

**20 Charles & Emily Cheatham House**  
102 South Main Street - 1911 Prairie

Constructed in 1911 by Charles A Cheatham, this Prairie Style house represents one of the few indigenous American Architecture forms made famous by Frank Lloyd Wright. This residence has been home to several prominent local residents such as R.L. Smith, who served as city commissioner (1930 – 1938) and mayor (1942-1945).

**21 Carlos H. Preston Store**  
508 Central Ave - 1926 Italian Renaissance

Constructed in 1926 by Charles H. Preston, who came to Crescent City in 1888 from Illinois, this combination store and apartment building was home to a number of businesses including Preston Hardware, Thomas Drug Store and the US Post Office (1940-1964).

**22 Hart Furniture Company Store**  
517 Central Avenue - c. 1910 Frame Vernacular

Constructed circa 1910, this building originally operated as the Hart Furniture Company Store, until it was purchased by J.T. Peacock, an employee of the store, in 1930. It operated as a store on the first floor and living quarters on the second.

**23 Railway Express Office**  
517 Central Ave, Unit A - c. 1887 Frame Vernacular

Constructed circa 1887, this is the most notable and perhaps only building associated with transportation in the City's historic period. Capt S. Martin LaBree built this structure to provide a steamboat connection to the Crescent City depot to the west of town via canals connecting Byrd's Pond with Lake Stella. At one point the building included an extension to the lake on the west side.

**24 Union Bethel A.M.E Church**  
200 North Cedar Street - Late Gothic Revival

Originally located at the corner of Main St and Florida Av, then moved to the southeast corner of Cedar St. and Eucalyptus Av, and finally located at its current spot, this rather mobile historic structure is not just significant for its architecture and historical connection to the local African American community. Renowned labor organizer, A Philip Randolph, was born and lived his first few years in Crescent City in 1889 when his father served as a preacher in this church.

**25 Episcopal Church - Holy Comforter**  
223 Summit Street - c. 1878 Gothic Revival

In the early 1800's, the Episcopal Diocese in North American adopted the Carpenter Gothic style for its churches and provided its congregations with building plans. Elements of the style include a steeply pitched gable roof, an extensive use of wood ornament and lancet windows. A series of such churches was developed along the St. Johns River. The first service in this building was held February 10, 1878.

**Little Blue House Museum**  
602 Summit Street - Call ahead: 386-698-1607



**The Historic Architecture of  
The City Between The Lakes**

This scenic walking tour of our city features the best of many architectural styles from the past, with views of the two lakes at vantage points along the way. From quaint wooden vernacular buildings to ornate mansions, all bring a sense of the "Real Florida" as you stroll or drive the streets of this sleepy little town.

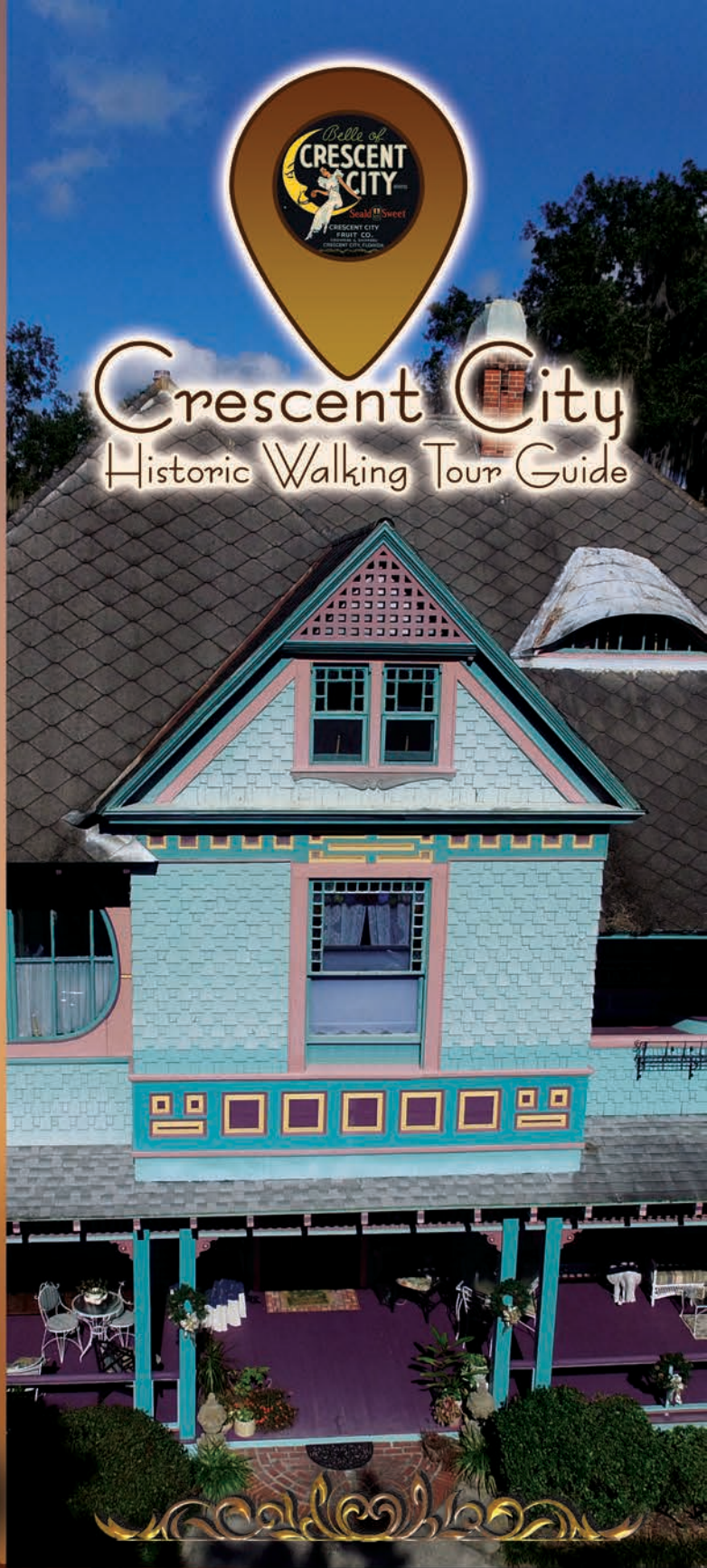
Standing on the corner of Central and Lake, next to the Old Benham Store (#8), you can imagine steamboats traversing the waters of Crescent Lake, docking at the east end of Central Avenue to bring passengers and supplies from Palatka and Jacksonville. In your mind's eye, you can see steamboat captains making their way up the street to the Sprague House Inn (#9) for some rest, before setting out the next day for the return trip, carrying passengers and the citrus harvest northward.

