

PH-0015636

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida
 COUNTY: Alachua
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: OCT 1 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Thomas Hall
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Fletcher Drive on University of Florida campus
 CITY OR TOWN: Gainesville CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second
 STATE: Florida CODE: 12 COUNTY: Alachua CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Dormitory</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Trustees of Internal Improvement
 STREET AND NUMBER: Elliott Building
 CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

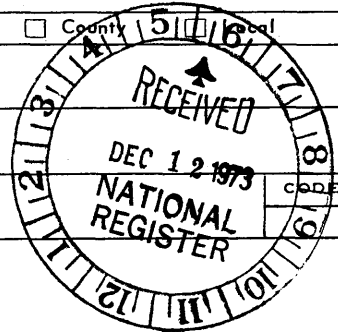
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Alachua County Courthouse
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Gainesville STATE: Florida CODE: 12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: N/A
 DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Thomas Hall was constructed in 1905-06 by Edwards and Walters, a South Carolina architectural firm, in keeping with the "Tudor-Gothic" style of architecture which had been selected for all campus buildings by the Florida Board of Control. Thomas Hall is similar in appearance to many of the older buildings on the University of Florida campus.

The plan of Thomas Hall consists of a long central section oriented north-south with wings at each end which run east-west. The central section contains six separate units which are not interconnected; that is, each unit has its own entrance and interior stair, but is directly connected to the contiguous whole. The building consists of three stories and a garret. Wall construction is of brick and the corners of the building are faced with granite quoins above the belt course. Around the top of the structure is a low crenellated wall which is set off by a thin cornice which defines the base of the roof.

On each of the six units of the central section, there is a bay which goes from the ground to the top of the second story. These bays are topped with balconies which have decorative stone insets in bas relief. The roof of the central section is hipped and shingled and no chimneys are visible. The end wings have pitched roofs with dormer windows in the garret area of the gable ends. All windows are double-hung sash and fenestration is regular, with the windows hung either singly, doubly or triply, but always in common surrounds. Some of the windows are topped with brick labels in high relief, and others have simple wood surrounds or granite sills and surrounds. The main entrance to the building is an elaborate arched opening of granite leading into a corridor with quadripartite vaulting. Most "Gothic" of all about the building is this entrance which is an equilateral arch complete with moulded chamfer and billets. Bas relief decoration adorns the wall surface above the entrance and atop that is a bay carried on large stone scroll brackets.

Thomas Hall is presently connected to Sledd Hall by an archway attached to the east end of the south wing of the former. Both structures are in good condition and are constantly in use by the University.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1905**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

On June 5, 1905, Governor Napoleon B. Broward of Florida signed into law a bill which provided for the consolidation of several of the state's existing institutions of higher learning into a single university for men and a college for women. This law, called the Buckman Act in honor of its sponsor, did not stipulate the location of the newly created, all-male University of the State of Florida. Two communities in middle Florida, Lake City and Gainesville, quickly emerged as the leading prospects in the ensuing competition for selection of a site. A brief but brisk campaign was conducted on behalf of each town by influential citizens. On July 6, 1905, the state Boards of Education and Control meeting in joint session selected Gainesville as the site of the new school.

The chairman of the committee which led the campaign to secure the University of Florida for Gainesville was William Reuben Thomas, Mayor of the city from April, 1901, to April, 1907. A native of Gainesville where he had been born in 1866, Mayor Thomas was in 1905 a successful and respected businessman. To acknowledge and honor his efforts in the locating of the University of Florida, one of the first buildings on the new campus was named Thomas Hall.

In the late summer of 1905, a South Carolina architectural firm, Edwards and Walters, was appointed to prepare a campus plan. Before the end of the year, construction had begun on the two dormitories which had been given priority in the building program. The larger of the two buildings was to be Thomas Hall. By mid-August, 1906, the lower floors of both Thomas Hall and its companion, Buckman Hall (named in honor of the author of the university consolidation bill), were ready. On September 27, the official dedication day for the new university, the two buildings were open for inspection. In addition to dormitory units in the central section, Thomas Hall also contained the original office of the President, some classrooms, and a temporary dining hall. When separate buildings were provided for the other functions, Thomas Hall was given over entirely to dormitory service. Many prominent Floridians who received their college education at the University of Florida in Gainesville were residents in Thomas Hall during their campus careers.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Buchholz, Frederick W. History of Alachua County, Florida. St. Augustine, Florida, 1929. (Contains a biographical sketch of W. R. Thomas.)
 Hildreth, C. H. A History of Gainesville, Florida. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation. Gainesville, Florida: University of Florida, 1954.
 Proctor, Samuel. The University of Florida: It's Early Years: 1853-1906. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation. Gainesville, Florida: University of Florida, 1958.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

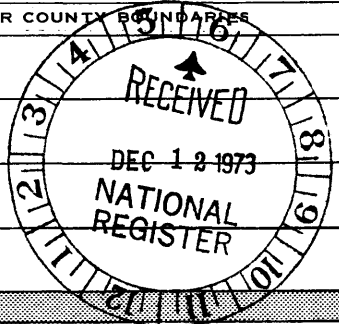
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N29° 39' 04"	W82° 20' 46"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

411M
17/369700
5200 480

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mildred L. Fryman, Graduate Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives, History, & Records Mgt. DATE: May 23, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u><i>Robert Williams</i></u></p> <p>Title: <u>Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>12-5-73</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>A. R. W. [Signature]</i></u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>10/1/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>9-25-74</u></p>
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