

**Florida National Register Review Board Building
R. A. Gray Building, Room 307
Tallahassee, Florida
May 11, 2017
Meeting Minutes**

Commission Members Present In-Person: Dr. Clifford Smith

Commission Members Present via Webinar: Ms. Ellen J. Uguccioni, Chair; Mr. Rick Gonzalez, Vice-Chair; Ms. Marion Almy

Commission Members Unable to Attend: None

Division of Historical Resources Staff Present: Ms. Alissa Slade Lotane, Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer; Mr. Ruben Acosta, Survey and Registration Supervisor; Dr. W. Carl Shiver, Historic Preservationist; Mr. Andrew Waber, Historic Preservationist; Mr. Max Imberman, Historic Preservationist; Mr. Michael Hart, State Marker Program Coordinator, Digital Outreach Coordinator; Mr. Michael Zimny, Certified Local Government Coordinator; Ms. Sarah Liko, Program Administrator; Ms. Mercedes Harrold, Historic Sites Specialist; Ms. Alyssa Costas, Historic Sites Specialist

Guests Present: Mr. Terry Young; Ms. Michele Luthin; Ms. Agnes Danciger; Mr. Percy Rosenbloom; Mr. Tim Burleigh; Mr. Paul Weaver; Ms. Melissa Price

Guests Present via Webinar: Ms. Christie Fitz-Patrick, Deputy Secretary, Florida Department of State; Ms. Elaine Reed, CEO, Naples Historical Society; Mr. Joel McEachin, City of Jacksonville Planning and Development Department; Mr. Dennis Fernandez, Manager, Architectural Review and Historic Preservation, City of Tampa; Ms. Elaine Lund, Historic Preservation Specialist, City of Tampa; Ms. Kathleen Pagan, Senior Planner, Alachua County; Ms. Murray Laurie; Ms. Connie Butts, Sneads City Manager; Mr. Len Piazewski

Acosta: Reads off housekeeping, webinar instructions, etc.

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair, Rick Gonzalez, at 1:43 p.m.
- II. Introduction of Commission, Staff, and Guests
Commission, staff, and guests introduced themselves.
- III. Adoption of Agenda
Mr. Acosta asked to remove the Kennedy Boulevard Bridge from the agenda, moving it to the August agenda due to the need to notify the Florida Department of Transportation because the bridge is state-owned. **Ms. Almy moved to adopt agenda as written with changes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Smith and unanimously accepted.**
- IV. Remarks by Chairperson on Purpose of Meeting
Tabled until the end of meeting due to technical difficulties on the part of the chairperson.

- V. Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2017 Meeting
Mr. Gonzalez called for a motion to approve the February 9, 2017 minutes as presented. Dr. Smith motioned to approve. The motion was seconded by Ms. Almy and was approved unanimously.
- VI. Nomination and Election of Officers
Tabled until the end of conference call.
- VII. Bureau Chief's Comments
Ms. Lotane welcomed the board and thanked them for their service. She recognized and welcomed Deputy Secretary of State Christie Fitz-Patrick who joined the meeting by phone.
- VIII. Review of Nomination Proposals
- A. Stephens House, Alachua County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The building is being nominated under Criterion C for local significance in the area of Architecture. The period of significance is 1885-1896, which corresponds with the construction of the house until the last alterations to its main design. This building is an excellent local example of Folk Victorian architecture. It was the home until the 1960s of members of the pioneer Stephens family who originally settled on the Bellamy Road, near Newnansville, Alachua County's first county seat. The building retains a high degree of physical integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship. Despite the changes that have taken place over time, including a carport, the infilling of the original foundations, and the interior changes, this building sufficiently reflects its historic 1896 appearance. Ms. Laurie and Ms. Pagan gave public comments in support of the proposal.
- A motion was made by Ms. Almy to forward the proposal under Criterion C for Architecture at the local level. The motion was seconded by Dr. Smith and was approved unanimously.**
- B. Memorial Park, Jacksonville, Duval County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The site is being nominated under Criteria A for local and state significance in Entertainment & Recreation, Social History, and Art, and Criterion C for Landscape Architecture. The period of significance is 1924-1967. Memorial Park is municipally owned and located at 1620 Riverside Avenue in the Riverside neighborhood of Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida. The 5.95-acre park is square in plan and is prominently sited on the west side of the St. Johns River, occupying a full city block. The major features of the park are five entrances; an oval-shaped, centrally-placed lawn; a promenade surrounding the lawn; perimeter plantings and openings; a park edge; and an esplanade. The central feature is a memorial (fountain and statue) that is the focus of the overall design of the park. The memorial is sited in a square plaza, constructed of brick and concrete with surrounding balustrades, in the esplanade. It consists of a fountain, dedication plaques, and a bronze sculpture titled *Spiritualized Life*. The park is well maintained and has excellent integrity. It preserves the original Olmsted Brothers design and the *Life* is statue clearly intact and well maintained.

