



RECEIVED

MAY 10 2021

**CITY OF FORT PIERCE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD
 PRELIMINARY HISTORIC DESIGNATION APPLICATION**

CHAPTER 23, ARTICLE IV DESIGNATION OF HISTORIC SITES

Section 23-36. Criteria.

(a) Consistent with the criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places, the board shall recommend for designation places, buildings, structures, landscape features, archaeological sites and other improvements as individual sites, districts or archaeological zones that are significant in Fort Pierce's history, architecture, archaeology or culture and possess integrity of location, design, setting materials, workmanship or association; and meets one or more of the following criteria:

- (1) (Significant event) Are associated with events that have made significant contributions to the pattern of history in the community, St. Lucie County, the state or the nation; or
- (2) (Significant person) Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- (3) (Architectural significance) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of an architectural type, period, style or method of construction; or the work of a prominent designer or builder; or contains elements of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship of outstanding quality; or that represents a significant innovation or adaptation to the South Florida environment; or represents a distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- (4) (Archaeological Significance) Have yielded, or are likely to yield information in history or prehistory; or
- (5) Is listed in the National Register of Historic Places; or
- (6) (Aesthetic significance) Is a part of or related to a landscape, park, environmental feature or other distinctive area, and should be developed or preserved according to a plan based upon a historic, cultural, or architectural motif; or because of its prominent or spacial location, contrast of siting, age, or scale is an easily identifiable visual feature of a neighborhood or the city and contributes to the distinctive quality of such neighborhood or the city.

NAME OF LANDMARK: St. Lucie County Welfare Home for Blacks

ADDRESS OF LANDMARK: 809 North 9th Street, Fort Pierce, FL 34950

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: GLIDDEN'S TERRACE BLK 4 LOTS 5, 6, 8 AND 9 (DB 188-12)

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NO.: 2403-710-0012-000-0

TYPE OF PROPERTY: Archaeological Site Commercial Building Public Building Residential Building

Other (describe): _____

DATE OF PROPERTY (PERIOD OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE): 1958

IS THE PROPERTY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES?: No Yes, Record #: _____

HISTORY OF THE SITE

Please give an explanation as to why this property is historically, culturally, architecturally, or archaeologically significant and how the property fulfills the criteria for designation (Section 23-36). Use additional paper if necessary.

This property should be designated historical, based on its historical and cultural significance. 809 North 9th St. in Fort Pierce, FL was used as the site for the St. Lucie County Welfare Home, a segregated place where Blacks who were poor & elderly could receive care. Therefore, this building highlights the historical era of segregation and Pre-Civil Rights Movement in the United States. Also, this building should be designated historical based on a very famous patient who received care at the located between 1958-1960. World-renowned author, anthropologist, and playwright, Zora Neale Hurston passed away in the building on January 28, 1960.

The following information should be included, if known:

ORIGINAL OWNER(S):

SUBSEQUENT OWNER(S):

St. Lucie County

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:

ORIGINAL USE:

Senior Citizen Living

SUBSEQUENT USE(S):

Senior Citizen Daycare

CURRENT CONDITION OF THE SITE:

Excellent

Good

Fair

Poor

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT EVENT(S) ASSOCIATED WITH THIS SITE OR STRUCTURE:

United States, Florida, and St. Lucie County Segregation

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS SITE OR STRUCTURE:

Zora Neale Hurston

ANECDOTES AND/OR STORIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE OR STRUCTURE (USE ADDITIONAL PAPER IF NECESSARY):

(see attachments)

PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING:

- Photographs of the site and/or exterior of the structure (Interior as well, if applicable)
- Historic Photographs (if available)
- Other materials related to historical research of property (if available)

Property Owner(s)

Name(s): Zora Neale Hurston Florida Education Foundation, Inc.

Mailing Address: 809 N. 9th Street, Fort Pierce, FL 34950

Phone Number(s): _____ Email: _____

Applicant

Name(s): Marvin E. Hobson

Mailing Address: 6116 Spring Lake Terrace, Fort Pierce FL

Phone Number(s): 5613061023 Email: mhobson4jc@gmail.com

An owner's signature below indicates consent to the proposed historic designation as described in this application.

