

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 an 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 Moore Haven Downtown Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 3-99 Avenue J, 100 First Street, and not for publication

Lone Cypress Park

city or town Moore Haven vicinity

state Florida code FL county Glades code 043 zip code 33471

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.)

Suzanne P. Walker / Deputy SHPO 9/7/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State of 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.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper
Entered in the
National Register

Date of Action
10-12-95

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)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7	2	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
8	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(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)

COMMERCE/TRADE/
Speciality Store

Financial Institution

LANDSCAPE/ Park

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/
Speciality Store

VACANT/Not in Use

LANDSCAPE/ Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick, concrete

walls WOOD/ Weatherboard METAL/ Tin
Brick; Stucco

roof Tar and Gravel; Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- [X] 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.
[X] 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement
Commerce
Architecture

Period of Significance

1916-1939

Significant Dates

1916, 1917

1919, 1926

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: Gram, Frederick

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 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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[] Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 2.2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>117</u>	<u>491010</u>	<u>2967720</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	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 Victoria "Mikki" Hartig/ Sherry Piland, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date September 1995

street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Fl. 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 _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

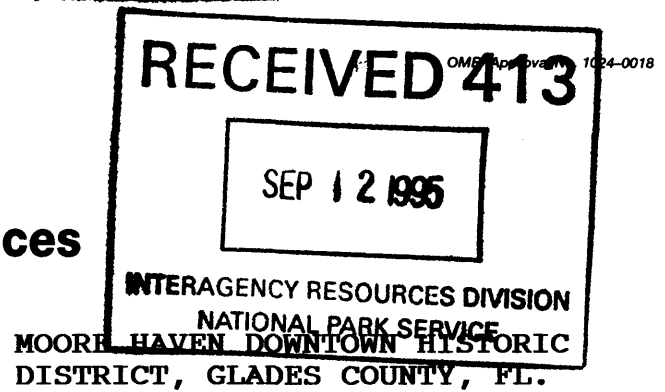
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1



SUMMARY

The Moore Haven Downtown Historic District represents the city's original business district. The district is composed of 7 contributing buildings (for a concentration of 78%), a contributing site (Lone Cypress Park), and 2 non-contributing buildings. The district is significant under National Register Criteria A and C as Moore Haven's historic downtown and commercial district and for its vernacular architecture. The district lies within the boundaries of the original 1916 plat of Moore Haven, and is closely linked to the history of the town during its major period of development, 1915-1926. The buildings within the district housed important early businesses, such as the post office, a bank, offices, stores, apartments and a service station.

SETTING

Moore Haven is located in the south central part of Florida, approximately 60 miles east of Ft. Myers, and 80 miles west of West Palm Beach. The city has a population of approximately 1,200 and lies in the center of Glades County on the western county line, near the western shore of Lake Okeechobee. The Caloosahatchee River (Three Mile Canal) defines the east edge of the city. Moore Haven is bisected by east-west US 27. In 1954, US 27 was rerouted to the north, away from the historic downtown area, to align with a newly constructed bridge over the Three Mile Canal. This caused many businesses to abandon the historic Moore Haven downtown in favor of the new route and its higher traffic volume. Thus, many of Moore Haven's historic commercial structures became vacant and remain so to date.

Several building lots within and in close proximity to the district are vacant. Some of those vacant lots were never developed, while others were previously occupied by commercial buildings that were destroyed in the fire of 1921 or the hurricane of 1926. Those events demolished several buildings on the block now known as City Park. Those structures were not rebuilt, and the block simply evolved into the town square. It is now the location of the city hall and community library. All of the buildings within the district front onto the park. Adjacent to City Park on the east is the Lone Cypress Park, on the bank of the Three Mile Canal.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

MOORE HAVEN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC
DISTRICT, GLADES COUNTY, FL.

Moore Haven has never again regained the rate of growth or undergone the rapid pace of construction that the town experienced in its early years. Located in a relatively rural area and virtually free from developmental pressures usually faced by urban communities, the primary facades of the contributing buildings have had little alteration.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Many of the buildings in the district are two-part commercial blocks, a common kind of composition used for small and moderate size commercial buildings throughout the country from the 1850s to the 1950s. This kind of building is characterized by a horizontal division into two distinct zones. The two-part division normally reflects differences in use inside. The lower zone, at street level, indicates public space, usually reserved for retail use, and the upper zone suggests a more private space such as living or office space. Most of the buildings in the district utilized the upper floors as residential space.

