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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Island Grove Masonic Lodge No. 125

other names/site number Island Grove Sub-Station of the Cross Creek Fire Department; AL04704

2. Location

street & number 20114 Southeast 219 Avenue n/a not for publication

city or town Island Grove n/a vicinity

state Florida code FL county Alachua code 001 zip code 32640

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barbara E. Mattuck / DSHPO 10/19/2010
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
 - See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

Edson W. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

12-7-10
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | 0 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 1 | 0 | total |

Name of related multiple property listings

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

SOCIAL: Civic

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Frame Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD

roof METAL: Tin

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 ISLAND GROVE MASONIC LODGE NO. 125
ISLAND GROVE, ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Island Grove Masonic Lodge No. 125 is located in the southeast corner of Alachua County at 20114 SE 219 Avenue, Island Grove, Florida, in the first block east of US 301. The two-story Frame Vernacular building, constructed in 1924, is L-shaped. The Lodge is raised on concrete piers and is clad in drop siding. The fenestration consists of regularly placed two-over-two double hung windows on each elevation. A one-story open porch is located in the southeast corner of the building and is the Lodge's main entrance. The hip roof is metal clad with shaped wood braces. The interior of the building has the original wood flooring, wood paneled walls, and wood ceilings and supporting posts. The first floor, used as a social space and dining area, has a kitchen located in the northeast corner. The second floor, where the Masonic Lodge met until 1995, has varnished walls and a varnished tray-shaped ceiling. The Lodge building is in good condition. A 1999 concrete block fire station, not included in the nomination, stands to the west of the Masonic Lodge on the same parcel.

SETTING

The Island Grove Masonic Lodge is located in Island Grove, a small village in southeast Alachua County located at the intersection of US 301 and County Road 325. The terrain of Island Grove is level and the setting is rural. Two large bodies of water are adjacent to Island Grove, Lake Lochloosa to the north and Orange Lake to the south. The site, once covered with orange groves, was originally an island surrounded by wetlands and marshes. The Citra USGS map indicates that the village is still virtually surrounded by water or wetlands, although much drainage over the past century has altered the landscape.¹ The tracks of the Seaboard Railroad/CSX run north and south through Island Grove, but the train no longer makes regular stops at the town. A large packinghouse, now used by a local builder of small storage sheds, stands just west of the single set of railroad tracks. This building (AL04705) is located between the tracks and the Lodge building, separated by a large vacant lot. The Island Grove Post Office, established in February 1884, stands in the southeast corner of the crossroads of US 301 and CR 325, and there is an adjacent beauty shop.² Other commercial buildings that served the once thriving village have vanished. Single-family houses and trailers make up the rest of the built environment of Island Grove. Of the two churches in Island Grove, the Baptist Church is active, with a modern building. The Methodist Church (AL04712), a notable historic landmark, has been abandoned and is falling into ruin.

¹ Karen R. Warr, Judith C. Bryan, and John R. Shuman, "Historical Perspectives on the Hydrology and Vegetation in Orange Lake," St. Johns Water Management District, September 2001. 7-11.

² Alford G. Bradbury and E. Story Hallock. *A Chronology of Florida Post Offices*. Handbook No. 2, Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs. 1962, 41.

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DESCRIPTION

Island Grove Masonic Lodge No. 125 faces south on a paved street and is located four miles to the west on County Road 325, and a short distance from the railroad tracks to the east. The Lodge is just east of the Island Grove Volunteer Fire Station, a substation to the Cross Creek Voluntary Fire Department [Photos 1-2]. A grass lawn surrounds the historic Lodge, but there is no landscaping. The Island Grove Volunteer Fire Substation, built in 1999 on the same parcel of land, is a one-story concrete block building. A paved driveway leads up to the two-bay firehouse from SE 219 Street [Photo 3].

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

Island Grove Lodge No. 125 [Photo 4] is a Frame Vernacular building (38' x 32') that features an L-shaped footprint. A concrete sidewalk runs in front of the building from the porch to the handicapped ramp on the west side. The building rests on concrete block piers. A few of the original brick piers can be seen on the west side of the building. The building exterior cladding is dropped, or novelty, siding, painted white, with vertical corner boards. The windows are 2/2 double hung sash with a flat, narrow drip cap and wood sill. The roofline has intersecting hipped segments and a separate hip roof over the one-story open porch (8' x 14'). Wood braces with sculpted ends support the overhang of the roof.

South

The west section of the main (south) facade has two sets of paired 2/2 double hung sash windows on each story, with an exterior light located in the middle between the second story windows [Photo 4]. The current wooden sign, which is the same size and in the same position as the original sign, reads "Island Grove Sub-Station of the Cross-Creek Volunteer Fire Department." Originally, there was a wooden sign on this facade that featured the Masonic symbol and the words *Island Grove Masonic Lodge # 125*³ [Photo 5]. Three concrete steps lead up to the one-story open front porch set back into the southeast corner of the building [Photo 6]. Single windows are set in the front and side walls of the porch and the portion of the building above the porch. Two slender posts support the porch roof, one to the right of the steps and one at the southeast corner. The porch roof is an independent sheet metal hip roof consistent with the design and shape of the main roof of the building. The principal entrance to the Lodge is through double doors that provide access to the interior from this porch. A single door, no longer in use, is set in the west wall of the porch.

East

The east elevation has symmetrical fenestration, with two sets of paired windows on each floor. The windows on the first story are paired 2/2 double hung sash windows. The second story windows have been boarded up

³ Photographs taken by Owen D. Sykes in 1991 at the 100th anniversary celebration of the Lodge provide views of the interior and exterior.

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with plywood. The front entry porch opens up on the east side, but there is no porch access provided from this side [Photo 7].

North

At the center of the north elevation, which has symmetrically arranged single windows, heating and air-conditioning units have been installed for the first and second floor. Air conditioning units have been installed in the middle windows on both the first and second stories. There is also a larger air conditioning unit and propane tank located adjacent to the north side of the building [Photos 8-9]. Fenestration consists of five 2/2 double hung sash windows on the first story, with five windows on the second story boarded up [Photo 8].

West

On the west elevation, next to the fire station, there is a single paneled door; a graded, concrete handicapped entrance with a metal railing leads to this entry [Photo 10]. The entrance, which has a five-light fanlight glazing on the door, is protected by a bracketed shed roof extension. The bathroom extends from the northwest corner of the building, and a shallow two-story bay is centered on the west elevation. Attached to the bathroom extension is a large water pump with a pipe protruding from the roof that serves as a vent for the water pump [Photo 11]. Fenestration consists of two singly-placed 2/2 double hung sash windows on the first story located on the south side of the elevation, a small louvered window on the bathroom extension, a boarded up window adjacent to the side entrance, and boarded up windows on the second story. Immediately below the first story windows on the south side of the elevation is a small non-historic shed roof extension that serves as a pump shelter [Photo 12].

Description of Interior

First Floor

Double paneled wood doors serve as the main entrance to a social space on the first floor that measures 38 feet by 24 feet. The Masons sometimes referred to this as the "banquet hall." Originally, the entire space was open, with a small kitchen and storage area in the south section (24' x 8') partitioned off from the main room [Photo 13]. To support the second floor, a large beam runs across the ceiling between the east and west walls and two 6" x 6" wood posts support the beam. One of the posts is freestanding and one has been incorporated into the south wall of the kitchen. This interior support system is original to the building, with posts similar to those on the porch. The walls and ceiling have the original wood paneling, painted white. Florescent lights have been installed in the ceiling but some of the original lighting fixtures can still be seen near the top of the freestanding post [Photo 14]. In the northwest corner of the room, which is furnished with dining tables, is the entrance to the restroom. A temporary L-shaped partition screen has been placed in front of the bathroom door for privacy [Photo 15]. Paneled doors on the south wall of the social hall lead to the south storage area and the stairs. The staircase to the second floor rises just inside the western-most door to a landing on the second floor [Photo 16]. There is also a built-in storage closet under the staircase on the first floor.

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Kitchen

Around 1995, a larger kitchen was installed in the northeast corner of the hall, with new cabinets, countertops, and kitchen equipment. A freestanding serving counter was installed between the entrance and the kitchen, and there is a service counter on the west wall of the kitchen. The kitchen partition wall does not extend the full height of the first floor, leaving enough space for the lighting and support beams. It is also not permanent and can be easily removed. The interior of the kitchen has kitchen countertops and unpainted plywood walls [Photo 17].

Second Floor

At the top of the stairs is a small vestibule that overlooks the porch roof. The walls and ceiling of this area are wood paneled and painted white. A door to the left of the stairway opens to the main section of the second floor where the Masonic Lodge members met [Photo 18]. This open room (38' x 24') has varnished walls and a varnished tray-shaped ceiling [Photo 19]. The original wood flooring is marked where a carpet once covered the center section. Features of the room that are specific to the traditional ceremonies of the Free and Accepted Masons are still in evidence, including a three-step wood platform on the east end of the room, where the Worshipful Master was seated [Photo 20]. A two-step wood platform where the Senior Warden sat is still in place on the west end of the room [Photo 21]. Both platforms remain much as they did when the Freemasons were still using the room [Photo 22-23]. The shadow of the one-step platform, where the Junior Warden sat, which has since been removed, can still be seen on the south wall. [Photo 24] A wall heating and air-conditioning unit has been installed at the center of the north wall where a window has been removed. A paneled door on the west end of the south wall provides access to a space used for storage. Another paneled door separates this space from the vestibule at the top of the stairs. Some of the freestanding wooden furnishings used by the Lodge, such as the altar and pedestals, are still in the building, but most of the other furniture was dispersed to other lodges when the Island Grove Lodge was dissolved in 1995.

