

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1252

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 any 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 Jennings, William Sherman House

other names/site number Jennings, May Mann House; Jennings-Rogers House / HE00203

2. Location

street & number 48 Olive Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Brooksville N/A  vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Hernando code 53 zip code 34601

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] 9-16-98  
Signature of certifying official/Title DSHPO Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Florida Division of Historical Resources  
State or 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  See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] 10-22-98  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**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)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

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Colonial Revival

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**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood

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roof Metal

other \_\_\_\_\_

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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuations 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 of 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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of Repository

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics and Government

Conservation

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1886-1910

1930

**Significant Dates**

1886

1930

**Significant Person**

Jennings, William Sherman

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

Jennings, William Sherman House  
Name of Property

HERNANDO, FLORIDA  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 2 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	3	6	4	5	0	0	3	1	5	8	5	9	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 Leslie Draper Stalcup, Consultant & Barbara E. Mattick, Historic Preservationist Supervisor

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date September, 1998

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 Mrs. Margaret Ghiotto

street & number 48 Olive Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Brooksville state FL zip code 34601

**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.

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Hernando Co, Florida

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**SUMMARY**

The William Sherman Jennings House, located at 48 Olive Street, Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida, is a two-and-a half story Queen Anne style residence that was remodeled on the exterior in the 1930s to reflect the Colonial Revival style. The building, originally built in 1886, has a hip and gable intersecting roof covered with pressed tin. The symmetrical styled residence is covered in clapboard painted white and rests on a brick pier foundation. Two interior brick chimneys with decorative Queen Anne caps on the ridge area of the roof on the east and west side are original to the residence.

**SETTING**

The Jennings House is situated on approximately two acres in downtown Brooksville. The house is located in a historic neighborhood dating from 1880-1930 that runs from Irene Street to the South of Olive Street. Original bricks still line the street. The house sits on the west half of the lot. Azalea bushes, historic oak trees, and rose bushes are found on the lot. One of the rose bushes on the southeast side of the house was reportedly planted by William Sherman Jennings and continues to bloom today.

**EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION**

The North (main) facade features a centrally placed, Colonial Revival entrance portico that was built in the 1930s (Photo #1). The portico replaced a two-story porch that once extended from the north facade all the way to the east elevation. The entrance portico has two wooden Doric columns on the east and west sides of the porch. The second story of the portico is surrounded by wooden spindles. In the center of the entrance portico is a four-paneled wooden door with fanlight transom and four-paned glass sidelights (Photo #2). The porch space is entered from two brick steps that lead to an entrance area covered in clay tiles. In the center of the facade are paired single paned windows, located directly above the main entrance. To the east and west of the front entrance on both the first and second stories are original paired, one-over-one, wooden, double-hung sash windows.

The first and second stories on the north side of the west elevation contain two sets of paired, one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. A turret area is south of the northern windows. On the north side of the turret area on both the first and second stories are

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single, one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. In the center of the turret space are paired, one-over-one, double-hung sash windows on both the first and second stories. On the first and second stories south of the turret are single, one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. The turret itself features a conical shaped roof covered with pressed tin and topped by a weather vane (Photos #3, #4). To the south of the turret area is a circa 1970s garage, that extends around to the south elevation.

The south elevation features the original kitchen extension to the east of the garage. The kitchen has three eight-over-eight, single hung sash windows on the east side. To the east of the kitchen area are the enclosed porch spaces on both the first and second stories. The enclosed porch space on the first story has paired, six-over-six, metal, single-hung, sash windows on the east and west sides of a Colonial Revival door treatment, not original to the building. The second story has paired, three-over-three, metal, single-hung sash windows that run the length of the enclosure (Photo #5).

On the south side of the east elevation on the first floor are eight-over-eight, paired, double-hung sash windows. To the north of the windows on the first story are, one-over-one, double-hung sash windows original to the residence. The second story has single-pane window on the north side of the elevation. To the north of the single window, are triple, one-over-one, double hung sash windows. On the half story attic space in the center of the elevation are two, one-over-one, double hung sash windows located in the center of the gable end as well. The gable end has decorative wooden lattice work and shingle design, reminiscent of the Queen Anne style (Photo #6).

**INTERIOR DESCRIPTION**

The interior of the William Sherman Jennings House retains a high degree of integrity. Original hardwood floors, four-paneled doors, Neoclassical inspired mantle pieces in the northeast, southeast, northwest and southwest rooms are on both the first and second floors. Twelve foot ceilings and the front staircase remain as well. Bull's eye motif are found in the corners of the wooden door and window surrounds. Original wainscoting and baseboards are also retained.

