

Preservation News

A Publication of the Lee Trust for Historic Preservation • Summer 2004

Phone (239) 344-0100

Lee County Celebrates Historic Preservation Week 2004

The week of May 3rd to May 9th marked Historic Preservation Week 2004, celebrated throughout the country.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation created Preservation Week in 1971 to spotlight grassroots preservation efforts around the country. Thirty-three years later, Preservation Week has grown into an annual celebration observed from small towns to big cities, with events ranging from tours, reenactments and rallies, to black-tie balls and national competitions.

"Historic preservation has made great strides in recent years, but our job is by no means complete," said National Trust President Richard Moe. "Older business districts and residential neighborhoods are still marred by disinvestment and deterioration. Landmarks of the recent past don't always receive the attention that they deserve. Sprawl continues to devour precious open space and destroy the character that makes each community unique, and laws that protect historic places are under attack. Preservation Week 2004 calls on us to get involved and tackle the new and ongoing challenges we face, and to redouble our efforts to ensure that our movement accurately reflects the vision, energy and diversity of America."

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, chartered by Congress in 1949, is a private, non-profit organization with more than a quarter million members. It provides

leadership, education and advocacy to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize communities.

The Lee Trust for Historic Preservation is dedicated to preserving and developing the heritage of Lee County and its municipalities. 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.

Current projects of the Lee Trust include the preservation of threatened homes under a Revolving Fund program, preservation and restoration of the Langford-Kingston Home, and custom bronze markers for qualified historic structures.

Lee County's Historic Preservation Week 2004 involved activities sponsored by local organizations that promoted education, advocacy, and outreach.

Events held in Lee County include:

Williams Academy/Black History Museum: The Museum promoted Historic Preservation Week with an "Open House" conducted throughout the week.

Edison Park Neighborhood Association: On May 5th, the Association dedicated Historic District markers located at each of five primary entranceways into the Edison Park Historic District.
Dean Park Historic District, Inc.:

On May 8th, the neighborhood association sponsored a neighborhood cleanup to promote the recognition of the Dean Park Historic District and its valuable historic resources.

For more information or to become a member, please see www.leetrust.org.



Edison Park Historic District Marker located at the intersection of US41, Cortez Blvd., and Edison Ave.



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Lee Trust for Historic Preservation

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Board of Directors

Marsa Detscher, Ph.D., President

Robert Sanford, Vice-President

Gina Sabiston, Secretary

William Grace, Treasurer

Directors:

Susan Grace

Mary Rawl

Earl Smith

David Urich

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Honorary Board of Directors

Keith Arnold

Jan Brown

Berne Davis

Mariel Goss

William H. Grace

Nina Houghton

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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.

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Preservation News is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

Contributors for this issue include:

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Designed by:

Grafix Shell, Inc. Design Studios

Coloring outside the lines.

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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.

LTHP Elects New Board of Directors

The LTHP moved forward with the selection of its 2004 Board of Directors, following the adoption of the organization's revised by-laws. The new by-laws establishes a Board of Directors of up to nine members consisting of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and up to 5 directors. The LTHP Board accepted the Nominating Committee's slate of officers and the new officers for 2004 are as follows:

President: Marsa Detscher, Ph.D.

Vice-President: Robert Sanford

Secretary: Gina Sabiston

Treasurer: William Grace

Directors: Susan Grace, Mary Rawl, Earl Smith, David Urich

Many thanks go to the hard-working and dedicated members of the outgoing LTHP Board for all their efforts during the past year. Most agreed to continue their involvement in the LTHP and assume critical leadership roles on the new Board of Directors. The new Board shall benefit from their expertise as well as the enthusiasm of the new members.

The LTHP encourages everyone who shares an interest in historic preservation in Lee County to join the Lee Trust for Historic Preservation. Membership information can be found on the web at <http://www.leetrust.org> and in this newsletter.

LTHP Amends its By-Laws

In March 2004, the Lee Trust for Historic Preservation, Inc. amended its by-laws for the first time since the organization's inception eleven years ago. The changes in the by-laws do not alter the mission of the LTHP or the organization's focus. In fact, Section 2 of the by-laws has been clarified and now reads:

"The primary purpose of the LEE TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC. is to promote, support, further enhance community efforts that preserve historic resources in Lee County. To accomplish this purpose, the LEE TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC. may engage in programs involving the following: acquisition, sale, holding, lease, management, improvement, preservation, restoration, or operation of sites and buildings of historical, archaeological, or architectural significance in Lee County; education, promotion, or advocacy of historic preservation programs or projects in Lee County; collaboration or coordination with other organizations in Lee County involved in the preservation, restoration, and education of historic resources in Lee County."

