



The East Leon County Heritage Trail

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AIN ROADS & CROSS ROADS

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COVER PHOTO – CSX Railroad line. Chaires, FL, circa 2006. Photo by Julianne Hare

INSIDE COVER PHOTO - Flora Mea Hunter. Photo courtesy of the Florida State Archives Photographic Collection.

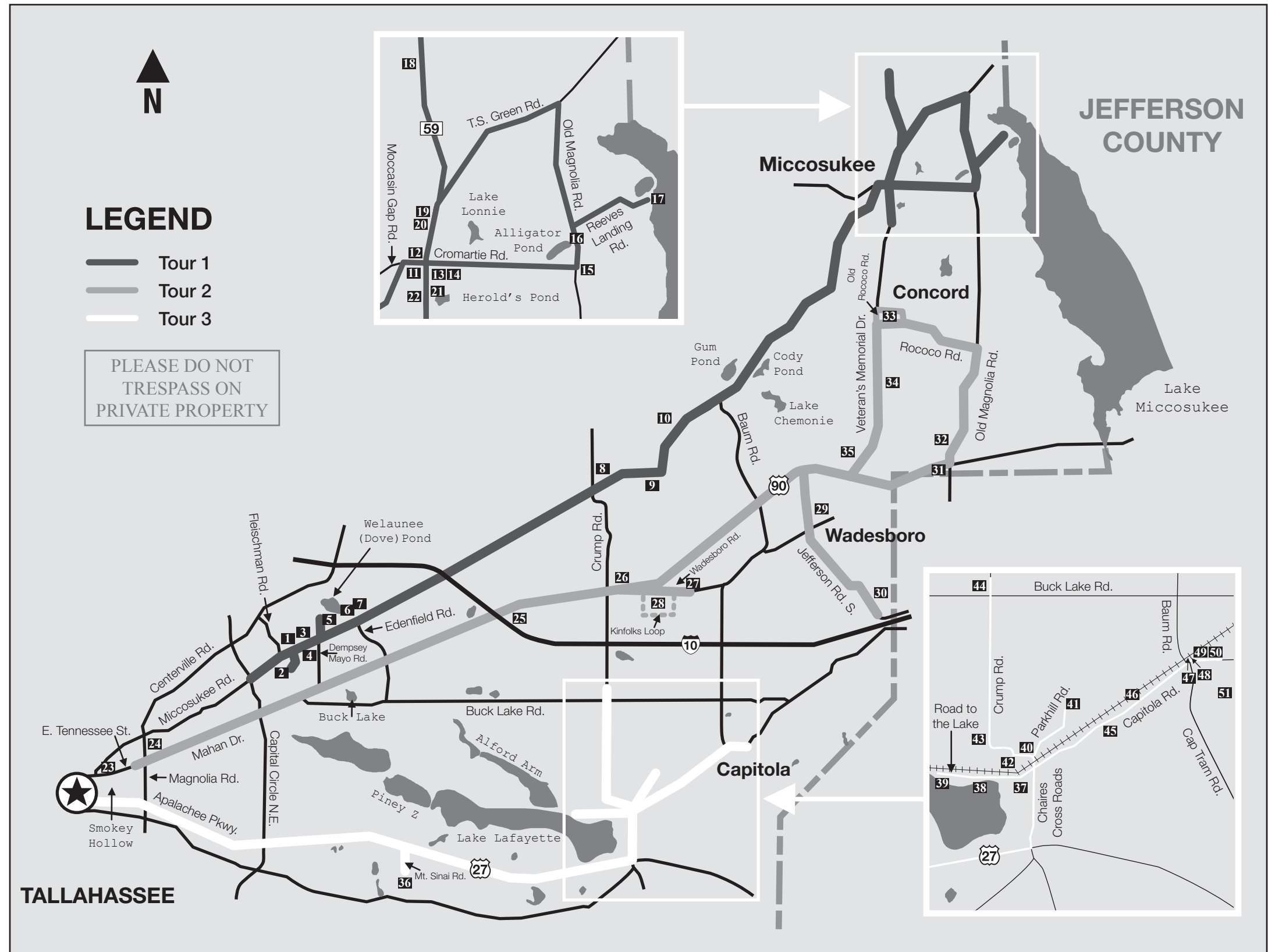




*Beyond the Pines...
 Miccosukee Road*

*The Crepe Myrtle Trail...
 Hwy. 90/Mahan Drive*

*Iron Will – Iron Rails...
 Apalachee Parkway*



Introduction

Leon County is famous for its ancient oak trees and even older pines. They can be found all over the area, but seem to be most abundant in the eastern quadrant of the county. Several of the routes you will travel are designated as canopy roads and the trees that line them are protected from destruction by local statute.

Indigenous North Americans first walked these lands over 10,000 years ago. Their presence – and the generations of people that followed – changed the face of these rolling hills time and time again. Here, you can see the remnants of antebellum plantations, but also the modern subdivisions that have replaced them. Several of Leon County's first churches and schools are located in this vicinity – along with some of our first territorial settlements.

This booklet describes three tours that will introduce you to some of these dynamic communities and the people who built them. Each route will take from one to three hours to travel – depending on how many stops you choose to make and how long you linger to explore. We encourage you to discover them all.

Tour Information

Sites of interest are each numbered and identified by one of four symbols. Written directions appear throughout the text and a map is included at the end of this publication. A supplement of related oral histories may be obtained from the John G. Riley Center/Museum for African American History & Culture at 419 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida or by calling 850-681-7881. Visit their web site at www.rileymuseum.org.



Drive Through:

Leon County neighborhoods were often named after the plantations that dotted the area during antebellum times. After the Civil War, newly formed communities adopted names that honored centers of worship or well-known property owners. Residents rarely said they came from Tallahassee or Leon County – they said they came from places like Welaunee, Wadesboro, Hickory Hill, Concord, Clifford Hill, or Chemonie. These “neighborhoods” covered large geographical areas whose borders are not easily defined. Some are included here because the ties to these communities are strong and continue to the present day.



Windshield:

These sites are significant, but structures may be in a restricted location or are inaccessible. You may drive past – or pause – at a windshield site, but please remain in your vehicle.



Stop:

Feel free to park and take a leisurely walk around the area. Remember to practice good visitor manners.



Gone But Not Forgotten:

These sites include places where historical events occurred, or where significant structures once stood. Both played a key role in the development of our county and the memory of them is an important part of our blended history.

Be A Thoughtful Visitor

Each of the three tours outlined here include burial grounds and sensitive historical sites. Please do not walk through grave sites and take care not to drive over, park on, or disturb grassy areas. Avoid scheduling your visit at times when worship services may be taking place. Stash your trash in receptacles provided or take it with you.

Beyond the Pines ... Miccosukee Road

Drive into the oak and pine-filled woods to discover some of the earliest territorial-era remnants of eastern Leon County. This tour will introduce you to some of our first settlers and property owners. These families include the descendents of those who were held in bondage. Several of north central Florida's largest plantations were established here, and even today travelers can see evidence of the expansive fields that were cleared to plant cotton and other cash crops. Watch out for the cyclists, joggers, walkers, equestrians and wildlife that live and play in the area.

HISTORICAL FACT: Miccosukee Road is named for the American Indian tribe that once populated the area. Some of its present-day route follows ancient Indian foot paths. In 1850, more than 30 plantations shared this road and today it is one of Leon County's seven designated canopy roads.

