

**Florida National Register Review Board  
R. A. Gray Building, Room 307  
Tallahassee, Florida  
August 6, 2020  
Meeting Minutes**

**Commission Members Present In-Person:** None due to COVID-19

**Commission Members Present via Webinar:** Dr. Clifford Smith, Chair; Ms. Marion Almy; Mr. Rick Gonzalez

**Florida Department of State Officials and Staff Present in Person:** None due to COVID-19

**Florida Department of State Officials and Staff Present via Webinar:** Dr. Timothy Parsons, SHPO; Dr. Angela E. Tomlinson, Assistant Director and Deputy SHPO; Alissa Lotane, Bureau Chief and Deputy SHPO; Ruben Acosta, Survey and Registration Supervisor; Andrew Waber, Historic Preservationist; Kelly Chase, Historic Preservationist; Michael Hart, Historical Marker Program Coordinator; Susanne Hunt, Outreach Programs Supervisor

**Guests Present In-Person:** None due to COVID-19

**Guests Present via Webinar:** Roosevelt Cooper, Vice-president Palm Springs Cemetery; Ruby Cooper; Ennis Davis, Florida Trust for Historic Preservation; Felipe DePaula, Ponce Inlet Lighthouse; Haylee Glasel, Historic Preservationist, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Ed Gunn, Director, Ponce Inlet Lighthouse; Ellen Henry, Curator, Ponce Inlet Lighthouse; Heather Hodges, Executive Director, Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor; Theodore Johnson, Community Engagement Specialist, Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve; Victoria Kattel; Floyd Key; Saundra Morene, Jacksonville Gullah Geechee Nation Community Development Corporation; Philip Rand, Park Manager, Tomoka State Park; William Stanton, Cultural Resources Section Supervisor, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Anthony Williams, Cosmo Historical Preservation Association; Taffi Abt; Leevon White; Al Ferraro.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

**Mr. Acosta read the housekeeping notes addressing the webinar. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Smith at 1:40 p.m. Dr. Smith called the roll. Dr. Smith, Ms. Almy, Mr. Gonzalez, and Dr. Bense were present via webinar.**

II. Introduction of Commission, Staff, and Guests  
**Commission, staff, and guests introduced themselves.**

III. Adoption of Agenda

**Mr. Gonzalez made a motion to adopt the agenda for the meeting. Ms. Almy seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

IV. Remarks by Chairperson on Purpose of Meeting

**Dr. Smith described the purpose and process of the National Register Review Board.**

V. Approval of Minutes from May 28, 2020 Meeting

**Ms. Almy made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 6, 2020 meeting. Mr. Gonzalez seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

VI. Director's Comments

**Dr. Timothy Parsons, State Historic Preservation Officer, welcomed the commissioners and guests and thanked everyone for attending. He stressed the importance of the National Register Program and expressed support for the properties under consideration.**

VII. Review of Nomination Proposals

- A. Palm Spring Cemetery (DU06823), Jacksonville, Duval County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. We are proposing Palm Spring Cemetery for listing in the National Register under Criterion A at the local level for Ethnic Heritage: Gullah Geechee (same as Ethnic Heritage: Black, but specific for the culture of the Sea Islands), and Early Settlement/Exploration. The period of significance extends from circa 1942 to 1970. This cemetery is the best surviving resource associated with the historic Gullah Geechee community of Cosmo, which is located in the Mill Cove area of Jacksonville. Cosmo was established after the Civil War by formerly enslaved African American homesteaders, many of whom came from the Sea Islands and coastal regions of Georgia and the Carolinas. The cemetery also served as a communal burial ground for members of the African American communities in Mayport and the beaches. Like many African American communities during the era of segregation, the people in Cosmo, Mayport, and the beaches created the Palm Springs Cemetery in part to provide deceased family members with a level of dignity in death they were often denied in life. Although the oldest known burial dates to 1942, according to local informants, the cemetery is actually older than this.

Staff would like to draw your attention to the impact of modern development on the integrity of setting to this cemetery. When originally laid out, the cemetery was in an open, rural area, with primary access via a small dirt road that ran to the east. Sometime prior to 1970, the dirt road was removed and replaced with a golf course. The main entrance was redirected to Fort Caroline Road on the west. To the north and south of cemetery are two suburban cul-de-sacs that have heavily encroached upon the cemetery. Also on the west end between the cemetery and Fort Caroline Road is a retention pond placed there by developers. Given the informal nature of the earliest burials in the cemetery, it is highly likely that portions of the cemetery extend into the neighborhoods, golf course (now a park), and the retention pond property lines. Despite this, the burial ground still conveys its largely informal mid-20<sup>th</sup> century appearance. The cemetery is also a scarce resource, as it is one of the few remnants of the community of Cosmo that predate 1970 that has not been significantly altered.

