



Florida Trust for Historic Preservation
906 E Park Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32301
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PRESS RELEASE

***Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Announces,
Celebrates 2024 Florida Preservation Award Winners***

Tallahassee, Fla., July 17, 2024 – *The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation recognized excellence in historic preservation throughout the state with its 2024 Florida Preservation Awards, given during the 2024 Preservation on Main Street conference along with the Secretary of State Awards.*

This year’s Awards include new awards in the categories of Historic Preservation Scholar, Volunteer of the Year and Preserving Place. 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: Archaeology, Historic Preservation Scholar, Individual Distinguished Service, Preservation Communications/Media, Preserving Place, Restoration, Rehabilitation or Adaptive Use and Volunteer of the Year. Additionally, the Board of Trustees granted its prestigious Legacy Award.

“This year’s Preservation Award winners are wonderful examples of the work being done around the state to protect and promote the stories that make up our shared history,” said Florida Trust Board President Mike Cosden. “On behalf of the Florida Trust, we thank these winners for the important work they are doing to protect our state’s extraordinary history – and for inspiring others to do the same in their own communities.”

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 Legacy Award, which recognizes a person whose life exemplifies the long-term guardianship of Florida’s history and heritage through philosophy and actions. This year’s Legacy Award recipient is Regina Gayle Phillips.



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Legacy Award

Regina Gayle Phillips

St. Augustine, St. Johns County



Regina Gayle Phillips exemplifies working to preserve the past for the future. Phillips is emblematic of the tireless efforts to bring national attention to the lives and important stories of African and Black Americans in Florida. As Executive Director of the Lincolntonville Museum and Cultural Center in St. Augustine since 2018, she worked to secure \$1.5 million in grant funds from the National Park Service and the Florida Department of State for the rehabilitation of Excelsior High School in St. Augustine, the first Black high school in the county and home to the Lincolntonville Museum and Cultural Center. She has been instrumental in installing exhibits on emancipation in Florida, Reconstruction, African American artists, the Green Book, Ray Charles' life in St. Augustine, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement and 450 years of Black history in St. Augustine.

Additionally, Phillips led the effort to install the Isaac Barrett lynching marker in St. Johns County and its subsequent replacement in St. Augustine. She is a member of the Florida Museum of Black History Task Force and through her work the Lincolntonville Museum was included on the *USATODAY's* 10 Best Small Town Museums Across the US list this year. Her guardianship of Florida's historic places, and her tireless work to protect the lives and stories of those who came before us illustrate the qualities honored by the Legacy Award.



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Historic Preservation Scholar

This award recognizes college students in Florida who have demonstrated outstanding dedication and achievement in the field of historic preservation.



Christopher Loman

Tallahassee, Leon County

Christopher Loman is an emerging preservation professional with a solid foundation in historic architecture, building analysis and documentation methods. He holds a bachelor's degree in history from Florida State University and is set to graduate with a master's degree in history, focusing on historic preservation, also from FSU. This summer, he will begin his career as a Planner for the City of Albany, New York. His coursework and research have significantly contributed to the field of historic preservation, and he has applied to present his findings at the

Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians' annual conference.

Loman has actively worked to preserve history both in and out of the classroom. As a research and office assistant at the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation, he regularly engages with the local community, researching historical homes, archives and architectural sources to uncover their significance. He addresses community research requests, evaluates architectural and historical importance and helps maintain the Local Register. He played a crucial role in listing Tallahassee's Capital City Garden Club on the Local Register and assisted with Section 106 Reviews for historic properties. Additionally, Loman has promoted historic preservation in Florida through events and workshops, blending academic knowledge with practical application. His efforts to preserve Tallahassee and Florida's history, and his proactive role in community engagement and preservation initiatives highlight his commitment and contributions to historic preservation.



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Individual Distinguished Service

This award honors a career dedicated to preserving Florida’s history and heritage and is intended for individuals who have clearly made an impact in their community through their efforts as a preservation activist, advocate or leader.

