

Local youth, representing prominent pioneer families, who marched in a parade celebrating the creation of Martin County (1926)



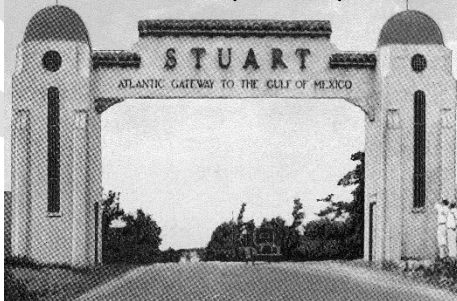
Jensen street scene (circa 1940)



Captain Sewall's home (built 1889)



Stuart Welcome Arch (built 1926)



MARTIN COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



INTRODUCTION



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The Martin County Historic Preservation Board (HPB) was created in 2003 when the Martin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) adopted a Historic Preservation Ordinance to ensure the preservation and protection of local historic sites. Members of the HPB are citizen volunteers appointed by the BOCC for a term of four years to assist with implementation of the ordinance.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Historic Preservation Board is to advance local designation of the county's historic structures and landmarks in order to raise awareness of the importance of the county's architectural and archaeological legacy to community identity and the preservation of Martin County's unique past.

BOARD MEMBERS

Douette Pryce, Chair
Dan Braden, Vice Chair
Evan Anderson
Linda Geary

Sherry Lee
Nicole Norton
Joette Lorion Rice

DUTIES

Primary duties of the Historic Preservation Board include:

- Adopt or amend rules of procedure
- Designate individual sites, districts and archaeological zones
- Approve historical markers and issue certificates of designation
- Establish procedures for the issuance of certificates of appropriateness
- Recommend zoning and building code amendments to the proper authorities
- Promote an awareness of the benefits of historic preservation to the community
- Perform periodic updates to the historic archaeological and architectural surveys
- Provide an annual report to the Board of County Commissioners
- Review, develop and recommend ordinances to the Board of County Commissioners that promote the preservation and rehabilitation of historic buildings
- Seek out worthy projects for matching grants-in-aid from sources which have as their purpose the preservation of historically significant properties for public benefit
- Review applications for all buildings, properties and sites in unincorporated Martin County nominated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places
- Seek expertise on matters or proposals requiring evaluation by a professional or discipline not represented on the board

2019 PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Martin County Historic Preservation Board meets on the second Monday of each month. The discussion below summarizes general projects, activities and accomplishments of this board.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

During 2019, general activities of the Historic Preservation Board and staff included:

- In support of Martin County's efforts to become a State of Florida Certified Local Government, the HPB worked with County Attorney's Office staff to revise the county's current Historic Preservation Ordinance to meet certification requirements. After multiple reviews, including consideration of public comment, the HPB adopted the revised ordinance for consideration by the Martin County LPA and BOCC.
- HPB members revised their goals and objectives for 2020 to include measurable baselines along with a line item budget.
- As a result of letters sent in 2018 by the HPB to property owners who might be interested in seeking historic designation for their property, two private homes were added to the Martin County Historic Register in 2019.
- The HPB supported Martin County's application to the Florida Division of Historical Resources for a special category grant to replace the seawall at The Mansion at Tuckahoe.
- HPB Chair Douette Pryce welcomed Martin County's Citizens Academy and Resource Education Series (CARES) participants during their visit to the Old School House in Port Salerno.

2019 PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH



For more than a decade, the Martin County Historic Preservation Board (HPB) has coordinated a wide variety of events to celebrate Historic Preservation Month with the rest of the country. Each year, community support of this celebration has grown stronger. In 2008, the HPB's first year observing this very special month, the schedule listed a week of six events. In May 2019, the HPB and its "Partners in Preservation" hosted some 40 events throughout the month.

The 2019 schedule of events included the unveiling of a Florida Marker at the historic Golden Gate Building (1925) and the presentation of historic plaques for three private homes. From tours and open houses at historic buildings to dramatizations of iconic figures in local history, Historic Preservation Month offered a varied selection of programs for all to enjoy, with over 1,000 people attending associated events throughout the county.



PRESERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

In May 2019, the Historic Preservation Board recognized Steven Vitale as Preservationist of the Year for his efforts in helping preserve and protect our area's unique history. Mr. Vitale is the owner of the Old Colorado Inn, a boutique hotel comprised of some of the most historic buildings in downtown Stuart.

NEW MARTIN COUNTY HISTORIC REGISTER LISTINGS AND PLAQUE PRESENTATIONS

During Historic Preservation Month in May, Historic Preservation Board members celebrated the designation of two private homes that were placed on the Martin County Historic Register in 2019, and also dedicated a plaque for a previously designated home. At the Historic Preservation Month Kick-



Off event at the Stuart Heritage Museum, the Field family was presented with a bronze plaque commemorating the designation of the "Glass Home" (circa 1897). At the Preservationist of the Year reception at the Elliott Museum, the Beams family received a plaque for the "Beams Home" (circa 1920). A home tour and plaque presentation also took place at the "Geismar Home" (circa 1924), a restored home that had been previously designated.

