

Is your RETURN ADDRESS completed on the reverse side?

SCA 95-11-03

**SENDER:**

- Complete items 1 and/or 2 for additional services.
- Complete items 3, 4a, and 4b.
- Print your name and address on the reverse of this form so that we can return this card to you.
- Attach this form to the front of the mailpiece, or on the back if space does not permit.
- Write "Return Receipt Requested" on the mailpiece below the article number.
- The Return Receipt will show to whom the article was delivered and the date delivered.

I also wish to receive the following services (for an extra fee):

1. ☐ Addressee's Address
2. ☐ Restricted Delivery

Consult postmaster for fee.

3. Article Addressed to:

TIITF/DNR Rec & Park  
C/o DNR Douglas Bldg.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

4a. Article Number

Z 391 352 605

4b. Service Type

- ☐ Registered ☒ Certified  
☐ Express Mail ☐ Insured  
☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise ☐ COD

7. Date of Delivery

OCT 30 1995

5. Received By: (Print Name)

8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)

6. Signature: (Addressee or Agent)

X [Signature]

PS Form 3811, December 1994

Domestic Return Receipt

Thank you for using Return Receipt Service.

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1. ☐ Addressee's Address
2. ☐ Restricted Delivery

Consult postmaster for fee.

3. Article Addressed to:

GICIA  
PO Box 446  
Boca Grande, FL 33921

4a. Article Number

Z 391 352 604

4b. Service Type

- ☐ Registered ☒ Certified  
☐ Express Mail ☐ Insured  
☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise ☐ COD

7. Date of Delivery

10/27/95

5. Received By: (Print Name)

8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)

6. Signature: (Addressee or Agent)

X [Signature]

PS Form 3811, December 1994

Domestic Return Receipt

Thank you for using Return Receipt Service.

19.50R



NOTICE OF ACTION ON PETITION TO  
DESIGNATE A HISTORIC RESOURCE

3764423

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on April 6, 1995, the Lee County Historic Preservation Board voted to:

- X   Approve
- Approve with conditions stated below
- Deny

A Petition to Designate the individual historic resource described below as:

Community Church of Boca Grande (Amory Memorial Chapel)  
(HD Individual 95-03-01)

The designation is subject to the following conditions (if any):

NONE.

This historic resource is described as follows:

Address: 990 Belcher Road, Boca Grande, FL 33921

STRAP No.: 26-43-20-00-00009.0020

Legal Description: See Attachment A

A copy of the Resolution regarding this petition is attached and will be recorded in the public records of Lee County, Florida.

I HEREBY certify that a copy of this notice and the accompanying resolution has been furnished to the following persons or entities:

- TITF/DEP Division of Parks & Recreation -- Property Owner
- Mary Gibbs--Director, Department of Community Development
- Bob Stewart--Director, Division of Codes & Building Services
- Charlie Green--Clerk of Court
- George Crawford--Director, DOT
- Ken Wilkinson--Property Appraiser

Signature of Historic Preservation Board Chair

OR2594 PG3102

RECORD VERIFIED - CHARLIE GREEN, CLERK  
BY: G. SHERWOOD, D.C.



RESOLUTION DESIGNATING

HISTORIC RESOURCE (HD Individual 95-03-01)

WHEREAS, the Lee County Historic Preservation Board is authorized by Lee County Land Development Code (LDC), Chapter 22, Historic Preservation, to consider requests to designate archaeological resources and buildings, and structures and sites and districts as historic resources in order to preserve these resources from uncontrolled alteration or destruction; and

WHEREAS, a request has been filed to designate this resource located at 990 Belcher Road, Boca Grande, unincorporated Lee County, Florida, as a historic resource; and

WHEREAS, a designation report meeting the requirements of LDC Chapter 22, was filed with the Board on March 9, 1995; and

WHEREAS, Notice of Intent to designate the Community Church of Boca Grande (Amory Memorial Chapel) as a historic resource was mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, on March 14, 1994, to TIITF/DEP Division of Parks & Recreation, c/o DEP Douglas Building, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS500, Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000. TIITF/DEP Division of Parks & Recreation is the property owner.

WHEREAS, Notice of Intent to designate was advertised on March 30, 1995 for a public hearing on April 6, 1995.

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the Community Church of Boca Grande meets the criteria for designation set forth in LDC Chapter 22.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEE COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD THAT:

1. The Lee County Historic Preservation Board approves the petition to designate, as a historic resource, the Community Church of Boca Grande -- HD Individual 95-03-01.
2. All provisions of the Lee County Land Development Code, Chapter 22, as may be hereafter amended, renumbered or replaced, applicable to a designated historic resource shall apply to this property (Community Church of Boca Grande -- HD Individual 95-03-01).
3. This Resolution shall be recorded in the Public Records of Lee County, Florida within twenty-five (25) days of the date the Resolution is signed, unless a timely appeal of the Board's decision as reflected in this Resolution, is filed.

Resolution Designating Historic Resource HD Individual 95-03-01

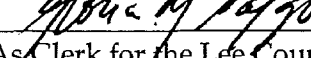
The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Lee County Historic Preservation Board upon a motion by Kevin Williams, and seconded by Chauncey Goss, and, upon being put to a vote, the result was as follows:

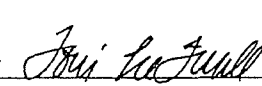
Toni Ferrell	<u>AYE</u>
Chauncey Goss	<u>AYE</u>
Annette Guilfoyle	<u>ABSENT</u>
Linda Sickler Robinson	<u>ABSENT</u>
Eugene Schmitt	<u>AYE</u>
Mercedes Vergne	<u>ABSENT</u>
Kevin Williams	<u>AYE</u>

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of April, A.D., 1995.

ATTEST:

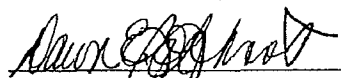
LEE COUNTY  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

BY:   
As Clerk for the Lee County  
Historic Preservation Board

BY:   
Chairman

DATE: 24 April 95

Approved as to form by:

  
County Attorney's Office

(g:\hpb\petition\bgchurch.pet)

95 APR 25 PM 4: 54

**ATTACHMENT A****LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

for

26-43-20-00-00009.0020

DR2594 PG3105

Commence at the southeast corner of Lot 36, Unit No. 1, GOLDEN BEACH SUBDIVISION, as recorded in Plat Book 10, pages 60 and 61, public records of Lee County, Florida; thence North  $89^{\circ}52'00''$  East along south line of said Unit No. 1, 75 feet; thence South  $00^{\circ}08'$  East, 1543.18 feet; thence South  $89^{\circ}43'20''$  East, 1017.39 feet; thence South  $00^{\circ}16'40''$  West, 165 feet; thence North  $89^{\circ}43'20''$  West, 587.88 feet along said south line of County Road as accepted by the Board of County Commissioners, as recorded in their Minute Book No. 8, page 298, this being the Northwest corner of tract, as conveyed by the Boca Grande Hotel, Inc., to the Florida Power and Light Company, as described in Deed Book 273, pages 236 and 237, dated July 5, 1957; thence North  $89^{\circ}43'20''$  West 15 feet to a point; thence South  $0^{\circ}39'$  West 400 feet to point of beginning; continue thence South  $0^{\circ}39'$  West, 95 feet to a point; run thence North  $89^{\circ}43'20''$  West, 122 feet to a point; thence run North  $0^{\circ}39'$  West, 95 feet to a point; thence run South  $89^{\circ}43'20''$  East to the point of beginning. All lying and being Government Lot No. 3, Section 26, Township 43 South, Range 20 East, Lee County, Florida.

**MEMORANDUM  
FROM  
DIVISION OF PLANNING**

Date: May 23, 1995

To: Jon Davis  
Property Appraiser's Office

From: Karen Hutcherson *Karen*  
Secretary III

**RE: HISTORICAL STRAP NUMBERS**

Per this memorandum, please add the following STRAP number(s) to the Property Appraiser's Information Screen as "Historical." Your assistance in maintaining these files is greatly appreciated.

34-43-24-01-00038.0190

26-43-20-00-00009.0020

21-43-27-00-00005.0000

copy: *Gloria Sajgo, Principal Planner, Division of Planning*  
*File HD (Individual) 95-02-01*  
*File HD (Individual) 95-03-01*  
*File HD (Individual) 95-03-02*

*/adh*  
D:\App\Forms\prop\_app.doc



**LEE COUNTY  
DESIGNATION REPORT**

*This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts pursuant to Lee County Land Development Code, Chapter 22, Historic Preservation.*

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Community Church of Boca Grande (Amory Memorial Chapel)

Other Names/Site Number: Chapel, south end of Boca Grande / FSF 8LL00968

2. Location

Street & Number: 990 Belcher Road

City, Town, Zip: Boca Grande, FL 33921

STRAP Number: 26-43-20-00-00009.0020

3. Classification

				Number of Resources Within Property		
Ownership of Property		Category of Property		Contributing		Non-Contributing
<input type="checkbox"/>	private	<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)	1	building(s)	
X	public-local	X	district		sites	
<input type="checkbox"/>	public-state	<input type="checkbox"/>	site		structure	
<input type="checkbox"/>	public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/>	structure		objects	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	object		Total	

4. Official Actions

Date of Petition for Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Date the Designation Report was filed with the Historic Preservation Board: March 9, 1995

Date of Historic Preservation Board's written resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Designation is recorded: \_\_\_\_\_

Initiated by: Lee County

(NOTE: If initiated by owner or owner's agent, attach notarized letter of authorization.)

Other (as available): Variances, Special Exceptions or Rezonings granted pursuant to this application: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Designation

X Designated as an individual historic resource.

\_\_\_\_\_ Designated as an individual archaeological site.

\_\_\_\_\_ Designated as a historic district.

\_\_\_\_\_ Designated as an archaeological zone.

6. Individual Historic or Archaeological Buildings, Structures or Sites  
(pursuant to LDC Chapter 22)

- a. A physical description of the building, structure or site and its character-defining features, accompanied by photographs.

See attachment

Architectural Classification

Frame vernacular

Materials

foundations continuous: concrete block

walls concrete block with wooden gables

roof sheet metal

other bell tower: wooden

Photographs attached: ☒ yes ☐ no (black and white glossy, 3x5 or larger)

- b. Statement of Significance: A statement of the historical, cultural, architectural, archaeological or other significance of the building, structure or site as defined by the criteria for designation as established by LDC Chapter 22.

Applicable Criteria (check all that apply)

Section 22-204(a) ☒ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Section 22-204(b) ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☒ 4 ☐ 5

Section 22-204(c) ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Section 22-204(d) ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Criteria consideration exceptions (check all that apply)

Section 22-204(e) ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6

Areas of Significance (enter categories)

cultural

Period of Significance

1950s - post WWII

Significant Dates

Post WWII

---

---

Cultural Affiliation

African American

---

---

Architect/Builder

Griffin Company - Builder

---

---

Significant Person

Roger Amory - primary benefactor and president of the Johann Fust Community Library who spearheaded efforts to have the church built.

---

State significance of property and justify criteria considerations and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Statement attached: ☒ yes ☐ no

- c. Description of the existing condition of the building, structure or site including any potential threats, or other circumstances that may affect the integrity of the building, structure or site.

The overall condition of the building is good. Vandalism has been a past and potential threat to the property.

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---

- d. A statement of rehabilitative or adaptive use proposals.

While currently vacant, future plans are underway to rehabilitate the community church. Removal of the later additions to the building are being considered for the first steps towards rehabilitation.

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- e. A location map showing relevant zoning and land use information.

Map attached: ☒ yes ☐ no

- f. Staff recommendation concerning the eligibility of the building, structure or site for designation pursuant to LDC Chapter 22 and a listing of those features of the building, structure or site which require specific historic preservation.

Staff recommends the Historic Preservation Board designate this property as HD (Individual) 95-03-01 Community Church of Boca Grande (Amory Memorial Chapel)

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- 6.a. A physical description of the building, structure or site and its character-defining features, accompanied by photographs.

#### ORIGINAL STRUCTURE

The original Community Church of Boca Grande (Amory Memorial Chapel) is a one-story concrete block frame vernacular structure built in the post WWII era of the 1950s at the southern end of Boca Grande. This building has a front-facing gable and sheet metal gable roof. Each exposed gable end is filled with horizontal wood siding and a rectangular vent near the peak in addition to finished wood rafters at the gable ends.

While most, if not all, of the openings to the church are currently boarded on the exterior to deter vandalism and protect the building and appear rectangular in shape, a view of the interior of the building provides a view of the actual shape of the original openings. All windows on the original structure appear to be 4/2 pointed sash wood frame windows.

At the western elevation which served as the entrance to the church, there is a small square wood bell-tower at the peak of the metal roof. The roof of the bell-tower appears to be covered with shingles and supports a cross at the top. Wood vertical siding fills the gable end above the concrete frame, including a rectangular vent near the peak (as described above). Two windows symmetrically border each side of the entrance doorway along the concrete block frame of the building.

Along the northern elevation, there are three window openings and a door near the northeast corner of the structure. These windows appear to be symmetrically placed in the concrete frame of the building.

The eastern elevation has two original windows and a small shed-roof wood addition (planned to be removed in a future project). In addition, another shed roof addition projects along the eastern elevation to the south, providing a door access to the structure from the rear of the building.

Along the southern elevation, it appears that originally there were also three symmetrically placed windows along the concrete frame, part of which are now covered by the addition. Sometime between the 1960s and '70s, the cinder block and wood addition was constructed on the south side and acted as a kitchen. (Removal of this addition is also planned in a future project.)

#### ADDITIONS

##### Southern (Side):

The southern addition extends the eastern elevation and covers nearly one-third of the southern elevation. Perhaps built to match in some ways the existing building, concrete block frame is used approximately two-thirds above the foundation. Vertical wood siding fills the void between the concrete blocks and the shed roof which covers the addition. Two window openings are found on the eastern elevation in a symmetrical manner. Two window openings also appear on the southern elevation of this addition. A door access is found on the eastern elevation near its conjunction with the main building.

##### Eastern (Rear):

The small eastern addition consists of a shingle shed roof and wood horizontal siding. There is a window on the east and two doors, one on the north and one on the south end. This addition served as a bathroom facility and may have been added on soon after the church was originally built. Two windows on the original building flank this addition.



6.b. Statement of Significance

BOCA GRANDE

The community of Boca Grande, located on Gasparilla Island, has an early history linked to the phosphate industry. In the 1880s when phosphate rock was discovered on the banks of the Peace River, it was barged down river to Boca Grande and loaded onto schooners. This led to the placement of a lighthouse in 1890 on the southern tip of Gasparilla Island. As early as January of 1897, Albert Gilchrist (later governor of Florida in 1909) filed a plat in the south central part of Gasparilla Island.

Charlotte Harbor and Northern Railroad was completed in 1907 by the American Agricultural Chemical Company in order to more efficiently transport the phosphate to the port. Later, it was known as the Seaboard Coastline Railroad.

By 1909, the Gasparilla Inn, a resort hotel, was built. Already famous to sportsmen for tarpon fishing, by the 1920s, game fishing and tourism led to much of the development of Boca Grande during that time. An army of temporary residents in Boca Grande developed a demand for inexpensive labor. And it is within Boca Grande that a small Black community first developed.

Generally, that area beginning at the corner of First Street and Palm Avenue moving east to Tarpon Avenue (as it would logically extend) and north to Waterway Avenue, west to Palm Avenue, and south to the corner of First Street and Palm Avenue is where most Blacks in Boca Grande resided. This community consisted of blue-collar laborers serving as servants, maids, gardeners, and other tourist-related employment as well as providing a labor force for the railway.

During the late 1950s, the real estate company owned most of the property where the Black community on Boca Grande was located as described above. Demolition of residences and structures which had housed the Black community was undertaken in order for the owning real estate company to prepare for sale and development of the land.

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (AMORY MEMORIAL CHAPEL)

Mr. George Weymouth realized that these people would have no place to live and purchased land at the southern end of the island and developed what became known as "Tarpon Pass Estates." In 1959, Mr. Roger Amory asked Tarpon Pass Estates project manager, Mr. Homer Addison, to purchase land in the vicinity of the development in order that the Baptist Church located downtown could be moved to a location nearer the congregation. Although Mr. Addison purchased land in the vicinity of the development for movement of the church, the church was demolished at its downtown site.

Mr. Amory moved forward through an arrangement with Griffin Company to build a shell of a community church 50 feet x 24 feet with a concrete floor, concrete block, and a metal roof at his own expense. Mr. Amory hoped that this new building would be furnished and maintained by the Methodist and Baptist congregations. He then transferred ownership to the Johann Fust Community Library (of which he was the primary benefactor and President) to rent the new structure to the congregation for \$1 per year.

During the 1960s and '70s, the eastern and southern additions appear to have been added to the church building and its use as a community church continued. Unfortunately, the Tarpon Pass Estates development was constructed on low land which is prone to flooding. The "No Name Storm" of 1982 acted as a catalyst to the eviction of residents in 1983 from the Tarpon Pass Estates Development.

By 1986, the Gasparilla Island Community Improvement Association had been deeded the property which had comprised the Tarpon Pass Estates as well as the church with the intent that these properties be given to the State of Florida to augment their adjacently located park. When the deed for the church was formally presented to

the State, windows and doors of the church structure were boarded in order to discourage vandalism and transient lodging.

No structures remain from the Tarpon Pass Estates Development, leaving the Community Church the last vestige of African American heritage in Boca Grande. As such, it has significance as an integral part of our heritage not only as a physical reminder of Boca Grande's past, but also as a monument to the Black minority community who played an important role in that past.

Plans are under consideration for the rehabilitation of the church. In 1994, the State conducted an asbestos survey on the church and found the building free of asbestos. In addition, as noted before, the additions on the east and south sides of the church are planned to be removed. As always, any item designated under Lee County Land Development Code, Chapter 22, Historic Preservation will be subject to any and all required reviews and approvals.