*Palm Spring Cemetery contributes to the Historic African American Cemeteries in Duval County, Florida (1765-1969) MPS under Associated Historic Contexts: Historic African American*

*Cemeteries in Duval County, Florida (1765-1969) and Associated Property Types: Historic African American Cemeteries.*

Staff finds that Palm Spring Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A: Ethnic History—Gullah Geechee and Criterion A: Early Settlement/Exploration for the period of significance 1942-1970.

Dr. Smith solicited public comment. Mr. Anthony Williams expressed support for the nomination, outlined the work of the Cosmo Historical Preservation Association, and stressed the importance of the property. Ms. Sandra Morene stressed the cemetery's significance as a rare resource that is important for the local community's identity and expressed support for the nomination. Mr. Roosevelt Cooper expressed support for the nomination. Mr. Theodore Johnson expressed how the Timucuan Preserve worked with the community and the Florida Public Archaeology Network to preserve the cemetery. Ms. Heather Hodges expressed support for the nomination and thanked the State for documenting Gullah Geechee heritage.

Dr. Smith solicited board member comments. Ms. Almy commented on the quality of the nomination and expressed her support for the nomination. Mr. Gonzalez expressed his support as well.

**A motion was made by Ms. Almy to forward the nomination to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A: Ethnic History, Black Criterion A: Early Settlement and Exploration. Gonzalez seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

- B. Matecumbe Methodist Church (MO06655), Islamorada, Monroe County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. We are proposing listing Matecumbe Methodist Church at the local level for Criterion A: Social History and Criterion C: Architecture. The Period of Significance extends from 1958 to 1960. This property is located in the Village of Islamorada, and specifically on the island of Upper Matecumbe, in the Florida Keys. Matecumbe Methodist Church is situated along the Overseas Highway and can be seen in both directions.

This Building is significant under Criterion A, for its use as a Hurricane Relief Center and Red Cross Station during Hurricane Donna in 1960. In 1961, Matecumbe Methodist Church was recognized as the Rural Church of the Year for their relief efforts following the hurricane.

Matecumbe Methodist Church is significant under Criteria C for its Mid-Century Modern details including cantilevered panels, its concrete and stone bell tower, arched wooden ceiling, and the stone veneers. These minimal details separate the building from more traditionally designed properties and make this building a significant example of mid-century modern architecture. This building exhibits many design elements that architect Walter Baggesen, would use and expand upon in many of his later church designs.

Matecumbe Methodist Church is the one contributing resource for this National Register Nomination, while the Fellowship Hall and Memorial Gardens are noncontributing resources.

Although the Fellowship Hall was constructed in 1945, it is classified as noncontributing, since the Church is the primary building and the fellowship hall has been significantly altered. The Memorial Gardens were added in 2004, making them a nonhistoric component.

Matecumbe Methodist Church is primarily significant for its significance in social history and architecture for the area of Islamorada. For this reason, Matecumbe Methodist Church meets the requirements for eligibility under Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties.

Staff finds that Matecumbe Methodist Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A: Social History and Criterion C: Architecture, for the period of Significance 1958-1960.

Staff received two letters of support from the village of Islamorada and Monroe County.

Dr Smith solicited public comment. No comments were made.

Dr. Smith solicited board member comments. Mr. Gonzalez, expressed support of the nomination. Ms. Almy also expressed support for the nomination.

**A motion was made by Gonzalez to forward the nomination to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A: Social History and Criterion C: Architecture. Almy seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

- C. **Pacetti Hotel (VO08370), Ponce Inlet, Volusia County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. We are proposing the Pacetti Hotel for listing at the local level under Criterion A for Exploration/Settlement, Commerce, and Entertainment/Recreation, and under Criterion C for Architecture. The period of significance extends from circa 1881 to 1922, when it ceased being used as a hotel. The hotel was the first such establishment in what is now Ponce Inlet. The hotel, which catered to tourists interested in the fishing of the area, and the Pacetti family who ran the hotel served as innkeepers and fishing guides. The interest generated by the fishing and waterfront location played a key role in the development of Ponce Inlet. There are two distinct sections of the building, the original I-House portion was constructed in circa 1881 while the rear two-story addition was constructed circa 1886. This house is an excellent locally significant example of Florida Cracker southern vernacular architecture, which is best expressed through the balanced original core, wood frame construction, north-south orientation, high ceilings, and central hallway that allows for cross-ventilation. The Pacetti Hotel is an unusual example of a Cracker Style residence that was expanded for commercial purposes while allowing space for the property owners to live in the house.

Staff would like to draw your attention to several changes that have taken place over the course to the building's long history. The north addition and kitchen were added circa 1886, more than doubling the size of the building. Sometime in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were Folk Victorian decorative details added to the porch and front façade of the building. Sometime prior to 1920, the east façade, which was open and had a larger inset porch was fully enclosed and converted into the dining room. The Victorian era porch was also replaced by a more restrained porch.

