

Preservation News

A Publication of the Lee Trust for Historic Preservation • Spring, 2003

Phone (239) 344-0100

Lee Trust Celebrates The First Revolution of its Revolving Fund

The Lee Trust was established on February 15, 1993 with a mission, in part, to buy endangered historic properties and sell them to buyers who would restore them. In 2001 Bonita Bay donated to the Lee Trust a .75 acre tract of land at the corner of Bird and Buckingham Roads which included two historic houses. The Flint house is an early 20th century two-story wood frame residential structure; an accessory building, which is a very small, single story wood frame residential structure, faces Bird Road.

Bonita Bay properties had purchased the historic houses as part of the Verandah, a residential development encompassing roughly 1,500 acres south of the Caloosahatchee River and S.R. 80 and east of I-75 in Lee County's Buckingham area. Since Bonita Bay is not in the preservation business, it could not restore the structures, and instead donated them to the Lee Trust to give the community an opportunity to save them.

Because the buildings had been abandoned for years, a lot of trash and debris had accumulated inside and on the land surrounding them. The Lee Trust had several community workdays to clean up the site, which always netted several containers of trash. Additionally Forestry Resources Inc. sent in one of their crews to mulch down a large stand of Brazilian Peppers.

All this activity generated a lot of interest in the site by neighbors, the media and prospective buyers. By the end of 2002 the Lee Trust had found the

perfect match for the historic houses. Larry Fucella of North Fort Myers who moved here from New Jersey purchased the old houses and the .75-acre tract from the Lee Trust for \$38,000. As a builder who loves to rehabilitate houses, Larry saw the beauty of the structures and is eager to restore them. Larry offered for the public to watch the progress of the Flint house at the webshots web site: <http://community.webshots.com/album/33270645XURNmv>.

The houses have been designated under the Lee County Historic Preservation Ordinance and are subject

to the protective covenants placed on the property by the Lee Trust. Ordinarily the Lee Trust would buy an endangered property and sell it to a good steward and only expect to recover its expenses (i.e. insurance, termite treatment and cost of any improvements). However, since Bonita Bay donated the property to the Lee Trust, the revolving fund did not incur normal expenses in purchasing the property. As a result the Lee Trust earned over \$30,000 (after expenses), which put it in a good financial position to step in and pay for the next endangered building that needs to be saved.



LEE TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC.

The mission of Lee Trust is to preserve the sites and buildings of historical, archaeological and architectural significance to Lee County through both advocacy and acquisition.

Lee Trust for Historic Preservation

• • •

Board of Directors

Toni Ferrell, President
Bob Sanford, 1st Vice President
Susan Grace, 2nd Vice President
Bill Grace, Treasurer
Gina Sabiston, Secretary

• • •

Honorary Board of Directors

Keith Arnold
Jan Brown
Berne Davis
Mariel Goss
William H. Grace
Nina Houghton

• • •

Lee Trust for Historic Preservation Inc was founded in 1993 and is dedicated to preserving and developing the heritage of Lee County and its municipalities.

• • •

Preservation News is published quarterly unless our volunteer members are too darned busy to get it done. In that case, it is published at random when we have time away from saving our heritage.

Contributors for this issue include:

Julie Ende-Killion
Toni Ferrell
Bill Grace
Mary Rawl
Gloria Sajgo
Bob Sanford

Grafix Shell, Graphic Designer
is our ace-in-the-hole graphics studio!

• • •

Lee Trust is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation and all gifts made to Lee Trust are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the State of Florida 1-800-435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State.

Open the Floodgates!

Action Request by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation to save Historic Resources Funding!

Concerns about unexpected elimination and reductions to the Florida Division of Historical Resources contained in the Governor's budget led the Florida Historical Commission to release a White Paper stating that the proposed reductions will have a severe negative impact on the financial and historical resources of the people of Florida. The White Paper is on the Florida Association of Museums web site <http://www.flamuseums.org> There is also a sign-up page on this web site; names will be collected and provided to key legislators and the Governor to show support for the Division of Historical Resources.

The legislators need to hear from US - the constituents and voters. It is very important that we contact our legislators. Apparently we have been too quiet and sometimes our silence has been taken to mean we agree with the cuts. WE DON'T. Please take five minutes to call or email your legislators. If you e-mail them please blind copy Malinda Horton, Ex Dir Florida Association of Museums and Legislative Lobbyist for the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation; her e-mail is fam@flamuseums.org. Also please contact her with any questions or to be included in her e-mailing list.