Our tour begins at the intersection of Capital Circle N.E. and Miccosukee Road where you will head out in an easterly direction. The western boundary of the first site on this tour begins near Fleischman Road in approximately 2 miles. Welaunee land once stretched 2-3 miles along the north side of Miccosukee.



1) There are two **WELAUNEE PLANTATIONS**. One – in Jefferson County – was established by Virginia-born Col. Robert Howard Gamble in 1826. The other – in Leon County – was established years later by Udo Fleishman, banker and son of the founder of a New York bakery. In the early 1900s, Fleishman purchased several lots of land, including the House Place Plantation from R. A. Whitfield, the southern portion of James Kirksey's cotton lands, some property owned by Col. Gamble, and Joseph John Williams' La Grange Plantation. Fleishman astutely negotiated hunting lease agreements at Clifford Hill, the Whitaker Place, Hickory Hill and Waverly Place, and also purchased numerous small farms to create what was then one of the largest quail-hunting plantations in North Florida. Today, the 7,000 acre tract is owned by the Mettler family (Udo Fleishman was the uncle of J. W. Mettler of New Brunswick, New Jersey). The Mettlers are working with local officials to develop a planned residential, commercial and office community covering over 2,300 of those acres. Construction is expected to begin in 2008.

Turn right (south) on Lonnie Road. Make another right turn on to Clifford Hill Road. The next tour location is directly ahead. You may pull in to the area in front of the gate.



2 The **CLIFFORD HILL CEMETERY** is the burial ground of many of the African American property owners and residents who lived in the Clifford Hill Community. The cemetery was established in 1948 by Gibb Barnes

and is still in use. The plaque at the entrance lists the family names of the community's citizens who purchased "shares" in the cemetery to pay for land acquisition and maintenance. Members of the Gardner, Austin, Robinson, Vaughn, Brim, and Pemberton families are buried here along with others who made substantial contributions to life in Leon County. There are still a few small farms in the area – cows and other livestock populate the property across the street – but the community of Clifford Hill is fast disappearing under the footprints of newly constructed homes and condominiums. The cemetery is gated and posted as private property, but, under state law, access cannot be denied to relatives. Please do not enter the gates unless you have family buried here.

Turn around in the driveway, or, you can proceed down the street and turn around in the townhouse development at the end of the block. Re-trace your route back to Miccosukee and turn right (east). The next tour location is on your left.



3 The **MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH** sits on land that was donated by Howard and Catherine Gamble. Like many rural churches, the structure has taken many forms. The first church was a log cabin structure, covered over with grape

vines and branches, that sat about 100 ft. away from the current structure. The second building was less rustic, had a shingled roof, and was sided with white-washed wooden boards. The precise day the congregation was organized is uncertain, but it is known that the lovely bell that hangs in the street sign dates back to the mid-1800s. History does record that Ben Olive was the first pastor. Several of the men who followed in his footsteps served for long periods of time, including: Saint John Stanley (1927 until 1963) and York Johnson (1963 to 1977). Mt. Olive has been under the leadership of Rev. Claude Gibson since 1978.



4) The original **NEW ZION PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH** was organized in 1927 and was rebuilt and relocated several times – from two locations on Hwy. 90 to its current spot on Miccosukee Road. The building you see today was constructed in 1985. Pull in to the driveway and take note of the beautiful, stained glass

windows and the plaques that pay homage to some of the African American individuals who were significant leaders in this community, including New Zion's original Deacons: Ned Barnes, Lloyd Pemberton, and Allen Littleton. Elder M. M. Gaines served as Pastor from 1956 until his death in 1993.

The next tour location is very difficult to find. Some 20 feet beyond the intersection where Dempsey Mayo Rd. meets Miccosukee – on your left – is a turn-in that looks more like a wagon path into an abandoned farm than a road. You can pull in there; park, and walk back to the cemetery (approximately ¼ mile). If you select this option, take great care in backing up on to Miccosukee Rd. The thoroughfare can be quite busy at times. The site can also be accessed by foot at tour site # 7.



5) After years of neglect, the **HICKORY HILL CEMETERY** has been cleaned up and restored under the direction of the Florida Trust for Public Land. Dedicated volunteers provided the necessary labor. The one acre burial ground contains the graves of African Americans who lived and worked at the Welaunee Plantation during the early 1900s. The Trust acquired the property in 1995 when it helped the state purchase land for the Miccosukee Greenway. In 2003, the land was deeded jointly to Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, and the Testerina and New Zion Primitive Baptist Churches, with the promise that the property would be cleared of undergrowth and maintained. Testerina P. B. Church took a leadership role in that initiative. Twenty-eight markers have been identified and there are signs of numerous unmarked graves. The churches have plans to fence the cemetery. Until then, visitors are asked to view this property from a safe distance and not to disturb the fragile historical evidence that is being preserved and interpreted.

Continue east on Miccosukee Rd. Watch for Testerina Church on your left and turn into their steep driveway. Dove Pond – now called Welaunee Pond – sits about ½ mile northwest of the church.



6) The **TESTERINA PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH** history dates back to 1871 in the days following the Civil War when ex-slaves who lived on the Arvah Hopkins property were given land to build a brush arbor for their Christian worship services. The

congregation selected Moses Vaughn as their pastor. During his tenure, the congregation acquired this parcel of land and built a sturdy, wooden structure. Elder Vaughn served the congregation until his death in 1890.

By the early 1900s, many of Testerina’s members lived and worked on the Welaunee Plantation. The church grounds were frequently used as a central site for celebrations of Emancipation Day and a record number of baptisms took place in nearby Dove Pond. The building was improved and enlarged several times. Sadly, it burned to the ground in 1942. It took almost a year to rebuild. The structure you see today was built in 1961. It includes a small cafeteria, space for a vibrant choir and a study for the current Pastor. The cornerstone identifies many of those members who contributed their talents and skills to Testerina over the generations. Many of the same families are also connected with the Clifford Hill Cemetery.

HISTORICAL FACT: Joseph John Williams was an early Leon County settler. His name appears among those who voted in the first state election in 1845. He established the Hickory Hill Plantation, inherited additional land from his son-in-law, Noah Thompson, and eventually owned and operated five additional properties. By 1860, Williams was one of the largest cotton planters – and slave holders – in North Florida. Joseph was more interested in his own business ventures than he was in southern politics. During the Civil War, at least one of his neighbors complained that Williams was secretly shipping his cotton to market on a “Yankee” vessel.

Your next stop is on the left, near the intersection of Edenfield Rd. and is well-marked.



7) The **MICCOSUKEE CANOPY ROAD GREENWAY**

is a popular place for hiking, exercising, dog-walking and just hanging out with nature. The Greenway has been the site of several collegiate and high school cross-country meets. Special features

include pedestrian and bike paths as well as designated equestrian trails. The park covers over 500 acres and parallels almost six miles of Leon County’s famous and historic canopy roads. This area is covered in woodlands and pastures and is home to a wide variety of wild flowers and plant life. Over forty species of animals and birds populate the acreage. Parking areas are located near the intersections of Edenfield and Miccosukee Roads and at the intersection of Thornton Road and Miccosukee. Pedestrian and bike trails start on Fleischman Road between Centerville and Miccosukee Roads. Benches and picnic areas are available. Public restrooms can be found at the Edenfield Road Trailhead. Note: If you wish to visit

the Hickory Hill Cemetery (Tour location #5), enter the Greenway meadow and head west toward the tree line. Near the trees, there is a path that heads west. In approximately ½ to ¾ miles, you will reach a dirt road that crosses the path. Take a right turn on that road. You should be able to see the cemetery fence on the west side of the path.

