

**Florida National Register Review Board
R. A. Gray Building, Room 307
Tallahassee, Florida
August 8, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

Commission Members Present In-Person: Dr. Clifford Smith, Chair; Ms. Marion Almy

Commission Members Present via Webinar: Mr. Rick Gonzalez, Vice Chair

Florida Department of State Officials and Staff Present: Timothy Parsons, Division Director and State Historic Preservation Officer; Angela E. Tomlinson, Assistant Director and Deputy SHPO; Alissa Lotane, Bureau Chief and Deputy SHPO; Susanne Hunt, Outreach Programs Supervisor; Ruben Acosta, Survey and Registration Supervisor; Timothy Knoepke, Historic Preservation Grants Supervisor; Michael Hart, State Historical Marker Coordinator; Megan McDonald, Certified Local Government Coordinator; Andrew Waber, Historic Preservationist; Max Adriel Imberman, Historic Preservationist; Eric Case, Historic Preservation Grants Specialist; Laura Bright, Historic Preservation Grants Specialist; Kristen Hall, Historic Sites Specialist; Drew Begley, Historic Preservation Grants Specialist; Justin Baker, Historic Preservation Grants Specialist; Kelly Chase, Historic Sites Specialist; Rachel Thompson, Historic Preservationist

Florida Department of State Officials Present via Webinar: None

Guests Present: David Laffitte, Kathleen McKenzie, Kathleen Kauffmann, Michelina Shulze, Annie Booth

Guests Present via Webinar: Laura Lee Corbett, Sandra Mancuso

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Smith at 1:36 p.m. Mr. Acosta read the housekeeping notes addressing the webinar. All board members were present.

II. Introduction of Commission, Staff, and Guests

Commission, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

III. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Gonzalez made a motion to adopt the agenda for the meeting. Ms. Almy seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Remarks by Chairperson on Purpose of Meeting

Dr. Smith described the purpose and process of the National Register Review Board.

V. Approval of Minutes from May 23, 2019 Meeting

Ms. Almy made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 23, 2019 meeting. Mr. Gonzalez seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Director's Comments

Dr. Parsons welcomed the commissioners and thanked them for their time and their service.

VII. Review of Nomination Proposals

- A. Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville (UUCJ), Duval County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The church is being proposed for listing in the NR at the local level under Criterion A for Social History and Criterion C for Architecture and Art, with a period of significance that extends from 1966 to 1970. The congregation, which was formed in 1950, has long been known for its outspoken support of social causes ranging from civil rights of African Americans and the LGBTQ community to help for the poor, environmentalism and adult education, among many other issues. The congregation was one of the few integrated religious bodies in the city in the 1950s and 1960s and took the lead in fostering interracial cooperation at the height of racial strife, helping to establish the Human Rights Council and supporting the NAACP and the Urban League. Their leader Rev. Charles McGehee, who was personally present at the march in Selma, Alabama, was one of the most outspoken white ministers in the city who publicly supported civil rights. The church grounds also served as the location of one of the first Head Start programs in the city of Jacksonville and hosted the local Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) congregation.

The church is an excellent locally significant example of Organic Architecture and is one of the keynote designs of the renowned local architect Robert Broward. The building complex was custom-built to the natural setting of the environment, even to the point of no trees being removed from the site during its construction. The building is also unpainted, relying entirely on the natural colors of the wood and concrete block. The lines of the interior and exterior of the chapel in particular were designed to flow into nature. The spatial arrangement of the chapel interior and the heavy use of glass was clearly designed to give an open-ended feel to the building and to draw in the natural surroundings. A protégé of Frank Lloyd Wright who studied at the Taliesin schools and worked with Wright on the Florida Southern College campus, Broward was one of the most significant architects working in northeast Florida in the mid-20th century. The church received a number of awards and recognitions. Broward received an Award of Merit from the FAIA in 1967, a Merit Award from the Jacksonville Chapter of the American Institute of Architects; and the first ever award for Excellence in Architecture from the Jacksonville AIA Chapter in 1991 for his design of the church. In 2018, the University of Florida named the UUCJ as one of the 50 Flagship Structures that “represent the character and scope of mid-century modern architecture in Florida.” Broward himself personally stated that of the over 500 commissions he carried out over his career, this building was both his favorite and most significant design.

