

I am a Historian!

Grade:	4
Locale:	Ruskin/Apollo Beach
When:	1950's
Spark of Interest:	I am a Historian
Content Areas:	History/Language Arts
Timeframe:	Two 45 minute sessions
Sunshine State Standards:	SS.A.1.2 LA.A.1.2 LA.A.1.2

Abstract:

Students will use copies of a 1953 Ruskin Phone Directory and current phone directories to simulate the same techniques that an actual historian would use to research and document the history of local businesses and families.

Materials:

- 1 set of fact files of historic places per pair of students **or** access to website WWW.RuskinHistory.org by each student pair
- 1 copy of 1953 Ruskin telephone Directory per student pair
- 1 reasonably current local phone book per pair of students
- Highlighters (Optional)

Key Vocabulary:

- Directory
- Historian
- Primary source
- Artifact

Lesson Outline:

1. Inform students that they are going to be historians! Their goal is to find as much information as they can about local historic homes, buildings, people, and businesses. They are going to utilize the very same investigative techniques that historians use.
2. Form student pairs.
3. Distribute Fact Files of Historic Ruskin Homes and businesses.
4. Discuss the names of the houses/businesses, address, who built them, and who lived there.
5. Distribute 1 copy of the 1953 Phone Directory to each pair of students.
6. Explain that this is a copy of the actual 1953 Ruskin Telephone Directory. Discuss how all of the names fit onto 1 page and the phone numbers only have 4 digits. Ask what this tells us about Ruskin at that time.
7. Since this is a copy we will be able to highlight/write on it but they would never do that with a primary source or actual artifact.

8. Students highlight names that are common to the Fact Files and the 1953 phone directory. Discuss the number of names both sources have in common and whether these people may still be alive and living in the Ruskin area. Discuss the possibility that these people's children, grandchildren, or other relatives may still be living in the area.
9. Have students highlight/underline Ruskin School in the 1953 Phone Directory. Point out the old address of Wimauma Rd. Compare it to today's address on College Avenue (Rt. 674). Discuss if this means the school changed locations or perhaps the street was renamed.
10. Have students highlight/underline G. E. Castillo in the 1953 Directory. Discuss the possibility of this person being the original owner of Castillo Paint & Body Shop. Perhaps it is a relative instead.
11. Highlight/underline the Miller's names. None of them are George Miller but perhaps they are relatives who can provide historical data to researchers.
12. Continue this with names such as Dickman, Willis, and the Vegetable Corporation. Highlight E. G. Simmons in the 1953 Phone Directory and discuss the connection with E. G. Simmons, which is a local county park.
13. Use probing questions to elicit responses from students that answer the following questions: how can we get more information about the founding families of Ruskin? How can we learn more about important places and events in Ruskin History? (They can use the current phone book to contact these people and their relatives.)
14. Distribute current local phone books.
15. Direct students to look up the names of people who may be descendants of the people listed in the 1953 Ruskin Telephone Directory. The same should be done for businesses. Look to see if the addresses are the same in both directories.
16. Have pupils summarize the information they found. Tell them to develop a plan of action stating who they would contact, what information they might be able to get from certain people, and what types of questions they would ask.

Extension:

- Invite a descendant of one of these people to speak with the class such as Dr. Miller. Prepare questions in advance.
- Have students write letters to people who may be relatives of the founding people of Ruskin. They can interview these people to collect and preserve historical data.
- Have students interview their own family members to gather historical data or information that ought to be recorded for future generations.

College Arts Building

**410 4th Avenue SW
Ruskin, FL 33570**



Photo Source: <http://ruskinhistory.org>

The College Arts Building, also known as the Conservatory of Music Building was built between 1910 and 1911. It is one of two remaining buildings from the original Ruskin College.

The building was used at the time for the instruction of music and the visual arts.. Today it is the private home of Mr. Conrad Peterson.

Ruskin Theater

**408 Highway 41 N
Ruskin, Florida 33572**



Photo source: <http://www.ruskinhistory.org>

Built in 1948 by Harold Willis, the Ruskin Theater was the hub of entertainment for the surrounding communities. Many people living in Ruskin still remember the movies and the popcorn.

Maxine Simmons who was the first woman Honorary Mayor of Ruskin in 1971 remembers *Mr. Peabody and the Mermaid* as the first movie that played here.

Johnnie June Harris-Carter, daughter of hometown "Doc" John Henry Harris, remembers a live performance at the theater by cowboy movie hero Lash LaRue who used a whip instead of a gun against the "bad guys."

Over the years the building has been used for various purposes, including a thrift store. Today the building sits empty and is at risk of being lost to Ruskin's future.

