

***CITRUS COUNTY,  
FLORIDA***



***COURTHOUSE HISTORY  
AND NOMINATION  
FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
FOR HISTORICAL PLACES***

GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE FLORIDA NOMINATION PROPOSAL

BEFORE YOU START TO FILL OUT THE FORM, there are several steps that will help you avoid unnecessary time, energy, effort, confusion and frustration.

FIRST: Remember, as you follow these guidelines and instructions, that the nomination proposal must document the two basic requirements for National Register listing:

- 1. that the resource itself possesses significance that satisfies criteria for listing, and
- 2. that it retains the physical appearance and character that reflect its historic, archaeological, or architectural significance.

SECOND: 1. READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS and all sections of the nomination proposal so that you understand what information is required. This will enable you to properly identify the significant resource(s) to be nominated and plan your research of its history. 2. IF YOU ARE PREPARING A DISTRICT OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE PROPOSAL, request supplemental guidelines and instructions. 3. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL US AT (904) 487-2333.

THIRD: Contact the owners of the property (if other than yourself). Advise them of your intention to prepare a nomination proposal. Provide information on the National Register program and arrange access to the property.

FOURTH: Make a preliminary visual survey of the site.

- 1. Make a sketch of the preliminary boundaries that you think will include everything on the property that reflects its historic significance.
- 2. Make a list of all man-made features within and adjacent to the preliminary boundaries. Identify those which you feel reflect the historic significance of the property, and those which do not contribute to its significance.

This will provide an initial framework for further investigation and research, which will in turn provide the basis for the final boundary determination.

FIFTH: Gather background information on the history of the property and how it fits into the historic development of the community. Look for documentation that will help you determine:

- 1. who was responsible for the development of the property or its historically significant use,

2. what historically significant events, activities or developments are associated with the property,

3. when such events, activities or developments occurred, and

4. how the present physical appearance and character of the property reflect its historically significant associations. The Suggestions for Background Research that follow may be helpful.

SIXTH: WHEN ALL THAT IS DONE, you will be ready to complete the proposal.

1. Note all additional instructions.

2. Complete each item.

FINALLY: Assemble the completed proposal and required supplementary documents, and forward the material to the Bureau of Historic Preservation.

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Often, conducting historic research can be agonizing and frustrating for those persons undertaking it for the first time. Essential documents can be difficult and even impossible to locate, and the technical terms used to describe the style and physical elements of a building or structure are highly specialized. The following, therefore, includes a few of the sources where you may find some of the information you require.

1. The owner of the property: Often the owner has deeds, property abstracts, wills, letters, historic photographs, and family or other records or mementos relating to the history of the property, especially if it has remained in the family for several generations.

2. Libraries: Even small local libraries will usually have copies of the standard histories of Florida, such as A History of Florida by Charlton W. Tebeau and Florida: Historic, Dramatic, Contemporary by Junius E. Dovell, as well as any published histories of the county or community, which may provide useful background information on the property or its developers. More specific information may be available in special collections, often found in local libraries, containing a variety of promotional publications or other material of local historical interest. University or community college libraries in your area should be consulted.

3. Local or County Historical Societies or Historians: Consult any collections maintained by historical groups, and discuss your proposal with local historians for information regarding the site or the activities of persons associated with it. Faculties of high school and college history/social studies departments may be helpful.

4. County Courthouse: Tax rolls, probate records, plat books, deeds and other official records are found here. All are good potential sources of information.

5. City Hall: The city hall may have building permits, building plans, minutes of city council meetings, and Sanborn maps (maps which were used by fire insurance companies to determine which properties were insurable) on file.

6. Newspapers: These often have a "morgue", a collection of past issues going back many years. These are often found at libraries also.

7. There are also three state agencies in Tallahassee which may be able to provide historical information:

State Library of Florida, Florida Collection,  
(904) 487-2651

Florida State Archives, (904) 487-2073

Department of Natural Resources, Division of State  
Lands, Bureau of Survey & Mapping, Title & Land  
Records Section, (904) 488-8123

Suggested Sources for Describing Architectural Resources (try the library):

A Field Guide to American Houses by Virginia & Lee McAlester, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1984.

Identifying American Architecture by John Blumenson, Free Press, New York, 1978.

American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles by Marcus Whiffen, M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, MA., 1969.

What Style Is It? by John Poppeliers and S. Allen Chambers, Preservation Press, Washington, D.C., 1983.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FLORIDA NOMINATION PROPOSAL

The following instructions discuss each section of the proposal form, item by item. Disregard items lined through, such as ~~code~~.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic Name: The name by which the property was known originally or during the period of its historic significance. (Often the name of the person who originally developed the property.)

Other Names: Common names by which it has been or is currently known.

### 2. Location

If in a rural area, indicate state or county road number and distance from the nearest highway junction, town, or prominent landmark. Leave state and county codes blank. Check the boxes "not for publication" and "vicinity" only if there is reason to protect the properties from vandalism. If there is no reason to keep the location confidential, put "N/A".

### 3. Classification

a. Check the appropriate box under ownership.

b. Check only one box under category:

Building: anything constructed to shelter human activity, such as a house, barn, church, hotel, etc.

District: a related group of buildings, sites or objects, united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development.

Site: location of significant prehistoric or historic archaeological remains, or of a significant historic event, e.g.: Olustee Battlefield.

Structure: utilitarian construction different from a building in that it was not designed to provide shelter, such as wind mills, canals, highways, fortifications, boats, etc.

Object: construction primarily artistic in character, and usually associated with its location, such as a sculpture, fountain, marker, monument, etc.

c. Indicate the number of contributing and non-contributing resources (man-made features) within the property boundary.

#### 4. Owner of Property

Provide the name and address of the owner of the property as it is officially recorded in the county Property Appraiser's Office currently. Also provide a current telephone number for that owner.

#### 5. Legal Description of Property

Provide the legal description of the property as it is officially recorded in the county Property Appraiser's Office. This may be very short, merely listing the subdivision, block, and lot numbers, or may be very lengthy. If necessary, continue the legal description on a separate sheet. Copy it exactly as it is recorded.

#### 6. Indicate major historic and current uses.

#### 7. Description

Architectural Classification: Enter major architectural style, if applicable.

Materials: Enter major materials used in each structural element.

Describe present and historic physical appearance. Refer to samples of completed nominations for general guidance.

Begin with a brief summary paragraph that describes the property and its surroundings. Describe its present condition and note its major physical characteristics. Assess the integrity of the property (how much of the original is left) in regard to location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Your supporting paragraphs should then provide a detailed description including the following kinds of information:

a. Setting: Describe the physical environment surrounding the property when it was originally developed. Describe the changes that have occurred over the years, and the surrounding environment as it exists today.

b. Contributing resources: Describe in detail each of the buildings, structures, or other resources that contribute to the significance of the property in order of their prominence or importance.

1. Describe exterior features first, including:

a) size, type, general configuration, and basic structural elements,

b) architectural characteristics and design features, including distinctive decorative elements,

c) structural and finish materials, and any significant or distinctive manner in which they are applied,

d) alterations that have changed the original appearance of the resource, when they were made, and why.

2. Describe the interior of contributing buildings and structures, including the arrangement and use of various spaces and any significant structural or architectural features. Explain any alterations that have the interior configuration or appearance.

3. Describe ancillary resources, such as outbuildings, masonry walls or landings, formal gardens, etc. that were a part of and contribute to the historic significance of the property.

4. For buildings or structures that have been moved, provide the date of the move and explain the reasons for and effect of the move on the historic character and appearance of the property.

c. Non-contributing resources: Provide a brief description of each non-contributing resource within the boundary of the property proposed for nomination, and a statement as to why it is not considered significant.

d. Archaeological resources: Contact the Bureau staff for supplemental instructions regarding prehistoric or historic archaeological sites.

## 8. Statement of Significance

Areas of Significance: Check the boxes which you think are applicable. Remember, each area claimed must be justified in the narrative statement of significance.

Period of Significance: Enter the period of time in which the property achieved the significance for which it meets the National Register criteria. In each blank enter the years for the continuous period of time during which the property had significance, for example, 1875-1888. If there are specific dates of importance, give month, day, and year as closely as possible. If more than one, place in order of importance. If there are no specific significant dates, enter "N/A".

Significant Person: Enter names of persons with whom the property is importantly associated. List the most important first.

Cultural Affiliation: For archaeological sites only

Architect/Builder: Enter the names of persons or firms responsible for design and construction. If they cannot be identified, enter "unknown". Enter "N/A" for a district or site.

State significance of property, and justify the areas and periods of significance noted above.

The purpose of the Statement of Significance is to place the property within its historical context, and to document its significance in the areas of significance checked above. Therefore, the sources of information must be identified by standard footnote practice.

1. Begin the statement with a brief summary paragraph which states why the property is significant and how the property represents a significant theme, property type or period in the development of the community, state, or nation.

2. Historic context: Describe and discuss the general historical economic, social, political or other circumstances prevailing in the community at the time that the property was originally developed or became a significant resource. What specific events or developments led to the construction or historic use of the property?

3. Historic significance: Discuss in detail:

a. the significant role that the resource played in the historic development of the community or region in each of the areas of significance checked above,

b. its association with specific historic events and developments during the period of significance indicated, and

c. the relationship of the resource to the activities of significant persons named above.

d. Remember that it is the resource that you are proposing for nomination on the basis of its association with significant events or developments, and not the events themselves or the persons involved.

Significant Person: Enter names of persons with whom the property is importantly associated. List the most important first.

Cultural Affiliation: For archaeological sites only

Architect/Builder: Enter the names of persons or firms responsible for design and construction. If they cannot be identified, enter "unknown". Enter "N/A" for a district or site.

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2. Historic context: Describe and discuss the general historical economic, social, political or other circumstances prevailing in the community at the time that the property was originally developed or became a significant resource. What specific events or developments led to the construction or historic use of the property?

3. Historic significance: Discuss in detail:

a. the significant role that the resource played in the historic development of the community or region in each of the areas of significance checked above,

b. its association with specific historic events and developments during the period of significance indicated, and

c. the relationship of the resource to the activities of significant persons named above.

d. Remember that it is the resource that you are proposing for nomination on the basis of its association with significant events or developments, and not the events themselves or the persons involved.

4. Architectural significance: Discuss the manner in which the building or structure reflects:

- a. significant characteristics of structural, architectural, or engineering design and construction, and how they relate to contemporary trends and developments in architectural style and engineering technology,
- b. the application of contemporary materials, methods of construction, and workmanship, and,
- c. if applicable, the involvement of or association with prominent architects, engineers, planners, or developers in relation to their other achievements.

5. Archaeological significance: Contact the Bureau staff for supplemental instructions regarding prehistoric or historic archaeological sites.

9. Major Bibliographical References: List primary and secondary resources used in your research, using a standard bibliographical style such as: The Chicago Manual of Style or A Manual For Writers by Kate Turabian. For unpublished manuscripts, be sure to indicate where they are available. For interviews, include the date of the interview, name, title, and location of person interviewed. Cite any previous studies of the property.

#### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Give to the nearest acre, such as less than 1 acre, or 47 acres.

Verbal Boundary Description: Use the legal description by which the property is identified in County property records. You may also refer to boundaries drawn on the site plan submitted with the form.

Boundary Justification: Briefly explain rationale behind your selection of the boundary

11. Form Prepared By: Please provide complete information.

**ATTACH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

1. A locator map showing the location of the property and major nearby landmarks.
2. Site plan indicating the boundaries of the property proposed for nomination and the location of all contributing and non-contributing resources on the site. This plan should show the proper shape and physical relationship of all resources to one another, and an approximate scale should be indicated.
3. Sketch plans of each contributing resource: Include current floor plans or plans of the major interior divisions for each level of buildings and structures. Label each room or division according to function (living room, kitchen, veranda, etc.). Indicate alterations if appropriate.  
Note: On all maps and plans be sure to put arrow indicating the direction north.
4. Photographs: unmounted, black & white, glossies, 5 x 7 inches or larger, two copies each. Photographs should show:
  - a. an overall view of the property, showing all or as many resources on the property as possible,
  - b. each elevation (front, sides, rear) of each contributing resource,
  - c. major interior spaces (In houses, usually hallways, living room, bedrooms, kitchen, bathrooms, and utility spaces are omitted unless they contain unusual contributing features.),
  - d. close-up shots of significant or unusual decorative or structural details on the exterior or interior of the property,
  - e. one exterior view of each non-contributing resource within the boundaries. The photograph should show as much of the resource as possible (usually the front and one side).
  - f. Attach the following information for each photograph. Do not write on or apply labels to backs of photos.
    - 1) Name of property and street address
    - 2) City and state where located
    - 3) Name of photographer
    - 4) Date of photograph
    - 5) Location of original photograph (negative or, original of an historic photograph)
    - 6) Description of view (direction of camera)
    - 7) Indication if the photograph is #1 of 10, #2 of 10, etc.
5. Footnotes for the description and statement of significance.
6. Photocopy, photostat, or transcript copies of the most important documents and sources used in preparing your statements. Transcripts from original documents should be typewritten.

Note: Be sure to photocopy the title page or take careful bibliographical notes on the sources you used.

7. A letter signed by the owner, if the property is privately owned, indicating his or her awareness and approval of the proposal to nominate the property to the National Register of Historic Places.

8. If your proposal has been written on a computer, send a floppy disk copy of it to our office. We use Microsoft Word, but any DOS program is compatible with our system.

9. A clean, unmarked United States Geological Survey (USGS) map for the location of the property. These can be purchased from various engineering supply firms or map dealers throughout the state. To obtain the correct map, you must supply them with the name of the required quadrangle or the name of the county and the range, township and section numbers.

PLEASE CALL US AS (904) 487-2333 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. WE WILL BE GLAD TO HELP YOU.

CHECKLIST

FLORIDA NATIONAL REGISTER PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL FORM. Check if each section is complete. Are all blanks filled?

- Section 1 Name of property \_\_\_\_\_
- Section 2 Location \_\_\_\_\_
- Section 3 Classification \_\_\_\_\_
- Section 4 Owner of property \_\_\_\_\_
- Section 5 Legal description \_\_\_\_\_
- Section 6 Major historic and current uses \_\_\_\_\_
- Section 7 Description \_\_\_\_\_  
Setting \_\_\_\_\_  
Present appearance \_\_\_\_\_  
Alterations \_\_\_\_\_
- Section 8 Statement of significance \_\_\_\_\_  
Context \_\_\_\_\_  
Specific significance in relation to each criteria \_\_\_\_\_
- Section 9 Bibliography \_\_\_\_\_
- Section 10 Geographical data \_\_\_\_\_  
Acreage \_\_\_\_\_  
Verbal boundary description \_\_\_\_\_  
Boundary justification \_\_\_\_\_
- Section 11 Form prepared by \_\_\_\_\_

ATTACHMENTS. Check if the following items are included and complete.

