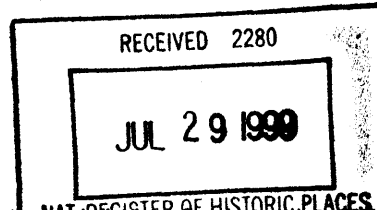


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



1028

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 EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 4370 Garden Road

N/A  not for publication

city or town El Jobean

N/A  vicinity

state Florida

code FL

county Charlotte

code 015

zip code 33927

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.)

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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

8/27/99

EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
Name of Property

Charlotte Co., FL  
County and State

**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)

GOVERNMENT/Post Office  
COMMERCE/General Store  
TRANSPORTATION/Train Depot

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/Work in Progress

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE/Wood Frame Vernacular

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
walls Wood  
Metal  
roof Metal  
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.)

- 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)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1923-1949

Significant Dates

1923

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: Unknown

Blder: Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

#

EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
Name of Property

Charlotte Co., FL  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of Property less than one

**UTM References**

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

|   |      |   |         |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|------|---|---------|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1    | 7 | 3       | 7 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 0        | 2 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 0 |
|   | 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 Melissa Elliff, Planner II/Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date July 1999

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (850) 487-2333

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 Chris Meyer & Tim Berini, El Jobean Historical Properties, Inc.

street & number 4470 Nutsedge Road telephone (941) 627-3344

city or town El Jobean state Florida zip code 33953

**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 amend 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

EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
DESCRIPTION

---

**SUMMARY PARAGRAPH**

The El Jobean Post Office and General Store is a one-story, wood frame vernacular building erected in 1923. It is located on the east side of Garden Road in El Jobean, Florida, and has a slightly irregular plan and an exterior cladding of wood drop siding and pressed metal. The building comprises two main sections. The northern section has a gable roof and features three-bay porches on both its west (main) and east (rear) elevations. The south section has a shed roof and a small shed roofed room on the south elevation that was reportedly used for a time as a jail. The building rests on masonry piers and features a variety of window types. The front-gabled roof is sheathed in 5-V crimp sheet metal, and the shed roof over the south section of the building is covered with asphalt roll. A bathroom extension in the south section of the building abuts the south side of the rear (east) porch, and an exterior brick chimney is found on the porch between the rear entrance and the bathroom extension. The interior of the building displays plain board construction and a small amount of novelty wainscoting. Although the building exhibits some deterioration, it retains most of its historical physical integrity.

**SETTING**

El Jobean is an unincorporated community located in the western portion of Charlotte County. Originally named "Southland," El Jobean developed along the northeast bank of the Myakka River in the 1920s. The community overlooks the Myakka River at the point where it meets Charlotte Harbor. El Jobean is found approximately 30 miles southeast of Sarasota and 28 miles north of Fort Myers. It is approximately six miles from Port Charlotte and about 10 miles from the City of Punta Gorda. The population of Charlotte County was 131,307 as of the April 1, 1997 Bureau of Economic and Business Research estimate.<sup>1</sup>

El Jobean comprises mainly single family dwellings, although there is some commercial development along State Road 776 which parallels the route of the abandoned Seaboard Coast Line Railroad route and bisects the community of El Jobean. Traditionally, the economy of the area has been based on fishing, farming, and the turpentine industry. Currently, the economy of El Jobean is similar to that of Charlotte County, which is based primarily on tourism, retirement residency, and agriculture<sup>2</sup>. The El Jobean Post Office and General Store is located on the east side of Garden Road in El Jobean. The abandoned Seaboard Coast Line Railroad runs along the rear or east side of the property. State Road 776 is located to the east of the property, but is screened from the building by thick vegetation. The building is set back approximately ten feet from the road. The main facade is relatively free of vegetation, but the other three sides of the building have substantial vegetative buffering.

---

<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida. 1997 Florida Estimates of Population. 1997, p. 9.

