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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service		<b>JAN 2</b> 5 1996
National Register of Historic Plac Registration Form	es	NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (Nation by entering the information requested. If an item does not a architectural classification, materials, and areas of significan entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS For	nal Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by m pply to the property being documented, enter "N/A ce, enter only categories and subcategories from th	narking "x" in the appropriate box or " for "not applicable." For functions, e instructions. Place additional
1. Name of Property		
historic name <u>WINTERBOURNE</u>		
other names/site number <u>Ferguson, J</u>	ohn, House	
2. Location		
street & number 2104 Winterbourne W	est	Ia not for publication
city or townOrange Park	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	n /a vicinity
state <u>Florida</u> code <u>FL</u>	county <u>Clay</u> code 0	19 zip code <u>32073</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		······································
Initionally       statewide       statewide       locally.       See contin         Signature of certifying official/Title         Florids       State       Historic       Preserva         State of Federal agency and bureau	Deputy SHPO 1/11/96	<u>Histor</u> ical Resource
In my opinion, the property	eet the National Register criteria. ( See continuat	ion sheet for additional
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau		
4. National Park Service Certification	a lare a	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
I hereby certify that the property is:	Entered in the National Register	2/23/99
National Register.		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Name of Property 0835 6741531		County and State		
5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as normy goges Whapply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)		rty the count.)
I private	🖾 building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
public-local public-State	☐ district □ site	1	0	buildings
public-Federal		0	_0	sites
	object	0	0	structures
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			0	Total
Name of related multiple p (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of cor in the National	tributing resources p Register	previously listed
N/A			0	
6. Function or Use				······································
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from		
DOMESTIC/ Single I	)welling	DOMESTIC/	<u>'Single Dwell</u>	ing
			Hotel	
7. Description				
Architectural Classification		Materials		· · · ·
(Enter categories from instructions)		(Enter categories from		
Vernacular		foundation <u>Bri</u>	ck piers	
		walls <u>SYNTHETICS/ Viny1</u>		
		roof SYNTHR	TICS/ Fibergla	

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

#### Winterbourne Name of Property

# 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.
- $\Box$  **C** a birthplace or grave.
- $\Box$  **D** a cemetery.
- $\Box$  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

#### Bibilography

(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 # \_\_\_\_\_\_

# Clay County, F1.

e property	• Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)	
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	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)	
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	Cultural Affiliation	
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	□ Other State agency	
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- University
- Other
- Name of repository:

### 10. Geographical Data

# Acreage of Property \_\_\_\_13.6 Acres

#### **UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17	4 3 2 9 4 0	3337180
Zone	Easting	Northing
2 1 7	4 3 3 0 7 0	3 3 3 7 1 9 0

# **Verbal Boundary Description**

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

#### **Boundary Justification**

Zone Easting Northing 4 1 7 4 3 2 9 6 0 3 3 3 7 0 9 0 See continuation sheet

3 1 7 4 3 3 0 7 0 3 3 3 7 1 0 0

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title <u>Sherry Piland, Historic Sites Specialist</u>			
organization <u>Bureau of Historic Preservation</u>	date December 1995		
street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Brond	ugh telephone (904) 487-2333		
city or town <u>Tallahassee</u>	_ state <b>Florida</b> zip code32399-0250		
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.

Clay County, Fl. County and State

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



WINTERBOURNE CLAY COUNTY, FL.

Section number \_\_\_\_7 Page \_\_\_1

Winterbourne is a two-story, frame residence located at 2104 Winterbourne West, in Orange Park, Clay County, Florida. The vernacular house was probably constructed in the late 1870s, and was enlarged and modified to its present appearance, with some Colonial Revival design features, ca. 1907. The house is constructed of heart pine and cypress. The exterior is covered with vinyl siding. The residence has an irregular plan, encompassing approximately 6,000 square feet of space, and rests on brick piers. The complex roof of multiple gables is covered with fiberglass shingles.

## SETTING

When Winterbourne was constructed in the 1870s, it was located on a bluff facing the beautiful three-mile wide St. Johns River. Live oaks, Palatka hollies, and other native trees covered the landscape. The property also included a barn. The house remains on its original site, and the lush greenery of the area is largely undisturbed. The barn no longer exists.

The grounds originally encompassed over thirty-five acres. Part of the original property, west and north of the house, has been developed with modern homes and condominiums. Although the grounds are reduced in size to slightly less than fourteen acres, the trees and magnificent river views have been carefully preserved (Photo 1).

### EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The facade of Winterbourne faces east, toward the St. Johns River (photo 2). A veranda, extending across the first floor of this facade, is accessed at each end by a low flight of steps. The flat porch roof is supported by a series of seven columns without capitals (photo 3). The veranda is approximately twelve feet deep, and has a wood floor. A wood railing across the veranda, matches that located on the veranda roof. Four pairs of French doors provide access to the first floor interior from the veranda. The three doors at the south end of the veranda have fanlight transoms. The main entrance door has sidelights and a fanlight transom (photo 4).

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WINTERBOURNE CLAY COUNTY, FL.

Section number \_\_\_\_7 Page \_\_\_2

The house has been enlarged by an addition that extends across the south elevation (photo 5). The addition is two stories at the east end, and a single story at the west end. French doors with sidelights and fanlight transoms extend all across this elevation.

A port cochere, centrally located on the north elevation, has a gable roof, supported by columns identical to those of the veranda (photo 6). The entrance door, similar to that of the primary entrance, is flanked by sidelights and has a fanlight transom (Photo 7). The lower panel of the door is wood, the upper portion is divided into nine lights. A wood stairway at the east end of the north elevation leads from the veranda roof and serves as a fire exit. The second floor of this elevation has simple rectangular 2/2 windows.

An outdoor dining terrace has been added to the southwest corner of the house, accessed by a number of French doors (Photo 8). The dining terrace is slightly elevated and has a brick paver floor (9). At the opposite corner of the west elevation is a one-story, shed-roofed service porch (Photo 10).

### INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The house was probably built as a four-on-four structure with a central hall and staircase, and a kitchen located in a separate building. In 1907, the house was enlarged along the south and west elevations, incorporating a second story sleeping porch (photo 11), bath, kitchen, and dining room. The size of the living room was also increased. Fourteen pairs of French doors with segmental arched transoms were installed along the outside walls of the library, living, and dining rooms (Photo 12). Arched openings between the living room and dining room also have segmental arched transoms (Photo 13). The entry hall and staircase (Photo 14), library, and three of the upstairs bedrooms are unchanged from the 1870s. The rest of the rooms remain as they were in 1907.

The house has two fireplaces with carved wood mantels. The mantel of the corner fireplace in the library is thought to be

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WINTERBOURNE CLAY COUNTY, FL.

Section number \_\_\_7 Page \_3\_\_\_\_

original to the house (Photo 15). The mantel of the living room fireplace is believed to be an addition of ca. 1907 (Photo 16).

### ALTERATIONS

The only major change to the house, in addition to the expansion of the structure in 1907, consists of the covering of the original clapboard siding with vinyl siding in 1981.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WINTERBOURNE CLAY COUNTY, FL.

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>1</u>

The Clay County estate known as Winterbourne, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an important local example of vernacular architecture, superbly adapted to its setting and climate. B. J. Johnson, of Milwaukee, began leasing the home as a winter retreat in 1880. Mr. Johnson owned the Johnson Soap Company, later known as the Palmolive Soap Company. In 1906, it was purchased by Johnson's daughter, Karrie, and her husband, John A. Ferguson. The Fergusons remodeled the house the following year. Thus, the period of significance for Winterbourne is from 1907, when it was remodeled to its present appearance, to 1945.

### HISTORIC CONTEXT

Clay County was created out of Duval County in 1858. The eastern twenty-seven mile boundary of the county was formed by the St. Johns River, running northward from its source in Brevard County, then turning east to empty into the Atlantic at Mayport, about thirty miles east of Jacksonville. The St. Johns River is from one and one-half to three miles wide as it borders Clay County. By the 1840s, steamboats were operating on a regular basis on the river, bringing goods, tourists, and settlers. Several small communities formed along the banks of the St. Johns, south of Jacksonville, including Orange Park, Mandarin, Magnolia, and Green Cove Springs. From 1875 through the 1890s, these communities thrived as tourist destinations. These settlements were described as "attractive-appearing villages, with noticeably large, well-built, bright-looking homes, neat grounds and fences, cozy-looking little stores, [and] fine long piers." Tourists traveling on the steamboats could see large estates beyond the river banks, surrounded by broad fields and orange groves. These commodious homes invariably had "wide, roomy verandas" and a pier projecting into the river.

Orange Park, a popular resort town, was located ten miles south of Jacksonville. It occupied land that was part of a land grant awarded to Zephaniah Kingsley in 1790, where he developed the Laurel Grove Plantation. Kingsley later sold the plantation. In 1876, Washington Gano Benedict purchased 9,000 acres of the old Kingsley estate for \$32,500. Benedict, of Boston, then founded the Florida Winter Home and Improvement Company. With

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WINTERBOURNE CLAY COUNTY, FL.

