

# Preservation News

A Publication of the Lee Trust for Historic Preservation • Fall 2001

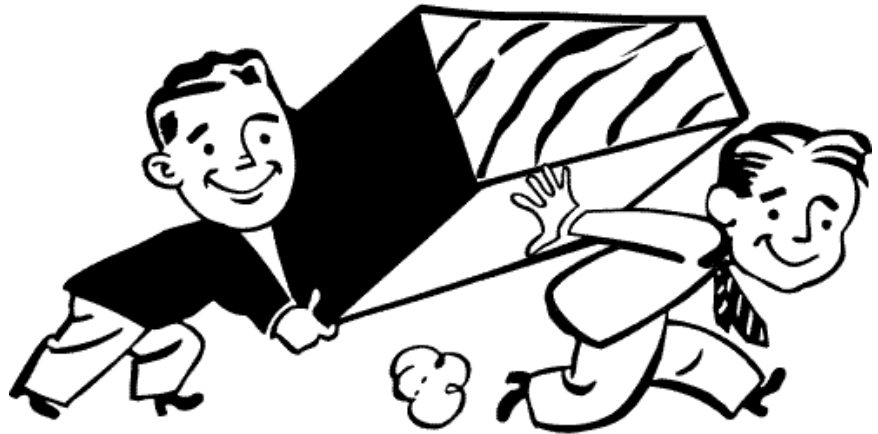
Phone (941) 334-0100

## Preserving A Piece of Lee County's History - One Brick At A Time

Within a few months time in what many considered off-season, the southwest Florida community rallied to save the Langford-Kingston Home from the demolition wrecking ball. More than \$200,000 has been raised to underwrite the cost of relocating the home to a permanent site across the street from another historical treasure, the Burroughs Home in downtown Fort Myers.

The Move A Brick, Save A House Campaign initiated by the Lee Trust for Historic Preservation, in cooperation with the City of Fort Myers, will ensure that one of Lee County's historical jewels remains intact. The relocation, stabilization and restoration of the Langford-Kingston Home will preserve one of southwest Florida's rare examples of the grand lifestyle that once occurred along the Caloosahatchee River. The home is one of southwest Florida's premier examples of Prairie-style architecture. The total cost of relocating the historic home is \$275,000.

The urgent appeal began when leaders of the First United Methodist Church, owners of the historic home since 1953, approached members of the Lee Trust board and the City of Fort Myers about securing private buyers for the home. A formal decision to seek demolition was voted on and passed by the church, but was deferred several times. With no time to spare, The Move A Brick, Save A House campaign to rescue the priceless home began, with a major commitment of \$25,000 from the Lee Trust. Other major supporters of the cause included



## Move A Brick SAVE A HOUSE

the family of Mina Kingston Tinsley and Sprint. To date, more than 600 community supporters have rallied to support the project. Special thanks go to Beverly Fox, CRS Technology, Stanley I. Vaughn III Photography, Direct Impressions,

Grafix Shell, and Ferrell Sanford Studio for providing collateral materials

for the Move A Brick campaign, along with countless volunteers who made the campaign a success.

Additional funds are still needed

before the home can be relocated but the Historic Preservation Advisory Council for the State of Florida has endorsed the project by recommending \$325,000 grant for restoration.

According to Mayor Jim Humphrey,

*“...the outpouring of community support for the Langford-Kingston Home reinforces to this commission that historic preservation is one of the cornerstones of economic revitalization.”*

*Mayor Jim Humphrey*

“This unique home will serve as a historic reminder of those entrepreneurs who contributed to the vitality of our downtown life.

*Continued page 5*

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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

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### Board of Directors

Robert Sanford, President  
Toni Ferrell, First Vice President  
Joanna Lindsey, Second Vice President  
Bill Grace, Treasurer  
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• • •

### Honorary Board of Directors

Keith Arnold  
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The 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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Diane Kimes, Editor  
Grafix Shell, Graphic Designer

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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 with-  
in the State of Florida 1-800-435-7352.  
Registration does not imply endorsement,  
approval or recommendation by the State.

## Restoration Continues At Koreshan



The Koreshan Unity Alliance, Inc. the citizen support organization for the Koreshan State Historic Site has secured private and state funding to finance restoration projects that will soon be underway. The focus of the preservation project is two-pronged. The Planetary Court, the 1904 building that housed leading women of the Unity, will be completely refurbished. Included will be restoration of the original cupola that was dismantled. The Art Hall is a 1905 wooden structure that was built to house the Koreshan Art Collection. The hall served as a venue for various cultural activities in the community. It will undergo complete roof restoration, including the original monitor and will return the structure to its original appearance. Additionally, the preparation of a restoration plan is underway for the New Store, the nucleus of commerce for the Koreshan Village. This 1920 structure was the site of the original post office, retail store and men's dormitory for many years.

The Koreshan Unity Alliance has created an exceptional example of the early years of this once-thriving, fiercely independent community that was carved out of the banks of the Estero River.



