Stuart, Florida

Stuart is located on Florida's East Coast, which borders the St. Lucie River and west of the Indian River. The climate is pleasant with mild winters and warm summers. The annual average temperature is 72°. Annual rainfall averages 70.44 inches. Stuart is rich in art and history. As you are exploring our City, or using the Art and History Map as a guide we are sure you will appreciate the rich variety of the active expression of our history, creativity, and community spirit.

Stuart is famed for sail fishing and all other types of sport fishing. You can enjoy ocean fishing, river and bay fishing, fresh water fishing. The North and South Forks of the St. Lucie River are tropical wonderlands for cruises. Stuart has quaint older neighborhoods in the downtown area. There is a mixture of town homes and condominiums. Stuart's successful revitalization program has made the downtown area a pleasant ambiance, lined with shops and restaurants.

Stuart was first settled in 1870, incorporated 1914, and chartered 1925. Known as the County seat, Stuart was originally named Potsdam from 1893 to 1896, by Otto Stypmann one of the earliest settlers of Stuart (History of Martin County, by Janet Hutchinson) Otto Stypmann and his brother, Ernest, came here in 1892 and were originally from Potsdam, Germany. The Stypmann brothers originally owned what is now known as "Downtown Stuart", and were large landowners. They started their fortunes here in pineapple farming. The name was changed to Stuart after the FEC railroad was established and was named after Homer Hine Stuart, Jr., another early settler. For more information regarding the history of Stuart, please visit our Stuart Heritage Museum at 161 SW Flagler Avenue, open daily from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

City of Stuart

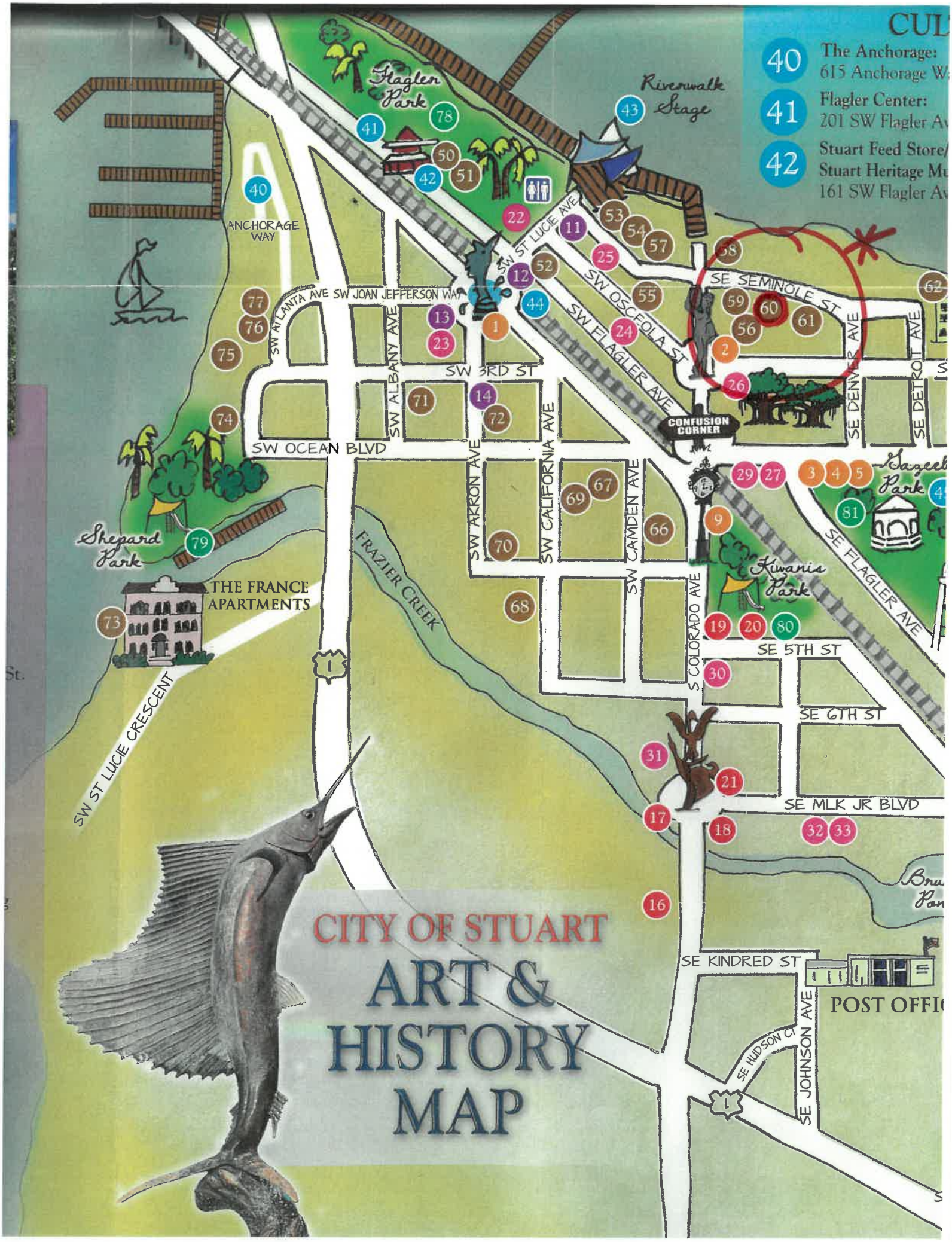
MARTIN COUNTY Florida www.discovermartin.com

