

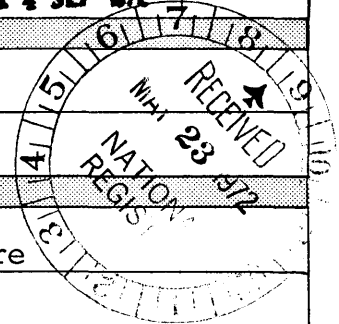
PH0002275

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida	
COUNTY: Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
14 SEP 1972	

De  
UTW



1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Perkins Opera House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Same as above**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Washington Street (U.S. 90) and Courthouse Square**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Monticello**

STATE: <b>Florida</b>	CODE: <b>12</b>	COUNTY: <b>Jefferson</b>	CODE: <b>065</b>
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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"/> Public <input checked="" 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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<b>not in use;</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<b>lower portion presently</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<b>houses business establishments</b>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**(1) J.B Keen and (2) Mrs. R. H. Simpson**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**(1) Monticello (2) 625 Palmer Mill Road**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Monticello</b>	STATE: <b>Florida</b>	CODE: <b>12</b>
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Jefferson County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Courthouse Square**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Monticello</b>	STATE: <b>Florida</b>	CODE: <b>12</b>
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Warren A. Dixon, Consulting Architect (preliminary survey)**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1968**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**N/A**

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Florida	COUNTY: Jefferson	ENTRY NUMBER: 14 SEP 1972	FOR NPS USE ONLY
			DATE



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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Perkins Opera House is located on the upper portion of a large, brick structure which is designed along Romanesque Revival lines. The building was built by John H. Perkins, a prosperous Leon County merchant in 1890. The ground floor housed various business establishments; the upper floor was the site of "an attractive and well-equipped" opera house.

Black, cast iron steps lead through wooden and glass paneled double doors into the area which originally served as a lobby on the ground floor. Stairs leading from this lobby up to another at the second floor no longer exist; however, marks along the wall confirm their former placement. Entry to the opera house is today gained by a back stair which may have been used by performers. Doors leading into the ground floor lobby are covered by a sloping hood which is supported by two ornate iron brackets. Two narrow columns which once framed the entry have been removed. Above the door is found a small deck, enclosed by a decorative iron railing. Narrow windows, evenly spaced around the building at the upper level, are double hung sash, and above each one appear stained glass panes which are still intact. Atop these windows are found arched, radiating voussoirs with shaped lintels. Two elongated windows at the center of the north side of the building are slightly different, being topped by shaped lintels, but without the arched voussoirs. Above these two windows is noted a triangular cement date block containing the inscription "A.D. 1890, Perkins Block." This triangular shape is repeated directly above at the roof line, and is the only projection on an otherwise horizontal roof shape.

The building contains eight brick chimneys, two of which are visible from the north side (front) and six at the south side (rear). A form of arcaded corbel table at the roof line with arched and stepped projections is noted. The north and east exteriors of the building are visibly broken into advancing and receding planes by means of vertical, brick projections which create the effect of buttressing. On each of these projections is an additional projecting niche-like structure capped with a plain moulding with trefoil motif beneath.

At the lower level of this building is found a series of small shops which are presently occupied and comprise the only activity associated with the entire structure. Use of the upper level gradually diminished after 1920, and it has continued in a dormant state up to the present time.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
14	SEP 1972

(Number all entries)

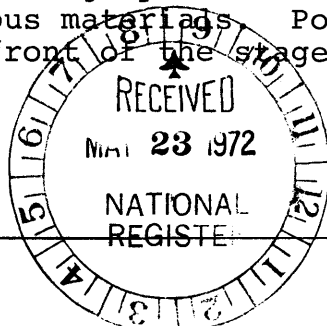
7. Description (b)

The interior of the rectangular shaped building has deteriorated, both through vandalism and natural wear resulting from a lack of regular maintenance. In spite of its present condition, the building possesses many interesting characteristics which reflect the elaborate style found in the original decorating scheme.

The wooden stair at the back of the present shop leads up into the left side of the upper lobby. Glass paneled doors--no longer attached to their hinges--were observed leaning against the walls. The auditorium once contained seating for approximately 500 persons; although many of the seats are removed from the flooring and are now stacked in several storage rooms. Four sloping aisles separate the three groups of seats on the ground floor of the opera house. Approximately fourteen seats per row in the center section; seven to nine seats on the side sections, and fourteen rows from front to back make up the seating arrangement on the main level. The wooden floor shows extensive deterioration; weak in some places and in others, non-existent. Balcony seating was arranged in pews with three rows on either side of the room which may have housed the stage lighting. This room was subsequently used as a projection room when the opera house was used as a motion picture theatre.

Two ornately decorated box seats at the front of the auditorium were found to be in fair condition, with the ceilings only slightly chipped. Evidence of delicately painted floral designs on the walls and ceilings of these box seats still remains. Plaster columns in Corinthian style flank each side of the box seats. The interior walls of the opera house are stripped of all decoration, and painted scenes which once graced the walls have disappeared.