Please take action; citizen activism can turn the tide of this assault on our state historical and cultural resource programs. Five minutes of your time can communicate your support of these programs, and could save the grant funds that our local projects depend on. We hope you'll join us by taking action today.

Talking points to consider with legislators are:

- Keep the Division of Historical Resources intact - The preservation, archaeological and historical programs can't be maintained if they are severely cut. The Governor has proposed a merger of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Department of State (DOS), into the Department of State and Community Partnerships. As a result, the Governor has recommended cutting the current positions at the Division of Historical Resources from 94 to 43 and it appears the Division would be split in at least 2 different areas.
- Mention that the Division already has been cut by over 40% in the past 7 years and this will be another 60% cut.
- Support the Special Category Historic Preservation Priority List which funds 55 projects for a total of \$12.5 million. Explain exactly how our community has benefited. In Lee County the following have all received Special Category Grant funds: the Edison Home, the Year of the Indian archaeological digs at Pineland, the Langford Kingston Home, the Burroughs Home, the Williams Academy and the following buildings at the Koreshan State Historic Site: the Founder's House, the Planetary Court and the Art Hall.
- Support the Cultural Facilities Priority List which funds 32 projects for a total of \$12.5 million.
- Oppose elimination of the Cultural Institutions Trust fund, which funds: arts in education, challenge grants, cultural institutions programs, international cultural exchange, local arts agencies/state service organizations, mid-level grants, science museums, state touring, statewide arts grants, youth and children's museums, the Florida Humanities Council and the Ringling Museum of Art.
- Support funding for Museums grants-in-aid program. The \$1.5 million supports the history museums in this state with program support and educational exhibits.

Florida House of Representatives

District 71, Jerry Paul 1-800-729-1101, fax 941-255-7658
District 72, Lindsay Harrington 941-575-5820, fax 941-575-5822
District 73, Bruce Kyle 335-2411, fax 338-2486
District 74, Jeff Kottkamp 344-4900, fax 344-4901
District 75, Carole Green 433-6775, fax 433-6773

Florida Senate

District 21, Mike Bennett 941-727-6352, fax 941-727-6352
District 27, Dave Aronberg 479-8207, fax 239-338-2648
District 37, Burt Saunders 338-2777, fax 1-888-263-7893

Towles Englehardt Home (currently Fifth Third Bank)

In 1985 the State of Florida made the determination that the Towles Englehardt Home at the corner of McGregor Boulevard and Cleveland Avenue is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1989 South Florida Bank invested in the rehabilitation of the building. Less than 14 years later, the News-Press reported that it is threatened with demolition by the Fifth Third Bank. Due to the concern of numerous citizens, including former members of the South Florida Bank, Lee Trust contacted the City Planning Department and the State Division of Historical Resources. Lee Trust sent letters of concern to the city and the state in December, and copied this correspondence to the Fort Myers Historic Preservation Commission and the bank president in Naples Florida. The HPC subsequently requested that staff research the building. Staff's report, presented to the HPC in February, prompted the commission to request that Lee Trust submit an Application for Designation of the property as a local historic landmark. In the meantime, citizens continue to fret that the bank may demolish the building in the dead of night.

While members prepared the application, Lee Trust President Toni Ferrell made efforts to contact officials at the bank to meet and discuss their plans. One would hope that a bank - out of civic duty if nothing else - would do the right thing and come forward to the City's Historic Preservation Commission to address the issue.

Public hearings for Designation of the Towles Englehardt Home have been continued, beginning with a Special Meeting of the HPC on Thursday April 3, at 5:00 pm at Fort Myers City Hall Council Chambers, 2200 Second Street, downtown Fort Myers. The next public hearing will be before City Council on Monday April 7, at 4:30 pm in Council Chambers. PLEASE ATTEND. In addition, it is important that you send your opinion to Anne Mullins (fax: 239.461.2694 email: amullins@cityftmyers.com); please send a copy to Toni Ferrell (fax: 239.337.0295 email: tonibob@peganet.com). **For more information on the status of the Towles Home, contact the City of Fort Myers.**

Mary Hanson researched and wrote the following history of the Towles Home.

