

Greenwood House: A Brief Introduction

History of Site before House was Built

- Original location near Clear Water Harbor was close to early core of the small community that evolved into present-day Clearwater.

Construction Information

- Built in the 1880s on Turner Street, near Clearwater's harbor.
- Originally designed as a three-room house, with bedroom and living room in the front, and a dining room/kitchen area in the rear. Additions to the structure (present-day kitchen, bathroom, and storage areas) appeared after the house moved from Turner Street to 503 South Greenwood Avenue. Maps indicate that some additions had occurred by October 1929.

History of Occupants

- Earliest recorded owners located to date: D. F. and Emma Crawford (through February 1926). Leland and Nannie Waldrop acquired the house from the Crawfords. Genealogical records link these families together. Other occupants (possibly renters) before 1940 included Stephen and Carrie Griffith, Bartow and Mattie Blanton, and William Maddox.
- Leland and Nannie Waldrop resided in the structure until 1943, when Louis and Bernice Fulopp purchased the home.
- The Fulopp family owned the structure until sold to Rehabilitative Associates and Clearwater Limb and Brace in 1982. Then located near a convenience store, the property was better suited to commercial activities rather than use as a personal residence. The new owners donated the house and moving costs so that the Greenwood House could move to Heritage Village.
- For many years since its arrival at Heritage Village, the Greenwood House served as the offices of the Pinellas County Historical Society. The kitchen area of the building has served as a staging area for occasional events, such as Holiday celebrations sponsored by the Historical Society.

Moving of the House to Heritage Village

- The building came to Heritage Village in poor condition. Walls and shared fireplace are original. Floors and the roof required reconstruction. Vocational-technical students did some of the work to restore the building.
- Shortly after the structure arrived in 1982, park leadership noted that the structure, once restored, would serve as the offices for the Historical Society and also provide small-group meeting space to take "a little pressure off the church."

Greenwood House

Overview

The Greenwood House, a typical Gulf Coast wood frame vernacular cottage, represents one of the earliest structures in the area of Clearwater. An unknown settler constructed this three-room home in 1888, the year the Orange Belt Railway completed its journey along the Pinellas Peninsula. At that time, less than twenty families lived in the small settlement then known as “Clear Water Harbor.” Originally located near the waterfront on Turner Street, this home sat in an area close to what some may consider the “birthplace” of Clearwater: The house occupied land near the former Fort Harrison, an early outpost used during the Second Seminole War. Members of the pioneer Turner family owned lands close to this house, and may have had some involvement with the structure’s early years.

Around 1910, the Greenwood House moved to 503 South Greenwood Avenue. Now known as Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue, this north-south roadway served as a boundary between the city and county as late as the 1940s. The first recorded owners of the home, David Filmore and Emma Rebecca Crawford, sold the house in 1926 to Emma’s sister, Nannie, and her husband Leland G. Waldrop. The Waldrops worked extensively on the house, adding a tin roof and additional rooms. They decided to sell the property to Louis and Bernice Fulopp in 1943. Although residential developments had started to encroach upon the neighborhoods surrounding the Greenwood House by that time, the Fulopps continued to raise chickens and other animals on the property for many years.

In 1982, the Fulopps sold the dwelling to Rehabilitative Associates, Inc., and Clearwater Limb and Brace. Learning of the house’s history from Louis Fulopp, company representatives approached Heritage Village with an offer to donate the house and the cost of moving it in exchange for tax considerations. By 1982 and 1983, vocational students restored the building while the Pinellas County Historical Society provided the funds for materials and appliances. For nearly two decades, the Historical Society has used the Greenwood House for its offices and as a storage area.

