

## Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) December 2017 Newsletter

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER by John Furey



#### HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The end of December brings the "High Holiday Season" celebrating Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and the New Year over a three week time span. The Board of Directors and Officers of SWFAS wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous 2018 New Year.

#### NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SPECIAL NOTICE: EARLY PROGRAM PRE-REGISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED

Please plan to attend our January presentation at the IMAG in Ft. Myers on January 17, 2018. It begins at 5PM with a reception, and it offers you an opportunity to see the IMAG Museum and to learn that Ft. Myers has a top notch historical and scientific museum for adults and children. **Pre-registration is strongly encouraged** as the event has a limited capacity. To pre-register go to the IMAG website: <u>https://www.eventbrite.com/e/night-at-the-museum-the-lenses-of-science-and-history-tickets-41370631673</u> and pre-register early to be assured of a place. The event is a free public program.

### THE CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HORR HOUSE - KEY MARCO, FL

Shortly after Hurricane Irene visited us, Charlie Strader (our SWFAS Treasurer) took a trip to Everglades City, Goodland and Marco Island to see how much damage they incurred. As a part of that trip, he visited the Captain John F. Horr House, built around 1877, on Southern Marco Island (formerly named Horr's Island) and was shocked to see that the hurricane had destroyed the entire front portion of the first floor of the building. What remained was badly in need of immediate action to try to save the remainder of the building from collapsing.

The house is one of the few remaining "tabby" constructed houses left in our area and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The site is also listed as an archaeological easement off of Whiskey Creek Drive. Tabby is a simple type of concrete made up of equal parts lime, water, sand and shell. The lime was made from burning old shells from an archaeological site as new shells have too high a salt content and can't be used. The tabby material would be mixed and poured in layers in a wooden framework much like cement. The island has several shell mounds and Whiskey Creek Drive splits to go around two of them. Wherever tabby construction was used, it ravaged our coastal shell mounds and caused further archaeological destruction. Archaeological excavations on Horr's Island were conducted in the Summer of 1979 by Alan McMichael and Jerald Milanich and were the basis for McMichael's Masters Thesis at the University of Florida (UF) in 1982. Subsequent investigations by Michael Russo resulted in his doctoral dissertation at UF in 1991.

The lintels over the doors and windows have rotted and the wall area above the windows and doors have significant cracks in them posing a danger of collapse. In an effort to get some mitigation to protect this unique resource, Charlie contacted Ray Bellows, Zoning Manager, with the Collier County Zoning Division and staff person for the county's Historic and Archaeological Preservation Board, to discuss the situation since the structure is designated historic by the county. All that could be done was to put it on their meeting agenda. Charlie then contacted Kaite Maline, Manager of the Key Marco HOA Community. They had no funds set aside to resolve this, but she said that the HOA would meet in January and we could make a presentation to them to try to fund the mitigation. We decided that we would do this but received permission to shore up what we could right away. On Friday 11/17/2017 Charlie and I went to Marco and shored up one window and one door. Others were too dangerous to even attempt. It is our hope that these actions will help hold things in place until a real solution can be found soon.

I have enclosed a few articles on the Captain John F. Horr house to acquaint you with its history and will report on what the outcome of our attempt to save what is left of the Captain John F. Horr House. The articles include a Wikipedia page on Captain John F. Horr and Sections 7 and 8 from the National Register of Historic Places. These pages provide a historical snapshot how pineapple farming at Marco Island in Southwest Florida began. It was a short lived new crop in the post- Civil War period.

### **DUES REMINDER**

It's that time of year again when 2018 SWFAS dues become due on January 1. Your dues support continued archaeological presentations locally. SWFAS staffs the Craighead Archaeological Laboratory at the Collier County Museum and we form a group of committed individuals who are continually monitoring our archaeological and historical legacy here in Southwest Florida. A great example is the John Foley Horr House on Marco Island that we present in this Newsletter. Please use the attached form to renew or join. We appreciate your continued membership and support.

