



Florida Trust for Historic Preservation
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PRESS RELEASE

**Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Announces 2022 Florida
Preservation Awards at the Florida Preservation Conference**

DeLand, July 28, 2022 – The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation announces its 2022 Florida Preservation Awards during the 43rd annual Preservation Conference, *Preservation on Main Street 2022*.

Nominations were made by the public with award recipients selected by a five-member jury. Preservationists and projects from around the state were awarded in four categories: Restoration/Rehabilitation, Preservation Communication/Media, Organizational Achievement and the Sallye Jude Award for Resilient Preservation. Additionally, the Board of Trustees granted its two major awards – the President’s Award and the Legacy Award. This year the Florida Trust was honored to host the Secretary of State Historic Preservation Awards as well.

“We are proud to acknowledge the significant and impactful work of this year’s Florida Preservation Award Winners,” said Florida Trust Board President Jenny Wolfe. “Communities across Florida are stronger because of these projects.”

The complete list of awards winners and a brief description of each follows below.



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LEGACY AWARD
Don Slesnick, II



Don Slesnick has spent a lifetime supporting historic preservation efforts and volunteering for historic preservation organizations and projects in both his personal and professional life. His work has made an impact in local communities, as well as at the statewide and national levels.

In a volunteer capacity, Slesnick has served on numerous boards and committees to further the cause of preserving and protecting places of historic and cultural importance in the South Florida community and around the State of Florida. As the Mayor of Coral Gables (2001-2011), Slesnick continually fought for historic preservation, encouraging, and initiating stronger preservation policies throughout his entire political career.

Slesnick has served as President of Dade Heritage Trust, Chair of the Miami-Dade County Historic Preservation Board, and Board President of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. He currently holds the position of Vice Chair of the Friends of Florida History, Inc., a citizen support organization for the Florida Division of Historical Resources, and he is a founding Board Member of the University of Florida's Historic St. Augustine, a direct support organization for state-owned historic buildings in St. Augustine.



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PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Clay Henderson



Clay Henderson is an environmental lawyer, educator, and writer who is one of Florida's leading voices in historic preservation, conservation, and environmental policy. Over the years, he has made a tremendous impact on the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, including serving as Board President from 2015 to 2017. He was also instrumental in establishing the organization's preservation easement program. Henderson's leadership extends to his role serving as Executive Director of the Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience at Stetson University and leading the development of nationally recognized land conservation programs, such as Volusia Forever, Florida Communities Trust, Preservation 2000, and

Florida Forever. He has negotiated the purchase of lands that are now part of national and state parks, forests, and wildlife refuges. Furthermore, he directed key elements of the Everglades Restoration, authored the large-scale planning sections of the Florida Community Planning Act, and co-authored the Florida Water and Land Legacy Initiative, the largest conservation funding initiative in United States history. Henderson has also negotiated the historic merger of the Florida Audubon Society and National Audubon Society and co-founded the Save the Manatee Club. He directly worked for his community through two terms serving on the Volusia County Council.

Henderson received his Juris Doctor degree from Samford University and served as senior counsel at Holland & Knight LLP, focusing on environmental law. He has been recognized with a Public Service Award from the Nature Conservancy as well as the Bill Sadowski Memorial Award from the Environment and Land Use Section of the Florida Bar. His latest book, *Forces of Nature: A History of Florida Land Conservation*, will be released in December 2022. Henderson's work and career reminds us how environmental conservation can and should be tied into historic preservation.



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RESTORATION/REHABILITATION

Outstanding Achievement: St. Augustine Waterworks St. Augustine, St. John's County



Built in 1898, the St. Augustine Waterworks was designated as a local landmark in 2013 by the City of St. Augustine and is listed in the National Register for Historic Places. However, the building had been deemed structurally unsound in 2005.

Multiple architects, engineers, tradespeople, archaeologists, and historians collaborated over the last fifteen years to rehabilitate the building, culminating with the final public open house in September 2021. Today, the waterworks serve as a community

center and hosts art, culture, and heritage programs.

This significant project required conducting a historic structure report and engaging public outreach, as well as navigating the difficulties brought on by the pandemic and the economic downturn. The building's rehabilitation included structural stabilization, demolition of non-historic features and additions, restoration of the wood truss system and historic windows and doors, repairing the roof decking, as well as the reconstruction of a semi-circular music platform according to the 1928 architectural plans.



