

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Jones Property Ruins, Jones Homestead, Jones Farm, Porgy Key and Totten Key

other names/site number Jones Family Historic District (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Biscayne National Park (BISC)

city or town (now unincorporated) Islandia

state Florida code FL county Miami-Dade code 025 zip code 33149

N/A

not for publication

vicinity

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

☐ national ☐ statewide ☒ local

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
2	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwellings

COMMERCE/TRADE: Farm

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE; STONE, LIMESTONE

walls:

roof:

other: WOOD (sills)

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Jones Family Historic District is a discontinuous district located in Biscayne National Park (BISC) in the northern Florida Keys. The district includes the former home and farm of Israel Lafayette Jones and his family. The district is technically within the (now unincorporated) city of Islandia, a municipality that was comprised of 32 islands and was incorporated by investors in the 1960s in an effort to allow development.¹ Local fishermen including Jones family members as well as environmentalists and politicians opposed the plan and in the end were successful. BISC was created in October 1968 by an Act of Congress to protect "a rare combination of terrestrial and amphibious life in a tropical setting of natural beauty."²

This property is comprised of resources contained within two separate keys, Porgy Key and Totten Key. Porgy Key was the site of both the family's home and agricultural enterprises. At Porgy Key, Israel Jones grew fruits and vegetables to support his family as well as pineapples and key limes as a business. Jones experience working on nearby islands, prior to the purchase of Porgy Key in 1897, provided him with practical knowledge of plants that would thrive in this hostile maritime environment. Totten Key was the site of agricultural production. Frank Budge owned a pineapple farm at Totten Key, which was managed by Israel Jones from the early 1890s until 1906 when a powerful hurricane slammed into the Florida Keys. An eight-foot surge of salt water swept over the island, leaving the soil unsuitable for growing pineapples. The deadly storm forced many pineapple farmers, including Frank Budge, to abandon their pineapple operations. As a result, Jones was able to purchase Totten Key from Budge in 1911 for \$1 an acre.³ At Totten Key, Jones expanded his key lime production with the assistance of his sons.

Both keys are in Biscayne Bay, situated 20 miles southeast of Miami and eight miles east of the city of Homestead. Cultural resources are found on both keys in hammock zones with overgrown mangrove vegetation surrounding these uplands in low marshy areas. The soil layer is thin, resulting in a ground plain of exposed rocks. Hammocks were originally covered in overgrown vines and plants, not familiar to the mainland such as gumbo-limbo, palmetto and mahogany trees, and thorny vines.⁴ Settlers like Jones cleared the vegetation revealing a landscape of coral limestone. Burning was one technique used in clearing, and in addition to opening the landscape, also improved the fertility of the thin soil. Today, the extent of former farmland is distinguishable in the landscape with remnants of an aged key lime grove as well as new growth in volunteer saplings.

Narrative Description

Jones Family Historic District

This nomination includes two contributing resources comprised of the sites of Porgy Key and Totten Key with 15 associated historic features that are all part of the Jones Family Historic District. The Porgy Key site includes six associated historic features and three non-contributing resources, while the Totten Key site contains nine

¹ Brad Bennett. 2002. "A Wild Legacy". *The Herald*, July 16.

² <http://www.nps.gov/bisc/historyculture/the-birth-of-biscayne-national-park.htm>

³ Oral History Narrative: John Nordt interview with Lancelot Jones, Biscayne National Park, 1990. Original copy at Biscayne National Park Headquarters. Warranty Deed (original document is poor quality). Filed January 18, 1929, Dade County, Florida. Original copy at Biscayne National Park.

⁴ Vincent Gilpin. "Parson Jones of Porgee Key". P. 1-15. Date and Source unidentified. Original Copy at Biscayne National Park.

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associated historical features. The following narrative first describes the associated historic features on Porgy Key and second, features contained on Totten Key. The final section describes the three non-contributing resources. Two reports by Charles Lawson, Archeologist and Cultural Resource Manager at Biscayne National Park were utilized in describing many of these resources. Lawson's work at Porgy Key occurred in 2010⁵ and at Totten Key in 2011.⁶

The 2010 project was in advance of a stabilization effort at the Jones Homesite. The stabilization project involved the installation of wooden braces along the rear wall of the main house and kitchen ruins; a successful attempt to prevent the imminent collapse of the feature. A Phase I archeological survey was carried out at the project site in advance of the installation of the braces in order to provide information necessary to complete compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. During the survey, surface artifacts associated with the Jones family occupation of the site were collected and curated with most of the site's main archeological features documented in detail.⁷

The 2011 survey of the Jones farm on Totten Key was carried out in advance of this National Register Nomination and in fulfillment of Biscayne National Park's obligations under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Phase I survey was designed to determine the archeological boundaries of the farm, and to identify archeological features associated with the Jones period of use at the farm. Prior to the survey, the tractor and the canal were known to park staff, but neither they nor any of the other features eventually identified had been officially documented.⁸

HISTORIC ASSOCIATED FEATURES ON PORGY KEY

The term Historic Associated Feature is a convention used to identify small-scale features not individually countable according to National Register guidelines. The convention was developed to reconcile the requirements of the NPS List of Classified Structures (LCS) with National Register documentation guidelines. The LCS is an evaluated inventory of all historic and prehistoric buildings, structures, and objects that have historical, architectural, and/or engineering significance within the National Park System. All entries in the LCS must be included in National Register documentation as a countable resource or historic associated feature.

Porgy Key includes the Jones homesite and its associated farmland and support structures, contained on approximately 10 acres of an upland hammock. The extent of the site that was formerly occupied and farmed is detectable in the landscape through the presence of key lime saplings, which are likely "volunteers" of the original trees once planted in groves adjacent to the homesite and utilizing the high ground of the hammock. In addition to the house ruins, other associated historical features on Porgy Key include remnants of a cistern, the grove noted above, a dock, lime grove rock mounds, and a foundation. Descriptions of each follow.

Jones Main House Ruins (LCS 912218/ASMIS No. BISC-92.1) – Currently, all that remains of the Jones homesite is its concrete foundation pad, rising approximately three feet above grade and surrounded by a concrete wall approximately four feet high. The structure, originally built in 1912, was lost to fire in 1982. Shorter walls intersect the field of the concrete pad, providing a clue to the layout of the first floor of the

⁵ Charles F. Lawson, Memorandum, Report on archeological testing in conjunction with the installation of stabilization measures at the Jones Property Complex (ASMIS No. BISC-92), on Porgy Key, BISC Acc. 285, 17 September 2010.

⁶ Charles F. Lawson, Archeological Inventory of the Jones Agricultural Site (BISC-104) on Totten Key, Biscayne National Park, Miami-Dade County, Florida. BISC Acc. (Homestead, FL: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Biscayne National Park [November 2011]), pp. 8, 10, 15, 18.

⁷ Summary of archeological investigations and findings provided by Charles F. Lawson, Archeologist/Cultural Resource Manager, Biscayne National Park, February 2013.

⁸ Ibid.

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structure. Overall, the ruins are in poor condition. There is little physical bond between the rear walls of the structure and the concrete pad, as the wall is leaning precipitously away from the pad along the entire southwest (rear) side of the main house and attached kitchen. A portion of the eastern wall of the main house also displays separation from the foundation, but not to the extent visible along the rear of the structure. With the assistance of the National Park Service Historic Preservation Center, BISC designed and implemented a short-term stabilization plan to arrest the pending collapse of two of the walls at the Jones ruins. A metal plaque, situated on the cheek wall to the southeast of the front steps, provides a historical summary of the property. Friends of the Jones Family placed the marker in this location in 1993, according to the plaque.

The ruins of the house itself include the concrete foundations of the home, its front and side porches, and the foundation of the attached kitchen opposite the side porch. Four concrete pillars that once held the roof of the front porch are lying on their sides on the porch and the remains of low walls are present within what was the interior of the house. The low walls give some indication of the ground floor interior layout of the structure and suggest that there were two rooms on the northwest side of the house separated by a hall with either two rooms or a larger salon opposite in the southeast half. A photo of the site after the structure burned in 1982, but prior to Hurricane Andrew in 1992 show more of the building's concrete walls and the locations of windows in the northwest facing wall of the house. The kitchen was connected, but separated from the main house by a side porch, and has no concrete foundation like the rest of the building because a cistern was located below its wooden floor. Today, that area is filled with concrete and stone rubble originally sourced in the structure's ground floor walls. The only non-concrete construction features remaining on the site are burned fragments of a wooden floor joist along the interior southwest wall of the kitchen, two small (15-by-20-centimeters, and one 5-by-5-centimeter) sections of brown-painted plaster on two of the low interior walls, and a small amount of white paint on the exterior of the front porch.

