetery date to the early 1830s, but it is widely believed that several other of Richard Keith Call's children who died in the 1820s are buried here. Among the notable burials in this cemetery are Governor Call, Governor Collins, Ellen Call Long, Mary Call Darby Collins, Mary Kirkman Call, and Reinette Long Hunt. The cemetery is still active and retains a high degree of integrity.

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**SETTING**

The Grove is located on a wooded lot in the middle of the city of Tallahassee, Florida, in an area commonly known today as Midtown. Tallahassee is a city of a little under 195,000 people located in the Big Bend region of Florida. The city's economy largely centers around the government, as it serves as the county seat of Leon County and the state capital of Florida. It is also the home to two major state universities, Florida State University and Florida A&M University. The Grove is located adjacent to the Florida Governor's Mansion, which is south of the property, and is bounded on the north and east by residential areas and a large cemetery and on the east by commercial development along Monroe Street.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

The Grove encompasses an area of roughly ten acres, the majority of which is wooded. The main road access to the property extends north from the Governor's Mansion parking lot to the south, running east of the Call-Collins Mansion, and ending in a circle on the north side of the mansion. A secondary unpaved access road extends south from the Burr Cottage, running south of the cemetery and terminating west of the Call-Collins Mansion.

The landscaping of The Grove was heavily influenced by Mary Call Darby Collins, who was an enthusiastic supporter of the local garden club. The designated planting areas around the mansion are still largely the same as they were during the Collins period (1941-1985). The brick pavers surrounding The Grove were added in the 1940s and 1950s by the Collins family and are made of bricks that were originally used to pave nearby Monroe Street. A non-historic sidewalk, parking lot, and public access gate were added by the state to improve accessibility for museum operations.

Call-Collins House Exterior

The Call-Collins House is a substantial brick Greek Revival Style building with a hipped roof and four brick chimneys (Photos 1-2). The building features prominent cornice lines with dentils that extend around the entire original core of the building. Fenestration consists primarily of 6/6 wood sash windows on the first and second stories of the original core of the building and paired one-light fixed windows on the basement level. On the rear addition, there is a prominent series of 12-light fixed glass windows in sets of three that extend across the whole first floor, forming almost an all glass wall for the sunroom.

On the historic main (south) façade of the building, there is a prominent full-height portico with an independent gable roof and pediment supported by four large Tuscan columns. Access is through a brick stoop that dates to the 1950s (Photo 3). The historic main entrance is a wood paneled double door flanked by decorative fluted

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pilasters and sidelights with decorative metalwork (Photo 4). The entrance is topped by a cornice and large fanlight with decorative metalwork. On the second story immediately above the main entrance is a balconet with wood double doors, sidelights, fanlight, and pilasters nearly identical to the main entrance below. The metalwork is all original. One of the character-defining features of the main façade is the incomplete nature of the finishes. There are no capitals on top of the pilasters on the first and second stories and the second story balconet was originally supposed to open onto a metal balcony, as evidenced by the metal brackets extending from the wall (Photo 5). According to lore, Richard Keith Call lost his desire to finish the house after the death of his wife, for whom he built the mansion.

The side (east and west) elevations of the historic core of the building are identical (Photos 6-7). There are two glazed wood double doors at the basement level plus four 6/6 wood sash windows on the first and second stories and two brick chimneys visible on both elevations. The shelters covering the basement entrances are both from the Collins period and serve a dual purpose as outdoor storage.

The rear (north) elevation of the house contains perhaps the most notable change from the Collins period and is the area of the mansion most associated with Mary Call Darby Collins (Photo 8-9). This elevation serves as the current main entrance into the building and was constructed in part to help preserve the historic main façade. The exterior fabric of the first story addition is almost entirely all glass and extends the full width of the building. The second story addition is mostly wood, with a large 18-light fixed window with sidelights and a fanlight in the center. With the exception of the pilasters visible on the first floor and cornice lines and dentils in the second story, this addition was intentionally added on to be easily distinguishable from the original core of the building. A small non-historic brick stoop and wheelchair ramp provide access to this elevation.

Call-Collins House Interior

The interior floorplan of the building's original core is Georgian on the first and second floors, with a central hallway flanked by two rooms on the east and west sides (Photos 10-11). The building also has a basement level and attic. There is a prominent spiral staircase connecting the first and second floors of the building (Photo 12). The stairs were modeled closely after Andrew Jackson's home, The Hermitage, in Tennessee. There is still original wood flooring in the first and second floors. There are a number of original finishes still in the interior, including doorknobs and keyholes. There are decorative pilasters present along the fireplaces, windows, and interior doorways. In the dining room and parlor on the first floor, there are marble fireplaces contemporary to the building (Photo 13). These marble fireplaces would have originally been found in all four rooms on the first floor but were taken out in the west rooms during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. On the second floor, there were closets added during the Collins period.

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On the basement level, the primary interior access point is via a spiral stairwell from the first floor (Photo 14). The basement flooring, which was originally dirt, was covered over with cement and asbestos tile during the Collins period, which needed to be removed for public safety reasons. It now has vinyl flooring. The basement is a bit more irregular in plan than the first and second floors. There is a central room that runs under the stairwell and extends north towards the room known as “the nook” (Photo 15). On the west end of the basement is a hallway leading from the elevator shaft on the north side around a bathroom and utility closet towards one of the west end basement entrances (Photo 16). Also on the west end is room that historically served as Governor LeRoy Collins’ office (Photo 17). It is perhaps the most historically significant room in the building. It was here that Collins worked while using The Grove as the de facto governor’s mansion in the mid-1950s. The room has been left exactly as it was found following the death of Mary Call Darby Collins. Among the significant furnishings in this room is the desk of Richard Keith Call, which was purchased by the Collins family from the estate of Reinette Long Hunt. This desk was built by Call from wood gathered at The Hermitage and was most likely used by Call for both political and business dealings. It was inherited by his daughter Ellen Call Long and has been part of The Grove’s furnishings likely since its construction.

Adjacent to Governor Collins’ office on the east is a small room known as “the nook” (Photo 18). During The Grove’s period as the governor’s mansion, this room saw a lot of activity from support staff. This room, much like Governor Collins’ office, has been left as it was found following Mrs. Collins’ death, with many of the awards and honors Governor Collins received later in life hanging on the walls. On the east end of the basement, there is a large room with a fireplace (Photo 19). This was historically used as a kitchen prior to the construction of the two-story addition on the back. On the northeast end of the basement is a small hallway with a prominent drop ceiling that leads from one of the basement level entrances towards the stairwell. On this end, there has been a modern utility room installed, which controls the HVAC systems placed through the mansion.

On the first floor of the original mansion, the most important rooms (the dining room and parlor) are on the east end (Photos 20-21). The furnishings found in the dining room are mostly from The Grove’s first era as a museum. Although the furnishings date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, they are not original to the house. There is a large pocket door separating the dining room and parlor, which fold out to create a larger single room. In the parlor/dining room on the northeast corner, there is an interesting improvisation added during the Collins period. One of the windows was repurposed into a door, which opened up into the Florida Room (Photo 22). None of the historic fabric was removed and the original openings were retained.

On the west side of the first floor are two bedrooms similar in appearance (Photos 23-24). The fireplaces in these rooms are markedly different than the distinctive marble fireplaces in the parlor and dining room. They are rather plain and feature just the decorative pilasters that surround them. During the Collins period, the first floor northwest room served as the master bedroom for LeRoy and Mary Call Darby Collins.



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On the second floor, closets were installed during the Collins era, which were retained during the restoration of the building and used to house the HVAC ducts (Photos 25-26). The closet in the northwest room provides access to the attic area. In the southeast room is perhaps the best visible evidence of the Grove Hotel era during the 1920s and 1930s (Photo 27). The proprietor at the time, Reinette Long Hunt, installed partition walls in this room to make it more accommodating for guests. These walls were removed after the Collins family moved in, but the remnants of the partition walls can still be seen in the floor. In this room is Governor Keith Call's bed, another one of the major furnishings original to the house.

During renovations, much care was taken by the state to select the right paint for the house. Although they selected the off-white color for the interior, during paint analysis, blue paint was discovered and the state decided to paint the south wall of the southeast room with this color. They also retained a historic piece of graffiti left by LeRoy Collins, Jr., on this wall and framed it in a piece of plexiglass (Photos 28-29).

On the first floor of the rear addition is an open sunroom known as the Florida Room, which was the room in the house most associated with Mrs. Collins (Photos 30-31). On the west end of this room is a modern kitchen, which replaced the original kitchen space. On the second floor of the rear addition are three simple rooms, which were originally a nursery and two bathrooms during the Collins era (Photos 32-33). The bathrooms were removed and the west room was converted into a storage room with access to the elevator.

Alterations to Call-Collins Mansion

Over the course of its long history, the mansion has undergone a number of changes. It is suspected that there were four marble fireplaces that were located in the first floor rooms, but the two on the west side were removed during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. During the Reinette Long Hunt era (1905-1940), a sleeping porch was added onto the rear of the building that was destroyed in a fire in the 1930s. Also during this period, a bathroom addition was added to the east elevation, a coal burning furnace was added into the basement, and partition walls were added to the rooms. These changes were all reversed after the Collins family moved into The Grove in the early 1940s. Perhaps the most noticeable change that took place to the building during the Collins period was the construction of the two-story rear addition. The Collins family also added closets into the second floor rooms, added brick pavers around the building, added new poured concrete flooring to the basement, and built a new stoop leading up the historic main entrance. These changes are all considered historic, however, and do not adversely affect the integrity of the building.

The building underwent a number of changes after the state formally assumed control of the property. All work done was reviewed by the SHPO and followed the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Upon inspection, it was quickly discovered that the building needed stabilization work. While most of the brick remained, in some points the brick needed refacing and the mortar was repointed. To help stabilize the building,

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steel rods were inserted within the repointed mortar. Almost all of the wood in the windows had to be replaced due to moisture damage. The individual glass panes were repurposed where possible and the windows were custom ordered to match the originals. The windows were also reinforced by metal inset within the paneling below. Stabilization work also took place in the attic, on the spiral staircases, and the front portico. The basement flooring, which contained asbestos, was replaced due to public safety concerns. The foundations were underpinned and some of the joists have been replaced. The original slate shingles were replaced with the current vinyl composite shingles due to concerns about alleviating the weight on the roof structure. These changes were all done to either help preserve the building or improve safety and were done in a manner that minimized the impact on the building's historic fabric.

The building also underwent a number of changes relating to modernization. On the first floor, vents were added and the ceiling was lowered slightly to accommodate this. On the second floor, the HVAC pipes were installed in the closets to minimize the visual impact on the rooms themselves. There is an interior elevator installed by the state on the north end of the original core of the building for ADA accommodations (Photo 34). It is a two-sided elevator that provides access to the basement and the first and second floors of both the original core and the 1950s era addition. Great care was taken to install the elevator in a manner that minimized the impact to the historic fabric of the building. The foundations were underpinned to accommodate the elevator shaft.

Burr Cottage

On the north end of the property is the Burr Cottage, which was constructed circa 1939 by Grove owner Reinette Long Hunt (Photos 35-36). This is a simple one-story wood frame building with a gable roof and brick pier foundations. Fenestration consists primarily of single and paired 6/6 sash windows, with prominent fixed one-light windows in the north sunroom addition and a 28-light fixed window on the south elevation. The interior layout of the building is irregular (Photos 37-39). There is a large single central living room space with two rooms and a bathroom on the east, a kitchen on the west, and a sunroom on the north. The main entrance to the building is via a small southwest foyer, which opens into the kitchen space. The interior fabric is primarily wood paneling, with linoleum flooring in the kitchen, bathroom, and sunroom. The historic front porch on the north end of the building has been enclosed and converted into a sunroom. Although the alteration alters the view of the north elevation, the original interior walls, including the interior 30-light fixed light window and adjacent doorway, and layout of the building are still visible. The entry foyer was originally used as a porch but was later enclosed. Despite these changes, the building retains sufficient integrity to contribute to the nomination. On the south end of the Burr Cottage is a historic wood frame outbuilding with a metal roof that contributes to the property (Photo 40). It historically functioned as a combination shed and detached garage.

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Call Family Cemetery

The oldest resource at The Grove is the Call Family Cemetery (Photo 41). This is a small family cemetery containing 22 known burials. The oldest known burials date to 1832, but is likely that burials go back further than that. With the exception of the double burial of William Cablu and Mary Jane Williams, all other burials here are people related to the Call and Collins family. Among the notable burials here are those of Governor Richard Keith Call, Governor LeRoy Collins, Ellen Call Long, and Mary Call Darby Collins. Among the notable burial types are the brick arched markers over the Call children and the above ground grave markers of Mary Kirkman Call and Dr. John L. Call. An American soldier who was stationed at The Grove during the Second Seminole War, Lt. Col. John Green, died and was buried here in 1840, but he was later reburied in St. Augustine National Cemetery in St. Augustine, Florida. There is at least one animal burial here, as Reinette Long Hunt was buried with her beloved dog. Although some of the markers have condition issues, this cemetery retains a high degree of integrity and is a major contributing element to The Grove.

Cistern

Immediately to the rear (north) elevation of the Call-Collins mansion is an underground cistern that is contemporary to the mansion (Photo 42). During the process of reinforcing the foundations, workers discovered channels running under the house, which in turn led to the previously undiscovered cistern. This cistern was used to provide fresh water to the property likely for many years, as it was not until the 1910s that The Grove was annexed within the city limits of Tallahassee and had access to municipal water supplies. The cistern is made of brick lined with cement plaster and is rather large. The cistern and connected filter box were once partially above grove ground but were later infilled and covered over. After the rediscovery of the cistern, it was cleaned out and reused. Pipes connected to downspouts from gutters on the Call-Collins Mansion feed water into the cistern. The water is then used to irrigate the north lawn of the property. This adaptive reuse was part of the overall efforts of the state to achieve LEED certification for The Grove.

Landscaping Changes to The Grove

The Grove has seen a number of changes that has taken place to the surrounding landscape over the course of its long history. The Grove once extended across an entire section of land, 640 acres, stretching from roughly Brevard Street on south, Tharpe Street on the north, Meridian Road on the east, and Dewey Street on the west. As most of the original property is located under heavy modern development, there is a strong likelihood that the location of many original buildings and structures associated with the earliest history of the Grove are now outside of the current boundaries.

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The exact location of the original residence on the property, which was constructed circa 1825, is unknown but the speculation is that the building is not far from the current cemetery. Although The Grove was never a major plantation, agriculture in some form took place on the surrounding property for much of its history. At one time, there was a detached wood building described as a type of bachelor's quarters which housed apprentices of Richard Keith Call's law practice, including Leigh Read and George K. Walker. The location of this building is unknown. It is also known that Call had brick kilns on the property in an unknown location. It is assumed the source of the bricks come from near Lake Ella. During the 1880s, the surrounding landscape was repurposed towards silk cultivation, with Ellen Call Long building a silk cottage to the west of the cemetery. Also during the Long era, the acreage of the property was reduced from the original 640 acres to a very similar acreage to what it is now. The walnut trees on the property are most likely descendants of trees planted by Long.

By the Reinette Long Hunt era (1905-1940), residential development began to the north and west of the property and the Governor's Mansion was constructed on the south. Hunt implemented a number of interesting changes to the property during the course of her ownership. The Grove, as the first home of the Tallahassee Country Club, held a small golf course, tennis courts, and a croquet field. There were also accounts of basketball games being held at The Grove, likely on the tennis courts. During World War I, Reinette Long Hunt planted the surrounding grounds extensively with food crops. During the Grove Hotel era, which began in the 1920s and continued until Hunt's death in 1940, rental cottages were built on the north end of the property. The property around them were sold off after her death. To assure upkeep and spare the property from potential development, the local masonic lodge acquired ownership of the cemetery in the 1930s. Hunt most likely planted the pecan trees found on the property.

After the Collins family acquired the property in the 1940s, the surrounding landscape assumed its present appearance. They reacquired adjacent land on the east fronting Monroe Street, reacquired the cottages, and assumed ownership of the cemetery. They also placed the brick pavers around the house and built the detached garage. After the state assumed management of the property following Mrs. Collins' death, changes were made to improve public access to property, building a parking lot on the east of the property, constructing sidewalks, and repurposing the detached garage into a public restroom facility. All of the cottages except the Burr Cottage were demolished due to poor condition. Despite the changes, the present layout of the property mirrors closely the historic 1968 appearance.

**Non-Contributing Resources**

There is one non-contributing building on the property, which was originally a detached garage building but now has been adaptively reused as an outdoor bathroom building (Photo 43). Built during the Collins-era after the period of significance, this building is also too altered to be considered contributing to the nomination.

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**LEED Certification**

From the beginning, the state decided pursue LEED certification for the building and restoration work was aimed in part to achieve this. Known as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, it is a green building rating system created by the US Green Building Council aimed at encouraging sustainability in building design and construction.<sup>1</sup>

To achieve this status, the state took a number of steps:

- The restoration, re-use, or re-purposing of existing buildings and materials already on-site
- Installing high-efficiency, state-of-the-art heating, cooling, mechanical, and irrigation systems to replace antiquated and inefficient equipment
- Recycling as much construction waste as possible
- Prioritizing the use of local materials in any new construction
- Removing hazardous materials, such as lead paint and asbestos
- Using low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) products whenever possible throughout the rehabilitation project<sup>2</sup>

A number of changes that have taken place to the property, including the adaptive reuse of the non-contributing detached garage, the repurposing of the cistern to irrigate portions of the grounds, and the installation of modern energy systems, were guided by this goal. Over 98% of the historic structural elements of the Call-Collins house was reused and over 95% of the historic masonry walls were preserved. Over 93% of the materials removed were recycled or donated and any new wood materials “were certified by the Forest Stewardship Council... to contain more than 50% recycled material.” The Grove was officially LEED-certified in October 2016.<sup>3</sup>

**Integrity**

The most important features of The Grove, namely the Call-Collins House, the Call Family Cemetery, and the Burr Cottage, are still in their original location and the surroundings are very similar to what they were in the Collins period. Hence it retains sufficient integrity of location, setting, and association. Although it has undergone a number of changes over the course of its long history, the mansion still retains its character defining Greek Revival style features. It also retains its unusual unfinished appearance, its Georgian floorplan, spiral staircases, and historic exterior and interior fabrics and fixtures. Although it has undergone a number of

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<sup>1</sup> United States Green Building Council, “There’s Green and Then There’s LEED,” <https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-marketing-toolkit>.

<sup>2</sup> Johnathan Grandage and Katie Hart, “Executive Summary: LEED at The Grove,” Florida Division of Historical Resources, The Grove (October 14, 2015), p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Grandage and Hart, p. 2-3.

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changes due to modernization and ADA requirements, particularly the addition of an elevator, the building still retains a high degree of its historic Collins era appearance. All work done was reviewed by the SHPO and followed the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Although most of the rental cottages have been removed on the north side of the property, the grounds around the mansion remain open and the surrounding brick pavers are still in place. The cemetery remains unchanged from the period of significance with the exception of the most recent burials. Hence, the property retains sufficient integrity of design, workmanship, materials, and feeling.

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**Significant Person**

Call, Richard Keith  
Collins, LeRoy  
Collins, Mary Call Darby  
Littlefield, Milton S.  
Long, Ellen Call

**Summary**

This document is an amendment to the existing Grove National Register nomination, which was listed back in 1972. The Grove was originally listed under Criterion A for Politics and Criterion C for Architecture. This amendment seeks to both expand the existing criteria plus establish additional criteria based upon further research which has taken place at The Grove since 1972. In addition to its significance under Politics/Government, The Grove is also being listed under Criterion A at the local level for Exploration/Settlement. The Grove is also being proposed for listing under Criterion B at the state and local levels in the areas of Politics, Military, and Conservation for its association with Governor Thomas “LeRoy” Collins, Mary Call Darby Collins, Governor Richard Keith Call, Ellen Call Long, and Milton S. Littlefield. The Grove is also being listed under Criterion B at the local level for Exploration/Settlement and Commerce for its association with Governor Richard Keith Call and Social History for its association with Ellen Call Long.

The amendment also seeks to expand and clarify the existing National Register boundaries of the property to include the full property of The Grove as it appeared under the ownership of the Collins family (1942-1985). The original nomination for The Grove does not clearly state a boundary for the nominated property, providing only a single location point and encompassing an area of less than one acre. This implies that only the Call-Collins House is listed in the National Register and excludes significant associated historic resources. In addition to clarifying the boundary, the expansion includes the contributing cemetery, which is the oldest resource on the property, and the Burr Cottage, which was constructed by Grove owner ReINETTE Long Hunt in the 1930s as part of the Grove Hotel operations. It was later acquired by the Collins family and was part of their holdings while living at The Grove.

**Historic Significance – Criteria A: Politics**

Use as a Governor’s Mansion

The Grove served as the de facto governor’s mansion of Florida three times in its history during the administrations of governors Richard Keith Call and LeRoy Collins. During the Second Seminole War, The

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Grove was a center of much of the military planning that took place during the war as Governor Call assumed interim command of the American forces in 1836. During Governor Call's second tenure as governor following the election of William Henry Harrison in 1841, The Grove was once again at the center of territorial politics as the effects of the Panic of 1837 reached Florida. It was while still living at The Grove that Call ran unsuccessfully as Whig candidate for governor of Florida during the first gubernatorial election in 1845.

From 1955 to 1957, The Grove functioned as the de facto governor's mansion of the state, a time marked by significant turmoil from the Civil Rights Movement and the Cold War. Governor LeRoy Collins was the last governor to reside in the 1907 Governor's Mansion, which was demolished in 1955, and the first governor to reside in the current Governor's Mansion, which was finished in 1956 and in operation the following year. The offices were run largely from the basement of the Call-Collins Mansion during this time. It was while in The Grove that LeRoy Collins ran his historic 1956 reelection campaign and where he was confronted with many realities of the Civil Rights era, including the Tallahassee Bus Boycott and the infamous interposition resolution.

The Grove property is the best surviving resource associated with the productive lives of Governor Richard Keith Call and Governor LeRoy Collins. Both men were universally recognized as political leaders in territorial and state politics while residing and working from The Grove.

**Historical Significance – Criterion B: Richard Keith Call (Politics, Military, Early Settlement/Exploration, Commerce)**

Life Prior to Arriving in Tallahassee

Born in Virginia in 1792, Richard Keith Call was the son of a Revolutionary War veteran. Although he was born into an aristocratic family, much of the family's wealth disappeared as a result of bad business decisions by his father, who died while Call was young. After the death of her husband, Call's mother left along with her young children and five slaves to join her brothers in Kentucky. Call grew up near Russellville, Kentucky, on land owned by his uncle, David Walker. His Walker uncles were prominent in Kentucky politics. David Walker served in the US House of Representatives while another uncle, George Walker, served as a US senator. After his mother died in 1810, Call moved to Tennessee, where he attended Mount Pleasant Academy near Clarksville, Tennessee. Following the Fort Mims Massacre in 1813, Call joined the Tennessee militia under the command of General Andrew Jackson. Call quickly distinguished himself during the Creek War, voluntarily staying behind with Jackson as expiring enlistments and food shortages led to widespread desertion amongst the militia. As a reward, Call was granted a commission as first lieutenant in the US infantry and was an active



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participant in Jackson's military campaign against the British, including the first invasion of Pensacola and the Battle of New Orleans.<sup>4</sup>

It was not until the First Seminole War, however, that Call rose to Jackson's inner circle. Following the Scott Party Massacre in 1817, Jackson received federal orders to pursue the Seminoles into Florida. He sent Call to negotiate with the Spanish governor of West Florida for safe passage of ships up the Escambia River. It was here that Call received invaluable intelligence of Seminoles pressuring the Spanish for provisions and threatening to occupy Spanish fortifications. The intelligence that Call relayed to Jackson played a role in Jackson's fateful decision to attack the Spanish fortification at St. Marks. At this point, Call rose to the ranks as Jackson's aide. As such, he was a personal witness to the execution of two British subjects, Alexander Arbuthnot and Robert Ambrister, that sparked a major international incident. When Jackson launched a second invasion of Pensacola, Call was tasked with negotiating the surrender. After the war, when Congress launched a hearing on the Arbuthnot and Ambrister incident, Jackson entrusted Call with gathering depositions in Pensacola, which formed the basis of Jackson's defense from the charges.<sup>5</sup>

After the United States returned Florida to Spain in 1818, Call lived at The Hermitage, where Andrew Jackson established his military headquarters. By this time, Call was promoted to captain, a commission which he resigned to pursue a legal career. With the signing of the Adams-Onis Treaty in 1819, Florida officially became a territory of the United States. President James Monroe appointed Jackson as the first governor of West Florida, and at Jackson's personal request, Call rejoined the army to help negotiate the formal handover. During the contentious negotiations, Call served as the liaison between Jackson and the Spanish governor Jose Callava, relaying messages between the two men as they awaited formal transfer orders from the Spanish governor in Cuba. After the completion of this transfer, Call once again resigned his commission, this time for good.<sup>6</sup>

Establishment of the First Grove Residence

After resigning his Army commission following the end of the First Seminole War and the transfer of Florida to the United States, Richard Keith Call established himself in Pensacola. He utilized his personal connections to Andrew Jackson, who was at this time the governor of West Florida, to establish himself within political circles of the territory. In 1822, Call was elected as the Florida territorial representative in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served for a single term. As territorial representative, he played a critical role in securing congressional approval of establishing Tallahassee as the territorial capital and in convincing the Marquis de Lafayette to accept a township of land in the city. Call resigned after a single term to accept a

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<sup>4</sup> Doherty, p. 1-10; Richard Keith Call Journal [transcript], State Archives of Florida, p. 3-10.

<sup>5</sup> Doherty, p. 11-13.

<sup>6</sup> Doherty, p. 14-16.

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position with the newly established federal land office in Tallahassee, where he served as Receiver of Public Monies. He took advantage of his position, acquiring vast tracts of land and building his wealth as a land speculator and developer.<sup>7</sup>

Among the tracts of land he acquired was the parcel on which The Grove now sits, which was an entire 640-acre section, Section 25, of Township 1 North, 1 West. It sat north of what was then the city limits of Tallahassee and stretched over an area roughly bounded by Brevard Street to the south, Dewey Street to the west, Tharpe Street to the north, and Meridian Road to the east. It was here Richard Keith Call and his wife Mary Kirkman Call settled. Shortly after relocating to Tallahassee, their daughter Ellen Call Long was born in 1825. The earliest reference to The Grove's name was in an 1826 letter from Mary Kirkman Call to Rachel Jackson, which was datelined from "Hickory Grove," an homage to Call's mentor's nickname.<sup>8</sup>

The first house on the property was a wood frame house likely located somewhere between the Call-Collins Mansion and the cemetery. Ellen Call Long described the building as "a plain building of several rooms on one floor, with outside chimneys and a floor," which was set about 50 yards back from the main entrance gate. There was also a small detached office building on the property, which functioned as a type of bachelor's quarters for law students of Call, which included his cousin David S. Walker and Leigh Read.<sup>9</sup>

Slavery at The Grove

Although the Call and Long family generated considerable income from later plantation operations, especially from Orchard Pond, The Grove itself was never a major plantation. When Richard Keith Call first moved to Tallahassee, he was a land speculator, politician, and lawyer whose activities often kept him away from home for weeks at a time. Despite this, slavery was very much a ubiquitous presence at The Grove. In a letter he wrote to Andrew Jackson in 1825, he references that five slaves were employed as house servants. By the time of the 1825 census, the year he moved to The Grove, Call owned ten slaves, a number which grew to 26 by 1830. Ellen Call Long mentioned the household staff consisted of at least one enslaved woman for each child in the house and an enslaved head nurse who supervised them at The Grove.<sup>10</sup> Shortly after Call deeded The Grove property to his daughter Ellen in 1851, he also deeded seven slaves along with the property to serve as house staff. Two of these enslaved individuals named in the deed, Hanover Haley and his wife Peggy, remained

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<sup>7</sup> Jane Aurell Menton, *The Grove: A Florida Home Through Seven Generations* (Tallahassee, FL: Sentry Press, 1998), 17; Herbert J. Doherty, *Richard Keith Call, Southern Unionist* (Gainesville, FL: University of Florida Press, 1961), 28, 41.

<sup>8</sup> Divoll, 16-18.

<sup>9</sup> Divoll, "The Grove Tallahassee, Florida Historic Structure Report," p. 18; Ellen Call Long, *Florida Breezes; or Florida, New and Old* (Jacksonville, FL: Douglas Printing Company, Inc., 1883) [reprint] (Gainesville, FL: University of Florida Press, 1962), p. 106-107.

<sup>10</sup> Divoll, 16-19; Long, *Florida Breezes*, 106.

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on the property as freed people after the Civil War. Call owned Hanover Haley as early as 1842, and Haley remained on the property as late as 1880, giving him close to 40 years of direct association with The Grove.<sup>11</sup>

Although the names of the builders and the architect remain unknown, it was enslaved workers who were most likely involved in every step of the Call-Collins House's construction, including the brickmaking, transportation of materials, and the construction of the building itself. Call's businesses provided him access to the enslaved personnel and materials needed to construct the building. Slavery was a crucial element in a number of Call's business dealings. The Tallahassee Railroad was constructed and staffed almost exclusively with enslaved labor. The railroad not only leased enslaved people from local slave owners, but also directly owned a number of them as well. Franz Von Gerstner referenced a total of 23 enslaved individuals owned by the company, roughly half of whom were engaged in the operation of the railroad and the other half employed in the operation of the steam sawmill and corn plantation set up to feed the animals. It is important to note that even as the number of enslaved people owned by Call grew throughout the 1830s, they were primarily domestic staff or skilled laborers.<sup>12</sup> Among them was Ben, an enslaved carpenter Call acquired along with land in 1831.<sup>13</sup> When Call and the railroad encountered financial difficulties in the early 1840s, these enslaved people were placed as collateral to help settle debts, as attested to the 25 enslaved people mentioned in an 1842 mortgage between Call and Robert W. Williams.<sup>14</sup>

Call Family Cemetery

Among the great tragedies of Richard Keith Call's life was the death of his wife and many children. Of the eight children born to the Calls, only their oldest and youngest children survived to adulthood. The oldest known burials in the family cemetery, the Calls' children Mary R. Call and Laura R. Call, date to 1832, but there were at least two other Call children who died prior to this and are likely buried here. The four oldest burials in the cemetery, two single burials and a double burial of the Call children dating from 1832 to 1834, feature arched brick structures likely contemporary with the burials along with marble headstones. Like many families living

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<sup>11</sup> The formal deed of the land dates to October 23, 1851 but it was not finalized until January 1853, when the deed of gift for the enslaved people was also made and finalized; R.K. Call to Ellen W. Long, Deed of Gift dated January 1, 1853, Leon County Land Deed Records, Deed Book K, p. 437.

<sup>12</sup> Although 1840 U.S. census figures are not precise, as the household number included both the total numbers of enslaved people (66) and the five white people considered in the Call household, only 10 were involved in agriculture while 30 were engaged in "manufactures and trades" and three were engineers. Factoring in 13 enslaved children under the age of 10 (the 10-24 age bracket were placed together), the percentage of the enslaved involved outside of agriculture is even higher.

<sup>13</sup> Franz Anton Ritter von Gerstner, *Early American Railroads*, translated by David J. Diephouse and John C. Decker, English translation of original, titled *Die inner Communicationen (1842-1843)* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1997), 737-739; Aaron Dyer to Richard K. Call and Charles E. Sherman, Leon County Land Deed Records, Deed Book C, p. 343.

<sup>14</sup> Richard K. Call to Robert W. Williams, Leon County Land Deed Records, Deed Book H, p. 5.

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in Tallahassee in the 1830s and 1840s, the Call family experienced firsthand the ravages of diseases that hit the community.

Among the burials in the cemetery is Mary Kirkman Call, whose death had a profound impact both on the future of her family and on the development of the Call-Collins House. She died as her husband, who was appointed a brigadier general of the Florida militia, was about to lead his men off to fight the Seminoles. Given the circumstances of her death, which was unexpected and occurred during a time of war, and the similarities in appearance to her grave marker to Dr. John L. Call, who died in the 1850s, it is likely that Mary Kirkman Call's grave marker is not contemporary to her death and dates roughly 20 years later. Among the other notable burials that took place here during the Call era was Lt. Col. John Green, a US army soldier during the Second Seminole War who was stationed at The Grove and died. He was later reburied at St. Augustine National Cemetery.<sup>15</sup> The cemetery remains an active cemetery to this day. With the exception of two burials, all other interments in the cemetery are of people who have a known family association with Governor Richard Keith Call. This includes Governor LeRoy Collins, Mary Call Darby Collins, Ellen Call Long, Reinette Long Hunt, and Governor Call himself.<sup>16</sup>

Construction of the Call-Collins Mansion

The exact date of the Call-Collins Mansion's construction remains unknown. The name of the builder is also unknown although it was almost assuredly constructed by enslaved craftsmen with the aid of one of the plan books in wide circulation during this period. The bricks were all produced onsite. Although the exact spot where Call made his bricks is unknown, he did have access to a steam-powered brick press and in 1841 owned at least five brick kilns containing 200,000 bricks each.<sup>17</sup> The bricks used in the mansion incorporated a byproduct of coal known as clinkers, which acted as a tempering agent to help heat the brick faster and more efficiently. There were actually two types of bricks used in The Grove. The interior bricks were completely handmade and hand-pressed. The exterior "facer" bricks, however, were made with the use of a steam brick press, which gave them greater density and a more uniform shape.<sup>18</sup>

The wood used in the mansion was brought in from outside of The Grove property. Richard Keith Call, through his ownership of the Tallahassee Railroad, had easy access to a steam sawmill that may have been used in the

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<sup>15</sup> Lt. Col. Green Butler [sic] Burial, St. John's Episcopal Church Burial Register, p. 426. Although the name referenced in burial records indicate his name as Green Butler, military records clearly indicate that his name was John Green.

<sup>16</sup> Divoll, 61-72.

<sup>17</sup> R.K. Call and GK Walker to Turbett R. Betton and Richard A. Shine, Leon County Land Deed Records, Deed Book F, p. 623.

<sup>18</sup> Oscar A. Rothrock III, "Archaeological Evaluation of Brickwork Feature (LE5117A), The Grove Site (LE5117), Tallahassee, Florida," Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archaeological Research, Florida Public Lands Archaeology (Tallahassee, FL, July 2013), 25-27.

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preparation of the floorboards in particular. It is more likely however that the wood was cut through the usage of a pitsaw, which was a two-man saw in which one person is standing on the top of the log and the other is standing underneath, usually in an open pit. This allowed for a single cut of wood along the entire length of the tree. There are a number of other elements in the house that were imported and likely came through the ports of St. Marks and Port Leon. The sandstone window sills, the marble fireplaces, the original slate shingles in the roof, and the metal fixtures in the house all came from places outside of Florida. There were also two stone keystones from the Spanish fort at St. Marks, which were later removed during the Ellen Call Long era and were sold to Henry Flagler, who installed them at his residence, Whitehall, in Palm Beach.<sup>19</sup>

The earliest reference to the Call-Collins House comes from a letter written by Thomas Hagner to his father in November 1838, in which he mentions that the mansion was under construction. In this same letter, he mentioned that Lt. Col. John Green was living in the original wood house along with Call's cousin George K. Walker. By 1840, the mansion was completed.<sup>20</sup>

The residence was in all likelihood under construction as early as 1836, when Mary Kirkman Call died unexpectedly. She was a member of a prominent Nashville family and Richard Keith Call desired to build a home for her similar to what she was accustomed to growing up in Tennessee. After her death, however, Call lost all enthusiasm for the project and as a result, there were finishing touches to the building which were never completed. The second story balcony was never added and wood blocks are standing over the columns where the capitals should be.<sup>21</sup>

Richard Keith Call and the Second Seminole War

At the start of the Second Seminole War, Call was a brigadier general in the Florida militia. He commanded the militia in support of General Duncan Clinch in the disastrous Battle of Withlacoochee. Following this battle, he returned to Tallahassee to reassemble the militia forces and was about to set sail for the Tampa Bay area when the death of his wife forced him to stay behind and handle personal business. While he was still in Tallahassee, he received his first appointment as governor of Florida in March 1836, replacing John Eaton, who was often absent. Call quickly ingratiated himself with the population of the territory for his particularly outspoken advocacy of a more offensive military strategy and his frequent criticisms of the reluctance of federal troops to venture far from their fortifications.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Menton, *The Grove*, p. 43.

<sup>20</sup> Divoll, 20.

<sup>21</sup> Divoll, 23-24.

<sup>22</sup> Doherty, *Southern Unionist*, 96-99.

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The lack of progress in the war against the Seminoles as well as the public sentiment in Florida eventually led to the removal of General Duncan Clinch and General Scott. In May 1836, President Andrew Jackson named General Thomas Jesup as commander of Florida forces, but as Jesup was still involved with fighting the Creek uprisings in Georgia and Alabama, there was some delay in his availability to assume command. The president appointed Governor Call as interim commander of American forces in Florida. Operating with the approval of both the president and General Jesup, Governor Call led a campaign through central Florida. Owing to a series of delays and supply problems, however, he had very little luck in driving out the Seminoles and was formally replaced by General Jesup in December 1836. The removal from command was a deep personal blow for Call, and led to the end of a once close friendship with Jackson. Governor Call's efforts were not lost on the citizens of the state, however, and when he arrived back in Tallahassee, he was greeted with a hero's welcome. After delivering the keynote address, he was escorted back to The Grove. Although the war lingered on into the 1840s, it was during the command of General Jesup that the tide changed in the favor of the United States, especially when Seminole leader Osceola was captured under a flag of truce in 1837.<sup>23</sup>

The Grove Property during Second Seminole War

The Grove was a center of much military activity during the Second Seminole War. Among the personnel stationed at The Grove during this time was a contingent of the 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the U.S. infantry. Antonio Proctor, a free black Seminole translator, would have most likely been present at The Grove during this time as well. In September 1840, that Lt. Col. John Green died and was initially buried in the Call Family Cemetery. As the war lingered on, a frustrated Governor Call often took matters in his own hands and planned independent militia operations against the Seminoles while at The Grove. This was particularly true in 1836, when General Winfield Scott ordered the cession of military campaigns for the summer and the disbanded state militias sent to Florida. For most of this year, Governor Call was constantly engaged in military planning and letter writing back to Washington, pushing for more resources and troops to be sent to Florida.<sup>24</sup>

Florida Constitution of 1838

Perhaps the most lasting achievement of Call's governorship was the crafting of the first state constitution of Florida, which took place in 1838 and 1839. As the Second Seminole War started to wind down, the issue of banking became the dominant political issue in the territory. By this time, the Panic of 1837 caused widespread disruption to global financial markets but did not immediately affect Florida. The opposition and support of the

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<sup>23</sup> Doherty, *Southern Unionist*, 101-106.

<sup>24</sup> Doherty, *Southern Unionist*, 99-101; Leslie Divoll, "The Grove Tallahassee, Florida Historic Structure Report," Florida Division of Historical Resources (Tallahassee, FL, 1992), 20; Lt. Col. Green Butler [sic] Burial, St. John's Episcopal Church Burial Register, p. 426. Although the name referenced in burial records indicate his name as Green Butler, military records clearly indicate that his name was John Green.