**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (Amory Chapel)**  
**STRAP No. 26-43-20-00-00009.0020**

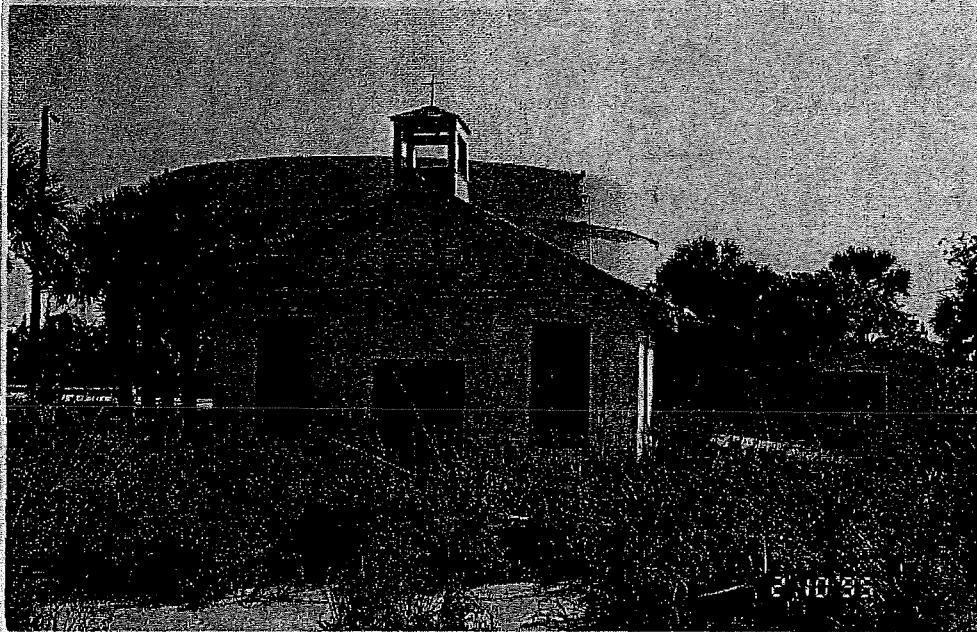


**Close-up of Bell Tower**



**Southwestern elevation, showing southern addition**

**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (Amory Chapel)**  
**STRAP No. 26-43-20-00-00009.0020**



**Western (front) elevation of the church**



**Detail of wood front gable**



**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (Amory Chapel)**  
**STRAP No. 26-43-20-00-00009.0020**

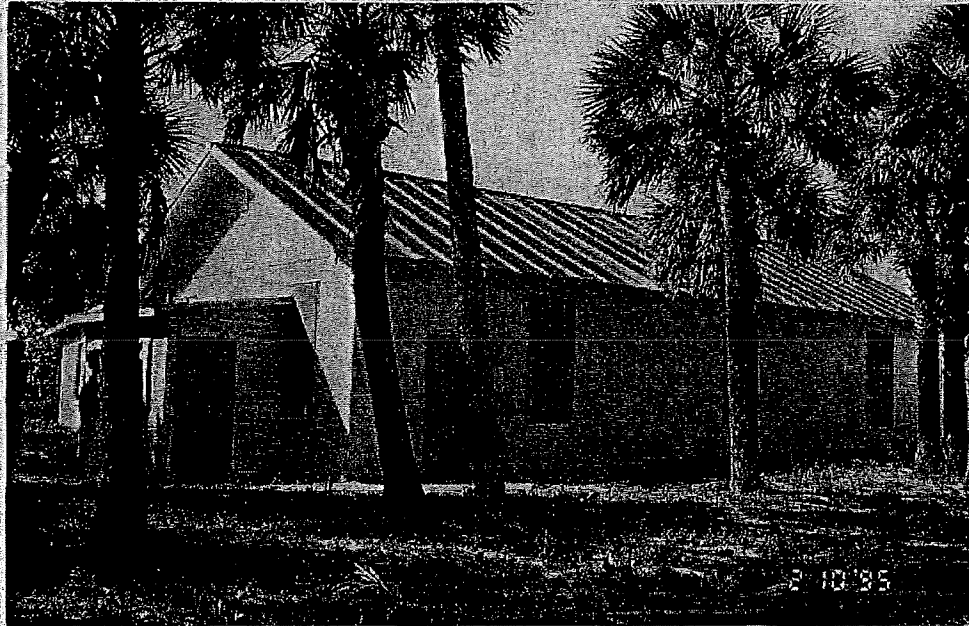


**Western elevation of southern addition**



**Eastern (rear) elevation, showing small shed addition**

**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (Amory Chapel)**  
**STRAP No. 26-43-20-00-00009.0020**



**Northeastern elevation, showing rear and side**

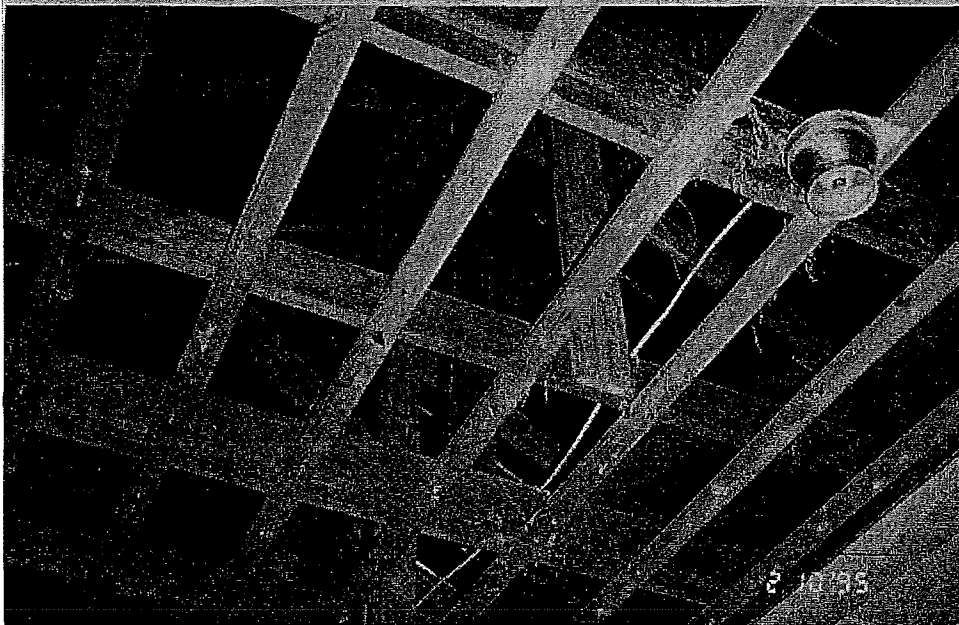


**Close-up of open wood rafters on northern elevation**

**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (Amory Chapel)**  
**STRAP No. 26-43-20-00-00009.0020**

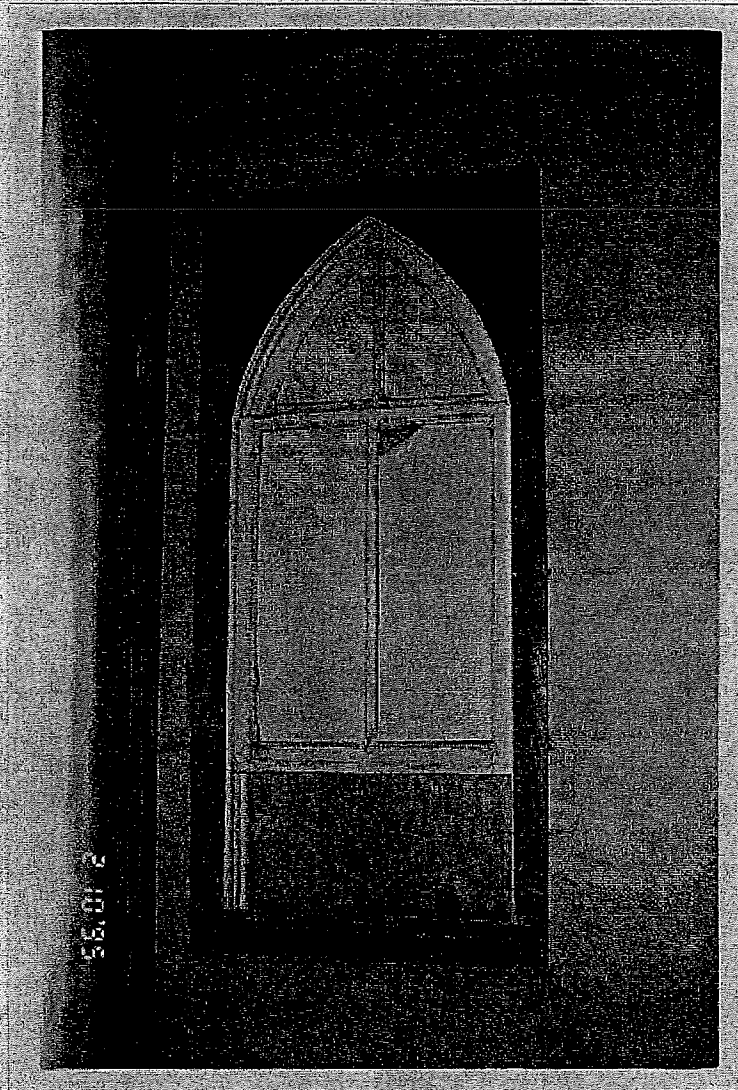


**Northwestern elevation, showing side and front**



**Detail of interior rafters**

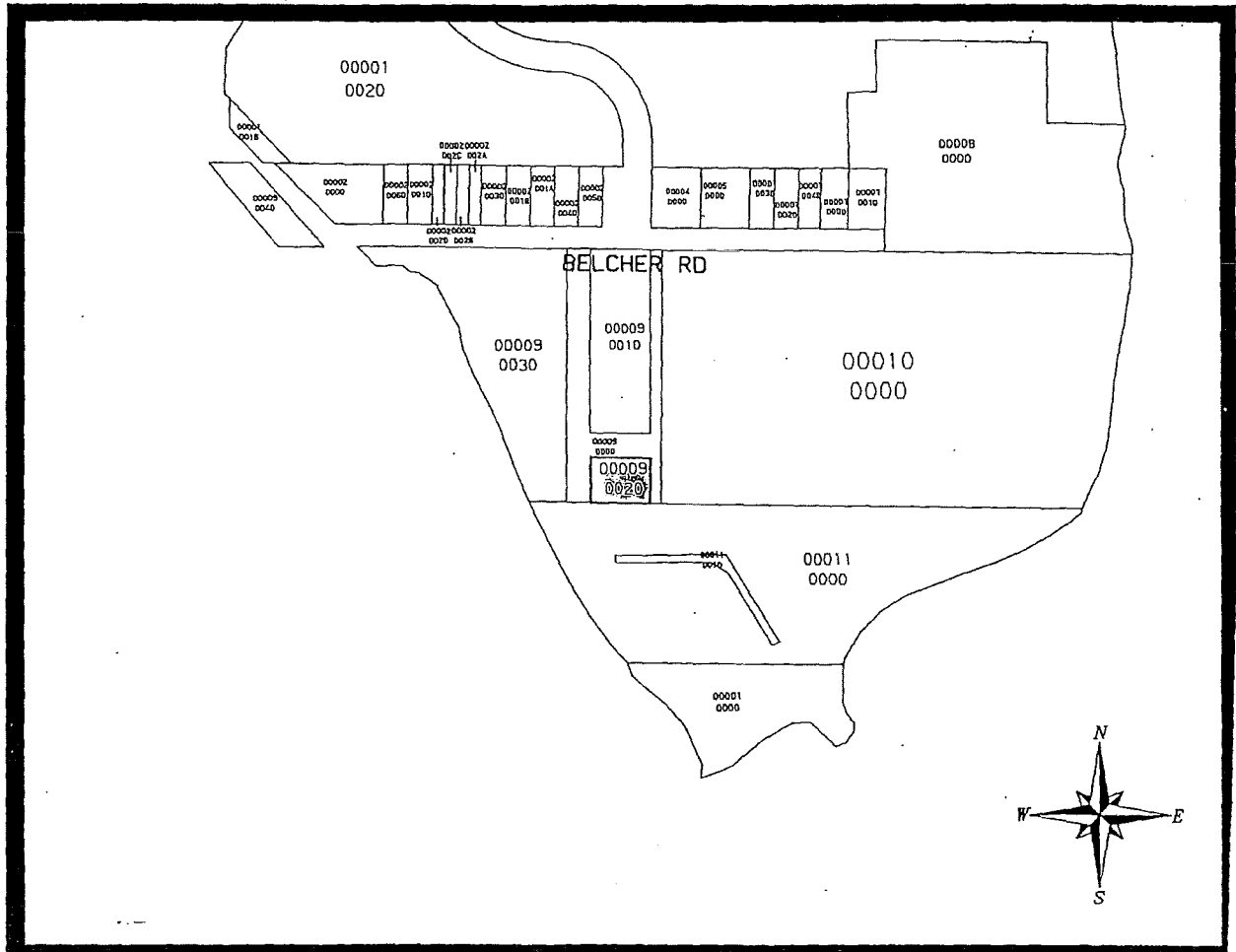
**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (Amory Chapel)**  
**STRAP No. 26-43-20-00-00009.0020**



**Detail from interior of windows**



HD (INDIVIDUAL) 95-03-01  
COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE  
(AMORY CHAPEL)  
STRAP: 26 43 20 00 00009 0020



NOTICE OF ACTION ON PETITION TO  
DESIGNATE A HISTORIC RESOURCE

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on April 6, 1995, the Lee County Historic Preservation Board voted to:

  X   Approve  
      Approve with conditions stated below  
      Deny

A Petition to Designate the individual historic resource described below as:

Community Church of Boca Grande (Amory Memorial Chapel)  
(HD Individual 95-03-01)

The designation is subject to the following conditions (if any):

NONE.

This historic resource is described as follows:

Address: 990 Belcher Road, Boca Grande, FL 33921

STRAP No.: 26-43-20-00-00009.0020

Legal Description: See Attachment A

A copy of the Resolution regarding this petition is attached and will be recorded in the public records of Lee County, Florida.

I HEREBY certify that a copy of this notice and the accompanying resolution has been furnished to the following persons or entities:

TITF/DEP Division of Parks & Recreation – Property Owner  
Mary Gibbs–Director, Department of Community Development  
Bob Stewart–Director, Division of Codes & Building Services  
Charlie Green–Clerk of Court  
George Crawford–Director, DOT  
Ken Wilkinson–Property Appraiser

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Historic Preservation Board Chair

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING

HISTORIC RESOURCE (HD Individual 95-03-01)

WHEREAS, the Lee County Historic Preservation Board is authorized by Lee County Land Development Code (LDC), Chapter 22, Historic Preservation, to consider requests to designate archaeological resources and buildings, and structures and sites and districts as historic resources in order to preserve these resources from uncontrolled alteration or destruction; and

WHEREAS, a request has been filed to designate this resource located at 990 Belcher Road, Boca Grande, unincorporated Lee County, Florida, as a historic resource; and

WHEREAS, a designation report meeting the requirements of LDC Chapter 22, was filed with the Board on March 9, 1995; and

WHEREAS, Notice of Intent to designate the Community Church of Boca Grande (Amory Memorial Chapel) as a historic resource was mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, on March 14, 1994, to TIITF/DEP Division of Parks & Recreation, c/o DEP Douglas Building, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS500, Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000. TIITF/DEP Division of Parks & Recreation is the property owner.

WHEREAS, Notice of Intent to designate was advertised on March 30, 1995 for a public hearing on April 6, 1995.

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the Community Church of Boca Grande meets the criteria for designation set forth in LDC Chapter 22.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEE COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD THAT:

1. The Lee County Historic Preservation Board approves the petition to designate, as a historic resource, the Community Church of Boca Grande -- HD Individual 95-03-01.
2. All provisions of the Lee County Land Development Code, Chapter 22, as may be hereafter amended, renumbered or replaced, applicable to a designated historic resource shall apply to this property (Community Church of Boca Grande -- HD Individual 95-03-01).
3. This Resolution shall be recorded in the Public Records of Lee County, Florida within twenty-five (25) days of the date the Resolution is signed, unless a timely appeal of the Board's decision as reflected in this Resolution, is filed.

Resolution Designating Historic Resource HD Individual 95-03-01

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Lee County Historic Preservation Board upon a motion by Kevin Williams, and seconded by Chauncey Goss, and, upon being put to a vote, the result was as follows:

Toni Ferrell	<u>AYE</u>
Chauncey Goss	<u>AYE</u>
Annette Guilfoyle	<u>ABSENT</u>
Linda Sickler Robinson	<u>ABSENT</u>
Eugene Schmitt	<u>AYE</u>
Mercedes Vergne	<u>ABSENT</u>
Kevin Williams	<u>AYE</u>

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of April, A.D., 1995.

ATTEST:

LEE COUNTY  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

BY: 

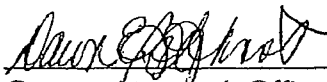
As Clerk for the Lee County  
Historic Preservation Board

BY: 

Chairman

DATE: 24 April 95

Approved as to form by:

  
County Attorney's Office

(g:\hpb\petition\bqchurch.pet)

## ATTACHMENT A

### LEGAL DESCRIPTION

for

26-43-20-00-00009.0020

Commence at the southeast corner of Lot 36, Unit No. 1, GOLDEN BEACH SUBDIVISION, as recorded in Plat Book 10, pages 60 and 61, public records of Lee County, Florida; thence North  $89^{\circ}52'00''$  East along south line of said Unit No. 1, 75 feet; thence South  $00^{\circ}08'$  East, 1543.18 feet; thence South  $89^{\circ}43'20''$  East, 1017.39 feet; thence South  $00^{\circ}16'40''$  West, 165 feet; thence North  $89^{\circ}43'20''$  West, 587.88 feet along said south line of County Road as accepted by the Board of County Commissioners, as recorded in their Minute Book No. 8, page 298, this being the Northwest corner of tract, as conveyed by the Boca Grande Hotel, Inc., to the Florida Power and Light Company, as described in Deed Book 273, pages 236 and 237, dated July 5, 1957; thence North  $89^{\circ}43'20''$  West 15 feet to a point; thence South  $0^{\circ}39'$  West 400 feet to point of beginning; continue thence South  $0^{\circ}39'$  West, 95 feet to a point; run thence North  $89^{\circ}43'20''$  West, 122 feet to a point; thence run North  $0^{\circ}39'$  West, 95 feet to a point; thence run South  $89^{\circ}43'20''$  East to the point of beginning. All lying and being Government Lot No. 3, Section 26, Township 43 South, Range 20 East, Lee County, Florida.

HD 95-03-01

Is your RETURN ADDRESS completed on the reverse side?

<b>SENDER:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete items 1 and/or 2 for additional services.</li> <li>• Complete items 3, and 4a &amp; b.</li> <li>• Print your name and address on the reverse of this form so that we can return this card to you.</li> <li>• Attach this form to the front of the mailpiece, or on the back if space does not permit.</li> <li>• Write "Return Receipt Requested" on the mailpiece below the article number.</li> <li>• The Return Receipt will show to whom the article was delivered and the date delivered.</li> </ul>		I also wish to receive the following services (for an extra fee): 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Addressee's Address 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted Delivery Consult postmaster for fee.	
3. Article Addressed to: TITF/DEP Div. of Parks & Rec 90 DEP Douglas Bldg. 300 Commonwealth Blvd. MS500 Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000		4a. Article Number Z 038 707 248	
5. Signature (Addressee)		4b. Service Type <input type="checkbox"/> Registered <input type="checkbox"/> Insured <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified <input type="checkbox"/> COD <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise	
6. Signature (Agent) Tallymohera		7. Date of Delivery MAR 17 1995	
		8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)	

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

P.O. Box 398  
Fort Myers, Florida 33902-0398  
(813) 335-2111

(813) 339-6200

*Writer's Direct Dial Number*

John E. Manning  
District One

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**

Douglas R. St. Cerny  
District Two

Ray Judah  
District Three

March 14, 1995

Andrew W. Coy  
District Four

John E. Albion  
District Five

Donald D. Stilwell  
County Manager

James G. Yaeger  
County Attorney

Diana M. Parker  
County Hearing  
Examiner

TITF/DEP Division of Recreation & Parks  
c/o DEP Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS500  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to inform you that the Community Church of Boca Grande (Amory Memorial Chapel) in Boca Grande (STRAP: 26-43-20-00-00009.0020) has been filed for designation as a historic resource pursuant to the Lee County Land Development Code, Chapter 22, Historic Preservation. The Historic Preservation Board will consider the designation at its meeting on April 6, 1995 at 4:00 p.m. in the East Room of the newly restored Old Lee County Courthouse, second floor, in downtown Fort Myers, Florida. Your presence at this meeting is not mandatory.

Enclosed please find a copy of the designation report and Chapter 22 (Historic Preservation) of the Lee County Land Development Code.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call me at 339-6206.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

GLORIA M. SAJGO, AICP, Principal Planner  
Division of Planning

copy: Chauncey Goss, GICIA

FD 95-03-01

Is your RETURN ADDRESS completed on the reverse side?

**SENDER:**

- Complete items 1 and/or 2 for additional services.
- Complete items 3, and 4a & b.
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I also wish to receive the following services (for an extra fee):

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Consult postmaster for fee:

3. Article Addressed to:  
TITF/DEP Div. of Parks & Rec  
40 DEP Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

4a. Article Number  
Z 0 38 707 266

4b. Service Type

☐ Registered ☐ Insured

☒ Certified ☐ COD

☒ Express Mail ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise

7. Date of Delivery

5. Signature (Addressee)

6. Signature (Agent)  
Tallymae

8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)

83801

APR 28 1995

PS Form 3811, December 1991 \*U.S. GPO: 1993-352-714 DOMESTIC RETURN RECEIPT

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

P.O. Box 398  
Fort Myers, Florida 33902-0398  
(813) 335-2111

(813) 339-6200

*Writer's Direct Dial Number*

John E. Manning  
*District One*

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**

Douglas R. St. Cerny  
*District Two*

Ray Judah  
*District Three*

April 24, 1995

Andrew W. Coy  
*District Four*

John E. Albion  
*District Five*

Donald D. Stilwell  
*County Manager*

James G. Yaeger  
*County Attorney*

Diana M. Parker  
*County Hearing Examiner*

TIITF/DEP Division of Recreation & Parks  
c/o DEP Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS500  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to inform you that the Community Church of Boca Grande (Amory Memorial Chapel) in Boca Grande (HD Individual 95-03-01) has been designated as a historic resource by the Lee County Historic Preservation Board on April 6, 1995, pursuant to Chapter 22, Historic Preservation, of the Lee County Land Development Code (formerly known as the Lee County Historic Preservation Ordinance 88-62, as amended).

Please find attached a copy of the Lee County Historic Preservation Board's Notice of Action on Petition to Designate a Historic Resource and a written resolution approving the subject designation.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call me at 339-6206.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

GLORIA M. SAJGO, AICP, Principal Planner  
Division of Planning

copy: Mary Gibbs, Director, Department of Community Development, c/o Pam Houck  
Bob Stewart, Director, Division of Codes and Building Services  
Charlie Green, Clerk of Court  
George Crawford, Director, DOT  
Ken Wilkinson, Property Appraiser



## Department of Environmental Protection

Lawton Chiles  
Governor

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Virginia B. Wederell  
Secretary

February 24, 1995

Chauncey P. Goss, Executive Director  
Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Assoc., Inc.  
PO Box 446  
Boca Grande, Florida 33921

Dear Mr. Goss:

I have reviewed the preliminary drawings submitted to us on the community church restoration. I was happy to see the two additions removed. The two possible restroom additions both look good and each has advantages and disadvantages.

My preference is the first location because of the location of the AC System, but either will work well. The decision on which location should best be made by your organization and the Park Manager.

The drawings appear to have been very quickly and efficiently prepared, you have a good Architect. Reviews of final drawings will need to be made by our Bureau, the State Fire Marshall, and the Department of Management Services. The Fire Marshall will require two (2) sets of signed and sealed documents along with a check for his fee, D.M.S. will require one (1) set not signed and sealed. D.M.S. will review the drawings and then submit review comments back to your Architect. After he responds to these comments, an approval letter will be sent to him. At that time you should send three (3) sets signed and sealed along with a check for your state building permit.

I am enclosing fee schedules for both the Fire Marshall and D.M.S. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (904)488-1141.

Sincerely,

William R. Bean, A.I.A.  
Architect  
Bureau of Design and Construction  
Division of Recreation and Parks

WRB/cb  
Enclosures

"Protect, Conserve and Manage Florida's Environment and Natural Resources"

Printed on recycled paper.

289 5121



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

P.O. Box 398  
Fort Myers, Florida 33902-0398  
(813) 335-2111

(813) 339-6206

Writer's Direct Dial Number

John E. Manning  
District One

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**

Douglas R. St. Cerny  
District Two

Ray Judah  
District Three

February 23, 1995

Andrew W. Coy  
District Four

John E. Albion  
District Five

Donald D. Stilwell  
County Manager

James G. Yaeger  
County Attorney

Diana M. Parker  
County Hearing  
Examiner

TIITF/DEP Division of Recreation & Parks  
c/o DEP Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS500  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to inform you that the Community Church of Boca Grande (Amory Memorial Chapel) (STRAP: 26-43-20-00-00009.0020) has been requested to be filed for designation as a historic resource pursuant to the Lee County Land Development Code, Chapter 22, Historic Preservation, as petition HD (Individual) 95-03-01, Community Church of Boca Grande. The Historic Preservation Board will consider filing of this designation at its meeting on March 9, 1995 at 4:00 p.m. in the East Room of the newly restored Old Lee County Courthouse, second floor in downtown Fort Myers.

Upon filing of a designation, the Historic Preservation Board may initiate the designation process which includes holding a public hearing. The owner of the property will be notified of this public hearing.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (813) 339-6206.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

GLORIA M. SAJGO, AICP, Principal Planner  
Division of Planning

copy: Chauncey Goss

Is your RETURN ADDRESS completed on the reverse side?

SENDER: HD 95-03-01

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• Complete items 3, and 4a & b.  
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Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

4a. Article Number  
Z 038 706 450

4b. Service Type:  
☐ Registered ☐ Insured  
☒ Certified ☐ COD  
☐ Express Mail ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise

7. Date of Delivery

8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fees paid)

5. Signature (Addressee)

6. Signature (Agent)  
Tallyma

PS Form 3811, December 1991 \*U.S. GPO: 1993-352-714 DOMESTIC RETURN RECEIPT

Thank you for using Return Receipt Service.



*significance*

History of the "Community Church"  
Gasparilla Island, Lee County, Florida

- 1958 During the late 1950's the real estate company that owned most of the property where the black community on Boca Grande was located (downtown area east of Community Center) began demolishing residences and structures in preparation for sale and development of the land. Mr. George Weymouth, realizing that these people would have no place to live, purchased property at the south end of the island and developed what came to be known as "Tarpon Pass Estates."
- 1959 Mr. Roger Amory asked Mr. Homer Addison, manager of the Tarpon Pass Estates Project, to purchase land in the vicinity of the development so that the Baptist Church could be relocated from its downtown location to the vicinity of Tarpon Pass Estates. In a March 22 letter to Mr. Addison, Mr. Amory writes that he is "very interested in seeing that the colored colony not be deprived of their church."  
Mr. Addison proceeded to purchase land from the Boca Grande Hotel Company for Mr. Amory adjacent to Tarpon Pass Estates. Unfortunately, although Mr. Amory had an agreement to the contrary, the Baptist Church was demolished at its downtown site. Mr. Amory then informed Mr. Addison in an April 1 letter that he had "arranged with Griffin Co. to build a shell of a community church 50 x 24 with a concrete floor, wooden sides and a metal roof at my expense [it should be noted that the walls were constructed of cinder block and not wood]." It was Mr. Amory's hope that the existing congregations of the Methodist and Baptist Churches that had been demolished would furnish and maintain this new church. He transferred ownership to the Johann Fust Community Library, of which he was the primary benefactor and President, with instructions that the church should be rented to the congregation for \$1 a year.
- 1960- At some point a cinder block addition was constructed on the south side of  
1970? the structure and acted as a kitchen. A small bathroom was also added to the east side of the structure, but this may have been done at the time of original construction. These additions need further research. It is reported that there was a congregation of about 30 people and that a Methodist Service was held every other Sunday. This report may only be valid for

the last few years of the church. This subject should also be researched further.

- 1983 One of the primary problems with Tarpon Pass Estates and the church was that the land on which they were constructed is quite low and prone to flooding. The "No Name Storm" of the previous year tended to act as a catalyst for the owners of the Tarpon Pass Estates Development, and in May, the residents were issued eviction notices by the owners.
- 1985 During the fall, the property that had comprised Tarpon Pass Estates was given to the Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association, Inc. (GICIA) with the intent that this not for profit property owner's association turn the land over to the State of Florida to augment their adjoining park.
- 1986 In the late fall, the Johann Fust Community Library gave the Community Church to GICIA with the intent that the structure (the only remaining structure of the Tarpon Pass Estates community) and the land be given to the State also.
- 1988 On March 17, the final Warranty Deed turning ownership of the church over to the State was signed by the GICIA. Subsequently, the State boarded the windows and the doors of the structure to discourage vandalism and transient lodging.
- 1994 On May 2, the State conducted an asbestos survey on the structure and found that the building is free of asbestos.

*Hist. of Boca  
Grande from  
"Guidelines"*

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BOCA GRANDE'S DEVELOPMENT AND INFLUENCES ON ITS ARCHITECTURE

The Boca Grande Historic District is situated in the center of Gasparilla Island, a seven mile long barrier island in Charlotte Harbor. Two-thirds of the island lies in Lee County; the northern one-third lies in Charlotte County. Throughout the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century there were three separate and distinct villages on Gasparilla Island. On the north was the village of Gasparilla where most of the island's commercial fishermen resided. In the center was the village of Boca Grande, home of the Gasparilla Inn and haven for wealthy winter residents. In the south was Port Boca Grande which is one of Florida's deepest natural passes.

