

MASTER PLAN

Historic Highway 90 Corridor Jackson County, Florida

**Jackson County Tourist Development Council
4318 Lafayette Street
Marianna, Florida 32446**

2015

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I. Introduction

The Historic Highway 90 Corridor through Jackson County, Florida, is of particular significance because the county represented the western end of the original Florida Mission Chain and the original Old Spanish Trail. It was the final segment to be completed in the Old Spanish Trail national highway project of the 1920s.

The completion of the Master Plan for the Washington County segment of the corridor and the decisions by Gadsden, Holmes and Walton Counties to join the effort are of great significance to Jackson County. The county will become a key segment of a continuous corridor that stretches from the outskirts of Tallahassee on the east to Walton County on the west. This collaboration will allow for the creation of a unified interpretive and marketing plan for the first five counties of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor in Florida.

It also bears mention that the comments and ideas of the stakeholders that assembled in Marianna on January 15, 2015, were remarkably consistent with those provided by stakeholders in neighboring Washington County, so much so that common themes for the Historic Highway 90 Corridor quickly became apparent.

The key recommendations of the Jackson County stakeholders were as follows:

- Promotion, interpretation and development of historic sites and eco-tourism attractions.
- Promotion of the Chipola, Chattahoochee and Apalachicola Rivers as key ecological resources.
- Development of a guide promoting heritage-related sites, businesses and events along the corridor.
- Development of a program of hospitality training for local restaurant, hotel and retail employees.
- Enhancing the experience for bicycle riders that pass along Historic Highway 90. It is one of the major cross-country routes for cross-country bike rides.
- Promotion of the county's springs and paddling trails.
- Creation of side loops from the main corridor that will encourage visitors to remain in the county longer and allow them to experience such noteworthy points of interest as Lake Seminole, the Jackson County Spanish Heritage Trail, Ocheesee Pond, Blue Springs, the antebellum community

of Greenwood, Heritage Village at Baptist College of Florida in Graceville, historic and haunted Bellamy Bridge and, of course, the unique little crossroads of Two Egg, Florida.

- Creation of literature providing maps and other information on the points of interest in Jackson County.

II. Historical Background

The dream of a paved highway that would link St. Augustine, Florida, to San Diego, California, began with a meeting at the historic Battle House hotel in Mobile, Alabama, on October 27, 1915. Henry Ford had rolled his first Model T off the assembly line in Detroit just seven years earlier and the automobile was transitioning from a novelty toy of the rich to a product that every American could aspire to own.

With the development of the car came expanded dreams of travel. Tourism by automobile ignited a fire that spread across the continent and the attendees at the Mobile meeting of 1915 sought to capitalize on that fire by proposing the development of a “motor trail” that would stretch from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific. To be called the “Old Spanish Trail” in recognition of the shared Spanish heritage of Florida, Texas and California, the road would eventually become Historic Highway 90. Until the completion of Interstate 10 in 1990, it was the southernmost transcontinental highway in the United States.

Although the road crossed or followed portions of the routes of the original “Old Spanish Trails” that led through Florida, it was a new highway built to provide improved travel conditions. It commemorates the earlier roadways, but does not always follow them. In Jackson County, however, the 20th century highway does intersect with the original Old Spanish Trail in multiple places. The section of U.S. 90 just east of Sneads follows the original Old Spanish Trail for a short distance and provides easy access to the preserved site of Mission San Carlos, one of the westernmost Spanish missions established in Florida. The modern highway crosses the original Spanish trail again at Cottondale in western Jackson County.

Jackson County was involved in the development of Historic Highway 90 from the date of its inception. Delegates from Marianna were among the 419 enthusiasts that gathered for the 1915 meeting to discuss their mutual dream of a highway that would stretch from coast to coast. The meeting ended with a decision to push forward in advocating an improved road that would initially extend from Florida to Texas. Although the promoters hoped that the road would eventually extend to California, Historic Highway 90 still ends today in Van Horn, Texas. U.S. 80 continues from that point to the Pacific Ocean.

The official dedication of the project came just one month after the Mobile meeting on January 21, 1916:

Fourteen thousand happy school children of the gulf coast of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, inspired by the glories of as perfect a day as the sunniest region of Sunny California ever produce, on January 21, midwinter everywhere but on the sunkissed coast, with flowers, and trees and

song, became the first children founders of a National Highway in America, when they gathered at the same hour of the afternoon in every city and hamlet from New Orleans to Tampa, Fla., and placed the sanction of childhood endeavor upon the Old Spanish Trail. Reports received at headquarters of the association in Mobile, show that through the state of Florida half holidays were observed in all of the cities.

Marianna took part in that inaugural celebration. Children sang there, as they did in communities all along the route, while dedication ceremonies took part throughout Northwest Florida. Over the decade that followed, Florida invested heavily in its section of the “Old Spanish Trail” and by 1929 the highway was a reality.

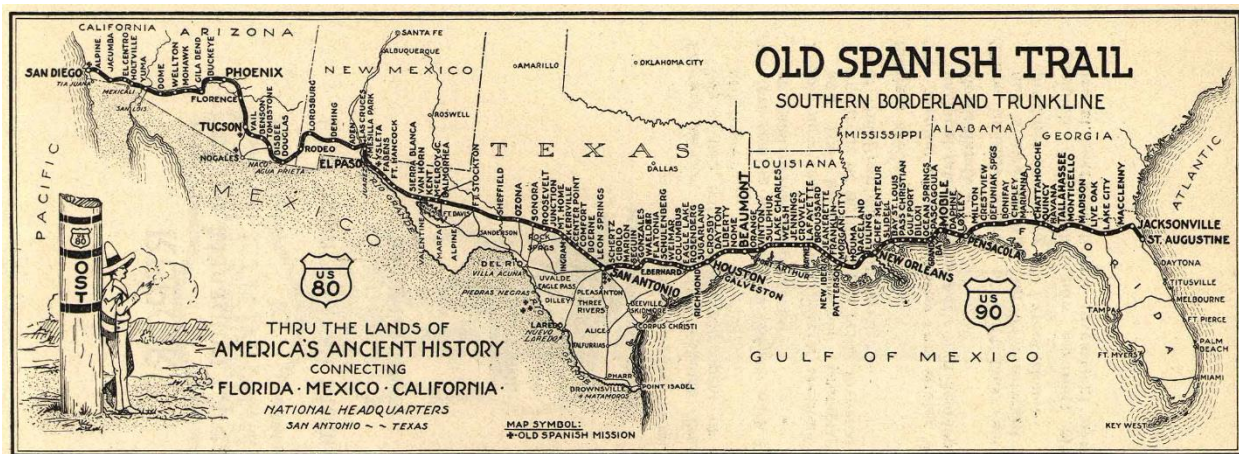


Figure 1. 1920s promotional map of the Old Spanish Trail National Highway.

Jackson County was unique in that it had already initiated a major road-building project by the time the Old Spanish Trail national highway initiative was launched in 1915. The City of Marianna had paved its main street prior to the final route decision for the highway and county workers and contractors were busy building improved roads connecting all key points of the county. This work was funded by major bond issues approved by the Board of County Commissioners shortly after the turn of the century. Parts of the present-day Highway 90 route had been built during the Reconstruction era. Unlike counties to the west, which chose a route generally following the L&N (today's CSX) railroad, Jackson County had already built a new road from Marianna to the Apalachicola River in the 1870s and 1880s that followed the

Western Union telegraph lines. This new road was more direct than the previous route, which followed a longer and more circuitous path along the 17th century Old Spanish Trail.

The biggest two issues for Jackson County in building its section of the new national highway that would become U.S. 90 involved the construction of bridges over the Chipola and Apalachicola Rivers. At Marianna, Lafayette Street was extended from Courthouse Square directly down to the Chipola River, eliminating the previous street configuration that ran around the square and then down Jackson Street. The new bridge was built alongside the old one.

At the Apalachicola River, the task was much bigger. Not only was it necessary to bridge one of Florida's largest rivers, but a massive floodplain swamp characterizes the Jackson County side of the river for more than one mile back from its banks. A state road camp was established near Sneads and inmate labor was used to clear a path through this vast swamp. Both male and female inmates worked to cut massive cypress and tupelo trees out of the right-of-way, often while standing waist deep in swamp water.

The clearing of the right-of-way, however, allowed construction crews to make much faster progress when they arrived to begin work on the remarkable 5,500 foot concrete bridge. Completed in 1925 at a cost of \$713,647, the span was named the "Victory Bridge" in honor of America's military forces and the role they played in winning World War I.¹

A section of the historic bridge still stands on the Jackson County shore of the Apalachicola River. It is a remarkable landmark to human endurance and industry when back-breaking human labor often carried out tasks that are performed with machines today.

Tourists and automobiles were already traveling the Old Spanish Trail highway by the time Victory Bridge was completed. H.B. Airs, the managing director of the Old Spanish Trail Commission, crossed the river on a ferry and made the drive from Tallahassee to Pensacola in 1922. He told the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* that thousands of people were already using the Florida sections of the highway:

*...Mr. Ayres covered 500 miles discomfort or car trouble, except one puncture from a nail on a paved street in Marianna. The return from the Apalachicola river, 232 miles, was made in an average running time of twenty-four miles per hour, with the driver allowed to follow his own wish for there was no pressure of time anywhere on the return.*²

Ayres reported seeing tourists traveling all along the new still largely unpaved highway, even though most of the Northwest Florida counties had been holding back on promoting the route due to continuing construction. Every crossing between Pensacola and the Apalachicola River could be crossed on some sort of bridge except for the Choctawhatchee River and Escambia Bay. Ferries still carried motorists across at those locations, although bridge construction was pushing forward in each place.

All of the Old Spanish Trail national highway was considered passable by 1929 and it was declared to be open.

Jackson County is unique in that a long section of the original 1920s national highway still survives. Never paved, the named “Old Spanish Trail” runs parallel to today’s U.S. 90 and just south of it. A graded road that passes through beautiful scenery including sections of canopy oaks, it is in almost its original condition. The highway that became U.S. 90 was not paved when first completed. Paving came later and the route was further refined at that time to reduce mileage and expense. The main highway was shifted slightly to the north, leaving the Old Spanish Trail of the 1920s still intact. Jackson County continues to maintain the graded road, just as it has done since its completion.

Historic Highway 90 through Jackson County remains an importance transportation route for tourists, commerce and industry. Much traffic was diverted by the completion of Interstate 10 but sections of U.S. 90 in Jackson County continue to see considerable traffic. There is a substantial cluster of hotels and restaurants at the State Road 71 exit off Interstate 10 that could be used as a central point for overnight stays and multi-day explorations of the corridor.

With such attractions as Florida Caverns State Park, Lake Seminole, the pristine Chipola River, Blue Springs, Bellamy Bridge Heritage Trail, the Marianna Battlefield and the Marianna National Historic District, there is great potential for drawing tourist traffic off Interstate 10 and back to Historic Highway 90. Marketing and the implementation of visitor friendly stops and information stations will be key.

¹ Biloxi *Daily Herald*, May 19, 1926, Page 4.

² New Orleans *Times-Picayune*, May 7, 1922, Page 7.

III. Vision Statement

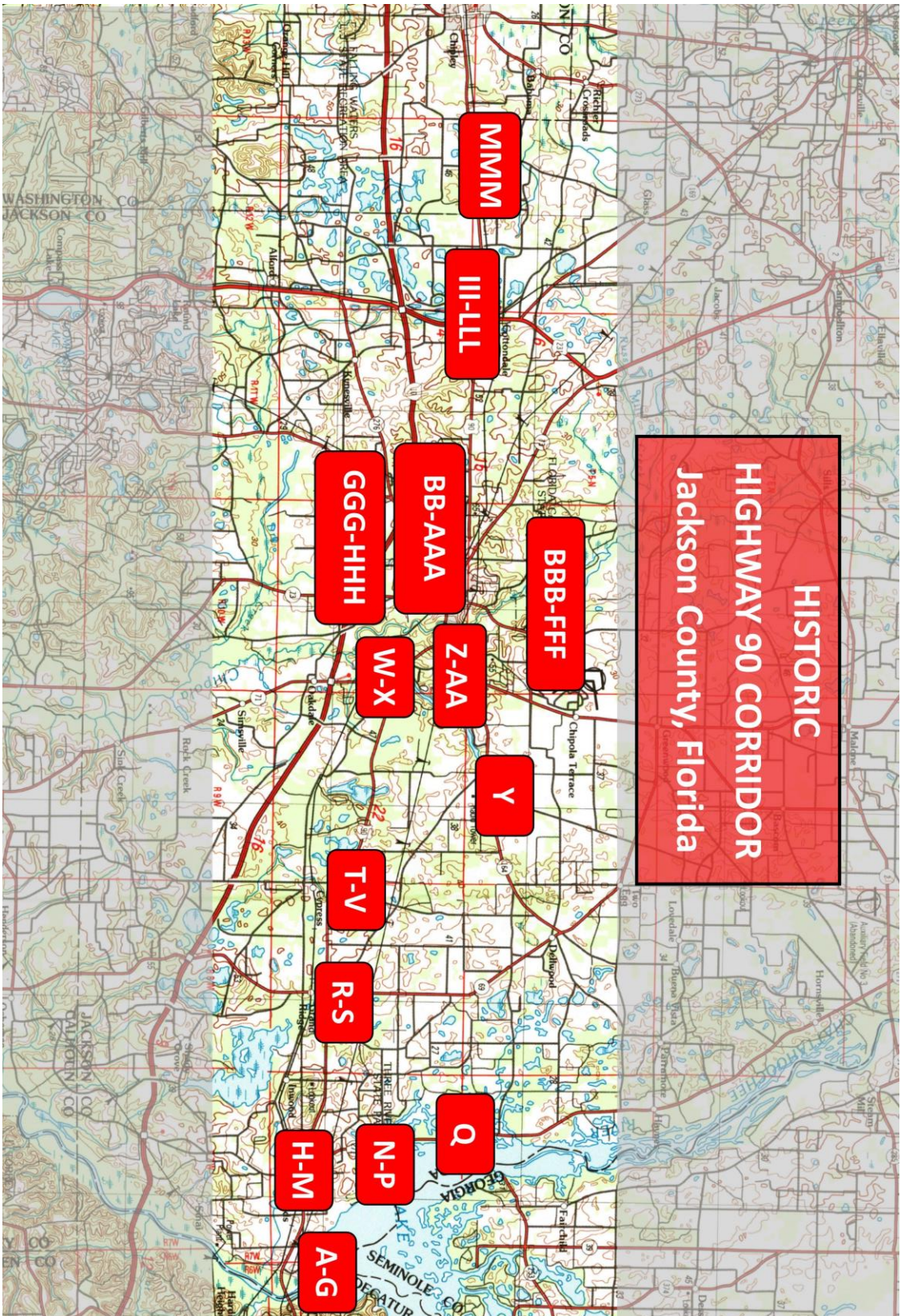
The long and short Vision Statements for the Historic Highway 90 Corridor were developed in consultation with stakeholders in both Washington and Jackson Counties. It is recommended that these statements be adopted in common by all five counties in the corridor:

(Short)

An unforgettable drive through history, nature and culture.

(Long)

The Historic Highway 90 Corridor will be an unforgettable drive through the unique history, natural wonders and remarkable culture of Washington, Jackson, Gadsden, Holmes and Walton Counties. Expansion of interpretive opportunities and the use of modern technology to help visitors locate and learn about points of interest will make the corridor one of the most unique in the nation.



IV. Jackson County Segment

The Jackson County segment of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor stretches from the Apalachicola River on the east to the Washington County line on the west. The total length of this segment is approximately - miles long. Incorporated communities along the corridor include Sneads, Grand Ridge, Marianna and Cottondale. The community of Cypress was once a town as well, but its citizens voted to unincorporate.

Historic Highway 90 extends roughly east to west through Jackson County and is known as Lafayette Street in Marianna, where it forms the main street of the city. Originally called Fayette Street, the section of the highway from Madison Street west to Caledonia Street was built at the time of the founding of Marianna in 1827. Lafayette Street through downtown Marianna is the second oldest section of the highway in Jackson County and was the first part to be paved.

As was determined through the preparation of the Historic Resources Inventory included in the Appendices of this volume, the Jackson County segment of the corridor is extremely rich in historic sites, historic structures and other points of interest. These sites include prehistoric American Indian sites, the Spanish mission of San Carlos, sections of the 17th century Old Spanish Trail, the scene of the Battle of Marianna, caves, springs, antebellum and Victorian homes, the ghost town of Aycock, the Marianna Main Street District and much more. The following planning items will help develop this segment into a major heritage attraction with excellent potential for encouraging both planned visits by vacation travelers and shorter departures from Interstate 10 by tourists:

1. Highway Signage

The placement of suitable and attractive highway signage will be a vital part of identifying the Historic Highway 90 Corridor for visitors and will require a cooperative effort involving Sneads, Grand Ridge, Marianna, Cottondale, Jackson County and the Florida Department of Transportation. Placement of signage as follows is recommended:

- A. Large highway signs welcoming visitors to the Jackson County segment of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor should be placed on U.S. 90 east as near as practicable to the Apalachicola River bridge and on U.S. 90 west at the Washington County line. Large highway signs should also be placed at or near the point where State Roads 69,

71, 73 and U.S. 231 enter the corridor from the north and south, as well as at the Sneads, Grand Ridge, Marianna and Cottondale exits of Interstate 10. It is recommended that these signs be based on the large informational signage utilized along such scenic highways as the Natchez Trace and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

- B. Smaller signs designating U.S. 90 as the “Historic Highway 90 Corridor” should be placed at intervals along the highway. It is recommended that these signs be placed at least every two miles along the corridor. These signs should be designed along a pattern similar to the “DeSoto Trail” signs utilized in Florida.
- C. Additional signage is needed along U.S. 90 directing travelers to key points of interest, including the Russ House & Visitor Center and the interpretative stations to be placed as part of this project.
- D. The Jackson County Tourist Development Council should consider placement of a digital billboard along Historic Highway 90 or off the Interstate 10 exit at State Road 71 in Marianna to promote upcoming events of interest to travelers and to provide other tourism information.

2. Interpretive Signage & Recommendations

This study identified 78 key historical and ecological points of interest along the Jackson County segment of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor. Included among these are two state parks and one National Historic District. To fully develop the tourist potential of the corridor, additional interpretation is necessary to improve the experience of traveling Historic Highway 90 for visitors. From the total of 78 points of interest, 30 were identified as key resources to be included in this plan.

A. Apalachicola River

This historic waterway is created by the confluence of the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers roughly one mile north of this point and flows south to Apalachicola Bay on the Florida Gulf Coast. It has been used as a route of transportation for thousands of years. Prehistoric American Indians paddled the river in dugout canoes, using it as a trade route that connected the Gulf of Mexico with the mountains of North Georgia. It later served as the dividing line between the Spanish colonies of East and West Florida. Scores of paddlewheel riverboats traveled the Apalachicola during the 19th

and early 20th centuries, carrying cargoes of cotton, timber, sugar, rosin, catfish and other commodities down to the important port city of Apalachicola, Florida. The Apalachicola River has been called one of six major bio-diversity hot spots in the United States. It flows 106 miles from the Jim Woodruff Dam to the Gulf. It drains a basin of around 2,600 square miles and slowly falls about 40 feet between this point and Apalachicola Bay. A critical migratory bird route, the river supplies fresh water for the vital Apalachicola Bay oyster industry which produces 90% of the oysters harvested in Florida. Among the rare plant species growing along its banks are the Florida Torreya and Florida yew. The rare Gulf sturgeon and Apalachicola dusky salamander are found here. The Apalachicola River Blueway is a spectacular paddling and boat trail. It was named a National Scenic Trail by the National Park Service in 2014.

Recommendation: It is essential that Jackson County develop public access to the Apalachicola River. At this time the county has no access to a major water resource that has been designated both a major Blueway and a National Scenic Trail. The land immediately north of the U.S. 90 bridge is owned by the U.S. Government and the land immediately south of the U.S. 90 bridge is owned by the Florida Department of Corrections. Cooperation with these agencies to create a parking area and at minimum a canoe launch is vital. This area could also feature a short nature trail through the floodplain swamp and an informational kiosk to inform visitors about the river itself, the adjacent floodplain and the Jim Woodruff Lock and Dam.

B. Barbara Hunt (8JA1764)

The Barbara Hunt was the last original commercial paddlewheel steamboat to operate on the Apalachicola River. Built at Osage City, Missouri, in 1929, she had length of 100 feet and width of 22 feet with a depth of 4 feet. The sternwheeler operated from St. Louis, Missouri, in 1929-1938. At the end of her run in Missouri, she was sold to the Columbus Towing Company which planned to operate her as a commercial riverboat on the Apalachicola/Chattahoochee/Flint River System. She made at least one run up the Apalachicola and Chattahoochee Rivers from Apalachicola, Florida, to Columbus, Georgia, carrying both cargo and passengers. The venture did not prove profitable, however, and prior to 1940 she was abandoned on the Jackson County shore of the Apalachicola River

immediately below Victory Bridge. The boat sank on June 12, 1940. No effort was made to raise her. The upper decks of the vessel deteriorated, but her hull and parts of her main deck remain intact and are visible at normal water level.

Recommendations: Establish an observation point with interpretive signage where visitors can view the wreckage during times of normal and low water. The same parking spot can be used to view the surviving portion of the Victory Bridge and the archaeologically significant Curlee Site.

C. Victory Bridge

Named to commemorate the Allied victory in World War I, Victory Bridge was the first structure to span the Apalachicola River. Opened to traffic in 1925, it served travelers along Historic Highway 90 for the next 30 years and its western segment remained in use until the 1980s. The bridge was originally more than 5,500 feet long. A section of the original bridge still survives on the Jackson County shore adjacent to today's US 90 bridge.

Recommendations: Place interpretive signage near the surviving portion of the bridge as part of a common parking lot and interpretive spot that also provides information on the Barbara Hunt and the Curlee Site.

D. Curlee Site (8JA7)

The Curlee Site is an important prehistoric mound and village site dating from the Mississippian era (A.D. 900-A.D. 1450). Called "Fort Walton" in Northwest Florida, this prehistoric American Indian culture relied on agriculture, hunting, fishing and the gathering of natural foods. The location of the complex on the west bank of the Apalachicola River gave its inhabitants access to the river as both a transportation route and source of food. The adjacent floodplain swamps are rich in natural foods. The site likely was associated with the major Chattahoochee Landing Mounds (8GD1) on the opposite side of the river.

Recommendations: Although the Curlee Site is on lands own by the State of Florida, it is in a deplorable condition. Trash and refuse are being dumped on the site. It is recommended that the state, as the property is under the control of the Department of Corrections, implement regular patrols to protect this important archaeological site from looting and use as a dumping site. Inmate crews could

assist in cleaning up the garbage that covers parts of the site and in developing a short interpretive trail that will provide visitors with information on the history and significance of the site.

E. Jim Woodruff Lock & Dam

The Jim Woodruff Lock & Dam was completed in 1958 at the confluence of the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers and is the southernmost lock and dam system on the Apalachicola/Chattahoochee/Flint system. The reservoir or impoundment created by the dam spans the Florida-Georgia border and is known as Lake Seminole. A popular site for fishing, boating and other forms of outdoor recreation, it covers 37,500 acres. Below the dam is the Apalachicola River, which flows for 106 miles to the Gulf of Mexico.

Recommendations: The lock and dam can be viewed from the observation point at the West Bank Overlook (sometimes labeled the Jim Woodruff Dam Overlook). This is a pleasant spot that offer beautiful views of Lake Seminole and the dam. Parking is sufficient, the grounds are maintained and there are nice covered benches by the water. Jackson County has installed an interpretive panel at the site to detail the history of Mission San Carlos (see below). Use of the back-side of that kiosk to place a panel that tells the story of the lake and of the Jim Woodruff Dam would provide an economical way to interpret both.

F. Pope Lake Mounds (8JA202)

This group of prehistoric American Indian mounds was identified by archaeologist Ripley P. Bullen in 1948. They stand along the banks of Pope Lake, a body of water deep in the floodplain swamp of the Apalachicola River. Bullen's work failed to determine the age of the mounds, although they are located near other sites dating from the Fort Walton (A.D. 900-A.D. 1450) and Chacato (A.D. 1680-1696) time periods.

Recommendations: The problem here is that no one really knows exactly where the mounds are located. If they can be found, they could provide an excellent opportunity for interpreting the prehistoric past of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor and would supplement interpretation at the nearby Curlee site. It is

recommended that an archaeological investigation be launched to locate and map the mounds. This could be done by a graduate student or students to reduce costs. If the mounds can be found and are accessible, an interpretive trail leading to them from the West Bank Overlook would provide a chance for visitors to experience the beautiful floodplain swamp and the mounds themselves.

G. Mission San Carlos de Chacatos (8JA4, 8JA60, 8JA389)

Mission San Carlos was a Franciscan mission established at this point in ca. 1680 to serve a village of Christian Chacato (Chatot) Indians. Consisting of a chapel and other structures, the mission was the westernmost link in the Florida mission chain from 1680-1696. The Marcos Delgado expedition to the Upper Creeks in Alabama left from this point in 1686 and Gov. Don Laureano de Torres y Ayala left from here in 1693 to successfully attempt the first Spanish overland crossing of Northwest Florida. The mission and surrounding village were destroyed by Creek Indian raiders in 1696. Many of the inhabitants were carried away and sold as slaves to the English in South Carolina. The site was located in 1948 by Florida Park Service archaeologist Ripley P. Bullen. The Jackson County Tourist Development Council placed an interpretive panel at the site in 2014 in association with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Public facilities include an overlook, benches and parking.

Recommendations: Interpretation is in place at this site and the park is well-maintained. Future efforts might include the addition of more waist-high panels to provide information on daily life at the mission.

H. Sneads Park

Sneads Park borders 37,500 acre Lake Seminole and overlooks the original confluence of the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers. This historic river junction was one of the most important transportation landmarks in the eastern United States during prehistoric times. Numerous significant archaeological sites are now flooded by the lake. Public facilities include a boat launch, swimming area, picnic areas, lakefront observation walk, playgrounds, restrooms and more.

Recommendations: Add an interpretive kiosk to provide more information on Lake Seminole.

I. Old Spanish Trail

This street, once part of Historic Highway 90, departs from the main highway to follow a short stretch of the original Old Spanish Trail or Mission Road. From U.S. 90 East to River Road, the route is approximately the same as that traveled by Spanish missionaries, soldiers and officials in 1674-1693. This trail connected St. Augustine with the westernmost missions of Florida's Spanish mission chain.

Recommendations: Add an interpretive panel to help visitors visualize the history of this important section of roadway.

J. Sneads Town Pump

The historic Sneads Town Pump was placed in 1899-1900 by Gabriel Smith on a lot sold to the town of Sneads by F.A. and Mittie Brown for \$200 on February 18, 1899. Smith was the first mayor of Sneads and was one of those who named the community for local dentist Dr. W.R. Snead. Legend holds that "he who drinks from this pump will always return" and local men often dunked the heads of non-local grooms beneath its water before allowing them to marry their daughters. The pump and its cypress-shingled shelter were restored in 1974 by the Carlisle Rose Garden Club and the town council.

Recommendations: Interpretation already exists at the site and the historic shelter is in good condition. Continue to maintain it and incorporate local groups and citizens in a beautification program.

K. Sneads

Sneads was incorporated on October 26, 1894 but stands on the site of earlier settlements dating back to the early 1820s. The first settlement on the present-site was known as Pope's, after U.S. Sub-Agent for Indian Affairs William S. Pope. The Treaty of Pope's was negotiated at his store on June 18, 1833. Under its terms, the Apalachicola Bands of Creek/Seminole Indians agreed to cede much of

their remaining land to the United States. Florida's famed scientist, Dr. John Gorrie, lived briefly at Pope's settlement before moving to Apalachicola where he invented air conditioning and the ice machine. The community was later known as Gloucester but the name Sneads came into use during the 1870s when a voting precinct was established at Dr. Snead's store.

Recommendations: Place a historical marker in the small park area adjacent to the Sneads Town Pump and the Community Building.

L. Sneads Community Building

This unique log building dates from the Great Depression (ca. 1929-1939) and was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps to serve as a meeting place and community center for the residents of Sneads. It stands adjacent to the Sneads Town Pump.

Recommendations: The building is in need of repairs. Support grant applications by municipal officials in Sneads to obtain funding for this work. In addition it is recommended that a small plaque be placed on the front exterior wall of the building to note its historical significance.

M. Pope Cemetery

This historic cemetery dates from the 1820s and is the burial place of numerous individuals of note including U.S. Sub-Agent for Indian Affairs William S. Pope. A deputy of Agent Wiley Thompson, Pope negotiated the Treaty of Pope's with the Apalachicola bands of American Indians in 1833. The treaty diminished the size of the reservations established for these groups by the provisions of the Treaty of Moultrie Creek in 1823. It eventually led to their forced removal from the Apalachicola and Chattahoochee River on the Trail of Tears in 1838. Others of note buried here include Deputy Sheriff Dave Ham, who was killed in a shootout with convicted bank robbers in 1934.

Recommendations: Place a historical marker in the cemetery to detail its history. A separate marker for William S. Pope and his role in Indian Removal should also be placed at his grave.

N. River Road

This historic road has been in use since before the American Revolution. Originally a trail used by American Indians, it was traversed by British mapmaker Joseph Purcell in 1778. Purcell was in the area as part of a relief expedition making its way from Pensacola to St. Augustine during the American Revolution. The road is first shown on the Purcell-Stuart Map of 1778. It remains in use today. Sections of the original can be seen just inside the western boundary of Three Rivers State Park.

Recommendations: Place a historical marker near the entrance to Three Rivers State Park to interpret the history of River Road. The park should be a contributing agency to this project.

O. Three Rivers State Park

Three Rivers State Park covers 686 acres on the shores of 37,500 acre Lake Seminole. Archaeological research indicates that prehistoric American Indians hunted the park site thousands of years ago. A large village was located along part of its present shoreline during the Swift Creek era (20 B.C.-805 A.D.). This Woodland culture is noted for the development of pottery and expanded agriculture. The site predates the noted Kolomoki Mounds site, a late Swift Creek ceremonial complex in Southwest Georgia. The park site was used by early settlers for timber and turpentine production, with many of the turpentine-era “cat-faces” still visible on old pines along the nature trails. The park was established in 1955 as construction on the nearby Jim Woodruff Dam was entering its final stages. It offers four self-guided multi-use trails with interpretive kiosks, lakeshore campgrounds, picnic areas, playgrounds, a boat landing and more.

Recommendations: The park’s interpretation of its natural resources is very well done. Add a series of waist-high panels in the picnic area to interpret the history of its archaeology and history. Each of these panels should focus on a different era in time.

P. Howell Landing Archaeological Sites (8JA21, 8JA39, 8JA282)

Submerged beneath Lake Seminole along the shoreline are three large archaeological sites that span virtually the entire prehistoric era of human habitation in Jackson County. The largest of these, the Harrell Site (8JA39), measures approximately 200 feet in diameter and has been dated by archaeologists to include components from the Paleo-Indian, Early and Late Archaic, Swift Creek, Weeden Island and Fort Walton cultural eras. The village and occupation areas bordered a natural spring-fed stream that flowed past what is now Howell Landing and Three Rivers State Park to the Chattahoochee River prior to the completion of Lake Seminole in 1958. The building of the reservoir flooded the sites, which produced archaeological artifacts dating back to the arrival of the first Paleo hunters in what is now Jackson County, an event currently-dated by scientists to 10,000-12,000 years ago. Although the sites appear to be completely inundated by the lake, they are protected under the U.S. Antiquities Act and are regularly monitored by state park, county, state wildlife and federal authorities. This site represents the best point along the Historic Highway 90 Corridor for interpretation of the many prehistoric cultures of Jackson County. Current plans call for an expansion of the Howell Landing park area.

Recommendations: Create a small overlook area with interpretive panels on the waterfront to help visitors understand the significance of these archaeological sites that now rest on the bottom of Lake Seminole. Support expansion of the park and the addition of restrooms, as recommended by Jackson County Parks.

