



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

George Firestone
Secretary of State

FLORIDA FOLK LIFE PROGRAM
Post Office Box 265
White Springs, Florida 32096
(904) 397-2192

November 23, 1982

Mr. X. L. Pellicer
P.O. Box 348
St. Augustine, Florida 32084

Dear Mr. Pellicer:

It was a pleasure talking with you over the phone today. Your enthusiasm for the Minorcan Heritage Project is most encouraging.

Enclosed is the project description as promised. A few points such as the schedule for a group from St. Augustine to tour in Spain, are not detailed, but I think the general dimensions of the proposal are fairly clear. I will welcome your reactions and any suggestions you have for improving the project.

I look forward to meeting you on December 1, 1982, and working toward recognition of Minorcan cultural heritage in Florida.

Sincerely,

Ormond H. Loomis
Acting Director

OHL/sv

Enclosure

xc: George Firestone, Secretary of State
Randall Kelley, Deputy Secretary of State
L. Ross Morrell, Director, Division of Archives, History and Records Management



MINORCAN HERITAGE IN FLORIDA
A FOLKLIFE PROJECT OF THE
DIVISION OF ARCHIVES, HISTORY AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Submitted by:

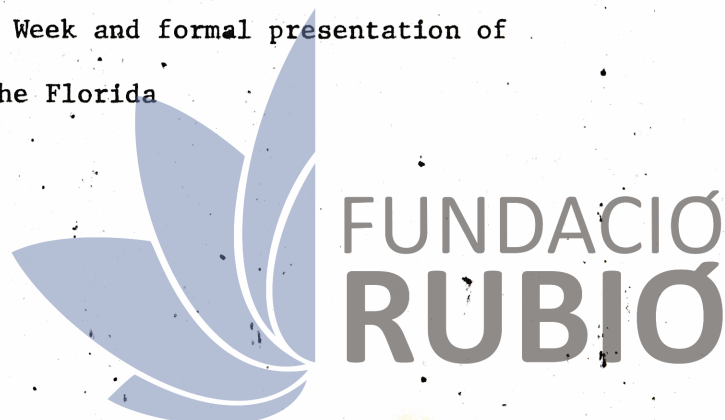
The Florida Folklife Program of the
Division of Archives, History and
Records Management
Florida Department of State
November 23, 1982



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RUBIÓ

Secretary of State George Firestone proposes a project to recognize the heritage of Floridians of Minorcan descent. This Minorcan Heritage Project calls for exchange and presentation of folk art and folk artists from the Balearic Islands and Catalonia, Spain and that of the Minorcan-American community in Florida. In cooperation with leaders from the St. Augustine area, the Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management will organize a schedule of public events that present the culture of this significant Floridian community. Among the activities to be included in the project are formal declaration of "Minorcan Heritage Week" by the State of Florida, festivities in St. Augustine and New Smyrna acknowledging their Minorcan background, and programs at the 31st annual Florida Folk Festival to feature the enduring cultural contributions Minorcans have made to the state.

The Minorcan Heritage Project will present to Floridians the cultural legacy of Minorcan settlement in our state. The proposed events will focus attention on the Minorcan-American community of St. Augustine: retelling its colorful history, presenting distinctive features of its contemporary life, and presenting comparable elements of native Minorcans folklife from which its culture evolved in Florida. Festivities in St. Augustine will tie the project to the people and places that are the core of this cultural resource. These functions will be framed by official recognition of the St. Augustine community through a proclamation of Minorcan Week and formal presentation of Minorcan and Minorcan-American folklife at the Florida



Folk Festival. Inclusion of folk artists from Minorca at selected public events would serve as a special attraction to increase public awareness of the project.

Minorcans in Florida

In 1768 approximately 1,400 Mediterraneans -- Minorcans, Greeks and Italians -- sailed for Florida as indentured servants with Dr. Andrew Turnbull. The majority of these passengers were from the island of Minorca off the eastern coast of Spain.

Their destination was 100,000 acres of land located at Mosquito Inlet on Florida's east coast, approximately 75 miles below St. Augustine. This spot was renamed New Smyrna in honor of Mrs. Turnbull's birthplace in Greece. The colony built and farmed an indigo plantation, however the settlers suffered many problems. Hundreds died in the first winter alone and, gradually, the plantation declined.

