Joynerville and Beyond: The African American Community of Titusville

Brevard County, Florida

Prepared for the City of Titusville
Prepared by Stantec

September 2024

JOYNERVILLE AND BEYOND: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF TITUSVILLE

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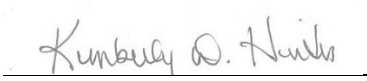
Prepared by: 

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1 Introduction

The City of Titusville, Florida, (City) applied for and received a Small Matching Grant from the Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources (DHR), for a project that involved the comprehensive research and documentation of the history, events, and landmarks within the City's historic African American neighborhood and commercial district. The project location, referred to as Joynerville, is situated southwest of downtown Titusville in Brevard County along the east coast of Florida (**Figure 1**). The City of Titusville contracted with Stantec to complete this documentation in February 2024. Project deliverables consisted of a study report, narrative for future interpretive signage/historic markers, branding, recording of oral histories, construction of a community timeline, mapping of historic sites, and uploading information on the contributing structures to the City's history webpage and the "Explore Historic Titusville FL" mobile app. Stantec conducted the archival research, field survey, and oral interviews between March and August 2024.

Titusville's historic African American community once had a vibrant commercial district along present-day South Street. Radiating outward from this hub were other locations where the community came together, such as churches, social lodges, schools, and clubs. At least four neighborhoods, including the Joynerville Subdivision and the Lincoln Park Subdivision, were gradually constructed around this hub. The City has identified Titusville's African American Neighborhoods as an underrepresented part of the City's historic preservation efforts and sought grant funds to document the history of the community.

The City of Titusville has acknowledged that the best way of recording the history of the community is through the voices of the community and ensured that oral histories were an important component of the project. This report represents the study report, documentation of the historic background research, results of the oral interviews, a timeline of the community, maps documenting historic locations throughout the community, and recommendations for education planning and future preservation efforts. The Historic Assets Map, which includes the sites identified as part of this project, is in Appendix A. This information will be used to prepare proposed text for interpretive signage or historic markers, the City's webpage, and the City's mobile app. This survey and report are intended to be used as tools for the preservation of Titusville's historic African American community.

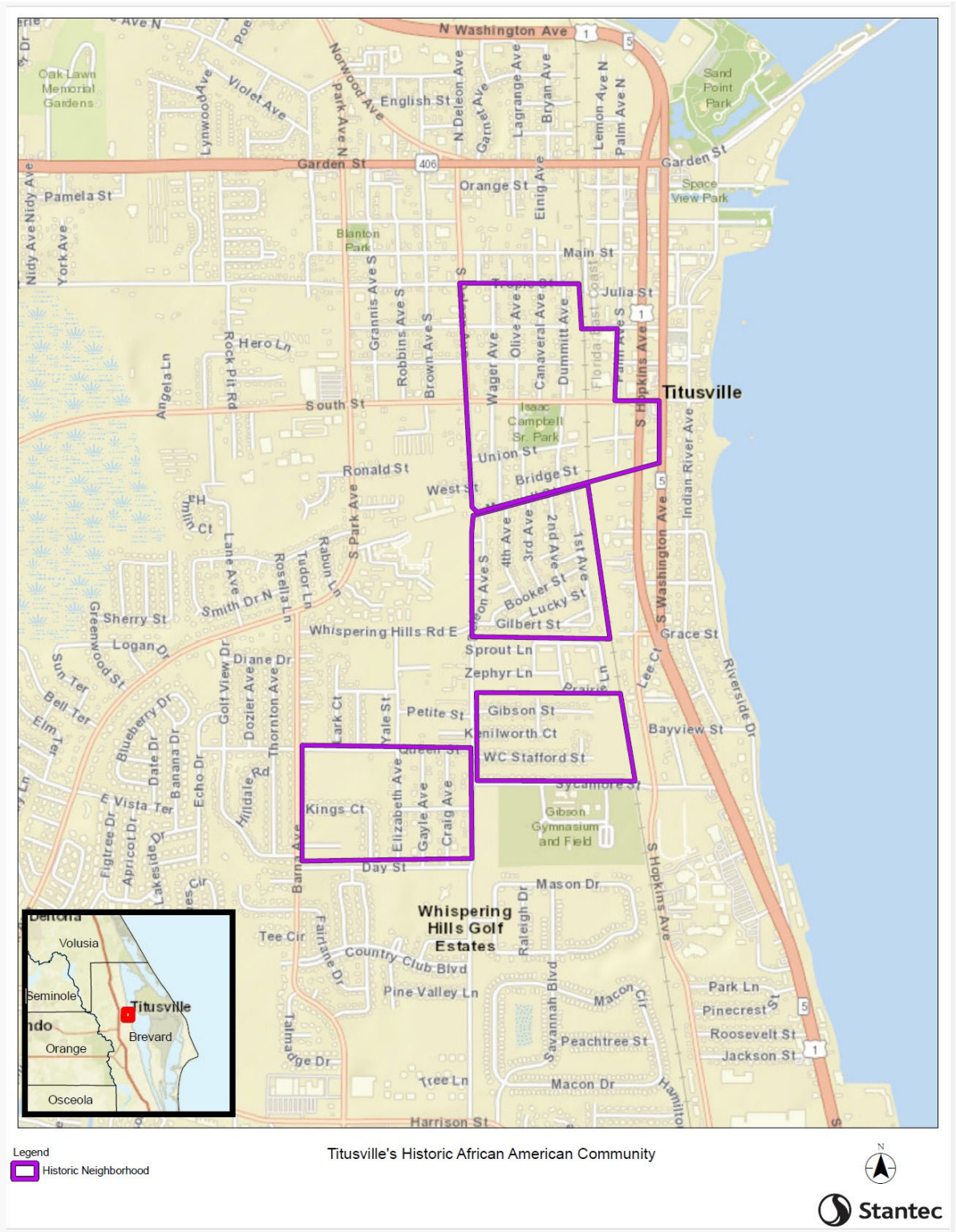

Figure 1. Project location. Stantec 2024.

2 Research Design

2.1 Objectives

The goals of this project as stated in the grant agreement between the State and the City are as follows:

> *This project involves the comprehensive research/documentation of the history, events, and landmarks within the City's Historic African American Neighborhood and lost commercial district. Deliverables include, a study report, narrative for future interpretive signs/historic markers, branding, recording of oral histories, construction of a community timeline, mapping of historic sites, and uploading information on the contributing structures to the City's history webpage and the "Explore Historic Titusville FL" mobile app.*

The research and methodology utilized for this report complied with the Guidelines for Survey Projects published by the DHR, Chapter 1A-46 Florida Administrative Code, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (PL 89-665), as amended, and as implemented in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 60, for the creation of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (PL 93-291). Architectural Historians, Anthropologists, and Archaeologists working on the project met the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (48 FR 44716).

2.2 Methodology

The focus of this project was to document places significant to the African American community of Titusville encompassing the area now referred to as Joynerville. Historically, racial discrimination restricted education for African Americans, making oral storytelling a crucial means of preserving and transmitting community heritage through successive generations. With a limited written history, public outreach accordingly played a significant part in this project.

The project started with a public workshop to engage with stakeholders and gather knowledge from community members to identify extant and lost cultural resources with the city's historic African American neighborhood and lost commercial district. The public workshop was advertised and held on April 29, 2024, at the North Brevard Senior Center to present the concept of the project and gather input from residents. Participants were encouraged to relate not just businesses and homes, but places where the residents enjoyed their free time, went to swim or be baptized, as well as sites of conscience and civil rights campaigns. The 34 participants were divided into small groups at tables with historic aerials and maps to mark the important locations **(Figure 2).** Stantec facilitators joined each group to ensure that a variety of topics were addressed and to record notes of the memories associated with the locations. Topics included community boundaries, community and housing changes over time, cultural sites, religious sites, civil rights events, churches, schools, African American businesses and business districts, important community founders and sites related to them. Participants were encouraged to mark maps, create timelines, create lists, and discuss general concerns about the loss of their history and historic preservation. The group dynamic allowed participants to build on each other's responses and memories to generate additional topics and themes for discussion. Each participant provided contact data for follow up if needed. Scanning was

also available for sharing family archives, photos or other materials. The marked aerials and maps and the facilitator notes were used to create ArcGIS maps to mark locations of the important sites.

Figure 2. Participants at the April 29, 2024, public workshop mark maps and aerials with significant locations. Stantec 2024.

Archival research was conducted from April through June 2024. Archival research included a review of prior historic surveys and Florida Master Site File (FMSF) data as well as a visit to local archives and online research (see **Section 3 - Archival Research**). Fieldwork, conducted in April with a follow-up visit in August, photographed significant sites and included a reconnaissance survey utilizing the background research and prior survey data to determine significant sites and if any potential historic districts existed. Additional significant sites identified through archival research and fieldwork were marked on the ArcGIS map created for this project. Notes were included regarding the source of the information and dates of construction or important people were included, if known. Subsequent presentations in May at the Historic Preservation Board's Annual Workshop and in August at the Board's regularly scheduled meeting solicited additional input from the public and updated the Board on project progress.

The process to conduct the oral history portion of the project started with a list of eight stakeholders provided by the City of Titusville. Participants were also recruited at the April 29th community workshop at the North Brevard Senior Center. Further outreach occurred at the North Brevard Black School Reunion on June 5, 2024, where event organizers distributed a City-created flyer promoting the Joynerville and Beyond oral history project. This did not directly result in new interview participants but stimulated discussion about the

importance of oral history, enhancing community interests.[1] While the project initially aimed for only eight interviews, 21 people were recruited in just three months (April to July 2024), revealing significant community interest in future oral history initiatives. This project resulted in recorded interviews with eight participants—five individuals and a small group with three participants. Participant recruitment for the project included in-person, email and phone outreach. Project constraints necessitated conducting and recording interviews remotely by phone. Stantec engaged participants with diverse perspectives to capture a comprehensive view of the community's development and changes through time. Additional information on the oral history methodology is included in **Section 5.2 -Methodology**.

This collected data from the public meetings, archival research, fieldwork, and oral interviews was used to create cultural resource maps, historic event timelines, and interpretive educational materials and programming. Stakeholders reviewed the community boundary and significant sites maps providing additional input. Stantec reviewed primary sources, such as United States (US) Federal Census records, and secondary sources, such as previously conducted oral histories, to inform the historical context of the study area. Although some information was recorded in both primary and secondary sources, data from all secondary sources was not verified fully through primary sources at the time.

2.3 Expected Results

As specified by the grant, it was anticipated that new historic resources or the location of former historic resources would be identified as a result of this project. This discovery is one of the positive outcomes of the project. As the area along South Street was the historic center of the neighborhood and the business district, it was anticipated that most significant sites would be situated near this transportation thoroughfare. Extensive redevelopment east of the Florida East Coast Railway, however, limited the expectation of many extant resources in this area. Based on archival research, expected dates of construction ranged from the early twentieth century to the present day. It was anticipated that some of the earliest historic resources would have been demolished and replaced with new construction.

Considering the history and geography of the area, it was anticipated that a mix of building types, sites and uses would be identified with more commercial properties fronting South Street. Business information was anticipated to be difficult to obtain as the commercial corridor was fluid and evolving throughout its history and little written or visual documentation of it remains. It was expected that the churches and schools as the heart of the community would be of historical interest warranting additional research.

[1] Kirk Davis, Lynn Golden, and Reva Johnson Watson, *Concerned Citizens Group Interview,* Interview by Brandy Black. Stantec, 18 July 2024.

3 Archival Research

A narrative history of the city was prepared to provide context within which to identify significant events, people, institutions, and organizations associated with Titusville's African American community. To provide context and data to support the project, Stantec conducted archival and background research. Sources of information included:

- Florida Master Site File;
- Brevard County Property Appraiser;
- Brevard County Historical Commission;
- Brevard County Public Library System;
- Brevard County Clerk of the Court, Official Records and Plat Maps;
- Harry T. and Harriet V. Moore Cultural Center and Museum;
- North Brevard Historical Museum;
- State of Florida Library and Archives, Florida Photographic Collection;
- Historic Aerials and United States Geological Survey (USGS) Maps;
- Bureau of Land Management General Land Office;
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Land Boundary Information System; and
- Local Residents.

Stantec reviewed the FMSF data to identify previously recorded historic resources within the study area. The BLM GLO and LABINS records, historical aerial photographs, USGS topographic maps, and the Brevard County Clerk of Court records were reviewed to determine the timeline of the community. Research also involved a search for historic photographs of the Titusville community in the Florida Photographic Collection of the Florida State Archives and in local archives, such as the Brevard County Historical Commission records. Many of the previous oral histories were researched to identify important people and places that are important to the community. Locations of referenced sites were recorded in GIS to produce maps of the community. Regional historical newspapers, such as the *Titusville Star*, helped to provide background surrounding events in the community. Census records, death indices, cemetery records, and service records available on Ancestry.com and Find-a-Grave.com were also consulted to round out and verify personal and family histories.

3.1 Prior Field Surveys

The FMSF, part of the Florida DHR, maintains records of previous archaeological and historical surveys completed statewide. As part of the background research for this project, a search of the FMSF database, in GIS format dated April 2024, was completed to identify previous surveys within the study area. Review of these reports provided background information for the current survey concerning types of properties that would be expected, relevant research questions, and previous findings in this or similar areas.

The search of the FMSF database identified six previous cultural resources surveys (**Table 1**). These studies were conducted for planning purposes, telecommunications, or transportation projects between 1987 and 2017. As a result of the surveys, many resources in the study area were recorded and are addressed in the following section.

Table 1. Prior Cultural Resource Surveys.

FMSF Survey No.	Title	Year	Author(s)	Sponsor
1567	Historic properties survey, Titusville, Florida	1987	Historic Property Assoc., Inc.	City of Titusville
2391	Archaeological Assessment of Six Selected Areas in Brevard County: A First Generation Model	1990	Judith A. Bense and John C. Phillips	Florida DHR
7980	A Historical Reconnaissance Survey of the Proposed ME-025 Sand Point Tower Location in Brevard County, Florida	2001	Juliet T. Batategas and Lisa N. Lamb	ATC Associates, Inc.
16299	An Archaeological and Historical Survey of the 10020050-Titusville Tower, Titusville, Brevard County, Florida (FCC Form 620)	2009	Bland & Associates, Inc.	Trileaf Corporation
21579	City of Titusville CRA Historic Property Survey, Brevard County, Florida	2012	Janus Research	City of Titusville
25307	City of Titusville Survey of Historical Resources	2017	Meghan Powell and Patricia Davenport-Jacobs	City of Titusville

3.2 Previously Recorded Resources

Concurrently with the FMSF database search for prior surveys, individual FMSF records were sought for historic resources already recorded within the study area (**Table 2** through **Table 5**). The research identified one resource listed in the NRHP, 63 historic structures, three historic resource groups, and two historic cemeteries. There are no archaeological sites or historic bridges recorded within the project area.

Judge George Robbins House (8BR00399) was listed in the NRHP in 1990 under the Titusville Multiple Property Submission (MPS). The structure is located at 703 Indian River Avenue and was built ca. 1892 in the Georgian Revival style.

There are three previously recorded historic resource groups within the study area: the Florida East Coast Railroad (8BR01870), US Highway 1/Cocoa Boulevard (8BR02697), and the Titusville Downtown Residential Historic District (8BR02935).

There are two previously recorded historic cemeteries within the study area, Davis Memorial Cemetery (8BR04482) and Oak Ridge Cemetery (8BR04574).

Sixty-three other previously recorded historic structures are located in the study area. These structures date from 1895 through 1952 and were built primarily in the Frame Vernacular style (n=17). Additional styles represented include Bungalow (n=3), Masonry Vernacular (n=14), Mediterranean Revival (n=1), Minimal Traditional (n=3), Mission (n=1), Neo-Classical Revival (n=1), and Ranch (n=2). Fields that are blank in the tables below were missing the information in the FMSF database.

Table 2. Previously Recorded Resources Listed in the NRHP.

FMSF No.	Name/Address	Year Built	Style	List Date
8BR00399	Judge George Robbins House/703 Indian River Avenue	ca. 1892	Georgian Revival	19900112

Table 3. Previously Recorded Resource Groups.

FMSF No.	Name	Resource Type	Time Period	SHPO Evaluation
8BR01870	Florida East Coast Railroad	Linear Resource	American; Boom Times, 1921-1929	Eligible
8BR02697	US Highway 1/Cocoa Blvd	Linear Resource	Boom Times, 1921-1929; Twentieth century	Insufficient Information
8BR02935	Titusville Downtown Residential Historic District	Historical District	Nineteenth century; Twentieth century	Not Evaluated

Table 4. Previously Recorded Cemeteries.

FMSF No.	Name	Year Built	Cemetery Type	SHPO Evaluation
8BR04482	Davis Memorial Cemetery	1956	Community; Family; African American	Not Evaluated
8BR04574	Oak Ridge Cemetery		African American	Not Evaluated

Table 5. Previously Recorded Historic Structures.

FMSF No.	Name/Address	Year Built	Style	SHPO Evaluation
8BR00358	713 Bridge Street			Not Evaluated
8BR00359	715 Bridge Street			Not Evaluated
8BR00363	426 Canaveral Avenue			Not Evaluated
8BR00364	122 Canaveral Avenue			Not Evaluated
8BR00367	617 De Leon Avenue			Not Evaluated
8BR00377	411 Dummitt Avenue	ca. 1926	Bungalow	Ineligible
8BR00378	507 Dummitt Avenue-A			Not Evaluated
8BR00379	507 Dummitt Avenue-B	ca. 1926	Bungalow	Ineligible
8BR00380	510 Dummitt Avenue			Not Evaluated
8BR00381	611 Dummitt Avenue			Not Evaluated
8BR00382	811 Dummitt Avenue			Not Evaluated
8BR00383	900 Dummitt Avenue			Not Evaluated
8BR00384	904 Dummitt Avenue			Not Evaluated
8BR00399	Judge George Robbins, House/703 Indian River Avenue	ca. 1892	Georgian Revival	Listed
8BR00400	715 Indian River Avenue	ca. 1895	Neo-Classical Revival	Not Evaluated
8BR00401	718 Indian River Avenue	ca. 1910	Frame Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR00402	804 Indian River Avenue	ca. 1924	Bungalow	Not Evaluated
8BR00403	803 Indian River Avenue	ca. 1905	Frame Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR00404	820 Indian River Avenue	ca. 1929	Frame Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR00405	821 Indian River Avenue	ca. 1940	Frame Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR00458	420 Olive Avenue			Not Evaluated
8BR00459	427 Olive Avenue			Not Evaluated
8BR00460	806 Olive Avenue			Not Evaluated
8BR00469	605 Palm Avenue	ca. 1926	Masonry Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR00470	723 Palm Avenue	ca. 1925		Not Evaluated

FMSF No.	Name/Address	Year Built	Style	SHPO Evaluation
8BR00471	800 S Palm Street	1926	Frame Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR00472	702 Palmetto Street			Not Evaluated
8BR00493	615 Tropic Street			Not Evaluated
8BR00496	807 Tropic Street			Not Evaluated
8BR00525	805 Washington Avenue South	1926	Mission	Not Evaluated
8BR00535	1006 First Avenue			Not Evaluated
8BR00537	1018 First Avenue			Not Evaluated
8BR00538	1018 Second Avenue			Not Evaluated
8BR00539	803 Washington Avenue South	ca. 1926	Mediterranean Revival	Not Evaluated
8BR02593	415 Dummit Avenue	1952	Ranch	Ineligible
8BR02594	405 Dummit Avenue	1951	Ranch	Ineligible
8BR02599	United Christian Fellowship	1925	Masonry Vernacular	Ineligible
8BR02823	Budget Motel	ca. 1953	Masonry Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR02824	AT&T Building	ca. 1959	Masonry Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR02825	City Auto's and Electric	ca. 1940	Masonry Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR02826	Three Oaks Motel	ca. 1962	Masonry Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR02827	708 S Hopkins Avenue	ca. 1936	Frame Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR02877	822 S. Palm Avenue	ca. 1959	Frame Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR02892	701 S. Washington Avenue	ca. 1946	Masonry Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR02893	751 S. Washington Avenue	ca. 1950	Masonry Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR03614	The Norwood House	1920-	Frame Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR03615	701 Tropic Street	1945	Masonry Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR03616	601 Tropic Street	1901	Masonry Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR03617	414 Dummitt Avenue	1946	Masonry Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR03618	418 Roderick A Harris Sr Avenue	1930	Frame Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR03619	420 Dummitt Avenue	1935	Masonry Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR03620	429 Roderick A Harris Sr Avenue	1920	Frame Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR03624	505 Roderick A Harris Sr Avenue	1930	Masonry Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR03625	512 Canaveral Avenue	1930	Minimal Traditional	Not Evaluated
8BR03626	909 Palmetto Street	1929	Frame Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR03627	715 Palmetto Street	1930	Frame Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR03628	610 Canaveral Avenue	1930	Minimal Traditional	Not Evaluated
8BR03629	609 Wager Avenue	1925	Masonry Vernacular	Not Evaluated

FMSF No.	Name/Address	Year Built	Style	SHPO Evaluation
8BR03630	614 Canaveral Avenue	1930	Frame Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR03631	617 Canaveral Avenue	1930	Frame Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR03632	623 S De Leon Avenue	1948	Frame Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR03633	616 Roderick A Harris Sr Avenue	1948	Frame Vernacular	Not Evaluated
8BR03634	623 Roderick A Harris Sr Avenue	1930	Minimal Traditional	Not Evaluated
8BR03635	802 South Street	1948	Frame Vernacular	Not Evaluated

3.3 Plats

A review of plats through the Brevard County Property Appraiser's records and the Brevard County Clerk of Circuit Court records identified 30 subdivisions recorded in the Joynerville area (**Table 6**). Additional information concerning the historic plats is included in **Section 4 – Narrative Prehistory and History**.

Table 6. Subdivisions Within the Survey Area.

Date Surveyed/ Date Filed	Subdivision	Plat Book (PB) and Page (PG)	Developer/Surveyor
1880/1881	LaBaron's Map of Titusville	PB1, Pgs 8-10; replat PB 2 Pgs 67-69	H.T. Titus/J. Francis LeBaron, Surveyor
1879/1881	Joynerville Addition-N ½ of Lot 3 of Section 3 of T 22S, R 35E	PB 1, Pgs 132-133	Mary M. Carlin/Francis Le Baron, Surveyor
1887	Rerdell's Addition	PB 1, Pg 15A	M.C. Rerdell and Edward Kuhl/Robbins & Graham/Transcribed from original by County Surveyor J.O. Fries in 1898
1888/1889	Map of S.F. Gray's new subdivision of Lots 38, 39, 40, 41, and 42 of Joynerville	PB 1, Pg 15A, from map recorded in Deed Book M, Pg 271	S.F. Gray/J.O. Fries, County Surveyor
1888/1889	Wager's Subdivision of Lots 3-6 of Block A of Titusville	PB 1, Pg 16	North of South Street at east end by water; C.B. Wager/Transcribed by J.O. Fries from Deed Book M, Page 96
1891	Subdivision of Lot 36 of Joynerville	PB 1, Pg 16	Mitchell and Lizzie Curley/Transcribed by J.O. Fries from Deed Book Q, Pg 746
1904	Wlm Gibson's Subdivision of Lot 29 of Joynerville	PB 1, Pg 130	William Gibson/J.O. Fries, County Surveyor
1908	Osban's Subdivision	PB1, Pg 24	Illegible
1913	Read & Allen Subdivision	PB 2, Pg 20	C.H. Greenwood, Engineer
1915	Plat of Elmore's Land	PB 2, Pg 41	Herman R. Hicks, Engineer
1927	Druid Hill Park	PB 7, Pg 39	Jacob Schloss, Henry and Clara Ziruth/Tom Benson of Holder & Lewis, Engineers
1946	Deatherage Subdivision	PB 9, Pg 41	Jesse and Laura Deatherage/L.R. Paxton, Surveyor
Lincoln Park Area			
1914	Subdivision of North ½ of Section 9, Township 22 South, Range 35 East	PB 2, Pg 21	King Land Co. of Newark, New Jersey
1952	Lincoln Park Subdivision	PB 10, Pg 68	Lincoln Park Inc. with Newton Smith President and Frank Craig Secretary/W.B. Heath, Surveyor

Date Surveyed/ Date Filed	Subdivision	Plat Book (PB) and Page (PG)	Developer/Surveyor
1957	King's Court	PB 12, Pg 50	Fred W. and Lois Hallauer and Doris Boynton/Irving Holder, Surveyor
1958	King's Court Addition	PB 12, Pg 136	Fred W. and Lois Hallauer and A.W. and Doris Boynton/W.D. Bruner, Surveyor
1962	King's Court Heights	PB 17, Pg 69	J.D. Spangler/Robert M. Evans, Surveyor
Gibson Park Area			
1914	L.T. Allen's Subdivision	PB 2, Pg 48	L.T. Allen/ E. Wright and L.R. Paxton, Surveyor and Engineer
1959	Gibson Park Section A	PB 13, Pg 61	Ferris Properties with Robert McCallister as Vice President and L.N. Danenburg as Secretary/W.B. Heath, Surveyor
1960	Gibson Park Section B	PB 14, Pg 9	Ferris Properties with E.E. Ferris as President and C.W. Danenburg as Secretary/Scott Stepp of Stepp, Wood & Associates, Surveyors and Engineers
1960	Gibson Park Section C	PB 14, Pg 53	Ferris Properties with John R. [illegible] as Vice President and C.W. Danenburg as Secretary/Scott Stepp of Stepp, Wood & Associates, Surveyors and Engineers
1963	Bon Air Subdivision	PB 17, Pg 142	Sulphur Investments Company with Henry M. Huffman as President and C.C. Tomlin, Jr. as Secretary/Herman D. Collette
1963	Bon Air Subdivision First Addition	PB 18, Pg 71	Sulphur Investments Company with Henry M. Huffman as President and C.C. Tomlin, Jr. as Secretary/Herman D. Collette
1970	Gibson Heights	PB 23, Pg 37	Edward E. and Ruth V. Ferris/L.A. Melvin & Associates, Surveyors
North of Tropic Street			
1887	Robbins & Graham's Addition	PB 1, Pg 13	N of Tropic; Transcribed from original in Book 1, Pg 506 by J.O. Fries in 1898
1894	Plat of Blocks A & B of Ransom's Subdivision	PB 1, Pg 16	N of tropic; George M. Robbins/Transcribed by J.O. Fries from Deed Book X, Pg 754
1915	Subdivision of Block B of Ransom's Addition	PB 2, Pg 51	N of Tropic; G.V. Cooper, Engineer
1915	Cook's Subdivision	PB 2, Pg 52; look at PB 1 Pg 16	N of Tropic; Mr. Cook/G.V. Cooper, Engineer
1915	Jones Addition	PB 2, Pg 53	M.S. Jones/G.V. Cooper, Engineer
1922	L Bishop's Subdivision	PB 3, Pg 14	H.B. Smith, Engineer

4 Narrative Prehistory and History

4.1 The First Inhabitants

Some of the earliest evidence of human occupation in Florida comes from the Vero Man (8IR0001) archaeological site in neighboring Indian River County, which was discovered in the early 1900s. The human remains from the site were recovered with evidence of extinct animals, leading archaeologists and historians to believe that humans and these extinct animals lived contemporaneously; however, some anthropologists believed the human remains were interred in the earlier sediments, rather than living with one another. Within the next two decades, archaeological finds elsewhere throughout the Americas confirmed that early humans did live contemporaneously with some of the extinct animals. In 2012, researchers analyzed the human and animal remains from the Vero Man site and concluded that Vero Man and the extinct fauna were contemporaneous and dated to the late Pleistocene (geological epoch), also known as the early Archaic (archaeological chronology) and appear to be 10,000–12,000 years old.[2]

The Windover Archaeological Site (8BR00246), which is southwest of Titusville, was the final resting place for other inhabitants from the Archaic period. In the 1980s, human remains were found during development and construction was halted. As the human remains were preserved well, the contractor believed they may have stumbled upon recent human remains; however, ultimately archaeologists, led by Dr. Glen Doran, were brought in to document the find. Archaeologists were able to document skeletal remains, clothing, and brain matter, which had been well-preserved in the peat environment, and identified the site as a mortuary pond.[3]

4.2 Post-Contact Period

4.2.1 FIRST SPANISH PERIOD

In 1513, Juan Ponce de León sailed from Puerto Rico in search of Bimini. When he spotted land, he called it “La Florida,” in honor of “Pascua Florida*”* (“feast of the flowers” or Easter). There are two main theories for the location of his landing, one of which being the Cape Canaveral area (the other is in the vicinity of present-day Ponte Vedra in St. Johns County). If Cape Canaveral was his landing spot, he and his men would have encountered the Indigenous groups already living here including the Surruque, who settled in the area between Cape Canaveral and Ponce de Leon inlet to the north, and the Ais, who settled along the Indian and Banana Rivers, the Atlantic Ocean, and the various waterways. The Spanish called the river where the Ais lived, “Rio de Ays” or “Laguna de Ays,” which has since been translated to Indian River.[4]

[2] Bruce J. MacFadden, Barbara A. Purdy, Krista Church, and Thomas W. Stafford, Jr., Humans Were Contemporaneous with Late Pleistocene Mammals in Florida: Evidence from Rare Earth Elemental Analyses. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 2012, Volume 32(3):708–716.
[3] Florida State University, Windover Archaeological Site Collection, n.d., available online, https://diginole.lib.fsu.edu/islandora/object/fsu:windover, accessed July 2024.
[4] Vera Zimmerman, Place Names, n.d., available online, https://www.usgenwebsites.org/flgenweb/FLBrevard/History/10K-1820.html, accessed July 2024.

Over the next five decades, European explorers, including Pánfilo de Narváez (1528), and Hernando de Soto (1539-1540), sought out the coastlines and interior of southeastern North America, resulting in further contacts between Europeans and the existing inhabitants of Florida.[5] Many of the place names were bestowed by the earliest sixteenth century explorers, including "Cañaveral" (canebrake) and "Los Mosquitos," the word since borrowed by the English language to refer to the biting insects common in the area.[6]

Narváez landed near Tampa Bay and traveled into the interior of Florida, reaching the Apalachee region of west Florida in several months. Narváez died later in the year when his fleet sank. Four survivors, Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, the enslaved man Estevanico, and two other Spaniards, began their 10-year trek from northwestern Florida, across southern North America, representing the first contact of Europeans with many Indigenous groups of the Southeast, Texas, and Southwest. Cabeza de Vaca's account of his journey is the only account of the Narváez expedition, and it influenced subsequent explorers, particularly Soto who landed near Tampa Bay in 1539 and proceeded to march inland through Florida in search of gold. Soto continued his trek north into Georgia and then headed west, where he eventually died west of the Mississippi River on May 21, 1542.[7]

In 1562, France sent its own exploratory team to La Florida. Led by Jean Ribault, the French explorers reconnoitered the "Riviere du Mai" (River of May or present-day St. Johns River) and erected a monument near the mouth of the river. Two years later, Rene de Goulaine de Laudonnière led 200 soldiers and artisans back to the area of present-day Jacksonville to build a permanent settlement. The French settlers encountered the Indigenous population that was already in the area, the Mocama, which is a Timucuan dialect. The Mocama helped the colonists build a village and fort, which the French named "La Caroline" after King Charles IX. The partnership between the French and the Mocama soon failed, as the French failed to support the Mocama against the Utina; therefore, the Mocama stopped providing food to the settlement.[8] The Ais were linguistically and culturally separate from the Timucuans to the north.

The Spanish Crown believed Florida was their sovereign territory and sent Pedro Menéndez de Avilés to push back on the French threat. Menéndez sailed to the mouth of the River of May and headed south with the French in close pursuit; however, Menéndez was able to get most of his ships across a sandbar near an inlet in present-day St. Augustine. One of his ships was partially unloaded and then sent southward to Hispaniola. The French were unable to enter the shallow inlet, so began to pursue Menéndez' ship heading south.[9]

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[5] Michael Gannon, *Florida: A Short History,* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2003).
[6] Susan Parker, *Canaveral National Seashore Historic Resource Study,* (Atlanta: Cultural Resources Division, Southeast Regional Office, National Park Service, 2008); Zimmerman n.d.
[7] Lawrence A. Clayton, Vernon James Knight, Jr., and Edward C. Moore (editors), *The De Soto Chronicles: The Expedition of Hernando de Soto to North America in 1539-1543,* (Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1993).; Jerald T. Milanich and Charles Hudson, *Hernando do Soto and the Indians of Florida*, (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1993).
[8] National Park Service (NPS), "The End of the Colony," available online, https://www.nps.gov/timu/learn/historyculture/foca_end_colony.htm, 2024.
[9] Chuck Meide, Historical Background Part II: The Loss of the French Fleet and the End of French Florida, no date (n.d.), available online, https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/14lostfleet/background/history-pt2/history-pt2.html, accessed July 2024.

In September 1565, Menéndez established a permanent Spanish colony in La Florida, in present-day St. Augustine. Soon after his arrival, he and his men regrouped and marched northward to attack the French at Fort Caroline. When the Spanish troops arrived at Fort Caroline, they were able to easily commandeer the fort, as many of the men had left on the ships. Some of the remaining men including Laudonnière and Jacque LeMoyne, an artist, escaped on ships back to France. The Spaniards secured the fort, and marched back to St. Augustine.

At the same time, Ribault's French fleet sailing southward was caught in a storm and wrecked near present-day Cape Canaveral. The shipwreck survivors formed two camps, with the northern camp comprised of survivors of the French flagship "La Trinité" and the southern camp of survivors from the other ships. A group of survivors began the trek northward back to Fort Caroline. The Timucuans informed Menéndez that there was a group of White men on the beach south of St. Augustine. He marched south to an inlet, where the Frenchmen had been blocked attempting to return to Fort Caroline. Through a translator, Menéndez let the men know he had captured Fort Caroline and asked the men to surrender. Francisco Mendoza, the Chaplain, requested that men who would convert to Catholicism be spared, but most refused. Of the 127 Frenchmen, 111 were killed, and 16 were spared, including those who professed to being Catholic, impressed Breton sailors, and artisans. Two weeks later, additional French survivors were found at the inlet. Of these men, 134 were killed. The inlet now carries the name for these events, "Matanzas," for "slaughters".[10]

In November, Menéndez marched southward toward present-day Cape Canaveral, where the remaining French survivors had built a temporary fortification, protecting themselves with six cannons from their flagship. When Menéndez arrived, the Frenchmen fled the area; however, he offered safety to those who surrendered and around 75 men surrendered and were taken prisoner, while 20 refused to surrender.[11]

Beginning in the late 1500s, Franciscan friars arrived in La Florida with plans to convert the Indigenous populations. To do so, they often setup missions in existing villages. There were no known missions in the Brevard County area; however, there was a mission west of the project area south of Lake George known as "San Salvador de Mayaca," which was established in an existing community called "Mayaca" and a mission southwest of the project area near the upper Kissimmee River watershed known as "San Joseph de Jororo," which was established in an existing community, "Jororo".[12] Historian John H. Hann wrote that the Mayaca and Jororo were likely related to the Ais and this is attributed to the fact that the Spanish often equated the Jororo with the Ais.[13]

4.2.2 BRITISH PERIOD

After the Seven Years' War (also known as the French and Indian War), the British Government and the American colonies traded Manila and Havana to the Spanish government for the province of Florida.

[10] Meide n.d.; NPS, "The Massacre of the French," 2020, available online, https://www.nps.gov/foma/learn/historyculture/the_massacre.htm, accessed July 2024.
[11] Meide n.d.
[12] John E. Worth, Missions of Spanish Florida, n.d., available online, https://pages.uwf.edu/jworth/jw_spanfla_missions.html, accessed July 2024.
[13] John H. Hann, "Demise of the Pojoy and Bomto," *Florida Historical Quarterly,* Volume 74: Number 2, 1995.

Therefore, making Great Britian in control of all North America east of the Mississippi River. The British government divided its new lands into East and West Florida. St. Augustine, in East Florida, was a garrison community and many Spanish residents departed for Cuba. To help counter the lack of residents, the government issued land grants to entice people to Florida, with the London Board of Trade advertising 20,000-acre lots for groups willing to move to Florida and develop the land within 10 years, with one resident per 100 acres. Pioneers were issued 100 acres of land plus 50 acres of land for each family member. Under Governor James Grant, the British Government issued 2,856,000 acres of land in East Florida.[14]

One of the beneficiaries of the British land grants was Dr. Andrew Turnbull, who held title to over 100,000 acres near Mosquito Inlet (in the area of present-day New Smyrna). Turnbull had recruited over 1,400 individuals as indentured servants from Italy, Corsica, Greece, and the Balearic Islands, such as Minorca. Collectively, the indentured servants became known as the Minorcans (or with the Spanish spelling, Menorcans) because the Minorcans were the most prevalent in the group. In 1768, the Minorcans landed in East Florida. During the voyage, almost 200 Minorcans died, and the 1,255 survivors arrived in an untenable situation–the colony was under-provisioned and unprepared for them. The Minorcans immediately had to get to work, building structures to live in and preparing the land for indigo. Over nine years, 450 Minorcans died in the New Smyrna colony.[15] The location of the burials is unknown.

In 1777, the Minorcans were fed up with the situation and a group of them marched northward to St. Augustine where they requested asylum from Patrick Tonyn, the governor of East Florida. Governor Tonyn granted their petition and released them from their indenture contracts. Tonyn's aid to the Minorcans was not only for humanitarian purposes, but also because of his dislike of Turnbull. Tonyn welcomed the Minorcans and granted them property in the northern area of the city near the city gates, which is still called the Minorcan Quarter. In St. Augustine, the Minorcans once again met with inadequate conditions, but were eventually able to recover.[16]

During the American Revolution, Florida remained loyal to the British Government. Although much of the war was fought outside of Florida, by 1779, Spain entered the war. Under General Bernardo de Gálvez, the Spanish Crown captured Baton Rouge, Natchez, and Mobile. Within two years, they had also captured Pensacola. In 1783, the Treaty of Paris ended the American Revolution, the British Government recognized the United States' independence, and ceded Florida back to Spain.[17]

4.2.3 SECOND SPANISH PERIOD

After the Spanish government returned to Florida, St. Augustine became a melting pot of cultures with British residents staying, Spanish residents returning, the Minorcans welcoming the Catholic government,

[14] NPS, "The British Period (1763–1784)," 2022, Available online, https://www.nps.gov/casa/learn/historyculture/the-british-period.htm, accessed July 2024.
[15] Sandie A. Stratton and Stacey A. Cannington, "From the River to the Sea," 2019, available online, https://history.domains.unf.edu/floridahistoryonline/projects-proj-b-p-html/fho-minorcans-northbeach-html/, accessed July 2024.
[16] Stratton and Cannington 2019.
[17] NPS 2022.

and Americans moving south. The Spanish governors continued to issue land grants to welcome new residents to Florida.

