COLLIER COUNTY

Guide to Historic Sites in Collier County

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#1 Naples Pier
West end of 12th Avenue South

The original Naples Pier was built by Walter N. Haldeman in 1888 as a dock to unload freight and passengers for the Naples Hotel. At the time, Mr. Haldeman owned much of the Town of Naples through The Naples Company and constructed the 600 foot long pier to provide dockage for large freight and passenger ships. Narrow gauge train rails spanned the length of the original pier, allowing for freight and baggage to be quickly unloaded from arriving ships. By 1909, a bathhouse and changing rooms were available and freight lifts had been added. The original pier was largely destroyed by a fire in 1922 and damaged by hurricanes in 1910, 1926, and 1960.


#2 Naples Historical Society’s Historic Palm Cottage
137 12th Avenue South

Historic Palm Cottage is Naples oldest house (1895) and is listed as a Landmark in the National Register of Historic Places. Docent-guided tours of the house-turned museum are offered year-round. The Cottage is the educational headquarters for all Society programs and initiatives, including the Cottage Theater where visitors can view pioneer oral history films, and the Archival Viewing Center, which allows visitors to peruse the Society’s vast archives with state-of-the-art digital systems.

www.NaplesHistoricalSociety.org
- Designated historic site
- National Register of historic places
NAPLES

#3 Mercantile Building
1117 3rd Street South

Naples' first commercial building was constructed in 1919. The Naples Mercantile Building served as the first commissary offering food and general merchandise for the Naples area. This two-story wood frame structure, covered with stucco, now operates as a restaurant.

www.thirdstreetsouth.com/Birth-Place-Naples.html
- Designated historic district

#4 Tin City
1200 5th Avenue South

Around the time that Naples was founded in 1886, the waterfront area was attracting wealthy tourists and investors. In the 1920s economic activity was centered around the tin-roofed buildings as this part of the Gordon River became the heart of Naples’ fishing industry, including clam shelling, oyster processing, boat construction and maintenance. In the 1970s seven of Tin City’s old buildings were transformed to become “The Old Marine Marketplace” with a mixture of shops and restaurants. Today, Tin City still holds its historic old Florida charm and is home to over 30 unique shops, waterfront restaurants and a variety of water and boating adventures. A history showroom takes you back in time with old photos and a “waterfront floor map.”

www.tin-city.com/history
#5 Naples Depot
1051 5th Avenue South
Set in Naples’ first passenger train station, this Collier County Museum brings visitors to the railroading days of the Roaring Twenties and shows how generations of Southwest Floridians used technology and transportation to conquer a vast, and seemingly impenetrable frontier. Fascinating exhibits and artifacts tell how trade and travel transformed Naples from a quiet village of 300 residents to today’s glittering Gulf Coast resort. The Museum also offers a model railroad layout and miniature train rides for children. The former Seaboard Air Line Railway station was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

www.colliermuseums.com/locations/naples_depot
- Designated historic site

#6 Collier County Museum
3331 Tamiami Trail East
The Collier County Museum, in the County’s Courthouse complex, brings history to life with prehistoric saber cat skeletons, and stories of Calusa Indians, Spanish explorers, and Seminole warriors. With five acres of native Florida gardens, the Museum includes two historic cottages, a working archaeology lab, Seminole village, tropical orchid house, wildlife displays, a 1910 steam logging locomotive, a recreated Seminole War fort and a fully restored Sherman tank from World War II. Located on the property is the restored boat “Kokomis” which was the ferry that operated from 1934 to 1999 between the Keewaydin Club on Key Island and Naples (a 5-minute trip).

www.colliermuseums.com
Photo courtesy of Collier County Museums
#7 Nehrling Gardens (Caribbean Gardens/Naples Zoo)

1590 Goodlette-Frank Road

In 1921 Dr. Henry Nehrling established his tropical garden on this site, initially growing orchids, bromeliads, and other tropical plants. By 1925 he had increased his collection to more than 3,000 different species. In 1952 the old Nehrling Gardens site was purchased by Julius Fleischmann and was opened to the public in 1954 as a commercial tourist attraction under Fleischmann’s interest and guidance. Collier County purchased the property in 2005 and currently leases it to Naples Zoo, Inc.