Daniel “Dan” Friend

DeLand, Volusia County



Dan Friend’s volunteer work has significantly contributed to the recognition and preservation of his community’s military history. As a volunteer with the DeLand Historic Trust, Inc., he led the creation of the Wall of Honor and Veterans Plaza in Bill Dreggors Park, commemorating local veterans who served in WWI and WWII. He coordinates Memorial and Veterans Day observances with local Veterans of Foreign Wars’ chapters and serves as the curator and guide for the military exhibits at DeLand’s Memorial Hospital and Military Museum. His displays, including a collection of sailing ships, reflect his devotion to the museum’s care and improvement. Friend

has also worked on projects to restore and maintain veterans’ headstones in local cemeteries, notably raising the neglected headstones of Black veterans in DeLand’s Union Cemetery.

Friend’s most notable achievement is his effort to bring the war tugboat *ST479 Tiger* back to DeLand from Stockholm, Sweden. Through the DeLand Army Tugboat Preservation Group, which he founded in 2012, Dan overcame numerous challenges to return the *Tiger* to Lake Beresford, where it was originally built. His decades-long dedication, thousands of hours of research, and efforts to heighten historical awareness through presentations and events demonstrate his impact as a preservation activist and advocate in his local community.



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Delaitre Hollinger

Tallahassee, Leon County



Delaitre Hollinger, a dedicated historic preservationist and community activist from Tallahassee, has been passionately involved in preserving Black history since he was 13 years old. His early exposure to Black history at Florida A&M University shaped his commitment to preserving and honoring the contributions of African Americans. At 16, he successfully initiated the renaming of a local baseball field in honor of two influential Southside educators, earning recognition from the Leon County Board of County Commissioners. At 17, he became the curator of the Taylor House Museum, leading efforts to have it listed on the National Register of Historic Places and securing a Florida Heritage Site historical marker. His persistence saved the Historic Casañas

House from demolition and led to its incorporation into a housing development.

Hollinger founded the National Association for the Preservation of African American History and Culture in 2013, which raises awareness and advocates for the preservation of African American historic landmarks. He also founded the Florida Civil Rights Museum, Inc., the nation's first virtual Civil Rights museum, which received significant funding from the Leon County Board of County Commissioners. His initiatives include uncovering lost graves of formerly enslaved persons, renaming Tallahassee streets to honor notable African Americans and preserving historic structures like Robinson's Grocery Store and the Modern Cleaners Building. His efforts have been recognized by various entities, demonstrating his profound impact on the community and his unwavering dedication to preserving African American history.



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Mark Tarmey

Tallahassee, Leon County



Mark Tarmey, an architect with a 40-year career in historic preservation, has significantly contributed to the preservation of Florida’s history and heritage. Tarmey was educated at the University of Florida under the mentorship of Blair Reeves and received an Interim Studies Scholarship Grant in Historic Preservation from Harvard University. After his studies, he founded the firm 4M Design Group, specializing in residential and commercial architecture, historic preservation and sustainable design. His work spans across small cities and rural communities, particularly in the Panhandle region, where he focused on reversing the damage from the 2018 Hurricane Michael. Notable projects include the reconstruction of the first state capitol for Tallahassee’s Bicentennial, flood mitigation planning for Apalachicola and the rehabilitation of historic structures such as the Old Gretna School House and Jefferson County’s Old Howard Academy, a Rosenwald School listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Tarmey’s dedication extends beyond professional practice to substantial community involvement. He serves on the Florida Historical Marker Commission and has led efforts in preserving significant local landmarks like the Florida Trust House in Tallahassee and the Middlebrook Cotton Warehouse in Apalachicola. Throughout the years, he has served as Board President and Treasurer of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and mentored architecture students at UF and FAMU. Tarmey’s impact on his community is highlighted by his role in the rehabilitation of numerous historic sites, his advocacy for sustainable and resilient urban planning and his continuous volunteer work, highlighting his unwavering commitment to historic preservation.



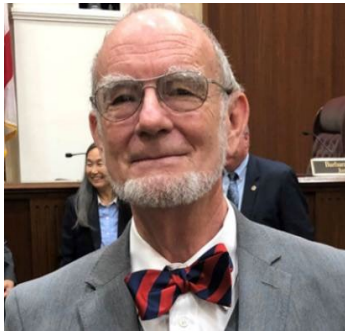
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Volunteer of the Year

This award recognizes an individual volunteer who has made significant contributions to the preservation and promotion of Florida's cultural heritage.

