

PH0352837

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 25 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUN 22 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

* Walker, David S., Library

AND/OR COMMON

The University Library

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

209 East Park Avenue

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY

Leon

CODE

073

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: library

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees of the Walker Library Board

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Walker Library, 209 East Park Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Florida

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Leon County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

See continuation sheet

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The red brick building is a combination of architectural styles. Such historical eclecticism was a recognizable feature of turn of the century architecture in America. If the architect, whose name is not known, had any one style foremost in his mind, it was that of the Neo-Classical Revival. The overall effect of the building is in the spirit of Roman temple architecture, and the details, which are classical in inspiration, reflect Roman rather than Greek order. The predominant traits of the two columns which stand on either side of the front entrance correspond to the Tuscan order; however, the capitals, which are currently painted red in contrast to the buff concrete of the column shafts, are of the Composite order. The building was obviously a freestanding cubic block when built; it is now close against the wall of a more modern building on the west side. The wall surfaces are smooth and plain except for two shallow pilasters on the east side wall. The thin architrave and plain frieze are topped by a rather massive cornice. The roof is flat; around the edge is a solid parapet interrupted by a white balustrade over the shallow portico area in the front. The wide front doorway is linteled; all of the windows have rounded arches with keystones which repeat the acanthus leaf design of the capitals. The two-story double-hung windows, of which there are two in back (south) and side (east) facades and two and one-half in the front (north) facade take up a large portion of the wall space. Each sash is composed of four large panes; the top two panes in each window are rounded so that together they form a semi-circle. Over the double doorway is an incomplete entablature, lacking the architrave. On the frieze is the lettering "Library." The entablature rests not on columns but on corbels. Above the door is a round-arched window which is an abbreviated version of the two-story windows which are present elsewhere. The iron railings on the steps leading up to the doorway are fairly recent additions (1960's).

The interior of the building is essentially two stories in height; around the single large room of which the interior is composed is a second story balcony which accommodates a narrow walkway on the interior side and a bookcase range along the outside walls. The overhang of the balcony provides a one-story area around the outside of the room on the lower level; this area is used as the stack area. The central area of the room is large enough to accommodate a long library table and four chairs on each side, with one at each end. At the south end of the room (opposite the doorway) is a brick fireplace wall with a brick mantel. The walls are otherwise white plaster. The windows are framed in dark wood which repeats the exterior arch and keystone design. The floors are of hardwood. The ceiling, the underside of the balcony, and the skylight area are paneled in very narrow wood stripping; in the skylight, the wood is light in color,

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Lib. Assoc.: 1884 BUILDER/ARCHITECT
Present bldg.: 1903

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present Walker Library building is worthy of being entered on the National Register on three counts. It is a good example of the historical eclecticism of architectural styles which was prevalent at the beginning of the twentieth century and as such it is unique in Tallahassee. Secondly, the contents of the building--both books and memorabilia--are of intrinsic as well as historic value. And finally, the social and educational functions of the library aided significantly in advancing the cultural level of the community of Tallahassee, especially in the turn-of-the-century era.

David S. Walker was a lawyer and public servant whose political career culminated in the years 1866-1868, at which time he served as governor of Florida. He was noted for his strong interest in public education and was especially active in this area in the 1850's. As ex officio Superintendent of Common Schools (a responsibility which fell to him when he became Registrar of Public Lands in 1852), Walker worked to make public education available in Florida. Motivated by this concern, Walker took steps to provide Tallahassee with a library. In 1883, he made available three rooms on the second story of a two-story building he had just erected at the corner of Monroe and McCarty Streets (now Monroe and Park) for use as a library rent-and-tax-free on the condition that local citizens form a library association and raise \$100 for furniture and equipment. These stipulations were fulfilled within a few months, and in March, 1884, the rooms were opened under the name "University Library." (The name referred to the Florida University founded in Tallahassee in 1883, an institution which was later disestablished in favor of the present University of Florida at Gainesville.)