Q. Apalachee WMA/Econchattimico's Reserve

Covering nearly 8,000 acres along Lake Seminole and the Chattahoochee River, the Apalachee Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a state preserve noted for its massive flocks of waterfowl. Popular for birding, photography, sightseeing, fishing and hunting, the WMA occupies historic lands in what was once the plantation district of eastern Jackson County. Arnold's Landing, in the area's Zone A, is near the site of Econchattimico's town of Tocktoethla ("River Junction"). The noted chief of the Red Ground band of Lower Creeks, Econchattimico ("Red Ground King") fought against U.S. forces during the First Seminole War of 1817-1818. He and his people were granted four square miles surrounding their town under the terms of the Treaty of Moultrie Creek in 1823. In the 1830s, however,

their reservation was raided by white slave catchers who carried away a number African American members of the band. Econchattimico sued in U.S. District Court, ultimately securing a ruling that Creek law was valid and that the captives belonged to the chief and his people. The unfortunate kidnap victims had already been sold into slavery, however, and were never returned. The chief and his followers were removed on the Trail of Tears by U.S. Troops under Colonel (later President) Zachary Taylor in 1838. White settlers then flooded onto the former Creek lands. The Apalachee WMA is open to the public.

Recommendations: Move forward with the birding tower near the entrance station as recommended by Jackson County TDC. Clear roadside growth to provide better views of Lake Seminole along River Road. Place a historical marker at the south border of Econchattimico's Reserve. Develop nature trails to provide an enhanced visitation experience for non-hunters.

R. First Methodist Church of Grand Ridge

This historic sanctuary was built in 1889-1890 as the First Presbyterian Church by members of the Porter family and their neighbors. John Thomas Porter and his wife, Phoebe Jane Porter, were charter members of the congregation. They are credited with naming Grand Ridge after their home town of Grand Ridge, Illinois. A prominent local merchant and civic leader, Mr. Porter helped to fund the construction of the church. He and his wife are buried in a concrete mausoleum in the adjoining Porter Cemetery. The Presbyterian congregation eventually faded but the sanctuary became the meeting place of the First Methodist Church of Grand Ridge. It remains in use today. Services are open to the public.

Recommendations: A small interpretive panel is in place. It is recommended that a larger historical marker be placed in front of the church.

S. Porter's Store

Porter's Store was built by Grand Ridge founder John Thomas Porter in ca. 1889-1895. A charming country or general store, the business served the community for many years. Its location by the L&N Railroad demonstrates the railroad's importance in the early days of the community. Mr. Porter named Grand Ridge for

his home town of Grand Ridge, Illinois. The name applies both to the community and the high ground on which the town is located. Porter founded Grand Ridge in 1889.

Recommendations: Work with the property owner to secure grant funding for the restoration and preservation of the historic store structure. Place a historical marker by the store with one side detailing its history and the other side explaining the history of Grand Ridge.

T. Cypress Cemetery

This cemetery contains the graves of many of the original settlers of the now defunct Town of Cypress. Of special interest are surviving wooden grave enclosures that are believed to be more than one century old. The slats of the enclosures are carved in the form of picket fences. The graves of both Union and Confederate veterans can be found in the large cemetery, which also contains the burial sites of individuals who lived and worked here during the town's "boom" years. Cypress was a center for the timber industry during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Recommendations: Place a historical marker detailing the history of the Town of Cypress.

U. Cypress Town Jail

The Cypress Town Jail dates from the early 20th century and once housed prisoners arrested by the Town Marshal of Cypress. The residents voted to give up the charter of their town during the early 21st century. The jail was built of poured concrete with the walls arching inward to form the room and ceiling. The only known such jail of its type in Florida, the Cypress structure was the scene of two violent incidents. An African American prisoner named Calvin Baker allegedly threatened to "shoot up the town" and then allegedly fired on the town marshal who was trying to take him into custody. The marshal was not injured and placed Baker in the jail. That night, however, a large mob battered down the door of the structure and "poured a fusillade of shots into Baker's body." No one was charged in the lynching. The second incident was a shootout that took place in the 1920s

after the town marshal arrested a man on liquor-related charges. Friends of the prisoner tried to free him, but the marshal defended his jail. One person was killed in the resulting gun battle. The attempted jailbreak was unsuccessful.

Recommendations: Work with local interested citizens to acquire title to the jail structure. Conduct a cleanup of the building and surrounding grounds. Place a historical marker detailing its history. Invite the Jackson County Sheriff's Office to become involved in the project as a community outreach initiative.

V. Cypress Community Park

This park has been a focal point for gatherings and family reunions in the Cypress area for many years. Originally built by the now-defunct Town of Cypress, it is now managed by the Jackson County Parks Department which has plans for a paved walking path and other enhancements.

Recommendations: This is a nice stop for picnics along the Corridor. Work with Jackson County Parks to complete plans for park enhancements and place an interpretive kiosk with information on the overall Historic Highway 90 Corridor.

W. Spring Creek Park/Merritt's Mill

A popular point for beginning paddling or float trips down Spring Creek and the Chipola River, Spring Creek Park provides boardwalks and access to the creek. It stands on the south end of the dam that creates Merritt's Millpond and provides views of the former site of Merritt's Mill, an 1869 grist and sawmill that once stood at this site. Archaeologists have found artifacts dating from the construction of the mill and dam within the boundaries of the park.

Recommendations: This park is maintained in excellent condition and features a launch for paddlers, excellent parking areas and boardwalks. Place an interpretive panel with information on the history of the old mill and dam.

X. Merritt's Mill Pond

This beautiful spring-fed lake is formed by the dam first built by Jonathan Pelt in 1869 and since reconstructed and enlarged many times. It is fed by a number of natural springs, the largest of which is Jackson Blue Spring, the only first

magnitude spring in the Chipola River basin. Other springs include Shangri-La, Twin Sisters, Indian Washtub, Gator Hole, Hole in the Wall, etc. A popular recreation spot since 1869, the mill pond is popular with outdoor enthusiasts and is known for its fishing, camping, swimming, boating, birding, sightseeing and cave diving opportunities.

Recommendations: A public access area off U.S. 90 opposite Spring Creek Park would be a major benefit for visitors. Work with Florida's Greenways and Trails Initiative to acquire the land that is for sale on the pond directly across the highway from Spring Creek Park. Develop this site to provide boating, birding and sightseeing access to Merritt's Mill Pond. Place an interpretive panel with a map of the pond showing the locations of key springs.

Y. Blue Springs Recreation Area (Jackson Blue Springs)

Jackson Blue Springs is the only first magnitude spring in the Chipola River basin. It flows at an average rate of 76 million gallons per day and – with five smaller springs that feeds Merritt's Mill Pond. Archaeologists have determined that the spring was used by prehistoric American hunters over thousands of years. The spring was a stop on the "Old Spanish Trail" that led from Mission San Luis near Tallahassee to the three missions established by Franciscan friars among the Chacato Indians of Northwest Florida. Fray Rodrigo de la Barreda, who visited the spring multiple times in 1674-1693 wrote that it was "entirely surrounded by woods" and that the caves in the hillsides around Blue Springs were "frequented by the Indians on their hunting trips for bear, deer and buffalo, of which there is an abundance." A section of the original Spanish road can be seen inside of the park boundaries. The army of Major General Andrew Jackson camped here on May 10, 1818, while on its way from the Apalachicola River to capture Spanish Pensacola during the First Seminole War. A frontiersman named William Pyles settled at Jackson Blue Springs during the last days of the Spanish era and before Florida became part of the United States in 1821. He sold out to Major William Robinson who arrived early in Florida's Territorial era to establish a 3,100 acre cotton plantation. Robinson's home overlooked the spring and featured a unique pulley system used to bring fresh water up from the spring to supply a pipe system installed in the house. Following Robinson's death, the plantation became the

property of John Milton. He expanded the farm to more than 6,000 acres and named it Sylvania. Milton served as Florida's Confederate governor in 1861-1865. A permanent Confederate facility named Camp Governor Milton was established at Blue Springs in 1862. Cavalry companies rode out from the camp to patrol the coastline. Troops from Camp Governor Milton took part in the Battle of Marianna on September 27, 1864. Jackson Blue Springs is a popular recreation area today. The park offers swimming, picnicking, sightseeing, birding, nature trails and interpretive kiosks that interpret the spring, its use by the Spanish and the surviving remnant of the Old Spanish Trail.

Recommendations: Interpretive panels and historical markers are already in place to provide information on the original Old Spanish Trail, the use of Blue Springs by the Spanish and Andrew Jackson, and the history of Sylvania Plantation. Place a panel with information on Camp Governor Milton using the back of one of the existing kiosks and a second panel on the back of the other with a map of Merritt's Mill Pond and information on its other natural springs. In addition, provide interpretation along the nature trails and develop a short heritage trail leading to an overlook atop the bluff at Shangri-La Spring. Informational panels there should include details on the spring and caves, the history of the use of the site as a U.S. Air Force officers' club and the many carvings left behind by Confederate soldiers and others.

Z. Old U.S. Road

This historic road was authorized by an Act of Congress signed into law by President Andrew Jackson on July 2, 1836. Built to connect Daleville, Alabama, to Marianna and then link the city to St. Joseph and Apalachicola on the Gulf Coast, the road provided an improved route for travelers and mail deliveries. A second appropriation for its construction was approved on March 3, 1837. Mail service from Marianna to Daleville via this section of the Old U.S. Road was underway by February 1, 1837, while the section linking Marianna to the coast was completed in 1838. The entrance road to the Chipola River Greenway follows the route of the original road. It was rerouted to its present right of way during the late 19th century.

Recommendation: Place an interpretive panel near the parking area of the new Chipola River Greenway with information on the history of the roadway.

AA. Chipola River Greenway

This natural preserve offers boardwalks and walking trails along a limestone escarpment and through the flood plain forests of the Chipola River. Archaeologists from the University of West Florida located evidence of occupation here by prehistoric American Indians during the Swift Creek and Weeden Island time periods (A.D. 200-900). The entrance road follows the route of the original Old U.S. Road, completed in 1837 by a private contractor for the U.S. Government. The boardwalks, now under construction, will lead visitors past several cave entrances and provide interpretation on the archaeology, history, geology and natural significance of the Greenway.

Recommendations: Place interpretive signage along the boardwalks and nature trails to help visitors understand the history, geology and ecology of the Greenway area.

BB. Chipola River

A park planned for development at this site will provide access to and views of the historic Chipola River. The 92.5 mile long river is described as pristine and crystal clear. Fed by springs, it rises several miles north of Marianna at the confluence of Cowarts and Marshall Creeks. Tradition holds that Chipola is a Choctaw word meaning “sweet water,” but the name actually appears to be a word used by the Chacato Indians that inhabited what is now Jackson County when Spanish explorers arrived in 1674. The first known written use of the word was in the report of the 1677 Fernandez de Florencia raid which makes mention of the “great forest of Chipole.” Based on this usage, it appears that the Chacato word applied to the entire floodplain and not just the river itself. This section of the river is part of the Florida Paddling Trail, a state-designated route that is popular with outdoors enthusiasts. Marianna’s original bridge across the Chipola River was built here in 1837. A closing phase of the Battle of Marianna was fought at this site on

September 27, 1864, as Union and Confederate soldiers battled for control of the Chipola River Bridge.

Recommendations: Place an interpretive kiosk with information and maps that will help visitors understand the significance, history and ecology of the Chipola River. A historical marker explaining the site's role in the Battle of Marianna has already been purchased and will be placed as the park is completed.

CC. Riverside Cemetery

The original burial grounds of the City of Marianna, Riverside Cemetery was platted on land belonging to the city's founders, Robert and Anna Maria Beveridge. The date of the first burials here is not known, but the site has been reserved for cemetery purposes since 1827. Among the early burials was Mrs. Beveridge herself. She died of fever within a few years of settling in Marianna. She was one of two women for whom the city was named. The other was the wife of one of Mr. Beveridge's business partners. Used by both white and African-American families, the cemetery has been in constant use for more than 175 years. It was the scene of an important Reconstruction era incident called the "Battle of the Flowers." This confrontation developed when three young girls were charged with trampling flowers left at the grave of a Union soldier and ordered to appear before a military tribunal. The population of the city turned out with them and the charges were dismissed. Armstrong Purdee, Jackson County's first African American attorney, is buried at Riverside. He witnessed the Battle of Marianna as an 8-year-old child from the back of a Union soldier's horse. Riverside Cemetery is also the final resting place of an elephant from the Mighty Haag circus, which wintered in Marianna during the early 20th century.

Recommendations: Develop a self-guided walking tour, including brochure and appropriate numbered signage by included graves, to allow visitors to explore this historic cemetery and learn more about those buried there. Develop a small parking area just north of the historic section of the cemetery as a beginning and ending point for these tours. In addition, multiple historical markers are recommended for the cemetery. Individual markers should be placed for Riverside Cemetery, Anna Maria Beveridge and the naming of Marianna, Armstrong Purdee, the elephant grave and the Battle of the Flowers.

DD. St. Luke's Baptist Church

This historic African American church was built in 1921 by a congregation formed in 1867. An earlier wooden structure had stood on the site. Reverends L.C. Herring, L.B. Brown and A.H. Parker led the church during the construction of the beautiful Gothic Revival structure known for its towers, pointed arches and stained glass windows. It remained in use for church purposes until 1984 when St. Luke's Baptist Church moved to a new sanctuary. Restoration plans are underway. The structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Florida Heritage site. It is on the Florida Black History Trail.

Recommendations: This historical structure is in a deteriorating condition and if it is to be saved, a public/private partnership to do so will likely be necessary. Work with property owners to develop a preservation plan and apply for Florida Historic Preservation Special Category Grant funding to save the church structure. A marker is already in place in front of the sanctuary.

EE. World War II Prison Camp Site

This is the site of a prison camp where German prisoners of war were incarcerated during World War II. Guarded by National Guard troops, the prisoners were housed in barracks surrounded by a wire fence. They often were sent to work on local farms where manpower for labor was short due to so many Jackson County residents serving in the U.S. Military. The camp was closed with the end of the war in 1945 and later became the site of the Rhyne Furniture Company. A factory and offices of the Mowrey Elevator Company are located on the site today, which can be viewed from the sidewalk along Lafayette Street (Historic Highway 90).

Recommendations: The site of the prison is now developed and no surviving portion remains. The placement of a historical marker near the offices of Mowrey Elevator Company will be sufficient to help visitors understand its significance.

FF. Butler Trail (Chipola River Greenway, Butler Tract)

Named a National Recreation Trail in 2013, this beautiful walking path is maintained by the City of Marianna and provides access to an unspoiled section of the historic Chipola River. The trail descends from the high ground on which the City of Marianna stands through the flood plain swamps to the Chipola. Popular with birders, it is a great place to spot songbirds and dream of spotting an Ivory-billed Woodpecker. The massive woodpeckers once inhabited these forests and some claim they live there to this day, although the last sighting on the Chipola was more than 60 years ago.

Recommendations: Place a small kiosk with a map of the trail, information on its history and the story of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

GG. Marianna National Historic District

Designated a national historic district on May 23, 1997, the Marianna National Historic District encompasses 181 historic buildings and 1 object. These structures represent all eras of the community's history and include commercial, governmental and residential buildings as well as a cemetery and battlefield monument.

Recommendations: Create a Marianna National Historic District advisory panel with members to include property owners, tourism leaders, the Marianna Parks & Recreation Department, historic preservation advocates and others. This is a major undeveloped resource along the Historic Highway 90 Corridor and has potential to be developed into a major attraction. Walking and driving tour maps and brochures should be created. A website and phone app featuring key structures, a map of the district and walking tour routes should be added. The Division of Historical Resources offers grants that cover 50% of the cost of a state historical marker for the district. As there is no marker providing information on the overall district, one is vital.

HH. Jackson County Courthouse & Courthouse Square

This square was platted by Marianna's founders, Robert and Anna Maria Beveridge, in 1827. They deeded the property to Jackson County and built the first courthouse and jail here at their own expense on the condition that Marianna be named the permanent county seat. A fierce political battle took place between the new city on the Chipola and nearby town of Webbville for which would claim that title. The U.S. Congress declared Webbville the "official" county seat, but Marianna won the battle when the Territorial Legislature threatened to fine any official that refused to do business from the new courthouse built by Mr. and Mrs. Beveridge. The original courthouse burned in 1848 and its replacement was burned by Civil War incendiaries in 1865. Two more courthouses (1871 & 1906) stood on this site before the present structure was built in the 1960s. Hand to hand fighting took place on the grounds during the Battle of Marianna (September 27, 1864). A riot took place on the grounds in October 1934 after the body of Claude Neal, an African-American farm laborer, was found hanging from a tree on the east side of the square. He had been lynched in a rural area 25 miles east of Marianna. A peaceful center for the community today, the square features Confederate and U.S. Veterans monuments, an Eternal Flame of Freedom, historical markers and the beautiful old oaks that ring the square. They were planted in 1871 by Aesop Bellamy, an African American man born into slavery who went on to establish a successful landscaping business after Emancipation.

Recommendations: A brochure detailing the history of courthouse square should be made available at the main lobby. There are historical markers and monuments on the grounds that provide sufficient interpretation.

II. The Old Abstract Office

This unique frame structure is believed to date from the Civil War, when it was used as the office of Dr. W.S. Wilson. He helped treat wounded after the Battle of Marianna on September 27, 1864. In 1901 it became the home of Marianna's first telephone exchange. The structure was moved from its original location on Market Street in 1910 by J.A. Ormond, who converted it for use as a land abstract office. Records of recorded real estate transactions from the years 1847-1998 were housed here until January 1999 when Florida Land Title and Trust

Company moved to a new, larger location. The building is home to a gift shop today and is open to the public during regular business hours.

Recommendations: None. The structure is open to the public and a historical marker is in place.

JJ. Lewis-Wycoff House

Built in the 1840s by Arthur Lewis (Sr.), a local businessman who was killed during the Battle of Marianna, this home was the one-time residence of U.S. Congressman George Hawkins. Born in New York in 1808, Hawkins served as Florida's only Representative to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1857-1861. He resigned his seat on January 21, 1861, following the secession of Florida from the Union. Hawkins then served as a Confederate District Judge in 1862-1865 and was commissioned by the Florida Legislature in 1877 to prepare a digest of the state's laws. The house is now a salon and is open to the public during regular business hours.

Recommendations: None. A historical marker is in place.

KK. Davis-West House

Built in the 1840s by Captain John Davis, a militia officer of the Second Seminole War, the house became the home of his widowed daughter, Rebecca Davis Spears. In 1861 she married Dr. Theophilus West, a local physician who became a surgeon in the Confederacy's Army of Northern Virginia. The house became a center of Reconstruction-era intrigue following the Civil War. Several leading Republican officials lived here, including John Q. Dickinson. The appointed Clerk of Courts of Jackson County, Dickinson was killed in 1871 by gunshots fired from behind a tree in front of the house. Whether his murder was a political assassination or a "robbery gone bad" is still debated. The house was willed to the Chipola Historical Trust by its final resident, Charles Slade West, in 1996. It is now used as a meeting place and museum and is open for tours by appointment.

Recommendations: The Davis-West House Museum is an underused resource in the community. A program for training docents should be implemented so that the

museum can be opened to the public on a regular basis. It is recommended that the Jackson County TDC, the Chipola Historical Trust, Chipola College and the Baptist College of Florida coordinate with each other to develop a strategy for improving public access to this beautiful and historic structure.

LL. Dekle-Brunner House

A rare example of Queen Anne architecture, the house was originally built in 1845 by Amanda and Oliver Rostrum. Mr. Rostrum was Marianna's tailor. The oak trees that front the house were planted in 1875 as part of a city-wide beautification effort that began with the planting of the courthouse trees four years earlier. The antebellum structure was gutted by fire in 1898. Extensively rebuilt and expanded, it was given its Queen Anne style in the years that followed.

Recommendations: None.

MM. Hotel Chipola

The 75-room Hotel Chipola was completed in 1926 at a cost of \$450,000. Ranked "among the South's finest," the hotel's construction coincided with the building of Historic Highway 90 across Northwest Florida. For many years it was a center of life in the community and a popular stop for travelers on the highway. The hotel was such a dominant commercial enterprise in Marianna that it controlled not only its own farm and dairy, but even its own publishing company. It was the scene of the 1931 Florida Democratic Convention and by 1938 was advertising Marianna's first "air conditioned coffee shop." The hotel's rooms were used to house military personnel during World War II until quarters could be built at the nearby Marianna Army Air Field. The Hotel Chipola never recovered from the double impact of the Great Depression and World War II. After the war it remained open, but losses mounted. Local businessmen tried to save it during the 1960s but the shift from grand old downtown hotels to highway motels made commercial success impossible. The hotel structure is now home to Chipola Apartments, an independent living

community for senior citizens. The beautiful exterior looks much as it did when the hotel opened for its first event on New Year's Eve of 1926.

Recommendations: Place a plaque on the building noting its historical significance.

NN. L&N Railroad Depot

Built in 1881 when the P&A (later L&N) Railroad reached Marianna, the historic depot served the community for many years. Gutted in an arson-set fire in 1979, the structure was moved from the railroad to its current location in 1982 by Floye and Billy Brewton, two brothers who joined forces to restore it. In 1991 it became the offices of U.S. Congressman Douglas B. "Pete" Peterson (Dem., Marianna) who served three terms in the House of Representatives before his nomination as U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam. Peterson was the first American ambassador to Vietnam since the Vietnam War. He had earlier spent 6 ½ years as a prisoner of war in the "Hanoi Hilton." It is said to be haunted by the ghost of an unfortunate passenger that fell from its platform into the path of an oncoming train during the early 1900s.

Recommendations: Place a historical marker in front of the structure to provide information on its historical importance.

OO. Stone Hotel/White Hotel

Built in 1905 to serve passengers arriving in Marianna via the L&N Railroad, this magnificent Southern Victorian structure is three-stories tall. It was originally called the White Hotel, but was sold to Frank Stone in the 1920s and the name was changed to denote it as the Stone Hotel. Locals generally still refer to it by this name today. It remained in use as a hotel and apartment building until 1986 when it was converted for use as an antique gallery.

Recommendations: Place a historical marker in front of the structure to provide information on its historical importance and significance.

PP. First National Bank Building

Built in 1902 on the site of an earlier private bank operated by W.J. Daniel and Company, this structure was the original home of the First National Bank of

Marianna. It is believed that the first adding machine and first loose-leaf ledger were introduced to Florida banking here, forever launching the automation of the Florida banking industry. It remained in use for banking purposes until the 1990s. Now owned by the City of Marianna, plans are underway to restore the building for use as a museum and art gallery.

Recommendations: Work is underway to restore this structure. Future use of the building should highlight its historical significance.

QQ. Battle of Marianna Monument

Originally called “the Plaza,” the park surrounding the Battle of Marianna Monument is known today as Confederate Memorial Park. It was an original part of the city and has been used for a variety of civic functions through the years. The monument was erected by the William Henry Milton Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) in 1921. It honors the men and boys of the local home guard companies that helped to defend the city during the Battle of Marianna on September 27, 1864. A part of the fighting took place in the streets around the plaza.

Recommendations: Preserve the monument in its current configuration and assure that future interpretation of the Battle of Marianna in the park, which is part of the battlefield, be inclusive of both sides.

RR. Marianna Post Office & Federal Courthouse

The Spanish style Marianna United States Post Office and Federal Courthouse was built 1927. The U.S. District Court was held on the second floor of the structure for many years until it was moved to Panama City in the late 20th century. The Post Office has operated on the ground floor since 1927 and is open to the public during normal business hours.

Recommendations: Place a historical marker in front of this beautiful structure to explain its history and architecture.

SS. St. Luke’s Episcopal Church

This historic church is sometimes called “Florida’s Alamo” because the sanctuary was burned to the ground during the Battle of Marianna on September 27, 1864. Some of the city’s defenders refused to surrender and fought to the death as the church collapsed around them. The basement is the only surviving part of the battlefield structure, which had been dedicated one year before the battle in 1863. Heavy fighting took place on the grounds as Union troops surrounded the men and boys of the Marianna Home Guard in the cemetery. Some of the tombstones still bear the scars of bullets fired during the battle. The current structure was built in 1947 and is noted for its beautiful design, which is similar to the original wooden structure on this site and a later sanctuary (1878-1941) that burned on the eve of World War II due to an electrical fire. Among those buried on the grounds are men killed in the Battle of Marianna; Major Jesse Robinson, an officer in the War of 1812; Governor John Milton, Florida’s Confederate governor; the wife and son of Dr. John Gorrie, who invented air conditioning and the mechanical ice machine (he is buried in Apalachicola); and noted 19th century novelist Caroline Lee Hentz.

Recommendations: The placement of historical markers at the graves of Gov. John Milton and novelist Caroline Lee Hentz is recommended. In addition, the cemetery is suffering deterioration from weathering, aging and pollution from heavy traffic along this section of U.S. 90. The Jackson County TDC should work with St. Luke’s Episcopal Church to seek grant funding for the preservation and restoration of the cemetery.

TT. MacKinnon House

Built in 1868 by James S. Baker, this home stands on the earlier site of Mrs. Caroline Hunter’s boarding house. The site holds a unique place in American history as the ladies living at Mrs. Hunter’s took part in the Battle of Marianna, firing on Union soldiers from the doors and windows of the original two-story house. The Union troops burned the house to drive them out and end their resistance. The current structure was built three years after the Civil War and was long owned by members of the MacKinnon family. The Federal style structure is now used as a law office.

Recommendations: None.

UU. Holden House

Built in 1850 by William E. Anderson, a local attorney and judge, the house is constructed of heart pine. The exterior walls were originally stained in a natural color while the shutters were stained in a deep wine shade. Anderson was elected Brigadier General of the First Brigade of the Florida Militia in 1860 and commanded troops sent to neighboring Calhoun County during the insurrection that took place there during the fall of that year. General Anderson, fighting as a volunteer private in the Marianna Home Guard, was captured during the Battle of Marianna on September 27, 1864, and carried away to the prisoner of war camp at Elmira, New York. The house itself was occupied by Confederate defenders during the battle. One of the interior closets still bears a sword mark left behind by a Union soldier and Civil War bullets were found in the exterior walls when the house was restored in the 1980s. It passed into the hands of Dr. J.T. Holden, a cousin of the Andersons, after the war. Now a day spa, it is open during regular business hours. The house is said to be haunted.

Recommendations: None.

VV. Dickson-Mock House

This beautiful Queen Anne style Victorian home was built in 1902 by Mary Jane Dickson, the widow of Captain Marmaduke N. Dickson (CSA). Her father-in-law had been killed in the Battle of Marianna, part of which was fought on the grounds. Built of heart pine, the structure is noted for its tower, attached gazebo, wrap-around porch and cantilevered interior staircase. When the house was restored in the late 20th century, workers found a corked but empty whiskey bottle behind one of the baseboards near the dining room fireplace. The house is said to be haunted.

Recommendations: A historic marker should be placed in front of this structure as it is one of only two major examples of Victorian-era architecture along Historic Highway 90 in Marianna.

WW. Ely-Criglar Mansion

This beautiful antebellum structure is one of the oldest standing homes in Jackson County. Built by Francis Ely, a prominent local merchant and planter, the house was designed to double as a blockhouse or fort as the Second Seminole War was still

underway when it was constructed in 1840. The interior walls, like the exterior ones, extend from the rafters all the way to the foundations. This design would allow defenders to retreat from one room to the next and continue to fight should Seminole or Creek warriors break through from the outside. The house was never attacked during the Second Seminole War, but did play a role in the Battle of Marianna. Overlooking Ely Corner, where the main fighting of the battle began, the Ely-Criglar Mansion is believed to be the most battle-scarred private home in Florida. Hundreds of bullet marks scar its outside walls and a cannonball struck the attic area during the fighting. The house was purchased by future Florida Supreme Court Justice Francis B. Carter in 1889 and by Joseph M. Criglar in 1900. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Survey of Historic American Homes.

Recommendations: None.

XX. Ely Corner/Russ House Commons

This corner marked the western edge of Marianna for much of the 19th century. Taking its name from the Ely Estate, the corner was where the original Campbellton and St. Andrew Bay roads intersected before continuing into town as a single street. The main fighting of the Battle of Marianna began here on September 27, 1864, when Union cavalry attacked a battle line of Confederate cavalry that had formed across the intersection. The first Union charge was driven back but a second charge, led in person by Brigadier General Alexander Asboth, forced the Confederates under Colonel A.B. Montgomery to withdraw up the street and deeper into town. A gas station later stood on this corner, but it was demolished and a park, Russ House Commons, was built on the site by the Florida Department of Transportation in 2000. The grounds are open to the public.

Recommendations: None. A historical marker has recently been placed to interpret the sites role in the Battle of Marianna.

YY. Russ House & Visitor Center

Built in 1895 as a Victorian style-home by Joseph W. Russ, Jr., a prominent Marianna merchant, this beautiful home was remodeled to its current colonial architectural style with rounded porches and Corinthian columns in 1910. The interior of the house features

six coal burning fireplaces, 12 foot ceilings, extensive curved crown molding to match the rounded bay windows, immense pocket door and massive cupola sits atop the two story porch also serves as a skylight to provide light for the second-floor interior. The Russ family suffered tremendous losses in the stock market crash of 1929 and Mr. Russ took his own life. His daughter Frances Russ Dickerson acquired the home from her step mother, and struggled to pay her new mortgage. The upstairs bedrooms were rented to military personal from the nearby Marianna Army Air Field during World War II. Now owned by Jackson County and the City of Marianna, the house is Jackson County's official visitor center. Jackson County Tourist Development Council staff offers free tours during normal business hours. The Russ House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is available for wedding and event rentals.

Recommendations: A full-time staff is essential for the operation of the visitor center. The Russ House will be one of the prominent visitor contact sites along the Historic Highway 90 Corridor and it is essential that it be open to the public and that assistance be available to visitors at least during normal business hours.

ZZ. Marianna Civil War Battlefield

The only downtown Civil War battlefield along the entire Historic Highway 90 Corridor from Jacksonville to Pensacola, the Marianna Civil War Battlefield was the scene of a small but intense engagement that took place on September 27, 1864. A raiding force of 700 Union troops from the 2nd Maine Cavalry, 1st Florida Cavalry (US), 82nd U.S. Colored Troops (USCT), 86th U.S. Colored Troops) and one man from the 7th Vermont Veteran Volunteers attacked Marianna at the climax of the deepest penetration of Florida by Federal forces during the entire Civil War. The city was defended by Poe's Battalion of the 1st Florida Infantry Reserves, Captain Robert Chisolm's Woodville Scouts of the Alabama State Militia, the Marianna Home Guard, the Campbellton Cavalry (militia) and the Greenwood Club Cavalry (cadets). Companies A and E of the 5th Florida Cavalry joined in the fighting along the Chipola River near the close of the action. The battle began three miles northwest of town at Hopkins' Branch, but intensified at Ely Corner (intersection of Lafayette and Russ Streets). From that point to the bridge over the Chipola River on the opposite side of town, the fighting was intense and continuous. Damage from the battle can still be seen at the Ely-Criglar Mansion, the Holden House and St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The Battle of Marianna was a Union victory. Casualties

in the action were: (CSA) 10 killed, 16 wounded, 81 captured; (USA) 8 killed, 19 wounded, 10 captured.

Recommendations: The Jackson County Tourist Development Council has developed a self-guided walking tour of the battlefield. Three additional historical markers have been purchased and are in the process of being placed and a video presentation has been produced and made available for visitors. Overall interpretation of the battlefield is good. A permanent exhibit on its history should be placed in the visitor center that can be viewed. A phone app that provides additional information should be developed and tied to the walking tour brochure.

AAA. Marianna B-47 Crash Site

One of the most tragic incidents of the Cold War took place at Marianna on July 22, 1952. A B-47 Stratojet Bomber from McDill Air Force Base in Tampa was making a training run to Eglin Air Force Base when it suddenly exploded in the skies high over Marianna. Pieces of the aircraft fell over an area of several square miles in northern Marianna. All four crew members were killed as were two small children on the ground. Peggy Williams, age 5, and Rufus Williams, age 3, were walking up their street to visit an uncle when they were struck by burning fuel from the plane. Their brother and mother were also injured, as were others in the community. The bomber was carrying four 500-pound bombs, one of which was never recovered and remains buried somewhere in Marianna to this day. The U.S. Air Force investigation into the crash was classified Top Secret. It is known today, however, that B-47 bombers suffered from a structural flaw that sometimes caused them to crash.

