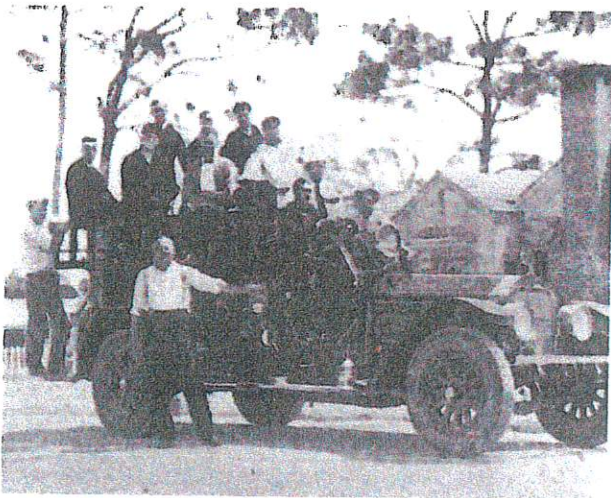


Betsy

EARL MIDLIAM

## Old Betsy's Story



Old Betsy is a Type 75 Triple Combination Pumper. It was delivered to Moore Haven, Florida, on September 9, 1926, to begin work fighting fires in that town on the shores of Lake Okeechobee. However, things changed on September 18, 1926, when the Great Miami Hurricane came through. The simple mud dike that was around the lake broke, and Moore Haven was flooded with about 15 feet of water, including Old Betsy. The town was struggling to survive in many ways, including financially, and so they sold the truck to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE). The BLE relocated Old Betsy to Venice on November 4, 1926. It was the town's first fire truck and the only fire truck in town until 1949. When the Army

decommissioned the Venice Army Air Base, it gave the city two trucks that joined in protecting the city.

In the late 1960s, Old Betsy was retired—but only where firefighting was concerned. It began a second career as an ambassador for the City of Venice. Old Betsy was entered into contests at fire truck competitions and even won a few. Years ago, it started leading the Venice Lions Club Halloween Parade. Old Betsy has been in parades in Ft Myers, St Petersburg, Sarasota, Bradenton and, of course, Venice, to name a few. It is most well-known for participating in the Venice holiday parade, which began in 1976. Old Betsy started out carrying Santa ' a

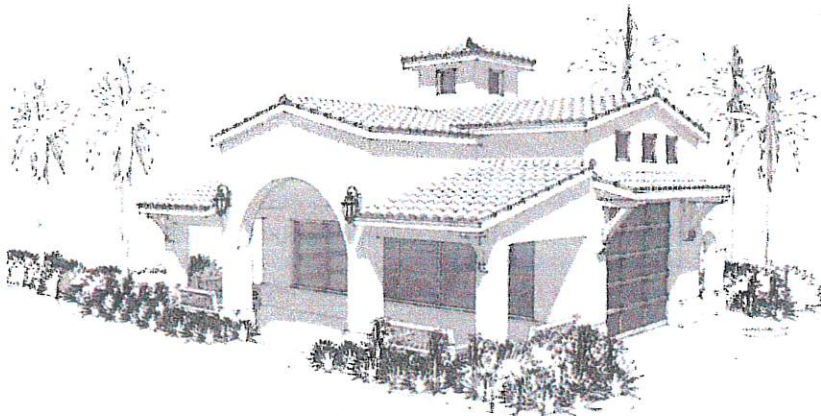


who came down to the avenue, and later, as the parade grew, carried dignitaries and local persons. Lately, it has been a participant in the annual Parade of Champions, honoring Venice High School winners.

Old Betsy had had a little work done from time to time, all thanks to several former fire chiefs as well as Glenn Stephens, Gaylord George, and Earl Midlam. In 2012, Old Betsy had the makeover of a lifetime. It was sent to Daytona Beach, where a corporation named PRIDE totally re-made her.

The City of Venice and Venice Heritage, Inc., have committed funds to construct the Old Betsy Museum on the Cultural Campus. This building will place Old Betsy on display 24/7, so people won't have to wait for an event to enjoy it.

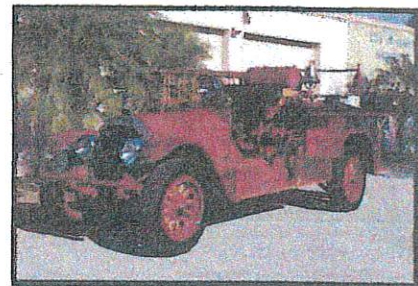
## Future Home of the Old Betsy Museum



This project is being made possible through the generous contributions of the City of Venice, Dr. William H. Jervy Jr., the Kathleen K. Catlin Foundation, and hundreds of other private supporters from the Venice community.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

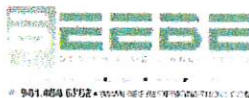
For additional information or to become a supporting partner, please contact Earl Midlam at 941-485-3311 or Venice Heritage, Inc. a 501(c)(3) at [veniceheritageinc@gmail.com](mailto:veniceheritageinc@gmail.com).



### PROJECT DESIGN TEAM:



**Kimley»Horn**  
Engineering, Planning, Architecture, Interiors



**"Old Betsy" 1926 American LaFrance Fire Engine**

without the words

SUBMIT

old betsy

Display Images ☐ ON ☐

Sort By Relevance



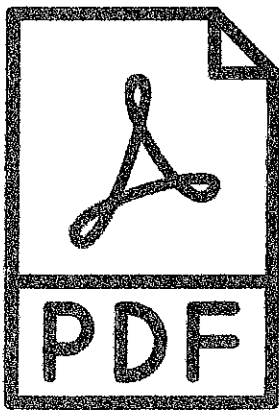
Showing 1 - 10 out of 374 results

### Old Betsy

<https://www.venicegov.com/?navid=783>

This building will place **Old Betsy** on display 24/7, so people won't have to wait for an event to see her.