Return to Miccosukee Rd. and proceed east. You will pass the main entrance to Welaunee Plantation. The road appears to be a public one, but it leads into private property. Continue your journey on Miccosukee. The next stop is another mile away on the northeast corner of Miccosukee and Crump Rd.



8) The **K.C. BBQ PLACE** is relatively new in relation to its historic location, but owners Henry and Norma Chandler are making some history serving some really excellent, down-home fare. In addition to great BBQ, they sell milk, eggs, and a few other essentials. Locals often stop by on their way home from work in the city to pick up dinner-to-go. On the weekends, the picnic tables are usually filled with folks who come to eat, enjoy a cold drink, or who just want to catch up on all the local news. There is a porta-potty available on-site for public use.

Return to Miccosukee Rd. and continue your eastward journey. The next tour location is about 2 miles away and is marked with a sign on your right.



9) **THE MICCOSUKEE LAND COOPERATIVE (MLC)** covers 344 acres and includes 100 residences. Co-op members own their own homesteads on lots that range from one to several acres each. Ninety acres have been set-aside as common property and are preserved in their natural state. Owners pay an assessment for taxes, insurance and other necessities, but support for social activities is strictly voluntary. Residents are diverse in age, occupation, ethnicity, and religious belief, but every homeowner shares a common desire to live in a rural environment where the land is respected and social interaction is encouraged.

Miccosukee Road takes a sharp turn to the left (north). Stay on the paved surface. Chemonie plantation lands lie on both sides of the road.



10) **CHEMONIE PLANTATION** was established in 1836 by Virginia-born Hector Braden. In 1840, George Noble Jones bought the property as an addition to his El Destino holdings. Chemonie was moderate in size for its day and by 1860, less than half of its 1,800 acres were cleared and planted with cotton. Sections of Chemonie are still farmed. Other acreage is now covered by modern subdivisions of expensive homes.

Continue some distance on Miccosukee Road. At its end, make a right hand turn (east) on to Moccasin Gap Road.



11) The **COMMUNITY OF MICCOSUKEE** was a Creek Indian village with an estimated population of thirty families when the settlement was visited by the British back in 1778. English cartographers entered it on their maps as Mikasuki. Years later, Andrew Jackson believed Miccosukee Indians were responsible for leading raids into white-held lands. He attacked the village in 1818 and captured, killed or disbursed most of the small clan. By 1831, the area was firmly in the hands of the Americans who were pouring into the new Florida Territory. Miccosukee soon boasted of a post office, schools, churches, and stores. It quickly became the center of commerce for several surrounding plantations and small farms.

After the Civil War, many of the plantations were downsized into smaller farms. The Florida Central Railroad extended lines into the town around 1887 and within a few years, wealthy, northern industrialists were amassing large tracts of land for quail hunting. Miccosukee was prosperous until boll weevils invaded the area in 1918. The area further deteriorated during the depression years of 1929-1935. The railroad stopped serving the area in the mid-1940s.

Remnants of the “glory days” of Miccosukee are still evident, and today the town is a desirable place to live for those who love the slow and easy pace of rural life, but want to live close enough to Tallahassee to enjoy its big-city conveniences and social life.

At the stop light, pull in to the parking lot of the Cal-Mart grocery store on your left.



12) The **CAL-MART LITTLE SUPERMARKET** is Miccosukee’s version of a Walmart SuperCenter. Locals sometimes call it “that store on the corner” because of its proximity to the two main roads in the area. Despite its size,

it offers an amazing array of items that folks need, but don’t want to drive into town to get. You can find toothpaste and cold drinks, things for – and from – the garden and lots of things to eat. Check out the butcher case or try one of the BBQ or grilled specialties that are made on-site. From pizza to boiled peanuts, a Lotto ticket to reading material, they carry something of everything for everyone. Restroom facilities are available on site.



13) The **R&R GROCERY STORE** used to sit on the other side of the intersection, caddy-corner from the Cal-Mart. It was recently torn down by the county to make room for an extension to the adjacent community park. R&R was once one of only two places in the immediate area where local residents could buy groceries and basic household supplies and the only one that would extend credit. It was owned and operated by Ruby Rouse – the same lady that once owned the Hill Top store at the corner of Hwy. 59 & Hwy. 90.

Pull out of the parking lot and head east on Cromartie Road (across the road from where you stopped at the light). Pull into the horseshoe driveway on your right.



14a) The **OLD CONCORD/MICCOSUKEE**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL building was built back in 1934 for white students in grades one through six. Today, the building serves as a center for the local Head Start Program and the Boys and Girls Club of Miccosukee. Florida State University communications professor Dr. Davis Hauck has taken a special interest in the children who belong to the club. He has been an avid volunteer since 2003 and recently pledged \$50,000 for scholarships to support their aspirations to attend college. The **MICCOSUKEE COMMUNITY PARK** is next door to the school and features a playground, two lighted basketball courts, picnic shelters, a junior league baseball field and a concession stand with restroom facilities.



14b) The **CONCORD SCHOOL** was established for

children of color sometime after 1878. Most historians believe classes were initially conducted at the Miccosukee A.M.E. Church. During the Reconstruction era, African American schools were supported by a one dollar tax on each black male and a charge of 50 cents per student per month. For some, even this amount was prohibitive. Outside support was solicited to help as many children attend as possible. Concord's first teacher was Mr. Lucian Fisher and he received \$20 per month salary. In 1893, Fayette and Jennie Burned sold a half-acre of land to the Leon County School Board for just one dollar – providing a school was built on the property. The one room Concord School was built in 1894. Most likely, it was constructed by the parents of the students. It had no plumbing. Students hauled water from a nearby well and two outhouses sat out back. The building was heated by a single wood stove. By 1909, the district started closing rural schools with less than seven students, but Concord was one of the five largest in the county. The building was enlarged during the 1930s. In the late 1960s, classes were moved and consolidated at the white Miccosukee School. The Miccosukee school used the name Concord until it was closed in 1985. The original Concord building was moved to the Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science – one of the sites on the South Leon County Heritage Trail Tour.

Turn right out of the driveway and proceed east on Cromartie Road. It will dead end at Old Magnolia Road.



15) The **LOVERIDGE PLANTATION** is relatively new

as Leon County plantations go. It was established as a quail hunting and recreational retreat by Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania businessman George H. Love. Mr. Love, who once served as the chairman of the Chrysler Corporation, originally acquired 1,000 acres on Lake Miccosukee in the early 1900s. In 1956, he purchased 10,500 acres of the old Sunnyhill Plantation from the widow of one-time New Jersey Governor Walter Edge.

Turn left (north).



16) The **OLD MAGNOLIA ROAD** (Hwy. 142) remains a perfect example of how Leon County roads looked for many generations now passed. The deep cuts in the rolling hills were sometimes made to ease the way for wagons and buggies, but have also been worn down by decades of constant use. Local property owners have actually petitioned county government not to pave it.

Make a right turn (east) at Reeves Landing Road and follow it to the end.



