



DeLand Historic Mural Walk



Welcome1

List of Murals from north to south

1. **DeLand at the Turn of the Century** (*Painters Pond Park: NW corner of Wisconsin and Alabama Avenues*)2
2. **Henry's Vision** (*NE corner of Wisconsin Ave. and Woodland Blvd.*)4
3. **Riverboat Landing** (*SE corner of Wisconsin Ave. and Woodland Blvd.*)6
4. **Old Spanish Sugar Mill** (*NE corner Woodland Blvd. and Church St.*)8
5. **Black Bear Family** (*East side of building at 115 E Rich Ave.*) .10
6. **Pioneers at the Parceland** (*Pioneer Park: North wall of building at Rich Ave. and Woodland Blvd.*)12
7. **Strolling Through Time with Bill** (*142 E. Indiana Ave.*) .14
8. **Gibbs Clothing Store** (*137 N. Woodland Blvd.*)18
9. **A Conversation over Chess** (*West side of building at 112 W. Indiana Ave.*)19
10. **Wild West Volusia** (*116 W. New York Avenue*)20
11. **Lue Gim Gong** (*replacement mural location has yet to be determined. Original painting located at MainStreet DeLand office, 100 N. Woodland Blvd*)21
12. **Bicycling on the Boulevard** (*inside hall leading to MainStreet DeLand office, 100 N. Woodland Blvd.*)22

Other DeLand Murals of Interest23

13. **DeLand Naval Air Station** (*NW corner of Woodland Blvd. and New York Ave.*)24
14. **River Life** (*SE corner [lower level] of New York Ave. and Woodland Blvd.*)26
15. **Living at the Landmark** (*South side of the building on the SE corner of Howry Ave. and Woodland Blvd.*)28

The Muralists30

Historic Plaques in Downtown DeLand33

Online booklet available at www.mainstreetdeland.org

WELCOME TO THE DELAND HISTORIC MURAL WALK

When Henry DeLand traveled over the rolling hills and through the pine woods and orange groves to arrive here in March, 1876, he had a vision. He foresaw a charming city that would become a cultural and educational mecca—the “Athens of Florida”.

The DeLand Mural Tour came about as a way to share the history of our community. The late Pat Rancati and the DeLand Mural Committee of the MainStreet DeLand Association with the help of the City of DeLand, local historians, and the West Volusia Tourism Authority realized the first mural in 1996, Pioneers at the Parceland. The mural was based on a photograph from the 1880’s Parceland Hotel. Many more murals were added.

This, the 2nd edition of the Historic Mural Walk book, builds on the first with the addition of murals completed since its publication. There are now 15 historic murals. Each one describes a scene of DeLand’s history. The story telling description of each mural makes for an educational and enjoyable walk through downtown and through history.

As you should expect, there are many people to thank for this project. The artists, the community that supports it, the City of DeLand for its support and maintenance, and the MainStreet Mural Committee. Thanks to Karen Ryder of the West Volusia Historical Society for her rewriting and Susie Macon for new mural photographs.

This book is sponsored in part by the Department of State, Division of Historical Resources and the State of Florida. It is also sponsored by The River of Lakes Heritage Highway, The West Volusia Tourism Authority, Express Printing, and MainStreet DeLand Association.

As you view the murals, take the time to search for the hidden elements cleverly placed in many of them by the artists. Think of each mural as an illustrated page of a history book. We have also included a list of historic plaques found in Downtown DeLand. By following the map, you will be able to stroll the mural walk in a leisurely hour and have time to enjoy our historic downtown’s buildings and shops.

Enjoy your day in DeLand.

MainStreet DeLand Association

Karen Haught, Mural Chair

Wayne Carter, Executive Director

1 | DeLand at the Turn of the Century



Location: Painters Pond Park:
NW corner of Wisconsin and
Alabama Avenues
Sponsor: Progress Energy and
City of DeLand

Artist: Courtney Canova and
Breanna Glisson
Dedicated: August, 2002.
Rededicated: May 20, 2016.

This is the largest mural of our historic murals and has many unique features. Wherever there are projections, they are used to clever dimensional portraits. The concrete retaining wall that the mural is painted on is over 100 feet long and is all that survives of the ramp of a railroad spur that took wealthy winter visitors up the hill to the College Arms Hotel. This hotel, formerly called the Parceland, was purchased by John B. Stetson, the famous Philadelphia hat maker, who greatly expanded and remodeled its buildings and grounds. The train and its passengers are depicted at the eastern-most end of the mural. However, the majority of the wall depicts what those passengers would have seen from their railroad car while riding through DeLand during the early 1900s; residents laboring at the various industries that contributed to the city's booming economy.

The citrus industry, of course, was what drove DeLand's prosperity and near the scene of the orange packing house is an image of the slat house that John B. Stetson installed to protect his grove from frost. However, there were several other industries that played a part as well and are represented in the mural. For example, large logging operations arose from harvesting the giant cypress trees that once grew along the river. Some of their trunks were 25 feet in diameter, as can be noted by the depiction of three men circling their arms around one of the massive trunks.

DeLand also had the first power plant in Florida. John B. Stetson donated the use of his 50 Kilowatt generator that he had brought to his property west of DeLand. Thus, the city of DeLand had electricity available before even Jacksonville or Miami and, from this beginning, the DeLand Electric Light Power and Ice Company (DELPICO) was formed, the first of its kind in the state. Another industrial first that is seen here is the E.O. Painter Printing Company, now located in DeLeon Springs. It is the oldest continuously operating printing company in Florida.

The concrete wall that provides the mural's surface was built around 1900 and ran through a small African-American neighborhood nestled among railroad tracks, freight yards and sawmills. The area near the saw mill was nicknamed "Red City" because the owner got a deal on some red house paint and passed it along to his workers. Note the images of the young boys of Red City who, to make some tips, formed a jug band to entertain the passengers.



2 | Henry's Vision



Location: Northeast corner of Wisconsin Ave. and Woodland Boulevard

Sponsor: City of DeLand and Mainstreet DeLand Association

Artist: Courtney Canova and Bob Brooks

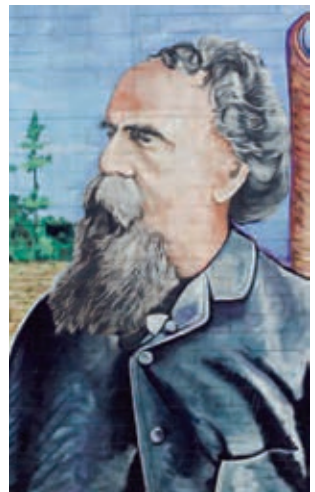
Dedicated: August, 2002.