In the Titusville area, there were two men who received land grants, Joseph Delespine and Domingo Reyes. Delespine acquired 43,000 acres, one of the largest grants in Florida, on the west side of the Indian River incorporating the southern portion of present-day Titusville. Reyes' land grant was on present-day Merritt Island where he had a plantation and operated a sugar mill. The mill was in operation from 1804 until 1835, when the Second Seminole War started. In addition to the war, a freeze in 1835, an outbreak of citrus scale, and the national financial panic of 1837 devastated the plantation-based economy along the Indian River.[18]

4.2.4 THE SEMINOLE WARS

Immediately before the United States' acquisition of Florida in 1821, tensions between encroaching American settlers and the Seminoles were on the rise, eventually leading to a series of three major conflicts known as the Seminole Wars. The Seminole Indians are the result of a cultural fusion of different groups of Muskogee (Creek) Indians and other related tribes from the north, specifically areas of Georgia and Alabama, and tribes already in Florida. These groups migrated to the Florida peninsula in the early 1700s because of the expansion of the European colonies and several military defeats. Many of these Creek migrations took place between 1716 and 1767, with other groups arriving later in smaller numbers. The earliest arrivals were most likely not referred to as Seminole, since this term only appeared in written accounts with regularity after 1763, or the end of the first Spanish period. The word itself is thought to have derived from the Spanish word "cimarrone," meaning wild or runaway.[19]

By 1816, turmoil in the Florida Territory between the existing Native American populations and the would-be settlers from the new United States to the north reached a boiling point. Spanish Florida had become a haven for Seminoles and enslaved Africans fleeing slavery. In 1817, General Andrew Jackson ignited the First Seminole War when he led a US Army contingent to enter Spanish territory and destroy Seminole and Black Seminole towns, including Fort Gadsden, also known as Negro Fort, on the Apalachicola River. This conflict lasted until 1818. Preoccupied with other matters, Spain ceded the Florida territory to the United States in exchange for forgiveness of debts to American citizens. Under the terms of the Adams-Onis Treaty, Florida became the property of the United States in 1821, and an official territory in 1822. Andrew Jackson was appointed the acting governor of the territory. Midway between Pensacola and St. Augustine, Tallahassee was chosen as the capital. The territory west of the Suwanee River was designated as Escambia County and the land to the east of the river named St. Johns County.[20] As part of the Adams-

[18] State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, Delespine Confirmed Land Grant, 1817, available online, https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/232594?id=3, accessed July 2024; Zimmerman n.d.; Historic Property Associates, *Historic Property Survey Titusville, Florida*, (St. Augustine, Historic Property Associates, 1987), Ms. No. 1567, on file, Florida Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee, 8.
[19] Brent Richards Weisman, *Like Beads on a String: A Culture History of the Seminole Indians in North Peninsular Florida,* (Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1989); Seminole Tribe of Florida, "History: Where We Came From," 2024, available online, https://www.semtribe.com/history/introduction.
[20] Gannon 2003.

Onis Treaty, the US government agreed to confirm former Spanish land grants, including the Delespine and Reyes grants.[21]

The influx of new American settlers into the Florida territory resulted in a continual rise in tensions between the United States and Seminole. In 1823, the United States Government and several Seminole leaders met in St. Johns County to negotiate terms of the Seminoles resettlement. Under the Treaty of Moultrie Creek, the Seminoles would relocate to a reservation in Central Florida and allow the United States Government to build roads, allow individuals to hunt and travel, and pursue runaway slaves through said territory. In exchange, the United States Government would provide them livestock, an annual payment for 20 years, and rations of corn, meat, and salt for 12 months. After settling into the reservation, the Seminoles realized the land was not suitable for agriculture and because it was far from the coastline, they could no longer trade with Cuba. In 1830, the United States Government passed the Indian Removal Act, and several tribes throughout the southeast, including the Cherokee, Creek, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole, were forced to relocate to Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma). The forced relocation would become known as the Trail of Tears as over 1,000 Cherokee died during the trip west.[22] After the passage of the Indian Removal Act in 1830, the federal government instituted a goal to have all Seminoles removed from Florida within three years.[23]

By 1835, the United States Government was once again at war with the Seminoles, in what would become known as the Second Seminole War, the longest and costliest war between the Indigenous populations and the United States Government.[24] The war led to the construction of roads and fortifications by the Army. The United States Government established Fort Ann to guard the Haulover between the Indian River and Mosquito Lagoon on present-day Merritt Island in 1837. General Joseph Hernandez, a Florida militia commander, camped near present-day Mims and built a road leading southward to Fort Capron and Fort Pierce, that was known as the "Hernandez Trail".[25] Although no treaty was signed, 1842 marked the end of the Second Seminole War with many of the remaining Seminoles being forced to relocate to Indian Territory.

Mosquito County, which included present-day Volusia and Brevard Counties, was very sparsely populated during the Territorial years. The 1830 census recorded just 15 heads of household, although these households did total approximately 733 people. The plantations that did exist between St. Augustine and Cape Canaveral were destroyed by the Seminoles with the outbreak of the Second Seminole War in 1835.[26]

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[21] Gannon 2003; Historic Property Associates, 7.
[22] NPS, "A Brief History," 2023, Available online, https://www.nps.gov/trte/learn/historyculture/index.htm, accessed July 2024.
[23] John K. Mahon, *History of the Second Seminole War 1835-1842* (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 1967), 46-50; Eloise Robinson Ott and Louis Hickman Chazal, *Ocali Country: Kingdom of the Sun,* (Ocala: Marion Publishers Inc., *1966),* 3rd edition printed by Greene's Printing, Inc., Ocala, Florida; Charlton W. Tebeau, *A History of Florida,* (Coral Gables: University of Miami Press, 1971), 154-58.
[24] University of South Florida, Florida Center for Instructional Technology, The Seminole Wars," 2002, available online, https://fcit.usf.edu/florida/lessons/sem_war/sem_war1.htm, accessed July 2024.
[25] Brevard County, "History Summary," 2024, Available online, https://www.brevardfl.gov/HistoricalCommission/HistorySummary, accessed July 2024.
[26] John W. Griffin and James J. Miller, *Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Cultural Resource Assessment*, prepared for Interagency Archeological Services and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta (Tallahassee, FL: Prepared by Cultural Resource Management, Inc., 1978), Ms. No. 260, on file, Florida DHR, Tallahassee.

In 1837 General Thomas Sidney Jesup led an offensive against the Seminoles with Brigadier General Joseph Hernandez commanding the eastern column. From 1837 to 1838, Fort Ann at the Haulover between Mosquito Lagoon and the Indian River served as a fortified supply depot for General Hernandez' troops fighting in south Florida and for those stationed at Fort Pierce and Fort Jupiter. In April 1838, the US Army abandoned Fort Ann, although it may have been used by the Union Army during the Civil War.[27] The war ended in 1842 when the federal government decided to withdraw troops from Florida and set the Peace River as the western boundary of the Seminole reservation. Although some Seminoles migrated west to established reservations, many decided to stay but were relegated to inhabit the Everglades and Big Cypress Swamp. However, the military roads and forts created throughout central Florida during the war laid a foundation for settlement after the war.[28]

4.2.5 EARLY SETTLEMENT

Passed in 1842, the Armed Occupation Act encouraged settlement by opening 200,000 acres south of Gainesville but excluded those within a two-mile radius of an army fortification. It was created to promote settlement and protect the Florida frontier by providing that any family or single man over 18 and able to bear arms could receive the title to 160 acres of land by building a dwelling, cultivating at least five acres of land, and living on it for five years. Between 20 to 35 families settled in the Indian River area as a result of this act.[29]

The Union admitted Florida as a state in 1845. For a brief period in the late 1830s and early 1840s, Mosquito County was unofficially known as Leigh Read County in honor of slain legislator Leigh Read. In 1844, St. Lucia County was created from the southern portion of Mosquito County; the future location of Titusville remained in Mosquito County, which was renamed Orange County. When Volusia County was created in 1854, it included the future site of Titusville. That same year, the Florida Legislature enacted legislation to establish Brevard County, named for Florida's Comptroller from 1853 to 1861. Located south of Volusia County, Brevard County did not initially include Titusville.[30]

Thomas Dummett (variously spelled Dummitt and Dummit), a colonel in the British Marines, ran a sugar plantation in Barbados before moving his family to the United States, later buying a sugar plantation near New Smyrna Beach in 1825. In the early years of the Second Seminole War, the Dummett's plantation was destroyed, and they moved to St. Augustine. Following the war in 1843, his son, Douglas, took advantage of the Armed Occupation Act and claimed land near Fort Ann in the Haulover area. Here, he planted citrus trees from groves he had established at his family's plantation. Douglas was estranged from his wife and lived on Merritt Island with his common-law wife, Leandra Fernandez. Together, they had four children. Dummett's groves were soon some of the largest in Florida, and he is credited with establishing the Indian River citrus industry. He grafted sweet orange trees and sour orange trees, making the trees frost resistant.

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[27] David Paterno, "Fort Ann and the Second Seminole War," *The Indian River Journal* 2(1):11-15, 2003.
[28] Tebeau 1971, 146-162; Ott and Chazal 1966, 13-15; Mahon 1967, 72.
[29] Historic Property Associates 8.
[30] Griffin and Miller 1978; Historic Property Associates, 1; Jerrell H. Shofner, *History of Brevard County, Volume 1*, (Stuart: Brevard County Historical Commission, 1995), 59-61.

By 1859, he was producing a crop of approximately 60,000 oranges.[31] He utilized the Haulover Canal which was completed in 1854. Used for shallow draft vessels, the three feet deep and ten to twelve feet wide canal extended approximately 0.33 of a mile south of Fort Ann. It was one of the first major improvements to the intracoastal waterway system. At the time, the major shipping points on the Indian River were the small communities of LaGrange and Sand Point, where a US Post Office briefly operated from November 1859 to June 1860 with Shubel G. Luffman as postmaster.[32]

A review of early land records in the Bureau of Land Management General Land Office and in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Land Boundary Information System indicate the first survey of the present-day Titusville area was conducted by Henry Washington in 1844 and Joseph R. Richard in 1847 and approved by Survey General Robert A. Butler in 1848. The original land survey shows Section 3 was subdivided into four separate lots. No roads or structures were illustrated. In 1852, a subsequent resurvey was completed which included Sections 3, 4, 9, and 10 of Township 22 South, Range 35 East, and showed the Delespine grant (**Figure 3**).[33]

The resurvey and the 1844 field notes reference the "Hernandez trail", which extended north to south through the northwest and southwest quarters of Section 4 into the Delespine grant. The land in the area was generally described as 2nd & 3rd rate open pine land with saw palmetto, a few sawgrass ponds, and some low hammock. The northern border of the Delespine grant corresponded to present day Maxwell Street.[34]

During the Third Seminole War from 1855 to 1858, the remaining Seminole continued to fight the Americans. Approximately 100 to 300 Seminoles evaded capture and remained in the Everglades. The present-day Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes of Florida and the Independent Seminole of Florida are direct descendants of the Seminoles that could not be forcibly removed during the Seminole Wars.[35] The Seminoles are linked through their Muskogee language, and maintain the language, legends, and culture of their ancestors.[36]

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[31] Roz Foster, "Explore Your History: Lost Communities of North Merritt Island (Part Three)," *The Indian River Journal,* (Spring/Summer 2014): 18-22; Griffin and Miller 1978; Elaine Murray Stone, *Brevard County: From Cape of the Canes to Space Coast* (Northridge, California: Windsor Publications, 1988); Historic Property Associates 9.
[32] Stone, *Brevard County;* Historic Property Associates 9-10; Alford G. Bradbury and E. Story Hallock, *A Chronology of Florida Post Offices* (Vero Beach: Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs, 1962), 83.
[33] Florida Department of Environmental Protection, State of Florida (FDEP), Field Notes, n.d., Volumes 92, 135, and 175, available online, https://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DslBtlds/public/piSearchDocumentLoad; FDEP, Tract Book, n.d., Volume 28, available online, https://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DslBtlds/public/piSearchDocumentLoad; FDEP, Plat, Township 22 South, Range 35 East, 1848, available online, https://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DslBtlds/public/piSearchDocumentLoad; FDEP, Plat, 1852, Township 22 South, Range 35 East. Available online, https://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DslBtlds/public/piSearchDocumentLoad.
[34] FDEP, n.d., 1848, 1852.
[35] James W. Covington, *The Billy Bowlegs War 1855-1858: The Final Stand of the Seminoles Against the Whites*, (Chuluota: the Mickler House Publishers, 1982), 78-80; Edward A. Fernald and Elizabeth Purdum, *Atlas of Florida* (Gainesville, Florida: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, 1992).
[36] Seminole Tribe of Florida, "History: Where We Came From," 2024, available online, https://www.semtribe.com/history/introduction.

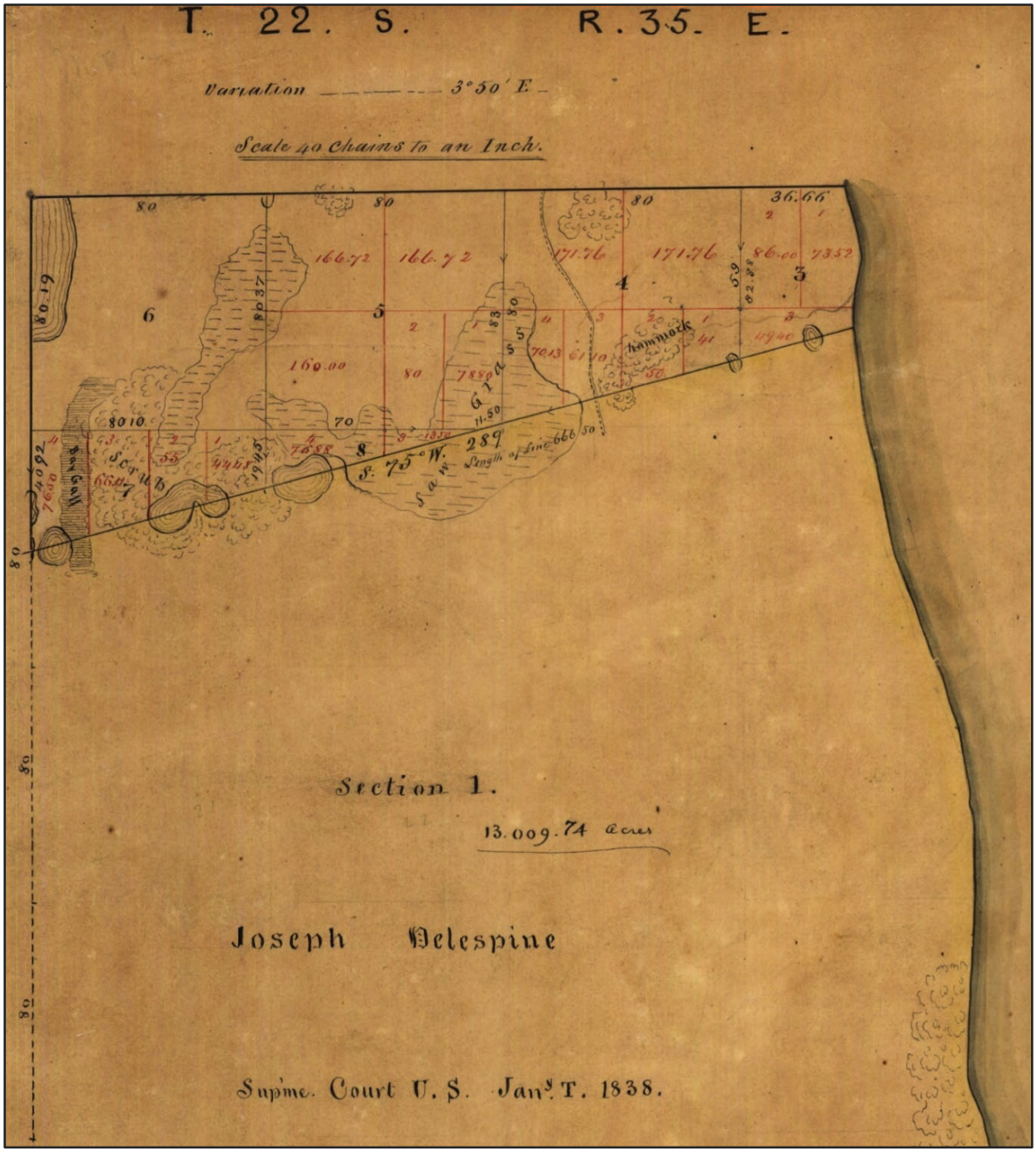

Figure 3. 1852 Plat Map of Township 22 South, Range 35 East.[37]

[37] FDEP 1852.

Settlers came to central Florida only gradually in the mid-nineteenth century since transportation and industry were minimal and the state lacked railroads. Ships carried goods and people along the coasts from port to port, and up the larger rivers, but in the interior a traveler was forced to go by foot, horse, ox cart, or stagecoach. Early settlement patterns followed along rivers and creeks, where transportation was easiest. Most homesteads were self-sufficient farms with limited surplus to send to market. Cattle served as one of the first economic drivers in the region with early settlers taking over the livestock left by the Seminoles, who had established herds from the mavericks left by the Spanish explorers. However, very few people lived in this area in the 1840s and 1850s. Just as the population seemed poised to increase, the Civil War started.[38]

4.2.6 CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION

In 1861, Florida joined the other southern states in seceding from the Union prompting the outbreak of the Civil War. Florida's importance during the Civil War was primarily as a supplier of beef, salt, sugar, and transporter of smuggled goods and weapons, as the state's population was still too small to lend large numbers of troops. A salt works reportedly operated in the vicinity of present-day Broad Street in Titusville, and the Sand Point area was a haven for blockade runners. The Confederate government estimated that three-quarters of the cattle which Florida supplied to the Confederacy originated from Manatee County and Brevard County, which extended along the east coast south to Lake Okeechobee.[39] Although the Union blockaded the coast, mainland Florida saw very little military action during the war. Many male residents abandoned their farms and joined the Union or Confederate armies with their families returning to their states of origin. Following the war, the state slowly rebounded, and it officially rejoined the Union in 1868.

The Southern Homestead Act of 1866 lured new residents to Florida by offering public land subdivided into 80-acre farms to homesteaders who were either loyal Union supporters or freed slaves.[40] Although the Southern Homestead Act was passed in part to expand land ownership opportunity to more African Americans, only about 1,000 deeds were granted to African Americans across Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi.[41] During the period from 1867 to 1887, the land in Township 22 South, Range 35 East which was not part of the Delespine grant sold to 11 different entities (**Table 7**). Most of these land grants were deeded to individuals and two were to companies, the Florida Provision Company and the Florida Land & Improvement Company. In the vicinity of south Titusville, all of the land appears to have been acquired by White individuals. The population growth during this period was due in part to other southerners seeking to escape unrest in the neighboring states of the former Confederacy and in part by northerners in search of vacation homes with their newfound prosperity following the war.

[38] Historic Property Associates 7-10.
[39] Shofner 1995, 72; Historic Property Associates 10.
[40] Tebeau 1971, 251.
[41] Toni Johnson, "40 Acres and a Mule: The Homestead Act and the Southern Homestead Act," New Georgia Encyclopedia, Digital Library of Georgia, 2024, available online, https://georgia-exhibits.galileo.usg.edu/spotlight/40-acres-and-a-mule/feature/the-homestead-act-and-the-southern-homestead-act.

Table 7. Sale of State Lands in Titusville.[42]

Township / Range	Sections	Aliquot	Deeded To	Deed Date
T 22 South, R 35 East	3	Lot 1	Florida Provision Company	January 23, 1867
T 22 South, R 35 East	3	N ½ of Lot 2	B. Einig	January 22, 1869
T 22 South, R 35 East	3	SW ¼ of NW ¼ (S ½ of Lot 2)	Mary E. Titus	June 23, 1883
T 22 South, R 35 East	3	SW ¼ (Lot 3)	William M. Tuse	January 18, 1870
T 22 South, R 35 East	4	E ½ of NE ¼ and Lot 1	John W. Malone	August 14, 1885
T 22 South, R 35 East	4	W ½ of NE ¼	Bartholomew Einig	November 30, 1878
T 22 South, R 35 East	4	N ½ of NW ¼	Sophronius Twitchell	July 16, 1887
T 22 South, R 35 East	4	S ½ of NW ¼	James R. Watson	August 28, 1882
T 22 South, R 35 East	4	Lot 4	Florida Land & Improvement Company	February 3, 1883
T 22 South, R 35 East	4	Lot 3	William Morrow	November 25, 1868
T 22 South, R 35 East	4	Lot 2	C.B. Magruder	December 8, 1869

After the war, the south underwent Reconstruction in a culture governed by Jim Crow laws. In Florida, the state legislature passed “Black codes” in 1865 to 1866 imposing laws with harsh penalties for violations and even arrest if an African American could not establish gainful employment. The passage reinforced segregation and continuation of the paternal plantation system. Although overturned by the federal government, Floridians fought to reenact the measures starting with a poll tax in 1885 and increasingly extensive Jim Crow laws starting in 1889. Florida boosters wanted to show a state with plentiful, cheap African American labor and depriving them of rights was a way to compel them to continue to work for low wages.[43]

4.2.7 TITUSVILLE’S EARLY YEARS

Among the new residents after the war was the entrepreneurial Colonel Henry T. Titus, who arrived in Sand Point in 1867. Born in Trenton, New Jersey, ca. 1822, he supported Cuban rebels, was a proponent of slavery while living in Kansas, and led troops in Nicaragua for American expatriate William Walker, who had seized control of the country in 1856. After Walker’s overthrow, Titus fled to San Francisco but made his way to Florida where he became a blockade runner along the Indian River during the Civil War. He met and married Mary Hopkins in 1852 while running a sawmill and grocery in Jacksonville. After assaulting a former Union soldier in a Jacksonville bar in 1866, he moved to Sand Point. Along with several New York investors, Titus established the Indian River Preserving Company to ship seafood to northern markets, but

[42] FDEP, Tract Book n.d.
[43] Katherine Parry, *Constructing African American Histories in Central Florida,* 2008, available online, https://stars.library.ucf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=4633&context=etd; Jerrell H. Shofner, “Custom, Law, and History: The Enduring Influence of Florida’s ‘Black Code,’” Florida Historical Quarterly, 55 (Spring 1977):280-81.

shipping and canning problems led to failure of the company the year it started. In 1867, he settled on land at Sand Point claimed by his wife, Mary, with the rest of his family joining in 1869. Titus opened a mercantile at Enterprise, a river port on the northeastern shore of Lake Monroe which was served by steamboats plying the upper St. Johns River from Jacksonville. Smaller boats could then travel to Lake Harney, but the trip was only made once a week and only when the water was sufficient to fill the canals. Frustrated, Titus then established a stage line between Enterprise and Sand Point. At his new residence, he opened a dry goods store with John W. Joyner, which was the only store along the coast of Volusia and Brevard counties. He brought freight to Titusville and to Enterprise by boat and wagon, exchanging them for citrus and pineapples which he shipped north. In 1870, he opened a hotel, the Titus House, which became the community center of the settlement, and served as the local justice of the peace. He cleared additional land and built many of the first buildings in the growing town. According to legend, Titus and Captain Clark Rice played a game of dominoes in 1873. The winner of the game won naming rights for the community. Titus was victorious, and the community was renamed Titusville.[44]

The Sand Point Post Office, which had reopened in 1869 in Section 29 of Township 21 South, Range 35 East in the vicinity of LaGrange, was relocated approximately two miles south to Section 3 of Township 22 South, Range 35 East and renamed Titusville in 1873 (**Figure 4**).[45] The town grew steadily during the 1870s with the population reaching around 200 residents by 1880. In 1876, the St. Johns and Indian River Railroad opened a seven-mile stretch of track from Titusville to Salt Lake and was later extended to Lake Harney. However, the cars were drawn by mules, which was easier than mule-drawn wagons and using small boats through canals but was still not sufficient to spur growth in the region. In 1879, Titusville and the southern part of Volusia County was annexed to Brevard County with Titusville selected as the county seat by referendum. After campaigning for its selection as the center of county government, Titus donated land for the construction of county buildings including a courthouse and jail.[46]

With the selection as county seat, Titusville residents recognized a need to transform from a settlement into a town. At the time, the community was accessible by a stagecoach which ran three times a week and a steamer which traveled to Enterprise. Trails crossed diagonally through the settlement with no organized street system or regularized way to sell lots. In 1879, landowner Mary M. Carlin hired J. Francis LeBaron to survey and subdivide her land into the Joynerville plat. A civil engineer, LeBaron once served as chief of the Army Corps of Engineers, discovered phosphate along the Peace River Valley in 1881, and platted many towns throughout the state. Joynerville was the first plat filed within the Titusville and incorporated the area from the waterfront west to present-day Deleon Avenue south of South Street. The plat was likely

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[44] Historic Property Associates 10-11.
[45] Bradbury and Hallock, 83; United States Post Office Department, “Sand Point Post Office,” 1869: National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 28, Reports of Site Locations, 1837-1950, Series, Florida: Bradford – Calhoun, NAID 68257980, available online, https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68257980; United States Post Office Department, “Titusville Post Office,” 1885, 1897, 1928 and 1942: National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 28, Reports of Site Locations, 1837-1950, Series, Florida: Bradford – Calhoun, NAID 68257980. Available online, https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68257980.
[46] Michael Knight, “Transportation to and From the Indian River Country,” North Brevard History-Titusville, Florida, North Brevard Business Directory, 2016, available online, https://www.nbbd.com/godo/history/transportation/index.html; Roz Foster, “Atlantic Coast, St. Johns & Indian River Railroad,” North Brevard History-Titusville, Florida, North Brevard Business Directory, 1997, available online, https://www.nbbd.com/godo/history/railroad-jtkw/index.html; Historic Property Associates 11-12; Stone 1988.

named in honor of John W. Joyner, Henry Titus's business partner, who had settled in the area with his family in the mid-1860s and died ca. 1878 leaving his widow, Francis, and their children to mourn his death.[47]

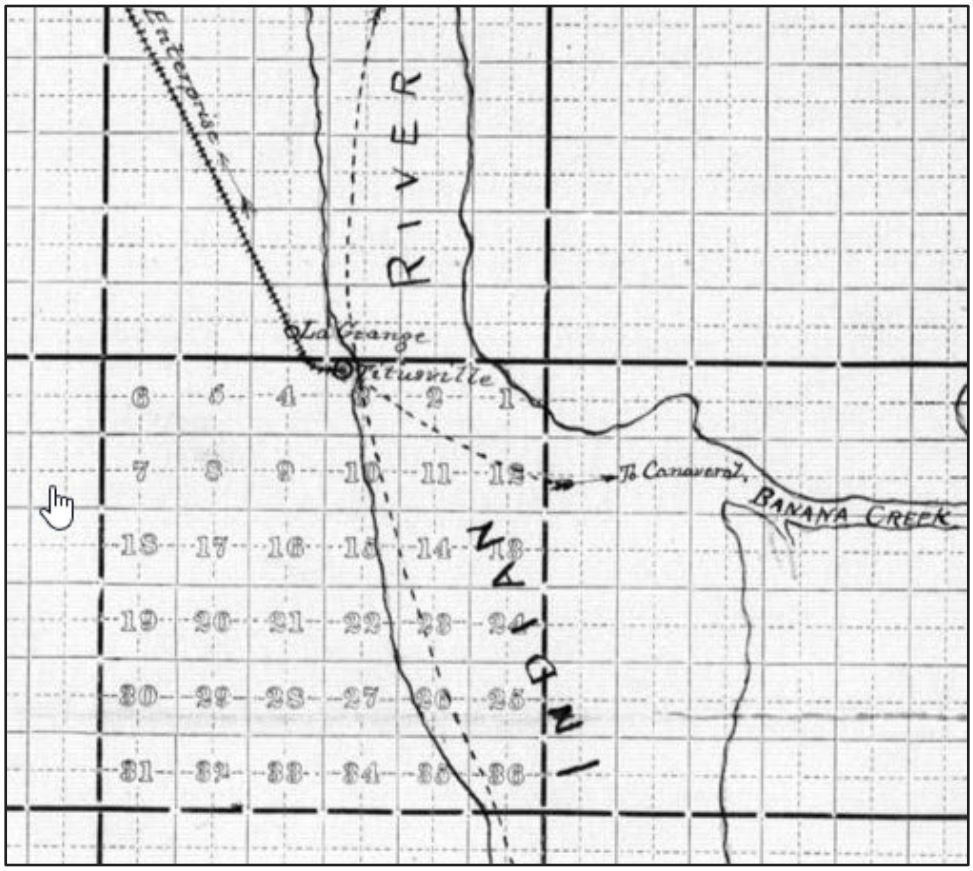

Figure 4. 1885 Map drawn by Titusville Postmaster J.C. Norwood showing locations of the Titusville and LaGrange post offices.[48]

In 1880, Henry Titus hired LaBaron to survey and map the Plan of the Town of Titusville which extended from Garden to South streets and from the waterfront west to Deleon Street. Both plats depicted a number of existing buildings, wagon tracks, and some parcel ownership. The primary buildings in town were the two hotels, the Titus House and Lund's Hotel, both of which fronted on the water and incorporated wharfs. Clustered around the hotels along Washington, Main, and Broad streets were Dixon's apothecary store and post office, Moore's Grocery, a ladies' furnishing store, another grocery store, a shoe shop, and the office of the Clerk of Court. To the south along South Street at the waterfront was the office of the *Florida Star*, LaBaron's office, R.C. Scrimgeour's Taxidermy & Sporting Goods, J.J. Seymour's grocery, Nauman's real estate, C.R. Carlin's boat works, J. Zeller's smith and wheelwright shops, Wager's grocery, and J.W.

[47] Brevard County Clerk of Circuit Court, 1881, PB 1, Pg 132-133; "Grand Old Lady of Sharpes Dies at 106: Lived in One House for Nearly 90 Years," *The Evening Tribune* [Cocoa, Florida], 1 August 1960; Volusia County Board of Voter Registration, *Voter Registration Rolls, 1867-68* (Tallahassee: Florida Memory, State Library & Archives of Florida, available online, https://www.floridamemory.com/FMP/election1867/large/68elec_volusia_p5_01a.jpg.
[48] United States Post Office Department, "Titusville Post Office," 1885.

Joyner's saloon, which was owned by his son, J.J. Joyner, after his death. These buildings, along with the homes of Mary Carlin, Fanny Joyner, and Melissa Bartel were clustered along the east end of the Joynerville subdivision at the waterfront. Industrial buildings included B. Einig's sawmill at the north end of town and an orange packing house. Block 15, located between Pine, Palm, Palmetto, and Desoto Streets, was owned by Brevard County which would soon construct a new courthouse and jail between 1880 and 1882. The Plan of the Town of Titusville depicted the St. Johns & Indian River Railroad with the primary line extending along Main Street featuring a depot located at Main and Hopkins streets and a freight track under construction along Broad Street.[49]

In the middle of the Joynerville subdivision, the plat depicted Sylvan Lake. William Henry Maxwell, who arrived in Titusville on October 23, 1880, later recalled that he, along with Andrew Gibson and mailman Dick Wright, suggested the name of Sylvan Lake because of the big trees around the lake which was filled with fish and water lilies; it was connected to the Indian River by a branch which crossed Washington Avenue and would flood during storms stopping traffic.[50] Between present-day Palm Avenue and Dummitt Avenue, the plat also showed the locations of the homes of African Americans Edward and Emma Gibson, Andrew and Miley Gibson (her name was also shown as Myle or Mary), and widow Betsey Thomas (**Figure 5**).[51] This would become the center of the African American community in Titusville.

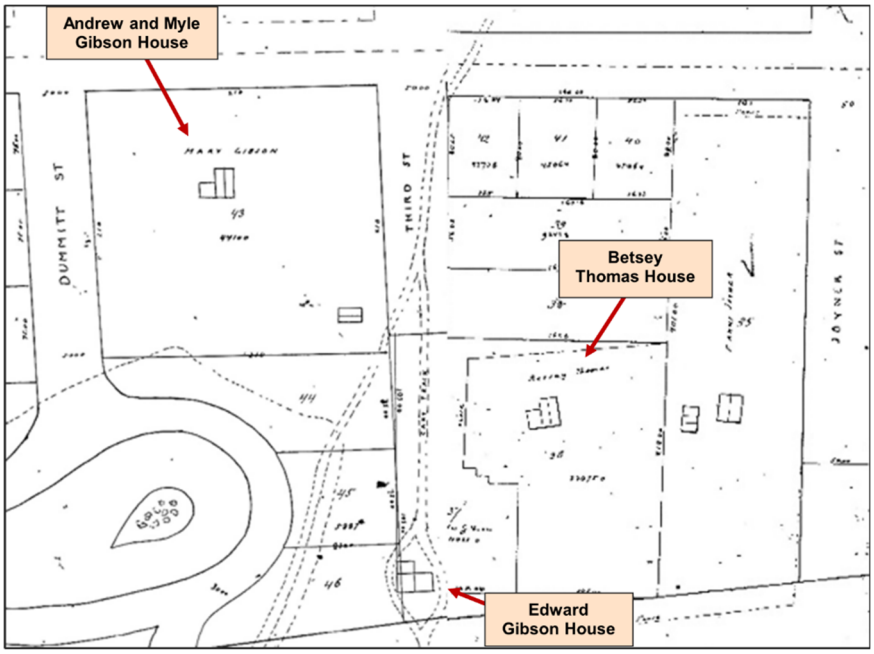

Figure 5. Portion of Plat of Joynerville drawn by J. Frances Le Baron in 1879, filed in 1881 with Brevard County Clerk of Court, Plat Book 1, Pages 132-133 showing African American residences.

[49] Brevard County Clerk of Circuit Court, 1881, PB 1, Pg 132-133 and 1881, PB 1, Pgs 8-10; Historic Property Associates 12.
[50] Blanton McBride, "Proposed Center Site Once Fine Fishing Lake," *The Orlando Sentinel*, 8 August 1971.
[51] Brevard County Clerk of Circuit Court, 1881, PB 1, Pg 132-133.

At the time Maxwell arrived, there were only 13 African Americans in town, with most of them children. Of these, Andrew Gibson, Dick Wright, Noel Gibson, and Betsy Thomas were landowners. The most prominent of these, Andrew Jackson Gibson (**Figure 6**), served as Brevard County's first jailer providing prisoners meals which he and his wife prepared in their home. Born in 1830 in Augusta, Georgia, he and his brother, Edward, moved to Thomasville, Georgia, and then Monticello, Florida, following emancipation. The men first came to Brevard County in 1869 initially settling in Rockledge. Andrew returned to Monticello in 1872, where he met and married Miley Macon. The couple brought their daughter, Emily, to settle in Titusville ca. 1874 and his brother, Edward, soon joined them. Andrew Gibson built a small home, roughly 12 ft by 20 ft using rough boards from the Einig sawmill which operated along the waterfront north of town. He opened the first Black business, a barber shop, which served only White customers, and a shoe shop. By 1880, he functioned as the county's first jailer and served as supervisor of the only public road in the county. Brevard County also turned the poor over to him and his wife, who took them in and nursed them back to health; he later started the Brevard County Poor Farm. When no public school was available to African American children, Andrew Gibson, a lifelong supporter of education in spite of his inability to read, hired a White woman, Annie McGrath, to teach his children in his barber shop on Washington Avenue in 1883. There were six students including Robert Gibson, Mamie Gibson, Maggie Clark, Fredy Gibson, Addie Gibson, and William Gibson. All were in the first grade and the school term was six weeks. In 1883, Andrew Gibson also applied for and received a license to operate a restaurant accommodating ten people or less at one time. Located across the street from the Titus House, it was well known for serving fresh oysters and seafood to both Blacks and Whites.[52]

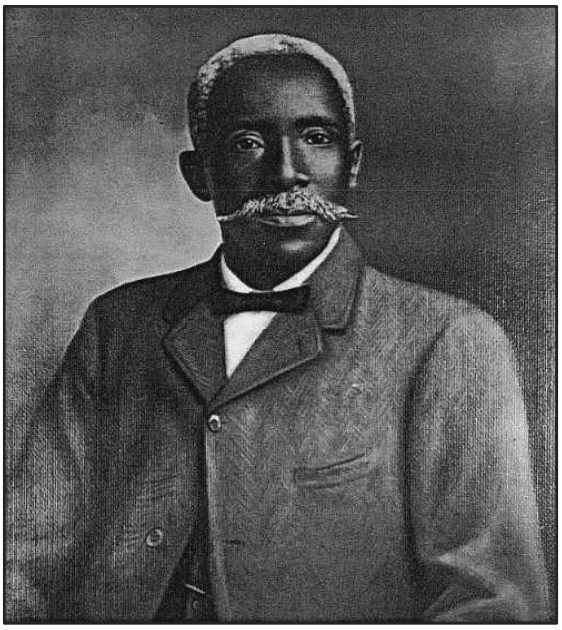

Figure 6. Andrew Jackson Gibson. Courtesy of Kirk Davis.

[52] Find-a-Grave.com, "William Henry Maxwell," page created by Kirk A. Davis, available online, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/159826847/william-henry-maxwell, 2016, information from a 1950 article printed in the *Titusville Star-Advocate* in 1950; Stephen Kindland, "Blacks Recall 1st School in Titusville," *The Orlando Sentinel*, 16 July 1985; Roz Foster, "The Gibson Tenement Houses and the Gibson Family, Titusville, Florida," *The Indian River Journal,* (Spring/Summer 2006):18-22; Roz Foster, "Gibson Tenement Houses," 2005, Available online, https://www.nbbd.com/npr/preservation/GibsonHouses/index.html; Frank E. Williams, Artie P. Williams, and Dorothy S. Wise, "Titusville Negro School Homecoming Reunion Celebration," 19-21 July 1985, provided courtesy of Kirk Davis and Roz Foster; Ancestry.com, *Florida, U.S. State Census, 1867-1945* [database online], (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2008); Brevard County Clerk of Circuit Court, "State and County License to Andrew Gibson, 1883," Brevard County Historical Commission, available online, https://history.titusville.com/files/show/272; Betty Morris, "Gibson's Descendants Celebrate His Day," *Titusville Star Advocate*, 21 July 1982; Roz Foster, "Brief on Schools," no date, notes on file, provided by author.