1. Locator map \_\_\_\_\_  
North directional arrow? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Site plan \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Shows contributing and noncontributing resources? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Shows major landscape features? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Scale (approximate is sufficient, e.g. 1/4 in. = approx. 1 ft.)? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. North directional arrow? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Sketch plans of each contributing resource, as needed \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Are the rooms labelled? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Alterations, if any, indicated? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. North directional arrow? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Photographs \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Unmounted? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Black & white? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. 5 x 7 in. or larger? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. 2 copies of each? \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Photo of each elevation of contributing structures? \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Photos of major interior spaces? \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. Closeups of significant details? \_\_\_\_\_
  - i. Photo of exteriors of all noncontributing structures? \_\_\_\_\_
  - j. Information for each photo? \_\_\_\_\_
    - 1) Name of property and street address? \_\_\_\_\_

2) City and state where property is? \_\_\_\_\_

3) Name of photographer? \_\_\_\_\_

4) Date of photo? \_\_\_\_\_

5) Location of negative/original photo? \_\_\_\_\_

6) Description of view (camera view)? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Footnotes for Section 7 (Description) and Section 8 (Significance) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Copies of most important research sources, identifying each \_\_\_\_\_

7. Letter signed by the property owner, indicating awareness and approval, if the property is privately owned \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# PROPOSAL

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name \_\_\_\_\_

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

not for publication

city, town \_\_\_\_\_

vicinity

state \_\_\_\_\_

code \_\_\_\_\_

county \_\_\_\_\_

code \_\_\_\_\_

zip code \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

#### Category of Property

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ buildings

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ sites

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ structures

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ objects

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Owner of Property (according to county Property Appraiser's Office)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Legal Description of Property (according to county Property Appraiser's Office)

Large empty rectangular box for legal description of property.

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_

walls \_\_\_\_\_

roof \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

**8. Statement of Significance**

~~Certify official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:~~

nationally  statewide  locally

~~Applicable National Register Criteria~~  A  B  C  D

~~Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)~~  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>            | Industry <input type="checkbox"/>       |
| Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>           | Maritime Htry. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Archaeology <input type="checkbox"/>            | Military <input type="checkbox"/>       |
| Community Plg./Dev. <input type="checkbox"/>    | Politics/Govt. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>               | Recreation <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| Education <input type="checkbox"/>              | Religion <input type="checkbox"/>       |
| Exploration/Settlement <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Health/Medicine <input type="checkbox"/>        | Other <input type="checkbox"/>          |

Period of Significance

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.



FLORIDA MASTER  
SITE FILE

FDAHRM 802 ==

Site No. 8Ci 161 1009 == County Citrus 808 ==

Site Name Citrus County Courthouse 830 ==

Other Name(s) for Site \_\_\_\_\_ 930 ==

Other Nos. for Site \_\_\_\_\_ 906 ==

Other Master Site File Nos. for Site \_\_\_\_\_ 899 ==

NR Classification Category building 916 ==

Address of Site \_\_\_\_\_ 905 ==

Instructions for locating site located on the plaza at the intersection of  
Main Street (S.R. 44) and Apopka Avenue; Inverness, Florida

\_\_\_\_\_ 813 ==

Vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ 868 ==

Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
subdivision name block no lot no

Owner of Site:  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ 902 ==

Occupant, Tenant, or Manager:  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ 904 ==

Reporter (or local contact):  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ 816 ==

Recorder:  
Name Queen, Rolla L. (Historic Sites Specialist)

Address Florida Division of Archives, History & Records Management 818 ==

Survey Date 8103 820 == Type Ownership \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ 848 ==

Name of Project (under which site was recorded) \_\_\_\_\_ 980 ==

Classification of Project: Check One  
 Federal 982 ==  State 982 ==  Local 982 ==  County 982 ==

Inventory Status \_\_\_\_\_ 914 ==

Previous Survey(s), Excavation(s) or Collection(s): (enter activity/title of project or survey/name/date/repository)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Recording Station HPS 839 ==

Date of Visit to Site 8103 828 == Recording Date 8103 832 ==

Location of Site (Specific):

Map Reference (incl. scale & date) USGS Inverness 7.5 min. (1974)

809 ==

Township	Range	Section	1/4 Sec.	1/4 1/4 Sec.	1/4 1/4 1/4 Sec.
19S	20E	17			

812 ==

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A POLYGON LOCATING THE PROPERTY

Point	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
.	.	.	.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.

OR

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

.	.	.	.	.	.	.
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

800 ==

UTM Perimeter:	Zone	Easting	Northing

890 ==

UTM Coordinates: 17 zone 891 == 369220 easting 892 == 3190340 northing 893 ==

<p><b>Condition of Site:</b> Check One</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent 863 ==</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good 863 ==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fair 863 ==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated 865 ==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ruins 863 ==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed 863 ==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Redeposited 863 ==</p>	<p><b>Integrity of Site:</b> Check One or More</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered 858 ==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered 858 ==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Destroyed 855 ==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Restored ( ) Date: ( ) 858 ==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moved ( ) Date: ( ) 858 ==</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site 858 ==</p>
---	---

Condition of Site (Remarks): ( 858 ) awning windows replaced original glazing, interior has been panelled, but original walls still remain; ( ) 863 == handicapped access placed at North portico.

Threats to Site:

Check One or More

<input type="checkbox"/> Zoning ( ) 878 ==	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation ( ) 878 ==
<input type="checkbox"/> Development ( ) 873 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Fill ( ) 878 ==
<input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration ( ) 878 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Dredge ( ) 878 ==
<input type="checkbox"/> Borrowing ( ) 878 ==	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (See Remarks Below): 878 ==	

Threats to Site (Remarks): Building and grounds subject of impact by the expansion of S.R.44 or the construction of an alternate by-pass using Tompkins Avenue.

879 ==

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# PROPOSAL

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### 1. Name of Property

historic name Old Citrus County Courthouse  
other names/site number 701-161

### 2. Location

street & number # 1 Courthouse Square not for publication N/A  
city, town Inverness vicinity N/A  
state Florida ~~code~~ county Citrus ~~code~~ zip code 33450

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		<u>    </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<u>    </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u>    </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

### 4. Owner of Property (according to county Property Appraiser's Office)

Name: Citrus County  
Address: 110 N. Apopka Ave  
Inverness Fl 32650 4245  
Telephone number: 904 726-8500

### 5. Legal Description of Property (according to county Property Appraiser's Office)

Courthouse Square as recorded in Plat 1 Page 36

Parcel 17 19S 20E 0050 0110A  
Alternate key 1756529  
Courthouse Square

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary)

The Citrus County Courthouse is the architecturally and most historically significant building in Citrus County and the City of Inverness. Its overall design and feeling is Neo-Classical Revival. The building, however, is rather eclectic, and also suggests ~~features of the Prairie Style~~ and the later Mediterranean Revival Style. The courthouse is symmetrical, bi-laterally, and each entrance has a portico framed by either a pair of single or paired Tuscan columns and pilasters. The courthouse's barrel tile hip roof is surmounted by a Ribbed dome with drum, which in turn is surmounted by a belvedere. Mediterranean Revival features include the barrel tile roof and a flat roof with stepped parapet while the deep eaves of the hip roof, the large paired brackets, and the brick (buff) color reflect elements of the Prairie style.

The courthouse is positioned on a central downtown square. The square is oriented to the town plan at 45° angle and resembles a diamond. The major highways into the city intersect at the courthouse plaza at the points of the diamond. The entrances to the courthouse are also oriented towards the points of the diamond.

The courthouse was designed by Tampa Architect, W.R. Biggers. Biggers also designed the Plant City High School (N.R. 2/4/81).



# Citrus County Historical Society, Inc.

ROOM 105, THE OLD COURTHOUSE • NO. 1 COURTHOUSE SQUARE  
INVERNESS, FL 32650 • (904) 726-8500 EXT. 541

December 13, 1989

W. Carl Shiver, Ph.D.  
Historic Sites Specialist  
Division of Historical Resources  
R.A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-020

RE: Historic Sites of Citrus County-Preservation/Restoration

Dear Dr. Shiver:

As you know our Preservation Committee has several ambitious projects which we are planning to address fully in the upcoming new year.

Though we have gathered much information on both the Floral City area and Red Level project, there remains considerable work ahead of us yet to acquire.

Also remaining for Citrus County is completing the two incorporated towns of Crystal River and Inverness--though we can begin to see daylight on the Inverness Survey which is composed of around 70-80 structures. Would you advise us to submit ever in partial groups? I ask this in particular because of downtown Inverness and specifically, the Old Courthouse and Masonic Temple. Though widely pictured in many architectural publications, I do not have any records here to indicate that either of these have been officially filed. Would you advise me on that when you get a chance.

487-  
2333

Recently we have been asked to review the Historic/Archaeological Preservation Element of the County's Comprehensive Plan. So we may comply as the coordinating agency for this key function, we need a copy of the most current Archaeological Sites filed--as what we have is three years old. If you think of any other information which can be of assistance in establishing a procedure for this review process, I would be most appreciative.

You have been most helpful to me as the new person on the block-- here in Citrus County. I look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

Sincerely yours,

DFS  
Preservation Committee  
Russ Dorsey/Archaeological  
~~Marcia Dorsey/Structures~~  
Mary Dorsey/Historic Markers  
Pauline Lansden/Inverness FMSF

Deborah Scott  
Curator/

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maritime Htry.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archaeology	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Plg./Dev.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Politics/Govt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exploration/Settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health/Medicine	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Period of Significance

1912 construction

Significant Dates

1912

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Judge Ellis Connell May

Architect/Builder

W.R. Biggers, Tampa - Architect  
Read-Parker Construction Company

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Architecture

Politics/Government

Politics & Government

Summary: The Old County Courthouse served as the major government building in Citrus County from 1912-1978.

Architecture

Built in 1911-1912, the Old Courthouse

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

County Government - Courthouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government (County Court) <sup>misdemeanors</sup>  
Museum - Recreation & Culture  
Archives - Historical  
District Offices of Legislators

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Classical Revival <sup>copy</sup>

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
walls brick (LIGHT-COLORED FLASH)  
FLOOR: TERRAZZO  
roof hip, barrel tile, FLAT  
other dome

Describe present and historic physical appearance.



See Continuation Sheet

add  
District Office  
of Senator  
Office of Representative

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1 Old Citrus County Courthouse

**7. Present and Historic Physical Appearance.**

**SUMMARY:**

Architecturally and historically the Old Citrus County Courthouse is the most significant building in Citrus County and the city of Inverness. Because of its unique placement and style, it dominates the vista from all directions. The Neo-Classical light brick structure, more than two stories in height, and topped with a dome, presents a columned portico entrance on the west, east, north and south.

The Statement of Significance by Rolla L. Queen, Historic Sites Specialist, begins as follows:

The Citrus County Courthouse is ~~the~~ architecturally and ~~most~~ historically significant building in Citrus County and the City of Inverness. Its overall design and feeling is Neo-Classical Revival. The building, however, is rather eclectic, and also suggests features of ~~the Prairie Style and~~ Later Mediterranean Revival Style.

**SETTING:**

The Old Courthouse is located on a central plaza in downtown Inverness which is set at a 45 degree angle to the rest of the town plan. Thus when approaching central Inverness from four directions an entrance to the building is in view. In early photographs there are many more trees in the downtown area, but despite additional structures, paving, etc., the court house still dominates the area.

**PLAN:**

The symmetrical building is square, with entrances on all four sides. It is two and a half stories in height, with four dormers. The windows are placed in a regular pattern, and decorated with label molding.

**ROOF AND DOME:**

The hip roof is of clay barrel tile, surrounded by a flat roof with a stepped parapet. The roof is surmounted by a ribbed dome with drum, which in turn is surmounted by a belvedere.

**National Register of Historic Places**

ixp  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

Old Citrus County Courthouse

**PORTICOS:**

The two-story porticos on the east and west entrances have two Tuscan columns in pairs; the north and south porticos have a single Tuscan column in pairs.

**EXTERIOR:**

The walls are of running brick in a buff color. There are paired wooden brackets under the eaves. Concrete ornamentation includes a string course at the second story ceiling level, and coping along the parapet.

**INTERIOR:**

Originally the first floor contained offices for the county judge, sheriff, board of public instruction, tax assessor, tax collector, and the clerk. Today this space is used by the Citrus County Historical Society for offices and museum, by Senator Thurman and Representative Locke, and for archives and records storage.

The second floor continues to be the center for the county court, with a court room, jury room, and other facilities.

**INTERIOR DECORATION:**

*FIRST FLOOR*  
The Great Seal of Florida in mosaic on the floor of the rotunda has a male Indian figure rather than a female.

The original marble wainscotting remains along the halls and stairways.

**ALTERATIONS:**

- 1 Awning windows have replaced the original glazing. *hollowed out*
- 2 The interior has been panelled, but original walls still remain. *marble & glass walls*
- 3 Handicapped access has been placed at the North portico. *intact*
- 4 An ornamental iron fence pictured around the perimeter of the yard in early photographs is now located at a home in Floral City. *private residence*

8. Significance of property, areas and periods of significance.

SUMMARY.

The Old Citrus County Court House building provides the central focus to the downtown area, as it has since its construction in 1912. It establishes the character and mood of the surrounding area, and dominates all other architecture in the vicinity. It was built on the site of the previous 1895 courthouse, which was of wooden construction. A new courthouse building was erected in 1978, to the northwest of the Old Court House, which continues to house some governmental and judicial offices.

HISTORIC CONTEXT.

Citrus, the geographical center of the state, is a county of contrasts: countless lakes in the east, rolling hills through much of the central region, and coastal bays, tidal basins, rivers and sawgrass flatlands. Early coastal settlements were made along these rivers in Homosassa, Crystal River and Ozello. In the 1830's a pony express brought mail from Fort Brooke at Tampa.

Inverness, the county seat, was originally called Tompkinsville, named after its first settler, Alf Tompkins. When the town was sold to a Jacksonville firm its name was changed to Inverness.

In 1887 Citrus County was created when Hernando was divided, and the prime sponsor, Senator Austin Shuey Mann, set the county seat in the town named for him, Mannfield. The first court house was in the Moffat house in Mannfield; later the Gaffney house.

The old time settlers in Inverness felt they should have the county seat, and after seven elections Inverness won by a scant majority, and the citizens literally "stole the courthouse." On May 4, 1891, all county property was transported in wagons drawn by mules from Mannfield to Inverness. Clerk of Court W.C. Zimmerman refused to move, and was picked up chair and all, and put into the wagon. Today Mannfield is a ghost town, and Inverness remains the county seat.

The first court house in Inverness was a rented wooden building. In 1891 Henry Martin donated a parcel of land, and eventually a wooden court house was constructed on that site and served as the court house between 1895 and 1912. The 1895 building was a two-story frame structure in Victorian style with a large central tower. It required a number of repairs and alterations. The courtroom ceiling was replaced in 1897. In Jan. 1912 it was moved by Read-Parker Construction Company so that the present Old County Court House could be built on the same site.

## ESTABLISHMENT, 1911 - 1912.

On May 1, 1911 the Board of County Commissioners met and declared that they "deemed it necessary . . . for the good of said county and for the best interests of the citizens thereof, that a new Court House be built for the County of Citrus . . . .