The story of Boca Grande is closely related to phosphate rock. In the 1880s phosphate rock was discovered on the banks of the Peace River, north of Arcadia. Phosphate was barged down the Peace River to Port Boca Grande and loaded onto four and five masted schooners. In 1890 a lighthouse was erected on the southern tip of Gasparilla Island to aid this industry.

By 1900 the American Agricultural Chemical Company (AAC), which dominated the phosphate industry of Central Florida, determined that a railroad would be more efficient in transporting phosphate to the port than the river barges. The AAC determined that the proposed terminus of the railroad should be located about a quarter mile north of the lighthouse on the harbor side of Gasparilla Island. The Charlotte Harbor and Northern (CHN) railroad was completed in 1907.

Prior to the discovery of phosphate, Gasparilla Island was a government reserve. In 1878 the central section of Gasparilla Island was released from reserved status. The homestead lands conveyed from the federal government to various individuals eventually were all acquired by either John Wall, an attorney in Tampa, or by Albert Gilchrist, a Punta Gorda politician (who became governor of Florida in 1909). In January of 1897 Gilchrist filed a plat consisting of six blocks along the Gulf front in the south central portion of Gasparilla Island, where the island is widest and best suited for residential development. In 1907, Wall and Gilchrist teamed up with officers of the AAC (among them Peter Bradley) and formed the Boca Grande Land Company as part of the AAC corporate entity.

In 1909 the officers of the Boca Grande Land Company decided to build a resort hotel on Gasparilla Island. This was to be the Gasparilla Inn. By that time the Charlotte Harbor area, specifically the area south of Gasparilla Island, was known for unexcelled tarpon fishing and was famous among sportsmen. By 1912 the officers of the company decided to change the Gasparilla Inn from a small hotel housing visiting directors and company officers to a world class hotel. The renowned architect Francis J. Kennard of Tampa, Florida designed the enlargement. The hotel was such a success that in 1915 Kennard was called again to draw plans to double the size of the Gasparilla Inn. Hotel

clients came year after year; for many of them staying at the Gasparilla Inn became life-long habit.

In 1914 a casino was built near the Gasparilla Inn, and a boat house on the bayou. Gilchrist Avenue was lined with coconut palms and hibiscus as was Palm Avenue south of the Inn. The block between Gilchrist Avenue and Park Avenue on Second Street was lined with banyan trees. (Today this is known as Banyan Street.)

The Boca Grande School was built in 1911. A second story was added to the building in 1914 so that the school could qualify to be a junior high. It was closed in 1929 when the new Boca Grande School was built. This was designed by architect N. G. Walker and was built of stucco in the Mediterranean Revival style popular in the 1920s. In 1936 a 2-room addition was built. The K-12 school was closed in 1964 because of declining enrollment. Today it serves as Boca Grande's Community Center and central focus for the island's recreation programs.

The architecture of Boca Grande was influenced by a number of physical and social issues. The early buildings are a compilation of these many influences. Being remote from the mainland, early buildings relied on simple designs to make this subtropical environment habitable. Wide eaves, covered porches at the main entrances and louvered shutters were common characteristics. The early buildings were commonly raised above the ground to allow for circulation of breezes and the passage of water under the house during times of high tides or storms. Ceilings were typically high and open, allowing for hot air to escape during the day. Another climatic factor was the lack of fresh water. This required the use of gutters, which funneled the water rain into cisterns for future use.

Game fishing and tourism are responsible for most of the development during the 1920s. By 1925 more and more Florida east coast residents were becoming disenchanted with the Florida boom and wanted to give up their east coast homes for more quiet, more quaint atmospheres. Since Boca Grande had remained unspoiled and exclusive, it attracted many tourists from the northeast and, with the added attraction of unparalleled tarpon fishing, Boca Grande became a very desirable location.

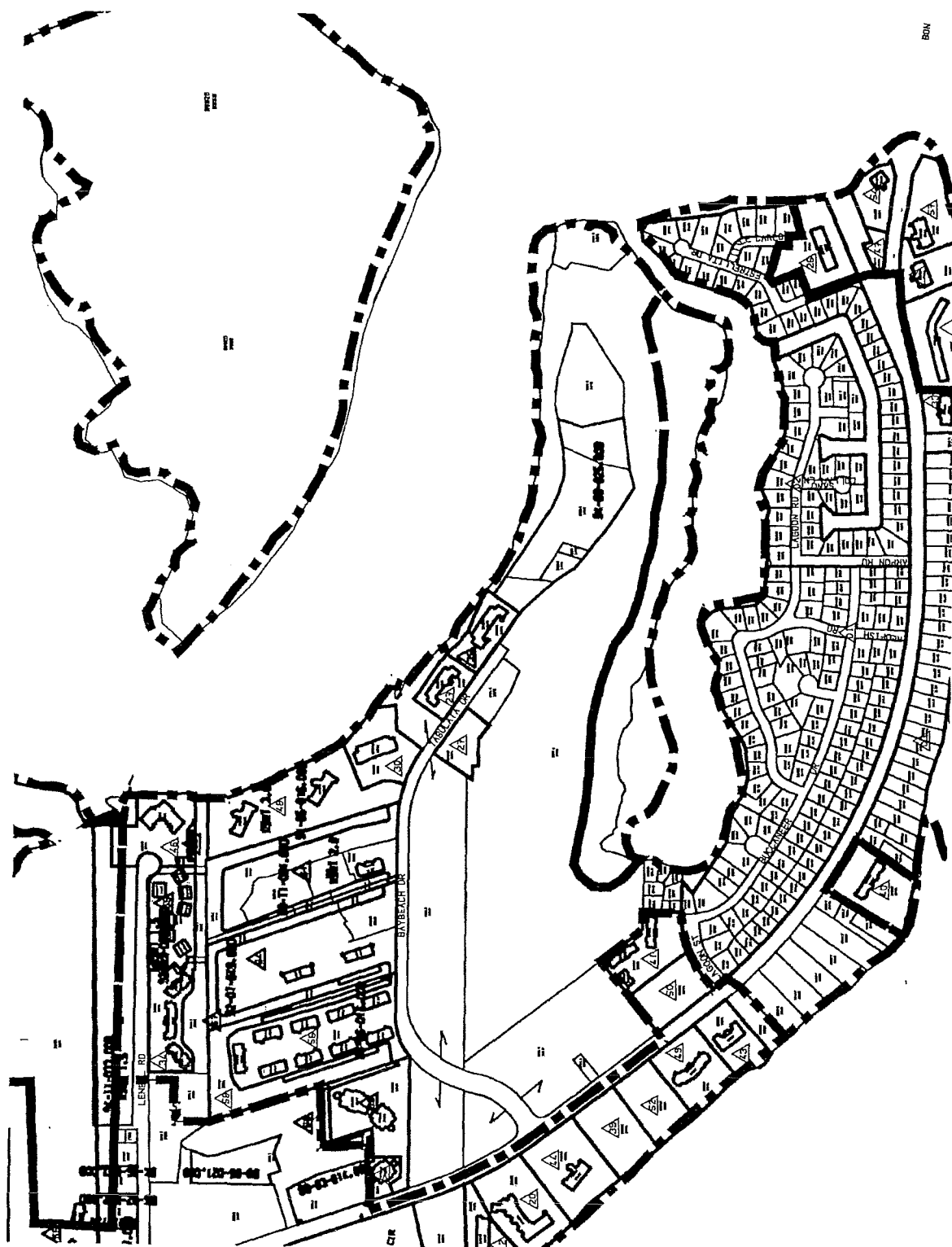
The Gasparilla Inn and other hotels accommodated the tourists and winter residents who enjoyed fishing and participating in the social life of Boca Grande. Many of these visitors remained and built waterfront estates along the Gulf of Mexico, introducing a wider variety of decorative architectural styles, but mostly building in the Mediterranean Revival style.

Boca Grande also had a demand for worker housing. As a result, bungalow style houses were concentrated to the south of the commercial district; many of these houses were built by the railroad to house the railroad workers. This style of architecture borrowed from the early vernacular housing, such as the raised floors, covered porches and high ceilings. One of the reasons it was such a popular style was because it was available



through mail order plans and was simple and inexpensive to build. On some of these structures it is common to see more decoration than would be observed on vernacular homes, such as trim elements on the gable ends, dentils and wood window surrounds.

As with other communities across the state, development tapered off after the Florida Land Boom. But because of the many attractions that Boca Grande and the surrounding area still offers, Boca Grande continues to grow. Fortunately, due to the sensitivity of the island's residents, much of the early architectural heritage still remains today.



→ TITF/DNR  
Douglas Bldg  
8-278-0890

→ DEP

Marjorie Stoneman  
Douglas Bldg

3900 Commonwealth

32304

(904) ↑  
488-4805

488-6131 \*  
278-

Parks & Rec.

SPECIAL WARRANTY DEED

2439309

RAMCO FORM 03

This Special Warranty Deed Made the 17th day of March A.D. 1988 by

GASPARILLA ISLAND CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.  
 hereinafter called the grantor to BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST  
 FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

whose postoffice address is Department of Natural Resources  
 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Room 412  
 hereinafter called the grantee Tallahassee, Florida 32399

(Wherever used herein the terms "grantor" and "grantee" include all the parties to this instrument and their heirs, their representatives and assigns of individuals, and the successors and assigns of corporations.)

**Witnesseth:** That the grantor, for and in consideration of the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and other valuable considerations, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hereby grants, bargains, sells, aliens, releases, conveys and confirms unto the grantee, all that certain land situate in Lee County, Florida, viz:

Commence at the southeast corner of Lot 36, Unit No. 1, GOLDEN BEACH SUBDIVISION, as recorded in Plat Book 10, pages 60 and 61, public records of Lee County, Florida; thence North 89°52'00" East along south line of said Unit No. 1, 75 feet; thence South 00°08' East, 1543.18 feet; thence South 89°43'20" East, 1017.39 feet; thence South 00°16'40" West, 165 feet; thence North 89°43'20" West, 587.88 feet along south line of County Road as accepted by the Board of County Commissioners, as recorded in their Minute Book No. 8, page 298, this being the Northwest corner of tract, as conveyed by the Boca Grande Hotel, Inc., to the Florida Power and Light Company, as described in Deed Book 273, pages 236 and 237, dated July 5, 1957; thence North 89°43'20" West 15 feet to a point; thence South 0°39' West 400 feet to point of beginning; continue thence South 0°39' West, 95 feet to a point; run thence North 89°43'20" West, 122 feet to a point; thence run North 0°39' West, 95 feet to a point; thence run South 89°43'20" East to the point of beginning. All lying and being Government Lot No. 3, Section 26, Township 43 South, Range 20 East, Lee County, Florida.

SUBJECT to restrictions, reservations, easements of record, but this provision shall not operate to reimpose the same.

ALSO SUBJECT to the following use restrictions which shall run with and attach to the title of said land for a period of 50 years from and after the date of this deed:

Together, with all the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining.

Documentary Tax Pd. \$ 5

To Have and to Hold, the same in fee simple forever.

And the grantor hereby covenants with said grantee that the grantor is lawfully seized of said land in fee simple; that the grantor has good right and lawful authority to sell and convey said land, and hereby warrants the title to said land and will defend the same against the lawful claims of all persons claiming by, through or under the said grantor.

In Witness Whereof, the said grantor has hereunto set hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in our presence:

Patricia A. Lowe

Walter G. Lerman

Walter G. Lerman

GASPARILLA ISLAND CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

STATE OF FLORIDA,  
 COUNTY OF LEE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this day, before me, an officer duly authorized in the State aforesaid and in the County aforesaid, to take acknowledgments, personally appeared

WILLIAM G. LERCHEN, JR. PRESIDENT

to me known to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged before me that he executed the same.

WITNESS my hand and official seal in the County and State last aforesaid this 17th day of March A.D. 1988

Patricia A. Lowe

PATRICIA A. LOWE  
 State of Florida  
 My Comm. Exp. June 19, 1991

This instrument prepared by:

Address Department of Natural Resources  
 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Room 412  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399

NO VERIFIED - MAKE CHECK, CLERK  
 21. A. 104-20, 20.0



DSNL \*\*\*\*\* LEE PROPERTY APPRAISER (NAME-ADDRESS-LEGAL) \*\*\*\*\*

STRAP: 26 43 20 00 00009 0020  
TIITF/DNR REC + PARKS

DOR...: 82 FOREST, PARKS REC  
LOC...: LEE COUNTY UNINCORPORATED  
LEGAL1: PARL IN S E 1/4 SEC 26  
LEGAL2: TWP 43 R 20 DESC IN  
LEGAL3: OR 1897 PG 1186

C/O DNR DOUGLAS BLDG  
TALLAHASSEE

FL HWDWXA  
32399 N/R: 000040

UNIT MEAS.: SF #UNITS...: 11590.00  
1ST TAX YR: FRONTAGE: 0  
YR SPLIT...: 00 DEPTH...: 0  
YR CREATED: 00 E/I NUM.: 00000  
ENERGY CD.: S/D VAL.: .00  
ENERGY YR.: S/D CODE:  
APRVED BY.: 31 DSC.....:  
TAX AUTH...: 005 ZONING...:  
PRIOR DOR.: 71 PEND.....:  
PRIOR STRP:

\*\*\* VALUES \*\*\* \*\*\* EX VALUES \*\*\*  
JUST: 68,450 AG.: 0  
ASSD: 68,450 HX.: 0  
TXBL: 0 WID: 0  
BLDG: 10,500 DIS: 0  
LAND: 57,950 WLY: 68,450  
NCST: 0 ENG: 0  
PVAL: 62,660 WDR: 0

SITE: 990 BELCHER RD 33921

# SALE PRICE D.O.S. BOOK PAGE TC VI PAGE: 00015  
1: 100 03/88 1983 0684 01 I LINE: 830  
2: 100 01/87 1897 1186 01 I

MAINT DATE  
07/23/93

NBHD CODE: 09-109-0.00

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\*\* \*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

PF1=FORWARD PF2=BACKWARD PF7=DSNM PF8=DSAD

# There was always something for kids to do in paradise

*Editor's note: We offer the conclusion this week of former Islander Jerry Dupont's memories of growing up in Boca Grande in the 1950s.*

## Playtime on the island

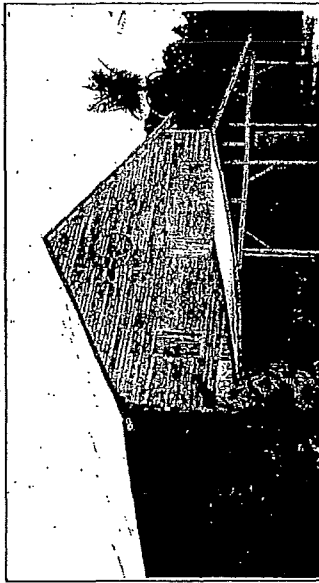
Besides playing on the beach at our end, we boys from the south end would come uptown on our bikes to swim and play. We began our summer days by riding all over the island gathering mangoes, papayas, spider bananas, oranges, lemons and limes, and we knew all the spots to find sugar cane. The best sugar cane was found at Mr. Murdoch's place, but we had to sneak to get it. A few of us would keep him busy in the store while the rest of us would sneak into the cane patch.

When we found coconuts we opened them on the sidewalk by banging the ends until the hull split. Then we'd drink the juice and chew up the meat and play a game called "rain or snow," where we would spit it on each other.

One of our special treats was picking seagrapes that we would eat or take home to our mothers to make jelly out of. They grew all over the island, but the best spot was the land between the Sharp estate and the bowling alley. Cocoa plums grew at the south end by the Johnsons' place (the harbor pilot family) and we loved eating those too. They are hard to find now on the island.

I'll never forget my first solo horseback ride at Ann and her brother Dumphy Wheeler's place. Ann allowed me to ride her brown and white pinto. When he broke into a gallop I lost control of the reins and he took off for home with me holding onto the saddle horn for dear life while my friends cheered the horse on. Boy, what a ride that was! Ann and Dumphy still let us ride their horses, even after this happened.

At the south end we'd go into the bayous to play on homemade rafts made out of railroad cross ties and old lumber, with a long pole for steering, just like Huckleberry Finn did in the books we read at school. Those bayous are now pumped out, but there were two of them at our end of the island, separated by the train tracks. When we were tired of the rafts we would climb up onto the top of the railroad cars and run down the "cat walks" and between the cars playing "hide and seek."



The old San Marco Theater building was built in 1928. In 1944 a bad storm ripped the roof off. It was finally closed in 1973 and sat looking like this until being renovated into the Old Theatre Mall in 1982.

Beacon file photo

months when everyone came home we would take tubs of blue crabs out of the surf and cook them under the banyan tree in front of our house. Mr. Gene Bowe would always come down and check out the cooking and join us.

## The San Marco Theater

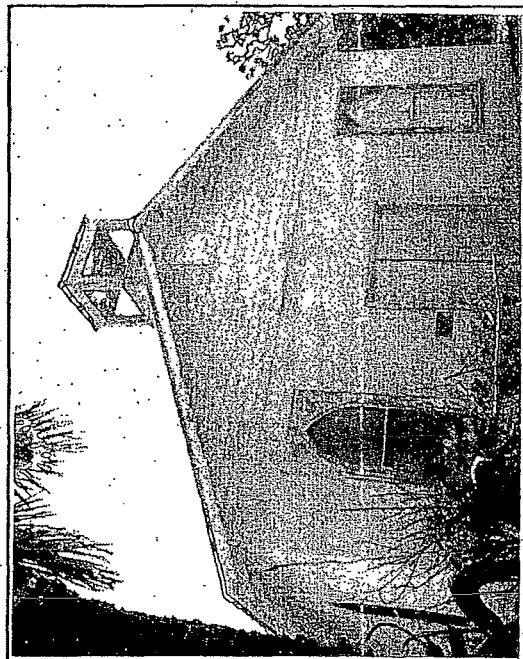
On movie nights all the islanders would gather at the theater — blacks, white, rich and poor. We all shared this place together. There was no concession stand, just a popcorn machine. Mr. Murdoch, the black peanut vendor, would call out, "Get your hot daily roasted, get them while they're hot or I'll eat them myself!" We also could take a short walk to Fugate's Drug Store to buy other goodies like ice cream, pop and candy from a beautiful young lady named Kate Tucker who worked the soda fountain.

In the mid-1950s the price of going to the theater was 25 cents for a child and 50 cents for an adult. We blacks entered through the side door and went up the stairs to the balcony. The balcony was divided in half by the projection house placed in the middle. On cold nights the projectors kept it warm upstairs.

Mr. Wiley Crews was the operator of the projector.

## MEMORIES

Continued on page 21



*Amory Memorial Chapel is abandoned and forlorn looking today, but plans are in the works to renovate it into a community meeting place.*  
Beacon file photo

and other machines. I remember him as an older gentleman with gray hair and a slender build who was kind to everyone. I would peep into the projection room to see all the machines with their red and green lights. I was very impressed with all those machines and lights.

We had individual wooden theater seats up in the balcony, but downstairs the audience only had green wooden park-like benches arranged in rows down each side. The adults and babies always sat on the right side of the balcony and the teenagers and older children sat on the other side.

The white people sat downstairs where the main entrance was; the young people sat in the rows down in front. Behind them, on the right side, were the more wealthy winter residents, with the others on the left side of the theater.

The floor was covered with white beach shells. They were very noisy when walked on or shuffled, in the front rows in particular! The theater also had a

tin roof and when it started raining during a show we couldn't hear anything! During warm nights the windows would be opened wide for a breeze, but then the mosquitoes would come in and eat us up.

It's a little sad that now the only thing left of the old theater is the shell of the building and a few of the old benches.

### The A.M.E. and

### Shilo Baptist churches

There were two black churches located uptown on the island, the African Methodist Episcopalian (A.M.E.) and the Shilo Baptist. We attended both. Sunday school and holiday programs were held in both church buildings, but services with a pastor alternated between the churches.

One week the Methodist would have a pastor and then the next week the Baptist would have one. These pastors would arrive on the ferry to conduct services on Sunday morning and then spend the night and share meals on the island with different families in the church, returning to the mainland on Monday morning.

The Methodist pastor was Reverend Turner from Palmetto and the Baptist pastor was Reverend Smith from Arcadia. Most of the time Rev. Turner stayed with Mr. Barry and Lucy Bryant, and Rev. Smith stayed with Deacon Scott. Each church had youth groups. All the black kids attended church with their families.

The A.M.E. Church was located just on the other end of the black community uptown, next to the Bryant's large house. Its bell support was built in a Banyan tree next to the church.

The Shilo Baptist Church was a small white building in the uptown area on First Street close to Sam Whidden's marina. Its bell hung from cross beams supported by standing beams just outside the building. Deacon Coleman or Deacon Joseph Foster would faithfully ring the Shilo bell to call us to wor-

ship every Sunday. Other people that I remember from the Baptist Church were Deacons Willie Brown and Sam Mack Sr.

After Sunday School we kids would walk to Fugate's for treats and then we south end kids would catch the passenger train to ride back to the end of the island.

Sometime during the '50s the black community was relocated to the south end of the island. At this time a new church was built near the Coast Guard Station for us to attend. At this church, Amory Memorial Chapel, the services also alternated between Methodist and Baptist. After Rev. Smith retired, Rev. John L. Nixon took over the Baptist services and Rev. Sapp conducted the Methodist services. We never did have a resident pastor in our community.

### Black-owned businesses

There were some blacks who ran small businesses on the island. Besides Fred Lee, who had the boarding house, Mr. M.D. Landcaster had a dry-cleaning business, Boca Grande Dry Cleaners, that was located in the building across from the old train station that now houses a real estate office. Prather Laundry would send a service truck twice a week to the island, but many of the islanders, both black and white, used Boca Grande Dry Cleaners.

Other blacks, including Willie B. Brown, Mr. Scott, Henderson McCulla and Thomas Philpot, ran "car rental businesses" that catered to the winter visitors to the island. They would buy new cars for themselves and then rent them out during the season for enough to make the payments for the rest of the year. Meanwhile, they drove their service trucks or older cars until the season was over.

Willie B. Brown also was the island's garbage man, servicing mainly the beach estates. As kids, we loved going to the dump with him. We found all kinds of treasures! He also ran a taxi service for us kids and black merchant seamen from the ships. He would charge us a quarter for a ride uptown. He always had the nicest car on the island.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Official Business



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE  
USE TO AVOID PAYMENT  
OF POSTAGE, \$300



Print your name, address and ZIP Code here

Lee County Division of Planning  
Post Office Box 398  
Fort Myers, Florida 33902



Is your RETURN ADDRESS completed on the reverse side?

**SENDER:**

HD 95-03-01

- Complete items 1 and/or 2 for additional services.
- Complete items 3, and 4a & b.
- Print your name and address on the reverse of this form so that we can return this card to you.
- Attach this form to the front of the mailpiece, or on the back if space does not permit.
- Write "Return Receipt Requested" on the mailpiece below the article number.
- The Return Receipt will show to whom the article was delivered and the date delivered.

I also wish to receive the following services (for an extra fee):

1. ☐ Addressee's Address
2. ☐ Restricted Delivery

Consult postmaster for fee.

