

Tour of Historic and Future Campus Planning and Development of Florida State University



The campus of Florida State University has experienced great periods of growth and development since its earliest beginnings as the West Florida Seminary in 1855 and its first building named College Hall. In 1905 the Buckman Act created the Florida Female College, which would later be renamed the Florida State College for Women until 1947 when the institution became Florida State University. The campus planning and development that occurred during the Florida State College for Women years would determine the institution's future development and style.

The section of campus that was developed as the Florida State College for Women is known as the historic eastern area

of Florida State University. Large buildings situated close to each other with large greens and numerous walkways characterize this section of campus. The college was created for the pedestrian, as motorized vehicles were not the dominant mode of transportation during the early planning of the Florida State College for Women. Over the years, streets were added and the campus grew to meet the institution's needs. The Florida State University Master Plan published in 2005 makes numerous references to the compact layout of the historic eastern side of campus as a model for the future planning and development for the institution.

Begin the tour in the plaza in front of the Westcott Building at the intersection of College Avenue and Copeland Street

Westcott Building

The Westcott Building was constructed in 1910 to replace the old administrative building, College Hall built in 1855, which stood where the fountain is today. It was named the Administration Building and later rededicated as the James D. Westcott Memorial Building in 1936. It was built in the Collegiate Gothic style of architecture during the Gothic Revival movement, as are all of the buildings of the historic eastern side of the Florida State University campus. Collegiate Gothic style consists of a collection of varieties primarily characterized by arched entryways that are often pointed and rectangular windows.

The university's front gates were constructed in 1916 and the archway read "Florida Women" and was replaced in 1947 when the school fountain was added. The original fountain, which was built in Georgia, was replaced in 1988.

The Westcott Building's front gates and the school's main entrance was a dirt road that then extended to Westcott and wrapped around the building in front of it. This formation made a stunning first impression of the college when approached from the east, known as Clinton



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gates and archway were created in 1916 as a gift from the original State College for Florida Women. The original archway read "Florida Women" and was replaced in 1947 when the school fountain was added. The original fountain, which was built in Georgia, was replaced in 1988.

ing, the fountain, and archway created the entrance to the college. The entrance circled the fountain down each side of the driveway. This entrance was later replaced in 1922. This entrance made a stunning first impression of the college when approached from the east, known as Clinton

In 1996, as part of a beautification project, the commemorative bricks were laid to create the plaza that surrounds the fountain in front of the Westcott Building today. The Westcott Plaza and university entrance now act as models for future campus development.

Walk down the north side (the right side) of the Westcott Building towards Ivy Way. En route, note the Mina Jo Powell Green, which was an area set aside for special events and socialization as early as 1928. Stop at the intersection of Ivy Way and North University Way

Ivy Way



By the mid-1920s most of what is known as the historic section of Florida State University had been created. Up until this time, the walking and driving aspects of the Florida State College for Women was characterized by a single dirt road that encircled the entire campus and the dirt road that circled the Westcott Building. The walking paths were also earthen. With the exception of the section of road that ran in front of Bryan Hall and behind Westcott, the area that is today Ivy Way was a walking path. Due to the increasing use and ownership of automobiles in the first half of the 20th century, a southbound, one-way road extending from Call Street to today's University Way was created around 1930 to and named Ivy Way. It was flanked on either side with diagonal parking spaces. This was the first roadway that ran through what was then the center of campus to accommodate the student population that had reached an enrollment of 2,663 by 1930. The walking paths around Ivy Way were then laid in concrete and made permanent.

A traffic study of the FSU campus was conducted in 1962 to evaluate the effects of the large number of automobiles traveling through the campus. The study found that cars traveling through campus

caused a number of problems due to accidents, which damaged property and interrupted the flow of traffic. It was noted that the one-way aspect of Ivy Way created much unnecessary traffic of those leaving the campus. As such, the study concluded with a recommendation that Ivy Way should be made into the two-way street it is today and that parking should only be allowed on one side of the street. Additionally, the 1962 study recommended that a parking lot should be placed at the Call Street end of Ivy Way. It was discussed that even though faculty and students may wish to park directly in front of their respective buildings, this was not practical and that walking should remain the primary mode of transportation inside the campus boundaries. The 1962 traffic study was one of the first to recommend that FSU return to the "walking" campus of its origins.

Proceed north along Ivy Way towards Murphree Hall. While passing Reynolds Hall, note that in 1921, the walk from the tour starting point at the Westcott Building to Reynolds Hall would have traversed the entire campus from the southeastern corner to the northwestern corner at the Florida State College for Women in 1921.

Jennie Murphree Hall

The Jennie Muphree Hall, also constructed in the Gothic Revival style, has continuously served as a dormitory since it was originally built in 1921. A western wing was added to the building in 1924 to accommodate more students. Note the large area of green in front of the building. As one looks southward down Ivy Way along all of the residence halls, it may be noted that all of the residence halls have similar large green areas in front of them. The Florida State College for Women created these large greens in front of all of the residence halls along Ivy Way when each building was originally constructed. These green ways provided areas of socialization throughout FSCW's existence as it still does today. Additionally, until the approval of the addition of an athletic field in 1919, the greens acted as an area of activity as well.



Walk around the right side of Murphree Hall and continue on the sidewalk that continues diagonally behind Murphree Hall towards the left side of Cawthon Hall. Stop at the entrance of Cawthon Hall located on the south (left) side of the building.

Cawthon Hall



Cawthon Hall, located just west of Murphree Hall, was built in 1944 and was the last building to be designed in the Gothic Revival architecture. Like Murphree Hall, Cawthon has acted as a dormitory since its inception. Cawthon represents the last of the gothic structures built as part of what is known today as the historic section of the FSU campus. The west side of Cawthon Hall faces Landis Green, which has become the centerpiece of the eastern side of the FSU campus.

