

A Secluded Slice of Old Coconut Grove

Written by Janet Goodman, BT Contributor
September 2019

The Barnacle is home to ghosts and hardwood hammock



Boat builder Ralph Middleton Munroe purchased 40 acres of Biscayne Bay frontage property from Henry Flagler in 1886, costing him \$400 and a sailboat. At the time, only a dozen families lived in the area dubbed Coconut Grove, which was incorporated as a city in 1919 and annexed by the City of Miami in 1925.

Next door to Munroe was the Peacock family, who built the Bay View Villa -- the first hotel on South Florida's mainland, later renamed the Peacock Inn.

In 1887, Munroe built a boathouse there, where he lived until his house was completed in 1891. He named the house the Barnacle, as he thought the octagonal central room looked like a barnacle, and thought it would be as stubborn and sturdy as the sea creature in a hurricane. Partially constructed of salvaged shipwreck wood, it has proved Munroe right, lasting nearly unscathed through the killer 1926 hurricane and Hurricanes Andrew, Wilma, and Irma. Today it's the oldest house in Miami-Dade County in its original location.

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9:00 am to 5:00 pm
The Barnacle Historic State Park



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