Congratulations to Bill Grace, who was honored as this year's Florida Association of Museum's Outstanding Volunteer for his tireless efforts to restore and preserve the buildings at the Koreshan State Historic Site.

# Historical Happenings - Calendar of Events

## Lee Trust Board Meeting

December 6th, 5:30 p.m.  
1500 Royal Palm Square Boulevard  
Third Floor  
Call 334-3832 for more information

## Annual Cracker Dinner

Fort Myers Historical Society  
**Foundation Gala**  
February 22, 2002  
Call 332-5955 for more information

## Membership Meeting

Fort Myers Historical Society  
2nd Thursday of every month  
Fort Myers Historical Museum

## Breakfast With Santa at the Burroughs Home

December 16th, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Contact the Historical Society @

## Paleo - Florida

Fort Myers Historical Museum  
Permanent Exhibit  
Opens February 23, 2002

## Gala Preview Night at Florida Repertory Theatre

Hosted by Lee Trust  
To benefit Langford-Kingston Home  
Thursday, February 14, 2002  
Call 334-0100 for more information

## Living History Tours at the Burroughs Home

Beginning November 15th  
Lunch on the river available for 4 or more  
Call 332-6125 for more information



LEE TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC.

## 20th Anniversary Celebration

Fort Myers Historical Museum  
April 6, 2002

## Only \$40,000 to go! We can do it with your help!

Please make any contributions you can! Your gift of

- \$100 will pay to move four of the 8,000 Swirltex bricks
- \$250 will allow us to move one of the piers in the wall
- \$500 will move a door or window
- \$1,000 will pay the cost of moving the marble steps
- \$1,500 will move the front door
- \$1,500 will allow us to move one of two chimneys
- \$5,000 will pay to move the roof or the porte cochere
- \$10,000 will move the hand-tiled wraparound porch

Your contribution will be held in an escrow account and used solely for the Langford-Kingston restoration.

Contributions will be returned if we cannot raise enough money to save the home.

In addition, your contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law.



**Move A Brick**  
SAVE A HOUSE

Make your check payable to  
Lee Trust for Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 1035 • Ft Myers, FL 33901  
Please note "L/K Home" on your check.

### Yes! I would like to move:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Four Bricks (\$100)          | <input type="checkbox"/> Wall Pier (\$250)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Window or door (\$500) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marble Steps (\$1,000)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Front Door (\$1,500) | <input type="checkbox"/> Chimney (\$2,500)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roof/Porte Cochere (\$5,000) | <input type="checkbox"/> Porch (\$10,000)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____            |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Lee Trust for Historic Preservation, Inc., is a 501(c)3 organization with federal tax ID number 65-0301695.

## The Power of Partnerships

The Lee Trust for Historic Preservation believes that building partnerships enhances the role of preservation efforts. "By collaborating with other organizations, we can expand the support for preservation efforts to retain and promote our cultural heritage", stated Bob Sanford, president of Lee Trust. Although a distinctly separate organization, Lee Trust for Historic Preservation, Inc. seeks to work closely with other preservation organizations in the community, including:

- Alva Museum
- Bonita Springs Historical Society
- Burroughs Home
- Calusa Land Trust
- Dean Park Historic District
- Edison Park Neighborhood Association
- Estero Island Historical Society
- Florida Trust for Historic Preservation
- Fort Myers Historical Museum
- Fort Myers Preservation Commission
- Koreshan Unity Alliance
- Lee County Black History Society
- Lee County Historic Preservation Board
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Pine Island Museum
- Randell Research Center
- Sanibel Historic Preservation Commission
- Southwest Florida Archaeological Society
- Southwest Florida Historical Society

## RRC Ranks High for Funding

The Randell Research Center at Pineland, which is comprised of 53 acres of the Pineland Site Complex encompassing numerous Calusa Indian mounds and ruins, received a recommendation for a \$300,000 Special Category Grant from the Florida Advisory Council. Through diligent efforts in research and stewardship, the Florida Museum of Natural History has increased awareness and appreciation for this important element of our heritage. As Supporting Members of the Calusa Constituency, Lee Trust applauds the efforts of RRC and extends our congratulations. For more information, contact William Marquardt, <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu>.



### Application for Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

- 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

## 2001 Dues Are Due!

Lee Trust Dues are payable in January... With all of our efforts focused on the Move A Brick campaign, we have neglected to remind our members to renew their dues. Please use this membership form when sending in your dues, even if you are a renewing member. Thanks to those who remembered on their own: Berne Davis, Toni Ferrell, Bill and Susan Grace, Joan Krick, Joanna and Russe Lindsey, Helen Moe and Bob Sanford!

**WELCOME to our new Members of 2000-2001:** Margaret Allen, Virginia Barnard, L.D. Bochette Jr., Suzanne Courcier and Robert Wilkins, Michael Cooper, Jane de Lisser, Amy Fainer, Archie Ford, Lloyd and Beverly Fox, Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association, Kay Holloway, Leonard Lambert, Lee County Black History Society, David and Toni Loveland, Charlotte Miller, Terry Tilley and Tasa Stoyer.

