



# florida treasures



CELEBRATING FLORIDA'S  
HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE  

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FOR ARCHITECTURE  
**By Vivian Young**

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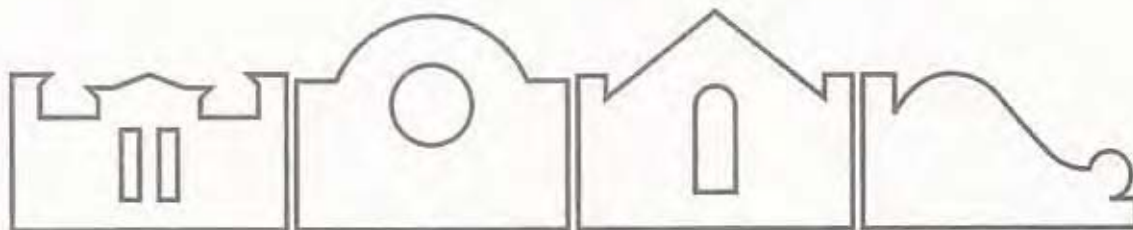
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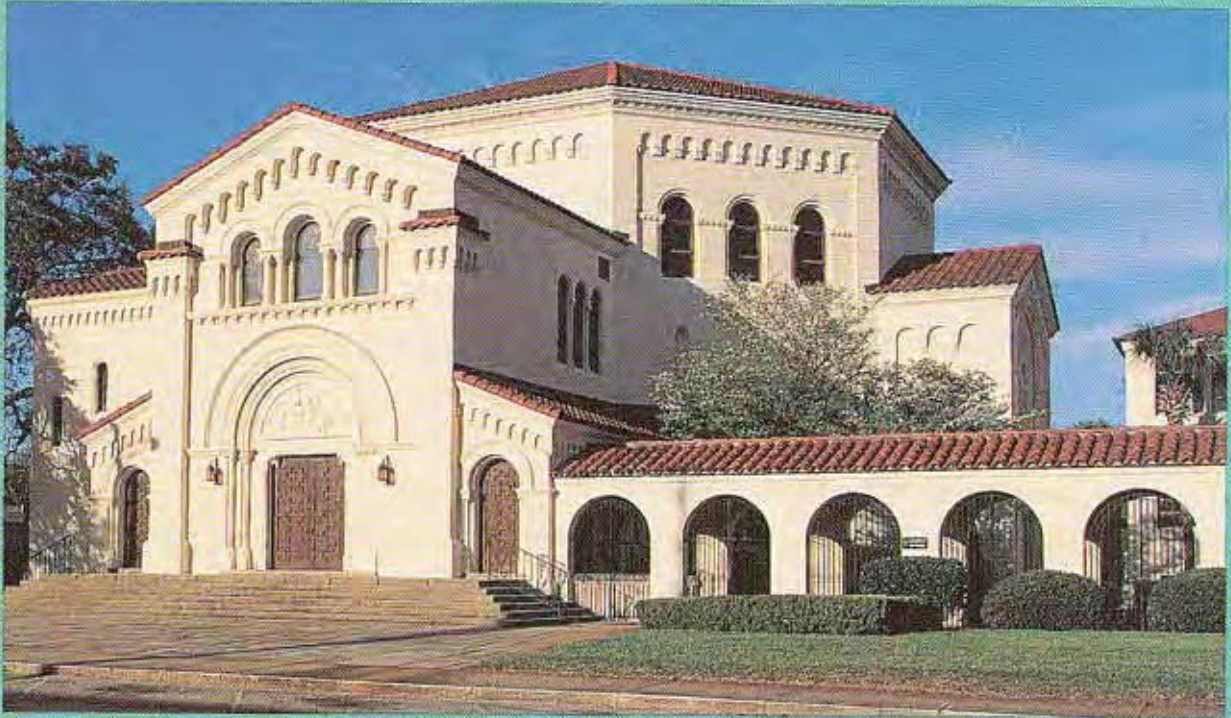
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*Vivian Young*

*January 1996*









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← **Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings House**  
c. 1890, Cross Creek

From simple vernacular buildings...



....to "Florida fantasy"  
landmarks, historic  
architecture tells us much  
about the history of Florida.

←  
**Ca'd'Zan**  
Dwight James Baum, architect  
1920, Sarasota

florida treasures:  
celebrating florida's historic architecture

From earliest European contact *La Florida*—the land of flowers—has been a state of adventure, hardship and promise. All of these facets are melded into Florida's historic architecture. From modest pioneer homesteads to opulent fantasy mansions, historic buildings reflect this state's unique heritage. • Rural and agricultural, with a population of 70,000 in 1845 when it became a state, Florida today is rapidly growing and cosmopolitan, with more than 14 million people and an economy that rivals that of many nations. Population has shifted from north to south, and from country to city and suburbia.

As we zoom along the interstates and back roads of Florida, abandoned farm buildings and picturesque homes tell tales few now recall. Lighthouses and railroad stations, once Florida's lifeline to civilization, are only quaint reminders of the past. But these historic buildings reflect the dreams and aspirations of early Floridians. They have much to tell us. • Florida's intensely hot, rainy climate, and its abundance of readily available building materials shaped its early architecture. Spaniards, British and later Americans found coquina, a natural lime and seashell conglomeration from Florida's shores, admirably suited for construction. Native longleaf pine, once blanketing much of the state, provided lumber for many a pioneer homestead.

Initially, Florida followed rather than led in architectural design. Its buildings, both in style and technology, lagged behind much of the nation. Builders designed Florida's early structures, using native materials to craft sturdy buildings reflecting Florida's pioneer status. By the late 1800s, architects began designing exotic buildings to millions synonymous with the Florida fantasy of sun, sand and adventure. • One common thread linking these historic buildings, from early times through the 1900s, is that through materials and design they reflect Florida's unique development and history.

Native Americans traversed Florida as long as 10,000 years ago; about 3,000 years ago they began settling in villages. They crafted their buildings of locally available materials, but participated in trade with areas as far away as Illinois and Ohio. Europeans arrived in the early 1500s, and by the early 1700s virtually none of these Native Americans remained because of disease and war.



**Crystal River  
Indian Mounds** ➔  
1000 A.D. - 1500 A.D.,  
Crystal River



**St. Augustine Map of 1769**

Early maps of St. Augustine reveal its military features, including fort, encircling walls, and public plaza.

◀ **St. Augustine Plaza**  
**1598,**

**St. Augustine**  
Reflecting early town planning in Florida, the Spanish governor called for the establishment of a town plaza and public market in St. Augustine in the late 1500s.



An attack by the English in 1670 solidified Spanish resolve to better fortify St. Augustine. Groundbreaking for the fort, Castillo de San Marcos, took place in 1672, with the basic structure completed by 1696. Constructed of massive blocks of coquina stone quarried nearby, the fort was built by Cuban engineers including Ignacio Daza. Skilled stone masons from Havana, slaves and Indians participated in its construction. With its twelve-foot thick walls, encircling moat, dependable water supply and latrine flushed by tidal action, the entire 1,500 residents of St. Augustine found refuge here in times of trouble.



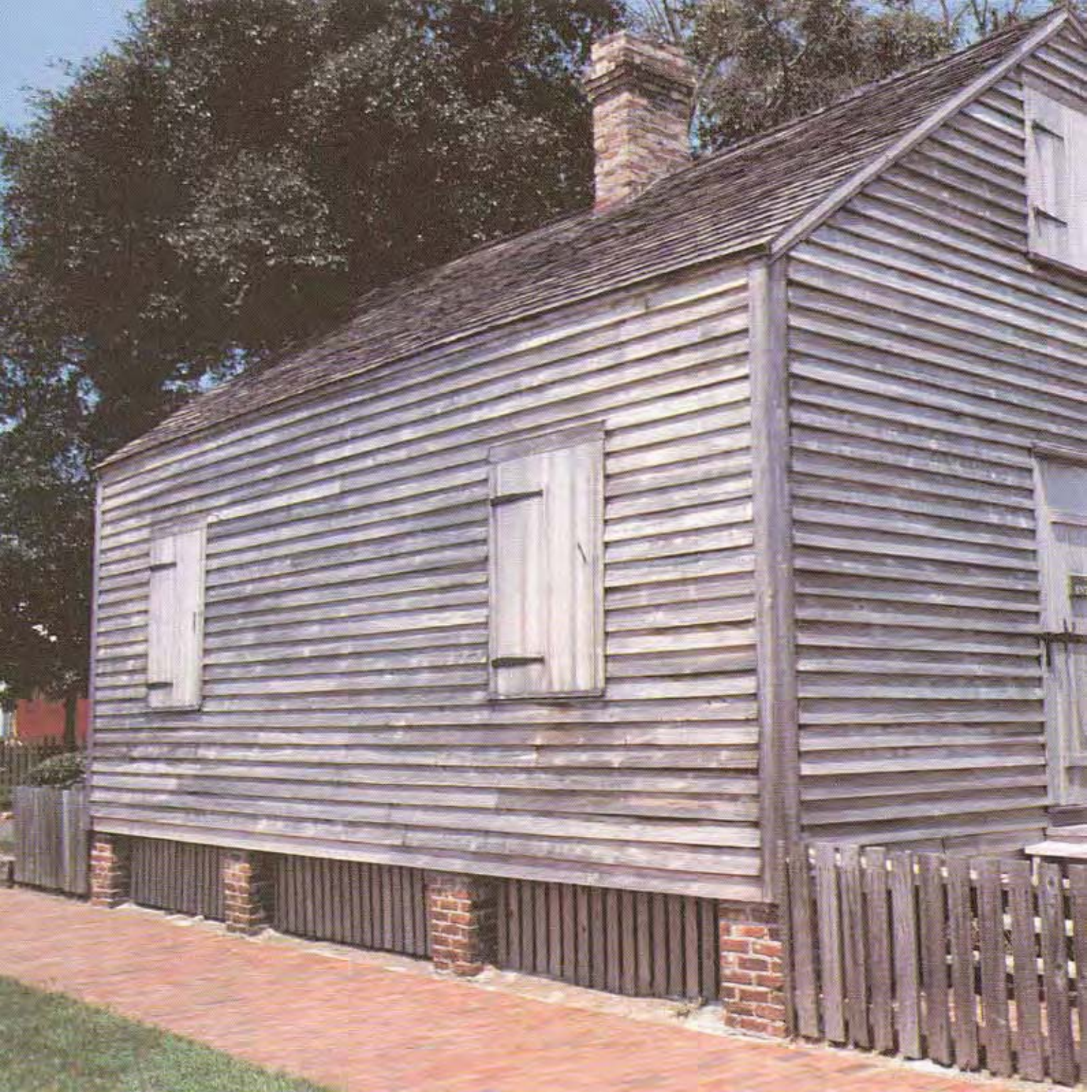
**Castillo de San Marcos** ▶  
**Ignacio Daza, engineer**  
**1672-1696, St. Augustine**

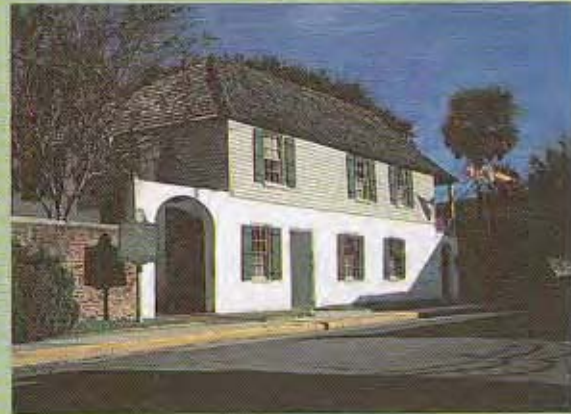
Florida's colonial history reflects an international struggle for power between three world leaders—Spain, France and England. Credit for Florida's discovery goes to Juan Ponce de León. Landing in 1513, he named the new territory in honor of the Easter Feast of Flowers, *Pascua florida*. Other explorers soon came, but in search of riches rather than settlement. Early attempts to colonize Florida, first by the Spanish in Pensacola and then the French near Jacksonville, failed. • In 1565 the Spanish sent Pedro Menéndez de Avilés to establish a permanent settlement in Florida. Menéndez claimed Florida in the name of the Spanish crown, and established St. Augustine, Florida's first permanent European settlement. • St. Augustine evolved over the years, from a fledgling settlement of wooden buildings, to more durable structures of native coquina and tabby, a man-made conglomerate of lime, sand and crushed oyster shell. In design the buildings were of Spanish inspiration, with simple facades, small, unglazed windows, and interior courtyards to provide privacy from the bustling streets. By the early 1600s, St. Augustine boasted a fort, town plaza, public market, church, seminary, hospital, and 120 shops and houses.

