



ALACHUA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION 2022-2023 REPORT & WORKPLAN

Presentation to BoCC February 13, 2024

HISTORICAL COMMISSION CHAIR GWEN THOMPSON

STAFF LIAISON MICHAEL CASTINE, SENIOR PLANNER



Mission:

To promote, preserve and protect Alachua County's historic resources.

Members

Gwen Thompson, Chair

Jerald Cheeseborough, Vice Chair

Melanie Barr, Secretary

Barry Baumstein

Kaitlin Hof-Mahoney

Dr. Cynthia White, M.D.

Dr. Jacob Gordon, Ph.D.

Karen Kirkman

Ashley Wood

Open: 2 Citizen-at-Large & 1 Alternate member

BoCC Motions directing work of the Historical Commission

- ▶ 1. Assist County Manager with BoCC Assignment on “Truth and Reconciliation”

Chair is technical advisor to Alachua County Community Remembrance Project

- ▶ 2. Complete research on history of BoCC from at least 1950 per BoCC Assignment

- ▶ 3. Continue Research BoCC Assignment on history of Florida Indians/Indigenous people.

Working with Friends of Cuscowilla on interpretive center; and state historical marker sponsored by County

Alachua County Community Remembrance Project

Truth & Reconciliation

ALACHUA
COUNTY
FLORIDA

CONRAD J. BROWN
1911-1981

HARRY J. BROWN
1911-1981

WILLIAM B. BROWN
1911-1981

LEWIS J. BROWN
1911-1981

WALTER J. BROWN
1911-1981

W. J. BROWN
1911-1981

WILLIAM B. BROWN
1911-1981

WALTER J. BROWN
1911-1981

WALTER J. BROWN
1911-1981

WALTER J. BROWN
1911-1981

WALTER J. BROWN
1911-1981

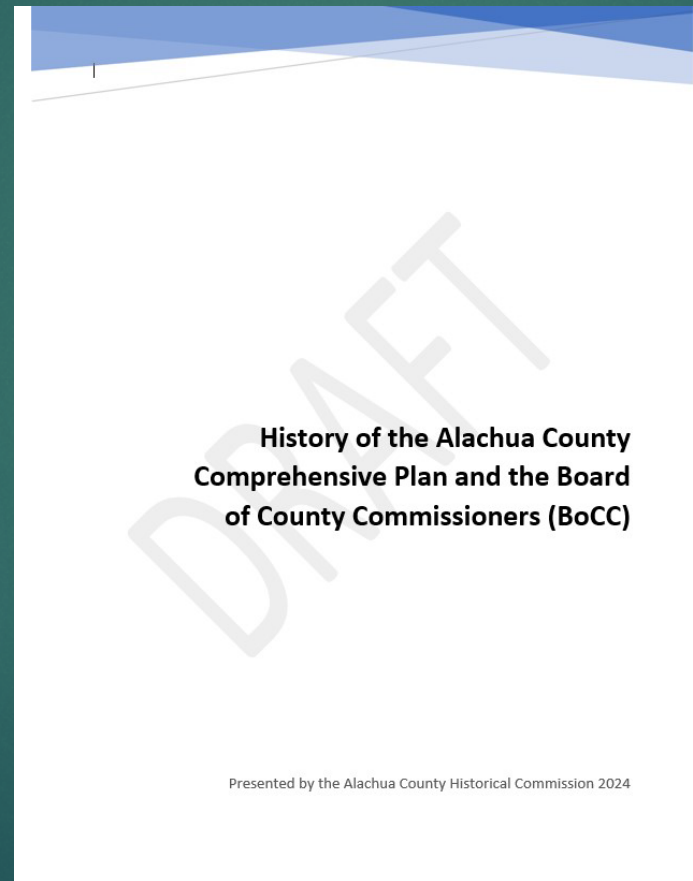
WALTER J. BROWN
1911-1981

WALTER J. BROWN
1911-1981

“History of BoCC from at least 1950”

(Motion by former Commissioner Hutchinson)

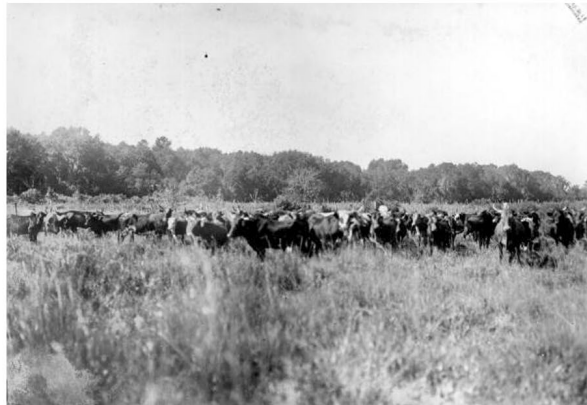
Project in final stages prior to final formatting and editing.