If your name or address is incorrect, or if you know of Members who have not received the Newsletter or our monthly meeting notices, please call Toni Ferrell at 334-3832.

Your membership donation is vital to the continued growth of Lee Trust programs. We count on you. ■

# Langford-Kingston Home - A Storied Past

Childhood recollections of life in Fort Myers are vivid for Mina Tinsley, whose family occupied the home for more than a quarter century. The family of Mina Kingston Tinsley was one of the first major donors to contribute to the Move A Brick, Save A House campaign. Mina is grateful for the outpouring of community support to save her childhood home. "The uniqueness of the home is in its interior", stated Tinsley, the granddaughter of George Kingston. Kingston was the second owner of the historic home. To truly appreciate the home, one has to see the meticulous attention to detail from the unique swirl-tex brick to the elegant broad mahogany staircase. "It may be hard for one to imagine the significance in its current, deteriorated state, but once restored to its pristine condition, everyone should appreciate its value as a treasure to the community", stated Tinsley.

The year was 1919; Fort Myers was exploding with growth and affluence



as a result of the Florida Land Boom. Walter G. Langford was a prominent businessman who assisted in bringing the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad to Fort Myers. Serving as President of

First National Bank of Fort Myers from 1907 until his death 1920, he built a home that was equal to his stature. Patterned after the Prairie-style home he



admired in Jacksonville, he engaged the services of one of Florida's renowned architects, Frances J. Kennard of Tampa. Kennard was also the architect of record for the old Lee County Courthouse, a neo-classical building on Main Street in the Fort Myers historic district. Situated on the corner of Fowler and First Street, the impressive home was in clear view to all who entered the city via First Street.

Langford died shortly after the house was completed and Mina's grandfather purchased it from Mr. Langford's estate (the last surviving Langford heir was Faye Langford Paul, who was also a classmate of Mina's father). George Kingston, arriv-



ing from Kokomo, Indiana, specialized in the manufacture of ignition systems, spark plugs and other automobile parts and was the inventor of the Kingston carburetor.

Details of early life are made vivid as Mina recalls memories in the home that the Fort Myers Press referred to in 1919 as "without question, the most modern, well appointed, substantially built dwelling in Fort Myers. No expense has been spared... for which elaborate detail and refinement in every particular might easily grace the best districts of a metropolitan residence".

Looking back on her wedding day, Mina recalls walking down the grand, mahogany staircase with its opulent, hand-tied oriental carpet to welcome guests to her reception. A glimpse

further back in time and the image of her brother comes to mind, sliding down the massive hand-polished banister or playing with him in one of the four spacious (even by today's standards - 16' x 18') bedrooms upstairs.

Other pioneer families figure prominently in her memories. Frank Alderman walked by the Kingston home daily on his way to work as President of First National Bank, the same bank founded by Walter Langford. Frank often found five-year-old Mina, dressed in ruffles and bows, sitting on her fence. Frank, who was never without a carnation in his lapel, began the tradition of presenting one to Mina. The former Alderman home still stands on First Street.

These memories from Mina's past, along with countless others, form an indelible cast, like that of the red velvet Swirltex bricks that support the Langford-Kingston Home. This historic home serves as an important reminder to this community, not only in retaining its architectural integrity, but as a symbol of our rich cultural heritage. Members of the Lee Trust Board are grateful for the unwavering support of the Tinsley family, along with countless others that rallied to save this very special home for all of Lee County to enjoy!

"The Langford-Kingston Home, along with the Burroughs Home will serve as a bridge to link our rich heritage with our dynamic future as the City of Fort Myers moves to enhance the downtown landscape. With the recent affiliation with Andres Duany, the outpouring of community support for the Langford-Kingston Home reinforces to this commission that historic preservation is one the cornerstones of economic revitalization."

By saving the Langford-Kingston Home, we are preserving a piece of our unique history for generations to come.

*If you would like to make a donation to save the Langford-Kingston Home, please fill out the attached coupon and mail it to the address provided. As the holidays approach, consider moving a brick as a way to pay tribute to a loved one. It's an easy way to avoid the crowds at the mall and it doesn't require gift-wrapping. You may also visit us at our website at [www.MoveABrick.org](http://www.MoveABrick.org).*



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

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

## Have A Heart for Historic Preservation?

Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 14th  
A special benefit preview opening night of *Dr. Cook's Garden*,  
an edge-of-your-seat mystery thriller at the Florida Repertory Theatre



**FLORIDA REPERTORY THEATRE**  
Downtown Historic District

Hosted by Friends of the Lee Trust for Historic Preservation  
Proceeds will benefit the Move A Brick Campaign to save the Langford-Kingston Home.  
Look for more details and ticket information or contact Lee Trust at 344-0100