

The
National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.



Presents this certificate to

Marcia L. Beasley
Florida

Special Award - Historic Preservation

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**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE GARDEN CLUBS
B. SPECIAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD**

MS. MARCIA L. BEASLEY

Submitted by FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

MS. MARY PRICHARD, PRESIDENT

8640 E. KEATING PARK STREET, #206

FLORAL CITY, FLORIDA 34436-2879



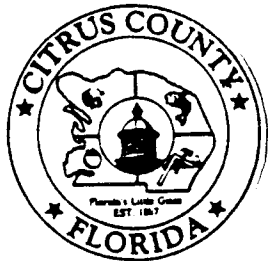
Floral City, Florida Platted 1883

"Where the past is the path to the future"

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE GARDEN CLUBS
SPECIAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD B

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MS. MARCIA L. BEASLEY, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB, HISTORIC PRESERVATION CHAIRMAN OF DISTRICT V FLORIDA FEDERATION OF STATE GARDEN CLUBS AND A DIRECTOR IN THE CITRUS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC., HAS INCREASED COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION TO THE EXTENT THAT SHE SUCCESSFULLY LEAD THE UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITY OF FLORAL CITY, FLORIDA THROUGH ACTIVITIES WHICH RESULTED IN THE FLORAL CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT BEING PLACED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.



Floral City

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MARCIA L. BEASLEY LEADS COMMUNITY TO OBTAIN NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION:

This application bears evidence of the didication to the continuing challenge of reclaiming and preserving historic sites by Marcia L. Beasley, a member of the Floral City Garden Club since 1982 and a vice president in the club since 1989 (p.6). Ms. Beasley is well known in Floral City as well as through out Citrus County, Florida for her leadership in both the Floral City Garden Club and the Citrus County Historical Society, Inc. While president of the Historical Soc., she also served for five and a half years as Horticulture Division Director of the Citrus County Fair, chairing six Standard Flower-Shows.

BACKGROUND:

A county-wide historical site survey completed in 1987 for Citrus County, Florida (population 1980: 50,000, 1990: 100,000), recommended that properties in the unincorporated village of Floral City (population: 2,600) would be eligible for a national historic district. This survey had been recommended by Marcia L. Beasley a member of the Floral City Garden Club, while she was also president and then (volunteer) administrator for the Citrus County Historical Soc., Inc. (1984-1987). She assisted the county in preparing the state historic preservation grant-in-aid application which resulted in funds for the survey. This was at a time when no buildings and only four sites in the county were on the National Register of Historic Places. During this same period, she wrote an application and received funding for a state historic preservation grant-in-aid for a self-guided tour brochure for historic buildings in Crystal River (an incorporated town in Citrus County). In 1988 she wrote the job description and justification which resulted in the Board of County Commissioners hiring a full time Historic Resources Officer (HRO) the following year. Citrus County is one of only three counties of 67 in the state that have a HRO.

Although the State suggested that the County could proceed with an application for National Register of Historic Places designation, Ms. Beasley being familiar with the Floral City community through her community gardening work, convinced the HRO that the application should come from

the community itself, that the grass roots interest in historic preservation could be increased through education and that a logical start would be a self-guided tour booklet emphasizing the historic architecture of Floral City.

OBJECTIVES:

Therefore, the objectives were established: the application for the National Register of Historic Places should come from the community itself and that the level of historic preservation awareness could be increased through a self-guided tour booklet, window displays, publicity, information folders to involved property owners and public meetings.

ACTION:

A state historic preservation grant-in-aid application was written with Ms. Beasley's assistance and was awarded (p. 7). Ms. Beasley was given the task of researching, developing and printing the booklet. "A Guide To Floral City Historic Architecture" was presented to the community at the first Floral City Heritage Days in November 1991 (p. 8). In fact the event's name was suggested by Ms. Beasley to promote historic preservation in Floral City. The owner of the Old Commercial Hotel gave space in an attached building for development of the booklet and for rotating window displays (p. 9).

A historic home owner said that if Ms. Beasley would call a meeting they would come. The first public meeting was called by Ms. Beasley in May 1992. Those in attendance enthusiastically agreed that they wanted to apply for national listing and that they wanted to earn the money to hire a consultant to prepare and present the application as recommended by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Ms. Beasley contacted the consultant who conducted the county-wide survey and a contract was approved. She initiated publicity for the project (p.10) and the project continued to receive excellent press. Meanwhile, residents donated items for resale and the first fund raisers began. (p. 11). At Ms. Beasley's suggestion, the group adopted a sales program of tee-shirts featuring Floral City's famous "Avenue of Oaks" (cover).

By September 1992, the name Floral City Heritage Council was given to this historic preservation committee of the Citrus County Historical Soc. and Ms. Beasley continued as chairman. In December 1992, historic home owners opened their doors and Citrus County experienced its first Tour of Historic Homes (p.11). These tours have been given for three years and have raised \$4,8000 for historic preservation. Ms. Beasley organized these tours to include producing the tour booklets and scheduling the costumed host/hostesses.

As the application was compiled by the consultant, Ms. Beasley drafted the map outlining the shape and location of each building in Floral City. She gave this to the county planning department to place in their computer. This was the first community in the county to have such a map and it will be of exceptional value to the county in the future.

In support of the application she solicited numerous letters of support to accompany the application. When the application was presented to the State National Register Review Committee in Tallahassee, Ms. Beasley accompanied local residents for the presentation and all were on hand when the application became a nomination on its way to the National Register (p. 14-15).