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RESTORATION / REHABILITATION

Outstanding Achievement: J.C. Newman Cigar Factory

Ybor City, Hillsborough County



Located in the historic Ybor City neighborhood and a contributing structure to the Ybor City National Historic Landmark District, the Regensburg cigar factory is nicknamed “El Reloj” in honor of its iconic clock tower. The clock tower became a local landmark for the community when it was built in 1910. In the over 100 years since, El Reloj’s chime has marked the time for local cigar rollers and their families throughout the day.

The J.C. Newman Cigar Company, one of the oldest premium cigar makers in the world, bought El Reloj in 1952 when the company moved from Ohio. The Newman family decided to update, modernize, and restore this 110-year-old building. All work was done with a focus on preserving the historic identity of the building and celebrating its character-defining features. As a result, the project was approved by the National Park Service in 2021 to receive the federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit. The renovation includes an expanded lobby, a multimedia museum, a retail space, an expanded event venue space, and a new room for J.C. Newman Cigar Company’s Tampa-based hand rolling operation.

The factory restoration of El Reloj represents a substantial investment by a family-owned business to showcase the beauty and history of an iconic local landmark. The use of the building is an extraordinary example of historic character aligning with contemporary function.



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RESTORATION / REHABILITATION

Outstanding Achievement: Julia Sunday House

Pensacola, Escambia County



The Julia Sunday House was constructed in 1901 for Julia, the wife of John Sunday, a formerly enslaved union soldier, businessman, landowner, state legislator, and civic leader who held several political offices in Reconstruction-era Pensacola. Built by A. R. Langford in the Seville Historic District, this simple gable-roofed cottage is typical of working-class housing constructed in Pensacola at the turn of the century.

Carter Quina of Quina Grundhoefer Architects undertook the restoration of the house, which was used as storage for 25 years by the previous owner. There was neither kitchen nor working bathroom in the home, and all the utilities had to be replaced. Several inappropriate additions on the rear of the home were not salvageable and were replaced with a new in-kind addition. Original building methods were used, including wood sills, brick foundation piers, novelty board siding, and wood double-hung windows. The 1901 structure was preserved, including the restoration of the old pine floors, plaster walls, and wood ceilings. To retain authenticity, the new walls in the historic structure were lathed and plastered using traditional building skills. Sustainable features include carefully placed solar panels on the new addition, a whole house water filtration system, and a screened outdoor living space. This restoration provides a valuable example of how an old, neglected structure can be revived and demonstrates that it is possible to achieve excellence in preservation.



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RESTORATION / REHABILITATION

Meritorious Achievement: Sacred Heart Cathedral

Pensacola, Escambia County



The Sacred Heart Cathedral's history in Pensacola goes back 117 years. The present church was built in the historic East Hill Neighborhood in 1967 as a modern interpretation of the Romanesque Basilica style. In 1975, Pope Paul established the diocese co-cathedral at Sacred Heart.

The cathedral was thoughtfully renovated to better reflect its importance in the parish and to meet current user needs. The project included creating transepts by removing the south choir balcony and north cry room and storage, adding a new balcony at the front entry above an expanded narthex, removing the rear wall of the sanctuary, and constructing an apse with a new rose window. Furthermore, the sanctuary platform was reshaped, and new, custom-made marble floor, altar, ambo, bishop's chair, and reredos were installed. New floor finishes and lighting improvements completed the extensive renovation, in keep with the history of the surrounding community.

While the church is just 55 years old, it has become a landmark in the East Hill neighborhood, an area that would be eligible as Pensacola's next historic district after Old East Hill and North Hill. The church would certainly be a contributing structure in that hoped-for historic district.



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SALLYE JUDE AWARD FOR RESILIENT PRESERVATION

Flood Mitigation Design Guidance for Historic Residences

City of St. Augustine, St. John's County



St. Augustine has a National Historic Landmark District, eight National Register Historic Districts, 26 buildings listed individually on the National Register, five National Register listed archaeological sites, two National Register listed cemeteries, a National Register listed bridge (Bridge of Lions), and a National Monument (Castillo de San Marcos) – all of which are threatened by flooding and in some cases have experienced severe damage from storm events over the last

five years.

The Flood Mitigation Design Guidance project included field work, design recommendations, and policy descriptions to provide property owners and the local Historic Architectural Review Board with the necessary tools to promote compatible flood mitigation programs. The guide translates flood regulations, mitigation options, and architectural compatibility questions that are often overwhelming for the average property owner through visual aids, supporting explanations and architectural designs.