## JANUARY 17, 2018 (WEDNESDAY) NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: THE LENSES OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY MATTHEW JOHNSON, Director, IMAG 5pm Reception 6pm Program

IMAG History and Science Center, 2000 Cranford Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida



The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society, in partnership with Lee Trust for Historic Preservation, and the IMAG are hosting a reception and welcome you to visit the new IMAG, formerly the Imaginarium. **Event pre-registration is strongly encouraged** as the theatre has a limited capacity. To register, go to: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/night-at-the-museumthe-lenses-of-science-and-history-tickets-41370631673 . The reception begins at 5pm and the IMAG is open for you the see their exhibits such as: a 3,200 Gallon fish tank with local fish, a nanotechnology laboratory, earth and space exhibit, virtual reality exhibit, a feed the stingrays by hand exhibit and many more. Several of the exhibits are interactive and perfect for

young children. The IMAG and the former Southwest Florida Museum of History (SWFMH) were combined and many of its exhibits are available as well. Matt Johnson, the Director, will speak about the science and history mission of the IMAG in the Theater in the Tank at 6pm. **This is a free event**.

The study of Science and History are two lenses we use to understand our world. By practice, these studies have been segregated in informal learning environments like museums. The mission and vison of the IMAG History and Science Center focuses on the merger of these lenses to foster a comprehensive understanding of our world. Matt Johnson, director of the IMAG, will discuss the process behind making this change and the philosophy in developing a product that accomplishes this goal.



Matthew Johnson holds a degree in History from Florida Gulf Coast University. He was appointed Director of the Southwest Florida Museum of History in 2001 and the

Imaginarium Science Center in 2005. He recently oversaw the combination of the two facilities rebranded as IMAG: History & Science Center. Managed as the non-profit Imaginarium Group, Matt serves as Executive Director.

#### SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 2018 SPEAKERS PROGRAM (all SWFAS events are free)

FEBRUARY 21 Wednesday, 7:00 pm	BLACK HISTORY MONTH SLAVERY AND THE SEA: EXPLORING MARITIME ASPECTS OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE COREY MALCOM, Director of Archaeology, Mel Fisher Maritime Museum, Heritage and Key West, FL IMAG History and Science Center, 2000 Cranford Avenue, Ft. Myers, FL
MARCH 21 Wednesday, 7:00 pm	ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH MADE FROM THE SANDS OF FLORIDA: EGMONT KEY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA PAUL BACKHOUSE, PhD, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Seminole Tribe of Florida IMAG History and Science Center, 2000 Cranford Avenue, Ft. Myers, FL
<b>APRIL 18</b> Wednesday, 7:00 pm	THE SCIENCE AND ART OF READING BONES HEATHER WALSH-HANEY, Associate Professor, Florida Gulf Coast U Collier County Museum 3331 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL 34112
MAY 11-13	FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY 70th ANNUAL MEETING

#### DECEMBER FIELD TRIP: BIG CYPRESS SEMINOLE INDIAN RESERVATION, THE AH TAH THI KI MUSEUM



On Saturday December 9, 2017 a group is 18 of us visited the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki museum at the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation and, despite the cool rainy weather, a wonderful time was had by all. The museum is a real treasure of Seminole art, history and culture. We were given an escorted tour of the museum by Alyssa Boge who explained what we were seeing and answered the many questions that the group asked. The dioramas are breathtaking and were all created at the museum. The face of each manikin was made from a mask of a tribal member and represents all age groups and each costume is unique as well. Alyssa led us on the outside

walkway through the swamp that showed different camps and a basket weaving exhibition and explained living in a wet environment.

