



Name of Property: Dudley Farm
City, State: Newberry, Alachua County, Florida
Significant Dates: 1881-1945
NHL Criteria: 1 and 5
Theme: V. Developing the American Economy
1. Extraction and Production
6. Exchange and Trade
7. Government Policies and Practices
Previous Recognition: 2002 National Register of Historic Places
1992 Historic American Buildings Survey

National Historic Context:

- XI. Agriculture
 - D. The Plantation Breaks up, Sharecropping, and Tenant Farming, 1860-
 - E. Mechanical Agriculture as Business Enterprise Beyond Self-Sufficiency, 1820-
 - F. Farming on the East Coast for Local Markets (Dairying, Fruits, and Vegetables)

XXX. American Ways of Life
B. Farming Communities

NHL Significance:

- Dudley Farm in Alachua County, Florida is significant under NHL Criteria 1 and 5 for its exceptional ability to illustrate the history of owner-operated farms in the southeastern United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- Ben and Fannie Dudley established the farm 1881 on land that Ben Dudley inherited from his parents. Myrtle Dudley, the youngest child of Ben and Fannie Dudley, bequeathed the property to the Florida Park Service, which has operated it as a historic site since 2001.
- The establishment of Dudley Farm reflects a broader increase in the number of owner-operated farms in the South after the end of the Civil War. The Dudley family continued to operate a farm on the property until the late 20th century. Throughout the period of significance (1881-1945), farmers such as the Dudleys endeavored to produce much of their own food on the farm. Encompassing multiple buildings and landscape features associated with growing, preserving, and storing food for home consumption, Dudley Farm conveys the importance of household production and of women's labor in self-provisioning.
- Even as the Dudleys and other owner-operators prized their self-reliance, they increasingly engaged in commercial agriculture and shifted crops in response to environmental and market changes. In the late 1880s and early 1900s, the Dudleys grew cotton, the dominant cash crop in the South. Starting in the 1920s, they diversified their crop mix in response to the cotton boll weevil and low cotton prices. With a surviving tobacco barn and several chicken houses, Dudley Farm illustrates the spread of tobacco culture into the southern coastal plains in the early 1900s and farm women's participation in commercial poultry-raising in the 1930s.
- Dudley Farm is also associated with government programs to reform Southern agriculture. Among these was the effort to eradicate Texas cattle fever by dipping cattle in vats such as the one constructed at Dudley Farm in the late 1910s. Cattle tick eradication had a significant effect on Southern agriculture by encouraging commercial cattle-raising and undermining the viability of the open-range cattle that many small farmers depended upon for subsistence.
- The Dudleys began purchasing mechanized farm equipment in the 1920s and 1930s, placing them in the vanguard of a broader trend towards mechanization that transformed Southern agriculture and threatened the survival of many small family farms in the decades after World War II.

Integrity:

- Encompassing thirty-six contributing resources and one non-contributing archeological site, Dudley Farm contains a remarkably intact collection of resources that illustrate life on a family farm in the southeastern United States between 1880 and 1945.

- The National Historic Landmark boundary encompasses most of the land associated with Dudley Farm during the period of significance (1881-1945); the only land excluded from the nomination is a 120-acre tract to the north that is not owned by the Florida Park Service. Despite changes in vegetation, the historic field patterns remain visible in the landscape.
- Since acquiring the property in the early 1980s, the Florida Park Service has followed the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation* in its approach to repairing and maintaining the buildings and structures. Restoration efforts have created minor temporal inconsistencies within the farm complex, but these do not substantially detract from the integrity of the collection of resources at Dudley Farm. Park facilities and visitor amenities are located on an adjacent parcel that was not owned by the Dudley family during the period of significance.
- Most of the buildings and structures that were present during the period of significance remain on the property. Two buildings were removed prior to the end of the period of significance, and only five resources have been lost since 1945: the log dwelling constructed by Ben Dudley's parents, a water tower, the women's outhouse, a buggy barn, and a house occupied by Fannie Dudley's brother.
- The collection of resources at Dudley Farm possesses a high level of integrity, especially when considered in comparison with similar properties, many of which have lost substantial amounts of acreage and resources.

Owner of Property: State of Florida

Acreage of Property: 240 acres

Origins of Nomination:

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

Public Comments Favoring Designation (as of November 5, 2020):

National Historic Landmarks Committee Comments:

- It was suggested that the Period of Significance should begin earlier so as to include the first generation of Dudleys to acquire and use the land to farm. The original use was as a plantation with enslaved labor that transitioned into an owner-operated farm that used hired labor.
- It was noted that there were lynchings in this area during the period of significance and that the Dudley family involvement or awareness of these violent events and racial tensions should be discussed.
- There were identified questions regarding the boundary and building construction methods which will be addressed in the revised nomination.



National Historic Landmarks Committee Recommendation:

The Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of the Dudley Farm in Newberry, Alachua County, Florida, as a National Historic Landmark, with any additions and corrections as noted by the Committee being made prior to the nomination being forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for action.

Advisory Board Recommendation: