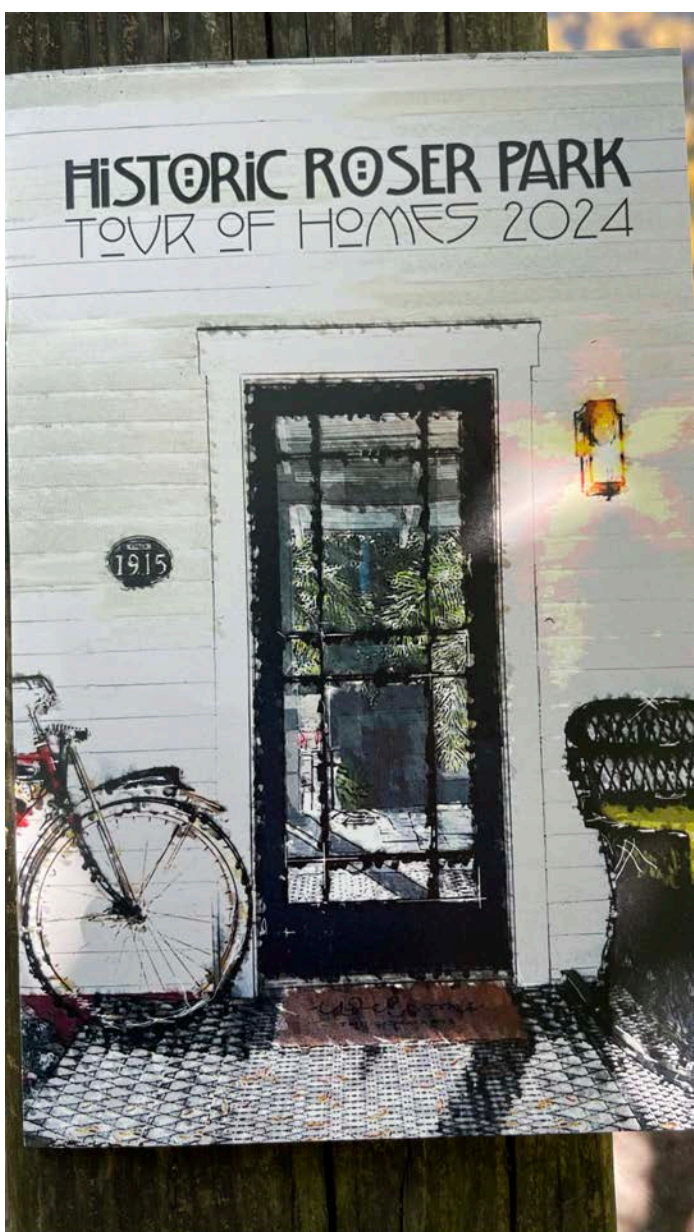


240330 BRA Historic Roser Park Home Tours Saint Petersburg FL



Historic Roser Park is the oldest area in St. Petersburg. It is built on Indian shell mounds, which explains the rolling nature of the area. The homes date back to the beginning of the 20th century.



Sadly, the tour was only of five homes.

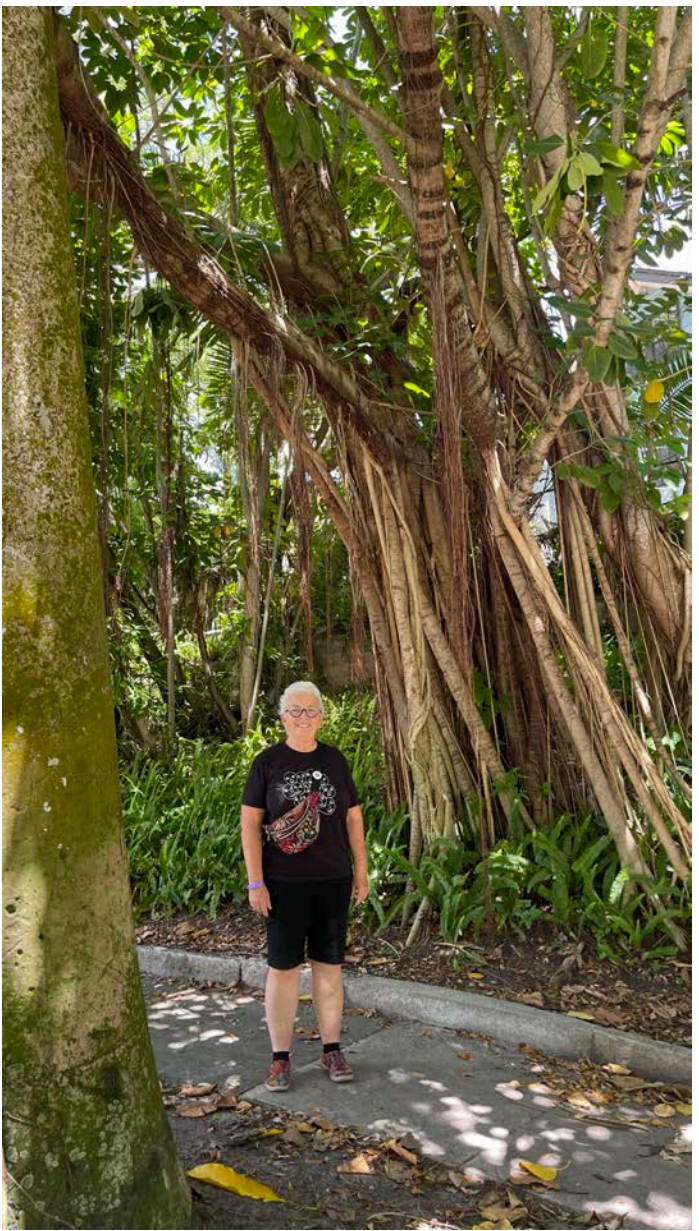
There are many more in this area and I am sure they would be equally interesting.



This is a very historic part of town. It's very reminiscent of areas in the tropics that were built at the turn-of-the-century in the early 1900's. The architecture is similar to that which is found in the canal zone of Panama, which was built around the same time.



The homes are marked on the map and signs like this one will lead you around. You can't get lost and there are lots of people in front of behind you who are going along on the tour.



It really does look like the country of Panama in this area. I worked in Panama for

over 13 years and if you were to kidnap me there and release me here, I would think I was still there. This very much has a tropical feel to it.



One by one you enter private homes that have been opened by their owners. They are very proud and happy to have you look around. The homes are typically beautifully restored, and in one instance being restored.



The Roser Park home Association has a organizing function for this event. They have a tent which is set up to sign in visitors. It's all very well organized.





The area is extremely peaceful. It's very tropical and lush with mature foliage and palm trees. The gardens all are hanging and overlook steep, drop offs to the stream which runs through the area. This is a very peaceful and beautiful area.



Five homes which were opened to the public were available for visit. In many instances, people just sat in the homes and talked. Some of the patios were just used as meeting places for impromptu discussion.



The area is winding and hilly. You would not expect this because in no other area of St Petersburg, does this topography repeat itself. Again, this was because this area was built on top of Indian shell mounds.





The homes are authentic and the materials are vintage. Any renovation has to follow strict architectural building code. Owners must replace kind with kind and respect the original architectural, motifs and design.