Marvin E. Hobson
Property Owner's Signature

5/7/2021
Date

State of Florida County of St. Lucie

I certify that on the date set forth below the property owner named above did appear personally before me and that I did identify this person by: (a) comparing his/her physical appearance with the photograph on the identifying document presented by the person, and (b) comparing this person's signature made in my presence on this form with the signature on his/her identifying document. The statements on this document are subscribed and sworn to before me by the individual on this 7 day of May, 2021.

Notary Public Signature: Maria D. Toledo

Notary ID Number: GG 277734

Expiration Date: 11-19-2022



MARIA D. TOLEDO
Commission # GG 277734
Expires November 19, 2022
Bonded Thru Budget Notary Services

*SLC Agape Senior Recreational Center
Zora Neale Hurston Exhibit*

809 N. 9th Street
Ft. Pierce Fl. 34950
772/465-8990



Fort Pierce City Hall
Historical Preservation Dept.
100 U.S. Highway #1
Fort Pierce, Fl. 4950

January 12, 2015

This letter is submitted requesting the old SLC Welfare Home, at 809 N. 9th Street be placed on the Historical Registry. It was the last residency of renowned writer, folklorist, anthropologist, playwright and poet, Zora Neale Hurston.

Since her passing on January 29th, 1960 many have taken an interest in her life. Today, at the 809 N. 9th Street address, an exhibit of Zora's life and death is now on display. A number of visitors have stopped by to see the room Zora passed away in, replicas of her bed, typewriter, furniture and family pictures. A copy of the original death certificate shows the removal of her body from the home to Peaks Funeral Home. A letter written by Abbiejean Russell, the welfare home's supervisor, confirms Zora's stay as a patient. All this and more are all on display. We hope to entice our youth, teachers, professors and out of town visitors to come and learn of this remarkable person.

This building for the past forty five years until today, has served seniors breakfast, lunch and provides recreational games for the men and women of their peers to play. I, Brenda Cooper for the past twenty years, have been associated with this center. As director, board member and now curator of the exhibit, I pledge to keep this building active with senior and the memory Zora.

Please find pictures of students, teachers and out of town visitor enjoying the exhibit.

I hope you take this matter into consideration.

Respectfully yours,


Brenda M. Cooper/Curator





THIS DOCUMENT HAS A LIGHT BACKGROUND ON TRUE WATERMARKED PAPER. HOLD TO LIGHT TO VERIFY FLORIDA WATERMARK.

OFFICE of VITAL STATISTICS

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

STATE FILE NO. **60-004315**

6602 FLORIDA

REGISTRAR'S NO. **39**

1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY St. Lucie		CODE NO. 6602	2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived, If institution: Residence before admission) a. STATE Florida		b. COUNTY St. Lucie
b. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION St. Pierce		c. IS PLACE OF DEATH INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		c. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION St. Pierce	
d. NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION 809 North 9th. St.		e. LENGTH OF STAY IN 1b 2 yrs.	d. STREET ADDRESS 1734 School Court		e. IS RESIDENCE INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> ON A FARM? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print) First Zora Middle Neil Last Hurston			4. DATE OF DEATH Month January Day 28th Year 1960		
5. SEX Female	6. COLOR OR RACE Negro	7. MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> NEVER MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/>	8. DATE OF BIRTH Jan 7 - 1903		9. AGE (In years last birthday) 57
10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) White Anthropologist		10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Author		11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) Florida	
12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? U.S.A.			13. FATHER'S NAME Deceased		
14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Deceased			15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U. S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) No		
16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.		17. INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE Marquet Sage Address Lincoln Park Academy			
22a. OCCUPATION (Degree or title) Alumnus MD		22b. ADDRESS St. Lucie Fla		22c. DATE SIGNED 2-3-60	
23a. BURIAL, CREMATION, RECOVERY (Specify) Burial	23b. DATE 2-7-60	23c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Benevolence Gardens		23d. LOCATION (City, town, or county) (State) St. Pierce Fla	
24. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE Dorothy B...		25. DATE RECD. BY LOCAL REG 2-6-60		26. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE Arena H. Davidson	