John Daly

Melbourne Village, Brevard County



John Daly, an attorney dedicated to community service, has been instrumental in preserving Florida's cultural heritage. While pursuing a master's degree in Historic Preservation, he discovered the Wells House, also known as Green Gables, an 1896 historic home in Melbourne, which was on the verge of demolition. Envisioning Green Gables as a living history museum and community center, he founded the nonprofit Green Gables at Historic Riverview Village, Inc., which eventually saved the structure and continues to preserve it today. Daly galvanized community leaders and local developers, cleared the overgrown grounds, repaired the roof and organized events to raise awareness and funds. His relentless efforts resulted in Green Gables being listed on the 2018 Florida's 11 to Save list and on the National Register of Historic Places.

Daly's leadership and dedication transformed Green Gables into a vibrant community resource. He recruited a capable team, led restoration efforts and organized monthly events, making the house a focal point for historical education and community activities. Over ten years, his commitment culminated in the successful purchase of Green Gables, ensuring its preservation for future generations. Daly's continuous involvement in planning, research and education, along with his compassionate mentorship, has fostered a community that values historic preservation, education and ecology. His multifaceted contributions, from legal work to hands-on restoration, have made Green Gables a respected landmark and a hub for cultural and natural appreciation.



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William “Bill” Hoff

Jacksonville, Duval County



Bill Hoff has been an influential Jacksonville community leader and historic preservationist for more than 15 years. He tirelessly advocates for preservation policies, supports fundraising for preservation organizations and mentors emerging leaders. Over the years he has conducted numerous tours of historic neighborhoods for various groups, including the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, University of Florida Architecture professors and students, Florida APA conference attendees and developers interested in historic districts.

In his role as Vice President of Scenic Jacksonville and advisor for Springfield Preservation and Revitalization, Hoff has led events like the Great Cities Symposium and the Jacksonville PorchFest, which showcases historic porches and parks. Recently appointed by Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan as the first new Historic Preservation Commissioner in Jacksonville, Hoff has also served on the mayor’s transition committee and in the JAX Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Jacksonville, emphasizing the role of historic preservation in neighborhood revitalization. His extensive volunteer work, leadership in preservation initiatives and impactful advocacy within the community underline his dedication to historic preservation.

Archaeology

This award category recognizes a significant archaeological project, such as a physical site investigation, excavation and resulting report, the interpretation of a site or the creation of educational opportunities and access to the archaeological site.



Carr Cemetery Project

Tallahassee, Leon County

Located within Florida’s plantation belt, Leon County contains many unmarked, abandoned and forgotten cemeteries. During the planning stages of the Northeast Connector: Bannerman Road project, Tallahassee’s Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency discovered the possible presence of an abandoned cemetery on private property. Through close coordination with the property owner and residents, the Agency identified the Cedar Hill/Carr Cemetery on the former Carr Plantation site and contracted a cultural heritage firm to conduct a literature review and geophysical survey of the cemetery.

The Carr Cemetery project represents excellence in historical research and analysis, with a focus on



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respecting and preserving a historically African American cemetery. The project site visits by planners and engineers, followed by field investigations where headstones, bricks and other artifacts were documented. After clearing heavy vegetation, archaeologists used ground-penetrating radar and lidar technology to map the cemetery without causing damage. Flags were placed to help descendants locate graves. The resulting report detailed the cemetery's historic context, land ownership and biographical information on the interred, providing a valuable historical resource. The project also aimed to prevent future disturbances to the cemetery by clearly defining its boundaries. The team's proactive efforts align with the 2021 Task Force on Abandoned African American Cemeteries' recommendations, ensuring future protection and awareness of the cemetery by private property owners and descendants.

Recovering History by the Manatee Mineral Spring Project

Bradenton, Manatee County



Located near Tampa Bay, the Manatee Mineral Spring site holds significant historical and archaeological value, serving as a crucial resource for various groups throughout history, including indigenous peoples, freedom seekers from the Angola maroon community and early Florida settlers. The spring has long been a vital fresh water source, and the site has been recognized as part of the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, emphasizing its wide impact and historical importance.