Cistern (LCS 912219/ASMIS No. BISC-92.2) - The ruins of a concrete cistern is located 20 meters to the southeast of the main house ruins. Because there was no fresh water available except for captured rainwater, homesteaders like the Jones' typically constructed a cistern soon after arrival. This historical feature's date of construction is estimated as circa 1898-1912. Charles Brookfield, who operated a fishing camp on Elliott Key during the 1930s,⁹ called the cistern the "anchor" around which all other buildings would be sited. Brookfield also described how they constructed cisterns by making a form in which they threw rocks and cement. In his words, "we'd pour rocks and then cement, and more rocks, and more cement, until we had the walls of the cistern all done."¹⁰

The cistern at Porgy Key is currently open and mostly filled with soil; the aboveground portion stands between 60 and 70 centimeters above grade and is rectangular in form, measuring 4.05 meters long by 3.27 meters wide with the long axis oriented northeast/southwest. The smooth coated concrete comprising the ruin is in poor condition and very friable, particularly along the southeastern facing wall. The concrete has high sand content and coral rubble aggregate and likely used saltwater, greatly diminishing the concrete's strength and durability.

Dock (ASMIS No. BISC-92.3) - A prominent feature at the site is the remains of the land-based portion of the dock that once served the homesite. Constructed circa 1897 to link the house with the water, today's dock ruins form a raised path of concrete chunks, stone, and rubble leading through the mangrove area to the shoreline landing. Before Hurricane Andrew (1992), which destroyed this element, a functional wooden dock was located on the site, but now all that remains of the dock is a small landing connected to the ramp-like berm leading from the shore to the main house ruins. When functional, a wooden dock was above the rubble berm comprising this

⁹ Jennifer Brown Leynes and David Cullison, "Biscayne National Park Historic Resource Study," (Atlanta, Georgia: Southeast Region, National Park Service, January 1998), p. 24.

¹⁰ Charles Brookfield Transcript in Miami Historical Archives.

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feature, and today's mangroves were not present in this area. The dock / berm feature is approximately 11 meters long and two meters wide and is constructed of coral limestone rubble, concrete rubble, and cylinder-shaped poured concrete objects approximately one foot long and six inches wide.

Porgy Key Lime Grove (ASMIS No. BISC-92.7) - Volunteer saplings of approximately 43 key lime trees have been documented on the Archeological Site Form (Site #8DA11922). These saplings, which remain today, are descendant plants of an original grove planted by Israel Jones. The extant saplings have likely grown on the site from ancestral seed. Generally, the saplings are small, and are easily distinguished from other common plants.

Northwest Foundation (ASMIS No. BISC-92.8) - This feature was discovered in the field during a site visit in January 2012. This historical feature is a ruin of the foundation of an auxiliary structure to the Jones residence. It housed some type of heavy machinery, almost certainly a generator, but possibly other equipment as well.

The foundation consists of a poured concrete floor with a sand and crushed shell aggregate. It is a higher quality concrete than that which was used in the house and cistern on the east end of the site, suggesting it dates to a later period and was possibly mixed with freshwater. It was poured directly on the native limestone rubble ground surface. It is damaged and missing some of the concrete components in both the southwest and southeast corners. A number of one-gallon Clorox Bleach bottles strewn around the foundation date to the mid 1950s, indicating a period of use for the building. A gumbo limbo tree growing off the floor of the building has a trunk diameter of 35 inches, indicating the building has been in a ruinous state for at least 20 years, reflecting the damage of Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

The foundation floor measures 6.13 meters east/west by 4.12 meters north/south. Much of the poured floor is buried beneath leaf litter and a couple of inches of soil. The periphery of the floor is edged by a series of 12 cm wide by 15 cm high poured concrete beams (framed and poured in concert with the floor). These beams have regularly sized gaps at non-parallel locations around the structure. The gaps probably once held upright wooden wall beams. The four corners of the structure once had wooden beams that went all the way to or into the ground, with the floor and concrete beams poured around them. The door was located on the southwest side of the structure, indicated by the presence of the floor but lack of the periphery beams. It is 106.5cm wide.

Metallic components of what is presumed to be the generator are located on the center western wall of the structure. They include two iron cylinder manifolds (stamped with the letters "NR") a pyramidal-shaped four-compartment galvanized steel box, a galvanized steel fuel or pressure tank, an electronic gearbox, and fragments of an iron firebox door and grate; the grate is embossed with the letters "LOUISVILLE, KY".

Porgy Key Lime Grove Rock Mounds (ASMIS No. BISC-92.9) - The rock mounds were discovered during a field visit in January 2012. This element originally encircled the base of the trunks of the key lime trees in an effort to maintain moisture near the plant's roots. Today the trees have vanished but the mounds remain to document the former location of the trees. The rock mounds are comprised of a loose collection of stacked limestone rocks about 1- 3 meters in diameter and approximately 1 meter high. There are likely numerous other rock mounds on both Porgy Key and Totten Key that have not been identified due to overgrown vegetation and leaf litter layer.

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NON-CONTRIBUTING HISTORIC ASSOCIATED FEATURES ON PORGY KEY

There are three resources considered non-contributing at Porgy Key with descriptions following:

Caretaker's House (ASMIS No. BISC-92.4) – Concrete footers located in the landscape and believed to be associated with the frame-built caretaker's house served as Lancelot Jones' home after the main house was destroyed in the 1982 fire. The house is reputed to have been constructed in the late 1970s or early 1980s by Keith and Aloma Barnes, who lived on a trimaran, a racing yacht named Padidal, anchored in Caesar Creek and looked after Jones. They built this small frame house several yards east of the Jones house where they were to live temporarily while working on their boat.”¹¹ The frame structure was lost during Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Evidence suggesting the footers are associated with this structure comes from a pre-Hurricane Andrew aerial photograph of the site showing the building in this general area. It is also logical that the cistern would have an attached or adjacent structure in order to collect rainwater from its roof. The nearly five-meter square structure that once sat on the footers was located 3.2 meters northeast of the cistern and oriented in an identical direction.

Today there are nine concrete footers located to the northeast of the cistern, which document the former location of the caretaker's house. Two types of footers are present, four substantial, 40-centimeter-diameter poured-concrete footers representing corner posts; one of which still has metal strapping where a wooden pier was once attached. At least five smaller footers are present inside the 4.85 by 4.85 meter square footprint defined by these larger corner posts. All are flush with the ground surface and were not poured in a form.

Stone Berm (ASMIS No. BISC-92.5) - A low linear berm of coral limestone chunks and concrete rubble is present to the southeast of the cistern ruins. The stone berm is approximately 3.5 meters long, .75 meters wide, and stands less than one foot off the ground surface. Its function is unknown as well as its date of construction, but it may have once served as a water control feature. With an unknown date of construction and use, this resource is non-contributing.

Dump (ASMIS No. BISC-92.6) – The dump is a refuse zone with a collection of artifacts that predominately date from the post-period of significance, and is considered a non-contributing resource.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATED FEATURES ON TOTTEN KEY

Totten Key is comprised of remnants of former farmland once containing a key lime grove, also associated with the Jones family. Totten Key also contains ruins of several structures that supported agricultural activities, including a hand dug canal, a key lime grove, a tractor, ruins of a former farmhouse/packing house and its associated dump area, two water tanks, a drum dump, and lime grove rock mounds. The exact dates of construction for most of these features is not precise, but based on the ownership of Totten Key by the Jones' family from 1911-1925, this period is estimated for the key lime grove, farmhouse/packing house ruins and associated dump, the water tanks, drum dump, and key lime grove rock mounds. Only the hand dug canal and the Fordson Model F Tractor are precisely dated. Descriptions of these associated historical features follow:

Hand Dug Canal (ASMIS No. BISC-104.1) - Almost immediately after purchasing Totten Key in 1911, Israel Jones and his sons set to work digging a canal, or channel, that extended from the north end of the island across 300 meters of shallow flats to the deep natural channel that snakes behind the Rubicon Keys. The canal was complex to construct with primitive picks and shovels, possibly some dynamite, penetrating the solid hard

¹¹ Sugg. "Sir Lancelot Jones."

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bottom of limestone bedrock. The canal is 300 meters long in a perfect straight line and entirely under waist deep water. The canal's condition today is excellent, comparable to the time of its original construction.

The canal provided access to the agricultural fields and packing house on the north end the island. Today, the canal is the most prominent physical remnant of the Jones period associated with the site. It remains navigable, is visible on nautical charts, and is easily detectable on "Google" maps. It also continues to provide the only direct access to the interior of Totten Key from the water.

Totten Key Lime Grove (ASMIS No. BISC-104.2) - There are no key lime trees on the island that were planted by Jones or his family; however, there are volunteer saplings, which have grown on the site from ancestral seed. Like the key lime grove on Porgy Key, the saplings on Totten Key are small, and easily distinguished from other common plants. Seventeen key lime saplings were identified in the project area. Based on the purchase of Totten Key in 1911 and its sale in 1925, the grove is assumed to date during the period of the Jones' family ownership.

