

Preservation Update December 2021

To friends of the historic Cramer House and Boca Raton Road

The Boca Raton Historical Society has been concerned about the fate of Boca Raton Road, including the Cramer House, since 2006. This used to be the city's "main street" in the late 1940s and 50s. At the time, the city had plans to build what was known as "The Spine," a connection between Mizner Park and Royal Palm Place which would have involved the destruction of the entire block more or less. At that time we sponsored a charette with property owners, citizens, the city, and an architectural consultant to look at the future of Boca Raton Road. Fortunately, "The Spine" did not happen and instead "The Promenade," was created on SE First Avenue. We also made several overtures to local property owners to consider historic designation for a possible historic district or as individual historic sites. Unfortunately, these were met with disinterest.

The Boca Raton Historical Society as a non-governmental, not for profit agency has **no authority** over historic designation in our city. That responsibility lies with the city's Historic Preservation Board, which serves in an advisory capacity. That doesn't mean that we don't share your concerns! I have reached out to the HPB and also Council member Drucker regarding the house but have yet to hear a response. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** The best course of action is to contact your council members and make your concerns known!! Council is underwhelmed when they hear about historic preservation from the BRHS alone. They need to know their voters are concerned about saving local history as well. Check out the petition circulating at change.org/alettosquare

Susan Gillis, Curator