There is a large woven full-height tapestry in the center of the chapel titled *Let There Be Light*, which was one of the most notable commissions of the locally significant artist Memphis Wood. Known as the “Jacksonville’s First Lady of Modern Art,” Wood was a leading artist in the city who was particularly known for her work in textiles. Broward, who was well-known for his incorporation of modern art into his work, collaborated with Wood, planning the interior of the

chapel to incorporate the work. The tapestry was custom-made for the chapel. Designed in an era when modern art was expanding into alternative mediums and fiber artists were pushing for textiles as fine art pieces, this work is an excellent example of a fine art textile from the period. It was designed as an artistic and architectural centerpiece rather than a decorative element.

Mr. Gonzalez commented on the fact that today's modern structures most likely wouldn't feature a skylight like this property due to current hurricane codes.

Ms. Almy asked if there had been any archaeological investigations on the site of the church. Mr. Acosta replied that he did not believe there had been. Ms. Almy then inquired how the architectural style of this church differed from that of the Sarasota School. Mr. Acosta explained the regional nature of the Sarasota School and the connection between Organic Architecture to Frank Lloyd Wright.

Mr. Laffitte, a member of the church, architect and acquaintance of Robert Broward spoke on behalf of the nomination. He spoke about the efficiency of Broward's design for the church and how it made the structure affordable to the congregation. Ms. McKenzie spoke about the church's focus on social justice throughout the course of its existence. Though the surrounding neighborhood has fallen on hard economic times, the congregation has intentionally decided to stay in order to serve the community.

A motion was made by Ms. Almy to forward the nomination to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Gonzalez seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- B. Bellamy Bridge, Marianna, Jackson County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The bridge is being proposed for listing in the NR at the local level under Criterion A for Transportation and Criterion C for Engineering. The period of significance extends from 1914 to 1963. Designed by the Converse Bridge Company, the bridge is one of the oldest surviving automobile bridges in the state of Florida and is an excellent, rare surviving example of a Pratt Through-Truss fixed steel frame bridge. This bridge, which predates the development of the state highway department, was one of the earliest attempts in the county to modernize the road infrastructure for automobile travel. The bridge currently functions as a county park.

A number of changes that have taken place to the bridge, most of which is the result of the discontinuation of its usage as an active highway bridge in 1963. The original wood deck and guardrails on the bridge have deteriorated and fallen into the river and the original dirt road on the east side of the river has returned to nature. There has also been some corrosion that has taken place with the metal components and minor vandalism. The bridge itself is unable to hold even foot traffic; however, it still retains its character-defining trapezoidal shape, its four cylindrical piers, its steel frame and Pratt truss design. Despite the loss of some elements of the bridge, the property retains sufficient integrity for listing.

Dr. Smith asked if the bridge was single lane or double lane. Mr. Waber responded that he believed it was double lane.

Ms. Almy asked if this bridge was surveyed as a part of the Florida Historic Highway Bridges survey. Mr. Waber replied that it was.

Mr. Gonzalez expressed that this bridge is a pure form in a phenomenal location. He said that it's a shame that it isn't more accessible to the public and that there wasn't more county funding to preserve it.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to forward the nomination to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Ms. Almy seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- C. **Edgar L. Ferran House, Eustis, Lake County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The building is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. It was built in 1910 as the home of Edgar L. Ferran (1846-1923), a business and civic leader in the City of Eustis, Florida. The house is a notable example Italian Renaissance residence of the American Foursquare type. The period of significance for the Edgar L. Ferran House is 1910, the year in which the building was initially constructed.

