

Naples Daily News

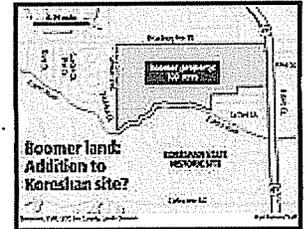
To print this page, select **File** then **Print** from your browser

URL: http://www.naplesnews.com/npdn/bonitanews/article/0,2071,NPDN_14894_2554641,00.html

Property with historic home on sale for \$14.5 million

Conservation 2020 committee to begin assessment as to whether county should purchase the Koreshan home, which was built in 1917

By CHAD GILLIS, cegillis@naplesnews.com
January 6, 2004



Kori Rumore/Staff

One of south Lee County's most historic homes is up for grabs now that the Boomer family has offered to sell their 100-acre estate along the Estero River.

The home was built in 1917 under the watch of Berthaldine Boomer, one of the original Koreshans, and has been passed down the family through the generations. Located on the southwest corner of U.S. 41 and Broadway, the home and property are being offered for public purchase for \$14.5 million.

The reclusive family has owned the property since the days of the Koreshans, a religious cult that sprang up along the banks of the Estero River during the late 1800s and floundered several decades later.

Lee County will get the first crack at securing the Boomer home today when the matter goes before a committee of the Conservation 2020 program at 3 p.m. at 1500 Monroe St. in Fort Myers.

Conservation 2020 is a willing-seller program that draws its money from property taxes. The committee makes recommendations for public purchases to county commissioners, who make the final decisions on all purchases. Today's meeting represents the initial review in a process that could take several months.

"It got a very high score," said Conservation 2020 coordinator Lynda Riley. "The staff is recommending that it go before the full committee for consideration."

There are currently several options for acquiring the land. The county could purchase the entire property or work with the state in a deal that would allow the estate portion of the Boomer property, roughly one-third of the entire parcel, to be added to the Koreshan State Historic Site. Under that scenario, the county would maintain the natural sections of the land while the state would be responsible for the historic home.

The Boomer home is directly across the Estero River from the historic site.

Koreshan park manager Jon Robinson said the estate would be an ideal addition to the historic site because it's unique when compared with the park's other structures.

"I think it would be a nice benefit to the park because it was built by the Koreshans," Robinson said. "We don't have a large residence like that. Most of our buildings are utilitarian. It would be nice to see it preserved, although access to the home from the park would be difficult. But we definitely support it."

Koreshan park contains several buildings on the northwest corner of U.S. 41 and Corkscrew Road and represents the http://www1.naplesnews.com/npdn/cda/article_print/1,1983,NPDN_14894_2554641_ARTICLE-D... 1/6/2004

remaining settlement of the once thriving society.

It's not just the historic preservation aspect that has community members and park managers supporting the potential purchase. Properties the size of the Boomer land are increasingly hard to find in coastal Southwest Florida.

"It's extremely vulnerable to development because of its location," Riley said. "I know for a fact that developers are making offers to the Boomers."

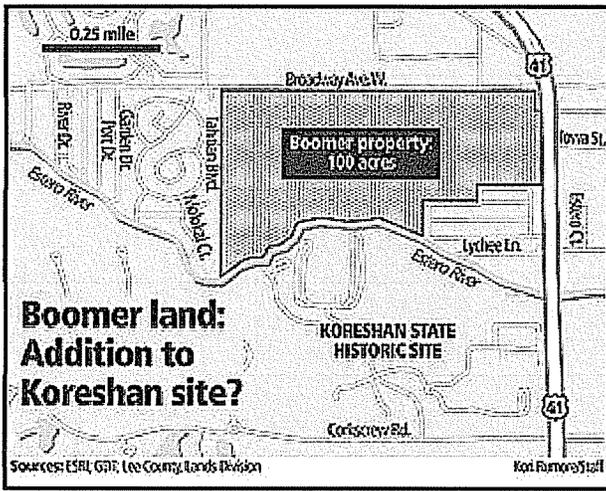
Some Estero residents say preserving the land would benefit the community by adding more green space and park lands as well as taking 100 acres off the development market.

"By having the public own the land, it would not attract another development that would add more cars to our roadways," said Estero resident Don Eslick. "It would be eliminating a negative as well as creating a positive."

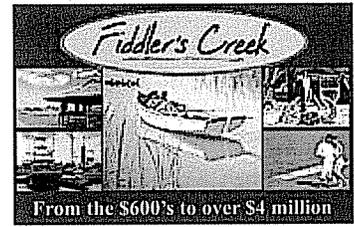
Mimi Straub, president of the Estero Historical Society, said she supports the public purchase as well, adding that a split between county and state ownership and management would benefit the community and the state park system.

"It would be wonderful if the county and state could cooperate on the purchase," Straub said. "It's an exciting thing. It really is a gem to be added to the Estero community."

Copyright 2004, Naples Daily News. All Rights Reserved.



