



Florida Trust for Historic Preservation
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PRESS RELEASE

Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Announces 2019 Florida's 11 to Save at Florida Preservation Conference in Pensacola

List spotlights the most threatened historic properties in the state, and drives the Florida Trust's education and advocacy initiatives for the year ahead

Pensacola, Fla, May 21, 2019 – On May 16 the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation announced the 2019 Florida's 11 to Save, the most threatened historic properties in the state, at its Florida Preservation Conference.

This year's list represents endangered historic resources in Florida's Palm Beach, St. Johns, Leon, Putnam, Miami-Dade, Bay, Orange, Santa Rosa, Alachua and Seminole counties, covering hundreds of years of history and a variety of cultural resources.

Each year, the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation announces its 11 to Save program as part of its Florida Preservation Conference. The program is designed to increase the public's awareness of the urgent need to save Florida's historic resources, and to empower local preservationists and preservation groups in their efforts to preserve Florida's rich history.

"This year's 11 to Save represents stories and places that are important to a broad diversity of populations," said Florida Trust Board President Friederike Mittner. "We look forward to working with each of these communities in the coming year to identify and work towards preservation solutions that will preserve these special places for many years to come."

Inclusion on the Florida's 11 to Save is a starting point for the Florida Trust's advocacy and education efforts, and is intended to be part of a collaborative effort to identify custom solutions for each property. Listings are not in any order of importance.

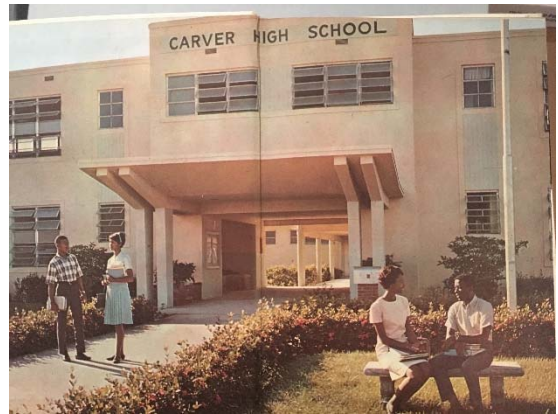
**Carver High School
Delray Beach (Palm Beach County)
Built 1958**

Built in 1958, Carver High School was designed by renowned mid-century architect Gustav Maass. The third principal, Solomon D. Spady, was sent to the school by his mentor, George



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Washington Carver, in the 1930s. Spencer Pompey, who was a coach and social studies teacher at Carver from the 1950s through the 1970s, was a local civil rights activist. He was part of a class action lawsuit disputing disparity in pay for white and black teachers at Carver High. The case was argued, and won, by a young NAACP attorney named Thurgood Marshall. The school also served as the cultural center for Delray Beach's Southwest and Northwest neighborhoods, as the school was one of the only places for African American residents to gather in the city.



The Palm Beach County School District is in the initial stages of seeking demolition permits to make way for a football field and two-story parking lot. The nominator hopes that school board might halt demolition plans after being presented with the cultural, historic, and architectural significance of the school's original campus.

Fish Island
St. Augustine (St. Johns County)
Established ca. 1748 (Orange Grove)

Fish Island is an approximately 73 acre cultural landscape comprised of undeveloped upland buffer, wetlands and wildlife habitat located within the city limits of St. Augustine. It is named after "Florida's first orange baron," Jesse Fish, who came from New York to St. Augustine during Florida's first Spanish period in 1736. In 1748, he established Florida's first large commercial orange plantation, El Vergel, on the island. There is archaeological evidence of 4,000-year-old artifacts as well as historical evidence pointing to the likelihood of unmarked eighteenth century burial sites of African American slaves and Protestants who could not be buried in the Catholic cemetery. The island was listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1972, due to its significant resources dating from the First Spanish, British, and Second Spanish period.



Development is rampant in the area around Fish Island, and its significant historic and cultural resources are in jeopardy of being erased. A deal is pending approval by the governor and cabinet for the sell of 57 acres of the property to the North Florida Land Trust to preserve in perpetuity.