Recommendations: A historical marker should be placed at the crash site to provide information on the incident and to serve as a permanent memorial to those who died.

BBB. Citizens Lodge Park

This large public-recreation area is operated by the Jackson County Parks Department and is located on the site of a 1950s-1960s pony farm. It features paved walking paths,

playgrounds, picnic areas and a lodge that is available for community events. Judge's Cave, a state bat preserve, adjoins the park but is not open to the public.

Recommendations: A permanent kiosk with information on the Historic Highway 90 Corridor should be placed here. Jackson County Parks' leaders should work with their counterparts at Marianna Parks & Recreation to relocate and restore the historic Dozier School "kiddie train" from the nearby MERE Park. Returned to operation, this train could be a major attraction for the park.

CCC. Florida Caverns State Park

This 1,300 acre state park is located on both banks of the spring-fed Chipola River three miles north of Historic Highway 90. Florida's only public tour cave is located within the park and is open to the public Thursday-Monday (Closed Tuesday and Wednesday). When archaeologists investigated the park area in the 1930s-1940s as development was underway by the Civilian Conservation Corps, they learned that prehistoric and historic American Indians made use of the caves and rock shelters. In New Cave, which is closed to the public, human footprints believed to be more than 1,000 years old were found preserved in the clay of the cave floor. Indian Cave, now a bat sanctuary, also produced evidence of human habitation dating back thousands of years, as did Miller's Cave. Other archaeological sites were found at Blue Hole Spring, which was first described by an officer in Major General Andrew Jackson's army in 1818. American Indian tradition recorded in both Florida and Oklahoma holds that Creek and Seminole warriors hid with their families in some of the caves as Jackson's army marched past during the First Seminole War. The main Old Spanish Trail also passed through the park. The Natural Bridge of the Chipola River was described in Spanish documents dating back to 1693. Jackson's army also crossed this natural formation en route to the general's 1818 capture of Pensacola. The park offers nature trails with interpretive panels, paddling on the Chipola River, guided cave tours, picnic areas, camping, fishing in the river and swimming at Blue Hole Spring. The visitor center features exhibits and artifacts that interpret the history, geology and archaeology of the park.

Recommendations: The closure of the cave tours two days a week is a major disappointment to many visitors. While the reasons for the closures are understandable (preservation of the caves), Florida Caverns State Park should work with the Jackson County TDC, Marianna Parks and Recreation and Jackson County Parks to develop a brochure or guide that will help visitors find other caves that can be explored on days

that the main tour cave is closed. In addition, consideration should be given to whether any other large cave on the park property could be opened for “wild tours” on the two days each week that the main cave is closed. Interpretation at the park is excellent, but its visitor center is due for new exhibits. Help from the Jackson County TDC and the local legislative delegation should be enlisted to secure funding for this project. Finally, there are no cabins at the park. Consideration should be given by the park staff to the construction of cabins in the park and if it is determined feasible with regard to its unique geology and ecology, the Jackson County TDC should support an effort to secure funding for the project.

DDD. MERE Locomotive

This historic 0-4-2 tank locomotive dates from the early 20th century and once pulled trains of ore at the Coronet Phosphate mines in Central Florida. It was purchased by Dr. Albert Folds who dreamed of establishing a railroad-themed amusement park. The park never became a reality but the little tank engine was brought to this site from Mount Dora during the 1970s.

Recommendations: A small plaque should be placed on the locomotive to provide information on its history.

EEE. Marianna Airport/Marianna Army Air Field/Graham Air Base

The Marianna Army Air Field was developed at this site in 1942 by the U.S. Army Air Corps. Pilots were trained by seasoned fighter pilots brought home from the frontlines of World War II. The air field operated until 1946, training new pilots in AT-6 trainer aircraft. Many Nationalist Chinese pilots were trained here. They later became part of the Air Force that defended Taiwan against the Communist Chinese. The field was reactivated in 1953 as Graham Air Base, a primary pilot training school for the U.S. Air Force. Named for contractor William J. Graham, the base was home to 150 aircraft. A total of 6,600 pilots from 33 nations trained here in the PA-18, T-6, T-28, T-34 and Twin Jet T-37 aircraft. Among the U.S. Air Force pilots that trained here was Lieutenant Colonel Douglas B. “Pete” Peterson, who spent 6 ½ years in the “Hanoi Hilton” prison after being shot down over North Vietnam. He eventually became a U.S. Congressman representing Florida’s 2nd District and was appointed by President Bill Clinton to

become America's first Ambassador to Vietnam since the U.S. war there. Brigadier General James W. Hart also trained at Graham, having grown up watching the pilots of the World War II era train at the original Marianna Air Field. Graham Air Base operated until 1960 and many of the U.S. Air Force's Cold War pilots were trained here. The airport is available for public use and features two 4,900-foot runways.

Recommendations: None. A historical marker is in place at the terminal and the annual Fly In provides an excellent opportunity for visitors to learn more about the history of the airport.

FFF. Jackson County UFO of 1955

One of America's still-unsolved UFO encounters took place in the skies over Jackson County on December 6, 1955. A radar operator at Graham Air Base (now the Marianna Airport) observed an Unidentified Flying Object traveling north along the Apalachicola and Chattahoochee Rivers across Jackson County at a high rate of speed. Civilians on the ground observed what they described as a "light" as the unexplained object streaked north out of the county and into the skies over Alabama. The UFO was tracked almost to Montgomery, Alabama. Investigated by the U.S. Air Force and listed in the famed "Project Blue Book" report, the sighting is listed as unsolved to this day.

Recommendations: A historical marker should be placed in front of the terminal building to provide the history of this unusual incident.

GGG. Hinson Conservation & Recreation Area

This magnificent outdoor paradise was once the private farm of the Hinson family which generously made the property available for state purchase at a reduced price. Now managed by the City of Marianna, the Hinson Conservation & Recreation Area features miles of hiking trails, a canoe/kayak launch, a picnic area overlooking the Chipola River and an array of natural settings including a high limestone outcrop, caves, sinks and a small natural spring. Archaeologists from the University of West Florida conducted research here in 2014 and located a large site where stone tools were manufactured by prehistoric American Indians during the Archaic era as well as a small habitation site dating from the Weeden Island culture. Especially popular with walkers is the trail

segment that leads down and through Alamo Cave. The trail system was designated a National Recreation Trail in 2013.

Recommendations: An interpretive kiosk should be placed to provide information on the history, archaeology and geology of the preserve.

HHH. Dozier School for Boys (Florida Industrial School for Boys)

Established under an 1897 act of the Florida Legislature, the Florida State Reform School (later Dozier School for Boys) began operations on January 1, 1900. The school was conceived as a place where at risk teenagers could be diverted from the state prison system and taught trades so they could establish lives for themselves once their term at the school was over. The facility originally housed both boys and girls, white and black, on a single unfenced campus. Objections by South Florida newspaper editors to whites and blacks sleeping under the same roof led the legislature to authorize the construction of twin “separate but equal” campuses. The white or South campus remains fenced and closed to the public at this time. The black or North campus is now managed by the Jackson County School Board which operates an Alternative School there. The school was renamed the Florida Industrial School for Boys during the early 1900s and then the Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys in 1967. Dozier was a well-known former superintendent. At times it was the largest facility for juvenile offenders in the nation. For most of its history, Dozier School was an unfenced “open campus” facility. A horrible dormitory fire in 1914 that killed 5 students and 2 employees led to the adoption of a “cottage system” under which smaller groups of students were housed in “cottages” or houses, to each of which were assigned cottage parents. Students received training in a variety of trades including agriculture, printing, electronics, mechanics, etc. They also competed against area high schools in a number of different sports and participated in the school’s marching band, show band, chorus, model airplane club and numerous other activities. The school closed in 2011.

Recommendations: Place a historical marker on the North Campus to provide historical information on the school. As the campus is released by the state, strong consideration should be given to preserving at least the ruins of one of the old cottages on the North Campus to serve as a permanent historic site.

III. Watermelon Alley

Long a landmark for beach-bound tourists on U.S. Highway 231, “Watermelon Alley” is the name given to a cluster of fruit and vegetable stands along both sides of the highway just north of Historic Highway 90. A number of fruit and vegetable stands still operate, although with booths and shops selling souvenirs, crafts, Bonsai trees and other items of interest. Jackson County was once one of the leading watermelon producing locations in the world and the highway was lined with watermelons during the 1940s-1980s. Local merchants still sell Jackson County grown melons from their stands today.

Recommendations: The Jackson County Tourist Development Council should work with Cottdale, Florida DOT and the Florida Department of Agriculture to develop a plan for improvements to Watermelon Alley. The number of stands has suffered a major decline over the years and a valuable cultural and agricultural resource is on the verge of being lost. The focus should be on developing a workable concept for bringing closed stands back to life and encouraging smaller growers to sell their produce along the “Alley.” The TDC can help with marketing and promotion.

JJJ. Cottdale City Hall

This limestone and concrete railroad warehouse dates from the late 19th or early 20th century and has been converted for use by the City of Cottdale. The limestone blocks were mined at nearby quarries and the warehouse was an important establishment in the days when Cottdale was a major shipping point on the L&N (now CSX) Railroad. The city was founded as a worker’s village by the railroad as construction on the P&A (later the L&N) pushed east into Jackson County. It grew into a prosperous community and was incorporated in 1905. The name was a tribute to the vast fields of cotton that grew in the vicinity during the 19th century. A major cotton gin was established by the railroad in Cottdale and bales of cotton were shipped from here by rail to textile mills throughout the country. A number of homes and other structures dating from the early 20th century can be seen scattered through the community.

Recommendations: Place an interpretive panel at City Hall with information on the history of Cottdale.

KKK. The Fernandez de Florencia Raid of 1677

An interpretive panel notes that a militia raid authorized by Captain Juan Fernandez de Florencia passed this vicinity in 1677. Carried out by Christian Apalachee militia from Fort San Luis at present-day Tallahassee along with support from other villages, the raid was launched to destroy a stockade built by Chisca (probably Yuchi) Indians somewhere west of the Choctawhatchee River. The Chisca had been making night raids against Apalachee settlements in Middle Florida for three years until the American Indian militia requested authorization from Fernandez de Florencia, the deputy governor of Apalachee, to follow the Chisca to their hidden fortification and destroy them. The militia followed the main route of the Old Spanish Trail through Jackson County. That path crossed the site where Cottondale was later developed. The interpretive panel is part of the Jackson County Spanish Heritage Trail.

Recommendations: Paint the back of the existing interpretive panel to make it more attractive and consider adding a logo such as a Spanish helmet following the painting to help identify the kiosk as a point of historical interest. Plant flowers around the base of the kiosk.

LLL. Cottondale Train Collision of 1923

One of the deadliest rail accidents in Florida history took place at this site on September 16, 1923. L&N Train Number One, east bound, collided with an excursion train on the Atlanta & St. Andrews Bay line (commonly called The Bay Line). The two railroads cross at Cottondale. Four people, all on the excursion train, were killed and at least 20 others were injured. The engineer of the L&N train, F.A. Bogich, suffered a broken leg. The accident happened as the L&N train approached the crossing from the west at “such a speed that it was unable to stop and ran four rail lengths after cutting through the excursion train.” Doctors and nurses were rushed to the scene from Pensacola, Cottondale, Marianna and Chipley. In what passengers on the excursion train called a miracle, a two year old baby was caught on the pilot of the L&N locomotive as it sliced through the passenger cars and carried hundreds of feet past the collision site, but survived. The child’s mother, Mrs. I.T. Lane of Dothan, Alabama, was killed.

Recommendations: A historical marker should be placed at the site of the accident to provide information and to memorialize those who died.

MMM. Aycock

Aycock was a sawmill “factory town” of the early 20th century. It was located on both sides of the county line where U.S. 90 crosses from Jackson County into Washington. While visible traces of this Florida ghost town are few today, its impact on Florida and U.S. history lives on. A terrible fire at a remote camp located south of the main community claimed the lives of 5 men and left 6 others with horrible injuries. Most of the victims were convicts leased by the Aycock Bros. Lumber Company from Jackson County and investigations indicated they had been chained to their bunks in the company “stockade” when the fire took place. The wave of publicity over the tragedy ignited a movement that eventually brought the practice of “convict leasing” to an end in Florida and the entire nation.

It is recommended that an information kiosk be placed at the site of Aycock, where it is believed that the victims of the 1905 fire are buried. This kiosk should include panels that interpret both the Aycock story and the Historic Highway 90 Corridor as a whole. Because the site is bisected by the county line, both Washington and Jackson County could cooperate in the placement of this kiosk. Cooperation will be needed from the Florida Department of Transportation. It is additionally recommended that a metal historical marker be placed in conjunction with the construction of this kiosk.

3. Additional Recommendations

Recommendations for marketing, additional interpretation, web presence, printed materials, cell phone apps and more are included later in this document.

V. Special Tour Loops

A specific recommendation of Historic Highway 90 Corridor stakeholders in both Jackson and Washington Counties was the creation of special tour loops that would give visitors the opportunity to branch out from the main corridor itself and see more of the attractions in these counties. It was the feeling of the participants in the stakeholders' meeting that the development of these loops would benefit both visitors and the community for the following reasons:

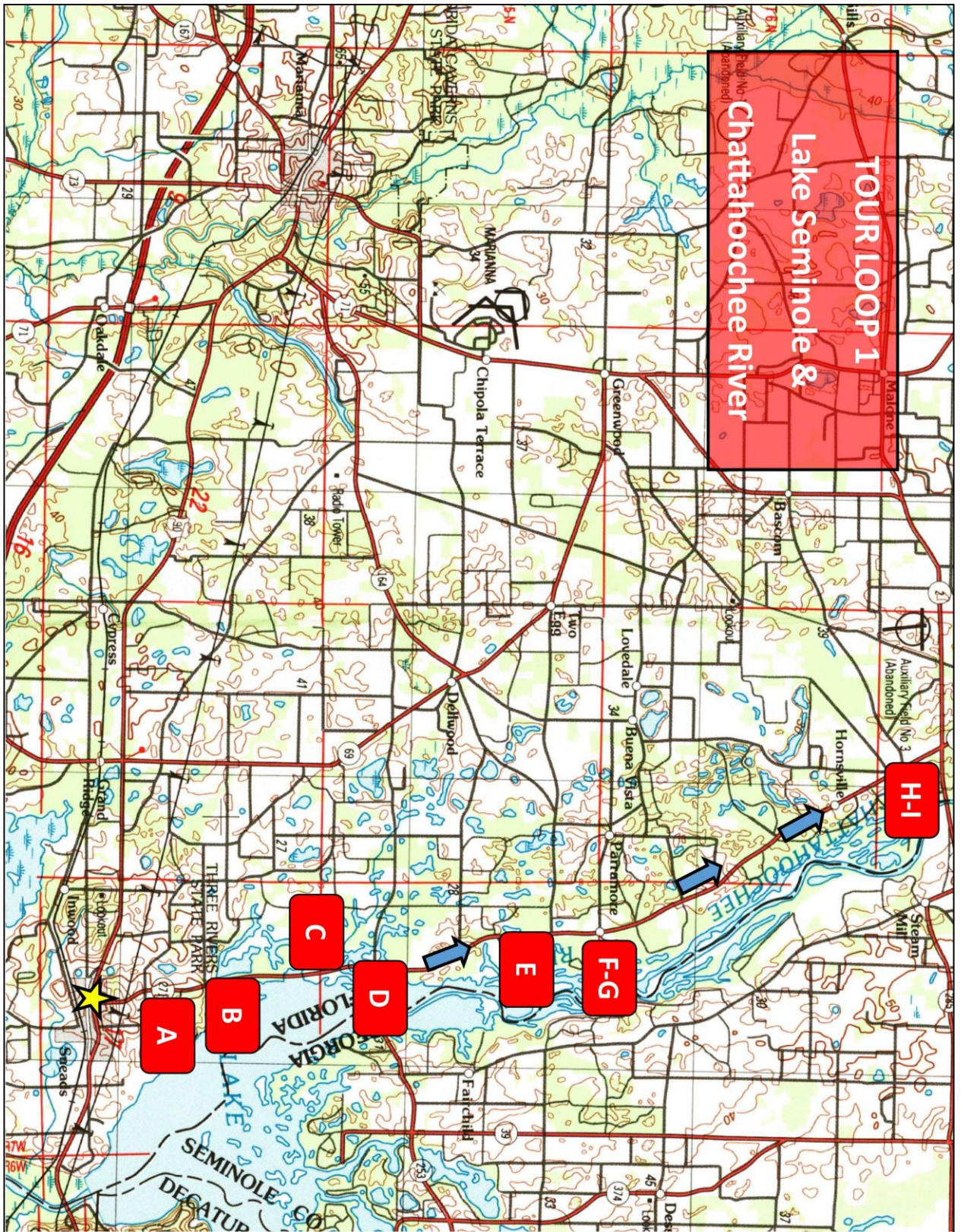
- The tour loops would enhance the experience of visitors traveling the corridor by taking them to the most significant historic sites, eco-tourism destinations and points of interest in Jackson County.
- The loops would benefit the economy of a larger area of the county by increasing traffic in rural areas and the county's other incorporated areas.
- The loops would benefit the economy of the incorporated communities in the Historic Highway 90 Corridor itself, specifically Marianna and Sneads, by encouraging travelers to stay overnight in order to see more of the county. Overnight stays would benefit the hotels, restaurants and retail establishments while also adding to the gasoline and hotel bed tax collections for the county.

In keeping with this recommendation from multiple stakeholders, the following special tour loops were developed:

1. Lake Seminole & Chattahoochee River

This special tour leads from Sneads up the Florida shore of Lake Seminole and the Chattahoochee River. It provides visitors with an opportunity to explore spectacular lakeside scenery, a paradise for waterfowl, American Indian sites of interest and the story of a pirate's gold!

The tour begins at the intersection of U.S. 90 and River Road/County Road 271. It leads north on River Road for 2.1 miles to Three River's State Park.



A. Three Rivers State Park

This beautiful park was established in the 1950s when the 37,500 acre Lake Seminole was formed by the completion of the Jim Woodruff Dam. It features picnic areas, trails, bike trails, campground, fishing, playgrounds and other amenities. Its premier attraction is the spectacular view it offers of the scenic lake itself. The high bluff at the picnic area provides a panoramic view of the lake and the original confluence of the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers. Georgia is directly across the lake, but before 1821 a person taking in this view would have been looking across into another country. Florida was part of Spain.

Leaving the park, the tour turns right onto River Road/County Road 271 and continues to Howell Landing at the bottom of the hill on the right.

B. Howell Landing Archaeological Sites

Submerged beneath Lake Seminole along the shoreline are three large archaeological sites that span virtually the entire prehistoric era of human habitation in Jackson County. The largest of these, the Harrell Site (8JA39), measures approximately 200 feet in diameter and has been dated by archaeologists to include components from the Paleo-Indian, Early and Late Archaic, Swift Creek, Weeden Island and Fort Walton cultural eras. The village and occupation areas bordered a natural spring-fed stream that flowed past what is now Howell Landing and Three Rivers State Park to the Chattahoochee River prior to the completion of Lake Seminole in 1958.

Leaving Howell Landing, turn right (North) onto River Road/County Road 271 and enter the Apalachee Wildlife Management Area.

C. Apalachee WMA

Covering nearly 8,000 acres along Lake Seminole and the Chattahoochee River, the Apalachee Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a state preserve noted for its massive flocks of waterfowl. Popular for birding, photography, sightseeing, fishing and hunting, the WMA

occupies historic lands in what was once the plantation district of eastern Jackson County. River Road offers beautiful views of Lake Seminole as it passes through the WMA.

The tour route continues through the WMA. As it passes the intersection with Butler Road, it enters the historic lands of Econchattimico's Reserve. Proceed to Arnold's Landing on the right.

D. Econchattimico's Reserve

Arnold's Landing is near the site of Econchattimico's town of Tocktoethla ("River Junction"). The noted chief of the Red Ground band of Lower Creeks, Econchattimico ("Red Ground King") fought against U.S. forces during the First Seminole War of 1817-1818. He and his people were granted four square miles surrounding their town under the terms of the Treaty of Moultrie Creek in 1823. In the 1830s, however, their reservation was raided by white slave catchers who carried away a number African American members of the band. Econchattimico sued in U.S. District Court, ultimately securing a ruling that Creek law was valid and that the captives belonged to the chief and his people. The unfortunate kidnap victims had already been sold into slavery, however, and were never returned. The chief and his followers were removed on the Trail of Tears by U.S. Troops under Colonel (later President) Zachary Taylor in 1838. White settlers then flooded onto the former Creek lands.

Leaving Arnold's Landing, the tour turns right (North) onto River Road/County Road 271 and continues past the intersection with Green Road. The next stop will be Bellview Church & Owens Cemetery, on the right a short distance north of the intersection.

E. Bellview Church & Owens Cemetery

This now abandoned Methodist church was established in the 1940s. As the rural population dwindled in eastern Jackson County, its congregation slowly faded until it was decided to close the sanctuary. Immediately behind the church, however, is the much older and longer lasting Owens Cemetery. This cemetery was established by the Owens family which settled this vicinity during the antebellum era. Its oldest graves predate the Civil War. Buried here are Confederate soldiers, plantation families and other early settlers of the area.

Leaving Bellview Church, the tour route turns right (North) onto River Road and continues less than one mile to the intersection with Parramore Road. The loop turns right onto Parramore Road and continues to its dead end at Parramore Landing.

F. Parramore Landing

This modern park and landing is just south of the historic site of Peri (pronounced Pea-Rye) Landing, a riverboat landing of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Paddlewheel steamboats stopped at Peri to load and unload cargo and passengers. The landing was the primary port for the now vanished town of Parramore, which stood several miles west of this point on higher ground. Florida's Civil War governor, John Milton, owned a plantation just south of Parramore Landing along what is now Little Dothan Road.

Also at Parramore Landing is the stop for the Perryman Towns.

G. The Perryman Towns

The Perryman Towns, important Creek Indian villages, were located nearby on both sides of the Chattahoochee River from ca. 1763-1818. The town on the Jackson County side of the river was Tellmochesses and its chief was William Perryman, the grandson of an English trader and his Creek Indian wife. William Perryman was also the brother-in-law of the notorious pirate and adventurer William Augustus Bowles (remembered in Fort Walton Beach today as the pirate "Billy Bowlegs." Bowles lived here for a time but fled after threatening the chief's father and drawing the ire of Perryman and his warriors. William Perryman served as a captain of Creek and Seminole Indians that fought for the British in both the American Revolution and the War of 1812. He sided with the United States during the First Seminole War of 1817-1818, however, and was killed in battle on December 13, 1818. The town was abandoned following his death.

Leaving Parramore Landing, the tour retraces its route to River Road/County Road 271 and turns right (North). It continues for 2.7 miles and turns right on Buena Vista Road. At the end of Buena Vista Road is the Buena Vista Landing.

H. Buena Vista Archaeological Site

This beautiful park stands on the site of a prehistoric American Indian village of the Weeden Island time period (A.D. 200 – A.D. 900). Archaeologists located a large Indian village in the area of the parking lot, excavating shell middens and other features to discover broken shards of pottery and other artifacts. These artifacts revealed much about the life of the people who once lived here. They hunted, fished, farmed and gathered wild fruits and nuts. The bluff provided them with a safe place to live that was generally above flood level. The slough that leads from the landing today was then a running creek fed by upstream springs. The people of the village could paddle their dugout canoes up to the springs or down to the Chattahoochee River. The building of the Jim Woodruff Dam and Lake Seminole in the 1950s caused water to back up here and the running creek is now a beautiful slough known for its fish, alligators, wildlife and spectacular scenery.

From Buena Vista Landing, the tour returns to River Road/County Road 271 and turns right. It follows River Road for 4.6 miles and turns right on Timberlane Road/County Road 164. The tour follows Timberland Road for 1.3 miles to its intersection with State Road 2 and turns right. It continues on State Road 2 for 1 mile and turns right into Neal's Landing Park. Follow the park road to the parking area near the restrooms and boat landing. On the right side of the boat ramp is an informational kiosk.

I. Neal's Landing

This park stands on the site of an important steamboat landing and community of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Moving in following the First Seminole War of 1817-1818, American settlers occupied fields that had been cleared by the Creek Indian inhabitants of Ekanachatte (see the next stop). A log raft served as a ferry. Paddlewheel steamboats arrived on the Chattahoochee River during the 1820s and this site became an important port facility, eventually growing to include a warehouse, hotel, store, homes, sawmill and blacksmith shop. The community faded away as steamboat traffic disappeared during the 1930s due to the development of railroads, modern highways and the trucking industry.

Also at this point is the site of Ekanachatte, a Creek Indian town.

J. Ekanachatte

Established in ca. 1763, Ekanachatte (“Red Ground”) was a Creek Indian town. It lay on the trail that connected Pensacola and St. Augustine, then the capitals of East and West Florida. The inhabitants of this town were friends of the British and allied with them against the American Patriots during the American Revolution. British troops camped here in 1778 and many warriors of the town went to fight on their behalf in defense of St. Augustine which was threatened by American attack. The chief of the village at that time was Cockee, who was called “The Bully” by the English. The term referred not to a sour disposition but to his prowess as a trader. He was described by John Pope in the 1790s as the wealthiest man in the region. Some of this wealth may have come from the pirate ships of William Augustus Bowles. The chief and the adventurer were friends and local legend holds that Bowles treasure of Spanish gold and silver remains hidden in a nearby pond. After the Bully’s death, the leadership of the town was handed down to his nephew Econchattimico (“Red Ground King). An ally of the British during the War of 1812, he fought against the United States during the First Seminole War of 1817-1818. The town was burned by Col. William McIntosh and his brigade of U.S. Creek Auxiliaries in March 1818.

Leaving Neal’s Landing Park, the tour turns left onto State Road 2 for a short distance and then right onto Biscayne Road. This is a surviving section of the old Pensacola-St. Augustine Road that crossed the Chattahoochee River at Ekanachatte. Still a dirt road today, it was described by British officers in the 1760s and was shown on the Purcell-Stuart Map of 1778.

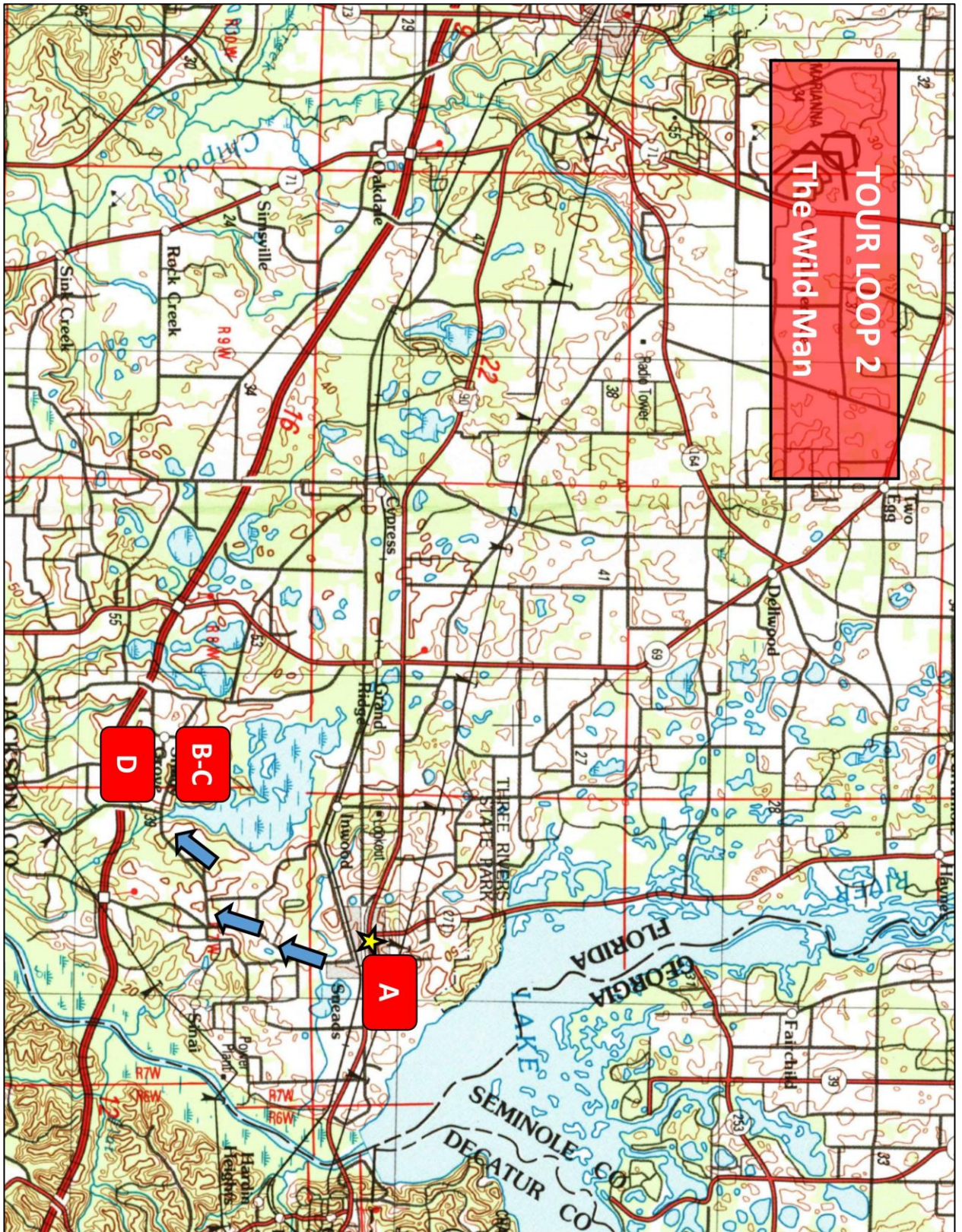
The famed American frontiersman Daniel Boone once traveled this road as he led a party overland from St. Augustine to Pensacola.

The tour loop follows this short segment of Biscayne Road for approximately 1 mile to its intersection with County Road 164. It turns left onto County Road 164 and follows 164 and River Road/County Road 271 back to Sneads and the starting point of the tour at U.S. 90.

2. The Wild Man Loop

This unique tour takes visitors to the Historic Highway 90 Corridor on a journey to learn about one of the strangest stories in Florida history. Relatively short, it begins and ends at Sneads and can be driven in two hours.

The tour begins at the Sneads Town Pump at 8175 Old Spanish Trail, Sneads, Florida. This is also its first stop.



A. Sneads Town Pump

The historic Sneads Town Pump was built in 1899-1900 by Gabriel Smith on a lot sold to the town of Sneads by F.A. and Mittie Brown for \$200 on February 18, 1899. Smith was the first mayor of Sneads and was one of those who named the community for local dentist Dr. W.R. Snead. Legend holds that “he who drinks from this pump will always return” and local men often dunked the heads of non-local grooms beneath its water before allowing them to marry their daughters. The pump and its cypress-shingled shelter were restored in 1974 by the Carlisle Rose Garden Club and the town council. Sneads was incorporated on October 26, 1894 but stands on the site of earlier settlements dating back to the early 1820s. The first settlement on the present-site was known as Pope’s, after U.S. Sub-Agent for Indian Affairs William S. Pope. The Treaty of Pope’s was negotiated at his store on June 18, 1833. Under its terms, the Apalachicola Bands of Creek/Seminole Indians agreed to cede much of their remaining land to the United States. Florida’s famed scientist, Dr. John Gorrie, lived briefly at Pope’s settlement before moving to Apalachicola where he invented air conditioning and the mechanical ice machine. The community was later known as Gloucester but the name Sneads came into use during the 1870s when a voting precinct was established at Dr. Snead’s store.