This mural has two sections. The smaller right side shows the St. Johns River steamboat dock that will later be named “DeLand Landing”; the larger left side shows what the surrounding environment looked like before the city was developed. In the center is a depiction of the log cabin of John and Clara Rich, one of the earliest families who were attracted here by a craze known as “Orange Fever”. Just as the “Gold Fever” infatuation led “Forty-Niners” from all over the east to rush to California hoping to strike it rich, those smitten with “Orange Fever” streamed into central Florida during the mid-1870s when it was discovered that oranges could be raised in sufficient quantities for commercial profit making. All over the region, the native Long-Leaf pines, some of which reached 80 to 100 feet in height, were being cut down to create homesteads where orange groves could be planted.

In the foreground is a larger-than-life image of city founder Henry DeLand. DeLand was co-owner, and head salesman of the DeLand Chemical Company of Fairport, New York, near Rochester, makers of baking soda and baking powder. In March of 1876, DeLand was taking his first vacation after 20 years of working for his company when he and his family traveled to Walterboro, South Carolina to visit his sister Amelia, and her husband Oliver Terry. Suffering from a bad case of orange fever, Terry had taken up homestead near the Rich cabin in an area called Persimmon Hollow. When his brother-in-law arrived to visit, Terry persuaded DeLand to extend his visit to Florida. The two families came by steamboat from Jacksonville, and docked at the landing on Lake Monroe in the town of Enterprise. They stayed overnight at the nearby Brock House Hotel and in the morning Terry took DeLand by horse and buggy to Persimmon Hollow.

At first, Henry DeLand was not impressed with the sandy marshlands along the river but as they moved farther inland and entered the high pine scrub, he began to enjoy his drive through the forest over rolling hills. By the time they reached the Rich cabin, DeLand began to envision what a charming and healthy area this would be if settled into a resort town with hotels for winter residents and pleasant homes and orange groves for year round residents.

DeLand stayed overnight at the Rich cabin and the next morning, purchased the homestead of a family eager to give up the rigors of frontier life. He paid \$1,000.00 for almost 160 acres of land bounded by what is present day New York Ave, Clara Avenue, Minnesota Avenue and Amelia Avenue and made plans to purchase more property later. Back in Fairport, DeLand drew up plans and returned later that year to donate the land and much of the funding for the building of a school house that would function as a church on Sunday. At a gathering of the handful of local homesteaders who lived within a few miles of the Rich Cabin, the settlers accepted DeLand's donation of a swath of land to serve as a main street named Woodland Boulevard, laid out a grid of other streets and unanimously agreed to name the town in honor of the man whose vision had inspired them.



3 | Riverboat Landing



Location: Southeast corner of
Wisconsin Ave., and Woodland Blvd.

Sponsor: Mural Patrons and
Morgan Stanley

Artist: Richard Currier

Dedicated: July 15, 1999.

In the 1870s, there were no roads and no rail transport yet available for accessing the central Florida interior. The only way for homesteaders to get into these densely forested, wilderness lands was to travel south from Jacksonville on a St. Johns River steamboat. As Florida's longest river, the St. Johns has the additional distinction of being one of only a few North American rivers that flow north, so the south-central bound steamboat travelers would put in at various landings along what was known as the Upper St. Johns region.

This mural depicts one such landing near Lake Beresford. At this point the river became too shallow to allow the steamboats to navigate all the way through to where traveler accommodations were available on the east side of the lake at Alexander's Landing. So the boat captains would pull

into a stretch of cleared land on the west side of the lake. From there, the disembarking passengers would hike across what is now the Hontoon peninsula to get to the lake's western shore and await transport to Alexander's Landing by either row boat across the lake or wagons that would come around overland to pick them up.

It is said that those awaiting transport on the west shore of this wide expanse of water would signal their arrival to those at the landing on the east side by firing gun shots. Guns were a very practical necessity for all new homesteaders as were the plain work clothes that they are seen wearing in this image. Note also that they carry minimal personal items, just the basic essentials needed to survive on the Florida frontier.

New settlers would typically stay at the Alexander's Landing boarding house until they found their piece of property, got it cleared, fenced and had a log cabin erected on it. The landing also had a general store and a fruit packing house. The first post office opened at what was the community of Beresford.

This steamboat landing near Lake Beresford remained active until 1933 when the steamboat lines finally ceased operations. Rail transport and an ever improving intersection of roads were making automobile transport a more efficient means of transportation. During World War II, much of the remaining structures at Alexander's Landing were torn down when a boat works was built there.



4 | Old Spanish Sugar Mill



Location: Morgan Stanley Building on the corner of Woodland Boulevard and East Church St.

Sponsor: Patricia Schwartze, Dr. and Mrs. David Royal, Morgan Stanley,

Mainstreet DeLand Association

Artist: Courtney Canova and Robert Brooks

Dedicated: October 2005.

This mural depicts Burt's Park that, in the 1920s, was located on the site of a natural sulfur spring in the present-day town of DeLeon Springs. The park was a favorite gathering place for both visitors and locals alike. However, the history of human habitation at this site is much older. Native shell mounds and other ancient artifacts dating as far back in time as 8,000 BC, have been discovered here. Native people known as the Mayaca lived here for at least 6,000 years. In the late 1500s, Spanish missions were established in the area. During the second Spanish occupation of Florida, land grants were given to U.S. citizens, including William Williams, who had 2,020 acres here and named his property Spring Garden Plantation.

Subsequent owners further developed the plantation planting cotton and sugarcane. In 1832, when Florida was a U.S. territory, Orlando Rees

built the first water-powered mill to grind the corn and sugarcane. In 1836, Seminoles attacked the plantation and destroyed the mill. After the Seminoles were driven out, the mill was rebuilt in 1849 and continued to produce cotton and sugar. During the Civil War, Union officers got word that the owner was providing supplies to the Confederate Army, and in April of 1864, Union troops destroyed the plantation once again. By the late 1800s, Spring Garden was becoming a tourist destination. The spring, like all others in the state, flows out at a constant temperature of 72 degrees Fahrenheit so it was a popular place to cool off during hot Florida days. Mr. Burt's Park took full advantage of the surrounding natural beauty and enhanced the setting with landscaped gardens, picnic areas and a swimming pool. To attract even larger numbers, local residents changed the name from Spring Garden to Ponce de Leon and referred to the spring as "the Fountain of Youth".