Alterations

The addition of the bathroom to the northwest corner of the building in the 1950s is the major historic alteration. A water pump with a ventilation pole has since been added to the bathroom addition. The concrete handicapped access ramp was added on the west elevation in the 1990s. Most of the original brick piers were replaced with concrete blocks, but no date is available for this alteration. On the north elevation, air conditioning units have been installed in the middle windows on both the first and second stories. The entrance on the west end replaced what was originally a window [Photos 5, 10]. Also on the west elevation, a small shed extension pump shelter has been added. Several of the windows on the building have been boarded up. The most recent alteration, which occurred in February 2010, is the installation of a new metal roof that is historically consistent with the original roof. The installation of the kitchen in the northeast corner of the dining area and the addition of a serving counter in the mid-1990s are the major interior alterations [Photos 13, 25].

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1924-1960

Significant Dates

1924

Significant Person

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Gardner, E. O., builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of Repository

#

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SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Island Grove Masonic Lodge No.125, constructed in 1924, is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History. The Lodge was the meeting place for the freemasons during its period of significance from 1924 until 1960, and was the principal community center for Island Grove and Cross Creek. It represents the collective social, communal, and philanthropic aspects of these rural communities, which were once thriving citrus and produce centers in Alachua County.

The building is also significant under Criterion C as an example of Masonic lodge architecture. The building is particularly significant for the integrity of the interior space on the second floor where the Lodge met between 1924 and 1995. The layout of the second floor meeting room had special symbolic significance for Freemasons and this building has retained most of the original features of a Masonic meeting room. Although no longer used as a Masonic lodge, the building retains a high degree of its physical integrity of location, setting, design, materials and workmanship.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Historical Context of Freemasonry

The Freemasons, who were chartered in the American colonies by Grand Lodges in England and Ireland in the eighteenth century, trace their traditions back to the Medieval period in Western Europe when stonemasons, the most highly ranked artisans, formed guilds to guard the skills and secrets of their craft. The stonemasons played prominent roles in the construction of castles, cathedrals and other large public buildings of the time. In time the Operative Masons, those who worked in stone, were joined by Speculative Masons, those who did not work in stone but who identified with their beliefs in God as "the Great Architect of the Universe" and in their ideals of brotherhood, morality, and charity. The designation "Free and Accepted Masons" refers to the concept of a craftsman free to travel and work anywhere he wished, accepted for his skill in working in stone. The nondenominational organization, which is a united group of men from all social classes and vocations, spread throughout the nation. It was an important factor, particularly during the pioneer period, in bringing men of the community together to form bonds of fellowship and shared Christian ideals. The allegorical aspects of Freemasonry incorporate many of the paraphernalia, tools, and practices of architecture and construction. Masons are often asked to participate in laying the cornerstone of public buildings. In the United States, each state has a separate Grand Lodge and the elected head of the state Grand Lodge is referred to as the Grand Master. Masons meet in a Lodge, a room or building that refers, like many concepts in Freemasonry, to ancient times when stonemasons built structures called "lodges" against the

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sides of cathedrals during construction as workshops. Masonic buildings are also sometimes called "temples," alluding to King Solomon's Temple in the Holy Land.⁴

The history of Freemasonry in Florida begins in 1768, with the creation of Grant's East Florida Lodge 143 in Saint Augustine, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. A second lodge followed in Pensacola in 1771. After the Spanish takeover in 1781, Catholic authorities suppressed both lodges, effectively ending Freemasonry in Florida. It was not until the United States assumed control of Florida in 1822 that Freemasonry was able to reestablish itself on a permanent basis. The first permanent lodge in the state of Florida was the Jackson Lodge Number 23 in Tallahassee, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Alabama on December 19, 1825. Soon afterwards two other lodges were formed in Marianna and Quincy. In 1830, the three lodges created the Grand Lodge of the Territory of Florida in Tallahassee.⁵

In the late 1820s and early 1830s, anti-Masonic sentiment was at its height following the Morgan Affair. In 1826, William Morgan, an obscure brewer who sought revenge for being denied membership to the Batavia, New York, lodge, threatened to write a book revealing all Masonic secrets. A group of local Freemasons kidnapped and killed Morgan, sparking a national outcry fueled in part by anti-Jackson sentiment (Andrew Jackson was a Mason) that led to the creation of the Anti-Masonic Party. Due to these developments, Freemasonry grew slowly in Florida.⁶

As Florida's population expanded and the territory achieved statehood in 1845, members of the Free and Accepted Masons continued to occupy positions of leadership at the state and local levels. New lodges opened as towns were established and the alliances formed among the fraternity became important to building social, civic, and commercial bonds in emerging communities. Members were businessmen, civic leaders, professional men, farmers and growers, merchants, preachers, and politicians. Membership was not restricted by religion, but most members belonged to Protestant denominations. By 1850, there were 21 charters granted, with one lodge moving to Georgia. Between 1850 and 1860, there were 30 new lodges, more than doubling the total number of lodges within the state. Auxiliary organizations related to the Masons for women, and young men and women further strengthened these community affiliations. Masons might rent space, but also took pride in constructing their Lodges, often with their own hands and skills.⁷ During the Civil War, many Lodges had

⁴ Edwin B. Browning, *History of Freemasonry in Madison County, 1845-1976* (Madison, FL: Masonic Lodge #11, 1976), 11-12, 36; *History of Ezra Lodge Number 67, Free and Accepted Masons, 1873-1948* (Jacksonville: Ezra Lodge No. 67, 1943), ix.

⁵ Grand Lodge of Florida Free and Accepted Masons History Committee, *History of Freemasonry in Florida* (Jacksonville, FL: Grand Lodge of Florida F&AM, 1962), 7-24.

⁶ A Page About Freemasonry, "The Morgan Affair and the US Anti-masonry Movement," [accessed online] accessed at <http://web.mit.edu/dryfoo/Masonry/Essays/morgan.html>; J. Roy Crowther, *The Grand Lodge of Florida Free and Accepted Masons History: Vol. I The Lodges*, (Jacksonville, FL: Drummond Press, 1988), 555.

⁷ T. J. Deringer, *100 Years of Masonry in Orange Lodge No. 36, 1856-1956*. (Apopka, FL: Orange Lodge, 1956), 19-20.

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difficulty paying their dues to the Florida Grand Lodge, as the minutes of a Lodge in Gainesville reveals.⁸ After the Civil War, the number of Masonic lodges jumped considerably, with 70 new lodges created between 1865 and 1879. Masons fought on both sides of the conflict, and reestablishing their fraternal bonds after the war was over helped reconcile some of the lingering discord that had torn the country apart.⁹ Masons were also involved in education, establishing some of the state's earliest schools, and in charitable causes.¹⁰ In 1902, the Florida Masons built the Masonic Home on eighteen acres of waterfront land in St. Petersburg. The Home was originally set aside for the care of orphaned children, but has more recently been turned over to the needs of senior Masons and their wives or widows. The Masons also established a number of hospitals throughout the country in the 1920s and 1930s to aid crippled children, a population that was underserved, particularly in rural areas.

In their ceremonial role at the laying of cornerstones for banks, colleges, hospitals, and other buildings, the presence of the Masons confirmed the stability and worth of these important institutions when they were launched.¹¹ The media took note and commented on the presence of the Masons at these occasions. For example, when the cornerstone for the new Administration Building at the University of Florida was laid on April 21, 1922, Governor Cary Hardee was the main speaker, but the student newspaper reported that Grand Master Charles H. Kechum of the Grand Lodge of the Masons of the State of Florida would officiate at the ceremony.¹² Masonic Lodges served the specific needs of their members and auxiliary organizations, but were available to others as well, according to the means and space available to them. For example, during World War II, Gainesville Lodge No. 41 turned over its dining room and library on weekends to servicemen on leave from their basic military training at Camp Blanding, near Starke. The local community stepped in to prepare breakfast for the men. Food and shelter, free of charge, were provided for more than 10,000 men during the war.¹³

Historical Context of Alachua County

When Florida became an organized territory of the United States in 1822, American settlers poured into Alachua County to build new lives, taking advantage of the resources of the area. A cattle industry based on the herds of cattle and horses introduced by the Spanish sprang up, the wild citrus groves were turned into successful enterprises, and cotton planters arrived from South Carolina to establish plantations. Founded in

⁸ *The First Century of Gainesville Lodge No. 41, F. & A. M., Gainesville, Florida, 1857-1957.* (Gainesville: Wayside Press, 1957), 24-25.

⁹ J. Paul Stellrecht, "Brother Against Brother: Freemasons and the Civil War." *The Florida Mason*, January, 2004. 5-13.

¹⁰ *History of Ezra Lodge No. 67*, 3.

¹¹ *Florida Masonic Monitor*, 4th Edition. (Jacksonville: Grand Lodge of Florida, 1941), 150. Browning, 5; *History of Ezra Lodge No. 67*, 3-11.

¹² "Cornerstone of the New Adm. Build'g to be laid April 21." *The Alligator*, 7 April 1922.

¹³ *The First Century*, 44-45.

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1824, Alachua County originally stretched from the Georgia border south to Charlotte Harbor.¹⁴ A cross-state railroad linking Alachua County to ports on each coast completed in the early 1860s provided an added incentive to development.¹⁵

The Civil War effectively halted the development of Florida for several years. In 1861, Florida seceded from the Union, and although only one major battle was fought in the state, at Olustee, the war years brought suffering and economic stagnation to Florida. When the Civil War was over, much of the rebuilding in Florida was funded by northern capital and spurred by the influx of new settlers, many of them arriving by train. As the rail lines expanded, new towns were established and older settlements grew larger and more important. A complicated series of rail companies were organized, chartered, reorganized, and consolidated, providing access to northern markets that were previously unavailable for residents of the area. Packinghouses sprang up next to the tracks to process oranges and winter vegetables, and rail cars loaded with logs and phosphate hauled the raw materials to ports for shipments to all parts of the world. By the 1880s, Florida's economy had rebounded and settlement of new areas forged ahead.¹⁶

Historical Context of Island Grove

Settlement did not begin in what is now Island Grove until the early 1880s, when railroad development provided access to the area. Early descriptions indicate that the site of the town was on an island, seven miles long and two miles wide, covered in pinelands and hammocks and surrounded by the waters of Orange Lake and Lake Lochloosa and many ponds, creeks and swamps. Webber's guide to the region, *The Eden of the South*, published in 1883, does not mention Island Grove but it does describe numerous fine orange groves under cultivation near Hawthorne, to the north, one of the many towns that had "sprung into existence by means of the railroads" east of Gainesville, the county seat of Alachua County.¹⁷ Alachua County was experiencing "Orange Fever," which struck in the 1860s and continued until the end of the nineteenth century. During this period, orange growing was a profitable enterprise.¹⁸

William J. Moore is credited with establishing Island Grove in 1882 and was appointed Island Grove's first postmaster in 1884. Island Grove, population 50, was first listed in the state's 1886-87 Business Directory. By then the tracks of the Florida Railway and Navigation Company extended south toward Marion County to provide daily service. Seventeen orange growers and six truck farmers are listed, and already Island Grove had

¹⁴ Charles H. Hildreth and Merlin G. Cox, *History of Gainesville, Florida 1954-1976* (Gainesville: Alachua County Historical Society, 1981), 1.