<sup>2</sup> Charlotte County. 1997-2010 Comprehensive Plan - Future Land Use Element. 1997, p. 1-67.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
DESCRIPTION

---

**Exterior**

The El Jobean Post Office and General Store is a one-story frame vernacular building. It is slightly irregular in shape, rests on masonry piers, and is divided into two major sections. The northern section features full-width porches on both the front and rear elevations. The building's construction used common wood framing techniques. The exterior of the north section of the building is covered with wood drop siding, whereas the south section of the building is clad with pressed metal whose pattern resembles brick. Beneath the pressed metal is drop siding like that found on the north section of the building. The small jail extension on the south elevation of the building is clad with corrugated metal. The north section of the building has a gable roof covered with 5-V crimped steel sheet metal. The south unit, including the jail, has a shed roof covered with rolled asphalt.

The main entrance of the building is a single, paneled wood door found in the center of the west gable end wall (Photos 1-2). A similar entranceway is found at the east end of the building; however, the paneled door is missing, and the opening is secured with a sheet of crimped metal roofing (Photo 3). There are also double cargo doors located in the west elevation of the south section of the building. These open onto a room that was historically used to store fire prevention equipment. There are three-bay porches supported by square wood posts found at the east and west ends of the building (Photos 1-4). The porches have shed roofs covered with crimped metal, exposed rafter tails, and wood floor decks. The shed roof of the east porch extends to cover the bathroom extension of the south section of the building (Photo 4). There is also a brick chimney on the rear exterior wall of the east porch, located between the entranceway and the bathroom extension (Photo 3). The main original fenestration is 1/1-light and 6/1-light double hung sash windows. The north and south side elevations (Photos 5-8) feature irregularly placed plain window sills. A small wall bay extends from about the center of the south elevation (Photo 8). This extension reportedly was used for a time as the community jail; however, it seem to have been used primarily as a storeroom.

**Interior**

The overall interior of the building measures approximately 33 feet by 40 feet, not including the two 20 foot by five foot porches. The building contains six main partitioned areas (Photos 9-11), plus a bathroom and the small room extension off the south side of the building that was supposedly used as a jail. The two front rooms of the northern section of the building were used as the post office and general store. The room at the rear of this section was originally used as a railroad depot passenger waiting room. The post office section retains its postal windows and the mail slots (Photo 10). The floors, walls and door frames are all made of wood and although they show some signs of deterioration are in fairly good condition overall.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3

EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
DESCRIPTION

---

The south section of the building contains three major rooms, a bathroom, and the old jail. The westernmost room was used to store fire fighting equipment, since the building served not only as the post office and general store but also as the local fire station. The other two major rooms and the bathroom in this section of the building were used as living quarters by the local postmaster. The jail on the south elevation of the building has its own entranceway on its west side. It is located next to a doorway that provided access to the living quarters (Photo 8).

**Condition/Alterations**

At present, the building is in overall fair condition. Portions of the porches, interior wood floors and exterior wood siding are experiencing deterioration, and some of the windows are missing. The property on which the structure is located is overgrown with dense vegetation. The only alterations that have occurred during the property's history were the construction of the living quarters in 1923 or 1924 and those that were required for the maintenance and upkeep of the building. The El Jobean Historic Properties Corporation intends to renovate the Post Office and General Store and use it as a museum honoring Joel Bean and the early history of El Jobean.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SIGNIFICANCE

---

**SUMMARY PARAGRAPH**

The El Jobean Post Office and General Store, built in 1923, is significant at the local level under criterion A in the areas of Community Planning and Development and Commerce. The building has played numerous roles in the community, including serving as a post office, general store, railroad depot, fire station, and temporary jail. For many years, it was also the residence of the town's first postmaster Madgie Densten. The Post Office and General Store is one of the two remaining original buildings that were constructed in 1923 to initiate the development of the El Jobean community. The other, the Grand Hotel (also known as the El Jobean Fishing Lodge), is found on the west side of Garden Road just southwest of the Old Post Office and General Store. The Old Post Office and General Store was considered the center of El Jobean's commercial and social activity during much of the community's history. The structure is also one of the few remaining historic wood frame commercial buildings in Charlotte County.