The interior has a four-square plan, a north-south central hallway with two on either side of the hall on both the first and second floors. At the end of the hallway is a double, glass

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paned door that leads to the enclosed porch area. The doors are topped with a glass hopper window (Photo #7).

On the first floor, the parlor on the northeast side of the hallway is entered through ten paned French doors with sidelights that replaced pocket doors in the 1930s. In the southeast corner of the parlor is an original Queen Anne inspired mantelpiece with turned spindles and beveled mirror (Photo #8). Original clay tile glazed with a fentriss and flower design covers the hearth (Photo #9). On the south wall is a French door that leads to a den. In the center of the ceiling in the northeast parlor is a plaster medallion with flower designs that was original to the residence and once held a chandelier (Photo #10).

The southeast den has a Classical Revival inspired mantelpiece in the northeast corner. A floor to ceiling, built-in bookcase covers the entire south wall. An entrance is found in the center of the south wall below a portion of the bookcase that leads to the enclosed porch. The enclosed porch has original wood floors. On the west wall, north side is a four paneled wooden door, not original to the house, that leads into a closet. To the south of the closet is a wooden door that leads to the kitchen.

The kitchen has wooden cabinets which cover the southern portion of the kitchen along the east, south and west walls. A wooden door leads to a small enclosed porch. Along the southern half of the west wall is wooden cabinet. To the north of the cabinet is small hallway that has a modern door that leads to the modern garage. Another door on the north side of the east wall leads to an enclosed breezeway.

In the enclosed breezeway on the east wall is a wooden door that leads to a small powder room. Just north of the powder room is a modern dog-leg, carpeted stairway. On the north wall of the enclosed breezeway is a wooden four-paneled door that leads to the dining room.

The dining room features an alcove area on the west wall, that is part of the bay (Photo #11). A bulls eye motif is also found in the center of the ceiling where there is a chandelier, not original to the house (Photo #12). On the northeast corner of the room is a Classical Revival inspired mantelpiece with marble hearth (Photo #13). To the west of the fireplace is a wooden door that leads to the northwest living room. The east wall features a wooden door with hopper window that leads to a small hall underneath the

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central-hall stairwell. The north side of the hall space features a wooden four paneled door that leads to a small closet under the stairwell. In the south side of the hall is a four paneled wooden door that leads to an elongated powder room.

The northwest living room has a Classical Revival mantelpiece on the southeast wall (Photo #14). On the east wall is a French door, with sidelights, that leads to the central hallway and staircase to the second floor.

The staircase, which is immediately to the south of the northwest living room has a curved wooden balustrade with spindles and banister on the second floor (Photo #7). The stairwell leads to a landing covered in original wooden flooring. Four main bedrooms are located in the northwest, southwest, northeast, and southeast corners of the floor, with smaller rooms along the north and south walls. The northwest bedroom is entered through an original four-paneled wooden door. On the north wall, in the southeast corner, is a Classical Revival inspired mantelpiece. On the south wall is a wooden door that leads to the southwest bedroom. The southwest bedroom features an alcove on the west wall identical to the one found in the first floor dining room. A Classical Revival fireplace is also found in the northeast corner of the bedroom. The east wall features an original door that leads into the hallway. A wooden door on the south wall leads into closet space and a modern bathroom. A door on the east side of the bathroom leads into a laundry room. The laundry room features a slanted ceiling and two wooden doors; one on the north wall leads to the hallway and another on the east wall leads to another bathroom.

The bathroom, which once was a sleeping porch, features a full vanity on the south wall and modern tub in the corner of the west wall on the north side. A beveled window with flower design is found directly above the tub. A wooden door on the east wall leads into a walk-in closet. The closet leads to the southeast bedroom, which features the same Classical Revival inspired mantelpiece as the other rooms in the northeast corner. An original wooden paneled door that leads to the second floor landing with a hopper window is found on the north side of the west wall.

The northeast bedroom, which is entered through a wooden paneled door, mirrors the southeast bedroom.

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A small bathroom with a twelve foot ceiling is at the end of the hall on the north side.

**ALTERATIONS**

In the 1930s, J. M. Rogers removed the two-story wraparound porch that extended from the north facade all the way to the east elevation. Also in that year, owners added Colonial Revival stylization to the exterior of the building. Transformation of early residences with Queen Anne style to Colonial Revival were quite common from 1910-1940. The main historical alteration is the addition of a Colonial Revival porch over the main entrance after the removal of the original porch in the 1930s. Other Colonial Revival treatments include the alteration of the front entrance with an addition of a fanlight and the rear entrance, built in the 1970s. Also in the 1970s, the sleeping porch was enclosed to make way for the modern bathroom. In the 1980s, a modern garage was added to the rear of the house.

