



PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE ILLUMINATIONS

4931 South Peninsula Drive • Ponce Inlet, Florida 32127 • www.ponceinlet.org • www.lighthouselocker.org • (386) 761-1821 • lighthouse@ponceinlet.org
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THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members,

I hope this issue of *Illuminations* finds you healthy and well despite the ongoing effects of COVID-19 on our daily lives. As I reflect on the many challenges the Association encountered in 2020, I cannot help but feel a sense of profound respect and gratitude for you, our members. Thanks to your support, the Preservation Association was better equipped to navigate the economic storm wrought by the pandemic and concluded the year 2020 in relatively good shape given the circumstances.

Ray Davis once said that “a challenge only becomes an obstacle when you bow to it.” The Association did not bow to the challenges it encountered in 2020; it overcame them. With approximately 90% of the museum’s income generated directly through onsite admission and merchandise sales, the financial impact of COVID-19 on lighthouse operations was significant. The Preservation Association fell short of its projected income for 2019-2020 by 29%. While this could have proven disastrous, the administrative department adjusted its budget to accommodate this shortfall by operating at reduced levels and limiting spending whenever possible. The Preservation Association also pursued alternative revenue opportunities including the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) offered through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and public and private grants. You can learn more about the Association’s

activities and performance during fiscal year 2019-2020 by reading the *President’s Annual Report* located online at www.ponceinlet.org.

I am pleased to announce that the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association was recently awarded a \$58,050 grant by the Florida Lighthouse Association (FLA) to help fund the restoration of the principal keeper dwelling roof which has been clad in asphalt shingles since the 1990s. This important project was originally planned for 2019-2020 but was cancelled due to COVID-19. Thanks to the FLA’s generous grant the museum can start this important project in January, 2021. I invite you to read more about the Principal Keeper Dwelling Roof Restoration Project and the important role that the Florida Lighthouse Association plays in preserving Florida’s 30 surviving lighthouses on page 8 of this issue of *Illuminations*.

I am also happy to announce that the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association has entered into a formal agreement with the Paul B. Hunter and Constance D. Hunter Charitable Foundation in support of the Pacetti Hotel which was officially placed on the National Register of Historic Places on November 23, 2020. A partnership more than one year in the making, this exciting agreement will secure naming rights for the historic Pacetti Hotel Museum in memory of Mrs. Constance D. Hunter in exchange

for the Foundation’s generous financial support over a three-year period and a pledge to match all other donations to the Pacetti Hotel up to a combined value of \$250,000. These funds will be utilized by the Association to restore, preserve, rehabilitate, and develop the historic Pacetti Hotel Museum. Please turn to page 9 and 10 to learn more about this important partnership, the Foundation, and Mrs. Constance D. Hunter and her husband Paul.

The negative impact of COVID-19 on Florida tourism as whole and lighthouse visitation in particular is expected to continue well into 2021. As such, the Preservation Association anticipates a significant reduction in revenue for the remainder of this fiscal year. As an Association member, you are one of the light station’s most valuable assets. Your continued support will help us achieve our mission to preserve and disseminate the maritime and social history of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station at this difficult time.

We greatly appreciate your patronage and look forward to seeing you at the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse and Museum in the near future. Stay safe and healthy.

Best Regards,

Ed Gunnlaugsson

Ed Gunnlaugsson
Executive Director
Ponce Inlet Lighthouse

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THE PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION IS DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND DISSEMINATION OF THE MARITIME AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHT STATION.

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Subscription is a benefit of membership in the Association. *ILLUMINATIONS* welcomes letters and comments from our readers.

Please Note: Posted hours of operation are subject to change due to COVID-19. Please check current hours of operation on our main website at www.ponceinlet.org.

REGULAR HOURS OF OPERATION

SEPTEMBER 7, 2020 – MAY 30, 2021
OPEN DAILY FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 6:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION SOLD AT 5:00 PM)

MAY 31, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 6, 2021
OPEN DAILY FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 9:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION SOLD AT 8:00 PM)

SPECIAL HOURS OF OPERATION

RACE WEEK 2021 EXTENDED HOURS
FEBRUARY 5-6 & 12-13, 2021 (FRI & SAT)
FEBRUARY 15-17, 2019 (MON – WED)
OPEN FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 7:00 PM
(LAST ADMISSION SOLD AT 6:00 PM)

BIKE WEEK 2021 EXTENDED HOURS
MARCH 11-13, 2021 (THUR - SAT)
OPEN FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 7:00 PM
(LAST ADMISSION SOLD AT 6:00 PM)

SCHEDULED TOWER CLOSURES

JANUARY 28, 2021 (THURSDAY)
TOWER CLOSED FROM 4:30 PM UNTIL 6:00 PM
MUSEUM AND GIFT SHOP OPEN UNTIL 6:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION SOLD AT 5:00 PM)

FEBRUARY 27, 2021 (SATURDAY)
TOWER CLOSED FROM 5:15 PM UNTIL 6:00 PM
MUSEUM AND GIFT SHOP OPEN UNTIL 6:00 PM
(LAST ADMISSION SOLD AT 5:00 PM)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

JANUARY 18, 2021 (MONDAY)
BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (CLOSED TO GENERAL PUBLIC. OPEN TO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP)

MARCH 15, 2021 (MONDAY)
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING (CLOSED TO GENERAL PUBLIC AND MEMBERSHIP)

FEBRUARY 15, 2021 (MONDAY)
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING (CLOSED TO GENERAL PUBLIC AND MEMBERSHIP)

Please Note: Currently scheduled Board of Trustees and Quarterly Membership meetings will be held virtually due to COVID-19.