17) **REEVES LANDING**

has been the site of hundreds, if not thousands, of baptisms. For decades, on the second Sunday in September, folks would gather at St. Paul's Church and travel approximately two miles to Reeves Landing. Locals remember people coming from as far away as Tampa and Jacksonville

for the service. Afterward, people would gather together for a large, pot-luck dinner on the grounds of the church.

The small bait shop occupies a building that was constructed back in the 1930s. They offer an odd assortment of things from cold drinks and snacks, to bait, fishing licenses, rods and reels. They also rent boats and overnight lodging. Ring neck ducks have made Reeves Landing their home for years. At least one of them speaks with the store owner on a daily basis!

HISTORICAL FACT: The nature of Lake Miccosukee has altered dramatically over the years. The lake periodically – and naturally – emptied and refilled. Throughout most of the 1800s, Miccosukee was considered to be a prairie lake – covered with plant life with very little open water. By the second decade of the 1900s, the lake was largely covered with water that varied in depth of from 2 to 5 feet. Some 60 years later, less than 20% of Miccosukee's surface was covered in open water. In 1954, an earthen dam, along with a spillway and gate, was constructed to control natural draining. The water stabilization actually accelerated plant growth. In 1999, a drought allowed restoration specialists to clean much of the lake bottom and deepen sections of the lake.

Re-trace your route back to the intersection of Reeves Landing Road and Old Magnolia. Turn right (north). The road will dead end at T.S. Green Road. Turn left (west). T.S. Green Road and Hwy. 59 (Veterans Memorial Highway) come together at a sharp point. Stop briefly at the intersection to decide which of the next routes to follow.



18) HALL'S

CEMETERY is approximately 1.5 miles “as the crow flies” from the right side of your vehicle just as you approach the intersection of T.S. Green Road and Hwy. 59. The African American burial ground has been in use since the 1920s

and is well-maintained. Many of the area’s most influential African American families are represented among the headstones, including the Woodys, Robinsons, Blacks and Fraziers.

If you wish to visit the cemetery, make a sharp turn to the right onto Hwy. 59 and you will find the cemetery about 1.5 miles up the road on your left. You can resume the tour by turning around in the Hall’s Cemetery driveway and proceeding south.

If you do not want to take the side trip to the cemetery, bear left, and travel south on Hwy. 59. You will be entering the town of Miccosukee once again, but this time stay on Hwy. 59 (Veterans Memorial Hwy.)



19) The 96-year old VAN

BRUNT-MORRIS HOUSE is located at 9086 Veterans Memorial Hwy. and is one of four structures in Miccosukee that are on the National Register. Each March since 2004, the current owners have held a doll show

and sale to benefit the Miccosukee United Methodist Church. Call 893-5321 for more information.



20) The STRICKLAND-

HEROLD HOUSE is also on the National Register. It was built in 1908 by Tallahassee physician and pharmacist, Dr. Edgar Strickland. His wife Mary, son Edgar and a servant, Alanzo Binns, appear in the

home in the 1910 U.S. Census. In 1920, the house was purchased by Swiss-born farmer Rudolpf Herold and Emma Popp Herold, According to a family member, Emma was Rudolpf’s “mail-order bride from Illinois”, but they developed a deep love and respect for one another. Mr. Herold already owned another home in the area, as well as most of the farm lands you see across the street. The 1910 census indicates the first Herold home was occupied by: the senior Herolds; 4 Herold children; Abraham Bass, a single white male servant; and an African American family, Kelly and Peggy Pheline and their 5 children. Mr. and Mrs. Pheline were also identified as servants.

The home has remained in the Herold family, but has fallen on hard times. It is currently up for sale by a Herold grandson.

Your next stop is on the left side of the road. Pull into the driveway of the little white church.



21) The **CONCORD METHODIST CHURCH** was built in 1876, but has been known as the **MICCOSUKEE METHODIST CHURCH** at least since the November 26, 1890 wedding of Miss Sudie Barco and Mr. G. H. Averitt. The Weekly Floridian reported that the church

was "... decorated with evergreens and flowers. Attendants included: Mr. J.W. COLLINS, LAURA BLAKE, Mr. WILLIE BROOKS, LINA BYRD, Mr. J. BLAKE CROMARTIE, ANNIE FREST, Mr. J.H. HERRING and MAMIE AVERITT. Ceremony performed by Rev. L.W. MOOR." The newspaper went on to report, "The bride's Mother, Mrs. ANN FENNELL, hosted an elaborate reception after the evening ceremony. The next day, the Groom's father hosted dinner for the group and local legislative representative THEODORE TURNBULL hosted yet another reception." The Barco/Averitt wedding must have been the social event of the year.

At the north end of the parking lot, you will find the historical marker that gives further details about the tiny town of Miccosukee. The next tour location can be seen directly across the highway.



22) The **AVERITT-WINCHESTER HOUSE** was built in 1881 and is the oldest house in the Miccosukee community. The house is privately owned and occupied by descendents of the original owners. The Averitts have been in the area since Col. Jesse Averitt and his sister

Hannah moved to the Florida Red Hills from Bertie County, North Carolina sometime during the 1830s. Hannah later married Green H. Chaires. In 1839, while her husband was away, the family home was attacked and burned by hostile Indians. Hannah and one of her daughters were killed, along with at least one of the Chaires' slaves.

This is the end of Tour # 1. To return to Tallahassee, head north on Hwy. 59 and make a left turn at Moccasin Gap. Make another left at Miccosukee Road and re-trace your route.

The Crepe Myrtle Trail ... Hwy. 90/Mahan Drive

The route that connects Leon County's Tallahassee to Jefferson County's historic town of Monticello has existed since well before Florida's Territorial days. When it was christened U.S. Hwy. 90, most locals referred to it as the Tallahassee/Monticello Highway. Today, a portion of it is named in honor of Fred Mahan, owner of the Monticello Nursery Company. In the 1920s, Mahan's company was one of the largest suppliers of pecans and landscape shrubbery in the southeast region.

In 1935, the Florida state road department commissioned a Miami-based firm to clean up and improve the right of way along Hwy. 90. The Monticello Nursery supplied many of the plants required. Mahan had often contributed plants for churchyards, cemeteries and an occasional roadside project, but this time he literally went the extra mile. Fred's firm donated almost 40,000 crepe myrtles, pyracantha, ligustrum and other plants to create one of North Florida's most beautiful drives. The project took over eight years to complete. In 1953, the highway was officially renamed Fred Mahan Drive to commemorate his contribution. Over the years, new plants have been added and today, you can find a crepe myrtle every 100 feet for eighteen of the twenty-five miles of the route.

Tour # 2 begins at the historic Leon High School located on Tennessee Street. You will be traveling east, away from the city's center.



This image was taken sometime prior to 1945. The photographer was on Tennessee Street, facing east. Leon High School appears on the left-hand side of the photo. Photo courtesy of the Florida State Archives Photographic Collection.



23) LEON HIGH SCHOOL is one of Leon County's most recognizable structures and locals will frequently give directions using it as a reference point. The original Leon school was opened in 1831 as Leon Academies. In 1903, it was located on the corner of Tennessee and Bronough Streets and renamed the Leon County Graded and High School. In 1911, the need for more space resulted in the construction of still another facility that was located where the current LeRoy Collins Library stands today. Leon High School is now situated on East Tennessee Street. When it was built, people complained that it was too far away from the city and that its \$500,000 price tag was outrageous.