Ms. Ugoccioni joined the meeting during the Memorial Park presentation, and expressed her concerns with the nomination, which centered around the sculpture and fountain located in the park. She did not agree with the separation of the basin from the fountain,

using the term “statue” rather than “sculpture” to describe the piece, and the lack of acknowledgment for the figure’s Art Nouveau features. Mr. Waber described his consultation with an art historian at Florida State University, who informed his presentation and description of the material. He described the piece as a fusion of Art Nouveau and Beaux Art with distinct components. Ms. Ugoccioni did not approve of the separation of the piece into multiple components. Staff agreed to revisit the material and edit the nomination.

A motion was made by Ms. Ugoccioni to forward the proposal under Criterion A for Entertainment & Recreation, Social History, and Art, and Criterion C for Landscape Architecture at the local and state level. The motion was seconded by Dr. Smith and was approved unanimously. Afterward, Ms. Ugoccioni took over as chair of the meeting.

- C. **ACL Locomotive 1504, Jacksonville, Duval County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The structure is being nominated under Criterion A for its significance in transportation and Criterion C for its significance in engineering. The locomotive has been moved, so consideration B has been applied. Atlantic Coast Line Railroad (ACL) Locomotive Number 1504 is a United States Railroad Administration (USRA) designed class P-5-A “light Pacific” steam locomotive engine. The steam engine, which measures roughly 15 feet in height and a little over 80 feet in length from the tip of the pilot to the end of the tender, features a 4-6-2 wheel configuration. Although no longer operational, it still retains all the vital elements of a steam engine, including its original or similarly designed piping arrangement, tender, cab, domes, driving wheels, coal pusher, non-lifting injectors, trailing trucks, running boards, and pilot. The engine has had some alterations, including the replacement of the headlight, tender trucks, and pilot truck wheels. The engine has also been moved to its current location, which is on a detached set of tracks in the middle of the parking lot in front of what is now the Prime Osborn Convention Center, formerly the city’s depot. Despite this, it still retains sufficient integrity to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

A motion was made by Dr. Smith to forward the proposal under Criterion A for Transportation and Criterion C for engineering at the local level. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gonzalez, and was approved unanimously.

- D. **Florida’s Historic Highway Bridges Multiple Property Submission** was presented by Mr. Acosta. This multiple property submission is being nominated under Criterion A for Community Planning & Development and Transportation, and Criterion C for Architecture and Engineering. Ms. Almy recused herself because her company had been paid to prepare this submission years earlier.

A motion was made by Dr. Smith to forward the proposal under criterion A for Community Planning & Development and Transportation, and Criterion C for Architecture and Engineering. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gonzalez and was approved unanimously.

- E. **Kennedy Boulevard Bridge, Tampa, Hillsborough County**

Moved to August meeting because Florida Department of Transportation owner approval is required.

- F. **Columbus Drive Bridge, Tampa, Hillsborough County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. This structure is being nominated for local significance under Criterion A for Community Planning & Development and Transportation and local and state significance under Criterion C for Engineering. It will be listed under the Florida's Historic Highway Bridges Multiple Property Submission. The Columbus Drive Bridge spans the Hillsborough River north of downtown Tampa. Originally named the Michigan Avenue Bridge, the bridge was built between 1926 and 1927, and consists of twelve spans extending 470 feet across the river. The moveable span is a pony truss bobtail swing span. The swing span is flanked by eleven concrete approach spans with a tee-beam design. Originally supporting pedestrian sidewalks and two vehicular lanes flanking rails for a streetcar, the bridge now carries four lanes of vehicular traffic and two pedestrian sidewalks across the Hillsborough River. Decorative elements of the functional structure include the metal balustrade with the finials on the pedestrian walkway of the swing span and the classically inspired balustrade with urn-shaped balusters topped by a concrete cap on the pedestrian walkway of the approach spans. A wood frame tender's house is located along the north elevation of the eastern approach span of the bridge. The bridge was built by Roberts Supply Company of Lima, Ohio, while the steel truss swing span was fabricated and erected by the Mt. Vernon Bridge Company of Mt. Vernon, Ohio. The bridge retains a high level of integrity.

A motion was made by Ms. Almy to forward the proposal under Criterion A for Community Planning & Development and Transportation, and Criterion C for Engineering. The motion was seconded by Dr. Smith and was approved unanimously.