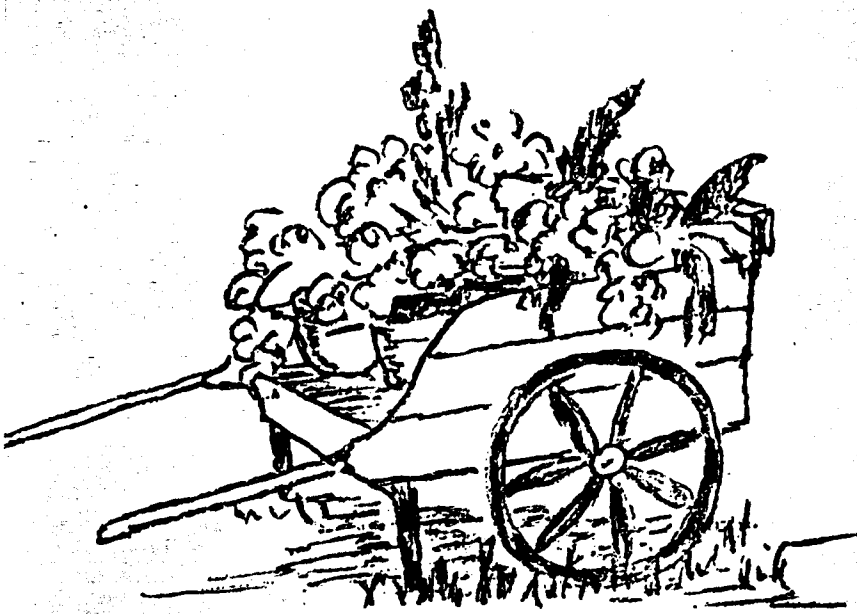
RESULTS:

On December 1, 1993, Floral City Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places (p. 15-16). Ms. Beasley assured that fund raising efforts continued for the purchase of the historic markers while planning a celebration dinner and a dedication ceremony. The dinner and ceremony were held on 16 and 17 April, 1994 (p. 17-21). Members of the Heritage Council thanked Ms. Beasley with an orchid corsage, a dozen red roses and an antique, cut-glass serving plate (p. 21).

Since this event, Marcia L. Beasley had continued leading the community in historic preservation projects: the annual Folklife/Living History Day, plans to reconstruct the railroad depot as a trail head on the Rails-To-Trail area and forming a community-wide enhancement and maintenance committee with emphasis on the care of the historic live oaks that formed the basis of the Floral City Historic District.

Floral City Garden Club

DISTRICT V
FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.



Barbara Littlefield

"SHARE THE SPIRIT OF GARDENING
THROUGH
LOVE, LABOR AND LAUGHTER"

PROGRAM FOR 1994-1995

**CLUB OFFICERS
1994-1995**

- PRESIDENT.....MARY PRITCHARD
(726-2161) 3640 E. Keating PK ST. #206
SUMMERS:
6072 Greens Corner Rd.
Galaway. NY 12074
- VICE PRES.....Leona Diederick
(344-3196) 5151 S. Florence Ter.
- VICE PRES.....MARCIA BEASLEY
(726-7740) 9626 E. Tsala Apopka Dr.
- TREASURER.....DOROTHY COLARUSSO
(726-6139) 5205 S. Florence Ter.
- SECRETARY.....CAROLYN GAZZANO
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news

Historic community digs up its roots

Brochure to mark significant sites

By Brad Bennett
Staff writer

The state, the county and Floral City residents have joined forces to draft a brochure that marks the Floral City area's historical sites.

The county and state will split the \$4,000 cost of the brochure. Volunteers from Floral City will also help Citrus County prepare the indexes that will allow motorists to visit each of the historic sites.

"We feel it is the best way to educate them about their heritage," said Vicki Cole, a planner with the state Bureau of Historic Preservation.

The brochure tour will focus on buildings and archeological sites that predate 1941, she said. Folklore and

other historical memorabilia will not be the focus.

Cole came to the Citrus County Historical Resources office last week to monitor the progress of the county and its volunteers, to make sure the budgetary paperwork was correct and to determine how many historical sites remain in Floral City.

The county completed a survey in November 1987 that revealed a significant number of historical sites in the town.

"It's the only unincorporated area that has a high enough concentration to be a registered historic district," she said. No other unincorporated area in the county, she said, has as many historic sites close enough together to be con-

sidered a historic district.

Floral City may be eligible for the prestigious National Register of Historic Places, she said. Residents and the county want to first educate those who live in the city before applying for the Register, which the U.S. Department of the Interior prepares.

The Register lists the historically significant sites and properties throughout the country. It provides no restrictions over privately-owned property and its demolition or unsuitable alterations to buildings listed in it.

But first things first, says Marcia Beasley, a volunteer with the historical society and a Floral City resident. "We need to get the people involved and it's obvious homeowners are getting involved because there is much restoration work occurring on Orange Avenue," she said.

Debra Scott, manager of Citrus County Historical Resources, said her office is ready to move ahead with the brochure now.

"We have all the chronology checked out," she said. That includes dates of buildings and sites listed in the county survey, she said.

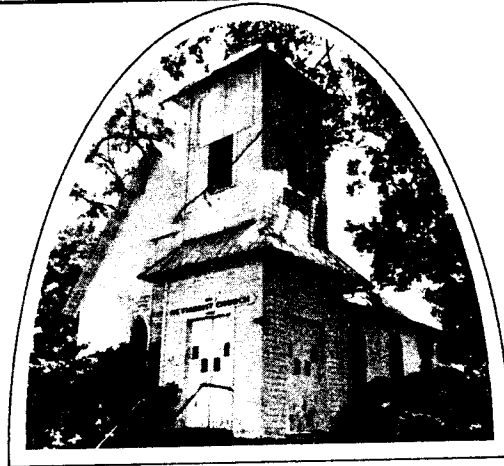
She added that she would also like to compile a data sheet on who the original owners of these historic sites were and pass that information on to the current owners.

"This will also aid real estate businesses," she said, "because it's quite a nice marketing tool."

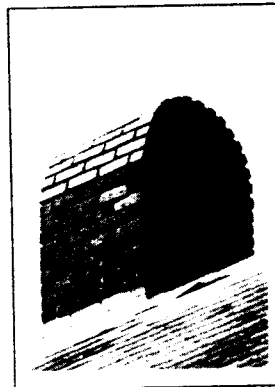
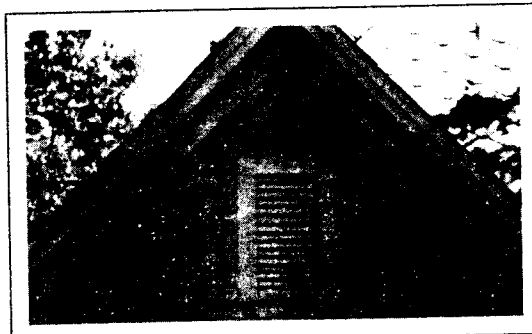
Ms. Cole has looked into the registration of historical sites in Inverness and investigated significant sights and events in the county that include African-Americans while she was here, too.