Several years after Walker's death in 1891, the library underwent a change of name and location. The corner building was purchased in 1903 for business purposes; the widow and daughter of David S. Walker deeded a lot to the Library Association on which a new library building was to be constructed with the proceeds of the sale of the old premises. This 30 x 50 foot lot was located behind the old building; the new structure erected received the name currently used, "The David S. Walker Library." For certain segments of Tallahassee society, the library continued to be an important part of local social and educational life. The balcony area was used for quiet recreation (such as

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	76 1 20 0	3 37 0 67 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mildred L. Fryman, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Div. of Archives, History & Records Mgmt.

DATE

February, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Dept. of State, The Capitol

TELEPHONE

904-488-7365

CITY OR TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Robert Williams Robert Williams

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3/18/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Attesting

DATE

6/22/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

5-18-76

WILLIAM D. WOODWARD, Keeper of the National Register

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 25 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 22 1976

Walker, David S., Library

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

Representation in Existing Surveys:

- 1) Historic Sites Survey 1940, 1936-40
- 2) Tallahassee Historic Buildings Survey, 1967
- 3) Tallahassee Capitol Center Survey, 1975

All survey records on file at Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Department of State, The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 25 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 22 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Walker, David S., Library

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

but the rest is dark. The skylight is one of the most striking features of the interior. The opening forms a rectangle (c. 10' x 9'?) at the ceiling level and is recessed upwards to a height of about six feet. The lower four or so feet are sloping inward to a second opening which is about 5 x 4 feet in dimensions. Clerestory windows rise in a perpendicular fashion around this rectangle for a height of about 18 inches. The uppermost ceiling has a triangular design worked in the wood stripping. The skylight provides a good supply of light for the interior. Other lighting is provided by gaslight fixtures converted into electric lighting.

Another striking feature of the interior is the balcony balustrade. Each baluster gently curves into a bulge in its lower half. An optical illusion is created which makes the railing appear from below to be a good bit higher than it actually is. The stairway leading up to the balcony area is quite narrow and very steep.

The general visual effect of the interior is created in good measure by the articles displayed around the room and the portraits of famous Floridians. The prized possession is a chair which is said to have been the property of Prince Achille Murat (a nephew of Napoleon) who lived in the area.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 25 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUN 22 1976

Walker, David S., Library

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

chess-playing) and conversation for members; fund-raising projects enlivened community life. Thus the David S. Walker Library played an integral and significant role in the developing Florida community of Tallahassee for many decades.

Functioning as a subscription institution in the pattern common at that stage of American library development, the Walker Library has been in continuous existence since 1884. It is the fourth oldest library in Florida; the oldest (in St. Augustine) was founded only in 1871, indicating that the Walker Library was in the vanguard of the spread of such facilities throughout Florida. No free public library was available in Tallahassee or in Leon County until 1955. The Walker Library clearly served a useful function in the Tallahassee community for several decades although its use was limited to those who could afford the subscription membership. Some city and county funds have been available for use by the Walker Library Association from time to time, but the chief financial resource has remained the subscribed funds. Many of the books have been provided by donation. A survey of the contents of the collection made in 1965 by a trained librarian revealed a sizeable number of out-of-print and even rare books and periodicals among the uncatalogued holdings. If systematized and catalogued according to standard library procedures, this collection could be of use to students in several disciplines. Articles of antiquarian interest are also present in the library.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 25 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 22 1976

Walker, David S., Library

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Blake, Sallie E. Tallahassee of Yesterday. Tallahassee: T. J. Appleyard, 1924.

Davis, William Watson. The Civil War and Reconstruction in Florida. 1913. Facsimile edition, Floridiana Facsimile and Reprint Series. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1964.

McCullough, Mildred White. "The David S. Walker Library," Apalachee (Tallahassee), 1946, 13-18.

Paisley, Joy. An Untitled Report to Mrs. Jack T. Dobson, Florida Heritage Foundation. Typewritten. Tallahassee, Florida, July 10, 1967. On file in Division of Archives, History, and Records Management, Tallahassee, Florida.

Stelle, Helen Virginia. Florida Library Survey: 1935. n.p.: Florida Library Association, 1935.

Tallahassee Democrat, January 31, 1965, September 18, 1966.

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