Landis Green



Today Landis Green owes its name to Landis Hall, a residence hall that was constructed in 1939 and marks the green's southern boundary. As noted previously, the Florida State College for Women created an athletic field was in 1919, which existed in the area of the northeastern corner of Landis Green and Cawthon Hall. As early as 1933 and prior to the building of Landis Hall, the area of Landis Green had already been set aside and established as an area reserved for a park and recreation space. Landis Green has continuously served as an area

for special events, socialization, and recreation. At the Florida State College for Women it hosted the Odds and Evens competitions. Today, Landis Green hosts a myriad of special events annually. As it was originally intended, Landis Green serves as a central meeting place on the FSU campus today and acts as a model for the future planning of green areas on Florida State's campus.

In the 1930s, Landis Green bisected the campus with the administrative, academic, and residence buildings located directly to its east side and the gymnasium (now known as Montgomery Hall), athletic complexes, and college farm lying on its western side. Magnolia Way, the street that creates the green's western border was part of the original dirt road that encircled the original campus. The traffic study of 1962 recommended that parking should exist only on the east side of the street and that a sidewalks and landscaping should be placed along the street. An idea for the creation of Dogwood Way, which creates Landis Green's eastern boundary, was noted in 1933. However, the street was not built until after the construction of Landis Hall. Like Magnolia Way, the 1962 traffic study recommended sidewalks and landscaping for Dogwood Way.



Continue northeast of Landis Green to the rear of the Bellamy Building on the University Mall area

University Mall and Surrounding Area

The area that is now occupied by the Bellamy Building and the Oglesby Union complex northward was originally home to the college farm for the Florida State College for women. The farm consisted a fully equipped dairy barn and a herd of dairy cattle making the college self-sufficient for most of the college's dairy needs. As the campus proper continued to grow, the farm was relocated in 1935 to a 960-acre site on Lake Bradford Road.

Adjacent to the southeastern side of the original college farm was the athletic complex, which consisted of basketball, field hockey, soccer, and volleyball facilities. Around 1950, these facilities would be moved to the West Campus, located at the former Dale Mabry Air Base that was used by the U.S. Army during World War II.

Part of the area that originally housed the farm was developed into the University Mall of today, which is flanked with academic buildings such as the Bellamy Building, housing the social sciences, the Strozier Library, and the Oglesby Union. The mall is characterized by wide walking paths and areas of green.

As recommended by the 1962 traffic study and a 1964 campus land use study, the mall is limited to pedestrian and bicycle traffic in an effort to minimize the use of cars on campus, as well as the continued development of Florida State as a compact campus.

According to the Florida State University Master Plan of 2005, a plan may be devised in the future to separate pedestrians and bicycles. More bicycles are expected to be used on campus, as fewer streets for automobiles are available.



Walk west along the University Mall to Woodward Avenue and continue south along Woodward Avenue

Woodward Avenue

Around 1930, Woodward Avenue was constructed, to create a new western boundary for the Florida State College for Women. The central eastern side of the street housed the large tennis complex. South of the complex were the nursery and flower gardens and the archery fields. To the west of Woodward were the college vegetable gardens and the arboretum.

The vegetable gardens were part of the larger farm and were used to feed the campus population.



The arboretum and nursery were used to grow the shrubs and trees that would be used for landscaping throughout the campus. These, too, would later be moved to the Lake Bradford site to make room for the growing campus.



As the campus grew, Woodward Avenue would become the central road that ran through FSU until 2002 when it was closed to motorized traffic. Today, the avenue is characterized by a gate at either end and the Integration Monument and plaza in its center. Florida State University's plans for future development call for fewer roads dedicated to motorized vehicles, which will force more alternative modes of transportation such as pedestrian, bicycles, and bus use. The goals of the university's future development plans are to create an overall cleaner environment with more green areas and fewer air pollutants. Eventually, due to the projected increase in bicycle use, Florida State may devise a plan to create two different path systems to separate pedestrians and bicycles.

Conclusion

A tour of the historic section of campus and its adjacent areas is to take a tour of the future Florida State University campus. There are plans to continue construction with some gothic architecture elements. The campus planning will strive to virtually eliminate motorized traffic in the center of campus by establishing usable roads and parking facilities around the campus periphery. The plaza in front of Westcott, the greens along Ivy Way, Landis Green, and the University Mall are the models upon which Florida State University plans to develop its campus.

Suggested Further Reading

1. Florida State College for Women, Bulletin of the Florida State College for Women Catalog, 1921-1946. Florida State University, Strozier Library, 370.5 F63687
2. Florida State University, Bulletin of the Florida State University Catalog, 1947-1952. Florida State University, Strozier Library, 370.5 F63687
3. Florida State University, Florida State University Historic Architecture Tour, 1990. Florida State University, Strozier Library, LD1771.F923 F56
4. Florida State University Facilities Department, Facility Program for College of Education Building Expansion (FS-228), 2006. www/fpc.fsu.edu/
5. Joan Perry Morris and Martee Wills, Seminole History: A Pictorial History of Florida State University (Jacksonville: South Star, 1987). Florida State University, Strozier Library, LD1771.F933 W5
6. Mel Conner and Associates, Florida State University Campus Traffic Study, 1962/Conducted by Mel Conner and Associates, Inc., 1962. Florida State University, Strozier Library, Fla-Doc RD2.C15.
7. Planning Department, City of Tallahassee, Florida, Study Areas for Campus Expansion of Florida State University, 1966. Florida State University, Strozier Library, Fla-Doc Municipal TAL/PL2.C15.
8. State University System of Florida, Florida State University Master Plan, 2005. Florida State University, Strozier Library, LD1771.F892 F6 2005.

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