Fordson Model F Tractor (LCS 912220/ASMIS No. BISC-104.3) - Approximately 110 meters south of the house ruins are the rusting remains of an abandoned Fordson (Ford) Model F tractor with a flatbed trailer attached. The Model F was the first mass produced tractor ever built. Ford built the Model F in the USA between 1917 and 1928, and until 1964 abroad. Between 1928 and 1939, Fordsons produced in England were imported into the US, but after 1939, no tractors labeled "Fordson" were sold in the United States.

Lancelot Jones relayed in an interview that the tractor replaced the horse-pulled rail cart for transporting the produce across the island in 1916. He was incorrect by at least two years, since research has revealed that this specific tractor came off the assembly line in September or October of 1918. Research via the internet and a follow-up site inspection to obtain the motor number (198705) confirmed the precise production date.¹² In 1917, the entire line was sold to the government of the United Kingdom, who was in great need of something to replace the horses put into duty and lost during World War 1. This historical feature was certainly of U.S. manufacture, since Jones sold the Totten Key plantation in 1925.

Farmhouse/Packing House Ruins (ASMIS No. BISC-104.4) - In interviews with Lancelot Jones before his death in 1997, he describes a packing house at the north end of the island as well as housing for seasonal packers and field hands. The archeological survey suggests that either these buildings are the same, or one of them has been entirely obliterated by decay and storms. The ruins of a single wood frame structure on concrete piers are present on the north end of the island, immediately south of the canal's terminus. The location of the ruins immediately adjacent to the canal suggests it is a likely candidate for the packing house. However, materials surrounding the ruins, including window glass and screen, and the remains of a cast iron potbelly stove, indicate a domestic function. The domestic materials, as well as the fact that no other structural ruins were identified during the survey suggest that the ruins were from a structure that served a dual purpose, that of a worksite and a dormitory.

Farmhouse/Packing House Dump Area (ASMIS No. BISC-104.5) - Located to the immediate south and southwest of the ruins of the Farmhouse/Packing House, is a refuse dump measuring approximately 286 square meters. The dump contains the rusted remains of at least three large steel drums, heavy duty steel can lids, another fragment of the potbelly stove, and a large quantity of construction debris associated with the ruined structure.

¹² Don Clough, "Welcome to the Home of the Fordson and Caterpillar Tractors," (Fordson Tractor Serial Numbers), <http://home.gwi.net/~dclough/serialpage.html>.

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Water Tank 1 (ASMIS No. BISC-104.6) - The remains of a suspected open-top (or covered with a wooden top, and long since lost) water tank is located 45 meters to the southwest of the house ruins. It was a circular galvanized steel tank, with a diameter of 120 centimeters. Its base is entirely rusted away so its height cannot be measured. One wooden timber is associated with the tank, suggesting it may have previously stood upon a wooden frame.

Water Tank 2 (ASMIS No. BISC-104.7) - A second water tank, apparently identical to "Water Tank 1" is located 41 meters to the southeast of the house ruins. No wood was found associated with this tank, and its diameter is not discernible because it was smashed and is now incomplete. However, its height is discernible and is 79 centimeters. If actually identical to the other tank, (whose diameter was measurable) then the tanks had a holding capacity of approximately 236 gallons each.

Drum Dump (ASMIS No. BISC-104.8) - There is a collection of six discarded steel drums located in a roughly straight line extending southeast of the tractor along a heading of 200 degrees. The drums are of various sizes and construction. All are steel, but some are galvanized and some are not. Several have ports in the sides that may have served as a means of extracting, filling, or pressurizing the drums. One drum has red painted lettering on its base, and another has stamped numbering, neither of which is decipherable. It is believed that these drums held pesticide and they were either discarded during use, or were staged in the center of the grove, along what was either the wooden rail line, or the main road that the tractor utilized after the rail was removed.

An examination reveals the reasoning behind this hypothesis; all of the site components fall in a straight line leading to the canal and packing house. The obvious place for a rail system designed to move produce from the grove to the packing house would be through the center of the plantation, thereby shortening the route from the rail to any one place within the grove. After the rail line was abandoned in favor of a tractor, it would be logical that the former route would still be used as a road. Following this reasoning, the tractor's current location also lines up with the rail line / road, as does its orientation on the landscape.

The interpretation of the drums as pesticide containers comes from the discovery of two backpack style brass pesticide applicators inside of Drum 1. Both of the backpacks are nearly complete and include the brass canisters, portions of the leather backpack straps, brass applicator wands, portions of the rubber hoses that connected the wands to the canister, and the iron pressuring pump handles. At some point in the past, the users of the packs placed them inside of one of the empty galvanized steel drums and abandoned them, a fortuitous event that has allowed them to remain somewhat protected from the elements. The brass canisters are adorned with symbols in a "V" shape surrounded by lightning bolts. The symbol is presumed to be associated with Victor Vemoral, a French inventor who in 1880 designed and marketed the first commercial pesticide applicators. Pesticide application with the "Vemoral Knapsack Sprayer" has been credited, along with other scientific advances in farming technique and fertilization, with great advances in farming outputs in both Europe and North America at the turn of the century. During the survey each drum was numbered, measured and photographed. There were also at least three drums included in the "Dump Area", but they were in considerably poorer condition.

Totten Key Lime Rock Mounds (ASMIS No. BISC-104.9) – As noted above in the discussion of elements on Porgy Key, rock mounds were also observed in the field during the visit in January 2012 to Totten Key and there are likely numerous other examples of these mounds on this key that also have not been identified. Rock mounds are comprised of a loose collection of stacked limestone rocks about 1-3 meters in diameter and approximately 1 meter high encircling the base of a former key lime tree.

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Statement of Integrity

While the passage of time in this hostile marine environment along with hurricanes, a fire to the family home and the encroachment of natural vegetation have destroyed most of the physical evidence of the structures, the Jones homestead and farms retains integrity of location, setting, material, and design (layout of homestead). The Jones Family Historic District is a rare and outstanding opportunity to interpret settlement of Southeast Florida at the turn of the twentieth century and the important role the Jones family played its settlement, development and eventually, in its preservation as part of a national park. Recognizing that some deterioration has occurred due the site's lack of use and weather, collectively the resources maintain a reasonable level of integrity.

The contributing and associated historical features continue to identify both visually and physically, the aspects that make this property significant. Porgy Key and Totten Key serve as examples of exploration and settlement. Together these historic resources convey this site's history found in the main house ruins; the remnants of support agricultural structures and landscape features; landforms reflecting the site's transportation systems in a former dock's location, a road and possibly also a rail trace, and an extant canal; and the sapling vegetation of Key Lime trees, descendants of the original plants. These saplings reflect former fruit groves on both keys, while expressing the rock mound technique for maintaining plant moisture in key lime cultivation.

Not only does this property resemble its historic appearance, but it also retains physical materials, design features, and aspects of construction dating from the period of significance (1897-1970). Resources on Porgy Key date to the district's earliest period with its purchase in 1897. Resources on Totten Key date from the 1911 purchase as the family expanded their key lime agricultural production. The Jones Family Historic District survives today in part due to the creation of the Biscayne National Park in 1970, which is the ending date in this property's period of significance.

Many of the resources within the Jones Family Historic District are archeological sites, visible above ground and offering a high probability to yield additional information in below ground remains. There is also the potential for additional archeological discoveries, particularly in the high hammock zones on both keys that today lack above ground evidence.