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banks became a major dividing point for what became the Whig and Democratic parties. Emerging politicians such as James Westcott and David Levy Yulee established themselves as outspoken anti-bank men. In 1837, Call ordered the commencement of the constitutional convention, which met at the town of St. Joseph the following year. The support of statehood was strongest in Middle Florida, which was stoked in part by the uncertainty of federal government protection of slavery in territories. Opposition to statehood was strongest in East Florida, which also had a strong anti-bank sentiment. Many of the anti-bank candidates from East Florida, however, were also supporters of statehood. As a result, while the convention remained divided heavily along pro-bank and anti-bank factions, the issue of statehood was slanted heavily in the favor of those in support of it. The constitution was approved in 1839, but due to national political implications driven in part by a balance of power between slave states and free states, Florida would not achieve statehood until 1845. This constitution remained in effect until 1861, when Florida seceded from the Union.<sup>25</sup>

Business Endeavors of Richard Keith Call

Richard Keith Call's personal wealth was built upon the land speculations and developments that began shortly after he arrived in Tallahassee in 1825. He established a partnership with his cousin, George K. Walker, that proved highly successful in developing much of what is now downtown Tallahassee. Call also played a role in the early developments of St. Joseph and Marianna, Florida. It was Call's involvement with the Tallahassee Railroad and the development of the railroad towns of St. Marks and Port Leon that were his most significant business enterprises.

The Tallahassee Rail Road Company was formed in 1834 with Call serving as both the largest shareholder and president. By November 1837, the railroad was in full operation, running from Tallahassee to St. Marks, which took its name from the old Spanish fortification nearby. It was one of the first railroads in operation in the territory, and for much of the 1840s, remained the only functioning railroad in Florida. The Tallahassee Railroad was later extended to the town of Port Leon, which the company founded. Described by a French traveler as "the very worst that has yet been built in the entire world," the railroad was not well-constructed. Mule teams driven by slave laborers hauled the cargo, as the split rail tracks were not fit to handle a steam engine. The railroad extended 22 miles, with a stop roughly halfway between Tallahassee and St. Marks where the company ran a plantation and sawmill to provide food for the animals and slaves and wood for the rails. Despite these difficulties, the railroad still served its purpose and generated a lucrative business both through its transportation fees and ancillary businesses such as lumber mills. Much of the financing of this work came through the Union Bank in Tallahassee. The railroad became so closely associated with Call that many people referred to it as Call's Railroad.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Doherty, *Southern Unionist*, 111.

<sup>26</sup> Doherty, 87-90; von Gerstner, *Early American Railroads*, 737-739.

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In the early 1840s, Call experienced a series of personal financial setbacks that nearly brought him to ruin. As the global cotton prices plummeted, the customers of the Tallahassee Railroad were unable to pay their freight and shipments dropped. The timing was especially bad for the railroad, as they assumed a massive debt from the Union Bank to help pay for its construction, which had just been finished to Port Leon in 1839. Both Call and Walker heavily invested in this town, either through direct ownership or cosigning on the lots sold. Port Leon was a center of much activity during its short existence. When Wakulla County was created in 1843, it became the first county seat. It was never a large settlement, however. In 1841, a devastating yellow fever epidemic swept through the town, which brought the town to a standstill. It lingered on for a couple more years before a hurricane swept through the area in 1843, completely destroying the town. The same year, a fire that started in the Washington Hotel, which was owned by Call and Walker, soon spread throughout downtown Tallahassee, destroying the entire commercial core of the city, including Call's law office. A second fire shortly afterwards consumed the Tallahassee Railroad warehouse in Tallahassee. The massive debt accumulated personally by Call during this time resulted in a series of lawsuits that were not resolved until the early 1850s. The earliest known official record specifically mentioning the Call-Collins Mansion comes from chancery court records relating to the settlement of the Port Leon debt. The Grove tract was reduced from 640 acres to 180 by the time Call deeded it to his daughter Ellen Call Long in 1853. Despite his struggles, Call was able to maintain ownership of the Tallahassee Railroad, The Grove, and negotiated the control of the Orchard Pond and Lake Jackson plantations.<sup>27</sup>

Richard Keith Call Law Practice

As a lawyer, Richard Keith Call was involved in two very notable cases in early territorial Florida, the first of which took place in Pensacola. Call first entered into a short-lived partnership with renowned lawyer and future congressman Henry Marie Brackenridge while there. Shortly after the United States assumed formal control over Florida in 1821 and Andrew Jackson became governor of the territory, he was embroiled in another international incident. The Spanish governor of West Florida, Jose Callava, remained in the city while the two countries finalized arrangements for the transfer of power. The delays that accompanied the transfer angered Jackson and reached a boiling point in August 1821. As the United States assumed control over Spanish Florida, the Spanish land grant holders pressed forward to reestablish their claims. One of these claimants, a woman named Mercedes Vidal, staked a claim on land granted to her father. She hired Brackenridge and Call to represent her. When it became apparent that relevant materials were still in the possession of Spanish

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<sup>27</sup> Doherty, 91-92; *Star of Florida*, "Dreadful Conflagration in Tallahassee," May 27, 1843, in *Florida Historical Quarterly* vol. 3, no. 1 (July 1924), 44-48; William Bailey and Henry Gee v. Richard K. Call and George K. Walker Decree, December 16, 1847, Leon County Chancery Court File No. 77; R K Call to Ellen W. Long Deed of Gift, May 29, 1853, Deed Book K p. 437, Leon County Property Appraiser Office records.



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authorities, Jackson immediately ordered Callava to hand them over. When Callava refused, Jackson had him arrested and brought before him. After an intense meeting between the two, Jackson ordered Callava to be placed in the jail until the necessary papers could be procured. After his release, Callava went to Washington to lodge a formal protest, but the necessary support to open a congressional investigation never materialized and the matter was dropped. The minor international incident was perhaps the most notable event that occurred during Jackson's brief stint as governor of Florida. Brackenridge and Call played a key role in this, as they realized that their inside access to Jackson along with his distrust of Callava gave them a better chance of success than appealing directly to the federal courts.<sup>28</sup>

After Call moved to Tallahassee, he reestablished his law practice in the city and quickly made himself known for representing land cases. Due to vagaries in Spanish record keeping and strong suspicion of rampant land fraud, there were a number of large Spanish land grant cases that remained open by the late 1820s and the federal government was looking for a final resolution. In an effort to help resolve the cases, the government also desired for someone to go to Havana, Cuba, to inspect the original Spanish archives. In 1829, Call was appointed as special agent and was tasked with retrieving either original records or certified copies of the original land records of Spanish land grants. He was also appointed as special counsel and worked alongside attorney generals William Wirt and Roger Taney in defending the United States' claims in federal courts. Initially employed for just the two largest land cases, by 1831, Call formally took over as assistant counsel for all Florida land claim cases. In total, Call presented 15 cases before the United States Supreme Court, losing every one.<sup>29</sup>

The most important of these cases was *Mitchel v. United States*. The land at the heart of the dispute encompassed over a million acres in much of what is now the Big Bend region of Florida, including modern day Apalachicola. In 1823, the Supreme Court's decision in *Johnson v. McIntosh* introduced the concept of the "discovery doctrine," which held that the Native Americans possessed no rights to the land beyond occupancy and that the "discovery" of the land by American or Europeans divested natives of the right to sell the land to private citizens or to possess formal title to the land. This doctrine became a guiding principle in Native American land rights for the remainder of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The *Mitchel* case centered around land signed over originally to Panton, Leslie & Co. and its successor John Forbes & Co. The land was ceded to them in a treaty by leaders of the Creek and Seminole tribes in 1804 to compensate for the extensive damages done to its St. Marks store and for the heavy debt owed the company by the tribes. The Forbes Company then sold their interests to Colin Mitchel, a land speculator based in Havana, Cuba. The Mitchel case also involved a number

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<sup>28</sup> Herbert J. Doherty, "Andrew Jackson vs. the Spanish Governor: Pensacola 1821," *Florida Historical Quarterly* vol. 34, no. 2 (October 1955), p. 142-153; Stuart B. McIver, *Dreamers, Schemers and Scalawags: The Florida Chronicles* (Sarasota, FL: Pineapple Press, Inc., 1994), 88-94.

<sup>29</sup> Doherty, *Southern Unionist*, 57-69.

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of adjacent land holdings held privately by John Forbes. Essentially drawing from the discovery doctrine, the Board of Commissioners ruled against Mitchel, a decision upheld by territorial judge Thomas Randall. The federal government's case was also built around the doctrine. The case made its way to the Supreme Court, and as there remained much delay in procuring the necessary documents, it was not decided until 1835. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Mitchel. As the grant of land was done with the approval of Spanish authorities, it was valid. Exactly where the Supreme Court stood in relation to the discovery doctrine was called into question following the Cherokee Nation cases, particularly the 1832 case of *Worcester v. Georgia*. The Mitchel decision essentially reinforced the discovery doctrine and made it clear where the Court stood in relation to native land ownership. This case would be the last case overseen by Chief Justice John Marshall, who died shortly afterwards.<sup>30</sup>

Call's Second Tenure as Governor

Although there is some debate as to whether the Call-Collins House was completed during Call's first stint as territorial governor, which ended in 1839, it was most certainly completed by his second tenure, which lasted from 1841 to 1844. Despite the personal humiliation of his removal from command that ended his close friendship with President Jackson, Call remained in office for a second term. He was an outspoken opponent, however, of Jackson's successor President Martin Van Buren. As a result, the Van Buren removed Call as governor of the territory. It was at this time that Call became a prominent Whig, and was very much active in the 1840 presidential election campaigning on behalf of William Henry Harrison. Call's southern origins and personal connection to Jackson made him a valuable asset for the Harrison campaign, and as a reward for his services, Call received a third appointment as territorial governor of Florida in 1841.<sup>31</sup>

From 1841 to 1844, The Grove was once again at the center of territorial politics. Although the Second Seminole War lingered on into the early 1840s, by the late 1830s, the threat of the Seminoles was effectively eliminated. By now, the effects from the Panic of 1837 finally reached Florida as the decline in cotton prices coupled with the drying up of financing brought much economic hardship, especially in Middle Florida. The economy of Florida was dominated by three large banks: the Union Bank in Tallahassee, the Southern Life Insurance and Trust Company of St. Augustine, and the Bank of Pensacola. These banks operated through a stock system, where planters and businessmen were subscribed a fixed amount of stock relative to the appraised value of the property they placed as collateral. They could then borrow money from the banks proportional to a percentage of the value of stock they held. To finance this, the banks utilized bonds underwritten by the Territory of Florida, which were largely sold overseas. The idea of this system was to provide much needed

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<sup>30</sup> Blake A. Watson, "Buying West Florida from the Indians: the Forbes Purchase and Mitchel v. United States (1835)," *FIU Law Review* vol. 9, no. 2 (Spring 2014), 361-390.

<sup>31</sup> Doherty, *Southern Unionist*, 114, 120-124.

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liquidity to the largely agricultural territory. Owing to corruption in the banks, however, especially the Union Bank, property placed for collateral were vastly overvalued. As the global cotton prices plummeted in the late 1830s, the planters in Florida and the merchants who relied upon them were unable to pay back their loans. As the banks moved to repossess the property, they were unable to recoup the money owed on the issued bonds. All three of the major banks failed, a process expedited by passage of territorial legislation mandating specie payments. This placed a vast debt on the territory, which declared bankruptcy as a result.<sup>32</sup>

Governor Call emerged during this time as the face of pro-bank politics in Florida, and became the target of much criticism from the anti-bank faction for his continued issuing of territorial faith bonds even as serious questions arose over the viability of the banks. The erection of the Call-Collins Mansion, which was the second-largest residence in Florida at the time of its construction, likely did not endear him to the populace either. The high hopes entertained by the national Whig Party following the election of President William Henry Harrison proved to be short-lived following his death. His successor John Tyler proved to be highly unpopular with other Whigs. Among Tyler's detractors was Governor Call, whose opposition to the president played a big role in Tyler's decision not to renew Call's appointment in 1844. After Florida achieved statehood in 1845, Call ran as the Whig candidate for governor but lost, effectively marking the end of his active political career. By the mid-1840s, Call moved to the Orchard Pond Plantation in the Lake Jackson region to the north of town. His daughter Ellen Call Long and her family moved into The Grove at this time, but did not assume formal ownership of the property until 1853.<sup>33</sup>

Southern Unionism

During the 1850s and early 1860s, the subject of slavery and secession dominated national politics. In the south, there were sharply divided opinions between the Fire Eaters, who were in favor of complete secession, and the Unionists, who believed sectional differences could be settled without separation. Although retired from active politics, Richard Keith Call was perhaps the most outspoken Southern Unionist in Florida. After the demise of the Whig Party, Call was a leader in the American Party, better known as the Know-Nothing Party. Better remembered today for its nativist stance, the American Party was also strongly pro-union, a platform that attracted many disaffected former Whigs such as Call who were repulsed by the Republican Party. Call served as a delegate for Florida during the 1856 American Party National Convention in Philadelphia. Eventually, however, regional animosities brought an end to the American Party. Call remained a staunch Unionist, however, joining the Constitutional Union Party during the 1860 presidential election.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Doherty, 126.

<sup>33</sup> Doherty, 126-128.

<sup>34</sup> Doherty, 146-156.

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It was at The Grove that one of the more dramatic moments of the Florida secession convention took place in 1861. Following the election of Abraham Lincoln and the subsequent secession of South Carolina, the state of Florida called for its own secession convention. Upon hearing of this, Call decided to travel to Tallahassee in hopes of influencing the convention. After arriving at The Grove, he changed his mind, however, and stayed there instead. The delegates, upon learning of Call's presence in the city, decided to pay him a visit following the successful vote of secession. Arriving onto the front steps of the Call-Collins Mansion, they confronted Call to show himself and to brag about what they had done. In response, an aging Call told them they had "opened the gates of Hell, from which shall flow the curses of the damned which shall sink you to perdition."<sup>35</sup>

In the interregnum between the declaration of secession and the Battle of Fort Sumter, Call wrote an open letter to his friend John Stockton Littell in Philadelphia. Call firmly placed the blame for the crisis over the controversy surrounding slavery and the extremists on both sides. In the letter, he laid out his belief of the constitutional protections of the institution of slavery, which he claimed civilized the Africans. He believed the federal government had no authority to curtail the expansion of slavery into the territories and the failure of northern states to uphold the Fugitive Slave Act was a direct violation of the Constitution. He viewed this refusal as no less disloyal to the Union as secession. He was still an ardent supporter of the Union, however, and hoped there were enough sensible people who could work together and keep the country unified even after the southern states already declared their independence. Call died at The Grove during the Civil War in 1862.<sup>36</sup>

**Historic Significance – Criterion A: Early Settlement/Exploration**

When The Grove was constructed circa 1840, it was the second largest private residence built in the territory of Florida. Today, it remains the largest private residence constructed during the Territorial Period of Florida that is still standing. It is also one of the earliest examples in Florida of a large masonry building constructed with the aid of a steam brick press. As the political and economic center of territorial Florida, Tallahassee has a comparatively high concentration of Greek Revival Style buildings. Among the notable residential examples of the style found in the city are houses such as the Randall House, the Knott House, Goodwood Plantation, and Bellevue Plantation.

**Historic Significance – Criterion B: Ellen Call Long (Conservation, Social History)**

In 1844, Richard Keith Call's daughter Ellen Call married Medicus Long, a promising young lawyer and politician who was a law partner of Call's cousin David S. Walker. The young family moved into The Grove in

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<sup>35</sup> Doherty, 158.

<sup>36</sup> Richard Keith Call, *Letter from Governor R.K. Call of Florida to John S. Littell of Germantown, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: C. Sherman and Son, 1861), p. 10-15, 24-25, 29.

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the mid-1840s, although it was not officially deeded to Ellen until later. Medicus Long was a native of Tennessee, where he made a name for himself as a politician and newspaperman. He served in the Tennessee state house of representatives and was a friend of President James K. Polk. After arriving in Florida and marrying Ellen Call, Medicus Long went on to serve in the state senate, nearly beating Stephen Mallory in the election for US senator in 1851. Perhaps his most notable achievement while in Tallahassee was in the crafting of the legislation in 1851 resulting in the founding of what is now Florida State University and the University of Florida. Medicus Long was also an outspoken secessionist, which placed him at odds with his father-in-law. The two even publicly debated on the subject. This also placed him at odds with his wife, who like her father was a staunch Unionist. In 1858, Medicus Long left for Texas. Although they never divorced, Medicus and Ellen Long never saw each other again and Ellen ran The Grove and later Orchard Pond as a single female head of household until shortly before her death.<sup>37</sup>

Ellen Call Long remained a steadfast Unionist like her father, even as the Civil War approached. A longtime member of the St. Johns Episcopal Church, which her father co-founded, Long stormed out of the church in anger as the minister offered his first prayer for the new Confederate president Jefferson Davis. She even hid an American flag throughout the war with the instruction that it be destroyed if she died before the war ended. She only invested \$10 in Confederate war bonds. Although she was not a supporter of secession, during the war, she very much launched herself into the aid of Confederate soldiers. She was an active member of the Ladies Soldiers Friend Society of Tallahassee, which offered sewing services to provide textiles for the Confederacy. Her son Richard Call Long enlisted in the Confederate Army. During the war, Long hosted Confederate officers and politicians and opened the house to an occasional wounded or sick soldier. Her own son spent a great deal of time recuperating from illness that nearly killed him while he was out in the field. Although they experienced the shortages of war and economic hardships during and after the war, the city of Tallahassee was spared from much of its ravages. It was the only Confederate state capital east of the Mississippi River not to fall during the Civil War.<sup>38</sup>

Ellen Call Long kept a diary throughout the war that reveals much about the daily life going on at The Grove during this time. In December 1864, in an effort to provide some entertainment for the children, Long hosted a small play at the Call-Collins House. On May 1, 1865, just days after learning of the surrender of General Robert E. Lee, Long hosted the annual Tallahassee May Day celebrations at The Grove. The brass band of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Florida Cavalry provided the music for the affair, one of the last official engagements of the Confederate army in Florida. This was followed by an evening tea at the Call-Collins House, where much confusion reigned

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<sup>37</sup> William Warren Rogers and Erica R. Clark, *The Croom Family and Goodwood Plantation: Land, Litigation, and Southern Lives* (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1999), 166-167; Sid S. Johnson, "Medicus Long," in *Texans Who Wore the Gray* (Tyler, TX: Sid S. Johnson, 1907), 186.

<sup>38</sup> Ellen Call Long Diary entries for September 1864, March 1865, May 8, 1865, June 3, 1865, State Archives of Florida; Dunn, p. 23.

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over conflicting reports regarding the war. Two days later, the news of General Joseph Johnston's surrender reached the city and the Confederate army in Florida was disbanded. Although embittered by the humiliation of the south, Long remained a strong Unionist throughout the war: "... it is time the southern people recognized their folly and the truth of having sold their birthright for a mess of pottage."<sup>39</sup> On May 10, the Union army under General Edward McCook marched past The Grove on their way to take possession of the city of Tallahassee. Later on, Long hosted General McCook and his staff at The Grove in an attempt to establish good relations with the occupying Union army.<sup>40</sup>

Involvement in Historic Preservation

The desire to reinforce national unity and shared history drove many Southern Unionists to the cause of historic preservation. In 1858, Ann Pamela Cunningham founded the Mount Vernon Ladies Association (MVLA). Created to both acquire and restore George Washington's historic home, the MVLA is widely considered to be the first truly national historic preservation movement in the United States. As news of the MVLA's formation reached Tallahassee, Ellen Call Long took the lead in organizing the state chapter, issuing the first call to local newspapers. At Long's suggestion, Cunningham named Catherine Willis Murat, a niece of George Washington, as the first Vice Regent of the Florida chapter of the MVLA. Despite the challenges in travel and communications, the Florida MVLA was successful in establishing local chapters in every county and incorporated community in the state. They were also able to raise more money per capita than any other state in the union despite the cash limitations of a largely agricultural economy. After the Civil War, Long played a crucial role in reestablishing the MVLA in Florida. It was largely through her efforts that the early records of the state chapter were saved.<sup>41</sup>

Later on, Ellen Call Long was instrumental in the founding of the Ladies Hermitage Association (LHA). She served as the first Vice Regent from Florida. She was heavily involved in one of the early important fundraisers for the LHA, which took place at the Hotel Ponce de Leon in St. Augustine in 1892. She was also active in securing artifacts for the museum, donating a portrait of Rachel Jackson originally ordered by Richard Keith

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<sup>39</sup> Ellen Call Long Diary entry for May 10, 1865, State Archives of Florida.

<sup>40</sup> Ellen Call Long diary entries for December 28, 1864, May 1, 1865, June 3, 1865, State Archives of Florida.

<sup>41</sup> Ellen Call Long Letter to Ann Pamela Cunningham, July 10, 1858, in Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington; Ann Pamela Cunningham Letter to Richard Keith Call [undated], in *Florida Breezes*, p. 259-260; F.G. Baker, "Florida State Report," in *Report of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union for 1893* (Baltimore, MD: Press of the Friedenwald Co., 1896), p. 9; Gwendolyn B. Waldorf, "The Princess and the Ladies: Catherine Murat and the Mount Vernon Ladies Association," *Apalachee* vol. 11 (1996), 88-95.

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Call that is still at The Hermitage. She also personally appealed to the descendants of the Marquis de Lafayette for furnishings to donate to the museum.<sup>42</sup>

Memorialization Efforts and Worlds Fairs 1876-1905

After the Civil War, Ellen Call Long was very active in commemoration efforts in the state. Following the war, the women in the south began forming ladies memorial associations. These groups were initially formed to locate and repatriate deceased Confederate veterans and to commemorate the dead through elaborate graveside services and the erection of monuments. The flower laying ceremonies conducted by these women served as the direct influence for what became federal Memorial Day. Long is credited with creating the Leon County Memorial Association, which was the first ladies memorial association formed in the state of Florida. The location of the state capital in Tallahassee made this group especially important in statewide efforts to promote Confederate causes. This LCMA was instrumental in the erection of the official state Confederate monument and in gaining formal recognition of Confederate Memorial Day in Florida. The group was later absorbed into the United Daughters of the Confederacy as the Anna Jackson Chapter and is still in active operation.<sup>43</sup>

The end of the Civil War brought about a remarkable turnaround for the political fortunes of the Call-Walker family. Long's cousin David S. Walker was elected as governor of Florida and another cousin Wilkinson Call became a longtime U.S. senator from the state. Long was able to use her family's connections to secure advantageous appointments for herself. A longtime advocate of national reconciliation, Long took the lead in representing Florida in the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. The Centennial Exposition was the first World's Fair to feature a women's department, and Ellen Call Long represented the state of Florida. It was here that Long made the acquaintance of a number of prominent women, including Julia Ward Howe. Although Long was undoubtedly familiar with the women's suffrage movement, her personal stance on this subject is largely unknown. Long carried out the planning for this exhibit almost single-handedly, as white southern support for the Centennial remained lukewarm.<sup>44</sup>

The Grove has an unusual connection to the world's fairs that were enormously popular in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. In addition to the Centennial Exposition, Ellen Call Long was also an active participant and delegate to several important world's fairs, including the Cotton Centennial in New Orleans (1884), the

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<sup>42</sup> Mary C. Dorris, *Preservation of the Hermitage, 1889-1915* (Nashville, TN: The Ladies Hermitage Association, 1915), 62-63; *Florida Times-Union*, "Eclipsed 'Em All," February 6, 1892.

<sup>43</sup> Ellen Call Long, "A History of the Memorial Association Formed in Tallahassee After the Late Civil War," [unpublished manuscript], State Archives of Florida.

<sup>44</sup> Ellen Call Long's Centennial efforts were well-documented in the Jacksonville publication *Semi-Tropical Monthly*, including: Ellen Call Long, "Panoramic," *Semi-Tropical Monthly* vol. I (1875), 15-17; Ellen Call Long, "Women's Work for the National Fete," *Semi-Tropical Monthly*, vol. II (1876), 22-26; and *Semi-Tropical Monthly*, "Centennial Appeal for Aid," vol. II (1876), 160-162.

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Exposition Universelle in Paris (1889) and the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago (1893). In each of these fairs, Long brought a piece of The Grove with her. During the Jamestown Exposition of 1907, the Call-Collins Mansion was selected to serve as the proposed model for the Florida Building. Although the building was never constructed due to a lack of funds, the selection of the mansion was clear recognition of the property's historical significance to the state.<sup>45</sup>

Sericulture

It was likely at the Centennial Exposition that Ellen Call Long was initially exposed to the ideas of sericulture. At this exhibit, two large flags made entirely from California-made silk caused a sensation. There were also several large displays from silk manufacturers demonstrating advances in silk reeling and manufacturing machinery. This inspired a group of Philadelphia women to form the Women's Silk Culture Association (WSCA). In the production of silk, there are two primary steps: the production of the raw silk (sericulture) and the manufacturing of finished silk products. Large-scale silk manufacturing in the United States goes back to the earliest periods of industrialization in the country. Due to prohibitive labor costs, however, the raising and reeling of raw silk never became a large industry in the United States. Silk manufacturers relied on imported raw silk from Europe, China, and later Japan to supply their mills. There was a belief amongst the women of the WSCA that with the introduction of a protective tariff for domestic raw silk and government subsidies, sericulture could become a sustainable industry. In an era of limited financial opportunities for women, some saw sericulture as a means for them to help support their families. The WSCA soon established a school on silk raising, hiring an Italian sericulturalist to run the school and attracting women from across the country in hopes they could take what they learned in Philadelphia and bring it back to their communities.<sup>46</sup>

Ellen Call Long encountered financial difficulties after the Civil War. Although she still owned Orchard Pond, she supported both of her adult children and their families, who moved in with her at The Grove. The family also continued to live lavishly and beyond their means. Long saw sericulture as a way to help improve her financial situation, and enthusiastically launched herself into the endeavor. Although it is unclear exactly when she did this, Long spent an entire year in Philadelphia with the WSCA studying sericulture. An article in the August 14, 1882, edition of the [New Orleans] *Times-Democrat* mentioned that Long and her daughter arrived in Tallahassee after an absence of two years so it is likely she was studying silk at this time.<sup>47</sup> She references her

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<sup>45</sup> Menton, 38-39; *Weekly True Democrat*, "Enthusiastic Exposition," February 1, 1907.

<sup>46</sup> Nelson Klose, "Sericulture in the United States," *Agricultural History*, vol. 37, no. 4 (October 1863), 228-231; Lorin Blodget, "Women's Work in Founding a New Industry – Silk Culture," in *Fourth Annual Report of the Women's Silk Culture Association of the United States* (Philadelphia: Craig, Finley & Co., 1884), 4.

<sup>47</sup> *Times-Democrat*, Untitled, August 14, 1882.



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training under the WSCA in an 1883 article she wrote in *The Florida Annual* titled “Silk Farming in Florida.”<sup>48</sup> Long’s stay in Philadelphia was financed by Hamilton Disston, a wealthy northern industrialist and Florida land developer. Disston also donated \$100 to the WSCA for the purpose of providing silkworm eggs free of charge to anyone in Florida who wished to start raising silk. The potential of a new cash crop to entice farmers to come to Florida was enough for Disston.<sup>49</sup> He purchased four million acres of land from the state in 1881 and through his Florida Land and Improvement Company was engaged in an ambitious drainage project to create more arable land.

In 1884, Ellen Call Long wrote a pamphlet titled *Silk Farming*, which was published in Philadelphia. The pamphlet was a shortened version of an earlier WSCA book published in 1882 titled *Instruction Book in the Art of Silk Culture*.<sup>50</sup> In fact, Long reused the same illustrations provided in the 1882 publication. The value in *Silk Farming* lay in its conciseness, as Long reduced the original 141 page book into a 47 page pamphlet. She initially printed 3,000 *Silk Farming* pamphlets and distributed them for free to any interested party. The reaction was so positive that Long printed an additional 10,000 copies, which she sold for \$.25 each after running out of the first edition. Long also wrote a regular weekly article on sericulture in the local newspaper *Land of Flowers*.<sup>51</sup>

Ever the promoter of national unity and silk, Long, working in conjunction with the editor of the *Land of Flowers*, issued a statewide call for the designing of an American flag made entirely of Florida-grown silk to be presented at the gubernatorial inauguration of Edward A. Perry. The flag was made by the WSCA as part of a live demonstration at the Pennsylvania State Fair in 1884 and was ready for presentation on January 6, 1885, when Governor Perry was formally sworn in. Much of the silk used in the flag came from The Grove property.<sup>52</sup> The flag later saw a second life as a World’s Fair display piece at the Cotton Centennial, the Exposition Universelle in Paris, and the Columbian Exposition. Long remained an important figure within the WSCA throughout the 1880s, serving as silk commissioner of the south for the organization’s exhibit in New Orleans in 1885 and later personally lobbying President Benjamin Harrison on behalf of the WSCA in 1889.

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<sup>48</sup> Ellen Call Long, “Silk Farming in Florida,” in *The Florida Annual 1884*, C. K. Munroe, ed. (New York: Vaux and Company, Printers, 1883), 112-115.

<sup>49</sup> *Land of Flowers*, “Silk Worm Eggs,” February 7, 1885.

<sup>50</sup> For a comparison, please see Women’s Silk Culture Association of the United States, *An Instruction Book in the Art of Sericulture* (Philadelphia: Women’s Silk Culture Association of America, 1882); and Ellen Call Long, *Silk Farming* (Philadelphia: The Press of Joseph Glover, 1884).

<sup>51</sup> Ellen Call Long wrote a series of articles titled “Silk Culture Department,” in the *Land of Flowers* in 1885; *Land of Flowers*, Untitled, February 7, 1885.

<sup>52</sup> *Land of Flowers*, “Florida Silk Flag and Its Presentation,” January 3, 1885; *Land of Flowers*, Untitled, September 1884. According to article, the flag was reeled at Electrical Exhibition in Philadelphia, but Annual report from WSCA clearly establishes event as state fair.

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Despite her best efforts, the sericulture industry and the WSCA itself fizzled following the end of federal subsidies in 1891.<sup>53</sup>

Forestry

It was through her interests in sericulture that Ellen Call Long became involved in forestry. Recognizing the importance of tree planting to silkworm raising, Long was a strong advocate of mulberry tree planting. Her long proprietorship of the heavily forested Grove and Orchard Pond properties gave her much firsthand experience in forest management. She was one of the founding members and only female officer in the Southern Forestry Congress (SFC), which began in 1884 in DeFuniak Springs, Florida. Although short-lived, the group was instrumental in gaining acceptance of Arbor Day throughout the south. Perhaps the most important achievement of the SFC was bringing the American Forestry Congress (AFC), now known as American Forests, into the south. The SFC was absorbed into the AFC in 1888 and ceased to exist as an independent entity afterwards.<sup>54</sup>

Ellen Call Long was one of only two women appointed as delegates to the American Forestry Congress during its 1888 meeting and was the only one to make a presentation. She presented a paper before the group titled "Notes on Some of the Forest Features of Florida," which was later published in the proceedings. In her presentation, Long observed that for southern longleaf pines, fire was an ecological necessity and that controlled burning was essential for their propagation. She took the observation further by making the connections between absolute fire suppression and the development of hardwood hammocks. In an era when northern ideas on forest management dominated forestry, her statements were very bold. Her report is considered a seminal work in the field of fire ecology. It was the first report to appear in a national forestry publication advocating for prescribed burning and the first to make the connection between fire suppression and hardwood hammocks. Years later, the University of Alabama botanist Roland Harper, a trailblazer in the field of fire ecology, was inspired to publish the first comprehensive historiography on the subject in 1913 after a critic accused him of merely restating an opinion already voiced by Long back in 1888.<sup>55</sup>

Long Grove Addition, Transfer of Ownership

As years of financial struggles started catching up with Ellen Call Long, she was forced to start selling possessions to satisfy debts. In 1887, Long sold off a large tract of Grove land to the Tallahassee Land and

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<sup>53</sup> Julia Ward Howe, *Report and Catalogue of The Woman's Department of The World's Exposition, Held at New Orleans 1884-1885* (Boston: Rand, Avery, and Co., 1885), 18, 27, 175-179; *The Evening World*, Untitled, April 12, 1892.

<sup>54</sup> Andrew Waber, "Sounding the First Discordant Notes: Ellen Call Long and Her Legacy in the Field of Fire Ecology," *Tall Timbers E-Journal* vol. 3, no. 1 (Summer 2016), 24-26.

<sup>55</sup> Waber, 26-29.

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Improvement Company, which in turn subdivided the parcels into the Long Grove Addition. This was the first subdivision in the city of Tallahassee and it reduced the 190-acre tract into a size close to roughly 13 acres by the 1890s. As debts continued to accumulate, Long reached an agreement with Charles Hunt, the husband of her granddaughter Reinette Long Hunt, in 1903. In exchange for Charles Hunt covering her debts, she would deed him The Grove and Orchard Pond properties. She would also receive an annuity and life lease. Long quickly had a change of heart, however, and tried to renege on the deal, claiming she did not fully understand the arrangement. Her displeasure at the agreement is perhaps best explained in the subsequent court case she brought against the Hunts:

Defendant [Charles Hunt] did not see plaintiff [Long] for about ten days again when plaintiff sent for defendant and stated she had decided she wanted her property back: that she had the check... which defendant had given her: plaintiff offered back the check to defendant and on defendant's refusal to accept the same, plaintiff threw said check in the fire...<sup>56</sup>

Despite her best efforts, Long was never able to reclaim ownership of either The Grove or Orchard Pond. She died in December 1905, and was buried in the family cemetery on the property. Her funeral ceremony drew a number of the state's political elite, including governors Napoleon Bonaparte Broward and William Bloxham and state supreme court chief justice Fenwick Taylor, a testament to the esteem to which she was held in the political circles of Florida.<sup>57</sup> By this time, the ownership of The Grove and Orchard Pond passed to Long's granddaughter Reinette Long Hunt.

**Historic Significance – Criterion A: Politics During Ellen Call Long Era**

Following Call's retirement from politics, The Grove remained an important gathering place for the political elite as the Call and Walker families were prominent in state politics throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Call's son-in-law Medicus Long, who lived at The Grove from the mid-1840s until the late 1850s, served in the state legislature. During Reconstruction, Milton S. Littlefield rented the property and used it as a lobbying base for what became a significant railroad swindle against the state of Florida.

**Historic Significance – Criterion B: Milton S. Littlefield (Politics)**

Although it is unclear exactly what Ellen Call Long did during the first ten years following the end of the Civil War, in the late 1860s, she rented out a portion of the Call-Collins Mansion to the infamous Reconstruction era swindler Milton S. Littlefield. Known as "the Prince of Carpetbaggers," Littlefield's name became synonymous with the notorious corruption taking place in the Republican controlled state governments of North Carolina and

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<sup>56</sup> "Memorandum in Reference to Plaintiff in Case of Long vs. Hunt," February 1, 1905, p. 5, in *Ellen Call Long v. Charles Edwin Hunt and Reinette Long Hunt*, 2nd Florida Circuit Court, June 5, 1905.

<sup>57</sup> *Daily Democrat* [Tallahassee, FL], "Earth to Earth," December 22, 1905.

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Florida at this time. Littlefield was a Union officer of colored troops who rose to the rank of brigadier general during the war. After the war, there was a rush to rebuild and expand the infrastructure of the south, which created opportunities for exploitation. Working in close conjunction with southerner George W. Swepson and New York backers, Littlefield managed to convince the state government of North Carolina to exchange \$1.2 million in state bonds for bonds in the Chatham Railroad. This number later grew to around \$4 million as they received additional considerations in exchange for completing the Western North Carolina Railroad. Instead of funding internal improvements, the money was funneled into a corrupt syndicate of businessmen, bankers, and politicians known as The Ring and Littlefield was the face of the operation.<sup>58</sup>

At the same time Swepson and Littlefield were active in North Carolina, they also set their sights on Florida. They were particularly drawn to the state by the forced sale of two railroads in receivership: the Pensacola and Georgia Railroad (P&G) and the Florida Atlantic and Gulf Central Railroad (FA&GC). In 1868, Swepson bought a controlling interest in the FA&GC, which was renamed the Florida Central Railroad. He then acquired one million dollars in P&G mortgage debt at 35 percent face value. He was able to swap the bond debt at 95 cents to the dollar into partial ownership of the new combined entity created with the merger of the two railroads. In the bids for ownership of the railroads, the Trustees allowed for the bonds to be accepted at face value as cash. Realizing there would be opposition to him outright buying the P&G, Swepson turned over his bonds totaling over \$960,000 face value to Franklin Dibble in exchange for \$150,000 in cash and a 1/3 ownership of the new railroad. With this advantage, Dibble was able to officially acquire the P&G, but granted Swepson temporary control of the railroad until he was formally paid what was owed to him. Both men knew that the \$150,000 check written to Swepson was worthless. With an official purchase price of \$1.415 million dollars on the railroads, the state of Florida was defrauded of over \$750,000 in the transaction. The money Swepson used to acquire the bonds came from the Western North Carolina Railroad Company, without the consent of the company or the state of North Carolina.<sup>59</sup>

Milton S. Littlefield was crucial to the execution of the railroad bond scheme. Like in North Carolina, Littlefield was a very effective lobbyist. During a special session of the Florida state legislature in 1869, he convinced Governor Harrison Reed to support a measure granting state money for the construction of a western railroad connecting Quincy, Florida, to Mobile, Alabama, effectively linking Pensacola to Jacksonville. The Grove was key to Littlefield's efforts, as he hosted lavish parties for the legislators and held extensive meetings here. With the secret help of Swepson, Littlefield was able to create a new railroad company, the Jacksonville, Pensacola and Mobile Railroad Company (JP&M), and managed to secure \$14,000 worth of bonds for each mile of track. Littlefield was granted authority to exchange company bonds on par with state bonds, which were sold on the

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<sup>58</sup> Jonathan Daniels, *Prince of Carpetbaggers* (New York: J.B. Lipincott Co., 1958),

<sup>59</sup> Paul E. Fenlon, "The Notorious Swepson-Littlefield Fraud," *Florida Historical Quarterly* vol. 32, no. 4 (April 1954), 234-243.

