

H E N R Y M O R R I S O N  
**FLAGLER MUSEUM**  
— PALM BEACH, FLORIDA —

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 21, 2009

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**Flagler Museum Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Free Admission**

Palm Beach, FL – On June 5<sup>th</sup> each year the Flagler Museum celebrates its anniversary by opening to the public free of charge in honor of the Museum's founder, and Henry Flagler's granddaughter, Jean Flagler Matthews.

The Museum was founded on June 5, 1959. This Founder's Day begins a year-long celebration to commemorate the Museum's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On Founder's Day visitors may take a self-guided tour of Whitehall, view the permanent collection of art and objects related to the Gilded Age, and climb aboard Henry Flagler's Railcar No. 91 in the Flagler Kenan Pavilion.

Henry Flagler built Whitehall in 1902 as a wedding present for his wife, Mary Lily Kenan. In 1925 Whitehall was converted into a luxury hotel, and a ten-story, 300 room tower was added. By the 1950s the hotel was in financial trouble. Henry Flagler's granddaughter learned the estate was for sale, she purchased the property, and established the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum in 1959. Mrs. Matthews lead the way for an extensive restoration project where nine floors of the hotel tower addition were removed, and many of Whitehall's original objects were returned and restored. She also oversaw the re-installation of the original 1,249 pipe organ. Since 1998 the Museum has: been designated as a National Historic Landmark, installed of a state-of-the-art climate control and security system, restored Whitehall's interior (including original floors, wall coverings, and decorative ceilings), restored Whitehall's elaborate iron and bronze fence,

built the award winning Beaux Arts styled Flagler Kenan Pavilion to house and protect Henry Flagler's private railcar, and restored the Courtyard to its original design.

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When it was completed in 1902, Whitehall, Henry Flagler's Gilded Age estate in Palm Beach, was hailed by the *New York Herald* as "more wonderful than any palace in Europe, grander and more magnificent than any other private dwelling in the world." Today, Whitehall is a National Historic Landmark and is open to the public as the Flagler Museum, featuring guided tours, changing exhibits, and special programs. The Museum is located at Coconut Row and Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. The Museum is open from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and noon until 5:00 p.m., Sunday. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$8 for youth ages 13-18, \$3 for children ages 6-12, and children under six are free.

For more information, please call the Flagler Museum at (561) 655-2833 or visit [www.flaglermuseum.us](http://www.flaglermuseum.us).

High resolution images are available upon request.

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