CLIMB TO THE MOON SCHEDULE

CLIMB TO THE MOON

JANUARY 28, 2021
(THURSDAY)
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

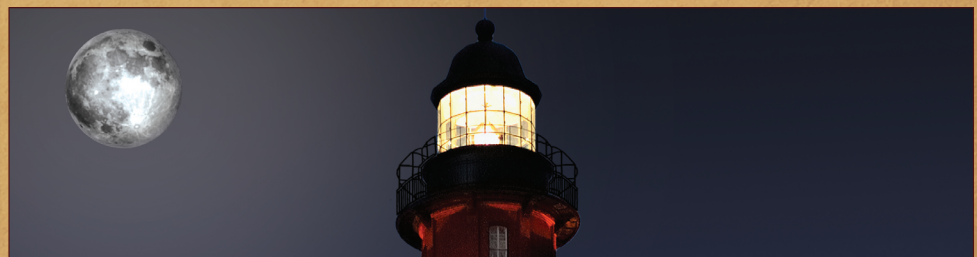
FEBRUARY 27, 2021
(SATURDAY)
5:45 PM – 7:15 PM

MARCH 28, 2021
(SUNDAY)
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Climb to the Moon at Florida's tallest lighthouse! Treat your significant other, family, friends, coworkers, or simply yourself to breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean, World's Most Famous Beach, Ponce Inlet, and inland waterways under the golden glow of the setting sun. View the full moon as it rises above the Atlantic Ocean and enjoy panoramic vistas of the Florida coast by moonlight. Join the old lighthouse keeper as he leads you on your journey into the past, and discover what it was like to live and work at the Ponce Inlet Light Station long ago.

Open to young and old alike, Climb to the Moon is offered only once a lunar month when the moon is at its fullest. Participation for each 1.5 hour event is currently limited to only 15 guests due to COVID-19.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and are sold on a first come first serve basis. Please contact the museum's administrative assistant by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 10 or via email at admin@ponceinlet.org for additional information regarding this unique event and ticket availability. Prices are \$35 for non-members and \$30 for members. **Please Note: Scheduled Climb to the Moon events may be subject to cancellation due to state mandates regarding COVID-19.**



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Pam Williams
Gainesville, FL

FEBRUARY 12, 2021, BEACH RACING DAY

FRIDAY - 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Travel back in time and discover the wild and woolly roots of Stock Car Racing during the 16th Annual Beach Racing Day at the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse and Museum. See historic beach racing cars from the Living Legends of Racing and talk with drivers, owners, and mechanics who risked life and limb in pursuit of the checkered flag on the World's Most Famous Beach.

Note: The availability of onsite workshops and other scheduled activities for this event are subject to change or cancellation based on developments regarding COVID-19.

MARCH 4-6 & 10-12, 2021, BIKE WEEK AT THE LIGHTHOUSE

THURSDAY-SATURDAY - 10:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Take a ride down South Atlantic Avenue to one of Bike Week's favorite destinations! Discover over 130 years of maritime history as you tour one of the largest and best preserved light stations in the country. Explore the museum, participate in special presentations, and climb 175 feet to the top of Florida's tallest lighthouse where spectacular views the World's Most Famous Beach, Ponce Inlet, and inland waterways await.

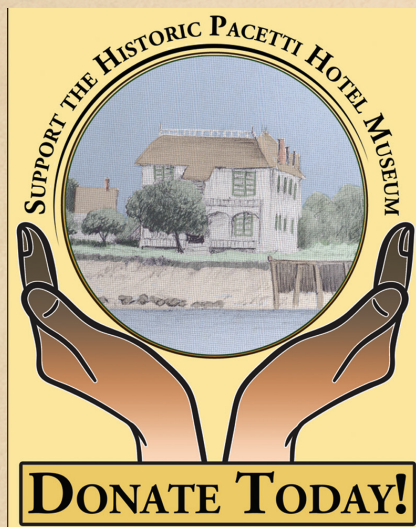
Note: The availability of onsite workshops and other scheduled activities for this event are subject to change or cancellation based on developments regarding COVID-19.

MARCH 20, 2021, FLORIDA HERITAGE DAY

SATURDAY - 10:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Discover the fascinating history of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station and local region on Florida Heritage Day! Enjoy historic reenactments, educational programs, and other family-oriented activities from 10:30 am until 2:30 pm. Learn what it was like to live and work in and around the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse at the turn-of-the-20th century as you explore one of the largest and most complete historic light stations in the country.

Note: The availability of onsite workshops and other scheduled activities for this event are subject to change or cancellation based on developments regarding COVID-19.



DOUBLE YOUR DONATION!

JOIN THE PAUL B. HUNTER & CONSTANCE D. HUNTER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION IN SUPPORT OF THE PACETTI HOTEL

Give Today and Help Support the Preservation, Restoration, Rehabilitation & Development of the Pacetti Hotel Museum! The Hunter Foundation has pledged to match all donations to the Pacetti Hotel dollar for dollar up to a total value of \$250,000!

ATTENTION READER: Unless otherwise noted, all scheduled events and activities at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse are provided free of charge to participating guests with the price of regular admission. Additional information regarding scheduled events can be found online at www.ponceinlet.org under the Calendar of Events tab. Individuals wishing to learn more about these and other upcoming scheduled events may contact the museum's educational programs department by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 18, or via email at eduprograms@ponceinlet.org

FLA Grant funds Principal Keeper Dwelling Roof Restoration

The Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is pleased to announce the planned restoration of the principal keeper dwelling's roof thanks to a generous grant provided by the Florida Lighthouse Association.



