

AC-0162

bestredyp.com  
Online Yellow Pages  
Click Here

**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](#)

## State, Lee buy Boomer property for \$14.5 million

By CHAD GILLIS, [cegillis@naplesnews.com](mailto:cegillis@naplesnews.com)  
July 28, 2005

The only Koreshan residential structure still in existence was purchased by Lee County and the state Wednesday in a land deal that will preserve a historic home and allow family matriarch Nola Boomer to remain on the property throughout her life.

Known as the Boomer property, the land consists of 100 acres and sits on the southwest corner of U.S. 41 and Broadway in Estero. The \$14.5 million cost was split between the county and the state's Florida Forever program.

The state eventually will add the Boomer home and the surrounding 25 acres to the Koreshan State Historic Site. The remainder of the land is undeveloped and will act as green space along the northern banks of the Estero River.

"I'm very glad about the sale," Nola Boomer said after a presentation in downtown Fort Myers where she posed with government officials and land attorneys. "My husband would be thrilled (that the land and home are being preserved)."

Nola Boomer's husband, George, was the great-grandson of one of the original Koreshans. He died in 1999 at 77.

The Koreshans were a utopian religious cult that flourished on the banks of the river during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Berthaldine Boomer, a founding member of the community, was called Matrona, a quasi-government/religious term that essentially meant she was a part of the society's ruling class.

Although the Koreshan faith was based on



Erik Kellar/Staff

Mimi Straub, president of the Estero Historical Society, left, thanks Nola Boomer, center, at the Lee County Commission Chambers in Fort Myers on Wednesday for sale of the historic Boomer Estate, an 104-acre parcel that is part of the Koreshan legacy, to the state and Lee County. The estate sold for \$14.5 million coming from the state's Florida Forever program and half from the county's Conservation 20/20 program. The historic home, called Miroslav by the Boomer family, represents the only residence still in existence built by the Koreshan settlers who are relatives of the present day Boomers.

**RELATED STORIES**  
[State, Lee to partner on purchase of Boomer property in Estero for \\$14.5M](#)

[Looking Back at 2004: Boomer land purchase nears end](#)

[County, state to split cost of Boomer property](#)

[Preservation panel votes to buy historic Estero estate](#)

[Boomer estate evokes area's past](#)

[Conservation 2020 group to pursue Boomer property](#)

[Donated caretaker's](#)

**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.

celibacy, Berthaldine and husband Lucius had four children. A son, also named Lucius, built the Boomer home in 1917 for Berthaldine, who lived at the estate until her death in 1935.

The younger Lucius also was a successful businessman and was famous for his tenure as president of the luxurious Waldorf Astoria in New York. His son, George Boomer, lived in the home until his death in 1999 at the age of 77. Nola has lived in the house since George's death.

Now the home is planned to become one of the area's top historic attractions.

Bill Grace is a member of the park support group, Koreshan Unity Foundation, and said he's long wanted to see the house in public hands.

"Not only does it add park lands, but it also protects a riverfront that otherwise could have been open to development," Grace said. "The home was built by Koreshans, and it's a very important acquisition."

Others at Wednesday's presentation said they also were excited about the purchase and the fact that the historic home won't be leveled for future development.

"The preservation of this land gives us a big hunk of green along the river," said Estero Historical Society founder Mimi Straub. "I'm very happy. For the past 12 years I've been interested in preserving this house, really for the last 30 years."

**house may one day serve as museum**

**Property with historic home on sale for \$14.5 million**

**SPECIAL SECTIONS**



[Driveways](#)



[Coastal Elegance and Wealth](#)



[Destination Naples](#)

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

CLICK HERE TO SEE ALL SPECIAL SECTIONS



**top Jobs**  
 NAPLES • BONITA • MARCO

CLICK ON ANY LINK BELOW TO SEE AN AD

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
 CONFIDENTIAL

**DIETARY AIDES**  
 MOORINGS PARK

**CPA**  
 Advocate Aircraft Taxation

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
 CONFIDENTIAL

**Surveillance**