

George Francis Bartlum Roberts House
412 William Street
Monroe County
Key West
Florida

HABS NO. FLA-183

HABS,
FLA,
44-KEY,
19-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. FLA-183

GEORGE FRANCIS BARTLUM ROBERTS HOUSE

Location: 412 William Street, Key West, Monroe County, Florida.

USGS Key West Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 17.419000.2176100.

Present Owner
and Occupant: Mrs. Eliza Salgado Curry, 412 William Street, Key
West, Florida.

Present Use: Residence.

Significance: A typical one-and-a-half story, Conch cottage. These simple houses, traditionally built by mariners, spongers and fishermen who migrated from the Bahama Islands, and were known locally as Conchs, were designed to meet the rigors of their near-tropical island location.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Mid-1800's.
2. Architect: None.
3. Original and subsequent owners: In 1846 the heirs of J.W.C. Fleming sold to Joseph Bartlum all of Lot 2 in Square 35 (Deed Book D, p. 302). Joseph and Mary Ann Bartlum sold part of this lot in April 1847 to his brother John Bartlum (Deed Book D, p. 519), who in November 1847 sold the S.E. corner of this property to Richard Roberts (Deed Book D, p. 521). In 1915 the portion of this property consisting of 43' on William Street and running back along the line dividing Lots 1 and 2, was deeded by the heirs of Richard Roberts to their brother, George F.B. Roberts (Deed book ZZ, p. 369). Mrs. A.R. Ivey, widow of George, deeded in 1926 the property to his sister, Annie R. Charpley (Deed Book D-4, p 364), who in 1955 deeded the property to her children (Monroe County Court House Records 48, p. 72), and it was sold by them on July 2, 1962 to William A. Freeman (Monroe County Court House Records 255, pp. 421-422). William A. and his wife Elsie Curry Freeman in turn deeded the porperty for her lifetime to Mrs. Eliza Salgado Curry on March 3, 1964 (Monroe County Court House Records 305, pp. 521-522).
4. builder: Probably Richard Roberts.
5. Original plan and construction: Rectangular, one-and-a-half story, wood frame building, with a full veranda across one of the long sides.

GEORGE FRANCIS BARTLUM ROBERTS HOUSE
HABS No. FLA-183 (Page 2)

6. Alterations and additions: An A-frame addition at the rear of the building has been constructed in a manner similar to the main building.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Built by Richard Roberts, who built and owned one of the two Key West houses known as the Bahama Houses (HABS No. FLA-178). George Francis Bartlum Roberts was his son.

C. Bibliography:

Primary and unpublished sources:

Monroe County Court House Records and Deed Books, County Clerk's Office, Key West, Florida.

Monroe Land Title Co. Abstract, 513 Whitehead Street, Key West, Florida.

Sanborn Map of Key West, Florida 1889, Sanborn Map and Publishing Co., New York.

Prepared by Betty M. Bruce
Old Island Restoration
Foundation, Inc.
HABS Key West Project
September 1967

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: An excellent example of the typical one-and-a-half story Conch cottages of Key West. The building reflects its environment through construction techniques, incorporation of ample ventilation and modest trim. The building has an "A-frame" addition typical of this building type. Local opinion holds that the resultant roof area increases roof water dispatched to nearby cisterns.
2. Condition of fabric: Generally good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: A rectangular one-and-a-half story building 31'-2 1/2" x 33'-2 1/2" with five bays across the facade and a rear three-bay addition.
2. Foundation: Monolithic limestone piers raise the building 1'-6" average above grade.
3. Wall construction: 1 1/2" boards and 1 1/2" battens on wood frame; flush joints between boards at porch elevation only.
4. Structural systems, framing: Wood frame building with A-frame addition.
5. Porch: A veranda extends across the front (William Street) elevation near floor level; columns are 6" square wood posts, with composite mold capitals; wood balustrade has molded top and bottom rails, 1" x 1 1/4" balusters; 1 5/8" x 2 5/8" vertical strips at three points between columns to secure insect screen (removed); modern screen door; flush horizontal siding in porch ceiling and entablature. Concrete steps at the north end of the veranda; wood steps at kitchen and dining room exterior doorways.
6. Chimneys: None; galvanized metal vent for water heater projects from the southeast wall.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Two front doors opening off the veranda and a door in the rear of the "A-frame addition. Two two-panel operating wood louvered shutters per opening, out-swinging; four-panel (both sides) wood door in-swinging, mortise and tenon construction; 1" x 3 3/4" trim with drip mold, wood thresholds. Kitchen doorway at side of addition; no shutters, modern wood vertical boards; fragments indicate that this was originally a window.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Two two-panel operating wood louvered shutters per opening, originally hung at jambs, presently fastened together and hung at head to swing up and out, propped open with wood strip; windows are

