

Edison and Ford Winter Estates Fort Myers
Website: www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/
Where: 2350 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myers 33901.
Get There: I-75 to Colonial Blvd Exit #136. West on Colonial Blvd about 6 miles to McGregor (just before The Gulf). Right on McGregor. About 3 miles, on left.
When: Daily 9am to 5:30pm.



Admission:
 – \$25 self-guided tour. Download Internet app. 25 stops.
 – \$30 tour led by site historian.
Both include the historic homes and gardens, and admission to Museum and Edison Botanic Research Labs.
On these tours you do not go into the houses. You look in.

Specialized Tours:

Automotive Tour:
 Mondays, 10:30am.
 90 minutes. \$50.



Inside the Homes Tour:
 Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am.
 90 minutes. \$50.

Edison's Winter Home:

- 14-acre Site on Caloosahatchee Riv.
- Queen Anne New England Style.
- Built 1885 in parts in Fairfield, Maine.
- Sent to Fort Myers on 4 sailing ships.
- Assembled in Fort Myers in 1886.
- One of the first pre-fabricated buildings in America.

Thomas Alva Edison was America's greatest inventor. Examples:

Electric power generators and distribution systems. Phonograph. Motion picture camera. Electric light bulb. Microphone. Fluoroscope. Rechargeable battery.

Edison called his home "Seminole Lodge".
Was his winter workplace and place of relaxation until he died in 1931.





**Thomas Edison's Home
Living Room**



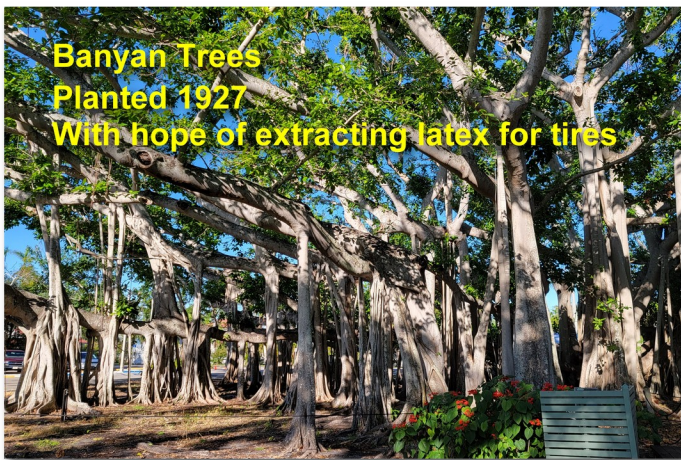
**Thomas Edison's Home
Dining Room**



**Thomas Edison's Home
Bedroom**



**Thomas Edison's Home
Kitchen**



**Banyan Trees
Planted 1927
With hope of extracting latex for tires**

Museum: Explore the lives, creativity, and achievements of Edison and Ford. 15,000 square feet. Thousands of artifacts including several historic cars.

Edison's Laboratory: Opened 1927. Focused on finding a domestic US source of rubber in case of a foreign supply shortage. 17,000 plant samples tested. Edison eventually selected **Goldenrod** as the most suitable. Lab operated until 1936.



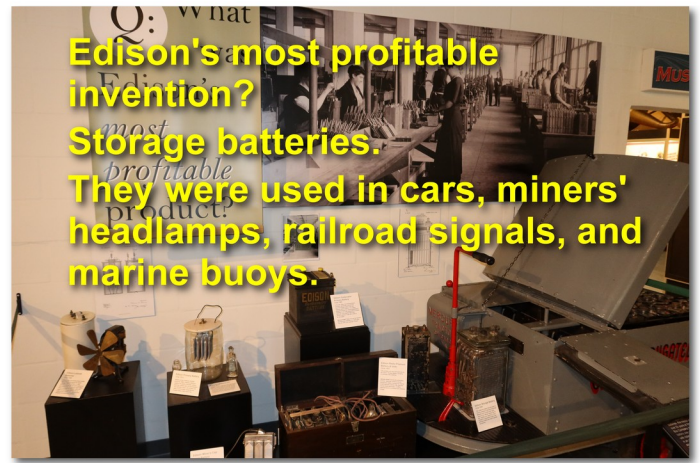
**Edison and Ford Museum
Some of Edison's Inventions**



Edison and Ford Museum



Edison and Ford Museum
1914 Model T



Edison's most profitable invention?
Storage batteries.
They were used in cars, miners' headlamps, railroad signals, and marine buoys.



Edison and Ford Museum
Edison's Own 1916 Model T



Edison and Ford Museum



Edison and Ford Museum



Edison and Ford Museum



Edison's Botanic Research Laboratory
Goal: Find a US plant that could produce rubber in case of foreign shortage.



Edison's Botanic Research Laboratory

Ford Home:

Edison's good friend Henry Ford bought the house next to Edison's in 1916. It was built 1911. Named "The Mangoes".

Henry Ford manufactured the first automobile that many middle-class Americans could afford, starting 1910. The car became a practical conveyance that profoundly affected 20th century society worldwide.

Ford died In 1947.



Henry Ford's Home
Fort Myers
1911



Henry Ford's Home
Living Room



Henry Ford's Home
Dining Room

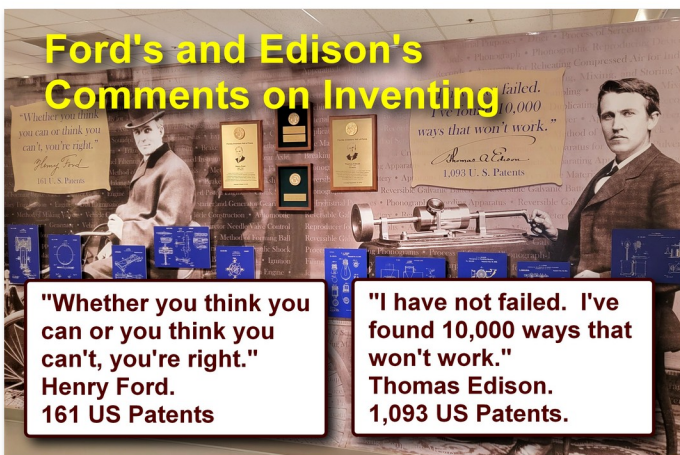


Henry Ford's Home



Edison's Caretaker's House
Now a museum of historic
photographs

Photo: Edison's research team, Menlo Park, NJ, Labs, 1880. Edison seated, center.



Ford's and Edison's Comments on Inventing

"Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right."
Henry Ford.
161 US Patents

"I have not failed. I've found 10,000 ways that won't work."
Thomas Edison.
1,093 US Patents.