



Florida Trust for Historic Preservation  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Announces 2017 Florida's 11 to Save at the Florida Preservation Conference**

*List spotlights the most threatened historic properties in the state, and drives the nonprofits education and advocacy initiatives for the year ahead*

**St. Petersburg, Fla, May 18, 2017** – The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation today announced the 2017 Florida's 11 to Save, the most threatened historic properties in the state, at its Florida Preservation Conference.

This year's list reflects historic resources in Florida's Highlands, Indian River, Hillsborough, Alachua, Dade, Leon, Sarasota and Santa Rosa counties, as well as thematic listings that can found throughout the state.

Each year, the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation announces its 11 to Save program as part of its Florida Preservation Conference. The program is designed to increase the public's awareness of the urgent need to save Florida's historic resources, and to empower local preservationists and preservation groups in their efforts to preserve Florida's rich history.

"This year's list reflects Florida's rich and diverse history," said Clay Henderson, Florida Trust Board of Trustees president. "Those who love Florida have called for help protecting these special historic places, from pioneer-era to mid-century modern, from historic African American schools to downtowns, we are committed to protect our state's extraordinary history and heritage."

Several themes emerged from this year's Florida's 11 to Save. Two properties are associated with historically significant women – cattle rancher and politician Edna Pearce Lockett and nationally renowned author Laura Riding Jackson. Two others highlight cultural resources affiliated with Florida's African American history including the Jackson House in Tampa and a serial nomination for Historic African American Schools.

Inclusion on the Florida's 11 to Save is a starting point for the Florida Trust's advocacy and education efforts, and are 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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### **Edna Pearce Lockett Homestead**

Basinger, Florida (Highlands County)

*Built 1897*

Listed as a local historic landmark and on the National Register of Historic Places.

Located along the Kissimmee River, the nearly 17 acre site contains a house built by John Pearce in 1897, a 1900 schoolhouse, and several historic outbuildings and a family cemetery. The granddaughter of John Pearce, Edna Pearce Lockett, who was born in the house, took over management of the family property in 1925 and expanded the cattle ranch to some 10,000 acres. After becoming a successful and distinguished cattle rancher, Edna Pearce Lockett was the third woman elected to the Florida State Legislature. Her many accolades include the labeling of state raised beef as "Florida Beef" and the creation of the Highlands Hammock State Park.



#### **Threat:**

The Edna Pearce Lockett Homestead is currently owned by the South Florida Water Management District. Previous attempts to sell the site have failed. With no occupant or use, the house and other buildings have fallen into a state of disrepair. The Water Management District is again moving forward with efforts to attempt to sell the house and property.

### **Laura (Riding) Jackson House**

Vero Beach, Florida (Indian River County)

*Built 1910*

Listed as a Friends of Libraries USA Literary Landmark.

Laura (Riding) Jackson was a nationally known writer of poetry, novels, and essays. Her home, constructed in 1910, is a prime example of Florida Cracker architecture. Currently owned and operated by the Laura (Riding) Jackson Foundation, the building was relocated in 1994 to its current site on the campus of the Environmental Learning Center. Community events take place on the property and, for many years, fourth graders visited the house to learn about Florida history.



#### **Threat:**



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Despite volunteer efforts by the Foundation and community members, the house is currently in a state of disrepair due to a lack of resources. Public tours are now limited.

### **Moseley Plantation (The Nest)**

Brandon, Florida (Hillsborough County)  
*Built 1886*

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Known by its family as The Nest, the Moseley Homestead has remained in the same family since it was built. It is one of the oldest surviving residential structures in Hillsborough County. The home is significant because it was built by Charles Scott Moseley, an inventor and engineer who had an impact in watch making, and his wife Julia Daniels, who was an artist and writer. Moseley came to Tampa in 1882 when Hillsborough County was very sparsely populated. The main living space is known as the Palm Room for the palm wall covering that was originally displayed in the Florida exhibit for the 1892 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago before being installed at The Nest.



#### **Threat:**

Despite the creation of a Trust by the last member of the Moseley family, the 15-acre site, house, and outbuildings are threatened by development.

### **Thematic listing: African American History and Cultural Resources Throughout the State**

#### **Example: Jackson House**

Tampa (Hillsborough County)  
*Built 1899*

Listed as a local landmark and on the National Register of Historic Places.

Located in the "Scrub" – one of the oldest African American neighborhoods in Tampa, the Jackson House, constructed in 1899, is named for its second owner, Moses Jackson who purchased the property in 1903. He converted the single family residence to a boarding house for African American travelers.







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Well known guests to Jackson House include Count Basie, Billie Holiday, Ray Charles, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Threat:**

Although saved from demolition more than once, the house is in poor condition.

**Example: Historic African American Schools**

Various Locations across Florida

*Period of significance: 1869-1971*

Despite many challenges, Florida's African Americans made important gains in the field of public education in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A few African American Schools remain from this early period, though far more abundant, are schools that remain from later in the twentieth century. Of these, schools that were in operation at the time of school desegregation tell the story of an important time in Florida's history.



**Threat:**

Desegregating Florida's public schools took place over years following the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965. Prior to desegregation, local school systems maintained "separate but equal" school facilities for African Americans students. When school integration was finally accomplished many African American schools were abandoned and released from public ownership. These former schools were located throughout the state in communities of all sizes. Pictured is the George Washington Carver School in White Springs (Hamilton County).

