Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The three adjoining brick commercial buildings lie within the central business district of Tallahassee. Their general site has been in commercial use since the territorial days of Tallahassee, lying one block west of the main street (Monroe Street) and two blocks from the historic capitol built in 1845. Gallie's Hall (1873-1874), the oldest of the three structures, stands on the northeast corner of Jefferson and Adams Streets, and is the corner building. It faces south onto Jefferson Street, as does the building just to the east, Munro's Store Building (1890). The Phillips Office Building (1919), the most recent structure, is immediately north of Gallie's Hall, and faces west onto Adams Street.

A two-and-a-half story building, Gallie's Hall was built in the Renaissance Revival Style. Its main facade has five bays on the second story (center window has been bricked in), a gable end with parapet and bullseye window, and modern storefronts on the first story with two main entrances. A metal sheet covers a horizontal series of seven windows. Corbelling emphasizes the cornice and the belt course defining the division between the second and attic stories. Fenestration on the west side is expressed in six bays on the second story; contemporary fenestration exists on the first story (placed more irregularly).

The basement, with its regularly spaced semi-circular windows (presently bricked in), is visible through grates in the raised sidewalk that surrounds the street sides of the building. White paint covers the exterior walls of the building; stucco has been applied primarily to the first story.

Little remains of the original interior. The dirt floor basement is the least changed of all the levels. Modern fabric on the first floor obscures all earlier finishes; only the divided first floor plan with a center supporting wall running north-south (now cut through in the rear) has partially survived. A portion of the rear first floor area of the Phillips Office Building is now a continuum of the eastern half of the first floor in Gallie's Hall.

Vacant for years, the second floor of Gallie's was once a hall with stage and balcony. Nothing of the main seating or the stage (located on the north wall) remains. Marks from support posts on the south wall and tracks for stairs on the west wall are all that survive of the balcony. (Seating capacity is estimated to have been 425 in the hall.)¹ Fenestration is bricked in on the north and east walls except for a door to the Phillips Building; all of the six over six double-hung sash windows on the south and west walls are painted over. Chimneys exist in the northeast and northwest corners (they are also visible in the basement).

Built as a two-story companion to Gallie's, Munro's Store Building is also a Renaissance Revival Style structure. Recessed panels emphasize the three bays of the main facade. A pedimented parapet defines the gable end.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
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	(See Continuation	n Sheet)	(See_Continu	ation Sheet)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Containing the first theatre and only public hall in Tallahassee from the late 1800's into the 1900's, Gallie's Hall is one of Tallahassee's most significant commercial buildings. Closely associated with its history are the two adjoining structures, Munro's Store Building and the Phillips Office Building. The three commercial structures have always been owned as a unit. At various times Gallie's Hall has shared first floor space and a doorway or stairway with each adjoining building. The general site has been in commercial use for over one-hundred and forty years. Shifts in the type of activities and businesses the buildings have housed reflect the evolution of Tallahassee's downtown.

Gallie's Hall was erected in 1873-1874 during Reconstruction. Its appearance in a difficult time of economic hardship and social readjustment was an encouraging sign for the town of less than 3,000. During the planning and construction of Gallie's, the local newspaper praised the public spirit and generosity of developers-owners Alexander Gallie, Robert Munro and Anthony Maige.¹ Articles stressed the importance of the new building: "CITY HALL - We understand that one of our wealthiest and most enterprising merchant firms will soon commence the erection of a large new building, the second floor of which will be arranged for a public hall... That will be one bold step in advance".² A report on "THE NEW CITY HALL" stated that "Tallahassee long sadly needed a public hall".³

For almost four decades people came to Gallie's Hall, a cultural, social and civic center, to enjoy amateur and professional theatrical performances, minstre1 shows, graduations, lectures, benefits and oratorical contests. Although seating was segregated, both blacks and whites came to raise money for their churches, to seek entertainment, and perform in or to support numerous amateur theatrical efforts at Gallie's. Almost one-hundred and twenty professional performances, ranging from the highly popular minstrel shows and musicals to comedies and Shakespearian plays, took place between 1874 and 1912.⁴ Amateur theatre clubs, including groups from Florida State College for Women and its predecessors, encouraged local acting skills while providing entertainment there.⁵ One of the most historical events occurred in the hall on June 9, 1892. This was the first commencement of the State Normal and Industrial College, Florida's only school of higher education for blacks.⁶ Over 1,000 people, well over twice the seating capacity of the hall, crowded in to witness

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES



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219-221 S. Adams Street, 100-102 E. Jefferson Street, 104 E. Jefferson Street

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The first story has a modern estorefront with center door, an awning and a wooden or metal sheet covering the horizontally grouped windows above the awning. On the second story the three windows are two over two double-hung sash. White paint and stuccoing have obscured the corbelling that originally delineated portions of the panels. There is a rear one-story addition. Nothing from the original interior is now visible.