The Ponce de Leon Springs Inn and Casino was built in 1925, catering to wealthy northern visitors. In the 1950s, the property numbered among the over 100 roadside attractions in the state. It featured tropical gardens, a jungle cruise, a miniature railroad tour, and even featured a water-skiing elephant. However, the advent of Interstate highways and air travel combined to cause the attraction to close its doors. The property was operated as a private recreational park until 1982 when the State of Florida and Volusia County purchased the currently 625 acre DeLeon Springs State Park.



5 | Black Bear Family



Location: East side of building at
115 E Rich Ave.

Sponsor: City of DeLand and
Mainstreet DeLand Association

Artist: Terry Smith

Dedicated: July 2004.

The Florida black bear is a subspecies of the American black bear that has historically ranged throughout most of Florida as well as southern portions of Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. Currently Florida's largest terrestrial mammal, male black bears average 300 pounds and a few have grown above 500 pounds. The average adult black bear has a length of between 4 and 6 feet. They have shiny black fur, a light brown nose and a short stubby tail. A white chest patch may be seen on many but not all the bears.

Volusia County is one of only six black bear population centers in Florida. They live mainly in forested areas, and have seen recent habitat reduction throughout the state. The bears are mainly solitary, except during mating season. Most are not territorial and typically do not defend their range from other bears. Black bears have good eyesight, acute hearing and

an excellent sense of smell. They are omnivores and their diet varies greatly with the seasonal availability of their preferred species of flora and fauna. An interesting fact about Florida bears is that they do not hibernate. Instead, they go through a period called “winter denning” which occurs from December through late March when pregnant females give birth and go without food.

This mural depicts the scene of a mama bear leading her three cubs through the forest early one misty morning. One of her cubs is cleverly hidden as are a red fox and an armadillo. The muralist created this painting in layers putting one color on top of another. Note how the building’s rough surface was incorporated to enhance the details of the tree bark and fur on the bear’s coat.

Before they were placed on the Endangered Species List, Florida Black Bear populations were declining at alarming rates. They were frequent targets of local hunts. Folk historian Bill Dreggors tells the story of bear meat showing up at a grocery store via the black market during the 1940s, when WWII made meat scarce. The bear meat was ground and marketed as “hamburger” and the locals found it to be particularly tasty. In the 1980s habitat loss was becoming the greatest threat and some naturalists claimed that nearly 20 acres were lost to new development every hour in Florida. Bears being injured or killed on Florida roadways was another danger and road kill was found to be the number one cause of bear death. In 1994, the Florida Legislature outlawed the hunting of the state’s black bears.

In recent years, bear sightings have been increasing in Florida. In June of 2012, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission removed the Florida Black Bear from the list of threatened species rules, despite scientists concerns regarding inbreeding. In what they refer to as a “low genetic diversity” situation, the ability of some bears to adapt to changes in the environment is reduced, thus creating greater probability of the species becoming extinct.



6 | Pioneers at the Parceland



Location: Pioneer Park: North wall of building at Rich Ave. and Woodland Blvd.

Artist: Perigo

Dedicated: December, 1996.

Sponsor: DeLand Mural Patrons and West Volusia Tourism Authority

Through the constant promotions of Henry DeLand and other land speculators, visitors were encouraged to make an extended winter visit at one of a growing number of area inns and hotels. It was hoped that these vacationers would find the environment a major refuge from the icy blasts they had fled back in their home states and be enticed to buy property nearby. And, of course, many did.

By the time of the mid 1800s, DeLand had become a bustling tourist town with several fine downtown hotels. Multitudes of tourists arrived in town from the steamboat landing by way of a narrow-gauge rail line. Upon their arrival at the downtown rail depot, passengers were able to take a “hack” (a hired horse and carriage) to the hotel of their choice.

This mural, designed from an 1890s photograph, shows a large group of these winter tourists who have come to the end of their vacation stay at

one of the earliest of the hotels, the Parceland, depicted on a hill in the background. Only six years in the future, in 1896, John B. Stetson will purchase the Parceland (which had already undergone two previous enlargements) and remodel it to new heights of luxury, as was seen in the first mural at Painter's Pond Park.

But for now, these early "snow birds" have completed their stay at what is still the Parceland and are waiting at the downtown depot where they will board a northbound train for their return journey back to their homes. Note that several of the departing passengers are carrying orange branches which they will take with them as souvenirs of their Florida adventure.

To fund the painting of this mural, commissions were accepted for the muralist to model the faces of the people in the crowd upon the likenesses of current residents or people that lived here in the past.



7 | Strolling Through Time with Bill



Location: 142 E. Indiana Ave.

Sponsor: Breakfast Rotary,
City of DeLand and “Bill’s Girls”

Artist: Courtney Canova

Dedicated: March, 2005.

This is a portrait of Bill Dreggors sporting the clothing and wide smile that so many local citizens have come to associate with him. With his vast knowledge of the history of the entire West Volusia area, he became a cherished resource for both the facts and the folklore that contributed to this community’s development. Bill received a multitude of civic, as well as local, county and state government awards and is known throughout Florida for his work in historic preservation.