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open market. He was able to bribe authorities to delete requirements of first lien on railroad property and proof of clear ownership to land prior to issuance of bonds. This subtraction proved especially fateful to the state.<sup>60</sup>

As news reached North Carolina of the dealings of Swepson and Littlefield, controversy arose. The state of North Carolina issued a warrant for the arrest of Littlefield, and repeated requests were made for extradition. The Republican governors of Florida Harrison Reed and Ossian Hart refused to grant these requests. Desperate, the state of North Carolina issued a \$5,000 reward for the arrest of Littlefield. Governor Reed countered with a \$5,000 reward for the arrest of anyone looking to claim the North Carolina money.<sup>61</sup>

In 1870, Littlefield managed to pull an ambitious fraud on the state. At this time, he used his authority as president of the JP&M to issue \$3 million in bonds and managed to receive \$1 million in Florida Central bonds despite not having the treasurer of the company sign off on them. These were exchanged for \$4 million in state bonds, with \$1 million given over to Col. Houston and \$3 million sent up to New York to sell. This sale proved impossible, however, as word reached New York warning about the validity of the bonds. This forced the bond sale to occur in Europe, where agents for the state of North Carolina made it difficult to sell in London. Littlefield personally toured Europe, and after much difficulties, managed to sell the bonds to Dutch investors at 48% face value. After fees, only \$1 million of the \$3 million sold were realized and over 2/3 of this remaining money went to Swepson and Littlefield to cover for their expenses. By this time, the boards of directors for both railroad companies repudiated their corporate bonds, in effect making the securities backing the state bonds invalid. This triggered a series of lawsuits between the Dutch bondholders, the states of North Carolina and Florida, and the various creditors of Littlefield and Swepson that would plague Florida for the next decade. Already plagued by lawsuits from bondholders of railroads that failed due to the Civil War, the state fell into receivership. The failure of the much awaited Pensacola to Jacksonville rail connection nearly led to West Florida voting to annex itself to the state of Alabama. It would not be until the Disston Purchase in 1881 that the state of Florida cleared its debts and was able to once again use its public lands to encourage development.<sup>62</sup>

Despite warrants for his arrest in North Carolina, Littlefield lived quite openly at The Grove, assured of the governor's protection. Although he was constantly in and out of town, he used The Grove to help in his endeavors. He occupied the first floor and basement levels of the Call-Collins Mansion and kept a small staff of three northerners, a "Mr. Reed and his two daughters," to cater to guests in his absence. He was clearly cognizant of the historical associations of the property and its importance to the political elite of Florida and he used it to his advantage.<sup>63</sup> He was not forthcoming in his rent payments, however, and simply left his

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<sup>60</sup> Fenlon 241-247.

<sup>61</sup> Fenlon, 258-259.

<sup>62</sup> Fenon, 255-258.

<sup>63</sup> Daniels, 267-270.

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possessions behind while he was in Europe trying to sell the bonds. This forced Ellen Call Long to sue for repossession of his belongings in partial payment of his debts. The court case is one of the more intriguing records connected to The Grove, as it offers a room-by-room accounting of Littlefield’s possessions, which gives important clues about the historical functions of the rooms:

Parlor 1 piano, 1 carpet, 1 rug, 1 mat, 3 chairs, 2 rocking chairs  
Hall 1 hat rack, 1 carpet, 1 chandelier, 3 chairs, 1 arm chair  
East room back 1 beaureau, 1 dressing stand, 2 chairs, 1 towell rack, 1 carpet, dog irons

Upstairs

1<sup>st</sup> room 1 bedstead, 1 bureau, 1 wash stand, 1 towel rack, 1 carpet, 1 arm chair  
2<sup>nd</sup> room 1 bedstead, 1 bureau, 1 washstand, 1 towel rack, 1 carpet, 1 r. chair  
3<sup>rd</sup> room 1 bedstead, 1 bureau, 1 wash stand, 1 towel rack, 1 carpet, table, 2 chairs, 1 writing desk  
4<sup>th</sup> room 1 bedstead 1 bureau 1 washstand, 1 towel rack, table, chairs

[Basement Level]

Crockery, glass, and kitchen ware  
Hall 1 writing desk, 7 chairs...<sup>64</sup>

**Historic Significance – Criterion A: Politics During Reinette Long Hunt Era 1905-1940**

Reinette Long Hunt, who owned The Grove from 1903 until her death in 1940, was no stranger to the property. Her father, Richard Call Long, Sr., was a lawyer and judge who moved into The Grove with his family in the 1870s. Reinette grew up in the Call-Collins House along with her brother and cousins. She was an active participant in her grandmother’s silk experiments, being listed as one of the contributors to the silk flag project. She also accompanied her grandmother to the fundraiser held at the Hotel Ponce de Leon on behalf of the Ladies Hermitage Association. She married Charles Edwin Hunt, a wealthy commodities trader. The marriage was an unhappy one, however, and the couple divorced shortly after her grandmother’s death. The properties were technically moved into a trust held in her name but under the control of her brother Richard Call Long, Jr. Perhaps as a testament to the difficulties of securing divorces at the time, the case had to be granted by the state supreme court.

Like her grandmother before her, Reinette needed to find creative ways to help pay for the upkeep of the property. The Grove’s advantageous location next door to the Governor’s Mansion, which was built in on land formerly owned by the Call/Long family, made it a prime location for rentals from politicians, lawyers, and lobbyists. One of the earliest renters was the state senator John S. Beard from Pensacola, who first arrived in 1907 and stayed through 1910. Senator Beard gained notoriety at this time when he proposed on multiple

<sup>64</sup> “Schedule of Personal Property Belonging to Milton S. Littlefield...,” Divoll, p. 32.

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occasions an amendment to the state constitution officially disenfranchising African Americans. His activism on this cause also coincided with his larger ambition of receiving a seat on the United States Senate, which proved unsuccessful. A firm believer that the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was unconstitutional, Beard's goal was to bring the question of its constitutionality before the U.S. Supreme Court. As part of his efforts to gain passage on the measure, he invited U.S. Senator H.D. Money from Mississippi to deliver an address before the state house of representatives in support of what was known as Beard's Disenfranchisement Amendment. The motion actually received a majority vote in the state house (31 to 24), but was killed because it did not have the mandated 3/5 majority needed to pass a resolution for an amendment to the state constitution. This marked one of the most brazen attempts of southern legislators to more firmly establish Jim Crow laws in the South, simply dispensing of all formalities and flatly nullifying one of the key civil rights achievements of the Reconstruction era.<sup>65</sup>

Despite the unsuccessful attempt to pass the amendment, Beard threw an enormous gala for Senator Money at The Grove afterwards:

The reception was a most brilliant one. The stately beauty of the mansion, with its substantial furniture of a by-gone day, was enhanced by decorations of trailing vines, foliage plants and brilliant hued flowers, all glowing in the soft light of wax candles and Japanese lanterns without... In the dining room the table was laid, beautiful with snowy linen, cut glass and exquisite china, and tall vases filled with lovely, long-stemmed roses, alternated with silver candelabra in which candles gleamed through rose-tinted shades... Both houses of the legislature... were well represented in the large company that filled the spacious rooms, and conversation was enlivened by strains of music from a string band stationed in a little balcony above the front veranda.<sup>66</sup>

Grove Hotel Era

Hunt relied on rental revenue from The Grove throughout her tenure as owner of the property. By the 1920s, however, she became far more ambitious in generating income. At this time, she opened The Grove Hotel and began actively promoting the property. The property continued to attract lawyers, politicians, and lobbyists drawn to its location next door to the Governor's Mansion. Among the residents at The Grove at this time was Richard Ervin, future chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court. The conversion of The Grove into a hotel also coincided with the arrival of electricity and running water. Hunt and her mother Cora Long took up residence on the first floor in the dining room and parlor, opening the rest of the house up for rental. By the late 1920s, a one-story bathroom addition was added onto the east wall and the east rooms on the second floor were divided.

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<sup>65</sup> *Pensacola Journal*, "Politics and Politicians," May 1, 1908; *Tampa Morning Tribune*, "House Kills Disenfranchisement Bill by a Vote of 31 to 24; Governor Favors Canal Across State in Special Message to House," May 9, 1909.

<sup>66</sup> *Pensacola Journal*, "The Beard Reception at Tallahassee," May 12, 1909.

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The dining room on the first floor was also divided. On the rear of the building was a sleeping porch, which also included a unit.<sup>67</sup>

The Grove Community

As the Great Depression wore on, Reinette Long Hunt found herself in increasing debt. She sold off much of the land facing Monroe Street on the east side of the property and later along Third Street to the north. In the late 1930s, she constructed a couple cottages on the property to supplement the older cottage originally built by her grandmother. These cottages were in turn rented out and became an extension of her Grove Hotel operations. She formed an unusually close friendship with the residents of these cottages and the boarders at the Call-Collins House who were a ubiquitous presence at The Grove during this time. The person perhaps most associated with Hunt was Robert Aldridge, who stayed on as a handyman and lived in one of the small cottages on the property that has since been torn down. The family of Sven Jensen and his wife Joan first lived in Call-Collins House, then the former silk cottage, before moving into the Burr Cottage.

The last remaining residential cottage associated with Reinette Long Hunt is the Burr Cottage on Third Street. It was one of three cottages constructed by Hunt and was built in 1939. The original occupant of the building was Marie Fleitmann, a wealthy widow of Hermann Fleitmann, proprietor of the prominent New York textile commission house Fleitman and Company. The Fleitmanns were one-time owners of the Live Oak Plantation to the north of town. After a New Year's Day fire completely destroyed the sleeping porch on the north (rear) side of the Call-Collins Mansion and damaged the roof, Hunt actually stayed with the Fleitmanns while it was under repair. Following the death of her husband, Marie moved into the cottage, where she was residing by 1940. She did not stay long, however, as by 1945 she had left and the Jensens took up residence there. The cottage did not remain under ownership by Hunt for long, as shortly before her death in 1940, ownership passed to E.N. Brown, who sold it to the Jensens in 1943. By 1950, Clayton and Alice Burr took over the cottage, which bears their name.

In addition to renting out the property, Reinette Long Hunt, who lived here with her mother Cora Gamble Long and brother Richard Call Long, Jr., also taught art classes out of the first floor of the Call-Long House. It was at this time that she became more acquainted with the wealthy northerners who found their way into the Red Hills region. She was the last member of the family to own the Orchard Pond lands, and by the early 1900s, she started renting out the property to Tenant Ronalds, a wealthy Scottish heir who operated a quail hunting plantation. Ronalds was an avid golfer known for setting up personal golf courses on his property. Hunt also made the acquaintance of Francis C. Griscom, a wealthy heiress and champion female golfer whose father

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<sup>67</sup> Divoll, 42-44.



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owned a large quail hunting plantation in the area. Although it is unclear exactly what inspired Hunt's interest in golfing, she was very much involved in the early golfing circles in Tallahassee by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Tallahassee Country Club

In 1908, a group of people gathered at The Grove for the purpose of founding the Tallahassee Country Club. The rules and by-laws of the club were drawn up in the "back parlor" of the Call-Collins House. Reinetta Long Hunt co-wrote the by-laws of the club and was one of the first selected to the club's board of governors. The Call-Collins Mansion functioned as the first clubhouse. In preparation for this, a small 6-hole golf course was built to the north of the mansion. To the south of the mansion, tennis courts and a croquet field were added. The opening of the country club generated some excitement in the community and membership increased steadily. The county graded and improved the Adams Street approach into The Grove in anticipation of the crowds. One of the earliest basketball games played in the city of Tallahassee took place at The Grove in November 1908, likely on the tennis courts, as a group of young women formed their own team and played against students from the Leon High School. The games expanded to include male members of the country club, who played on the same days as the women and girls.<sup>68</sup> The Grove continued to host the country club until sometime before 1914, when a 9-hole golf course opened in Myers Park.<sup>69</sup>

The golf course and tennis courts which Hunt built on The Grove property proved short-lived. By 1917, she had effectively turned the back acreage of the property into a small farm operation:

Directly back of "The Grove"... there are seven acres of land in cultivation at the present time... the corn is now in tassel, the garden truck ready for the table, and the potatoes flourishing to a most satisfactory degree. There are strawberries, citrus fruits, peas, pecans, and [there] is also an enclosure where Jersey cows [and their] calves are doing splendidly. Mrs. Hunt personally oversees her small sized farm, and she also has ten acres planted in corn, fieldpeas and sweet potatoes a short distance from town.<sup>70</sup>

There were other changes taking place at this time as well. In 1915, Hunt formally sold the Orchard Pond property to Tennent Ronalds, who incorporated it into his quail hunting plantation. This effectively ended 70 years of direct association between The Grove and Orchard Pond. The loss of income from the sharecropping likely influenced her to make bolder decisions on making money. By 1919, she became involved in the Leon Storage and Seed Company along with John Aldridge. This business brought her into contact with John's

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<sup>68</sup> *Pensacola Journal*, "Tallahassee Country Club," May 1, 1908; *Weekly True Democrat*, "Opening Day at Country Club," October 16, 1908; *Weekly True Democrat*, "Basket Ball at Country Club," November 13, 1908.

<sup>69</sup> *Tallahassee Magazine*, "History of the Capitol City Country Club," September-October 2017, <http://www.tallahasseeemagazine.com/September-October-2017/Return-of-a-Classic/>.

<sup>70</sup> *Pensacola Journal*, "Tallahassee Campaign for Food Conservation," April 26, 1917.

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brother Robert Giddings Aldridge, who worked as the assistant manager of the company. Robert Aldridge later resided on The Grove property and serve as a handyman. This company proved short-lived, however.<sup>71</sup>

Florida Centennial 1924

Starting in 1923, the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce began preparations for the celebration of the centennial of the United States takeover of Florida, forming a nonprofit, Florida Centennial Celebration, Inc., to accept money and handle planning for the event. Governor Cary Hardee formally declared the week of November 9 through the November 15, 1924, as Centennial Week, giving state sanction to the Tallahassee event. Reinette Long Hunt played an active role in the Florida Centennial, which took place the following year in 1924. She served as the vice chairman of the Pageant Committee. The Grove grounds were used to host two plays or pageants, one for the white community and the other for the black community. Temporary grandstands were constructed to hold the audience. Hunt wrote the play for the white audience, titled "Historical Pageant of Tallahassee," which was held on November 12, 1924. This pageant was quite extensive, with over 500 actors involved. The black pageant, known as "The Spirit of Freedom," was held at The Grove on November 14, 1924 before a racially mixed crowd of roughly 1,500 people. It featured an all-black cast reenacting various scenes of African American history, from slavery to emancipation to World War I. There was also a demonstration of musicianship, with musical instruments and singing taking place.<sup>72</sup>

**John W. Ford and Josephine Agler Era (1940-1942)**

Death of Reinette Long Hunt, Ownership of Fords

By the time Reinette Long Hunt died in 1940, her debts reached a point where subdivision of the remaining property seemed an inevitability. In an effort to preserve the family cemetery, she deeded it to the local freemasons for a nominal fee. Following her death, ownership of The Grove went over to the siblings John W. Ford and Josephine (Ford) Agler. They were grandchildren of Joseph G. Butler, Jr., an Ohio industrialist who was renowned for establishing the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio. They were also relatives and benefactors of Reinette Hunt. Their ownership of The Grove was brief and they remained largely absentee landlords. They were the only private landowners of The Grove who had no direct family association

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<sup>71</sup> Richard C. Long, Trustee, to Tennant Ronalds, Land Deed, November 24, 1915, in Leon County Property Appraiser records; R.L. Polk and Company, *R.L. Polk & Co.'s Tallahassee City Directory 1919-1920* (Jacksonville, FL: R.L. Polk & Co., 1919), 58, 113, 122, 209.

<sup>72</sup> Paul L. Majewski, Compiler, *Official Souvenir Program: Florida Centennial Celebration* (Tallahassee, FL: T.J. Appleyard, Printer, 1924), 4, 33; *Smith's Weekly*, "Negro Pageant Splendid Event," November 21, 1924.

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with Richard Keith Call. In 1942, they deeded the property over to LeRoy Collins and Mary Call Darby Collins.<sup>73</sup>

**Historic Significance – Criterion B: LeRoy Collins (Politics)**

LeRoy Collins Legislative Career

By the time the Collins family acquired The Grove in 1942, LeRoy Collins was a promising young lawyer and politician just beginning his ascent through state politics. He was first elected to the state house of representatives in 1934, and by 1940, he was elected to the state senate. The acquisition of the property brought The Grove back into the family as well. Mary Call Darby Collins was the granddaughter of Mary Call Brevard and the great granddaughter of Richard Keith Call. Like her family members before her, Mary Call and her husband were quick to utilize the historical associations of the property to advance political ambitions. In his first state senate campaign, LeRoy Collins ran against Margaret Hodges, the owner of the prominent antebellum plantation Goodwood and he saw firsthand how the property was a tremendous political asset to her. Very early on, as they were in the process of restoring the building, they hosted legislative gatherings at The Grove. LeRoy's political ambitions were put on hold, however, after he enlisted in the United States Navy during World War II. From 1944 to 1946, The Grove sat unoccupied as LeRoy Collins was stationed primarily in Seattle, where his family joined him.<sup>74</sup>

When Collins returned in 1946, he immediately began the process of resuming his legal and political career. He was reelected to the state senate, where he made a name for himself as the Chair of the Education Committee. He played a pivotal role in the creation of the Minimum Foundation Program in 1947. This statewide program created a system of funding for rural school districts and established minimum standards for teacher qualifications. At the same time, the two state universities for white students became coeducational, as enrollments fueled by the GI Bill skyrocketed. Another instrumental piece of legislation passed was the Collins Bill, which created the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials. This legislation consolidated the state parks and historic sites and monuments and elevated them to the status of a full state agency. This greatly improved the efficiency of operations and allowed for more prioritized funding for state parks and historic sites and monuments. The bill is considered a landmark piece of legislation in the history of conservation and historic preservation in the state. LeRoy Collins, as a member of the State Park Committee, introduced and cosponsored the bill, which bore his name.<sup>75</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> Divoll, 48-52.

<sup>74</sup> Martin A. Dyckman, *Floridian of His Century* (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2006), 26-41.

<sup>75</sup> Dyckman, 43-44; Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials, *Biennial Report of the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials for the Years July 1, 1952 through June 30, 1954* (Tallahassee, FL, 1955), 8.

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Changes at The Grove

Early on in their ownership of The Grove, the Collins family began the process of restoring and rehabilitating the mansion. They covered over the flooring of the basement with poured concrete and asbestos tiles. The central hallway of the basement was repurposed into a storage room, with the original furnace removed and the holes created for the pipes infilled with cement. The Reinette Long Hunt era east addition was removed. Closets were added to the rooms on the second floor. The Grove Hotel partitions were also removed from the rooms, returning the spaces back to their historic appearance. The family also began laying the brick pavers around the property. Most of these bricks were originally used to pave Monroe Street. Following World War II, as the city of Tallahassee resurfaced the street with asphalt, the bricks were publicly available for reuse. Following the birth of their youngest daughter Darby, the Collins family built the rear two-story addition. The first floor space, known as the Florida Room, is the area of the house most associated with Mary Call Darby Collins. The first floor of this addition also held a bathroom and kitchen. The second floor served as additional bathroom space and a nursery. This addition was an important part of the preservation of the house, as it effectively rerouted the main entrance to the rear of the building and saved a great deal of wear on the historic main façade.

LeRoy Collins Gubernatorial Era 1955-1960

By the early 1950s, Collins emerged as a major statewide political figure, especially during the short tenures of Governors Daniel McCarty and Charley Johns. Governor McCarty was elected in 1952, but died the following year after less than a year in office. As the state constitution did not allow for a lieutenant governor at the time, the president of the senate was considered the proper successor to the governor until an election could be held. Hence, Johns became the acting governor of the state. Johns was a rural North Florida politician and stalwart of the political group known as the “Pork Chop Gang” who is best known for chairing the infamous Johns Committee, which was created to weed out Communists and homosexuals in state government and universities. While Collins deferred from running for governor in 1952 out of respect for McCarty, he was outspoken in his opposition to Johns and launched a full campaign against him in the special election held in 1954 to serve out the remainder of McCarty’s term. In the ensuing election, Collins won on the strength of the more populated counties in central and south Florida.<sup>76</sup>

Civil Rights as Governor

During LeRoy Collins’ first gubernatorial election campaign in 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court issued the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling. At this time, Collins publicly supported segregation but was considered a moderate on the issue. By the time he took office in 1955, the topic of segregation became a

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<sup>76</sup> Dyckman, 61-71.

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dominant theme in state and national politics as southern governments began feeling federal pressure on integration. By the time Governor Collins ran for reelection in 1956, race relations was the major concern in the gubernatorial campaign. His two main competitors, Ferris Bryant and Sumter Lowry, came out far stronger against integration than Governor Collins did. While he voiced opposition to the Supreme Court decision, Governor Collins was a firm believer in the rule of law. This was perhaps most famously stated in 1957, when the state legislature passed an interposition resolution, which in effect declared the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision null and void on the grounds that it usurped powers reserved for the states.<sup>77</sup> On the resolution, Collins handwrote:

This concurrent resolution of 'Interposition' crosses the Governor's desk as a matter of routine. I have no authority to veto it. I take this means however to advise the student of government, who may examine this document in the archives of the state in the years to come that the Governor of Florida expressed open and vigorous opposition thereto. I feel that the U.S. Supreme Court has improperly usurped powers reserved to the states under the constitution. I have joined in protesting such and in seeking legal means of avoidance. But if this resolution declaring the decisions of the court to be 'null and void' is to be taken seriously, it is anarchy and rebellion against the nation which must remain 'indivisible under God' if it is to survive. Not only will I not condone 'interposition' as so many have sought me to do, I decry it as an evil thing, whipped up by the demagogues and carried on the hot and erratic winds of passion, prejudice, and hysteria. If history judges me right this day, I want it known that I did my best to avert this blot. If I am judged wrong, then here in my own handwriting and over my signature is the proof of guilt to support my conviction.<sup>78</sup>

Following his election in 1956, Governor Collins' public stance on the issue of integration took a marked turn. His second inaugural address, which was written at The Grove, signaled the beginning of his shift on the subject. In addition to upholding the supremacy of law and order as he stated before, he made a bold statement acknowledging the limitations of opportunities for African Americans and challenging white Southerners to change their way of thinking on the matter. His stance placed him at odds with the Pork Chop Gang who controlled the legislature, most of whom were segregationists.<sup>79</sup>

In 1957, Governor Collins was selected as chairman of the Southern Governors Association in what was seen as a victory for southern moderates. It was at this time that the national civil rights fight shifted to Little Rock, Arkansas. The governor of Arkansas, Orval Faubus, a staunch segregationist, refused to cooperate in integrating public schools in Little Rock, first deploying the Arkansas National Guard to bar the entry of black schoolchildren then later withdrawing the National Guard, leaving the children at the mercy of mobs. This

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<sup>77</sup> Dyckman, 110-125.

<sup>78</sup> Florida House of Representatives, "House Concurrent Resolution No. 174: A Resolution to Declare the United States Supreme Court Decisions Usurping the Powers Reserved to the States and Relating to Education, Labor, Criminal Procedure, Treason and Subversion to be Null, Void and of No Effect; To Declare that a Contest of Powers has Arisen Between the State of Florida and the Supreme Court of the United States; To Invoke the Doctrine of Interposition; and for Other Purposes," State Archives of Florida, p. 9.

<sup>79</sup> Dyckman 148-151.



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Collins' experiences as a young man encountering difficulties in finding a suitable college nearby drove him to personally push for an expansion of post-secondary educational opportunities in Florida while governor. During his administration, the University of South Florida in Tampa was founded and the state's community college system expanded.<sup>83</sup>

1956 Election

LeRoy Collins made history when he won the 1956 gubernatorial election. He became the first sitting governor of Florida ever to be reelected. He also became the first Democratic Party gubernatorial candidate to win the party primary outright without a runoff election. The Grove featured prominently in the campaign, as the Collins family hosted a half hour television program from the family property on the eve before the primary.<sup>84</sup>

Second Governor's Mansion

The Collins family, particularly Mary Call Darby Collins, were instrumental in the planning of the current Governor's Mansion during its construction. Mary Collins solicited the help of James Lowry Cogar, who worked with Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, to help select the furnishings of the new mansion. When the Governor's Mansion was finished in 1957, the Collins family was the first to reside in the building.<sup>85</sup>

1960 Democratic National Convention

LeRoy Collins' stance as a moderate southern governor and his March 1960 speech in Jacksonville gained him national attention. He was selected as the chairman of the 1960 Democratic National Convention, which resulted in the selection of John F. Kennedy as Democratic candidate for president. He was one of the speakers at the convention as well, and was among those considered for the vice presidency, a spot that went to Lyndon B. Johnson.<sup>86</sup>

National Association of Broadcasters (1961-1964)

After his appearance in the convention, the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) offered Collins a position as president of the organization. This position brought him to the center of national politics in Washington, DC, where he was expected in part to lobby for industry interests on Capitol Hill. He was

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<sup>83</sup> Dyckman, 87.

<sup>84</sup> Dyckman, 123.

<sup>85</sup> Menton, 78.

<sup>86</sup> Dyckman, 206-209.

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particularly outspoken in his criticisms of the broadcasting industry, a stance which drew enemies. He was a firm believer that the best way to avoid FCC interference was for the broadcasting industry to impose stricter regulations on itself. Collins openly opposed tobacco advertising targeting children, citing growing evidence of its risks to health. He also grew more outspoken against the racial violence taking place in the south at this time, and although he was able to keep his job after misconstrued remarks made wide press after President Kennedy's assassination in connection to Southern racism, it was clear to him that he was not getting support from the NAB. He stepped down in 1964 to accept a newly created position as director of the Community Relations Service.<sup>87</sup>

Community Relations Service (1964-1966)

The Community Relations Service (CRS) was created as a result of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964. This agency, which was originally placed under the Department of Commerce, served as a liaison between the government and civil rights organizations. It was formed in part to help ensure federal laws were being implemented properly. President Lyndon B. Johnson personally appointed LeRoy Collins to this post. Within the first nine months of its existence, the CRS handled 213 cases from 120 communities in 28 states across the country. Although the work of the agency was intended to be kept largely in secrecy, the position of director brought Collins to the national forefront of the civil rights struggle. He was often called to give public speeches and was interviewed by national media outlets. By this time, he was publicly fully in support of civil rights and was outspoken in his criticisms over segregation. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 left a lot to be desired in the way of full equality in the voting booth. Discontent over this boiled over in Selma, Alabama.<sup>88</sup>

Selma March

In Selma, a group of protestors led by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) grew restless with the delays and began a march to the state capital in Montgomery following the death of protestor Jimmie Lee Jackson. Alabama governor George Wallace vehemently opposed the march, and ordered state troopers to Selma, where they were accompanied by Dallas County Sheriff James Clark and a group of deputized civilians. On March 7, 1965, in what became known as "Bloody Sunday," protestors attempted to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The Alabama state police ordered the marchers to disperse, and when they did not do so quick enough, the troopers and local police charged into the crowd. The resulting confrontation, which resulted in over 90 people in need of medical care, was soon broadcasted across the country on television. The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., immediately began plans to resume a second march on March 9.<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>87</sup> Dyckman, 214-222.

<sup>88</sup> Dyckman, 223-227.

<sup>89</sup> Dyckman, 228-230.



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It was at this time that President Johnson, looking to avert a second disastrous confrontation, called on Collins to go to Selma in an attempt to convince King to wait for the federal district courts to grant an order of protection for the marchers. Collins played a pivotal role in the ensuing events, especially on the second march. He served as the liaison between the civil rights protestors, the state and local authorities, and the federal government. He also functioned as President Johnson's eyes and ears on the ground and reported back to the president events as they were happening in real time. Realizing the futility of calling off the march, Collins proposed as a compromise that King would lead the marchers up to the Pettus Bridge, where they would say a prayer and then return to the church from where they started. Collins was able to get the cooperation of the Alabama state police and local authorities on the matter and personally assured King that he would be safe. Known as "Turnaround Tuesday," King's decision to say a prayer and go back caused much consternation amongst protestors unaware of the secret negotiations taking place between the SCLC and the authorities.<sup>90</sup>

Collins received much praise from the president for his handling of the matter, and was invited to the White House for a personal dinner with President Johnson and his wife. Collins was personally present when President Johnson gave one of the keynote speeches of his administration in support of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. After much delay, the federal injunction against the march was finally lifted on March 17, 1965. The third march commenced on March 21, and Collins was once again sent to Selma to help with arrangements. A photograph of Collins talking to Andrew Young with the Rev. King and his wife alongside them saw wide circulation back in Tallahassee. In August 1965, President Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act, and in appreciation for Collins' service, gave him one of the pens from the occasion. He also rewarded Collins with a new appointment as Undersecretary of Commerce. With no successor appointed to replace him at the CRS, however, Collins continued to oversee the agency.<sup>91</sup>

Although Selma was his most notable achievement during his tenure as head of the CRS, Collins was also present on the ground during the Watts Riots that swept through Los Angeles in 1965. President Johnson sent him to Los Angeles to personally oversee the distribution of federal poverty funds and the creation of a community agency in the aftermath of the riots. Shortly before Collins resigned as Undersecretary of Commerce, the CRS was moved to the Department of Justice over his objections. In 1966, Collins formally stepped down from the Department of Commerce to run for U.S. senator from Florida.<sup>92</sup>

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<sup>90</sup> Dyckman, 230-231.

<sup>91</sup> Dyckman, 231-233

<sup>92</sup> Dyckman, 234-239.

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End of Political Career

In 1968, Collins ran for the open U.S. Senate seat in an effort to revive his elective political career. His background with the CRS and open support of integration worked against him, however, as his opponent widely used images from Selma. Collins lost the election. His failure to secure the senate seat marked the end of his political career. He instead turned his attention full time to his legal practice, which he remained involved in until his retirement. Collins lived to see himself vindicated, however, and received numerous accolades recognizing his leadership in Florida, including the naming of a county library after him and recognition as a Great Floridian by the Florida Department of State. The state house of representatives declared him as the Floridian of the Century.

**Historic Significance – Criterion B Mary Call Darby Collins (Conservation)**

After her husband's political career, Mary Call Darby Collins established herself in the field of historic preservation. Her longtime stewardship of The Grove and her efforts to both restore the building and open it to the public drew attention in preservation circles. In 1961, shortly after her husband accepted a position with the NAB, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association invited Mary Collins to serve as the Vice Regent for the state of Florida. She served in this capacity for over 20 years. She was also a member of the Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board. Mary Collins was particularly instrumental in several prominent local historic preservation projects, including the Union Bank and the Old Capital. In recognition for her long interest in the field, Mary Call Darby Collins was named as a Great Floridian by the Florida Department of State. The Mary Call Darby Collins Award was created by the Florida Department of State to honor excellence in historic preservation volunteering.

First Grove Museum

By the mid-1950s, as the Collins family moved into the Governor's Mansion next door, Mary Collins was looking for ways to both generate income for the property and to properly commemorate its history. She worked again with Cogar to open the Call-Collins Mansion as a museum. Cogar used his connections back in Europe to pursue period furniture pieces to fill out the house. There were also some improvements to the house itself, as the current stoop leading into the historic main entrance was built. Starting in 1959, The Grove was leased to Cogar and was open 6 days a week. Members of the public were allowed access to the first floor and basement. A small ticket booth was constructed, which was later demolished. Alice Burr, who resided in the Burr Cottage, was the hostess manager. When opened, it was one of the first historic house museums in the city of Tallahassee. The museum failed to turn a profit, however, and by the early 1960s was closed.<sup>93</sup>

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<sup>93</sup> Divoll, 52-53.

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**Historic Context 1968-Present**

The Collins family continued to acquire property after taking over The Grove. They managed to reacquire the cottages plus the property fronting Monroe Street to the east. The Freemasons deeded the family cemetery back to Mary Call Darby Collins in the 1970s. They also built a detached garage building to the east. Long wishing to protect the building and open it to the public, the family deeded The Grove to the state of Florida in 1985. Governor and Mrs. Collins were granted five year leases on the property with unlimited renewals at the option of Mrs. Collins. All living descendants of LeRoy and Mary Call Darby Collins alive in 1985 and their spouses were granted rights to burial in the cemetery. LeRoy Collins died in 1991 and Mary Collins lived in the house until her own death in 2009. Although the state has owned the property since 1985, the date of its effective management dates to after Mary Collins' death.

Starting in 2010, the state began an intensive multi-year restoration project of the Call-Collins Mansion and the surrounding Grove property in preparation for opening it to the public as a state museum. The remnants of the historic cottages with the exception of the Burr Cottage were demolished and the Burr Cottage repurposed into administrative offices. The former detached garage was repurposed into an outdoor public restroom building. The cemetery underwent some basic restoration work, particularly the Mary Call Brevard headstone, which was pieced back together. A sidewalk connecting the Burr Cottage to the Call-Collins Mansion was also added. The most recent work on the surrounding property was the construction of a new brick welcome fence and parking lot on the east, which was completed in 2016.

The Call Collins Mansion itself saw the most intensive work. The roof was replaced with lightweight vinyl composite shingles to alleviate the stress on the roof beams. The wood beams in the attic, much of which was still visibly charred from the New Year's Day fire, were also either reinforced or replaced. The building had significant stabilization issues arising from a combination of moisture issues and insufficient foundation work. During the Collins era, the type of paint used on the interiors sealed in the moisture in the otherwise porous bricks. This caused both the mortar and the bricks themselves to start to crumble in some areas, especially near the windows the chimneys. The bricks were refaced and the mortar repointed, with steel helical wall ties added in some areas to provide reinforcement to the walls. The foundations of the building were also reinforced with new footers. As a result of moisture damage, the wood in the windows are almost all a complete replacement. Most of the original glass panes, however, were salvaged. The original wood shutters were replaced with storm-grade shutters matching the appearance of the originals. These shutters are functional and have impact resistant fiberglass backing panels that protect the windows from natural disasters.

The building has undergone a number of changes connected to modernization. During the installation of the foundational footers, workers found channels that led to a previously undiscovered cistern that is contemporary to the house. As part of its larger goal of achieving LEED certification for the building, the state decided to

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repurpose the cistern. The gutters on the roof were connected to downspouts that fed directly into the cistern. A water pump was installed into the cistern that allowed for the surrounding property to be irrigated without relying on the municipal water supply. To improve with ADA accessibility issues, an elevator was installed using existing doorways. In order to accommodate a modern HVAC, drop ceilings were added to the basement and the closet spaces in the first and second floors reused for air conditioning and heating ducts. A modern kitchen was added in the rear addition and a new bathroom was also installed on the first floor. A handicapped accessible wheelchair ramp was put in place on the rear of the building as well. After the intensive rehabilitation work, the building opened as a public museum in 2017.

**Architectural Context – Greek Revival Style**

The Greek Revival style of architecture began in the United States in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was inspired in part by Early Classical Revival buildings such as Monticello and the democratic ideals of ancient Greece. The Greek Revival Style gained in popularity after the War of 1812, when anti-British sentiment was high and people were turning away from traditional English building styles. Starting with public buildings in Philadelphia, the style really took off in the 1820s as the Greek War of Independence drew a lot of sympathy from the United States. By the 1830s, it was the dominant style of domestic architecture in the United States. It soon spread throughout the country, especially in the rural South thanks in large part to the wide availability of plan books such as *The Principal House Planner* by Asher Benjamin and *The Modern Builder's Guide* by Minard Lafever. It was so ubiquitous during this period that at the time it was known as the National Style. Although the Greek Revival Style was already starting to fall out of favor in some of the more industrialized cities of the north by the 1840s, it remained very popular in the South up until the beginning of the Civil War.<sup>94</sup>

The style is perhaps best distinguished by low-pitched gable or hipped roofs, prominent cornice lines with wide trim extending along the rooflines, independent full-height or full-width porticos, and prominent main entrances highlighted by sidelight and transom lights incorporated into door surrounds. Greek Revival Style buildings also often featured balanced elevations and incorporated decorative pilasters into the interiors and exteriors.<sup>95</sup>

**Architectural Significance**

The Call-Collins House is a high style example of Greek Revival architecture. The full-height portico, prominent main entrance, incorporation of decorative pilasters, accentuated cornice lines, low pitched hipped roof, and balanced floorplans and fenestration are all character-defining features of the style.

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<sup>94</sup> Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2015), 250-251, 264.

<sup>95</sup> *Ibid.*, 247-250.

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As the political and economic center of territorial Florida, Tallahassee has a comparatively high concentration of Greek Revival Style buildings. Among the notable residential examples of the style found in the city are houses such as the Randall House, the Knott House, Goodwood Plantation, and Bellevue Plantation. When it was built in 1840, the Call-Collins House was the second largest private residence constructed in Florida. It remains the largest private residence built in territorial Florida that is still standing. It is the largest and highest style example of historic Greek Revival residential architecture in Tallahassee. The Call-Collins House was also one of the earliest buildings to incorporate a steam brick press in its construction, which was revolutionary for Territorial Florida.

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*Tallahassee Magazine*, "History of the Capitol City Country Club," September-October 2017, <http://www.tallahasseemagazine.com/September-October-2017/Return-of-a-Classic/>.

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*Weekly True Democrat*, "Basket Ball at Country Club," November 13, 1908.

\_\_\_\_\_, "Enthusiastic Exposition," February 1, 1907.

\_\_\_\_\_, "Opening Day at Country Club," October 16, 1908.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 5 The Grove (Boundary Increase and Additional  
Documentation)  
Tallahassee, Leon County, FL

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William Bailey and Henry Gee v. Richard K. Call and George K. Walker Decree, December 16, 1847, Leon  
County Chancery Court File No. 77.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1 The Grove (Boundary Increase and Additional  
Documentation)  
Tallahassee, Leon County, FL

---

**UTM References**

- 5) 16R 761061 3371809
- 6) 16R 760893 3371808

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of The Grove encompasses the entirety of parcel number 2125204190000 and parcel number 2125204880000 of the Leon County Property Appraiser office records.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the property historically associated with The Grove during the LeRoy and Mary Call Darby Collins era.