Records v. 3, p. 422

The following notice was published in the Chronicle, *the County newspaper.*

In the matter of erecting a new court house for Citrus County, Florida:

Notice is hereby given to the citizens of Citrus County, Florida, and all others to whom it may concern, that the Board of County Commissioners of Citrus County, State of Florida, will at their next regular meeting to be held at the court house in Inverness, Florida, on the 5th day of June, 1911, consider and determine the necessity for the erection of a new court house building for said county as provided by Section 808 of the General Statutes of the State as amended by the Act approved May 21, 1907, and in case it is determined by said Board to erect and build a new court house for said county, a building tax will be levied by said Board to secure the necessary funds for the erection of said court house at the regular meeting of said Board for levying taxes as provided by law.

Parties wishing to submit plans and specifications may do so, and in the event that the Board decides to erect a Court House, it can, at its convenience, adopt same.

### June 24, 1911 Proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners:

The Board of County Commissioners met today with Chairman Barnes and all members present, in special session.

Chairman Barnes stated the object of the meeting to be the receiving of plans and specifications for the construction of a new court house from architects according to the advertisement run in the Chronicle.

The following gentlemen appeared and presented plans and made talks: W.B. Bates, Bonfoey & Elliot, F.J. Kennard, J.R. McEachron, W.R. Biggers, C.W. Stewart, Guy T. Johnson, and the following other gentlemen appeared and stated that would submit no plans, Chamberlain & Co., and the following gentlemen appeared and stated that their plans had miscarried due to late train in Jacksonville and Ocala: W.B. Talley and E.C. Hosford, but their plans would arrive here on the 4:50 train this afternoon.

Mr. Stephens moved that the Board consider the plans of Messrs. Talley and Hosford after their plans arrive this evening.

After an examination of the plans presented, on motion of Mr. Stephens the Chairman was directed to appoint a committee of three of which he shall be one, to consider the plans of W.B. Bates and J. R. MacEachron, now in hand, and those of W.B. Talley and E.C. Hosford as soon as they arrive, and the Chairman appointed Messrs Stephens and Turner.

### July 3, 1911 Proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners:

The Board met at 9:30 o'clock with Chairman Barnes and Commissioners Hampton, Turner, Stephens and Gerock present.

Minutes of the June regular and special meetings were read and approved.

The court house building committee reported that they had employed J.R. McEachron as architect and with him they had inspected the court house building at Dade City and found it not worth consideration; they also inspected the clerk's office at Tampa, and found same well equipped and up to date, but too large for Citrus County; they also inspected the court house at Bartow and found a very good up to date modern building, the plans and model of which they had adopted with a few minor changes in the arrangement of the offices.

### July 19, 1911 Special session of the Board of County Commissioners:

Mr. MacEachron, Architect, tendered the plans and specifications prepared by him and the same were considered . . . .

A resolution was adopted requiring the Clerk to advertise for bids for the building of the Court House to be received up to nine o'clock on Monday, August 21, 1911.

The Chairman then directed the Clerk to draw a warrant in favor of J. R. MacEachron for \$1250 in part payment of his commission on the building, whereupon the Clerk requested the Board not to take such action, as he would refuse to sign and seal any warrant . . . until he could have them [the plans] examined by an expert or until bids were received . . .

Records v.3 p.435

August 7, 1911, the citizens of the county brought a petition to the commissioners signed by 246 people who believed that the old court house was sufficient to meet the requirements for several years. Accompanying the petition was another petition signed by 15 persons who had signed the original petition and now wished to erase their names. Others appeared to speak against the petition and after considerable discussion it was withdrawn. At this same meeting the Board of Public Instruction presented a letter protesting the amount of space allotted to them in the plans.

Records v.3 p.436-7

August 22, 1911 meeting of the County Commissioners.

Plans and specifications for the proposed new court house were taken up, Mr. MacEachron being present. . . Kahn system of reinforced concrete . . . Keystone Gypsum blocks for interior walls . . . Framing lumber grade A or Prime local pine . . . Double steel shutters for windows in vaults in County Judge's and Clerk's office. The clock itself shall cost not less than \$800 f.o.b. Inverness. American AA double strength glass for windows and doors. Specifications for steam heating were stricken. The architect is to furnish full detail drawings for corner stone, wainscoting in rooms and court room, such as casing, base board, base, chair rail, picture molds, columns and architraves, and for base board.

Records, v3. p.440

The floor plans were changed at this meeting, and the sheriff was given a smaller room, 12x12, and the school board a larger room, 20x20, as well as a 12x18 room with vault doors and double steel shutters.

In Sept. 1911 Colonel Scofield, attorney for the Board of County Commissioners, having been assigned to study the plans in detail, reported that the Board should write to the architect and request new plans so as to provide for a fire-proof building included steel girders for the dome.

Records, v. 3, p. 443

Oct. 2, 1911 W.R. Biggers of Tampa appeared before the Board and presented plans and specifications for a new fireproof court house.

Nov. 6, 1911 the Board having received no word from Mr. MacEachron, Willis R. Biggers was appointed the new architect. His duties would include supervision of the building, and he was to receive 5% of the actual cost of the building, half of that to be paid when bids were accepted.

November 27, 1911 eight bids were submitted up to \$70,000 and the Board accepted Read-Parker Construction Company for \$49,965.

Fischer, & Records, v.3, p 453

Read-Parker also moved the old court house and vault from the site. Their bill for \$875 was paid in February, 1912.

*note* → Also that month the Board selected construction materials: a light-colored flash brick for the exterior walls, and hardwood and terrazzo for the flooring. Fireplaces were chosen instead of steam heat. In March the Board was still discussing steam heating, which would add \$10,000 to the cost. After months of discussions, and alterations by the contractor, "The original plans for chimneys and fireplaces was re-adopted."

*His intention to*

Records v.3 p. 460-70

Mr. C.B. Stage was named superintendent of the project, and paid \$100 per month. (At that time Mr. Warnock's salary as clerk was \$40 per month; the attorney, Col. Scofield, received \$10 per month.)

The Chronicle reported on Dec. 6, 1912 that Read-Parker Construction Company had been paid \$3,000 for materials and labor on the courthouse the previous month. In general the company was paid approximately \$1600 monthly for labor on the project, and the cost for materials ranged from \$1400 to \$5000 per month.

The maple flooring received almost as much discussion as the steam heating. At a cost of \$996 it was ordered and then reconsidered several times. When it was finally laid Mr. Stage said it was not first class, and the Board rejected the bill on May 5, 1913.

Records, v. 4, p. 66

In June, 1913, Graham and Stage were paid a total of \$3980 for work on the site: grading, sidewalks, pipe lines for storm water, and a fence (\$755). The bid required an iron fence, posts not less than 2 inches, 3/4 inch iron pickets, three feet in height.

Records, v. 4, p. 60-61

In June, 1913, bids for furnishings were awarded to Fiedler & Allan, Atlanta, for \$3782.

Records, v. 4, p. 70

June 2, 1913, Mr. Parker and Mr. Cahew came before the Board and tendered the new county court house as complete. The Board declined to accept the building without an itemized statement. The following day these men appeared with their lawyer before the Board in special session, and turned in an itemized list which totalled \$55,665, which was the original bid plus \$5700 extra work. Thereupon, the county commissioners stated:

The said new county court house building so erected by the Read-Parker Construction Company is accepted as architecturally complete and finished in accordance with the plans and specifications thereof, and is declared to be the County Court House for Citrus County, Florida.

Records, v. 4, p. 73

After the court house was constructed, the Commissioners rented out the rooms upstairs for \$5 to \$10 per month, until the space was needed for county offices.

Fischer

#### JUDGE MAY AND EARLY COURT HOUSE HISTORY.

The books of E.C. May, who served as County Judge for 24 years, from 1917 to 1925 and from 1932 to 1949, give vivid accounts of some of the ways justice was dispensed from the old Courthouse. The previous judge settled a dispute over ownership of a calf, after hours of testimony in the courthouse, by going out to see whose cow the calf would go to for nursing.

*Judge May*

In 1918 much of the judge's time and skills were employed in assisting draftees to fill out their questionnaires. In March of 1918 Judge May and the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners stood in the corridors of the courthouse and discussed the serious situation of the flu epidemic which was to take so many victims.

Judge May wrote that in the 1920's the county was poor and had not progressed since the courthouse was built and paid for "in 1910." When he came back into office in 1933 he was paid \$3.74 for each case handled from the Fine and Forfeiture Fund.

One passage in Gaters, Skeeters & Malary (page 159) describes the life of a judge in those days:

The office of the county judge is now one of the best jobs in the county, and its salary is well up in the State's high brackets, but in my first years, and until my last two terms, it was mostly work. I never received a cent for postage, telephone, telegraph, express, or any other thing of that nature. All these expenses were paid out of my own resources, or I did without. For many years, I swept and scrubbed my office floors and washed my windows. I brought in all of my wood and often furnished it. I tried to keep warm by a fireplace that often "back-fired" when it was cold and rainy, and fire and black smoke would billow into the office instead of going up the chimney where it belonged. Then there was nothing to do but race for the water bucket and douse the fire, or the place would be ruined. Then smoke, soot, ashes, and pandemonium took over and everything was in a mess for sure. You spent the rest of the day in cold and fireless discomfort and in trying to get things clean again. It was not likely that the chimney would "draw" again that day, and you tried to make it "draw" at your peril. There was no money to pay a janitor, none at all to pay for help, and little enough to keep to keep my family going. But I soon had a good law practice, and I traded in real estate, which was increasing in value.

Besides the duties described above, the Judge himself in early days wrote up the court proceedings. These legal records in his own hand remain in the Citrus County archives. (oral interview with L.D. and F.K.)

The judge's main floor office in the courthouse opened off the rotunda, where all four corridors met in a big circular area with a mosaic of the Great Seal of Florida in the center. In the afternoons while he was at work, the judge could hear his two daughters roller skating around the seal and down the corridors while they waited for him.

Chronicle 7/1/87 p.73

At the conclusion of his book From Dawn to Sunset Judge May sums up his responsibilities as follows:

For many years, as Judge of this small County I was most of the law, which was true of all small counties of that period. I was Judge of all the Courts up to the Circuit Court and as committing magistrate, I heard most of the cases where imprisonment in the State penitentiary or capital punishment was possible, and as coroner, I investigated many tragedies which could just as well have been avoided. I performed the marriage ceremony for more than 2500 couples and I have heard the complaints and troubles of a great many married couples and mothers-in-law, and as Juvenile Judge, many bewildered juveniles have come before me, and their problems became my problems. As State Attorney, I have prosecuted many people who could have stayed out of trouble and been happier, and as a Court hundreds of men and women have stood helplessly before me for judgment, and as a Legislator, I have tried to write laws that would help.

*Louise May  
Dillon  
✓ Howard May  
Kemp*

#### FURTHER HISTORY OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE.

In 1939 the Florida Guide by the Federal Writers' Project described Inverness in this way:

Its streets, bordered with oaks and cabbage palms, radiate from a yellow brick courthouse topped with a copper clock tower. The town is the marketing center of a large and populous rural area, in which citrus growing, truck farming, beekeeping, and dairying are the chief occupations.

This description again emphasized the dominant position of the court house in the locality.

In July 1961 courthouse employees played \$10-a-day courtroom extras in an Elvis Presley movie filmed partly in Citrus County.

#### 1987 CENTENNIAL.

In 1987 Citrus County celebrated its centennial. Newspaper accounts and special newspaper supplements show citizens in period costume in front of the old courthouse. Photos of street scenes of the 80's, of the 50's and 60's, and of earlier times are dominated in the same fashion by the old courthouse.

**ARCHITECTURAL SITE DATA SUPPLEMENT**

ARCHITECT Biggers, W.R. (Tampa) 872 = =  
BUILDER Read-Parker Construction Company 874 = =  
STYLE Neo-Classical Revival 964 = =  
PLAN TYPE square 966 = =  
EXTERIOR FABRIC(S) brick, running 854 = =  
STRUCTURAL SYSTEM(S) \_\_\_\_\_ 856 = =

FEATURE OF STRUCTURE (942):

PORCHES, VERANDAS, GALLERIES AND BALCONIES: N&S/2-story portico with  
Tuscan columns; E&W/2-story portico with paired Tuscan columns 942 = =

FOUNDATION: \_\_\_\_\_ 942 = =

ROOF TYPE: Hip; Flat, built up with stepped parapet 942 = =

SECONDARY ROOF STRUCTURE(S): Dome, ribbed with drum and belvedere 942 = =

CHIMNEY LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_ 942 = =

WINDOW TYPE: awning, 6 light, metal; paired: Clear story, fixed  
sash with paired and triple sash with Roman screen motif. 942 = =

MATERIALS (882):

CHIMNEY: \_\_\_\_\_ 882 = =

ROOF SURFACING: tile, barrel 882 = =

ORNAMENT EXTERIOR: brick(buff), concrete 882 = =

QUANTITATIVE DATA (950-960):

NO. OF STORIES 2½ 950 = =

NO. OF CHIMNEYS \_\_\_\_\_ 952 = =

NO. OF DORMERS 4 954 = =

OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING (FREE TEXT)

MAIN ENTRANCE: W/2 story portico with paired Tuscan columns.

865 = =

WINDOW PLACEMENT: regular 865 = =

WINDOW SURROUNDS AND DECORATION: label molding

865 = =

EXTERIOR ORNAMENT AND COLOR: brick (buff); paired wooden brackets under eaves; concrete string course at second story ceiling level; concrete coping continuous along parapet. 865 = =

INTERIOR COMMENTS: Great Seal of State of Florida with "male" Indian figure rather than female; marble wainscote

865 = =

OTHER (SPECIFY): \_\_\_\_\_

865 = =

MAJOR ALTERATIONS (FREE TEXT): awning windows replaced originals; interior has been paneled.

857 = =

OUTBUILDINGS (FEATURES OF SITE): \_\_\_\_\_

876 = =

SURROUNDINGS (CLASSIFICATION) Commercial 864 = =

RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDINGS (FREE TEXT): Provides central focus to the

downtown area. This building establishes the character and mood of the surrounding area and dominates all other architecture in the immediate area. 859 = =

**HISTORIC SITE DATA SUPPLEMENT**

Present Use (Check one or more as appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural 850 ==	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government 850 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Park 350 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation 850 ==
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial 850 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial 850 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence 850 ==	Other (specify):
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational 850 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Military 850 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious 850 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> 850 ==
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment 850 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum 850 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific 850 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> 850 ==

Original Use (check one or more as appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural 838 ==	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government 838 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Park 838 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation 838 ==
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial 838 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial 838 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence 838 ==	Other (specify):
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational 838 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Military 838 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious 838 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> 838 ==
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment 838 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum 838 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific 838 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> 838 ==

Cultural Classification: \_\_\_\_\_ Specific Dates: Beginning +1912 844 ==

Culture/Phase American 840 ==

Period (check one or more as appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian 845 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century 845 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century 845 ==	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century 845 ==
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century 845 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century 845 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century 845 ==	

Areas of Significance (check one or more as appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal 910 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning 910 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape 910 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture 910 ==
<input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology 910 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation 910 ==	Architecture 910 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian 910 ==
Prehistoric 910 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Economics 910 ==	Law 910 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater 910 ==
Archaeology Historic 910 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Education 910 ==	Literature 910 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation 910 ==
Agriculture 910 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering 910 ==	Military 910 ==	Other (specify):
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture 910 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Exploration & Settlement 910 ==	Music 910 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> 910 ==
Art 910 ==	Industry 910 ==	Philosophy 910 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> 910 ==
Commerce 910 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention 910 ==	Politics/Govt. 910 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> 910 ==
Communications 910 ==		Religion 910 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> 910 ==
		Science 910 ==	<input type="checkbox"/> 910 ==

Remarks & Recommendations:

Building appears to meet the N.R. criteria. A nomination or determination of eligibility may be required depending upon the particular by-pass route chosen through the city of Inverness.

