

**Florida National Register Review Board
R. A. Gray Building, Room 307
Tallahassee, Florida
November 7, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

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

Commission Members Present via Webinar: Mr. Vincent Luisi

Florida Department of State Officials and Staff Present: 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; Megan McDonald, Certified Local Government Coordinator; Andrew Waber, Historic Preservationist; Eric Case, Historic Preservation Grants Specialist; Laura Bright, Historic Preservation Grants Specialist; Justin Baker, Historic Preservation Grants Specialist

Florida Department of State Officials Present via Webinar: Katherine Beck, Main Street Coordinator

Guests Present: Shearon Flowers; Windora Vanleer; Max Adriel Imberman, Janus Research; Hasan Stewart; Quista Stewart; Dr. LeAnthony and Dr. Deborah Wright; Barbara Watson; Maria Ervin; Terrance Cribbs-Larrant; Ryan Ledford; Kevin Wattenbarger; Deena Woodward, DEP; Dwight Hood; Kathleen Kauffman; William Stanton; Haylee Glasel; Donna Y. Marshall; John Ware; Brooke Robbins

Guests Present via Webinar: Jayde Ball, Amanda Godsey, Carmen Godwin, Rachel Levine, Alberto Perez-Rued, Carmen Sanders

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Smith at 1:35 p.m. Mr. Acosta read the housekeeping notes addressing the webinar. Dr. Smith, Ms. Almy, and Mr. Luisi were present. Mr. Gonzalez was absent.

II. Introduction of Commission, Staff, and Guests

Commission, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

III. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Almy made a motion to adopt the agenda for the meeting. Mr. Luisi 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 August 8, 2019 Meeting

Mr. Luisi made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 8, 2019 meeting. Ms. Almy seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Director's Comments

Dr. Angela Tomlinson, Assistant Director and Deputy SHPO, welcomed the commissioners and thanked them for their time and their service.

VII. Review of Nomination Proposals

- A. Panama Grammar School, Panama City, Bay County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The church is being proposed for listing in the NR at the local level under Criterion A: Education and Criterion C: Architecture. The period of significance extends from 1915 to 1965. Designed by noted Pensacola architect Solomon J. Welch, the school was originally constructed as the first public high school in the newly-formed Bay County. From 1926 until 1965, it functioned exclusively as a grammar school for white elementary students in Panama City. When constructed, it marked a major milestone in the history of public school education in Bay County and it remained a fixture in the community for many years. The current school is actually a complex of three buildings: the original c. 1914 school and a c. 1950s cafetorium/kitchen and classroom building. The principal school building is an excellent, locally significant example of Neoclassical Revival architecture adapted to an educational facility, best expressed through the prominent full-height entry portico, the strong dentilled cornice lines, and symmetrical façade.

The principal school building itself is a large two-story brick building with a ground floor/basement level. The building most closely reflects its historic circa 1950s appearance. Originally, the side facades of the building functioned as secondary facades, especially on the west end facing Harrison Avenue. When originally constructed, there was also a first floor auditorium in the school and the primary access to the second floor was through two interior staircases likely aligned with the remnants of staircases found in the basement level. When the cafetorium and additional classroom spaces were constructed, the original staircases were removed, the auditorium was converted into classroom, teacher's lounge, and lunchroom, and exterior staircases were constructed onto the east and west ends of the building. These changes are all considered historic alterations, however, and therefore do not detract from the integrity of the building. The 1950s annex is an excellent example of mid-century International Style architecture applied to an education facility. Although the cafetorium has some condition issues, including the removal of the stage, holes in the roof, and drop ceilings that have been removed, the building complex retains much of its integrity.

