

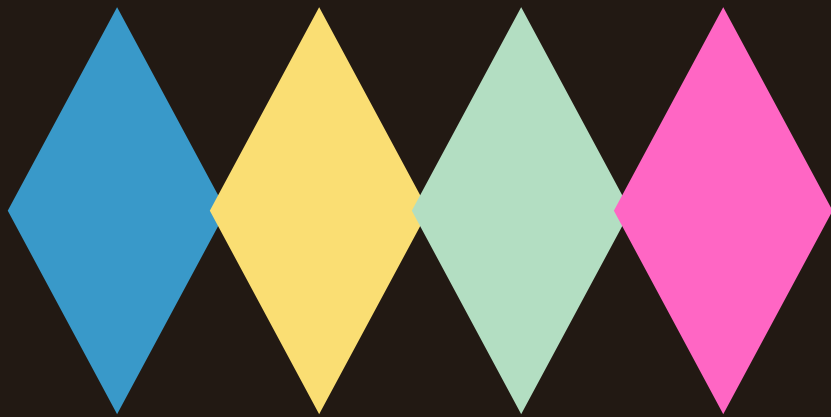
Preservation on Main Street
Ocala, FL



Celebrating the

FLORIDA

Chittlin' Circuit



Ennis Davis and Adrienne Burke

COMMUNITY PLANNING
COLLABORATIVE

July 19, 2023



Summary

The intent of the Florida Main Street Chitlin' Circuit Historic Research and Documentation effort was to coordinate with the Florida Main Street program to conduct a comprehensive review of Chitlin' Circuit-related venues in designated Florida Main Street programs.

Florida Chitlin' Circuit Research and Documentation Project

Project Scope

01

Phase I identified locations of potential Chitlin' Circuit venues in four Main Street communities.

- St. Petersburg – Deuces Live
- Fort Pierce – Lincoln Park
- Eatonville
- Panama City

Florida Main Street Grant

02

Phase II conducted additional research into some of the identified locations that still have existing buildings.

- St. Petersburg – Deuces Live
- Fort Pierce – Lincoln Park
- Eatonville
- Jacksonville

Included: Creation of a brochure, website, and narrative report

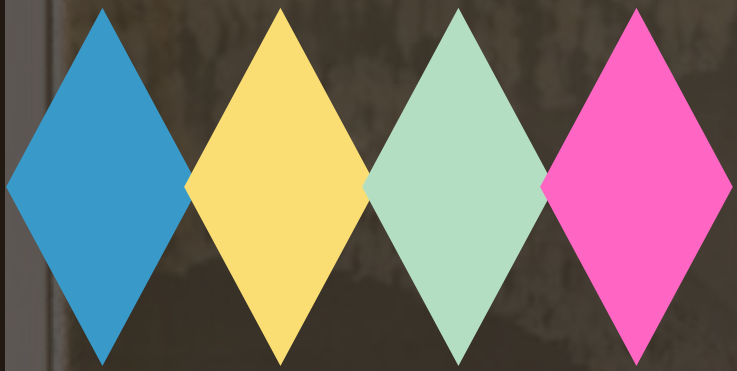
FL DHR Small Matching Grant

Project Goals

- Highlight, celebrate, and incorporate the history of the Florida Chitlin' Circuit within Florida Main Street communities.
- Utilize history as a basis of economic development opportunities.
- Identify opportunities for historic preservation tools.
- Raise awareness and provide education on the history and legacy of the Florida Main Street Communities with regards to the Chitlin' Circuit.



Tampa Bay Collard Green Festival, Deuces Live
2023



Chitlin' Circuit History

- Chitlins
- Walter Barnes, Jr.
- The Stroll
- Risk on the Road
- Ferguson Brothers
- Bo lita
- Barbecue
- Musicians
- Venues
- Evolution



Florida Chitlin' Circuit Research and Documentation Project

Chitlin' Circuit in Florida

- Timeline: 1930–1970
- Strolls exist across the state
- Sites to research include bars, beer parlors, dance halls, juke joints, liquor stores, fraternal lodges, restaurants, parks, night clubs, package stores, taverns, theaters, even churches and schools
- Musicians from Florida made their living on the Circuit like Billy Steward and the Celery City Serenaders from Sanford



Jacksonville

✦ The Stroll: Ashley Street

- Walter Barnes' winter headquarters: "a very fly town"
- Globe Theater, Knights of Pythias, the Strand, Little Blue Chip, Frolic Theater, Ritz Theater, Manuel's Tap Room, Flajax Club
- Charlie Edd Craddock

✦ Example Venue: Lenape Bar & Wynn Hotel

- Built in the early 20th century. Hotel c. 1931; Bar c. 1937
- Hotel was favorite spot of Louis Armstrong
- Lenape performers include Dizzy Gillespie, Billie Holiday, James Brown and Ray Charles





St. Petersburg

- ✦ The Stroll: 22nd Street "The Deuces"
 - Manhattan Casino, Casino Rendezvous, Manhattan Tavern, Hi-Stepper Bar, Twenty-Second Street Package Store, The Spot/Chubby's, Lorene's Fish House, Royal Theater
 - Elder Jordan, Jr.; George Grogan
- ✦ Example Venue: Jordan Park Tavern
 - Tavern from 1941-1970
 - George Washington Beer, George Washington Tavern, Jordan Park Tavern
 - George and Hortense Washington, proprietors, appear to have been father and daughter



Eatonville

✦ The Stroll: Kennedy Boulevard

- Club Eaton, Green Lantern Tavern, B&B Barbeque Inn, Big Joy Beer Parlor/Delaney's Pool Room
- Condor Merritt

✦ Example Venue: Club Eaton

- Opened 1948
- Was known throughout central Florida
- Club Eaton performers include James Brown, Sam Cooke, B.B. King, Ray Charles, Chuck Berry, Ben E. King, the Drifters, the Platters

Ft. Pierce

✦ The Stroll: Avenue D in Lincoln Park

- Lincoln Theater, Twinks, LaTropical Tavern, Little Joe's Tavern, Ethel's Tavern, El Chico Restaurant, Eddie's Place, Starlight Cafe, Harrell's Barbecue & Grill, Means Court Elementary, Baker's Flamingo Bar and Grill
- Levie Baker

✦ Example Venue: La Tropical Tavern

- Tavern from the late 50s through 70s
- Operators George and Ora Jones
- Popular juke joint on the weekends with migrant workers, next door Little Joe's Tavern sold drinks and barbeque



Recommendations and Future Work

- Historic preservation recommendations
- Public history and historic interpretation
- Incorporating history into economic development opportunities like events, festivals, art, music, and building rehabilitation
- FL DHR Small Matching Grant submitted for Phase III to explore more communities and create a statewide Florida Chitlin' Circuit Heritage Trail



www.flchitlincircuitgrp.org

Thank You!



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