The two-story masonry house was built in 1910 as the home of Edgar L. Ferran, a prominent merchant and politician in Eustis, Florida. Built in the Italian Renaissance Revival style in the American Foursquare typology, the Edgar L. Ferran House is a locally-significant architectural site. The house's key characteristic features are its rusticated concrete masonry walls with significant quoining on the corners, its large, elaborate wrap-around porch on its northern front elevation with decorative columns, and its second-story balustrade and dormer. The house's interior is divided into four main rooms on both floors, with a large additional space on the south which consists of a kitchen on the first floor and a sun room on the second floor.

The Edgar L. Ferran House has had few alterations since it was constructed, with its American Foursquare typology being overall amenable to modern living. The one significant alteration to the building was the enclosure of a porch at the southwest corner of the property, a section of the house not easily viewed from the street. The porch was incorporated into the house's interior as a utility room, marking the necessary alterations with the development of domestic technology. The windows on the second floor of the southern elevation originally combined to form a pentagonal shape, but the fenestration was enclosed to allow for the inclusion of rectangular windows. The original pentagon is still visible, however, even if the windows do not conform to it as they originally did. The kitchen has also been remodeled at some point, but retains its original shape.

The Edgar L. Ferran House retains integrity for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It has maintained its integrity of location and setting, having not been moved, and with its surroundings in a residential area just east of Eustis' historic downtown having overall kept its historic character. The house has overall maintained its integrity of design, materials, and

workmanship, with the majority of its original decorative features having been kept. The most impactful alterations to the property, the enclosure of a back porch at the southwest corner of the building as an interior utility space, does not significantly impact the building's integrity, and represents a necessary accommodation for use of the historic building in the modern era. The house maintains its integrity of feeling and association, with the building having kept its historic appearance overall, easily recognizable from the surviving historic photographs.

Mr. Gonzalez commented on the interesting materials and modified four-square design of the house.

Ms. Almy asked where the concrete blocks were made. Mr. Acosta replied that research did not identify where the rusticated concrete block was made. Ms. Almy expressed that the concrete block could have been made elsewhere and transported to Eustis.

A motion was made by Ms. Almy to forward the nomination to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Gonzalez seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- D. Barry University, Miami-Shores, Miami-Dade County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The district is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Education. It is significant as the first Catholic 4-year women's college south of Washington D.C., having opened in 1940. The school's founders intentionally made it affordable to attract young women of working class families. It was also a necessary learning institution for the Sisters who were teaching in parochial schools around the country to continue their own education. The district is also locally significant under Criterion C for Architecture, as a significant example of collegiate architecture. The original buildings were constructed in 1940, and within the next two decades the College saw two major periods of growth, making the period of significance 1940 to 1962. Each of the contributing buildings in the district was designed by Gerald A. Barry, a prolific Chicago architect who was responsible for the design of many churches in Florida as well. This is the largest collection of his buildings in one location. The district is locally significant under Criterion C as a masterwork by Barry.

Barry University currently encompasses approximately 122 acres in northeastern Miami-Dade County in a municipality called Miami Shores Village. Originally named Barry College, the historic portion of the campus, of which the Barry University Historic District is comprised, is contained within the 40 acres first developed in 1940. This nomination also includes the subsequent expansions in 1941, 1946, 1955 and 1962. In total, there are 14 elements that contribute to the historic character of the campus, including 11 buildings, 2 structures (the entrance gates and pool), and 1 site (the Mall). There are 13 non-contributing resources within the original 40-acre parcel, eight of which were built as recently as the 1980s and 1990s.

