

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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JUN 20 1990

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Norton House
other names/site number Anne Norton House and Sculpture Gardens

2. Location

street & number 253 Barcelona Road n/a not for publication
city, town West Palm Beach n/a vicinity
state Florida code FL county Palm Beach code FL 099 zip code 33401

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	0 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	2	0 structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	3	0 objects
			0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official *George W. Perry* Date *6/12/90*
Florida Dept. of State-Bureau of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. *Arny Federman* *7/26/90*
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Monterey

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls HOLLOW CLAY TILE

STUCCO

roof CLAY BARREL TILE

other WROUGHT IRON

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1935-1937

Significant Dates

1935, 1937

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

WYETH, Marion Sims

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE NEW PG. 4

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than 2 acres

UTM References

A

1	7
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5	9	4	4	4	0
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2	9	5	2	8	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary follows the heavy black line on the accompanying sketch map entitled "NORTON HOUSE- 253 BARCELONA ROAD - WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA". The footprint of the property is as follows: Beginning at the corner of Barcelona Road and South Flagler Drive: North 50', West 65', South 10', West 30', South 40', and east 100' to the point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the property includes only those areas of the total estate that were part of the 1935 and 1937 renovations. Current landscape patterns coincide with the historic boundaries of the renovations as described in the verbal boundary description.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Vicki L. Cole-Historic Sites Specialist
 organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date June 12, 1990
 street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333
 city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

JUL 26 1990

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
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- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property .522 acres

UTM References

A

1	7
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5	9	4	4	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

2	9	5	2	8	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary follows the heavy black line on the accompanying sketch map entitled 'NORTON HOUSE - 253 BARCELONA ROAD - WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA'

The footprint of the property is as follows: Beginning at the corner of Barcelona Road and South Flagler Drive: North 110', West 143', South 22', West 66', South 88' and East 220' to the point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the property includes only those areas of the estate that were part of the 1935 and 1937 renovations. Current landscape patterns coincide with the historic boundaries of the renovations as described in the verbal boundary description.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John P. Johnson/Vicki L. Cole - Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date June 12, 1990

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1

Norton House

SUMMARY

Originally constructed in 1925, the Norton House was redesigned and renovated in 1935 and 1937 for the second owner, Ralph Hubbard Norton, by the Beaux-Arts trained architect Marion Sims Wyeth. The Mediterranean Revival styled residence was redesigned in the Monterey style, commonly known as the California style.

SETTING

The Norton House, 253 Barcelona Road, is situated on the northwest corner of Barcelona Road and Flagler Drive in a residential area of West Palm Beach on the western shore of Lake Worth. The property is in the El Cid plat of West Palm Beach. The surrounding environment is an extant c. 1920-1930s residential neighborhood.

Exterior

The front (south) elevation on Barcelona Road presents a symmetric two story block flanked by one story elements. The main block contains three bays and a second story balcony. Bay windows flank a full-length window at the first story. The front entrance, in the single story element to the right, is surmounted by a segmental arch and horizontal banding. Decorative elements of the facade include quoins at all corners, multi-paned full-length windows (french doors) and decorative wrought iron balustrade.

The east elevation, facing the formal garden, contains a two story extended main block at the north (right) side and a one story wing to the south (left) side. The main block has three sets of full-length windows (french doors) at the ground level and three wood sash casement windows at the upper level. A rectangular porch with a flat, copper roof is supported by, and decorated with, ornamental cast iron work. The one story element of the elevation contains original wood louvered openings and a second story porch altered with a flat roof and wood louvered openings.

The north elevation is L-shaped and contains quoining at the northeast corner, a two story bay window with copper roof and a second story balcony accessed by an exterior central staircase. The west elevation contains french doors on the left side of the first story.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

Norton House

Interior

The interior of the Norton House has remained the same since the interior alterations of 1935. The rooms contain pecky cypress paneling, oak paneling, oak pocket doors and the original marble fireplace decorated with a porpoise emblem in cast plaster flanked by built-in book cases in the library. Rooms contain various finished details such as the dentiled cornice in the library.