There are a number of changes and condition issues that are related to original school building in particular. The most significant damage to the building occurred on the west end, as the west end staircase is in ruinous condition due to Hurricane Michael. The entire second story of the staircase is collapsed into a pile of rubble and the access stairs are unusable. Portions of the roof on the west end have holes in them due to hurricane damage. Despite this damage, the school building retains a high degree of integrity on the exterior. On the first and second floors, much of the original materials are either missing, obscured, or deteriorated due to condition issues. The 1950s-era spatial integrity of all three levels is retained. The character-defining central

hallways are still visible on the first and second floors. When the west staircase was constructed, it was designed in a manner that preserved the jack arches and other decorative brickwork underneath. Also, historical evidence points to the east staircase being constructed first and the building spending at least a year or two with just one enclosed exterior staircase. Hence, the building in its current configuration with only one functioning extant staircase is a historically documentable configuration. As a result, we feel this building retains its integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, workmanship, design, and materials despite all of the changes and condition issues it is currently facing.

Mr. Kevin Wattenberg spoke on behalf of the nomination and about the community support or the nomination. He also spoke to the impact of Hurricane Michael on the building.

A gentleman who was a former student and member of one of the last classes to pass through Panama Grammar School spoke on behalf of the nomination.

Ms. Alissa Lotane spoke on behalf of the nomination and her experience working with the owners. She stated that the sale contract requires that the buyer must list the property on the National Register in order to apply for Federal Tax Credits.

Mr. Luisi asked if both buildings were considered contributing to the nomination or just the main 1915 structure. Mr. Acosta replied that both buildings are contributing to the nomination. Mr. Waber concurred. Mr. Luisi lamented the interior damage and asked if the exterior staircase is going to be replaced. Mr. Wattenberg responded that he believed that the exterior stairway would be replaced based on architectural drawings he has seen. Mr. Waber shared that for a portion of the period of significance, there was not an exterior staircase. He also expressed that we are evaluating the school's eligibility as it currently exists. Mr. Luisi asked if it was the first public school in Panama City. Mr. Waber responded that it was and stated that it was originally named Panama High School and explained the decision to use Panama Grammar School for the nomination. Mr. Luisi commented that he was glad to see that the historic windows were still intact.

Ms. Almy expressed her concerns about the interior integrity of the school and if future interior work would meet the Secretary of the Interior Standards. Mr. Acosta responded that if the school were to be rehabilitated using Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits, all work would be required to follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards. He explained that the primary architectural significance of the building lies in the Neoclassical exterior appearance of the building and explained the components of the style. Ms. Almy asked about the cafetorium and inquired whether or not it was premature to nominate the property without knowing what completed work will look like. Mr. Acosta responded that we are evaluating the property as it is now, and not as it will be. He expressed that nominating the property under Criterion C will signal the National Park Service that the architectural features are important to protect throughout the course of any work. Ms. Almy asked if the property would still remain on the National Register if the planned rehabilitation does not take place. Mr. Acosta replied that it would and the only way it would be delisted is if the property loses its historic integrity. Ms.

Almy expressed that she felt Criterion A was the most appropriate criterion for listing the property.

Dr. Smith expressed that he supports the nomination and listing under Criterion C.

Ms. Almy moved to forward the nomination to the National Park Service under Criterion A for Education. Mr. Luisi seconded. Dr. Smith asked for clarification that the motion was only for nominating the property under Criterion A and not including criterion C. Ms. Almy asked if removing Criterion C from the nomination would detract from the nomination and if Criterion C was required in order to apply for Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits. Mr. Acosta replied that it does not. Dr. Smith raised the point that if the property is nominated for its architecture, it will carry weight with the developer to preserve that architecture. Ms. Lotane expressed that if the National Park Service does not agree with the use of Criterion C, they will send it back to us and that she agrees with nominating the property under Criterion C. Ms. Almy asked if listing under Criterion A instead of C would have a negative impact on the property's eligibility for DHR grants. Dr. Tomlinson expressed that the criteria properties are listed under do not impact DHR grant applications. Mr. Luisi asked if the property could be listed under Criterion A and C, to which Mr. Acosta and Mr. Waber said yes. Ms. Almy asked Mr. Acosta if he believed that the school would be approved by the National Park Service under Criterion C. Mr. Acosta said he believed it would and referenced prior nominations that were in similar condition.

