

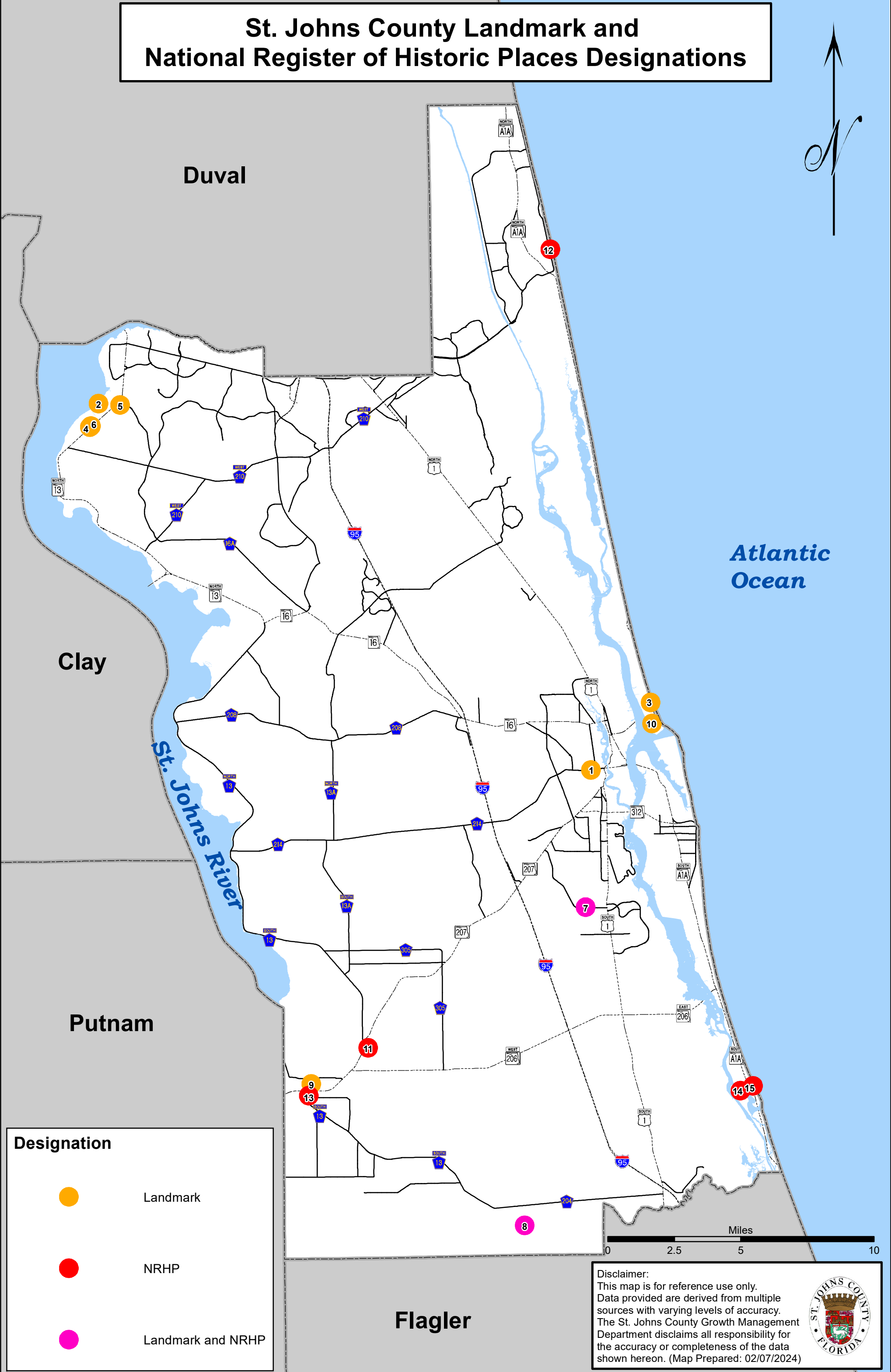
St. Johns County Landmark and National Register of Historic Places Designations

Certain sites, structures, objects, or districts, may be considered to have a particularly unique or special significance related to the cultural, architectural, archaeological, and historical heritage of St. Johns County. Such Cultural Resources may be designated as Landmarks or Landmark Districts. Criteria for and effects of such designation can be found in sections 3.01.03.C and 3.01.03.D, respectively, of the Land Development Code.

