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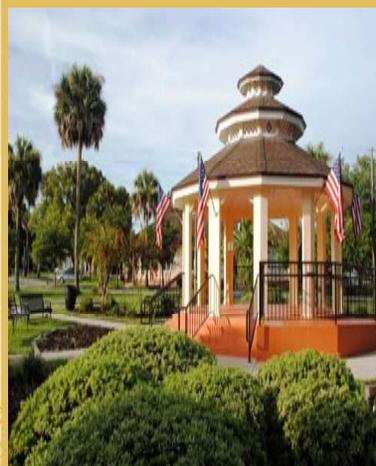
For more information about Orange City's Historic District or for events and activities occurring in Orange City visit our website at

www.ourorangecity.com

You can find us on Facebook!
Also, visit our preservation partners:

River of Lakes Heritage Corridor
<http://riveroflakesheritagecorridor.org/>

Village Improvement Association
<http://gfwcorangecity.org/>



Development Services Department
205 E. Graves Avenue
Orange City, Florida 32763
(386) 775-5415 (f) (386) 775-5420

Orange City's National Historic District

The Orange City's National Historic District is approximately 110 acres with 217 contributing historic buildings. Most of the structures within the City are from a vernacular tradition, but you can also find influences of Bungalow, Classic Revival, Colonial Revival, Gothic Revival, and Mediterranean Revival genres. Below are just a few of the buildings from the district.



Orange City's Historic District

Historic Preservation



Our History

- ❖ The first inhabitants in the Orange City area were Mayacca & Jororo Indians.
- ❖ By 1820, the original natives had become extinct due to disease and war.
- ❖ In the mid 1850's, Louis P. and Mary Ann Thursby became permanent residents at Blue Spring Landing on the St. Johns River, now part of Blue Spring State Park.
- ❖ Dr. Seth French traveled the St. Johns River by steamboat in 1870. By 1874, five of his friends purchased roughly 5,000 acres of land and started the settlement that became Orange City.
- ❖ In 1875, H. H. DeYarman began constructing the first hotel in what would become Orange City. (The hotel still exists and is called the 1876 Heritage Inn).
- ❖ The first public school in Volusia County was founded in Orange City in 1876.
- ❖ In 1882, the Orange City was incorporated and named for the thousands of acres of orange groves planted in and around the area.
- ❖ Town Hall was built in 1928 at a cost of \$20,000 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. The bell in the tower at Town Hall weighs 517 pounds.
- ❖ The Big Freeze of 1894-1895 wiped out much of the citrus industry in Orange City and throughout the rest of Florida.
- ❖ Orange City Mineral Springs Water Company began supplying water to homes in Orange City in 1895.
- ❖ Orange City water was shipped worldwide and even won an award at the St. Louis World's Fair for its excellence.
- ❖ The Dickinson Memorial Library, which still serves the City, was dedicated in 1919 in honor of Miss Melissa Dickinson.
- ❖ Orange City's Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004.

Historic Preservation Board

Members of the Historic Preservation Board are City residents appointed to three-year terms by the Orange City Council. The Board regularly meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room downstairs at City Hall. The Board is tasked with protecting and enhancing the City's historic resources that represent the cultural, social, economic, and architectural history. Their goals include stabilizing and improving property values through the revitalization of residential and commercial neighborhoods, fostering awareness and pride in the accomplishments of the past, protecting and enhancing the city's historic attractions to residents and visitors, and enriching the quality of life. To get involved with the historic preservation board, or learn how you can volunteer to serve, contact the Development Services Department at 386-775-5415.



What is Historic Preservation?

- ❖ Historic preservation is about protecting the places that tell the stories about our past.
- ❖ Historic preservation enhances our sense of community and sense of place.
- ❖ Upholds our link to the past while maintain our unique heritage for the future.
- ❖ Preservation of historic structures enhances our economy.
- ❖ Historic Preservation promotes an efficient land use pattern.

