

Endangered Historic Properties* in Volusia County

A List Endorsed by the Volusia County Historic Preservation Board, 2013

Elliot Plantation and Shiloh Community (NR eligible)



Located south of present day Oak Hill was a successful British Colonial era plantation (1766 -1779) owned by William Elliot and managed by John Ross, both Scotsman. Preliminary exploration has discovered archaeological remains of roads, canals, slave villages, dwellings and a sugar factory. Nearby is the now extinct community of Shiloh, and that community's

historic cemetery, exact location not known. These properties were protected from development as federally managed lands, but a proposal has been made to locate a commercial space launch facility in this area of significant cultural resources. This site's ability to contribute to the archaeological and historical record is tremendous. The majority of other plantation sites from this period have been destroyed by development before excavations and study could occur, making this the most intact and best example of a preserved landscape that includes the oldest sugar mill and features very significant to African American history. This site is very significant on a national and international level.

Rio Vista Subdivision Gateway, Calle Grande Street, Ormond Beach



This structure was built as a grand entryway for the Rio Vista subdivision platted in 1926. The subdivision was owned and developed by Walter C. Hardesty, who had made his fortune with the Hardesty Manufacturing Company, an Arts & Crafts furniture company, in Dover, Ohio, but had moved to Florida in 1922 to deal in real estate. By 1927, a hotel, thirty-eight homes

and over fifteen miles of paved roads had been developed. But this all came to a halt upon the advent of the Great Depression. The major threat to this structure is neglect.

* Endangered historic properties shall be defined as significant historic resources in Volusia County subject to an immediate or pending threat that will substantially alter or destroy its integrity.

King's Highway

The British sought to connect all colonies with a series of roads along the East Coast known as the King's Highway. In 1765 Governor James Grant authorized construction of the King's Road link from St. Augustine between Colerain, Georgia to New Smyrna. The road passed through St. Augustine and crossed the St. Johns River near modern day Jacksonville Landing. The road was laid out by surveyors and constructed by British engineers; it followed high ground as was constructed of crushed coquina and shell. The southern segment was completed in 1774 and was wide enough to accommodate wagons, In the lower portions, corduroy roads of palm logs were used to make causeways through the wetlands and crossings at places like Spruce Creek and the Tomoka River. Considered to be America's first highway, remnants of this road remain in Volusia County, some are paved over and continue to serve as roads, some have been completely destroyed and , and other non-developed locations need to be verified by archaeologists and preserved. Portions of this significant transportation system in public control should be protected and interpreted.

S. Cornelia Young Memorial Library, Daytona Beach (NR)



This community landmark was built in 1916 and expanded in 1930. It is the oldest library in Daytona Beach and was constructed to respond to greatly increased demand for educational facilities created by the influx of visitors and permanent and seasonal residents. Captain Charles Young, a winter resident, donated the money to build the facility (and later to expand it) and even paid to train the first librarian. It is one of a few mission style buildings in the area, and is associated with two prominent architects—Dana F. Fuquay and Harry Griffin. This Volusia County branch library at this location was closed in the fall of 2010 for financial reasons, , and although the City of Daytona Beach has ownership and plans to maintain the building, should it not be used as a library, the building reverts to the donors' family.

Underhill House, 227 Lemmon Road, Barberville (NR Eligible)



Constructed in 1879, this house is likely the oldest surviving brick house in Volusia County. The bricks used in the construction of the building were handmade by the Underhill family at a site near Deep Creek, just south of where the house stands. The Underhill family is one of the first families to introduce ornamental fern propagation to the Pierson area, known as the "*Fern-growing Capital of the World*". Its current poor condition represents a threat to the building although the Barberville Pioneer Settlement acquired the property with the intent of restoring it, but struggle to secure funds to do so.

Spring Garden Ranch Historic District, DeLeon Springs (NR Eligible)



Surrounded by majestic oaks, these vernacular buildings form one of the few remaining historic agricultural complexes still in use in Volusia County. In 1910 Frederick N. Burt developed Spring Garden Ranch, and experimented with different methods to raise cattle, and giving that up, began to raise horses. His crew constructed barns for cattle, horses and hay, a blacksmith shop, corncrib, water tower, silo and workshop. Around 1949 the ranch was converted to a public training center for standard bred (sulky & harness) race horse. Extensive damage from storms in 2004 required extensive repair, and additional work is needed. Lack of funds for repair and renovation is the immediate threat to this unique resource.

Colonial New Smyrna Archeological Sites (NR)



In 1998, the cities of New Smyrna Beach and Port Orange, along with Volusia County, sponsored a comprehensive archeological survey to locate sites associated with the colonial New Smyrna settlement—the ambitious attempt by Andrew

Turnbull and partners to introduce 1,400 Mediterranean colonists to farm their plantation in the New World. Nearly 40 colonial-period archaeological sites were documented, including several that contain significant structural remains. After more than two centuries, New Smyrna's original town plan is beginning to emerge once again. Future archaeological surveys and excavations, in combination with site preservation and focused historical research, will provide a wealth of new data with which to fill in the gaps about life in 18th Century New Smyrna—one of Florida's greatest colonial experiments. The major threat for these nationally significant resources is that new development in certain areas of the City of New Smyrna Beach is destroying significant archeological deposits when not properly mitigated.

Samsula Elementary School, Samsula (NR Eligible)



Built in the Mediterranean Revival style popular in Florida 1920s boom time, this stucco building upgraded the wooden, one-room Briggsville School in Samsula. Constructed for about \$30,000 and opened in 1928, the school had several classrooms, indoor plumbing, and an auditorium. In continuous use as a public school for 80 years, the building has been only slightly altered and is a landmark for this rural community. No longer in public ownership, the future for this historic community building is uncertain.

Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp (NR)



Members of the Spiritualist faith founded Cassadaga in 1895 as a religious camp meeting winter retreat. It came to be the group's second largest center after its New York headquarters and remains associated with the faith to this day. The National Register Historic District is comprised mostly of frame vernacular residences, but also includes the masonry temple building, frame-built visitors' center, and several park/open space areas. Threats to the historic district and portions of the larger historic community of Cassadaga are associated with the pending development associated with the SR 472 Activity Center and annexations by the City of Deltona.

Pacetti Boarding House, Ponce Inlet (NR Eligible)



The Pacetti family was among the first settlers of Ponce Inlet, selling their property for the Ponce Inlet Light Station (a National Historic Landmark) and was involved in the construction of the lighthouse. The frame vernacular building was constructed as an extension to the popular boarding house, providing lodging and delicious seafood to guest who enjoyed "fine fishing and boating, and sail boats with or without guides." The boarding house is closely tied to the establishment of the charter fishing tradition of that community. The building is currently unoccupied and future use and adaptation plans are not known. This property is one of the last remaining waterfront establishments associated with 19th century fishing and vacationing excursions that retains its original character.

Orange City Historic District Commercial Center (NR)



The Orange City Historic District is a collection of buildings representing the early settlement and community activities of the town. Settled in the 1870s and incorporated in 1882, the district includes over 300 properties, mostly residential. The highly visible buildings that make up the commercial core along Volusia Ave. (17/92) and Graves Ave. have suffered from storm damage, vacancy and neglect. Presently, there is no protection for these threatened properties. As the City moves ahead with redevelopment plans for this area, careful rehabilitation of these valuable properties is critical to retaining the sense of place and heritage of this unique community.