

**Florida National Register Review Board Building
R. A. Gray Building, Room 307
Tallahassee, Florida
November 30, 2017
Meeting Minutes**

Commission Members Present In-Person: Dr. Clifford Smith, Chair

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

Commission Members Unable to Attend: None

Division of Historical Resources Staff Present: Timothy A. Parsons, Ph. D, State Historic Preservation Officer; Alissa Slade Lotane, Bureau Chief and Deputy SHPO; Sarah Liko, Ph. D, Program Administrator; Ruben Acosta, Survey and Registration Supervisor; Michael Hart, State Historical Marker Coordinator; Alyssa Costas, Historic Sites Specialist; Deena Woodward, Community Assistance Consultant; Alyssa McManus, Architectural Historian; Mercedes Harrold, Historic Preservationist; Joshua Gates, Historic Preservation Grants Specialist; Timothy Knoepke, Historic Preservation Grants Specialist; Ginny Jones, Architectural Historian; Max Adriel Imberman, Historic Preservationist

Guests Present: Pryce Patton, Carolyn Patton, Andrea Harden, Laura Lee Corbett, Rick McCraw, Lindsey Maguire

Guests Present via Webinar: Kathleen Pagan, Murray Laurie, Michael Weiner

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Smith at 1:37 p.m.

II. Introduction of Commission, Staff, and Guests

Commission, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

III. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Uguccioni 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 11, 2017 Meeting

Ms. Almy made the motion to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2017 meeting. Ms. Uguccioni seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Smith advised that an error in the draft of the previous meeting's agenda be amended. Ms. Almy was listed as the incoming Vice-Chair, when Ms. Uguccioni should have been listed.

VI. Director's Comments

Dr. Parsons described the process and procedure of the National Register program, including the role of Bureau of Historic Preservation staff and the National Register Review Board. He thanked the people and organizations involved in the process for their contributions.

VII. Review of Nomination Proposals

A. Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, Archer, Alachua County was presented by Mr. Acosta. The building is being nominated to the National Register at the local level under Criterion A for Settlement/Exploration and Criterion C for Architecture. The period of significance extends from its original date of construction circa 1884 to 1936. The church is a locally significant example of Carpenter Gothic architecture, which is best expressed through its steep pitched roof, pointed arch windows and doorways, and its prominent steeple. The wood frame church was built in Archer in 1884 for a Presbyterian congregation that originally formed in nearby Wacahoota in 1866. The church itself is the oldest church building in continuous use in the St. Augustine Presbytery and the oldest church still standing in Archer. The building itself, as the oldest surviving church building in the town, represents an important element of the early settlement and development of Archer, when the railroad transformed the nature of the community. Despite the 1936 addition, the church has retained its original setting, materials, and workmanship that reflect its significant architectural associations.

A motion was made by Ms. Almy. Mr. Gonzalez seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Leon County Health Department Building, Tallahassee, Leon County was presented by Mr. Acosta. The building is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion A at the state and local level for Health/Medicine and Government and at the local level for Ethnic Heritage: Black, Social History, and Education. The period of significance extends from 1941 until 1971, when the Division of Youth Services relocated. The building is significant under Criterion B at the local level for its association with Dr. Leander J. Graves, an important figure in the history of public health in the city of Tallahassee and Leon County. It is also being listed under Criterion C at the local level for Architecture. It is one of only three surviving Art Moderne buildings left in downtown Tallahassee. The building, which was built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), was the home of the Leon County Health Unit (LCHU) from 1941 until 1965. It also served as the home of the Leon County Welfare Association from 1941 until circa 1951. The building was the first in the state of Florida purpose-built for a local health unit. The LCHU, which was the oldest county health unit in continuous operation in Florida, was a major fixture in the community, assuming a vast array of public health responsibilities.

The Works Progress Administration Building contributes to the Florida's New Deal Resources MPS under Associated Historic Contexts: The New Deal in Florida, 1933-1943 and Associated Property Type F.1 Buildings.

Mr. McCraw and Ms. Maguire, representing the owners of the building, each gave public comments objecting to the listing of the building. Mr. McCraw stated their concern about the impact of National Register listings upon the property values of the property, and both speakers indicated that the Leon County Health Department building would be rehabilitated and used for public health work in the future. Its neighbor, the W.P.A. building will be demolished according to current plans.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez. It was seconded by Ms. Fleming. The motion was approved unanimously.

