



Florida Trust for Historic Preservation
906 E Park Ave. Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(850) 224-8128

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Contact:
Larry Crumbie
Program Manager
Florida Trust for Historic Preservation
lcrumbie@FloridaTrust.org
(850) 224-8128

PRESS RELEASE

Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Announces this year's 11 to Save, Most Endangered Historic Places in Florida

The annual list provides a voice for communities around the state, and drives the organization's education and advocacy initiatives for the year

Fernandina Beach, Fla., July 15, 2025 – Yesterday, the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation announced the 2025 Florida's 11 to Save, a list of the most threatened historic places in the state, at the 2025 Preservation on Main Street conference hosted in collaboration with Florida Main Street.

Each year, the Florida Trust announces its 11 to Save sites, which are nominated by the public and reflect the historic places that matter to local communities. The program is designed to increase the public's awareness of the urgent need to save Florida's historic resources, highlight the breadth of Florida's unique history, inspire unique collaborations and empower local preservationists and community groups in their work to preserve Florida's rich history.

The 2025 11 to Save represents endangered historic resources in Alachua, Duval, Gadsden, Levy, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Putnam, St. Johns, and Seminole counties, covering hundreds of years of history and a variety of cultural resources.

"The 2025 Florida's 11 to Save reflect the extraordinary breadth and depth of stories that make up the cultural mosaic of our state," said Florida Trust Board President Mike Cosden. "By safeguarding these sites, we're not just preserving buildings and landscapes, but also the diverse histories and voices that contribute to our shared heritage."

Inclusion in 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.



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Apalachicola Arsenal Officers Quarters
Chattahoochee, Gadsden County
Built 1839



The Apalachicola Arsenal Officers' Quarters, completed in 1839 during the Seminole Indian Wars, is a site of significant historical importance. It was home to Florida's only arsenal at the time, the location of the first Civil War action in the state, served as a base for the Freedmen's Bureau, became Florida's first penitentiary, and later housed the state's first mental health hospital.

Although listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, the structure is in urgent need of repair and restoration. Located in one of Florida's most economically challenged counties, inclusion on this year's 11 to Save list is critical to raising awareness and building the support necessary for its preservation.

Brightwater Estate
Casselberry, Seminole County
Built 1952



The Brightwater Estate was designed by noted Florida architect James Gamble Rogers II and is the last remaining structure directly connected to Casselberry's founder, Hibbard Casselberry. Built in 1952, the six-bedroom Southern Revival-style residence served as Casselberry's home until his passing in 1969.

Now owned by the city, the estate's future is uncertain. Rising maintenance costs and a lack of consensus among city leaders have put the property at risk. The nominator is seeking inclusion on this year's 11 to Save list to inspire public engagement and advocacy, with the goal of eliminating the threat of losing this historically significant site.



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City of Cedar Key
Cedar Key, Levy County
Settled between 1840 and 1856



Cedar Key is an increasingly rare example of “Old Florida,” a small coastal community rooted in fishing, local businesses, and modest, affordable tourism. This uniquely Floridian historic place has faced significant hardship in recent years, particularly from repeated hurricanes, including the devastating impact of Hurricane Helene in 2024.

Recovery from Helene is ongoing but expected to take years. In the meantime, adaptation is critical to safeguard Cedar Key’s future. Even before the storm, the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and the

University of Florida had partnered with the City of Cedar Key to provide planning, research, and technical assistance. Their Resilient Cedar Key Adaptation Plan, completed just before Helene struck, outlines key strategies such as elevating and wet-proofing historic buildings, improving drainage systems to protect the town’s historic cemetery, and implementing nature-based “living shoreline” solutions to buffer storm surges.

As the community rebuilds, sustained support and resources are essential to preserving Cedar Key’s historic fabric and identity. Inclusion on this year’s 11 Most Endangered list will raise awareness and foster critical public dialogue around the unique challenges, and preservation-based solutions, facing Florida’s small, historic, and often isolated coastal communities.

Claronelle Smith Griffin House
Gainesville, Alachua County
Built 1872



The Smith-Griffin House, built in 1872, is located in the historic Brush Addition, the first expansion of the City of Gainesville, established in 1859 to accommodate Black settlers. The home stands on land originally settled by the ancestors of its last resident, Claronelle Smith Griffin. These ancestors, a group of African Americans from Camden, South Carolina, arrived shortly after the Civil War, bringing valuable vocational skills that helped establish a thriving community of farmers, tradespeople, and professionals.