Each historically significant period of construction is reflected in the various architectural styles of the buildings. The 1940 and 1946 buildings are of masonry construction, and are expressed in a very simplified, clean-lined style that precluded the use of frivolous ornamentation and excessive detailing. Design elements found on these structures refer to the popular architectural styles of

the 20s and 30s such as Mediterranean Revival, Art Deco and Streamline Moderne. The buildings from the mid-1950s blend nicely with the earlier 1940 structures but subtly reflect the technologies and materials utilized in architecture at the time, particularly glass and metal, and a look that was sleeker and modern. The 1962 student union building boldly exemplifies the mid-century modern style. The campus retains a cohesiveness in character through the architect's use of similar materials, scale, massing, and thoughtful planning.

The original entrance into the College is at one end of an elongated, landscaped Mall bordered by a circulatory driveway, oval in shape. It is around this central Mall that the original buildings from 1940 are situated. Subsequent additions were carefully sited behind the 1940 buildings so as not to interfere with the original plan. The quadrangle, or "quad," is one of the most distinctive features of traditional college campuses, as they help define the institution's aesthetic and charm. At Barry, every effort was made to ensure that new construction did not destroy this feeling; a new "quad" was created with every period of expansion, and design elements such as corridors and breezeways were utilized to promote seamless connectivity.

The most significant alterations over time to the campus has been the addition of buildings after the period of significance. However, as indicated previously, all of the buildings constructed after 1962 were built around the perimeter of the original 40-acre parcel, leaving the historic campus occupying the central portion of that parcel virtually unchanged. Alterations to the original structures include the extension of one of Adrian Hall's wings, and Farrell Hall and Kelley House were converted from residential to administrative buildings. The Cor Jesu Chapel has undergone several renovations through the years, the most recent bringing back original features that had been previously covered up. The majority of alterations made to the residential dormitories were for student security and other building modifications necessary for a growing university. Such alterations include the replacement of windows, the addition of security doors, and the introduction of HVAC systems.

Barry University Historic District retains integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Its integrity of location and setting are very high; all of the buildings within the district are in the same place as they were in the historic period, and the institution's setting within the predominantly residential neighborhoods and the surrounding roadways remains unchanged. The Barry University Historic District's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship are retained and are sufficient for listing. Most of the alterations and renovations made to the buildings over the years were done to modernize them for energy efficiency and student security, or to convert the use to better serve the University. Despite these changes, all of the buildings are recognizable as identical to the original design, materials, workmanship, and form. Even the relatively-significant alterations such as window and door replacements do not render the structures unrecognizable to their original form and structure. The integrity of feeling and association within the Barry University Historic District is very high, with the district retaining its historic character to the present.

This nomination was prepared as part of a historic preservation small matching grant.

Mr. Gonzalez expressed concern that the university have a historic preservation architect working on future campus projects. He identified insensitive treatments in front of the Dalton-Dunspaugh House building (railings) and exposed air conditioning units on the exterior of another building.

Ms. Kauffmann, author of the nomination, spoke about the history of the property. Ms. Almy asked if the university has an archive, to which Ms. Kaufmann responded yes and complimented the staff of the archives.

Ms. Mancuso spoke on behalf of the nomination and responded to Mr. Gonzalez's concern about future treatment of the campus' historic structures, stating that the university continues to work with preservation architect Richard Heisenbottle.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to forward the nomination to the National Park Service. Ms. Almy seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

E. Archaeological Resources of the Lower Pinellas Peninsula, Florida, Multiple Property Listing, St. Petersburg, Pinellas County was presented by Mr. Acosta.

The *Archaeological Resources of the Lower Pinellas Peninsula MPS* consists of five elements:

- Archaeological Resources of the Lower Pinellas Peninsula Multiple Property Documentation Form
- Abercrombie Park National Register Nomination
- Maximo Beach National Register Nomination
- Princess Mound National Register Nomination
- Jungle Prada National Register Nomination Update (Additional Documentation)

The Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) provides the overall historic context for the three individual nominations and the update to Jungle Prada. It concentrates on the prehistoric and historic development of the area and an overview of the associated property types that can be found within the Lower Pinellas Peninsula.

