

Preliminary Design for 414 NW 5th Avenue



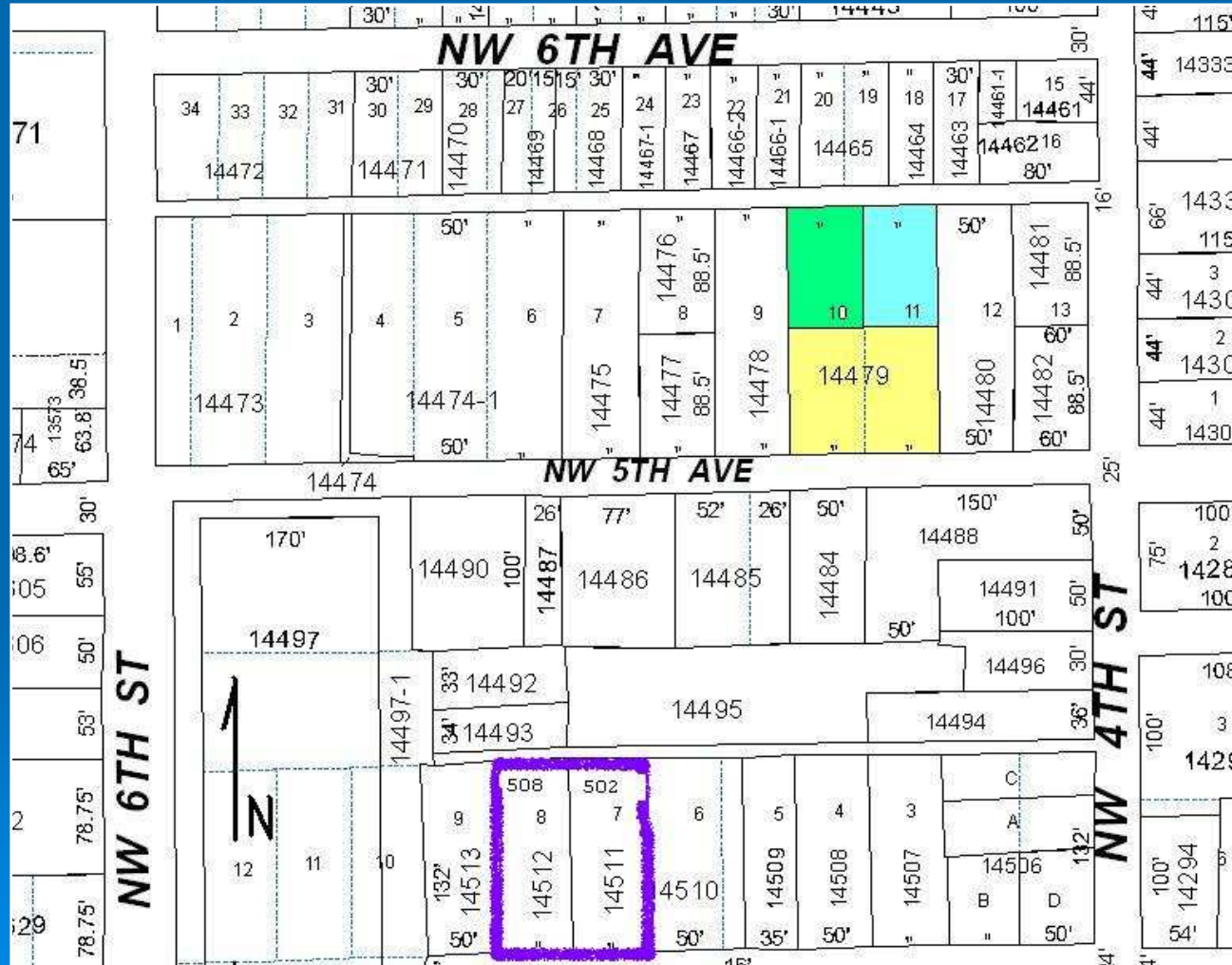
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- The CRA & Fifth Avenue Pleasant Street (FAPS) Redevelopment Advisory Board, is dedicated to the revitalization of the NW 5th Avenue Corridor.
- On May 6, 1977, the City acquired tax parcel #14479-000-000 consisting of Lots 10 and 11.