The two-story Phillips Office Building is a yellow brick Commercial Style Structure. Its main facade has three bays, a crenellated parapet, pilasters, and recessed panels. On the first story each side bay has a modern storefront with a door; the narrow center bay is a doorway, partially surrounded by black glass panels, with stairs to the second floor. Paired windows with a common four-light transom exist in each side bay of the second story. (These windows are now boarded over). A fixed sash window with nine lights is in the center bay. In the rear the first story of the rear elevation is covered by the addition on Munro's Store; the second story has four bays with one over one double-hung sash windows.

Alterations to the first floor have included the obliteration of the original rear (east) room. A portion is now within the store space on the north side; the rest of the room has been incorporated into the first floor of Gallie's Hall (with the removal of a section of the common wall).

Gallie's Hall was originally built to house two stores on the first floor and a hall on the second floor. Such an arrangement is shown on the 1884 Sanborn Map, which also indicates exterior stairs on the east side (south corner) where a vacant lot then existed. The map depicts only two small buildings north of the building for the rest of the block. An 1885 view ² of Tallahassee shows the stairs leading to a continuous second-story balcony on the main (south) facade. The west and east elevations are not pictured in the view, but the 1884 Sanborn Map indicates a gallery-like feature there as well. Appearing in the 1885 view are the bullseye window and the belt course.

In 1890 changes were made to Gallie's Hall, and Munro's Store was built.³ The seating and stage were improved; on the street sides an elevated sidewalk was constructed. Munro's Store enclosed a new stairway to Gallie's

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Hall. Across the main facades of the buildings a two-story gallery with an iron balustrade was erected. This feature continued on the west side of Gallie's Hall as a first story gallery with a deck⁴: the rear (north) side of both buildings had a somewhat similar structure.

An 1892 photograph⁵ clearly presents the main facades of the two unpainted brick buildings. On the first story of Gallie's the two doors, each flanked by large barred windows, indicate the bi-part first floor plan. Only five bays are expressed on the second story, with a door in the center bay. Five bays exist as well on the second story of the west side; there the first story has only a single, irregularly placed, window. All of the clearly visible windows have six over six double hung sash. The main facade of the Store has a pronounced curvilinear parapet and corbelled detailing that accentuates the cornice and the three bay division. On both stories the three bays are expressed by doors with the exception of the center secondstory window. Clearly pictured fenestration has semi-circular or segmental arches. The stairs housed by the Store are visible through the first story center doorway.

In the 1900's many changes were made to both buildings and their immediate site. The major stairway within Munro's Store was gone by 1909; between 1904 and 1909 a tiny one-story structure, called the Phillips Office Building sprang up some yards north of Gallie's Hall.⁶ In 1919 the structure was replaced by or transformed into a two-story building adjoining Gallie's. First and second floor plans in the new Phillips Office Building were similar: two front rooms running east/west with a single room across the rear. Probably at this time Munro's Store gained a rear addition, the two older buildings were painted white and received the continuous band of fenestration (now covered) to the upper first stories of their main facades, and the galleries were removed. A 1919 newspaper article mentioned the installation by the buildings' owner of a "white way" with "four street lights in front of the property ... at the corner of Jefferson & Adams Streets".⁷

Some of these changes are pictures in an 1948 photograph of the three buildings. Fenestration has been drastically altered in the two Munro Buildings: openings have been changed in size, position, or made anew. The 1900's horizontally grouped windows are visible and the present second story fenestration is already in place. Awnings shade modern store fronts. The pedimented parapet shown on the Store (and present today) was constructed between 1903 and 1948.