Nine years after the New Smyrna colony was founded, the remaining colonists requested protection from the governor of St. Augustine, Patrick Tonyn. Led by Francisco Pellicer, the group fled the tyranny of servitude while Turnbull was away in England. Governor Tonyn provided land and granted freedom to these refugees, including the spiritual leader of the Minorcan colony, Father Pedro Camps.

The Minorcans who migrated to St. Augustine have contributed to the area's cultural development throughout its history. More than two centuries after Minorcans came to the New World the descendants of these early colonists can proudly trace their origin in this country not only through written records but through oral histories, stories, songs, foodways, folk arts, and industries as well.

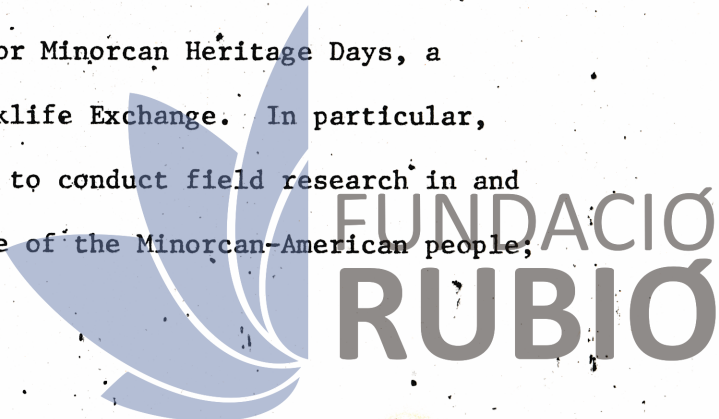
Minorcan Heritage Project (Draft, 11-23-82)

The Florida Folklife Program

Secretary Firestone has long advocated appreciation of Florida's diverse cultural heritage. On his initiative, the State established the Florida Folklife Program to record, preserve, interpret, and promote the folk arts and folklife in our state. Created in 1979, the Folklife Program was an outgrowth of the Florida Folk Festival and the Florida Folk Arts Program, both based at the Stephen G. Foster Center in White Springs.

Today the Folklife Program is a bureau of the Division of Archives, History and Records Management. Its dual mandate for documentation and presentation enables the Folklife Program to conduct field and archival research in conjunction with projects such as conferences, festivals, media products, exhibits, and school's programs. Following Secretary Firestone's lead, the Folklife Program has been particularly concerned with developing projects that foster an appreciation for the folk arts and folklife of specialized populations within the state. To this end, it pursues outreach efforts like the Minorcan Heritage Project.

The Florida Folklife Program will act as the lead agency for the Department of State in producing this project. Working closely with other offices in the Department of State, staff at the St. Augustine Historic Preservation Board, and leaders of the Minorcan-American community Folklife Program staff will identify folk artists and cultural authorities within the St. Augustine community, and develop plans for Minorcan Heritage Days, a Minorcan Folklife Area, and the Minorcan Folklife Exchange. In particular, the Folklife Program will lend its resources to conduct field research in and around St. Augustine to document the folklife of the Minorcan-American people;



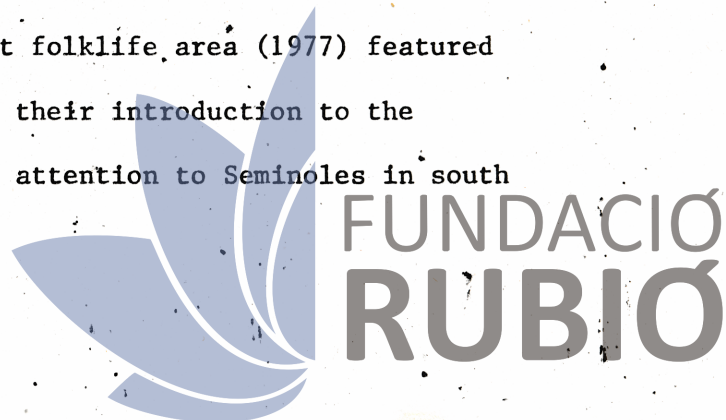
feature both Minorcans from St. Augustine and Minorcans from Spain at the Florida Folk Festival; and provide liaison for the Division of Archives, History and Records Management to coordinate the efforts of the Division with other participating agencies, organizations, and individuals.

Florida Folk Festival and the Folklife Areas

The Florida Folk Festival, now in its 31st year, is the oldest existing state folk festival in the country. The festival was begun by Floridians to recognize the folklife of Florida and celebrate its cultural heritage. Over the years, hundreds of thousands of people have attended the annual festival to renew their contact with the many folk traditions associated with the State.