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>2</u>

his associates, Benedict laid out streets and avenues, built a hotel, and expanded an existing wharf at the foot of Kingsley Avenue. The development was incorporated as Orange Park on February 18, 1879. By 1885, in addition to daily steamer landings, four trains a day carried passengers between Orange Park and Jacksonville. Vacationers enjoying Orange Park in the 1880s included well known figures, such as Harriet Beecher Stowe, Ulysses S. Grant, and Buffalo Bill.

# HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Among the winter residents of Orange Park was the Burdette J. Johnson family of Milwaukee. Johnson and his partner, George Beard, established a soap and candle business in Milwaukee in 1864. The business eventually evolved into the Palmolive Soap Company. On the death of Johnson in 1902, his son Caleb became president of the company.

Burdette Johnson had lost two daughters to consumption and was determined to maintain the health of his youngest daughter, Karrie. He selected Orange Park as the family's winter retreat, so Karrie could be outdoors in the winter. Karrie loved the wildlife, native flowers and trees, and eventually Florida's warm winter breezes aided in the cure of her consumption.

When they first started coming to Orange Park, probably in the late 1870s, the Johnson family stayed at the hotel on Astor Street, at the end of River Road. Another bustling resort hotel, the Marion, was near-by. For a period in the late 1870s, Caleb Johnson operated a grocery store in Orange Park. By 1880, the Johnsons began to lease a two-story house just down the road from the hotel. Little is known of the early history of this house, but it probably was built in the late 1870s. In 1906, Karrie Johnson married a Denver banker and businessman, John Albert Ferguson. Ferguson purchased the house for his new bride and named it "Winterbourne," a Scottish word for "winter body of water." The following year the couple enlarged and modernized the house. Until Ferguson retired, the couple apparently resided in Denver and used "Winterbourne" as their winter retreat.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WINTERBOURNE CLAY COUNTY, FL.

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Ferguson, born in Iowa in 1861, was a director of the United States National Bank of Denver, a member of the Denver Chamber of Commerce, and of the Denver Real Estate Exchange. However, he maintained many business interests in Florida, and served as a director of the Florida National Bank of Jacksonville and of the Strawn Holding Company. He and Karrie were the parents of two daughters and a son.

In 1920, Karrie Ferguson sold some of the Winterbourne property to her brother, Caleb. Upon his retirement from the Palmolive Soap Company he built his retirement home, Mira Rio, just to the south of Winterbourne.

Mrs. Ferguson developed an avid interest in Florida's native plants. She was an active member of the Jacksonville Garden Club and in 1925, chaired the committee responsible for writing the constitution and by-laws for the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. She co-authored <u>In Florida Gardens</u> with another Garden Club member, Gertrude Wilson. Their book, published in 1924, described the plants and trees of north Florida.

John Ferguson died in 1927, at the age of sixty-six. Karrie Ferguson was eighty-eight when she died in 1952. For the next twenty-seven years, Winterbourne was owned by Jack Dunlap. Winterbourne returned to family ownership in 1980 when it was purchased by Caleb Johnson's grandson, John Massee and his wife.

#### ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Winterbourne is an example of vernacular architecture that has been upgraded with Colonial Revival stylistic features. Vernacular architecture embraces a diversity of folk and massproduced building forms that were transmitted by memory or by pattern book. Vernacular buildings were designed and constructed by lay builders utilizing traditional building techniques. Primary consideration was given to providing functional and comfortable spaces for the owners. Frequently vernacular buildings reflect a local adaptation to landscape, climate, and cultural patterns. Nineteenth century industrialism made it possible to standardize and mass produce building elements and disseminate them across the country. Decorative features were

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WINTERBOURNE CLAY COUNTY, FL.

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often applied liberally, exhibiting stylistic references without in and of themselves constituting a style of architecture.

Residential vernacular buildings vary in scale, setting, and design. Most are one or two stories, and many feature large porches. Most display gable or hip roofs, and although original roof surfaces include either wood or metal shingles, or metal 3-V crimp sheeting, many roofs have been replaced by composition shingles. Building plans form varied, irregular footprints. Clapboard, patterned wood shingles, and board-and-batten serve as common exterior wall fabrics.