After lunch the group reassembled outside the museum at the fire pit and we were met by Dr. Paul Backhouse, Ph.D. Tribal Historic Preservation



Officer and Museum Director and "welcomed with smoke" from the campfire under the chickee outside the entrance to the museum. Paul is a longtime SWFAS member and he was especially happy to greet the SWFAS group to the museum. Our first stop was the Seminole Research and



Archive Library inside the museum. The library houses the special founding documents of the Seminole Tribe of Florida as well as books, periodicals and a large collection of photographs. We then visited the preservation offices where we got to see the location of the many Seminole land holdings in Florida and the extent of the Big Cypress Reservation. The Big Cypress Swamp is the core area to the Seminoles as it was their refuge when the US Army hunted down their ancestors to either kill them or relocate them to Oklahoma. It allowed them to seemingly disappear whenever the army decided to invade.

We then went to the archaeological and historical storage vault area and visited the canoe collection; each made from a single tree, several of which were over 30 feet long. Canoes were a critical resource in a wet environment like the Big Cypress and in the actual Everglades. The ability to make canoes is being preserved by the tribe, however, the large trees that were available in the past are no longer available today and must be brought in from Louisiana. Next to the canoe storage area is the archaeology laboratory where artifacts are processed. All enclosed areas have sections with glass walls to allow everything to be seen openly to dispel any mistrust that the tribal members may have with what the archaeologists are doing with ancestral artifacts. The manikins are also made in this area.

Everyone came away with a much better understanding of what the Seminole culture is and the many conflicts that their ancestors had to endure to get to modern day today. All were highly impressed with the professionalism and passion that Paul Backhouse demonstrates in his role as a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and his dedication to the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Thank you, Paul, for sharing this enthusiasm with us. For those who could not attend, Paul is SWFAS's March speaker in Fort Myers.

### SWFAS SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR THE 2018 CALANDER YEAR

At the SWFAS Board of Directors meeting on November 29, 2017, the following slate of candidates were proposed for 2018:

Officers	Trustees		
President: John Furey	First of 3-year term:		
First Vice-President: Jim Oswald	Jan Gooding		
Second Vice-President: Elizabeth Clement	Amanda Townsend (pending)		
Secretary: Susan Harrington	Third of 3-year term:		
Treasurer: Charlie Strader	Theresa Schober		
	Mary Southall		
	William Locascio		

### SWFAS OLD NEWSLETTERS

Thanks to those of you "pack rats" that saved some of the old missing SWFAS Newsletters and donated them to complete our collection for the website. Having these documents creates a historical trail of what SWFAS has been doing since its founding in 1980 and the website enables each of us to go back in time and experience the impact that we, as a group, has had here locally to advance Southwest Florida archaeology. While we continue to have several blanks in our collection, it may be that many of the missing newsletters were never published.

### MYAKKAHACHEE CREEK/ LITTLE SALT SPRING WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CROSSING

SWFAS received a request from the Board of Directors of the Warm Mineral Springs / Little Salt Springs Archaeology Society to write the North Port City Commissioner's supporting the maintenance of a wildlife corridor between Little Salt Spring archaeological site and Myakkahachee Creek. Open space, without corridors between them, doom local animal populations and North Port has whittled away at this corridor over the years to the point that this would cut off and create an island of Little Salt Spring and local endangered species. On November 7, 2017, SWFAS President John Furey wrote the City Commissioners supporting their stand in favor of the maintenance of the corridor.

## ARTICLES: THE CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HORR HOUSE AT KEY MARCO

### JOHN FOLEY HORR

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia at <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\_Foley\_Horr">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\_Foley\_Horr</a>

Captain John Foley Horr (February 15, 1843 in Mechanicsburg, Ohio – February 13, 1926 in Jacksonville, Florida) was a resident and owner of Horr's Island (now known as Key Marco) located at the southern end of Marco Island, Florida. He was one of the notable federal officials in the State of Florida.