Elaborate tin and mirrored lighting fixtures have been removed from the ceiling, and were found lying on the floor in back of the seating area. One larger fixture believed to have been the principal chandelier was found in an attic loft. The stage area, said to have been one of the largest in the State, has very weak flooring in several sections. A trap door located toward the rear of the stage permits entrance to the area below which now stores various materials. Porcelain light bulb sockets encircle the front of the stage floor above the orchestra pit.



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

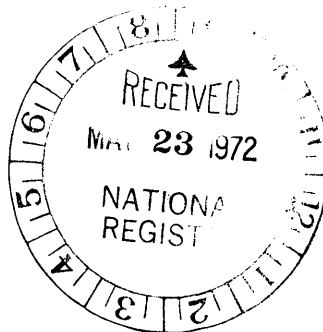
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 14 SEP 1972	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description (c)

Several anterooms leading off the stage were probably used as dressing rooms for the performers. Stairways were noted in several locations--these leading to various small rooms, to the balcony area, and to numerous smaller nooks.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

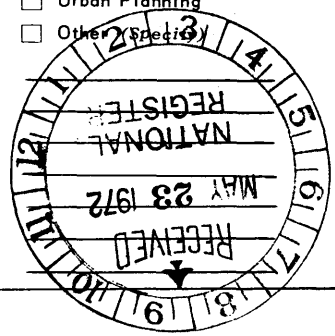
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<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) **1890**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input 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 Specific
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Perkins Opera House, once the scene of theatrical productions in Monticello, was a center of social and festive activities for Jefferson County. Traveling opera companies, vaudeville shows, and locally produced events were performed from the turn of the century to the late 1920's.

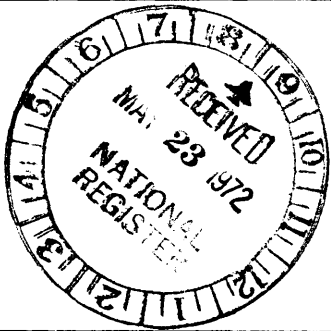
Lack of financial support for the productions and pressure from local church groups eventually resulted in decreased interest and activity in the opera house. The Jefferson County High School conducted commencement exercises at the opera house for a time after local theatrical productions ceased. In 1927, the centennial celebration took place at the opera house in Monticello, and it was noted that this event resulted in the most immense gathering in the history of the building. For a time subsequent, the opera house was the local motion picture theatre, but eventually this use was also discontinued.

Considering the fact that local opera houses were not an uncommon phenomena of this era--1900-1920--it would seem that the Perkins Opera House is not unique. However, because of its immense stage and seating area, and its relatively favorable physical condition for restoration after 82 years of existence, the opera house is, nevertheless, a most significant structure.

Little has been recorded about the opera house itself, other than legal documentation on file at the Jefferson County Courthouse relating to legal descriptions and ownership. Local personalities provided minimal information and many citizens were even unaware of its existence.

A preliminary architectural survey was conducted in 1968 by Mr. Warren Dixon; and Professor Arthur Dorlag was consulted regarding an evaluation of the opera house, but no further action at that time resulted. At the present time, however, renewed interest in restoration has occurred through the efforts of Florida State University and the Department of State. If projected plans are realized, the opera house could again become a cultural center for performing arts in Monticello.

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	
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NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Mary K. Evans, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives, History & Records Mgt. DATE: 1-17-72

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 Robert Williams

Title State Liaison Officer

Date May 15, 1972

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Robert W. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/14/72

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 9/17/72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Florida	
COUNTY	Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	14	DATE
		SEP 1972

(Number all entries)

9. Bibliography

Anderson, Charles. Personal Interview (by Mary K. Evans). Tallahassee, Florida, June, 1971.

Driggs, Ken. "Opera Lives in Memories at Monticello," Tallahassee Democrat, July 28, 1968.

Jefferson County Records, Jefferson County Courthouse, Monticello, Florida. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. (Subgroups: deeds and tax records).

Monticello News, April 19, 1971.

Pasco, Samuel. "Jefferson County, Florida, 1827-1910," Florida Historical Quarterly, VII, no. 2, 3 (October, 1928; January, 1929), 139-154; 234-257.

Simpson, R.C. History of Jefferson County, Florida. Monticello: Federal Emergency Relief Act, 1935.



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	
Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
14 SEP	1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Perkins Opera House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Washington Street (U.S. 90) and Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:

Monticello

STATE:

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY:

Jefferson

CODE

065

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

Monticello Quad.

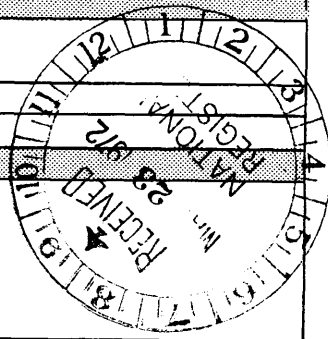
SCALE: 7.5

DATE: 1963

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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





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