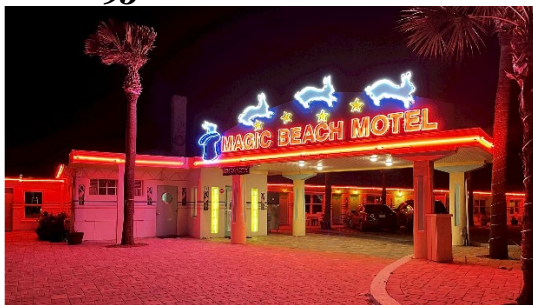


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Claronelle Smith Griffin was a direct descendant of these early settlers, who played pivotal roles in founding Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church (est. 1867) and the Union Academy, established the same year by the Freedmen's Bureau. The Smith-Griffin House is a contributing structure within the Pleasant Street Historic District and a rare surviving symbol of this rich legacy.

Now in need of significant repair, the Pleasant Street Historic Society plans to restore the home and repurpose it as a living history museum, preserving and sharing the story of Gainesville's historic African American community for generations to come.

Magic Beach Motel
Vilano Beach, St. Johns County
Built 1951



Built in 1951 in the Streamline Moderne style, the Magic Beach Motel is located just half a block from the Atlantic Ocean on the main street of the Vilano Beach Town Center. Originally known as the Blue Ocean, the motel has long served as a visual landmark in early Vilano Beach. Over the years, it has appeared in various television shows, including the 1990s series *Safe Harbor* starring Gregory Harrison and Rue McClanahan.

The Magic Beach Motel is a rare and iconic example of Florida's mid-20th-century tourism boom. Structures like this, once common across the state in the 1950s and 1960s, are rapidly disappearing due to ongoing development pressures—especially in fast-growing coastal areas like Vilano Beach.

Today, the motel stands in a zone of intense redevelopment, placing its future in jeopardy. The nominator believes that only strong community action can prevent its loss. While there is already local interest in preserving the property, inclusion on this year's 11 to Save list by the Florida Trust would provide critical visibility and support—helping to educate property owners on the benefits of historic preservation and strengthening efforts to save this unique piece of Florida's architectural and cultural heritage.



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Manatee Village 1887 Church
Bradenton, Manatee County
Built c. 1887



Construction of this historic church began in 1887 but was halted when a yellow fever epidemic claimed the lives of the pastor and many members of the congregation. Despite this tragedy, the resilient community resumed work, and two years later, the church opened as the first Christian congregation south of Tampa on the Florida mainland.

In 1975, the Manatee United Methodist Church donated the building, and it was relocated to its current site as part of a U.S. Bicentennial preservation project. This effort marked the founding of Manatee Village Historical Park.

Still a consecrated house of worship, the church continues to host baptisms, weddings, and memorial services, remaining a meaningful part of the community's major life events. Beyond its spiritual role, the church is a powerful symbol of local heritage and a tool for educating future generations about the past.

Today, the building is in urgent need of a new roof and structural rehabilitation. The nominator believes that inclusion on this year's 11 to Save list will raise much-needed awareness and support efforts to secure funding for its preservation.

Mary Mossman House & Hall
Melrose, Putnam County
Built c. 1881



In the 19th century, societal norms placed significant limitations on women's autonomy and professional achievements. Yet, within this restrictive context, Mary Howe Mossman, an unassuming, soft-spoken, single woman, emerged as a remarkable exception. Defying convention, Mary pursued a life of purpose and compassion: traveling widely, engaging with influential contemporaries, ministering to the sick in both body and spirit, and contributing meaningfully

to her community. In 1881, builder William Lee constructed a home in Melrose for Mary, a spiritual healer from Ocean Grove, New Jersey, who spent her winters in Florida. The house, later known as Faith House, became a center for spiritual teaching, where Mary led Bible studies and prayed for the ill.



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In 1921, a church building—now known as Mossman Hall—was added to the property, further solidifying its role as a place of faith and community gathering. Today, both historic structures need significant repair and restoration. Recently acquired by a foundation committed to their preservation, inclusion on this year’s 11 to Save list would help raise critical awareness and support for protecting this unique legacy of faith, healing, and women’s history in Florida.

