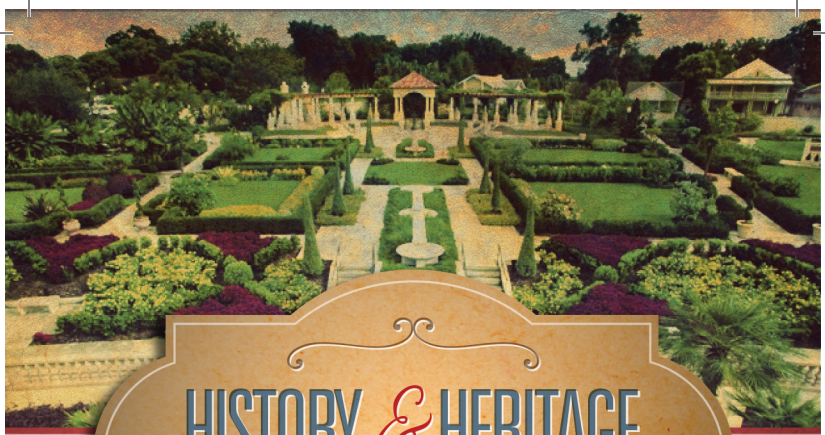
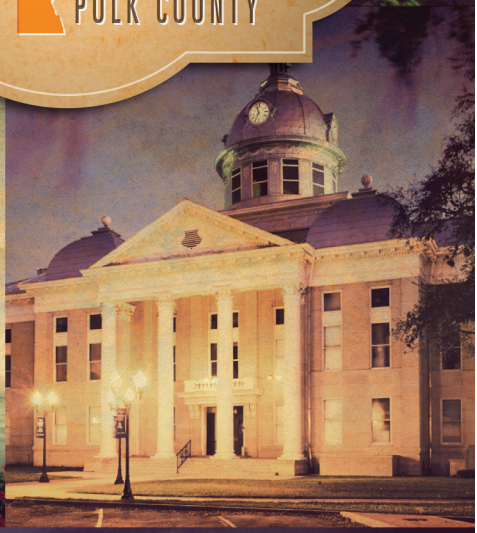


HISTORY & HERITAGE

GUIDE TO POLK COUNTY



POLK COUNTY

HISTORICAL VENUES

Where Voices from the Past Speak

Welcome to Polk County – the heart of Central Florida!

With a history that stretches back 12,000 years, our heritage is both rich and diverse. From the Paleo-Indians who first set foot on the Florida peninsula, to the intrepid pioneers who founded the cities we know today, many people have made their mark.

The **Polk County History Center** is a great place to begin your journey through time. Located in the Old Polk County Courthouse in downtown Bartow, the History Center has been enriching Polk County's future by preserving its past since 1998.

- ON THE FRONT COVER -

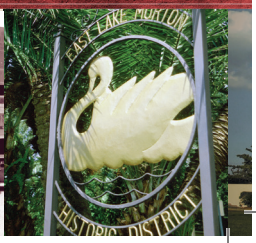
(LEFT TO RIGHT FROM TOP)

Hollis Garden, Lakeland
Frank Lloyd Wright Architecture Florida Southern College, Lakeland
Historic Bartow Courthouse, Bartow
Times Square Clock, Winter Haven
The Polk Theatre, Lakeland
Bok Tower Gardens, Lake Wales
Homeland Heritage Park, Homeland

St. Alban's Church, Auburndale

Ramon Theater, Frostproof

Lake Morton Historic District



This guide has been prepared especially for those who want to step into Polk County's rich history. These pages will help you navigate the Polk County Heritage Trail, which explores more than 150 years of Polk County history and culture. Stops include historic homes, vintage hotels, museums and much more. From Frank Lloyd Wright to Civil War battles, there are many stories for you to uncover. You can devote one day or several days to the Heritage Trail, and the sites listed in this brochure are an excellent place to start. Visit **www.polkhistorycenter.org** to find additional recommendations.

Suggested single-day trips on the Heritage Trail:

Lakeland
Mulberry

Bartow
Homeland
Fort Meade

Lake Wales
Frostproof
Babson Park

Auburndale
Polk City
Winter Haven
Lake Alfred

Davenport
Loughman
Lake Hamilton
Haines City
Dundee

Read on to learn more about the history of our county and the organization dedicated to preserving it.

Florida Southern College, Lakeland

Casa de Josefina, Lake Wales

The Polk County Story

Incentivized by the Armed Occupation Act, pioneers began moving farther south into Florida in 1842. An 1849 hurricane in Hillsborough County and the allure of Polk County's open grazing land pushed cattlemen and settlers alike into the center of the state. As immigration increased, the new Floridians established small farms, orange groves, one-room schools and churches. In 1861, Polk County (named in honor of former President James K. Polk) was signed into legislation.

In 1884, Henry B. Plant brought the South Florida Railroad through Polk County from Sanford, Florida to Tampa Bay, generating explosive growth. Towns like Lakeland, Auburndale, Lake Alfred and Winter Haven rapidly developed along the new railroad. When the first commercial shipment of phosphate rock left the area in 1888, a new industry was born. By 1910, the population had reached more than 37,000. Shortly thereafter, paved roads and beautiful homes replaced the small log shacks that had characterized the early towns and villages. By the 1950s, Polk County had become the heart of Florida's politics and economy.

