

A HISTORIC FIRST FOR CENTRAL FLORIDA

Under chilly but clear skies Thursday afternoon, officials unveiled the plaque that designates the Maitland Art Center as Central Florida's first National Historic Landmark.

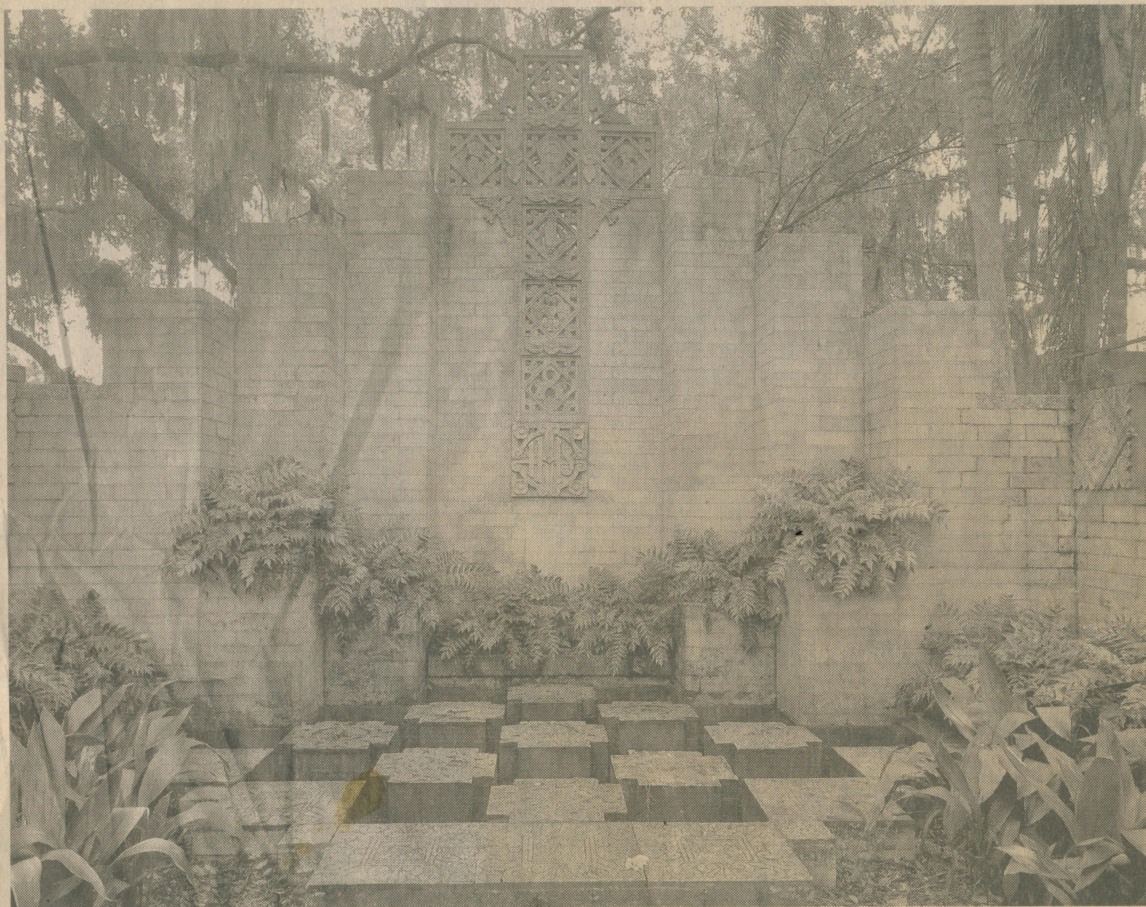
"It's been a long journey," said Andrea Bailey Cox, executive director of the Art & History Museums — Maitland, which runs the center.

"We have known for decades that this very special place is a landmark," said Maitland Mayor Howard Schieferdecker, citing the center's dedication to creativity and artistic experimentation and expression.

The city financially supported the effort to achieve landmark status, which cost about \$20,000 in research and other expenses associated with the rigorous application process.

Created as an artist colony by artist J. Andre Smith in 1937, the Maitland Art Center becomes one of the just slightly more than 2,500 National Historical Landmarks in the country. It is the 44th landmark in Florida — and the first in the greater Orlando area.

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