¹⁵ John B. Pickard, *Florida's Eden: An Illustrated History of Alachua County*. (Gainesville: Maupin House, 1994), 5-9, 14-16, 21.

¹⁶ Charlton W. Tebeau. *A History of Florida*. (Coral Gables: University of Miami Press, 1971), 215, 239-240, 272, 292, 295.

¹⁷ "Carl" Webber, *The Eden of the South* (New York: Author, 1883), 60-61.

¹⁸ Hildreth and Cox, 72; George M. Barbour, *Florida for Tourists, Invalids and Settlers* (New York: D. Appleton and Co., 1882), 22-23.

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a school, a hotel, two churches and three stores.¹⁹ By the end of the 1880s, new homes were being constructed, such as the one that W. H. Dupree built in the middle of his eighty-acre grove, one that still stands as an architecturally important example of vernacular Cracker architecture.²⁰ A promotional brochure printed in Gainesville boasts that ten thousand boxes of orange and ten thousand crates of vegetables were shipped annually from Island Grove.²¹ A cigar factory was established, the moss factory was ginning twenty bales of moss a day, and there were several hundred inhabitants in 1894.²² The devastating freezes of the 1890s that killed many orange trees in the area ruined some citrus growers, but persuaded other landowners to increase production of vegetable crops such as beans and cabbages as the nineteenth century ended.²³

By 1908, Island Grove, whose population of 400 would have extended beyond the boundaries of the village, was served by the Seaboard Airline Railroad. There were still two general stores, two churches, and a public school. To take advantage of the extensive pine forests in the area, a sawmill and turpentine still were in operation.²⁴ Three years later in 1911, a drainage project was underway to pave the way for a "first-class" hard road to link Island Grove to Citra across the Orange Lake marsh to the south and to Hawthorne to the north (this road would eventually become US 301). A picnic to promote the new road drew a crowd of 600 people, many arriving by train from as far away as Jacksonville. "The Prospering Town" was touted as a future tourist Mecca in a Gainesville newspaper.²⁵ The road building developed slowly however. Ten years later, \$10,000 in bonds was needed to complete the road across Orange Lake. New packinghouses were built to accommodate the citrus and vegetable crops that flourished in the area. Local growers and members of the Island Grove Woman's Club won prizes for their exhibits of local specialties at state and county fairs.²⁶

According to a business directory published in 1931, Island Grove had a population of 300, the same two churches, a graded public school, and a citrus packinghouse beside the railroad tracks. In his book, *The Creek*, J. T. Glisson indicated that his family and most of the other families in the area attended both the Methodist and Baptist Churches, which offered services on alternate Sundays. Residents continued to make their living from

¹⁹ *The South Publishing Company's Florida State Gazetteer and Business Directory* (New York: South Publishing Company, 1886-87), 195; Alford G. Bradbury and E. Story Hallock. *A Chronology of Florida Post Offices*. Handbook No. 2, Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs. 1962, 41.

²⁰ HABS FL-369, Dupree-Crosby House.

²¹ *Alachua, The Garden County of Florida* (New York: South Publishing Company, 1888), 19-21, 36.

²² "Island Grove is a Quiet, Friendly Town," *The Gainesville Sun*, 31 July 1977.

²³ F. W. Buchholz, *History of Alachua County, Florida* (St. Augustine: Record Company, 1929), 146, 173.

²⁴ *R. L. Polk and Company's Florida Gazetteer and Business Directory* (Jacksonville: R. L. Polk & Co., 1907-08), 180; J. T. Glisson, *The Creek*. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1993), 70.

²⁵ "Island Grove a Prospering Town" *The Daily Sun Gainesville*, 11 July 1911. "Six Hundred People at Island Grove Picnic." *The Daily Sun Gainesville*, 9 August 1911.

²⁶ "Island Grove People Issue \$10,000 Bonds," *The Daily Sun Gainesville*, 3 June 1921. "Island Grove to Have Citrus Exhibit at County Fair Here." *The Daily Sun Gainesville*, 30 October 1923; "Seven Prizes at South Florida Fair." *The Daily Sun Gainesville*, 8 March 1925.

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the citrus groves in the area, truck farming, and fishing. The Seaboard Railway provided freight and passenger service. Residents of Cross Creek were listed along with those of Island Grove, and among the list of Cross Creek residents were Charles and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, citrus growers.²⁷ The couple had arrived in Cross Creek in 1928 after purchasing an old orange grove about four miles west of Island Grove, which remained the home of the writer until her death in 1953. Rawlings wrote of Island Grove, which she referred to as "the village" in *Cross Creek*, a place where she took her oranges to be shipped, shopped for groceries, visited with friends, picked up her mail, and caught the train. She is buried in the Antioch Cemetery located on the outskirts of Island Grove.²⁸ Among the residents of Island Grove was Zelma Cason, a friend of Marjorie Rawlings mentioned in *Cross Creek*, who later sued Rawlings for her uncomplimentary description of Cason in that book. Another prominent name appears on the list of orange growers associated with Island Grove in 1931 was George Fairbanks, who was the largest landowner in the area by far, with 150 acres. The Fairbanks family had acquired large parcels of prime orange growing land on the shores of Orange Lake through George R. Fairbanks's association with railroad developer David Yulee.²⁹ In 1939, the Federal Writers Project guidebook to Florida's tourist attractions identified Island Grove (population 275) as the home of the Pulitzer-Prize-winning author of *The Yearling*, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.³⁰ She had yet to write her best-selling book, *Cross Creek*, which brought that small hamlet instant fame.

A 2001 report by the St. Johns Water Management Department details the history of the fluctuation of water levels in Orange Lake over a long period of time, which would have impacted the site that is now Island Grove. A mile-long railroad trestle bridge connecting Island Grove to Citra was built over the southeastern end of Orange Lake in 1881. This was later converted to an earthen-filled berm, which still exists and is now maintained for the railroad tracks of the CSX Transportation Company. In 1926, a parallel earthen-filled berm was constructed across Orange Lake for State Road 21, now US 301, which runs parallel to the railroad. These berms and the construction of a weir, farm dikes, and the draining of the Orange Lake marsh in the 1930s altered the flow of water out of the lake. Water levels were of intense interest to many people who lived around Orange Lake, which is connected to and sometimes affected by high or low water levels in other bodies of water that flow into Orange Lake.³¹ The draining of hundreds of acres of marshland around Island Grove in the 1930s to create the Shand's Muck Farm (owned by Florida Senator William A. Shands of Gainesville) opened

²⁷ Glisson, 38, 80; *Miller's Gainesville Florida City Directory* (Gainesville: Piedmont Directory Company, 1930-31), 376.; The Cason House (8AL04737) still stands in Island Grove, about a block from the Lodge. The Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings House, HABS FL-165, a Florida State Park and also a National Historic Landmark, is located in Cross Creek, four miles west of Island Grove.

²⁸ Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, *Cross Creek* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1942), 9, 24, 118, 122, 126, 162, 338, 341.

²⁹ Horace Rainsford Drew, Jr., *Our Story: A True Historical Account of the Drew and Fairbanks Families of Florida Through the Life Story of a Great Grandson* (Author, 1998), 138, 142, 221.

³⁰ Federal Writers Project. *Florida: A Guide to the Southernmost State*, American Guide Series (New York: Oxford University Press, 1939), 145, 534.

³¹ Karen R. Warr, Judith C. Bryan, and John R. Shuman, "Historical Perspectives on the Hydrology and Vegetation in Orange Lake," St. Johns Water Management District, September 2001. 7-11.

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up productive new farming areas.³² By the 1950s, celery was the main crop produced by the Island Grove Growers and Shippers Cooperative Association. Three hundred acres were planted and harvested, and six thousand crates of celery were processed daily in the packinghouse beside the railroad tracks. Over five hundred people were engaged in fieldwork and grading and packing celery.³³ Much of this land is now under the ownership and management of the St. Johns Water Management District. It is no longer used as farmland and the area's population that once thrived on citrus and vegetable production and commercial fishing has greatly diminished.³⁴

Historical Context of Freemasonry in Island Grove

Island Grove Lodge No. 125 received its charter in 1891 with W. H. Dupree (a citrus grower whose home still stands in Island Grove) as Worshipful Master, or chief presiding officer. W. T. Carlton from Citra was the Senior Warden and W. B. Smith of Island Grove was the Junior Warden. Most of the eighteen charter members were Master Masons who transferred from other lodges in the area. Available records indicate that they involved in growing citrus or truck crops, taking advantage of the recently opened access to markets through the extension of railroad lines to this remote corner of Alachua County. These already established Masons inducted several additional members who would become influential in the future of the Lodge and the community. Among them were L. Millard Sykes, a 30-year-old farmer, and William R. Brice, a merchant, who was referred to as "Old Boss," a term of honor, by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings in *Cross Creek*.³⁵

The Lodge met at first on the second floor of the Island Grove Methodist Church until the building was struck by lightning in 1914, making the meeting room unsafe. It is a practice of the Masons not to meet on the ground floor of a building, so the Lodge then moved to the second floor of a store, which caught fire around 1920, destroying the Lodge records.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

In 1922, a building committee was formed and funds were collected to build a separate Lodge building. The Boulware family, who still owns the property to the north of the Lodge, donated the land. E. O. Gardner of Ocala, who was a Freemason, supervised the construction of the new two-story building in the heart of Island Grove. The men of Island Grove most likely helped Gardner during the building's construction. Thirty-three other Florida Lodges contributed to the building fund. The first floor of the Lodge building, where families and community members were welcome, was put to use right away. The installation of officers for the Lodge on

³² Jess G. Davis, *History of Alachua County*. Manuscript in the collection of the Matheson Museum, Gainesville, FL, 1960, 133.