At the west end of Central Avenue on the shores of Lake Stella, you can picture the smaller steamboats delivering goods and passengers to what was then the western water point of entry to the city. Those boats came through canals on the far side of Lake Stella, making an efficient connection to the railroad junction farther west of town. The railroad depot and the canals are gone; however, the building that housed the Railway Express and Insurance Office is still there (#23), next to the Lake Stella public boat ramp.

There are many other examples of our 'turn-of-the-century' history to experience along your route, in addition to the stops emphasized on this map. Whether you decide to walk, cycle or drive – take your time, enjoy the moss-covered live oak trees, breathe the fresh air and embrace your journey through the present and the past that is Crescent City, Florida.

Sponsored by the City of Crescent City  
Community Redevelopment Agency  
3 N Summit St, Crescent City, Florida 32112  
<http://VisitCrescentCity.org>  
(386) 698-2525

Funded by Putnam County  
Tourist Development Council  
[www.PutnamCountyChamber.com](http://www.PutnamCountyChamber.com)



**19 St. John The Baptist Catholic Chapel**  
248 S Main St - Late Gothic Revival

Constructed in 1910, this was the first Catholic Church in the region and is still used as a Catholic chapel today. The stained glass windows were installed in 1938 by the Southern Art Glass Company from Jacksonville with donations from the parishioners identified inside under each window.

**18 Howe Memorial M.E. Church**  
252 S Summit St - 1922 Classic Revival

The cornerstone for the Howe Memorial Methodist Church was laid July 28, 1922. Dedicated in 1932, it was the last and largest of Crescent City churches built before 1941. The widening of Summit St in 1951 required the front steps to be removed and rebuilt on each side of the entrance portico, it otherwise remains unchanged.

**17 Benjamin Tillinghast House**  
310 S Prospect St - 1909 Craftsman

Benjamin Tillinghast, a prominent Midwestern newspaper editor, friend of President Theodore Roosevelt, and an associate of Clara Barton in early twentieth century relief work in Russia, retired to Crescent City in 1909. A local architect designed this house for him. The residence shows a stylistic transition from the nineteenth century Gothic to the twentieth century Bungalow.

**16 Matthew Read House**  
302 S Prospect St - c. 1886 Vernacular

Matthew H. Read of Connecticut came to Florida in 1881 to invest in citrus. Wiped out by the Great Freeze of 1895, he recovered to help organize the Bank of Crescent City in 1909. A sweeping veranda once encircled three sides of this spacious residence.

**15 Frederick R. & Bessie Bills House**  
301 S Prospect Street - 1912 Craftsman

The Bills moved to Crescent City in 1912 from Davenport, Iowa. The Craftsman variant of the Bungalow house exhibited exposed structural elements like rafter ends and eave brackets. Introduced about the turn-of-the-century, the gabled Bungalow became in time the most popular form of American residential building.