The African American community remained very small during the early 1880s. The 1880 census listed the following African American families living in the Titusville area: Andrew and Mila Gibson; Lou and Maggie Hardy; Betsey Thomas and her granddaughter, Lizzie Trott; Edward Gibson; Edward Perry; Julia Stewart; Haywood and Emma Williams; Andrew and Kate Jackson; Butler and Lucy Campbell; and George and Susan Hunt, among others.[53] Some of these individuals may have lived or worked in the LaGrange or Mims areas to the north. Both maintained close social and family ties with the Titusville African American community throughout its history. In 1880, a post office opened in Section 29 as LaGrange with mail service to 150 individuals, but service eventually transferred to Titusville in 1908. The Mims Post Office opened in 1886 approximately two miles north of LaGrange in Section 17 of Township 21 South, Range 35 East.[54]

The 1885 census listed a total of 195 inhabitants of Titusville. Conducted in June, the count did not include winter residents. The community had also lost several prominent residents including Henry Titus who had died in 1881. African American families included that of Andrew and Miley Gibson, Edward Gibson, and Andrew and Lillie Ellenwood, along with the individuals Amy Smith, Julia Stewart, Thomas Moore, Raul Backley, Laura Munsay, and Ben Brown, who worked as laborers or domestic help and lived with their employers.[55] Many more African Americans came late in 1885 and into 1886 with the construction of the railroad. Rerdell's Addition, a plat adding eleven blocks to the south side of Joynerville, was filed in 1887 by owners M.C. Rerdell and Edward Kuhl to expand the area available for new construction. Several small plats further subdividing the lots of Joynerville and Titusville were subsequently filed in the 1880s and 1890s.[56]

Railroad lines multiplied through central Florida during the 1880s as a result of the sale of state lands and the Disston Purchase. In 1850, the Federal government turned over "swamp and overflow land" to the state, which established the Florida Internal Improvement Fund to hold the lands. However, the fund was mired in debt following the Civil War, preventing the sale of the lands held in trust. In 1881, Pennsylvania businessman Hamilton Disston agreed to purchase four million acres of the swamp and overflow land in exchange for one million dollars, enabling the sale of the remaining acreage of lands held by the Florida Internal Improvement Fund. This allowed for large land subsidies to the railroad companies enabling them to begin construction of new lines throughout the state. Disston and the railroad companies further subdivided the land to sell to developers and new residents.[57]

Chartered in 1883, the Atlantic Coast, St. Johns and Indian River Railroad initiated construction of their line from Titusville to Enterprise on the northeastern shore of Lake Monroe after residents pledged $30,000 of

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[53] Brevard County Clerk of Circuit Court, 1881, PB 1, Pg 132-133; Ancestry.com, *1880 United States Federal Census* [database online], (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010).
[54] Bradbury and Hallock, 45, 54, 83; United States Post Office Department, "LaGrange Post Office," 1881, 1885, 1897, and 1904: National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 28, Reports of Site Locations, 1837-1950, Series, Florida: Bradford – Calhoun, NAID 68257980. Available online, https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68257980; United States Post Office Department, "Mims Post Office," 1886, 1928, and 1942: National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 28, Reports of Site Locations, 1837-1950, Series, Florida: Bradford – Calhoun, NAID 68257980. Available online, https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68257980.
[55] Ancestry.com, *Florida, U.S. State Census, 1867-1945* [database online], 2008.
[56] Brevard County Clerk of Circuit Court, 1887, PB 1, Pg 15A and 1889, PB 1, Pg 16.
[57] Charlton W. Tebeau, *Florida From Indian Trail to Space Age* (Delray Beach: Southern Publishing Company, 1965), 252.

subscriptions for its construction. Work started with 300 workers, many of them African American, clearing the path, grading, building bridges and laying track. Owners increased the pay to $1.25 per day to attract new workers. A portion of the track was laid on the route of the former St. Johns and Indian River Railroad. The first train entered downtown Titusville in December 1885 to fireworks and cannons announcing its arrival. In late January 1886, the Jacksonville, Tampa, and Key West Railway leased the recently completed line and operated it as a branch of their railroad (**Figure 7**). After opening the new Indian River Steamboat Company in 1886, the Jacksonville, Tampa, and Key West Railway built a 1,500 ft wharf to provide service along the railroad dock from Titusville down the Indian River to Jupiter (**Figure 7**).[58]

In addition to bringing new residents and tourists, the line facilitated the transport of Indian River citrus, pineapples, and seafood to northern markets. Fruit was initially hauled over 30 miles by boat packers, who made their own crate hoops from palmetto leaf stems and hickory branches. After the arrival of the railroad, businesses associated with the industries opened including ice plants, packing houses, and canneries. For example, George Webster Scobie established the first successful fishing business. Starting in the 1880s, promotional literature showcasing the availability of year-round activities and healthful benefits also led to an influx of new residents and wintertime visitors to the state. The growth led to the incorporation of Titusville in 1886. In the same year, D.S. Hutchison purchased the Titus House and renamed it the Indian River Hotel. Titusville had five stores, its first bank, two newspapers, express and telegraph offices, two hotels, two public schools, and a steam sawmill. Churches, including the First Presbyterian Church, St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church, First Methodist Church, St. Teresa Roman Catholic Church, and the First Baptist Church organized and built facilities in the late 1880s and early 1890s. The introduction of electricity in 1891 brought the opening of the first commercial ice plant, which was crucial for the preservation and shipment of seafood, fruits and vegetables. Named the Crystal Ice Company, it was operated by W.T. Whetmore. With the only rail connection along the Indian River, the city served as the hub for transportation connections between the north and points to the south along the Indian River. [59]

[58] Knight 2016; Foster 1997; Matthews-Northrup Company, *Correct Map of Florida: Season 1894-95 Showing the Tropical Trunk Line, Comprising the Jacksonville, Tampa & Key West R'y, the Florida Southern Railroad Co., Indian River Steamboat Company, Jupiter & Lake Worth Railway, Lake Worth Steamers, and Connections Leading from Jacksonville to the East Coast, the West Coast, The South Coast,* Map, (Buffalo, New York: Matthews-Northrup Co., 1894), Library of Congress, available online https://www.loc.gov/item/2007626391/.
[59] Ewart Henry, "Pioneer Negro Grower Gains Wide Acclaim for Culture Abilities," *The Orlando Sentinel*, 26 January 1941; Historic Property Associates, 13-14; Stone, *Brevard County*.

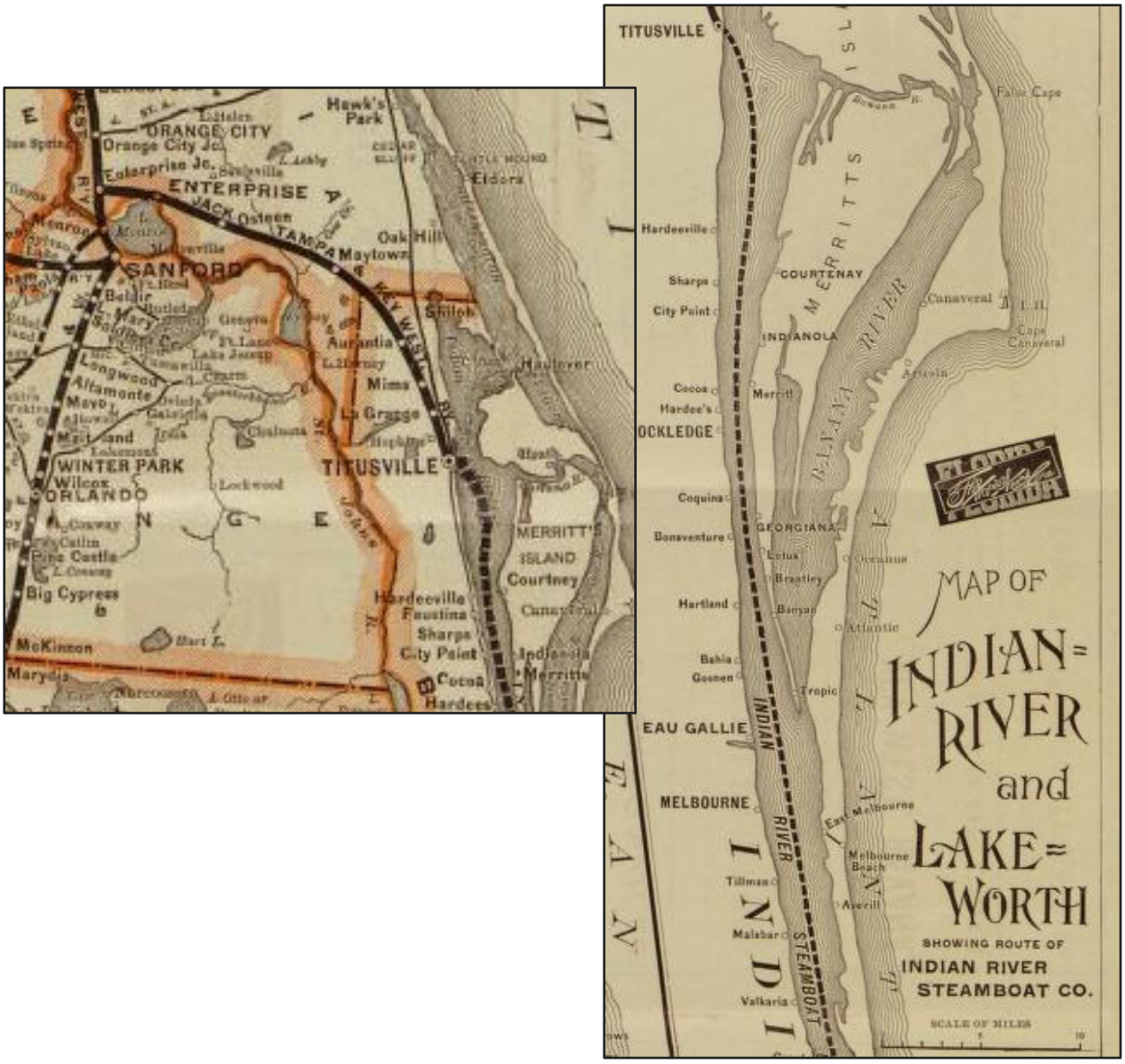

Figure 7. Excerpt of the Correct Map of Florida, Season of 1894-5 showing the Tropical Trunk Line, depicting the former Atlantic Coast, St. Johns and Indian River Railroad, now the Jacksonville, Tampa, and Key West Railway between Enterprise and Titusville and the Indian River Steamboat Company.[60]

[60] Matthews-Northrup Company 1894.

The African American community also grew during this period. Many arrived working on the construction of the railroad and found work thereafter by working in the sawmills, groves, packing houses, farms, service industries, or fishing. Women frequently found work caring for young White children, as maids or cooks, or as laundresses. African American pioneer William Henry Maxwell managed citrus groves and was one of the first in the section to use commercial fertilizer. He purchased his first grove in 1894 and started to cultivate citrus on his own behalf. He noted that the area in the middle of the Joynerville plat where the Gibsons and Betsey Thomas lived became known as "Colored Town" with the growth of the African American community. Reportedly, E.L. Brady opened a business and offered delivery service by wagon. Initially, he could direct the delivery person to an individual house in the neighborhood, but as it grew, he couldn't remember the specific names. He then started putting the goods in a certain basket instructing his delivery person to take them to "Colored Town" and the name was used for years. In addition to the Gibsons, he remembered Ellis Cobbs, Bettie Edmonson, Ella Foster, Haywood Boumny, and William Harris as some of the oldest residents.[61]

Initially, the only African American who lived north of South Street was Dick Wright, a Black man who delivered mail between Eau Gallie and Titusville using a boat named the Dolphin. That changed with the construction of the Sunshine Boarding House and St. James African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. The lack of housing for the growing number of workers led to many living in tents. When Judge George Robbins, a White man, saw the living conditions, he built a rooming house on Dummitt Avenue north of South Street. The two-story, wood frame structure measured 125 ft long by 60 ft wide and was often referred to as the "long house." It remained a boarding house and was generally known as the Sunshine Hotel into the 1950s until it burned down and was paved for use as parking by St. James AME Church (**Figure 8**).[62]

Figure 8. Sunshine Boarding House. Courtesy of Kirk Davis.

[61] Ewart Henry, "Pioneer Negro Grower Gains Wide Acclaim for Culture Abilities," *The Orlando Sentinel*, 26 January 1941; Find-a-Grave.com, "William Henry Maxwell," page created by Kirk A. Davis, available online, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/159826847/william-henry-maxwell, 2016, information from a 1950 article printed in the *Titusville Star-Advocate* in 1950; Foster, "The Gibson Tenement Houses and the Gibson Family, Titusville, Florida," 2006; Foster 2005.

[62] Find-a-Grave.com, "William Henry Maxwell," 2016; Foster, "The Gibson Tenement Houses and the Gibson Family, Titusville, Florida," 2006; Foster, "Gibson Tenement Houses," 2005; Bernice West Fisher and Dr. George Fayson interview by Roz Foster, 15 April 2019, Brevard County Historical Commission, available online, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yrlFudjf8Q.

With the increased population, residents formed churches, schools, and civic organizations in the late 1880s and early 1890s. In 1886, Andrew Gibson, his brother Edward, and Louis Ufollow, a new resident who worked for the railroad, established the first Black church, which met in a small, 12 ft by 12 ft building owned by Andrew Gibson. The men served as the first deacons of the congregation. The building was soon too small, and the group started meeting at the home of Tom Smith, who had a larger house. Louis Ufollow approached Mary Titus, the widow of Henry Titus who had donated land for the construction of other churches in the community, about acquiring land for the new African American church. She donated land for a church and a school, naming William Gibson, Isaiah Gory, and Louis Ufollow as school trustees. A small wood frame building was constructed, and the school relocated to the land donated by Mary Titus in 1886. Situated along Dummitt Avenue just south of Andrew and Miley Gibson's house, the one-room school catered to grades one through six with all classes in one room; it was still depicted on the 1915 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. The church was built south of the school. Initially known as the Colored Baptist Church of Titusville, the Missionary Baptist Church is now the Greater Bethlehem Baptist Church, which officially organized in 1889. Baptisms were held in the Indian River. In 1886, Mary Titus also conveyed a lot to Andrew Gibson, Edward Gibson, and his son, William, naming them trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; this organization may have been the forerunner of present-day St. James AME Church which officially organized in 1892 and built a sanctuary in 1902.[63] The Prince Hall affiliated Indian River Lodge #85 of Free & Accepted Masons (F&AM) was founded on January 25, 1890. The International Order of Odd Fellows met in a two-story lodge building on the north side of South Street just east of the railroad by 1915.[64]

Additional African American workers arrived to construct the extension of the Florida East Coast Railway during the 1890s. Owner Henry Flagler, a partner with John D. Rockefeller in Standard Oil, had retired from the oil business following the death of his wife, Mary Harkness Flagler. In 1885, he initiated construction of a chain of winter resorts connected by a railroad system along Florida's east coast. Initially buying and merging existing lines, he started constructing his own line down the coast in 1892 and obtained a charter from the state of Florida as the Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Indian River Railway to build a railroad along the Indian River to Miami. He incorporated the entire line as the Florida East Coast Railway in 1895. Starting in St. Augustine in 1885, he extended the line to West Palm Beach in 1894, Miami in 1896, and ultimately Key West in 1912. When he approached Brevard County in 1892, Flagler hired 1,500 men to cut a route through the dense pines and palmettos toward the Indian River and made tentative plans to build a resort at Titusville. However, property owners Lewis A. Coleman and Thomas G. Knight tried to charge more for their land than Flagler wanted to pay so he abandoned his plans for a hotel in Titusville. The track, however, continued through Titusville and reached the town in 1893 (**Figure 9**). In the same year, the Jacksonville, Tampa, and Key West Railway entered bankruptcy and the Southeastern Railway purchased the Enterprise to Titusville line, eventually selling it to the Florida East Coast Railway in 1899. The Florida

[63] Bethlehem Baptist Church, "Centennial Celebration Kickoff Part I," 7 June 1986, provided courtesy of Kirk Davis; Foster, "The Gibson Tenement Houses and the Gibson Family, Titusville, Florida," 2006; Foster 2005; Williams et al. 1985; Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of Titusville, Florida, 1915, on file, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, available online, https://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00074235/00002; Roz Foster, "Brief on Schools," n.d.
[64] City of Titusville, Titusville Proclamation – Indian River Lodge #85 Recognition Day, 8 December 2015, available online, https://archive.org/details/cotitfl-Titusville_Proclamation_Indian_River_Lodge_85_Recognition_Day; Sanborn Map Company 1915.

East Coast Railway soon served as the primary means of transportation for passengers and freight along the east coast of the state.[65]

The arrival of the railroad workers also brought a rough element to town with several saloons operating in the community. Railroad workers clashed with townspeople in 1892 resulting in the death of several after the militia was called to intervene. The riot occurred on Saturday with the fighting continuing into Sunday and several residents shooting up the African American neighborhood on Monday evening, although the offenders were from the railroad camp. In 1894, mob justice threatened the peace when a Black man reportedly killed a White man at a sawmill and the sheriff had brought the Black man to jail. The local militia, which happened to be meeting in the room above the jail, distracted the lynch mob while the sheriff took the prisoner out the back entrance to the railroad station and took him to the DeLand jail. In 1896, vigilantes succeeded when a Black prisoner, Charley "Kid" Harris, who was accused of rape, was taken from the sheriff's custody and lynched by a White mob at Wolf's Crossing near LaGrange.[66]

Figure 9. Florida East Coast Railway Passenger Depot on Desoto Street, ca. 1910.[67]

In 1888, the Florida Coastline Canal Company opened the New Haulover Canal on Merritt Island a mile north of the original canal, allowing light-draft steamboats to travel from Daytona to Titusville. However, the waterway was soon at a competitive disadvantage compared with the railroads. With the arrival of the railroad, settlement slowly shifted inland away from the river. Cattle, fruit, fish, and shellfish were soon shipped to northern markets on the train. The community of Allenhurst on Merritt Island dated to the 1870s, but truly developed with the completion of the New Haulover Canal in 1888. The Haulover post office was

[65] Henry Morrison Flagler Museum, "Florida East Coast Railway," (Palm Beach: Henry Morrison Flagler Museum, 2024), available online, https://flaglermuseum.us/history/florida-east-coast-railway; Knight 2016.
[66] Shofner 1995, 209-10.
[67] State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, *Titusville Depot, circa 1910*, available online, https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/7643; Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of Titusville, Florida, 1908, on file, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, available online, https://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00074235/00003.

moved to this new community, named for Captain John Allen. Near Allenhurst was the African American community of Clifton, which was founded in 1872 by Butler Campbell as a settlement for the formerly enslaved (**Figure 10**). Like LaGrange and Mims, Clifton retained close ties both familial and socially with the African American community in Titusville. North of this area, the groves of Douglas Dummett were purchased by George Schuyler after Dummett's death in 1873, and transferred in 1881 to Eicole Tamaja, who claimed to be the Duke of Castalucci. Merritt Island continued to be sparsely inhabited, primarily by farmers raising cattle and growing citrus, sugarcane, and pineapples. The island was popular with northern sportsmen, and, in 1890, the hunting club known as the Canaveral Club opened near what is now Launch Pad 39B.[68]

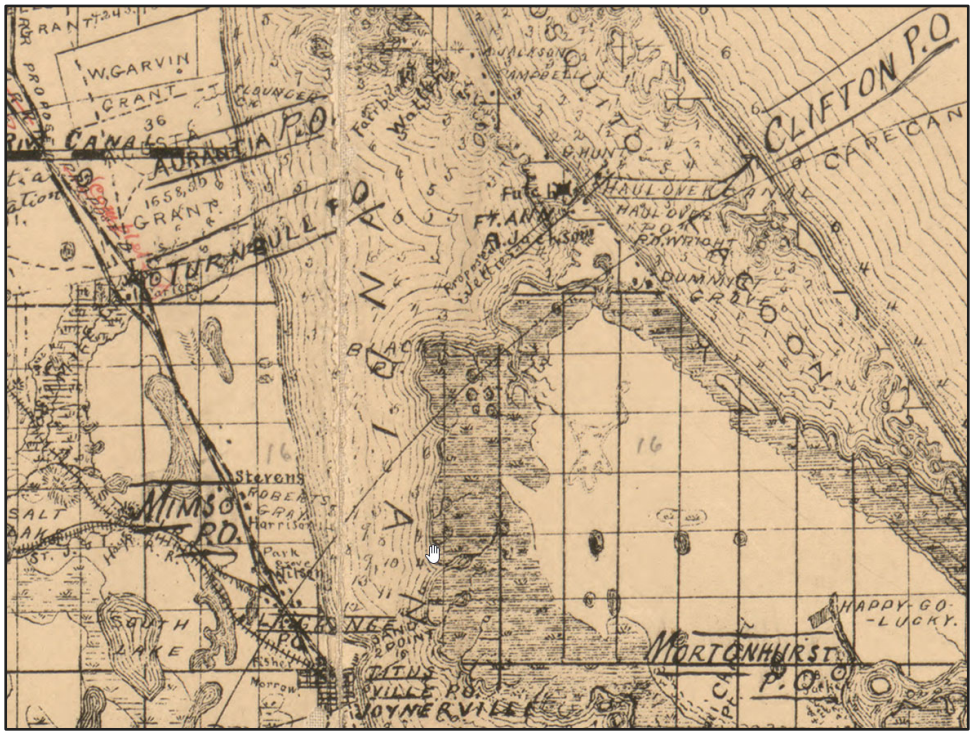

Figure 10. Excerpt of 1885 LeBaron Map of Brevard County, showing Joynerville, Titusville, LaGrange, Mims, and Clifton.[69]

[68] Griffin and Miller 1978; Dana Thompson, *Images of America: Oak Hill* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2009); Roz Foster, "Explore Your History: Lost Communities of North Merritt Island," 2012, Unpublished manuscript on file, Brevard Historical Commission, Cocoa, Florida; Thomas E. Penders, *A Cultural Resource Assessment Survey of the Clifton Schoolhouse, Brevard County, Florida*, Prepared by the Indian River Archaeological Society, Titusville, Florida, 2008; Stone, *Brevard County.*

[69] J. Francis Le Baron, *Map of Brevard County, Florida*, 1885, corrected to January 1, 1893, (Jacksonville: Forbes Lithograph Manufacturing Company), available online, https://www.loc.gov/item/2012589709/.

4.2.8 THE GREAT FREEZE AND FIRE

The citrus industry flourished until two severe freezes not only ruined fruit and vegetables, but also killed the citrus trees and plants throughout the state during the Great Freeze of 1894-95. In December 1894, the temperature in Titusville dropped to 18 degrees Fahrenheit, with it barely reaching above freezing the following 24 hours. Growers lost all of the fruit which had not been picked, but the trees were largely spared during the first freeze. A warming trend in early January led to early budding and blooming of the trees. Another freeze in February 1895 destroyed the trees. Even the groves along the warmer Indian River were impacted. Train cars and boats were left idle for lack of fruit and thousands who grew, harvested, packaged, and transported fruit were left without work. Many were forced to seek new jobs in different industries or diversify their crops. The Great Freeze destroyed 90 percent of the state's citrus industry, including the Dummitt Groves property. Prior to the freeze, groves in the state produced over five million boxes of citrus, which dropped to only 150,000 boxes in the year following the freeze. Without crops or money to replant, many farmers abandoned their land and left the state. However, growers in north Florida moved south into the Indian River area, and the industry slowly recovered over the following decade. One of the longest operating citrus businesses was started by Thomas Nevins, a former fire chief from New York, in 1898; the Nevins Fruit Company was later purchased by the Parrish family.[70]

A number of African Americans lost their jobs, but African American pioneer William Henry Maxwell, who lived on the northwest corner of Palmetto Street and Dummitt Avenue, helped revive the local citrus industry (**Figure 11** and **Figure 12**). Three or four of his trees from the first grove he purchased in 1894 survived the Great Freeze, and he used them to create budwood, which other growers used to start new groves.

Figure 11. William Henry Maxwell. Courtesy of Kirk Davis.

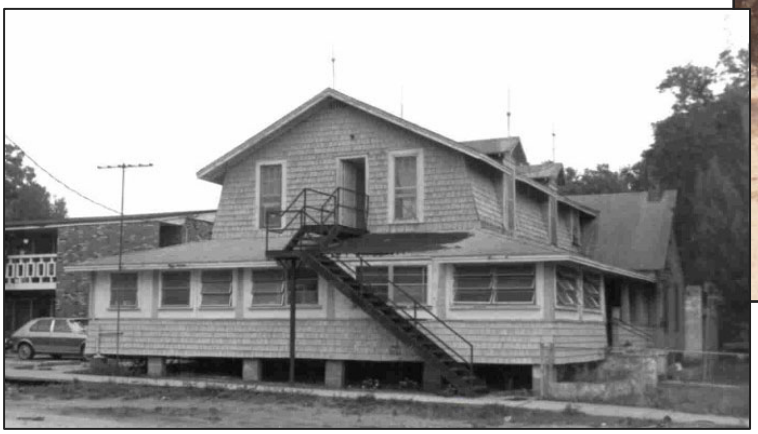

Figure 12. William Henry Maxwell's home was on the northwest corner of Palmetto Street and Dummitt Avenue until Maxwell's death in 1952. This is the house in 1987 prior to demolition.[71]

[70] Historic Property Associates, 13-15; Stephen Olausen, *Sebring: City on the Circle* (St. Augustine: Southern Heritage Press, 1993), 3-4.
[71] Historic Property Associates, Florida Master Site File Form, 8BR378, 1987.

He also grew other crops and provided fruits and vegetables to the editor of *The Florida Star*, who raved about the fine fruits and vegetables raised by Maxwell. He set a goal of expanding his grove by an acre a year and later opened a retail store for his citrus crop in 1910. By 1941, he owned 30 to 40 acres, and his continued experience owning his own and managing other groves as well as cultivating and selling citrus trees made him an expert in the field.[72]

Then, within a year of the February 1895 freeze, fire destroyed the central business district of Titusville on December 12, 1895. Concentrated along Washington Avenue between Broad and Julia streets, the building stock was primarily wood frame structures. A total of 42 buildings incorporating around 50 businesses and all of their stock was lost. Henry Titus' widow, Mary, lost four buildings, while T.W. Lund lost the Lund House Hotel as well as several other buildings. Brick was primarily used for rebuilding after the fire.[73] Economic growth consequently remained stagnant in Titusville while businesses and individuals rebuilt their lives following the Great Freeze and fire.

By 1900, the town's population totalled around 900 individuals with a new business district under construction (**Figure 13**). In 1900, the Progressive Culture Club, which was later the Titusville Woman's Club, formed and undertook efforts to build the first community library. This was followed by telephone service in 1905, and the first motion picture theater in 1908. Dr. J.C. Spell opened the first pharmacy, the Banner Drug Store, in 1907. A new courthouse, along with the Spell Building and the Duren Building, were completed in 1912. The advent of the automobile brought the most change to Titusville and the surrounding region during this period. Pressures to provide parking, vehicular access, and the regulation of traffic challenged cities and towns. The growth of the middle class and individual car ownership also brought more tourists looking to drive south instead of taking the train. To facilitate travel, the Dixie Highway, which stretched from Maine to Miami, was constructed in 1915 passing along the Indian River through Titusville. Settlement and economic development followed the road along with other new road networks drawing new construction away from the downtown core. Trucking also started to replace the railroads in transporting goods as well as people.[74] Education expanded during the new century with construction of a White elementary and high school completed in 1916.[75]

[72] Henry 1941; Find-a-Grave.com, "William Henry Maxwell," 2016.
[73] Historic Property Associates, 15; Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of Titusville, Florida, 1893, on file, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, available online, https://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00074235/00001; Stone, *Brevard County;* Shofner 1995, 210.
[74] Stone 1988.
[75] Historic Property Associates, 15-16.

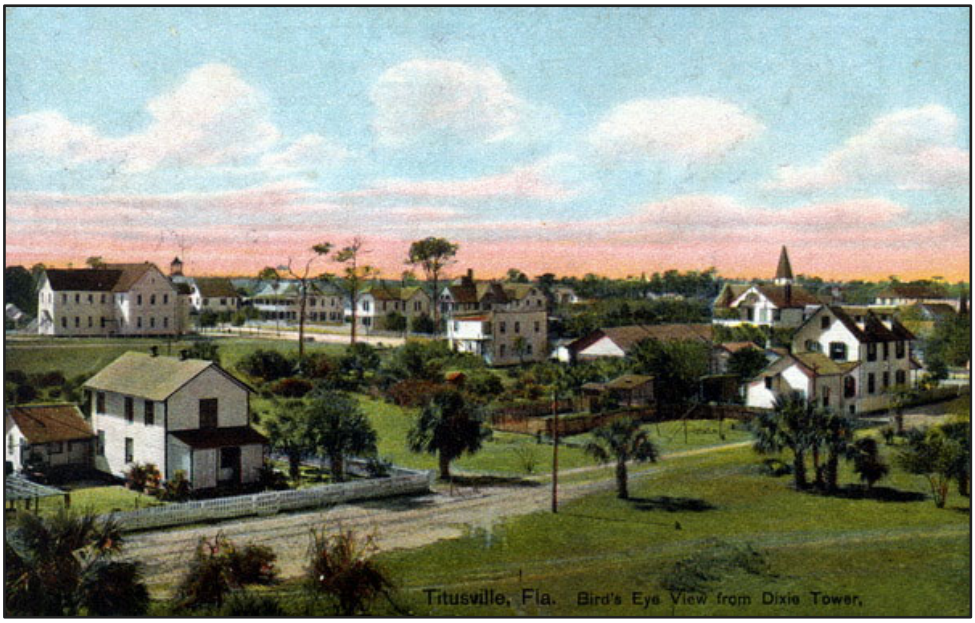

Figure 13. Bird's eye view of Titusville from the Dixie Tower, postmarked 1910. Formerly the Titus Hotel, Hotel Dixie announced it was open year-round starting in 1909.[76]

Largely through the efforts of Andrew Gibson, the old White high school was given to the African American population and moved to a new site on Wager Avenue in 1915 (**Figure 14**). The land was purchased through funds raised by Richard Melton, Victoria Gibson, and Professor Rochelle. However, not all of the building was moved, only four classrooms; the roof was also lowered, and the tower removed. It was frequently referred to as "the Old Barn" because of how drafty the structure was in the winter. During the winter, students gathered wood to use in the school potbellied stove to heat the structure. It was still a much larger school than the prior African American school. It had two classrooms upstairs and two downstairs which accommodated grades one through eight with the curriculum focused on reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and civics. The first student to graduate from eighth grade in 1915 was Roderick Harris Sr., the son of pioneer William Harris. Early teachers included Professors Lockett, Turner, and Rochelle, who taught carpentry to boys such as Harris Sr., who became a master carpenter and constructed many of the buildings in Titusville, including the Bethlehem Baptist Church.[77]

[76] State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, *Bird's Eye View from Dixie Tower - Titusville, Florida.* 1910 (circa) (Made in Germany and produced by Hugh C. Leighton Co. of Portland, Maine), available online, https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/162588; "Hotel Dixie Open All the Year," *The Florida Star*, 12 March 1909.

[77] As an adult, Harris lived at 706 Olive Avenue on the southwest corner of South Street and Olive Avenue, a portion of which was later renamed in his honor. Williams et al. 1985; Fisher and Fayson, 2019; Ancestry.com, *1950 United States Federal Census* [database online], (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2022).

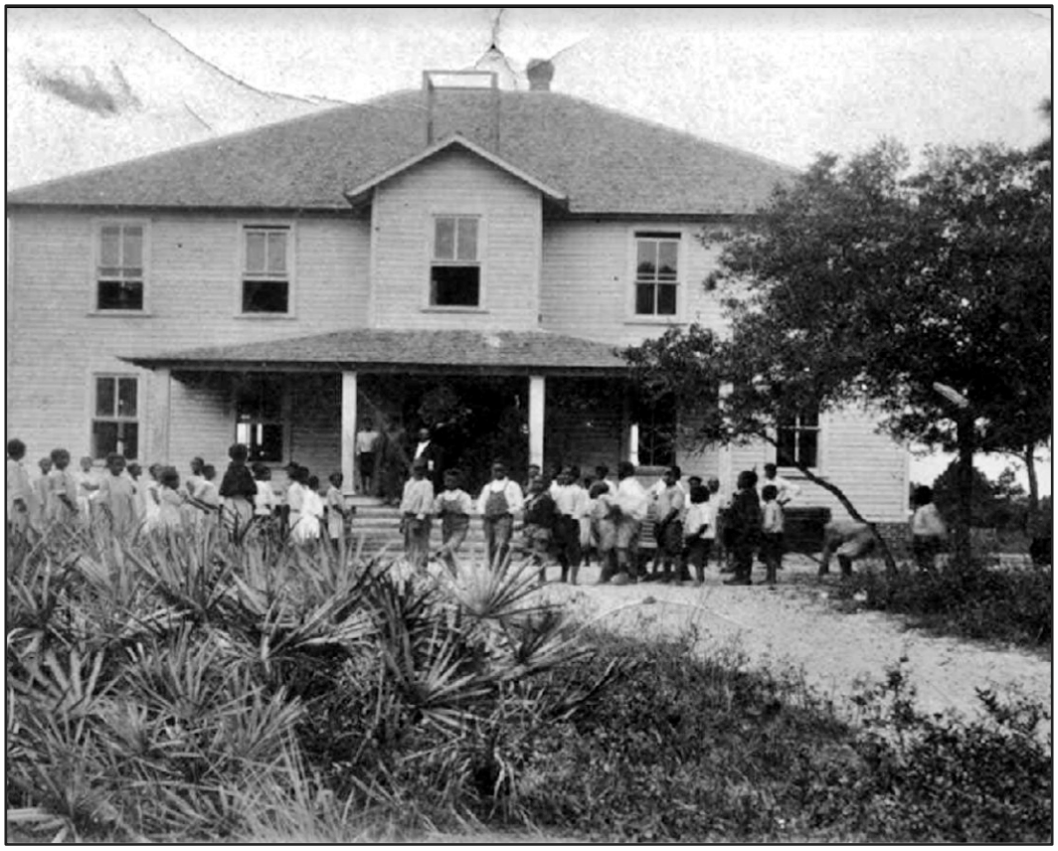

Figure 14. Titusville Negro School, after 1915. Courtesy of Kirk Davis.

Situated west of the mill quarters and DeLeon Avenue, the Oak Ridge Cemetery was surveyed as the Titusville Colored Cemetery in 1914 by engineer Herman Hicks, although the cemetery may have already been in use by the time of the survey. The oldest marked burial dates to 1916, however, many families continued to utilize the cemetery in LaGrange, originally called the Mims Colored Cemetery.[78] Several plats were filed in Titusville's African American neighborhood during the early twentieth century including Osban's Subdivision, Plat of Elmore's Land, a plat of the King Land Company's land, L.T. Allen's Subdivision, and Read & Allen Subdivision.[79] Surveyed by engineer C.H. Greenwood in 1913, Read & Allen encompassed the largest new block of land stretching from present-day Maxwell Street to Gilbert Street. Bernice West Fisher, the daughter of Arthur and Idella West who was born in 1918, also recalled the area south of Maxwell Street being known as the "mill quarters" because of all of the sawmill workers that lived there. There were several sawmills operating in the area during the pioneer era, including the Phoenix Mill, Titusville Lumber Company, the Indian River Lumber Company run by Robert Ranson, and another owned by John Einig,

[78] Brevard County Clerk of Circuit Court, 1915, PB 2, Pg 60; Find-a-Grave.com, "Oak Ridge Cemetery," available online, https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2246027/oak-ridge-cemetery, 2008; Find-a-Grave.com, "LaGrange-Mims Community Cemetery," available online, https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2460674/lagrange-mims-community-cemetery, 2012.
[79] Brevard County Clerk of Circuit Court, 1908, PB 1, Pg 24; 1913, PB 2, Pg 20; 1914, PB 2, Pg 21; 1914, PB 2, Pg 48; and 1915, PB 2, Pg 41.

the son of pioneer sawmill owner Bartholomew Einig who had died in 1881.[80] In 1908, *The Florida Star* even mentioned entertainment conducted for the African American workers at the Titusville Lumber Company. A piano that had been used to entertain guests at the Titus House, which became the Indian River Hotel, was given to "Bell & Ivans, who are conducting a refreshment stand and entertainment hall for colored people near the big mill of the Titusville Lumber Co."[81]

During the early 1900s, African Americans worked to buy their own property and improve their neighborhood. An article about local news in *The Florida Star* in 1901 noted that,

> A building boom has struck the colored settlement in Titusville, a large amount of lumber having been hauled for new buildings in that section this week. Mrs. Ella Wideman has built a new house, Mrs. Mary McBurney has a new residence, and Jack Nichols is the latest to erect a new building. W. H. Walstine is doing this work. He is a good carpenter. We are glad to note that the colored people of our town are prospering.[82]

The following week, *The Florida Star* provided this update to their prior report,

> Among the further improvements that are being made on property in Titusville by the colored people, in addition to the mention made on this line last week, Alex Forster has improved his building; Isaac Jones has improved his lot by buying a house and moving same on to it; Joe Green is going to put another addition to his house, and Nathan Webber will do the same. All this work will be done by W.H. Walstine.[83]

Periodic updates continued the following year with a new house built by Susie Hall and an addition to Mr. Mobley's house completed by W.H. Walstine.[84]

By 1915, Andrew and Miley Gibson had replaced their small residence with a two-story structure at the same location and built a commercial building housing a barber shop, a lunchroom, and a drug store serving soft drinks on their property (**Figure 15**). Early resident Bernice West Fisher recalled going there on Sundays to get ice cream. Situated on the south side of South Street between Dummett Avenue and the Florida East Coast railroad, both the Gibson house and commercial building faced the railroad, which was the primary means of transportation at the time. The International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) lodge with a grocery store on the first floor was located on the northeast corner of the railroad and South Street, while the AME church and Sunshine Boarding House were west of the railroad. Sarah Mobley also operated a boarding house at the corner of Dummett Avenue and Pine Street. A lunchroom was depicted on the 1915 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map in the block to the southeast of South Street and railroad tracks.[85] The 1910 census and oral histories indicate that railroad hands like Charles Boyd, Benjamin Taylor, Eugene Watson,

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[80] Fisher and Fayson 2019; Ancestry.com, *1880 United States Federal Census,* 2010; Artie Williams, "The Contributions Blacks Have Made in Titusville's Development," 28 September 1992, provided courtesy of Roz Foster; Shofner 1995, 122, 196.
[81] "Local Gossip and Personals," *The Florida Star*, 30 October 1908.
[82] "Latest News and Incidents," *The Florida Star*, 17 May 1901.
[83] "Current Local Laconics," *The Florida Star*, 24 May 1901.
[84] "Current Local Laconics," *The Florida Star*, 29 August 1902.
[85] A City Directory page from 1926-27 lists Andrew and Myle Gibson as living at 401 Desoto Avenue, while he worked as a barber at 407 Desoto Avenue, on file, Roz Foster; Sanborn Map Company 1915; Fisher and Fayson 2019.

and Timothy Coleman lived east of the railroad south of Union Street. In the same year, Henry Walstine, who lived on Palm Street and did the building improvements noted in the newspapers above in 1901, was listed as a house carpenter. William Gibson, the son of Edward Gibson, managed a pool room.[86]

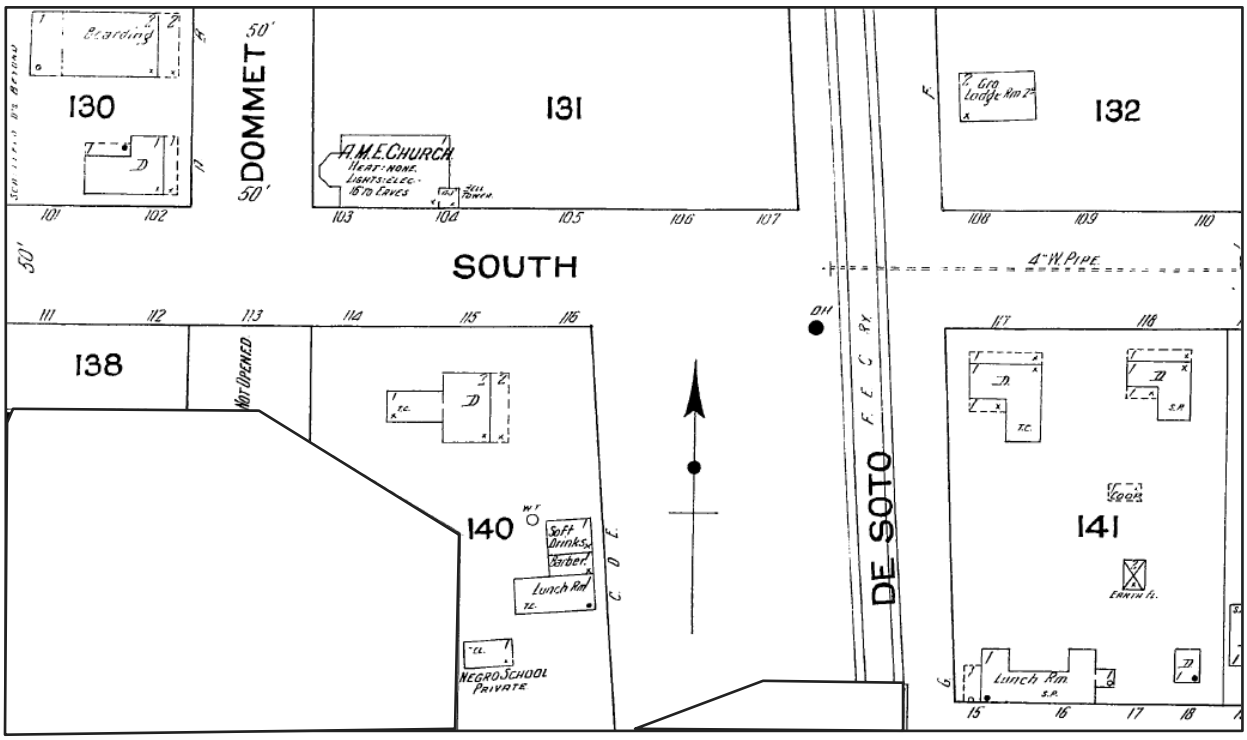

Figure 15. 1915 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Titusville.