www.napleszoo.com/visitor_info/History.htm

- Designated historic site

#8 Rosemary Cemetery

1000 Pine Ridge Road

There are 60 people buried in Rosemary Cemetery that was established by E.W. Crayton in 1931. Many of the decedents were early pioneers to the area and were considered founding fathers of Collier County. In 1976, the site was donated to Collier County. The Board of County Commissioners designated this site as locally significant in 1993 and provided funds to restore the cemetery.

www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=15878

- Designated historic site

#9 Old Tamiami Trail Marker

Horse Creek Estates

A portion of the Horse Creek Estates subdivision contains an abandoned segment of the Old Tamiami Trail. The Tamiami Trail links the two great cities for which it was named, Tampa and Miami, and was officially opened on April 26, 1928. Florida is indebted to Captain J.F. Jaudon whose faith and persistence kept the project alive, and to Barron Collier who completed it.
#10 Old Marco Inn - Marco Hotel
100 Palm Street

Captain Bill Collier and his wife Maggie built the Marco Hotel on a 10-acre plot to house fishermen and visitors to the island. Construction of the hotel was completed by 1896 with 20 rooms, a parlor, a dining room and a two-story bathroom. It opened to the public advertising “Two dollars a day and bring your own vittles.” The Colliers allowed Frank Hamilton Cushing, leader of the Pepper-Hearst Expedition, to use the summer parlor to dry out ancient Indian artifacts uncovered in the muck near the hotel. By 1925 the rates had gone up to $30 a month in the summer and $30 a day during Season. Cottages were added to house patrons who came year after year. Collier sold the hotel in 1927 to a New York syndicate that had the financial backing of George E. Ruppert as the principal investor. Other later owners included Roy Enfield of Nashville and Bob Carrier of Louisville who added a motel and swimming pool. Marion and Wilhelm Blomeier became owners in 1969, enclosed the porch and renovated the interior with antique tin pieces tiling the ceiling of the hallway and bar. Today the Inn continues to operate as a restaurant.

www.oldemarcoinn.com/history.htm

- Designated historic site

#11 Captain Collier House
1121 Bald Eagle Drive

Bob and Betty Whitaker managed the Marco Hotel (now called the Old Marco Inn) and lived in the Collier House that was then situated between the hotel and the two-story motel that Bob Carrier built and named “the Units.” Carrier owned the hotel from 1955 to 1967. The Collier House was moved in 1967 to its present location on Bald Eagle Drive and has operated as a restaurant since 1995.

www.mareksrestaurant.com/history.htm
#12 Church of God and Pioneer Cemetery
590 West Elkcam Circle

This early wooden church built of yellow pine was the first church on Marco. Caroline Robinson held Sunday school classes in her home and is credited with collecting money and supplies to construct the Church. This Cemetery is the burial place of pioneers significant to Marco Island history. It also has a form of early cement head stones. The Church of God, originally constructed in Old Marco, was moved to its present location.

www.newlifemarco.org/content?id=314

#13 Marco Island Historical Museum
180 South Heathwood Drive

The Museum consists of three buildings: the main Museum, an administration building, and the Rose History Auditorium for meetings and presentations. The complex is constructed on an artificial shell mound with native plants around it. On the top of the shell mound is a lagoon with a bridge and chickee hut. The buildings have thatch roofs and a faux tabby mortar. The Museum has rooms devoted to the Native American Calusa Indian culture, the early pioneers of the Island, and the modern development. The Museum is part of the Collier County Museums’ system and is open to the public.

www.themihs.org
MARCO ISLAND

#14 Otter Mound
1821 Addison Court

Otter Mound has native vegetation representative of what covered the Island before modern development; the whelk shell walls located throughout the property were built in the 1940s and 50s by Ernest & Gladys Otter from the Calusa shell that was found on the site. Archaeological surveys show that Calusa Indians occupied the property around 750-1200 A.D. It is thought that the walls were constructed for the Otter’s vegetable and flower gardens. After selling most of Caxambas to Barron Collier in 1922, the Barfields moved into their house which was located on the south half of the Block 15 of the J.M. Barfield Subdivision platted in 1919. Descendants of the Barfields continue to reside on this property. Otter Mound is on the north half of Block 15, purchased by Conservation Collier and opened as a County park.

