

Florida State University Buildings - Some Facts

Buildings of Florida State University Some History, Some Facts, Some Descriptions

Many buildings on campus remain today from the pre-Florida State University era; however, none are still standing from the nineteenth century. The current university is built from a core of buildings that remain from the years of the Florida State College for Women. The oldest building on campus, Bryan Hall, was built during the days of the Florida Female College, immediately prior to the Florida State College for Women designation.

Bryan Hall

Bryan Hall, the oldest existing structure on the Florida State University campus, was originally built in 1908 and named in honor of United States Senator William James Bryan. The building served as a residence hall until 1969 when a fire in the Westcott Building forced administrators to seek office space in Bryan Hall. Although some offices later returned to Westcott, others remained until the construction of the University Center made the hall available for restoration as a residence hall. The two-year renovation project was completed in January 1997 and the building was opened again as a residence hall in August 1997.

Westcott Building

The Westcott Building and Westcott Auditorium were constructed in 1909 and occupied in 1911. Westcott was known as the Administration Building until 1936 when it was officially named the James D. Westcott, Jr. Memorial Building by the Board of Control, the governing body of higher education in Florida at the time. James D. Westcott, Jr. was born in Tallahassee in 1893 and served the State of Florida as Attorney General and as a Supreme Court Justice. The Westcott Building burned in 1969, and when it was renovated, the fourth floor, previously an attic, was added as regular office space. In 1971, the Westcott Auditorium was named the Ruby Diamond Auditorium after Miss Ruby Diamond who attended Florida State College for Women and later became a benefactor of the University. In 2008, the auditorium was closed for renovation. It reopened in October of 2010 as the Ruby Diamond Concert Hall.

Reynolds Hall

Reynolds Hall was constructed in 1913 and named for Melissa E. Cochrane Reynolds, the first Lady Principal of The Florida State College for Women. Reynolds Hall was one of five historic residence halls to be renovated in a multi-million dollar project. During the renovation, the historical and aesthetic value of the building was preserved, in addition to providing up-to-date comfort and safety for students. Reynolds reopened in 1996 as a residence hall.

William Johnston Building

Constructed in 1913, for over 60 years this building was known as the Dining Hall. When first constructed, it housed all the food operations including a bakery, creamery, and cannery. The eastern portion of the building, called the Suwannee Arcade, was the informal dining facility, while the western portion of the building contained two grand formal dining rooms with the President's private dining area above and between. At one time, all the dormitories and the infirmary were connected to the dining hall by a series of arcades, making it possible for students to reach the dining facilities and avoid any inclement weather. The Suwannee Arcade was restored and reopened in Spring 2006 as a student dining facility. The west wing of the Johnston Building was renovated and reopened in fall 2011. The building was named in the early 1980s for William H. Johnston.

Broward Hall

Broward Hall was constructed in 1917 and is one of the oldest residence halls on campus. It was named for Napoleon Bonaparte Broward, the 19th governor of Florida from 1905 to 1909, during whose term the Buckman Act reorganized higher education in the state and designated the Tallahassee school as the Florida State College for Women. Broward Hall was reopened in August 1998 as a coeducational hall after being closed for two years of renovation.

Criminology and Criminal Justice Building

This building was constructed in 1918 and is one of the last remaining classroom buildings on campus from the pre-FSU era. After serving as the home to Education programs for its early years, it was known simply as the Psychology Building until the university's sesquicentennial celebration in 2001, when it was named in honor of Francis Eppes, a seven-term Tallahassee mayor and grandson of U.S. President Thomas Jefferson. In 2008, the Psychology Department moved to its new building on the west side of campus. Eppes Hall was fully renovated in 2012 and became the home to the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice in 2013. In 2021, Francis W. Eppes' name was removed from the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice Building.

Regional Rehabilitation Center

This building was originally constructed in 1919 as the College Infirmary. As the College and Tallahassee grew, its role changed from student hospital to campus clinic, and is remembered as the Clinic Building. In 1966, a new student health center was built and the Clinic was given to various departments for use as office space. In the mid-1970s, the building was renovated, and the back half of the building, with its connecting arcade, was demolished. In June of 2012, the Regional Rehabilitation Center was demolished and was replaced in the fall of 2013 by the Honors, Scholars, and Fellows House.