Spaniards also established a chain of missions in *La Florida*, with Christianizing the natives a primary goal. Native Americans provided valuable labor, growing foodstuffs to support the Spanish military. By the mid 1600s, around 30 missions and 26,000 Christianized Natives occupied the region. Missions included native homes of wattle and daub—woven twigs and branches covered with a clay mixture—and Spanish homes constructed using European building techniques. British attacks in the early 1700s began destruction of the mission system. • The Spanish crown also oversaw development of Fort Mose two miles north of St. Augustine. In the late 1600s, the King proclaimed Spanish territories a sanctuary for runaway slaves, and in 1728 the Governor freed enslaved soldiers. A decade later Spain established Fort Mose, a fortified town led and occupied by these runaways. They abandoned Fort Mose in 1763, when Spain peacefully transferred Florida to Britain at the end of the French and Indian War.

**Fort Mose  
1738-1763  
St. John's  
County**  
Freed slaves  
settled this early  
Spanish  
community.







**Gonzalez-Alvarez House** ◀  
**(Oldest House)**

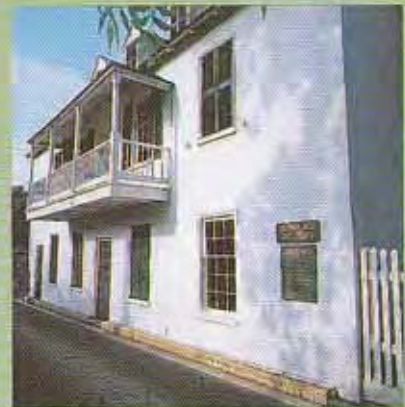
**c. 1706, St. Augustine**

St. Augustine has a fine collection of Spanish Colonial architecture.

**Julee Cottage** ◀

**1804-1808, Pensacola**

This simple wooden vernacular building, constructed during the Second Spanish Period, was home to Julee Panton, a free woman of color.



◀ **Ximénez-Fatio House**  
**1797-1802, St. Augustine**

Stuccoed walls and balconies were typical Spanish Colonial features.



🔑  
**Kingsley  
Plantation  
c. 1800s,  
Fort George  
Island**

Built during  
the Second  
Spanish  
Period,  
Kingsley is the  
oldest  
plantation  
house  
remaining  
intact in  
Florida.

Also still  
standing are  
the ruins of  
Kingsley's  
tabby slave  
quarters.

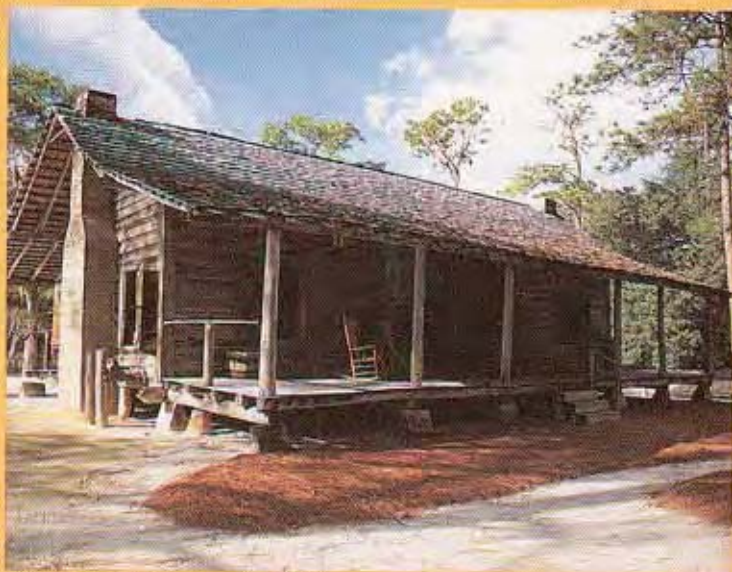


The British divided their new territory in two—East and West Florida—with St. Augustine as East Florida’s capital. Tearing down many of St. Augustine’s Spanish residences, the British began modifying the rest. They also opened up Florida’s hinterlands for settlement, establishing plantations for cotton and rice. • Spanish Pensacola became British West Florida’s capital. The Spaniards had established Pensacola in 1698 to protect *La Florida* from French encroachment. Problems with convict labor, several French invasions and two major hurricanes plagued the city in its first 65 years of existence.

One war brought Florida to Britain, while another took it away. Loyal to Britain during the American Revolution, Florida was transferred back to Spain at the end of that conflict. During the Second Spanish Period Pensacola prospered, thanks largely to trading naval stores, furs and barrel staves. • While most British left Florida during this Second Spanish Period, their influence remained strong—particularly through the plantation system. By 1821, St. Augustine had approximately 2,000 residents, with another 2,000 on surrounding plantations. With narrow streets, a public square and formal entrance gate to the north, St. Augustine already had a reputation for its quaint character:

*The old houses, built of a kind of stone which is seemingly a pure concretion of small shells, overhang the streets with their wooden balconies, and the gardens between the houses are fenced on the side of the street with high walls of stone.*

Americans, convinced Florida would become a U.S. territory, began moving to Florida in the early 1800s to settle the hinterlands. Creek Indians, known as Seminoles or “run-aways,” and runaway African-American slaves came as well. Recognizing its declining power, Spain transferred *La Florida*, with its three settlements of St. Augustine, Pensacola and a small military outpost at St. Marks, to the United States in 1821.



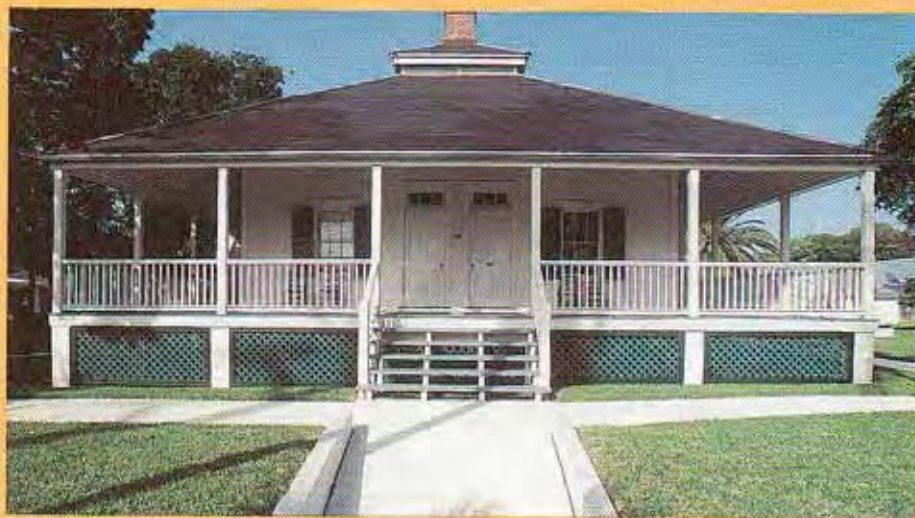
**"Cracker Homestead,"**  
**Forest Capital State Museum** ↩  
**1864, Perry**

Many early Florida settlers lived in simple vernacular cabins, few of which remain today.



↩ **Barkley House**  
**c. 1825, Pensacola**

Regional variations of vernacular buildings ranged from the elegant, raised "gulf coast cottage" preferred by Pensacolans....



...to Bahamian-influenced "conch houses" found in the Florida Keys.

**Lighthouse Keeper's Home** ↩  
**c. 1846, Key West**

In Florida's early territorial years, water provided this land's link to the world. New coastal cities—including Key West, Apalachicola, Fernandina, Jacksonville, St. Joseph, and Cedar Key—became key ports and flourished. • Of Florida's earliest cities, Tallahassee provided an exception to the coastal rule. Selected as Florida's capital in 1824 because of its location between St. Augustine and Pensacola, Tallahassee struggled with its inaccessibility. A mule-drawn railroad, linking Tallahassee to the Gulf of Mexico port of St. Marks in 1836, helped solve that problem. • Floridians quickly opened the vast territory for settlement, surveying the land to make its sale go smoothly. The United States Congress authorized the first public road from St. Augustine to Pensacola, using old Spanish roads. • Agriculture formed the backbone of Florida's economy, and most American settlement took place in "Middle Florida"—between the Suwanee and Apalachicola Rivers in North Florida. With its rich red clay soil, Middle Florida proved admirably suited for growing cotton, corn and tobacco. As with the rest of the South, Middle Florida relied on the plantation system and slave labor. Small yeoman farmers also proliferated.

It is hard today to imagine what life was like for this state's early settlers. In addition to Florida's intense climate, on a regular basis they faced hurricanes, fires, malaria and yellow fever epidemics, conflicts with natives, and other hardships. Rough roads rendered travel a major undertaking. Access to the rest of the world was by ship. • Many Florida settlers built vernacular structures—crafted of locally available materials without formal architectural design. In Florida and much of the south, these buildings, of native longleaf pine with wood siding and sheltering porches, rested on piers. Settlers learned the benefits of high ceilings, cross-ventilation, and good building orientation to take advantage of wafting breezes for relief from sweltering heat. "Florida cracker" as these vernacular structures came to be known, continued to be constructed well into this century, with distinctive regional variations.



**Portion of Map of  
Old Plan of  
Tallahassee  
1824**

Many early cities developed according to a plan. Tallahassee's original plan included a grid street system, public squares and a 200-foot clearing around the city.

