

Historic District Summaries

Munn Park Historic District **(National Register: 1997)**

In the early 1880's, Abraham Godwin Munn established this downtown district and park. Many of the early buildings were frame construction and were destroyed by fires. Buildings constructed during the early 1900's and Florida's Boom time of the 1920's were constructed of brick and cast stone. Most were two or three story buildings with retail spaces on the first floor and offices or hotel rooms on the upper floors. Munn Park has served as the City's Town Square and was renovated in 1990. Design Guidelines are administered through the City's Historic Preservation Board's Design Review Committee which meets monthly.

This commercial historic district is bordered on the north by Bay Street, the east by Massachusetts Avenue extending around Lake Mirror, the south by Orange Street and Lemon Street, and on the west by North/South Florida Avenue.

Dixieland Historic District **(National Register: 1994)**

Circling the east side of Lake Hunter is the Dixieland Historic District. Reaching north to the southern boundary of "downtown" Lakeland along Walnut Street and anchored on the south by Dobbins Park, Dixieland is a comfortable mix of large and small homes, scattered green spaces, 100-acre Lake Hunter, and a commercial and office corridor. One of the City's most "traditional" neighborhoods, it contains a grid pattern of streets and alleys along with churches, schools, shops, a mature tree canopy, and historic lights, all of which add to the historic atmosphere of Dixieland. The bungalow style architecture of the 1920's is predominant with a few Colonial and Mediterranean dwellings. Design Guidelines are administered through the City's Historic Preservation Board's Design Review Committee that meets monthly.

Dixieland has a commercial area as well as its residential section within the historic district. The commercial area consists of a corridor along South Florida Avenue, and generally runs from Walnut Street on the north to Lenox Street on the south.

South and East Lake Morton Historic Districts
(National Register: 1985 and 1993)

The South and East Lake Morton Historic District Neighborhoods (the Lake Morton Historic Districts), located primarily south and east of Lake Morton and north of Lake Hollingsworth, are important to Lakeland because of their architectural integrity and historical elements. Although the development of these neighborhoods began around 1906, most of the houses were built during the Florida Boom between 1920 and 1926. This era provides the basis for the predominant architectural character of Bungalow and Mediterranean styles exhibited today. The area's rolling topography and occasional angular or curvilinear streets and lake shores provide pleasant images, spaces and vistas, creating a character unique in Lakeland and rare in Florida cities. The presence of the Florida Southern College's Frank Lloyd Wright campus, the Lakeland Public Library, and the Polk Museum of Art, as well as several other architecturally or historically significant public and semi-public buildings, further support the neighborhoods' quality and character. Design Guidelines are administered through the City's Historic Preservation Board's Design Review Committee which meets monthly.

Beacon Hill Historic District
(National Register: 1993)

Most of the homes in this small historic district were built in the 1920's. The residences represent a wide variety of styles ranging from modest frame vernacular to Colonial and Tutor Revival. The bungalow style homes appear to be the most common style. Most of the residences are one- and two-story wooden frame homes. From its earliest days, this neighborhood tended towards upper-middle class and boasted many mayors and state legislators as residents. This district is bordered by Belvedere Street on the north, Florida Avenue on the east, Beacon Road on the south and Cherokee Trail on the west.

Lake Hunter Terrace Historic District
(National Register: 2002)

Located on the western shore of Lake Hunter, this neighborhood is located only a short distance from Lakeland's downtown historic district. Although the widening of Sikes Boulevard distanced the neighborhood from Lake Hunter, it still maintains much of the natural beauty and characteristics that have always made it a charming place to live. Gentle

sloping brick streets, a mature tree canopy, and a concentration of unaltered older homes contribute to the character and sense of community of this small historic district. Although originally subdivided in the early 1900's, two thirds of the development took place during and immediately following World War II. At that time, the traditional Bungalow style gave way to the post-World War II Masonry Vernacular style of home. This is the first post-World War II neighborhood to be designated a historic district in Lakeland.

Biltmore/Cumberland Historic District
(National Register: 2004)

The Biltmore/Cumberland Historic District is a relatively small suburban neighborhood east of Lakeland's downtown. Most of the residences are derived from the vernacular tradition for this area, which is predominantly the Modern architecture common in the late 1940's and early 1950's. Typical of this era, Masonry Vernacular construction is predominant. However, a few of the structures display the influences of the Colonial revival, Craftsman/Bungalow, Mediterranean Revival and Tudor Revival. The neighborhood contains a blending of street patterns reminiscent of the City Beautiful Movement.