

Nation's Oldest Port Heritage Area News



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FOUR CRITICAL STEPS

- **Completion of a feasibility study. In progress!**
- **Public involvement in the feasibility study. In progress!**
- **Demonstration of widespread public support among heritage area residents. Growing!**
- **Commitment from key constituents including governments, businesses, and private and non-profit organizations. Growing!**

Regional Maritime Cultural & Scenic Vision

National Heritage Areas (NHAs) celebrate places where natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources combine to form a nationally important landscape arising from the patterns of human activity shaped by geography— National Park Service. The waterways of St. Johns County and Flagler County surround and support such a remarkable coastal place. This unique cultural, natural and historic landscape is home to right whale calving grounds, the nation's oldest continually occupied coastal settlement, a rich multi-cultural maritime heritage, a host of submerged shipwreck sites, recreational areas and scenic beauty, National Landmark historic sites, and unique ocean, riverine and estuarine natural habitats. Over the past year, a group of local partners, now over 200 members strong, has

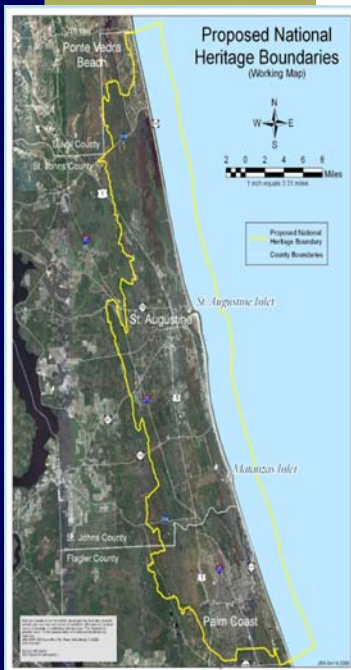
been working on a strategy to express our interest in the future sustainability of this special place. The NHA Working Group is completing a formal Feasibility Study to support a Congressional



Coquina shell rock offers a unique, historic building material while miles of beaches provide scenic and recreational opportunities.

designation. Our vision is for *non-regulatory*, community-based management that preserves important resources, promotes a sense

of place, and provides new economic opportunities. No effort can be successful without the participation and leadership of those people closest to the resources. By encouraging stewardship by local people National Heritage Areas take a regional approach that encourages dialog and cooperation across many sectors and jurisdictions. Residents of the region set the agenda and implement it for themselves. NHAs provide a way for the people who live here to create a future that includes the cultural traditions, historic places, working waterways, landscapes and national treasures that make this region unique. For more information please visit www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/, or find our more about our local effort at www.floridanha.com.



This map roughly shows the proposed boundaries of the Nation's Oldest Port NHA. No NHA boundary is regulatory. Boundaries provide an area of identity for residents.

Local watersheds and waterways offer history, beauty and proposed boundary.

The proposed boundary of the Nation's Oldest Port Heritage Area encompasses coastal St. Johns and Flagler counties. On the west the boundary is the Atlantic Coastal Ridge. Moving north to south the coastal strand links three interconnected watersheds. These are: the Tolomato River, stopping at the St. Johns/Duval County line; the Matanzas River - including the Intracoastal Waterway; and the Pellicer Creek, watershed extending south to the Flagler County line.

Two inlets, the St. Augustine and Matanzas serve this estuarine and riverine area. Many blueway and greenway bike and kayak trails are located here, or travel by car along National Scenic Highway A1A. Several beach front communities welcome tourists and residents as do a host of cultural attractions, natural parks, historic and archaeological sites. The eastern boundary extends into the Atlantic ocean stopping at the three-mile State of Florida, territorial waters limit. Ship-

wrecks and other submerged cultural resources are found here along with calving grounds for the North Atlantic right whales.

The boundary marks an area of identity for local residents. It is not regulatory. Designation will have no effect on private property rights, land use, zoning, or riparian rights, water-based activities, property taxes or governmental jurisdictions. Sites outside the boundaries are eligible for funding and support from the coordinating entity.

La Mar no Feu La Mar (The Sea was not the Sea)...



Hasta que los Espanoles la hicieron Oceanica, (Until the Spanish made it Oceanic)— Juan Antonia Sanchez - Guitard.

