

Florida National Register Review Board Meeting
R. A. Gray Building, Room 307
Tallahassee, Florida
December 17, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Commission Members Present: Mr. Rick Gonzalez, Vice Chair; Mrs. Marion Almy; and Dr. Clifford E. Smith

Commission Members Unable to Attend: Dr. Adam J. Hirsch; and Ms. Ellen J. Uguccioni.

Division of Historical Resources Staff Present: Mr. Robert F. Bendus, State Historic Preservation Officer and Division Director; Mrs. Alissa Lotane, Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation; Ms. Beverly McGriff, Administrative Assistant; Ms. Desiree Estabrook, National Register Supervisor; Mr. Robert Jones, Historic Sites Specialist; Dr. W. Carl Shiver, Historic Preservationist; Mr. Michael Hart, Historic Sites Specialist; Ms. Robyn Bertram, Historic Preservation Grants Specialist; Mr. Stephen Thompson, IT Support; and Ms. Angie Tomlinson, Program Administrator.

Guests Present: Mr. Torres Hawkins; Mrs. Erma Hawkins; Ms. Stephanie Russ; Mr. T.C. Sylva; Ms. Kay Clap; and Mr. Sidney Johnston.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Gonzalez at 9:00 a.m.

II. Introduction of Commission, Staff & Guests

III. Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Gonzalez called for a motion to adopt the agenda as emailed. Mrs. Almy so motioned. Motion was seconded by Dr. Smith and approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes from September 4, 2014 Meeting

Chairman Gonzalez called for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Smith motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Almy and approved unanimously.

V. Remarks by Chairperson on Purpose of Meeting

VI. SHPO/Section Supervisor Comments

Mr. Bendus welcomed and thanked the Commission members, staff and public for attending the meeting.

VII. Review of Nomination Proposals

A. **Cummings House, Putnam County** was presented by Mr. Bob Jones. The Cummings House is located in Putnam County 12 miles south of Palatka. It is nominated at the local level under Criterion C for Architecture as an excellent example of a Frame Vernacular home. This large house, built in 1903, is the last building remaining of the lumber and turpentine town of Rodman. Built and owned by the company owner, it contains choice lumber, and has quality workmanship. The house contains an unusual second floor perimeter hallway. The major alterations are historic, done in the 1940s, done to accommodate an enlarged occupancy. The open carport was done in the 1970s. The surrounding property contains foundational ruins of company buildings.

A motion was made by Mrs. Almy to accept the proposal under Criteria C for Architecture at the local level. The motion was seconded by Dr. Smith, and passed unanimously.

B. **Gary Morgan House, Winter Park, Orange County** was presented by Mr. Bob Jones. Representative present was Mr. Sidney Johnston. The Gary-Morgan House, located in a downtown neighborhood of Winter Park, is an outstanding example of a Classical Revival home. It is nominated at the local level under Criterion C for Architecture. The house has two periods of significance; 1927 when it was constructed by Claude and Celia Gary, and 1944, when Alexander and Katheryn Morgan enclosed the porte corchere. The historical enclosure of the porte altered the appearance in a manner entirely in keeping with the Classical Style of the home. The level of workmanship and detailing are high on both the exterior and interior. The context of Winter Park and the Gary and Morgan families are extensive for a claim of Criterion C, but both provide a detailed public record of this local history.

A motion was made by Dr. Smith to accept the proposal under Criteria C for Architecture at the local level. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Almy, and passed unanimously.

- C. **Taylor House, Tallahassee, Leon County** was presented by Mr. Bob Jones. There were no representatives present. The Taylor House in the Frenchtown area of Tallahassee was built in 1894 by Lewis and Lucritia Taylor. The house is nominated under Criteria A and C, for Ethnic Heritage: Black, for Social History related to Education, and Architecture. The Taylors had a large family within which education was valued. Lewis was a teacher among other jobs, and was quite literate at a time after the Civil War when education was valued by freedmen in the South. Of the couples' ten children, four became notable teachers in local and neighboring public schools. Two grandchildren raised in the house became teachers also, and all participated in the Civil Rights Movement. The most notable was Aquilina Howell who as Assistant Superintendent of Leon Public Schools was foremost in steering the administration and public through the difficult years of public school integration. The case is made for these National Register areas of significance, but currently unknown are footnote related sources of the history presented, particularly the quotes.

A motion was made by Mrs. Almy to accept the proposal under Criteria A and C for Ethnic Heritage: Black, for Society History related to Education, and Architecture at the local level. The motion was seconded by Dr. Smith, and passed unanimously.

- D. **W.T. Davis Building, Madison, Madison County** was presented by Mr. Bob Jones. Representative present via phone, Ms. Ann McCloud. William Turner Davis, and prominent builder in the county seat of Madison, Florida, built this Two-Part Commercial Block brick building in 1892. It is nominated at the local level under Criterion C for Architecture. The building is notable for its ornate sculpted pressed-metal façade with cast iron first-story store front columns. The metal front was fabricated by the Mesker Brothers Iron Works (Front Builders) in St. Louis. This building brings to light the history of metal-worked building facades popular in the late 19th and early 20th century, which were dominated by two Mesker Brothers firms. The exterior of the building is remarkably intact. The interior spaces have historically been subject to alteration depending on the changing commercial tenants, but the wooden primary walls and ceilings predominate and most of the first floor retains a historic configuration.

A motion was made by Dr. Smith to accept the proposal under Criteria C for Architecture at the local level. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Almy, and passed unanimously.

- E. **Bethlehem AME Church & School, Cottondale, Jackson County** was presented by Ms. Desiree Estabrook. Representatives present were Ms. Erma Hawkins, Mr. Torres Hawkins, Ms. Stephanie Russ and via phone, Mr. Darryl Pope. The Bethlehem African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church property, located in Cottondale, Jackson County, is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History and Ethnic Heritage: Black. The property includes three resources: the main church (built 1952), the brick school (built 1946), and the adjoining pre-Civil War cemetery that spans approximately 6.5 acres. Established between 1861 and 1863, this particular congregation pre-dates the Emancipation Proclamation and remains one of the earliest African Methodist Episcopal groups founded in Florida. Although the current church building dates to 1952, the original church and its subsequent manifestations were historically at this location. The school also shares a connection with this property, as the first recorded wood frame building burned in the late 1800s and the second was constructed of tin in 1917. The third (and current) building is a product of collective community effort to construct a durable brick building in 1946. During periods without a dedicated schoolhouse, the church housed educational functions for children. Although the current church building reflects alterations to improve the facilities, it retains integrity of its location, setting, feeling, and association. The essential function of the church in promoting education and community support is understood, and both the school building and the cemetery contribute to the interpretation of the site.

A motion was made by Mrs. Almy to accept the proposal under Criteria A in the areas of Social History and Ethnic Heritage: Black at the local level. The motion was seconded by Dr. Smith, and passed unanimously.

- F. **Curry Homesteads at Manatee Mineral Springs, Manatee County** was presented by Ms. Desiree Estabrook. Representative present via phone, Ms. Sherry Svekis.

No motion – presentation and discussion only. Proposal is currently in a rough draft stage and staff members are seeking Board member input regarding its eligibility.

VIII. Other Business

Next Review Board meeting will be held on March 12, 2015.

IX. Public Comment

Public comment made by Ms. Sherry Svekis thanking the Commission.

X. Motion to Adjourn

Mrs. Almy called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Dr. Smith and approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

_____, [Mr. Rick Gonzalez] Date _____
Acting Chairman, Florida National Register Review Board

_____, [Mr. Robert F. Bendus] Date _____
State Historic Preservation Officer and Director of Division of Historical Resources