## City of New Smyrna Beach

Planning & Engineering Department



### Request for Vote to Establish a Local Historic District Designation

Your property is currently located in the New Smyrna Beach National Historic District. This district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places with the Department of the Interior. The National Historic District helps bring awareness to the history of structures that are in the City of New Smyrna Beach mainland area.

<u>The City is now seeking your vote to also establish a Local Historic District</u>, covering the same area as the existing National Historic District. In order to establish a Local Historic District, it must have support from two-thirds of the property owners, therefore it is important that all property owners complete and return this ballot. Local Historic Districts provide benefits to property owners that are not available through the National Historic District designation, including:

- Long-term preservation of neighborhood character and charm
- Maintaining consistency of building form and aesthetics
- Encouraging a sense of neighborhood pride and identity
- Better protection of owner investment
- Potential for greater property value appreciation
- Neighborhood stabilization

Please check one of the following:

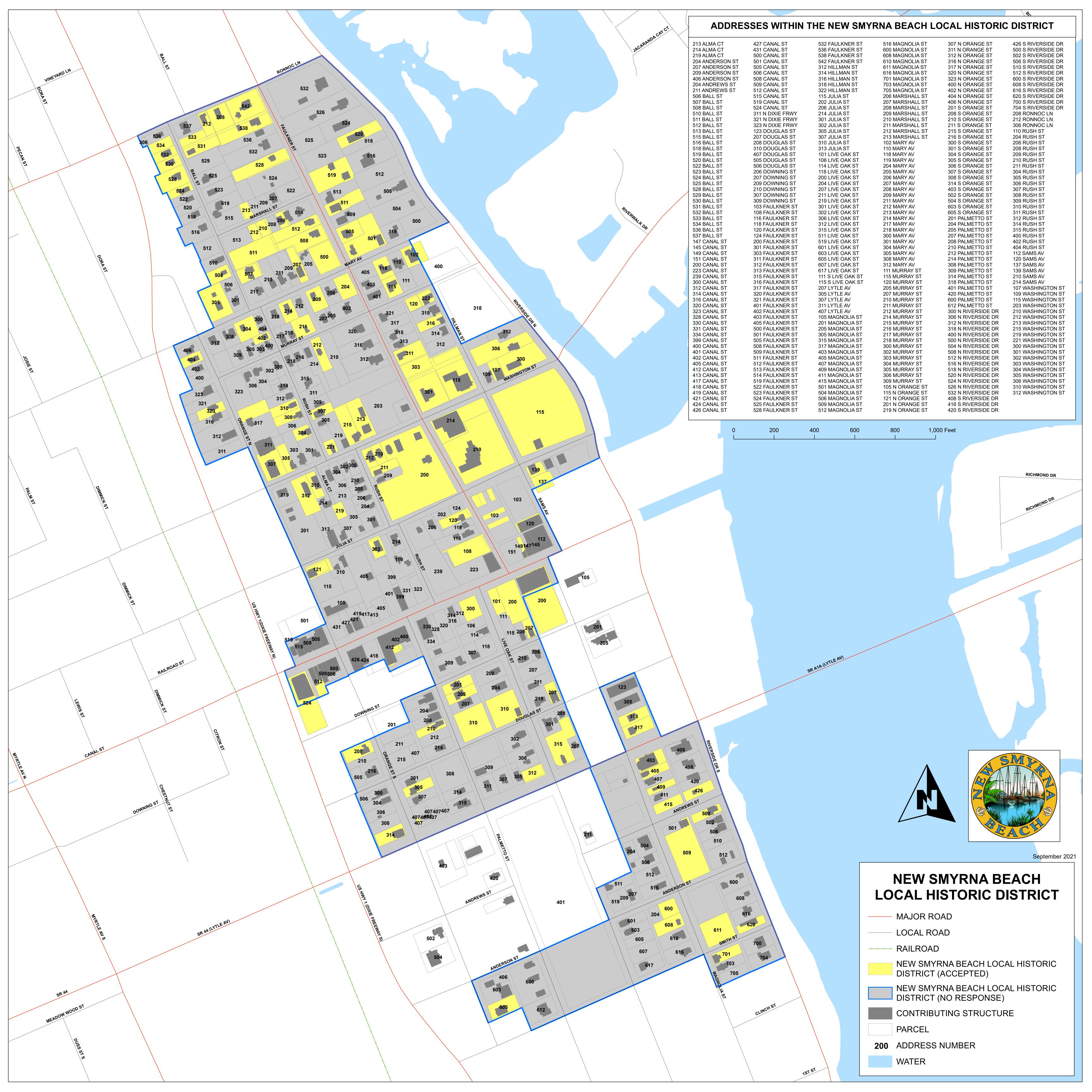
Enhancement of business recruitment

| I am in favor of creating a Local Historic District     |
|---|
| I am NOT in favor of creating a Local Historic District |
| Property Address:                                       |
| Property Owner Name:                                    |
| Property Owner Signature:                               |

Please return your signed ballot in the enclosed pre-stamped envelope, or you can e-mail it to our office at <u>planning@cityofnsb.com</u>. You may also drop it off at 214 Sams Avenue, Attn: Planning Department.

Should you have further questions or if you require additional information, please feel free to contact me at 386-410-2833 or via email (Rmathen@cityofnsb.com).

Robert Mathen Senior Planner, Historic Preservation Officer



