

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 FIRE STATION No. #2

other names/site number FMSF#LE6164

2. Location

street & number 224 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Tallahassee N/A  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Leon code 083 zip code 32303

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Glissa Lotan 12/19/14  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
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
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Josh Salter \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 2-14-2017

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

**Name of related multiple property listings**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

"N/A"

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: fire station

GOVERNMENT: mechanics shop

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: office

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls CONCRETE

BRICK

roof GRAVEL

other

**Narrative Description**

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

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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 distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
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 or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1951-1967

Significant Dates

1951

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Stripling, James A., Architect

Carlile Builders

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of Repository

#

Fire Station No. #2  
Name of Property

Leon Co., FL  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.99 acre: less than one

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Deoliveira, Brittneyr/Robert O. Jones, Historic Preservationist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date November 2016

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399-0250

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.

A Sketch map 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 Brecht Heuchan

street & number Post Office Box 10549 telephone 850.702.0144

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32302

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

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.

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Section number 7 Page 1 **FIRE STATION NO. 2, TALLAHASSEE,  
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**SUMMARY**

Fire Station No. 2 is a two-story split level concrete block building faced with brick, with a concrete slab foundation and a flat roof. Fronting onto 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the main (south) facade appears as a one-story building, but the property slopes down toward the north, and the north/rear of the building is two stories in height with a ground floor below. The main façade of the building features two prominent bay doors on the east side, one of which has been partially infilled with fixed glass windows and a glass door. There are also two bay doors on the ground level of the rear (north) elevation of the building, both of which have been infilled with fixed glass windows and glass doors matching the appearance of the partially infilled bay door on the front. The west half of the building on the first floor contained two bays for fire trucks, and a dormitory. Below the dormitory on the ground level was a mechanical shop with two bays. The east side of the building housed offices, service rooms, and corridors. The building has undergone a number of changes, including the infilling or partial infilling of three of the four original bay doors, the replacement of the historic windows with the current fixed glass windows, the painting of what was once an unpainted brick exterior, and the division of some of the interior spaces. Despite this, the building retains sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register. The building is the only resource for this nomination.

**SETTING**

The fire station is located in Tallahassee, Florida. The city of Tallahassee, located in the area known as the Big Bend region in north central Florida, is the capital of Florida and the county seat of Leon County. It is also home to two major state universities, Florida State University and Florida A&M University, and is a city that evolves around the state and local government presence. The fire station, which fronts 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, is located in an area to the north of downtown Tallahassee. The neighborhood is a combination commercial and residential area. Mature trees and green lawns still line 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which ends to the east at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. Two major north-south thoroughfares, Monroe Street and Thomasville Road, are to the west and east respectively. Lake Ella Park is located a couple blocks to the north of the fire station. Between the fire station and the road is a type of driveway known as an apron for the fire trucks, and a grass lawn. A paved drive slopes

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downward alongside the west side of the building to access a parking area at the north side of the building.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

**Exterior**

Fire Station No. 2 is a two-story split level concrete block building faced with brick, with a concrete slab foundation and a flat roof. The main (south) elevation of the building is one story in height and features two large bay doors on the west side and recessed entryway on the east side accessed by three concrete steps (Photos #1-2). There are three sections visible on this elevation, each with a different height and width. The central section, which is set back and is slightly smaller in height and narrower than the west portion, features a six-light fixed window. The east portion of this elevation is smaller in height and narrower than the central section. In addition to a recessed entryway and screened in porch on the far east side, the roof extension is slightly canted, which varies from the flat roof found throughout the rest of the building. The east entry door is actually on the east side of the central section. The east bay door has been partially infilled with 16 fixed glass windows and a glass door, which functions as a primary entrance into the building. The west bay door remains the same as it was during its period of significance. The two bay doors are set back from the masonry protrusion which frame the doors.

The east and west elevations have large four-light fixed glass windows symmetrically aligned across the first story and ground floor on the north and south ends of the building (Photo #3). All of the windows have been modified from their historical configuration.

The north (rear) elevation of the building is two stories in height (Photo #4). On the ground floor are two bay doors which have been infilled by fixed light windows and glass doors similar in appearance to the partially infilled bay door on the main façade. There is also a prominent two-story entry tower adjacent to the bay doors on this elevation that protrudes from the building. It is accessed by an exterior metal staircase and leads to a covered second story entrance, which features a glazed door topped by a one-light fixed rectangular fanlight. This elevation also features four-light fixed windows. The windows above the bay doors on the west side are consistent in size while the windows on the east side of the

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elevation are of varying sizes. At the northeast corner is an attached square chimney which serves as an exhaust vent.

