

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

New Submission Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Early Residences of Rural Marion County, Florida

B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

- I. Marion County, 1827-1900
- II. Marion County, 1901-1940

C. Form Prepared by

name/title Joyce Cusick/Consultant & Barbara E. Mattick/Historic Preservationist Supervisor

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date December 1994

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

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Suzanne P. Walker/Deputy SHPO Date 2/15/95

Signature and title of certifying official

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Edson H. Beall Entered in the National Register Date of Action 3/23/95

Signature of the Keeper

Table of Contents for Written Narrative

Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and the title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

	Page Numbers
E. Statement of Historic Contexts (If more than one historic context is documented, present them in sequential order.)	1-6
F. Associated Property Types (Provide description, significance, and registration requirements.)	7-13
G. Geographical Data	14
H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods (Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.)	14-15
I. Major Bibliographical References (List major written works and primary location of additional documentation: State Historic Preservation Office, other State agency, Federal agency, local government, university, or other, specifying repository.)	16-19

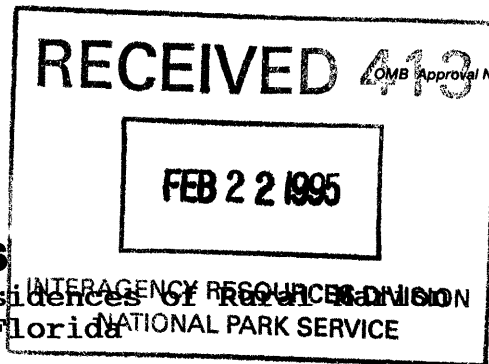
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Early Residences of Rural Marion
County, Florida



Section number E Page 1

Section E: Historic Contexts

SUMMARY

The resources in the Multiple Property Submission for the Early Residences of Rural Marion County, Florida fulfill Criterion A in the area of Exploration & Settlement because of their association with the establishment of several rural communities in Marion County. They have additional significance under Criterion C as examples of statewide and national trends in frame vernacular architecture dating from the 1870s to approximately 1940.

I. Marion County, 1827-1900

The earliest white settlement in Marion County was Fort King, a frontier outpost with a federal Indian agent that was established in 1827. During the Second Seminole War (1835-1842), steamboats on the Ocklawaha and Withlacoochee rivers played a major role, bringing troops, supplies and communications to the many fort sites established along the rivers. Later the steamers continued to carry mail and passengers as the forts and camps became settlements and towns after the influx of homesteaders under the Armed Occupation Act of 1842. Settlers accepted the offer of inexpensive lands, agreeing to bear arms against the Indians along the rivers and within a twenty mile radius of Fort King. The area around Levy County and Camp Izard on the Withlacoochee, later called Stockton, also attracted many early homesteaders.

In 1844, Marion County was created from parts of Alachua, Hillsborough, and Orange counties, and was named for General Francis Marion, the American Revolutionary War hero. Ocala, Marion County's center of government, was established west of Silver Springs and Fort King, and was platted in 1846. Fifteen years later, Florida seceded from the Union. No major incidences occurred in Marion County during the Civil War, but her citizens supported the Confederate effort by supplying soldiers and foodstuffs.

The Reconstruction Era after the Civil War was a time of economic hardship for Marion County. With few exceptions, most of the antebellum plantations in the county had ceased to exist

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Early Residences of Rural Marion
County, Florida

Section number E Page 2

by the end of the Civil War. Cotton and sugarcane were no longer economically feasible to produce, primarily because of a lack of both labor and a dependable transportation system. As a result, from 1860 to 1880 there was a distinct trend away from large plantations toward smaller farms. The Reconstruction Era, however, was also the beginning of rapid economic expansion, with the development of extensive lumbering and cattle raising operations, as well as diversified crop farming during the late 1870s and early 1880s.

The Ocklawaha provided an inland waterway from the northeastern corner of Marion County to its southern boundary south of Lake Weir. The Hart Line had begun a regular route in 1860, one which lasted until 1920. The narrow, twisting, approximately 140 miles of the Ocklawaha, edged with large cypress trees, required a specially designed steamboat. The Hart Line used ones that were smaller and narrower than the steamers used on other rivers, and had an "inboard" paddle wheel to navigate the many sharp turns of the river. The steamers, traveling from Palatka on the St. John's River, then along the Ocklawaha River to Silver Springs, brought passengers, freight, and mail to the post Civil War Florida frontier. Many of the tourists on the "Silver Springs Tour" were intrigued by the lush landscape surrounding the river, particularly the orange groves. Many returned to settle and raise oranges in Marion County.