- G. **Oaklawn Cemetery, Tampa, Hillsborough County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. This district is being nominated for local significance under Criterion A for Early Settlement, Community Planning & Development, and Art, and Criterion C for Architecture. The cemetery is used for religious purposes and is a place of burial, so it was subject to Criteria considerations A and D. Located in the city limits north of downtown Tampa, Oaklawn Cemetery consists of two adjacent burial grounds: Oaklawn Cemetery, founded in 1850, the oldest public cemetery in Tampa, and the St. Louis Cemetery, a Catholic cemetery founded in 1874. Both cemeteries are now known under the single name Oaklawn, despite retaining separate ownership. The two cemeteries jointly occupy approximately three acres of land at 606 East Harrison Street. The historic district is bounded by Harrison Street on the south, Jefferson Street on the east, Laurel Street on the north, and Morgan Street on the west. U.S Interstate Highway 275 is located one block north of the cemetery. Oaklawn Cemetery and St. Louis Catholic Cemetery now operate as one cemetery with a common main entrance surrounded by a single masonry boundary wall that encloses both cemeteries. Today, the cemetery consists of approximately three acres with approximately 1,561 graves that share the same development history. Many of Tampa's pioneer families are interred in the cemetery, including thirteen mayors of the city, one Florida governor, two Florida Supreme Court justices, and the framers of five state constitutions. A large number of Hispanic (mainly Cuban) and Italian families are buried in the Catholic portion of the cemetery. The historic district also has the graves of Union and Confederate veterans, and a portion of the cemetery was set aside for slaves and "marginal" persons. The two cemeteries exhibit a wide variety of grave markers, including tombstones, columns, obelisks, vaults, statues, and grouped elements in family burial sites. The monuments exhibit characteristic Victorian-era symbols and decorations associated with various social and fraternal organizations.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to forward the proposal under criterion A for Early Settlement, Community Planning & Development, and Art, and Criterion C for Architecture at the local level. The motion was seconded by Ms. Almy and was approved unanimously.

- H. **Sneads Cabin, Sneads, Jackson County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. This building is being nominated for local significance under Criterion A for Early Settlement, Government, and Social History, and Criterion C for Architecture. The Sneads Community House and Old Pump are two historic resources located within the historic downtown of Sneads, Florida. The proposal consists of two contributing resources, the Community House and Old Pump, and three non-contributing resources, the gazebo, Old Pump shelter, and historical marker. The Community House is a circa 1936 Rustic Style log building with a distinctive rough-hewn stone chimney made from local limestone and heavy chinking between the logs. Most of the foundation is composed of limestone closely resembling the appearance of the chimney. The cross-gabled, one-story building also features an entry porch with an independent gabled roof supported by wood posts. The interior of the main core of the building is one single open space. The additions provide space for a kitchen, bathroom, and storage. There have been a number of changes to this building over the years, including two additions onto the rear, the replacement of the original wood windows with metal windows, the replacement of roofing materials, the replacement of portions of the foundations with brick, and the replacement of the original doors.

The Old Pump is a cast iron water well hand pump made by the Red Jacket Manufacturing Company of Davenport, Iowa. The pump measures roughly four feet in height. There is a cast concrete basin which was added sometime later which is considered a historic alteration. A small non-contributing wood shelter was erected over the pump to help protect it. There is a large octagonal wood gazebo erected on the property which rests on concrete block foundations and is surrounded by a wood fence. There is also a cast metal historical marker erected in 1976 by the Jackson County Historic Commission, which is considered non-contributing due to its age. Despite these changes, both the Community House and the Old Pump retain a fairly high degree of integrity.

A motion was made by Dr. Smith to forward the proposal under Criterion A for Early Settlement, Government, and Social History, and Criterion C for Architecture at the local level. The motion was seconded by Ms. Almy, and was approved unanimously.

- I. **USS Narcissus, offshore Hillsborough County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. This site is being nominated for local and state significance under criterion A for Maritime History and Military History and Criterion D for Archaeology. The USS Narcissus State Underwater Archaeological Preserve (8HI05369) is the wreck of a wooden-hulled steam tugboat lost in January, 1866, when she ran aground northwest of Egmont Key, Florida. A boiler explosion destroyed the vessel, killing the entire crew. The wreck site is in 15 ft. of water embedded on bottomlands belonging to the State of Florida, while the shipwreck itself is property of the U.S. Navy under the Sunken Military Craft Act (H.R. 4200). The site includes the remains of the 82 ft. long tugboat and associated artifacts. Non-contributing resources consist of two moorings and a cement monument with inset bronze plaque that designates the shipwreck as an Underwater Archaeological Preserve and Florida Heritage Site.

A motion was made by Ms. Almy to forward the proposal under Criterion A for Maritime History and Military History and Criterion D for archaeology at the local and state levels. The motion was seconded by Dr. Smith, and was approved unanimously.