Goodwood Water Tower
Tallahassee (Leon County)
Built ca. 1912



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This water tower is a feature of the historic Goodwood estate in Tallahassee, which was added as part of the property's expansion in 1912. It is a four-story steel frame structure, with stucco over frame exterior walls, likely designed by the architect of the Goodwood expansion, Theodore C.

Visscher of New York. Fanny Tiers, who used the Goodwood estate as a retreat for her New York City socialite friends, called for construction of the tower because water mains had not yet come that far out of the city limits of Tallahassee, and she wanted running water. Today, Goodwood Museum & Gardens is not only a sentinel of several important eras of Florida's history, but also a meeting place that introduces all who visit the site to North Florida's past.



When Goodwood Museum & Gardens acquired the property, maintenance had been deferred for over two decades. The water tower suffered significant damage in Hurricane Kate in 1985, and emergency stabilization was undertaken in 1990, but that is beginning to fail. A plan for the structure's restoration and fundraising efforts have been undertaken by Goodwood's Facilities & Executive committees.

**James Ross Mellon House and the
Historic Architecture of Palatka
Palatka (Putnam)
*Built 1886***

Established as a trading outpost in 1821, Palatka, following the Civil War, became an important stop along the St. John's River for steamboats transporting people and goods to the interior of Florida. At the height of its prosperity in the late nineteenth century, Palatka was often referred to as the "Gem of the St. John's." The city entered a period of decline after a devastating fire in the 1880s and the loss of the local citrus industry. Palatka, however, retains many architectural treasures that recall its heyday. The city's residents are concerned about the history of Palatka being forgotten, including places like the James Ross Mellon House.



A member of Pittsburgh's wealthy and influential Mellon family, James Ross Mellon built his Victorian home in Palatka in 1886. James Ross Mellon's father, William Larimer Mellon, was a founder of the Gulf Oil Corporation. James visited Palatka frequently with his family, and he was responsible for the construction of the city's Larimer Memorial Library in 1929. The property, like others in Palatka, is threatened by neglect.



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Palm View Historic District
Miami Beach (Miami-Dade County)
Designated 1999

The Palm View area is part of a 200-acre strip of land from Biscayne Bay to the Atlantic Ocean, just north of Lincoln Road and bordering the historic Collins Canal. The special character of the Palm View neighborhood can be defined by the numerous detached one- and two-story single-family dwellings from the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, as well as the low rise multi-family apartment buildings in the Art Deco and Miami Modern or MiMo styles. With the neighborhood's many notable examples of significant architectural styles representing the historical development of Miami Beach, Palm View was designated as a local historic district in 1999.



The historic district is threatened by a group of owners who are seeking de-designation that would allow for demolition and re-development into a multi-family neighborhood, thus bolstering property values. The situation is further complicated by increased flooding of the district due to sea level rise. Existing guidelines do not address adaptation measures. This would be the first de-designation of a historic neighborhood in Miami Beach.

Panama City High School
Panama City (Bay County)
Built 1914

Built in 1914, Panama City High School was Bay County's first large masonry school used to house grades one through twelve. The imposing Neo-classical building replaced both a late nineteenth century small frame school erected in 1907.



The school now sits vacant, and it sustained significant damage in Hurricane Michael. The property is also for sale. Because the building is not recognized as a local landmark or on the National Register, there are no protections to prevent demolition or insensitive alterations. The nominator hopes that the new owner will seek to rehabilitate and adaptively use the school instead.

Rollins College
Winter Park (Orange County)
Built ca. 1887-1968



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Located along the banks of Lake Virginia in Winter Park, the Rollins College campus contains a significant number of historic buildings that date from ca.1887 to 1968. Hamilton Holt served as President of the college from 1925 through 1949, and he developed a cohesive, pedestrian-friendly campus master plan that favored Spanish-Mediterranean architecture. Two buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, but many more of the buildings are eligible. The campus is important not just for the high quality in architectural design, but also for its significant contributions to liberal arts education over 100 years.



Over the past three years, around half a dozen historic buildings have been demolished (in part or whole) to make way for new growth. More demolitions have been scheduled for the next year and a half. The nominator suggests that the Florida Trust guides Rollins College in the creation of a campus preservation plan, aimed at protecting the remaining historic buildings.