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Jennie Murphree Hall

This building was constructed in 1921 and was a women's dormitory until 2015. The hall was named for Mrs. Jennie Murphree, a native of Tallahassee and the wife of Albert A. Murphree, the first president of Florida Female College. Today, the beauty of the Jacobean Revival architecture remains intact while the interior boasts state-of-the-art systems. The building was renovated in 1993, and became coeducational in 2015.

Dodd Hall

Dodd Hall was constructed in 1923. It was the library for FSCW and then FSU until 1956 when a new modern library was constructed. It is named for William George Dodd who joined the faculty of Florida State College for Women in 1910, became the head of the Department of English and went on to serve as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for Florida State University. In 1982 the main library portion of the building was renovated and named the Pepper Library in honor of Claude and Mildred Pepper. The library has since been relocated to the Claude Pepper Center, and replaced by the Werkmeister Reading Room. In 1993, the Dodd Hall Auditorium was added to the building. Inscribed over the entrance to Dodd Hall in gold letters is "The Half of Knowledge, is to Know Where to Find Knowledge."

Gilchrist Hall

Gilchrist Hall was constructed in 1925 and named after Albert Waller Gilchrist, the 20th governor of Florida, who gave unwavering support to the Florida State College for Women as a state agency. Its gabled terra cotta roof, Gothic stonework and gently curved entrance clearly recall medieval monastic architecture. This collection is reflected in the hall's main lounge, which features an intricately carved fireplace, dark multi-toned tile flooring, and grapevine motif doorway moldings. In August, 1998, Gilchrist reopened as a coeducational hall, after being closed for two years of renovation.

Williams Building

This building was constructed in 1926. It was known as the History Building until 1963 when it was named in honor of Arthur Williams. Dr. Williams, historian and Bible scholar, was the only vice president that Florida State College for Women ever had. Conradi Auditorium, located in a wing of this building, is named for Augusta Conradi, wife of Dr. Edward Conradi who served as President of Florida State College for Women for 32 years. In 2001, extensive renovation of the Williams Building was completed. While the renovation resolved many of the building's notable design quirks, its historical appearance was maintained.

Montgomery Gym

This building, constructed in 1938 as the physical education facility of Florida State College for Women, contains a heated indoor swimming pool, basketball court, and at the time of its completion, a bowling alley. The facility has been the home of the synchronized swimming team, The Tarpons, since its beginning. The bowling alley no longer exists but the pool, renovated in the mid-1980s, still is in operation. The building was named for Dr. Katherine Williams Montgomery, Miss Katie, as she was known to all, a 1918 graduate of FSCW. In 1920 she became an instructor of Physical Education at the College and in 1923 was named director of Physical Education. Dr. Montgomery died on October 1, 1958—the day she was to have retired officially from her duties at the Florida State University. In early 2004, major renovations to Montgomery Gym were completed.

Longmire Building

This building was constructed in 1938 and was known for many years as the Alumni Building. It was originally constructed as a dormitory/hotel for visitors and returning alumni. The building had a working kitchen in the basement, with a large dining room and small parlor. The large dining room and parlor were used as reception rooms by the Alumni Association. The building was named for Miss Rowena Longmire. Miss Longmire was an English professor and also served as faculty advisor to the Alumni Association of FSCW, and in 1917 was president of the Alumni Association.

Landis Hall

Landis Hall was completed in 1939 and was originally designated as a Seniors Hall. The building later became a coed facility. Landis Hall was named for Cary D. Landis, who was an Attorney General during the 1930s. The dormitory was renovated and reopened in fall 2006. Landis Hall sits at the south end of the courtyard known as Landis Green, with Stroz Library situated at the other end. Landis Hall is home to the FSU Honors Community. To celebrate Heritage Day in 2005, the Landis Green Legacy Fountain was unveiled. The fountain commemorates the history of the university with three sculptures representing the era between 1915-1947 and three depicting present day life on campus.

Source: Special reports; University Housing Office; Physical Plant Office

Online Resources: The University Housing Office's website can be accessed online at: housing.fsu.edu

FSU Facilities Planning, Design and Construction can be accessed online at: pdc.fsu.edu
