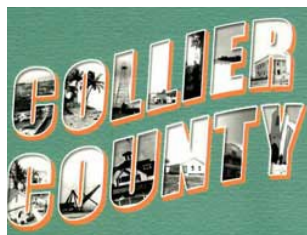




Part 1 Overview



is Florida's largest county in the state by land area and fourth largest by total area (2,305 sq. mi.). The county is located within the Big Cypress National Preserve and at the northernmost part of Everglades National Park. Collier County is located at the southern end of Florida's Gulf Coast and bounded by five other counties including Broward and Miami-Dade Counties to the east and southeast. Interstate 75 and U.S. Route 41, also known as the Tamiami Trail, are the major highways in the county. Collier County was once part of Lee County. Collier was created in 1923 and named for Barron Collier, a New York City businessman who moved to Florida and became a prominent landowner. The Tamiami Trail, opened in 1928, was one of his major accomplishments, the roadway from Miami to Tampa, Florida.

The Historic and Archaeological Preservation Board was created in 1991. "The board is vested with the power, authority, and jurisdiction to designate, regulate, and administer historical and archaeological resources in Collier County, under the direct jurisdiction and control of the Board of County Commissioners. Membership is composed of seven members from the following categories: history; archaeology; real estate, land development or finance; architecture; law or urban planning; and two positions will be filled by citizens at large." "Its mission is to increase public awareness of the importance and significance of Collier County's historical and archaeological heritage by protecting, preserving, and perpetuating Collier County's history and archaeological artifacts, sites, and districts, structures, and properties." <historic guide booklet> <colliercountyfl.gov>



This is a four-part series:

Part 1 Overview of Collier County Museums Part 2 The Calusa – Spaniards – Seminole Wars

Part 3 The Trail Blazers and Builders Part 4. Tour of the Naples Collier Museum Grounds

[Go to acuri.net – USA – Florida to see the programs under Naples, Florida](#)

Note: The [Naples Depot Museum](#) can be viewed in acuri.net by clicking on the museum name. Other historic photo programs related to Collier County are [Audubon Corkscrew Swamp](#), [Historic Naples Florida](#), [Tin City](#), and [Big Cypress Oasis](#).





1. Collier Museum at Government Center

This five-acre area is the flagship museum for the County. The displays and exhibits share the local history with over ten thousand square feet of displays, exhibits, and a lecture hall.

2. Museum of the Everglades

Built in 1927 during the heyday of town founder Barron Gifford Collier's Tamiami Trail project. The Barron built the Everglades Laundry to serve various establishments. During World War II it was forced to close due to a lack of staff. It became an office building. The local Women's Club purchased the building in 1972. In 1988, the Friends of the Museum gifted the building to Collier County. In 1998 it became the Museum of the Everglades.

3. Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch

Originally it was home of Robert Roberts and his family. A Southwest Florida ranch that gained National Register of Historic Places in 2003. Shares the story of living at the edge of the Big Cypress Swamp during the later 1990s.

4. Naples Depot Museum

[This site is already part of acuri.net photo programs.](http://www.acuri.net/photo/programs)

5. Marco Island Historical Museum

In 1996, citizens of Marco Island formed a historical society to build a museum and auditorium on an artificial shell mound. In 2010 it became part of the County's Museum system.

Sources: **Collier County Guide to Historic Sites booklet and brochure.** *The Guide has 47 historic sites and a map of the county to view the sites.*

acuri.net

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Florida Collier County Museums