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Steamboat travelers on the St. Johns River in the 1870s and 1880s could admire large waterfront estates, often sitting adjacent to orange groves. Some of these had been plantation houses and had adjacent slave quarters. After the Civil War, many of these estates sat empty. Others, like Winterbourne, became the homes of winter visitors. Affluent owners, such as the Fergusons, might, however, feel the need to modernize and improve the old estate for their own needs. The Fergusons chose to incorporate Colonial Revival elements when they enlarged Winterbourne. These elements were easily adapted to the basic center hall plan of their vernacular house. By the 1890s, the use of Colonial Revival decorative features was a common means of reacting to the excesses of the Victorian period, especially the overly ornate Queen Anne style. Winterbourne probably originally had a veranda; after its modernization in 1907, the veranda featured classical porch columns, and doorways with fanlights and side lights. The interior was altered to a more open floor plan, and arched openings with fanlight transoms were added.

Winterbourne is one of the few remaining estates along the St. Johns River. It is typical of the kind of large residences that once were common along its banks. As an updated vernacular residence, it serves as an example of the changing currents in architectural taste. Winterbourne's siting on the river bluff, its large expanse of lawn, its generous use of windows for light and ventilation, and its wide veranda, are all indicative of the builder's concern for the comfort of its residents.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WINTERBOURNE CLAY COUNTY, FL.

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- Barbour, George M. <u>Florida for Tourists, Invalids, and Settlers</u>. New York: Appleton, 1883.
- Blakey, Arch Fredric. <u>Parade of Memories: A History of Clay</u> <u>County, Florida</u>. Jacksonville: Drummond Press, 1976.
- Friedman, Peggy. "Winter Palace Survives as Club Continental." Jacksonville 19 (November-December 1982): 97-101.
- "J. A. Ferguson, Retired Banker Taken by Death." <u>Florida Times-</u> <u>Union</u> [Jacksonville], 5 September 1927, p. 1.
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- Maggio, Laura. "A Place in Time." <u>Orange Park</u> 1 (Winter-Spring 1991): 14-17.
- "Mrs. John Ferguson Dies in Orange Park." <u>Florida Times-Union</u> [Jacksonville], 29 April 1952, p. 15.
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- Rice, Herbert W. "Palmolive A Milwaukee Success Story." <u>Historical Messenger</u> [Milwaukee County Historical Society], 12 (June 1956): 2-5.
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WINTERBOURNE CLAY COUNTY, FL.

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Wilson, Mrs. Millar [Gertrude] and Ferguson, Mrs. John [Karrie]. <u>In Florida Gardens</u>. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Mount Pleasant Press, 1924.

Interview by Mrs. Frederica Masse: Mrs. John Ferguson, 1950

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WINTERBOURNE CLAY COUNTY, FL.

Section number <u>10</u> Page <u>1</u>

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 2 and 3, Block 13, Winterbourne, Orange Park, Florida.

# BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property, indicated by the dashed line on the site plan map, consists of approximately 13.6 acres and has been historically associated with Winterbourne. The Winterbourne property originally consisted of approximately 35 acres. Portions of the property to the west and north have been subdivided and developed with modern housing. The remaining 13.6 acres preserves the original view to the St. Johns River.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WINTERBOURNE CLAY COUNTY, FL.

Section number <u>Photo</u> Page <u>1</u>

1. Winterbourne, 2104 Winterbourne West Orange Park, Clay County, Florida 2. 3. Frederica Massee May 1995 4. 5. Frederica Massee, 2104 Winterbourne West, Orange Park, Fl. View looking east from house toward St. Johns River 6. Photo 1 of 16 7. Items 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs Main (east) facade, view looking west 6. 7. Photo 2 of 16 Main (east) facade, view looking north across veranda 6. 7. Photo 3 of 16 Detail, main (east) facade entrance; view looking northwest 6. Photo 4 of 16 7. 6. South elevation, view looking north Photo 5 of 16 7. 6. North elevation, view looking southwest 7. Photo 6 of 16 Detail, north elevation, porte cochere entrance; view 6. looking south Photo 7 of 16 7. West elevation, dining terrace; view looking east 6. Photo 8 of 16 7. Detail, dining terrace, west elevation; view looking 6. southwest 7. Photo 9 of 16 Detail, west elevation; view looking southeast 6. Photo 10 of 16 7. Interior detail, second floor sleeping porch; view looking 6. southwest 7. Photo 11 of 16

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WINTERBOURNE CLAY COUNTY, FL.

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6. Interior detail, first floor dining room; view looking southwest

- 7. Photo 12 of 16
- 6. Interior detail, first floor; view looking west from living room into dining room
- 7. Photo 13 of 16
- 6. Interior detail, hall and stairway; view looking west
- 7. Photo 14 of 16
- 6. Interior detail, library fireplace; view looking southwest
- 7. Photo 15 of 16
- Interior detail, living room fireplace; view looking north
   Photo 16 of 16





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