Pioneer Settlers in Clear Water Harbor before the Railroad Arrived

The first notable occupation of the area around downtown Clearwater occurred during the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). An outpost known as Fort Harrison sat upon land in the present-day Harbor Oaks neighborhood. The large log cabin that served as Fort Harrison occupied lands at the current intersection of Druid Road and Orange Place. Used from April through October 1841, this facility also included quarters for officers on property later owned by the Turner family, along Turner Street. An informal, typewritten history of Clearwater by members of the city's woman's club placed the officers' quarters on the exact site of the home once occupied by A. C. Turner. Unlike Fort Brooke (Tampa), Fort King (Ocala), and other military stations, Fort Harrison primarily served as a place for injured soldiers to recuperate rather than as a defensive outpost.¹

Settlers arrived in the Clearwater area after 1842 to take advantage of the Armed Occupation Act. Passed by Congress near the end of the Second Seminole War, this law encouraged citizens to move to the sparsely-populated areas of the West Coast and central Florida. Twenty years before the well-known Homestead Act of 1862, the Armed Occupation Act permitted settlers to claim tracts of land in areas formerly controlled by Seminole Indians and thereby serve as a buffer between remaining bands of Indians to the south and the growing agricultural enterprises of Middle Florida. Early residents, such as Odet Philippe's family and the McMullens, soon shared the Pinellas Peninsula with the Booths, Coachmans, Taylors, Turners, Whitehursts, and other pioneer families. Many consider James Stevens "the father of Clearwater" because he submitted the first of approximately 1,300 land claims in the area. According to the historical account produced by the woman's club, Stevens took possession of lands west of Fort Harrison Avenue (Alternate U.S. Highway 19) between Drew and Jeffords. Stevens soon persuaded John S. Taylor, Sr.—a friend of his who owned property in Brooksville—to acquire land south of Clearwater. A couple of early narratives about the Clearwater region claim that Taylor, a slave owner at the time, made an interesting offer on some of the land: Allegedly, one of Taylor's female slaves had attempted to harm him and his

family by poisoning their coffee. Taylor supposedly traded this woman for some of Stevens's land. Thus, according to the typewritten narrative from the woman's club, "the greater part of Clearwater once sold for a (N)egro woman, and a very unamiable one at that." David B. Turner arrived in 1854, soon joined Robert J. Whitehurst in acquiring Taylor's property, and created the area's first post office by 1859. Whitehurst operated the post office after the end of the Civil War. By the late 1870s, the few settlers in the area visited the Turner family's log house that served as a local mercantile store. For the record, an examination of W. L. Straub's 1929 *History of Pinellas County* and the 1917 typewritten history by the Woman's Club of Clearwater proves that Straub liberally copied from the earlier document.²

The settlement at "Clear Water Harbor"—as it was then named—remained quiet and remote until the arrival of the Orange Belt Railway in early 1888. Provisions, mail, and other materials generally came either from Tampa or Cedar Keys. With few primitive roads in the region, citrus, cotton, and other agricultural products from the area traveled by boat to Tampa, Cedar Keys, or St. Marks. The Whitehurst and Turner families grew oranges and grapefruits. Early residents also cultivated corn and sweet potatoes. Livestock roamed freely along the range. In addition, while the waters offered a bounty of fish throughout the year, during mullet season "at low tide the men could walk out and kick them ashore; the women scooped up aprons full at a time." By 15 September 1877, the area had attracted enough settlers that the "pioneer" citizens of the time decided to create an Immigration Committee at Clear Water Harbor "for the purpose of protecting society in this vicinity, and to assist immigrant(s) of good character in making suitable locations. The members of this committee will furnish all needful information to any worthy applicant for same."³

The railroad brought settlers to the area in greater numbers. Early histories of the region indicate that Clear Water Harbor had only about eighteen families when the Orange Belt Railway first came to the area in 1888. The town incorporated in 1891, and

¹ William L. Straub, *History of Pinellas County, Florida: Narrative and Biographical* (St. Augustine: The Record Company, 1929), 91; History Committee, Woman's Club of Clearwater, *A History of Clearwater, Florida by the Woman's Club of Clearwater* (Clearwater: Clearwater Evening Sun, 1917), 2.