AC-0109



Bonitanews

- [Banner](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [7-Day Archive](#)
- [About Us](#)

Sites

- naplesnews.com
- bonitanews.com
- marconews.com

Registration

- [Login](#)
- [Sign up](#)
- [Having trouble?](#)

Sections

- [At Home](#)
- [Bonita Banner](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Classified](#)
- [Editorial](#)
- [Florida](#)
- [Hurricane '05](#)
- [Local](#)
- [Marco Eagle](#)
- [Neapolitan](#)
- [Perspective](#)
- [Police Beat](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Scanners](#)
- [Search](#)
- [Showcase](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Stocks page](#)
- [Tides](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Varsity](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Webcams](#)

Local Events

- [Entertainment](#)
- [Local events](#)
- [Night Scene](#)
- [Movie listings](#)

For Fun

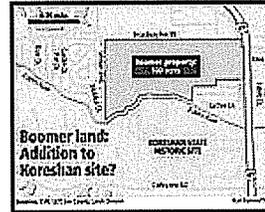
- [Community](#)

[PRINT THIS STORY](#) | [E-MAIL THIS STORY](#)

Property with historic home on sale for \$14.5 million

Conservation 2020 committee to begin assessment as to whether county should purchase the Koreshan home, which was built in 1917

By CHAD GILLIS, cegillis@naplesnews.com
January 6, 2004



Kori Rumore/Staff

One of south Lee County's most historic homes is up for grabs now that the Boomer family has offered to sell their 100-acre estate along the Estero River.

The home was built in 1917 under the watch of Berthaldine Boomer, one of the original Koreshans, and has been passed down the family through the generations. Located on the southwest corner of U.S. 41 and Broadway, the home and property are being offered for public purchase for \$14.5 million.

The reclusive family has owned the property since the days of the Koreshans, a religious cult that sprang up along the banks of the Estero River during the late 1800s and floundered several decades later.

Lee County will get the first crack at securing the Boomer home today when the matter goes before a committee of the Conservation 2020 program at 3 p.m. at 1500 Monroe St. in Fort Myers.

Conservation 2020 is a willing-seller program that draws its money from property taxes. The committee makes recommendations for public purchases to county commissioners, who make the final decisions on all purchases. Today's meeting represents the initial review in a process that could take several months.

"It got a very high score," said Conservation 2020 coordinator Lynda Riley. "The staff is recommending that it go before the full committee for consideration."

There are currently several options for acquiring the land. The county could purchase the entire property or work with the state in a deal that would allow the estate portion of the Boomer property, roughly one-third of the entire parcel, to be added to the Koreshan State Historic Site. Under that scenario, the county would maintain the natural sections of the land while the state would be responsible for the historic home.

The Boomer home is directly across the Estero River from the historic site.

Market Place

CLASSIFIED

- HOMES
- AUTOS
- JOBS
- RENTALS
- STUFF
- OBITS

[CLICK HERE TO BROWSE ALL CLASSIFIED](#)

Classified DAY NIGHT

Place an ad in print & online 24/7 [Click Here](#)

YELLOW PAGES

bestredyp.com

Search yellow pages by Name, Category or Keyword

TODAY'S ADS

Browse Today's Newspaper Ads By Category

Categories

- [Crossword](#)
- [Comics](#)
- [Fantasy Sports](#)
- [Horoscopes](#)
- [Lottery results](#)
- [Postcards](#)
- [Soaps](#)
- [TV listings](#)
- [Word Search](#)

About Us

- [Copyright](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Feedback](#)
- [Letters policy](#)
- [Staff directory](#)

Services

- [Archives](#)
- [AP Wire](#)
- [Death notices](#)
- [Free e-mail](#)

Etcetera:

AP's The Wire:

The top stories from the Associated Press. 

Audio update:

The hour's top news live in RealAudio. 

Awards:

The Daily News' Web site has earned state and national awards. 

Affiliates:

Get news from the Tampa Bay area at [Tampa Bay Live](#); the latest from the Treasure Coast and the Palm Beaches at [TCPalm.com](#); and local news from around the country at [other Scripps papers and stations](#).

Koreshan park manager Jon Robinson said the estate would be an ideal addition to the historic site because it's unique when compared with the park's other structures.

"I think it would be a nice benefit to the park because it was built by the Koreshans," Robinson said. "We don't have a large residence like that. Most of our buildings are utilitarian. It would be nice to see it preserved, although access to the home from the park would be difficult. But we definitely support it."

Koreshan park contains several buildings on the northwest corner of U.S. 41 and Corkscrew Road and represents the remaining settlement of the once thriving society.

It's not just the historic preservation aspect that has community members and park managers supporting the potential purchase. Properties the size of the Boomer land are increasingly hard to find in coastal Southwest Florida.

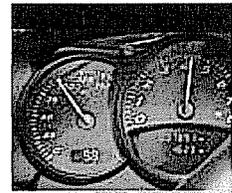
"It's extremely vulnerable to development because of its location," Riley said. "I know for a fact that developers are making offers to the Boomers."

Some Estero residents say preserving the land would benefit the community by adding more green space and park lands as well as taking 100 acres off the development market.

"By having the public own the land, it would not attract another development that would add more cars to our roadways," said Estero resident Don Eslick. "It would be eliminating a negative as well as creating a positive."

Mimi Straub, president of the Estero Historical Society, said she supports the public purchase as well, adding that a split between county and state ownership and management would benefit the community and the state park system.

"It would be wonderful if the county and state could cooperate on the purchase," Straub said. "It's an exciting thing. It really is a gem to be added to the Estero community."



**Driveways:
Every
Saturday in
print in the
Bonita Banner
and Bonita
Daily News.
South Lee
County's #1
Source for
Automotive
News.**

SPECIAL SECTIONS



[Driveways](#)



[Coastal Elegance and Wealth](#)



[Destination Naples](#)

- [Living Well](#)
- [Communities of SW Florida](#)
- [Mind, Body & Spirit](#)
- [Real Estate Marketpiece](#)
- [Nautically Speaking](#)

CLICK HERE TO SEE ALL SPECIAL SECTIONS