

FLORIDA TRUST INSIDER TOUR:

Exploring St. Augustine's Spanish Colonial History

TOUR SITES AND VENUES



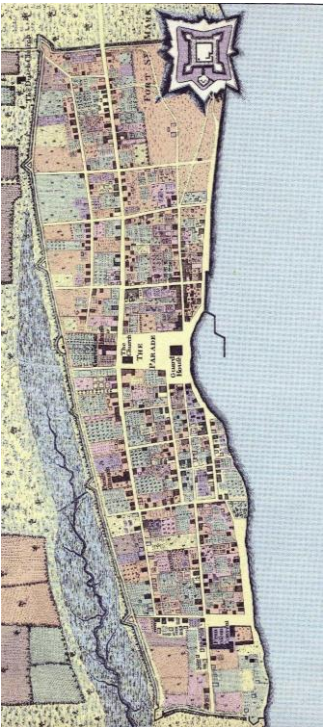
Hotel Alcazar/Lightner Museum/City Hall 75 King Street, built 1887-1889

Henry Flagler contracted the architectural firm of Carrere and Hastings and contractor McGuire and MacDonald to construct another hotel for him across from the Ponce de Leon. Instead of a Spanish Revival brick and terracotta building, the Alcazar was constructed primarily of coquina concrete, pioneered by Franklin W. Smith of the Villa Zorayda, and inspired from the Moorish Revival style. After languishing in vacancy from the Great Depression period, the Alcazar was purchased by Chicago publisher and collector Otto C. Lightner in 1947 and used for a museum. Many years later, the building underwent significant rehabilitation to add City Hall offices and portions of the building continue to be restored. The Alcazar Room where the City Commission and Architectural Review Board meets is a grand room with pilastered columns, dentil molding, and arched windows.



St. Augustine Art Association, 22 Marine Street

Thanks to a thriving cultural community, the Association was established in 1924 with founding members of what became the South's largest art colony. One of their early venues was the converted 1898 brick Waterworks building two miles north of downtown. Now located in the heart of the historic district just south of the Plaza, they have grown the original building that was constructed around 1953 prior to any design requirements and added projecting wings in 1998 with approval of the Historic Architectural Review Board that blended the existing building with designs compatible to the Spanish character and accessibility needs for their gallery and office space.



St. Augustine Town Plan National Historic Landmark

The first European settlement in St. Augustine occurred at the landing site about two miles north of the Plaza. Eventually, the Spanish settled there as a garrison town around what we now recognize as the historic downtown. At first, the settlement grew within only a few blocks just south of the Plaza, before there was officially a Plaza, beginning in 1572. The town grew southward and westward, eventually all around to include a gridded street network with outer defensive walls, redoubts, and the monumental Castillo by 1672. This tour will identify Spanish building patterns, describe the requirements of the 1573 Laws of the Indies, and distinguish early Spanish building patterns and the British influence.

Fort Mose, National Historic Landmark Site

In the words of the Fort Mose Historical Society:

"More than 300 years ago, courageous Africans escaped from enslavement in British colonies. They fled southward on foot to Spanish St. Augustine, crossing swamps and dense tropical forests. Along the way, they sought assistance from Natives, thus creating the first 'underground railroad'. Not all survived. Those who reached St. Augustine were granted asylum by the Spanish government. It was a unique offer—freedom, in exchange for conversion to Catholicism and, for men, a term of military service. The first freedom seekers arrived in 1687. This group included eight men, two women and a three-year-old nursing child. By 1738, more than 100 freedom seekers had achieved asylum. In that year, a fortified town named Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose was constructed on St. Augustine's northernmost border. Fort Mose became the site of the first free black community in what is now the United States.





Over the years, the Fort Mose site was swallowed by marsh, and the important legacy of its community was largely forgotten. Late in the twentieth century, a highly dedicated team of archaeologists, historians, government leaders and committed citizens helped restore Fort Mose to its rightful place of honor. Today, Fort Mose is recognized as a significant local, national and international historic landmark and recently honored with recognition by UNESCO as a Site of Memory in the Slave Route Project."

Peña-Peck House, the Treasurer's House, ca. 1750



Three major phases of town growth are depicted in this house which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The first phase is represented in the first floor's L-shaped plan of coquina stone built during the First Spanish Period, the second is an eastern wing built in the British Period, and the final is the wooden upper story added during the Territorial Period. The resulting structure is larger and more impressive than the traditional dwellings. Many pieces from the original family are still on display which will be interpreted by the Woman's Exchange curators who have been stewarding the property on behalf of the City of St. Augustine since 1931.