Floral City ^{\$1.00} w/tax

A Guide to Historic



Architecture



A Self-Guided Tour

citrus times

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 199

Learn that Floral City is not just a wide spot in the road on the way to Inverness, but a tightly bound community devoted to its history and its future and throbbing with a vibrancy that cities 50 times its size spend millions of private and tax dollars trying to duplicate.

Except for Ferris Groves, I always had thought of Floral City as the home of a convenience store, a lawn mower dealership and a bar that once (really) had the fascinating name *The This Here Is The Floral City Bar and Grill*. (Try to explain that one to directory assistance some time.)

But Marcia Beasley, an extremely active volunteer with the Floral City Historic Preservation Committee of the Citrus County Historical Society, was more than happy to take me on a tour of the historical buildings and sites that Floral City residents are very serious about preserving.

"Sleepy Floral City is waking up," she

Floral City a diamond under dust of its past



OFF/BEAT

JAN GLIDEWELL

said, quoting her group's slogan, "together."

Being unincorporated, and therefore without the benefit (or burden) of a city government, Floral City residents tend to get together only when they have a specific purpose, when they want to, as opposed to when they have to, and the results are almost always beneficial.

A few years back it was the Strawberry Festival (an ongoing and successful event) that I visited with the full intent of ridiculing because of the nerve displayed by a tiny rural city taking the same name for an event as that used in Hillsborough County. I wound up reveling instead of ridiculing.

In 1987 a historical survey was done, followed by the production of a guide to the area's historical architecture provided by the Citrus County Commission's Office of Historical Resources in 1991.



Times photo — BOB MORELAND

Marcia Beasley says the area is waking up to historic preservation.

Historic preservation topic of meeting

By Marcia Beasley
Lake Life Correspondent

A public meeting will be hosted by the Floral City Historic Preservation Committee of the Citrus County Historical Society, Inc. concerning application to the National Register of Historic Places for listing as a historic district. The meeting will be held on Monday, July 20, at 7 p.m. in the Floral City Community Building.

Ms. Murray Laurie, consultant for the 1987 Citrus County Architectural and Historical Site Survey, will be completing the application. Ms. Laurie will be present at the July meeting to discuss with the community the application requirements. In addition to

FLORAL CITY HISTORIC PRESERVATION

conducting numerous site surveys and individual listing applications for the National Register, Ms. Laurie has succeeded in listing both Newberry, Florida and High Springs, Florida on the National Register of Historic Places as historic districts. The experiences gained by these applications will be shared at the meeting.

One way in which the community can greatly assist in the quality of the application is with locating historical photos of Floral City. Once a photo which is important to the application is located, it can be rephotographed in the owner's presence so there will be no chance of loss. Photos

which are 50 years or older and are of the railroad depot, businesses, street scenes, steamboat landing, Orange State canal and houses, churches, schools, etc. will be of benefit. Please bring them to the meeting or call 726-7740 with a description.

The National Register of Historic Places is a listing of districts, sites, building, structures, and objects significant to the history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture of the nation, state, or community and which are worthy of preservation. The Register is maintained by the U.S. Department of the Interi-

Please see TOPIC, Page 13

TOPIC

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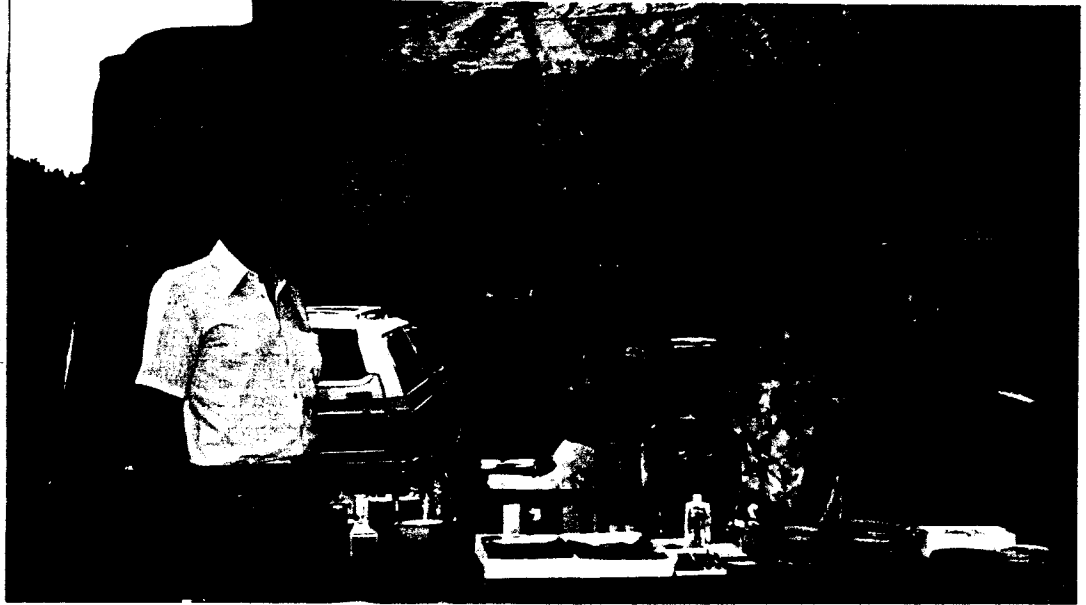
or, a federal agency. Although it provides no protection against private demolition or unsuitable alterations, some protection from adverse federal actions is provided. Benefits also include eligibility for certain federal tax benefits, such as the investment tax credit for rehabilitation of income-producing buildings and the charitable deduction for donation of easements; as well as, qualification for federal preservation grants when funding is available.