JONES FAMILY HISTORIC DISTRICT DATA SHEET

RESOURCE NAME	LCS ID	ASMIS No.	DATE	PHOTO #
SITES – 2				
Porgy Key	none	BISC-92.0	none	20
<i>Historic Associated Features</i>				
Jones Main House Ruins	912218	BISC-92.1	1912, Burned 1982	1, 2, 3, 4
Cistern	912219	BISC-92.2	Circa 1898-1912	5,6
Dock	none	BISC-92.3	Circa 1897, Destroyed by Hurricane Andrew 1992	7

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Porgy Key Lime Grove	none	BISC-92.7	Circa 1900	8,9
Northwest Foundation	none	BISC-92.8	Circa 1950s	10,11,12
Porgy Key Lime Grove Rock Mounds	none	BISC-92.9	Circa 1897-1938	13,14
<i>Non-Contributing Historic Associated Features</i>				
Caretaker's House	none	BISC-92.4	circa late 1970s and early 1980s. Destroyed by Hurricane Andrew 1992	15,16
Stone Berm	none	BISC-92.5	Date unknown	17
Dump	none	BISC-92.6	Circa 1897-1992 with today's materials contemporary	18,19
Totten Key	none	BISC-104.0	none	21
<i>Historic Associated Features</i>				
Hand Dug Canal	none	BISC-104.1	Circa 1911	22,23
Totten Key Lime Grove	none	BISC-104.2	1911-1925	24
Fordson Model F Tractor	912220	BISC-104.3	1918	25, 26
Farmhouse/Packing House Ruins	none	BISC-104.4	1911-1925	27, 28
Farmhouse/Packing House Dump Area	none	BISC-104.5	1911-1925	29, 30
Water Tank 1	none	BISC-104.6	1911-1925	31, 32
Water Tank 2	none	BISC-104.7	1911-1925	33, 34
Drum Dump	none	BISC-104.8	1911-1925	35, 36
Totten Key Lime Grove Rock Mounds	none	BISC-104.9	1911-1925	37, 38
TOTAL CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES = 2				

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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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT

ARCHEOLOGY

CONSERVATION

Period of Significance

1897-1938

1961-1970

Significant Dates

1897 Israel Jones purchased Porgy Key

1938 Arthur and Lancelot discontinue farming

1970 Property Sold to NPS

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Israel, Arthur, Lancelot, and Samuel Jones--
builders

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Period of Significance (justification)

The periods of significance 1897-1938 and 1961-1970 reflect the occupation by the Jones family of Porgy Key as a homesite and during much of this time, the use of Porgy Key and Totten Key in the family's agricultural enterprise of key lime cultivation. The first period of significance begins with the elder Jones, Israel Jones, purchase of Porgy Key in 1897. With the assistance of his family, including his wife and two sons, Israel Jones developed an agricultural enterprise on both keys that lasted until 1938. Family members continued to occupy Porgy Key until the death of the last living heir, Lancelot Jones, in 1997. The second period of significance begins with the incorporation of the City of Islandia in December 1960 and the resultant development pressures to this fragile maritime environment including Porgy Key and Totten Key. The period of significance ends with the family's sale of the property to the National Park Service for use as a national park and its designation as a National Monument.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The Jones Family Historic District second period of significance (1960-1970) includes seven years in which the property is less than 50 years old. This exception is due to the significant role the Jones family played during these years in the creation of the National Monument. The sale of the family land to the NPS in lieu of developers preserved this land and contributed in the future establishment of BISC.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Jones Family Historic District is significant at local levels under National Register Criteria A and D. Under Criterion A, the district provides a unique example of exploration and settlement of the Florida Keys at the turn of the twentieth century. The homesite and support agricultural structures and landscape features on Porgy Key along with agricultural-related resources and artifacts on Totten Key provide evidence of the family's early settlement in this harsh maritime environment. The site's resources are a testament to the creativity and ingenuity of the Jones family in adapting this site for residential use and carrying out a successful agricultural enterprise. Under Criterion A, the district is also significant in the area of conservation. The Jones heirs played a significant role in the establishment of the National Monument through the sale of their property in 1970. By electing to sell Porgy Key and Totten Key to the National Park Service, rather than local developers, the family assisted in the future designation of the Biscayne National Park, which continues to protect and preserve this important natural landscape. The district is significant in archeology under Criterion D. As many of the resources are in a somewhat ruinous state with remnants visible above ground, there is a strong likelihood that the district may yield additional information associated with these known sites, as well as the potential for the discovery of additional sites.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Jones Family Historic District is significant under Criterion A in the area of Exploration and Settlement due to the family's important role in establishing a home place at Porgy Key and a successful agricultural business at Porgy Key and Totten Key. In the area of Conservation, the Jones family also played a strategic role in the future protection and preservation of their land holdings of Biscayne Bay through the sale of their land to the federal government and the subsequent creation of a national park.

The Jones Family Historic District is significant under Criterion D due to its potential to enlighten the historic and archeological record concerning adaptive agricultural techniques in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth

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centuries in the Upper Florida Keys and Biscayne Bay. A unique natural environment exists in the Florida Keys, which are tropical islands made up of relic fossilized coral reefs where little topsoil exists and agricultural endeavors require local adaptations to the environment as well as careful selection of appropriate marketable species. The two Jones family sites both preserve direct archeological evidence of these agricultural adaptive techniques, as well as living descendents of the primary agricultural product, key limes.

In addition to agricultural adaptive techniques, both the Jones homesite and farm on Porgy Key, and the Jones farm on Totten Key contain archeological remains (household refuse, abandoned agricultural equipment, and structural ruins). Collectively, these resources are capable of providing significant archeological and historic information on domestic and economic life-ways in an environment that was, at the time, very much on the edge of the U.S. frontier in South Florida.¹³

Criterion A – Exploration and Settlement

The Jones Family Historic District is significant under Criterion A in the area of Exploration and Settlement. The ruins of the Jones homestead and the remnants of their key lime farms represent the only physical remains of the lives of Israel Lafayette Jones, his wife Mozelle, and their sons Arthur and Lancelot Jones, providing evidence of the early settlement of Southeast Florida.

The Jones' were an African American family who transformed the harsh environment on Porgy Key and Totten Key in order to establish a home and a successful business at a time when many African Americans faced considerable obstacles because of racial segregation in the South. At the turn of the twentieth century, successful agricultural settlements like the Jones' spurred interest in development of permanent settlements of the barrier islands in South Florida. Additionally, Biscayne Bay developed into a popular recreational area during the early twentieth century. This development directly influenced the historic growth of Miami and Miami Beach.

Criterion A – Conservation

The Jones family participated in the eventual preservation of Biscayne Bay. In the second half of the twentieth century, developers devised plans to construct a roadway to connect the Upper Keys to the Mainland to promote residential development of the Keys. Lancelot Jones, at the time the only permanent resident and second largest private landowner, rejected the developers' offers to buy his land. He expressed his support for the conservation of Biscayne Bay and eventually sold his land to the federal government. His actions directly resulted in the establishment of Biscayne National Park.

The establishment of the national park was an exceptional event at the local level. Since its founding, the park has protected and preserved significant natural and cultural resources while also stimulating the local economy, especially in terms of tourism. According to a "State of the Parks" report by the National Parks Conservation Association, Biscayne National Park is "one of the largest marine parks in the National Park system. The park protects part of the third-largest coral reef system in the world and the longest stretch of mangrove forest remaining on Florida's east coast, providing habitat and nursery grounds for most of the region's important commercial and recreational fish, shellfish, and crustaceans."¹⁴

¹³ Narrative for Criterion D: Archeology by Charles Lawson, Archeologist and Cultural Resource Manager, Biscayne National Park, June 7, 2012.

¹⁴ "Biscayne National Park, A Resource Assessment," January 2006, National Parks Conservation Association (State of the Parks Series), Washington, D.C., p. 1.

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The importance this park has played in the local economy was reported in a recent National Park Service report stating, "467,612 visitors spent \$30.7 million in Biscayne National Park and nearby communities in 2010." Park Superintendent of BISC, Mark Lewis, noted that, "people and the business communities near national parks have always known their economic value. Biscayne National Park is clean, green fuel for the engine that drives our local economy."¹⁵

Criterion D – Archeology¹⁶

The Jones site is also significant under Criterion D. It has the potential to provide information about the daily life of both black and white settlers in the Upper Florida Keys and show how such residents adapted their lives and agricultural practices to the hostile environment on a tropical coral limestone key. The site also yields information about agricultural techniques and general strategies used to successfully farm and support families in the Upper Keys, particularly those keys fringing Biscayne Bay. The unique archeological significance of the Jones site stems from its level of preservation as compared to other archeological sites associated with nineteenth and early twentieth century agricultural sites of the Upper Keys. Since the Jones family's agricultural activities ceased on Porgy and Totten Keys (in 1938 and 1925 respectively) there has been no modern development or manipulation of the landscape on either island. From Key Largo south, the upper keys are heavily developed and there are few remaining examples of homesteading or agricultural archeological sites. Even on the relatively undeveloped islands of Biscayne National Park, other agricultural settlements saw significant modification in the early and mid-twentieth century as previously farmed homesteads (such as the National Register Listed Sweeting Homestead) were sold and became residential properties or were significantly impacted by development attempts immediately prior to the establishment of Biscayne National Monument in 1968. The Jones family farming activities on both Porgy and Totten Keys were simply ceased, leaving behind in-situ archeological remnants of agricultural practices. These remains, including visible landscape modifications and abandoned farm equipment, as well as domestic refuse and associated structural ruins, have since sat undisturbed by human activities.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)¹⁷

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the institution of slavery still held sway over many areas of the United States, particularly in the South. While the states of the North, including New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania were home to thousands of free blacks, enslaved Africans could still be found in Florida, Alabama, Georgia and the Carolinas.¹⁸ The transition from slavery to freedom was one fraught with economic, political and social tensions, particularly in the South.¹⁹ For black Americans, the period after emancipation became a time of collective struggle to improve their status. Whether developing strategies within political, religious or social circles, black Americans worked to create communities and institutions where they could

¹⁵ "Biscayne National Park Equals Visitors, Money and Jobs for Local Economy," Biscayne National Park website - <http://www.nps.gov/bisc/parknews/biscayne-national-park-equals-visitors-money-and-jobs-for-local-economy.htm>

¹⁶ Criterion D: Archeology by Charles Lawson, Archeologist and Cultural Resource Manager, Biscayne National Park, June 7, 2012.