The development of Marion County, even from the time of its early settlement, was closely tied to the cultivation of citrus. The county was particularly significant in the early development of root-stock and several notable varieties of citrus fruit. Nathan Brown, a retired Methodist circuit rider, arrived in lower Marion County (now in Sumter County) near Lake Weir in 1847, three years after Marion County was created. He planted several trees on his property from seeds brought from Savannah, Georgia, and developed the Parson Brown orange.

Although there had been citrus growing in the area since before the Civil War, Dr. Bernard Byrne was among the first to urge the establishment of orange and lemon groves as a cash crop. In 1866, he authored a pamphlet entitled "Florida and Texas" in which he espoused the benefits of growing citrus crops in those states. It was this citrus industry that attracted the public imagination and provided much of the county's prosperity after

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Early Residences of Rural Marion
County, Florida**

Section number E Page 3

the Civil War. By the mid-1870s, there were an estimated 23,000 bearing orange trees in the Orange Lake and Ocala area.

Judge George W. Means was among the first to experiment with orange growing on the west side of Orange Lake. He had over 7,000 bearing trees by 1875. By 1874, the Reverend Mr. P. P. Bishop had an 80 acre grove, and James A. Harris, on adjoining property, had a grove of 60 acres. Harris started planting in 1871 and had over 5,000 bearing trees by 1875. Harris's grove consisted of wild orange root stock budded with cuttings from sweet orange trees. By 1881, he owned several large groves and packing houses on the south side of Orange Lake. That same year he laid out the town of Citra. Marion County historian Eloise Ott credits the Harris and Bishop groves as being the genesis of the commercial citrus industry in Marion County. Dr. James B. Owens originated the Pineapple orange from root stock at his grove near Orange Lake in northern Marion County. The Walters grapefruit was developed at the town of Belleview, and the Josselyn grapefruit was developed at Eastlake.

The Lake Weir vicinity was also noted as a major citrus growing area in the county. By the late 1870s and early 1880s, the lake was ringed with orange and lemon trees, and to attract more settlers to the area, growers were writing articles and books describing their successes. Even though these groves were smaller than those around Orange Lake, the growing area was extensive.

George Barbour, a prolific writer who promoted the prospects of citrus production in Florida, noted that orange culture was becoming the "leading industry of the State." The promise of profits, both real and potential, attracted additional settlers. In the late 1870s and early 1880s, the success of citrus growing and the popularity of Florida as a "wintering" area caused a land boom in Marion County. Real estate development was rapidly expanding, particularly around Silver Springs and Ocala. Local and out-of-state buyers purchased land for the development of real estate, growing of citrus, and mining of hard rock phosphate, which had recently been discovered near Dunnellon in southwest Marion County.

The citrus boom peaked in Marion County during the 1880s and 1890s. Entire towns and communities grew to support the citrus

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Early Residences of Rural Marion
County, Florida**

Section number E Page 4

industry: Belleview, Candler, Citra, Grahamville, Oklawaha, and Reddick were subdivided and platted in the 1880s. Many were stops along the railroads, which began to provide access to the interior of Marion County in 1881. Communities such as Orange Lake and Lake Weir became shipping points for sending citrus north to lucrative markets. Extensive development in citrus groves occurred around lakes, where irrigation was facilitated and cold temperatures were less severe. Many groves continued in existence until the 1980s, when freezes decimated the industry.

Citrus cultivation stimulated auxiliary industries. In 1889, J. Y. Petty, who owned a veneer mill in Orange County, moved his business to the town of McIntosh in northern Marion County to take advantage of the new citrus industry. His mill made orange box siding, a new business for Marion County. Crate factories, hardware retailers, and implement dealers were among the off-shoot businesses which arose in response to the needs of citrus growers.

Marion County's economy declined after the Great Freeze of 1895. In 1891-92 the county had 171,610 bearing orange trees and shipped 372,686 boxes of fruit to market. From 1895 through the turn of the century, however, there were few bearing trees in the county. Ocala banks failed, workers moved away, and the city government faced bankruptcy. Following the freeze, railroads started by-passing the county, isolating it and contributing to its economic woes. Many of the small towns which had developed along the railroad lines rapidly declined, and some, such as Harvard, Heidtville, Summit and Romeo completely disappeared.

II. Marion County, 1901-1940

The pattern of small grove development and speculation changed after the freeze. Many who had depended solely on citrus for their income went out of business. Diversification became a necessity, and larger and more efficient operations the norm. Growers with financial resources purchased additional groves and land for expansion at prices well below the previous market rate. Reorganizations and expansions established several large family operations which have continued in business to the present. Crosby & Wartman became the major growers in Citra, acquiring the Bishop grove and parts of the J. A. Harris grove. Near Martin, the Wetumpka Fruit Company was organized from holdings of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Early Residences of Rural Marion
County, Florida

Section number E Page 5

Leonard-Billings family who had settled and established groves in the 1880s.