Landscaping

In 1935, Wyeth redesigned portions of the estate lawn to more adequately reflect the classical proportions of the residence. To the east of the east elevation, Wyeth designed and had constructed a 35 foot reflecting pool complete with fountain and concrete pavers. Today, a long, serpentine sculpture by Anne Norton, second wife of Ralph Norton, is located in the center of the reflecting pond.

In addition to the reflecting pool, Wyeth added a small native oolitic limestoned grotto to the east of the reflecting pond. The grotto contains a small Grecian statue and is landscaped in native and exotic flora.

Alterations

The Norton house as seen no significant alterations since 1937. It retains its essential integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, setting and association.

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Norton House

SUMMARY

The Norton House is significant under Criterion C at the local level as a distinguished example of the Monterey style of architecture in Palm Beach County dating from the 1930s, and as the work of master architect, Marion Sims Wyeth.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The first permanent residents of European stock arrived in present day Palm Beach County during the 1870s. These early settlers established farms on both sides of Lake Worth, cultivating pineapples. In 1892, Henry M. Flagler visited the Lake Worth area and envisioned a residential town on the ocean, isolated from commercial activity. He purchased property on the west shore of Lake Worth to serve as the business district of the new ocean-side residential town of Palm Beach.

In November, 1893, Flagler filed the original plat for the Town of West Palm Beach. The town extended from Lake Worth to Clear Lake. The streets were laid out in alphabetical order from Althea on the north to Fern on the south. The avenues ran alphabetically from Lantana on the east to Water on the west. (Neither end avenue was ever developed.)

Flagler's newly named Florida East Coast (F.E.C.) Railroad reached West Palm Beach the same year, bringing building materials, tourists, workers and settlers. More black settlers came to help build the railroad and new resort. That year, blacks from the Styx began relocating to the western shore of Lake Worth, west of the railroad tracks, to make room for Flagler's new residential town.

What began as a relocation of workers soon turned into forced segregation of the town of West Palm Beach. Wealthy white residents settled near the cool waters of Lake Worth, while the black population was relegated to a more primitive environment near the muck and swamp lands and vegetable farms.

While the town saw a population increase of 207% during the 1920s, the majority of the construction was limited to the affluent white neighborhoods. In the El Cid plat, residences and small estates were constructed in the Mediterranean Revival style of architecture. Such architects as Addison Mizner promoted the

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Norton House

classical style which proved well suited to the subtropical climate and the eclectic tastes of their clients.

By the mid-1930s, both the economy of Palm Beach County and the tastes of its residents had changed dramatically. The stock market crash of 1929 and subsequent economic depression, combined with a deflated Florida real estate economy, greatly curtailed the construction of new housing in both the Town of Palm Beach and the Town of West Palm Beach. Instead, residents chose more modest changes of style and size for their current houses. The new style in vogue at that time in Palm Beach County was the Monterey style. Begun in Monterey, California, the style combined simple classic lines with a streamlined modern structure. The result was a symmetrical facade with a full second story balcony balanced with wrought iron railings and classically inspired fenestration.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE
Criterion C

Ralph Hubbard Norton (1875-1953) was a significant patron of the visual arts in southeastern Florida during his lifetime. Norton, a wealthy steel company industrialist in Chicago, was an avid art collector. After a successful business career in Chicago, Norton and his first wife, Elizabeth Calhoun Norton (1881-1947) established the Norton Gallery and School of Art in 1941 adjacent to downtown Palm Beach. Designed by Marion Sims Wyeth, the Gallery became a local landmark. In 1935, Norton chose Wyeth (1889-1982) to redesign and alter his private residence. Two years later, Wyeth carried out a complete revision of the exterior of the house.

Wyeth was born in New York City on February 15, 1889 and was raised in the city. Wyeth graduated from Lawrenceville School in 1906 and Princeton in 1910. From the fall of 1910 through the spring of 1914, he was enrolled at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. In 1915 he returned to New York and worked briefly in the office of Bertram G. Goodhue. The following year Wyeth went to work for the firm of Carrere and Hastings whose work for Flagler in St. Augustine and Palm Beach influenced Florida's subsequent development. After serving in the Army Air Service in the First World War, Wyeth arrived in South Florida in 1919 as the architect in charge of the Good Samaritan Hospital. He continued to practice in Palm Beach for fifty-four years.