¹⁷ Historic Context from report, Historic Context Study: Israel Lafayette "Parsons" Jones prepared by Carolyn Finney, Researcher, August 31, 2005. Most of the Historic Context has been taken verbatim from Finney's report.

¹⁸ Jonathan Earle. 2000. *The Routledge Atlas of African-American History*. Routledge: NY.

¹⁹ Alexander, Roberta Sue. 1985. *North Carolina Faces the Freedmen: Race Relations during Presidential Reconstruction 1865-67*. Duke University Press: Durham, NC.

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enjoy basic human rights.²⁰ Nowhere was this more contentious than in the South. Whether resistance to equality for black Americans was in the form of infringement upon political rights, denial of economic opportunities or outright violence, many black Americans found the post-Reconstruction South impossible to live in.²¹

North Carolina 1850 – 1900

Officially, the Civil War ended for North Carolinians on April 18, 1865.²² There were physical hardships; loss of land, shortage of farm animals and rampant crime devastated the states manufacturing and agricultural sectors. But the biggest challenge was dealing with the emancipation of more than 330,000 slaves.²³ North Carolina ranked sixth among the slaveholding states – only 27.7 % of white families owned slaves.²⁴ But comparatively speaking, the free black population was large, second only to Virginia.²⁵ In 1860, there were 30,463 free blacks representing 8.4 % of the black population.²⁶ While generally considered one of the most liberal southern states with a small black population, the struggle between the state's white conservative leadership and the black community created an atmosphere of conflict and turmoil.²⁷ Some white North Carolinians refused to believe slavery had been abolished, denying blacks their freedom and in some instances, killing them.²⁸ Those blacks that were freed often faced poor health, destitution, and violence upon their persons.²⁹ The Freedmen's Bureau, which was an extension of the national government, became the organization responsible for all social and economic matters related to newly freed blacks.³⁰ But problems of high turnover in the Bureau's ranks, understaffing and inappropriate use of white North Carolinians as officers left the Bureau struggling to meet the needs of freed blacks.³¹ Dire circumstances inspired many free men and women to migrate to other areas of the country in pursuit of great opportunity and a better life.

Florida 1880 – 1950

Florida was not immune to the conflicts and challenges that faced a young nation grappling with the consequences of slavery and emancipation. Between 1890 and 1930, Florida had more lynchings per capita than any other Southern state.³² In addition, Jim Crow customs, a white primary, and a poll tax were strictly adhered to.³³ By 1950, not a single Florida school was integrated and it would be another 10 years before one would be.³⁴ Despite these challenges, blacks were migrating to the South Florida area from various parts of the

²⁰ Michelle Mitchell. 2004. *Righteous Propagation: African-Americans and the Politics of Racial Destiny after Reconstruction*. University of NC Press: Chapel Hill.

²¹ Jonathan Earle. 2000. *The Routledge Atlas of African-American History*. Routledge: NY.

²² Roberta Sue Alexander. 1985. *North Carolina Faces the Freedmen: Race Relations during Presidential Reconstruction 1865-67*. Duke University Press: Durham, NC., p. 2.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid, xv.

²⁵ Ibid, p. xvi.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid, p. xiv.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Marvin Dunn. 1997. *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*. University Press of Florida: Gainesville.

³¹ Roberta Sue Alexander. 1985. *North Carolina Faces the Freedmen: Race Relations during Presidential Reconstruction 1865-67*. Duke University Press: Durham, NC.

³² Gary R. Morimino. 2005. *Land of Sunshine, State of Dreams: A Social History of Modern Florida*. University Press of Florida: Gainesville, p. 7.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

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country and the Bahamas. By the beginning of the twentieth century, thousands of blacks were living in the South Florida area, including Miami, Homestead and Florida City.³⁵ While both white and Native American communities struggled to hold on to their identity, black culture was expressed on the South Florida landscape in the form of cultural institutions such as churches, places of educational enlightenment and their own businesses.³⁶ The first Black school in Dade County opened in 1893 and the first black church in Miami was founded in 1896.³⁷ Between 1896 and 1912, Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Railroad brought employment opportunities for blacks from Ft. Lauderdale to Key West.³⁸ In addition, Bahamian blacks whose migration to South Florida was motivated by the downfall of the Bahamian economy in the 1880s, brought agricultural practices and a sense of entrepreneurship that became the backbone for many successful black communities and businesses.³⁹

Israel Lafayette Jones

Israel Lafayette Jones was born in 1858 in Raleigh, North Carolina.⁴⁰ His father was Arter Jones, a farm laborer who lived in Clayton, Johnston County, North Carolina. Israel had a brother, Samuel who was born in 1861.⁴¹ By 1880, Arter had become re-married to Caroline Jones, who was just one year younger than Israel.⁴² Israel Jones' biological mother remains a mystery. While slave schedules cannot affirm whether or not Jones or his parents were born into slavery, in North Carolina around 1830, only one percent of the black population were freemen.⁴³ By 1860, there were less than 40,000 freed blacks.⁴⁴ In addition, in 1850, when his father would have been 23 years of age, 75% percent of all slaves were farm laborers.⁴⁵

When he was 22-years-old, Jones worked as a farm laborer himself.⁴⁶ During the 1880s, he moved to Wilmington, North Carolina, where he was a stevedore and handled small boats.⁴⁷ As a major seaport, Wilmington attracted many African American maritime laborers who came there in search of work on or by the sea. They made up 60% of the total population in North Carolina's larger seaports.⁴⁸ While it is difficult to estimate the percentage of African Americans working full-time in a maritime trade, it is safe to say that most

³⁵ Marvin Dunn. 1997. *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*. University Press of Florida: Gainesville.

³⁶ Jonathan Earle. 2000. *The Routledge Atlas of African-American History*. Routledge, NY.

³⁷ Alwyn Nicholas. 2004. *A Chronological History of Blacks in South Florida*. Just the Facts: Miami, FL.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Marvin Dunn. 1997. *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*. University Press of Florida: Gainesville.

⁴⁰ 1880 U.S. Federal Census, Clayton, Johnson NC., Roll T9_969, Family History Film 1254969, Page 349.1000, Enumeration District 156, Image 0235. 1900 Census data.

⁴¹ 1880 U.S. Federal Census, Cedar Creek Cumberland, NC., Roll T9_960, Family History Film 1254960, Page 417.4000, Enumeration District 59, Image 0213.

⁴² 1880 U.S. Federal Census, Clayton, Johnston NC., Roll T9_969, Family History Film 1254969, Page 349.1000, Enumeration District 156, Image 0235.

⁴³ Jonathan Earle. 2000. *The Routledge Atlas of African-American History*. Routledge: NY.

⁴⁴ Roberta Sue Alexander. 1985. *North Carolina Faces the Freedmen: Race Relations during Presidential Reconstruction 1865-67*. Duke University Press: Durham, NC.

⁴⁵ 1880 U.S. Federal Census, Clayton, Johnson NC., Roll T9_969, Family History Film 1254969, Page 349.1000, Enumeration District 156, Image 0235.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Vincent Gilpin. "Parson Jones of Porgee Key". P. 1-15. Date and Source unidentified. Original copy at Biscayne National Park.

⁴⁸ David S Cecelski. 2001. *The Waterman's Song: Slavery and Freedom in Maritime North Carolina*. University of North Carolina Press: Chapel Hill.