It was ten years after the Great Freeze before local grove production equaled pre-1895 levels. Expansion and reversals characterized the industry in the 1910s. The 1920s was another period of growth and prosperity. Small growers organized cooperative associations and packing houses to market their crops. The larger companies also built large packing houses. A 1922 article in the Ocala Star Banner noted that:

The citrus fruit shipping season of Marion County, which opened this year two weeks earlier than usual, gives every promise of being the biggest in many years. . . . There is no heavier crop in any section of Florida. The crop presents a wonderful sight. Last year the county shipped over 425,000 boxes of oranges, grapefruit, and tangerines, and it is estimated that this season the number of boxes shipped will greatly exceed these figures. . . . Many packing houses have been enlarged. New houses have been built and new machinery has been installed. Coloring rooms have been added to the plants and this season all fruit out of the county will go into markets fully colored.

The article reported that groves were being sold and redeveloped. New groves were being planted and sold in five and ten acre tracts. The large growers and associations were the dominant force in the area. At Citra, the Wartmans and Crosbys continued to be major growers and expanded by organizing a packing company and building a new packing house. The Citra Fruit Company expanded its packing house. The American Fruit Growers, Inc., owned by John H. Taylor and E. B. Lytle, built a new packing house at Weirsdale. John L. Edwards and W. J. Crosby purchased the Wyckoff grove near Citra. The Eastlake Investment Company at Eastlake expanded the capacity of its packing house. B. B. Keep built a new packing house at Boardman. Several of these packing houses survive today and embody an important segment of Marion County history.

After the turn of the century, logging became a major industry there in many of the small communities. The major operations were near Ft. McCoy and Silver Springs, in the eastern part of the county, and near Dunnellon, in the western part.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Early Residences of Rural Marion
County, Florida

Section number E Page 6

Between 1900 and 1930, there was a network of logging trams across the county to transport logs to mills. As the timber supply was depleted, however, the operations decreased, and many communities disappeared. Associated with the lumber industry was turpentine, which was important to the local economy from the 1890s into the 1930s. Most of the turpentine companies were based in the Oklawaha area, where there was ready access to steamboats which took the products up the Oklawaha River.

In the 1910s farmers in Marion County diversified their crops to include cotton, corn, oats, potatoes, sugar cane, peanuts, pecans, peaches, pears, watermelons, cantaloupes, lettuce, cabbages, and cucumbers. Such crops were the staples for farmers who did not plant citrus groves, or were waiting for their groves to mature. Animal husbandry was also important, particularly the raising of cattle. Throughout the historic period, large herds of cattle roamed the open rangeland of the central and southwestern parts of the county, and crop farmers were forced to fence their fields in order to protect their crops.

In addition to agriculture, Marion County was supported by the phosphate industry which developed after the discovery of hard rock phosphate near Dunnellon in 1889. Phosphate was widely used in the production of fertilizer. World War I, however, severely curtailed the industry in Marion County. When the war began in 1914, European ports were closed to U.S. shipments; then the French discovered phosphate in their North African territories, eliminating the need for American imports. Deprived of the European markets, the industry went into a depression. Some mining continued to supply domestic markets, but after 1920, the discovery of a high grade of the much more easily mined pebble phosphate in neighboring Polk and Hillsborough Counties dealt an additional blow to the industry in Marion County. By 1939, phosphate was no longer a major economic factor in the county.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Early Residences of Rural Marion
County, Florida

Section number I Page 16

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Adams, B. Franklin. An Adventure on the Oklawaha River, Florida. Jacksonville, Florida: Adams Printing and Publishing Company, 1926.

Buchholtz, Fritz W. History of Alachua County, Florida: Narrative and Biographical. St. Augustine, FL: The Record Company, 1929.

Carter, Clarence Edwin, ed. The Territorial Papers of the United States, the Territory of Florida 1824-1828. Vol. XXII. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1958.

Central Florida Community College. The Struggle for Survival: A Partial History of the Negroes of Marion County, 1865 to 1976. n.p.:n.p., 1977.

Commission of Lands and Immigration. The Florida Settler and Immigrants Guide. Sixth Annual Report, Tallahassee, 1874.

Davis, Jess G. History of Alachua County, 1824-1969. Second edition. Alachua County Historical Commission, 1969.

Florida Board of State Institutions. Soldiers of Florida in the Seminole Indian, Civil and Spanish American Wars. Lake City: n.p., 1903.

Florida Commissioner of Agriculture. The Ninth Biennial Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, State of Florida, for January 1, 1905 to December 31, 1906. Tallahassee: T. J. Appleyard, Printer, 1911.