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Section number 8 Page 3

Norton House

Wyeth specialized in residential commissions in the exclusive residential town of Palm Beach, including, in association with Joseph Urban, Mar-a-Lago the largest house built in the town during the 1920s, and a National Historic Landmark. Wyeth also designed the Florida Governor's Mansion in Tallahassee in 1955.

The Norton House is an excellent example of the application of the Monterey style of architecture in Palm Beach County during the depression years. Wyeth used the fundamentals of this simple, classic style to renovate an existing residence that was in need of repair and maintenance. The style has become synonymous with 1930s Palm Beach and is well integrated with the Mediterranean Revival style of the previous decade.

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Norton House

Curl, Donald W. Mizner's Florida: American Resort Architecture. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press and the Architectural History Foundation, 1984.

_____. Palm Beach County: An Illustrated History. Northridge, California: Windsor Publications, 1986.

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Hanna, Alfred Jackson and Kathryn Abbey Hanna. Florida's Golden Sands. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1950.

Hunter, E. Robert. Ann Weaver Norton: Sculptor, A Memorial Exhibition Catalog. West Palm Beach: The Norton Gallery of Art, 1982.

Lure of the Sun: A Story of Palm Beach County. Lake Worth, Florida: First Federal Savings and Loan Association, 1967.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

McIver, Stuart B. Yesterday's Palm Beach. Miami, Florida: E. A. Seemann, 1976.

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Norton, Ralph H. Art At The Norton Gallery: With Some Observations On Non-representational Painting. West Palm Beach: Norton Gallery and School of Art, 1952.

Palm Beach Daily News. 1930-1960, passim.

Palm Beach Post. 1930-1960, passim.

Palm Beach Times. 1930-1960, passim.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1969.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 1

Norton House

1. Norton House
2. West Palm Beach, Florida
3. John Johnson
4. 1989
5. Historic Palm Beach County Preservation Board
6. Front elevation facing north
7. Photo 1 of 14

Items 1-5 are identical for photographs 1-9

6. East elevation facing west
7. Photo 2 of 14

6. East and north elevations facing southwest
7. Photo 3 of 14

6. Detail of wrought iron work
7. Photo 4 of 14

6. Interior photo of paneled library
7. Photo 5 of 14

6. Interior photo of library fireplace
7. Photo 6 of 14

6. Anne Norton Sculpture in Reflecting Pond facing northeast
7. Photo 7 of 14

6. Fountain at Reflecting Pond facing north
7. Photo 8 of 14

6. Rock Grotto facing northeast
7. Photo 9 of 14

1. Norton House
2. West Palm Beach, Florida
3. Unknown
4. 1937
5. Norton Family Photograph Album
6. Front elevation facing north
7. Photo 10 of 14

1. Norton House
2. West Palm Beach, Florida
3. Unknown

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Section number Photos Page 2

Norton House

4. 1935
5. Norton Family Photograph Album
6. Side elevation facing west
7. Photo 11 of 14

1. Norton House
2. West Palm Beach, Florida
3. Unknown
4. 1937
5. Norton Family Photograph Album
6. Side elevation facing west
7. Photo 12 of 14

1. Norton House
2. West Palm Beach, Florida
3. Unknown
4. 1935
5. Norton Family Photograph Album
6. Reflecting pond facing north
7. Photo 13 of 14

1. Norton House
2. West Palm Beach, Florida
3. Unknown
4. 1937
5. Norton Family Photograph Album
6. Reflecting Pond facing North
7. Photo 14 of 14