When the schooner Idell of Pensacola anchored at the Fort Myers wharf in mid-December 1884, all hands busied themselves unloading lumber for the dwelling to be erected for new-comer William H. Towles. A new resident and a new residence were both uncommon events in the small unincorporated village of Fort Myers, a village of only several hundred people. Work commenced almost immediately on the home located on Riverside Avenue



(now McGregor Boulevard), a dirt trail which had been used for years by cattlemen driving their stock cross-country to the cattle pens at Punta Rassa for shipment elsewhere. The house lay on the southwest edge of development of the village, with only a few widely scattered settlers beyond. In February 1885, after nine weeks of work and an expenditure of about \$2,300, the completed residence was ready for occupancy. The editor of the brand-new newspaper, The Fort Myers Press, described the dwelling as "a good comfortable structure" and said that it presented a good appearance. After more than a century it still does. The edifice we speak of is the home of the new South Florida Bank.

When "Bill" Towles came to Fort Myers, he was a young widower of 22 and the father of a small daughter. He had already attained a measure of success in the cattle business in North Florida and in the mercantile trade in Bartow. After his home's completion, Towles brought his mother and daughter from Bartow to, according to the Press, "help make bright the house he had built." However, they had only lived in the new residence a short time when Towles rented it to the first of many Fort Myers families to reside there,

the family of Capt. T. T. Roan. Subsequently, the families of Dr. William Hanson and Sheriff Frank B. Tippins, among many others, occupied the residence. From the early 1930's until several years ago the property was used commercially by the Engelhardt Funeral Home. In a short time Towles built another dwelling for his family on the opposite side of Riverside Avenue on the riverfront between his first home on Monroe Street.

The year of the Towles house, 1885, saw many changes in Fort Myers. It was incorporated as a town. Bridges were built over Manuel's Branch, Wyomi (Whiskey) Creek, and Billie's Creek. The first steamer to serve Fort Myers arrived in May. The first livery stable, the first lumberyard and the first band became realities. A year or so before, Capt. Manuel Gonzalez, who in the 1870's had homesteaded on the riverfront below the Towles place, moved his family back into "town" and placed all of the riverfront property from the Summerlin place (now the Edison Home) to

Caloosa Drive on the market. Buyers began to build in 1885. A month after the Towles home was completed, the Summerlins sold their property to Thomas A. Edison, a sale which changed Fort Myers forever. By the end of the year the Press declared there was a "lively building boom at this place which is assuming interesting proportions." Fort Myers was on its way.

William H. Towles was one of the original "movers and shakers" of Fort Myers and oftentimes a controversial one. He was a young man consumed with ambition, and he could see the limitless possibilities for Southwest Florida and for himself. He pushed for new Lee County in 1887 and represented Fort Myers on the first Board of County Commissioners. One of the things he is best remembered for is his fight for a new courthouse in 1914, which is another story. He fought a great fight and won, as was so often the case. "Bill" Towles and Fort Myers' early history are intertwined.

"This old house" has stood by through the years as a silent sentinel over-looking the history of civilian Fort Myers, much of it made by the man who built her.



P O Box 1035
Fort Myers Florida 33902-1035

Date: 03.17.03

Pay to the order of: City of Fort Myers \$ 210,000⁰⁰

Two Hundred and Ten Thousand and ^{no}/₁₀₀ Dollars

Memo: More a Brick, Save a House
Langford Kingston Home

Toni Lee Ferrell

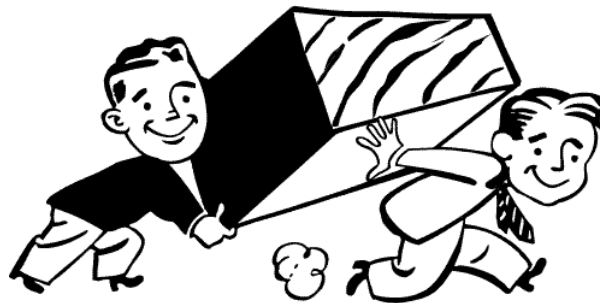
Toni Lee Ferrell, President
Lee Trust for Historic Preservation

As we prepare to write a check to the City of Fort Myers from the Langford Kingston escrow account, it seemed appropriate to recount the history of this project and our efforts to save this gem of a building.

In October of 1995, the First United Methodist Church requested that Lee Trust for Historic Preservation assist in a feasibility study regarding the present and future use of the Langford Kingston Home. After much research, a property appraisal, and many discussions, the Church decided in September 1996, to seek an interested party to relocate and restore the home. For the succeeding five years, members of Lee Trust assisted the church and numerous private developers in an attempt to save the home. For various and sundry reasons, those efforts did not come to fruition.