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

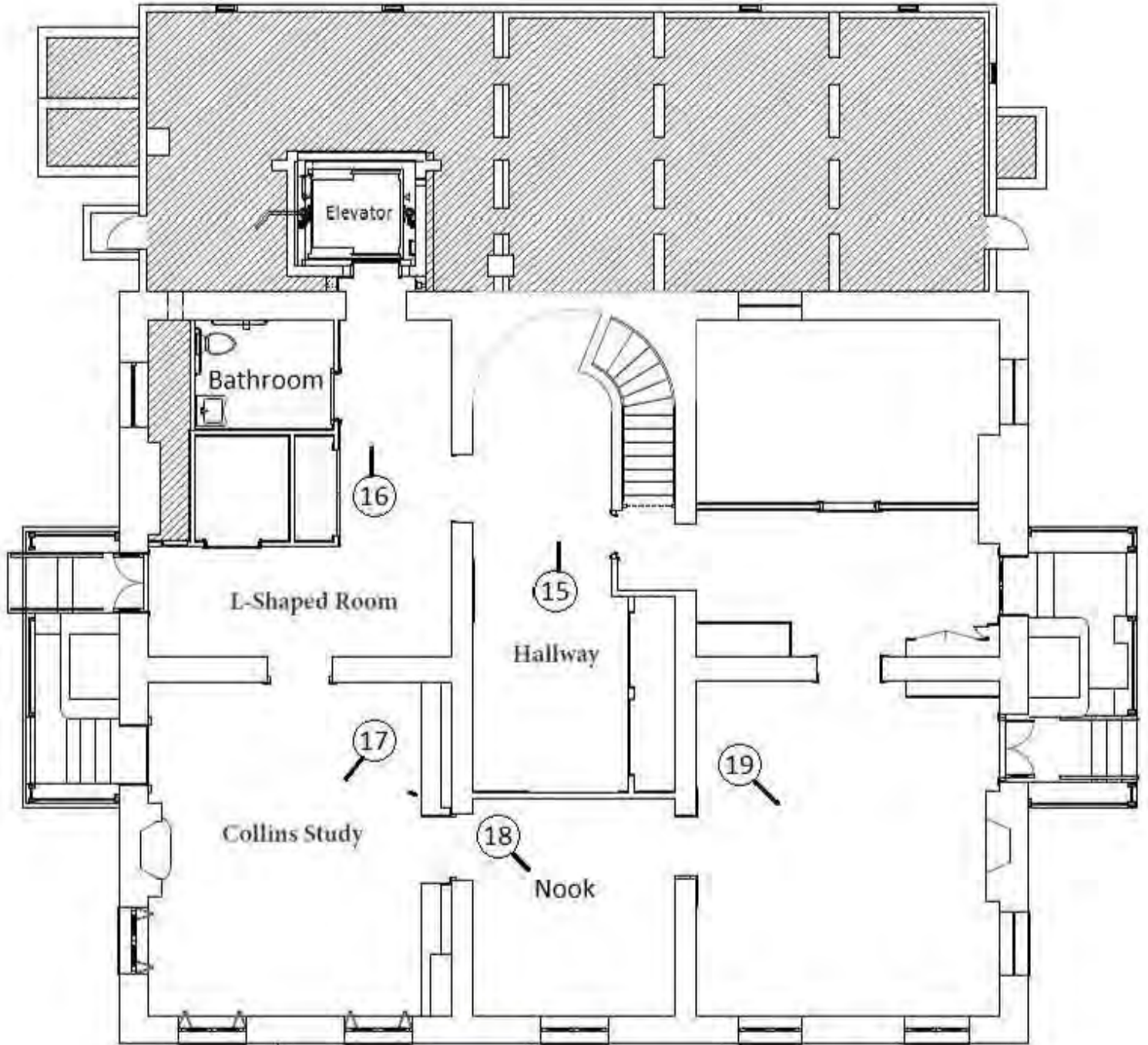
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number	Photos	Page	2	The Grove (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation) Tallahassee, Leon County, FL
	_____	_____		

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- 30. View of first floor Florida Room, facing east
- 31. View of first floor Florida Room, facing west
- 32. View of second floor east room of addition, facing north
- 33. View of historic nursery in middle room of second floor addition, facing south
- 34. View of first floor elevator door, facing north
- 35. View of south and east elevations of Burr Cottage, facing northeast
- 36. View of north elevation of Burr Cottage, facing south
- 37. Interior view of Burr Cottage historic dining room, facing northeast
- 38. Interior view of Burr Cottage historic bedroom, facing northwest
- 39. Interior view of Burr Cottage kitchen, facing north
- 40. View of Burr Cottage detached carport, facing southwest
- 41. View of Call Family Cemetery, facing northwest
- 42. Detail view of contributing historic cistern, facing south
- 43. View of non-contributing bathroom building, facing southwest

**Call-Collins House Basement**  
**The Grove, Tallahassee, Leon Co., FL**



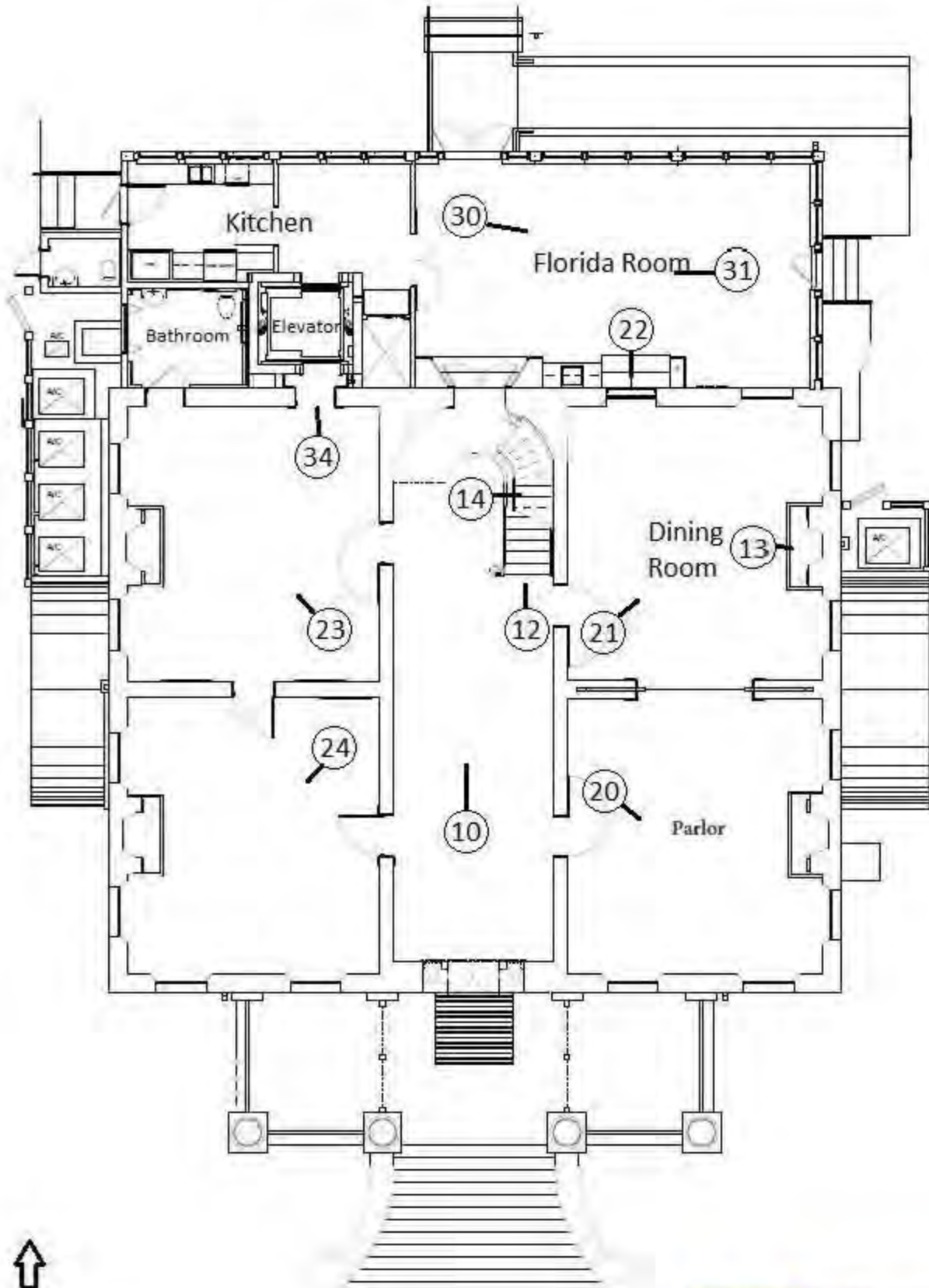
**MLD Architects, inc.**

ARCHITECTURE - INTERIOR DESIGN - PLANNING  
811 Leon Ross Blvd. Suite 105 Tallahassee, Florida 32309  
904.433.1541 Fax 904.433.1542  
904.209.9001 www.MLDarch.com AIA(0128)



Note: Not to Scale

Call-Collins House First Floor  
The Grove, Tallahassee, Leon Co., FL



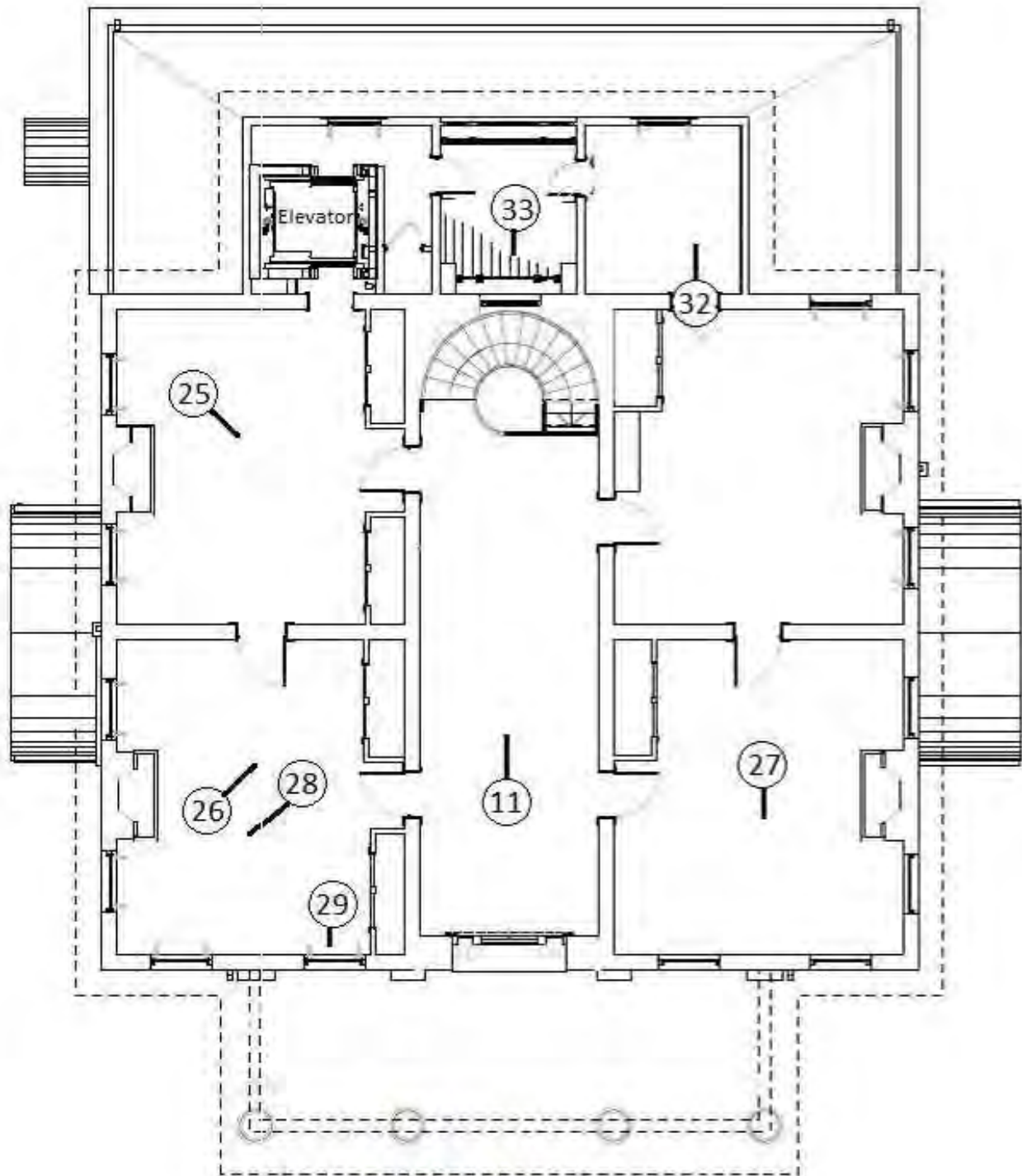
Note: Not to Scale

**MLD** Architects, inc.

ARCHITECTURE • INTERIOR DESIGN • PLANNING

211 John Knox Road, Suite 105 Tallahassee, Florida 32303  
904-432-0140 Fax 904-432-0140  
904-432-0076 www.mldarch.com AACR12/1

Call-Collins House Second Floor  
The Grove, Tallahassee, Leon Co., FL



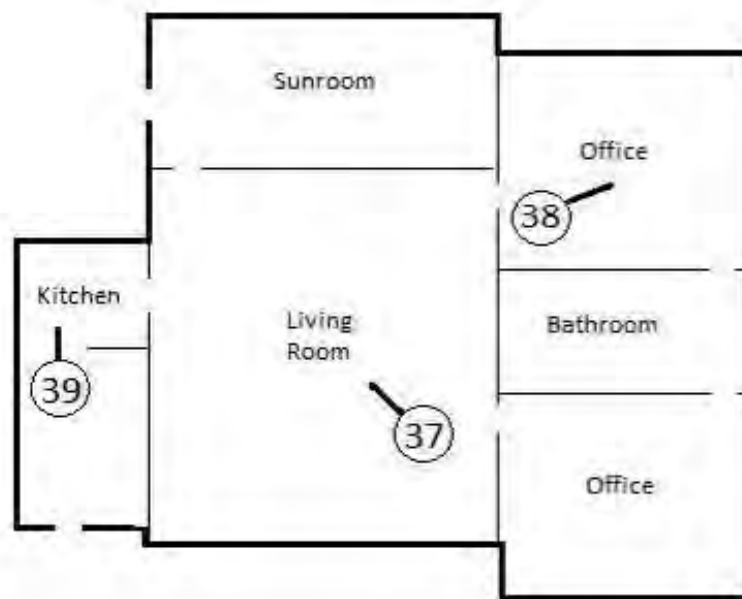
**MLD** Architects, inc.  
ARCHITECTURE • INTERIOR DESIGN • PLANNING  
311 John Knox Road, Suite 106, Tallahassee, Florida 32305  
(904) 221-2161 Fax: (904) 221-2162  
(904) 224-4236 www.mld-architect.com AAC#128



Note: Not to Scale



**Burr Cottage Interior**  
**The Grove, Tallahassee, Leon Co., FL**



Note: Not to Scale

# The Grove

100 West First Avenue  
Tallahassee, Leon Co., FL

UTM

- 1) 16R 760894 3372069
- 2) 16R 761061 3372071
- 3) 16R 761069 3371886
- 4) 16R 761059 3371886
- 5) 16R 761061 3371809
- 6) 16R 760893 3371808

1:4,000

Date: 4/3/2018

0 170 340 680 Feet

0 40 80 160 Meters

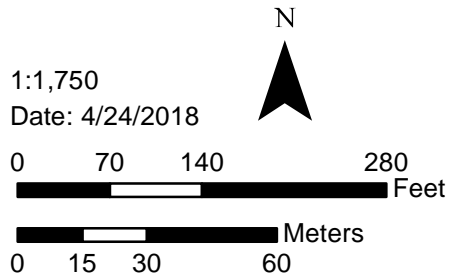
Basemap Source: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



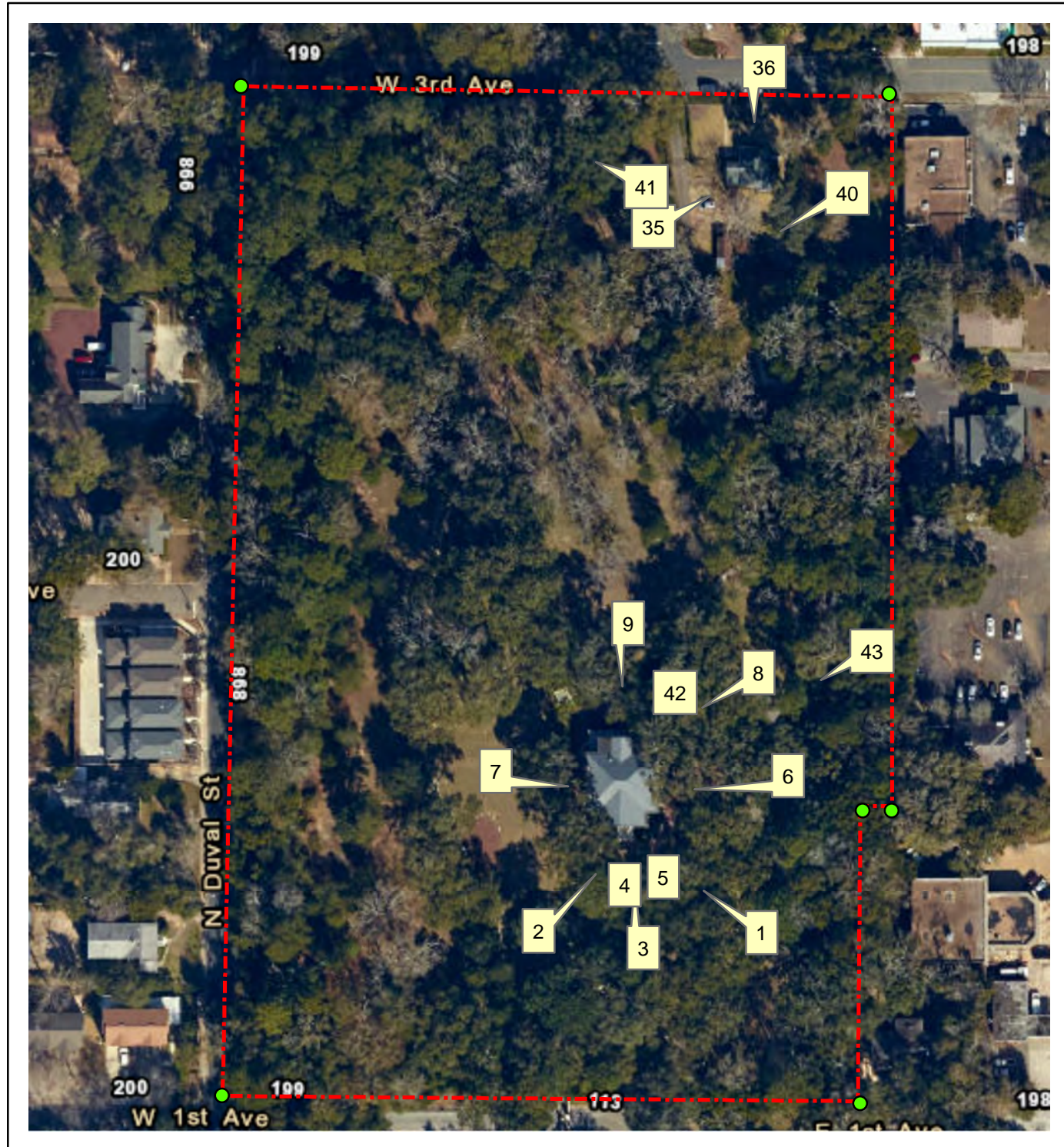
# The Grove

100 West First Avenue  
Tallahassee, Leon Co., FL

Exterior Photo Key



Basemap Source: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



# The Grove

100 West First Avenue  
Tallahassee, Leon County  
Florida 32303


UTM:

16R 760894 3372069  
16R 761061 3372071  
16R 761069 3371886  
16R 761059 3371886  
16R 761061 3371809  
16R 760893 3371808

Datum: WGS84

USGS Quad: Tallahassee

## Legend

 The\_Grove

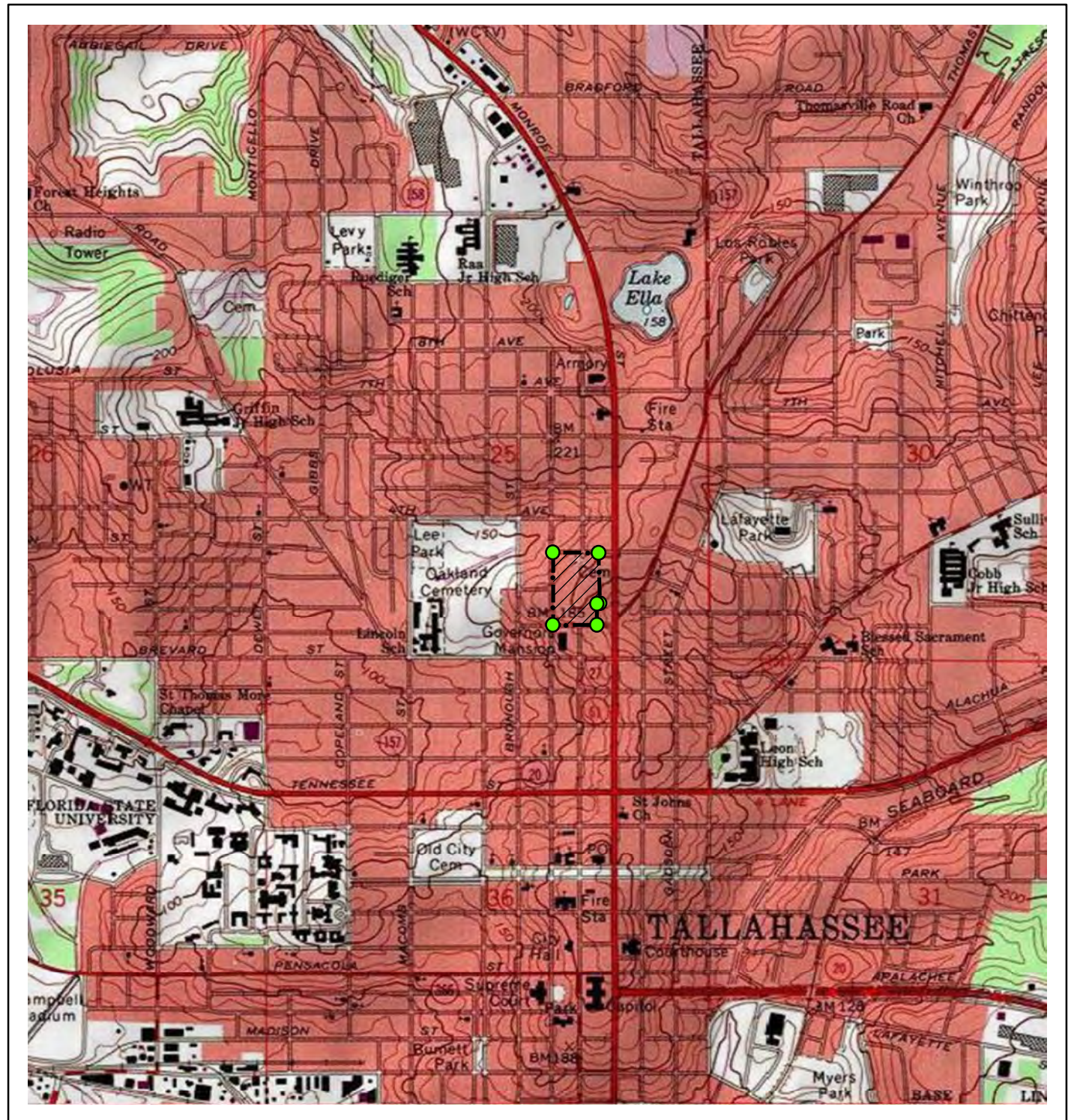
Date: 2/12/2019

1:24,000

0 1,000 2,000 4,000  
Feet

0 250 500 1,000  
Meters

Source: © 2013 National Geographic  
Society, i-cubed























NON-SMOKING  
BUILDING AND  
GROUNDS

















From Slavery to  
**CIVIL RIGHTS**

The struggle for civil rights in America is a long and complex one. It is a story of courage, sacrifice, and the pursuit of justice. The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s was a pivotal moment in American history, leading to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. These laws were instrumental in ending legal segregation and ensuring equal rights for all citizens.

The legacy of the Civil Rights Movement continues to shape our society today. It is a reminder of the power of non-violent resistance and the importance of standing up for what is right. We must continue to work towards a more just and equitable society for all.



LADY COLLINGS









**AT THE DESK  
OF THE GALLANT**

When the room was first used as a study, it was furnished with a desk and a chair. The desk was made of mahogany and had a built-in inkwell. The chair was a Windsor chair, which was a popular style in the 18th century. The room was also decorated with a lamp and a vase. The room was used as a study until the 19th century, when it was converted into a parlor. The room was then furnished with a sofa and a table. The room was used as a parlor until the 20th century, when it was converted into a museum. The room is now a museum and is open to the public.







Small informational plaque below the portrait.





Small informational plaque below the portrait of the man.



Small informational plaque below the portrait of the woman.





**A FLORIDA HISTORIAN**

*From Preservation to*  
**PRESERVATION**

*At the Desk*  
**OF A HISTORIC MANUSCRIPT**

*Author: Barbara Stinson*

*It was the year 1967 when the first issue of the journal Florida Historical was published. The journal has since become a leading source of information on Florida's past. It is a quarterly publication of the Florida Historical Society, which was founded in 1947. The journal is published in cooperation with the University of Florida Press.*

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**From Preservation to PRESERVATION**

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**At the Desk OF A HISTORIC MANUSCRIPT**

*Author: Barbara Stinson*

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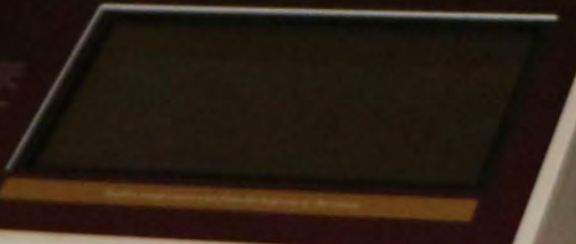


A white, paneled display cabinet with a glass top. Inside the cabinet, there are several artifacts: a white bowl, a plate with a floral design, a red card, and several informational cards. The cabinet is positioned in the center of the room.





THE HOTEL





Small informational card below the painting.





this damned homework"

Roy Collins

Dec 5, 1948

(your  
1948  
1948)



THE GROVE

Section	Content
Introduction	Overview of the site and its history.
Historical Context	Timeline of events and key figures.
Architectural Details	Information about the building's design and construction.
Current Status	Details about the site's present use and future plans.

First Aid

Handwashing station with a wooden chair.

















OPEN  
TICKETS AT  
THE HOUSE

A wooden shelving unit on the left side of the room. The top shelf holds a black printer, a pink bag, and various papers. Below, there are several shelves filled with boxes, folders, and other office supplies. A small orange ball sits on the top shelf next to the sign.



A tall wooden bookshelf in the center of the room. The top is cluttered with several cardboard boxes. The shelves below are filled with books, binders, and stacks of papers. A window with white blinds is visible behind the bookshelf.



A wooden dining table with a rounded top and four cane-back chairs. A small card or paper is on the table. To the right, there is a window with a colorful paper banner hanging above it. A grey office chair is also visible near the window.





Private





++  
LEROY COLLINS JR.  
1914-1984  
SEPTEMBER 10, 1914  
JULY 29, 1984  
*Beloved Husband  
of Mary Collins*

WILLIAM KATHAL  
GRAND FATHER  
1840-1910





National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Boundary Update Shortened Comment Period (3 days)  
Property Name: Grove, The (Boundary Increase)  
Multiple Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
State & County: FLORIDA, Leon

Date Received: 3/29/2019 Date of Pending List: 4/22/2019 Date of 16th Day: 4/25/2019 Date of 45th Day: 5/13/2019 Date of Weekly List: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference number: BC100003925  
Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason For Review: \_\_\_\_\_

X Accept  Return  Reject 4/25/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The resubmitted document addressed the procedural, substantive, and technical changes of the return(s). Provides additional information for the original property and expands the boundary to include the whole of the extant landholding. Brings the POS up to include the importance of the house in both politics and in conservation as an early preservation effort, as well as the significant activities of many of the occupants of the property during its long tenure.

Recommendation/ Criteria Accept / A, B, and C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE**

**RICK SCOTT**  
Governor

**KEN DETZNER**  
Secretary of State

June 18, 2018

Dr. Julie Ernstein, Deputy Keeper and Chief,  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Ernstein:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the **additional documentation** for the **The Grove (NPS# 72000335, FMSF#: 8LE00179), in Leon County**. The related materials (digital images, maps, and site plan) are included.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6364 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Ruben A. Acosta  
Supervisor, Survey & Registration  
Bureau of Historic Preservation

RAA/raa

Enclosures

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



OMB No. 1024-0018  
A072000335

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Grove (Additional Documentation)

other names/site number LE179

2. Location

street & number 100 West First Avenue N/A  not for publication

city or town Tallahassee N/A  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Leon code \_\_\_\_\_ zip code 32303

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Glissa Totane, DSHPO 6/18/18  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
  - See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
1	0	sites
0	1	structures
1	0	objects
5	2	total

**Name of related multiple property listings**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

FUNERARY: cemetery

GOVERNMENT: government office

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum

FUNERARY: cemetery

GOVERNMENT: government office

Returned

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Politics \_\_\_\_\_
- Architecture \_\_\_\_\_
- Military \_\_\_\_\_
- Exploration/Settlement \_\_\_\_\_
- Entertainment/Recreation \_\_\_\_\_
- Agriculture \_\_\_\_\_
- Archaeology \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

- ca. 1825-1940 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1942-1968 \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

- ca. 1825 \_\_\_\_\_
- ca. 1840 \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

see continuation sheet

**Cultural Affiliation**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

Returned

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository

# \_\_\_\_\_

The Grove  
Name of Property

Leon County, FL  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property roughly 10.33 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 9 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 1 |

3 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 6 |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 6 |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

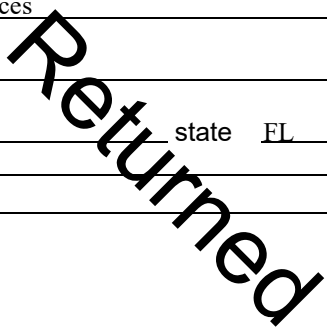
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrew Waber, Historic Preservationist

organization Florida Division of Historical Resources date April 2018

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (850) 245-6430

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399



Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund

street & number 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard telephone

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 The Grove (Additional Documentation)  
Tallahassee, Leon County, FL

---

**SUMMARY**

The Grove consists of a little over ten acres set in the middle of the city of Tallahassee. The property consists of a large two-story circa 1840 brick residence known as the Call-Collins House, a small single story cottage known as the Burr Cottage and an associated outbuilding, a small family cemetery dating back to the 1820s, and a repurposed, non-contributing outdoor bathroom building. There is also a circa 1840 underground cistern located adjacent to the Call-Collins House. The Call Collins House is a large two-story brick Greek Revival Style residence that features a prominent full-height portico supported by four Tuscan columns. The exterior facer brick on the building was made with the use of a steam-powered brick press, which was revolutionary technology for the frontier conditions of Florida at the time. The building also features four chimneys and a hipped roof. On the rear (north) side of the building is a historic 1950s era two-story addition built by the Collins family. This addition, which contains the Florida Room, effectively rerouted the main entrance into the building through the rear. The interior of the building's original core is Georgian, with central hallways and four rooms on the first and second floors. The building contains wood floors on the first and second floors with no under floors. There a basement level, which was used during the Collins period as an office and storage space. This level was traditionally used as a kitchen until the construction of the rear addition in the 1950s. Major alterations to the building include the construction of closets in the rooms, the replacement of interior basement floors, the construction of an elevator and wheelchair ramp for ADA purposes, and the modernization of the building, which includes the installation of HVAC systems, new plumbing, new electrical work, fire suppression, and security. The original slate shingles on the roof have been replaced by modern composite shingles. Despite these changes, the building retains sufficient integrity to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The one-story Burr Cottage, which is located on the north side of the property, was constructed in 1939 by Grove owner Reinette Long Hunt. The cottage is a simple wood frame building with a gabled roof and brick pier foundations. It features a central living room, two former bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, and an enclosed sunroom. The circa 1978 sunroom addition onto the north side of the building, which was originally an enclosed porch, is non-historic and the kitchen wing onto the building is an enclosed former porch onto the building. The associated detached car shelter building, despite condition issues, retains a high degree of integrity.

The small cemetery, known as the Call-Collins Family Cemetery, is the oldest extant resource associated with The Grove, predating the Call-Collins House. The oldest known burials in the cemetery date to the early 1830s, but it is widely believed that several other of Richard Keith Call's children who died in the 1820s are buried here. Among the notable burials in this cemetery are Governor Call, Governor Collins, Ellen Call Long, Mary Call Darby Collins, Mary Kirkman Call, and Reinette Long Hunt. The cemetery is still active and retains a high degree of integrity.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2 The Grove (Additional Documentation)  
Tallahassee, Leon County, FL

---

**SETTING**

The Grove is located on a wooded lot in the middle of the city of Tallahassee, Florida, in an area commonly known today as Midtown. Tallahassee is a city of a little under 195,000 people located in the Big Bend region of Florida. The city's economy largely centers around the government, as it serves as the county seat of Leon County and the state capital of Florida. It is also the home to two major state universities, Florida State University and Florida A&M University. The Grove is located adjacent to the Florida Governor's Mansion, which is south of the property, and is bounded on the north and east by residential areas and a large cemetery and on the east by commercial development along Monroe Street.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

The Grove encompasses an area of roughly ten acres, the majority of which is wooded. The main road access to the property extends north from the Governor's Mansion parking lot to the south, running east of the Call-Collins Mansion, and ending in a circle on the north side of the mansion. A secondary unpaved access road extends south from the Burr Cottage, running south of the cemetery and terminating west of the Call-Collins Mansion.

The landscaping of The Grove was heavily influenced by Mary Call Darby Collins, who was an enthusiastic supporter of the local garden club. The designated planting areas around the mansion are still largely the same as they were during the Collins period (1941-1985). The brick pavers surrounding The Grove were added in the 1940s and 1950s by the Collins family and are made of bricks that were originally used to pave nearby Monroe Street. A non-historic sidewalk, parking lot, and public access gate were added by the state to improve accessibility for museum operations.

Call-Collins House Exterior

The Call-Collins House is a substantial brick Greek Revival Style building with a hipped roof and four brick chimneys (Photos 1-2). The building features prominent cornice lines with dentils that extend around the entire original core of the building. Fenestration consists primarily of 6/6 wood sash windows on the first and second stories of the original core of the building and paired one-light fixed windows on the basement level. On the rear addition, there is prominent series of 12-light fixed glass windows in sets of three that extend across the whole first floor, forming almost a glass wall for the sunroom.



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On the historic main (south) façade of the building, there is a prominent full-height portico with an independent gable roof and pediment supported by four large Tuscan columns. Access is through a brick stoop that dates to the 1950s (Photo 3). The historic main entrance is a wood paneled double door flanked by decorative fluted pilasters and sidelights with decorative metalwork (Photo 4). The entrance is topped by a cornice and large fanlight with decorative metalwork. On the second story immediately above the main entrance is a balconet with wood double doors, sidelights, fanlight, and pilasters nearly identical to the main entrance below. The metalwork is all original. One of the character-defining features of the main façade is the incomplete nature of the finishes. There are no capitals on top of the pilasters on the first and second stories and the second story balconet was originally supposed to open onto a metal balcony, as evidenced by the metal brackets extending from the wall (Photo 5). According to lore, Richard Keith Call lost his desire to finish the house after the death of his wife, for whom he built the mansion.

The side (east and west) elevations of the historic core of the building are identical (Photos 6-7). There are two glazed wood double doors at the basement level plus four 6/6 wood sash windows on the first and second stories and two brick chimneys visible on both elevations. The shelters covering the basement entrances are both from the Collins period and serve a dual purpose as outdoor storage.

The rear (north) elevation of the house is perhaps the most notable change from the Collins period and is the area of the mansion most associated with Mary Call Darby Collins (Photo 8-9). This elevation serves as the current main entrance into the building and was constructed in part to help preserve the historic main façade. The exterior fabrics of the first story addition is almost entirely all glass and extends the full width of the building. The second story addition is mostly wood, with a large 18-light fixed window with sidelights and a fanlight in the center. With the exception of the pilasters visible on the first floor and cornice lines and dentils in the second story, this addition was intentionally added on to be easily distinguishable from the original core of the building. A small non-historic brick stoop and wheelchair ramp provide access to this elevation.

Call-Collins House Interior

The interior floorplan of the building's original core is Georgian on the first and second floors, with a central hallway flanked by two rooms on the east and west sides (Photos 10-11). The building also has a basement level and attic. There is a prominent spiral staircase connecting the first and second floors of the building (Photo 12). The stairs were modeled closely after Andrew Jackson's home, The Hermitage, in Tennessee. There is still original wood flooring in the first and second floors. There are a number of original finishes still in the interior, including doorknobs and keyholes. There are decorative pilasters present along the fireplaces, windows, and interior doorways. In the dining room and parlor on the first floor, there are marble fireplaces contemporary to the building (Photo 13). These marble fireplaces would have originally been found in all four rooms on the first

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floor but were taken out in the west rooms during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. On the second floor, there were closets added during the Collins period.

On the basement level, the primary interior access point is via a spiral stairwell from the first floor (Photo 14). The basement flooring, which was originally dirt, was covered over with cement and asbestos tile during the Collins period, which needed to be removed for public safety reasons. It now has vinyl flooring. The basement is a bit more irregular in plan than the first and second floors. There is a central room that runs under the stairwell and extends north towards the room known as “the nook” (Photo 15). On the west end of the basement is a hallway leading from the elevator shaft on the north side around a bathroom and utility closet towards one of the west end basement entrances (Photo 16). Also on the west end is room that historically served as Governor LeRoy Collins’ office (Photo 17). It is perhaps the most historically significant room in the building. It was here that Collins sat while using The Grove as the de facto governor’s mansion in the mid-1950s. The room has been left exactly as it was found following the death of Mary Call Darby Collins. Among the significant furnishings in this room is the desk of Richard Keith Call, which was purchased by the Collins family from the estate of ReINETTE Long Hunt. This desk was built by Call from wood gathered at The Hermitage and was most likely used by Call for both political and business dealings. It was inherited by his daughter Ellen Call Long and has been part of The Grove’s furnishings likely since its construction.

Adjacent to Governor Collins’ office on the east is a small room known as “the nook” (Photo 18). During The Grove’s period as the governor’s mansion, this room saw a lot of activity from support staff. This room, much like Governor Collins’ office, has been left as it was found following Mrs. Collins’ death, with many of the awards and honors Governor Collins received later in life hanging on the walls. On the east end of the basement, there is a large room with a fireplace (Photo 19). This was historically used as a kitchen prior to the construction of the two-story addition on the back. On the northeast end of the basement is a small hallway with a prominent drop ceiling that leads from one of the basement level entrances towards the stairwell. On this end, there has been a modern utility room installed, which controls the HVAC systems placed through the mansion.

On the first floor of the original mansion, the most important rooms (the dining room and parlor) are on the east end (Photos 20-21). The furnishings found in the dining room are mostly from The Grove’s first era as a museum. Although the furnishings date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, they are not original to the house. There is a large pocket door separating the dining room and parlor, which fold out to create a larger single room. In the parlor/dining room on the northeast corner, there is an interesting improvisation added during the Collins period. One of the windows was repurposed into a door, which opened up into the Florida Room (Photo 22). None of the historic fabric was removed and the original openings were retained.

On the west side of the first floor are two bedrooms similar in appearance (Photos 23-24). The fireplaces in these rooms are markedly different than the distinctive marble fireplaces in the parlor and dining room. They

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are rather plain and feature just the decorative pilasters that surround them. During the Collins period, the first floor northwest room served as the master bedroom for LeRoy and Mary Call Darby Collins.

On the second floor, there were closets installed during the Collins era, which were retained during the restoration of the building and used to house the HVAC ducts (Photos 25-26). The closet in the northwest room provides access to the attic area. In the southeast room is perhaps the best visible evidence of the Grove Hotel era during the 1920s and 1930s (Photo 27). The proprietor at the time, ReINETTE Long Hunt, installed partition walls in this room to make it more accommodating for guests. These walls were removed after the Collins family moved in, but the remnants of the partition walls can still be seen in the floor. In this room is Governor Keith Call's bed, another one of the major furnishings original to the house.

During renovations, much care was taken by the state to select the right paint for the house. Although they selected the off-white color for the interior, during paint analysis, blue paint was discovered and the state decided to paint the south wall of the southeast room with this color. They also retained a historic piece of graffiti left by LeRoy Collins, Jr., on this wall and framed it in a piece of plexiglass (Photos 28-29).

