

“Sharing the Rich History of Ormond Beach through Education and Preservation”

The MacDonald House Cornerstone of Museum Row



Nestled between The Casements and The Ormond Memorial Art Museum is The MacDonald House.

- Why we should care about the MacDonald House?
- Why preserve it?
- Why create a historical museum?

Two important reasons for saving the MacDonald House

1. Its historic past

Built in 1900, it is one of a few remaining buildings left from Ormond’s pioneering days. Every forward-looking city values its history. Most Florida cities would be proud to preserve a 1900 Queen Anne-style house that’s an integral part of its history in a prominent beachside downtown location.

Granada Boulevard is a great location for a museum featuring the history of Ormond dating from the indigenous natives who thrived here long before Ponce De Leon named Florida in 1513 to our prosperous and culturally active community that continues to grow today.

2. Its future opportunity to generate economic benefits to the community

The Ormond Beach Historical Society has a vision of developing the MacDonald House into The Museum of Ormond Beach History. We have already repositioned wall placards and pictures that tell the story of Ormond Beach within the walls of the MacDonald House and have a preliminary architectural design for a comprehensive museum on the first floor. Many other local towns have such museums, including Daytona Beach, Ponce Inlet, New Smyrna Beach, and Holly Hill. Historic museums have a proven track record of supporting downtown areas and generating revenues for area businesses. Visitors stay longer and spend more in historic districts.

It will be an important component of downtown economic redevelopment as the centerpiece of “Museum Row” bookended by the Ormond Memorial Art Museum, The Casements, and The Cupola in Fortunato Park.

Ormond Beach prides itself on its quality of life.

Amenities such as sports fields, beachfront parking, restaurants, shops and highway beautifications with environmentally preserved waterways are part of our way of life. **However**, preserving and promoting our unique history and culture as an economic magnet for residents, tourists and businesses can and will make a difference for the future. (Continued on Pg.3)

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38 East Granada Boulevard
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President's Letter

Random acts of volunteerism

So often, it's the big, bold and grand acts that bring attention and garner notice. However, I want to take this opportunity to bring to your attention the unnoticed and random acts of volunteering that make the Ormond Beach Historical Society such a success and such a joy to be a part of. I cannot cite all of these random acts, of course, because I don't see all of them. I'll just use a few examples to make my point.

The recent Teddy Bear Picnic was loud and crazy with music, dancing, historical stories and the excitement of wide-eyed little boys and girls. Jo Traywick and her students led the activities with vigor and animation. But there was a wonderful lady in the kitchen, where she can often be found – Ann Eifert. At home, she had made beautiful teddy bear cookies, and on the day of the event, she and Jim Mitchell, another volunteer “always in the kitchen,” were filling lunch bags and goodie bags for the children to eat and take home. The children didn't see them, but they sure enjoyed their lunches and goodie bags. Ann and Jim make a big difference.

If you happen to stop by the MacDonald House on a random Tuesday, you never know what you'll find Flo Minardi doing. Replanting the urns on the porches seems appropriate for a garden club lady. But painting the front door and interior trim and scrubbing the hall carpet on her knees?

That goes unnoticed except for the visitors who walk into a clean and attractive Welcome Center. Flo makes a big difference.

On most Saturday Discover Our History lectures, Jeanne Jeffs, another kitchen volunteer, provides and serves the free cookies that the audience has come to expect and love. Jeanne makes a big difference.

Come July, Dan Smith will open the Ormond Garage replica on the beach and welcome the children I bring from The Casements Enviro Camp. He'll regale them with racing stories about Ormond and its legacy as “The Birthplace of Speed.” Dan makes a big difference.

Who gets up on a Saturday morning, sometimes at the break of dawn to clean up The Three Chimneys grounds? All the members of the Preservation Committee! They make a big difference to visitors who can navigate the grounds and hear the story.

My point is – A successful organization succeeds because of the mostly unnoticed random acts of volunteerism. Thank you to all I have NOT mentioned! You make a BIG difference!

Diana Simmons

(Continued from Front Page)

What would “Neighbor John,” (as John D Rockefeller liked to be called) say about a part of his neighborhood being demolished? I think in those latter philanthropic days of his life, he would have said, “Save and treasure the MacDonald House. It is an ideal location to tell the rest of the story and benefit the town.”

The Ormond Beach Historical Society has met with city staff several times in the past year to determine how we can work together to preserve and enhance the MacDonald House through grants and community support. Help us keep the story of Ormond’s past alive for the future by contacting city commissioners and the mayor to express YOUR opinion about saving the MacDonald House.

Following is a list of our city officers and their email addresses; please send them your thoughts. Thanks!

