

~~~ West Settlers Historic District ~~~

**Marker A:**

Established in 1894, the West Settlers area is the site of the first African-American settlement in Delray Beach. African-Americans from north and west Florida, Georgia and South Carolina were the first non-Native Americans in the area, laying the foundation of a strong agricultural economy in the region. The community was self-sufficient and settlers utilized local materials and their own construction knowledge. Known as the "Red Line" for the painted tin roofs, the "shot gun" houses that once occupied the east side of NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue were developed for Henry Flagler's railroad workers. Isaiah Bruin, one of the community's earliest builders, constructed many residences along NW 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenues, including the Susan Williams House, which is now located at the S.D. Spady Cultural Complex on NW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The La France Hotel (1949), located at 140 NW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, was once the only hotel in Delray Beach that welcomed African-Americans during segregation. Owned by Charles and Francenia Patrick, the hotel welcomed celebrated black musicians and civil rights figures. The Patricks built their homestead next door at 400 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. In 1997, the community was locally designated the West Settlers Historic District.

Co-Sponsored by the City of Delray Beach and the Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency

**Marker B:**

The West Settlers community, established in 1894 as Delray Beach's first African-American community, was self-sufficient with commercial buildings and churches serving its residents. Originally N Blackmer Street, NW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue was the hub of business and social activities. The building at the northwest corner of NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street and NW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue was known as "The Fountainette" and contained a soda fountain, doctor's offices, and a pharmacy. The pharmacy, run by Dr. Simon Barnes, was the only one to serve the African-American community. The former residence of Delray's most prominent black educator and community leader, Solomon D. Spady, is located at 170 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The circa 1926 Mission Revival structure is now a museum primarily dedicated to African-American history. One of the community's earliest builders was William Robinson who developed the property at 315-317 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street for his wife, Essie, in 1902. The Robinson homestead, one of the first in the area to have electricity, running water, and a telephone, was designated an official Red Cross hurricane shelter in the 1940s. In 1997, the community was locally designated the West Settlers Historic District.

Co-Sponsored by the City of Delray Beach and EPOCH (Expanding & Preserving Our Cultural Heritage, Inc.)

The State Historical Markers were funded by the following:



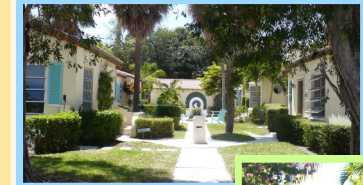
Special thanks to the City of Delray Beach Community Improvement Department for the **Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful** Grant which provided the landscaping.

For more information on Delray Beach's Historic Preservation programs please contact:  
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# Delray Beach Historic District Markers



Marine Villas, 110 Marine Way



714 NE 2nd Avenue



SD Spady Museum, 170 NW 5th Avenue



1122 Nassau Street



238 NE 1st Avenue, Banker's Row

Delray Beach: A Preserve America Community



## ~~~ Del-Ida Park Historic District ~~~

### Marker A:

Recorded in 1923, Del-Ida Park was one of Delray Beach's earliest planned neighborhoods. Del-Ida Park's unusual diagonal arrangement of streets, triangular lots, and public parks are unique when contrasted with the grid pattern layout of the remainder of the city. This imaginative street layout was designed to create a sense of space and maintain a park-like atmosphere. Architectural styles throughout the neighborhood reflect the popular culture of South Florida and the land boom and bust that occurred during the initial development of the 1920s through to the 1940s. Although dominated by the Mediterranean and Mission Revival styles, Minimal Traditional and Frame Vernacular styles are also prevalent and provide a predominantly one-story, low-scale streetscape. Additional development of the 1950s and 1960s provide prime examples of the Ranch and Contemporary styles typical of South Florida. Del-Ida Park lies between NE 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets with North Swinton Avenue to the west and the Florida East Coast Railroad to the east. The City of Delray Beach locally designated the Del-Ida Park Historic District in 1988.

Sponsored by the City of Delray Beach.

