

Lord-Higel House Update

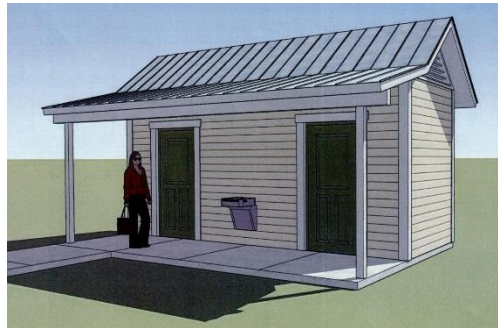
(409 Granada Avenue behind Venice City Hall)

The Lord-Higel House, the oldest building still standing in Venice that predates the City, recently reached two important milestones for its renovation.

First: On June 16, the Venice Planning Commission approved the Site and Development Plan for the property. The plan lays out a redesign of the parking lot, storm water management, and placement of sidewalks, landscaping and outbuildings. With this approval, work can begin on the grounds in coordination with the Venice Fire Station 1/City Hall project across the street.



Second: Hall Darling Design Studio, hired by Venice Heritage, has completed the drawings for the interior restoration of the Lord-Higel House, as well as the design for the exterior handicap ramp and the exterior accessory building that contains the handicap accessible restroom and utility closet.



One of the distinctive features of the interior restoration is the installation of the original fireplace surround that has been in storage for decades. The surround will be reinstalled around a hearth and firebox designed to replicate the original, but be non-functional.

First floor window and door trim is being stripped of layers of paint and so that it can be varnished. The wood trim was originally shellacked, a common way to finish wood in the late nineteenth century.

The four exterior first-floor doors have been painted a period appropriate green color to coordinate with the underside of porch roof that is painted blue.

Historical Resources staff Harry Klinkhamer and Jon Watson are formulating ideas for the first-floor interpretive spaces. These spaces will tell the story of the early settlers of the area, as well as describe the unique features of the house's construction.

The restoration plan will return the second floor to its original layout of bedrooms that will be used for storage for Historical Resources.

Before the end of the year VHI contractor Ball Construction will begin work of repairing the second-floor siding to ensure the long-term protection of the interior spaces. Pending cost estimates from Ball Construction, construction of the handicap ramp and the accessory building will be completed as funding is available.

Funding for the accessory building, utility capacity and cap fees, exhibits, and landscaping is being pursued.

Donations can be made by sending a check payable to:
Venice Heritage, P.O. Box 1190, Venice, FL 34284-1190.

Amazon Smile

Thanks to all those who have registered Venice Heritage as your charity of choice with Amazon Smile!

VHI has received significant donations from Amazon Smile for the past 2 months.

If you shop on Amazon, please consider making Venice Heritage your charity under Amazon Smile for the next month.

Coming Soon New Fundraising Projects

Old Betsy Lego kits
Hawaiian style "Venice Lost Buildings" shirt for men and women

Details to follow soon!