#15 Captain John F. Horr House
1270 Bluehill Creek Drive

Captain John F. Horr, a Union Civil War veteran, built this two-story house in 1877 as a residence for his family and himself when they visited their pineapple plantation on the Island. It is constructed of tabby mortar, an early form of concrete using washed sand (to remove the salt), shell, water and cement made of burning oyster shell to make a white power known as "quick lime." Horr was a prominent citizen, a federal Marshall, census taker, and customs collector in Key West. The pineapple boom died in 1917 and Horr sold the Island in 1923.

- Designated historic site
- National Register of Historic Places
The Marco Lodge, while in Old Marco, was the third or fourth home of island founder W. T. Collier and built in the late 1870s or early 1880s. It later became a boarding house and hotel operated by Captain Bill Collier and then sold to Tommie Barfield. In 1964, when the area was cleared for development, the Barfield heirs gave the Marco Lodge to the cook Marge Tasetano if she could move it. The Lodge and annex were moved overland to its present location in Goodland.

www.oldmarcolodge.com

#17 Mar-Good Park
321 Pear Tree Avenue

Mar-Good was built by two retired circus performers, Reckless Rex Johnson and his wife Reckless Ruby, who quit the circus business and got into the fish camp business. The resort had many one and two-bedroom cottages, completely furnished, some of them built as early as the 1920s, that rented daily, weekly, monthly, and seasonally. The recreation hall was built during WWII and was used by the military. There was a cistern for fresh water. The hall was set up to show movies and have live entertainment to keep the guests happy in inclement weather when the fish were not biting. Mar-Good is now open to the public as a county park.

- Designated historic site
#18 Old Railroad Depot
102 Collier Avenue

This terminus for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad opened in June 1928. Construction for the railroad was parallel to the building of Route 29 from Everglades to Immokalee, where it continued to Plant City. This Spanish style stucco building, the central tower of which is original, is an example of early South Florida architecture. The station master had living quarters on the second floor and a number of rail workers cottages were dotted along Collier Avenue. After the ACL closed the service in the late 1950s and tore up the tracks, the building was converted into a restaurant. At that time it was called the Old Station Restaurant, now the Everglades Seafood Depot Restaurant. The movie *Wind across the Everglades* was filmed at this location.

www.evergladesseafooddepot.com/history

#19 Old Collier County Court House
102 Copeland Avenue North

The town of Everglades became the county seat when Collier County was established in 1923. The Court House was completed in 1928. During Hurricane Donna in 1960 the water rose to waist high on the first floor of the Court House, destroying many of the County’s records while 200 residents of the City sought shelter on the second floor. The water was 7-8 feet deep in the streets. After the County seat moved to Naples in 1962, the Court House became the Everglades City Hall. Set in the heart of Everglades City, the old County Courthouse still has the original vault. It was completely restored after Hurricane Wilma in 2005.

www.evergladeshistorical.org/pdfs/ESHP-CityHall-brochure.pdf

- Designated historic site

*Photo Courtesy of Collier County Museums*
Collier County

EVERGLADES CITY

#20 Everglades Community Church
101 Copeland Avenue South

Before there was a building, there were visiting pastors, the first in 1888 was Reverend George W. Gatewood. This building was completed in 1940 on land donated by the estate of Barron Gift Collier. The Church was initially a Presbyterian Church (officially established in 1926) but due to a provision in Collier’s will the Church is non-denominational. A fellowship hall and breezeway to the southwest was added in the late 1950s. On September 4, 2007, Everglades City proclaimed the church to be historically preserved.

