### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

#### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 16000361

Date Listed: 6/13/2016

Property Name: Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park

\_\_\_\_\_

County: St. Johns

State: FL

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination

documentation,

6.13.2016

Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Significant Dates

1874 is hereby deleted as a significant date.

The Florida State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment. **DISTRIBUTION:** 

National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **REGISTRATION FORM**

REC	EI\	/ED	22	80

361

OMB No. 1024-0018

APR 2 9 2016

## Nat. Register of Historic Places This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete ageh the parton by marking "v" in the appropriate box or by entering

Name of Property		
storic name FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH	ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK	
ner names/site number Fountain of	Youth FMSF#SJ31 & SJ5175	
Location		
eet & number 11 Magnolia Avenue		N/A D not for publication
te <u>Florida</u> cod	de <u>FL</u> county <u>St. Johns</u> coo	de <u>109</u> zip code <u>32084</u>
State/Federal Agency Certification	on	
State or Federal agency and bureau	on of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Pres	
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau		
National Park Service Certification reby certify that the property is:	ion (* Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
entered in the National Register	Land Allas I	10.13.2016
See continuation sheet determined eligible for the		
National Register		
		<b>b</b>
National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register		

St. Johns Co., FL County and State

5. Classification					
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number (Do not inc	of Resou	rces within Proper viously listed resources i	r <b>ty</b> in the count)
⊠ private □ public-local	☐ buildings ⊠ district	Contribu	ting	Noncontribut	ing
<ul> <li>public-State</li> <li>public-Federal</li> </ul>	site structure		6	8	buildings
	object		4	0	sites
			4	15	structures
			2	0	objects
			16	23	total
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of				outing resources p onal Register	reviously
"N	/A"		0		
6. Function or Use					8.157
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Fu (Enter categor		uctions)	
RECREATION & CULTURE: ou	RECREATION & CULTURE: outdoor recreation, park				
7. Description					
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materia (Enter ca	tegories from	instructions)	
Late 19th and 20th Century Reviva	ls: Mission Revival	foundat	ion <u>CONC</u>	RETE	
Other: Masonry Vernacular		10001443 DMA23	COQUINA		
Other: Small scale Planetarium	117 - 117 - 117 - 117 - 117 - 117 - 117 - 117 - 117 - 117 - 117 - 117 - 117 - 117 - 117 - 117 - 117 - 117 - 117			3	
		other _			

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### 8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

#### **Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

#### Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References Bibliography Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) Previous documentation on file (NPS): Primary location of additional data: preliminary determination of individual listing (36 State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency CFR 36) has been requested previously listed in the National Register Federal agency Local government previously determined eligible by the National Register University designated a National Historic Landmark Other recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey Name of Repository # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

St. Johns Co., FL County and State

(Enter categories from instructions) **RECREATION & CULTURE** 

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

#### Period of Significance

1927-1966

#### Significant Dates

1874 1927 1934

#### Significant Person

N/A

#### **Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

unknown

Fountain of Youth Arc	haeological	Park
Name of Property		

city or town St. Augustine

St. Johns Co., FL

<u>32084</u>

\_ zip code

Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 15 acres	
UTM References (Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)	
1       1       7       4       6       9       4       5       9       3       3       0       8       3       7       1         Zone       Easting       Northing       3       3       0       8       3       7       1         2       1       7       4       6       9       4       5       8       3       3       0       8       6       2       9	3       1       7       4       6       9       6       3       9       3       3       0       8       6       3       2         4       1       7       4       6       9       9       3       7       3       3       0       8       6       3       2         4       1       7       4       6       9       9       3       7       3       3       0       8       4       1       7         See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Sujin Kim/Robert O. Jones, Historic Preservationist	
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation	date April 2016
street & number 500 South Bronough Street	telephone <u>850-245-6333</u>
citv or town Tallahassee	
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating th	e property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties ha	aving large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the	ne property.
Additional items (check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	
name John Walter Fraser	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
street & number 11 Magnolia Avenue	telephone 904.377.7977

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

state Florida

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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### SUMMARY

The Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park is located at 11 Magnolia Avenue, St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida. It is in the north suburb of St. Augustine, Florida and incorporates 16 contributing resources and 23 non-contributing. The park site is approached through two arched gates on Williams Street and enclosed by a tabby concrete wall on Magnolia Avenue. The ticket office, parking lot, historic entertainment spaces, and gift shop are located at the northwest area of the park. Other recent facilities and interpretive structures exist around an archaeological area on the east side of the park site. A walkway, on which a statue and marker stand, connects the west and east clusters. The Gift Shop is of Masonry Vernacular construction, and the Spring House is in the Mission Revival. These late 1920s and early 1930s buildings are of local coquina stone. In contrast, the late 1950s buildings, including the Planetarium and Discovery Globe, represent function-oriented modern concrete construction. Most of the non-contributing resources are interpretive wood elements, and easily reversible.

#### SETTING

The Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park is located 0.7 miles north of Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida (Map 1 and 2). This 15-acre riverfront park is bounded by Magnolia Avenue to the west, Myrtle Avenue to the south, Matanzas River to the east, and a Dufferin Street neighborhood to the north. Williams Street connects the park and San Marco Avenue—a part of Florida State Road A1A. The nominated property includes two other small parcels on San Marco Avenue and Williams Street, approximately 0.15 miles west of the park site that support the 1930s Gate and Neon Sign (Map 3 and 4).

At the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park, visitors are directed through two gateways on Williams Street, including the Neon Sign Gate and Magnolia Street Entrance. The 15acre park site is enclosed by a tabby concrete wall along Magnolia Street and consists of landscape elements and buildings that provide an indoor exhibit or other service (Sketch

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Map 1). Most historic exhibitions and entertainment buildings, dated from the late 1920s to 1950s, cluster at the west section of the park. The east section has a 2-acre archaeological research site and modern interpretive structures around this area.

Visitors enter the park through the Ticket Office. They start their tour at the Spring House with a lecture tour and a cup of spring water, and then are ushered into the Planetarium and Discovery Globe providing educational shows that combine science with history. These three buildings are located at the west side of the park site (Sketch Map 1).

Towards the east riverfront, visitors move along a 710-foot landscaped walkway, on which the Don Juan Ponce de Leon Statue and Landing Marker are located. Along the walkway, two recent buildings provide restrooms and a pavilion for events. The Riverwalk extending from the east end of the walkway helps people to reach the river. Recent structures and exhibits built on and around the archaeological site help with the public interpretation (Sketch Map 1).

Visitors stop by the Gift Shop on the west of the walkway, adjacent to the Spring House. The Gift Shop's north exit is connected to the parking lot. A cafeteria, storage, and old restrooms are located near the parking lot (Sketch Map1). Another storage building and the Old Gate are located at the southwest corner.

### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

#### Contributing Resources (Sketch Map 1)

#### Spring House (C1)

The Spring House is located at the west area of the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park. The building's main façade faces a garden to the south enclosed by coquina walls (Photo 1). Visitors who finish their tour in the Spring House are directed at the Spring House garden to the Planetarium to the west, Discovery Globe to the south, and landscaped walkway to the east (Figure 1).

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The Spring House is a one-story coquina building constructed in the early 1930s in an eclectic Mission Revival Style. Some character-defining features of the south main façade represent some typical features of the style: a curvilinear parapet with coping and three identical archways (Figure 2). Also, the main façade has some eclectic features: four bell openings on the top and the wall exposing rough-cut coquina blocks and completely covered with vine plants (Photo2). The plant-covered wall is a part of the original design. The building has a low hip roof hidden behind the curvilinear parapet. The building has a staff lounge.

Inside the Spring House, the west section of the building accommodates the Ponce de Leon's well two feet below the ground floor. In the east section, an entryway welcomes visitors, and there is an exhibit of the coquina cross that is said to celebrate Juan Ponce de Leon's landing in the vicinity of the site in 1513 (Sketch Map 4; Photo3).

