



AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA

PLEASANT POINT CEMETERY

GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

Also known as Woodlawn Cemetery • Founded in the 1880s

AT A GLANCE

Historic African American Cemetery

Approximately 1.4 acres

Off County Road 209

Magnolia Community

A RESTING PLACE OF A HISTORIC BLACK COMMUNITY

Pleasant Point Cemetery, also known as Woodlawn Cemetery, is located on the west side of the St. Johns River just outside Green Cove Springs. Research associated with the cemetery restoration dates its establishment to the 1880s and connects it to Magnolia, a free African American settlement. The site preserves an important part of Clay County's Black community history.

THE MAGNOLIA COMMUNITY

Recent research presented through the Florida Public Archaeology Network describes Magnolia as a free African American settlement. The broader Magnolia area had earlier connections to Northern abolitionists and was occupied by Union troops during the Civil War. After the war, the Magnolia Springs Hotel temporarily housed the Freedmen's Bureau and an orphanage for Black children.

REDISCOVERY & RESTORATION

In October 2024, restoration work began at Pleasant Point after the cemetery had become heavily overgrown and largely forgotten. A large concrete entrance arch had been obscured by vegetation, lichen, and moss. Community volunteers joined the effort, and by 2026 the cemetery had been cleared while work continued on family plots, headstones, documentation, and site surveying.

REMEMBERING THOSE BURIED HERE

When the restoration project began, only six individuals were known to be buried at Pleasant Point. Subsequent research has identified more than forty people associated with the cemetery, including at least four veterans. Clay County historical records also identify African American burials at Woodlawn/Pleasant Point, including Susan Floyd, George E. Forrester, Sarah Stewart, and Pizel Robinson.

PRESERVING A SACRED LANDSCAPE

Pleasant Point Cemetery is more than a burial ground. It is a surviving link to Magnolia's African American community and to generations whose lives form part of the history of Green Cove Springs and Clay County. Its restoration helps return names, stories, and dignity to a place that had nearly disappeared from public memory.

VISIT PLEASANT POINT CEMETERY

Pleasant Point Cemetery (also known as Woodlawn Cemetery)

Off County Road 209 • Green Cove Springs, Florida

GPS coordinates: 30.16592, -81.699639

No verified street-number address was located; the GPS coordinates provide the most precise documented location.

- Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN), "Saving Pleasant Point," Cemetery Resource Protection Training Conference 2026.
- Black Cemetery Network, "Pleasant Point Cemetery" site brief.
- Clay County Historical Commission, "African-American Burials in Green Cove Springs (From FL Death Records 1877–1939)."

ARCHIVAL NOTE: Some earlier accounts described Pleasant Point as a burial ground dating to slavery. More recent cemetery research presented by FPAN reports that the cemetery itself dates to the 1880s and served the free African American community of Magnolia. This profile follows the more recent research while preserving the distinction.