On the first floor of the rear addition is an open sunroom known as the Florida Room, which was the room in the house most associated with Mrs. Collins (Photos 30-31). On the west end of this room is a modern kitchen, which replaced the original kitchen space. On the second floor of the rear addition are three simple rooms, which were originally a nursery and two bathrooms during the Collins era (Photos 32-33). The bathrooms were removed and the west room was converted into a storage room with access to the elevator.

Alterations to Call-Collins Mansion

Over the course of its long history, the mansion has undergone a number of changes. It is suspected that there were four marble fireplaces that were found in the first floor rooms, but the two on the west side were removed during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. During the ReINETTE Long Hunt era (1905-1940), there was a sleeping porch added onto the rear of the building that was destroyed in a fire in the 1930s. Also during this period, a bathroom addition was added to the east elevation, a coal burning furnace was added into the basement, and partition walls were added to the rooms. These changes were all reversed after the Collins family moved into The Grove in the early 1940s. Perhaps the most noticeable change that took place to the building during the Collins period was the construction of the two-story rear addition. The Collins family also added closets into the second floor rooms, added brick pavers around the building, added new poured concrete flooring to the basement, and built a new stoop leading up the historic main entrance. These changes are all considered historic, however, and do not adversely affect the integrity of the building.

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The building underwent a number of changes after the state formally assumed control of the property. All work done was reviewed by the SHPO and followed the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Upon inspection, it was quickly discovered that the building needed stabilization work. While most of the brick remained, in some points the brick needed refacing and the mortar was repointed. To help stabilize the building, steel rods were inserted within the repointed mortar. Almost all of the wood in the windows had to be replaced due to moisture damage. The individual glass panes were repurposed where possible and the windows were custom ordered to match the originals. The windows were also reinforced by metal inset within the paneling below. Stabilization work also took place in the attic, on the spiral staircases, and the front portico. The basement flooring, which contained asbestos, was replaced due to public safety concerns. The foundations were underpinned and some of the joists have been replaced. The original slate shingles were replaced with the current vinyl composite shingles due to concerns about alleviating the weight on the roof structure. These changes were all done to either help preserve the building or improve safety and were done in a manner that minimized the impact on the building's historic fabric.

The building also underwent a number of changes relating to modernization. On the first floor, vents were added and the ceiling was lowered slightly to accommodate them. On the second floor, the HVAC pipes were installed in the closets to minimize the visual impact on the rooms themselves. There is an interior elevator installed by the state on the north end of the original core of the building for ADA accommodations (Photo 34). It is a two-sided elevator that provides access to the basement and the first and second floors of both the original core and the 1950s era addition. Great care was taken to install the elevator in a manner that minimized the impact to the historic fabric of the building. The foundations were underpinned to accommodate the elevator shaft.

Burr Cottage

On the north end of the property is the Burr Cottage, which was constructed circa 1939 by Grove owner Reinette Long Hunt (Photos 35-36). This is a simple one-story wood frame building with a gable roof and brick pier foundations. Fenestration consists primarily of single and paired 6/6 sash windows, with prominent fixed one-light windows in the north sunroom addition and a 28-light fixed window on the south elevation. The interior layout of the building is irregular (Photos 37-39). There is a large single central living room space with two rooms and a bathroom on the east, a kitchen on the west, and a sunroom on the north. The main entrance to the building is via a small southwest foyer, which opens into the kitchen space. The interior fabric is primarily wood paneling, with linoleum flooring in the kitchen, bathroom, and sunroom. The historic front porch on the north end of the building has been enclosed and converted into a sunroom. Although the alteration alters the view of the north elevation, the original interior walls, including the interior 30-light fixed light window and adjacent doorway, and layout of the building is still visible. The entry foyer was originally used as a porch but was later enclosed. Despite these changes, the building retains sufficient integrity to contribute to the

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nomination. On the south end of the Burr Cottage is a historic wood frame outbuilding with a metal roof that contributes to the property (Photo 40). It historically functioned as a combination shed and detached garage.

Call Family Cemetery

The oldest resource at The Grove is the Call Family Cemetery (Photo 41). This is a small family cemetery containing 22 known burials. The oldest known burials date to 1832 but is likely that burials go back further than that. With the exception of the double burial of William Cablu and Mary Jane Williams, all other burials here are people related to the Call and Collins family. Among the notable burials here are those of Governor Richard Keith Call, Governor LeRoy Collins, Ellen Call Long, and Mary Call Darby Collins. Among the notable burial types are the brick arched markers over the Call children and the above ground grave markers of Mary Kirkman Call and Dr. John L. Call. An American soldier who was stationed at The Grove during the Second Seminole War, Lt. Col. John Green, died and was buried here in 1840, but he was later reburied in St. Augustine National Cemetery in St. Augustine, Florida. There is at least one animal burial here, as Reinette Long Hunt was buried with her beloved dog. Although some of the markers have condition issues, this cemetery retains a high degree of integrity and is a major contributing element to The Grove.

Cistern

Immediately to the rear (north) elevation of the Call-Collins mansion is an underground cistern that is contemporary to the mansion (Photo 42). During the process of reinforcing the foundations, workers discovered channels running under the house, which in turn led to the previously undiscovered cistern. This cistern was used to provide fresh water to the property likely for many years, as it was not until the 1910s that The Grove was annexed within the city limits of Tallahassee and had access to municipal water supplies. The cistern is made of brick lined with cement plaster and is rather large. The cistern and connected filter box were once partially above grove ground but were later infilled and covered over. After the rediscovery of the cistern, it was cleaned out and reused. Pipes connected to downspouts from gutters on the Call-Collins Mansion feed water into the cistern. The water is then used to irrigate the north lawn of the property. This adaptive reuse was part of the overall efforts of the state to achieve LEED certification for The Grove.

Landscaping Changes to The Grove

The Grove has seen a number of changes that has taken place to the surrounding landscape over the course of its long history. The Grove once extended across an entire section of land, 640 acres, stretching from roughly Brevard Street on south, Tharpe Street on the north, Meridian Road on the east, and Dewey Street on the west. As most of the original property is located under heavy modern development, there is a strong likelihood that

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the location of many original buildings and structures associated with the earliest history of the Grove are now outside of the current boundaries.

The exact location of the original residence on the property, which was constructed circa 1825, is unknown but the speculation is that the building is not far from the current cemetery. Although The Grove was never a major plantation, agriculture in some form took place on the surrounding property for much of its history. At one time, there was a detached wood building described as a type of bachelor's quarters which housed apprentices of Richard Keith Call's law practice, including Leigh Read and George K. Walker. The location of this building is unknown. It is also known that Call had brick kilns on the property in an unknown location. It is assumed the source of the bricks come from near Lake Ellen. During the 1880s, the surrounding landscape was repurposed towards silk cultivation, with Ellen Call Long building a silk cottage to the west of the cemetery. Also during the Long era, the acreage of the property was reduced from the original 640 acres to a very similar acreage to what it is now. The walnut trees on the property are most likely descendants of trees planted by Long.

By the Reinette Long Hunt era (1905-1940), residential development began to the north and west of the property and the Governor's Mansion was constructed on the south. Hunt implemented a number of interesting changes to the property during the course of her ownership. The Grove, as the first home of the Tallahassee Country Club, held a small golf course, tennis courts, and a croquet field. There were also accounts of basketball games being held at The Grove, likely on the tennis courts. During World War I, Reinette Long Hunt planted the surrounding grounds extensively with food crops. During the Grove Hotel era, which began in the 1920s and continued until Hunt's death in 1940, rental cottages were built on the north end of the property. The property around them were sold off after her death. To assure upkeep and spare the property from potential development, the local masonic lodge acquired ownership of the cemetery in the 1930s. Hunt most likely planted the pecan trees found on the property.

After the Collins family acquired the property in the 1940s, the surrounding landscape began assuming its present appearance. They reacquired adjacent land on the east fronting Monroe Street, reacquired the cottages, and assumed ownership of the cemetery. They also placed the brick pavers around the house and built the detached garage. After the state assumed management of the property following Mrs. Collins' death, changes were made to improve public access to property, building a parking lot on the east of the property, constructing sidewalks, and repurposing the detached garage into a public restroom facility. All of the cottages except the Burr Cottage were demolished due to poor condition. Despite the changes, the present layout of the property mirrors closely the historic 1968 appearance.

**Non-Contributing Resources**

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There is one non-contributing building on the property, which was originally a detached garage building but now has been adaptively reused as an outdoor bathroom building (Photo 43). Built during the Collins-era after the period of significance, this building is also too altered to be considered contributing to the nomination.

**LEED Certification**

From the beginning, the state decided pursue LEED certification for the building and restoration work was aimed in part to achieve this. Known as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, it is a green building rating system created by the US Green Building Council aimed at encouraging sustainability in building design and construction.<sup>1</sup>

To achieve this status, the state took a number of steps:

- The restoration, re-use, or re-purposing of existing buildings and materials already on-site
- Installing high-efficiency, state-of-the-art heating, cooling, mechanical, and irrigation systems to replace antiquated and inefficient equipment
- Recycling as much construction waste as possible
- Prioritizing the use of local materials in any new construction
- Removing hazardous materials, such as lead paint and asbestos
- Using low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) products whenever possible throughout the rehabilitation project<sup>2</sup>

A number of changes that have taken place to the property, including the adaptive reuse of the non-contributing detached garage, the repurposing of the cistern to irrigate portions of the grounds, and the installation of modern energy systems, were guided by this goal. Over 98% of the historic structural elements of the Call-Collins house was reused and over 95% of the historic masonry walls were preserved. Over 93% of the materials removed were recycled or donated and any new wood materials “were certified by the Forest Stewardship Council... to contain more than 50% recycled material.” The Grove was officially LEED-certified in October 2016.<sup>3</sup>

**Archaeological Investigations at The Grove**

The large open space surrounding The Grove has been continuously occupied since 1825 in an area of the city of Tallahassee that has faced intense modern development pressure. Archaeological investigations at The Grove date back to 2004, when the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research (BAR) monitored the installation of

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<sup>1</sup> United States Green Building Council, “There’s Green and Then There’s LEED,” <https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-marketing-toolkit>.

<sup>2</sup> Johnathan Grandage and Katie Hart, “Executive Summary: LEED at The Grove,” Florida Division of Historical Resources, The Grove (October 14, 2015), p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Grandage and Hart, p. 2-3.

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fiber-optic and power cables around the perimeter of the property. Workers excavated an area of roughly 1,700 feet, forming a trench measuring roughly six inches wide and six to eight inches in depth. They also dug postholes ranging in depth between 1.5 and 2.5 feet at each change in the trench angle. During the excavations, there were a number of artifacts found, including blue and white ceramic sherds, brick fragments, and pieces of coal known as clinkers (Figure 1). Although none of the artifacts were collected, there were two potential features identified on the north and south end of the property and the site itself was formally recorded.<sup>4</sup>

The next archaeological investigation of The Grove took place in 2011, when BAR archaeologists investigated the fill inside the cistern. The method used for excavation was rather unusual, as concerns over poisonous gases prevented archaeologists from inspecting the artifacts in situ. The materials were instead unloaded through five gallon buckets and sifted through via mesh screens over a dumpster. Most artifacts uncovered were “19<sup>th</sup> century bricks, construction debris and household trash.” Archaeologists determined that the cistern was likely infilled all at once during the Collins period.<sup>5</sup>

Later in 2011, BAR archaeologists monitored the installation of utility lines in the southwest portion of The Grove. The work was similar to that of the 2004 project, with workers digging trenches around the property and archaeologists examining the soil. During this project, archaeologists uncovered artifacts similar in nature to the those found in 2004. These included ceramic sherds such as “plain and decorated bone china porcelain, pearlware, whiteware, lead glazed coarse earthenware, ironstone, yellow ware, Rockingham ware, transfer printed wares, ginger beer bottle and white granite wares.” There were also fragments of glass bottles, metal artifacts including a small metal skillet, and brick and coal fragments. The date of the artifact scatter ranged primarily from the 19<sup>th</sup> through the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>6</sup>

Also in 2011, archaeologists from the National Park Service’s Southeast Archaeological Center (SEAC) undertook a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey of four different areas on The Grove property. The first area surveyed was the cemetery. There were three anomalies discovered there that hinted at possible human burials. In areas two (west of the cemetery) and four (west of the Call-Collins Mansion), there were large anomalies found indicative of possible structural remains. No artifacts were uncovered but the findings of this survey helped guide subsequent archaeological investigations on the property.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Patrick L. Gensler, “Archaeological Monitoring at ‘The Grove’ Conducted on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004,” Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archaeological Research, CARL Archeology Program (Tallahassee, FL, March 18, 2004), p. 2-5.

<sup>5</sup> Alexander Rothrock, et al, “Archaeological Investigations at the Grove, Tallahassee, Florida,” Florida Division of Historical Resources (Tallahassee, FL, December 2015), p. 23.

<sup>6</sup> Rothrock, et al, “Archaeological Investigations at the Grove, Tallahassee, Florida,” p. 24-26.

<sup>7</sup> Jessica McNeil, “Results from the Ground Penetrating Radar Survey at The Grove, Tallahassee, Florida,” National Park Service, Southeast Archaeological Center (Tallahassee, FL, April 26, 2012), p. 1, 4-5, 13, 23.



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In 2012, as work was underway to repurpose the cistern, workers uncovered a brick channel pipe that led to a second brick structure adjacent to the cistern. After a further examination, it was determined that this feature was the filter box for the cistern. The top of the filter box would have originally been above ground and secured by a cap and the box itself would have originally been filled with a filtering agent.<sup>8</sup>

Phase 1 Survey (2011-2012)

The first intensive archaeological investigation of The Grove took place between 2011 and 2012, when members of the Panhandle Archaeological Society of Tallahassee (PAST), working with BAR staff, undertook a Phase 1 survey of the property. Relying on pedestrian surveys, metal detection, and shovel test pits (STP), a large number of artifacts were found throughout the property. A total of 72 STPs out of 95 conducted contained 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century artifacts, including a large bottle dump located near the cemetery. Over 10,000 glass sherds were found in this one location alone. Aside from the bottle dump, a total of 1,939 artifacts were collected, of which six were prehistoric and the rest historic primarily from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The prehistoric artifacts were ceramic sherds from the Middle to Late Woodland Period (Figure 3). Ceramics were mostly of a domestic nature and included yellow ware, pearlware, whiteware, creamware, granite ware, porcelain, stoneware, and earthenware sherds (Figure 4). The glass uncovered at the bottle dump were primarily from early to middle 20<sup>th</sup> century glass alcohol bottles (Figure 5). There was a particularly high concentration of World War II era glass, which coupled with a World War II pilot's dog tags uncovered from the cistern, points to the presence of servicemen on the property during the war. The survey also uncovered a large number of building materials such as brick, nails, slate, and window glass (Figure 6). There was also a number of coal fragments. These artifacts primarily dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>9</sup>

**Integrity**

The most important features of The Grove, namely the Call-Collins House, the Call Family Cemetery, and the Burr Cottage, are still in their original location and the surroundings are very similar to what they were in the Collins period. Hence it retains sufficient integrity of location, setting, and association. Although it has undergone a number of changes over the course of its long history, the mansion still retains its character defining Greek Revival style features. It also retains its unusual unfinished appearance, its Georgian floorplan, spiral staircases, and historic exterior and interior fabrics and fixtures. Although it has undergone a number of changes due to modernization and ADA requirements, particularly the addition of an elevator, the building still retains a high degree of its historic Collins era appearance. All work done was reviewed by the SHPO and followed the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Although most of the rental cottages have been removed on the north side of the property, the grounds around the mansion remain open and the surrounding

<sup>8</sup> Rothrock, et al, "Archaeological Investigations at the Grove, Tallahassee, Florida," p. 31-32.

<sup>9</sup> Rothrock, et al, "Archaeological Investigations at the Grove, Tallahassee, Florida," p. 6, 36, 41-48.

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brick pavers are still in place. The cemetery remains unchanged from the period of significance with the exception of the most recent burials. Hence, the property retains sufficient integrity of design, workmanship, materials, and feeling.

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**Significant Person**

Call, Richard Keith  
Collins, LeRoy  
Collins, Mary Call Darby  
Littlefield, Milton S.  
Long, Ellen Call

**Summary**

This document is an amendment to the existing Grove National Register nomination, which was listed back in 1972. The Grove was originally listed under Criterion A for Politics and Criterion C for Architecture. This amendment seeks to both expand the existing criteria plus establish additional criteria based upon further research which has taken place at The Grove since 1972. In addition to its significance under Politics/Government, The Grove is also being listed under Criterion A at the local and state level for Military and at the local level for Exploration/Settlement, Entertainment/Recreation, and Agriculture. The Grove is also being proposed for listing under Criterion B at the state and local levels for its association with Governor Thomas "LeRoy" Collins, Mary Call Darby Collins, Governor Richard Keith Call, Ellen Call Long, and Milton S. Littlefield. The Grove is also being proposed for listing under Criterion D at the local level for Archaeology. The period of significance extends from circa 1825 to 1940 and from 1942 to 1968.

**Historic Significance – Criterion A: Politics**

Use as a Governor's Mansion

The Grove served as the de facto governor's mansion of Florida three times in its history during the administrations of governors Richard Keith Call and LeRoy Collins. During the Second Seminole War, The Grove was a center of much of the military planning that took place during the war as Governor Call assumed interim command of the American forces in 1836. During Governor Call's second tenure as governor following the election of William Henry Harrison in 1841, The Grove was once again at the center of territorial politics as the effects of the Panic of 1837 reached Florida. It was while still living at The Grove that Call ran unsuccessfully as Whig candidate for governor of Florida during the first gubernatorial election in 1845.

From 1955 to 1957, The Grove functioned as the de facto governor's mansion of the state, a time marked by significant turmoil from the Civil Rights Movement and the Cold War. Governor LeRoy Collins was the last governor to reside in the 1907 Governor's Mansion, which was demolished in 1955, and the first governor to reside in the current Governor's Mansion, which was finished in 1956 and in operation the following year. The

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offices were run largely from the basement of the Call-Collins Mansion during this time. It was while in The Grove that LeRoy Collins ran his historic 1956 reelection campaign and where he was confronted with many realities of the Civil Rights era, including the Tallahassee Bus Boycott and the infamous interposition resolution.

**Historic Significance – Criterion A: Military**

The Grove Property during Second Seminole War

The Grove was a center of much military activity during the Second Seminole War. Among the personnel stationed at The Grove during this time was a contingent of the 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the U.S. infantry. Antonio Proctor, a free black Seminole translator, would have most likely been present at The Grove during this time as well. In September 1840, that Lt. Col. John Green died and was initially buried in the Call Family Cemetery. As the war lingered on, a frustrated Governor Call often took matters in his own hands and planned independent militia operations against the Seminoles while at The Grove. This was particularly true in 1836, when General Winfield Scott ordered the cessation of military campaigns for the summer and disbanded the state militias sent to Florida. For most of this year, Governor Call was constantly engaged in military planning and letter writing back to Washington, pushing for more resources and troops to be sent to Florida.<sup>10</sup>

**Historic Significance – Criterion A: Agriculture**

Grove Property Use in Sericulture

Starting in the early 1880s, Ellen Call Long set about raising silkworms on The Grove property. The amount of silk produced from The Grove is unclear, but Long clearly devoted a considerable amount of time and resources to the endeavor. Her granddaughter Reinette Long Hunt recalled years later that her grandmother acquired boxes of silkworm eggs from Europe and planted several acres of mulberry trees on the property. Later, she built a small two-room cocoonery to house the silkworms, but initially she used the main house itself to hold them. As her cousin Alston Cockrell later observed:

Among my childhood memories is a visit to Governor Call's home, "The Grove"... at a time when Cousin Ellen was engaged in growing silkworms. The family must have temporarily moved upstairs, for my mental picture is that the enormous

<sup>10</sup> Doherty, *Southern Unionist*, 99-101; Leslie Divoll, "The Grove Tallahassee, Florida Historic Structure Report," Florida Division of Historical Resources (Tallahassee, FL, 1992), 20; Lt. Col. Green Butler [sic] Burial, St. John's Episcopal Church Burial Register, p. 426. Although the name referenced in burial records indicate his name as Green Butler, military records clearly indicate that his name was John Green.

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hall and all of the downstairs rooms were filled with trays containing silkworms, and that mulberry leaves, on which the worms were fed, occupied all the rest of the available space.<sup>11</sup>

After initially using the Call-Collins House to house the silkworms, Long constructed a cottage on the property which served as a cocoonery. She also planted mulberry trees throughout the property to provide a food source for the silkworms. The silk cottage, which was near the family cemetery, was later repurposed by Reinette Long Hunt as a residential building rented out for additional income.

**Historical Significance – Criterion B: Richard Keith Call**

Life Prior to Arriving in Tallahassee

Born in Virginia in 1792, Richard Keith Call was the son of a Revolutionary War veteran. Although he was born into an aristocratic family, much of the wealth disappeared as a result of bad business decisions by his father, who died while Call was young. After the death of his father, Call's mother left along with her young children and five slaves to join her brothers in Kentucky. Call grew up near Russellville, Kentucky, on land owned by his uncle, David Walker. His Walker uncles were prominent in Kentucky politics. David Walker served in the US House of Representatives while another uncle, George Walker, served as a US senator. After his mother died in 1810, Call moved to Tennessee, where he attended Mount Pleasant Academy near Clarksville, Tennessee. Following the Fort Mims Massacre in 1813, Call joined the Tennessee militia under the command of General Andrew Jackson. Call quickly distinguished himself during the Creek War, voluntarily staying behind with Jackson as expiring enlistments and food shortages led to widespread desertion amongst the militia. As a reward, Call was granted a commission as first lieutenant in the US infantry and was an active participant in Jackson's military campaign against the British, including the first invasion of Pensacola and the Battle of New Orleans.<sup>12</sup>

It was not until the First Seminole War, however, that Call rose to Jackson's inner circle. Following the Scott Party Massacre, Jackson received federal orders to pursue the Seminoles into Florida. He sent Call to negotiate with the Spanish governor of West Florida for safe passage of ships up the Escambia River. It was here that Call received invaluable intelligence of Seminoles pressuring the Spanish for provisions and threatening to occupy Spanish fortifications. The intelligence that Call relayed to Jackson played a role in Jackson's fateful decision to attack the Spanish fortification at St. Marks. At this point, Call rose to the ranks as Jackson's aide. As such, he was a personal witness to the execution of two British subjects, Alexander Arbuthnot and Robert Ambrister, that sparked a major international incident. When Jackson launched a second invasion of Pensacola, Call was tasked with negotiating the surrender. After the war, when Congress launched a hearing on the Arbuthnot and

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<sup>11</sup> Alston W. Cockrell, "Reminiscences of Tallahassee," *Tallahassee Historical Society Annual* vol. 2 (1935), p. 38.

<sup>12</sup> Doherty, p. 1-10; Richard Keith Call Journal [transcript], State Archives of Florida, p. 3-10.

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Ambrister incident, Jackson entrusted Call with gathering depositions in Pensacola, which formed the basis of Jackson's defense from the charges.<sup>13</sup>

After the United States returned Florida to Spain in 1818, Call lived at The Hermitage, where Andrew Jackson established his military headquarters. By this time, Call was promoted to captain, a commission which he resigned to pursue a legal career. With the signing of the Adams-Onís Treaty, Florida officially became a territory of the United States. President James Monroe appointed Jackson as the first governor of West Florida, and at Jackson's personal request, Call rejoined the army to help negotiate the formal handover. During the contentious negotiations, Call served as the liaison between Jackson and the Spanish governor Jose Callava, relaying messages between the two men as they awaited formal transfer orders from the Spanish governor in Cuba. After the completion of this transfer, Call once again resigned his commission, this time for good.<sup>14</sup>

Establishment of the First Grove Residence

After resigning his Army commission following the end of the First Seminole War and the transfer of Florida to the United States, Richard Keith Call established himself in Pensacola. He utilized his personal connections to Andrew Jackson, who was at this time the governor of West Florida, to establish himself within political circles of the territory. In 1822, Call was elected as the Florida territorial representative in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served for a single term. As territorial representative, he played a critical role in securing congressional approval of establishing Tallahassee as the territorial capital and in convincing the Marquis de Lafayette to accept a township of land in the city. Call resigned after a single term to accept a position with the newly established federal land office in Tallahassee, where he served as Receiver of Public Monies. He took advantage of his position, acquiring vast tracts of land and building his wealth as a land speculator and developer.<sup>15</sup>

Among the tracts of land he acquired was the parcel on which The Grove now sits, which was an entire 640-acre section, Section 25, of Township 1 North, 1 West. It sat north of what was then the city limits of Tallahassee and stretched over an area roughly bounded by Brevard Street to the south, Dewey Street to the west, Tharpe Street to the north, and Meridian Road to the east. It was here Richard Keith Call and his wife Mary Kirkman Call settled. Shortly after relocating to Tallahassee, their daughter Ellen Call Long was born in 1825. The earliest reference to The Grove's name was in an 1826 letter from Mary Kirkman Call to Rachel Jackson, which was datelined from "Hickory Grove," an homage to Call's mentor's nickname.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Doherty, p. 11-13.

<sup>14</sup> Doherty, p. 14-16.

<sup>15</sup> Jane Aurell Menton, *The Grove: A Florida Home Through Seven Generations* (Tallahassee, FL: Sentry Press, 1998), 17; Herbert J. Doherty, *Richard Keith Call, Southern Unionist* (Gainesville, FL: University of Florida Press, 1961), 28, 41.

<sup>16</sup> Divoll, 16-18.

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The first house on the property was a wood frame house likely located somewhere between the Call-Collins Mansion and the cemetery. Ellen Call Long described the building as “a plain building of several rooms on one floor, with outside chimneys and a floor,” which was set about 50 yards back from the main entrance gate. There was also a small detached office building on the property, which functioned as a type of bachelor’s quarters for law students of Call, which included his cousin David S. Walker and Leigh Read.<sup>17</sup>

Slavery at The Grove

Although the Call and Long family generated considerable income from later plantation operations, especially from Orchard Pond, The Grove itself was never a major plantation. When Richard Keith Call first moved to Tallahassee, he was a land speculator, politician, and lawyer whose activities often kept him away from home for weeks at a time. Despite this, slavery was very much a ubiquitous presence at The Grove. In a letter he wrote to Andrew Jackson in 1825, he references that five slaves were employed as house servants. By the time of the 1825 census, the year he moved to The Grove, Call owned ten slaves, a number which grew to 26 by 1830. Ellen Call Long mentioned the household staff consisted of at least one enslaved woman for each child in the house and an enslaved head nurse who supervised them at The Grove.<sup>18</sup> Shortly after Call deeded The Grove property to his daughter Ellen in 1851, he also deeded seven slaves along with the property to serve as house staff. Two of these enslaved individuals named in the deed, Hanover Haley and his wife Peggy, remained on the property as freed people after the Civil War. Call owned Hanover Haley as early as 1842, and Haley remained on the property as late as 1880, giving him close to 40 years of direct association with The Grove.<sup>19</sup>

Although the names of the builders and the architect remain unknown, it was enslaved workers who were most likely involved in every step of the Call-Collins House’s construction, including the brickmaking, transportation of materials, and the construction of the building itself. Call’s businesses provided him access to the enslaved personnel and materials needed to construct the building. Slavery was a crucial element in a number of Call’s business dealings. The Tallahassee Railroad was constructed and staffed almost exclusively with enslaved labor. The railroad not only lease enslaved people from local slave owners, but also directly owned a number of them as well. Von Gerstner referenced a total of 23 enslaved individuals owned by the company, roughly half of whom were engaged in the operation of the railroad and the other half employed in the operation of the steam sawmill and corn plantation set up to feed the animals. It is important to note that even as the number of

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<sup>17</sup> Divoll, “The Grove Tallahassee, Florida Historic Structure Report,” p. 18; Ellen Call Long, *Florida Breezes; or Florida, New and Old* (Jacksonville, FL: Douglas Printing Company, Inc., 1883) [reprint] (Gainesville, FL: University of Florida Press, 1962), p. 106-107.

<sup>18</sup> Divoll, 16-19; Long, *Florida Breezes*, 106.

<sup>19</sup> The formal deed of the land dates to October 23, 1851 but it was not finalized until January 1853, when the deed of gift for the enslaved people was also made and finalized; R.K. Call to Ellen W. Long, Deed of Gift dated January 1, 1853, Leon County Land Deed Records, Deed Book K, p. 437.

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enslaved people owned by Call grew throughout the 1830s, they were primarily domestic staff or skilled laborers.<sup>20</sup> Among them was Ben, an enslaved carpenter Call acquired along with land in 1831.<sup>21</sup> When Call and the railroad encountered financial difficulties in the early 1840s, these enslaved people were placed as collateral to help settle debts, as attested to the 25 enslaved people mentioned in an 1842 mortgage between Call and Robert W. Williams.<sup>22</sup>

Call Family Cemetery

Among the great tragedies of Richard Keith Call's life was the death of his wife and many children. Of the eight children born to the Calls, only their oldest and youngest children survived to adulthood. The oldest known burials in the family cemetery, the Calls' children Mary R. Call and Laura R. Call, date to 1832, but there were at least two other Call children who died prior to this and are likely buried here. The four oldest burials in the cemetery, two single burials and a double burial of the Call children dating from 1832 to 1834, feature arched brick structures likely contemporary with the burials along with marble headstones. Like many families living in Tallahassee in the 1830s and 1840s, the Call family experienced firsthand the ravages of diseases that hit the community.

Among the burials in the cemetery is Mary Kirkman Call, whose death had a profound impact both on the future of her family and on the development of the Call-Collins House. She died as her husband, who was appointed a brigadier general of the Florida militia, was about to lead his men off to fight the Seminoles. Given the circumstances of her death, which was unexpected and occurred during a time of war, and the similarities in appearance to her grave marker to Dr. John L. Call, who died in the 1850s, it is likely that Mary Kirkman Call's grave marker is not contemporary to her death and dates roughly 20 years later. Among the other notable burials that took place here during the Call era was Lt. Col. John Green, a US army soldier during the Second Seminole War who was stationed at The Grove and died. He was later reburied at St. Augustine National Cemetery.<sup>23</sup> The cemetery remains an active cemetery to this day. With the exception of two burials, all other interments in the cemetery are of people who have a known family association with Governor Richard Keith Call. This includes

<sup>20</sup> Although 1840 U.S. census figures are not precise, as the household number included both the total numbers of enslaved people (66) and the five white people considered in the Call household, only 10 were involved in agriculture while 30 were engaged in "manufactures and trades" and three were engineers. Factoring in 13 enslaved children under the age of 10 (the 10-24 age bracket were placed together), the percentage of the enslaved involved outside of agriculture is even higher.

<sup>21</sup> Franz Anton Ritter von Gerstner, *Early American Railroads*, translated by David J. Diephouse and John C. Decker, English translation of original, titled *Die inner Communicationen (1842-1843)* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1997), 737-739; Aaron Dyer to Richard K. Call and Charles E. Sherman, Leon County Land Deed Records, Deed Book C, p. 343.

<sup>22</sup> Richard K. Call to Robert W. Williams, Leon County Land Deed Records, Deed Book H, p. 5.

<sup>23</sup> Lt. Col. Green Butler [sic] Burial, St. John's Episcopal Church Burial Register, p. 426. Although the name referenced in burial records indicate his name as Green Butler, military records clearly indicate that his name was John Green.



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Governor LeRoy Collins, Mary Call Darby Collins, Ellen Call Long, Reinette Long Hunt, and Governor Call himself.<sup>24</sup>

Construction of the Call-Collins Mansion

The exact date of the Call-Collins Mansion's construction remains unknown. The name of the builder is also unknown although it was almost assuredly constructed by enslaved craftsmen with the aid of one of the plan books in wide circulation during this period. The bricks were all produced onsite. Although the exact spot where Call made his bricks is unknown, he did have access to a steam-powered brick press and in 1841 owned at least five brick kilns containing 200,000 bricks each.<sup>25</sup> The bricks used in the mansion incorporated a byproduct of coal known as clinkers, which acted as a tempering agent to help heat the brick faster and more efficiently. There were actually two types of bricks used in The Grove. The interior bricks were completely handmade and hand-pressed. The exterior "facer" bricks, however, were made with the use of a steam brick press, which gave them greater density and a more uniform shape.<sup>26</sup>

The wood used in the mansion was brought in from outside of The Grove property. Richard Keith Call, through his ownership of the Tallahassee Railroad, had easy access to a steam sawmill that may have been used in the preparation of the floorboards in particular. It is more likely however that the wood was cut through the usage of a pitsaw, which was a two-man saw in which one person is standing on the top of the log and the other is standing underneath, usually in an open pit. This allowed for a single cut of wood along the entire length of the tree. There are a number of other elements in the house that were imported and likely came through the ports of St. Marks and Port Leon. The sandstone window sills, the marble fireplaces, the original slate shingles in the roof, and the metal fixtures in the house all came from places outside of Florida. There were also two stone keystones from the Spanish fort at St. Marks, which were later removed during the Ellen Call Long era and were sold to Henry Flagler, who installed them at his residence, Whitehall, in Palm Beach.<sup>27</sup>

The earliest reference to the Call-Collins House comes from a letter written by Thomas Hagner to his father in November 1838, in which he mentions that the mansion was under construction. In this same letter, he mentioned that Lt. Col. John Green was living in the original wood house along with Call's cousin George K. Walker. By 1840, the mansion was completed.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Divoll, 61-72.

<sup>25</sup> R.K. Call and GK Walker to Turbett R. Betton and Richard A. Shine, Leon County Land Deed Records, Deed Book F, p. 623.

<sup>26</sup> Oscar A. Rothrock III, "Archaeological Evaluation of Brickwork Feature (LE5117A), The Grove Site (LE5117), Tallahassee, Florida," Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archaeological Research, Florida Public Lands Archaeology (Tallahassee, FL, July 2013), 25-27.

<sup>27</sup> Menton, *The Grove*, p. 43.

<sup>28</sup> Divoll, 20.

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The residence was in all likelihood under construction as early as 1836, when Mary Kirkman Call died unexpectedly. She was a member of a prominent Nashville family and Richard Keith Call desired to build a home for her similar to what she was accustomed to growing up in Tennessee. After her death, however, Call lost all enthusiasm for the project and as a result, there were finishing touches to the building which were never completed. The second story balcony was never added and wood blocks are standing over the columns where the capitals should be.<sup>29</sup>

Second Seminole War

During the Second Seminole War, The Grove was thrust into the center of national politics. At the start of the war, Call was a brigadier general in the Florida militia. He commanded the militia in support of General Duncan Clinch in the disastrous Battle of Withlacoochee. Following this battle, he returned to Tallahassee to reassemble the militia forces and was about to set sail for the Tampa Bay area when the death of his wife forced him to stay behind and handle personal business. While he was still in Tallahassee, he received his first appointment as governor of Florida in March 1836, replacing John Eaton, who was often absent. Call quickly ingratiated himself with the population of the territory for his particularly outspoken advocacy of a more offensive military strategy and his frequent criticisms of the reluctance of federal troops to venture far from their fortifications.<sup>30</sup>

The lack of progress in the war against the Seminoles as well as the public sentiment in Florida eventually led to the removal of General Duncan Clinch and General Scott. In May 1836, President Andrew Jackson named General Thomas Jesup as commander of Florida forces, but as Jesup was still involved with fighting the Creek uprisings in Georgia and Alabama, there was some delay in his availability to assume command. The president appointed Governor Call as interim commander of American forces in Florida. Operating with the approval of both the president and General Jesup, Governor Call led a campaign through central Florida. Owing to a series of delays and supply problems, however, he had very little luck in driving out the Seminoles and was formally replaced by General Jesup in December 1836. The removal from command was a deep personal blow for Call, and led to the end of a once close friendship with Jackson. Governor Call's efforts were not lost on the citizens of the state, however, and when he arrived back in Tallahassee, he was greeted with a hero's welcome. After delivering the keynote address, he was escorted back to The Grove. Although the war lingered on into the 1840s, it was during the command of General Jesup that the tide changed in the favor of the United States, especially when Seminole leader Osceola was captured under a flag of truce in 1837.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Divoll, 23-24.

<sup>30</sup> Doherty, *Southern Unionist*, 96-99.

<sup>31</sup> Doherty, *Southern Unionist*, 101-106.

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Florida Constitution of 1838

Perhaps the most lasting achievement of Call's governorship was the crafting of the first state constitution of Florida, which took place in 1838 and 1839. As the tide turned in the Second Seminole War, the issue of banking became the dominant political issue in the territory. By this time, the Panic of 1837 caused widespread disruption to global financial markets but did not immediately affect Florida. The opposition and support of the banks became a major dividing point for what became the Whig and Democratic parties. Emerging politicians such as James Westcott and David Levy Yulee established themselves as outspoken anti-bank men. In 1837, Call ordered the commencement of the constitutional convention, which met at the town of St. Joseph the following year. The support of statehood was strongest in Middle Florida, which was stoked in part by the uncertainty of federal government protection of slavery in territories. Opposition to statehood was strongest in East Florida, which also had a strong anti-bank sentiment. Many of the anti-bank candidates from East Florida, however, were also supporters of statehood. As a result, while the convention remained divided heavily along pro-bank and anti-bank factions, the issue of statehood was slanted heavily in the favor of those in support of it. The constitution was approved in 1839, but due to national political implications driven in part by a balance of power between slave states and free states, Florida would not achieve statehood until 1845. This constitution remained in effect until 1861, when Florida seceded from the Union.<sup>32</sup>

Business Endeavors of Richard Keith Call

Richard Keith Call's personal wealth was built upon the land speculations and developments that began shortly after he arrived in Tallahassee in 1825. He established a partnership with his cousin George K. Walker that proved highly successful in developing much of what is now downtown Tallahassee. Call also played a role in the early developments of St. Joseph and Marianna, Florida. It was Call's involvement with the Tallahassee Railroad and the development of the railroad towns of St. Marks and Port Leon that were his most significant business enterprises.

The Tallahassee Rail Road Company was formed in 1834 with Call serving as both the largest shareholder and president. By November 1837, the railroad was in full operation, running from Tallahassee to St. Marks, which took its name from the old Spanish fortification nearby. It was one of the first railroads in operation in the territory, and for much of the 1840s, remained the only functioning railroad in Florida. The Tallahassee Railroad was later extended to the town of Port Leon, which the company founded. Described by a French traveler as "the very worst that has yet been built in the entire world," the railroad was not well-constructed. Mule teams driven by slave laborers hauled the cargo, as the split rail tracks were not fit to handle a steam engine. The railroad extended 22 miles, with a stop roughly halfway between Tallahassee and St. Marks where

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<sup>32</sup> Doherty, *Southern Unionist*, 111.