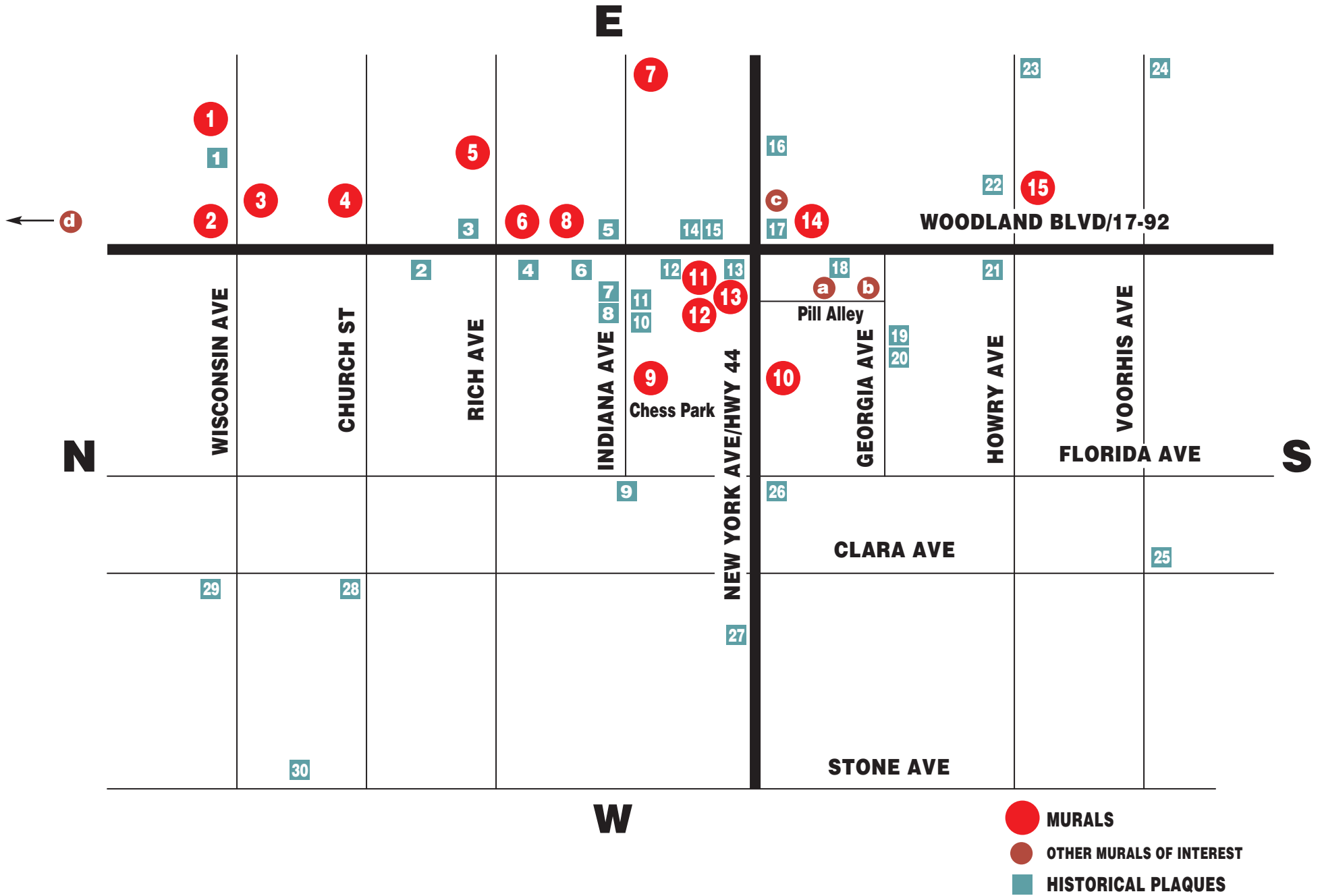
It was an event that occurred in the 1950s that set Bill on his life-long mission to promote the history of his hometown. While working as a lineman for the local power company, he was almost electrocuted. The brush with death left him feeling a need to do something of significance with his remaining years. The realization that the area’s history was slowly disappearing, he set out to rescue as much of it as he could before it was too

late. He created slide programs from his postcard and photograph collections and made appearances at schools and other venues dressed as Henry DeLand.

Bill assembled hundreds of slide shows on West Volusia history and narrated numerous videotapes on multiple aspects of that heritage. He also edited books such as *Volusia: The West Side, A Pictorial History of West Volusia County*. Audiences that attended his appearances as a folk historian were fascinated by his anecdotes about this area's early life. Although his most familiar re-enactment character was city founder Henry DeLand (which earned him the title of Mr. DeLand), Bill also portrayed Frederick DeBary and James Gamble.

Under his leadership, the West Volusia Historical Society was founded in 1973. A generous donation by Society members Robert and Hawtense Conrad enabled the Society and various city officials to work together to restore and furnish the Henry A. DeLand House, 137 W. Michigan Avenue as a city museum. Bill was named as the Society's Executive Director. Over the ensuing years, the Society continued to grow and a second building, the Robert M. Conrad Educational and Research Center, was erected on the property in 1989. Then, in 2000, the Society raised money to commission a bust of DeLand's "Citrus Wizard", Lue Gim Gong. It had long been a dream of Bill's that a lasting memorial could be built to honor Lue's great achievements, and that dream was fulfilled when the bronze work was given a permanent location in a memorial garden located on the Society's grounds. For more on Lue Gim Gong please see mural 11.





8 | Gibbs Clothing Store



Location: 137 N. Woodland Blvd.
Sponsor: City of DeLand and Gibbs

Artist: Brenda Star
Dedicated: 2008

The mid-century setting of this mural has as its subject a family-owned shop in the downtown business section. The image is located on the upper story of the building where the Gibbs family operated their clothing store for many years. The arched center window portrays the interior with likenesses of David and Doris Gibbs standing by the balcony railing. The window on the right shows the offices of the old switchboard telephone company).



9 | A Conversation over Chess, in 1929



Location: West side of building at
112 W. Indiana Ave.

Sponsor: County of Volusia –
Art in Public Places

Artist: Jill Cannady
Dedicated: 2010

In this delightful little “pocket park”, away from the hustle and bustle of downtown life, chess tables are set out amid the trees near ivy covered walls. With the tranquil murmurs of a waterfall in the background to mute the street noise, this is the ideal spot for people to have quiet conversation as they play.

And that is the simple, but nuanced scenario that the artist has portrayed in the mural seen in this location. It is the only line art, sepia-toned drawing in the entire collection. Viewers see an intimate grouping of diverse people in 1920s era clothing who are sitting at the chess tables chatting among themselves on a lovely sunny day.



Location: 116 W. New York Avenue.

Sponsor: Conrad Realty Co.

Artist: Jo Raulerson

Dedicated: 2012

Across the street, at 116 W. New York Avenue, on a building located directly opposite Chess Park's southern entrance gate, is a mural that also depicts a sun-soaked Florida day. However that is all that these two murals share in common. The medium this time is back to bold, bright colors of paint and instead of a close-up view of a group of people, the subject is a broad perspective of an entirely nature-filled landscape of the expanse of water and shoreline along the St. Johns River. The artesian mineral springs that feed the river's waters create an extraordinary environment for flora and fauna that have fascinated visitors since the time they started arriving in 19th Century steam-powered paddle-wheelers. The river played such a significant part in the area's development that it has been designated as an American Heritage River.

