

Historic Brooksville

Walking / Driving Tour



BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA



In the mid 1840's, Florida was opened up to settlers. A few, brave and hardy families came to take advantage of 160 acre plots and proceeded to try to carve out a life amidst the oaks, magnolias etc. Amongst the first settlers who came to this area were the Hopes, Howells and Cooglers. They were hardy folk. They married and had children and set their sights on making Brooksville their home. Walk along our brick-paved, tree-lined streets and take a stroll into the past. View our homes.

ENTIRE TOUR 4 MILES/4 HOURS LONG

IF STARTING AT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON FT. DADE AVE. GO WEST TO BROOKSVILLE CITY HALL.

HERNANDO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Established in January 1925 during the Florida land boom to promote and coordinate development efforts. Reorganized in 1938 with the purpose of working for commercial, industrial, and civic development of the whole county.

IF STARTING AT CITY HALL GO NORTH ON HOWELL AVENUE

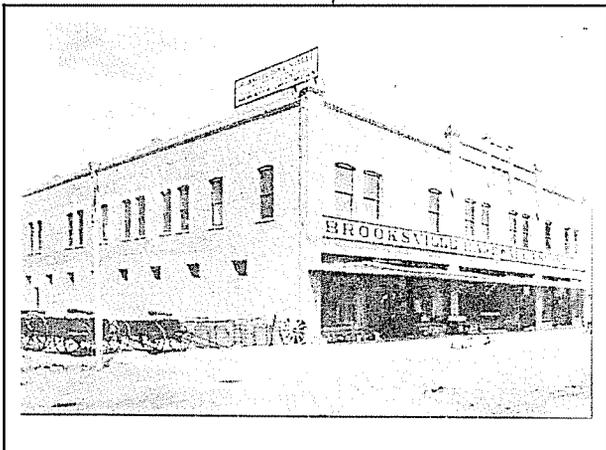
HOWELL AVENUE

Formerly called Old Hammock Road, it was renamed for Matthew Raiford Howell who came to Hernando County and bought 160 acres of land, some of which this road passes through.

201 HOWELL AVENUE - BROOKSVILLE CITY HALL

Brooksville was started in 1856 but didn't officially incorporate until 1880; It was named after a Senator Brooks of South Carolina who had become a hero in the eyes of many southerners when he came to the defense of the south in Congress; This building was built in 1970 and was originally the home of the Mid-State Federal Savings and Loan; Originally on this site was a hardware store and then McGee Standard Oil. The City of Brooksville purchased the building in 1996 to serve as its administrative headquarters; The third floor is rented out to the Hernando County Property Appraiser's Office.

The City Hall Art Gallery is located on the first and second floors and focuses on art by local citizens; Some of the exhibits have included paintings, quilts, photography, poetry, pottery, and jewelry. Exhibits change every three months. Open M-F 8-5; Free to public; Restrooms available for public use.



This store once stood on the site of the existing City Hall

238 HOWELL AVENUE -FREDERICK EUGENE LYKES, JR. MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Several organizations provided for the lending of books to the citizens of Hernando County in the early half of the 1900's. The Brooksville Women's Club, The Bookshop of Tamiami Trail, and the YWCA all provided this service in various ways and locations from about 1910 through the 1920's. In 1944 the Library Association was chartered and given the task of establishing a permanent professional library for the benefit of the citizens of Hernando County. The original building which fronts Howell Avenue was dedicated on April 18, 1950 and was named after the deceased son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick E. Lykes of Spring Hill; Several additions were added over the years which expanded the library to its current size. A house belonging to the original Coogler homesteaders was built on this site, the house standing where the tennis courts are now. The house was large with a center hallway open at the front and back so the breezes could flow through. From the attic walkway, you could see three counties. It was surrounded by orange groves, which was common at that time.

RAISED SIDEWALKS Throughout Brooksville you will notice several areas of two step raised sidewalks. These sections are from the era of the horse and buggy, before cars became popular. Entering and exiting a carriage was accomplished without having to get down into the dusty or muddy streets, a fact which was undoubtedly appreciated by the ladies!

242 HOWELL AVENUE S & W Cole, Inc.; Originally a house owned by the Coogler family was on this site.

253 HOWELL AVENUE - TAYLOR-FULTON HOUSE

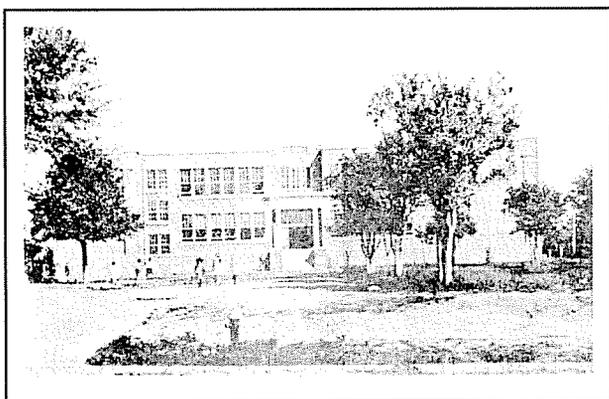
This Victorian style structure with upstairs and downstairs verandas was built by John Taylor around 1880; William Fulton bought the house in 1902 and owned it until 1942; The kitchen was connected to the main house by a dog trot. The Robbins who later owned Chinsegut Hill spent their honeymoon here.