**Interior**

The first floor of the fire house contained the actual firehouse operations itself. The west side of the building held the apparatus room and dormitories while the offices, lounges, bathrooms, and reception areas were on the east side of the first floor. The historic main entrance of the building is located on the west side of the southeast corner of the historic fireman's lounge, which now serves as a reception area. The lounge provides access to the apparatus room and to two small rooms that historically served as a station office (Photo #5) and watch desk.

To the west of the lounge is a door to the large, open apparatus room where the fire trucks were kept (Photo #6). The floor of the apparatus room still retains the fire truck parking striping. One truck is still present in the westerly bay. Double doors in the north wall of the apparatus room enter the former dormitory, now used as office space (Photo #7). Two doors at the northeast corner of the apparatus room access a conference room that once functioned as the officer's bed room (Photo #8) and a corridor. The corridor (Photo #9) runs adjacent to the former dormitory to the exit door in the north tower. The corridor accesses a closet, bathroom (Photo #10), kitchen (Photo #11), and stairway (Photo #12) to the ground floor.

The ground floor of the fire house was historically used for the mechanical shop operations. There is a corridor that accesses a storage and mechanical room, and a door to the west accesses what had been the mechanical shop where truck conversions were accomplished. This large space has been divided into two large office spaces (Photo #13). There are unexcavated crawl spaces on the south half of the ground floor and under the first floor apparatus room and entry area (Photo #14).

**ALTERATIONS**

The building has undergone a number of changes since its construction. While the station was still part of Tallahassee Fire Department the original jalousie windows were replaced

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with the current ones sometime after the period of significance and are considered non-historic alterations. In 2015, the new owner replaced three of the four original bay doors with fixed glass windows and doors, keeping one of the doors on the main facade completely intact (Photos #1-2, 4). The porch on the east elevation was screened in. The kitchen was remodeled (Photo #11), and a wall in the ground level shop was attached to the support columns dividing the room into two offices (Photo #13). The building was also painted white, contrasting with its historic unpainted red brick appearance (Photos #1-4).

Integrity

Despite the changes this building has undergone, it still retains sufficient integrity to qualify for listing on the National Register. It still retains its integrity of location and setting. Although the windows have been replaced and the bay doors mostly infilled, the original openings were maintained and the changes were done in a way that the evidence of their existence remains. The interior integrity remains largely intact, with the distinctive large open interior spaces utilized for equipment storage, vehicle storage, and mechanical operations remaining mostly the same. The changes were also done in a way that they could be reversed without damaging the historic fabric of the building. It is still recognizable for its historic usage as a firehouse and mechanical workshop. Hence, the property largely retains its integrity of feeling, association, materials, design, and workmanship.



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**SUMMARY**

Fire Station No. 2 is nominated to the National Register for local significance under Criteria A: Politics/Government. The period of significance extends from its date of construction in 1951 to 1967. The fire station was designed to serve the northern part of the City of Tallahassee as well as to accommodate an automotive maintenance shop. Although it was named the “automotive maintenance” shop, it built fire trucks by converting military surplus vehicles to fire fighting vehicles. The site was chosen to accommodate a split-level building with two bays on the upper floor from which responding apparatus could exit the station directly onto 6th Avenue. The site also had two drive-out bays constructed in the rear lower elevation of the station for the mechanical shop.

**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

Tallahassee Fire Department

Like most historic cities, Tallahassee has had past difficulties with fire. For instance, a particularly disastrous fire swept through the city in 1843, destroying most of its commercial district and greatly exacerbating difficulties brought on by the Panic of 1837. After the Civil War, a number of buildings in the city caught fire, including a fire in February 1868 which claimed the life a soldier stationed in the city.<sup>1</sup> In response, The city purchased its first fire engine from the city of Augusta, Georgia, which it renamed “Florida.” The local citizens founded the Vigilant Fire Company (VFC) and the Tallahassee Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 (THLC) in 1868, which were formed “to prevent, if possible by their exertions and aid, the frequent calamities by fire in the city of Tallahassee...”<sup>2</sup> The VFC was comprised of members of the white community while the THLC was a black firefighting company initially staffed with white officers. The city’s fire engine was placed under the control of the VFC.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Weekly Floridian* [Tallahassee, FL], “Disastrous Fire – Sad Accident,” 25 Feb 1868, in Maurice Majszak, *History of Tallahassee, Florida, Fire Department 1820-1920* [unpublished manuscript], p. 46.