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the company ran a plantation and sawmill to provide food for the animals and slaves and wood for the rails. Despite these difficulties, the railroad still served its purpose and generated a lucrative business both through its transportation fees and ancillary businesses such as lumber mills. Much of the financing of this work came through the Union Bank in Tallahassee. The railroad became so closely associated with Call that many people referred to it as Call's Railroad.<sup>33</sup>

In the early 1840s, Call experienced a series of personal financial setbacks that nearly brought him to ruin. As the global cotton prices plummeted, the customers of the Tallahassee Railroad were unable to pay their freight and shipments dropped. The timing was especially bad for the railroad, as they assumed a massive debt from the Union Bank to help pay for its construction, which had just been finished to Port Leon in 1839. Both Call and Walker heavily invested in this town, either through direct ownership or cosigning on the lots sold. Port Leon was a center of much activity during its short existence. When Wakulla County was created in 1843, it became the first county seat. It was never a large settlement, however. In 1841, a devastating yellow fever epidemic swept through the town, which brought the town to a standstill. It lingered on for a couple more years before a hurricane swept through the area in 1843, completely destroying the town. The same year, a fire that started in the Washington Hotel, which was owned by Call and Walker, soon spread throughout downtown Tallahassee, destroying the entire commercial core of the city, including Call's law office. A second fire shortly afterwards consumed the Tallahassee Railroad warehouse in Tallahassee. The massive debt accumulated personally by Call during this time resulted in a series of lawsuits that were not resolved until the early 1850s. The earliest known official record specifically mentioning the Call-Collins Mansion comes from chancery court records relating to the settlement of the Port Leon debt. The Grove tract was reduced from 640 acres to 180 by the time Call deeded it to his daughter Ellen Call Long in 1853. Despite his struggles, Call was able to maintain ownership of the Tallahassee Railroad, The Grove, and negotiated the control of the Orchard Pond and Lake Jackson plantations.<sup>34</sup>

Richard Keith Call Law Practice

As a lawyer, Richard Keith Call was involved in two very notable cases in early territorial Florida, the first of which took place in Pensacola. Call first entered into a short-lived partnership with renowned lawyer and future congressman Henry Marie Brackenridge while there. Shortly after the United States assumed formal control over Florida in 1821 and Andrew Jackson became governor of the territory, he was embroiled in another international incident. The Spanish governor of West Florida, Jose Callava, remained in the city while the two

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<sup>33</sup> Doherty, 87-90; von Gerstner, *Early American Railroads*, 737-739.

<sup>34</sup> Doherty, 91-92; *Star of Florida*, "Dreadful Conflagration in Tallahassee," May 27, 1843, in *Florida Historical Quarterly* vol. 3, no. 1 (July 1924), 44-48; William Bailey and Henry Gee v. Richard K. Call and George K. Walker Decree, December 16, 1847, Leon County Chancery Court File No. 77; R K Call to Ellen W. Long Deed of Gift, May 29, 1853, Deed Book K p. 437, Leon County Property Appraiser Office records.

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countries finalized arrangements for the transfer of power. The delays that accompanied the transfer angered Jackson and reached a boiling point in August 1821. As the United States assumed control over Spanish Florida, the Spanish land grant holders pressed forward to reestablish their claims. One of these claimants, a woman named Mercedes Vidal, staked a claim on land granted to her father. She hired Brackenridge and Call to represent her. When it became apparent that relevant materials were still in the possession of Spanish authorities, Jackson immediately ordered Callava to hand them over. When Callava refused, Jackson had him arrested and brought before him. After an intense meeting between the two, Jackson ordered Callava to be placed in the jail until the necessary papers could be procured. After his release, Callava went to Washington to lodge a formal protest, but the necessary support to open a congressional investigation never materialized and the matter was dropped. The minor international incident was perhaps the most notable event that occurred during Jackson's brief stint as governor of Florida. Brackenridge and Call played a key role in this, as they realized that their inside access to Jackson along with his distrust of Callava gave them a better chance of success than appealing directly to the federal courts.<sup>35</sup>

After Call moved to Tallahassee, he reestablished his law practice in the city and quickly made himself known for representing land cases. Due to vagaries in Spanish record keeping and strong suspicion of rampant land fraud, there were a number of large Spanish land grant cases that remained open by the late 1820s and the federal government was looking for a final resolution. In an effort to help resolve the cases, the government also desired for someone to go to Havana, Cuba, to inspect the original Spanish archives. In 1829, Call was appointed as special agent as was tasked with retrieving either original records or certified copies of the original land records of Spanish land grants. He was also appointed as special counsel and worked alongside attorney generals William Wirt and Roger Taney in defending the United States' claims in federal courts. Initially employed for just the two largest land cases, by 1831, Call formally took over as assistant counsel for all Florida land claim cases. In total, Call presented 15 cases before the United States Supreme Court, losing every one.<sup>36</sup>

The most important of these cases was *Mitchel v. United States*. The land at the heart of the dispute encompassed over a million acres in much of what is now the Big Bend region of Florida, including modern day Apalachicola. In 1823, the Supreme Court's decision in *Johnson v. McIntosh* introduced the concept of the "discovery doctrine," which held that the Native Americans possessed no rights to the land beyond occupancy and that the "discovery" of the land by American or Europeans divested natives of the right to sell the land to private citizens or to possess formal title to the land. This doctrine became a guiding principle in Native American land rights for the remainder of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The *Mitchel* case centered around land signed over

<sup>35</sup> Herbert J. Doherty, "Andrew Jackson vs. the Spanish Governor: Pensacola 1821," *Florida Historical Quarterly* vol. 34, no. 2 (October 1955), p. 142-153; Stuart B. McIver, *Dreamers, Schemers and Scalawags: The Florida Chronicles* (Sarasota, FL: Pineapple Press, Inc., 1994), 88-94.

<sup>36</sup> Doherty, *Southern Unionist*, 57-69.

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originally to Panton, Leslie & Co. and its successor John Forbes & Co. The land was ceded to them in a treaty by leaders of the Creek and Seminole tribes in 1804 to compensate for the extensive damages done to its St. Marks store and for the heavy debt owed the company by the tribes. The Forbes Company then sold their interests to Colin Mitchel, a land speculator based in Havana, Cuba. The Mitchel case also involved a number of adjacent land holdings held privately by John Forbes. Essentially drawing from the discovery doctrine, the Board of Commissioners ruled against Mitchel, a decision upheld by territorial judge Thomas Randall. The federal government's case was also built around the doctrine. The case made its way to the Supreme Court, and as there remained much delay in procuring the necessary documents, it was not decided until 1835. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Mitchel. As the grant of land was done with the approval of Spanish authorities, it was valid. Exactly where the Supreme Court stood in relation to the discovery doctrine was called into question following the Cherokee Nation cases, particularly the 1832 case of *Worcester v. Georgia*. The Mitchel decision essentially reinforced the discovery doctrine and made it clear where the Court stood in relation to native land ownership. This case would be the last case overseen by Chief Justice John Marshall, who died shortly afterwards.<sup>37</sup>

Call's Second Tenure as Governor

Although there is some debate as to whether the Call-Collins House was completed during Call's first stint as territorial governor, which ended in 1839, it was most certainly completed by his second tenure, which lasted from 1841 to 1844. Despite the personal humiliation of his removal from command that ended his close friendship with President Jackson, Call remained in office for a second term. He was an outspoken opponent, however, of Jackson's successor President Martin Van Buren. As a result, the Van Buren removed Call as governor of the territory. It was at this time that Call became a prominent Whig, and was very much active in the 1840 presidential election campaigning on behalf of William Henry Harrison. Call's southern origins and personal connection to Jackson made him a valuable asset for the Harrison campaign, and as a reward for his services, Call received a third appointment as territorial governor of Florida in 1841.<sup>38</sup>

From 1841 to 1844, The Grove was once again at the center of territorial politics. Although the Second Seminole War lingered on into the early 1840s, by the late 1830s, the threat of the Seminoles was effectively eliminated. By now, the effects from the Panic of 1837 finally reached Florida as the decline in cotton prices coupled with the drying up of financing brought much economic hardship, especially in Middle Florida. The economy of Florida was dominated by three large banks: the Union Bank in Tallahassee, the Southern Life Insurance and Trust Company of St. Augustine, and the Bank of Pensacola. These banks operated through a stock system, where planters and businessmen were subscribed a fixed amount of stock relative to the appraised

<sup>37</sup> Blake A. Watson, "Buying West Florida from the Indians: the Forbes Purchase and Mitchel v. United States (1835)," *FIU Law Review* vol. 9, no. 2 (Spring 2014), 361-390.

<sup>38</sup> Doherty, *Southern Unionist*, 114, 120-124.

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value of the property they placed as collateral. They could then borrow money from the banks proportional to a percentage of the value of stock they held. To finance this, the banks utilized bonds underwritten by the Territory of Florida, which were largely sold overseas. The idea of this system was to provide much needed liquidity to the largely agricultural territory. Owing to corruption in the banks, however, especially the Union Bank, property placed for collateral were vastly overvalued. As the global cotton prices plummeted in the late 1830s, the planters in Florida and the merchants who relied upon them were unable to pay back their loans. As the banks moved to repossess the property, they were unable to recoup the money owed on the issued bonds. All three of the major banks failed, a process expedited by passage of territorial legislation mandating specie payments. This placed a vast debt on the territory, which declared bankruptcy as a result.<sup>39</sup>

Governor Call emerged during this time as the face of pro-bank politics in Florida, and became the target of much criticism from the anti-bank faction for his continued issuing of territorial faith bonds even as serious questions arose over the viability of the banks. The election of the Call-Collins Mansion, which was the second-largest residence in Florida at the time of its construction, likely did not endear him to the populace either. The high hopes entertained by the national Whig Party following the election of President William Henry Harrison proved to be short-lived following his death. His successor John Tyler proved to be highly unpopular with other Whigs. Among Tyler's detractors was Governor Call, whose opposition to the president played a big role in Tyler's decision not to renew Call's appointment in 1844. After Florida achieved statehood in 1845, Call ran as the Whig candidate for governor but lost, effectively marking the end of his active political career. By the mid-1840s, Call moved to the Orchard Pond Plantation in the Lake Jackson region to the north of town. His daughter Ellen Call Long and her family moved into The Grove at this time, but did not assume formal ownership of the property until 1853.<sup>40</sup>

Southern Unionism

During the 1850s and early 1860s, the subject of slavery and secession dominated national politics. In the south, there were sharply divided opinions between the Fire Eaters, who were in favor of complete secession, and the Unionists, who believed sectional differences could be settled without separation. Although retired from active politics, Richard Keith Call was perhaps the most outspoken Southern Unionist in Florida. After the demise of the Whig Party, Call was a leader in the American Party, better known as the Know-Nothing Party. Better remembered today for its nativist stance, the American Party was also strongly pro-union, a platform that attracted many disaffected former Whigs such as Call who were repulsed by the Republican Party. Call served as a delegate for Florida during the 1856 American Party National Convention in Philadelphia. Eventually,

<sup>39</sup> Doherty, 126.

<sup>40</sup> Doherty, 126-128.

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however, regional animosities brought an end to the American Party. Call remained a staunch Unionist, however, joining the Constitutional Union Party during the 1860 presidential election.<sup>41</sup>

It was at The Grove that one of the more dramatic moments of the Florida secession convention took place in 1861. Following the election of Abraham Lincoln and the subsequent secession of South Carolina, the state of Florida called for its own secession convention. Upon hearing of this, Call decided to travel to Tallahassee in hopes of influencing the convention. After arriving at The Grove, he changed his mind, however, and stayed there instead. The delegates, upon learning of Call's presence in the city, decided to pay him a visit following the successful vote of secession. Arriving onto the front steps of the Call-Collins Mansion, they confronted Call to show himself and to brag about what they had done. In response, an aging Call told them they had "opened the gates of Hell, from which shall flow the curse of the damned which shall sink you to perdition."<sup>42</sup>

In the interregnum between the declaration of secession and the Battle of Fort Sumter, Call wrote an open letter to his friend John Stockton Littell in Philadelphia. Call firmly placed the blame for the crisis over the controversy surrounding slavery and the extremists on both sides. In the letter, he laid out his belief of the constitutional protections of the institution of slavery, which he claimed civilized the Africans. He believed the federal government had no authority to curtail the expansion of slavery into the territories and the failure of northern states to uphold the Fugitive Slave Act was a direct violation of the Constitution. He viewed this refusal as no less disloyal to the Union as secession. He was still an ardent supporter of the Union, however, and hoped there were enough sensible people who could work together and keep the country unified even after the southern states already declared their independence.<sup>43</sup>

**Historic Significance – Criterion B: Ellen Call Long**

In 1844, Richard Keith Call's daughter Ellen Call married Medicus Long, a promising young lawyer and politician who was a law partner of Call's cousin David S. Walker. The young family moved into The Grove in the mid-1840s, although it was not officially deeded to Ellen until later. Medicus Long was a native of Tennessee, where he made a name for himself as a politician and newspaperman. He served in the Tennessee state house of representatives and was a friend of President James K. Polk. After arriving in Florida and marrying Ellen Call, Medicus Long went on to serve in the state senate, nearly beating Stephen Mallory in the election for US senator in 1851. Perhaps his most notable achievement while in Tallahassee was in the crafting of the legislation in 1851 resulting in the founding of what is now Florida State University and the University of Florida. Medicus Long was also an outspoken secessionist, which placed him at odds with his father-in-law. The two even publicly debated on the subject. This also placed him at odds with his wife, who like her father

<sup>41</sup> Doherty, 146-156.

<sup>42</sup> Doherty, 158.

<sup>43</sup> Richard Keith Call, *Letter from Governor R.K. Call of Florida to John S. Littell of Germantown, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: C. Sherman and Son, 1861), p. 10-15, 24-25, 29.



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was a staunch Unionist. In 1858, Medicus Long left for Texas. Although they never divorced, Medicus and Ellen Long never saw each other again and Ellen ran The Grove and later Orchard Pond as a single female head of household until shortly before her death.<sup>44</sup>

Ellen Call Long remained a steadfast Unionist like her father, even as the Civil War approached. A longtime member of the St. Johns Episcopal Church, which her father cofounded, Long stormed out of the church in anger as the minister offered his first prayer for the new Confederate president Jefferson Davis. She even hid an American flag throughout the war with the instruction that it be destroyed if she died before the war ended. She only invested \$10 in Confederate war bonds. Although she was not a supporter of secession, during the war, she very much launched herself into the aid of Confederate soldiers. She was an active member of the Ladies Soldiers Friend Society of Tallahassee, which offered sewing services to provide textiles for the Confederacy. Her son Richard Call Long enlisted in the Confederate Army. During the war, Long hosted Confederate officers and politicians and opened the house to an occasional wounded or sick soldier. Her own son spent a great deal of time recuperating from illness that nearly killed him while he was out in the field. Although they experienced the shortages of war and economic hardships during and after the war, the city of Tallahassee was spared from much of its ravages. It was the only Confederate state capital east of the Mississippi River not to fall during the Civil War.<sup>45</sup>

Ellen Call Long kept a diary throughout the war that reveals much about the daily life going on at The Grove during this time. In December 1864, in an effort to provide some entertainment for the children, Long hosted a small play at the Call-Collins House. On May 1 1865, just days after learning of the surrender of General Robert E. Lee, Long hosted the annual Tallahassee May Day celebrations at The Grove. The brass band of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Florida Cavalry provided the music for the affair, one of the last official engagements of the Confederate army in Florida. This was followed by an evening tea at the Call-Collins House, where much confusion reigned over conflicting reports regarding the war. Two days later, the news of General Joseph Johnston's surrender reached the city and the Confederate army in Florida was disbanded. Although embittered by the humiliation of the south, Long remained a strong Unionist throughout the war: "... it is time the southern people recognized their folly and the truth of having sold their birthright for a mess of pottage."<sup>46</sup> On May 10, the Union army under General Edward McCook marched past The Grove on their way to take possession of the city of Tallahassee. Later on, Long hosted General McCook and his staff at The Grove in an attempt to establish good relations with the occupying Union army.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> William Warren Rogers and Erica R. Clark, *The Croom Family and Goodwood Plantation: Land, Litigation, and Southern Lives* (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1999), 166-167; Sid S. Johnson, "Medicus Long," in *Texans Who Wore the Gray* (Tyler, TX: Sid S. Johnson, 1907), 186.

<sup>45</sup> Ellen Call Long Diary entries for September 1864, March 1865, May 8, 1865, June 3, 1865, State Archives of Florida; Dunn, p. 23.

<sup>46</sup> Ellen Call Long Diary entry for May 10, 1865, State Archives of Florida.

<sup>47</sup> Ellen Call Long diary entries for December 28, 1864, May 1, 1865, June 3, 1865, State Archives of Florida.

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Involvement in Historic Preservation

The desire to reinforce national unity and shared history drove many Southern Unionists to the cause of historic preservation. In 1858, Ann Pamela Cunningham founded the Mount Vernon Ladies Association (MVLA). Created to both acquire and restore George Washington's historic home, the MVLA is widely considered to be the first truly national historic preservation movement in the United States. As news of the MVLA's formation reached Tallahassee, Ellen Call Long took the lead in organizing the state chapter, issuing the first call to local newspapers. At Long's suggestion, Cunningham named Catherine Willis Murat, a niece of George Washington, as the first Vice Regent of the Florida chapter of the MVLA. Despite the challenges in travel and communications, the Florida MVLA was successful in establishing local chapters in every county and incorporated community in the state. They were also able to raise more money per capita than any other state in the union despite the cash limitations of a largely agricultural economy. After the Civil War, Long played a crucial role in reestablishing the MVLA in Florida. It was largely through her efforts that the early records of the state chapter were saved.<sup>48</sup>

Later on, Ellen Call Long was instrumental in the founding of the Ladies Hermitage Association (LHA). She served as the first Vice Regent from Florida. She was heavily involved in one of the early important fundraisers for the LHA, which took place at the Hotel Ponce de Leon in St. Augustine in 1892. She was also active in securing artifacts for the museum, donating a portrait of Rachel Jackson originally ordered by Richard Keith Call that is still at The Hermitage. She also personally appealed to the descendants of the Marquis de Lafayette for furnishings to donate to the museum.<sup>49</sup>

Memorialization Efforts and Worlds Fairs 1876-1905

After the Civil War, Ellen Call Long was very active in commemoration efforts in the state. Following the war, the women in the south began forming ladies memorial associations. These groups were initially formed to locate and repatriate deceased Confederate veterans and to commemorate the dead through elaborate graveside services and the erection of monuments. The flower laying ceremonies conducted by these women served as the direct influence for what became federal Memorial Day. Long is credited with creating the Leon County

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<sup>48</sup> Ellen Call Long Letter to Ann Pamela Cunningham, July 10, 1858, in Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington; Ann Pamela Cunningham Letter to Richard Keith Call [undated], in *Florida Breezes*, p. 259-260; F.G. Baker, "Florida State Report," in *Report of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union for 1893* (Baltimore, MD: Press of the Friedenwald Co., 1896), p. 9; Gwendolyn B. Waldorf, "The Princess and the Ladies: Catherine Murat and the Mount Vernon Ladies Association," *Apalachee* vol. 11 (1996), 88-95.

<sup>49</sup> Mary C. Dorris, *Preservation of the Hermitage, 1889-1915* (Nashville, TN: The Ladies Hermitage Association, 1915), 62-63; *Florida Times-Union*, "Eclipsed 'Em All," February 6, 1892.

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Memorial Association, which was the first ladies memorial association formed in the state of Florida. The location of the state capital in Tallahassee made this group especially important in statewide efforts to promote Confederate causes. This LCMA was instrumental in the erection of the official state Confederate monument and in gaining formal recognition of Confederate Memorial Day in Florida. The group was later absorbed into the United Daughters of the Confederacy as the Anna Jackson Chapter and is still in active operation.<sup>50</sup>

The end of the Civil War brought about a remarkable turnaround for the political fortunes of the Call-Walker family. Long's cousin David S. Walker was elected as governor of Florida and another cousin Wilkinson Call became a longtime U.S. senator from the state. Long was able to use her family's connections to secure advantageous appointments for herself. A long-time advocate of national reconciliation, Long took the lead in representing Florida in the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. The Centennial Exposition was the first World's Fair to feature a women's department, and Ellen Call Long represented the state of Florida. It was here that Long made the acquaintance of a number of prominent women, including Julia Ward Howe. Although Long was undoubtedly familiar with the women's suffrage movement, her personal stance on this subject is largely unknown. Long carried out the planning for this exhibit almost single-handedly, as white southern support for the Centennial remained lukewarm.<sup>51</sup>

The Grove has an unusual connection to the world's fairs that were enormously popular in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. In addition to the Centennial Exposition, Ellen Call Long was also an active participant and delegate to several important world's fairs, including the Cotton Centennial in New Orleans (1884), the Exposition Universelle in Paris (1889) and the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago (1893). In each of these fairs, Long brought a piece of The Grove with her. During the Jamestown Exposition of 1907, the Call-Collins Mansion was selected to serve as the proposed model for the Florida Building. Although the building was never constructed due to a lack of funds, the selection of the mansion was clear recognition of the property's historical significance to the state.<sup>52</sup>

Sericulture

It was likely at the Centennial Exposition that Ellen Call Long was initially exposed to the ideas of sericulture. At this exhibit, two large flags made entirely from California-made silk caused a sensation. There were also several large displays from silk manufacturers demonstrating advances in silk reeling and manufacturing

<sup>50</sup> Ellen Call Long, "A History of the Memorial Association Formed in Tallahassee After the Late Civil War," [unpublished manuscript], State Archives of Florida.

<sup>51</sup> Ellen Call Long's Centennial efforts were well-documented in the Jacksonville publication *Semi-Tropical Monthly*, including: Ellen Call Long, "Panoramic," *Semi-Tropical Monthly* vol. I (1875), 15-17; Ellen Call Long, "Women's Work for the National Fete," *Semi-Tropical Monthly*, vol. II (1876), 22-26; and *Semi-Tropical Monthly*, "Centennial Appeal for Aid," vol. II (1876), 160-162.

<sup>52</sup> Menton, 38-39; *Weekly True Democrat*, "Enthusiastic Exposition," February 1, 1907.

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machinery. This inspired a group of Philadelphia women to form the Women's Silk Culture Association (WSCA). In the production of silk, there are two primary steps: the production of the raw silk (sericulture) and the manufacturing of finished silk products. Large-scale silk manufacturing in the United States goes back to the earliest periods of industrialization in the country. Due to prohibitive labor costs, however, the raising and reeling of raw silk never became a large industry in the United States. Silk manufacturers relied on imported raw silk from Europe, China, and later Japan to supply their mills. There was a belief amongst the women of the WSCA that with the introduction of a protective tariff for domestic raw silk and government subsidies, sericulture could become a sustainable industry. In an era of limited financial opportunities for women, some saw sericulture as a means for them to help support their families. The WSCA soon established a school on silk raising, hiring an Italian sericulturalist to run the school and attracting women from across the country in hopes they could take what they learned in Philadelphia and bring it back to their communities.<sup>53</sup>

Ellen Call Long encountered financial difficulties after the Civil War. Although she still owned Orchard Pond, she supported both of her adult children and their families, who moved in with her at The Grove. The family also continued to live lavishly and beyond their means. Long saw sericulture as a way to help improve her financial situation, and enthusiastically launched herself into the endeavor. Although it is unclear exactly when she did this, Long spent an entire year in Philadelphia with the WSCA studying sericulture. An article in the August 14, 1882, edition of the [New Orleans] *Times-Democrat* mentioned that Long and her daughter arrived in Tallahassee after an absence of two years so it is likely she was studying silk at this time.<sup>54</sup> She references her training under the WSCA in an 1883 article she wrote in *The Florida Annual* titled "Silk Farming in Florida."<sup>55</sup> Long's stay in Philadelphia was financed by Hamilton Disston, a wealthy northern industrialist and Florida land developer. Disston also donated \$100 to the WSCA for the purpose of providing silkworm eggs free of charge to anyone in Florida who wished to start raising silk. The potential of a new cash crop to entice farmers to come to Florida was enough for Disston.<sup>56</sup> He purchased four million acres of land from the state in 1881 and through his Florida Land and Improvement Company was engaged in an ambitious drainage project to create more arable land.

In 1884, Ellen Call Long wrote a pamphlet titled *Silk Farming*, which was published in Philadelphia. The pamphlet was a shortened version of an earlier WSCA book published in 1882 titled *Instruction Book in the Art*

<sup>53</sup> Nelson Klose, "Sericulture in the United States," *Agricultural History*, vol. 37, no. 4 (October 1863), 228-231; Lorin Blodget, "Women's Work in Founding a New Industry – Silk Culture," in *Fourth Annual Report of the Women's Silk Culture Association of the United States* (Philadelphia: Craig, Finley & Co., 1884), 4.

<sup>54</sup> *Times-Democrat*, Untitled, August 14, 1882.

<sup>55</sup> Ellen Call Long, "Silk Farming in Florida," in *The Florida Annual 1884*, C. K. Munroe, ed. (New York: Vaux and Company, Printers, 1883), 112-115.

<sup>56</sup> *Land of Flowers*, "Silk Worm Eggs," February 7, 1885.

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*of Silk Culture*.<sup>57</sup> In fact, Long reused the same illustrations provided in the 1882 publication. The value in *Silk Farming* lied in its conciseness, as Long reduced the original 141 page book into a 47 page pamphlet. She initially printed 3,000 *Silk Farming* pamphlets and distributed them for free to any interested party. The reaction was so positive that Long printed an additional 10,000 copies, which she sold for \$.25 each after running out of the first edition. Long also wrote a regular weekly article on sericulture in the local newspaper *Land of Flowers*.<sup>58</sup>

Ever the promoter of national unity and silk, Long, working in conjunction with the editor of the *Land of Flowers*, issued a statewide call for the designing of an American flag made entirely of Florida-grown silk to be presented at the gubernatorial inauguration of Edward A. Perry. The flag was made by the WSCA as part of a live demonstration at the Pennsylvania State Fair in 1884 and was ready for presentation on January 6, 1885, when Governor Perry was formally sworn in. Much of the silk used in the flag came from The Grove property.<sup>59</sup> The flag later saw a second life as a World's Fair display piece at the Cotton Centennial, the Exposition Universelle in Paris, and the Columbian Exposition. Long remained an important figure within the WSCA throughout the 1880s, serving as silk commissioner of the south for the organization's exhibit in New Orleans in 1885 and later personally lobbying President Benjamin Harrison on behalf of the WSCA in 1889. Despite her best efforts, the sericulture industry and the WSCA itself fizzled following the end of federal subsidies in 1891.<sup>60</sup>

Forestry

It was through her interests in sericulture that Ellen Call Long became involved in forestry. Recognizing the importance of tree planting to silkworm raising, Long was a strong advocate of mulberry tree planting. Her long proprietorship of the heavily forested Grove and Orchard Pond properties gave her much firsthand experience in forest management. She was one of the founding members and only female officer in the Southern Forestry Congress (SFC), which began in 1884 in DeFuniak Springs, Florida. Although short-lived, the group was instrumental in gaining acceptance of Arbor Day throughout the south. Perhaps the most important achievement

<sup>57</sup> For a comparison, please see Women's Silk Culture Association of the United States, *An Instruction Book in the Art of Sericulture* (Philadelphia: Women's Silk Culture Association of America, 1882); and Ellen Call Long, *Silk Farming* (Philadelphia: The Press of Joseph Glover, 1884).

<sup>58</sup> Ellen Call Long wrote a series of articles titled "Silk Culture Department," in the *Land of Flowers* in 1885; *Land of Flowers*, Untitled, February 7, 1885.

<sup>59</sup> *Land of Flowers*, "Florida Silk Flag and Its Presentation," January 3, 1885; *Land of Flowers*, Untitled, September 1884. According to article, the flag was reeled at Electrical Exhibition in Philadelphia, but Annual report from WSCA clearly establishes event as state fair.

<sup>60</sup> Julia Ward Howe, *Report and Catalogue of The Woman's Department of The World's Exposition, Held at New Orleans 1884-1885* (Boston: Rand, Avery, and Co., 1885), 18, 27, 175-179; *The Evening World*, Untitled, April 12, 1892.

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of the SFC was bringing the American Forestry Congress (AFC), now known as American Forests, into the south. The SFC was absorbed into the AFC in 1888 and ceased to exist as an independent entity afterwards.<sup>61</sup>

Ellen Call Long was one of only two women appointed as delegates to the American Forestry Congress during its 1888 meeting and was the only one to make a presentation. She presented a paper before the group titled "Notes on Some of the Forest Features of Florida," which was later published in the proceedings. In her presentation, Long observed that for southern longleaf pines, fire was an ecological necessity and that controlled burning was essential for their propagation. She took the observation further by making the connections between absolute fire suppression and the development of hardwood hammocks. In an era when northern ideas on forest management dominated forestry, her statements were very bold. Her report is considered a seminal work in the field of fire ecology. It was the first report to appear in a national forestry publication advocating for prescribed burning and the first to make the connection between fire suppression and hardwood hammocks. Years later, the University of Alabama botanist Roland Harper, a trailblazer in the field of fire ecology, was inspired to publish the first comprehensive historiography on the subject in 1913 after a critic accused him of merely restating an opinion already voiced by Long back in 1888.<sup>62</sup>

Long Grove Addition, Transfer of Ownership

As years of financial struggles started catching up with Ellen Call Long, she was forced to start selling possessions to satisfy debts. In 1887, Long sold off a large tract of Grove land to the Tallahassee Land and Improvement Company, which in turn subdivided the parcels into the Long Grove Addition. This was the first subdivision in the city of Tallahassee and it reduced the 190-acre tract into a size close to roughly 13 acres by the 1890s. As debts continued to accumulate, Long reached an agreement with Charles Hunt, the husband of her granddaughter Reinette Long Hunt, in 1903. In exchange for Charles Hunt covering her debts, she would deed him The Grove and Orchard Pond properties. She would also receive an annuity and life lease. Long quickly had a change of heart, however, and tried to renege on the deal, claiming she did not fully understand the arrangement. Her displeasure at the agreement is perhaps best explained in the subsequent court case she brought against the Hunts:

Defendant [Charles Hunt] did not see plaintiff [Long] for about ten days again when plaintiff sent for defendant and stated she had decided she wanted her property back: that she had the check... which defendant had given her: plaintiff offered back the check to defendant and on defendant's refusal to accept the same, plaintiff threw said check in the fire...<sup>63</sup>

<sup>61</sup> Andrew Waber, "Sounding the First Discordant Notes: Ellen Call Long and Her Legacy in the Field of Fire Ecology," *Tall Timbers E-Journal* vol. 3, no. 1 (Summer 2016), 24-26.

<sup>62</sup> Waber, 26-29.

<sup>63</sup> "Memorandum in Reference to Plaintiff in Case of Long vs. Hunt," February 1, 1905, p. 5, in *Ellen Call Long v. Charles Edwin Hunt and Reinette Long Hunt*, 2nd Florida Circuit Court, June 5, 1905.

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Despite her best efforts, Long was never able to reclaim ownership of either The Grove or Orchard Pond. She died in December 1905, and was buried in the family cemetery on the property. Her funeral ceremony drew a number of the state's political elite, including governors Napoleon Bonaparte Broward and William Bloxham and state supreme court chief justice Fenwick Taylor, a testament to the esteem to which she was held in the political circles of Florida.<sup>64</sup> By this time, the ownership of The Grove and Orchard Pond passed to Long's granddaughter Reinette Long Hunt.

**Historic Significance – Criterion A: Politics During Ellen Call Long Era**

Following Call's retirement from politics, The Grove remained an important gathering place for the political elite as the Call and Walker families were prominent in state politics throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Call's son-in-law Medicus Long, who lived at The Grove from the mid-1840s until the late 1850s, served in the state legislature. During Reconstruction, Milton S. Littlefield rented the property and used it as a lobbying base for what became a significant railroad swindle against the state of Florida.

**Historic Significance – Criterion B: Milton S. Littlefield**

Although it is unclear exactly what Ellen Call Long did during the first ten years following the end of the Civil War, in the late 1860s, she rented out a portion of the Call-Collins Mansion to the infamous Reconstruction era swindler Milton S. Littlefield. Known as "the Prince of Carpetbaggers," Littlefield's name became synonymous with the notorious corruption taking place in the Republican controlled state governments of North Carolina and Florida at this time. Littlefield was a Union officer of colored troops who rose to the rank of brigadier general during the war. After the war, there was a rush to rebuild and expand the infrastructure of the south, which created opportunities for exploitation. Working in close conjunction with southerner George W. Swepson and New York backers, Littlefield managed to convince the state government of North Carolina to exchange \$1.2 million in state bonds for bonds in the Chatham Railroad. This number later grew to around \$4 million as they received additional considerations in exchange for completing the Western North Carolina Railroad. Instead of funding internal improvements, the money was funneled into a corrupt syndicate of businessmen, bankers, and politicians known as The Ring and Littlefield was the face of the operation.<sup>65</sup>

At the same time Swepson and Littlefield were active in North Carolina, they also set their sights on Florida. They were particularly drawn to the state by the forced sale of two railroads in receivership: the Pensacola and Georgia Railroad (P&G) and the Florida Atlantic and Gulf Central Railroad (FA&GC). In 1868, Swepson bought a controlling interest in the FA&GC, which was renamed the Florida Central Railroad. He then acquired one million dollars in P&G mortgage debt at 35 percent face value. He was able to swap the bond debt at 95

<sup>64</sup> *Daily Democrat* [Tallahassee, FL], "Earth to Earth," December 22, 1905.

<sup>65</sup> Jonathan Daniels, *Prince of Carpetbaggers* (New York: J.B. Lipincott Co., 1958),

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cents to the dollar into partial ownership of the new combined entity created with the merger of the two railroads. In the bids for ownership of the railroads, the Trustees allowed for the bonds to be accepted at face value as cash. Realizing there would be opposition to him outright buying the P&G, Swepson turned over his bonds totaling over \$960,000 face value to Franklin Dibble in exchange for \$150,000 in cash and a 1/3 ownership of the new railroad. With this advantage, Dibble was able to officially acquire the P&G, but granted Swepson temporary control of the railroad until he was formally paid what was owed to him. Both men knew that the \$150,000 check written to Swepson was worthless. With an official purchase price of \$1.415 million dollars on the railroads, the state of Florida was defrauded of over \$750,000 in the transaction. The money Swepson used to acquire the bonds came from the Western North Carolina Railroad Company, without the consent of the company or the state of North Carolina.<sup>66</sup>

Milton S. Littlefield was crucial to the execution of the railroad bond scheme. Like in North Carolina, Littlefield was a very effective lobbyist. During a special session of the Florida state legislature in 1869, he convinced Governor Harrison Reed to support a measure granting state money for the construction of a western railroad connecting Quincy, Florida, to Mobile, Alabama, effectively linking Pensacola to Jacksonville. The Grove was especially crucial to Littlefield's efforts, as he hosted lavish parties for the legislators and held extensive meetings here. He was able with the secret help of Swepson to create a new railroad company, the Jacksonville, Pensacola and Mobile Railroad Company (JP&M), and managed to secure \$14,000 worth of bonds for each mile of track. Littlefield was granted authority to exchange company bonds on par with state bonds, which were sold on the open market. He was able to bribe authorities to delete requirements of first lien on railroad property and proof of clear ownership to land prior to issuance of bonds. This subtraction proved especially fateful to the state.<sup>67</sup>

As news reached North Carolina of the dealings of Swepson and Littlefield, controversy arose. The state of North Carolina issued a warrant for the arrest of Littlefield, and repeated requests were made for extradition. The Republican governors of Florida Harrison Reed and Ossian Hart refused to grant these requests. Desperate, the state of North Carolina issued a \$5,000 reward for the arrest of Littlefield. Governor Reed countered with a \$5,000 reward for the arrest of anyone looking to claim the North Carolina money.<sup>68</sup>

In 1870, Littlefield managed to pull an ambitious fraud on the state. At this time, he used his authority as president of the JP&M to issue \$3 million in bonds and managed to receive \$1 million in Florida Central bonds despite not having the treasurer of the company sign off on them. These were exchanged for \$4 million in state bonds, with \$1 million given over to Col. Houston and \$3 million sent up to New York to sell. This sale proved impossible, however, as word reached New York warning about the validity of the bonds. This forced

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<sup>66</sup> Paul E. Fenlon, "The Notorious Swepson-Littlefield Fraud," *Florida Historical Quarterly* vol. 32, no. 4 (April 1954), 234-243.

<sup>67</sup> Fenlon 241-247.

<sup>68</sup> Fenlon, 258-259.



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the bond sale to occur in Europe, where agents for the state of North Carolina made it difficult to sell in London. Littlefield personally toured Europe, and after much difficulties, managed to sell the bonds to Dutch investors at 48% face value. After fees, only \$1 million of the \$3 million sold were realized and over 2/3 of this remaining money went to Swepson and Littlefield to cover for their expenses. By this time, the boards of directors for both railroad companies repudiated their corporate bonds, in effect making the securities backing the state bonds invalid. This triggered a series of lawsuits between the Dutch bondholders, the states of North Carolina and Florida, and the various creditors of Littlefield and Swepson that would plague Florida for the next decade. As a result of the entanglements, the state fell into receivership. The failure of the much awaited Pensacola to Jacksonville rail connection nearly led to West Florida voting to annex itself to the state of Alabama. It would not be until the Disston Purchase in 1881 that the state of Florida cleared its debts and was able to once again use its public lands to encourage development.<sup>69</sup>

Despite warrants for his arrest in North Carolina, Littlefield lived quite openly at The Grove, assured of the governor's protection. Although he was constantly in and out of town, he used The Grove to help in his endeavors. He occupied the first floor and basement levels of the Call-Collins Mansion and kept a small staff of three northerners, a "Mr. Reed and his two daughters," to cater to guests in his absence. He was clearly cognizant of the historical associations of the property and its importance to the political elite of Florida and he used it to his advantage.<sup>70</sup> He was not forthcoming in his rent payments, however, and simply left his possessions behind while he was in Europe trying to sell the bonds. This forced Ellen Call Long to sue for repossession of his belongings in partial payment of his debts. The court case is one of the more intriguing records connected to The Grove, as it offers a room-by-room accounting of Littlefield's possessions, which gives important clues about the historical functions of the rooms:

Parlor 1 piano, 1 carpet, 1 rug, 1 mat, 3 chairs, 2 rocking chairs  
Hall 1 hat rack, 1 carpet, 1 chandelier, 3 chairs, 1 arm chair  
East room back 1 beaureau, 1 dressing stand, 2 chairs, 1 towell rack, 1 carpet, dog irons

Upstairs

1<sup>st</sup> room 1 bedstead, 1 bureau, 1 wash stand, 1 towel rack, 1 carpet, 1 arm chair  
2<sup>nd</sup> room 1 bedstead, 1 bureau, 1 washstand, 1 towel rack, 1 carpet, 1 r. chair  
3<sup>rd</sup> room 1 bedstead, 1 bureau, 1 wash stand, 1 towel rack, 1 carpet, table, 2 chairs, 1 writing desk  
4<sup>th</sup> room 1 bedstead 1 bureau 1 washstand, 1 towel rack, table, chairs

[Basement Level]

Crockery, glass, and kitchen ware  
Hall 1 writing desk, 7 chairs...<sup>71</sup>

<sup>69</sup> Fenon, 255-258.

<sup>70</sup> Daniels, 267-270.

<sup>71</sup> "Schedule of Personal Property Belonging to Milton S. Littlefield..." Divoll, p. 32.

