

13 *Pinellas County Historic Resources*

In 1991 and 1993, Pinellas County conducted two surveys of historic resources within unincorporated Pinellas County. These surveys resulted in the identification of 129 structures, which are listed in **Appendix F** and accompanied by a map series showing their locations. All 129 historic structures are listed in the Florida Master Site File. The current list is slightly smaller than in previous versions of the Comprehensive Plan due to municipal annexation and/or redevelopment. The types of structures identified during both surveys were consistent with the data on probable resource types and geographic distribution that was generated in the survey. The purpose of the first survey was to implement several policies contained in the 1989 adopted Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of the second survey was to determine the significance of, and recommend boundaries for, two potential historic districts, Crystal Beach and Ozona in north Pinellas County, which were identified in the first survey.

The majority of the historic structures recorded during both surveys are wood frame, single-family houses that date from the 1900 to 1930 era. These houses are primarily located in residential neighborhoods in the communities of Ozona, Palm Harbor, and Crystal Beach. The survey results suggested that many are considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as contributing structures to a potential historic district.

Of the 129 historic structures in unincorporated Pinellas County, three are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NR) and 77 are eligible for listing on the NR, all of which are located within two potential historic districts - Ozona and Crystal Beach. An additional 17 structures are considered to be of local significance, and therefore worthy of protection by the County. The remaining 32 structures are not considered significant historic resources.

SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC PROPERTIES IN THE UNINCORPORATED COUNTY

National Register Sites

Of the recorded historic properties in unincorporated Pinellas County, three are listed on the National Register of Historic Places: the Anclote Key Lighthouse, Bay Pines Veterans Administration Hospital and the Fort DeSoto Battery.

Anclote Key Lighthouse, 8Pi8566 – The Anclote Key Lighthouse is located near the southern tip of Anclote Key, approximately three miles off the coast of Tarpon Springs. The site is within the Anclote Key Preserve State Park. Officially listed April 1, 1999, the lighthouse is the most recently designated National Register site in unincorporated Pinellas County. Built in 1887, the structure was recently renovated and relit in 2003. With its light visible for many miles out to sea, it is once again an active aid to navigation.



Bay Pines Veterans Administration Hospital, 8Pi164 – The Bay Pines Veterans Administration Hospital is a historic district that contains prehistoric aboriginal sites and 14 Mediterranean Revival style hospital buildings dating from the 1930s. The district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

Fort De Soto Battery, 8Pi48 – The Fort De Soto Battery on Mullet Key was built to defend the shipping channel into Tampa Bay during the Spanish American War. The battery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

National Register Eligible Sites

William Belcher Homestead, 8Pi1782 – The William Belcher homestead was settled by Belcher in the late 1870s and the house was probably built in the early 1880s. Belcher was a prosperous farmer by community standards and served in the Florida State Legislature. The Belcher homestead is historically significant for its association with an important pioneer family of the County, and is architecturally significant for its early house and outbuildings. The property is also significant for its historic landscape architecture. For these reasons, the Belcher homestead is considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The property is currently owned by the adjoining Catholic Church, which has maintained the property.

Crystal Beach Historic District – The community of Crystal Beach, located on the Gulf of Mexico, dates from the early 20th century. A post office was established in the community on November 4, 1914. The surviving historic buildings in Crystal Beach all appear to date from the 1910 to 1930 era. The majority of the buildings are single-family houses of frame construction and are designed in the Craftsman or "Bungalow" style. Twenty historic houses were recorded in this district during both surveys.

The potential Crystal Beach historic district has a number of architecturally significant houses that were recorded in both surveys. Parts of the area have a relatively high density of historic structures while in other areas the density is much lower. For planning purposes, the area discussed above should be considered a potential historic district eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural significance.

Curlew Methodist Church and Cemetery, 8Pi1763 – The Curlew Methodist church was built in 1910 in a frame vernacular style typical of rural character throughout the South. It is the best-preserved church of this type in existence on its original site in the County. The church is in structurally sound condition and the few modern alterations are reversible. A masonry church was built to its south during the 1960s and the older church is now used for storage. The church is considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural significance. The cemetery is part of the historic setting of the church, and should be considered an integral part of the resource.



Douglas Farm, 8Pi2297 – The Douglas Farm is located on Alternate U.S. Highway 19 just north of Bee Pond Road. As stated in the 1993 survey, this complex of late 19th and early 20th century farm buildings was one of two surviving, intact historic farmsteads in the entire County. The rarity of this resource type and the historic physical integrity of the Douglas Farm's buildings make it eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1997, this 200-acre farm was approved for residential development and, as of 2007, luxury homes have been built at this farm; however, the original farmhouse is still standing. Preservation efforts should be considered for this farmhouse, or it will be demolished at the completion of the residential development.

Gandy Bridge, 8Pi122 – The Gandy Bridge was the most important historic engineering project in the history of the Tampa Bay region, and its completion in 1924 gave Pinellas County the first decent highway link to the rest of the state. The remaining features of this historic resource are definitely significant to local history for the role the bridge played in the development of the County.