### Marker B:

The Del-Ida Park subdivision was first recorded on September 18, 1923. Motivated by patriotic spirit and the optimism of Florida's land boom, Del-Ida Park originally contained streets named after six U.S. Presidents. Mr. J.C. Secord of Miami organized the Ocean City Development Company and purchased the 58-acre tract containing 300 lots and three pie-shaped public parks. Within days of its recording, it was reported that "Del-Ida Park is growing fast", as 58 lots had sold. Mr. Frederick Henry Link, a former craftsman at Addison Mizner Industries in West Palm Beach, purchased several lots and served as the subdivisions general contractor. In 1923, he began construction of his own home at 524 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Built in the Mediterranean Revival style, the house started the trend for such designs which remained popular through 1930. Link's daughter, Catherine Link Strong, lived on Dixie Boulevard as an adult, and was Delray Beach's first woman mayor in 1954. Originally a rather elite development, the real estate bust left the area without much growth and development until the 1940's and later. The City of Delray Beach designated the Del-Ida Park Historic District in 1988.

Co-sponsored by the City of Delray Beach, and the Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency.

## ~~~ Marina Historic District ~~~

### Marker A:

Primarily developed between 1922 and 1943, the Marina Historic District displays a variety of architectural styles including Mediterranean and Mission Revival, Monterey, Minimal Traditional, Frame Vernacular and Art Moderne. The prominent neighborhood showcases some of the area's most accomplished architects. Built in 1939 and designed by Gustav Maas, the Boyd Building at 840 East Atlantic Avenue is a distinctive example of a large-scale commercial building in the Streamline Moderne style. A prime example of Mediterranean Revival architecture is the Marine Villas, designed by Sam Ogren, Sr. at 110 Marine Way. Consisting of four cottages, the Marine Villas have been immaculately maintained with the original detailing preserved. Located at 60 Marine Way is The Anchorage, also designed by Ogren and built in 1941 in the Monterey style. The cottage at 707 SE 1<sup>st</sup> Street, relocated from Boca Raton in the 1930's, was designed by renowned architect Addison Mizner (1872-1933). Palm Square is lined by its original cottages from the 1920's and 1930's and maintains its true historic environment. The City of Delray Beach designated the Marina Historic District in 1988.

Co-Sponsored by the City of Delray Beach, and the Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency.

### Marker B:

The Marina Historic District, a historically small-scale neighborhood, was primarily developed from 1922 to 1943 and showcases many irreplaceable architectural resources. Later development of the 1940s, 1950s, and beyond provides prime examples of South Florida architecture. A portion of the historic district contains what was once known as the "Mike Blank Nurseries." Delray Beach pioneers, the Blank family left a legacy of large shade trees throughout the area, and built and lived in several structures along SE 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, some of which remain. The Christian Science Church, constructed in 1942, initially served as a chapel at the U.S. Army Air Force Base in Boca Raton and was relocated in 1949 to 200 SE 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Architect Sam Ogren, Sr., designed and executed the church's façade and renovation in later years. Designed by architect John Volk, the circa 1937 "Fontaine Fox Cottages" are located in the 200 block on the west side of SE 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and provide excellent examples of the Florida Cottage Style. Fontaine Fox, a famous cartoonist and creator of "Toonerville Trolley," was a notable winter resident. The City of Delray Beach locally designated the Marina Historic District in 1988.

Co-Sponsored by the City of Delray Beach and the Delray Beach Preservation Trust.

## ~~~ Nassau Park Historic District ~~~

### Marker A:

Nassau Park, Delray Beach's first locally designated historic district, spans two blocks along Nassau Street from South Ocean Boulevard to Venetian Drive. In 1935, a newspaper ad for Ray-Del Realty Co. described Nassau Park as "West Indian Charm Along Delray Shores." Originally Jo-Jo Avenue, Nassau Street was renamed by developer R.C. MacNeil, who commissioned architect Sam Ogren, Sr. to design the first house in 1935. Primarily developed between 1935 and 1941, the residential neighborhood contains cottages built in the Colonial-Cape Cod Revival style which incorporate architectural detailing derived from early wooden folk houses of Eastern Massachusetts. The original 18 houses built from 1935-1941 retain their dominant architectural elements such as accentuated front doors with overhead fanlights, and carved wood detailing. Nassau Street evokes a time during the 1930s when the winter colony relaxed in discreet small-scale cottages surrounded by natural beauty. The natural topography is a vital element in the aesthetics of the historic streetscape. The City of Delray Beach designated the Nassau Park Historic District in 1988.