In March of 2001, Lee Trust and the City of Fort Myers entered into a fundraising agreement to relocate and restore the home. The City agreed to acquire the property at the southeast corner of Fowler and First Streets, relocate the home, restore it, and operate it in conjunction with the Burroughs Home. In turn, Lee Trust committed to raise \$140,000 and pledged \$25,000 of the Trust's funds to kick off the fundrais-

er. There were several nervous Trust members present when the commitment was made to the city to raise \$140,000, knowing the level of interest in preser-



Move A Brick

SAVE A HOUSE

UPDATE

vation projects in the past. But the community came through and donated or pledged a total of \$212,397! There was one donation of five dollars and one of twenty-five thousand dollars but the real gauge of community support was the fact that there have been 673 donations from citizens and organizations as of this writing.

From March through May of 2001, Lee Trust members assisted city planners Anne Mullins and Christine Hurley in the preparation of an application to Florida's Division of Historical Resources for a Special Category Grant to stabilize and restore the home after

its relocation. A team of Lee Trust members and City officials went to Tallahassee to defend the application before the Advisory Council. Due to the project's merits and the level of community support, the Advisory Council recommended, and in June of 2002, the legislature funded a grant of \$325,000 for the stabilization and restoration of the home.

Based upon the funds raised, the city council awarded a construction management contract to The Christel Company on March 3, 2003, for the relocation and stabilization of the home. In the next two months, this contractor will clear and prepare the new site for the move. During site preparation the building will be shored, steel beams will be inserted under the structure and steerable dollies will be inserted under the beams in preparation for the move. The current schedule is for the move to be completed by May 31 of this year. The move will be a huge event and will mark an equally huge achievement by Lee Trust, the City of Fort Myers, and our entire community.

We would like to extend our thanks to all who participated and assisted and invite one and all to be present at the home for the Groundbreaking on Wednesday, April 9, 9:00 a.m.

Revolving Fund: The Sumner Hall Residence

A milepost was passed recently unobserved: Lee Trust was incorporated on February 15, 1993. So we celebrate that anniversary as a recognition of sorts; that the organization exists and continues to contribute to the community after ten years.

Another significant achievement was realized in December of 2002, when we sold the Flint House, our first revolving fund project. Since the Trust was founded, our focus has been realization of our stated purpose "to acquire, sell, lease, hold, manage, operate, improve, preserve, develop, and restore sites and buildings of historical, archaeological and architectural significance in Lee County". The vehicle for this commitment is the revolving fund. With the exception of the Langford Kingston project, all of the fund raising efforts of our volunteers and the generosity of our donors have been directed towards the establishment of this fund. As it turned out, we did not need the revolving fund to purchase the Flint Home. But we did employ the fund to stabilize the house and clear the site of storage trailers, bush hogs and the collected stuff of its many occupants.

Our second revolving fund project is the Hall Residence at 2728 Providence Street in Dean Park, which the Trust currently owns. This house was built ca 1915 and is a wood framed, cypress clapboard house with a hipped metal shingle roof. The house had been condemned by the Building Official and was slated for demolition. In addition, there were \$98,000 in fines from code enforcement and a \$75,000 mortgage; as such it was not marketable.

Lee Trust was able to convince the mortgage holder to sell the parcel to us for the appraised value of the land and write off the remainder of the mortgage to avoid the time and expense of foreclosure. We asked the Code Enforcement Board to place the \$98,000 in fines in abeyance if the Trust would pay all hard costs incurred by the City for mowing, securing the property, and administrative costs. Both parties were agreeable and we purchased the house on November 7, 2002.



A clean up was scheduled for December 7, and we were rewarded with generous participation from volunteers representing Lee Trust, Dean Park, and the city planning department. Building Systems of Southwest Florida, Inc donated the cost of providing the 3 construction dumpsters totaling 80 cubic yards that were filled within 3 hours.

When our first buyer had a change of heart, Karl and Marsa Detscher stepped up and made an offer that was accepted by the Trust's Board. We expect to close the sale with the Detschers in April. Karl and Marsa will restore and rehab the house for Karl's parents to live in. Preservation of the house will be guaranteed by a rehabilitation agreement and protective covenants. The Trust will net about \$6,000 from the sale, to return to the revolving fund.

Many thanks to all involved and good luck Marsa and Karl! ■



News-worthy Bits and Pieces:

Lunch with the Kiwanis

In January 2003, Bob Sanford and Toni Ferrell were invited to be guest speakers to the Kiwanis Club, which meets at the historic St. Michaels Episcopal Church on Woodford Avenue. The presentation featured slides of local historic landmarks, a history of the Lee Trust efforts to promote preservation, and an introduction to our revolving fund projects. Many of the Kiwanis members own historic properties, and could appreciate the pride and the pitfalls of dealing with preservation in Fort Myers. We, in turn, learned that ours is not the only organization that is run by a steadfast skeleton crew.