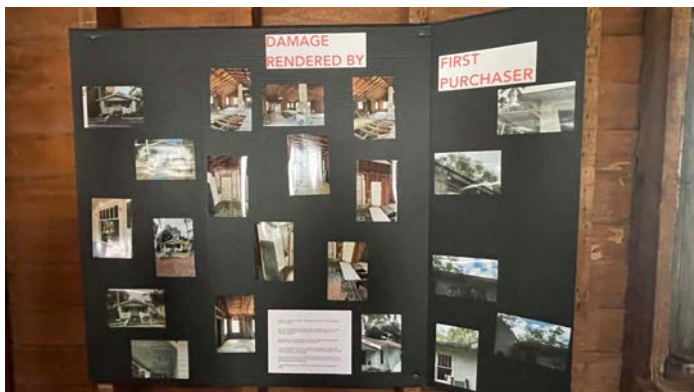


One of the five homes was under complete renovation. This was actually a good chance to look at one of these homes at its inception. Sometimes homes have to be completely gutted on the inside to bring them to a modern state of use.

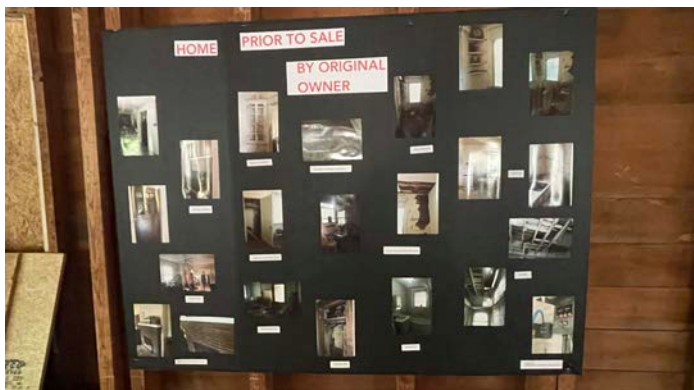


The owner had photographs taken of the home as it has progressed. This owner had a sense of humor. You can see that they are not happy with the efforts of the previous

owner in its attempt to remodel the home.

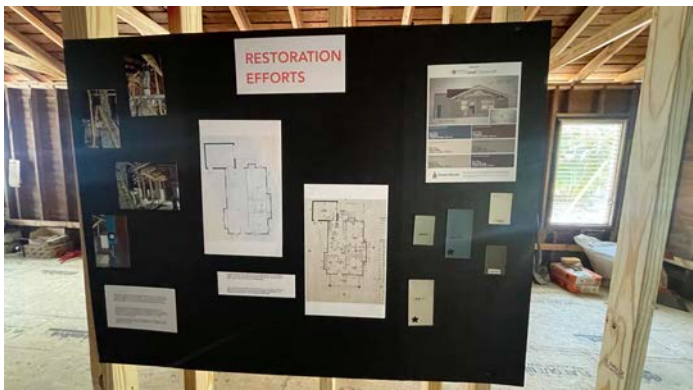


My friend and I are both familiar with home construction and we were looking at the materials and progress. These windows are floated glass and the waviness gives them away. It's amazing that this window pain lasted this long.



This was a really good record of how the home has progressed. There is obviously a lot of work when you buy one of these older

homes. In the end to bring it to current building code and modern comfort levels, it may be necessary to completely gut the original building. But on the exterior, the architectural motif and designs must be respected.



This is one example of older utility codes which no longer apply. This type of electrical wiring called bell and knob is not permitted any longer. The complete electrical system has to be replaced.



This home was built around 1915. This would've been one of the earlier homes in the area and many were built after 1920.



Many of the fixtures are reconstruction of original designs. Rarely are original fixtures in place as they would be too old. It's good that the current owner reached out and found older designs in modern rendering to

install.



The homes are comfortable and cozy. There's a comfort in these older smaller homes, which cannot be found in the gigantic structures that are put up today. To me, it's far better to rebuild an older home like this than construct some of the newer more modern homes which are being put up on lots.



The entire tour was very easy to walk. From the check-in to the final home took less than two hours. The tour is self-paced, and if you don't stop to chat, you can easily do it in one hour.



This is well worth your time. I would recommend it if you are in town when this event is offered again. Hopefully in the future, there will be more homes open. There certainly were some interesting ones that were not on the tour which would've been great to have entered.



Keep smiling.
END