

CHURCH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

DADE CITY, FLORIDA



These are private residences and churches, please respect the privacy of the property owners and remain on the sidewalk.

CHURCH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Description of homes are from “Church Street Historic District” Survey and National Register Nomination, prepared by Rebecca Spain-Schwan, Architect, of St. Petersburg, Florida, June 1996.



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INTRODUCTION

Today's Church Avenue, previously called Church Street, was so named for the large number of churches located along this street. Many of these churches have been here since the mid 1880's/early 1890's. To minimize confusion over the change from Street to Avenue, this report used the historic name "Church Street", except when referring to each site's individual current address.

This portion of Church Street has always been a prominent residential area which first developed in the 1880's as Dade City grew from an isolated frontier settlement to a railroad town and county seat. Two railroad lines were built through Dade City in 1885 and 1886.

These eight blocks are characterized by the large moss draped oak trees which line both sides of the street along most of the blocks. The street has its original brick paving. Most of the residences are one-and two-story buildings with wood, brick, stucco, or concrete block exterior finishes. There is a unique mix of styles ranging from traditional frame and masonry vernacular examples popular from all decades to the more elaborate Victorian styles from the turn of the century and the Eclectic Period Revivals and charming Bungalows of the early 20th century.



THE WARD HOUSE

The first house in the “Church Street National Historic District” is the “**Ward House,**” #37803. It was constructed in 1896 by James Knox Ward, William “Willie” David Ward (his eldest son) and son-in-law, C.H. Peavy. The downstairs served as the Ward family residence and the upstairs was occupied by boarders. James Ward operated a carpentry and blacksmith shop immediately to the west of the house. He was elected to the Dade City Town Council in 1899 and served as a Councilman from January 1900 until he was elected Mayor 1903 and 1904. After his death in 1907 his widow Mrs. Ascha Tyre Ward maintained the boarding house which was known as “The Ward House” until her death in December 1929. Both of the Wards were very active in the community. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and she was active in the Order of the Eastern Star, American Legion Auxiliary, the Dade City Woman’s Club and the First Baptist Church of Dade City. After her death, the house was sold and converted into an apartment house in the 1930’s and is such today. It was renovated in 1997 and is owned by Jack Monday. Descendants of the Wards have lived continuously on Church Avenue since 1896.





GORDON M. CROTHERS POST #15, AMERICAN LEGION AND AUXILIARY

The next building west is the **Gordon M. Crothers, Post #15, American Legion and Auxiliary Unit** which was founded in 1919. It is a one story bungalow style building and was named for Gordon M. Crothers, who was a local resident killed in France during World War I. This building retains its original basic configuration, windows and exterior finishes and was restored in 1997. It is owned by the American Legion.



DADE CITY WATER WORKS

Continue west and look at the **Dade City Water Works** building which was constructed in 1915 as the Municipal Pumping Station and was built on the site where the City's "Tool House" was located. It faced Plum Street which is 10th Street today.





GRAY MOSS INN

Cross 10th Street and walk past the Townhouses to 11th St. Cross this Street and you are in front of the **Gray Moss Inn, #37641** that was built about 1905. It was originally a large two-story wood frame residence and boarding house with a wrap-around porch on the south, east and north sides. The residence was extensively remodeled about 1925 and converted into the Gray Moss Inn. It is reported that United States President Calvin Coolidge (1923-1929) had lunch at the Inn when he was on his way to Lake Wales for the dedication of Bok Tower on February 1, 1929.



METHODIST PARSONAGE



Next door to the Gray Moss Inn at **#37633**, is a modest one-story wood frame bungalow that was built about 1925 and was originally part of the Gray Moss Inn property. It is typical of many 1920's construction with its full-width two bay entrance porch featuring battered wood piers resting on a solid brick balustrade. The porch has been enclosed with metal single hung sash windows but the other original features on the house remain intact. It served as the First United Methodist Church's parsonage for many years.