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

The property on which El Jobean is located was originally part of those federal lands in Florida deeded to the state government in 1850 and was initially part of Manatee County. In 1887, the area became part of DeSoto County and in 1921 was incorporated into newly formed Charlotte County. Prior to becoming part of Charlotte County, the area had remained relatively undeveloped, its primary commercial activities being agriculture and fishing. In 1887, Daniel and Jane MacPherson, immigrants from Scotland, purchased 1071 acres of land at what was then called Myakka Landing on which they platted the town of Southland on the east bank of the Myakka River. No development of the land was undertaken by the new owners, and the property eventually went into receivership because the county taxes on the land had remained unpaid for a number of years. The only activity to take place on the site was the establishment of a small fishing camp for sport fishermen on the Myakka River near where State Road 776 now crosses the river.<sup>3</sup>

The Charlotte Harbor and Northern Railroad (later incorporated into the Seaboard Airline Railway) extended its line to this area in 1907, constructing a railway bridge over the Myakka River at Southland and erecting a small railway terminal near the river crossing.<sup>4</sup> In 1908, three men from Maryland purchased the Southland property for its unpaid taxes. They in turn sold the land in 1920 to two men who erected a turpentine distillery on the property, and turpentine production became a major industry for the Charlotte County. Southland was the headquarters for the operation which collected sap from the surrounding pine forest and distilled it into turpentine. The business, however, did not prosper, and foreclosure suits were filed against the

---

<sup>3</sup> Cason, Marjorie R. *The History of Early El Jobean*. Private Publication, 1990, p. 9-10.

<sup>4</sup> Williams, Lindsey and U.S. Cleveland, *Our Fascinating Past, Volumes 1 and 2*. Punta Gorda: Charlotte Harbor Historical Society, 1996, p. 141.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SIGNIFICANCE

---

owners of the distillery. The entire 1,071 acre tract of Southland was sold in 1923 to Joel Bean, trustee and sole owner of the Boston and Florida Realty Trust Company. The old Southland town plat—which had never seen any development—was discarded, and Bean’s plat of the new town of El Jobe-an (an anagram of the developer’s name) was filed in 1924.<sup>5</sup>

Joel Bean was born in the state of Maine in 1867 and spent his early life on a farm. He was a graduate of Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, where he studied law and spent a number of years practicing law in his native state. In the first decade of the twentieth century he moved to Massachusetts where he became involved in the development of real estate. Around 1918 or 1919, Bean decided to try his hand at developing property in Florida, intending to establish an “ideal community” on the former Southland tract. To achieve that goal, he hired the Boston, Massachusetts, firm of Hayward and Hayward—with whom he had worked earlier in his career—to plat his “City of Destiny.”<sup>6</sup>

By 1926, the unusual and visionary plan for the community of El Jobe-an (an anagram of the developer’s name) was complete. The city was to be divided into six wards, each with its own civic center bordering on a circular plaza surrounded by a 100 foot wide boulevard from which six 80 foot wide thoroughfares, each in the form of a hexagon, would radiate to the ward limits. Streets extending like the spokes of a bicycle wheel would stretch out from the circular plaza to connect with the adjacent identical wards. Lots bordering on the central plazas were to be reserved for business purposes, theaters, and public buildings. Lots in each of the wards were also set aside for churches, schools, and recreational facilities. Plans were developed for the construction of an 18-hole golf course, and a large modern railroad depot of “Spanish” design was to be constructed near the center of the city. A bathing pavilion, dance hall, and large casino were to be erected on the waterfront.<sup>7</sup>

