



# Sharing The Story Through **HERITAGE TOURISM**





## Cortez Fishing Village

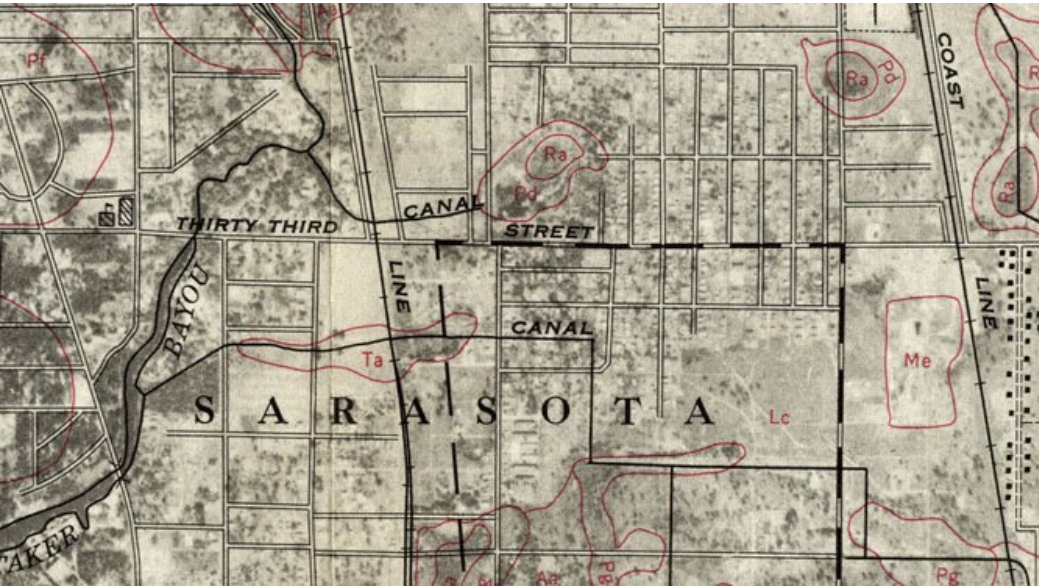




Highwaymen Historic Trail



Perry Harvey Park, Tampa



## Sarasota's Newtown Conservation Historic District

- Began in 2015 with \$50,000
- Volunteer researchers
- Community partners
- Manasota ASALH





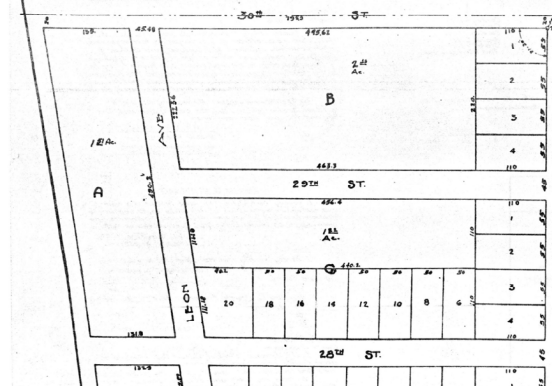
- Generates \$4 billion
- Museums, historic districts, trails, sites



# IRVINGTON HEIGHTS

A SUBDIVISION OF THE 10 ACRES BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS, STARTING AT THE SE COR. OF NE 1/4 OF NW 1/4, THENCE NORTH 660 FT., THENCE WEST TO 500 FT. RIGHT OF WAY LINE, THENCE SOUTH TO 40 ACRE LINE, THENCE EAST TO POINT OF BEGINNING, SEC. 10, T. 36 S., R. 18 E., DAKOTA CO. FLORIDA. ALSO A STRIP 50 WIDE ON THE WEST SIDE OF ORANGE AVE. BEING A PART OF THE SW 1/4 OF NE 1/4 DEC. 18, T. 36 S., R. 18 E. EAST ORIGINAL SURVEY & PLAT BY CANTY & LIDDELL, CE.

RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK PAGE 89-1-12-1925  
 R.E. PLATTER, BY J. PAUL GAINES, CL. DEC. 1921.



### DEDICATION

The streets named in this plat are hereby dedicated to the public use by the undersigned owner.

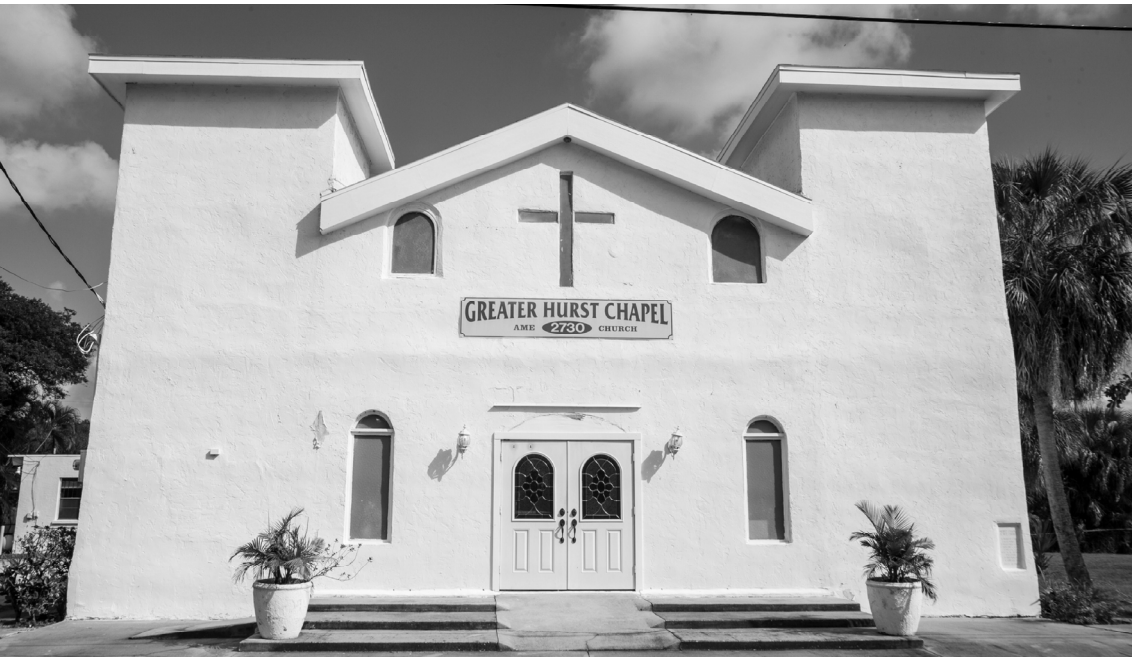
WITNESSED by the President and Secretary of the  
 Florida Cripple Land Co.  
 Wm. A. Kohn, President  
 J. P. ... Secretary

Notary Public, County of Sarasota, Florida.  
 I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original as shown to me and that the same has been duly recorded in the public records of this county and that the same is a true and correct copy of the original as shown to me and that the same is a true and correct copy of the original as shown to me and that the same is a true and correct copy of the original as shown to me.

This is to certify that I have made a check of the plat shown on this page and that the same is a true and correct copy of the original as shown to me and that the same is a true and correct copy of the original as shown to me and that the same is a true and correct copy of the original as shown to me.

APPROVED  
 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
 J. P. ... County Engineer

