

In and Around Naples
**A Series of Presentations
for the Collier County Library**
by Paul Pacter

**Mound House
Fort Myers Beach**

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Mound House (and Calusa History)

Historic property of the Town of Fort Myers Beach.

Website: <https://moundhouse.org/>

Where: 451 Connecticut St, off Estero Blvd, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931.

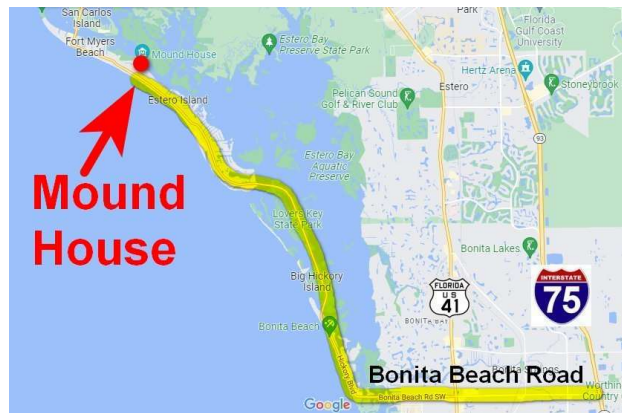
Get There: Bonita Beach Road becomes Hickory Blvd in Bonita, then Estero Blvd. 13 mi. from US 41 Bonita Beach Rd.

When: Tuesday- Saturday 9am to 4pm.

Admission:

- Adult: \$10
- Students: \$8
- Children: \$5

What: Historic house built on 2.77-acre Calusa Indian Shell Mound. Cream color bricks made from ground shells.



Calusa Indians: "The Shell Indians".
Shore dwellers.

Area: Today's Charlotte, Lee, and Collier counties.

Rough population estimate: 10,000.

Dominated southwest Florida 500 BC to 1500 AD.

Fierce fighters.

Tightly controlled society: Consisting of commoners and nobles.

Red: Where Calusa lived.

Blue: Controlled by Calusa.

Society: Consisted of commoners and nobles.

Diet: Seafood. Did not farm.

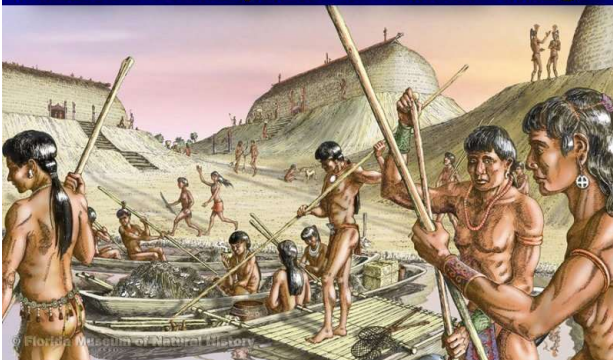
Ate shellfish: Discarded shells onto mounds. Many mounds remain today.

Forged tools and weapons from scavenged shells.

Mound House: Built on a huge 2,000-year-old Calusa Indian shell mound.



Artist's Conception of Calusa Village



History of Mound House:

1906: One room kitchen-dining house. Settlers lived on their boat.

1909: Expanded house to include living room, sleeping area upstairs, porch.

1921: Expanded to 2,945 sq foot "mansion" with 3 bedrooms, bath, wrap-around porch, garage.

Today house is restored to 1921 condition.

1970s: In-ground swimming pool 18'x34'.

2000: Acquired by Town of Ft Myers Beach.
Subsequently: Swimming pool removed to reveal size and depth of Calusa mound.

Visit House: Upstairs two exhibit rooms:

1. History of Calusa Indians.
2. History of settlers on Estero Island.

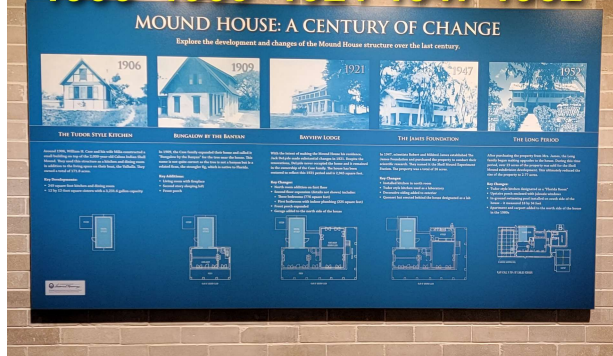
Underground: Old swimming pool site excavated – revealing layers of shells.

1. Video narration and LED lights.
2. Huge mural: What this Calusa village may have looked like 2,000 years ago.

House Sits on a Calusa Shell Mound



1906 1909 1921 1947 1952



Mound House Today - Restored to 1921 Condition



Mound House 1921 Living Room



Exhibit - Calusa Historic Artefacts



Calusa Bowl 1200 to 2000 Years Old



Calusa Clay Pipe 1400 Years Old



Smoked leaves of local shrubs including mesquite and ginger



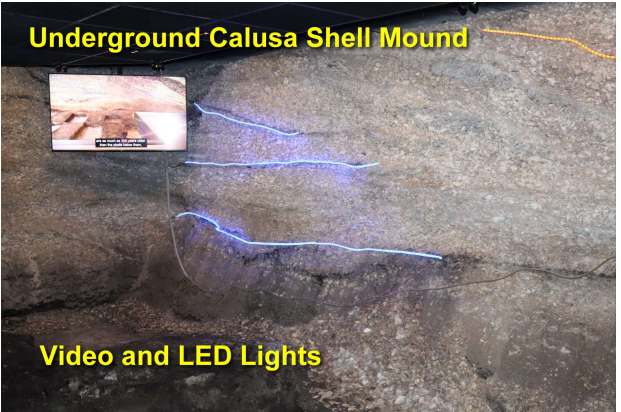
Calusa Tools 1200 to 2000 Years Old



Exhibit - Early Settlers of Estero Is.



Underground Inside Calusa Shell Mound



Underground Calusa Shell Mound

Video and LED Lights



Underground Inside Calusa Shell Mound



Underground Inside Calusa Shell Mound



Large Mural: Artist's conception of Calusa Village



Mound House Boardwalk On Estero Bay