



107 12th West



now 221 4th East



149 12th West



now 52 East 9th



211 12th West



now 318 10th East



227 12th West

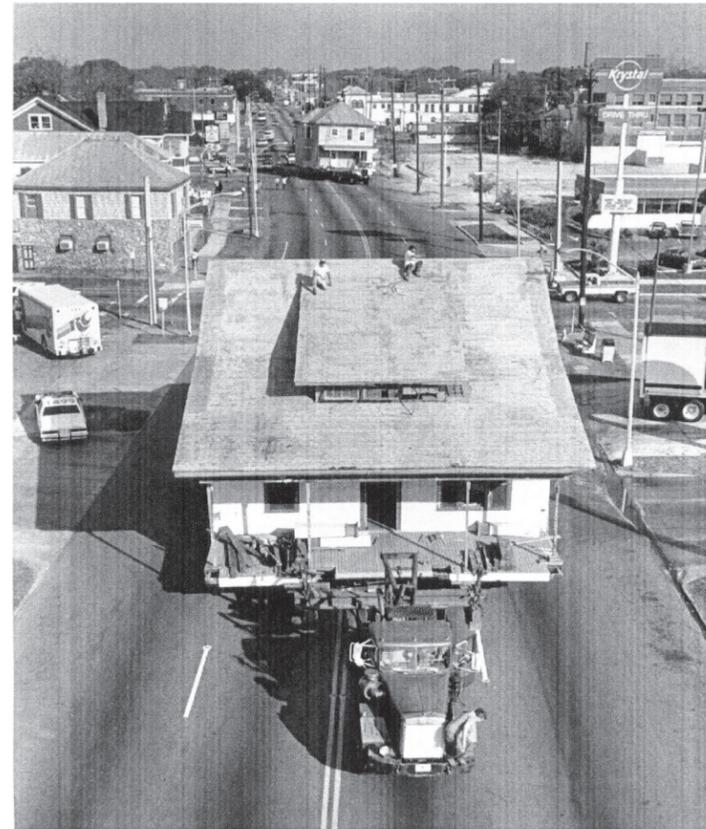


now 2021 North Market

Springfield Sampler July 2015



Magical Moves in Springfield



Houses moving;

In the foreground
251 12th Street West
now
1717 North Laura Street

In the background
149 12th Street West
now
52 9th Street East

Florida Times-Union, December 22, 1990, front page of Northside/Nassau Community News section
7 old homes trucked to historic district, by Jessie-Lynne Kerr/staff writer

In a "turning point" for revitalization of historic Springfield, seven aging homes were moved to new locations this week to make way for a new school on West 12th Street.

For residents who have been working to bring back Jacksonville's oldest residential neighborhood and preserve its houses, the mass moving was an especially significant event because it placed preservation and restoration above demolition.

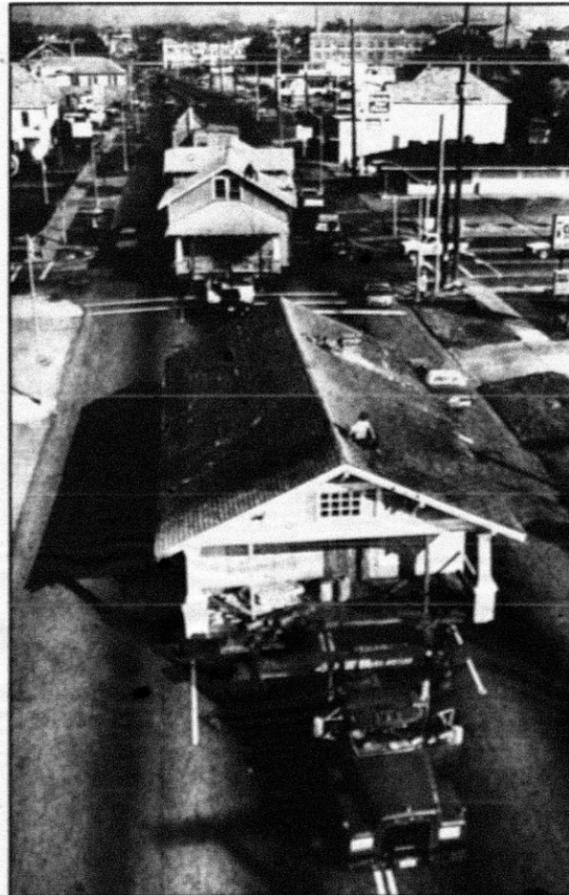
The homes, built between 1913 and 1926, were acquired from their owners by the Duval County School Board. The School Board then sought bids to remove the houses from the site, and awarded the contract to the Historic Springfield Redevelopment Corp., a subsidiary of the nonprofit Springfield Neighborhood Housing Services.

City Councilwoman Sandra Darling, an advocate of historic preservation who represents the area, got the City Council to approve giving the neighborhood organization city-owned vacant lots in the historic district on which to move the homes.

"This is one of the most exciting things to happen in the 11 years since I moved here," said Marcy McCann, special projects coordinator for the Springfield Neighborhood Housing Services. She said it "marks a turning point" because her group and the people of Springfield "now have some control over the things that are going on around us."