Christ Espicopal Church, Fort Meade

Polk Theatre, Lakeland

Vintage Courthouse, Bartow

Historic Roots

Appropriately, the History Center has an interesting history of its own. The "Old Polk County Courthouse" is actually the third in a line of county courthouses built on this land, which was donated by cattle baron Jacob Summerlin in 1867. Polk County's third courthouse was built in 1908 and used until 1987, when construction was completed on the county courthouse currently in use.

On September 9, 1989, the 1908 courthouse was added to the National Register of Historic Places. After 10 years and three million dollars in renovations, it reopened as the Polk County History Museum. Today, the History Center includes the museum, featuring both permanent and rotating exhibits, as well as the Historical and Genealogical Library – one of the largest collections of its kind in the southeastern United States.

Happy Trails!

We hope you enjoy the Polk County Heritage Trail. If you have any questions, the staff at the Polk County History Center will be happy to assist you.

Jacob Summerlin

Lakeland Depot, Lakeland

Resources

Go to **VisitCentralFlorida.org** to enhance your history and heritage tour experience. The website includes: Fun Adventures and Attractions, Must Sees, Dining, Shopping, Outdoor Activities and lots more.

Want to learn fun facts along the way? Download the **Field Trip App** from the iPhone or Android store and discover the cool, hidden and unique facts about Polk County's rich history.

The **Polk County History Center** is your first stop for heritage information and contains a museum and research library. Historic sites listed in this brochure are also featured on Heritage Trail, a series produced for the History Center by PGTV.
Visit **www.polkhistorycenter.org** to view the videos and find us on Facebook at **www.facebook.com/polkcountyhistorycenter**.

Map Legend

- Architecture
- Museum
- Memorial
- Cemetery
- Marker
- Festival
- Church
- Monument
- Other
- School
- District

Polk County History Center

L.B. Brown House

Bartow

Bartow

1 Benjamin Franklin Holland House
590 E. Stanford
Father of Spessard Holland, former Florida Governor and U.S. Senator. (NRHP) Built in 1895.

2 L.B. Brown House
470 S. Second Ave. 863-534-0100
Possibly the only remaining house in Florida built and owned by a former slave. Museum open by appointment only. (NRHP) Built in 1884.

3 John J. Swearingen House
690 E. Church St.
Popular filming location designed by B. Clayton Bonfoey. Built in 1925.

4 Oakhill Cemetery
Pioneers buried here: Readding Blount, Riley Blount, Streety Parker, Gen. E.M. Law and Jacob Summerlin. (NRHP) Founded 1848.

5 Fort Fraser
Established by Gen. Zachary Taylor on his march against the Seminoles (Second Seminole War).

6 Fort Blount
Used as a refuge for settlers during the Third Seminole War.

7 Polk County History Center
100 East Main Street 863-534-4386
Home to permanent and rotating exhibits and the county's genealogical and research library. (NRHP) Built in 1908.

8 Bartow Air Base Museum
5001 US 17 #400 863-533-1195
Features WWII memorabilia. Formerly the Bartow Army Air Field. Built in 1940.

9 Summerlin Institute
590 S. Wilson Ave.
Polk County's first public high school. Built in 1887.

10 South Florida Military College
1140 S. Broadway
Founded by Confederate Army Major General Evander McIvor Law. Built in 1895.

11 Northeast Bartow Historic Residential District
Jackson Ave., 1st Ave., Main St. and Vine St.
27 historical buildings constructed in Frame Vernacular, Masonry Vernacular and various Revival styles. (NRHP) Built between 1886-1925.

12 South Bartow Historic District
Floral Ave., 1st Ave., Main St. and Boulevard St.
176 historical buildings built in a variety of styles, many by professional architects. (NRHP) Constructed between 1885-1941.

13 Bartow Downtown Commercial District
100 East Main Street
21 examples of Classical Revival architecture. (NRHP) Constructed between 1875-1949.

Homeland

1 Alafia River Rendezvous

1000 Old Fort Meade Rd. 863-603-3452

The Alafia River Rendezvous is one of the largest living history events in the southeast. Thousands gather each year to establish a camp on the site of the Florida Frontiersmen club property and reenact life before 1840.

2 Kissengen Spring

2200 C.R. 640

Popular recreation site from 1880s-1950s. Once discharged 20 million gallons per day into the Peace River.

3 Homeland Heritage Park

249 Church Ave. 863-534-3766

Historical park containing many of Polk County's oldest buildings.

Homeland Heritage Park

Homeland Heritage Park Church

Fort Meade

1 W. Henry Lewis Home

424 North Oak Ave.

This Queen Anne-style house was built for cattleman and citrus-grower W. Henry Lewis. (NRHP) Built in 1901.

2 Florida Flywheelers Antique Engine Club

7000 Avon Park Cutoff Rd.

Located on 240 acres, between Avon Park and Fort Meade. For fans of engines from the by-gone years. Festival held every February.

