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All land surveys in Florida begin at this point

Hampton Dunn
ALL LAND SURVEYS IN FLORIDA BEGIN AT THIS POINT

TALLAHASSEE --- At an obscure spot near the city jail here is a concrete monument that marks the beginning of all land surveys in Florida. It is the intersection of the guide meridian and the base parallel for the state.

The site dates back to the territorial days of Florida when Tallahassee was first selected as the capital city. It was while William P. Duval was Territorial Governor that he received a notice from the Government Land Office in Washington announcing the appointment of Col. Robert A. Butler of Tennessee to be surveyor general of Florida. The communication was dated July 10, 1824.

Colonel Butler was directed to select a point of beginning for all surveys, and from this the townships and ranges were to be numbered. Selection of the survey point really revolved around the location of the Capitol building since it was desired to locate the seat of government in the center of the quarter section. The monument, hence, is situated in a low, wet area about 1,500 feet south and east of the Capitol.

The Colonel drove down a lightwood post to mark the key spot. Many years passed and in 1853, the State Legislature voted to require the Governor to place a stone with a suitable inscription at the spot. Governor Broome ignored the legislative order and it was not until 1892 that a permanent type marker was placed. The present stone monument was authorized by the 1925 Legislature.

A capital observer, Angus Laird, has reported there is some dispute whether the stone marker is at the exact spot where the original lightwood post was sunk, but no legal significance is attached to the discrepancy if indeed there is a difference.
THIS MONUMENT IS
ERECTED OVER AND TO
PERPETUATE THE ORIGINAL
GOVERNMENT MONUMENT
MARKING THE INTERSECTION
OF THE GUIDE MERIDIAN
AND THE BASE PARALLEL
FOR FLORIDA
AUTHORIZED BY ACT OF
LEGISLATURE CHAPTER 10/83
1925 SESSION
COMMITTEE
SENATE
W.C. HODGES CH.  G.W. GREEN CH.
S.A. FINLEY  PETER KENDRICK
W.T. HENDRY
ERECTED A.D. 1925