



## **CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS AND VICINITY**

In 1672, Spain's Queen Regent Mariana ordered the construction of this stone fort to defend St. Augustine which was critical for the defense of the coast of Florida. Built of locally quarried coquina, a non-brittle soft shell, the walls were able to withstand cannon barrages. In 1702, British troops from South Carolina attacked the fort for fifty days. The siege failed and the British burned the town. The Spanish rebuilt the fort, reinforcing the northern side. In 1740, the British attacked again. After failing to breach the fort for twenty-seven days, they gave up.



**Above:** A view of the fort from the South. The watchtower overlooks the river. In 1842, the U. S. Army filled in the area behind the wall. Originally part of the moat, the water battery has cannon mounts which allow the cannon to fire over the wall.

**Left:** The City Wall was constructed of palm logs and earth. It ran from the Castillo westward to the San Sebastian River.

**Center:** The main entrance is accessible only with the drawbridge.

**Right:** To the right, the ravelin protects the drawbridge. The bastion is on the left.



**St. Augustine Visitors Center:** Architect Fred A. Hendrich (1879-1941) came to St. Augustine in 1905. A pioneer of the Mediterranean Revival style, he built hospitals, schools, and private residences. Located on San Marco Avenue, this structure was built in 1937 on the site of the old Hotel San Marco and features a stucco finish with coquina shells.



**The Old Drug Store:** Built in 1886, it was used by T. W. Speissegger and Sons until the 1960s. Located on the corner of Orange and Cordova Streets, it is now a museum.



**The City Gates:** The Spanish built the Cubo Defense Line in 1739. This gate was the only entry to the city from the north. In 1808, the walls were strengthened with stone and the coquina pillars were built.



**Cuna Street:** Cuna Street was laid out in the 1600s. It runs between Avenida Menéndez, near the Castillo de San Marcos, and Cordova Street. During the many periods of hostilities, pedestrians on Cuna Street walked within range of musket fire.



## ST. GEORGE STREET

**The City Gates, entrance to St. George Street:** St. George Street is St. Augustine's main pedestrian thoroughfare. It was begun in 1598 under orders of Spain's King Philip II and runs south from the City Gate. During the First Spanish Period, the street was known as "The Street of the Governor." The British named it in 1763 in honor of King George III. There are over twenty-five restored or reconstructed buildings of architectural diversity. The scale of St. George Street has been thoughtfully preserved.

**Genoply School House (right) 14 St. George Street:** Now known as the "Oldest School House," the Genoply House is the only surviving Second Spanish Period frame building in the old city. The house was built ca. 1788 by Juan Genoply, a Greek carpenter. The house remained in his family until 1904. It is believed that the building was used for educational purposes before the Civil War. In 1918, the Genoply House was the residence and shop of Thomas and Cora Kearns, the first to promote it as the Oldest Frame House in St. Augustine, and the first to call it the Oldest School House. In 1934, the house was sold to Walter B. Fraser, the city's mayor from 1934 to 1942. A promoter of St. Augustine historical attractions including the Fountain of Youth (p. 90), he began marketing the house as the Oldest Wooden School House in the United States Museum. The back courtyard (bottom) provides an accurate sense of the scale of these early buildings.





**Riberia House** 22 St. George Street: Riberia House is a reconstructed First Spanish Period home built on the foundation of Juan Riberia's original 1750s structure.

**Gomez House** 27 St. George Street: Part of the Spanish Quarter Village, this reconstruction of a First Spanish Period, timber-framed house represents the home of Lorenzo Gomez, a Spanish foot soldier. The simple post-and-beam construction is made of native yellow pine with mortised and tenon joining.



**Bernado Gonzales House** 37 St. George Street: Bernardo Gonzales was a Spanish cavalryman. This reconstruction of the original 1734 house is part of the Spanish Quarter Village.



**Josef Salcedo House 42 St. George Street:** Josef Salcedo was a Spanish artillery captain. This reconstruction is built on the foundation of his original eighteenth-century house that stood on this location.



**Avero House/Saint Photios Greek Orthodox Chapel 41 St. George Street:** This structure (above, right) is a reconstruction of a First Spanish Period Home (1735-43). It houses the Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine, a memorial to the first Greek settlers on the American continent, and interprets their contributions to the culture of the St. Augustine community. Saint Photios the Great was the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople during the middle of the ninth century. The shrine was dedicated on February 10, 1985. Relics of three women saints were sealed within a cavity in the top of the altar table. The interior (below) features icons executed in the traditional Byzantine style. The paintings are frescoes, applied directly to the walls and dome of the shrine. The altar table is made of Italian Botticini marble with decorative mosaics.





**de Mesa-Sanchez House** 43 St. George Street (1702-1763): The Colonial Spanish Quarter Village is a living history museum representing life in 1740s St. Augustine. The original house on this site was built by Antonio de Mesa prior to 1763. During the Second Spanish Period, Juan Sanchez enlarged the property to the rear (above, bottom) and added the second story.



**Peso de Burgo-Pellicer Houses 57 St. George Street:** This reconstruction follows plans of a frame duplex originally built in the British Period ca. 1785 by Francisco Pellicer. Jose Peso de Burgo, a shopkeeper, lived in one side of the duplex. The houses in the complex such as the candle shop (above, bottom) were built on foundations of the original structures, and preserve their original scale.