3 Pleasant Grove Cemetery

2301 C.R. 700

Still a private cemetery. The only burials allowed are for the near kin of those already interred. Founded circa 1869.

4 Christ Episcopal Church

331 E. Broadway

Oldest church currently in use in Polk County. (NRHP) Built circa 1887.

5 Battle of Bowlegs Creek Reenactment and Heritage Festival

Annual festival reflects Fort Meade's history, including Battle of Bowlegs Creek reenactment.

6 Willoughby Tillis Battle Site

2nd St. S.E. in City Park

Marks battle between Seminole Indians and Army soldiers led by Lt. Carlton.

7 Fort Meade Historical Museum

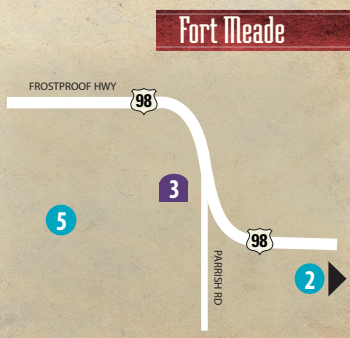
One Tecumseh Ave. 863-285-7474

Local artifacts, including a historic train, are housed in Fort Meade's first school building.

8 Fort Meade Historic District

214 W. Broadway St.

Walking tour map of this historic district available at the Fort Meade Chamber of Commerce. (NRHP)



Lakeland

OVERALL MAP

Lakeland – North

Lakeland

1 Henley Field

1125 N. Florida Ave.
Named for Clare Henley, who promoted Lakeland's association with professional baseball. (NRHP) Built in 1922.

2 Joker Marchant Stadium

2301 Lakeland Hills Blvd. 863-686-8075
Spring training home of the Detroit Tigers. Named for former Parks and Recreation Director Joker Marchant. Built in 1966.

3 Florida Southern College/ Child of the Sun – Frank Lloyd Wright

750 Frank Lloyd Wright Way
863-680-4597
Home of the largest collection of Frank Lloyd Wright buildings. (NRHP and NHL) Built between 1941-1958.

4 Historic Polk Theatre

121 S. Florida Ave. 863-682-7553
Designed by Italian-born immigrant J.E. Casale. Features Venetian piazza backdrop, twinkling stars and stage trap door. Elvis Presley performed here in 1956. (NRHP) Built in 1927.

5 Socrum Cemetery

3125 W. Socrum Loop Rd.
Pioneer families buried here: Hancock, Lanier, Sherouse, Mizell, Bryant and Prine. The Socrum area was one of Polk's earliest communities. Founded circa 1850.

6 Bethel Baptist Church

3125 Socrum Loop Rd. W. 863-858-5525
Bethel church congregation first met on this site in 1851. Performed baptisms in "Indian Pond" until the 1940s. Built in 1928.

7 SUN n' FUN Annual Fly-In

4175 Medulla Rd.
Annual airshow held at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport in April.

8 Lake Mirror Classic Auto Festival

Lemon St. and Lake Mirror Dr.
Held every October.

9 Kathleen Area Historical Society Heritage Park

8950 N. Campbell Rd. 863-858-6583
Hosts events such as Heritage Day and Harvest Festival to celebrate and promote the people and the traditions of the Kathleen Area, including the communities of Galloway, Gibsonia, Green Pond, Griffin, Kathleen, Providence, Socrum and Winston.
www.kahsatsocrum.com

10 Lodwick School of Aeronautics Marker

The first primary school to open in the Eastern Flying Training Command.

11 Polk County Line – West Marker

1199 County Line Rd.
1930 marker marks the Polk County line.

12 Polk Museum of Art

800 E. Palmetto St. 863-688-7743
The museum focuses largely on contemporary art but also exhibits Pre-Colombian artifacts from many cultural groups in present-day Mexico, South and Central America. The objects date from circa 800 BC to circa AD 1500.

Florida Southern College

Terrace Hotel, Lakeland

Joker Marchant Stadium

Lakeland – West

Lakeland

(continued)

13 Aerospace Discovery at the Florida Air Museum

4175 Medulla Rd.

Florida's official aviation museum and education center. www.FloridaAirMuseum.org

14 Winston Elementary School

3415 Swindell Rd.

One of Lakeland's "strawberry schools." Children went to school in the summer and used winter months to harvest strawberries. (NRHP) Built circa 1928.

15 Central Avenue School

604 S. Central Ave.

One of the county's few extant school buildings built before 1948. (NRHP) Built in 1926.

16 Old Lakeland High School

400 N. Florida Ave.

Occupies the site of Lakeland's earliest school. (NRHP) Built in 1927.

17 Lake Morton Historic District, South

Boundaries are Lake Morton Dr. Palmetto St., Ingraham Ave., Johnson Ave., Frank Lloyd Wright Way, Belmar St. and Tennessee Ave.

760 buildings within 50 blocks. Prominent styles are Frame Vernacular, Craftsman and Bungalow. (NRHP) Constructed between 1900-1942.

18 Lake Morton Historic District, East

Orange St., Ingraham Ave., Palmetto St., Lake Morton Dr. and Massachusetts Ave.