The Spring House had an alteration and expansion in the 1950s. Originally there were six window openings to the north, one window and one entry to the east, three main entries and another entry for storage to the south, and some other openings to the west. Except for the east main entrance, these openings were originally open. During the 1950s renovation, the openings were refitted with wooden doors or filled with coquina blocks (Photo 4). The expansion to the north and west added space for storage, ventilation, and two interpretative dioramas that tell the story of Ponce de Leon and Timucuan Native Americans (Sketch Map 4). The diorama additions took some of the north wall and its four window openings, and a fire place and chimney were added on a south arch entry (Sketch Map 4). The garden had been formally accessed through an archway on the south side, but it was adaptively used as the entrance to the circa 1960 Discovery Globe (Figure 1; Photo 5).

#### *Gift Shop* (C2)

The Gift Shop is a two-story coquina building located northeast of the Spring House, and adjacent to the parking lot to the north. Currently, it has a gift store on the first floor and offices on the second floor. Visitors enter the shop from the primary walkway through the

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south entrance and exit through the north door when leaving the park. The building is composed of a late 1920s western section, and a ca. 1960 eastern expansion (Photo 6). The west section has a gable roof—with a 100-degree pitch—and a rectangular plan—18 feet by 36 feet. On the south side, the building has a wooden-frame, overhanging balcony with a roof and brackets. The balcony is about 4 feet deep, and a wooden door in the middle connects to the interior on the second floor. Two other openings are directly below the balcony (Figure 4). The west side has a coquina chimney and windows of twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash (Photo 7). The north side has two six-over-six double-hung windows on the coquina wall that has round courses distinguished from straight ones of the other sides (Photo 8). These character-defining features represent the eclectic character of a Masonry Vernacular construction.<sup>1</sup>

Ca.1960 a former small wing was replaced by the present expansion to the east. The onestory addition—25.5 feet by 36 feet—was constructed with concrete blocks and a flat roof. The appearance of the expansion is differentiated from the 1920s west structure (Photo 7). Visitors move through the south and north doors of the expansion. In the west side, an exterior staircase and a door were added to provide a separate access to offices on the second floor from the outside. A former doorway on the ground level was walled up due to the new exit. The two windows under the south balcony were covered with wooden panels due to shelves in the gift shop. Instead, the space under the balcony currently provides a shelter for vending machines. Although the 1960 alterations changed the original appearance, many of the important character defining features, such as the coquina walls, chimney, and balcony are retained.

### Planetarium (C3)

The Planetarium is southwest of the Spring House and to the west of the Discovery Globe. It is a one-story, square concrete building with a flat roof, has a north extension that serves as a reception area. The windowless building with yellow painted wall, provides a dark interior for the astronomical presentations to the public. The four corners of the building

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Planning and Building Division, City of St. Augustine, Florida, *Architectural Guidelines for Historic Preservation*, 4th Edition, 2011, 48.

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have buttresses, and centered in the roof is a large, white-painted dome. The inside of the dome is where stars are projected during the presentation. The entry hallway projects northward from the building (Photo 9), and an emergency exit is located on the west side (Photo 10).

The inside of the entry hallway has some wall display spaces. Visitors wait in the hallway until show time. The planetarium chamber currently has 85 fixed seats under the dome of 30 feet diameter and 22 feet height from the floor (Photo 11). At the center of the space, a Spitz A-2 projector projects light for a celestial show combined with the story of Ponce de Leon's voyage (Figure 5). Storage space surrounds the round planetarium chamber. Since the circa 1959 construction, no major alteration was made to the exterior, and the Planetarium retains a high level of integrity (Figure 6). Only a small entryway was added on the south side for the direct approach to the storage.

#### Planetarium Garden (C4)

This 1950s symmetrical garden has a 46-foot-wide square plan. At the center, a 10-footwide circular masonry fountain. Two axes-the east-west and north-south-cross the garden, and four formally designed plant areas are at each corner (Photo 12). No major alteration has been made. This small garden gives a pleasant scene to visitors when they exit the dark planetarium.

#### *Discovery Globe* (C5)

The Discovery Globe is a one-story building and is located to the south of the Spring House. Its entrance was designed by adaptively using the archway on the Spring House's garden wall (Figure 1). Visitors exit through the east door. The building has a contemporary design with a sloping northern rectangle with a metal shed roof, intersecting to the south with a taller octangular portion with a low metal dome on top (Photo 13). The south side of this octagonal portion has a circular false window with a red brick frame (Photo 14). The octangular section is constructed with short, rough-cut coquina rocks, and

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the northern section is constructed with irregularly laid concrete blocks (Photo 15). Like the Planetarium, the Discovery Globe has no windows so as to have a dark interior. In the octagonal space, a giant thin fiber glass globe, 22 feet wide, physically rotates (Figure 7; Photo 16). Images are projected on the globe to show the voyage of Spanish settlers from Europe to America. Audiences stay in the rectangular space—40 feet by 23 feet—with 72 movable seats (Photo 17). A projection operator booth is located at the north side above the entry doorway. The building retains a high level of integrity. No major alteration was made since the circa 1960 construction.

#### *Neon Sign Gate* (C6)

The Neon Sign Gate is standing on Williams Street and San Marco Avenue, three blocks west of the park site (Map 3 and 4). An arched yellow metal mesh structure crosses the street, and two square tabby concrete posts support it. A red neon sign reading "Fountain of Youth" draws visitors from the San Marco thoroughfare (Photo 18). The gate has retained its original structure and neon sign since it was erected in 1937 (Figure 8).

#### Magnolia Street Entrance (C7)

The Magnolia Street Entrance is located on Williams Street and Magnolia Avenue. Two massive tabby concrete posts support a concrete arch through which visitors enter the park site (Photo 19). The arch currently has a red acrylic sign that reads "Fountain of Youth," but once had a neon sign when it was built in 1937 (Figure 9). Recently, a pitched, wooden-frame entry roof supported by two concrete posts replaced a former roof behind the arch gate.

#### Enclosure Wall (C8)

An enclosure wall stands along Magnolia Avenue and the property line of the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park. The wall is approximately 800 feet long and 6 feet tall. It was constructed with tabby concrete. The long wall is an assemblage of 22-foot-wide modules. The top of each module draws an arc, the lowest point of which is about 5 feet from the

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ground. This tabby concrete wall has protected the private tourist park and provided visitors with a distinguishing streetscape together with moss-hung oaks along the street since the park was founded by Walter B. Fraser (Photo 20).<sup>2</sup>

### Parking Lot (C9)

When the Magnolia Street Entrance became the major entrance in the late 1930s, the parking lot has been located at this site at the northwest area of the park site. Visitors reach the parking lot as soon as they enter the Magnolia Street Entrance (Photo 21). The parking lot currently has an area for usual vehicles and a separate area for buses to the east.

#### *Old Gate* (C10)

The Old Gate remains at the southwest corner of the park site on Myrtle Avenue and Magnolia Avenue. The gate's massive tabby concrete posts and its tabby ticket office structure still exist at their 1920s location (Photo 22). The former wooden arch and roof no longer exist. This gate is currently used for staff access, but once served as a main entrance until the construction of the present Magnolia Street Entrance in the late 1930s.<sup>3</sup>

#### Walkway (C11)

The park has an approximately 710-foot-long primary walkway, stretched from the Spring House eastward to the riverfront. This 10 foot-wide trail has defined visitors' circulation since the park was founded as it connects the west attractions and the east riverfront. Visitors walk under lush tree canopies along the way (Photo 23). This walkway has never been covered by a roof structure although recently paved.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "Florida: The Fountain of Youth," *National Geographic*, January, 1930.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Frances B. Johnston, a note that describes the 1930s site, c. 1936, St. Augustin Historical Society Research Library, Vertical File, Attractions: Fountain of Youth.