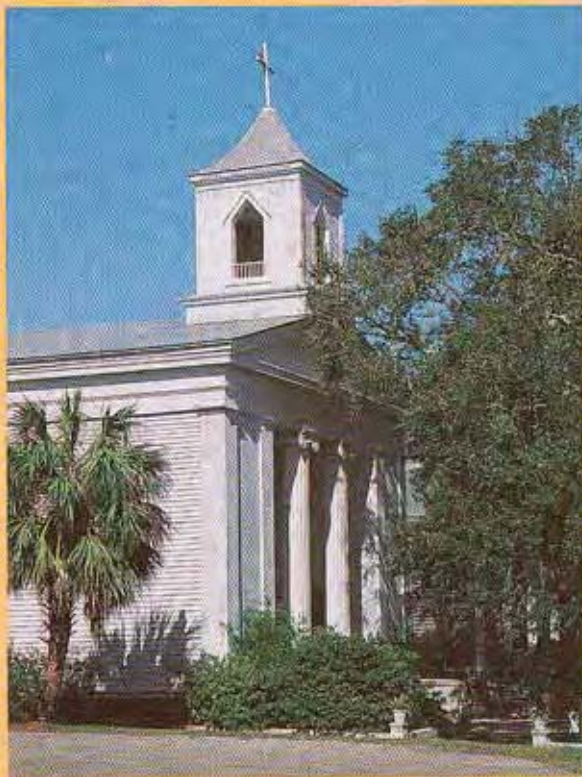


**The Grove**  
c. 1836, Tallahassee

The Greek Revival style, with its classical portico, is epitomized in this antebellum plantation house.

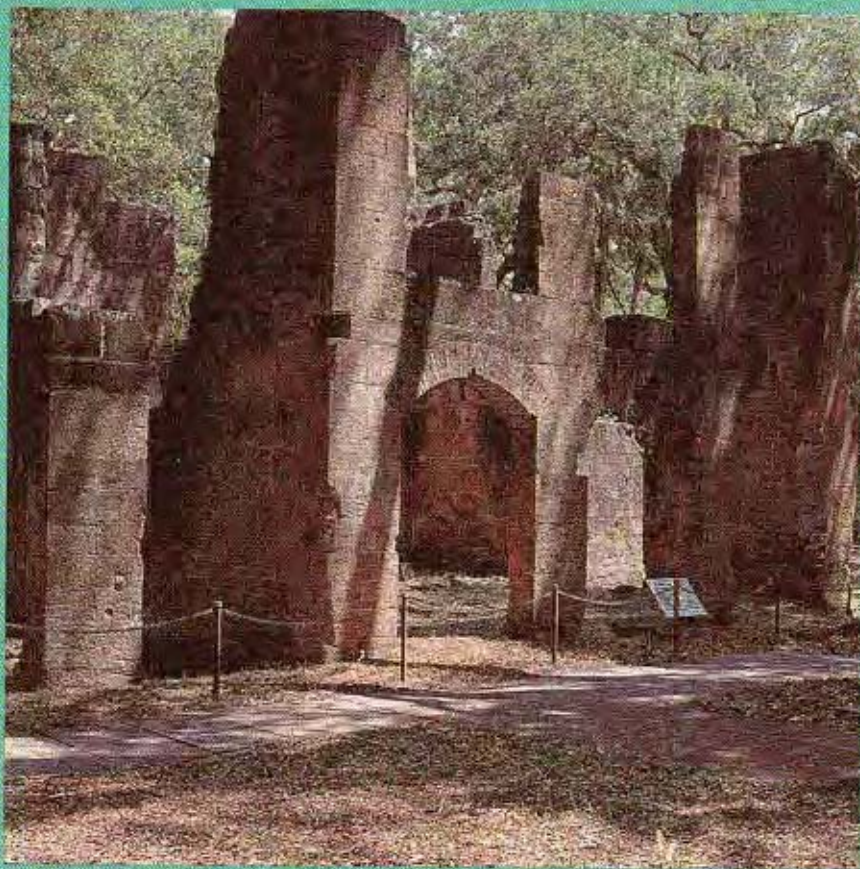
**Trinity Episcopal Church  
1839, Apalachicola**

This Greek Revival church was prefabricated in New York and shipped by sea to Apalachicola.



◆ **Florida's Capitol**  
**Cary Butt, architect**  
**1845, Tallahassee**

Florida's capitol buildings provide interesting parallels to this state's early architectural evolution. The first, built in 1824, was a temporary log cabin. Construction began in 1826 on the first permanent capitol, a two-story wooden structure with classically-inspired portico. Not until 1839, when the United States Congress appropriated \$20,000 was a substantial building started. Designed by architect Cary Butt of Mobile, Alabama, the three story masonry building was executed in the Classical Revival style. Completed in 1845, just before Florida became the 27th state to enter the Union, it remained unchanged until the 1890s.



**Bulow Plantation Sugar Mill Ruins** ←  
**1826, Vicinity of Bunnell**

Many of Florida's pre-Territorial sugar mills were destroyed by the Seminoles at the beginning of the Second Seminole War.

Few architect-designed buildings existed in early Florida—most settlers built what they remembered from home. Those attempting an architectural style often chose classical revivals, which by the early 1800s were sweeping the young nation. • These revivals borrowed heavily from ancient Greek and Roman architecture, which to early Americans symbolized the lofty ideals of democracy and enlightenment. With an emphasis on symmetry and columns, Classical Revival styles became popular for churches, plantation houses and other landmarks. They could also be copied from design books, and did not require elaborate millwork difficult to obtain in frontier areas.

Florida underwent much growth and expansion in territorial times. In the first territorial census of 1825, most people lived between St. Augustine and Pensacola. While Spaniards had co-existed fairly peacefully with the natives under the mission system, expanding settlement by American homesteaders brought increased conflict. • Aggressive American policies of containment and relocation led to a series of three Seminole Wars, one in 1818, the second starting in 1835, and the third in 1855. As a result, thousands of Seminole Indians were either killed or relocated to the American West, and others were pushed progressively further south into the Everglades and Big Cypress. • These wars played an important role in opening Florida for settlement. Many cities started as military forts during the Seminole wars—Tampa (Fort Brooke), Ocala (Fort King), and Fort Myers to name a few. Soldiers explored and mapped much of the peninsula of Florida, laying out roads enabling the settlers to come. Florida's Armed Occupation Act of 1842 provided land grants for settlers in remote areas of the state to quell Indian raids.

While new areas opened to settlement, Florida's road to statehood was not easy. In 1838, delegates convened at St. Joseph to develop a state constitution. But not until 1844 did Florida's legislature request statehood. The U.S. President signed the bill on March 3, 1845, with Florida receiving the official copy ten days later.

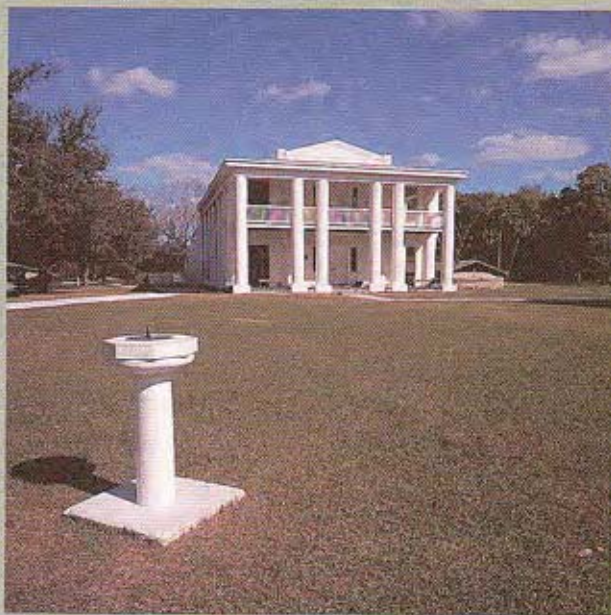


**Fort Foster** ←  
Originally built 1836,  
Vicinity of  
Zephyrhills

This reconstructed Second Seminole War fort reveals the basic construction techniques used in early Florida buildings.

**Moss Hill Church**  
1857, Vicinity of Vernon

Many of Florida's finest architectural landmarks were constructed by slaves — from modest vernacular churches...



...to elegant Greek Revival-influenced plantation houses.

**Robert Gamble House** ◀  
1845-1850, Ellenton

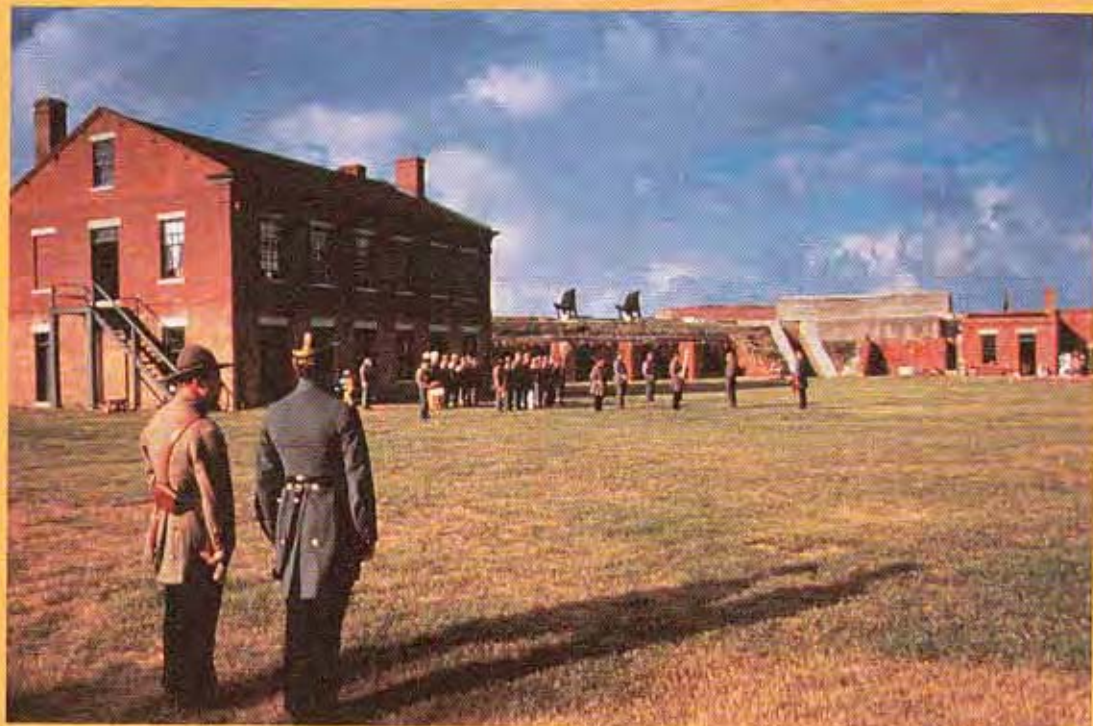
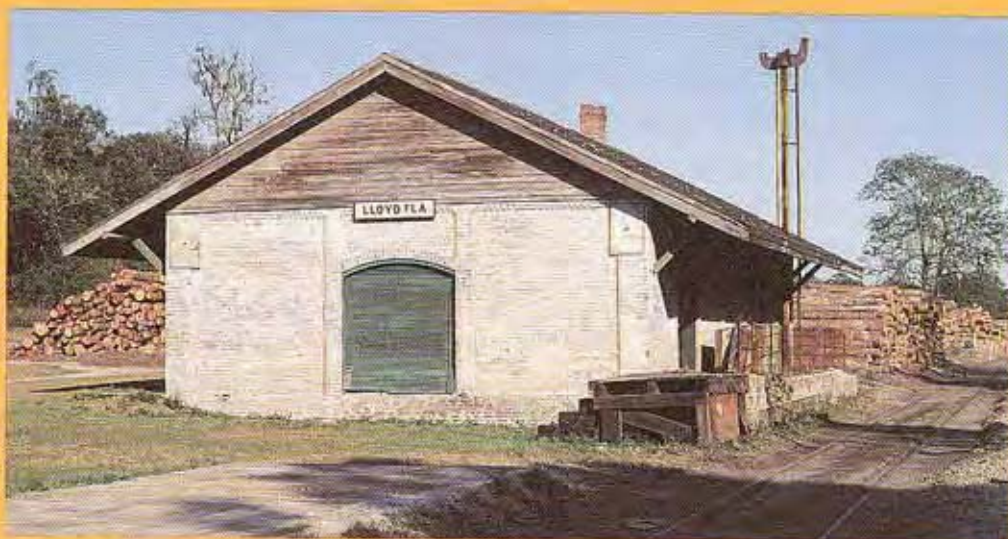
While 1845 marked a watershed year in Florida's political history, architectural history continued on course. Classical Revivals, particularly Greek Revival, remained popular throughout the antebellum period. But most Floridians, of course, did not live in Greek Revival mansions. Some were yeoman farmers who lived in rough log cabins later replaced by vernacular farmhouses. A small number of blacks were "free people of color," particularly in formerly Spanish Pensacola and St. Augustine. ♦ Throughout most of the antebellum period, however, most blacks were slaves, comprising over 40% of Florida's population. Little still stands as built testimony to how the slave lived. Only through archaeology, oral history, and the written record can we begin to patchwork this aspect of Florida's history together. Considerably more remains as testimony to the accomplishments of slaves who were often trained as craftsmen—carpenters, masons, blacksmiths and wheelwrights. They built many antebellum homes, churches, roads and other early landmarks.