"For years we had to beg to stop demolition," McCann said. The seven homes are part of the organization's PRIDE program. PRIDE stands for Preservation and Rehabilitation Instead of DEMolition. Ms. McCann said that PRIDE is funded with \$500,000, some from the city and some from private foundations through the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Continued on page 2



In the foreground; 243 12th Street West,
now 355 6th Street East
In the background 107 12th Street West
now 221 4th Street East
rear house not visible

Continued from Page 1; Houses Moving

Fred Calvy, a patrolman with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office who as one of the so-called urban pioneers bought and restored his Springfield home, said "I can't wait until we get the first house rehabilitated and the first family moved in."

Calvy, an officer of the Springfield Neighborhood Housing Services, donated his off duty time to provide part of the police escort for traffic control during the three days the houses were being moved. "I've never moved houses before," Calvy said, "and what makes this exciting is that they are ours."

Frank LaRue, of LaRue House Movers and Sons in Green Cove Springs, said the larger number of buildings his family's firm had moved before the Springfield assignment was seven two-story homes moved at one time in Jacksonville Beach in the late 1950s.

The seven Springfield homes were jacked up off their foundations and moved in line on an abandoned railroad right of way north of 12th Street before being moved. The first three moved down Main Street in a parade Monday morning. Two more were moved on Tuesday and two on Wednesday.

In addition to police escorts to control traffic, the parade of homes was preceded by utility crews from the Jacksonville Electric Authority, Southern Bell Telephone Co., Continental Cablevision, the traffic engineering division of the city Department of Public Works and tree trimmers from Bushor's Tree Surgeons. The utility crews lowered overhead lines and removed traffic signals while the tree surgeons trimmed limbs in the path of the homes. "This is the biggest job we've done," said city Traffic Engineer Bob Hill, who had 10 people working to remove and replace traffic signals during the move.

The massive move attracted a lot of spectators, John Forney Duval, who has operated Duval's Barber Shop at 1717 N. Main St. for nearly 50 years stepped out onto his sidewalk to watch

the move. "I think this is a good idea," Duval said, because a lot of people don't have good homes." While the parade of homes down Main Street was perhaps the most impressive, the drama began as each home was moved onto separate side streets to journey to its lot.

The side streets are narrower than Main Street and that required more tree trimming and utility wire removal. As one home was being backed onto its new lot at 1717 Laura Street on Tuesday, the house movers had to angle into the lot because of large tree in the easement between the sidewalk and the street. To make the maneuver easier, the house movers were told to go ahead and demolish a rickety garage on the adjacent lot.

"That's all right," said Dora Carver, executive director of Springfield Preservation and Restoration. "We own the boarded up house next door as part of our SHARE program [Springfield Historic Affordable Rentals for Everyone] and we will be rehabilitating it as an affordable rental property. Now we have a PRIDE house next to a SHARE house."

Ms. McCann said that most of the homes had been occupied by their owners before being purchased by the School Board, so they are in pretty good shape. Still, house movers took down brick chimneys and removed some aging porch pillars they feared would collapse during the move.

Ms. McCann said several of the homes have asbestos siding, which will be removed during the rehabilitation.

"We will be hiring a project manager to oversee the construction," she said. Specifications for the work on each house will be drawn and competitive bids for the work will be sought.

She said that the organization will have invested less than \$30,000 in each home, including the cost of moving and rehabilitation.

Once rehabilitated, the houses will be put up for sale. They will be sold only to people who will live in them, not to investors looking for rental properties, she said. Targeted will be families in low-to-moderate-income range not more than \$28,000 a year for a family of four.

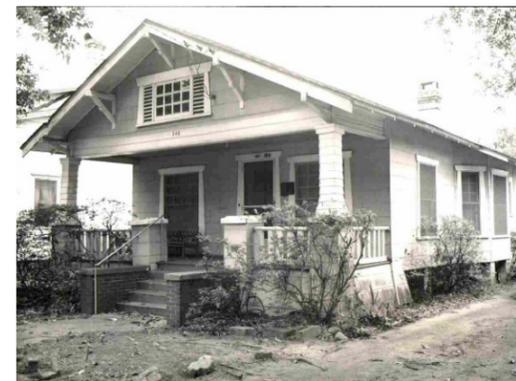
Above photo caption; Work crews lift cables and lines along Main Street to make way for three of seven houses, all built between 1913 and 1926, being trucked to new sites in the historic Springfield area.



237 12th West



now 1221 Walnut



243 12th West



now 355 6th East



251 12th West



now 1717 North Laura

Author's notes: Springfield Improvement Association and Archives, under its archives committee chair, Jeff Gardner, continues researching the history of our amazing neighborhood. While scanning the 1985 survey files, we learned to look behind what is actually recorded in those files. In particular, we found how important it is to closely review figures being shown as, or believed to have been, demolitions. It is also important to re check the history of the house; not just following addresses, but investigating owners and residents. Our street names changed so frequently, that some houses have (temporarily) lost part of their history and identity. A case in point is the Gato Murder house, which stood at the corner of 11th and Silver Streets. For a brief few months, Silver was known as Hogan. This change abbreviated the history of a significant house that should not have been lost.

When we found that the printed files appeared to have lost materials over the years, Jeff contacted the Florida Master Site File (FMSF) in Tallahassee and requested copies of their original records. FMSF gave us what they have, and we realized that much of what seemed lost had never existed. There are many cases of buildings not making it through the waiting period between the survey and the National Register of Historic Places historic designation. Also, we found that some houses turned up in places where they were not supposed to be, including those documented in this Sampler. We want to thank FMSF for providing us with the current address information for the previously "lost" houses from West 12th Street.