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**SIGNIFICANT PERSON**

Jennings, May Mann

**SUMMARY**

The William Sherman Jennings House is significant under **Criterion B** at the **state level** for its association with **Governor William Sherman Jennings** and his wife **May Mann Jennings**, two individuals influential with the development of Florida at the turn of the century in the areas of **Politics & Government** and **Conservation**. The residence is also significant under **Criterion C** at the **local level** as an example of a Queen Anne style residence transformed to the Colonial Revival style in the 1930s in Hernando County. The house has retained much of its architectural integrity and historic landscaping as well. Evidence of the Queen Anne Style on the house includes: a bay area and turret located on the west side of the house; variations in texture, as evidenced by the wooden shingle covering on the gable end, east elevation of the residence; decorative Queen Anne chimney caps; and a Queen Anne inspired mantelpiece in the northeast parlor. Historic Colonial Revival alterations found on the front porch include spindles and railing, the front entrance with fanlight, and the back entrance door.

**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

Hernando County, Florida, began as the southwest segment of what was known as Alachua County in the early 1800s. This included the areas of present-day Alachua, Marion, Sumter, Citrus and Hernando counties. The Second Seminole War in the mid 1830s helped establish settlement patterns for this portion of the huge county. Government officials granted land rights to veterans of the wars as payment for services rendered. The main settlement of Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco County, however, occurred in the early 1840s, after the passage of the Armed Occupation Act. This legislation granted individuals the right to settle land if they took the following steps: obtained a permit from the Registrar, resided on the land for five years, erected a house and cultivated at least five acres of land, and settled within one year of the land being granted. In 1842, 1312 permits were issued for settlement in the Hernando County area. In order to honor Senator Thomas Hart Benton, who had proposed the legislation, settlers decided to name the area Benton County. However, Senator Benton's lack of support for Southern interests prior to the Civil War angered the predominantly Southern settlers, many of whom came from Georgia and South Carolina. In 1850, the citizens changed the name to Hernando in protest of the Senator's actions. In the late 1880s, the citizens of what is now Citrus and Pasco counties voted to break away from Hernando County to form their own counties.

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Brooksville, the county seat of Hernando County, was not officially incorporated until October 1880. Melendezville and Pierceville, the original names for the town, were supplanted by Brooksville to honor Senator Preston Brooks of South Carolina after he caned Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts in the Senate chambers of the U. S Capitol.

In his 1882 work, *Florida for Tourists, Invalids and Settlers*, George M. Barbour spoke highly of the Hernando region, noting its rolling hills and lovely landscape. Barbour also noted that at the time Brooksville had the following amenities: tobacco stores, a hairdresser, attorney's office, carriage builders, restaurants, a boarding house, newspapers and a skating rink. Around the time of its incorporation, Brooksville had a population of 800.

**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE**

**William Sherman Jennings**

William Sherman Jennings proved to be one of the most influential residents in Brooksville. Born in Marion County, Illinois, on March 24, 1863, Jennings moved to Brooksville in early 1886, at which time he built this Brooksville residence. Prior to that time, Jennings received his law degree from the Union Law School of Chicago after attending the University of Southern Illinois in Carbondale. Shortly after Jennings arrived in Brooksville he was accepted to the Florida Bar and was soon appointed as a circuit court commissioner of Sixth Judicial Circuit. In 1888, he was appointed as the Judge of the Hernando County Court, and was later elected to the position. From 1890-1900 he was a member of the Brooksville City Commission. In 1892 and 1894, he was elected as a the state representative for the county in the state House of Representatives. In 1895, after diligent work as a lawmaker, Jennings was elected as the Speaker of the House. In 1896, Jennings was selected as the Democratic Presidential Elector and in 1898, was chosen as the State Democratic Chairman. As a state legislator, he adopted the Progressive platform, which took the pro-labor and anti-corporate stance. In 1899, he began his campaign for nomination as the Democratic gubernatorial nominee. His cause was helped by the arrival of his famous cousin, William Jennings Bryan, to the home Jennings shared with his wife May Mann Jennings, who was the daughter of Senator

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Mann of Hernando County and a prominent advocate of women's rights. Bryan, who attended a party on Jennings' behalf at the Jennings House, garnered further support for his cousin's cause. In June 1900, Jennings was chosen as the Democratic gubernatorial candidate in Jacksonville. During his campaign for governor, Jennings ran on anti-trust legislation and ran on the general Democratic platform that endorsed tariff reductions, income tax, corporate restrictions and regulation of railroads. Jennings won the election by a wide margin over his challengers, Republican Matthew B. MacFarlane and Populist A. M. Morton.