The restated organizational purpose reflects the LTHP's ongoing programs and activities, such as the Revolving Fund Projects, involvement in the Langford Kingston Home preservation and restoration efforts, promotion of historic preservation activities through community out-

reach, and participation and collaboration with other organizations in the community.

The newly revised by-laws provide for a Board of Directors consisting of a maximum of nine members including a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and up to five directors. Officers are selected in February each year, and serve one-year terms.

Newsletters shall be published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. An Annual Report shall be prepared and published before the Annual Meeting which is held the second Friday after the first Monday of each February. Dues are payable by January 1st each year, and become delinquent after the Annual Meeting.

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held the first Thursday of each month. Meeting notices for regular and annual meetings are distributed through electronic or regular mail, fax, or personal communication one to two weeks before the scheduled meeting.

Regular meetings are open to the entire LTHP membership; however, only members of the Board of Directors may vote on matters before the Board. The newsletters shall include information regarding the upcoming regular meetings.

A copy of the LTHP by-laws is available to members upon request.

Two Bonita Springs Buildings Rescued



Williams-Packard House Restored: front elevation



**Williams-Packard House:
front elevation before move**



Williams-Packard House: rear elevation

Two of Bonita Springs' oldest buildings - the Williams-Packard House and the Nutting House - have been rescued from the wrecking ball by Christian Busk. The Naples landscape architect has relocated the houses and is restoring them to their former good looks. Busk received a small grant from the City of Bonita Springs for one of projects, but he financed the lion's share of the costs himself. He hopes that his efforts will help others see the value of historic buildings and motivate them to work to preserve what remains of the city's architectural heritage.

Williams-Packard House

The Williams-Packard House is a craftsman vernacular house built in 1915. Originally situated at 10650 Dean Street, the front elevation of the house faced Dean Street and the rear faced Oak Creek. By 2001, the house was a candidate for demolition. The roof was beyond repair, the paint peeling, and much of the siding had rotted away. The electrical and plumbing systems were nonexistent and the owner's future plans for the property excluded the historic building.

The house got a new lease on life when Busk bought it for \$1 and moved it to 27324 Tennessee Street west of Old U.S. 41. The placement of the house resembled the original: the front elevation faces the street and the rear faces Oak Creek. According to Busk this house is an excellent example of vernacular architecture. The plank construction it features is a technique used by early German immigrants and pre-dates the 1850s when modern frame construction began.

Bonita Springs' historians recall that a man who went by the name of "Three-Barrel Williams" built the house. An avid quail hunter, Williams had a local blacksmith build a third barrel on top of his double-barreled gun. Packard was the last name of a Bangor, Maine hunting and fishing guide who later owned the home and used it as a winter vacation destination.

Today, the Williams-Packard House is completely restored. It features bright yellow paint on horizontal wood siding, a wood shake roof, an interior chimney, and double hung windows with multiple lights. The main roof of the house is a clipped gable on hip. The gable end infill on the front elevation features three small windows while the gable end infill at the rear elevation features two small windows. The front elevation features an open shed roofed porch with knee walls. The rear elevation under the main clipped gable has two distinctive elements: an incised porch under a shed roof and a small-hipped roof living area. This wonderfully restored part of the City of Bonita Springs is designated as a local historical landmark pursuant to the City's historic preservation ordinance.

Two Bonita Springs Buildings Rescued, continued: Nutting House

The Nutting House is a small gable roofed frame vernacular house that was built in 1913. The Nutting House was originally constructed off what is known today as River Drive. The front of the house faced the Imperial River, the main transportation artery during that period of Bonita Springs' history. In 2004, Christian Busk salvaged this house by relocating it from River Drive to a vacant lot at 9950 Pennsylvania Avenue, across from the relocated Williams-Packard House. The vacant lot previously housed an historic structure which was destroyed by fire; placing the Nutting House on this property helps restore the historic streetscape.

It is significant to point out that as a result of this move the front facade of the house has been repositioned from facing the Imperial River to facing a publicly maintained street. This change is an excellent illustration of how the Bonita Springs community, like all the other communities in Southwest Florida, has transitioned from being dependent on water based transportation system to a land based transportation system. The waterways were the key to the early development of Southwest Florida but the highways quickly eclipsed them.

The house was built by E. P. Nutting, the author of the local history book entitled "The Beginnings of Bonita Springs, Florida". He was a pioneer in Bonita Springs when the community was still known as "Survey". He eventually developed the "Nuttinglikeit" Subdivision. He was an early citrus, pineapple and banana farmer in Bonita Springs.

The Nutting House is still boarded up as it awaits restoration. The original house has a roughly rectangular shape and features a side gable metal roof and an exterior brick chimney. The original siding was horizontal wood siding however that has been covered up with synthetic siding. The City of Bonita Springs has provided Busk with an \$18,133 grant to help defray the cost of a new roof, new exterior doors, new windows, new siding, and new interior finishes. The City of Bonita Springs designated the Nutting House as a local historical landmark pursuant to its historic preservation ordinance.