City of Stuart - Welcome Center
101 SW Flagler Ave • Stuart, FL 34994
(772) 286-2844
www.cityofstuart.us
www.facebook.com/StuartLifeFlorida

For more information of Art and History in Martin County, please visit www.discovermartin.com.

CITY OF STUART ART & HISTORY MAP




CUL
40 The Anchorage: 615 Anchorage W
41 Flagler Center: 201 SW Flagler Av
42 Stuart Feed Store/ Stuart Heritage Mu 161 SW Flagler Av
Flagler Park
Riverwalk Stage
ANCHORAGE WAY
SW ATLANTA AVE
SW JOAN JEFFERSON WAY
SW ST LUCIE AVE
SW OSCEOLA ST
SW FLAGLER AVE
SE SEMINOLE ST
SE DENVER AVE
SE DETROIT AVE
SW ALBANY AVE
SW 3RD ST
CONFUSION CORNER
SW OCEAN BLVD
SW AKRON AVE
SW CALIFORNIA AVE
SW CAMDEN AVE
S COLORADO AVE
SE FLAGLER AVE
SE 5TH ST
SE 6TH ST
SE MLK JR BLVD
SE KINDRED ST
SE JOHNSON AVE
SE HUDSON CT
Gazebo Park
Kiwanis Park
Shepard Park
THE FRANCE APARTMENTS
FRAZIER CREEK
SW ST LUCIE CRESCENT
POST OFFI
CITY OF STUART
ART & HISTORY MAP

HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE

48 **Old Roosevelt Bridge**

49 **The Roosevelt Bridge**

50 **The Crary House:**
171 SW Flagler Ave.

51 **Stuart Heritage Museum** *(previously George Parks Store)*:
161 SW Flagler Ave.

52 **Feroe Building:**
73 SW Flagler Ave.

53 **St. Lucie Hotel Annex - Stuart Boathouse:**
49 SW Seminole St.

54 **Harbor House:**
45 SW Seminole St.

55 **Post Office Arcade:**
31 SW Osceola St.

56 **Coventry Hotel & Coventry Apartments** *(Old Colorado Inn)*:
211 S Colorado Ave.

57 **Platt/Porter Owl House - Owl House at Colorado Inn:**
100 S Colorado Ave.

58 **Kimberly/Riverview Apartments:**
15 SE Seminole St.

59 **Johnson House:**
22 SE Seminole St.

60 **Johns/Lyons House:**
26 SE Seminole St.

61 **Clifton Lodge:**
32 SE Seminole St.

62 **The Pelican Hotel:**
221 E Osceola St.

63 **Molly's House:**
430 SE Osceola St.

64 **Otto Stypmann House:**
451 SE Riverside Dr.