These changes all took place during the period of significance, however, and are considered historic alterations.

In 1938, the roofline was significantly changed, replacing its distinctive double hipped roofs with a single Dutch gable roof. The building also experienced some changes related to modernization, including the installation of restrooms. Despite this, the building retains its character-defining complex floorplan, wood frame construction, and the spatial integrity of the interior remains virtually the same as it was during the building's historic period of significance. The setting is also much different now than when the building was originally constructed, as the town of Ponce Inlet has grown around the hotel. It still remains on a wooded lot and its riverfront view remains unimpeded. As a result, the building retains its integrity for listing in the National Register.

Staff finds that the Pacetti Hotel is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A for Exploration/Settlement, Commerce, and Entertainment/Recreation, and under Criterion C for Architecture for the period of significance 1881-1922.

Dr. Smith solicited public comments. Mr. DePaula provided a correction on the date for the removal of the folk Victorian elements from the hotel façade, approximately 1904-107. He expressed support for the nomination. Ms. Henry expressed support as well and reinforced the hotel's historical importance and integrity.

Dr. Smith solicited board member comments: Mr. Gonzalez suggested expanding the architectural period of significance to 1938 in order to include later additions and modifications to the building. Mr. Gonzalez also expressed support for the nomination and praised the property's setting and interior integrity.

**A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to forward the nomination to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A: Exploration and Settlement, Commerce, Entertainment and Recreation and Criterion C: Architecture with the period of significance being expanded to 1938. Almy seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.**

- D. Tomoka Mound and Midden Complex (8VO81), Ormond Beach, Volusia County** was presented by Mr. Acosta. We are proposing listing for the Tomoka Mound and Midden Complex site at the state level under Criterion D: Archaeology, Prehistoric. The period of significance spans the Thornhill Lake phase 5600-4700 BP. The site is one of the largest, oldest, and few remaining extant examples of Archaic mortuary mound construction. The archaeological data and evidence gathered from Tomoka has played an important role in the understanding of indigenous lifeways in Florida and has challenged previous theoretical paradigms regarding the complexity of preceramic cultures in the state.

The Tomoka Mound and Midden Complex consists of twelve sand/shell mounds, five shell ridges/knolls, and associated habitation midden. The 12 mounds range in size from half a meter

to 3 meters high and range from 12 to 32 meters in diameter. Six of the twelve mounds (Mound 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9) were mortuary mounds, while the other half (Mound 1,3, 7, 10) were formed from the accumulation of domestic refuse. Over 6000 years of human occupation and activity are represented within the site. People returned to Tomoka during later archaeological periods to bury their dead in previously constructed mounds which indicates the site and its inhabitants still held significance for people in the region for many years to come.

The site retains a high level of integrity as the mounds and other site features are well preserved and protected from looting and development due to their location within a state park. Other contemporaneous and comparable sites have been impacted or destroyed by development or are currently inundated due to rises in sea level since the period of significance. The Tomoka site has the potential to address significant archaeological questions regarding precontact mound building, mortuary practice and ritual, exchange networks, social interactions, subsistence strategies, and the reuse of ritual landscapes by indigenous people.

Staff finds that the Tomoka Mound and Midden Complex meets the National Register Criteria and is eligible for listing at the state level of significance under Criterion D: Prehistoric Archaeology, for the period of significance 5600-4700 cal BP.

Ms. Chase reiterated the importance of the site in re-writing paradigms of Archaic-period Florida.

Dr. Smith solicited public comment. Mr. Rand outlined additional discoveries at Tomoka mounds and commented on the current maintenance of the mounds.

Dr. Smith solicited board member comment. Ms. Almy expressed her support for the nomination. Mr. Gonzalez expressed his support as well.

**A motion was made by Ms. Almy to forward the nomination to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D: Archaeology, Prehistoric., state level of significance, for the period of significance 5600-4700 cal BP. Gonzalez seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.**

#### VIII. Other Business

Mr. Acosta let the board know that the majority of the nominations submitted from the previous board meeting have been accepted for listing. One nomination, the Clermont VFW, was returned for an expansion of historic context.

Mr. Acosta shared that the next NRRB meeting is November 5, 2020. As of now we are planning on an all webinar meeting again. The park service has moved to a digital submission policy and limited submissions to 10 photos per nomination. The nominations reviewed in February were significantly delayed due to the change in submission policy.

IX. Public Comment

No public comment.

X. Motion to Adjourn

**Mr. Gonzalez moved to adjourn. The meeting ended at 3:15 p.m.**

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**Chair, National Register Review Board**

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**Date**

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**State Historic Preservation Officer**

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**Date**

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