307 HOWELL AVENUE - TANGERINE PLACE Built in 1925 during the Florida land boom, this Mission Style building opened as the Tangerine Hotel which boasted 100 rooms and became quite popular with tourists. Brooksville was once known as the 'Home of the Tangerine'. The front of the hotel was also the site of the 1931 gangland style murder of Brooksville City Attorney Herbert Smithson. It was the era of Prohibition and Smithson was suspected of being a secret agent for the government; He was thought to be seeking rum runners. A reward of \$900 was offered for the arrest and conviction of the slayers. In 1935, three men from Citrus County were arrested and charged, but for unknown reasons the men were never tried in court.

310 HOWELL AVENUE - CHELF HOUSE This beautiful Colonial Revival home was built in 1905 by local druggist, Roy Newman Chelf; Relocating here in the 1880's from Kentucky, the Chelf's were related to the Rogers and Lingles. Notice the huge sago palms in front of the house.

419 HOWELL AVENUE Built around 1895, this house was occupied by the Arick family.

420 HOWELL AVENUE - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Established 1852; Was known as the Union Baptist Church until 1889; Two of the earlier churches at other locations burned; This set of buildings was built in the early 1970's; This was the site of the Howell Ave, School which was built in 1919 to replace the Hernando High School which burned to the ground under 'mysterious circumstances' in 1918.



Hernando High School Building which was once on the site of the First Baptist Church.

427 HOWELL AVENUE Built around 1900, this is an example of Queen Anne style of architecture.

451 HOWELL AVENUE Built around 1900, this is an example of a hall and parlor type structure.

GO EAST ON ALTA VISTA

25 ALTA VISTA This house is dated to around 1910; Notice the huge camphor tree in front.

34 ALTA VISTA This 1900 Colonial Revival structure is believed to have been owned by E.E. Stoudemire and was the site of one of Brooksville's first hospitals; During the 1920's land boom, the need for a facility to nurse the sick became apparent. While funding and land was being secured for a permanent hospital, this structure was remodeled in June, 1926 to provide for 10 beds. It also had a nurses' quarters, an anesthetizing room, an operating room, and a kitchen. It was only used for a year, when it moved to a larger facility.

35 ALTA VISTA This bungalow which is dated to around 1915 was the home of the Beechams during the 1920's and 30's. Mr. Beecham was a barber with a shop on Main Street.

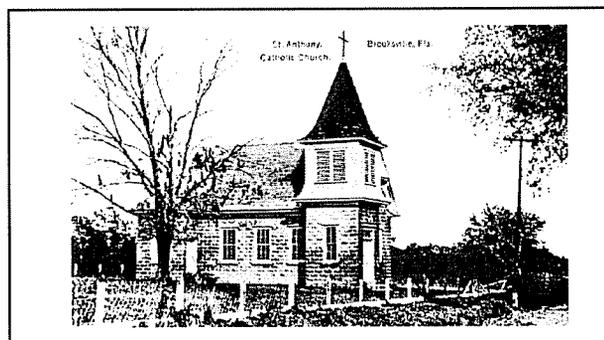
GO SOUTH ON BELL AVENUE

459 BELL AVENUE - This bungalow, built around 1910, was occupied by a member of the Stoudemire family.

BELL AVENUE - OLD HERNANDO HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING This structure was built in 1925 to serve as Hernando High School after the brick school building on Howell Avenue, built in 1919, became severely overcrowded due to the Florida land boom; It was designed by Frank F. Jonsberg, the architect who designed the St. Petersburg Junior High School. It was used as the high school until the early 1960's and is now the Brooksville Memorial Education Building owned by the First Baptist Church.

GO WEST ON OLIVE STREET

61 OLIVE STREET - OLD ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH This Gothic Revival structure was the original St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Brooksville; This area's Catholic community celebrated its first Mass on Easter 1874, but this permanent structure wasn't built until 1908. A priest from Saint Anthony's Parish in San Antonio, FL provided services on a regular basis, and until this church was built, services were held in individual homes; Mass was celebrated in this church until 1963. Today, a more modern St. Anthony's is located on State Road 50 and this structure is now a private residence. An old cemetery, located behind the old church, is also privately owned and is believed to be the final resting place of some of the earliest residents of Brooksville.



The original St. Anthony's Catholic Church

59 OLIVE STREET Built at a later time than the church, this house served as the parsonage of St. Anthony's Church; now a private residence.

48 OLIVE STREET - JENNINGS ESTATE This lovely Queen Anne style building, built in 1888, was once the home of William Sherman Jennings, elected Governor of Florida in 1900. Jennings moved to Brooksville in 1886 and started practicing law. He served as judge, city commissioner, and state representative before serving as one of Florida's most successful governors; His wife, May Mann Jennings, was an equally prominent person. She was the co-founder of the Florida League of Women Voters and campaigned for women's rights, prohibition, funding for education, and many other things. One of her greatest endeavors, however, may have been her fight to preserve the Florida Everglades. The Jennings family lived here until about 1910 when it was sold to Junius M. Rogers and his wife Alice Spencer Mudd Rogers. Plaques honoring William Sherman Jennings and May Mann Jennings were placed on this building in October, 2001 as part of the Great Floridian 2000 Program.



The Jennings House as it appeared when Gov. Jennings resided here.

45 & 47 OLIVE STREET - ROGERS HOUSE This Gothic Revival house was built around 1890; Alice and Junius Rogers lived here in the early 1900's. They owned Rogers' Dept. Store on N Main Street, the family forerunner of the Rogers' Christmas House; the late Mary Belle Rogers & Margaret Rogers Ghiotto, previous owner of the Christmas House, were born in this house.