Daniel McMullen Homestead, 8Pi1781 – The Daniel McMullen homestead property was settled by Daniel McMullen in about 1865.

Ozona Historic District – The unincorporated area of Ozona is a rare surviving example of a small pioneer era community. No other place in Pinellas County visually conveys the appearance of a turn of the century Florida "cracker" village as completely as the proposed Ozona historic district. This small community, located on the Gulf of Mexico, was first settled by Walton Whitehurst in the late 1870s. It had enough population to receive a post office on July 14, 1888 with the name of Yellow Bluff. On April 1, 1889, the name was changed to Ozona. Ozona contains more than 62 historic resources and the ratio of historic buildings to non-historic buildings in this area is extremely high. This gives the streetscapes of the proposed district very good visual historic integrity.

The individual buildings in this area are a good representative collection of typical pioneer era housing types. Modern alterations that have been done are generally minor and reversible. The proposed district is significant architecturally for this collection of historic frame vernacular buildings. The proposed district is also significant to the County's history as a well-preserved community from its pioneer settlement period. Because the proposed Ozona historic district is architecturally and historically significant, it is considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. One of the oldest buildings in the area is the Ozona Community Center (locally known as OVIS Hall). In 2005, by utilization of CDBG Funds, Pinellas County awarded \$120,000 to Ozona Village Improvement Society (OVIS) for restoration of the OVIS Hall, which is about 100 years old.

Palm Harbor Methodist Church, 8Pi1852 – The Palm Harbor Methodist Church is a good example of an early 20th century masonry vernacular style brick church. It has few exterior alterations and appears to be well maintained. The church is architecturally significant because very few church buildings of this age and type survive in the County. The entire block containing the church and three additional noncontributing properties were designated as part of the Downtown Palm Harbor Historic District in 1996.

Locally Significant Sites

Downtown Palm Harbor Historic District – In 1994, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) designated Downtown Palm Harbor as a historic district (see **Appendix F, Map 3** for a geographic depiction). This is the first local historic district in unincorporated Pinellas County. The contributing properties within the Downtown Palm Harbor Historic District do not fall into any specific architectural style, but are instead considered part of the “Folk” architectural tradition. The District has eight contributing properties that were built during the “Spanish American War” historic period (1890-1915) and are listed as either “Frame Vernacular” or “Masonry Vernacular” on the Florida Master Site File. The existing uses in the District include various service and retail establishments and two residential uses. The BCC also adopted specific Design Criteria for the District. The development of the Design Criteria was coordinated with members from the Palm Harbor Historical Society, the Palm Harbor Merchants Association, and property and business owners within the District.



Hills Grove, 8Pi1775 – This site contains an early 20th century citrus grove owner's house. The surrounding two acres of land contain a citrus grove that dates to the late 19th century. The house is considered historically significant for its association with an early pioneer family of the County, and is architecturally significant for its early house and associated historic grove landscape.

Judge Hartley House, 8Pi1791 – This is another early 20th century residence associated with one of the County's pioneer families. The house is constructed of rusticated cast concrete block. Its unusual architectural style and historic associations makes it a locally significant resource. The County purchased this house in 1996 and designated it as a significant local historic resource. The house is a satellite facility of the Pinellas County Heritage Village and is now the Palm Harbor Historical Museum or North County Historical Museum. This museum contains and exhibits artifacts, relics, newspaper stories, pictures, artifacts, etc. that were found in north Pinellas County communities of Palm Harbor, Ozona and Crystal Beach. The museum is managed and operated by a group of volunteers who are members of the Palm Harbor Historical Society, a not-for-profit organization.



Burt Sutton House, 8Pi1788 – The Sutton House is the early 20th century residence of one of the area's oldest pioneer families. The Suttons have occupied this property since the 1850s. The house and property are considered locally significant because of their association with an early pioneer family.

Sylvan Abbey Cemetery, 8Pi141 – Sylvan Abbey Cemetery is a pioneer era cemetery with burials dating from the 1850s. It is now surrounded by a large modern cemetery and the historic section is beautifully maintained by the property owners. The cemetery is considered a locally significant resource because of its association with some of the area's earliest pioneers. It is not considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, however, because cemeteries are generally excluded from listing by the criteria set forth in the National Register.

Wall Springs Public School, 8Pi2298 and a House, 8Pi2306 – The Wall Springs Public School is a one-story brick building built in 1915. The residence at 1700-1710 Alt. U.S. Highway 19 in Palm Harbor is a good, relatively unaltered example of a circa 1910 single-family residence. Both of these structures are considered locally significant. The Wall Springs School would have been eligible for listing in the National Register if it had not been radically altered into a restaurant in the 1980s. The school is significant as an early surviving public school building in the County and a vestige of the community of Wall Springs.

In 1995, the City of Clearwater conducted a survey of its Historic structures in the unincorporated section of the Bayview Area. Nine historic structures were identified, two of which were located in unincorporated Pinellas County.



Palm Harbor Methodist Church



Palm Harbor Historic District