**Arivas House** 46 *St. George Street* (1710-1740): This restored Spanish colonial home features English, Spanish, and American architectural elements.



**Rodriguez-Avero-Sanchez House** 52 *St. George Street* (1565-1764): Fernando Rodriguez, a sergeant in the Spanish army, built this house during the first Spanish occupation. Antonia Avero inherited it in 1762, but fled to Cuba before the British occupation. Twenty years later she couldn't reclaim the house. It was auctioned to Juan Sanchez in 1791.



**Oliveros House** 59 *St. George Street*: The original Oliveros house was built in 1798 and survived on this site until 1908. This reconstruction is now used as a cigar factory.



**Benet Store** 62 *St. George Street*: Pedro Benet, who lived across the street (p. 28), purchased the original building on this site in 1839. It was used as a store until the late 1800s. The building survived until 1903. This Second Spanish Period reconstruction is now a gift shop.



**Villalonga House** 72 *St. George Street*: Reconstructed in 1976, this represents the home of Bartolmeo Villalonga (1789-1825), the son of Juan Villalonga, an early Minorcan land owner. The original house was built between 1815 and 1820.

**Benet House** 65 *St. George Street*: The original late-Second Spanish Period residence was built ca. 1794 by Esteban Benet, a Minorcan émigré. His great-great grandsons Stephen Vincent Benet and William Rose Benet both won Pulitzer Prizes. The reconstruction is now an ice cream parlor.





**Acosta House** 74 *St. George Street*: This historic reconstruction represents a house built between 1803 and 1812 by Jorge Acosta. Acosta, a Corsican, and his wife Margarita Villalonga, a Minorcan, were children of the New Smyrna Colony. The original coquina building was not demolished until ca. 1917. It was a private residence until the 1880s when it was used by the Women's Exchange in 1889. The reconstruction was dedicated in 1976.



**Marin-Hassett House** 97 *St. George Street*: The Marin-Hassett House is a reconstruction of a First Spanish Period upper class home. Father Thomas Hassett, who arrived with the Minorcan colony at New Smyrna, owned the house in 1787.



**Casa de Hidalgo** *St. George and Hypolita Streets*: This reconstruction was built by the Spanish government in 1965 as a contribution to St. Augustine's four hundredth anniversary activities. It portrays a First Spanish Period gentleman's house in rural Spain. It was a cafe, but is now owned by the City of St. Augustine and will be incorporated into the heritage tourism experience as a reminder of the city's Spanish legacy and today's relationships with Spain.



**Sanchez House** 105 St. George Street: The Sanchez House is a restoration of the structure built between 1807 and 1816 by Francisco Xavier Sanchez. One of the most successful planters in Florida, Sanchez derived his wealth from cattle and timber products. During the British Period (1763-1784), Sanchez served as a property agent for the Spanish monarchy during St. Augustine's transition to the British rule. During the Second Spanish Period (1784-1821) Sanchez helped reclaim property from the exiting British Government for the returning Spanish. The intermarriage of the Solana and Sanchez families with the Minorcan families began at this time and created the vast network of close family relations that exists in St. Augustine to this day.



**The Pena-Peck House 143 St. George Street:** The Pena-Peck House was built in 1750 by order of the King of Spain to be the residence of his Royal Treasurer, Juan Esteban Pena. Built of native coquina stone, this house is the finest example of First Spanish Period homes in St. Augustine. During the British Period, it was leased to Dr. John Moultrie of Charleston, South Carolina. Moultrie became lieutenant governor of Florida. He added four fireplaces and the east wing.

Dr. Seth Peck and his family arrived from Connecticut in 1833. Dr. Peck purchased this house in 1837 and completely renovated it, adding a second story and demolishing the remains of the east wing. Dr. Peck's office was on the first floor (opposite, right). His family occupied the second floor, keeping their dining room on the first floor (opposite, left). The Peck family held title to the house for ninety-four years. Anna Burt, the last survivor of the family, willed the property to the city of St. Augustine in 1931. The Woman's Exchange, of which Anna Burt was a member, agreed to maintain the house and opened it to the public in 1932.







## THE CITY CENTER AND PLAZA

**Statue of Ponce de León** (above): Ponce de León was the governor of the Spanish colony of Puerto Rico. In 1513, he began the voyage that would result in his discovery of Florida. Erected in 1923, this statue was a gift from Dr. Andrew Anderson. It is a copy of a statue in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

**Government House** (right, top): Buildings on this site have been used as the offices and residences of colonial governors for two hundred years. In 1690, the first wooden building was replaced by one of coquina, which burned in 1702. Remodeled in 1713, it was again used as the Governor's Palace. In 1935 it was further remodeled to resemble a structure in a 1734 British painting. Today, the Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board occupies the upper floors and the Museum of St. Augustine utilizes the first floor.

**The Public Market** (right, center): There have been public markets on this site since 1598. King Philip II of Spain decreed that all colonial towns should have a central plaza. On market day, the bell in the cupola announced to villagers that produce, meats, and fish were available for sale. The current open-air building was built in 1824.

**Plaza de la Constitución** (right, bottom): The plaza is named for the obelisk, seen in the distance, which commemorates the liberal Spanish constitution of 1812. To the right is the base of the Civil War Monument built in 1872.