215 historical buildings, mostly residences. (NRHP) Constructed between 1900-1940.

19 Biltmore-Cumberland Historic District

Boundaries are S. Ingraham Ave., E. Lime St., Bartow Rd., Hollingsworth Rd. and McDonald Place.

Predominantly Masonry Vernacular construction. Blending of street patterns is reminiscent of the City Beautiful movement. (NRHP)

Lakeland Historic Districts

20 Munn Park Historic District

E. Bay St., N. Florida Ave., E. Orange St. and E. Main St.

Named after Lakeland founder, Abraham Munn. (NRHP) Constructed in the Early 1900s.

21 Lake Hunter Historic District

Boundaries are Central Ave., Greenwood St., Ruby St. and Sikes Blvd.

The first post-World War II neighborhood to be designated a historic district. (NRHP)

22 Lake Mirror Promenade

702 E. Orange St.

A prominent example of Florida's City Beautiful movement, designed by Charles W. Leavitt. Constructed between 1926-1928.

23 Dixieland Historic District

Boundaries are Walnut St., Florida Ave., Lake Hunter, Hartsell Ave. and Belvedere St.

Named "Dixieland" because it was the first development south of downtown. Mostly bungalow style architecture. (NRHP) Constructed in the early 1900s.

24 Beacon Hill – Alta Vista Historic District

Boundaries are S. Florida Ave., W. Beacon Rd., W. Belvedere St. and Cherokee Trail.

Contains 215 historical buildings, mostly residences. An early middle-class neighborhood. (NRHP) Constructed between 1900-1940.

Munn Park

Downtown Lakeland

Lake Mirror Promenade

Mulberry

Mulberry

1 Mulberry Phosphate Museum

101 S.E. 1st St. 863-425-2823

Includes prehistoric bones and artifacts excavated during the mining process.

Polk City

Polk City

1 Green Pond Cemetery

715 Green Pond Rd.

Pioneer families buried here: Raulerson, Bridges and Judy. Founded 1879.

2 American Water Ski Educational Foundation

1251 Holy Cow Rd. 863-324-4341

Home to the Water Skiing Hall of Fame.

Mulberry Phosphate Museum

Water Ski Hall of Fame

Baynard House Museum

Auburndale

1 Auburndale Citrus Growers Association Packing House

214 Orange Ave.

This historic citrus packing house is Auburndale's only remaining historical industrial building. (NRHP) Built in 1920.

2 Auburndale City Hall

One Bobby Green Plaza

Originally housed the police and fire departments, later used as everything from a library to the mayor's office. (NRHP) Built in 1927.

3 Early Auburndale Residence

212 Howard St.

An example of the Frame Vernacular construction style, popular in the 1900s with self-taught builders. Built in 1908.

4 Triangle Building

102 Main St.

The only building to survive Auburndale's three downtown fires (1912, 1913 and 1915). Built in 1912.

5 Ephraim Mikel Baynard Second Home/Museum

208 W. Lake Ave.

Former home of Auburndale's founder, restored in the 1990s by the city and students from Auburndale High School. Open by appointment only. (NRHP) Built circa 1894.

6 Ephraim Mikel Baynard Third Home

108 E. Lake Stella Dr.

E.M Baynard's residence overlooked his large citrus grove which stretched between lakes Stella and Ariana. (NRHP) Built circa 1913.

7 Historic Seaboard Air Line Depot

120 W. Park St.

In 1960, SAL operated more than 4,000 miles of road from Richmond to Miami. By appointment only. Built in 1923.

8 Holland Jenks House

119 Raintree Court

One of the only Mediterranean Revival style buildings in Auburndale. (NRHP) Built in 1925.

9 St. Alban's Episcopal Church

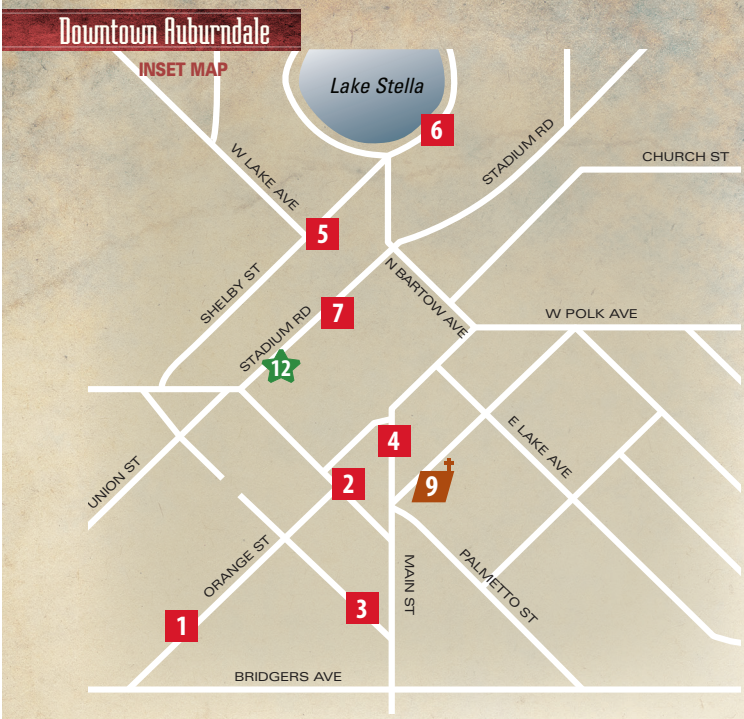
202 Ponotoc St. 863-967-2130

Community-built church featuring three stained glass windows created by C.E. Langley in 1913. Built in 1898.