Today the Florida Folk Festival serves as a showcase for the many diverse folk traditions found in the state. It presents Native American, ethnic, occupational, and regional traditions through folklife areas, stage performances, workshops, and food pavilions. Each section of the festival provides a unique means for acknowledging Florida's cultural wealth and an opportunity for stimulating cultural exchange.

Folklife areas were developed as a way to highlight specific aspects of folk tradition within the broader perimeters of the Florida Folk Festival. They allow unified thematic attention to the range of cultural expression characteristic to specific groups. The first folklife area (1977) featured folk artists from Miami. In the years since their introduction to the festival, thematic folklife areas have given attention to Seminoles in south



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Florida, Greek-Americans of Tarpon Springs, Vietnamese immigrants in Pensacola, commercial fishermen along the gulf coast, Latins in Ybor City, Czechoslovakian-Americans from Masaryktown, and others.

The goal of the folklife area is to heighten popular appreciation, of the traditions and heritage of Florida's diverse cultural groups. Traditional artifacts, customs, and performing arts cannot be separated from their creators or the cultures from which they spring. By encouraging folk artists and other tradition bearers to discuss their skills as they relate to their cultural background, the folklife areas allow an unusual opportunity for real human interchange and cross-cultural understanding.

The Florida Folk Festival provides an excellent means for presenting the Minorcan heritage in Florida to those who have an interest in distinctive cultural expression throughout the state. A Minorcan folklife area at this year's festival will direct attention to the living cultural expressions that continue to be treasured by people from St. Augustine and the surrounding region. It will involve at least twelve Minorcan-American folk artists who will be invited to participate in the 31st Annual Florida Folk Festival to demonstrate their skills at the festival, thus showcasing the Minorcan heritage in Florida. Supplementing this three day folklife area will be special performances by Minorcan folk artists from Spain.

Their presence at the festival will add exciting dimensions to and enhance the presentation of Minorcan-American folklife. Within the organization of the project, interpretation of Minorcan folklife at the Florida Folk Festival will provide the stimulus for development of the entire Minorcan Heritage Project.



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Minorcan Exchange

An exchange of folk artists from Minorca, Spain will emphasize the importance of Minorcan heritage in Florida. The Division will coordinate their visit including them at the declaration of "Minorcan Week" and featuring them on Minorcan Days in St. Augustine and New Smyrna and at the Florida Folk Festival in White Springs.

The formal calendar of public events will begin on Tuesday, May 24, when Secretary Firestone presents a Cabinet resolution declaring May 24-30 Minorcan Week in Florida, and will culminate with Minorcan performances at the Florida Folk Festival held on May 27-29. Representatives of the Department of State, principally from the Florida Folklife Program will work closely with Mr. X. L. Pellicer of St. Augustine and Dr. Fernando Rubio of Mahon, Minorca to accomplish the exchange and week long programming.

The suggested schedule for the exchange is as follows:

A. Tuesday, May 17, 1983

Tallahassee, Florida: Governor and Cabinet proclaim May 24-30, 1983 MINORCAN HERITAGE WEEK IN Florida. Delegation of Minorcan Leaders from St. Augustine and New Smyrna receive RESOLUTION at State Cabinet Meeting and have noon luncheon in Old Capitol with Governor and Cabinet. (Minorcan folk recipes).

B. Tuesday, May 24, 1983

5:55 PM - Jacksonville/St. Augustine: Delegation of Minorcan citizens and performing folk artists arrive Jacksonville International Airport, greeted and transported to St. Augustine. (Palma, Madrid, NY)

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8:00 PM - Possible small local group reception or dinner-get acquainted. (Organized by St. Augustine host community)

C. Wednesday, May 25, 1983 - St. Augustine

9:00 AM - Welcome: Orientation and Briefing

10:00 AM - St. Augustine-tour, sightseeing, shopping, etc.

Lunch on own.

4:00 PM - MAIN CEREMONY, 1740 Spanish Artillery Unit escort delegation to Castillo de San Marcos National Monument. Welcome speeches, Governor, Secretary of State, Spanish Consul, delegation to reaffirm Florida/Spanish ties; Reenactment or presentation of memorials to incoming Spanish Governor Manuel de Zespedes. (Period drill team, music, costumes, etc.)