By the early 1900s, William Gibson, and his wife, Kate, lived at 717 South Hopkins Avenue on the east side of the avenue south of South Street. Edward Gibson, William's father, had purchased a portion of the property from John Joyner in 1882, while Edward acquired the remainder in 1887 from African Americans Andrew and Lillie Ellenwood and Frank Moore.[87] William filed a plat for the subdivision of Lot 29 of Joynerville in 1904 and built several houses across the street and along Palm Avenue to serve as tenement houses for grove workers, farm hands, and railroad workers. Constructed of pine with clapboard siding, they exhibited the shotgun house form and were both single-family residences and duplexes.[88] After the

[86] Ancestry.com, *1910 United States Federal Census* [database online], (Lehi, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2006).
[87] Articles from the *Jacksonville Times Union* dating to 1909-12 were found inside the building during salvage efforts in 2006. A City Directory page from 1926-27 lists William and Kate Gibson as living at 717 S. Hopkins Avenue, on file, Roz Foster, "Bridge Street House," 1 April 2006, notes on file, provided by author; Brevard County Clerk of Court 1882, pgs. 96-98, Deed Book 1887, pgs. 187-89, 270-71, and 279-80, as listed in Roz Foster, "Titusville and Joynerville Properties Owned by the Gibson Family Members," no date, notes on file, provided by author.
[88] Indoor bathrooms and front porches were added by William's second wife, Sadye in the late 1920s. Three of these houses were relocated in 2006 to Chain of Lakes Park. Foster, "The Gibson Tenement Houses and the Gibson Family, Titusville, Florida," 2006; Debbie Roberts, "Historic Structures Get New Home," *North Brevard Beacon*, 16 March 2006; Foster, "Bridge Street House," 2006; Brevard County Clerk of Circuit Court, 1904, PB 1, Pg 130; Ancestry.com, *1910 United States Federal Census*, 2006.

death of Kate in 1926, William married Sadye Smith in 1927. She became a teacher and taught second grade at the Titusville Negro School in 1932, later teaching math in the late 1950s.[89]

Just southwest of the Andrew Gibson house on South Street, Arthur and Idella West lived in a home on the west side of Dummitt Avenue (where Campbell Park is now located). They moved to Titusville in 1913 and, their daughter, Bernice West Fisher, recalled how their house became a neighborhood gathering place. Evenings were spent with a bonfire in the yard for children to play around and mothers visiting on the front porch. Prayer meetings were held at their home, and church attendees would stay over between services. Newcomers to town who arrived by train or later by bus or automobile along United States Highway (US) 1 would come to the West house to seek information on the location of residents or businesses. Arthur and Idella West welcomed everyone.[90]

Midwife Mary "Mammy" Fayson delivered Bernice West Fisher at their home on Dummitt Avenue. Mammy Fayson and her husband, Milton, lived in the Mill Quarters to the south. Their son, Frank, was the first Fayson to come to Titusville at the behest of his father in 1912. Born into slavery in North Carolina, Milton Fayson went into business with his former enslaver's son after the Civil War, providing crews to harvest turpentine and build railroads. When Milton Fayson received the contract to provide railroad ties for the continuation of the Florida East Coast Railway, he sent his son to Florida to organize workers and materials. Frank Fayson soon brought his mother, Mary, and youngest sister, Ella, to town, where they initially stayed in Sarah Mobley's boarding house at Dummitt Avenue and Pine Street. Milton Fayson, who was also a minister for the AME church, soon followed. The Faysons continued to be involved with turpentine, and Ralph "Buddy" Wilson and Jonah Smith were part of their crew. They also knew the Mitchell family before both families came to the Indian River area; the Mitchells worked at Kelly's Turpentine Still in Mims and lived in a turpentine camp off of State Road (SR) 46.[91] Both small and large turpentine operations worked the pine tracts of Brevard County. Often a timber firm would buy the land, work the trees for turpentine for several years and then cut and sell the lumber that remained after the trees were weakened from the extraction of sap. Turpentine workers often lived in camps which followed the available pinelands, but several individuals involved in the industry resided in the African American neighborhood of Titusville.[92]

Churches were very active during this period. During the fall in the early 1900s, the AME Church held annual camp meetings in a huge tent erected at the Colored Camp Grounds attracting thousands of African Americans to Titusville for the revivals. Both Blacks and Whites attended. Held over a week, the trains offered special excursion rates to attendees.[93] In 1909, *The Florida Star* noted that an estimated 3,000

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[89] Foster, "The Gibson Tenement Houses and the Gibson Family, Titusville, Florida," 2006.
[90] Fisher and Fayson 2019; Find-a-Grave.com, "Arthur West," page created by Kirk A. Davis, available online, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/159024673/arthur-west, 2016; Find-a-Grave.com, "Bernice West Fisher," page created by Kirk A. Davis, available online, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/245284875/bernice_fisher, 2022.
[91] Fisher and Fayson 2019; Ralph "Buddy" Wilson, interview by Roz Foster, 9 December 1996, Brevard County Historical Commission, provided courtesy of author; Josephine Wooten-Arscott, "List of Businesses on South Street," 8 February 2017, provided by Roz Foster and Kirk Davis; Ancestry.com, *1940 United States Federal Census* [database online], (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012).
[92] Shofner 1995, 195-198.
[93] Roz Foster, "Deeds for Properties Located in the NRSA Area with Possible Relationship to the Old Colored Camp Grounds," no date, notes on file, provided by author; Roz Foster, "Notes for Titusville 150 Years (Black History)," no date, notes on file, provided by author; "Camp Meeting Over," *Florida Star*, 1 November 1907; "Greatest Camp

African Americans arrived on Sunday to attend the camp meeting of the AME church with 18 railroad cars from St. Augustine, 12 from Sanford, and almost a dozen from points to the south bringing the crowds.[94] The onset of World War I, the production and popularity of D.W. Griffith's "The Birth of a Nation," which had a run in Titusville at the Magnolia Theater in 1918, and the rise of the Ku Klux Klan all likely contributed to the demise of the Camp Meetings in Titusville as it became too dangerous for large groups of African Americans to gather.[95]

4.2.9 FLORIDA LAND BOOM

After World War I, propaganda advertising the state as a tropical paradise, mild winters, more leisure time, and an expanding road system led to widespread development during the Florida Land Boom of the 1920s. Titusville remained a shipping center for Indian River citrus supporting not only the growers and people picking the fruit, but also the companies and workers providing packing, processing, transporting, and fertilizing of the fruit and trees as well as those providing banking services and hardware. Commercial fishing, truck farming, and cattle ranching also played an important part in the regional economy. As the county seat, a number of businesses operated to support the county offices and judicial system in the town.[96]

Titusville, like the rest of Florida, enjoyed explosive growth during the 1920s with the construction of subdivisions to house the new residents, schools, and entertainment facilities. Two of the most prominent new structures in Titusville were the Van Croix Theater and the new Mediterranean Revival style high school built south of downtown. West of town, the Whispering Hills Golf Course and Country Club opened in 1925-26. By December 1924, estimates indicated that 20,000 people entered Florida every day. The state legislature adopted a constitutional amendment prohibiting a state income and inheritance tax, further encouraging retirees to the state. The growing middle class, many of whom now owned a car, utilized the expanding road system to vacation in Florida. Many camped out of their cars and developed early trailers to travel the state and stay in pop up camping sites which became known as Tin Can Tourist camps, likely referring to the campers' reliance on canned food. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps show that one of these camps was located on the southwest corner of South Street and Washington Avenue in 1920. The beaches in the region also opened to tourists with the construction of bridges across the Indian River. In 1921-1922, the first road and the wooden Walker Bridge were built to connect Titusville to Playalinda Beach on Merritt Island. It was a nickel toll for a person to cross, a horse and rider fifteen cents, and an automobile twenty cents. During Prohibition, which lasted from 1920 to 1933, the secluded coves of the shoreline and lagoons proved useful for smugglers running between Florida and the Bahamas.[97] Present-day SR 46 between

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Meeting at Titusville…" *Florida Star*, 2 October 1908; "Letter to the Editor," *Florida Star*, 22 October 1909; "Latest News and Incidents, *Florida Star*, 28 October 1910; "Doings of the Present Week," *Florida Star,* 11 November 1910; "Negro Camp Meeting," *East Coast Advocate*, 22 October 1915; Shofner 1995, 236.

[94] "Big Camp Meeting," *Florida Star*, 5 November 1909.

[95] Roz Foster, "Notes for Titusville 150 Years (Black History)," n.d.; "Birth of a Nation," *East Coast Advocate*, 1 March 1918.

[96] Historic Property Associates, 16; Robert Hudson interview by Nancy Yasecko, 24 August 1992, Brevard County Historical Commission, available online, https://www.brevardfl.gov/docs/default-source/historical-commission-docs/not-508-oral-history/hudson-robert-transcript.pdf?sfvrsn=c384b065_2.

[97] Thompson 2009.

Mims and Sanford and SR 50 to Orlando were completed in the early 1920s. The Dixie Highway was also paved in 1924.[98]

New businesses opened during this period, expanding the African American business district along South Street from Wager Avenue to Washington Avenue. The 1920 and 1926 (**Figure 16**) Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps show the increasing density of businesses and residences between Dummitt and Washington avenues. Businesses operating in 1920 included blacksmith George Denmark, who owned a shop on Hopkins Avenue, and Mr. Moore, who operated a barber shop in 1920. East of the IOOF Hall, Henry Maxwell built a grocery, which was later joined by another store built by Mr. Gardnell. On the south side of South Street, John Cunningham operated a bar, and Lillie Godboldte started a grocery, which children later recalled as a candy store and adults remembered as a liquor store. Between 1920 and 1926, a concrete block manufacturing company opened in the middle of the block northeast of the railroad and South Street. Several residents found new opportunities for employment there.[99]

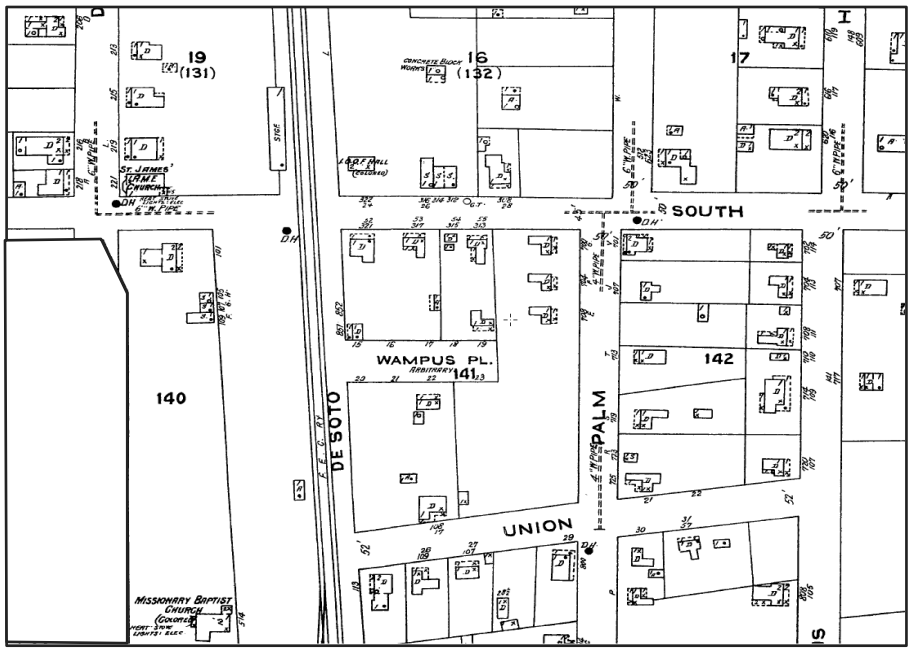

Figure 16. 1926 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Titusville.

A number of African American women started their own businesses or took on professional roles in addition to teaching during the 1920s. These included Ila Griffin, who came to Titusville in 1910 at the age of 32 and was working as an Afro Insurance Agent by 1930. She and her husband, Arthur, who was a fireman for the

[98] Historic Property Associates, 16; Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of Titusville, Florida, 1920, on file, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, available online, https://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00074235/00006; Thompson 2009; *Miami Herald,* "Road Contract May be Called Forfeited,"18 July 1924; "Whispering Hills Golf Course to Open Nov. 15," *Orlando Evening Star*, 3 November 1925; Hudson 1992.
[99] Fisher and Fayson 2019; Wilson 1996; Ancestry.com, *1920 United States Federal Census* [database online], (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010).

railroad, lived at 806 South Olive Avenue.[100] Susie Anderson was listed in the census as a minister at the Holiness Church in 1930. During the 1920s, Sarah Thompson opened a sandwich shop on South Street, Lily Godboldte operated her grocery store also on South Street, and Sarah Williams, who lived on Dummitt Avenue, ran a boarding house and took in wash. Rosa Lewis and Gladys Thompson were seamstresses and dressmakers, while Edith Wheeler was a midwife.[101]

Some owner/operators who had previously worked out of their homes or on a mobile basis opened storefronts to serve the neighborhood. Edward D. Davis, who started E.D. Davis & Co. Staple and Fancy Groceries in the 1910s (**Figure 17**), opened a brick-and-mortar store on the northeast corner of South Street and Wager Avenue in 1926. By 1930, Genie Hall operated a café on South Street. Others were managers, worked from home, or performed their jobs on site. William Walton, who lived on Dummitt Avenue, worked as a bookkeeper and agent for a life insurance company. Roderick Harris was a carpenter, while Mitchell Simpson and William Brown were brick masons. Charles Green, who lived on Union Street, was listed as a carpenter in the census records, but resident George Fayson remembered him as a blacksmith who could fix anything. James Zeigler managed a grocery, while Charles Eden operated a pool room and David Singleton was a clothes presser. One of the more interesting residents, Ben Taylor, came to Titusville early in the twentieth century working for the Florida East Coast Railway. After he retired, he opened a small grocery by 1930 at the corner of Bridge Street and Dummitt Avenue. Most memorable, however, was his 11-foot-long pet alligator, Joe, which he kept in a concrete pool in his yard adjacent to his store for over 30 years. Children liked to stop at Ben's Grocery to buy candy and look at big Joe after school.[102]

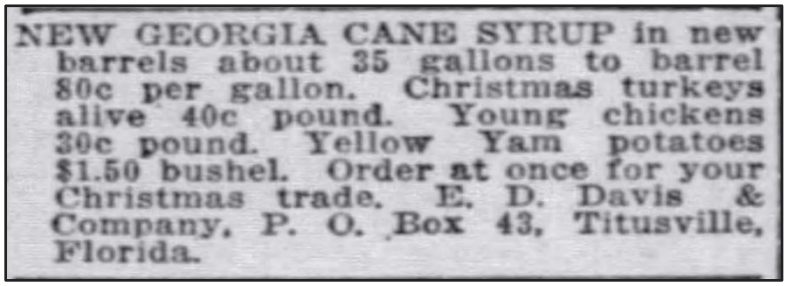
NEW GEORGIA CANE SYRUP in new barrels about 35 gallons to barrel 80c per gallon. Christmas turkeys alive 40c pound. Young chickens 30c pound. Yellow Yam potatoes $1.50 bushel. Order at once for your Christmas trade. E. D. Davis & Company, P. O. Box 43, Titusville, Florida.

Figure 17. Advertisement of E.D. Davis & Company, 1917.[103]

In 1926-27, the School Board of Brevard County decided to construct an additional classroom building on the campus of the Titusville Negro School. Anticipated to cost $15,000, the building was constructed of fire-resistant material and incorporated six classrooms. Built using Rosenwald funds, the Board hired E.E. Duckworth, a contractor out of Cocoa and Rockledge to build the structure.[104] In 1926, leaders of the

[100] Find-a-Grave.com, "Ila S. Griffin," page created by Kirk A. Davis, available online, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/160805251/ila-s.-griffin, 2016; Ancestry.com, *1930 United States Federal Census* [database online], (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2002); Ancestry.com, *1950 United States Federal Census*, 2022.
[101] Ancestry.com, *1930 United States Federal Census*, 2002.
[102] Ancestry.com, *1930 United States Federal Census*, 2002; Fisher and Fayson 2019; Roz Foster, "Unknown Fate Awaits 'Old Joe' Friend Ben Taylor is Dead," no date, provided by the author; "Unknown Fate Awaits Old Joe; Friend Ben Taylor is Dead," *Star Advocate*, 12 October 1967.
[103] "Classifieds: E.D. Davis Advertisement," *The Miami News*, 17 December 1917.
[104] "Titusville and Mims to Get New Colored School Buildings Soon," *The Evening Tribune* [Cocoa, Florida], 14 December 1926; "New School Board Members Take Over Their Duties Today, *The Evening Tribune* [Cocoa, Florida], 4 January 1927.

Titusville Negro School (**Figure 18**) requested that the school year be extended to a nine-month term for their students. The request was denied due to lack of funds, and the school term for African American children remained at four months. Ironically, the new Mediterranean Revival-style high school was completed for Whites the following year. In spite of these challenges, the Titusville Negro School expanded with quality teachers during the late 1920s including Professor Lockett, Carrie Gilbert, Mr. Turner, Victoria Gibson, and Ella Warren. Ninth grade was added in 1928, and J.W. Smith and Bernice McDowell were the first two graduates of the ninth grade. A girls' basketball team formed in 1929. Other early teachers included John Gilbert, Mae Simms, Naomi Wynn (Ford), Reverend Walter Wynn, Altamese Gilbert, Else Sloan (Tunsill), Wilhelmenia Gilbert, and Catherine Campbell (Bouie).[105]

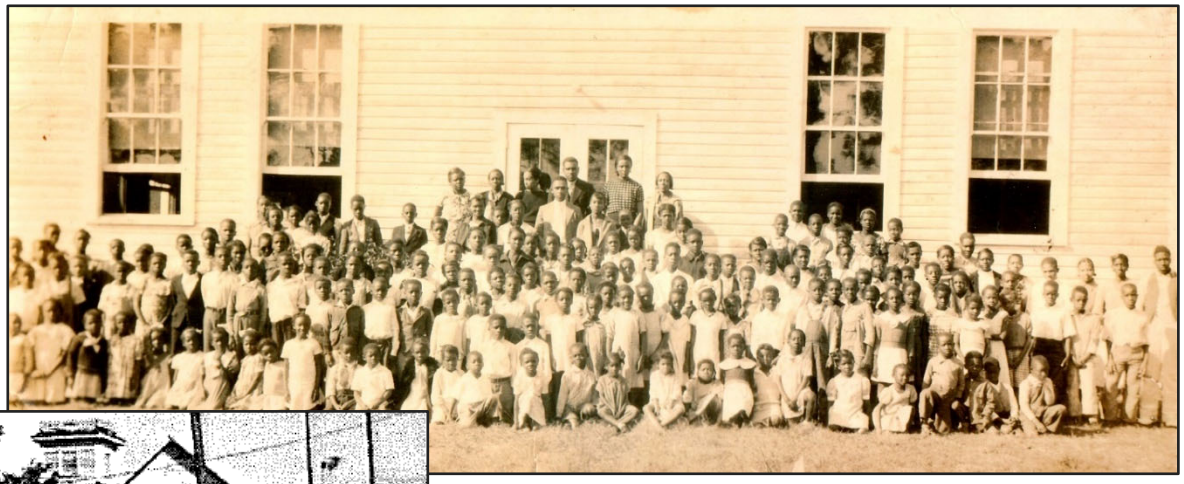

Figure 18. Titusville Negro School faculty and students, ca. 1936. Courtesy of Kirk Davis.

Churches expanded during the decade as well. St. James AME Church built a new structure or remodeled their 1907 sanctuary in 1927 (**Figure 19**) which served the congregation until replaced with the current church building in 1963.[106] Allen's Colored Methodist Episcopal Chapel, funded by Mayor W.F. Allen, was completed in Allen's Subdivision in 1924. The cornerstone was laid by the Indian River Lodge 5450 of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows.

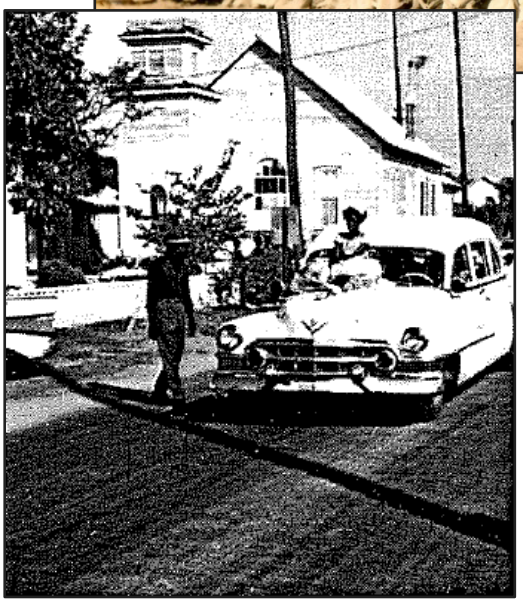

Figure 19. St. James AME Church, 1927 to 1963.[107]

[105] Williams et al. 1985.
[106] Williams et al. 1985.
[107] Williams et al. 1985.

Reverend M.L. Williams was the pastor, while G.F. Moore was the presiding elder.[108] The New Hope Primitive Baptist Church and the First Born Church of the Living God organized in 1926.[109] The IOOF Hall also appears to have housed meetings of the Knights of Pythias.[110]

4.2.10 THE GREAT DEPRESSION

A series of calamities during the late 1920s brought Florida to economic disaster before the stock market crash of October 1929 and the onset of the Great Depression. The Florida East Coast Railway placed an embargo on all but perishable goods due to the massive freight car congestion in the state's railroad yards in August 1925. After other railroads in the state followed, most construction halted. By the mid-1920s, the Florida real estate market was based on wild land speculation leaving banks unable to keep track of loans or property values. By October 1926, northern newspapers started reporting on fraudulent practices in the Florida market and confidence in real estate quickly diminished and investors could not sell lots. Major hurricanes then hit south Florida in 1926 and 1928. In 1927, the Mediterranean fruit fly devastated the state's citrus industry creating quarantines and inspections which further slowed the economy.

For Florida, the boom ended in 1926, and the state preceded the rest of the country into an economic depression that slowed the growth and development of Brevard County. Both of Titusville's banks, established in 1888 and 1912, failed forcing residents to travel to Cocoa for their banking needs.[111] In the 1920s, grove workers could make $2 a day or $12 to $15 per week, but pay dropped to $1 a day after the downturn of the economy and onset of depression.[112] In Mims, the African American community formed a Rations Club to help orange grove workers survive the summer of 1931 until they were needed in the groves again.[113] Grove workers like Frank Bell, who brought his family to Mims in 1921, survived by planning their own gardens and growing their own fruits and vegetables. He also raised hogs, killing one twice a year, for meat. His wife, Ethel, washed and ironed laundry. The couple also drove the school bus in later years.[114]

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[108] Roz Foster, "Deeds for Properties Located in the NRSA Area with Possible Relationship to the Old Colored Camp Grounds," n.d.
[109] Work Projects Administration (WPA), "New Hope Primitive Baptist Church," surveyed by William Bouterse, 13 February 1941, available online, www.floridamemory.com/items/sho/247175?id=1; WPA, "The First Born Church of the Living God," surveyed by William Bouterse, 21 January 1941, available online, www.floridamemory.com/items/sho/247147.
[110] Wilson,1996.
[111] Hudson 1992.
[112] Wilson 1996.
[113] Parry 2008, 53.
[114] Lucy Mae Seigler interview by Roz Foster, 11 December 2004, Brevard County Historical Commission, available online, https://www.brevardfl.gov/docs/default-source/historical-commission-docs/not-508-oral-history/seigler-lucy-mae-transcript.pdf?sfvrsn=a505a0be_2.

In 1931, the Titusville Negro School burned down, and the school term was completed in churches. A new, six room school was built during the summer to replace it (**Figure 20**). An auditorium and restrooms were added within a few years. Teachers during the decade included Sadye Gibson, Victoria Rogers, W.C. Wynn, Bernice McDowell, Wilhelmina Gilbert, Walter Wynn, and Naomi Wynn.

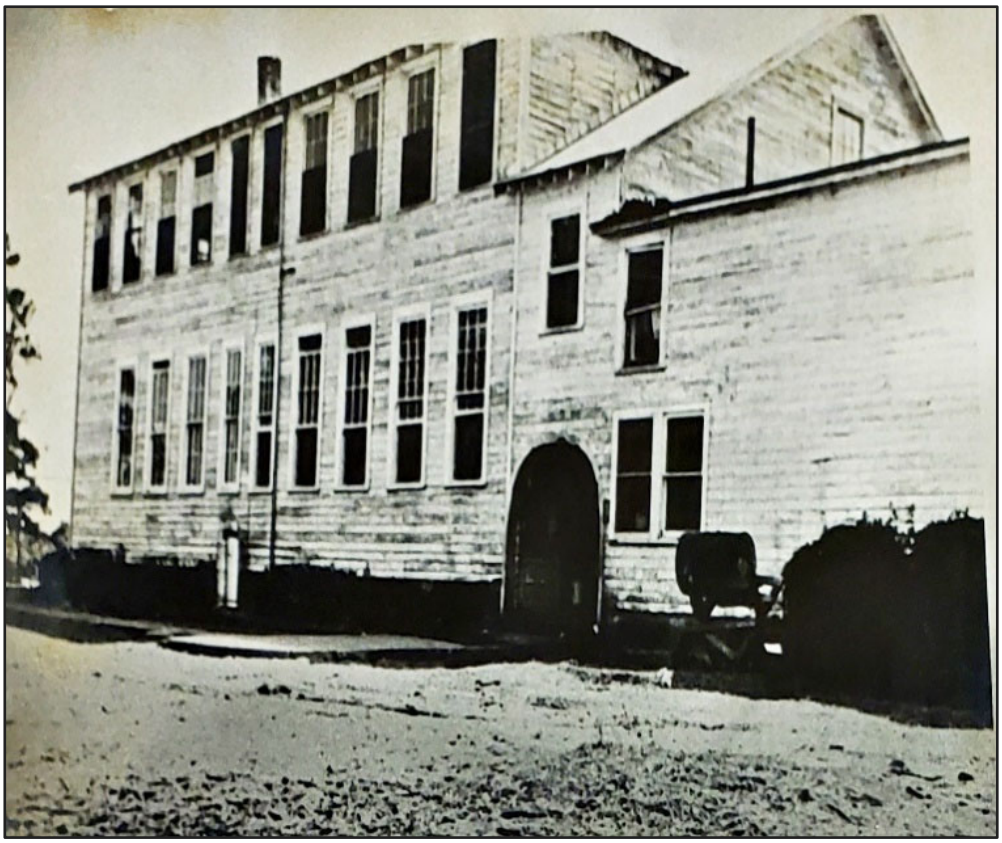

Figure 20. The Titusville Negro School rebuilt during the summer of 1931. Courtesy of Kirk Davis.

In 1936, the tenth grade was added to the Titusville Negro School, which was followed by the eleventh grade in 1937, and the twelfth grade in 1938. The first graduating class in 1938 consisted of Mary L. Warren and Dorena Thomas, who returned to teach at the school after attending college. Prior to the establishment of these grades, students had to go to boarding school or live with friends or family in a town which had an African American high school, requiring sacrifice from both the student and their families. Students from Mims and LaGrange were first bused to the Titusville school starting in 1936 under the principalship of Harry T. Moore (**Figure 21**).[115]

[115] Williams et al. 1985; "List of Teachers of the Schools in the County Made Public by School Board," *Evening Tribune* [Cocoa, Florida], 16 May 1935; Faye Johnson, Interview by Brandy Black, Stantec, 23 May 2024.

Figure 21. The faculty for the in 1936-37 school year included Walter Wynn, Bernice McDowell, Sadye Gibson, Naomi Wynn, Wilhelmenia Gilbert, Victoria Rogers, and Principal Harry T. Moore.[116]

In 1931, David and Annie Sims sold their daughter and son-in-law, Harry and Harriette Moore, an acre of land about a mile south of Mims to construct a home. Born in Houston, Florida, in 1905, Harry T. Moore moved in with his three educated aunts in Jacksonville in 1916 and graduated from high school in 1925. He became a teacher in elementary and junior high schools, while continuing his own education, eventually receiving a Normal Degree in 1936 and Bachelor of Science in 1951 from Bethune-Cookman College. He moved to Mims in 1925 after accepting a job teaching fourth grade in the African American school in Cocoa and was promoted to principal of the Titusville Negro School in 1927. He met and married Harriette Sims, who was hired by the Brevard County School Board in 1928 to teach first grade at Mims Elementary School. The couple had two daughters and, by the 1930s, both taught at the Titusville Negro School.[117]

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[116] Williams et al. 1985.
[117] Florida Frontiers, "The Legacy of Harry T. Moore," Florida Historical Society, available online, https://myfloridahistory.org/frontiers/article/48, 2014; Ben Brotemarkle, "Moore Legacy Remembered Every Christmas," *Florida Today*, 23 December 2014, available online, https://myfloridahistory.org/frontiers/article/48; Parry 2008, 54; "List of Teachers of the Schools in the County Made Public by School Board," *Evening Tribune* [Cocoa, Florida], 16 May 1935.

Teacher Victoria Gibson, the youngest daughter of Andrew and Miley Gibson, married barber Jake Rogers around 1922 and the couple lived with her parents in the two-story Gibson family home at South Street and Dummitt Avenue. Like her father, Andrew, who died in 1932, she continued a leadership role in education, working at the school when Harry T. Moore was principal and providing lodging for local, unmarried teachers. Her husband, Jake, operated a movie theater in conjunction with Jim Atkinson. Sadye Gibson, who had married Edward Gibson's son William, also served as a teacher during the 1930s.[118]

Located a block east of the school, Sylvan Lake was generally only a small pond or wet area when it rained. Depicted on the original 1879 Joynerville plat, Bernice West Fisher recalled it during her childhood as a little pond behind her parent's house with a ditch that extended behind Bethlehem Baptist Church that people would get stuck in when it rained. In 1927, the City of Titusville purchased 12 lots around Sylvan Lake to be used for fairgrounds and carnivals. Dr. George Fayson later remembered that John "J.W." Smith, Sam Edmondson, John B. King, and Ralph "Buddy" Wilson, all young men that came of age in the late 1920s and early 1930s, later assisted Isaac Campbell by using a modified Model T to fill the wet area with dirt to create a ballfield. At the time, people had to create their own recreation and they wanted a place to have competitive baseball games on Saturday.[119]

Many local residents continued to work in the citrus industry. Although the Mediterranean fruit fly invaded in 1929 causing some damage to area groves including those in Shiloh, Rockledge, and Indian River City,[120] citrus continued to be a mainstay of the region with 12,000 acres under cultivation and promotional materials touting the Indian River Citrus Section. One newspaper article provided the following description of the Mims-LaGrange area in 1937,

> Mims, a citrus growers' residential section, six miles north of Titusville, is a convenient starting point for the southbound motorist, because easily navigable laterals or side roads lead off from the Dixie Highway toward the east and by some of the finest low hammock groves in Florida…A trip down one of these lateral roads in the Mims-LaGrange section, will fetch one up at the Jay Jay packing plant, the largest plant in the county and one of the most modern in the State. The name Jay Jay of course refers to Senator J.J. Parrish of Titusville, directing genius of the Nevins Fruit Company, which handles more Brevard County citrus than any other concern.[121]

A 1940 article recorded that the Brevard Packing Company, Shiloh Fruit Packing Company, and the Nevins Fruit Company shipped approximately 16,800 boxes of citrus filling 43 railroad cars within the week.[122]

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[118] Ancestry.com, *Florida, U.S. Death Index, 1877-1998* [database online], (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2004); Ancestry.com, *1930 United States Federal Census,* 2002; Roz Foster, "The Gibson Tenement Houses and the Gibson Family, Titusville, Florida," 2006; "List of Teachers of the Schools in the County Made Public by School Board," *Evening Tribune* [Cocoa, Florida], 16 May 1935.
[119] Fisher and Fayson 2019; Marilyn Meyer, "Petition Seeks New Name for Sylvan Park," *Florida Today*, 13 January 1998; Marilyn Meyer, "Park Will Commemorate Man Who Encouraged Others to Excel," 9 February 1998; "The City of Titusville…" *The Cocoa Tribune,* 18 October 1927.
[120] *Pensacola News Journal,* "Fruit Fly Eats Way into Two More Districts," 3 May 1929.
[121] *Orlando Evening Star*, "How to Pay Visit to Indian River Citrus Section," 19 February 1937.
[122] *The Orlando Sentinel,* "16,800 Boxes Shipped from Indian River Citrus Belt Last Week," 24 November 1940.

Federal relief projects provided relief to the city's residents during the Depression. Although times were tight, the local economy was at least partially based on agriculture which provided food, if not an income, to local residents. Citrus, fishing, and winter vegetables flourished in the climate. Federal New Deal programs implemented by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his administration helped lead to economic recovery during the mid-1930s. Programs, such as the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Public Works Administration, the Civil Works Progress, and the Works Progress Administration (WPA; renamed Works Projects Administration in 1939), were instrumental in the construction of public facilities, parks, roads, and bridges. Federally funded improvements during the decade included the construction of the Titusville Marina, the installation of park benches around the city, and the conversion of the Van Croix Theater to a civic center and basketball court.[123]

The WPA also funded the Historical Records Survey of church records in Florida. The survey listed the records and current facilities of the African American churches in Titusville including Bethlehem Baptist Church, New Hope Primitive Baptist Church, St. James AME Church, and the First Born Church of the Living God. Bethlehem Baptist Church was still meeting in its original L-shaped, wood frame building constructed in 1889 (**Figure 22**), but it had been relocated 200 feet to the west and remodeled with additions built in 1935. Located one block west of Dummitt Avenue near the school, the New Hope Primitive Baptist Church organized and constructed a small, rectangular wood frame sanctuary in 1926. According to the record, the St. James AME Church organized and constructed a building in 1902, which was replaced with a new structure incorporating a cornerstone and bell in 1907. The structure was then remodeled in 1927. At the time of the survey, there were 137 members with a Sunday School, Allen Christian Endeavor League, and Woman's Missionary Society as active organizations of the church. The First Born Church of the Living God organized in 1926 with members initially meeting in private homes until the wood frame, rectangular sanctuary was completed on Dummitt Avenue late in 1926. They had an active Sunday School and Woman's Home Missionary Society.[124]

[123] Hudson 1992.
[124] WPA, *Guide to Supplementary Vital Statistics from Church Records in Florida*, Volume 1, Alachua-Gadsden Counties, 1942, (sponsored by the Florida State Library Board, the Bureau of Vital Statistics, and the Florida State Board of Health), available online, https://archive.org/details/guidetosupplemen01flor/page/n1/mode/2up; WPA, "New Hope Primitive Baptist Church," 1941; WPA, "The First Born Church of the Living God," 1941; WPA, "Bethlehem Baptist Church," [1941], available online, www.floridamemory.com/items/show/247122; WPA, "St. James A.M.E. Church," [1941], available online, www.floridamemory.com/items/show/247185.

Figure 22. Bethlehem Baptist Church, before the 1935 addition. It was demolished when a new sanctuary was completed in 1946. Courtesy of Kirk Davis.[125]

Although the Federal Writers' Program of the WPA did not result in "bricks and mortar" improvements, it provided work for writers and encouraged tourism by providing a guide to the state during the late 1930s. Writers traveled the state describing the communities and sites along their journey. Organized by route, the tour through Titusville traveled from Jacksonville to Miami along US 1. With a population of 2,089, Titusville was described as "one of many citrus shipping centers along the east coast. Large packing houses operate day and night throughout the season, and from December to April loaded trucks and trailers stream northward along the highway…Local industrial plants include 5 citrus packing houses, a barrel factory, and a crabmeat packing plant."[126] Some tourism resumed by the late 1930s into the early 1940s with roadside tourist attractions and motor courts appearing along major roads such as the former Dixie Highway, which was now designated as US 1. In fact, the WPA Guide noted that "almost every Florida town along US 1 is a winter resort."[127] In Titusville, motor courts like Clarence "Blinker" Draa's Cabins and gas stations started

[125] Bethlehem Baptist Church 1986.
[126] Federal Writers' Project, WPA, *Florida: A Guide to the Southernmost State,* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1939), 307.
[127] Federal Writers' Project, 297.

to fill the landscape along South Washington Avenue during the early 1940s.[128] By 1940, Titusville's population totaled 2,220 individuals.[129]

4.2.11 WORLD WAR II AND BEYOND

Although the bombing of Pearl Harbor shocked Titusville residents, the nation had been preparing for war with the reconfiguration of American factories to produce military materials and the reestablished the draft by the Selective Service Act in 1940. With the onset of World War II, the US Navy established the Banana River Naval Air Station, which acted as a base for patrol bombers that guarded nearby shipping lanes. The United Services Organization provided entertainment in Titusville for those in the service. A civilian plane-spotting operation worked from the top of the courthouse. Brevard and nearby Volusia County were also impacted by German U-boats that attacked merchant ships sailing along the coast. Blackouts were enforced, servicemen patrolled the beaches and monitored the bridges, and observation towers were built along the coastline for spotters. The Coast Guard built rescue stations on the beaches to help shipwrecked sailors.[130]

Titusville had a thriving boat-building industry, constructing ships for the military. The company Correct Craft, which is still in business, was one of the companies who built boats in Titusville during the war.[131] Correct Craft built their second plant in Titusville in 1942. Toward the end of the war, General Eisenhower contracted with Correct Craft to build approximately 400 boats in 30 days, more boats than the company had ever produced in that amount of time. The company developed a production process and succeeded in producing the boats, which the National Geographic dubbed, "A Miracle Production."[132]

World War II affected both the students and the staff at the Titusville Negro School. Some students and staff were drafted for the war effort while other staff were reorganized or brought in to take over for the drafted staff members. In spite of the challenges, development of the high school curriculum progressed with the addition of biology, agriculture, and literature. Athletics grew with competitions between regional schools held, and a choir formed. Many students from the 1940s returned to Titusville to serve their community. Rhodell Murray, valedictorian of the class of 1943, returned after serving in the Army to become the first Black Deputy Sherriff in Brevard County. Nancy Williams, Dorothy Strickland, Evelyn Williams, Jeanett Cuyler, and Frank Williams among others returned to teach, with Williams a later principal at Gibson High School. Charles G. Davis was leader of the Civic League and founder of the Progressive Action Society. In 1948, Juanita Grant and Dorothy Hester returned to graduate from the Titusville Negro School after dropping out to have children. By 1952, a total of 234 students attended the school.[133]

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[128] "Blinker Draa's Cabins, on US No. 1; Titusville, Florida, Circa 1940," Historic Photos of Titusville and North Brevard Florida, Collection of Bob Paty, 2007, available online, https://www.nbbd.com/godo/history/PatyHistoric/pages/BlinkerDraasCabins.htm.
[129] Historic Property Associates 18.
[130] Hudson 1992; Historic Property Associates, 17; Stone 1988.
[131] Hudson 1992.
[132] Correct Craft, "Our Story," 2024, available online, https://correctcraft.com/our-story/.
[133] Williams et al. 1985; Find-a-Grave.com, "Frank Elbert Williams," available online, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/142244377/frank_elbert-williams, 2024; Frank E. Williams, "Founder of Progressive Action Society Improved Our Town," for the *Titusville Star-Advocate*, no date, provided by Kirk Davis; "Cocoa Schools Lead in Enrollment," *The Cocoa Tribune*, 30 December 1952.

The 1940 federal census revealed that a number of African American owned businesses now operated in the neighborhood. In the block along South Street east of the railroad, Mrs. Godboldte's Store still operated on the south side of the road. In addition, other businesses included Annie Belle Dublin's sweet shop, Fannie Smith's café, Alberta Davis's restaurant, the Orange and Green Bar, Charlie Davis's Shoeshine Shop, and a juke joint, possibly owned by Geralan Jordan. On the north side, Bertha Murray was the proprietor of a café or grocery (later owned by her son Rodell; **Figure 23**). Portlock's Juke Joint owned by Emma Portlock, Wesley Welch's dry-cleaning business, and John Joe's barber shop were next door (**Figure 24**). At the east end of the block, Peaches Atkinson operated The Soulful Meal Restaurant.[134]

Figure 23. Two story building on South Street adjacent to the railroad tracks, ca. 1964. Housed a restaurant, which may have been Bertha Murray's store, pool hall, and rooming house. Courtesy of Kirk Davis.

[134] Ancestry.com, *1940 United States Federal Census,* 2012; Wooten-Arscott, 2017; Ancestry.com, *1950 United States Federal Census*, 2022.

Figure 24. Parade on South Street in front of Portlock's Juke Joint owned by Emma Portlock, Wesley Welch's dry-cleaning business, and John Joe's barber shop (left to right). Courtesy of Kirk Davis and Roz Foster.

To the west, Amy Avery was the keeper of the Sunshine Boarding House at 216 Dummitt Avenue. On the south side of South Street, Serena Mayo owned a café at Olive Avenue. George Fayson, who graduated in 1952, later recalled leaving school with his friends and going to her restaurant at lunchtime to buy hamburgers and sodas. Howell's Grocery (or possibly Howard's) was built between 1943 and 1951 immediately south along Olive Avenue within the boundaries of present-day Campbell Park. Carpenter Roderick Harris still lived on the southwest corner of Olive Avenue and South Street. Both blacksmith Charlie Green and grocer Ben Taylor continued to operate their businesses off of Union Street and Dummitt Avenues, respectively.[135]

Mamie Dublin, who lived next door to Charlie Green by 1950, was listed as a practical nurse, but local residents remembered her serving the neighborhood as a midwife after Mary Fayson passed away in 1942. Another early resident, Mamie Watson and her two daughters, Doretha and Ernestine, were all seamstresses. According to the 1940 census, the family lived at 500 Palmetto Street (now 702 Palmetto Street), where they had lived at least ten years. To the south, in the mill quarters, Sam Anderson, who lived on Booker Street, was listed as a grocery storekeeper, and Frank Jackson, who also lived on Booker, was

[135] Ancestry.com, *1940 United States Federal Census*, 2012; Fisher and Fayson 2019; Wooten-Arscott, 2017; United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), aerial, flown 28 March 1943, flight 4C, tile 30, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida Digital Collections, Available online, https://ufdc.ufl.edu/collections/aerials.

the proprietor of a beer garden. Susie Anderson, called “Mother Anderson,” opened a kindergarten in the mill quarters by going to the sawmill and buying the material and building it herself (**Figure 25**). George Fayson, who was born in 1933, attended her school where he recalled learning to read and write as well as about the Bible and how to live. Other businesses in the mill quarters area included Amos Bell’s store, the Blue River Store, Simms Grocery; the Cotton Club was a large building in front of Simms Grocery on 1st Avenue. Other professionals in the area included registered nurse Cora Williams, mail carrier A.B. Bell, carpenter Willie Lawson, and life insurance agent Clarence Wynn. South Street was paved only up to Dummitt Avenue, the rest of South Street to the west and the other roads in the neighborhood were surfaced with shell. The land west of DeLeon Avenue and south of Gilbert Street remained largely undeveloped (**Figure 26**).[136]

Figure 25. Mother Anderson's Kindergarten Class between 1952 and 1954. Courtesy of Kirk Davis.

[136] Ancestry.com, *1940 United States Federal Census,* 2012; Fisher and Fayson 2019; Wooten-Arscott 2017; USDA 1943.

Figure 26. 1943 aerial of African American neighborhood in Titusville.[137]

[137] USDA, 1943.

Harry T. Moore worked in the Brevard County School System until 1946. As a member of the Florida State Teacher's Association, he campaigned for equal pay for Black teachers and helped organize the Brevard County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1934, serving as its first President for five years. He helped increase the NAACP membership from five percent in 1934 to 31 percent by the mid-1940s. His activism prompted the school board to fire him and his wife. He served as President of the State Conferences of the NAACP from 1941 to 1946 and was then hired as the first full-time State Executive Secretary of the NAACP. Under his leadership the State Conference grew from nine branches to 77. He also organized the Progressive Voters League of Florida and led a successful effort to expand Black voter registration throughout the state. He worked for equal justice for African Americans and those who committed crimes against them. He was involved in the 1949 Groveland case in which four Black men were accused of raping a White woman which set off a mob of Klansmen who burned five Black homes and forced the African Americans in the area to flee their homes. One of the men died trying to escape, while another was killed during transport to the hearing. Moore helped raise funds for their defense and wrote letters of protest to officials. All of this work was in the segregated environment under Jim Crow laws with at least three Ku Klux Klan chapters actively operating in nearby Orange County.[138]

On Christmas night in 1951, a bomb exploded under the bed of educator and Civil Rights activist Harry T. Moore and his wife, Harriette (**Figure 27**). They had celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary that day. Reportedly, the blast was loud enough to be heard in Titusville. He died while enroute to the Sanford hospital, which was 32 miles distant but the closest that would treat African Americans, while his wife died nine days later in the hospital. Their daughter, Juanita Evangelina, arrived home December 27th after traveling via train from Washington, D.C., and learned the news from her uncle, who was home on leave from Korea.[139] The Moore's murder was never solved, although multiple investigations were opened over the years that identified four individuals who were Ku Klux Klan members. The bombing appeared to be in retaliation of the Moore's Civil Rights activities, making he and his wife two of the earliest martyrs of the contemporary Civil Rights movement. In spite of the bombing or perhaps because of it, Black voter registration continued to rise increasing from 40,000 in 1948 to 120,000 in 1954. Intimidated after the bombing, membership in the NAACP however declined in the state, only rebounding after the Supreme Court ruling on desegregation in 1954.[140]

[138] Eric Rogers, "Justice at Last: Brevard School Board Acknowledges Unjust Firing of Civil Rights Leaders," *Florida Today*, 23 February 2021; Florida Frontiers, 2014; Brotemarkle, 2014; Williams et al. 1985; "Harry T. Moore Elected State NAACP Head," *St. Petersburg Times*, 26 October 1941; "Bomb Kills Mims NAACP Leader; Victim's Wife Hurt Seriously," *Orlando Evening Star*, 26 December 1951.
[139] Florida Frontiers, 2014; Brotemarkle, 2014; Parry 2008, 59; Williams et al. 1985; "Bomb Kills Mims NAACP Leader; Victim's Wife Hurt Seriously," *Orlando Evening Star*, 26 December 1951.
[140] Florida Frontiers 2014; Brotemarkle 2014; Parry 2008 59-63; Johnson 2024.

BOMB SCENE — Negro leader Harry T. Moore was killed by a bomb which also caused this wreckage to his home at Mims, just north of Titusville. The debris is from the floor of the bedroom in which Moore and his wife slept. One whole section of the floor was completely knocked out, while the wooden ceiling was shattered.

Figure 27. The Moore Home after the bomb; photo from the *Orlando Evening Star* the day after the murder.[141]

Principals at the Titusville Negro School after Moore included T.W. Everett, Clarence Harris, Reverend Jones, Samuel Nixon, Eddie L. Thomas, and Daniel Delagall. T.W. Everette served as principal of the Titusville Negro High School during the 1939-40 school year, and was followed by Clarence W. Harris, who held the position until 1943. Under his leadership the curriculum was strengthened and both girls' and boys' basketball teams developed. Samuel C. Nixon Jr. started as Assistant Principal in 1941 before moving into the job as principal from 1943 to 1945, when he left to join the US Navy. Eddie Leon Thomas held the principal position from 1945 to 1955, after serving as teacher of agriculture and science and basketball coach from 1941 to 1945. The first classrooms of the Pine Hills Elementary School opened in the early 1950s, leaving the Wager Avenue campus to the higher-level grades. Students in the primary grades started at the Wager Avenue school, had lunch there, and had chapel there on Wednesdays. In 1957, the

[141] "Bomb Kills Mms NAACP Leader; Victim's Wife Hurt Seriously," *Orlando Evening Star*, 26 December 1951.

new school was renamed in honor of Andrew Gibson (**Figure 28**). Daniel Delagall was the last principal of the Titusville Negro School, which was renamed the Wager Street High School during his tenure. Under his administration from 1955 to 1957, the new Andrew J. Gibson High School opened. At the time, faculty included Sadye Gibson, Bernice Warren, Tobitha Pittman, Dorena Thomas, Arie Frazier, Nancy Elmore, Gerladine Tracy, Lucille Ingram, Dorothy Wise, Frank Williams, Isaac Campbell, and Andrew Carter.[142]

Figure 28. Gibson School, 1961. From the Gibsonian 1961 Yearbook. Courtesy of Kirk Davis.

In spite of the Supreme Court ruling on desegregation in 1954, the new Gibson High School opened in Titusville in 1957 as a school intended only for African Americans; the elementary grades, opened in the early 1950s as Pine Hills Elementary, were separated on the other side of campus from the secondary grades. Named in honor of Andrew J. Gibson, the red brick complex was still segregated, but the facility provided more features and opportunities than the prior school. It incorporated a library, gymnasium, home economics suite, science laboratories, a cafeteria, an industrial arts shop, and a music suite. Gibson High School integrated with the Titusville High School in 1967, while middle school students were sent to Parkway Junior High School. In its last year of operation, 1968, Gibson was converted to an elementary school. The former school on Wager Avenue was replaced by the Titusville Social Service Center in 1974; it was renamed in honor of Harry T. Moore in 1985 due to lobbying by the local NAACP. A temporary marker

[142] Williams et al. 1985; Wanda Griffin Knight, “Reflections,” Titusville Black Schools Reunion Celebration, 30 July 1993, 2-25.

was initially erected but was followed by a permanent state marker noting the history of the school (**Figure 29**).[143] The impact of the African American schools in Titusville on many students remains quite evident. In a document created to celebrate the reunion of the Titusville Negro School in 1985, 143 alumnae were listed with information about their occupation included for 93 of them. Almost 42 percent of those who provided their occupations were teachers, educators, or administrators in the school system.[144]

Figure 29. Temporary marker erected at the site of the former Titusville Negro School, 1985. Courtesy of Kirk Davis.

During this period, the City undertook improvements to Sylvan Park, which played an increasingly important role in the everyday lives of neighborhood residents. In 1960, Sylvan Park, referred to as a "Negro" park in newspapers, was graded and fencing installed which was funded by the City, the County Recreation Board and the Sylvan Park Negro Civic Association. In 1964, barber Rick Harris organized a Little League program complete with uniforms. In the 1965, a new baseball field with lighting was completed for use of both the Little League and adult softball play. At the time, it hosted six Little League teams, four men's softball teams, and two women's softball teams.[145]

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[143] Williams et al. 1985; Parry 2008, 64; Joan Heller, "Support Grows for Moore Memorial," *Florida Today* [Cocoa, Florida], 6 July 1985.
[144] Williams et al. 1985.
[145] *Orlando Sentinel*, "Negro Park Improved," 30 December 1960; *Cocoa Tribune*, "Donation Club Increases Gifts to Two Groups," 18 November 1964; *Orlando Sentinel*, "League Season Launched," 4 April 1965; *Orlando Sentinel*, "5 Ball Diamonds Completed," 14 May 1965; *Orlando Sentinel*, "Rick Harris Receives Rec Department Award," 24 September 1964.

The park has also been the location of Boy Scout meetings, voter registration drives, Easter egg hunts, kite flying contests, blood drives, and civil rights activities. After the death of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, a band of 300 community members met at Sylvan Park to march downtown north along Washington Avenue and then south along Hopkins Avenue to the steps of the new county courthouse where a short ceremony honoring King and his message was held.[146] The park was expanded to encompass the entire block in the 1970s. When Arthur West's house and property was acquired, he did not want to sell, and he made the Parks and Recreation Board promise to install a fountain. However, a park pavilion named in honor of Arthur West and his wife was later built. In 1998, Dr. George Fayson and local community members petitioned to have the park renamed in honor of Isaac Campbell. Campbell was born in 1923 and moved to Titusville as a child. He graduated from the Titusville Negro School in 1942, served in World War II, and returned to Titusville after getting his Master's Degree from Temple University. He initially taught night classes to World War II veterans before becoming the first professional coach and physical education teacher at the African American school. He organized the first interscholastic football team and introduced baseball at the Gibson High School in the early 1950s. He sought athletic scholarships for Black athletes, served as an inspiration to young Black men, and was a Civil Rights leader. Like many others, he left teaching in the late 1950s to work for Pan American Airways at Patrick Air Force Base but still remained active in the community counseling young men and working with athletic teams.[147]

After World War II, people were more mobile with exposure to places away from their homes. Florida's tropical climate drew many new residents to the state. Florida's population swelled from 1.8 million in 1940 to 2.7 million by 1950.[148] Constrained by the Great Depression and rationing during the war, Americans sought sunny locales to relax and retire. Returning servicemen now brought their families to the cities where they trained and were stationed during the war. Subdivisions platted in the 1920s were finally filled with new houses or replatted in new designs. Increased car ownership after the war allowed for more inexpensive vacations thereby improving tourism. At this point in history, the local economy relied on tourism, agriculture, and fishing, as it had for the past century. However, development was quickly gaining importance. Between 1950 and 1960, the population of Brevard County increased 370 percent with Titusville growing from 2,604 residents to 6,392 occupants, largely due to the development of Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and the creation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).[149]

The Banana River Naval Air Station closed in 1947 but reopened in 1948 as a missile testing center that was renamed Patrick Air Force Base in 1950. The federal government acquired 11,000 acres at Cape Canaveral for the creation of the Long Range Proving Ground; this became Cape Canaveral Air Force

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[146] Harry McNamara and Nick White, "A Hot Day for Marching…but Attitude was 'Cool,'" *Florida Today*, 8 April 1968.
[147] Fisher and Fayson 2019; Meyer, "Petition Seeks New Name for Sylvan Park," 1998; Williams et al. 1985; Ancestry.com, *U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947* [database online], (Lehi, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011); Find-a-Grave.com, "Isaac Campbell," page created by Jon Pomerleau, 2012 (Information from the program entitled "Titusville Black Schools Reunion Celebration, July 30-August 1, 1993"), available online, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/90152894/isaac-campbell; Meyer, "Park Will Commemorate Man Who Encouraged Others to Excel," 1998.
[148] Tebeau, 1971, 431
[149] Jerrell H. Shofner, *History of Brevard County, Volume 2*, (Stuart: Brevard County Historical Commission, 1996), 91, 117; "Census Up Like a Rocket," *Orlando Evening Star*, 10 June 1960.

Station, and in 1950, the first rocket launched from the cape.[150] The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) also started construction of a new deep-water harbor at Port Canaveral in 1950.[151]

The Air Force base continued to grow during the 1950s and 1960s adding both White and Black employees. NASA was created in 1958 to oversee the civilian space program launching communication, meteorological, and scientific satellites, while the Department of Defense continued its missile program.[152] Both programs initially shared space at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. However, changes in land ownership and management starting in the 1960s greatly affected land use and the landscape in and around the launch complex.

The NASA program gained prominence when President John F. Kennedy announced the goal to land a man on the moon by the end of the decade. With the increased employment necessary to achieve the mission, new residential and commercial construction flourished in Brevard County and Titusville. In September 1961, the US Congress authorized the purchase of approximately 80,000 acres on Merritt Island north and west of the launch pads at Cape Canaveral.[153] In 1962, this new facility owned by NASA was established as the Launch Operations Center. After the death of President Kennedy, the center was renamed in his honor and construction of launch facilities and administration buildings commenced throughout the early 1960s. The 1963 Authorization Act for NASA provided funding to expand and buy the land north of the Haulover Canal. There were approximately 17 communities scattered across north Merritt Island at the time with around 700 property owners and 14,800 acres to be impacted. Comprised of primarily farms and citrus groves, the acquisition included more than 12 square kilometers of citrus trees. About 200 residences were in the area as well as a number of commercial buildings. The towns of Shiloh, which incorporated a post office, store, filling station, and several houses, and Allenhurst, which consisted of a store, restaurant, several fish camps, and a few houses, were taken completely. November 1, 1963, was set as the date for completing the purchases. The USACE was charged with completing the real estate valuations and actual purchases of the property, which was then transferred to NASA.[154]

The missile program and the industries associated with it created new demands for housing and services in northern Brevard County. Numerous groves in the region fell to development of residential and commercial enterprises. Anticipating the need for construction workers, NASA officials worked with Brevard County to rezone areas for mobile home parks to provide inexpensive housing for workers and their families. Titusville benefitted economically from being the closest city to Kennedy Space Center (KSC), and the new NASA Causeway provided additional access to Merritt Island. New shopping centers, schools,

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[150] Shofner 1996; Stone, 1988.
[151] Shofner 1996, 96
[152] Shofner 1996, 115; Historic Property Associates 17.
[153] Charles D. Benson and William B. Faherty, *Gateway to the Moon: Building the Kennedy Space Center Launch Complex* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2001), 96-97.
[154] Benson and Faherty, 104-105; Dorrit Mason, "Nova Lease Feelings Hit Mixed Chord," *The Orlando Sentinel,* 18 January 1963; "Govt to Get More Land," *Orlando Sentinel,* 20 December 1962; Chris Butler, *Orlando Evening Star,* "300 Live in Area Govt Seeks," 14 June 1962; Norman Wolfe, *The Orlando Sentinel*, "Citrusmen Troubled by Nova Land Move in Volusia," 23 December 1962; Larry Miller, "Huge Land Buy Slated for Agency," *Miami Herald,* 20 December 1962; Roz Foster, "Explore Your History: Lost Communities of North Merritt Island (Part One)," *The Indian River Journal* Spring/Summer 2013:20-25.

civic buildings, and country clubs popped up in Titusville, as the population increased from 6,410 to over 30,000 between 1960 and 1970.[155]

Tourism also flourished with the construction of new motels and restaurants as thousands visited to watch launches.[156] Many were constructed along Washington and Hopkins Avenues as part of the national road network with the designation of SR 5 and US 1 (**Figure 30**). The Town Motel was initially built on the northeast corner of Hopkins Avenue and South Street in 1953 but was expanded in 1956 and again in 1963. When the Three Oaks Motel was built on the southeast corner of the same intersection in 1962, Sadye Gibson relocated her house to 713-15 Bridge Street.[157] During the later Apollo launches when humans went to the moon, tourists camped everywhere along the Indian River including the causeway and along the median between the two lanes of US 1.[158]

Figure 30. US 1, also known as SR 5, looking south towards the intersection with South Street in Titusville in 1956.[159]

[155] Benson and Faherty, 106; Miller 1962; Stone 1988, 69; Historic Property Associates 18.
[156] Shofner 1996, 112; Historic Property Associates 18.
[157] William Gibson had died in 1960. Their house was later demolished 2007. Roz Foster, "Bridge Street House," 2006.
[158] Hudson 1992.
[159] State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, *Road 5.* 1956 (Florida State Road Department), available online, https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/104160.

Frequented by African American residents during the Jim Crow era as the space program ramped up and the area prospered, the businesses along South Street were thriving by the early 1950s (**Figure 31**). By this time, an unofficial segregation line existed where Black children were told to not go north of Pine Street and White children were told to not go south of Pine Street. However, current residents recalled being allowed to shop at Cutter's Drugs, opened by pharmacist Dr. Robert Cutter at the intersection of Julia Street and Hopkins Avenue in 1946. The ability to visit Cutter's Drugs north of Pine Street was a memorable occasion for children.[160]

Figure 31. 1951 aerial of African American neighborhood in Titusville.[161]

[160] Ben Warren and Brenda Gray to Kimberly Hinder, personal communication, 29 April 2024; "'Doc' Cutter, Titusville Civic Leader, Dies," *The Orlando Sentinel*, 29 December 1982.
[161] USDA, aerial, flown 26 March 1951, flight 2H, tile 155, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida Digital Collections, Available online, https://ufdc.ufl.edu/collections/aerials.

Most of the same businesses open in 1940 in the African American community remained into the 1950s. However, grocery store owner Ben Taylor retired in the 1940s; his wife, Elizabeth Taylor, who had started her Liz Taylor's Beauty Salon in 1933, took over his storefront next to their house (**Figure 32**). Ben Taylor later died in 1967.[162] Nearby, beautician Lillian Wilson opened her own shop in her home at 1006 First Street where she lived with her husband Ralph. Just down the street from her house, a new meeting hall for the Indian River Masonic Lodge and the Order of the Eastern Star appears to have been built in the mid-1950s. Edward Daniel Davis, Jr. also established the Davis Memorial Cemetery in 1956.[163]

Figure 32. Ben Taylor's Grocery, later converted into Liz Taylor's Beauty Salon. This is the building in 1987 prior to demolition.[164]

[162] Foster, "Unknown Fate Awaits 'Old Joe' Friend Ben Taylor is Dead," n.d.
[163] Ancestry.com, *1950 United States Federal Census,* 2022; Find-a-Grave.com, "Davis Memorial Cemetery," available online, https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/1962706/davis-memorial-cemetery, 2003; USDA, 1951; Nationwide Environmental Title Research, LLC (NETR), aerial, 1958, available online, https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer.
[164] Historic Property Associates, Florida Master Site File Form, 8BR383, 1987.

Initially, new African American residents arriving to work at the space center and the new industries surrounding the buildup had few housing options. In 1953, the Titusville Housing Authority undertook an effort to construct public housing for both Whites and Blacks. Although the two initiatives were built at the same time, they were at separate locations in keeping with Jim Crow. The African American complex consisted of duplexes located in the block bounded by South and Palmetto streets on the south and north, and Brown and Robbins Avenues on the east and west. The complex was designed by architect A.W. White with assistance from engineer W. M. Bostwick, both of Daytona Beach, and Guy B. Scott, the public housing authority project engineer. It was built by Buster Nobles Construction Company of Tampa. This first effort consisted of only 14 units for African Americans, while 16 were built for Whites. While the units for Whites filled immediately, the African American units remained only half full a year later. It was named in honor of William Henry Maxwell, who had passed away in 1952.[165]

Two new areas south and southwest of the traditional African American neighborhood in Titusville were platted by private White developers in the 1950s and 1960. Many of the residents of the historic neighborhood were pushed out to these areas in an effort to "clean up" run down properties. The Lincoln Park Subdivision was filed in 1952 by Lincoln Park, Inc., which was led by President Newton Smith and Secretary Frank Craig (**Figure 33**). Subsequent plats in the vicinity included King's Court and King's Court Addition, filed in 1957-58 by owners Fred and Lois Hallauer and A.W. and Doris Boynton, and King's Court Heights, filed in 1962 by J.D. Spangler.[166] The growth of this section combined with the completion of Gibson High School in 1957 led to the development of Gibson Park immediately north of the new school. Owned by Ferris Properties which was led by E.E. Ferris as President and C.W. Danenburg as Secretary, the first plat was filed in 1959 followed by additional sections in 1960 and 1970. The Bon Air Subdivision, which was in the same area, was filed by owner Sulphur Investments Company in 1963 with an addition filed the same year. Henry Huffman and C.C. Tomlin, Jr. were President and Secretary of the company, respectively.[167]

Figure 33. Advertisement for the sale of lots in the Lincoln Park Subdivision, August 3, 1962.[168]

[165] "Titusville Housing to be Shown Today," *The Miami Herald*, 22 January 1954; "Negro Units Open in Homes Project," *The Orlando Sentinel*, 11 May 1954; "White Housing Full, Negro 'Begging,'" *The Orlando Sentinel*, 31 July 1954; "Deaths: Mr. Henry Maxwell," *The Orlando Sentinel,* 1 December 1952.
[166] Brevard County Clerk of Circuit Court, 1952, PB 10, Pg 68; 1957, PB 12, Pg 50; 1958, PB 12, Pg 136, and 1962, PB 17, Pg 69.
[167] Brevard County Clerk of Circuit Court, 1959, PB 13, Pg 61; 1960, PB 14, Pgs 9, 53; 1963, PB 17, Pg 142; 1963, PB 18, Pg 71; and 1970, PB 23, Pg 37.
[168] "Lincoln Park," Advertisement, *Evening Tribune* [Cocoa, Florida,] 3 August 1962.

New offices for the Titusville Housing Authority opened in the neighborhood at 1108 South Street in 1963. Simultaneously, the group opened 36 new housing units for African Americans along 3rd and 4th Streets in the mill quarters area (**Figure 34**). Each of the units included a refrigerator, stove, and heater with utilities included in the rent. The following year, the Titusville Housing Authority undertook the construction of an additional 50 units along 3rd and 4th Streets.[169] In 1966, additional housing units were built on the east side of Brown Avenue near the original units constructed in 1953.[170] However, housing for young and professional African Americans moving to the area remained an issue. William Gary recalled moving to Titusville in 1968 and having trouble finding a place to live while living in Joynerville as a co-op student working for NASA. He remembered the old Gibson Apartments at the northwest corner of DeLeon Avenue and Queen Street as one of the few places that would rent an apartment to him when he moved to Titusville.[171] In the late 1950s and early 1960s, both the Indian River City area to the south and Whispering Hills area to the west joined Titusville raising the population from around 6,000 to 20,000. With the buildup, Titusville worked to attract families to the area. In spite of many challenges, the NAACP, the Concerned Citizens Group, and the Progressive Action Society actively sought to improve the living conditions in the African American community in the 1960s and 1970s. By 1966, the Black population of Titusville totaled 2,774 residents.[172]

Figure 34. Public housing constructed in 1963-1964 on 4th Avenue South.

[169] "Authority Opening Date Set," *The Orlando Sentinel*," 22 January 1963; "THA Has New Housing Project," *Orlando Evening Star*, 13 February 1964.
[170] "Low Housing Bid Revealed," *The Orlando Sentinel*, 31 August 1966.
[171] William Gary, Interview by Brandy Black, Stantec, 16 May 2024.
[172] Hudson 1992; Jack Fay, "New Census Shows Titusville as Young City of 28,000," *The Orlando Sentinel*, 5 October 1966.

In addition to new housing, new commercial buildings, churches, and businesses opened or constructed new facilities in the 1960s. In 1963, owner Collins Williams built a Petro Gas station on the southwest corner of South Street and DeLeon Avenue and leased it to Thomas "Dime" Wilson. Across the street, on the southeast corner of the same intersection, the two-story building housing Willie's Grocery was built.[173] Dr. Lorenzo Laws came to Titusville in 1963, opened his Family Dentistry practice, and constructed an office at 720 Olive Avenue in 1964.[174] Behind his office, the Stone Funeral Home, started in Cocoa by Richard Stone in 1923, built a branch to serve the Titusville community in the 1960s.[175] Bethlehem Baptist Church replaced their 1946 sanctuary (**Figure 35**), which incorporated indoor bathrooms and a baptismal pool, with a new one completed in 1963 built by Roderick Harris and Thomas Johnson. It included central heat and air-conditioning as well as a kitchen and dining room. Similarly, St. James AME Church built their new sanctuary in 1963.[176] An officer at St. James AME Church, Joe Lewis Lawson Sr., constructed the new facility through his business, the Lawson Construction Company which he founded in 1957.[177] He built a new office for his company along Queen Street in 1973. The growth of the Lincoln Park and Gibson Park neighborhoods led Sammie Lincoln to open the Lincoln Barber Shop on the southwest corner of DeLeon Avenue and Queen Street in 1968 following the opening of the adjacent Lincoln Park Grocery in 1965.[178]

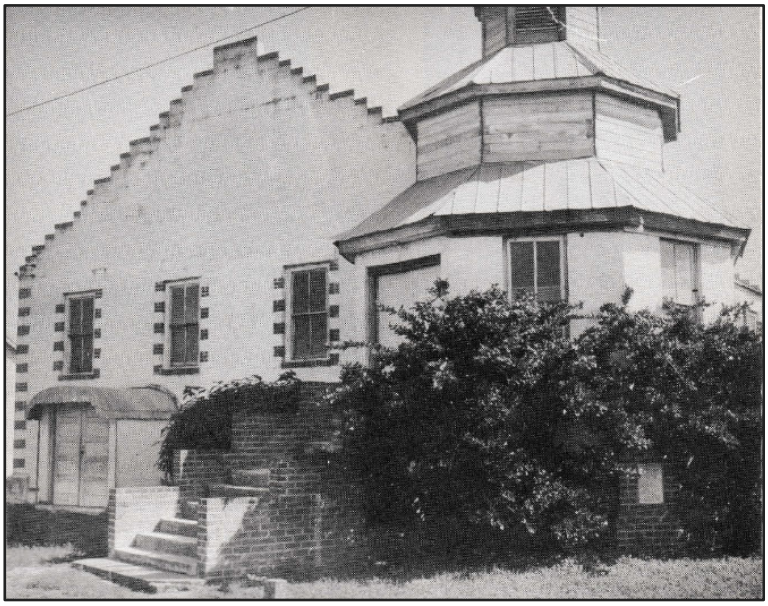


Figure 35. Bethlehem Baptist Church, Sanctuary built 1946, demolished in 1964.[179]

[173] Brevard County Property Appraiser, online property card system, https://www.bcpao.us/, 2024; Wooten-Arscott, 2017; Kirk Davis, "Local Black Businesses, Early 1940's to Late 1960's," February 2023, provided by author; "Titusville," *Florida Today*, 31 May 1989; "Card of Thanks," *Florida Today*, 4 August 1994.
[174] "Obituaries: Lorenzo Laws," *Florida Today*, 9 February 1999.
[175] Sally Gelston, "Black Family Traces Role in Rights Struggle," *Orlando Sentinel*, 21 November 1981.
[176] Williams et al. 1985; Doug Baird, "Two are Honored With Dedication of Church Tower," *Titusville Star-Advocate*, 15 December 1982.
[177] Karen Griffin, Interview by Brandy Black, Stantec, 14 August 2024.
[178] Griffin, 2024; Sammie Lincoln to Brandy Black, personal communication, 5 August 2024.
[179] Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1986.

In the early 1960s, Brevard County Commissioners determined that the county offices had outgrown their existing complex of buildings, and a new courthouse was needed. Although some residents campaigned for relocating the county seat, the land immediately south of the county jail on the north side of South Street was determined to be the best location for a new structure. Land was acquired for the new courthouse annex, now referred to as the Brevard County Government Complex North, at a cost of $115,000 in 1964, and the buildings on the site were demolished in May 1965. The construction permit was issued in September 1966 at the same time as the County Commission voted to acquire the land in the block on the south side of South Street for a parking lot to serve the new courthouse. Only one owner of the 11 on the block opted not to sell, and those five parcels were acquired by condemnation. At the time, it was noted that the Orange & Green Bar, owned by White businessmen US Magistrate Tom Henderson, Attorney Joe A. Matheny, and Druggist Robert A. Cutter, was on the block along with some residences. Later articles acknowledge that there were some shops catering to the Black neighborhood there. The parking lot block was acquired for a total of $275,000 leading to later conflict of interest and bribery accusations and investigation by a grand jury. Most of the buildings were demolished in 1967 (**Figure 36**). The new County Courthouse annex opened in February 1968.[180]

EYESORE DISAPPEARS — Crews are shown above demolishing the partially torn down buildings along South Street, making way for Brevard's seven story courthouse annex. County Commissioner Ed Kittles ordered the demolition of the buildings after vandals and "lumber thiefs" began stripping the abandoned buildings for lumber. The area lies between Palm Ave. and the FEC railroad. — S-A Photo by Bill Jackson.

Figure 36. Demolition of structures on the south side of South Street between Palm Avenue and the Florida East Coast Railway, Titusville *Star Advocate*, 1967.[181]

[180] Rex Newman, "Legal Question Halts Property Negotiations," *The Orlando Sentinel*, 23 September 1964; Jim Smith, "New Industries Move into Titusville," *Orlando Evening Star*, 26 May 1965; "Artist's Conception on New Titusville Courthouse," *The Orlando Sentinel*, 27 March 1966; "Groundbreaking Set for New Courthouse," *Orlando Evening Star*, 6 September 1966; "Commission Acquires Parking Site Land," *The Orlando Sentinel*, 9 September 1966; "Permit Issued on Construction of Courthouse," *The Orlando Sentinel*, 14 September 1966; Wingate Main, "Probe Launched on Parking Lot," *The Miami Herald*, 4 October 1967; Wingate Main, "Property Deal Leads to Arrest of Kittles," *The Miami Herald*, 13 October 1967; "'New Courthouse Out of Space," *Florida Today*, 28 February 1968; Larry Twiehaus, "Laws Resigns from Drug Commission," *Florida Today*, 27 January 1971.

[181] City of Titusville, "723 South Palm Avenue, Historic Designation Report, HPB-1-2019," 23 July 2019, 20. Newspaper article included in report courtesy of Margaret Vessels, Docent, North Brevard Historical Museum.

By December 1966, the Orange & Green Bar announced plans to build a new $60,000 structure on DeLeon Avenue where the Paradise Inn was located. The new location at 1660 DeLeon Avenue was open by May 1967. The Duck Foot Juke Joint owned by Mr. Henry was just south of the new location of the Orange & Green Bar, while the Gray Coach Inn was across the intersection on the northwest corner of DeLeon and Whispering Hills Road. By October, the former concrete block building occupied by the Orange & Green Bar on South Street was used by the Florida Highway Patrol for drivers' license exams. Clarence Horne had moved his house to Dummitt Avenue. Some of the other businesses that were on the site of the new courthouse and parking lot also relocated, but many simply closed. John Joe relocated his shop to his home at 818 Dummitt Avenue; at the time, Liz Taylor still operated her beauty salon across Bridge Street, and Sadye Gibson, who had relocated her home from Hopkins Avenue in 1962, lived just west of the beauty salon at 713-15 Bridge Street. The Orange & Green Bar remained in operation for a few years but was closed down by officials in January 1971 for unsanitary conditions and purchasing of liquor by a minor. In a peaceful civil rights march during the same month, protesters followed a path they had taken in July 1969, walking from St. James AME Church to Kennedy Space Center. However, later in the year, the arrest of three teenagers touched off two days of disturbance in July centering around the intersection of DeLeon Avenue and South Street resulting in $3,500 in property damage and eight injuries. Protests again erupted later in the year when the Titusville Police arrested a Black man for armed robbery and mistreated him; witnesses verified he was elsewhere at the time of the robbery, and he was later found innocent.[182]

Economic decline marked decade of the 1970s. Land was taken for the widening of South Street in 1973-75, and the streets in the neighborhood were finally paved. In 1972, the Bayview Elementary School, which was built as the White Titusville School in 1916, was torn down and replaced with a new Titusville City Hall, while the 1920s era Titusville High School was also demolished and replaced with a new structure on the same site. When the Apollo program ended in 1972, there were widespread layoffs and high unemployment. An economic recession combined with the loss of high-paying jobs, stopped development projects and led to a surplus of empty office space. The 1973 Skylab missions that launched from KSC did not have a large effect on the local economy. During cutbacks to the space program in the mid-1970s, residents could not afford to pay their mortgages so financial institutions reclaimed a number of houses throughout the county. At one point as many as 600 to 700 homes were available. By advertising them for reduced rates, especially to people in South Florida, an influx of people from that area arrived. After the cutback of the early to mid-1970s, Titusville and other communities along the space coast attempted to diversify to be less dependent on the space program.[183]

The limited expansion of the space program in the early 1970s did allow for some preservation of natural areas along Merritt Island. As early as 1954, the National Park Service identified 24 miles of undeveloped coastline north of Cape Canaveral as a potential national seashore, but it was not until January 3, 1975, that Congress formally authorized Canaveral National Seashore.[184] The region started to rebound during

[182] "Building Planned at Titusville," *Orlando Evening Star*, 14 December 1966; "Colonial Lounge Advertisement," *The Orlando Sentinel*, 17 May 1967; Gary, 2024; Cecil Foister, "Clean Up Bar or Close It, Blacks Demand," *Florida Today*, 10 January 1971; Twiehaus, 1971; "Marchers Arrive in Titusville," *Florida Today* [Cocoa, Florida,] 31 January 1971; "Civil Rights Chronology," *Florida Today*, 1 July 1984; Joan Heller, "Accepted, Not Just Tolerated," *Florida Today*, 1 July 1984.
[183] Stone, 1988*;* Hudson 1992.
[184] Parker 2008.

the late 1970s into the 1980s. The Space Shuttle Program was announced in 1972, with the first launch occurring in 1981. Shuttle launches were from Launch Complexes 39A and 39B, and a 3-mile-long landing strip was built on Merritt Island.[185] On average, there were approximately five Shuttle launches per year, with some gaps following two major accidents (Challenger in 1986 and Columbia in 2003). The last Shuttle launch was in 2011.[186] The Shuttle-related economic boom affected North Brevard more than previous programs had, with more people settling in Titusville in the 1970s and 1980s.[187]

[185] Sunny Tsiao, *"Read You Loud and Clear": The Story of NASA's Spaceflight Tracking and Data Network*, NASA History Division, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2008).
[186] David Price, *Architectural Survey and Evaluation of 45 Facilities That Have Reached the Age of 45-50 Years, John F. Kennedy Space Center, Brevard County, Florida*, prepared for InoMedic Health Applications, John F. Kennedy Space Center, Florida, (Stone Mountain: New South Associates, Georgia, 2013), Ms. No. 20744, on file, Florida Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee.
[187] Stone, 1988.

5 Oral Interviews

5.1 Introduction

Oral history is a method used in fields such as anthropology, sociology, and history to collect information about past events, people, and places. By engaging community members in the process of recounting and preserving their experiences, oral history projects supplement the written record and play a crucial role in preservation efforts. It can be a valuable tool in preserving buildings and landscapes by capturing memories, experiences, and cultural significance associated with physical spaces. These stories can be used in interpretive materials and educational programing fostering a sense of place and connection for visitors and residents. Oral history projects provide future generations access to a multifaceted understanding of the past, contributing to a more inclusive and nuanced approach to historical preservation and interpretation.[188]

5.2 Methodology

The oral history interviews gathered insights from stakeholders and community members to better understand local history and community life. This effort had three primary objectives. First, it sought to collect data that would guide the development of the historic context and resource mapping, helping to reconstruct both physical structures and their social-historical significance. Second, the project aimed to gather oral testimonies from individuals invested in preserving community history. These accounts informed recommendations for future preservation initiatives, interpretive materials, and educational programming, while also identifying culturally significant resources and appropriate preservation methods. Lastly, the interviews served to engage community stakeholders, fostering relationships and preservation interest with the local municipality, which could guide future collaborative efforts.

To achieve these goals, the project integrated both anthropological and historical approaches, aiming for a more comprehensive understanding of historical facts and cultural interpretations. Historical methods typically focus on specific subject matter, events, and experiences, drawing parallels between the interview content and known historical events.[189] This approach relies heavily on what the participant chooses to share and how the historian interprets it, often prioritizing the filling of historical data gaps, archive creation, and preservation projects. However, this focus can sometimes overshadow the co-creation process and community needs.[190] In contrast, an anthropological approach to oral history incorporates ethnographic methods and cultural analysis, situating personal narratives within their broader social and cultural

[188] Donna DeBlasio, Charles F. Ganzert, David H. Mould, Stephen H. Paschen, and Howard L. Sacks, *Catching Stories: A Practical Guide to Oral History*, (Ohio University Press, 2009); Nancy MacKay, *Curating Oral Histories, Second Edition: From Interview to Archive*, (United Kingdom: Left Coast Press, 2015); Donald A. Ritchie, *Doing Oral History*, (United Kingdom: Oxford University Press. 2014).
[189] Raji Swaminathan and Thalia M. Mulvihill, "Theoretical, Methodological, and Ethical Issues in Oral History Projects," in *Oral History and Qualitative Methodologies: Educational Research for Social Justice,* (United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2022), 18-37, available online, https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003127192-3/theoretical-methodological-ethical-issues-oral-history-projects-raji-swaminathan-thalia-mulvihill.
[190] Swaminathan and Mulvihill, 2022.

contexts.[191] By combining these two methodologies, the interviews were allowed to be more participant-driven, avoiding rigid contextual boundaries. This approach produces a co-created narrative that goes beyond just facts, connecting personal memories to broader historical and cultural themes.[192]

The project employed semi-structured interviews to explore the community's cultural history. This interview format combines predetermined core questions with the flexibility to pursue emerging topics. The approach allowed interviewers to cover key themes such as Black-owned businesses, community connections, neighborhood boundaries, displacement, erasure, and civil rights, while remaining open to new insights. Each interview began with prompts based on prior research about the community and the individual participant. These prompts were designed to elicit complex, nuanced responses and stimulate reminiscence. This approach recognizes that individual memories are shaped by personal reflections over time, repeated storytelling, and shared community experiences. The approach aimed to create an environment that encouraged more reflective recollection facilitating a nuanced and comprehensive understanding of the community's history.[193]

5.3 Participants Overview

The project resulted in recorded interviews with eight participants—five individuals and a small group with three participants. Participant recruitment for the project included in-person, email, and phone outreach. The process began with a list of eight stakeholders provided by the City of Titusville. These initial contacts then helped recruit twelve additional interested community members. On April 29, 2024, a community workshop at the North Brevard Senior Center attracted 34 attendees, who engaged in a mapping activity to identify sites of African American historical significance in Titusville. An additional nine participants were recruited at the event for the oral history interviews. Further outreach occurred at the North Brevard Black School Reunion on June 5, 2024, where event organizers distributed a City-created flyer promoting the Joynerville and Beyond project. While this didn't directly result in new interview participants, it stimulated discussion about the importance of oral history, enhancing community interests.[194] The project initially aimed for only eight interviews, however, 21 people were recruited in just three months (April to July 2024), revealing significant community interest in future oral history initiatives. Throughout the project, community stakeholders played a crucial role in expanding participation and fostering interest.