10 Bluegrass Music and Alligator Festival

1052 U.S. 92 W.

The three-day event, held every March, began in 1977.



Auburndale

(continued)

11 Spirit of The Buffalo Pow Wow

1052 U.S. 92 W.

Held every January at International Market World, featuring Native American food, music and more.

12 Auburndale Parks and Recreation Building

119 W. Park St. 863-965-5545

Houses Auburndale's historic display. Open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

Auburndale City Hall

Lake Alfred

1 Biggar Building
115 Lake Shore Way
Lake Alfred's downtown retail center since the 1920s.

2 Historic Mackay Home
276 Mackay Blvd. 863-291-5272
Built by Scottish entrepreneur Alexander Mackay. Outstanding example of Craftsman style architecture. Built in 1915.

3 Lake Alfred Historical Society Building
210 Seminole Ave.
Formerly the Lake Alfred Bank. Built in 1925.

4 UF Citrus Research and Education Center
700 Experiment Station Rd. 863-956-1151
Oldest and largest off-campus research center in the UF's Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences. Originally named the Citrus Experiment Station. Built in 1917.

5 W.E. Jones Building
160 Haines Blvd.
Formerly the Lake Alfred Citrus Growers Association Packing House. Built in 1922.

6 Southern Gardens
255 E. Main St.
Formerly the Lake Alfred Hotel. Built in 1917.

7 Oak Grove Cemetery
616 Experiment Station Rd.
Pioneer families buried here: Posey, Ohlinger and Mincey.

8 Fort Cummings Marker
185 S. Lake Shore Way
Named after Col. Alexander Cummings of the Fourth Infantry.

Winter Haven

Cypress Gardens at LEGOLAND® Florida

Winter Haven

1 First Publix Store
58 4th St. N.W.
George Jenkins opened the first Publix Super Market 10 years later. Currently a sports bar. Built circa 1912.

2 Cypress Gardens at LEGOLAND® Florida
One Legoland Way 1-877-350-5346
Original botanical gardens have been preserved. Must pay LEGOLAND admission for access. Circa 1936.

3 Winter Haven Woman's Club
660 Pope Ave. N.W. 863-325-8411
Originally opened as an auditorium. Houses Winter Haven History Museum. (NRHP) Built in 1923.

4 Ritz Theatre
267 W. Central Ave. 863-295-9900
Hosted vaudeville shows, movies and the Mr. Winter Haven pageant. Built in 1925.

5 Inman Park
US 17 at Ave. T N.E.
Frederick Inman co-founded Quaker Oats. Founded in 1885.

6 Presbyterian Church
637 6th St. N.W. 863-294-3121
Built to serve the influx of residents in the 1920s. The sanctuary was built with a Georgian façade in 1926.

7 Interlaken Historic Residential District
N. shore of Lake Howard, and the S.W. shore of Lake Mirror
These 50 historic homes are prime examples of Colonial Revival architecture. (NRHP) Built circa 1910.

8 Pughsville Festival
Intersection of Post Ave. & 3rd St. S.E.
Memorial Day weekend festival commemorates the emancipation of Florida slaves.

9 1st Pughsville Marker
1601 3rd St. S.E.
An early, predominantly African American neighborhood. Named for Reverend Charles Pugh, founder of Winter Haven's Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church.

Ritz Theatre

Woman's Club, Winter Haven

Davenport

1 Swimming Pool

3 S. Allapaha Ave.

Built as part of the Works Progress Administration in 1939.

2 City Hall

One Allapaha Ave. 863-422-4507

Originally held all of city hall, as well as the police and fire departments. Home to Davenport historic display. Built in 1927.

3 Davis Home

111 W. Maple St.

Mediterranean Revival built in 1925.

4 Whoolery House, The Hotel

301 W. Maple St.

Davenport's second-oldest remaining structure. Previously used as a home, boarding house and hotel. Now a tea room. Built in 1911.

5 Sedore House

113 W. Maple St.

Made from poured concrete with steel reinforced beams, the house stayed between 78-80 degrees in the summer even without air-conditioning. Built in 1926.

6 Schmidt Building

2 S. Allapaha Ave.

Schmidt established Davenport's first service station. Only three other residents owned cars. Built circa 1925.

7 Community Center

5 S. Allapaha Ave.

This meeting hall was the largest project in Davenport constructed with federal relief assistance. Built in 1935.

8 C.S. Taylor Candy Factory

203 W. Davenport Blvd.

Built in 1930 to house Sun Dial Citrus Candies. Sold and renamed Taylor's Tropical Sweets in 1935.