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Juan Ponce de Leon Statue (C12) & Landing Marker (C13)

On the walkway, two objects remind visitors of the legend of Juan Ponce de Leon and his landing. In the middle of the walkway, the approximately 8-foot-tall bronze statue of Ponce de Leon stands on a 9-foot-tall, 6-foot-wide concrete block base (Photo 24). Erected in 1950, a plaque on the monument explains that the park is a memorial to the history of this Spanish explorer. In addition, at the east end of the walkway the Landing Marker is located. It is approximately 20 feet tall and 4 feet wide, and is constructed with concrete blocks (Photo 25). Together with the primary walkway, both objects have played an important role in defining visitors' circulation and retain a high level of integrity.

### Old Restrooms (C14)

The Old Restrooms building is located at the west edge of the site, retains its original function. This one-story building is of tabby concrete construction, like that of the Enclosure Wall. A wooden-framed bonnet roof provides waiting space around the rectangular restrooms space (Photo 26). Despite no record of its original appearance, some maps and oral histories tell that the restrooms have served the same function since the 1930s.<sup>4</sup>

### Timucua Burial Building (C15)

The present Timucua Burial building, located at the southwest, is a one-story, concrete block building that has a rectangular façade and gable with a door in the middle (Photo 27). This unadorned building was constructed as a second Native American burial-ground exhibit space in the circa 1950s. Despite no alteration of the building, the program inside changed from a real burial ground to a photographic exhibition. This exhibit serves to teach visitors about the Timucuan Native American history and how the Spanish Christianized many of the Timucuan peoples.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> John W. Fraser, interview, November 2015.

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#### Archaeological Site (C16)

The present day archaeological Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park site covers approximately 2 acres (Photo 28). The most recent and largest archaeological area in the park is called the Menéndez Encampment Site, and excavations at this site within the park have been conducted by the University of Florida and Dr. Kathleen Deagan since 1985.<sup>5</sup> Within the present day archaeological area, there is an archaeological exhibit that allows visitors to screen for artifacts, learn about the archaeological excavations that are currently being performed on site, and learn how archaeology has contributed to what we know about the history and former occupants of the Fountain of Youth site. Some interpretive structures are also located on what is called the "Menendez Settlement Field."<sup>6</sup>

#### Non-Contributing Resources (Sketch Map 1)

#### Timucuan Structures (N1)

The Timucuan Structures are five wooden-pole-frame structures that were built in 2015 to interpret the story of the Timucuan Native Americans who lived at the site before and after Pedro Menéndez landed in 1565 (Photo 28). These structures are located in the eastern part of the park site near the Menendez settlement field. They represent the buildings that the Timucuan Native Americans utilized and occupied and were built on or close to the locations of the original Timucuan structures that had been found through archaeological excavations. The five interpretive structures help visitors understand what the site might have looked like in the past. They allow visitors to walk through and visualize the architecture created by the Timucuan Native Americans and what life might have been like for these individuals who lived in St. Augustine, Florida.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Kathleen Deagan, "Menéndez Encampment Site," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2015.
 <sup>6</sup> Ibid.

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Mission Church of Nombre de Dios (N2)

The Mission Church of Nombre de Dios is a one-story wooden building that helps interpret the Franciscan friars who lived on this site and built the original church in 1587 (Photo 29). This replica is located in the eastern portion of the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park and was built using local Cyprus trees, palm thatch for the roof, and crushed coquina for the floors. The building helps portray the role the friars played in not only converting the Timucua Native Americans to Christianity, but also helping to establish a European presence in the New World.

### Historic Firearms Exhibit (N3)

The Historic Firearms Exhibit structure consists of wooden-pole frames, a thatch roof, and wooden platform (Photo 30). This structure is next to the mission replica and helps teach visitors about Spanish-era firearms that would have been used by Menendez and his men. A historical reenactor stands within the structure and gives firearm demonstrations while lecturing the public on the history of weapons. This information is backed by historical documents and archaeological evidence of gun parts and ammunition found at the park. *Timucua Village of Seloy* (N4)

The Timucua Village of Seloy, built in 2013, consists of four structures with a thatch roof and wooden-pole frames (Photo 31). The placement, materials, and construction of these structures were partly known by archaeological excavation and evidence found on site. The structures were modeled after the Timucua Native American architecture. For instance, one of the structures was modeled after an *anoti*—or a large Timucuan family house—and another structure was modeled after a *nihi paha*—a special meeting house. These structures are located in the eastern portion of the park site. Special tours are held at the interpretive village to give visitors background information pertaining to Timucuan Native American lifeways and culture.

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### Chalupa Shipyard (N5)

The Chalupa shipyard is an area that helps interpret Spanish maritime traditions. The Chalupa shipyard consists of two structures with wooden-pole frames and a thatch roof (Photo 32). It houses a reconstruction of a traditional Spanish Chalupa, a small wood canoe-like boat. An exhibit helps visitors learn about the nautical history of St. Augustine.

#### San Agustin Watchtower (N6) & Cannon Firing Area (N7)

The San Augustine Watchtower and Cannon Firing Area are structures to help interpret the Spanish and Timucua Native American presence at the Fountain of Youth site. The watchtower was built with wooden poles, a thatch roof, and stairs that visitors can use to climb to the top. The cannon firing area has of a cannon on a concrete base (Photo 33). Each furthers the narrative of the Menendez and Timucua Native American occupations at the site.

#### **Other Structures**

The Exhibition Building (N8) is a one-story concrete building with a hexagonal plan and metal hip roof (Photo 34). This building replaced the former log building of the 1934 burial ground that was refilled in the 1990s.

The Ticket Office (N9) is a one-story concrete building with a circular plan and wooden shake roof (Photo 35). Staff works within the building, and visitors move around it.

The Cafeteria (N10) is a modern wooden-framed building with a rectangular plan and metal gable roof (Photo 36). The Ticket Office and Cafeteria are located at the north area of the park, adjacent to the parking lot and Magnolia Street Entrance.

Two modern buildings, the Event Pavilion (N11) and Restrooms (N12), are located on the historic walkway (Photo 37 and 38). Extending from the east end of the walkway, the Riverwalk (N13) helps visitors enjoy the riverfront landscape (Photo 39).

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There are two storage buildings (N14 and N15). One is at the north, adjacent to the parking lot, and the other is at the south, which can be accessed through the Old Gate (Photo 40 and 41). Both buildings are surrounded by fences.

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#### SUMMARY

The Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criteria A and C in the areas of Recreation/Culture and Architecture. The park is a historic tourist destination that was formally developed by Walter B. Fraser in the 1930s. This park was founded on the history of the 1513 landing of Don Juan Ponce de Leon who gave the state its name, Florida, and his legendary search for eternal youth. A well whose water is tied to this story has been enclosed by the Spring House and attracted numerous visitors. Under Criterion A, this tourist destination represents its historic significance because its development history and existing resources greatly contribute to the broad patterns of American history. Most of all, the development of the site is closely associated with the history of the tourism industry in St. Augustine, Florida. The site began functioning as a tourist destination in 1874 when Henry Williams began allowing visitors to the spring in the site. The present commercial park was developed by Walter B. Fraser after he purchased the site in 1927. The site retains visitors' circulation based upon the 1930s (Sketch Map 2). The park preserves many historic types of resources including constructions that demonstrate their significance through their architectural design and association with local and nationwide histories. In 1934, public interpretation began for the Timucuan burial site. The combination of archaeological research and interpretive facilities represents an important type of tourism in the United States.

