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# DOWNTOWN OCALA HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

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## UNION TRAIN STATION

**531 NE 1ST AVE, OCALA, FL 34470**

The Ocala Union Train Station was built in 1917 by both the Atlantic Coastline and Seaboard Air Line Railroad. Prior to the construction of the train station, both rail lines had separate depots in Ocala. Union Station Plaza operated as a train station for a century.

This train station was located on the Seaboard Air Line's mainline, also known as the "S-Line," and on the Atlantic Coast Line's secondary route. In 1970, six passenger trains stopped per day in Ocala. The station served passenger trains for Amtrak's Palmetto service. A major renovation of the facility was completed in 1988.

The Train Station contains the old city police office, which is now local eatery called Depot on Magnolia. While it also serves as a hub for SunTran, the building has been transformed into the Magnolia Art Xchange (MAX). MAX is a nonprofit artist incubator where resident artists have access to their own private studios.

Appropriately located, MAX is also neighbor to the Tuscawilla Art Park and NOMA Art Gallery. This historic building has reinvigorated Ocala Midtown and is a driving force for a developing art district. Union Station is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was renovated in 1998. The City of Ocala invested \$4 million to restore and preserve the history and beauty of this local landmark for our community to enjoy for decades to come.



*Ocala Union Train Station c.1920*



*Ocala Union Train Station c.1970*

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