9 The Mart

124 W. Bay St.

First tenants included Sun Dial Tropical Sweets and Trumbles Hardware and Beer Parlor. Home to the Davenport Post Office from 1928-1970. Built in 1927.

10 Bates Grove Mansion

380 W. Patterson Rd.

Built by wealthy citizen Henry Bates. Now a tea room and art gallery. Built in 1923.

11 Little Zion Church

3333 County Rd. 547 N.

Davenport's oldest remaining, and perhaps first, church. Built circa 1913.

12 Davenport School

8 W. Palmetto St.

Part of the National Historic District in Davenport. Built in 1927.

13 Original Florida Highwayman Weekend Extravaganza

5 S. Allapaha Ave.

Held annually in March. Contact City Hall 863-419-3300 for specific dates.

14 Horse Creek Festival (Biennial, odd years)

One S. Allapaha Ave.

www.horsecreekfestival.org

Celebrate Davenport, originally named "Horse Creek," and all things Florida.

15 Historic District

1 S. Allapaha Ave.

Walking tour map of this historic district available at the Davenport City Hall. (NRHP) Constructed between 1900-1949.

Loughman

1 Loughman Civic Center

6253 C.R. 547 N.

Believed to have been built by the Everglades Cypress Lumber Company circa 1906.

2 County Monument in Loughman

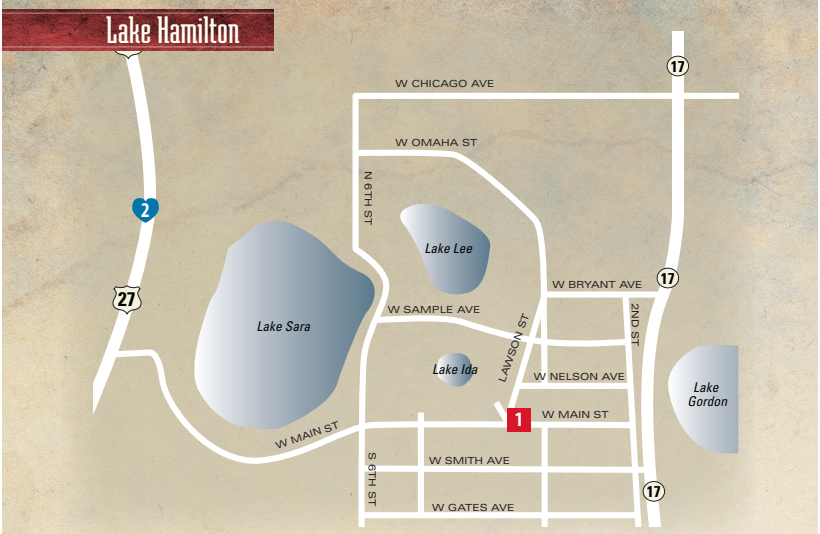
6703 Old Tampa Hwy.

1930 marker identifies the Polk County line.

3 Loughman School

6105 N. 547

Teacher Ms. Shumate was one of the founders of the Historical Association of Davenport. Built circa 1906.



Lake Hamilton

1 Lake Hamilton Woman's Club
201 W. Main St.
Designed by Tampa architect B.C. Bonfoey, who also built Ybor City's Cuban Club. Built in 1924.

2 Chief Chipco Memorial (in Sample Park)
US 27 N. of S.R. 542
Marker honors Chief Chipco and his 1855 Seminole Indian village.

Haines City

1 Polk Hotel
801 Hinson Ave.
Built by Ralph B. Polk during the 1920s land boom, closed in 1930. One of Polk County's largest historic hotels. Built in 1926.

2 Haines City Citrus Growers Association
8 Railroad Ave.
Packing house and office.

3 Paris Building
600 Hinson Ave.
Fondly remembered by long-time residents as a drugstore with a soda fountain. Built in 1923.

4 The Consolidated Arcade
29 N. 6th St.
One of Haines City's three original arcades. Note the two balconies within the second-story façade. Built in 1925.

5 The Gateway Club Building
47 N. 6th St.
Built as a social club during the land boom, later converted to a naturopathic hospital. Currently a Masonic Lodge. Built in 1923.

6 The Train Depot
One Park Place
The third train depot to be built on this site. Built in 1923.

7 Railroad Park
100 N. 6th St.
Once home to the Leisure Lodge, constructed for social gatherings by the Village Improvement Society. Built in 1916.

8 Oakland Cemetery
602 Ave. M S.W.
Founded by African American Baptists on land donated by Harvey B. Angle. Founded circa 1902.

Haines City

9 St. Mark's Episcopal Church

102 N. 9th St.

Built by hand by Civil War veteran Samuel Hodgman. Haines City's only remaining 19th-century building. Built in 1892.

10 Downtown Haines City Commercial District

Hinson Ave. and Ingraham Ave., 4th St. and 7th St.

Downtown's historic commercial area with 20 historic buildings. (NRHP) Constructed between 1913-1937.

11 Haines City Historical Museum

1001 Ingraham Ave. 863-207-6752

Houses Haines City's historical display.