#### HISTORIC CONTEXT

#### Association with Development of Tourism Industry in St. Augustine, Florida

The Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park is located east of San Marco Avenue and approximately 0.7 miles north of Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, Florida (Map2). It is one of the oldest continuing tourist attractions in the city and has been privately-owned by the Fraser family for three generations. Since the late 19th century, this place has been associated with the legend of Juan Ponce de Leon's landing in 1513, and has also

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been known for its beautiful landscape and fabled spring.<sup>1</sup> After it was formally developed and promoted as a tourist attraction, the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park has been visited by thousands each year in sync with the rising tourism industry in St. Augustine and Florida.<sup>2</sup>

The history of the present Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park is associated with the development of the City of St. Augustine. By 1869, tourists, newcomers, and developers began flooding into St. Augustine.<sup>3</sup> Present San Marco Avenue was constructed leading northward from historic downtown, and a suburb known as North City was developed and sold to the new arrivals.<sup>4</sup> In 1883, Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Halifax River Railroad opened a line, and access to St. Augustine was significantly improved. In 1885, Henry M. Flagler, a millionaire developer and Standard Oil co-founder, made a plan to turn St. Augustine into a resort town capitalizing on its historic heritage. When his luxury hotels opened in 1888, many wealthy elites began coming to the city.<sup>5</sup>

While St. Augustine was building its reputation as an important sight-seeing destination in Florida, the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park as a tourist destination was developed through three phases. Firstly, in 1868, an English horticulturalist Henry H. Williams acquired a property—the present site of the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park—at the North City suburb in St. Augustine.<sup>6</sup> He cultivated his grove there, but before it became his private property, the place had been known between local people for its spring featured in connection with Juan Ponce de Leon's search. Although he focused on his vegetable and fruit business, in 1874, Williams started opening his private grounds to the public curious

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Carita D. Corse, *The Fountain of Youth*, Booklet, 1933, 32.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ethel B. Kimball, *Kim's Guide to Florida* (St. Augustine, FL: Ethel Byrum Kimball and the Record Company, 1935), 46-47.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Augustine.com, "Written History: Reconstruction," accessed June 2015,

http://augustine.com/history/american-florida.php.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Augustine.com, "Written History: The Flagler Era," accessed June 2015, http://augustine.com/history/st-augustine-hotels.php.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Carita D. Corse, *The Fountain of Youth*, Booklet, 1933, 31.

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about his well and surrounding beautiful garden.<sup>7</sup> This can be considered as the beginning of the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park as a tourist destination. Secondly, in circa 1904, Louella Day McConnell, a physician, and her wealthy husband purchased the Williams' property.<sup>8</sup> For the first time, she redefined the Williams' well as Ponce de Leon's Fountain of Youth and developed the site as a tourist attraction in a more formal way.<sup>9</sup> In circa 1909, she began advertising the attraction, charging admission, and selling water from the well as well as post cards.<sup>10</sup> The park became a popular tourist attraction, and consequently, the early business model of the present Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park was established at this time.

In 1927, Walter B. Fraser (1888 – 1972), a grandfather of the current owner, purchased the McConnell's property and founded the present day Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park.<sup>11</sup> He was a businessman and politician serving on the St. Augustine City Commission from 1933 to 1943, the last seven years on the commission he served as mayor, and in the Florida Senate from 1944 to 1948.<sup>12</sup> Also, during the 1930s, he organized the city's first formal restoration movement that ultimately led to legislative authorization of the Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board (1959-1997).

Reflecting a state-wide boom in tourism, the development of the present-day Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park continued through the 1930s. At the time, Florida's economy

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Ibid, 32-33.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> City of St. Augustine, "Great Floridians 2000: Dr. Luella Day McConnell, 1870 – 1927," accessed June 2015, http://www.staugustinegovernment.com/the-city/featured-stories-

archive/2\_03/great\_fla\_bios/luella\_mcconnell.cfm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Charles B. Reynolds, *Fact versus Fiction for the New Historical St. Augustine* (Mountain Lakes, NJ: Publication by the author, 1937), 29.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> James C. Clark, "Fountain of Myths," *Florida Magazine*, December 1991, 17; Charles B. Reynolds, *Fact versus Fiction for the New Historical St. Augustine* (Mountain Lakes, NJ: Publication by the author, 1937), 30.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> City of St. Augustine, "Great Floridians 2000: Walter B. Fraser, 1888 – 1972," accessed June 2015, http://www.staugustinegovernment.com/the-city/featured-stories-

archive/2\_03/great\_fla\_bios/walter\_fraser.cfm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Ibid.

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significantly depended on tourism despite other established industries.<sup>13</sup> In St. Augustine, tourists provided almost 80 percent of the city's income.<sup>14</sup> The city experienced a tourist boom soon after the Second World War ended.<sup>15</sup> Until today, St. Augustine's tourism industry has flourished, and the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park, as the city's popular historic tourist attraction, has significantly contributed to its prosperity, and is proud of the association.

#### Visitors' Circulation (Sketch Map 2)

In the 1930s, on Magnolia Avenue, Walter B. Fraser developed the present-day 15-acre site of the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park. In circa 1931, the Spring House was constructed at the west area in the site. This building housed a deep well—which represented the legendary fountain of youth of Ponce de Leon—where visitors were served a cup of spring water. In 1934, when a Native American burial ground was discovered in the site, a log structure was built immediately over it, to the southeast of the Spring House to provide visitors with a covered exhibit of the burials. In addition, the present Gift Shop, located northeast of the Spring House, was built in the circa late 1920s as the first building on the Fraser's site. This space once housed an additional museum collection of artifacts of the 16th century occupation discovered on site.

Since the early 1930s, the site of the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park is enclosed by a tall tabby concrete wall and has functioned as a landscaped park.<sup>16</sup> Stretching from the east entry porch of the Spring House, the present primary walkway has been landscaped and leads visitors to Matanzas River. Until circa 1936, the Old Gate, located at the southwest corner on Magnolia Avenue and Myrtle Street, served as an entrance.<sup>17</sup> Since

- <sup>13</sup> "Florida: The Fountain of Youth," *National Geographic*, January 1930, 5.
- <sup>14</sup> Augustine.com. "Written History: World War II," accessed June 2015,
- http://augustine.com/history/modern-st-augustine.php#Discovery.
- <sup>15</sup> Augustine.com, "Written History: Peace and Prosperity," accessed June 2015,

http://augustine.com/history/modern-st-augustine.php#Discovery.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Frances B. Johnston, a note that describes the 1930s site, c. 1936, St. Augustin Historical Society Research Library, Vertical File, Attractions: Fountain of Youth.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Ibid.

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circa 1937, on Williams Street, the two present arched gates welcome visitors. One red neon sign has played a significant role in directing visitors to the park site.

Until the late 1950s, the 1930s site plan defined the primary circulation of visitors in the site. Through the two entry gates on Williams Street, visitors were directed from San Marco Avenue—a part of Florida State Road A1A, which is a main thoroughfare of the city—to the site. Visitors started their tour at the Spring House and listened to the story associated with the Fountain of Youth site. Visitors were then guided to a covered 1934 Native American burial ground, which was refilled in the 1990s. Afterwards, visitors enjoyed the landscaped park by walking along the primary walkway with tree canopies toward the riverfront. Lastly, visitors could stop by the Gift Shop that accommodated an additional museum collection. Until today, this primary circulation of visitors has been well preserved. Walkways have never been covered. The Spring House and Gift Shop remain the beginning and ending stops of the tour at the same locations.

During the late 1950s, more entertainment elements were added. Reflecting the country's interest in scientific education at the time, the present Planetarium was built in circa 1959, and the Discovery Globe–formerly called Historical Space Globe–was built in circa 1960. Science was integrated into the interpretation of the 16th-century European settlement and Ponce de Leon's voyage. A large telescope was once installed next to the Magnolia Street Entrance and represented these additions of science-based entertainment. Some landscape additions, such as fountains and the Don Juan Ponce de Leon Statue enhanced the landscape. During this period, the Spring House experienced a renovation, and the expansion of the Gift Shop followed shortly. However, these changes did not greatly affect their major architectural characters and functions. Additionally, a Native American burial ground was once displayed in the present Timucua Burial Building until its reburial in the 1990s.