With the exception of the copper-topped tower lantern room and oil-storage building, all of the light station's historic structures were originally built with wood shingle (i.e. "shake") roofs. Wood shingles are thin, tapered pieces of wood that are fastened to roofs in rows using an off-set overlapping pattern. The terms "shake" and "shingle" are often used interchangeably although shingles are technically sawn into shape whereas shakes are split directly from a log. Regardless of how they were produced, shingles/shakes were historically made from hardy, insect and rot-resistant species of wood including redwood, cedar, cypress, and heart pine. Modern shingles/shakes are often pressure-treated (PT) with liquid preservatives to increase their longevity.

Shake roofs are strong, reliable, and generally problem free. A well-constructed shake roof can last for many decades, especially when it is maintained. The roofs of the three keeper dwellings and outbuildings were well-cared for by the US Lighthouse Service (originally the US Light-House Establishment) and its resident keepers. This fact is documented in historic records that discuss repairs to the station's wood-shake roofs on numerous occasions from 1887 through the 1930s.

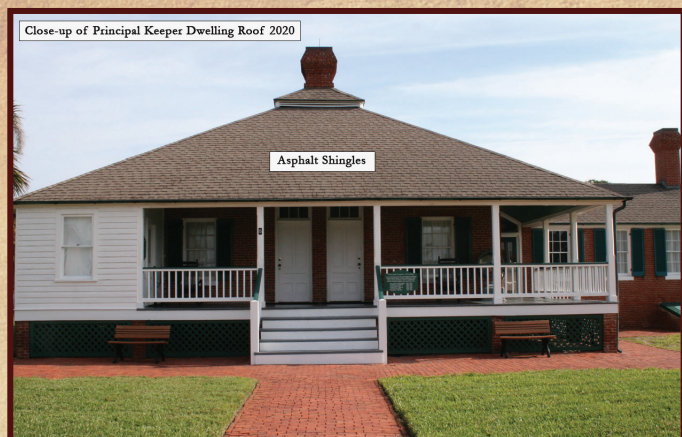
The US Lighthouse Service was officially abolished in 1939 and responsibility for the nation's aids to

navigation system (including the Ponce Inlet Light Station) was transferred to the US Coast Guard. Recognizing the need for experienced servicemen to perform its newly assigned duties, the Coast Guard offered US Lighthouse Service personnel the opportunity to join the military rather than retire. Many former keepers chose this option and continued to serve as enlisted Coast Guardsmen and officers.

The light station was properly maintained by resident staff during its first decade as a US Coast Guard facility. However, this began to change in 1953 when the tower's beacon was fully automated and the need for resident lighthouse keepers no longer existed. After this date the station stood essentially abandoned save for occasional visits by Coast Guard personnel.

The departure of resident keepers exacted a heavy toll on the lighthouse and its surrounding structures. The 1950s and 60s witnessed the once meticulously cared for buildings and grounds slowly deteriorate due to the lack of maintenance and random acts of vandalism. Local residents at the time told stories of teenagers climbing the lighthouse and launching pieces of iron torn from the gallery deck railing into the roofs of the first and second assistant keepers' dwellings, of bricks being thrown through windows, vagrants taking up residence inside the station's various buildings, and of fires being lit in the tower's weight well. One of the most extreme examples of vandalism involved the oil storage building which was set on fire in order to steal the copper roof panels in 1970.

The physical decline of the light station continued until 1972 when it was declared surplus property by the federal government and acquired by the Town of Ponce Inlet. Responsibility for the light station was immediately passed to the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association which made repairing the damaged roofs of the keeper dwellings one of its first items of business. The roofs of the first and second assistant keepers' dwellings were initially restored in 1973 with cedar shingles, and again in 2000 using PT pine.



The roof of the principal keeper’s dwelling retained its original wood shingles until 1995 when it was reroofed with asphalt shingles. The Preservation Association’s decision to use modern materials was most likely a financial one. The organization had just completed construction of the Ayres Davies Lens Exhibit Building and may have lacked the necessary funds to re-roof the principal keeper’s dwelling with wood shakes due to the higher cost. These asphalt shingles have reached the end of their serviceable life and need to be replaced.

Restoration of the principal keeper dwelling roof is scheduled to begin in January, 2021. The old asphalt shingles will be removed and pressure-treated western red cedar shingles installed in their place. Copper flashing and drip edge will also be used to replicate the building’s original 1887 appearance and material composition. Deteriorated wood roofing elements will be repaired with reclaimed lumber dating to the late 1800s/early 1900s as needed. All work will be completed by Walker Roofing, a locally-owned company that the Preservation Association has worked with on several occasions in the past.

This important restoration project was originally scheduled for the summer of 2020 but the financial impact of COVID-19 initially forced the Association to postpone the work until next fiscal year or later. The fact that the Association can begin in January is only possible due to a \$58,050 grant from the Florida Lighthouse Association (FLA). This generous gift was provided to the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum in November through the FLA’s Gene Oaks Lighthouse Preservation Grant program.