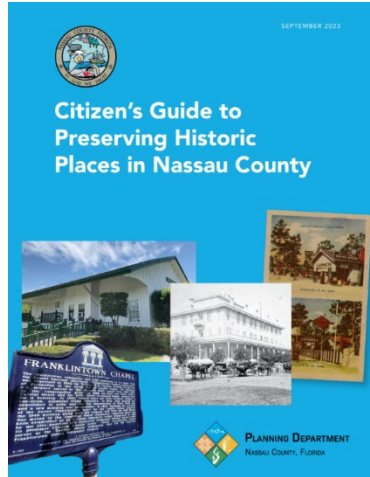
Recovering History by the Manatee Mineral Spring archaeological project aimed to excavate and document the site before it is impacted by encroaching development. The project revealed material evidence of the Angola maroon settlement, including post molds and other features, an intact barrel well and belongings that point to global connections and daily activities at the site and paint a clearer view of everyday life in the Village of Manatee during 1840-1880. The project was a highly successful collaboration among nonprofit organizations, academic institutions and governmental agencies, providing a deeper understanding of the cultural and historical context of this crucial avenue for trade, transportation and communication since the earliest human occupation.



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Preservation Communications/Media

This award recognizes outstanding communications for heritage education programs, including books, brochures, curricula, DVDs, websites, interactive media and other publications that deal with historic preservation, archaeology or local history.



Citizen's Guide to Preserving Historic Places in Nassau County

Yulee, Nassau County

The *Citizen's Guide to Preserving Historic Places in Nassau County*, completed in 2023, serves as a comprehensive resource for citizens interested in historic preservation. Created by the Community Planning Collaborative at the request of the County, this guide is designed to fill a gap in local historic preservation information and resources. The *Citizen's Guide*, available online and in limited print, offers user-friendly information on federal, state and local historic preservation; covering topics like cemeteries, house history research, historic sites, funding and additional resources. Given Nassau

County's rapid growth, this guide aims to encourage residents to engage with and protect their unique historic and cultural heritage.

Nassau County, one of Florida's oldest counties with history dating back to indigenous communities and early European contact, features many historic sites, especially outside well-documented areas like Fernandina Beach and Amelia Island. The guide highlights the importance of preserving lesser-known historic towns and cemeteries, contributing to the broader understanding of Florida's development. It also emphasizes the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, ensuring accurate representation of this community by engaging local Gullah/Geechee Nation representatives. The guide has been distributed to various community stakeholders and has already been utilized by county commissioners, showing its potential to spur local advocacy and enhance Nassau County's preservation efforts.



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Green Gables at Historic Riverview Village, Inc.

Melbourne, Brevard County

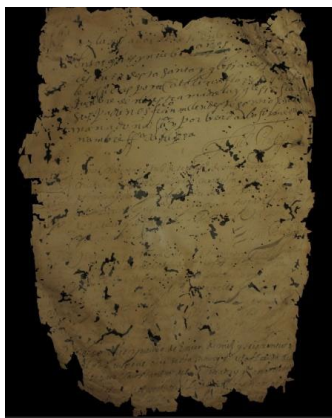


The historic Wells House, known as Green Gables, was an abandoned and forgotten Queen Anne Victorian home hidden on a heavily wooded lot in Melbourne. John Daly discovered the dilapidated house while studying for a master's degree in historic preservation and became dedicated to its restoration. He formed a nonprofit and rallied volunteers to clear the overgrowth, make emergency repairs and raise funds for the purchase; but initially, the efforts could only cover basic expenses.

In 2019, a new president brought fresh ideas, recruited new volunteers, and intensified the restoration efforts. By 2022, creative media strategies, including the production of a documentary titled *Forgotten Enchantress* and a Victorian murder mystery *Murder at Turglass Abbey* by award-winning filmmaker Jennifer East, were employed to raise awareness and funds. These films were shown in various venues, attracting donations and increasing public interest. The efforts led to raising \$500,000, which secured a matching grant from the state, enabling the purchase of Green Gables. The innovative use of media not only raised the necessary funds but also transformed Green Gables into a well-known community resource, which is now serving as a living history museum, education center and community hub with thousands of visitors. Educational programs thrive, hosting school classes, homeschool groups, scouts, and seniors.