While these additions reinforced the entertainment and landscape of the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park, they did not change the 1930s visitor circulation because the primary additions clustered around the existing original elements. Until today, the major spaces, such as the Spring House, Gift Shop, Planetarium, and Discovery Globe, and the walkway

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with the Don Juan Ponce de Leon Statue and Landing Marker function in the same manners at the same locations. The primary circulation of visitors has retained its integrity. This is an important factor that contributes to the historical significance of the tourist site.

#### Spring House (c. 1931)

The Spring House, built in circa 1931, contains the spring's well that was built in the 1870s by Henry H. Williams and was associated with the legend of Don Juan Ponce de Leon, upon which the entire Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park was founded. Since its opening, this space—providing a guided tour and a sip of water—has played a role as the beginning of visitors' visit to the site.

The Spring House was built in the Mission Revival Style. The Mission Revival Style originated in Southern California in the 1890s, and used Spanish motifs developed from materials and details of the colonial Spanish mission churches of the 17th and 18th centuries. However, instead of replicating, architects adaptively applied some of the commonly derived components from the Spanish heritage to their design.<sup>18</sup> Common character-defining features of the Mission Revival Style included curved gable parapets, arched openings and arcades, and dark interiors with low pitched roofs, to name a few. Among these, the most conspicuous feature of the style is curvilinear parapets with coping. The instantly-recognizable appearance of Mission Revival buildings has contributed to distinctive landscape of the regions with Spanish heritage in the United States.<sup>19</sup>

The Mission Revival Style reflects a southern expression of regional architecture, distinguished from English-inspired styles.<sup>20</sup> Unlike many other nineteenth-century American revival styles that had no real examples in the locale, the Mission Revival was developed based upon adaptations of an actual regional heritage—a Spanish mission.<sup>21</sup> The Mission Revival Style was popular from the late 19th century to the early 20th century

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Karen J. Weitze, *California's Mission Revival* (San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 1984).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Ibid.

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particularly in Florida, California, and the southwestern states in the United States.<sup>22</sup> Numerous residential, commercial, and institutional structures were constructed in this style during the period. Also, reflecting the growth of tourism boosted by rail transport, many of the Mission Revival buildings included tourist and entertainment facilities, such as hotels, resorts, theaters, and train stations.<sup>23</sup> In St. Augustine, a few Mission Revival buildings constructed during the 1880s and 1890s by Henry Flagler still remain.<sup>24</sup> Although the style was in fashion for a relatively short time, Mission Revival buildings demonstrate their great value to the regional architectural history.

The Spanish-inspired appearance of Spring House reflects the story of Ponce de Leon and the Fountain of Youth site. The Spring House, especially its front façade has a clear architectural reference to the California Building at the 1893 Chicago Columbian Exposition. Designed by a San Francisco architect A. Page Brown (1854-1896), this exposition building was the first articulate expression in architecture of the Mission Revival Style.<sup>25</sup> The overall shape, curvilinear parapet, and three identical arched entryways of the Spring House closely reflect the basic architectural elements of this building (Figure 2 and 3).

The Spring House incorporates some eclectic design elements. Firstly, its parapet has four small, narrow, arched openings each of which once held a bell. Despite its uncommon application to Mission Revival buildings, a bell in a narrow arched opening is commonly found on bell towers at Spanish mission churches listed on the National Register, such as Mission San Diego de Alcalá (1808), Mission Santa Inés (1817), and La Purisima Mission (1818). Secondly, the Spring House exhibits rough masonry construction while most Mission Revival buildings bear a more traditional stucco finish, rendering the outer walls smooth. There are some masonry mission structures listed on the National Register, such

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> John C. Poppeliers and S. Allen Chambers Jr., *What Style Is It: A Guide to American Architecture* (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2003), 21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Jay C. Henry, Architecture in Texas: 1895-1945 (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1993).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Planning and Building Division, City of St. Augustine, Florida, *Architectural Guidelines for Historic Preservation*. 4th Edition, 2011, 95.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Erika Esau, *Image of the Pacific Rim: Australia and California, 1850-1935* (Power Institute of Art, University of Sydney, 2010), 230.

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as the Mission San Francisco de la Espada (1731) and Mission San Juan Capistrano (1731). However, adjacent to the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park, there is a more influential architectural reference, the Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche. It is a chapel at the Mission Nombre de Dios and was constructed in 1915 as a replica of earlier coquina chapels.<sup>26</sup> Its coquina walls covered with vines as is the Spring House's vine covered coquina walls. The La Leche chapel also has a bell opening on the parapet.

In Florida, there are various examples of architecture with Spanish Mission elements, listed on the National Register for their architectural significance. They include, but are not limited to: Belleview School (currently used as a city hall), built in 1928 in Belleview; Old Hendry County Courthouse, built in 1926 in LaBelle; Seaboard Air Line Railway Station, built in 1926 in Deerfield Beach; Louisville and Nashville Passenger Station and Express Building, built in 1913 in Pensacola; and Seminole Inn, built in 1926 in Indiantown.

### Gift Shop (c. late 1920s)

The Gift Shop building was constructed in the circa late 1920s by Walter B. Fraser. It is one of the earliest constructions on the Fraser's property. In addition to a gift shop, the building once functioned as a museum that displayed artifacts discovered on site. Currently, the first floor, expanded in the 1960s, serves as a gift store, and the second floor is used for offices. Since the park was founded by Fraser, the building has served as the end point of the tour and a place to buy bottled water and souvenirs that reflect the Fountain of Youth's history.

The Gift Shop is distinctive for its Masonry Vernacular eclectic architectural design. It and its chimney is built with coquina.<sup>27</sup> The two-story building has a rectangular plan with an approximately 1 to 2 ratio, with a roofed balcony supported by brackets on the south side (Figure 4). This prominent projecting balcony originally protected the two windows

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Mission Nombre de Dios and Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche, "Our Lady of Le Leche," accessed April 2015, http://missionandshrine.org/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Planning and Building Division, City of St. Augustine, Florida, *Architectural Guidelines for Historic Preservation*. 4th Edition, 2011, 48.

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below from sun. These features demonstrate an eclectic application of the Second Spanish Period Style which in part defines the urban landscape of St. Augustine.<sup>28</sup>

#### Planetarium (c. 1959)

The Fountain of Youth (FOY) Planetarium represents a distinct building type, the small scale planetarium, which is associated with an important period for popular science in the United States. In the 1930s, planetariums in the United States became very popular and attracted great numbers of visitors for their programs that combine education and entertainment. Planetariums made a significant contribution to the public's understanding of astronomy for audiences of all ages.<sup>29</sup> The popularity of planetariums with their domed and distinctive buildings led to their widespread use as cultural attractions.<sup>30</sup>

During the post-World War II period, Armand N. Spitz (1904-1971) produced an affordable planetarium instrument by simplifying star projection techniques by the use of proportionally sized pinholes.<sup>31</sup> This significantly contributed to the establishment of smaller planetariums across the country.<sup>32</sup> Spitz supported interdisciplinary education and the integration of subject matter for diverse audiences.<sup>33</sup> By the late 1950s, as astronomy and his pinhole-style projectors got popular, there were more than a hundred permanent installations in operation.<sup>34</sup> The affordable projectors used by small-scale planetariums included the Spitz A, A-1, and A-2.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Ibid, 36.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Jordan D. Marche II, *Theaters of Time and Space: American Planetaria, 1930-1970* (New Brunswick, NJ and London: Rutgers University Press, 2005), 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Ibid, 87.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> "Incredible Planetarium Projectors: Spitz A2 Projector," accessed April 2015,

http://www.oobject.com/incredible-planetarium-projectors/spitz-a2-projector/854/.