JUL 26 1990

NORTON HOUSE - 253 BARCELONA ROAD - WEST PALM BEACH - FLORIDA

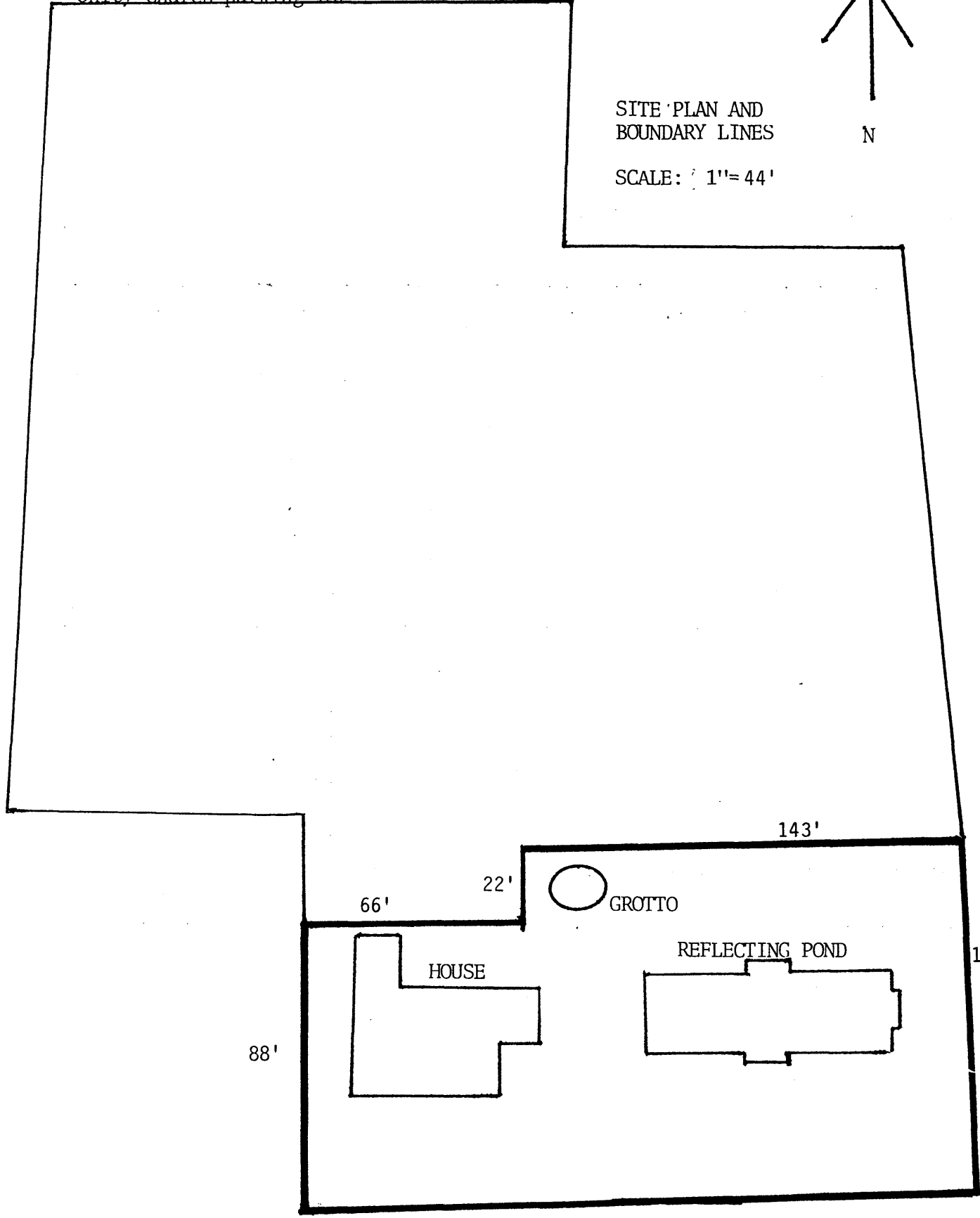
Unity Church parking lot



SITE PLAN AND
BOUNDARY LINES

SCALE: 1" = 44'

SOUTH FLAGLER DRIVE



88'

66'

22'