² Lisa Coleman, *Clearwater*, Images of America Series (Charleston: S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2002), 7; William L. Straub, *History of Pinellas County*, 91-92; Woman's Club of Clearwater, *A History of Clearwater*, 2-3.

by the mid-1890s, workers had paved parts of Cleveland Street and Fort Harrison Avenue with shells from a nearby Indian mound. By the late 1890s, the community had grown into a substantial settlement, with Henry Plant's nearby Belleview Biltmore attracting seasonal visitors along the railroad line. The municipality's name evolved as more settlers moved into the area. By 1895, Clear Water Harbor became "Clearwater Harbor," and the "Harbor" officially disappeared from the city's name by 1906.⁴

An Early Gulf Coast Cottage on the Central Pinellas Frontier

Much of the Greenwood House's early history remains shrouded in mystery. Built as a three-room structure circa 1888, the house originally sat along present-day Turner Street near Clear Water Harbor. The home occupied an area close to the site of the officers' quarters of Fort Harrison, and about two blocks from the original fort. If built in 1888 as generally believed, the Greenwood House represents one of the earliest structures in Clearwater. Unfortunately, nothing is known about the occupants of the home before it moved to Greenwood circa 1910. One may speculate that the families living in the building used it as their primary residence, because few wealthy seasonal visitors would have stayed in a smaller home. The occupants may have engaged in agricultural activities or fishing during the early years, but participated in other non-agricultural vocations as the City of Clearwater grew around them. The shared fireplace between the bedroom and living room indicates a more sophisticated structure than the simpler log cabins or smaller cottages (such as the Boyer Cottage of Tarpon) often built during the late 1800s.

The Greenwood House's original proximity to the Turner property certainly merits further investigation. Ernest Dibble's 1982 research into Pinellas County property records failed to locate any transactions of the Greenwood House between 1912 and 1926. A cursory examination of Hillsborough County records also provided little information, though additional cross-referencing of Turner's original land claim with subsequent land plats granted by the 1890s may reveal new information. For example, many of the properties along Turner Street carry the short legal description "Turner's, A. C." first appearing in plat books circa 1892. With fewer than twenty families in the

³ Woman's Club of Clearwater, *A History of Clearwater*, 3-5, 26; Straub, *History of Pinellas County*, 92.

⁴ Woman's Club of Clearwater, *A History of Clearwater*, 6; Straub, *History of Pinellas County*, 93.

immediate area of Clear Water Harbor at the time of the Greenwood House's construction, it may be possible that Turner or another pioneer family had an original interest in the property that they maintained for many years, until circa 1910.⁵

While additional research may prove or disprove a direct connection between the Turners and the Greenwood House, occupants of the structure certainly knew about the many contributions of the Turner family. David B. and Mary Campbell Turner lived in Madison County, Florida, during the early 1840s. While there, Mary gave birth to A. C. (Arthur Campbell) Turner on 26 February 1844. The Turners moved to Benton County, in the area now part of Hernando County, from 1848 until 1850. After relocating to Tampa, the Turners settled at or near Indian Rocks Beach by December 1851. They later relocated to the area that became Clear Water Harbor. David became the first postmaster of a post office along the Pinellas Peninsula, at a location close to the original site of the Greenwood House. Straub's *History of Pinellas County* described the circuitous route of the weekly mail deliveries from Middle Florida. During the 1850s, the weekly parcels first traveled to Alligator (now known as Lake City) by stagecoach, then by steamer along the Suwannee River with a stop at Cedar Keys before arriving at Clear Water Harbor. During the Civil War, both David and A. C. Turner joined a military company organized by James McMullen known as the "Home Guards." After an interruption of mail service during the Civil War, A. C. Turner followed in his father's footsteps by serving as postmaster from 1874 until 1885. By the 1880s, he also operated a small mercantile store for the settlers in the area. Turner printed issues of the *Hillsborough Times* on a small hand press he had acquired from Edgar and Joel McMullen, and later served as a Hillsborough County commissioner representing the central Pinellas Peninsula during the 1887-1888 and 1907-1908 terms. Before his death, A. C. Turner had married three times, and bore twenty children. By the early 1900s, A. C. Turner's family became a prominent part of Clearwater's society.⁶

The home probably moved from Turner Street to 503 South Greenwood (now Martin Luther King, Jr.) Avenue at a time when waterfront construction, rising property values, and massive redevelopment of the nearby downtown may have made this simple

⁵ Memo from Ernest F. Dibble to Heritage Village, 6 May 1982, located in building research files, Heritage Village Library and Archives, Largo.