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Launch of the first Sputnik satellite in October 1957 alarmed Americans. The "Space Race" brought recognition that planetariums could be an important tool for science education.<sup>36</sup> Critics cited public education as a principal reason that Americans had fallen behind the Soviets in space technology.<sup>37</sup> This concern resulted in passage of the National Defense Education Act of 1958, and President Eisenhower's Advisory Council deemed a planetarium to be one of the outstanding innovative educational tools.<sup>38</sup> Federal support for science education resulted in wide distribution of the Spitz projectors.

In circa 1959, the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park opened its Planetarium with a 30-foot-diameter dome, 54 seats, and the Spitz A-2 projector (Figure 5 and 6).<sup>39</sup> Providing visitors with astronomical experiences, the FOY Planetarium has played a part in this historic pattern of planetariums across the country. For instance, in 1959, Kalamazoo Public Museum—currently called Kalamazoo Valley Museum—in Michigan, with assistance by the Kalamazoo Amateur Astronomical Association, opened its planetarium specifically with the Spitz A-2 projector.<sup>40</sup> In Florida, Miller Planetarium, in a scale similar to the FOY Planetarium, opened in 1959 on the campus of Florida Southern College in Lakeland.<sup>41</sup> The FOY Planetarium is one of the first in the State of Florida.<sup>42</sup>

With its building design the FOY Planetarium is an excellent example of the architectural typology of planetariums, especially small-scale ones popular from the late 1950s to the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Ed Lantz, "Planetarium of the Future." Curator the Museum Journal 54, vol. 3 (July 2011): 294.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Jordan D. Marche II, *Theaters of Time and Space: American Planetaria, 1930-1970* (New Brunswick, NJ and London: Rutgers University Press, 2005), 121.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Ed Lantz, "Planetarium of the Future." Curator the Museum Journal 54, vol. 3 (July 2011): 294.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Association of French Speaking Planetariums, "Fountain of Youth Museum, Saint Augustine, Florida," accessed April 2015, http://www.aplf-

planetariums.info/en/index.php?onglet=planetariums&menu=sheet\_planetarium&filtre=1408.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Kalamazoo Astronomical Society, "A Brief History of the KAS," accessed April 2015, http://www.kasonline.org/history.html.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Association of French Speaking Planetariums, "Miller Planetarium-Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida," accessed April 2015, http://www.aplf-

planetariums.info/en/index.php?onglet=planetariums&menu=sheet\_planetarium&filtre=160. <sup>42</sup> Association of French Speaking Planetariums, "Florida," accessed April 2015, http://www.aplfplanetariums.info/en/index.php?onglet=planetariums&menu=list\_usa&filtre=FLORIDA.

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1960s in the United States. Other examples include Abrams Planetarium, built in 1964 at Michigan State University in East Lansing; Buckstaff Planetarium, built in 1964 at the University of Wisconsin in Oshkosh; and Robert H. Goddard Planetarium at Roswell Museum and Art Center, built in 1969 in Roswell, New Mexico. Small-scale planetariums have in common a rectangular or square building topped by a dominant dome with a distinguishing material or color. While most planetariums built during this time period are parts of schools and museums, the FOY Planetarium is a rare example of a planetarium built in a park.

The National Park Service recognizes the significance of planetariums. The National Register Bulletin addresses an example, the Fleischmann Atmospherium Planetarium— built in 1963 in Reno, Nevada—significant under Criterion A for its technological aspect and its role in scientific research and education.<sup>43</sup> The Adler Planetarium, America's first planetarium built in 1930 in Chicago, Illinois, is listed on the National Register for its scientific and educational contributions.<sup>44</sup> Integrating astronomy with the story of Ponce de Leon's voyage, the FOY Planetarium continues to contribute to the broad pattern of the country's history of astronomical education and associated exhibition space.

#### **Discovery Globe (c. 1960)**

The Discovery Globe, formerly named Historic Space Globe, was built in circa 1960, right after the construction of the Planetarium. It is likely that these two buildings were planned simultaneously by John R. Fraser, a son of Walter B. Fraser. Like the Planetarium, the Discovery Globe was built as a major scientific entertainment facility, which was popular at the time across the country. The Discovery Globe presents the history of Ponce de Leon's explorations. The giant, thin, fiber glass globe was designed and crafted by John R. Fraser and his staff (Figure 7).<sup>45</sup> The globe rotates and light beams are projected on it.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Marcella Sherfy and W. Ray Luce, *National Register Bulletin: Guideline for Evaluating and Nominating Properties that Have Achieved Significance within the Past Fifty Years*, National Park Service, originally published 1979, revised 1990, 1996, and 1998, 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> James H. Charleston, "Adler Planetarium," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1985, reference number: 87000819.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> John W. Fraser, interview, July 2015.

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The building was designed based upon the efficiency of visitors' circulation. The original plan shows the Discovery Globe attached to the south wall of the Spring House garden (Figure 1). It is likely that the south side of the Spring House had not played a role as the main entry after the entrance of the park had moved from the south end to the present north location at the end of the 1930s. Visitors entered the Spring House through the entry porch on the east side, and exited through the south door of the building. Therefore, the south garden of the Spring House was likely where visitors stayed to decide their next destination while taking photographs in front of the distinguished arcaded building facade. For its entrance, the Discovery Globe adaptively uses the former archway of the Spring House garden wall. A walkway was designed to direct visitors to the two scientific show attractions. This setting has never changed and helps define the visitors' circulation in the park.

This Discovery Globe is a vernacular construction whose exterior reflects the different functions inside. The octagonal south section with a dome houses the globe, and the rectangular north section with a shed roof are built with different materials indicating that they were constructed at different times (Photo 16). The octagonal section was built first, and the giant, handcrafted globe was installed inside, and then the rectangular section was constructed.

This building reflects the adaptive and flexible development of the family-owned tourist park. Also, together with the Planetarium, the Discovery Globe represents a functionoriented architectural design. The design schemes of these two buildings are distinguished from those of the earlier Spanish-inspired Spring House and Gift Shop.

#### Neon Sign Gate (c. 1937)

The Neon Sign Gate is one of the two main entry gates on Williams Street. Since circa 1937, the gate welcomes visitors to the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park from San

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Marco Avenue.<sup>46</sup> The sign reading "Fountain of Youth" glows red at night (Photo 19). It is notable that this neon sign, original to the gate is still intact, and dates to the early years of the use of neon in the United States.

In 1923, French engineer George Claude (1870 – 1960) introduced his neon signs to the United States.<sup>47</sup> Through the 1920s and 1930s, neon signs quickly became popular fixtures in outdoor advertising across the country.<sup>48</sup> Neon gas naturally gives the color red, and the public was fascinated by the brilliant red illumination.<sup>49</sup> Neon signs in various design began influencing the urban landscape of American cities and reached their heyday in the 1940s and 1950s. Some leading postmodern architects and scholars have underscored the contribution of neon signs to American architecture.<sup>50</sup>

National Park Service Preservation Briefs 25—the Preservation of Historic Signs—documents that signs play an important role in human, social, and business activities.<sup>51</sup> They communicate between the owner and readers as well as those who are inside and outside a building.<sup>52</sup> Also, historical signs help preserve the continuity of public spaces because they are important parts of community memory.<sup>53</sup> Preservation Briefs 25 specifically mentions that neon was a great 20th-century contribution to the development of commercial signs that influenced the characters of buildings and districts in the United States.<sup>54</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Pratt, "Landmark Sign May Be Axed," *St. Augustine Record*, Newspaper, January 26, 1992, St. Augustine Historical Society Research Library, Vertical File, Attractions: Fountain of Youth.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Neon Library.com, "Neon History," accessed April 2015, http://neonlibrary.com/neon\_history\_2.html.
 <sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Robert Venturi, Denise S. Brown, and Steven Izenour, *Learning from Las Vegas* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1977).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Michael J. Auer, "Preservation Briefs 25: The Preservation of Historic Signs," National Park Service, accessed April 2015, http://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/25-signs.htm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> Ibid.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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From its location on San Marco Avenue, a main thoroughfare, the gate and sign serve a critical function for the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park, directing visitors to the park site.<sup>55</sup> It enhances the neighborhood's ambience within the historic tourist city.