Ed Kelley, Mayor

ed.kelley@ormondbeach.org

James Stowers, City Commissioner, Zone 1

james.stowers@ormondbeach.org

Troy Kent, City Commissioner, Zone 2

troy.kent@ormondbeach.org

Rick Boehm, City Commissioner, Zone 3

rick.boehm@ormondbeach.org

Bill Partington, City Commissioner, Zone 4

bill.partington@ormondbeach.org

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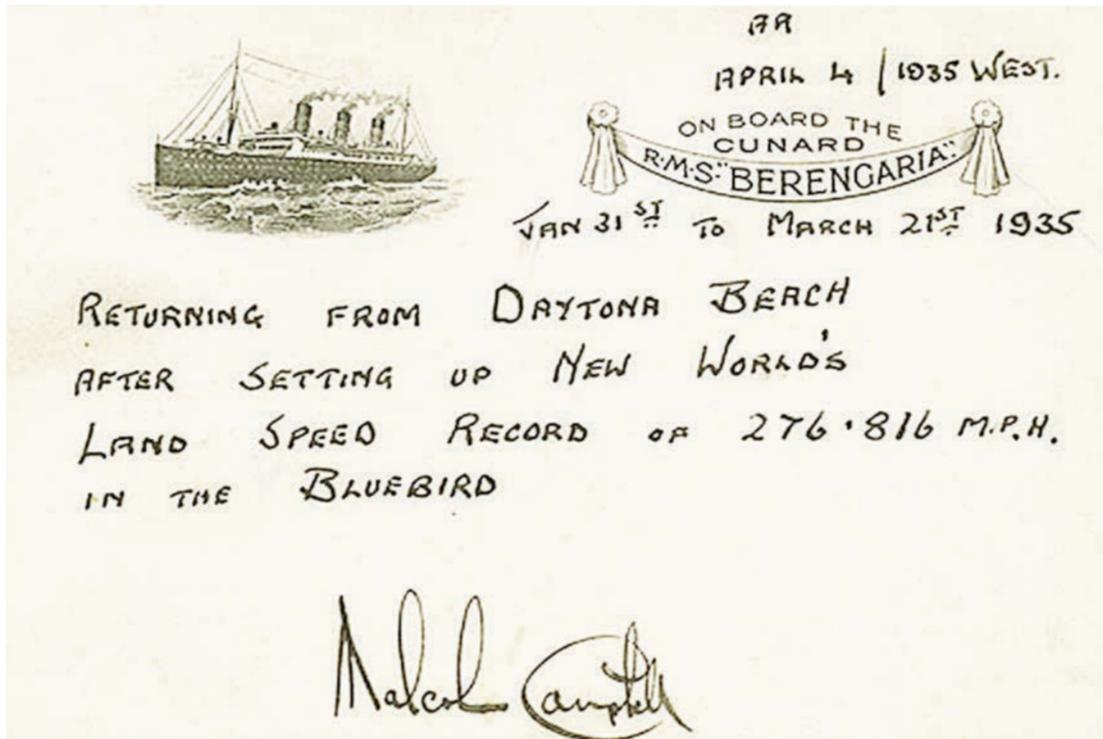
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British Racing star Sir Malcolm Campbell wrote this card on his return trip to England after setting a new world speed record in Daytona Beach in 1935.



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THE HISTORY OF THE MacDONALD HOUSE



Ormond Beach's MacDONALD House, 38 East Granada Blvd., has a storied past. Justin L. Worthy was one of the original area land investors in 1895. He built the house in 1900, probably as a residence. Marguerite Stout, from New Brunswick, Canada, bought the house in 1906, and lived there for 27 years, probably as a winter home.

William "Billy" MacDonald, of Ossining, N.Y., first started working in the Hotel Street Tea Room, located behind the Hotel Ormond and owned by a Mr. Kennedy. He would work for Kennedy for six months and then return to his home up north. About 1922, Mr. Kennedy discontinued the operation.

MacDONALD then went to work for a Mr. Thornton in the location of the present Billy's Tap Room & Grill. At that time it was a drugstore with a gas pump out front. In 1926 Thornton expanded the building to the east and moved the drugstore into the new building. He then suggested that MacDONALD buy the old building, which he did, naming the new business Billy's Tap Room.

Mr. Thornton had a real estate license and was listing the Queen Anne-style house then owned by Mrs. Stout in 1941. He asked MacDONALD to place a bid on the property. The story goes that MacDONALD placed a low bid of \$3,000, and a few weeks later, to everyone's surprise, Mrs. Stout accepted the offer.

The MacDONALD family moved into this house with four bedrooms on the top floor, four bedrooms on the second floor and one bedroom on the main floor. The house had two cisterns in the back yard. They collected rainwater which was then pumped up to two huge holding tanks next to the bathroom on the third floor. From there, the water was gravity-fed to the rest of the house.

In those early years electricity was only available on the beachside of Ormond when the Hotel Ormond was operating; it had its own generating plant. The hotel opened before Thanksgiving and closed after Easter. This was before air conditioning and mosquito control. Luckily, the restaurant business was lucrative enough to allow people to go elsewhere for the rest of the year. Ormond (mainland) and Ormond Beach (beachside) had a population of about 700. There was one mayor governing both areas but each had its own distinct postal address.

Billy MacDONALD died in December 1944. His wife, Elizabeth, rented the building for a few years around 1950 to Maud van Woy, for use as dormitory space for her Fairmont Casements Junior College, which she operated at The Casements. During this period, the MacDONALD family lived above Billy's Tap Room. In 1964, the MacDONALD House was sold to the Ormond Hotel organization; after a few more transfers of ownership, the building was sold to the City of Ormond Beach in June 1979.

