NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90

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 TAYLOR HOUSE	
other names/site number FMSF# LE1290	
2. Location	
street & number 442 West Georgia Street	N/A _ not for publication
city or town Tallahassee	N/A U vicinity
state Florida code FL county Leon	code0/3 zib code <u>32301</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
Signature of certifying official/Title Date	_
Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of State or Federal agency and bureau  In my opinion, the property  meets does not meet the National Register criteria. comments.)	
State or Federal agency and bureau  In my opinion, the property □ meets □ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
State or Federal agency and bureau  In my opinion, the property □ meets □ does not meet the National Register criteria. comments.)	
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. comments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title Date  State or Federal agency and bureau  4. National Park Service Certification	. (□See continuation sheet for additional
In my opinion, the property  does not meet the National Register criteria.  Signature of certifying official/Title  Date  State or Federal agency and bureau  4. National Park Service Certification  hereby certify that the property is:   entered in the National Register	. (□See continuation sheet for additional
In my opinion, the property   meets   does not meet the National Register criteria.  Signature of certifying official/Title   Date  State or Federal agency and bureau  4. National Park Service Certification  hereby certify that the property is:    entered in the National Register         See continuation sheet    determined eligible for the National Register	. (□See continuation sheet for additional
In my opinion, the property   meets   does not meet the National Register criteria.  Signature of certifying official/Title   Date  State or Federal agency and bureau  4. National Park Service Certification  hereby certify that the property is:    entered in the National Register    See continuation sheet    determined eligible for the	. (□See continuation sheet for additional
In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.  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 for additional

Taylor House Name of Property	Leon Co., FL County and State					
5. Classification						
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of (Do not include	Resources within e any previously listed re	Property esources in the	ne count)	
⊠ private □ public-local	buildings     district	Contributing	g Nonc	contributing		
□ public-State □ public-Federal	☐ site ☐ structure ☐ object		[	0	_buildings	
			)	0	_sites	
			<u>l</u>	0	_structures	
			)	0	_objects	
			2	0	_total	
Name of related multiple property listings (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)			contributing reso he National Regist		viously	
"N	/A"		0			
6. Function or Use				<del></del>		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Func (Enter categories	tions from instructions)			
DOMESTIC: Dwelling	·	ARTS/CULTURE:Museum				
	<del></del>					
7. Description				_		
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categ	ories from instructions)			
OTHER: Frame Vernacular		foundation	-			
		walls <u>W</u> (	OOD			
		roof <u>ME</u>	ETAL			

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

Taylor House	Leon Co., FL
Name of Property	County and State
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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
A Dranauty is apposited with avents that have made	EDUCATION
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	ARCHITECTURE
☐ <b>B</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	Period of Significance
distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1894 - 1969
□ 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.)	Significant Dates 1894
Property is:	
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person
☐ B removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation
C a birthplace or grave.	N/A
D a cemetery.	
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder
☐ <b>F</b> a commemorative property.	unknown
☐ <b>G</b> 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 o Previous documentation on file (NPS):	r more continuation sheets.)  Primary location of additional data:
☐ 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 #	State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal agency Local government University Other  Name of Repository
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record	<u>#</u>

Taylor House Name of Property	Leon Co., FL County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property less than one acre	
UTM References (Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)  1	sting Northing uation sheet
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Hollinger, Delaitre J./Robert O. Jones, Historic Preservationist	
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation	date February 2015
street & number 500 South Bronough Street	telephone <u>850-245-6333</u>
city or town Tallahassee state FL	zip code <u>32399-0250</u>
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	n.
A <b>Sketch map</b> 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 Tallahassee Urban League, Inc.	
street & number 923 Old Bainbridge Road	telephone <u>850-222-6111</u>

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 required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

state Florida

32303

zip code

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.

