

What is a Manufactured Home?

This answer requires a little bit of history. Following WW-2, Florida became a favorite destination for vacation travelers. They arrived first in their tents and small campers. With time campers became larger and larger "travel trailers." Soon some left their trailers here, storing them over winter in trailer parks.

Some even took the wheels off, and then some thought: "These ought to look more like homes." The industry responded with the "mobile home" which became very popular as Florida (and other areas) to the growing seasonal vacationers.

Finally, lots of people decided they wanted to make Florida their permanent residence, but at a reasonable price. Again the industry responded, this time by constructing conventional homes in sections (think "prefabricated homes") and transporting them to the owner's site, towing them on special purpose trucks similar to what you may have seen when we move a building up North. The trucks are then removed and the home placed on a permanent foundation.

In this way these factories were able to work year around, use tighter construction specifications and very carefully control tolerances. Furthermore, the skilled laborers could concentrate on building a quality product without being debilitated by the heat and humidity of the summer climate. Our homes are custom built in sections, then the sections transported and assembled on site.

Though they may still be called "trailers" by the old timers, or commonly called "mobile homes" today, they are no more "mobile" than a site-built house. They are in fact "manufactured homes," -- manufactured to standards more exacting than many site built "stick" houses. The communities of manufactured homes are still often called by their holdover name of "parks." Today our manufactured home is no more a "mobile home" than our communities are "trailer parks."