

City of Jacksonville *Historic Preservation Commission* SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Re-Surveying Jacksonville: We Have Good Stuff!

On August 2, 2010, B-W Consultants, Inc. began an intensive historic resources survey in Jacksonville that was funded by a CLG Grant. The survey was composed of two concurrent parts: to examine and update the inventory of the existing historic district; and to survey five areas adjacent to the historic district (which is about 325 acres on the west side of Jacksonville).

The areas comprise approximately 118 acres and 332 principal structures, selected for architectural and historic significance with the intent of potential expansion of the historic district boundaries. These five areas are primarily residential with a limited number of commercial, civic, and religious buildings. This map shows the locations of the survey areas in relation to the historic district.



The field survey collection information, including building address, building description (plan, stories, materials, style, roof type, etc.), description of secondary structures, condition, integrity, significant features, alterations, landscape and streetscape information (driveways, walkways, setbacks, etc.), and digital photographs.

Generally, buildings constructed within the period of significance, unaltered, or with minor alterations were deemed 'contributing' in the existing or potential historic districts. Most buildings with major alterations were considered 'non-contributing' unless the alterations have occurred within the period of significance and have acquired significance of their own. Properties were also designated eligible for or designated as a local landmark and/or individual listing in the National Register for Historic Places. The original survey's end date for significant inclusion was 1932, but structures older than 50 years (1965) were also evaluated.

The complete draft report is available to download on the City's website: www.jacksonvilleil.com or to review at the Jacksonville Public Library.

There were five survey areas: 1) Finley (almost 12 acres by the northwest corner of the Historic District), 2) Lafayette (nearly 75 acres just north of the Historic District), 3) JHS Bowl (a 2-acre city block at the east end of the Historic District), 4) Mound (3 residential lots totaling 2 acres), and 5) Fairview (about 27-acres off the southwest corner of the Historic District).

The survey area totaled 118 acres. Of the 332 principal buildings, there are 320 residential, 3 commercial, 2 religious, 2 education-related, and 1 each civic, government, health care, industrial, and recreation & culture-related functions. These current uses are mostly in line with the original functions, with some differences. The 260 secondary structures are primarily garages, with a smaller number being sheds and barns. There are also 6 vacant lots in the survey areas.

The most common alterations to buildings within the Historic District was found to be the application of asbestos, aluminum or vinyl siding, window replacement, and porch column/railing replacement. In many cases the changes resulted in loss of architectural and decorative features such as cornice brackets or porch spindlework.

There were 36 different architectural styles, subtypes and vernacular building forms found in the survey areas. As in the Historic District, Queen Anne was the dominant influence, with 74 examples (roughly 22% of buildings surveyed). The second largest group was Bungalows (40 examples/ 12%), then Four-square houses (28 samples), Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival (24 each), and Craftsman-style homes (20 models). 13 examples of Dutch and Garrison Colonial Revivals are classified separately from Colonial Revival. Other styles are less common, from Italianate (9 samples) to singular examples of Art Deco, Prairie, Gothic Revival, and others, with 17% or 59 vernacular or folk samples.

An estimated 97 buildings (30%) were built in the 19th century, while 234 buildings (70%) were constructed in the 20th century. About 222 buildings were built between 1900 and 1940, (67%) of all buildings surveyed.

Although there are several vacant lots and noncontributing properties at the edges of the district, including a continuous group of buildings near the southeast corner of the district, along South Church and West Beecher Streets, the consultant recommends retaining the existing boundaries retained.

Based on the intensive survey of additional areas adjoining the existing historic district, it is recommended that the areas referred to in this survey as Fairview, Finley, JHS Bowl, and Mound, are included in their entirety in the Jacksonville Historic District through a boundary expansion. Furthermore, several smaller areas of the Lafayette area are also being recommended for inclusion in the Historic District. At this point in time, the Historic Preservation Commission is not planning any action, but welcomes public feedback.

What Style is Your House?

Colonial Revival (1880–1955)

The Colonial Revival style was inspired by the study of English and Dutch colonial buildings as a reaction to the extreme ornamentation of the Victorian style. Colonial Revival houses are often a combination of several Colonial styles and contemporary elements, though historically accurate examples were also constructed. Georgian and Adam details form the backbone of the style, popular in the late 1800s and well into the 20th century.

The Colonial Revival style is marked by a number of distinctive features, which include multiple stories, a rectangular shape, a symmetrical facade with a central entrance and equal placement of windows on either side.

Interestingly, the Colonial Revival style has a number of variations. These include the Federal and Georgian styles as well as the Dutch Colonial and Saltbox designs. Typically, examples of these style are classified separately.



Dutch Colonial Revival (1895–1955)

Subtype of Colonial Revival, loosely based on Dutch colonial prototypes. It nearly always employs a gambrel roof.



Colonial Revival structures often includes a gable roof, dormer windows which are double-hung and feature shutters, paneled doors with sidelights, fireplaces, and pillars or columns. They may incorporate either brick or wood siding. Typical elements include an accentuated front door with pilasters, entablature, overdoor fanlights or sidelights, and symmetrically balanced windows and center door.

Garrison Colonial Revival (1935–1955)

Subtype of Colonial Revival, based on Post-medieval English houses of New England. Houses in the style are side-gabled, two-story with an overhanging second story at the front. Typically, they feature clapboard siding, multi-paned double-hung windows, and decorative pendants beneath the overhang. The ground floor elevation may be of masonry veneer.



“What Style is Your House?” was a regular feature of early HPC Newsletters; some information in these articles may have already been published or compiled from other sources like Old House Journal online and about.com as well as from our recent Historic Resources Survey of the Jacksonville Historic District and Other Areas.