1991 Survey of Notable Historic Properties



The Lyric Theater

The Lyric Theater was built in 1926 as a silent movie house and was designed in the Beaux Arts Style, known for its ornate detail of floral patterns and stone work. Unfortunately, due to the Great Depression it was closed and sold in the 1930's. For the next fifty years, the theater would be sold numerous times before becoming a Non-Denominational Church in 1979. By the year 1987, the theater was for sale again, this time fortunately, the city was undergoing a redevelopment effort and the community realized the theater's potential, as it was centrally located in Downtown Stuart. Today, the theater seats 500 people and has been restored and modernized by state and local funds. The theater became and continues to be a place that hosts various types of community events such as classical theater, orchestra, jazz, rock, and country concerts. It also hosts dance recitals, movies, school programs, and fund raisers. The Lyric Theater is located at 59 SW Flagler Avenue and was added to the National Historic Register in 1993.



Old Post Office Arcade/13-31 Osceola Street

This 1925 Spanish Mediterranean building is located right in the heart of downtown. The building is constructed of masonry material and features large store fronts and two grand archways at either end of an interior breezeway. The breezeway connects Osceola and Seminole Streets and offers people a covered area to shop and dine, as well as a shelter during a sudden change in weather that is common in subtropical South Florida. Once abandoned and vacant, the building today has undergone extensive restoration and is now home to unique shops and restaurants. The Old Post Office Arcade is located at 13-31 Osceola Street in the heart of downtown Stuart.



The Old Martin County Court House & 33 SE Osceola Street

Art Deco was popular during the 1920s and early 1930s and represented a complete break from traditional design, emphasizing futuristic concepts with geometric patterns. Characteristics of Art Deco are flat roofs, irregular plan, stucco siding, low relief, polychromatic ornamentation in straight line, zigzag, geometric floral, and chevron designs. The style was also mimicked in household items such as appliances, clothing, furniture, and jewelry. The Old Martin County Courthouse and 33 SE Osceola Street were designed in the Art Deco Style.



The France Apartments

Designed in the Mediterranean Revival style in 1927 by developer A. W. France, The France Apartments is a large 3 story flat roof, U-shaped building crowned by a stepped parapet. Tiered porches dominate the façade bays and are covered by a hipped roof with eave brackets and curved parapet. There are 3 porch tiers that have arched openings, some with spiral columns, and the exterior wall fabric is textured stucco. The France Apartments has undergone rehabilitation that has preserved its original appearance and is located at 524 St. Lucie Crescent in Stuart.

Burn Brae Plantation & Krueger House



Albert Krueger, an ambitious entrepreneur was born in Germany and immigrated to New York at age 21. In the late 1800s, he bought property in Stuart and began a pineapple plantation. In 1894, he built his grand frame vernacular estate on the grounds of his plantation along a creek (today Krueger Creek) that meandered inland from the St. Lucie River. The creek was dredged to allow the transfer of supplies to his pineapple and citrus farms. The Kruegers used their spacious home to throw parties and social events. Albert's wife, Annie, was a charter member of the Stuart Women's Club in 1913. The Krueger's lived with their four children in the home constructed of brick, wood, metal, and glass. The estate sat on 53 acres of pineapples, orange trees, mangos, peaches, bananas, pecans, avocadoes, camphor, passion fruit vines, and a large variety of colorful flowering plants. The Krueger estate is located at 1170 E. Ocean Boulevard and is listed on the National Historic Registry.

The Feroe Building



The Feroe Building was constructed in 1913 and is great example of masonry vernacular construction. The commercial building features rough-faced concrete block which rises two stories to a flat roof. The eave line is accentuated with low rising parapet and brick saw tooth cornice molding. The original design of the building was divided into two parts; the upper was composed of double sash windows, and the lower a storefront with recessed entrances and fixed plate glass windows. The Feroe Building is located at 73 Flagler Avenue. Across the street, 61 Osceola Avenue is another masonry building that has undergone renovation and today is home to restaurants and small shapes. The structure features brick façades and a flat roof with a red tile roof cornice. The building is on a corner lot and on the main thruway to the city's riverwalk.

200 S. Albany Avenue



Victorian style originated during the middle and late nineteenth century and was named for Queen Victoria of England. The style often includes interpretations and eclectic revivals of historic styles mixed with the introduction of Middle East and Asian influences. Characteristics of Victorian design are bay window, lentils, columns, dormers, clapboard siding, cornice, entablature, gable roofs, porticos, mansard roofs, transoms, and turrets. The City of Stuart is home to one building of Victorian style and is located in downtown on 200 S. Albany Avenue.

1013 S.E. Riverside Drive



Colonial Style was among the dominant styles for American residential architecture during the first half of the twentieth century. The name refers to the rebirth in the interest of early colonial designs of the English and Dutch houses of the Atlantic seaboard. Colonial Revival started to appear in Florida in the 1880s and today continues to be built in modified forms. Characteristics of the style are two stories, symmetrical façade with gable, accentuated door, porches, columns, sash window set in pairs. A grand example of the Colonial Revival Style in Stuart is the riverfront estate home located at 1013 SE Riverside Drive.



Sam Matthews House

The Sam Matthews House is an early example of Frame Vernacular architecture built in 1912 by Sam Matthews. This two story house is detailed with a front-facing gable roof, shed, gable dormers, and wood shingles, which accentuate the dormer walls and gable end. The entrance porch is covered by a hip roof supported by turned wooden posts. Natural interior lighting is provided by double hung sash windows. In addition, wood drop siding serves as the exterior wall fabric. The house today has been relocated from its original location and is located at 501 Akron Avenue.



Old Stuart High School

This building originally opened with much fan fair as Stuart High School on September 21, 1923. The community celebrated its opening by giving speeches and school children singing the Star Spangled Banner. The school was a large two storied stucco building with an impressive front facade, set back from the street 100 feet. The entrance featured wide steps, abutted by concrete decorative balustrades and a double door entrance. All interior floors were wood and the school featured a 600 person auditorium. As the population grew larger throughout the years, a new high school was built. Today, the building is used as the Martin County School Board Administration Offices and is located at 500 East Ocean Blvd.



The Crary House

The Crary House is a rare example of Tudor Revival architecture in the City of Stuart. Built in 1925, the home features steeply-pitched roofs and side gable roofs with intersecting extensions. The exterior finish is stucco with tall narrow casement windows with multi-pane glazing. The home also contains an end exterior chimney located on the side façade. In 2010, the Crary house was moved two miles from its original location to downtown Stuart. Today the building is located at 171 SW Flagler Avenue.



Hancock House

The home was built in 1920 for John C. Hancock and his family. The Hancocks, a prominent local family, operated and owned the Lyric Theater until 1937. The home overlooks the St. Lucie River and originally had a large pineapple farm on the property. The home features steep gable roofs and smaller hip roofs. The building makes use of wood clad siding and interior chimney stacks. Today, the home is owned and lived in by the decedents of the Hancock family. The Hancock House is nestled in the northwest corner of Stuart just west of downtown on 300 SW Atlanta Avenue.



212 W. 5th Street

Mediterranean Revival is an eclectic style and design influenced by Spanish, Moorish, Turkish, and Byzantine architecture. The style was popular throughout the south in the 1920s and 1930s and was adapted into a variety of building types from hotels to small homes. Identifiers of the style are flat or hip roofs, parapet, ceramic tile roofs and surfacing, stucco, entrance porches, arches, columns, and sash windows. In the City of Stuart there are many fine examples of Mediterranean Revival with many located in the East and West Riverside neighborhoods. In a shaded and quiet area just south of downtown sits a beautifully restored apartment building on 212 W. 5th Street.



Mission Revival Architecture

Mission Revival style began in the late 19th century and drew inspiration from the 18th and early 19th century Spanish Missions in California. The style was popular in the construction of residential, commercial, and institutional structures, in particular schools and railroad depots. Characteristics of Mission Revival are stucco walls, enclosed courtyard, low-pitched roofs, adobe, red clay tile, and arches. These architectural elements were replicated in varying degrees, accuracy, and proportions; but more importantly the style invoked historic and cultural nostalgia of the Spanish Missions. The City of Stuart has few Mission Revival structures and 428 Camden Avenue is a rare example.



1513 Riverside Drive

Minimal Traditional architecture was introduced in the 1930s during the great depression as a low cost alternative to high style predecessors. Architectural detailing is sparse but alludes to features of Colonial styles. Characteristics of Minimal Traditional are having at least one front facing gable and exterior chimney stack. In addition, roof slopes are low and eves are held close to the building surface. The style remained popular well into the 1950s and there are many examples of it in the City of Stuart, such as 1513 Riverside Drive.