cottage appear out of place. Larger and more ornate homes appeared along the bluffs during the first decade of the 1900s, such as David N. Starr's Seven Gables, a winter home completed in 1907 that also resides at Heritage Village. Laborers probably transported the home due east along Turner, and placed it on the second plot of land just northeast of the intersection of Turner and Greenwood. Tragic events along Cleveland Street during the summer of 1910 marked an important turning point in Clearwater's young history that may have possibly played a role, though this remains speculation at best. During the early morning hours of 24 June 1910, a fire swept across and destroyed most of the wooden buildings along the north side of Cleveland Street in the downtown area between Fort Harrison Avenue and Osceola Avenue. As city leaders created a volunteer fire brigade to guard against future conflagrations, merchants and property owners along Cleveland Street replaced their wooden tinderboxes with block and concrete structures. Thus, one may speculate that the Greenwood House moved from docks near Turner to the boondocks along Greenwood as the building frenzy sparked a renaissance in downtown Clearwater.⁷

The Greenwood House Grows, as Families Come and Go

The Crawford family represents the earliest known residents of the Greenwood House. David Filmore and Emma Rebecca Crawford moved to Pinellas Peninsula by the 1920 census. David, a native of Kentucky born 20 February 1866, married a woman also from Kentucky who did not appear in census records. They became a couple by about 1890, moved to Alabama, and had three children: Edna (born circa 1891), Frank (born circa 1893), and Hall Crawford (born circa 1895). By the late 1890s—possibly 1898—David F. Crawford married his second wife, Edna R. Griffith, a native of Alabama. The family apparently lived in Alabama during the first decade of the twentieth century, with 1910 census records placing David, Emma, and the three children in Bessemer City, Alabama. At the time, forty-three year old David worked as a track supervisor for a railroad company. By February 1920, David and Emma Crawford lived in southern Clearwater, where he worked as a farmer in an orange grove and both of them became

⁶ Straub, *History of Pinellas County*, 481-482; Woman's Club of Clearwater, *A History of Clearwater*, 4.

⁷ Coleman, *Clearwater*, 31; Woman's Club of Clearwater, *A History of Clearwater*, 8.

active members in the local Methodist church. The Crawfords made acquaintances with members of the McMullen family. The three children lived outside of the Greenwood House by that time. An abundance of nearby citrus trees along the outskirts of Clearwater provided steady employment during the fruit-harvesting season for Crawford. On 16 February 1926, the Waldrops of Alabama acquired the Greenwood House from the Crawfords. After the Crawfords sold the Greenwood House in early 1926, they apparently moved to a residence along Turner Street valued at about \$5,000. There, at the age of sixty-four, Crawford worked as a fruit grower on a grove. He and wife Emma also hired a seventeen-year old Tennessee native to act as their live-in “servant,” Juanita Agee. Pallbearers at Emma’s funeral in October 1943 included E. R. Turner and Dr. Byrd McMullen. After his wife’s death, David Crawford moved to Tampa and later spent the last two years of his life at the Masonic Home in St. Petersburg. He died on 26 March 1949.⁸

Family ties between the Crawfords and the Waldrops merit further investigation. While available census records failed to give Emma Crawford’s maiden name, her 1943 obituary mentions a brother, H. A. Griffith of Alabama, and a sister, “Mrs. L. G. Walldrop” of Clearwater as survivors. The Crawfords had sold the Greenwood House on 16 February 1926 to Leland Gordon Waldrop and his wife, Nannie Griffith Waldrop. Thus, a cross-reference of census records and obituaries proved that David and Emma Crawford sold the house to Emma’s sister and brother-in-law. The oldest of six children born to Almus Baxter and Maturia Victoria Griffin Waldrop, L. G. Waldrop entered the world on 7 November 1873 at the family homestead in Shelby County, Alabama. His parents lived much of their lives in Jefferson County, Alabama, where his two brothers and three sisters were born. Leland married Nannie Griffith, also a native of Alabama, probably on 21 November 1899. Leland’s career with the railroads sent him and Nannie throughout the South. During the 1910 census—while David Crawford worked as a track supervisor on Leland’s home turf of Jefferson County, Alabama—Leland rented a home in Sheffield, Alabama, where he served as a railway official. By 1920, Leland and Nannie lived in Belmont Heights (Davidson County), Tennessee, and he listed his occupation as