The buildings within the district historically fulfilled all the needs of a small town. The district was the location of the bank, post office, pharmacy, real estate office, physician's office, law and abstract offices, grocery store, telephone office, barbershop, shoe repair, furniture store, hardware store and general mercantile store. It was the town gathering place, and the prevalent use of sidewalk canopies to provide shade is an indication of the social nature of the business area.

The buildings within the district are vernacular structures with little ornamentation. The masonry buildings are constructed of either brick with a smooth textured stucco finish applied to the exterior or stuccoed concrete block. The first floors commonly have large plate glass display windows, transoms above doors and windows, and kick panels. Porches are found occasionally on the second floor, either on the front or rear of the building, or both. Kickpanels and entry doors are of frame construction. The second floor of some buildings incorporates balconies or second floor screened porches. A minimum amount of decorative wood detailing is found in the cornices, brackets and window surrounds. Three of the buildings within the district

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

MOORE HAVEN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC
DISTRICT, GLADES COUNTY, FL.

were designed by local architect Frederick Gram (3 Avenue J, 35 Avenue J, and 100 1st Street).

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS:

1. Gram Building
Address: 3 Avenue J
Date of Construction: 1916

The Gram Building is a two-story vernacular building, clad in horizontal wood siding, with a shallow pitched gable roof (Photo 1). It rests on masonry and wood pilings. The building retains its original entry doors and many of its original 1/1, double hung, sash windows. The front (south) facade features a full-width, cantilevered, second-story, screened porch, supported by simple square wood posts resting on brick-covered concrete piers. The porch shades the sidewalk and the two first floor storefronts. A screened porch, now enclosed with jalousie windows, extends from the east elevation. An additional cantilevered porch extends from the rear elevation.

2. Moore Haven Mercantile Building
Address: 27 Avenue J
Date of Construction: 1919

The Moore Haven Mercantile Building is constructed of concrete block, surfaced with stucco (Photo 2). The primary (south) facade originally had a stepped parapet; the parapet is now plain. A metal shed roof overhang shelters the first floor storefronts. The primary entrance is located in the center bay of the first floor. The double entry doors, with large glass panels, are flanked by display windows. Originally, the paneled areas above the sidewalk canopy were probably large transom windows. The second floor is fenestrated with three sets of double hung sash windows, arranged with a 2/2 light central window flanked by 1/1 light windows. The window glass is currently obscured with paint. A small metal shed roof, with exposed rafters, shelters the second floor windows. A masonry addition, predating 1925, has been added to the rear of the building. The interior spaces of the building are remarkably intact. Many of the original decorative and functional fixtures such as the light fixtures, ornate pressed tin ceiling (Photo 3),

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**MOORE HAVEN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC
DISTRICT, GLADES COUNTY, FL.**

Section number 7 Page 4

and original floor and wall finishes have been well maintained. Original oak and glass storage and display cases also remain in place and use as testimony that the building has continuously functioned as a mercantile store since its construction in 1919 (Photo 4).

3. Frierson Building
Address: 35 Avenue J
Date of Construction: ca. 1917

The Frierson Building abuts the Moore Haven Supply Company. This two story building is constructed of hollow clay tile covered with stucco (Photo 2). A shallow balcony on the main (south) facade is supported by three simple knee braces and provides shading for the two store fronts. The building retains its original display windows with large transoms and the original second floor double hung sash windows, hung in triplicate, and now covered over. A projecting wood cornice marks the parapet wall. A one-story concrete block addition, covered by a shed roof, has been added to the rear of the building.