65 **Thomas J. Allen Home:**
410 SE Lake St.

66 **Knapp Inn/Grace Apartments/Grace E. Wolfe Apartments:**
421 SW Camden Ave.

67 **Sunrise Apartments:**
400 SW Camden Ave.

68 **Witham/Coutant House:**
512 SW California Ave.

69 **Ricou House:**
410 SW California Ave.

70 **Sam Matthews House:**
501 Akron Ave.

71 **Community Church:**
Corner of Akron Ave. & 3rd St.

72 **Woodmen Hall:**
Corner of Akron Ave. & 3rd St.

73 **The France Apartments:**
524 SW St. Lucie Crescent

74 **Dudley/Bessey House** *(now Shepard Park Bed & Breakfast)*:
601 SW Ocean Blvd., along Atlanta Ave.

75 **Judge Thomas Matthews House:**
218 SW Atlanta Ave.

76 **John Taylor House:**
206 Atlanta Ave.

77 **Kitching Home:**
201 SW Atlanta Ave.

PARKS

78 **Flagler Park:**
201 SW Flagler Ave.

79 **Shepard Park:**
600 SW Ocean Blvd.

80 **Kiwanis Park** *(Barrier Free Playground)*:
451 S Colorado Ave.

81 **Gazebo Park:**
80 SE Ocean Blvd.

82 **Memorial Park:**
300 SE Ocean Blvd.

83 **Hospital Pond:**
1000 SE Ocean Blvd.

84 **Possum Long:**
621 SE Palm Beach Rd.

85 **Smith-Turner Park:**
599 SE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

86 **Martin Luther King Jr. Park:**
900 SE Park Ave.

87 **Guy Davis Park:**
724 SE 10th St.

88 **Poppleton Creek – Dog Park:**
399 SE Central Pky.

89 **Haney Creek – Nature Trail - Dog Park:**
391 NW Baker Road-Flagler Park, 201 SW Flagler Ave.





55 **Post Office Arcade (12-31 Osceola Street):** Designed by the firm of Pfeifer and O'Reilly and built by Sam Matthews in 1925, the unique "dog-leg" design connects Osceola Street to Seminole Street and allows a cooling airflow through the building. Florida Power and Light anchored the building until 1985. In 1988 Peter and Joan Jefferson moved their home and offices into the Arcade and in 1990 purchased the building with David and Ann MacMillian before being purchased in 1997 by Otto Vitale.

56 **Coventry Hotel & Coventry Apartments (Old Colorado Inn:** 211 S Colorado Ave. Among the first of Downtown Stuart's historic structures to be renovated, the Coventry Hotel and Coventry Apartments are now joined as the Old Colorado Inn.

57 **Platt/Porter Owl House:** (Owl House at Colorado Inn), 100 S Colorado Ave. One of the most unusual and symmetrical homes in Stuart, the "Owl House" earned its nickname for its unique four-pointed gable roof, giving the appearance of an owl head.

58 **Kimberly/Riverview Apartments:** 15 SE Seminole St. Built on land granted early Stuart pioneer Otto Stypmann, Elmer and Mary Hall Kimberly began building the 21-room apartment building in 1913. It is the oldest operating apartment building in the City of Stuart.

59 **Johnson House:** 22 SE Seminole St., Built by Sam Matthews in the early 1900s, this Dade County pine home once served as a law office and artist's studio.

60 **Johns/Lyons House:** 26 SE Seminole St. A Designated Florida Literary Landmark, the "Ernie Lyons House" is named for long-time Stuart News editor and author who lived there for more than 50 years until his death in 1990. Originally built in 1890, the home served as Stuart's first school house.

61 **Matthews House/Clifton Lodge:** 26 SE Seminole St. Another Sam Matthews building, the Matthews House was originally located at 41 S.W. Seminole St., where Matthews and his wife Edith lived for a time. The property was developed as the Clifton Guest and Fishing Lodge. It was purchased in 2018 and moved to its present location to become part of the Old Colorado Inn.

