

FLORIDA'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION TOOLKIT

*A guide for protecting our
state's historic places*



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Florida Trust for Historic Preservation

The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation is the statewide nonprofit dedicated to protecting Florida's extraordinary history and heritage, and sharing the inclusive and diverse stories of those who came before us. The Florida Trust is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization, funded through public support and our members. 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.



National Trust for Historic Preservation

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting significant places representing our diverse cultural experiences by taking direct action and inspiring broad public support. For decades, the National Trust has been committed to the goal of ensuring that the full American story is represented in the places we save. As the leading advocate for the protection of significant places and cultural landscapes, we help Americans protect and reuse irreplaceable historic resources; model best practices in stewardship and interpretation through our network of National Trust Historic Sites; and promote investment in historic urban neighborhoods and Main Streets to build stronger communities.

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INTRODUCTION

by Melissa Wyllie, CEO and President, Florida Trust for Historic Preservation

Before we jump in and fill our heads and hands with the gritty magic of holding up the places and stories that built Florida, let's talk about why we bother. And who is best suited to do that important work?



The answer to that second question is the easy one: **It's you!** You are needed to protect our historic places. The stories that move you deserve to be told. And the best person to do the telling is most likely you.

Looking at the history of preserving history in the United States, so often the reason an important historic place lives on is because a single person decides it has to happen. That person has an aha moment, like in 1853 when Louisa Bird Cuninghame floated on a steamer down the Potomac and, suddenly jerked awake, spies Mount Vernon tumbling headfirst into disrepair on the river bank. She thought, why can't we fix this?

The we for Louisa was a group of ladies who formed the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association with the mission of saving and restoring George Washington's home in Virginia. Which they did, and now - 170 years later - the organization continues to do.

Here in Florida, Dr. Enid Pinkney almost single-handedly saved the Historic Hampton House in Miami. Now a National Historic Landmark, the Hampton House Hotel was central to the civil rights movement and one of the few remaining Green Book sites of the Jim Crow era. In 1978, the Florida Trust was born when individuals around the state banded together to save the Historic Capitol, and determined we needed an organization to protect Florida's cultural treasures into the future.

There are many paths to walk in the journey of preserving our historic resources - and all of those paths are vital and valued. We hope you will join us in the work, which is why we worked to put this toolkit together.

Through the toolkit we will help build connections through a shared language, we will work to connect with a broad array of stakeholders and peel back the mystery of just how to maintain a historic building and advocate for special places in our communities.

Which brings us to the why bother question.

Historic places connect us to those who came before us, to the real lives they led, their challenges and struggles and successes. Our ability to tell the stories of the past in a way that resounds with the present is improved through connection with what was left behind. Beyond the philosophy of preservation, we know preserving historic buildings is inherently green and is an economic boost for communities.

The goal of this toolkit is to provide you with the information you need to protect the historic places that are important to you, be it your home, your workplace, a family cemetery or an archaeological site.

This is the first iteration of our Historic Preservation Toolkit. We look forward to future sections on other areas of preservation. And thank you for being a part of this work.



“Historic Preservation means protecting the City’s historic structures to ensure future generations can experience their heritage in a tangible way.”

“Historic Preservation takes into account that place matters, that spaces from the past link us to the present ... we must consider the effect older structures have on our community.”



“Historic preservation helps preserve the memories of those who came before us. Not just the memories of those who owned and lived in historic places, but of a community, the people who designed and built it and the memory of what may have happened in that space.”



HISTORIC PRESERVATION 101

In this section, you'll find:

What is Historic Preservation?

Why Preserve?

Including Cultural Heritage

Threats to Historic Resources

Archaeology

HISTORIC PRESERVATION 101

What is Historic Preservation?

Historic preservation is most often viewed as protection of the built environment - buildings, objects, landscapes and sites. Modern preservation efforts are about saving the heart of communities, and ensuring vibrant, special places full of character. Cultural heritage is also a part of historic preservation.