La Florida: The Interactive Digital Archive of the Americas

St. Petersburg, Pinellas County



La Florida: The Interactive Digital Archive of the Americas is a groundbreaking online tool providing access to over 8,000 high-resolution images of Spanish documents from 1594 to 1821, housed in the Diocesan Archives of St. Augustine, Florida. The site includes transcriptions, English and contemporary Spanish translations, maps, videos, a data visualization tool and a biographical database of more than 75,000 individuals. This open-access platform allows teachers, researchers and history enthusiasts to explore Florida's colonial past. The project, led by Dr. J. Michael Francis, aimed to make these documents accessible beyond specialized scholars. The team worked closely with the St. Augustine Diocese and the Sisters of St. Joseph to digitize and translate the deteriorating records.

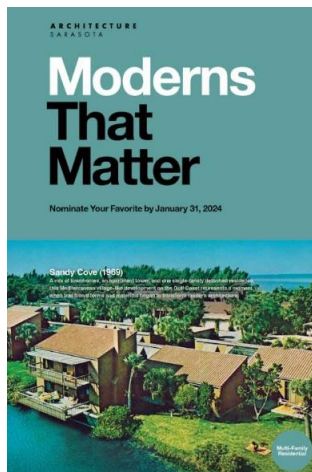
The impact of the *La Florida* project is immense, offering unprecedented access to St. Augustine's



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colonial history, which includes records of baptisms, confirmations, marriages and deaths, highlighting the community’s diversity. The documents reveal detailed accounts of Native American and African-descended populations, both free and enslaved, showcasing the multicultural nature of the settlement. By making these records accessible to a global audience, the project is reshaping scholarship on Florida’s colonial past and highlighting the complex, diverse nature of its earliest inhabitants.

Moderns That Matter: The Sarasota 100
Sarasota, Sarasota County



Sarasota has long been recognized as an epicenter of innovative modern architecture and design, particularly known for the Sarasota School of Architecture since the mid-20th century. In the face of rapid growth and transformation, the initiative *Moderns That Matter* seeks to identify and preserve Sarasota’s architectural landmarks, from iconic structures to everyday places that define the community’s character and sense of place. Launched in April 2023 by Architecture Sarasota, the project used a multifaceted approach to compile an inventory of thousands of places and spaces, involving community input to assemble a list of 100 significant sites organized chronologically across ten use categories, representing over 100 years of architectural heritage.

The comprehensive strategy began with reviewing previous surveys, research and studies, examining archives, local landmark nominations and National Register of Historic Places listings, followed by a survey of approximately 800 properties. The research was enriched by a public nomination phase, where residents submitted over 580 nominations between November 2023 and January 2024. The final list of 100 sites, selected using defined criteria and expert input, reflects Sarasota’s 20th- and early-21st-century history and development, highlighting the community’s evolving values and aspirations. Many of these sites are associated with the Sarasota School of Architecture and exemplify the region’s tradition of innovative modernist architecture, ensuring that Sarasota’s unique architectural legacy continues to be celebrated and preserved.



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Preserving Place

This award recognizes individuals, organizations or projects in Florida that have excelled in placemaking and placekeeping, contributing to the enhancement and revitalization of communities while respecting their unique cultural heritage.

1937 Antifascist Women’s March Historical Mural and Marker Project

Tampa, Hillsborough County



The 1937 Antifascist Women’s March Mural and Marker Project in Ybor City is a pioneering effort to preserve and celebrate the cultural, historical and social identity of this historic Latino community. Inspired by the book *Ybor City: Crucible of the Latina South*, the project highlights the significant yet underrecognized contributions of Cuban American women who protested global fascism in 1937. Launched on March 30, 2023, the project commemorates the day 5,000 Latinas marched in resistance, making it the first historic preservation effort in Ybor

City to unite art and scholarship. Cuban American artist Michelle Sawyer created the mural, marking the first historical recognition of Latina political action in Tampa.

The project, initiated in 2020, required extensive negotiation and collaboration with multiple stakeholders, including the City of Tampa Division of Arts and Cultures, Hillsborough County Historical Commission and local community groups. The mural and marker received all necessary approvals after six months of negotiations, including compliance with historical site regulations and requirements for public accessibility. The installation process involved detailed logistical planning and community engagement, leading to a highly successful unveiling during Women’s History Month 2023. The project has garnered significant media attention and accolades, including the Best of the Bay Critics Choice Award for Best Community Project in Tampa for 2023 and continues to serve as a tribute to Ybor City’s historical legacy.