## Frequently Asked Questions

# How will I know if my property is being considered for listing in a Local Historic District?

When local historic districts are being considered, the submitting of a nomination is discussed at a series of public meetings. This keeps property owners informed and gives them a chance to find out what the listing will and will not mean to them. The Historic New Smyrna Beach Preservation Commission, at a public hearing, will review an application to create a local historic district a recommendation to City the Commission. The general public will have an opportunity to asked questions and give any input during this public hearing. Then the City Commission will review the application for a local historic district at a public hearing. The general public will also have an oppuntunity to speak, give input, and ask questions during this public hearing.

# Can my property be listed in a local historic district against my will?

When districts are nominated, 2/3 of the affected property owners must give their support before Staff will submit an application for review.

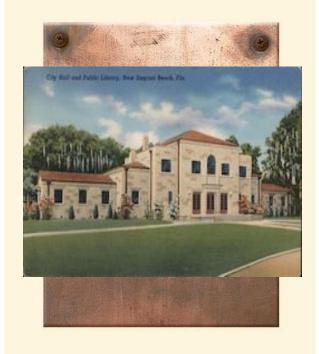
## **Procedures**

#### Steps

- City to hold public meetings to determine the level of interest from residents in creating the New Smyrna Beach Local Historic District.
- If the residents' consensus is to move forward with the proposed local district, City staff will prepare the final map to be reviewed by the Historic New Smyrna Beach Preservation Commission.
- If the Historic New Smyrna Beach
  Preservation Commission gives a positive
  recommendation of approval, then Staff will
  prepare and ordinance to be reviewed
  by the City Commission.
- At a time in the future, Staff will review
  possible new grant programs for properties
  located in this proposed local historic
  district. The City Commission would have to
  approve any funding for a future grant
  program and Staff cannot guarantee any
  possibility of a future grant program.

# CITY OF NEW SMYRNA BEACH 210 Sams Avenue New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168 ph 386.410.2835 | fax 386.410.2804 | cityofnsb.com

# Proposed New Smyrna Beach Local Historic District





## Existing New Smyrna Beach National Historic District

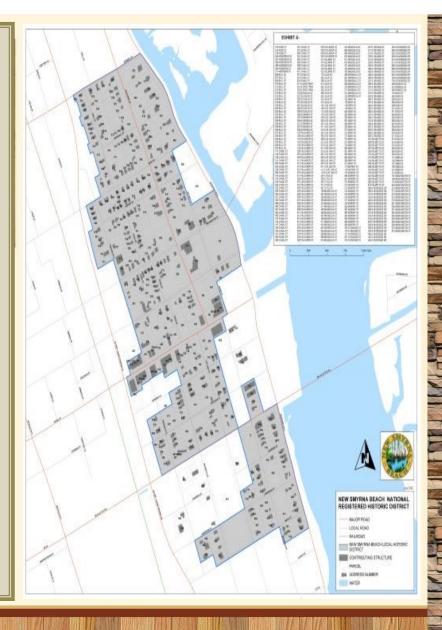
The existing New Smyrna Beach National Registered Historic District was created in 1990.