The tour leaves the Sneads Town Pump by heading east and taking the immediate right onto Gloster Avenue/State Road 286. It follows State Road 286 for 3.2 miles and turns right onto Shady Grove Road/County Road 280. It continues on Shady Grove Road/County Road 280 for 2.9 miles and turns right onto Arkansas Road. It follows Arkansas Road approximately 0.4 miles to the boat landing at Ocheesee Pond.

B. Ocheesee Pond

This huge swampy pond is a major landmark and recreation spot. From this point to its northern tip, the pond is more than 5 miles long. It is a state-designated paddling trail and is a favorite spot for fishing, birding and sightseeing. Prehistoric American Indians and later the Chacato, Creek and Seminole of historic times hunted and fished here. A small American settlement grew nearby during the 1820s as farmers moved in to clear land and plant on the rich hills around the pond. Tension with the Creek and Seminole Indians in the 1830s led to the building of a small blockhouse or fort on a point in the pond to which settlers could retreat if threatened with attack. It was never occupied by regular troops and was abandoned after the Second Seminole War (1835-1842).

Also here is the tour stop for the story of the Wild Man of Ocheesee Pond.

C. The Wild Man of Ocheesee Pond

One of the most bizarre incidents in U.S. history took place at Ocheesee Pond in August 1884. A “wild man” – the common 19th century term for a Bigfoot or Sasquatch – had been raiding chicken pens and gardens at homes around the pond and made himself such a nuisance that a group of local men took their guns and went into the swamp to find him. According to front page coverage in *The New York Times*, they did more than just find him. They captured him! The dispatch from a correspondent in Columbus, Georgia, reported that a steamboat had just arrived with news of the capture. “He had been swimming in Ocheesee Lake, from island to island,” the report indicated, “and when taken was entirely destitute of clothing, emaciated, and covered with a phenomenal growth of hair.” The “wild man” could not speak and appeared human-like to his visitors so they carried him to the Florida State Hospital, a mental health facility in nearby Chattahoochee. The hospital quickly indicated that he was not a patient there so his captors took him on to Tallahassee. He disappears from history after being sent back to the hospital from the state capital. Was he a real man? Or was he the elusive proof of the existence of Bigfoot that researchers have sought for decades? The answer remains a mystery.

From the landing at Ocheesee Pond, the loop retraces its route back along Arkansas Road to Shady Grove Road/County Road 280 and turns right. It follows Shady Grove Road/County Road 280 for 1.1 miles then turns left onto Birchwood Road. The cemetery is 0.1 miles ahead on the right.

D. Shady Grove Cemetery

This historic cemetery dates from the 19th century and includes the graves of generations of people who made their lives farming, hunting and fishing around Ocheesee Pond. Buried here are people who were living when the Ocheesee Pond Wild Man was captured (see above). A mailbox marks the grave of beloved area mailman Vernon Adell Demont. A picture of a mule will be found on the grave of Simon Deloy. The grave of Drew Roberts notes that he has “Gone to a happy hunting ground.” The inscription on the grave of L.M. Clark, who died in

1911, admonishes visitors, “Remember me when passing by as you are now so once was I. As I am now so you must be prepared to die and follow me.” And the grave of James Douglas Johnson asks, “Lord, are there any riverboats in Heaven where this old riverman could abide?” One plot contains a number of graves that were moved here from the Russ Cemetery that is now beneath the waters of Lake Seminole. The massive number of graves of veterans offers silent testimony to the heavy price paid by small rural communities in wars from the Civil War to the conflicts in the Middle East. A close check will also reveal the graves of people of all ages who died in the fall of 1918, victims of the Spanish Influenza pandemic that swept the United States and took the lives of more than 400,000 Americans and millions of people worldwide.

After visiting Shady Grove Cemetery, the loop retraces its route to Sneads and its beginning point at the Sneads Town Pump.

3. National Highway of Dirt

This tour traces the evolution of Historic Highway 90 from its origins as an American Indian trail through its years of use by the Spanish, American settlers, the first tourists to explore the Old Spanish Trail national highway and the motorists of today.

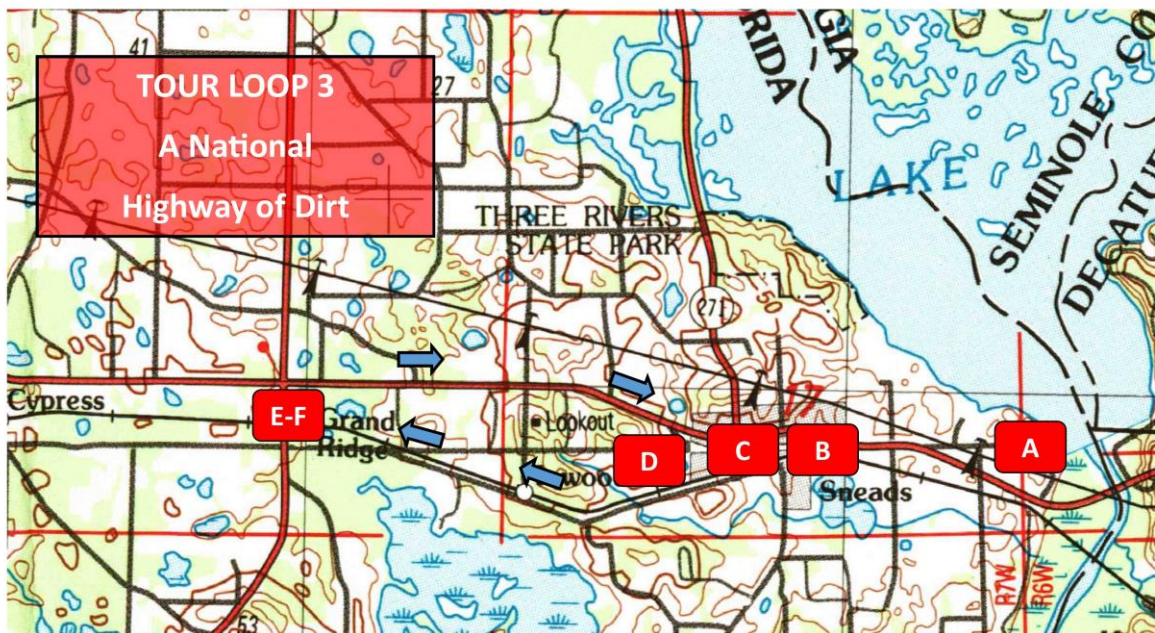
The loop begins at the West Bank Overlook (also called the Jim Woodruff Dam Overlook) on West Bank Road, Sneads, Florida. This is also the location of the first tour stop, which is at the interpretive kiosk for Mission San Carlos by the lake-level benches.

A. Mission San Carlos

Mission San Carlos was a Franciscan mission established at this point in ca. 1680 to serve a village of Christian Chacato (Chatot) Indians. Consisting of a chapel and other structures, the mission was the westernmost link in the Florida mission chain from 1680-1696. The Marcos Delgado expedition to the Upper Creeks in Alabama left from this point in 1686 and Gov. Don Laureano de Torres y Ayala left from here in 1693 to successfully attempt the first Spanish overland crossing of Northwest Florida. The mission and surrounding village were destroyed by Creek Indian raiders in 1696. Many of the inhabitants were carried away and

sold as slaves to the English in South Carolina. The site was located in 1948 by Florida Park Service archaeologist Ripley P. Bullen. The Jackson County Tourist Development Council placed an interpretive panel at the site in 2014 in association with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Public facilities include an overlook, benches, parking and an interpretive kiosk.

From the interpretive kiosk by the lakeshore, the tour loop continues on West Bank Road around the curve and to the upper overlook which provides a spectacular view of Lake Seminole. It then continues a short distance and turns left onto Gatehouse Drive. This very short segment of paved road follows the route of the original Old Spanish Trail that was followed by the Spanish missionaries, soldiers, officials and the Christian Chacato Indian villagers who lived at and visited Mission San Carlos. It was also used by early settlers of Jackson County as a major transportation route from 1821 until after World War II. The tour proceeds to the stop sign and turns right onto West Bank Road, which it follows for 0.4 miles to U.S. 90. It takes a right turn onto U.S. 90 and continues for 2.2 miles and turns left onto Old Spanish Trail.



B. Old Spanish Trail

This section of Old Spanish Trail, now a city street in Sneads, is part of the original Old Spanish Trail that was used by Spanish missionaries and soldiers as early as 1674. It was

probably part of an American Indian trail that was in use long before the Spanish arrived, as the early explorers usually followed the paths already being used by American Indians. The modern community of Sneads developed after the arrival of the P&A (later the L&N and today the CSX) railroad in the late 1800s and its original business district was centered around the railroad station. When work began on the Old Spanish Trail national highway in 1916, it was decided to run the route through what was then the downtown area. This street is a section of that original roadway, which was completed from Florida to Texas in 1929. Modern Highway 90 was re-routed a short distance to the north during the second half of the 20th century.

The tour continues along Old Spanish Trail for just under 1 mile to the Sneads Town Pump which is on the left.

C. Sneads Town Pump

The historic Sneads Town Pump was placed in 1899-1900 by Gabriel Smith on a lot sold to the town of Sneads by F.A. and Mittie Brown for \$200 on February 18, 1899. Smith was the first mayor of Sneads and was one of those who named the community for local dentist Dr. W.R. Snead. Legend holds that “he who drinks from this pump will always return” and local men often dunked the heads of non-local grooms beneath its water before allowing them to marry their daughters. The pump and its cypress-shingled shelter were restored in 1974 by the Carlisle Rose Garden Club and the town council.

From the Sneads Town Pump, the tour continues west on Old Spanish Trail. The street will become a dirt road at the edge of Sneads as it continues into a rural area on its way to Grand Ridge.

D. A Continental Highway of Dirt

This graded county road, still called the Old Spanish Trail, is a surviving portion of the 1920s Old Spanish Trail national highway. Many highways were still unpaved at that time and long stretches of the continental highway were still just graded roads. This roadway was originally built in the 1870s by the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners to replace the earlier road that linked Marianna with Chattahoochee. The earlier path followed the original

Old Spanish Trail from the 1600s, but on the eve of the Civil War a telegraph line was completed along this route. After the war and as local government recovered from the devastation, the county moved forward with building this improved road along the telegraph line. In 1916, when the route of the continental highway to be called the Old Spanish Trail was selected, this dirt road from Sneads to Marianna was designated. The road was improved and regular grading began at that time. It continues to this day.

The tour continues west along this unique section of the Old Spanish Trail for approximately 5 miles to its intersection with State Road 69. The loop turns right onto State Road 69 and continues for two blocks before turning right onto Iowa Street. It then continues to First Methodist Church of Grand Ridge at 6911 Iowa Street.

E. First Methodist Church of Grand Ridge

This historic sanctuary was built in 1889-1890 as the First Presbyterian Church by members of the Porter family and their neighbors. John Thomas Porter and his wife, Phebe Jane Porter, were charter members of the congregation. They are credited with naming Grand Ridge after their home town of Grand Ridge, Illinois. A prominent local merchant and civic leader, Mr. Porter helped to fund the construction of the church. He and his wife are buried in a concrete mausoleum in the adjoining Porter Cemetery. The Presbyterian congregation eventually faded but the sanctuary became the meeting place of the First Methodist Church of Grand Ridge. It remains in use today. Services are open to the public.

From the church, the tour retraces its route on Iowa Street back to State Road 69 and turns right. It continues one block to the railroad crossing. Just across the tracks on the left is historic Porter's Store.

F. Porter's Store

Porter's Store was built by Grand Ridge founder John Thomas Porter in ca. 1889-1895. A charming country or general store, the business served the community for many years. Its location by the L&N Railroad demonstrates the railroad's importance in the early days of the community. Mr. Porter named Grand Ridge for his home town of Grand Ridge, Illinois. The

name applies both to the community and the high ground on which the town is located. Porter founded Grand Ridge in 1889.

From Porter's Store, continue north on State Road 69 the tour continues a short distance north to the intersection with U.S. 90. It turns right on U.S. 90 and follows it back to the starting point at Sneads.

4. Jackson County Spanish Heritage Trail

This tour loop is the already established Jackson County Spanish Heritage Trail, which begins and ends at the historic Russ House and Visitor Center on U.S. 90 West in Marianna, Florida. It visits 11 sites that interpret the Spanish Colonial heritage of Jackson County. Informational kiosks have already been installed at each of these sites and the Jackson County Tourist Development Council with cooperation from Visit Florida has published guidebooks, brochures and other information about the trail. Tour information is also available on the TDC website at www.visitjacksoncountyfla.com.

The tour includes the following stops:

- A. Blue Springs (Large first magnitude spring and Spanish campsite).
- B. Original Old Spanish Trail (Surviving section of the original 17th Century Spanish Trail).
- C. Mission San Carlos (Franciscan mission established in ca. 1680).
- D. Ekanachatte (Important Creek Indian village of the 18th and early 19th centuries).
- E. Pensacola – St. Augustine Road (Surviving trace of road across Florida first mapped in 1778).
- F. Spring Creek Settlement (Site of an American settlement established in Spanish Florida two years before the cession of the colony to the United States).
- G. The Chacato Revolt (Interpretive stop with information on the 1675 rebellion of the Chacato Indians against the Spanish).
- H. Marcos Delgado at Bellamy Bridge (Crossing point where the expedition of explorer Marcos Delgado waded the Chipola River in 1686).
- I. Natural Bridge of the Chipola (Natural formation and site where the 17th century Old Spanish Trail crossed the Chipola River).

- J. Mission San Nicolas (Interpretive stop near the site of a Franciscan mission established in 1674).
- K. Fernandez de Florencia Raid of 1677 (Interpretive stop along the route of a raid by Christian Apalachee Militia against Chisca/Yuchi Indians).

Guidebooks and other information on the Jackson County Spanish Heritage Trail are available at the Russ House & Visitor Center, Jackson County Courthouse and city halls throughout the county.

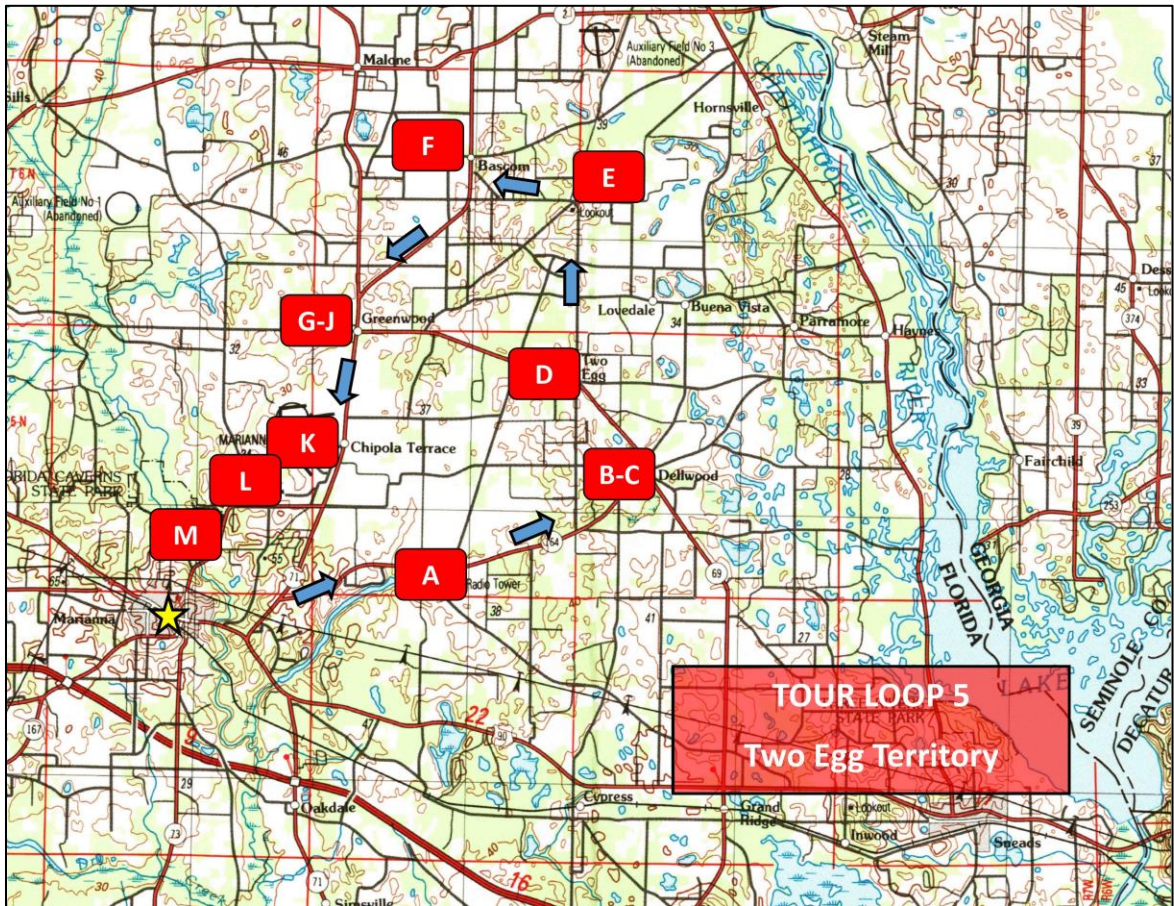


5. Two Egg Territory

This tour loop begins and ends at the historic Russ House & Visitor Center on U.S. 90 West in Marianna. It passes through the legendary small community of Two Egg, Florida, as well as through this historic antebellum community of Greenwood and past the childhood home site and school of Academy Award winning actress Faye Dunaway.

From the Russ House & Visitor Center, the tour leads east on U.S. 90 through downtown Marianna and across the Chipola River. The tour follows U.S. 90 East for 2.1 miles and then turns left onto State Road 71 North. It continues on State Road 71 North for 1.1 miles and turns

right onto Blue Springs Road/County Road 164. The route follows Blue Springs Road for 3.3 miles. The entrance to Blue Springs Recreational Area will be on the right.



A. Blue Springs

Jackson Blue Springs is the only first magnitude spring in the Chipola River basin. It flows at an average rate of 76 million gallons per day and – with five smaller springs – feeds Merritt’s Mill Pond. Archaeologists have determined that the spring was used by prehistoric American hunters over thousands of years. The spring was a stop on the “Old Spanish Trail” that led from Mission San Luis near Tallahassee to the three missions established by Franciscan friars among the Chacato Indians of Northwest Florida. Fray Rodrigo de la Barreda, who visited the spring multiple times in 1674-1693 wrote that it was “entirely surrounded by woods” and that the caves in the hillsides around Blue Springs were “frequented by the Indians on their hunting trips for bear, deer and buffalo, of which there is an abundance.” A section of the original Spanish road can be seen within the park boundaries. The army of Major General Andrew Jackson camped here

on May 10, 1818, while on its way from the Apalachicola River to capture Spanish Pensacola during the First Seminole War. A frontiersman named William Pyles settled at Jackson Blue Springs during the last days of the Spanish era and before Florida became part of the United States in 1821. He sold out to Major William Robinson who arrived early in Florida's Territorial era to establish a 3,100 acre cotton plantation. Robinson's home overlooked the spring and featured a unique pulley system used to bring fresh water up from the spring to supply a pipe system installed in the house. Following Robinson's death, the plantation became the property of John Milton. He expanded the farm to more than 6,000 acres and named it Sylvania. Milton served as Florida's Confederate governor in 1861-1865. A permanent Confederate facility named Camp Governor Milton was established at Blue Springs in 1862. Cavalry companies rode out from the camp to patrol the coastline. Troops from Camp Governor Milton took part in the Battle of Marianna on September 27, 1864. Jackson Blue Springs is a popular recreation area today. The park offers swimming, picnicking, sightseeing, birding, nature trails and interpretive kiosks that interpret the spring, its use by the Spanish and the surviving remnant of the Old Spanish Trail.

Leaving Blue Springs, the tour continues east on Blue Springs Road/County Road 164. The next two miles pass through what was once Sylvania, the plantation of Governor John Milton who led Florida during the Civil War.

From Blue Springs the tour continues east on Blue Springs Road for 6.8 miles to the historic Dellwood Baptist Church and home of Dr. C.H. Ryals. The church is on the left side of the road and the house is opposite the church on the right side of the road.

B. A Country Doctor

From the historical marker on the south side of the road can be seen the beautiful old frame home of Dr. Charles H. Ryals. The structure to the left of the main house was his office. Dellwood was an active and growing community when he located here in 1903. Its post office had been approved in 1880 and it was one of three Jackson County communities to boast a meeting hall of The Grange, a noteworthy farmers' organization of the 19th century. The Dellwood Grange Hall was mentioned in notices as early as 1875. The community also had a school, stores and other businesses. Dr. Ryals was a "country doctor" of the old school. He practiced here for 52 years, treating rich and poor alike while delivering hundreds of babies and treating patients in their homes as well as in his office. In 1910 he purchased one of Jackson County's first automobiles and roamed widely through the agricultural

communities of this area to help people in need. He later was among the founding physicians of Marianna's first public hospital. He is buried across the road in the Dellwood Methodist Church Cemetery. The home is private, but visitors are welcome to read the historical marker and view the home from outside its fence.

C. Dellwood Church

This historic church was built in 1910 to serve the then prosperous community of Dellwood. Lumber was milled at the nearby Bevis sawmill and Dr. Charles H. Ryals, a prominent "country doctor" for most of his life, donated both the land for the church and the funds needed to build it. The congregation met every other week to hear sermons presented by circuit riding Methodist preachers. The beautiful old structure was restored in 1987 through the generosity of Andrew Jackson McMullian and Willie Ross McMullian. Her father was Dr. Charles H. Ryals, who donated the site. The original pulpit and bell still grace the structure, which is now preserved as a historic memorial. The adjoining cemetery dates from 1922.

From Dellwood Methodist Church the tour continues for a short distance and turns left onto State Road 69. The loop follows State Road 69 for 2.5 miles and then turns left onto Wintergreen Road/County Road 69A. In less than 200 feet is the center of downtown Two Egg, Florida.

D. Two Egg, Florida

Named America's #1 Place named for a Breakfast Food by Food Network Magazine, Two Egg is one of the most uniquely named communities in the United States. The unusual name originated during the Great Depression from the practice of trading farm items for what local residents needed from the Bevis Store. There are various stories, but the tale as handed down by the Bevis family indicates that the name came into being after a traveling salesman watched two small boys come into the store to trade for two eggs worth of sugar. The salesman spread the word of the "two egg town" in his travels and the name stuck. The community has been described in numerous books and has its own website. Visitors stop to pose by the signs and enjoy this small piece of Americana. Local residents gather to present the play "A Christmas in Two Egg, Florida" each December.

From Two Egg, the tour continues north on Wintergreen Road for 4.2 miles to the intersection with Tower Road and the next tour stop.

E. Childhood Home of Faye Dunaway

Just east off Tower Road is the farm where Academy Award winning actress Faye Dunaway spent her childhood years. The daughter of John M. Dunaway, Jr., and Grace April Dunaway, the actress was known in her childhood as Dorothy Faye Dunaway. Many members of the Dunaway family still live in the area. She skyrocketed to stardom at the age of 26 in 1967 with her portrayal of Bonnie Parker opposite Warren Beatty in the film “Bonnie and Clyde.” She was nominated for an Academy Award for the role and went on to play opposite Steve McQueen in “The Thomas Crown Affair,” Jack Nicholson in “Chinatown” and Robert Redford in “Three Days of the Condor.” She received an Oscar for her role in the 1976 film “Network” and went on to portray Joan Crawford in “Mommie Dearest” among other roles. Her production company is named Port Bascom after the nearby town of Bascom, Florida. The home where she lived was later moved.

The tour continues on Wintergreen Road for another 2.6 miles to its intersection with Basswood Road/County Road 165. It turns right onto Basswood Road for 0.3 miles to the historic old Bascom School.

F. Bascom School

This historic brick school was built in the early 20th century on the site of an earlier wooden structure. A rare surviving example of an unaltered rural school from the early decades of the last century, the 1929 structure is undergoing restoration thanks to a group of interested former students and friends with help from state grants and donations. Bascom School was the first school attended by Academy Award winning actress Faye Dunaway. Future plans call for use of the building as a community center and historical museum.

From the Bascom School, the tour turns back south on Basswood Road and continues for 4.5 miles to its intersection with State Road 71 on the outskirts of the historic antebellum

community of Greenwood, Florida. The tour turns left onto State Road 71 and continues a short distance to the Hayes-Long Mansion ahead on the right.

G. Hayes-Long Mansion

Built in around 1840, this mansion was the home of James Hayes who owned large plantation lands in Jackson County. He served in the Confederate army and was killed in 1863 during the Atlanta Campaign. His estate continued to own the beautiful home until 1885. It passed through the hands of several owners and was purchased in 1913 by William H. Long. He added the red brick. Prior to his purchase of the house, it was entirely a frame structure. The home is private but it may be viewed from the sidewalk where a historical marker provides more information. Directly opposite State Road 71 from the house is the historic Greenwood Methodist Cemetery. It contains the graves of many of the town's early residents.

The tour continues forward into Greenwood where State Road 71 is also named Bryan Avenue. The next stop is the L.S. Pender Store at 4208 Bryan Avenue.

H. L.S. Pender Store

This historic business was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. Built in 1869 by Napoleon B. Riley and Cicero Long, it is one of the oldest operating businesses in the State of Florida. The business was sold to Laurence S. Pender in 1896. He changed the name to L.S. Pender's and the Pender family has operated it ever since. The store has now been open under the Pender family for nearly 120 years. Open to the public daily, this beautiful old commercial building features its original stores and shelves. The wooden shutters are still closed each night.

Next door to Pender's Store at the intersection of Bryan Street and Fort Road is the historic Erwin House.

I. Erwin House

Built in around 1839 by John A. Syfrett, this home is thought to be the oldest standing residence in Jackson County. Its central hallways were originally of the “dog-trot” or “dog-run” style which meant they were left open at each end and dogs could literally run through the house. The house was sold to Mary Roberts in 1851 and then one year later to Henry Bryan. Dr. Franklin Hart bought the home in 1855. He enclosed the hallways and added doors as well as verandas to upgrade the look of the house. In addition to his medical practice, Dr. Hart operated a small plantation but shortly before the Civil War his home became the scene of a horrible tragedy when one of the slaves committed suicide by running from the house and leaping into the well that can still be seen in the corner of the yard. The shock and implications that followed led Dr. Hart to sell the house in 1861 to John M.F. Erwin. It still bears his name today. The home is a private residence but can be viewed from the sidewalk. A historical marker faces Fort Road and provides more information on its history.

From the Erwin House the tour continues south on Bryan Street through the red light and two blocks to the beautiful Great Oaks Mansion which stands on the right side of the street.

J. Great Oaks

Built by Hamilton Bryan in 1860 for his mother and sisters, this magnificent Southern home is believed by some researchers to be the last antebellum mansion completed before the Civil War and still standing today. Almost as soon as the house was completed, Florida left the Union and joined the Confederacy. Four years of war followed. It is interesting to note that slavery existed for only 5 years of the long history of this home. The Bryan family entered labor contracts with former slaves and paid them to work the plantation lands after the war. The house was used as a residence through the end of the 19th century. It later served as a school on two occasions (1918 and 1940) and then was purchased by contractor Claude Reese in 1961. He lovingly restored the mansion to its former grandeur. The house is not open to the public at this time, but can be viewed from the street. A historical marker provides more information. Great Oaks is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

From Great Oaks the tour continues south on State Road 71 for approximately 1.7 miles and turns right onto Industrial Drive. It continues another 1.1 miles to the tower building of the Marianna Airport.

K. Jackson County UFO of 1955

One of America's still-unsolved UFO encounters took place in the skies over Jackson County on December 6, 1955. A radar operator in this building at Graham Air Base (now the Marianna Airport) observed an Unidentified Flying Object traveling north along the Apalachicola and Chattahoochee Rivers across Jackson County at a high rate of speed. Civilians on the ground observed what they described as a "light" as the unexplained object streaked north out of the county and into the skies over Alabama. The UFO was tracked almost to Montgomery, Alabama. Investigated by the U.S. Air Force and listed in the famed "Project Blue Book" report, the sighting is listed as unsolved to this day.

The tour continues on Industrial Drive for 0.6 miles and veers right onto Foster Road for another 0.5 miles. It then turns right onto Russell Road and continues for approximately 0.5 miles to Caverns Road. The tour turns right onto Caverns Road and continues for just over 0.5 miles to the MERE Locomotive on the right.

L. The MERE Locomotive

This historic 0-4-2 tank locomotive dates from the early 20th century and once pulled trains of ore at the Coronet Phosphate mines in Central Florida. It was purchased by Dr. Albert Folds who dreamed of establishing a railroad-themed amusement park. The park never became a reality but the little tank engine was brought to this site from Mount Dora during the 1970s.

Leaving the MERE Locomotive, the tour follows Caverns Road for 1.6 miles and turn into Florida Caverns State Park. Visitors can enjoy the beautiful caves and other features of this park before continuing to the next tour stop at the Natural Bridge of the Chipola River (designated as the River Sink on park maps).

M. Rip Van Winkle of the Florida Caverns

One of Jackson County's most unusual legends originated in a cave near this spot. The cave is no longer open to the public because it is a roosting place for an endangered species of bat. During the 1800s, however, it was a popular place for picnics. According to local tradition, a group of teenagers from Marianna were picnicking here at around the time of the Civil War

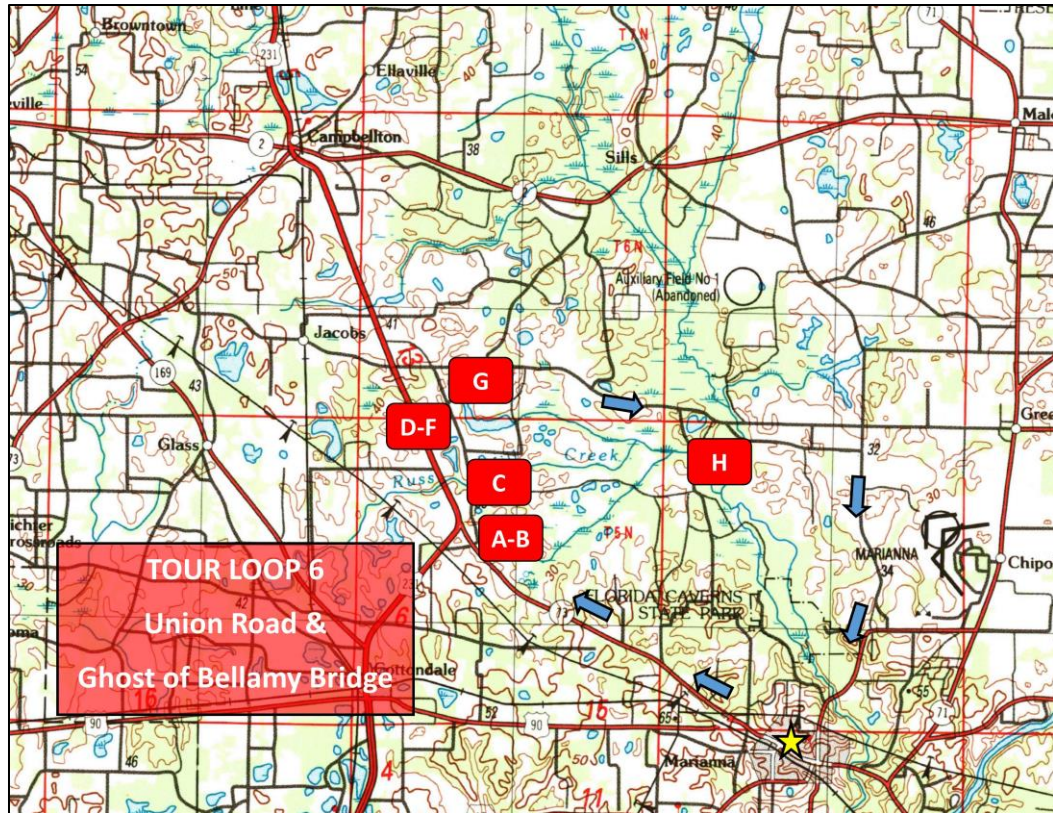
and decided to explore the cave. One of them leaned against what appeared to be a natural rock wall and it suddenly collapsed. As the dust settled a man with a long white beard suddenly emerged. He was wearing tattered buckskin clothes and carrying an ancient musket. He spoke in a curious mixture of English and Spanish. After finally making himself understood, he asked the year. When he was given the answer, the story continues, he suddenly panicked and ran from the cave, yelling that he had been asleep for more than 100 years. He was never seen again. The truth of the legend, of course, is questionable, but it did appear in a Cincinnati newspaper during the 1850s and a New York newspaper during the 1870s.