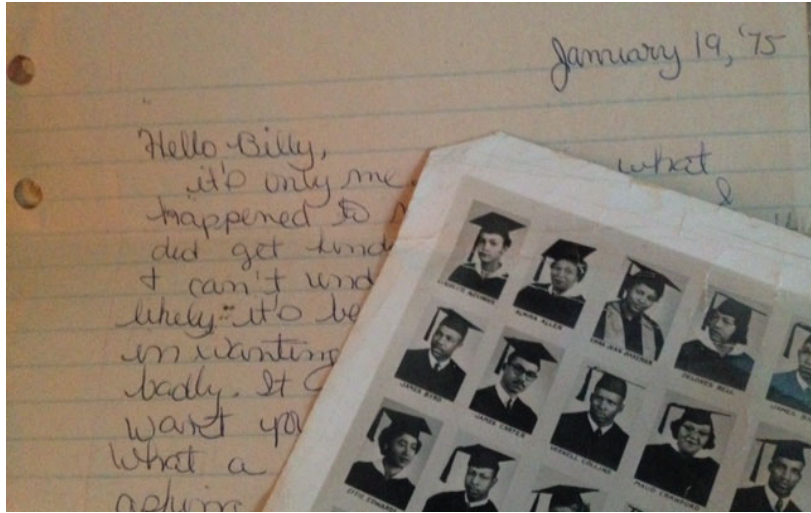




**The team combed libraries, and collections searching for primary and secondary source documents.**

# HISTORY FOUND IN FRAGMENTS







**The documents were used to  
write, design, launch, post, pitch, publish:**

1

# OVERTOWN & NEWTOWN EARLY SETTLEMENT



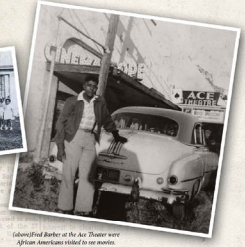
*Overtown became Sarasota's first African American community in 1885. The name "Overtown" evolved from the phrase "over town."*

Many African Americans had houses near downtown, on 4th and 5th Streets. They could walk from there to Main Street – then called "over town," to get to their jobs. The community thrived into the 1910s and 1920s along 12th Street and Mango Avenue (now 6th Street and Central Avenue). Economic gains from the 1920s Florida Land Boom enabled residents to establish more churches and to open businesses, including boarding houses and hotels.

A small section within Overtown was referred to as Black Bottom. The population steadily increased, but expansion was limited because it was surrounded by "Caucasian Race Only" neighborhoods such as Gillespie Park, Hillcrest and Valencia Terrace.



(above) Birthday party on Cherry Ave. Public Housing. Courtesy by Beth Niles.



Identified Fred Barber as the Air Thruer was African American killed in war service.



*Rev. Lewis Colson and his wife Irene are the only African Americans buried there.*

Rev. Colson's first name has been spelled both "Louise" and "Lewis" in various publications. On ordination papers and three loan documents dated in the late 1800s, the name is spelled Lewis.



Jeffrey Babbitt, formerly enslaved in North Carolina, came to the area in 1856 and worked for the Whitaker Family. He died at age 70 in 1916.

*Rosemary Cemetery, where many of Sarasota's founders were buried, is located in Overtown.*

During the early 1900s, white Sarasotans considered it undesirable to have to travel through the African American community in order to visit the almost exclusively white cemetery.