24) **ROBERT BUTLER** always seemed to be in the right place at the right time and to be connected to all the right people. He was related to the wealthy Butler family of Revolutionary War fame and was serving as an adjutant general to Andrew Jackson when he first laid his eyes on the beautiful hills of what was then Spanish-held Florida. When the Americans secured the land in 1821, Butler was one of the first to start buying up large parcels of land – some of which you are driving through today. He was appointed to be the territory’s first Surveyor General and often acted as a land agent for other prominent Florida-bound transplants. Butler is sometimes credited with having laid out the original plat for Tallahassee. Clifton Paisley, who wrote *The Red Hills of Florida 1528-1865*, related that Butler’s many guests stopped at the office near his house and “quaffed a big tankard of punch or apple toddy dipped out of tubs, then danced in a hall of the house that opened on to a rose garden and orange grove. At midnight, all sat down to dinner.” Butler was married to Rachel Hays, the niece and namesake of Andrew Jackson’s wife.

Your next tour location will be on your right – just beyond the U.S. 90 / I-10 interchange. The approximately 8.5-mile drive will take you through some of Tallahassee’s vintage 1930s and 1950s neighborhoods and the outer fringes of old plantation lands that are now peppered with residential developments.



25) The slogan used to promote **SUMMIT EAST** is “Where nature meets technology.” The beautiful 116-acre campus of parkland, lodging, and office space certainly lives up to its advertising. Mainline Information Services’ home office is located here, along with other high-tech businesses that have taken advantage of the sophisticated fiber-optics infrastructure that serves the complex. An extended-stay motel was added in 2006 for the convenience of visiting clients.

Continue east on Hwy. 90 (Fred Mahan Drive).



26) The **BARROW HILL CEMETERY** lies just beyond Crump Road on the north side of Mahan Drive. It is inaccessible by road and almost impossible to find even if you are on foot. Those who grew up in the area verify that the cemetery was used by African American families, but the source of the cemetery’s name is still up for debate. The land could have been associated with the Barrow Place Plantation that was established by Henry Doggett and subsequently purchased by his brother-in-law, David Barrow, back in the early 1830s. It may have been the original slave cemetery that served the two Barrow Hill Plantations. Still another possibility is that the cemetery was established by Ichabod Barrow, a former slave that amassed over 160 acres of land during the Reconstruction era and became a very successful farmer. In spite of its significance, the cemetery has been ravaged by nearby housing construction, neglect, and the elements of nature. Efforts are underway to restore the property.

Drive approximately 1.5 miles. Turn right (south) on Wadesboro Road. Your next stop is ahead and to your left (east). Pull into the church parking area.



27) UNION BRANCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH was organized in 1898 under the leadership of Abram Bryant, Sr. The church you see today was built in 1965. Elder Elijah Williams supervised the construction and served as Union Branch's pastor

for 15 years. Elder Joseph Austin, great-grandson of the original founder, currently leads the congregation. Two other great-grandsons of Abram Bryant have also been called to the ministry. Elder Eddie Lynn serves at Mt. Zion in the community of Lloyd and at Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Capps. Elder Alvin Ford preaches at numerous locations around the state.



28) KINFOLK'S LOOP is more than just a road that circles through some of Leon County's prettiest property. Many of the residents here are related to the Williams and/or Bryant families who have resided in this vicinity since before the civil war. Their ancestry may track back to John Bryant who appears in this area on the 1870 U.S. Census as a 115 year old farm laborer who was born in Africa. Torrey Bryant was living next door with his wife Judy. Both were from Georgia originally, but they had three children who were born in Florida as early as 1849. The adjacent land is part of the present-day Turkey Roost Plantation.

Kinfolk's Loop is a public road that offers access to private residences back in the woods. It is navigable, but is rutted and hazardous in inclement weather. It is recommended that you turn around in the church parking lot and return to Hwy. 90. Turn right (east). Drive approximately 2 miles and turn right (south) on Jefferson Road.



This abandoned home still stands in Wadesboro. It is an example of the typical wood and tin dwellings that were scattered about the community during the early days of the 20th Century.



29) You may not be certain at exactly which point you pass through the unincorporated community **WADESBORO**, but it is roughly bounded by U.S. Hwy. 90 to the north, I-10 to the south, Baum Rd. on the west and State Hwy. 59 on the east. In the early 1900s, Wadesboro was the stop between Lloyd and Miccosukee on the 47-mile route of the Florida Central Railroad. By 1940, the community had an actual train station and was served by the Atlantic Coast Railroad. Wadesboro had its own sawmill, two schools, four

businesses and numerous homes. Sometime before 1917, African American landowner Henry Norris donated land for a school that was subsequently named in his honor. The Norris School is still standing in 2006 but is inaccessible and hidden away on private property. The building is small and it is hard to imagine that it once held 67 students in grades one through eight. The 1947 graduating class consisted of three girls – all members of the Thomas family.



30) Geologists travel from all over the world to study North Florida's mysterious "sinks". **BIRD SINK** is located on private property. It is not fully visible from the road and we ask that you do not proceed beyond 20 feet of the driveway entrance. Quiet visitors

will still be able to spot numerous birds and other wildlife from this vantage point. The owners are committed conservationists and have left the sink in relatively pristine condition. From here, overland water runoff from the Black and Still Creeks drops into the sink and flows underground into the Florida Aquifer. Patty Sink, which lies a short distance to the northwest, has been targeted for protection by Tallahassee's Blueprint 2000 Sensitive Lands Working Group. Public access is limited. The small **MERRITT-LOCKETT FAMILY CEMETERY** near the Bird Sink entrance is an African American burial ground.

HISTORICAL FACT: A geological "sink" usually forms when the roof of a cavern made of limestone, or other soluble rock, collapses, revealing an underground chamber of one or more caves that subsequently collect and hold water. During periods of high rainfall, the Bird and Patty sinks often overflow. These waters pour overland to the swampy headwaters of the St. Mark's river, creating habitats for wildlife and a natural barrier against violent storms originating in the Gulf. These waters also seep into the Florida Aquifer. Several of the sinks in Leon County have some of the longest underground, water-filled caves in the world.

Return to Hwy. 90 via Jefferson Road – turn right (east).



31) The **HILL TOP COUNTRY STORE AND DELI** still resembles the Pure gas station it once was, but it is a full scale version of today's convenience stores – and more. It has an interesting array of memorabilia on display and an even

more fascinating history. Back in 1935, this location was just about the only place to get gasoline between Tallahassee and Monticello. By 1950, it carried the distinction of being the last place to buy beer before an eastbound traveler reached Lake City. “Back in the day,” say some old-timers, “if no one was here, you took what you wanted, left a note and settled up later.” Allegedly, the grounds have been the scene of at least two murders – one as the result of a botched robbery and the other over a dispute about a bad check. Of course, both events happened many years ago and you won't find any trace of them today. Hilltop is well-known for its great sandwiches, excellent BBQ and a host of other delights that are cooked up on site or “imported” from nearby Monticello. Restrooms are available.

Turn left (north) on Hwy. 142 (Old Magnolia Road)



The Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church on Old Magnolia Road



32) The **OLD MAGNOLIA ROAD** once connected antebellum plantations and small farms to the Wakulla County port town of Magnolia where goods traveled down the St. Marks River to the Gulf. Cotton, lumber and other local goods were transported to Magnolia, Port Leon and St. Marks by wagon or via the 24-mile Tallahassee/St. Marks mule-drawn railroad. In return, consumer goods such as clothing, medicinal and agricultural products, and other items were shipped in from cities as distant as New Orleans and New York. In September of 1843, a hurricane hit north central Florida. The storm surge was estimated at over ten feet and it effectively wiped out both Magnolia and Port Leon.

