

The County seat moved to East Naples in 1962 and the Court House building was taken over by the City in 1963. It has served as a focal point for City and County branch government since then.

In October 2005, City Hall was severely damaged by Hurricane Wilma and rendered unusable.



OCTOBER 2006 DURING RENOVATION

After extensive renovation, under the leadership of Mayor Sammy Hamilton and with funding from FEMA, the State, and the County, City Hall has again resumed its historic importance in the community.

The Grand “Restoration Celebration” took place on January 27, 2007, just 15 months after the building had been condemned. An estimated 400 people, including a large number of dignitaries, witnessed the official re-opening of Everglades City Hall.



RESTORATION CELEBRATION, 1/27/07

**EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

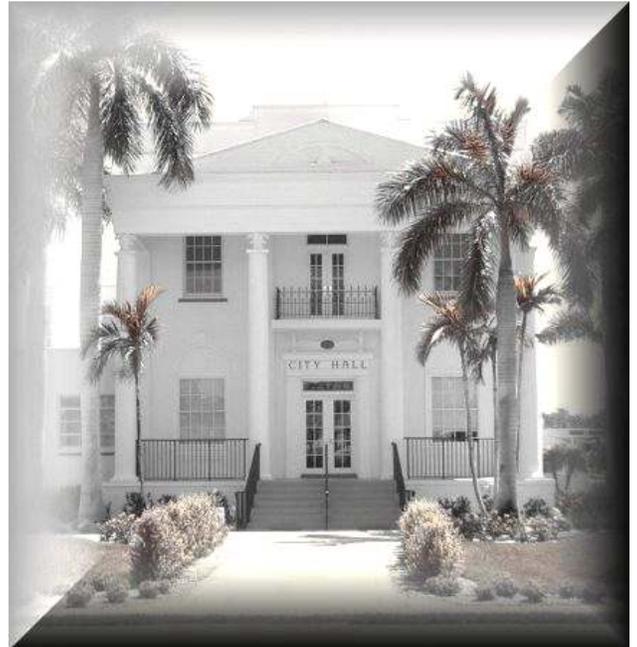
Dedicated to our Unique History

P O Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139
website: www.evergladeshistorical.org

© 2008, ESHP Inc. All Rights Reserved.

*Historical Photos Courtesy of Collier County Museums, Naples, FL
and Florida State Archives*

Historic Everglades City Hall



THE ORIGINAL COLLIER COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Everglades City Hall
Broadway on the Circle
Everglades City, FL, 34139



1928 - ORIGINAL COURT HOUSE



The old Collier County Court House, a major building in the development of Everglades City, was completed in 1928 at a cost of \$24,563.

It sits majestically on the circle, the focal point of the grid of streets and avenues so meticulously designed for Collier's planned city.

Modifications to the facade and an addition to the rear were made in the 1940s. A further addition to the west was built in 1956.



1948 — ENHANCEMENTS



AERIAL VIEW OF THE CITY IN 1928

The village of Everglades was settled in the 1870's by William Smith Allen, a Connecticut Yankee living in Key West during the Civil War. His farmlands and house were bought in 1889 by George W. Storter, Jr., who had migrated here from Georgia with his father and brother in search of a frost-free climate.

In 1921, flamboyant advertising mogul Barron Giff Collier took over the Storters' holdings as headquarters for his agricultural interests in the area. The state legislature created Collier County out of the acres he owned, on condition that the new county complete the Tamiami Trail from Naples to the Dade County line.

Collier filled in land to the east of the Barron River before laying out the streets and avenues. He built houses for his staff and the necessary infrastructure for the engineering center and county seat. There was a grocery, laundry, Post Office, Bank, Inn, Community Center, jail and Court House. He operated a telephone service, published a newspaper, and provided medical care from a tiny hospital.

It was from this base that 76 miles of road through uncharted swamp was completed in the five short years between 1923 and 1928. In addition, the town was linked by rail to the Atlantic Coast Line.

Fortunately, many of the original buildings remain: Bank, Laundry, Railroad Depot, Rod & Gun Lodge, Ivey House, some private dwellings and the old Collier County Court House.



MONUMENT FOR THE OPENING OF THE TAMAMIAMI TRAIL IN 1928