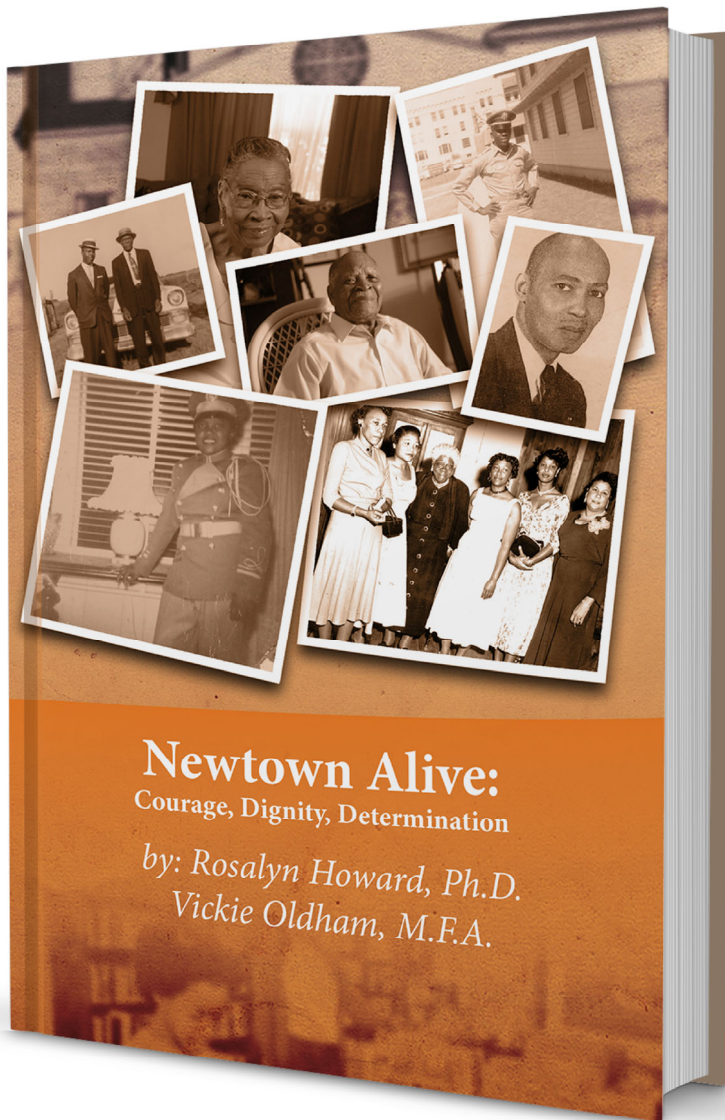
(above) Rev. Lewis Colson's gravestone in Rosemary's Cemetery.

Driven by the white residents' discontent and the growing African American population, Sarasota's town leaders encouraged the development of new housing north of downtown. In 1914, Charles N. Thompson and his son Russell opened a subdivision with 240 lots on forty acres in Newtown. Newtown Heights opened in the mid-1920s to accommodate the increasing population.

Courtesy Sarasota County Historical Resources © Cultural Resource Center

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
**URL:** [www.newtownalive.com](http://www.newtownalive.com)  
**EMAIL:** [info@newtownalive.com](mailto:info@newtownalive.com)  
**DOWNLOAD OUR APP IN THE APP STORE**





HOME ABOUT NEWS NEWTOWN'S HISTORY CONTACT US BOOK A TOUR

# the Rich History of Newtown

THE HISTORY & CULTURAL HERITAGE OF NEWTOWN, ONE OF SARASOTA'S OLDEST COMMUNITIES.

Sway to its rhythm, tap into the neighborhood's heartbeat, visit landmarks and meet its courageous trailblazers who built a thriving community. Newtown is a resilient community undergoing revitalization and redevelopment. It has a rich legacy and is located on Florida's Cultural Coast considered "the cultural center of the southeastern United States."