Turn left (west) on Rococo Road. Make a right turn (north) on Old Rococo Road. There are several driveways that lead into the cemetery grounds.



33) The large, **UNNAMED CEMETERY** that stretches between the Old and New Roccoco Roads is believed to be the final resting ground for many of the African American residents who once owned most of the farm lands in this area. The cemetery is not affiliated with any specific church and is maintained by volunteers. It is still in use today.

Connect with Hwy. 59 (Veterans Memorial Hwy.) at the west end of the cemetery. Turn left (south). Drive approximately one mile. The next stop is on your left



34) On a hot Saturday afternoon in July of 1829, two traveling preachers met with eleven local Baptist residents at the home of Arthur and Sarah Burney to help organize one of the first churches in rural Leon County. **INDIAN**

SPRINGS CHURCH is the oldest surviving Baptist Church in this county and the fifth oldest in the state. The congregation was charged with their new duties and responsibilities and – according to author James Bryant – once they were satisfied that the prospective members were “duly immersed, doctrinally sound, morally responsible and able to obtain a letter recommending them from their home churches,” the Church of Jesus Christ at Indian Spring was chartered. A rough-hewn log structure was built near the site of an old trading post (some three miles from the present location) and a place for a cemetery was cleared. In 1832, Sarah Burney was the first to be buried there. By 1833, 41 of the total membership were slaves.

The beautiful blue and white structure you see today was built in 1854. The materials were gathered locally. Even the interior plaster was made with oyster shells from St. Marks. The old church land became the property of John Perkins and the original cemetery was essentially abandoned. By 1867, the church began a period of decline. Many of the African American members left to form a congregation of their own and the sons and daughters of several of the charter members moved to other areas of the country. Still, the church survived. In 1997, coffins interred at the original cemetery were moved to this site. Today, there are several 5th generation descendents of the original founders attending the church.

NOTE: For more information about the church and Leon County’s early settlers, read Indian Springs: The Story of a Pioneer Church in Leon County, Florida by James C. Bryant, published in 1971 by the Florida State University, Tallahassee.

Continue south on Hwy. 59 (Veterans Memorial Hwy). Your next tour location is approximately 3 miles away on your right.



35) Like many rural, African American houses of worship, the first **CONCORD AME CHURCH** began with a simple brush arbor shelter. It dates back to 1853 when services were held in secrecy. By 1867, laws prohibiting

such activities had been abolished. Members built a log structure that served the people until 1875. That year, the congregation purchased a building that included a beautiful bell that was rung before each service. By 1900, more than 300 members attended Concord. Families represented included the Hudsons, Brocks, Halls, Denmarks, Williams, Rhodes and others whose descendents still worship here. In 1956, under the leadership of Rev. Sylvester Steward, the congregation decided a new structure was needed and the current building was constructed.

This is the end of Tour # 2. To return to Tallahassee, continue south on Hwy. 59 until you reach U.S. 90 (Mahan Drive). Turn right (west). Mahan will take you on a direct route back to the city.

Iron Wills/Iron Rails ... Apalachee Parkway

Visitors to Florida's Capital City who drive in from the east on the Apalachee Parkway are treated to a magnificent view of the state's old and new Capitol buildings. History buffs can spend hours touring the museums in the immediate vicinity of our seat of state government. The R.A. Gray Building houses the state library and archives, as well as the Florida History Museum. Nearby, the old Union Bank Building shelters a portion of the collections of Florida A&M University's Black Archives. Close by, at the intersection of Jefferson Street and Meridian Road, you can visit the Riley House – the only restored and interpreted home of a former slave that is still standing in its original north Florida location.

Tour # 3 begins in front of the Old Capitol where you will head east on the Apalachee Parkway (U.S. 27). Years ago, it was called the Old Perry Highway. Within a matter of blocks, you will be passing through the Smokey Hollow neighborhood.

HISTORICAL FACT: Some say the Smokey Hollow neighborhood was named for the many open fires that used to burn in the backyards of residents who took in laundry years before the advent of today's washers and dryers. Others claim it was a derogatory term referring to its predominantly black residents. Most likely, Smokey Hollow got its nickname from the fact that the railroad would slow down as it approached the gentle rise that leads into it – billowing smoke as it struggled against the grade. The area is low-lying and occasionally foggy. The two elements combined to cover the community in a soft haze. At one time, Smokey Hollow covered most of the southeast corner of the city and boasted of stores, restaurants, churches, nightclubs and homes. Such notables as jazz greats Nat and Cannonball Adderly, and Wally Amos, Jr. (otherwise known as Famous Amos, the cookie man) spent their formative years here. Today, all that remains of Smokey Hollow is a few blocks of homes, but the neighborhood is listed on the National Historical Register and will be a feature of the Capital Cascades Redevelopment Project.

Continue driving east on the Parkway. Approximately 3 miles from the intersection of the Parkway and Capital Circle S.E. (U.S. Hwy. 319) make a right (south) turn on Mt. Sinai Rd. Drive straight back to where the paved surface joins the gravel road and continue straight. You may park in front of the iron gate.



36) The **OLD MT. SINAI AME CHURCH AND CEMETERY** was organized in 1873 when planter Charles Powell Chaires donated land for a church, school, and cemetery to emancipated slaves living in the area. The original church was a brush arbor,

but members later built a more permanent, wood structure. Adult members paid a “fee” of 10 cents and one pound of food to support the school. Children were assessed 5 cents each. The church was rebuilt in 1945 while under the leadership of Brother M.L. Lincoln. Sometime in the mid-1960s, paneling and roof shingles were added and indoor plumbing was installed. The facility still proved



to be inadequate for the growing congregation. In 1981, the church secured a 1.89 acre parcel of land 2/10 of a mile to the east and on the north side of Apalachee Parkway. It took several years to complete the project. The **NEW MT. SINAI AME CHURCH BUILDING** was dedicated in July of 1986.

Return to Apalachee Pkwy. Proceed approximately three miles and turn left (north) on Chaires Cross Roads. Just before the railroad tracks, make a left hand turn (west) on Road to the Lake.



37) The roots of the **ST. PAUL AME CHURCH AND CEMETERY** run deep through the community of Chaires, but also nearby Capitola and neighborhoods named Big Field, Brick Building, State Place, Barrow Hill and

Shepard. In 1865, Tallahassee’s Bethel AME Church became the lead church of a new Florida Conference. One of the organization’s first orders of business was to establish a church somewhere between Jefferson County’s Monticello and Tallahassee. St. Paul was a simple brush arbor when it opened in 1867. Before long, a building was donated for their use, but it was of poor construction and soon collapsed. Members then built a structure out of rough-hewn lumber. It stood until 1919. The present structure was built in 1965 – just east of the old building. It was added to over the years and substantially remodeled in 2006. Today, the church is led by Rev. Wilbert O. Hobbs – following in the footsteps of L.D. Johnson, E.L. Davis and Roosevelt Henderson.