<sup>2</sup> “An Act to Incorporate the Fire Department of the City of Tallahassee,” in *Acts and Resolutions Adopted by the Legislature of Florida* (Tallahassee, FL: Charles M. Walton, State Printer, 1870), p. 106-107.

<sup>3</sup> Tallahassee City Council Minutes, Book 1, p. 86, in Majszak, *History of Tallahassee, Florida, Fire Department 1820-1920*, p. 49.

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In August 1868, the city council of Tallahassee created the Fire Department and appointed its first Fire Chief, T.J. Rawls, who was tasked primarily with coordinating the activities of the two companies and overseeing the city's fire equipment. The department consisted of just one person, however. The two independent fire companies actually served a role similar to that of the modern day fire department and merely reported to the Fire Chief.<sup>4</sup>

Although segregated, the two companies often worked in conjunction with one another to put out fires in the city. Very shortly after their formation in October 1868, the two groups worked together in a failed attempt to save a building on the west side of town.<sup>5</sup> The two companies also worked together to save the home of Peres Brokaw after a fire broke out in the attached kitchen in 1869. Thanks to their efforts, the Brokaw-McDougall House still stands today as one of the most significant local landmarks in Tallahassee.<sup>6</sup> Both companies were also present at the funeral services of Henry Johnson in 1870, an African-American citizen and member of the Hook and Ladder Company.<sup>7</sup>

The Tallahassee Hook and Ladder Company took part in the festivities celebrating the passage of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment in May 1870:

Next came the Tallahassee Hook and Ladder Company with their buckets filled and ready for instant action, presenting a very creditable appearance. The machine was covered by the Stars and Stripes, and profusely ornamented with boquets [sic] of natural flowers. The members, some fifty in number, wore red shirts and blue pantaloons, with the firemen's belt and hat, and made an appearance that was really a credit to the city as well as to themselves.<sup>8</sup>

The small de facto fire department continued to serve the community throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The city rented space from the Leon Masonic Lodge to house the fire equipment.

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<sup>4</sup> Tallahassee City Council Minutes, Book 1, p. 89-90, in Majszak, *History of Tallahassee, Florida, Fire Department 1820-1920*, p. 53-54.

<sup>5</sup> *Weekly Floridian* [Tallahassee, FL], "Fire," 27 Oct 1868, in Majszak, *History of Tallahassee, Florida, Fire Department 1820-1920*, p. 56.

<sup>6</sup> *Weekly Floridian*, "Fire on Sunday Morning Last," 11 May 1869, in Majszak, *History of Tallahassee, Florida, Fire Department 1820-1920*, p. 61; Maurice G. Majszak, *Remembering the Tallahassee Fire Department* (Tallahassee, FL: DQP Printing, 2012), p. 6.

<sup>7</sup> *Weekly Floridian*, "Death of a Good Man," 4 Oct 1870, in Majszak, *History of Tallahassee, Florida, Fire Department 1820-1920*, p. 75.

<sup>8</sup> *Weekly Floridian*, "Fifteenth Amendment Celebration," 24 May 1870.

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The city council had its own Fire Committee which was tasked with providing material support to the company. By the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, however, it became evident that new equipment and better organization was needed. In 1896, several alarm boxes were established throughout the city. The boxes sent out telegraph signals to a telephone office operator, who then relayed the signal by ringing a large bell located at the Marketplace Tower on the southeast corner of Adams and Jefferson streets. Each box gave out a unique signal, which allowed the operator to pinpoint its location. The first firehouse was a two-story wood building completed in 1900.<sup>9</sup> The people of Tallahassee would have been very much aware of a disastrous fire which took place in Jacksonville in 1901. In December 1901, the city council ordered the purchase of a wagon and a fire apparatus.<sup>10</sup>

Councilman Ball was particularly vocal in his support for a better equipped firefighting force:

Firemen, and especially volunteers, have the most thankless jobs on earth. They are expected to respond to the call at all hours of the day and night, regardless of the weather. Their lives are often endangered, and they undergo many hardships in their efforts to save property from the fury of the fiery fiend. For this heroic work they get no pay and little thanks, and the least the council can do is furnish them with the necessary apparatus.<sup>11</sup>

With this increased investment came the recognition for a more organized firefighting force. In September 1902, the Tallahassee Volunteer Fire Company, predecessor of the modern Tallahassee Fire Department, was created. The first fire chief of the company was C.A. Spencer, who was appointed by the city council.<sup>12</sup> This company was an all-volunteer organization who reported directly to the fire chief. Their equipment and apparatuses were owned and provided for by the city. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the fire apparatuses were affixed to horse drawn wagons. The Tallahassee Volunteer Fire Department's first motorized fire truck was an American LaFrance Fire Truck purchased in 1916. By 1923, there were three paid full time firefighters and 20 volunteers in the Fire Company.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Majszak, *Remembering the Tallahassee Fire Department*, p. 122.