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Florida Chitlin' Circuit Group

Multiple locations



The Florida Main Street Program's initiatives to explore cultural assets led to the discovery of significant historical treasures associated with Florida's Chitlin' Circuit venues, which were crucial to African American entertainment during segregation. The program encouraged communities in St. Petersburg, Eatonville and Ft. Pierce to revive and promote this rich heritage by forming the Florida Chitlin' Circuit Group. This group undertook the task of identifying and documenting Chitlin' Circuit venues in their areas, supporting the preservation of architectural landmarks while celebrating the cultural legacy and revitalizing the communities.

The project faced several challenges, including the demolition or repurposing of historic venues and the lack of digitized resources, necessitating extensive on-the-ground research and personal interviews. Despite these obstacles, the project offers significant opportunities for Florida's historically African American communities by uncovering and promoting the cultural significance of the Chitlin' Circuit. It fosters pride and belonging among residents, stimulates economic development by preserving historic buildings and creates inclusive spaces for residents and visitors. The project embodies the core values of the Main Street America program — historic preservation, economic vitality and community engagement — while honoring the contributions of African American artists.



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Restoration, Rehabilitation or Adaptive Use

This award recognizes best practices for the restoration, rehabilitation or adaptive use of a building, complex of buildings or a district. This category may include residential, commercial, governmental, educational and institutional projects, both for individual buildings or historic districts.

Outstanding Achievement

Citizens Bank Building Restoration & Renovation

Miami, Miami-Dade County



Designed by architect H. George Fink and constructed in 1925, the Citizens Bank Building is a prime example of Miami's Neoclassical architectural style, reflecting the prevalent architectural trends in South Florida during the 1920s. The building's exterior, characterized by its size, proportion and detailed elevations, offers a clear record of early 20th-century commercial architecture in Miami. The Citizens Bank of Miami, seeking to create a distinctive image during Miami's Boom era, commissioned the building as a visual symbol of the city's burgeoning architectural identity. The building is particularly noteworthy as it represents Fink's work in South Florida, demonstrates his expertise in commercial architecture through its scale, massing and decorative ornamentation.

The restoration of the Citizens Bank Building began in 2018, addressing urgent structural repairs to prevent further deterioration. Intensive 3D scanning revealed that only two exterior walls could be saved, necessitating a special shoring and bracing system to preserve these sections during demolition and construction. Following structural repairs, the restoration focused on recreating lost ornamentation based on historic photographic documentation. The façades on North Miami Avenue and NW 14th Street were restored to their original condition, including the replication of doors, windows and columns. The original canvas awnings were also recreated. The meticulous restoration, completed in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, successfully returned the building to its original 1925 appearance, preserving its historical and architectural significance.



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Hollywood Women’s Club
Hollywood, Broward County



The Hollywood Women’s Club Clubhouse Restoration Project exemplifies a community-based effort to preserve a treasured historical resource. Built on land donated by City of Hollywood founder Joseph Young, the Clubhouse has served as a community center since 1927 and as a base for the Hollywood Women’s Club. The historical significance of the building was recognized with its designation as a Hollywood Historical Landmark in 1985 and its inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in 1995. Over the years, the building has undergone numerous restoration

efforts, including front wall repairs after Hurricane Wilma in 2005, foundation replacement in 2013 and a comprehensive restoration completed in 2022.

The later extensive project included the installation of historic double-hung windows, metal roofing, ADA accessibility features and a breakroom for event catering. Additionally, the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems were fully upgraded to current standards. The restoration also involved building a compatible portico with a lift for ADA access and maintaining the building’s historic integrity, resulting in a City of Hollywood Preservation Design Award in 2022. The Clubhouse’s restoration adhered to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and the building is now a vibrant venue for community activities, weddings, reunions and gatherings.

Miami Woman’s Club Adaptive Reuse
Miami, Miami-Dade County



The Miami Woman’s Club Building, designed by the renowned architect August Geiger, exemplifies Spanish Renaissance Revival style adapted to South Florida’s climate. The excellence of the building design, craftsmanship and detailing is evident in its symmetrical composition; arched windows, belt courses and cornice; garden courtyard; and porte-cochere. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

All work was completed in compliance with the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Buildings. The ground floor lobby, the third floor Woman’s Club offices and auditorium space were refurbished to their original August Geiger design. This comprehensive



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historic rehabilitation resulted in the Woman’s Club being able to maintain the ownership and use of their historic space, while converting the first, second, fourth and fifth floors for use as high-end restaurants. These restaurant leases provide the financial viability necessary to complete the extensive rehabilitation and assure long-term sustainability of this wonderful historic structure.

