

Florida National Register Review Board
R.A. Gray Building, Room 307
Tallahassee, Florida
November 2, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present In-Person: Rick Gonzalez (chair)

Board Members Present Via Webinar: Dr. Clifford Smith and Dr. J. Michael Francis

Board Members Not Present: Kathleen Kauffman (vice chair) and Dr. Judith Bense

Florida Department of State Officials and Staff Present In-Person: Alissa Lotane, Division Director, Historical Resources; Ruben A. Acosta, Bureau Chief, Historic Preservation; Sam Schmidt, Historic Preservationist; Andrew Waber, Historian; Jeremy Heiker, State Historical Marker Coordinator; Eric Case, Grants Supervisor; Alexa Wilson, Grants Specialist; Theo Smith, Grants Specialist; Dr. Kyra Lucas, Supervisor, Survey and Registration.

Florida Department of State Officials and Staff Present Via Webinar: Angela Tomlinson, Assistant Director, Division of Historical Resources; Ethan Putnam, Historic Sites Specialist

Guests Present In-Person: None

Guests Present Via Webinar: Randy Jaye, author St. Mary Catholic Church nomination; Irvlyn Kennebrew, LaVilla resident; Brain LaBrie, author Hilman Pratt Funeral Home nomination; Gabrielle Redfern; Lisa Sheppard, City of Jacksonville staff

I. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Mr. Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm. Ms. Schmidt called the roll and confirmed quorum.

II. Introduction of Board, Staff and Guests:

Dr. Lucas introduced the board and staff. Mr. Heiker read the names of all guests attending via webinar.

III. Adoption of Agenda:

Mr. Gonzalez called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Dr. Smith moved to adopt. Dr. Franis seconded. The board approved the agenda unanimously.

IV. Remarks by Chairperson on Purpose of Meeting:

Mr. Gonzalez thanked staff and colleagues.

V. Approval of Minutes from the August 3, 2023, Meeting:

Mr. Gonzalez called for a motion. Dr. Smith moved to approve the minutes from the August 2023 National Register Review Board Meeting. Dr. Francis seconded. The board approved the meeting minutes unanimously.

VI. Director's Comments:

Ms. Lotane stated that she had no new announcements, but she expressed gratitude to the board and staff.

VII. Review of Nomination Proposals:

A. Hillman-Pratt Funeral Home, Duval County

Dr. Lucas presented staff comments. The Hillman-Pratt Funeral Home is being proposed for listing under Criteria A and B: for Commerce and Ethnic Heritage-Black and Criterion C: Architecture, at the local level. The period of significance is from 1915 to 1973. The funeral home is being proposed for listing under the *African American Architects in Segregated Jacksonville, 1865-1965 MPS* under Associated Context E.1 African American Architects in Segregated Jacksonville, 1865-1965 and Associated Property Type F.4 Commercial Buildings. The Hillman-Pratt Funeral Home was one of the most successful businesses operating in the historically Black community of LaVilla in the early to mid-20th century. Lawton L. Pratt was one of the leading Black businessmen in Jacksonville and was one of the statewide leaders in the Black funeral home industry. The Hillman-Pratt Funeral Home is an excellent locally significant example of early 20th century funeral home architecture and is one of the best known commercial works of Joseph Haygood Blodgett, who was identified in the associated MPS as one of the master design-builders in Jacksonville in the early to mid-20th century. Although the building has been renovated, it retains many of its character defining features, including its form, decorative features, and interior spatial organization. Staff had no concerns with the historic significance or integrity of the property and recommended forwarding the nomination to the National Park Service for listing.

Mr. Gonzalez inquired about plans to restore the building in an upcoming tax credit project. Dr. Lucas and Mr. LaBrie explained the scope of the project.

Mr. Gonzalez solicited board comment. No board members made additional comments.

Mr. Gonzalez solicited public comment. Mr. LaBrie and Ms. Kennebrew noted significant local support for listing one of LaVilla's last extant historic buildings.

Mr. Gonzalez called for a motion. Dr. Smith moved to forward the Hillman-Pratt Funeral Home nomination to the National Park Service under Criteria A and B: for Commerce and Ethnic Heritage-Black, under Criterion C: Architecture, and under the *African American Architects in Segregated Jacksonville, 1865-1965 MPS* in association with Context E.1 African American Architects in Segregated Jacksonville, 1865-1965 and Property Type F.4 Commercial Buildings. Dr. Francis seconded. The board passed the motion unanimously.