HOUSE



GROTTO

REFLECTING POND

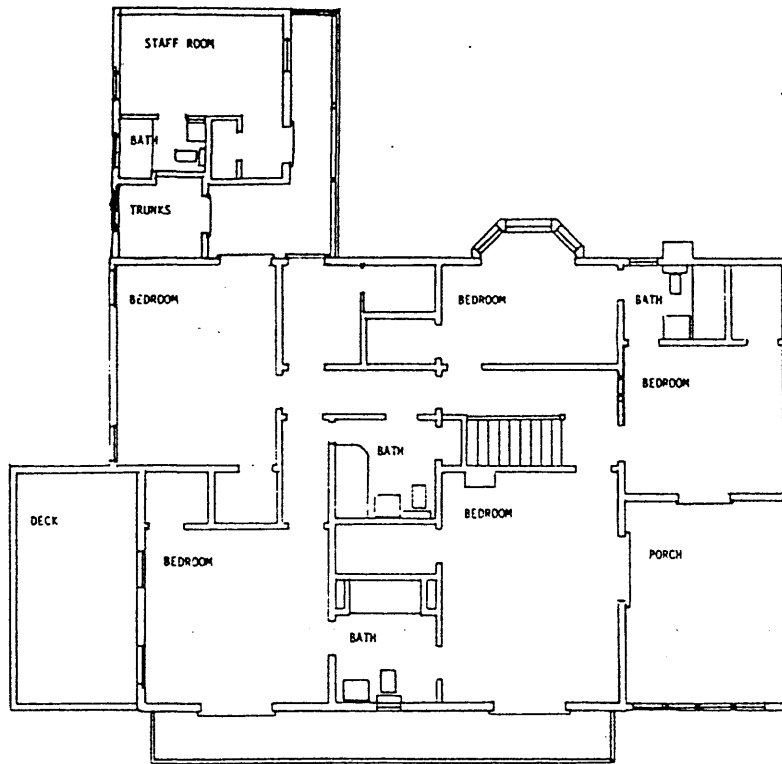
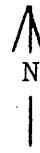
143'

110'

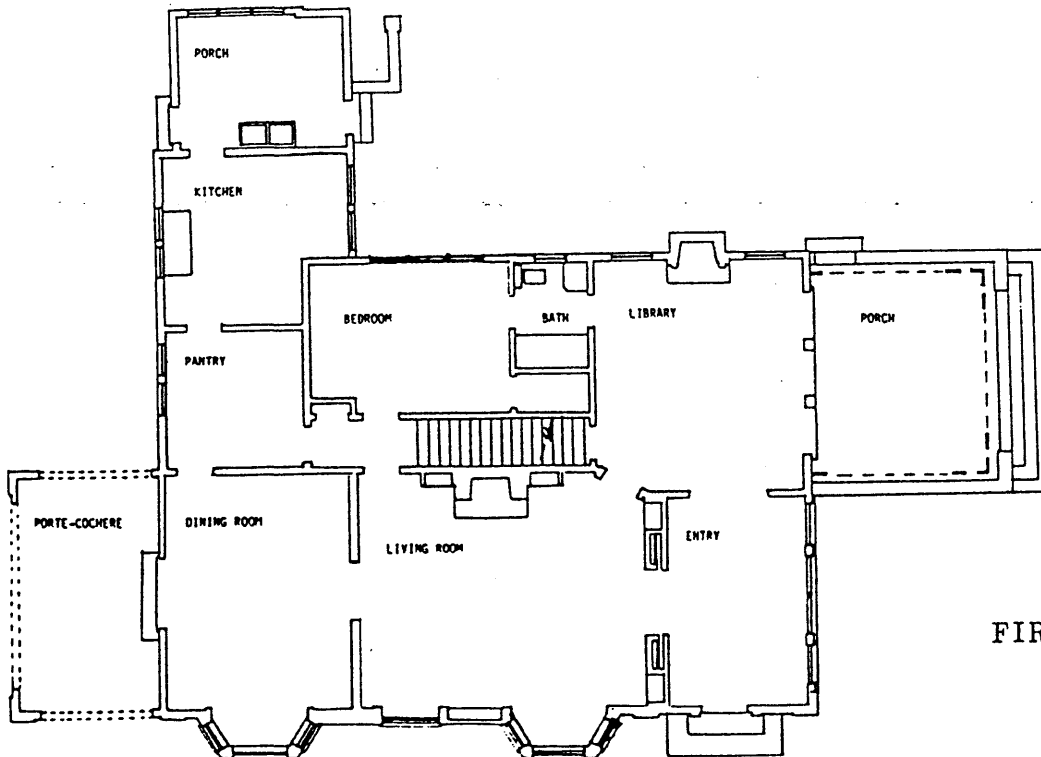
220'

