

Historic Fernandina

CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- April 30-May 2: 47th Annual Shrimp Festival
- May 13-15: Ft. Myers – Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Conference
- 3rd Friday on 3rd: Lectures at the Amelia Island Museum of History— Each Month

Name that Architectural Feature!

Answer on back.



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



ISLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

March is Florida Archaeology Month, designed to encourage Floridians and visitors to learn more about the state's cultural heritage. Amelia Island has been home to Native Americans, French, Spanish, and English settlers. Native Americans have been on the island since approx. 2000 B.C. and Europeans first arrived in 1562. Due to this long history, Fernandina

Beach and Amelia Island are rich in archaeological resources. The last major archaeological study of the island took place in the 1950's; however, other archaeological work has been done since that time. Old Town Fernandina in particular has been inhabited since the Native Americans due to its prime location as high ground near deep water and wetlands. Archaeological studies have been conducted in

Old Town, most recently by the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) in conjunction with the Florida State Parks who oversee the Old Town Plaza. FPAN seeks volunteers to assist in their efforts; visit the website below for more information.

For more information, visit:

www.flpublicarchaeology.org

www.flheritage.com/archaeology

www.fasweb.org

HISTORIC DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

The Historic District Council has been very busy in recent months. Proposed changes initiated by the Board to improve the Certificate of Appropriateness process are currently at the City Commission level, as is a proposed tax exemption ordinance designed to alleviate City ad valorem taxes for

improvements to qualifying historic properties. Stay tuned to see how the Commission votes on these important issues! The HDC also has revised applications, which are now better designed to assist property owners through the COA application process. The HDC is beginning work on a draft Historic Preservation

Element as part of the City's comprehensive plan update. Additionally, the HDC has endorsed highlighting the importance of the Peck Center, including pursuing National Register listing. Lastly, the City's first preservation awards will be presented May 4th. For more information on the above efforts, call 904-277-7325.

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

CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH



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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.



Centre Street c.1972.
Photo: floridamemory.com

SPOTLIGHT ON CENTRE STREET: THEN AND NOW



Centre Street c.2009.
Photo: City staff.

Answer to Name That Architectural Feature: "Pediment." (courtesy of wikipedia.org)

GET TO KNOW...VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

Vernacular architecture includes simple, traditional structures made of local materials and following standard forms. This architecture is common throughout Florida. One of Florida's most well-known vernacular styles is "Cracker" architecture, named after early pioneers in Florida who used a cracking whip for driving cattle.



Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings home.
www.floridastateparks.org

The Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings home in Cross Creek, Florida is an excellent example of this form of architecture.

Common elements of vernacular Cracker architecture include wood construction, simple shape, deep porches, minimal decorative or ornamental features, steep roofs, and openings for cross-ventilation. These buildings were designed to provide comfort to occupants during a time without modern heating or air conditioning.

Vernacular architecture is common in the historic districts of Fernandina Beach. The most

common examples locally are "frame vernacular" structures, which refer to buildings constructed of wood and in a simple style. Numerous buildings in both the Downtown and Old Town Historic Districts are illustrative of this architectural style.

For more information on vernacular and Cracker architecture, visit:

<http://www.vafweb.org/>

<http://www.oldhouseweb.com/architecture-and-design/cracker-farmhouses-1840-1920.shtml>

Read:
Classic Cracker by Ronald Haase