



Hurricane Ian

Hurricane Ian Historic Palm Cottage Restoration News

It is with a sense of resilience and hope that I write to you: our Members, Volunteers, Donors, and Community Friends. Without minimizing the vast challenges surrounding your own homes (and those of your family members and others throughout the City of Naples), I would like to share an update with you on Naples Historical Society's restoration plans.

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Society has engaged the services of John Brechel, owner of **JCB Construction** and **Classic Carpentry**. John's reputation as a consummate restorer of historic houses and his talent as a Master Carpenter is evident in each of his teams' projects. We are fortunate to have him guiding and working with us.

The assessment of Ian's damage is multi-fold, and not surprising.

Historic Palm Cottage™ suffered the most damage and is our chief priority. Every plank of the Dade County Pine flooring will be removed, cleaned, repaired, treated, restored and replaced (first floor only). That is the goal, but because there are some planks that will not make it, we have a "salvage" plan in place. The gorgeous baseboards, drywall and some column finishes have a great deal of moisture. Our general contractor has a plan to address this. The tabby mortar walls have moisture too, but luckily this will not evolve into mold because tabby material is not "food" for mold. Of course, we will address the water tabby water-wicking issue as well. The good news is that the A/C is working again!



Buckling floors throughout the 1st floor of Historic Palm Cottage.

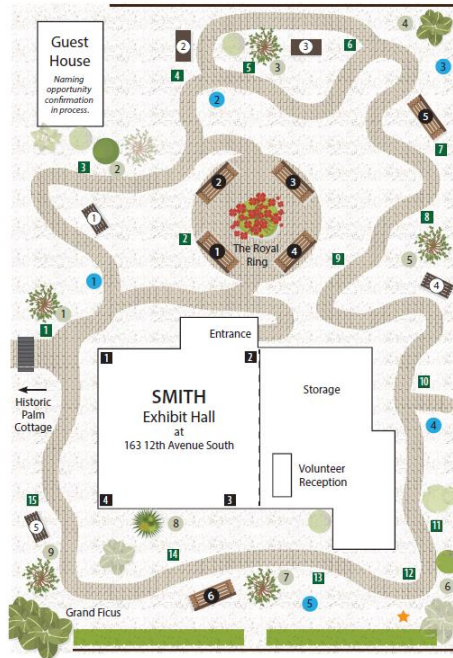
The **Carla & Bruce Conley Second Chance Foundation Palm Cottage Guest House** flooring and walls will also need to be restored using the same process as the Cottage main house. We have faith this little guest house will be charming once again.

The Norris Gardens at Palm Cottage (shown right) also suffered, but in an entirely different way than the Cottage. We are cutting back vegetation and are irrigating to see what plants we can work with going forward. In the end, The Norris Gardens at Palm Cottage will once again tell the story of Naples' history through the lens of a garden. (*Insurance does not cover landscape/vegetation.*)



Hurricane Ian blasted the von Arx Pioneer Garden, but Ian doesn't know how hearty this beautiful garden is.

The **Smith Exhibit Hall** (aka, the Society's new property at 163 12th Avenue South) was already slated to be adapted into an exhibit space. This plan, inside and out, has not changed! Work on this new property was planned before Hurricane Ian and, therefore, is already covered in the original project estimate provided earlier this year.



Visit the Society's website for more information on
Protecting Palm Cottage in Perpetuity.

This new property also includes an equally sweet **Guest House** which will need restoration as well. Its work will not replicate the Cottage Guest House, but it does require significant interior repair.

The total projected GENERAL COST ESTIMATE to restore Historic Palm Cottage and the two Guest Houses is under \$500,000, plus other anticipated restoration costs (i.e. furniture restoration costs, etc.)

We have initiated an **insurance claim**. This will be the first in the Society's history! We believe that: (a) some insurance companies survive by denying claims (we have a plan to address this), and (b) there will be numerous other items not covered by insurance that will need charitable financial support. Please know that your 100% tax-deductible support means everything at this time.

Following are two giving options: (1) Donate a gift of stock to the Society's Hurricane Ian Recovery efforts by calling 239-261-8164, or (2) Send a check payable to "Naples Historical Society" in any amount to:

Naples Historical Society
Hurricane Ian Recovery
P.O. Box 201
Naples, FL 34106

On behalf of Naples Historical Society, we look forward to welcoming you to Historic Palm Cottage when the time is appropriate. We'll issue an update on our restoration progress later this year. Thank you for your kind consideration, your patience, and good wishes.

Sincerely,
ELR
Elaine Reed, MPA
President & CEO

The Society is the Central Voice of Naples History.
[Become a Member.](#)

Contact

Naples Historical Society

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Historic Palm Cottage
137 12th Avenue South
Naples, Florida 34102

[DRIVING DIRECTIONS](#)

MAILING ADDRESS:

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(239) 261.8164

OUR MISSION:

Naples Historical Society is dedicated to preserving Naples history and heritage for the community and future generations to enjoy.

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