3. Article Addressed to:

TIITF/DEP Rec & Parks  
DEP Douglas Bldg.  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

4a. Article Number

Z 038 706 450

4b. Service Type

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registered           | <input type="checkbox"/> Insured                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified | <input type="checkbox"/> COD                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail         | <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise |

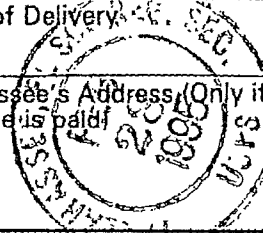
7. Date of Delivery

8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)

5. Signature (Addressee)

6. Signature (Agent)

*Talley Walker*



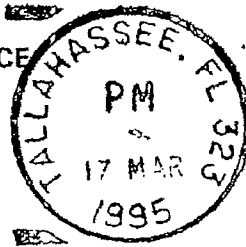
PS Form 3811, December 1991 ★U.S. GPO: 1993-352-714

**DOMESTIC RETURN RECEIPT**

Thank you for using Return Receipt Service.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Official Business



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USE TO AVOID PAYMENT  
OF POSTAGE, \$300



Print your name, address and ZIP Code here

Lee County Division of Planning  
Post Office Box 398  
Fort Myers, Florida 33902



NOTICE OF DECISION  
ON  
SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS NO. SCA 95-11-03

Contributing	Non-Contributing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual Designation	Not Historical
--------------	------------------	--	----------------

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on 11-9-95, the Lee County Historic Preservation Board voted to:

☐ Approve  
☒ Approve with conditions *shape and size of the vents at the gable ends of the building (church building) identical to the ones on the original building.*  
☐ Deny

Special Certificate of Appropriateness SCA 95-11-03 on reverse side.

The Historic Preservation Board made the following finding(s) of fact:

*the subject structure has been designated under Chapter 22 of the LDC and on the basis of staff analysis the proposed project as approved is in compliance w/ Chapter 22 of the LDC*

A copy of this notice, the Special Certificate of Appropriateness (and other documents if appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_

have been furnished to the following persons:

T H F / DNR  
 c/o Pam Houck  
 Bob Stewart  
 Chauncey Boss

(Property Owner) *w/out plans*  
 Director, Zoning Division *w/out plans*  
 Director, Codes & Building Services *w/out plans*  
 GICIA *w/ plans*

Date: 11/13/95

LEE COUNTY  
SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS NO. SCA 95-11-03

<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Contributing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual Designation	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Historical
---------------------------------------	---	--	---

Designation No.: HD 95-03-01

Project Name: Amory Memorial Chapel

STRAP No.: 26 43 20 00 00009 0020

Applicant: GICIA

Address: P O Box 446 Boca Grande FL 33921

YOUR APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS HAS BEEN

☒ APPROVED: Certified By: Gloria M. Sajgo

Date Certified By Staff: 11-13-95

☐ DENIED: For the reasons outlined below:

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Section Ten of Lee County Ordinance 88-62, as amended, states:

**SECTION TEN: APPEALS**

Any aggrieved party may appeal a decision of the Board by filing a written notice of appeal within fifteen (15) days of the date the Board's written decision is rendered. The notice of appeal shall be filed with the Hearing Examiner and a copy provided to the Historic Preservation Board staff which shall state the decision being appealed, the grounds for the appeal, and a summary of the relief sought by the aggrieved party.

Appeals shall otherwise be pursued using the procedures set forth in §900.02.A., "Appeals from Administrative Matters," of the Lee County Zoning Ordinance Number 86-17, as amended, or as may be further amended or replaced from time to time, and in accordance with Lee County Administrative Codes adopted to implement the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance.

Florida Site File No. \_\_\_\_\_

SCA 95-11-03

COA NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
DESIGNATION NO. 4D95-03-01

DATE FILED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ISSUED: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

DENIED \_\_\_\_\_

LEE COUNTY  
SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS  
APPLICATION

<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Contributing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual Designation	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Historical
---------------------------------------	---	--	---

Name of Project: Amory Memorial Chapel

Location: 990 Belcher Road Boca Grande FL

Strap No.: 26-43-20-00-00009.0020

Name of Applicant or Agent: GICIA

Address: P.O. Box 446

City/State: Boca Grande FL Zip: 33921 Phone: 813 964 2667

Name of Historic District, if applicable, check all that apply:

- ☒ Building  
☐ Archaeological Site  
☐ Object  
☐ Landscape Feature

Project Description: (describe all work proposed)

Type of Work: ☐ Alteration ☒ Demolition ☐ New Construction  
☒ Reconstruction ☐ Excavation ☐ Relocation

Narrative: Demolition of non historically significant additions;  
reconstruction + rehabilitation of the church for use as  
community meeting room/multi purpose room

Change in Use: ☒ yes ☐ no

If yes, explain: Building is currently vacant

Does this use require a variance, special permit, or special exception under the Zoning Ordinance? ☐ yes ☒ no

If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Has a development order or exemption been applied for prior to or concurrent with this application? If yes, give the development order number or the exemption number and date of application.

No

#### SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

- ☒ Full plans and specifications (9 sets of plans, 1 set of specifications).
- ☒ Site plan (2).
- ☐ Samples of materials if needed to fully describe the proposed appearance, color, texture, materials or design of the building(s), structure(s) and any outbuilding, wall, courtyard, fence, landscape feature, paving, storage or exterior lighting.
- ☐ Adequate information to enable the Historic Preservation Board to visualize the effect of the proposed action or adjacent buildings and streetscape within a historic district.
- ☐ Demolition applications only: Provide plans for the reuse of the property.
- ☐ Moving applications only: Provide reasons for the proposed move, and a description of the new location and setting.
- ☐ Archaeological sites: Full plans and specifications indicating areas of work that might affect the surface and subsurface of the archaeological site or sites.
- ☐ Proposed mitigation measures.
- ☐ Archaeological surveys, if required by the Historic Preservation Board, including disturbance of human burials.

## LEE COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

### STAFF REPORT

**TYPE OF CASE:** Special Certificate of Appropriateness

**CASE NUMBER:** SCA 95-11-03 Amory Memorial Chapel (Boca Grande)

**HEARING DATE:** November 9, 1995

#### I. SUMMARY

The proposed project entails the rehabilitation of the Amory Memorial Chapel. The property is individually designated as HD(Individual) 95-03-01, Community Church of Boca Grande (Amory Memorial Chapel). Staff analyzed the proposed project for compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The STRAP for the subject parcel is 26-43-20-00-00009.0020. The building is located at 990 Belcher Road, at the south end of Gasparilla Island.

#### II. STAFF ANALYSIS

The Amory Memorial Church is the last standing building to have been built for the exclusive use of the African American community that once inhabited the Boca Grande area. In 1986, the Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association (GICIA) was deeded property including the church with the intent that it be given to the State of Florida to augment the adjacent state park. In 1987 GICIA deeded this property to the State for that purpose.

Currently the GICIA has submitted a proposal to rehabilitate the Amory Memorial Chapel for use as a community meeting room or multi-purpose room. After considering several rehabilitation options for this project, the GICIA has presented the rehabilitation option that most carefully maintains the historic integrity of the building.

The proposed rehabilitation will require no changes to the character defining aspects of the original church building. The original church building is a one-story concrete block (with spraycrete on the concrete block) vernacular structure with a front-facing gable and metal roof. Each gable end is filled with horizontal wood siding. The proposed plan preserves the traditional entrance to the church at the west or front elevation with its small, square, wood bell-tower at the peak of the metal roof. The proposed plans includes a circular vent at the gable ends, however the original building appears to have had a rectangular vent.

The location and size of the original door and window openings are preserved; openings for the double doors at the front and the two single doors at either side will be replaced with double and single doors respectively. The three windows at each side of the building, the two at the rear and the two at the front will be replaced or repaired in the original pointed wood frame window style.

**(OVER)**



During the 1960s and '70s, additions to the east and south elevations were made. Under the proposed plan both of these non-historically significant additions will be removed. The eastern addition consists of a small shed roofed structure placed at the rear of the church building and flanked by the two rear church windows. This addition features a shingle roof and horizontal wood siding; it served as a bathroom facility. Removing this addition will restore the east or rear elevation of the original church building.

The southern addition consists of a rather large shed roof addition placed on the side and rear of the building. From the outside this addition is accessed by single door at the rear elevation. From the interior of the church this addition is accessed through the church's south side single door. This addition covers nearly one-third of the church's side elevation and is built of concrete block. The proposed plan calls for completely removing this addition.

The biggest design challenge posed by the rehabilitation of this old church building was the location of the new bathrooms. After much thought, the GICIA decided that a free standing 12 x 16 feet concrete block structure should be built to accommodate new bathroom facilities. The new bathrooms will be accessed via a covered walkway that will connect the new bathrooms with the existing door on the south side of the existing church building. The new bathrooms and the breezeway will feature metal roofs. Like the rehabilitated church building, the new bathrooms will feature spraycrete on the concrete block. However, unlike the church building, the bathrooms' windows will be glass block.

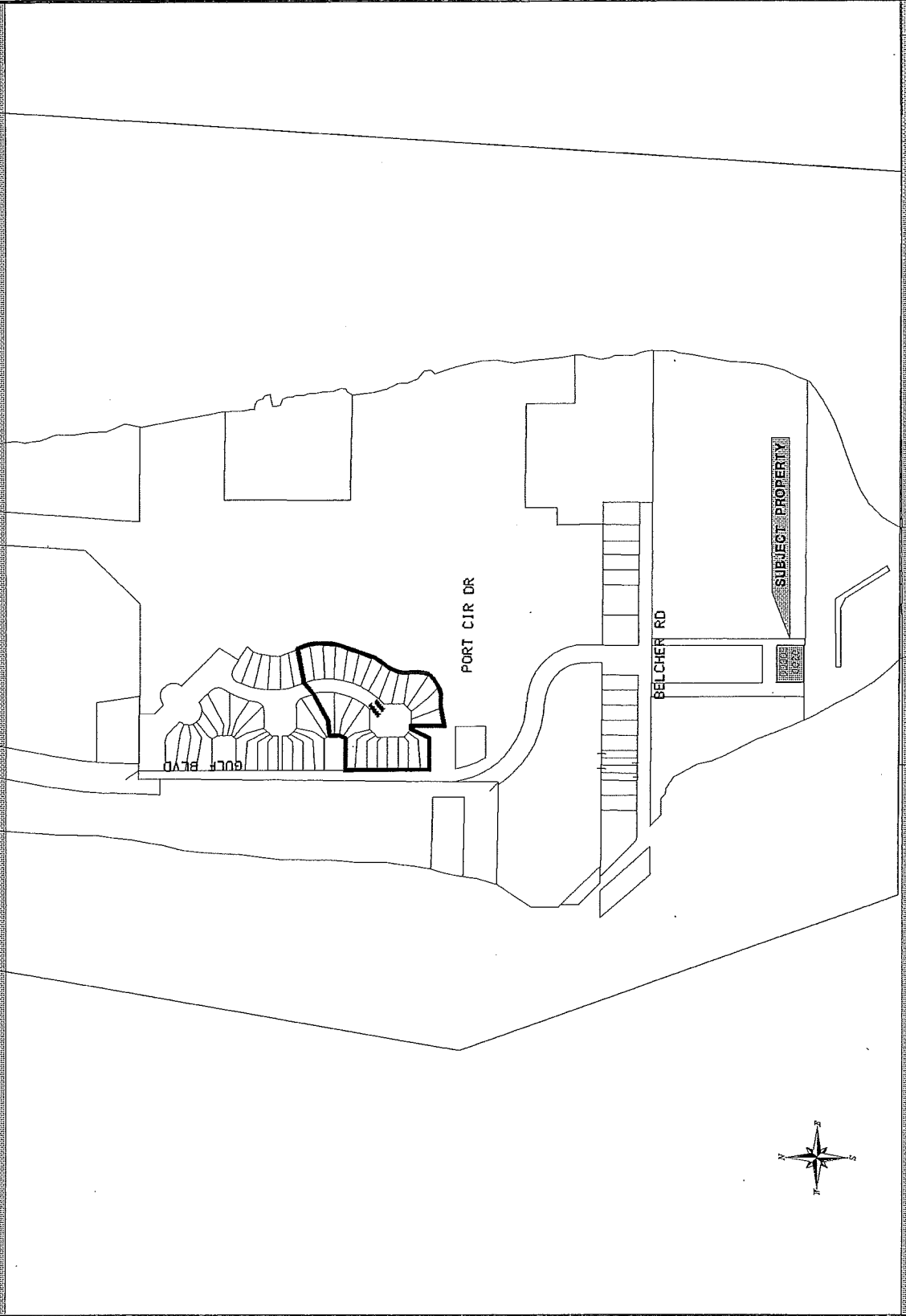
Overall the proposed rehabilitation of the Amory Memorial Chapel into a Community Meeting Room is well thought out and respects the historic integrity of the building. This new use for this old church building requires no changes to the character defining features of the original building, the site or the environment. The proposed rehabilitation retains the historic character of the original church building and is done in a manner that is compatible with the historic style and materials that characterize the property. The new proposed bathroom addition is compatible with the massing, size, scale, materials and architectural features of this historic structure.

### III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Historic Preservation Board:

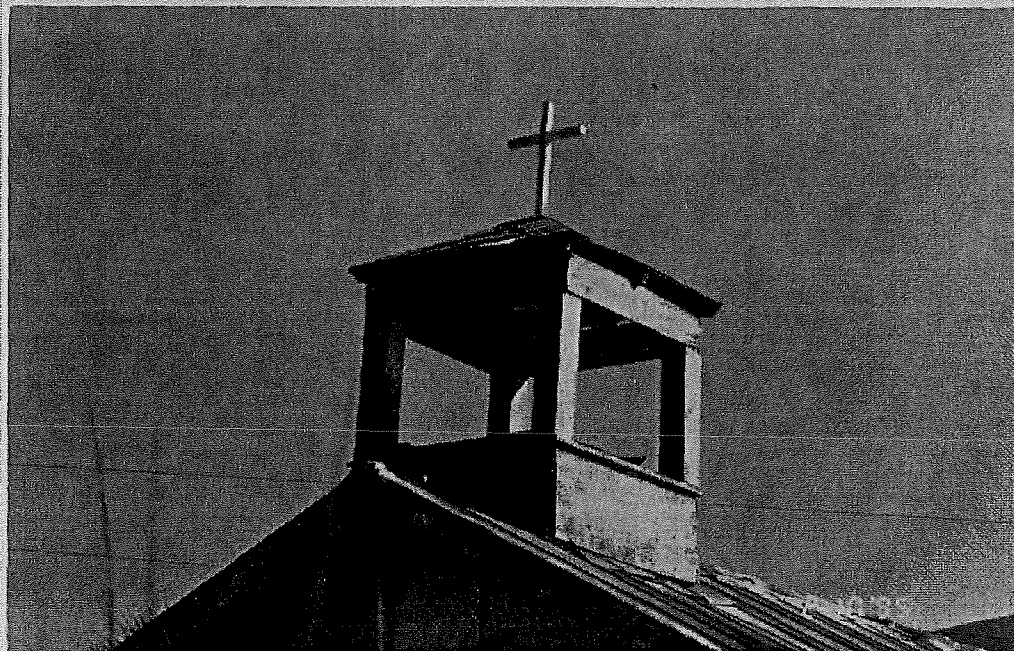
- 1) approve the project as presented by the applicant with the condition that the shape and size of vents at the gable ends be identical to the ones on the original building. (Plan shows the vents as circular but it appears the vents on the original building were rectangular).
- 2) make a finding that the subject structure has been designated under Chapter 22 of the LDC (Historic Preservation) and that on the basis of staff analysis, the proposed project as approved is in compliance with Chapter 22 of the LDC

STRAP = 26 43 20 00 00009 0020



990 BELCHER RD. - BOCA GRANDE

**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (Amory Chapel)**  
**STRAP No. 26-43-20-00-00009.0020**

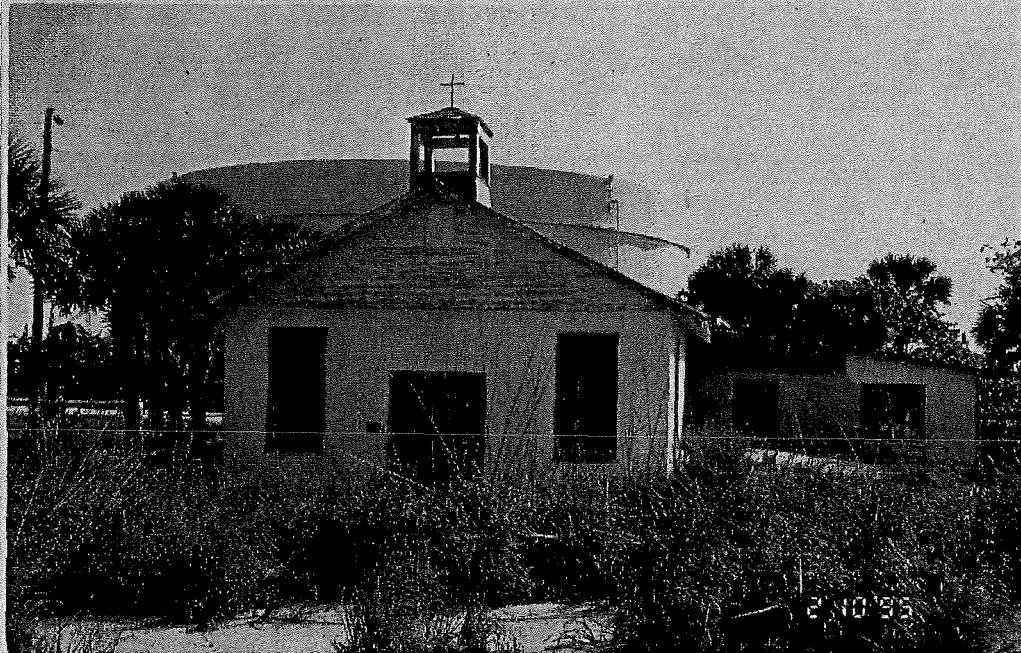


**Close-up of Bell Tower**



**Southwestern elevation, showing southern addition**

**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (Amory Chapel)**  
**STRAP No. 26-43-20-00-00009.0020**



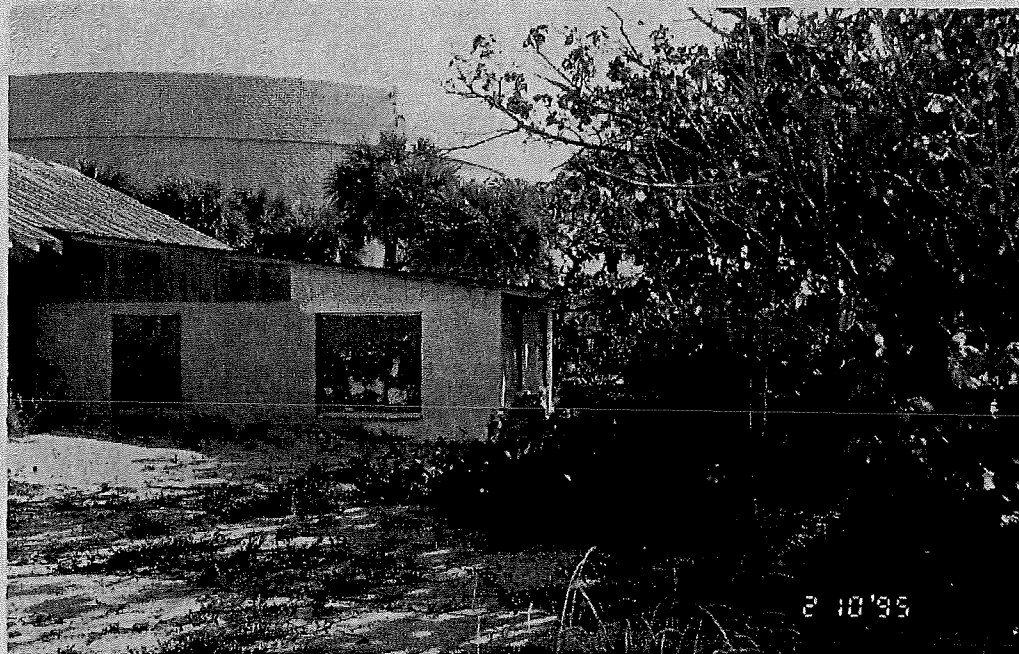
**Western (front) elevation of the church**



**Detail of wood front gable**



**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (Amory Chapel)**  
**STRAP No. 26-43-20-00-00009.0020**



**Western elevation of southern addition**



**Eastern (rear) elevation, showing small shed addition**

**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (Amory Chapel)**  
**STRAP No. 26-43-20-00-00009.0020**



**Northeastern elevation, showing rear and side**

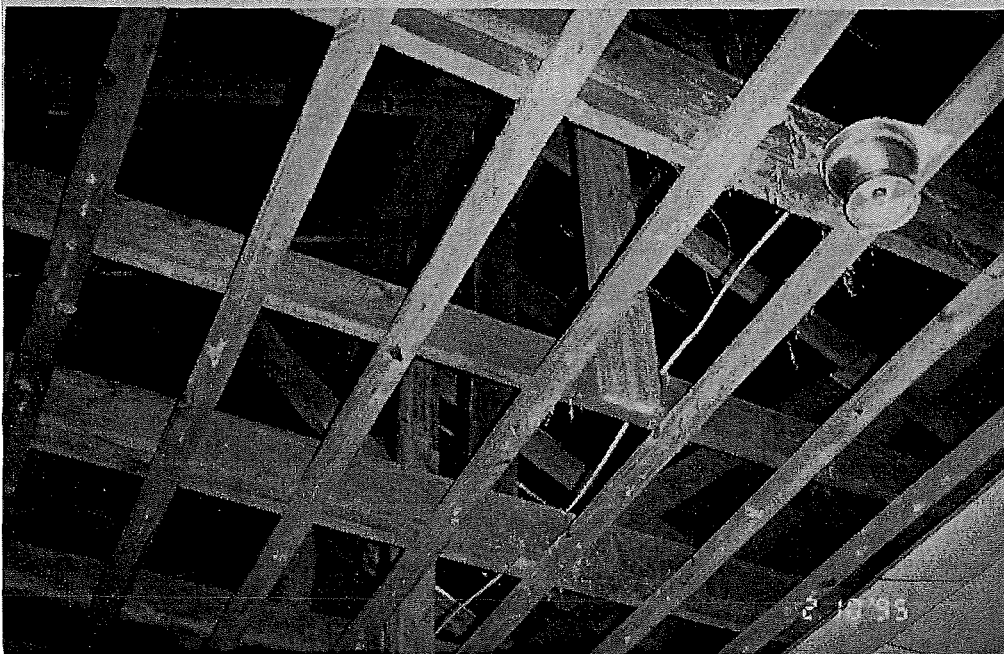


**Close-up of open wood rafters on northern elevation**

**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (Amory Chapel)**  
**STRAP No. 26-43-20-00-00009.0020**



**Northwestern elevation, showing side and front**



**Detail of interior rafters**



**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (Amory Chapel)**  
**STRAP No. 26-43-20-00-00009.0020**



**Detail from interior of windows**





BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

P.O. Box 398  
Fort Myers, Florida 33902-0398  
(941) 335-2111

(813) 335-2204  
Writer's Direct Dial Number

John E. Manning  
District One

December 11, 1995

Douglas R. St. Cerny  
District Two

Ray Judah  
District Three

Andrew W. Coy  
District Four

John E. Albion  
District Five

Donald D. Stilwell  
County Manager

James G. Yaeger  
County Attorney

Diana M. Parker  
County Hearing  
Examiner

Mr. Richard Clem  
Contract Administration  
Division of Building Construction  
Department of Management Services  
Suite 315R Building 4030  
4050 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-0950

Re: Armory Memorial Chapel/Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Clem:

The above referenced project has been discussed with, and reviewed by, Mr. Bill Bean, of the Park Service's Construction Management Division. This project has also been approved by Lee County's Historical Preservation Board.

This letter is to verify the Lee County Division of Codes and Building Services is willing to permit, inspect, and ensure current codes are met on the restoration project.