62 **The Pelican Hotel:** 221 E Osceola St. One of the most prestigious tourist hotels in Martin County for many years, it was constructed in 1926 in the popular Mediterranean Revival style and managed by the W.V. King Family. It attracted celebrities such as Natalie Wood and Robert Wagner who honeymooned here. Now owned by Attorney Willie Gary, a local sharecropper's son who has become an extremely successful attorney.

63 **Molly's House:** 430 SE Osceola St. After the death in 1992 of Molly Sharkey, a 12-year-old girl diagnosed with leukemia whose family faced taxing travel and lodging challenges during her treatment, family and friends have raised funds to build Molly's dream house. This home away from home has since provided accommodations for more than 22,000 people accompanying loved ones undergoing medical crises.

64 **Otto Stypmann House:** 451 SE Riverside Dr. Home of Otto Stypmann, one of the founders of Stuart, this German immigrant was a pineapple grower and developer.

65 **Thomas J. Allen Home:** 410 SE Lake St. Despite having only a fourth-grade education, Thomas was an industrious African-American entrepreneur whose businesses included a lumber yard, the cutting and planning of lumber for ships, potato farming, and hauling asphalt for air strips and roadways, he is remembered as "the man who would give a young boy a job."

66 **Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (formerly Knapp Inn and Grace E. Wolfe Apartments):** 421 SW Camden Ave. Built in 1925 by Capt. Richard and Monira Knapp, the "Knapp Inn" was purchased in the 1940s by Edgar and Grace Wells. The couple lived in apartment number 7 while renting the other six apartments. TheTreasure Coast Regional Planning Council purchased the building in 2006.

67 **Sunrise Apartments:** 400 SW Camden Ave. This two-story Masonry Vernacular apartment building features include a flat roof, tile cresting, curved parapets, stylized turrets and a recessed center entrance porch.

68 **Witham/Coutant House:** 512 SW California Ave. Built for Homer and Katherine "Kate" McPherson Witham in 1923, Kate remained in the house after Homer's death in February 1926. In 1947, Kate gave the home to her daughter Edna Witham Coutant, Stuart's pioneer school teacher and librarian Clyde Coutant, one of Edna's sons, converted the upstairs to a rental apartment. Edna lived in it until her death in 1987.

69 **Ricou House:** 410 SW California Ave. This two-story wood frame residential constructed in 1914 was occupied by Ernest J. Ricou a school teacher, who resided there during the historic period. He also served six years on the city commission.

70 **Sam Matthews House:** 501 Akron Ave. Once the personal home of Stuart's most well-known contractor, Sam A. Matthews, who came to Florida in 1903 from Maine to work on Henry Flagler's Royal Poinciana Hotel in Palm Beach. He later built several notable locations around town. In 1988, developers Jim Smith and Jean Bell converted it to the Home Place bed and breakfast - Stuart's first.

71 **Community Church:** Stuart's first community church dates to 1895. After being moved to its present site in 1930, it's served many functions, including today as a probation office.

72 **Woodmen Hall:** Corner of Akron Avenue and 3rd St. Built in 1914 for the local Pineapple Camp 150 Woodmen of the World fraternal society, it served asa hospital during the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918, a telephone exchange company and is listed in A Guide to Florida's Historic Architecture.

73 **The France Apartments:** 524 SW St. Lucie Crescent: Built in 1922 by developer A.W. France, a Philadelphia manufacturer, the France residential apartments exhibited Mediterranean Revival styling of high quality. Three and four-room suites were fully furnished and rented for $45-$60 monthly. It was restored to its former glory in 1964.

74 **Dudley/Bessey House (now Shepard Park Bed and Breakfast):** 601 SW Ocean Blvd. Civil War veteran Major Philip Dudley built the colonial revival two-story, wood-frame home built along the St. Lucie River in 1909. Hubert W. Bessey, one of the founders of Stuart, and his wife, Susan later acquired the home.

75 **Judge Thomas Matthews House:** 218 SW Atlanta Ave. This Colonial Revival style house was built in 1913 by Sam Matthews. The house was rehabilitated by Roy Laycock, who converted the house into a commercial property.