12 Central Grammar School

801 Ledwith Ave.

Designed by noted architect Edward Columbus Hosford. (NRHP) Built in 1925.

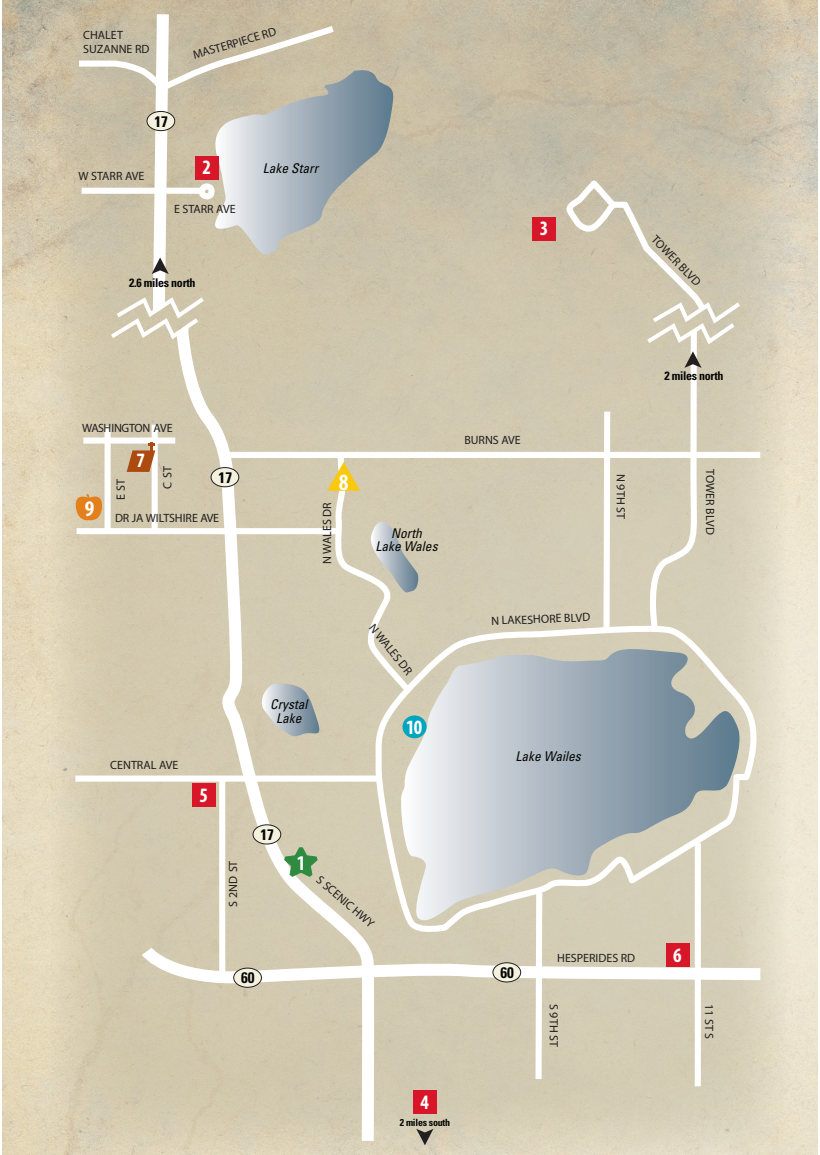
Dundee

1 M. Kampsen Historic Dundee Depot Museum

103 Main St.

The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Depot welcomed visitors to Dundee. (NRHP) Built in 1912.

Lake Wales



Bok Tower Gardens

Depot Museum

Lake Wales

1 Lake Wales Depot Museum

325 S. Scenic Hwy. 863-676-5160

The museum showcases a variety of artifacts related to the early history and development of Lakes Wales. (NRHP) Built 1928.

2 Lake of the Hills Community Club and Lake of Hills Country Club

47 East Starr Avenue

Has served as a community social center and voting place since 1926. (NRHP) Built in 1926.

3 Bok Tower Gardens, Singing Tower & Pinewood Estate

1151 Tower Blvd. 863-676-1408

Edward Bok commissioned world-renowned artisans to design tower's surrounding gardens. One of the highest points in peninsular Florida. (NRHP and NHL) Built in 1929.

4 Casa de Josefina

1119 Highland Park Dr. N.

Designed by Edward Stratton. Once surrounded by tropical gardens, it was one of Florida's residential marvels. Built in 1923. (NRHP) Private residence, drive by only.

5 Polk State College J.D. Alexander Center

152 East Central Ave.

Completed in the 1920s, the building once served as Lake Wales City Hall. It was constructed in a Mediterranean Revival style and has since been renovated for educational use by Polk State College. (NRHP)

6 Polk State College Lake Wales Arts Center

1099 S.R. 60 863-298-6883

(Former Church of the Holy Spirit)

Excellent example of Spanish Mission architecture (NRHP) Built in the 1920s.

7 AME Church

241 C. Street

The (African Methodist Episcopal Church) AME Church was first built in Lake Wales in 1918 as a wooden structure. Three more structures followed in 1923, 1928 and 1961. The current building was renovated in 1971.