I am requesting the Department of Management Services write a letter, at your earliest convenience, confirming you will allow Lee County to assume the responsibility for this project. I would appreciate the expedition of this confirmation, so this renovation may begin without delay.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF CODES AND BUILDING SERVICES

Bob Stewart, Director

BS:lc

cc: Mary Gibbs, Director, Community Development  
Commissioner John Manning

File SCA 95-11-03

RECEIVED

DEC 19 1995

PLANNING  
DIVISION



December 5, 1995

Mr. Robert W. Stewart  
Lee County Codes and Building Services  
P. O. Box 398  
Ft. Myers, FL 33902

RE: Strap 26 43 20 00 00009 0020

Dear Bobby:

As you may know, the GICIA is attempting to renovate the old church that is on the State Park property at the south end of the island. We have been working with the Historic Preservation Board and have a Special Certificate of Appropriateness (95-11-03) for the project we propose. We have also met with Frank O'Neill and Mark Goodman to discuss the renovation, and both have been helpful and supportive.

As the project is on State property, we are required to obtain a building permit from the State's Department of Management Services unless Lee County indicates a willingness to permit and inspect the project through its building department. The purpose of this letter is to request that the County write a letter to Mr. Richard Clem of the DMS indicating that Lee County will assume the responsibility of permitting and inspection of this project. We know that if Lee County is involved, the permitting and inspection of the project will be expedited in a much more timely manner than the State could achieve from Tallahassee.

For your information, we have also sent copies of the plans to Mr. James Fiveash at the Fire Marshall's office, and his office is currently reviewing them.

We have enclosed a sample letter to Mr. Clem that we hope proves useful. Please call us if you have any questions or concerns with this request. As always, we thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Chauncey P. Goss  
Executive Director

cc: Gloria Sajgo ✓  
Frank O'Neill  
Mark Goodman  
John Manning

RECEIVED

DEC 6 1995

PLANNING  
DIVISION



G.I.C.I.A.

History of the "Community Church"  
Gasparilla Island, Lee County, Florida

- 1958      During the late 1950's the real estate company that owned most of the property where the black community on Boca Grande was located (downtown area east of Community Center) began demolishing residences and structures in preparation for sale and development of the land. Mr. George Weymouth, realizing that these people would have no place to live, purchased property at the south end of the island and developed what came to be known as "Tarpon Pass Estates."
- 1959      Mr. Roger Amory asked Mr. Homer Addison, manager of the Tarpon Pass Estates Project, to purchase land in the vicinity of the development so that the Baptist Church could be relocated from its downtown location to the vicinity of Tarpon Pass Estates. In a March 22 letter to Mr. Addison, Mr. Amory writes that he is "very interested in seeing that the colored colony not be deprived of their church." Mr. Addison proceeded to purchase land from the Boca Grande Hotel Company for Mr. Amory adjacent to Tarpon Pass Estates. Unfortunately, although Mr. Amory had an agreement to the contrary, the Baptist Church was demolished at its downtown site. Mr. Amory then informed Mr. Addison in an April 1 letter that he had "arranged with Griffin Co. to build a shell of a community church 50 x 24 with a concrete floor, wooden sides and a metal roof at my expense [it should be noted that the walls were constructed of cinder block and not wood]." It was Mr. Amory's hope that the existing congregations of the Methodist and Baptist Churches that had been demolished would furnish and maintain this new church. He transferred ownership to the Johann Fust Community Library, of which he was the primary benefactor and President, with instructions that the church should be rented to the congregation for \$1 a year.
- 1960-  
1970?      At some point a cinder block addition was constructed on the south side of the structure and acted as a kitchen. A small bathroom was also added to the east side of the structure.
- 1983      One of the primary problems with Tarpon Pass Estates and the church was that the land on which they were constructed is quite low and prone to flooding. The "No Name Storm" of the previous year tended to act as a catalyst for the owners of the Tarpon Pass Estates Development, and in May, the residents were issued eviction notices by the owners.



- 1985 During the fall, the property that had comprised Tarpon Pass Estates was given to the Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association, Inc. (GICIA) with the intent that this not for profit property owner's association turn the land over to the State of Florida to augment their adjoining park.
- 1986 In the late fall, the Johann Fust Community Library gave the Community Church to GICIA with the intent that the structure (the only remaining structure of the Tarpon Pass Estates community) and the land be given to the State also.
- 1988 On March 17, the final Warranty Deed turning ownership of the church over to the State was signed by the GICIA. Subsequently, the State boarded the windows and the doors of the structure to discourage vandalism and transient lodging. After receiving the structure, the State restored the dune system adjacent to the church property which acted to solve the flooding problem the structure endured from wave overwash.
- 1994 On May 2, the State conducted an asbestos survey on the structure and found that the building is free of asbestos.
- 1995 George Palermo draws initial plans for the renovation of the church. The Boca Grande Woman's Club funds the drafting of the plans. The Lee County Historic Preservation Board designates the building as an historic structure in March. The project receives a Special Certificate of Appropriateness from the Board for renovation in November.
- 1996 Renovation of the church was begun in August by the GICIA. Burch Building Contracting performs the work on the building which includes the demolition of the southern and eastern additions, the complete restoration of the church, and the addition of two bathrooms to the south of the building.
- 1997 The church was rededicated to the community on April 4 by the GICIA. Others who participated in funding the restoration were: Lee County's Historic Preservation Board, The Boca Grande Woman's Club and The Venice Foundation. The Barrier Island Park Society supplied the labor necessary to revegetate the grounds of the church with Sea Oats. Boca Bay donated the Coco Plums on the east and north sides of the structure. The Boca Grande United Methodist Church donated the organ which sits along the eastern wall. The Florida Park Service's Barrier Island's GEO Park will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and management of the structure.



G·I·C·I·A·

Finally a drawing  
that shows the  
relocation elevation  
of the bathrooms.  
Hope it works.

Let me know if  
this can be on  
nov. agenda.

Thanks.

RECEIVED

OCT 19 2005

PLANNING  
DIVISION

*Channing*

- ① who will be the applicant is not important
- ② vents not important
- ③ don't spray concrete on the blocks.



DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT  
**SERVICES**

4050 Esplanade Way • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0950

LAWTON CHILES, GOVERNOR

WILLIAM H. LINDNER, SECRETARY

July 15, 1996

Mr. Bob Stewart, Director  
PO Box 398  
Fort Myers, FL 33902-0398

Dear Mr. Bob Stewart:

Please sign and return one copy of the Delegation of Authority To Enforce Building Codes for the Armory Memorial Chapel/Restoration Project. If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

  
Richard Webb, Building Official

RECEIVED

JUL 18 1996

PLANNING  
DIVISION



Recycled Paper

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE BUILDING CODES

THIS AGREEMENT

made this 15 day of July in the year Nineteen Hundred and Ninety 96

BY AND BETWEEN THE DIVISION OF BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES, STATE OF FLORIDA, hereinafter called DIVISION, and

Lee County Board of County Commissioners

hereinafter called Lee County.

WITNESSETH, that whereas DIVISION, as authorized by Florida Statutes 553.79(9), intends to delegate to Lee County all duties and responsibilities, as set forth in Florida Statutes 553.80(1), for the specific state project(s) shown hereinbelow.

NOW, THEREFORE, DIVISION and Lee County agree as follows:

Article 1. DIVISION delegates all responsibilities for Building Code Enforcement to Lee County for specific project(s) Armory Memorial Chapel Restoration Project.

By signing this Agreement where indicated below, Lee County agrees to accept full responsibility for the Building Code Enforcement on the project(s) shown above.

Article 2. Applicants for building permits will deal directly with Lee County on all matters relating to Building Code Enforcement on these specific projects.

Article 3. Applicants for building permits will pay all relevant fees to Lee County on these specific projects, which fees may be no greater than the fees charged to others.

Article 4. This delegation does not cover the State Fire Marshall as the DIVISION has no jurisdiction over the State Fire Marshall.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement the day and year first written above.

DIVISION

Witnessed:

APPROVED:

By Christene King

By Richard A. Webb  
Richard A. Webb, Supervising  
Construction Projects  
Administrator, Code Enforcement  
Section, Division of Building  
Construction, Department of  
Management Services, State of  
Florida

As Witnessed:

APPROVED:

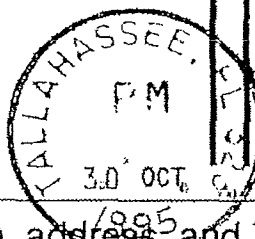
By Linda Crook

By Bob Thewert

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney,

PER-DELA.WP

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PLANNING  
DIVISION

Lee County Division of Planning  
Post Office Box 398  
Fort Myers, Florida 33902



SCA 95-11-03

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C/o DNR Douglas Bldg.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

4a. Article Number

Z 391 352 605

4b. Service Type

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registered                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Insured              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise | <input type="checkbox"/> COD                  |

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OCT 30 1995

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X *Andrew Thomas*

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PS Form 3811, December 1994

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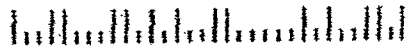
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Lee County Division of Planning  
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- The Return Receipt will show to whom the article was delivered and the date delivered.

I also wish to receive the following services (for an extra fee):

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2. ☐ Restricted Delivery

Consult postmaster for fee.

3. Article Addressed to:

GICIA  
PO Box 446  
Boca Grande, FL 33921

4a. Article Number

Z 391352 604

4b. Service Type

- |   |   |
|---|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Insured              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise | <input type="checkbox"/> COD                  |

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PS Form 3811, December 1994

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PS Form 3800, March 1993

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Street and No.	
P.O., State and ZIP Code	
Postage	\$
Certified Fee	
Special Delivery Fee	
Restricted Delivery Fee	
Return Receipt Showing to Whom & Date Delivered	
Return Receipt Showing to Whom, Date, and Addressee's Address	
TOTAL Postage & Fees	\$
Postmark or Date	

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- l. If you want delivery restricted to the addressee, or to an authorized agent of the addressee, endorse **RESTRICTED DELIVERY** on the front of the article.
- i. Enter fees for the services requested in the appropriate spaces on the front of this receipt. If return receipt is requested, check the applicable blocks in item 1 of Form 3811.
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105603-93-B-0218



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PS Form 3800, March 1993

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Street and No.	
P.O., State and ZIP Code	
Postage	\$ <b>1.18</b>
Certified Fee	<b>0.35</b>
Special Delivery Fee	<b>0.35</b>
Restricted Delivery Fee	
Return Receipt Showing to Whom & Date Delivered	
Return Receipt Showing to Whom, Date, and Addressee's Address	
TOTAL Postage & Fees	\$ <b>1.88</b>
Postmark or Date	

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4. If you want delivery restricted to the addressee, or to an authorized agent of the addressee, endorse **RESTRICTED DELIVERY** on the front of the article.
5. Enter fees for the services requested in the appropriate spaces on the front of this receipt. If return receipt is requested, check the applicable blocks in item 1 of Form 3811.
6. Save this receipt and present it if you make inquiry.

105a03-93-B-0218

# MEMORANDUM FROM DIVISION OF PLANNING

Date: October 26, 1995

To: Historic Preservation Board

From: Gloria M. Sajgo *MS*  
Principal Planner

RE: NOVEMBER 9, 1995 HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD MEETING

The Lee County Historic Preservation Board will meet on Thursday, November 9, 1995, at 4:00 p.m. in the East Room of the restored Old Lee County Courthouse, 2nd floor, in downtown Fort Myers.

## A G E N D A

- I. Call to Order -- 4:00 p.m.
- II. Review of Affidavit of Publication
- III. Approval of Minutes for October 5, 1995
- IV. Public Hearing on Historic Designation(s)
  - A. HD (Individual) 95-10-01, Buckingham Store (Buckingham)
- V. Public Hearing on Special Certificates of Appropriateness (SCA)
  - A. SCA 95-11-01, Sears (Matlacha)
  - B. SCA 95-11-02, DiCarlo (Boca Grande)
  - C. SCA 95-11-03, Amory Memorial Chapel (Boca Grande)
  - D. SCA 95-11-04, First Baptist Church (Boca Grande)
- VI. Presentation of Topics by Board Members
- VII. Presentation of Topics by Staff
- VIII. Future Meetings and Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lee County Planning Division at (941) 339-6206 or (941) 339-6200.



## More bids needed before church project can begin

By KAREN S. PARKER

March has come and gone and still the old Amory Memorial Chapel sits desolate at the south end of Gasparilla Island.

March was the hopeful target date for restoration of the building to begin, according to Chauncey Goss, executive director of the Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association (GICIA), which is spearheading the project.

"The hold up is that we have received only one bid from a contractor to do the work," said Goss Wednesday. "We did not feel comfortable with just one bid and have put the project out to other bidders. We're waiting for those figures now."

Other than a contractor to do the

work, all the necessary permits, plans and other paperwork is in order for work to begin on the chapel's restoration, Goss said.

Originally built by island benefactor Roger Amory so that the black people on the island would have a place to worship, the chapel has sat empty and deserted for years. Plywood boards are nailed across the windows and doors. The chapel's metal roof is rusting away and paint is peeling off its walls.

The Shilo Baptist Church, as it was originally called, was built by Amory in 1959. Amory and his wife Louise also built and endowed the Johann Fust Community Library in downtown Boca Grande. The library owned the church until 1986. About 14 years ago when

the island was slammed by the No-Name storm, the south end of the island flooded so badly that almost the entire church was filled with sand.

The library gave the church to the GICIA. A few years later that organization gave the church to the Florida State Park Service, since it lies within the boundaries of Gasparilla Island State Recreation Area. At one time the park service had plans to convert the church into an open-sided picnic, restroom and changing room facility.

Then in December of 1993, the GICIA, together with several other island organizations, began to talk about restoring the building and using it as a multi-purpose community meeting facility.

So far according to Goss, \$21,000

has been raised to pay for the restoration of the building.

"The Boca Grande Woman's Club has given \$8,000 toward the project," Goss said. "We've already used \$1,000 to pay the architect to draw up the plans. We will be receiving another \$5,000 from the Venice Foundation, and the GICIA has set aside \$8,000 for the project."

The GICIA also has applied for a grant from the Lee County Historical Preservation Board to pay for the roof, and both BIPS (Barrier Island Parks Society) and Boca Bay have offered to donate money and labor to do the landscaping.

"We hope to have the project completed by this fall and hold a grand opening," Goss said.

# THE COMMUNITY VOICE

## Sickle Cell Baby Contest and Modeling Show Praised By Audience

A bevy of vivacious and beautiful models with professional charm and carriage were slightly up-staged by four beautiful babies and their parents as they burped and slept through the main event of the evening at the Delta Development Center Sunday evening.

Vivian Hill, president of the Lee County Sickle Cell Association sponsored the event as part of a fund-raising ventures to help defray expenses for community education and public relation effort to promote programs combatting the sickle cell disease and its effect on African-Americans. Mrs. Shelia Moore served as the host and moderator of the program. More than ten models, male and female participated in the evening affair.



1st place winner - Lester Denson III; parents Lester Denson Jr. and Pamela Goldsmith

### Baby Contest Winners:

\* 1st place - Lester Denson III, parents, Lester Denson Sr. and Pamela Goldsmith.

\* 2nd place - Jerrica Williams, parents, Marshall & Jacquie Williams.

\* 3rd place - Deja Williams, parent, Audria Maybin, grand parent.

Thomas Winn Jr. and Mary Winn.

\* 4th place - Jamal Hodges, parents, Crystal Lyons and Grandmother, Ms. Lyons. Thank you to all who assisted in making this event successful.

Shelia Moore, excelled as Master of Ceremony.

Continued on page 3

## Black Church's Heritage Remembered in Boca Grande

On April 4, 1997, the last remaining Black structure known as the "Armory Chapel" was rededicated into a community facility. Blacks in Lee County are very thankful to the Boca Grande Woman's Club who first thought the vacant church facility could be used into a community facility instead of demolishing it and turning it into bathrooms. Blacks are grateful because the history of the church will remain alive by remembering the days when it was used by Black Baptist and Methodist congregations.

Boca Grande has been the cradle of a strong legacy in Black history. During the early-1900's, Boca Grande was settled by expert fisherman builders and their families who were engaged in Domestic work. Mae Ola Nickson of Fort Myers, was the principal and educator of a one room school for students. Her mother Angelita Swain-George, preceded her as a teacher. Her father was a former minister of this historic church.



Former church for Black restored in Boca Grande. Nina Rogers, historian attended the education ceremony.

**"STRENGTH THRU UNITY"**

## Coping

By Dr. Charles Faulkner

The Causes on  
Males on Female  
Violence

Dear Dr. Faulkner:

In a recent column you implied that all cases of wife-beating are not the fault of the males involved. Are you attempting to justify a male's physical assault on a woman?

Mrs. R.:

When a woman is assaulted during her relationship with her mate, it is not usually a sudden, unforeseen explosion. There are many signs over a long period of time that indicate the approach of an emotional or physical breaking point and the possibility of violence. Constant anger and continuous argument, followed by abnormal silence, suggest that the individual is attempting to cope with the mountain of turmoil within. These signs must be acknowledged and dealt with. Only a foolish person goes into an intimate relationship without having investigated the emotional security of their potential partner.

I certainly do not approve of any person assaulting another. Our men have a responsibility to respect our women. If a man feels intimidated or threatened by his lady, he should communicate this feeling to her and seek the aid of a third party to solve the problem.

Black males today are in a depressed state, financially and psychologically, and the pressures are greater upon him than ever before. Some males are time bombs with a short fuse, ready to explode at any time. If a male lacks coping abilities, he is likely to attack the person closest to him, at the slightest provocation. His wife, girlfriend, or family tend to be closer to him during his time of desperation.

Violence by the male in a relationship is usually an attempt to rescue his lost self-esteem or lost manhood. His lady should at first help

resolve problems in the relationship with reasoning, understanding and compassion. If this does not work, she should seek outside advice or slowly distance herself from the affair. Constant criticism of the mate chips away at his sense of manhood, bit by bit, until his tolerance is exhausted. Violence is sometimes the unfortunate result.

Violence is reaffirmation of enormous problems. It is also a reflection of the obvious troubles confronting the relationship of Black males and females. Violence is both unacceptable and avoidable. However, until social pressures are toned down and respect between the sexes increased, it is likely to continue.

Write to Dr. Faulkner at: 5722 Green Street, Suite 302, Philadelphia, PA, 19144.

(The views expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect those of this publication.)

A Moment In African  
American History

By Nadine Lewis

Can you name the first African American ever to be directly elected to all three branches of government—the legislative, the executive and the judicial?

Carl B. Stokes was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives, in the legislative branch in 1962. In 1967, he was elected to the executive branch as Mayor of Cleveland Ohio, and was elected to the judicial branch as judge of Ohio's largest court, Cleveland Municipal Court in 1983.

Perhaps one of the most consistent trailblazers in American politics, Stokes has served this country in many ways. He was a U.S. army veteran, an assistant Cleveland city attorney, and state legislator before winning Cleveland's mayoral contest in 1967. His impressive lists of African American "first" includes: First African American ever elected mayor of a major city, "first" African American democrat to be elected to the Ohio General Assembly, "first" African American to hold the office of President-elect of the National League of Cities, and the "first" African American attorney to serve as general counsel to a major American labor union, the United Auto Workers.

Once a high school drop-out, Carl Stokes

went back to complete high school, and then went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Law (B.S.L.) in 1954, and a Doctor of Law (LL.D.) in 1956. He also received honorary doctorate degrees from 14 colleges and universities and has been a visiting lecturer at universities across the United States and Europe.

Stokes, who when he became Cleveland's mayor became mayor of the eighth largest city in the United States, is a bona fide "hometown boy makes good" story. He rose through the political ranks to become mayor of the city in which he was born and raised, and which he loved. He was also senior partner in the law firm of Stokes and Green; and was an WNBC news anchorman. His final service to his country was as United States Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles.

Upon the untimely death of Carl Stokes last year, U.S. Congressman Louis Stokes said, "above all, my brother was proudest of the fact that he was the first Black American to acquire the political power to break down barriers and open unprecedented opportunities for minorities." Rep. Stokes added that his brother, the great grandson of a slave, was an inspiration to African American everywhere. "He has left a legacy that will always be remembered," the Congressman added.

Carl B. Stokes shares A Moment in African American History.

For more information about Black History and Culture, write to: Nadine L. Lewis \* P.O. Box 2286 \* Columbus Ohio 43216



## Public Notice

The public is hereby advised that pursuant to HUD Consolidated Plan Citizen Participation and Consultation Plan, Lee County is submitting to HUD for its records on/or about May 9, 1997 after a public meeting before the Board of County Commissioners on/or about May 7, 1997 the following amendments:

1. CDBG Year 7, B-96-UC-12-0013, Project ID #23, Juvenile Commitment Facility. This project is being reduced by \$42,630 to \$117,370. It will ultimately be reduced to \$0 once the uses for the remainin \$117,370 are finalized. The \$42,630 will be transferred to the project listed below.
2. CDBG Year 7, B-96-UC-12-0013, Project ID #4, Dunbar Public Infrastructure Project. The \$42,630 is being transferred to this activity to facilitate the construction of the above sidewalks.

Comments and questions should be directed to the Planning staff at the Department of Human Services, Community Improvement Office at (941) 656-7930, 83 Pondella Road, Suite #1, North Fort Myer, Florida.

DS/ae962

PO#701878

The  
Community Voice

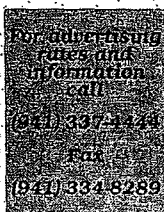
Mailing Address:  
3048 Lafayette St.  
Ft. Myers, Fla. 33916

Office:  
2485 Fowler St.

Charles P. Weaver - Publisher  
Corey Weaver - Computer Operator  
Cedric P. Weaver - Sales Representative



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SB PA

# Community Church at south end re-dedicated and begins new era

By MARILYN HOECKEL

The Community Church at the south end of Gasparilla Island, which served the black community of Boca Grande for nearly 25 years as a place of worship, and which then sat empty and forlorn for 16 years, has received a new lease on life.

Although the little cinder block building will no longer serve the community as a church, it has been renovated and was formally re-dedicated as the "Community Church" last Friday evening. Nearly 70 Islanders attended the ceremony, which could not have been more appropriate or heartwarming.

The Rev. Jaynie Nell Hickman of the Boca Grande United Methodist Church played the organ which her church donated to the building, while folks enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and punch provided by the Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association, which spearheaded the renovation.

Pansy Cost, our town librarian and local historian, gave a short talk on how the church came to be in the first place. The various organizations which contributed to the renovation effort were recognized; and the simple ceremony ended with a prayer by Thomas Philpot, who was a deacon in the Community Church when it served the people who lived at Tarpon Pass Estates and who referred to himself as possibly the "oldest surviving member of the

church."

The total cost of renovating the Community Church was \$84,345. Funding was provided by the GICIA, the Boca Grande Woman's Club, Lee County's Historic Preservation Board and The Venice Foundation. BIPS (Barrier Island Parks Society) provided the labor to landscape the grounds of the church with sea oaks, and Boca Bay donated coco plums which were planted on the east and north sides of the building.

The building will serve as a meeting place for the community. It will be managed and maintained by the Florida Park Service's Barrier Islands GEO Park, which has its headquarters in the nearby Boca Grande Lighthouse. Individuals or organizations wishing to use it should contact park staff at 964-0375.

The original brass plaque which has been on the church since it was built for the black community of Boca Grande in 1959 has been polished and once again occupies a place of honor next to the front door. It reads: "Community Church erected to the Glory of God by Roger and Louise Amory, 1959."

Surely the Amorys and all the folks whose church this was for so many years would be happy to know that the building has been preserved and has entered a new phase of usefulness to the community of Boca Grande. Hopefully it will do so for many years to come.



Pansy Cost, our town's librarian, gave a little talk on the church's history.



Ken Burch (left) and Chauncey Goss on the dune walkover near the church. Ken and his brother Handy, of Burch Building Contracting, renovated the old chapel. Goss is director of the GICIA, which was in charge of the project.