The Florida Lighthouse Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of Florida’s 29 surviving historic lighthouses. FLA members include

delegates from lighthouses around the state, historic preservationists, educators, lighthouse enthusiasts, and more. The mission of the Florida Lighthouse Association is to “*preserve, restore, protect and defend Florida’s lighthouse towers, along with their material culture, buildings, artifacts and records to assure that the magic of Florida’s lighthouses and lighthouse keepers will be available for the enjoyment and understanding of future generations.*”



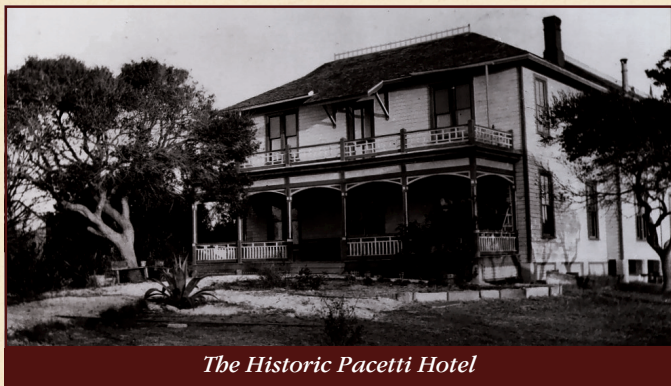
The Gene Oaks Lighthouse Grant program is funded through the statewide sale of the FLA’s *Visit Our Lights* specialty license plate. This unique tag features a beautiful rendering of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse at sunrise and is available at most Florida DMV offices and licensed service locations. In addition to its eye-catching design, all proceeds realized from the sale of the *Visit Our Lights* license plate (90% of the \$25 annual specialty plate fee) are used to fund the preservation and restoration of Florida’s historic light stations. The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum encourages its members to consider purchasing a Visit Our Lights license plate when they renew their tags to help fund the FLA’s efforts to preserve Florida’s historic beacons.

The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association would like to express its sincere thanks and appreciation to the Florida Lighthouse Association for its generous support. You can learn more about the FLA, its mission, and how to become a member by visiting the Florida Lighthouse Association website at www.floralighthouses.org.



Pacetti Hotel on the National Register of Historic Places

While the paperwork was still being finalized on the purchase of the Pacetti Hotel from the Greenacres Foundation, our museum's curator Ellen Henry and registrar Felipe De Paula were hard at work researching as much about the history of the Pacetti Hotel as they could find out. They scoured through newspapers, general lighthouse correspondence, historic archives, and much more to compile an extensive chronology and history of the building we were about to acquire. Their efforts meant that mere days after the purchase of the Pacetti Hotel we were able to apply for it to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.



The Historic Pacetti Hotel

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of our nation's historical places worthy of preservation. It is maintained by the National Park Service and includes properties from all over the country. Being listed on the National Register is an honor that was bestowed upon the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse in 1972, just as our Preservation Association was being created.

It is a tremendous honor to have the Pacetti Hotel placed on the National Register. Being listed will help our institution in its efforts to preserve, restore, and rehabilitate the property and should also allow for more grant opportunities in the future. Besides those benefits, having the Pacetti Hotel on the National Register brings upon it great prestige and establishes the significance of the site for future generations.

What does it mean to be on the National Register? As stated previously, being listed on the National Register of Historic Places is an honor bestowed to historic sites that are deemed to be worthy of preservation. But what makes a property or site worthy of

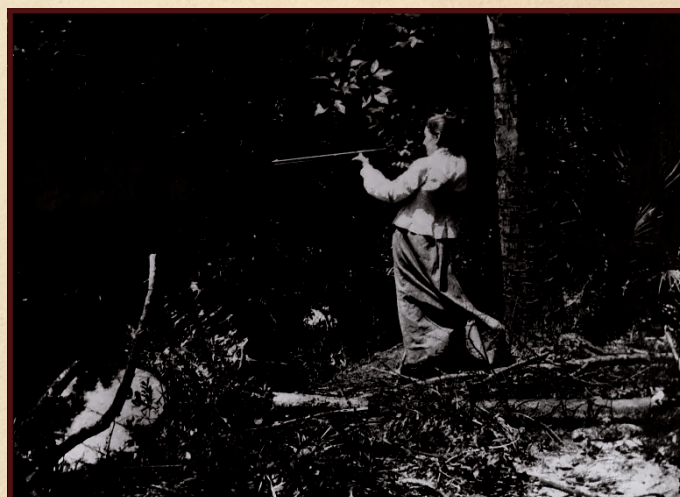
preservation? According to the National Park Service guidelines, a property must meet at least one out of four criteria:

- **Criterion A:** "associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history"
- **Criterion B:** "associated with the lives of significant persons in our past"
- **Criterion C:** "embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction"
- **Criterion D:** "That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory"

The Pacetti Hotel met both Criterion A and Criterion C.

Criterion A requires that the property or site up for consideration be related to the overall history of the local area. In the case of the Pacetti Hotel, its use as a fishing resort during the late 19th and early 20th centuries directly relate to the growth of tourism in Florida during those times. Throughout that turn of the century, hotels and attractions popped up and grew as railroads and steamboats brought more and more visitors to our state.

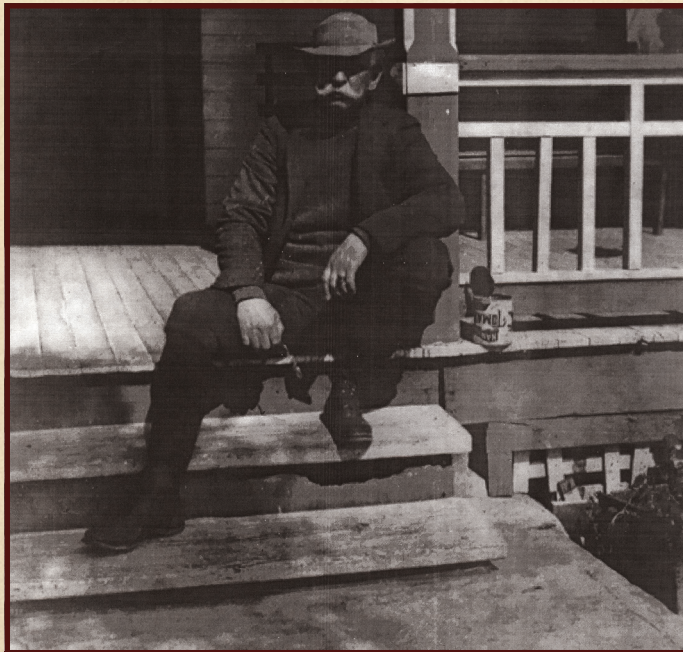
Criterion C relates to the architectural significance of a property being considered. As it stands, the Pacetti



Hunting and Fishing were two popular activities that attracted tourists to the Pacetti Hotel. Martha Pacetti is seen here hunting in nearby Spruce Creek.