<u>Tallahassee</u>

city or town

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#### **SUMMARY**

The Taylor House is located at 442 West Georgia Street, in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida. Built in 1894, the two-story Frame Vernacular home is built on a brick pier foundation, with an "L" form main-block and a one-story extension on the north (rear) elevation. The facade has an extending gable wing, and first and second story porches are located in the juncture of the two wings. The second story porch with shed roof is supported by three 4"x4" square posts, and the main entrance to the home is accessed via the first story porch at the bend in the "L." The roof is surfaced with crimped metal sheeting.

#### **SETTING**

A walkway extends to the Taylor House from a concrete sidewalk that parallels West Georgia Street. A low brick wall encloses the front of the property and runs parallel to the sidewalk (Photo #1). Historic homes flank the Taylor House, but no properties contemporary with the house remain on the street, and modern in-fill is dominated by neotraditional styles. The neighborhood, referred to as Frenchtown, is laid out on an orthogonal street grid and is essentially flat with lawns and lot-lines populated with mature trees. Macomb Street, the main thoroughfare north/south through the neighborhood is a half-block to the west. West Brevard Street is a main east/west thoroughfare that lies north of the Taylor House. The Florida Governor's Mansion (NR 2006) is two blocks northwest of the Taylor House.

#### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

#### **Exterior**

The house has a foundation of brick piers, a brick chimney pierces the metal roof at the ridge, and the exterior has horizontal drop-siding. The two-story frame residence has an "L" footprint, and a one-story extension on the rear (north) elevation. Fenestration is arranged with either single or paired double-hung wooden 2/2 sashes. The windows have unadorned cornices above the window trim.

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The <u>façade</u> (south) of the two-story Frame Vernacular home is distinguished by a forward extending gable wing on the west that contains triangular and rectangular shingles within the gable, and first and second story porches across the wing to the east (Photos #1 & 2). The second story porch and its shed roof is supported by three 4"x4" square posts, and the second story porch has handrails and square balusters. The main entrance to the home is off of the first story porch. The wooden porch is accessed from two concrete steps with concrete cheek walls. The front extended gable end has a single window centered on each of the two stories. The first story of the east wing has a single paneled wooden door near where the wing joins with the gable wing. A pair of sash windows are east of the door. On the second story porch is another single door above the first story door, and a single window to the east.

The <u>west elevation</u> has two windows each on the first and second stories (Photo #3). The northerly window on the first story has a pair of sashes.

The <u>north elevation</u> has a gable end mirroring the gable end on the façade, which includes triangular and rectangular shingles (Photo #4). The east wing of the main two-story block intersects flush with the gable's elevation. The gable end has a single window centered on both the first and second stories. The east wing has a single window toward the east side. The elevation is dominated by the one-story extension with two windows in its north elevation and a wooden square trellis pattern in the gable (Photo #5). A shed roofed porch with two 4x4" posts is in the west juncture of the extension and the north elevation. At the juncture is a single wooden door into the extension. The extension has a single window in its east elevation.

The <u>east elevation</u> has a gable end at the east wing of the two-story block (Photo #6). It too has triangular and rectangular shingles in the gable with a single window centered in the second story and a single window with paired sashes in the first story. The brick chimney pierces the eastern slope of the roof on the south wing. The western porches are visible with their wood board flooring, square posts, handrails, balusters, and floor joists (Photo #7). A single wood door is visible into the south wing off of the first story porch and a single window is in the second story.

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#### **Interior**

The main two-story block of the house contains three rooms on each of the two floors joined by a dog-leg wooden stairway. Floors are wood board, the ceiling and some walls are faced in tongue-and-groove wood paneling, and most other walls are faced with drywall. Crown molding is of rectangular wood stock, and the three-panel wood doors are framed with plain trim.