³³ Bob Cargell, "Island Grove celery crop." *Gainesville Daily Sun*, 26 April 1955; Walter Mixson, "Island Grove celery is half million dollar industry," *Gainesville Daily Sun*, 10 June 1961; Drew, 138; Davis, 133.

³⁴ Barbara Foster, "Packing, Fishing Industries Marked Island Grove." *The Gainesville Sun*, 21 August 1983.

³⁵ Owen Sykes, "Island Grove Lodge No. 125, F.& A. M.: A Look at the Past." Manuscript, 1991. This manuscript was compiled by Mr. Sykes, the Lodge secretary, on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. Rawlings, 9.

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December 2, 1924, was celebrated with an Oyster Supper. The Lodge held regular "family nights" where members' wives prepared food for their guests.³⁶ The tradition of hosting Oyster Roasts and Mullet and Swamp Cabbage Suppers, to which the entire community was invited, continued for many years. It was, and still is, the social center of Island Grove. The first floor was always available for civic events, family gatherings, birthday parties, weddings, baby showers, and memorial services.³⁷

The building was put to many other uses over time, all of them to benefit the surrounding community. It served as a shelter from hurricanes or floods. Thomas Sykes recalled as a small child attending kindergarten classes in the Lodge hall while the new Island Grove School was under construction. Political rallies were held in the first floor of the Lodge, often spilling over into the grounds, where local voters were courted by candidates for office, and where for many years, citizens came to cast their votes. When projects were underway, such as the drainage of some of the surrounding wetlands or construction of a new road, meetings were held at the Lodge building.³⁸

Marjorie Rawlings had friends and neighbors who were affiliated with the Lodge and included some of them in her memoir, *Cross Creek*, which mentions the following names that also appear on the Lodge roster: Bass, Crosby, Brice, Howard, Martin, and Sykes.³⁹ The Brices, father and son, owned a store in the village, as did D. O. Howard, and Hoyt Hayman was another Island Grove merchant. The Boulwares were truck farmers, raising vegetables for the northern markets, and the Crosbys had large citrus groves and packinghouses. Some Masons, such as Charles Palmour and Collis Land, were teachers, and some were ministers, such as Earnest Holt. As in many frontier communities, Island Grove men had overlapping and seasonal occupations, making a living for their families as farmers, builders, hunting guides, commercial fishermen, mechanics, moonshiners, and postmasters. One such example is Moe (Moses) Sykes, a carpenter in Island Grove who not only made some home improvements for Marjorie Rawlings, but also worked in her grove and was, in addition, a successful frog-gigger and alligator hunter.⁴⁰

Island Grove was a predominantly middle and lower class community built around agriculture. Membership in the Island Grove Masonic Lodge reflects this profile. The various postmasters, the only individuals salaried by the Federal government in Island Grove, were usually Masons, including John N. Haymons, several members of

³⁶ Owen Sykes, "Island Grove Lodge No. 125,"

³⁷ Owen Sykes, interview with author, May 18, 2010.

³⁸ Billy Dyson, interview with author, May 18, 2010.

³⁹ Rawlings, *Cross Creek*. Rawlings makes numerous references to these men throughout her book. She does not refer to them specifically as Masons, but invariably she refers to them with respect and admiration, whether as neighbors or as people she is doing business with.

⁴⁰ Rawlings, *Cross Creek*, Chapter 12, "My Friend Moe." Owen Sykes, a nephew of Moses Sykes, confirmed that he was a member of the Island Grove Lodge.

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the Evans family, and H. J. Smith, who was also the agent for the railroad.⁴¹ There was no formal political structure in the thinly populated frontier area, other than that provided by county government.⁴² An examination of Alachua County Board of Commission Minutes indicates that some members of the Lodge were appointed as Inspectors and Clerks for the regular county elections.⁴³ In conversations with older members of the Lodge, it was explained that community standards, and expectations were upheld by members of the Lodge, who adhered to Christian principles.⁴⁴ The attitude of the some members in 1929 is also indicated by their willingness to rent the building to the Ku Klux Klan (KKK). While known for their racist and nationalist worldview, the KKK advertised itself as an upholder of Christian morality and societal norms.⁴⁵

In keeping with philanthropic mission of the Masons, the Lodge has sponsored orphaned children in the community to the Masonic Home in St. Petersburg.⁴⁶ When young J. T. Glisson of Cross Creek was born with a clubfoot, the members of Lodge No. 125 sponsored him as a patient at the Children's Orthopedic Hospital in Greenville, SC, which was a Shriners hospital. The Shriners are a branch of Freemasonry. It did not matter that Tom Glisson, his father, was not a Mason. J. T. Glisson, the author of *The Creek*, which chronicles his young life in Cross Creek, describes the impact this highly successful medical care had on his life. He also mentions many of the men in Island Grove and Cross Creek who were members of the Lodge.⁴⁷

The Woodmen of the World, another local organization, met regularly in the second floor meeting room. This space, which was not open to the general public, is arranged in accordance with the template of all Masonic Lodges and is described in greater detail below. When the Lodge was in session, members sat around the upper room on folding chairs or on theater seats salvaged from a movie theater in Gainesville. Photographic portraits of past and present members were displayed on the walls around the room [Photos 22-23]. When the Lodge was dissolved in 1995 due to the diminished membership, the photographs were removed to the Masonic Lodge in Hawthorne, where the remaining Island Grove Masons transferred their membership.

⁴¹ Davis, 133: *The South Publishing Company's Florida State Gazetteer*, 195.

⁴² Owen D. Sykes, interview with author, 18 May 2010.

⁴³ Ancient Records: Alachua County Clerk of the Court Archives Entry Page. This website, maintained by the Clerk of the Court, has indexed minutes of the Board of Commissioners. Island Grove Jurors and Election officials were reviewed for the years 1924 through 1960.

⁴⁴ Owen Sykes and Billy Dyson, interview with author, 18 May 2010.

⁴⁵ "Six Hundred People at Island Grove Picnic." *The Gainesville Daily Sun*, August 9, 1911.

⁴⁶ Owen Sykes, interview with author, 18 May 2010. Five of his cousins were placed in the Masonic Home when their parents died in the 1930s.

⁴⁷ Owen D. Sykes, interviews with author, 21 January 2010, and 18 May 2010; Glisson, 37.

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ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Frame Vernacular

Vernacular architecture has been defined as “the traditional American architecture that was passed on to successive generations of builders and designers through the use of materials, shapes, and textures, spatial organizations, proportions among elements, and systems of ornamentation.” By the early twentieth century, construction materials and techniques had evolved well beyond log cabin technology of the frontier era. Balloon frame construction, invented in Chicago in 1832 by George Washington Snow, was quickly adapted as sawn lumber and manufactured cut nails became available.⁴⁸ The spread of railroads in the United States between 1850 and 1890 had facilitated dramatic changes in the way buildings were constructed. Building supplies not locally available were shipped to even the most remote village, and by the turn of the century “national folk housing” and standardization had virtually replaced older building traditions and techniques. Handcrafted decorative elements that defined older styles were replaced by machine-made architectural details to create what some have called “Folk Victorian.”⁴⁹

Masonic Lodges

The exterior of a Masonic Lodge may conform to a wide variety of forms and architectural styles, as illustrated by examples found in Alachua County: a room above a store, such as the one in the City of Alachua on the second floor of the Williams General Store (8AL3532), the Hawthorne Lodge that meets above the 1930s Mission Style City Hall (8AL3139), and the Masonic Temple located at 215 North Main Street in Gainesville. The Masonic Lodge in Gainesville (NR 1998), constructed in 1908, was designed by architect J. H. W. Hawkins of Jacksonville. It is an ornate two-story Neoclassical brick building with a columned portico entry, arched windows, and decorative metal cornice.

A guide for Florida Masons describes some of the particular requirements for the physical space of the Lodge. The place of assembly, or Lodge, should be rectangular, situated due east and west, and should be in an upper chamber of a building. The windows should be curtained or even painted to further preserve the privacy and security of the meetings. Metaphorically, the Lodge is supported by three pillars and covered by the heavens, which may be symbolized by the stations of the three principal officers in the East, South, and West sectors of the room and an illuminated ceiling. Further lights may be installed in these directions, but there is no light at the North side of the room, for the North is “a place of darkness.” The Lodge must also be furnished with an Altar placed in the center of the room where the Bible is displayed; standards or pedestals; and Ornaments and Jewels, which are emblematic of the various Lodge offices and the tools and accomplishments of the builder/craftsman such as the compass, the square, and the level. Some Masonic Lodges have a ground floor

⁴⁸ Thomas Carter and Elizabeth Collins Cromley, *Invitation to Vernacular Architecture: A Guide to the Study of Ordering Buildings and Landscapes* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2005), 13-14.

⁴⁹ Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986), 89, 109-110.