The Rev. Jaynie Nell Hickman played the organ.



Thomas Philpot, former deacon of the Community Church, offered a few reminiscences and a prayer.



Barrier Islands GEO Park District Manager Mike Murphy (right) came from Osprey to attend the ceremony. At left is GEO Park Manager Reggie Norman.



Nina Denson Rogers (right), of Lee County Black History Inc., and Gloria Salgo of the Lee County Historic Preservation Board, came from Fort Myers for the re-dedication.

## The BUYER'S BROKER of Boca Grande, Inc.



PETER SIEGLAFF  
ZEBE SIEGLAFF

375 PARK AVE.  
P.O. BOX 1769  
BOCA GRANDE, FL 33921



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## YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from page 13

### Feb. 23

- Veteran tarpon angler Dixie Hollins announces that he will sponsor two brand new tarpon tournaments in Boca Grande Pass in the spring. They'll be called the Hollinswood Tarpon Tournaments and will be live bait only.

- Parking problems abound downtown, as always during season, but it's probably worse this year than ever. In an effort to help alleviate congestion problems, the GICIA, which has built and maintains 75 parking spaces along East and West Railroad Avenues, asks island residents, business people and employees to make use of the public parking lot at the west end of Fifth St. and spaces on W. Railroad.

- The Beacon reminds people, in the wake of the accident that has left 57-year-old Carolyn Pratt, a first-time visitor to Boca Grande, in a coma, that it is Florida law that bicycles must be equipped with lights front and back if they are operating at night.

## MARCH

### March 1

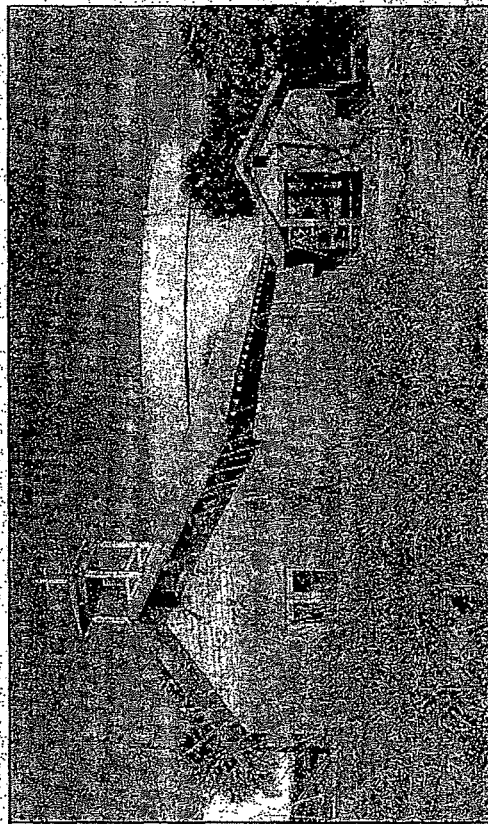
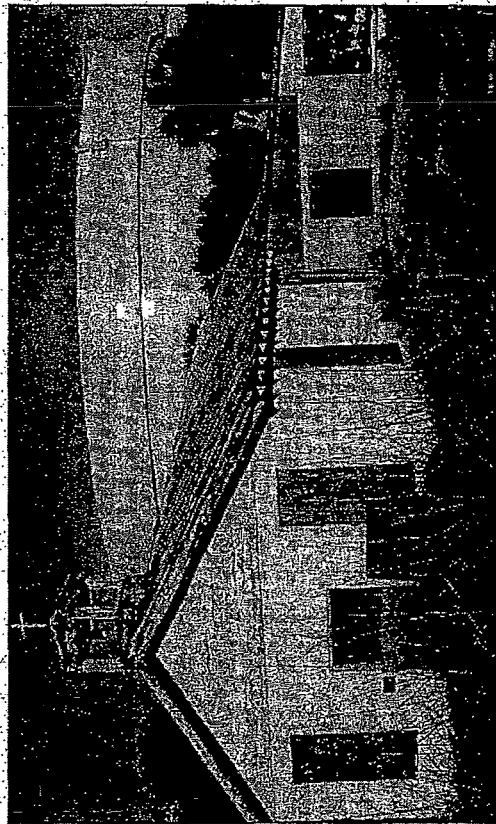
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers tells the Beacon that there will be no dredging of the Charlotte Harbor Navigation Channel (Boca Grande Pass) in 1996 because of a funding shortage. Dredging was last done in 1993, and the project has already been postponed twice. Harbor pilots say the situation is getting dangerous because of the shallowness of the channel.

- Carolyn Pratt of Massachusetts dies as a result of head injuries sustained in an accident on the Boca Grande Bike Path on Feb. 17. She was 57.

- The GICIA announces that beginning in May you will be required to obtain and display a sticker on your golf cart if you intend to operate it on the bike path from First St. north, the part of the path owned and maintained by the GICIA. Stickers are free to GICIA members.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued on page 15



The Gasparilla Island Conservation, and Association spearheaded an effort to renovate the old Community Church at the south end of the island. The church, formerly known as the Shiloh Baptist Church when it was located in downtown Boca Grande, is shown before renovation (above) and in November, after the project was well under way.

DSNL \*\*\*\*\* LEE PROPERTY APPRAISER (NAME-ADDRESS-LEGAL) \*\*\*\*\*

STRAP: 26 43 20 00 00009 0020  
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PARCEL IN HISTORICAL DIST  
DOR...: 82 FOREST, PARKS REC  
LOC...: LEE COUNTY UNINCORPORATED  
LEGAL1: PARL IN S E 1/4 SEC 26  
LEGAL2: TWP 43 R 20 DESC IN  
LEGAL3: OR 1897 PG 1186

C/O DNR DOUGLAS BLDG  
TALLAHASSEE

FL HWDWXA

32399 N/R: 000040

\*\*\* VALUES \*\*\* \*\*\* EX VALUES \*\*\*

JUST: 64,780 AG.: 0

ASSD: 64,780 HX.: 0

TXBL: 0 WID: 0

BLDG: 6,830 DIS: 0

LAND: 57,950 WLY: 64,780

NCST: 0 ENG: 0

PVAL: 68,450 WDR: 0

SOH: 0 DIFF: 0

SITE: 990 BELCHER RD 33921

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1ST TAX YR: FRONTAGE: 0

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PRIOR DOR.: 71 PEND.....

PRIOR STRP:

PAGE: 00015

LINE: 830

MAINT DATE

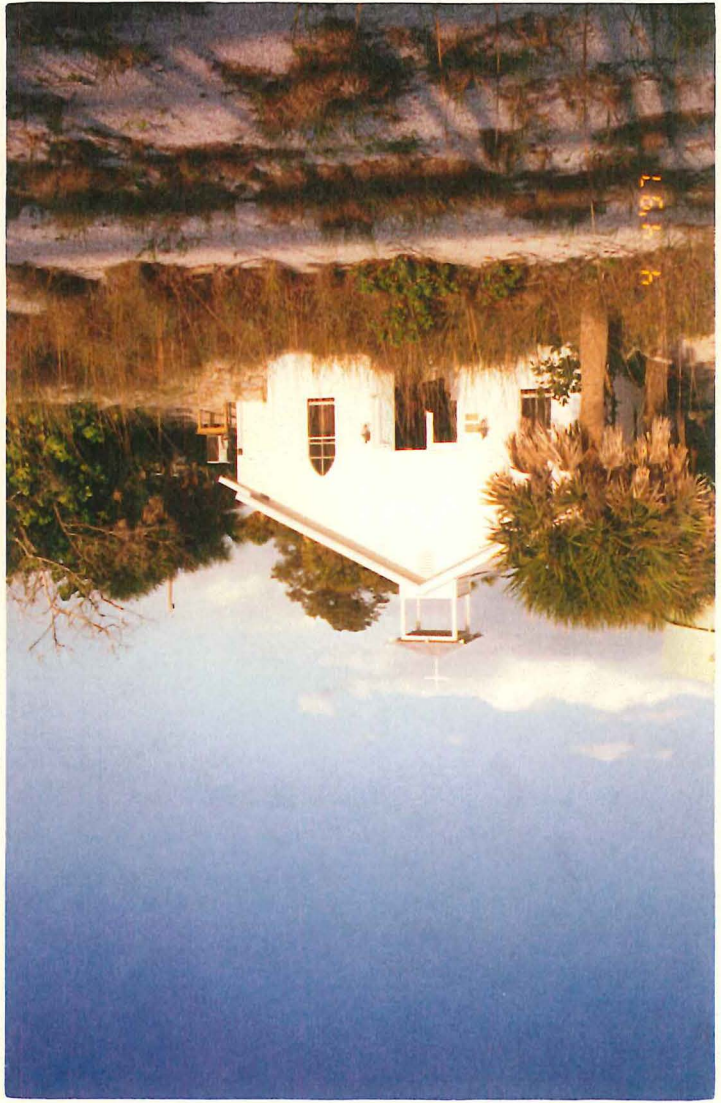
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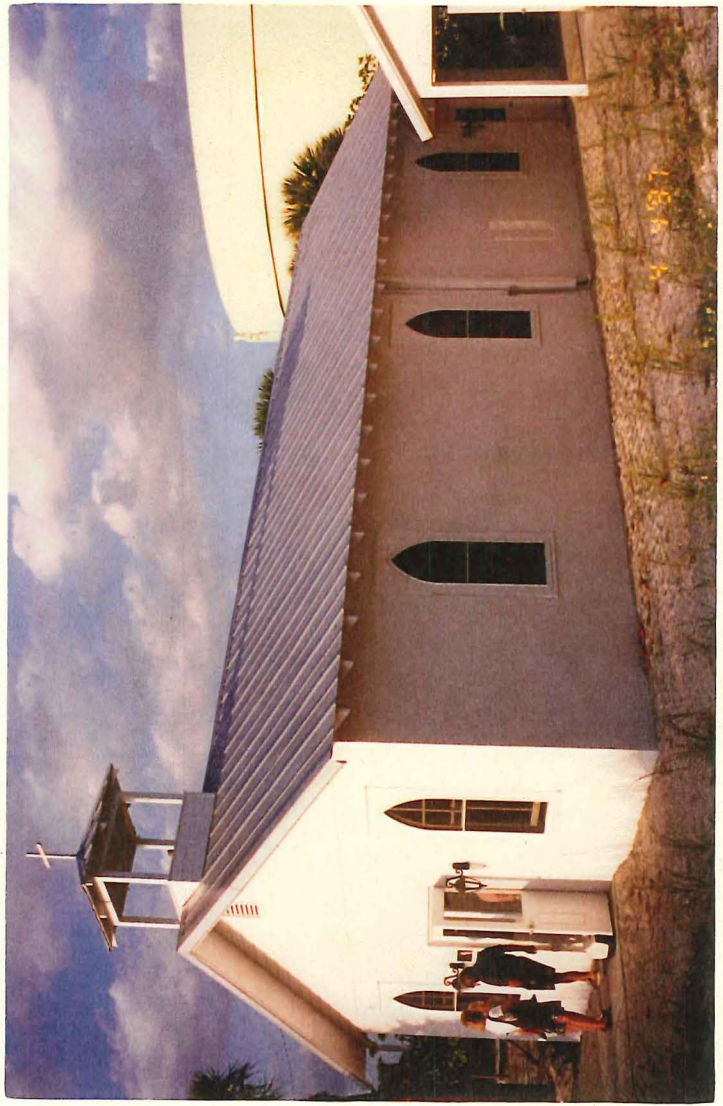


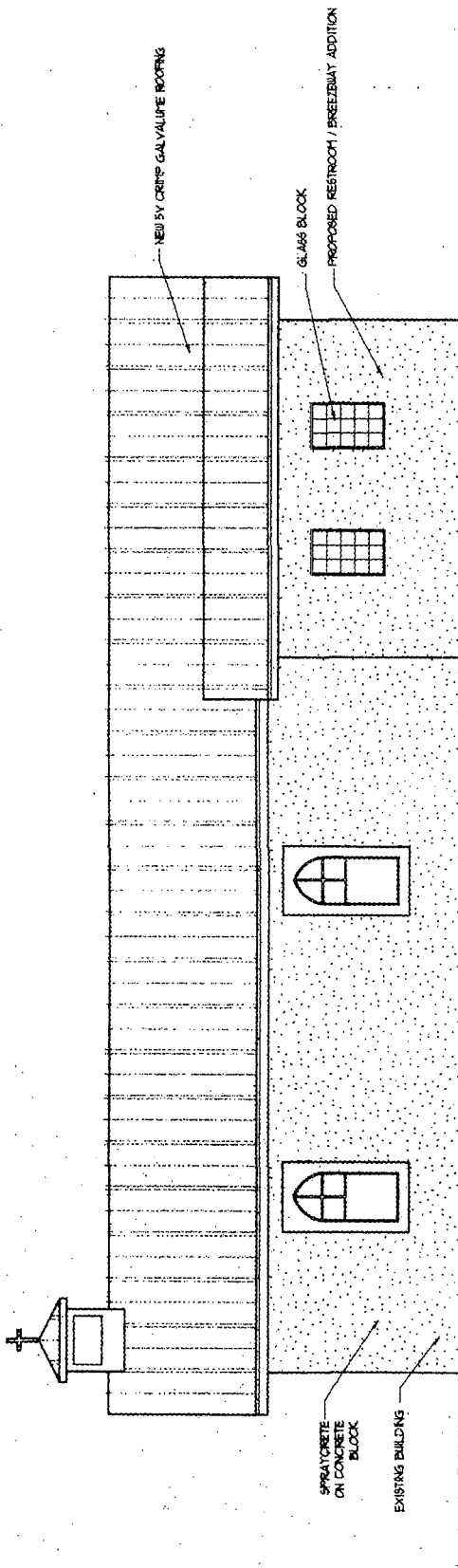








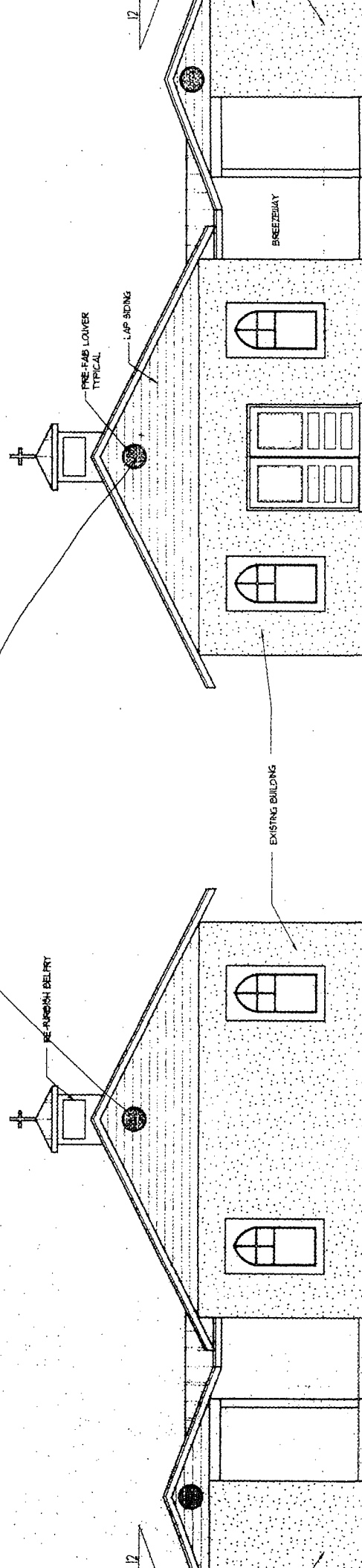




SOUTH ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

*Condition of roof - new  
restroom on left  
new steps to left  
from above view*



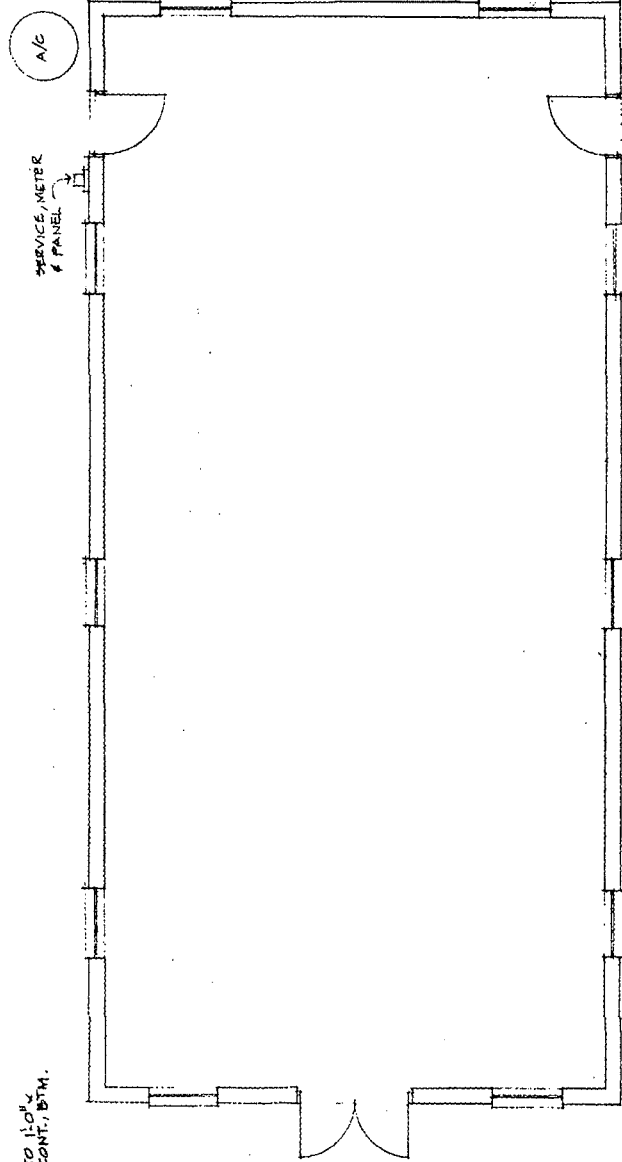
WEST ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

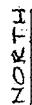
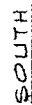
WEST ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"





SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



SIMILAR

ALTERNATE RESTROOM LOCATION #2



SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

# **LEE COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD**

## **STAFF REPORT**

**TYPE OF CASE:** Special Certificate of Appropriateness

**CASE NUMBER:** SCA 95-11-03 Amory Memorial Chapel (Boca Grande)

**HEARING DATE:** November 9, 1995

### **I. SUMMARY**

The proposed project entails the rehabilitation of the Amory Memorial Chapel. The property is individually designated as HD(Individual) 95-03-01, Community Church of Boca Grande (Amory Memorial Chapel). Staff analyzed the proposed project for compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The STRAP for the subject parcel is 26-43-20-00-00009.0020. The building is located at 990 Belcher Road, at the south end of Gasparilla Island.

### **II. STAFF ANALYSIS**

The Amory Memorial Church is the last standing building to have been built for the exclusive use of the African American community that once inhabited the Boca Grande area. In 1986, the Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association (GICIA) was deeded property including the church with the intent that it be given to the State of Florida to augment the adjacent state park. In 1987 GICIA deeded this property to the State for that purpose.

Currently the GICIA has submitted a proposal to rehabilitate the Amory Memorial Chapel for use as a community meeting room or multi-purpose room. After considering several rehabilitation options for this project, the GICIA has presented the rehabilitation option that most carefully maintains the historic integrity of the building.

The proposed rehabilitation will require no changes to the character defining aspects of the original church building. The original church building is a one-story concrete block (with spraycrete on the concrete block) vernacular structure with a front-facing gable and metal roof. Each gable end is filled with horizontal wood siding. The proposed plan preserves the traditional entrance to the church at the west or front elevation with its small, square, wood bell-tower at the peak of the metal roof. The proposed plans includes a circular vent at the gable ends, however the original building appears to have had a rectangular vent.

The location and size of the original door and window openings are preserved; openings for the double doors at the front and the two single doors at either side will be replaced with double and single doors respectively. The three windows at each side of the building, the two at the rear and the two at the front will be replaced or repaired in the original pointed wood frame window style.

**(OVER)**

During the 1960s and '70s, additions to the east and south elevations were made. Under the proposed plan both of these non-historically significant additions will be removed. The eastern addition consists of a small shed roofed structure placed at the rear of the church building and flanked by the two rear church windows. This addition features a shingle roof and horizontal wood siding; it served as a bathroom facility. Removing this addition will restore the east or rear elevation of the original church building.

The southern addition consists of a rather large shed roof addition placed on the side and rear of the building. From the outside this addition is accessed by single door at the rear elevation. From the interior of the church this addition is accessed through the church's south side single door. This addition covers nearly one-third of the church's side elevation and is built of concrete block. The proposed plan calls for completely removing this addition.

The biggest design challenge posed by the rehabilitation of this old church building was the location of the new bathrooms. After much thought, the GICIA decided that a free standing 12 x 16 feet concrete block structure should be built to accommodate new bathroom facilities. The new bathrooms will be accessed via a covered walkway that will connect the new bathrooms with the existing door on the south side of the existing church building. The new bathrooms and the breezeway will feature metal roofs. Like the rehabilitated church building, the new bathrooms will feature spraycrete on the concrete block. However, unlike the church building, the bathrooms' windows will be glass block.

Overall the proposed rehabilitation of the Amory Memorial Chapel into a Community Meeting Room is well thought out and respects the historic integrity of the building. This new use for this old church building requires no changes to the character defining features of the original building, the site or the environment. The proposed rehabilitation retains the historic character of the original church building and is done in a manner that is compatible with the historic style and materials that characterize the property. The new proposed bathroom addition is compatible with the massing, size, scale, materials and architectural features of this historic structure.

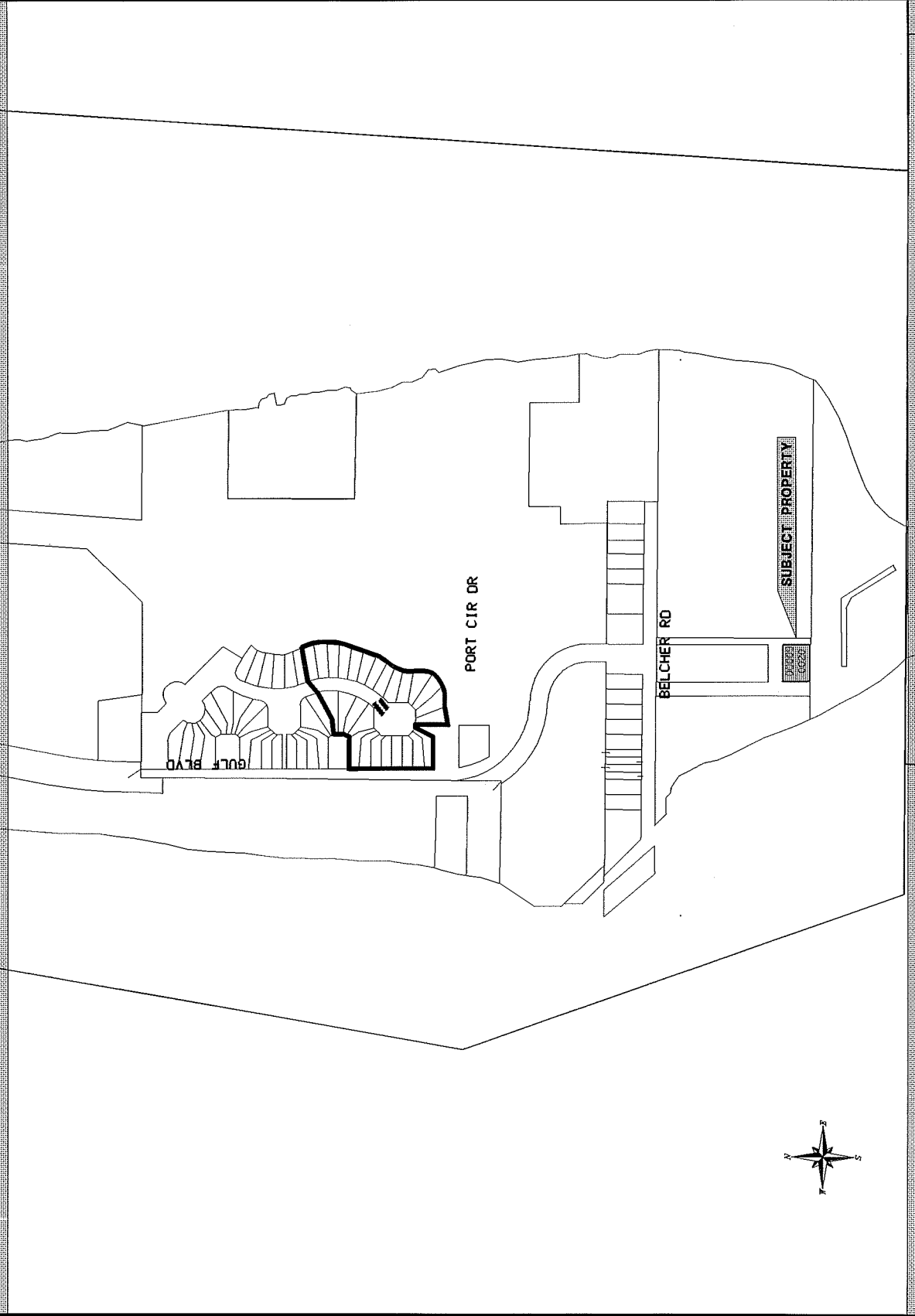
### III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Historic Preservation Board:

- 1) approve the project as presented by the applicant with the condition that the shape and size of vents at the gable ends be identical to the ones on the original building. (Plan shows the vents as circular but it appears the vents on the original building were rectangular).