As governor, Jennings lowered taxes while raising revenue and reduced the bond debt by over \$1 million. Jennings furthered his place in Florida history by halting the acquisition of land by large railroad conglomerates in Florida who held the rights to swampland in southwest Florida, which later became part of the Everglades National Park. Jennings voided those claims, giving 3, 863,080 acres of swampland back to Florida. Jennings' plan was to drain the swampland in a massive reclamation campaign for future development. The reclamation of the Everglades still has far reaching impacts on the state today.

The expansion of the state capitol also took place during Jennings' administration. The offices at the Old State Capitol are currently interpreted to the time period of Governor Jennings.

After his term in office ended in 1904, Governor Jennings and May Mann moved to Jacksonville, where he still maintained his influence in Florida politics. On February 27, 1920, after having suffered a severe heart attack the previous year, Governor Jennings passed away at the age of 56.

**May Mann Jennings**

May Mann Jennings was also an influential force in Florida, both in politics and in conservation. She was born April 25, 1872 in Centerville, New Jersey. In the mid 1870s, her father Austin moved the family to rural central Florida, near Crystal River. Austin had May educated at St. Joseph's Academy in St. Augustine, a cosmopolitan school that helped broaden her interests and interpretation of life.

After graduating from St. Joseph's in 1890, May moved to Brooksville to be with her

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father, who was at the time representing Hernando County in the state legislature. Austin introduced his daughter to Judge William Sherman Jennings, who was a rising star in Hernando County and state politics. Jennings was attracted to May's intelligence and soon began a courtship. On May 12, 1891, May and William were married in a grand Tallahassee wedding. After the wedding, the couple returned to Brooksville and lived in William's residence.

From the residence, the couple cultivated their standing in the county and in the state. May and William were a very active couple in Brooksville, with May heading the Brooksville Woman's Club. Her work in the club cultivated her gift as a natural leader and organizer, a trait that would help in her later campaigns for women's rights and Everglades conservation. During William's campaigns for county representative, May also took an active role in her husband's work, advising him on current issues. During his gubernatorial campaign, May went on the campaign trail, currying votes for her husband from the contacts she had made through her father. After her husband's election as Governor, May became an even more influential force.

May became active in women's rights and Everglades conservation during her years as First Lady to Florida and after the term of her husband. While William envisioned development for the Everglades, May saw the need for conservation. Prior to William's death, May began her crusade for the Everglades through purchasing an isolated hammock on the outskirts of Miami that contained the only natural grove of Royal Palm trees in Florida. In 1916, the purchase became an 1,800 acre park, called the Royal Palm Hammock State Park. Later, the park became the east entrance to the 1.5 million acre Everglades National Park. May Mann Jennings worked to conserve the Everglades for thirty-three years.

From her home in Jacksonville after William's death, May organized an "old girl network" where she garnered support for her various causes, including better treatment of prisoners and children, historic preservation, and highway beautification. One of her most important campaigns was women's rights, mainly in the form of suffrage. May headed the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs and co-founded the Florida League of Women Voters, two organizations that helped with the cause of women's suffrage. As a

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prominent female leader in Florida, the University of Florida at its 1953 centennial named the all female dormitory Jennings Hall for her accomplishments. May Mann Jennings died in Jacksonville in 1963 at the age of 90. Today, May Mann Jennings is recognized as one of the 50 Most Important People in Florida during the twentieth century.

**Post Jennings Years**

The Rogers family purchased the residence in the 1910s, after the Jennings family decided to settle permanently in Jacksonville. J. M. Rogers operated and owned Rogers Department store at the site of the Suntrust Bank at the corner of Mt. Fair and the truck route from the 1930s to the 1960s. In the 1970s, Rogers' daughters, Marrebelle Rogers and Margaret Rogers Ghiotto, started Rogers' Christmas House in the residence. From there they expanded to the current Rogers Christmas House Village which features five homes with different Christmas themes. It was J. M. Rogers who changed the residence from predominately Queen Anne to Colonial Revival with the replacement of the porch with a smaller Colonial Revival portico, as well as the alteration of the front entrance with the addition of a fanlight.

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Jennings House is an example of a Queen Anne residence built in the 1880s and transformed to a Colonial Revival residence after the Queen Anne style lost favor in the 1910s. This is an architectural trend that occurs often. People wishing to update a residence may add the most prevalent style to the residence. During the 1930s, this would have been the Colonial Revival style.