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slaves and freemen who lived on the coast worked on the water at least occasionally. For black men, maritime occupations included laboring as sailors, fishermen, boatmen, and pilots.⁴⁹

Israel Jones headed to Florida in 1892 in search of work.⁵⁰ Before settling in Key Biscayne, he tried his hand at growing oranges in Orlando, but was unsuccessful due to a freeze.⁵¹ After a short stint in Tampa, he made his way further south.⁵² In the mid-nineteenth century, South Florida was largely wilderness where black families often lived in isolation from each other on the groves and farms of white owners.⁵³ For many blacks, job opportunities came in the form of digging for coontie, a wild plant indigenous to the region, clearing land, and working in the lumber industry.⁵⁴ Walter S. Davies, a well-to-do white landowner, had significant property holdings on Cape Florida and needed a caretaker for his property.⁵⁵ He dispatched his agent Ralph Monroe (boat designer and commodore of Biscayne Bay Yacht Club in Coconut Grove) to find an appropriate employee.⁵⁶ He hired Israel Jones, who became the caretaker on the Davies Grant and several other properties, including those belonging to Dr. John Clayton Gifford and Commodore Monroe.⁵⁷ In 1893, Jones also went to work as a foreman for a pineapple farm belonging to Frank T. Budge.⁵⁸ During his tenure as caretaker and foreman, Jones developed skills in growing limes and pineapple.⁵⁹

Built in 1882, the Peacock Inn in Coconut Grove became a magnet for black pioneers who were newly arrived to the South Florida region and seeking employment.⁶⁰ Owned and constructed by Charles Peacock, the inn hired many black Bahamians new to the area. Though not Bahamian, Israel Jones procured a job as a handyman and met his future wife, Moselle Albury at the inn.⁶¹ They married in 1895.⁶² Moselle was born in December 1861 in Harbor Island, Bahamas, and her family migrated to Key West in 1871.⁶³ This was not unusual; during the 1880s many Bahamians arrived to the South Florida region to work as farm laborers or at the inn.⁶⁴ Economic exploitation and racial discrimination convinced many Bahamians that they'd be better off in the South Florida area, particularly in Biscayne Bay and the Florida Keys.⁶⁵

Shortly after their marriage in 1895, Israel Lafayette Jones and his wife Moselle had their first son King Arthur Lafayette Jones, born in March of 1897.⁶⁶ Their second son, Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones, was born almost a

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Oral History Narrative: John Nordt interview with Lancelot Jones, Biscayne National Park, 1990. Original copy at Biscayne National Park Headquarters.

⁵¹ Joseph S. Mensch. 1988. "Sir Lancelot Fished with the Big Shots". *Update: The Historical Association of Southern Florida*. Vol. 15(2). May pages 3-5, 14.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Marvin Dunn. 1997. *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*. University Press of Florida: Gainesville.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Vincent Gilpin. "Parson Jones of Porgee Key". P. 1-15. Date and source unidentified. Original copy at Biscayne National Park.

⁵⁶ Stuart McIver. 1988. *Glimpses of South Florida History*. Florida Flair Books: Miami, FL.

⁵⁷ John C. Gifford. 1972. *On Preserving Tropical Florida*. University of Miami Press: Coral Gables, p. 47.

⁵⁸ Oral History Narrative: John Nordt interview with Lancelot Jones, Biscayne National Park, 1990. Original copy at Biscayne National Park Headquarters.

⁵⁹ John C. Gifford. 1972. *On Preserving Tropical Florida*. University of Miami Press: Coral Gables, p. 47.

⁶⁰ Marvin Dunn. 1997. *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*. University Press of Florida: Gainesville.

⁶¹ John C. Gifford. 1972. *On Preserving Tropical Florida*. University of Miami Press: Coral Gables, p. 47.

⁶² 1900 Census, Lemon City Precinct 3 and Coconut Grove Precinct 4, Dade County. Sheet 35, 285A, p. 188-189.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Marvin Dunn. 1997. *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*. University of Florida Press: Gainesville.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ 1900 Census, Lemon City Precinct 3 and Coconut Grove Precinct 4, Dade County. Sheet 35, 285A, p. 188-189.

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year and a half later in October of 1898.⁶⁷ Both sons are believed to be the first black Americans born on Key Biscayne.⁶⁸ Lancelot was delivered by a midwife and Dr. Henry Jackson, whom Jackson Memorial Hospital is named after.⁶⁹

After a successful stint as a caretaker and supervisor, Israel Jones decided he was interested in expanding his horizons.⁷⁰ So in 1897, Jones purchased Porgy Key from Fletcher Albury for \$300, approximately \$5 an acre.⁷¹ This is particularly remarkable because of the racial atmosphere in Dade County between 1896 and 1926. While there was an increase in the presence of black institutions and possibility for upward mobility, economic and political exploitation, racial segregation and lynching constrained the efforts of black families working to improve their quality of life.⁷²

Along with his ventures into real estate, Israel Jones developed a reputation for being a preacher and a philosopher. He became known as the "Pahson", which reflected the high esteem that many held him in.⁷³ Although not a minister in the traditional sense, Parson Jones was deemed qualified by his peers to preach.⁷⁴ He spoke on Sundays at Mt. Zion Baptist Church and is said to have been involved in its development.⁷⁵ Founded in 1896 by the Reverend T.M. Tramell, it was organized and built by black Baptists.⁷⁶ Like many other black churches established in Dade County at that time, it provided a spiritual home for blacks and was a source of mutual and charitable support.⁷⁷

In 1898, Israel Jones purchased Old Rhodes Key (Porgy Key is legally part of Old Rhodes) and moved his family to the island within two years of that date.⁷⁸ When Jones and his family first arrived, there was already a two-bedroom house constructed on the property belonging to the previous owner. The second house, a two-story, four-bedroom structure, was completed by Israel Jones and his brother Samuel in 1912.⁷⁹ In addition, Jones dug a trench in order to put in a dock for his boat. In the true spirit of homesteading, the Jones family made this place their own. Along with building a house, Israel Jones began the herculean task of clearing the land by hand. This involved cutting through vines and plants not familiar to the mainland, gumbo-limbo, palmetto and mahogany trees, and thorny vines that could slice through the skin.⁸⁰ Once Jones and his sons cut through the foliage, a landscape of coral limestone was revealed. For Jones, this was a boon because he

⁶⁷ 1900 Census, Lemon City Precinct 3 and Coconut Grove Precinct 4, Dade County. Sheet 35, 285A, p. 188-189. Delayed Certificate of Birth, Filed August 15, 1974. No 98159. Florida.

⁶⁸ Unidentified source. *A History of the Island of Key Biscayne*, microfiche, p. 112. Original copy at Biscayne National Park.

⁶⁹ Oral History Narrative: John Nordt interview with Lancelot Jones, Biscayne National Park, 1990. Original copy at Biscayne National Park Headquarters.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Warranty Deed (original document is poor quality). Filed January 18, 1929, Dade County, Florida. Original copy at Biscayne National Park.

⁷² Marvin Dunn. 1997. *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*. University Press of Florida: Gainesville.

⁷³ John C. Gifford. 1972. *On Preserving Tropical Florida*. University of Miami Press: Coral Gables, FL.

⁷⁴ Oral History Narrative: John Nordt interview with Lancelot Jones, Biscayne National Park, 1990. Original copy at Biscayne National Park Headquarters.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Marvin Dunn. 1997. *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*. University Press of Florida: Gainesville.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Juanita Greene. 1959. "Wealth Come to Pioneer Keys Workers". *The Herald*, June 21.

⁷⁹ Oral History Narrative: John Nordt interview with Lancelot Jones, Biscayne National Park, 1990. Original copy at Biscayne National Park Headquarters.

⁸⁰ Vincent Gilpin. "Parson Jones of Porgee Key". P. 1-15. Date and source unidentified. Original copy at Biscayne National Park.

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knew that pineapples, tomatoes and limes would grow well here.⁸¹ He began farming pineapples and key limes and within two years of planting, the Jones family began to see profit.⁸² In addition, he produced fruits and vegetables in order to supplement his income.⁸³ Eventually, the Jones farm became one of the largest producers of pineapples and limes on the East Coast of Florida.⁸⁴ Adding to his landholdings, Israel Jones purchased Totten Key from Frank T. Budge in 1911.⁸⁵ This land had previously been home to an approximately 250-acre pineapple plantation.⁸⁶ This purchase would prove to be quite an investment - he bought the island for \$1 an acre and eventually sold 212 acres in 1925 for \$250,000.⁸⁷

Israel Jones, while busy with farm production, purchasing additional land, and building a new home, still had time for community involvement. Along with providing ongoing support for Mt. Zion Baptist church in Miami, he participated in the creation of a Negro Industrial School in Jacksonville. While there were a number of industrial schools created around the turn of the century, one in particular stands out in existing documents in relation to Israel Jones. Originally known as the Florida Baptist Academy, this school was founded in Jacksonville in 1892.⁸⁸ In 1918, the school moved to St. Augustine (where Lancelot and Arthur attended classes) and eventually merged with the Florida Baptist Institute to become the Florida Normal and Industrial Memorial Institute.⁸⁹ In 1963, the school was renamed Florida Memorial College and relocated to Miami in 1968.⁹⁰

As his sons got older and were able to take over much of the labor needed to maintain the land, Israel Jones spent more time preaching in Miami and taking part as a trustee in the continuing growth of this Negro industrial school in Jacksonville.⁹¹ Back on the homestead, Moselle oversaw the maintenance of the home, took care of their sons, and received visitors fairly regularly.⁹² In between bone fishing and taking care of their fruit trees, the boys received a formal education from a teacher who had been brought in from St. Augustine to live with the family.⁹³ Eventually, much to the dismay of Lancelot and Arthur, the two boys were sent to St. Augustine to attend the Florida Industrial College (Florida Baptist Academy).⁹⁴

In 1929, Israel handed ownership of Porgy Key over to his sons, Arthur and Lancelot.⁹⁵ Soon after, Moselle's health failed and she passed away. A few years later, in 1932, Israel Lafayette Jones died at the age of seventy-

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Ibid., Oral History Narrative: John Nordt interview with Lancelot Jones, Biscayne National Park, 1990. Original copy at Biscayne National Park Headquarters.