While work began on clearing the land, Bean renamed his development El Jobean and undertook the task of advertising his new development in the northern states, attempting to lure upper class citizens to establish winter homes in the community. He pictured a stylish community on the banks of the Myakka River, with all the buildings conforming to the attractive Spanish type of architecture.<sup>8</sup> Prospective buyers arrived by rail and by charter boat sailing up the Myakka River. According to Bean’s personal files, property sales for El Jobean were surpassing all expectations. The lively sales were prompted in part by a speculative land boom that had begun to gather momentum throughout Florida around 1921. Spurred by reports of enormous profits made in the purchase and resale of real estate in Miami Beach, speculators sought out property in other parts of Florida where they hoped to make their own fortunes. The first unit of Bean’s development, comprising three wards,

---

<sup>5</sup> Cason, pp. 9-10.

<sup>6</sup> Cason, p. 13.

<sup>7</sup> Cason, pp. 13-16.

<sup>8</sup> Cason, p. 26.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3

EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SIGNIFICANCE

---

was virtually sold out as soon as it was placed on the market, making it necessary to place the second unit on sale earlier than intended.<sup>9</sup>

Among the first buildings constructed by Joel Bean to assist in the promotion of his planned development were the Post Office and General Store and the El Jobean Hotel, both of which were plain, utilitarian structures that would eventually be replaced by more stylish structures. Bean reportedly lived at first in one of the buildings erected by the turpentine company, but he soon built himself a modest house that doubled as a sales office.<sup>10</sup> This house was destroyed by fire in 1991. Bean wanted all of the permanent buildings in El Jobean to be in the Mediterranean Revival style of architecture which had become popular in Florida during the 1920s Land Boom. He intended that the early vernacular buildings would eventually be demolished.

Northern buyers began purchasing lots in El Jobean, putting up modest down payments and accepting sizable mortgages without even first visiting the area.<sup>11</sup> Several Mediterranean Revival style buildings were constructed between 1926 and 1928, and the development appeared to be bound for success, but the statewide land boom began to lose momentum by 1926, and everything came to a screeching halt with the stock market crash of 1929. Absentee land purchasers let their mortgages lapse, and the El Jobean development never fully materialized. Only the early residents, some fishermen, and Joel Bean, himself, remained.

World War II improved the economy of the area when an Army Air Force Base was built in nearby Punta Gorda. The El Jobean Grand Hotel, located across the street from post office and general store, continued to draw numerous customers, including a number of entertainers and sport fisherman. The hotel and the post office-general store were maintained as the center of the El Jobean community. Charlotte County faced a renewed interest in the 1970s and 80s as General Development Corporation and other land development companies began to plat and sell large numbers of properties throughout the county.<sup>12</sup> As the population and growth rates of Charlotte County have increased over recent decades, so has that of the El Jobean area. While the area has grown, it does continue to be close to its historical roots, and a number of historical properties remain within the El Jobean community.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

After Joel Bean purchased the property that would become the site of his new community, a one-room building was constructed along the Seaboard Air Line Railroad tracks to be used as a post office. This building

---

<sup>9</sup> Cason, pp. 19-20.

<sup>10</sup> Sun Herald (Punta Gorda), October 28, 1991.

<sup>11</sup> Williams and Cleveland, p. 168.

<sup>12</sup> Charlotte County. 1997-2010 Comprehensive Plan: Historic Preservation Element. 1997, p. 9-13.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 4 EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SIGNIFICANCE

---

proved inadequate to the town's needs, and in 1923 Bean had a larger one constructed that would house the post office and railroad depot and would also serve as a residence for the new postmaster, Madgie Densten.<sup>13</sup> The original one-room post office was subsequently demolished. Densten operated the post office in this second building for forty years, until her retirement in 1969.<sup>14</sup> The building also saw service as a general store, and a one-room extension on the south side of the building for several years provided the town with a seldom used jail.