During the antebellum period, Florida remained dependent on agriculture, particularly cotton and corn. Cattle ranching increased in importance, especially on Florida's peninsula. Forest products, particularly turpentine and timbering, also had a growing role. ♦ Technological changes in saws, nail production and building construction revolutionized the building trades. By 1853, twenty saw mills operated in the Jacksonville-Fernandina area, allowing major exportation of timber. No longer did Floridians build their structures using massive hewn logs. Now they could use milled lumber and construct "balloon frame" structures in much shorter time.

Efforts to develop a rail system repeatedly failed until the Florida legislature established the Internal Improvement Fund in 1855. The Tallahassee-St. Marks Company upgraded its track, obtained steam engines to replace the mules, and linked with Lake City to the east. Work began on the Florida Railroad, with a line from Jacksonville to

←  
**Lloyd  
Railroad  
Depot  
c. 1858,  
Lloyd**

This simple masonry vernacular building is the oldest train depot remaining in Florida.



←  
**Fort Clinch  
c. 1847,  
Vicinity of  
Fernandina  
Beach**

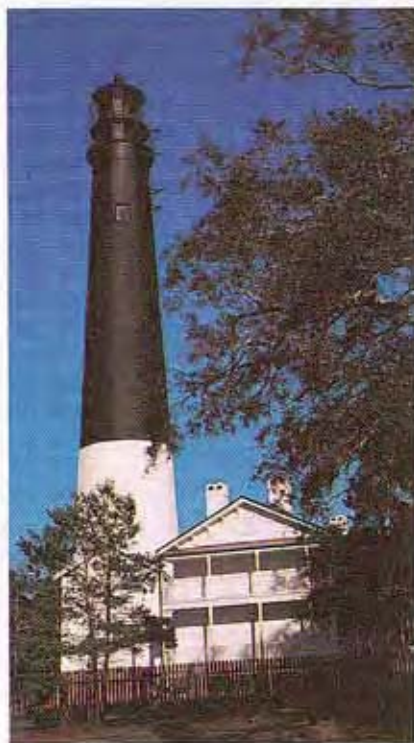
Florida's numerous forts helped protect the state's long and vulnerable coastline throughout much of this state's history.

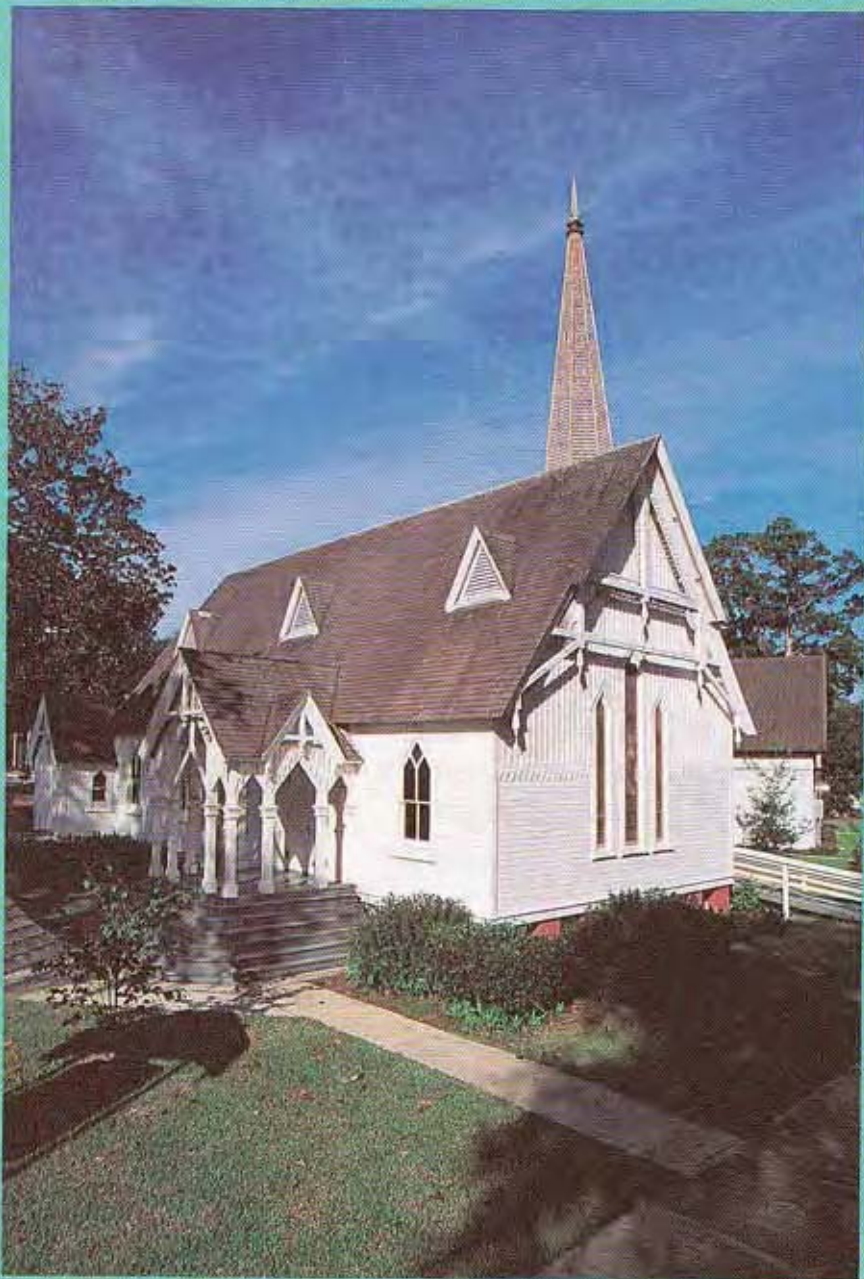
Lake City opening in 1860, and a line to Cedar Key in 1861. Florida had no railroad access to the rest of the country.

Florida entered the Civil War ill prepared. With only 400 miles of railroad line and a primitive road system, Florida still relied on water access to the rest of the world. The state had limited manufacturing capacity. With a population of 140,000, Florida had a small number of white males of age to fight for the Confederacy and protect the state. Nonetheless, in 1860 Florida began to develop military companies, seceding from the Union on January 10, 1861. The Union strategy became obvious. Blockading the coastline, they cut Florida off from the world. Floridians could not get their cotton to market, and key imports virtually halted. Union troops also raided coastal cities on a regular basis, invading Jacksonville four times, taking and evacuating Pensacola, taking Key West, and raiding Apalachicola, Cedar Key, New Smyrna, Tampa, and other communities. Not until 1864 did Union troops attempted to penetrate Florida's interior, for the most part unsuccessfully. Tallahassee remained the only capital east of the Mississippi not to fall, but when the Civil War ended federal troops occupied Florida's capital city. Around 15,000 Floridians fought for the Confederacy; about a third of them dying in battle or from diseases. Another 2,400, half of them black, fought on the side of the Union.

◆  
**Pensacola  
Lighthouse and  
Keeper's Quarters  
1859, 1869,  
Pensacola**

Because of Florida's dependence on water transportation, lighthouses played a key role in this state's early history.





**First Presbyterian Church**  
**J.A. Wood, architect**  
**1884, Green Cove Springs**  
"Carpenter Gothic" applies to wood frame buildings with lacy Gothic detailing.

**St. James A.M.E. Church**  
**Prince W. Spears, architect**  
**Sanford, 1913**  
Gothic-inspired churches have remained popular well into this century, as seen in this church designed by an African-American architect.



The aftermath of the Civil War threw the South into political, social and economic upheaval. While the Civil War brought an end to slavery, Reconstruction did not bring about meaningful permanent change. The plantation system gave way to sharecropping, with many former slaves and poor whites working the land of others, now for a "share" of the crop. • Construction slowed dramatically during and after the Civil War. As Florida's economy began to recover, new buildings reflected the state's burgeoning prosperity. Architects across the nation sought more picturesque and opulent designs, and turned to other historic styles, such as the Gothic, for inspiration. • Nationally, designers such as Andrew Jackson Downing published books highlighting these new styles in the 1840s. By the 1870s, picturesque Gothic Revival churches and Italianate homes dotted Florida's landscape. While classical buildings harkened back to ancient times, these romantic buildings used medieval and renaissance architecture as their inspiration. • Key West was one of Florida's first cities to regain its economic strength. Founded shortly after Florida had become a territory, Key West owed its early prosperity to sailors who plundered wrecked ships. Throughout much of the nineteenth century, Key West remained one of Florida's largest cities. By the 1870s its population expanded considerably with Cuban cigar makers. Key West would always have an exotic flavor, melded by many peoples, isolation and its tropical climate.