WILLIAM LARKIN HOUSE

Continue walking west and cross 12th Street. This house **#37603** was built by Albert Collins in 1895 and has had six different owners after he sold it in 1902. **William Larkin**, a prominent Dade City lawyer, civic and political activist, rancher and cattle breeder bought it in 1924. It is an example of Folk Victorian style and has undergone three changes since 1895. In 1941 the first Santa Gertrudis bulls to be shipped east of the Mississippi River by the King Ranch of Texas were stabled here in the backyard. It was in the Larkin Estate until 1991 and is presently owned by a nephew, Rabun "Ray" Battle.





HARRY TIPTON HOUSE

At #37547 is the two-story home built about 1918 for the **Harry Tipton** family. It features a full width bungalow style porch upstairs and downstairs. The Tipton's owned a bakery in town on Meridian Avenue for many years. In recent years an addition has been added on the back with the exterior lines in keeping with the original house by Curtis and Rebecca Beebe. Curtis Beebe was a City Commissioner from 2008-2012.





KNIGHT/FUTCH/EDWARDS HOME

Continue west on the north side of the avenue to the corner of Church Ave. and 13th St. This house, **#37541**, was the **Knight/Futch/Edwards** home. It was built about 1901 and represents an interesting variation on the Dutch Colonial Revival style, featuring a cross gambrel roof. Emma R. Knight owned the house through the early 1920's. Dr. Irvin S. Futch, a local dentist and his wife, Orabel, purchased it and Judge James Sanders rented the house in 1928-1935. Charles and Sallie Edwards, a prominent citrus grower, owned it from 1942 until 1977. Several modifications were made by Sallie Edwards in 1957 with James Ward and Sons, General Contractors doing the work. Steve and Terry Smith are the current owners.





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

As you continue west you will walk past the **First Baptist Church** which was organized in 1891 as College Street Baptist Church. When the present building was constructed in 1950, the front was located facing Church Avenue.





DR. R.D. SISTRUNK HOUSE

Now cross 14th Street and you are in front of **#37335**, which was the home of one of Dade City's prominent pioneer doctors, **Dr. R.D. Sistrunk**. This two story wood frame house was constructed in the 1890's and is the only example of the Queen Anne style along this portion of Church Avenue. Renovations were made in the 1910's, 1920's, and late 1980's but they have not altered the original portions of the house. The house is now owned by Bob and Jo Larkin, a local building contractor.





ABRAHAM HOUSE/ DR. JACKSON HOSPITAL

Continue walking west down Church Ave. to the north-west corner of Church Ave. and 15th St. Here is the **Abraham House/Dr. Jackson Hospital, #37335**, that was constructed in the four square style about 1922-1923 by the Reverend R.N. Abraham, a retired pastor of the First Presbyterian Church where he served between 1915-1919. Dr. Thomas F. Jackson bought it in 1926 and operated a two-room hospital in it until 1935 when he moved this medical practice to Howard Avenue and established Jackson Memorial Hospital. This home is now owned by Phil and Donna Vance.





EUSTIS & KATE BROWN FUTCH HOUSE

As you cross 15th Street, you are in front of the **Eustis & Kate Brown Futch** house, #37325 which was built between 1908 and 1911 and extensively remodeled in 1997 by the present owners, Mike and Roz Carr, who bought it from the Futch Estate about 1990. Eustis & Kate moved there after their marriage in 1921 and after Eustis's death Kate remained there until the late 1980's. Eustis was a prominent citrus grower and son of J.T. Futch.





GILBERT/MORRIS HOUSE

Just west of the church is the **Gilbert/Morris** house, #37247, which is a Frame Vernacular residence that was constructed about 1915 for Elder M.L. Gilbert, pastor of the Primitive Baptist Church next door. It was remodeled extensively by Elder Gilbert's grandson Rex Gilbert, in the late 1950's. The Joe Morris family has owned it for the last thirty plus years.





HACK/ROBERTS HOUSE

You go west across 16th Street to the **Hack/Roberts** house, **#37237**, which is a two-story irregular shaped Folk Victorian style residence that was built around 1900 for the Hack family. By 1923, the S.D. Roberts family owned the house. Even though numerous additions have been made to the north and west sides, it still includes many of the original materials. It is currently owned by Thomas and Betty Hanson.





