



AMELIA & ISLAND

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HISTORIC FERNANDINA BEACH TOUR

Enjoy a self-directed walking or driving tour through the fascinating Historic District of Fernandina Beach, listed on the National Register for Historic Places.

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FERNANDINA HISTORIC DISTRICT TOUR

The Historic District of Fernandina Beach is a 50-block area located at the north end of Amelia Island and recognized on the National Register of Historic Places. The town of Fernandina was officially established in 1811 and named for King Ferdinand VII of Spain. In 1853, the town site moved just south to take advantage of the new Florida Railroad and the subsequent tourism boom. The original town now called Old Town Fernandina, still remains and celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2011. Many of these homes are now Bed & Breakfasts, so you can stay in a part of Fernandina's history!

The tour begins at the docks at Front and Centre Streets, the birthplace of the modern shrimping industry.



- 1 **Welcome Center/Historic Train Depot**
102 Centre Street
- 2 **Duryee Building**
101 Centre Street
- 3 **Palace Saloon**
117 Centre Street
- 4 **Chandlery Building**
201 Centre Street
- 5 **Three Star Saloon**
213 Centre Street
- 6 **Angel Building**
215 Centre Street
- 7 **City Mart**
218 Centre Street
- 8 **Florida House**
20-22 South 3rd Street
- 9 **Nassau County Jail**
233 South 3rd Street
- 10 **Kydd Building**
301 Centre Street
- 11 **Swann Building**
319 Centre Street
- 12 **United States Post Office**
401 Centre Street
- 13 **Lesesne House**
415 Centre Street
- 14 **Nassau County Courthouse**
416 Centre Street
- 15 **Thompson House**
11 South 7th Street
- 16 **Tabby House**
27 South 7th Street
- 17 **Addison House**
614 Ash Street
- 18 **Blue Heron Inn**
102 South 7th Street
- 19 **Fairbanks House**
227 South 7th Street
- 20 **Waas House**
327 South 7th Street
- 21 **Kelly House**
214 South 7th Street
- 22 **Lasserre House**
130 South 7th Street
- 23 **Bailey House**
28 South 7th Street
- 24 **Trinity United Methodist Church**
715 Ash Street
- 25 **Williams House**
103 South 9th Street
- 26 **Merrick-Simmons House**
102 South 10th Street
- 27 **Eppes House**
31 South 10th Street
- 28 **Amelia Schoolhouse Inn**
914 Atlantic Avenue
- 29 **Hoyt House**
804 Atlantic Avenue
- 30 **St. Peters Episcopal Church**
801 Atlantic Avenue
- 31 **First Presbyterian Church**
9 North 6th Street
- 32 **Hirth House**
103 North 6th Street
- 33 **Hinton Baker House**
102 North 6th Street
- 34 **Baker House**
112 North 6th Street
- 35 **Prescott House**
120 North 6th Street
- 36 **Humphreys House**
117 North 6th Street
- 37 **Chadwick House**
121 North 6th Street
- 38 **St. Michael Catholic Church**
505 Broome Street
- 39 **Noble Hardee House**
415 Alachua Street
- 40 **John Hardee House**
28 North 4th Street
- 41 **Villa Las Palmas**
315 Alachua Street
- 42 **1882 Huot Building**
101 North 2nd Street
- 43 **Seydel Building**
31 North 2nd Street
- 44 **Huot's 1878 Building**
9-11 North 2nd Street



WELCOME CENTER / HISTORIC TRAIN DEPOT

102 CENTRE STREET

The current building opened in 1899 and served as the railroad depot until the 1930's. This is the 2nd depot for Fernandina Beach and was built for Florida's first cross-state railroad. The original depot was constructed between 1855 and 1881 at the city docks but was destroyed by the famous Hurricane of 1898. The depot is now home to the Amelia Island Welcome Center.



DURJEE BUILDING

101 CENTRE STREET

Now home to the Marina Restaurant, this building was built by Major W.B.C. Durjee in 1882 and housed the Customs House, the Florida Mirror newspaper & printing plant, the First Bank of Fernandina, and a first-floor bar. Rumor has it, Union Major Durjee, stationed here during the occupation, decided to make Fernandina home and convinced his wife, Amelia, to move here by telling her the island was named for her.