42 & 44 OLIVE STREET - BURWELL HOUSE This frame vernacular was built around 1902; It was owned by Mr. Burwell, who was a principal stockholder in the Brooksville Ice & Storage Company and is reportedly the first home with a bathtub and running water.

41 OLIVE STREET - WURSTEL BUNGALOW This bungalow was built around 1926 by Mr. Wurstel.

31 OLIVE STREET - FLORIDA BOOM DUPLEX This residence was originally built during the 1920's land boom as a duplex for rental purposes; Converted into a single residence.

30 OLIVE STREET - BARNETT HOUSE This frame vernacular was built in 1887 by Mr. & Mrs. Blair Burwell; It has been in the Barnett family since 1921.

25 & 27 OLIVE STREET - FLORIDA BOOM DUPLEX This bungalow duplex was built during the 1920's land boom to be used as rentals.

24 OLIVE STREET - BURRELL HOUSE This frame vernacular with a side hall was built in the late 1800's by John C. Burrell, publisher of the Brooksville Star, a local newspaper; The first home in Brooksville to feature an indoor bathroom.

Go South on Howell Ave., then East on Irene St.

IRENE STREET - Named for Irene Nevitt Cook, mother of Christian Cook and grandmother of Neil Law, Jr.

28 IRENE STREET - Built in 1911 by Miss Christian Cook, who married Neil F. Law, Sr. Their son, Neil F. Law, Jr. was born here in 1917 and is known for donating land for the Brooksville Country Club; Bought by Dr. George Creekmore in 1925, who had an office on Main Street and then here in his home. Also was the residence of Neil Kinnear, Supervisor of Elections 1972-1987.

38 IRENE STREET - Built around 1910 by Miss Christian Cook; Her father, James Cook, owned land all around here and this area had been known as Cook Subdivision; Was the residence of a local druggist, Vivian B. Coogler, and then Terry B. Hancock Jr, another local druggist.

58 IRENE STREET - LAW HOUSE - This Colonial Revival was built around 1890 by W.E. Law; Notice the sleeping porches on the left side of the house which are now enclosed.

68 IRENE STREET - SPRINGSTEAD BUNGALOW - This bungalow was built in 1927 by Mary and Delbert Springstead, who ran a store called City Market on Main Street, directly across from the courthouse.

250 BELL AVENUE - THE BROOKSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH was organized on April 29, 1883 and at first held services in various locations; There were two other church sites until this structure was built in June 1951; The stained glass windows were in the original church.

BRICK PAVED STREETS - The streets that you are touring were paved with Augusta brick in 1919.

Go South on Bell Avenue; Return to City Hall by going West on Fort Dade Avenue;

Driving Tour, continue by going East on Ft. Dade Avenue to Saxon Avenue; Go South on Saxon Avenue

Walking tour, continue South on Bell Avenue and go East on Jefferson Street to May Avenue; Go North on May Avenue, East on Ft. Dade Avenue and South on Saxon Avenue.

403 E JEFFERSON STREET - LANIER-DENT HOUSE

This house was partly built with lumber from the old wooden County Courthouse which was dismantled in 1911 to make way for a new brick courthouse;

601 MUSEUM COURT - HERNANDO COUNTY HISTORIC MUSEUM 4-story Victorian; First four rooms were built in 1856. Occupied by Frank Saxon 1866-72; Purchased by Sheldon Stringer during the 1880's who added on to the original house; Originally the home of Dr. Stringer, this house was bought by the Hernando County Historical Museum in 1981 and has been preserved as it looked in 1885.

619 E FT. DADE AVENUE - AMSTUTZ HOUSE This bungalow was built around 1910 by Jake & Marie Amstutz who owned the Ford dealership in Brooksville from 1926-1957;

701 E FT. DADE AVENUE Built in 1885 by Col. Martin this two story house boasted the first basement in Brooksville; Colonel Martin was a local lawyer with a law office above Weeks Hardware. He was known for his habit of always wearing a white suit. Married sister of Mary Coogler, the artist. It was the custom of that era to give the courtesy title of Colonel to lawyers.

705 MUSEUM COURT Built around 1900; Occupied at one time by the Ederingtons, one of the first families from Chinsegut Hill and among the earliest settlers of Hernando County.

Head South on Saxon Avenue. Cross Broad Street(US 41) to The Christmas House.

103 SAXON AVENUE - THE CHRISTMAS HOUSE The main home was originally built around 1905. It served as the Book Shop of the Tamiami Trail during the 1930's. It has been a part of the Christmas House Village since 1972;



The Tamiami Bookshop which later became the Main House of the Christmas House.

200 SAXON AVENUE Saxon-Scarborough House; Frank Saxon built this Queen Anne Revival house in 1874 on 32 acres. Kitchen and servants' quarters were in back;

Go South on Saxon Avenue then West on Cleveland Avenue to Jefferson Street Cross Jefferson Street(Hwy 50A) and go North to Liberty Street and go west;

Driving Tour: Continue West on Cleveland Street and go East on Alabama Street to Liberty Street, then go West on Liberty Street

510 E LIBERTY STREET - HAWKINS HOUSE - Built in 1904 with its Tuscan style columns, this building was owned and occupied by Mrs. Lena Culver Hawkins, a popular and active citizen of Brooksville. She was involved in many clubs and organizations and became the first lady mayor of Brooksville in 1928; A plaque honoring Mrs. Hawkins was placed on this building in October, 2001 as part of the Great Floridian 2000 Program. Now a restaurant, flower shop and gift shop;

414 E LIBERTY STREET - built around 1927 as a private residence; It is a frame vernacular with drop siding; was the site of the Blueberry Restaurant for many years.