Ms. Almy amended her motion to forward the nomination to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under both Criterion A and C. Mr. Luisi seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- B. African American Architects in Segregated Jacksonville, 1865-1965, Jacksonville, Duval County Multiple Property Documentation Form** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The *African American Architects in Segregated Jacksonville* MPDF identifies the relevant builder/architects who were active in the city of Jacksonville during the era of segregation. During this period, segregation provided an entrepreneurial opportunity for enterprising black businesspeople who catered primarily to the African American community. This gave rise to an upwardly mobile professional class within the community. Among them were several African American architects who made their mark on the city. The early architects identified include Joseph Blodgett, Sanford Augustus Brookins, and James Edward Hutchins among others. Due in part to the segregation prevalent in the era, architectural schools and certification with the state of Florida or the American Institute of Architects (AIA) were largely off-limits for African Americans. As a result, many of them were vernacular architects who were also building or developing the properties they designed. Their work was usually, but not exclusively, confined to African American neighborhoods and commercial districts, and consisted of a variety of properties including residential, religious, civic, commercial, and educational buildings.

Mr. Acosta expressed that the *African American Architects in Segregated Jacksonville, 1865-1965* MPDF is well researched and written, identifies specific historic contexts and property types within Jacksonville/Duval County, and meets the National Park Service criteria for Multiple Property Submissions.

Ms. Almy made a motion to forward the Multiple Property Documentation Form to the National Park Service. Mr. Luisi seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- a. **Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Duval County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The church is being proposed for listing at the local level under Criterion C for Architecture. The period of significance is its date of construction, 1949. It consists of a single contributing resource, a two-story brick-clad church designed in a simplified Gothic Revival Style. The proposal is being listed under the *African American Architects in Segregated Jacksonville* MPDF.

The building is an excellent example of Gothic Revival architecture adapted to an African American church and is also an excellent example of the work of noted local African American architect James Edward Hutchins. Staff would like to call attention to a number of changes that have taken place to the building since its initial construction. There has been a non-historic one-story concrete block wall used for storage that has been added to the rear façade. The windows on the ground floor have been covered over. There has been some modernization that has taken place, including the addition of air conditioning units. Due to its current vacant status, the building itself has some condition issues, with some of the historic fabric either deteriorated or missing, such as the exterior brick in the west tower; some of the windows; and portions of the interior floors, walls, and ceilings. The setting itself has also been impacted, as the building was originally surrounded by dwellings that have since been demolished. Despite this, however, the building retains a significant amount of its original materials, design, and workmanship and is still in its original location.

Mr. Waber explained that the primary reason this property is being listed under Criterion C was for its affiliation with the architect, who was an African American known for designing churches.

Ms. Brooke Robbins spoke on behalf of the nomination. She explained that the owner of the property owns several blocks of the neighborhood and is developing a master plan for the community, including the church building. She also explained that the city has plans to slow traffic through the area and make it more pedestrian friendly.

Ms. Ervin said she used to live in the neighborhood and her father owned apartments nearby. She shared that a lot of development is taking place nearby and that there are efforts to build the area back up. She expressed that the church is beautiful on the exterior and that she's happy to see something being done to it.

Dr. Deborah Wright expressed that the architect of Mount Calvary was also the same architect as another church that is in better condition. She asked why it was not considered for this nomination. Mr. Waber explained that the church was eligible, individually, but is located within the Durkee Gardens neighborhood, which is also being nominated as a district.

Ms. Ervin asked about a school in Jacksonville and if there are efforts to nominate it to the National Register. Mr. Waber shared that the city of Jacksonville is making a lot of

efforts to nominate local African American sites to the National Register. He also recommended that she reach out to him if there is interest in getting the school listed in the National Register.

Mr. Luisi asked about the first floor windows, which are covered with plywood. Ms. Robbins said that she believes the windows are still intact beneath the plywood.