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“banquet room” where the members and their families gather for social occasions and which is open to the general public.⁵⁰

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Although the two-story, rectangular meeting hall that the Island Grove Freemasons built in 1924 is a simple Frame Vernacular building, it is an excellent surviving example of Masonic lodge architecture. Its location in the center of the village of Island Grove supports its function as a hall that was accessible to not only the Masonic order but also to the community at large.⁵¹ The building is particularly significant for the integrity of the interior space where the Lodge met between 1924 and 1995. Some of the windows panes are still painted white to preserve the secrecy of the proceedings of the Freemasons. A comparison of this Lodge with the second floor meeting room of the much more substantial Gainesville Lodge No. 41, recorded in a measured drawing for the Historic American Building Survey (HABS), shows that all of the required components shown in the more elaborate Gainesville Lodge are present in a simplified, but correct form in the Island Grove Lodge.⁵² The three-step platform on the East wall where the Worshipful Master (Lodge presiding officer) was seated is still in place, as is the two-step platform for the Senior Warden’s chair on the West wall. The one-level platform for the Junior Warden’s chair is evident only by a shadowed place on the floor on the South wall. The small, glass-front case where the Jewels, the insignias of office, were kept still hangs on the South wall. The elegance of the varnished tray ceiling adds to the dignity and ceremonial aspect of Lodge No. 125, as do the varnished wood walls with their woodwork details. The original electric light fixtures placed along the edges of the tray ceiling symbolize the stars in the canopy of heaven. The central part of the room was once carpeted. The altar, a low wooden structure, as well as three taller pedestals that were part of the original fittings of the room, are still in the building.⁵³

⁵⁰ *Florida Masonic Monitor*, 26-32. The *Monitor* contains instructions for the various degrees and the ceremonies and services of the Masonic order.

⁵¹ *R.L. Polk and Company*, 180.

⁵² HABS FL-368, Gainesville Masonic Temple.

⁵³ Owen Sykes, interview, 21 January 2010; “Island Grove Lodge No. 125”

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Island Grove Masonic Lodge No. 125
Name of Property

Alachua County, Florida
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | 1 7 | 3 9 2 6 2 0 | 3 2 5 8 6 0 0 |
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| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 4 | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Murray D. Laurie; Andrew Waber, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date _____

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (850) 245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Cross Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., William Jones, President

street & number Post Office Box 183 telephone 352-466-3353

city or town Island Grove state FL zip code 32654

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ISLAND GROVE, ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Island Grove Masonic Lodge No. 125 are as follows: Begin at the southeast corner of Parcel 20317-000-000 and run approximately 58 feet north, then approximately 52 feet west, then approximately 58 feet south, then 52 feet east to point of beginning. See shaded section of Site Map.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries encompass the property historically associated with the Island Grove Masonic Lodge No. 125.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page _____ ISLAND GROVE MASONIC LODGE NO. 125
ISLAND GROVE, ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHOTOGRAPH LIST

Photographs

1. Island Grove Masonic Lodge No. 125, Free and Accepted Masons, 20114 SE 219 Avenue, Island Grove
2. Alachua County, Florida
3. Murray D. Laurie
4. February 2010
5. Murray D. Laurie
6. View of SE 219 Avenue, facing railroad tracks. Photographer facing east
7. 1 of 25

Items 1-5 are the same for the following photographs, except where noted:

6. View of SE 219 Avenue, facing toward Highway 301. Photographer facing west
7. 2 of 25

6. View of main south facade of Lodge and Island Grove Fire Substation. Photographer facing north.
7. 3 of 25

6. View of main south facade of Lodge. Photographer facing north.
7. 4 of 25

3. Owen Sykes
4. 1991
6. View of west elevation and main facade of Lodge, showing sign. Photographer facing northeast
7. 5 of 25

6. View of front porch of Lodge. Photographer facing northwest
7. 6 of 25

6. View of east elevation of Lodge. Photographer facing west
7. 7 of 25

6. View of rear, north elevation of Lodge. Photographer facing east
7. 8 of 25

6. Rear, north elevation of Lodge. Photographer facing west.
7. 9 of 25

6. View of west elevation of Lodge. Photographer facing north
7. 10 of 25

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page _____

ISLAND GROVE MASONIC LODGE NO. 125
ISLAND GROVE, ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHOTOGRAPH LIST

6. View of bathroom addition and west entrance. Photographer facing north.
7. 11 of 25

6. View of west elevation of Lodge, shed over pump. Photographer facing north.
7. 12 of 25

6. Interior view of first floor, facing kitchen. Photographer facing east
7. 13 of 25

6. Interior view, first floor, light fixture on post near kitchen. Photographer facing north
7. 14 of 25

6. Interior view, first floor, facing west entrance door and bathroom. Photographer facing west.
7. 15 of 25

6. View of stairs to second floor. Photographer facing east.
7. 16 of 25

6. View of interior, first floor, kitchen interior. Photographer facing east.
7. 17 of 25

6. Interior view, second floor, east wall with three-step platform. Photographer facing east
7. 18 of 25

6. Interior view, second floor, tray ceiling and light fixture. Photographer facing northwest.
7. 19 of 25

6. Interior view, second floor, east wall, three-step platform. Photographer facing east
7. 20 of 25

6. Interior view, second floor, west wall, showing two-step platform. Photographer facing west
7. 21 of 25

3. Owen Sykes
4. 1991
6. Interior view, second floor, east wall. Photographer facing east.
7. 22 of 25

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

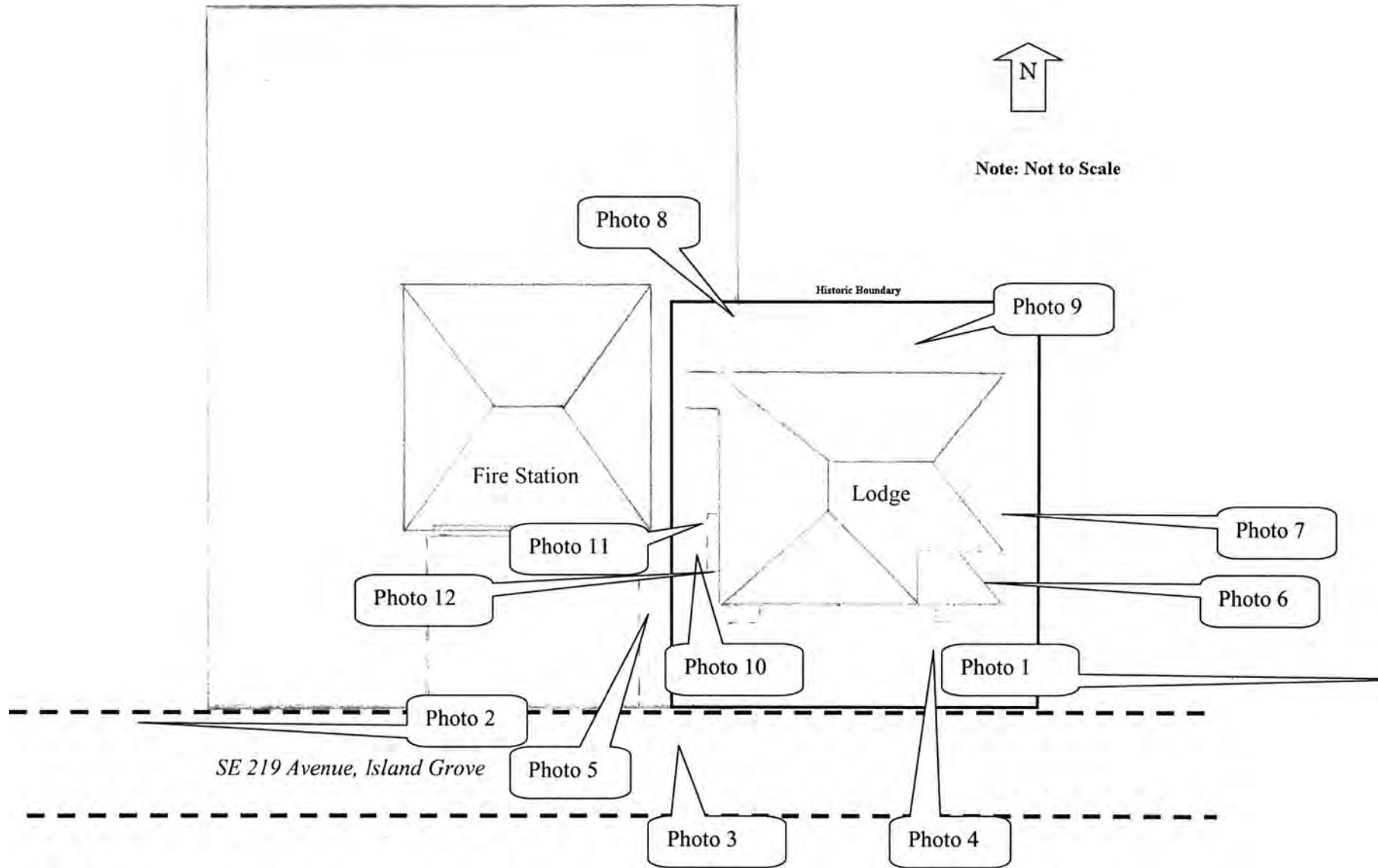
Section number _____ Photos _____ Page _____