#### First floor

Within the main door is a stairway directly ahead and the <u>living room</u> is to the right (Photo #8). Windows with paired sashes are in the south and east walls (Photo #9). A door in the west wall enters the rooms in the south wing, and an opening in the north wall enters the kitchen and bathroom in the north one-story extension. The <u>kitchen</u> (Photo #10) has a sink aligned with a window in the north wall, and a stove and counters are against the east wall. The <u>bathroom</u> is in the west corner of the extension (Photo #11). A <u>short hallway</u> (Photo #12) extends past the bathroom to a door that opens to the porch in the northwest corner. The dining room in the northwest corner of the house has a double fireplace in the south wall and a door into the south bedroom (Photo #13). The brick fireplace is surfaced with concrete, and a cornice trim is at the level of a mantel. A window in the west wall has a window filled with a pair of sashes. The bedroom in the south/front room shares a chimney with the dining room, and the fireplace is also surfaced with concrete (Photo #14).

#### Second floor

The wooden <u>staircase</u> has a large square newel post, hand rails, square balusters, and three wedge-shaped steps compose the turn to the second flight (Photo #15). At the second floor landing is a door to a closet to the south, and a door to a bedroom on the east (Photo #16). A door to the west opens to the northwest bedroom. The two bedrooms on the west side have fireplaces that are enclosed. All three bedrooms on the second floor have windows in the exterior walls as the main defining features.

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#### **ALTERATIONS**

The Taylor House was repaired and restored to its 1894 configuration in 2001. During the historic period the porches on both the façade and north elevations had been modified. Alterations made to the stairway were also reversed and the original stairway was revealed. Drywall was installed over the tongue-and groove interior wall paneling.

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The low brick wall with end-pedestals that flanks the entry sidewalk, running east and west, is a historic contributing resource (Photo #17). A short extension of the wall runs to the southwest corner of the house, and an extension runs north along the eastern property lot line.

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#### **SUMMARY**

The Taylor House is nominated to the National Register at the local level under Criteria A and C in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Black/Social History and Architecture. Built by Lewis W. and Lucretia Taylor, it was home to several generations of the Taylor family who served as leaders and educators for the Tallahassee and Leon County region. The family generated an exceptional number of outstanding educators for the community, including the Assistant Superintendent of the School District, Mrs. Aquilina Howell. The house also is one of the last and oldest remaining Frame Vernacular Style residences from the historically African American neighborhood of Frenchtown.

#### HISTORIC CONTEXT

The American government on July 4, 1825, gave the Lafayette Land Grant to Gilbert du Motier, marquis de Lafayette in gratitude for his service during the American Revolution. Subsequently, he encouraged his countrymen to explore agricultural settlement in Tallahassee. French settlers moved to the Tallahassee area in 1831, and initially settled on the north shore of Lake Lafayette on the eastside of Tallahassee. Hardship drove them to relocate westward, with many returning to France, and an unsubstantiated number relocated to an area north of the early town of Tallahassee. The details of this settlement are unknown. Following the Civil War, freed African American slaves moved to this section of town, known locally as Frenchtown, and from this time onward this area became a hub of activity with growing businesses. The community created opportunities for artists as well as jazz, blues, and gospel musicians. From 1940-1945, music legend Ray Charles lived in this community part-time, and jazz greats, brothers Nat and Cannonball Adderley played here in their younger days. Both brothers are buried in Southside Cemetery in Tallahassee. The Red Bird Club and Cafe DeLuxe in Frenchtown provided a wealth of musical talent including Lawyer Smith and his Band who played there for over 30 years. The community was the center of the Civil Rights Movement in Tallahassee, and the Reverend Charles Kenzie (C.K.) Steele, of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, was a prominent local movement leader. Steele served as the first vice president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bertram H. Groene, "Ante-Bellum Tallahassee," Tallahassee: Florida Heritage Foundation, 1981, p.45.