Ms. Almy asked a clarifying question about the architect (Hutchins) and the use of Criterion B for architects. Mr. Acosta explained that Criterion B is only used in reference to an architect if the building is associated with their work (i.e. their office). Ms. Almy asked if the architect could still be living. Mr. Acosta explained that there was a belief that the nomination could be perceived as advertising for a still living architect, but it is appropriate. Ms. Almy clarified that the interior does not detract from the integrity of the nomination and that future work does not apply to the board's evaluation of the structure's eligibility. Mr. Acosta confirmed that future work should not impact board members' evaluation of the nomination.

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

- C. Historic African American Cemeteries in Duval County, Florida, Jacksonville, Duval County Multiple Property Documentation Form** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The *Historic African American Cemeteries in Duval County, Florida* MPDF seeks to provide a larger context for historic African American burial grounds found throughout Duval County, Florida.

The creation and management of cemeteries were a classic example of the black community seeking to maintain their dignity in the face of segregation that included the substandard treatment of black bodies and the family of the deceased. By the late 19th century, funerals became more of a commercial enterprise, as funerals were moved into commercial funeral homes and burials were handled by either the funeral directors or the cemeteries themselves. Burials were also an important part of African American life, as a number of community-supported benevolent societies and burial leagues allowed for even the poorest members of the community to have a relatively elaborate funeral. This growing funeral industry not only created a demand for black funeral homes and life insurance companies, but also for black-owned cemeteries. The Afro-American Life Insurance Company, founded by renowned businessman A.L. Lewis, took the lead on this, establishing several cemeteries along Moncrief Road. The management of the cemeteries became an important aspect of the company's business operations.

In eastern Duval County, the islands located near the mouth of the St. Johns River comprise the southernmost extent of the Sea Islands. The Gullah Geechee culture which developed in the Sea Islands found its way into this section of the city. Several communities, including Cosmo, New Berlin, Fulton, and Lone Star, had a very active Gullah presence. The cemeteries found in these communities are in many the cases either the best surviving historical resource or the only

remnant of the communities that were once located here. The MPD also covers African American cemeteries in Jacksonville Beach, St. Nicholas, and Yukon.

Mr. Acosta expressed that staff finds that the *Historic African American Cemeteries in Duval County, Florida* MPDF is well researched and written, identifies specific historic contexts and property types within Jacksonville/Duval County, and meets the National Park Service criteria for Multiple Property Submissions.

Ms. Almy made a motion to forward the Multiple Property Cover Form to the National Park Service. Mr. Luisi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- a. **Memorial Cemetery, Jacksonville, Duval County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. Memorial Cemetery is being proposed for listing in the National Register under Criterion A and B for Commerce and Ethnic Heritage: Black; and Criterion C for Architecture. The period of significance extends from 1911 to 1969. The cemetery is being listed under the *Historic African American Cemeteries in Duval County, Florida* MPDF.

There is already one resource within the cemetery, the A.L. Lewis Mausoleum, which has been individually listed in the NR at the national, state, and local levels. There are five contributing resources to the nomination: the cemetery site itself, the three mausoleums, and the entry gate, which all predate 1970. The cemetery contains approximately 2,500 burials which are arranged in a mostly gridded and planned fashion. Memorial Cemetery, which was first laid out in 1909, was one of the first privately-owned commercial black cemeteries in Jacksonville. It was taken over by the Afro-American Life Insurance Company (AALIC) in 1911 and served at its height as the premiere burial ground for African Americans in Jacksonville in the early to mid-20th century. The AALIC, which was owned by A.L. Lewis, was the first million-dollar African American business in Florida. Founded to provide life insurance for African Americans who were usually turned down by white insurance companies, the cemetery operations became a key part of their operations.

In addition to Lewis, the cemetery is the final resting place for Louis D. Ervin, a prominent AALIC executive, and Sanford Augustus Brookins, a noted African American architect and builder. The cemetery is architecturally significant for the mausoleums found here, including the Lewis Mausoleum, which was designed in the Art Deco style, and Ervin Mausoleum designed in the Neoclassical Revival Style. The cemetery retains a high level of integrity, preserving many historic burial markers and mausoleums. The cemetery has not been relocated and remains at the core of a larger collection of African American cemeteries along Moncrief Road.

