

# Historic Fernandina

CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- **Museum's Jail Exhibit Now Open: October 1st**
- **National Preservation Conference: Nashville—October 13-17**
- **Fernandina Historic Home Tour: December 4-5, 2009**

**Name that Architectural Feature!**

Answer on back.



The Community Development Department publishes a quarterly newsletter in order to increase awareness about historic preservation, as well as providing helpful resources and information about our local historic heritage.

**FERNANDINA NOW A PRESERVE AMERICA COMMUNITY**

The City of Fernandina Beach has officially been designated a "Preserve America" community. Preserve America is a federal program designed to encourage and support community efforts to highlight and protect cultural and natural heritage. As a Preserve America community, Fernandina Beach is now eligible for new grant opportunities, and will be featured on the program's website



For more information on the Preserve America program, visit:

[preserveamerica.gov](http://preserveamerica.gov)

Or contact the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation at: (202) 606-8503.

and in National Park Service heritage tourism publications. First Lady Michelle Obama sent a letter of designation to Mayor Susan Steger on October 7, 2009, and a formal presentation to the City Commission by City staff will be announced upon receipt of the designation certificate. Fernandina Beach is the 18th community in Florida to receive this special designation.

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS**

The Fernandina Beach Historic District Council (HDC) has been working towards improving the HDC process. At the October 22nd HDC meeting, the Board will vote on finalizing an administrative procedures manual for board business. Also at the same meeting, the Board will vote on recommendation of a

Certificate of Appropriateness matrix, a document intended to clarify which projects in the historic districts can be approved at the staff level or the board level. If approved, the matrix will go to the Planning Advisory Board as a proposed change to the City's Land Development Code. The Board is also researching a

potential tax exemption strategy for property owners. At the November meeting, the Board will consider moving forward on a Preservation Awards program, designed to highlight the hard work of property owners in restoring their buildings. For info on any of the above, call (904) 277-7325.

VISIT US ON THE WEB:  
WWW.FBFL.US/HISTORICDISTRICT

## CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH



Community Development Department  
204 Ash Street  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034  
P: 904.277.7325  
F: 904.277.7324  
TTY: 904.277.7399

The Historic District Council was established to be the City's primary agency responsible for furthering historic preservation within the city. There are 5 regular members and 2 alternate members, all appointed by the City Commission for terms of 3 years. Members of the HDC protect sites of architectural and historic significance by acting as a design review board for exterior alterations, repairs, and moving or demolition of historic structures within Old Town and Downtown. HDC Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5pm in Commission Chambers at City Hall.



Former MWC as designed by architect  
Louis C. Holloway, Jr. c.1960's.  
Photo: floridamemory.com

### SPOTLIGHT ON THE MARINE WELCOME CENTER: *THEN AND NOW*



New MWC complex as designed by  
architect Tat Chan. c.2009.  
Photo: City staff.

Answer to Name That Architectural Feature: "Hip or Hipped Roof." (courtesy of architecture.about.com)

## GET TO KNOW...HABS, HAER, HALS

The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) is a heritage documentation program through the National Park Service. HABS began in 1933 to document our nation's built heritage. Projects selected are extensively documented through architectural drawings and photographs, which are stored at the Library of Congress.

The following structures in Fernandina Beach have been surveyed as part of the HABS project:

- C.W. Lewis House, 27 S. 7th Street
- First Presbyterian Church, 19 N. 6th Street

- Florida House Inn, 20/23 S. 3rd Street
- Lesesne House, 415 Centre Street
- Nassau County Courthouse, Centre Street
- Train Depot, 100 Centre Street
- St. Peter's Parish, Atlantic Avenue & 8th Street
- U.S. Post Office, 400 Centre Street
- Villa Las Palmas, 315 Alachua Avenue

Two other survey projects are a part of the HABS family: the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS). The HAER project, established in 1969, documents structures related to engineering and industry, such as

bridges, mills, and factories. The HALS project records historic landscapes that vary in size from small gardens to entire national parks. The landscapes may be natural or have signs of human interaction, such as farms or abandoned settlements.

### For more information on the HABS/HAER/HALS surveys, visit:

<http://www.nps.gov/history/hdp/habs/index.htm>

[http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs\\_haer/](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/)

<http://www.nps.gov/history/hdp/>