



Department of Economic
and Development Services

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Mike Cella
District 1

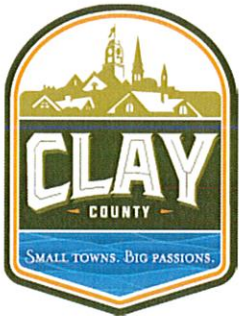
Wayne Bolla
District 2

Diane Hutchings
District 3

Gavin Rollins
District 4

Gayward F. Hendry
District 5

www.claycountygov.com



November 25, 2019

Dear Ms. Allen,

Thank you for your assistance to our staff in considering a Boundary Adjustment application for Fort San Francisco de Pupo. The subject properties are currently for sale and Clay County is extremely grateful to have them considered by the Department of Environmental Protection and the Acquisition and Restoration Council.

Clay County wishes to obtain the site in order to perform archeological research and to preserve any artifacts that may remain. These properties are wooded and have been agricultural properties, maintained under the Hall family ownership for the last seventy years. Sheriff Hall was well aware of the site's historic significance and has protected the property all of these years.

The Clay County Board of County Commissioners discussed the protection of these properties in its recent visit with our legislative delegation. The delegation was supportive of the Florida Forever process.

The Clay County Board of County Commissioners supports the inclusion of tax parcels 016510-005-00 and 016510-005-01 in the pending Florida Forever grant application. Thank you again for the assistance your staff had provided.

Sincerely,

Mike Cella

Chairman, Clay County Board of County Commissioners

December 10, 2019

Ms. Shauna Allen, Staff Director
Florida Division of Environmental Protection
Division of State Lands
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 100
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Ms. Allen.

As Archivist for the Clay County Clerk of the Circuit Court, I would like to urge the inclusion of the Fort San Francisco de Pupo site in the Boundary Adjustment of the Florida Forever Project. The County Clerk of the Circuit Court maintains a significant collection of archival materials that are open to the public and searchable on-line. We fully support research and preservation of historical materials concerning Clay County.

The historical significance of the Fort San Francisco de Pupo site at Bayard point is the most important site in Florida. The river crossing at that location was used by native tribes for thousands of years, was a strategic crossing during the Spanish Colonial period and became the Bellamy Road to connect east and west Florida from Pensacola to St. Augustine.

The Clay County Archives asks for your favorable consideration of the Florida Forever boundary adjustment in order to include these parcels in the Florida Forever Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vishi Garig', with a stylized, flowing script.

Vishi Garig
Archivist
Clay County Clerk of the Court of Circuit Court

December 10, 2019

Ms. Shauna Allen, Staff Director
Florida Division of Environmental Protection
Division of State Lands
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 100
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Ms. Allen.

The Clay County Historic Preservation Board fully supports Clay County's efforts to include the Fort San Francisco de Pupo site as a Florida Forever Project.

The Fort San Francisco de Pupo site, tax parcels # 016510-005-00 and # 016510-005-01 were recently listed for sale after having been under the ownership and protection of the Hall family for over 70 years. This site is located on a bluff along west bank of the St. Johns River. The river crossing had been used by native people for thousands of years. In 1716 British attacks led the Spanish to construct Fort San Francisco de Pupo, and Fort Picolatta on the east bank of the river. Fort San Francisco de Pupo was enlarged in 1739. The fort was destroyed in 1740 by a massive British invasion led by Georgia Governor Oglethorpe and his Seminole Indian allies.

In 1824 this location also became the crossing point of the Bellamy Road, Florida's first nationally funded road.

First and foremost, the Clay County Historic Preservation Board wishes to secure the historic resources that may be existing at the site. The only archeological survey was performed in 1953 by the University of Florida. Today, with ground penetrating radar, there is a much greater likelihood of identifying any historic resources that may remain. These two parcels and the surrounding private parcels are completely surrounded by St. Johns River Management District lands at Bayard Point.

The Historic Preservation Board asks for your favorable consideration of the Florida Forever boundary adjustment in order to include these parcels in the Florida Forever Project.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Dews
Chairman
Clay County Historic Preservation Board