HAMILTON/SLOUGH HOUSE

Now cross to the south side of Church Ave. Walk east to the **Hamilton/Slough house, #37321** which was built about 1915. This one-and-a-half story wood frame Bungalow style residence features a full-width four-bay entrance porch and above this porch is a balcony or sleeping porch. The exterior has changed very little from the original. It served as the residence of Elder M.L. Gilbert's daughter, Mrs. Hamilton. It was owned by the E.S. Slough family by 1923. Mr. Slough was a prominent citrus grower. It is now owned by Walt and Pat German. Pat is a prominent realtor in this area.



EDWIN & LOLA GASQUE HOUSE

As you walk next door to #37322 Church Ave. you will find a small one—story residence that was a part of a two-story rectangular house. The original house was a two-story house built about 1912 and the top floor reportedly burned sometime in the 1930's or 1940's. Only the first floor of the rectangular portion was saved and remodeled. **Edwin and Lola Gasque**—former owners of the Edwinola Hotel owned it in 1923 and R.L. Eldred owned it in the 1940's. The present owner, Aileen Edelstyn, did extensive remodeling on the rear of the house in the 1990's.





E. L. ELDRED HOUSE

Go east to **#37338** Church Ave. to an irregular-shaped one-story residence that is a typical example of the modest Bungalow constructed by **E.L. Eldred** about 1945 for his home. The exterior retains its basic style except that the porch has been enclosed with large panes of glass and a carport added to the west side. It has had several owners through the years and is now owned by Jim Allen Ward, the son of Wesley and Jean Ward, grandson of James “Jim” K, Jr. and Kate Ward and great – grandson of James K. and Ascha Ward. Jim is a teacher and coach at Pasco High School.



WESLEY K & JEAN WARD HOUSE



The next home, #37338 was built in 1947 for **Wesley Ward** by James Ward & Sons, General Contractors of which Wesley was one of the sons. The original house was a square stucco residence with red brick vertical piers with a front porch. Later a carport and open breezeway were added. In 1959 the front porch and breezeway were enclosed and in 1964 the east addition was added. It is the home of Wesley and Jean Ward. Wesley was Dade City's Building Official and Zoning and Ordinance Administrator for twenty-one years. Jean taught second grade at Pasco Elementary School for thirty-six years and serves on several City of Dade City committees at the pleasure of the City Commission. Wesley is the youngest son of James "Jim" K. Ward, Jr., and Kate Ward, and grandson of James K. and Ascha Ward, all of whom owned homes on Church Avenue.



McGEACHEY/FUTCH/PLATT HOUSE



The next home is the **McGeachey/Futch/Platt** house, **#37402** which was constructed about 1910 in the Folk Victorian style with Queen Anne style influences. The Folk Victorian style is achieved with the addition of Victorian-inspired porches and detailing. The J.T. Futch family moved from Wauchula, Florida to Dade City in 1909 and bought this house in December 1917 from Isabella McGeachey. Mr. Futch was a prominent pioneer citrus grower. Reuel and Marie Futch Platt occupied the house in 1936 following the death of J.T. Futch. The house has had several owners since the Platt family and most recently owned by Hutch and Natalie Brock who added an addition on the east side. Hutch served on the Dade City Commission and as Mayor for Dade City. They sold this house in the Spring of 2011 to Steve and Lynn Hickman.





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The **First Presbyterian Church**, was the third church to be constructed along Church Ave. It was organized January 13, 1889 by Rev. L.H. Wilson and twenty-five members. At that time, church services were held in the original wood frame courthouse downtown. In October 1891 they purchased this one-acre lot from Pleasant Wilson for \$150 and the church was built in 1894 by A.H. Ravises for \$595. It has retained most of its original configuration and materials even though there have been some remodeling and additions through the years.





