

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE NORTH BREVARD MUSEUM

The Historical Society of North Brevard was originally formed in September 1966 by about 10 local residents who were interested in doing something to preserve the history of the area. The first meeting was held at the home of Bill and Tina Kennedy. Some of the others involved included Ruth Barnhart, Bob Hudson, Rod Northcutt, Kay Phillips, Mary Schuster and Marge Threlkeld. At each meeting they would decide where to meet next. Meetings were held wherever they could find space. Decisions made by the early members included the creation of By-Laws, design of the logo and the designation of boundaries covered by the museum.

In 1971, the city of Titusville awarded the use of half of the Mildred Bruner Library for a Historical Museum. The members got it in shape but then the Titusville Art League, who had the other half of the building demonstrated the need for more space so that eliminated the Museum at that time.

The Historical Society was established as a not-for-profit organization and became incorporated in 1982. The Magnolia Theater was to be renovated to house the Emma Parrish Theater and funds were raised in 1982 to 1984. The Historical Society was to have the use of the space at the west end of the building for a Museum. However, since the Playhouse needed additional funds, the space was renovated and rented as an attorney's office.

The purpose of the society at the time was to be "The collection, preservation, recording and display of historical artifacts, photographs and written records of an area to stretch from Port St. John to the Volusia County Line and from the Atlantic Ocean to the St. John's River." That charter exists to this day. The society between 1966 until 1988 mostly meeting in various members homes, until acquiring our present location in historic downtown.

1988 - A local businessman, Glenn Patch donated the space at 301 South Washington for the museum which was renovated for this use. This generous gift was made permanent in 1995 by Mr. Patch with the addition to the building at 303 South Washington. These buildings house the Society and the museum's collection to this day.



GEORGE WHITE, Star-Advocate

MUSEUM WORKS: Barbara and Glen Patch, left, meet with Jewell Lemon and Bob Hudson of the North Brevard Historical Museum. The Patches recently donated two buildings for museum operations, the current museum building at 301 S. Washington Ave. and the adjacent building at 303 S. Washington Ave. The donation will help the Historical Society of North Brevard, which was formed in 1966, carry out expansion plans for the museum.

MAY 1989 – Under the direction of Les Widick, Society President and Bob Hudson, Vice-President, a fund-raising drive got underway in the effort to refurbish and install new facilities.



Les Widick, Kay Phillips, Pat Widick, Ruth Barnhart

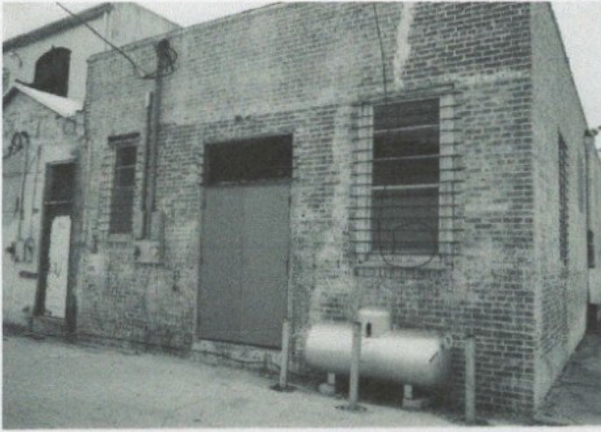


Bob Hudson aka "Colonial Titus" and his wife Dot Hudson.

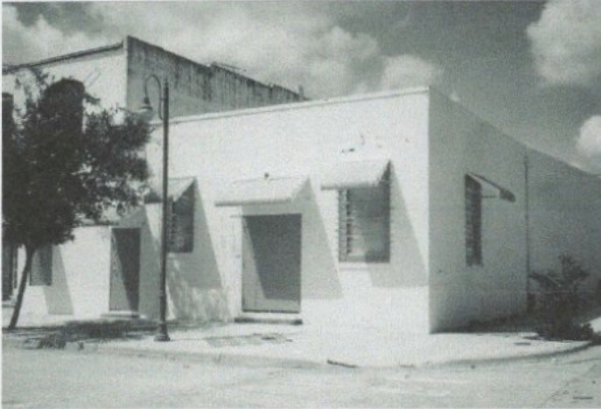
The present home to the museum has had several renovations by generous people including Les Widick, Herb Lorenzo and William "Bill" Mattingly.



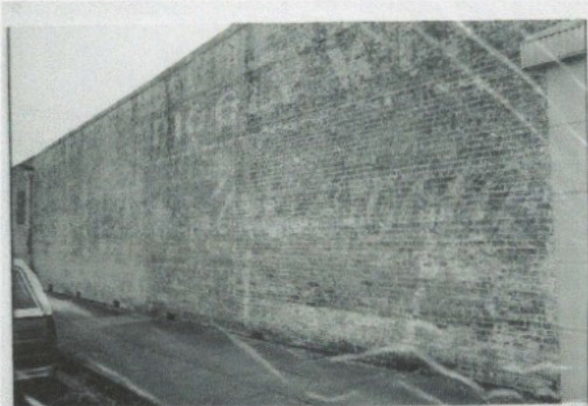
Bill and Betty Mattingly hanging wallpaper.



Back of Museum after Pressure Washing.



Back of Museum after Painting



After pressure washing you can still make out the Piggly Wiggly sign. This side is where our beautiful Mural is now.

The historical artifacts in the Museum have been donated by individuals and organizations. This collection continues to grow with new items arriving often.

The Historical Society receives no funds from the City of Titusville, the County of Brevard or the State of Florida. All operating funds are obtained by membership dues, donations and fund raisers.

There is no charge for admission to the museum. We are an all-volunteer organization

We are always looking for fun and interesting people to help staff the museum. If you have some spare time and would like to volunteer as a Docent for a few hours a month, please contact us by email: titusvillehistory@gmail.com or call us and leave a message at (321) 269-3658.