Pages



Site and Development Plan for **Old Betsy** Museum

Documents

### Fire Department History

<https://www.venicegov.com/?navid=289>

Firemen on the LaFrance fire truck "**Old Betsy**" in 1927. "**Old Betsy**" at a parade in the City of Venice. "**Old Betsy**" at another City of Venice parade or festival. Original text Contribute a better translation Loading ...

Pages

# Legacy Award Application

## Legacy Award

### City of Venice Legacy Award Nomination Form

The Legacy Award began in 2005 to recognize good work in preserving the history of Venice. In the past, the program recognized those groups and individuals who were important in Venice history or had achieved much in the preservation and dissemination of Venice history.

Today, the Legacy Awards Program recognizes groups and individuals who have had important contributions to the history of Venice or historic preservation. There are two categories for the Legacy Awards Program: Historical Achievement and Historic Preservation.

Nominations are sought from the public at-large. A nominee must have shown good historic preservation practice or a demonstrated track record of keeping, preserving, and sharing the history of Venice.

Nominations will be accepted year-round, and the Historic and Architectural Preservation Board will begin reviewing nominations in March of each year.

#### **Historical Achievement**

This category recognizes those groups or individuals who had a significant impact on Venice history or the preservation and dissemination of Venice history.

**Contributions to Venice History** – Made an impact on the arc of Venice history.

For this category, the group or individual should have had a significant impact on Venice in the past. The individual may be still alive or deceased, and the group may still be active or dissolved. There should be a clear demonstration of the effect this group or individual had on Venice and how that impact still resonates today.

**Preserving Venice History** – Accomplishments in the preservation and dissemination of Venice records, objects, stories, or places. Resources are disseminated through publications, programs, Web sites, or other means.

For this category, the individual or group must demonstrate a contribution to preserving the past in Venice. This may be through collecting and preserving objects and records; sharing the history of an organization or business through a variety of mediums; bringing awareness to a building, place, community,

individual from Venice's past; showing pride in the history of your neighborhood, organization, or business; or educating the public about some aspect of Venice history.

## **Historic Preservation**

This category recognizes exceptional work in the area of historic preservation. Projects can be a restoration, rehabilitation, or reconstruction, or new addition that exemplifies sound preservation work for structures or historic landscapes.

**Restoration** – Bringing back a place to its original state.

For this category, the project must be one where a place is brought back to its original look from its era of significance, typically from when it was constructed. A successful project in this category shows that all salvageable material is restored on the place. Material that must be replaced is done so in a like-for-like manner.

**Rehabilitation** – Bringing a place back from a poor condition to a practical one that respects the history of the place.

For this category, the project must be one where a place maintains its character defining features while being brought up to modern standards. Repurposing of a place in the course of rehabilitation is also acceptable.

**Reconstruction** – Bringing a place back that is no longer existing.

For this category, the project must be one where a place no longer existing is rebuilt the same way as it was originally.

**New Addition**– An addition to a place that tastefully respects the original place without mimicking it.

For this category, the project must be one where an addition is tastefully added either directly onto the original place or is an accessory unit on the property. The design and style of the new construction should be one that compliments the original place. It should not overwhelm, mirror, or detract from the original place.

## **Contact Information**

### **Nominator**

\* Name ?

Greg Watkins

\*Phone ?

(941) 779-0289

\*Email ?

watkinsge@aol.com

Nominee

Full Name

Earl Midlam

Name of Organization

Old Betsy

Address

On file 744 White Pine Tree Rd Unit 112  
florida venice 34285

Phone

~~\*\*SKIPPED\*\*~~ 941-485-3311

Email

~~95pkup@gmail.com~~  
themidlams@verizon.net

Website

~~\*\*SKIPPED\*\*~~

Award Category



**\* Award Category ?**

Historic Preservation

Historic Preservation

Historic Preservation

**Type of Preservation Project ?**

Restoration

**Submittal Requirements**

For restoration projects, please include:

1. A brief narrative of scope and purpose of project. Please include any methods used to research place before starting restoration work.
2. Architectural drawings showing what work was planned for restoration.
3. Photographs showing key restoration work.
4. Pre- and post- restoration photographs.
5. Documentation on any new materials used (cut sheets, product descriptions, etc.).

For rehabilitation projects, please include:

1. A brief narrative of scope and purpose of project. Please include any methods used to research place before starting rehabilitation work.
2. Architectural drawings showing what work was planned for rehabilitation.
3. Photographs showing key rehabilitation work.
4. Pre- and post-rehabilitation photos.

For reconstruction projects, please include:

1. A brief narrative of scope and purpose of project. Please include any methods used to research place before starting reconstruction work.
2. Photographs and architectural drawings (if possible) of original place.
3. Architectural drawings showing how place will be reconstructed.
4. Photographs of reconstructed place taken from similar perspectives as any photos of original ,

For new addition projects, please include:

1. A brief narrative of scope and purpose of project. Please include how place compliments—but does not mimic or detract from—the original place.
2. Architectural drawings showing what new construction work was planned.
3. Photographs showing comparison between original place and new construction.

**Brief narrative of scope and purpose of project. ?**

Restoration and preservation of Old Betsy, a Type 75 Triple Combination Pumper LaFrank fire truck, obtained in Venice in 1926.

**Attachment**

**\*\*SKIPPED\*\***

**SEE HISTORY OF BETSY ATTACHED**

Hard copies of attachments may be sent to:

Harry Klinkhamer

Historical Resources Manager

Venice Museum

351 Nassau Street South

Venice, FL 34285

**Click the box to submit your nomination**

Click box and submit

[Cancel](#)

[Submit](#)