TIN ROOFS - A common architectural feature at the turn of the century was the tin roof, which deflected the harsh rays of the Florida sun rather than absorb them as dark shingles did.

406 E LIBERTY STREET - KEATHLEY HOUSE Built in 1925 by the Keathley family; Renovated in 2001;

315 E LIBERTY STREET Built around 1906 this house was moved onto the site;

305 E LIBERTY STREET Built in the early 1900's ; Note the round Tuscan style wood columns;

268 E LIBERTY STREET Built in the early 1900's this house has wood drop siding;

222 E LIBERTY STREET Built around 1905 this Colonial Revival has a portico with large white square pillars and a small balcony above the main entrance.

221 E LIBERTY STREET Built around 1915 this house has wood drop siding and Tuscan style wood columns;

216 E LIBERTY STREET Built around 1920 this residence has a beautiful example of the southern live oak tree in its side yard; Note the tin roof;

202 E LIBERTY STREET - LOCKHART HOUSE Built around 1900, this two floor home has front columns and a side porch. It was the home of Brooksville lawyer, Col. Lockhart who was the grandfather of former State Rep. Bill McCollum who also lived here for a time.

26 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE Built in 1925, this two story building was the Brooksville City Hall and Fire Station. The second story was rented out as an apartment. An annex was built on the west side of the building in 1959; The original Brooksville water tower stood right behind the annex until the new tower was built in 1987 on the corner of Liberty and Brooksville Ave. and the old water tower was dismantled;

Mural on the east wall of the old fire station: "1924 Fire and Police Station"

30 E LIBERTY STREET In 1958, local radio station WWJB broadcasted from here; then used as office space by City of Brooksville and also served as City Council Chambers until 1994;

Mural on the east wall of 30 Liberty Street: "Stroll Down S. Brooksville Ave."

Go South on Brooksville Avenue; For a shorter tour, continue West on Liberty Street to Main Street and pick up tour at 101 S Main Street.

110 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE - Built around 1900, this two story home has a hip roof. In the 1920's and 30's, this home was owned and occupied by Abie Surasky & wife, the only Jewish family in Brooksville. Mr. Surasky operated a shoe store on Main Street. Many businessmen of that era had their residences close to their place of business.

114 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE - COOGLER COTTAGE Built in 1935 this Victorian cottage was the home of Mary A. Coogler, famed local impressionistic artist.

117 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE -Built in the early 1900's this 2-story house.

118 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE - WEEKS HOUSE Built around 1900, this was the home of Joe Weeks, founder of Weeks Hardware, located on Main Street.

122 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE -Built in the early 1900's, this house has a tin roof with a patterned design;

123 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE - This two story house was built around 1908;

132 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE -This Colonial Revival was built around 1915; It has a lovely wrap-around porch and rounded pillars on brick supports.

133 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE - COOGLER HOUSE Built in 1913, this Colonial Revival was the home of T.S. Coogler, a local attorney who practiced in this house. Later, was the home of Judge Monroe Treiman;

Optional : Go West on Virginia Avenue to Lulu Street and then East on Lulu Street to return to Brooksville Avenue. Enjoy a peaceful stroll down this brick-paved side street and maybe even do a rubbing of the old street bricks!

302 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE - FRAZZE HOUSE May have been built around 1884, this is an example of stick style architecture;

315 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE - JAMES A. JENNINGS HOUSE "Trinity Manor", built in the late 1800's, is a beautiful Colonial Revival house. It was built by James A. Jennings for his wife, Lee G. Miller Jennings. Mr. Jennings was first president of Hernando State Bank; Note its construction of hand-poured sandstone, heart of pine, and cypress woods. Later the parsonage of St. Paul's Episcopal Church;

321 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE Built around 1909, this home has a white New Orleans style balcony and ornamentation; The brick facade was added in the 1950's;

312 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE -MAILLIS HOUSE Built around 1903 this Colonial Revival with a rounded porch was owned by George Maillis. He and his brother, Nick, and their families were the only Greeks in Brooksville in the 1920's and 30's . The brothers used to work in the commissary at Centralia, a logging operation not far from Brooksville that ended around 1917. Of additional interest, the house was used as a backdrop in the 1972 horror film, *Death Dream*;

337 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE Built around 1927

400 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE Built around 1910,

404 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE Built around 1925

407 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE - SPRINGSTEAD HOUSE Built around 1907, this frame vernacular was built by a Mr. Springstead.

408 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE This home was built around 1935;

412 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE Built in 1925 by B.H. Grelle, the Boom Time Mayor of Brooksville. A good example of the 20's Florida home design.

520 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE -RODDENBERRY HOUSE
Built in 1917 by the Roddenberrys; Mrs. Roddenberry ran a boarding house here for the railroad train crews. More recently, Dr. Lovejoy, a dentist, had an office here.

Go West on Russell Street

70 RUSSELL STREET - FL Southern Railway Station
Built in 1885, this extension of the Florida Southern Railroad connected Brooksville to the main line at Pemberton's Ferry, 10 miles east of Brooksville, via Croom. It was constructed largely due to the efforts of John J. Hale, a prominent local citizen. Before the construction of this line, citizens of Hernando County would have to transport their merchandise, produce, tourists, and other items by wagon or stage to & from Wildwood, thirty miles to the northeast. On site is an 1800's Wooden Cook Car and the old depot is the current home of the Genealogy Resource Center.