The document provides streetscape, building, foundation, and access recommendations for various types of architecture represented in St. Augustine. Additionally, it covers basic improvements, flood-proofing and maintenance needs for historic resources and information on restoration of historic materials after a flood event. The final product is a colorful and architecturally rendered publication that provides a model for other communities to identify and address compatible flood mitigation measures that are suitable for their preservation ethic and historic landscape. The document is already being applied to a statewide hazard mitigation grant undertaken by the Florida Division of Historical Resources.

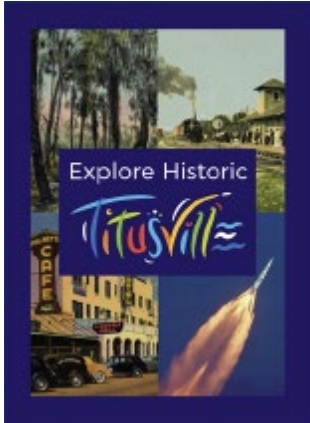


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PRESERVATION COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA

Outstanding Achievement: Explore Historic Titusville

City of Titusville, Brevard County



The Explore Historic Titusville booklet, interactive website, and mobile app developed by the Titusville Historic Preservation Board allows people to discover the sites of Titusville’s long history – from its earliest Native American inhabitants, through its rough-and-tumble pioneering era, to its growth as a modern city with close connections to Cape Canaveral and the American Space Program. Self-guided walking and driving tours direct residents and visitors to dozens of highlighted spots on the interactive GPS-enabled map and mobile app, providing stories, historic images, and vivid narration at each location.

The booklet is a highly visual, easy to read text that highlights personalities, themes and historic events and stops on a series of driving and walking tours in the greater Titusville area. With its entertaining and informative presentations on Titusville, it can serve as stand-alone reading or as a guidebook to tours. The integrated website features an interactive map and audio corresponding to the booklet. The app provides a mobile audio tour application for IOS and Android devices where visitors can view the interactive map, find a location through GPS, and listen to oral histories. The Explore Historic Titusville project has already successfully captured the interest of visitors to the Kennedy Space Center, Canaveral National Seashore, and the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, it serves as an excellent community resource for local citizens and students.

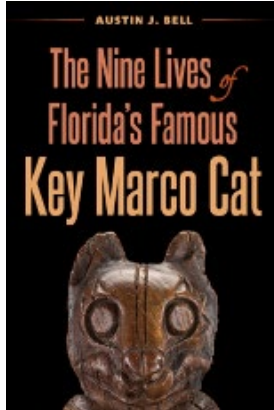


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PRESERVATION COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA

Meritorious Achievement: The Nine Lives of Florida's Famous Key Marco Cat

Marco Island, Collier County



In September 2021, Austin J. Bell, Curator of Collections for the Marco Island Historical Society and a Consulting Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (Penn Museum), published *The Nine Lives of Florida's Famous Key Marco Cat*, through University of Florida Press.

As museum objects go, few have had a more fascinating trajectory than Florida's famous Key Marco Cat. It is one of Florida's most famous archaeological artifacts, excavated from a waterlogged archaeological site on what is now Marco Island, on March 5, 1896, by legendary anthropologist Frank Hamilton Cushing. Since then, the object has taken on new meanings and new lives, while subtly revealing clues about its former ones. Austin Bell explores nine periods in the life of the six-inch high wooden carving beginning with how it was sculpted with shell and shark tooth tools, to what it may have represented to the ancient Calusa, perhaps a human-panther god.

The Key Marco Cat likely began as an object of religious importance to the Calusa or their forebears at least five centuries ago. Now, it is an object of economic importance to the same region of Florida. In both contexts, it has stimulated countless discussions, ideas, stories, and thoughts.



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ORGANIZATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Marco Island Historical Society

Marco Island, Collier County



In 2021, the Marco Island Historical Society acquired and restored a unique 11-foot handmade wooden skiff transferred from the Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee. The skiff, partially held together by hand-whittled wooden pegs, is of completely original design. Built around 1945 by a recluse named Paul Teachout in the Ten Thousand Islands near Marco Island, it was donated to the museum in 1982. Curator of Collections Austin Bell personally brought the skiff back to Marco Island.

Enlisting the volunteer services of master boatbuilder Roger Johnson and Marco Island Historical Society member Ronald Rutledge, the skiff was methodically stabilized and conserved over the course of more than six months using materials as close as possible to the original.