Ms. Ervin shared that she lived in the surrounding neighborhood and she was glad to see the cemetery being listed in the National Register. She expressed the level of neglect that the cemetery experienced in the past and present and that she was glad to see the property being honored and recognized.

Mr. Luisi commented that he is a proponent of putting cemeteries on the National Register because they are storybooks of a community's history. He expressed that he is glad to see the property being nominated for the National Register. He asked if Mr. Lewis' burial

already being on the National Register conflicted with the cemetery nomination. Mr. Acosta clarified that there is no conflict and that while it will not add to the mausoleum's significance, it will elevate the rest of the cemetery to the same level of significance of the mausoleum. Mr. Waber explained that the mausoleum will not be excluded from the district, it will be a contributing structure to the district.

A motion was made by Mr. Luisi 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.

- D. Durkee Gardens Historic District, Jacksonville, Duval County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The Durkee Gardens Historic District is being proposed for listing in the National Register at the local level under Criterion A for Community Planning and Development and Ethnic Heritage-Black. It is also being proposed for listing under Criterion C: Architecture for the collection of residential architecture found here which include the work of a number of noted black Jacksonville architects. Its period of significance extends from 1934 to 1969. The proposal is being listed under the *African American Architects in Segregated Jacksonville* MPD. There are 209 contributing buildings to the district and 10 non-contributing.

First platted in 1934, Durkee Gardens was a neighborhood designed primarily for middle class African Americans. Given its location near Durkee Field and New Stanton High School, the neighborhood was the center of much activity during its period of significance. The collection of primarily Minimal Traditional homes comprises one of the best concentrations of the work of African American architects Stanford Augustus Brookins and James Edward Hutchins, who were known for their residential work. The district has excellent integrity and would make an excellent addition to the NR. Staff finds that Durkee Gardens Historic District retains integrity and is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A: Community Planning and Development, Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage – Black, and Criterion C: Architecture, at the local level, for the period 1934-1969.

Dr. Deborah Wright spoke in support of the nomination. She expressed that there is additional historic significance to the area in that the area housed several significant civil rights activists, including a teacher Rutledge Pearson who led the NAACP youth council and held a sit-in at the local Woolworths. She discussed Ax Handle Saturday, and how her church was where civil rights meetings were held. She expressed that the church is significant and was threatened with bombs during the civil rights movement. She shared that professionals, educators, and doctors were residents of the community.

A resident of the community shared that her family expressed reservations about the nomination but that she was excited about it. She said that Rutledge Pearson's son is purchasing the house across the street from her on Durkee Drive. She asked when and why the neighborhood was named Durkee Gardens. Mr. Waber replied that he wasn't sure why it was named Durkee Gardens. She replied that it was always referred to as Durkeeville. Mr. Waber explained that Durkee Gardens is a subdivision of the greater Durkeeville. She then asked questions submitted by her brother. First, what are the benefits of being listed in the National Register? Mr. Acosta explained the benefits of listing. Second, does the historic designation

continue if the property is sold or changes ownership? Mr. Acosta responded that it does and explained that the only reason properties are removed from the register is if they lose integrity or are completely lost due to natural disaster, demolition, etc. She then asked about modifications to her house and if they impacted her eligibility to contribute to the district.

A resident of the community asked for clarification that the entire district would have to change in order to lose its eligibility, rather than individual parts. Mr. Acosta confirmed.

Ms. Almy made a motion to forward the nomination to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Luisi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- E. Weeki Wachee Springs, Weeki Wachee, Hernando County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The Weeki Wachee Springs historic district is being proposed for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local and state levels under Criterion A and B for Entertainment/Recreation, and Criterion C for Architecture. The period of significance extends from the attraction's opening in 1947 through 1969. Weeki Wachee Springs is also eligible for listing under Criterion D for Prehistoric and Historic-Aboriginal Archaeology for the period 1525-1550.

