

MARION COUNTY STREETS

Streets, Avenues, & How They're Named

Finding Your Way Around

PURPOSE:

This document describes the Ocala address numbering system.

Let's review how streets in Ocala are numbered. Engineers will understand this, I guess, more quickly. More innocent people, or those not imbued with an engineer's love of arcane details, may need to drive around and experiment a bit.

GENERAL RULES

Don't speed. The area is heavily patrolled and radar enforced. This is true both outside OTOW and inside OTOW.

Don't speed. You're probably retired. Slow down.

That's particularly true on the side roads and back roads.

THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

In general, understanding Ocala's addresses is pretty simple – kind of like cooking a full Thanksgiving Dinner as a single mom with 4-year-old triplet boys and a big dog.

The origin of this process is said to be based on the needs of emergency and ambulance drivers. The “grid” system allows them to find things faster. Maybe.

Here's how it works.

Ocala is divided into quadrants¹. The “quadrant” (SW is southwest of city center) indicates where the address is, physically.

The north/south dividing line is Highway 40, until it turns north about 6 miles east of downtown. At that point, the boundary is Fort King Road.

The east/west boundary is Pine street, or sometimes Magnolia. If you drive on Pine Street, going north, street signs on your right will say “xxxx SE xxxx”, and on your left it will say “xxxx SW xxxx”.

¹ Many Florida cities have similar numbering systems. Gainesville addresses, for one, will seem very familiar, once you've mastered Ocala's.

Roadway names, and addresses, indicate the distance from city center. As an example, 8300 indicates that the address is 8.3 miles from city center – whether it is east, west, north, or south depends on the roadway name.

Roadways that start with “C”, “A”, or “T” are NORTH/SOUTH roadways, and generally will travel north and south. They are named based on their distance from the North/South Boundary. This includes Courts, Avenues, Terraces, Traces, and Circles. (Circles don’t go straight north/south, but they are NAMED based on their distance from the north/south boundary.)

All other roadways travel EAST/WEST, and are named based on the distance from the East/West Boundary. These include Streets, Lanes, Loops, and any other roadway names that DON’T start with C, A, or T.

If the roadway name ends in “Road” (i.e. 82nd Court Road), it starts where the name begins, and bends a bit, so it isn’t going directly North/South, or East/West.

An example:

2100 SE 17th Street

This address is 2.1 miles EAST of Pine street and 1.7 miles SOUTH of highway 40. You’ll find it at the corner of SE 21st Avenue and SE 17th Street.

8725 SW 83rd Circle

This address is 8.3 miles WEST of Pine, .3 miles WEST of 80th Avenue, and 8.7 miles South of Highway 40, and .7 miles South of 80th Street.

Ok?

An Approach to Addresses

- Look first at the name of the “roadway”.
 - If it starts with CAT, it is a north/south roadway, and the quadrant and name will tell you which way it is from Pine Street and how far. The quadrant and address tells you how far it is from HW 40.
 - If it does NOT start with CAT, it is an east/west roadway, and its name tells you how far north or south it is from HW 40. The address tells you how far north or south it is, based on the quadrant.

Another Example: There are three parts to the address:

- Quadrant: Can only be SW, SE, NE, NW, and tells you where you’re going, from very high up in the sky.

- If the roadway name starts with “C”, “A”, or “T”, the distance from “Pine Street” is shown in the roadway name. 60th Court is 6.0 miles from center. 127th Avenue is 12.7 miles from center. In this case, the “address” digits tell you how far the address is from HW 40. 8800 SW 80th Avenue is 8.0 miles WEST from Pine (SW 80th Avenue), and 8.8 miles SOUTH of HW 40 (8800 SW)
- If the address has a roadway name that does NOT start with “CAT”, the process is similar, but switched around. 8800 SW 80th STREET is 8.0 miles SOUTH of HW40 (SW 80th STREET), and 8.8 miles WEST of Pine (8800 SW).

You are now an expert, and can faithfully interpret addresses, and can drop, like a laser-guided bomb, on any address anywhere in Ocala. Except for “roads”. Good luck there and don’t call me.