

Bunnell’s 1916 Seventh Day Adventist Church Relocate – Restore – Rededicate – Reimagine



Photo: From Left to Right: 1916 Seventh Day Adventist Church “The Church Beautiful”. The church today. Photos courtesy of Sisco Deen and James Dean Fiske.

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Bunnell, FL – The Flagler County Historical Society (FCHS), together with American Association of University Women (AAUW) Flagler County Branch, is pleased to announce the latest in what is soon to become a sustained effort to elevate the historic reputation of Bunnell and Flagler County and strengthen the presence of each as a tourism destination.

Thanks to a fortuitous trip to Espanola, the 1916 Seventh Day Adventist Church of Bunnell was rediscovered. Facebook images of this discovery helped connect more dots with a research project by AAUW Flagler. It was soon learned Mrs. Alice Scott Abbott, a local suffragist from Bunnell, was the Music Director for not only the Bunnell Methodist Church, but, for the Seventh Day Adventist Church of Bunnell. Research underscores the importance of the church as a foundation from which women not only addressed issues

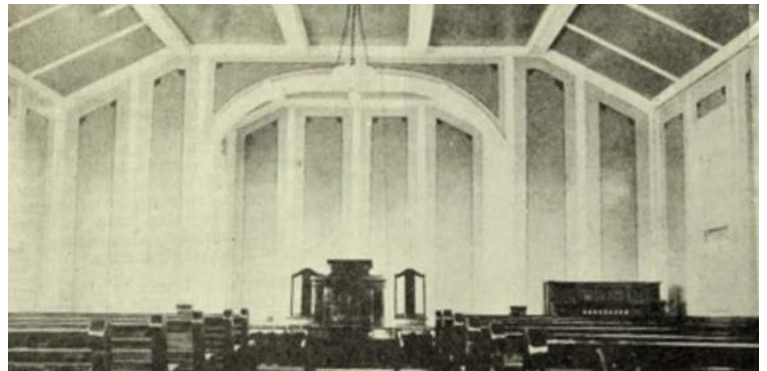


Photo: Interior of the 1916 Seventh Day Adventist Church – The Bunnell Home Builder, June 1917.

confronting their communities, it also provided women a platform from which to advocate for suffrage.

Members of the FCHS and AAUW Flagler presented before the Flagler Board of County Commission, September 9, 2020, this past Wednesday. They outlined their plan to relocate the church to Bunnell, next to the Holden House Museum, restore it, rededicate it, and reimagine it as The Florida Women's Voting Rights Museum. The goal is to showcase Flagler County's Suffrage history, provide for state and national suffrage exhibits, and establish an income generating venue for organizational meetings, special events, and educational opportunities such as school field trips. It is hoped where AAUW Flagler's research ends, others will take up the charge to continue to learn more about Flagler's Suffrage history and tell #HERStory for generations to come.

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