For much of the early twentieth century, Weeki Wachee spring and the adjoining Weeki Wachee river were used as a swimming hole by locals and occasionally featured glass bottom boat tours run by private operators. The spring became a significant tourist attraction after 1947 when the Underwater Theater and performing mermaids made their debut. The spring was also popularized through its use as an underwater film set for numerous film shorts, television shows, and a major motion picture: *Mr. Peabody and the Mermaid*. Movie producers were initially drawn to Weeki Wachee as a film set due to its connection to Newton Perry, an accomplished swimmer, underwater performer, and trainer who had worked extensively on underwater film sets at both Silver Springs and Wakulla Springs, including the *Tarzan* films. The Underwater Theater at Weeki Wachee Springs was his brainchild, and he oversaw the attraction's first three years of operation, including the recruitment and training of the original mermaids.

The 1960 Underwater Theater was designed by Miami architect Robert E. Collins, whose body of work included at least fourteen other theaters. The Underwater Theater was a novel building type at the time of its construction, and was the second of its kind in Florida, following the original Underwater Theater at Weeki Wachee.

In 1969 while a worker was clearing land for a new Orchid Garden attraction at Weeki Wachee, human remains and pottery were discovered. The discovery led to an archaeological excavation and the site was determined to be a Native American burial mound. The results of the excavation led to the discovery of both Spanish and Native American artifacts, which could be accurately dated to 1525-1550, part of the Safety Harbor period. The partially excavated Weeki Wachee mound, located within the boundaries of the tourist attraction, has yielded important information about the Safety Harbor culture and early Spanish contact with Native Americans in Florida during the sixteenth century. The mound has the potential to yield future information about Spanish contact in Florida as it is studied along other Safety Harbor sites, and if studies of the undisturbed portion of the mound were to be undertaken.

The Weeki Wachee Springs historic district is comprised of buildings, structures, and objects associated with the Weeki Wachee Springs tourist attraction, as well as the spring itself and an associated archaeological site. When taken as a whole, the buildings, objects, sites, and structures within the boundaries of Weeki Wachee Springs provide a visual representation of the development of a significant Florida tourist attraction. The spring itself has been used recreationally since at least the early twentieth century and the site's crystal clear waters captured the attention of investors for its potential as a tourist destination. The Underwater Theater and airlock serve as direct links to the origins of Weeki Wachee and the attraction's relationship to Newt Perry. The mermaid wall, adagio statue, and marquee correspond to the American Broadcasting Corporation's ownership of the park and the company's emphasis on advertising and marketing. The employee and manager cottages continue a long standing tradition of mermaids and employees living on site, and the utility and storage building and prop building point to the behind-the-scenes operations that were essential to the park's day-to-day operations.

Weeki Wachee Springs maintains integrity of location, as it continues to operate in its original location on a parcel of land surrounding Weeki Wachee spring. The Underwater Theater, airlock, Mermaid Wall, roadside marquee, employee cottages, manager cottages, utility and storage building, and prop building also maintain integrity of location, as they have not been moved since their original construction. Though the Adagio Statue has been moved, it remains within the district boundaries and continues to serve a way marking function in front of the park entrance. Though some changes have taken place to the Underwater Theater over time, including the construction of a rear addition, these changes were made in order to facilitate the continued use of the structure for underwater performances. Similarly, interior changes to the manager and staff cottages were undertaken in order to facilitate their continued use as employee housing. Though a number of buildings and structures have been lost and/or replaced over time, the Weeki Wachee Springs district clearly conveys its historic use as a tourist attraction with a natural spring at its core. Though there are a number of noncontributing structures within the district due to their age, they are clearly linked to the ongoing functions of the park as a tourist destination. Therefore, the Weeki Wachee Springs district retains integrity of location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

Ms. Ervin commented that she has visited the park and taken a boat ride along the river.

Mr. Stanton expressed appreciation for all of the work that went into the nomination and that DEP/Florida State Parks are working to preserve and maintain the site. Ms. Woodward added that DEP is developing a long-term maintenance plan for the park.

Ms. Almy shared that she went to Weeki Wachee as a child, brought her children there, and has now brought grandchildren to the park.

Mr. Luisi expressed that it is a well-deserved, long-overdue nomination. He shared that he has been to Weeki Wachee many times.

A motion was made by Mr. Luisi 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.

- F. La Palma Hotel, Coral Gables, Miami-Dade County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. La Palma Hotel is a currently vacant historic hotel and apartment building that is being proposing for listing in the National Register at the local level under Criterion C: Architecture for the period of significance 1924-1925.

La Palma Hotel is a two story, somewhat irregular U-plan, Mediterranean Revival style building with three story corner towers located on a prominent corner lot just north of the main business district of Coral Gables. The hotel is constructed of structural clay tile block, wood, and steel finished with stucco. It features terracotta barrel tiles along the parapet and pyramidal tile roofs on the towers. Various windows and doors on the exterior and courtyard facades retain their Mediterranean style detailing.

The building is significant as a good early example of the Mediterranean revival style. Originally constructed as the Cla-Reina Hotel, the building was one of the first hotels built as part of George Merrick's master plan for Coral Gables. It was designed by George Fink, who helped Merrick establish the overall architectural character for Coral Gables by designing many notable buildings and public spaces within the nascent city.

While the building retains a high level of exterior integrity, the building has lost much of its interior integrity due to unsympathetic interior renovations as part of renovation efforts by the previous owners. Much of the interior details have been lost, as well as the interior partition walls that defined its design and plan. Surviving interior elements include the interior staircases, some windows, and small amounts of historic flooring. The hotel does have a record of interior reorganization in the 1920s and 1940s, but none of this is visible today. In addition, the building no longer has an interior arcade traversing the courtyard, nor its historic marquee. The property is currently undergoing rehabilitation and there are plans to take advantage of the Federal Historic Tax Credit program. Despite the changes to the interior of the building, staff finds that the La Palma Hotel retains sufficient exterior integrity to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Ms. Kaufmann spoke on behalf of the nomination and talked about the interesting facts they found while researching the building.

Dr. Smith inquired about the future use of the building. Ms. Kaufmann explained that it would be a combination of office and retail. Dr. Smith asked if there would be a residential component. Ms. Kaufmann said that she wasn't sure.

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. Luisi seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- G. Miami Black Police Precinct and Courthouse, Miami, Miami-Dade County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The Miami Black Police Precinct and Courthouse is being proposed for listing in the

National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage: Black and Law. The period of significance extends from the building's date of construction in 1950 until 1963 when the building ceased to be used as a police precinct. The city of Miami appointed its first five black policemen in 1944 during the era of segregation. Tasked with the responsibility of patrolling the city's African American neighborhoods, the patrolmen were very successful in their efforts to curb criminal activities and make the streets a safer place. As a result of their success, the black police force rapidly expanded. In 1950, the Black Police Precinct and Courthouse was constructed to house the then nearly 50-man police force and to house a municipal courtroom for the hearing of cases involving black defendants.

Though operated in a segregated capacity, the policing of black neighborhoods by black policemen was a significant improvement over the minimal patrols provided by the two white officers previously assigned to the "Central Negro District" (Overtown). In addition, the establishment of a black police force also gave dozens of men the opportunity to acquire on-the-job experience as policemen, allowing many to quickly integrate the greater Miami police force upon the desegregation of city departments in 1963. The Miami Black Police Precinct and Courthouse building stands as both a physical vestige of segregation and a reminder of the historic accomplishments of Miami's black community.

The Miami Black Police Precinct and Courthouse is also being proposed at the local and state level for listing under Criterion B for its association with Lawson E. Thomas. Upon appointment as a judge at the Black Police Precinct in 1950, Thomas became the first African American judge in the South in the twentieth century. The period of significance for Criterion B extends from 1950-1961, encompassing Thomas' tenure as judge at the Black Police Precinct.