www.evergladescommunitychurch.com/about.html
- Designated historic site

#21 Old Laundry Building (Museum of the Everglades)
105 West Broadway

Barron Collier built this facility in the 1920s as a commercial laundry. The operation was leased to several people, most notably the Echols and Ayers families. They cleaned uniforms for Collier Corporation workmen and linens for the Rod & Gun Club and the Everglades Inn. Barron Collier sent his boat, The Useppa, from the Inn on Useppa Island to bring linens to be washed and ironed. The laundry closed during World War II due to lack of staff. In the 1950s the building housed offices for the Collier County Development Board. The local Women’s Club rented the building in 1965 and purchased it in 1972. They disbanded in 1988 and the remaining members devoted their time and energy to creating a Museum and re-organized as the Friends of the Museum. The Museum of the Everglades, now part of the Collier County system, opened on April 26, 1998.

www.evergladesmuseum.org/pdfs/FME_LaundryBuilding.pdf
- Designated historic site
- National Register of Historic Places
#22 Bank of Everglades  
201 West Broadway

The bank was chartered in 1923, and the building was completed in 1926 by Barron G. Collier. It was the only bank in Collier County for 36 years, and the Humble Oil offices were located on the second floor for over 20 years. The Bank’s depositors included rum runners, alligator poachers, fur and feather traders, and other legendary pioneers who came by boat, on foot, and later by road to take care of business at Collier's "Bank of Everglades." The bank was never robbed, probably due to limited getaway opportunities. After Hurricane Donna in 1960 changed the city's fate, the bank closed and its assets were moved to the Bank of Immokalee. It housed the “Everglades Echo” newspaper in the 1980s. Later in the 1990s, the building was used for lodging and eventually became a Bed & Breakfast. In 2011 new management completely renovated the rooms with antique furniture and opened as the Everglades Historical Bed & Breakfast and Spa.

www.evergladeshistoricalbedandbreakfast.com/
- Designated historic site
- National Register of Historic Places
EVERGLADES CITY

#23 Rod & Gun Club
200 Riverside Drive

The original building was the home of W.S. Allen who settled here in the early 1870s. When he retired in 1889, he sold the property to George Storter, Jr., who enlarged the house and in 1892 started a trading post that dealt with the Indians, as well as providing merchandise to locals. The Storters eventually owned all the land in what is now known as Everglades City. In 1923 Barron Collier bought their holdings and made this property his headquarters until suitable offices and houses could be built. The renamed, enlarged Rod & Gun Club became famous for its Bavarian chef “Snooky” Senghaas, for its sports fishing, and for hosting five U.S. Presidents (Theodore Roosevelt, Herbert Hoover, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon), in addition to a number of celebrities. In the 1960s the Club was sold to the Alliance Machine Company and in 1973 to the Bowen family.

www.evergladesrodandgun.com/

• Designated historic district
Everglades City

#24 First Baptist Church
416 East School Drive

This building was built in the 1940s and belonged to the C.J. Jones Lumber Company in Jerome. After the logging stopped in 1956, it was brought to Everglades City and donated to the First Baptist Church of Ft. Myers. It is made of “pecky” cypress wood. A baptistery with a cross made of the original cypress, in a design that complements the old cypress interior, was completed in 2001. The Church was constituted in 1971.

#25 Ivey House
107 Camellia Street

The original building was erected at Port DuPont by the Collier interests for use as a recreational center for the workers who built the Tamiami Trail. The facility included a bowling alley and pool hall. The structure was moved to the present location shortly after the 1926 hurricane. One of the men who worked for Barron Collier was Earl W. Ivey who was in charge of one of the Bay City Walking Dredges (see #32). After the trail opened in 1928, the Collier Corporation converted the recreation hall into a boarding house. Earl Ivey and his wife, Agnes, ran the house for the Collier Development Corporation until 1960 when the Iveys purchased the house. Earl Ivey died in 1962 and Agnes continued to run the house until her death in 1974. Beckett Academy, Inc., acquired the building as a dormitory and classroom for problem children as part of their wilderness experience school. In 1989 David Harraden, who owns North American Canoe Tours, Inc., purchased the Ivey House from Beckett Academy and renovated it into a Bed and Breakfast to expand his services for visitors.
EVERGLADES CITY