After 1929, it became apparent that the El Jobean community would never develop as planned. The buildings that had originally been intended to be temporary solutions to the needs of early development subsequently became the permanent centers of community activity. The nearby Grand Hotel still attracted some seasonal guests, and Joel Bean began marketing the community as an entertainment colony. Because of its close proximity to the hotel, the post office/general store became the hub of the winter visitor season in El Jobean. Hotel guests arriving by rail would detrain at the depot at the rear of post office/general store and proceed with their baggage to the hotel across the street, perhaps stopping to pick up any mail that had preceded them at the post office and buying necessities in the general store. The post office became the meeting place every morning for community news, while the residents waited for the morning mail train. During the Depression years, when many local residents experienced hard economic times, people still recall that Madgie Densten sold groceries on credit to the local fishermen.<sup>15</sup> Despite the onset of "hard times" El Jobean enjoyed a large number of winter visitors during the 1930s. Beginning in 1931, Metro-Goldwyn Mayer studios came to El Jobean to film Tarzan serials, and railroad cars full of jungle animals and film equipment from Hollywood surrounded the Grand Hotel. The company even brought its famous trademark lion.<sup>16</sup>

The general store closed in the 1950s when a new grocery store in the community opened along State Road 776, but the postal services continued in the building until Madgie Densten retired as Postmaster in March of 1969.<sup>17</sup> The Post Office and General Store remained an active and central part of the community from around 1923 to 1969. The building symbolizes what remains of Joel Bean's dream of a development that had been born

---

<sup>13</sup> Cason, p. 67.

<sup>14</sup> Cleveland and Williams, p. 141.

<sup>15</sup> Cason, p. 70.

<sup>16</sup> Williams and Cleveland, p. 14.

<sup>17</sup> Cason, p. 72.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 5

EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SIGNIFICANCE

---

during the Florida Land Boom era and had died with the onset of the Great Depression. This building is one of only two original frame vernacular buildings located in the center of the original El Jobean development. The other surviving building is the Grand Hotel, located across the street. Of the thirteen other buildings that were constructed in El Jobean between c. 1925 and c. 1928, only nine remain.<sup>18</sup> All were constructed as residences. The El Jobean Post Office and General Store is considered by the residents of El Jobean to be an irreplaceable landmark, because of its role as the early post office, general store, and home of Madgie Densten, one of the first permanent residents of El Jobean. The building is currently vacant.

---

<sup>18</sup> Sun Herald (Punta Gorda), October 28, 1991.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1

EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Adams, William. Historical Properties Survey: Charlotte County, Florida. St. Augustine: Historic Properties Associates, Inc., 1989.

Carson, Marjorie R. The History of Early El Jobean. Private Publication, 1990.

Charlotte County. 1997-2010 Comprehensive Plan: Future Land Use Element and Historic Preservation Element. 1997.

Ching, Francis D.K. A Visual Dictionary of Architecture. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1995.

El Jobean Historical Properties. The Leo Simon Estate - Historical Home. El Jobean: El Jobean Historical Properties, Inc., 1997.

Sun Herald (Punta Gorda), October 28, 1991.

Williams, Lindsey and U.S. Cleveland. Our Fascinating Past, Volumes 1 and 2. Punta Gorda: Charlotte Harbor Historical Society, 1996.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 1

EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

---

### Verbal Boundary Description

El Jobean Subdivision, Section 1, Block 0, Lot 81  
Parcel # ELJ 001 0000 0081  
Located in Section 28, Township 40 and Range 21

### Boundary Justification

The above boundary is the Charlotte County Property Appraiser's legal description of the property or lot on which the El Jobean Post Office and General Store is located.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PHOTOGRAPHS

---

**List of Photographs**

1. El Jobean Post Office and General Store, 4370 Garden Road
2. El Jobean (Charlotte County), Florida
3. Chris Meyer
4. June 1998
5. El Jobean Historical Properties, Inc.
6. Main (West) Facade, Looking East
7. Photo 1 of 11