Most importantly, the documentation form provides a listing of potential research areas, domains and questions that could be answered by additional investigation at each of the associated properties. This provides a framework for evaluating a property's significance under Criterion D: Archaeology, which is specifically about "information potential" or the ability for a site to answer questions about prehistory through potential future investigations. The MPDF also provides a framework for assessing the significance of a site based upon the materials found at the site, surviving structures and stratigraphy. Lastly, the document provides guidance on evaluating the integrity of an archaeological site. Integrity for sites can vary due to development on or around a site and due to investigations at the site. This differs significantly from how integrity is evaluated for other National Register properties such as buildings, structures, objects and districts.

In addition to the MPDF, the MPS includes individual NR nominations for three sites within the city limits of St. Petersburg and one NR nomination update. All four of these documents are very

similar in format and content, covering sites that are associated primarily with prehistoric Native American mound building cultures (all nominations) and with early Euro-American settlement (Abercrombie Park and Maximo Beach). Each nomination contains a detailed description of the site and all previous archaeological investigations at the sites. The nominations are accompanied by the required photos, maps, site plans and representative images of artifacts found at the sites. The narrative statements of significance address the information potential of the sites and provide specific research questions that are based upon the broader list of research areas or domains found in the MPDF.

The *Archaeological Resources of the Lower Pinellas Peninsula MPS* provides the necessary historic context and property type categories to evaluate the associated National Register nominations against the National Register Criteria.

- The Abercrombie Park Site is eligible for listing under National Register Criterion A: Exploration/Settlement and Criterion D: Archaeology, at the local level of significance, for the period 3000 BC- AD 1500, AD 1821-1888.
- The Maximo Beach Site is eligible for listing under National Register Criterion A: Exploration/Settlement and Criterion D: Archaeology, at the local level of significance, for the period 2800 BC - AD 1500, AD 1783-1888.
- The Princess Mound Site is eligible for listing under National Register Criterion D: Archaeology, at the local level of significance, for the period AD 300 – 1500.

Dr. Parsons commented on the fact that Google Maps identifies the site as “Indian Burial Mound” which is both inaccurate and inviting to looters.

- The Jungle Prada Site Additional Documentation amends an existing National Register listing, expanding the description of archaeological investigations at the site and the context for its Criterion D: Archaeology significance. It also adds significance under National Register Criterion A: Exploration/Settlement and adds references to the MPS. The property retains its significance and integrity, remains eligible for the National Register at the local level under Criterion D: Archaeology, and is now eligible under Criterion A: Exploration/Settlement, at the local level, for an expanded period of significance ending in AD 1765.

The Multiple Property Submission was prepared as part of a small matching grant awarded to the City of St. Petersburg, a Certified Local Government.

Ms. Almy agreed that the nomination was well written and was glad that the project was completed through a CLG small matching grant. Ms. Tomlinson expressed that this was one of several grant projects related to these archaeological sites. Dr. Smith expressed that he was impressed by the breadth of time covered by the nominations and was pleased with the final product.

A motion was made by Ms. Almy to forward the Multiple Property listing to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Gonzalez seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. Other Business

Mr. Acosta explained upcoming personnel changes in the National Register section including an open archaeologist National Register reviewer position and the resignation of Max Imberman. Dr. Smith thanked Mr. Imberman for his contributions to the national register program.

Mr. Acosta mentioned that the next NRRB meeting will be November 7, 2019. He also explained that the final status on nominations sent to the National Park Service from the May 23rd meeting will be available soon.

Ms. Almy and Dr. Smith expressed that the staff comments are very helpful in preparing for the meetings.

IX. Public Comment

At the request of Ms. Almy, Ms. Kauffmann described her career path in the field of historic preservation, including work with several Florida local governments, the SHPO, the Miami-Dade Trust, and preservation consulting.

X. Motion to Adjourn

Ms. Almy moved to adjourn. The meeting ended at 3:20 p.m.

Chair, National Register Review Board

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

Date