Williams Academy

In the Fall of 2002, Lee Trust made a donation of \$3,000 to the Williams Academy Black History Museum. These funds were used to complete payments for the restoration of the historic school, which is now located in Clemente Park and operated by the Lee County Black History Society. The museum is open for tours, and the park is available for events and gatherings. The LCBHS also hosts the Annual Juneteenth Festival. This year Juneteenth will be Saturday June 14th. For more information, contact the LCBHS at Clemente Park, 1936 Henderson Avenue, Fort Myers, 33916; phone 239.332.8778.



Preservationists Log On!

Florida State Archives - Historic Photographs online
<http://www.dos.state.fl.us/dlis/barm/fsa.html>

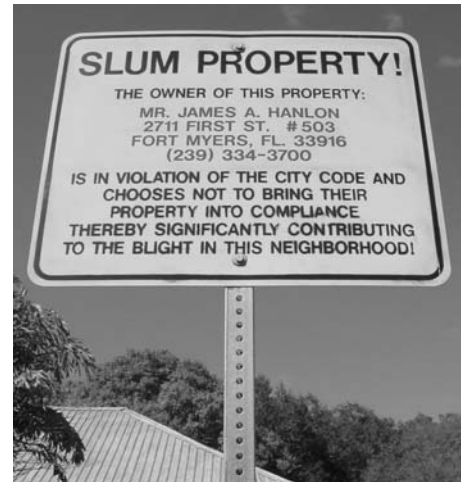
National Trust for Historic Preservation
<http://www.nthp.org/>

The Boilerplate NOs! How buildings lose their historic character
<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/boilerplate/>

The Boilerplate YESs! How buildings keep their historic character
<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/YESs/index.htm>

New "Trails and Greenways" Group

Lee County Parks and Recreation has received funding from the National Park Service to work on a two-year plan for any kind of trails - hiking, biking, kayaking, etc. The first meeting was held to inform the various interest groups of the Plan, which comes with associated resources and funding. The Project Team is seeking interested volunteers for a two-year commitment to work on a committee. The Group is currently in a "fact-finding" mode, seeking information on any existing trails, potential trails or ideas for trails. One area of interest is historical trails. If you have any ideas, information, or maps that would be of interest to this group or if you would like to participate on a committee, please contact either Dan Moser (332-9514) or Dave Berra (461-7446).



Slumlords Beware

The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language defines Slumlord as "An owner of slum property, especially one that overcharges tenants and allows the property to deteriorate."

The City of Fort Myers has begun to fight blighted properties in a new way : by posting Slum Property signs. This form of public notice provides the name and address of property owners who refuse to bring property into building code compliance. "Demolition by Neglect" continues to contribute to the rapid loss of our historic fabric throughout Lee County. But it is important not to allow the 'blighted' label blind us; neglected areas often represent a neighborhood to those who live or grew up there; you may find them as full of good stories, handsome if neglected buildings, and colorful characters as any other. What they require is special care and attention to be revived. Code enforcement is one way to stop the bleeding. And the Slum Property sign provides new meaning to "red flag".

Lee Trust Launches Bronze Marker Program

Thanks to the persistent efforts of Lee Trust member Gina Sabiston, we have completed our first order of Custom Bronze Markers! The Downtown Management Corporation has purchased 26 markers for dispersal to their members on a first-come first-serve basis, and Lee Trust has 20 remaining for sale. Measuring 5 x 7 inches, the handsome plaques are cast bronze, and are available for \$75. Etched name plates, which may contain the historic name or original date of construction for a property, may be ordered for \$10.00. To qualify for the marker program, buildings must be locally designated (either as an individual historic landmark or as contributing to a historic district). Lee Trust will assist any owner with the designation of eligible historic property. For more information or to place an order, call Gina Sabiston at 239.337.7796.