11 | Lue Gim Gong (replacement mural location has yet to be determined)



Location: Mural Damaged; Original Painting located at Mainstreet DeLand Office, 100 N. Woodland Blvd.

Artist: Courtney Canova and Doug Harris

Dedicated: April, 1998

Sponsor: City of DeLand and Mainstreet DeLand

This larger than life image is befitting of a man who, although tiny in stature and humble in origin, stands as a giant in the world of horticulture. When he was only 12 years old, Lue left his home and farmer parents in Canton, China and sailed across the Pacific to San Francisco. He lived and worked there for a few years and then was recruited to work in the North Adams, Massachusetts-based Sampson Shoe Factory. When Lue became gravely ill, showing symptoms of what possibly was tuberculosis; it was recommended that he move to sunny DeLand. Before long, he came to live with his teacher's family and they helped him to become an American Citizen in 1877.

Record breaking freezes that occurred in central Florida in the winter of 1894-95 resulted in the ruination of almost all the citrus groves, including the one Lue was working. Afterwards, he focused on experiments with cross pollination on producing frost-tolerant fruit.

In 1911, he was recognized for successfully developing a new orange named the "Lue Gim Gong" orange. Later this variety became a nuclear seedling of the Valencia orange which ripens in early fall and is much more resistant to cold. Lue's new orange earned him the Silver Wilder Medal, awarded by the American Pomological Society. It was the first such award ever given for a citrus fruit. He is shown in the portrait with his pet rooster "March".

12 | Bicycling on the Boulevard



Location: Inside hall leading to
Mainstreet DeLand Office
100 N. Woodland Blvd.

Sponsor: Courtney Canova and
West Volusia Artists, Inc.

Artist: Courtney Canova Family and
the West Volusia Artists, inc.

Dedicated: March, 2001.

Ironically, the only indoor mural is about an outdoor sport. It is set in the 1920s when bike riding was at the height of its popularity. C.T. Kruse's Bicycle Shop downtown on North Woodland Blvd. was doing a prosperous business. The shop also was the first Indian Motorcycle dealership in Florida. A few people still rode the 19th Century style of high front wheel bicycles but, after the turn of the century, most riders began using the "safety bike" seen here, because it was much easier to get on and off and one could ride it with fewer accidents.

Almost every town had a bicycle club. People loved to ride their "wheels", as they called them, from one community to another, and meet up with other "wheelmen" to socialize and perhaps have a picnic lunch. At this time there was a bicycle path that ran between DeLand and DeLeon Springs

and wheelmen like those depicted gathered here on Woodland Blvd., would pay a 10 cent toll to take this smooth path out to the springs.

One distinction of this mural is that it contains a perspective shot that makes use of a corner wall to create a sense of depth. The muralist worked alongside members of West Volusia Artists, Inc. who donated their time to help create this scene and also used faux finishes to simulate the look of an outside building's brick veneer. They even painted in a multitude of vines with lady bugs scattered throughout to turn the entire length of what was a nondescript hallway into a vibrant work of art.

Other DeLand Murals of Interest



a. Wings

Location: Pill Alley behind
108 S. Woodland Blvd.

Artist: Erica Group



b. Beer – Grain to Glass

Location: Pill Alley on East wall
of Persimmon Hollow Brewery

Artist: Erica Group



c. Seascape Scene

Location: Inside 100 E. New York Ave.

Artist: Rachael Hernandez

d. River Scene depicting the Osceola steamship

Location: 941 N. Woodland Blvd.

Artist: Courtney Canova



Location: NW corner of Woodland Blvd. and New York Ave.

Artist: Courtney Canova

Dedicated: January 24, 2007

Sponsor: City of DeLand, Breakfast Rotary, DeLand Naval Air Station Museum

There had been an airport in DeLand since the 1920s, but the small town of DeLand was destined to play a large role in World War II when it donated its airport to the war effort. The Navy bought additional property nearby and on November 17, 1942, opened the DeLand Naval Air Station that became a major training site for Navy pilots.

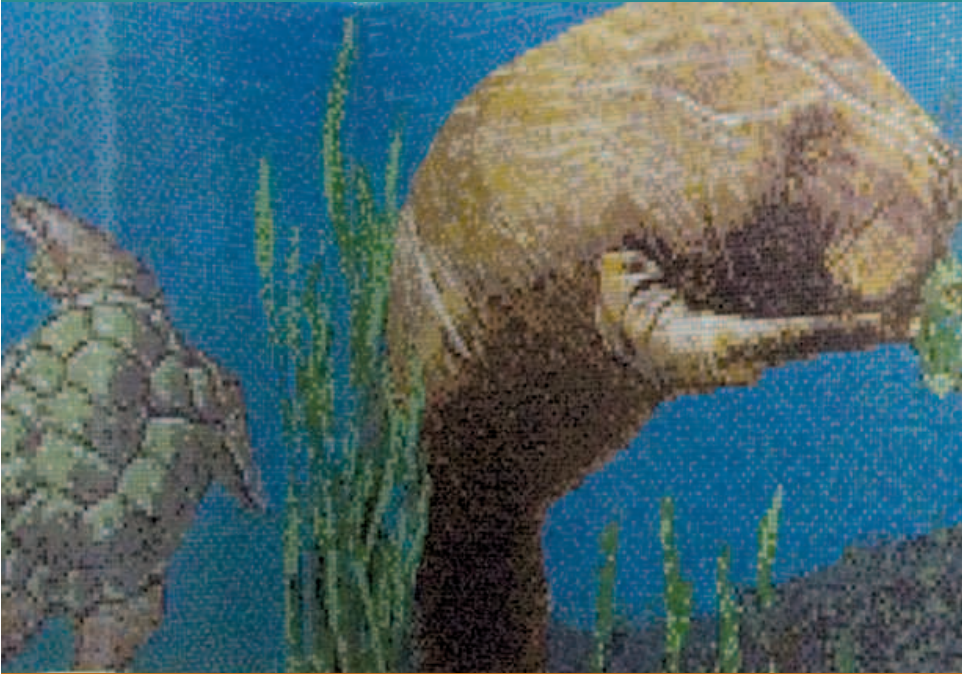
The mural seen here portrays both the men and the machines that operated out of this site. The two Navy men represented here were modeled on snapshots of actual local veterans. The Naval Aircraft, depicted here circling high above the airport, were modeled on the three planes that the men were trained to operate. When the station first opened, the pilots flew land-based PBO Ventura patrol bombers to monitor the coast line. Later, gunner teams were trained to use the famous SBD (“silent but deadly”) Dauntless dive bombers. These carrier-based planes, and their teams of

pilots, were credited with enabling the victory at the pivotal Battle of Midway by sinking a total of four Japanese aircraft carriers. Late in the war, starting in 1944, the station had the mission of training pilots to fly another carrier-based fighter, the F64 Hellcat.