VOID IF ALTERED OR ERASED

VOID IF ALTERED OR ERASED

C. Meach G. G. J., State Registrar

Date Issued: **FEB 18 2013**

THE ABOVE SIGNATURE CERTIFIES THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE. THIS DOCUMENT IS PRINTED OR PHOTOCOPIED ON SECURITY PAPER WITH WATERMARKS OF THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA. DO NOT ACCEPT WITHOUT VERIFYING THE PRESENCE OF THE WATERMARKS. THE DOCUMENT FACE CONTAINS A MULTICOLORED BACKGROUND, GOLD EMBOSSED SEAL, AND THERMOCHROMIC FL. THE BACK CONTAINS SPECIAL LINES WITH TEXT. THE DOCUMENT WILL NOT PRODUCE A COLOR COPY.

WARNING:



DH FORM 1946 (04-10)

CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



May 7, 1971

Mr. Robert Hemenway
Associate Professor
American Studies Program
University of Wyoming
Box 3334 University Station
Laramie, Wyoming 82070

Re: Zora Neale Hurston

Dear Mr. Hemenway:

Your letter of May 10th in regard to the above captioned person was referred to me for reply since I was executive director of St. Lucie County Welfare Association for twenty-two years prior to my retirement in February 1967.

On May 12, 1959 Zora Neale Hurston applied to this agency, and was granted assistance for prescription drugs. At that time her other needs were being met from the rent of one of her rooms and benefits from a sick and accident insurance policy.

On June 9, 1959 she had drawn the last of her insurance claims for the calendar year, and in addition to drugs, was approved for food vouchers.

The latter part of September 1959 Miss Hurston, a victim of hypertensive heart disease, was regressing both physically and mentally. On October the 29th she was admitted to St. Lucie County's Lincoln Park welfare home, 809 N. 9th Street, and died in the home on January 28, 1960.

Prior to Miss Thurston's admission to the welfare home, we had a number of friendly chats. She referred with pride to Eatonville, Florida where she grew up and to her early days at Columbia University. She spoke of her work as a novelist and we discussed other subjects pertaining to local and national affairs of the day. I was attracted to Miss Thurston as a person, not because of her accomplishments.

I contacted Mrs. Marjorie Silver and Mr. Leroy Floyd, and learned that you had visited Fort Pierce and had spent



Zora Neale Hurston Historical Sites

1. Hurston Library
3008 Avenue D
2. Hurston House
1734 Avenue L
3. Chronicle News
1529 Avenue D
4. Lincoln Park Academy
1806 Avenue I
5. Backus House
1222 Backus Avenue
6. SLC Nursing Home
809 N. 9th Street
7. Peeks Funeral Chapel
728 Avenue D
8. Grave Site
Avenue S. & 17th Street



EXHIBIT & SENIOR CENTER
As it looks today and it still serves the elderly

For information on Historical Tours Call: 772/332.1220



2014



"That's Living!"

(Even spelled the way Zora spelled it in her writings)



A ZORA NEALE HURSTON DOCUMENTARY

Filmed in the City of Fort Pierce, FL, this uplifting story of an iconic African American Author, who wrote the well known novel 'Their Eyes Were Watching God,' is on DVD and can be purchased at the Zora Neale Hurston Exhibit.