4. Mitchell/Davis Building
Address: 83 Avenue J
Date of Construction: ca. 1917

The Mitchell/Davis Building is constructed of brick with a stucco finish (photo 5). The principal elevation of the two-story building, facing south, is distinguished by a stepped parapet and a second story porch that projects over the sidewalk. The porch is supported by three battered posts; a fourth post has been replaced by a concrete block pier. The first floor is divided into three storefronts, each with its own entrance. An arched entrance, near the center of the facade, provides access to the second floor. A small screened porch is on the second floor of the rear facade.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**MOORE HAVEN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC
DISTRICT, GLADES COUNTY, FL.**

Section number 7 Page 5

5. Moore Haven Arcade
Address: 91 Avenue J
Date of Construction: 1926

The Arcade Building is the most complex and architecturally detailed building within the Moore Haven Downtown Historic District. It is only arcade ever constructed in Moore Haven. In its stucco ornamentation in contains a few Mediterranean Revival style decorative details. The masonry walls of the building are covered with stucco (Photo 6). A continuous wood sidewalk awning is suspended from the building. The arched entrance to the arcade is centrally located on the main (south) facade and is highlighted by a segmented parapet. A single stucco patera is centered over the entrance. The window and door frames on the first floor have simple brick surrounds. Several stores were accessed from the interior arcade hall. These retail spaces retain their original display windows, frame kickpanels, doors, and interior floor plans. All of the interior storefront display windows are trimmed with decorative wood surrounds. Extending from the west elevation is a large, stucco auto service bay, constructed in 1939 to provide cover for gasoline pumps (Photo 7).

6. Swindell Building and Residence
Address: 99 Avenue J
Date of Construction: 1939

This two-story building is constructed of stucco over concrete block and was built to serve both a retail and a residential function. The building has a flat roof, paired metal casement windows, and brick quoining (Photo 8). The south portion of the building, fronting onto Avenue J was used as a residence. The rear portion served as the office of a service station. An auto service bay is attached to the west elevation (Photo 9).

7. First Bank of Moore Haven
Address: 100 First Street
Date of Construction: 1917

The two-story First Bank of Moore Haven is a fairly sophisticated early Moore Haven commercial structure (Photo 10).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 6MOORE HAVEN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC
DISTRICT, GLADES COUNTY, FL.

The main facade of the frame, rectangular building faces east. A sidewalk canopy extends along the full length of the main facade and wraps around the corner on the north elevation. Slender wood posts support the canopy roof. The first floor was covered with horizontal wood siding ca. 1976. The second floor retains its cladding of pressed tin siding detailed to resemble cut block. Altered storefront windows and doors punctuate the sidewalk level of the block. Above, tripartite windows, originally with fixed central panes, have been replaced with central aluminum awning units, flanked by wood, double hung, sash units. Several of the building's singly placed windows have also been replaced with aluminum awning units placed within original frame openings. A wood cornice, supported on decorative wood brackets, is just below the parapet. Projecting caps are located at the corners of parapet.

CONTRIBUTING SITE**THE LONE CYPRESS PARK**

The Lone Cypress Park is located at the eastern end of the district, overlooking the Three Mile Canal (Photo 11). The Lone Cypress Tree (Photo 12), located in the park, symbolically marks the center of activity in the development of the region, especially during the formative years of Moore Haven and Glades County. The tree was adopted as the official emblem of the Moore Haven Woman's Club a number of years ago. A state historical marker, sponsored by the Calusa Valley Historical Society, identifies the site.

In 1917, when the State of Florida began to install locks to help control surrounding floodwaters during rainy seasons Lock No. 1 was constructed at the Lone Cypress location. Since that time, the lock has been replaced by newer structures near the present lake shore, but one wall of the old lock is still standing, incorporated into the seawall along the waterway. It forms part of the southern border of the Lone Cypress Park (Photo 11).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

MOORE HAVEN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC
DISTRICT, GLADES COUNTY, FL.

NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

51 Avenue J - one-story, frame commercial building, 1994 (Photo 13).

59 Avenue J - one-story, masonry commercial building, ca. 1950 (Photo 14).

Conclusion

The contributing buildings of the Moore Haven Downtown Historic District were constructed between 1916 and 1939. The buildings essentially constitute what remains of Moore Haven's retail area. More than just a place of business, the downtown district was a center for informal socializing. The Moore Haven Downtown Historic District contributes to the City's sense of time, place, and historical development, conveyed through the location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association of the buildings. They provide a distinct and important cultural link to Moore Haven's history, and collectively represent the architectural forms and styles common in the town during the historic period.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