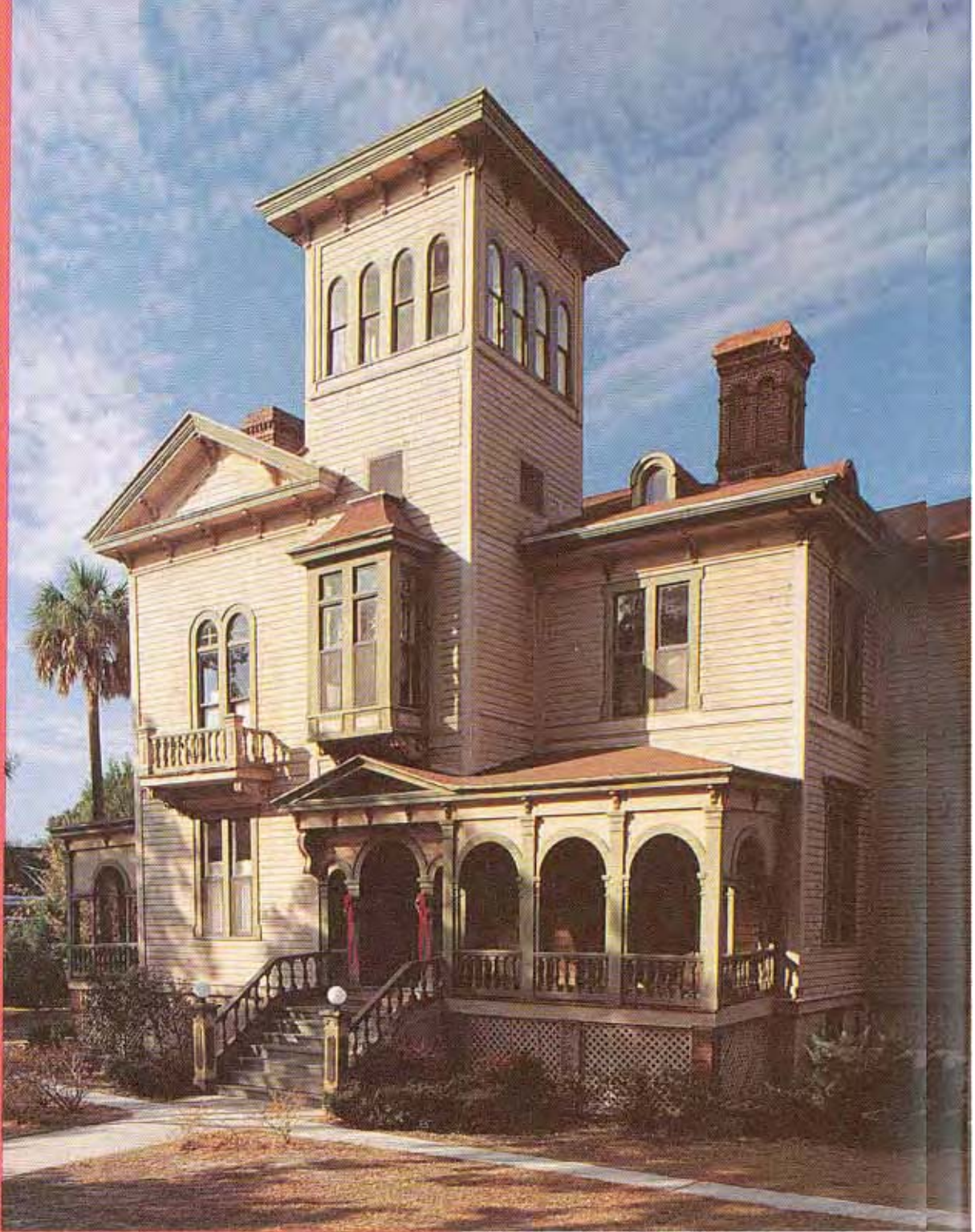
By the 1880s, Florida's population of 269,500 still was concentrated in North Florida, but this would not last. Three major trends in the late 1800s—swamp drainage, tourism, and railroad development—opened new areas of Florida for settlement, shifting population and political power south. • Anxious to settle Florida's antebellum railroad debts, in the 1880s Governor William D. Bloxham sold 4,000,000 acres of Florida swamp to Hamilton Disston of Philadelphia, who promptly began draining land for settlement and farms.

←  
**Donkey Milk House**  
**1866,**  
**Key West**  
Key West flourished in the second half of the 1800s, and developed its own distinctive architectural flair.



**Fairbanks House**  
**R.V. Schuyler,**  
**architect**  
**1885.**

**Fernandina Beach**  
The late 1800s  
witnessed a playful  
array of  
architectural styles.  
This home reflects  
an Italianate  
influence, with its  
dominant tower,  
elongated  
windows, and  
brackets at the  
eaves.





**Thomas House**  
**De Funiak Springs**  
Variations of the exuberant Queen Anne style also became popular.



← **Thomas Alva Edison House**

**1886, Fort Myers**

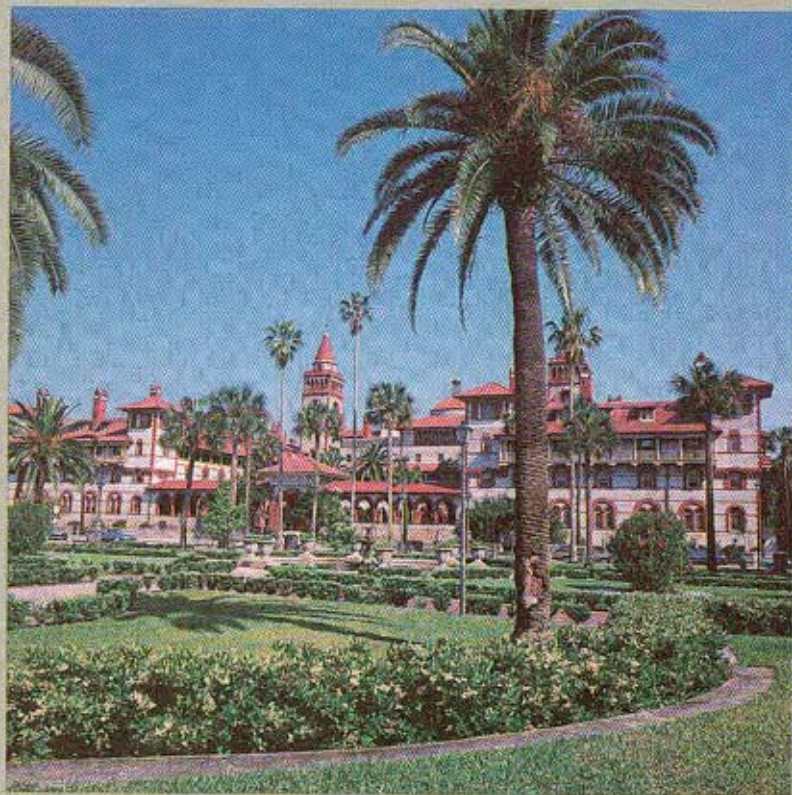
Inventor Thomas Alva Edison's winter home was ornamented with decorative woodwork, giving it a Victorian flavor.



**Bailey House**  
**George Barber, architect**

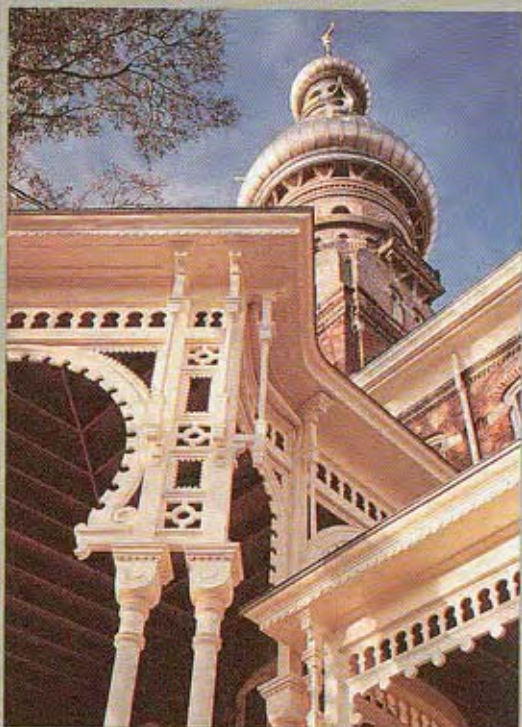
**1895, Fernandina Beach**

Queen Anne buildings are characterized by turrets, expansive porches, and decorative woodwork.



**Ponce de Leon Hotel** ↖  
**Carrère and Hastings, architects**  
**1887-1888, St. Augustine**

Falling in love with St. Augustine, Flagler commissioned two young New York architects — Carrère and Hastings — to build the Ponce de Leon, a 450 suite luxury hotel appropriate for the ancient city. At a cost of a quarter million dollars, they concocted a flamboyant Spanish fantasy of poured concrete, local coquina, and terra cotta, with Tiffany windows and all the opulence imaginable. Capitalizing on the interrelationship between hotels and railroads, Flagler next began acquiring rail lines, opening Florida's east coast for settlement.



↖ **Tampa Bay Hotel**  
**J.A. Wood, architect**  
**1888-1891, Tampa**  
Not to be outdone by Flagler,  
in 1891 Henry Plant opened  
the Tampa Bay Hotel, a  
Moorish fantasy complete  
with thirteen silver minarets.

Tourism provided another major impetus for Florida's settlement. By the 1870s, Florida gained its reputation as a winter retreat for the wealthy and the ill, as promoters successfully extolled its beautiful climate and cheap land. Guidebooks and travel writers lured northerners south, but early visitors faced several major obstacles—inadequate transportation and poor accommodations. By the 1880s, wealthy entrepreneurs overcame these obstacles with new rail lines and exotic hotels. • Names synonymous with railroad development in Florida were William D. Chipley, Henry B. Plant and Henry M. Flagler. Chipley established a line across Florida's panhandle, while Plant extended lines to Tampa. His system later merged with the Atlantic Coast Line, linking Tampa to Richmond. • Flagler, John D. Rockefeller's partner in the Standard Oil Company, developed the Florida East Coast Railroad, ultimately terminating in Key West. Flagler and Plant's competing rail lines and hotels reached throughout Florida's peninsula, opening new territory for settlement.

While railroad moguls constructed exotic hotels, Floridians built fanciful homes for themselves. By the 1880s the Queen Anne style swept the nation. With its irregular massing, ornate gingerbread detailing, and exuberant porches and turrets, the Queen Anne style represented American architecture at its most playful. Architects designed some, but many were the work of the owner and builder, often assisted by an architectural pattern book. • The local sawmill played an important role too. Now with the equipment and power to economically mill ornamental wood, mills gave the late nineteenth century its distinctive architectural flavor. No longer were ornate buildings solely the province of the wealthy. • The Romanesque Revival style enjoyed popularity as well. This revival of ancient Roman architecture started largely due to one architect, Henry Hobson Richardson. He designed massive masonry buildings with Roman arches. Romanesque Revival became popular, especially for courthouses and churches as it conveyed a sense of stability symbolically important for public buildings.