**Numbers 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.**

6. Main (West) Facade, Looking East
7. Photo 2 of 11

6. North Elevation, Looking South
7. Photo 3 of 11

6. North Elevation, Looking South
7. Photo 4 of 11

6. Rear (East) Elevation, Looking West
7. Photo 5 of 11

6. Rear (East) Elevation, Looking West
7. Photo 6 of 11

6. South Elevation, Looking North
7. Photo 7 of 11

6. Jail Extension, South Elevation, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 8 of 11

6. Interior, Post Office and General Store, Looking West
7. Photo 9 of 11

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2

EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PHOTOGRAPHS

---

- 6. Interior, Mail Slots and Post Office Window, Looking Southwest
- 7. Photo 10 of 11
  
- 6. Interior, General Store, Looking East
- 7. Photo 11 of 11



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1

EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Adams, William. Historical Properties Survey: Charlotte County, Florida. St. Augustine: Historic Properties Associates, Inc., 1989.

Carson, Marjorie R. The History of Early El Jobean. Private Publication, 1990.

Charlotte County. 1997-2010 Comprehensive Plan: Future Land Use Element and Historic Preservation Element. 1997.

Ching, Francis D.K. A Visual Dictionary of Architecture. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1995.

El Jobean Historical Properties. The Leo Simon Estate - Historical Home. El Jobean: El Jobean Historical Properties, Inc., 1997.

Sun Herald (Punta Gorda), October 28, 1991.

Williams, Lindsey and U.S. Cleveland. Our Fascinating Past, Volumes 1 and 2. Punta Gorda: Charlotte Harbor Historical Society, 1996.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 1

EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

---

### Verbal Boundary Description

El Jobean Subdivision, Section 1, Block 0, Lot 81  
Parcel # ELJ 001 0000 0081  
Located in Section 28, Township 40 and Range 21

### Boundary Justification

The above boundary is the Charlotte County Property Appraiser's legal description of the property or lot on which the El Jobean Post Office and General Store is located.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1 EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PHOTOGRAPHS

---

**List of Photographs**

1. El Jobean Post Office and General Store, 4370 Garden Road
2. El Jobean (Charlotte County), Florida
3. Chris Meyer
4. June 1998
5. El Jobean Historical Properties, Inc.
6. Main (West) Facade, Looking East
7. Photo 1 of 11