76 **John Taylor House:** 206 Atlanta Ave. This bungalow, built by Sam Matthews in 1914, was a wedding present to Josephine Kitching and John E. Taylor from her father, Walter Kitching. It was wired for electricity even though there was no electricity in Stuart at the time. The Kitchings' windmill supplied running water. The house was further remodeled and adapted to commercial use in 1990.

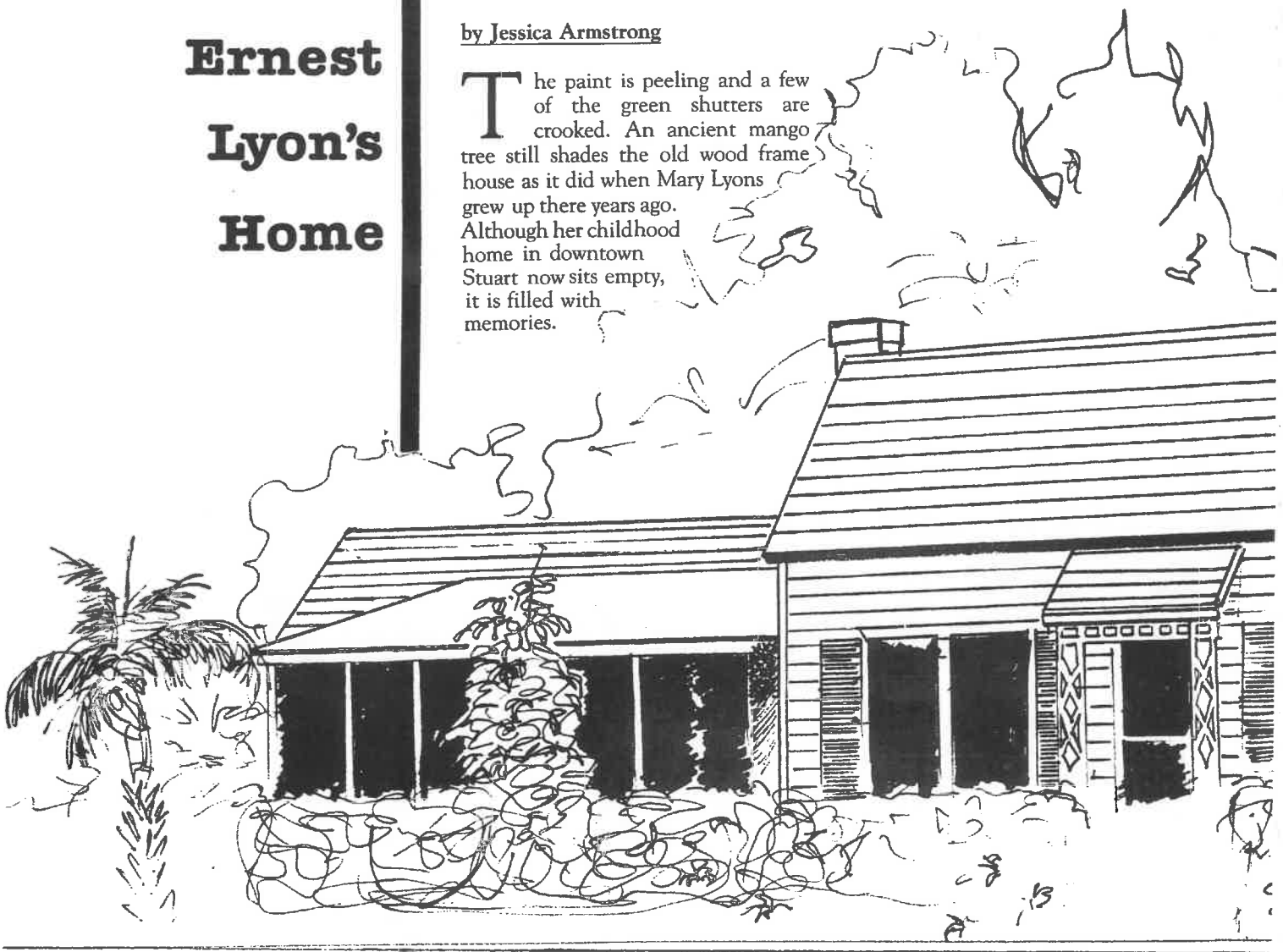
77 **Kitching Home:** 201 SW Atlanta Ave. Built in then-named Potsdam (later Stuart) in 1894 in one of Walter F. Kitching's pineapple fields, this modernized home got the settlement's first windmill in 1902 and the first indoor bathroom with running water.