### Proposed New Smyrna Beach Local Historic District

The proposed New Smyrna Beach Local Historic District would include the same area that is currently in the National Registered New Smyrna Beach Historic District.

Local Historic Districts provide benefits to property owners that are not available through the National Historic District designation, including:

- Long-term preservation of neighborhood character and charm
- Maintaining consistency of building form and aesthetics
- Encouraging a sense of neighborhood pride and identity
- Better protection of owner investment
- Potential for greater property value appreciation
- Neighborhoodstabilization
- Enhancement of business recruitment
- Save the Charm



## For Additional Information Contact:

Robert Mathen Historic Preservation Officer City of New Smyrna Beach 214 Sams Avenue New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168 Rmathen@cityofnsb.com 386-410-2835

#### Resources:

- National Park Service: http://www.nps.gov/nr/
- Florida Department of State Division of Historic Resources: http://www.flheritage.com/news/faq

## Frequently Asked Questions

# What is the National Register of Historic Places?

The National Park Service administers the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the official Federal list of districts. sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architectural. archaeology, engineering, and culture. National Register properties significance to the history of their community, state or the nation.

# What are the restrictions, rules, regulations for Historic District property owners?

From the Federal perspective, property owners can do whatever they want with their property, other than a demolition of a Contributing structure, as long as there are no Federal dollars attached to the property.

From the local perspective, the only regulation would be with regard to exterior remodeling or demolishing to a contributing structure in the Local Historic District. Exterior remodeling or demolition requests are reviewed by Staff or the Historic New Smyrna Beach Preservation Commission (HPC). The application fees for Staff review or HPC review of an exterior remodel is at no cost and a proposed demolition application fee is \$750.00.

The Historic New Smyrna Beach Preservation Commission and the City of New Smyrna Beach are making this information available to you, in order to inform you about a valuable opportunity to provide lasting protection for the character and quality of your neighborhood.

One of the major complaints of homeowners in historic neighborhoods is that the character and quality of their neighborhoods, and their property values, are being negatively affected by the demolition of nearby historic homes, and the construction of buildings that are out of character with the rest of the neighborhood. A solution to this problem is to have your neighborhood designated as a local New Smyrna Beach Historic District. This designation will prevent the indiscriminate demolition of historic homes in your neighborhood, and will insure that new development is compatible with the existing character of the neighborhood.

According to the City of New Smyrna Beach Historic Preservation Ordinance (50-7), a Historic District is a geographically definable area possessing a significant concentration or continuity of sites, buildings, objects, or structures united in past events, or aesthetically, by plan or physical development; or its character is an established and geographically definable neighborhood, united in culture, architectural style, or physical plan and development.

Having your neighborhood designated as a Local Historic District has many important benefits for you as a homeowner, your neighborhood, and your community as a whole:

#### **Benefits of Historic District Designation**

- Preserves and enhances neighborhood character.
- Protects property investments and values.
- Promotes restoration and revitalization.
- Encourages pride of ownership.
- Attracts homeowners who appreciate historic neighborhoods.
- Ad Valorem property tax exemptions are available restoration projects that meet certain conditions.
- Discourages the demolition of contributing structures.
- Increases neighborhood visibility with City officials.

- Promotes and preserves our cultural and architectural heritage.
- Preserves and protects an important piece of New Smyrna Beaches' history.
- Provides a unique sense of community pride.
- Promotes awareness of neighborhood values.
- Provides guidelines for compatible new construction.
- Improves the overall quality of life in the neighborhood.