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Lewis Washington Taylor (1865-1931), was born in December 1865 in Wakulla County, Florida, as the only child of James and Clara Taylor. His father was from South Carolina and his mother was from Florida. Lewis Taylor was a well-known educator and community leader. Though soft-spoken and small in stature, he carried himself in an aptly stoic manner. He taught at Centerville School, the original Lincoln High School, and Bel Air, a one room rural school house for black children in Leon County, located on the grounds of a former ante-bellum plantation. Lewis Taylor was a prominent man in the community during the 1880s. In addition to teaching at Centerville and Bel Air, white families sought him to teach and tutor their children for 10 cents per session. The Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Bel Air established a Tallahassee branch in 1869, and Lewis served as a church deacon and superintendent of the Sunday school. In 1887, he married Lucretia McPherson. Lewis' success continued as a leader in the Tallahassee NAACP. There, he distributed the association's newsletter The Crisis, and sold the only African American-produced newspaper in the United States at that time, the Pittsburg Courier.

<u>Lucretia McPherson Taylor</u> (1865-1935) was born a slave in Tallahassee on May 19, 1865, to Dennis and Louisa McPherson. She was the great-granddaughter of Sam, Sr. and Nancy Edwards, a pioneer Leon County family. Dennis was born in Beaufort, South Carolina and Louisa in Florida. Lewis Taylor and Lucretia were married on December 17, 1887. Lewis and Lucretia had thirteen children, ten of which survived.

In the 1900 U.S. census, Lewis and Lucretia are listed as mulattos with six children, <u>Irene</u> (born March 1889), <u>Claudine</u> (born July 1890), <u>Madeline</u> (born February 1891), <u>James</u> (born September 1892), <u>Sarah</u> (born July 1895), and <u>Crizell</u> (born February 1899). By 1910, the Taylors, now listed as black, had four additional children, <u>Letitia</u> (age 3), <u>Dennis</u> (age 5), <u>Wallace</u> (a daughter, age 5) and <u>Samuel</u> (age 1). Lucretia was taught to read and write by her daughters, who would read the local newspaper and the Holy Bible to her.

The Taylor House was home to an extended family by 1920. Along with Lewis and Lucretia lived single daughters Letitia, Crizell, Wallace, Victorine, and son Samuel. Also, Madeline had married Aurelio A. Casañas, and both were living at the house with their infant daughter, Aquilina (Figure #1). Madeline gave birth to Aquilina in the front bedroom on the second floor. Another of Lewis and Lucretia's granddaughters, Annie Francis, (daughter of Crizell) also lived at the Taylor House. By 1925, Madeline and Aurelio Casañas and their growing family had moved next door to 74 (later 448) West Georgia Street. Over the years, Aurelio was a mechanic at Alford Chevrolet Company,

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while Madeline was a bookkeeper and teacher at Lincoln High School, also teaching night classes. Madeline Casañas would continue to live at 448 West Georgia Street until her death in 1977. Her son Antonio lived there 448 West Georgia until 1984. The Taylor House remained in the family, and through the efforts of <u>Aquilina (Casañas) Howell</u> it was sold to the Tallahassee Urban League in 1995. Today, the home serves as the Taylor House Museum.

Lewis Taylor (Louis in some public records), had several different professions over his lifetime. In 1900 he was recorded as a teacher, although census records show that he was unemployed part of the year. By 1910, he was self-employed as a proprietor of a jewelry store. By 1919, he was a salesman, and the 1920 census lists him as a traveling salesman. Reflecting Lewis's literacy and background in teaching, education was important to the Taylors. All of their children of school age were reported as having attended school in the 1920 census records, and they could all read and write.

In 1910, Lewis paid off the mortgage on this property and for five dollars, transferred ownership of the property to Lucretia. The Taylors often took boarders into their two-story home. Until street numbering was changed in Tallahassee, the house was at 68 West Georgia. By 1925, it was changed to 442 West Georgia Street, the address it retains today. Lewis and Lucretia continued living in their home until his death on September 24, 1931 and her death on December 14, 1935. At this time, their son, Samuel, moved into the house. He was later joined by his wife Thelma, and they would occupy the house until 1953. Samuel was at various times a driver and a laborer. Thomas A. and Victorine Taylor Blake were the next to live in the Taylor House from 1954 until 1971. Thomas was a porter at the Vogue, a popular woman's clothing store. A teacher by profession, Victorine taught at the Ward School and later at Lincoln Elementary School. The shortest and last occupants to stay at the house were Allen and Wallace Taylor Valentine in the 1970s. Wallace, daughter of Lewis and Lucretia Taylor, would continue living in the house after her husband's death until 1977.

#### HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Taylor House Museum was designated in 2011 as a Local Historic Landmark in Tallahassee for its association with the education of African American children, and the

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tutoring of white children by Lewis Washington Taylor. Taylor's work as an educator of children regardless of color was an unheard of occurrence in Southern history during the late 1800's. His descendants would continue this rich tradition of supporting education and each would enhance their community. Educators among the second generation of the family include Claudine Taylor Davis (1889 - 1988) who taught school in Waycross and Quitman, Georgia, also serving as a school principle and in the administration. Madeline Taylor Casañas (1891 – 1977) taught at Lincoln High School, and night classes. Letitia Taylor Byrd (1908 – 1970), was an English teacher at Dunbar High School in Quincy, and had a full career at Lincoln High School. Victorine Taylor Blake (1911 – 1997) taught and served as principal at the Ward School, Testerina rural school, Lincoln Elementary, Oak Ridge School, Griffin Elementary and Riley Elementary schools. Eldest son James Dennis Taylor (1892 – 1966) received a Bachelor of Science degree from FAMU, and an Engineering degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, taught in public schools in Boston, and at FAMU when he returned to Tallahassee. These individuals were notable educators and community activists who participated in the Civil Rights Movements of the 1950's and 1960's. A third generation of the family, Lucille Casañas Alexander, born in 1929, and active in Tallahassee today, was a nurse at Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University Hospital, and had a career as a professor at the university. Aquilina Casañas Howell (1917 – 2000), born in an upstairs bedroom of the Taylor House in 1917, and her sister Lucille, became well-regarded leaders in the city and county. Aquilina was a 43-year veteran educator, and became the first black (and female) assistant school superintendent for Leon County schools. A school administration complex, a Tallahassee park, as well as a local street, all bear her name.

Aquilina Celia Casañas Howell (May 3, 1917 – January 13, 2000) was the eldest of four children born to Aurelio and Madeline Taylor Casañas, who resided at 442 West Georgia Street at the time of her birth. She received her formal education in the public schools of Leon County, earning a bachelor's degree from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in 1938, and a graduate degree in Education from New York University in 1956. She completed further study at Boston University and the University of Chicago. Aquilina Casañas married Samuel Felton Howell on December 20, 1941. They had two daughters, Carmen Felton Howell Ferguson, and the late Sonya Lena Howell Bradford (Figure #2). Sonya became an English teacher, and Carmen earned a graduate degree in social work. Aquilina's forty-three year career in education began with teaching social

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studies, English and Spanish. While working for the school district, she chaired many administrative posts, and was particularly celebrated for guiding the Leon County school system through the delicate process of desegregation. During the 1960s and 1970s, she presided over numerous heated meetings between black and white parents, and school administrators. She was known as a consensus builder across race lines, and by civic leaders as the woman who "shaped the social consciousness of Tallahassee, Florida." Howell was a friend and trusted advisor to the late Governor LeRoy Collins during his turbulent tenure as Governor of segregation-era Florida, and was a parishioner and family confidant of the Rev. C.K. Steele. Aquilina's co-worker school superintendent Charles Couch applauded her ability to understand complex issues and get people to look at the issues calmly and solve the problem in win-win fashion. Couch appointed Howell as his assistant. At a time when racial relations were not quite as relaxed as now, she made sure that all of Leon County had a voice in our schools. She was the first female ever to be appointed as Assistant Superintendent in the Leon County School District, which occurred in the spring of 1981.

