

George A. Smathers Libraries New Online Exhibition Explores Historic Preservation in Florida

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – The George A. Smathers Libraries have released a new exhibition available only online (<http://exhibits.uflib.ufl.edu/shepard>). Utilizing materials from the Libraries Architecture Archives, *The Preservation Conversation* explores the conversation that occurred during three Herschel Shepard historic preservation projects in Florida; adaptive use of Government House in St. Augustine, reconstruction of Mission San Luis de Apalachee in Tallahassee, and the ongoing restoration of Gamble Mansion in Ellenton.

Conversations about historic preservation address the best way to maintain the physical integrity and historical significance of a building, structure, or site. Whether it involves restoring a plantation home, repurposing a former post office or reconstructing a council house from the 1600s, each site has unique requirements. Each project requires fresh eyes, as no two historic structures are exactly alike. They may interpret different periods in history, be constructed of different materials and have very different uses. Although the conversation about completing each of these historic preservation projects has differed, the goal to recognize and care for Florida's architectural heritage remains the same.

The Preservation Conversation is curated by UF Museum Studies graduate students Austin Bell, Renee Kiefer, and Kim Tinnell with guidance from Herschel Shepard, Cindy Peterson, John Nemmers and Professor Glenn Willumson.

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