RAYMOND/BROWN/LOCK HOUSE

Continue east on Church Ave. and cross 14th St. You are now in front of the **Raymond/Brown/Lock** house, **#37508**, that was built for John Raymond around 1887. He was elected to the Town Council of Dade City in April 1898 and re-elected in 1900 and 1902. His term ended January 1904. The house was later owned by Grace Lock who was the first school librarian for Pasco County. This is a one-story Folk Victorian style house with a wrap-around porch on the east, north and west sides. The basic plan of this house remains today as it was when built in 1887. Rob and Deedee Kassabaum are the present owners.



JAMES "JIM" K. WARD, JR. & KATE WARD HOUSE

Walk east and cross 13th St. to the **James "Jim" K. Ward, Jr.** house, **#37540**, which was completed in early 1926. This one story brick Bungalow features a Flemish bond composed of contrasting red and dark colored bricks set between vertical piers of red brick. This house was built by James K. Ward, Jr. who owned a construction company. He built it for his family home. Later the company became "James Ward & Sons, General Contractor". The Ward family had been in the residential and commercial construction business in Dade City since they first arrived in 1896. Jim built the first buildings for the Pasco Packing Company in the 1930's. It later became Lykes Pasco and since has ceased existence. He was the youngest son of James K. and Ascha Tyre Ward who moved to Dade City and Church Ave. in 1896.





JAMES A. & SARAH WARD HOUSE

The next house is the **James A. & Sarah Ward** house, **#37546**, which is an unusual one-story Masonry Vernacular house constructed in 1941 by James Ward and Sons, General Contractor of which James A. was one of the sons. The most distinguishing feature is the use of contrasting colored bricks set in a checkerboard pattern between vertical piers composed of red bricks. James' wife, Sarah, taught at Dade City Grammar School and finished her long career as a first grade teacher at Pasco Elementary School. James was the oldest son of James "Jim" K. Jr. and Kate Ward and the grandson of James K. & Ascha Ward.





PLATT/CARTER/COCHRANE HOUSE

As you continue east in this block you will be in front of the **Platt Carter Cochrane** house, #37604. This house was purchased in 1894 for use as the First United Methodist Church's Tampa District parsonage until 1905. Then it was sold in 1905 to Jasper C. Carter who was an active layman in the church and superintendent of the Dade City Sunday School for over 40 years until his death in 1947. The Carter Estate sold the home to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Cochrane in 1955 and they remodeled it extensively. Mr. Cochrane was involved in developing and selling real estate. The present owners, John and Karla Shelton did some work on the porch.





FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

After you cross 12th Street. You are in front of the **First United Methodist Church** which was the first church on this street. The Gothic Revival style sanctuary was completed by July 1889 and was built of heart pine and cypress. This building was constructed by James E. Lee on a quarter acre of land purchased from Reuben Wilson in March 1888. Numerous changes have been made to the original sanctuary over the past 100 years, but the basic shape and interior character are retained from the original building.



CATHERINE MCINTOSH HOUSE



Continue walking east and cross 11th St. on the south side of Church Ave. to the **Catherine McIntosh** house, **#37714**, that was built around 1890-1895. The original L-shaped Folk Victorian style house occupies the east half of the existing house which was enlarged sometime after 1932 with a west wing. Mrs. McIntosh was a long-time Pasco County Circuit Court Clerk and Society Editor for “The Dade City Banner” newspaper. Her son, Col. (Ret.) Charles A. McIntosh, Jr. and his wife, Virginia, owned it for many years after his retirement. After his return to Dade City he became active in the community and was elected to the Dade City Commission and served as its Mayor for several years. Dave & Gloria Car-ey bought it from the McIntosh Estate.





McCUTCHEON HOUSE

The next house is the **McCutcheon House, #37720**, which was constructed around 1890-1895. It is typical of the Frame Vernacular style popular at that time and appears to be very much as it was when it was built. R. James McCutcheon was elected to the Town Council in January 1900 and remained on the Council at least through 1907. He served as Chairman and as Marshal and Collector in 1906-1907. Charles and Virginia McIntosh bought it as rental property. It has been sold by the McIntosh Estate.



You have now finished your tour of the National Historic District and if you continue walking east you will be back at your starting point at the Dade City Chamber of Commerce. We hope that you have enjoyed learning about some of Dade City's Founding citizens and their homes.