<sup>10</sup> *Weekly Tallahasseean*, "Mr. Ball's Sensible Remarks," 13 Dec 1901.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> *Weekly Tallahasseean*, "Fire Department was Reorganized at City Hall Wednesday Night," 26 Sep 1902.

<sup>13</sup> Majszak, *Remembering the Tallahassee Fire Department*, p. 8, 12-15, 19, 23

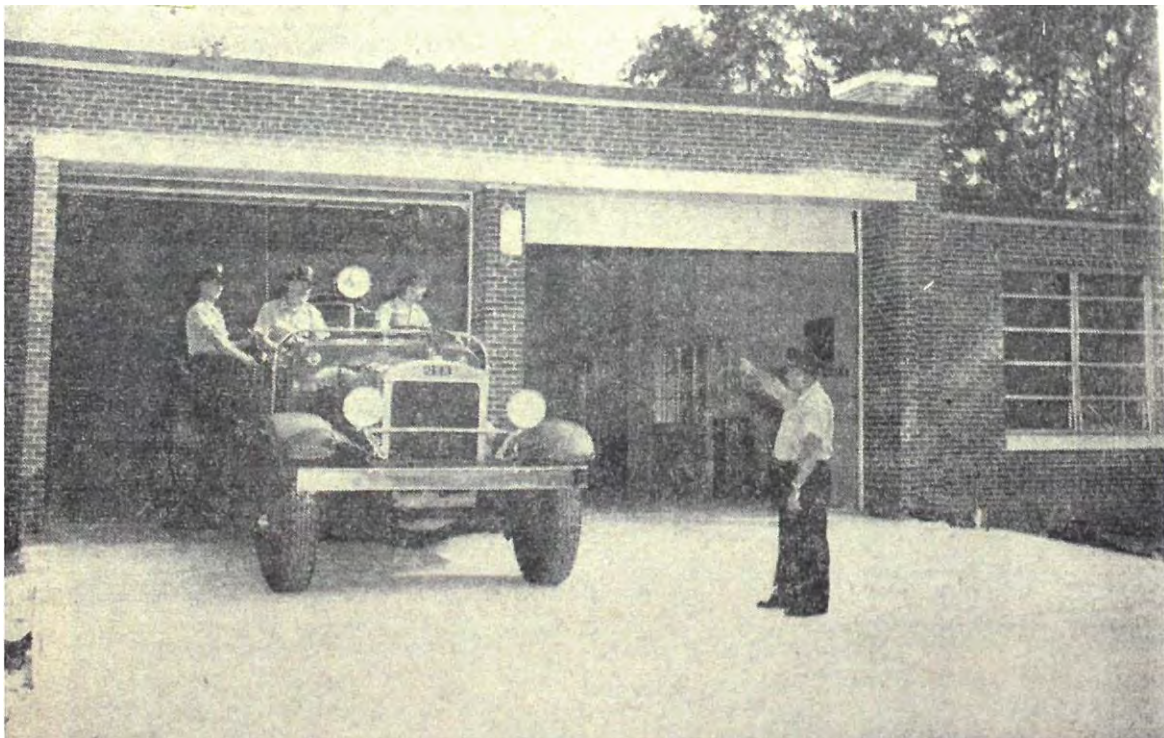
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In May 1930, the Tallahassee Volunteer Fire Company was disbanded and replaced with the modern Tallahassee Fire Department, which used a combination of paid and volunteer firefighters. The fire station at this time was housed in the Marketplace Building, which it shared with the police department and city hall. The fire department moved into this building in 1918. In 1937, Fire Station No. 1, known as the Main Station, moved to its own dedicated building at 109 South Adams Street. A second fire station initially manned by US army personnel opened at Dale Mabry Field during World War II. After the war, the airfield reverted back to the city of Tallahassee for use as a regional airport and the Tallahassee Fire Department took over the fire station there.<sup>14</sup>

**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE**



The fire department occupies Fire Station No. 2 for the first time. (*Tallahassee Democrat*, Sept. 9, 1951)

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., 24, 29-30, 33.