An ongoing study of historical customs documents by the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP, 2008) have shown that trade through the Nation's Oldest Port was dominated by the newly independent ports of Savannah and Charleston. The trade was carried in small

and relatively shallow draft *Goleta*, schooners and *blanadras*, sloops. In 1806, 42 ships called at the port of St. Augustine, 37 from the newly formed United States, and 5 from Havana, Cuba (Griffin, 1983, p. 144, as cited in LAMP 2006, p. 13). Cargoes included barrels of flour, line for ship's rigging, sweets, soap, Madeira wine, and much beer. One of the most interesting aspects of the study is the interpretation of English names rendered in Spanish

by the newly returned Spanish authorities. Examples of this include a shipmaster Juan Ytan, almost certainly John Eaton, and Sabana for the port of Savannah. The documents rediscovered by LAMP researchers cover the 2nd Spanish period 1784-1821.

It is during the 2nd Spanish period that many of the area's oldest families settled permanently here. The Hernandez, Sanchez and Ponce families still populate the area today. To read more visit us at www.lampmaritime.org.

Papa Sanchez, patriarch of a founding family. Photo is a gift of Ron Sanchez, Board of St. Johns County Commissioners. From the collection of St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum,

While it is not known when first contact was made by Europeans with the native tribes of Florida, Juan Ponce De Leon made the "official" discovery of Florida in 1513 (Griffin, 1983:13)

Native Americans and Eastern Timucua

In the Nation's Oldest Port Area, more than 390 Native American sites have been documented, some are inundated or underwater archaeological sites. These sites, in addition to numerous areas within the City of St. Augustine, St. Johns and Flagler Counties where Native American artifacts and features have been ex-

cavated, provide abundant information about life in the area prior to European contact. Information about prehistoric structures, foods, resource utilization, adaptation to both inland and coastal environments, burial practices, and everyday life is found in the varied archaeological sites throughout the region. Early ar-

chaeological excavations were conducted in the region more than 100 years ago and continue today.... While the information obtained through these excavations is presented to the public in several venues, the proposed Nation's Oldest Port designation provides additional opportunity for telling the complex and

Eastern Timucua ...continued

compelling story of Native Americans in the region. European contact would dramatically change this way of life. While it is not known when first contact was made by Europeans with the na-

tive tribes of Florida, Juan Ponce De Leon made the "official" discovery of Florida in 1513 (Griffin, 1983:13). The native inhabitants of northeast Florida were of the Eastern Timucua groups that inhabited the east coast. Timucua is a European name given to many groups that inhabited

the east coast near Flagler and St. Johns Counties.

The maritime Deptford peoples of the Woodland period along with Swift Creek, St. Johns I and II and later Mississippian peoples thrived along the coast and in upland estuaries from around 500BP.

LAMP Archaeologists explore a shell midden site near Wrights Landing at the GTMNERR



Coastal Cultures: Celebrating Diversity



The Nation's Oldest Port region is a unique and diverse coastal landscape in the southeastern United States, encompassing a mosaic of cultures and history that spring to

life in local people. Living together, in the region of coastal St. Johns and Flagler Counties, are native Americans who trace their roots to pre-historic times, the descendents of Europeans-the Spanish and French who colonized the area in the 16th century, African Americans who fled slavery using small boats along coastal marsh lands to form the nation's first free African American settlement, British residents who tended a 14th loyalist colony here during the American Revolution, and current generations of Menorcans, Italians, and Greeks who ventured here in search of

new beginnings. Physical remnants of these cultures can be seen in a number of ways: coastal forts, colonial buildings, shrimp boats, lighthouses, plantation ruins, ancient roadways and local foods. The abundance of buildings, port structures, neighborhoods, communities, and terrestrial and underwater archaeological sites associated with this rich multicultural history is complemented by remarkable, natural scenic and recreational resources such as coastal estuaries, creeks, beaches and seascapes.



This new world frontier, where multicultural heritage meets the maritime landscape, is unique to the American Story.

National Heritage Area Themes

The present day landscape and waterways of this region have been shaped by continuous occupation over centuries, military activities, livelihoods and institutions that define our sense of place and contribute unique stories to the fabric of America. The following themes have been identified as distinctive stories that this region has to share. Ours are stories that are unique among the 49 existing National Heritage Areas. Associated with

each theme is an assemblage of related and accessible resources, historic and archaeological sites, or habitats. Local scholars and volunteers are working on theme production to share our stories with the nation.

- Nation's Oldest Port & Oldest City.
- Native American Lifeways
- Multi-cultural Coastal Frontier

- Military History
- Tourism & the Resort Era
- Leisure & Recreation
- Transportation Corridors
- Coastal Arts & Architecture
- Unique Natural & Coastal Beauty.