RUSSELL STREET PARK - FUTURE GOOD NEIGHBOR TRAIL - This park will serve as the trail head of the 11 mile walking/bike path which will link Brooksville to the Withlacoochee State Trail;



Tourist Day at the train depot

Go North on Main Street

512 S MAIN STREET - This building, built in the 1920's, housed the creamery. Milk and milk products, such as ice cream, were sold here as well as being shipped on to Tampa.

S MAIN STREET AND LAMAR AVENUE - BROOKSVILLE WELL - The green building set off from the road is Brooksville's first central well which was drilled in 1918 to a depth of 530 feet at a cost of \$3.45 per foot. For several years this well supplied water to all city residents and another 250 outside the city limits; By 1926, Brooksville experienced a water shortage and had to find additional water by drilling new wells;

410 S MAIN STREET - Bungalow built around 1910;

309 S MAIN STREET - This is a newer structure but

blends nicely with the other historic buildings.

301 S MAIN STREET - This Colonial Revival was built in the early 1900's.

211 S MAIN STREET - Built in the 1890's, this lovely building was the A.M.C. Russell House. He was the superintendent of schools and a Methodist ministe. His daughter, Beryl, inherited the house.

201 S MAIN STREET Built in 1925, this was a Sears & Roebuck mail order home kit and was shipped by rail to the train depot on Russell St.. Hauled by a 1920 Model T to this spot;

158 S MAIN STREET - BROOKSVILLE LUMBER Built in 1914 by Frank Griffin. It's been a livery stable, garage, second hand shop. In 1932 it became West Coast Lumber Co.; Before 1914 was the site of the Old Central Hotel operated by C.V. Nevitt and wife. The hotel was destroyed by fire.



West Coast Lumber Company

151 S MAIN STREET - HIGGINBOTHAM HOUSE This house was built in 1858 by Theophilis Higginbotham. In later years owned by Mr. George Maillis.

143 S MAIN STREET Built around 1905. It was occupied by the Miller family for many years;

140 S MAIN STREET Built around 1892 this Colonial Revival is a beautiful example of southern elegance and beauty.

131 S MAIN STREET- BROOKSVILLE WOMAN'S CLUB
Organized in 1910, the members of the Brooksville Woman's Club purchased this property and spent the next two years raising sweet potatoes on the land to raise funds for their first building. This present building was built in 1931; Plans were drawn up by then president Lena Hawkins.

104 S MAIN STREET - BROOKSVILLE CLEANERS Built in 1924 as a bakery. It was purchased in the 1930's by Earl Rogers and has been Brooksville Cleaners since then.

100 S MAIN STREET - GRIMSLEY COUNTRY STORE Built in 1885 by Wesley Grimsley as a country store called The Pantry; occupied by Brooksville Printing since 1977;



The country store called The Pantry

101 S MAIN STREET - MCGEE AND MASON LAW BLDG Once the site of a livery stable and a post office;
31, 29, & 27 S MAIN STREET Built around 1945; It was the original home of Biggart Music and had been recently restored as an antique business. Currently vacant;
PUBLIC PARKING ON THE EAST SIDE OF MAIN STREET Site of the old Maillis Bar; The building had become deteriorated beyond repair and was demolished.



Maillis Bar which was demolished.

18 S MAIN STREET Had been an A&P Grocery Store;

Go East on North Broad Street

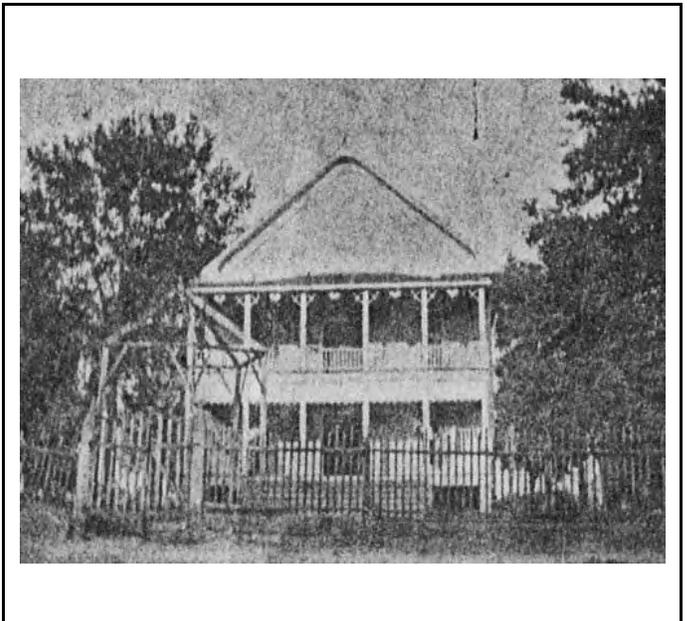
BROAD STREET Originally a hard rock highway known as Highway 5; Rebuilt of concrete in 1941; Now serves as US Hwy 41 and is the eastbound route of the one-way pairs running through Brooksville;

4 S BROAD STREET - JENNINGS BUILDING Built by James A. Jennings in 1915 after the original Jennings Building and the other buildings on this block were destroyed by fire in 1914. Fire was a particular threat at the turn of the 20th century; It consumed dry timber homes and businesses quickly; Fire fighting depended on

the skill of the bucket brigade because at the turn of the 20th century, the City of Brooksville had no central water supply; At that time, the city fire alarm consisted of an old circular saw and a large mallet hung from a post on the courthouse square; The new Jennings Building featured a drug store, dentist, general store, barber shop, restaurant and pool hall.

