

Our November 11 Day Trip to Clermont: A Photo Essay



Jim Briggs (left), President of Clermont's Historic Preservation Society, began the tour with an overview of the Village, while our group (below) listened attentively. The day was stunning as we toured the Village, which overlooks Lake Minneola.



First stop in the Village was the old train station, which also was a restaurant in the 1980s and now serves as a meeting room for the Historic Preservation Society.

The next structure was built by James and Sallie Townsend, the first Black residents to settle in Clermont. The Townsend House (below, right) was built around 1895 and was located originally on Highway 50; it was moved to the Village in 2002. The Townsends were outstanding citizens and community leaders in education, religion, and health.



The Kern House (left) was built around 1885 and moved to the Historic Village in 2006. Mr. Kern built it as a replica of the family's home in New Jersey to entice his wife to move to Florida. Mrs. Kern loved her New Jersey home and didn't want to leave it, but the house lured her to Clermont.

Grace Chapel (right) is a replica of the original 1800s-era Grace Baptist Church. The interior features a stained-glass window (below left) as well as 100-year-old wooden pews. The chapel seats about 20 and can be rented for special events.



The Herring Hooks Schoolhouse (below right) is a replica of the original 1881 one-room schoolhouse. The original was converted from a hunting lodge to meet the needs of the growing Clermont population.

The original Cooper Memorial Library (below) was built in 1914 and moved to the Historic Village in 2009. It was restored and made into a museum of local/world history.



Our final stop on the Historic Village tour was the Quonset Hut World War II Museum.



After lunch, we toured the President's Hall of Fame. This museum is dedicated to U.S. Presidents and their families. It features a miniature White House replica as well as a video about presidential family pets. As we were leaving, we were offered a photo op (below) at a table set for leaders.



It was a grand Day Trip. Thank you to Kate, Carolyn, and Angela for arranging this outstanding learning and social opportunity for us!