

PH0012319

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

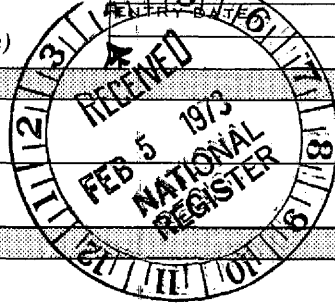
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

| |
|-------------------|
| STATE: Florida |
| COUNTY: Leon |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

ENTRY DATE: MAY 7 1973



MS E 73/170
2 n 16 N 3370240

1. NAME

COMMON:
Florida Historic Capitol
AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Capitol

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
South Monroe Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Tallahassee
STATE: Florida
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Second District
COUNTY: Leon
CODE: 12 073

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Florida
STREET AND NUMBER:
State of Florida
Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund
CITY OR TOWN:
Tallahassee
STATE:
Florida
CODE:
12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Leon County Courthouse and Trustees of Internal Improvement
STREET AND NUMBER:
Monroe Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Tallahassee
STATE:
Florida
CODE:
12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None
DATE OF SURVEY:
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE:

| |
|----------------------|
| STATE: Florida |
| COUNTY: Leon |
| ENTRY NUMBER: 973 |
| DATE: MAY 7 1973 |
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7 DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input 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

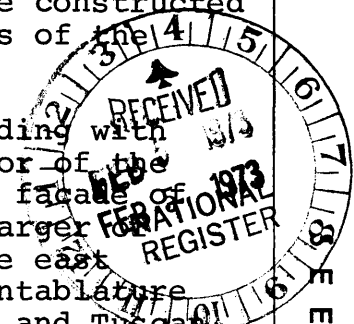
On March 3, 1839, Congress appropriated \$20,000 for the purpose of "erecting a suitable state house or public building for the use of the territorial legislature." In the same year the Florida Legislative Council passed an act for the erection of a new capitol. (Acts of Florida, 1839). Completed by June, 1845, it housed the first session of the state legislature. This was the third Capitol Building to be constructed in Tallahassee and it remains today as the nucleus of present structure.

The Capitol of Florida is a three story building with walls of the "best hard burnt brick." The exterior of the building is stuccoed and painted white. The main facade of the building faces east, and on this side is the larger of its two Doric porticos. A wide stair rises to the east portico. Six unfluted columns carry a cornice, entablature and pediment which are a combination of the Doric and Tuscan orders. A low balustrade surrounds the roof of the original portion of the building at its outer edge. The entire entablature of the east portico and its pediment and the projecting cornice of the body of the building are of wood. Both building and portico roofs are covered with slate. All windows are double-hung sash.

The Capitol Building is approximately 250 feet in length by 215 in breadth. The basement has two wide halls crossing each other at right angles. The second floor of The Capitol has two halls, a north-south and an east-west, running the full length and breadth of the building respectively. On this floor are the offices of the Governor and his cabinet. The north-south hall is lined with portraits of former governors of Florida. The third floor of The Capitol contains the Senate and House Chambers and the many committee rooms of the Florida Legislature.

The height of The Capitol, not including the dome, is approximately 80 feet. The dome is about one third the height of The Capitol proper. Added in 1902 to replace the wooden cupola, the dome is classic in detail. There are recessed niches in each of the four corners and three round arched windows on each side are separated by engaged Ionic columns. A low balustrade surmounted by urns with finials surrounds the dome at the point from which the ribs spring and a lantern tops the entire structure.

The core of the present Capitol remained relatively unchanged until 1902 when the building was repaired and enlarged. The legislature appropriated \$75,000 for the erection of the north and south wings of the present building and the



E I N S T R U C T I O N S

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(Number all entries) 7. DESCRIPTION

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replacement of the cupola with the present dome. Since 1902, there have been three further enlargements of the building. In 1921, the legislature appropriated \$250,000 for the erection of the present east and west wings. The architect for this work was H. J. Klutho of Jacksonville, the designer of the original Governor's Mansion in Tallahassee. In 1936 a new north wing was added, and in 1946, a new south wing. Presently under construction are the legislative wings designed by Reynolds, Smith and Hill of Jacksonville. These four-story wings are of pre-cast stone on a concrete frame and will be connected to The Capitol Building by covered walkways.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