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Important interior alterations occurred after the construction of the Phillips Office Building. At least two openings existed in the wall between Gallie's Hall and the Phillips Office Building by 1926.8 In the next four years the common first story wall was opened further to allow one store on the first floor facing onto Adams Street to occupy the northeast section of Gallie's and the southern store space of the Phillips Office Building.9 By that time one store also occupied the first floor of Munro's Store and the east store space in Gallie's Hall; again the common wall had been partially demolished to create a sizeable opening. The shared floor space between Gallie's and the Store had been further expanded by 1959 to include most of the northwest corner of Gallie's Hall.¹⁰ No longer, therefore, did shared western space on the first floor exist between Gallie's and the Phillips Building. By 1966 the wall between Gallie's and the Store had again been sealed. It is unknown when the present doorway on the second floor between Gallie's and the Phillips Office Building was constructed, or when after 1959 on the first floor of Gallie's Hall the eastern side was extended to include a portion of the Phillips Office Building.

The west elevation of Gallie's Hall overlooking Adams Street has undergone several significant changes. The open wooden gallery that once occupied this side of the building, like the covered wood and cast iron gallery on the front of the building has disappeared. The five equally spaced 6/6 double hung sash windows on the second floor that looked out onto the gallery have been bricked up and replaced by six irregularly spaced windows. The present window openings have each been fitted with a sheet of plywood, but they originally had 6/6 double hung sashes. The five original windows, however, were much longer in their vertical dimensions than the present windows, and their sills nearly touched the upper floor of the gallery. The physical relationship of the original windows to the present ones is evident today as it can be seen where the original windows were bricked up.

Changes in the fenestration on the ground floor of the west elevation are difficult to chronicle. A photograph of Gallie's Hall taken ca. 1892 appears to show a single doorway approximately in the center of the elevation with a window immediately to the south of it. The photograph is not clear enough, however, to see any details of the door(s) or window(s). The southern half of the wall appears to have been devoted to advertising both then and later.

At present there are two entranceways in the ground floor of the west elevation, each serving a separate commercial occupant of the building. The southernmost of these doorways is a single wood and glass door with side lights and a transom. The sidelights are each a single narrow pane of glass, as is the fixed transom light above the doorway. The second entrance, immed-

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iately to the north is covered by a marquee and slightly recessed into the wall. There is a paneled wood and glass door with a small square fixed pane window to the south of it. Near the northwest corner of the building on the ground story is a large window with a single fixed pane.

FOOTNOTES:

¹Lee H. Warner and Mary B. Eastland, <u>Tallahassee:</u> Downtown Transitions (Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board, 1976), p. 38.

²View of the City of Tallahassee, State Capitol of Florida, County Seat of Leon County, 1885. (Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Norris Wellge & Co., 1885).

³The Weekly Floridian , May 14, 1890.

⁴<u>Photograph</u>, 1892, "Tallahassee Street Scenes," Florida Photographic Archives, Florida State University.

⁵Sanborn Map, (Pelham, New York: Sanborn May Co., 1909).

⁶The Daily <u>Democrat</u>, August 29, 1919.

[/]<u>Photograph</u>, 1948, "Kerce," Florida Photographic Archives, Florida State University.

⁸Sanborn Map (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1909).

Sanborn Map (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1930).

¹⁰Sanborn Map (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1930).(revised 1959)

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CONTINUATION SHEETsixITEM NUMBER8PAGE1SPECIFIC DATES:Phillips Office Building - 1919-1920Gallie's Hall - +1873Munro's Store Building - +1890BUILDER :

Phillips Office Building - Gilmore, F.C. of Tallahassee, Florida.

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the event; Governor F.P. Fleming awarded the diplomas.⁷

By that time Gallie's Hall had been renamed Munro's Opera House, having undergone renovations in 1890 by the new owner, James Munro. He also constructed an adjoining building, Munro's Store Building. It was directly related to Gallie's in structure and function, housing stairs to the hall as well as dressing rooms⁸ and properties storage.⁹ One account states that a middle landing on the stairs contained a ticket booth.¹⁰ In the late 1800's or early 1900's dancing classes, meetings and small dances were held in Munro's Store Building, presumably on the second floor.¹¹ Most certainly this use reflected the close relation of the building to Gallie's Hall.

Because of the competition from a new theatre and two new school auditoriums, Gallie's closed in the 1910's. Its demise signalled the end of an era for Tallahassee in which onechall had sufficed for many of the cultural and civic events and much of the public entertainment.

