

Posted on Sun, Dec. 05, 2004

## **DAVIE | HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

### **Old house to get a new home**

**A historic Davie home is being moved to a nearby museum to make way for a residential and commercial development.**

**BY DARRAN SIMON**

**[dsimon@herald.com](mailto:dsimon@herald.com)**

Sundays at the Osterhoudt home in Davie were never quiet. The late Bud and Betty Osterhoudt usually had coconut or mango homemade ice cream and a barbeque with friends.

'Every time a car would pull up [dad] would say, 'I've got to cut this steak smaller', " Linda Osterhoudt Cummings said, laughing with her three sisters Saturday.

Five generations have lived in and visited the Griffin Road home since 1958.

But that era has come to an end.

The family sold the home earlier this year to a developer that will build a residential and commercial development at the site, 6890 Griffin Road.

The developer agreed to save the home. Saturday, crews began moving the house to its new location at the Old Davie School Historical Museum, where it will be open to the public for tours.

"That was the stipulation for us selling the property," Natalie Osterhoudt, 45, of Davie, said in front of the Florida wood shingle house with four bedrooms, three bathrooms and a fireplace. ``We would only do it if the house was saved."

## **THE HOUSE**

Built in the early 1900s, the house is one of five officially recognized historic homes in Davie, a rapidly developing part of western Broward County, according to Constance Savory, executive director of the Old Davie School Historical Museum.

Col. Charles A. Walsh and his wife Katherine had it built from a Sears kit and lived there for more than 20 years.

The Osterhoudts bought it in 1958. Jordan Klemow, a principal in Klemow, Inc. of Pompano Beach, said the family-owned development company wanted to save the home after learning of its historical significance.

"We decided that you know what, this is a good thing to do. Let's preserve Davie's history for the future," Klemow said.

## **THE DEVELOPMENT**

The Klemow development will include 63 single-family homes. There will also be a commercial development with office and retail space on the first floor, and 28 town homes on the second floor.

The entire development will be on 30 acres. About two of those acres include the Osterhoudt's property.

The entrance to the development will be built where the house was located, Klemow said.

## **THE MOVE**

It will take more than three days to move the house along what amounts to two blocks.

Steel plates will be placed on the ground to make a roughly 50-foot-long temporary road on the Klemow property.

A front-end loader will push the house along the makeshift steel road. The "road's" steel plates will be moved continuously from the back of the house to the front to keep the road going.

The house will also have to cross a canal over steel ramps.

"It's almost unheard of for a developer to do this kind of thing," Savory said.

Last year, the historic Viele house was moved from a site near the Osterhoudt home. It took two days to move that house, which was at 6990 Griffin Road, four blocks to the museum site in August 2003.

The Osterhoudt home will be placed next to the Viele house, which was built in 1912. Now, the homes will be neighbors again.

Davie Councilman Mike Crowley said residents living in the new development will be able to go to the museum nearby and learn about the history of their property.

"You can't do that anywhere else in Davie," Crowley said.

The Osterhoudt sisters said they were pleased that their family home also would be next to the Old Davie School, where their mother, Betty, taught for 25 years.

## **THE MEMORIES**

They laughed as they talked about the memories of growing up in the home.

One time, Cummings said, she got ready for her Fort Lauderdale High School Junior Cotillion on the wrong night in 1961.

Another time, some people crashed Sharron Osterhoudt Smith's Fort Lauderdale High graduation party in 1959 and the plumes in the living room caught fire. The fireplace wasn't lit.

"Dad said he was picking people out of orange trees for weeks," joked Smith, 63, who lives in Acworth, Ga.

On Saturday, the sisters stood solemnly as the house started to move. Onlookers took photos.

"It's almost like the memories are going with the house," said Cummings, 61, who moved out of the house earlier this year and now lives in Hollywood.

"But they are not, they will always be here," she said, motioning to her heart.