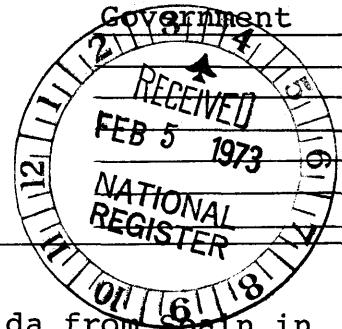
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Completed June, 1845**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

When the United States acquired Florida from Spain in 1821, the provinces of East and West Florida combined to form one territory with Andrew Jackson as its first governor. Jackson was succeeded shortly thereafter by William P. DuVal and the government of the Territory of Florida was in the hands of the Governor and a Legislative Council. Because Pensacola and St. Augustine were the only two towns of any importance in the territory and had each been the capitol of a Spanish province, the first Legislative Council met in Pensacola in 1822, while the second was held the next year in St. Augustine. Due to the inconvenience of such an arrangement, the Legislative Council of 1823, authorized Governor DuVal to appoint two commissioners to select a centrally located site for the permanent capitol.

On March 24, 1824, Governor DuVal, having received and approved the report of Commissioners Williams and Simmons on the selection of a capitol site, issued a proclamation declaring a seat of government to be "in the county of Gadsden, situated about a mile southwest from the old deserted fields of Tallahassee, about a half mile south of the Oke-lock-o-ny and Tallahassé, trail, at a point where the old Spanish road is intersected by a small trail running southwardly." Congress approved the site and on May 24, 1824, Congress set aside a grant of a quarter section of land for the use of the territorial government. In obedience to Governor DuVal's proclamation of March 24, the legislators met in the log cabin capitol on the southeast corner of the present capitol grounds. It was during this session, that the legislature passed an act to provide for the laying out of the town, the construction and financing of the first permanent capitol building and the sale of Tallahassee lots. On December 11, 1824, the legislative Council designated a town called Tallahassee and proclaimed it the seat of government. The word "Tallahassee" is of Creek Derivation, meaning literally "old town" but it is frequently translated "old fields." Tallahassee was laid out symmetrically with the Capitol Square at the center, and it was incorporated on December 9, 1825.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

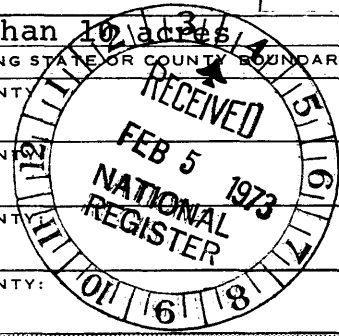
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | 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 | ° ' " | ° ' " | | N30° 26' 10" | W84° 16' 53" | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 10 acres

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Diane D. Greer, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION: **Division of Archives, History, & Records Mgt.** DATE: **9-15-72**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of State - The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: **Tallahassee** STATE: **Florida** CODE: **12**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name: *[Signature]*
 Title: State Liaison Officer
 Date: 1/3/73

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/7/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4 30 73

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(Number all entries) 8. SIGNIFICANCE

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Construction on the wooden Capitol Building which was to replace the log structure began in 1826. One wing was finished the following year, but a series of difficulties prevented completion of the building as planned. The present Capitol Building was begun in 1839 and completed in 1845. This building was the scene of the Secession Convention of 1861, which withdrew Florida from the Union and declared it to be an independent nation. It also housed the Constitutional Conventions of 1865, 1868 and 1885, the last of which adopted the Constitution under which the state is now governed. It was here, also, that the Florida Canvassing Board counted in four Republican electors in the disputed election of 1876, this assuring the election of Rutherford B. Hayes as President of the United States.

Somewhat unusual is the fact that Florida's State Capitol was not located in an already existing town. Rather the town was planned around the Capitol which was designed as its first building. In spite of all the alterations to the building, its center is still the old brick Capitol of 1845.



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(Number all entries) 9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

-1-

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Tebeau, Charlton W. A History of Florida. Florida: University of Miami Press, 1971.

"The Selection of Tallahassee as the Capitol." Journal of John Lee Williams, Commissioned to Locate the Seat of Government of the Territory of Florida. Vol. I, No. 2. The Florida Historical Society Quarterly, Publisher, July, 1908.

