

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Ronnie Duncan and Members
Historic Preservation Task Force

FROM: Criteria Sub-Committee
(Ellen Babb, Joan Deming, Bob Jeffrey, Jan Luth, Becky Nielsen, Cyndi Tarapani)

RE: White Paper on Proposed Criteria

DATE: March 24, 2006

Background

At both the November, 2005 and January, 2006 Task Force meetings, members discussed the need to develop local criteria to guide decisions on what is historically significant in Pinellas County. Examples of the National Register of Historic Places criteria and local government ordinances were reviewed and discussed. The immediate use of the criteria would be to determine which buildings, sites and districts would be contained in the database of historic resources in Pinellas County. The Planning Department has submitted a grant application to the State of Florida Division of Historical Resources to partially fund the development of this database. The Task Force discussed the need to have criteria in place prior to initiating the development of the database. The Task Force further agreed that the substantial expertise of the members could develop the criteria for review by the selected historic preservation consultant.

At the January, 2006 meeting, the Task Force members listed above volunteered to form a sub-committee to develop the criteria for review by the full Task Force. At the request of the Sub-committee, Ellen Babb, Historian for Heritage Village also participated in the development of the criteria. The Sub-committee met as a group and then reviewed drafts via e-mail during the month of March, 2006 and now propose this draft criteria for review and discussion by the full Task Force.

Purpose of Criteria

The purpose of the criteria is to guide decisions on the eligibility of buildings, sites and districts to be included in Pinellas County's database of historic resources. It is specifically NOT the purpose of these criteria to determine whether or not a building, site or district should be "designated" as a historic resource and be subject to local design review and protection. While these criteria may form a partial basis for that future decision, the purpose of these criteria is to establish the guidelines by which a resource would be added to the historic resources database that recognizes its significance in one or more areas.

The Sub-Committee believes that it is important to connect Pinellas County's survey and database activity to state and national accepted standards. Therefore, the proposed general criteria are based on the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the Sub-Committee also believes it very important that the unique local history of Pinellas County should be specifically referenced in the criteria and the second part of the criteria reflect this County's history.

Proposed Criteria

The Sub-committee proposes the following criteria for review and discussion.

“ Buildings, sites, structures, objects and districts within Pinellas County are considered historically significant resources if they possess and exhibit significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and /or culture.

Historically significant buildings, sites and districts shall be included on the County database of historic resources when they meet the following general and local criteria.

A. General Criteria

1. The historic resource is at least 50 years of age. A building, site or district may be included on the Historic Resource Database if it is less than 50 years of age and meets the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places showing exceptional importance to the nation, State of Florida or Pinellas County.
2. The building, site or district is the location of a significant local, state or national event, and/or
3. The building, site or district is associated with the life of a significant person(s), and/or
4. The building, site or district embodies the distinctive characteristics of an architectural style, historical period, method of construction or is the work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual work has influenced the development of the nation, State of Florida or Pinellas County, and/or
5. The site has yielded or is likely to yield information important to the prehistory or history of the nation, the State of Florida or Pinellas County.

B. Local Criteria

Pinellas County further identifies the following major themes in the development of the County and recognizes that buildings, sites or districts that reflect one or more of these themes are also considered historically significant resources.

1. Coastal Living-Pinellas County's location on the Gulf of Mexico, Tampa Bay and the Intercoastal Waterway are reflected in historic sites and buildings used by the County's water-dependent industries such as fishing, shipping and sponging.
2. Tourism-Drawn by the beautiful beaches and weather, tourists have been attracted to Pinellas County since the late 1880s. Neighborhoods, hotels, beach lodgings and resorts developed to house the tourists while attractions were established to entertain them. Historic resources related to tourism include neighborhoods, historic hotels, resorts and motor courts, baseball spring training facilities, roadside attractions, gardens and other entertainment sites.
3. Agriculture-As the first industry in Pinellas County, agricultural historic resources are reflected in many areas of the County in farm/grove sites, warehouses, packing plants, support businesses, ditches/canals and other historic landscape features.
4. Transportation-The diverse modes of transportation (boat, railroad, car, airplane) greatly influenced the patterns of growth in Pinellas County at various periods in time. Historic

resources related to transportation include piers and boat docks, train depots, bridges, airports, and historic/scenic roads and trails or sections of roads.

5. Wars-The effect of American wars is generally evidenced indirectly in Pinellas County, i.e., forts and other defense mechanisms instead of battlefields. Historic resources related to wars include Fort De Soto, military training facilities, airfields, and the Cold War defense industry buildings.
6. Florida Boom Era-Florida's real estate boom in the 1920s was experienced in Pinellas County as evidenced by the explosion of construction especially in housing and tourist hotels. Historic resources of the Boom Era include neighborhoods, tourist hotels, resorts and commercial buildings.
7. Community Life-Pinellas County was settled by and continues to attract diverse ethnic communities from different parts of the nation and world. These residents bring with them their social and cultural lifestyles which are exhibited in historic resources such as schools, religious sites, hospitals, post offices or other government buildings, meeting places, entertainment sites (e.g., theatres) parks and recreation sites and cemeteries.
8. Pre-History/Archaeology- Prior to settlement by Europeans, Pinellas County was occupied for more than ten thousand years by a succession of aboriginal cultures. From the Paleoindian to the Safety Harbor periods, the prehistory and early history of Pinellas County is reflected in a variety of archaeological site types. These include aboriginal mounds, middens, cemeteries, quarries, camps and villages, ceremonial sites, as well as historic period fishing ranchos, forts, homesteads, trails, domestic and industrial refuse sites, work camps, and shipwrecks."

Requested Action by Task Force

The Sub-committee requests that the Task Force review the proposed criteria, make any revisions deemed necessary and adopt this criteria as the guidelines to be used in the development of the Pinellas County Historic Resource Database.