⁸ Census records described in this narrative reside in building files located at Heritage Village Library and Archives, Largo; Ernest Dibble memo. Emma R. Crawford’s October 1943 obituary claimed she had lived

railroad superintendent. After purchasing the Greenwood House, L. G. and Nannie Waldrop still spent most of their time outside of Florida. As late as 1930, they rented a home valued at \$5,950 in Nashville, where Leland continued to work as a superintendent for a railroad company. While Emma and Nannie connect the Crawford and Waldrop families as owners of the Greenwood House, further research of the similar paths taken by David and Leland in the railroad industry during the early twentieth century might also uncover heretofore unknown connections.⁹

The Greenwood House remained in an undeveloped area east of Clearwater until the early 1940s. Sanborn maps from October 1929 and 1949 show the structure on the east side of South Greenwood Avenue, between Chestnut (now Court) and Turner streets. Less than one block away at 423 South Greenwood sat a Church of God for African-American parishioners that changed its name to Emanuel Tabernacle by the 1940s. Steven (or Stephen) O. Griffith—nephew of sisters Emma and Nannie—lived or oversaw tenants at the Greenwood House in 1931 with his wife, Carrie M. At the time of David Crawford’s death, an obituary noted that David’s nephew, S. O. Griffith, had moved to St. Petersburg. Here again, further research of the Griffith family may reveal new connections. The only “S. O. Griffith” located in St. Petersburg at the time was a Steven Oscar Griffith, who lived with his wife “Mayme” at 1521 – 19th Avenue South. As early as 1926, this Griffith worked as a firefighter in St. Petersburg. By 1930, he became a lieutenant and Mayme worked as a waitress at the Peoples Quick Lunch restaurant on 627 Central Avenue. During that year, they lived at 1212 Highland Street North, in St. Petersburg. They remained at their Highland Street home in 1931—the same year a Stephen O. and Carrie M. Griffith supposedly occupied the Greenwood House. It is possible, though still conjecture that the Griffiths may have served as landlords for the Greenwood House while living in St. Petersburg. The Griffiths moved from Highland Street to Nineteenth Avenue South by 1933. Aside from a stint in the United States Coast

in Clearwater for twenty-three years. See: *St. Petersburg Times*, 22 October 1943, 27 March 1949.

⁹ Ibid. Additional information on the Waldrop family came from information located on *Ancestry Plus*, <http://awt.ancestry.com>. Records supplied by the Waldrop family place the marriage of Leland and Nannie Waldrop on 21 November 1889, which would have made Leland sixteen and Nannie only twelve years of age. While “child brides” remained common in rural areas well into the late 1800s, self-reported information from census records has Leland’s age at or about twenty-six and Nannie at or about twenty-two when they exchanged vows. Thus, they probably married on 21 November 1899, with the first reported date representing a typographical error.

Guard during World War II, this S. O. Griffith rose from lieutenant, to assistant fire chief, and ultimately fire chief (during the 1950s and early 1960s) of the City of St. Petersburg. Additional genealogical research may indicate whether Stephen O. Griffith of the Crawford/Waldrop families is the same Steven O. Griffith who led the St. Petersburg Fire Department (also, was Carrie M. Griffith's middle name or nickname "Mayme"?).¹⁰

Although they did not live year-round in Clearwater at the time, the Waldrops made substantial changes to the house during the 1920s and 1930s. L. G. Waldrop added rooms to the house (the present-day sewing room, bathroom, and kitchen areas) by extending the roof along the back and one side. A "buggy shed" on the property had at one time served as a garage for carts and other vehicles. This structure may have arrived with the house circa 1910. Waldrop removed the wood shingles from the house and shed—probably during the 1930s—when he placed metal roofs on both structures. He used some of the wooden shingles to cover walls of the buggy shack.¹¹

The Waldrops rented the Greenwood House to tenants before they retired to Clearwater in 1941. For example, Bartow Z. and Mattie M. Blanton rented the home by 1934. The Blantons had two sons, Palmer A. and Percy P., and operated Blanton's Market at 301 South Fort Harrison. They lived in the home until at least 1937. By 1939, William M. Maddox, a shipping clerk, moved into the Greenwood House. He may have wanted to live in close proximity to a Charles M. Maddox, who then occupied 506 South Greenwood. The 1941 Clearwater city directory revealed that Leland and Nannie Waldrop had finally moved into their house by that year.¹²

The Fulopp Family Moves to Florida and Acquires the House

The Fulopps purchased the Greenwood House from Nannie Waldrop on 8 May 1943 and held it for the next thirty-nine years. Louis and Bernice Fulopp first settled in

¹⁰ Sanborn Map Company, *Fire Insurance Maps: Florida* (Teaneck, N.J.: Chadwyck-Healey, 1983), April 1904 map, microfilm reel 1; *St. Petersburg Times*, 27 March 1949; an examination of R.L. Polk's city directories for Clearwater and St. Petersburg provided useful information about the occupants of this structure and S. O. Griffith.