BARCELONA ROAD

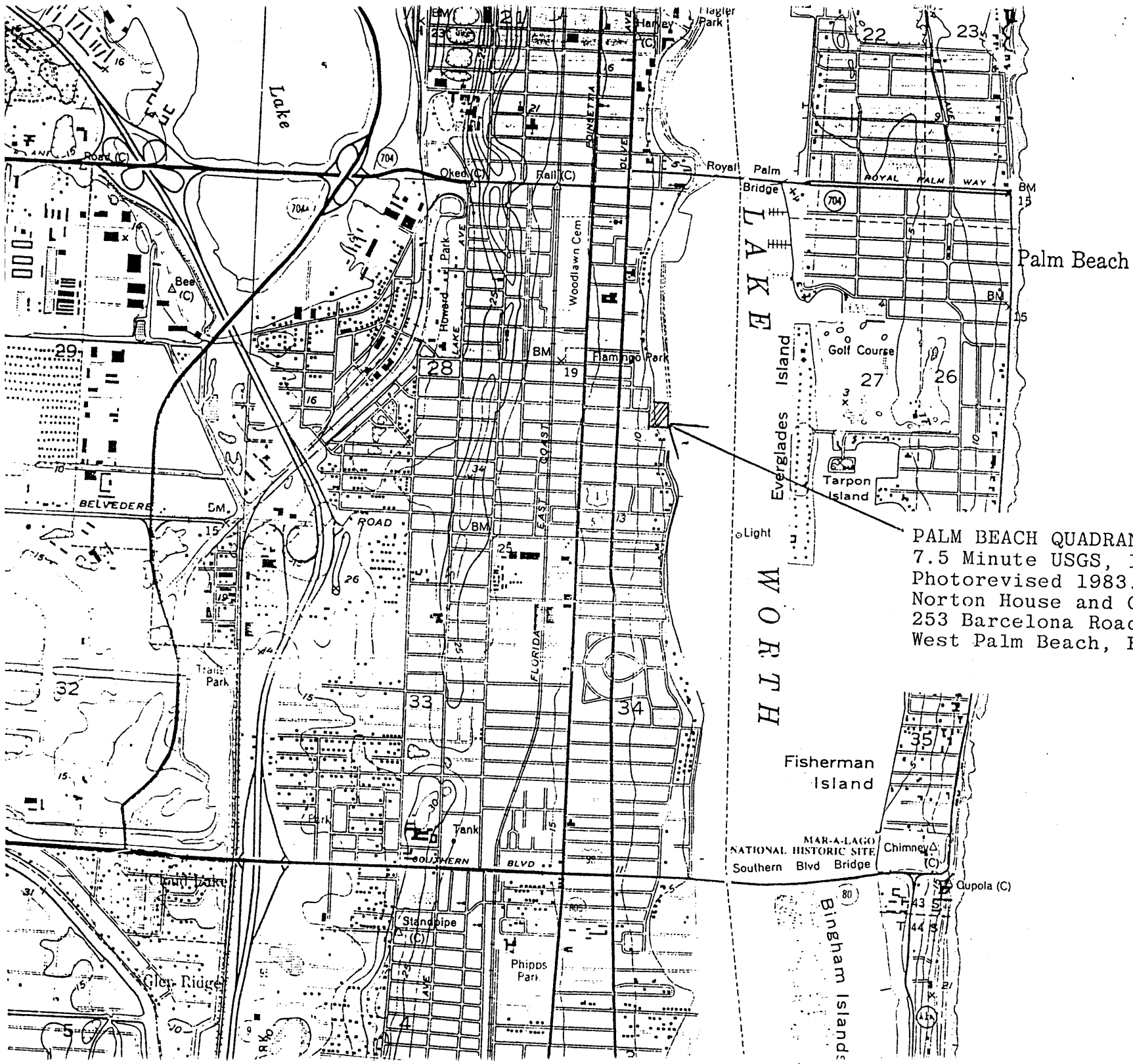
NORTON HOUSE AND GARDEN
FLOOR PLANS



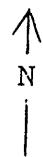
SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



PALM BEACH QUADRANGLE
 7.5 Minute USGS, 1946,
 Photorevised 1983.
 Norton House and Garden
 253 Barcelona Road
 West Palm Beach, Florida



WORTH
 Light
 Fisherman Island
 MAR-A-LAGO NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
 Southern Blvd Bridge
 Chimney (C)
 Cupola (C)
 Bingham Islands