- 2) make a finding that the subject structure has been designated under Chapter 22 of the LDC (Historic Preservation) and that on the basis of staff analysis, the proposed project as approved is in compliance with Chapter 22 of the LDC

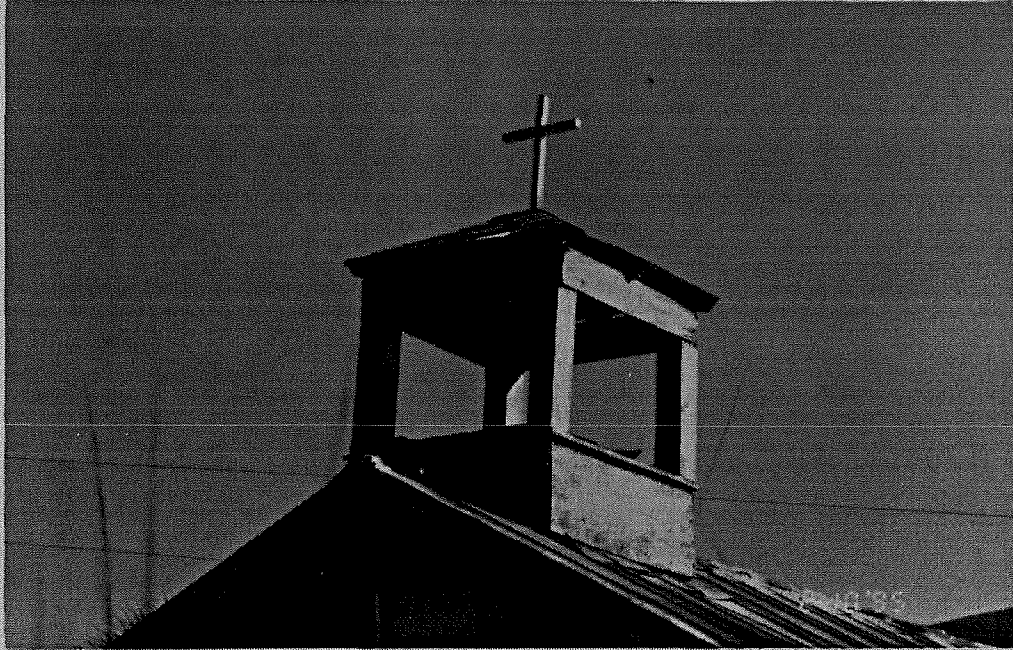
STRAP = 26 43 20 00 00009 0020



990 BELCHER RD. - BOCA GRANDE



**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (Amory Chapel)**  
**STRAP No. 26-43-20-00-00009.0020**



**Close-up of Bell Tower**



**Southwestern elevation, showing southern addition**

**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (Amory Chapel)**  
**STRAP No. 26-43-20-00-00009.0020**



**Western (front) elevation of the church**



**Detail of wood front gable**

**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (Amory Chapel)**  
**STRAP No. 26-43-20-00-00009.0020**



**Western elevation of southern addition**



**Eastern (rear) elevation, showing small shed addition**



**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (Amory Chapel)**  
**STRAP No. 26-43-20-00-00009.0020**

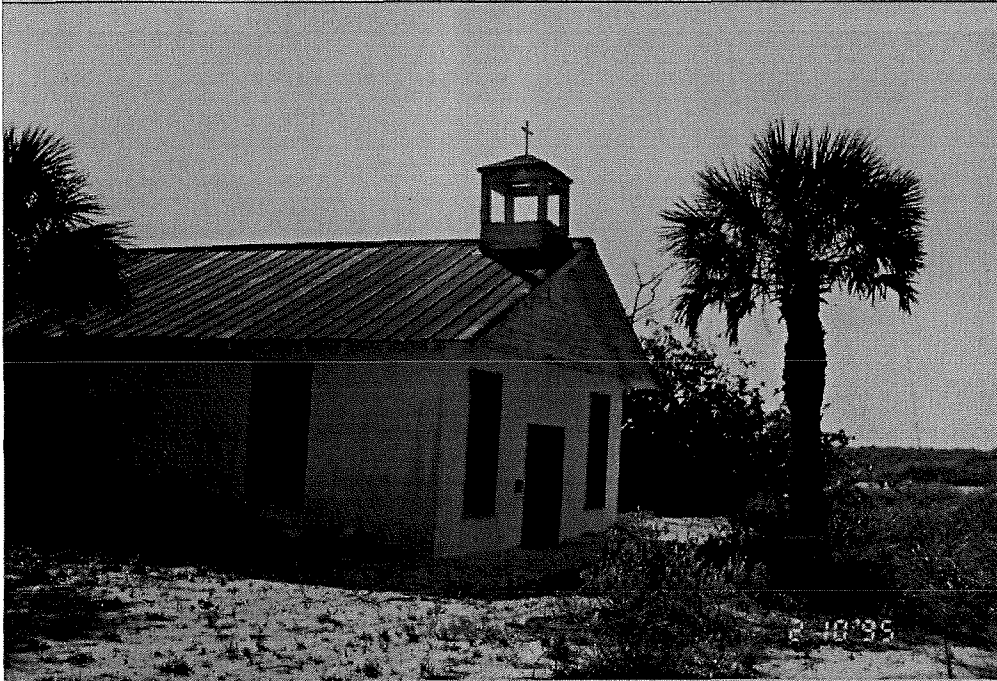


**Northeastern elevation, showing rear and side**



**Close-up of open wood rafters on northern elevation**

**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (Amory Chapel)**  
**STRAP No. 26-43-20-00-00009.0020**

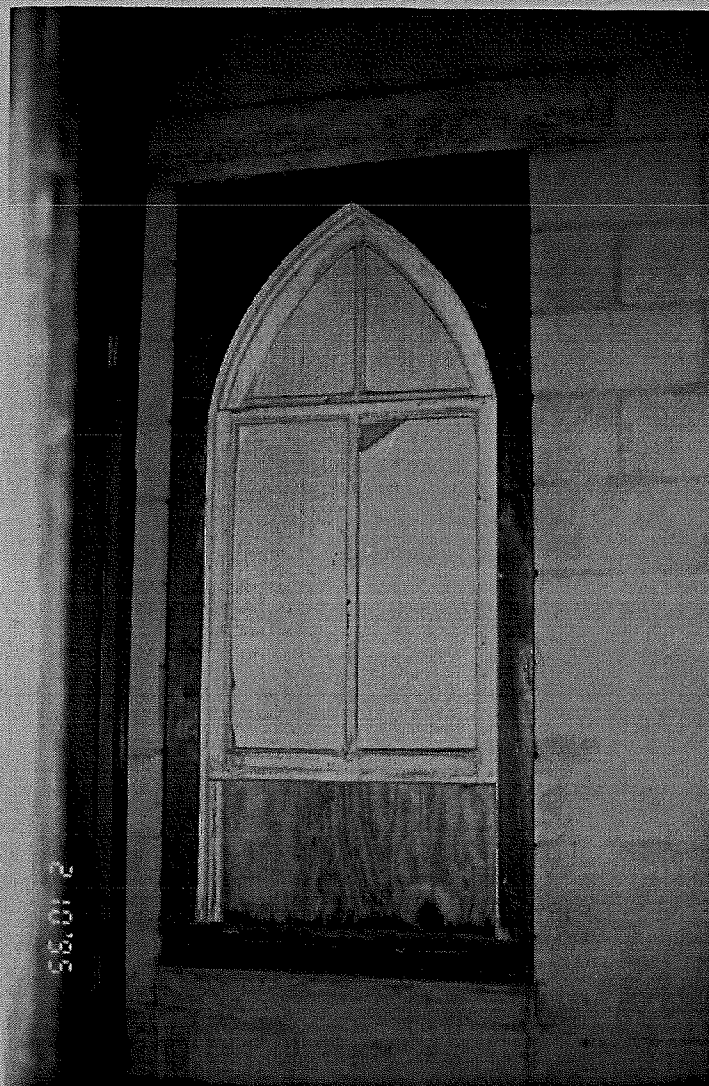


**Northwestern elevation, showing side and front**



**Detail of interior rafters**

**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE (Amory Chapel)**  
**STRAP No. 26-43-20-00-00009.0020**



**Detail from interior of windows**



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

P.O. Box 398  
Fort Myers, Florida 33902-0398  
(941) 335-2111

(813) 335-2204  
*Writer's Direct Dial Number*

John E. Manning  
*District One*

December 11, 1995

Douglas R. St. Cerny  
*District Two*

Ray Judah  
*District Three*

Andrew W. Coy  
*District Four*

John E. Albion  
*District Five*

Donald D. Stilwell  
*County Manager*

James G. Yaeger  
*County Attorney*

Diana M. Parker  
*County Hearing Examiner*

Mr. Richard Clem  
Contract Administration  
Division of Building Construction  
Department of Management Services  
Suite 315R Building 4030  
4050 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-0950

*File SCA 95-11-03*

Re: **Armory Memorial Chapel/Restoration Project**

Dear Mr. Clem:

The above referenced project has been discussed with, and reviewed by, Mr. Bill Bean, of the Park Service's Construction Management Division. This project has also been approved by Lee County's Historical Preservation Board.

This letter is to verify the Lee County Division of Codes and Building Services is willing to permit, inspect, and ensure current codes are met on the restoration project.

I am requesting the Department of Management Services write a letter, at your earliest convenience, confirming you will allow Lee County to assume the responsibility for this project. I would appreciate the expedition of this confirmation, so this renovation may begin without delay.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF CODES AND BUILDING SERVICES

Bob Stewart, Director

BS:lc

cc: Mary Gibbs, Director, Community Development  
Commissioner John Manning

RECEIVED

DEC 18 1995

PLANNING  
DIVISION



Gloria



December 5, 1995

Mr. Robert W. Stewart  
Lee County Codes and Building Services  
P. O. Box 398  
Ft. Myers, FL 33902

RE: Strap 26 43 20 00 00009 0020

Dear Bobby:

As you may know, the GICIA is attempting to renovate the old church that is on the State Park property at the south end of the island. We have been working with the Historic Preservation Board and have a Special Certificate of Appropriateness (95-11-03) for the project we propose. We have also met with Frank O'Neill and Mark Goodman to discuss the renovation, and both have been helpful and supportive.

As the project is on State property, we are required to obtain a building permit from the State's Department of Management Services unless Lee County indicates a willingness to permit and inspect the project through its building department. The purpose of this letter is to request that the County write a letter to Mr. Richard Clem of the DMS indicating that Lee County will assume the responsibility of permitting and inspection of this project. We know that if Lee County is involved, the permitting and inspection of the project will be expedited in a much more timely manner than the State could achieve from Tallahassee.

For your information, we have also sent copies of the plans to Mr. James Fiveash at the Fire Marshall's office, and his office is currently reviewing them.

We have enclosed a sample letter to Mr. Clem that we hope proves useful. Please call us if you have any questions or concerns with this request. As always, we thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Chauncey P. Goss  
Executive Director

cc: Gloria Sajgo ✓  
Frank O'Neill  
Mark Goodman  
John Manning

RECEIVED

DEC 6 1995

PLANNING  
DIVISION





G·I·C·I·A·

Finally a drawing  
that shows the  
relocation elevation  
of the bathrooms.  
Hope it works.

Let me know if  
this can be on  
nov. agenda.

Thanks..

RECEIVED

OCT 19 1995

PLANNING  
DIVISION

*Chamney*

- ① who will be the applicant
- ② vents not singular
- ③ don't spray concrete on the block.



History of the "Community Church"  
Gasparilla Island, Lee County, Florida

- 1958 During the late 1950's the real estate company that owned most of the property where the black community on Boca Grande was located (downtown area east of Community Center) began demolishing residences and structures in preparation for sale and development of the land. Mr. George Weymouth, realizing that these people would have no place to live, purchased property at the south end of the island and developed what came to be known as "Tarpon Pass Estates."
- 1959 Mr. Roger Amory asked Mr. Homer Addison, manager of the Tarpon Pass Estates Project, to purchase land in the vicinity of the development so that the Baptist Church could be relocated from its downtown location to the vicinity of Tarpon Pass Estates. In a March 22 letter to Mr. Addison, Mr. Amory writes that he is "very interested in seeing that the colored colony not be deprived of their church." Mr. Addison proceeded to purchase land from the Boca Grande Hotel Company for Mr. Amory adjacent to Tarpon Pass Estates. Unfortunately, although Mr. Amory had an agreement to the contrary, the Baptist Church was demolished at its downtown site. Mr. Amory then informed Mr. Addison in an April 1 letter that he had "arranged with Griffin Co. to build a shell of a community church 50 x 24 with a concrete floor, wooden sides and a metal roof at my expense [it should be noted that the walls were constructed of cinder block and not wood]." It was Mr. Amory's hope that the existing congregations of the Methodist and Baptist Churches that had been demolished would furnish and maintain this new church. He transferred ownership to the Johann Fust Community Library, of which he was the primary benefactor and President, with instructions that the church should be rented to the congregation for \$1 a year.
- 1960- At some point a cinder block addition was constructed on the south side of  
1970? the structure and acted as a kitchen. A small bathroom was also added to the east side of the structure.
- 1983 One of the primary problems with Tarpon Pass Estates and the church was that the land on which they were constructed is quite low and prone to flooding. The "No Name Storm" of the previous year tended to act as a catalyst for the owners of the Tarpon Pass Estates Development, and in May, the residents were issued eviction notices by the owners.



- 1985 During the fall, the property that had comprised Tarpon Pass Estates was given to the Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association, Inc. (GICIA) with the intent that this not for profit property owner's association turn the land over to the State of Florida to augment their adjoining park.
- 1986 In the late fall, the Johann Fust Community Library gave the Community Church to GICIA with the intent that the structure (the only remaining structure of the Tarpon Pass Estates community) and the land be given to the State also.
- 1988 On March 17, the final Warranty Deed turning ownership of the church over to the State was signed by the GICIA. Subsequently, the State boarded the windows and the doors of the structure to discourage vandalism and transient lodging. After receiving the structure, the State restored the dune system adjacent to the church property which acted to solve the flooding problem the structure endured from wave overwash.
- 1994 On May 2, the State conducted an asbestos survey on the structure and found that the building is free of asbestos.
- 1995 George Palermo draws initial plans for the renovation of the church. The Boca Grande Woman's Club funds the drafting of the plans. The Lee County Historic Preservation Board designates the building as an historic structure in March. The project receives a Special Certificate of Appropriateness from the Board for renovation in November.
- 1996 Renovation of the church was begun in August by the GICIA. Burch Building Contracting performs the work on the building which includes the demolition of the southern and eastern additions, the complete restoration of the church, and the addition of two bathrooms to the south of the building.
- 1997 The church was rededicated to the community on April 4 by the GICIA. Others who participated in funding the restoration were: Lee County's Historic Preservation Board, The Boca Grande Woman's Club and The Venice Foundation. The Barrier Island Park Society supplied the labor necessary to revegetate the grounds of the church with Sea Oats. Boca Bay donated the Coco Plums on the east and north sides of the structure. The Boca Grande United Methodist Church donated the organ which sits along the eastern wall. The Florida Park Service's Barrier Island's GEO Park will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and management of the structure.



DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT  
**SERVICES**

4050 Esplanade Way • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0950

LAWTON CHILES, GOVERNOR

WILLIAM H. LINDNER, SECRETARY

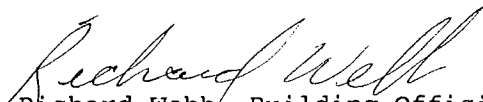
July 15, 1996

Mr. Bob Stewart, Director  
PO Box 398  
Fort Myers, Fl 33902-0398

Dear Mr. Bob Stewart:

Please sign and return one copy of the Delegation of Authority To Enforce Building Codes for the Armory Memorial Chapel/Restoration Project. If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

  
Richard Webb, Building Official

RECEIVED

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PLANNING  
DIVISION



Recycled Paper

Lee County Board of County Commissioners

hereinafter called Lee County.

WITNESSETH, that whereas DIVISION, as authorized by Florida Statutes 553.79(9), intends to delegate to Lee County all duties and responsibilities, as set forth in Florida Statutes 553.80(1), for the specific state project(s) shown hereinbelow.

NOW, THEREFORE, DIVISION and Lee County agree as follows:

Article 1. DIVISION delegates all responsibilities for Building Code Enforcement to Lee County for specific project(s) Armory Memorial Chapel Restoration Project.

By signing this Agreement where indicated below, Lee County agrees to accept full responsibility for the Building Code Enforcement on the project(s) shown above.

Article 2. Applicants for building permits will deal directly with Lee County on all matters relating to Building Code Enforcement on these specific projects.

Article 3. Applicants for building permits will pay all relevant fees to Lee County on these specific projects, which fees may be no greater than the fees charged to others.

Article 4. This delegation does not cover the State Fire Marshall as the DIVISION has no jurisdiction over the State Fire Marshall.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement the day and year first written above.

DIVISION

Witnessed:

APPROVED:

By Christene King

By Richard A. Webb  
Richard A. Webb, Supervising  
Construction Projects  
Administrator, Code Enforcement  
Section, Division of Building  
Construction, Department of  
Management Services, State of  
Florida

LEE CO. CLERK & T.E.S.

As Witnessed:

APPROVED:

By Linda Croot

By Bob Stewart

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney,

# MEMORANDUM FROM DIVISION OF PLANNING

Date: October 26, 1995

To: Historic Preservation Board

From: Gloria M. Sajgo *MS*  
Principal Planner

RE: NOVEMBER 9, 1995 HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD MEETING

The Lee County Historic Preservation Board will meet on Thursday, November 9, 1995, at 4:00 p.m. in the East Room of the restored Old Lee County Courthouse, 2nd floor, in downtown Fort Myers.

## A G E N D A

- I. Call to Order -- 4:00 p.m.
- II. Review of Affidavit of Publication
- III. Approval of Minutes for October 5, 1995
- IV. Public Hearing on Historic Designation(s)
  - A. HD (Individual) 95-10-01, Buckingham Store (Buckingham)
- V. Public Hearing on Special Certificates of Appropriateness (SCA)
  - A. SCA 95-11-01, Sears (Matlacha)
  - B. SCA 95-11-02, DiCarlo (Boca Grande)
  - C. SCA 95-11-03, Amory Memorial Chapel (Boca Grande)
  - D. SCA 95-11-04, First Baptist Church (Boca Grande)
- VI. Presentation of Topics by Board Members
- VII. Presentation of Topics by Staff
- VIII. Future Meetings and Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lee County Planning Division at (941) 339-6206 or (941) 339-6200.

## More bids needed before church project can begin

By KAREN S. PARKER

March has come and gone and still the old Amory Memorial Chapel sits desolate at the south end of Gasparilla Island.

March was the hopeful target date for restoration of the building to begin, according to Chauncy Goss, executive director of the Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association (GICIA), which is spearheading the project.

"The hold up is that we have received only one bid from a contractor to do the work," said Goss Wednesday. "We did not feel comfortable with just one bid and have put the project out to other bidders. We're waiting for those figures now."

Other than a contractor to do the

work, all the necessary permits, plans and other paperwork is in order for work to begin on the chapel's restoration, Goss said.

Originally built by island benefactor Roger Amory so that the black people on the island would have a place to worship, the chapel has sat empty and deserted for years. Plywood boards are nailed across the windows and doors. The chapel's metal roof is rusting away and paint is peeling off its walls.

The Shilo Baptist Church, as it was originally called, was built by Amory in 1959. Amory and his wife Louise also built and endowed the Johann Fust Community Library in downtown Boca Grande. The library owned the church until 1986. About 14 years ago when

the island was slammed by the Name storm, the south end of the island flooded so badly that almost the entire church was filled with sand.

The library gave the church to the GICIA. A few years later that organization gave the church to the Florida State Park Service, since it lies within the boundaries of Gasparilla Island State Recreation Area. At one time the park service had plans to convert the church into an open-sided picnic, restroom and changing room facility.

Then in December of 1993, the GICIA, together with several other island organizations, began to talk about restoring the building and using it as a multi-purpose community meeting facility.

So far according to Goss, \$21,000

has been raised to pay for the restoration of the building.

"The Boca Grande Woman's Club has given \$8,000 toward the project," Goss said. "We've already used \$1,000 to pay the architect to draw up the plans. We will be receiving another \$5,000 from the Venice Foundation, and the GICIA has set aside \$8,000 for the project."

The GICIA also has applied for a grant from the Lee County Historical Preservation Board to pay for the roof, and both BIPS (Barrier Island Parks Society) and Boca Bay have offered to donate money and labor to do the landscaping.

"We hope to have the project completed by this fall and hold a grand opening," Goss said.



## Sickle Cell Baby Contest and Modeling Show Praised By Audience

A bevy of vivacious and beautiful models with professional charm and carriage were slightly up-staged by four beautiful babies and their parents as they burped and slept through the main event of the evening at the Delta Development Center Sunday evening.

Vivian Hill, president of the Lee County Sickle Cell Association sponsored the event as part of a fund-raising ventures to help defray expenses for community education and public relation effort to promote programs combatting the sickle cell disease and its effect on African-Americans. Mrs. Shelia Moore served as the host and moderator of the program. More than ten models, male and female participated in the evening affair.



1st place winner - Lester Denson III; parents Lester Denson Jr. and Pamela Goldsmith

### Baby Contest Winners:

\* 1st place - Lester Denson III, parents, Lester Denson Sr. and Pamela Goldsmith.

\* 2nd place - Jerrica Williams, parents, Marshall & Jacquie Williams.

\* 3rd place - Deja Williams, parent, Audria Maybin, grand parent.

Thomas Winn Jr. and Mary Winn.

\* 4th place - Jamal Hodges, parents, Crystal Lyons and Grandmother, Ms. Lyons. Thank you to all who assisted in making this event successful.

