Partners in Preservation: Documenting the Nation’s Oldest City

Thomas Caswell, University of Florida

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Washington, DC
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Unearthing St. Augustine's Colonial Heritage is a National Endowment for the Humanities grant-funded project to digitally preserve a collection of hidden and fragile resources related to colonial St. Augustine, Florida, consisting of 10,000+ maps, drawings, photographs and documents available freely online.

This project is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the George A. Smathers Libraries at University of Florida

http://ufdc.ufl.edu/USACH
The project will be a resource for researchers, historians, archaeologists, architects, and historic preservationists, and will help in telling St. Augustine's unique "story" on a global scale.
"By the time the Pilgrims came to Plymouth, St. Augustine was up for urban renewal."

-Dr. Michael Gannon, Florida Historian
Building Partnerships:

- with our colleagues
- with our stakeholders
- with the public
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Unearthing St. Augustine's Colonial Heritage

Project Team:

• Tom Caswell, Principal Investigator, Architecture and Fine Arts Librarian
• Jim Cusick, Co-Principal Investigator, Florida History Librarian
• Randall Renner, Digital Library Center Production Manager
• Mark Sullivan, Systems Programmer/Developer
• John Nemmers, Architectural Archivist
• Shelley Arlen, History and Social Sciences Librarian
• Lourdes Santamaria-Wheeler, Exhibits Coordinator
• Joe Aufmuth, Government Documents and GIS Librarian
• John Freund, Preservation Department Conservator
Unearthing St. Augustine's Colonial Heritage

Advisory Board:

• Kelly Enright, Professor of History & Director of Public History, Flagler College, St. Augustine

• Roy E. Graham, Beinecke-Reeves Distinguished Professor, UF College of Design Construction and Planning

• Carl Halbirt, City Archaeologist, City of St. Augustine Archaeology Program

• Susan R. Parker, Executive Director, St. Augustine Historical Society

• Herschel E. Shepard, FAIA Emeritus Architect, Professor Emeritus, UF College of Design Construction and Planning

• Dana Ste. Claire, Director, Department of Heritage Tourism, St. Augustine

• Glenn G. Willumson, Director, Museum Studies Program, UF College of Fine Arts
Building Partnerships:

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UF and St. Augustine:

Approx. 70 miles between UF and St. Augustine
UF and St. Augustine:

Chapter 267
HISTORICAL RESOURCES

267.1735 Historic preservation in St. Augustine; goals; contracts for historic preservation; powers and duties.—

(1) The goal for contracting with the University of Florida is to ensure long-term preservation and interpretation of state-owned historic properties in St. Augustine while facilitating an educational program at the University of Florida that will be responsive to the state’s needs for professionals in historic preservation, archaeology, cultural resource management, cultural tourism, and museum administration and will help meet needs of St. Augustine and the state through educational internships and practicums.
Partnering Collections Overview:
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UF Government House Research Collections ~ 1,200 items
St. Augustine Historical Society ~ 3,000 items
City of St. Augustine Archaeology Program ~ 2,000 items
Herschel Shepard Historic Preservation Collection ~ 800 items
Existing Digital Collections ~ 3,000 items

Total:

Note: Items = unique titles or volumes in database
Partnering Collections Overview:

Government House Research Collections
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Government House Research Collections

Approx. 1,200 documents from Government House archives & flat files

- Historical research reports
- Interpretation notes
- Drawings
- Field reports
- Photographs
- Slides
- Maps
- Archaeological surveys
Partnering Collections Overview:

St. Augustine Historical Society
Partnering Collections Overview:
St. Augustine Historical Society

Approx. 3,000 documents relevant to founding/development of St. Augustine

- translations of Spanish sources on Ponce de Leon & Menéndez de Avilés
- accounts of Drake’s raid on St. Augustine in 1586
- reports from the expeditions of Juan Pardo
- memorials by clergy on conditions in the Spanish missions
- Cathedral Parish abstracts of Baptisms, Marriages, Burials 1594-1747
Approx. **2,000** digital items from 100 excavations.

Each archaeological site will have the following types of information and images:

- A summary of the site history and the archaeological research conducted there
- A site graphic or map
- Samples, cataloged and appropriately described, of up to 20 images showing results of excavations for that site, including:
  - Late Prehistoric/Contact Era structures and trash deposits
  - Late 16th c. trash deposits and structures
  - Late 16th c. deposits including evidence of Drake’s Raid
  - 16th c. to 18th c. deposits, including chicken burials, wells, houses, trash
  - Early 17th century deposits behind Convento (Indian) - possible feasting site
  - 17th c. to mid-19th c. building and trash deposits
Partnering Collections Overview:

City of St. Augustine Archaeology Program
Partnering Collections Overview:

Herschel Shepard Historic Preservation Collection

Approx. 800 records and drawings, photos, documents of major preservation/restoration work including:

Selected St. Augustine Projects:

- Ximinez-Fatio House restoration (1973)
- Avero House and Shrine (1974)
- 1580 Fort and Village reconstruction (1977)
- Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas inspection and report (1978)
- Sanchez-deMesa House (Old Spanish Inn) (1978)
- Tovar House (1987)
- Oldest House (1987)
Herschel Shepard Historic Preservation Collection

Partnering Collections Overview:
Building Partnerships:

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Outreach:

• Establishing strategic partnerships
• Recognizing "Opportunities" vs. "Threats"
• Managing perceptions
• Working with rumor mills
Outreach:
Outreach:

Please support my grant application....
Section 4. The establishment of a digitization lab and database will be a complement to St. Augustine’s 450th celebration in 2015 and provide a conduit for the partners to preserve St. Augustine’s storied past for generations to come.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission for the City of St. Augustine, Florida, this 8th day of Augustine, 2011.

ATTEST:

Joe Boles, Mayor Commissioner

Alison Ratkovic, City Clerk

(SEAL)
Outreach:
Outreach:

Tours & Receptions
Outreach:

St. Augustine Time Travelers Society

Blog & Facebook (started Spring 2013)
Partners in Preservation:
Documenting the Nation's Oldest City

After 18 months of production (as of April 26, 2014):

19,914 items have been scanned
12,379 digital pages ingested
93,099 total item views

Project funding runs through June 30, 2014
Partners in Preservation: Documenting the Nation’s Oldest City

http://ufdc.ufl.edu/USACH

email: tcaswell@ufl.edu

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