



**CITY OF
MOUNT
DORA**

Planning and Development

510 N. Baker St.

Mount Dora, FL 32757

352-735-7113

Fax: 352-735-7191

E-mail: plandev@cityofmounddora.com

N E W S R E L E A S E

Historic district to be nominated to *National Register of Historic Places*

MOUNT DORA – City officials announced the commencement of a historic preservation project that will result in the nomination of a historic district to the *National Register of Historic Places*.

The project is being financed in part with historic preservation grant assistance provided by the Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historic Resources, Florida Department of State, as well as by the City of Mount Dora. The project involves a historic building survey that inventories and evaluates historic buildings in the City. The purpose of the historic building survey is to evaluate historic structures with reference to specific criteria for inclusion in the *National Register of Historic Places*.

Typical historic data collected about each structure includes past owners, the date and reason for its construction, its use over time, its style, the presence or absence of alterations, and significant character-defining features that might give it potential for listing on the *National Register of Historic Places* under specific criteria. The purpose of this data collection is to update historic building information and produce an accurate historical record of the City. It does not affect property appraisals or taxes. The exact boundaries of the district will be based primarily on the results of the historic building survey. Placing a historic district on the *National Register of Historic Places* has no regulatory impact on any of the buildings in the district.

As part of the project, an in-depth technical report will be produced. Some data generated by the project may be used in promoting historic preservation incentive programs. In addition to the nomination of a historic district for *National Register of Historic Places*, individual National Register nominations for the Witherspoon Lodge and the Milner-Rosenwald Academy will be prepared.

The Mount Dora Historic Preservation Board will review the results of the project and make a recommendation to the City Council on the historic district.

“Having a historic district on the *National Register of Historic Places* will recognize and promote the unique historic character and image of Mount Dora,” said Gus Gianikas, City of Mount Dora Assistant Planning and Development Director. “The setting and layout of the city is historically exceptional and deserves to be honored in this way. Besides the privilege of this recognition, the designation has some direct benefits. Commercial properties within the district will become eligible for federal income tax credits for the cost of building improvements,” Gianikas added.

The historic buildings survey and all other work associated with the nomination to *National Register of Historic Places* will be done by Bland & Associates, Inc. (BAI), an archaeological and historic preservation consulting firm based in Jacksonville.

“The City of Mount Dora has played an important role in the history of Lake County and central Florida, and its structures have been silent witnesses to this story,” said Sidney Johnston, BAI Senior Historian. “We look forward to documenting each of these historic treasures. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Lake County and City officials in advance for their cooperation; it is an honor and a pleasure to execute this contract on their behalf,” Johnston added.

“It’s simply a great research opportunity. The structural resources of Mount Dora a non-renewable resource of growing importance to the sustained development of the City, and intact, historic structures which are preserved within a neighborhood setting are especially well suited for historic preservation,” said Myles Bland, BAI Principal. “There are some great buildings, and some great stories out there just waiting to be discovered,” Bland added.

For additional information, please contact Gus Gianikas, Assistant Planning and Development Director, GianikasG@cityofmounddora.com.

#