In appreciation of her work the school district and community at large, the Leon County School District named and dedicated their new headquarters the "Aquilina C. Howell Instructional Service Center" on November 28, 1995. Additionally Howell, along with two other devoted citizens of Frenchtown were honored in the naming of the Carter-Howell-Strong Park where she was known for her leadership and service to her birthplace. In 2009, Aquilina Howell Street was dedicated to her memory.

Howell served on numerous boards and committees within the city, county and state governments. Howell was a devoted member of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church all her life, and where Lewis Taylor had served as church deacon and superintendent of the Sunday school. She served and received commendations from the NAACP, was inducted into the Florida Educator Hall of Fame, and earned Florida's A&M University Meritorious Achievement Award.

The Taylor House, and the oldest house in the neighborhood, remains as a reminder of a distinct period of segregation, and struggle for community self-betterment, and a family who made a distinct contributions through education. The house is unique in that it stands

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Taylor House Museum archives and historian interview, September 2014.

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alone in a neighborhood that has been transformed by recent development with new and altered homes and businesses. It is akin to the African American John Gilmore Riley House (NR 1978), which too is isolated in a neighborhood only several blocks from the Florida State Capital that has been transformed into an area of modern offices. The Riley House is also a museum, and has become a prominent regional resource for education regarding African American history.

#### ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The Taylor House is an excellent example of a 19<sup>th</sup> century Frame Vernacular dwelling. Built in 1894, it is the only remaining house in that form and age for the entire neighborhood. Vernacular construction techniques and forms are used by lay or self-taught builders. Locally available materials and suitability to the environment usually influenced the construction. Vernacular building trends are significant for their ability to define unique regional and local characteristics.

The industrial revolution permitted a standardization of building materials and parts which exerted a pervasive influence over vernacular house design. Popular magazines disseminated information about building trends and styles throughout the country, and railroads provided affordable distribution of manufactured building products. Common vernacular form to Florida are the Georgian house which is a double-pile structure with a central hall and paired internal chimneys, noted for its symmetry. The standard I-house is single pile, two stories high, and usually two rooms wide, with external gable end chimneys. The front-gabled "L" was a popular form throughout the South that provided more living space than a straight I-house.

#### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Taylor House is an excellent example of a Frame Vernacular two-story front-gabled "L" house form, built in 1894, and restored in 2001 with a State of Florida Preservation Grant. In keeping with the form, there are three primary rooms on both the first and second floor. A dog-leg stairway with winders is centrally located. Both back-to-back rooms on the west side share a single chimney on both floors, and back-to-back brick fireplaces. A spacious one-story extension on the north/rear elevation provided room for a

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bathroom, kitchen, and service entrance. Notable features are the two-story porches tucked with the crux of the façade "L," with a shed roof, supported by square posts, with handrails and balusters on the second story; patterned wood shingles within each of the gables; a wood trellis pattern with the one-story rear extension gable; window drip-molds; and a serviceable porch in the crux of the extension and northwest elevation. Although the 2001 restoration work removed non-historic alterations, much of the original fabric remained, and the property retains a high degree of integrity of design, feeling, association, materials, and workmanship.

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

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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#### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Northwest Addition W ½ of S 91 Ft of Lots 5 DB PP/559 1365/1315 1318 OR 1801/1204 Leon County Property Appraiser parcel # 2136500055125

0.18 acre approximate

### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

This property boundary is historically associated with the Taylor House.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	Photo	Page	1	TAYLOR HOUSE, TALLAHASSEE, LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA
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#### PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST

- 1. Taylor House, 442 West Georgia Street, Tallahassee
- 2. Leon County, Florida
- 3. Delaitre Hollinger
- 4. September 2014
- 5. Taylor House viewed from West Georgia Street, looking north
- 6. Photo #1 of 18