#26 Sunset Lodge and Brown Cemetery
John J. Weeks, the first permanent white settler of the future Collier County, farmed at this site in 1862. His brother Madison lived here in 1879 but sold four years later to the Brown family. The property still has tombstones dedicated to the father and infant children of Totch Brown. George R. Bruner, big game hunter from Indiana, bought half the homestead in 1914 and called it Poinciana Camp after the huge trees on the grounds. In 1958 it was acquired by Nelson S. Kirby, a passionate fisherman. It then changed hands several times before Outward Bound from Asheville, North Carolina, bought what was then called Sunset Lodge in 1986. They conduct programs using wilderness as a way to “focus on developing compassion for oneself and others”. The island is on the southwest area of Everglades City, across the river from the airport, accessible only by boat.

- Designated historic district

CHOKOLOSKEE

#27 Chokoloskee Church of God
1236 Demere Lane
In 1913 a permanent congregation was established on Chokoloskee Island. The Pentecostal movement was begun in 1912 by J.J. (Babe) and Sally Whidden who came by boat from Ft. Myers. During a revival in 1913, forty local people were baptized in the water at McKinney’s landing. Among the participants were several Storters, Hamiltons, Browns, and other pioneers. The Church of God was then built, apparently on land donated by McKinney who also donated the bell. The first permanent Pastor arrived after the Tamiami Trail was finished in 1928. The original church building was destroyed by a hurricane and replaced with another wooden structure. This was replaced by the present concrete structure which was completed in 1961.
#28 JT’s Island Store
238 Mamie Street

The original structure was a small office built by Collier in the 1920s and located behind the Rod & Gun in Everglades City. It was moved to Chokoloskee in 1956 after the causeway was built. As a store, it was operated by a number of local families (Brown, Hamilton, Weeks, Kelley, Wells). It was renamed JT’s in 1989 when purchased by John and Fran Tiff who expanded the general store to include a small restaurant. It was sold again in 2001 and operated as a full restaurant and added a gift shop. In 2007 new owners purchased the building and requested designation as a county historic site. It was sold again in 2011 and is currently operating as a kayak outfitters.

- Designated historic site

#29 Ted Smallwood’s Store
360 Mamie Street

This business was established in 1906 and the store built in 1917. It is one of the oldest buildings in Collier County. The building was elevated approximately 6 feet on pilings in 1924 to prevent flood damage. The store and trading post served the Seminole Indians and the early pioneers of Chokoloskee and Collier County. Currently, the wood frame structure still rests upon pilings and remains in its original state with 95 percent of the initial stock and artifacts intact. It is now a museum open to the public.

www.smallwoodstore.com

- Designated historic site
- National Register of Historic Places
#30 The Chokoloskee Island Cemeteries

Chokoloskee Island has cemetery sites that date back to the early pioneers. The Lopez cemetery is located on SR 29 on Lopez Lane and includes family members who died in the 1930’s and later. Another private cemetery, located in the middle of the island, includes the following local Chokoloskee families: Hancock, Brown, Smallwood, House, Hamilton, Brown, Carr, Thompson and Lewis.

TAMIAMI TRAIL WAY STATIONS

There were originally six stations built in 1928 by Baron Collier who established the Southwest Mounted Patrol to aid travelers as they drove along the newly-built Tamiami Trail. They were of great importance at the time given the unreliability of motor cars of the period and the fact that there were no other settlements between Naples and Miami. These stations were strung out at ten-mile intervals along the Trail to sell gas, food, beverage and provide primitive overnight facilities for travelers. The operators had quarters above the stations. The patrolmen had distinctive uniforms and traveled on motorcycles offering assistance. These “Mounties” formed the first Florida Highway Patrol.

#31a) Monroe Station

Big Cypress Preserve at Loop Road

Because it was on the border inside Monroe County and out of the Dade County jurisdiction, Loop Road became known for its lawlessness; Al Capone is said to have operated a club in the area known as Pine Crest. Monroe Station was a popular restaurant before the land became part of the Big Cypress National Preserve.