**14 First Presbyterian Church**  
301 Cypress Ave - 1888 Late Gothic Revival

The Presbyterian congregation was formally organized in 1883, and the 11 charter members began work on this church the following year. After several starts and stops to raise funds for the work, it was completed in 1888. The chapel next door was completed in 1910.

**13 People's Bank of Crescent City**  
338 Central Avenue - 1922 Colonial Revival

The People's Bank was chartered in 1922, just in time to participate in the Great Florida Boom. The bank folded in 1929, but quickly recovered and remained here until 1952. Note the decorative elements such as the carved porch brackets and voussoir stones within the lintels, touches common to historic buildings.

**12 Lucy Hardy House**  
334 Central Avenue - c. 1890 Vernacular

Built sometime between 1883 and 1892, this well organized wood frame house began as a summer home for a Rhode Island couple. It served for a few years as a bank annex and even once held a funeral home. Lucy Hardy, daughter of prominent local merchants C.L. and Rose Chamberlin lived there with her family from 1942 until her death in 1988.

**11 Bank of Crescent City**  
234 Central Avenue - 1909 Romanesque Revival

This building borrows its Romanesque arches from a popular late nineteenth century style. This bank, organized in 1909, was the city's first financial institution. It failed during the Great Depression. The building was later used as a city hall and fire department.

**10 John M. Klinger House**  
133 Central Avenue - Frame Vernacular

Constructed circa 1890 as a summer residence for John Klinger until he traded the property in 1931 to a Max Goodman. Significant for its architecture and its representation of early residential development in Crescent City.

**9 The Sprague House**  
125 Central Avenue - 1892 Vernacular

The great freeze of February 1895 destroyed northeast Florida's citrus industry and drove the owner of this hotel into bankruptcy. Katie Sprague, married to the city's first mayor, purchased the hotel shortly thereafter and continued to operate it throughout Crescent City's "Golden Age of Tourism."

**8 Benham Store & Masonic Lodge**  
11 South Lake Street - c. 1883 Vernacular

Opened as a destination restaurant in 2001, this 1883 Vernacular building is the city's oldest surviving commercial building, opening up as a general store before it spent 74 years serving as Masonic Lodge from 1920 to 1994.

**7 Frank & Isabell Horning House**  
18 North Lake Street - c. 1930 Vernacular

This residence features the steeply pitched gable roof associated with Gothic buildings of the Victorian Era. It sits on the shore of Lake Crescent along a street shaded by sprawling live oak trees. Built for Frank and Isabell Horning, who owned a local hardware store, it defied the economic distress of the early Great Depression.

**6 Conard-Harbison House**  
217 N Park Street - c. 1877 Queen Anne

The Queen Anne typifies residential architecture of the late Victorian Era. The Queen Anne displayed wood ornamentation, towers and verandas. This building was probably constructed about 1877. Dr. A. B. Harbison acquired the house in 1908. A physician and one-time Colorado state legislator, Harbison retired to Crescent City, where he helped organize the People's Bank.

**5 Monroe Harris House**  
325 N Park St - c. 1911 Colonial Revival

The Colonial Revival style, introduced at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876, consciously attempted to imitate colonial architecture. Symmetrical, well organized, the Colonial Revival building exuded permanence, stability and confidence in the future, matching the spirit of America in the early 1900's.

**4 Caretaker's Residence for Hubbard Park**  
511 North Park Street - Frame Vernacular

Constructed circa 1920 as the living quarters for the caretaker of Hubbard Park (see the Hubbard House located at Point 1 on the map).

**3 Seelye-Middleton House**  
110 Palmetto Avenue - c. 1885 Italianate

The Italianate style is defined on this house by decorative brackets that support expansive eaves and tall windows on the ground floor. It was built as the winter home for Dr. Thomas T. and Finitte Seelye of Cleveland, Ohio. R.C. Middleton, a citrus grove manager active in local and state politics, purchased the property in 1922.

**2 Marvel H. White House**  
402 North Lake Street - 1892 Italianate

Marvel H. White, a Moline, Illinois industrialist, built this elaborate Victorian Era residence as a summer home. The low-pitched roof and wide eaves exhibit this popular style of the mid-1800's.

**1 Bela & Henry G. Hubbard House**  
636 North Lake Street - 1879 Shingle

The retirement home of Michigan natives, this house is a mix of the Shingle and Queen Anne. The Shingle house is commonly found along the New England coast. The round corner tower is a signature feature of the Queen Anne style. Henry Hubbard, an entomologist, helped to establish Michigan State University in 1855.



City of Crescent City Historic Walking Tour