**Numbers 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.**

6. Main (West) Facade, Looking East
7. Photo 2 of 11
  
6. North Elevation, Looking South
7. Photo 3 of 11
  
6. North Elevation, Looking South
7. Photo 4 of 11
  
6. Rear (East) Elevation, Looking West
7. Photo 5 of 11
  
6. Rear (East) Elevation, Looking West
7. Photo 6 of 11
  
6. South Elevation, Looking North
7. Photo 7 of 11
  
6. Jail Extension, South Elevation, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 8 of 11
  
6. Interior, Post Office and General Store, Looking West
7. Photo 9 of 11

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

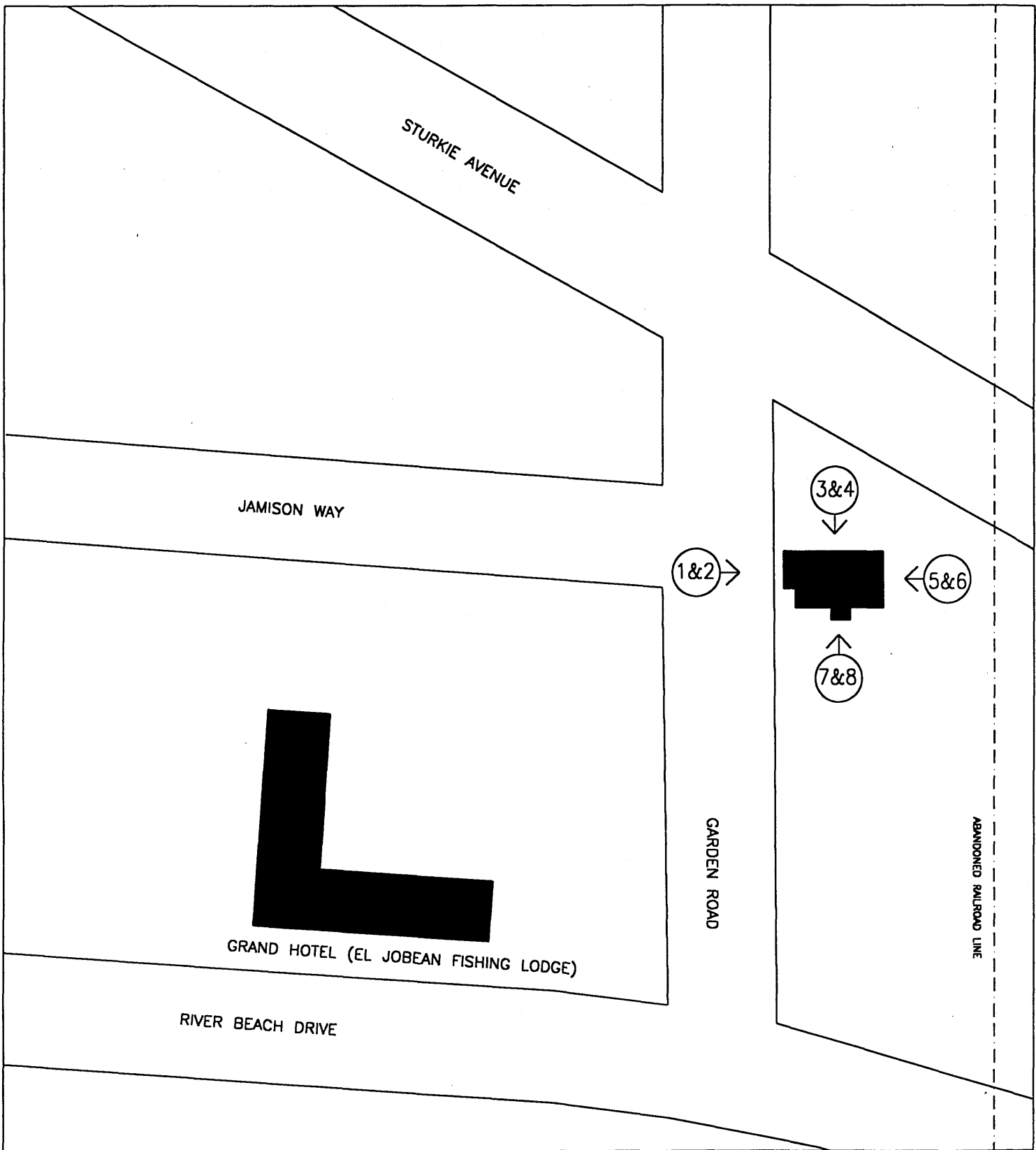
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