While in-person interviews and community events are typically preferred for oral history projects, project constraints necessitated conducting and recording interviews remotely by phone. This approach presented challenges, including potential audio quality issues and difficulties in establishing rapport. To address these concerns, we engaged in preliminary phone conversations with each participant, learning about their interests, family history, and desired contributions to the project. These discussions helped us learn about their backgrounds and interests and build rapport before the formal interviews. Post-interview conversations

[191] Lynn Abrams, *Oral History Theory*, 2nd Edition, (Routledge, 2016).
[192] Linda Shopes, "Oral History in Pennsylvania: A Historiographic Overview," *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies,* History in Pennsylvania, (Penn State University Press, 1993), 430-454, available online, https://journals.psu.edu/phj/article/view/25094/24863.
[193] Debra Pollock, *Remembering: Oral History Performance*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.
[194] Davis, Kirk, et al. 2024.

and follow-up calls further reinforced the community's enthusiasm for preserving its oral history. Most participants expressed interest in conducting second interviews or inquired about future contributions, indicating ongoing engagement with the project.

We engaged participants with diverse perspectives to capture a comprehensive view of the community's development and changes through time. All participants were members of the African American community, ranging in age from 59 to 90 at the time of the interviews. Not all participants were born in Titusville, but each had lived in the area at some point, with most residing there during the significant period of displacement and development in the 1950s and 1960s. Most recollections focused on life in Titusville between the 1940s and 1970s. Every participant expressed a historical connection to the community and interest in the project.

To supplement the eight interviews we conducted, we reviewed transcripts from previous oral history projects. The Brevard County Historical Commission Oral History Project includes more than 50 oral history videos.[195] We identified oral history interviews from African American participants that contained key words or themes relevant to the Joynerville and Beyond project. We focused on readily accessible transcripts or videos, reviewing those of Raleigh McKenzie, Sandra McMillian, Evangeline Moore, Charlie Ree Mitchell, Lucy Mae Seigler, Bernice West Fisher, Dr. George Fayson, Ralph "Buddy" Wilson and Juanita Wright. This comparative approach enriched our understanding of Titusville's African American history, allowing us to construct a more comprehensive narrative.

5.3.1 PARTICIPANT ABSTRACTS

5.3.1.1 William Gary

Interviewed on May 16, 2024

Abstract

William Gary, born in 1948, moved to Titusville in 1968, living in Joynerville as a co-op student working for NASA. After graduating college in 1974, Gary moved back to Titusville permanently to work for NASA. He describes the racism he and his family experienced after they moved to a predominantly White community in Titusville in 1976 which led to his decade's long involvement in community activism and civil rights efforts including serving multiple terms as president of the local NAACP branch which won national awards under his leadership. Gary also discusses his role with the Harry T. Moore Cultural Complex Memorial Park and Museum since 2005. He recollects Titusville's progress in integration but discusses the ongoing challenges around affordable housing, education equity, and Black history preservation. He recommends engaging youth and churches more through educational programs, field trips, displays at the cultural center, and documenting historic Black-owned businesses to promote awareness of the area's African American heritage.

[195] Brevard County Historical Commission, *Oral History Project,* 2024, available online, www.brevardfl.gov/HistoricalCommission/OralHistoryProject.

Key words: Churches, Civil Rights, Heritage, Historic Preservation, Integration, Joynerville, Education, NAACP, Racism, Segregation, Titusville, NASA.

5.3.1.2 Faye Johnson

Interviewed on May 23, 2024

Abstract

Faye Johnson, born in 1943, grew up in the nearby community of Mims. In the interview, Johnson provides recollections about the historically Black Joynerville neighborhood and South Street business district in Titusville during the mid twentieth century. She describes her family's frequent trips from Mims to the thriving Black-owned businesses, churches, and community institutions in Joynerville, which served as the economic and social heart of the Titusville African American community. She recounts her personal experience of the 1951 assassination of civil rights pioneers Harry T. and Harriette Moore. As president of the local NAACP chapter, Johnson helped preserve the old Gibson school as a community center. Johnson recollects city development beginning in the late 1960s that eliminated the once-thriving community and Black-owned businesses in the Joynerville area, forcing Black residents to relocate further south to areas like Lincoln Park and Gibson Heights. She discusses the changes to Titusville's Black neighborhoods over time due to displacement and development, and the importance of mapping and researching this history beyond just the South Street business district.

Keywords: Civil Rights, Community, Displacement, Joynerville, Gibson High/Center, Harry T. Moore, Lincoln Park, Mims, NAACP, South Street.

5.3.1.3 William Daughtry

Interviewed May 30, 2024

Abstract

William Daughtry was born in 1949 in Sanford, Florida, and raised in the LaGrange and Titusville areas. His great-grandfather George Warren received a homestead in 1891 for land in LaGrange, an area between Titusville and Mims. Daughtry discusses his family's longstanding land ownership and ties to the area over multiple generations. Daughtry is related to the civil rights activists Harry T. and Harriette Moore, who were bombed in Mims in 1951. He describes his experience with segregation and integration of Titusville schools and graduating from the newly integrated Titusville High School in 1967. Daughtry details Black athletics and sports teams in the area schools and adult semi-pro teams for baseball, football and basketball. Daughtry recollects the growth of Titusville driven by the space program at nearby Kennedy Space Center. Daughtry discusses the importance of his mother and grandmother. His mother worked in logistics for NASA and received an award from the Challenger astronauts. His grandmother Lucille Warren was a local educator who knew Mary McLeod Bethune

Keywords: Athletics, Civil Rights, Education, Growth, Harry T. Moore, Homestead, Integration, LaGrange, Land Ownership, Mims, NASA, Segregation, Sports, Titusville.

5.3.1.4 Leroy Smith

Interviewed on July 16, 2024

Abstract

Leroy Smith, born in 1934, provides a firsthand account of African American life and civil rights progress in Titusville and Brevard County, Florida, from the 1950s through the late twentieth century. Smith recounts his educational journey, military service, and long career as an educator in Brevard County schools. He describes his involvement in local civil rights initiatives, including efforts to commemorate Harry T. Moore and improve conditions in Black communities. Smith offers insights into the challenges faced by African Americans in Titusville, including substandard living conditions, displacement due to urban renewal, and ongoing struggles for equality. His narrative highlights the importance of civic engagement, education, and persistent advocacy in advancing social progress. Smith's personal experiences and observations provide a perspective on the evolving racial landscape of Titusville during a period of significant social and economic change.

Keywords: Civil Rights, Cocoa Education, Gentrification, Harry T. Moore, Historical Preservation, Kennedy Space Center, Public Housing, Railroad, Segregation, Titusville, Urban Renewal.

5.3.1.5 Concerned Citizens Group

Interviewed on July 18, 2024

Abstract

The interview includes participants Kirk Davis, Lynn Golden, and Reva Johnson Watson, members of the Concerned Citizens Group, who share memories and suggestions for historical preservation initiatives. The Concerned Citizens Group is an organization focused on community history, preservation, and advocacy for the African American community in Titusville. Participants discuss the ongoing efforts to preserve and document history, focusing on the historic Joynerville area and later neighborhoods like Gibson Park and Lincoln Park. The group discusses the importance of accurately mapping historic community boundaries and documenting early residents, businesses, churches, and landmarks. The group discusses the community significance of Isaac Campbell Senior Park and the Gibson Complex, exploring ways these cultural centers could be better utilized by the community. They also explore potential locations for a Black history museum or cultural center, and ways to collaborate with City officials on preservation initiatives, educational programs, and public history projects. Challenges highlighted include limited funding, the need for greater community engagement, and difficulty obtaining historical records and artifacts. The participants express hope for engaging younger generations and working with local government to implement these initiatives before more of the community's history is lost to time.

Keywords: Artifacts, City Collaboration, Community Displacement, Cultural Center, Education, Gentrification, Gibson Park, Historic Landmarks, Historic Preservation, Isaac Campbell Senior Park, Joynerville, Lincoln Park, Mapping, Museum, Oral History, School Reunion.

5.3.1.6 Karen Griffin

Interviewed on August 14, 2024

Abstract

Karen Marie Lawson Griffin was born in 1965 in Titusville. She grew up in the historic Joynerville area in a home her father built at 945 Wager Avenue. Her father, Joe Lewis Lawson Sr., came to Titusville from South Carolina in 1957 and established Lawson Construction Company, later incorporated as the Lawson Masonry and Construction Company in 1975. Karen started working for her father's company at age 13. She witnessed changes in the Joynerville area over the years, including the development of Isaac Campbell Senior Park (formerly Sylvan Park) and the growth of St. James AME Church, where her father did significant construction work. The interview provides insights into the African American community in Titusville during the mid twentieth century, touching on topics like displacement due to NASA's arrival, the development of new neighborhoods like Lincoln Park, and the persistence of historic homes and buildings in the area. Karen emphasizes her father's contributions to the built environment of Titusville and surrounding areas, highlighting his role in shaping the community's physical landscape.

Keywords: African American Community, Brick Homes, Construction, Family Business, Isaac Campbell Senior Park, Joynerville, NASA, St. James AME Church, Sylvan Park, Titusville.

5.4 Results

The interview process uncovered culturally significant places, people, and events that shaped Titusville's African American community. We prepared initial questions based on project goals, asking all participants about historic Black-owned businesses and community boundaries. During each session, we reviewed community maps with participants. Additional questions explored family life, community changes, and cultural traditions, with the conversation guided each participant's shared topics.

Importantly, we included questions about community preservation. These discussions helped identify culturally significant sites and clarified community preservation goals. Participants consistently expressed a strong commitment to capturing, preserving, and sharing their rich history through various means, including oral histories, a dedicated museum space, and documentation of historic sites and neighborhoods. Participants expressed the need to engaging younger generations and collaborate with local government to implement these initiatives before more community history is lost.[196] Oral histories can provide context for preservation decisions, inform restoration efforts, and contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of a place's cultural heritage. The project's overall preservation recommendations were shaped by the analysis of these oral history findings and presented in **Section 6**.

While a full transcription and thematic analysis of the interviews was beyond the project's scope and unnecessary for its goals, a focused approach to extract key information was developed. Working with oral history interviews without transcripts presented challenges, particularly in conducting in-depth content analysis or thematic coding. To address this, an abstract was created for each interview, and key words were identified. Key words are specific terms spoken during the interview that were identified to help categorize, index, and organize the content. Information on specific places, people, and events was incorporated into the historic context and resource mapping (**Appendix A**). Through careful review and summarization of the interviews, patterns, contradictions, and similarities were identified, revealing reoccurring themes and topics (**Table 8**). This method allowed for the extraction of valuable insights while working within the project's constraints.

[196] Davis, et al., 2024; Gary, 2024.

Table 8. Common Themes and Topics.

Themes	Topics
Community Development	Early settlement, residential development, Joynerville, Lincoln Park, Gibson Park, displacement, Black-owned businesses, Black Business District, community changes, redevelopment, urban renewal
Civil Rights	Harry T. Moore, community civic clubs, the NAACP, local leadership, discrimination, equal housing, equal employment
Education	Gibson High School, school segregation, school integration, educators, sports and activities
Occupation	Citrus groves, railroad, education, NASA, Kennedy Space Center
Family	Founding families, genealogy, community connections, Mims, Cocoa, Merritt Island
Preservation	Historic businesses and residences, Joynerville, Isaac Campbell Senior Park, Gibson School, Lincoln Park, Gibson Park, Black Business District, historical markers, public education
Religion	Community churches, ministers, baptisms, events and activities, growth and changes

These reoccurring themes and topics were then categorized into broader themes. This process resulted in the identification of three primary areas of significance:

1. Black Business District and Black-owned Businesses

   This topic encompassed memories and information about the economic landscape of the African American community in Titusville. Participants recalled specific businesses, their locations, and their importance to community life.

2. Community Borders

   This topic focused on the physical and social boundaries of the African American community in Titusville and the connections with the surrounding areas.

3. Culturally Significant Sites and Resources

   This topic covered places and resources that held particular importance for the community's cultural and social life.

Each of these areas of significance provided insights into the community's history, social structure, and cultural identity. They also offered valuable information for preservation efforts, highlighting areas and aspects of community life that participants felt were most important to document and preserve for future generations. This approach facilitated a comprehensive analysis of the oral history data that could be effectively integrated into the project’s broader context. It also revealed gaps in information and areas that might require further investigation.

5.4.1 BUSINESS DISTRICT AND BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES

The community workshop and oral history interviews played a crucial role in reconstructing Titusville's historic Black Business District. By the 1940s, Black-owned business lined South Street stretching from Palm Avenue to the railroad. Black entrepreneurship boomed well into the 1960s, expanding west to South DeLeon Street (**Appendix A**). Many interview questions focused on participants' early life in Titusville or their initial experiences upon moving to the area, naturally leading to discussions about Black-owned businesses in the community. Conversations about Titusville's Black Business District emphasized its historical significance and the challenges faced in preserving its memory. The business district, formerly situated where the Brevard County Courthouse and its parking lot now stand, was largely erased during the 1960s city development. This resulted in a significant loss of historical structures and community spaces. These discussions underscored the business district's importance to the local African American community's social and cultural history. They also conveyed a sense of urgency to recover and document any remaining information about the area.[197] Table 9 is a list of businesses identified through the community workshop and interview participants.

Table 9. Black-owned Businesses Identified During the Project.

Name
Amos Bell Store on 2nd Avenue
Andrew Gibson’s Commercial Buildings
Bertha Murray's Grocery/Café
Blue River Store on 2nd Avenue
Bobby Joe's Barbershop
Charlie Green's Blacksmith Shop
Cotton Club on 1st Avenue
Dr. Lorenzo Law's Dentist Office
E.D. Davis & Co. Staple and Fancy Groceries
Elizabeth Taylor Beauty Shop & Ben Taylor Grocery
Fannie Smith's Café
Gray Coach Inn
Howell's Grocery Store
Jim "Peaches" Atkinson's Teenage Place
Jim Peaches Atkinson Movie Theater
John Joe Barber Shop
Juke Club on South Street
Lawson Construction Company
Lillian Wilson's Beauty Parlor

[197] Daughtry, William. Interview by Brandy Black. Stantec. May 30, 2024; Davis, Kirk, et al. *Concerned Citizens Group Interview.* Interview by Brandy Black. Stantec. July 18, 2024; Gary, William. Interview by Brandy Black. Stantec. May 16, 2024; Johnson, Faye. Interview by Brandy Black. Stantec. May 23, 2024; Smith, Leroy. Interview by Brandy Black. Stantec. July 16, 2024.

Name
Lincoln Barber Shop
Louise J. Davis Boarding House
Mamie Dublin Residence (Midwife)
Mr. & Mrs. Godboldte's Store
Mr. Henry's Duck Foot Juke Joint
Mr. Joe's Barber Shop
Mrs. Geralan Jordan's Honky Tonk and Restaurant
Mrs. Knight's Store/Lincoln Park Grocery
Ms. Alberta Davis Restaurant
Ms. Annabelle's Sweet Shop
Odd Fellows Hall and Grocery
Joe Poitier's Old Texaco Gas Station
Orange & Green Bar
Pool Hall/Howard's Grocery
Edan, Lotta, and Alfonso Willson's Restaurant
Reverend Saunders' Grocery Store/Boarding House
Sarah Mobley's Rooming House
Sarah Williams Boarding House
Serena Mayo's Restaurant
Simms grocery on 1st Avenue
Stone Funeral Home
Sunshine Hotel/Boarding House
Susie Mae Anderson's Kindergarten
Ms. Atkinson and Jim Atkinson's The Soulful Meal Restaurant
Williams Service Station/L.C.'s Texaco/Blue's Store/Petro Gas
Willie's Grocery

Black business districts played a pivotal role in African American communities during the early twentieth century. These areas provided crucial opportunities for Black entrepreneurs to establish and grow businesses, generating wealth and jobs within their communities at a time when racial discrimination severely limited economic prospects elsewhere. Beyond their commercial importance, these districts served as hubs for social gatherings, political organizing and cultural expression. They fostered community self-reliance and resilience against the harsh realities of segregation, offering essential goods and services to Black residents who were often excluded from White-owned establishments.[198] These centers of Black commerce and culture were instrumental in shaping African American identity and laid important groundwork for future civil rights and economic justice movements. However, the mid twentieth century displacement of African American communities, often due to urban renewal projects or highway

[198] John Sibley Butler, *Entrepreneurship and Self-Help Among Black Americans: A Reconsideration of Race and Economics*, (State University of New York Press, 1991).

construction, had devastating and long-lasting economic impacts. When neighborhoods were razed, entire business districts were frequently destroyed, dismantling these vital economic and cultural centers.[199]

Participants expressed regret over the lack of historical preservation efforts during the demolition process of the business district, emphasizing the need for further research into city records to document what existed before the county courthouse was constructed.[200] The discussions about the business district revealed its deep significance to the local African American community's cultural and social heritage. These conversations emphasized how central the area was to community life, far beyond just being a place of commerce. There is a growing awareness in preserving this history and the community is working to gather and document any remaining information about the Black-owned businesses.[201] Participants expressed that historical designation or recognition of the site would allow future generations to appreciate and learn about the African American history in Titusville. Project recommendations for further survey and research, recognition, and/or designation of the Black Business District and historic-age Black-owned businesses are in **Sections 6.3**, **6.4**, **6.5**, and **6.6.1**.

Participants proposed several preservation strategies for the historic Black Business District, including:[202]

- Historical designation or recognition of the site,
- Interpretive signage at the site or inside the county courthouse or City Hall,
- Catalog and document historic businesses,
- Research and record information about the business owners,
- Exhibit at the North Brevard Historical Museum or Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore Cultural Complex, and
- Designation for historic-age businesses.

5.4.2 COMMUNITY BORDERS

The Joynerville and Beyond project set out with a significant goal to gather data for identifying and mapping historic African American community borders while gaining a deeper understanding of the wider community. This collaborative effort involved workshop discussions, interviews, and mapping exercises. Interview participants engaged in discussions about community development, while stakeholders reviewed the mapped community borders and provided feedback for revisions. Throughout this process, participants emphasized the importance of preserving information about historic Black neighborhoods, specifically naming Joynerville, Gibson Park, Lincoln Park, and the Mill Quarters area. These efforts extended to historical documentation of the area's development over time and tracing its evolution from early settlements to mid twentieth century housing developments.

As a result, four historic African American neighborhoods in Titusville were identified (**Figure 37)**. The identification of these neighborhoods serves a crucial purpose in mapping the cultural landscape of the African American community, effectively preserving knowledge about how the community has developed

[199] Butler, 1991.
[200] Davis, et al., 2024.
[201] Davis, et al. 2024; Gary, 2024; Leroy Smith, Interview by Brandy Black. Stantec, 16 July 2024.
[202] Davis, et al. 2024; Gary, 2024; Griffin, 2024; Smith, 2024.

and shifted over time. These community borders represent cultural boundaries that change and evolve over time with some resources located beyond what the borders. This reflects various historical factors such as demographic shifts, economic changes, and the impacts of segregation and desegregation policies.

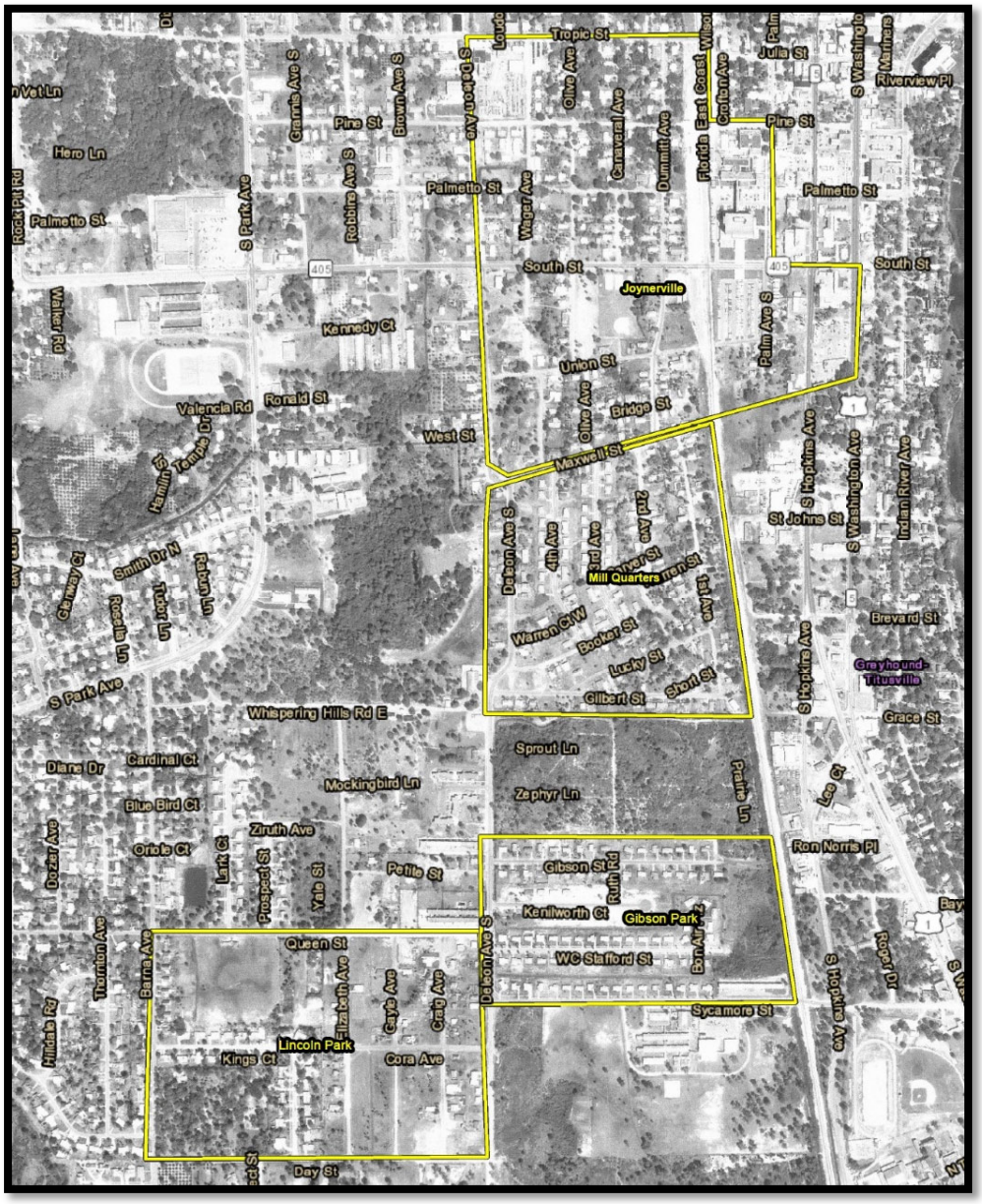
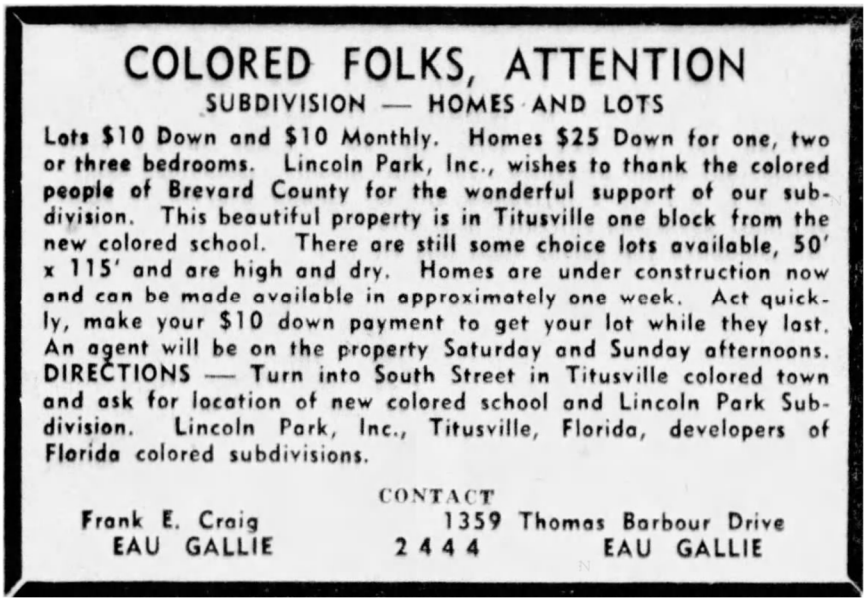


Figure 37. The mapped yellow borders depict the historic African American neighborhoods in Titusville as identified by interview and community workshop participants.[203]

[203] Florida Department of Transportation, Aerial Photography Archives, 1972, available online, https://www.fdot.gov/gis/aerialmain.shtm.

The Joynerville area, surveyed in 1879 and transformed into a flourishing African American community by the turn of the twentieth century. The Riddell Addition was developed and recorded by 1887 extending the Joynerville community south to Maxwell Street. In 1913, the Read & Allen Addition was platted from Maxwell Street south to Gilbert Street. The area was locally known as Mill Quarters and was home to African American sawmill workers. By the mid twentieth century, the community grew beyond the Pine Street segregation line, stretching northward to Tropic Street.[204] In the 1950s, city development, urban renewal, and displacement in the Joynerville area led many African American residents to settle in newly established, segregated neighborhoods.[205] Starting in the 1970s, the Mill Quarters underwent urban renewal and public housing development, becoming known locally as the Avenues.[206]

As African Americans were forced to relocate, the new neighborhoods of Lincoln Park and Gibson Park were established. The Lincoln Park neighborhood began development in 1952. Home sales for the new neighborhoods were advertised in county newspapers (**Figure 38**). Participants remembered the early neighborhood was sparse surrounded by wooded area.[207] The Gibson Park area followed, beginning its development in 1959. This area experienced further growth with the addition of the Bon Air subdivision in 1963 and Gibson Heights in 1970, while maintaining its predominantly African American demographic.[208] By the late 1960s, the expansion of African American communities extended beyond Titusville's immediate boundaries, with new neighborhoods like Luna Heights emerged in the surrounding suburban areas.[209]



COLORED FOLKS, ATTENTION

SUBDIVISION — HOMES AND LOTS

Lots $10 Down and $10 Monthly. Homes $25 Down for one, two or three bedrooms. Lincoln Park, Inc., wishes to thank the colored people of Brevard County for the wonderful support of our subdivision. This beautiful property is in Titusville one block from the new colored school. There are still some choice lots available, 50' x 115' and are high and dry. Homes are under construction now and can be made available in approximately one week. Act quickly, make your $10 down payment to get your lot while they last. An agent will be on the property Saturday and Sunday afternoons. DIRECTIONS — Turn into South Street in Titusville colored town and ask for location of new colored school and Lincoln Park Subdivision. Lincoln Park, Inc., Titusville, Florida, developers of Florida colored subdivisions.

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Figure 38. Excerpt of a newspaper advertisement for home sales in the Lincoln Park subdivision.[210]

[204] Davis, et al., 2024.
[205] Davis, et al., 2024; Johnson, 2024; Gary, 2024.
[206] Davis, et al., 2024.
[207] Johnson, 2024.
[208] Davis, et al., 2024; Johnson, 2024.
[209] Johnson, 2024.
[210] "Colored Folks, Attention," *The Orlando Sentinel*, 19 May 1956.

5.4.2.1 Beyond Joynerville

During the late nineteenth through the mid twentieth century, a larger historic Black community network extended beyond Joynerville and Titusville to include areas of Mims, Cocoa, and Merritt Island (**Figure 39**). Although these communities were separate, they maintained strong connections to the Titusville area, which served as a central hub for commerce, education, and civil rights activities.

Participants discussed that Titusville emerged as the focal point for Black education, with children from neighboring communities such as LaGrange, Mims, and Merritt Island traveling there for schooling.[211] While Cocoa had a high school for Black children, Monroe High School, the community still interacted with Titusville and surrounding areas through sports and other extracurricular activities.[212] Families from these communities would also journey to Titusville for weekly shopping, as smaller local stores, like those in Mims, could not fully meet all community needs.[213]

Religious activities further strengthened these intercommunity bonds. Despite each area having its own churches, ministers and congregations frequently traveled between communities for services and events.[214] Participants recalled how this extended into the Civil Rights era, with community leaders from neighboring areas traveling to Titusville or Cocoa for meetings and coordinating their efforts to advocate for community improvements.[215]

While this project engaged discussion and mapping of historic community borders, further research is necessary to develop a comprehensive understanding of the African American neighborhoods in Titusville. This includes their development, interrelationships, and general history. To fully appreciate the significant historic interconnections between Titusville and neighboring Brevard County communities such as Mims, Merritt Island, and Cocoa, additional research and oral history collection are recommended. These efforts would provide a more complete picture of the region's rich African American heritage and the complex network of relationships that shaped these communities over time.

[211] Johnson, 2024; William Daughtry, Interview by Brandy Black, Stantec, 30 May 2024.
[212] Daughtry, 2024; Seigler, 2004.
[213] Johnson, 2024.
[214] Gary 2024; Johnson, 2024.
[215] Daughtry, 2024; Gary, 2024; Johnson, 2024; Seigler, 2004; Junita Wright, Interview by Roz Foster, Brevard County Historical Commission, n.d., available online. https://www.brevardfl.gov/docs/default-source/historical-commission-docs/not-508-oral-history/wright-juanita-transcript.pdf.

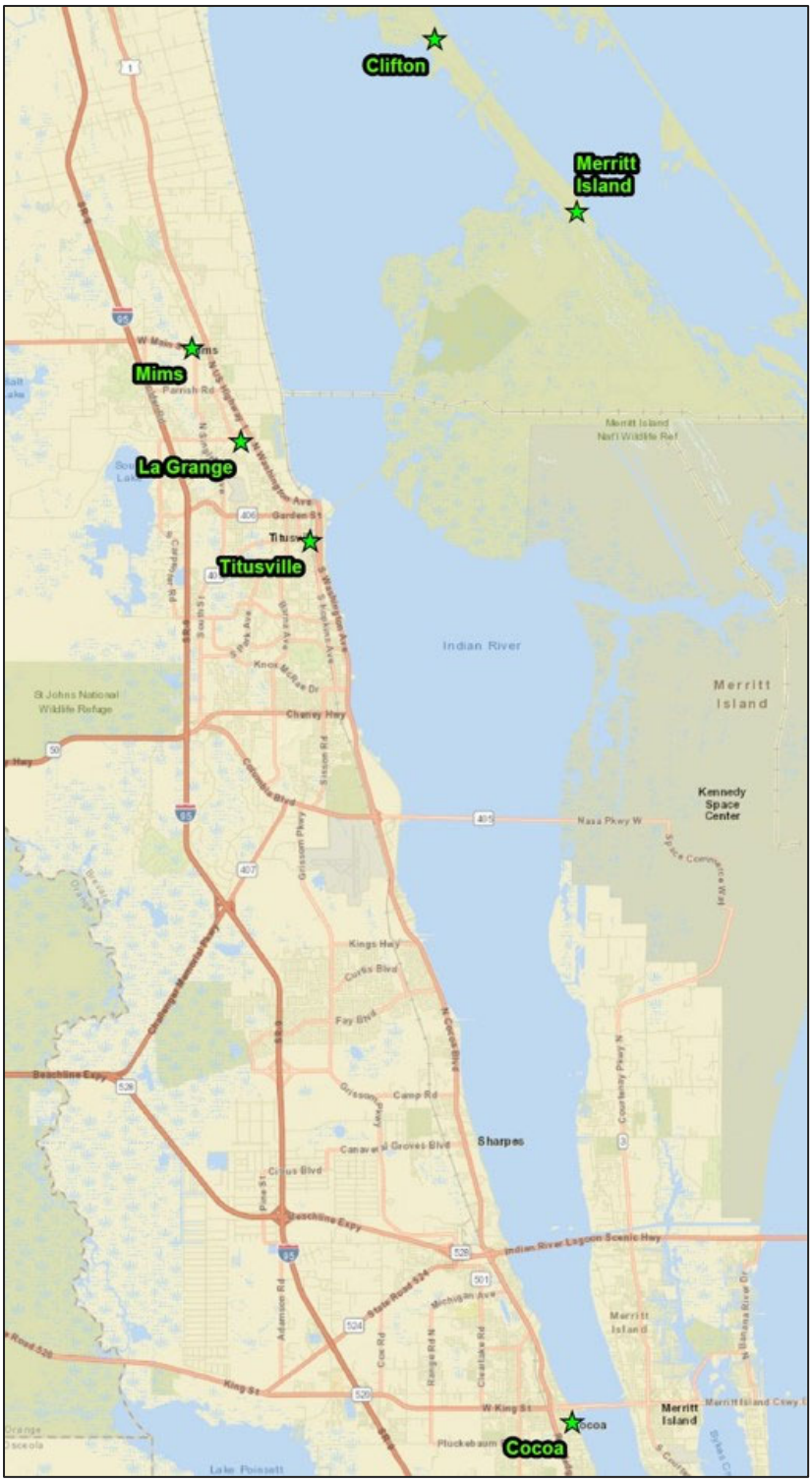

Figure 39. The map depicts the locations of the neighboring communities of Mims, LaGrange, Cocoa and Clifton on North Merritt Island.

5.4.3 CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES AND RESOURCES

Participants identified and discussed significant sites and resources in the community. These represented a mix of parks, residential neighborhoods, community centers, and other sites that have played significant roles in the history and development of Titusville's Black community. The key sites identified as community cultural centers were the site or the former Gibson High School (Gibson Complex) on Sycamore Street and Isaac Campbell Senior Park (Campbell Park) on South Street. Participants identified significant elements of the cultural landscape, including three historic street markers in the Lincoln Park and Gibson Park neighborhoods. These markers or posts are regarded as important reminders of the community's past experiences with displacement and segregation, as well as its efforts to rebuild.[216]

[216] Davis, et al., 2024.

5.4.3.1 The Gibson Complex

The history of segregated schools remains an important part of African American cultural memory and identity.[217] Although some of the participants attended the Titusville Negro School or the "Old Barn", many recollected their associations to the Andrew J. Gibson High School as either a student, parent or teacher. The Gibson High School in Titusville opened in 1957 as a school for Black children located on Sycamore Street in what was then the new segregated neighborhood of Lincoln Park. Participants recalled school reunions, events, sports and teachers or mentors (**Figure 40**). Some participants discussed the impact of integration to the community and school site.[218] The interviews reveal how school-related memories, traditions, and values are passed down through families maintaining a sense of cultural continuity.

Figure 40. Excerpt from *Scenes from around the School,* Gibson School section in the Titusville Negro School Homecoming Runion Celebration program, July 19-24, 1985. Courtesy of Kirk Davis.

[217] Vanessa Siddle Walker, *Their Highest Potential: An African American School Community in the Segregated South*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000).
[218] Davis, et al., 2024; Johnson, 2024.

African American schools played a vital role in preserving and transmitting culture.[219] These institutions often served as more than just places of learning. They were hubs of community activity, sources of employment, and served as repositories of community memory, preserving local Black history and traditions. By instilling a strong sense of cultural identity and historical consciousness, these schools equipped students with the knowledge and pride in their heritage to navigate and challenge the broader societal context of racial discrimination, thus playing a crucial role in cultural resistance and empowerment.[220] Despite being born from racial discrimination, segregated Black schools became vital centers of community life and cultural preservation. The legacy of these schools is complex and enduring, representing resilience, community strength, and educational achievement against overwhelming odds.[221]

Many former school buildings have been transformed into community centers, museums, or cultural institutions. After integration in Titusville the Gibson High School was closed. Community efforts petitioned local municipality to preserve the school, and it was converted to the Gibson School Community Center, known locally as the Gibson Complex (**Figure 41**).[222] Participants revealed that the Gibson Complex is a significant cultural center or landmark for the community, but it is described as having a somewhat complicated status because the county has control over some of the buildings and spaces.[223] The community currently does not have space to accommodate large events and has to travel to Cocoa Beach or other surrounding areas. Participants expressed the Gibson Complex had adequate space but that many of the spaces were rented to external entities. Participants expressed the complex was an underutilized resource in the Black community. The participants see it as a valuable resource that, if properly managed and controlled by the community, could better serve as an important center for gatherings, events, and potentially for showcasing local Black school history.[224] Project recommendations are further discussed in **Section 6.6.1** and include finding ways to utilize the Gibson School Community Center for more large community events and creating interpretive signage or educational displays within or in front of the Center.

[219] Walker, 2000.
[220] Walker, 2000.
[221] James T. Patterson, *Brown V. Board of Education: A Civil Rights Milestone and Its Troubled Legacy* (United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2001); Walker, 2000.
[222] Davis, et al., 2024; Johnson, 2024.
[223] Davis, et al., 2024.
[224] Davis, et al., 2024; Smith, 2024.

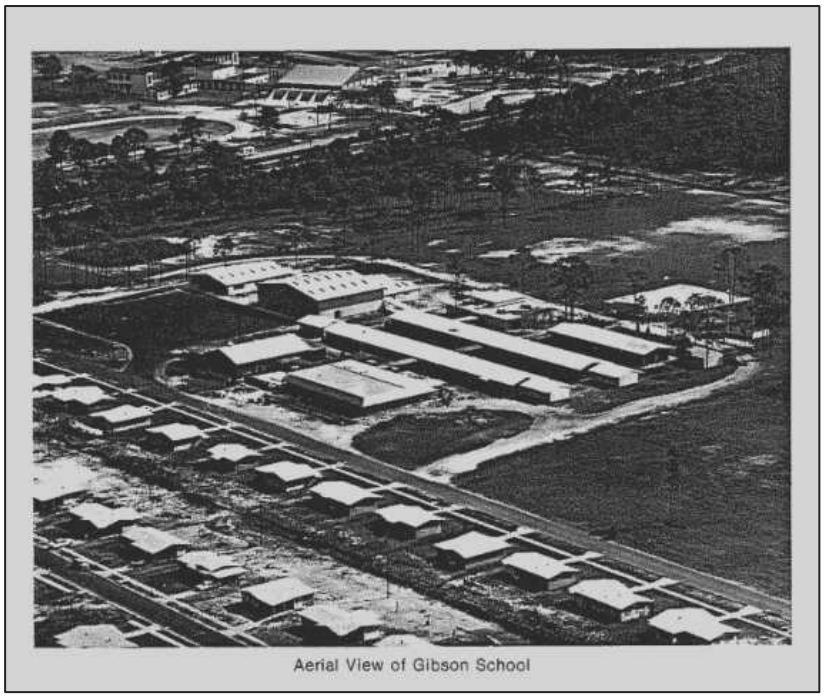

Figure 41. Historic aerial photograph of the Gibson Complex on Sycamore Street, date unknown, inclusion in the Titusville Negro School Homecoming Runion Celebration program, July 19-24, 1985. Courtesy of Kirk Davis.