From Court House, Go East on Broad Street to Magnolia Avenue

20 N MAIN STREET - HERNANDO COUNTY COURT HOUSE - In 1856, John L. May and Joseph Hale each donated 15 acres of land atop a hill for the site of Hernando County's governmental seat. The site was named Brooksville in honor of Preston Brooks, the then popular Representative of South Carolina. The original corporate limits extended out one half mile in each direction from the courthouse. Two other structures stood on this site; The first courthouse burned to the ground in 1877 taking all records with it. It is speculated that this fire was deliberately set to prevent a fall term of the circuit court from being held that would have investigated a recent notorious murders in the county. the second wooden courthouse was dismantled to make way for this Neoclassical Revival structure completed in 1913. Restored in 1994; The Confederate statue on the southwest corner was dedicated on June 3, 1916. The additions to the courthouse were done in two phases. The first three story addition was completed in 1974 and the four story addition was later added. A charming clock graces the north side of the building. The roll of Hernando County Veteran's Roll of Honor is on the northwest corner. Public restrooms available;



The second courthouse built in 1878, It is said that this structure was a replica of the original courthouse that had burned down.



Looking North on (Broad Street) Downtown Brooksville about 1914.

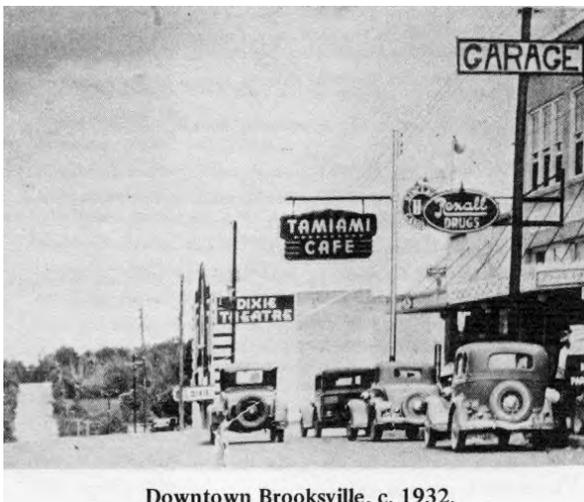
The Jennings Building housing Chelf's Drug Store.



The Jennings Building housing J. Surasky Dry Goods Store and Wallis Grocery.

22 N BROAD STREET This small building has been used as a variety of businesses throughout the years. Now a specialty store;

24 N BROAD STREET Was the location of the Tamiami Café, a popular restaurant in the 1930's and 40's;



Downtown Brooksville, c. 1932.

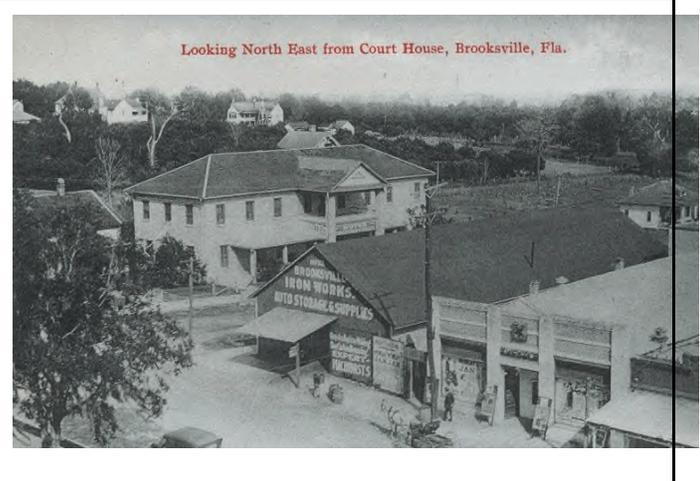
36 N BROAD STREET This building was the home of Sinclair Service Station;

13 S BROOKSVILLE AVENUE Hungry Thyme Café - Brooksville's Oldest Restaurant; Had been Pete's Hamburgers, a popular gathering spot in the 50's and 60's;

120 N BROAD STREET Built in 1926, this building was a 1000 seat movie theater called "The Dixie". The first 'talkie' to be shown in Brooksville was in 1930 and entitled "Dames Ahoy". The theater survived into the 1960's. Currently the building is divided into offices space.

128 N BROAD STREET - This building currently used as a restaurant;

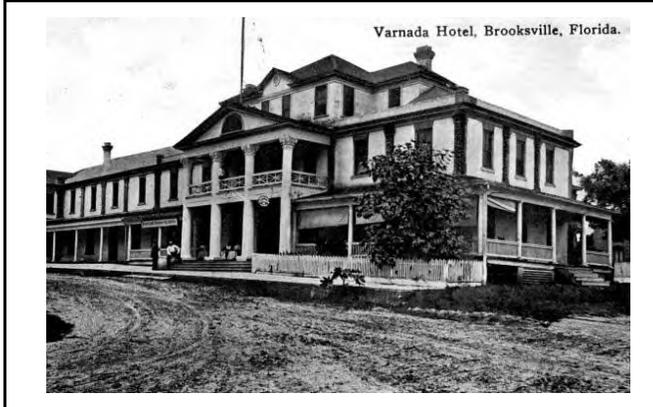
Go North on Magnolia Avenue to Jefferson Street, then West on Jefferson Street to Orange Street.



1915 view of the buildings that once lined the part of Brooksville Ave. that was vacated in order to build the addition to the County Courthouse. The building in the center is Brooksville iron Works and to the right of it is one of Brooksville's earliest movie theaters, The Star. The building behind the garage is the Southern Hotel which burned down in 1922.

