



Florida Trust for Historic Preservation
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PRESS RELEASE

**Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Announces, Celebrates
2023 Florida Preservation Award Winners**

Ocala, Fla., July 25, 2023 – The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation recognized excellence in historic preservation throughout the state with its 2023 Florida Preservation Awards during the 2023 Preservation on Main Street conference.

The awards were conferred along with the Secretary of State Awards, which are an important event at the annual conference. Preservation Award nominations were submitted by the public with recipients selected by a jury composed of preservationists from around the state. Preservationists and projects were recognized in five categories: Master Artisan, Restoration, Rehabilitation and Adaptive Use, Preservation Communications/Media, Organizational Achievement and the Sallye Jude Award for Resilient Preservation. Additionally, the Board of Trustees granted its prestigious President’s Award.

“We are delighted to recognize the remarkable achievements of this year’s recipients of the Florida Preservation Awards,” said Florida Trust Immediate Past Board President Jenny Wolfe. “Their commitment to preserving our heritage is inspiring, and we extend our heartfelt congratulations to everyone involved. It is through such localized preservation efforts that we witness the true power and success of preservation.”

Here are this year’s Florida Preservation Award winners, as well as a brief description of the winning projects:

One of the highest honors is the organization’s President’s Award, which recognizes an individual’s lifelong achievements and leadership in state and national preservation arenas and service to the Florida Trust. This year’s President’s Award recipient is Dr. William “Bill” Lees.



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Dr. Lees, the inaugural Executive Director of the Florida Public Archaeology Network, a state-supported organization dedicated to promoting the stewardship and protection of Florida's archaeological resources, has dedicated great effort towards the preservation of Florida's historical legacy. Notably, he was appointed to the Florida Historical Commission by Governor Charlie Crist and served as a member of the National Register Review Board. His contributions include the establishment of a highly acclaimed public archaeology program spanning the entire state.

Over the past five decades, Dr. Lees has made invaluable contributions to archaeological research, academic instruction and public education. As a distinguished authority on the Civil War, Dr. Lees authored the book *Recalling Deeds Immortal: Florida Monuments to the Civil War in 2014*. His expertise extends to leading excavations at significant archaeological sites within Florida, encompassing Civil War batteries, battlefields and antebellum plantations.

Respected for his scholarly eminence, Dr. Lees has excelled as an author, educator, leader and mentor in the field of archaeology. His career has encompassed directing projects and conducting site investigations nationwide for historical societies, universities and cultural resource management firms. Additionally, he served as president in various organizations, including the Society for Historical Archaeology, the Plains Anthropological Society, the Register of Professional Archaeologists and the Society of Professional Archaeologists.

Master Artisan

Awards in the Master Artisan category recognize individuals in Florida who use traditional techniques or methods to achieve authenticity in the restoration of historical resources, such as intricate woodworking, wrought iron work, historic pointing of mortar for brickwork or hand carving of architectural elements.

Charles Bodree, Jr.



Charles Bodree, Jr., possesses exceptional mastery as a skilled artisan, showcasing an impressive background in architecture, fine carpentry and wooden boat restoration, an increasingly rare skill. Growing up along Florida's Gulf Coast, Bodree developed a deep appreciation for the artistry and historical significance of wooden boats. This early fascination served as a catalyst for his career path, leading him to become an architect and boatwright.



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His passion resonates within his work, particularly evident in his willingness to tackle the most challenging restoration projects. With expertise in classic Chris-Craft wooden boats and boat construction, he excels in meticulous restorations that often involve the complete rebuilding of hulls. Charles's specialized knowledge extends seamlessly to the restoration of rail cars, including a rare 1921 Louisville & Nashville Railroad wooden cupola caboose. Through his commitment and meticulous attention to detail, he has successfully restored the caboose to its original condition, guaranteeing its preservation for future generations.

Bodree's expertise is evident in every aspect of his work, serving as a testament to his dedication to safeguarding history. The combination of his skillsets and extensive knowledge as a Master Artisan and his dedication to preserving the history of maritime and railroad industries serves as an inspiration to preservationists throughout Florida.

Kenneth "Duke" Darnold



With over three decades of professional experience in carpentry, furniture design, carving, plaster work and gold leafing, Kenneth "Duke" Darnold embodies the term master artisan. He has mastered the use of traditional construction materials, including heart pine wood, plaster, copper, brass, concrete, coquina, terra cotta and brick, comprehending their interactions and assemblies.