PALACE SALOON

117 CENTRE STREET

Originally constructed as a haberdashery in 1878, this building was purchased in 1901 by Louis G. Hirth, transformed, and re-opened as the Palace Saloon in 1903. The Palace survived the Prohibition years by selling Texaco gasoline, ice cream, special wines, 3 percent near-beer, and cigars. And for those strong enough to try it, legend says Hirth made available his signature Cumberland whiskey. The Palace is Florida's oldest operating saloon.

4

CHANDLERY BUILDING

201 CENTRE STREET



The Chandlery building is one of the prettiest downtown Fernandina structures. Built by A B Noyes as a grocery after the fire of 1876, the third floor wasn't added until 1901. The building is best known for Fred Hoyt's ship's chandlery. Today, it is home to retail stores.

5

THREE STAR SALOON

213 CENTRE STREET



This building with the three large stars worked into the brickwork on the second level was originally the Three Star Saloon, built in 1877 by William Marson, who was known to enjoy sampling the merchandise. His daughter sold it after his death on the condition that alcoholic beverages would never be sold there again. It has not been a saloon since.

6

ANGEL BUILDING

215 CENTRE STREET



The Angel Building was built in 1885 and once housed a bakery, grocery, drug store and local telephone company. This lovely commercial building is now home to Robison's Jewelry.

7**CITY MART****218 CENTRE STREET**

After a fire destroyed the original building, it was replaced by the current one in 1884. Known for its beautiful architectural windows, this building was first home to Martin Downey's Clothing Store, then Fernandina Development Company, Arthur Steil's and Oscar Thiede's Bar, and now Fernandina's Fantastic Fudge.

8**FLORIDA HOUSE****20-22 SOUTH 3RD STREET**

Built by David Yulee's Florida Railroad in 1857, it is the oldest operating hotel in Florida. While not proven, some believe General Ulysses S. Grant was entertained in the dining room during a visit to the island in 1880. Cuban patriot and poet Jose Marti lived at the Inn in February 1894 during the struggle of independence of his country.

9**NASSAU COUNTY JAIL****233 SOUTH 3RD STREET**

Built around 1878 and refurbished in 1935, this building continued as the county's jail until 1978. In 1980, it opened as the Eight Flags Museum of Nassau County and in 1986 changed its name to Amelia Island Museum of History. This building is listed on the National Register.

10**KYDD BUILDING****301 CENTRE STREET**

The Kydd Building is the oldest business building in downtown Fernandina. It was constructed in 1873 and housed the dry goods business of James and Thomas Kydd. The adjacent Allan Building, built in 1911, is a former department store, now an office building and was one of the last buildings erected on Centre Street.

11**SWANN BUILDING****319 CENTRE STREET**

Samuel A. Swann was one of the key figures in the development of Fernandina during the latter part of the nineteenth century. He served the state of Florida in the area of real estate promotion and development with special advisor to the governor. He erected the Swann Building in 1884 where it housed the first library upstairs and Waas Drugs on the first level.

12**UNITED STATES POST OFFICE****401 CENTRE STREET**

Architect James Knox Taylor began construction on the Post Office and Customs House in 1909 with dedication in 1912. It was designed in Italian Renaissance Style. On the second floor of the Post Office is a fully restored courtroom that served the area early in this century.

13**LESESNE HOUSE****415 CENTRE STREET**

This Classical Revival style residence, built by Dr. John F. Lesesne in 1856, is one of the oldest homes in Fernandina Beach. It is constructed of hand-hewn lumber fastened with wooden pegs. After Lesesne left Fernandina during the Civil War and never returned, the house became the property of the family of Judge John Friend.

14**NASSAU COUNTY COURTHOUSE****416 CENTRE STREET**

Designed in the Classical Revival style, the courthouse was built in 1891 and features cast-iron Corinthian columns and a massive bell tower and steeple. Meneely and Co. of West Troy, New York, cast the bell for the tower, which was used as a fire alarm for many years. It is one of the finest surviving Victorian courthouses in Florida and is the oldest county courthouse in continuous use.