From Florida Caverns State Park the tour turns right onto Caverns Road and continues back to U.S. 90 and the historic Russ House and Visitor Center in Marianna.

6. Union Road & Bellamy Bridge

This loop explores the rich multi-cultural history of Jackson County by focusing on its Spanish, American Indian and African American history. Among the stories told are those of a lost Franciscan mission, Jackson County's first African American attorney, a walk by hundreds of enslaved African Americans to freedom and the Waddell Mill Pond archaeological site.

The tour begins and ends at the historic Russ House & Visitor Center at 4318 Lafayette Street in Marianna. From the Russ House it runs west on U.S. 90 for 1.4 miles and then turns right onto State Road 73. It continues on State Road 73 for 6.2 miles to the intersection with Union Road and the interpretive kiosk for Mission San Nicolas on the right.



A. Mission San Nicolas

This Franciscan mission was established nearby in 1674 at a site that remains lost to time. Spanish accounts indicate that it was located near a cave so large that 200 people could sleep inside its main chamber. The church was the scene of the first recorded Christmas observance in Jackson County. Many of the residents of the Chacato Indian village that surrounded the mission converted to the Catholic faith, but other members of the tribe resented the interference of the Spanish missionaries and launched a rebellion against them in 1675. The mission was destroyed and the friar forced to flee for his life. The Spanish retaliated with a military expedition that destroyed the rebellious towns.

From the Mission San Nicolas kiosk, the tour follows Union Road up the hill to the site of Webbville.

B. Webbville

This hilltop was the site of the first incorporated town in Jackson County. Webbville, established soon after Florida was ceded to the United States by Spain, was incorporated in 1827 as its promoters pushed for it to be designated the permanent county seat of Jackson County. The community then included a school, hotel, jail, homes, stores and even the first brick building in the county. Rival promoters established the City of Marianna during that same year and the two communities waged a long and bitter political fight for the county seat status. Webbville tried to achieve final victory by having the U.S. Congress designate it as the official county seat. The Florida Territorial Legislature could not overturn an act of Congress, but instead voted to fine any public official who did not conduct business from Marianna. The officials all moved to Marianna and the businesses soon followed. It is believed that Webbville still remains the “official” county seat, but no trace of the town remains.

The tour route continues north on Union Road. This graded road was once the main road leading from Marianna to Campbellton, an important trading community in northern Jackson County. The next tour stop is at the intersection of Union Road and Baker Creek Road.

C. The Raid on Marianna

Union Road was the scene of a frenzy of military activity on the morning of September 27, 1864. Outnumbered Confederate cavalry retreated down the road, staying ahead of a large force of Union soldiers marching for Marianna. Some skirmishing took place along the road, but the extent of the fighting is not known. Eyewitness accounts indicate that the Federal troops raided the Waddell, Russ and Barnes Plantations along what is now Union Road as they passed by on their way to the Battle of Marianna.

From the intersection of Union Road and Baker Creek Road, the tour continues north on Union Road across Baker Creek for approximately 0.8 miles to the gateway to the Southern Cattle Company Ranch. This was the site of the John R. Waddell Plantation.

D. The Waddell Plantation

A large cotton plantation before the Civil War, this land was the site of the first public meeting after Jackson County was formed in 1822. At that time it was woods and small

farms. County commissioners and judges met at the home of the “Widow Hull” to hold the first session of the county’s courts. No trace of the home remains today and its precise site is unknown. The property was later acquired by John R. Waddell who established a massive plantation here. He also built a dam and water-powered mill nearby. Waddell’s Mill Pond still bears his name today. The plantation was raided by Union troops on September 27, 1864. Crops and barns were destroyed, livestock was killed or confiscated and the enslaved African Americans who lived here were liberated. The plantation house no longer stands.

From the site of the Waddell Plantation, the tour continues north a short distance to Springfield A.M.E. Church at 4194 Union Road and the tour stops for “Walking to Freedom” and “Armstrong Purdee.”

E. Walking to Freedom

This historic church stands on land that was once part of the cotton plantation of John R. Waddell. Union troops from the 2nd Maine Cavalry, 1st Florida Cavalry (U.S.) and 82nd & 86th USCT regiments arrived here on the morning of September 27, 1864. They raided the plantation and liberated all of the African American slaves who desired to go. This was the first recorded enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Jackson County. Many of the newly free men, women and children left on foot, walking to freedom. The 1864 raid freed more than 600 people from slavery in Jackson County. They followed the U.S. soldiers back to Pensacola, walking the entire distance, and settled there until the end of the Civil War. After the final defeat of the Confederacy, many returned home to Jackson County and assumed their new roles as free citizens.

F. Armstrong Purdee

Among the men, women and children liberated from slavery here on the morning of September 27, 1864, was 8-year-old Armstrong Purdee. He later wrote that he was standing near the gate to the Waddell house when he saw the U.S. soldiers come down the road. One of them asked him if he wished to go and he replied, “Yes, sir.” The soldier pulled him up onto the back of his horse and the child rode away to freedom. Later in the day he rode behind the soldier all the way through the Battle of Marianna and witnessed the burning of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. As an adult, Armstrong Purdee went on to become Jackson

County's first African American attorney. He maintained an office on courthouse square and practiced well into the 20th century. He is buried at Riverside Cemetery in Marianna.

While visiting these stops, note the historic Springfield A.M.E. Church and Cemetery. This church was founded after the Civil War as part of the African Methodist Episcopal church. A.M.E. churches became fixtures in the county after the war and have long served a ministry to their congregations.

From Springfield A.M.E. Church, continue north a short distance on Union Road and then turn right onto Safari Road. Follow Safari Road for 0.3 miles.

G. Waddell Mill Pond Site

Nearby is the site of a major American Indian town and mound complex from the Mississippian era (A.D. 900-A.D. 1450). It is thought that this site was occupied by the ancestors of the Chacato Indians (not to be confused with the Choctaw, who were a different tribe) who lived in western Jackson County when the first Spanish explorers arrived in 1674. The site consisted of two platform mounds, likely used for ceremonial purposes, and a large village area that was surrounded by an earthen embankment. Archaeologists disagree over whether this embankment was a fortification or had ceremonial significance. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is privately owned.

The tour continues north on Safari Road a short distance to its intersection with County Road 162. It then turns right onto 162 and continues for 5.5 miles to the parking lot for the Bellamy Bridge Heritage Trail on the right.

H. The Ghost of Bellamy Bridge

The Bellamy Bridge Heritage Trail is a one-half mile nature trail that leads through the beautiful forests of the upper Chipola River to historic and haunted Bellamy Bridge. Said to be the most haunted bridge in the State of Florida, Bellamy Bridge was built in 1914 on the site of earlier wooden spans. Its surviving steel frame is believed to be the oldest standing bridge in the state. According to well-known local legend, the area around the bridge is haunted by the restless ghost of Elizabeth Jane Croom Bellamy. She died on May 11, 1837,

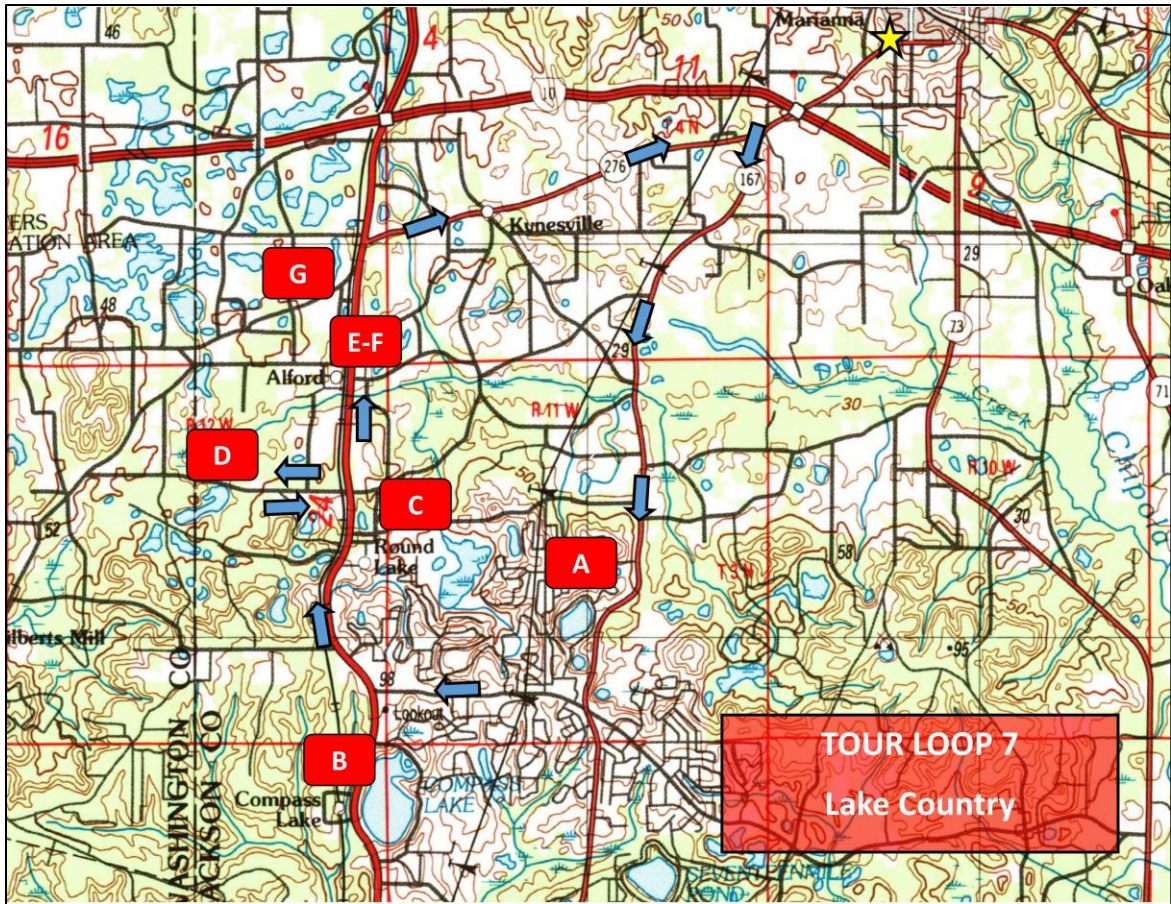
but supposedly came back from the grave to search for her beloved husband, Dr. Samuel Bellamy. The story has been told in a book, “The Ghost of Bellamy Bridge,” which benefits the trail project. A recent documentary named “Spirits in the Swamp” also chronicles the story. The trail is open to the public daily and free custom tours can be arranged by calling the Jackson County Tourism Office at (850) 482-8061 or emailing info@visitjacksoncountyfla.com. The trail is also noted for its numerous rare and endangered species and for the incredible natural beauty of the bridge site.

From Bellamy Bridge, the tour continues east to the intersection with Old U.S. Road, where it turns right. It then continues back to Marianna via Old U.S. Road and Caverns Road. Additional attractions along the route include beautiful Florida Caverns State Park and Citizens Lodge & Park.

7. The Lake Country Loop

This loop takes visitors off the beaten path to the beautiful lake and hill country of southwestern Jackson County. Stops include numerous natural lakes, the town that elected the first female mayor in the history of Florida and a road followed by Union troops on their way home from the Battle of Marianna.

The tour begins and ends at the historic Russ House and Visitor Center at 4318 Lafayette Street in Marianna. It begins by heading west on U.S. 90 (Lafayette Street) for 0.9 miles and then turning left onto Penn Avenue. The route continues down Penn Avenue (which becomes Kynesville Highway) for 3.4 miles and then turns left onto County Road 167. It follows County Road 167 south for 8.7 miles to the McCormick Lake sign on the right. Turn right to the McCormick Lodge.



A. McCormick Lake

This beautiful lake is one of a series of large natural lakes that stretch from southwestern Jackson County west across much of neighboring Washington County. The lake is privately owned and is part of the Compass Lake in the Hills development, but can be used by property owners and visitors who rent cabins at the development. The lake results from the unique karst topography of Jackson County. The beautiful water rises from underground.

From McCormick Lake, the tour continues south on County Road 167 for 1.5 miles and then turns right on Nortek Boulevard. It follows Nortek Boulevard for 3.4 miles past the amenities of Compass Lake in the Hills and then turns left onto Lakepoint Road. Another 1.5 miles ahead on Lakepoint Road is the little lakeside community of Compass Lake. The next tour stop is at the public boat ramp.

B. Compass Lake

This beautiful natural lake is spring-fed, covers more than 600 acres and measures more than one-mile long from north to south and nearly one-mile from east to west. It looks something like a compass from above, hence the name. Formed by the karst topography of Florida, which is a type of geology created where the soil rests over soft rock such as limestone. Water erodes passages through the rock and creates springs and lakes. The surrounding hills are some of the highest in Jackson County and add greatly to the scenery of the lake. Compass Lake was once the center of the tung nut industry in Florida. These nuts provided vital oil during World War II. They are considered an invasive species today. The groves are long gone and the lake is known today as a playground for residents and visitors alike.

From Compass Lake, the tour route reverses direction and runs north on Lakepoint Road for 2.5 miles to its intersection with U.S. 231. It turns right onto U.S. 231 and continues north for another 1.8 miles to Round Lake.

C. Round Lake

Round Lake is another of the beautiful natural lakes in southwestern Jackson County. Easily visible from U.S. 231, it takes its name because it is almost circular in form. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, this was one of the key areas of the Florida citrus industry. A trademarked variety of Satsuma – Marianna Gold – was grown in this area. Vast orchards of citrus trees covered area hillsides for miles in all directions. A combination of disease and unusually cold winters ended the industry in Jackson County and forced its full relocation to Central and South Florida. In recent years, however, it has started to return and Satsuma groves can once again be seen in Jackson County. Improved varieties of the trees are more cold and disease resistant.

From Round Lake the tour continues north on U.S. 231 for 0.8 miles and turns left on Mill Road. It follows Mill Road approximately 2 miles to a historic water-powered gristmill on the left.

D. Gristmill

This historic gristmill has been called the Dilmore Mill or Kent Mill. It is an important landmark of the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Florida. Residents from throughout this region of Jackson County brought their corn here to have it ground into cornmeal by the heavy grindstones of the mill. The unique wooden structure is built on a dam that backed up a small creek to form a millpond. This mill is an “undershot” mill. This terminology means that water flows beneath the floor of the mill through a gate in the dam and turns the grindstones, instead of by flowing over a wheel on the side of the mill. In Florida, with its lower elevations and often swampy terrain, most mills were “undershot” mills. The mill is privately owned but is still operational.

From the mill, the tour retraces its route back to U.S. 231, turns left and continues on 231 for 1.9 miles to Alford, Florida.

E. A Florida First

Alford developed around a turpentine and lumber operation owned by the Alford Brothers company. Originally called Sumatra, the name was changed to Alford in 1908 when James M. Coley became the first postmaster. The town charter was approved in 1911 by an overwhelming majority of the town’s voters. In its early days, the town was home to lumber, shingle and turpentine industries, as well as stores, a pharmacy and even a hotel. It is believed that Alford was the first municipality in the State of Florida to elect a female mayor.

The tour route continues north in Alford and turns left onto Park Avenue. It then proceeds for 0.6 miles to 2388 Park Avenue and the historic Alford School.

F. Alford School

This historic brick building was funded in 1935 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The United States was suffering through the Great Depression and the Federal government was appropriating funds for construction projects that would employ laborers and save their families from starvation. \$9,000 was appropriated for the construction of this school. The school operated for more than 50 years but was eventually closed during a time of school consolidation. Its history was rich, however, and almost every family in the surrounding area had a connection to the school. The building has since been remodeled as a

Bed & Breakfast Inn. It is temporarily closed at his time, but there are indications of a reopening in the near future.

From Alford School, the tour loop continues west on Park Avenue for 0.3 miles and then turns right onto Seay Road. It then follows Seay Road north for 0.9 miles to its intersection with Syfrett Road and the next tour stop.

G. A Civil War Incident

Union troops came down Syfrett Road from the northeast on September 28, 1864, on their way back to Pensacola from the Battle of Marianna. Eyewitness accounts indicate that in this vicinity they suddenly came upon and captured a Confederate soldier and a minister or chaplain. The chaplain immediately surrendered and asked for mercy. In response, the soldiers took both men prisoner but Lt. Col. Andrew Spurling of the 2nd Maine Cavalry told the minister that as his unit was then without a chaplain, he would give him his liberty provided he agreed to voluntarily minister to the soldiers. Both men were carried away to Pensacola by the soldiers as they passed on. Their eventual fates are unknown.

The tour now turns right onto Syfrett Road and follows it for 1.2 miles to U.S. 231. This picturesque dirt road is the actual route used by Union soldiers in 1864 as they marched from Marianna back to Pensacola. At U.S. 231, the route turns left on U.S. 231 for 0.4 miles and then right onto State Road 276 and back to Marianna and its starting point.

VI. Additional Recommendations

The development of proper interpretation through the use of kiosks, historical markers and highway signage is an important step in the development of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor, but it is only a first step.

To fully recognize the potential of the corridor to attract tourism traffic, improve community quality of life and stimulate economic progress, additional steps are essential to create an optimum, multi-platform visitor experience. Specific recommendations are outlined below:

1. Corridor Beautification & Enhancement

A. Gateway Beautification

The primary gateways to the Historic Highway 90 Corridor from the Apalachicola River to the east; Washington County to the west; Interstate 10 at Sneads, Grand Ridge, Marianna and Cottondale; State Highway 69 at Grand Ridge, State Highway 71 and County Road 167 in Marianna; and U.S. Highway 231 at Cottondale will provide the first impression most visitors receive of the Jackson County segment. The enhancement of these gateways will do much to assure that this first impression is a positive one. This is essential, as “word of blog” and “word of Twitter” travel much faster than “word of mouth” these days. The following actions are recommended:

- a. Placement of the corridor “Welcome” signs described in the segment recommendations should be coupled with suitable, easily maintained but attractive, affordable landscaping. Native plants, flowers, etc. provide attractive and ecologically-aware enhancements to community and county welcome signs.
- b. In addition to the “Welcome” signs, consider larger “Welcome to Jackson County” signs and landscaping at all key gateways (U.S. 90 East and West, the Interstate 10 exits, State Highways 69, 71 and County Road 167 North and South, and U.S. 231 North and South).
- c. Focus litter collection and mowing efforts at each of the key gateways to assure that grass is always mown, shrubs are trimmed and litter is removed as quickly as possible.

- d. Interact with property owners to encourage landscape and structural beautification. Coordinate this effort with the Chamber of Commerce, Marianna Main Street, the cities of Sneads, Grand Ridge, Marianna and Cottondale, the Florida Department of Transportation and other key stakeholders.
- e. Focus on unoccupied and/or abandoned properties in gateway areas to make sure that lawns and shrubs are maintained.

B. The Apalachicola River

Developing visitor access to the Apalachicola River, a designated Blueway and National Scenic Trail, is of vital concern for the future economic development of Jackson County. The following recommendations are offered:

- a. A greenway, park, trails and paddling launch are vital on the Jackson County shore of the Apalachicola River. At present the county has no developed access to a National Scenic Trail even though it is the head of that trail. A full boat launch should be considered, but at minimum a launch for kayaks and canoes is a must. Couple this with nature trails and other low impact but attractive improvements.
- b. The Curlee Mound and Village Site is a major archaeological resource, on state property, that is serving as an illegal dumpsite. Jackson County and the Florida Department of Corrections should work together to eliminate and clean up this mess immediately.
- c. Open a better vista of the river from the unimproved park area north of the modern U.S. 90 Bridge. Consider a wooden platform/overlook with interpretive signage that will be resilient to submersion during high water. The signage should focus on the Apalachicola River, its Blueway and National Scenic Trail designations, and the historical, archaeological and ecological significance of the Apalachicola system.
- d. Work with the Corps of Engineers to develop a low impact walking trail to serve as a “Green” gateway to the Jackson County section of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor. It should focus on the ecology of the floodplain swamps.
- e. Cleanup and spruce up the entire riverfront area and consider a Greenway designation.

C. General Corridor Enhancement

Additional attention should be focused to enhancing the beauty, cleanliness and improvement of the entire Historic Highway 90 Corridor through Washington County. These recommendations are offered:

- a. Develop a program for encouraging resident and property owners along U.S. Highway 90 to join in the Corridor effort. Perhaps form a “Friends of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor” under the umbrella of the Tourist Development Council, Marianna Main Street and Jackson County Parks. This effort will help identify additional sites and properties of significance for future interpretation expansion and encourage enhancement and beautification of properties along the corridor.
- b. Establish a “Historic 90 Pride” award program to publicly honor those who maintain beautiful properties and landscaping along the corridor, establish new businesses, expand existing businesses, or enhance existing structures.
- c. Work with the Florida Department of Transportation to establish additional wildflower plots along U.S. 90 and to develop ideas for other landscape enhancements.
- d. Work with the Florida Department of Transportation’s district scenic highways coordinator to have U.S. 90 through Jackson County designated as Florida Scenic Highways (or part of a multi-county scenic highway).

2. Systems for Immediate Information

Tourism is changing with increasing speed due to rapidly improving technologies for delivery of information. Brochures and printed maps still have their place, of course, but a large and growing segment of the traveling population now expects to have current and immediate information available by web, mobile site and phone/tablet app. This technology is inexpensive and the dividends it produces are high. Consider the following recommendations:

- A. Immediately develop a mobile-friendly process for www.visitwashingtoncountyfl.com. Not only is the number of users accessing the internet through mobile devices surging, but Google and other search providers are moving to systems that rank sites based both on information and mobile friendliness. This enhancement is vital.
- B. Work cooperatively with other counties in the Historic Highway 90 Corridor (Gadsden, Washington, Holmes and Walton) to develop an overall, mobile-friendly, website for the corridor, with specific sections that break away to each county's Tourist Development Council website.
- C. Develop a mobile apps that provide the following:
 - a. Current information on key points of interest along the Historic Highway 90 Corridor.
 - b. Current information on accommodations and restaurants along the corridor.
 - c. Current information on heritage-related businesses along the corridor (i.e. antiques, unique shops, businesses located in historic structures, etc.)
 - d. Emergency and road conditions/roadwork along the corridor.
- D. Place a digital billboard on Historic Highway 90 or near the Interstate 10 exit at Marianna to provide changing information on activities and events, coupled with information on sites of interest along the corridor.
- E. Activate low power digital radio stations in Sneads, Grand Ridge, Mariana and Cottondale. These "traveler information" FM stations are inexpensive to build and operate and are used by cities, parks and organizations to provide tourism information across the nation. Placement of signs that simply say "Tune to FM ---.- for Tourist Information" will direct visitors to their frequencies. These stations work on a pre-recorded rotation and no staffing is necessary.

3. **Marketing**

As the corridor is developed, marketing will be essential to begin the process of drawing travelers from Interstate 10 and attracting those who are planning "off the beaten path" vacations. The following steps are recommended:

- A. Rely heavily on the marketing expertise of the Tourism Director for developing solid cooperation with Visit Florida, the other four counties in the corridor and individual communities in the corridor.

- B. Develop a major news coverage initiative that will focus on press conferences and visual events for print, new media, television and radio coverage. Conduct press tours for travel writers. Help coordinate stories on individual points of interest for print and television journalists.
- C. Target any advertising dollars spent based on the flow of tourists through the visitor center and other locations along the corridor. For example, if visitors from a specific city appear to be traveling the corridor at a higher rate than visitors from elsewhere, find out how they learned about it through conversations and surveys and then target marketing to that city to expand interest.
- D. Place permanent billboards on both east and west-bound lanes of Interstate 10 near all exits, encouraging drivers to “Drive Historic Highway 90.”
- E. Become a contributing county to the “Old Spanish Trail” Centennial effort currently being promoted along the route of the historic national highway developed in 1915-1929. Numerous cities and counties, large and small, have joined in this effort and it would be extremely beneficial to the marketing of the Jackson County segment for the county to join this grass-roots effort.
- F. Develop and place brochures, maps and other printed materials in Welcome Centers, museums, visitor centers and parks throughout the area.

4. Develop a Permanent Historical Museum

An excellent museum would be a major draw and addition to the Jackson County segment of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor. The county is one of the only ones in all of Northwest Florida that does not have a developed museum facility. The Davis-West House, which is a house museum, is open only by appointment.

- A. A joint initiative involving the Jackson County TDC, Jackson County Board of Education, Marianna Main Street, Florida Caverns State Park, Chipola College and Baptist College of Florida should be launched to spearhead the development of a permanent and sustainable museum of history, science, natural history and art in Jackson County.
- B. Seek state and federal grant funding to help with the development of the museum.
- C. Use the Silver River Museum in Ocala, developed as a joint initiative of Silver Springs State Park and the Marion County Board of Education, as a model.

5. Three Rivers State Park

This beautiful state park provides a spectacular view of Lake Seminole and is a gateway to the 37,500 acre reservoir

- A. Work with the park, state officials and the local legislative delegation to secure funding adding cabins and/or a lodge to the park. This would dramatically increase visitation as the park at present has only one cabin available. Georgia's Seminole State Park on the opposite side of the lake offers multiple cabins.
- B. Work with the park, state officials and the local legislative delegation to secure funding for a permanent live webcam overlooking the lake that can be used to show visitors water conditions via web, mobile phone and app.

6. Florida Caverns State Park

One of Florida's oldest state parks, Florida Caverns is a wonderland of geology, ecology, archaeology and history. It is well operated and its interpretive scheme is carried out with excellent effort by the park manager and his staff. Some improvements would enhance the effort to attract tourists to the Historic Highway 90 Corridor.

- A. Work with park management, the state and the local legislative delegation to plan for and fund the addition of cabins to the park. Florida Caverns at present has no cabin facilities and their addition would bring overnight visitors to the park in greater numbers.
- B. The closure of the tour cave two days per week, while understandable from a preservation standpoint, often leaves visitors disappointed. To improve their experience on days that the park's tour cave is closed, initiate a joint effort involving the park, Jackson County TDC, Jackson County Parks and Marianna Parks and Recreation to provide information to visitors on other caves that are accessible. Also consider either identifying an in-park cave that can be opened for "wild cave" tours on

those two days per week or work to provide tours of other caves in the Marianna area on days that the tour cave is closed.

- C. The Visitor Center at Florida Caverns State Park could be a major interpretive and museum facility for Jackson County but is need of remodeling and redesign. Initiate an cooperative effort to consider and promote a renovation of the Visitor Center that will feature new displays and exhibits. This would be an excellent place for the prehistoric pottery collections from the University of South Florida and Florida Bureau of Archaeology to be returned to Jackson County.

7. Other Recommendations

- A. Develop a Geocache trail to include all of the sites being interpreted for the Historic Highway 90 Corridor.
- B. Continue to assemble stakeholders on a regular basis and transition them into a working advisory group as the corridor development goes forward.

VII. Appendices

Appendix One: Historical Resources Guide

Historic Highway 90 Corridor

Historical Resources Guide

Jackson County, Florida

Jackson County was established by an Act of the Florida Territorial Legislative Council in 1822. It was Florida's third county and originally encompassed all of the territory from the Choctawhatchee River to the Suwannee and from the Alabama and Georgia state lines to the Gulf of Mexico. The history of the land that is Jackson County, however, date back far beyond that 1822 date. Its woods, swamps and prairies were home to prehistoric American Indians for thousands of years and later to the Chacatos, Creeks and Seminoles. The latter groups interacted with the Spanish and British before fighting to defend their homes against early settlers and the army of Major General Andrew Jackson. It was Jackson, the military commander that opened Northwest Florida for American settlement, who also gave Jackson County its name. He was followed by frontiersmen, planters, Confederates, Federals, freed slaves and eventually the business, political, military and educational leaders of the 20th and 21st centuries. The Historic Highway 90 Corridor passes through the heart of the county, connecting a wide array of historical points of interest and linking the communities of Sneads, Grand Ridge, Cypress, Marianna and Cottondale.

Museums and Historical Societies

Two historic homes serve as museums along the Jackson County section of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor. They represent two distinctly different eras of the county's history and are both listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Museum exhibits are also found at the Visitor Center in Florida Caverns State Park.

- Russ House & Visitor Center at 4318 Lafayette Street in Marianna is Jackson County's official Visitor Center. Built in 1895 by Joseph W. Russ, Jr., the magnificent Victorian home was remodeled to its current architectural style in 1910. Staff members provide tours during regular business hours and the house regularly hosts events and historical exhibits.

- Davis-West House at 4448 Putnam Street is owned by the Chipola Historical Trust, Jackson County's historical society. The house was built in the 1840s by Captain John Davis, a militia officer of the Second Seminole War. Now used as the society's meeting place and museum, it is open for tours by appointment.
- Florida Caverns State Park's Visitor Center was built by Civilian Conservation Corps members in the 1930s-1940s. It features exhibits on both the natural and cultural history of the park, including displays of prehistoric artifacts, dioramas and a walk-through cave exhibit. It is open to the public daily.

Archaeological Sites

Jackson County's prehistory is among the richest in Florida. The earliest human inhabitants were Paleo-Indian hunters that scientists believe entered the Chipola and Chattahoochee River valleys more than 10,000 years ago. They came in search of huge prehistoric animals such as the mastodon and sloth. The Paleo-Indians were followed by a series of American Indian cultures including the Archaic, Orange, Swift Creek, Weeden Island, Fort Walton, Proto-Historic, Leon-Jefferson and Historic Creek/Seminole. Hundreds if not thousands of archaeological sites exist along the Historic Highway 90 Corridor, including several ranked as representative and highly significant.

- The Curlee Site on the Apalachicola River is an important mound and village site of the Fort Walton era (A.D. 900-A.D. 1450). Likely associated with the Chattahoochee Landing Mound Group across the river in Gadsden County, the Curlee site was inhabited by a large prehistoric population.
- The Howell Landing Archaeological Sites are a cluster of sites now submerged by Lake Seminole. Archaeologists believe they were occupied during the Paleo-Indian, Archaic, Swift Creek, Weeden Island and Fort Walton eras by literally every prehistoric culture known to have been present in Jackson County.
- The Chipola River Greenway Sites date from the Weeden Island era (A.D. 400-A.D. 900), a time period noted for the development of advanced religious ceremony and highly advanced pottery manufacture.
- The Florida Caverns State Park cluster of sites include cave habitation and rock shelter sites used by prehistoric hunters for thousands of years as well as a village site dating from the Chacato era (A.D. 1450-A.D.1675). Unique among these is the New Cave Site, where archaeologists found human footprints that are believed to date from the Weeden Island era (A.D. 400-A.D. 900).
- The Hinson Conservation & Recreation Area site cluster includes both a small Weeden Island (A.D. 400-A.D. 900) campsite and a large manufacture site where stone tools were produced in 1,000 B.C.-3,000 B.C.

Spanish Colonial Sites

Jackson County and neighboring Washington County were at the western end of Florida's Spanish Mission chain. Three Franciscan mission sites are believed to be located in Jackson County, one of which – Mission San Carlos – has been identified. Other Spanish colonial sites include American Indian villages and the original Old Spanish Trail or "Mission Road."