¹¹ "Greenwood House," undated memorandum from Rehabilitative Associates, Inc., located in building site files, Heritage Village Library and Archives, Largo; summary transcript of interview with Bob Fulopp, conducted at Heritage Village, 2003, a copy of which appears in building files, Heritage Village Library and Archives, Largo.

¹² See available issues of: R.L. Polk's *Clearwater (Pinellas County, Fla.) City Directory*.

Pinellas County in 1940. A native of Czechoslovakia born on 20 June 1903, Louis had also resided at the Isle of Pines, Cuba. Handy with tools, he became a molder at the Rotary Juice Press in downtown Clearwater by 1944. Before retiring, Louis also worked on foundries for Clearwater-based Aerosonic, Inc. He married Bernice, a native of Pasadena, California, born on 23 July 1906. While Louis practiced Catholicism, Bernice joined the First United Methodist Church after they settled in the city. They shared the home with three children, Adrienne (“Dede”), Yvonne, and Robert. As a young man, Kendrick Ford, former director of Heritage Village, knew “Dede” as a friend and acquaintance.¹³

A recent interview with Robert Fulopp revealed details about the interior of the Greenwood House. During the school year, the three children did their homework at a table in the living room. The parents often listened to the radio in the living room; after the family purchased a television, the children had an incentive to finish their homework quickly so they could watch the tube. A telephone table sat in the far corner of the room, away from the porch and doorway. Bernice, Adrienne, and Yvonne often played the piano. As father, Louis had his own chair that “nobody would dare sit in” whenever he was at home. Other family members shared a couch perched alongside the living room window. Parents Louis and Bernice slept in the original bedroom. Bob remembers that his father often kept the window open during cool winter nights to remind himself of Czechoslovakia, forcing Bernice to cover herself with quilts to keep warm. The present kitchen area of the Greenwood House served as the daughters’ bedroom and storage area for pantry goods, while Bob slept in the small room next to the dining area and adjacent to the living room. The kitchen and bathroom occupied the far right corner of the building. The family used the kerosene stove in the kitchen to cook meals and help heat the home during cold winter evenings. Lacking a water heater, the Fulopps had to heat kettles of water in order to take warm baths.¹⁴

Bob Fulopp also described the property and the “buggy shed.” Living in a semi-rural area, the Fulopps raised chickens in their yard. Louis purchased “a couple dozen” chickens from a feed store located on Park Street each year. Young Bob’s chores

¹³ Ibid.; *St. Petersburg Times*, 21 March 1997, 10 February 1998; interview of Ken Ford, former director of Heritage Village, by Stephanie Ferrell and Jim Schnur, 3 May 2003, Heritage Village, Largo;

included feeding the chickens, providing them water, and collecting eggs. During his conversation, he recalled that he often grew fond of the fowl and became sick in the stomach when it came time to slaughter the chickens for food. One year, Louis brought home a small chicken that had a bad leg. Robert named the bird “Benny” and kept it as a pet. Benny followed Bob around the yard, and Bob kept her away from his father’s hatchet and the dinner table. Benny, who once laid an egg while sitting on Bob’s lap, died on a summer day when Bob began a trip to Tallahassee. Bob remembers that his mother often made shirts for him out of chicken feed sacks. He and his friends spent many afternoons playing in a bamboo thicket, until he encountered a rattlesnake. After that, he remembered exercising a great deal of caution whenever a ball landed in the bamboo. For awhile, the family owned a goat that Yvonne cared for and fed. Seven Australian pines provided shade in front of the house along Greenwood. The property also included hedges, two camphor trees, a persimmon tree, holly, a jacaranda, and other shrubs. The “buggy shed” already sat on the property when the Fulopps purchased the Greenwood House from the Waldrops. Since they had neither a buggy nor an automobile when they moved into the house, the Fulopps originally stored their bicycles and other possessions in this shed. When a neighboring parcel changed hands, surveyors learned that the garage crossed over the Fulopp’s property line, leading the family to demolish the buggy shed.¹⁵