Historic resources refers to physical elements or places that have significant historical, cultural, architectural, archaeological or social value. These resources are typically associated with the past and are considered important for their ability to tell a story, provide insights into history and/or contribute to a community's cultural identity. Usually places and buildings that are 50 years or older can be considered historic.

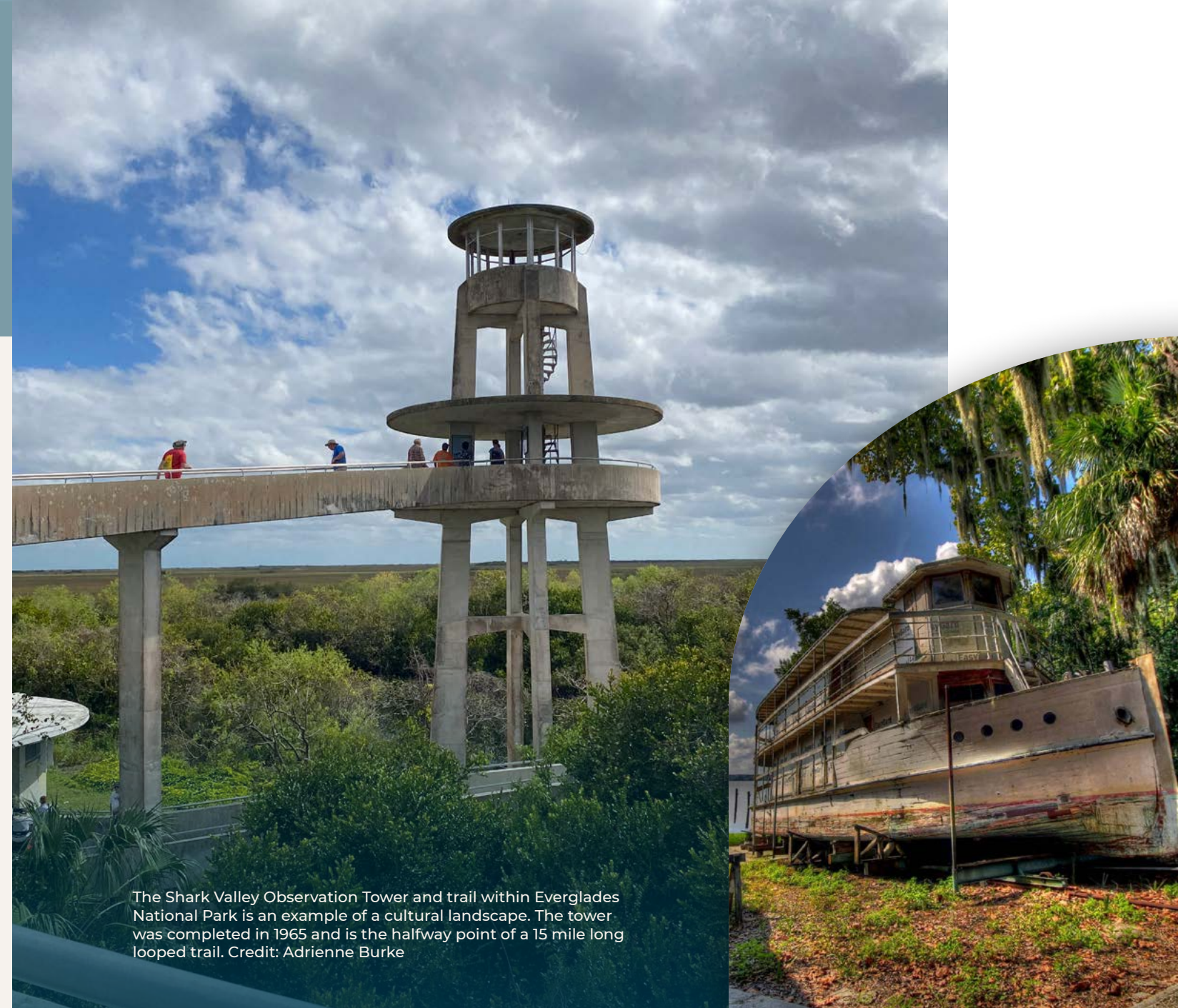
Historic resources are part of the larger umbrella of cultural resources. Cultural resources refers to tangible



Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Nassau County was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. The c.1920 frame vernacular church is associated with a congregation that dates to the site in 1870. This church is connected with African-Seminole history and tells the story of African American life in Nassau County. Credit: Tom Keenan

“Preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future.”

