

# *The Klotz Collection*

Historic Buildings in the Everglades City Area

## CATALOG OF PAINTINGS

Everglades Community Church, Everglades  
Chokoloskee Church of God  
Old Community House  
Baptist Church, Everglades City  
Old Railroad Station, Everglades City  
Old High School with Additions, Everglades City  
Ranger Station, Everglades National Park  
Old Hotel Building after Heavy Rain  
Chokoloskee Post Office  
Everglades Inn, Everglades City  
Old Market, Everglades City  
Everglades Inn with Additions and  
Old Community House, Everglades City  
Old "first" County Court House, Everglades City  
Administration Building, Everglades City  
Everglades Women's Club Building,  
High School (with school bus), Everglades City  
Old Post Office and Trolley Car, Everglades City  
Smallwood Store and Post Office, Chokoloskee  
Old High School, Everglades City

### UNTITLED

Incoskope, Deputy Sheriff  
Trees with Brush Fire  
Tree with Nest



Old High School, Everglades City

## EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*Dedicated to our Unique History*

P O Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139

[www.evergladeshistorical.org](http://www.evergladeshistorical.org)

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## THE ARTIST & FAMILY

Robert (Bob) Klotz (1893-1987) painted a series of watercolors of Everglades area historic buildings to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1973 of the founding of Collier County.

Klotz had studied art in Philadelphia and worked as a theatrical scenery painter. The family moved to Florida in 1954. After living in Fort Myers and Sanibel, they settled in Everglades City in 1969 where they operated the Sea Gull Studios, a replica of the building in Sanibel which sold shells, jewelry, and artworks.

Klotz's wife Katherine, who lived to be 104 years old, was also an artist. Their daughter Virginia studied art but concentrated with her mother on shell craft. The family were instrumental in the founding of the Fort Myers Art League.

Virginia closed the gift shop in 2010 and generously donated the collection to the Everglades Society for Historical Preservation (ESHP).

The United Arts Council of Collier County awarded a grant to ESHP to enable the Klotz Collection to be framed for use as a traveling exhibit.



Katherine & Bob with their pets; Virginia before retirement.  
Sea Gull Studios in Sanibel (from an old postcard).



# *The Klotz Collection*

## Historic Buildings in the Everglades City Area

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The area was settled in the 1870s by the Weeks family and William Smith Allen who grew vegetables that were taken by boat to the market in Key West, the largest city in Southern Florida. Other families moved into Chokoloskee and nearby fertile lands. The Storter family arrived in 1881 and George Storter, Jr., bought out Allen's homestead, including his house on the river (now the famous Rod & Gun Club).

In 1923 Barron Collier, a wealthy advertising entrepreneur from Tennessee, promised to complete the Tamiami Trail between Naples and the Dade County line if his million-acre land holding were granted County status. He selected the village of Everglades as the engineering headquarters for the road construction and also for his county seat.

The town was planned as a grid with the Circle at the center. Public buildings such as the Court House, Inn, Laundry, Community Center, and Bank were built. Collier also provided houses for his workers. The road was finished in 1928, as was the rail link and Depot.

Everglades became a City in 1953 when the Collier Corporation diversified and encouraged local independence. Everglades National Park opened its Western Gateway in the City, attracting visitors for boat tours. After a referendum in 1959, the county seat moved to the more populous Naples area and the City took over the Court House. The bank moved to Immokalee and the railway service was discontinued.

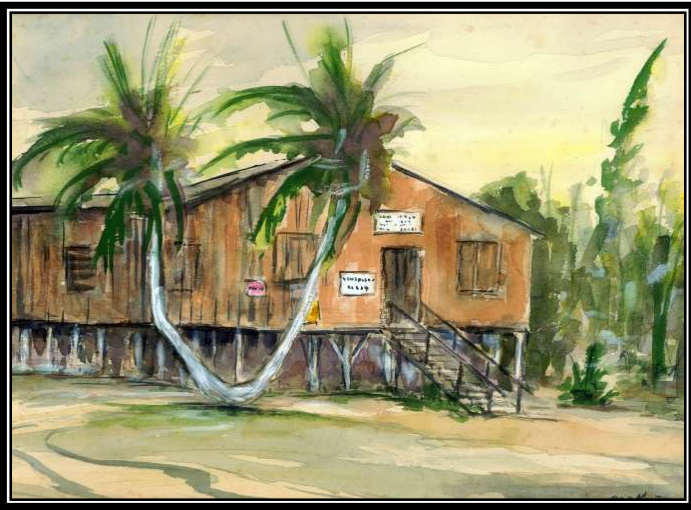
Today Everglades City is a center for eco-tourism into the many parks and preserves that surround it. The Ten Thousand Islands are popular for sport fishing. The City is also famous for its delicious stone crab claws and other seafood.

To read more about individual buildings, see

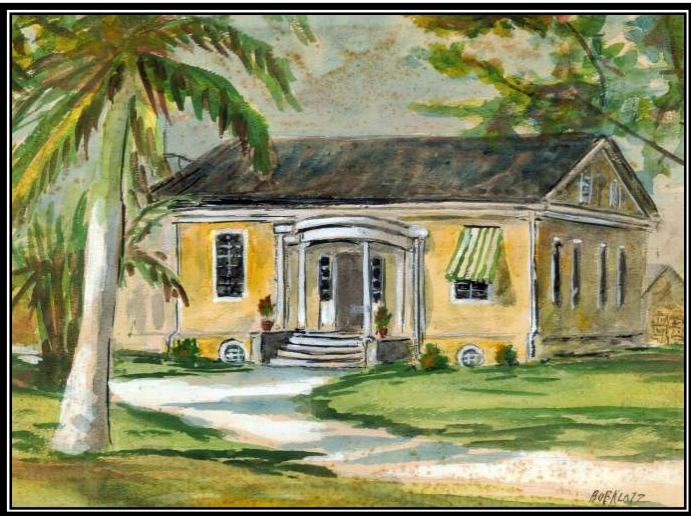
*Historic Buildings Around Everglades City; Walking Tours* by the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades ([www.evergladesmuseum.org](http://www.evergladesmuseum.org)).

To read more about local history, see

*A Brief History of the Everglades City Area* by Marya Repko ([www.ecity-publishing.com](http://www.ecity-publishing.com)).



**Smallwood Store and Post Office**



**Administration Building**



**Old Hotel Building after Heavy Rain**