



**Department of Economic
and Development Services**

Memorandum

To: Board of County Commissioners

From: Beth Carson, PLA, AICP
Deputy Director, Planning and Zoning

Date: January 19, 2024

Re: St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Fort 11 State Historic Marker Projects

The County's Historic Preservation Board has voted to work on state marker applications for the St. Mary's Episcopal Church located in Green Cove Springs and Fort 11 located in the City of Keystone Heights, subject to approval by the Board of County Commissioners and the respective cities. The following information is taken from the marker request applications:

St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Fellowship Hall

"Under the leadership of The Right Rev. John Freeman Young and at the behest of the faithful wintering in Green Cove Springs, St. Mary's Episcopal Church was organized as a mission church of the Diocese of Florida in 1878. The first service in the sanctuary was held on March 10, 1879. The land for the church was a gift of the Thaddeus Davids family valued at \$500. The stained glass windows costing \$1,100 when the church was built were created at the Colgate Studio in New York. The Church was placed on the National Register in 1979. It is recognized as one of few remaining active "river churches" and an excellent, largely unmodified, example of Carpenter Gothic architecture from the Gothic Revival period of architecture in Florida.

In 2002, the Parish Hall, formerly an army chapel at Camp Blanding, was also added to the National Register of Historic Places. According to Parish records over 200 local individuals and businesses contributed to the cost of moving the building to the site from the military base in late 1948. Except for the addition of the River Room in 1953 and an HVAC system in 2017, the building remains unchanged, and serves as a vital part of the church and the community." (From application submitted by Pat Garlinghouse)

Fort 11 – A Historical Outpost of the Second Seminole Indian War

“Fort 11, an historical outpost of the Second Seminole Indian War, holds its significance determined by numerous maps and descriptions from soldiers and local civilians. Situated on the Fort Russell Road (approximately present day Hwy 21) in the wilderness of Florida, Fort 11 played a crucial role in controlling the surrounding region and protecting vital waterways.” (From application material submitted by Deirdre Murphy)

All statements included in the final marker text submitted to the State of Florida for consideration require documentation of resources. The statements above will be researched and verified during the text drafting stage.