The proposed historical district falls within the following boundaries: north to Washington Street, east to the Orange State Canal, south past Tower Trail, and west to Bedford Road. It contains 44 sites and buildings in addition to 16 background buildings. As stated in the 1987 Citrus County Architectural and Historical Survey, "Floral City seems to possess the conditions and criteria necessary to propose that it be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. Historic district eligibility would encourage owners to reha-

bilitate properties, using federal tax incentives." The National Trust for Historic Preservation states a good reason to rehabilitate properties: "Some of the most important benefits to society from preserving and adapting our built environment are economic: providing jobs, stimulating business activity, revitalizing downtown areas. These are not the only economic benefits that come from historic preservation, nor will such benefits accrue in every preservation or adaptive use project. They have simply been demonstrated to repeatedly occur in the past."

The previous two meetings have demonstrated that historic home owners in Floral City are eager to take advantage of these economic benefits while maintaining the rural and historic charm rapidly disappearing in Florida. For further information about the meeting, the historic district or the historic photos please call 726-7740 and leave your name and phone number.

PHOTO TOP LEFT: Booth at March 1994 Floral City Strawberry Festival where tee-shirts, totes, etc. and Pickle-on-a-stick were sold. PHOTO TOP RIGHT: First Flea Market held. PHOTO CENTER LEFT: "Avenue of Oaks" tee-shirt, available in 14 colors and sizes. BOTTOM: First Historic Home Tour Ticket.



TOUR OF HISTORIC HOMES

HERITAGE DAYS
FLORAL CITY, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 5, 1992
10 AM to 4 PM
ADMIT ONE

\$5.00 donation prior to tour date
\$7.00 donation day of tour
Children under 12 enter free

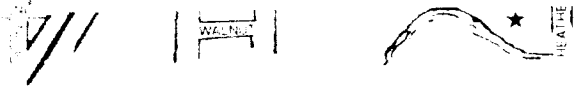
CHECKS PAYABLE TO "CCHS (FCHC)"
(Floral City Heritage Council)

★ ENTER TOUR

No 1



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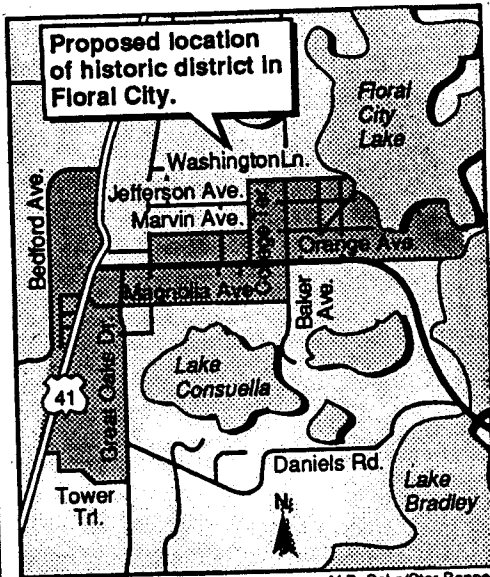


deductible contribution to the extent of the law. Proceeds will be used to prepare the application for the National Register of Historic Places for a Floral City historic district. Contact: 726-7740



CITRUS

Ocala ★ Star-Banner, Tuesday, July 14, 1992



M.B. Sabo/Star-Banner

Floral City district in works

By Carlos Medina
Staff Writer

OCALA — Capt. W.C. Zimmerman, the first clerk of the court for Citrus County, refused to relocate his office when the county seat was moved from Mannsfield to Inverness in 1889.

Zimmerman would not get out of his chair, so he was loaded onto a wagon, still sitting in it, along with his desk and taken to Inverness.

Though the town of Mannsfield is now a ghost town and Zimmerman is long since dead, the house he once lived in still stands in Floral City.

The house is one of 36 structures included in the first proposed historic district in Citrus County.

The house is an example of Folk Victorian construction and is located at 8441 E. Orange Ave.

"I bought it in 1981, it was an old house and I just bought it and started restoring it on the weekends," said Robert Figley, owner of the Zimmerman house.

Figley, who runs an upholstery business out of the residence, has tried to keep the traditional flavor of the house alive and is looking forward to approval of the historic district.

"Well, I've kept everything as original as possible. I'm interested in refurbishing the area and a historic district, I think, would really enhance the town," Figley said.

The Duval house, located at 7801 Old Floral City Road, is the oldest house in the proposed district.

The house was built by John Paul Formy Duval in 1865, according to Marcia Beasley, a member of the Floral City Historic Preservation Committee of the Citrus County Historical Society.

Floral City, located seven miles south of Inverness, was chosen as the site for the proposed historic district after an extensive survey of the county in 1987, Beasley said.

The area is believed to be the only area in the county that may qualify as an historic district and be put on the National Register for Historic Places, she said.

There are several requirements needed for an historic district to be approved.

According to Tulie Taylor, historic site specialist for the Division of Historical Resources in Tallahassee, there are three major requirements needed for approval.

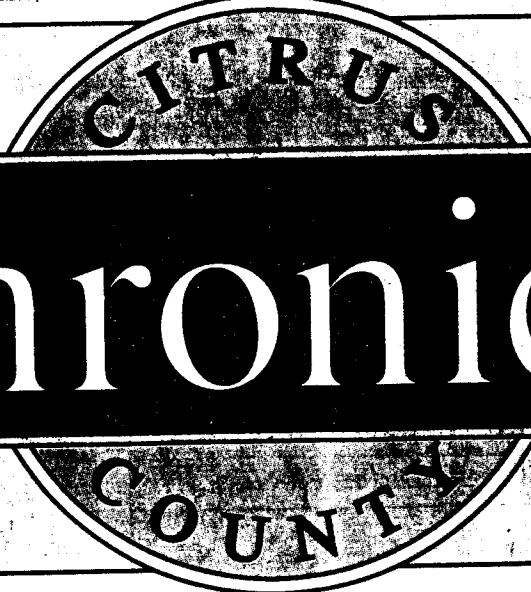
- The buildings in the proposed district must be at least 50-years-old.
- The buildings must reflect a period of historical significance.
- The area has to be historically significant.

"These are only guidelines. There are no steadfast rules. Each case has to be looked at separately," Taylor said.

The historical society is in the process of finalizing the boundaries of the district and submitting an application to the Florida Department of State for approval and if passed then onto Washington, D.C. for final approval and inclusion onto the National Register.