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's [National Register of Historic Places](#) is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archaeological resources.

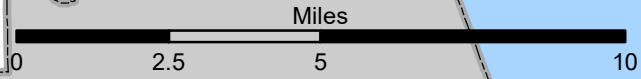
Historic Property Designations					
ID	Name	Year Built	County Landmark	NRHP	Date Designated
1	Sunnyside Demps House	1876	Yes	No	2001
2	The Inn at Marywood on the River	1939	Yes	No	2014
3	Allen D. Nease House	1951	Yes	No	2015
4	Alpine Grove Park	1886	Yes	No	2015
5	W. Stetson Kennedy House	1975	Yes	No	2015
6	Hartley Store	1930	Yes	No	2015
7	Moultrie Church and Wildwood Cemetery	1877/1880	Yes	Yes	2019
8	Dixie Highway	1916	Yes	Yes	2019
9	Hastings Jail	1911	Yes	No	2020
10	Barrancotto's Roma Restaurant	1958	Yes	No	2024
11	Sanchez Homestead	1883/1900	No	Yes	2001
12	Arthur Milam House	1962	No	Yes	2016
13	Hastings Highschool	1924	No	Yes	2006
14	Fort Matanzas National Monument	1737-1742	No	Yes	1976
15	Fort Matanzas NM Headquarters and Visitor Center	1936	No	Yes	2008

St. Johns County Landmark and National Register of Historic Places Designations



Designation

- Landmark
- NRHP
- Landmark and NRHP



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1. Sunnyside Demps House

The Sunnyside House was built in 1876 on the corner of King Street and Cordova Street by a prominent builder in St. Augustine, Thomas F. House, who also contributed to the construction of many other buildings and hotels at the time, many of which have since been destroyed. The portion of the house that still remains was moved from its original location to make room for the Ponce De Leon Hotel and is now located on West King Street where the Demps family resided for many years.

West King Street was along the main route for tourists arriving in the area, and the Sunnyside Demps House contributed to the overall streetscape with its overhanging second story balcony. The house is the last surviving piece of the pre-Flagler era Sunnyside Hotel, and remains in fair condition with only the concrete block first floor porch no longer remaining of the original structure that was moved to the new site. The house has been used as office space for the St. Johns Housing Partnership since 2001, which has renovated the more weathered features of the house while maintaining the historic essence of the structure.



2. The Inn at Marywood on the River

This 1939 Mediterranean Revival style residence, located in the Fruit Cove area off of State Road 13, was designated as a County Landmark in 2014 due to its distinguishing architectural style and association with people of significance. The local Hodges family – who contributed to over 2,000 miles of roadway in Northeast Florida – built and lived in the home for 20 years. In 1958, the property was conveyed to the Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine, where the home and surrounding property were used and expanded as a Catholic Retreat and summer camp for many years.

The house remains in excellent condition maintaining much of its original historic fabric, including the coquina block walls, decorative limestone elements, and grand entry-way. The porch has colonial revival original elements including a broken pediment over a keystone lintel and interior features such as a circular staircase, multiple fireplaces, and a chapel room. The design elements of the home appear to be connected to Harold F. Saxelby, a well-established architect in the area at the time the Inn was constructed.



3. Allen D. Nease House

Allen D. Nease was a pioneer of Florida's Reforestation efforts in the mid-20th century and quickly became one of St. Johns County's most influential civil servants. In his early career Nease became Florida's first county forester and planted over 55 million pine trees in North Florida becoming affectionately known as "Johnny Apple Seed". He sat on the St. Johns County School Board for 24 years, 17 of which were served as Chairman, where his passion for education and forestry conservation had long lasting effects in our community, including development of the First Coast Technical Institute.