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ Unknown author. 1925. "250,000 Paid for Island". *The Herald*, June 13.

⁸⁵ Oral History Narrative: John Nordt interview with Lancelot Jones, Biscayne National Park, 1990. Original copy at Biscayne National Park Headquarters. Warranty Deed (original document is poor quality). Filed January 18, 1929, Dade County, Florida. Original copy at Biscayne National Park.

⁸⁶ Unknown author. "Totten Key Pinery". *Miami Metro*, Aug. 23, 1901.

⁸⁷ Unknown author. 1925. "250,000 Paid for Island". *The Herald*, June 13.

⁸⁸ Thomas C. Hunt and James C. Carper, Eds. 1995. *Religious Higher Education in the United States*. Garland Publishing: NY.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Vincent Gilpin "Parson Jones of Porgee Key". P. 1-15. Date and source unidentified. Original copy at Biscayne National Park.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Unknown author. "Greater Miami Deaths, Pioneer Fishing Guide". *The Miami News*, Feb. 24, 1966, p. 11A.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Warranty Deed (original document is poor quality). Filed January 18, 1929, Dade County, Florida. Original copy at Biscayne National Park.

Jones Family Historic District

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three.⁹⁶ His funeral was held at Mt. Zion Baptist church and was well attended by black and white mourners alike.⁹⁷ D.A. Dorsey, considered to be Miami's first black millionaire, spoke of Jones' achievements in the face of adversity.⁹⁸ Reverend J.R. Evans echoed those sentiments in his sermon and Jones' funeral received generous coverage in the Miami Herald.⁹⁹

Lancelot Jones

Lancelot and Arthur carried on the key lime business. Using their 32-foot boat named the Lone Star, they would carry 250 bushels of limes into Miami every week.¹⁰⁰ They paid John Graham 25% of their earnings to come up with a quote, then to pack and ship them.¹⁰¹ They were arguably the largest individual key lime producers in the state.

Dr. Henry Perrine had introduced lime trees to the Florida Keys in 1838. In the nineteenth century, Floridians used key limes to flavor food and for medicinal purposes. John Gifford, for whom Israel Jones periodically worked, wrote extensively on the cultivation of limes and mentions the Jones' family reputation as farmers. Gifford wrote of "a colored man called Parson Jones,... known as the sultan of Caesar's Creek, [and]... his good wife, who picks limes also, [who has]...not been away from her island home for three years."¹⁰²

Perrine also described how to grow lime trees. The trees grow "among lime rocks of coral origin, where soil is often so scarce in the crevices of the rock there is some soil and from the porous rock itself the plant must derive nourishment.... The lime is a spiney semi wild crop." "The limes from the Keys are especially cherished because unlike mainland limes they will carry long distances without deterioration when ripe. The lime is thin skinned, full of juice in proportion to the rag, and a delicate intimate aroma."¹⁰³

Perrine wrote that "I have found that piling rocks around the trunks hold the trees in place in times of storm. It keeps the roots cool and encourages the formation of dew. I began this forty years ago and at last it has become an established custom.... The beneficial dew is the savior of crops in places when water is precious. In order to form it must have some solid object to form on."¹⁰⁴ "Limes, and I guess other things too, must be planted close together so the ground is soon covered. The limes, a half wild crop anyway and the less of pruning... with it the better. "As the lime limbs bent over to the ground and touched the rock, I piled rock on the limbs. Where they were scarred they rooted by a process of layering producing young trees."¹⁰⁵ The technique of piling rocks around the trunks of trees was used at both Porgy Key and Totten Key. Extant examples of the piles of limestone rocks are still visible today.

⁹⁶ Freda Avant. 1932. "Impressive Funeral Given Parson Jones". *The Herald*, p. 2.

⁹⁷ Vincent Gilpin. "Parson Jones of Porgee Key". P. 1-15. Date and source unidentified. Original copy at Biscayne National Park.

⁹⁸ Freda Avant. 1932. "Impressive Funeral Given Parson Jones". *The Herald*, p. 2.

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ Oral History Narrative: John Nordt interview with Lancelot Jones, Biscayne National Park, 1990. Original copy at Biscayne National Park Headquarters.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² John Gifford "Preserving Tropical Florida," ed. Elizabeth Ogden Rothra (Coral Gables: University of Miami Press, 1972) p. 142.

Note: Additional information about the history of key lime cultivation in Florida has been added to the historical context by Finney to highlight the important role played by Dr. Henry Perrine. Evidence of Dr. Perrine's influence can be found today in the landscape of both Keys.

¹⁰³ Ibid, 140-141.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid, 142-143.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid, 190.

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In 1938, Lancelot and Arthur left the lime business because they felt they couldn't compete with key lime production in Mexico, which had a considerably better environment for growing limes.¹⁰⁶ In addition, the 1926 hurricane had curtailed lime production.¹⁰⁷ Known as the Great Hurricane, an estimated 392 people died and more than 17,000 families were affected.¹⁰⁸ Damage to businesses and homes were estimated to be around \$5 million.¹⁰⁹ While the Jones boys managed to continue lime production, the effects of the hurricane initiated the changes that would eventually influence their decision to leave the lime business.

Three years earlier in 1935, the Jones brothers had started working as fishing guides. But during WWII, it became difficult to get fuel, so they stopped guiding for two or three years. They eventually went into bone fishing and resumed guiding.¹¹⁰ Lancelot fished with many notable men during the nineteen forties and fifties, including Herbert Hoover, Lyndon Johnson, Bebe Rebozo, and Richard Nixon.¹¹¹ These men would visit the Coco Lobo Club, a private club built in 1921 which eventually became the Coco Lobo Fishing Club.¹¹² Supported by wealthy families which included the Firestones and the Honeywells, Lancelot and Arthur provided stone crabs and lobster for the club's guests.¹¹³ In addition, Lancelot's expertise was well known and he was often hired as their guide.

During the forties, Arthur served as a technical sergeant in the army in World War II and had previously served in the navy in World War I.¹¹⁴ Arthur died Feb. 22, 1966, in a VA hospital.¹¹⁵ He left a wife, Kathleen and a stepdaughter named Leah Forbes.¹¹⁶

With "the incorporation of the City of Islandia in December 1960, which included Elliott Key Park, other publicly owned property as well as 385 tracts owned by 346 individuals, proposals for causeways, deep water channels, real estate and industrial developments" posed immediate threats to this natural area.¹¹⁷ Starting in 1961 and continuing throughout the sixties, a harsh political battle ensued between conservationists and investors, who incorporated the city with the hope to develop the islands.¹¹⁸

¹⁰⁶ Oral History Narrative: John Nordt interview with Lancelot Jones, Biscayne National Park, 1990. Original copy at Biscayne National Park Headquarters.

¹⁰⁷ Joseph S. Mensch. 1988. "Sir Lancelot Fished with the Big Shots". *Update: The Historical Association of Southern Florida*. Vol. 15(2): May p. 3-5, 14.

¹⁰⁸ Marvin Dunn. 1997. *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*. University of Florida Press: Gainesville.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Oral History Narrative: John Nordt interview with Lancelot Jones, Biscayne National Park, 1990. Original copy at Biscayne National Park Headquarters.

¹¹¹ Joseph S. Mensch. 1988. "Sir Lancelot Fished with the Big Shots". *Update: The Historical Association of Southern Florida*. Vol. 15(2): May p. 3-5, 14.

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ Oral History Narrative: John Nordt interview with Lancelot Jones, Biscayne National Park, 1990. Original copy at Biscayne National Park Headquarters.

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ "Unknown author. "Greater Miami Deaths, Pioneer Fishing Guide". *The Miami News*, Feb. 24, 1966, p. 11A.

¹¹⁷ "Biscayne National Monument: A Proposal," National Park Service Bulletin, p. 12.

¹¹⁸ Brad Bennett. 2002. "A Wild Legacy". *The Herald*, July 16.

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Islandia was Miami-Dade County's smallest municipality, comprised of a chain of 32 islands and encompassed the Jones' property.¹¹⁹ Lancelot and Arthur were the second largest property owners within Islandia.¹²⁰ In addition, they were the only permanent yearlong residents from north Key Largo to Soldier Key. By 1985, only one other private citizen aside from Lancelot Jones lived within the boundaries of Islandia along with park rangers.

