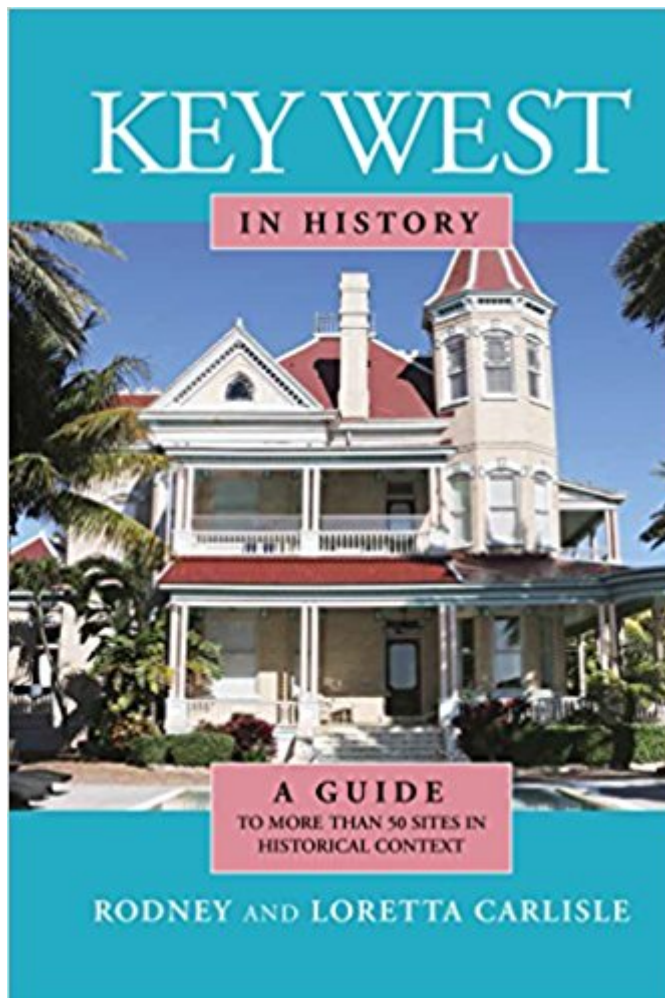


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# Key West In History



## Synopsis

Key West is a unique travel destination whose history is so rich, it can be confusing for first-time visitors. Tourists walk through a mix of nineteenth-, twentieth-, and twenty-first-century historic homes and attractions in a blur of fascinating impressions. They get no clear picture of the evolution of the city from its beginnings to the present and no sense of how all of the sites fit into history nor of the significance of Key West in American social, military, and intellectual history. *Key West in History* changes all of that. More than a typical, site-by-site guidebook, this book presents over 50 Key West sites in historical context—an invaluable resource for the visitor or student who wants a deeper understanding of how the city represents different eras of American and Floridian history, and how specific sites reflect important periods and trends in the past. Each chapter describes the events of a period of Key West history, and is accompanied by photographs of selected sites that represent that period.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This lively, photo-rich guide to things to see in Key West takes you through the nearly 200-year history of this unique town, era by era. From the first dedicated Navy officers putting down Caribbean pirates, through daring salvage captains and their crews, Confederate and Union patriots, spongers and deep-sea fishermen, entrepreneurs, Cuban revolutionaries, rascals and Bohemians, Key West unfolds its attractions. Key West played a crucial role in many phases of American history since its founding in 1821, due to its position at the Southernmost tip of the continental United States and as a unique tropical get-away for writers and artists, rebels and

presidents. This volume takes the visitor through the sites that tell the story of each period, with photographs and site descriptions that place the town's churches, forts, homes, saloons and cigar factories, museums and monuments, all in the larger context of the city and the nation's history. The story is studded with characters from Captain David Porter, through Stephen Mallory and Jose Marti, to Ernest Hemingway, Harry Truman, Mel Fisher, and Jimmy Buffett, who each left their mark on the town. This guide to the sites that witnessed the characters and events is an indispensable tool for historic sightseeing."

Rodney Carlisle is professor emeritus of history from Rutgers University and the author of more than 40 books, including *St. Augustine in History*. Loretta Carlisle is a professional photographer who has published photography in a number of books.

I have no connection to the authors or publisher, but enthusiastically recommend this as by far the best introduction to the fascinating history of my favourite town. It is not just history in the abstract, but based on viewing readily accessible landmarks. It provides the experience of a trolley or walking tour with an expert guide, but at your own pace. The authors are a history professor and photographer, a winning combination in bringing the details to vivid life. There is depth of knowledge here, yet concisely and clearly conveyed. The photographic illustration is generous, well balanced with the text and of high quality. What impressed me most, however, was the original way the guide is organized. Where most guidebooks take a geographic approach, this one is arranged in historical order. I found this an ingenious way of conveying the multilayered nature of the colourful history here, which can be confusing if you are simply barraged with stories in a random sweep along the streets. If you wish to use it as a real-time walking tour guide, it would be best to first read it through completely and then customize your own itinerary. Even as a virtual tour, it effectively conveys the wonders of this place whether you have never been or are still exploring.

Great book for anyone interested in the history of Key West.

Perfect, Thank you!

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