

Endangered Historic Properties* in Volusia County

A List Endorsed by the Volusia County Historic Preservation Board, 2015

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, though in need of repairs. In late 2014 the arches were damaged by a vehicle. In addition to adverse weather and passage of time, vehicular activity and vibrations are ongoing threats to the unique neo-classical structure.

* 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.

Bethel AME Church, DeLand (NR Eligible)



The congregation that worships here first gathered together in 1878, just after the founding of DeLand. This church was built in 1907 and is attributed to John Anderson Lankford, “Dean of black architects.” Lankford was the first official architect for the AME church. The rusticated stone masonry blocks were manufactured on site by church members. This unique building with its beautiful ceiling is threatened by needed re-

roofing and structural foundation issues.

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.

Glenwood African American Cemetery, DeLand Vicinity



In 1885 Julia A. Stone granted this cemetery property to the Trustees of the Colored Cemetery. Buried here are African Americans who lived in Glenwood and worked for the Bond Lumber Company and the railroad. The cemetery is at the end of Church Street, once home to two churches and a school built by this community. This burial ground is the only remaining historical marker for this sizable settlement. The property is not fenced, is overgrown with vegetation and suffers from vandalism and theft. Most of the markers lie on the ground, many are broken in pieces.

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. Unsubstantiated rumors claim the coquina rock used for the chimney and porch were diverted from the band shell construction project. The property,

while in good condition is currently in pre-foreclosure and vacant.

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

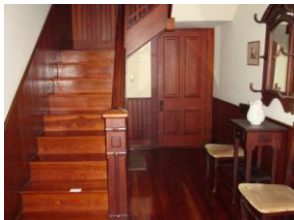
Turnbull and partners to introduce 1,400 Mediterranean colonists to farm their plantation in the New World. Nearly 40 colonial-period archaeological sites were documented, including several that contain significant structural remains. After more than two centuries, New Smyrna's original town plan is 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 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 19th century fishing and vacationing excursions.

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.

King's Highway

The British sought to connect all colonies with a series of roads known as the King's Highway. In 1765 Governor James Grant authorized construction of a road from Georgia to New Smyrna. The road passed through St. Augustine and was made from crushed coquina and shell. The southern segment was completed in 1774 and was wide enough to accommodate wagons. 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: some are paved over and continue to serve as roads, some have been completely destroyed. Portions of this significant transportation system in public control should be protected and interpreted.