Designated in 2015, the unique interior of his home built in 1951 at 3171 Coastal Highway in Vilano Beach reflects Mr. Nease's long affiliation with Florida's forests – all of the woods selected for the house were chosen for their longevity in Florida's coastal environment. Mr. Nease designed the house to include: frames of heart pine, wall planking of 12-inch bald cypress, ceiling planking of indigenous hardwoods, and solid bald cypress ceiling beams in the living room. The exterior of the house is rough cut, board and batten cypress. The cypress is over 50 years old and has never been touched by sealer, stain, or paint.



4. Alpine Grove Park

Alpine Grove Park is a resource group located in south Fruit Cove at 2060 State Road 13 consisting of a farmhouse, stable, orange packing barn, well, gardens, wharf, and more archaeological sites that reflect the importance of citrus agriculture in 19th century Florida. Built in 1886 by Robert Willis, the two-story farmhouse was used by Mr. Willis as a seasonal home, as was common in the area adjacent to orange grove lands. The property had different owners throughout the years, all of whom utilized the agricultural production of the land. The resources on the property tell the story of the importance of the Citrus Industry in North Florida before devastating freezes moved the industry south.

When the property was designated as a County Landmark in 2015, the farmhouse was converted into a museum utilizing interpretive signage throughout the park to tell the story of the historic agricultural practices of the land.



5. W. Stetson Kennedy Cabin

Located in the Fruit Cove area at 1533 State Road 13 North, the W. Stetson Kennedy cabin was designated as a County Landmark in 2015 due to Kennedy's meaningful impact in the community. Born in 1916, Mr. Kennedy was an author, environmentalist, and human rights activist who accomplished many ground breaking things in his lifetime, including publishing *The Jim Crow Guide* (1956) and *The Klan Unmasked* (1990). He also marched alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in St. Augustine, and oversaw Zora Neale Hurston's work on the WPA Florida's Writers' Project.

W. Stetson Kennedy built the cabin in 1975 in a quiet rural setting with a view of Lake Beluthahatchee as the central focus. The two-story home was built with a deck and second story balcony offering a view of the lake. The home was designed from the Lindal Cedar Home Chalet Vail plan, which Mr. Kennedy adjusted to his taste, such as altering the kitchen design to create a cozier living area. This home is where Woodrow Wilson "Woody" Guthrie, a close friend of W. Stetson Kennedy, visited often and wrote songs about the lake and Mr. Kennedy.



6. Hartley Store

Country stores like the Hartley building located in the Switzerland area, built in 1930 and listed in 2015, reflect the South's historic rural economy, commerce, politics, and ways of life. In St. Johns County, Switzerland is a great example of a historically rural area that took advantage of incorporating a country store. Originally built in 1930 as a general store by Robert and Julia Brooker, the building was subsequently leased and known as Ward's store by the 1940's, although the Brookers retained ownership (Hartley Sisters Interview 2008).

In 1950, the Brookers sold the business, the land, and building to Leonard Hartley, who moved south to Switzerland from Mandarin in Duval County (SJCDB 185:430). Lynn Wilemon and her two sisters, Barbara Jean Hartley Holley and Evelyn Annette Hartley Holley, inherited the store from their parents and currently rent the structure out as a residence. The store was a meeting place for residents of the area for decades until it closed in the 1990s. The building retains its historic interior including the bead board ceiling and walls, historic shelving, and historic objects including credit ledgers and historic register.



7. Moultrie Church and Wildwood Cemetery

Moultrie Church, c1877, is an excellent example of a rural one-room church. A gable-roofed portico with a pediment marks the main entry. A rectangular, enclosed belfry topped with a four-sided steeple is located at the peak of the roof near the western entry. These features identify the frame vernacular building as a church similar to other small, historic rural churches throughout Florida. This church was built as a “meeting house” in keeping with early Methodist traditions. While there is no longer a permanent congregation, the property is still used as a meeting house for events, such as weddings. The Moultrie Church is a landmark on Wildwood Drive and is believed to be the oldest public building in the community (Hagan and Jones 2014).