- Mission San Carlos (ca. 1680-1696) stood at the West Bank Overlook of the Jim Woodruff Dam near Sneads. This Franciscan mission was, during its time of occupation, the westernmost Spanish outpost in Florida. It served as the launching point for the 1686 expedition of Marcos Delgado to the Upper Creeks in Alabama as well as for Gov. Don Laureano de Torres y Ayala's 1693 overland crossing of the Florida Panhandle. The mission and surrounding village of Christian Chacato Indians were destroyed by Alibamo (Alabama) raiders in 1696. An interpretive kiosk at the Overlook tells its story.
- The Old Spanish Trail extended west from the Apalachicola River to the Natural Bridge of the Chipola River and crossed back and forth across Historic Highway 90 in several places. This section of the route was first used by the Spanish in 1674. Original sections can still be seen in Sneads and at Jackson Blue Springs. An interpretive kiosk at the springs helps visitors learn more about its history.
- The Natural Bridge of the Chipola River was an important crossing point during the Spanish era. Used by missionaries, soldiers, explorers and American Indians in 1674-1821, it is an important feature of Florida Caverns State Park.
- The Fernandez de Florencia Raid of 1677 was a major expedition by Christian Apalachee Indian militia against a Chisca stronghold west of the Choctawhatchee River. The expedition passed numerous points along the Historic Highway 90 Corridor, making use of the Old Spanish Trail. An interpretive kiosk at Cottondale City Hall provides information on the raid and notes its passage through that vicinity.

The Seminole Wars

The Seminole Wars were a series of three conflicts between the United States and the Seminole Indians of Florida. Of these, the First Seminole War (1817-1818) and Second Seminole War (1835-1842) impacted the Jackson County area. Points of interest from the Seminole Wars era include villages, a fort, reservations, caves and a battlefield.

- The Scott Massacre of 1817 was the first U.S. defeat of the Seminole Wars. It took place when a force of hundreds of Red Stick Creek, Seminole and Black Seminole warriors attacked a U.S. Army boat on the Apalachicola River from today's Gadsden County shore. Of the 30 men, 7 women and 4 children aboard the vessel, only 7 survived. Six of them did so by swimming to the Jackson County shore. This action led President James Monroe to order Major General Andrew Jackson's 1818 invasion of Spanish Florida. The site is just south of the Historic Highway 90 Bridge over the Apalachicola River.
- The Treaty of Pope's was executed in 1833 at Pope's Store, a trading post now submerged by Lake Seminole. This treaty reduced the land holdings guaranteed to the Apalachicola Seminole bands by the 1823 Treaty of Moultrie Creek. The site is on the floor of the lake just off the West Bank Overlook of the Jim Woodruff Dam.
- Tamathli was an important Apalachicola Seminole town that remained neutral during the First and Second Seminole Wars. Six soldiers, survivors of the Scott Massacre, were given shelter here by the town's warriors. The residents of Tamathli were forcibly removed on the Trail of Tears by U.S. troops under Colonel (and future President) Zachary Taylor in 1838.
- Econchattimico's Reserve was established on the west side of the Chattahoochee River by the Treaty of Moultrie Creek in 1838. Covering four square miles, it embraced the homes and fields of the Red Ground band of Lower Creeks. The size of the reservation was reduced under

the Treaty of Payne's in 1833 and the inhabitants were forcibly removed by troops under Colonel Zachary Taylor in 1838. Much of the site is within today's Apalachee Wildlife Management Area north of Sneads.

- Jackson Blue Springs was the site of a camp occupied by the army of Major General Andrew Jackson on May 10-11, 1818. Jackson was en route for Pensacola with 1,095 men during the First Seminole War. An interpretive kiosk overlooking the spring provides information on Jackson's visit.
- The Natural Bridge of the Chipola River at Florida Caverns State Park was crossed by Jackson's army on May 11, 1818. Legend holds that Creek Indian families hid in caves and rock shelters from which they watched the soldiers march past. A historical marker notes Jackson's passage.
- Fort Marianna was built in 1836 to protect the frontier community from Creek attack. Occupied by local volunteers, the fort stood where the Hotel Chipola was later built. Tradition holds that the log structure was roofed over for use as a hotel after the end of the Second Seminole War.

The Antebellum Era

Jackson County was one of Florida's three most populated counties during the antebellum era (1821-1861). Over 40 years its population grew from a few hundred to more than 10,000 while its economy thrived due to the production of sea island cotton on the vast plantations that were developed along the Chipola, Chattahoochee and Apalachicola Rivers. Important sites and surviving homes from this era can still be seen today.

- Sylvania Plantation covered more than 6,000 acres and was the home of John Milton, a militia general and political leader who was elected Governor of Florida in 1860. The plantation's economy was centered around sea island cotton, but its enslaved African American laborers also produced corn, fruit and pork. The main house no longer stands, but Blue Springs Recreation Area at Jackson Blue Springs was part of the property. Visitors can see a historical marker at the park entrance.
- The Davis-West House was built in the 1840s by Captain John Davis. It later became the home of Dr. Theophilus West, a surgeon with the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. Now a museum owned by the Chipola Historical Trust, it overlooked the fields of the Davis plantation. The house is open by appointment.
- The Ely-Criglar Mansion in Marianna was once one of the largest private homes in Florida. Built in 1840 of locally-made brick, its main façade is much the same today as it was in the 19th century. A historical marker details its history.
- The Holden House, built in 1849-1850, was the home of prominent antebellum era lawyer William E. Anderson. Elected as the brigadier general of the First Brigade of the Florida Militia in 1860, he commanded state troops during the Calhoun County War. That conflict was an insurrection against the laws and government of the United States that erupted in neighboring Calhoun County during the fall of 1860.

Civil War & Reconstruction

The antebellum economy of Jackson County was destroyed and rebuilt during the Civil War (1861-1865) and Reconstruction (1865-1876). Hundreds of the county's men and boys served in the

Confederate military while others remained loyal to the Union and fought in the First and Second Florida U.S. Cavalries. When the war began, more than 5,000 of the county's citizens were held in slavery. By its end, they were free. Violence marred the Reconstruction era after the war but by the end of the 19th century Jackson County was peaceful and prosperous.

- The Marianna Civil War Battlefield is the scene of the Battle of Marianna. The action took place on September 27, 1864, when 700 Union troops attacked the city and were battled by 350-400 Confederates in its streets. Heavy fighting took place at Ely Corner, around St. Luke's Episcopal Church, through the downtown area and at the Chipola River bridge. Seven historical markers and monuments interpret the battle and a self-guided walking tour begins at the Russ House & Visitor Center.
- Ely Corner at Russ House Commons was where the main fighting of the Battle of Marianna started on September 27, 1864. A marker notes the significance of the intersection.
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church was burned during the Battle of Marianna. Because several Confederate defenders fought to the death instead of surrendering, the church and its grounds have long been called "Florida's Alamo." Bullet scars can be seen on tombstones surrounding the modern sanctuary, where historical markers tell the story of the battle as well as of the church and grounds.
- The Abstract Office on Jefferson Street in Marianna began its history as the office of a Civil War physician, Dr. W.S. Wilson. He was among the local doctors who treated the wounded of the Battle of Marianna on September 27, 1864. A marker in front of the little frame structure tells its history.
- Sylvania Plantation was where Florida's Confederate governor, John Milton, died on April 1, 1865. Although northern newspapers claimed his death was a suicide, the Marianna newspaper of the time reported that he had been killed by the accidental discharge of a shotgun while preparing for a hunting expedition. A marker at Jackson Blue Springs notes the site of Sylvania and Milton's grave can be found in the cemetery at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.
- Riverside Cemetery in Marianna includes the graves of both Confederate and Union soldiers. Noteworthy is the grave of Armstrong Purdee, who as an 8-year-old child witnessed the Battle of Marianna from the back of a Union cavalryman's horse. He later became Jackson County's first African American attorney. The cemetery is also the site of the Reconstruction era "Battle of the Flowers," a non-violent confrontation that took place after three local girls were ordered before a military tribunal on charges that they had trampled on flowers placed by the monument of a Union soldier. The town turned out in mass and the charges were dropped.
- The Davis-West House was rented to the appointed Republican officials sent to govern Jackson County during the Reconstruction era. John Q. Dickinson, a former Union soldier who served as Clerk of Courts, was killed by a shotgun blast fired from the grounds in 1871.
- The Courthouse Trees, beautiful live oaks that surround the Jackson County Courthouse, were planted in 1871 by a former slave named Aesop Bellamy. One of the county's first successful African-American businessmen, he ran a landscaping service during the Reconstruction era.

The Late 19th & Early 20th Centuries

The coming of the P&A Railroad (later the L&N and today the CSX) at the end of the Reconstruction era brought new prosperity to Jackson County. Paddlewheel steamboats resumed commerce on the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee and Chipola Rivers. The timber industry boomed, new towns were founded, new styles of architecture introduced and the turbulent times of the Great Depression and

World War II endured. Historic Highway 90 was built in 1925-1927 and remains today a great route for exploring the history and scenic beauty of Jackson County.

- The Barbara Hunt was the last original paddlewheel steamboat to operate on the Apalachicola and Chattahoochee Rivers. Built in 1929, she was brought to Florida after her run on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers ended in 1938. A commercial failure, the 100-foot sternwheeler was abandoned on the Jackson County shore and she sank in 1940. Her wreck can still be seen.
- Victory Bridge, named for the Allied victory in World War I, was completed in 1927 to carry traffic on Historic Highway 90 over the Apalachicola River. Its main span was replaced in 1958 although the western end of the original structure remained in use until the 1980s. A section of the original bridge still stands on the bank of the Apalachicola River.
- The Sneads Town Pump is a fascinating relic from Jackson County's past. Constructed in 1899-1900 to provide water for travelers, it was built by the first mayor of Sneads. Its cypress-shingled shelter still survives and a historical marker tells more about the pump and surrounding community.
- Porter's Store and the First United Methodist Church in Grand Ridge are reminders of the coming of the railroad to Jackson County. The CSX tracks parallel Historic Highway 90 through the county. The store and church were built in 1889-1890 by John Thomas Porter, the founder of Grand Ridge. He developed the railroad community to serve both travelers and as a shipping point for area farmers.
- The Cypress Town Jail once served the now defunct town of Cypress. Built in the early 20th century, it was the scene of a brutal lynching as well as a gunfight between the town marshal and a group of men who tried to free one of his prisoners.
- Courthouse Cave overlooks the Chipola River at Marianna and was home to a hidden "speakeasy" during the Prohibition era of the early 20th century. Local drinkers ventured into its dark passages for bootleg liquor produced at Jackson County moonshine stills!
- St. Luke's Baptist Church in Marianna is a landmark on Florida's Black History Trail as well as a site on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1921, it served a predominantly African American congregation until a new sanctuary was completed in 1984.
- A World War II Prison Camp operated on Lafayette Street at Marianna in 1942-1945. German prisoners of war were housed here in a series of barracks surrounded by wire fencing.
- The Jackson County Courthouse & Square played a role in the 1934 lynching of an African American farm worker named Claude Neal. Although the actual lynching took place 25 miles northeast of town, Neal's deceased body was hanged from a tree on Courthouse Square as a message to Sheriff W.F. Chambliss who had tried to save the man's life. A riot erupted around the courthouse on the same day. The horrible events led to a national push for an Ant-Lynching Law and the widespread publicity they received helped bring the practice of lynching to an end in the United States.
- The Dekle-Brunner House and Dickson-Mock House in Marianna are important surviving examples of the Queen Anne architectural style that became popular in the South during the Victorian era.
- The L&N Depot and Stone Hotel/White Hotel in Marianna date to the arrival of the P&A (later L&N and CSX) railroad in Jackson County. The Depot, built in 1881, is one of the original depots constructed as the railroad made its way across Northwest Florida. It is rumored to be haunted by the ghost of an unfortunate traveler that fell from the platform into the path of an oncoming train.
- The Russ House & Visitor Center was built as a private home in 1895 and stands as a symbol of the prosperity realized by Marianna and Jackson County during the Victorian era of the late

19th and early 20th centuries. It is open to the public during regular business hours. More than 100 other homes and businesses from the late 19th and early 20th centuries dot the landscape of the Marianna National Historic District.

- The Marianna Airport was the site of the Marianna Army Air Field during World War II and Graham Air Base during the Cold War. Thousands of pilots trained at the base during those years, among them Douglas B. “Pete” Peterson who later became a U.S. Congressman and America’s first Ambassador to Vietnam after the Vietnam War. Among the listings in the U.S. Air Force’s Project Blue Book can be found the Marianna UFO of 1955. The Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) streaked over Jackson County and remains unexplained to this day.
- The Marianna B-47 Crash of 1952 was a tragic Cold War era crash that claimed six lives and left a number of Marianna residents with injuries. The six engine jet exploded over Marianna and rained down fire and debris in an area covering several square miles. One of the bombs carried by the plane has never been found.
- Watermelon Alley at Cottondale has been a landmark for generations of travelers making their way to the beaches of Northwest Florida. Fruit and Vegetable stands have lined both sides of US 231 through the community since the 1920s.
- The Cottondale Train Collision of 1923 was a deadly rail accident that took place when an L&N passenger train sliced through an excursion train on The Bay Line. Four people were killed and 20 injured. A two year old baby was caught on the front of the L&N locomotive and carried hundreds of feet from the collision site, but survived in what other survivors called a miracle.
- Aycock, on Jackson County’s border with neighboring Washington County, was an important timber industry town of the early 20th century. It is now a ghost town.

Additional Resources

More information on the points of interest along the Historic Highway 90 Corridor can be obtained at the Russ House & Visitor Center, 4318 Lafayette Street, Marianna, Florida. The house is open to visitors Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Call 850-482-8061 for more information and visit the Jackson County Tourist Development Council’s website at www.visitjacksoncountyfla.com.

Appendix Two: Stakeholders' List

Historic Highway 90 Corridor
Jackson County Tourist Development Council
Historic Russ House & Visitor Center
4318 Lafayette Street
Marianna, Florida 32446
www.visitjacksoncountyfla.com

Stakeholders List

Jackson County Tourist Development Council
Pam Fuqua, Executive Director – 850-482-8061, Pam@visitjacksoncountyfla.com
Whitney Willis, Assistant – 850-482-8061, wwillis@jacksoncountyfl.com

Jackson County Commissioners
Kenneth Stephens, Chairman – kstephens@jacksoncountyfl.com
Chuck Lockey – c_lockey@jacksoncountyfl.com
Dr. Willie Spires – wspires@jacksoncountyfl.com
Clint Pate – pateclint@yahoo.com and cpate@jacksoncountyfl.com
Eric Hill – ehill@jacksoncountyfla.com

Jackson County Administrative Offices
Ted Lakey, County Administrator – tlakey@jacksoncountyfl.com
Daniele McDaniel, County Finance – mcdanield@jacksoncountyfl.com

Jackson County Parks Department
Chuck Hatcher, Director – chatcher@jacksoncountyfl.com

City of Sneads
Connie Butts, Town Manager – connieb@sneadsfl.com

City of Grand Ridge
J.R. Moneyham – townofgrandridge@embarqmail.com

City of Marianna
Jim Dean, City Manager – jim.dean@cityofmarianna.com
Kay Dennis, City Planning Director – planning@cityofmarianna.com

City of Cottondale
Theresa Brannen, City Clerk – theresa@cityofcottondale.net

Marianna Main Street

Charlotte Brunner, Director – brunnerc@cityofmarianna.com
Rhonda Dykes, The Vintage Depot – rhondam7@earthlink.net

Chipola College

Darwin Gilmore, Dean of Workforce & Economic Development – gilmored@chipola.edu
Royce Reagan, CCTV – reaganr@chipola.edu

Jackson County Chamber of Commerce

Rev. Paul Smith, President – 850-482-8060

RiverWay South AC, Inc.

Pam Portwood, Executive Director – pportwood@embarqmail.com
Homer Hirt, President – hirtfam@gmail.com

Florida Department of Transportation, District 3

Zena Riley-Taylor, Scenic Highways Coordinator – zena.riley-taylor@dot.state.fl.us

Northwest Florida Water Management District

Bill Cleckley, Lands Manager – Bill.Cleckley@nwfwater.com
Jim Lamar, Director of Communications – Jim.Lamar@nwfwater.com
Tyler MacMillan – Tyler.MacMillan@nwfwater.com
Paule Thorpe – Paul.Thorpe@nwfwater.com

Chipola River & Upper Chipola Paddling Trails

Liz Sparks – Liz.Sparks@dep.state.fl.us

Florida Welcome Center (Campbellton)

Jena Buggs – 850-263-3510

Chipola Historical Trust/Historic Davis West House

Pat Crisp – bpcrisp@gmail.com

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Mary Robbins, Archivist – snoopyxii60@hotmail.com

Florida Caverns State Park - Marianna

Chris Hawthorne, Park Manager – chris.hawthorne@dep.state.fl.us

Three Rivers State Park – Sneads

Ronnie M. Hudson, Park Manager – 850-482-9006

Bellamy Bridge Heritage Trail – Marianna

Dale Cox, Friends of Bellamy Bridge – dalecox@twoeggfla.com

Other Key Stakeholders

Bear Paw Adventures – 850-482-4948
Sue Tindel, County Archivist – stindel@jacksonclerk.com
Hayes Baggett, Marianna Chief of Police – baggetth@cityofmarianna.com
Larry & Ruth Kinsolving, Ely-Criglar Mansion – elianna@embarqmail.com
John Alter, Northwest Florida Water Management District – treeman@phonl.com
Valeria Roberts, Jackson County Floridan – vroberts@jcfloridan.com
Sandra Warren, Jackson County Times – sandra@jacksoncountytimes.net
Kathy Johnson, Twin City News – tcnews@fairpoint.net
Judy Riley, Hinson House B&B – judy@jacksoncountytimes.net
Hon. Woody Hatcher, Tall Fence Preserve – hatcherwoodrow@yahoo.com
Brig. Gen. Jim Hart, Graham Reunion Committee – jimwhart@digitalexp.com
Lionel & Sheila Young, Living History – captyoung@earthlink.net
Bill Stanton, Jackson County Development Corp. – stantonjcdc@earthlink.net

Jackson County Native American Communities

Debbie Bush (Former Governor's Council Member) – 850-326-0946

Appendix Three: Minutes of Stakeholders' Meeting

Historic Highway 90 Corridor

Jackson County Tourist Development Council
4318 Lafayette Street
Marianna, Florida 32446
www.visitjacksoncountyfla.com

Minutes

Jackson County Stakeholders Meeting

January 15, 2015

The meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. at the historic Russ House & Visitor Center in Marianna, Florida.

Present were:

Dale Cox, Moderator
John Alter, Land owner and NW Florida Water Management board member
Homer Hirt, President of RiverWay South Apalachicola Choctawhatchee Inc
Chris Hawthorne, Park Manager of Florida Caverns State Park
Chuck Hatcher, Director of Jackson County Parks
Mary Robbins, Archivist, St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Zena Riley-Taylor, Scenic Highways Coordinator with Florida DOT
Darwin Gilmore, Dean of Work Force & Economic Development, Chipola College
Rhonda Dykes, Marianna Main Street Member and Owner, The Vintage Depot
Charlotte Brunner, Director of Marianna Main Street
Deborah Buckhalter, Reporter, Jackson County Floridan
Heather Lopez, Washington County Tourist Development Council
Pam Fuqua, Jackson County Tourist Development Council
Whitney Willis, Jackson County Tourist Development Council

Dale Cox opened the meeting with an explanation of the purpose of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor Master Plan. He explained the goal of creating a workable plan that Jackson County could afford to implement. He discussed the different communities along the Jackson and Washington County sections of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor and mentioned the goal of eventually bringing Walton, Holmes and Gadsden Counties into the project.

Cox also explained that part of the idea for the Master Plan is to develop driving loops that will lead from U.S. 90 itself to points of interest in the county. He mentioned Lake Seminole, Three Rivers State Park, Florida Caverns State Park, the antebellum homes in Greenwood, the

unusual little community of Two Egg, the Heritage Village at Florida Baptist College, the Bellamy Bridge Heritage Trail and its famous ghost, and others.

He mentioned the public lands in Jackson County, noting that the Chipola River was already a major destination for paddling and tubing. He then opened the discussion, offering each person present a chance to speak and offer their ideas.

John Alter mentioned the 85 year old Bascom School, which is being remodeled using state grant dollars and locally-raised money. It will be used as a community center and museum. He noted the plan for a curator in the future and discussed Bascom's importance during the days of riverboat traffic on the Chattahoochee River. He also noted that Academy Award winning actress Faye Dunaway had attended the Bascom School.

Alter also mentioned the importance of Neal's Landing Park in the northwest corner of the county, noting that it was an important Native American village site and then later used as a major steamboat landing.

Homer Hirt of RiverWay South AC said that, like the Bascom School, he was 85 years old. He discussed the need for the counties and tourist development councils to cooperate with RiverWay South for the advantage of all concerned. He said that RiverWay South AC is working to promote the entire area, with a special emphasis on the Apalachicola, Chipola and Choctawhatchee Rivers.

Hirt said there were many ways in which the various agencies and organizations could work together and he felt that there was positive momentum that could lead to very good things.

Chris Hawthorne of Florida Caverns State Park discussed both Florida Caverns and Three Rivers State Park, noting that both had great facilities, points of interest and improvements to show off. He discussed the need for a dramatic expansion of geocache placements in Jackson County and suggested that all historic sites and points of interest identified as part of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor project be tied to geocaches.

This opened a general discussion of what geocaching is, how it works and how it has grown in popularity over the past decade. Hawthorne noted that the Florida Caverns was part of the state park geocaching trail. There was general agreement in the group that his idea was a good one and that geocaching should be a major part of the effort.

Mary Robbins of St. Luke's Episcopal Church discussed the historical significance of the church and grounds, which front on Historic Highway 90 in Marianna. She noted that the cemetery was one of the most historic in Florida and was part of the scene of the Battle of Marianna.

She asked about the possibility of creating a tour brochure that would give tourists a general tour of the grounds noting the historic sites and noteworthy figures buried there. She said that tourist traffic in the cemetery and around the church is growing, largely due to increased promotion of the Battle of Marianna.

Zena Riley-Taylor of the Florida Department of Transportation introduced herself to the other stakeholders and explained that she worked in the growth management area and was the Scenic Highways Coordinator for District 3.

Darwin Gilmore, Dean of Workforce and Economic Development at Chipola College, said that he was representing the college. He discussed the economic potential of even a small boost of

tourism to the area. He mentioned unique business establishments. He said that tourists like to enjoy local restaurants and suggested better promotion of Marianna's unique eateries. He also recommended the convening of an Economic Rural Boot Camp and said that he would supply more information by email.

Gilmore also discussed the possibility of Green and Heritage Guide Certification programs through the college and expressed interest.

Heather Lopez, Washington County TDC director, reported that RiverWay South AC was working with a nonprofit group to provide training for Hospitality Ambassadors. This led to a general discussion about the need for such training as well as the need for guide training classes at Chipola College.

Chuck Hatcher, Director of Jackson County Parks, discussed Blue Springs and other county parks and noted the major improvements that have been made in the parks. He said that the county now operated more than one dozen parks in locations that included Blue Springs, the Chipola River, Spring Creek, Lake Seminole and Compass Lake.

Hatcher also reported that the Upper Chipola River was recently designated as a new state paddling trail. He said that the trail extends from Cristoff's Ferry south to Florida Caverns State Park. This now gives Jackson County two state-designated paddling trails. He said the parks department was working on plans for additional paddling trails at Merritt's Millpond and Ocheesee Pond.

He concluded by reporting that a major expansion was coming to Howell Landing on Lake Seminole. The park will benefit from expanded parking and other facilities that will make it large enough to host major fishing tournaments.

Rhonda Dykes, a member of Marianna Main Street and the owner of The Vintage Depot, which is housed in Marianna's historic L&N railroad depot, said that there was a desperate need to encourage more business owners, particularly restaurants, to open on Saturdays. She mentioned that she sees visitors to the community walking around with their brochures and guidebooks, but that with all of the downtown restaurants closed, there is no place for them to eat.

She also asked what could be done through the project to bring more visitors to downtown Marianna. This led to a discussion of numerous events that have taken place and are planned. Dykes agreed that all were good but said that there needed to be an increase in non-event traffic to help make downtown thrive. Dale Cox and Pam Fuqua mentioned the Jackson County TDC's efforts to create tour brochures, such as the new one for the Battle of Marianna. They also mentioned that a series of new historical markers have been ordered that will help visitors better understand the Battle of Marianna. Dykes agreed that such efforts were a step in the right direction while also expressing hope that the Historic Highway 90 Corridor will include a major emphasis on bringing more tourism to downtown Marianna.

The meeting ended with a general discussion of the county's unique places and points of interest.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Appendix Four: Calendar of Events

Jackson County Calendar of Events

January

1 First Day Hike

Florida Caverns State Park

3345 Caverns Road, Marianna, FL

GPS: 30.808345 -85.212358

Celebrate the arrival of the New Year on a ranger-led hike at Florida Caverns State Park. The walk gives visitors the chance to learn more about the geology, nature and history of the park.

March

14 Guns & Hoses Festival

Citizens Lodge Park

4574 Lodge Drive, Marianna, FL

GPS: 30.796351 -85.216814

Guns & Hoses First Annual Festival is a family fun day filled with demonstrations, antique cars, helicopter displays, firefighter games, and fishing for fun. Come out to Citizens's Lodge sponsored by the Jackson County Volunteer Firefighters, Jackson County Parks & Rec and Sheriff's Department. The day begins with a 5K run, then enjoy the unique cars at Sheriff's Department antique car show, watch the firefighters compete for a trophy in firefighter games using their equipment. Live music and entertainment throughout the day, arts & craft and food vendors.

20-27 Bike Florida: Caverns to Coast Tour

Florida Caverns State Park

3345 Caverns Road, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.808345 -85.212358

This special Bike Florida Spring Tour features a variety of rides that originate and end in Marianna. It is a unique opportunity to explore the historical landmarks and scenic beauty of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor with fellow bike riders.

April

24-26 Chipola Featherfest

Citizens Lodge Park

4574 Lodge Drive, Marianna, FL

GPS: 30.796351 -85.216814

The Chipola Featherfest celebrates the natural history of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor. Held in conjunction with the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail, the event encourages people to get out and enjoy local parks as part of an annual event for Birders.

May

16 Marianna Airport Fly-In

3689 Industrial Park Drive, Marianna, FL

GPS: 30.835212 -85.182361

The annual Marianna Municipal Airport Fly-in has a day full of aircraft, demonstrations, fly overs, helicopter rides in HUEYs and COBRAs, FAA Young Eagles rides, Chipola remote control aircraft, and vendors. The entire day is filled with static displays of warbirds including Lockheed-12, the aircraft in the movie Amelia, Beechcraft, AT-6s and more. This year offers military helicopter rides in HUEYs and COBRAs, The rides include a charge. A Graham Air Base reunion is scheduled for all pilots, former military personnel and former civilian employees.

16 Annual Bascom School Reunion

Historic Bascom School

4969 Basswood Rd., Bascom, FL

GPS: 30.925895 -85.119507

Bascom School is a restoration project in progress in the small community of Bascom just north of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor. It was the elementary school of Academy-award winning actress Faye Dunaway.

23-25 Opening Weekend at Jackson Blue Springs

Blue Springs Recreation Area

5461 Blue Springs Rd., Marianna, FL

GPS: 30.790777 -85.14099

Opening weekend at Jackson Blue Springs is a tradition that dates back generations. Hundreds of local residents and visitors gather at the springs over Memorial Day weekend to celebrate the arrival of summer. Activities include picnicking, swimming, sightseeing, paddling and self-guided nature hikes. It is a great opportunity to explore Blue Springs' two stops on the Jackson County Spanish Heritage Trail.

June

24 Southern Bass Battle Tournament at Lake Seminole

Sneads Park

North end of Legion Road, Sneads, FL

GPS: 30.729006 -84.905707

Bass tournaments on the big lakes of Florida are a popular part of summer in the Sunshine State and Lake Seminole is the biggest lake on the Historic Highway 90 Corridor. Participate or join the spectators at weigh-in as the South's top bass fisherman compete for cash and prizes.

July

4 4th of July at Madison Street Park

Madison Street Park

2898 Madison Street, Marianna, FL

GPS: 30.774978 -85.225523

This annual celebration of America's Independence features live entertainment, food, activities and fireworks. It's a great opportunity to explore the historic sites of downtown Marianna.

September

26-27 Battle of Marianna Anniversary

Madison Street Park

2898 Madison Street, Marianna, FL

GPS: 30.774978 -85.225523

The anniversary of the Battle of Marianna is commemorated each year with a variety of events including memorial services, walking tours, living history and more.

October

17 Pumpkins in the Park

Marianna Farmer's Market

Madison Street Park

2898 Madison Street, Marianna, FL

GPS: 30.774978 -85.225523

An annual celebration of fall that features hundreds of pumpkins for kids to decorate, games, activities, live entertainment, cooking demonstrations and more!

24 Sunland Fall Festival

Sunland Training Center

Enter off Industrial Park Drive, Marianna, FL

GPS: 30.829148 -85.179868

This annual event features a parade, food, live entertainment and a host of activities including living history demonstrators, historic crafts and more.

30-31 Annual Bellamy Bridge Ghost Walks

Citizens Lodge Park

4574 Lodge Drive, Marianna, FL

GPS: 30.796351 -85.216814

Shuttles leave from Citizens Lodge Park every half-hour beginning at 6:30 p.m. for this wildly popular annual event that features guided "after dark" walks to historic and haunted Bellamy Bridge. One filmmaker has proclaimed it "the most haunted place in Florida."

30-31 Field of Screams Haunted Corn Maze

Mosier Farms

2565 Standland Road, Cottondale, FL

GPS: 30.753016 -85.362180

Join the Mosier Family in their annual haunted corn maze! Experience Halloween chills and thrills on the farm. Dark-10 p.m.

TBA Spirit of the Caverns

Florida Caverns State Park

3345 Caverns Road, Marianna, FL

GPS: 30.808345 -85.212358

This two day event is filled with wildlife displays, educational exhibits, and interpretation of the spirit and folklore of our ancestors that have used the land we now call Florida Caverns State Park.

December

4 Marianna Christmas Parade

Historic Highway 90, Marianna, FL

GPS: 30.774079 -85.226552

This annual holiday event has been a Jackson County tradition for more than 75 years. Enjoy local high school bands, floats, entertainment and more. It takes place at 5:30 p.m.

5 Robert Long Cane Grinding

3911 Highway 69, Two Egg, Florida

GPS: 30.848898 -85.073441

This annual heritage event takes place on the first Saturday in December just north of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor. The event features an authentic cane grinding and syrup-making. Spectators are treated to sausage biscuits and homemade cane syrup.

11 Grand Ridge Christmas Parade and Festival

John Thomas Porter Park

Florida Street, Grand Ridge, FL

GPS: 30.708199 -85.015875

The annual Grand Ridge Christmas Parade and festival is a great small town holiday celebration along the Historic Highway 90 Corridor. The parade begins at 4 p.m. and winds its way from City Hall to John Thomas Porter Park. After the parade, Grand Ridge hosts its annual Christmas festival which features visits from Santa, games, hot dogs and chili, fun and more.

12 Living Heritage Festival

Renaissance Park

5989 Hartsfield Road, Marianna, FL

GPS: 30.825567 -85.103390

Learn about life during harvest time, food preservation and other traditions that were used in 19th and early 20th century Florida.

12 Annual Christmas Fest on the Lake

Sneads Park

North end of Legion Road, Sneads, FL

GPS: 30.729006 -84.905707

This annual event is hosted at Sneads Park by the Sneads High School Project Graduation Committee. Activities include arts & crafts, food, kids' activities, live entertainment and more. The event takes place from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

12 Sneads Christmas Parade and Celebration

Sneads Town Hall

2028 Third Avenue, Sneads FL

GPS: 30.711016 -84.920127

The Town of Sneads hosts its annual Christmas Parade, Tree Lighting and Celebration. The parade begins at 4 p.m. and is followed by live music, entertainment, food and visits with Santa at Sneads Town Hall.

14 Annual Russ House Christmas Open House

Russ House & Visitor Center

4318 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL

GPS: 30.777473 -85.236028

Tour the beautiful Victorian era Russ House as it is decorated for the holidays with lights, trees, greenery and more. 6-8 p.m.