The A. P. Dickman House



Photo source: <http://www.ruskinhistory.org>

The A. P. Dickman House 120 Dickman Drive S. W. Ruskin, FL 33570

The interior features a massive dogleg staircase, hardwood floors, high ceilings, and original wall-coloring. Every room is furnished with period antiques and oriental rugs; rocking chairs grace the verandas.

Both verandas look over a view of the Ruskin Inlet, which winds past the natural waterfront. The second-story veranda is screened and offers a double hammock.

The three-acre property affords quiet walks, tropical glades, and small flowering gardens.

The Bird Room, named for its bird-and-dog patterned wallpaper, is a large bedroom, library, and a bathroom suite; it is surrounded by the second story veranda and is approached by the staircase. The bedroom is furnished with a double brass bed, a dressing table, a large and handsome desk and dresser, and a corner bookcase.

The library of sitting room contains period upholstered chairs and three bookcases, one of which holds the 1926 edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica behind glass.

The large bathroom consists of a ball-footed tub, a pedestal sink, and a period commode. Hardwood paneling, double-hung windows, and stained glass make this a bathroom to live in.

Landmarked by Hillsborough County, the A. P. Dickman House is the finest eclectic dwelling in the county.

Asymmetrical massing, a varied roof silhouette, and a corner tower recall the late nineteenth century picturesque tradition of the Queen Ann; the Tuscan columned double tiered gallery with its graceful turned balustrade is Colonial Revival in derivation.

Built entirely out of heart pine, the house was the first finished wood structure in South Hillsborough County.

The Harrisburg Suite consists of a bedroom, a sitting room, and a bathroom.

The bedroom is furnished with a spooled wood double bed, a dressing table, and a massive dresser. The room opens directly onto the first floor veranda.

The sitting room, set off in its original deep green, contains a small antique library, a checkerboard table, and a daybed covered in quilts and pillows. This room offers direct access to the carport and to the remainder of the house.

The Lilac Room shares the Bird Room bath. The room, which has direct access to the bath, is furnished with an antique double bed, a dresser, and a desk. An oriental rug in deep shades of red and indigo complements the lilac walls and dark brown wood

The George Miller House

503 Tamiami Trail - U.S. Hwy 41 S. - Ruskin, Florida 33570



Photo Source <http://ruskinhistory.org>

The George M. Miller House, constructed in 1914 as the residence for the President of Ruskin College, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its social/humanitarian and architectural significance. Miller served as the president of the small agriculturally-oriented cooperative college until his death in 1918. With many of the students engaged in the war effort the school was forced to close and all of its buildings save the Miller House burned in 1919. The house is an impressive, well-preserved example of the bungalow style and appears to be the work of the same hand that designed and/or built the L. L. Dickman House.

L. L. Dickman House

416 U.S. Highway 41 S. - Ruskin, Florida 33570



The L. L. Dickman House was erected in 1910 for the Ruskin founder and is one of the three major structures associated with the utopian community to survive. The generously proportioned house shows the stylistic influence of Charles A. F. Voysey, the English architect who popularized a revival of English, vernacular architecture. The sweeping gable roof, simple, uncluttered lines, ranges of casement windows and substantial massing are all hallmarks of Voysey's Arts and Crafts style. The house is a remarkably mature local expression of the Craftsman Bungalow mode considering its early construction date.

Ruskin Telephone Directory

RUSKIN, FLORIDA

Also Subscriber Listings of
TAMPA AND PLANT CITY EXCHANGES
FEBRUARY, 1953 ISSUE

CARL D. BROREIN
President and General Manager

TAMPA COMMERCIAL OFFICE
TELEPHONE BUILDING, 519 ZACK STREET, TAMPA
NORMAN M. SHENK, Commercial Superintendent

Payment of Ruskin area telephone bills, as rendered, may be made
at the Ruskin Trading Center



Emergency Calls

Fire (Florida Forest Service)Dial 0 and ask for Tampa 49-1741
Police (Sheriff's Office — Ruskin) Dial 7193

Service Calls

Long Distance — Bradenton, Sarasota and Venice..... Dial 9
Long Distance — All Other Points.....Dial 0
Information — Numbers Not Listed in Directory.....Dial 0
Repair Service—To Report a Telephone Out of Order.....Dial 0
Telephone Company Commercial Office.....Dial 0

To call another telephone on the same line with yourself, dial "Information" and give the operator your own number and the number of the telephone you want to call. She will instruct you how to proceed.