**Queen Anne Style**

The Queen Anne style of architecture originated in England in the mid-1880s when architect Richard Norman Shaw utilized the main components of what was to be known as the Queen Anne Style. The name was an attempt at describing the resemblance of the style to rural English architecture, although the main embellishments appear to have been influenced by Tudor or Elizabethan styles of architecture. Queen Anne styles in America

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more commonly utilized brick and wood in the design of the house. Artistic embellishments, such as shingle designs and lattice work, gave further charm to the style for American home buyers. The style, which lasted in America from 1876 until the early 1900s, was popular mainly in residential design. Marcus Whiffen stated that the popularity of the Queen Anne style could be attributed to Americans' need to "conjure up a period of the past that was just distant enough to appear rosy in the eyes of an America that had lost so much of its confidence in the future during the financial panic of 1873."

The Queen Anne style borrowed heavily from Elizabethan and Jacobean eras of architecture, which are also reflected in American designs through the half-timbered and patterned masonry. Spindework became part of the American design in the 1880s. Queen Anne Styles exhibit high roof pitches and gabled or hipped roof forms, sometimes with projecting triangular gables breaking the slope. Towers, such as the one found in the Jennings home, are also indicative of that style. Wall texture variation, such as the breaking of a smooth exterior wall with elaborate shingle work, is also a common trait of the Queen Anne Style.

**Colonial Revival Style**

The William Sherman Jennings House also has a Colonial Revival inspired front entrance and portico. Slender Doric porch supports and wooden spindles on the second story of the portico are good indicators of the Colonial Revival style. This style of architecture became popular during the early 1900s with the rebirth of America's interest in English and Dutch houses along the Atlantic seaboard. Georgian and Adam styles became the primary forms for the Revival. The Colonial Revival Style during the early portion of the twentieth century reflected a design that was carefully researched in order to incorporate correct proportions and details. The later styles of Colonial Revival architecture, namely those designed in the 1940s and 1950s had side gables with simple stylized door surrounds, cornices and other details. Colonial Revival Style architecture normally exhibits a prominent front entrance, and a decorative crown supported by pilasters or extended forward and supported by slender columns.

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The most prominent Colonial Revival details of the Jennings house are the front entrance and portico as well as the rear entrance, which were placed on the building in the 1930s. The front portico is supported by slender columns, as well as a simple railing and spindles that run along the second-story. The front entrance has a fanlight, another popular Colonial Revival treatment. The rear entrance has a Federal style door treatment with urn.

**Classical Revival Style**

The interior of the Jennings House reflects the influence of mid nineteenth, early twentieth-century, Classical styling. The Greek Revival Style, the basis for the Classical Revival style, became popular in the United States during the early 1800s as a response to the democratic spirit around the nation. The first noticeable signs of the style were found in bank designs and other public buildings. The Bank of the United States in Philadelphia circa 1818, designed by William Strickland, was the best example of early Greek Revival architecture. The style became popular as a residential design from 1830 until 1860. Most styles included Grecian modes of architecture, that included columns with Doric, Ionic and Corinthian capitals, along the colonnade. The front gabled house with colonnade became a popular house type during this time period. In the late nineteenth century, Classicism returned to popularity and became known as the Classical Revival Style.

The most prominent example of the Classical Revival residence are the Classical Revival mantelpieces found throughout the residence.

**CONCLUSION**

The Jennings House is significant for its association with Governor William Sherman Jennings and his wife, May Mann Jennings, who both influenced early twentieth century Florida, both in politics, and in the case of May Mann, reform and conservation. Their most lasting legacies are the policies directed toward the reclamation of the Everglades by William, and its conservation, led in large part by May. The Jennings House is also a fine example of a residence whose Queen Anne style was supplanted by a popular style, Colonial Revival, in the 1930s. The replacement and addition of Colonial Revival treatment reflected a trend through the years by homeowners of updating their residences to the most popular style at the time.

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**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Lots 1 and 2 of Micklers Addition.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated property includes the house, outbuilding, and two acre lot historically associated with the William Sherman Jennings House.

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**Jennings, William Sherman House**  
Hernando Co, Florida

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY**

1. William Sherman Jennings House
2. 48 Olive Street
3. Leslie Draper Stalcup
4. October, 1997
5. Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250
6. North and east elevations, Colonial Revival entrance, facing southwest
7. #1 of 14
  