Appendix Five: Inventory of Historic Sites

Inventory of Historic Sites Historic Highway 90 Corridor Jackson County, Florida

Apalachicola River

Unnamed paved road left from US 90 at Apalachicola River, Sneads, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.703709 W -84.863278

Ownership: U.S. Government

Status: Public (USCOE Access area, No interpretation)

This historic waterway is created by the confluence of the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers roughly one mile north of this point and flows south to Apalachicola Bay on the Florida Gulf Coast. It has been used as a route of transportation for thousands of years. Prehistoric American Indians paddled the river in dugout canoes, using it as a trade route that connected the Gulf of Mexico with the mountains of North Georgia. It later served as the dividing line between the Spanish colonies of East and West Florida. Scores of paddlewheel riverboats traveled the Apalachicola during the 19th and early 20th centuries, carrying cargoes of cotton, timber, sugar, rosin, catfish and other commodities down to the important port city of Apalachicola, Florida.

The Apalachicola River has been called one of six major bio-diversity hot spots in the United States. It flows 106 miles from the Jim Woodruff Dam to the Gulf. It drains a basin of around 2,600 square miles and slowly falls about 40 feet between this point and Apalachicola Bay. A critical migratory bird route, the river supplies fresh water for the vital Apalachicola Bay oyster industry which produces 90% of the oysters harvested in Florida. Among the rare plant species growing along its banks are the Florida Torreya and Florida yew. The rare Gulf sturgeon and Apalachicola dusky salamander are found here.

The Apalachicola River Blueway is a spectacular paddling and boat trail. It was named a National Scenic Trail by the National Park Service in 2014.

Barbara Hunt (8JA1764)

Unnamed paved road left from US 90 at Apalachicola River, right on unnamed road, Sneads, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.699872 W -84.859716

Ownership: U.S. Government

Status: Public (Undeveloped, no interpretation)

The Barbara Hunt was the last original commercial paddlewheel steamboat to operate on the Apalachicola River. Built at Osage City, Missouri, in 1929, she had length of 100 feet and width of 22 feet with a depth of 4 feet. The sternwheeler operated from St. Louis, Missouri, in 1929-1938. At the end of her run in Missouri, she was sold to the Columbus Towing Company which planned to operate her as a commercial riverboat on the Apalachicola/Chattahoochee/Flint River System. She made at least one run up the Apalachicola and Chattahoochee Rivers from Apalachicola, Florida, to Columbus, Georgia, carrying both cargo and passengers. The venture did not prove profitable, however, and prior to 1940 she was abandoned on the Jackson County shore of the Apalachicola River immediately below Victory Bridge. The boat sank on June 12, 1940. No effort

was made to raise her. The upper decks of the vessel deteriorated, but her hull and parts of her main deck remain intact and are visible at normal water level.

Victory Bridge

Unnamed Paved road left from US 90 at Apalachicola River, right on unnamed road, Sneads, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.700555 W -84.860201

Ownership: State of Florida

Status: Public (Undeveloped, no interpretation)

Named to commemorate the Allied victory in World War I, Victory Bridge was the first structure to span the Apalachicola River. Opened to traffic in 1927, it served travelers along Historic Highway 90 for the next 30 years and its western segment remained in use until the 1980s. A section of the original bridge still survives on the Jackson County shore adjacent to today's US 90 bridge.

Curlee Site (8JA7)

Unnamed paved road left from US 90 at Apalachicola River, right on unnamed road, Sneads, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.699549 W -84.859804

Ownership: State of Florida

Status: Public (Undeveloped, no interpretation)

The Curlee Site is an important prehistoric mound and village site dating from the Mississippian era (A.D. 900-A.D. 1450). Called "Fort Walton" in Northwest Florida, this prehistoric American Indian culture relied on agriculture, hunting, fishing and the gathering of natural foods. The location of the complex on the west bank of the Apalachicola River gave its inhabitants access to the river as both a transportation route and source of food. The adjacent floodplain swamps are rich in natural foods. The site likely was associated with the major Chattahoochee Landing Mounds (8GD1) on the opposite side of the river.

Jim Woodruff Lock & Dam

West Bank Overlook Park, West Bank Overlook, Sneads, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.706251 W -84.870166

Ownership: U.S. Government

Status: Public Park with interpretation

The Jim Woodruff Lock & Dam was completed in 1958 at the confluence of the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers and is the southernmost lock and dam system on the Apalachicola/Chattahoochee/Flint system. The reservoir or impoundment created by the dam spans the Florida-Georgia border and is known as Lake Seminole. A popular site for fishing, boating and other forms of outdoor recreation, it covers 37,500 acres. Below the dam is the Apalachicola River, which flows for 106 miles to the Gulf of Mexico.

Pope Lake Mounds (8JA202)

Vicinity of Pope Lake near West Bank Overlook, Sneads, FL (No developed access)

GPS Coordinates: N 30.705057 W -84.868587 (Approximate)

Ownership: U.S. Government (Undeveloped, no interpretation)

This group of prehistoric American Indian mounds was identified by archaeologist Ripley P. Bullen in 1948. They stand along the banks of Pope Lake, a body of water deep in the floodplain swamp of the Apalachicola River. Bullen's work failed to determine the age of the mounds, although they are located near other sites dating from the Fort Walton (A.D. 900-A.D. 1450) and Chacato (A.D. 1680-1696) time periods.

Mission San Carlos de Chacatos (8JA4, 8JA60, 8JA389)

West Bank Overlook, West Bank Overlook Rd, Sneads, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.707264 W -84.870437

Ownership: U.S. Government/State of Florida

Status: Open to the Public, Interpretation present.

Mission San Carlos was a Franciscan mission established at this point in ca. 1680 to serve a village of Christian Chacato (Chatot) Indians. Consisting of a chapel and other structures, the mission was the westernmost link in the Florida mission chain from 1680-1696. The Marcos Delgado expedition to the Upper Creeks in Alabama left from this point in 1686 and Gov. Don Laureano de Torres y Ayala left from here in 1693 to successfully attempt the first Spanish overland crossing of Northwest Florida. The mission and surrounding village were destroyed by Creek Indian raiders in 1696. Many of the inhabitants were carried away and sold as slaves to the English in South Carolina. The site was located in 1948 by Florida Park Service archaeologist Ripley P. Bullen. The Jackson County Tourist Development Council placed an interpretive panel at the site in 2014 in association with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Public facilities include an overlook, benches and parking.

Sneads Park

North end of Legion Road, Sneads, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.729006 W -84.905707

Ownership: U.S. Government (Managed by Town of Sneads)

Status: Open to the Public (No interpretation)

Sneads Park borders 37,500 acre Lake Seminole and overlooks the original confluence of the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers. This historic river junction was one of the most important transportation landmarks in the eastern United States during prehistoric times. Numerous significant archaeological sites are now flooded by the lake. Public facilities include a boat launch, swimming area, picnic areas, lakefront observation walk, playgrounds, restrooms and more.

Old Spanish Trail

8175 Old Spanish Trail, Sneads, FL, (US 90 to intersection with River Road)

GPS Coordinates: N 30.708022 W -84.925163

Ownership: County Road

Status: County Road (No interpretation)

This street, once part of Historic Highway 90, follows a short stretch of the original Old Spanish Trail or Mission Road. This road connected St. Augustine with the westernmost of the Florida Spanish Mission chain. Likely a trail used by American Indians before the arrival of the Spanish, the road was first used by Spanish missionaries and soldiers in 1674. It parallels the CSX railroad through Sneads and has been in constant use for more than 340 years.

Sneads Town Pump

8175 Old Spanish Trail, Sneads, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.708022 W -84.925163

Ownership: Town of Sneads

Status: Open to the Public, Interpretation Present

The historic Sneads Town Pump was built in 1899-1900 by Gabriel Smith on a lot sold to the town of Sneads by F.A. and Mittie Brown for \$200 on February 18, 1899. Smith was the first mayor of Sneads and was one of those who named the community for local dentist Dr. W.R. Snead. Legend holds that “he who drinks from this pump will always return” and local men often dunked the heads of non-local grooms beneath its water before allowing them to marry their daughters. The pump and its cypress-shingled shelter were restored in 1974 by the Carlisle Rose Garden Club and the town council. Sneads was incorporated on October 26, 1894 but stands on the site of earlier settlements dating back to the early 1820s. The first settlement on the present-site was known as Pope’s, after U.S. Sub-Agent for Indian Affairs William S. Pope. The Treaty of Pope’s was negotiated at his store on June 18, 1833. Under its terms, the Apalachicola Bands of Creek/Seminole Indians agreed to cede much of their remaining land to the United States. Florida’s famed scientist, Dr. John Gorrie, lived briefly at Pope’s settlement before moving to Apalachicola where he invented air conditioning and the mechanical ice machine. The community was later known as Gloucester but the name Sneads came into use during the 1870s when a voting precinct was established at Dr. Snead’s store.

Sneads Community Building

8177 Old Spanish Trail, Sneads, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.708007 W -84.925472

Ownership: Town of Sneads

Status: Available for public use (No interpretation)

This unique log building dates from the Great Depression (ca. 1929-1939) and was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps to serve as a meeting place and community center for the residents of Sneads. It stands adjacent to the Sneads Town Pump.

Pope Cemetery

2139 Cemetery Avenue, Sneads, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.719488 W -84.924075

Ownership: Town of Sneads

Status: Public (Cemetery guide panel, no other interpretation)

This historic cemetery dates from the 1820s and is the burial place of numerous individuals of note including U.S. Sub-Agent for Indian Affairs William S. Pope. A deputy of Agent Wiley Thompson, Pope negotiated the Treaty of Pope’s with the Apalachicola bands of American Indians in 1833. The treaty diminished the size of the reservations established for these groups by the provisions of the Treaty of Moultrie Creek in 1823. It eventually led to their forced removal from the Apalachicola and Chattahoochee River on the Trail of Tears in 1838. Others of note buried here include Deputy Sheriff Dave Ham, who was killed in a shootout with convicted bank robbers in 1934.

River Road

2290 River Road, Sneads, FL (Potential interpretation location)

GPS Coordinates: N 30.739319 W -84.937135

Ownership: State of Florida

Status: State Highway 271

This historic road has been in use since before the American Revolution. Originally a trail used by American Indians, it was traversed by British mapmaker Joseph Purcell in 1778. Purcell was in the area as part of a relief expedition making its way from Pensacola to St. Augustine during the American Revolution. The road is first shown on the Purcell-Stuart Map of 1778. It remains in use today. Sections of the original can be seen just inside the western boundary of Three Rivers State Park.

Three Rivers State Park

7908 Three Rivers Park Road, Sneads, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.738403 W -84.932960

Ownership: U.S. Government (Managed by State of Florida)

Status: Open to the Public (Some interpretation)

Three Rivers State Park covers 686 acres on the shores of 37,500 acre Lake Seminole. Archaeological research indicates that prehistoric American Indians hunted the park site thousands of years ago. A large village was located along part of its present shoreline during the Swift Creek era (20 B.C.-805 A.D.). This Woodland culture is noted for the development of pottery and expanded agriculture. The site predates the noted Kolomoki Mounds site, a late Swift Creek ceremonial complex in Southwest Georgia. The park site was used by early settlers for timber and turpentine production, with many of the turpentine-era “cat-faces” still visible on old pines along the nature trails. The park was established in 1955 as construction on the nearby Jim Woodruff Dam was entering its final stages. It offers four self-guided multi-use trails with interpretive kiosks, lakeshore campgrounds, picnic areas, playgrounds, a boat landing and more.

Howell Landing Archaeological Sites (8JA21, 8JA39, 8JA282)

2535 River Road, Sneads, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.747563 W -84.939704

Ownership: U.S. Government (Managed by Jackson County)

Status: Public (No interpretation)

Submerged beneath Lake Seminole along the shoreline are three large archaeological sites that span virtually the entire prehistoric era of human habitation in Jackson County. The largest of these, the Harrell Site (8JA39), measures approximately 200 feet in diameter and has been dated by archaeologists to include components from the Paleo-Indian, Early and Late Archaic, Swift Creek, Weeden Island and Fort Walton cultural eras. The village and occupation areas bordered a natural spring-fed stream that flowed past what is now Howell Landing and Three Rivers State Park to the Chattahoochee River prior to the completion of Lake Seminole in 1958. The building of the reservoir flooded the sites, which produced archaeological artifacts dating back to the arrival of the first Paleo hunters in what is now Jackson County, an event currently-dated by scientists to 10,000-12,000 years ago. Although the sites appear to be completely inundated by the lake, they are protected under the U.S. Antiquities Act and are regularly monitored by state park, county, state wildlife and federal authorities. This site represents the best point along the Historic Highway 90 Corridor for interpretation of the many prehistoric cultures of Jackson County. Current plans call for an expansion of the Howell Landing park area.

Apalachee WMA/Econchattimico's Reserve

2503 River Road, Sneads, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.764465 W -84.942183

Ownership: U.S. Government (Managed by State of Florida)

Status: Open to the Public (No interpretation)

Covering nearly 8,000 acres along Lake Seminole and the Chattahoochee River, the Apalachee Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a state preserve noted for its massive flocks of waterfowl. Popular for birding, photography, sightseeing, fishing and hunting, the WMA occupies historic lands in what was once the plantation district of eastern Jackson County. Arnold's Landing, in the area's Zone A, is near the site of Econchattimico's town of Tocktoethla ("River Junction"). The noted chief of the Red Ground band of Lower Creeks, Econchattimico ("Red Ground King") fought against U.S. forces during the First Seminole War of 1817-1818. He and his people were granted four square miles surrounding their town under the terms of the Treaty of Moultrie Creek in 1823. In the 1830s, however, their reservation was raided by white slave catchers who carried away a number African American members of the band. Econchattimico sued in U.S. District Court, ultimately securing a ruling that Creek law was valid and that the captives belonged to the chief and his people. The unfortunate kidnap victims had already been sold into slavery, however, and were never returned. The chief and his followers were removed on the Trail of Tears by U.S. Troops under Colonel (later President) Zachary Taylor in 1838. White settlers then flooded onto the former Creek lands. The Apalachee WMA is open to the public.

First Methodist Church of Grand Ridge

6911 Iowa Street, Grand Ridge, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.710546 W -85.019228

Ownership: Church

Status: Grounds and services are open to the public (Small interpretive panel)

This historic sanctuary was built in 1889-1890 as the First Presbyterian Church by members of the Porter family and their neighbors. John Thomas Porter and his wife, Phebe Jane Porter, were charter members of the congregation. They are credited with naming Grand Ridge after their home town of Grand Ridge, Illinois. A prominent local merchant and civic leader, Mr. Porter helped to fund the construction of the church. He and his wife are buried in a concrete mausoleum in the adjoining Porter Cemetery. The Presbyterian congregation eventually faded but the sanctuary became the meeting place of the First Methodist Church of Grand Ridge. It remains in use today. Services are open to the public.

Porter's Store

2062 Porter Avenue, Grand Ridge, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.712560 W -85.020506

Ownership: Private (but can be viewed from public roadways)

Status: Private (No interpretation)

Porter's Store was built by Grand Ridge founder John Thomas Porter in ca. 1889-1895. A charming country or general store, the business served the community for many years. Its location by the L&N Railroad demonstrates the railroad's importance in the early days of the community. Mr. Porter named Grand Ridge for

his home town of Grand Ridge, Illinois. The name applies both to the community and the high ground on which the town is located. Porter founded Grand Ridge in 1889.

Cypress Cemetery

6276 Cemetery Avenue, Cypress, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.711110 W -85.070690

Ownership: Cemetery

Status: Open to the Public (No interpretation)

This cemetery contains the graves of many of the original settlers of the now defunct Town of Cypress. Of special interest are surviving wooden grave enclosures that are believed to be more than one century old. The slats of the enclosures are carved in the form of picket fences. The graves of both Union and Confederate veterans can be found in the large cemetery, which also contains the burial sites of individuals who lived and worked here during the town's "boom" years. Cypress was a center for the timber industry during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Cypress Town Jail

2085 Main Street, Cypress, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.714190 W -85.077041

Ownership: Private/Public Road Right of Way

Status: Not open to the public (Can be viewed from right of way)

The Cypress Town Jail dates from the early 20th century and once housed prisoners arrested by the Town Marshal of Cypress. The residents voted to give up the charter of their town during the early 21st century. The jail was built of poured concrete with the walls arching inward to form the room and ceiling. The only known such jail of its type in Florida, the Cypress structure was the scene of two violent incidents. An African American prisoner named Calvin Baker allegedly threatened to "shoot up the town" and then allegedly fired on the town marshal who was trying to take him into custody. The marshal was not injured and placed Baker in the jail. That night, however, a large mob battered down the door of the structure and "poured a fusillade of shots into Baker's body." No one was charged in the lynching. The second incident was a shootout that took place in the 1920s after the town marshal arrested a man on liquor-related charges. Friends of the prisoner tried to free him, but the marshal defended his jail. One person was killed in the resulting gun battle. The attempted jailbreak was unsuccessful.

Cypress Community Park

6248 Hwy 90, Marianna, FL (in Cypress)

GPS Coordinates: N 30.721604 W -85.075175

Ownership: Jackson County Parks

Status: Open to the Public (No interpretation)

This park has been a focal point for gatherings and family reunions in the Cypress area for many years. Originally built by the now-defunct Town of Cypress, it is now managed by the Jackson County Parks Department which has plans for a paved walking path and other enhancements.

Spring Creek Park

4841 Hwy 90, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N30.752409 W -85.193294

Ownership: State of Florida (Managed by Jackson County)

Status: Open to the Public

A popular point for beginning paddling or float trips down Spring Creek and the Chipola River, Spring Creek Park provides boardwalks and access to the creek. It stands on the south end of the dam that creates Merritt's Millpond and provides views of the former site of Merritt's Mill, an 1869 grist and sawmill that once stood at this site. Archaeologists have found artifacts dating from the construction of the mill and dam within the boundaries of the park.

Merritt's Mill Dam

4841 Hwy 90, Marianna, FL (at Spring Creek Park)

GPS Coordinates: N 30.753075 W -85.193423

Ownership: Public/Private

Status: Open to the Public (No interpretation)

The first dam on this site was built in 1869 by Jonathan Pelt to power his grist and sawmill. He later sold the mill and dam to Alexander Merritt, for whom the adjacent millpond is still named. Merritt heightened the dam, a move that led to a Florida Supreme Court battle with James P. Coker who owned a mill upstream from Merritt's Mill. Coker's Mill was impacted so severely by the Merritt dam that it would no longer work. The dam has been enlarged and modernized numerous times over the years and no trace of the original 1869 mill and dam can be seen today. The original roadway across the dam was authorized by the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners during the 1870s. Historic Highway 90 has crossed the dam since it was constructed through Jackson County during the 1920s.

Merritt's Mill Pond

Opposite Spring Creek Park, north side of Highway 90

GPS Coordinates: N 30.753500 W -85.192886

Ownership: State of Florida

Status: Open to the Public

This beautiful spring-fed lake is formed by the dam first built by Jonathan Pelt in 1869 and since reconstructed and enlarged many times. It is fed by a number of natural springs, the largest of which is Jackson Blue Spring, the only first magnitude spring in the Chipola River basin. Other springs include Shangri-La, Twin Sisters, Indian Washtub, Gator Hole, Hole in the Wall, etc. A popular recreation spot since 1869, the millpond is popular with outdoor enthusiasts and is known for its fishing, camping, swimming, boating, birding, sightseeing and cave diving opportunities.

Blue Springs Recreation Area (Jackson Blue Springs)

5461 Blue Springs Rd., Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.790777 W -85.14099

Ownership: State of Florida (Managed by Jackson County)

Status: Open to the Public

Jackson Blue Springs is the only first magnitude spring in the Chipola River basin. It flows at an average rate of 76 million gallons per day and – with five smaller springs – feeds Merritt’s Mill Pond. Archaeologists have determined that the spring was used by prehistoric American hunters over thousands of years. The spring was a stop on the “Old Spanish Trail” that led from Mission San Luis near Tallahassee to the three missions established by Franciscan friars among the Chacato Indians of Northwest Florida. Fray Rodrigo de la Barreda, who visited the spring multiple times in 1674-1693 wrote that it was “entirely surrounded by woods” and that the caves in the hillsides around Blue Springs were “frequented by the Indians on their hunting trips for bear, deer and buffalo, of which there is an abundance.” A section of the original Spanish road can be seen within the park boundaries. The army of Major General Andrew Jackson camped here on May 10, 1818, while on its way from the Apalachicola River to capture Spanish Pensacola during the First Seminole War. A frontiersman named William Pyles settled at Jackson Blue Springs during the last days of the Spanish era and before Florida became part of the United States in 1821. He sold out to Major William Robinson who arrived early in Florida’s Territorial era to establish a 3,100 acre cotton plantation. Robinson’s home overlooked the spring and featured a unique pulley system used to bring fresh water up from the spring to supply a pipe system installed in the house. Following Robinson’s death, the plantation became the property of John Milton. He expanded the farm to more than 6,000 acres and named it Sylvania. Milton served as Florida’s Confederate governor in 1861-1865. A permanent Confederate facility named Camp Governor Milton was established at Blue Springs in 1862. Cavalry companies rode out from the camp to patrol the coastline. Troops from Camp Governor Milton took part in the Battle of Marianna on September 27, 1864. Jackson Blue Springs is a popular recreation area today. The park offers swimming, picnicking, sightseeing, birding, nature trails and interpretive kiosks that interpret the spring, its use by the Spanish and the surviving remnant of the Old Spanish Trail.

Sylvania Plantation

5461 Blue Springs Rd., Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.792021 -85.139960

Ownership: State of Florida (Managed by Jackson County)

Status: Open to the Public (Interpretation provided)

Today’s Blue Springs Recreation Area encompasses land that was part of Governor John Milton’s Sylvania Plantation during the antebellum era. The farm was established in ca. 1819-1820, while Florida was still Spanish territory, by William Pyles. Following the cession of Florida to the United States in 1821, the land was acquired by Major William Robinson, a soldier of the War of 1812. He expanded the operation to 3,100 acres. Its primary cash crop was cotton. Robinson died during the 1814s and the plantation passed into the hands of John Milton. The new owner was active in politics and served as a brigadier general in the state militia. He expanded the size of the farm to more than 6,000 acres and renamed it Sylvania Plantation. Milton was elected Governor of Florida in the fall of 1860 when Florida was still part of the United States. By the time he assumed office one year later, the state had seceded from the Union and joined the Confederacy. Sylvania was Milton’s retreat during the Civil War and he often came here to rest and wind down from the stressful job of leading Florida during a time of war. Governor John Milton died at Sylvania Plantation on April 1, 1865, from a gunshot wound. Northern newspapers labeled his death a suicide, but a Marianna newspaper of the time reported that the governor had been killed when a shotgun discharged as he was preparing to go on a bird hunting expedition. The history of Sylvania is interpreted by a historical marker at the park entrance.

Old U.S. Road

2883 Old US Road, Marianna, FL (Recommended interpretation site)

GPS Coordinates: N 30.773895 W -85.206330

Ownership: Jackson County

Status: Public Road (No interpretation)

This historic road was authorized by an Act of Congress signed into law by President Andrew Jackson on July 2, 1836. Built to connect Daleville, Alabama, to Marianna and then link the city to St. Joseph and Apalachicola on the Gulf Coast, the road provided an improved route for travelers and mail deliveries. A second appropriation for its construction was approved on March 3, 1837. Mail service from Marianna to Daleville via this section of the Old U.S. Road was underway by February 1, 1837, while the section linking Marianna to the coast was completed in 1838. The entrance road to the Chipola River Greenway follows the route of the original road. It was rerouted to its present right of way during the late 19th century.

Chipola River Greenway

2883 Old US Road, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.773895 W -85.206330

Ownership: State of Florida (Managed by Jackson County)

Status: In development

This natural preserve offers boardwalks and walking trails along a limestone escarpment and through the flood plain forests of the Chipola River. Archaeologists from the University of West Florida located evidence of occupation here by prehistoric American Indians during the Swift Creek and Weeden Island time periods (A.D. 200-900). The entrance road follows the route of the original Old U.S. Road, completed in 1837 by a private contractor for the U.S. Government. The boardwalks, now under construction, will lead visitors past several cave entrances and provide interpretation on the archaeology, history, geology and natural significance of the Greenway.

Chipola River

Overlook Park, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.773096 W -85.216378

Ownership: City of Marianna

Status: In development

A park planned for development at this site will provide access to and views of the historic Chipola River. The 92.5 mile long river is an Outstanding Water of Florida. Fed by springs, it rises several miles north of Marianna at the confluence of Cowarts and Marshall Creeks. Tradition holds that Chipola is a Choctaw word meaning “sweet water,” but the name actually appears to be a word used by the Chacato Indians that inhabited what is now Jackson County when Spanish explorers arrived in 1674. The first known written use of the word was in the report of the 1677 Fernandez de Florencia raid which makes mention of the “great forest of Chipole.” Based on this usage, it appears that the Chacato word applied to the entire floodplain and not just the river itself. This section of the river is part of the Florida Paddling Trail, a state-designated route that is popular with outdoors enthusiasts. Marianna’s original bridge across the Chipola River was built here in 1837.

Fight for the Chipola River Bridge

Overlook Park, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.773197 W -85.217064

Ownership: City of Marianna

Status: In development (Interpretation planned)

The last shots of the Battle of Marianna were fired here on September 27, 1864. Driven through town by pursuing Federal troops, Confederate cavalry broke through a Union flanking party at the Jackson County Courthouse and retreated down Jackson Street. That street provided access to the bridge over the Chipola River until Lafayette Street was extended down the hill to the river during the construction of U.S. Highway 90 during the 1920s. Captain Robert Chisolm's "Woodville Scouts" of the Alabama State Militia fought a delaying action on this ground until the rest of the escaping Confederates could retreat across the bridge. Chisolm and his men then withdrew, tearing up the planking of the Civil War era wooden bridge to present the Union soldiers from following. The two forces exchanged fire back and forth across the river for the rest of the day.

Courthouse Cave

Approximately 400 feet south of Overlook Park, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.772306 W -85.217004

Ownership: Private (For sale)

Status: Private (For sale)

The cave holds a significant place in the history of Marianna and Jackson County. Legend holds that it extends so far beneath the city that one of its chambers passes beneath the courthouse. The cave is not that extensive, but it does connect to several other caves throughout eastern Marianna. Tradition indicates that the cave was a vital link on the "Underground Railroad" for enslaved African American laborers trying to flee to freedom. It is said that these slaves hid in its myriad of passages until search parties gave up allowing them the opportunity to slip away and begin their journey to freedom. Civilians took shelter here during the Battle of Marianna on September 27, 1864, and a "speakeasy" operated in one of the chambers during the Prohibition era.

Riverside Cemetery

Bordered by Franklin, Bertram, Colonel & Davey Streets, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.769948 W -85.221215

Ownership: City of Marianna

Status: Public

The original burial grounds of the City of Marianna, Riverside Cemetery was platted on land belonging to the city's founders, Robert and Anna Maria Beveridge. The date of the first burials here is not known, but the site has been reserved for cemetery purposes since 1827. Among the early burials was Mrs. Beveridge herself. She died of fever within a few years of settling in Marianna. She was one of two women for whom the city was named. The other was the wife of one of Mr. Beveridge's business partners. Used by both white and African-American families, the cemetery has been in constant use for more than 175 years. It was the scene of an important Reconstruction era incident called the "Battle of the Flowers." This confrontation developed when three young girls were charged with trampling flowers left at the grave of a Union soldier and ordered to appear before a military tribunal. The population of the city turned out with them and the charges were dropped. Armstrong Purdee, Jackson County's first African American attorney, is buried at Riverside. He witnessed the Battle of Marianna as an 8-year-old child from the back of a Union soldier's horse. Riverside Cemetery is also the final resting place of an elephant from the Mighty Haag circus, which wintered in Marianna during the early 20th century.

St. Luke's Baptist Church

4476 Jackson Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.773126 W -85.222907
Ownership:
Status: Can be viewed from street (Interpretation on grounds)

This historic African American church was built in 1921 by a congregation formed in 1867. An earlier wooden structure had stood on the site. Reverends L.C. Herring, L.B. Brown and A.H. Parker led the church during the construction of the beautiful Gothic Revival structure known for its towers, pointed arches and stained glass windows. It remained in use for church purposes until 1984 when St. Luke's Baptist Church moved to a new sanctuary. Restoration plans are underway. The structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Florida Heritage site. It is on the Florida Black History Trail.

World War II Prison Camp Site

4518 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.7743952 W -85.219957
Ownership: Private bordered by US 90 right of way.
Status: Commercial (No interpretation)

This is the site of a prison camp where German prisoners of war were incarcerated during World War II. Guarded by National Guard troops, the prisoners were housed in barracks surrounded by a wire fence. They often were sent to work on local farms where manpower for labor was short due to so many Jackson County residents serving in the U.S. Military. The camp was closed with the end of the war in 1945 and later became the site of the Rhyne Furniture Company. A factory and offices of the Mowrey Elevator Company are located on the site today, which can be viewed from the sidewalk along Lafayette Street (Historic Highway 90).

Butler Trail (Chipola River Greenway, Butler Tract)

Intersection of Noland and Kelson, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.783635 W -85.221095
Ownership: Public
Status: Managed by the City of Marianna, open to the public.

Named a National Recreation Trail in 2013, this beautiful walking path is maintained by the City of Marianna and provides access to an unspoiled section of the historic Chipola River. The trail descends from the high ground on which the City of Marianna stands through the flood plain swamps to the Chipola. Popular with birders, it is a great place to spot songbirds and dream of spotting an Ivory-billed Woodpecker. The massive woodpeckers once inhabited these forests and some claim they live there to this day, although the last sighting on the Chipola was more than 60 years ago.

Marianna National Historic District

32 City Blocks in the City of Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.778751 W -85.225235
(Coordinates of Davis-West House, easternmost contributing structure in the District)
Ownership: Public Streets & Parks/Private Residences
Status: Public Streets, Sidewalks, Parks

Designated a national historic district on May 23, 1997, the Marianna National Historic District encompasses 181 historic buildings and 1 object. These structures represent all eras of the community's history and include commercial, governmental and residential buildings as well as a cemetery and battlefield monument.

Jackson County Courthouse & Courthouse Square

4445 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.773789 W -85.226191

Ownership: Jackson County

Status: Public (Interpretation on grounds)

This square was platted by Marianna's founders, Robert and Anna Maria Beveridge, in 1827. They deeded the property to Jackson County and built the first courthouse and jail here at their own expense on the condition that Marianna be named the permanent county seat. A fierce political battle took place between the new city on the Chipola and nearby town of Webbville for which would claim that title. The U.S. Congress declared Webbville the "official" county seat, but Marianna won the battle when the Territorial Legislature threatened to fine any official that refused to do business from the new courthouse built by Mr. and Mrs. Beveridge. The original courthouse burned in 1848 and its replacement was burned by Civil War incendiaries in 1865. Two more courthouses (1871 & 1906) stood on this site before the present structure was built in the 1960s. Hand to hand fighting took place on the grounds during the Battle of Marianna (September 27, 1864). A riot took place on the grounds in October 1934 after the body of Claude Neal, an African-American farm laborer, was found hanging from a tree on the east side of the square. He had been lynched in a rural area 25 miles east of Marianna. A peaceful center for the community today, the square features Confederate and U.S. Veterans monuments, an Eternal Flame of Freedom, historical markers and the beautiful old oaks that ring the square. They were planted in 1871 by Aesop Bellamy, an African American man born into slavery who went on to establish a successful landscaping business after Emancipation.

The Old Abstract Office

2865 Jefferson Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.773465 W -85.227048

Ownership: Private

Status: Commercial/Retail (Interpretation on grounds)

This unique frame structure is believed to date from the Civil War, when it was used as the office of Dr. W.S. Wilson. He helped treat wounded after the Battle of Marianna on September 27, 1864. In 1901 it became the home of Marianna's first telephone exchange. The structure was moved from its original location on Market Street in 1910 by J.A. Ormond, who converted it for use as a land abstract office. Records of recorded real estate transactions from the years 1847-1998 were housed here until January 1999 when Florida Land Title and Trust Company moved to a new, larger location. The building is home to a gift shop today and is open to the public during regular business hours.