A Rehabilitative Move

Louis and Bernice Fulopp decided to sell their home along South Greenwood in 1982. Then in their late seventies, they may have wanted to move to a quieter residential setting. Since at least 1973, the property north of their home—at the southeast corner of Greenwood and Court Street—had operated as a convenience store (most of that time as a 7-Eleven). Address directories from the early 1990s placed Louis Fulopp at 1546 Simmons Drive, in the Belleair Park Estates subdivision one block west of Lake Drive, between Nursery and Belleair roads. Records of the Pinellas County Property Appraiser’s office available electronically indicate that their vintage 1968 home was purchased for \$60,000 in November 1981. With their son living in Georgia and daughters nearby, the

¹⁴ Summary transcript of interview with Bob Fulopp.

¹⁵ Ibid.

Fulopps decided to sell the Greenwood House in early 1982 to Rehabilitative Associates, Inc., and Clearwater Limb and Brace. During discussions with Rehabilitative Associates, Louis Fulopp told Dr. Donna J. Rodriguez—that company’s executive director—about the house’s earlier history. Fulopp mentioned to Rodriguez that “Mrs. Hart of Hart Cleaners” was born in the Greenwood House. As the Fulopps settled into their new home on Simmons Drive, leadership at Rehabilitative Associates contacted Heritage Village about the possibility of moving the structure. Meanwhile, the Fulopps enjoyed their final years of their sixty-five year marriage at their home on Simmons Drive. Bernice passed away on 21 March 1997, and Louis joined her in eternal rest on 7 February 1998.¹⁶

The owners of Rehabilitative Associations, Inc., and Clearwater Limb and Brace donated the Greenwood House to Heritage Village in early 1982. These entities also paid the moving expenses as part of a tax write-off. Due to the presence of other structures on the western and southern boundaries of Heritage Village, movers had to bring the Greenwood House onto the property along Walsingham Road behind the site of the Safford Pavilion, a structure that arrived in pieces from Tarpon Springs in May 1982. Members of the Pinellas County Historical Commission discussed possible uses for the Greenwood House at their 19 May 1982 meeting. Director Kendrick Ford told commissioners that plans called for the Pinellas County Historical Society (PCHS) to use the structure for storage and office space after restoration, and that the building may also offer a venue for smaller meetings in order to take “a little pressure off the [Safety Harbor] church.” Ford added that the Historical Society had already discussed the possibility of refurbishing the back room as a kitchen for events at the park. By November 1982, administrators at the Pinellas County Vocational Technical Institute approved a plan to allow students to assist with the restoration. The Historical Society covered the cost of materials required during this project, estimated at \$7,000-8,000. This total included funds for appliances and a central air conditioning system. While workers replaced the tin roof with wooden shingles similar in form to the original rooftop, PCHS leaders formed a “Greenwood House Committee” in early 1983 that selected items and

¹⁶ “Greenwood House,” undated memorandum from Rehabilitative Associates, Inc., located in building site files, Heritage Village Library and Archives, Largo; *St. Petersburg Times*, 21 March 1997, 10 February 1998. For information of the Fulopp’s house on Simmons Drive (Pinellas County parcel number: 23/29/15/07092/000/170), visit: <http://www.pao.co.pinellas.fl.us>.

furnishings for the restored structure. Park employees cut out the opening between the dining room and the kitchen area. The walls of the original three rooms required little work, though vocational students and other workers had to replace some of the tongue and groove planking of the floors. Society officers established their headquarters in the building after workers completed the rehabilitation.¹⁷

¹⁷ Records of the Pinellas County Historical Commission, Heritage Village Library and Archives, Largo, 19 May 1982, 17 November 1982, 16 February 1983, 18 May 1983; Ken Ford interview; "A Short History of the Greenwood House," undated memorandum, located in building files at Heritage Village Library and Archives, Largo.