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By 1951, Tallahassee was expanding northward, and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue was at the northern edge of the city. The two-truck substation was built to reduce the running time to the north and northeast parts of town by several minutes, helping trucks avoid the growing downtown traffic. At the time Fire Station No. 2 was constructed, there were two other fire stations in Tallahassee: one dedicated solely to the Dale Mabry Municipal Airport on the west side of the city, and the other, the Main Station, was located at 109 S. Adams Street. The Main Station was responsible for responding to fires anywhere else in the city. In 1971, the new Fire Station No. 1 was constructed at 327 S. Adams Street, and the “Main Station” was later demolished. The three stations were connected via telephone, an inter-communication system, and a radio network. All three stations were in a network so all three stations received a fire-call at the same time. The on-duty assistant fire chief would then dispatch units to attend to the fire.<sup>15</sup>



Rear of Fire Station No. 2, 1951 (*Tallahassee Democrat*, Sept. 9, 1951)

<sup>15</sup> *Tallahassee Democrat*, “New Fire Unit to be Shown,” 7 Sep 1951, in Maurice Majszak, *City of Tallahassee Fire Station #2* (Tallahassee, FL: DQP Publishing, 2016), p. 5.

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In 1951, after World War II, the Florida Civil Defense Act was passed, and state governments were offered surplus military equipment from the federal government. Florida had three locations (Camp Blanding, Starke, and Marianna) where cities could procure surplus military vehicles and equipment under the Civil Defense program. The City of Tallahassee Fire Department used the Civil Defense Act to procure surplus military vehicles and equipment until at least 1961. The vehicles were torn down to the chassis at the automotive maintenance shop and rebuilt as fully functional fire apparatus. Prior to the fire department building their own vehicles, the last documented purchase of a fire apparatus was a 1949 Seagrave pumper.<sup>16</sup>

The work of the Tallahassee Fire Department was innovative for the time in the southeast. According to fire department historian Maurice Majszak, Fire Station No. 2 was the only fire station in the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs that had a built-in maintenance shop wherein military vehicles were converted to fire apparatus. The Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs, of which Tallahassee Fire Chief William Levy was a member, encompassed the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Majszak, *City of Tallahassee Fire Station #2*, p. 45.

<sup>17</sup> Maurice Majszak interview, 14 Dec 2016.

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Fire station #2 firefighters in 1957. (Maurice Majszak, *City of Tallahassee Fire Station #2 224 E 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.* Tallahassee Fire Dept. Museum, 2016. Page 14)

The innovative multipurpose usage of the building as a combination firehouse and mechanical shop was the idea of Fire Chief Levy. He desired creating a mechanical shop as a way of saving the city money by building his own fire trucks. In addition to installing an automotive maintenance shop in the ground level of the firehouse, he also hired line firefighters who had skills that could serve the shop. The Fire Department Automotive Maintenance shop had three fulltime individuals assigned to it, who spent numerous hours working in the shop helping to build and maintain the fire department apparatuses. According to the 1973/1974 Organization Chart, “Automotive Maintenance” was a separate fire department entity reporting directly to the Deputy Chief. The Fire Department

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acquired many vehicles as well as equipment such as generators, pumps, fire hoses and all types of shop equipment from military surplus through the Civil Defense Program.<sup>18</sup>



Tallahassee Fire Department vehicles sometime after 1957. The vehicles were converted from surplus military equipment. Courtesy of John H. Booth.

The City of Tallahassee obtained at least 20 military surplus vehicles under the Florida Civil Defense Act that they converted to fire trucks in the Fire Station No. 2 Automotive Maintenance shop between 1951 and 1961. Most of the vehicles had very low mileage when purchased by the City. Many other parts and pieces of equipment were manufactured in the automotive maintenance shop. Retired Deputy Chief Herb Roberts said, “Chief Levy tried to buy out the army surplus. We got a lot of use out of those old GI trucks. I never wanted to scrape paint again.”<sup>19</sup> The last known surplus military vehicle used by the Tallahassee Fire Department was a 1961 Ford pick-up converted to a Brush

<sup>18</sup> Maurice Majszak, *William Earl Levy, Sr. “Dean of the Fire Service”: Tallahassee Fire Chief and Family Man* (Tallahassee, FL: Yellow Pine Publishing, 2013), 28-29.