"We would hope that our application will be ready by this fall," Beasley said.

AREA NEWS PAPERS PICK UP STORY ABOUT FLORAL CITY'S PROGRESS ON WAY TO NATIONAL REGISTER



Chronicle

CRYSTAL RIVER
FLORIDA 34429

INVERNESS
FLORIDA 34455

It's history for Floral

City

By Greg Erbstoesser
Staff writer

After months of preparation, Floral City preservationists are anxiously looking to August when a state panel will decide whether to recommend their downtown main street for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Citrus County could have its first official historic district — Floral City's oak-lined Orange Avenue and more than two dozen historic homes — in time for the community's annual Heritage Days festivities this December.

Citrus County already has a handful of buildings, including the Old Courthouse in Inverness, earning official historic status.

The Floral City Heritage Council received a major boost two weeks ago when state historic researchers recommended Floral City's proposed historic

district be approved by the state National Review Board.

The state review board will meet on Aug. 20 in Tallahassee to review 13 applications from communities across Florida seeking to have different buildings and districts designated as historically significant.

And while the upcoming meeting does not have applicants competing against each other, local heritage council chairwoman Marcia Beasley says the group plans to send a contingent to the meeting to show its support of Floral City.

"After a lot of hard work, we're just now starting to bear fruit," Mrs. Beasley said, noting the council has been working on the project for nearly two years.



Floral City's Orange Avenue

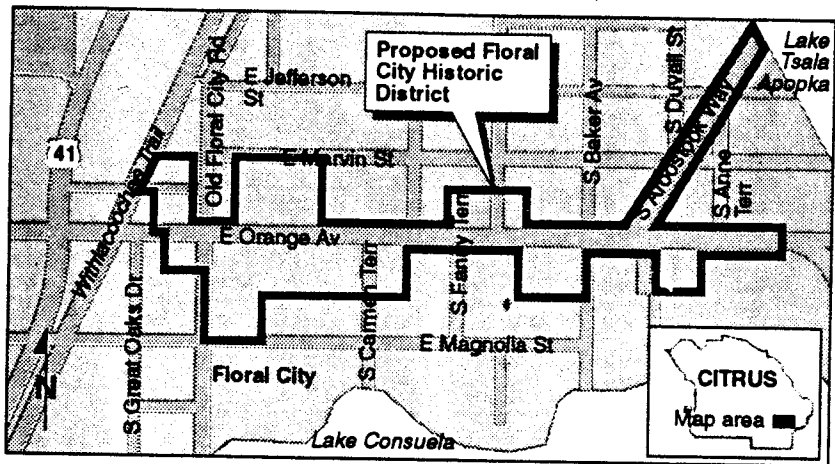
PROPOSED DISTRICT

Area: Running along County Road 48 (Orange Avenue) from the downtown community center east to just past South Annie Terrace. It also runs along South Aroostook Way (Avenue of Oaks) from Orange Avenue to what is known as the old "steamboat landing"

Containing: Some 26 historic buildings such as the United Methodist Church, built in 1884, on Marvin Avenue; the historic Puckett House on Levy Lane; and the J.P. Formy-Duval house on Old Floral City Road

Status: The state review board will meet on Aug. 20 in Tallahassee to view the community's application