By Cristoph3r - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index. php?curid=29823368

Captain Horr was a Civil War veteran, enlisting as a Union soldier in 1861 with the 2nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry.[1] After the reorganization of the regiment in Camp Dennison, he was elected to the rank of Second Lieutenant. After the Battle of Perryville in 1862 he was promoted to First Lieutenant and soon after the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863, he was promoted to the rank of Captain.[2] After the end of the Civil War, Captain Horr moved to Nashville, Tennessee and was involved in the brokerage business. Shortly after, Captain Horr relocated to Kansas City, Missouri and purchased coal mines in Lexington, Missouri. As he grew his coal business, he built the Steamer J. F. Fraser to move his product through points along the Missouri River. Captain Horr eventually sold his mining interests and spent the next 5 years transporting products along the Red River and Ouachita River before eventually settling in Florida.[3]

In 1876, Captain Horr was appointed to the Office of the Collector of Customs as a clerk in Key West. After about 4 years, he became a bookkeeper at the John White Bank of Key West. While working in Key West, Captain Horr had purchased an island (later named Horr's Island) in northern Monroe County (now Collier County) and established a prosperous pineapple plantation and packing business on the island to supply his wholesale grocery business in Key West.[4] With the island's growing pineapple business, a residence was built for the Captain in 1877 along with a school to accommodate the growing number of residents.





In 1889, Captain Horr was appointed by President Harrison to be Collector of Customs for Key West. During these years, Key West witnessed its most prosperous years as a port. In February 1898, he was appointed as a Federal Marshall by President McKinley for the Jacksonville to Key West district of Florida and re-appointed again by President Roosevelt in 1902.[5] During the election of 1900, Captain Horr was selected to be the Republican nominee as Secretary of State for the State of Florida.[6] In 1920, he retired to Ohio and eventually sold Horr's Island in 1923 for the sum of \$10,000.[7]

Captain John Foley Horr died in Jacksonville, Florida, on February 13, 1926. His home on Horr's Island, the Captain John Foley Horr House, was listed in the U.S. National Register of Historic Places on October 8, 1997.[8]

#### References

- 1. "2nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Company K". Ancestry.com.
- 2. "Horr Families North America". Ancestry.com.
- 3. "Captain John Foley Horr Biography". Ancestry.com.[permanent dead link]
- 4. "Recollections of Environmental Change in The Ten Thousand Islands, Florida" (PDF). National Oceanic and
- Atmospheric Association. Archived from the original (PDF) on 2013-12-03. Retrieved 1998.
- 5. "Marco Fun Facts". MarcoNews.com. Retrieved 25 October 2006.
- 6. "Key West: Politics". USF.edu.
- 7. "Key Marco's Rich History". KeyMarco.net. Retrieved 2012. Check date values in: |access-date= (help)
- 8. "Collier County National Register of Historic Places". National Park Service. Retrieved 17 October 1997.

#### **External Links**

Collier County listings at National Register of Historic Places

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number \_\_\_\_7 Page \_\_\_1

HORR, CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HOUSE COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

#### SUMMARY

The Captain John Foley Horr House site is located on the north side of Whiskey Creek Drive on Horr's Island, in Collier County, Florida. The site consists of the tabby ruins of Captain Horr's House, once part of his large pineapple plantation.

#### SETTING

Horr's Island is a small island of approximately 160 acres. It lies to the southeast of Marco Island, across Barfield Bay. Horr's Island is linked to Marco Island by a bridge across Blue Hill Creek, on County Road 92 (San Marco Road). Marco Island is approximately 16 miles south of Naples. Horr's Island is adjacent to the west boundary of the Cape Romano Ten Thousand Islands Aquatic Preserve. Horr's Island and Marco Island are the only islands in the immediate area which have relatively high ground. The other islands are composed of low-lying mangroves.

Prior to the development of Horr's Island into an upscale housing development, access to the island was only by boat. In the early 1990s, a bridge was constructed across Blue Hill Creek and roads were constructed. Access to the island is now restricted by a gated entry.

The developers of the island have preserved the Horr House site and protected it with an archaeological easement. In 1995, the site was designated a locally significant property by the Collier County Board of County Commissioners.

#### DESCRIPTION

Only ruins remain of the Captain John Horr House, located on the highest, most conspicuous point of Horr's Island. The ruins are near the west end of the Island. The two-story tabby house (Photo 1) was probably oriented to the north, to overlook Barfield Bay.