Working Group: Volunteers, Stakeholders and Scholars

Guna Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, Flagler County, Flagler County Historical Society, Flagler Beach Historical Museum, Inc., Florida National Guard, Florida Sea Grant, Friends of AIA Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway, Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program, National Park Service, City of Palm Coast, St. Augustine Historical Society, St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum, Inc. St. Augustine Port, Waterway and Beach District, St. Johns County, St.

Johns County Board of Realtors, City of St. Augustine Beach, City of St. Augustine, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, St. Augustine Attractions Association, University of Florida, Tom Bledsoe, Curt Bowman, Elyse Brady, Jan Brewer, Keith Brown, Brendan Burke, Carrienne Churmblo, Dr. Kathleen Deagan, Kathy Dvornick, Art Dycke, Beau Falgout, Kathy Fleming, Katheryn Getz, Dr. Patricia Griffin, Carl Halbirt, Paul Haydt, Barb Kelly, Leslee Keys, Monica Rowland Kile, Ryan Mauch, Dr.

Maia McGuire, Robin Moore, Amy Gilboy Meide, Chuck Meide, J.B. Miller, John Regan, George Gardner, Glenn Hastings, Marty Healy, Greg Moore, Christine Newman, Sallie O'Hara, Dr. Sam Turner, Bruce Piatek, Teri Pruden, Bill Ryan, Mike Shirley, Paula Sisson, Phil McDaniel, Michael Cunningham, Will Smith, Billy Zeits, Janet Zimmerman, Dana Ste. Claire, Dr. Susan Parker, Tim Telfer, Leslie White, Catherine Wilson, Chrystal Yates, Shelly Young, Andy DeLorenzo, Doug Burnett, Millissa Holland, Andrea Samuels, Tom Rivers, Mollie Malloy, Dr. Thomas Graham, Dr. Graig Shaak. Prepared by: St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum, Inc. on behalf of the proposed Nation's Oldest Port Working Group. Please Join this list of participants and scholars who are volunteering and dialoging. Contact Leslie White, NHA Coordinator, for more information 765-610-1684 or lwhite@staugustinelighthouse.com



Nation's Oldest Port Heritage Area

Nation's Oldest Port NHA Working Group / Join us !

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Write a letter of support! Visit our Web page at www.floridanha.com.

Benefits of NHA Designation:

- Recognition of the nation's oldest port and surrounding region as a special place in America.
- Support for local celebrations, events and nature, cultural and heritage tourism sustainability.
- Enhanced understanding of the importance of saving our natural and cultural, including historic and archaeological, resources.
- Enhanced regional pride, and national and international awareness.
 - Strengthened regional partnerships.
- Improved ability to leverage financial resources through regional cooperation.
- Regional branding assistance from the National Park Service.



Progress Report: City of St. Augustine Beach Support

On Monday Night, August 3, 2009, the City of St. Augustine Beach passed the following excerpted resolution.

"WHEREAS, the City of St. Augustine Beach Commissioners recognize the importance of acknowledging our rich cultural heritage and the events and places that have shaped the history of this remarkable coastal place in which we live; and ...WHEREAS, the coastal landscape and waterways of St. Johns and Flagler Counties surrounding the nation's oldest port and oldest continually occupied city form a unique and diverse region in the southeastern United States and encompass a mosaic of cultures and history as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompass a region where natural, cultural, historic, and recreational re-

sources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and WHEREAS, the National Park Service has been the lead Federal agency since 1916 that is responsible for preserving nationally significant natural and cultural resources for present and future generations; and



and WHEREAS, the National Park Service is designated to assist local governments and the management entity in planning and implementing projects that further the goals of the National Heritage Area; and WHEREAS, National Heritage Areas have

show to add to the economic health and sustainability of culture and natural resources in other National Heritage Areas across the United States, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of St. Augustine Beach Commissioners hereby; Support the study of the feasibility of the future designation of the proposed Nation's Oldest Port National Heritage Area, and support the procurement of grant funds and donations from a variety of private and public funding sources to develop a feasibility study and management plan for the proposed National Heritage Area..."

Working group participants, Robin Moore of St. Johns County and Kathy Fleming of the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum, Inc. agreed to return with additional information and to work closely with the City to help plan and coordinate this regional effort with a host of other municipalities, non-profits, citizens and other stakeholders.