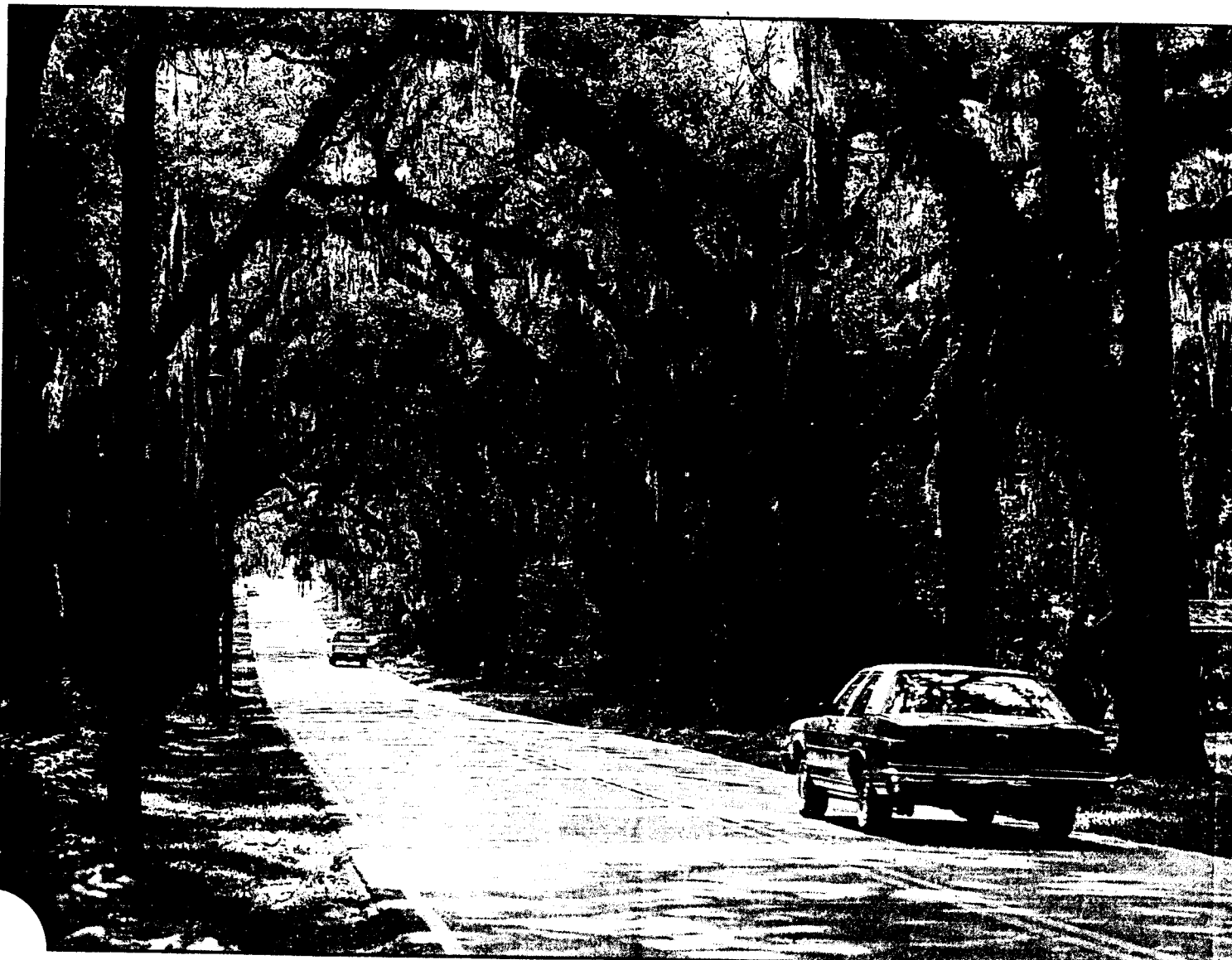
Citrus



CAITLIN HOPE WRIGHT/Tribune map

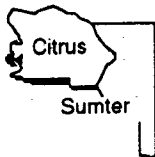
Floral City to 'historic'

State gives OK to area



Floral City Heritage Council members believe the city's historic district, including oak-dotted East Orange Avenue, de-

serves a spot on the National Register of Historic Places. Application awaits final approval by federal officials.



Serving Sumter

THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

en route status for national list

By **GEORGE WILKENS**
Tribune Staff Writer

FLORAL CITY — Efforts to list an oak-shaded portion of Floral City in the National Register of Historic Places cleared the first hurdle Friday afternoon, when the application was approved by a state agency.

The state National Register Review Committee now forwards the application to the U.S. Department of Interior for a final decision.

"We don't anticipate any problems," said Marcia Beasley, chairman of the Floral City Heritage Council, who attended Friday afternoon's presentation.

No one questioned the listing, Beasley said in a telephone interview from Tallahassee.

A decision is expected within 45 days.

The historic district borders East Orange Avenue (County Road 48), from the Floral City Community Building east to the end of the canopy of famous century-old oaks.

The historic district also extends north to include the canopied oak trees along South Aroostook Way, from Orange Avenue to Steamboat Landing on Lake Tsala Apopka.

Within the district are 26 historic buildings — mostly century-old houses — and two cisterns.

"We're all ecstatic," said Beasley, one of seven Floral City Heritage Council members who traveled to Tallahassee for the half-hour presentation to the eight-member National Register Review Board.

The presentation by the preservation consultant the council hired, Murray Laurie of Gainesville, included color slides of the canopied

■ From Page 1

oaks and other features in the Floral City Historic District.

Recognized historical districts must have a common denominator. For Floral City, that is the time frame of 1863 to 1936, the period of construction for the structures within. "And those oaks really tie it together," Beasley said.

Once the federal designation is obtained, council members plan to purchase appropriate markers for placement at each end of the historical district. The signs cost \$1,800 each, said Beasley.

The 50-member Floral City Heritage Council has grossed about \$6,000, mostly through yard sales and T-shirt sales; most of the money has been spent to retain the historic preservation consultant, Beasley said.

"The support and enthusiasm of the community has been very high,"

Beasley said.

Having a designated historic district will not only enhance community pride, it also will help protect the beloved oaks, said Beasley. Federal money cannot be used for any projects adversely affecting structures or districts recognized by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Floral City officially 'historic'

By **GEORGE WILKENS**
Tribune Staff Writer

FLORAL CITY — A grass-roots effort to put Floral City on the National Register of Historic Places has paid off.

Marcia Beasley, chairman of the Floral City Heritage Council, said Thursday that the U.S. Department of the Interior has approved the organization's application.

The community's historic district borders East Orange Avenue (County Road 48) and South Aroostook Way, from Orange Avenue to Steamboat Landing on Lake Tsala Apopka.

Beasley said the national designation carries several benefits. "I call it a status symbol as much as anything," she said. "And it shows pride in the community," especially because efforts to obtain the recognition were headed by the 50-member Floral City Heritage Council, a historic preservation committee of the Citrus County Historical Society.

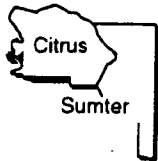
The designated district includes 26 historic buildings — mostly century-old houses — and two cisterns. And while the historic designation does not restrict the rights of property owners, it could provide benefits, either in resale or for tax purposes, Beasley said.

The two-year effort to achieve the designation cleared a big hurdle last August when the state National Register Review Committee met in Tallahassee. After hearing Floral City's half-hour presentation, the eight-member committee approved the application and agreed to forward it to the interior department.

"It's all a grass-roots thing," said Beasley. "I think it's important that the community did

photo

An



Serving Sumter

THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

Friday, January 28, 1994

n route status

r national list

By **GEORGE WILKENS**
Tribune Staff Writer

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"The support and enthusiasm of the community has been very high,"

Beasley said.

Having a designated historic district will not only enhance community pride, it also will help protect the beloved oaks, said Beasley. Federal money cannot be used for any projects adversely affecting structures or districts recognized by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Floral City officially 'historic'

By **GEORGE WILKENS**
Tribune Staff Writer

FLORAL CITY — A grass-roots effort to put Floral City on the National Register of Historic Places has paid off.

Marcia Beasley, chairman of the Floral City Heritage Council, said Thursday that the U.S. Department of the Interior has approved the organization's application.

The community's historic district borders East Orange Avenue (County Road 48) and South Aroostook Way, from Orange Avenue to Steamboat Landing on Lake Tsala Apopka.

Beasley said the national designation carries several benefits. "I call it a status symbol as much as anything," she said. "And it shows pride in the community," especially because efforts to obtain the recognition were headed by the 50-member Floral City Heritage Council, a historic preservation committee of the Citrus County Historical Society.

The designated district includes 26 historic buildings — mostly century-old houses — and two cisterns. And while the historic designation does not restrict the rights of property owners, it could provide benefits, either in resale or for tax purposes, Beasley said.

The two-year effort to achieve the designation cleared a big hurdle last August when the state National Register Review Committee met in Tallahassee. After hearing Floral City's half-hour presentation, the eight-member committee approved the application and agreed to forward it to the interior department.