#### Tourism and Archaeology at the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park

Archaeology has played a major role in the heritage tourism industry at many sites located throughout the United States, and foster the public's interest in history and prehistory.<sup>56</sup> The Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park also utilizes its vast archaeological resources as a tool to increase the popularity of the site as a tourist attraction.

The utilization of archaeological excavation and research began in the 1930s when a gardener planting orange trees accidentally uncovered human remains. The Smithsonian Institution sent Ray Dickson in 1934 to properly excavate what was eventually determined to be a Native American burial ground.<sup>57</sup> Dickson noted that the burials were significant because of the Christian manner in which the individuals were buried, which led to the conclusion that the burial site was connected to the mission Nombre de Dios church established in 1587.<sup>58</sup> In 1934, a protective log structure was constructed over the burials as they were being excavated, and the Native American burial ground was utilized as an exhibit to attract tourists. The Native American burial ground exhibition served to further the claim that the Fountain of Youth site was inhabited by both Native Americans (Timucuan) and early Spanish colonials and therefore one of the early—if not first—European colonies of North America. Subsequent archaeological investigations concerning the Native American burial ground were conducted in 1935 by the state archaeologist Vernon Lamme.<sup>59</sup> Although the original building that housed the burials was demolished

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> Pratt, "Landmark Sign May Be Axed," *St. Augustine Record*, Newspaper, January 26, 1992, St. Augustine Historical Society Research Library, Vertical File, Attractions: Fountain of Youth.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> Teresa L. Hoffman, Mary L. Kwas, and Helaine Silverman, "Heritage Tourism and Public Archaeology," *The SAA Archaeological Record*, March 2002: 30-32.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> Kathleen Deagan, "Menéndez Encampment Site," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2015.
 <sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> Ibid.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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-				FLORIDA

and the burials were reinterred in the 1990s, there is still a photographic exhibit of the burials at the park.

After the 1930s discovery and excavation of the Native American burial ground, archaeologists John Goggin and Paul Hahn from the University of Florida began excavations on the rest of the Fountain of Youth property beginning in the 1950s. From 1950-1954 and 1976-1977 excavations continued, conducted by University of Florida archaeologists and focused on understanding the Timucuan occupation of the Fountain of Youth site.<sup>60</sup>

While conducting excavations during the 1985 field season, University of Florida archaeologists found evidence for an early European settlement which eventually led them to conclude that this site was the actual 1565-1566 encampment of none other than Pedro Menéndez.<sup>61</sup> Since 1976 to the present day, Dr. Kathleen Deagan, her team, and volunteers have been conducting archaeological investigations to better understand the Menendez Encampment Site and its importance in Florida history.

The current interpretations of this unique site are only possible thanks to the intensive archaeological investigations that have taken place here. Various structures located on the park, signage, personal guides, and public archaeological days assist all visitors to the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park to learn about this important history. Areas of interpretation include the narratives concerning Juan Ponce de Leon's mythical fountain at the Spring House; the Planetarium which allows visitors to trace the routes that early European navigators followed to reach the New World; interpretation of the Timucuan burials and a Timucuan village which displays what life might have been like before the Spanish arrived; and the Menéndez encampment. Past, present, and future archaeological investigations will serve to further our understanding of Spanish exploration and settlement of Florida, and their encounter with Native Americans.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> Ibid.

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK, ST. AUGUSTINE, ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

4-55 Fountain of Youth Park All (Ex E'ly Parts Blk 2 & Williams St to Ponce De Leon Broadcasting Co In OR77/406)

1

The park parcel number is 191600-0000 Two parcels with gate and sign are numbered 191250-0000 and 191540-0000

#### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The above property boundaries are associated with the history and development of the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

1

Section number Photos Page

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK, ST AUGUSTINE, ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

#### **PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST**

- 1. Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park, 11 Magnolia Ave., St. Augustine
- 2. St. Johns County, Florida
- 3. Sujin Kim
- 4. July 2015
- 5. Spring House garden and entrance to Discovery Globe, facing west
- 6. Photo 1 of 41

Items 1-4 are the same for following photographs.

- 5. Spring House south elevation, facing north
- 6. Photo 2 of 41
- 5. Spring House interior with the well, facing east
- 6. Photo 3 of 41
- 5. Spring House south doorway, facing north
- 6. Photo 4 of 41
- 5. Discovery Globe entrance, facing southwest
- 6. Photo 5 of 41
- 5. Gift Shop south elevation, facing north
- 6. Photo 6 of 41
- 5. Gift Shop west elevation with the chimney, facing east
- 6. Photo 7 of 41
- 5. Gift Shop north elevation, facing southeast
- 6. Photo 8 of 41

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page

2

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH **ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK, ST** AUGUSTINE, ST. JOHNS COUNTY, **FLORIDA** 

- 5. Planetarium north elevation, facing southeast
- 6. Photo 9 of 41
- 5. Planetarium south elevation, facing northeast
- 6. Photo 10 of 41
- 5. Planetarium interior, facing east
- 6. Photo 11 of 41
- 5. Garden in front of the Planetarium, facing south
- 6. Photo 12 of 41
- 5. Discovery Globe east elevation, facing southwest
- 6. Photo 13of 41
- 5. Discovery Globe south elevation, facing northeast
- 6. Photo 14 of 41
- 5. Discovery Globe wall detail, facing northwest
- 6. Photo 15 of 41
- 5. Globe in the Discovery Globe, facing south
- 6. Photo 16 of 41
- 5. Discovery Globe interior, facing south 6. Photo 17 of 41
- 5. Neon Sign Gate, facing east
- 6. Photo 18 of 41

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

3

Section number Photos Page

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK, ST AUGUSTINE, ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

- 5. Magnolia Street Entrance, facing east
- 6. Photo 19 of 41
- 5. Enclosure wall along Magnolia Avenue, facing southeast
- 6. Photo 20 of 41
- 5. Parking Lot, facing northeast
- 6. Photo 21 of 41
- 5. Old Gate, facing west
- 6. Photo 22 of 41
- 5. Primary Walkway, facing west
- 6. Photo 23 of 41
- 5. Juan Ponce de Leon Statue, facing east
- 6. Photo 24 of 41
- 5. Landing Marker, facing east
- 6. Photo 25 of 41
- 5. Old Restrooms east elevation, facing west
- 6. Photo 26 of 41
- 5. Timucua Burial Building west elevation, facing east
- 6. Photo 27 of 41
- 4. November 2015
- 5. Archaeological site with interpretive Timucuan structures, facing southwest
- 6. Photo 28 of 41

Item 4 is the same for the following photographs.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

4

Section number Photos Page

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK, ST AUGUSTINE, ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

- 5. Mission Church of Nombre de Dios, facing southwest
- 6. Photo 29 of 41
- 5. Historic firearms exhibit, facing east
- 6. Photo 30 of 41
- 5. Timucua Village of Seloy, facing southeast
- 6. Photo 31 of 41
- 5. Chalupa Shipyard structures, facing southeast
- 6. Photo 32 of 41
- 5. San Agustin Watchtower and cannon firing area, facing northeast
- 6. Photo 33 of 41
- 5. Exhibition building, facing southeast
- 6. Photo 34 of 41
- 5. Ticket Office, facing south
- 6. Photo 35 of 41
- 5. Cafeteria, facing southeast
- 6. Photo 36 of 41
- 5. Event Pavilion, facing northwest
- 6. Photo 37 of 41
- 5. Restrooms building, facing northwest
- 6. Photo 38 of 41

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photos Page 5 FOUNTA

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK, ST AUGUSTINE, ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

- 5. Riverwalk, facing east
- 6. Photo 39 of 41
- 5. Storage I, facing east
- 6. Photo 40 of 41
- 5. Storage II, facing northwest
- 6. Photo 41 of 41



### **Figures:**

Figure 1: The circa 1950s drawing shows the site plan for Planetarium and Discovery Globe, once called Historic Space Globe. (Drawing by unknown architect, n.d.)