Oneida Bungalow Court
Jacksonville, Duval County
Built 1925



Platted in 1875 as part of an expansion of Jacksonville’s Brooklyn neighborhood, West Lewisville was established on land formerly part of the Dells Bluff Plantation. Confederate veteran and developer Miles Price led its development. By the early 20th century, West Lewisville had grown into a thriving, self-sustaining African American working-class community, situated near Jacksonville’s industrial core. At the heart of the neighborhood, the Oneida Bungalow Court was developed in 1925 by Francis L’Engle. The court originally featured 29

bungalow-style homes and a service station, forming a compact and cohesive residential enclave.

However, West Lewisville was heavily impacted by mid-century urban renewal and infrastructure projects. The construction of Interstates 10 and 95 in the latter half of the 20th century devastated the area, leading to widespread displacement and decline. Today, very little remains of the original neighborhood. The Oneida Bungalow Court now represents the last significant concentration of historic residential buildings in West Lewisville. The nominator hopes that inclusion on this year’s 11 to Save list will help build momentum and attract funding for the court’s preservation, ensuring that this rare and important piece of Jacksonville’s history is not lost.



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Redland Agricultural Area Cultural Landscape
Redland, Miami-Dade County
Settled in the early 1900s



The Redland Agricultural Area is a historic and culturally significant landscape located about 20 miles southwest of downtown Miami in Miami-Dade County. It is a unique and expansive farming region that directly borders the nation's seventh-largest metropolitan area.

First settled in the early 1900s, the area attracted farmers due to its relative resistance to winter freezes. Named for its distinctive pockets of red clay soil,

Redland's tropical climate allows for the cultivation of crops rarely grown commercially elsewhere in the continental United States. These include mangoes, avocados, guavas, passion fruit, star fruit, jackfruit, and even coffee beans.

The landscape is characterized by u-pick farms, coral rock walls, and original clapboard homes and structures dating back to the early 20th century. However, Redland's agricultural heritage and future are increasingly threatened by encroaching urban development.

St. Johns River Lighthouse
Mayport, Duval County
Built in 1858



The St. Johns River Light is a decommissioned lighthouse located in Mayport, near the mouth of the St. Johns River. Built in 1858, it was the third lighthouse constructed at this location—and is the only one still standing today. It also holds the distinction of being the oldest surviving structure in the village of Mayport. In recognition of its historical significance, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

After 70 years of service, the lighthouse was decommissioned in 1929. In the 1940s, the U.S. Navy acquired most of Mayport, including the lighthouse property, to establish Naval Station Mayport. When the surrounding airfield was built in 1941, the lighthouse entrance was buried under eight feet of fill, and due to its location on a high-security military base, public access has remained extremely limited.

Decades of inaccessibility and neglect have left the lighthouse vulnerable. A local organization is now seeking funding for a feasibility study to explore relocating the structure off-base and restoring it for adaptive reuse as a gift shop and museum. Inclusion on this year's 11 to Save list



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would help raise awareness and support for preserving this unique piece of Florida's maritime and military history.

USCGC Ingham Maritime Museum
Key West, Monroe County
Launched between 1936 and 1937



The USCGC Ingham is one of only two preserved Treasury-class United States Coast Guard cutters. Launched on June 3, 1936, she was the fourth cutter named in honor of Treasury Secretary Samuel D. Ingham. Over the course of 52 years in service, the Ingham fulfilled a wide range of Coast Guard missions during both wartime and peacetime, before her retirement in 1988.

She earned distinguished commendations for her service in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, and participated in the 1980 Mariel Boatlift. From 1989 to 2009, the Ingham was displayed alongside the aircraft carrier Yorktown at Patriot's Point in Charleston, South Carolina. Since 2009, she has served as a centerpiece of the Key West Maritime Memorial Museum.

Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1992, the Ingham now faces significant preservation challenges due to ongoing exposure to the harsh saltwater marine environment. The nominator hopes that inclusion on this year's 11 to Save list will help raise awareness and generate the increased donations and volunteer support needed to preserve this iconic piece of American maritime history.

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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 www.FloridaTrust.org.