7:00 PM - Reception - Lightner Museum Casino

8:00 PM - Dinner

Welcome remarks by Secretary of State, others, toasts, etc. (Sponsored or sell tickets except for special guests)

D. Thursday, May 26, 1983 - St. Augustine

9:00 AM - Briefing

10:00 AM - Walking Tour of St. George Street, St. Augustine Historic District, Castillo de San Marcos, etc.

12:00 - Luncheon-Casa Del Hidalgo. (Guests of Spanish Ministry of Tourism)

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1:30 PM - People to People Exchange (open house) at Casa del Hidalgo; St. Augustine and New Smyrna Minorcan community visit with Catalonia/Minorca representatives.

7:30 PM - Fiesta/Torchlight Tour of Castillo de San Marcos, refreshments, music, plays, etc. (Dinner on own)

E. Friday, May 27, 1983 - St. Augustine

8:00 AM - Minorcan performing folk artists leave for White Springs and Florida Folk Festival.

AM - Free time for remaining representatives; shopping, tourist attractions, personal meetings, (time available for activities planned by Spanish Ministry or local Minorcan Community) Marineland, beach or some activity in PM.

1:00 PM - Minorcan folk artists begin schedule of performances at Florida Folk Festival. Their involvement at the festival will continue through Saturday evening.

Evening - Opportunity for local Minorcan leaders to plan small personal level dinner activity in homes-smaller group of delegates remain in St. Augustine.

F. Saturday, May 28, 1983 - White Springs: Florida Folk Festival

8:00 AM - Transportation to White Springs

10:00 AM - Arrive at Florida Folk Festival

Tour of grounds

Briefing on Festival

Visit Minorcan Folklife Area



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- 12:00 . - Lunch - Food pavilion, ethnic dishes
- 1:00 PM - Main Stage Entertainment
- 1:45 PM - Formal presentation of Minorcan Performers
- 3:00 PM - Transportation to motel/check-in and relax.
- 5:30 PM - Transportation to Folk Festival; Minorcan picnic on
grounds - Spring House area.
- 7:00 PM - Main Stage-Evening Program
- Presentation of gifts
- Introduction of Guests
- Minorcan Performers

G. Sunday, May 29, 1983

- 8:30 AM - Farewell Breakfast
- Locally catered-homestyle country breakfast in
Lake City.
- 9:30 AM - Depart for Jacksonville International Airport.
- 1:37 PM - Flight to Spain

To balance the visit of folk artists from Minorca, a comparable group of folk artists and folklife interpreters from St. Augustine will be organized to send to Minorca. Their trip will take place within the following year.
(Details to be arranged)



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Outside Support

In order for the Minorcan Heritage Project to materialize, a number of areas of support must be brought together. Commitment to participate in the project is needed from such organizations as the St. Augustine Historic Preservation Board, Minorcan-American churches and civic groups, and appropriate officials of Minorca. Willingness to host the Minorcan folk artists tours must be demonstrated by the city of St. Augustine and by Governor Graham. Beyond assurances of time and energy, the project will require funds (1) to produce a folklife area at the Florida Folk Festival, (2) produce events in St. Augustine and (3) to finance the Minorcan folk artists tour.

TIMETABLE

November-December 1982

1. Field research completed by Folklife Program staff in St. Augustine, to identify folk artists for Florida Folk Festival and secure preliminary commitments from them.
2. Exchange program proposal submitted to Mr. X. L. Pellicer and Dr. Rubio.
3. Budget developed and funding sources identified.

January - March 1983

1. Organize Minorcan folk artists exchange group with Minorcan officials
2. Preliminary arrangements made for Minorcan Week activities, involving Department of State staff, civic organizations, and the city of St. Augustine.
3. Confirm Minorcan presentations at Florida Folk Festival with Festival Program Committee and Florida Folklife Council.



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April - May 1983

1. Finalize all commitments for St. Augustine participants in Minorcan - Folklife Area. Develop site interpretation and written information. (Florida Folklife Program staff)
2. Finalize preparations for folk performances of Minorcan visitors at St. Augustine and Florida Folk Festival. (Minorcan officials and Florida Folklife Program staff)
3. Finalize preparations for receptions, dinners, presentations, and host city activities. (Department of State staff with St. Augustine Historic Preservation Board, X. L. Pellicer and appropriate local organizations)
4. The State Legislature and Cabinet declare May 24-30 Minorica Heritage Week.

May 24-30, 1983

Minorcan Folk Artists Tours and People-to-People exchange. (See Minorcan Exchange for detail)

Date to be arranged

Folk artists from St. Augustine visit Minorca and other parts of Spain as appropriate.



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