Sometimes people living in historic neighborhoods disagree with the idea of Historic District designation. This disagreement usually occurs because they do not understand what it means to have their neighborhood designated as a Historic District, or they believe that the use of their property will be restricted. The following is a list of myths associated with Historic District designation, and the actual realities:

#### The Myths and Realities about Historic District Designation

• "It will increase my taxes..."

Historic District designation is not a factor in property appraisals or tax rates. In fact, there is an Ad Valorem property tax exemption available for restoration projects meeting certain conditions.

"They will tell me how to use my land and property..."

Historic District designation does not restrict land use.

• "It will adversely affect the value of my property when I decide to sell it..."

Experience has shown that many buyers are attracted to properties in recognized Historic Districts, and are often willing to pay more for the property.

They won't let me repair, change, or add on to my house..."

Homeowners wishing to undertake exterior alterations, new construction, demolitions, or relocations of buildings in the Historic District are required to obtain a certificate of appropriateness. The goal of Staff and the Historic New Smyrna Beach Historic Commission, (HPC), is not to prevent homeowners from making changes to their home, but to insure that

those changes are compatible with the character of the surrounding neighborhood. This review process will ultimately preserve and protect the quality of your neighborhood.

## • "They will tell me what color to paint the inside of my house, or how to remodel my bathroom, kitchen, etc. . . ."

Interior alterations to a home are not regulated by the HPC.

#### • "I will have to open my home for tours..."

No. There are no requirements for home tours or public access to your home or property.

#### • "They will make me put a historical plaque on my porch..."

No. This is entirely at homeowner option and expense.

#### • "It will violate my personal property rights..."

This is not a case of the government telling you what to do with your property, but a way to maintain and enhance your neighborhood and community. It will actually preserve and maintain your property rights by preserving the quality and character of the neighborhood around your property.

### Home Insurance and the National Register of Historic Places

The topic of insurance agencies being reluctant or unwilling to underwrite policies for historic properties is one of growing concern within the preservation field. Largely this is due to the misconceptions that continue with regard to historic properties and federal landmark designation programs.

Under federal law listing in the National Register of Historic Places results in no restrictions on the use, management, maintenance, or disposal of a historic property. Owners of private property are free to manage their property as they see fit. Damaged or destroyed properties are under no requirement to rebuild or repair as originally designed. National Register designation is largely honorary in nature and provides certain economic benefits to owners, but places no requirements on the use of the property. Insurance claims should follow the normal course as with any other property, unless the owner specifically purchases a replacement policy for exact replication (e.g. historic house museums).

Even if listed in the National Register, a historic property could still be demolished by the owners as long as no Federal funds, permits, or licenses were involved in the process, and no state or local ordinances were in effect that might restrict the property. Local ordinances may place certain restrictions on the owner that are separate from the National Register program.

An owner does not have to rebuild their National Register listed property according to any specific federal standards or guidelines, so insurance coverage should be similar to that for a non-historic building. We have found, however, that some insurance companies and their underwriters are hesitant to insure designated buildings, usually because they fail to understand the facts about listing. In most cases there are usually other firms available more than willing to provide insurance.

One approach to take with the reluctant insurance companies is to request where in the company's policy it specifically says "we do not insure National Register listed properties." We have yet to see anything actually in print that says this. You might also call your state's insurance commissioner's office and speak with the homeowner's analyst about whether insurance companies can refuse to underwrite houses that are listed in the National Register. Referring insurance companies to a regulatory agency sometimes works. It is helpful to ask if there is a policy or position paper regarding insuring listed properties in your state.

#### To be clear:

The National Register does not require that exact replicas of listed properties be constructed if the original is destroyed.

The National Register does not require that the same or very similar materials be used for repairs or replacement of all or part of a damaged building and,

The National Register does not require that any specific guidelines be followed in the rehabilitation of properties whose owners do not participate in federal programs.