8 Spook Hill

Park your car at the bottom and experience the mysterious force that seems to defy gravity and rolls your car uphill backwards.

9 Roosevelt School

115 E Street

Only remaining historic school in Lake Wales built for children of African American heritage. WPA structure. Built in 1937.

10 Lake Wales Pioneer Days

N. Lakeshore Blvd.

Lake Wales Pioneer Days celebrates the history of Lake Wales, Polk County and Florida. The annual festival is held on the shores of Lake Wailes the last weekend in October. Crafts, music, storytelling, educational exhibits.

The Lake Wales Historic Districts

The Lake Wales Historic Corridor encompasses sites instrumental to the history and development of the area. A detailed architectural tour brochure of the numerous historic districts is available at the Lake Wales Depot Museum and the Lake Wales Chamber of Commerce.

Frostproof

1 Ramon Theater

15 E. Wall St. 863-635-7222

Built by Frank and Vera Thompson, the theater provided entertainment from vaudeville to movies. Detailed map of all Frostproof historic sites available upon request. Built in 1925.

2 Citizens Bank & Arcade

2 E. Wall St.

Bank organized in 1920 with John Maxcy as president. Built in 1925.

3 Frostproof Atlantic Coastline Railway Depot

118 E. Wall St.

Later formed part of the CSX Transportation system. Built in 1912.

4 Silver Lake Cemetery

Land for the cemetery was donated by Walter H. Overrocker. Founded circa 1915.

5 Fort Clinch Historic Site Marker

C.R. 630, 1.3 Miles West of S.R. 17

Several soldiers connected with Fort Clinch later gained prominence as generals in the Civil War. George G. Meade surveyed for the fort; Ambrose P. Hill was the fort's adjutant and assistant quartermaster; Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson scouted in the area.

6 Frostproof Historical Museum

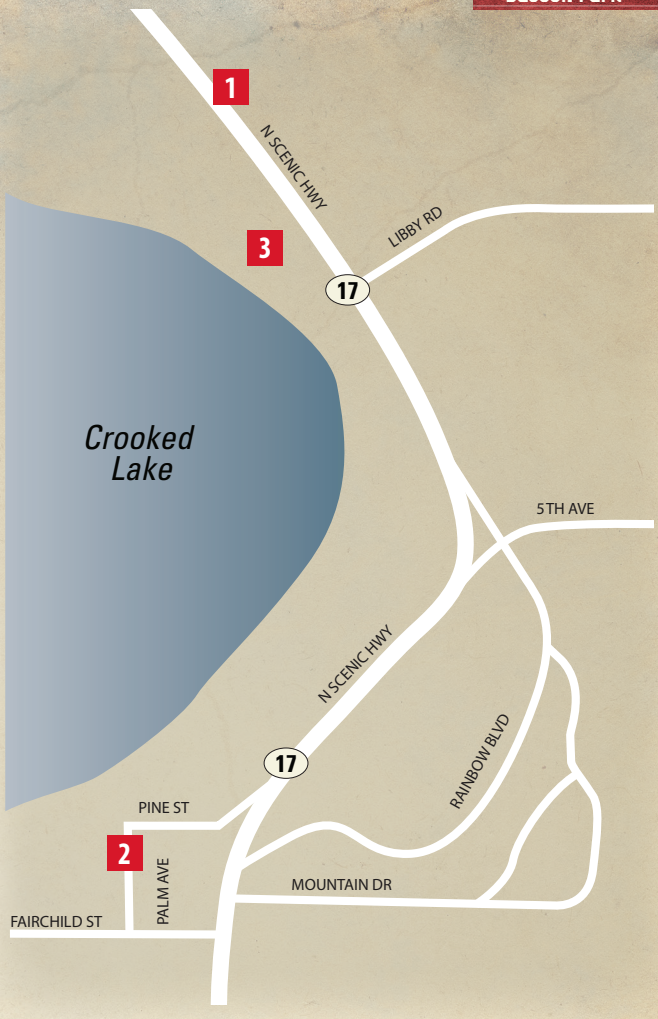
210 S. Scenic Hwy. 863-635-2523

Housed in Frostproof's first public library. Open Saturdays 1 - 4 p.m. year round; Tuesdays and Thursdays 1 - 4 p.m. Oct. - May. Built in 1922.

7 Old Frostproof High School

111 W. 1st St.

Great example of Mediterranean Revival architecture built during the Florida land boom. (NRHP) Built in 1926.



Babson Park

1 Babson Park Woman's Club

1300 N. Scenic Hwy.

One of the last remaining buildings from the town's early development. (NRHP) Built in 1931.

2 Hillcrest Lodge Hillcrest Heights, Incorporated

241 Palm Ave.

First and second lodges were destroyed by fires in 1917 and 1929. The third lodge still stands. Built circa 1929.

3 Webber International University

1201 N. Scenic Hwy. 1-800-741-1844

An original building on Webber International University's campus, constructed in 1927. An administrative building, known as "Old Main" today, serves as the President's and Alumni office and was once used as a finishing school for women.

POLK COUNTY

HISTORICAL VENUES

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POLK COUNTY

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