

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED	

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Plaza Ferdinand VII

AND/OR COMMON  
Plaza Ferdinand VII

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Bounded by Government, Jefferson, Zarragossa and Palofax Sts.

CITY, TOWN Pensacola  
STATE Florida  
VICINITY OF CODE 12  
COUNTY Escambia  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT first  
CODE 033

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME City of Pensacola, Office of the Mayor

STREET & NUMBER City Hall  
CITY, TOWN Pensacola  
STATE Florida

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER § Escambia County Courthouse  
CITY, TOWN Pensacola  
STATE Florida

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE none known

DATE  
\_ FEDERAL \_ STATE \_ COUNTY \_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present Plaza Ferdinand VII is a remnant of the original city square laid out by the British in 1765, a large part of which was subdivided and sold as building lots in 1802. It has always been a city park, and has been replanted and renovated in the past decade, as part of general restoration and improvement activity in this oldest section of downtown Pensacola. The plaza is located in the midst of the old civic and commercial center, parts of which are listed as historic districts on the National Register.

While original descriptions of the park have not been located, it is known that the area has always been a city park. In the recent improvement project a new fountain was designed and benches were installed along the walks. At this time, the nineteenth century fountain was removed, but because of public outcry at this "modernization," the old cast-iron fountain was replaced, in the new basin.

Within the park also is a stone obelisk monument and at the northwest corner there are four plexiglass bus-stop shelters. The park is now landscaped and well-maintained, a considerable improvement over its condition a decade ago. Shrubs and flowers are planted amid an abundance of mature native trees. A low stone wall surrounds the park and old cannon are mounted at the four corners.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES July 17, 1821

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In this square, on July 17, 1821, the transfer of Florida from the rule of Spain to that of the United States was formally completed. As a result of the Adams-Onis Treaty of July 22, 1819, Spain agreed to cede East and West Florida to the United States in exchange for American assumption of claims against the Spanish Government amounting to five million dollars. After two years delay, Spain finally ratified the treaty on February 22, 1821.

On March 12, Andrew Jackson received a commission as governor of both Spanish provinces, which were to be combined into one territory. Jackson appointed Col. Robert Butler as his deputy to accept the transfer of East Florida, while he proceeded to Pensacola to accept that of the other province. Both Jackson and Butler encountered delaying tactics on the part of the Spanish governors, but the transfer of East Florida was accomplished first, on July 10. Another transfer ceremony occurred at Fort St. Marks early in July.

The third and final transfer ceremony occurred here on the morning of July 17. At 10 a.m., Jackson rode to the steps of Government House (on the site of the present City Hall), met the Spanish Governor Callava, and with him descended the steps and entered the plaza. Passing between lines of United States and Spanish troops, they stood at attention. While the Fourth Infantry band played "The Star-Spangled Banner," the Spanish royal standard was lowered to half-staff, and the American flag was raised to a level with it. Then, as the USS Hornet in Pensacola Bay began firing a 21-gun salute, the Spanish flag was lowered and the Stars and Stripes raised to full staff. With completion of this ceremony, Jackson officially proclaimed the establishment of Florida Territory, and four days later he set up a territorial government, with the temporary seat at Pensacola. Of the three transfer ceremonies, this one at Pensacola was the most significant, because it was the only one in which the territorial governor participated, and because it was followed immediately by the official proclamation of transfer and the establishment of the territorial government.

\*\*\*The above statement is taken from the original report of December 5, 1958, by Robert Squier.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Bailey, Thomas A., A Diplomatic History of the American People, 1947.  
 Dovall, J.E., Florida: Historic, Dramatic, Contemporary, 4 vols., 1952.  
 James, Marquis, The Life of Andrew Jackson, 1940.  
 Young, Rogers W. "The Transfer of Fort San Marcos and East Florida to the United States," Florida Historical Quarterly XIV, April 1936.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1,6</u>	<u>47,945,0</u>	<u>3,36,395,0</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The present city park of approximately two acres has the same dimensions as the plaza at the time of the transferring ceremony in 1821. It is bounded on each side by the curb nearest to the park, on the north by Government Street, on the east by Jefferson Street, on the south by Zarragossa Street, and on the west by Palofax Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE  
Blanche Higgins Shroer, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET & NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL      STATE      LOCAL     

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Landmark Designated: OCT 9, 1960  
 Boundary Certified: 3/4/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE 3/4/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)