

Journey through history at the

Audubon House & Gardens

"A GEM OF AMERICAN RESTORATION..."



Roseate Spoonbill — John James Audubon, America's great painter and ornithologist, was born in 1785 in Haiti, the son of a French planter. To escape Napoleon's draft, he left a comfortable life in France for his father's Pennsylvania farm. Frontier America suited Audubon. His monumental work, *BIRDS OF AMERICA*, containing 435 life-sized engravings, celebrates its wild natural beauty. During his stay in the Keys Audubon was thrilled by the spectacular water birds, many unknown to him. Here eighteen new species were added including the Great White Heron and the White-Crowned Pigeon, painted on a branch of a flowering Geiger Tree from these gardens.



Tropical Gardens — Pathways of aged bricks winding among orchid-filled trees evoke the wealthy, cosmopolitan way of life Audubon found in Key West. Early settlers were practical in their plantings. From the Calusa Indians they learned new sources for food, medicine and timber on these remote islands. Seafarers soon introduced tropical fruits from all over the world. Precious rainwater was collected in stone cisterns like those under the rear deck still in use. Rare natives and varied exotics gave the first Key West gardens a unique character still seen today.



Sitting Room — The house is furnished with authentic pieces typical of 19th Century Key West. The sitting room contains unique pieces such as the GOLD HARP, made by John Egan, Ireland, dated 1790; SEWING NECESSAIRE in the shape of a globe with signs of the zodiac inlaid in exotic woods, Venetian, 18th century; and exceptional PAIR OF CHINESE TEAKWOOD BARREL ARM CHAIRS, 18th century; QUEEN ANNE TEA TABLE, Holland, 18th century; CLEMENTE SPINET PIANO, the Duchess of Bedford Estate, 1805; and fine objects such as the DRESDEN OWL LAMP.



Dining Room — Throughout the house important examples of designs by Thomas Chippendale can be seen. In the dining room the eight CHIPPENDALE CHAIRS, Duchess of Kent Collection, 1790 and the CHIPPENDALE TABLE with mechanical expansion system to accommodate two leaves are excellent examples. Other important pieces are the GEORGIAN SECRETARY BOOKCASE, Lord Parrington Estate, 1790; a unique REGENCY WINE COOLER, English, 1820; and a SHERATON HALF MOON CONSOLE TABLE, English, 18th century. Many of the objects have the crest of the Duchess of Bedford such as the PAIR OF CRYSTAL DECANTERS, and some of the CROWN DERBY and STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERY, 1820.