Lewis-Wycoff House

2928 Jefferson Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.778035 W -85.226478

Ownership: Private

Status: Commercial (Interpretation on Grounds)

Built in the 1840s by Arthur Lewis (Sr.), a local businessman who was killed during the Battle of Marianna, this home was the one-time residence of U.S. Congressman George Hawkins. Born in New York in 1808, Hawkins served as Florida's only Representative to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1857-1861. He resigned his seat on January 21, 1861, following the secession of Florida from the Union. Hawkins then served as a Confederate District Judge in 1862-1865 and was commissioned by the Florida Legislature in 1877 to prepare a digest of the state's laws. The house is now a salon and is open to the public during regular business hours.

Davis-West House

4448 Putnam Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.778753 W-85.225241

Ownership: Chipola Historical Trust

Status: Museum (Open by appointment)

Built in the 1840s by Captain John Davis, a militia officer of the Second Seminole War, the house became the home of his widowed daughter, Rebecca Davis Spears. In 1861 she married Dr. Theophilus West, a local physician who became a surgeon in the Confederacy's Army of Northern Virginia. The house became a center of Reconstruction-era intrigue following the Civil War. Several leading Republican officials lived here, including John Q. Dickinson. The appointed Clerk of Courts of Jackson County, Dickinson was killed in 1871 by gunshots fired from behind a tree in front of the house. Whether his murder was a political assassination or a "robbery gone bad" is still debated. The house was willed to the Chipola Historical Trust by its final resident, Charles Slade West, in 1996. It is now used as a meeting place and museum and is open for tours by appointment.

First Baptist Church

2897 Green Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.775818 W-85.227725

Ownership: Church

Status: Open for services

Marianna's First Baptist Church was built in 1920 to replace an earlier sanctuary that burned in 1916. The beautiful brick structure combines a variety of architectural styles including Corinthian columns, a Greek dome, Roman and Greek fascia and stained glass windows. The golden dome was given as a memorial to Frank Hudnall by his wife, Clara Hudnall. The carillon, which can be heard throughout downtown Marianna at intervals each day, honors the memory of Roy Beall, a long-time Sunday School teacher and the longest serving Board of Education member in Jackson County history. Services are open to the public.

Dekle-Brunner House

2919 Green Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.777445 W -85.227746

Ownership: Private

Status: Private

A rare example of Queen Anne architecture, the house was originally built in 1845 by Amanda and Oliver Rostrum. Mr. Rostrum was Marianna's tailor. The oak trees that front the house were planted in 1875 as part

of a city-wide beautification effort that began with the planting of the courthouse trees four years earlier. The antebellum structure was gutted by fire in 1898. Extensively rebuilt and expanded, it was given its Queen Anne style in the years that followed.

Hotel Chipola

4401 Constitution Lane, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.773949 W -85.228851

Ownership: Private

Status: Private (No interpretation)

The 75-room Hotel Chipola was completed in 1926 at a cost of \$450,000. Ranked “among the South’s finest,” the hotel’s construction coincided with the building of Historic Highway 90 across Northwest Florida. For many years it was a center of life in the community and a popular stop for travelers on the highway. The hotel was such a dominant commercial enterprise in Marianna that it controlled not only its own farm and dairy, but even its own publishing company. It was the scene of the 1931 Florida Democratic Convention and by 1938 was advertising Marianna’s first “air conditioned coffee shop.” The hotel’s rooms were used to house military personnel during World War II until quarters could be built at the nearby Marianna Army Air Field. The Hotel Chipola never recovered from the double impact of the Great Depression and World War II. After the war it remained open, but losses mounted. Local businessmen tried to save it during the 1960s but the shift from grand old downtown hotels to highway motels made commercial success impossible. The hotel structure is now home to Chipola Apartments, an independent living community for senior citizens. The beautiful exterior looks much as it did when the hotel opened for its first event on New Year’s Eve of 1926.

Fort Marianna

4401 Constitution Lane, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N30.773949 W -85.228851

Ownership: Private

Status: Private (No interpretation)

The residents of Marianna joined forces to build a log stockade at this site when the Creek War of 1836 erupted in Georgia and Alabama. Residents of Florida feared that the fighting would spill over to the Territory (Florida did not become a state until 1845) and similar fortifications went up in communities throughout the region. Fort Marianna was described by a U.S. Army officer as a hastily assembled palisade designed to provide a place of refuge in the event of an attack on the city. The fort never came under attack and local legend holds it was later roofed over to become the first hotel on this site. Today’s Chipola Apartments (the Hotel Chipola) stands on the site.

L&N Railroad Depot

2884 Caledonia Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates N 30.773727 W -85.229439

Ownership: Private

Status: Retail/Open to the Public (No interpretation)

Built in 1881 when the P&A (later L&N) Railroad reached Marianna, the historic depot served the community for many years. Gutted in an arson-set fire in 1979, the structure was moved from the railroad to its current location in 1982 by Floye and Billy Brewton, two brothers who joined forces to restore it. In 1991 it became

the offices of U.S. Congressman Douglas B. “Pete” Peterson (Dem., Marianna) who served three terms in the House of Representatives before his nomination as U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam. Peterson was the first American ambassador to Vietnam since the Vietnam War. He had earlier spent 6 ½ years as a prisoner of war in the “Hanoi Hilton.” The structure is now the home of a retail shop and is open to the public during regular business hours. It is said to be haunted by the ghost of an unfortunate passenger that fell from its platform into the path of an oncoming train during the early 1900s.

Stone Hotel/White Hotel

2859 McPherson Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.773125 W -85.229818

Ownership: Private

Status: Private (No interpretation)

Built in 1905 to serve passengers arriving in Marianna via the L&N Railroad, this magnificent Southern Victorian structure is three-stories tall. It was originally called the White Hotel, but was sold to Frank Stone in the 1920s and the name was changed to denote it as the Stone Hotel. Locals generally still refer to it by this name today. It remained in use as a hotel and apartment building until 1986 when it was converted for use as an antique gallery.

First National Bank Building

Caledonia Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.774236 -85.229256

Ownership: City of Marianna

Status: Restoration underway for museum purposes

Built in 1902 on the site of an earlier private bank operated by W.J. Daniel and Company, this structure was the original home of the First National Bank of Marianna. It is believed that the first adding machine and first loose-leaf ledger were introduced to Florida banking here, forever launching the automation of the Florida banking industry. It remained in use for banking purposes until the 1990s. Now owned by the City of Marianna, plans are underway to restore the building for use as a museum and art gallery.

Battle of Marianna Monument

Confederate Memorial Park, Constitution Lane, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.774265 -85.228915

Ownership: City of Marianna

Status: Public Park

Originally called “the Plaza,” the park surrounding the Battle of Marianna Monument is known today as Confederate Memorial Park. It was an original part of the city and has been used for a variety of civic functions through the years. The monument was erected by the William Henry Milton Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) in 1921. It honors the men and boys of the local home guard companies that helped to defend the city during the Battle of Marianna on September 27, 1864. A part of the fighting took place in the streets around the plaza.

Downtown Cavalry Fight

Confederate Memorial Park, Constitution Lane, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: N 30.774210 W-85.228429

Ownership: City of Marianna

Status: Public Park (Interpretation)

Fighting took place here during the Battle of Marianna on September 27, 1864. Confederate cavalry, falling back from Ely Corner (today's intersection of Lafayette and Russ Streets), was pursued by Union horsemen from the 2nd Maine Cavalry. The two forces surged along Lafayette Street past and across the plaza as the Confederates tried to retreat to the Chipola River in order to make a stand behind the deep water of the river. A historical marker was placed recently in 2015 to interpret this phase of the battle.

Marianna Post Office & Federal Courthouse

4396 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.774946 -85.229432

Ownership: U.S. Government

Status: U.S. Post Office (No interpretation)

The Spanish style Marianna United States Post Office and Federal Courthouse was built in 1927. The U.S. District Court was held on the second floor of the structure for many years until it was moved to Panama City in the late 20th century. The Post Office has operated on the ground floor since 1927 and is open to the public during normal business hours.

First United Methodist Church

2901 Caledonia Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.775825 -85.229200

Ownership: Church

Status: Open for services (Interpretation on grounds)

Built in 1916, the First United Methodist Church is the first brick structure built for worship purposes in Marianna. The city's first church building, a Methodist sanctuary, was built on this site in 1838. For the first eleven years of its history, Marianna did not have a dedicated church structure. The Methodist congregation, which continues to use the property today, was organized on December 10, 1834, although Methodist services had been held in Jackson County since at least 1823.

Marianna Woman's Club (Messer Home)

2902 Caledonia Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.776155 -85.228946

Ownership: Civic Organization

Status: Can be reserved for events (Interpretation on grounds)

This historic antebellum structure was built in 1864 as a residence for Joseph T. Russ and his wife, Mary Russ. Leading Jackson County merchants and planters, the Russ family was instrumental in the 19th century growth of Marianna. The house was purchased in 1891 by Sallie C. Messer and was called the "Messer Home" for many years. Purchased by the Marianna Woman's Club and Marianna Junior Woman's Club in 1950, the

house was remodeled to house a public library, meeting room and a Hookworm eradication clinic. The structure can be reserved for social events.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

4362 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.775632 -85.232137

Ownership: Church

Status: Grounds open to the public

This historic church is sometimes called "Florida's Alamo" because the sanctuary was burned to the ground during the Battle of Marianna on September 27, 1864. Some of the city's defenders refused to surrender and fought to the death as the church collapsed around them. The basement is the only surviving part of the battlefield structure, which had been dedicated one year before the battle in 1863. Heavy fighting took place on the grounds as Union troops surrounded the men and boys of the Marianna Home Guard in the cemetery. Some of the tombstones still bear the scars of bullets fired during the battle. The current structure was built in 1947 and is noted for its beautiful design, which is similar to the original wooden structure on this site and a later sanctuary (1878-1941) that burned on the eve of World War II due to an electrical fire. Among those buried on the grounds are men killed in the Battle of Marianna; Major Jesse Robinson, an officer in the War of 1812; Governor John Milton, Florida's Confederate governor; the wife and son of Dr. John Gorrie, who invented air conditioning and the mechanical ice machine (he is buried in Apalachicola); and noted 19th century novelist Caroline Lee Hentz.

MacKinnon House

4359 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.775242 -85.232634

Ownership: Private

Status: Law office (Interpretation on grounds)

Built in 1868 by James S. Baker, this home stands on the earlier site of Mrs. Caroline Hunter's boarding house. The site holds a unique place in American history as the ladies living at Mrs. Hunter's took part in the Battle of Marianna, firing on Union soldiers from the doors and windows of the original two-story house. The Union troops burned the house to drive them out and end their resistance. The current structure was built three years after the Civil War and was long owned by members of the MacKinnon family. The Federal style structure is now used as a law office.

Nonie Dekle Milton House

4356 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.776002 -85.232912

Ownership: Private

Status: Private (No interpretation)

This charming home was built by M.L. Dekle in 1927 as a gift for his daughter, Nonie Dekle Milton. The site was selected because of the two ancient oak trees that still grow in the front yard. They are among the oldest trees in the city and are much older than the house itself. The structure has seven original fireplaces, all but one of which were designed to burn coal as was the fashion during the early 19th century. Unique for the times, the

home was designed for three full baths when it was built. It is still owned by descendants of the original residents and was restored in 2004-2005.

Holden House

4351 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.775478 -85.233222

Ownership: Private

Status: Commercial (Interpretation on grounds)

Built in 1850 by William E. Anderson, a local attorney and judge, the house is constructed of heart pine. The exterior walls were originally stained in a natural color while the shutters were stained in a deep wine shade. Anderson was elected Brigadier General of the First Brigade of the Florida Militia in 1860 and commanded troops sent to neighboring Calhoun County during the insurrection that took place there during the fall of that year. General Anderson, fighting as a volunteer private in the Marianna Home Guard, was captured during the Battle of Marianna on September 27, 1864, and carried away to the prisoner of war camp at Elmira, New York. The house itself was occupied by Confederate defenders during the battle. One of the interior closets still bears a sword mark left behind by a Union soldier and Civil War bullets were found in the exterior walls when the house was restored in the 1980s. It passed into the hands of Dr. J.T. Holden, a cousin of the Andersons, after the war. Now a day spa, it is open during regular business hours. The house is said to be haunted.

Dickson-Mock House

4346 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.776149 -85.233624

Ownership: Private

Status: Private

This beautiful Queen Anne style Victorian home was built in 1902 by Mary Jane Dickson, the widow of Captain Marmaduke N. Dickson (CSA). Her father-in-law had been killed in the Battle of Marianna, part of which was fought on the grounds. Built of heart pine, the structure is noted for its tower, attached gazebo, wrap-around porch and cantilevered interior staircase. When the house was restored in the late 20th century, workers found a corked but empty whiskey bottle behind one of the baseboards near the dining room fireplace. The house is said to be haunted.

Hinson House

4338 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.776397 -85.234569

Ownership: Private

Status: Bed & Breakfast Inn (No interpretation)

Built in 1920 by J.W. Hinson, the historic cottage-style home stands on property that was part of the original Ely Estate. Part of the Battle of Marianna was fought on the grounds. Renovated in 1996, the home serves today as a Bed and Breakfast. The interior reflects the 1920s and is always decorated for Christmas.

Ely-Criglar Mansion

4332 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.776735 -85.234839
Ownership: Private
Status: Private (Interpretation on grounds)

This beautiful antebellum structure is one of the oldest standing homes in Jackson County. Built by Francis Ely, a prominent local merchant and planter, the house was designed to double as a blockhouse or fort as the Second Seminole War was still underway when it was constructed in 1840. The interior walls, like the exterior ones, extend from the rafters all the way to the foundations. This design would allow defenders to retreat from one room to the next and continue to fight should Seminole or Creek warriors break through from the outside. The house was never attacked during the Second Seminole War, but did play a role in the Battle of Marianna. Overlooking Ely Corner, where the main fighting of the battle began, the Ely-Criglar Mansion is believed to be the most battle-scarred private home in Florida. Hundreds of bullet marks scar its outside walls and a cannonball struck the attic area during the fighting. The house was purchased by future Florida Supreme Court Justice Francis B. Carter in 1889 and by Joseph M. Criglar in 1900. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Survey of Historic American Homes.

1840's House

2910 Russ Street, Marianna, FL
GPS Coordinates: 30.776883 -85.235432
Ownership: Private
Status: Commercial Office (No interpretation)

This frame structure was the original west or residential wing of the neighboring Ely-Criglar Mansion. Built in 1840 as part of the main house, it was moved from its original location and turned to face Russ Street during the early 20th century. The house was used as an apartment building for many years before being restored for commercial purposes. Its walls were struck by bullets during the Battle of Marianna on September 27, 1864.

Bowles-Kimbrough House

2916 Russ Street, Marianna, FL
GPS Coordinates: 30.777555 -85.235368
Ownership: Private
Status: Private (No interpretation)

Built in 1896 on land that was part of the original Ely Estate, this house was the long-time home of "Candy" Anderson Bowles, who served Jackson County as Clerk of Courts, Tax Collector, Sheriff, Marianna City Manager and U.S. Marshall. Beautifully restored, the house features 3,000 square feet of living space and 1,000 square feet of porches.

Ely Corner/Russ House Commons

Intersection of Lafayette & Russ Streets, Marianna, FL
GPS Coordinates: 30.776957 -85.235822
Ownership: State of Florida
Status: Public Park (Interpretation)

This corner marked the western edge of Marianna for much of the 19th century. Taking its name from the Ely Estate, the corner was where the original Campbellton and St. Andrew Bay roads intersected before continuing

into town as a single street. The main fighting of the Battle of Marianna began here on September 27, 1864, when Union cavalry attacked a battle line of Confederate cavalry that had formed across the intersection. The first Union charge was driven back but a second charge, led in person by Brigadier General Alexander Asboth, forced the Confederates under Colonel A.B. Montgomery to withdraw up the street and deeper into town. A gas station later stood on this corner, but it was demolished and a park, Russ House Commons, was built on the site by the Florida Department of Transportation in 2000. The grounds are open to the public.

Russ House & Visitor Center

4318 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL (Entrance off Russ Street)

GPS Coordinates: 30.777473 -85.236028

Ownership: Jackson County/City of Marianna

Status: Visitor Center (Interpretation)

Built in 1895 as a Victorian style-home by Joseph W. Russ, Jr., a prominent Marianna merchant, this beautiful home was remodeled to its current colonial architectural style with rounded porches and Corinthian columns in 1910. The interior of the house features six coal burning fireplaces, 12 foot ceilings, extensive curved crown molding to match the rounded bay windows, immense pocket door and massive cupola sits atop the two story porch also serves as a skylight to provide light for the second-floor interior. The Russ family suffered tremendous losses in the stock market crash of 1929 and Mr. Russ took his own life. His daughter Frances Russ Dickerson acquired the home from her step mother, and struggled to pay her new mortgage. The upstairs bedrooms were rented to military personnel from the nearby Marianna Army Air Field during World War II. Now owned by Jackson County and the City of Marianna, the house is Jackson County's official visitor center. Jackson County Tourist Development Council staff offers free tours during normal business hours. The Russ House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is available for wedding and event rentals.

Marianna Civil War Battlefield

Begins at Russ House & Visitor Center

GPS Coordinates: 30.777473 -85.236028 (Beginning Point)

Ownership: Public/Private/Church

Status: Walking tour with interpretation

The only downtown Civil War battlefield along the entire Historic Highway 90 Corridor from Jacksonville to Pensacola, the Marianna Civil War Battlefield was the scene of a small but intense engagement that took place on September 27, 1864. A raiding force of 700 Union troops from the 2nd Maine Cavalry, 1st Florida Cavalry (US), 82nd U.S. Colored Troops (USCT), 86th U.S. Colored Troops) and one man from the 7th Vermont Veteran Volunteers attacked Marianna at the climax of the deepest penetration of Florida by Federal forces during the entire Civil War. The city was defended by Poe's Battalion of the 1st Florida Infantry Reserves, Captain Robert Chisolm's Woodville Scouts of the Alabama State Militia, the Marianna Home Guard, the Campbellton Cavalry (militia) and the Greenwood Club Cavalry (cadets). Companies A and E of the 5th Florida Cavalry joined in the fighting along the Chipola River near the close of the action. The battle began three miles northwest of town at Hopkins' Branch, but intensified at Ely Corner (intersection of Lafayette and Russ Streets). From that point to the bridge over the Chipola River on the opposite side of town, the fighting was intense and continuous. Damage from the battle can still be seen at the Ely-Criglar Mansion, the Holden House and St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The Battle of Marianna was a Union victory. Casualties in the action were: (CSA) 10 killed, 16 wounded, 81 captured; (USA) 8 killed, 19 wounded, 10 captured.

The Jackson County Tourist Development Council has developed a self-guided walking tour of the battlefield. Brochures are available at the historic Russ House & Visitor Center which is also the starting point for the tour. The battlefield is marked by 7 monuments and historical markers.

Jackson County Spanish Heritage Trail

Begins at Russ House & Visitor Center

GPS Coordinates: 30.777473 -85.236028 (Beginning Point)

Ownership: Public

Status: Driving tour with interpretation

Developed in 2014 by the Jackson County Tourist Development Council and pertinent volunteers, this 150-mile driving tour that travels from the east to the west portions of the county on rural roads intersecting historic highway 90 along the route. The 11 sites dating back from the late 1680s through 1800s of Jackson County's Spanish colonial past. Points of interest along the self-guided tour include Spanish mission sites, raids among Indians and Spanish explorers, caves, rivers and springs, natural bridge, traces of the original Old Spanish Trail, American Indian village sites. Detailed booklets are available at the Russ House and Visitor Center as well as other commercial and governmental locations along the route. Interpretive kiosks have been erected at all 11 stops.

Milton House

4304 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.778817 -85.237148

Ownership: Private

Status: Private (No interpretation)

Built in 1909 by descendants of Governor John Milton, Florida's Confederate governor, this beautiful home includes 4,200 square feet and is noted both for its architectural design and natural setting. Beautifully restored, it is still owned by the Milton family.

Marianna B-47 Crash Site

Intersection of 6th Avenue and 4th Street, Marianna, FL (Near site of children's deaths)

GPS Coordinates: 30.789058 -85.237358

Ownership: Public Roadways/Private Residences

Status: Public/Private (No interpretation)

One of the most tragic incidents of the Cold War took place at Marianna on July 22, 1952. A B-47 Stratojet Bomber from McDill Air Force Base in Tampa was making a training run to Eglin Air Force Base when it suddenly exploded in the skies high over Marianna. Pieces of the aircraft fell over an area of several square miles in northern Marianna. All four crew members were killed as were two small children on the ground. Peggy Williams, age 5, and Rufus Williams, age 3, were walking up their street to visit an uncle when they were struck by burning fuel from the plane. Their brother and mother were also injured, as were others in the community. The bomber was carrying four 500-pound bombs, one of which was never recovered and remains buried somewhere in Marianna to this day. The U.S. Air Force investigation into the crash was classified Top Secret. It is known today, however, that B-47 bombers suffered from a structural flaw that sometimes caused them to crash.

Citizens Lodge Park

4574 Lodge Drive, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.796351 -85.216814

Ownership: Jackson County

Status: Public Park with Interpretation

This large public-recreation area is operated by the Jackson County Parks Department and is located on the site of a 1950s-1960s pony farm. It features paved walking paths, playgrounds, picnic areas and a lodge that is available for community events. Judge's Cave, a state bat preserve, adjoins the park but is not open to the public.

Florida Caverns State Park

3345 Caverns Road, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.808345 -85.212358

Ownership: State of Florida

Status: Public Park with Interpretation

This 1,300 acre state park is located on both banks of the spring-fed Chipola River three miles north of Historic Highway 90. Florida's only public tour cave is located within the park and is open to the public Thursday-Monday (Closed Tuesday and Wednesday). When archaeologists investigated the park area in the 1930s-1940s as development was underway by the Civilian Conservation Corps, they learned that prehistoric and historic American Indians made use of the caves and rock shelters. In New Cave, which is closed to the public, human footprints believed to be more than 1,000 years old were found preserved in the clay of the cave floor. Indian Cave, now a bat sanctuary, also produced evidence of human habitation dating back thousands of years, as did Miller's Cave. Other archaeological sites were found at Blue Hole Spring, which was first described by an officer in Major General Andrew Jackson's army in 1818. American Indian tradition recorded in both Florida and Oklahoma holds that Creek and Seminole warriors hid with their families in some of the caves as Jackson's army marched past during the First Seminole War. The main Old Spanish Trail also passed through the park. The Natural Bridge of the Chipola River was described in Spanish documents dating back to 1693. Jackson's army also crossed this natural formation en route to the general's 1818 capture of Pensacola. The park offers nature trails with interpretive panels, paddling on the Chipola River, guided cave tours, picnic areas, camping, fishing in the river and swimming at Blue Hole Spring. The visitor center features exhibits and artifacts that interpret the history, geology and archaeology of the park.

MERE Locomotive

3625 Caverns Road, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.812725 -85.188927

Ownership: City of Marianna

Status: Located at Public Park (No Interpretation)

This historic 0-4-2 tank locomotive dates from the early 20th century and once pulled trains of ore at the Coronet Phosphate mines in Central Florida. It was purchased by Dr. Albert Folds who dreamed of establishing a railroad-themed amusement park. The park never became a reality but the little tank engine was brought to this site from Mount Dora during the 1970s.

Marianna Airport/Marianna Army Air Field/Graham Air Base

3689 Industrial Park Drive, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.835212 -85.182361

Ownership: City of Marianna

Status: Public (Interpretation on terminal grounds)

The Marianna Army Air Field was developed at this site in 1942 by the U.S. Army Air Corps. Pilots were trained by seasoned fighter pilots brought home from the frontlines of World War II. The air field operated until 1946, training new pilots in AT-6 trainer aircraft. Many Nationalist Chinese pilots were trained here. They later became part of the air force that defended Taiwan against the Communist Chinese. The field was reactivated in 1953 as Graham Air Base, a primary pilot training school for the U.S. Air Force. Named for contractor William J. Graham, the base was home to 150 aircraft. A total of 6,600 pilots from 33 nations trained here in the PA-18, T-6, T-28, T-34 and Twin Jet T-37 aircraft. Among the U.S. Air Force pilots that trained here was Lieutenant Colonel Douglas B. “Pete” Peterson, who spent 6 ½ years in the “Hanoi Hilton” prison after being shot down over North Vietnam. He eventually became a U.S. Congressman representing Florida’s 2nd District and was appointed by President Bill Clinton to become America’s first Ambassador to Vietnam since the U.S. war there. Brigadier General James W. Hart also trained at Graham, having grown up watching the pilots of the World War II era train at the original Marianna Air Field. Graham Air Base operated until 1960 and many of the U.S. Air Force’s Cold War pilots were trained here. Now managed by the City of Marianna, the airport is available for public use and features two 4,900-foot runways.

Jackson County UFO of 1955

3689 Industrial Park Drive, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.835212 -85.182361

Ownership: City of Marianna

Status: Public

One of America’s still-unsolved UFO encounters took place in the skies over Jackson County on December 6, 1955. A radar operator at Graham Air Base (now the Marianna Airport) observed an Unidentified Flying Object traveling north along the Apalachicola and Chattahoochee Rivers across Jackson County at a high rate of speed. Civilians on the ground observed what they described as a “light” as the unexplained object streaked north out of the county and into the skies over Alabama. The UFO was tracked almost to Montgomery, Alabama. Investigated by the U.S. Air Force and listed in the famed “Project Blue Book” report, the sighting is listed as unsolved to this day.

Hinson Conservation & Recreation Area

Highway 73 South, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.755967 -85.213928 (Main Parking Area)

Ownership: State of Florida (Managed by City of Marianna)

Status: Public Park

This magnificent outdoor paradise was once the private farm of the Hinson family which generously made the property available for state purchase and a reduced price. Now managed by the City of Marianna, the Hinson Conservation & Recreation Area features miles of hiking trails, a canoe/kayak launch, a picnic area overlooking the Chipola River and an array of natural settings including a high limestone outcrop, caves, sinks and a small natural spring. Archaeologists from the University of West Florida conducted research here in 2014 and located a large site where stone tools were manufactured by prehistoric American Indians during the

Archaic era as well as a small habitation site dating from the Weeden Island culture. Especially popular with walkers is the trail segment that leads down and through Alamo Cave. The trail system was designated a National Recreation Trail in 2013.

Dozier School for Boys (Florida Industrial School for Boys)

Technology Circle, Marianna, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.761092 -85.259793 (Coordinates of Chapel)

Ownership: State of Florida (Managed by Jackson County School Board)

Status: Limited public access (No interpretation)

Established under an 1897 act of the Florida Legislature, the Florida State Reform School (later Dozier School for Boys) began operations on January 1, 1900. The school was conceived as a place where at risk teenagers could be diverted from the state prison system and taught trades so they could establish lives for themselves once their term at the school was over. The facility originally housed both boys and girls, white and black, on a single unfenced campus. Objections by South Florida newspaper editors to whites and blacks sleeping under the same roof led the legislature to authorize the construction of twin “separate but equal” campuses. The white or South campus remains fenced and closed to the public at this time. The black or North campus is now managed by the Jackson County School Board which operates an Alternative School there. The school was renamed the Florida Industrial School for Boys during the early 1900s and then the Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys in 1967. Dozier was a well-known former superintendent. At times it was the largest facility for juvenile offenders in the nation. For most of its history, Dozier School was an unfenced “open campus” facility. A horrible dormitory fire in 1914 that killed 5 students and 2 employees led to the adoption of a “cottage system” under which smaller groups of students were housed in “cottages” or houses, to each of which were assigned cottage parents. Students received training in a variety of trades including agriculture, printing, electronics, mechanics, etc. They also competed against area high schools in a number of different sports and participated in the school’s marching band, show band, chorus, model airplane club and numerous other activities. The school closed in 2011.

Watermelon Alley

US 231, Cottondale, Florida

GPS Coordinates: 30.795783 -85.376695

Ownership: Public Road/Private

Status: Commercial

Long a landmark for beach-bound tourists on U.S. Highway 231, “Watermelon Alley” is the name given to a cluster of fruit and vegetable stands along both sides of the highway just north of Historic Highway 90. A number of fruit and vegetable stands still operate, although with booths and shops selling souvenirs, crafts, Bonsai trees and other items of interest. Jackson County was once one of the leading watermelon producing locations in the world and the highway was lined with watermelons during the 1940s-1980s. Local merchants still sell Jackson County grown melons from their stands today.

Cottondale City Hall

2659 Front Street, Cottondale, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.795730 -85.376144

Ownership: City of Cottondale

Status: Open to the Public (No interpretation)

This limestone and concrete railroad warehouse dates from the late 19th or early 20th century and has been converted for use by the City of Cottondale. The limestone blocks were mined at nearby quarries and the warehouse was an important establishment in the days when Cottondale was a major shipping point on the L&N (now CSX) Railroad. The city was founded as a worker's village by the railroad as construction on the P&A (later the L&N) pushed east into Jackson County. It grew into a prosperous community and was incorporated in 1905. The name was a tribute to the vast fields of cotton that grew in the vicinity during the 19th century. A major cotton gin was established by the railroad in Cottondale and bales of cotton were shipped from here by rail to textile mills throughout the country. A number of homes and other structures dating from the early 20th century can be seen scattered through the community.

The Fernandez de Florencia Raid of 1677

(Rear parking lot of Cottondale City Hall)

GPS Coordinates: 30.795555 -85.376433

Ownership: City of Cottondale

Status: Interpretive Panel in Pubic Parking Lot

An interpretive panel notes that a militia raid authorized by Captain Juan Fernandez de Florencia passed this vicinity in 1677. Carried out by Christian Apalachee militia from Fort San Luis at present-day Tallahassee along with support from other villages, the raid was launched to destroy a stockade built by Chisca (probably Yuchi) Indians somewhere west of the Choctawhatchee River. The Chisca had been making night raids against Apalachee settlements in Middle Florida for three years until the American Indian militia requested authorization from Fernandez de Florencia, the deputy governor of Apalachee, to follow the Chisca to their hidden fortification and destroy them. The militia followed the main route of the Old Spanish Trail through Jackson County. That path crossed the site where Cottondale was later developed. The interpretive panel is Stop #11 on the Jackson County Spanish Heritage Trail.

Cottondale Train Collision of 1923

2598 Railroad Street, Cottondale, FL

GPS Coordinates: 30.794975 -85.379332

Ownership: Private (CSX)

Status: Private, can be seen from Railroad Street (No interpretation)

One of the deadliest rail accidents in Florida history too place at this site on September 16, 1923. L&N Train Number One, east bound, collided with an excursion train on the Atlanta & St. Andrews Bay line (commonly called The Bay Line). The two railroads cross at Cottondale. Four people, all on the excursion train, were killed and at least 20 others were injured. The engineer of the L&N train, F.A. Bogich, suffered a broken leg. The accident happened as the L&N train approached the crossing from the west at "such a speed that it was unable to stop and ran four rail lengths after cutting through the excursion train." Doctors and nurses were rushed to the scene from Pensacola, Cottondale, Marianna and Chipley. In what passengers on the excursion train called a miracle, a two year old baby was caught on the pilot of the L&N locomotive as it sliced through the passenger cars and carried hundreds of feet past the collision site, but survived. The child's mother, Mrs. I.T. Lane of Dothan, Alabama, was killed.

Site of Aycock

Intersection of Aycock Road and Hwy 90, Cottondale, FL

UPS Coordinates: 38.787053 -85.441508
Ownership: Public Roads/Private
Status: No interpretation

Aycock was an important lumber and naval stores town of the early 20th century. Located on the border with Jackson County, it was a “company town” of the Aycock Brothers Lumber Company and a station on the L&N (now CSX) railroad. The town was the location of saw and planing mills, general stores, a jewelry store and other businesses. It was also the location of homes for both employees and management of the company. A private railroad connected the main community here with outlying timber and turpentine camps in Washington and Jackson Counties. The dead from the fatal fire in the Aycock Company’s camp or “stockade” for leased convict laborers are buried in unmarked graves on the site of the town. This fire claimed the lives of 5 men and left 6 others with horrible burns. The tragedy was one of several that helped bring the Convict Leasing System to an end in Florida.