PACETTI HOTEL JOINS NRHP

Hotel was and still is an exceptional example of the Florida Cracker architectural style. Popular in the north and central regions of the state during the late 1800s, the Florida Cracker style featured many characteristics intended to cope with the harsh Florida heat and humidity. Raised floors allowed for air circulation under the house, large double-hung windows provided air circulation inside the house, heart pine construction mitigated wood rot from the humid environment, etc. These qualities, among others, were typical of the Florida Cracker style and are all present in the Pacetti Hotel today.



This large porch on the east side of the Pacetti Hotel kept the sun off the wall, cooling the building slightly and giving visitors a shady open area to relax in.

What's involved in the process?

Placement on the National Register of Historic Places is a long and complicated process. We were told at the beginning of this process that it could take anywhere from nine to twelve months to finally be listed, and that was before the world was struck by the Covid-19 pandemic that understandably diverted resources away from National Register applications and complicated things even further. Each state carries out its own process for determining which properties are deemed historically significant, then the states submit their vetted candidates to the National Park Service for final review and placement on the National Register if all provided paperwork is accurate and sufficient to prove that the property has met the appropriate criteria.

The Florida process began with the preliminary application, which we submitted mere days after purchasing the Pacetti Hotel. After being reviewed by the Department of State's Division of Historical Resources, we were partnered with a staff member from the Bureau of Historic Preservation to edit and complete an application that adhered to strictly-enforced National Park Service guidelines. Normally this part of the process is where the state's staff member conducts research into the property up for consideration and writes an application for the property owners. In our case, our staff members had already conducted extensive research into the Pacetti Hotel and provided the Bureau with all the information they could have possibly needed. This prior research greatly reduced the amount of time necessary to complete the application, and it was submitted to Florida's National Register Review Board for consideration. This review board normally meets quarterly and includes well-respected experts in the fields of history, archeology, and architecture.

It was around this time that Covid-19 began to make headlines worldwide and eventually led to a quarantine in our state of Florida throughout the month of April. The lighthouse closed to the public in order to help contain the spread of the virus, and staff members were asked to work from home where possible in order to protect themselves and their families. Florida's Department of State also reacted by shifting their employees to working-from-home, while attention and resources were diverted towards managing the pandemic. Understandably there was a delay in our National Register application process, but luckily the review board resumed their meetings in a digital format. The Pacetti Hotel was on the agenda for the August 6th, 2020 Review Board meeting where staff members Ellen Henry, Felipe De Paula, and Ed Gunn were all present digitally. After presenting our case and answering questions, the Review Board unanimously voted to recommend the Pacetti Hotel for placement on the National Register based on criteria A and C for both historical significance as well as architectural significance. The approved application was submitted to the NPS by the Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation on October 17th, 2020 and placed on the National Park Service's list of properties awaiting review.

The NPS Review Board met the following month to determine if the Pacetti Hotel met the strict criteria set forth by the National Park Service for inclusion on the

PACETTI HOTEL JOINS NRHP

Pacetti Hotel joins NRHP (continued)

National Register. The Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is pleased to announce that the hotel passed the NPS review process with flying colors and was officially added to the National Registry of Historic Places on November 23, 2020. Placement on the National Register will identify the Pacetti Hotel as a historically significant building in the national database and help build public awareness and appreciation for the property's unique role in the history and development of both the Town of Ponce Inlet and greater Volusia County region. Inclusion will also make the property eligible for special NRHP programs and historic preservation grants at the local, state, and national levels. We hope all Association members share in our excitement as we celebrate this important achievement.

Individuals wishing to make a financial contribution in support of the Association's current efforts to preserve, restore, and rehabilitate the historic Pacetti Hotel and develop the site into the Constance D. Hunter Historic Pacetti Hotel Museum can do so in several ways:

- **On-Site Donations:** Our friendly sales associates can process in-person donations inside the lighthouse gift shop at any time during the museum's normal hours of operation.
- **Online Donations:** Pacetti Hotel donations can be made online at www.lighthouselocker.org. Simply select the Pacetti Hotel Fund from the list of available donation options.
- **Mail-In Donations:** Pacetti Hotel donations can also be mailed directly to the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse at 4931 S. Peninsula Drive, Ponce Inlet, FL, 32127. Please make checks payable to the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse.

