

## George A. Smathers Libraries Exhibit History of Government House

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – In celebration of the 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the city of St. Augustine, the George A. Smathers Libraries will present an exhibition of maps, photographs, written observations, and artifacts relating to the rich history of Government House. On view from August 24 through October 23, 2015, *Government House and the Stories of St. Augustine*, reflects upon the city's history, from colonial life to international warfare and politics, and from governmental administration to race relations.

Government House is located at the heart of this historic colonial town. As such, it is uniquely situated to tell the stories about the long and complex history of St. Augustine. For almost 400 years the site was used as a center of government. It was a military, legal, and administrative site for the Spanish and British. Later, the United States used it as a federal customs office and post office. The building has evolved through a series of renovations since it was first constructed, and archaeological digs on the site have unveiled important information about life in the nation's oldest city.

*Government House and the Stories of St. Augustine* is curated by Matt Armstrong, Tom Caswell, Jim Cusick, and John Nemmers. Items on view are from the George A. Smathers Libraries' Special and Area Studies Collections, P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History, and Government House Research Library.

The Smathers Library Gallery is located on the second floor of the Smathers Library on the University of Florida campus. Hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., unless otherwise specified and with occasional exceptions for maintenance. All exhibitions are open to the public and free of charge.

A complimentary online exhibition will launch September 1, 2015  
<http://exhibits.uflib.ufl.edu/govhousestories>

### **Programs**

#### **Exhibition Reception:**

Wednesday September 16, 2015, 3:00pm - 4:00pm, Smathers Library Gallery

#### **Speaker Panel:**

Wednesday, October 28, 2015, 6:00pm - 7:30pm, Ocora, Graham Center

Join renowned scholars Kathleen Deagan, Emerita Professor of Archaeology, Herschel Shepard, Retired Professor of Architecture and Historic Preservation, and Susan Parker, Executive Director of the St. Augustine Historical Society for a round table discussion.

*Sponsored by the George A. Smathers Libraries and the Bob Graham Center*