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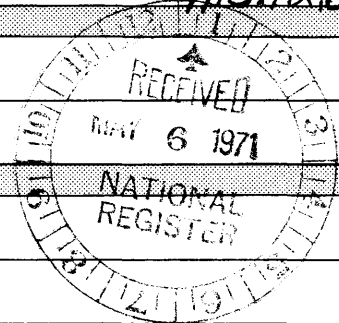
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Florida
COUNTY:	Leon
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71512.0010	5/12/71



1. NAME

COMMON:  
Cascades Park

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Capital Center (See map)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Tallahassee

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Florida	12	Leon	073

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Elliott Building

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Tallahassee	Florida	12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Elliott Building

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Tallahassee	Florida	12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Florida

COUNTY: Leon

ENTRY NUMBER: 71512.0010

DATE: 5/12/71

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered  Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The area known as the Cascades Park encompasses approximately 35 acres of state-owned property. This historic area, along the southeastern edge of Capitol Center, was, in the 1830's, the scene of rippling streams which wound their way south and west through a wooded ravine, pitched into an immense chasm and eventually entered the base of a hill at which a "bottomless sinkhole" was found. Recently conducted research has indicated that two phenomena existed in this area -- the cascade, itself, which is described as an area of turbulent water; and the waterfall which was seen as a vertical drop of rushing water over a steep hill as it descended into the sinkhole. The cascade was shown on a Tallahassee city map as early as 1824. Its location has been documented and evidence indicates the land area has undergone some change. The course of the original stream (St. Augustine Branch) has been diverted over the years, and it is presently the drainage ditch which flows south through Franklin Boulevard, curves around the front of the Haydon Burns Building, and continues in a southwesterly direction behind Centennial Field, a ball park.

The area today is identified with a clutter of unsightly municipal service buildings, dilapidated structures, the old Leon County Jail, a ball park and the Prime Meridian base parallel monument which rests in obscurity next to the unkept weed-covered ditch.

Included in the Cascades Park area is the Prime Meridian Marker, a concrete monument which established the point of beginning for all land surveys in the State of Florida. This fenced-in marker is surrounded by a quarter acre plot, and is an integral part of this historically significant area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1820-1840**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input 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              | <u>Selection of</u>                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | <u>seat of government</u>                           |
| <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   |   |   | _____   |

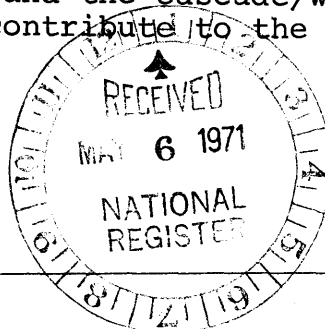
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cascades Park, encompassing the historic Prime Meridian Marker, is the site of a land area once replete with natural features and foliage, and a beautiful cascade formed by "a pleasant mill-stream" which wound along the eastern border of Tallahassee.

In 1824, the land was so enchanting that the two commissioners selected this area for the location of the capital of the Territory of Florida. Commissioners John Lee Williams and William H. Simmons were so enthralled with the natural beauty of the rolling hills, the numerous springs, and natural landscape that they chose the area as the seat of government. Geographic and economic factors were of importance in their mission, but little doubt exists that the cascade and surrounding land area influenced their selection.

The Prime Meridian Marker, which is included in this site, is historically significant as the point of beginning for all land surveys in the State of Florida. The marker, in 1824, was said to have been a lightwood stake, surrounded by four blazed trees. Later in 1853, placement of a permanent stone marker was authorized; but it was not until 1892 that a permanent stone marker was erected. The present monument was authorized in 1925 with an inscription stating that it had been placed over the original marker. However, there does exist some question regarding the precise location since present marker represents the third such structure.

The significance of the entire land area is unquestioned. Selection of the site as the territorial capital by the commissioners, the establishment of the Prime Meridian Marker in 1824 within the area, and the cascade/waterfall as a regional attraction all contribute to the importance of this site in Florida history.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See attached sheet

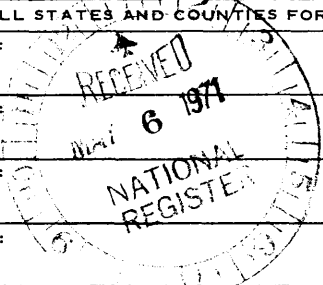
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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
NW	30°	26'	17"	84°	16'	50"	°	'	"
NE	30°	26'	17"	84°	19'	27"	°	'	"
SE	30°	25'	58"	84°	16'	27"	°	'	"
SW	30°	25'	58"	84°	16'	50"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approximately 35 acres

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



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: (Reviewed by Randy F. Nimnicht, Historic Preservationist) Mary K. Evans, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives, History and Records Mgt. DATE: 4/27/71

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: *Robert Williams*

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: May 3, 1971

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

*James Allen Connelly*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: MAY 12 1971

ATTEST:

*William H. ...*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: MAY 12 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Florida
COUNTY	Leon
FOR NRS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71502-001	5/12/71

(Number all entries)

Cascades Park - Bibliographical References

Barbour, George M.