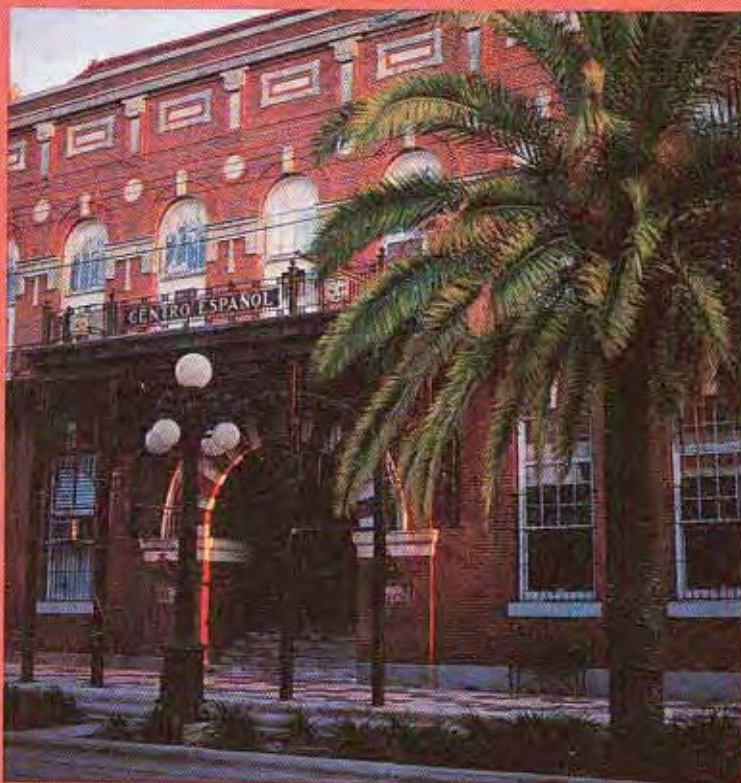
Flagler established a vast empire of rail lines, hotels, land development companies, and public relations operations to lure even more people to Florida, either to holiday or to settle.



**Old Calhoun County Courthouse** ♦  
**Frank Lockwood and Benjamin Bosworth, architects**  
**1904, Blountstown**  
With its solid massing and arches, the Romanesque Revival style was particularly popular for civic buildings.



**St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church**  
**Henry L. Taylor, architect**  
**1925, St. Petersburg**  
Romanesque Revival-influenced buildings continued to be popular well into this century.



**Centro Español**  
**Francis J. Kinnard, architect**  
**1912, Ybor City**  
Cubans, Italians and other ethnic groups built substantial "social clubs" following classical architectural styles in Tampa's Ybor City.

Many Florida cities blossomed during this era. Tampa, with only 720 residents in 1880, grew tremendously over the next decade, in part due to Plant's rail lines. Discovery of phosphate for fertilizer started a major regional industry. Tampa's cigar industry began operation, drawing business away from Key West. Cuban workers flooded Tampa, giving it a cosmopolitan flair. Tampa also became an official U.S. port of entry, greatly enhancing its shipping industry. • By the early 1890s, Tampa's Cuban population was around 3,500. Still allied with their homeland, they played an important role in Cuba's fight for independence from Spain. When the U.S. battleship, the *Maine*, blew up in Havana's harbor in 1898, the U.S. geared up for confrontation with Spain. Thousands of troops moved into Tampa to prepare for a major invasion of Cuba. Florida's railroad system passed the test, facilitating movement of troops and supplies in preparation for the war. By August, with Cuba's independence secured, the Spanish-American War ended. • On the east coast, Flagler extended his Florida East Coast Railroad to West Palm Beach in 1894, building hotels and his residence along the way. To entice Flagler to bring the line further south, Julia Tuttle and William B. Brickell offered him half of their Miami land. A severe freeze in 1894-95, which did not reach Dade County, evidently convinced Flagler of the merits of this proposal. He completed a line to Miami in 1896, opening the Royal Palm Hotel the following year. He extended the line to Homestead in 1903, and Key West in 1912.

Despite these new developments, Florida remained predominantly rural and agricultural. Disasters such as hurricanes, fires and yellow fever epidemics continued to give Florida a pioneer flavor. As the 19th century ended, however, the foundation was laid for Florida's economic strength in the 20th century—tourism, agriculture and development.



**Dudley Farm  
Outbuilding  
Alachua  
County**

Despite all the development in Florida in the late 1800s, at the turn of the century, this state remained predominantly rural and agricultural.



◆  
**Jacksonville Terminal**  
**K.M. Murchison,**  
**architect**

**1919, Jacksonville**  
The "City Beautiful" movement inspired a resurgence of classically-inspired buildings early this century. Jacksonville's terminal is one of the finest "Beaux-Arts" buildings in Florida.

◆  
**Burroughs House**  
**C.S. Caldwell and**  
**G.T. Barker,**  
**architects**

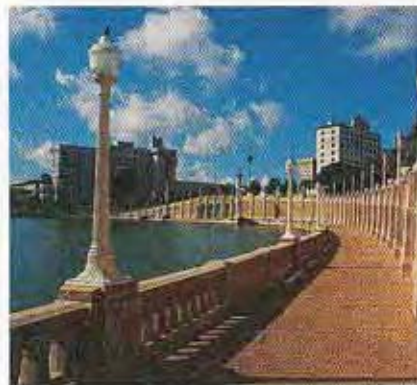
**1901, Fort Myers**  
Residential architecture also returned to more classically-inspired styles, including revivals loosely based on America's colonial architecture.



**W**ith the dawning of the new century, Florida was poised for major change. Areas of the Everglades were drained for development, and new technology, from cars to planes, changed the face of Florida. • The early twentieth century also saw the emergence of professional architects. Beginning in the late 1800s architects—some professionally trained and some self-proclaimed—began establishing practices here. In 1912 architects created the Florida Association of Architects. Three years later, with the support of the Association, Florida created the State Board of Architecture, regulating the profession. Florida gave its first professional state licensing exam for architects the following year—four passed! As the twentieth century progressed, architecture moved in divergent directions.

#### The City Beautiful

One movement, seeking more academically correct revivals of classical architecture, had its roots in the “City Beautiful” movement. The World’s Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago in 1893, expounded the vision of the grand American city, ironically modeled after Baroque Paris! “Make no little plans,” extolled architect Daniel Burnham as he transformed part of Chicago’s waterfront for the World’s Fair. • Columned white neo-classical buildings bordered tree-lined boulevards; monumental-ity became the order of the day. Thousands who visited the 1893 World’s Fair brought the City Beautiful concept back to Main Street America. Classical architecture enjoyed a resurgence, and for decades civic leaders included boulevards and plazas in their town design. By early this century, Floridians built Colonial Revival homes, Beaux-Arts commercial buildings, and Baroque public plazas.



**Lake Mirror Promenade**  
**Charles W. Leavitt,**  
**architect**

**1926-1928, Lakeland**  
Town planning was influenced by the “City Beautiful” movement, as can be seen at the Lake Mirror Promenade, with its classically-inspired walkway with Corinthian columns and pavilions.



**St. James Building** ♦  
**Henry J. Klutho, architect**  
**1911-1912, Jacksonville**

Downtown Jacksonville was destroyed by fire early this century. Architect Henry J. Klutho, who admired the work of innovators Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright, quickly set up practice and designed some of Florida's finest landmarks. At the time of construction, the St. James was the ninth largest department store building in the country. Of reinforced concrete construction, the building featured fine ornament of fire-proof terra cotta. In the St. James, Klutho melded the fluid horizontal flow of the Prairie School style popularized by Wright, with elaborate decorative ornamentation reminiscent of Sullivan.

**Form Follows Function**

While some architects called for a return to classicism, others sought new styles for a new era. In the late 1800s, building technology underwent tremendous changes with the development of the elevator, steel frame construction, and reinforced concrete, making "skyscrapers" possible. Architects such as Louis Sullivan called for new honesty in design, where "form follows function." His disciple, Frank Lloyd Wright, developed the organic and distinctively American "Prairie School" of architecture. Architects, particularly Henry J. Klutho of Jacksonville, brought these new concepts to Florida, where they enjoyed a brief flowering.

At the turn of the century, Jacksonville, with 28,000 people, was Florida's largest city, followed by Pensacola and Key West. Jacksonville began growing in the mid 1800s due to timbering and Northern tourists. A major fire in 1901 devastated downtown, and within a month, Klutho moved to town. As with many architects of the time, Klutho did not have university training in architecture but learned his profession through travel and apprenticeship. Throughout his career, however, he remained devoted to strengthening the profession. • By 1914, Klutho had designed 14 major Prairie School buildings for Jacksonville, and had influenced numerous other architects. While other cities in Florida had some buildings executed in this style, none could rival Jacksonville. But by the end of World War I, these new concepts faded in popularity. • By 1920, Jacksonville retained its place as Florida's largest city, but Miami followed close behind. South Florida would undergo a boom in development that would have a lasting impact on the character of this state.

**Florida Life Building  
Henry J. Klutho,  
architect**

**1911, Jacksonville**  
With its soaring vertical emphasis, plate glass "Chicago" windows, and terra cotta ornamentation, Florida Life epitomized the concept of the skyscraper popularized by Sullivan.







**Bungalow  
Jacksonville**

Inspired by the British "Arts and Crafts" movement, and the Prairie School designs of Frank Lloyd Wright, the Craftsman style became popular early this century. Craftsman buildings were characterized by the use of natural materials such as wooden shingles and stone, broad eaves often with brackets, and porches with massive piers. One story versions are often called "bungalows."

**Grady House  
High Springs**



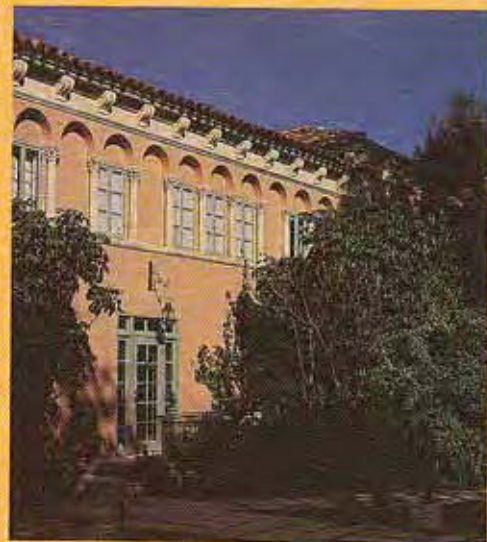
**Leiman House  
M. Leo Elliott, architect  
1916, Tampa**

The Prairie School, with its emphasis on crisp design and horizontal lines, had a strong influence on residential architecture early this century.



**Vizcaya** ←  
**F. Burrall Hoffman and Paul Chalfin,**  
**architect/designer**  
**1914-1916, Miami**

One precursor of the Mediterranean Revival style was Vizcaya. Designed by architect J. Burrall Hoffman of the prestigious New York firm of Carrere and Hastings, Vizcaya served as the Biscayne Bay residence of James Deering of International Harvester. In the style of an Italian Renaissance Palace, Vizcaya housed Deering's personal collection of Italian architectural detailing. With seventy rooms, a ten acre formal garden, and twenty-five miles of paths through the garden and surrounding native jungle hammock, the estate was begun in 1914 and completed in 1916.