The Black Police Precinct and Courthouse conveys much of its historic appearance and is reflective of its historic use as a police precinct and courthouse. Located in a neighborhood that has lost much of its historic fabric to urban renewal, the precinct stands as one of a handful of historic buildings that remain in Overtown from the era of segregation. Although minor modifications were made to the exterior and interior of the precinct over time, the precinct looks much as it did when it was originally constructed in 1950 and retains a high level of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Mr. Terrance Cribbs-Larrant, director of the Miami Black Police Precinct and Courtroom Museum, spoke on behalf of the nomination. He listed the names of several police officers who worked at the precinct and several important figures in the history of the precinct.

Ms. Kaufmann shared that she worked for the City of Miami when the property was added to the local register. She shared that the property had been largely forgotten about until that time. She expressed that she was glad to see the property nominated to the National Register.

Mr. Cribbs-Larrant mentioned several people who were instrumental in saving the building from being torn down for a parking lot.

Mr. Acosta added that both the Miami and Miami-Dade County historic preservation officers shared their support of the nomination with staff.

Ms. Almy inquired about the average annual attendance at the museum. Mr. Cribbs-Lorrant explained that attendance has been increasing since he started in 2017. He expressed that he has begun partnering with local schools and lawyers.

A motion was made by Mr. Luisi 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.

- H. Dr. James B and Virginia Craven House, Chipley, Washington County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. The Dr. James B. and Virginia Craven House is an excellent example of a mid-century modern ranch house, designed by an unknown architect and constructed 1967-68. The house is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion C: Architecture.

The house is a one-story, wood frame, masonry veneer V-plan house built on a sloping site just south of Chipley. The house has a distinct design with its front entry sheltered under a cantilevered gable. Alternating walls of brick and glass articulate its façade. A broad, shallow-pitched cross-gable and hipped roof with wide eaves gives the house a strong horizontality that is characteristic of ranch houses of this time period. A large brick and tile terrace spans the rear of the house, except where the living room was enlarged sometime after the period of significance. The house retains many original features including fieldstone floors, original appliances, an intercom system, and decorative ironwork. The design of the house is emblematic of the mid-century period and incorporates many key characteristic features of ranch houses. Its use of varying materials, new domestic technology, an integrated carport and a long rambling plan are all important features of the design.

The house is significant for its architectural design as a ranch house. However, there are stories associating this house with Frank Lloyd Wright. These were investigated and it is staff's determination that the house is not a property designed by the noted architect. Wright died in 1959 and the Cravens did not acquire the property for the house until 1967 according to the property appraiser's records. There is no correspondence between Wright or the Cravens and the existing house plan does not have his name or his firm's name, and it is not documented in archives of Wright's drawings or papers. The design does not incorporate the most important elements' of Wright's Usonian or Organic architecture, although the floors, fireplace, entrance and terrace do convey a feeling that is vaguely "Wrightian." This is not unique, as the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office has identified a Wrightian subtype of ranch houses in Georgia and his design philosophies were incorporated into broader ranch house design as early as the 1940s.

The house was severely damaged by Hurricane Michael in 2018. During the storm a tree fell on the house, damaging the living room and servants room. Repair work has impacted the integrity of materials and workmanship, but not to the extent to render the property ineligible for listing. Overall, the property retains a high level of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association and feeling and staff finds that the house has sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: Architecture, at the local level, for the period of significance 1967-1968.

Mr. Luisi asked if any information was found regarding the architect. Mr. Acosta replied that there was not, and that there was no architect listed on the building plans. He also talked about the unlikelihood that the house was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Mr. Luisi asked about the plans for the house for the future. Mr. Acosta replied that the owner is working with the insurance companies to repair the house after it was impacted by Hurricane Michael.

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. Luisi seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. Other Business

Mr. Acosta shared the NRRB meeting dates for the upcoming year: February 6, 2020, May 7, 2020, August 6, 2020, November 5, 2020. He provided an update on nominations from the May and August meetings: all but Silver Springs and Barry University Historic District have been listed in the National Register.

IX. Public Comment

Mr. Terrance Cribbs-Lorrant thanked everyone for the work they do to preserve historic places.

X. Motion to Adjourn

Ms. Almy moved to adjourn. The meeting ended at 4:46 p.m.

Chair, National Register Review Board

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

Date