835 ==

Accessible:  yes: restricted  yes: unrestricted  no

Status:  occupied  unoccupied  work in progress

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary)

The Citrus County Courthouse is the architecturally and most historically significant building in Citrus County and the City of Inverness. Its overall design and feeling is Neo-Classical Revival. The building, however, is rather eclectic, and also suggests features of the Prairie Style and the later Mediterranean Revival Style. The courthouse is symmetrical, bi-laterally, and each entrance has a portico framed by either a pair of single or paired Tuscan columns and pilasters. The courthouse's barrel tile hip roof is surmounted by a Ribbed dome with drum, which in turn is surmounted by a belvedere. Mediterranean Revival features include the barrel tile roof and a flat roof with stepped parapet while the deep eaves of the hip roof, the large paired brackets, and the brick (buff) color reflect elements of the Prairie style.

The courthouse is positioned on a central downtown square. The square is oriented to the town plan at 45° angle and resembles a diamond. The major highways into the city intersect at the courthouse plaza at the points of the diamond. The entrances to the courthouse are also oriented towards the points of the diamond.

The courthouse was designed by Tampa Architect, W.R. Biggers. Biggers also designed the Plant City High School (N.R. 2/4/81).



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Jim Smith

Secretary of State

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

R.A. Gray Building

500 South Bronough

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Director's Office

Telecopier Number (FAX)

(904) 488-1480

(904) 488-3353

January 25, 1990

Ms. Deborah Scott, Curator  
Citrus County Historical Society, Inc.  
Room 105, The Old Courthouse  
No. 1 Courthouse Square  
Inverness, Florida 32650

Re: Old Citrus County Courthouse, Old Masonic Temple

Dear Ms. Scott:

Thank you for the Preliminary Site Information Questionnaire on the above referenced property.

Based on the information you have provided, it is our opinion that this property should be considered for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. I have therefore enclosed a Florida Nomination Proposal questionnaire and instructions for its preparation.

You should study both the form and the instructions carefully before you attempt to fill out any information. It is essential that you understand what kind of information is required and how it is recorded in order to avoid wasted time and effort. There are several points that must be emphasized.

First is the need for complete and accurate documentation. This applies to the physical description as well as the statement of significance. We need as much specific information as you can provide regarding original construction, alterations, and uses of the property, as well as the historical events, developments, and persons with which it has been associated.

Second, graphics can be extremely helpful. Current photographs, including overall views and close up shots of important details are required. Historic photographs should be included whenever they are available. Sketch plans or diagrams of sites, interior floor plans, etc., should be carefully and accurately drawn, although not necessarily to scale.

Ms. Deborah Scott  
January 25, 1990  
Page Two

Third, site location and boundary information must be precise and accurate. Where street addresses are not applicable, location should be indicated by specific references to identifiable landmarks. Site boundaries should encompass only the site or property specifically identified and described in the nomination proposal.

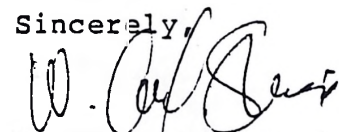
Finally, the eligibility of the property for National Register listing depends on two essential points: 1) its "site integrity" or the extent to which the property retain the physical character and appearance of its period of significance, and 2) its association with significant historic events, developments, or personalities as reflected in its present condition and appearance.

Obviously, preparation of the nomination proposal will require detailed investigation of both the physical development of the property itself and the broader historic context in which that development occurred. The information obtained must then be incorporated into narrative texts in the physical description and significance statement sections of the proposal form. While this is not a simple task, I am sure that the instruction booklet will provide ample guidance in most cases. However, should you need additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to call me. I will be happy to help in any way I can.

A single copy of the proposal should be submitted to us as soon as you have it completed in draft form. Footnotes, photographs, and site and floor plans should accompany the draft proposal. This will enable us to give you our comments and to suggest any revisions that we feel may be necessary before you prepare the final document and make the copies of the proposal necessary for distribution to the Review Board. At that point, we should also be able to schedule the proposal for presentation to the Review Board.

We appreciate your interest in nominating this property and look forward to receiving the nomination proposal.

Sincerely,



W. Carl Shiver  
Historic Sites Specialist

WCS:bs  
Enclosures

GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE FLORIDA NOMINATION PROPOSAL

BEFORE YOU START TO FILL OUT THE FORM, there are several steps that will help you avoid unnecessary time, energy, effort, confusion and frustration.

FIRST: Remember, as you follow these guidelines and instructions, that the nomination proposal must document the two basic requirements for National Register listing:

1. that the resource itself possesses significance that satisfies criteria for listing, and
2. that it retains the physical appearance and character that reflect its historic, archaeological, or architectural significance.

SECOND: 1. READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS and all sections of the nomination proposal so that you understand what information is required. This will enable you to properly identify the significant resource(s) to be nominated and plan your research of its history. 2. IF YOU ARE PREPARING A DISTRICT OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE PROPOSAL, request supplemental guidelines and instructions. 3. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL US AT (904) 487-2333.

THIRD: Contact the owners of the property (if other than yourself). Advise them of your intention to prepare a nomination proposal. Provide information on the National Register program and arrange access to the property.

FOURTH: Make a preliminary visual survey of the site.

1. Make a sketch of the preliminary boundaries that you think will include everything on the property that reflects its historic significance.
2. Make a list of all man-made features within and adjacent to the preliminary boundaries. Identify those which you feel reflect the historic significance of the property, and those which do not contribute to its significance.

This will provide an initial framework for further investigation and research, which will in turn provide the basis for the final boundary determination.

FIFTH: Gather background information on the history of the property and how it fits into the historic development of the community. Look for documentation that will help you determine:

1. who was responsible for the development of the property or its historically significant use,

2. what historically significant events, activities or developments are associated with the property,

3. when such events, activities or developments occurred, and

4. how the present physical appearance and character of the property reflect its historically significant associations. The Suggestions for Background Research that follow may be helpful.

SIXTH: WHEN ALL THAT IS DONE, you will be ready to complete the proposal.

1. Note all additional instructions.

2. Complete each item.

FINALLY: Assemble the completed proposal and required supplementary documents, and forward the material to the Bureau of Historic Preservation.

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Often, conducting historic research can be agonizing and frustrating for those persons undertaking it for the first time. Essential documents can be difficult and even impossible to locate, and the technical terms used to describe the style and physical elements of a building or structure are highly specialized. The following, therefore, includes a few of the sources where you may find some of the information you require.

1. The owner of the property: Often the owner has deeds, property abstracts, wills, letters, historic photographs, and family or other records or mementos relating to the history of the property, especially if it has remained in the family for several generations.

2. Libraries: Even small local libraries will usually have copies of the standard histories of Florida, such as A History of Florida by Charlton W. Tebeau and Florida: Historic, Dramatic, Contemporary by Junius E. Dovell, as well as any published histories of the county or community, which may provide useful background information on the property or its developers. More specific information may be available in special collections, often found in local libraries, containing a variety of promotional publications or other material of local historical interest. University or community college libraries in your area should be consulted.

3. Local or County Historical Societies or Historians: Consult any collections maintained by historical groups, and discuss your proposal with local historians for information regarding the site or the activities of persons associated with it. Faculties of high school and college history/social studies departments may be helpful.

4. County Courthouse: Tax rolls, probate records, plat books, deeds and other official records are found here. All are good potential sources of information.

5. City Hall: The city hall may have building permits, building plans, minutes of city council meetings, and Sanborn maps (maps which were used by fire insurance companies to determine which properties were insurable) on file.

6. Newspapers: These often have a "morgue", a collection of past issues going back many years. These are often found at libraries also.

7. There are also three state agencies in Tallahassee which may be able to provide historical information:

State Library of Florida, Florida Collection,  
(904) 487-2651

Florida State Archives, (904) 487-2073

Department of Natural Resources, Division of State  
Lands, Bureau of Survey & Mapping, Title & Land  
Records Section, (904) 488-8123

Suggested Sources for Describing Architectural Resources (try the library):

A Field Guide to American Houses by Virginia & Lee McAlester, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1984.

Identifying American Architecture by John Blumenson, Free Press, New York, 1978.

American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles by Marcus Whiffen, M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, MA., 1969.

What Style Is It? by John Poppeliers and S. Allen Chambers, Preservation Press, Washington, D.C., 1983.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FLORIDA NOMINATION PROPOSAL

The following instructions discuss each section of the proposal form, item by item. Disregard items lined through, such as ~~code~~.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic Name: The name by which the property was known originally or during the period of its historic significance. (Often the name of the person who originally developed the property.)

Other Names: Common names by which it has been or is currently known.

### 2. Location

If in a rural area, indicate state or county road number and distance from the nearest highway junction, town, or prominent landmark. Leave state and county codes blank. Check the boxes "not for publication" and "vicinity" only if there is reason to protect the properties from vandalism. If there is no reason to keep the location confidential, put "N/A".

### 3. Classification

a. Check the appropriate box under ownership.

b. Check only one box under category:

Building: anything constructed to shelter human activity, such as a house, barn, church, hotel, etc.

District: a related group of buildings, sites or objects, united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development.

Site: location of significant prehistoric or historic archaeological remains, or of a significant historic event, e.g.: Olustee Battlefield.

Structure: utilitarian construction different from a building in that it was not designed to provide shelter, such as wind mills, canals, highways, fortifications, boats, etc.

Object: construction primarily artistic in character, and usually associated with its location, such as a sculpture, fountain, marker, monument, etc.

c. Indicate the number of contributing and non-contributing resources (man-made features) within the property boundary.



CCC

# CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Entered at the Postoffice at Inverness Florida, as matter of the second class.

WALTER F. WARNOCK, Publisher and Proprietor  
GEORGE BUTLER, Editor.

INVERNESS, FLA. JULY 7, 1911

## Proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners.

Inverness, July 8, 1911.

The Board met at 9:30 o'clock with Chairman Barnes and Commissioners Hampton, Turner, Stephens and Gerock present.

Minutes of June regular and special meetings were read and approved.

The court house building committee reported that had employed J. R. McEachron as architect and with him they had inspected the court house building at Dade City and found it not worth consideration; they also inspected the clerk's office at Tampa and found same well equipped and up to date, but too large for Citrus county; they also inspected the court house at Bartow and found a very good, up to date modern building, the plans and model of which they had adopted with a few minor changes in the arrangement of the offices.

Mr. Gerock moved that the report of the committee be received and laid on the table pending the presentation of plans and specifications and that the contract entered into by the committee be also not acted upon until such time, which was adopted.

6/24/111  
CCC

## Proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners.

Inverness, June 24th, 1911.

The Board of County Commissioners met today with Chairman Barnes and all members present, in special session.

Chairman Barnes stated the object of the meeting to be the receiving of plans and specifications for the construction of a new court house from architects reported in the advertisement in Chronicle.

The following gentlemen appeared

and presented plans and made talks: W. B. Bates, Bonfoey & Elliott, F. J. Kennard, J. R. McEachron, W. B. Biggers, C. W. Stewart, Guy T. Johnson, and the following other gentlemen appeared and stated that they would submit no plans. Chamberlain & Co., and the following gentlemen appeared and stated that their plans had miscarried due to late train in Jacksonville and Ocala: W. B. Talley and E. C. Hosford, but their plans would arrive here on the 4:50 train this afternoon.

Mr. Stephens moved that the Board consider the plans of Messrs. Talley and Hosford after their arrival this evening.

After an examination of the plans presented, on motion of Mr. Stephens the Chairman was directed to appoint a committee of three of which he shall be one, to consider the plans of W. B. Bates and J. R. McEachron, now in hand, and those of W. B. Talley and E. C. Hosford as

soon as they arrive, and the Chairman appointed Messrs Stephens and Turner.

The Board adjourned.

J. Y. BARNES, Chairman.

W. F. WARNOCK, Secretary.

Several items of interest are crowded out of this issue owing to our inability to set the type. We hope to remedy the trouble hereafter.

CANAL

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GRACE

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11.12

THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF THE  
CITRUS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Barbara Fischer  
Citrus High School

June 3, 1975

## THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CITRUS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

One of the most obsolescent landmarks in the State of Florida is the Citrus County Courthouse. Standing on the Courthouse Square in Inverness, its uniqueness and attractiveness are enhanced by beautiful landscaping.

Its history, full of arguments among citizens, can be traced to 1887. This paper traces the history of the sometimes controversial, always attractive Citrus County Courthouse.

In the latter sector of the year 1887, Hernando County was divided to create Citrus, Pasco and Hernando Counties.

Holding its first session in the Mannfield Church in Mannfield, Florida, in August, 1887, the first County Commission consisted of five members: J.M. Baker - Chairman, P.G. Peacher, O.P. Keller, J.T. Landrum, and L.L. Leamoll. The first business of the commissioners was to approve the bonds of the appointed officers. Messrs. Zimmerman, Clerk, \$2000.; Priest, Sheriff, \$2,000.; Brooks, Tax Assessor, \$500.; Tompkins, Tax Collector, \$4,000.; Barco, Treasurer, \$5,000.; Allen, Surveyor, \$500.; and Phillips, Attorney, \$300.<sup>1</sup>

The establishment of the temporary courthouse in September, 1887, was in the Moffat house in Mannfield. Several years later, in 1891, the temporary courthouse was moved to the Gaffney house in Mannfield with a rental of \$19 per month.<sup>2</sup>

Between 1889 and 1890, many county seat elections were held to establish the county site. Each election failed due to the shortage of the majority votes.

County property was moved on May 4, 1891. Clerk Zimmerman refused to move his person and records to Inverness. An attorney advised the Sheriff to move the Clerk and records. Everything was placed in a wagon, and although the Clerk still refused to move, he was picked up in his chair and transported to Inverness where he was unloaded.<sup>3</sup>

The first courthouse in Inverness was a rented wooden building standing near the site now occupied by Citrus Hardware. In 1891, Henry Martin donated a parcel of land (now the site of the present day courthouse). A well was drilled by R. B. Armstrong for \$49.50.<sup>4</sup> It was not until several years later that another wooden courthouse was constructed on the present site. This courthouse was occupied until the present day courthouse was erected in 1912 by Read-Parker Construction Company.

