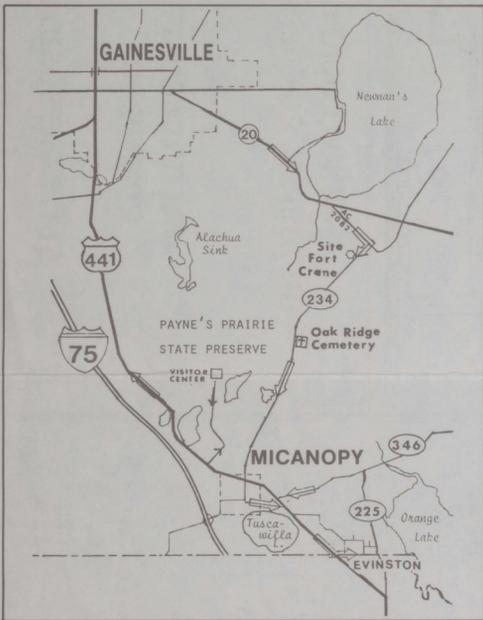


HISTORICAL TOUR A



FORT CRANE
In December of 1835 the Seminole attack and annihilation of a U.S. Army detachment under the command of Major Francis Dade marked the beginning of the Second Seminole Indian War. In response to settlers demands for protection, a number of forts were built in Alachua County during the latter

half of the 1830's. Among these was Fort Crane, probably named for Lt. Col. Ichabod Crane, located near the north-east corner of Payne's Prairie. The war ended in 1842 and the forts were phased out and abandoned.



OAKRIDGE CEMETERY — MADISON STARKE PERRY

This old cemetery, on the east side of SR 234 about 3.2 miles south of Rochelle, was established formally in 1854. Local legend has that the cemetery began here because two victims of an Indian raid were found and buried on the site. Documented history tells us that Madison Starke Perry, a local land owner, donated the land in 1854. The original road passed east of the cemetery so that the older section now is the furthestmost from the present highway. The graves of many pioneers of this part of Alachua County are found here.

Madison Starke Perry was the fourth governor of the State of Florida, serving from October 5, 1857 to October 7, 1861. Born in South Carolina in 1814, he moved to Alachua County in 1847, acquiring a large plantation near the present day Rochelle. He represented Alachua County in the 1849 House of Representatives and in the 1850 Senate. As Governor he settled the long standing border dispute with Georgia, encouraged development and railroad construction, and on January 11, 1861 led the withdrawal of Florida from the Union. After his term as Governor he served as Colonel of the 7th Florida Regiment, Confederate States of America. He died at his plantation home in March 1865.

PAYNES PRAIRIE STATE PRESERVE

The entrance to this State Park facility is on highway US 441, approximately one and a half miles north of Micanopy. This low basin, formed through the settling of the terrain due to the solution of the underlying limestone, is covered by marsh and wet prairie vegetation with areas of open water.

Among the most significant natural and historic areas of Florida, it was the center of man's activities in Florida for many centuries. Prehistoric Indian artifacts have been found, and, in the 1600's, it was a large Spanish cattle ranch. It was described in detail by William Bartram who visited the "Alachua Savannah" in 1774. Its present name derives from King Payne, a Seminole Chief. Many exhibits on the natural and cultural history of the Preserve are housed in the Visitor Center. A scenic view of the Prairie is possible from the observation tower near the center.

The preserve offers boating, fishing, picnicking, and swimming. It is open from 8 a.m. until sunset year-round. Modest admission fee.

The town is within the Arredondo Grant made by the King of Spain to Don Fernando Arredondo and Son in 1817. Parts of this grant were sold to Moses Levy and a group whose agent was Edward Wanton. They, after the cession of Florida to the USA, brought settlers here in 1821. The first post office in Alachua County was established here in 1826 and called Wanton's, later changed to Micanopy. The town was incorporated in 1880. The Micanopy Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

MICANOPY

HISTORY OF MICANOPY

Micanopy is the oldest inland town in Florida. Artifacts found here indicate occupation by Timucuan Indians before the Seminoles came in the mid-1700's. William Bartram described the Seminole village called Cuscowilla which he visited in 1774. The chief at that time was named Ahaya but called Cowkeeper by the English. Other Seminole chiefs following him were King Payne and Micanope.