Stuart's First Sc

Ernest Lyon's Home

by Jessica Armstrong

The paint is peeling and a few of the green shutters are crooked. An ancient mango tree still shades the old wood frame house as it did when Mary Lyons grew up there years ago. Although her childhood home in downtown Stuart now sits empty, it is filled with memories.



Daughter of renowned conservationist and newspaper editor, Ernest Lyons, Mary was raised in the historic house on Seminole street. She and her brother Bill remember their parents discussing current events and reading literary classics to them in the living room by the fire.

It seems fitting that a family dedicated to learning would live in what is thought to be Stuart's first schoolhouse. After retiring as editor of *The Stuart News,* Ernest continued to write his column at home on a manual typewriter. He lived in the house until his death in 1990.

"My earliest memory is of my father reading *Treasure Island* to me in the living room in front of the fireplace. I've always had very warm feelings about the house and in my mind it's caught in a time warp," recalls Mary, who now lives in Atlanta.

"I particularly remember the living room, which was Stuart's original schoolhouse. Many conversations about issues and current events were discussed in that room. When I was

hoolhouse



very small it was where all family activities took place. The fireplace was the only heat in the house and we would hang our pajamas over the fire screen to warm them."

The original portion of the house was first located on the St. Lucie River across from its present site, where the Riverside Apartments now stand in downtown Stuart. Early records indicate that the school opened in 1891 and Katie Hamilton of Philadelphia became Stuart's first school teacher. She taught all grades in the two-room schoolhouse.

Florida's wilderness environment wasn't easy for a young woman from a big city. When the mosquitoes swarmed through the cracks in the schoolhouse floor, it is said that Hamilton would invert the chimney of the wood stove and smoke out the bugs under the building.

Back in the 1890s, there were few roads and early settlers traveled by boat. Hamilton lived on Bessey Point and had to row across the creek to get to the school.

"It (schoolhouse) was on the river," Lyons once said in an interview, "because that was the way people traveled. There were no good roads. The kids came every day by boat and went home the same way."

In 1890, the Stuart area had no school. So early pioneer Ernest Stypmann donated land along the St. Lucie River and materials to build the modest schoolhouse. The building materials cost $30.

By 1891, more settlers were moving into the Stuart area, then known as Potsdam. The settlement had its own post office and at that time there were 10 children of school age.

The railway came through town and roads were being built by the mid-1890s, so a school located on the river bank was no longer necessary. Stypmann sold the building to the Johns family, who moved it to its present location and added a kitchen, dining room and porch.

A new two-story concrete school was built at what is now East Ocean Boulevard. The school was located behind the old Martin County Courthouse, now the Court House Cultural Center.

It is said that Stuart's first schoolhouse was also where the first wedding in Stuart was held in 1892. And the first baby boy born in Stuart was delivered there in 1897.

After the Johns family moved out of the old house in 1910, it passed through several owners before Ernest and Ezell Lyons bought the house in 1937. The Lyons built a separate cottage near the house which they rented out and later moved it and attached it to the house.

"He loved the old-fashioned nature of the house. He and Ezell enjoyed the yard and the gardens. The azaleas and roses they planted are still there," says Isabel Williams, Ernest Lyon's sister.

"Both their children were born there and they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the house. Toward the end of his life, he was pretty much a recluse after Ezell died. Some friends would stop by and people who wanted him to autograph his books. He continued to write in the study on a beautiful desk *he Start News* gave him."

Like his sister Mary, Bill has fond memories of the old house on Seminole Street. He is now a marine biologist living in St. Petersburg, Fla.

"My father led me to the sea. He showed me all the wonderful things about marine life and started a fascination for me that never ended," Bill remembers. "He did a lot of writing in the house after the den was added. Many nights I remember him pounding away on his typewriter."