six-over-six-light single hung sash, insect screen panel slides vertically, metal keep for window; 1" x 3 3/4" trim at joints and head, drip mold, wood sill.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Both the main building and the addition have gable roofs of standing seam terne sheet metal covering over wood shingles. The ridges of the roof are parallel.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Molded wood cornice and fascia at gable ends; galvanized gutter at rear, gutter removed front elevation, downspouts removed.
- c. Other: Two scuttles each side of gable roof at main section, hinged at the top of the opening to swing up and out, insect screen inserts; scuttles insure ventilation and additional light for second floor spaces.

9. Water sources:

Cistern: Fragments of cistern walls west of house, masonry construction.

Well: Depression west of house indicates well location.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: Doorways from front porch into right and central spaces; the space to the right now used as bath room and hall between living room and stairway appears to have been the entry providing access to the stairway; the central space is the living room with two doorways into spaces at each side (hall and stairway to the right, bedroom to the left) and a large opening into the dining room in the A-frame addition; kitchen to the left of dining room; exterior doorways from kitchen and dining room.
- b. Second floor: Two spaces defined by modern partition of horizontal car siding used as bedrooms; off-set of wall allows incorporation of additional space over porch area.

2. Stairway: Wood stair, 7 3/8" risers, 9" tread, wood newel 4" square with chamfered edges, near-round rail, 2" square balusters, two per tread, soffit of stair sheathed with 3 3/4" wood strips, 1/2 round mold at bottom edge of string.
3. Flooring: Wood boards 5 1/4" across, portions of floor covered with 3 1/4" wood boards and linoleum varnished and painted surfaces.
4. Wall and ceiling finishs: 5 1/4" wood boards, horizontal, flush joints, painted white; fiber board in kitchen and in bathroom; second floor: 3 1/2" wood strips, horizontal, flush joints; horizontal car siding.
5. Doorways and doors: Four-panel wood doors throughout; opening between living and dining room in modern replacing single doorway at center.
6. Notable hardware: Original hardware, porcelain knobs and metal block locks.
7. Lighting: Original electrical exposed wiring.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces northeast on William Street with the ridge of the roof running northwest-southeast. It is southeast of the Captain Richard Roberts House (HABS No. FLA-178), one of two houses in Key West known to have been built in the Baham Islands, taken apart, loaded on shipboard, brought to Key West and reconstructed on this site in 1847. A concrete curb and retaining wall is at the front sidewalk, and wire fences mark inner property lines.
2. Outbuildings: A small outbuilding now used as a wash house is built of board and batten on a wood frame of 4" x 4" members located 7'-2" behind the "A-frame addition.

Prepared by F. Blair Reeve AIA
Supervisory Architect
HABS Key West Project
August 1967

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared in 1967 during a summer project jointly sponsored by the Old Island Restoration Foundation, Inc. of Key West, and the Historic American Buildings Survey. Twenty-two structures were recorded, ranging from commercial structures, residences and hospitals to a convent, a lighthouse, and the Memorial to the Victims of the Disaster of the U.S. Battleship Maine.

The project was under the direction of F. Blair Reeves, AIA, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, University of Florida. Measured drawings were prepared by student architects John D. Davenport and John F. Grimm of Texas A. and M. University, and John O. Crosby of the University of Florida. Mrs. Betty M. Bruce of the Old Island Restoration Foundation, Inc., and Professor Reeves were responsible for the historical and architectural data. They were assisted by members of the Foundation. J. Franks Brooks, Photographer, of Key West, supplied the photographs.