**Nutting House:
front elevation
on Tennessee**



**Nutting House:
front elevation
on Tennessee,
side on
Pennsylvania**

Lee Trust Updates

On May 27, the Lee Trust Board voted to:

- Establish a new and updated list of LTHP members and potential members, to facilitate better communication in the historic preservation community.
- Investigate scheduling an event at the Mound House in the Fall.
- Request that the City of Fort Myers involve the Lee Trust in the review of proposals for Downtown Development.
- Pursue discussions with the Junior League regarding the RFI advertised for the Langford Kingston Home.
- Establish an Advocacy Committee to identify, protect, preserve, and promote historic resources through proactive advocacy and positive public activities.

Randell Research Center Celebrates Archaeology Month during March 2004

The theme for the eleventh anniversary of Florida's Archaeological Month is "Archaeology: Touching the Past". The theme illustrates the concept that we can touch the past through archaeology and learn about prehistoric people who left us no written records.

This year's poster features the image of a child's hand touching a 12,000 year-old spear point held by an older hand among a sample of items from Florida's major cultural groups. The back of the poster includes information about the stages of archaeological research. Trying to

re-direct archaeology from its popular image of "treasure hunting" and Indiana Jones type field work, the poster explains that archaeologists piece together past life-ways by spending small portions of time out in the field digging, and most of their time in the library or lab analyzing the material recovered during the dig.

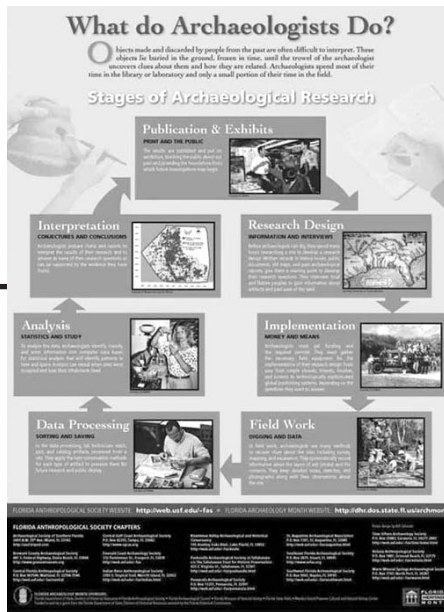
In March, the Randell Research Center (RRC) at Pineland hosted an archaeology fair as part of the statewide festivities. The RRC reports that crews have been hard at work at the new education pavilion which includes public restrooms

and a water fountain, a big open activity deck, and a covered bench area. An inclined walkway leads to the pavilion from the new graveled parking area adjacent to Waterfront Drive. Trail signs will be installed this summer along the walking trail system, which will include expanded observation platforms on top of Brown's Mound. The RRC still needs about \$140,000 to finish the classroom, the gift shop and storage rooms.

If you would like to support the Randell Research Center and its efforts, please call the RRC at (239) 283-2062.



Florida Archaeology Month Poster



Florida Archaeology Month Poster Reverse Side



Randell Research Center Entranceway Sign



Dr. John Worth, Executive Director of the Randell Research Center



New Randell Research Center Pavilion



Volunteers at Archaeological Dig



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

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

LTHP Regular Meeting Schedule

The LTHP Board of Directors meeting schedule for the next four months is as follows:

- June 17, 2004
- July 8, 2004
- August 5, 2004
- September 9, 2004

Meetings begin at 5:30pm. The June meeting is scheduled to be held at the Morgan House in Downtown Fort Myers. The location of future meetings are to be determined. Meeting notices are distributed to all LTHP members of record at least one week prior to the meeting. All meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change.



Membership Application/ Renewal Form

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Save a stamp and email my meeting notices.

I am a: New Member Renewing Member

Level of Membership:

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

Membership is for the calendar year. Dues are payable on January 1 and are considered delinquent after the annual meeting in February of each year.

2004 Dues Are Due!

Tired of seeing our historic buildings torn down? Want to know more about historic preservation? Then join Lee Trust!

Lee Trust is a nonprofit organization formed to promote preservation and assist our community when historic resources are threatened. We have a Revolving Fund Program to buy threatened historic structures. We also provide assistance and seek to educate the public about our community heritage. Our primary sources of funding are membership dues, gifts and fundraising events organized by volunteers.

Please fill out this form and send it in with your check. In addition to selecting your membership level, you may elect to be notified of meetings and events via email, saving the Trust the cost of postage. Consider an additional donation as a Contributor or Sponsor and help increase our Revolving Fund. For more information about Membership contact Susan Grace at (239) 939-3579 ■