- William J. Murtaugh,
first keeper of the National Register of Historic Places



The Shark Valley Observation Tower and trail within Everglades National Park is an example of a cultural landscape. The tower was completed in 1965 and is the halfway point of a 15 mile long looped trail. Credit: Adrienne Burke

This steamboat dubbed “Noah’s Ark” was constructed in 1930. After many expeditions, it is now stationary in Palatka. Credit: Florida Trust

and intangible elements of human culture and heritage that have historical, artistic, architectural, archaeological or social significance. These resources encompass a wide range of assets that provide insights into a society's traditions, history, values and identity. Cultural resources include historic architecture and buildings, artifacts, archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, historic documents, oral traditions and intangible cultural resources such as language, foodways, music or other cultural touchstones.

Why Preserve?

- PROTECTING CULTURAL IDENTITY AND MEMORIES
- PRESERVING ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY
- SUPPORTING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS
- STRENGTHENING CIVIC PRIDE
- CAPITALIZING ON EXISTING ASSETS
- AVOIDING LOSS OF IMPORTANT PLACES
- LEARNING FROM THE PAST
- STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY
- INSPIRING CREATIVITY
- BEING SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT
- BEING GOOD STEWARDS OF OUR SHARED PAST
- PROVIDING AN UNDERSTANDING OF SHARED HISTORY/EXPERIENCES/IDENTITY
- PRESERVING THE SPIRIT OF A PLACE
- CONNECTING GENERATIONS ACROSS TIME
- FACILITATING PLACEMAKING AND PLACEKEEPING
- SUPPORTING HERITAGE TOURISM
- SHARING THE HISTORY OF CULTURAL PRACTICES AND HOW PRACTICES HAVE CHANGED OVER TIME
- STORYTELLING

Historic preservation has a significant effect not only locally, but on a regional and statewide level. The University of Florida found that historic preservation activities in Florida have a \$6.3 billion impact annually related to job creation, income generation, increased gross state product, increased state and local tax collections and increased in-state wealth.

Preservation's impact is not limited to economics. It has also been found that preservation has a significant impact on the quality of life, as demonstrated in another University of Florida study. Preservation has a positive effect on community, education, economy, sustainability, and affordable housing, all indicators contributing to quality of life in Florida.

By the Numbers

The Impact of Historic Preservation in Florida Every Year



123,000

Jobs generated



\$120 Million

Federal Historic Tax Credit Investments



\$13 Billion

Generated by Rehabilitation of Historic Property



63 Million

Individuals Visit a Historic Place in Florida

Including Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage is increasingly important in the field of historic preservation. Cultural heritage refers to tangible and intangible aspects of a society's past that are inherited from previous generations and preserved for future generations. It includes a wide range of aspects that shape a society's identity, values, traditions and way of life. Cultural heritage can be categorized into two main types: tangible and intangible heritage.

Tangible cultural heritage includes physical artifacts, structures and sites that hold historical, artistic, scientific or cultural significance. **Intangible cultural heritage** refers to the practices, expressions, knowledge, skills and traditions that are passed down from one generation to another and are deeply embedded in a community's way of life. This type of heritage is not physical and can be harder to define and preserve.