15**THOMPSON HOUSE****11 SOUTH 7TH STREET**

This grand home, built in 1872 by the Thompson family, was once the home of state senator, William Naylor Thompson. It's unique and gracefully arched bay windows along with the grand central staircase in the entry hall, are just a couple of the home's charming features.

16**TABBY HOUSE****27 SOUTH 7TH STREET**

Designed by architect, R. S. Schuyler of New York and built in 1885 for C.W. Lewis, this home is a beautiful example of Victorian architecture. Built from bricks made of concrete and local shells, it is lovingly referred to as “The Tabby House” by its owners and local residents. However, the building materials are not all together “tabby,” which is a mixture of lime, sand, water, and crushed oyster shells.

17**ADDISON HOUSE****614 ASH STREET**

Built in 1876 as a private home for merchant Frank Simmons, the home has undergone several renovations/additions over the years but has kept the original architectural style. The main building has had many uses during its history including private home, infirmary during the Yellow Fever epidemic, doctor’s office, rooming house for mill workers, and daycare for their children.

18**BLUE HERON INN****102 SOUTH 7TH STREET**

Constructed around 1904 by Floyd Wright, this home in the Silk Stocking District was once home to an eye doctor clinic. Through various renovations the home has kept much of its original heart pine floors, 2 fireplaces and light fixtures.

19

FAIRBANKS HOUSE227 SOUTH 7TH STREET

Fairbanks House was built in 1885 by R. S. Schuyler for Major George Fairbanks, editor of Fernandina's *Florida Mirror* newspaper. Fairbanks came to Florida in 1842 and began his illustrious career presiding over the Board of Trade, developing the citrus industry, and was one of the founders of the Florida Historical Society.

20

WAAS HOUSE327 SOUTH 7TH STREET

Originally built in 1856 as a small cottage facing the side street, this beautiful Queen Anne style home was purchased by Dr. W. Theo Waas in 1899 and expanded, remodeled and turned to face 7th St.

21

KELLY HOUSE214 SOUTH 7TH STREET

Built in 1889 by Samuel A. Swann but named for fourth owner, D. A. Kelly, this property spans 3 city lots and has a magnificent entry featuring an inlaid ceiling and mahogany staircase lined with stained glass windows. The movie "All She Ever Wanted" starring Marcia Cross, was filmed here in 1996.

22**LASSERRE HOUSE****130 SOUTH 7TH STREET**

Built in 1904 by Captain William Bell who migrated here after the Civil War with his twin brother, Captain James Bell. They both resumed their careers as river pilots, dabbled in real estate and built a number of beautiful houses on Amelia Island.

23**BAILEY HOUSE****28 SOUTH 7TH STREET**

The Bailey House was built about 1895 by Effingham Bailey for his fiancé, Kate MacDonell. Kate found the house in a catalog and Mr. Bailey promised to build it for her when they married. An example of Queen Anne architecture, it features gables, turrets, windows of all sizes and shapes, and its distinctive fish scale shingles.

24**TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH****715 ASH STREET**

Constructed in 1891 by and for the African-American congregation, members included FL House Representative Riley E. Robinson and Professor William Peck, for whom Peck High School was named. Church tradition maintains that the original stain glass windows were imported from England.

25

WILLIAMS HOUSE103 SOUTH 9TH STREET

The Williams House is one of the oldest in Fernandina. Though built in 1856 by a Boston banker, it was purchased by Marcellus A. Williams in 1858 and subsequently named after him. The beautiful gingerbread design on the veranda was designed by famed architect, R.S. Schuyler. He signed an agreement stating that he would not duplicate the striking design and it remains unique to this date.

26

MERRICK-SIMMONS HOUSE102 SOUTH 10TH STREET

Built circa 1860, this home was used as a hospital for Union troops during the occupation of Fernandina. It was purchased in an 1863 tax sale by Chole Merrick who moved here from NY to help establish a Freedman's School. After the war, she married Harrison Reed, who was Governor of Florida from 1869-1873. It is one of the few remaining buildings constructed before the Civil War.

27

EPPE HOUSE31 SOUTH 10TH STREET

The Eppes House has stood on the northwest corner of Ash and 10th Streets for over 100 years. Built in the late 1800's, it was originally the residence of Thomas Jefferson Eppes, a direct descendent of President Thomas Jefferson.