<sup>19</sup> Herb Roberts email to Maurice Majszak, undated.



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LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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truck with a skid package in the truck bed. When the Fire Department could no longer use the vehicles they were either sold at public auction or donated to the Florida National Guard. In addition to vehicles, the Fire Department also acquired equipment such as generators, pumps, firehoses, and shop equipment from military surplus through the Civil Defense Program.<sup>20</sup>

In 1953, the fire department purchased a commercial Ford F750 chassis with a cab and motor. Thus began the gradual switch from converting surplus military vehicles to building fire engines from purchased stripped down commercial vehicles. In total, eight commercially purchased stripped-down trucks were converted to fire engines. The last was Unit 23, a 1969 International Double Cab with a 750 GPM pump and 500 Gallon booster tank.<sup>21</sup>

Because of innovative ideas and their own facility to assemble custom fire trucks, several firsts in fire truck designs were accomplished at Fire Station No. 2. Tallahassee was the first to have water tanks built into fire trucks, a feature that is now standard on fire trucks across the country. Tallahassee is also credited as having the first pre-connected hose, which cut down the time required to put the water on the fire. In 1953, after commercially purchasing a stripped-down truck with an extra cab, Tallahassee was the first to weld together two cabs to create the first double-cab fire engine (Unit 5) in the area.<sup>22</sup>

The station answered numerous emergencies over its active service years from 1951 to 2001. One among several notable incidents was the Ringling Brothers Circus train fire in 1961, which destroyed the train, but thanks to the quick action of the firefighters stationed at Fire Station No. 2, all of the animals were saved. The station also answered the call in 1964 for the nearby Thomasville Road Baptist Church. The church building was saved, repaired, and still stands today. Also in 1964, the station's double-cab Unit 5 truck had an oak tree fall on it while it was in the vicinity of Lake Jackson. The station's machine shop handled the repair.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Maurice Majszak, "Dale Mabry Army Airfield and the Tallahassee Fire Department," [unpublished manuscript], 3-8.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.; Maurice Majszak, "Converted Military Vehicles," [unpublished manuscript], p. 1-2.

<sup>22</sup> Majszak, *William Earl Levy, Sr. "Dean of the Fire Service,"* p. 28-29

<sup>23</sup> Majszak, *Remembering the Tallahassee Fire Department,* p. 66, 68.

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With the purchase of a totally equipped fire engine in 1963, the days of intermingling commercially purchased stripped-down trucks with building fire trucks in the Automotive Maintenance shop began to be scaled back, and ended entirely in 1969. However, maintenance and repair of Fire Department vehicles continued in the rear of Fire Station No. 2 until approximately March 1990, at which time the City Motor Pool took over maintenance and repair of fire department vehicles.

Fire Station No. 2 was used for active service until 2001. Afterwards, the Tallahassee Fire Department continued to use the building for divisions of Logistics, Emergency Management Services, and Training until 2013. It was anticipated that the building would be demolished. Upon learning that the building had been sold and the new owner was interested in the station's history, items were returned. An effort was made to retain the trappings of the active station, and the call box, sleeping quarter's bell, and bathroom lockers remain. The Florida State Archives was searched for historic photos of Station No. 2, and with the help of past firemen, the photographs were labeled with descriptions. The historic photographs now decorate the current building, and a fire truck occupies the west bay.<sup>24</sup>

**Fire Chief William "Earl" Levy:**

Chief William "Earl" Levy was born on November 10, 1910. He began employment with the City of Tallahassee Fire Department on March 15, 1927, at the age 16. Chief Levy was appointed Chief of the Department on May 1, 1940, at the age 29, when there were only nine men and one fire station in the city. By August 1977, the personnel numbered 125 at five stations.<sup>25</sup>

Chief Levy was well known in the Fire Service community outside of Tallahassee. He was one of three fire chiefs in the state of Florida chosen to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Florida State Fire College which he served on the board for four years and helped develop the college curriculum. In 1962-1963, he served as president of the 10-state Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs. In 1970, by unanimous vote, the Florida Senate

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<sup>24</sup> Majszak interview, 14 Dec 2016.

<sup>25</sup> Majszak, *William Earl Levy, Sr. "Dean of the Fire Service,"* p. 18-20.