Preserving cultural heritage is important for many reasons:

- Identity and Sense of Belonging
- Education and Research
- Tourism and Economic Value
- Cultural Diversity
- Social Cohesion
- Inspiration and Creativity
- Protection of Rights
- Telling a Complete History

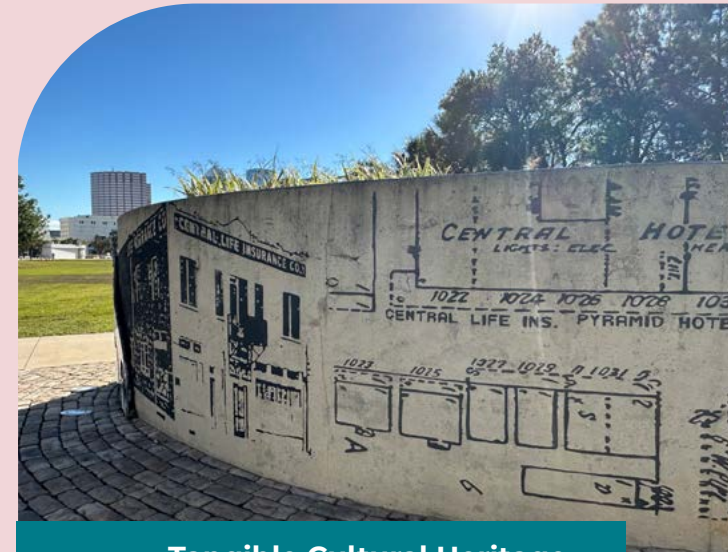
In historic preservation, cultural heritage can help share components of a community's history beyond buildings. This is especially important where buildings may no longer exist or sites are gone, especially in a place like Florida where natural disasters are one of many threats facing our historic sites. Cultural heritage may still exist in an area even when buildings are no longer standing or have been significantly changed.

Examples of Tangible Cultural Heritage

- Historic buildings and architectural structures
- Artworks, sculptures and crafts
- Artifacts and historical objects
- Monuments and memorials
- Archaeological sites
- Cultural landscapes

Examples of Intangible Cultural Heritage

- Oral traditions, storytelling and folktales
- Rituals, ceremonies and traditional performances
- Music, dance and theater
- Language and dialects
- Traditional knowledge and skills related to crafts, agriculture and medicine
- Culinary traditions and traditional food preparation methods



Tangible Cultural Heritage



Above top to bottom

Caption: Perry Harvey, Sr. Park is located in what was once the Central Avenue neighborhood in Tampa. Urban renewal policies destroyed most of the area. Today the Park memorializes the neighborhood through structures that share Central Avenue's heritage. Credit: Adrienne Burke

Caption: Fort Clinch in Fernandina Beach is an example of Florida's tangible cultural heritage. The fort dates to 1847. Today the Florida State Park system manages this historic resource. Credit: Adrienne Burke



Intangible Cultural Heritage



Above top to bottom

Caption: Traditional foods of the Gullah Geechee people prepared by Chef Andra Bryant-Smith at Green Legacy Farm. Northeast Florida is included in the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. The Corridor celebrates, preserves, and shares the important contributions made to American culture and history by African Americans known as Gullah Geechee people, descendants of enslaved Africans in the coastal counties of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Credit: Glenda Simmons-Jenkins

Caption: A community fashion show in American Beach, Nassau County, FL highlighting African diaspora clothing. American Beach is a historically African American beach community. Credit: Adrienne Burke

Rising sea levels, increased hurricanes, and flooding impact Florida's historic buildings. Raising buildings is one possible strategy to protect them. This home in St. Augustine is in the process of being raised. Credit: Adrienne Burke



Threats to Historic Resources

Historic and cultural resources come under threat in a variety of ways. The following are some of the common threats to historic sites, and more than one threat may be present at one time:

Development

Due to Florida's rapidly growing population, development is probably the most common threat to historic resources. Because of the value of land and the ability to build more than was historically allowed or needed, historic buildings are often seen as an obstacle in the face of development.

Neglect

Historic resources may deteriorate over time due to neglect. This may be due to absentee owners, lack of financial resources of the owner, disinterest of the owner or other reasons. It is important to help work with property owners to understand how neglect can harm historic sites and help find solutions.

