



Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

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December 8, 2020

Sherry Frear, RLA, Chief
National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Program
1849 C Street, NW (7228)
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Frear:

We are pleased to support the nomination of the Dudley Farm State Park to the National Historic Landmarks Program. This important agricultural site provides visitors a glimpse of Florida farm life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The historic residence and barn structures are frame structures built of local materials, and along with the farming lands preserved at the state park provide public education and experience on the way of life of pioneers here. On a hot summer day one can especially appreciate the hardships faced. The Florida State Park system is recognized nationally and this designation of the Dudley Farm site will enhance their efforts to share the history and protect the important site.

There is a grim story from these times, the lynching of the Newberry Six now depicted on a State Historic Marker at a nearby historic African American Church. Our community has spent years working on 'Truth and Reconciliation' surrounding this and the other many dozens of lynchings. The late UF Professor Dr. Patricia Hilliard Nunn completed extensive research including oral histories of the descendants.

A County website provides information on this on-going program- <https://truth.alachuacounty.us/about>. In the future there may be more State Park interpretation possible since the Dudley Farm site is connected to this tragedy as a family member's death preceded the Newberry mob lynching. We whole-heartedly support the efforts of the Florida State Park System and the local volunteers who tend to the Dudley Farm site to further their work with this designation.

Sincerely,

Ken Cornell, Chair
Alachua County Commission
Chr21.004

KC/KWP/kwp

cc: Board of County Commissioners
Michele L. Lieberman, County Manager
Sylvia Torres, County Attorney
Eric Draper, Director, Florida Park Service