**MOORE HAVEN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC
DISTRICT, GLADES CO., FL.**

SUMMARY

The Moore Haven Downtown Historic District fulfills Criteria A and C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Under Criterion A, the District is significant as Moore Haven's historic downtown commercial district and is closely linked to Moore Haven's major period of development, 1915-1926. The buildings within the district housed important early businesses such as the post office, a bank, offices, stores, apartments, and a service station. The District is further significant under Criterion C for its collection of vernacular commercial buildings, consistent with regional architectural trends and forms.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Early settlement of the areas west and south of Lake Okeechobee, in central Florida, was hampered by the swampy terrain, subtropical heat, and the presence of Indians, even though the Armed Occupation Act of 1842 provided 160 acre tracts to former soldiers if they occupied the land for five years and undertook their own defense. In 1850 the federal government ceded nearly 10 million acres of wetlands, primarily in the southern half of the peninsula, to the State of Florida for the purpose of drainage and reclamation. To manage this task, the Florida legislature created the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (IITF) in 1851. Florida's contributions to the Confederacy during the Civil War, however, threw the fund into debt and under state law no land could be sold until the debt was cleared. Throughout the Reconstruction era, therefore, the IITF trustees sought investors who could help clear the debt in return for some of the land the state held. In 1881, Hamilton Disston, a Philadelphia steel magnate, negotiated with the IITF for the purchase of four million acres for \$1,000,000. In addition, Disston was granted a franchise to drain lands in the southern interior of the peninsula, for which he would receive half of the reclaimed land. Disston proposed dredging a waterway to connect the Caloosahatchee with Lake Okeechobee and to lower the level of Lake Okeechobee in an attempt to drain the surrounding land.

Beginning in 1881, Captain Menge supervised the digging of canals on the Caloosahatchee waterway. Captain Menge and his brother dug from lake to lake and along the Indian Canal that became known as the Three-Mile Canal or the Caloosahatchee Canal.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2MOORE HAVEN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC
DISTRICT, GLADES CO., FL.

Once open, the canal dropped the level of Lake Okeechobee and drained approximately two million acres of wetlands. The Menge brothers and other boat operators provided freight and passenger service on the Caloosahatchee, carrying mail and transporting supplies to settlers, and fish, furs, and alligator skins out of the region. The only navigation guide on the lake to mark the Three Mile Canal was a cypress tree, surmounted with a flag, at the site that would later become Moore Haven.

In 1884, John W. Henderson was hired by the state to survey the area purchased by Disston. As compensation for his work, Henderson received 98,000 acres of land along the southwestern section of Lake Okeechobee. He died in 1897 and the "Henderson Tract" passed to his heirs.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

In 1915, a Seattle real estate investor and businessman, James A. Moore, purchased the "Henderson Tract" for \$550,000 and had a town site layed out adjacent to the Lone Cypress tree navigational marker. He named the town Moore Haven, erected several buildings, and began promoting the new town through his South Florida Land Company. He sent salesmen to Midwestern states to promote his "farmland paradise." In a short time, hundreds of people had purchased land from Moore and the town had drawn 397 men and three women. Tents, tarpaper shacks, and a few bunk houses were set up to house the new residents until homes could be built. Moore Haven was the first settlement in the Everglades that warranted the title of a town and became the supply center for the surrounding area as truck farming, sugar cane growing, and cattle ranching were established.

One of the first buildings to be constructed in what would become the commercial area of the town was the Gram Building (Photo 1). It was designed and constructed in 1916, by Frederick V. Gram. Gram leased the two retail spaces on the first floor, and he lived with his family on the second floor. Gram had been trained as an architect in his native Denmark. He lived in North Dakota before resettling in Moore Haven in 1916, where he designed and constructed many of Moore Haven's commercial and residential structures. The Gram Building was the location of the town's first drug store, operated by Peder Westergaard. Over

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

MOORE HAVEN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC
DISTRICT, GLADES CO., FL.

the years the building also housed the Langford Meat Market, the post office, a shoe repair business, and a restaurant.

The Moore Haven Mercantile Building (Photo 2) was erected in 1919, and the business was operated by J. W. Putnam. Putnam sold tinware, shoes, drygoods, and was the town's only source for coffins. In 1920, the building was sold to Edwin Parkinson and his son, Cecil. The Parkinsons operated a hardware and dry goods store on the first floor. During the 1940s, they used the second floor as a furniture store. The building was owned by the Parkinson family until 1974.

