



Civil & Environmental Engineering • Mechanical & Structural Engineering • Construction Management

September 5, 2025

Mr. Jeremiah Glisson
Deputy City Manager
City of Fernandina Beach
204 Ash Street
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

RE: "Peg Leg Pete" Statue
Structural Assessment

Dear Mr. Glisson:

Per your request, we did a visual inspection of the above referenced statue (art work), located adjacent to the Train Depot at the corner of Front Street and Centre Street. The statue's structural integrity has been called into question due to age, lack of maintenance and public interaction.

The statue in question ("Peg Leg Pete") is approximately five feet tall and carved from a section of oak tree. The statue is about 45 years old and was hand-carved and is currently mounted on a concrete-type base. We did verify the statue is anchored to the base, but methodology of anchoring is not determinable at this time. The structure appears to have had minimal maintenance over its lifetime, with visible decay and soft areas noticed in several places. Based on the visible decay areas, it would be logical that further decay, at a minimum, exists below the surface of these areas.

Per previous news articles, the statue was carved by a local artist in the late 1970's, with no apparent regards to design in accordance with any local, State or national standards. It was most likely created as just a work of art, without being subject to external loads (i.e. human, wind, flood, etc.). Therefore, allowing human interaction such as children climbing on the statue, is beyond the intent of this work of art, especially at its current age and condition. Due to the current visible damage of the structure, and most-likely hidden damage, it is not recommended that pedestrian interface be allowed.

It is our professional opinion that the structure can remain visible to the public, but should be protected from public interaction. If the statue is going to remain on public display, we recommend a barrier (i.e. fence) be placed around the structure immediately, along with signage to prevent human interaction. If this is not possible, we suggest the statue be moved to a place out of possible physical interaction.

Thank you If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 904-261-8819.

Sincerely,

Asa R. Gillette, P.E.
FL PE No. 56177
Principal/Engineer
Gillette and Associates, Inc.