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#### HORR, CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HOUSE COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The house rested on two, poured, tabby footings. It had tabby flooring, approximately 6 inches thick. The house was rectangular in shape, measuring 12 feet by 35 feet, with the long axis oriented east-west. The walls on the west end of the house average 16.5 inches in thickness (Photo 2); those on the east end are 12.5 inches (Photo 3). The thicker walls would offer more strength to bear the weight of a second story, which was erected on this portion of the building.

The interior and exterior walls have a smooth, stucco-type surface (Photo 4). Areas that reveal the interior wall composition show the use of a number of whole shells in the tabby material (Photos 5 and 6).

The insertion areas of the floor rafters are clearly visible on the interior walls of the second floor section of the building (Photo 7). Nothing remains of the roof.

An interior wall divided the first floor into two rooms, joined by a doorway (Photo 8). An exterior door was located on each facade of the house. Seven window openings are evident on the first floor; the upper floor appears to have had 5 or 6 windows. Fragments of the wood door and window jamb material are present (Photo 9). Cast iron lintels are also visible in some window openings (Photo 10). However, no door or window hardware remains. A hole near the top of the east wall may have served as a stove pipe outlet (Photo 11).

A historical photograph (Photo 12) and information obtained from John H. Brautigam (Captain Horr's great grandchild who spent time on the island as a youth) indicate that at some point a frame porch extended almost all the way around the house. Horr also enlarged the house with a frame addition on both floors. The historic photograph reveals a long one story wing extending from the west side of the house. Several small outbuildings are shown west of the house. A packing plant was located west of the house, on the waterfront.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86) OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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HORR, CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HOUSE COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Currently, the growth of vegetation within the tabby walls poses the threat of structural damage to the remaining ruins (photos 13 and 14).

A tabby cistern is located approximately 3 feet beyond the east wall of the house. The walls and floor of the cistern, excavated 5 feet below grade, were also of tabby. For safety reasons, the cistern has recently been covered over and is no longer visible.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 1

#### HORR, CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HOUSE COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### SUMMARY

The Captain John Foley Horr House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a significant site under Criteria A and C in the areas of Exploration and Settlement and Architecture. The tabby ruins of the house, constructed ca. 1877, represent an unusual construction technique for this area of Florida. Captain Horr played a significant role in the development of Horr's Island, Marco Island, and Collier County.

#### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

#### Early Occupation

The coastal area of southwest Florida, from Gordon's Pass at Naples south to Cape Sable has been called the area of "Ten Thousand Islands." The area consists of a low lying coastal region with many tidal rivers, bays, sounds and lakes with thousands of shoal water islands and mangrove swamps. The land surfaces is this area are nearly all below five feet elevation except where shell and sand dunes rise higher. The largest island in this area is Marco Island, consisting of approximately 6,000 acres.

This area of Florida was originally occupied by Calusa Indians. After suffering disease and death during the early Spanish explorations of Florida, by the late 1700s only their shell mounds remained. Spanish-Cuban fisheries were established along the southwest Florida coast at least as early as the beginning of the seventeenth century. At first the fishing was seasonal, with the fishermen arriving from Cuba in late August and establishing fishing camps (ranchos) on the coastal island. The fishing season closed in March. The ranchos were usually rebuilt annually at the same locations, and consisted of thatched huts and racks for drying fish. By the late eighteenth century, several groups of Cuban and Indian fishermen were inhabiting their ranchos year round. By the 1820s, American fishermen were also working the southwest Florida coast and soon began to establish permanent settlements. They cultivated some of the

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### HORR, CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HOUSE COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

larger islands, supplying fruits and vegetables to the fishing fleets and, later, directly to the Havana market. Islands with extensive shell middens seem to have been preferred for agriculture. John Lee Williams explored the area in the 1820s and found several settlements in the Marco/Horrs Island area, including "several well cultivated plantations, long hid from the civilized world."