Corrected to January 5, 1953
Copyright, 1953, by Peninsular Telephone Company

Source: <http://ruskinhistory.org>

Ruskin Telephone Directory

Ruskin Alphabetical Telephone Directory

A		G		Rogers Henry r Ruskin..... 7485	
Allen's Repair Service Shell Point rd..... 7384		Geiger B A r Ruskin..... 7841		Rusch H F r 5th st..... 7561	
Almand Carlton r 2nd st & 6th av SE..... 7533		Geiger B A ofc 4th st..... 7431		Ruskin Bus Station 4th st..... 7101	
Almand Roy r 2nd st..... 7671		Gilbert Mrs Margaret r Shell Pt rd..... 7781		Ruskin Fish Co Hwy 541..... 7961	
Arnold L E r Ruskin..... 7523		Glass John M r 9th st..... 7412		Ruskin Garage 4th st..... 8201	
Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Co Ruskin..... 7261		Gose Mrs Nellie r Markham av..... 7413		Ruskin School Wimauma rd..... 7513	
B				Ruskin School Lunchroom Ruskin..... 7515	
Baker's General Store 4th st..... 7981		Gregory George S rtr Ruskin..... 7091		Ruskin Theatre 4th st..... 7073	
Baker Ray Kenneth C Sr r 5th av..... 7301		H		Ruskin Trading Center 4th st..... 8102	
Ball Frank store Hwy 541..... 8601		Hagin Mabry A r Hwy 541..... 7401		Ruskin Vegetable Co-Op Hotel Hwy 541..... 8321	
Beaudette Farms Wimauma rd..... 7332		Hahn Harold V r 4th av & 5th st..... 7392		Ruskin Vegetable Cooperative Hwy 541..... 7951	
Boling Laura r Emerson..... 7411		Hale Walter r Ruskin..... 7403		Hwy 541..... 7991	
Boralko John r Hwy 541..... 7974		Hall Rev Clyde E r NE 4th av..... 7035		Ruskin Vegetable Distributors Hwy No 541..... 7211	
Bowman C M r 4th st..... 7181		Hand's Grocery Sun City..... 8902		Night Sales Calls..... 7343	
Bradenton Motor Co Bradenton Fla call Long Distance (Dial 9) and ask for Bradenton Enterprise..... 4365		Hansen Axel r River dr..... 7521		Rutland Rev R Eugene Jr r Ruskin..... 7674	
(No Toll Charge on Enterprise Calls)		Hart O L r Ornela & River dr..... 7525			
Braman Gerald r Bellamy av..... 7123		Hindman Sam r Hwy 541..... 7025		S	
Burnett Angelo r Ruskin..... 7623		Holloway P D Don r Ruskin..... 7702		Saffold W H r Hwy 541..... 7402	
Buzbee W H r 4th av & 5th st..... 7393		Howe J W r Shell Point rd..... 7784		Sanchez James r Wimauma rd..... 7331	
C		Howard's Package Store Ruskin..... 7584		Schaub Frank atty Ruskin..... 7091	
Carothers Supply 4th st..... 7191		J		Schnarr Werner H first Ruskin..... 7304	
Carothers W E r College av..... 7462		Johnson Seth C r Ruskin..... 7422		Shonk Samuel S r Ruskin..... 7371	
Carter T B r Ruskin..... 7553		Jones M B r Sun City..... 7901		Shank Texaco Station Hwy 541 & Wimauma rd..... 7693	
Castillo G E r 4th st..... 8821		Jorgensen M C r A..... 7283		Simmons E G r 2nd st..... 7554	
Chason Mrs A M r Ruskin..... 7121		K		Simmons Samuel R r Ruskin..... 7023	
Christopher Earl G r Shell Pt rd..... 7382		Keene Alva G r 4th st..... 7133		Sims Houston r Ruskin..... 7532	
Church of God 5th st..... 7204		Keever Robert D r 9th st..... 7753		Smallwood Fish Co Ruskin..... 8701	
Clapgood Roman J Co Sun City..... 7973		Kinard C M r Wimauma rd..... 7374		Smallwood J H r Ruskin..... 7704	
Coffee Cup 4th st..... 8831		Kulp Lawrence W r Ruskin..... 7034		Smith G W r Ruskin..... 7172	
Coleman Rev J W r 5th st..... 7204		L		Smith I G r Ruskin..... 7414	
Colonial Inn 4th st..... 7681		Larre's Beauty Shop 4th st..... 7761		Smith J D r Wimauma..... 7511	
Congleton E A bldg contr College av..... 7771		Lavender & McLean Sun City..... 7151		Smith T H r Bellamy..... 7785	
Couch Gertrude Speer r Ruskin..... 7613		Leavine James R r Ruskin..... 7501		Spencer David r 180 Wilcox av..... 7855	