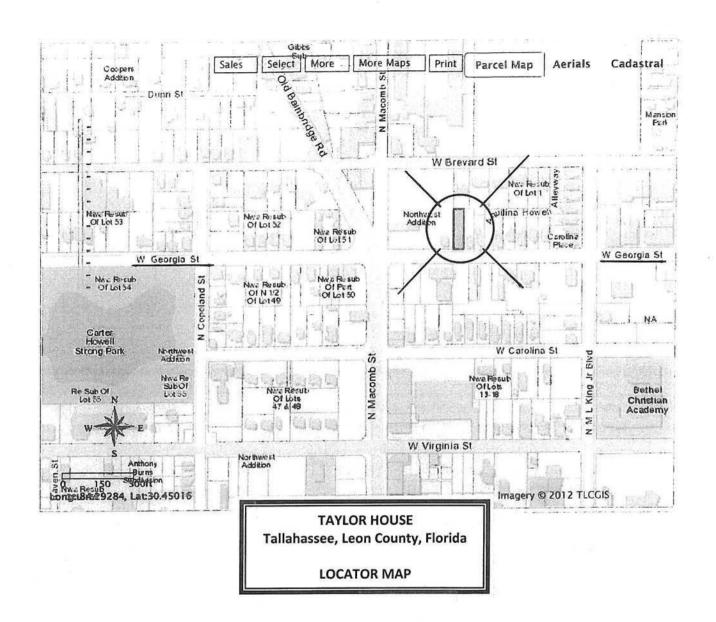
The remaining items 1-4 are the same for the following photographs.

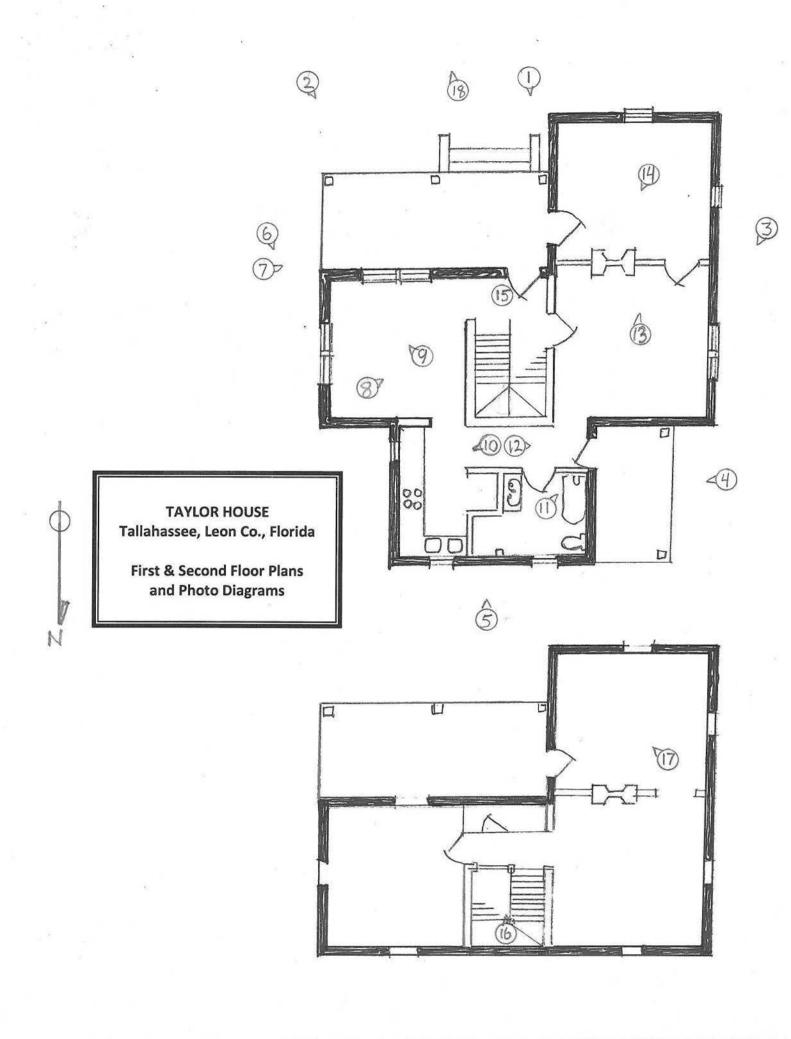
- 5. South façade, looking northwest
- 6. Photo #2 of 18
- 5. West elevation, looking northeast
- 6. Photo #3 of 18
- 5. Porch at northwest corner, looking east
- 6. Photo #4 of 18
- 5. North one-story extension, looking south
- 6. Photo #5 of 18
- 5. East elevation, looking northwest
- 6. Photo #6 of 18
- 5. Side view of south porch, looking west
- 6. Photo #7 of 18
- 5. First floor southeast room, looking southeast
- 6. Photo #8 of 18
- 5. Southwest room, looking southwest
- 6. Photo #9 of 18