Koreshan News

Planetary Court, built ca. 1900



The complete restoration of the Planetary Court at the Koreshan State Historic site has been accomplished. The structure was built circa 1900 to house the leading women of Koreshan Unity. The project was eight years in the making. Work began in 1994 with an application for a grant-in-aid to fund a restoration plan. Once the restoration plan was in place it was incumbent upon the Koreshan Unity Alliance to acquire funding for the actual construction. That funding was made available through joint efforts by the Parks Division of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Department of State Division of Historical Resources, the Lee County Historic Grants Program and the Koreshan Unity Alliance. Construction was phased to insure sufficient funding. The first phase of work entailed the removal of modern additions and rotten wood. As much of the original fabric as possible was preserved during this process. The structure was then stabilized with new foundation pilings and twenty-six structural columns that support the porches. The original cupola, removed completely at some time in the past, was reconstructed to return the structure to its original architectural integrity. The last phase was to restore the interior including reestablishing the historic configuration of the rooms. The Division of Parks, the Division of Historical Resources and the Alliance worked closely with Architect Linda Stevenson and the contractor White

General Constructors, Inc. Construction was completed in November 2002. Park staff worked diligently to furnish the building with original artifacts, in much the same way it was furnished while being used by the leading ladies. The Planetary Court is open to the public as frequently as park staff is available for tours. The exterior is accessible for viewing during regular park hours from dawn to dusk. The flag once

again flies proudly from the pole atop the cupola.

Elsewhere in the park a phased restoration of the Art Hall has begun. This important structure was completed in 1904. It housed the art collection of the community and served as a communal venue for various Koreshan cultural activities and meetings. The Preservation Plan has been completed. The roof has been restored including reconstruction of the historic monitor feature. The interior ceiling has been restored to its historic appearance and new HVAC and lighting systems have been installed. The Alliance applied for a \$267,000 Special Category grant that has been recommended for full funding by the Florida Historic Preservation Commission. Funding will depend on the Florida Legislature appropriating the money.

A Restoration Plan for the New Store has been completed but restoration work remains pending until funding for the project is obtained. The Koreshan Unity Alliance has also requested a grant to compile a Restoration Plan for the Bakery. The Florida Historic Preservation Commission will consider this request in March 2003.

Editor's note: Linda Stevenson, with Stevenson Architects, Inc. of Bradenton is the Architect of record for all three Koreshan projects.

History Preserved in LaBelle

Lee Trust members Gina Sabiston and Mary Rawl took a field trip of sorts. While they were in LaBelle for the Swamp Cabbage Festival, they had an informal meeting with the delightful Mayor Sheri Craichy, who updated them on the City's efforts to preserve the pioneer spirit. Mayor Craichy is awaiting plaques for the historic buildings and the City has purchased a cottage adjacent to Barron Park for use by the public. The City is working on getting businesses into the historic buildings in the "Downtown" area near the bridge. The Mayor has also been instrumental in getting recorded "interviews" of dozens of local citizens for documentation purposes.

The small town atmosphere and Southern hospitality are very evident. A walking tour of Bridge Street produced some interesting buildings from various periods and some great antique shops. The not-so-old "Firehouse Cultural Center" is a delightful reuse of an abandoned City building. For information on plays and shows, check out www.firehousetheater.com.

The highlight of the day (other than the phenomenal food at the Howard family barbecue) was a visit to the recently restored Captain Hendry House. Captain Frances Hendry, for whom the county is named, built the house in 1914. It's listed in the National Register and is wonderfully preserved to show the vernacular architecture of the period. The house and beautiful grounds on the river are available for events.

Editor's note: Toni Ferrell of Ferrell Sanford Studio, Inc. was the Architect of Record for the Hendry House. The project received a statewide Preservation Award from the Florida Trust in 2001.

Calusa Canal and the Calusa Land Trust

The Calusa Land Trust has identified a significant remnant of the Calusa Canal which runs through six lots in central Pine Island. The "Canal", originally 30 feet wide and 5-6 feet deep, was dug by the Calusa Indians over one thousand years ago. It was a major transportation system that crossed Pine Island from Pineland to Matlacha Pass. At the mainland the "Canal" ran easterly through Cape Coral and eventually connected upstream with the Caloosahatchee River. As stated on their website, "The purpose of the Calusa Land Trust is to protect the natural diversity and beauty of the Pine Island region by acquiring, managing and preserving in perpetuity environmentally sensitive or historically important land and to foster appreciation for and understanding of the environment and our past."

Over the past few years, Lee Trust for Historic Preservation has made several \$1,000 donations to the CLT to aid in the acquisition of the Calusa Canal. The first section was purchased in 1999; the second in 2000. The Archaeological Conservancy (another non-profit organization) closed on the 3rd lot in 2001, buying a year for the Calusa Land Trust to raise the necessary funds in order to close by the end of March 2003. If you wish to make an individual contribution you may send a check payable to Calusa Land Trust and mail it to P.O. Box 216, Bokeelia, Florida 33922. Learn more by visiting www.Calusalandtrust.org.

