



Cortez Village is one of the few remaining commercial fishing villages in Florida. It is significant for its contribution to Florida's historic fishing industry as well as its large collection of vernacular architecture, some of which reflects the maritime character of the village. Early structures were built along the waterfront, however many of those buildings were destroyed by the hurricane of 1921.

1. Albert and Mary Few House (1909), 12002 45th Ave W  
"Fewville" consists of six homes along grass driveway
2. One Room Schoolhouse (1895), 12016 45th Ave W
3. Nate and Betty Fulford House (1894), 12207 45th Ave W
4. Capt. Billy & Sallie Fulford House (1889), 4507 123rd St W
5. Walt "Tink" Fulford House & Net Camp (c. 1930),  
4527 123rd St W
6. Fulford Fish House (1942), 4531 123rd St W

7. Johns-Capo Net Camp (1935), offshore from the  
public pier at 123rd St W
8. N.E. Taylor Boatworks (1922), 12304 46th Ave W
9. Star Fish Co., 12306 46th Ave W
10. A.P. Bell Fish Co., 4600 124th St W
11. U.S. Coast Guard, 4530 124th St Court W
12. Tabby Jail House (c. 1912), 4415 124th St  
Court W (rear building)

### **Albert and Mary Few House** (12002 45<sup>th</sup> Ave W)

Albert and Mary Few purchased this circa 1909 home in the early 1920s, and soon their entire family joined them. “Fewville” is the group of six homes built along a grass drive running along the west side of the property.

### **One Room Schoolhouse** (12016 45<sup>th</sup> Ave W)

The first school in Cortez was built in 1895 by the local fishermen. It originally stood at the south corner of 45<sup>th</sup> Ave W and 121<sup>st</sup> St W but was relocated in 1912 and converted to a residence.

### **Nate and Betty Fulford House** (12207 45<sup>th</sup> Ave W)

Nate Fulford was one of the original settlers in Cortez, along with his brothers William and Sanders. They came from Carteret County, North Carolina, in the late 1880s. Nate built this side-gable house in 1894.

### **Capt. Billy & Sallie Fulford House** (4507 123<sup>rd</sup> St W)

The oldest house in the village was built in 1889 for William Fulford, considered one of the community’s best fishermen. Capt. Billy and his wife, Sallie Adams, along with the Fulford brothers, moved from Perico Island for the protected harbor of Hunter’s Point.

### **Walton “Tink” Fulford House & Net Camp**

(4527 123<sup>rd</sup> St W)

“Tink” Fulford, a life-long fisherman, built this house in 1926 just down the street from his father, Capt. Billy. The net camp, built in 1935, was originally located over the water just south of its present location. Within a short time it was moved to the shore for use as a garage and later as a residence.

### **Fulford Fish House** (4531 123<sup>rd</sup> St W)

The Fulford Fish House is the only remaining historic fish house in Cortez. “Tink” Fulford took over the operations in the late 1930s. The original structure was demolished and this building was erected in 1942. Today, it is leased to the A. P. Bell Company.

### **Johns-Capo Net Camp** (offshore at 123<sup>rd</sup> St W)

Net camps are small, single story buildings, often situated over the water. The camps were historically surrounded by net spreads, made of pine poles nailed together to create a framing over which limed cotton nets were spread to dry. The Curt Johns-Joe Capo net camp, built in 1935, is the only one that survives at its original site. It is located about 200 yards off shore, just outside the district boundaries.

### **N.E. Taylor Residence & Boatworks**

(12304 46<sup>th</sup> Ave W)

Neriah Taylor built this house in 1922. He and his family lived on the second floor and the first floor was his boat building shop. His son, Alcee Taylor, converted the first floor into a small, informal museum displaying equipment and tools used by N.E. Taylor. Alcee, a life-long commercial fisherman, operated the museum until his death in 2011.

### **Cortez Jail House** (4415 124<sup>th</sup> St Ct W, rear building)

This small one-story jail house was built around 1912 for the village using a unique masonry technique known as tabby which uses a mixture of shells and lime. After the mixture is poured into a frame and hardens, the walls are covered with a layer of stucco or plaster. Only one person, Jap Thigpen, was ever officially incarcerated in the jail. The jail sits behind the John and Bessie Evans house, built in 1916.

### **Points of Interest:**

**Star Fish Co.**, started in 1925 by Burns Taylor and A. D. “Judge” Millis, is a local seafood retail market and restaurant.

**A.P. Bell Fish Co.**, established in 1940, is one of the last original “fish houses” in Cortez.

**U.S. Coast Guard**, built in 1991, is located on the original site of the 1890 Burton/Bratton Store and Albion Inn, now housed on the museum’s grounds.



4415 119<sup>th</sup> St West  
Cortez, FL 34215  
(941) 708-6120  
[FloridaMaritimeMuseum.org](http://FloridaMaritimeMuseum.org)



## **Cortez Village Walking Tour**

Welcome to the historic fishing village of Cortez, originally known as Hunter’s Point. Cortez, Florida, was established in the late 1800s by commercial fishermen and their families from Carteret County, North Carolina. They were attracted to the sheltered harbor of this location, and the abundance of mullet.

The Cortez Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995, along with the 1912 Cortez Schoolhouse. The district is bounded by Cortez Road (SR 684), 119<sup>th</sup> Street West, Sarasota Bay, and 124<sup>th</sup> Street Court West.

Enjoy your walk!