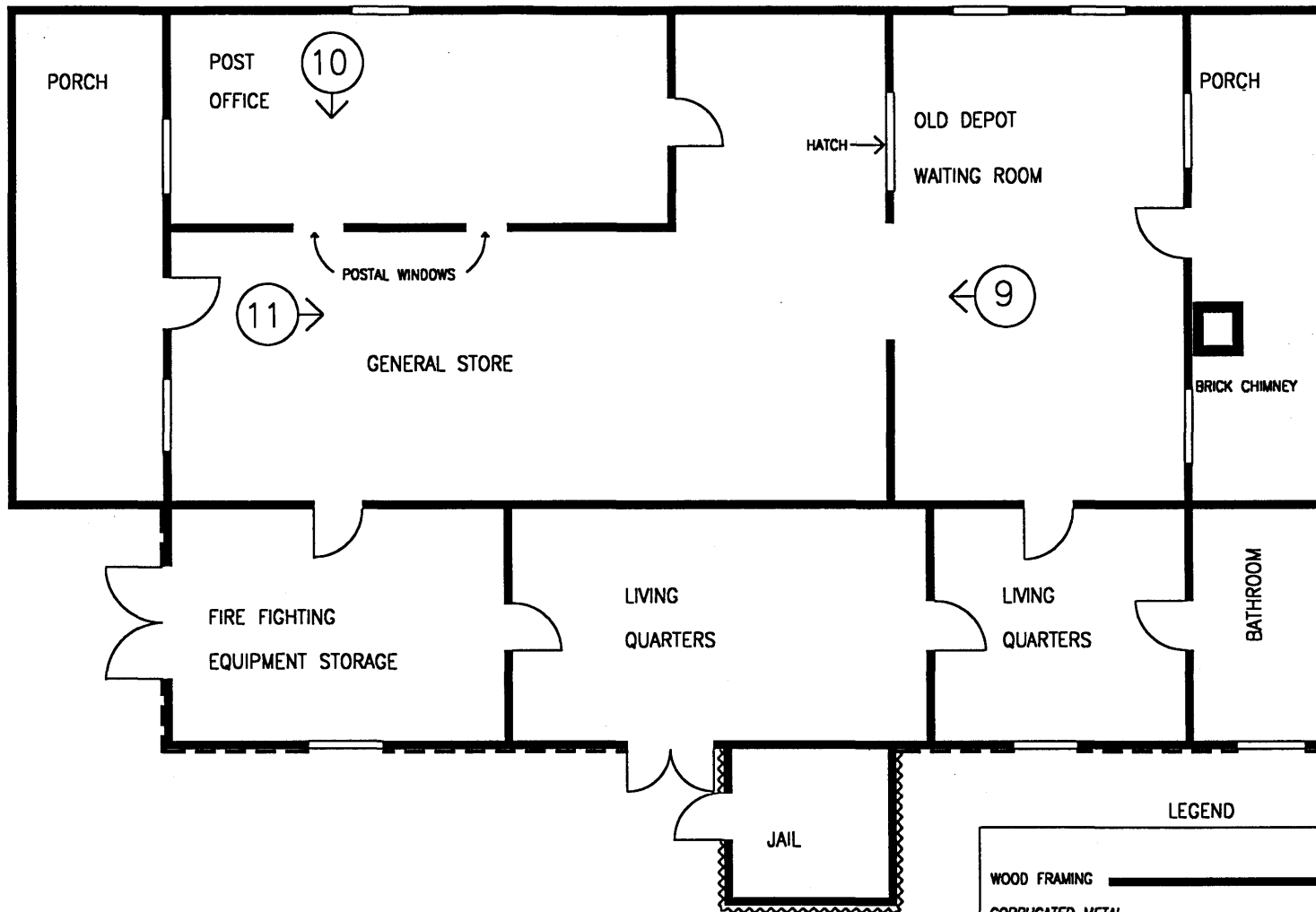
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2

EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PHOTOGRAPHS

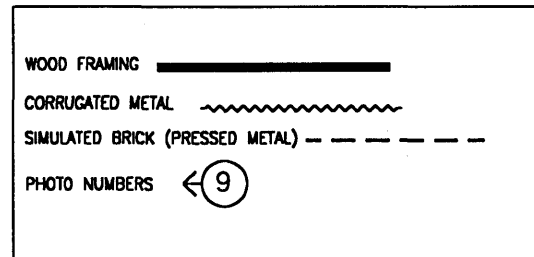
---

- 6. Interior, Mail Slots and Post Office Window, Looking Southwest
- 7. Photo 10 of 11
  
- 6. Interior, General Store, Looking East
- 7. Photo 11 of 11





LEGEND



EL JOBEAN POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE  
 EL JOBEAN (CHARLOTTE COUNTY), FLORIDA  
 FLOOR PLAN