Uptown Downtown Fort Myers



For those who haven't been downtown in the past year, a stroll through the historic district is in order. Property owners have made great strides in the rehabilitation of the historic buildings, and more efforts are under way. Fort Myers was recently featured in The New York Times as a destination, with a map and suggested sights and activities for visitors. Be sure to take in the Post Office Arcade on Broadway, where you can pick up good eats from the french bakery Bara Bread and a good read from Shakespeare & Beethoven. Walk east along Main Street to the entrance to the Patio de Leon. Here you can observe the twin buildings facing Main Street and the discernable differences that can result from restoration and rehabilitation efforts. The Patio de Leon often features live music, and you can dine outdoors and shop boutiques. Continue through to First Street, and walk east to observe the Heritage Square, the Earnhardt, the Heitman Building, the Franklin Arms and finally the Historic Post Office which is now owned by the City of Fort Myers. Long term parking is available along Edwards Drive, where you can enjoy the view and stroll along the historic Yacht Basin, a key element of Fort Myers' Downtown National Register Historic District.

Burroughs Home Re-Opens

The Burroughs Home has reopened after being closed for several months. Two years ago while the roof was being replaced it rained during a weekend and a great deal of water leaked into the house. The moisture caused a mold bloom that continued to get worse as the city sought solutions to the problem. Professionals evaluated the conditions and have compiled a list of necessary steps to solve the problem. Several months ago it was determined that the air quality was such that the house needed to be closed to the public until remedial steps could be taken. All of the effected walls have been cleaned and painted with anti bacterial paint and all of the furnishings and fixtures have been cleaned. The house is now open for business as usual. A number of measures remain to be done. The air conditioning system needs to be replaced and additional mold remediation measures need to be taken. The city is seeking funding sources for the work that they hope will be completed within the year.



Long time Lee Trust members Charlie and Ann McCullough share a story.

Dishong Bowen house finds a new home in Boca Grande



After searching for more than two years, the Boca Grande Fire District found the Lee County Board of County Commissioners as the suitable steward for the historic Dishong/Bowen house (circa 1930). The Dishong/Bowen house is a contributing structure in the county's Boca Grande historic district. It was acquired by the Fire District in 1996 when they bought an adjoining lot (with the historic house) in order to prepare for future expansion.

After many failed attempts to find a user for the building, the Lee County Parks and Recreation Department, the Lee County Historic Preservation Board and the Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association joined together to provide financial support for the project. The small, roughly 1,100 sq ft Dishong/Bowen house was relocated to the Boca Grande Community Center. Parks and Recreation will take advantage of incentives offered under the county's Historic Preservation program and rehabilitate the building to accommodate recreational activities at the Community Center.

The Dishong/Bowen house is an example of simple wood frame vernacular residential architecture and as such it is part of the fabric of the Boca Grande historic district. It features a narrow front facing metal gable roof and horizontal wood siding. The front porch has been enclosed. The rear porch was added in 1950 as a kitchen

breakfast area. Consultants discovered that - in spite of outward appearances - the building structure was substantially sound, with heart pine framing and cypress siding.

The Dishong/Bowen house now graces the Community Center, facing Banyan Street between the Teacherage and the

Community House. This area of Banyan Street features a mixture of residential and small-scale public facility buildings.

Editor's note: Chuck Schmitt of Barany Schmitt Summers Weaver & Partners, Inc. is the architect of record for the Dishong Bowen House project.

Preservation Leadership in Bonita Springs

Although the city of Bonita Springs was incorporated as recently as December 19, 1999, it is quickly establishing itself as a leader in historic preservation. The city adopted a historic preservation ordinance in April 2002.

This year the city has set aside \$80,000 for the Bonita Springs Historic Preservation Grant Assistance program. Through this program the city is soliciting grant proposals through March 27, 2003 to rehabilitate residential or commercial historic structures. The Bonita Springs Historic Preservation Board will conduct a review of the applications with staff recommendations at a public hearing in April 2003.

In addition the city of Bonita Springs is proposing to prepare the city's first historic survey. The city is requesting \$20,000 in grants-in-aid funds from the Florida Department of State to prepare a historic survey of the city. The city will match this grant with \$20,000 in cash.