By 1916, despite the town's promise of growth and prosperity, James Moore began to experience financial difficulty. Clarence M. Busch, an Atlantic City developer and banker; John J. O'Brien, a former city editor of the Philadelphia Public Ledger; and George Q. Horwitz, a Philadelphia lawyer, purchased Moore's interests. However, due to differences in business management, their partnership was short lived. In the division of their business interests, O'Brien and Horwitz took their shares of the company in 3,600 acres of land west of Moore Haven and formed the DeSoto Land Company. However, Horwitz died in December of 1916, leaving his interest to his widow, Marian Newhall Horwitz. At the time of her husband's death, Marian Horwitz had never visited the city.

Mrs. Horwitz, the daughter of a Pennsylvania Railroad executive, was born in Philadelphia and was well known in civic and social affairs. She traveled to Moore Haven in February of 1917, to inspect her late husband's financial holdings, and immediately became interested in the town's development and the welfare of its citizens. She began to actively promote the community. Mrs. Horwitz developed a 2,000 acre farm nearby, and by June of 1917 had shipped 50 car-loads of potatoes to northern markets. In September 1917, she and O'Brien married. As business partners, they were actively involved in the town's growth. The couple built a general store, formed a vegetable exchange, planted large farm tracts, and promoted various civic and cultural projects for the town. She served as the president of a number of organizations: the Moore Haven Vegetable Grower's Exchange, the Moore Haven Development Company, the Horwitz City Farm Company, and the DeSoto Stock Farms Company. They organized the First Bank of Moore Haven in 1916 (Photo 10). The bank failed in October 1926, as the Florida real estate boom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4MOORE HAVEN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC
DISTRICT, GLADES CO., FL.

collapsed. It was restructured and reopened only briefly in 1927. The building then became the location of the regional paper, the Glades County Democrat. The second floor of the building housed the community's first law office and telephone office, and a public stenographer's office. In later years, the second floor was used as apartments.

Moore Haven was incorporated as a city in 1917. The incorporation charter provided for female suffrage, as well as the entitlement of women to hold office. Moore Haven was one of only three Florida cities to grant these rights prior to the adoption of the 19th amendment, which occurred three years later. When Moore Haven's first city election was held on July 17, 1917, Mrs. Horwitz was elected mayor, the first woman mayor in the State of Florida and the southern United States, and one of the first female mayors in the country. With an "up-to-date" female mayor, Moore Haven achieved a reputation as a progressive town.

Moore Haven began to take shape as the commercial center for the entire region. Under Mrs. Horwitz's influence, the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad extended a line from Palmdale to Moore Haven, and the first train arrived on April 28, 1918. The procurement of rail service enabled Moore Haven to become the center of a catfish industry drawn from the plentiful supply in nearby Lake Okeechobee.

In 1921, a series of events began that would forever alter the course of Moore Haven's bright future. On April 26, 1921, a fire began in a rooming house in the developing commercial area along Avenue J. The town had no fire truck. Twenty-two businesses and six residences, most on the south side of Avenue J and along Riverside Drive, were destroyed. Most of those buildings were never rebuilt or replaced. The following year, Moore Haven was the site of a smaller fire that destroyed the Moore Haven Times Building and obliterated the irreplaceable records of Moore Haven's early history.

Moore Haven's fate was further damaged in 1922, when floods inundated the area from May until the end of the year. Many citizens were driven away by the floods and fire. Those that chose to stay reopened their businesses in corrugated-iron, make-shift buildings. New construction projects were started and continued at a steady pace. In 1922, 28 building permits valued at \$17,625 were issued and in 1923, a total of 14 permits were

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5MOORE HAVEN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC
DISTRICT, GLADES CO., FL.

issued at a value of \$12,960, establishing a two year building record for the city.