1. MERRY-SHEFFIELD HOUSE
In 1880 Calvin Merry built the house for his bride Kate. Its small gabled entrance was replaced by a two story porch, later enclosed. Before the big freeze of 1894-95 the house was set in an orange grove. W.N. and Mabel Sheffield lived there in the 1950's. Present owners have done much to restore the interior.

2. THE LITTLE SCHOOL HOUSE
Originally located beside the main school, the Little School House was built before 1920 as overflow classroom space. Later it was the home of the principal, Mr. Williams. In the late 1930's the house was moved to this site.

3. FEASTER-FRANKLIN-SWIFT HOUSE
Built by Otis L. Feaster in 1895, the house was sold to Ben O. Franklin in 1898. Isiah Dean Swift was the next owner and his daughter and her family lived here. In recent times Mr. and Mrs. Colie Sherouse and Mr. and Mrs. Hillary occupied the house.

4. POWELL-MONROE HOUSE
Captain Benjamin William Powell was a prominent early settler who organized a Micanopy contingent in the War Between the States. Upon his return he built this two story house in 1865. The Powells lived in the house until their deaths in 1900-01. The Donovans and Odells were later occupants. It was sold in 1935 to Malone Monroe, a lumber mill owner.

5. THE BRICK SCHOOL HOUSE
Built in 1895, it served children of a large area from Payne's Prairie to the Marion County line. The cornerstone reads: "Lamisophian Institute 1895 God and little children." It is now the Town Hall and Public Library.

6. THRASHER WAREHOUSE
The Thrasher Warehouse was built about 1890 by John Early Thrasher on the Atlantic Coast Line railway spur. When the Thrasher general store burned in 1911 the warehouse housed the merchandise until a new store could be built. The Coca Cola sign on the north wall dates from the 1920's.

7. REEVES-HILLEARY HOUSE
In 1900 John D. Reeves selected the heart-pine, sawed the lumber at his own mill and built the house for his bride. They lived there until after he died in 1917. In the early 1920's an engineer of the Tampa and Jacksonville Railroad, Mr. Miller and his wife, came to live here. The Hesters, Johnsons, Hirschs, Prestons and Hilleary families have also lived here.

8. THRASHER STORE
Rebuilt by John Early Thrasher after a 1911 fire that destroyed its predecessor, J.E. Thrasher and Son was described as one of the largest mercantile firms in Alachua County. Thrasher owned other stores, warehouses and properties in Micanopy. A big pot bellied stove warmed this brick store in winter. The store remained in the family until recently and still sells groceries and other goods.

9. CHITTY-THRASHER HOUSE
Old photos show this as a pretty two story house built by Edward Cooper Chitty in 1900. Following Cooper Chitty's death in 1917, Mr. John E. Thrasher bought it. The Thrashers wanted to be near their store and warehouse. After John E. Thrasher's death the second floor was removed which is how it appears today.

10. PRESBYTERIAN-EPISCOPAL CHURCH
A Presbyterian congregation was organized in 1854. The land for the church was given by James A. and Sarah Simonton, Benjamin W. and Esther M. Powell, George W. and Mattie S. Means. The church building dates from 1870. Notable are its three bay windows with ruby glass in the sanctuary and the hairpin mouldings on the double front doors. The church served not only the needs of its members but as a meeting place for local affairs. A library was developed with contributions from local families. The Episcopalians used it and care for it now.