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**Historic Significance – Criterion A: Politics During Reinette Long Hunt Era 1905-1940**

Reinette Long Hunt, who owned The Grove from 1903 until her death in 1940, was no stranger to the property. Her father, Richard Call Long, Sr., was a lawyer and judge who moved into The Grove with his family in the 1870s. Reinette grew up in the Call-Collins House along with her brother and cousins. She was an active participant in her grandmother's silk experiments being listed as one of the contributors to the silk flag project. She also accompanied her grandmother to the fundraiser held at the Hotel Ponce de Leon on behalf of the Ladies Hermitage Association. She married Charles Edwin Hunt, a wealthy commodities trader. The marriage was an unhappy one, however, and the couple divorced shortly after her grandmother's death. The properties were technically moved into a trust held in her name but under the control of her brother Richard Call Long, Jr. Perhaps as a testament to the difficulties of securing divorces at the time, the case had to be granted by the state supreme court.

Like her grandmother before her, Reinette needed to find creative ways to help pay for the upkeep of the property. The Grove's advantageous location next door to the Governor's Mansion, which was built in on land formerly owned by the Call/Long family, made it a prime location for rentals from politicians, lawyers, and lobbyists. One of the earliest renters was the state senator John S. Beard from Pensacola, who first arrived in 1907 and stayed through 1910. Senator Beard gained notoriety at this time when he proposed on multiple occasions an amendment to the state constitution officially disenfranchising African Americans. His activism on this cause also coincided with his larger ambition of receiving a seat on the United States Senate, which proved unsuccessful. A firm believer that the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was unconstitutional, Beard's goal was to bring the question of its constitutionality before the U.S. Supreme Court. As part of his efforts to gain passage on the measure, he invited U.S. Senator H.D. Money from Mississippi to deliver an address before the state house of representatives in support of what was known as Beard's Disenfranchisement Amendment. The motion actually received a majority vote in the state house (31 to 24), but was killed because it did not have the mandated 3/5 majority needed to pass a resolution for an amendment to the state constitution. This marked one of the most brazen attempts of southern legislators to more firmly establish Jim Crow laws in the South, simply dispensing of all formalities and flatly nullifying one of the key civil rights achievements of the Reconstruction era.<sup>72</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> *Pensacola Journal*, "Politics and Politicians," May 1, 1908; *Tampa Morning Tribune*, "House Kills Disenfranchisement Bill by a Vote of 31 to 24; Governor Favors Canal Across State in Special Message to House," May 9, 1909.

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Despite the unsuccessful attempt to pass the amendment, Beard threw an enormous gala for Senator Money at The Grove afterwards:

The reception was a most brilliant one. The stately beauty of the mansion, with its substantial furniture of a by-gone day, was enhanced by decorations of trailing vines, foliage plants and brilliant hued flowers, all glowing in the soft light of wax candles and Japanese lanterns without... In the dining room the table was laid, beautiful with snowy linen, cut glass and exquisite china, and tall vases filled with lovely, long-stemmed roses, alternated with silver candelabra in which candles gleamed through rose-tinted shades... Both houses of the legislature... were well represented in the large company that filled the spacious rooms, and conversation was enlivened by strains of music from a string band stationed in a little balcony above the front veranda.<sup>73</sup>

Grove Hotel Era

Hunt relied on rental revenue from The Grove throughout her tenure as owner of the property. By the 1920s, however, she became far more ambitious in generating income. At this time, she opened The Grove Hotel and began actively promoting the property. The property continued to attract lawyers, politicians, and lobbyists drawn to its location next door to the Governor's Mansion. Among the residents at The Grove at this time was Richard Ervin, future chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court. The conversion of The Grove into a hotel also coincided with the arrival of electricity and running water. Hunt and her mother Cora Long took up residence on the first floor in the dining room and parlor, opening the rest of the house up for rental. By the late 1920s, a one-story bathroom addition was added onto the east wall and the east rooms on the second floor were divided. The dining room on the first floor was also divided. On the rear of the building was a sleeping porch, which also included a unit.<sup>74</sup>

The Grove Community

As the Great Depression wore on, ReINETTE Long Hunt found herself in increasing debt. She sold off much of the land facing Monroe Street on the east side of the property and later along Third Street to the north. In the late 1930s, she constructed a couple cottages on the property to supplement the older cottage originally built by her grandmother. These cottages were in turn rented out and became an extension of her Grove Hotel operations. She formed an unusually close friendship with the residents of these cottages and the boarders at the Call-Collins House who were a ubiquitous presence at The Grove during this time. The person perhaps most associated with Hunt was Robert Aldridge, who stayed on as a handyman and lived in one of the small cottages on the property that has since been torn down. The family of Sven Jensen and his wife Joan first lived in Call-Collins House, then the former silk cottage, before moving into the Burr Cottage.

<sup>73</sup> *Pensacola Journal*, "The Beard Reception at Tallahassee," May 12, 1909.

<sup>74</sup> Divoll, 42-44.

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The last remaining residential cottage associated with Reinette Long Hunt is the Burr Cottage on Third Street. It was one of three cottages constructed by Hunt and was built in 1939. The original occupant of the building was Marie Fleitmann, a wealthy widow of Hermann Fleitmann, proprietor of the prominent New York textile commission house Fleitman and Company. The Fleitmanns were one-time owners of the Live Oak Plantation to the north of town. After a New Year's Day fire completely destroyed the sleeping porch on the north (rear) side of the Call-Collins Mansion and damaged the roof, Hunt actually stayed with the Fleitmanns while it was under repair. Following the death of her husband, Marie moved into the cottage, where she was residing by 1940. She did not stay long, however, as by 1945 she had left and the Jensens took up residence there. The cottage did not remain under ownership by Hunt for long, as shortly before her death in 1940, ownership passed to E.N. Brown, who sold it to the Jensens in 1943. By 1950, Clayton and Alice Burr took over the cottage, which bears their name.

**Historic Significance - Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation During Reinette Long Hunt Era**

In addition to renting out the property, Reinette Long Hunt, who lived here with her mother Cora Gamble Long and brother Richard Call Long, Jr., also taught art classes out of the first floor of the Call-Long House. It was at this time that she became more acquainted with the wealthy northerners who found their way into the Red Hills region. She was the last member of the family to own the Orchard Pond lands, and by the early 1900s, she started renting out the property to Tenant Ronalds, a wealthy Scottish heir who operated a quail hunting plantation. Ronalds was an avid golfer known for setting up personal golf courses on his property. Hunt also made the acquaintance of Francis C. Griscom, a wealthy heiress and champion female golfer whose father owned a large quail hunting plantation in the area. Although it is unclear exactly what inspired Hunt's interest in golfing, she was very much involved in the early golfing circles in Tallahassee by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Tallahassee Country Club

In 1908, a group of people gathered at The Grove for the purpose of founding the Tallahassee Country Club. The rules and by-laws of the club were drawn up in the "back parlor" of the Call-Collins House. Reinette Long Hunt co-wrote the by-laws of the club and was one of the first selected to the club's board of governors. The Call-Collins Mansion functioned as the first clubhouse. In preparation for this, a small 6-hole golf course was built to the north of the mansion. To the south of the mansion, tennis courts and a croquet field were added. The opening of the country club generated some excitement in the community and membership increased steadily. The county graded and improved the Adams Street approach into The Grove in anticipation of the crowds. One of the earliest basketball games played in the city of Tallahassee took place at The Grove in November 1908, likely on the tennis courts, as a group of young women formed their own team and played against students from the Leon High School. The games expanded to include male members of the country club, who played on the

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same days as the women and girls.<sup>75</sup> The Grove continued to host the country club until sometime before 1914, when a 9-hole golf course opened in Myers Park.<sup>76</sup>

The golf course and tennis courts which Hunt built on The Grove property proved short-lived. By 1917, she had effectively turned the back acreage of the property into a small farm operation:

Directly back of "The Grove"... there are seven acres of land in cultivation at the present time... the corn in now in tassel, the garden truck ready for the table, and the potatoes flourishing to a most satisfactory degree. There are strawberries, citrus fruits, peas, pecans, and [there] is also an enclosure where Jersey cows [and their] calves are doing splendidly. Mrs. Hunt personally oversees her small sized farm, and she also has ten acres planted in corn, fieldpeas and sweet potatoes a short distance from town.<sup>77</sup>

There were other changes taking place at this time as well. In 1915, Hunt formally sold the Orchard Pond property to Tennent Ronalds, who incorporated it into his quail hunting plantation. This effectively ended 70 years of direct association between The Grove and Orchard Pond. The loss of income from the sharecropping likely influenced her to make bolder decisions on making money. By 1919, she became involved in the Leon Storage and Seed Company along with John Aldridge. This business brought her into contact with John's brother Robert Giddings Aldridge, who worked as the assistant manager of the company. Robert Aldridge later resided on The Grove property and serve as a handyman. This company proved short-lived, however.<sup>78</sup>

Florida Centennial 1924

Starting in 1923, the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce began preparations for the celebration of the centennial of the United States takeover of Florida, forming a nonprofit, Florida Centennial Celebration, Inc., to accept money and handle planning for the event. Governor Cary Hardee formally declared the week of November 9 through the November 15, 1924, as Centennial Week, giving state sanction to the Tallahassee event. Reinette Long Hunt played an active role in the Florida Centennial, which took place the following year in 1924. She served as the vice chairman of the Pageant Committee. The Grove grounds were used to host two plays or pageants, one for the white community and the other for the black community. Temporary grandstands were constructed to hold the audience. Hunt wrote the play for the white audience, titled "Historical Pageant of Tallahassee," which was held on November 12, 1924. This pageant was quite extensive, with over 500 actors

<sup>75</sup> *Pensacola Journal*, "Tallahassee Country Club," May 1, 1908; *Weekly True Democrat*, "Opening Day at Country Club," October 16, 1908; *Weekly True Democrat*, "Basket Ball at Country Club," November 13, 1908.

<sup>76</sup> *Tallahassee Magazine*, "History of the Capitol City Country Club," September-October 2017, <http://www.tallahasseeemagazine.com/September-October-2017/Return-of-a-Classic/>.

<sup>77</sup> *Pensacola Journal*, "Tallahassee Campaign for Food Conservation," April 26, 1917.

<sup>78</sup> Richard C. Long, Trustee, to Tennant Ronalds, Land Deed, November 24, 1915, in Leon County Property Appraiser records; R.L. Polk and Company, *R.L. Polk & Co.'s Tallahassee City Directory 1919-1920* (Jacksonville, FL: R.L. Polk & Co., 1919), 58, 113, 122, 209.

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involved. The black pageant, known as “The Spirit of Freedom,” was held at The Grove on November 14, 1924 before a racially mixed crowd of roughly 1,500 people. It featured an all-black cast reenacting various scenes of African American history, from slavery to emancipation to World War I. There was also a demonstration of musicianship, with musical instruments and singing taking place.<sup>79</sup>

**Historic Context – John W. Ford and Josephine Agler Era (1940-1942)**

Death of Reinette Long Hunt, Ownership of Fords

By the time Reinette Long Hunt died in 1940, her debts reached a point where subdivision of the remaining property seemed an inevitability. In an effort to preserve the family cemetery, she deeded it to the local freemasons for a nominal fee. Following her death, ownership of The Grove went over to the siblings John W. Ford and Josephine (Ford) Agler. They were grandchildren of Joseph G. Butler, Jr., an Ohio industrialist who was renowned for establishing the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio. They were also relatives and benefactors of Reinette Hunt. Their ownership of The Grove was brief and they remained largely absentee landlords. They were the only private landowners of The Grove who had no direct family association with Richard Keith Call. In 1942, they deeded the property over to LeRoy Collins and Mary Call Darby Collins.<sup>80</sup>

**Historic Significance – Criterion B: LeRoy Collins**

LeRoy Collins Legislative Career

By the time the Collins family acquired The Grove in 1942, LeRoy Collins was a promising young lawyer and politician just beginning his ascent through state politics. He was first elected to the state house of representatives in 1934, and by 1940, he was elected to the state senate. The acquisition of the property brought The Grove back into the family as well. Mary Call Darby Collins was the granddaughter of Mary Call Brevard and the great granddaughter of Richard Keith Call. Like her family members before her, Mary Call and her husband were quick to utilize the historical associations of the property to advance political ambitions. In his first state senate campaign, LeRoy Collins ran against Margaret Hodges, the owner of the prominent antebellum plantation Goodwood and he saw firsthand how the property was a tremendous political asset to her. Very early on, as they were in the process of restoring the building, they hosted legislative gatherings at The Grove. LeRoy’s political ambitions were put on hold, however, after he enlisted in the United States Navy during

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<sup>79</sup> Paul L. Majewski, Compiler, *Official Souvenir Program: Florida Centennial Celebration* (Tallahassee, FL: T.J. Appleyard, Printer, 1924), 4, 33; *Smith’s Weekly*, “Negro Pageant Splendid Event,” November 21, 1924.

<sup>80</sup> Divoll, 48-52.

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World War II. From 1944 to 1946, The Grove sat unoccupied as LeRoy Collins was stationed primarily in Seattle, where his family joined him.<sup>81</sup>

When Collins returned in 1946, he immediately began the process of resuming his legal and political career. He was reelected to the state senate, where he made a name for himself as the Chair of the Education Committee. He played a pivotal role in the creation of the Minimum Foundation Program in 1947. This statewide program created a system of funding for rural school districts and established minimum standards for teacher qualifications. At the same time, the two state universities for white students became coeducational, as enrollments fueled by the GI Bill skyrocketed. Another instrumental piece of legislation passed was the Collins Bill, which created the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials. This legislation consolidated the state parks and historic sites and monuments and elevated them to the status of a full state agency. This greatly improved the efficiency of operations and allowed for more prioritized funding for state parks and historic sites and monuments. The bill is considered a landmark piece of legislation in the history of conservation and historic preservation in the state. LeRoy Collins, as a member of the State Park Committee, introduced and cosponsored the bill, which bore his name.<sup>82</sup>

Changes at The Grove

Early on in their ownership of The Grove, the Collins family began the process of renovating the mansion. They covered over the flooring of the basement with poured concrete and asbestos tiles. The central hallway of the basement was repurposed into a storage room, with the original furnace removed and the holes created for the pipes infilled with cement. The Reinette Long Hunt era east addition was removed. Closets were added to the rooms on the second floor. The Grove Hotel partitions were also removed from the rooms, returning the spaces back to their historic appearance. The family also began laying the brick pavers around the property. Most of these bricks were originally used to pave Monroe Street. Following World War II, as the city of Tallahassee resurfaced the street with asphalt, the bricks were publicly available for reuse. Following the birth of their youngest daughter Darby, the Collins family built the rear two-story addition. The first floor space, known as the Florida Room, is the area of the house most associated with Mary Call Darby Collins. The first floor of this addition also held a bathroom and kitchen. The second floor served as additional bathroom space and a nursery. This addition was an important part of the preservation of the house, as it effectively rerouted the main entrance to the rear of the building and saved a great deal of wear on the historic main façade.

<sup>81</sup> Martin A. Dyckman, *Floridian of His Century* (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2006), 26-41.

<sup>82</sup> Dyckman, 43-44; Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials, *Biennial Report of the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials for the Years July 1, 1952 through June 30, 1954* (Tallahassee, FL, 1955), 8.

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LeRoy Collins Gubernatorial Era 1955-1960

By the early 1950s, Collins emerged as a major statewide political figure, especially during the short tenures of Governors Daniel McCarty and Charley Johns. Governor McCarty was elected in 1952, but died the following year after less than a year in office. As the state constitution did not allow for a lieutenant governor at the time, the president of the senate was considered the proper successor to the governor until an election could be held. Hence, Johns became the acting governor of the state. Johns was a rural North Florida politician and stalwart of the political group known as the "Pork Chop Gang" who is best known for chairing the infamous Johns Committee, which was created to weed out Communists and homosexuals in state government and universities. While Collins deferred from running for governor in 1952 out of respect for McCarty, he was outspoken in his opposition to Johns and launched a full campaign against him in the special election held in 1954 to serve out the remainder of McCarty's term. In the ensuing election, Collins won on the strength of the more populated counties in central and south Florida.<sup>83</sup>

Civil Rights as Governor

During LeRoy Collins' first gubernatorial election campaign in 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court issued the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling. At this time, Collins publicly supported segregation but was considered a moderate on the issue. By the time he took office in 1955, the topic of segregation became a dominant theme in state and national politics as southern governments began feeling federal pressure on integration. By the time Governor Collins ran for reelection in 1956, race relations was the major concern in the gubernatorial campaign. His two main competitors, Ferris Bryant and Sumter Lowry, came out far stronger against integration than Governor Collins did. While he voiced opposition to the Supreme Court decision, Governor Collins was a firm believer in the rule of law. This was perhaps most famously stated in 1957, when the state legislature passed an interposition resolution, which in effect declared the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision null and void on the grounds that it usurped powers reserved for the states.<sup>84</sup> On the resolution, Collins handwrote:

This concurrent resolution of 'Interposition' crosses the Governor's desk as a matter of routine. I have no authority to veto it. I take this means however to advise the student of government, who may examine this document in the archives of the state in the years to come that the Governor of Florida expressed open and vigorous opposition thereto. I feel that the U.S. Supreme Court has improperly usurped powers reserved to the states under the constitution. I have joined in protesting such and in seeking legal means of avoidance. But if this resolution declaring the decisions of the court to be 'null and void' is to be taken seriously, it is anarchy and rebellion against the nation which must remain 'indivisible under God' if it is to survive. Not only will I not condone 'interposition' as so many have sought me to do, I decry it as an evil thing, whipped up by the demagogues and carried on the hot and erratic winds of passion, prejudice, and hysteria. If history judges me right this day, I want it

<sup>83</sup> Dyckman, 61-71.

<sup>84</sup> Dyckman, 110-125.



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known that I did my best to avert this blot. If I am judged wrong, then here in my own handwriting and over my signature is the proof of guilt to support my conviction.<sup>85</sup>

Following his election in 1956, Governor Collins' public stance on the issue of integration took a marked turn. His second inaugural address, which was written at The Grove, signaled the beginning of his shift on the subject. In addition to upholding the supremacy of law and order as he stated before, he made a bold statement acknowledging the limitations of opportunities for African Americans and challenging white Southerners to change their way of thinking on the matter. His stance placed him at odds with the Pork Chop Gang who controlled the legislature, most of whom were segregationists.<sup>86</sup>

In 1957, Governor Collins was selected as chairman of the Southern Governors Association in what was seen as a victory for southern moderates. It was at this time that the national civil rights fight shifted to Little Rock, Arkansas. The governor of Arkansas, Orval Faubus, a staunch segregationist, refused to cooperate in integrating public schools in Little Rock, first deploying the Arkansas National Guard to bar the entry of black schoolchildren then later withdrawing the National Guard, leaving the children at the mercy of mobs. This forced President Dwight D. Eisenhower to send the United States Army and to federalize the Arkansas National Guard to enforce the Supreme Court's decision. Collins was part of the committee of southern governors selected to serve as liaisons between President Eisenhower and Governor Faubus. Despite their efforts, they were unable to negotiate a settlement between Eisenhower and Faubus, who shut down all Little Rock schools during the 1958-1959 school year. The incident marked the first time since Reconstruction that the United States military was deployed in the South to enforce civil rights laws.<sup>87</sup>

Collins made perhaps his most famous speech of his governorship in Jacksonville in March 1960. By this time, student-led demonstrations of lunch counters and other places of public accommodations throughout the state led to racial tensions. In a speech broadcasted throughout the state, Collins acknowledged the legal right of business owners to discriminate against African-Americans, but viewed this as morally wrong and opposed to the teachings of Christianity and against the founding principles of the United States. He then called for the establishment of biracial committees at the local level to address racial issues in the communities. He became the first sitting governor in the Deep South to openly speak out against segregation on moral grounds. As Collins himself predicted at the time, the speech made him a pariah in the state amongst the white population. The speech, however, generated attention across the country and propelled Collins into national politics.<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>85</sup> Florida House of Representatives, "House Concurrent Resolution No. 174: A Resolution to Declare the United States Supreme Court Decisions Usurping the Powers Reserved to the States and Relating to Education, Labor, Criminal Procedure, Treason and Subversion to be Null, Void and of No Effect; To Declare that a Contest of Powers has Arisen Between the State of Florida and the Supreme Court of the United States; To Invoke the Doctrine of Interposition; and for Other Purposes," State Archives of Florida, p. 9.

<sup>86</sup> Dyckman 148-151.

<sup>87</sup> Dyckman, 167-171.

<sup>88</sup> Dyckman, 194-196.

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Other Issues as Governor

Although civil rights dominated the discussion during his tenure, Collins was confronted with a number of other issues at this time. Perhaps the biggest was the issue of reapportionment. The malapportionment of the state legislature vastly skewed representation in favor of the rural counties in north Florida. This was a legacy of the 1885 state constitution and the efforts to undo Reconstruction era civil rights legislation. Although Collins benefitted from the system as a politician from Leon County, he was outspoken in his advocacy for a more equitable distribution of representatives. The system guaranteed a House seat for each county with a maximum of three representatives per county. It also capped the number of senators at one per district and did not allow for more populous counties to be split into more than one district. As a result, 12 percent of the population controlled the senate and 18 percent controlled the house of representatives. The power of the Pork Chop Gang rested with this advantage, and Collins faced much resistance to this change. He was able to secure a constitutional revision in 1957, but this proved unsuccessful as rural legislators were unwilling to cede power. It would not be until 1967 that the state of Florida was ordered by federal courts to reapportion its representatives.<sup>89</sup>

Collins' experiences as a young man encountering difficulties in finding a suitable college nearby drove him to personally push for an expansion of post-secondary educational opportunities in Florida while governor. During his administration, the University of South Florida in Tampa was founded and the state's community college system expanded.<sup>90</sup>

1956 Election

LeRoy Collins made history when he won the 1956 gubernatorial election. He became the first sitting governor of Florida ever to be reelected. He also became the first Democratic Party gubernatorial candidate to win the party primary outright without a runoff election. The Grove featured prominently in the campaign, as the Collins family hosted a half hour television program from the family property on the eve before the primary.<sup>91</sup>

Second Governor's Mansion

The Collins family, particularly Mary Call Darby Collins, were instrumental in the planning of the current Governor's Mansion during its construction. Mary Collins solicited the help of James Lowry Cogar, who

<sup>89</sup> Dyckman, 85, 172-176.

<sup>90</sup> Dyckman, 87.

<sup>91</sup> Dyckman, 123.

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worked with Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, to help select the furnishings of the new mansion. When the Governor's Mansion was finished in 1957, the Collins family was the first to reside in the building.<sup>92</sup>

1960 Democratic National Convention

LeRoy Collins' stance as a moderate southern governor and his March 1960 speech in Jacksonville gained him national attention. He was selected as the chairman of the 1960 Democratic National Convention, which resulted in the selection of John F. Kennedy as Democratic candidate for president. He was one of the speakers at the convention as well, and was among those considered for the vice presidency, a spot that went to Lyndon B. Johnson.<sup>93</sup>

National Association of Broadcasters (1961-1964)

After his appearance in the convention, the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) offered Collins a position as president of the organization. This position brought him to the center of national politics in Washington, DC, where he was expected in part to lobby for industry interests on Capitol Hill. He was particularly outspoken in his criticisms of the broadcasting industry, a stance which drew enemies. He was a firm believer that the best way to avoid FCC interference was for the broadcasting industry to impose stricter regulations on itself. Collins openly opposed tobacco advertising targeting children, citing growing evidence of its risks to health. He also grew more outspoken against the racial violence taking place in the south at this time, and although he was able to keep his job after misconstrued remarks made wide press after President Kennedy's assassination in connection to Southern racism, it was clear to him that he was not getting support from the NAB. He stepped down in 1964 to accept a newly created position as director of the Community Relations Service.<sup>94</sup>

Community Relations Service (1964-1966)

The Community Relations Service (CRS) was created as a result of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964. This agency, which was originally placed under the Department of Commerce, served as a liaison between the government and civil rights organizations. It was formed in part to help ensure federal laws were being implemented properly. President Lyndon B. Johnson personally appointed LeRoy Collins to this post. Within the first nine months of its existence, the CRS handled 213 cases from 120 communities in 28 states across the country. Although the work of the agency was intended to be kept largely in secrecy, the position of director brought Collins to the national forefront of the civil rights struggle. He was often called to give public speeches

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<sup>92</sup> Menton, 78.

<sup>93</sup> Dyckman, 206-209.

<sup>94</sup> Dyckman, 214-222.

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and was interviewed by national media outlets. By this time, he was publicly fully in support of civil rights and was outspoken in his criticisms over segregation. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 left a lot to be desired in the way of full equality in the voting booth. Discontent over this boiled over in Selma, Alabama.<sup>95</sup>

Selma March

In Selma, a group of protestors led by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) grew restless with the delays and began a march to the state capital in Montgomery following the death of protestor Jimmie Lee Jackson. Alabama governor George Wallace vehemently opposed the march, and ordered state troopers to Selma, where they were accompanied by Dallas County Sheriff James Clark and a group of deputized civilians. On March 7, 1965, in what became known as "Bloody Sunday," protestors attempted to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The Alabama state police ordered the marchers to disperse, and when they did not do so quick enough, the troopers and local police charged into the crowd. The resulting confrontation, which resulted in over 90 people in need of medical care, was soon broadcasted across the country on television. The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., immediately began plans to resume a second march on March 9.<sup>96</sup>

It was at this time that President Johnson, looking to avert a second disastrous confrontation, called on Collins to go to Selma in an attempt to convince King to wait for the federal district courts to grant an order of protection for the marchers. Collins played a pivotal role in the ensuing events, especially on the second march. He served as the liaison between the civil rights protestors, the state and local authorities, and the federal government. He also functioned as President Johnson's eyes and ears on the ground and reported back to the president events as they were happening in real time. Realizing the futility of calling off the march, Collins proposed as a compromise that King would lead the marchers up to the Pettus Bridge, where they would say a prayer and then return to the church from where they started. Collins was able to get the cooperation of the Alabama state police and local authorities on the matter and personally assured King that he would be safe. Known as "Turnaround Tuesday," King's decision to say a prayer and go back caused much consternation amongst protestors unaware of the secret negotiations taking place between the SCLC and the authorities.<sup>97</sup>

Collins received much praise from the president for his handling of the matter, and was invited to the White House for a personal dinner with President Johnson and his wife. Collins was personally present when President Johnson gave one of the keynote speeches of his administration in support of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. After much delay, the federal injunction against the march was finally lifted on March 17, 1965. The third march commenced on March 21, and Collins was once again sent to Selma to help with arrangements. A photograph of Collins talking to Andrew Young with the Rev. King and his wife alongside them saw wide

<sup>95</sup> Dyckman, 223-227.

<sup>96</sup> Dyckman, 228-230.

<sup>97</sup> Dyckman, 230-231.

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circulation back in Tallahassee. In August 1965, President Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act, and in appreciation for Collins' service, gave him one of the pens from the occasion. He also rewarded Collins with a new appointment as Undersecretary of Commerce. With no successor appointed to replace him at the CRS, however, Collins continued to oversee the agency.<sup>98</sup>

Although Selma was his most notable achievement during his tenure as head of the CRS, Collins was also present on the ground during the Watts Riots that swept through Los Angeles in 1965. President Johnson sent him to Los Angeles to personally oversee the distribution of federal poverty funds and the creation of a community agency in the aftermath of the riots. Shortly before Collins resigned as Undersecretary of Commerce, the CRS was moved to the Department of Justice over his objections. In 1966, Collins formally stepped down from the Department of Commerce to run for U.S. senator from Florida.<sup>99</sup>

End of Political Career

In 1968, Collins ran for the open U.S. Senate seat in an effort to revive his elective political career. His background with the CRS and open support of integration worked against him, however, as his opponent widely used images from Selma. Collins lost the election. His failure to secure the senate seat marked the end of his political career. He instead turned his attention full time to his legal practice, which he remained involved in until his retirement. Collins lived to see himself vindicated, however, and received numerous accolades recognizing his leadership in Florida, including the naming of a county library after him and recognition as a Great Floridian by the Florida Department of State. The state house of representatives declared him as the Floridian of the Century.

**Historic Significance – Criterion B Mary Call Darby Collins**

After her husband's political career, Mary Call Darby Collins established herself in the field of historic preservation. Her longtime stewardship of The Grove and her efforts to both restore the building and open it to the public drew attention in preservation circles. In 1961, shortly after her husband accepted a position with the NAB, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association invited Mary Collins to serve as the Vice Regent for the state of Florida. She served in this capacity for over 20 years. She was also a member of the Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board. Mary Collins was particularly instrumental in several prominent local historic preservation projects, including the Union Bank and the Old Capital. In recognition for her long interest in the field, Mary Call Darby Collins was named as a Great Floridian by the Florida Department of State. The Mary Call Darby Collins Award was created by the Florida Department of State to honor excellence in historic preservation volunteering.

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<sup>98</sup> Dyckman, 231-233

<sup>99</sup> Dyckman, 234-239.

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**Historic Significance – Criterion A Entertainment and Recreation During Collins Era**

First Grove Museum

By the mid-1950s, as the Collins family moved into the Governor's Mansion next door, Mary Collins was looking for ways to both generate income for the property and to properly commemorate its history. She worked again with Cogar to open the Call-Collins Mansion as a museum. Cogar used his connections back in Europe to pursue period furniture pieces to fill out the house. There were also some improvements to the house itself, as the current stoop leading into the historic main entrance was built. Starting in 1959, The Grove was leased to Cogar and was open 6 days a week. Members of the public were allowed access to the first floor and basement. A small ticket booth was constructed, which was later demolished. Alice Burr, who resided in the Burr Cottage, was the hostess manager. When opened, it was one of the first historic house museums in the city of Tallahassee. The museum failed to turn a profit, however, and by the early 1960s was closed.<sup>100</sup>

**Historic Context 1968-Present**

The Collins family continued to acquire property after taking over The Grove. They managed to reacquire the cottages plus the property fronting Monroe Street to the east. The Freemasons deeded the family cemetery back to Mary Call Darby Collins in the 1970s. They also built a detached garage building to the east. Long wishing to protect the building and open it to the public, the family deeded The Grove to the state of Florida in 1985. Governor and Mrs. Collins were granted five year leases on the property with unlimited renewals at the option of Mrs. Collins. All living descendants of LeRoy and Mary Call Darby Collins alive in 1985 and their spouses were granted rights to burial in the cemetery. LeRoy Collins died in 1991 and Mary Collins lived in the house until her own death in 2009. Although the state has owned the property since 1985, the date of its effective management dates to after Mary Collins' death.

Starting in 2010, the state began an intensive multi-year restoration project of the Call-Collins Mansion and the surrounding Grove property in preparation for opening it to the public as a state museum. The remnants of the historic cottages with the exception of the Burr Cottage were demolished and the Burr Cottage repurposed into administrative offices. The former detached garage was repurposed into an outdoor public restroom building. The cemetery underwent some basic restoration work, particularly the Mary Call Brevard headstone, which was pieced back together. A sidewalk connecting the Burr Cottage to the Call-Collins Mansion was also added. The most recent work on the surrounding property was the construction of a new brick welcome fence and parking lot on the east, which was completed in 2016.

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<sup>100</sup> Divoll, 52-53.

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The Call Collins Mansion itself saw the most intensive work. The roof was replaced with lightweight vinyl composite shingles to alleviate the stress on the roof beams. The wood beams in the attic, much of which was still visibly charred from the New Year's Day fire, were also either reinforced or replaced. The building had significant stabilization issues arising from a combination of moisture issues and insufficient foundation work. During the Collins era, the type of paint used on the interiors sealed in the moisture in the otherwise porous bricks. This caused both the mortar and the bricks themselves to start to crumble in some areas, especially near the windows the chimneys. The bricks were refaced and the mortar repointed, with steel helical wall ties added in some areas to provide reinforcement to the walls. The foundations of the building were also reinforced with new footers. As a result of moisture damage, the wood in the windows are almost all a complete replacement. Most of the original glass panes, however, were salvaged. The original wood shutters were replaced with storm-grade shutters matching the appearance of the originals. These shutters are functional and have impact resistant fiberglass backing panels that protect the windows from natural disasters.

The building has undergone a number of changes connected to modernization. During the installation of the foundational footers, workers found channels that led to a previously undiscovered cistern that is contemporary to the house. As part of its larger goal of achieving LEED certification for the building, the state decided to repurpose the cistern. The gutters on the roof were connected to downspouts that fed directly into the cistern. A water pump was installed into the cistern that allowed for the surrounding property to be irrigated without relying on the municipal water supply. To improve with ADA accessibility issues, an elevator was installed using existing doorways. In order to accommodate a modern HVAC, drop ceilings were added to the basement and the closet spaces in the first and second floors reused for air conditioning and heating ducts. A modern kitchen was added in the rear addition and a new bathroom was also installed on the first floor. A handicapped accessible wheelchair ramp was put in place on the rear of the building as well. After the intensive rehabilitation work, the building opened as a public museum in 2017.

**Architectural Context – Greek Revival Style**

The Greek Revival style of architecture began in the United States in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was inspired in part by Early Classical Revival buildings such as Monticello and the democratic ideals of ancient Greece. The Greek Revival Style gained in popularity after the War of 1812, when anti-British sentiment was high and people were turning away from traditional English building styles. Starting with public buildings in Philadelphia, the style really took off in the 1820s as the Greek War of Independence drew a lot of sympathy from the United States. By the 1830s, it was the dominant style of domestic architecture in the United States. It soon spread throughout the country, especially in the rural South thanks in large part to the wide availability of plan books such as *The Principal House Planner* by Asher Benjamin and *The Modern Builder's Guide* by Minard Lafever. It was so ubiquitous during this period that at the time it was known as the National Style.

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Although the Greek Revival Style was already starting to fall out of favor in some of the more industrialized cities of the north by the 1840s, it remained very popular in the South up until the beginning of the Civil War.<sup>101</sup>

The style is perhaps best distinguished by low-pitched gable or hipped roofs, prominent cornice lines with wide trim extending along the rooflines, independent full-height or full-width porticos, and prominent main entrances highlighted by sidelight and transom lights incorporated into door surrounds. Greek Revival Style buildings also often featured balanced elevations and incorporated decorative pilasters into the interiors and exteriors.<sup>102</sup>

**Architectural Significance**

The Call-Collins Mansion is a high style example of Greek Revival architecture. The full-height portico, prominent main entrance, incorporation of decorative pilasters, accentuated cornice lines, low pitched hipped roof, and balanced floorplans and fenestration are all character-defining features of the style.

As the political and economic center of territorial Florida, Tallahassee has a comparatively high concentration of Greek Revival Style buildings. Among the notable residential examples of the style found in the city are houses such as the Randall House, the Knott House, Goodwood Plantation, and Bellevue Plantation. When it was built in 1840, the Call-Collins Mansion was the second largest private residence constructed in Florida. It remains the largest private residence built in territorial Florida that is still standing. It is the largest and highest style example of Greek Revival residential architecture still standing in Tallahassee. The Call-Collins Mansion was also one of the earliest buildings to incorporate a steam brick press in its construction, which was revolutionary for Territorial Florida.

**Archaeological Context**

Prior to the 2004 monitoring, there had been no archaeological investigations of note that have taken place at The Grove.

**Archaeological Significance**

Much of the details surrounding The Grove's history, especially its history in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, remains unknown. Richard Keith Call, who actively resided on the property between 1825 and 1845, was one of the most significant political and military figures in the territory. He was also one of the most important businessmen in the territory. Although The Grove was in all likelihood never a major plantation operation, there was agriculture that took place here as well as enslaved individuals who worked on the property. Where did

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<sup>101</sup> Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2015), 250-251, 264.

<sup>102</sup> *Ibid.*, 247-250.



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they reside? How large were the agricultural operations exactly? Where were they buried? The location of the original residence on the property also remains unknown but the general assumption is its nearby the cemetery. It was while living here that Call established himself as a political force in territorial politics. During the Second Seminole War, a contingent of US army personnel was stationed in this house. The building also functioned as a de facto governor's mansion during Call's first tenure as governor. George K. Walker, Call's cousin and business partner, also lived here while he served as Secretary of the Territory under John Eaton. Due to Eaton's frequent absences, Walker spent much of that time as acting governor of the territory. Somewhere on the property as well was a detached building that served as offices for Call's legal apprentices, most notably Walker and Leigh Read. Where were these buildings? How large were they? It is hoped that further investigations will yield invaluable information regarding living arrangements during this period. Call also engaged in brickmaking, possessing a steam brick press and at least five brick kilns with 200,000 bricks each. We know from other business records that in addition to selling land, he also engaged in building construction. How extensive was this operation and how much of it did Call conduct with resources gathered at The Grove? During the Ellen Call Long era, which lasted from 1845 to 1905, we know she engaged extensively in sericulture and had a silk cottage built for this purpose. We also know she planted the area with mulberry trees. How extensive was this cultivation? Where exactly is this cottage and how much was it altered beyond its original footprints during its conversion to a rental cottage during the Reinette Long Hunt period in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?

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County Chancery Court File No. 77.

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- 5) 16R 761061 3371809
- 6) 16R 760893 3371808

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of The Grove encompasses the entirety of parcel number 2125204190000 and parcel number 2125204880000 of the Leon County Property Appraiser office records.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the property historically associated with The Grove during the LeRoy and Mary Call Darby Collins era.