Evidently the courthouse building was opened to the public twenty-four hours a day until February, 1893, when the Sheriff was instructed to have locks put on all doors.<sup>5</sup>

Between 1894 and 1902 many alterations were added to the wooden courthouse. The courtroom ceiling, needing repair badly, was replaced in 1897. A water closet, judge's bar, and clerk's desk costing \$107.50 were installed in 1894.<sup>6</sup> In March, 1902, a fence fifty inches high, with galvanized wire, a one drive gate, and two walk gates, was installed by Mr. Miller.<sup>7</sup>

Coming before the Board of County Commissioners with a petition in June, 1901, Mr. James Williams requested that the courthouse be moved to another site. The Commissioners adjourned for lunch, and when they returned, Mr. Williams withdrew his petition because it did not contain one-third of the voters' signatures of Citrus County.<sup>8</sup> Even today there are still many arguments concerning the site of a new courthouse.

The matter of building a new courthouse was discussed in May, 1911, by the Board of County Commissioners. It was decided to levy a building tax at five mills on the dollar per annum to secure the necessary funds to pay for the erection of the courthouse.<sup>9</sup> The commissioners voted that the cost of the courthouse should not exceed \$50,000.00.

The Courthouse Building Committee in July, 1911, employed J.R. MacEachron as architect. The plans and model for the present courthouse were adopted from the courthouse in Bartow, Florida. Mr. MacEachron, failing to come before the Board of County Commissioners in October, 1911, with blueprints and specifications, was subsequently fired. Mr. Briggs, an architect from Tampa, Florida, was appointed the new architect and Mr. Stage was employed as Superintendent of Construction.<sup>10</sup>

Once again, in August, 1911, the citizens of Citrus County brought a petition before the Board of County Commissioners pertaining to the courthouse. The petition was signed by two hundred and forty-six names who believed the old courthouse was sufficient to meet the requirements for several years. After discussing the petition with the board, the petitioners decided to withdraw their names from the petition.<sup>11</sup>

The county commissioners at the time of the new courthouse construction were: *John* H. Gerock, *James Daniel* J.A. Hampton, J.D. Stephens, and D.J. Turner.

The Clerk, after advertising in the Citrus County Chronicle, the Daily Time's Journal, and the Atlanta Journal, opened the bidding on the construction of the courthouse in November, 1911. The following bids were submitted: Read-Parker Construction Company, \$49,965; Jett Brothers' Construction Company, \$50,000; E.B. Prater, \$59,349; Nicholas Itner, \$59,972; King Lumber Company, \$65,170; and J.F. Jenkins and Company, \$70,000. After considerable discussion, the county commissioners accepted the bid of Read-Parker Construction Company for \$49,965. Read-Parker Construction Company was also paid \$875 to move the courthouse far enough north so that construction could begin.<sup>12</sup>

Early in February, 1912, the Board of County Commissioners began to choose all the necessary materials for construction. The commissioners, after looking at many different types of brick, chose a light-colored flash brick. Hardwood and terrazo were chosen as the flooring for the new courthouse and fireplaces were chosen instead of steam heat. Today, the smokeshafts can no longer be seen due to remodeling.

The present day clock in the courthouse tower, known for its beautiful chiming, was purchased in October, 1911, for \$800. It can still be heard chiming on the hour when in Inverness. 13

In July, 1913, the old wooden courthouse was torn down by Mr. Hicks. One-half of the proceeds went to the county. Shortly after the courthouse was constructed, the County Commissioners discussed the renting of the rooms upstairs in the courthouse for \$5 to \$10 per month. These rooms were rented until the commissioners decided that more space was needed for county offices and storage.

All county offices were occupied by county officials. Some of them included the County Superintendent, County Agent, Home Demonstration Agent, County Nurse, Sheriff, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector, County Clerk, County Treasurer, and County Judge.

Since its erection, the courthouse has undergone continuous renovations to accommodate the growth of the county and the additions of new officers.

Although the site of the courthouse was undecided for many years, in 1891 land was donated in Inverness for the courthouse. To the present time, there has been much controversy concerning the location of a new courthouse; however, plans are now being formulated to build an annex in Inverness.



● **National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   9   Page   1   Old Citrus County Courthouse

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## OUTLINE

- I. Establishment of Government
  - A. County
  - B. Personnel
  
- II. Courthouse
  - A. Moffatt house
  - B. Gaffney house
    - 1. Mannfield
    - 2. Zimmerman refusal (property moved)
  - C. Rented wooden - first in Inverness
  - D. Constructed
    - 1. Parcel/well
  - E. Present
  
- III. Courthouse
  - A. Courthouse opened to public
  - B. Additions and alterations
  - C. Petition for removal
  - D. Request for permanent structure
  - E. Architect
  - F. Petition
  - G. Bids and procedures
    - 1. Advertisements
    - 2. Moving of old courthouse
  - H. Details of construction
  - I. Old courthouse disposed
  - J. Offices assigned/room rentals

FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Citrus County Commissioners Records, Vol. I.
- <sup>2</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>3</sup> Author unknown, A Brief History of Citrus County, p. 5.
- <sup>4</sup> Citrus County Commissioners Records, Vol. I.
- <sup>5</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>6</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>7</sup> Citrus County Commissioners Records, Vol. III, p. 405.
- <sup>8</sup> Citrus County Commissioners Records, Vol. II, p. 336.
- <sup>9</sup> Citrus County Commissioners Records, Vol. III, p. 423.-
- <sup>10</sup> Ibid., pp. 430-451.
- <sup>11</sup> Ibid., pp. 436-437.
- <sup>12</sup> Ibid., pp. 453-454.
- <sup>13</sup> Ibid., p. 440.

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Citrus County Commissioners Records, Inverness, Florida, Volumes 1-3.

# Historic Citrus structure still stands

It is the dominant, most recognizable building in Inverness. It is a building that has seen much of the history of Citrus County pass through its doors. The building is, of course, the "Old Courthouse" and was originally designed to be the central building of the political center of the county.

It is not the first courthouse in the county, nor the last. It is, however, one that has been in active use for almost 80 years. The original courthouse was the Moffat House in Mannfield, one of the first towns of the county, located in the center of Citrus.

A political struggle developed over which town was to be the most important in the county by holding the county seat. Several elections were held to determine the permanent site of the courthouse between 1888-1891. In 1891, Inverness won the right to have the courthouse, and therefore the political center of the county, moved there by a margin of nine votes.

Even though Inverness won the election, Mannfield tried to keep the courthouse. They attempted to get an injunction to stop the moving of the courthouse records. While the lawyers were debating the issue in court, the courthouse records were moved to Inverness in an episode known as "The Night They Stole the Courthouse" in May, 1891.

## CITRUS HERITAGE

Michael Ballard

Soon a wooden courthouse was built to house the various county offices. The building served for almost 20 years, then in 1911 it was decided a new courthouse should be built. Bids were issued and an architect was chosen. The original architect, J.R. MacEachron, failed to present blueprints for the building within the required time limit, so he was fired. A new architect, W.R. Biggers of Tampa, was hired.

The architect was to be paid 5 percent of the actual cost of the courthouse for his services. The County Commission approved the building plans, the Read-Parker Construction Company was hired, and the building program began. The cost of the building was \$49,965, just under the \$50,000 bid the county was willing to accept. The distinguishing feature of the courthouse, the clock tower, was an extra \$800.

The supervisor of construction was C.B. Stage, who was paid the handsome salary of \$100 a month, which was more than twice the salary of the clerk of courts. Since the new courthouse was built on the site of the old wooden courthouse, the County Commission paid \$875 to the construction company to move the

old building far enough away so that construction could begin in Courthouse Square.

The exterior walls were made of running brick in a buff color. There were four entrances to the courthouse. An ornamental iron fence ran around the perimeter of the square. The building was set at a 45-degree angle to the streets and was located so that the main roads of Inverness led to it.

Hardwood and terrazzo were used for the flooring. Chimneys and fireplaces provided the heat. There was no air conditioning at the time. To provide for circulation of air during the hot summer days, numerous windows were included on all sides of the building, and high ceilings allow the warm air to rise.

The first floor of the courthouse originally contained offices for the county judge, sheriff, board of public instruction, tax assessor, tax collector and the clerk of the court. The second floor of the two story courthouse contained the county court facilities.

The designers of the courthouse had planned ahead. There were extra rooms provided for the future needs of the county. The county commissioners rented the rooms - until needed by the county - for \$5 to \$10 a month.

The "Old Courthouse" provided

The Tampa Tribune, Saturday, May 26, 1990

county services for 55 years, until the New Courthouse was built in the late 1970s. But the magnificent old building still had its uses. Today it houses the Citrus County Historic Society, the county archives, various county offices and offices for state Senator Thurman and Representative Locke. In addition, it is the home of the county court.

Of Florida's 67 counties, the "Guide to Florida's Historic Architecture" lists 37 counties that have original or turn of the century courthouses left standing. Citrus County's "Old Courthouse" is the eleventh oldest of these historic structures. The role of this building in Citrus County's history makes it a vital part of our Citrus Heritage.

OLD COURTHOUSE  
FILE

# General William Smallwood Chapter

## Maryland Society, Sons of the American Revolution

*President*  
LCDR RICHARD SPENCER BIDDLE USNR (Ret.)  
8702 FAIRFAX ROAD  
CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815



*Secretary-Treasurer*  
CDR C. SNOWDEN CONKEY USNR-R  
14 HESKETH STREET  
CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815

9 November 1989

Miss Deborah Scott, Curator  
Citrus County Historical Society, Inc.  
Room 105 The Old Courthouse  
1 Courthouse Square, Inverness, Florida 32650

Dear Miss Scott,

The first time I passed through Inverness, I was taken by the Old Court House and its attractive Colonial cupola and this, aside from the town's name, set my interest in the town of Inverness.

On 19 October when I talked and showed some of my collection of Revolutionary artifacts and weapons to the DAR Chapter meeting at the Crown Hotel in Inverness, I especially was intrigued by the County Seat of Citrus County with the old remodeled hotel and the Court House. I did feel that had the dome of the cupola been copper it could in time take on the green patina that enhances and artistically makes bronze outdoor statues more valuable.

In today's world there are too many who live only in the present and are all too ready to change or destroy historic treasures and as a result in many cities such as the business area of Washington, D. C. all one sees are mindless shapes of almost look-alike glass and steel that some might call Architecture.

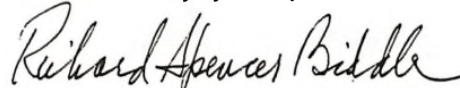
I love to see, in various County Seats and State Capitols, the original buildings built with good taste by our ancestors. The State House in Boston with its gold leaf dome was designed by the great Architect Charles Bulfinch. The central part of the U. S. Capitol was designed by Dr. William Thornton, who also designed the Octagon House in Washington, D. C., Headquarters of the AIA, American Institute of Architecture, which was the temporary "White House" for President Madison after the British burned the President's House later called the White House which was painted over the burn as they didn't have sand blasting in those days to clean up a building. My own home County Court House was designed by the famous Architect Stanford White but a few years ago some unfeeling politicians had the tower and cupola removed thus spoiling the work of one of America's greatest architects and leaving just an old stone block ediface. Clara's father was born in Madison Virginia some years back. I was attracted to their Court House with its Colonial cupola and dome though it is much smaller than your Court House.

I have been most of my life in various branches of the Art Field except when I was a gunnery officer on a Heavy Cruiser in the Navy in WWII. After being selected to start and plan the newly established Navy Museum in Washington in 1961, I stayed as Art Director and Historian until I retired in 1971. I have been, for many years, a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation whose Headquarters are in Washington, D. C. near DuPont Circle on Massachusetts Avenue.

Citrus County is an old Florida County and there are several people I know from there whose forefears homesteaded there in the 1840s and in my own opinion the Old Court House should be used as a Historic Museum so that future generations can see in exhibits the early and expanding history of the County. The whole state was purchased from the Spanish in the late 1820s. The Caloosa Indians, who may have come from Central America, ruled much of Western Florida for over 3000 years. The Seminoles were late comers from the Creek tribes of Georgia coming to fill the vacuum left by the demise of the Caloosas.

I strongly recommend that Inverness realize the value of its County Court House and find a way to preserve it as it was originally built.

Sincerely yours,



Richard Spencer Biddle

FLORIDA MASTER  
SITE FILE

FDAHRM 802 = =

Site No. 8Ci 161 1009 = = County Citrus 808 = =

Site Name Citrus County Courthouse 830 = =

Other Name(s) for Site \_\_\_\_\_ 930 = =

Other Nos. for Site \_\_\_\_\_ 906 = =

Other Master Site File Nos. for Site \_\_\_\_\_ 899 = =

NR Classification Category building 916 = =

Address of Site \_\_\_\_\_ 905 = =

Instructions for locating site located on the plaza at the intersection of  
Main Street (S.R. 44) and Apopka Avenue; Inverness, Florida

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ 813 = =

Vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ 868 = =

subdivision name

block no.

lot no.

Owner of Site:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ;

Address \_\_\_\_\_ 902 = =

Occupant, Tenant, or Manager:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ;

Address \_\_\_\_\_ 904 = =

Reporter (or local contact):

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ;

Address \_\_\_\_\_ 816 = =

Recorder:

Name Queen, Rolla L. (Historic Sites Specialist) ;

Address Florida Division of Archives, History & Records Management 818 = =

Survey Date 8103 820 = = Type Ownership County 848 = =

Name of Project (under which site was recorded) \_\_\_\_\_ 980 = =

Classification of Project: Check One

Federal 982 = =  State 982 = =  Local 982 = =  County 982 = =

Inventory Status \_\_\_\_\_ 914 = =

Previous Survey(s), Excavation(s) or Collection(s): (enter activity/title of project or survey/name/date/repository)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ 839 = =

Recording Station HPS 804 = =

Date of Visit to Site 8103 828 = = Recording Date 8103 832 = =

Photographic Record Numbers 81No31-HPS #15a, 16a, 17a, 18a, 19a, 27a

\_\_\_\_\_ 860 = =

### HISTORIC SITE DATA SUPPLEMENT

Present Use (Check one or more as appropriate)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural 850 ==  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government 850 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Park 850 ==              | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation 850 == |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial 850 ==    | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial 850 ==            | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence 850 == | Other (specify):                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational 850 ==   | <input type="checkbox"/> Military 850 ==              | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious 850 ==         | <input type="checkbox"/> 850 ==                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment 850 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum 850 ==                | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific 850 ==        | <input type="checkbox"/> 850 ==                |

Original Use (check one or more as appropriate)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural 838 ==  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government 838 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Park 838 ==              | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation 838 == |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial 838 ==    | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial 838 ==            | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence 838 == | Other (specify):                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational 838 ==   | <input type="checkbox"/> Military 838 ==              | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious 838 ==         | <input type="checkbox"/> 838 ==                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment 838 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum 838 ==                | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific 838 ==        | <input type="checkbox"/> 838 ==                |

Cultural Classification: Specific Dates: Beginning +1912 844 ==

Culture/Phase American 840 ==

Period (check one or more as appropriate)

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian 845 == | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century 845 == | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century 845 == | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century 845 == |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century 845 ==  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century 845 == | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century 845 == |   |

Areas of Significance (check one or more as appropriate)

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal 910 ==              | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning 910 ==       | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape 910 ==      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture 910 ==           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology 910 ==             | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation 910 ==             | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture 910 ==   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian 910 == |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric 910 ==             | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics 910 ==                | <input type="checkbox"/> Law 910 ==            | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater 910 ==             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology Historic 910 ==    | <input type="checkbox"/> Education 910 ==                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature 910 ==     | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation 910 ==      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture 910 ==             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering 910 ==              | <input type="checkbox"/> Military 910 ==       | Other (specify):                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration & Settlement 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Music 910 ==          | <input type="checkbox"/> 910 ==                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art 910 ==                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry 910 ==                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy 910 ==     | <input type="checkbox"/> 910 ==                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce 910 ==                | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention 910 ==                | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/Govt. 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> 910 ==                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications 910 ==          |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion 910 ==       | <input type="checkbox"/> 910 ==                     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Science 910 ==        | <input type="checkbox"/> 910 ==                     |

Remarks & Recommendations: Building appears to meet the N.R. criteria. A nomination or determination of eligibility may be required depending upon the particular by-pass route chosen through the city of Inverness.

