

In and Around Naples

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.

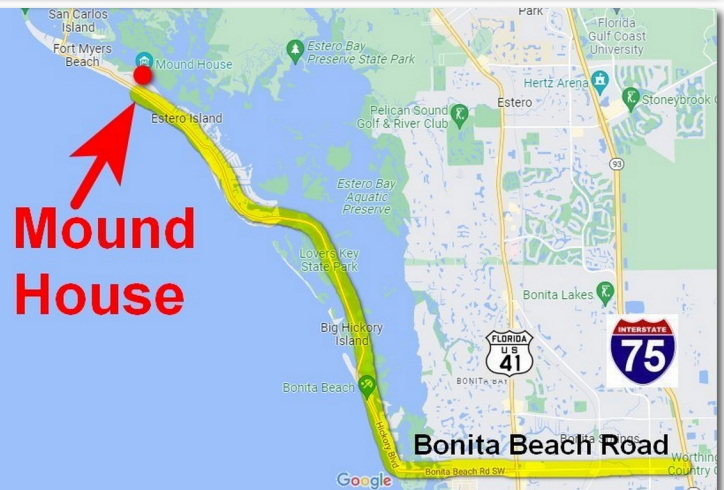
Get There: Bonita Beach Road becomes Hickory Blvd in Bonita, then Estero Blvd. 13 mi. from US 41 Bonita Beach Rd.

When: Wednesday to 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.

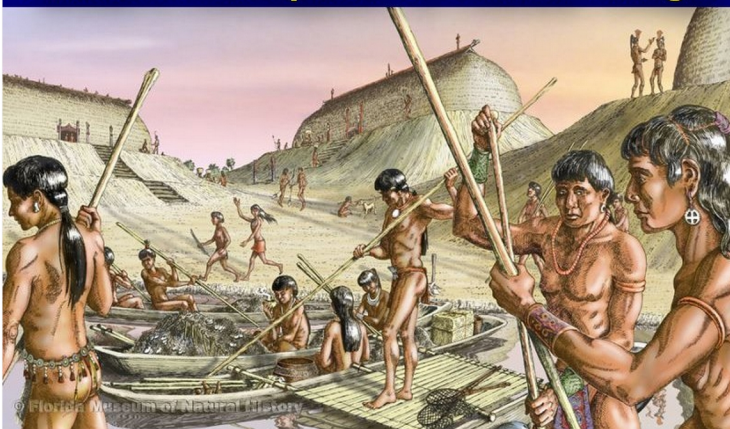
Ate shellfish: Discarded shells onto mounds. Many mounds remain today.

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



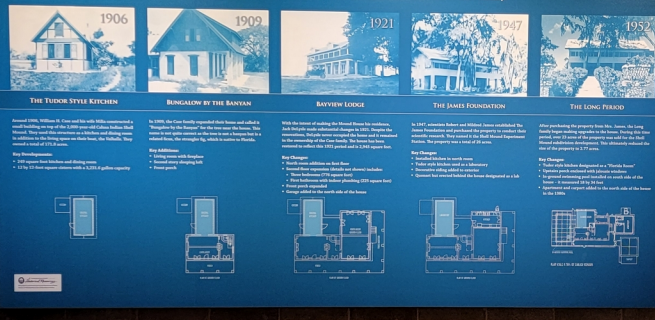
Mound House Today - Restored to 1921 Condition



1906 1909 1921 1947 1952

MOUND HOUSE: A CENTURY OF CHANGE

Explore the development and changes of the Mound House structure over the last century.



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