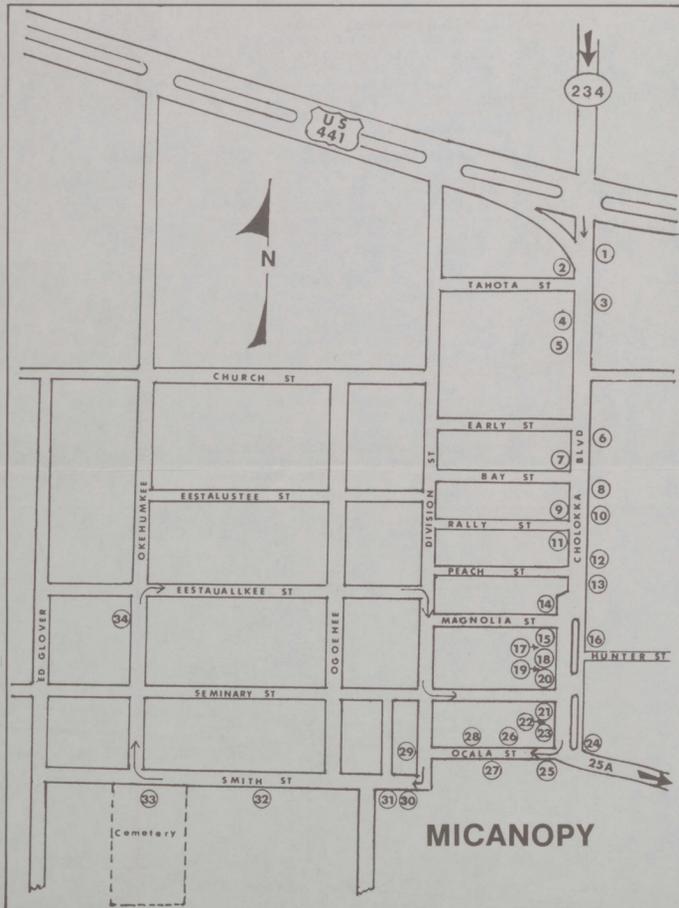
11. HERLONG HOUSE
The original frame house was built in 1875 by R.S. Stoughton. In 1915 his prosperous son-in-law, Z.C. Herlong embarked on renovations. The original wood frame house is covered by the brick exterior. Upstairs the heart-pine floors are still in place but downstairs the pine was replaced with oak. The reception rooms have handsome oak mantles and paneling.

12. FRANKLIN COTTAGE
Set back from the street is a little cottage with a porch in front. In 1926 it was built on the road as a filling station. A slab of concrete marks the spot where the gas pumps stood. Now it is a cozy residence.

13. FONTAINE HOUSE
Captain Benjamin W. Fontaine's first residence on this site burned on February 14, 1911. By September of the same year it was rebuilt by L.B. Parrish Construction Co. and described in the media of the day as one of the nicest homes in the state and a credit to the town. In addition to his phosphate business, Captain Fontaine kept a general store across the street where a gazebo now stands in the Beulah Franklin Park. You can see the foundation still. The house was sold to Dr. J.D. Watkins, one of the trustees of the bank. In 1921 Ben O. Franklin bought the house and the store. The Fontaine house is notable for its Ionic columned wrap around veranda with double octagons.

14. SMITH-MOUNTAIN BUILDING
The Smith Building has been in the same family since it was built around 1900 by Samuel B. Smith. It later became the property of his daughter, Susie Adava, and her husband, John R. Mountain. In 1982 the building was chosen for the hotel scenes in the film "Cross Creek" about the life of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.

15. MOTT-MAY BUILDING
N.B. Mott's building dates from before 1900. He was described as a general merchant. The original double front doors, high display windows and tin ceiling are unchanged. In the 1930's Robert H. May bought Mott's store and his house across the street. Customers could telephone for delivery of groceries. The building served Micanopy as a general store for over seventy years and was background for the scenes for the film "Cross Creek".



MICANOPY continued



16. THE LOG CABIN PACKING HOUSE

The log cabin was constructed in conjunction with the packing house that shelters it by Robert H. May in the early 1930's. The packing house was used for grading and packing beans. Trucks drove in parallel to Hunter Street to be loaded and the truck drivers could eat at the Log Cabin Cafe. The Weaver family bought the packing house and log cabin from Mr. May.



17. MOUNTAIN GARAGE

John Robert Mountain built it as a garage in 1913. "Bob" Mountain owned one of the two cars in town at that time: a Chandler. His son Buster (Samuel William) Mountain ran the garage after him and it remains in the Mountain family. In the 1930's the garage with its filling station was the stopping place for the Blue Bus Line.



18. DAILY DRUG STORE

This was a 1925 Boom times building. Dr. Ira A. Daily had his office upstairs and a drug store below. There was a soda fountain with a mirrored cabinet wall and a handsome white marble counter still in use in the antique shop that is here today. Dr. Daily and family lived in an apartment upstairs. There were hotel accommodations upstairs as well.