GET THE BOOK TODAY! DOWNLOAD THE REPORT

## Newtown's History

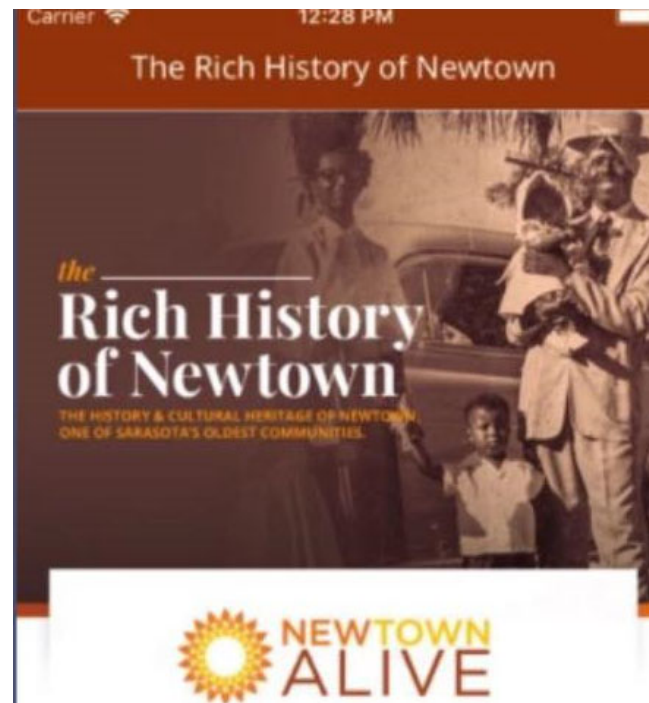
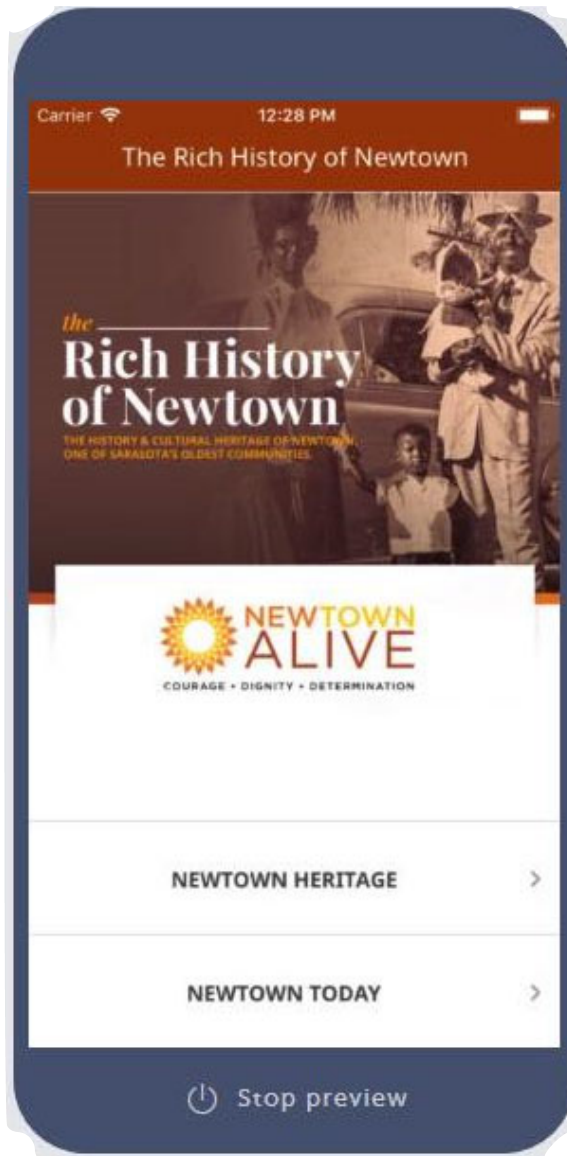
**DIGNITY, COURAGE AND DETERMINATION**

Your search is over! Actually, the first step of your study about how Newtown developed and grew is done. A team of experts made your work easier. Historians, a cultural anthropologist, architectural historian and preservationist joined volunteers in combing the area's archives and repositories to collect information about Newtown and Overtown's history.

Residents shared their photographs, treasured memories and memorabilia.

Over 400 primary and secondary source documents about life in two of Sarasota's oldest communities were found. We hope our work will increase your curiosity, raise more questions and spark new