Figure 2: The photograph shows the south façade of the Spring House in the 1930s. Camera facing roughly north. (Photograph by Johnston, Frances B. 1936 or 1937. "Fountain of Youth, St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida." Negative, safety film, 8 x 10 in. Library of Congress: Carnegie Survey of the Architecture of the South. Accessed November 2014. http://www.loc.gov/item/csas200800426/)



Figure 3: The drawing depicts the California Building at 1893 Chicago Columbian Exposition. (Drawing by Fenn, Harry. "The California Building." In *World's Columbian Exposition: Art and architecture*, edited by William Walton. Philadelphia: George Barrie and Son, 1893-95. p. 173. Accessed April 2015. http://www.esauboeck.com/index/Images\_Chapter\_5.html#24.)



Figure 4: The picture depicts the Gift Shop building before c.1960s expansion. Camera facing northwest. (unknown photographer. n.d.)



Figure 5. The picture shows the Spitz A2 Projector, full-dome, installed for the Fountain of Youth Planetarium. (Photograph: Lam, Roberto. Accessed April, 2015. http://www.aplf-planetariums.info/en/index.php?onglet=planetariums&menu=sheet\_planetarium&filtre=1408.)



Figure 6: This picture from the 1960 brochure depicts the Planetarium building. Camera facing southeast. ("The Fountain of Youth." Brochure. Dated December 8, 1960. St. Augustine Historic Society Research Library, Vertical File, Attractions: Fountain of Youth.)



Figure 7: The picture shows the scale of the globe installed in the Discovery Globe. (unknown photographer. n.d.)



Figure 8: This picture depicts the Neon Sign Gate in 1945. Camera facing roughly east. (Unknown photographer. 1945. Black & white digital image. Florida Photographic Collection. Image number: DG00253. Florida Memory. Accessed January 2016. https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/96248.)



Figure 9: This picture shows the Magnolia Street Entrance in the 1940s. Camera facing roughly northeast. (Corse, Carita D. *The Fountain of Youth*. Booklet, 1944.)



Maps:

Map 1: St. Johns County (shaded) is located in northeast Florida. (Florida Counties Map, retrieved January 2015, http://www.floridacountiesmap.com/st\_johns\_county.shtml)



Map 2: The Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park (red pin) is located in the north suburb of St. Augustine, 0.7 miles north of Castillo de San Marcos. (Source: Google Maps, January 2016.)



Map 3: The Google Earth map depicts boundaries of the nominated property, including the park site and two parcels where the 1930s neon sign gate stands on. (Source: Google Earth, accessed January 2016.)



469459 3308371

Map 4: The GIS map depicts legal boundaries of the parcels (blue) of the nominated property. (Source: St. Johns County Property Appraiser, accessed January 2016, http://www.sjcpa.us/)

1



#### **Sketch Maps:**

Sketch Map 1: The map depicts footprints of the contributing and non-contributing resources in the nominated property. C: Contributing/ N: Non-contributing. (Diagram by Sujin Kim, December 2015.)



C1: Spring House/ C2: Gift Shop/ C3: Planetarium/ C4: Planetarium Garden/ C5: Discovery Globe/ C6: Neon Sign Gate/ C7: Magnolia Street Entrance/ C8: Enclosure Wall/ C9: Parking Lot/ C10: Old Gate/ C11: Walkway/ C12: Don Juan Ponce de Leon Statue/ C13: Landing Marker/ C14: Old Restrooms/ C15: Timucua Burial Building/ C16: Archaeological Site

N1: Timucuan Structures/ N2: Mission Church of Nombre de Dios/ N3: Historic Firearms
Exhibit/ N4: Timucua Village of Seloy/ N5: Chalupa Shipyard/ N6: San Agustin Watchtower/
N7: Cannon Firing Area/ N8: Exhibition Building/ N9: Ticket Office/ N10: Cafeteria/ N11:
Event Pavilion/ N12: Restrooms/ N13: Riverwalk/ N14: Storage I/ N15: Storage II



Sketch Map 2: The diagram compares the chronological changes of site plan and visitors' circulation. (Diagram by Sujin Kim, December 2015.)



Sketch Map 3: Photographs key map. (Diagram by Sujin Kim, January 2016.)

Sketch Map 4: The floor plan depicts present interior space of the Spring House distinguishing the 1930s and 1950s. (Drawing by Sujin Kim, October 2015.)




















































































## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Fountain of Youth Archeological Park NAME:

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, St. Johns

DATE RECEIVED: 4/29/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/25/16 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/09/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/14/16 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000361

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N OTHER: N REQUEST: N	DATA PROBLEM: PDIL: SAMPLE:	N LANDSON PERIOD N SLR DE	D: N	LESS THAN 50 PROGRAM UNA NATIONAL:	PPROVED: N
COMMENT WAI	VER: N RETURN	REJECT	г 6.13.	Colto DATE	
ABSTRACT/SU Significant Qvolued	MMARY COMMENTS local tourist over the years of the Park ke That is	attrachio without	m that t lomprov rorpumbe: e in gro	- has succe mising the	initial ificant

RECOM./CRITERIAAccept 47 C	
REVIEWER J Gabbort	DISCIPLINE
TELEPHONE	DATE
DOCUMENTATION see attached comm	ents Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



## **450 years** Florida Division of Historical Resources Attn: Desiree Estabrook R.A. Gray Building 500 South Bronough Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

February 24, 2016

1565 - 2015

RE: National Register Nomination Proposal for the Fountain of Youth, St. Augustine

Dear Ms. Estabrook and the Florida National Register Review Board,

On February 18, 2016 the St. Augustine Certified Local Government represented by the Historic Architectural Review Board met and voted in support of the nomination of the Fountain of Youth tourist attraction to the National Register of Historic Places. The City is grateful for the research conducted by Dr. Jan Matthews students at the University of Florida as well as the good stewardship the Fraser family has committed to this property.

Furthermore, the City concurs that this site is significant under the National Register Criterion A for the site's early association with the contemporary tourism industry in St. Augustine and broader tourism industry in the state of Florida. The district represented in the nomination exists with physical integrity and new construction projects are compatible with the historic landscape which further promotes modern interpretation programs. Another prominent quality of this site is that the same family has owned and operated the park beginning in 1927 with Walter Fraser and continues today with his grandchildren. Mr. Fraser was invested in the historic preservation interpretation not only of this site but of the city and he was a leader of these efforts when he served as mayor.

We look forward to Board's evaluation of this site and hope that they make a positive recommendation for listing to the Keeper of the National Register.

Sincerely,

~ Welge Tenny Wolfe

Historic Preservation and Special Projects Planner City of St. Augustine



## **RECEIVED 2280**

APR 29 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places

## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT Of STATE

RICK SCOTT Governor

KEN DETZNER Secretary of State

April 20, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs Department of the Interior 1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Washington DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Fountain of **Youth Archaeology Park (FMSF #8SJ31 & SJ5175), in St. Johns County**, to the National Register of Historic Places. The related materials (digital images, maps, and site plan) are included.

Please do not hesitate to contact Bob Jones at <u>Robert.Jones@DOS.myflorida.com</u> or (850) 245.6349, if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Missa Slade Lotane Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation & Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



**DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES** 



R. A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250 Telephone: 850.245.6300 • Facsimile: 850.245.6436 • <u>www.flheritage.com</u> Commemorating 500 years of Florida history <u>www.vivaflorida.org</u>