19. THE LITTLE STORY HOUSE

The tin building set back was built in the early 1920's. Cody Hunter kept his electric and radio repair shop there. In the little house next door was the Micanopy Public Library. This old tin building served as the children's section and was called the Little Story House.



20. FEASTER BUILDING

Otis Laney Feaster Jr. is credited with building the Feaster Building in 1903. A general store and the first telephone office were on the ground floor. The second floor was a storage warehouse. On the third floor operas, plays and balls were held as well as Chatauqua events.



21. BENJAMIN BUILDING

An 1885 photo shows the handsome two story building of S.H. Benjamin and Co. It was partially destroyed by fire and rebuilt with one story as you see it today. The three doors led to separate shops. Edward Cooper Chitty kept general merchandise. The corner shop was a drug store owned by Mr. Hickson. Shops in the building have served as a pool hall, a post office and a bank.



22. MICANOPY BANKING CO.

The Micanopy Banking Company was established in 1906 by John Jacob Barr. His son-in-law Dr. John Dixie Watkins and Watkins son John Barr Watkins were trustees. The bank's vault is still intact. The iron grills from cashiers cages are stored for future use. It is a handsome building with classic cornice trim and marble threshold and window sills. After the bank failed in 1927 the building was empty for many years. Today it is the Strawberry Bank and Antique Shop.



23. SHEROUSE GARAGE

A 1932 photo shows the Sherouse garage with gas pumps in front. It stood strategically placed at the curve of what was then the main highway south. Now it is an ice cream parlor and also houses the Micanopy Historical Museum and Library.



24. SIMONTON HOUSE

In 1910 James Boyce Simonton built this Queen Anne victorian described in the Gainesville Sun in 1911 as one of the prettiest houses in Micanopy. Simonton was a cattle rancher. The large magnolia trees were planted by Dr. J.A. Cooper, owner of an earlier house on this site.

EVINSTON

HISTORY OF EVINSTON

Evinston is a small community on the Alachua-Marion County borders. Capt. W.D. Evins, who had large land holdings here, gave land for the right-of-way for the narrow gauge Florida Southern Railroad in 1882. The station was given the name Evinston and a post office established. This area was well known for



1. MOUNT OLIVE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church was established in 1886 on land purchased from W.D. Evins. For a time camp meetings were held for two weeks each year with the railroad providing special excursion trains for these popular revival services. The old wooden church was replaced by this attractive new sanctuary in 1973. Behind the Church is a cemetery where many pioneer black citizens of the area are buried.



2. SHETTLEWORTH-CROMARTIE-MUDRA

Built originally by W.P. Shettleworth about 1884, it was later the home of his daughter Mrs. Raymond Cromartie. Recently it has been restored and modernized by Drs. Stephen and Anne Mudra.