His portfolio includes the custom woodwork for various projects within the historic Lightner Museum/Hotel Alcazar in St. Augustine (1888) and the Casa Monica (1886). He has contributed to the structural stabilization and restoration of numerous Spanish Colonial, craftsman and vernacular buildings, demonstrating his expertise in preserving architectural treasures. While his primary focus is St. Augustine, Duke has also worked on projects in Central Florida, rural St. Johns County and Flagler County. Many of the buildings he has worked on are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Beyond his craftsmanship, he has also earned recognition as a knowledgeable teacher of his trades, generously sharing his expertise with those who seek to learn. This quality makes him an invaluable mentor to many aspiring preservationists.

Restoration/Rehabilitation

Awards in the Restoration/Rehabilitation category acknowledge the proper restoration or rehabilitation of a structure to an earlier or original appearance.



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Calhoun County Courthouse

Blountstown, Calhoun County

Constructed between 1904 and 1905, this Romanesque Revival courthouse, entirely made of brick masonry, is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The choice was deemed suitable for a city situated on the riverside, surrounded by vast timberland and forests, as it was considered the most contemporary and fire-resistant construction material at the time.

Impacted by Hurricane Michael in 2018, the courthouse was restored in a collaborative effort. The structural roof decking was removed and repaired, fallen chimneys were reconstructed and the east side transom window was preserved and refurbished. Additional restoration work included repairing brickwork, plaster and wood ceilings and installing new carpet in selected areas.

The project received recognition for its utilization of state-of-the-art preservation and restoration best practices, which were carried out in compliance with the Florida Building Codes for Historic Compliance and Repairs.



Central High School

St. Petersburg, Pinellas County

Built in 1926, Central High School, now St. Petersburg High School, was designed by William B. Ittner in the Mediterranean Revival style. It is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was billed as the state's first million-dollar high school. Time, weather and various additions had significantly changed the appearance of the main entrance pavilion before restoration work began.

The project included the restoration of the original character-defining features and modernization of the mechanical, electrical, HVAC and fire systems. Painstaking attention to detail was used to restore damaged terra cotta glaze and remove previous renovations that did not respect the historic character of the building. The entire building was repainted, including wood ceilings and trim and decorative metal pieces at the main entrance and stair wells. Further, the team restored



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the original front entry and reinvigorated the site and streetscape. A new brick-paved visitor car park leads guests to the front door and into a clear-glazed vestibule retaining the original character of the entry while maintaining school security.

The restoration of the 1926 Central High School building was the centerpiece of a major renovation to the entire St. Petersburg. Thanks to its success, it reconnected this vital historic asset to the St. Petersburg community.



H. B. Plant Hall Minarets
Tampa, Hillsborough County

Constructed between 1888 and 1891 by Henry Bradley Plant, the Tampa Bay Hotel, now the H. B. Plant Museum, stands as a testament to the city's rich history. This grand building not only served as Plant's residence but also housed his extensive collection of art and furnishings from around the world. Today, it is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places and a cherished symbol of Tampa's heritage. Plant Hall, as it is now known, has been occupied and operated by the University of Tampa since 1933, playing a vital role in the community as an educational institution.

Restoring the iconic minarets of Plant Hall presented several challenges for the restoration team. Limited funds and the need for elevated work areas required careful planning and resourcefulness. To document the intricate details and unconventional materials used in the minarets, the team utilized modeling software, ensuring accuracy throughout the restoration process. The restoration work encompassed brick-repointing, stripping and repainting the structural steel, repairing or replacing damaged windows, gypsum, stairs and floors and regilding the crescent moons in gold.

Throughout the rehabilitation of the Plant Hall minarets, the team adhered to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Structures, ensuring the preservation of the building's historical integrity. The project's success is evident as the minarets now shine brightly in the Florida sun, just as they did when the Tampa Bay Hotel first opened its doors in 1891.



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Martin County Courthouse

Stuart, Martin County

Built in 1937, the Art Deco Martin County Courthouse, now known as the Court House Cultural Center, serves as a hub for cultural and artistic activities within the community. Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it also houses the MartinArts Council, a nonprofit organization that oversees art and culture throughout Martin County.

Over the past few decades, the building experienced deterioration, characterized by rusting and non-functional awning windows, outdated hurricane shutters, chipped and discolored stone and stucco and a neglected roof.

An extensive restoration project was undertaken to restore its former glory: the entire exterior was repainted following extensive repairs to the stone and stucco; doors were replaced, and new hurricane impact windows were installed, enhancing the building's resilience; ADA-compliant features were incorporated on the first floor to enhance accessibility. Utmost care was taken during the removal of window and door shutters to preserve the unique cast stone medallions, safeguarding their integrity.

Through these meticulous restoration efforts, the Court House Cultural Center has been revived, preserving its historical significance while providing a vibrant space for cultural expression and artistic endeavors within the Martin County community.