Florida Commissioner of Agriculture. The 14th Biennial Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, State of Florida, for January 1, 1915 to December 31, 1916 (Part 2). Tallahassee, T. J. Appleyard, Printer, 1917.

Gallant, L.G. Glimpses into Marion County's Past: The Colorful Era of Riverboating on the Oklawaha River. Ocala, Florida: n.p., 1992.

Hart Line, Oklawaha River Silver Springs River and Silver Springs Florida. Palatka, Florida: Hart Line, 1911.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Early Residences of Rural Marion
County, Florida

Section number I Page 17

Hart Line, The Ocklawaha River, The Ocklawaha and St. John's
Navigating Co. Palatka, Florida: Hart Line, n.d.

Lanier, Sidney. Florida: Its Scenery, Climate and History. A
facsimile reproduction of the 1875 edition. Gainesville:
University of Florida Press, 1976.

Marion County. Clerk of the Circuit Court. Deed Books. Marion
County Courthouse, Ocala, Florida.

_____. Clerk of the Circuit Court. Lis Pendens Books. Marion
County Courthouse, Ocala, Florida.

_____. Commissioners. Map and History of Marion County. Ocala,
Florida: Banner Steam Printing, 1888.

_____. Plat Books. Clerk of the Circuit Court. Marion County
Courthouse, Ocala, Florida.

_____. Tax Assessor. Tax Rolls. Marion County Courthouse.
Ocala, Florida.

Marion County Board of Trade. Facts and Photos: Marion
County/Ocala, Florida. Ocala, Florida: J. P. Bell, Inc.,
n.d.

_____. Marion County, Florida. Ocala, Florida, [1920?].

_____. Ocala, Marion County: Kingdom of the Sun. n.d.

Marion Land Improvement Company. Belleview: A New England
Colony and Winter Home in the Highlands of Marion County,
Florida. Lynn, Massachusetts: Lewis & Winship, printers,
1886.

McPhee, John. Oranges. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux,
1966.

Melton, Faye Perry. Citra -- Home of the Pineapple Orange.
n.p.:n.p., 1987.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Early Residences of Rural Marion
County, Florida

Section number I Page 18

Mitchell, C. Bradford, "Paddlewheel Inboard, Some of the History of Ocklawaha Steamboating and of the Hart Line," in The American Neptune, Vol. VII, No. 3 (1947). Reprinted, Providence, RI: The Steamship Society of America, Inc., 1983.

Mueller, Edward A. Oklawaha River Steamboats. Jacksonville, Florida: Mendelson Printing Company, 1983.

_____, "The Steamboat Era in Florida," in The Florida Handbook, 1983-84, edited by Allen Morris. Tallahassee: The Peninsular Publishing Company, 1983.

Mueller, Edward A. and Barbara A. Purdy, eds. Proceedings of a Conference on the Steamboat Era in Florida. Gainesville, Florida: University of Florida, 1984.

"Oklawaha River Steamboats," Steamboat Bill XXIV (4):183-192.

Ott, Eloise Robinson, "Ocala Prior to 1868," Florida Historical Quarterly, VI(2):85-110.

Ott, Eloise Robinson and Louise Hickman Chazal. Ocali Country: Kingdom of the Sun, A History of Marion County, Florida. Ocala, Florida: Marion Publishers, Inc., 1966.

R.L. Polk and Company. Florida State Gazetteer and Business Directory. Jacksonville, 1886-87, 1911-12, 1918, 1925.

Shackleford, T.M. Lake Weir, Florida. Self published, 1883.

Snowden, Rene, "History of Phosphate Mining in Marion County," (from the Phosphate Industry files, Osceola Room, Marion County Library, Ocala, Florida).

Spinney, E.N., "Up the Oklawaha to Silver Springs," Letter 1892. Reprint, Tavares, Florida: Lake County Historical Society, 1974.

Woolson, C.F., "The Oklawaha," Harper's Magazine, January 1876.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Early Residences of Rural Marion
County, Florida

Section number I Page 19

Newspapers

Florida Times-Union

The Florida Dispatch

The Florida Farmer and Fruit Grower

Ocala Star Banner

Surveys

Two intensive architectural surveys have been completed for the Marion County Planning Department and the Marion County Historical Commission by private consultants with partial funding from the Florida Division of Historical Resources. The first survey, "Marion County Historic and Architectural Survey," was completed by Florida Preservation Associates in 1986; the second, "Final Report, Marion County Historic Preservation Project (1990)," was completed by Historic Property Associates, Inc. of St. Augustine, Florida. Files are located at the Bureau of Historic Preservation and in the Florida Site File, Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee, Florida.