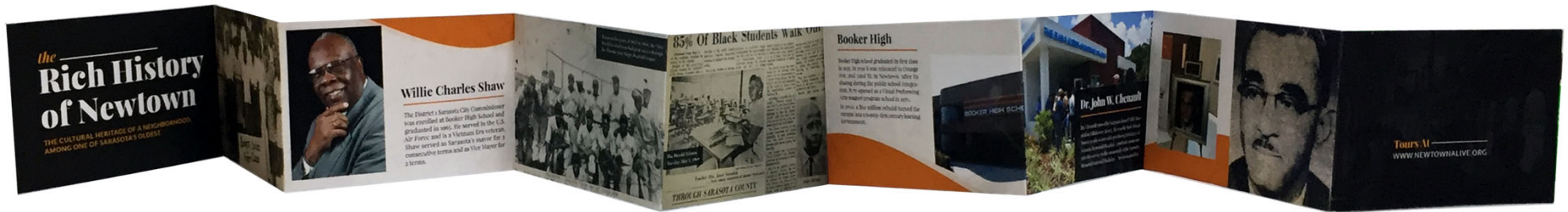
News

## A Newly Excavated Settlement Highlights Florida's History as a Haven for Escaped Slaves

Under the direction of then Gen. Andrew Jackson, the U.S. Navy attacks Prospect Bluff Fort. A cannon ball strikes the fort's stockpile of ammunition causing an explosion that instantly kills about 270 of 320 inhabitants. Some survivors, including the fort's Black commandant Garcon, were executed. Displaced Blacks moved south and throughout Florida.  
<https://www.sarasotamagazine.com/articles/2018/6/27/a-newly-excavated-settlement-highlights-florida-s-history-as-a-haven-for-escaped-slaves>

Read More



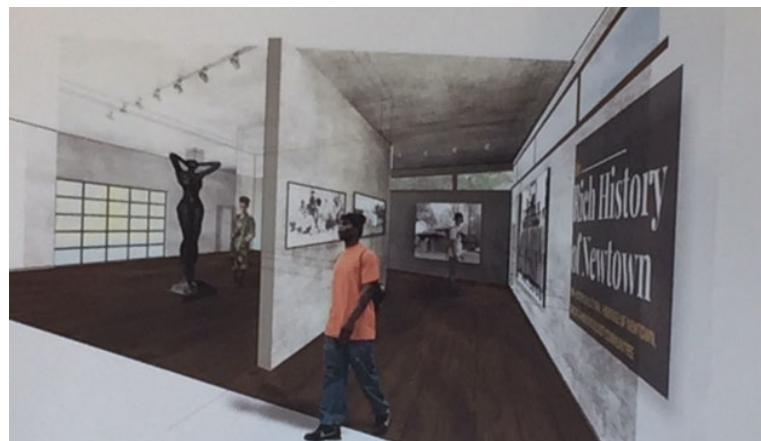
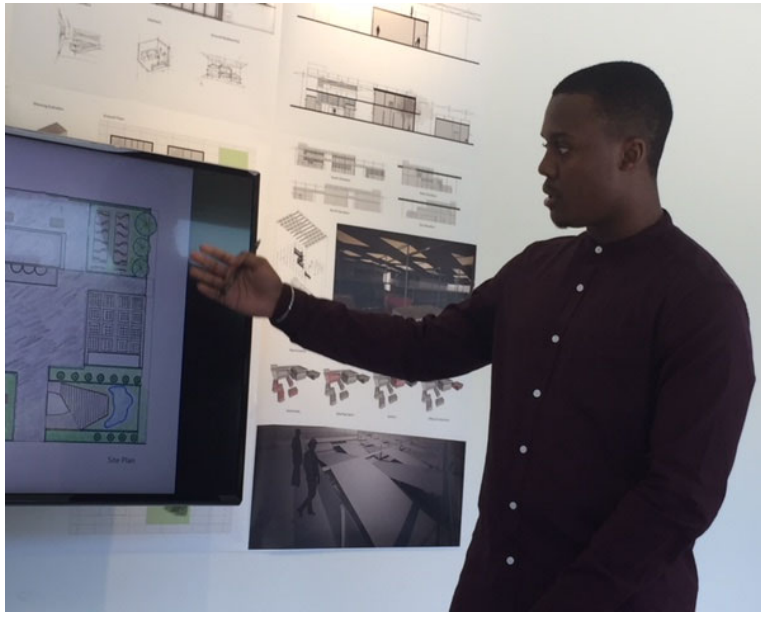








# Projects In The Works









# Our Team

t



















NEWTOWN  
ALIVE

Thank you