- National Register of Historic Places


#31b) Weaver's Station  
Across from Fakahatchee Boardwalk

Weaver Station had a restaurant on the ground floor with rest rooms and accommodations for the station keeper on the second floor. In addition, several "tourist cabins" (essentially unfurnished small houses), offered a night's rest for those with their own bedding. Eventually, the building was destroyed by Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and needed to be demolished.

- Designated historic site

#31c) Royal Palm Hammock  
Corner of US41 and CR 92

This station is one of the last remaining stations still in existence and is still in operation as a gas station to serve the public, just as it was when it was built in 1928 by Barron Collier.

ALONG THE TRAIL

#32 Bay City Walking Dredge  
20200 Tamiami Trail  
Collier-Seminole State Park

Built by the Bay City Dredge Works of Bay City, Michigan, this dredge was used in the 1920s to construct the Tamiami Trail, the road from Tampa to Miami through the Everglades and Big Cypress Swamp. The dredge dug a canal which provided rock fill for roadbed. It was restored by its dredge master Meece Ellis.

ASME Historic Landmark  
National Register of Historic Places
#33 Fakahatchee Island Cemetery
From the 1880s pioneers settled on Fakahatchee Island, including the Demere, Hamilton, Myers, Roberts and Daniels families. Among those buried here are members of the Daniels family who lived on the Island for many years. In 1912 there was a school with thirteen pupils. The Island is located south of the mouth of the Faka Union Canal that leads into the Port of the Islands on U.S. 41 east of Royal Palm Hammock and is accessible only by boat.

#34 Tamiami Trail Historic Marker
Corner of SR29 and US41 at Carnestown

The Tamiami Trail links the two great cities for which it was named—Tampa and Miami—and was officially opened on April 26, 1928. “Florida is indebted to Captain J.F. Jaudon whose faith and persistence kept the project alive and … to Barron Collier.”

#35 Ochopee Post Office
East of Caldwell Road on the Tamiami Trail

This is the smallest of all the United States Post Offices and is still a significant and functioning reminder of the early tomato farming communities in Ochopee. The structure first existed as a storage shed housing irrigation pipes and farming equipment. The shed became a Post Office in 1953 after a fire destroyed the first Post Office and much of the town. Today, this wood frame structure remains in near-original state.

- Designated historic site
ALONG THE TRAIL

#36 Joanie’s Blue Crab Café
39395 Tamiami Trail

This building was an old cattle barn in the 1930s, then a bulk plant for storing drums of gasoline and oil. Carl and Joanie Griffin purchased the building and adjacent filling station in 1976. Joanie opened her restaurant in 1987 and continues to operate it. Carl ran a garage and Chevron station, the first concrete-block building in Collier County.

#37 1936 Seminole Conference Historic Marker
Monument Lake, Tamiami Trail East

This hammock was the site of a conference attended by the Seminoles and representatives of state and local governments. Governor David W. Sholtz had aided the state's economic recovery from the great depression and journeyed into the Everglades to discuss with Seminole leaders what the government could do to assist the Indians in those trying times. A ceremonial welcome was followed by conversations in which the Indians appreciated the offer of aid but, fearing removal from the Everglades, gave the Governor this reply: "Pohoan Checkish" - "Just leave us alone."

COPELAND

#38 Site of Bula Baptist Mission & Cemetery
Turnstile Drive

The Bula Baptist Mission was built in the 1940s for the Black families in the community, many of whom worked for the Lee Tidewater Cypress Company in their logging operation from 1943 to 1957. It is reported that Anna Mae Perry, a midwife whose husband worked at the logging operations, delivered babies; if stillborn, they were buried at the Mission. The building deteriorated and was demolished in 2011.

- Designated historic site
JEROME / SUNNILAND / IMMOKALEE

#39 Deep Lake
Big Cypress National Preserve on SR29

Deep Lake Hammock was purchased and developed by Walter Langford and John Roach. In 1900 they planted grapefruit which was transported in 1913 by rail to Port DuPont on the Allen River (now the Barron River) in Everglades City. The Deep Lake Railroad was officially opened later that year. Barron Collier purchased the grove and railway in the 1920s. It is now part of the Big Cypress National Preserve.