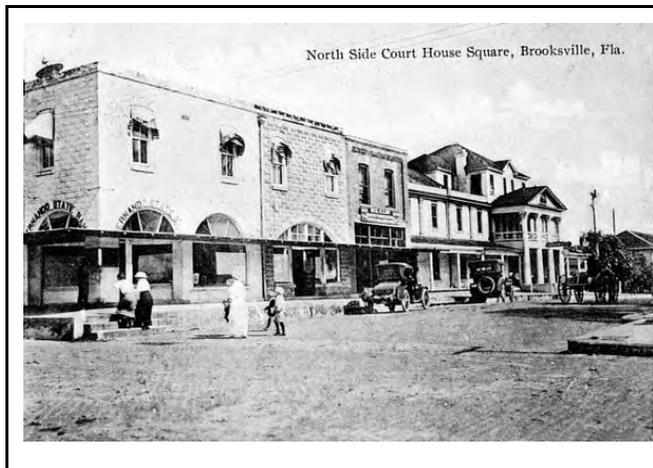
JEFFERSON STREET - Hwy 50A; Originally Hwy 50; was built to replace Ft. Dade Ave. as a direct route from Brooksville to Weeki Wachee; Now serves as the westbound route of the one-way pairs running through Brooksville;

101 N BROOKSVILLE AVENUE - This site was where the beautiful Varnada Hotel once stood. The Varnada Hotel boasted three floors and 30 rooms. It had running water but did not have a bath for each room. Instead, there were two or three bathrooms on each floor. The hotel maintained a dining room and many local people ate Sunday dinner there. The Varnada Hotel burned to the ground in 1918; On the next block to the east stood the Southern Hotel which burned to the ground in 1922.



The Varnada Hotel

1 E JEFFERSON STREET Suntrust Bank; Formerly the Hernando State Bank; doors opened on July 1, 1905 with James A. Jennings as its first president; William M. McKethan became president in 1924 and his son, Alfred A. McKethan became president in 1943; The building underwent extensive remodeling in 1951 and 1966 and an expansion program was made possible in 1966 after the purchase of adjacent Hope Drug Store. The lobby size was increased as well as additional work area being added; The auto bank on the southwest corner of Main and Jefferson was added at this time.



The corner of Main and Jefferson. The building on the left is the Hernando State Bank, now Suntrust. The building on the far right is the Varnada Hotel.

Cross intersection of Main and Jefferson Street. Continue 1 block and go South on Orange Street.

5 N ORANGE AVENUE - HALE HOUSE - This Classical Revival house was built in 1882 by John Hale; Special woods and the bricks for the chimney were shipped to Bayport and transported overland by wagon. Currently the residence of Alfred A. McKethan;

3 N ORANGE AVENUE - Built in the early 1900's, this is an excellent example of the bungalow style and has a sleeping porch;

Murals on back of building to the south: "The Doctors" and "The Corner Drugstore"

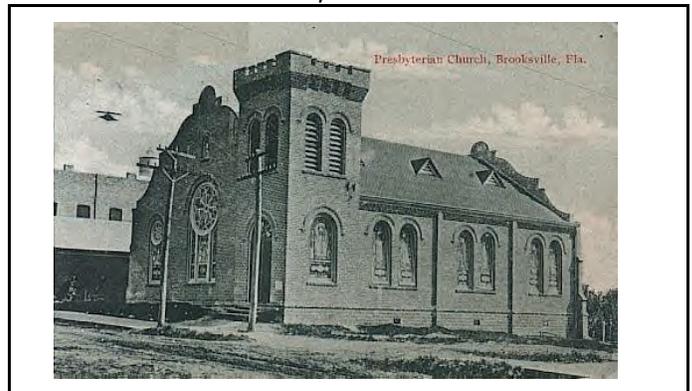
Go East on Broad Street

109 S BROAD STREET - FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
An original structure on this site was built in 1891. In 1954, the congregation built this new church, an education building, several church-school rooms, and a church office.



The original First Methodist Church

31 S BROAD STREET - This building was once a Presbyterian Church, and then converted to the popular Carlton's Grocery & Market which began operation in 1947 and continued until the early 1990's .



Presbyterian Church circa 1915

Mural on west wall : "The Brooksville Raid"

20 S BROAD STREET - DODGE DEALERSHIP - Originally built in the 1920's, it was the Dodge Dealership owned by Zeke Rogers; Before that, this site was the the first auto dealership in Brooksville, a Ford agency, operated by A. Jake Amstutz and R.T. Hancock;

15 S BROAD STREET - Built around 1915; When the first phone lines came up Main Street from the railroad station, the second floor of this building was used as the telephone office where an operator would transfer your call to your requested party. The telephone equipment used here is now on display at the Hernando County Historic Museum. Currently a dress shop.

11 S BROAD STREET - In the 1920's Simpson Motors operated here as a part Chevrolet dealership and part Pure gas station; was the Quality Shop clothing store, a flower shop, and once again a clothing store.



Go North on Main Street to return to City Hall; To return to Roger's Christmas House, continue East on Broad Street and turn East on Saxon Avenue;

1 N MAIN STREET This 1902 Neoclassical Revival building was the original site of The First National Bank before it merged with the Hernando State Bank in the 1930's. Has been a business office and currently serves as the home of Browning Insurance Co.

7, 11, & 15 N MAIN STREET Built in 1954, this building originally housed McCrory's Department Store;

23 N MAIN STREET Once was the Victory Theater which was run by Alan Hawkins; Later was Lingle's Dept. Store;

101 N MAIN STREET Built around 1929. It was the location of Bacon's Drug Store for many years. Currently the home of a restaurant;

105 & 111 N MAIN STREET Had been an A&P grocery store, White's Cash Store and now Gulf Coast Title;

115 N MAIN STREET - WEEK'S HARDWARE Built in 1913 of bricks from the Brooksville Brick Factory, this building was the office of Josiah Weeks, who began Weeks Hardware in 1916, the oldest existing retail store in Hernando County.



