

# CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2023-553

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council President at the request of the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission

**Date of Introduction:** August 22, 2023

**Committee(s) of Reference:** LUZ

**Date of Analysis:** August 24, 2023

**Type of Action:** Designation of local historic landmark

**Bill Summary:** The bill designates the commercial building located at 208 North Laura Street downtown (the Greenleaf Building) as a local historic landmark. It directs the Legislative Services Division to notify the applicant, property owner, and the Property Appraiser of the designation and directs the Zoning Administrator to enter the landmark designation on the zoning atlas.

**Background Information:** The Greenleaf Building was originally constructed in 1927 and is one of the few remaining examples of the mixed-use commercial buildings constructed in Downtown Jacksonville during the Jacksonville Renaissance that followed the Great Fire of 1901 and the subsequent Florida Land Boom of the 1920s. It was designed by architects from the local firm known as Marsh & Saxelbye, considered a prominent local architecture firm during the Florida Land Boom and reflects design elements of a commercial high-rise style referred to at various times as the Chicago School, the Chicago Style, or the Commercial Style, and is identified as the forerunner of the modern skyscraper. The building is determined to meet 4 of the criteria for designation as a landmark: 1) value as a significant reminder of the cultural, historical, architectural, or archaeological heritage of the City, state or nation; 2) identified as the work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual work has influenced the development of the City, state or nation; 3) value as a building is recognized for the quality of its architecture, and it retains sufficient elements showing its architectural significance; and 4) suitability for preservation or restoration.

**Policy Impact Area:** Historic preservation

**Fiscal Impact:** None to City

**Analyst:** Clements