ISLAND GROVE MASONIC LODGE NO. 125
ISLAND GROVE, ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHOTOGRAPH LIST

3. Owen Sykes
4. 1991
6. Interior view, second floor, facing east wall. Photographer facing east
7. 23 of 25

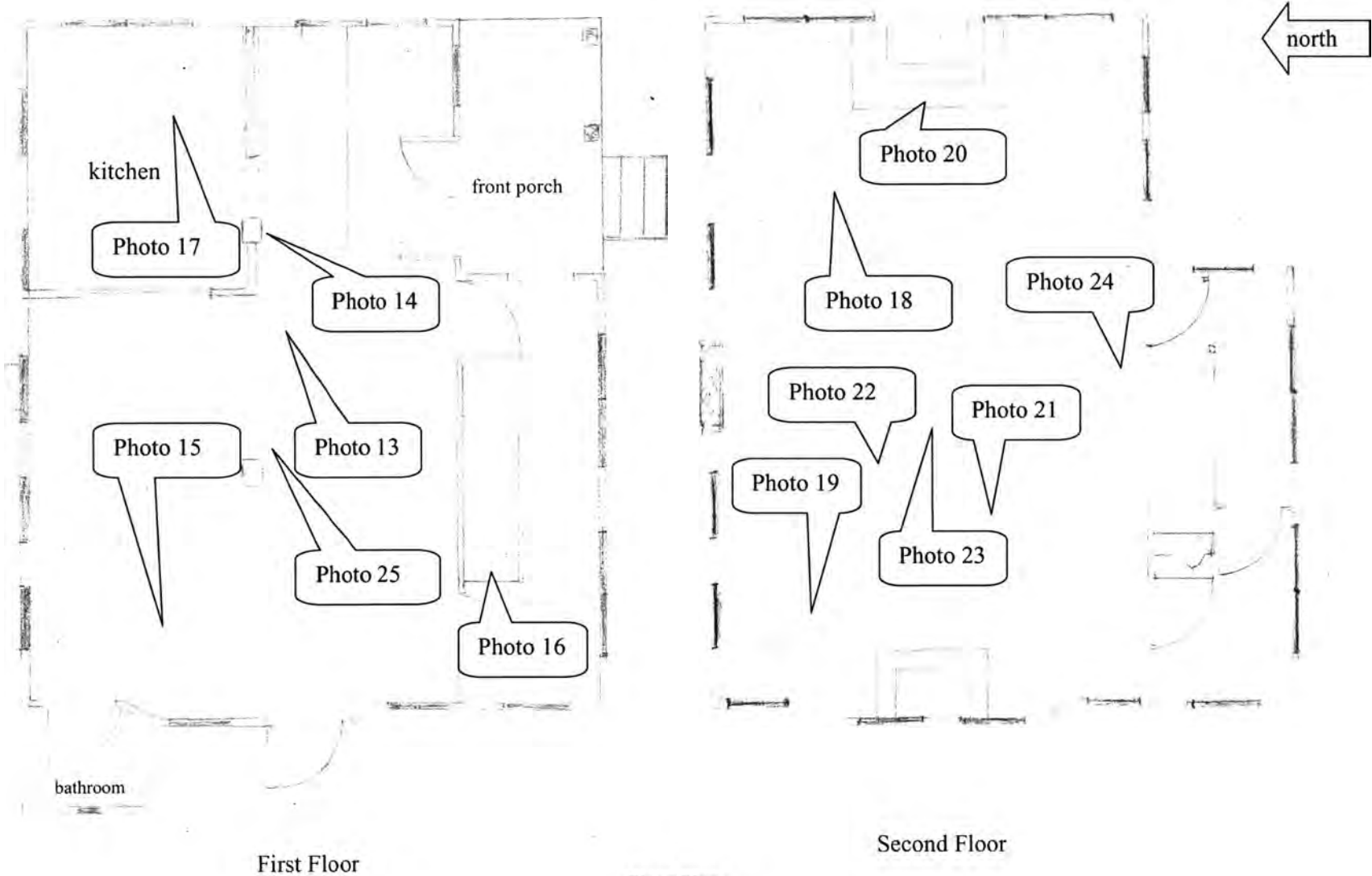
6. Interior view, second floor, floor near south wall, showing where one-step platform was located. Facing south
7. 24 of 25

3. Owen Sykes
4. 1991
6. Interior view, first floor, facing northeast corner, where kitchen is now located. Photographer facing northeast
7. 25 of 25



Site Plan
 Island Grove Lodge No. 125
 Island Grove, Alachua County, Florida

Note: Not to Scale



Floor Plan
Island Grove Lodge No. 125
Island Grove, Alachua County, Florida

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Island Grove Masonic Lodge No. 125

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Alachua

DATE RECEIVED: 10/22/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/22/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/07/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/07/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000984

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12-7-10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Island Grove Mesahic Lodge |
Alachua County, FL

1 of 25





Island Grove Masonic Lodge

Alachua Co., FL

2 of 25







Island Grove Masonic Lodge

Alachua Co., FL

3 of 25







Island Grove Masonic Lodge

Alachua Co., FL

4 of 25





ISLAND GROVE
WASHINGTON LODGE
1904

Island Grove Masonic Lodge

Alachua Co., FL

5 of 25



|||||▶ Island Grove Masonic Lodge ■ |

Alachua Co., FL

6 of 25



|||||▶ Island Grove Masonic Lodge |||

Alachua Co., FL

7 of 25



|||||▶ Island Grove Masonic Lodge | |

Alachua Co., FL

8 of 25





Island Grove Masonic Lodge

Alachua Co., FL

9 of 25







Island Grove Masonic Lodge

Alachua Co., FL

10 of 25





|||||▶ Island Grove Masonic Lodge |

Alachua Co., FL

11 of 25



|||||▶ Island Grove Masonic Lodge |

Alachua Co., FL

12 of 25



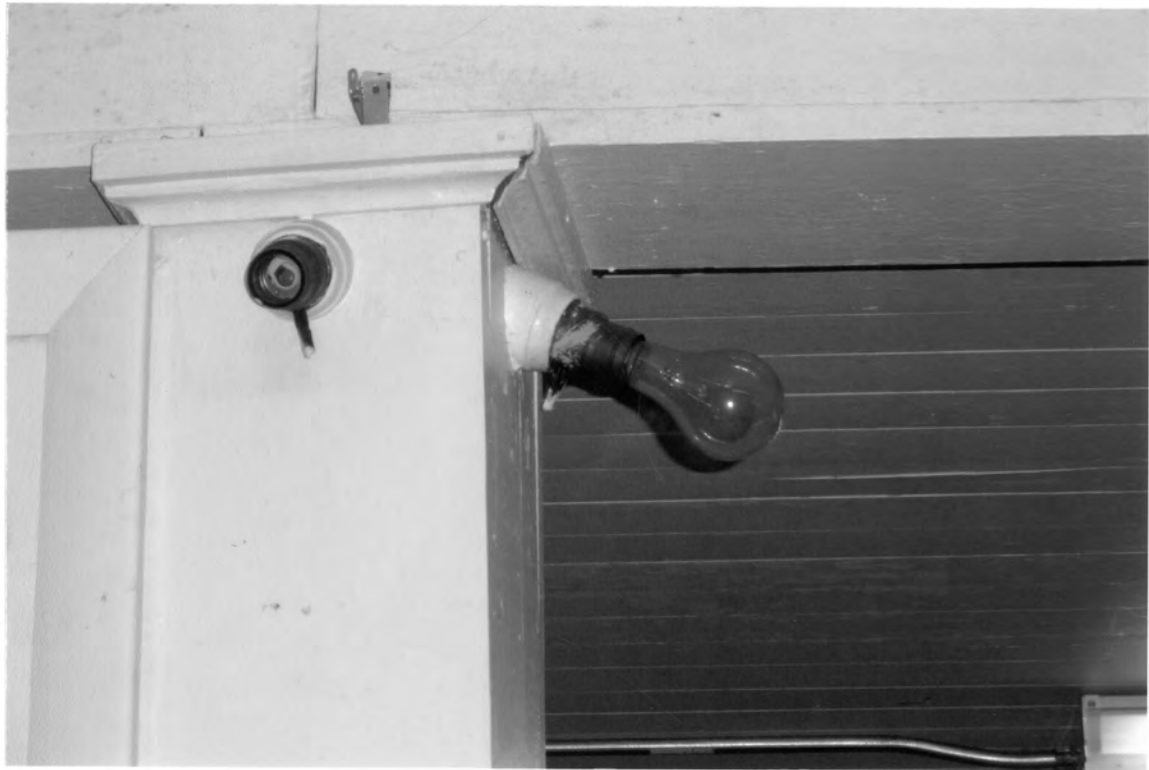


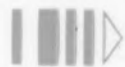
Island Grove Masonic Lodge

Alachua Co., FL

13 of 25







Island Grove Masonic Lodge

Alachua Co., FL

14 of 25







Island Grove Masonic Lodge

Alachua Co., FL

15 of 25







Island Grove Masonic Lodge

Alachua Co., FL

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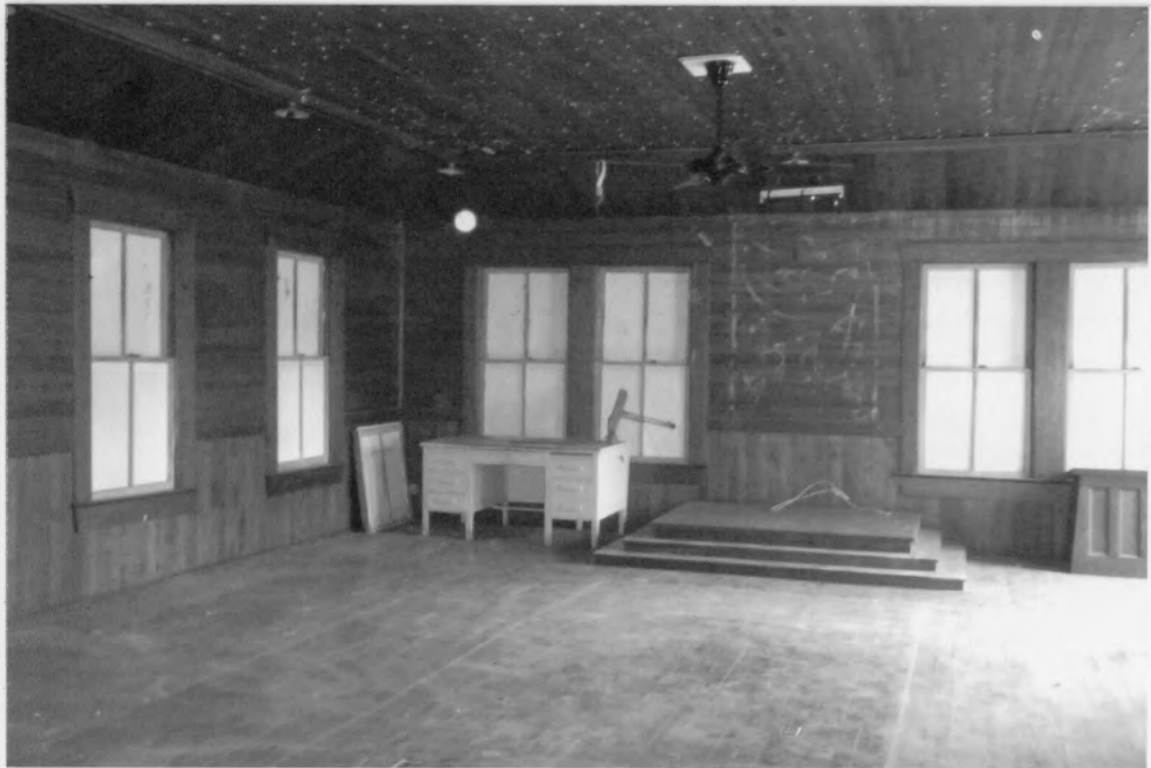