6. North facade, detail of Colonial Revival entrance, facing south
7. #2 of 14
  
6. North facade and west elevation, turret area, facing southeast
7. #3 of 14
  
6. West elevation, turret and bay area, facing southeast
7. #4 of 14
  
6. South elevation, kitchen area and enclosed porches, facing north
7. #5 of 14
  
6. East elevation, facing west
7. #6 of 14
  
6. Center hall, staircase and door, facing south
7. #7 of 14
  
6. Northeast parlor, detail of Queen Anne mantelpiece, facing southeast
7. #8 of 14
  
6. Northeast parlor, detail of fireplace tile, facing southeast
7. #9 of 14

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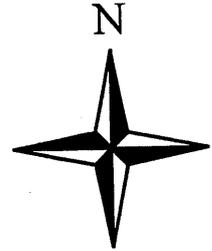
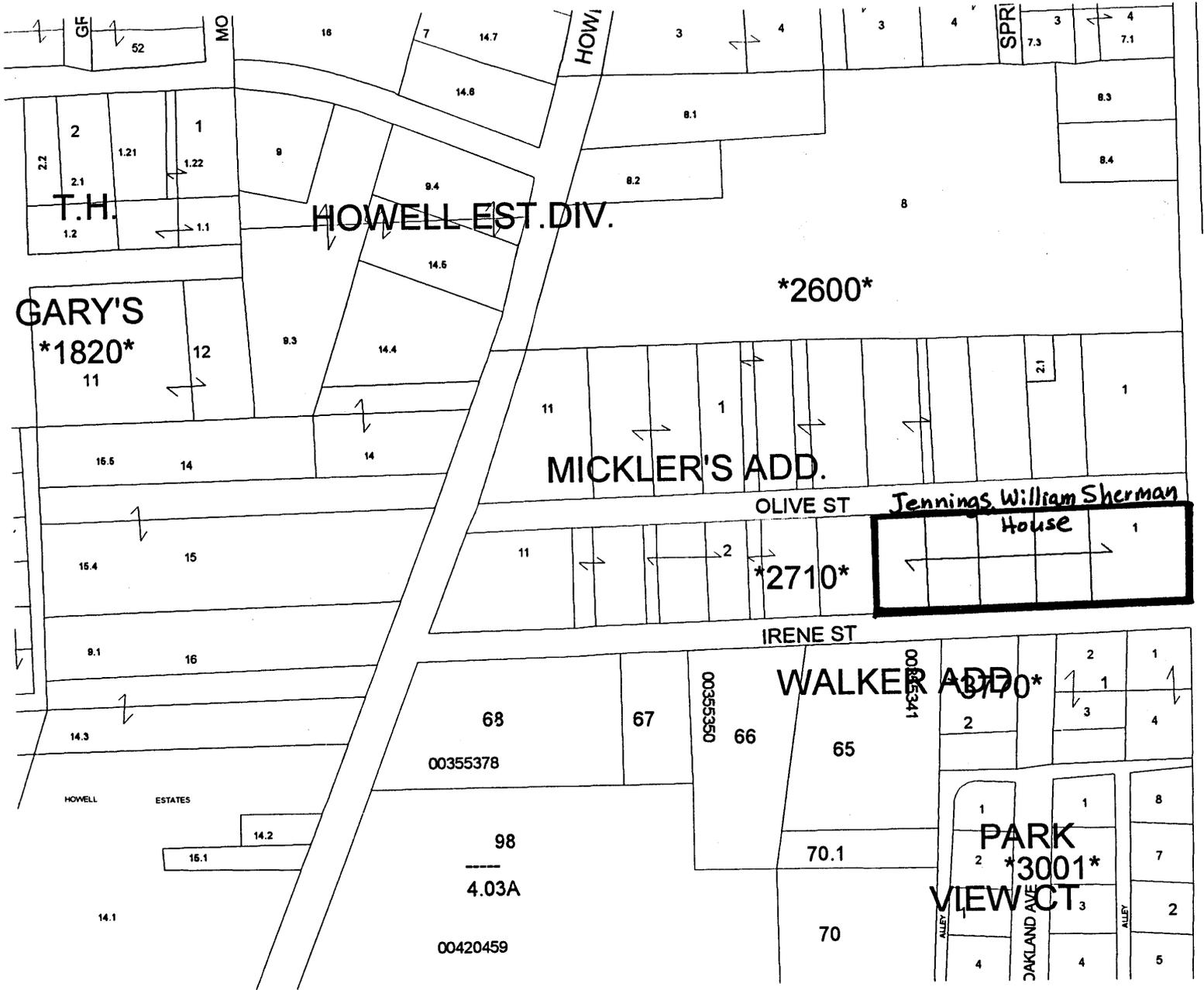
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section number PHOTOS Page 2

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Hernando Co, Florida

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- 6. Northeast parlor, detail of plaster medallion on ceiling, facing southeast
  - 7. #10 of 14
  
  - 6. Dining room, bay area, facing east
  - 7. #11 of 14
  
  - 6. Dining room, detail of bull's eye motif, center of ceiling, facing southeast
  - 7. #12 of 14
  
  - 6. Dining room, detail of fireplace, facing east
  - 7. #13 of 14
  
  - 6. West Living room, detail of fireplace and French Doors, facing south
  - 7. #14 of 14