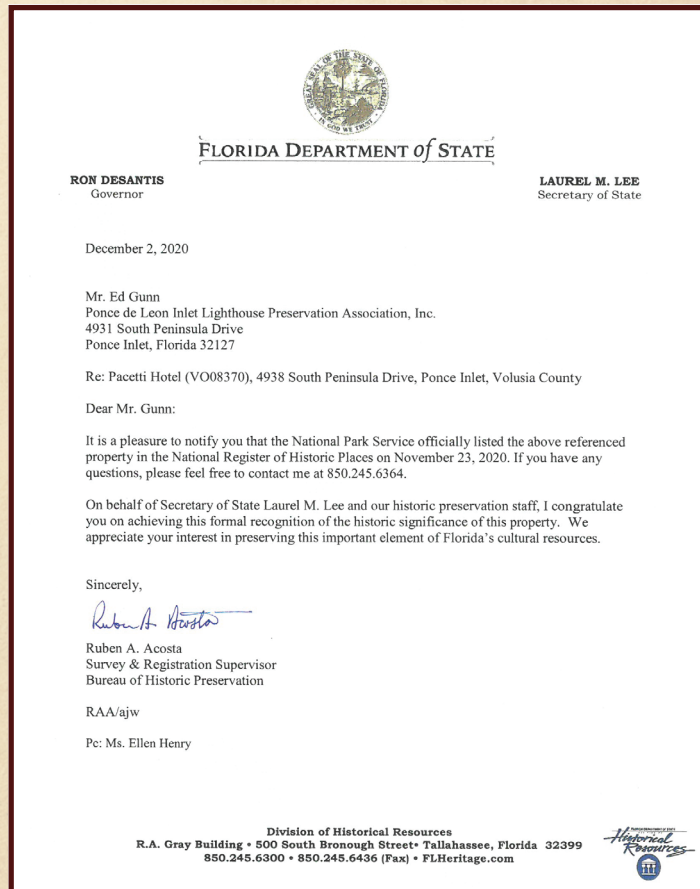


The Pacetti Hotel is now on the National Register of Historic Places

We encourage anyone interested in donating to the Pacetti Hotel or learning more about the Association's plans to preserve, restore, rehabilitate, and develop the Pacetti Hotel Museum in partnership with the Hunter Foundation to contact Executive Director Ed Gunn by phone at (386)761-1821 ext. 15 or via email at edgunn@ponceilet.org. Thank you for your support.

Double Your Charitable Donation Today!

Double your donation to the Pacetti Hotel before the close of the 2020 tax year! In addition to its generous contribution, the Hunter Foundation has also pledged to match all additional hotel donations up to a combined value of \$250,000. This offer is a wonderful opportunity for anyone looking to maximize the funding potential of their contribution in support of the Pacetti Hotel project. Any donations made in support of the Pacetti Hotel will be matched one-hundred percent by the Foundation, effectively doubling the value of your charitable gift. Best of all, your donation may qualify as a charitable write-off on your 2020 taxes!



Constance D. Hunter: A Life of Giving

The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse and Museum is proud to announce that the Paul B. Hunter and Constance D. Hunter Charitable Foundation has generously decided to aid our institution in our efforts to restore the nearby Pacetti Hotel. It is our combined goal that this historic structure that is so intrinsically tied to our history here at the lighthouse be preserved, restored, and open to the public for educational and cultural purposes. As such, we thought our members might want to learn more about the Hunters themselves and in particular, the late Mrs. Hunter's legacy of generosity towards various communities and goals.



Constance Hunter

Constance Hunter was born in 1923 in Devizes, England, a small town located 90 miles west of London. Noted for its sense of community, historic markets, and its proximity to Stonehenge, it was perhaps here that Connie Hunter, as those who knew her called her, developed her spirit of

giving. As a young woman in England, she volunteered in bomb shelters throughout the Second World War. In these shelters she would comfort and entertain young children during such a traumatic experience. Later in life she is reported to have shared just how terrible the daily bombings were. Following the conclusion of the war, Constance Hunter went to Austin's Business College in nearby Bath, England. She was soon working as a secretary when she met Paul.

After marrying and moving to the United States, the Hunters eventually settled in California. Paul had become a founding member of the San Francisco company Varian Associates. As a patent attorney, Paul handled matters relating to the Silicon Valley company's patents and intellectual property records.

Upon retirement, the Hunters moved to Ponce Inlet in the 1970s. Here Mrs. Hunter instantly became involved with the local community and contributed to various causes and organizations. She generously supported the local garden club, the town of Ponce Inlet itself, as well as our very own Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association during our infancy. She also became a founding member of the Ponce Inlet Lions

Club, a group focused on serving local communities while encouraging humanitarian causes.

A few years after the passing of her husband in 1980, Constance Hunter established the Paul Benwood Hunter Memorial Scholarship, awarded to engineering students at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Mrs. Hunter served on the Board of Visitors at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University from 2002 to 2011, where she supported and advocated for the education of women. In 2007, she also established the Constance D. Hunter Scholarship for Women to provide financial aid to female students.



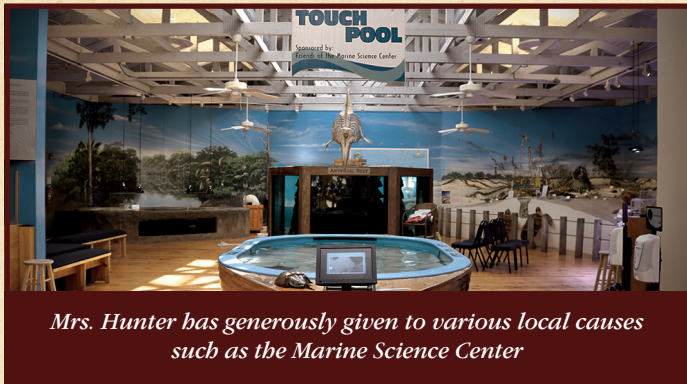
Timucuan Oaks Garden Dedicated to Mrs. Hunter

Constance Hunter passed away on February 23rd, 2014. Upon her death, she bequeathed another one-million-dollars to her two scholarships at Embry-Riddle. The Paul B. Hunter and Constance D. Hunter Charitable Foundation continues to support worthy causes like the Historic Pacetti Hotel Museum to this day. In the almost-seven years since her passing, her foundation has donated to and supported the causes of institutions from all over the country, including medical research, housing for veterans, animal protection, historic preservation, at-risk youth education, environmental preservation, and much more.



