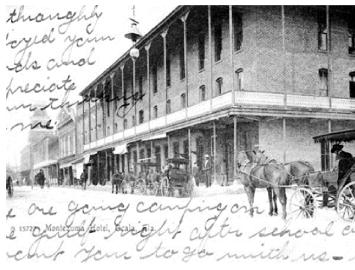# DOWNTOWN OCALA
HISTORIC WALKING TOUR
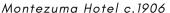
MONTEZUMA HOTEL
35 SE 1ST AVE, OCALA, FL 34471

Montezuma Hotel was constructed soon after the Great Fire of 1883. It was originally named The Magnolia Hotel after a giant magnolia tree that was growing in front of the building. In 1893, the name was changed to Montezuma Hotel. The hotel was a three-story building with 74 rooms that were equipped with electric, gas, and sanitary plumbing. It was the second largest brick building in Ocala at that time.

In 1912, the name changed again to Harrington Hall Hotel. R.S. Hall, a prosperous naval store operator, bought the hotel and upgraded it to first-class status. He renamed it after one of his sons. The hotel then had 75 hotel rooms and 10 rental units. The hotel became downtown's leading hotel in the early 1900s. The Harrington had lunch and dining rooms, and several businesses on the first floor in the 1930's and 1940's. Some of those businesses included a jewelry store, barbershop, and the young men's division of the Chamber of Commerce. It housed the Greyhound Bus station for a while, but it moved out in 1946 to another location on north Magnolia.

When the demand for downtown parking escalated in the 1950s, the city bought the hotel and demolished it. They intended to build a parking lot on the site. However, this never happened, and the Munroe and Chambliss Bank ended up with the Harrington site. Now, this location is the site of the Cantina restaurant.

Montezuma Hotel c.1906

Harrington Hall Hotel c.1915