28

AMELIA SCHOOLHOUSE INN

914 ATLANTIC AVENUE

Designed by acclaimed architect Robert Sands Schuyler, the Schoolhouse was built as the first school on the island in 1886. Known to all as "Schoolhouse No. 1", it ceased being a school later in the 20th century and underwent a major renovation in 2017 to open as the Amelia Schoolhouse Inn.



29

HOYT HOUSE

804 ATLANTIC AVENUE

Built in 1905 by builder John Mann, the house is modeled after the Rockefeller Cottage on Jekyll Island. Banker Fred W. Hoyt, along with his wife Kate and their three boys, resided there until Mrs. Hoyt's death in 1927. The Everett Mizell family enjoyed a comfortable life in this grand home for the next half-century.



30

ST. PETERS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

801 ATLANTIC AVENUE

Built in 1884 by architect Robert Schuyler, the church suffered a tragic blow in February of 1892 when a fire erupted in the basement furnace room and swept up to the tower destroying most all of the church but the robing room. Robert Schuyler was retained once again and rebuilt in 1893 allowing "The Jewel of Centre Street" to flourish once again.

31

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9 NORTH 6TH STREET



Organized May 22, 1858, and built in 1859, First Presbyterian is the oldest church structure on Amelia Island. When the Civil War broke out, worship was interrupted and the sanctuary was used to house a primary school run by the Freedman's Bureau. A young Union officer named Major W.B.C. Duryee, who was stationed in Fernandina, saved the church bell from being melted down for armament.

32

HIRTH HOUSE

103 NORTH 6TH STREET



Originally built in 1886 by architect Robert Schuyler for a newspaperman, the home was later purchased by Louis Hirth, the founder of the Palace Saloon. Hirth House is located in the Silk Stocking district, roughly bounded by 9th, Broome, Ash and 5th Streets, and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

33

HINTON BAKER HOUSE

102 NORTH 6TH STREET



Built by Rev. Archibald Baker's grandson, Judge Hinton Baker in 1905. It is most notable for its beautiful Ogee arches. The landscaping and gardens surrounding the home feature live oaks, magnolia's and 100 year old camellia's planted in 1920 by noted horticulturist, Gustav Gerbing.

34**BAKER HOUSE****112 NORTH 6TH STREET**

The 17-room Baker House was built in 1859 and was purchased in 1860 by the Rev. Archibald Baker who came to Fernandina to become the first minister of First Presbyterian Church. It has remained in the Baker family, except for the time when occupied but Union Troops during the Civil War.

35**PRESCOTT HOUSE****120 NORTH 6TH STREET**

Built in 1876 by Josiah Prescott, the Prescott House is noted for its exquisite Victorian architectural detail including beautiful millwork, shutters, and classic wraparound porch.

36**HUMPHREYS HOUSE****117 NORTH 6TH STREET**

Built by Dr. D. G. Humphreys in 1900-02, the Queen Anne-style home is embellished with interior and exterior gingerbread detail, high ceilings and wood frames around the windows and archways. The house has four fireplaces, each with original tile and intricately carved golden oak mantels.

**37**

CHADWICK HOUSE

121 NORTH 6TH STREET

This Queen Anne-style home set atop brick piers, was built in 1883 by Captain Stephen Chadwick, Jr., owner of a tugboat company and livery stable. Its rich history is revealed in the ornate, carved wood banisters, original working fireplaces, heart pine flooring, quaint picture rails and original windows and millwork.

**38**

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

505 BROOME STREET

The Catholic Church of Fernandina Beach was founded in 1784 where services took place in the area of Old Town. The current Romanesque church was built in 1872 and a parish hall was erected circa 1890-1900. Since the British occupation of 1763-1783, there have been over 25 pastors and 50 visitant and resident priests serving the needs of the parish.

**39**

NOBLE HARDEE HOUSE

415 ALACHUA STREET

This Queen Anne-style home was originally built in 1902 for African-American druggist and physician Dr. Percy N. Richardson and his wife Lucy. It was later sold to Noble Hardee, one of the founders of Standard Hardware Co. It is known for its distinctive ornamental shingles, two-story hexagonal bays, and an ornamental veranda.