The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers addresses this issue on their website at <a href="http://www.ncshpo.org/current/bestpractices/insurance.htm">http://www.ncshpo.org/current/bestpractices/insurance.htm</a>

# **Proposed New Smyrna Beach Local Historic District**



Neighborhood Meeting: Saturday, November 6 at 9:00AM Live Oak Cultural Center (1000 Live Oak Street)

## **CITY OF NEW SMYRNA BEACH**



November 6, 2021

## **Procedures**

- Hold neighborhood meeting
- Obtain resident consensus
- Get recommendation from HPC
- Draft ordinance for City Commission



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

- Can my property be listed against my will
- How does this affect my property
- What benefits do I get with association of a Local Historic District

## **Turnbull Settlement**

• 1768 - 1777

#### **State of Florida Grants**

 Apply for Grant funding for State Master Site File

## **New Smyrna Beach Historic District**

 The New Smyrna Beach Historic District was registered on April 26, 1990

## **Coronado Historic District**

• The Coronado Historic District was registered on February 21, 1997

## **Turnbull Canal System**

 The Turnbull Canal System was registered on August 24, 2007 2 Procedures

- Hold neighborhood meeting
- Obtain resident consensus
- Submit application to the Historic New Smyrna Beach Preservation Commission for a Recommendation
- Draft ordinance for City Commission

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

Can my property be listed against my will?

The City of New Smyrna Beach requires 2/3 or more of non objections from property owners before the City Commission will review a proposed local historic district.

How will I know if my property is being listed on The National Register?

Currently shaded structures on the district map, in the existing National Registered New Smyrna Beach Historic District, are already listed as a contributing structure with the National Register. That would not change.

How does this affect my property?

A historic district helps protect the architecture feature of the neighborhood.

- What benefits do I get as part of a local historic district?
  - Long-term preservation of neighborhood character and charm
  - Maintaining consistency of building form and aesthetics
  - Encouraging a sense of neighborhood pride and identity
  - Better protection of owner investment
  - o Potential for greater property value appreciation
  - Neighborhood stabilization

# **City Grant Programs**

• Currently the City does have a grant program for contributing structures in the Existing National Registered Coronado Historic District.

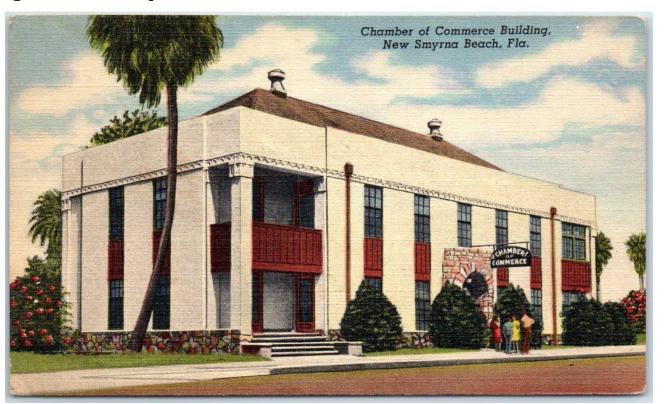
The grant program currently is a last effort to keep condemned buildings from demolition. The current qualifications include an income requirement and a maximum grant amount that equals the cost of demolition.

• The City also offers a property tax exemption for proposed properties that are contributing structures in one of the two national registered historic districts. The owners of qualifying properties who have met all requirements outlined in this chapter shall receive an exemption of 100 percent of the increase in assessed value of ad valorem taxes levied by the City of New Smyrna Beach which result from the restoration, renovation or rehabilitation of such buildings or structure for the duration of the exemption period. The amount of exemption shall be determined by the property appraiser for the County of Volusia based on the typical post-construction inspection and appraisal. The historic preservation property tax exemption for a specific property shall be granted, upon review and consideration, by resolution of the city commission.