38) **CHAIRES F & A.M. LODGE #259** is the only Masonic lodge operating in the vicinity of Chaires. The lodge was established in 1902 and is affiliated with the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons. The building was constructed in 1913 and substantially

rebuilt in 1954. Still, indoor plumbing was not installed until the late 1980s. The building appears to be temporarily closed, but lodge members, under the direction of Worshipful Master Ricardo Scruggs, are still active in the community.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Freemasons subscribe to a common belief in a Supreme Being and the immortality of the soul. Groups came together to support common interests and functioned as fraternal organizations. Most historians trace the origins of Freemasonry back to 17th century stonemasons in Ireland. The society spread throughout the British Empire – including Colonial America. In 1775, eighteen free-born African Americans were initiated into a Boston Masonic Lodge. Among them was a man named Prince Hall. Recognition of American Masonic Lodges was removed during the War of 1812 and later returned. In the process, black masons were cast aside. Prince Hall and his lodge were unable to align with the new American Masonic structure, so they applied for, and received, authority from a British Lodge to form the African Lodge #459. From that point, Masonic Lodges with black membership were referred to as “Prince Hall” jurisdictions.

CAUTION: A steep slope leads into the next tour stop. There is no sign. There is a turn-around drive, but large vehicles may encounter navigational problems. The land is low-lying and subject to flooding after periods of heavy rain. Alligators do populate the area!



39) The **L. KIRK EDWARDS WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL AREA** covers portions of Lake Lafayette and Piney Z Lake and can be accessed by boat from the primitive boat landing at the end of the Road to the Lake. The water trail was designed

for use by kayakers, canoeists and operators of small row boats. Motor-driven craft are prohibited. Boaters can “float” a distance of some six to eight miles round trip, but must portage over an earthen dam to access both lakes. Wildlife enthusiasts will enjoy the resident wood stork colony that now numbers over 300. The area is also home to great blue herons, snowy egrets, anhingas and a host of other water fowl. Alligators make their home among the cypress trees and

shallow shores. The area covers 692 acres that was deeded to the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission in 1979 by Louise Kirk Edwards. Mrs. Edwards was a founding member of the local Junior League and the Tallahassee Symphony and was an avid wildlife conservationist.

Return to Chaires Cross Roads, turn left (north). Use caution when crossing over the railroad tracks.



40) The **COMMUNITY OF CHAIRES** is not formally incorporated, but it is a designated historic district. It has no defined boundaries. It was named after one of its earliest American residents – Green Hill Chaires. Green was one of three brothers who moved to Florida from Georgia. Green, Thomas Peter, and Benjamin established profitable plantations in Leon County. In 1838, while Green was away, Indians attacked his homestead. His wife, Hannah Averitt, at least one of his daughters and an unnamed slave were killed. His other children managed to escape and hide in the woods. The house was burned to the ground. Green moved farther east and built a new home that he named Evergreen Hills. Over time, Green donated some tracts of land to the railroad and his heirs sold off additional parcels to generate income. The family continued to farm the remaining land and the small community that formed near Green’s original home has prospered.

Turn right (east) on Parkhill Rd.



41) The **CHAIRES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** that is nestled in the heart of the community was built in 1892, but its origins trace back to 1825 when the Tallahassee District of the Methodist Society was

chartered. Even before that, Methodist circuit riders were known to have traveled through north Florida. Very little is known about the first church structure, but it was originally called Mount Zion. There is documentation dated August of 1863 that reports the congregation paid \$150 that year “for support of the ministry” in the area. By 1887, the church was renamed New Hope, but where the congregants met is still unclear. Four years later, Ormond and Rosa B. Chaires sold the Methodists this property for \$20 and the current building was constructed. Services were held each 2nd Sunday morning and each 4th Sunday night of the month.

The **MAGGIE PATTERSON HOUSE** sits next door. The building originally served as the Seaboard Railroad section House. It was purchased by the church for \$75 and moved to the church grounds – first down the railroad tracks and then dragged to its current location – and used for Sunday school classes and social events. Maggie Patterson was a devoted parishioner who grew flowers and plants. She and her friend, Rosa Chaires, would take them to Tallahassee, sell them, and donate the proceeds to the church. Their efforts funded the refurbishing of the home and it was subsequently named in her

honor. In 2005, the home was used to provide temporary housing for victims of hurricane Katrina.

Return to Chaires Cross Roads and turn right (west).



42) The **OLD CHAIRES SCHOOL** standing today was not the community's first. The Chaires family initially hired private tutors for their children, but the area soon attracted small farm operators and other tradesmen, and the community responded by building a public

school. When it was first built is not clearly established, but it is believed it was the only school outside of Tallahassee at the time. In 1928, the building was outdated and in need of major repair. The Leon County School District purchased six acres of land from David Green Chaires for \$75 and the current structure – which included coal heat, electricity, indoor plumbing and a new well – was built. It opened in June of 1929.

Additions were constructed in 1948 and during the 1960s. Federal law mandated desegregation in 1954, but the Chaires' School continued to serve white children only through 1967. The original structure – which no longer exists – was closed the following year and all students attended classes in this brick building.

At one point during the 1950s, the building was designated as a "Federal Civil Defense Emergency Hospital", but was never used for that purpose. It did serve as a center of community activities and continues that role. In the 1970s, a portion of the building became a branch of the Leon County Public Library. The "new" Chaires School that sits next door serves over 900 elementary students.



43) The **DOROTHY COOPER SPENCE RECREATION CENTER AND DANIEL CHAIRES COMMUNITY PARK** share a verdant corner of the land that once surrounded the Green Chaires Plantation. Leon County initially

established the community park adjacent to the Chaires Elementary School in the early 2000s. The park includes lighted tennis and basketball courts, restrooms, a concession stand and two Little League baseball fields. The community center has become a social center for Chaires/Capitola activities. It was named in honor of community advocate and activist Dorothy Cooper Spence. The park area, once known as the Chaires/Capitola Community Park, was renamed in 2007 in honor of U.S. Marine PFC Daniel Chaires who lost his life in combat at Al Anbar Province during the Iraq War. Daniel was the son of retired Leon County Sheriff's Captain Harry

Chaires and his wife, Nan Cuchins, a teacher at the Florida State College of Nursing.

Turn left on Chaires Cross Roads as you leave the park area. The road will turn to the north. Your next stop is approximately 3 miles up the road. Pull into the driveway at Shady Grove Baptist Church.



#44) SHADY GROVE

BAPTIST CHURCH #1 was organized in 1904 under the leadership of Plummer Barnes. Today's structure was built in 1962 on the same spot as the original building. Sam Mann supervised the construction. Two wings were added and further improvements

were made in the mid-1980's under the direction of Otis T. Walker. Chester F. Bown III organized significant interior improvements that were completed in 2002. A beautiful, quiet cemetery is on the church grounds.

Turn right (south) from the driveway and head back toward the community center. The road curves first to the left, then to the right. Cross the railroad tracks and make an immediate left (east) on to the Capitola Hwy.



The St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church is on Capitola Hwy.



45) GALILEE

PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH was established in 1930 under the leadership of Elder Randolph Bryant. Several leaders served for brief periods, but in 1942, Watson Burgess assumed the role of Pastor and he led the congregation for

over 20 years. The building was substantially remodeled in 1969 under the direction of Pastor Ernest Ferrell. Elder Ferrell directed the congregation for 24 years. James Powell is currently serving at Galilee.



