

A Brief History of the Floral City Heritage Council

From One Came Many

In 1987 Citrus County was awarded a grant by the Florida State Historic Resources Bureau to survey the historic architecture of the county. The grant was done in two phases. The first phase was in the southeast quadrant of the county where the Citrus County Historical Society's Historic Preservation Committee had already identified buildings in the village of Floral City. Citrus County hired Historic Preservationist Murray Laurie to conduct the surveys and the Citrus County Historical Society's Historic Preservation Committee assisted her.

The first phase of the survey showed that a group of historic buildings in Floral City had the required elements to qualify as a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. The Citrus County Historical Society's Historic Preservation Committee was awarded a grant to publish *Floral City: A Guide to Historic Architecture*. The publication generated interest among local residents who came together to support the Historic District application.

The Floral City Heritage Council was created by the local interest group in 1992. The Council was organized to maintain the goals and mission of the Citrus County Historical Society in a specific geographical area of the county. Today there are five such Heritage Councils and Floral City Heritage Council is the oldest. The other Heritage Councils of the Citrus County Historical Society are Hernando, Crystal River, Homosassa, and the Cultural & Heritage Council of Inverness. The Citrus County Historical Society, housed in the 1912 Citrus County Courthouse in Inverness, remains as the parent organization guiding and supporting all the Councils representing the heritage of Citrus County's varied communities.

Marcia Beasley October 2020