# National Register of Historic Places

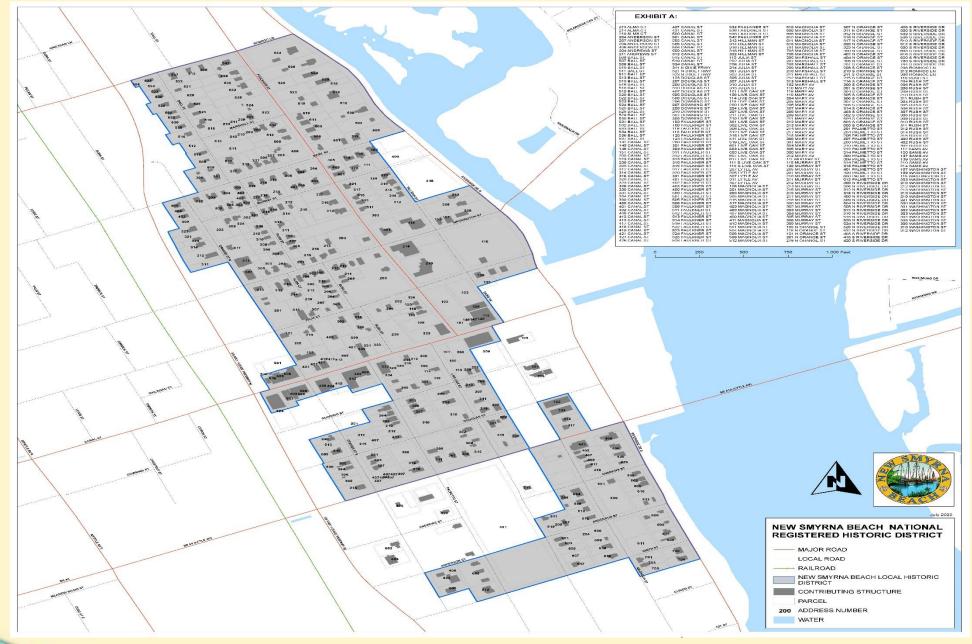
• The New Smyrna Beach Historic District was registered On April 19, 1990

- The Coronado Historic District was registered on February 21, 1997
- The Turnbull Canal System was registered on August 24, 2007

