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Home owned by Governor Perry still stands

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Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



HOME OWNED BY GOVERNOR PERRY STILL STANDS

By: HAMPTON DUNN

PENSACOLA --- Overlooking downtown Pensacola from a commanding spot on the hill at Palifox Street and Wright Avepue is the Scottish Rite temple which was the attractive residence of Florida Gov. Edward A. Perry.

History of the building goes back to 1867 when Charles F. Boysen acquired the property and constructed the building which still stands. At one time it sported a cupola. The mansion later served as Consulate of Sweden and Norway.

Mrs. Wathen V. Perry, wife of the Governor, bought the place in 1882, which was shortly before Perry became State Chief Executive. He served from 1885-89. Scottish Rite acquired the property and home in 1922.

Governor Perry, a native of Massachusetts, was graduated from Yale, taught school awhile in Alabama and moved to Pensacola, where he began practicing law in 1856.

The future governor went to war with the Pensacola Rifle Rangers, a volunteer company. He later commanded the Florida brigade under Gen. Robert E. Lee and served with great distinction in the battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. Twice wounded, he was discharged as a Brigadier General.

The Florida Constitution of 1885, under which the state continues to function, was drafted at a convention shortly after Perry took office. The administration is noted for establishing the State Board of Education to advance public schools. Governor Perry returned to Pensacola after his term, and died there on October 15.