These very effective dive bomb missions required well coordinated team work and very complicated maneuvers and, as a result, they exacted a high toll on the lives of the young men who were training to fly them. Local veterans report that some of the trainees crashed on takeoff and some crashed into training targets and therefore many of these lost lives have been largely forgotten because they didn't die in combat. The F64 Hellcat was especially difficult to learn to operate because it had only one seat. Therefore, learning to fly it allowed for no air training with a more experienced pilot. The trainees had to learn to handle the plane by reading an instruction manual and practicing on the ground before going up for their first solo flight.

In March of 1946, the DeLand Naval Air Station was officially closed and the entire field was turned over to the City of DeLand. Some of the buildings were occupied by the Florida Military School from 1956 to 1971. In November of 1995, fifty years after the opening of the base, the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum opened in the newly restored former Master of Arms Residence. Over the years, the museum has amassed an impressive collection of Veteran's mementos and military art and artifacts. In 2001, the museum building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.





Location: SE corner of Woodland Blvd. and New York Ave.

Sponsor: Suntrust Bank

Artist: Courtney Canova Family and the West Volusia Artists, inc.

Dedicated: March, 2001.

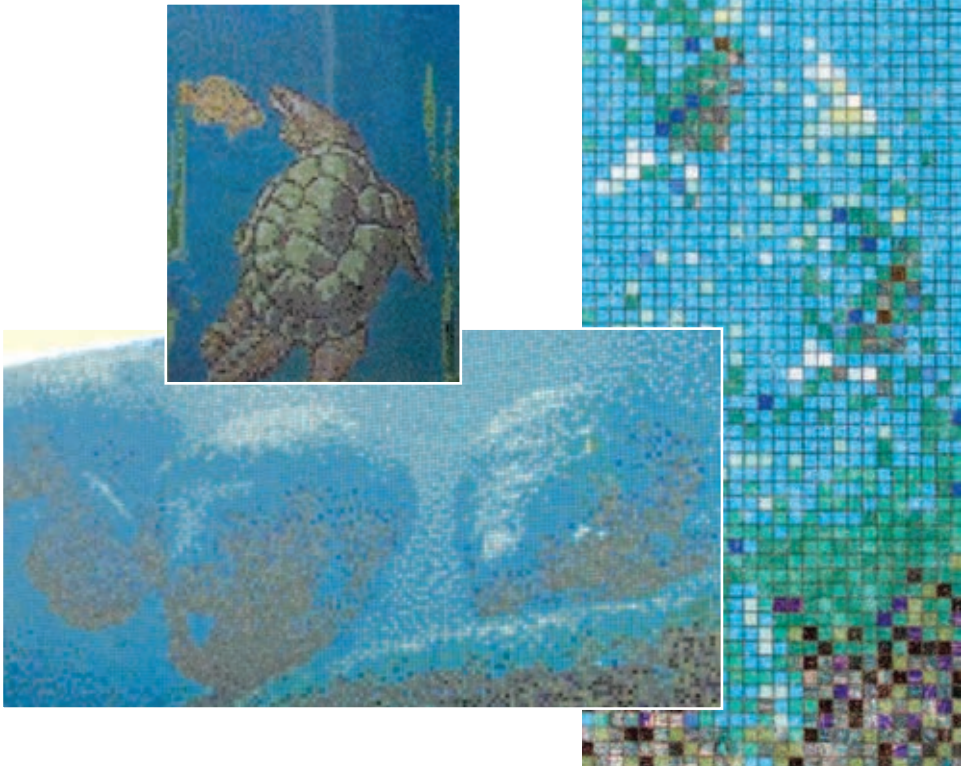
Marine life is a fitting subject for the City's only mural that is a water feature. It started as just an underwater painting, but the paint was soon washed away and a tiled image was substituted. The subjects are in life-size scale, even that of the seemingly over large snapping turtle whose meat was considered a delicacy by the early settlers near the St. Johns River. Careful viewers will note also the images of largemouth bass, which weigh from 12 to 14 pounds when mature and still attract anglers to the river.

Dominating the scene, however, is the depiction of the West Indian Manatee. These gentle, harmless, slow moving mammals are a large aquatic relative of the elephant. They rarely venture into waters below 68 degrees Fahrenheit and so are most commonly sighted during Florida's winter months, when they migrate into shallow rivers, bays and estuaries. Manatees are herbivores with a diet consisting mostly of sea grasses and water

vegetation. They are often referred to as “sea cows” because of their habit of almost continuous grazing. Although they have been on earth for 45 million years, they are now an endangered species. Only a few decades ago, manatee sightings were rare. Since measures have been taken to protect them, however, their populations have gradually recovered.

Tile murals such as this one are created through an artistic collaboration. Muralist Courtney Canova created a digital image composed of tiny pixels, and mosaic artist Doug Harris transferred the image into patterns of two-centimeter square, Italian glass tiles where each of the tiles corresponded to a computer pixel. There are a total of 75,582 of these tiles in the completed mural.

In a close range viewing of the mural, the individual tiles are clearly seen but the images are blurry. From a distance, however, the individual tiles are indistinct and the image becomes clear. An old Spanish tile installer explained it best: “When you are close, they (the images) are far, When you are far, they are close.”





Location: South side of the building on the SE corner of Howry Ave. and Woodland Blvd.

Sponsor: DeLand Mural Patrons, City of Deland, MSDA

Artist: Courtney Canova and Doug Harris

Dedicated: April, 1998

Try imagining that when this excellently restored hotel opened in 1927, it had more than 40 rooms. In addition to containing a bed, each of these tiny spaces had a sink and closet crammed into it. However, there was one bathroom for every two rooms and it was considered the height of luxury to only have to share the bath and toilet with one other hotel room.