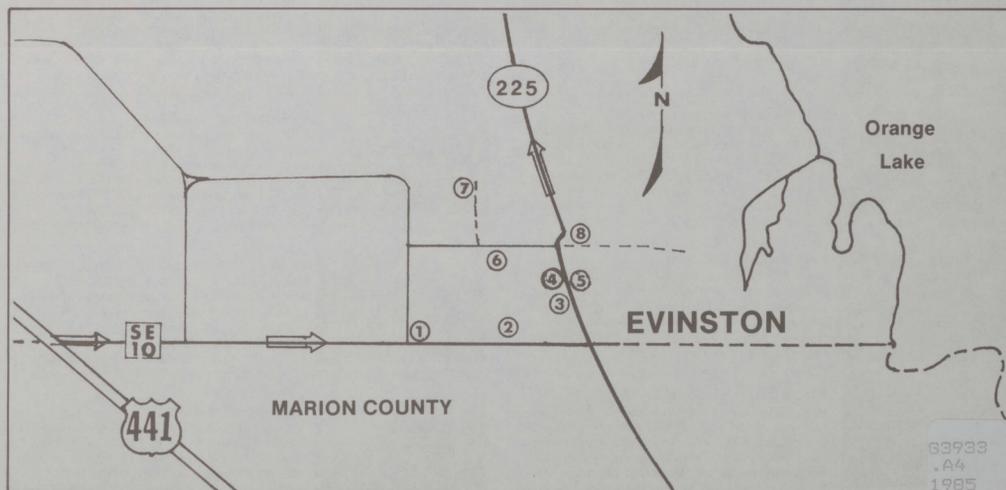
3. THE COUNTRY STORE AND POST OFFICE

Originally built in 1884 as a warehouse by W.P. Shettleworth for S.H. Benjamin of Micanopy. Purchased by J.L. Wolfenden, a settler from Wisconsin who arrived in the area in 1883, it became a general store and post office. There were a succession of owners through the turn of the century. In 1907 H.D. Wood and Robert Evins bought the store. Still containing original post office boxes and equipment, it is one of the few remaining country store post offices. Open 8 to 12 noon and 3 to 5:30 PM. Closed Saturday PM and all day Sunday.



4. PACKING HOUSE

This building, age unknown, is a reminder that this was once the heart of the Florida citrus producing area. A spur track from the main railroad across the highway allowed direct loading of boxes of fruit for shipping to northern markets. Only limited citrus production continued after the freezes of the winter of 1894-95 and of 1899. This structure is used for vegetable crops.



25. STEWART-MERRY HOUSE

The Stewart-Merry house began as a two room log office built by Dr. James Stewart in 1855. Two stories were added, a kitchen ell, storage and servant's room before 1872. William Edwards and his wife lived in the house until Mrs. Edwards's death. In 1916 John Duskin Merry bought it. Mr. and Mrs. Merry made their home there until Mr. Merry died in 1945.



26. THE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

John Barr Watkins built the house about 1925. A telephone operator lived there with the switchboard in the parlor. The small brick building to the rear housed the equipment. This is the way telephone offices were built in small towns so there would be a full time operator on duty.



27. BARR-SMYTH HOUSE

On Ocala Street in front of a graceful house are landmark twin oaks whose first documented mention begin in 1883. They are referred to as Chief Micanopy's Council Oaks. To the rear of the house stands the barn built by John Jacob Barr before 1880. The present house replaced an elegant Victorian house destroyed by fire in the early 1920's. In 1930 it became the home of John A. Whiting and his family. His daughter Carmen and her husband Lewis B. Smyth now reside here.



28. WATKINS HOUSE

This is a classic craftsman bungalow, designed by Shields Warren of Gainesville in 1916. The property belonged to Mr. J.J. Barr who built the house when his niece Caroline Barr married John Barr Watkins.



29. JOHN WILLIAM BARR HOUSE

Another charming craftsman bungalow placed at the end of a tunnel of oaks. It was built in 1923 by John William Barr when he married Rosebud. They lived there most of their married life.



30. BEVILLE-BLOCKER HOUSE

This small white shingled cottage was built in 1900 on land deeded to the Baptist Church next door. John Beville Sr. owned it when the Smyth family bought it. Today it is the home of Mr. George Blocker and Mrs. Lydie (Ruth Alda) Blocker.



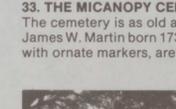
31. OLD BAPTIST CHURCH

Formerly the Micanopy Baptist Church, this structure was built in the mid 1880's. The Baptist Church was organized in 1852 and a sanctuary erected soon afterwards behind the present structure. The building is being restored as a residence.



32. MONTGOMERY WALL

Constructed in 1895, this wall is all that remains of Dr. Lucius Montgomery's beautiful home that burned in the 1920's. A walk leading down to the gate was bordered with blue hydrangeas and chinaberry trees.



33. THE MICANOPY CEMETERY

The cemetery is as old as the town. The earliest marked grave being that of James W. Martin born 1737, died 1826. Here, shaded by the old trees and some with ornate markers, are the graves of the pioneers and the later settlers.



34. J.J. JONES HOUSE

This fine example of a Florida Victorian cottage was the home of John W. Wideman, principal of the Micanopy public school in 1891 and probably built by him. The station master of the Tampa & Jacksonville Railroad, John James Jones, bought the house in 1901. It is presently owned by Ms. Elizabeth Deleon.