Vizcaya Museum and Gardens

Miami, Miami-Dade County

Vizcaya, a name derived from the Basque term meaning an elevated place, was constructed in 1916 to serve as the winter residence of industrialist James Deering. As an avid patron of the arts Deering sought the guidance of Paul Chalfin, a painter and designer from New York, to bring his vision of a Florida home to life.

Together, they embarked on a creative journey, blending elements of Baroque, Rococo, Mannerist and Louis XIV styles, adapted to suit a

beach house in South Florida. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



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A collaborative team effort drove the restoration project that included cleaning and water repellent treatments, roofing, preservation and repair of stucco and clay tile roofs and lightning protection for the historic buildings, all carefully considered during the roof's design and construction. State-of-the-art preservation and restoration practices were employed to safeguard and revitalize the historic materials, while incorporating sustainable design and modern infrastructure systems. Key to the project's success was the careful selection of appropriate new roof tiles that captured the character of the original 100-year-old clay tile roof.

The project serves as a testament to the importance of historic preservation, engaging and educating the community while honoring the enduring legacy of Vizcaya Museum and Gardens.



Sunset Lounge

West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County

Originally built in 1933, Sunset Lounge was a prominent venue for African American entertainers in the 1940s and 1950s. Undergoing numerous modifications over the years, the lounge was turned into an apartment building, when the rehabilitation project began in 2018.

The project sought to restore the Sunset Lounge to its former glory as a lounge and small concert venue.

Later alterations were removed, including the demolition of the residential apartments on the upper floors to recreate the original dance hall and mezzanine area. The roof was replaced, and exterior elements such as details and finishes were repaired or reconstructed to reflect their historic appearance. Windows, doors and the Juliette balcony were also replaced or repaired to maintain the building's architectural integrity.

The Sunset Lounge rehabilitation stands as a testament to the dedication and skill involved in historic restoration and rehabilitation. By bringing back its original character and purpose, this project revitalized an important facility that once showcased top African American entertainers. It not only preserves the cultural heritage of the Northwest Historic District but also provides a unique venue for future generations to enjoy and exerts a positive impact on revitalization work in the surrounding area.

Sallye Jude Award for Resilient Preservation

The Sallye Jude Award for Resilient Preservation recognizes creative integration of resilient and sustainable design practices in preservation projects that respond to short- and long-term environmental threats. It was named after Sallye Jude, one of the founding members of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and a significant voice for the inclusion of resiliency in historic preservation.



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Pigeon Key Commissary and Honeymoon Cottage

Marathon, Monroe County



Pigeon Key, located off the coast of Marathon, Florida, holds historical significance due to its integral role in the construction and operation of the Key West Extension of the Florida East Coast Railway. Its historic district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Among its notable buildings are the Pigeon Key Commissary, constructed in the early 1900s, and the adjacent Honeymoon Cottage, built in the mid-20th

century. Both structures suffered extensive damage during Hurricane Irma in 2017.

The restoration work prioritized the preservation of historic materials. Salvaged doors, windows, framing, flooring and porch components were reused whenever possible. In cases where new materials were required, careful consideration was given to selecting options that matched the original aesthetics, including replicating the original profiles and dimensions. Non-historic features and materials added during previous renovations were removed or replaced, ensuring the buildings returned to their intended historic period. To enhance their resilience against future storms, the buildings were firmly anchored to the ground using concrete piles.

The completion of the restoration project stands as a testament to the collaborative efforts of the design team, contractors and owners, who worked diligently to restore the buildings to their original historic configurations. These restored structures now serve as enduring symbols, preserving the unique history of Pigeon Key and honoring the dedication and hard work of those involved in the construction of the Key West Extension of Henry Flagler's East Coast Railway.



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Callaway School House



Callaway, Bay County

Built in 1911, this wood frame one room schoolhouse served the educational needs of the community until 1936, then continued to be used as a community gathering place for many decades. Acquired by the City and converted into a historical museum, the schoolhouse is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The building suffered significant damage from Hurricane Michael in 2018.

The Callaway School House underwent a comprehensive restoration process: the foundations were stabilized and the building was secured; the siding was carefully removed and salvaged, while new sheathing and a vapor barrier were installed. The team also focused on repairing and restoring the windows and doors, addressing issues like reglazing and fixing dry rot and deteriorated wood in the frames. The porch and ramp were reconstructed to match the original design. The old oak flooring was replaced with a new subfloor and heart pine finish flooring, carefully chosen to match the existing style. The electrical systems were upgraded, including the installation of new fixtures, wiring and lighting.