Co-Sponsored by the City of Delray Beach and the Delray Beach Historical Society.

### Marker B:

Nassau Park, the city's only historic district east of the Intracoastal Waterway, contains three subdivisions: Nassau Park, Wheatley's, and John B. Reid's Village. The circa 1935 Nassau Park subdivision was the City's first planned residential development south of Atlantic Avenue. In August 1936, Mr. and Mrs. William Wheatley of Connecticut, platted the portion of Nassau Street from Gleason Street to Venetian Drive. Nassau Street's initial development intended to compliment existing hotels and Mediterranean Revival-style oceanfront homes along South Ocean Boulevard. The 18 Colonial-Cape Cod Revival style houses built along Nassau Street between 1935 and 1941 have retained their original architectural elements. The Colonial-Cape Cod Revival style is derived from early wooden folk houses of Eastern Massachusetts containing accentuated front doors with pilasters and overhead fanlights, gabled roof lines, dormers, carved wood detailing and Georgian or Adam doorways. The dwellings erected in the 1950s and 1960s architecturally differ from the initial development of Nassau Street, yet compliment the historic streetscape. The City of Delray Beach locally designated the Nassau Park Historic District in 1988.

Co-Sponsored by the City of Delray Beach and the Delray Beach Historical Society.

## ~~~ Old School Square Historic District ~~~

### Marker A:

Old School Square Historic District is named for its focal point, the Old School Square Complex at 51 North Swinton Avenue which is made up of the circa 1913 Vernacular style Delray School designed by J.M. Cromer, the city's first separate high school, and the original gymnasium. Both the high school and gymnasium were designed circa 1926 in the Mediterranean Revival style by architect Sam Ogren, Sr. Ogren also designed several Mediterranean Revival structures along NE 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, otherwise known as Banker's Row. Two-story Mediterranean Revival residences of the 1920s are on the west side of Banker's Row while one-story Minimal Traditional cottages of the 1930s line the east side. Architectural styles throughout the historic district include Vernacular, Bungalow, and Mission and Mediterranean Revival styles dating between 1902 and 1945. The Old School Square Historic District contains approximately 15 blocks around the town's geographic center. District boundaries span south to SE 2nd Street and north to NE 4th Street with NE and NW 1st Avenues to the east and west. The City of Delray Beach locally designated the Old School Square Historic District in 1988.

Sponsored by the City of Delray Beach.

### Marker B:

Old School Square Historic District represents the initial footprint for the settlement and development of Delray Beach. The architectural and historical development that gave Delray Beach a prominent status in Palm Beach County can be seen in examples of turn-of-the-century frame architecture found along South Swinton Avenue such as the "Sundy House." The 1902 structure was home to Delray Beach's first mayor, John S. Sundy, who served for seven terms. The "Cathcart House," at 38, was constructed in 1902 in the French Colonial Revival style. Two of the city's earliest churches were also located in this area: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where the original 1904 building remains, and the 1903 Methodist Church, where only the parsonage (also known as "The Rectory") exists. The South Swinton Avenue corridor and neighboring NE/NW 1<sup>st</sup> Avenues contain examples of working class homes developed in the 1920s-1950s. East Atlantic Avenue contains the Rhoden Building at 2-4, which exemplifies an early block building, and the Masonic Temple at 44, which was used as a post office in the 1920s. The City's largest historic district, Old School Square was locally designated in 1988 by the City of Delray Beach.

Co-Sponsored by the City of Delray Beach and the Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency.