

### 1. Florida East Coast Railroad Park

For many years this 14-acre park served as a practice field for the Landon High School football team. The park was named Florida East Coast (FEC) Park because of its proximity to capitalist Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Rail Line. Today, the park is a favorite among neighborhood golfers and dog lovers alike.

### 2. Fletcher Park Community

In 1918, the U.S. Shipping Board enlisted architect H.J. Klutho to design housing for maritime construction workers hired to build ships for the U.S. war effort abroad. One hundred and four of the original homes in the development remain today serving as a unique reminder of the San Marco ship-builders and their historic role during World War I.

### 3. Preservation Hall and Belote Green / Fletcher Park

This wood frame carpenter-gothic style church was originally constructed in 1888 as St. Paul's Episcopal located on Atlantic Boulevard near Pottsborg Creek. The church has been relocated several times, most recently in 1994 when the San Marco Preservation Society salvaged the building and moved it to its present location in Belote Green. Preservation Hall currently serves as headquarters for the San Marco Preservation Society.

### 4. Lake Marco / Brick Making Site

The Gamble and Stockton Company originally used this artesian well site for its clay mine and brick production facility. Clay fired into brick was carried by tramcar down Sorrento Road to the FEC railroad tracks. When San Marco was developed into a residential neighborhood, Stockton dredged a canal to the river and turned what once was a clay pit into the beautiful Lake Marco of today.

### 5. River Road Thrill Bridge

From the time it was built in the late 1920s, the Thrill Bridge over the canal linking Lake Marco to the St. Johns River earned its reputation for the rush of excitement it gave passengers speeding across it during the wee hours of morning. The high peak of the bridge has since been reduced and as such has become less popular with local thrill seekers.

### 6. Alexandria / Whatley Park

Alexandria Park was formed in 1938 as part of Brown Whatley and Joseph Davin's Alexandria Place subdivision. The park took its name from Villa Alexandria, the palatial estate of Alexander and Martha Mitchell, built nearby in the late 1870s. The park was renamed Whatley Park in 1982 in honor of developer Brown Whatley.

### 7. Davin Park (Artesian Well and Bridle Path / Carriage Drive)

This park originally served as a carriage lane and bridle path for the famed Villa Alexandria Estate. The artesian well at the south end of the bridle path served as a watering hole for horses en route to the polo field on present day Holly Lane. In 1990 the park was renamed for Lillian Davin, wife of developer Joseph Davin.

### 8. Oriental Gardens

William Clark originally developed this private garden in the 1920s. It was opened to the public in 1937 and quickly became renowned for its red Chinese gates, brilliant flowers, arched bridges, and winding pathways to the river. The park was closed in 1954 to be developed into residential property.

### 9. Colonial Manor Lake (Duck Pond)

This park is part of the original 450-acre Red Bank Plantation established by Albert Philips before the Civil War. When Colonial Manor subdivision was developed in 1938 this man-made lake was built and stocked with ducks.

### 10. Red Bank Plantation

The Philips family built this handsome two-story Georgian home in 1854 on Red Bank Plantation, the 450-acre tract of land known today as Colonial Manor. The home, built from bricks that were hand-made from a vein of clay on the plantation, was said to be the only brick home from Jacksonville to Palatka at the time it was built.

### 11. Kings Road Park

This wedge-shaped park was part of the 1918 Fletcher Park subdivision and was originally named after Robert Fulton, the inventor of the steamship. Today, after having undergone a major renovation spearheaded by the San Marco Garden Circle and funded by public and private contributions, the property has become known as Kings Road Park.

### 12. Craig-Philips Cemetery

Veterans from several wars including the Spanish American war, World War I, and the Civil War are interred here. Both Union and Confederate soldiers are represented. Many of the old markers were made of cedar and cypress, and have subsequently deteriorated. The oldest remaining marker is dated August 1867.

### 13. South Jacksonville City Hall

This two-story brick structure was built in 1915 and remains one of the few reminders that South Jacksonville was once a town distinct from Jacksonville. Originally used as the City Hall, the building has had numerous tenants since South Jacksonville was absorbed into the City of Jacksonville in 1932.

### 14. San Marco Theatre

This Art Deco style movie theater has been in continuous operation since its opening in 1938 when it cost 30 cents to see the evening movie features of *A Slight Case of Murder* and *Hopalong Cassidy Rides Again*. The theater was designed by architect Roy Benjamin and could originally seat 500 people. Today it seats 222 people and offers a limited food and beverage menu.

### 15. Little Theatre

San Marco's Little Theatre is the oldest continually running community theatre in the United States. The Little Theatre was incorporated in 1926. Later, Carl S. Swisher donated the funds needed for the construction of the building in San Marco Square. The art deco style building was designed by Ivan H. Smith and was opened for its first production in January of 1938 with the play *Boy Meets Girl*. The Little Theatre was reincorporated as Theatre Jacksonville, Inc., in 1969.

### 16. Landon Junior High School

This heavily ornamented three-story structure has the distinction of being the only beaux-art style building in San Marco's historical survey. Designed by Marsh-Saxelbye in 1925, the school was named after Julia Landon, South Jacksonville's first school teacher. Built on the Landon family home site to serve 500 local students, Landon held an esteemed position in junior and senior high school academics and sports until 1966 when it was converted into Landon Middle School.

### 17. South Jacksonville Grammar School / Flagler Street School.

Architects Mark and Shefall designed this 1917 Prairie Style school house with high ceilings, numerous windows and wide halls to accommodate the first through sixth grade students attending school here. It is one of the oldest extant buildings in the area and served its purpose for many years.

### 18. St. Mark's Building

This 1926 Mediterranean Revival structure designed by Marsh & Saxelbye was the first commercial structure built in the San Marco Square shopping area and was named for St. Mark's Square in Venice, Italy. The building has served many purposes over the years including drug store, restaurant and local watering hole. Although the wings to the right and left of the original building have been altered from the building's original design, the building remains a focal point for San Marco Square.

### 19. The Treaty Oak

This nearly 200-year old oak tree is situated in Jessie Ball DuPont Park and is rumored to have been the site for several historic Native American peace accords. At one time, it stood illuminated with hundreds of electric lights in Dixieland Park, a sprawling riverfront amusement park on Jacksonville's Southbank that was originally located where the Hilton Hotel stands today.

### 20. Landon Park

Landon Park was established on the 1925 plat of the San Marco subdivision and has increased in size due to an additional land purchase in 1939. The park is named for the John and Mary Landon family who moved to Jacksonville in 1867.

### 21. Craig Creek / River Oaks Park

Craig Creek, a swampy ravine now known as River Oaks Park, once teemed with alligators, waterfowl, and water moccasins. The creek was named for William Craig, an early settler in South Jacksonville. The swamp was drained and the creek cleared in the late 1920s and early 1930s and has since served as a public park with access to the St. Johns River.

### 22. Hendricks Avenue

Trolley cars once ran along the brick paved streets linking the Acosta Bridge to Hendricks Avenue, Atlantic Boulevard and Kings Road in a continuous loop. Hendricks Avenue is named for the Hendricks family, originally from North Carolina, who acquired 216 acres of land in the San Marco area through a grant from Carlos IV, King of Spain in 1797.