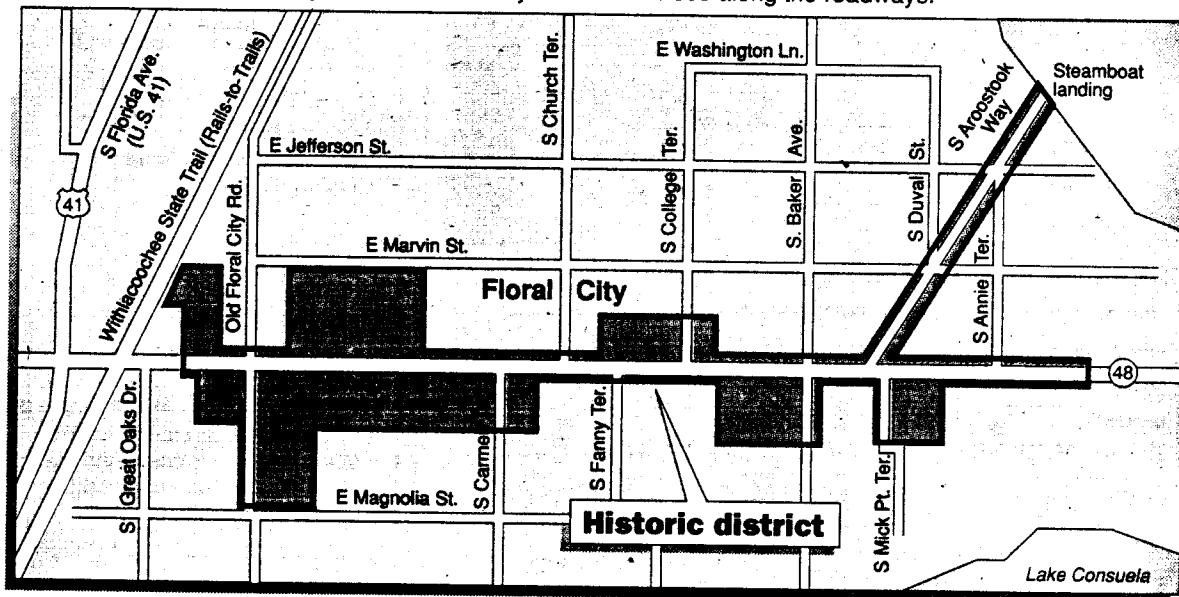
"It's all a grass-roots thing," said Beasley. "I think it's important that the community did

citrus times

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1994

Floral City earns historic status

The U.S. Interior Department this week announced that the core of Floral City's downtown will be listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. The district includes 26 historically significant houses along Orange Avenue and Aroostook Way, and the hundred-year-old oak trees along the roadways.



Times art — FRANK PETERS

Time pauses in oaks' shade

By JEFFREY BRAINARD
Times Staff Writer

FLORAL CITY — What do Floral City's Avenue of Oaks, the Yulee Sugar Mill and the Old Court-house have in common?

They're all listed in the National Registry of Historic Places. Floral City got the news this week from the U.S. Interior Department.

The prestigious listing will encompass a district of 26 historically significant houses along Orange Avenue and Aroostook Way, the town's "Avenue of Oaks," the oldest of which dates to 1863. The

designation also includes the oak trees themselves.

"I'm very happy for the community," said Marcia Beasley, chairwoman of the Floral City Heritage Council, which applied for the listing.

"It gives them a real sense of pride. This has really brought the whole community together."

The Heritage Council hopes to host a dinner for the entire community in a few weeks to celebrate, Mrs. Beasley said.

"I'm so glad Floral City has taken care of things like this," said

Vivian Higgenbotham, who owns the 19th-century Puckett House on E Levy Lane, one of the houses on the listing.

Previous owners once sold lunches to passing railroad workers during Floral City's bustling past as a center of citrus groves and phosphate mining.

"We've had such lovely turn-outs at Floral City Heritage Days in December," Mrs. Higgenbotham said, referring to the festival that honored the town's colorful history.

Mrs. Beasley also has applied to the state Department of Transportation for signs along U.S. 41 reading "Historic District."

Chronicle

Marking history



Dave Sigler/The Chronicle

Floral City residents look at a marker that was dedicated Sunday at the Floral City Community Building declaring a portion of Floral City a member of the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic achievement celebrated in Floral City

By John Dunbar
Staff writer

In a simple ceremony, Floral City celebrated an event of historic proportion.

Homeowners in the quaint little town unveiled two bronze markers Sunday identifying its historic district as a member of the National Register of Historic Places.

The actual designation was granted Dec. 1, 1993. It was the culmination of two years of effort by Floral City citizens and Citrus County officials to recognize the historical significance of the 100-year-old town.

Marcia Beasley, chairwoman of the Floral City Heritage Council, spearheaded the drive for the recognition. In remarks during an outdoor ceremony in front of the Floral City Community Building, she was happy to spread the credit.

"This event today is about people working together — community and county working together," she said.

Ms. Beasley unrolled a more than 20-foot-long list of names of those who worked toward making the designation a

reality. "Many hands make light work," she said.

She reserved special credit for former county public works director Gerry Clark, who died April 8 after a bout with lung cancer. "He believed in community and county working together," she said.

The area of significance begins at the community center and extends eastward under the well-known oak trees just past South Annie Terrace.

The designation protects the district from federal and some state public works projects, but does not restrict what homeowners may do to their homes, some of which are 100 years old. In addition, some federal money is available for restoration projects.

Sunday's ceremony was preceded by a piano prelude from Alice Wooten, an owner of one of the homes in the district. More music was provided by a chorus from Mount Carmel Methodist Church of Floral City. The master of ceremonies was

Please see **HISTORIC**, Page 2A



Dave Sigler/The Chronicle

Marcia Beasley, chairman of the Floral City Heritage Council, unrolls a 20-foot long list of names of those who have made the placing of Floral City on the National Register of Historic Places possible at the Sunday dedication ceremony.

