

Map of Jacksonville of 1859

*No written record applying to the foregoing map of Jacksonville has been found, but its face bears testimony that tends to place its date in 1859. The shading in the lower center is the area covered by the devastating fire of 1854. The Judson House was built in 1854. The plank road was built in 1856-7. The map bears the title "City": Jacksonville was created a "City" by change from "Town" class by the charter of January, 1859. The Buffington House was burned late in 1859, and it probably would not have been shown as an illustration and located on the map had the map been prepared at a later time. Therefore it is assumed that the map was prepared in 1859 with some relation to the new charter and change of designation; and also that it was based on a previous map, presumably Hart's map of about 1857.

The corporate limits indicated are those of March, 1842, remaining unchanged by the new charter, in fact they so remained until 1887. The unnumbered blocks in the upper portion of the map lie between Hogans Creek and the South Branch of the creek; the south branch has since been filled in and does not appear on late maps. I. D. Hart acquired all of the Taylor grant except ten acres; the unnumbered blocks referred to comprise about ten acres.

In the early days the river was not bulkheaded and almost every severe northeaster backed the water into the stores on Bay Street. Apparently I. D. Hart in his survey attempted to correct this and at the same time increase the value of a larger section of his property by shifting the business center of the town from Bay Street between Market and Ocean to a black-jack ridge, where he provided a public square (now Hemming Park), doubtless intended as a market and general gathering place; and laid off the lots facing it on Duval, Hogan and Monroe Streets and the diagonal corners as half lots for store and business purposes. Hart never donated this square to the city, but the executors of his estate did in 1866. It is not known why the block numbered 63 was not divided into lots, unless the purpose was to reserve it for the free negroes settled in that locality.