

# House rolls out history

By Thomas Monnay  
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DAVIE · The four-bedroom historic home is resting on steel beams mounted on aircraft wheels, ready for the three-day journey to the nearby Old Davie School Historical Museum.

Pioneer families that settled in Zona, which is now Davie, built the house at 6890 Griffin Road eight decades ago. It will be restored and, along with a neighboring house that was relocated to the museum last year, become a mini-museum showcasing early settlers' lives.

"It's going to become a part of our village of historic buildings," said Constance Savory-Young, the museum's executive director. "We're going to cover a nice period of time and give people a sense of the local history."

The home was built in 1925 for Col. Charles A. Walsh and his wife, Katherine, in a largely undeveloped rural area known then for farming. They lived next to the Viele family, owners of a packing house and 29-acre orange grove. In 1958, the Osterhoudt family bought the home and raised four girls there. Many Davie residents now know the property as the Osterhoudt house.

This morning, town officials and community leaders will have a picnic-style brunch on the grounds of the home. About noon, workers will hook it to special equipment used to pull it to the museum, about four blocks away.

"It's a celebration; it's a new beginning, but very emotional," said Natalie Osterhoudt, who was born in the house. "It's one of the two oldest homes in Davie."

She's thrilled the home won't become another casualty of development.

On Monday, it will be reunited with the Viele house.

The four-bedroom Viele house, built in 1912, is being restored through a \$235,000 grant from the Division of Historic Resources. Davie chipped in an additional \$183,000, said Savory-Young. The Osterhoudt house is in better shape, but also will be restored, she

said.

Osterhoudt said her parents, Beulah "Bettye" and Jacob "Bud" Osterhoudt, lived in the home until their deaths -- her father died in 1998, her mother in 2003. Their home survived the 1926 hurricane and a flood in 1947.

Osterhoudt's sister, Linda Cummings of Davie, lived in the house until May, when the siblings sold the 2-acre property to Klemow Inc., a Broward County builder and developer.

Osterhoudt said it was difficult to sell, but the house had become too costly to maintain because of its age.

The four Osterhoudt sisters agreed to donate the house to the museum.

Klemow Inc., the developer, paid \$775,000 for the lot and is pitching in \$150,000 toward the relocation.

"It's our preference to help preserve Davie's history," said Jordan Klemow, one of the company's partners. "It's one of the few remaining kit homes that we haven't seen destroyed or modified. We are glad our name will be associated with it."

The property will be added to 29 acres the company bought from Dwight A. Viele. It will become a mixed-use development, called Lakeside Village.

Plans include 63 lakefront single-family homes and two three-story buildings with commercial and retail space on lower floors and townhouses on top floors.

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