Changing climate

Stronger hurricanes, increased flooding and sea level rise are all scientifically demonstrated and can impact Florida's historic places.

Changing attitudes

People's opinions of what is historic and valuable changes over time. Many early 20th century buildings were lost after World War II because there was an emphasis on new, "clean" and modern buildings. Similarly, we lose many of those post-World War II buildings today because people do not view them as historic. It is not possible to save everything, of course, but helping communicate why buildings are historic and the value of historic preservation helps.

Lack of knowledge

If historic resources are not documented and not known to the community, local/state/federal government, and developers, they are at risk. Ensuring that historic resources are recorded and shared with the local and state government is very important.

Lack of understanding or appreciation

Florida has a unique number of visitors, and those who move here later in life. Because of this, many people are not aware of our long history and may not understand or appreciate why sites and places in Florida are historic. Community outreach and education is important in helping communicate the historic significance of places.

Politics

Politics and changes in elected officials can play a part in levels of support for historic preservation. It is important to engage in advocacy around historic resources for this reason.

Defining Significance

Who is in a position to determine what is historically significant can be a threat to historic resources. Working with communities to identify what is significant is critical so that they can advocate for what is important to them.

Relevance

Sometimes people don't see the relevance of historic preservation to their lives. Connecting historic preservation with larger issues like climate change, affordable housing, equity, arts and economic development can help make the case for relevance.



The Fort Lauderdale Federal Courthouse Building was included in the 2018 Florida's 11 to Save. While the building struggles with ongoing water intrusion issues, the overarching threat to the building is the changing view of what kind of architecture is good and valuable. This mid century modern, brutalist building is viewed by many in Fort Lauderdale as ugly, and there are ongoing conversations about demolition of the building. This negative feeling toward some architectural styles is an ongoing preservation issue. Credit: Florida Trust

Right: The Jackson House in Tampa, you can see the negative impact of urban renewal through the continued deterioration of this historic building. An 11 to Save location, the 1901 room house served African American travelers during segregation. Community advocates continue to work to save the building and its stories. Credit: Melissa Wyllie



Historic buildings in Florida hang on in the face of new development. The historic Women's Club of Coconut Grove in Miami dates to 1891 and this building is from 1921. Large skyscrapers loom over the site today. Credit: Adrienne Burke



Archaeology

Archaeology plays an important role in understanding Florida's rich and diverse history. Archaeologists study the material remains of past human activity. Their work can provide information on everything from the daily lives of early Floridians to the development of major cities.

Archaeology is the study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of artifacts, structures and other physical remains. It seeks to understand past human societies by examining the material culture they left behind. Archaeologists use a variety of methods, including excavation, surveying and analysis of artifacts to reconstruct and interpret the ways in which people lived, worked and interacted in the past.

Florida was home to a number of different Indigenous groups before the arrival of Europeans. Archaeologists have uncovered evidence of Native peoples' settlements, tools and other artifacts. This research has helped to shed light on the lives of these early residents and their interactions with the environment.

Spanish explorers arrived in Florida in the 16th century. Their interactions with the Indigenous people had a profound impact on both cultures. Archaeologists have studied the

remains of Spanish forts, missions and other settlements and artifacts of the Indigenous people who lived in contact with the Spanish. This research has helped to document the complex history of European colonization in Florida.

Archaeologists are also studying the history of African Americans in Florida. Florida was a major destination for enslaved people during the Atlantic slave trade, and archaeologists have uncovered evidence of their lives on plantations and in urban areas. This research has helped to document the experiences of enslaved people in Florida and their contributions to the state's history.



Archaeologists monitoring erosion impacts on the Menorcan well at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve in Northeast Florida. Credit: FPAN Northeast Region



Miami-Dade County archaeologist Jeff Ransom and volunteers working on the Miami Circle archaeological site. Credit: Jeff Ransom



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