Top photo shows Bacon's Drug Store which was on the west side of Main Street and stores that belonged to Junius M. Rogers once lined the east side. Suntrust Bank now occupies the space where they once stood.

Optional: Continue west on Ft. Dade Ave. for two blocks

122 W. FORT DADE AVE. - THE WEEKS HOUSE Built in 1882 by G. Gordy, this two-story Victorian is in a L-shape with a center cupola adding architectural interest. Reports of unusual sounds and unexplained opening and closing of doors gives rise to the speculation that this house just might be haunted!

Cover photo:

First car in Brooksville, 1909. J. C. and Sallie Burwell are in the car. Lucy and Grace Burwell are on the porch of the Burwell home.

Compiled by Jane Maitski

Sources of historical information include:
Virginia Jackson Frasier Mountain Mary Alice Queiros
Hernando County Historical Museum
Old Brooksville in Photos & Stories by Bob Martinez
A History of Hernando County by Richard J. Stanaback
Sun Journal

Thank You to You and All Others Who Took the Time to Help Us Gather this Information!

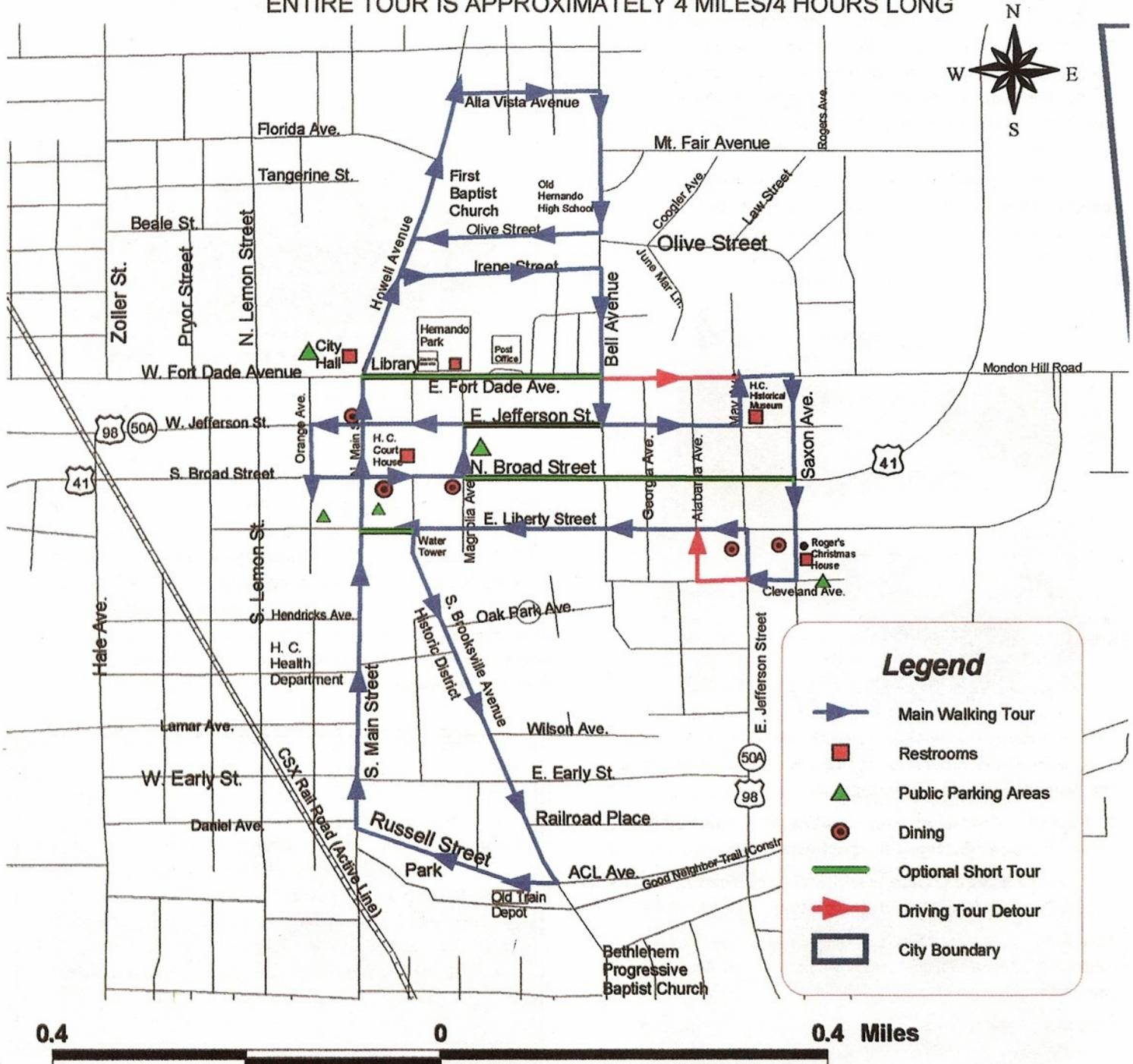
Historic Brooksville



Walking / Driving Tour

BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

ENTIRE TOUR IS APPROXIMATELY 4 MILES/4 HOURS LONG



Prepared by: City of Brooksville Community Development Department
Base Map provided by: The Hernando County Property Appraiser's Office
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