1881 Florida for Tourists, Invalids and Settlers. D. Appleton and Company.

Bartram, William

1791 Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida, the Cherokee Country, the extensive Territories of the Muscogulges or Creek Confederacy, and the Country of the Choctaws.

Brevard, Caroline Mays

1924 A History of Florida from the Treaty of 1763 to Our Own Times. The Florida State Historical Society, Vol. 1.

Castelnuau, Comte Francis De

1947-48 Comte de Castelnuau In Middle Florida, 1837-1838. The Florida Historical Quarterly, Vol. 26:300-324. The Florida State Historical Society.

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Darby, William

1821 Memoir on the Geography and Natural and Civil History of Florida. T. H. Palmer Company.

Davis, T. Frederick

1945 Pioneer Florida. The Florida Historical Quarterly, Vol. 23, No. 3. The Florida State Historical Society.

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Florida

1898 Florida Hill Country or Agricultural Attractions of Leon County. Tallahassee.

1903 Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Florida. pp. 1442-1483.

Forbes, James Grant

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Lanier, Sidney

1876 Florida: Its Scenery, Climate and History. J. B. Lippincott and Company.

Long, Ellen Call

1882 Florida Breezes. Jacksonville, Florida.

Pensacola

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Roberts, William

1763 An Account of the First Discovery, and Natural History of Florida, with Particular Detail of the Several Expeditions and Descents made on the Coast. T. Jefferys Company.

Continued

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Leon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71512 0010	DATE 5/27/71

(Number all entries)

Cascades Park - Bibliographical References - Page 2

Romans, Bernard

1775 A Concise Natural History of East and West Florida. New York.

Simmons, William

1822 Notices of East Florida. A. E. Miller Company.

Stork, William

1766 A Description of East Florida, with a Journal kept by John Bartram. London.

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Tappan, John S.

1945 Tallahassee and St. Marks in 1841. A Letter of John S. Tappan, edited by W. T. Cash. The Florida Historical Quarterly, Vol. 24, No. 2. The Florida State Historical Society.

Thompson, Maurice

1881 A Tallahassee Girl. Houghton Mifflin Company.

Vignoles, Charles B.

1823 Observations Upon the Floridas. E. Bliss and E. White.

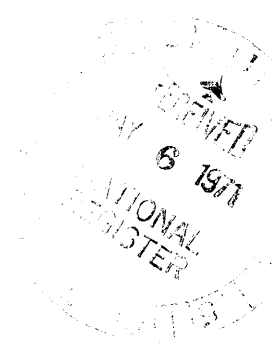
1824 The History of the Floridas, With Observations on the Climate, Soil, and Production. G. L. Birch Company.

Williams, John Lee

1827 A View of West Florida, Embracing its geography, topography, etc. with an appendix treating of its antiquities, land titles and canals, and containing a map exhibiting a chart of the coast, a plan of Pensacola and the entrance of the harbour. L. R. Bailey.

1837 The Territory of Florida, or Sketches of the Topography, Civil and Natural History of the Country, the Climate and the Indian Tribes, from the First Discovery to the present time. University of Florida Press.

1908 Journal of John Lee Williams. The Florida Historical Quarterly, Vol. 1, Nos. 1 & 2. The Florida State Historical Society.




Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Florida			
COUNTY Leon			
FOR NPS USE ONLY			
ENTRY NUMBER 275420010	DATE 5/12/71		
			
		1. NAME	
COMMON: Cascades Park			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Capital Center (See map)			
CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee			
STATE: Florida	CODE 12	COUNTY: Leon	CODE 073
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: United States Geological Survey, Tallahassee Quadrangle, 15 minute series			
SCALE: 1:62,500			
DATE: 1940			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