In 1923, a new city charter was adopted and by 1924, commercial growth had established a full range of services to the community, in spite of fire and floods only a few years earlier and continued flooding problems. Growth and increased building projects continued throughout 1924 and 1925 and the early part of 1926. In January of 1926, the Glades Loan and Investment Company announced their plans for the construction of the Arcade Building at a cost of \$43,000 (Photo 6). Attorney James Couse, Frederick Gram's son-in-law, owned the Glades Loan and Investment Company. Couse, who served four terms as a Glades County judge, operated his law practice and the Glades County Abstract Office from this building until the late 1930s. The Arcade Building, constructed to house several retail concerns, was also the site of the post office for many years. Other tenants of the building in earlier years were a drug store, barber shop, radio repair shop, and a doctor's office. The second floor housed offices.

The town's population had increased to about 1,000 residents when the town experienced the most devastating blow in its short history, one from which its physical plant, population, and economy never fully recovered. On Sunday, September 18, 1926, the town was struck by a great hurricane. The duration and velocity of the winds, at 160 miles per hour, swept water from Lake Okeechobee into a twelve-foot tidal wave that crashed over the entire area. Moore Haven was covered with ten feet of water. Many buildings were torn from their pilings and demolished. Livestock perished and crops were destroyed. The storm killed 300 of the town's residents and brought destruction and ruin to the community. Many residents were forced to move elsewhere and Moore Haven gradually lost its status as the commercial center of the Everglades.

A unique feature of the Moore Haven Downtown Historic District is the Lone Cypress Tree (Photo 12). The tree has special historic significance for the Moore Haven community and is mentioned in the earliest historic records of the area. It served as a marker for pilots before there were government channel markers or beacons. The tree survived the fire of 1921 and the hurricane of 1926. Reportedly, it saved the lives of several people who had the fortune to climb among its branches and ride out the hurricane.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

MOORE HAVEN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC
DISTRICT, GLADES CO., FL.

One last building was constructed in the district prior to the advent of World War II. In 1939, a combination residence and business structure was built at 99 Avenue J (Photo 8). The building was constructed for Justin and Emma Swindall. They made their home in the front part of the building, facing Avenue J. Their service station was located at the rear. The service station remained in operation until 1956 and Mrs. Swindall continued to occupy the residence until 1957.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE

The buildings in the small Moore Haven Downtown Historic District are masonry vernacular structures, dating from 1916 to 1939. Vernacular architecture embraces a diversity of folk and mass-produced building forms that were transmitted by memory or by pattern book. Vernacular buildings were designed and constructed by lay builders who drew upon traditional building techniques and contemporary stylistic preferences for their inspiration. These vernacular structures can be amalgams of building traditions and style, or may reflect the personality of the builder. Frequently vernacular buildings reflect a local adaptation to landscape, climate, and cultural patterns.

Even though three buildings in the district (Photos 1, 2, and 10) were designed by an architect, Frederick Gram, they are consistent with the vernacular tradition and show only a minimum of architectural detailing and sophistication. In Moore Haven, the commercial buildings were commonly two-stories in height, with the business located on the first floor and the second floor used as residential space. The hot and humid climate of southern Florida was obviously a consideration in the design of these buildings. Porches, often multiple, provided a place for the residents of the buildings to avail themselves of fresh air and an occasional breeze. Front and rear porches also provided cross ventilation for the residential spaces. Frequently, porches on the main facades were cantilevered over the sidewalk, to provide shade for those conducting business or shopping in the downtown area.

This small district consists of a concentration of simple yet functional buildings that were erected during Moore Haven's period of greatest growth. Their modest character reflects their use, setting, and the relative isolation of the community. They visually link the present community to its historic past.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

MOORE HAVEN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC
DISTRICT, GLADES CO., FL.

- Book of Florida. n.p.: James O. Jones Co., 1925.
- Burnett, Gene M. Florida's Past: People and Events That Shaped the State. Sarasota: Pineapple Press, 1988.
- Derr, Mark. Some Kind of Paradise: A Chronicle of Man and the Land in Florida. New York: William Morrow and Company, 1989.
- "The Duchess of Moore Haven." Literary Digest 55 (15 September 1917):80, 82-83, and 85.
- Fritz, Florence. Unknown Florida. Coral Gables: University of Miami Press, 1963.
- Glades County Board of Commissioners. Glades County, Florida, History. Moore Haven: Rainbow Books, 1985.
- Hanna, Alfred Jackson and Kathryn Abbey Hanna. Lake Okeechobee, Wellspring of the Everglades. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1948.
- Larkin, William. Souvenir of the Official Opening of the Gulf-to-Atlantic Waterway of Florida. Chicago: n.p., 1912.
- "Marian M. Horwitz." Saturday Evening Post 190 (8 September 1917).
- Okeechobee City and the "Lake Okeechobee Region". St. Augustine: Record Company, 1924.
- Will, Lawrence E. A Pioneer Boatman Tells of Okeechobee Boats and Skippers. St. Petersburg: Great Outdoors Publishing Company, 1965.
- _____. Okeechobee Hurricane and the Hoover Dike. St. Petersburg: Great Outdoors Publishing Company, 1961.