This meticulous restoration project aimed to preserve the historical integrity of the building while ensuring its long-term stability and functionality. The result is a revived Callaway School House that stands as a testament to the community's commitment to preserving its educational heritage. This restoration project not only honors the past but also provides a renewed space that will continue to inspire and serve future generations.

Preservation Communications/Media

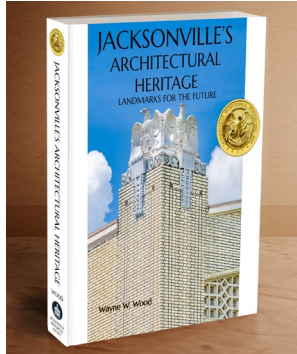
Awards in the Preservation Communications/Media category recognize outstanding heritage education programs, including books, brochures, curricula, DVDs, websites, interactive media and other publications that deal with historic preservation, archaeology or local history.



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Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage: Landmarks for the Future – Bicentennial Edition

Jacksonville, Duval County



This new edition of *Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage*, a book that aims to inspire appreciation for Jacksonville's historic buildings, provides a deeper understanding of the city's architectural history, with an emphasis on the importance of preserving endangered structures, promoting the creation of landmarks and celebrating architectural diversity. The project, aligned with Jacksonville's Bicentennial, showcases

the collaborative efforts of volunteers and organizations. As a valuable resource, the book enables readers to appreciate and comprehend the rich architectural heritage of Jacksonville.

With nearly 400 additional sites offering fresh perspectives on Mid-Century Modern buildings, culturally significant structures and lesser-known gems, this work emphasizes the urgent need to protect endangered buildings, encourages landmark creation and preservation and discourages demolition. The book is a valuable resource for residents, architects, planners and builders, fostering a deeper understanding of Jacksonville's architectural identity.

The project was overseen by the Jacksonville Historical Society, and author Wayne Wood dedicated over 10,000 hours to research and interviews. The book features the works of female and African American architects, reflecting the city's diversity. The visually appealing edition, with over 1,000 new photographs, showcases the collaborative effort of volunteers and organizations to preserve and promote Jacksonville's architectural legacy.



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Organizational Achievement

Awards in the Organizational Achievement category acknowledge achievement in preservation by a group, corporation, neighborhood or other organization.



St. Cloud Main Street St. Cloud, Osceola County

A Florida Main Street Program since 1999, the St. Cloud Main Street program focuses on economic development through historic preservation in St. Cloud's downtown area. SCMS has established a Historic Preservation Board, developed preservation boundaries, offered financial incentives for building renovation, supported the City's effort to receive a

Certified Local Government (CLG) designation and created a downtown walking tour. The program aims to raise awareness of architectural heritage and encourage nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

SCMS actively participates in the Florida Historical Marker Program, with eight sites receiving markers. Collaborating with the City of St. Cloud Community Redevelopment Agency, SCMS established a Façade Improvement Grant Program to enhance building façades in the downtown historic district and developed the St. Cloud Historic Mural Trail, featuring paintings that depict the community's history.

The SCMS program has played a vital role in revitalizing and preserving St. Cloud's historic downtown. By promoting economic development, showcasing local history through murals and markers and collaborating with stakeholders, the program has significantly enhanced the downtown area's appeal and preserved its unique historic character.



Venice Area Historical Society Venice, Sarasota County

For over three decades, the Venice Area Historical Society has remained steadfast in its commitment to preserving and promoting the rich heritage of Venice. Through their educational programs and initiatives, VAHS has made significant contributions to the community.

Offering free tours of the Historic Venice Train Depot and hosting the Betty Intagliata Lecture Series, the organization ensures that residents and visitors alike have access to in-depth knowledge about Venice's history. Its commitment to education extends to scholarships for graduating high school seniors and outreach programs with youth-related organizations, fostering a deep appreciation for Venice's past among younger



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generations. VAHS has actively supported the restoration of the Venice Train Depot, commissioned a statue in honor of a circus legend and played a pivotal role in preserving historic buildings and exhibits. A notable achievement is the Circus Train Car Museum project. By successfully fundraising, acquiring and rehabilitating a former Ringling circus car, VAHS created a museum that not only showcases the city's circus legacy, but also offers visitors a glimpse into the daily lives of performers.

VAHS's comprehensive and sustained commitment to historic preservation and education has established the organization as a leader in their field that works to enrich the local community and contribute to a broader understanding and appreciation of Venice's history. VAHS continues to preserve, promote and celebrate the unique cultural tapestry of Venice, ensuring that future generations can cherish and learn from the city's rich heritage.

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About the Florida Trust

The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation is the state's nonprofit 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 FloridaTrust.org