CASCADES PARK

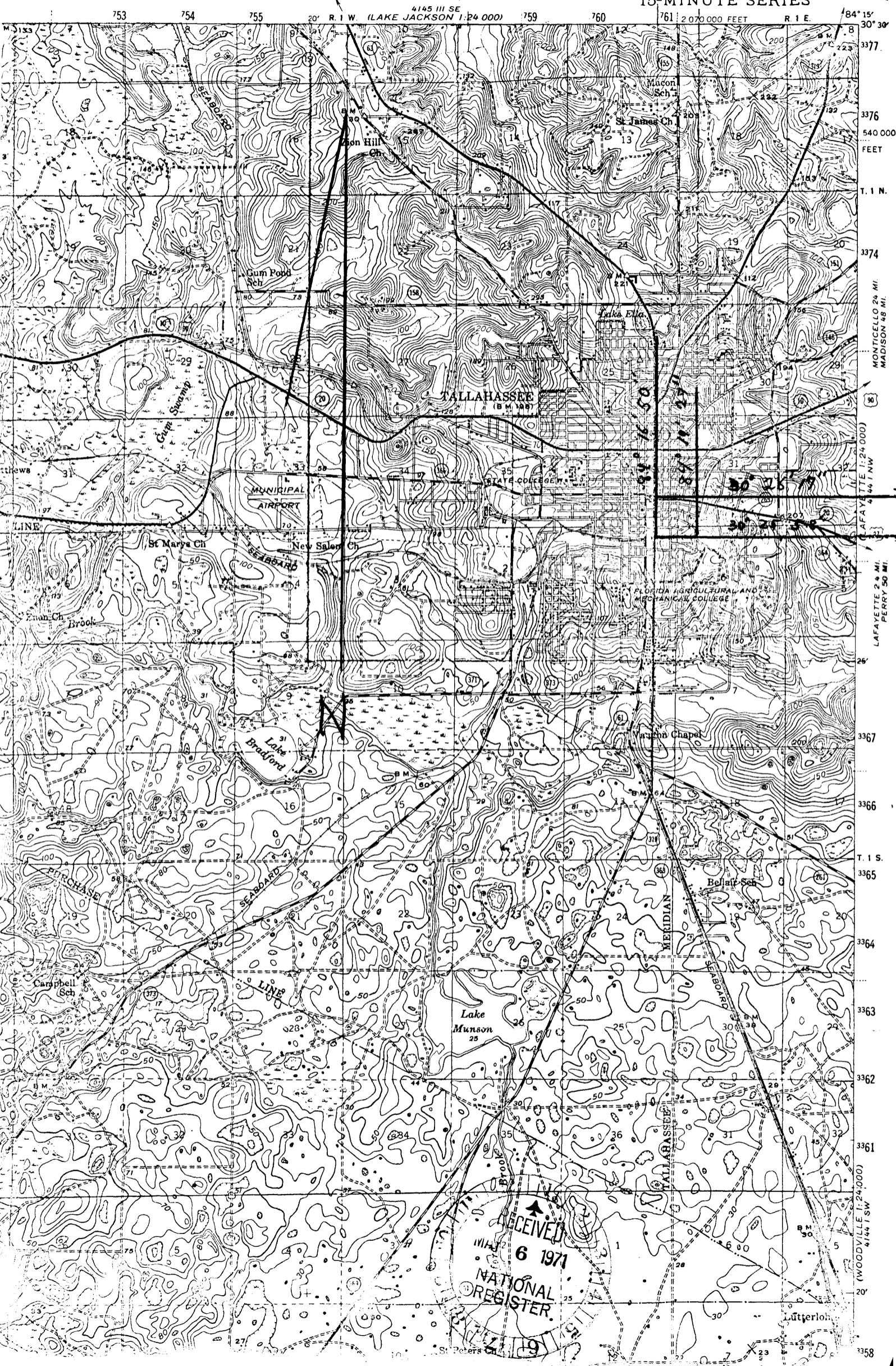
THOMASVILLE (JUNC. U.S. 19-44) 30 MI.  
BRADFORDVILLE 5 MI.

FLORIDA  
TALLAHASSEE QUADRANGLE  
15-MINUTE SERIES

BAINBRIDGE (JUNC. U.S. 44) 39 MI.  
HAVANA 10 MI.

2416 50  
2410

(B2)



540 000  
FEET

T. 1 N.

MONTICELLO 24 MI.  
MADISON 48 MI.

LAFAYETTE 1:24,000  
441 NW

LAFAYETTE 24 MI.  
PERRY 50 MI.

3367

3366

T. 1 S.

3365

3364

3363

3362

3361

3360

3359

3358

3357



Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Leon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.5.12 0010	DATE 5/12/71

1. NAME

COMMON: Cascades Park  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Capital Center (See map)  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Tallahassee  
STATE: Florida CODE 12 COUNTY: Leon CODE 073

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:  
Division of Archives, History and Records Mgt., Tallahassee  
SCALE: 1:400  
DATE: 1970

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