PUBLIC RECORDS (Moore Haven City Hall)

Moore Haven Town Plat, May 16, 1916.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

MOORE HAVEN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC
DISTRICT, GLADES CO., FL.

INTERVIEWS (by Mikki Hartig)

Bussel, Josephine, Moore Haven area resident since 1922. 16 March 1994.

Couse, Ann Gram, Moore Haven resident and daughter of architect Frederic V. Gram, 25 September and 1 December 1994.

Thielen, Ray, longtime Moore Haven resident, 24 September 1994.

Whidden, Vance, longtime Moore Haven resident, 24 September and 26 November 1994; written communication to Mikki Hartig 15 December 1994.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

MOORE HAVEN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC
DISTRICT, GLADES CO., FL.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Moore Haven Downtown Historic District are shown as a dotted line on the accompanying map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries were drawn to reflect the most intact concentration of historic resources within the Moore Haven Downtown Historic District.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**MOORE HAVEN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC
DISTRICT, GLADES COUNTY, FL.**

Section number Photo Page 1

1. Gram Building, 3 Avenue J, Moore Haven Downtown Historic District
2. Glades County, Florida
3. Mikki Hartig
4. August, 1994
5. Historical and Architectural Research Services, 3708 Flores Avenue, Sarasota, Florida
6. Main (south) facade on right, west elevation on left; view looking northeast
7. Photo 1 of 14

Item numbers 2-5 are the same for the remaining photographs

1. Moore Haven Mercantile Building, 27 Avenue J, and Frierson Building, 35 Avenue J, Moore Haven Downtown Historic District
6. Main (south) facades, view looking northeast; Moore Haven Mercantile Building on right; Frierson Building on left
7. Photo 2 of 14

1. Moore Haven Mercantile Building, 27 Avenue J, Moore Haven Downtown Historic District
6. Interior detail, ceiling; view looking northeast
7. Photo 3 of 14

1. Moore Haven Mercantile Building, 27 Avenue J, Moore Haven Downtown Historic District
6. Interior detail, display cases; view looking southwest
7. Photo 4 of 14

1. Mitchell/Davis Building, 83 Avenue J, Moore Haven Downtown Historic District
6. Main (south) facade, view looking northwest
7. Photo 5 of 14

1. Moore Haven Arcade, 91 Avenue J, Moore Haven Downtown Historic District
6. Main (south) facade, view looking northwest
7. Photo 6 of 14

1. Moore Haven Arcade, 91 Avenue J, Moore Haven Downtown Historic District
6. Detail, auto service bay, west facade, view looking east
7. Photo 7 of 14

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**MOORE HAVEN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC
DISTRICT, GLADES COUNTY, FL.**

Section number Photo Page 2

1. Swindell Building and Residence, 99 Avenue J, Moore Haven
Downtown Historic District
6. Main (south) facade on right, west elevation on left; view
looking northeast
7. Photo 8 of 14

1. Swindell Building and Residence, 99 Avenue J, Moore Haven
Downtown Historic District
6. Detail, auto service bay, west facade; view looking east
7. Photo 9 of 14