Island Grove Masonic Lodge

Alachua Co., FL

17 of 25







Island Grove Masonic Lodge

Alachua Co., FL

18 of 25



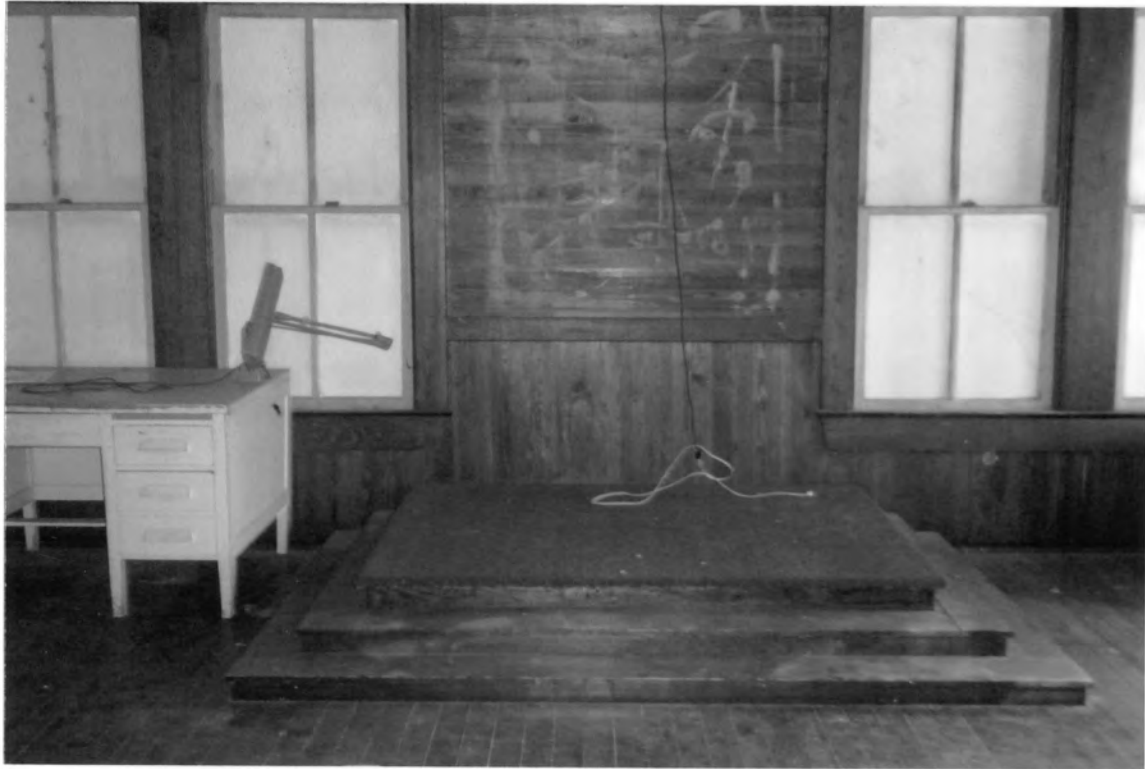


|||||▶ Island Grove Masonic Lodge |

Alachua Co., FL

19 of 25

|||||▶



|||||▶ Island Grove Masonic Lodge |

Alachua Co., FL

20 of 25





Island Grove Masonic Lodge



Alachua Co., FL

21 of 25

HP Premium Plus

HP Premium Plus





1840-1841

1842-1843

1844-1845

1846-1847

1848-1849

1850-1851

1852-1853



Island Grove Masonic Lodge

Alachua Co., FL

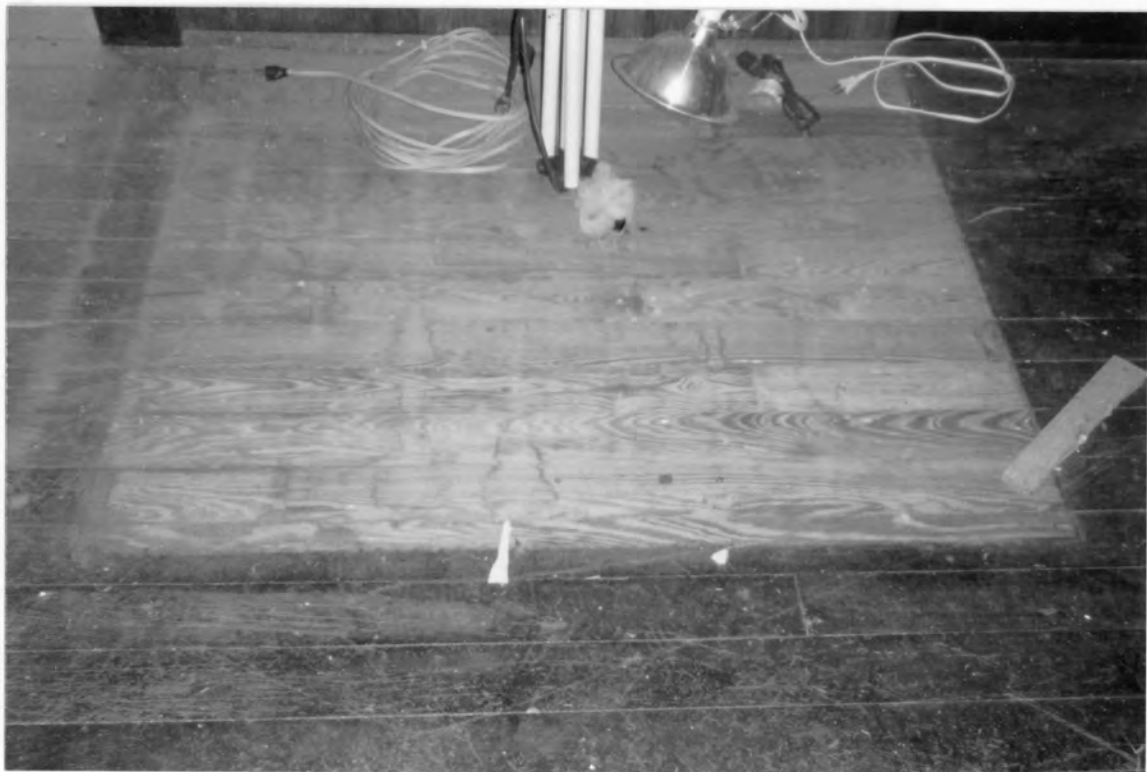
22 of 25



Island Grove Masonic Lodge

Alachua Co., FL

23 of 25



|||||▶ Island Grove Masonic Lodge |

Alachua Co., FL

24 of 25



Island Grove Masonic Lodge

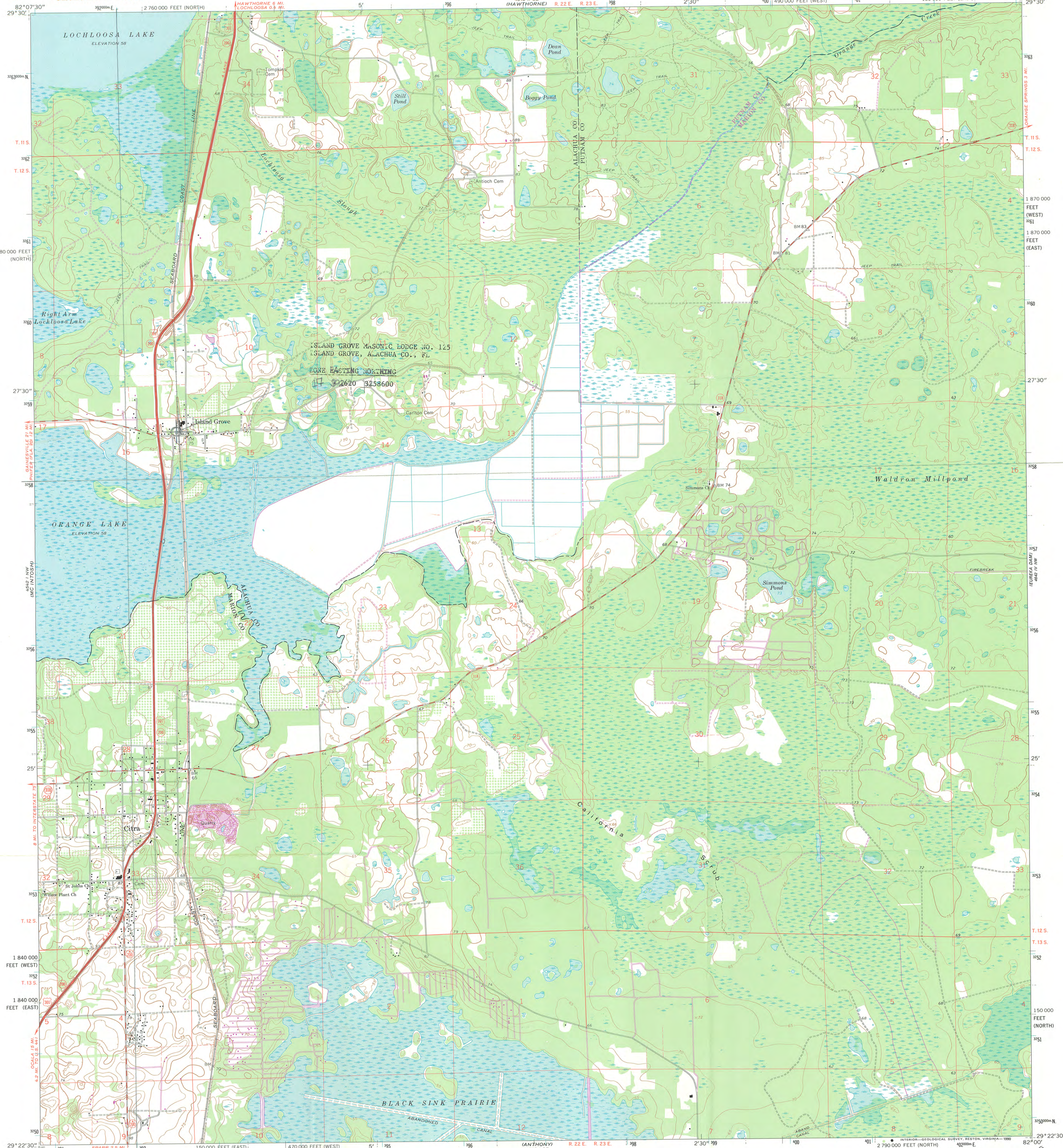
Alachua Co., FL

25 of 25

Island Grove Masonic Lodge No. 125
 Island Grove, Alachua Co., FL
 17 392620 3258600