Hotel owner Edwin Barnhill provided other unusual features for his customers as well. To take them on day trips to Daytona Beach, Barnhill cobbled together a commodious open-air bus. While it was certainly a pleasure to feel the balmy sea breezes while riding along the coast, there was one big drawback. This was only enjoyable as a fair weather ride. With no cover, passengers had to pack umbrellas along with their beach gear in case they encountered a rain shower.

After the golden age of hotels ended, the building deteriorated. In the 1980s, it became vacant for several years. Restoration began in 1997 and the hotel reopened as the DeLand Artisan Inn in 1999. During the restoration the windows had to be blocked in because none of them met current fire codes, so a fire at the hotel could have easily spread to other buildings. The restorers of the hotel saw a creative solution to the problem of blocked in windows. Each window's mural was painted to offer life-sized images of winter visitors standing at their various hotel windows. The visitors are portrayed with clothing and props appropriate to the 1930s and 1940s heyday of Barnhill's hotel.



The Muralists

The Mural Walk Committee

Pat Rancati first visited DeLand in 1994 and later retired here. She envisioned the DeLand Mural Program. With support from MainStreet DeLand, the City of DeLand and West Volusia Tourism Authority she formed a committee and started planning. In 1996 the first mural, Pioneers at the Parceland was completed.

Soon many other historic murals were added to the wallscape of DeLand, inside and outside of buildings, some large and some small. Each mural tells its own tale, but all are designed to take you on a historic journey through the history of our community.

There have been many wonderful people that have served on the Mural Committees to seek and provide funding, locations, legal documentations, artists, etc. To name a few: Bill Dreggors, Jimmy Mikitta, MainStreet Executive Directors Maureen France, Taver Cornett, and Jack Becker, Dale Arrington and others from the city of DeLand, as well as corporate and local historic minded DeLandites and property owners.

Bob Brooks is a local artist who works in a variety of media from the minute detail of pen and ink, and pencil to large acrylic murals in bold bright colors.

Having grown up in DeLand since 1950, Bob has seen many changes in the town, but much of his artwork reflects the area as it was in years past. The old DeLand High School, the Old Spanish Sugar Mill at DeLeon Springs, Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, Stetson University and the Old County Courthouse are some of his favorite subjects.

While art has long been a passion for Bob, it wasn't until 1990 it became his avocation. Prior to this he earned a BA degree in History, a Master's and Doctorate in Christian Education and has worked as teacher, headmaster and administrator in several Christian schools in Florida and Virginia.

Bob lives in DeLeon Springs, FL with Carry, his wife of over forty years. They have two grown sons and three grandchildren.

Jill Cannady is a five-time recipient of Florida's Individual Fellowship award and received the Southern Arts Federation/NEA award for sculpture in 1991. Her work has been shown widely and included in many major public and private collections including the Brooklyn Museum in New York and the Norton and Lowe museums in Florida. This was her first mural and the scene is from her imagination.

The Muralists (cont)

Courtney Canova As a teenager, long before his graduation from Ringling School of Art and Design in 1981, Courtney had a passion for illustrating history. Later, while working as a designer for a public relations firm in Leesburg, his interest in the history of his hometown led him to research old documents and photographs. Who were the people that came and why did they come to establish small towns in Florida?

His curiosity and research into the origins of DeLand led to an invitation to become a vital part of the MainStreet DeLand Association. Courtney became a major resource person on the historic authenticity of DeLand's mural program. He was the muralist on six of the existing murals and is working on several more in DeLand and other venues.

Courtney works as a senior designer in Electronic Media Design for AAA headquarters in Orlando. When not riding his bicycle Courtney can be found tending his Bonsai trees or strumming his guitar with his family.

Richard Currier is a full-time practicing artist who is a Florida native and resides in Micco on Florida's east coast. A graduate of Ringling School of Art & Design, he has done personal study tours in Amsterdam and Paris.

Richard has been the recipient of dozens of awards, including the Society of Four Arts Best of Show for Contemporary American Painting in 1993. He is represented in the Quinlan Museum, Daytona Museum of Arts and Sciences, and the DeLand Museum of Art. He is also represented in private collections throughout the United States.

Richard's mural work began as a theatrical stage artist. He executed murals for Atlanta's Art in Public Places Program and The Peace River Panorama for Punta Gorda's Mural Society.

Perigo "arrived on planet Earth" on October 24, 1967 under the sign of Scorpio. At an early age he showed signs of talent in the theater, art, and music and seemed destined for creativity while very young. At the age of 19, he embarked on a career as a freelance commercial artist with a repertoire of screen painting, sign writing, airbrush, portraiture and large scale murals.

As a designer, artist and activist throughout central Florida, Perigo led and painted various projects, signage for Walt Disney World, a 13,000 sq. ft. mural in Delray Beach, Fl. Barney's Coffee in Celebration, Harley Motorcycle in Daytona Beach, T.D. Waterhouse in Orlando, and DeLand's first mural "Pioneers at the Parceland."

Perigo now enjoys working coast-to-coast for art and entertainment industries. His "home base" is Ormond Beach, Fl with his wife, Nina, and his three children, Marcella, Thoren and baby Phoenix.

The Muralists (cont)

Jo Raulerson a DeLand native, is a graduate of Ringling College of Art and Design, and she teaches at the Museum of Art – DeLand. Jo specializes in architectural watercolor and her company, Barefeet Art, also offers art-restoration and framing services. Jo has painted some other murals inside private homes, but Wild West Volusia is her only public mural.

Terry Smith was born and raised in Georgia and has been a resident of Land O-Lakes, FL since 1979. Years of hiking hunting, and fishing led Terry to the decision to paint and become more involved with the outdoors. Being a person who loved nature has given him a wealth of experience to draw from for his wildlife art. His work reflects the beauty he sees in all of God's wild creatures.

“Using the thought and feeling stored within to create a painting from my own vision is a challenge. Combining shapes, textures ad colors into a finished painting is very satisfying,” says Terry. “But the real fun is the inspiration that comes upon you while hiking through the woods; from light through the leaves, a bird or mammal in an unforgettable pose, even the feeling of walking on moss.”