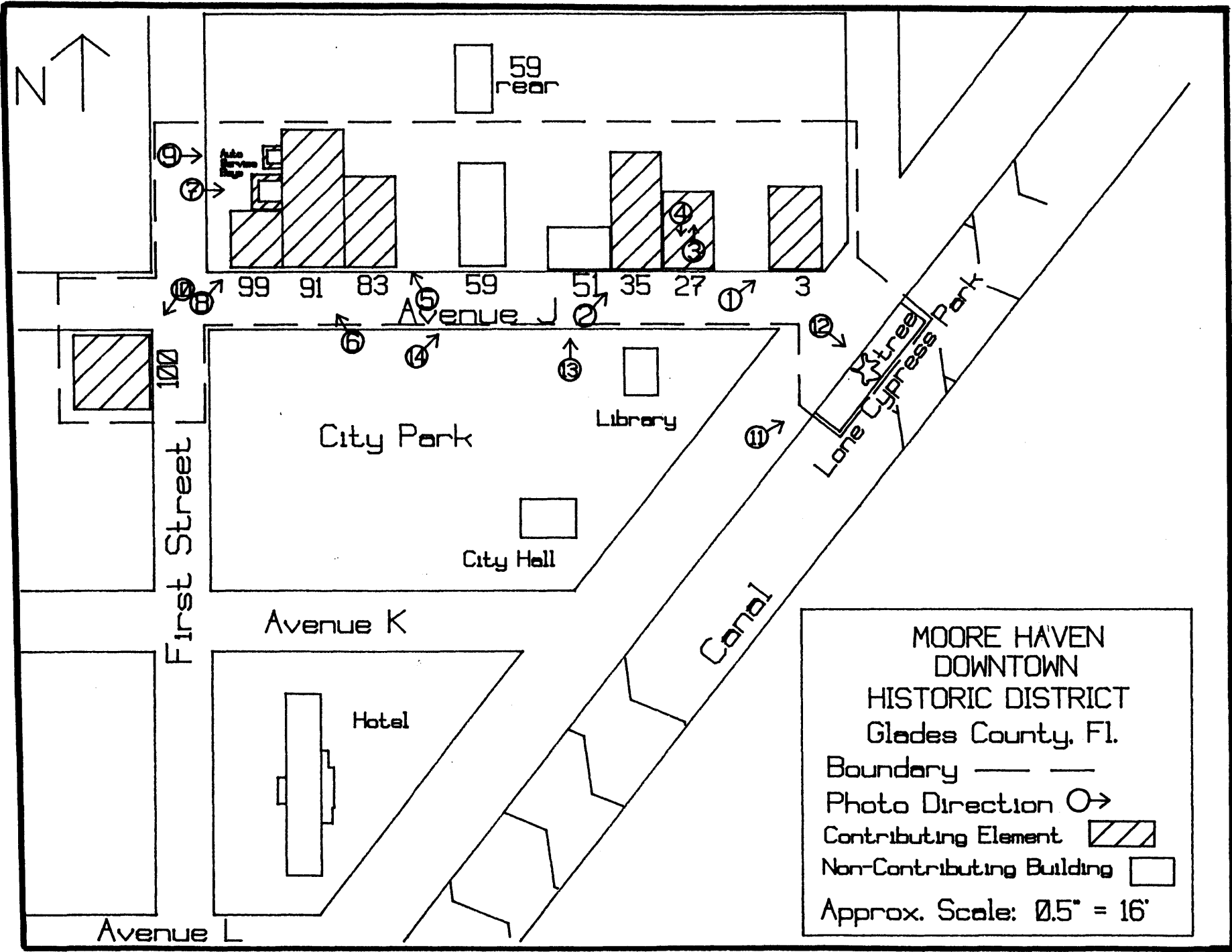
1. First Bank of Moore Haven, 100 Avenue J, Moore Haven
Downtown Historic District
6. Main (east) facade on left, north elevation on right; view
looking southwest
7. Photo 10 of 14

1. Lone Cypress Park, Moore Haven Downtown Historic District
6. View looking north, Three Mile Canal on right
7. Photo 11 of 14



1. Lone Cypress Park, Moore Haven Downtown Historic District
6. View of Lone Cypress Tree, view looking east
7. Photo 12 of 14

1. 51 Avenue J, Moore Haven Downtown Historic District
6. Main (south) facade, view looking north
7. Photo 13 of 14

1. 59 Avenue J, Moore Haven Downtown Historic District
6. Main (south) facade on right, west elevation on left; view
looking to northeast
7. 14 of 14



MOORE HAVEN
 DOWNTOWN
 HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Glades County, Fl.

Boundary — — —
 Photo Direction ○→
 Contributing Element 
 Non-Contributing Building 

Approx. Scale: 0.5" = 16"