
DOWNTOWN OCALA HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

DOWNTOWN GAZEBO

1 SE BROADWAY ST, OCALA, FL 34471

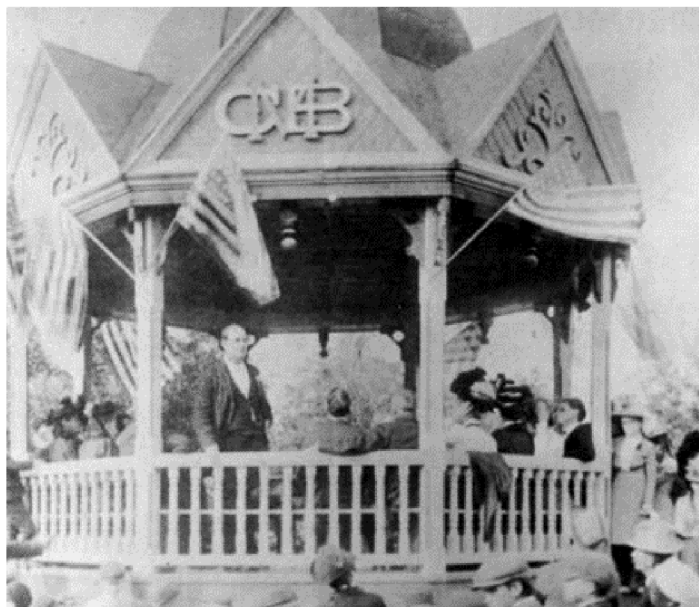
In 1888, a bandstand was constructed in City Park. The public square functioned as a center of community events and celebrations. The park serves as a meeting place for residents and a site for city sponsored functions, area events, and family and group picnics. The original bandstand is believed to have been demolished or moved by 1906. A reconstruction appeared in 1912 but was no longer present by 1930. In 1987, a second reconstruction of the wood frame gazebo was built. It proudly displays the city seal of Ocala, FL.

Around 1846, the first courthouse was also built in this location. While photographs of this courthouse are not available, it is described as basically a log cabin. The second, and first permanent, courthouse was built in 1851. The third courthouse was built on the same site as the first and second courthouses in 1884. It was identified to be too small almost immediately. Public dissatisfaction caused a fourth courthouse to be built in 1906.

In the 1960s, a fifth courthouse was built on a different site. In 1965, after public efforts to save the historic courthouse failed, it was demolished. The County Commissioners gave the site to the City of Ocala, retaining its function as a Public Square.



Downtown Square, Gazebo & Courthouse c.1900



William Jennings Bryant Speaking from the Gazebo in 1908 during his Presidential Campaign

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