Council B W r College av..... 7464		Leisey C E r 1st st..... 7511		Stanfill James T r Ruskin..... 7175	
Council C L r A..... 7282		Leisey C E Jr r Ruskin..... 7782		Stephens L J r 4th st..... 7202	
Council C L & Sons Ruskin..... 7022		Leisey C E & Sons Ruskin..... 7342		Stowers D F live stock buyer Bellamy..... 7124	
Council E H r Wimauma rd..... 7333		Long Mrs Roberta r Ruskin..... 7135		Strickland W W r Ruskin..... 7171	
Council R L r Hwy 541..... 7763		M		Sutton Henry J r rest 2nd av SW..... 7391	
County of Hillsborough		Markwood Jacob L r Hwy 541..... 7904		Sweat L D restr 3rd st..... 7093	
Agricultural Assistant Agent Ruskin..... 7351		McLean J E r Sun City..... 7905		Sweat L D r 3rd st..... 7093	
Home Demonstration Assistant Agent Ruskin..... 7351		Meredith Ray r Gillman av & 10th st..... 7391		Sweatt Mrs B G r Ruskin..... 7493	
Sheriffs Ofc 4th st..... 7193		Metcalf Mrs Georgadda M r College av..... 7461		Swindal Mrs R O r 4th st..... 7183	
Crosier W M r Hwy 541 & South..... 7581		Miller Mrs Charlet r Ruskin..... 7793		T	
D		Miller Willard D r Central av..... 7631		Tatum R F r C..... 7873	
Daniels H M r Ruskin..... 7851		Mitchell Bill r Ruskin..... 7174		Taylor C H r Hwy 541..... 7343	
Deal J H r Wimauma rd..... 7334		Mixon Lester W r Ruskin..... 7492		Terry Clyde L Ruskin..... 7792	
Denny O B r Ruskin..... 7611		Mobley Hazel r Ruskin..... 7641		Tidwell Burl r Ruskin..... 7571	
Dickman Lyle C r 4th st..... 7271		Molz Harry r Ruskin..... 7454		Tillett J E r Shell Point rd..... 7381	
Dickman Paul B r 4th st..... 7041		Molz Harry Jr r Ruskin..... 7673		Timberlake Lt Col John W r Ruskin..... 7495	
Dickman Paul B Farms Hwy 541..... 7211		Moser Mrs Mary r College av..... 7624		Tincher C M r Shell Point rd..... 7383	
Dickman Quai r Rd 541 & Lewis..... 7564		N		V	
Dickman Rose B r Ruskin..... 7192		Northside Baptist Church Ruskin..... 7541		Vandenberg Peter J r Ruskin..... 7972	
E		P		Vanderslice Raymond W r 3rd st..... 7455	
Early Mary r 6th av & 2nd st..... 7534		Paradise Bar Inc Hwy 541..... 8962		Vasquez Arthur r Ruskin..... 7591	
Eckart Mrs Elizabeth F r Ruskin..... 7572		Paradise Trailer Park Hwy 541..... 8964		Villemaire Leo r Emerson av..... 7424	
Elsberry L L r W Emerson av..... 7874		Parrish John r Ruskin..... 7444		Villemaire Mrs Lionel r Ruskin..... 7575	
Enzor's Pharmacy Ruskin..... 8074		Peer Ida W r Ruskin..... 7621		W	
Esterson A L r C st & College av..... 7573		Penner's Dr Clinic 4th st..... 7861		Wades' Garage Ruskin..... 7071	
Eunice Beauty Salon 4th st & Ida..... 7092		Penner Dr Francis S G r 4th st..... 7861		Wadsworth Miss Ivah B r A..... 7285	
F		Perkins Edwin P r Ruskin..... 7672		Wilbanks Dewey farm Ruskin..... 7344	
Farmer's General Repair Service Hwy 541..... 7341		Porter H D r 2nd st..... 7552		Wilkins S A r Ruskin..... 7691	
Fleischer & Tyler Sun City..... 7153		Post Office 4th st..... 7431		Willis H E r Central av..... 7632	
Fowler Moena r Markham av..... 7531		Powell Frances r Ruskin..... 7031		Willis Henry Y r 3rd st..... 7451	
Fowler-White-Gillen-Yancey & Humkey Call Long Distance (Dial 0) and ask for Tampa Enterprise. 2-7141 (No Toll Charge on Enterprise Calls)		R		Willis W H & Son 4th st..... 7061	
		Rice Sidney F r C..... 7875		Wilson Woodrow r Wimauma rd..... 7374	
		Rice W H r Ruskin..... 7703		Wright's Tourist Court 14th st..... 7791	
		Richardson J W r Ruskin..... 7481			
		Roberts Berry r Wimauma rd..... 7372			

Source: <http://ruskinhistory.org>