**William Gray Warden House**  
**Addison Mizner, architect**  
**1922, Palm Beach**

One of Florida's most emulated architects, Addison Mizner was renowned for his elegant Mediterranean-style homes, with barrel tile roofs and stuccoed walls.

← **Via Mizner**  
**Addison Mizner, architect**  
**c. 1924, Palm Beach**

Mizner housed his Mizner Industries in the Via Mizner complex, leading the conversion of Palm Beach's Worth Avenue into one of this nation's most exclusive shopping districts.



### The Florida Fantasy

The 1920s brought tremendous population growth to south Florida. Rail lines and public roads underwent a flurry of expansion. Developers tried to accommodate the thousands of newcomers with new homes and towns. The style most closely associated with this Florida Boom was the Mediterranean Revival.

Society architect Addison Mizner, elaborating on the “Florida fantasy” initiated by Flagler, Hoffman and others, brought what is now known as the Mediterranean Revival style into full flower in the early 1920s. Having toured the world he brought back the vocabulary of the Mediterranean—including stuccoed walls and red barrel tile roofs. As with many architects of this time, Mizner had no university training in architecture. • Mizner’s buildings were simple yet elegant. His motto for his clients was: “If they have money, let them keep it inside.” Having said that, he created Mizner Industries, where craftsmen lovingly fashioned furnishings and decorative elements for these exotic villas, painstakingly antiquing them to give them the patina of age. Mizner himself was an artist and perfectionist. He would spend hours studying a site to determine the quality of its lighting. Mizner said his ambition was:

*... to make a building look traditional and as though it had fought its way from a small unimportant structure to a great rambling house that took centuries of different needs and ups and downs of wealth to accomplish.*

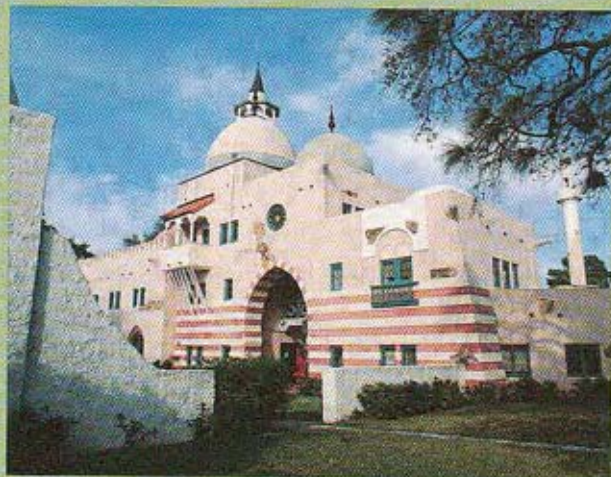
Other architects around the state became proficient in the Mediterranean Revival vocabulary, melding Italian, Spanish and other motifs into buildings they made distinctively “Florida.”

Not content to design just buildings, Mizner and several others formed Mizner Development Corporation to develop the upscale community of Boca Raton, an effort cut short by the Florida real estate bust of the late 1920s. • Wealthy aviator Glenn



◆ **Opa-locka City Hall**  
**Bernhardt Muller,**  
**architect**  
**1926, Opa-locka**

Still other architects were more fanciful, as shown in this Moorish fantasy building. When the first visitors arrived at Opa-locka, the developer and his associates were there on horses, dressed in Arabian clothing.



◆ **Seaboard Coast Line**  
**Railway Station**  
**L. Philips Clarke, architect**  
**1925, West Palm Beach**

Other architects drew from Mediterranean styles when designing their buildings, as shown in this elaborate Spanish Renaissance train station.

Curtiss and architect Bernhardt Muller designed and developed the fanciful Moorish city of Opa-locka. Using the Arabian Nights theme and Curtiss' immense wealth, Muller designed some of Florida's most fanciful architecture, complete with onion domes and exotic ornamentation. • The town of Coral Gables was the brainchild of produce farmer George Merrick. He envisioned a beautiful themed development that melded the Mediterranean vocabulary with the planning concepts of the City Beautiful movement. He sold his first lot in 1921; by 1925 sales reportedly had reached \$150 million. Denman Fink, Merrick's uncle, developed the plan for the city, while Phineas Paist served as the major architect. Coral Gables was envisioned as a self-contained community, including "theme" residential villages, separate commercial areas, golf courses and churches. Grand entrances welcomed visitors to the community. • But some developers had built new homes and communities on speculation and often fraud. Many of these dreamers saw their visions crash. In 1925, due to unwise and often illegal real estate transactions, South Florida's economy began falling into a downward spiral, and banks failed. The final blows occurred when a hurricane struck Miami in 1926 and another hit Palm Beach in 1928, killing an estimated 2,000. On the eve of the nation's Great Depression, Florida's bubble had already burst.

◆  
**Venetian Pool**  
**Phineas E. Paist,**  
**architect**  
**1924, Coral Gables**  
The Venetian Pool is one of the highlights of Coral Gables.

◆  
**Douglas Entrance**  
**de Garmo, Fink and**  
**Paist, architects**  
**1925, Coral Gables**  
Of all of Miami's early planned communities, Coral Gables developed in a manner most consistent with its concept.



#### The New Deal

Efforts to revitalize the Florida and national economies were slow. One federal relief program, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), established a lasting legacy. CCC workers planted over 13.5 million trees, cut fire breaks, and constructed recreational facilities in many Florida forests. By 1941, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and its programs had completed over 6,000 miles of roads, built over 850 public buildings, constructed close to 350 parks and athletic fields, and made other improvements in Florida. • Because of serious debt, Key West received assistance from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) to convert Key West into the "resort city of the tropics." FERA sponsored artists to paint murals on public buildings, provided classes in local handicrafts, and advertised festivals, drawing thousands of tourists. These efforts ended when a major hurricane in 1935 wiped out the railroad bridge to Key West. With WPA funds, the bridge was rebuilt as a highway and reopened in 1938.

←  
**O'Leno State Park  
Fire Tower  
Civilian  
Conservation  
Corps  
1930s, High  
Springs**  
The Civilian  
Conservation Corps  
gave the nation a  
lasting legacy of  
public  
improvements,  
particularly to parks  
and national forests.





**Daytona Beach Bandshell** ◀  
**W.P.A.**

**1936, Daytona Beach**

Many of Florida's important civic structures were built under the auspices of the Depression-era WPA.

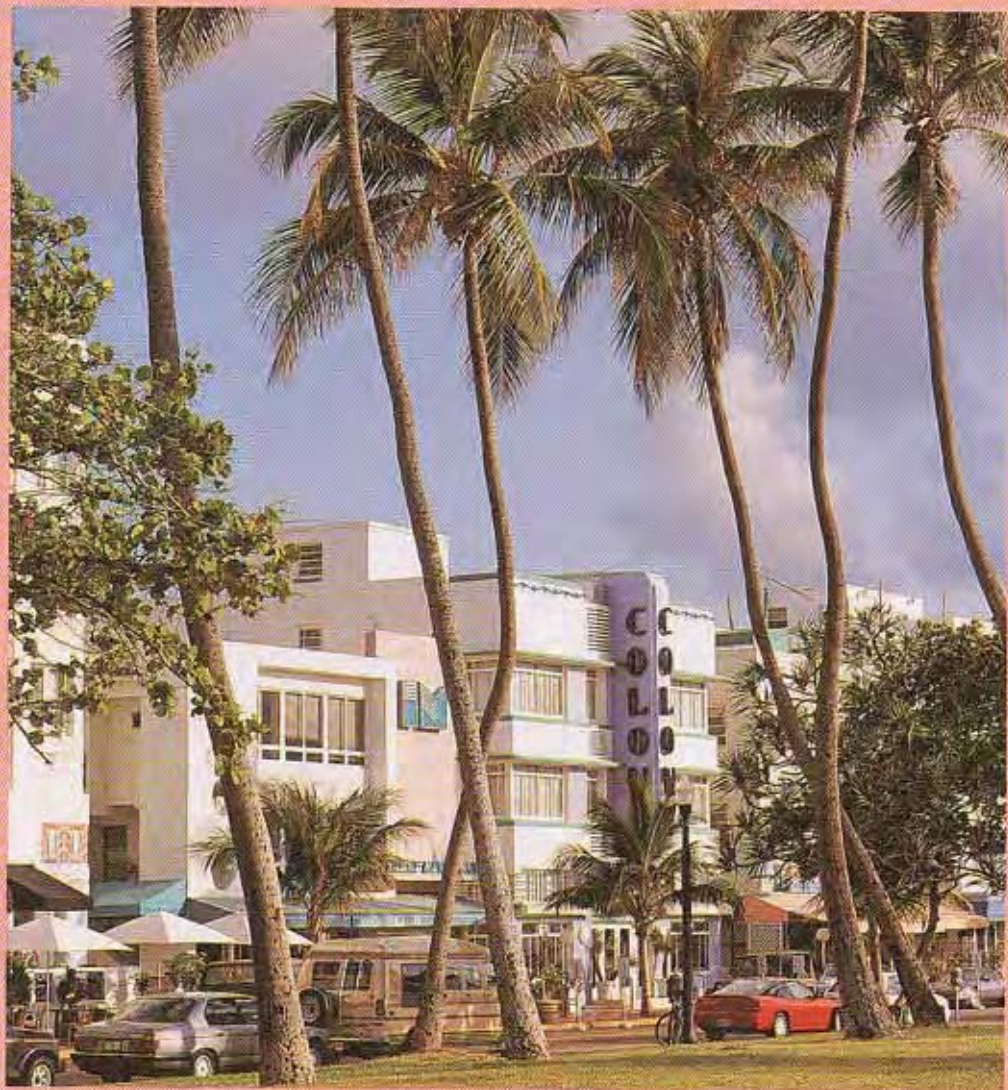
With Art Deco buildings, architects took full advantage of new materials in new ways—reinforced concrete, glass blocks and glass panels allowed designers to mold and shape buildings in a manner previously impossible.

Miami Beach designers made their buildings distinctively

Florida, splashing them with the yellow, sea green and pink of the tropics. Stylized flamingoes, pelicans and heron paid

homage to the area's distinctive fauna, while wave motifs, metal railings and portholes reinforced the nautical theme of the beach. In the

height of the Great Depression, Miami Beach was a welcome escape. The style reached its zenith in Miami Beach in the 1930s.



← Ocean Avenue Streetscape  
Miami Beach

**"Deco Delights"**

As the state and nation struggled, a new architectural movement prospered in the 1930s. With cars on the road, planes in the air, and electric toasters in the kitchen, America's love affair with technology flourished. They reflected this in their architecture—sleek streamlined buildings that appeared better suited to speed across the ocean or take off in flight than to remain anchored to the soil. • Strongly influenced by European designers, the sleek, sophisticated "moderne" style (sometimes called "art deco") for which Miami Beach is synonymous, took hold. Art Deco refers to decoration applied to everything from buildings to jewelry to appliances. "Moderne" refers to the form of the building itself—streamlined, geometric and heavily influenced by industrial design of the period. As Ernest Hemingway's kid brother, Leicester, said:

*Architects....smoothed everything until you got the feeling that life was smooth.*

*The buildings made you feel clean and new and excited and happy to be there.*

**Carlyle Hotel**  
**Kiehnell and Elliott,**  
**architects**  
**1941-1942, Miami Beach**

Miami Beach is synonymous with the "Art Deco" style. But Art Deco and Moderne buildings can be found across the state and nation.