The Ponce Inlet Community Center that Constance Hunter helped fund

Just in our own community, her foundation has helped financially support our lighthouse as well as the Marine Science Center next door. Her foundation has purchased both a fire truck and an ambulance for the town and also provided half of the funding necessary for the construction of the town's Community Center. The current Paul B. Hunter and Constance D. Hunter Charitable Foundation has done a tremendous job of ensuring that Connie Hunter's legacy and spirit of giving lives on. It was no surprise when a traditional English garden was constructed at the town's Timucuan Oaks Park in memory of Mrs. Hunter and her impact on our community.



Mrs. Hunter has generously given to various local causes such as the Marine Science Center

DOUBLING YOUR DONATION

In addition to the generous donation that the Hunter Foundation is bestowing upon us, it has also pledged to match all hotel donations up to a total of \$250,000 for the restoration of the historic Pacetti property. This offer is a wonderful opportunity for anyone looking to get the most bang for their buck with regards to donating to a good cause. Any donations made to our Preservation Association for the purpose of restoring the Pacetti Hotel will be matched one-hundred percent, effectively doubling the efficacy of your charitable donation.

What donations will be used for

These matching donations are to be used for various purposes involving the restoration of the Pacetti Hotel. Our goal here at the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is to preserve our historic structures indefinitely. Your donations will help us to stabilize the building, repair any damaged windows and doors, apply new coats of paint to both inside and outside walls, and much more. In addition to restoring the building and ensuring that it remains standing as a monument to our local history, work will also need to be done in order to convert the building into a public museum.

It is likely that the Pacetti family did not imagine that their humble fishing resort would one day house exhibits and artifacts telling the story of the community that they helped construct.

Work that has already begun on the Pacetti Hotel include: sanding and sealing of the original heart pine floors, repairing the lattice on the base of the building, replaced siding and roof shingles on the three small outbuildings on the grounds, general landscape maintenance, and various other projects. Your much-appreciated donations will help us complete projects like these in order to be able to open the Pacetti Hotel to the public sometime in the near future.

How to donate:

Donations can be made through various ways. You can call us at (386) 761-1821 to make a donation over the phone. Checks for the restoration of the Pacetti Hotel can be mailed to 4931 S. Peninsula Drive, Ponce Inlet, FL, 32127. Online donations can be made at www.lighthouselocker.org/lighthouse-donations. Donations can also be made in person at our gift shop located right here on our grounds. Regardless of how you donate, or how much, we at the Ponce DeLeon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association would like to sincerely thank all those who contribute to the cause of preserving our local history. It is both an honor and a tremendous responsibility to be able to ensure that future generations can visit the sites that helped shape our community from the very beginning.



LOST IN HISTORY: THE PACETTI HOTEL

Modern stories of the Mosquito Inlet Lighthouse, now known as the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, are well-documented and preserved. They are in our quarterly newsletters, in our archives, in our social media posts, in the innumerable pictures taken by our many visitors, and they are in our memories. We all contribute to the collective memory of this National Historic Landmark. But what about the stories that are not so modern—the ones that no one alive today can vividly remember? These stories can be found in old photographs, letters, postcards, government records, and other documents. The stories in this series come from newspaper sources. Specifically, this article will cover newspaper stories relating to our recent acquisition, the Pacetti Hotel. In recounting these tidbits, it is the hope of the Preservation Association that they do not become lost in history like countless other stories have been, and can instead be shared and enjoyed by generations to come.

The first observation to be made from reading newspaper stories relating to the Pacetti Hotel is that the building has had many names over the years. It has been called the Pacetti Hotel, Pacetti House, Pacetti Fishing Resort, or even just Pacetti's. There are also the countless misspellings of the name Pacetti itself. A perfect example of this is a 1902 ad in the *Daytona Gazette News* promoting the "Pecetti Hotel" as the "best hotel in Ponce Park".

Ponce Park is acknowledged to be the finest fishing place in this neighborhood. The Pecetti House is also acknowledged to be the best hotel at Ponce Park. For information and rates address GOMEZ A. PACETTI, Ponce Park, Fla.

Advertisement for "The Pecetti House" in the *Daytona Gazette-News*, 1902

That ad and many other articles like it laud the fishing to be had at and around the Pacetti Hotel. An 1884 report from Kentucky's *The Courier-Journal* mentioned "taking in sharks" while on a trip to "Pacetti's". Two years prior, the same reporter described "Pacettis" as "one of the most noted fishing resorts on the Atlantic coast of Florida. It is so near the Mosquito Inlet that no time is lost in availing yourself of favorable tides

for the different classes of fish. And I dare not say how many different fish we catch in the Halifax river. It seems to me that I never go fishing here without taking something that I never saw or heard before... It is a good place to visit, you may believe, and you will learn more about fishing in an hour here than anywhere else that I have been in a week."

The story goes on to describe Bartola and Martha Pacetti: "Pacetti himself is one of the St. Augustine Minorcans, who has done nothing but hunt and fish in this region for more than forty years. Like all good fishermen, he is as genial and clever as possible, and he can tell bigger fish stories, that are at the same time true, than any other man in America. His wife sets a capital table, and is said to be the best fish cook in all Florida."

An 1885 story from Wisconsin's *Appleton Post* mentions that fishermen from around the country have been visiting "Pascettas" for about twenty years "to enjoy the peerless fishing this spot affords". The fishing stories continued long into the twentieth century with multiple generations of Pacetti men working as fishing guides and hoteliers around the area. No fishing story can possibly top the appropriately named "Sea Monster Seen Off Beach at Daytona" that appeared in *The Orlando Sentinel* in 1934. A sea monster had been spotted near the inlet and "the witnesses claimed it resembled the sea serpent seen on four previous occasions from Pacetti docks in Ponce Park."