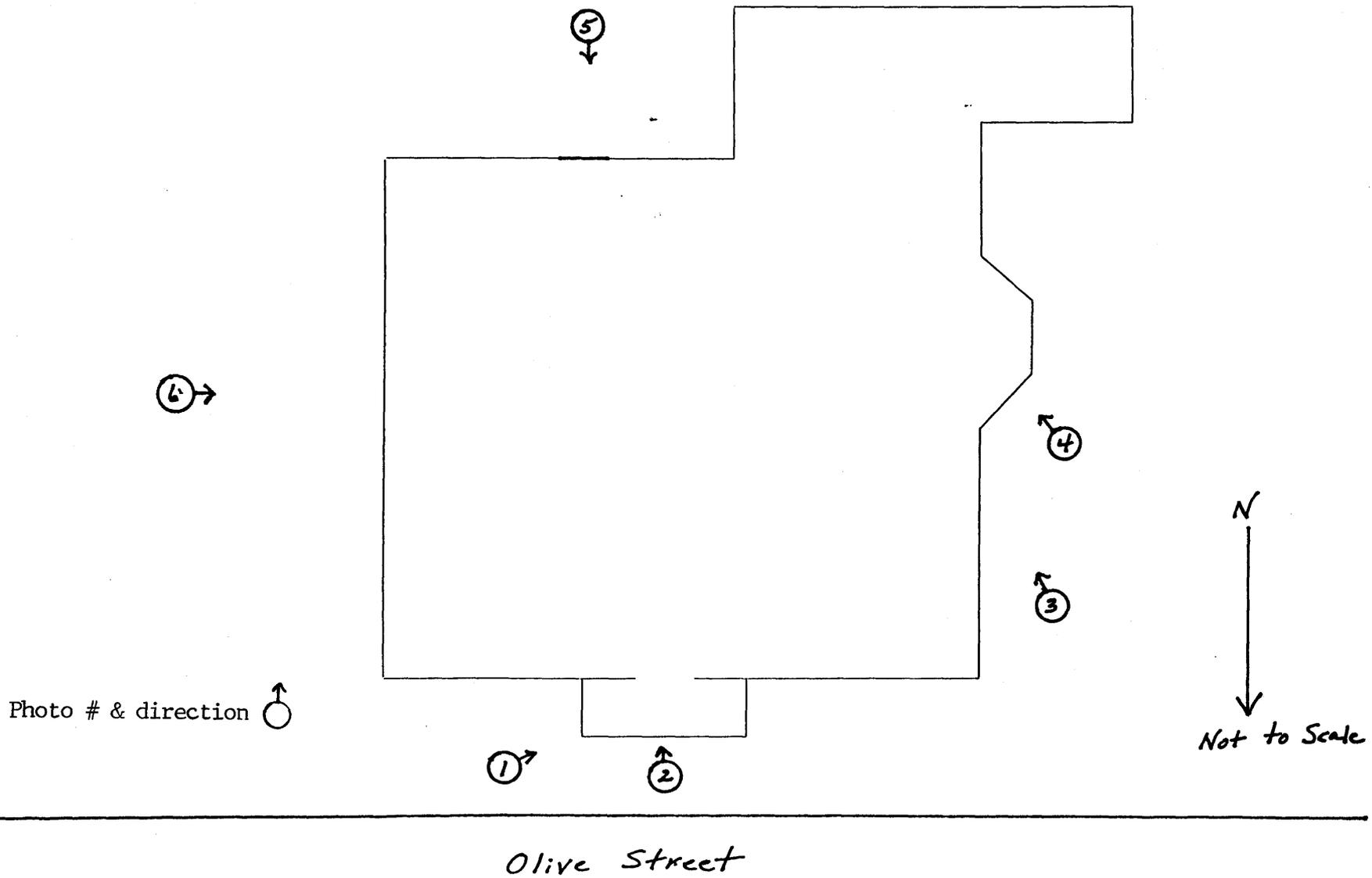




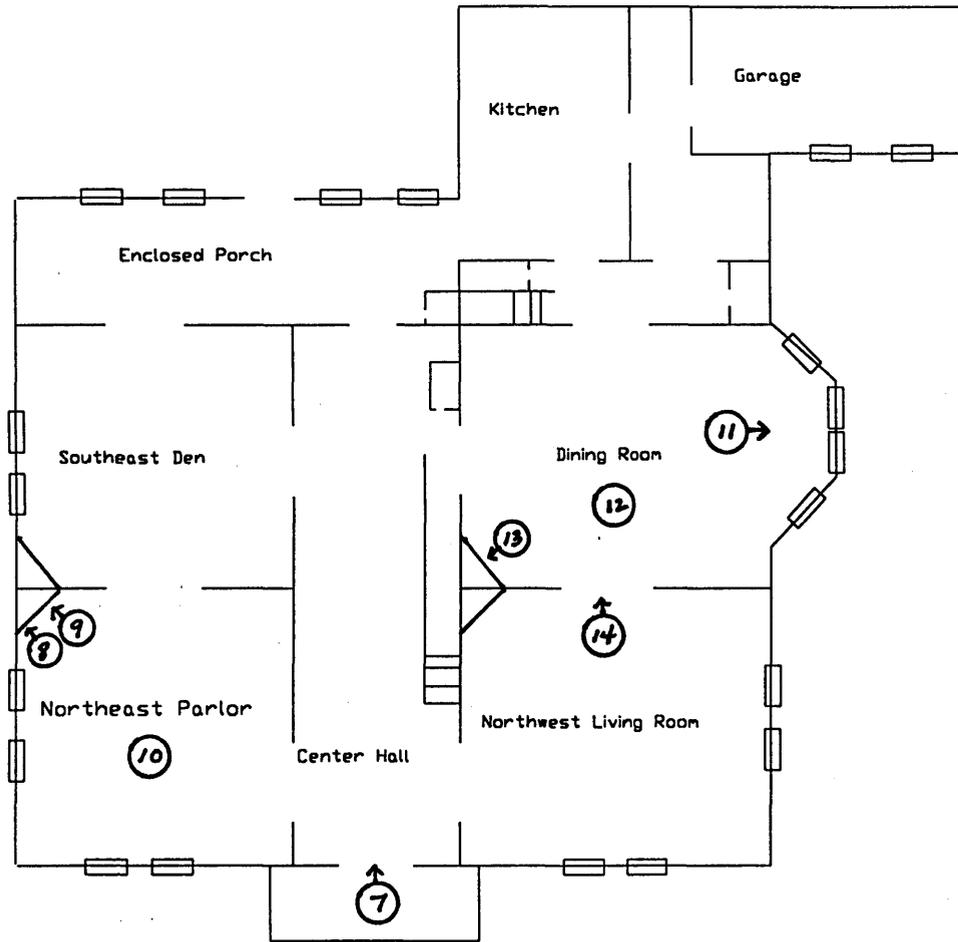
JENNINGS HOUSE  
 Brooksville, Florida

PREPARED BY HERNANDO COUNTY  
 PROPERTY APPRAISERS OFFICE  
 DATE PREPARED:

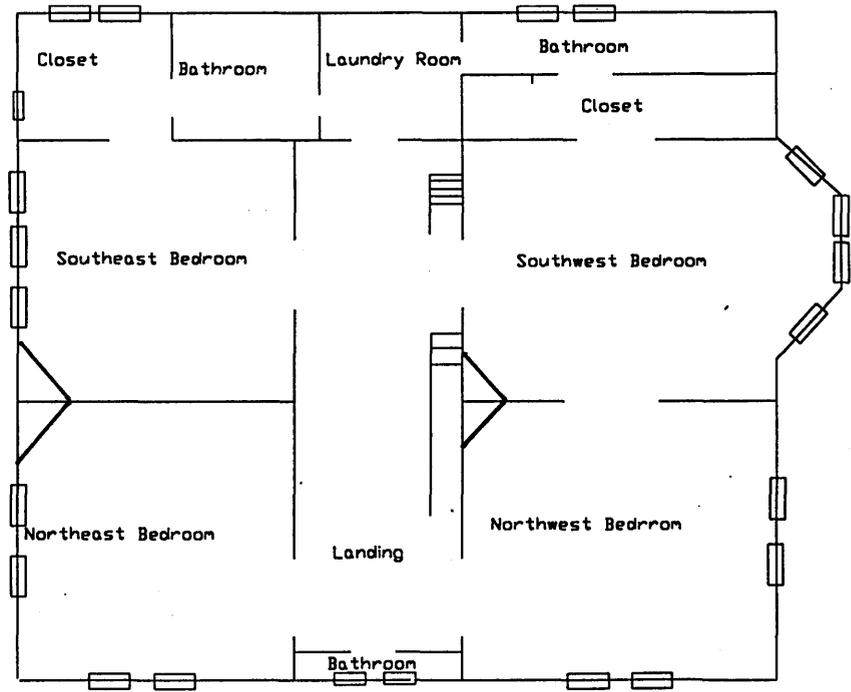
JENNINGS, WILLIAM SHERMAN HOUSE  
BROOKSVILLE, FL (HERNANDO CO.)



JENNINGS, WILLIAM SHERMAN HOUSE  
 BROOKSVILLE, HERNANDO CO., FLORIDA



First Story



Second Story

Photo # & direction 