By the later 1830s, the Second Seminole War was underway and U.S. troops had been sent to the area to remove the Seminoles. In 1838, a U.S. Army expedition found several deserted American or Cuban plantations and one Seminole camp in the Marco/Horrs Island area, and several large plantations on Cape Romano. The Army reports described an island with "bluff banks and high ground throughout where once was a very large plantation, and upon which the Lemon and Sugar Cane was Cultivated." This was probably Horr's Island.

The Seminoles had been removed from the area by 1858, but settlers did not arrive in the Marco Island region in appreciable numbers until after the Civil War. W. T. Collier moved his family to Marco Island from New Smyrna in 1870. At that time, four black families were farming on Marco Island. Collier bought their claims, paid for their transportation back to Fort Myers, and set up a small store. Only one other white settler was in the area. On the surrounding islands and on the nearby mainland south and east of Marco Island small settlements appeared, flourished for a time, and died, often leaving little trace of occupation.

#### Pineapple Plantations

From the 1850s through the 1880s, pineapples from the West Indies and the Bahamas were the main source of the fruit for the Eastern United States. Subtropical pineapple production began in South Florida in 1860 when a Key West farmer planted some pineapple slips from Havana on Plantation Key. As railroads extended their tracks in Florida and shipping facilities became more plentiful, a sizable plantation industry developed on

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Florida's east coast. In 1881, pineapples were planted near Titusville, and several hundred acres had been planted in the locality of Eden by 1889. This area became a center of pineapple production.

The land used for pineapple production in Florida increased over 100% between 1895 and 1910. The greatest expense incurred in establishing a plantation was preparing the land for cultivation. Since the soils were typically low in organic matter, fertilization was necessary. Pineapple growth requires considerable moisture, and eventually the area along the Indian River proved too dry to grow the fruit. Growers began to use irrigation and shelters were built over the new growth in order to lessen the evaporation of moisture.

The kind of well-drained sandy soil necessary for pineapple production could be found on both coasts. A government scientist wrote, in the 1880s, that there was no reason the southeast coast, in the vicinity of Fort Myers, could not be successful in production of the fruit. Between 1890-1900, a few growers were producing pineapple in Orlando, Winter Haven, and Fort Myers. In 1920, twenty-seven acres near Punta Gorda was in pineapple production. The elevated dune ridge on Horr's Island was an advantage to pineapple growth, for it offered increased protection against killing frosts. On the west coast a shipping network was established to transport the easily bruised fruit to market, instead of the rail transportation favored on the east coast.

#### HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Large post-bellum plantations were established on several of the Marco area islands, probably on the sites of earlier plantations. These plantations produced fruit and vegetables. Initially, trade was limited to the fishing vessels that visited the area. However, Key West, with an increasing population and permanent naval base, had a burgeoning market for food crops. In the 1880s, a sailing vessel began to make regular trips to Key

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#### HORR, CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HOUSE COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

West to deliver produce. This attracted other settlers to the island community.

One of those settlers was John F. Horr. Horr was born in Ohio in 1843 and served in the Union Army during the Civil War. In 1865 he married Lucinda E. Frazier. The couple had three children. Sometime after his marriage, Horr moved with his family to Key West where he operated a wholesale grocery business. He also became the director of the First National Bank in Key West, and from 1889 to 1893, was the Collector of Customs for the Key West District. In 1898, Horr was appointed U.S. Marshal for the southern district, which extended from Key West to Jacksonville. He held this position for 15 years. Horr was also a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1892 and again in 1900. In 1900, he was a Republican nominee for Florida Secretary of State, but lost the election.

It was probably through his grocery business that Horr became aware of the agricultural potential of the Marco island area. Around 1877, Horr built a house on one of the highest shell mounds on an island southeast of Marco island, which has since become known as Horr's Island. It is unclear when or how Horr came to acquire the island that was to bear his name. The first record of Horr in the area is found on the 1877 survey map of Township 52 South, Range 26 East. Horr's Island is so identified and a structure labeled "John Horr" is indicated in section 22, in the approximate location of the ruins that stand today. On the eastern end of the island in Section 24 are shown a house labeled "Roberts" and nearby, a "mound."