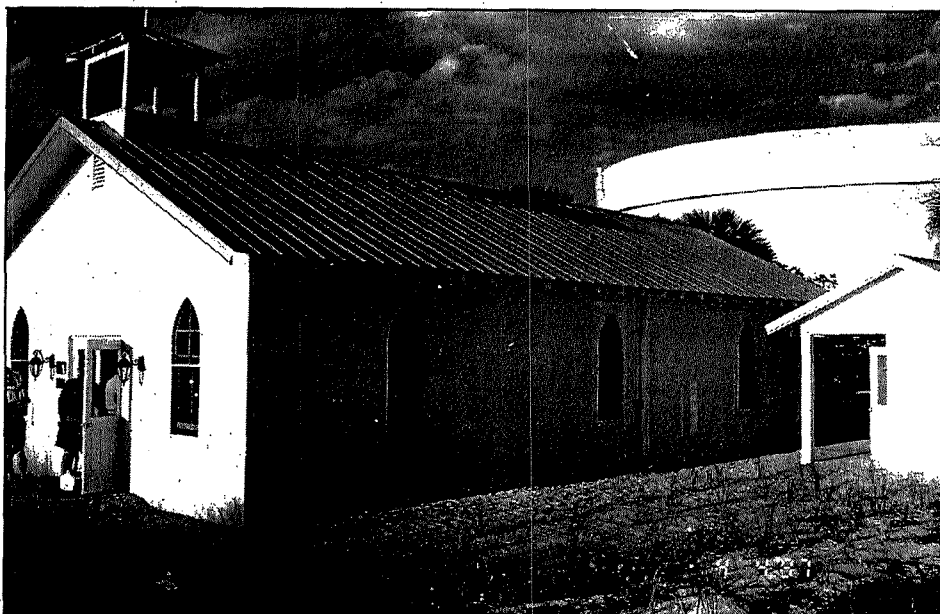
Shelia Moore, excelled as Master of Ceremony.

Continued on page 3

## Black Church's Heritage Remembered in Boca Grande

On April 4, 1997, the last remaining Black structure known as the "Armory Chapel" was rededicated into a community facility. Blacks in Lee County are very thankful to the Boca Grande Woman's Club who first thought the vacant church facility could be used into a community facility instead of demolishing it and turning it into bathrooms. Blacks are grateful because the history of the church will remain alive by remembering the days when it was used by Black Baptist and Methodist congregations.

Boca Grande has been the cradle of a strong legacy in Black history. During the early 1900's, Boca Grande was settled by expert fisherman builders and their families who were engaged in Domestic work. Mae Ola Nickson of Fort Myers, was the principal and educator of a one room school for students. Her mother Angelita Swain-George, preceeded her as a teacher. Her husband was a former minister of this historic church.



Former church for Black restored in Boca Grande. Nina Rogers, historian attended the education ceremony.

"STRENGTH THRU UNITY"

## The Causes on Males on Female Violence

Dear Dr. Faulkner:

In a recent column you implied that all cases of wife-beating are not the fault of the males involved. Are you attempting to justify a male's physical assault on a woman?

Mrs. R.:

When a woman is assaulted during her relationship with her mate, it is not usually a sudden, unforeseen explosion. There are many signs over a long period of time that indicate the approach of an emotional or physical breaking point and the possibility of violence. Constant anger and continuous argument, followed by abnormal silence, suggest that the individual is attempting to cope with the mountain of turmoil within. These signs must be acknowledged and dealt with. Only a foolish person goes into an intimate relationship without having investigated the emotional security of their potential partner.

I certainly do not approve of any person assualting another. Our men have a responsibility to respect our women. If a man feels intimidated or threatened by his lady, he should communicate this feeling to her and seek the aid of a third party to solve the problem.

Black males today are in a depressed state, financially and psychologically, and the pressures are greater upon him than ever before. Some males are time bombs with a short fuse, ready to explode at any time. If a male lacks coping abilities, he is likely to attack the person closest to him, at the slightest provocation. His wife, girlfriend, or family tend to be closer to him during his time of desperation.

Violence by the male in a relationship is usually an attempt to rescue his lost self-esteem or lost manhood. His lady should at first help

compassion. If this does not work, she should seek outside advice or slowly distance herself from the affair. Constant criticism of the mate chips away at his sense of manhood, bit by bit, until his tolerance is exhausted. Violence is sometimes the unfortunate result.

Violence is reaffirmation of enormous problems. It is also a reflection of the obvious troubles confronting the relationship of Black males and females. Violence is both unacceptable and avoidable. However, until social pressures are toned down and respect between the sexes increased, it is likely to continue.

Write to Dr. Faulkner at: 5722 Green Street, Suite 302, Philadelphia, PA, 19144.

(The views expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect those of this publication.)

## A Moment In African American History

By Nadine Lewis

Can you name the first African American ever to be directly elected to all three branches of government-the legislative, the executive and the judicial?

Carl B. Stokes was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives, in the legislative branch in 1962. In 1967, he was elected to the executive branch as Mayor of Cleveland Ohio, and was elected to the judicial branch as judge of Ohio's largest court, Cleveland Municipal Court in 1983.

Perhaps one of the most consistent trailblazers in American politics, Stokes has served this country in many ways. He was a U.S. army veteran, an assistant Cleveland city attorney, and state legislator before winning Cleveland's mayoral contest in 1967. His impressive lists of African American "first" includes: First African American ever elected mayor of a major city, "first" African American democrat to be elected to the Ohio General Assembly, "first" African American to hold the office of President-elect of the National League of Cities, and the "first" African American attorney to serve as general counsel to a major American labor union, the United Auto Workers.

Once a high school drop-out, Carl Stokes

Law (B.S.L.) in 1954, and a Doctor of Law (LL.D.) in 1956. He also received honorary doctorate degrees from 14 colleges and universities and has been a visiting lecturer at universities across the United States and Europe.

Stokes, who when he became Cleveland's mayor became mayor of the eighth largest city in the United States, is a bona fide "hometown boy makes good" story. He rose through the political ranks to become mayor of the city in which he was born and raised, and which he loved. He was also senior partner in the law firm of Stokes and Green; and was an WNBC news anchorman. His final service to his country was as United States Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles.

Upon the untimely death of Carl Stokes last year, U.S. Congressman Louis Stokes said, "above all, my brother was proudest of the fact that he was the first Black American to acquire the political power to break down barriers and open unprecedented opportunities for minorities." Rep. Stokes added that his brother, the great grandson of a slave, was an inspiration to African American everywhere. "He has left a legacy that will always be remembered," the Congressman added.

Carl B. Stokes shares *A Moment in African American History*.

For more information about Black History and Culture, write to: Nadine L. Lewis \* P.O. Box 2286 \* Columbus Ohio 43216



### Public Notice

The public is hereby advised that pursuant to HUD Consolidated Plan Citizen Participation and Consultation Plan, Lee County is submitting to HUD for its records on/or about May 9, 1997 after a public meeting before the Board of County Commissioners on/or about May 7, 1997 the following amendments:

1. CDBG Year 7, B-96-UC-12-0013, Project ID #23, Juvenile Commitment Facility. This project is being reduced by \$42,630 to \$117,370. It will ultimately be reduced to \$0 once the uses for the remainin \$117,370 are finalized. The \$42,630 will transferred to the project listed below.

2. CDBG Year 7, B-96-UC-12-0013, Project ID #4, Dunbar Public Intrastructure Project. The \$42,630 is being transferred to this activity to facilitate the construction of the above sidewalks.

Comments and questions should be directed to the Planning staff at the Department of Human Services, Communi Improvement Office at (941) 656-7930, 83 Pondella Road, Suite #1, North Fort Myer, Florida.

DS/ae962

PO#701878

### The Community Voice

#### Mailing Address:

3046 Lafayette St.  
Ft. Myers, Fla. 33916

#### Office:

2455 Fowler St.

Charles P. Weaver - Publisher  
Cory Weaver - Computer Operator  
Cedric P. Weaver - Sales Representative



SB PA



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By MARILYN HOECKEL

The Community Church at the south end of Gasparilla Island, which served the black community of Boca Grande for nearly 25 years as a place of worship, and which then sat empty and forlorn for 16 years, has received a new lease on life.

Although the little cinder block building will no longer serve the community as a church, it has been renovated and was formally re-dedicated as the "Community Church" last Friday evening. Nearly 70 islanders attended the ceremony, which could not have been more appropriate or heartwarming.

The Rev. Jaynie Nell Hickman of the Boca Grande United Methodist Church played the organ which her church donated to the building, while folks enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and punch provided by the Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association, which spearheaded the renovation.

Pansy Cost, our town librarian and local historian, gave a short talk on how the church came to be in the first place. The various organizations which contributed to the renovation effort were recognized; and the simple ceremony ended with a prayer by Thomas Philpot, who was a deacon in the Community Church when it served the people who lived at Tarpon Pass Estates and who referred to himself as possibly the "oldest surviving member of the

church."

The total cost of renovating the Community Church was \$64,345. Funding was provided by the GICIA, the Boca Grande Woman's Club, Lee County's Historic Preservation Board and The Venice Foundation. BIPS (Barrier Island Parks Society) provided the labor to landscape the grounds of the church with sea oats, and Boca Bay donated coco plums which were planted on the east and north sides of the building.

The building will serve as a meeting place for the community. It will be managed and maintained by the Florida Park Service's Barrier Islands GEO Park, which has its headquarters in the nearby Boca Grande Lighthouse. Individuals or organizations wishing to use it should contact park staff at 964-0375.

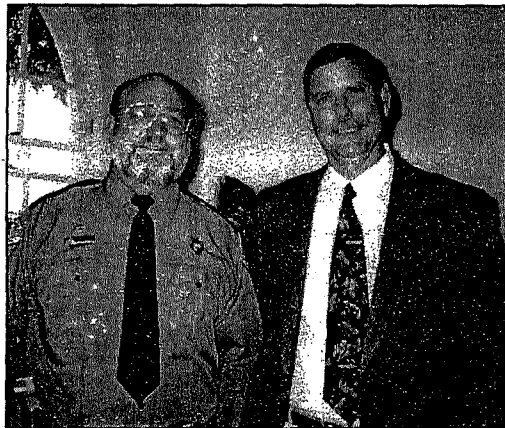
The original brass plaque which has been on the church since it was built for the black community of Boca Grande in 1959 has been polished and once again occupies a place of honor next to the front door. It reads: "Community Church erected to the Glory of God by Roger and Louise Amory, 1959."

Surely the Amorys and all the folks whose church this was for so many years would be happy to know that the building has been preserved and has entered a new phase of usefulness to the community of Boca Grande. Hopefully it will do so for many years to come.

Photos by  
Dusty and Marilyn



Thomas Philpot, former deacon of the Community Church, offered a few reminiscences and a prayer.



Barrier Islands GEO Park District Manager Mike Murphy (right) came from Osprey to attend the ceremony. At left is GEO Park Manager Reggie Norman.



Pansy Cost, our town's librarian, gave a little talk on the church's history.



Ken Burch (left) and Chauncey Goss on the dune walkover near the church. Ken and his brother Randy, of Burch Building Contracting, renovated the old chapel. Goss is director of the GICIA, which was in charge of the project.



The Rev. Jaynie Nell Hickman played the organ.



Nina Denson Rogers (right), of Lee County Black History Inc., and Gloria Saigo of the Lee County Historic Preservation Board, came from Fort Myers for the re-dedication.

## The BUYER'S BROKER

of Boca Grande, Inc.



375 PARK AVE.  
P.O. BOX 1769  
BOCA GRANDE, FL 33921



PETER SIEGLAFF  
ZEKE SIEGLAFF

Ph: (941) 964-1414  
Fax: (941) 964-1500

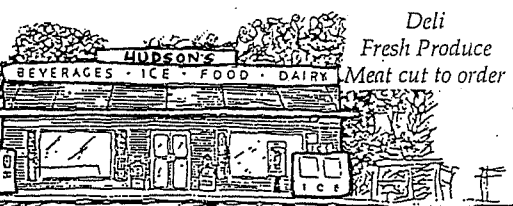
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964-2621  
PARK AVE., BOCA GRANDE

## YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from page 13

### Feb. 23

- Veteran tarpon angler Dixie Hollins announces that he will sponsor two brand new tarpon tournaments in Boca Grande Pass in the spring. They'll be called the Hollinswood Tarpon Tournaments and will be live bait only.

- Parking problems abound downtown, as always during season, but it's probably worse this year than ever. In an effort to help alleviate congestion problems, the GICIA, which has built and maintains 75 parking spaces along East and West Railroad Avenues, asks island residents, business people and employees to make use of the public parking lot at the west end of Fifth St. and spaces on W. Railroad.

- The Beacon reminds people, in the wake of the accident that has left 57-year-old Carolyn Pratt, a first-time visitor to Boca Grande, in a coma, that it is Florida law that bicycles must be equipped with lights front and back if they are operating at night.

## MARCH

### March 1

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers tells the Beacon that there will be no dredging of the Charlotte Harbor Navigation Channel (Boca Grande Pass) in 1996 because of a funding shortage. Dredging was last done in 1993, and the project has already been postponed twice. Harbor pilots say the situation is getting dangerous because of the shallow depth of the channel.

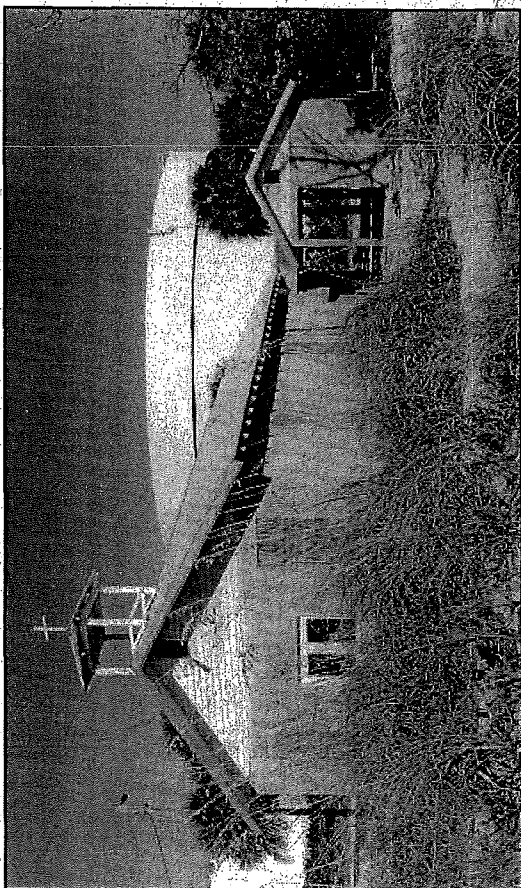
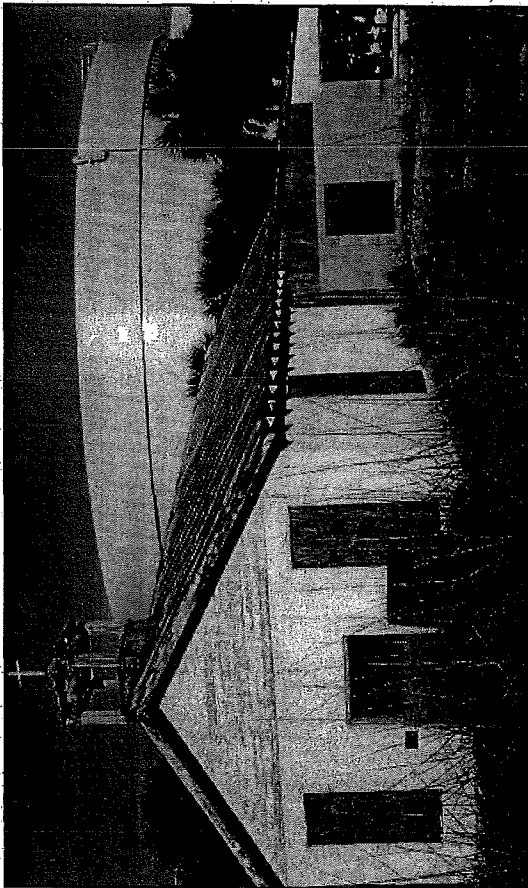
- Carolyn Pratt of Massachusetts dies as a result of head injuries sustained in an accident on the Boca Grande Bike Path on Feb. 17. She was 57.

- The GICIA announces that beginning in May you will be required to obtain and display a sticker on your golf cart if you intend to operate it on the bike path from First St. north, the part of the path owned and maintained by the GICIA. Stickers are free to GICIA members.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued on page 15

The Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association spearheaded an effort to renovate the old Community Church at the south end of the island. The church, formerly known as the Shiloh Baptist Church when it was located in downtown Boca Grande, is shown before renovation (above) and in November, after the project was well under way.



DSNL \*\*\*\*\* LEE PROPERTY APPRAISER (NAME-ADDRESS-LEGAL) \*\*\*\*\*

STRAP: 26 43 20 00 00009 0020  
TIITF/DNR REC + PARKS

C/O DNR DOUGLAS BLDG  
TALLAHASSEE

FL HWDWXA

32399 N/R: 000040

\*\*\* VALUES \*\*\* \*\*\* EX VALUES \*\*\*

JUST: 64,780 AG.: 0

ASSD: 64,780 HX.: 0

TXBL: 0 WID: 0

BLDG: 6,830 DIS: 0

LAND: 57,950 WLY: 64,780

NCST: 0 ENG: 0

PVAL: 68,450 WDR: 0

SOH : 0 DIFF: 0

SITE: 990 BELCHER RD 33921

# SALE PRICE D.O.S. BOOK PAGE TC VI PAGE: 00015

1: 100 03/88 1983 0684 01 I LINE: 830

2: 100 01/87 1897 1186 01 I

NBHD CODE: 09-109-0.00

F1=NEXT F2=PREV F4=MAF F7=NAME F8=ADDR F9=CONDO F12=TRIM

PARCEL IN HISTORICAL DIST

DOR...: 82 FOREST, PARKS REC

LOC...: LEE COUNTY UNINCORPORATED

LEGAL1: PARL IN S E 1/4 SEC 26

LEGAL2: TWP 43 R 20 DESC IN

LEGAL3: OR 1897 PG 1186

UNIT MEAS.: SF #UNITS...: 11590.00

1ST TAX YR: FRONTAGE: 0

YR SPLIT...: 00 DEPTH...: 0

YR CREATED: 00 E/I NUM.: 00000

ENERGY CD.: S/D VAL.: .00

ENERGY YR.: S/D CODE:

APRVED BY.: 31 DSC.....:

TAX AUTH...: 005 ZONING...:

PRIOR DOR.: 71 PEND.....:

PRIOR STRP:

MAINT DATE

07/23/93

\*\* \*\*

Date: 11/13/95

LEE COUNTY  
SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS NO. SCA 95-11-03

<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Contributing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual Designation	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Historical
---------------------------------------	---	--	---

Designation No.: HD 95-03-01  
Project Name: Amory Memorial Chapel  
STRAP No.: 26 43 20 00 00009 0020  
Applicant: GICIA  
Address: P O Box 446 Boca Grande FL 33921

YOUR APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS HAS BEEN

/ APPROVED: Certified By: Gloria M. Sajo  
Date Certified By Staff: 11-13-95

       DENIED: For the reasons outlined below:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Section Ten of Lee County Ordinance 88-62, as amended, states:

**SECTION TEN: APPEALS**

Any aggrieved party may appeal a decision of the Board by filing a written notice of appeal within fifteen (15) days of the date the Board's written decision is rendered. The notice of appeal shall be filed with the Hearing Examiner and a copy provided to the Historic Preservation Board staff which shall state the decision being appealed, the grounds for the appeal, and a summary of the relief sought by the aggrieved party.

Appeals shall otherwise be pursued using the procedures set forth in §900.02.A., "Appeals from Administrative Matters," of the Lee County Zoning Ordinance Number 86-17, as amended, or as may be further amended or replaced from time to time, and in accordance with Lee County Administrative Codes adopted to implement the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance.





NOTICE OF DECISION  
ON  
SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS NO. SCA95-11-03

Contributing	Non-Contributing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual Designation	Not Historical
--------------	------------------	--	----------------

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on 11-9-95, the Lee County Historic Preservation Board voted to:

☐ Approve  
☒ Approve with conditions *Shape and size of the vents at the gable ends of the building (church building) identical to the ones on the original building.*  
☐ Deny

Special Certificate of Appropriateness SCA95-11-03 on reverse side.

The Historic Preservation Board made the following finding(s) of fact:

*the subject structure has been designated under Chapter 22 of the CDC and on the basis of staff analysis the proposed project as approved is in compliance w/ Chapter 22 of the CDC*

A copy of this notice, the Special Certificate of Appropriateness (and other documents if appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_

have been furnished to the following persons:

c/o TIFF IDNR  
Pam Houck  
Bob Stewart  
Chavney Boss

(Property Owner) *w/ post plans*  
 Director, Zoning Division *w/ post plans*  
 Director, Codes & Building Services *w/ post plans*  
GICIA *w/ plans*



Florida Site File No. \_\_\_\_\_

SCA 95-11-03

COA NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
DESIGNATION NO. HD95-03-01  
DATE FILED: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE ISSUED: \_\_\_\_\_  
APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
DENIED \_\_\_\_\_

LEE COUNTY  
SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS  
APPLICATION

<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Contributing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual Designation	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Historical
---------------------------------------	---	--	---

Name of Project: Amory Memorial Chapel  
Location: 990 Belcher Road Boca Grande FL  
Strap No.: 26-43-20-00-00009.0020  
Name of Applicant or Agent: GICIA  
Address: P.O. Box 446  
City/State: Boca Grande FL Zip: 33921 Phone: 813 964 2667

Name of Historic District, if applicable, check all that apply:

- ☒ Building  
☐ Archaeological Site  
☐ Object  
☐ Landscape Feature

Project Description: (describe all work proposed)

Type of Work: ☐ Alteration ☒ Demolition ☐ New Construction  
☒ Reconstruction ☐ Excavation ☐ Relocation

Narrative: Demolition of non historically significant additions;  
reconstruction + rehabilitation of the church for use as  
community meeting room / multi purpose room

Change in Use: ☒ yes ☐ no

If yes, explain: Building is currently vacant

Does this use require a variance, special permit, or special exception under the Zoning Ordinance? ☐ yes ☒ no

If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Has a development order or exemption been applied for prior to or concurrent with this application? If yes, give the development order number or the exemption number and date of application.

No

#### SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

☒ Full plans and specifications (9 sets of plans, 1 set of specifications).

☒ Site plan (2).

☐ Samples of materials if needed to fully describe the proposed appearance, color, texture, materials or design of the building(s), structure(s) and any outbuilding, wall, courtyard, fence, landscape feature, paving, storage or exterior lighting.

☐ Adequate information to enable the Historic Preservation Board to visualize the effect of the proposed action or adjacent buildings and streetscape within a historic district.

☐ Demolition applications only: Provide plans for the reuse of the property.

☐ Moving applications only: Provide reasons for the proposed move, and a description of the new location and setting.

☐ Archaeological sites: Full plans and specifications indicating areas of work that might affect the surface and subsurface of the archaeological site or sites.

☐ Proposed mitigation measures.

☐ Archaeological surveys, if required by the Historic Preservation Board, including disturbance of human burials.

































WITH ELEVATION

1/4" = 1'-0"

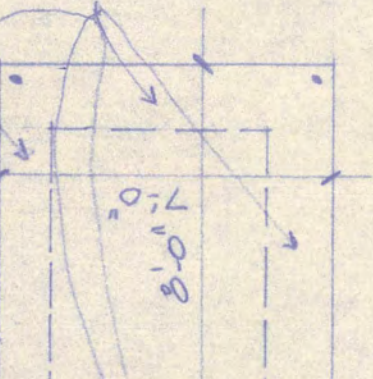
*Can't be the same shape as the new*

RE-FURBISH BELLRY





THICKEN SLAB TO 1'-0" X  
1'-4" W/ 2-#5@ CONT., BTM.



PLAN