## Florida treasures

➤  
**Annie Pfaffner Chapel,  
Florida Southern  
College**

**Frank Lloyd Wright,  
architect**

**1941, Lakeland**

Designed in harmony with the rolling orange groves in which they are situated, Florida Southern College features the largest concentration of Wright's architecture in one setting.



➤  
**Maitland Art Center  
Andros Smith, architect  
1937, Maitland**

Reflecting designers' desire for new inspiration, artist Andros Smith designed his studio and residence with an exotic Mayan and Aztec flair.

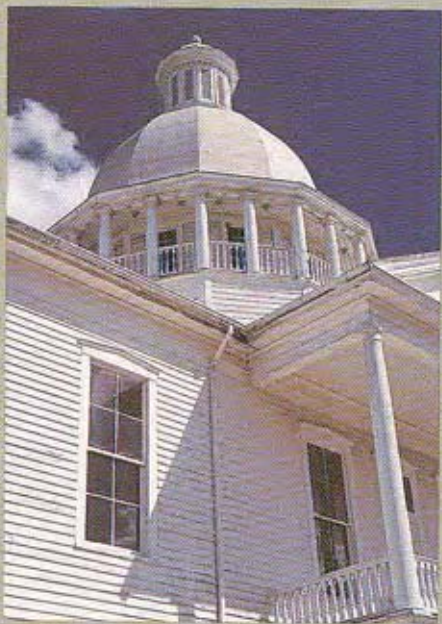


#### New Directions

Architects continued in their quest to break with tradition. Frank Lloyd Wright, forever an innovator, expanded the horizon of architecture in Lakeland, Florida. Beginning in 1937 he designed seven buildings for Florida Southern College; his student Nils Schweizer designed two others. Wright called for the buildings to rise "out of the ground, into the light and into the sun," using steel for strength, native Florida sand, and glass to bring God's outdoors inside.

Florida and the nation entered a period of economic recovery, in part due to entry into World War II. By now Florida had a population of close to 1.9 million people, making it the twenty-seventh largest state in the nation. To strengthen its defense capacity, in the 1940s the Federal government constructed thousands of miles of road, and established military training schools and airfields across Florida. They converted hotel rooms into accommodations for troops, using 70,000 rooms in Miami Beach alone. With thousands of soldiers in Florida needing to be fed, the agricultural industry boomed. • With the end of the war, many changes came to Florida and the rest of the nation. Florida's phenomenal growth in population intensified. Soldiers returning from war purchased homes under the G.I. Bill. Americans became more automobile oriented, leaving cities for the suburbs. Subdivision development, using streamlined building techniques, splashed across the state. The beginning of widespread use of air conditioning impacted the design of buildings.

Architecture has undergone many changes this century, due to changes in technology, lifestyles, and tastes. But Florida's historic treasures still have tales to tell and lessons to share, if we will only let them.



**Chautauqua Auditorium  
1910, DeFuniak Springs**

Many programs have been developed to help preserve this nation's historic buildings. In the 1960s, the federal government established the National Register of Historic Places, an official inventory of historically and architecturally significant resources.



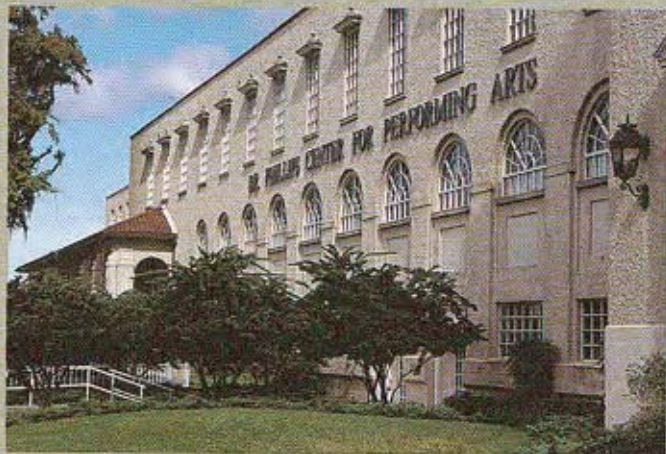
← **Vinoy Park  
Hotel  
Henry L. Taylor,  
architect  
1925,  
St. Petersburg**  
The Federal  
Investment Tax  
Credit program  
has been a major  
stimulus for  
preserving  
income-  
producing  
historic  
buildings.

← **Lake Ivanhoe Power Plant (Dr. Phillips Center  
for the Performing Arts), 1922, Orlando**  
Today, Florida has one of the most progressive historic  
preservation grant programs in the nation.

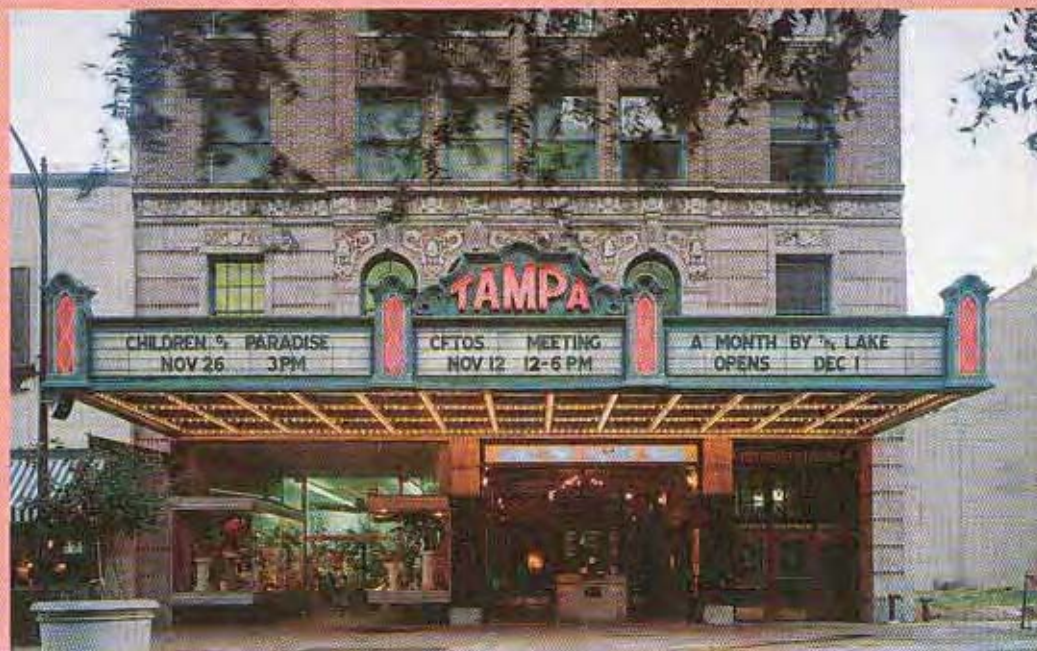


← **Downtown DeLand**

Since 1985, Florida Main Street has been bringing life back to historic downtowns.



Architecture. It reflects our history, our technology, our environment, and our aspirations. In Florida, we learn that climate and readily available building materials shape our buildings. That cultural traditions, be they from Spain, or the Bahamas, or North Carolina, influence how we take the available materials and meld them into shelter. We learn that war—or the fear of war—can dictate where we place our settlements, and how they are designed. We also come to realize that fantasy—of tropical breezes, of agricultural bounty, of new land to explore—can propel us into uncharted territory. The architects and builders who designed Florida's historic landmarks were reflecting the fantasies and realities of their time. While Florida's historic buildings are a vanishing resource they have much to teach us. They are the embodiment of history, showing how people of times gone by lived and dreamed. We are indeed fortunate that Floridians are preserving these treasures from the past.



➤
**Tampa Theater**  
**John Eberson,**  
**architect**  
**1925, Tampa**  
 Florida has a rich architectural legacy. We are fortunate that many of these landmarks are being preserved.

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  - 32. Pensacola Lighthouse and Keeper's Quarters—Vivian Young
  - 33. First Presbyterian Church—Bob Self
  - 34. St. James A.M.E. Church—Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources
  - 35. Donkey Milk House—Sharon Wells
  - 36. Fairbanks House—Armelia Island Tourist Development Council
  - 37. Thomas House—Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Michael Zimny
  - 38. Thomas Alva Edison House—Florida Department of Commerce, Division of Tourism, R. Overton
  - 39. Bailey House—Vivian Young
  - 40. Ponce de Leon Hotel (Flagler College)—Florida Department of Commerce, Division of Tourism, H. Milo Stewart III
  - 41. Tampa Bay Hotel (University of Tampa)—Henry Plant Museum
  - 42. Map of the Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Indian River Railway—Florida Photographic Archives
  - 43. Old Calhoun County Courthouse—Vivian Young
  - 44. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church—Dimensions Photography, Eric Dusenbery
  - 45. Centro Español—Florida Department of Commerce, Division of Tourism, James Gaines
  - 46. Dudley Farm Outbuilding—Walter Marder, AIA
  - 47. Jacksonville Terminal—Florida Department of Commerce, Division of Tourism, R. Overton
  - 48. Burroughs House—Kevin McGorty
  - 49. Lake Mirror Promenade—Lakeland Downtown Development
  - 50. St. James Building—Bob Self
  - 51. Florida Life Building—Bob Self
  - 52. Leiman House—Dimensions Photography, Eric Dusenbery
  - 53. Jacksonville Bungalow—Bob Self
  - 54. Grady House—Florida Department of State, Michael Zimny
  - 55. Vizcaya—Florida Department of Commerce, Division of Tourism, H.M. Stewart III
  - 56. Via Mizner—David Ferro, RA
  - 57. William Gray Warden House—Historic Palm Beach Preservation Board
  - 58. Seaboard Coast Line Railway Station—City of West Palm Beach
  - 59. Opa-Iocka City Hall—Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources
  - 60. Douglas Entrance—City of Coral Gables
  - 61. Venetian Pool—Kenneth Treister, FAIA
  - 62. O'Leno State Park Fire Tower—Florida Park Service
  - 63. Daytona Beach Bandshell—Florida Department of Commerce, Division of Tourism, H. M. Stewart III
  - 64. Ocean Avenue Streetscape—Florida Department of Commerce, Division of Tourism, Robert M. Overton
  - 65. Carlyle Hotel—Florida Department of Commerce, Division of Tourism, H. Milo Stewart III
  - 66. Maitland Art Center—Florida Department of State, Michael Zimny
  - 67. Florida Southern College—Lakeland Downtown Development
  - 68. Chautauqua Auditorium—Florida Department of State, Michael Zimny
  - 69. Vinoy Park Hotel—St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
  - 70. Lake Ivanhoe Power Plant (Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts)—Florida Department of State, Michael Zimny
  - 71. Downtown DeLand—Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources
  - 72. Tampa Theater—Dimensions Photography, Eric Dusenbery