It appears that Horr used the island chiefly as a vacation retreat, living there with his family only periodically. Because of his public activity in Key West, it is unclear how much time he could have spent on the island. He did establish a small citrus grove and a larger pineapple plantation, which were probably placed in the hands of a caretaker, with Horr functioning simply as an absentee landlord. Black workers were hired for the plantation. Horr did take the Federal Census in the area in 1880, and he could well have visited the island during certain seasons to oversee critical agricultural or

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### HORR, CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HOUSE COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

marketing operations. Enough people lived on the island to maintain a school there for a brief time. It appears that Horr grew a large variety of crops initially, but by the turn of the century he had abandoned this broad-based approach and devoted his land to pineapple production. He eventually built a pineapple packing plant and cannery. These structures are not extant. According to a 1923 deed conveying the property to E. M. Elliott, the plantation had some form of irrigation.

Information has not been located to document the size or success of Horr's pineapple production. In 1905, 370,000 crates were shipped from the east coast area. In 1909, 1,100,147 crates were shipped, but then production began to fall. By 1917, the pineapple boom in Florida collapsed and the following year only 25,000-30,000 crates were shipped. This decline in the industry was attributed to disease, soil exhausted of necessary nutrients, and competition from Cuban growers.

Although Horr operated a canning facility, the necessary rail lines to transport the canned fruit to northern markets did not exist. By the early 1920s Horr was selling his property. Parcels were bought and sold by a number of people, some apparently speculators. In 1923, he completed the sale of all of his property, including his house, and returned to Ohio. He died there three years later.

#### ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The Horr House is an unusual example of tabby construction, an early American building technique popular on the Atlantic coast from the late 1500s to the mid-1800s. Tabby, a simple concrete, was composed of equal parts of lime, water, sand, and shells. The lime was produced by burning mollusk shells, either in a kiln or in the open. The most common source of shell for the tabby was from archaeological shell middens, because freshly gathered shell was unsuitable for tabby due to its high salt content. The tabby material was poured into wooden frameworks, in layered fashion.

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### HORR, CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HOUSE COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Two major periods of tabby construction in the southeast United States have been identified: the Spanish period (1580-1763), centered at St. Augustine; and the British period (1703-1842), centered around the Charleston and Beaufort, South Carolina area, and later extending down the Georgia and North Florida coasts. This tradition fostered the most extensive use of tabby on coastal plantations. Tabby construction was highly regarded for its strength, resistance to fire, and for its economy. However, the popularity of tabby waned after the Civil War when commercially prepared cements became available at reasonable prices.

#### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

In the waning days of tabby construction on the Atlantic coast, the technique enjoyed a limited resurgence on the Florida Gulf Coast. The Braden and Gable plantations in the Manatee River area employed tabby construction almost exclusively between 1843 and 1859.

It has been postulated that Captain Horr's use of tabby at this rather late date outside the major centers of tabby construction is related to two factors. First, immense aboriginal shell deposits in the gulf coast area provided a ready source of building materials. Secondly, many of the settlers in the Marco/Horr's Island area were originally from Georgia and Carolina and may have possessed the knowledge of tabby construction. Horr could have learned of the technique from them. In addition, Mound A, a thirty foot conical shell mound approximately 100 yards east of the house, appears to have been Horr's source of shell.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

An archaeological investigation of Horr's Island was undertaken by Alan McMichael and Jerald Milanich in the summer of 1979. Field work was carried out in two stages: first, all sites were located and tentatively identified; then, test excavations

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were conducted to determine the nature of the sites and the potential of each site for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Various forms of survey methodology were employed, according to variations in ground cover and site density. Several shell middens were identified and recorded in the Florida Master Site File. After the island had been surveyed, two prehistoric sites on the north end were selected for test excavations. Although it appears that the sites may be eligible for listing in the Register under Criterion D, their archaeological significance is not addressed in this nomination.

