



(1)

A picture taken of the Lighthouse and the Keeper Quarter as existed from 1884-September 28, 2022

I want to first thank John and Mike again for their reach out to me shortly after Hurricane Ian hit Sanibel Island. If it hadn't been for your thoughtfulness and knowledge regarding the right people to contact to protect the Sanibel Lighthouse Tower, that Tower could easily have been destroyed as the Keeper Quarters were. Also, would like to thank the Florida Lighthouse Association Board for their support in our educational grant that relates to historical storyboards about the Lighthouse.

To provide you an update today I'd like to first provide you with the pictures that show the destruction that Ian did to our Lighthouse site.



(2)



(3)

As you can see no Keeper Quarter Houses exists anymore other than some foundation rubble, bricks and cast iron piling. It is confirmed that when the 12 foot storm surge hit it lifted the Keeper Quarters and their cast iron foundations out of the ground and hurdled them toward the base of the tower and broke the bottom part of one of its columns or "legs" as they are known.



(4)
The main support columns at the northwest corner of the tower indicating how it was sheared off at its connection point.



(5)
The column portion broke in three places which sits at the base of the Tower waiting to be copied and reconstructed.



(6)
The cross bracing was also sheared off which will need repairing to stabilize the Tower.

If it had not been for the structural concrete footings on each of the other columns at their base which we think was added at the turn of the century,

or as the legend says the legs are cross bracing at the base of the Tower, the Tower would have come down.

The specialty engineers worked closely with the City of Sanibel and insurance company to get the “peg leg” or wooden leg constructed in time to prevent any potential damage from tropical Nichole. The City of Sanibel and the engineering teams were successful, but Nichole did veer northward and luckily did not test the wooden peg leg as a direct hit to Sanibel.

Pictures (7) (8) (9)





The Insurance and collaborative restoration company Belfor acted quickly to secure the Lighthouse site to avoid any vandalism which started to happen. Bricks were being taken off the site that could be used in the future to rebuild the Keeper Quarters or act as historical reminders of what was there originally.

Pictures (10) (11) (12)





This is a container that is salvaging the bricks that were either parts of the wonderful central heating Keeper Quarter chimneys or the cooking chimneys at either end of these buildings.

The next steps are still unclear. We at the Sanibel Historical Museum and Village are focused on the repairs to our 9 historical buildings as some of the only historical buildings that still remain on the Island post lan. We are also looking at creating an exhibit devoted to the Lighthouse at our Village that celebrates one of the fresnel lights we have there and historical storyboards that reflect the history of the lighthouse that we have already developed, and FLA has granted us educational money for.

The long range view is to work with the City on the opportunity to rebuild the Keeper Quarters in the future and celebrate the Lighthouse history and local maritime experience as a Museum for the public.

Thank you, Celina Kersh Monte-Sano