- J. **Storm Wreck, offshore St. Johns County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The site is being nominated for local and state significance under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion D for Archaeology. In 2009, archaeologists from the St. Augustine Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP) discovered the remains of a historic shipwreck sites a mile offshore at St. Augustine. Referred to as the “Storm Wreck” and given the Florida Master Site File identification number 8SJ5459, the site was identified after years of work as one of sixteen British Loyalist vessels fleeing Charleston that wrecked on the bar in the St. Augustine Inlet on December 31, 1782. Although the exact name of the vessel has not been determined, the last Charleston fleet was comprised of government transports and private vessels and was accompanied by three naval vessels. The Loyalists fled Charleston at the end of the Revolutionary War to East Florida, one of the lone British colonies left. The Storm Wreck and its cargo today lie scattered across the sea floor of the St. Augustine beaches. LAMP archaeologists have continued to excavate, document, and research the wreck for further information that would identify the name of this Loyalist vessel.

A motion was made by Dr. Smith to forward the proposal under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion D for Archaeology at the local and state levels. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gonzalez and was approved unanimously.

- K. **Bellevue Biltmore Removal, Belleair, Pinellas County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The Bellevue Biltmore Hotel was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 26, 1979. The building was significant under Criterion A: Community Planning and Development, Criterion A: Transportation, and Criterion C: Architecture, for its direct association with the development of the Plant System of railroads, hotels, and communities. In the 1880s and 1890s, Henry Plant acquired railroads across Florida, linking Jacksonville to Tampa Bay. To spur traffic on his railroad lines and to promote his landholdings to prospective buyers, Plant constructed hotels along his lines, such as the Tampa Bay Hotel and the Bellevue Hotel. These hotels would also spur the development of nearby communities to provide the necessary services for guests and employees of the hotels.

The Bellevue Biltmore hotel was designed by the firm of Miller and Kinnard in a variation of the Victorian or Shingle Style. The hotel was completed in 1897. Nearly twenty years later, the hotel was acquired by the Biltmore corporation, which expanded the hotel into the largest wooden building in the state in the 1920s. In the 1930s, the hotel passed to other ownership due to the Great Depression, and during the Second World War it was used as an auxiliary barracks for U.S. Army Air Corps troops training in the area.

As of 2016, the majority of the historic hotel has been demolished. Originally consisting of three, 4 and ½ story sections, only the central core of the historic building survives, preserving the hotel lobby and 35 of the original guestrooms. However, this central portion was relocated 320 feet from its original location and has been reoriented 90 degrees to the east to facilitate the redevelopment of the hotel site with new, multi-story buildings. The demolition of the historic hotel destroyed the property’s integrity of design, materials, and

workmanship, while the relocation of the central block and the redevelopment of the hotel site destroyed the property's integrity of location, setting, and feeling. As a result, the property is no longer eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. Gonzalez raised some concern about the Belleair CLG government's role in the loss of the Bellevue Biltmore historic resource and raised questions about the responsibilities of local governments in having an active hand in protecting sensitive historic structures. He presented a concern about Certified Local Governments not living up to their end of the state's preservation arrangements, such as the Belleair case, in which most of the community's historic material was lost in one fell swoop. Ms. Almy agreed with Mr. Gonzalez, and expressed interest in publishing press releases about the destruction of National Register buildings. Ms. Ugoccioni agreed and stated that the state historic preservation office should be involved in making the public aware of the destruction of historic properties.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to forward the delisting to the National Park Service due to the loss of historic integrity. The motion was seconded by Ms. Almy and was approved unanimously.

- L. **Amendment to Naples Historic District, Naples, Collier County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The Naples Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places December 17, 1987, and was last updated May 18, 1994. The new additional documentation revises the contributing resource count within the existing boundaries of the district, updates details for the architectural description of the district, extends the period of significance to 1964, and expands the statement of significance.

The Historic District maintains architectural continuity from 1937 through to 1964. This period completes the filling-in of the original 1885 plat of Naples with similar single-family cottages as the period prior to World War II. The majority of houses constructed between 1937 and 1964 are in the Frame Vernacular style, which utilizes local materials and vernacular architectural elements such as a variety wood siding, large porches, front and side gable roofs, a variety of roof dormers, and various types of wood windows and shutters. Other architectural types and styles include late examples of the craftsman style bungalow and early examples of post-war minimal traditional and ranch houses. Also identified in the update are secondary buildings on the properties—guesthouses, garages, carriage houses, and so on - boundary clarification, updated resource count, updated description and statement of significance.

A motion was made by Dr. Smith to forward the district amendment to the National Park Service, and to use this amendment as a model for future district updates in the State of Florida. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gonzalez and was approved unanimously.

IX. Nomination and Election of Officers

A motion to table was made by Dr. Smith. It was seconded by Ms. Almy and was approved unanimously.

X. Other Business

Mr. Acosta scheduled the next meeting for August 10, 2017, 1:30 p.m.

XI. Motion to Adjourn

Dr. Smith called for a motion to adjourn, which received unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.