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LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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passed Senator Mallory Horne’s resolution citing Chief Levy for meritorious and outstanding service to the State of Florida and his community as well as the City proclaiming an “Earl Levy Day” in Tallahassee. In 1976, he was named the “Outstanding Fire Chief in Florida” by the State of Florida Fire Chief’s Association. In the 1977 Congressional Record – Extension of Remarks, he was honored as “Fireman’s Fireman: Chief Earl Levy.” At the 29th annual Florida Fire Chiefs Association’s conference in 1986 there was a moment of silence for Chief Levy, and the title “Dean of the Fire Service” was bestowed on him. He retired on January 15, 1978, after 51 years of fire service and died on April 23, 1986. After the relocation of Fire Station No. 1 in 1971, Levy’s office moved there, and it was later named “The William Early Levy Sr. Fire Headquarters Building” in his honor.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Ibid., p. 44-55.

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LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The property borders East Sixth Avenue on the north side. The legal description of the property is: KENDRICK SUB, LOTS 6 & 7, DB 109/139 122/392, FIRE STATION # 2. The parcel ID is #2125390000060.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary of this property is historically associated with the Tallahassee Fire Department Fire Station #2.

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LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST**

1. Fire Station #2, 224 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tallahassee
2. Leon County, Florida
3. Brittany Deoliveira
4. July 2016
5. South (main) façade, looking northeast
6. Photo #1 of 14

The information for items 1-4 is the same for the following photographs.

5. South (main) façade, looking northwest
6. Photo #2 of 14
  
5. West elevation, looking east
6. Photo #3 of 14
  
5. North (rear) elevation, looking south
6. Photo #4 of 14
  
5. Interior reception area, office, looking east
6. Photo #5 of 14
  
5. Apparatus room, looking
6. Photo #6 of 14
  
5. Dormitory, now office space, looking south
6. Photo #7 of 14
  
5. Bed room, now conference room, looking east
6. Photo #8 of 14

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LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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- 5. Main floor corridor, looking north
- 6. Photo #9 of 14
  