The church’s historic setting is within the one-acre Wildwood Cemetery, located off of Wildwood Drive, which predates the church (Hagan and Jones 2014). Portions of the cemetery have gated off areas delineating family plots. The names represented in the cemetery include Hagan, Armstrong, Barnes, Cubbedge, Genung, and O’Steen. The church and cemetery were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2014 and as a St. Johns County Landmark in 2015.



8. Dixie Highway

In the second decade of the twentieth century, St. Johns County implemented a county-wide highway improvement program. This section of the Dixie Highway designated as a County Landmark was part of that larger highway system. In 1914, the county decided to continue to use oyster shells to pave the roads and in January, twenty railroad cars filled with oyster shells arrived from Melbourne, Florida. In October 1914, the Wilson Company began laying the curb and brick at Durbin and Hastings and the company completed the sixty-six mile project in 1916.

The Dixie Highway, which was also referred to as the Hastings, Espanola, and Bunnell Road, is an excellent example of a rural brick highway. It maintains a high level of integrity and is still maintained as a road in a rural setting. This ten-mile section, which runs from southern St. Johns County into northern Flagler county, is the longest known, contiguous remaining example of this type of rural highway in Florida, and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005, and as a St. Johns County Landmark in 2019.



9. Hastings Jail

When the former wooden jail was destroyed after a prisoner set the building on fire to escape, the Hastings Jail listed here was built in June 1911 on E Cochran Avenue in Hastings and used to house prisoners until 1929. Single-story with a gable metal roof on a concrete foundation, the structure was built in hopes to avoid future destruction. The St. Johns County Jail was located in St. Augustine, about nineteen miles away from the town of Hastings, so lesser offenders were housed in the Hastings jail, or until transport could be organized.

The jail is associated with Charles E. Greene, a Hastings native and the first Hastings Constable. The structure and its use represents the growing Hastings community and a new level of need for rural law enforcement in the early 20th century. Used now for storage, the jail was listed as a St. Johns County Landmark in 2020.



10. Barrancotto's Roma Restaurant

The structure located at 165 Vilano Road was built in 1958 as a commercial Streamline Moderne style restaurant, most notably, "Barrancotto's Roma Restaurant", which operated from this location for 43 years as the first Italian restaurant in St. Augustine. The structure represents the post-WWII growth of the area due to the development of motor courts, leading to an increase in the tourism industry as well as the architectural uniqueness of the Art Deco variation that became popular during the 1950's and 1960's.

The single-story, concrete block building, with an irregular plan, rests on a continuous concrete foundation. A flat roof and broad, unadorned eaves top the building. The front façade features a curved projecting wing with glass brick (block) windows on the angles. Years of exposure to coastal Florida weather and hurricanes have deteriorated the building, but with the Landmark designation the structure will undergo a rehabilitation to return and expand the restaurant back to its former use as a family-owned, family-friendly restaurant.



11. Sanchez Homestead

The Sanchez Homestead was listed on the National Register of Historic places in 2001 due to its association with commercial agriculture in the Spuds area of St. Johns County. John Henry Sanchez purchased the property in 1879 and began constructing the present residence around 1883. Sanchez quickly became a pioneer farmer in the area, cultivating oranges until the devastating freezes in mid-1890, when he then started producing over 175 different products from his farm.

The farmstead is a great example of the economic activity in St. Johns County in the early twentieth century, and the Sanchez property is one of the few that is left throughout Florida. It retains a high level of integrity, built in a traditional four-square form with a central stair hall. Much of the historic doors, windows, and hardware, as well as the coquina piers, still remain.