Above: Photos provided by Penny Wheat & Hutch Hutchinson; Shellie Downs from FB post

“History of Florida Indians/Indigenous people”

1700s Payne’s Prairie – full of cattle



Credit: University of Florida, Payne’s Prairie - Agricultural Experiment Station, October 1932



There is no known portraits of Ahaya Secoffee (Cowkeeper), King Payne or Bolek (Bowlegs). Above is Micanopy, Fourth Seminole Chief (1819-1849).

Credit: Charles Bird King, 1825 painting

Spanish Mission of San Francisco de Potano



2006 file photo, Dr. Gifford Waters of the Florida Museum of Natural History poses at the excavation site of the 400-year-old Spanish Mission of San Francisco de Potano

Credit: Alan Youngblood/Star-Banner

<https://archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.com/2012/07/hernando-de-soto-encampment-site-found.html>

Research underway in collaboration with Friends of Cuscowilla.
Plans for state historical marker at Cuscowilla
Application underway for State Historical Marker Committee review

Ongoing research work on historic cemeteries

- ▶ Add all documented cemetery sites to Florida Master Site File.



Pinesville Cemetery Cleanup led by Florida Public Archeology Network (FPAN)

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HISTORICAL CEMETERY FORM
FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE
Version 5.0 - 3/19

Site # **AL04696**
Field Date
Form Date **11-13-2020**
Recorder #

Cemetery Name **ST PETER BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY** Multiple Listing (DHR only)
Project Name **ST PETER BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY** Survey # (DHR only)

Ownership: private-profit private-nonprofit private-individual private-non-specific county state federal Native American foreign unknown

LOCATION & MAPPING

USGS 7.5 Map Name **ARCHER** USGS Date **2018** Plat or Other Map
City/Town (within 3 miles) **Archer** In City Limits? yes no unknown County **Alachua**
Township **10S** Range **19E** Section **33** 1/4 section NW SW SE NE Irregular Sect. Name
Township **10S** Range **19E** Section **33** 1/4 section NW SW SE NE
Landgrant Tax Parcel # **04589-000-000**
UTM Coordinates: Zone 16 17 Easting **000000** Northing **000000**
Other Coordinates: X **29.5063268** Y **29.6128208** Coordinate System & Datum
Address (Vizitory) Route to **7910-8118 SW 170th st, Archer, FL 32618**
Public Tract Containing Cemetery (e.g. park name)

HISTORY

Year Cemetery Established **1886** approximately year listed or earlier year listed or later Clear Check Boxes
Ownership History (especially current owners)
Thomas Rollins (Trustees of the St Peters Missionary Baptist Church) 1882
Year Burials Ceased, if applicable Reason(s) Burials Ceased (describe below)
Range of Death Dates: Earliest Year **1886** Most Recent Year **2020**
Acreage Expansions/Dates
List People Important in Local, State, or National History Buried in Cemetery
Thomas Rollins (1818-1886), Isabel Rollins, Herbert Rollins, Rev. Julius C. Crawford (deacon @ St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church), Viola Crawford, King C. Crawford
Describe Previous Repair, Cleaning or Restoration Efforts

DESCRIPTION

Type (select all that apply) community company town epidemic family fraternal order
 memorial park military(not national) municipal national potter's field
 prison religious Rural Movement other(describe)
Ethnic Group(s) Inferred (select all that apply) White non-Hispanic Hispanic Asian Black/African American
 American Indian-tribe other(describe)

Current Status: still used for burials no longer used for burials, but maintained abandoned
Condition: well maintained some areas maintained poorly maintained not maintained, but easily identifiable
 not maintained, hard to identify not identifiable but known to exist (explain)

Total # of Graves **430** Does Total # Include Unmarked Graves? yes no
Describe Evidence of Unmarked Graves (include count) **sunken vaults, low areas. Unknown quantity.**

In the past 3 years, FPAN and ACHC have added 25 African American cemeteries to the Florida Master Site file, with at least 10 more to go.

Work on state historical markers

- ▶ Research and write State Historical Markers/Organize dedications; Assist other researchers and organizations (marker sponsors) with Marker text, application and state meeting process
- ▶ Dedication of St. Peter Cemetery marker in 2023
- ▶ Bethlehem Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery marker dedicated in 2023, written by past Chair Karen Kirkman
- ▶ Underway- Florida Indigenous history for Cuscowilla; Buchanan Trails; Ft. Clarke Missionary Baptist Church