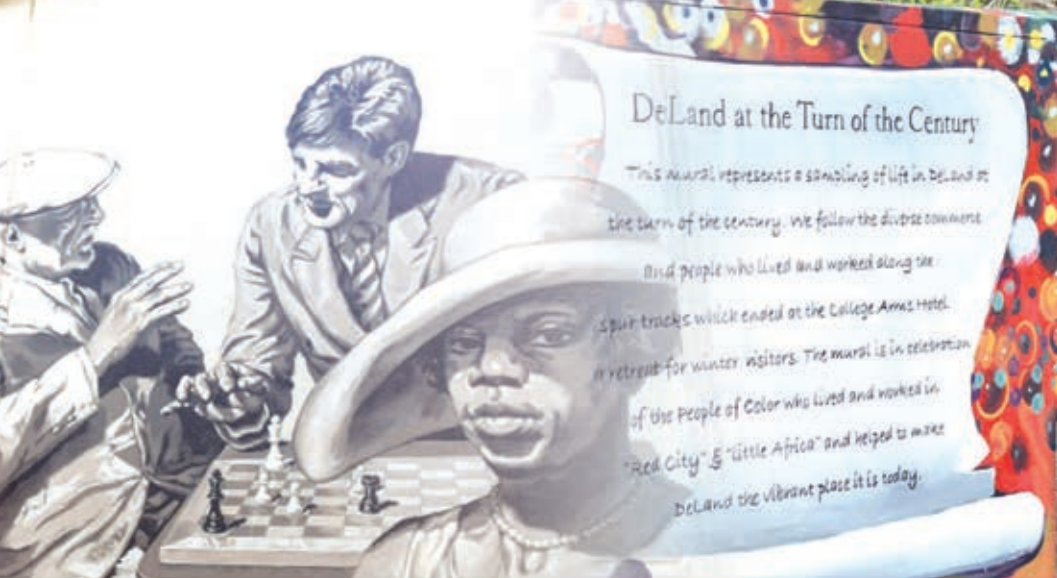
Terry's paintings have won many awards and have been exhibited in shows, museums, and galleries throughout Florida and the Southeast. His murals can be seen in Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina and Florida.

Brenda Star maintained an art studio in DeLand for over twenty years. As a portrait artist she painted the likenesses of many DeLand citizens in oil, pastel, and watercolor and many ink and watercolor portraits of homes and businesses in the DeLand area. Brenda exhibited her art throughout the state and nation. She was born in South Dakota and had a BS degree in Fine Art from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Historic Plaques in Downtown DeLand



1. **"Painter's Park"**,
E. Wisconsin Avenue:
(DeLand's first industries)
2. **"The Opera House"**,
200 N. Woodland Blvd:
(printing businesses/cultural center)
3. **"Circa 1885"**,
201 N. Woodland Blvd:
(skating rink/insurance agency)
4. **"Early Grocery Stores"**,
142 N. Woodland Blvd:
(family-run businesses)
5. **"First Public Building"**,
E. Indiana Ave & Woodland Blvd.
(school house/community church)
6. **"Circa 1877"**,
124 N. Woodland Blvd:
(Bunell's Grocery/Allen Druggist & Jewelers)
7. **"First Movie House"**,
103 W. Indiana Ave:
(silent movie era)
8. **"The First Post Office"**,
105 W. Indiana Ave:
(early mail delivery)
9. **"The Athens Theatre"**,
124 N. Florida Ave:
(Vaudeville acts and silent films)
10. **"First Commercial Store"**,
110 W. Indiana Ave:
(early retail supplier)
11. **"Landis-Fish Building"**,
110 W. Indiana Ave:
(nationally known law firm founders)
12. **"The Haven Block"**,
112-116 N. Woodland Blvd:
(performing arts center/pool hall)
13. **"Miller-Fish Building"**,
100 N. Woodland Blvd:
(hay and grain store/livery carriage shop)
14. **"Wilcox Saloon"**,
101 N. Woodland Blvd:
(The great fire of 1886)
15. **"1925"**,
101 N. Woodland Blvd:
(National Bank building/DeLand's first skyscraper.)
16. **"Dreka Theater"**,
112 E. New York Ave:
(movie industry boom following WWI)
17. **"Dreka Building"**,
100 E. New York Ave:
(Dreka store/Carrolton Hotel)
18. **"Circa 1883"**,
112 S. Woodland Blvd:
(a site long associated with the written word)
19. **"1925"**,
112 W. Georgia Ave:
(the commercial heritage of DeLand)
20. **"Iron Works"**, 112 W. Georgia Ave:
(custom assembly of truck and carriage bodies)
21. **"1925"**,
142 S. Woodland Blvd:
(Masonic Lodge/commercial stores)
22. **"1883"**, 115 E. Howry Ave:
(organization of one of DeLand's first churches)
23. **"Bethel A.M.E. Church"**,
226 E. Howry Ave:
(early African-American church)
24. **"Koester's Grocery Store"**,
205 E. Voorhis Ave:
(rare surviving example of family-run neighborhood store front)
25. **"Washington Theatre"**,
254 W. Voorhis Ave:
(African-American community center)
26. **"City of DeLand Quasiquintennial"**,
200 W. New York Ave:
(125th year of incorporation)
27. **"Rich Cabin"**,
159 W. New York Ave:
(founding of the city of DeLand)
28. **"Red Brick Building"**
NW corner Rich and Clara Ave:
(Education site from 1917-1979/memorial to alumni who died in WWII)
29. **"St Barnabas Episcopal Church"**
519 W. Wisconsin Ave:
(distinctive architectural features)
30. **"DeLand Memorial Hospital"**,
250 N. Stone St:
(DeLand's first hospital)



DeLand at the Turn of the Century

This mural represents a sampling of life in DeLand at the turn of the century. We follow the diverse commerce

and people who lived and worked along the spur tracks which ended at the College Arms Hotel, a retreat for winter visitors. The mural is in celebration

of the People of Color who lived and worked in "Red City" & "Little Africa" and helped to make DeLand the vibrant place it is today.

This project is sponsored in part by the Department of State, Division of Historical Resources and the State of Florida.



FLORIDA DIVISION OF

Historical Resources



**West
Volusia**
Old Florida. New Vibe.

www.visitwestvolusia.com



River of Lakes
HERITAGE CORRIDOR

www.rolhc.org

**EXPRESS
PRINTING**

www.myexpressprinting.com



MAINSTREET
DELAND ASSOCIATION

www.mainstreetdeland.org

On line at www.mainstreetdeland.org