



Fern Garden/ Vase Scan/ Painting (Meera)

Purpose in our project: The Fern Garden is located in the center plaza of the Hill Cottage mound that has a crescent curvature.

Background: Among the abundant sections of ferns you can find a beautifully crafted vase in the center (insert scan). However, there is a deeper history to potentially unearth in this section of Historic Spanish Point. To begin, ancient Indigenous Floridians are the reason we are able to even witness these amazing feats of shell collection and use. Secondly, we are able to walk these grounds still today due to Mrs. Bertha Honore Palmer preserving the mound itself after purchasing the land in 1910. Currently, when you enter the Fern Garden, you will notice a descalation into the area. This is because you are entering the center plaza of the Hill Cottage mound. It is important to note that we do not know the explicit use of this mound. Why was there a sunken plaza? Why was it built upon a water spring? While we cannot extrapolate the legitimate use of the mound, claiming that there is no reason behind the Indigenous peoples actions would be just as ignorant of a disservice. Today, you can experience the inside of the plaza via the lush ferns, shell pathways, all while shrouded by shade underneath the trees. Lastly, I would implore you to note where elevation is visible within the plaza and surrounding it. This is living history of the man-made mound that we are privileged to experience today.

Question to keep in mind:

How can you represent your main idea with your text and media?

What parts of the land stand out to you? Explain why.

**How do the different time periods affect the land? What inspired these changes?
How could this connect with people today?**



A way into the Center Plaza *fendy*

It is predicted that this area is a way into the center plaza. You may ask yourself, how is this area a way into anything? All you can see is palms, trees and more trees. I was also lost. I had no clue what this area was or how to even read the map that represented the Hill Cottage Mound.

In the map you can see that the mound is in the shape of a crescent. The opening of this crescent shaped mound can be well seen on the map, but once you are walking around the Hill Cottage Mound area you don't get to visually see it.

The area shown in the pictures above, it has been predicted that it is connected into the center plaza. I had a short interview with **(Professor Pirone) on his hypothesis on what this center plaza may represent. He says “ These are not random features in the landscape that they constructed, these had great intent, they had purpose, they had meaning...”. We**

should always have in mind that the **(the name we are using for the people that built these mounds)** built these mounds for a reason and that this opening in the middle of the mound must have had a purpose to these **people**. Do we know the purpose? Without any further test we can not know. **(proffessor pirone)** hypothesis about this area is that the design of this crescent shaped mound (Hill Cottage Mound) has in some way an alignment incorporated. At the end of the day, we will not know the truth of the sole purpose of the construction of this mound to be the way it is. There will need to be further research to be done. Hopefully we get to hear more about this from **(proffessor pirone)** in the future.



Exposed Shell Mound/ Scans

Next time you visit the SELBY GARDENS Historic Spanish Point, I hope you notice this area in detail as I did with my partner Meera Razdan. This is not just an exposed shell “hill” made out of shells and dirt. This “hill” is a shell mound created by layers and layers of history. This Shell Mound is in one of the arms of a mound called the Hill Cottage Mound. Human made, usually seen in coastal locations composed entirely of shells. Each layer seen is filled with history. The first inhabitants of these lands did not build the mounds just yet, but we can learn so much from their lifestyle by a deeper examination done by the excavation groups in 1959. They excavated areas on the Hill Cottage Mound. They found that the Mound was formed by scallops, oysters, quahog, left-handed whelks, conchs, tulip, and murex shells. There is evidence that the environment was constantly evolving with signs of fishing and shell gatherings of many species. With Orange Plain Sherd being the earliest form of ceramics, including over 1650 shell and bone tools. These are found in every level of the excavation. All this was found by Elizabeth Sarney who excavated an area of the hill cottage mound. They built these mounds in community sites, providing elevated areas that would ensure to be above the waterline to build structures for living, cooking, and crafting. The “hills” as you would describe them if you were to first see them, have had a purpose, before houses were built above them. From these discoveries due to the excavations, we are now able to conclude that there were signs of population growth. Citation:

Crescenzo, Judi and John. "COTTAGE HILL MIDDEN AT HISTORIC SPANISH POINT TOPIC OF OCTOBER MEETING."
Dec. 2012.

<https://poly.cam/capture/F25AA195-2199-48C1-881C-9BEE3FF915AA>

<https://poly.cam/capture/BCD654BD-6163-4948-BB1C-8829E681E7AA>

<https://poly.cam/capture/B466BAA2-E533-442A-90FE-745147AE97F9>



Guptill House (Meera)

Purpose in our project:

Background: Guptill house sits atop the Hill Cottage mound. Facing the Palmer aqueduct entrance, its orientation is on the right arm of the crescent shape. Frank Guptill was the builder of the house as well as a seafaring man who married into the Webb family via Virginia Webb. However, Virginia died in 1878 and so he married her sister Eliza in 1879. The house was built in 1901.

Fun fact

Fendy's Arch Painting

Purpose in our project:

Background:

Fun facts:

The Packing House *I dont think we need to talk about this.*

Purpose in our project: To show the history of the “New World”, the introduction of the Webb's family into Historic Spanish Point in 1900s, and their general impact on the area inside the Historic Spanish Point

Background: Owned by the Webb's family in the 1900s

Fun facts:

Walkthrough Video

Purpose in our project: Explain the walk and visuals, talk explicitly about the mound and its orientation

Background:

Fun facts:

DO WE STILL WANT TO ADD THIS.