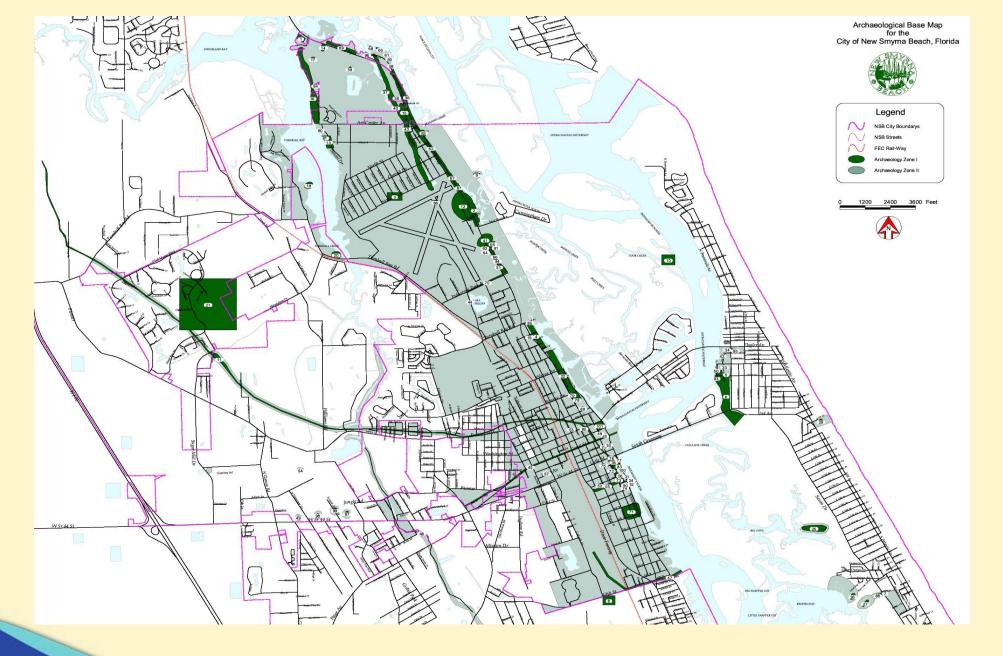


## **Turnbull Settlement**

• Colonists brought to this area by Dr. Andrew Turnbull, a Scottish physician, in 1768 as part of the largest single attempt at British colonization in Florida. With approximately 1500 Minorcans, Greeks, French, Corsican, Turkish, and Italians, sought new opportunities as indentured servants. After four months at sea, scurvy and infections took the lives of some of the colonist and when the ships reached New Smyrna the number of colonist was reduced to 1255. After nine years of harsh treatment, drought, and crop failures, the population was reduced to 600 people, most of who were struggling and unhappy. In 1777, a group of colonists petitioned the English Governor of St. Augustine for release from their indentured status. The Governor granted land north of St. Augustine to these colonists; many Smyrna descendants still live in that city.



National Registered New Smyrna Beach Historic District



# Success stories in the Historic Districts





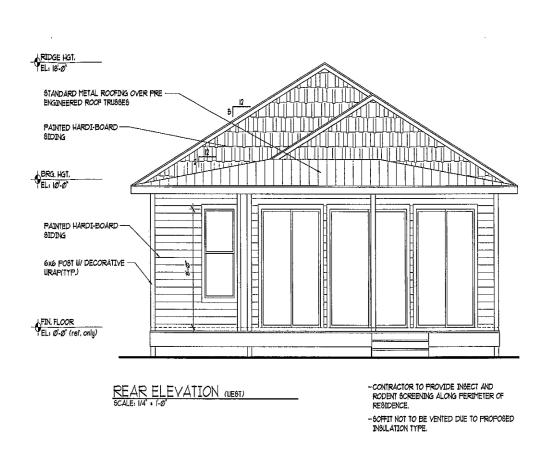












# **Multi-Family Structure**





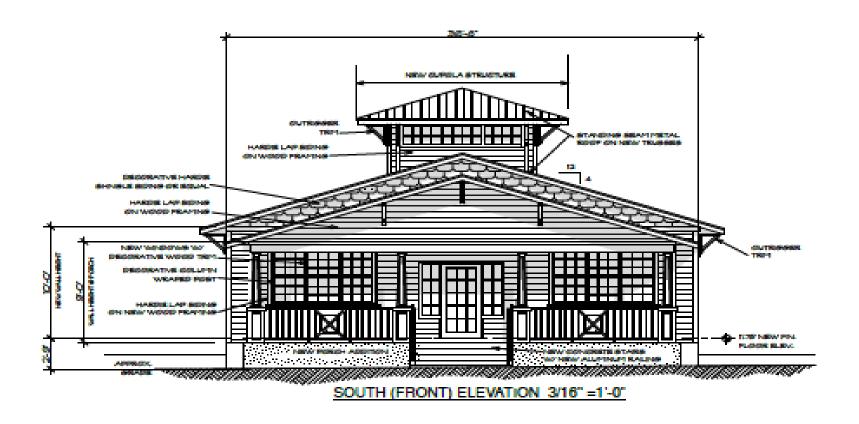
# **Commercial Structure**





## **Commercial Structure**

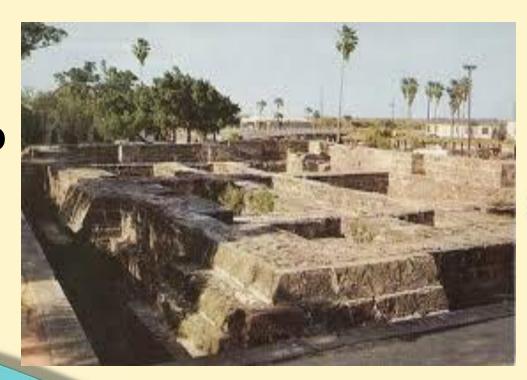




17

# **Proposed New Smyrna Beach Local Historic District**

Questions?



**CITY OF NEW SMYRNA BEACH** 



November 6, 2021