**Historic Neighborhoods and Resources surrounding the University of Florida**

Gainesville (Alachua County)

*Period of Significance: ca.1880s-1960s*

Many of the neighborhoods surrounding the University of Florida were developed in the early twentieth century through the post-World War II period. These neighborhoods are made up of a variety of single and multi-family residential properties and commercial and other building types.

Styles range from late Victorian to Colonial Revival to mid-century modern. For example, along West University Avenue across from the





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main campus, there are two, originally identical, houses in the Queen Anne style with Neo-classical details. The houses were built in 1921 by Luther Columbus Gracy for his two daughters, one of which married Samuel P. Harn, namesake of the University of Florida's Harn Museum of Art. The buildings were donated to the University in the 1950s and have long housed the Institute for Black Culture and Institute for Hispanic and Latin American Culture.

**Threat:**

Like many college towns across the state, Gainesville, Florida is experiencing rapid growth and development as the University of Florida expands. The goal of increased density is threatening historical, architectural, and cultural resources in neighborhoods adjacent to the main campus. Zoning changes have resulted in the loss or planned demolition of numerous unprotected historic structures along major thoroughfares including Southwest 13th Street and West University Avenue. For example, the University of Florida, earlier this year, announced the demolition of the buildings housing the Institutes for Black and Hispanic and Latin American Culture. Although they have become synonymous with cultural diversity at UF, the buildings are being razed to accommodate a new facility for the Institutes.

**Coconut Grove Playhouse**

Coconut (Dade County)

*Built 1927*

Opened in 1927, Kiehnel and Elliott Architects designed the Playhouse in a flamboyant Mediterranean style with Spanish Baroque flourishes. The Playhouse was originally called the State Player's Theater. Oilman George Engle purchased the building in the 1950s and had renowned Florida architect Alfred Browning Parker convert the Playhouse to a legitimate theater. The State of Florida purchased the building in 1980 and later transferred it to the Coconut Grove Playhouse, Inc. which closed in 2006. The Playhouse has been owned by Miami-Dade County since 2014.



**Threat:**

The building is in an advanced state of deterioration due to neglect. Miami-Dade County plans to retain the façade of the Playhouse, but demolish and replace the historic theater with a new one. This is the tenth endangered listing for the Coconut Grove Playhouse.

**Firestone Building**

Tallahassee, Florida (Leon County)

*Built 1936*

The Firestone Building was designed by noted Florida architect M. Leo Elliott in 1936. It originally served as the Leon County Jail.



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It is a rare example of the Art Deco style architecture surviving in Tallahassee. The building is culturally significant for its association with the Civil Rights movement including the incarceration of Reverend C.K. Steele for helping organize and participate in lunch counter sit-ins and bus boycotts. After the jail was relocated in 1966, the building became the home of the Florida Division of Archives, History, and Records Management (now the Division of Historical Resources). The structure was then occupied by the Florida Division of Corporations and renamed the Firestone Building in honor of George Firestone, Florida Secretary of State from 1979 to 1987.



#### **Threat:**

The building has stood vacant since 2007. It was acquired by the City of Tallahassee from the State of Florida in 2014 as part of a land swap. Current plans call for the property to be sold to a private developer which would most likely result in the building's demolition. In January 2016, the Firestone Building was included in the "Threatened African-American Historical Properties" list issued by the National Association for the Preservation of African-American History and Culture, Inc.

#### **Egmont Key**

Egmont Key (Hillsborough County)

*Period of Significance: Pre-Columbian through 1940s*

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and includes various historic structures, such as a historic lighthouse (still in use), an oil house, the Ranger residence, Guardhouse and the ruins of artillery aiming towers. Other historic aspects of the site are underwater and available to snorkelers.



An island in the mouth of Tampa Bay near Fort Desoto Park, Egmont Key has a long and storied history extending back to Pre-Columbian and early Spanish exploration. The strategically located site served as an internment camp and deportation site during the Third Seminole War. A small cemetery contains unmarked graves of Seminoles who died on the island. Egmont Key also served as a staging point for the Union navy during the Civil War, a quarantine area during the Spanish American War, a training site during World War I, and an observation area for German U-boats during the Second World War. The existing lighthouse dates from 1858 and there are remnants of three gun batteries. Well known





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visitors include Confederate General Robert E. Lee and Red Cross founder Clara Barton. Egmont Key is also a wildlife refuge and bird sanctuary.

**Threat:**

Egmont Key is endangered by severe erosion made worse by rising sea levels. Since 1849, the island has lost some 380 acres of land. Every seven years, the Army Corps of Engineers dredges the shipping channel and places the sand on Egmont Key. Despite these refurbishment efforts, erosion has led to the loss of two of the five historic gun batteries.

**Caples Estate**

Sarasota (Sarasota County)  
*c. 1920*

Listed on the National  
Register of Historic Places.

The Mediterranean Revival style Ralph Caples house was constructed in the 1920s and is contiguous to the estates of the circus impresarios and brothers John and Charles Ringling. A prominent

businessman and developer, Caples was instrumental in bringing the railroad to the area and encouraging the Ringlings to make Sarasota the winter home of their famed circus. The Caples home is part of the Caples' – Ringlings' Estates National Register Historic District. In recent years, the estate has been used as a science classroom building by New College.



*Photo Credit: Virginia Hoffman Photography, Sarasota*

**Threat:**

The Caples Estate is threatened by deferred maintenance due to lack of funding.

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**About the Florida Trust**

The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation is the state's non-profit 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](http://www.FloridaTrust.org) and follow on Twitter: @FloridaTrustHP.