5.4.3.2 Campbell Park

Participants viewed Campbell Park as a significant and central location for the African American community in Titusville, with potential for further development as a site for public education programing.[225] The project's recommendations for public education in Campbell Park is discussed in **Section 6.6.1**. Public parks have been crucial spaces for African American communities, offering areas for recreation, social gathering, cultural expression, and community building. Historically, parks often served as areas African Americans could experience a degree of freedom and equality. Parks have provided venues for civil rights gatherings, cultural celebrations, and community initiatives and organizing. As a result, many parks became focal points in communities.[226] Isaac Campbell Senior Park, situated along South Street, occupies a space that was once part of the original Joynerville neighborhood (**Figure 42**).

Figure 42. Sign for the Isaac Campell Senior Park on South Street in the historic Joynerville neighborhood.

[225] Davis, et al., 2024; Griffin, 2024; Smith, 2024.
[226] Andrew W. Kahrl and Malcolm Cammeron, African American Outdoor Recreation Theme Study, National Park Service, 2022, available online, https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/upload/African-American-Outdoor-Recreation-National-Historic-Landmark-Theme-Study.pdf.

This area, formerly known as Sylvan Lake, later developed into Sylvan Park. Participants recalled Sylvan Park and the events they attended during their youth. In 1998, through community-led initiatives, Sylvan Park underwent a transformation, becoming the Isaac Campbell Senior Park and Community Center.[227] The park was named in honor of Isaac Campbell, a respected local educator and Gibson High School athletics coach. Recent years have seen further improvements to the park. Participants noted several enhancements, including a new pavilion, tennis courts, and updated playground equipment.[228]

5.4.3.3 Historic Street Markers

Oral histories offer valuable insights into how communities interact with and value their surroundings, revealing the deeper significance of cultural landscapes.[229] These narratives illuminate a community's history, challenges, resilience, and cultural identity, which are often embedded in both natural and built environments. Preserving cultural landscape features involves protecting and maintaining elements of both natural and built environments that have cultural significance. This preservation effort requires ongoing maintenance, protection, and sometimes restoration to ensure the continued existence of these important features.[230] Participants identified three street markers as “landmarks” or significant cultural landscape features (**Figure 43**).[231]

Figure 43. Photographs of the historic street markers located on the corner Sycamore and S. DeLeon Streets (left), Bon Aire Plaza and W. C. Stafford Street (center) and S. DeLeon and W. C. Stafford Streets (right).

[227] Griffin, 2024; Smith, 2024.
[228] Griffin, 2024.
[229] Paula Hamilton, and Linda Shopes, eds., *Oral History and Public Memories*, (Temple University Press, 2008), available online, http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt1bw1kn9.
[230] Arnold R. Alanen and Robert Z. Melnick, eds., *Preserving Cultural Landscapes in America*, (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000), available online, https://www.press.jhu.edu/books/title/2179/preserving-cultural-landscapes-america; Cari Goetcheus and Steve Brown, eds., *Routledge Handbook of Cultural Landscape Practice*, (United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2023).
[231] Davis, et al., 2024.

The three concrete street markers are a significant reminder of the experiences faced by the African American community during the 1950s and 1960s in Titusville. They are a lasting part of the historic landscape in the neighborhood that is currently under threat from development and gentrification.[232] Participants remembered similar street markers were located on the corners of other streets in the Lincoln Park and Gibson Park area during the 1950s and 1960s.[233] Most of the original street markers were removed when the new metal street signs were added to the neighborhood, but three remained unmoved. The three historic street markers are located at the corner of South DeLeon and W. C. Stafford Streets, the corner of South DeLeon and Sycamore Streets, and the corner of Bon Aire Plaza and W. C. Staford Street (**Figure 44**).

Figure 44. The green points indicated the locations of the three historic-age street markers in the Gibson Park neighborhood on a 1972 aerial.[234]

Preservation initiatives should work to identify and understand other significant cultural landscape features. These features can include the built environment, natural features, social and cultural spaces, infrastructure and small-scale elements like street markers. This approach looks beyond individual buildings to consider both physical and cultural elements and meanings.[235] Combining oral history with preservation practices creates understanding and protection of cultural landscapes that resonates with community values and experiences.[236]

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[232] Davis, et al., 2024; Johnson, 2024.
[233] Davis, et al., 2024.
[234] Florida Department of Transportation, Aerial Photography Archives, 1972, available online, https://www.fdot.gov/gis/aerialmain.shtm.
[235] Alanen and Melnick, eds., 2000; Goetcheus and Brown, eds. 2023.
[236] Hamilton and Shopes, eds., 2008.

5.5 Oral History Recommendations

The recommendations for future oral history projects were shaped by the interviews conducted during the project. This involved a comprehensive review of feedback and data from interview participants and stakeholders. Valuable insights into potential new directions for future projects can be identified from patterns, emerging themes, and gaps in historic information. It's important to evaluate the project's impact, both in terms of meeting initial goals and its broader effect on the community. Consulting with stakeholders ensures oral history efforts stay relevant and effective. A planned approach allows future projects to be more targeted in their focus, effective in their execution, and responsive to community needs and interests.[237]

The recommendations for future oral history projects include Themed Collections and Intergenerational or School-based Projects. Themed Collections focus on specific aspects of community history or experiences to fill gaps in the historical record and capture the diverse perspectives and shared memories that shape local identity. Four primary themes recommended for further research are Civil Rights, Education, Occupation, and Founding Families. Additional themes to explore for oral history projects include religion and church history, foodways, architecture and development, art and music, and commerce. Intergenerational or School-based Projects capture perspectives across different age groups and engage students in collecting and preserving local history. By implementing these strategies, projects can address identified gaps, explore emerging themes, and enhance community engagement.

5.5.1 THEMED COLLECTIONS

5.5.1.1 Civil Rights

Civil Rights emerged as a theme requiring further exploration and documentation in Titusville's history. Harry T. Moore's activism and his foundational role in establishing the NAACP in Brevard County have been central to community-led preservation projects. These initiatives have resulted in the development of the Harry T. Moore Cultural Complex and the integration of related curriculum into Brevard Public Schools. Interview participants emphasized the significance of the Moores to the community and expressed the profound community trauma caused by their deaths.[238] This recurring theme underscores the deep impact of the civil rights movement on Titusville's African American community and highlights the need for continued research and preservation efforts in this area.

Themed oral history collections on Civil Rights in Titusville should encompass a broader perspective of the people and organizations that contributed to African American Civil Rights. This includes the local NAACP chapter's work following Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore's deaths and other civic organizations that have had profound impact on the African American community. Participants highlighted the importance of local groups like the Progressive Action Society and the Concerned Citizen Group. These organizations, along with the NAACP, advocated for transforming the Titusville Negro School and the Andrew Gibson High

[237] DeBlasio, et al., 2009; Ritchie, 2014.
[238] Gary, 2024; Johnson, 2024.

School into a community centers, establishing Issac Campbell Senior Park, and developing the Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore Culture Complex.[239]

- Topic Example: The Concerned Citizens Group, active for over fifty years, has played a crucial role in community preservation and advocacy. In the 1970s, they worked to improve the Joynerville area's living conditions. Notable members included Reverend Stafford, Charles G. Davis, Murray Rodelle, Joe Williams, Leroy G. Smith, Ruthy Smith, William Gary, and Deacon Haines. Today, many descendants of the group's early founders continue its work and legacy creating an opportunity to learn more about the community's civil rights and advocacy history.[240]

5.5.1.2 Occupation

Occupation-based topics offer a valuable perspective to explore and document a community's past, particularly in areas where specific industries or types of work have played a significant role in shaping local culture, economy, and social structures. This approach to oral history focuses on capturing the experiences, knowledge, and perspectives of workers across various occupations that have been historically important to the area. Occupational themes to be explored include NASA and the Kennedy Space Center, the agricultural industry, railroad construction, and the other numerous industries held by local Black entrepreneurs.

- Topic Example: Participants indicated that NASA and the Kennedy Space Center played a significant role in in shaping the Titusville area, both economically and socially. Participant William Gary illustrated the multifaceted relationship between the African American community and KSC. He first came to Titusville in 1968 as a co-op student working for NASA. Despite the area's involvement in the space program, Gary noted that racial segregation and substandard living conditions for Black residents persisted. In 1974, after completing his degree, Gary became a full-time NASA employee in design engineering, working on large cranes and lifting devices. Over the years, NASA and KSC have significantly influenced Titusville's development, driving economic changes, new housing developments, and rising costs. Gary's experiences highlight how the space program provided opportunities for education and employment, while also underscoring the ongoing racial disparities in the community and Black employees during that era.[241]

5.5.1.3 Education

Education-themed oral history projects focusing on African American segregated schools offer insights into a significant period of American educational history. These efforts would document the experiences of students, teachers, and administrators who navigated the complex landscape of segregated education, revealing both the challenges faced and the resilience demonstrated by African American communities. Projects would explore aspects of educational history, including school integration, the introduction of technology, extracurricular activities, and the impact of major educational policies at the local level. When

[239] Davis, et al., 2024; Gary, 2024; Johnson, 2024; Smith, 2024.
[240] Davis, et al., 2024; Gary, 2024; Smith, 2024.
[241] Gary, 2024.

approaching education-themed oral histories, a multi-generational perspective highlights changes and continuities in educational experiences. School reunions can offer valuable opportunities for oral historians to gather diverse accounts and perspectives on educational experiences.

- Topic Example: The Gibson High School was one of the most frequently discussed topics by interview participants, underscoring its central role in the community's history and identity. Active alumni associations play a crucial role in maintaining community memory and cultural continuity through school reunions. The North Brevard Black School Reunion, formally the Titusville Negro School Homecoming Reunion and the Titusville Black Schools Reunion Celebration, is a significant community event, bringing together alumni from various locations. The reunion, typically held biennially for several decades, has recently transitioned to an annual event due to the passing of many former students. The reunion featured various activities honoring athletes and military veterans. It attracted attendees from across the country, including people from as far as Oregon and Hawaii. Organizers distributed commemorative items such as trophies and certificates of appreciation to attendees. The reunion served not only as a social gathering but also as an important means of preserving community history and strengthening ties among former classmates.[242] During reunions, alumni exchange stories, photographs, and memorabilia, effectively creating living archives of community history. School reunions present an excellent opportunity to collect oral histories, photographs, and other memorabilia that can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the community's past.

5.5.1.4 Founding Families

Genealogy-themed oral history projects combine family research with personal storytelling. These projects involve interviewing family members, particularly older generations, to record their memories, stories, and knowledge about family lineage, traditions, and historical events. Investigating and documenting the early settlers and founding families offers valuable context for understanding a community's contributions and significance.[243]

- Topic Example: In 1875, Butler and Lucy Warren Campbell established a homestead on 118 acres of North Merritt Island, acquired through the Internal Improvement Act. The Campbells made their living as farmers and fishermen, tending orange groves, selling produce, and working at fishing camps and hunting lodges. The Campbell family was interconnected with other pioneering families in the region. Lucy Warren Campbell was related to George Warren, an early settler who, in 1891, purchased an 80-acre homestead in LaGrange, located between Titusville and Mims. The Campbells also had ties to the Warren and Sims families. Notably, Harry T. and Harriet V. Moore, who became prominent civil rights activists, were descendants of these early founding families.[244]

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[242] Davis, Kirk, et al. *Concerned Citizens Group Interview*. Interview by Brandy Black. Stantec. July 18, 2024.
[243] Carol Kammen, *Researching the History of Your Community*, (AltaMira Press, 2003).
[244] Daughtry, 2024; Sandra McMillian, Interview by Roz Foster. Brevard County Historical Commission, 27 August 2004, available online. https://www.brevardfl.gov/docs/default-source/historical-commission-docs/not-508-oral-history/sandra-mcmillan-transcript.pdf.

5.5.2 INTERGENERATIONAL OR SCHOOL-BASED

Intergenerational or school-based oral history projects typically pair younger community members or students with elders to conduct interviews, fostering meaningful connections across age groups. The focus is often on capturing life stories, traditions, and documenting changes in the community over time. By integrating oral history collection into local school curricula, these projects become powerful educational tools. Recommendations for school programing is further discussed in **Section 6.6.3**. Students engage in hands-on research and preservation projects through their classes. Projects can include researching topics for historic designations or historical marker narratives, researching candidates for street renaming projects, identifying exhibit topics, or writing interpretive signage narratives. This approach not only enhances students' understanding of local history and interviewing skills but also contributes to the broader community's historical record.[245]

[245] Oral History Association, *Oral History Association Educator's Resource*, 2024, available online, https://oralhistory.org/educators-resource.

5.6 Public Access and Ethics

Providing public access to oral histories requires balancing the goals of historical preservation and the ethical obligations to communities and participants.[246] Oral history methods can result in fully curated and transcribed interviews telling a story on specific topics. These interview formats are generally made available on public forums. However, the Joynerville and Beyond oral history project and approach did not result in curated and transcribed interviews. Providing public access to uncurated oral history interviews presents several significant challenges. Lack of context can lead to misinterpretation, while absence of quality control may spread errors, compromising historical accuracy. Privacy issues could arise from potential disclosure of sensitive information. The sheer volume of uncurated material can overwhelm users, making it challenging for researchers and the public to identify and engage with relevant content effectively.[247]

Although direct public access is not recommended for the project's audio interviews, proper storage and preservation of the audio is necessary. A permanent home or repository for the data should be acquired allowing for future accessibility and use.[248] Options for a repository include a municipal database or library. Considerations can include implementing appropriate access restrictions when necessary.[249] Tiered access systems provide a flexible framework for managing oral history collections ethically and responsibly while still promoting the overall goal of accessibility.[250] A tired access system creates different levels of access for different user groups—researchers, general public, and community members.

Creating shorter, curated thematic clips will help maintain contextual information if the audio recordings are to be used beyond this project. Oral history clips are a versatile tool for sharing and utilizing oral history content. They allow for the dissemination of key moments or insights from longer interviews in a format that is more accessible and engaging for many audiences. These audio snippets serve multiple purposes: they enrich education, enhance museum exhibits, and contribute to academic research by offering primary source material. Clips can be used to create engaging multimedia projects, spark intergenerational dialogue, and preserve cultural heritage.[251]

Future oral history projects should consider public access of recorded interviews and transcripts during the planning process and follow ethical guidelines.[252] This includes ensuring informed consent and privacy, transparency in public distribution and use, and ensuring equitable access. Ethical use of oral history interviews includes accurately representing participants' words and perspectives by providing accurate context and interpretation of narratives. Project planning should consider how the research might affect the broader communities represented in these histories, employing culturally respectful approaches throughout

[246] MacKay, 2015.
[247] Ritchie, 2014.
[248] MacKay, 2015.
[249] Ritchie, 2014.
[250] MacKay, 2015; Ritchie, 2014.
[251] Ritchie, 2014.
[252] Ritchie, 2014.

the process. Projects should implement security measures for data storage, managing access to sensitive information responsibly, and adhering to all relevant legal and institutional guidelines.[253]

Working with untranscribed oral history interviews presents several challenges to preservation and accessibility. It is recommended that all future oral history projects include transcription to avoid these limitations. Without transcripts, providing precise citations or references to specific parts of an interview becomes difficult, as text-based timestamps are unavailable. Transcripts enhance accessibility to a wider audience and improve research efficiency by allowing for quicker review and analysis of content. While transcription adds to the initial project costs, the long-term benefits in terms of preservation, accessibility, and research value outweigh this investment.[254]

[253] Oral History Association, *Archiving Oral History: Manual of Best Practices,* 2024, available online, https://oralhistory.org/archives-principles-and-best-practices-complete-manual; Ritchie, 2014.
[254] DeBlasio, et al., 2009; Oral History Association, *Archiving Oral History: Manual of Best Practices*, 2024.

6 Education Planning and Preservation Recommendations

6.1 Best Practices

There are a number of potential programs and activities which support the preservation of historic resources. The City of Titusville already has an approved ordinance establishing the Historic Preservation Board, a local register, and a certificate of appropriateness process to review alterations. Continue this protection and expand upon it by following up on eligibility recommendations in prior surveys. The Board also has the ability to recommend variances to the requirements for setbacks, parking, height, signage, density, and floor area ration requirements for historic sites in order to encourage the retention and reuse of historic resources. The City also has adopted an ad valorem tax exemption for the rehabilitation of historic properties to encourage the preservation and reuse of designated buildings. An education campaign regarding this benefit as well as sharing information on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties could encourage the retention of more historic buildings as well as improve their integrity. Significant commercial buildings can take advantage of the Federal Tax Credit for a substantial rehabilitation if they pursue NRHP listing. Measures can also be included in the Future Land Use Map designations in the Comprehensive Plan and in the Land Development Regulations to encourage adaptive use by allowing additional uses for specific types of buildings or limiting the required parking for certain uses.

In addition to buildings, notable structures, sites, and objects, including historic signage, should be identified for preservation. An inventory and ordinance to allow for the preservation and maintenance of historic signs (which often do not meet current codes) could provide an avenue for preservation. The City of St. Petersburg, which is another Certified Local Government program, has passed such legislation which has been helpful in identifying historic signs and allowing a means for its retention.

6.2 Continuing Oral History Efforts

Despite the initial target of eight interviews, 21 participants were recruited between April and July 2024, demonstrating substantial community interest in oral history initiatives. Many participants expressed interest in conducting additional interviews or inquired about future opportunities to contribute. Comments from the Historic Preservation Board's Annual Workshop on May 16, 2024, also reinforced the interest in conducting additional oral history interviews. Although financial constraints of this grant limited the extent of interviews, ongoing efforts should be conducted. Recommendations for oral history themes and topics are discussed in more detail in **Section 5.5.1**. The value of these interviews is evidenced in the history developed as part of this project. Not only the interviews conducted as part of this project, but especially those previously conducted of those individuals now deceased were an invaluable source for the locations of significant sites. Future efforts could involve not just professional historians, but student projects interviewing their elders. Seniors may be more willing to share their history with relatives or children in their neighborhood in the way that history was traditionally shared. See **Section 5.5.2** for more on student preservation and oral history initiative recommendations.

6.2.1 ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

As part of the community workshop, participants were invited to contribute family photos and ephemera for scanning and preservation by the City of Titusville. With consent, some of these items were incorporated into the final report and helped shape the project's broader objectives. This approach exemplifies how oral history and community-engaged preservation initiatives often lead to the establishment and increased accessibility of community archives. The digital collections created through such projects require appropriate storage and management to ensure they remain accessible and usable for future generations, preserving the community's cultural legacy in a format that can be easily shared and explored. Key considerations include defining the archive's scope, establishing digital infrastructure, implementing consistent metadata standards, and addressing privacy and ethical concerns. Despite these challenges, community digital archive initiatives enable communities to actively shape their own historical narratives and cultural legacy.[255]

A digital repository is essential for storing, managing, preserving, and accessing digital collections. The City of Titusville would benefit from partnering with local museums or libraries to store and manage any collected community digital archive materials. These institutions often have the necessary expertise, infrastructure, and resources to properly preserve and provide access to digital collections. Such partnerships can ensure the long-term sustainability of the community's digital heritage by offering secure storage infrastructure with regular backups and comprehensive metadata management. By maintaining detailed information about each item's content and format, the repository enables long-term access to the collection, even as technology evolves.[256] Digital archive ethics balances open access with privacy and rights protection. It focuses on authentic preservation, fair selection, and cultural respect. Key principles include equitable access, proper consent, copyright compliance, and transparency.[257]

[255] Edward Benoit III and Alexandra Eveleigh, eds., *Participatory Archives: Theory and Practice,* (Facet Publishing, 2019).
[256] Ibid.
[257] Society of American Archivists (SAA), *SAA Core Values Statement and Code of Ethics,* 2024, available online, https://www2.archivists.org/statements/saa-core-values-statement-and-code-of-ethics#core_values.

6.3 Survey and Identification Efforts

Survey and identification efforts should be continued in Titusville. Financial constraints of this grant limited the extent of documentation of the buildings in Joynerville. There have been three city-wide historic properties surveys; however, none have focused on documenting Titusville's historic African American neighborhoods and did not consider the history of this area when the FMSF forms were completed. Stantec would recommend a dedicated thematic historic properties survey for Titusville's historic African American community. The survey would revisit previously recorded resources to update the FMSF records, for example, documenting resources that are no longer extant or have been altered, and recording structures that are now historic (50 years old or older).

The 2017 City of Titusville Survey of Historical Resources recommended a potential boundary for a district extending from Main Street on the north, the Florida East Coast Railway on the east, Gilbert Street on the south extending west to DeLeon Avenue and continuing north to Pine Street, then west to Park Avenue, north to Tropic Street, west to S. Dixie Avenue, and then north to Main Street. This still appears generally accurate, but there has been extensive demolition in the neighborhood. Additional survey efforts should focus on a comprehensive survey of the historic area of Joynerville from Tropic to Gilbert Streets and from the Florida East Coast Railway to DeLeon Avenue. This area may form a historic district, but further analysis of alterations and the impact of demolition to the area is needed with analysis performed from the standpoint of the African American history of the neighborhood, not just the architecture. This area may be more appropriately designated as a Traditional Cultural Property. Further investigation into this possibility is warranted.

The public housing constructed in the 1950s and 1960s also appears to form two intact areas. Lincoln Park and Gibson Park also appear relatively intact and cohesive areas of development. Surveys of these areas should also be conducted to determine their integrity and ability to be designated.

Additional survey recommendations include documentation of the Oak Ridge Cemetery and the Davis Memorial Cemetery. A ground penetrating radar survey, especially of the Oak Ridge Cemetery, which was in use by 1916, would help identify any unmarked burials and the actual boundaries of the burials. Due to its early use, it is likely that unmarked burials exist. A comprehensive survey of all of

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH NEEDED

Some properties, although known to exist, were unable to be definitively located on maps. Additional research and oral histories may reveal additional details and their locations.

- Mr. Cutter's boarding house,
- Sadie Wilson's boarding house,
- Reverend Saunders' Grocery store/boarding house,
- Bobby Rivers' pool hall,
- Edna, Lotta, and Alfonso Wilson's restaurant,
- Mrs. Geralan Jordan's Honky Tonk Juke Joint Club/Restaurant,
- Mr. Bobby Joe's barber shop,
- Jake Rogers & Jim Atkinson's movie theater, room/boarding house
- Amos Bell's store-2nd Avenue
- Blue River Store – 2nd Avenue
- Simms Grocery-1st Avenue
- Cotton Club-1st Avenue large building in front of Simms Store
- Benevolent Baptist Church – Wager Street
- Holiness Church – Pine Street
- 1st Born Church-original site on Dummitt Avenue
- New Hope Primitive Baptist Church

the markers in both cemeteries would document current conditions and provide recommendations for continued preservation of the markers by noting environmental and material threats. Transcriptions of markers could also be integrated into a cemetery map which could be hosted online in order to aid visitors and highlight historical figures from the community who are buried in the cemetery.

Furthermore, this area has not been comprehensively surveyed for archaeological sites. An opportunity exists to build on the knowledge of the history of the neighborhood through the material remains left behind beneath the surface. Focused archaeological testing on the two blocks fronting South Street where most of the businesses were located may reveal tangible links to the businesses and people who once used the area. Testing to the south of this area, where railroad worker houses are known to have existed on the east side of the railroad tracks could also provide interesting information into what life was like for the families and workers who lived there in the past. Archaeological survey could also be an opportunity for public education and engagement, with local school groups or community members invited out to participate or observe the process. Artifacts recovered from the survey could be integrated into future public interpretation like museum or community exhibits, or other educational materials.

6.4 Recognition and Designation of Landmarks

6.4.1 LOCAL DESIGNATION

A variety of programs can recognize and encourage the preservation of the history of a neighborhood, but the most effective legal tool available for the protection of historic resources is the local historic preservation ordinance. As required by the Certified Local Government Guidelines, the City of Titusville has an approved ordinance meeting criteria set by the Florida DHR. The City of Titusville's Land Development Regulations, Article VI – Historic Preservation Code, establishes the Historic Preservation Board and provides for the designation of local landmarks. Once designated, the Board can exercise some authority in the review of alterations or demolition of historic buildings through the Certificate of Appropriateness and permitting processes. Although this may not prevent alterations or demolition, this additional review may provide the opportunity for project changes to improve compatibility or for documentation prior to demolition.

6.4.2 LEGACY BUSINESS PROGRAMS, HISTORIC HOMES PLAQUE, AND OTHER FORMS OF RECOGNITION

Although local designation provides the most protection, not all resources are appropriate for designation due to alterations, demolition, or lack of owner consent. Simple recognition through a Legacy Business program or Historic Homes Plaque can bring awareness of the historic nature and importance of a building or site to the community's heritage even if there is not a review of alterations. A historic marker program or historic tours can foster civic pride and encourage tourism. Recognition of lost resources and people also can bring healing and reconciliation to the neighborhood.

Legacy business programs are an important way to recognize small businesses that support community identity and stability through their long tenure. Titusville could establish a program to provide recognition, marketing and business help, and grants to longstanding businesses. Limits may be placed on the size of the business, and it would be required to meet certain age requirements. Often, the business must be an

independent, locally owned commercial establishment, not part of a national chain or franchise. These businesses are the bedrock of the community. Their presence contributes to the vibrancy and unique character of the city. Other cities in Florida that have established such programs include St. Petersburg, Delray Beach, and Miami-Dade County.

6.4.3 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Although well-known as the nation's official listing of significant historic properties, inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places provides protection only in the case of a federally funded or permitted project through the Section 106 Process of the National Historic Preservation Act. In terms of historic resources, this will most often apply to commercial buildings and residences along major roads owned by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Although most buildings will likely never be subject to this review, NRHP designation will provide an additional layer of review in the case of federally funded or permitted projects. Additionally, NRHP-listed resources owned by municipalities or non-profit entities are eligible for historic preservation grant funds for planning and rehabilitation.

The standard criteria used by architectural historians and preservationists across the country to evaluate the significance of historic properties are those criteria specified by the Secretary of the Interior and the National Park Service (NPS) for determining whether properties qualify for listing in the NRHP. Contained in "National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation," these criteria were developed by the NPS as authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. All these criteria are consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation.[258]

Essentially, the NRHP criteria consider two major elements: historic context and integrity. Historic context is defined in the National Register Bulletin 15 as "patterns or trends in history by which a specific occurrence, property, or site is understood and its meaning (and ultimately its significance) within history or prehistory is made clear."[259] The historic context for the Joynerville area is provided in **Section 4** of this report. Properties eligible for NRHP listing can be significant at the local, state, or national level.

A property is eligible for inclusion in the NRHP if it meets one or more of the following criteria, as defined in 36 CFR 60.4, and in consultation with the SHPO:

> The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture is present in districts sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association; and
>
> A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of our history; or

[258] National Park Service, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. National Register Bulletin 15* (Revised), (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1997); National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 16A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Register Branch. Washington DC.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1991.
[259] National Park Service 1997, 7.

B. That are associated with lives of persons significant in the past; or

C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Certain properties are not ordinarily considered for inclusion in the NRHP. They include cemeteries, birthplaces or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years.

In addition to meeting one or more of the NRHP eligibility criteria, a property must have maintained its historic integrity. Historic integrity is defined as the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidence by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic period. The question is whether or not the alterations change the appearance, design, or function of the building in a way that would compromise its historic or architectural significance. For example, a change from a flat roof to a hipped roof would change the original design of a building. In general, although the use of a building can be changed, such as from residential to commercial use, the overall historical appearance should be maintained.

Historic resources can be NRHP eligible individually or as part of a district. The NRHP guidelines define a district as having "a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan of physical development."[260] Furthermore, "The identity of a district results from the interrelationship of its resources, which can convey a visual sense of the overall historic environment or be an arrangement of historically or functionally related properties." Even if all the properties in a district do not meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP on their own merits, the district as a collective whole may still be considered eligible.

[260] National Park Service 1997, 5.

6.5 Potential Landmarks

The following resources may be eligible for local designation or some form of recognition as an important historic site to the community whether it is as a legacy business, historic home, or important community resource. This information could also be added to the City's history webpage and the "Explore Historic Titusville FL" mobile application.

6.5.1 PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

6.5.1.1 Campbell Park

Isaac Campbell Senior Park at 701 South Street is named for Campbell, who was a student at the Titusville Negro School and later an educator, who organized the first interscholastic football team and baseball team at Titusville Negro High and sought athletic scholarships for Black athletes; and was a Civil Rights leader.[261] Included on the original 1879 plat of Joynerville, Sylvan Lake was initially a small lake present within the African American community but played an even larger role after the City acquired it in the 1920s. Neighborhood residents filled the pond in order to have a place for baseball games and other recreational activities both school sponsored and privately supported. By 1960, the park, then called Sylvan Park, started receiving improvements such as grading, lighting and fencing. Neighborhood residents held park clean up drives with the Recreation Department (**Figure 45**). The park has also been the location of Boy Scout meetings, voter registration drives, Easter egg hunts, kite flying contests, blood drives, and civil rights activities. The park was expanded to encompass the entire block in the 1970s and renamed in honor of Isaac Campbell in 1998. Throughout its history, it has played an important role in the cultural and recreational life of the African American neighborhood.[262]

[261] Williams et al. 1985.
[262] Fisher and Fayson 2019; Davis, 2024; Meyer, "Petition Seeks New Name for Sylvan Park," 1998; *Orlando Sentinel*, "Negro Park Improved," 30 December 1960; *Cocoa Tribune*, "Donation Club Increases Gifts to Two Groups," 18 November 1964; *Orlando Sentinel*, "League Season Launched," 4 April 1965; *Orlando Sentinel*, "5 Ball Diamonds Completed," 14 May 1965; *Orlando Sentinel*, "Rick Harris Receives Rec Department Award," 24 September 1964.

New Roof Tops Off Park Cleanup

Recreation Department worker Rick Harrison (in white t-shirt and cap) directs cleanup activities Saturday of Little League teams, Owls and Cubs, and Boy Scout Troop 93 at Titusville's Sylvan Park. Work is in connection with Clean - up - Paint - up - Fix - up Week staged last week.

Varous social, cultural, educational, religious, youth and fraternal organizations banded together under guidance of Greater Titusville Kiwanis Club to carry out special cleanup week activities. City provided paint and materials for youngsters.

CLEAN-UP'S GOAL TO SCORE AT SYLVAN PARK
. . . Left to right, Leon Denson, Donald Doublin, Robert Bookhardt, Clay Cee Goodwin, and Sammy Jones.

Figure 45. Newspaper article reporting on community cleanup of Sylvan Park, now Campbell Park[263]

[263] *Orlando Sentinel*, "New Roof Tops Off Park Cleanup," 16 April 1965.

6.5.1.2 Indian River Lodge #85 F&AM and Order of the Eastern Star Lodge

Located at 1040 First Avenue, the Indian River Lodge #85 F&AM and Order of the Eastern Star Lodge (**Figure 46**) appears to have been built in the mid-1950s but represents a much earlier history of service to the African American community. The Prince Hall affiliated Indian River Lodge #85 was founded January 25, 1890.[264]

Figure 46. Indian River Lodge #85 F&AM and Order of the Eastern Star Lodge at 1040 First Avenue.

[264] City of Titusville, Titusville Proclamation – Indian River Lodge #85 Recognition Day, 8 December 2015, available online, https://archive.org/details/cotitfl-Titusville_Proclamation_Indian_River_Lodge_85_Recognition_Day.

6.5.1.3 St. James AME Church

Located at 625 Dummitt Avenue, the St. James AME Church organized in 1892 (**Figure 47**) and constructed a building in 1902, which was replaced with a new structure incorporating a cornerstone and bell in 1907. The structure was then remodeled in 1927. The church has played a pivotal role in the history of the African American community, both religiously and culturally. It was the site of peaceful civil rights marches starting at the church and walking to Kennedy Space Center in July 1969 and January 1971. The current sanctuary was constructed in 1963.[265]

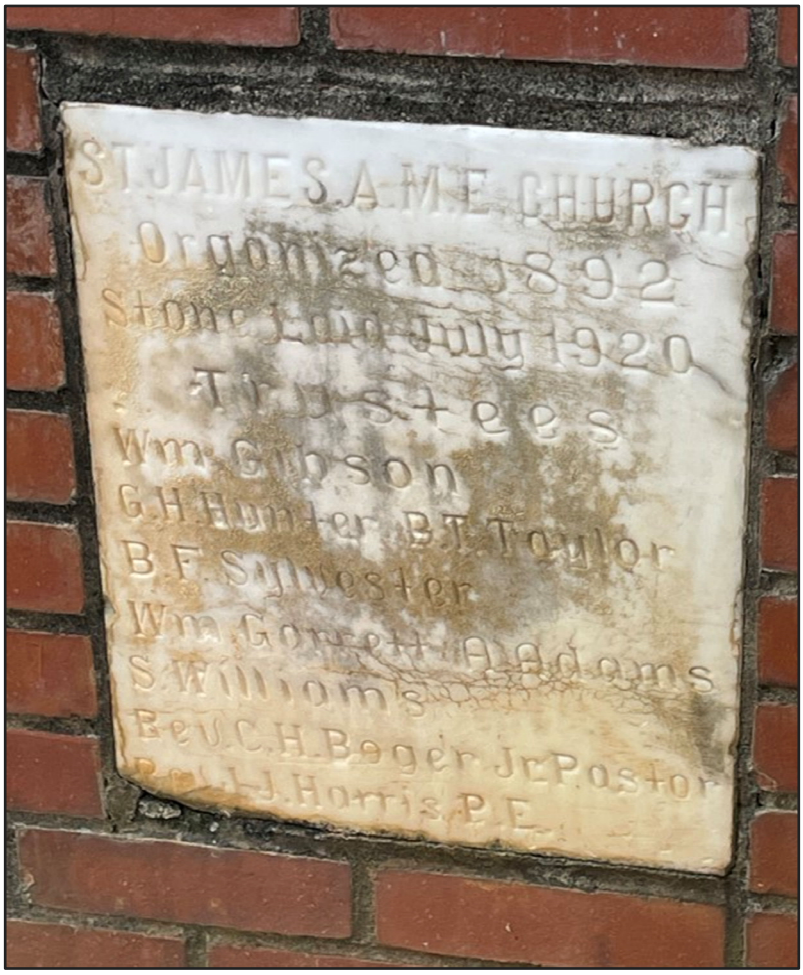


Figure 47. St. James AME Church original cornerstone.

[265] WPA, "St. James A.M.E. Church," [1941]; Williams et al. 1985.

6.5.1.4 Bethlehem Baptist Church

Initially known as the Colored Baptist Church of Titusville, the Missionary Baptist Church is now the Greater Bethlehem Baptist Church, which officially organized in 1889. The original church faced the railroad. In 1941, Bethlehem Baptist Church was still meeting in its original L-shaped, wood frame building constructed in 1889, but it had been moved slightly and remodeled with additions built in 1935. Bethlehem Baptist Church replaced their 1946 sanctuary with a new one completed in 1963 (**Figure 48**). It now has an address of 801 Dummitt Avenue. Like St. James AME Church, Bethlehem Baptist Church is one of the foundational churches of the Titusville African American community and as such, played an important role in the development of the community.[266]

Figure 48. Bethlehem Baptist Church at 799 Dummitt Avenue.

[266] Williams et al. 1985; WPA, "Bethlehem Baptist Church," [1941].

6.5.2 HISTORIC BUSINESSES

6.5.2.1 Lincoln Barbershop

The Lincoln Barbershop celebrated its 56th anniversary in 2024. Founded by Sammie Lincoln, born in 1944, the shop opened its doors in 1968 on South De Leon Street, where it still stands today (**Figure 49**). Lincoln, who moved to Titusville for work in 1962 and established the barbershop as more than just a place for haircuts. Black-owned barbershops have historically been cornerstones of African American communities. These establishments were safe environments to gather, socialize, and discuss important issues affecting the communities. During times of segregation and discrimination, they provided opportunities for Black entrepreneurship and economic independence serving as spaces for mentorship, cultural transmission, and often centers of civil rights activities.[267] The Lincoln Barbershop became a community hub, offering advice, support, and serving as a "motivation center" for locals. The shop has cultivated a multi-generational clientele and has provided services and outreach to youth and elderly community programs. Lincoln's commitment to the neighborhood extended beyond his business, as he collaborated with local ministers and churches to address community needs. For over 50 years, the barbershop has maintained its role as a cornerstone of the Titusville community.[268]

Figure 49. Lincoln Barber Shop, built in 1969 at 1560 South DeLeon Avenue.

[267] Independence Heights Redevelopment Council, *Jackson's Barbershop & Beauty Salon,* Texas Historical Commission, Atlas 22704, Houston, Texas, 2020.
[268] Information on Lincoln Barbershop was documented during a phone call conversation with the business owner. Sammie Lincoln to Brandy Black, personal communication, 5 August 2024.

6.5.2.2 Lawson Construction Company

Lawson Construction Company was founded by Joe Lewis Lawson Sr. in 1957. Born in Pinewood, South Carolina, Lawson moved to Titusville where he met and married Mary E. Bradshaw. After serving three years in the US Army, during which he worked with the Army Corps of Engineers, Lawson returned to Titusville to establish his own business. In 1957, he founded Lawson Construction Company, initially focusing on masonry and concrete work. The company operated out of the family home Lawson built ca. 1964 at 925 Wager Avenue. The company grew steadily, relocating to its current location at 1190 Queen Street in 1973 (**Figure 50**). It incorporated in 1975 as Lawson Masonry and Construction Company, and eventually expanded to include an office in Okeechobee, Florida.[269]

The company undertook a wide range of projects, from residential homes to major commercial and government contracts. He contributed to NASA's Kennedy Space Center, refurbishing Launch Pad 39A and constructing its catacombs, as well as building a food service center on the premises. His company also built projects in Moore Haven and Homestead, Florida. His work extended to West Palm Beach where the company was recognized as Minority Business of the Year.[270]

Figure 50. Lawson Construction Company, relocated and built in 1973 at 1190 Queen Street.

In Titusville, Lawson built several buildings and homes in the Joynerville community, including his family home on Wager Avenue. Lawson had a strong preference for red brick which can still be found throughout

[269] Griffin 2024.
[270] Ibid.

the community landscape. Other extant examples include the St. James AME Church at 625 Dummitt Avenue, and homes located along Wager and South DeLeon Streets (**Figure 51**). Lawson was an officer at St. James AME Church, where he designed and installed the stained-glass windows and collaborated on the design of the church's Fellowship Hall. Lawson Construction continues to operate under the leadership of Jason Lawson, Joe Lewis Lawson Sr.'s son, maintaining its legacy in the construction industry of Titusville and beyond.[271]

Figure 51. St. James AME Church, built in 1963 at 625 Dummitt Avenue.

[271] Griffin, Karen. Interview by Brandy Black. Stantec. August 14, 2024.

6.5.2.3 Richardson Landscaping Company

Located at 1520 Craig Avenue (**Figure 52**), Jessie (Bud) Richardson started his landscaping business in 1959. Richardson's Landscaping offers commercial and residential services that include demolition (clearing and removal), lawn irrigation system installation, tree removal, weed control, and grass seeding.

Figure 52. Richardson Landscaping Company at 1520 Craig Avenue.

6.5.3 HISTORIC HOMES

6.5.3.1 Gibson Tenant House

The house at 708 South Hopkins Street is the last remaining Gibson tenant house on its original site (**Figure 53**). It should be designated and preserved on site.[272]

Figure 53. Last remaining Gibson Tenant House on original site at 708 South Hopkins Avenue.

[272] Brevard County Property Appraiser's office, Property card for Lot 26 of Joynerville Addition to Titusville, no date, on file, Roz Foster files.