835 ==

Accessible:  yes: restricted  yes: unrestricted  no

Status:  occupied  unoccupied  work in progress

Location of Site (Specific): USGS Inverness 7.5 min. (1974) 809 = =

Township	Range	Section	¼ Sec.	¼ ¼ Sec.	¼ ¼ ¼ Sec.
19S	20E	17			

812 = =

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A POLYGON LOCATING THE PROPERTY

Point	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
	.	'	"	.	'	"
	.	'	"	.	'	"
	.	'	"	.	'	"
	.	'	"	.	'	"
	.	'	"	.	'	"

OR

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

.	'	"	.	'	"
---	---	---	---	---	---

800 = =

UTM Perimeter:

Zone	Easting	Northing

890 = =

UTM Coordinates: 17 891 = = 369220 892 = = 3190340 893 = =  
zone easting northing

<p><b>Condition of Site:</b></p> <p>Check One</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent 863 = =</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good 863 = =</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fair 863 = =</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated 863 = =</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ruins 863 = =</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed 863 = =</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Redeposited 863 = =</p>	<p><b>Integrity of Site:</b></p> <p>Check One or More</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered 858 = =</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered 858 = =</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Destroyed 858 = =</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Restored ( ) (Date: ) ( ) 858 = =</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moved ( ) (Date: ) ( ) 858 = =</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site 858 = =</p>
---	--

Condition of Site (Remarks): ( 858 ) awning windows replaced original glazing.  
interior has been panelled, but original walls still remain; ( ) 863 = =  
handicapped access placed at North portico.

Threats to Site:

Check One or More

Zoning ( ) ( ) 878 = =

Transportation ( ) ( ) 878 = =

Development ( ) ( ) 878 = =

Fill ( ) ( ) 878 = =

Deterioration ( ) ( ) 878 = =

Dredge ( ) ( ) 878 = =

Borrowing ( ) ( ) 878 = =

Other (See Remarks Below): 878 = =

Threats to Site (Remarks): Building and grounds subject to impact by the expansion of S.R.44 or the construction of an alternate by-pass using Tompkins Avenue.

**ARCHITECTURAL SITE DATA SUPPLEMENT**

ARCHITECT Biggers, W.R. (Tampa) 872 = =  
BUILDER Read-Parker Construction Company 874 = =  
STYLE Neo-Classical Revival 964 = =  
PLAN TYPE square 966 = =  
EXTERIOR FABRIC(S) brick, running 854 = =  
STRUCTURAL SYSTEM(S) \_\_\_\_\_ 856 = =

FEATURE OF STRUCTURE (942):

PORCHES, VERANDAS, GALLERIES AND BALCONIES: N&S/2-story portico with

Tuscan columns; E&W/2-story portico with paired Tuscan columns 942 = =

FOUNDATION: \_\_\_\_\_ 942 = =

ROOF TYPE: Hip; Flat, built up with stepped parapet 942 = =

SECONDARY ROOF STRUCTURE(S): Dome, ribbed with drum and belvedere 942 = =

CHIMNEY LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_ 942 = =

WINDOW TYPE: awning, 6 light, metal; paired: Clear story, fixed sash with paired and triple sash with Roman screen motif. 942 = =

MATERIALS (882):

CHIMNEY: \_\_\_\_\_ 882 = =

ROOF SURFACING: tile, barrel 882 = =

ORNAMENT EXTERIOR: brick(buff), concrete 882 = =

QUANTITATIVE DATA (950-960):

NO. OF STORIES 2½ 950 = =

NO. OF CHIMNEYS \_\_\_\_\_ 952 = =

NO. OF DORMERS 4 954 = =

Page 1  
original  
update

HISTORICAL STRUCTURE FORM  
FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE

Site 8 CI00016  
Recorder # 8ci-0/61

*filed FMSF # 161 sample P. Anderson*

SITE NAME Old County Court house  
HISTORIC CONTEXTS \_\_\_\_\_  
NAT. REGISTER CATEGORY \_\_\_\_\_  
OTHER NAMES OR MSF NOS \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY Citrus OWNERSHIP TYPE \_\_\_\_\_  
PROJECT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DHR NO \_\_\_\_\_  
LOCATION (Attach copy of USGS map, sketch-map of immediate area)  
ADDRESS Courthouse Square CITY Inverness  
VICINITY OF / ROUTE TO \_\_\_\_\_  
SUBDIVISION \_\_\_\_\_ BLOCK NO \_\_\_\_\_ LOT NO \_\_\_\_\_  
PLAT OR OTHER MAP \_\_\_\_\_  
TOWNSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ RANGE \_\_\_\_\_ SECTION \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4-1/4 \_\_\_\_\_  
IRREGULAR SEC? Y N LAND GRANT \_\_\_\_\_  
USGS 7.5' MAP \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM: ZONE \_\_\_\_\_ EASTING \_\_\_\_\_ NORTHING \_\_\_\_\_  
COORDINATES: LATITUDE \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ S LONGITUDE \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ S

HISTORY

ARCHITECT: F \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_  
BUILDER: F \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_  
CONST DATE 1910-13 CIRCA \_\_\_\_\_ RESTORATION DATE(S): \_\_\_\_\_  
MODIFICATION DATE(S): \_\_\_\_\_  
MOVE: DATE \_\_\_\_\_ ORIG LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_  
ORIGINAL USE(S) County Courthouse  
PRESENT USES(S) County Offices - Citrus County Historical Society  
Office and Museum - Trattie Court  
Archives

DESCRIPTION

STYLE \_\_\_\_\_  
PLAN: EXTERIOR \_\_\_\_\_  
INTERIOR \_\_\_\_\_  
NO.: STORIES \_\_\_\_\_ OUTBLDGS \_\_\_\_\_ PORCHES \_\_\_\_\_ DORMERS \_\_\_\_\_  
STRUCTURAL SYSTEM(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
EXTERIOR FABRIC(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
FOUNDATION: TYPE \_\_\_\_\_ MATLS \_\_\_\_\_  
INFILL \_\_\_\_\_  
PORCHES \_\_\_\_\_  
ROOF: TYPE \_\_\_\_\_ SURFACING \_\_\_\_\_  
SECONDARY STRUCS. \_\_\_\_\_  
CHIMNEY: NO \_\_\_\_\_ MTLs \_\_\_\_\_ LOCNS \_\_\_\_\_  
WINDOWS \_\_\_\_\_  
EXTERIOR ORNAMENT \_\_\_\_\_  
CONDITION \_\_\_\_\_ SURROUNDINGS \_\_\_\_\_  
NARRATIVE (general, interior, landscape, context; 3 lines only)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AT THE SITE

FMSF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FORM COMPLETED? Y N (IF Y, ATTACH)  
ARTIFACTS OR OTHER REMAINS \_\_\_\_\_

*F. Lander*

RECORDER'S EVALUATION OF SITE  
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

ELIGIBLE FOR NAT. REGISTER? y n likely, need info insf inf  
SIGNIF. AS PART OF DISTRICT? y n likely, need info insf inf  
SIGNIFICANT AT LOCAL LEVEL? y n likely, need info insf inf

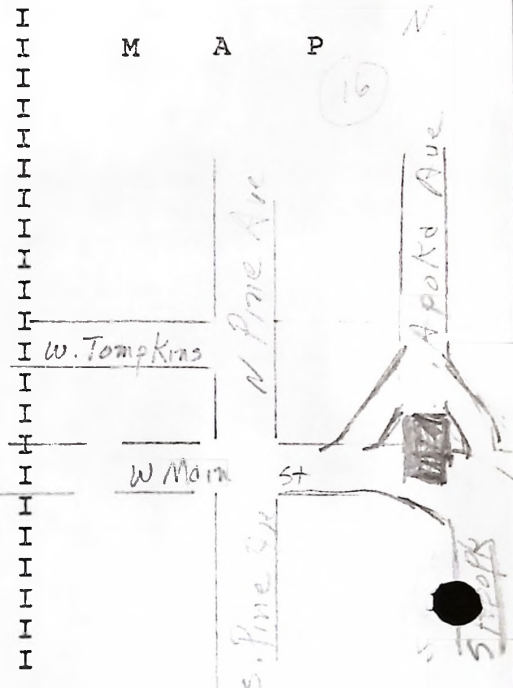
SUMMARY ON SIGNIFICANCE (Limit to three lines provided; see page 3)

\* \* \*DHR USE ONLY\* \* \* \* \* DHR USE ONLY \* \*  
\*  
\* DATE LISTED ON NR \*  
\* KEEPER DETERMINATION OF ELIG.(DATE): -YES \_\_\_\_\_ -NO \_\_\_\_\_ \*  
\* SHPO EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY (DATE): -YES \_\_\_\_\_ -NO \_\_\_\_\_ \*  
\* LOCAL DETERMINATION OF ELIG.(DATE): -YES \_\_\_\_\_ -NO \_\_\_\_\_ \*  
\* OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_ \*  
\* \* \*DHR USE ONLY\* \* \* \* \* DHR USE ONLY \* \*

RECORDER INFORMATION: NAME F \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: MO \_\_\_\_\_ YR \_\_\_\_\_ AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_

PHOTOGRAPHS (Attach a labeled print bigger than contact size)  
LOCATION OF NEGATIVES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEGATIVE NUMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

PHOTOGRAPH



*AH Kay  
1756529*

LINE

CITRUS

OSCEOLA

SEMINOLE

PINE

N. ARDREKA

ANTHONY

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CVA  
457  
Routin  
Board

(ORANGE)  
CROWN  
HOTEL

PARKING  
LOT

414  
410  
COR

Cent 21  
21

Gulf

BANK OF  
IND

ALIENS  
3 SHOPS

COKE  
COLA  
BLDG  
NEW  
COURT  
HOUSE

500

400

300

200

HIGH  
SCHOOL

Shell

METHODIST  
CHURCH

BOND  
WOMEN'S  
CLUB

311

Photo  
SURVEYORS

AMCO

OLD  
COURT-  
HOUSE

PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ANNEX  
105 GREY

Annex 108

110

FIRST  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH

TEX  
GAS

BRADCO

BRACE ST.

PUBLIC  
SCHOOL

CITRUS  
MEMORIAL  
HOSPITAL

307

FS

HIGH AND

CITRUS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OLD COURT HOUSE  
INVERNESS, FLORIDA 32650

HISTORICAL SITE INVENTORY CHECKLIST

Site Name Old Court House-Citrus County - 161 Date of Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Description: Blk \_\_\_\_\_ Sec \_\_\_\_\_ Twp \_\_\_\_\_ Rng \_\_\_\_\_ Book \_\_\_\_\_ Pg \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions for Locating Site \_\_\_\_\_

Map Reference (incl scale & date) \_\_\_\_\_ Site Size \_\_\_\_\_

Original Use of Site Court House Beginning Date \_\_\_\_\_

Present Use of Site Court House Annex Beginning Date \_\_\_\_\_

Present Legal Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Prior Legal Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Verified \_\_\_\_\_

Prior Legal Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Verified \_\_\_\_\_

Historical Significance of Site \_\_\_\_\_

erected 1912, Architect-W.R.Biggers, Contractor-Read-Parker Const. Co. Hip roof surrounded by  
flat roof- Hip Roof clay tile, flat roof -built up, Brick walls, 4 entrances-N.S.E.&W.  
windows-aluminum.