- C. W.P.A. Building, Tallahassee, Leon County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The building is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion A at the local level for Government, Health/Medicine, and Social History and under Criterion C at the local level for Architecture. The period of significance extends from 1940-1943 and from 1950 to 1966. This building was constructed to serve as the regional headquarters for the WPA, which occupied the building until circa 1943, when the agency was discontinued. From 1950 until circa 1965, the building served as the district offices for the Florida Crippled Children's Commission (FCCC) District Number Six. The FCCC offices contained a full physical therapy department, which operated from the building. The FCCC, which was originally established in 1921, was responsible for helping children with congenital deformities and orthopedic conditions, including case finding, diagnosis, medical treatment, and aftercare services. The establishment of the district office in Tallahassee marked a major milestone in the treatment of children in the community, who prior to this time were forced to travel to Jacksonville to seek treatment. From 1951 until 1965, the WPA Building functioned as the headquarters and clinic for the Human Relations Institute/Leon County Mental Health Clinic. The Human Relations Institute, which was originally established next door in the Health Unit Building, was a collaborative effort between Florida State University and the Leon County Health Department. By 1955, the county took full control of the clinic and renamed it the Leon County Mental Health Clinic, which operated under the control of the Health Department. The WPA Building also served as the headquarters for the Leon County Associated Charities (LCAC) from circa 1951 until 1965. Originally known as the Leon County Welfare Association, the LCAC functioned as the chief social welfare agency in the county, distributing aid to the poor, certifying people for needs-based assistance, and serving as a principal referral authority for a wide variety of legal and health services.

The WPA Building is a locally significant example of Art Moderne architecture, which is exemplified through the building's stucco exterior, flat roof, rounded corner, horizontal lines, porthole motifs, and usage of glass block, which are all character defining features of the style.

The Works Progress Administration Building contributes to the Florida's New Deal Resources MPS under Associated Historic Contexts: The New Deal in Florida, 1933-1943 and Associated Property Type F.1 Buildings.

Mr. McCraw once again raised his objections to the listing of the property, and noted that it will be demolished.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez. It was seconded by Ms. Almy. The motion was approved unanimously.

- D. Eugene Knotts House, Yankeetown, Levy County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The building is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C at the local level in the area of Architecture. The period of significance is 1953, the date of its construction. Built with a combination carport, workshop, and boathouse, the house is a locally significant example of the Sarasota School of Architecture designed by master architects Jack West and Ralph Twitchell. Like the majority of the buildings designed by the small group of architects that came from the Sarasota School of Architecture, the Knotts House is a highly individual stylistic statement, a one-of-kind design created for to suit the needs of a client for a comfortable and visually distinctive residence. The extensive use of glass in the exterior walls, the flat roof, and open floorplan aimed at blurring the lines between exterior and interior spaces are all character-defining features of the Sarasota School. Ralph Twitchell was one of the most important architects operating in the Sarasota School. He was instrumental in the career of the renowned architect Paul Rudolph. The two formed a partnership that lasted from the 1940s into the early 1950s that was widely credited for creating and popularizing the Sarasota School of Architecture. Although Rudolph dominated the field following the end of the partnership in 1952, Twitchell remained an important architect throughout the decade, working primarily in Siesta Key later in his career. The Knotts House, which was actually the first designed by the partnership, is an excellent example of the work of the Twitchell and West firm, which lasted for a brief period in the early 1950s.

The Knotts House contributes to the ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES OF THE SARASOTA SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE Multiple Property Submission under Early Development of Modern Architecture in Sarasota, 1941-1946; The Collaboration of Ralph Twitchell and Paul Rudolph, 1947-1952; The Influence of New Architects, 1953-1959 Historic Contexts; and the F.1 Property Type: Residential Buildings.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez. It was seconded by Ms. Fleming. It was approved unanimously.

- E. Old School Square Historic District, Delray Beach, Palm Beach County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The district is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The district possesses significance as an early planned residential area in Delray Beach. The early residences historically served as winter homes for vacationers principally from the Midwestern states, starting in the Florida Land Boom era of the 1920s. From the 1930s to the 1940s, many of the newcomers to the neighborhood became permanent residents. The district is also significant for its architecture. The district displays a variety of architectural styles, including Wood Frame and Masonry Vernacular, Mediterranean Revival, Mission, Bungalow, and Minimal Traditional styles. The period of significance is from 1898, the construction date of the earliest building within the district, to 1960, by which time the

district was completely developed. The Old School Square Historic District has maintained a high level of integrity.

Pryce Patton, Carolyn Patton, and Andrea Harden spoke in favor of the nomination, and Michael Weiner spoke against it.

Mr. Gonzalez and Ms. Uguccioni recused themselves from voting on this nomination. Mr. Gonzalez's firm is currently working on a development project within the district. Ms. Uguccioni was the original author of the nomination. A motion was made by Ms. Almy. It was seconded by Ms. Fleming and passed unanimously.

VIII. Other Business

Ms. Almy commended the Survey and Registration staff for their handling of the Old School Square Historic District nomination. Dr. Smith said that he agreed wholeheartedly. Mr. Acosta announced that the next National Register Review Board meeting will be held February 8.

IX. Public Comment

Ms. Corbett said that she supports the two Tallahassee nominations discussed at the meeting. She questioned why there are not National Register historic districts downtown, and hopes that more districts will be pursued in the city. Ms. Patton thanked Mr. Acosta for his efforts on the Old School Square historic district nomination.

X. Motion to Adjourn

Ms. Fleming moved to adjourn. The meeting ended at 3:19 p.m.

Chair, National Register Review Board

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

Date