



ALACHUA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION 2023-2024 REPORT & WORKPLAN

Presentation to BoCC May 27, 2025

HISTORICAL COMMISSION CHAIR MELANIE BARR

STAFF LIAISON CAMISHA ALEXIS, PLANNER

Mission:

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



Members

Melanie Barr, Chair

Jerald Cheesborough, Vice Chair

Dr. Jacob Gordon, Ph.D. , Secretary

Barry Baumstein

Kirkman

Ashley Wood

Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney Karen

Dr. Cynthia White, M.D.

Open: 3 Citizen-at-Large

BoCC Motions directing work of the Historical Commission

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

Past Chair is technical advisor to Alachua County Community Remembrance Project (ongoing)

- ▶ 2. Complete research on identity of BoCC from at least 1950 per BoCC Assignment (complete)
- ▶ 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 (in progress)

Alachua County Community Remembrance Project

Truth & Reconciliation

ALACHUA
COUNTY
FLORIDA

JOHN R. BROWN
1890-1960

WILLIAM J. BROWN
1890-1960

JOHN R. BROWN
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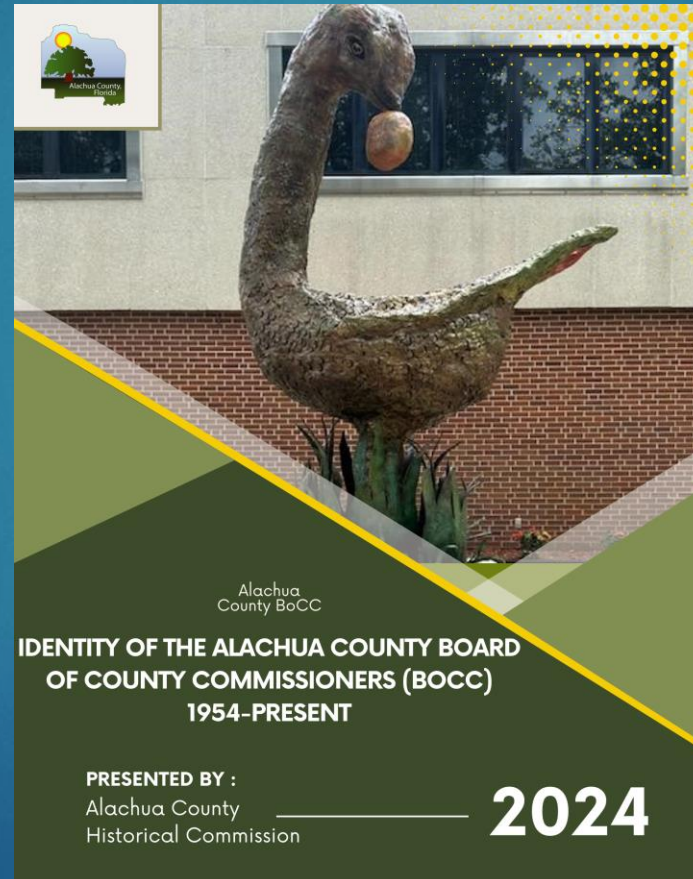
JOHN R. BROWN
1890-1960

"Identity of BoCC from 1950-Present"

(Motion by former Commissioner Hutchinson)



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



In final stages of completion

"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/hermendo-de-soto-encampment-site-found.html>

Research underway in collaboration with Friends of Cuscowilla
Text for state historical marker at Cuscowilla complete
Application submitted 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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☐ Original
☒ Update



HISTORICAL CEMETERY FORM
FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE
Version 5.0 5/19

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 ☐ state-owned ☐ private-nonprofit ☐ private-individual ☐ private-nonprofit ☐ 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 1 mile) **ARCHER** In City Limits? ☒ yes ☐ no ☐ unknown County **ALACHUA**
Township **19S** Range **18E** Section **33** 1/4 section ☐ NW ☐ SW ☐ SE ☐ NE Irregular Sect. Name
Landgrant ☐ NW ☐ SW ☐ SE ☐ NE Tax Parcel # **04589-000-000**
UTM Coordinates Zone **16** ☐ 17 Easting **5063268** Northing **29-6126298** Coordinate System & Datum
Other Coordinates X **5063268** Y **29-6126298**
Address / Vicinity / Route to **7910-8218 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 original names)
Thomas Rollins (Trustees of the St. Peter's 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**
Acquire Expansions/Dates
List People Important in Local, State, or National History Buried in Cemetery
Thomas Rollins (1818-1886), Isabel Rollins, Herbert Battie, Rev. Julius C. Crawford (deacon @ St. Peter's 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 ☐ internal order
☐ memorial park ☐ military(not national) ☐ municipal ☐ national ☐ potter's field
☐ prison ☐ religious ☐ Rural Movement ☐ other(jewish)
Ethnic Group(s) Interred (select all that apply) ☐ White non-Hispanic ☐ Hispanic ☐ Asian ☐ Caribbean ☐ African American
☐ American Indian/tribe ☐ other(jewish)

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 (vague)

Total # of Graves **430** Does Total # include Unmarked Graves? ☒ yes ☐ no
Describe Evidence of Unmarked Graves (include count, broken vaults, low areas, unknown quantity, etc.)

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 Tom Petty Marker by Melanie Barr
- ▶ Underway- Florida Indigenous history for Cuscowilla; Buchanan Trails

Historic Preservation Master Plan

► **Historic Preservation Element Policy 1.1.1.**

Alachua County shall establish a Historic Resources Preservation Plan addressing stewardship of historic resources and properties... implemented through appropriate land development regulations.

► **Historic Preservation Element Policy 1.1.2.**

The Historic Resources Preservation Plan shall include, at a minimum:

- a) A lead agency to manage the plan
- b) Mechanism for coordination of the Alachua County Historical Commission, GM, EPD, ACPW for the preservation of historic resources.
- c) Consideration of Certified Local Government for Historic Preservation
- d) Mechanism for pursuing state and federal grants and other funding
- e) Methodology to qualify a historic resource or property as significant based on NRHP and/or local criteria.
- f) Maintain an inventory of historic resources and properties.
- g) Historic Preservation Ordinance to provide regulatory protection of historic resources, protection from vandalism and minimization of impacts



Axline House, Cross Creek, NR 2015

Notable structures 'at risk'

Alachua County Jurisdiction

- ▶ Rochelle buildings "11 to Save" in 2011- no progress since Trustee not open to community partnerships as of last attempt (among many); Rochelle Church has now collapsed
- ▶ Historic Priest Theater in High Springs purchased by City of High Springs

City of Gainesville Jurisdiction

- ▶ Old Mount Carmel- community effort for preservation led by UF and Pastor Gerald Duncan
- ▶ Thelma Boltin Center – Restoration by City of Gainesville TBD
- ▶ Trinity Episcopal Church buildings on North Main Street