<u>Condition of Site</u>	<u>Integrity of Site</u>	<u>Threats to Site</u>	
Excellent X	Altered	Zoning	Transportation X
Good	Unaltered	Development	Fill
Fair	Original Site X	Deterioration	Dredging
Poor	Restored-Date _____	Borrowing	Vandalism
Deteriorated	Moved-Date _____	Other _____	

Persons who would serve as information sources concerning site \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS: \_\_\_\_\_

RECORDER \_\_\_\_\_

COURTHOUSE

- 6 Sept 1887 - Bids on Temporary Courthouse - Received bids to repaint and add to the Moffatt House - Board accepted bid of P.K. Moore in the sum of \$277.50 Book 1 p 18/19
- 5 Oct 1887 - Bids for Policing Grounds - Clerk to accept bids for policing grounds around Courthouse so as to keep the hogs from bedding under the house. book 1 p 47
- 16 Jan 1891 - Bids - Repair to Courthouse front opened BCC accepted bid of \$25.00 from Reid & Edwards as lowest bid. *B1 p 202*
- 6 Oct 1891 - Bids - Courthouse construction awarded to R.B. McGechin *B1 p 239*
- 2 Apr 1894 - Courthouse Square Fence - Messrs, Henderson & Harris of Jacksonville Marble Co. submitted bids - no action taken. Book 1 p 413
- 3 Apr 1894 - Courtroom Renovation Bid - The board accepted the bid of J.D. Stevens to repair courtroom & build a water closet in the rear of the courthouse for \$47.50 book 1 p 416
- 7 Aug 1894 - Courthouse Fence - proposition of Frank Manley Machine Co. of Dalton Ga. accepted for \$490.00 for 700 Feet of railing complete Book 1 p 444
- 4 Feb 1875 - C.H. Fence- Not having heard from Frank Manley Machine Co, regarding said fence the contract for same is annulled & cancelled book 1 p 489
- 2 June 1889 - Painting C.H. & jail - Bids opened - 3 received Thomas A. Vincent was accepted \$111.99 -awarded contract book 2 p 135
- 7 Oct 1907 - Bids - C.H. Addition - Opened bid of T.H. Ramsey for \$680.00 accepted & he was awarded contract book 3 p 222
- 27 Nov 1911 - Bids Construct C.H. - Received, all except Read Parker Construction Co. (RPCC) rejected, RPCC held over until 4 Dec (\$49,965.00) straight bid, \$44,000.00 at 8% commission B 3 p 453
- 4 Dec 1911 - C.H. Construction - Accepted bid of RPCC in amount of \$49,965.00. B3 p 454
- 4 Dec 1911 Bid - Old C.H. Building - Accepted bid of Read Parker Construction Co. in the amount of \$875.00 to remove building & Clerks vault to clear C.H. lot. Action taken this morning in regard to sale of same rescinded B 3 p 453

COURTHOUSE Cont

- 5 May 1913 - Bids C.H. work - Board accepted the bid of Graham & Stage in the amount of \$2,079.00 for all concrete work \$1,035.00 for grading \$775.00 for fence & \$111.00 for pipe line to carry off storm water - total \$3,980.00  
B 4 p 66
- 2 Jun 1913 - C.H. Furnishings - Accepted bid of Fielder & Allen Co. of Atlanta for \$3,782.00  
B 4 p 70
- 3 Apr 1916 - Bids - C.H. Windows - Bids to furnish necessary glass to repair windows broken as a result of fire were received - Accepted bid of Smith & Young for \$40.50  
B4 p 266
- 2 Jun 1922 - Furnishing & erecting monument - Accepted bid of Ocala Marble Works design #5165 from Pittsburg Valley Marble 1510.00 to be erected & approved by the board prior to payment  
B5 p 91 *what monument -*
- 4 Sept 1950 - Re Wiring C.H. - Accepted bid of Bob White Electric Co. of Ocala \$2,691.00  
B11 p 138/139
- 7 Mar 1951 - Fixing ceiling in C.H. - One bid received - Acoustic Engineering Co. Of FL, Tampa \$1,188.00 accepted  
B 11 p 175/176
- 17 Mar 1952 - Repairs to Clock Tower in C.H. - Bid of Marion Heating & Roofing Co. accepted \$829.00  
B 11 p 266/267
- 7 Nov 1939 C.H. Firewood - Motion to allow clerk to purchase wood for heating at \$2.00 per strand  
B 8 p 544

# Courthouse attracted Elvis — and opposition

By GEORGE WILKENS  
Tribune Staff Writer

INVERNESS — The county's most famous landmark, a typically Southern-style courthouse, has attracted the attention of many during its 75-year history, including a moviemaker. But the impressive

brick structure and even the idea of building it was not initially popular.

In 1911, Citrus County had some 6,700 residents, including 13 individuals who owned 14 automobiles (Dr. H.A. Reaves of Inverness owned both a Cadillac and an Oakland).

What Citrus County did not need,

said many residents of that day, was a new courthouse. But the Board of County Commissioners decided otherwise and in May of 1911 levied an annual five-mill building tax to finance construction of a new courthouse, not to exceed \$50,000.

The frame structure that had served as a courthouse since the late 1890s still had a lot of life in it, said 246 residents who signed a petition presented to the County Commission in August 1911.

Records of that meeting are not

too specific, but they state that after a discussion with commissioners, petitioners agreed to withdraw the document.

The lowest of the six bids on the

See COURT, Page 16



## Court

• From Page 14

project was submitted by Read-Parker Construction Co., which offered to build the courthouse for \$35 below the \$50,000 ceiling commissioners had set. The firm picked up another \$875 for moving the existing courthouse slightly to the north to make room for the new one.

In October the county purchased for \$800 the chiming four-faced clock for the courthouse cupola. In February 1912 they began selecting building materials: a light-colored

flash brick for the exterior, hardwood and terrazo for the floors. Fireplaces were selected rather than steam heat.

Later that year the courthouse was completed, providing ample space and storage for county offices, even allowing the rental of upstairs rooms for \$5 to \$10 monthly.

The building, designed after the one at Bartow in Polk County, housed the offices of most county officials, including Citrus County's sheriff, judge, county agent, home demonstration agent, county nurse, county treasurer, tax assessor and tax collector.

The old building has undergone

numerous renovations over the years, and the fireplace chimneys are no longer visible. The old clock still works but no longer chimes.

Annie May Hensley is among those who remember the building in its heyday.

There were still brass spittoons in the courtroom and the County Commission meeting room when Hensley went to work in the building in 30 years ago, she recalls. No one seemed to object to the tobacco-chewing officials, she said.

"It was hot" in the old building. "We didn't have air conditioning," only a few oscillating fans to move the warm, summer air until wall

unit air conditioners were added many years after Hensley started working there in 1957.

Heat was not the only discomfort she remembers. There were the hard wooden benches in the courtroom and meeting rooms.

The courthouse floor plan had many employees working in central, large rooms, with supervisors' offices to the side. "It was kinda open," recalls Hensley, who still works in the office of Citrus County Property Assessor Charles Allen.

Hensley was also among several courthouse employees with fond memories of a brief motion picture career, playing \$10-a-day courtroom

extras in an Elvis Presley movie filmed partly in Citrus County.

It was a hot July morning in 1961 when a long white Cadillac pulled to the courthouse curb and out-stepped the one-time Mississippi truck driver who rose to rock 'n' roll fame as "The King."

Then 26 and racking up regular hits since his first million-seller, "Heartbreak Hotel," some six years earlier, his appearance set the courthouse crowd on its ear. Crowds gathered to watch Elvis toss a football around with some of the 100-member crew during filming breaks. He was down to earth and provided autographs when asked.

# Citrus historical society reprints Hampton Dunn's 'Back Home'

By LELAND HAWES  
Tribune Columnist

Prolific author Hampton Dunn has another book "hot off the press," but this one is a reprint of his earlier volume, "Back Home, a History of Citrus County, Florida."

Out of print for some years now, the 500-page "Back Home" originally was published by the Citrus County Bicentennial steering committee in 1976. This time, the Citrus County Historical Society sponsored the new edition.

Since Dunn is a native of Floral City, his wholehearted enthusiasm for this scenic area comes through on every page. There are pictures galore, representing every era in the county's evolution through 1976.

One of the most colorful stories recounted in "Back Home" is "The Night the Courthouse Was Stolen."

Citrus County had been carved from the once-huge Hernando County June 2, 1887, at the same time Pasco County was created. The first county seat for Citrus was a town called Mannville, which was to hold the honor "until removed by a vote of the registered voters."

Dunn says that Mannville presumably was named for state Sen. Austin S. Mann, and was "situated

## Mailbag

midway between Chalo Apopka Lake and the Gulf of Mexico, 7 miles from the Homosassa River." Mannville stood in the geographical center of the new county.

The town had been settled only three years before. An 1887 gazetteer listed a population of 250, lagging slightly behind Floral City, which had 300 people. It was linked by stage coach to Brooksville and Crystal River.

The late Judge E.C. May gave Dunn one account of how the county seat came to be moved from Mannville in 1891.

He said Mann "was the most colorful character ever to flash across our political horizon." He had settled in the area earlier and invested in land and timber, while planning canals and other improvements.

With anticipation of the coming of the railroad, Mann organized his town and expected the tracks would head that way. But Judge May wrote that the discovery of phosphate in the area about that time "possibly" brought a change.

At any rate, the railroad headed for Inverness instead, where six politically powerful men earlier had laid out another town. "From the first, these six men and their friends were in control of politics and government of the new county," May said.

A struggle developed over the permanent site of the county seat. The six men contended it ought to be moved to Inverness, and of course Sen. Mann wanted it kept in Mannville.

An election was called, and May related that the fight went beyond words to the "knock-down-and-drag-out" variety.

The election results brought charges and counter-charges of fraud. Mann's forces sought an injunction to keep the county records in Mannville.

Circuit Judge Henry L. Mitchell, the only judge available, was holding court in Dade City, and the Mannville group dispatched a lawyer to seek him. He found the judge boarding the train to Tampa. The lawyer "jumped on the train" and sought to argue his case all the way to Tampa.

By the time he returned to Citrus County the next day, the point was moot. For the Inverness advo-



Tribune file photograph

The Citrus County Courthouse, seen here in this shot from the 1950s, still stands in Inverness.

cates had decided to move court records — and even the court clerk, his chair and desk — overnight.

According to J.C. Priest, son of the sheriff at that time, Judge Mitchell ruled in favor of Inverness, anyway. So the battle was over.

A wooden courthouse was

ness today.

Incidentally, Sen. Mann's daughter May had accompanied her father to the 1891 session of the Legislature and met a young judge from her county. They were married later in the spring.

May Mann Jennings became

women's suffrage.

Dunn's book will appeal to anybody with an interest in Citrus County and its past. It is full of family stories and anecdotes relating to the towns as they grew.

Copies are available at museums run by the Historical Society in In-

NEW STAIR

RAMP

LANDING

SHERIFF

CO. JUDGE

BD. OF PUBLIC INST.

TAX ASSESSOR

RECORDS

TAX COLLECTOR

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

7-6

22-0

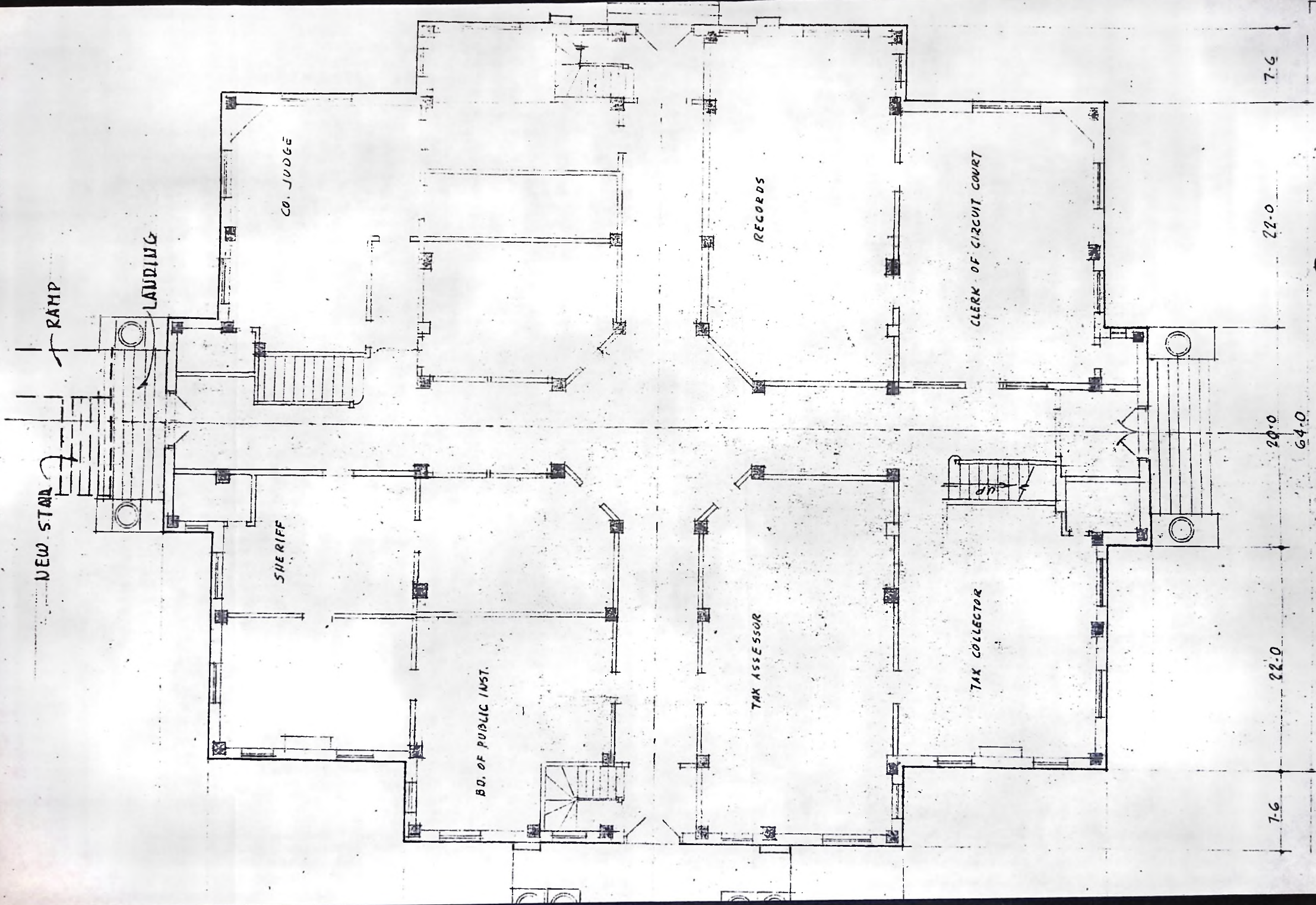
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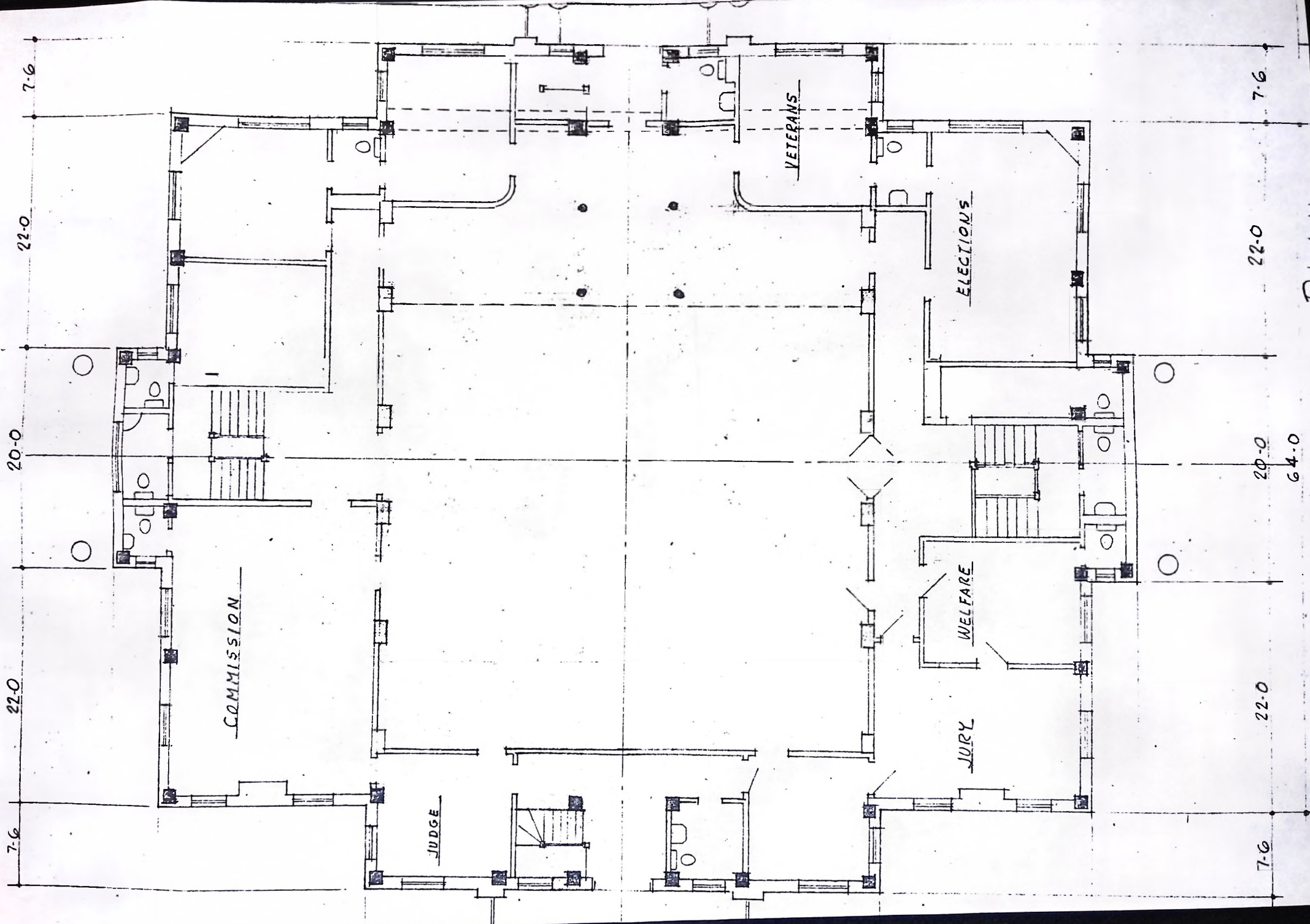
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1st FLOOR PLAN





7 NO E I O O D

## Courthouse Controversy

In 1887 Hernando County was divided to create Pasco, Citrus and Hernando Counties. The legislation that divided the counties also named Mannfield as the temporary county seat. Mannfield, located in the middle of the county, was to be county seat for at least two years.