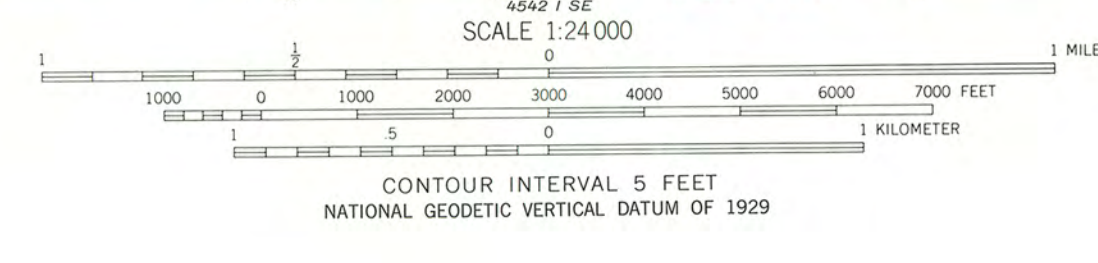
UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CITRA QUADRANGLE
 FLORIDA
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967
 Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid based on Florida coordinate system, west, north, and east zones. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 24 meters south and 16 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
 Map photorevised 1984
 No major culture or drainage changes observed

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1979 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1981



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
 Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
 Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
 Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
 U.S. Route
 State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CITRA, FLA.
 N2922.5-W8200/7.5
 PHOTOINSPECTED 1984
 1967
 PHOTOREVISED 1981
 DMA 4542 1 NE-SERIES V847



Alachua County Advisory Board Program

Historical Commission

Mr. Ashley Wood, Chair
Mrs. Verdell Robinson, Vice Chair
Mrs. Kendra Gillum, Secretary

August 11, 2010

Mrs. Barbara E. Mattick
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Florida Department of State
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
2010 AUG 18 A 9:43

Dear Mrs. Mattick,

The Alachua County Historical Commission supports the nomination of the Island Grove Masonic Lodge to the National Register of Historic Places. Island Grove is the southern gateway to the Old Florida Heritage Highway, a state scenic byway, and designation of the building on the National Register will focus efforts to enhance this entryway.

The Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Historic Preservation Element, Objective 2, requires Alachua County will

"Conserve and extend the useful life of historic resources and properties through the identification, protection and/or rehabilitation of properties significant on a national, regional, or local level consistent with preserving their historic or archaeological character and value. ..."

We thank you for consideration of this historic site, furthering the mission of the Alachua County Historical Commission: "To promote, preserve and protect Alachua County's historic resources."

If you have any questions or concerns to communicate to the Historical Commission, please contact the staff liaison Kathleen Pagan, kpagan@alachuacounty.us or telephone 352-374-5249. You are also welcome to attend our Advisory Board meeting, the second Wednesday monthly [except July and December] in the County Administration Building, 12 SE 1st Street in Gainesville, at 6:00 pm We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Ashley Wood, Chair



Alachua County Advisory Board Program

Historical Commission

Mr. Ashley Wood, Chair
Mrs. Verdell Robinson, Vice Chair
Mrs. Kendra Gillum, Secretary

October 13, 2010

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service, Cultural Resources
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 2280
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240



Dear National Park Service Staff:

The Alachua County Historical Commission supports the nomination of the Island Grove Masonic Lodge to the National Register of Historic Places. Island Grove is the southern gateway to the Old Florida Heritage Highway, a state scenic byway, and designation of the building on the National Register will focus efforts to enhance this entryway in addition to further enhancing life in this small rural hamlet. The building is an example of Folk Victorian frame vernacular architecture providing unique intrinsic resources along our byway. The Social Meeting Hall and Masonic history reflects the byway interpretive theme of settlement, as explained in the Master Plan report at www.scenicus441.com. The building now serves as the Volunteer Fire Department Sub-station, with monthly fundraising dinners, and for other social occasions.

The Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Historic Preservation Element, Objective 2, requires Alachua County will "Conserve and extend the useful life of historic resources and properties through the identification, protection and/or rehabilitation of properties significant on a national, regional, or local level consistent with preserving their historic or archaeological character and value." We believe the Island Grove Masonic Lodge will add to the notable National Register listings of Alachua County, and it is in close proximity to the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings National Historic Landmark, a scenic byway attraction that preserves the home environment that inspired her writing.

We thank you for consideration of this historic site, furthering the mission of the Alachua County Historical Commission:

"To promote, preserve and protect Alachua County's historic resources."

If you have any questions or concerns to communicate to the Historical Commission, please contact the staff liaison Kathleen Pagan, kpagan@alachuacounty.us or telephone 352-374-5249. We thank you for your consideration of this request and look forward to further efforts to preserve the historic resources of our community.

Sincerely,

Ashley Wood, Chair



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Dawn K. Roberts
Interim Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES



October 19, 2010

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Department of Interior
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is a National Register of Historic Places nomination package for:

Island Grove Masonic Lodge No. 125, Island Grove, Alachua County, Florida.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6364 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Barbara E. Mattick

Barbara E. Mattick, Ph.D.
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
for Survey & Registration

Enclosures

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6436

Archaeological Research
(850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6436

Historic Preservation
(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

10000 984

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners



Cynthia Moore Chestnut, *Chair*
Lee Pinkoson, *Vice Chair*
Paula M. DeLaney
Rodney J. Long
Mike Byerly

Administration
Randall H. Reid
County Manager

October 26, 2010

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service, Cultural Resources
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 2280
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear National Park Service Cultural Resources Staff:

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners supports the nomination of the Island Grove Masonic Lodge to the National Register of Historic Places. Island Grove is the southern gateway to the Old Florida Heritage Highway, a state scenic byway, and designation of the building on the National Register will focus efforts to enhance this entryway in addition to further enhancing life in this small, rural hamlet. The building is an example of Folk Victorian frame vernacular architecture, complementing the unique, intrinsic resources along our byway. The Social Meeting Hall and Masonic history reflects the byway interpretive theme of settlement, as explained in the Master Plan report at www.scenicus441.com. The building now serves as the Cross Creek Volunteer Fire Department Sub-station. It also provides a venue for monthly fundraising dinners and other social occasions.

The County Comprehensive Plan Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) Objective 5.3 requires development to "protect the natural resources and scenic quality of the community to preserve and cultivate a unique sense of place while maintaining economic well-being." The COSE definitions include "Scenic Corridor - A visual opening along a traveled route, such as a road, waterway, bike path, or pedestrian trail, that allows either glimpses or extended views of built or natural resources having historical or cultural significance or scenic beauty" and "Scenic Resources - Shared images of what is special or unique about the County's landscape." In addition, the designation of the Old Florida Heritage Highway includes almost 50 miles of road corridor in the County, including twelve miles along US 441 and the remainder along portions of County Roads 18, 225, 234, 325, 346, and 2082. This designation as part of the Florida Scenic Highways Program is to showcase the outstanding cultural, historical, archaeological, recreational, natural, and scenic intrinsic resources along the corridor. We value the intrinsic resources and work to protect these community assets.

P.O. Box 2877 ■ Gainesville, Florida 32602 ■ Tel. (352) 264-6900 ■ Fax (352) 338-7363

TDD (352) 491-4430

Commissioners' E-Mail: bocc@alachuacounty.us ■ Home Page: www.alachuacounty.us

An Equal Opportunity Employer M.F.V.D.



The Comprehensive Plan includes the following policy specific to the Old Florida Heritage Highway:

Policy 5.3.5 The County shall recognize and participate in voluntary programs for the beautification of public roadways, such as:

- 2. FDOT Florida Scenic highways, such as the citizen-initiated designation of a portion of SR 441 and spur road system.*
 - a. The Transportation map series shall depict the FDOT designation of a portion of SR 441 in Alachua County and related county roads as the Scenic 441 Old Florida Heritage Highway.*
 - b. Alachua County shall participate in the preservation and protection of the natural and cultural resources of the Scenic 441 Old Florida Heritage Highway by supporting the concepts described in the Scenic 441 Vision Statement, and by providing appropriate resources and support to the Corridor Management Council for implementation of the Corridor Management Plan.*

There is another COSE policy that mentions scenic beauty and visual heritage applicable to the Old Florida Heritage Highway Master Plan that was completed with funding provided by the Federal Highway Works Administration and the Florida Department of Transportation. We think the Island Grove Masonic Lodge will add to the notable National Register listings of Alachua County and, with the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings National Historic Landmark, remain an important visual, historic, and cultural resource along the byway.

If you have any questions, please contact the staff liaison to the scenic byway, Kathleen Pagan, kpagan@alachuacounty.us or telephone 352-374-5249.

We thank you for your consideration of this request and look forward to furthering the preservation of the historic resources of our community and enhancing heritage tourism.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Moore Chestnut, Chair
Alachua County Commission
chr11.011

CMC/KP/jt

cc: Board of County Commissioners
Randall H. Reid, County Manager
Dave Wagner, County Attorney
Judy Harris, Cross Creek Volunteer Fire Department
Department File