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Name of Property: The Grove

City of Vicinity: Tallahassee County: Leon State: Florida

Photographer: Andrew Waber Date Photographed: October 2017

Description of Photographs(s) and number, including description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. View of historic main (south) façade, facing northwest
2. View of historic main (south) façade, facing northeast
3. View of south portico, facing north
4. Detail view of historic main (south) entrance, facing north
5. Detail view of historic main (south) entrance, oilster capital, facing north
6. View of east elevation, facing west
7. View of west elevation, facing east
8. View of east and rear (north) elevations, facing southwest
9. View of rear (north) elevation, facing south
10. View of first floor central hallway, facing north
11. View of second floor central hallway, facing north
12. View of spiral staircase, facing north
13. View of parlor fireplace, facing east
14. View of basement staircase, facing east
15. View of basement central hallway, facing north
16. View of basement west hallway and elevator, facing north
17. View of LeRoy Collins office, facing southwest
18. View of basement level nook, facing southeast
19. View of basement level southeast room, facing southeast
20. View of first floor parlor, facing southeast
21. View of first floor dining room, facing northeast
22. View of repurposed parlor door, facing south
23. View of first floor northwest room, facing northwest
24. View of first floor southwest room, facing southwest
25. View of second floor northwest bedroom, facing southeast
26. View of second floor southwest bedroom, facing northeast
27. View of second floor southeast bedroom, facing south
28. View of second floor southwest bedroom, facing southwest
29. Detail view of Collins era graffiti in second floor southwest bedroom, facing south



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number      Photos      Page   2   The Grove (Additional Documentation)  
Tallahassee, Leon County, FL

---

30. View of first floor Florida Room, facing east
31. View of first floor Florida Room, facing west
32. View of second floor east room of addition, facing north
33. View of historic nursery in middle room of second floor addition, facing south
34. View of first floor elevator door, facing north
35. View of south and east elevations of Burr Cottage, facing northeast
36. View of north elevation of Burr Cottage, facing south
37. Interior view of Burr Cottage historic dining room, facing northeast
38. Interior view of Burr Cottage historic bedroom, facing northwest
39. Interior view of Burr Cottage kitchen, facing north
40. View of Burr Cottage detached carport, facing southwest
41. View of Call Family Cemetery, facing northwest
42. Detail view of contributing historic cistern, facing south
43. View of non-contributing bathroom building, facing southwest

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National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number      Figures      Page      1

The Grove (Additional Documentation)  
Tallahassee, Leon County, FL

---

**Figure 1**



Concretions found in the dark stain of feature A2,  
identified as Clinkers by J. Dunbar, CARL Archaeological Program

Image of clinkers uncovered during 2004 archaeological monitoring  
Source: Patrick L. Gensler, "Archaeological Monitoring at 'The Grove' Conducted on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004,"  
Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archaeological Research, CARL Archeology Program  
(Tallahassee, FL, March 18, 2004), p. 8

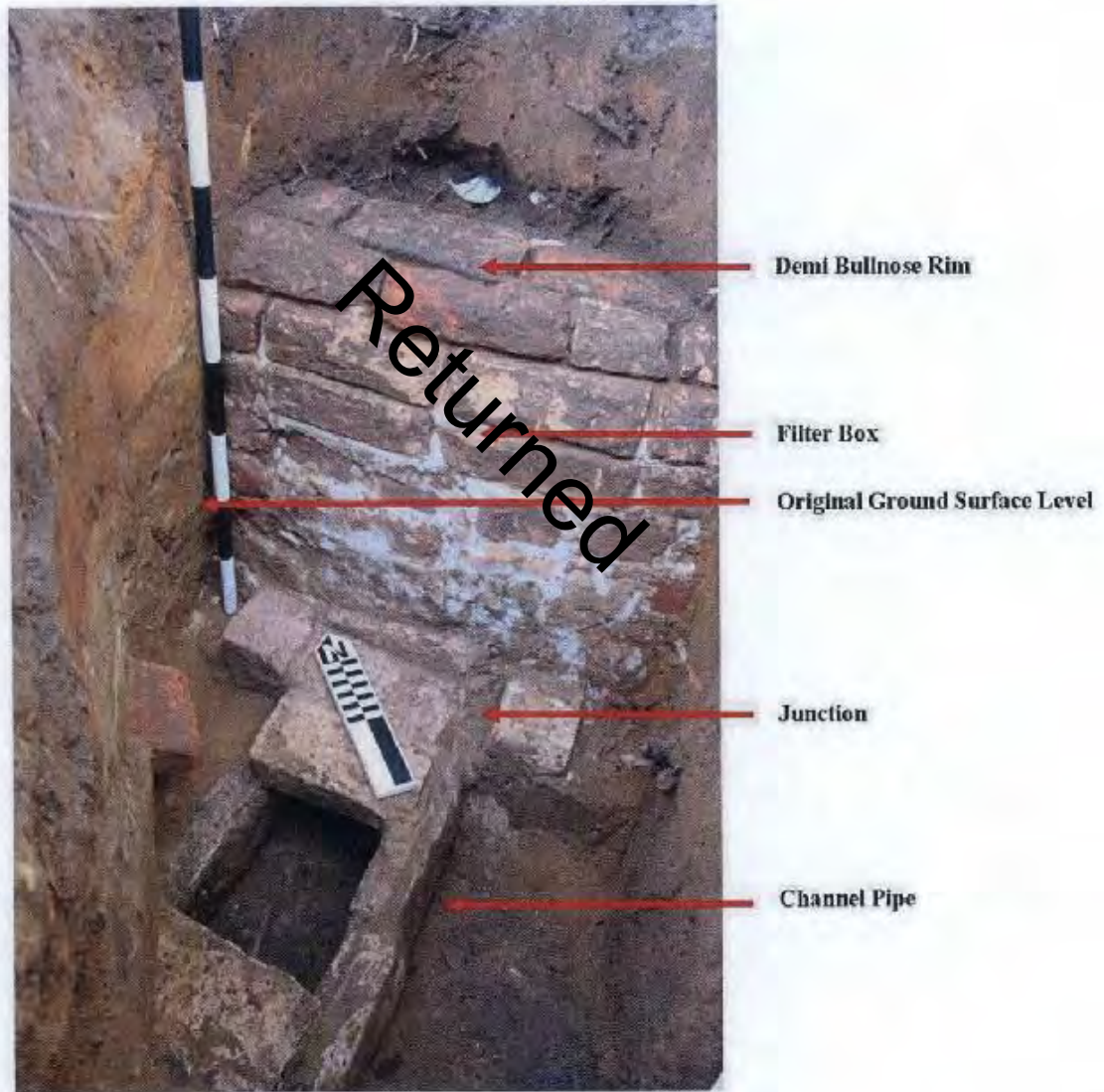
United States Department of the Interior  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number      Figures      Page   2  

The Grove (Additional Documentation)  
Tallahassee, Leon County, FL

**Figure 2**



Exposed cistern filter box and channel pipe.

Source: Oscar A. Rothrock III, "Cistern Monitoring at The Grove," Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archaeological Research, Public Lands Archaeology (Tallahassee, FL, December 18, 2012), p. 1.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Figures Page 3

The Grove (Additional Documentation)  
Tallahassee, Leon County, FL

**Figure 3**



Prehistoric artifacts uncovered during 2011-2012 phase I archaeological survey  
Source: Alexander Rothrock, et al, "Archaeological Investigations at the Grove, Tallahassee, Florida,"  
Florida Division of Historical Resources (Tallahassee, FL, December 2015), p. 42.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section number Figures Page 1 The Grove (Additional Documentation)  
Tallahassee, Leon County, FL

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**Figure 4**



Historic ceramics uncovered during 2011-2012 phase I archaeological survey  
Source: Alexander Rothrock, et al, "Archaeological Investigations at the Grove, Tallahassee, Florida,"  
Florida Division of Historical Resources (Tallahassee, FL, December 2015), p. 45.

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number      Figures      Page   1   The Grove (Additional Documentation)  
Tallahassee, Leon County, FL

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Figure 5



Historic container glass uncovered during 2011-2012 phase I archaeological survey  
Source: Alexander Rothrock, et al, "Archaeological Investigations at the Grove, Tallahassee, Florida,"  
Florida Division of Historical Resources (Tallahassee, FL, December 2015), p. 48.

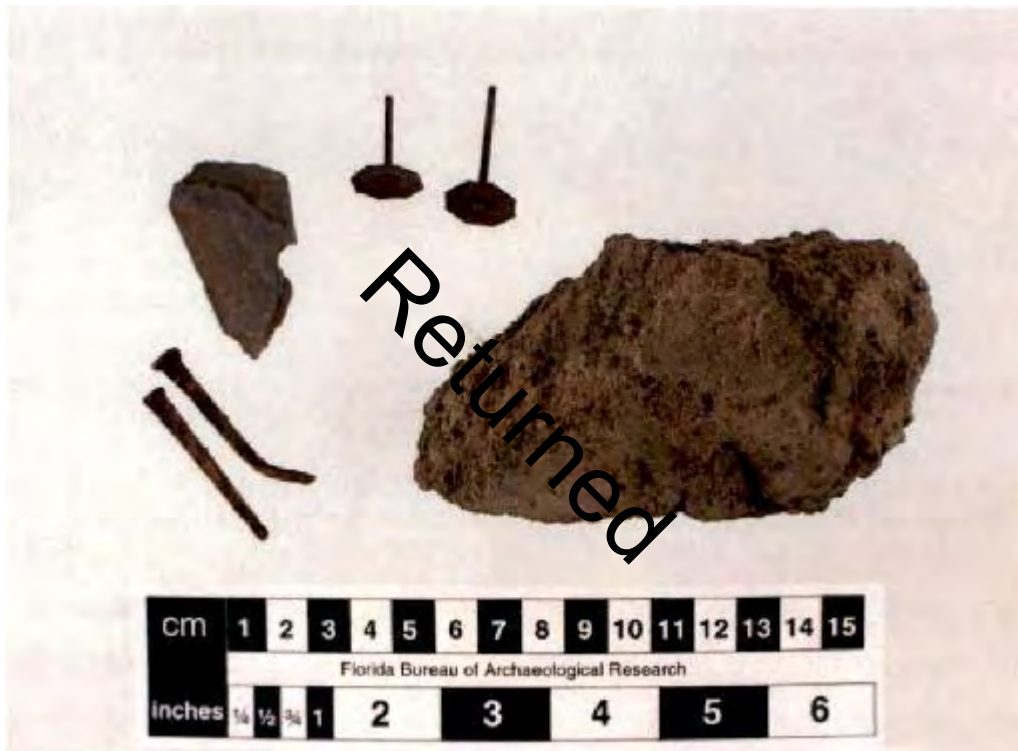
United States Department of the Interior  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number      Figures      Page   1   The Grove (Additional Documentation)  
Tallahassee, Leon County, FL

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**Figure 6**

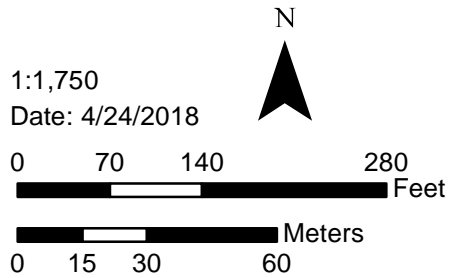


Historic building materials uncovered during 2011-2012 phase I archaeological survey  
Source: Alexander Rothrock, et al, "Archaeological Investigations at the Grove, Tallahassee, Florida,"  
Florida Division of Historical Resources (Tallahassee, FL, December 2015), p. 49.

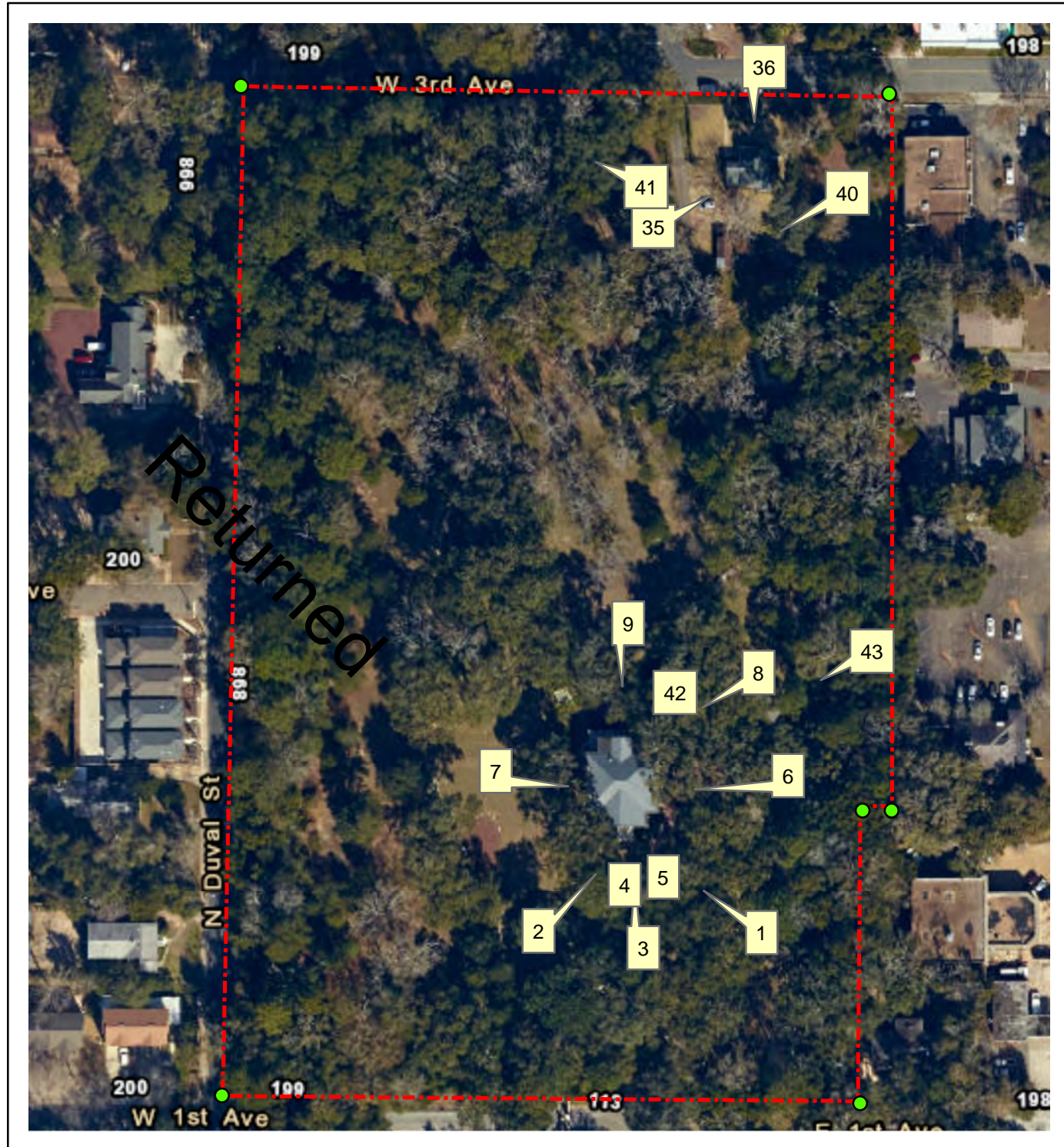
# The Grove

100 West First Avenue  
Tallahassee, Leon Co., FL

Exterior Photo Key

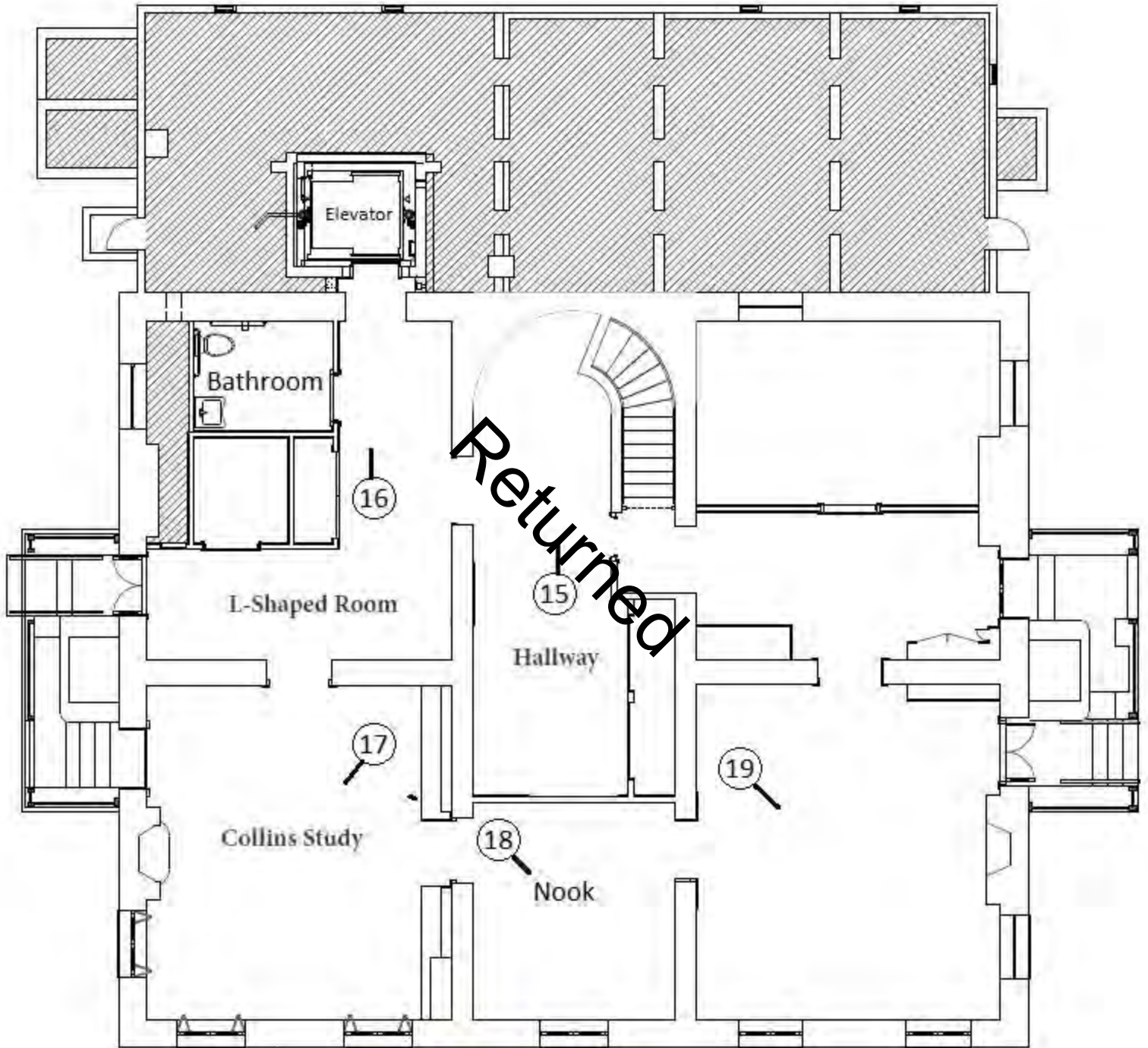


Basemap Source: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community





Call-Collins House Basement  
The Grove, Tallahassee, Leon Co., FL

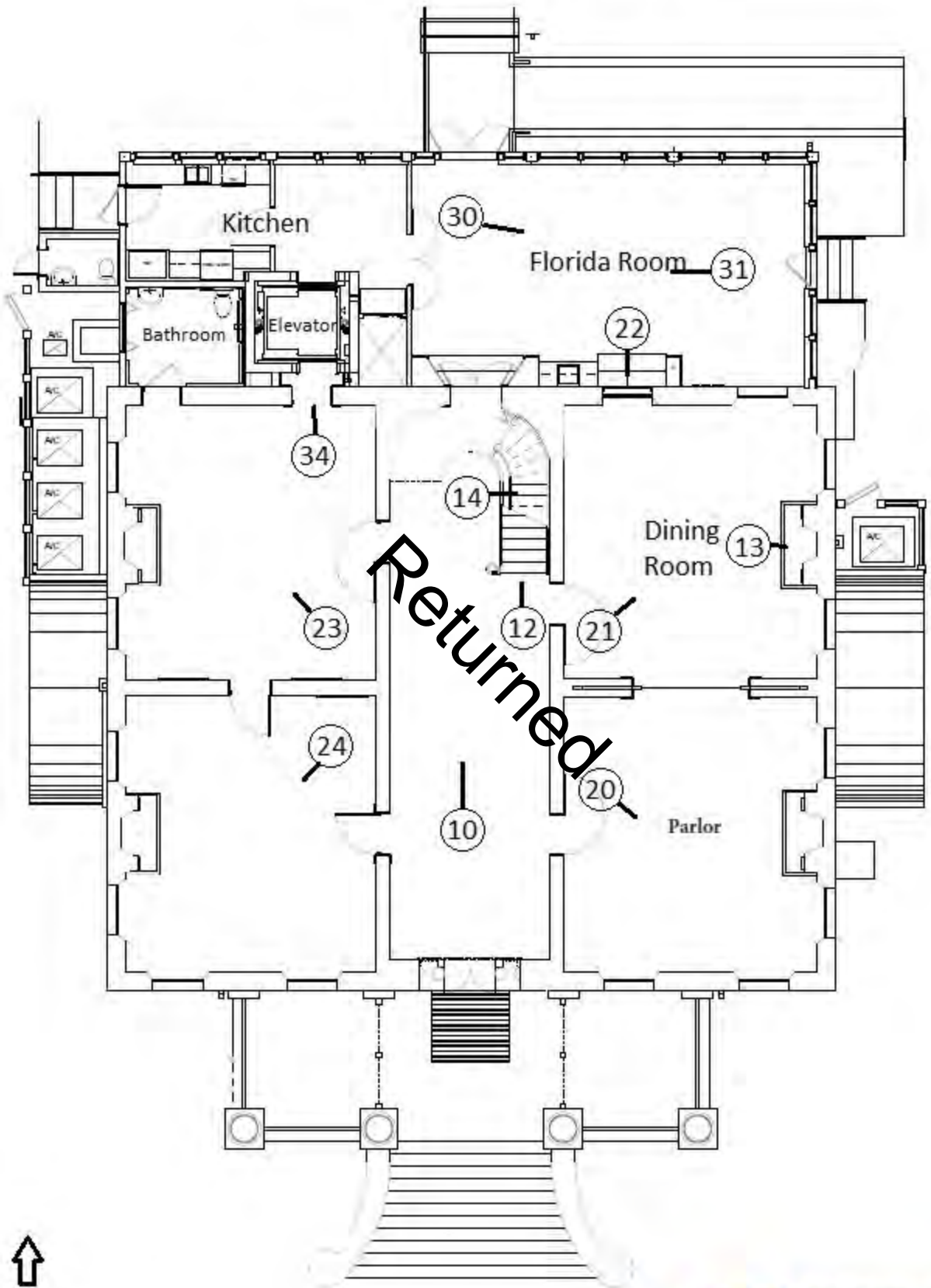


**MLD** Architects, inc.  
ARCHITECTURE - INTERIOR DESIGN - PLANNING  
311 John Knox Road, Suite 105 Tallahassee, Florida 32303  
(904) 22-1141 Fax: mld@mldarchitects.com  
(800) 889-9491 www.MLDarchitects.com (MCI0029)



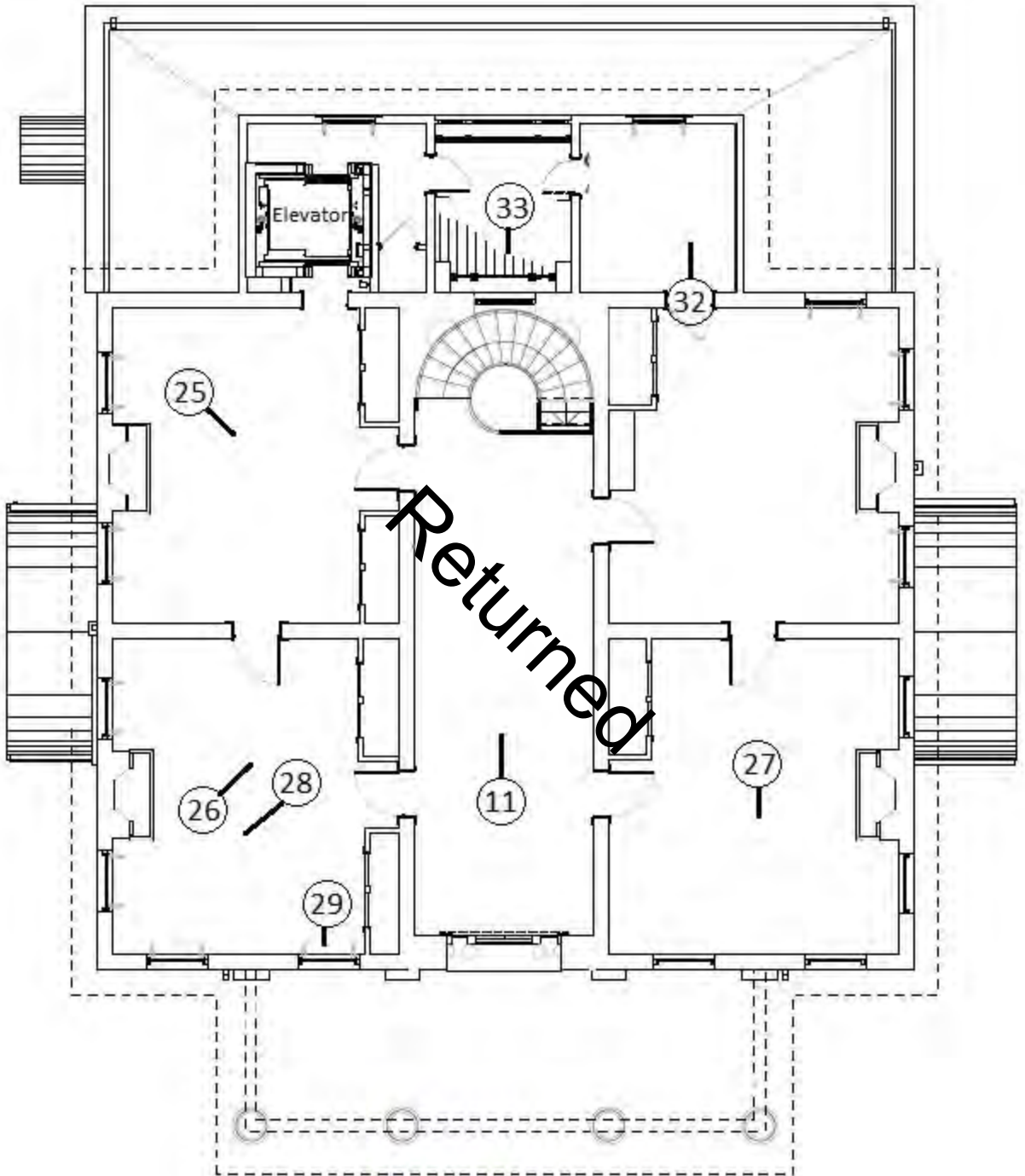
Note: Not to Scale

Call-Collins House First Floor  
The Grove, Tallahassee, Leon Co., FL



↑  
N  
Note: Not to Scale

Call-Collins House Second Floor  
The Grove, Tallahassee, Leon Co., FL



**MLD** Architects, inc.

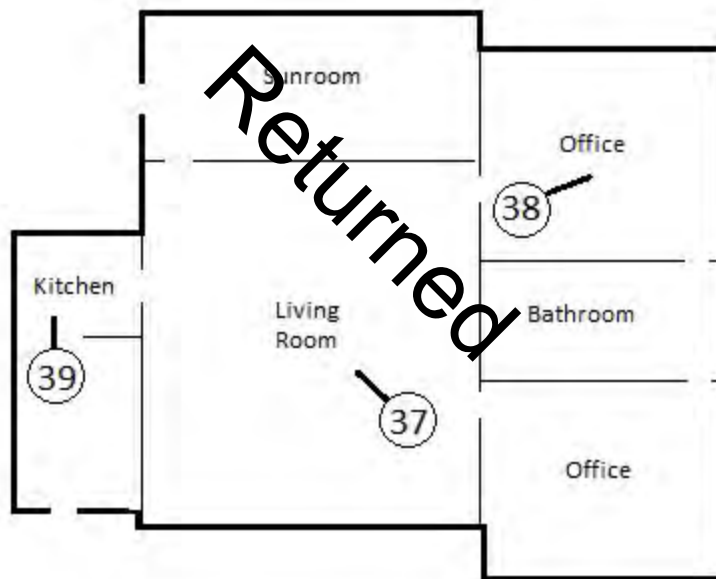
ARCHITECTURE • INTERIOR DESIGN • PLANNING

211 John Knox Road, Suite 105 Tallahassee, Florida 32303  
(904) 22-2100 Fax: (904) 22-2100  
(904) 385-4200 www.M.Dierbeck.com ml@mldarch.com



Note: Not to Scale

**Burr Cottage Interior**  
**The Grove, Tallahassee, Leon Co., FL**



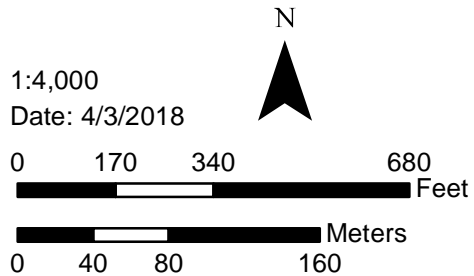
Note: Not to Scale

# The Grove

902 North Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Leon Co., FL

UTM

- 1) 16R 760894 3372069
- 2) 16R 761061 3372071
- 3) 16R 761069 3371886
- 4) 16R 761059 3371886
- 5) 16R 761061 3371809
- 6) 16R 760893 3371808



Basemap Source: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community





Returned



Returned



Retrained



Returned



Returned



Returned



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Returned



Returned

1000  
1000  
1000

Returned



Returned







Returned



Returned

Returned



Returned





THE SHIPWRECK  
OF THE  
M/V  
SUNNAMORE  
IN 1962



Returned



Returned



Returned





Returned





Returned

Returned

AT THE HOUSE  
OF THE  
LORDS  
OF THE  
PARLIAMENT



Returned



Returned



Small informational plaque below the portrait.



Returned



Returned

**A FLORIDA HISTORIAN**



WITH LOOK  
OF THE...  
...



Returned





Returned



Returned



Small informational plaque or label below the painting.



this damned homework"  
Roy Collins  
Dec 5, 1948  
(you're right)

Returned



Returned



Returned





A photograph of a hallway with a dark door. The door has the word "Returned" written on it in a light color. The hallway has white walls and a dark wooden floor. The door is framed by a white decorative archway.

Returned



Returned



Returned





OPEN  
TICKETS AT  
THE HOUSE



Returned





Returned



Private

Returned



Returned



Returned

Returned





Returned







# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

## The United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: The Grove (Additional Documentation), Leon County, FL

Reference Number: 72000335

#### Reason for Return

The additional documentation submitted for The Grove is being returned for procedural error and substantive revision.

#### Procedural Error

When listed in 1972, the acreage of the property was identified as "less than 1 acre." The AD submitted has an acreage of "roughly 10.33 acres." If the intent is to include these additional acres, the process will have to be treated as a new nomination, with owner notification and review by appropriate review boards. If done, the resubmitted document would need to acknowledge this action by amending Section 1 to read "The Grove (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)."

#### Substantive Issues

When originally submitted, The Grove was cited under three Criteria, A, B & C with Politics/Government and Architecture as areas of significance. The submitted AD seeks to add Criterion D, and to add Military, Exploration/Settlement, Entertainment/Recreation, Agriculture, and Archeology as areas of significance. The original Period of Significance was identified as 1825 (beginning of construction by R. K. Call) to c. 1845, when Call lost his bid to remain governor in 1845. The new form has two periods of significance, c. 1825-1940 and 1942-1958.

The extensive documentation serves to support some, but not all of the proposed new areas of significance. We accept adding LeRoy and Mary Call Darby Collins, as well as Ellen Call Long and Milton Littlefield under Criterion B. While "Exploration/Settlement" is not addressed specifically, the implication that The Grove, as one of the oldest extant houses in Florida, and from whose land much of Tallahassee was created, is directly associated with the settlement of the area is evident. It would be best, though, if it was more explicitly noted. Likewise, the Military significance is weak; there

is only the implication that Call utilized the property as his headquarters. Any additional information on Call's military activities while associated with the house would be beneficial.

Two areas of significance are either not supported, or are not applicable due to loss of integrity associated with the significance – Agriculture and Entertainment/Recreation. Any agricultural activities associated with The Grove as a plantation are lost to subdivision and alteration of the extant grounds. The association of Ellen Call Long and sericulture and her role in forestry is interesting, and does help solidify her importance, but may not be enough to satisfy Agriculture as an area of significance under Criterion B. It is unclear from reading the narrative if her tenure with the various organizations coincided with her occupancy of the house as her primary residence. The association with sericulture is interesting, but appears that sericulture was one of many minor blips in the agricultural history of the state. Entertainment/Recreation is not supported. All visible aspects of The Grove's brief tenure as a country club have been erased from the landscape, and its use as a museum, while an interesting side note, does not rise to the level of importance necessary to justify the area of significance.

The Archaeological Context is a largely absent piece that needs to provide a summary of what is known about the related archeology of the area. The "Archaeological Significance" discussion also needs bolstering. Specifically, *how* will archeology on the 10 remaining acres of a 640+acre operation resolve the following questions: (1) where did the enslaved people reside?, (2) where were the enslaved people buried?, (3) how large was the agricultural operation?, (4) where was the original residence located on the property?--is it near the cemetery as seems to be the received wisdom?, (5) where is the detached building that served as the office for Call's legal apprentices? (6) how large was that building, (7) where were the brick kilns located?, (8) how extensive was Call's construction operation?, (9) how much of it was conducted with resources gathered at The Grove? (10) what, if any, evidence survives from Ellen Call Long's sericulture operation?, (11) where is her silk cottage?, (12) how did it evolve through time from silk cottage to rental cottage? In essence, *can* some of these questions be answered? And, if they can, what is the *important* information that can be revealed?

### Technical Issues

Section 5 – Because of the nature of the AD, the property should be classified as a district. The count of contributing and noncontributing resources should be altered to acknowledge that the main house is previously listed.

Section 8 – In the areas of significance, please clarify which category of Archeology is claimed, most likely Historic-(Non-Aboriginal). While I understand that the cited periods of significance coincide with familiar ownership, the fact that for a period of less than 2 years the property was owned by others is not practically a reason to divide the POS.

Section 9 – Please check the “previously listed” box.

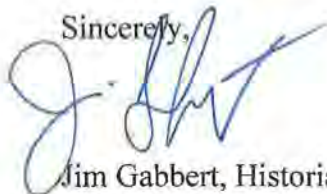
## Other Editorial Revisions

- Summary (Section 7, p. 1)--When asserting things like "Despite these changes, the building retains sufficient integrity to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places" or "The cemetery is still active and retains a high degree of integrity," it would be appropriate to distinguish which of the seven aspects of integrity it is that these resources retain. A similar instance arises in Section 7, p. 5 with reference to the discussion of alterations to the Call-Collins Mansion. The last sentence on that page reads, "These changes are all considered historic, however, and do not adversely affect the integrity of the building." Please specify exactly what aspect of the building's integrity is being referenced here (e.g., design, workmanship, etc.).
- Section 7, p. 3--The third paragraph contains a sentence that begins, "The exterior fabrics of the first story addition is almost entirely all glass . . .". Please edit this sentence.
- The author should do a "find and replace" throughout the entire document keying in on the words "restoration," "renovation," and "rehabilitation." These words are not synonymous, so please use the one that accurately reflects the nature of the work completed.
- Section 7, pp. 6-7--The last sentence on p. 6 reads, "Despite these changes, the building retains sufficient integrity to contribute to the nomination." As above, please specify the applicable aspect(s) of integrity. Also, it would contribute to the district and not to the nomination.
- Section 7, p.7--The discussion of landscaping changes to The Grove warrants a little editing. For instance, the sentence that reads "As most of the original property is located under heavy modern development, there is a strong likelihood that the location of many original buildings and structures associated with the earliest history of the Grove are now outside of the current boundaries" seems to contradict the Criterion D (information potential) discussion developed later in the nomination. Specifically, if most of the buildings called out in the "Archaeological Significance" discussion (Section 8, pp. 38-39) are not within the bounds of the nomination, it appears illogical to expect that future archeology within the bounds of the property might encounter those remains.
- Section 7, p. 8--The concluding statement of the "Landscaping Changes to the Grove" discussion observes that "Despite these changes, the present layout of the property mirrors closely the historic 1968 appearance." Given that 1968 is the terminal date of the period of significance, does this statement offer strong support for the retention of the district's appearance and layout?
- Section 7, p. 9--I am not certain what the discussion of the property's LEED Certification has to do with its National Register eligibility.

- Section 7, p. 10--first paragraph. Where the word "postholes" is used, does the author mean shovel test pits (STPs)?
- Section 7, p. 10--last sentence. The last sentence of the page reads, "No artifacts were uncovered but the findings of this survey helped guide subsequent archaeological investigations on the property" could use some editing. Given that remote sensing is non-invasive, there is no expectation that it would ever result in uncovering artifacts. Therefore, it might be worth editing this sentence to read "The findings of this survey helped guide subsequent investigations at the property."
- Section 7, p. 11--the first sentence of the integrity discussion should be edited to read: "The most important features of The Grove, namely the Call-Collins House, the Call Family Cemetery, and the Burr Cottage, are still in their original locations, and the immediate surroundings are very similar to what they were in the Collins period."
- Section 7, pp. 11-12. The integrity discussion needs to incorporate an explicit discussion of archeological integrity. The discussion has focused on the types and quantities of artifacts encountered, but there is no discussion of whether they were encountered in sealed contexts vs. in mixed deposits. Were the prehistoric items jumbled in with the historic ones? The nomination makes it clear that a good deal of earth-moving activity has occurred on the property, therefore one is left wondering whether this has led to redeposited soils and materials and, even if so, is that limited to specific areas? What can be said about the intact nature of the site's stratigraphy and does it suggest that there is an intact prehistoric component here? (The answers to this question will also inform which subcategory/ies are identified in Block 8, discussed above.)

We appreciate the opportunity to review this nomination and hope that you find these comments useful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (202) 354-2275 or email at <[James\\_Gabbert@nps.gov](mailto:James_Gabbert@nps.gov)>.

Sincerely,



Jim Gabbert, Historian  
 Julie Ernstein, Ph.D., RPA, Archeologist  
 National Register of Historic Places  
 8/7/2018



**TALLAHASSEE-LEON COUNTY  
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD**

423 EAST VIRGINIA STREET  
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301  
850-488-7334 (tel) 850-488-7333 (fax)

February 6, 2019

Andrew Waber  
Historic Preservationist  
Survey and Registration  
Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources  
R.A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: Tallahassee-Leon County Architectural Review Board Review and Recommendation,  
The Grove (LE00179), 100 West First Avenue, Tallahassee, Leon County

Dear Mr. Waber:

I'm writing in regard to the expansion of the National Register boundaries for the 1972 nomination of The Grove. The Tallahassee-Leon County Architectural Review Board met on February 6, 2019 and unanimously recommended approval of the amendment to the existing National Register listing.

Sincerely,



Melissa Stoller, Ph.D.

Tallahassee-Leon County Historic Preservation Officer



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE



**RON DESANTIS**  
Governor

**LAUREL M. LEE**  
Secretary of State

February 12, 2019

Dr. Julie Ernstein, Deputy Keeper and Chief,  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Ernstein:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the resubmission of **The Grove (Additional Documentation and Boundary Expansion) (FMSF#: 8LE00179) in Leon County**, to the National Register of Historic Places. The related materials (digital images, maps, and site plan) are included.

The nomination was originally submitted in June, 2018, and was returned for revisions and due to procedural error. The nomination has been substantively revised and routed through the relevant local and state boards.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6364 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruben A. Acosta".

Ruben A. Acosta  
Supervisor, Survey & Registration  
Bureau of Historic Preservation

RAA/raa

Enclosures

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Resubmission

Property Name: Grove, The

Multiple Name: \_\_\_\_\_

State & County: FLORIDA, Leon

Date Received: 2/19/2019      Date of Pending List: \_\_\_\_\_      Date of 16th Day: \_\_\_\_\_      Date of 45th Day: \_\_\_\_\_      Date of Weekly List: 4/5/2019

Reference number: RS72000335

Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason For Review: \_\_\_\_\_

Accept       Return       Reject      4/2/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Originally submitted as additional documentation, the action requested is actually a boundary increase. It was returned to the state to be processed as such. Upon resubmittal as a boundary increase, the NRHP neglected to put it on a pending list as such, creating a procedural error. The nomination is being "returned" until it can be pended and our own procedures met.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Return/hold for addition to the next pending list

Reviewer Jim Gabbert  Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date 4-2-2019

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.