During the 1990s, the Ormond Beach Historical Trust (now Society), worked with preservationists to save the structure. Representatives of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Florida Division of Historic Resources agreed that it should be saved. In 1997-98, a combination of state and city funding plus private donations were spent to restore the building.

Currently the Ormond Beach Historical Society occupies the two front rooms and provides a Welcome Center for the City of Ormond Beach. Plans are to remodel the interior to include an Ormond Beach Historical Museum.

**Can we afford to preserve the MacDonald House?
With proper planning the answer is YES!**

City records show that in FY 1997-98, the city spent \$162,155 in repairs on the building. The breakdown on that is \$65,000 from Florida Division of Historical Resources and \$11,000 from private donations; balance of \$86,155 was city funds.

To completely refurbish the building now might cost close to \$500,000, but Ormond Beach does not have to pay for it all, and it does not have to be done all at once. Volusia County ECHO funding (The “H” in ECHO stands for “Historic”) could pay for a substantial portion.

Your Historical Society has been meeting with city officials to restore our MacDonald House. Please give your support.

Don't miss our upcoming events!

Friday, August 14, 6 p.m.



KEY WEST PARTY

OUR MEMBER

APPRECIATION Summer

Sizzler

On Friday August 28, 5:30 p.m.

Open the Doors to Ormond Beach's Historic Treasures!

The Ormond Beach Historical Society invites you to take a tour, hear a lecture, see the sights of the "Birthplace of Speed," where early 20th century race cars competed on the beach, 18th and 19th century sugar mills turned sugar cane into molasses and rum, and 17th century Native Americans lived amid the natural splendor of east central Florida.

Visit Us!

At the MacDonald House, Ormond Beach's Welcome Center and Museum

Gateway to the Ormond Scenic Loop

38 East Granada Boulevard

Ormond Beach, FL 32176

386-677-7005

www.OrmondHistory.org • email: office@ormondhistory.org

Open 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday

See historical photographs and literature, visit our Merchandise Shoppe offering a selection of DVDs and books on local and Florida history, postcards, Birthplace of Speed T-shirts, caps, and more for purchase.

Don't miss our 20-minute local history video, Ormond Discovery

Scenic Bus Tours

Ride in an air-conditioned bus to discover the hidden historical gems of Ormond Beach. Our tour includes 30 sites on the route – the Ormond Scenic Loop, Fairchild Oak, Three Chimneys Sugar Mill Ruins, Ormond Indian Burial Mound and historic homes along the way, and lasts about two hours, guided by a friendly, knowledgeable Historical Society volunteer tour guide.

Tours are offered 2-3 times per month.

Adults \$20; OBHS members \$18; Children (5-12) \$7

Reservations required, space is limited;

Call the MacDonald House, 386-677-7005, for dates and times.

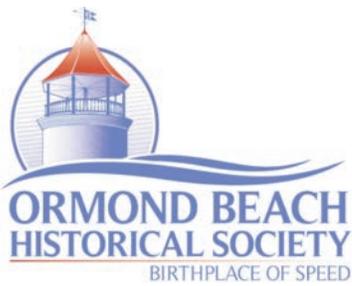
Hotel Ormond Cupola

Visit the remaining portion of the Hotel Ormond in Fortunato Park (northeast corner of the Granada Bridge) to see pictures and memorabilia about the hotel. No charge. Open Saturdays and Sundays, 2-4 pm, September through May.

Anderson-Price Memorial Building

This historic building at 42 N. Beach Street is owned by OBHS and can be rented for weddings, receptions, luncheons, business meetings, etc.

Call the MacDonald House, 386-677-7005, for reservations or questions.



The MacDonald House
38 East Granada Blvd.
Ormond Beach, FL 32176



500 Years of Florida History!



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Mark Your Calendars – EVENT SCHEDULE

The Anderson-Price Memorial Building is located at 42 North Beach Street in Ormond Beach. Call the MacDonald House, 386-677-7005, for reservations or questions or check our website, www.OrmondHistory.org.

Saturday, June 20, 9:45 a.m. – Scenic Historical Bus Tour, leaves from The Casements. Reservations required, OBHS members \$18, non-members \$20.

Thursday, July 9, 9:45 a.m. – Scenic Historical Bus Tour, leaves from The Casements. Reservations required, OBHS members \$18, non-members \$20.

Saturday, July 18, 9:45 a.m. – Scenic Historical Bus Tour, leaves from The Casements. Reservations required, OBHS members \$18, non-members \$20.

Thursday, August 6, 9:45 a.m. – Scenic Historical Bus Tour, leaves from The Casements. Reservations required, OBHS members \$18, non-members \$20.

Friday, August 14, 6 p.m. – Key West Party PARTY, \$40 per person

Thursday, August 27, 9:45 a.m. – Scenic Historical Bus Tour, leaves from The Casements. Reservations required, OBHS members \$18, non-members \$20.

Friday, August 28, 4:30 p.m. – Membership "Summer Sizzler"

Friday, September 18, 5 - 7 p.m. & Saturday September 19, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. – Trash and Treasures Sale