Fidelis Community Center
Jay (Santa Rosa County)
Built 1925 (School), additions 1940s-1960s

The Fidelis Community center is a former school and campus used by the Santa Rosa County School District. The main schoolhouse was built in 1925, and some additions were made in the 1940s through the 1960s. In the mid-1980s, the school was shut down and the building was converted into a community center by the county. It became a hub of activity for the close-knit residents of Jay, and the old cafeteria is reserved and rented by community members for class reunions, family reunions, and wedding and baby showers. The site has also hosted special music events, and contains several athletic fields.



The property is threatened due to lack of county funds to keep the buildings maintained. There is a possibility that the structures might be demolished to make way for other county projects. It is the nominator's hope that the original 1925 schoolhouse could be saved, along with other historic buildings.



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**Bethlehem Methodist Episcopal Cemetery
Archer (Alachua County)
Established ca. 1875**

The Bethlehem Methodist Episcopal Cemetery was established ca.1875 as part of a church built by freed slaves, which has since been demolished. There are 80 known burial sites, many of which belong to former slaves of the nearby Cottonwood and/or Haile plantations that existed in Archer and Gainesville, respectively. Though it was originally used for the burials of freed slaves, use of the cemetery continued into the mid-twentieth century. Many historic gravestones and markers remain on site, and after years of irregular maintenance, the Bethlehem Methodist Episcopal Cemetery Restoration Committee was formed to document, restore, and research the markers.



After initial progress by the committee, the property has become threatened by loss of momentum in the way of preservation efforts. Lack of a master plan, lack of a public and private partnership to implement the work, and lack of funding have contributed to this loss of momentum. The City of Archer has agreed to partner with the Bethlehem Methodist Episcopal Cemetery Restoration Committee and the UF Historic Preservation Program to apply for funding.

**Sanford Civic Center
Sanford (Seminole County)
Built 1958**

This Civic Center off of Lake Monroe in Sanford was designed and built in the time of the Jim Crow laws and racial segregation in 1958. The mid-century design, with its distinguishing arched roof and curved forms and use of concrete panels, exposed beams, and picture windows, served as the site of several Civil Rights protests in its time. In recent history, it was the site of a 20,000-person rally for Trayvon Martin who was fatally shot in 2012. The Civic Center also hosted a speech given by Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton in 2016.



In recent years the CRA paid to have concept plans for a new event center to replace the Sanford Civic Center. The citizens strongly spoke out against that and the talks were cancelled. The city commission considered an assessment, however, it was not funded because there was no budget for it or for renovation or replacement in the near future. The Historic Preservation Officer asked the city commission to allow them to write a grant for an assessment and to declare it a local historic landmark as part of that grant. The commission delayed the consideration until



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after the hopeful assessment but the Historic Preservation Board plans to request a vote in the near future.

**Deauville Beach Resort
Miami Beach (Miami-Dade
County)
Built 1957**

This 530-room waterfront resort hotel was built on Miami Beach in 1957. The design by architect Melvin Grossman was named “Hotel of the Year” upon opening, and it hosted many famous guests and events in its time. It saw the likes of Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland, Louis Armstrong, President John F. Kennedy, and President Ronald Reagan, to name a few. Perhaps most notable was the Beatles’ first performance on the Ed Sullivan Show, which was broadcast from the Deauville’s Napoleon Ballroom on February 16, 1964. The Deauville is located within Miami’s North Beach Resort Historic District, which was established in 2004.



Photo courtesy of the Miami Herald

After an electrical fire in July 2017, the Deauville was closed down, and in September of that same year, it sustained water damage in Hurricane Irma. The hotel has now gone to the Miami-Dade County Unsafe Structures Board, and it faces threat of demolition by neglect.

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About the Florida Trust

The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation is the state’s non-profit dedicated to protecting Florida’s extraordinary heritage and history. Founded in 1978, the Florida Trust has collaborated to save irreplaceable Florida treasures like the Historic Florida Capitol and is a statewide partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Learn more at www.FloridaTrust.org and follow on Twitter: @FloridaTrustHP.