



# 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)

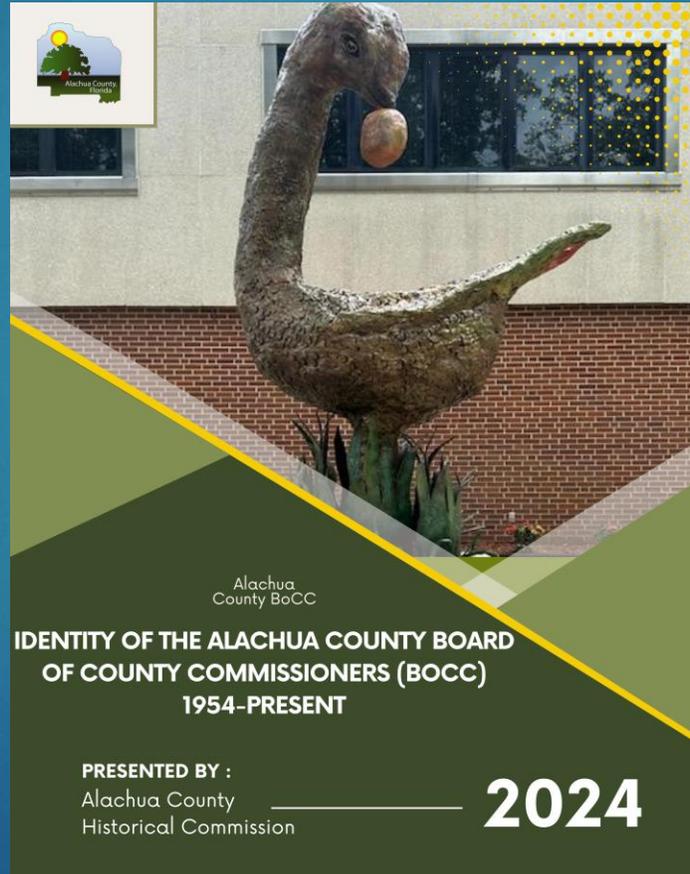
- ▶ 3. Continue Research BoCC Assignment on history of Florida Indians/Indigenous people.

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



# “Identity of BoCC from 1950-Present”

(Motion by former Commissioner Hutchinson)



In final stages of  
completion

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/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 - 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  State  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 **19S** Range **33E** Section **33**  NW  SW  SE  NE Irregular Sect. Name  
Township **19S** Range **33E** Section **33**  NW  SW  SE  NE  
Landgrant Tax Parcel # **04589-000-000**  
UTM Coordinates: Zone **16**  17 Easting **000000** Northing **000000**  
Other Coordinates: X **99.5063268** Y **29.6126208** Coordinate System & Datum  
Address (Vocah) / 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 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 Battie, 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  internal order  
 memorial park  military(not national)  municipal  national  potter's field  
 prison  religious  Rural Movement  other(see note)

Ethnic Group(s) Interred (select all that apply)  White non-Hispanic  Hispanic  Asian  Arab/Berber  African American  
 American Indian-tribe  other(see note)

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 (see note)

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 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