Prior to incorporation the city was under the Lee County historic preservation program. Currently there are 10 structures that were designated under the county's ordinance and are now designated under the city's ordinance. Sixty-four structures were listed on the Florida Master Site files as a result of historic surveys conducted for Lee County in 1986 and 1992. The files produced during these surveys no longer meet current standards and need to be updated. In addition there are many historic resources that were not included under the countywide surveys. This is an important project; the historic survey is the cornerstone of any viable preservation program. Historic surveys identify buildings that are eligible for local designation and listing on the National Register of Historic Places. They provide an overview of the area's history and architecture, and serve as invaluable preservation and education tools. Congratulations to the city of Bonita Springs for their foresight and leadership.

A LEE TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC. REVOLVING FUND *Project*

This is our new revolving fund project logo.
Look for it in the future
as we continue to purchase threatened properties.

THE FLINT HOME
A LEE TRUST FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC.



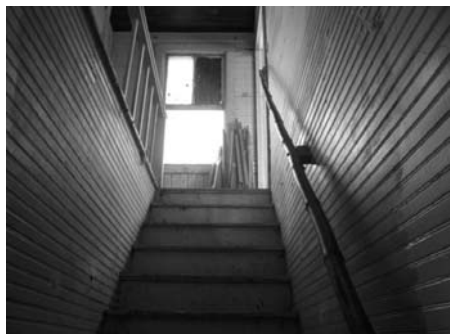
REVOLVING FUND
Project

THE HALL RESIDENCE
A LEE TRUST FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC.



REVOLVING FUND
Project

Flint Home Volunteers



Our thanks to the following who donated so generously to the "Big Cleanup" at the Flint Home. It was a LOT of hard, grueling work, done by a great group of organizations and the finest team of individuals. What a happy sight!

Volunteer & Donor Organizations

- Bonita Bay Group - donation of property
- All Terrain Land Clearing - Bill Chapman - big land cleanup
- Boy Scout Troop 80 - manual labor/cleanup
- Brown and Brown Mowing - mowing
- First Home Builders - \$400 donation
- Forestry Resources - John Cauthen - Brazilian pepper cleanup
- Intracoastal Realty - Todd Lauer - realtor listing
- K.A. Wallace Inc. - Ken Wallace - first bushhog cleanup
- Westport Niemann Homes \$200 donation
- Wherry Truck Lines- hauling of containers

Individual Volunteers

Thanks to the following individuals - and to those who came to work but missed our volunteer sign-in sheet!

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Berndt, Kelly | Grace, Bill | Recwerr, Mark |
| Blake, Celeste | Grace, Susan | Sabiston, Gina |
| Bake, Chase | Grasskamp, John | Sajgo, Gloria |
| Blake, Ciara | Hall, Dorothy | Sanchez, Gail |
| Blake, Randy | Hanchey, Don | Sanchez, Manuel |
| Blake, Ryan | Hanchey, Hilda | Sanford, Bob |
| Croddy, James | Killion, Ken | Sherk, Kim |
| Eaton, Cindy | Krick, Joan | Spena, Joe |
| Ende-Killion, Julie | LaTourette, Blake | Spena, Lisa |
| Ennis, Audra | LaTourette, Brennan | Urich, Dave |
| Ennis, Gary | LaTourette, Chris | White, Dale |
| Ferrell, Stephen | McNabb, Brandon | Wise, Gyla |
| Ferrell, Toni | Murphy, Jeanne | Wise, Stan |
| Fox, Beverly | Patzwahl, Diane | |
| Gerberick, Jeff | Pelletier, Peggy | |



Looking to the future with an eye to the past...

P.O. Box 1035
Fort Myers, Florida 33902-1035



LEE TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC.

Application for Membership

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please send meeting notices by email.

- I am a
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor - \$500 and up | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor - \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$20 |

In addition to my gift, a matching gift will be made by: _____
(Name of Company)

Make checks payable to Lee Trust for Historic Preservation and send to:
Lee Trust for Historic Preservation - Membership Chair
1473 Barcelona Avenue • Fort Myers, Florida 33901

2003 Dues Are Due!

Lee Trust is a volunteer organization, run by unpaid volunteers who are committed to preserving and enhancing the heritage of Lee County. Our members are the lifeblood of our organization. We know that the community is interested in our efforts, because more than 675 individuals made a donation to our "Move A Brick" campaign to save the Langford Kingston Home. We hope that you will become a member of Lee Trust, to help us continue our efforts to preserve our heritage. Your membership is important to us.

Please use our membership form when sending in your dues, even if you are a renewing member. If your name or address is incorrect, please contact our new Database Guru Jeff Gerberick at 694-5230. For other membership questions, contact Membership Secretary Susan Grace at 939.3579.

Your membership donation is vital to the continued growth of Lee Trust programs. Please be generous. ■