#40 Sunniland Oil Field
Oil Well Park Road

The first commercial oil well in Florida was drilled in 1943 by Humble Oil and Refining Company. The discovery at a depth of over 11,500 feet proved that there was oil in Florida. Seventeen wells were subsequently drilled. It was the State’s only commercial oil field until 1964.

www.floridamemory.com/items/show/117071
- Designated historic site

IMMOKALEE

#41 Robert’s Ranch / Immokalee Pioneer Museum
1215 Roberts Avenue

Originally home to cattleman Robert Roberts and his family, this 15-acre living history museum offers a rare glimpse of daily life on an actual Southwest Florida ranch from the early 1900s. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003 and is operated by the Collier County Museum system. Displays and nineteen carefully preserved buildings tell the story of those who struggled to tame a sprawling wilderness on the edge of the Big Cypress Swamp at the turn of the last century.

www.colliergov.net/Index.aspx?page=150
- Designated historic site
- National Register of Historic Places
#42 Immokalee First Baptist Church
1215 Roberts Avenue

The church was organized as a mission in the fall of 1916 by Rev. A.M. Bennett and Rev. Peelman with seven charter members, including Robert Roberts and his wife, Sarah. The Roberts family was one of four families that made up Immokalee’s first Baptist congregation. The congregation met in an old schoolhouse until 1928 when this church was built for $616 on five acres of land provided by the First Baptist Church of Fort Myers. Rooms for Sunday school class were added in the years that followed. The building was moved to a new site in 1944, serving as a sanctuary until 1952, when a new church was built. The church was permanently moved to the Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch to serve as a Visitor’s Center and exhibit hall.

www.fbcimmokalee.org/Brief%20History

Photo courtesy of Collier County Museums

#43 Pepper Ranch
6315 Pepper Ranch Road

The Pepper Ranch has been located on Lake Trafford since the mid 1920s. Frank Pepper moved to the area in the 1920s to develop the 2,500 acres Pepper Ranch property surrounding the north side of Lake Trafford. He bought it from Henry Flagler, the hotelier who is largely credited with bringing the first railroad line into the State of Florida. The Pepper family used the lake and the land to operate a tourist fish camp from the mid-1920s until the late 1930s. Visitors stayed in cabins at the ranch and fished in Lake Trafford all day. At night, the camp’s barbecue pit would cook up fish and wild game for big parties. Collier County acquired the ranch in 2009 for public use.

www.colliergov.net/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=29827
In 1911 Corkscrew was little more than a hunting ground when J.J. Whidden moved to this area with about three other families. The main occupation was trapping of otter, coon and gator. Farming started the next year and the rich land began to bloom as more families moved into the area. In 1923 the Corkscrew community had its first school with each family paying $5 and the county supplementing the school with $30 a month. In 1927 Corkscrew settlement was being hailed as a modern rural community with an abundance of fine farming land and new roads being built. The schoolhouse served the community until 1946 at which time the students took the bus to Immokalee. Electricity came to the settlement in 1949.
MISSION

To increase public awareness of the importance and significance of Collier County's historical and archaeological heritage by protecting, preserving and perpetuating Collier County's historic and archaeological artifacts, sites, districts, structures, buildings, and properties.

Historic Designation Process

The designation of specific sites, structures, buildings, districts and properties may be initiated by the Preservation Board or by a property owner. Upon consideration of the Preservation Board's findings and recommendations, and upon the consideration of the criteria and guidelines contained in the Land Development Code, the Board of County Commissioners may either approve, by resolution, or deny a petition for historic designation. The Board of County Commissioners has designated many of the sites and structures as locally significant.

For Information Contact:

Historic and Archaeological Preservation Board
2800 North Horseshoe Drive
Naples, Florida 34104
Phone: 239-252-2400
www.colliergov.net/zoning,
click on Historic Preservation Board
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