#### **SWFAS OFFICERS 2017**

PRESIDENT.....John Furey jffurey@charter.net VICE PRESIDENT.....Jim Oswald SECOND VICE PRESIDENT.....Elizabeth Clement SECRETARY.....Susan Harrington TREASURER....Charlie Strader SWFAS TRUSTEES 2017: Theresa Schober Mary Southall William Locascio Colin Andrews

Find us on Facebook at Southwest Florida Archaeological Society!

Check out our new website at <u>http://swflarchaeology.org/</u>

#### SWFAS AND FAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

We encourage those interested in Florida archaeology to become members of The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) and The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS). Annual dues are due in January of 2017 and membership applications to both organizations are attached. Membership in the FAS provides you with four annual volumes of *The Florida Anthropologist* and occasional newsletters on anthropological events in Florida in addition to the annual statewide meeting. More information on FAS can be found online at: <u>www.fasweb.org</u>. Membership in SWFAS offers you a local series of talks on archaeological and anthropological subjects that you can attend. The SWFAS monthly newsletter keeps you up to date on local events as well as other important archaeological topics. We urge you to support both with your membership. All of the SWFAS Lecture Series are open to the public at no charge.



# JOIN US! The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society

### http://swflarchaeology.org/

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) was founded in 1980 as a not-for profit corporation to provide a meeting place for people interested in the area's past.

Our goals are to:

- Learn more of the area's history
- Create a place for sharing of this information
- Advocate for preservation of cultural resources

Its members include professional and amateur archaeologists and interested members of the general public. Members come from all walks of life and age groups. They share a lively curiosity, a respect for the people who preceded them here, and a feeling of responsibility for the conservation of the places and objects they left behind.

The Society holds monthly meetings between October and April, attracting speakers who are in the forefront of archaeological and historical research. Occasionally members join in trips to historical and archaeological sites.

A monthly newsletter, Facebook page, and website keep members abreast of our events and happenings.

The organization is a chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society, a statewide organization that publishes quarterly newsletters and a journal, *The Florida Anthropologist*, and holds an annual conference.

#### I want to help The Southwest Florida Archaeology Society preserve and interpret Florida's heritage!

State	ZIP	
Email		
Sustaining Individual (\$50)	Family (\$35)	
Life (\$500)		
FAS Speakers and Programs		
	<b>-</b>	•
	Date	
out to SWFAS and mail to:		
	State Email Sustaining Individual (\$50) Life (\$500) FAS Speakers and Programs  by the rules and bylaws of the Southwe cident and injury to myself, dependent	FAS Speakers and Programs ory the rules and bylaws of the Southwest Archaeological Society. I furn cident and injury to myself, dependents and any property owners coc Date

27655 Kent Road Bonita Springs, FL 34135

REV. 12052017

## FAS Membership

Membership in the Society is open to all interested individuals who are willing to abide by the <u>Florida</u> <u>Anthropological Society Statement of Ethical Responsibilities</u>, which can be found on our website: fasweb.org. Membership is for one year.



### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Student*	\$15	
Regular	\$30	
Family	\$35	
Institutional	\$30	
Sustaining	\$100	
Patron	\$1000	
Benefactor	\$2500	

Student membership is open to graduate, undergraduate and high school students. A photocopy of your student ID must accompany payment

Add \$25.00 for foreign addresses

Name:		Membership Type:	
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\$ Florida	Anthropologist Monograph Fund \$	Florida	Anthropologist Endowment Fund
I agree to abide t	y the Code of Ethics of the Florida A	nthropological S	ociety.
Signature	Date		Amount enclosed: \$
	Send Membership Form and Florida Anthropologic c/o Pat Balanza P. O. Box 1135 - St. Augus	al Society tegui	to:
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The Florida Anthropological Society, Inc. is a tax-exempt 501@3 organization. Tax ID#59-1084419.