BUILDINGS OF FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
SOME HISTORY, SOME FACTS, SOME DESCRIPTIONS

Many buildings (14 described below) 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 days 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 FSCW 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 U.S. 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 was constructed in 1909 and occupied in 1911. An auditorium was added to the building in 1917 and later named Ruby Diamond Auditorium, after Miss Ruby Diamond who attended Florida State College for Women and later became a benefactor of the University. 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 predecessor of the Board of Regents. 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.

REYNOLDS HALL
Reynolds Hall was constructed in 1913 and named for Melissa E. Cochran 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 esthetic 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. Today, some of the arcades remain though they are not readily accessible. 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.

FRANCIS EPPES HALL
This building was constructed in 1918 and is one of the last remaining classroom buildings on campus from the pre-FSU era. 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. Eppes, a seven-term Tallahassee mayor and grandson of U.S. President Thomas Jefferson, led the effort to locate the Seminary West of the Suwannee River, the forerunner of FSU, in Tallahassee. Once the school opened, Eppes served 11 years on the school's board of directors, including eight years as president of the board.

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 today 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. Today it has been designated as the Rehabilitation Center for the Panhandle Area of Florida.
JENNIE MURPHREE HALL
This building was constructed in 1921. It was closed in 1991 for renovation, and reopened as a women’s dormitory in 1993. 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.

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 1928 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 as 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 hall sits at the south end of the courtyard known as Landis Green, with Strozier Library situated at the other end.

Source: Special reports; University Housing Office; Physical Plant Office
Online Resources: The University Housing Office’s website can be accessed online at http://www.housing.fsu.edu/
FSU Facilities Planning and Construction can be accessed online at http://www.fpc.fsu.edu/