6.5.3.2 Ben and Bernice McDowell Warren House

The house at 507 Dummitt Avenue was the home of Ben and Bernice McDowell Warren (**Figure 54**). The granddaughter of Edward Gibson, Bernice McDowell lost her parents at an early age and raised by her aunt Addie Rivers. With the assistance of her aunt and her work as a domestic, Bernice McDowell graduated from the Titusville Negro School and attended Boylan-Haven High School in Jacksonville. She then attended Bennett College in North Carolina and Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach before returning to Titusville as a teacher in the early 1930s. In addition to her work as a teacher, she also worked as a domestic during the summer months in order to continue her education and build a home. She used her personal money to seal and paint her classroom, purchase supplies for her pupils, and pay for school lunches. She worked especially hard to educate her students about Black history and leadership, having personally met Mary McLeod Bethune, James Weldon Johnson, Booker T. Washington, and George Washington Carver. She shared these stories with her pupils and helped them believe they were "very special" and "to aim high" and give themselves to others in service.[273] Bernice was married to Benjamin Purcell Warren Sr., who was a prominent Titusville resident who owned and operated extensive groves and other real estate, was active in community and philanthropic activities, and was a veteran of World War I. The Warren family was one of the pioneer families of this area of Brevard County. [274]

Figure 54. Ben and Bernice Warren House at 507 Dummitt Avenue.

[273] Florida Frontiers 2014; Williams 1992.
[274] Williams et al. 1985; "Man Led Civic Units," *Orlando Sentinel,* 16 May 1960; "Negro Leader Dies at 67," *The Orlando Sentinel*, 15 May 1960.

6.5.3.3 Arthur and Ila Griffin House

The house at 806 Olive Avenue was the home of Arthur and Ila Griffin (**Figure 55**). The house represents an intact example of a Bungalow commonly constructed in the neighborhood during the historic period. Additionally, these early residents played important roles as role models in the neighborhood with Arthur working as a fireman for the railroad, and Ila as an early businesswoman acting as an insurance agent starting in the 1920s.[275]

Figure 55. Arthur and Ila Griffin House at 806 Olive Avenue.

[275] Find-a-Grave.com, "Ila S. Griffin," 2016; Ancestry.com, *1930 United States Federal Census,* 2002.

6.5.3.4 Lawson House

The house at 945 Wager Avenue was the home of Joe Lewis Lawson Sr. (**Figure 56**), owner of Lawson Construction Company. It is representative of his work throughout the neighborhood.

Figure 56. Lawson House at 945 Wager Avenue.

6.6 Heritage Education

The City of Titusville should consider developing a heritage education program for both adults and children. This could be a cooperative program between the City, Brevard County, and organizations such as the library system and school board. Each community has special places from the natural and built environments which represent how those before us lived, struggled, and influenced who we have become. Through heritage education people can learn to value the significance of the historic places and artifacts remaining in their community and become responsible stewards for their environment. Interactive methods such as walking or driving tours, interpretive markers, museum activities, and restoration projects involve students and citizens in physically learning about their heritage.

6.6.1 PUBLIC EDUCATION

Expansion of the City's History Webpage and Explore Historic Titusville Mobile Application through the Integration of a Walking Tour or Historic Interpretive Sign Program

The City could develop an interpretive sign program to create a recognizable and consistent design to highlight historic African American heritage sites, events and resources. The City could also create a walking tour brochure or website documenting the history of the African American community. Such materials could provide educational opportunities as well as creating a sense of place and pride in the community. Signage and other interpretive material could integrate photos and historical information for resources, along with text or audio clips from oral histories, to highlight places that are important to the community. Some of these resources or structures might still be in existence, while others might have been lost through demolition or no longer serve the same purpose. This kind of project could be funded through historic preservation grants.

One similar example is the Newtown Alive project in Sarasota, Florida (http://www.newtownalive.org/). Newtown Alive brings together a series of historic markers or interpretive panels, a website, integrated web pages on the City of Sarasota's website, a mobile app, and brochures, along with options for either scheduled guided tours or self-guided tours and is funded through a grant from Sarasota County's Neighborhoods Department (**Figure 57**). By bringing together so many types of interpretive media (on site, print, and virtual) the project is able to reach a broader audience and bring greater recognition and exposure to the history of the Newtown community. A similar project is the St. Petersburg African American Heritage Trail, located just south of the city's downtown. This trail incorporates two corridors, both with different themes, in order to tell the stories of the people and places significant to St. Pete's history (**Figure 58**). The 22nd Street South Corridor focuses on themes of "Community, Culture, and Commerce", with stops at the locations of important former businesses like Harden's Grocery and the Manhattan Casino as well as the first African American hospital in the area. Additional themes for this corridor include the Jim Crow era, changes during desegregation, and the Civil Rights Movement. The 9th Avenue South Corridor covers a slightly different area of the neighborhood and touches on themes of "Faith, Family, and Education", including more personal stories of everyday life in the neighborhood. African American schools, homelife, community organizations, and churches are the main focus of this route.

Figure 57. Newtown Alive signage, tours, and website.

Figure 58. City of St Petersburg African American History trail corridors.

Both Newtown Alive and the St. Petersburg African American Heritage Trail include stops at many locations where historic structures are still in existence, although they do also include resources that have been demolished in the past. In Titusville, the historic Black business district along South Street was demolished in the 1960s, but its presence and importance to the community should still be recognized through heritage interpretation. Traditional interpretive signage like those incorporated into the Newtown Alive or St. Petersburg trails could also be a good option for the South Street area, but because all of the historic Black businesses along this stretch were demolished in the past, additional markers might provide a more interesting and engaging addition to the streetscape. As a way to commemorate Tulsa, Oklahoma's Black Wall Street District after its near total destruction by a White mob in 1921, brass plaques were placed on the sidewalks within the neighborhood providing information on the people and businesses that were once in that location. These "stumble stone" type markers (**Figure 59**), when integrated into a broader interpretive plan with traditional panels or other media, bring the past alive along a modern street and tie history to specific locations where buildings no longer exist.

Figure 59. Sidewalk plaques within the Black Wall Street District in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Historic Timeline

When creating a walking tour or historic interpretive sign program, it is important to develop an overall timeline of important events to ensure that the places or people included discussed on the tour are placed within a greater historic context. This also provides a guideline for the panels or markers to create a program that touches on all aspects of history, includes all significant topics, and provides a chronology for the visitor or reader to follow. An example of a possible timeline for the African American history of Titusville is shown in **Figure 60**. This could also be added to the City's history webpage and the "Explore Historic Titusville FL" mobile application.

Figure 60. African American History in Titusville Timeline, 1880s to 1960s.

Potential Themes and Topics

Themes and topics should be broad temporally, incorporating not just early pioneers, but also celebrating local people who might even still be alive and their contributions to area history. Individual markers could be placed at locations which are not within walking distance such as Gibson School, but a number of resources are within a mile to 1.5-miles, the limit of the recommended distance for a walking tour. For example, a tour or marker program covering the history of the African American community in Titusville could include trail routes and marker themes and topics such as those shown in **Table 10**. These are possible ideas, but community input should be solicited to determine what topics and locations for markers, or a tour would be important to the residents.

This information should also be added to the City's history webpage and the "Explore Historic Titusville FL" mobile application. Interpretation should be multi-platform and integrated both in print and online so that trails and information can be accessed both on site and virtually.

Table 10. Possible tour routes and interpretive panel themes and topics.

Route	Interpretive Panel Theme	Interpretive Panel Topics
South Street: At the Crossroads	The Beginning	• Andrew Jackson Gibson, businessman, civic leader and education proponent • Platting of Joynerville, Sylvan Lake, and Titusville • Pioneer families • Boarding houses and home-based businesses
	Railroad and Commerce	• Many African Americans came to Titusville building the Atlantic Coast, St. Johns and Indian River Railroad, the Jacksonville, Tampa, and Key West Railway, and Florida East Coast Railway • Early industries employing African Americans including sawmills, groves, packing houses, farms, service industries, fishing, nursemaids, cooks, laundresses • Impact of the Great Freeze and the Downtown Fire on jobs • William Henry Maxwell and his impact on citrus culture
	Black Business District	• Jim Crow Laws and a culture of exclusion which fostered the need for an independent business district and self-sufficient neighborhood • Overview of types of services provided, atmosphere, and profile individual business such as Lillie Godboldte's grocery, George Denmark's blacksmith shop, Annie Belle Dublin's sweet shop

Route	Interpretive Panel Theme	Interpretive Panel Topics
	In the Name of "Progress"	• Demolition of the Black Business District for the construction of the County Courthouse Annex and a parking lot • Relocation of businesses and homes
	Pioneer Schools	• Early schools from 1883 and 1886 • Titusville Negro School • Teachers and the roles they played in the community • Gibson School • Integration
	Blazing the Way	• Henry T. Moore as teacher, principal, and trail blazer for civil rights and the courage of Harriett Moore as a teacher and wife • Other local Civil Rights leaders and organizations such as the Progressive Action Society and NAACP
Dummitt Avenue: Faith, Family, and Service	Keeping the Faith	• Bethlehem Baptist Church • St. James AME Church • First Born Church of the Living God • Other churches • Camp meetings of the early 1900s
	Caring for families	• Closest medical care in Sanford • Midwives like Mary "Mammy" Fayson, Edith Wheeler, Mamie Dublin who cared for the community
	Recreation and Entertainment	• Acquisition of Sylvan Lake in 1927 • Filling the pond by residents • A place for recreation and other activities, Little League, adult teams and varsity teams • Isaac Campbell • Movies
	Community Landmarks and Civic Associations	• Ben Taylor's Grocery and Elizabeth Taylor's Beauty Salon • Susie "Mother" Anderson's Kindergarten • Indian River Lodge #85 Masonic Lodge
	Housing	• Different types of historic housing • Development of public housing • Development of Lincoln Park and Gibson Park

Campbell Park and the Potential Pocket Park

Per feedback from the oral history conducted as part of this project, residents would like to see interpretive signage in Campbell Park. Interpretive markers and materials in parks serve as valuable educational tools, enhancing the understanding and appreciation of natural, cultural, and historical features. These resources, which may include signs, plaques, interactive displays, and informational kiosks, educate visitors and the community about the site's rich history and cultural significance.

The City is investigating the creation of a pocket park on the southwest corner of South Street and Wager Avenue. Community input is critical in determining the design and content of this possible park. The design of this park could incorporate works by local artists in a variety of mediums. Younger artists or artists from the community can create works that speak to local history in a unique way.

Perry Harvey Park in Tampa is a good example of where this has been successfully done (**Figure 61** and **Figure 62**). It commemorates The Scrub, Tampa's oldest and largest African American neighborhood which was anchored by the Central Avenue Business District. The Construction of Interstate 4 and urban renewal projects followed by riots in 1967 resulted in the closure of the last business in 1974; only a few churches remain. The City, in conjunction with the Tampa Bay History Center, worked on this project incorporating the work of different artists to tell the full and complex story of the contributions of the African American neighborhood. The artwork was partially funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.[276]

This park incorporates a History Walk made of LIFETILES, Timeline Pavers, Leaders' Row, Clay Tile Murals, a bronze statue of Perry Harvey, Sr., and Gateway Sculptures. The timeline mural wall puts the rest of the panels into context (**Figure 61**).

Figure 61. Central Avenue Timeline mural, courtesy City of Tampa.[277]

[276] City of Tampa, "Public Art at Perry Harvey, Sr. Park," 2024, available online, https://www.tampa.gov/art-programs/perry-harvey-sr-park.
[277] Ibid.

Gateway Sculptures of musicians, dancers and a jukebox welcome visitors to the park and celebrate the importance of music to the history and culture of the former African American neighborhood. The History Walk LIFETILES are eight murals created from hand cast optical tiles featuring historic photographs of the Scrub and Central Avenue (**Figure 62**). They explore a variety of themes including the Early Years, The Scrub, Central Avenue Business Leaders, Central Avenue Timeline, Central Avenue Heyday, Social and Religious Life, Civil Rights, and Health and Education. Leaders' Row consists of earthen walls, sandblasted and stained concrete with hand plasma cut aluminum which tell the story of the most influential individuals in the community through images and a Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Fourteen inset pavers tell the chronological story of the neighborhood, guiding visitors through the park. Three large Clay Tile Murals tell the story of the community using symbolism and nature. Murals and manhole covers in the new development adjacent to the park further celebrate the history of the neighborhood. Recreational amenities include a skate park, interactive fountain, a performing arts space, and basketball courts.[278]

[278] City of Tampa 2024.

Figure 62. Perry Harvey Park, Tampa

Community Exhibits: Local Library, City Hall, and Brevard County Government Complex on South Street

Panels or display cases in the local library or in the entrance vestibule at City Hall and the Brevard County Government Complex could relate the history of the African American experience in Titusville. Photographs or ephemera in a locked display case could provide a visual reminder of how African Americans lived and worked in the area. If an archaeological survey is complete, a display case could also show artifacts recovered.

Local African American History Museum and Archives

Using Special Category Grants provided through the DHR, the last remaining Gibson Tenant House at 708 South Hopkins Avenue could be converted into a museum for Titusville's African American history. The shotgun form of the house is a clear relic of one of the predominant housing types and its location on the edge of the historic business district provides a perfect backdrop for showing the evolution of the neighborhood. The vacant land at the corner of Hopkins and South Street could provide parking and a location for the construction of an archives for the collection of African American research materials. Another site within the community could also be used.

6.6.2 COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

Street sign markers or toppers indicate the significance and heritage of a neighborhood for people traveling through the community. Signs are attached to or above the municipal street signs at designated locations (**Figure 63**). Street sign markers are an informative was to recognize heritage resources in a specific area.

Street sign toppers are an innovative way to preserve the memory and history of communities that have been impacted by newer development or gentrification.[279] These small additions to existing street signs can serve as subtle yet powerful reminders of an area's cultural heritage.

Street sign markers are recommended for the outlying street corners in the Lincoln Park and Gibson Park communities. Both communities are currently experiencing impacts from new housing development and gentrification. This will provide local recognition of the two neighborhoods that developed as segregated housing for African American residents during the 1960s.

[279] Davis, Kirk, et all. *Concerned Citizens Group Interview.* Interview by Brandy Black. Stantec. July 18, 2024; Johnson, Faye. Interview by Brandy Black. Stantec. May 23, 2024.

Figure 63. This photograph is an example of a street sign topper, located in Dallas, Texas.[280]

6.6.3 YOUTH EDUCATION AND SCHOOL CURRICULA

Oral history participants mentioned in many ways that the history of their community is important, and that younger generations should be engaged in learning about the heritage and culture of the African American community of Titusville. Based on the history of the area, types of resources, and recommendations from community members, Stantec has developed a series of recommendations specific to youth education projects that could result from the current study. Recommendations for educational programing include:

- Develop curriculum for the Brevard Public Schools, local Titusville schools, or other educational settings inclusive to Titusville's African American history and African Americans in STEM careers.
- Promote educational programs and projects in local schools that highlight local African American sites, people, and events and bring together different generations in order to share history.
- Encourage field trips to local historic sites (either in-person or virtual).
- Support public archaeology projects.
- Engage students in research or historic preservation projects at local sites.
- Engage with other community groups, clubs (kid or adult), church groups, and even the high school reunion group to develop programs for children relating to their history.

[280] Waters, Leah. *Dallas Adopts Strategy to Preserve Aging Neighborhoods, City's Diverse History*. Dallas Morning News. 2024. https://www.dallasnews.com/news/2024/04/11/dallas-adopts-strategy-to-preserve-aging-neighborhoods-citys-diverse-history/

- Have knowledgeable residents like those who participated in the oral histories for this project participate in teacher in-service days so that they are teaching the teachers about local African American history. Teachers can then incorporate that into their lessons and maybe even use small clips from oral histories.

As one example of what has already been done in Brevard County to highlight local African American history with implications for broader Florida history, the Moore Cultural Complex Board, Inc. has led the development of the Moore Legacy Curriculum which has been taught in Brevard Public Schools since 2021, honoring the legacy of Civil Rights activists Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore. The curriculum includes comprehensive lesson plans at multiple grade levels and an 8th grade field trip to the Moore Cultural Complex (https://www.brevardschools.org/page/harry-t-harriette-v-moore-legacy). The Moore Legacy Curriculum is a successful example of how the community and government officials can work together to preserve history through education.

In terms of more local history centered on Titusville's African American history there are many topics, events, people and places in Titusville's history that warrant city or county level curricula. Identifying topics within African American history that will be preserved and taught in schools should prioritize the community's telling of that history. The oral history interviews identified some preliminary topics and themes that could develop into school curriculum (**Table 11**). However, these ideas should be further explored by the City of Titusville with community involvement to better identify the details within each of the broader themes and topics.

Table 11. Topics and Themes for School Curricula.

Theme	Topic	Period
Community Development	Founding Families	ca. 1880–1900
Community Development	Black Business District	ca. 1940–1960
Civil Rights	Local Leaders and Activists; Civic Clubs; NAACP	ca. 1940-1970
Education	Early Education; School Segregation; Educators; The Gibson School	ca.1880–1970
Religion	Local African American Churches	ca. 1890–1960
Occupation/Innovation	NASA and Kennedy Space Center; Contributions and Employees, African Americans in STEM fields	ca. 1960–1980
Social	Women's History	ca. 1880–1970

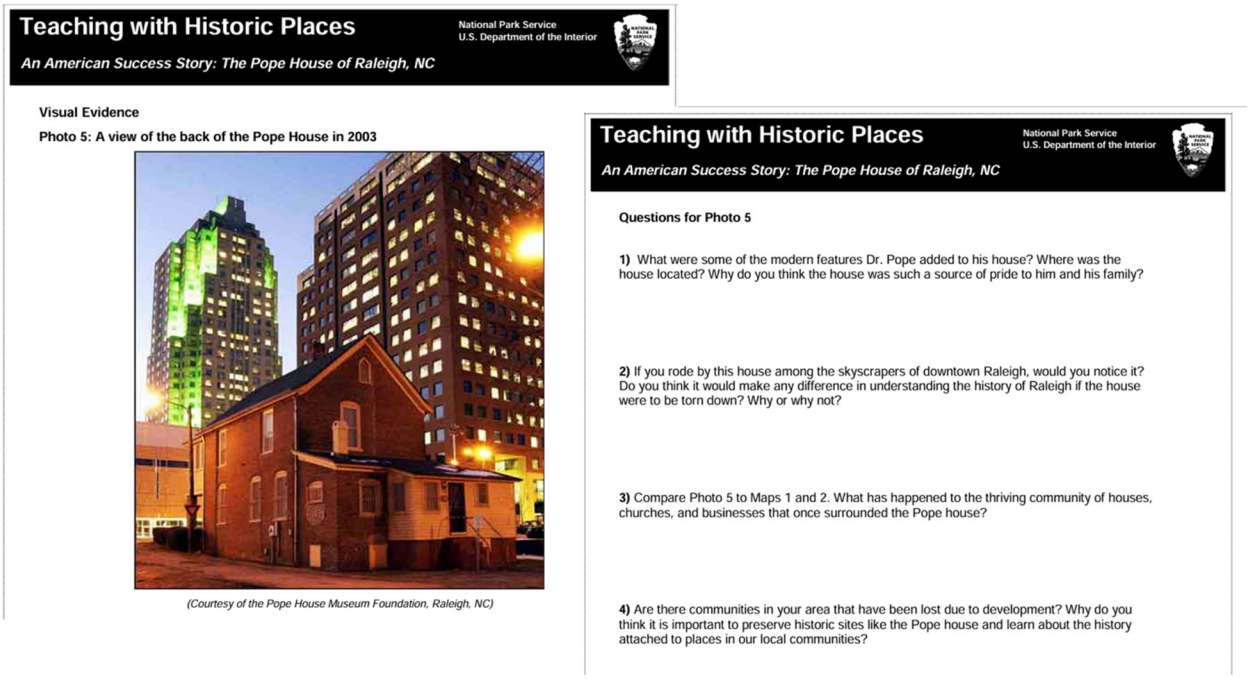
Historic neighborhoods, places, and oral histories tied to the places that students live and learn provide a unique educational opportunity and fit well into educational standards for many grade levels. When learning about primary (versus secondary) sources, students might not think of things like a historic building or grave marker, but these objects tell a direct story about the people that built them and history of the communities

they reside in. When used within a place-based learning framework, historic structures, neighborhoods, and places (whether still extant or viewable only from historic photographs or maps) can provide engaging sources for students to investigate and explore. Oral histories, like those collected as part of this project, are primary sources that can give students insights into histories that are not generally recorded in history books. In the process of working with historic resources and oral histories as part of a place-based curriculum, students not only learn how to analyze diverse sources in order to understand a topic or period in time, but also learn more deeply about the histories still held within their communities.

As an example of this sort of learning framework, the National Park Service has worked with numerous community partners across the country to develop individual lesson plans within their Teaching with Historic Places program (https://www.nps.gov/subjects/teachingwithhistoricplaces/index.htm). Using a place-based approach, communities are encouraged to develop lesson plans that engage students in analyzing historic resources as primary documents in pursuit of a greater understanding of larger historical themes and events. Students use historic maps, photos of historic places, oral history extracts, and other primary resources to gain a deeper understanding of both local and national histories while also practicing their skills as historians and researchers. Example Teaching with Historic Places lesson plans related to the theme of African American History can be found at this link: https://www.nps.gov/articles/african-american-history-teaching-with-historic-places.htm. An example Teaching with Historic Places lesson plan focused on the Pope House in Raleigh, NC is presented in **Figure 64**.[281]

Titusville's historic African American neighborhood lesson plans could utilize photographs of existing and demolished structures, historic Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, neighborhood plat maps, historic cemetery records, oral histories, and even family photographs to develop plans that focuses on themes that speak to both local and national topics. With the historical connections to nearby Kennedy Space Center, a lesson plan might also focus on connections to local African American communities as they relate to the development of the space program or African Americans employed in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) jobs at the space center and the local community in which they lived.

[281] NPS, "An American Success Story: The Pope House of Raleigh, NC," n.d., available online, https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/upload/TwHP-Lessons_124pope.pdf.



Teaching with Historic Places

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

An American Success Story: The Pope House of Raleigh, NC

Visual Evidence

Photo 5: A view of the back of the Pope House in 2003

(Courtesy of the Pope House Museum Foundation, Raleigh, NC)

Teaching with Historic Places

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

An American Success Story: The Pope House of Raleigh, NC

Questions for Photo 5

1) What were some of the modern features Dr. Pope added to his house? Where was the house located? Why do you think the house was such a source of pride to him and his family?

2) If you rode by this house among the skyscrapers of downtown Raleigh, would you notice it? Do you think it would make any difference in understanding the history of Raleigh if the house were to be torn down? Why or why not?

3) Compare Photo 5 to Maps 1 and 2. What has happened to the thriving community of houses, churches, and businesses that once surrounded the Pope house?

4) Are there communities in your area that have been lost due to development? Why do you think it is important to preserve historic sites like the Pope house and learn about the history attached to places in our local communities?

Figure 64. Example Teaching with Historic Places lesson plan focused on the Pope House in Raleigh.[282]

If interpretive trails and signage are developed within Titusville's African American neighborhoods these could also serve as locations for field trips for school or other youth groups. Websites or other virtual resources could also be developed to go along with physical trails or pocket parks in future, increasing virtual access to students or groups who might not be able to visit in person. Future interpretive plans and projects should be developed with an eye to create different modes of access so that their audience can be as broad as possible.

6.7 Grant Opportunities

The current project was funded through the Florida DHR small matching grant program, and other recommended projects may also be funded through the same program. The State of Florida's Small Matching Grant program provides grants up to $50,000 to public entities for historic preservation projects, such as survey (to identify, document, and evaluate archaeological and historical resources), planning, National Register of Historic Places nomination, Heritage Education, and Historical Markers. Because the City of Titusville is a Certified Local Government, the match requirement is waived. The City of Titusville could apply for new small matching grant projects, to fund a survey of Titusville's African American neighborhoods or to prepare Heritage Education materials, such as interpretive signage, historical markers, or educational material.

[282] NPS, "An American Success Story: The Pope House of Raleigh, NC," n.d., available online, https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/upload/TwHP-Lessons_124pope.pdf.

The Florida DHR also has funding through their Special Category grant program. Special Category grants can be used to fund historic preservation projects, such as development (preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of historic properties that are regularly open to the public), archaeological research, museum exhibit, and acquisition of a historic property/properties or archaeological site(s) in which all of the resources have the same owner.

Additional sources of funding could involve grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as several grant programs sponsored by the National Park Service including the History of Equal Rights Grant Program, Underrepresented Communities Grant Program, and the African American Civil Rights Grant Program. Main Street America and Smart Growth America have also partnered with T-Mobile to fund T-Mobile's Hometown Grant Program which awards 100 towns a year with project funding for community development projects like building trails and revitalizing historic buildings.

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Appendix A: Historic Assets Maps and Tables of Historic Resource Locations

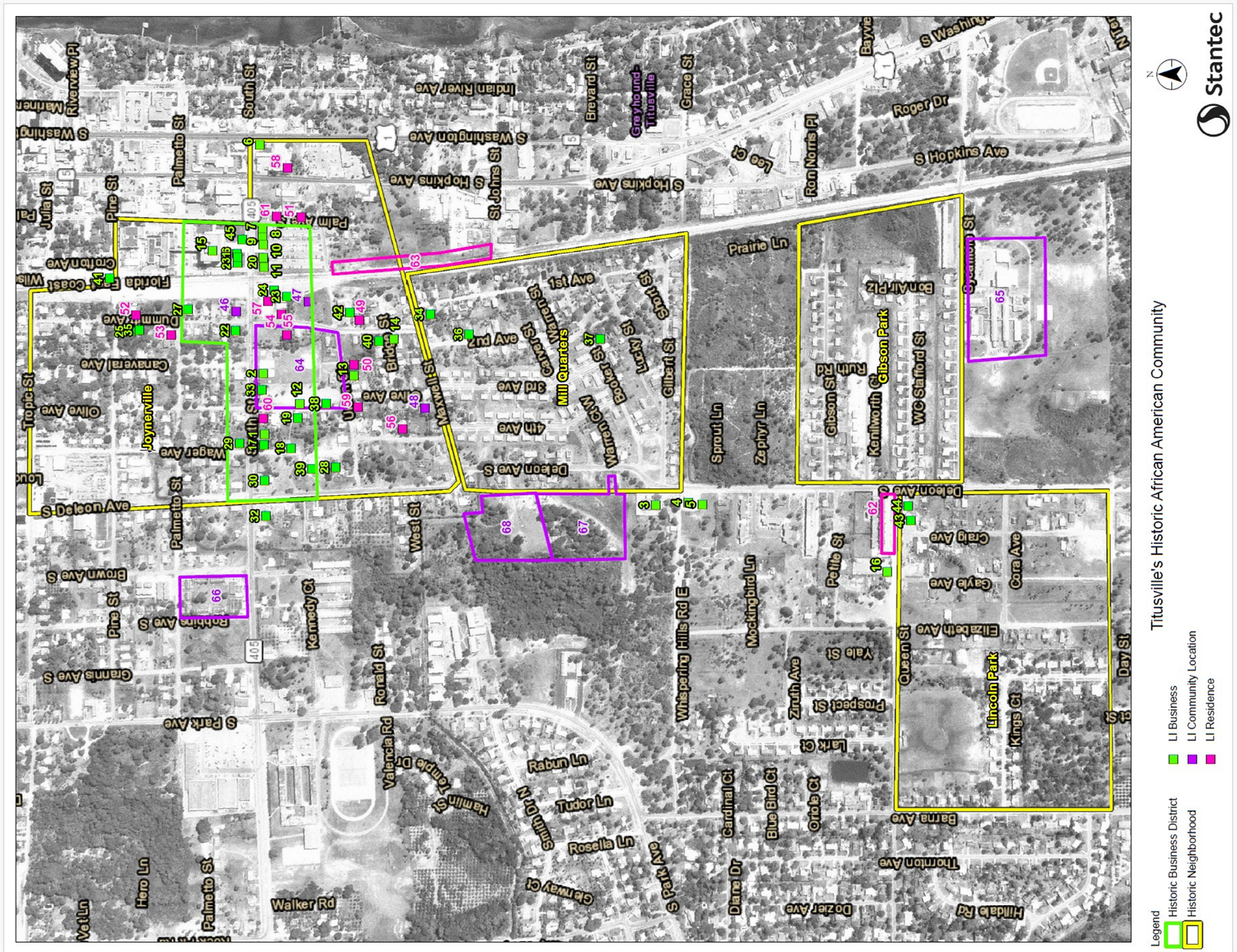

Figure 65. Overview of project area, showing community-identified locations.

Table 12. Community-identified locations.

ID No.	Name	Address/Reference
1	Stone Funeral Home	Local Informant (LI)
2	Pool Hall/Howard's Grocery	LI
3	Gray Coach Inn	LI; 1240 S DeLeon Avenue (Newspaper)
4	Orange & Green Bar (Second Location; 1967-1971)	LI; Newspaper
5	Mr. Henry's Duck Foot Juke Joint	LI
6	Old Texaco Gas Station Location (Owned by Joe Poitier)	LI
7	Fannie Smith's Cafe	LI
8	Ms. Annabelle's Sweet Shop	LI
9	Mr. & Mrs. Godboldte's Store	LI; Census
10	Club or "Juke"	LI
11	Ms. Alberta Davis' Restaurant	LI
12	Howell's Grocery Store	LI
13	Charlie Green's Blacksmith Shop	LI; 737 Union Street (1950 Census)
14	Elizabeth Taylor Beauty Shop & Ben Taylor Grocery	LI; Census; FMSF
15	Courthouse Annex	LI
16	Lawson General Contractors (Formerly Lawson Mason and Construction Company)	LI
17	Store	LI
18	Jim "Peaches" Atkinson's Teenage Place	LI
19	Dr. Lorenzo Law's Dentist Office	LI; 720 Olive Avenue (Newspaper)
20	Orange & Green Bar (Original Location)	LI; 420 South Street (Newspaper)
21	Odd Fellows Hall and Grocery	LI; 1915 and 1926 Sanborn
22	Sunshine Hotel/Boarding House	LI; 1915 Sanborn
23	African American School (ca. 1886)	LI; 1915 Sanborn
24	Andrew Gibson's Commercial Buildings	LI; 1915 Sanborn; 1926-27 City Directory
25	Sarah Mobley's Rooming House	LI
26	John Joe Barber Shop (Original Location)	LI; 314 South Street (WWII Registration Card)
27	Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall	LI; Newspaper
28	Louise J. Davis Boarding House (1958-1988)	LI
29	E.D. Davis & Co. Staple and Fancy Groceries (1926)	LI; deed
30	Willie's Grocery (1940s-1960s)	LI

ID No.	Name	Address/Reference
31	Bertha Murray's Grocery/Café	LI; 320 South Street (Rhodell Murray's WWII Registration Card)
32	Williams Service Station; L.C.'s Texaco; Blue's Store; Petro Gas	LI; Newspaper
33	Serena Mayo's Restaurant	LI; Census
34	Lillian Wilson's Beauty Parlor	LI; 1950 Census
35	Sarah Williams Boarding House	LI; 605 Pine Street (1950 Census); 130 Dummitt Avenue (1930 & 1940 Census)
36	Susie Mae Anderson's Kindergarten	LI; 1025 2nd Avenue (1950 Census)
37	Amos Bell Store	LI; 705 Booker Street (1950 Census)
38	Jim Atkinson’s Movie	LI
39	Old Titusville Negro School - "The Barn"	LI
40	Mr. Joe's Barber Shop (Relocated; John and Doeletha Joe)	LI; 881 Dummitt Avenue (1950 Census)
41	FEC / Amtrak Train Station	LI
42	Bethlehem Baptist Church	LI
43	Mrs. Knight's Store/Lincoln Park Grocery	LI
44	Lincoln Barber Shop	LI
45	The Soulful Meal Restaurant (Owned by Peaches Atkinson and Jim Atkinson)	LI
46	St. James AME Church	LI
47	Bethlehem Baptist Church (Original Site)	LI
48	Church	LI
49	House owned by the Bethlehem Baptist Church	LI
50	Mamie Dublin Residence (Midwife)	LI
51	Gibson Rivers House	723 S Palm Avenue (LI)
52	Warren Residence (Ben and Bernice)	507 Dummitt Avenue (LI; 1950 Census); 133 Dummitt Avenue (1930 Census)
53	Maxwell Residence (Henry and Matilda)	LI; 1930 Census
54	Mamie Fayson (Midwife)	LI; 715 Dummitt Avenue; Milton and Mamie Fayson Residence in mill quarters
55	West Residence (Arthur and Idella)	LI; 714 Dummitt Avenue
56	Lawson Residence (Joe and Mary; ca. 1965)	LI; 945 Wager Avenue
57	Gibson Residence (Andrew and Myle; daughter Victoria and Jake Rogers)	LI; Plats, Sanborn Maps 1915; 1926-1927 City Directory
58	Gibson Residence (William and Kate)	LI; 717 Hopkins Avenue (1926-1927 City Directory)

ID No.	Name	Address/Reference
59	Griffin Residence (Arthur and Ila)	806 Olive Avenue (LI; 1950 Census; 1985 Gibson High School Reunion Report)
60	Harris Residence (Roderick Sr.)	706 Olive Avenue (LI; 1950 census)
61	Gibson Tenant House (Formerly Owned by Sadye Gibson)	LI; 708 South Hopkins Avenue (Brevard County Property Card)
62	Gibson Apartments	LI
63	African American Railroad Row Houses	LI
64	Isaac Campbell Senior Park "The Lake"	LI
65	Gibson High School Complex	LI
66	First Public Housing Project	Newspaper
67	Oak Ridge Cemetery	LI; 1100 South DeLeon Avenue
68	Davis Cemetery (Founded by Edward D. Davis, Jr. in 1956)	LI; 1000 Davis Place

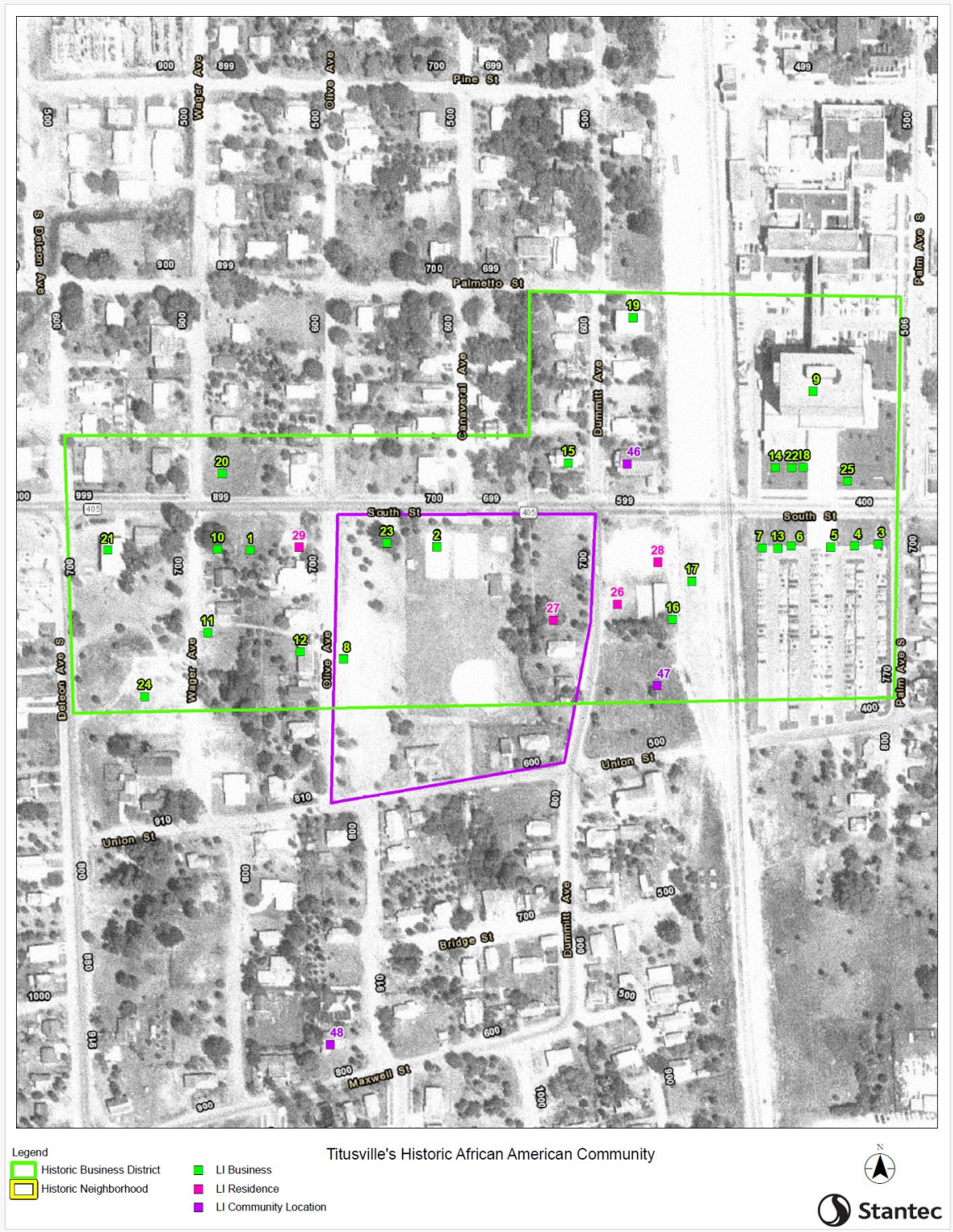

Figure 66. Overview of project area, showing community-identified locations.

Table 13. Community-identified locations in the historic African American business district.

ID No.	Name	Adress/Reference
1	Stone Funeral Home	Local Informant (LI)
2	Pool Hall/Howard's Grocery	LI
3	Fannie Smith's Cafe	LI
4	Ms. Annabelle's Sweet Shop	LI
5	Mr. & Mrs. Godboldte's Store	LI; Census
6	Club or "Juke"	LI
7	Ms. Alberta Davis' Restaurant	LI
8	Howell's Grocery Store	LI
9	Court House Annex	LI
10	Store	LI
11	Jim "Peaches" Atkinson's Teenage Place	LI
12	Dr. Lorenzo Law's Dentist Office	LI; 720 Olive Avenue (Newspaper)
13	Orange & Green Bar (Original Location)	LI; 420 South Street (Newspaper)
14	Odd Fellows Hall and Grocery	LI; 1915 and 1926 Sanborn
15	Sunshine Hotel/Boarding House	LI; 1915 Sanborn
16	African American School (ca. 1886)	LI; 1915 Sanborn
17	Andrew Gibson’s Commercial Buildings	LI; 1915 Sanborn; 1926-27 City Directory
18	John Joe Barber Shop (Original Location)	LI; 314 South Street (WWII Registration Card)
19	Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall	LI; Newspaper
20	E.D. Davis & Co. Staple and Fancy Groceries (1926)	LI; Deed
21	Willie's Grocery	LI
22	Bertha Murray's Grocery/Café	LI; 320 South Street (Rhodell Murray's WWII Registration Card)
23	Serena Mayo's Restaurant	LI; Census
24	Old Titusville Colored School "The Barn"	LI
25	The Soulful Meal Restaurant (Owned by Peaches Atkinson and Jim Atkinson)	LI
26	Mamie Fayson (Midwife)	LI; 715 Dummitt Avenue; Milton and Mamie Fayson Residence in mill quarters
27	West Residence (Arthur and Idella)	LI; 714 Dummitt Avenue
28	Gibson Residence (Andrew and Myle; daughter Victoria and Jake Rogers)	LI; Plats, Sanborn Maps 1915; 1926-1927 City Directory
29	Harris Residence (Roderick Sr.)	706 Olive Avenue (LI; 1950 census)
30	Isaac Campbell Senior Park "The Lake"	LI