**CEREMONY
DEDICATING THE
CAST BRONZE MARKERS
FOR
FLORAL CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT**

April 17, 1994

at

2:30 p.m.

in front of the

Floral City Community Building

2:00 - 2:30 *Piano Prelude by
Alice Wooten,
Native of Floral City
and Historic Home
Owner*

2:30 *Welcome by Harvey Dunn,
Associate Pastor of the
Inverness Church of God, a
Native of Floral City and
Historic Home Owner*

*Invocation by Reverend
Demus Houston, Pastor Mt.
Carmel Methodist Church of
Floral City*

*Pledge Allegiance by
Vivian Higgenbotham,
member American Legion
Post 225 Auxillary, a Native
of Floral City and Historic
Home Owner*

**CEREMONY
(continued)**

2:45 *A History of Floral City
by Tom Ritchie, Heritage
Council member and a
native of Florida*

*Remarks by Marcia L.
Beasley, Chairman of the
Floral City Heritage Council*

*The National Register, Its
Importance by Deborah
Scott, Citrus County His-
torical Resources Officer
and a native of Florida*

*The Unveiling by all Floral
City Historic Home Owners*

*Music by a Chorus from the
Mt. Carmel Methodist
Church*

*"Our Home Town" a poem
by Larry Hartman, Pastor
of Floral City Church of
Christ and native of Citrus
County*

*Benediction by Rev. Greg
Art, Pastor of First Baptist
Church of Floral City*

AT THE DEDICATION CEREMONY, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (FRONT ROW, DESCENDANT OF THE FIRST SETTLER (CENTER OF SECOND ROW) AND FLORIDA STATE HISTORIC SOCIETY PRESIDENT (SECOND ROW RIGHT) LISTEN INTENTLY TO THE RETELLING OF FLORAL CITY'S PAST.

2A Citrus County (FL) Chronicle Monday, April 18, 1994

Joining in the celebration



Dave Stigler/The Chronicle

Local dignitaries joined Floral City residents in paying tribute to Floral City's listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

HISTORIC

continued from Page 1A

Harvey Dunn, associate pastor of the Inverness Church of God, a historic homeowner.

The ceremony was attended by about 75 people who came out to sit under the hot sun and learn about the history of their community. And a fascinating history it is, related Tom Ritchie, Heritage Council member.

He recalled the founding of Floral City in 1883 and how it grew to a modest population of 300 a year later.

"But keep in mind, that was with the population of Miami, our great claim to fame," he said.

The town's beautiful canopy of oaks, which lines either side of Orange Avenue (State Road 48), were planted shortly after its founding, Ritchie said.

Not always a quiet little citrus-growing community, Floral City boomed around the turn of the century, when phosphate deposits were discovered.

The population soared to 10,000.

During World War I, however, the industry crashed, and the town burned in a terrible fire in 1920. It rose, and thanks to Doc Ferris of Ferris Groves, became a center for citrus once again.

Ritchie wrapped up his historical account with a look toward the future.

Plans call the rebuilding of the train depot to be used as a rest stop for Rails & Trails which will be paved through the town, and the rebuilding of a boat dock at South Annotook Way.

Home & Leisure

APRIL 1984

Citrus County
BRENDA PHILLIPS

Restaurant Guide
Places to Go, The

Happenings

April 17th - Floral City celebrates! Two years of effort by Floral City citizens and Citrus County officials culminate in the unveiling of two bronze markers identifying its historic district as a member of the National Register of Historic Places.

Pictured is the cast bronze historic marker that now stands in front of the Floral City Community Building. Left to right are Deborah Scott, Citrus County Historic Resources Officer; Marsha Beasley, Chairperson of the Floral City Heritage Council; and Flossie Bassett, great granddaughter of John Paul Formy-Duval, an early settler and vast land owner of what is now historic Floral City. An identical marker has been installed along the side of the road at the east end of Orange Avenue -- the famous Avenue of Oaks which were planted in 1884.





We sure did appreciate it!

With

TH

an

Society

ers,

Certificate of Appreciation

Awarded to:

MARCIA BEASLEY

From

Citrus County Historical Society, Inc.

for

ORGANIZING THE FLORAL CITY HERITAGE COUNCIL AND ASSISTANCE IN
THE PREPARATION OF THE REQUEST FOR THE NOMINATION TO THE
NATIONAL REGISTER FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND BEING AN IDEA

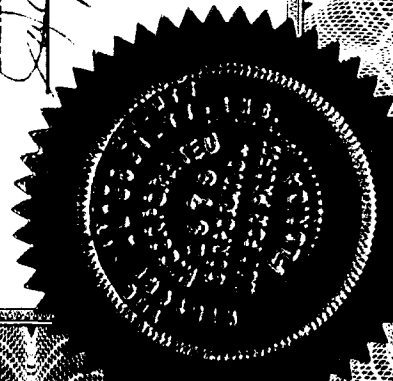
BANK FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY.

Elizabeth C. ...
Secretary

Robert A. Roberts
President

This 22nd

day of JAN., 1983





*FCAC
Rec. 20 Jan 94
JMS.*

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Jim Smith
Secretary of State

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Director's Office Telecopier Number (FAX)
(904) 488-1480 (904) 488-3353

January 14, 1994

Mrs. Marcia L. Beasley, Chairman
Floral City Heritage Council
c/o Citrus County Historical Society, Inc.
Room 111, The Old Courthouse
1 Courthouse Square
Inverness, Florida 34450-4802

Re: Floral City Historic District

Dear Mrs. Beasley:

It is a pleasure to advise you that the above referenced district has been officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places as of December 1, 1993.

The enclosed fact sheet outlines the effects of listing in the National Register with reference to major laws and Federal regulations related to listed properties. Local planning agencies should be aware of the review requirements pertaining to any Federally assisted activities that may have an impact on listed properties.

Sincerely,

George W. Percy
for George W. Percy
State Historic
Preservation Officer

GWP:Mbm
Enclosure



EXPENSES FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER PROJECT

APPLICATION COSTS (to include consultant, photos and postage).....	\$1,470.39
CAST BRONZE MARKERS (two each).....	\$1,531.00
DEDICATION CEREMONY.....	249.18
BUILDING RENTAL FOR MEETINGS.....	60.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....	\$3,310.57