THE ZORA NEALE HURSTON EXHIBIT

809 N. 9th Street

Fort Pierce, Florida 34950



Curator: Brenda M. Cooper

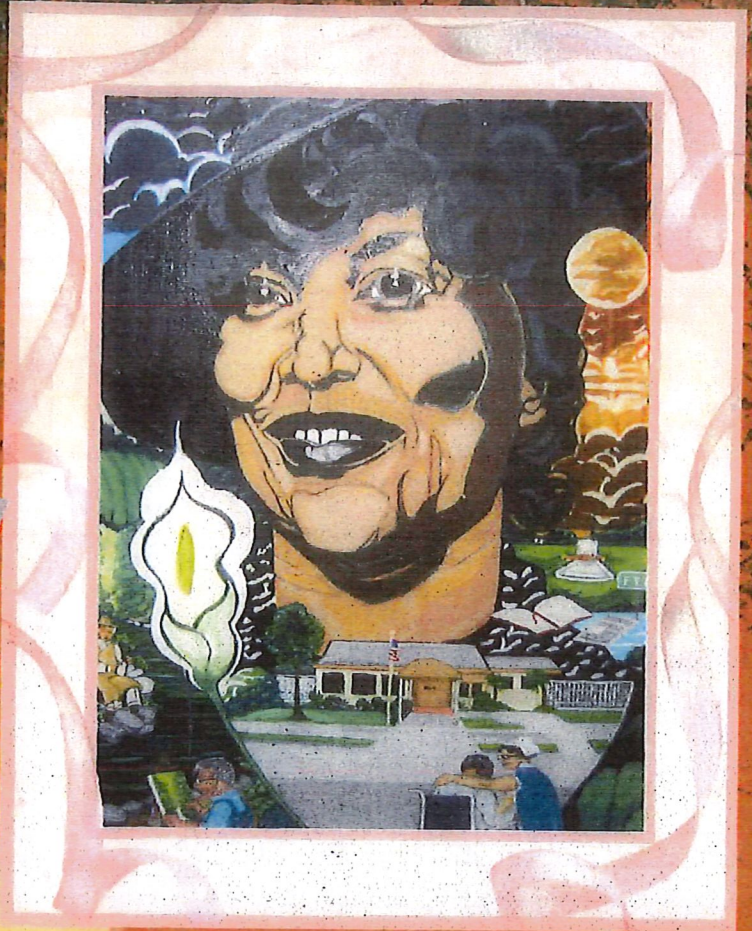
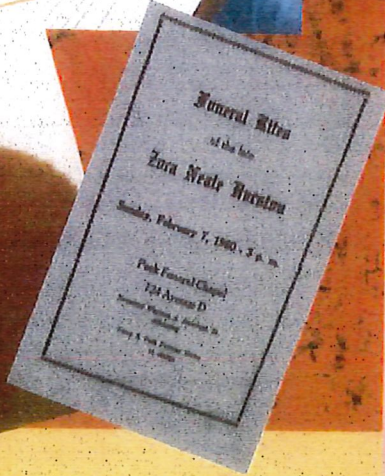
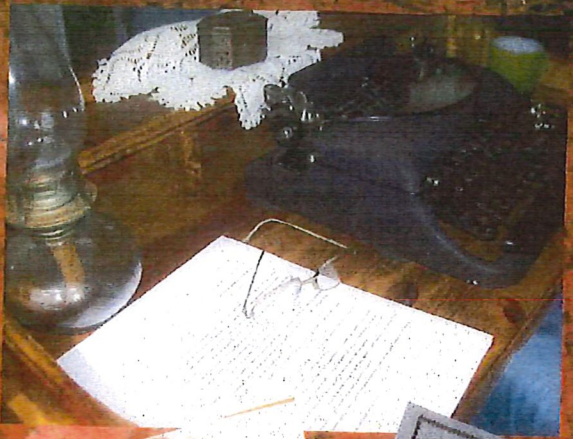
For Information On Zora Exhibit & Sites

Call: 772/332.1220

"Their Eyes Were Watching God"



Ade'



January 7, 1891 - January 28, 1960

Born during the time of Jim Crow in Notasulga, Alabama, Zora looked beyond her birth place traveling to Honduras, Haiti, and throughout the Turpentine fields of Florida.

This remarkable brave women captured the hearts and minds of readers everywhere with her novels, plays, articles, and short stories.

Today an exhibit is opened to the community, to celebrate her life and her achievements.

Zora
Neale Hurston
EXHIBIT

809 N. 9th Street
Ft. Pierce Fl. 34950
772/332-1220