**40**

JOHN HARDEE HOUSE

28 NORTH 4TH STREET

The original part of the house was built for Stephen Chadwick in 1904 and purchased by the Hardees in 1912 for \$100.



41

VILLA LAS PALMAS

315 ALACHUA AVENUE

Built by John R. Mann in 1910 for lumberman, Nathaniel B. Borden. The California mission-style residence was a gift to Borden's 17-year-old bride. After Borden's death in 1944, the house was sold to Harry Sahlman, a shrimping pioneer.



42

1882 HUOT BUILDING

101 NORTH 2ND STREET

Built in 1882 by C. H. Huot. Over the years, the Huot building became a popular rendezvous for sailors and housed a tent factory, a chandlery, a furniture store and a restaurant. It has been a steady part of Fernandina Beach's commercial district for more than 100 years.



43

SEYDEL BUILDING

31 NORTH 2ND STREET

In 1877, the Seydel brothers built a general and millinery store at 29-31 N. 2nd Street. They lived above their store in second-floor apartments, which was a common practice among storeowners of that period. The building has been home to The Crab Trap restaurant since 1979.



44

HUOT'S 1878 BUILDING

9-11 NORTH 2ND STREET

Construction on this building by Frenchman C. H. Huot for a sawmill-merchandising business began in 1878 and was complete in 1879.



ISLE OF EIGHT FLAGS

Amelia Island is the southernmost of the Sea Islands, and the northernmost of the barrier islands on Florida's Atlantic coast. It is the only U.S. location to have been under the dominion of eight different flags. It is said that the French visited, the Spanish developed, the English named and the Americans tamed it.



FRENCH FLAG - 1562-1564

French Huguenots led by Jean Ribault were the first Europeans to explore the area. In 1564, they established a short-lived settlement along the St. Johns River, near what is now Jacksonville. The flag representing this period is called the Blue Capetian Banner.



SPANISH FLAG - 1565-1763 and 1783-1821

Marked with an x-shaped cross to symbolize the rough branches of the tree on which Saint André was crucified, the Burgundian Saltire represented Spanish rule in Florida. The island was mostly notable for its missions in the first period, and, in the second, became a thriving center for trade (and smuggling).



BRITISH FLAG - 1763-1783

James Oglethorpe scouted the area and named the island in honor of Princess Amelia, the daughter of King George II. The red Cross of St. George, the patron saint of England, combines with the white Scottish Cross of St. Andrew to form the Union Flag.



PATRIOTS FLAG - 1812

With secret U.S. blessings, the “Patriots of Amelia Island” overthrew the Spanish and hoisted their own flag on March 17th. They replaced it with the U.S. flag the next day, but Spain demanded the island’s return. The Latin “*Salus populi lex suprema*” means “The well-being of the people is the supreme law.”



GREEN CROSS FLAG - 1817

The Scottish adventurer Sir Gregor MacGregor led a small band of men to capture the island from its Spanish defenders on June 29th, raising the Green Cross of Florida flag without firing a shot. Four months later, they were forced to leave.



MEXICAN REVOLUTIONARY FLAG - 1817

As MacGregor ran out of money for men and munitions, he left Amelia under the care of Ruggles Hubbard and Jared Irwin, who joined with the pirate Luis Aury to raise the Mexican rebel flag. U.S. Troops occupied the island in December and held it “in trust for Spain.”



NATIONAL FLAG OF THE CONFEDERACY - 1861-1862

Confederate forces took Fort Clinch in 1861, but Federal troops established control of Amelia Island on March 3rd, 1862 and occupied Fernandina for the duration of the Civil War.



UNITED STATES - 1821-PRESENT

Spain ceded Florida to the U.S. in 1821. The prosperity of the late 1800s prompted a building boom including two elegant hotels attracting well-heeled visitors such as the Vanderbilts, DuPonts, and Carnegies. Early in the 20th century, the modern shrimping industry was founded here.

To learn more, take the fascinating, one-hour “Eight Flags Tour” held twice a day at the Amelia Island Museum of History. Included free with admission to the museum, the tour provides an in-depth, insider’s view of the museum’s popular Eight Flags Gallery.

Information provided by the Amelia Island Museum of History.

AMELIA ISLAND
MUSEUM OF HISTORY

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