Fishing party setting off from the Pacetti Hotel, c1905

Be it a sea monster, a shark, a "stingaree," or one of the countless other species of fish caught nearby, these newspaper stories help shed light into the rich and colorful history of our now-historic Pacetti Hotel.

JOIN THE PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

A GENERAL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- Free admission to the museum and lighthouse during regular hours of operation
- 10 percent discount in the museum gift shop and online store
- One subscription to The Light Station quarterly newsletter
- Invitations to special events
- Volunteer opportunities

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

General \$20

- The benefits listed above for one individual

Senior \$10

- All privileges of General Membership for one individual 62 years or older

Student \$10

- All privileges of General Membership for one individual 12 years or older with a valid student identification

Family \$40

- All privileges of General Membership for the immediate family
- Immediate family is limited to one or two adults and your children under age 18. Grandchildren are not eligible.
- You will be issued one membership card for each parent, and each card will list the names of your children.
- Child under 12 must be accompanied by an adult

2nd Assistant Keeper \$100

- All privileges of General or Family Membership
- Recognition of your membership in the quarterly newsletters' 2nd Assistant Keeper List

1st Assistant Keeper \$200

- All privileges of 2nd Assistant Membership
- Two gift General Memberships
- Recognition of your support in the quarterly newsletters' 1st Assistant Keeper List

Principal Keeper \$500

- All privileges of 1st Assistant Membership
- A personalized guided tour of the Light Station
- Recognition of your support in the quarterly newsletters' Principal Keeper List

Corporate Lampist \$500

- All privileges of General or Family Membership for up to five company principals
- A personalized guided tour of the Light Station
- Use of the Light Station's conference room for one meeting.
- Recognition of your companies support in the quarterly newsletters' Corporate Lampist List

FLORIDA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION NUMBER AND DISCLAIMER:

Registration #: CH137

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



Please complete the entire form to enroll, or join online at www.lighthouselocker.org.

Select type of membership:

- General \$20
- Senior \$10
- Student (submit copy of ID) \$10
- Family \$40
 - Gift Membership From: _____
 - Renewal
- 2nd Assistant Keeper \$100
- 1st Assistant Keeper \$200
- Principal Keeper \$500
- Corporate Lampist \$500

Name: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: () - _____

E-mail: _____

Office use only

Begins _____ Ends _____

For family memberships, list spouse/partner and all immediate children under eighteen years of age:

Spouse/Partner: _____

Children: _____

(List any additional names on a separate sheet.)

We will contact 1st Assistant Keeper, Principal Keeper or Corporate Lampist members to obtain gift membership and company principal information.

Membership enclosed: \$ _____

Donation enclosed: \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Please charge my: (check one)

Visa MasterCard 3-Digit Security

Code: _____

CC#: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Or, make check payable to:

Ponce Inlet Lighthouse
4931 S. Peninsula Dr., Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

GIFT SHOP

PONCE INLET NANTUCKET SWEATER

Proclaim your love for the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse with this comfortable poly/cotton blend crew neck Nantucket Sweater featuring an embroidered image of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse along with its name. Available in gray or white in sizes small through XX-Large. Please indicate desired color and size when ordering.

Item #: 3842

Price: \$31.99 (+S&H) - (Sizes Small – X-Large)

\$32.99 (+S&H) - Size XXL



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PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE BEACH TOWEL

Enjoy sunny spring days on the beach or pool deck with this custom 30"x60" Ponce Inlet Lighthouse microfiber beach towel featuring a full color image of the historic Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse.

Item #: 4059

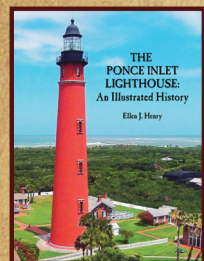
Price: \$14.99 (+S&H)

PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE COASTER SET

Save your furniture's finish with a 4-piece set of custom Ponce Inlet Lighthouse coasters. Avoid damaging water stains on your furniture with these beautiful coasters featuring a colorful collage of lighthouse images including the exterior of the tower with the inlet in the background, the interior spiral staircase, and a close up of the lighthouse lantern room.

Item #: 1276

Price: \$19.95 (+S&H)



THE PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse: An Illustrated History is the culmination of more than 40 years of research by the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association. Written by museum curator Ellen Henry, this fully illustrated hardback volume is the definitive history of the historic Ponce De Leon Inlet Light Station. Signed first edition copies of this recently published book are now available for purchase online and in the lighthouse gift shop.

Price: \$49.95 (+S&H)



PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE SUN CATCHER

Bring a splash of color into the room with this custom hand-painted sun catcher featuring the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse shining on the night of the full moon! Sun catcher measures 5" X 7".

Item #:0023

Price: \$22.99 (+S&H)



CUSTOM PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE PICTURE FRAME

Show off your favorite family photo in this colorful picture frame featuring a decoupage image of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse including the tower, spiral staircase, lantern room and more. This unique custom-made picture frame holds a 4"6" print and may be either hung on display or placed on any flat surface using its built-in folding stand.

Item #: 1322

Price: \$16.99 (+S&H)

The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Gift Shop specializes in unique lighthouse and nautical themed gifts for people of all ages. Our wide selection includes clothing, house wares, toys, and collectibles. Customers may also shop online at LIGHTHOUSELOCKER.ORG. Please contact the Gift Shop at (386) 761-1821 ext. 21 or via email at giftshop@ponceinlet.org for more information.



**PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE
MEMBERSHIP COUPON**

**20% OFF ANY
SINGLE ITEM**

Limit one coupon per member. Coupon may not be used in conjunction with any other discount. Proof of membership must be shown at time of purchase. Not valid for purchase of Memorial Bricks.
Good from January 1, 2021 - March 31, 2021