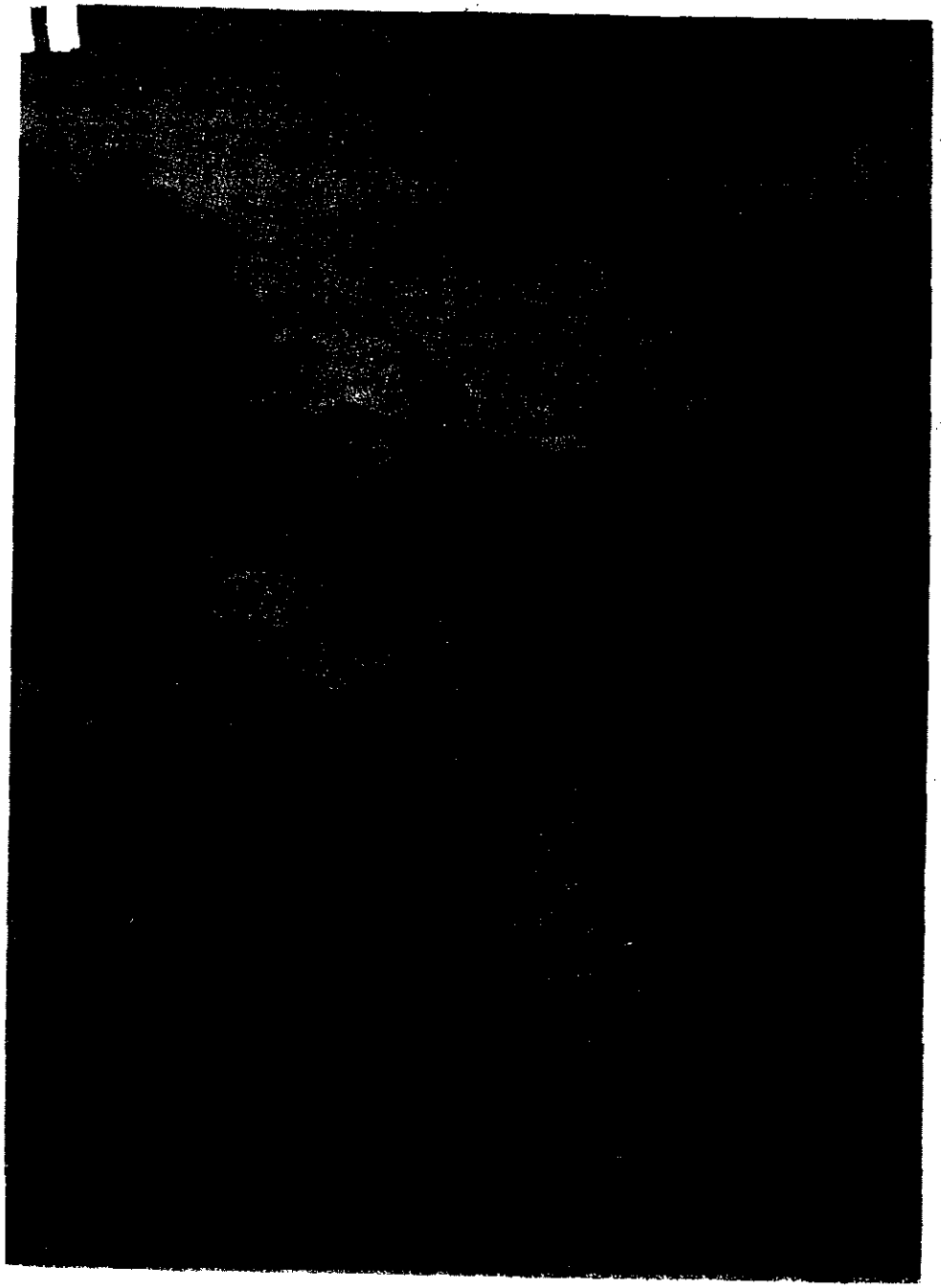
KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

TALLAHASSEE STREET NAME ORIGINS



EARLY POLITICAL FIGURES

Tallahassee was established as the new territory of Florida capital in 1823 as a midway point between the two original state capitals, St. Augustine and Pensacola. The first capital building was a crude two-story building and was the first structure assembled in the new capital city. The street running immediately east of the log capitol was **Monroe Street**, in honor of the President of the United States at that time, President James Monroe. The street which ran immediately west of the capital building was named in honor of John Quincy **Adams**, the current Secretary of State.

John C. **Calhoun** was Secretary of War under President Monroe. He appointed commissioners James **Gadsden** and William Pope **DuVal** to negotiate with the Seminoles.

President Monroe appointed **DuVal** as the first territorial governor of Florida. Lawyer, militia captain, congressman, and judge, he served three terms as Florida's territorial governor. He was an extremely popular character and was once seen *"wearing a tattered straw hat, deerskin trousers, blue stockings, shoes covered with mud, riding a raw-boned horse, arriving to consult ...about a treaty with the Indians."* Due to primitive conditions in Tallahassee at that time, he often conducted government business from a boat docked at St. Marks.

James **Gadsden** (1788-1858) served as a diplomat in Indian relations under Andrew Jackson during his battles in Florida in 1818. He was best known for the Gadsden Purchase. in 1853, where he negotiated a boundary dispute with Mexico that resulted in the U.S. acquisition of 27,640 square miles now parts of New Mexico and Arizona, for ten million dollars.

Gadsden Street was originally called Butler Street, for another good friend of Jackson, who was Florida's first surveyor general.