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- Lot 11 is in the Pleasant Street Historical district, Lot 10 is not in the Historic Pleasant Street district. The CRA proposes to redevelop, either by itself or in partnership with others, Lots 10 & 11 with construction of mixed-use commercial (mercantile)/residential structure complying with the historic nature of the historic district. The property is zoned Multiple Use Low Intensity MU-1 (mixed-use). An example of uses are eating places, neighborhood shopping center and apparel and accessory stores.

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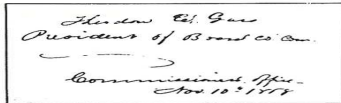
- At their December 11, 2007 meeting, FAPS approved a schematic design for this mixed-use concept.
 - The design is inspired by the architecture of the former Union Academy.
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- The Union Academy was established by the Freedman Bureau in 1867. By 1868 there were 179 students and the first African-American teachers came in the 1870's. By the time the University of Florida was founded, this institution had an enrollment of 500 students. This frame building was the central African-American educational institution until 1925.
- The building went on to become a community fixture, housing a recreation center and then a retirement home before its demolition in the early 1960's.

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Educational and religious organizations strongly influenced the community and became their social and cultural centers. Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church dedicated its first building in 1867 and remains the oldest black congregation in the city. When fire destroyed this church in 1903, the present red brick Romanesque-Revival style structure was built in 1906. The Friendship Baptist Church, built in 1888, burned in 1911 and was replaced by the present Romanesque Gothic



T. GASS, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Revival building. The black community prized education and the Freedman's Bureau established Union Academy in 1867. By 1868 there were 179 students, and its first black teachers came in the 1870s. By the time the University of Florida was founded, this institution had an enrollment of 500 and also served as a normal school. This frame building was the central black educational institution until 1925 when it became a recreation center and then a retirement home before its demolition in the 1960s.

During Reconstruction many blacks held local and state offices. The political power of state legislators and city councilmen like Henry Harmon, Theodore Gass, Josiah T. Walls, Matthew M. Leavy and the Martin brothers had its roots in the district. The poll tax and Jim Crow restrictions disenfranchised the blacks in the late 1890s, and the district became more segregated and isolated, a



THE GASS FAMILY HOME

town within a town. Yet black businesses grew and became more diversified. The District included doctors' offices, insurance agencies, stores, a sawmill, social halls, theaters, churches and several private schools, as well as the Union Academy. So the District thrived as a self-contained, vibrant social and commercial center. In 1925, for example, a one-block area in the District contained three groceries, four lunch grills, a laundry, two billiard halls, a theater, an insurance agency and a building contractor's office, all black owned.

The majority of the structures located in the District were built before 1929. The housing forms and styles represent the changing patterns of folk housing and architectural tastes from shotgun houses and bungalows to Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Eastlake homes. The two Romanesque Revival churches in the District, Mt. Pleasant Methodist and Friendship Baptist, stand as the important local landmarks.

**UNION ACADEMY WAS
THE CENTRAL BLACK
EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTION
FROM 1867 UNTIL 1925.**

UNION ACADEMY: A MEMORY



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1 SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



2 WEST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

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JAY REEVES & ASSOCIATES, INC.
ARCHITECT, DESIGNERS & PLANNERS
7700 N. WASHINGTON AVE., SUITE 100
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33309
TEL: 954.561.1000
WWW.JRAYREEVES.COM



REVISIONS

FILE: 2007-06
DATE: 11-29-07

FIFTH AVENUE - MIXED USE - CRA
FIFTH AVENUE - PLEASANT STREET
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

SHEET
A-04

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- The Projects in this area is the NW 5th Avenue Streetscape which includes the undergrounding of utilities, new sidewalks with brick pavers and pedestrian lighting.
- Also in the area is the Model Block Program which is a joint housing initiative of the Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency and the National Trust for Historic Preservation dedicated to the restoration of historic properties, compatible new home construction, and home ownership. The project aims to bring stability and revival to the community.

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Recommendation:

- Executive Director to the CRA 1) Hear presentation from Staff & Architect Jay Reeves 2) provide input and approve the concept on the Schematic Design of the Union Academy for Parcel #14479-000 414 NW 5th Avenue.