complete it, as the Superior court was using it more than any other, which brought about an arrangement whereby the government paid the county rent for its use; they had difficulty sometimes in collecting this rent promptly. They petitioned the Territorial Legislature for permission to run lotteries in order to raise the $6,000 needed to complete the court house. Joseph B. Lancaster, I. D. Hart and William J. Mills were authorized by the Legislature to conduct the lottery. These gentlemen were all church members and one was a deacon; the inference is, that lotteries in that day were not considered gambling.

*Something is hidden somewhere behind this struggle for funds to complete the court house, for the people of this section in the 1830's prior to the Seminole war and the panic of 1837, were evidently enjoying prosperity, as they were laying plans for a $75,000 bank and a million dollar railroad for the county seat. Yet they opposed a special tax levy to raise the $6,000 necessary to complete the building.

The court house was not finally completed until sometime in the early 1840's, from funds derived from a scrip issue. The building was burned by Federal troops March 29, 1863.

*Duval County has built three court houses. The second court house was built on the site of the one burned in 1863, but faced Market Street instead of Forsyth. It was solidly built of brick, with unusually thick walls. Construction was commenced in 1884 and the building completed and occupied in November, 1886. A full description of it will be found in the Florida Times-Union of November 5, 1886. The court house walls were the only ones in the city that withstood to any extent the great fire of May 3, 1901. They remained standing and were used in reconstructing the building now occupying that corner, which has the same ground space and the same outline as the court house, except the shape of the tower.

The present court house was completed in November, 1902, at a cost of $100,000 secured through a bond issue. The site was shifted across Market Street because the county already owned the two lots on the west side of Market between Adams and Forsyth Streets, and needing more ground for a larger court house than the lot at the northwest corner of Market and Forsyth would accommodate, it was decided to reconstruct the old court house for an armory, and build the new court house across the street. The court house annex was completed in October, 1916, at a cost of about $90,000.