The location of the county seat became the most controversial issue of the day. Some wanted it moved to Inverness while others wanted it to remain Mannfield.

On May 4, 1891, after four years of debate, Inverness officially became Citrus' County Seat.

To avoid any more confrontation, all the county property was moved that same day. Clark Zimmerman, the Court Clerk, refused to move himself and the records to Inverness. The sheriff was advised to move them. Everything was placed in a wagon, including the clerk still sitting in his chair, and transported to Inverness where they were unloaded.

The first courthouse in Inverness was a rented building. In a short time land was donated by Henry Martin for a courthouse to be built. That land is courthouse square.

A woodframe, Victorian style building was built on the site. This building served as courthouse until, amid great controversy, the building was moved and another courthouse was built. In 1912 the Read-Parker Construction Company was hired for the job with a bid of \$49,965. They were also paid \$875 to move the original courthouse.

In February of 1912, the Board of County Commission-

ers chose the building materials for the courthouse. The clock in the courthouse tower was purchased for \$800. They chose the bricks, the hardwood and terrazzo floors and fireplaces instead of steam heat. Today there are no signs of the chimneys. Over the years, through remodeling, they have all been removed.

In July of 1913, with the new courthouse in use, the original courthouse was torn down.

During the latter part of the 1970's a new courthouse controversy arose. The courthouse was full and more room was needed. It no longer was sufficient to serve the needs of the fast growing Citrus County. Again there were people who wanted to tear the building down and rebuild. There were also many who wanted to keep the courthouse and build an annex for storing records. Through the hard work and diligence of many caring people the courthouse was saved. Instead of building an annex they built a new courthouse on another location. Citrus County now has the "Old Courthouse" with its historical beauty and the "New Courthouse" which is more functional and of the large capacity that was needed.

The "Old Courthouse" now houses our State Representative Dick Locke's office and State Senator Karen Thurman's office. It also holds Judge Gary Graham's chambers and the Green Thumb office. And, appropriately, the Citrus County Historical Society Museum and Archives are also located in this historical building.

Wm. Sherman Jennings born 24 Mar 1863.  
at Walnut Hill, Marion, Illinois. 1 of 9  
children. His parents were Josephus Waters  
& Amanda Couch. Josephus was an  
attorney & justice of Marion Co. Ill.

Sherman Jennings attended local schools,  
1882 & 1883 Southern Ill. Normal University  
at Carbondale, Ill.

afterward he went to Salem, Ill.  
where he read law with his brother  
Charles & his Uncle Silas Bryan, father  
of Wm Jennings Bryan, the "great  
Commoner". Jennings mother & Silas  
were brother & sister

Jennings moved to Brooksville, Florida  
in late 1885. Jennings first wife was  
Corinne Jordan, daughter of a Brooksville  
merchant, who died only a few months after  
their wedding. March 1890. He married  
May Mason in 1891. In Nov 1893 their  
only child Sherman Bryan Jennings was  
born.

Wm Jennings Bryan gave a speech  
from the balcony of the Jennings home  
in Feb 1900. He spent 4 days in Brooksville

The Jennings were active members of  
Brooksville's First Baptist Church, where  
Sherman was a deacon & Sunday school  
teacher. The church burned in 1899.

In 1892 and again in 1894 was elected  
to the state legislature. In 1893 House of  
Representatives. He served on the finance  
& taxation, judiciary & constitutional

Amendments Committee & as chairman  
of public health & rules. 1895 he was  
speaker of the House.

Jennings attended the national  
Democratic convention in Indianapolis  
& was present when his cousin Wm  
Jennings Bryan won his second  
presidential nomination.

Jennings won receiving 81% of the  
vote. ~~His cousin~~ The national  
Democratic party was less fortunate.  
Wm Jennings Bryan and his running mate,  
Adlai Stevenson were defeated by McKinley  
& Roosevelt.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1 Old Polk County Courthouse

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Summary:

The Old Polk County Courthouse is significant under Criterion A: Politics/Government, as the major public building in Polk County from 1908 to 1987. It is significant under Criterion C: Architecture, as an excellent example of Neo-Classical Revival architecture which has been preserved with few alterations.

The Old Polk County Courthouse, built in 1908-1909, is located on the site of the previous 1867 and 1884 courthouses, the land having been donated in 1867 by Jacob Summerlin, one of Florida's most prominent pioneers. The 1908-1909 edifice reflected the rapid growth of the county during the early twentieth century phosphate boom in Central Florida. Further expansion of the building was necessary as the county grew during the 1920's Florida Land Boom, and two wings were added in 1926. This building continued to serve as the county courthouse until 1987, when a new courthouse was built to the northwest.

Historic Context:

Polk County is located in the center of the Florida peninsula, part of an area that was reserved for the Seminole Indians during Florida's territorial period. In 1843, the Armed Occupation Act encouraged settlement, and white pioneers started to come to the area. James Whidden brought his family in 1843, and became the first white settler in what would later be Polk County. Other settlers came and established homesteads nearby. They were small scale farmers, hunters, and fishermen. Fort Meade, a military post during the Second Seminole War (1835-1842), became a trading post, and Riley Blount opened a general store at Fort Blount in 1858.

The Territory of Florida attained statehood in 1845, and the villages of Fort Meade, Socrum, Kathleen, Homeland, and Fort Blount were officially established. Polk County, named after President James K. Polk, was created from the eastern portion of Hillsborough County and small parts of two other counties. Through the influence of Jacob Summerlin (1821-1893), Fort Blount was designated the county seat. Summerlin was one of the foremost and richest cattlemen in Florida history, and was known as the "cattle king of his generation" and as the "King of the Crackers". The Civil War prevented the county government from becoming fully operational, however, and Fort Blount had no permanent government buildings.

With its small white population, Polk County's contribution to the Confederate cause was limited, and only 80 men were sent to fight for the Confederacy. Florida's most important contribution to the cause was salt and cattle, and the latter became especially important after the western supply of

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beef was halted by the surrender of Vicksburg, Mississippi in July 1863. Polk County was rich in cattle, and Jacob Summerlin was the largest and most important rancher.

After the war's end, Summerlin in 1867 had a survey made of the 160 acre Riley Blount homestead he had purchased in 1862. He gave most of it to the town, specifying that it be used as the county seat. The first courthouse was built on the site that year (1867), about the same time the town's name was changed to Bartow, in honor of Confederate General Francis F. Bartow who was the first general killed in the Civil War. The county economy was based on cattle, citrus, and timber.

Polk County was landlocked, however, and like many Florida counties it did not begin to prosper until the coming of the railroad in the 1880s. A new courthouse was built in 1884. The discovery of phosphate in 1886, and the later development of the industry transformed the area. In January 1887, the Peace River Phosphate Company was formed; by 1893, there were about two hundred phosphate companies on paper, with about a tenth of them in operation. Pine lands that had sold for \$1.50 an acre cost \$200 an acre and were eagerly sought after.

In spite of the freezes of 1894-95 which greatly damaged Florida's citrus industry, the instability of the phosphate industry, and the national depression in the early 1900s, the county's population continued to grow and nearly doubled between 1900 and 1910. This rapid growth led to increasing demands for a new, larger courthouse.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE, CRITERION A

The County Commissioners accepted the plans and specifications presented by E.C. Hosford & Company, architects from Eastman, Georgia. The proposed building was to be "one hundred nineteen (119) feet six (6) inches by eighty-eight (88) feet; three (3) stories high; faced with stone and pressed brick; all floors to be fire proof; also ceiling of third floors." There were to be fireproof stairs and partitions throughout, a slate roof, plumbing, and electrical wiring.

On July 23, 1908, ground was broken for the foundation, and the cornerstone was laid on December 17, 1908. The Mutual Construction Company of Louisville, Kentucky, was the building contractor. By June 3, 1909, all county offices had moved into the new courthouse, and on June 25, about 6,000 Polk County residents gathered to dedicate their new courthouse. In October 1911, improvements were made with the addition of paint, concrete walks, and flower beds.

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Old Polk County Courthouse

Polk County grew steadily, and in 1920 it had a population of 38,661. With the Florida Land Boom of the 1920's, all of the state underwent unprecedented growth. Like the rest of the state, Polk County saw rampant land speculation, but unlike most of Florida, Polk had strong foundations in its citrus, cattle, and phosphate industries.

In late 1926, at the height of the Boom, the courthouse underwent its first and only expansion. Two matching Neo-Classical Revival style wings were added to the east and west sides of the 1908 building. Designed by Francis J. Kennard and Son of Tampa, the wings were carefully conformed to the style of the original 1908 building, using the same details, lines, and materials.

The expansion sufficed until the post-World War II population increase in Florida. As the courthouse lot was built on to the property line, no further expansion was possible unless the building was demolished and a new courthouse built in its place. This was unacceptable to local citizens however, so on September 25, 1987, a new courthouse was dedicated on the lot north and west of the old building. The 1908 Courthouse is being preserved and restored for the people of Polk County and their descendants as the Polk County Historical Library and Museum.

Among the most notable trials held in the Courthouse in the historical period was "The Flogging Cases" of 1936-1938, involving the flogging, tarring, and feathering of three Tampa men. Since the eight defendants were Tampa police officers, the massive publicity surrounding the case forced the trials to be moved from Hillsborough to Polk County, in an effort to secure a fair hearing. By the date a verdict of acquittal was pronounced on June 20, 1938, the cases had become one of the most involved, complicated, and longest running criminal prosecutions in Florida legal history. The case involved the resignation of the original trial judge after complaints of bias, several Florida Supreme Court opinions and decisions regarding the unwonted infusion of City of Tampa political factions into the legal process, and the direct intervention of Governor Fred P. Cone in appointing a new trial judge.

A recent case that attracted state and national interest involved the kidnapping and murder of Circuit Judge Curtis E. Chillingsworth and his wife of West Palm Beach, on June 14, 1955. After a change of venue, two trials took place in the Old Polk County Courthouse during March and November/December 1961. The two defendants received terms of life imprisonment.

Also, two politicians of state and national prominence practiced law and began their political careers in the courtrooms of the courthouse. One, Attorney J. Harding Peterson, went on to serve as a U.S. Congressman from Florida during the years 1933-1951. Another, Bartow native son Spessard L.

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Old Polk County Courthouse

Holland, began the practice of law in Polk County in 1916, became Polk County Prosecutor in 1919, and served as a County Judge from 1920 to 1928. He was elected to the State Senate in 1932, and was Governor from 1941 to 1945. He was a U.S. Senator for 25 years, from 1946 to 1971. Holland's efforts in introducing and securing passage of the 24th Amendment (abolishing poll taxes in national elections) was his greatest achievement, as this amendment is conceded to be the only one adopted as the work of a single individual.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, CRITERION C

The courthouse is designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style, which occurred in Florida generally from 1910 to 1920. Being built in 1908-1909, the courthouse was in the forefront of the use of the style in Florida. Neo-Classical reflected a renewed interest in Neo-Classicism, which is the last phase of classicism in the late 18th and 19th century, a movement based on the use of pure Greek and Roman forms. The style is characterized by monumentality, the strict use of orders, and a sparing use of ornamentation.

The style typically represents one of the classic Greek orders, which in the Old Polk County Courthouse is the Corinthian Order. The most ornate of the three orders, the Corinthian follows a column and entablature style developed by the Dorian Greeks, which features a sturdiness of proportion, with a ornate bell shaped capital and a fringe of acanthus leaves and volutes. The courthouse is a strict interpretation of the elements characterizing the formal Corinthian Order. The lack of arches is the main characteristic of the Greek origins.

The architect, E. C. Hosford, was born in Cochran, Georgia on April 24, 1883. He established his office in Eastland, Georgia, but did much of his work in Florida, becoming a resident of Lakeland in July, 1920. In addition to the Polk County Courthouse, his work includes courthouses in the Georgia towns of Eastman and Hamilton; schools, banks, business offices and private homes; and Neo-Classical Revival style courthouses in Hendry and Jefferson Counties, Florida.

The architect for the 1926 addition was Francis Joseph Kennard, born in London, England, on March 15, 1865. In 1886 his family moved to central Florida, where his father invested in orange groves. By 1888, Kennard had established an architectural office in Sanford, which he later moved to Orlando. In 1891 he supervised the building of the Tampa Bay Hotel (NR 1972) for developer and railroad tycoon Henry B. Plant. Kennard moved to Tampa in 1895 and remained there until his death in 1944. He was responsible for many buildings in southwest Florida, including the Belleview Biltmore Hotel in Bellaire (NR 1979), the Lee County Courthouse in Ft. Myers (NR 1989), the

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Pinellas County Courthouse, and numerous churches, civic buildings, schools, and hotels.

The Old Polk County Courthouse has had minor alterations during its 81 year history (see Section 7, pages 3,5,6-7), but the design and material integrity of the original 1908 structure and the 1926 addition have remained faithful to the architect's conception. The 1908 and 1926 architectural drawings, as well as historical photographs, verify that the character of the courthouse has remained essentially unchanged.

The architectural firm in charge of the current restoration plans to restore all altered components (except the chimneys, which were removed at an unknown date) to their original appearance. The Old Polk County Courthouse stands preserved as both a symbol of the American legal system and as a significant building in the daily life of Polk County citizens for the past 81 years.