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	Photo	Page	2	TAYLOR HOUSE, TALLAHASSEE, LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

- 5. Kitchen, looking north
- 6. Photo #10 of 18
- 5. Bathroom, looking southwest
- 6. Photo #11 of 18
- 5. Hall between kitchen and bathroom, looking west
- 6. Photo #12 of 18
- 5. First floor, northwest room, looking south
- 6. Photo #13 of 18
- 5. Southwest room looking northeast
- 6. Photo #14 of 18
- 5. Stairway, looking north
- 6. Photo #15 of 18
- 5. Second floor landing, looking north
- 6. Photo #16 of 18
- 5. Second floor, southwest room
- 6. Photo #17 of 18
- 5. Brick wall, looking southwest
- 6. Photo #18 of 18













































### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION	
PROPERTY Taylor House NAME:	
MULTIPLE NAME:	
STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Leon	
DATE RECEIVED: 2/20/15 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/01/15 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:	DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/17/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/07/15
REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000127	
REASONS FOR REVIEW:	
OTHER: N PDIL: N PER	DSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N IOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N	
ACCEPT RETURN REJ	ECT 4.6.15 DATE
ac (121) 8	of de Pineeri
RECOM./CRITERIA	
REVIEWER	DISCIPLINE
TELEPHONE	DATE
DOCUMENTATION see attached comme  If a nomination is returned to t nomination is no longer under co	he nominating authority, the





### FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICK SCOTT Governor KEN DETZNER Secretary of State

February 12, 2015

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief, National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs Department of the Interior 1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Taylor House** (FMSF #8LE1290), in Leon County, to the National Register of Historic Places. The related materials (digital images, maps, and site plan) are included.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6333 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Desiree Estabrook

Historic Preservation Supervisor, Survey & Registration

Bureau of Historic Preservation







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February 9, 2015

Ms. Desiree Estabrook
Historic Preservation Supervisor, Survey & Registration
Bureau of Historic Preservation
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Taylor House, 442 West Georgia Street, Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida

Dear Ms. Estabrook,

On February 4, 2015 the Tallahassee-Leon County Architectural Review Board met and recommended that the National Register nomination for the Taylor House be forwarded on to the Keeper of the Register. Therefore, on behalf of the Tallahassee-Leon County Architectural Review Board, I am pleased to submit a letter of support for the National Register Nomination of the Taylor House.

The Taylor House, constructed c. 1894, was home to Lewis Taylor and his descendents. Lewis Taylor was prominent figure in Tallahassee as both an educator and community leader. His descendents carried on a tradition of providing education to African American children and community leadership. Further, the house is an example of 19<sup>th</sup> century Frame Vernacular construction with unique regional and local characteristics. The Taylor House is worthy of recognition on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and C.

The Taylor House is a national and local historic resource, contributes to Tallahassee's sense of place, and provides a tangible link to local history.

Sincerely,

Melissa A. Stoller, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation/

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Historic Preservation Officer, Tallahassee Leon County Architectural Review Board