The Horrytiner-Lindsley House

Relatives of the original owners of this property were Florida governors during the First Spanish Period and the property remained with the family until 1763. A later owner, Dr. Lindsley, operated his practice in part of the home which required some modifications. Over time this private, Spanish Colonial coquina residence has been rehabilitated to accommodate growing families and modern conveniences. The current owner has graciously opened her home to the Florida Trust for this tour, a rare opportunity to visit a private home that is one of the few remaining Spanish Colonial structures in the city which is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



Ximenez-Fatio House, ca. 1798

This property is a significant example of Spanish, British, and American architectural influences. The one story kitchen building is as old as the original rectangular, two-story house. An addition to the house, then used as a boarding house, represented growth of the tourism industry in the first half of the 19th century. Building materials include tabby, coquina stone, wood, and brick. The first settlement of the formal town of St. Augustine began in this four block area south of the Plaza before expanding in all directions to the final Spanish Colonial Town Plan by 1763. The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America stewards this property as a museum, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



Llambias House, built by 1763 and enlarged by 1788

One of a few of the National Historic Landmarks in St. Augustine this property is managed by the St. Augustine Historical Society along with the 'Oldest House' complex however it is not normally open for tours. In 1954 the house was restored as one of the first examples of a private residence to undergo a documented restoration in the city's preservation movement. The St. Augustine Plan is a building design form documented to the period which includes a side entry, loggia, projecting balcony, and inner courtyard with the building situated on the streetfront.





Sanchez House, ca. 1804

The Sanchez House was built in ca. 1804 and the Jose Simeon Sanchez family was the longest family association. He was the most prominent among twenty children of Francisco Xavier Sanchez. Crafted of coquina stone, the home remained in the Sanchez family until 1931. The Sanchez women who inherited the property over time grew old in the house which began to serve other functions in the 1920s including a tea room, mill shop, coffee house, and art club for what later became the St. Augustine Art Association. It was restored to a residential function during the restoration program of the late 1930s and it is now owned by a local Florida family. The Sanchez House is being opened for the Florida Trust Insider Tour as a special opportunity to wander the interior wood and plaster finishes, tile and coquina details, and unique furnishings.



Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program

With the support of grant funding and generous donors the Lighthouse restored the World War II barracks previously used as the archaeology lab and constructed a new facility. The archaeology program began as an addition to the Lighthouse complex in 1999 to conduct research with inland and offshore excavations of shipwrecks and other submerged sites which provide information on underwater and terrestrial sites as well as to monitor damage from storms and erosion. Director Chuck Meide will offer a guided tour of the lab and share unique aspects of underwater archaeology that informs over 500 years of maritime heritage in Florida.



Research of land based archaeological investigations is studied and collected in a city facility in response to the Archaeological Preservation Ordinance, one of a few programs of its kind across the country requiring mitigation activities performed by a city program since 1986. Across the city there are several regulated districts that require investigation prior to or in addition to ongoing construction activities that cause ground disturbance above a certain threshold. Because of this, archaeologists, historians, preservationists, and multiple other scientists have been able to learn about the original founders, the city's development patterns, and they can begin to help us understand the lifeways of Native Americans that have been documented in the area within the past 10,000 years.



Anastasia Island

The trolley will take you onto the barrier island known as Anastasia Island with documented heritage of Native Americans to at least 4,000 B.C. When the Spanish arrived, the island was used for look-outs, barracks, and gun batteries. For a few short years, they occupied the island as a settlement area which has not yet been conclusively located that potentially included two wooden fortifications. Natural resources on the island and the coquina stone in particular was discovered as a formidable building material. Quarry pits were established in 1671 commencing with the construction of the Castillo. A Spanish coquina watchtower constructed by the 1730s remains in ruins as an archaeological site as well as features associated with coquina quarries.



Fish Island Archaeological Site

The original estate of Jesse Fish was 10,000 acres and included a plantation, orange grove, slave quarters, a blockhouse, dock, and cemetery. Fish came to St. Augustine in ca. 1736 and the property remained in a single title through the early American period. Overgrowth, vandalism, looting, and the weather are among the natural and man-made threats to the property of which a portion is designated on the National Register of Historic Places. Coquina ruins and archaeological sites remain now in the stewardship of the State of Florida with the 2019 land acquisition. The site was nominated as one of Florida Trust's 11-to-Save the same year. Furthermore, the land represents one of the last large undeveloped waterfront properties in St Augustine providing critical wildlife habitat in a rapidly developing area. A grass-roots effort saved Fish Island who you will hear from on the tour.





Scenic Cruise

Come aboard the Victory III for a scenic and relaxing cruise of St. Augustine's harbor and return to port as the sun is setting on the city. This will be the last official venue for the tour and will include narration from your captain. Drinks and snacks area available and we encourage you to complete your evening with dinner on the town. While the tour is included, please feel free to tip your captain if you've enjoyed the ride!



Trolley

Thanks to the generosity of Old Town Trolley Tours you will be provided transportation to the daytime tour sites and provided a box lunch during the Anastasia Island excursion. Tour narrators will be guests tour guides including a professional historic architect, historians, and archaeologists. We'll leave the driving to the expert conductors so please feel free to tip them for their generous hospitality!