
100th Anniversary

This year Everglades City and Collier County celebrate their centennial, recognizing founder Barron Gift Collier and other historic figures, buildings, and events during the past 100 years. The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation has purchased and installed banners along Collier Ave, Broadway, and Copeland Ave South in Everglades City to commemorate these historic people as well as significant events, buildings, and characteristics of our community.



ESHP is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation of concerned citizens who are interested in preserving all **historic sites, structures, documents, artifacts, and memories** within the Everglades City area. The Society was founded in late 2004.

Memberships are available; see www.eshp.org.



Project Action Plan

FUNDRAISING

A large federal grant has been awarded, and more applications are in process. Events have been held with more ongoing.

ESHP enlists community support and seeks to enroll local businesses. Features in the building will be dedicated to substantial donors and “naming opportunities” will be provided.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Undesirable trees and shrubs have been removed and surplus furniture has been sold. The building was tented for termites, and the roof repaired. Exploratory demolition of the interior of the building has been completed.

The building has been surveyed by a structural engineer, and plans for the foundation design are being finalized.

NEXT STEPS

The foundation will be repaired, and the non-historic addition at the rear of the building will be removed.

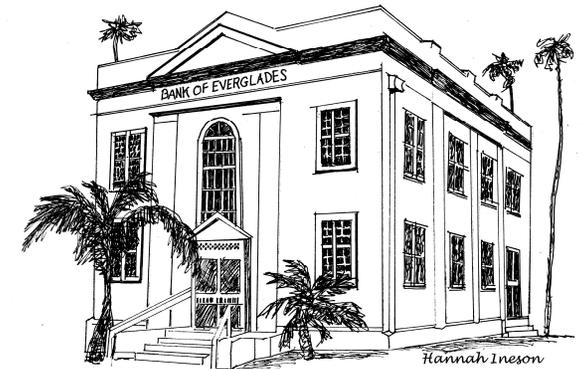
A new Palladian window above the front door will be installed, and local businesses and organizations are invited to sponsor one or more of the 22 windows. All windows will be replaced with impact glass in frames similar to the 1927 originals. (See illustration on cover of brochure.)

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EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION (ESHP)

Everglades City, Florida

Current Rehabilitation Project: The Bank of Everglades Building



Dedicated to our Unique History
P O Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139
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History of the Bank of Everglades Building

In 1923, Barron Gift Collier established the town of Everglades as the first county seat of Collier County and headquarters for the construction of the Tamiami Trail from Naples to the Dade County border.

The same year, the Bank of Everglades was chartered and housed in a little wooden building until it moved into its new dignified headquarters in 1927. Offices on the 2nd floor included the *Collier County News* (now the *Naples Daily News*), the District School Board, and Humble Oil Company among other corporations.

The Bank of Everglades continued to conduct business until 1962 when its operations moved to Immokalee. The building was converted into a boarding house until William “Buck” Dawson purchased it in 1964 with plans to make it a tourist attraction to include a “Presidential Fishing Hall of Fame.” He was unable to achieve his goals, and Rusty Rupis bought the building in 1979, publishing the *Everglades Echo* newspaper until she and her husband retired in 1988.

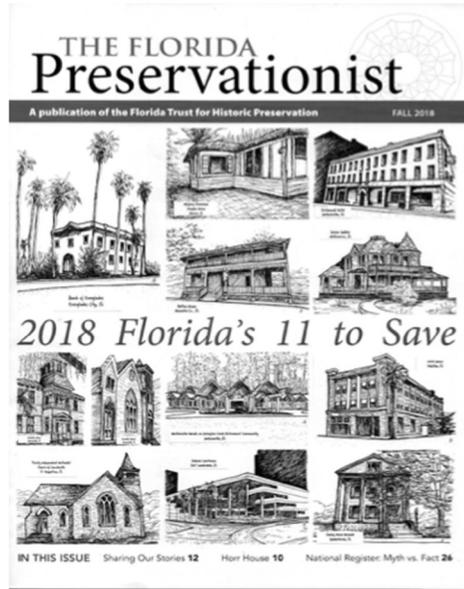
In 1996 Robert Flick purchased the building; his daughter Patty opened a Bed & Breakfast and was responsible for having the building added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1999. The building continued operating as a Bed & Breakfast until 2017 when it finally closed, a few months before Hurricane Irma flooded the building and ruined much of the beautiful antique furniture. Fortunately, the original Dade County pine floor survived as well as the vault. Robert Flick donated the building to the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation in 2021. Since then, ESHP has been active in securing funding to rehabilitate the building to be used as a Visitor Information Center, Trail Town Headquarters, and community gathering place for events.

Project Goal

Rehabilitation will adhere to requirements that apply to buildings on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

Once the interior is renovated, the first floor will house a Visitors Center and be available for a variety of community uses including a gift shop, an art gallery, and space for large gatherings and lectures.

The Bob Flick Theatre for showings of the film *Wind Across the Everglades* will be installed in the former vault. Space on the second floor is planned for maintaining the historical library, community conference room, and community activities for small groups.



The old Everglades Bank Building was featured by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation in their “11 to Save” for 2018 and shown on the front cover of *The Florida Preservationist*.

EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION DONATION FORM

I wish to donate \$ _____ to
ESHP for the restoration of the Bank
of Everglades.

Any size donation is appreciated!

NAME: _____

STREET / P.O.BOX: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ALTERNATE ADDRESS: _____

DATES: _____

*Make check payable to ESHP” and
send to
ESHP, P.O.Box 46, Everglades City,
FL, 34139*

**You may also donate online at
www.Save-BOE.org**