The first floor in Gallie's and the Store Building continued to be used as shop or store space. Throughout the 1800's general stores, grocery stores, or dry goods stores had occupied the first floor of Gallie's; Munro's General Store was there perhaps as early as the 1870's until at least 1916.¹² Increasing store specialization meant the disappearance in the 1900's of general stores in the downtown. By or before 1895^{13} a barbershop occupied a portion of the first floor of Munro's Store Building. When the hall in Gallie's had fallen into disuse, support space for it in the Store Building was given over to storage or store space. The intimate connection between the buildings was not permanently severed, however. By 1930¹⁴ one business occupied the first floor. Local city directories indicate that this sharing continued between 1940 and 1965; the occupant was always a department store. Along with the increasing diversity of stores in Tallahassee was the growing popularity of the modern department store.

The Phillips Office Building, the newest of the three adjoining structures, also shared first floor space with Gallie's. Since 1894¹⁵ Gallie's and Munro's Store Building had been owned by the Phillips family; between 1904 and 1909 they erected just north of Gallie's a small one-story structure that was used

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as a barbershop. When Aaron Levy purchased the three buildings in 1919, he either built a new structure or drastically enlarged and remodelled the old one. The resulting two-story building continued to carry the Phillips name. In the 1920's it was one of only several office buildings listed as such in the Tallahassee directories. During the first twenty years an insurance company, a construction company, two black doctors and a black dentist were tenants, as well as a grocery store and drugstore. By or before 1930¹⁶ Clemons grocery store was using combined first floor space in the building and in Gallie's. This arrangement existed into the 1940's. Some time in the last wo decades space on the first floor of Gallie's Hall was increased by the addition of a rear portion of the Phillips Office Building.

Post-World War II changes to downtown Tallahassee have been dramatic: many stores and concerns, including food stores and department stores, have moved to new shopping centers outside the downtown or have folded. Although Gallie's, Munro's Store Building and Phillips Office Building have lost food stores and department stores as tenants, they have continued to house, for the most part, local individually owned businesses. Mestablished in Tallahassee have been owned by out-of-town or out-of-state corporations.

The history of three buildings reflects the shifting patterns in Tallahassee commercial life. Gallie's Hall, the key structure, is particularly significant for its function as the town social, civic and entertainment center at a time when the only buildings large enough for public gatherings were hotels and churches, the courthouse and the Capitol. Tallahassee's rapid twentieth century growth has meant an increasing diversity of public facilities and businesses, together with proliferation of shopping centers and business complexes outside the downtown. These trends have changed the use and the type of occupants in the Opera House Complex. Constructed when Tallahassee was a town and survivors of its transformation into a city, the three buildings represent significant commercial and social changes in Tallahassee.

FOOTNOTES

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¹<u>The Weekly Floridian</u>, June 17, 1873 and January 20, 1874.

²Ibid. , August 27, 1872.

³Ibid., June 17, 1873.

⁴Maxie C. Estes, <u>A Century of Theatre Activity In The Capital City of</u> <u>Florida: An Historical Study of Theatrical Entertainment in Tallahassee</u>, Florida, 1857-1957 (Florida State University Ph.D thesis, 1962), p. 106.

⁵<u>Ibid.</u>, p. 101, pp. 103-104.

⁶Leedell W. Neyland and John W. Riley, <u>The History of Florida Agricultural</u> and <u>Mechanical University</u> (Gainesville, Florida: 1963), p. 29. The present FAMU evolved from this school.

⁷Ibid., p. 30.

⁸Sanborn Map (Pelham: New York, Sanborn Map Co., 1912).

⁹Ben A. Meginnis, "Munro Opera House," <u>The Tallahassee Democrat</u>, September 26, 1965.

¹⁰The Tallahassee Democrat, July 31, 1949.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²Mathew Rollins, Miller's Landing Road, Tallahassee, personal communication with Elizabeth Johnson, January 1980.

¹³Sanborn Map (Pelham: New York, Sanborn Map Co., 1895).

¹⁴Sanborn Map (Pelham: New York, Sanborn Map Co., 1930).

¹⁵Probate File 1086, September 7, 1894, Leon County Courthouse.

¹⁶Sanborn Map (Pelham: New York, Sanborn Map Co., 1930).

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southward 115.16' to pt (D) which is 1.8' north of the southern boundary of Lot 169. From pt D run westward 74.18' to point of beginning. (The boundaries include only the three buildings without any surrounding land; a parking lot and small storage building to the rear of the buildings has been excluded).