12. Arthur Milam House

Owned by Arthur Milam and designed by Paul Rudolph, this home in Ponte Vedra Beach built in 1961 was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2016. Mr. Rudolph was given full creative freedom in the design of the home for the Milams, and it would be the last residence Rudolph would design in the state of Florida. Some of Rudolph's other work in Florida includes the Sarasota High School addition and the Deering House on Casey Key. The creative freedom granted allowed Rudolph to experiment with his ideas, and this became the first house where he did not use a structural system of regular bays. Other characteristics like more use of concrete block, large glass panes, and a modular floor plan were also attempted and successful. Such characteristics can be seen in Rudolph's later designs, like the Art and Architecture Building at Yale University.

Published in the *Architectural Record* multiple times during the 1960's, the Milam residence is known for its large windows facing the ocean, concrete blocks that would influence Rudolph's later works, and purposeful separation between exterior and interior space. Inside the home, one would find a series of levels that drop down to a conversation pit, and back up to a dining platform. The home also features a second floor, pool, multiple patios, and a guesthouse. The house has had a few alterations as it remains a private residence; however, it maintains much of its historical character.



13. Former Hastings High School

Located on historic Main Street in Hastings, Hastings High School was designed by Frederich A. Henderich in a Mediterranean Revival style and built in 1924 to replace the aging two-story wood frame school house that previously served the town of Hastings. Following state and national trends in schools and approval from Dr. Fletcher Dresslar, the school was built with features such as coquina shell stucco, ceramic roof tiles, and wrought-iron and maintains much of these historic elements today qualifying it for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 2006.

Hastings High School served the students of not only its namesake, but also the community of Elkton. School hours were adjusted to accommodate the agricultural needs of local residents, such as an early start to summer break due to crop conditions. The school began accepting students from lower grade levels and experienced overcrowding, and additions like the cafeteria were completed in 1928. Hastings High School was often used for various political activities such as lectures and speeches until 1985 when students were transferred to St. Augustine High School and other local schools. In 1993, the Hastings Highschool Alumni Foundation rescued the building from proposed demolition and it is currently being used as a local government office.



14. Fort Matanzas National Monument

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1976, Fort Matanzas National Monument built in 1742 is the oldest structure on record in unincorporated St. Johns County. The now 300-acre park surrounding the fort was the landscape for the 1565 Ribault Massacre and further sequences of events whereby Spain eliminated the French competition for dominance in Northern Florida, and giving the area its name of Matanzas – Spanish for slaughter. Previous wooden lookout towers were built and ruined before the Fort Matanzas National Monument we see today was constructed of masonry and coquina, a tremendous example of Colonial Spanish engineering and construction skills.

The reversed L shaped tower contains a gun deck, cistern, guard and officer of the guard quarters, a fireplace, powder storage compartment, and ladder up to the observation deck. Several of these original features have disappeared, but certain utilitarian components have been rebuilt to restore the function of the site, such as a boards roof-floor between the stories, a stairway from the gun deck to the second story, and a ladder to the roof. Fort Matanzas split vertically into three separate segments and became a ruin in the 19th century. The War Department stabilized the structure by pulling the segments back together between 1916 and 1924. The fort is open to the public during set scheduled tour times.



15. Fort Matanzas NM Headquarters and Visitor Center

The Fort Matanzas National Monument Headquarters and Visitor Center (HQ/VC) as designed by the National Park Service's Eastern Division, Branch of Plans and Design, and constructed with funds provided by the federal government was listed on the National Register in 2008. Planned in 1935 and built a year later, the HQ/VC illustrates early National Park Service design philosophy and rustic architecture. The two buildings that make up the HQ/VC are a multi-use two-story building that serves as a visitor contact point for the Fort Matanzas National Monument and a ranger residence, and a utility building that now serves as a ranger office. These buildings maintain features such as coquina block masonry, and the grounds include an exterior staircase, retaining wall and other visitor features.

The Fort Matanzas NM Headquarters and Visitor Center represents the efforts by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to provide economic relief during the Great Depression and is a product of the New Deal. Since their construction, the two buildings have been in continual use and have undergone only modest alterations. In addition, the surrounding landscape remains largely unchanged since its initial development in 1937. Both the HQ/VC and its designed setting continue to reflect the intentions of the original development plans and retain their original character and integrity to a high degree.

