

WRECK ASHORE!

"If you only have time for one historic museum, this would be the one to select."

-Caribbean Potts of Call Magazine



Historic Tours of America® presents

**KEY WEST
SHIPWRECK
HISTOREUM® MUSEUM**

Join our CAST in another time as you enter the world of

THE GREAT WRECK



The Isaac Allerton

The Ship

The *Isaac Allerton* was a 594 ton square rigged packet ship 137 feet long and 40 feet wide. It had left New York on August 5, 1856 and was headed for New Orleans on a course through the Florida Straits, between Key West and Cuba. In her hold was a general cargo of household goods as well as the marble floors, capitol, lintels for the Federal Customs house at New Orleans.

The Wreck

On the moonless night of August 28, the *Allerton* was struck by a savage hurricane off the Saddlebunch Keys. Driven across the reef, she began to take on water. After riding the anchor for several hours, the lines were cut, she grounded over Washer Woman Shoals, lost her rudder and sank to the bottom in five fathoms of water in Hawks Channel.

*A museum the whole family
can enjoy and explore!*
The Gildays, Albany, NY

*What great fun.
The view from the tower is pretty cool, too!*
-B. Thomas, Canton, OH

Historic Mallory Square™ • One Whitehead Street

The Salvage

The *Isaac Allerton* became the largest individual award in the history of wrecking, with the cargo valued at \$150,000. The salvaging was done bareback, diving without the aid of masks and tanks or diving suits, and many of the Key West wreckers were injured. Because of the depth of the water, over half of the cargo was left on board the ship at the bottom of Hawks Channel.

Rediscovered

In 1985, a group of local divers discovered the *Allerton* wreck. After 130 years, ships timbers and cargo were clearly seen and a maritime claim was filed. Two of the divers were brothers Steve and Ray Maloney. Their great-great-great grandfather was Walter C. Maloney, the lawyer for Asa Tift, who had claimed the first half of the original 1856 ship's cargo. It is Asa Tift's warehouse you are going to enter at the Key West Shipwreck HISTOREUM® Museum.



In 1985 a group of local wrecking enthusiasts discovered the remains of the Isaac Allerton and over half of the original cargo. Enjoy the excitement in this rediscovery of our past.

Great entertainment!
-R. Quinlan, Salem, OR

What an amazing place!
We'll be back.
-D.L. Scott, Austin, TX

IN HISTORIC MALLORY SQUARE

THE STORIES

Presented by our Historic Tours Storytellers



The HISTOREUM® combines actors, films, laser technology and the actual artifacts from the recently discovered Issac Allerton which sank in 1856



...meets history with Philpot,

THE WRECKERS

Meet the men who risked their lives and fortunes as you enter the unique world of an 1856 wrecker's warehouse.



Meet...
master wrecker Asa Tift and his crew as they greet you in his fascinating warehouse, surrounded by the booty and bounty of the reefs and cargo



KEY WEST
SHIPWRECK
HISTOREUM® MUSEUM

is presented by
The Nation's Storyteller®,
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ARESM AT THE WATERFRONT

THE TREASURES

Relive...



...the lives of the wreckers as they fight the storms to save the lives and cargo on the treacherous reefs of the Florida Keys.

Discover...



...the artifacts from the shipwreck *Issac Allerton*. Partially salvaged when the ship sunk in 1856 and rediscovered and fully salvaged in 1985, the *Issac Allerton* was the richest shipwreck in our history.



THE TOWER

Climb the last of over 20 Key West Lookout Towers



Overlook...

Key West's historic District and the barrier reef from on top of Tift's Wrecker's Lookout.... a faithful reproduction of the original built on the site and now Key West's only remaining