B. St. Mary's Catholic Church, Flagler County

Dr. Lucas presented staff comments. The St. Mary Catholic Church is locally significant under Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage-European and Exploration/Settlement, and under Criterion C: Architecture. The period of significance spans from 1914, when the Church was constructed, to 1935, when the contributing Shrine to Saint Christopher was constructed. The St. Mary Catholic Church is significant for its association with Polish immigrants who first settled the historic community of Korona, Florida. Polish settlers built the Carpenter Gothic church in 1914, and it is the oldest extant church in Flagler County. The church was the first community building constructed in Korona and provided social stability during a time of great uncertainty. The church continues to hold Sunday mass in the Polish language, preserving the church's and the community's ethnic heritage. The St. Mary Catholic Church is an excellent example of the Carpenter Gothic architectural style and maintains its integrity, with few alterations since its initial construction. The contributing structure on the property is a large concrete and coquina block Shrine to St. Christopher, which is a popular tourist attraction for motorists, particularly during the annual Blessing of the Automobiles service. Staff had no concerns with the historic significance or integrity of the property and recommended forwarding the nomination to the National Park Service for listing.

Mr. Gonzalez inquired about alterations to the building. Ms. Schmidt and Mr. Jaye responded.

Mr. Gonzalez solicited public comments. Mr. Jaye explained he had been working on this nomination for quite some time and thanked the board for considering the property.

Mr. Gonzalez solicited board comments. Dr. Francis commented on the history of the building and the writing of the nomination.

Mr. Gonzalez called for a motion. Dr. Francis moved to forward the St. Mary's Catholic Church nomination to the National Park Service under Criterion A: Exploration/Settlement and Ethnic Heritage-European, and under Criterion C: Architecture with a local level of significance spanning from 1914-1935. Dr. Smith seconded. The board passed the motion unanimously.

C. Gilchrist County Jail, Gilchrist County

Dr. Lucas presented staff comments. The Gilchrist County Jail, located in Trenton, Florida, is locally significant under Criterion A: for Government and Criterion C: for Architecture. The period of significance extends from the building's date of construction in circa 1928 until 1968, when the county constructed a new jail. Formed in 1925, Gilchrist County is the newest county in Florida. The jail, which the county built just a few years after its formation, was likely the first purpose-built county government building in Gilchrist County. From 1928 until 1968, it functioned as the county jail for Gilchrist County, and as such would have played an essential role in governance and law enforcement in the county. The jail is an excellent locally significant example of an early 20th century linear jail adapted for the use of

a small town or county. In circa 1966, the county built a one-story sheriff's residence that connected to the jailhouse via a hyphen and a small one-story concrete block utility shed onto the rear of the jailhouse. Staff consider these changes to be historic and therefore they do not adversely affect the integrity of the property. Staff noted that while there have been exterior alterations, the jail maintains an usually high degree of interior integrity, with its character-defining form, interior plan, and furnishings. Staff had no concerns with the historic significance of the property and recommended forwarding the nomination to the National Park Service for listing.

Mr. Gonzalez inquired about alterations to the building. Mr. Waber responded.

Mr. Gonzalez and Dr. Smith recommended future preservation approaches to the property owner.

Mr. Gonzalez solicited Board comments. Board members made no additional comments.

Mr. Gonzalez solicited public comments. There was no public comment.

Mr. Gonzalez called for a motion. Dr. Francis moved to forward the Gilchrist County Jail nomination to the National Park Service under Criterion A: Government and Criterion C: Architecture, with a local level of significance from 1928 to 1968. Dr. Smith seconded. The board passed the motion unanimously.

VIII. Other Business:

Mr. Gonzalez asked if there was other business. Dr. Lucas updated the board on the status of nominations previously sent to the National Park Service and ongoing staff projects.

Dr. Lucas asked the board to review the dates for the 2024 quarterly NRRB meetings. Board members discussed schedule conflicts in February.

Mr. Gonzalez called for a motion to change the date of the next Board meeting. Dr. Smith moved to hold the first NRRB meeting of 2024 on February 8, 2024.¹ Dr. Francis seconded. The Board passed the motion unanimously.

IX. Public Comment:

Mr. Gonzalez opened the floor to public comment. No public comment.

¹ The date of the NRRB meeting was changed again at the next day's FHC meeting to February 6, 2024.

X. Motion to Adjourn:

Dr. Smith motioned to adjourn. Dr. Francis seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Chair, NR Review Board: _____

Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Officer: _____

Date: _____