46) Follow the route of the **CSX RAILROAD** (it can be seen on your left) and it just may take you back in time. The Florida Central Railroad began constructing a 47-mile line in 1907 to connect the cities of Thomasville, Georgia and Fanlew, Florida. The first 10-mile section stretched from Thomasville to the lumber mill in Metcalf, Georgia. Before it reached Fanlew, trains made intermediate stops in Roddenberry, Stringers, Miccosukee, Wadesboro, Centerville, Capitola, and Cody. A competing line was operated by the Atlantic Coast Line and ran parallel tracks for part of the route, but also served the Jefferson County, Florida town of Lloyd. It connected to the Seaboard Air Line in Fanlew. The Florida Central routes were purchased by the Seaboard Line in 1914. Today, all of the old railroad lines are owned by the state and leased by the Jacksonville-based CSX Corporation.

The next stop is located on the northeast corner of Baum Rd. and Capitola Hwy. You may pull into the grassy area in front of the building, but please do not disturb anything on the grounds.



47) The cornerstone on the **ST. LUKE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH** indicates the congregation was established in 1912 under the direction of Pastor W.F. Cofield with support from Deacons S.M., W.M. and J.F. Robinson. The stone was laid in 1951. Judging

from the architecture, the building would date prior to the 1950s. It is certainly possible the cornerstone was placed when the building was moved off-grade. Efforts are being made to restore the structure.



48) The **GRAND LODGE OF THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF JOSHUA SOCIETY** was established in July of 1929. The cornerstone of the current-day building was set in 1949 by officers L. Wilson, D.D. Bassa, R.A. Chasin, C. Footman and G. Washington. Lodges and fraternal

organizations were very important in African American society during the early struggle for civil rights. Organizations provided sanctuary and critical support systems for those in trouble or need, and also provided a center for social events.



St. John's Missionary Baptist Church sits on the north side of Capitola Hwy.



49) The **JOY MART**

STORE in Capitola is the center of this tiny town's commerce and serves as an unofficial welcome center. They offer cold drinks, fresh sandwiches and some of the basic items needed by Capitola's several dozen residents. The friendly staff

can answer questions about local history. A restroom is available.



50) The **OLD CAPITOLA POST OFFICE** was closed

years ago and has been converted into the residential home across from the Joy Mart. Capitola was never as populated as the community of Chaires, but from 1908 until the 1940s, the tiny town was busy enough to be served by the Florida Central Railroad. In 1925, Capitola's lumber mill employed over 300 people.



51) The **EL DESTINO PLANTATION LANDS** are south

and slightly east of the community of Capitola. The plantation was established by Virginia-born John Nutall who also owned property in North Carolina. Nutall purchased Florida property for speculation as early as 1828. The venture was supervised by Nutall's son William and supported by 52 slaves that belonged to John and his other son James. The profits were to be divided between the father and sons. John died several years later and William purchased the land from his father's estate in 1832 for the sum of \$17,000. In 2005, the same purchase would have cost him over \$400,000. William was also an attorney and maintained an office in Tallahassee. He married Mary Wallace Savage – a Savannah, Georgia heiress – who brought considerable wealth to the marriage. Their happiness did not last long. William died in the spring of 1836. Mary inherited some 80 slaves from an uncle, purchased the Chemonie Plantation and four years later, married George Noble Jones. He was an able plantation manager and businessman. George and Mary had four children and their heirs held on to many of the family's holdings. Rev. James Page – who was a bondsman of Col. Parkhill – is said to have baptized over 400 slaves in the fresh-water streams that ran through the El Destino lands.

This is the end of tour #3. Turn around, go west on Capitola Hwy., then turn left (south) on Chaires Cross Roads and turn right (east) on U.S. 27 to return to town.

“MAIN ROADS & CROSS ROADS” SITES

Beyond the Pines ... Miccosukee Road

- # 1 – Drive Through - WELAUNEE PLANTATION
- # 2 – Stop - CLIFFORD HILL CEMETERY
- # 3 – Stop - MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
- # 4 – Windshield - NEW ZION PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
- # 5 – Windshield - HICKORY HILL CEMETERY
- # 6 – Stop - TESTERINA PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
- # 7 – Stop - MICCOSUKEE CANOPY ROAD GREENWAY
- # 8 – Stop - K.C. BBQ PLACE
- # 9 – Drive Through - MICCOSUKEE LAND COOPERATIVE
- # 10 – Drive Through - CHEMONIE PLANTATION
- # 11 – Drive Through - COMMUNITY OF MICCOSUKEE
- # 12 – Stop - CAL MART LITTLE SUPERMARKET
- # 13 – Gone But Not Forgotten - R&R GROCERY STORE
- # 14a – Stop - OLD CONCORD/MICCOSUKEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND MICCOSUKEE COMMUNITY PARK
- # 14b – Gone But Not Forgotten - CONCORD SCHOOL
- # 15 – Drive Through - LOVERIDGE PLANTATION
- # 16 – Windshield - OLD MAGNOLIA ROAD
- # 17 – Stop - REEVES LANDING
- # 18 – Windshield - HALL'S CEMETERY
- # 19 – Drive Through - VAN BRUNT-MORRIS HOUSE
- # 20 – Drive Through - STRICKLAND-HEROLD HOUSE
- # 21 – Stop - CONCORD METHODIST CHURCH
- # 22 – Windshield - AVERITT-WINCHESTER HOUSE

The Crepe Myrtle Trail ... Hwy. 90/Mahan Drive

- # 23 – Windshield - LEON HIGH SCHOOL
- # 24 – Drive Through - ROBERT BUTLER LAND
- # 25 – Windshield - SUMMIT EAST
- # 26 – Gone But Not Forgotten - BARROW HILL CEMETERY
- # 27 – Stop - UNION BRANCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
- # 28 – Windshield - KINFOLK'S LOOP
- # 29 – Drive Through - TOWN OF WADESBORO
- # 30 – Stop - BIRD SINK AND MERRITT/LOCKETT CEMETERY
- # 31 – Stop - HILL TOP COUNTRY STORE AND DELI
- # 32 – Drive Through - OLD MAGNOLIA ROAD
- # 33 – Stop - UNNAMED CEMETERY
- # 34 – Stop - INDIAN SPRINGS CHURCH
- # 35 – Windshield - CONCORD AME CHURCH

Iron Wills/Iron Rails ... Apalachee Parkway

- # 36 – Windshield - MT. SINAI A.M.E. CHURCH AND CEMETERY
- # 37 – Stop - ST. PAUL AME CHURCH AND CEMETERY
- # 38 – Windshield - CHAIRES F & AM LODGE
- # 39 – Stop - L. KIRK EDWARDS WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL AREA
- # 40 – Windshield - CHAIRES COMMUNITY
- # 41 – Stop - CHAIRES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH/MAGGIE PETERSON HOUSE
- # 42 – Stop - OLD CHAIRES SCHOOL
- # 43 – Stop - DOROTHY SPENCE RECREATION CENTER/DANIEL CHAIRES COMMUNITY PARK
- # 44 – Windshield - SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH #1
- # 45 – Windshield - GALILEE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
- # 46 – Windshield - CSX RAILROAD
- # 47 – Windshield - ST. LUKE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
- # 48 – Windshield - GRAND LODGE OF THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF JOSUA SOCIETY
- # 49 – Stop - JOY MART
- # 50 – Windshield - OLD CAPITOLA POST OFFICE
- # 51 – Gone But Not Forgotten - EL DESTINO PLANTATION