- 5. Bathroom, looking east
- 6. Photo #10 of 14
  
- 5. Kitchen, looking east
- 6. Photo #11 of 14
  
- 5. Stairway, looking east
- 6. Photo #12 of 14
  
- 5. Vehicle maintenance shop, now office, looking north
- 6. Photo #13 of 14
  
- 5. Ground floor unused crawl space, looking south
- 6. Photo #14 of 14

# Fire Station Number 2

224 E. 6th Ave.  
Tallahassee, Leon Co.,  
Florida


Lat./Long. Coordinates:  
30.456581 -84.279876

UTM:  
16R 761191 3372524

USGS Quad: Tallahassee

Datum: WGS84

## Legend

 Proposed NR Boundary

Date: 11/14/2016

N

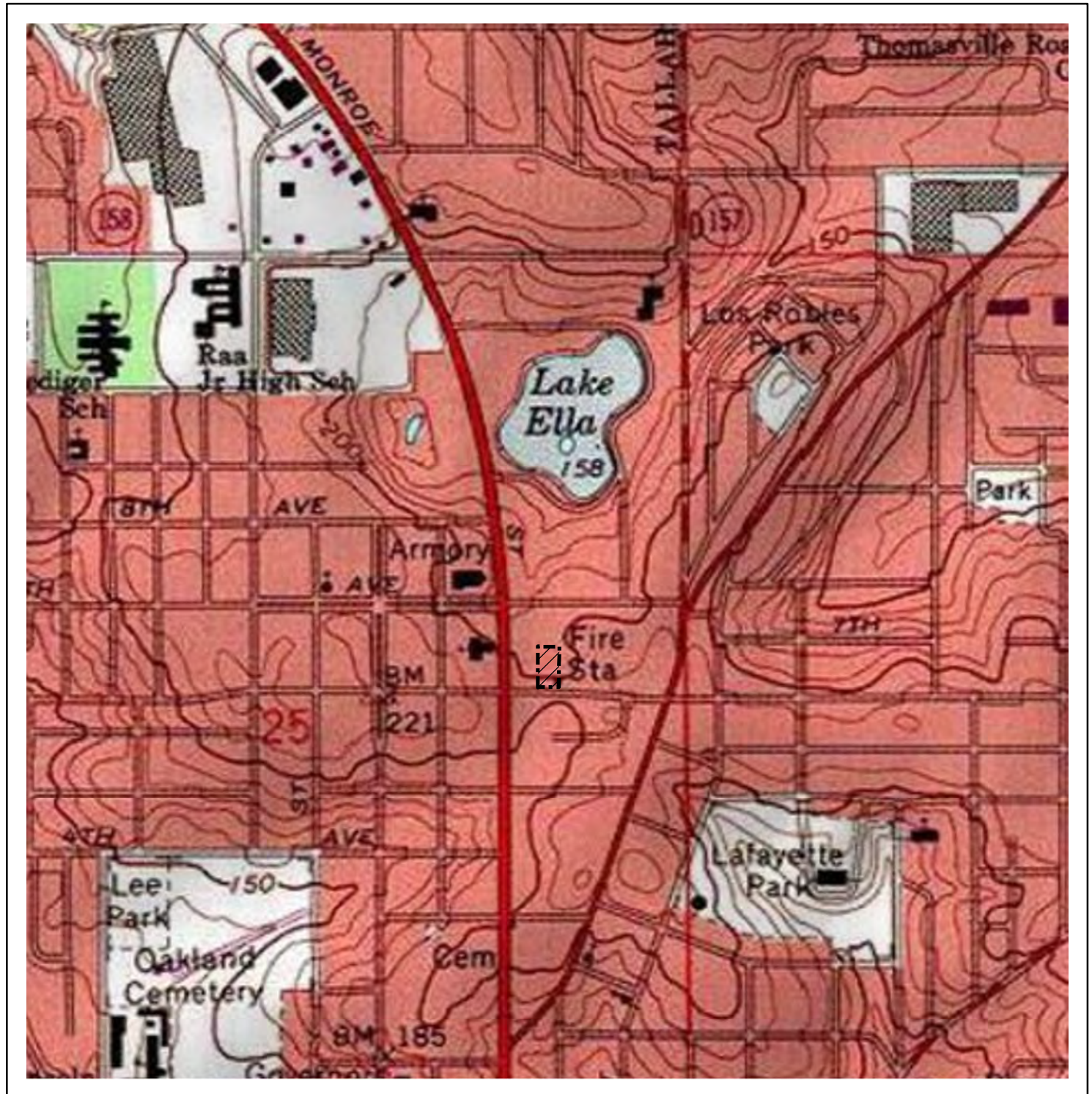


1:12,000

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

0 125 250 500 Meters

Basemap Source: 2013 National  
Geographic Society, i-cubed





# Fire Station Number 2


224 E. 6th Ave.  
Tallahassee, Leon Co.,  
Florida

Lat./Long. Coordinates:  
30.456581 -84.279876

UTM:  
16R 761188 3372524

Datum: WGS84

## Legend

 Proposed NR Boundary

Date: 11/14/2016

N

1:2,000



0 80 160 320 Feet

0 20 40 80 Meters

Basemap Source: Source: Esri,  
DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar  
Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS,  
USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping,  
Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo,  
and the GIS User Community





224

GMC

















WORLD MAP - PLAN FOLLOWING DAY











SDS  
THIS WAY →





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/30/2016      Date of Pending List:      Date of 16th Day:      Date of 45th Day: 2/14/2017      Date of Weekly List: 2/23/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      2/14/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



**TALLAHASSEE-LEON COUNTY  
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD**

**423 EAST VIRGINIA STREET  
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301  
850-488-7334 (tel) 850-488-7333 (fax)**

October 12, 2016

Attention: Robert Jones  
Historic Preservationist  
Division of Historical Resources  
Florida Department of State  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: National Register Nomination  
Fire Station #2, 224 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tallahassee

Dear Mr. Jones:

I'm writing in regard to the nomination of Fire Station #2, located at 224 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tallahassee, FL to the National Register of Historic Places. The Tallahassee-Leon County Architectural Review Board met on October 5, 2016 and unanimously recommended the property at 224 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Tallahassee-Leon County Architectural Review Board is pleased to support the nomination of Fire Station #2 to the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for your consideration of the Architectural Review Board's support and recommendation, and please let me know if any additional information is needed.

Sincerely,



Melissa Stoller, Ph.D.  
Historic Preservation Officer/  
TTHP Executive Director



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**RICK SCOTT**  
Governor

**KEN DETZNER**  
Secretary of State

December 19, 2016

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 **Fire Station Number 2 (FMSF#: 8LE6164), 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) 245-6364 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruben A. Acosta".

Ruben A. Acosta  
Supervisor, Survey & Registration  
Bureau of Historic Preservation

RAA/raa

Enclosures

Division of Historical Resources  
R.A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
850.245.6300 • 850.245.6436 (Fax) • FLHeritage.com