700 SE 5th Street & 1025 Riverside Drive

Bungalow style is among the most common styles of historic residential design in hot climates. The term Bungalow is derived from Bengali Benga, a low house with porches used by British travelers in India during the nineteenth century. Characteristics of the style are one story, low pitched roof lines, wide overhanging eaves, porches, bands of windows, axially placed doors to allow good air circulation and brick or stone chimneys. Most bungalows were constructed of wood and rested on masonry piers. Examples of beautiful and well preserved Bungalows are located at 700 SE 5th Street and 1025 Riverside Drive.



625 St. Lucie Crescent

This bungalow style house was constructed in 1927 and has a gable roof, gable dormer with tampered posts, exposed rafter ends, carved brackets and an entrance porch. The porch sits under the main roof and is supported by massive posts connected by a picket balustrade. Natural interior lighting is supplied by double hung sash and casement windows. There is also stucco siding that serves as the exterior wall fabric. This home has maintained much of its original architecture and is located on 625 St. Lucie Crescent.



453 S.E. Riverside Drive, 309 Denver Avenue & 1005 St. Lucie Crescent

Frame Vernacular is the prevalent style of residential architecture in Florida and refers to the common wood frame construction techniques of the early twentieth century. Buildings had a rectangular or L shaped design and were usually mounted on masonry piers to maximize air flow. Characteristics of the style are one to two stories, gable or hip roofs that are steeply pitched, shingle or pressed metal siding, drop siding, horizontal weatherboard, exterior wall fabrics, porches and verandas, ornate woodwork, balustrades, and exposed rafter beams. Stuart is home to many Frame Vernacular buildings notably: 453 S.E. Riverside Drive, 309 Denver Avenue, and 1005 St. Lucie Crescent.



The Owl House

The Owl House is one of the most uniquely designed structures in the City of Stuart. Built in the Frame Vernacular style by Francis Marion Platt in the 1900s, and later sold to the Charles and Ethel Porter. The home features four prominent gables which face the St. Lucie River. Where the gables meet appear to many people to resemble the face of an owl, hence the name Owl House. The building was designed by a former sea captain who knew that if he configured the roof in this way, the home would be protected from hurricane winds. The home is located in Downtown Stuart on 100 Colorado Avenue and has been featured in the Stuart Historic Home and Building Tour.



Woodman Hall

Woodman Hall is a two story wood frame vernacular structure built by master carpenter Sam Matthews in 1915. The building served as the meeting hall for the fraternal organization *Woodmen of the World*. Prominent members of the community belong to this group such as George W. Parks, the owner of a General Store that today is the Stuart Heritage Museum. The building has also been used as the local telephone exchange, business offices, and a coffee house. The building has been renovated by the efforts of Stuart Main Street and today is a thrift shop for the Treasure Coast Presbyterian Church. Woodman Hall is located at 217 Akron Avenue.

Stuart Feed Store & Heritage Museum



The building was constructed in 1901 by George W. Parks and sold everything from wash boards, furniture and butter churners, to baby chicks, rabbits and feed for farm animals. It is vernacular architecture with a gable tin-roof and classical pioneer false-front. In 1913, when Parks partnered with C. E. 'Riley' Christensen the store's name was changed to Stuart Mercantile Co. and it kept supplies of paints, hardware, traps, fishing tackle and sportsmen products. Later in 1946, the store was sold to the Truman Fertilizer Company and was renamed Stuart Feed Store and now carried seed, fertilizers, insecticides, pet and garden supplies. The store operated until the 1980s when the City of Stuart purchased the building and land. Since August 1992, Stuart Heritage, Inc. has operated the Stuart Heritage Museum in the building and in 2011 the building marked its 110th birthday. The Stuart Feed Store is located at 161 SW Flagler Avenue and is the oldest commercial building in the City of Stuart.

Old Martin County Courthouse/Cultural Center



The building was built on donated land by Mr. R. R. Frazier as the first school house in Stuart. When a new school was built the building became the Martin County Courthouse and was redesigned by architect L. Phillip Clarke into the art deco style that survives today. The courthouse was scheduled to be razed in 1989 but was saved by concerned citizens who lobbied for its restoration. Restorations have saved the original awning windows, judge's vault, marble staircase and terrazzo floor inlaid with the commemorative emblem inside the front door. Furthermore, two benches used by visitors during court proceedings and one of the chairs from the jurors' box have been preserved. Today, the building is now a cultural center and home to two fine art galleries that host local, regional, and international renowned artists. In addition, guided tours are offered and it is an ideal location for classes and events. The Old Courthouse Cultural Center is located at 80 East Ocean Boulevard and was added to the National Historic Registry in 1997.