Bill and Mary have donated their father's papers to Stuart Heritage, Inc. This collection of writings and letters will be available for research once a local museum is established in the Stuart Feed Store.

The Friends of the Martin County Public Library and Stuart Heritage plan to have a plaque installed on the home commemorating Ernest Lyons. Arrangements are being made through the Florida Center for the Book, an organization that designates homes as literary landmarks. Ernest Lyons is the author of *My Florida* and *The Last Cracker Barrel.*

Because of the sluggish economy, Bill and Mary have temporarily taken the house off the market. Now zoned commercial, they hope the next owner will restore the house and perhaps use it as office space.

"The schoolhouse section could be moved if someone planned to demolish the house," says Mary. "The old mulberry tree was cut down and I have a piece of it growing in my yard. Having been born in Stuart, I go into terrible shock at all the wonderful buildings that have been torn down. I hope the house will be preserved, but only time will tell." §

From: Steven Vitale
To: Gandhi-Savdas, Pinal
Subject: Fwd: Your "Enchanted Cottage"
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2020 12:08:26 PM

This message has originated from an **[EXTERNAL EMAIL ADDRESS]**. Please use proper judgment and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email. If it shows as being from someone within the City, please contact the City's Technology Services personnel.

Pinal, please see the history of enchanted cottage summarized by local historian Sandra Thurlow below.

Thanks
Steven

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Steven Vitale <SV41969@aol.com>
> **Date:** November 13, 2019 at 8:06:37 PM EST
> **To:** Sandra Thurlow <sandra@thurlowbooks.com>
> **Subject: Re: Your "Enchanted Cottage"**
>
> Hi Sandy. Thank you so much for sending this helpful history and the terrific photos. I'll have to take a look at that photo in the Ernie Lyons book that you mentioned. I'm so grateful to have your assistance and friendship. I should be done with the renovations to the cottage next week so please be sure to stop by to take a tour.
>
> Thank you so much and God bless!
>
> Steven
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On Nov 5, 2019, at 9:58 AM, Sandra Thurlow <sandra@thurlowbooks.com> wrote:
> >
> > Steve,
> > Your "Enchanted Cottage" stood on Lot 10 of Block 4 in Kitching's Addition to the Town of Stuart, subdivided in

March 1913. Walter Kitching sold the lot to George W. Thomas on May 8, 1914. George Thomas sold it to his friend John Michaelis on July 15, 1916. After building the cottage, John Michaelis sold the property to Emily E. Mast September 28, 1920. Emily Mast sold her property to Horace Atwood on February 2, 1924. The property stayed in the Atwood family for many years. Susan Atwood Eminger lived in the house when I interviewed her in 1990. She and her husband acquired the house from the estate of her father on January 15, 1959. Looking at Polk City Directories, it is clear that many families rented the cottage in the early years.

By some act of providence you have placed your cottage in the back yard of the Lyons house. Some of the photographs we have from the Lyons family show the little house Harry Lyons rented in the 1920 that stood behind your cottage when it was in Kitching's Addition. Look on page 48 of the latest reprint of My Florida. You will see your cottage in the background.

I am sending you photographs from the Lyons Collection as well as a section of the 1920 Sanborn Map that shows your cottage in its original location and shows the little house the Lyons family rented in the 1920s. It seems to be a converted base of a windmill or water tower.

I am also sending you the obituary of John Michaelis who built your cottage. George Thomas is the one who built the house that still stands near the Sailfish Fountain. Before he moved into Stuart from Rio he grew pineapples as did John Michaelis. Frank Mezzapelle owns the former Thomas/Edenfield house. I understand he will now be in charge of Flagler Place for Stuart Main Street. Members of the Atwood family owned the house just east of the Stuart Heritage Museum for 60 years. I may send you a photo of that family too.

My daughter Jenny Flaugh, who recruits physicians for

Cleveland Clinic for what was formerly Martin Health says she is now sending them the Chicago Tribune article to entice them.
Proud to be your friend, Sandy Thurlow

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<Calling in sepia.jpg>
<img113.jpg>

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