Meritorious Achievement
Captain Otway Ware House
Panama City, Bay County



The Captain Otway Ware House, built in 1910, reflects to the historical legacy of St. Andrews. Captain Lambert Ware, Sr., a pioneer who established Ware Mercantile in the late 1880s, passed down tracts of land to his sons, including the lot at 2504 W 9th Street, where Captain Otway Ware and his wife built their home. Otway, a Bar Pilot and later Harbor Master appointed by Governor Doyle Carlton, raised five children in this Folk Victorian house, which remained close to its original state until recently. In 2018, however, Hurricane Michael caused

significant damage, leaving the house uninhabitable for three and a half years. Recognizing its historical value, Michael Higdon and Margaret Gamble purchased the property, determined to restore it rather than see it lost to developers.

The extensive rehabilitation began in July 2022 and concluded in March 2023. The goal was to restore the property to its original state while subtly updating it for modern living. This involved demolishing the interiors down to the original wood framing, stabilizing the structure and installing new utilities and insulation. Exterior work included replacing the storm-damaged roof, repairing or replacing damaged siding and painstakingly restoring each of the 33 original windows. The result is a beautifully restored home that retains its historical charm while accommodating contemporary needs. Initially seen as an investment, the house has now become the primary residence for Higdon and Gamble, who are dedicated to preserving this piece of St. Andrews’ history.



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Eli Witt Cigar Company/Gore Building Restoration

Lakeland, Polk County



Constructed in the 1920s, the Gore Building is a 20,000 square foot, two-story structure that has historically served various purposes, including as a service station, grocery store and, most notably, a distribution center for the Eli Witt Cigar Company. The building's preservation project aimed to maintain the building's original Mediterranean Revival architectural style while integrating it into the rapidly developing downtown urban setting. The project's first phase included essential shell improvements such as a new roof, windows, structural enhancements, an elevator and updated mechanical, plumbing, electrical and fire sprinkler systems. Phase II involved the buildout operational spaces including a lobby, staff offices, a multipurpose space and various support areas.

The building's notable features, such as stucco and brick cladding, terracotta barrel tiles, glazed tiles on the roof parapet and pierced attic vents, were meticulously restored. Historic elements that could be repaired were retained, and those that required replacement were carefully matched in design, color, texture and materials. The original storefront was replaced with a new aluminum storefront that includes a brick and glass bulkhead, display windows and transom windows, while maintaining the original support columns. Additionally, the building's exteriors were repainted, and the original tiles were preserved. Future plans include additional retail and residential spaces. This rehabilitation reflects the commitment of both the owner and the design team to preserve the building's historical significance while ensuring its functionality for contemporary use.



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Honorable Mention

Amicus Brewing Ventures

Tallahassee, Leon County



The adaptive reuse of Tallahassee’s Old City Waterworks is a project decades in the making. Built in 1909, the industrial facility ceased operations in 1958, was later used for storage and eventually fell into disrepair. Despite stabilization efforts in the early 1990s, including funding allocations and historic register listings, the building remained vacant until June 2022. That year, Amicus Brewing Ventures, a woman-owned business representing four families, acquired the property. With a grant from the Community Redevelopment Agency and a Small Business Administration loan, ABV aimed to

transform the space into a brewery/taproom that honors its historic past while serving as a family-friendly, central gathering place for the community.

ABV’s adaptive reuse project prioritized maintaining the historic integrity of the Waterworks building. Architectural plans required approval from the Tallahassee/Leon County Architectural Board and the State Historic Preservation Office, adhering to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards. The project, which involved significant effort from the owners and skilled local labor, included a history wall to educate customers about the property’s significance. The renovated 3,000 square foot building, opened in October 2023, features brewing tanks, a beer garden pavilion, an ADA-compliant ramp and a back deck. With expansion opportunities in three smaller historic buildings on the one-acre property, the \$1.5 million project enhances the ongoing revitalization of Cascades Park and downtown Tallahassee, solidifying its place as a cornerstone of 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 FloridaTrust.org