

# Endangered Historic Properties\* in Volusia County

*A List Endorsed by the Volusia County Historic Preservation Board, 2017*

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## Elliot Plantation and Shiloh Community (NR eligible)



Located south of present day Oak Hill, this site 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 prominent landmark 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. This all came to a halt upon the advent of the Great Depression. Despite lack of maintenance, the structure is relatively sound. In 2014 the arches were damaged by a vehicle, and has been partially repaired but more is needed to stabilize the structures. In addition to adverse weather and passage of time, vehicular activity and vibrations are ongoing threats to the unique neo-classical structure.

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\* 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.

### John Wesley Dutton House, DeLand (NR)



This home is among the largest and finest Classical Revival style examples in central Florida. Dutton, a lumber magnate, commissioned local architects Carins & Fitchner to design the building in 1910. Under the supervision of builder Gus Lauman, it was completed the following year at the cost of \$25,000. The interior details are exquisite. Long vacant and slated for demolition, the building was saved by a non-profit organized for the purpose of restoring the building. They were able to accomplish a first phase of stabilization, but resources dwindled and today the future of the building is uncertain.

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



This landmark was built in 1916 and expanded in 1930. It is the oldest library in Daytona Beach and was constructed to respond to increased demand for educational facilities by the influx of visitors & permanent & seasonal residents. Capt. Charles Young donated funds for building 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 closed in 2010; should it not be used as a library, the building reverts to the donors’ family. It’s currently owned by the City of Daytona Beach.

### Strawn Sawmill and Lumber Shed, DeLeon Springs (NR)



The two frame vernacular industrial buildings used for cutting and storing wood, were dismantled and relocated to the present location in the 1930s. Theodore Strawn Inc., a successful citrus company operated the mill to provide lumber to build agricultural buildings associated with the packing house and a company town & housing associated with their business, and to build the packing crates. The wooden structures are abandoned and in a state of demolition by neglect.

### Mayor Armstrong House, Daytona Beach (NR Eligible)



Daytona Beach businessman & Mayor Edward H. Armstrong built this substantial 3 story home in 1928. Armstrong was a colorful character in the center of corrupt political activity but did many good things for the city: getting New Deal funds for the bandshell and giving Blacks a say in government. The property, while in fair condition is currently in foreclosure, vacant and vulnerable to vandalism.

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> Century New Smyrna—one of Florida's greatest colonial experiments. The major threat for these nationally significant resources is new development and lack of funding for publicly owned sites.

## 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 horses. 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.

## 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 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 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 19<sup>th</sup> century fishing and vacationing excursions.

### Putnam Hotel, DeLand (NR)



The Putnam Hotel built in 1923, replaced an earlier hotel that had burned. This Mediterranean Revival style structure was the first commission completed by William J. Carpenter, a prominent local architect. It was a popular winter destination, offering good value and was successful for many years. It is currently vacant, not maintained and has changed ownership numerous times in the past few years, despite potential for re-use and a convenient location to downtown DeLand and Stetson University.

### 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.

### 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.

### FEC Depot, Port Orange (NR)



This building is one of only seven (of several hundred) Florida East Coast Railway depots still standing. Built in 1894 it was modified in 1924 and 1938. In 1966 it was moved further down the railroad tracks to avoid demolition. This commercial frame vernacular building is the only historic transportation related building in the City of Port Orange and the only FEC resource remaining in the County. Vacancy and neglect are the major threats to this significant property.