In 1968 the area was declared a National Monument and in 1980 it was declared a National Park.¹²¹ Believing that this area should be preserved, Lancelot and his sister-in-law Kathleen began to sell their share of the island to the National Park Service in 1970.¹²² Made up of more than 277 acres, the National Park Service paid them \$1.2 million.

Lancelot's perspective on the new public park is expressed in the following quote from a Miami newspaper. "All in all, the monument is a good thing. Some people would have liked to make this place the No. 2 Miami Beach, but I think it's good for people to have somewhere that they can go to leave the hustle and bustle behind and get out into the quietude of nature. I like the name "monument." It means that things here are going to stay pretty much as they are today."¹²³

Following the sale, Lancelot Jones was granted the right to live out his remaining years in the family home. During this period, he spent most of his time alone, reading and relaxing in a home where he used solar panels for electricity and rainwater for washing.¹²⁴ Sometimes Lancelot would share his ecological knowledge, particularly about sponges, with all who would listen, including school children who visited the nearby Adams Key Ranger Station's Environmental Education Center.¹²⁵ The sponge industry was a subject particularly close to Lancelot's heart and important to the environmental history of the region. In 1890, hundreds of fishermen - Cuban, American, and Bahamian - depended upon commercial sponge fishing for their livelihoods.¹²⁶ At this time, sponging was a million-dollar a year business.¹²⁷ But by the turn of the century, business began to decrease.¹²⁸ When Lancelot wasn't speaking to visitors, he would occasionally venture into Miami to visit friends or pick up mail.

Lancelot's final years on the island were not without adversity. In 1982, the Jones family home burned to the ground as a result of a propane tank gas fire. Lancelot moved into the former caretaker's shack nearby. Family members continued to occupy Porgy Key until Hurricane Andrew drove the last surviving heir, Lancelot Jones, from the island in 1992. Lancelot never set foot on the island again and died in Miami in 1997.

¹¹⁹ *The Miami News*, Nov. 15, 1985.

¹²⁰ Unknown author. "Greater Miami Deaths, Pioneer Fishing Guide". *Miami News*, Feb. 24, 1966.

¹²¹ Oral History Narrative: John Nordt interview with Lancelot Jones at Biscayne National Park, 1990. Original copy at Biscayne National Park Headquarters.

¹²² *Ibid.*

¹²³ Mike Toner. "In Universe of Sir Lancelot, Man, Island Go on Forever." *Miami Herald*, date unknown.

¹²⁴ Anabelle de. Gale. 1997. "Sir Lancelot Jones, Key Biscayne Pioneer". *The Herald*, Dec. 27.

¹²⁵ Geoffrey Tomb. 1991. "Man, 92, Shares Bastion of Natural Beauty with Kids". *The Herald*, April 17.

¹²⁶ Mike Toney. 1979. "Sponge Industry Thriving Again in South Biscayne Bay". *Miami Herald*, April 22.

¹²⁷ *Ibid.*

¹²⁸ *Ibid.*

Jones Family Historic District
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Dade County - Florida
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_____, "In Universe of Sir Lancelot, Man, Island Go on Forever." Miami Herald, Undated.

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1900 U.S. Federal Census, Lemon City, Precinct 3 and Coconut Grove, Precinct 4, Dade County, FL. Sheet 35, 285A.

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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

**Archeological Site Form
Florida Master Site File**

Jones Property Complex
Jones Homesite BISC-92
Jones Homestead
Site # 8DA 11922
Form Date – 12/15/2011

Jones Agricultural Site BISC-104
Site # 8DA 11940
Form Date – 12/19/2011

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 24.56 Acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

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Name of Property

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(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A	<u>17R</u>	:	<u>576850</u>	<u>2808490</u>	B	<u>17R</u>	<u>576990</u>	<u>2808360</u>
			Easting	Northing			Zone	Easting
C	<u>17R</u>		<u>576720</u>	<u>2808360</u>	D	<u>17R</u>	<u>576660</u>	<u>2808570</u>
	Zone		Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
E	<u>17R</u>		<u>575678</u>	<u>2808400</u>	F	<u>17R</u>	<u>575250</u>	<u>2807900</u>
	Zone		Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
G	<u>17R</u>		<u>575970</u>	<u>2807870</u>	H	<u>17R</u>	<u>575840</u>	<u>2807652</u>
	Zone		Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
I	<u>17R</u>	:	<u>575518</u>	<u>2807939</u>				
			Easting	Northing				

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The discontinuous boundary of the Jones Family Historic District is shown on the accompanying maps entitled "Sketch and Boundary Map." Separate maps are provided for each key.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This National Register boundary encompasses historic resources associated with the family of Israel Jones and located on the "high ground" within the upland hammock zones on two separate keys, Porgy Key and Totten Key. The boundary lines are mostly circuitous to encompass this collection of resources comprised of known archeological sites as well as the likelihood of additional archeological resources. The portion of the boundary shown with a straight line reflects the presence of a hand-dug canal at Totten Key.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dale Jaeger, Preservation Planner and Landscape Architect
Keyes Williamson, Landscape Architect and Landscape Historian

organization The Jaeger Company date September 26, 2012

street & number 119 Washington Street telephone 770.534.0506

city or town Gainesville state GA zip code 30501

e-mail dale@jaegerco.com

Sections also provided by:

name/title Charles Lawson, Archeologist/Cultural Resource Manager

organization Biscayne National Park - National Park Service date September 26, 2012

Jones Family Historic District

Name of Property

Dade County - Florida

County and State

street & number 9700 SW 328 Street

telephone 786.335.3676

city or town Homestead

state FL

zip code 33033

e-mail Charles_Lawson@nps.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
See Portion of Elliott Key, Florida USGS Map

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

See the following maps:

- **USGS Map**
- **Sketch and Boundary Map – Porgy Key**
- **Photo Key – Porgy Key**
- **Sketch and Boundary Map – Totten Key**
- **Photo Key – Totten Key**

- **Continuation Sheets** Additional historic images are included on Continuation Sheets
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: **Jones Family Historic District**

City or Vicinity: **Islandia
Biscayne National Park (BISC)**

County: **Dade** State: **Florida**

Photographer: **Keyes Williamson, The Jaeger Company (TJC)
Charles Lawson, National Park Service (BISC)**

Date Photographed: **Years Noted on Individual Photographs**

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

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Images from Porgy Key

- 1 of 38: Jones Main House Ruins, view of northernmost corner of structure, 2012 (BISC)
- 2 of 38: Jones Main House Ruins, view of front façade of structure, elevation facing southwest, 2012 (BISC)
- 3 of 38: Jones Main House Ruins, interior view from southernmost corner of structure, 2012 (BISC)
- 4 of 38: Jones Main House Ruins, plaque placed in south cheek wall of front steps and providing historical sketch of property, 2012 (BISC)
- 5 of 38: Cistern, looking northeast, 2012 (BISC)
- 6 of 38: Cistern, looking southwest, 2012 (BISC)
- 7 of 38: Dock view of former dock location toward Atlantic Ocean from homesite, looking northeast, 2010 (BISC)
- 8 of 38: Porgy Key Lime Grove, situated on the east side of the upland hammock approximately 100 yards south of the Northwest Foundation, 2012 (TJC)
- 9 of 38: Porgy Key Lime Grove, 2007 (BISC) (*precise location unknown*)
- 10 of 38: Northwest Foundation, looking south, 2012 (BISC)
- 11 of 38: Northwest Foundation, looking northwest to southeast corner of foundation, 2012 (BISC)
- 12 of 38: Northwest Foundation, interior space of foundation showing ruins of former machinery, likely a generator, 2012 (BISC)
- 13 of 38: Porgy Key Lime Grove Rock Mounds, , situated on the east side of the upland hammock approximately 100 yards south of the Northwest Foundation, 2012 (TJC)
- 14 of 38: Porgy Key Lime Grove Rock Mounds, , situated on the east side of the upland hammock approximately 100 yards south of the Northwest Foundation, 2012 (TJC)
- 15 of 38: Caretaker's House, view of northeast corner of structure footprint, 2012 (TJC)
- 16 of 38: Caretaker's House, 2010 (BISC)
- 17 of 38: Stone Berm, looking northeast, 2010 (BISC)
- 18 of 38: Dump, situated in trash dump east of Cistern, 2012 (TJC)
- 19 of 38: Dump, situated in trash dump east of Cistern, 2012 (TJC)

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20 of 38: Porgy Key panorama view to southwest, 2013 (BISC)

Images from Totten Key

21 of 38: Totten Key panorama view to southeast from northwest end of canal, 2013 (BISC)

22 of 38: Hand Dug Canal, image from Google Earth 2012

23 of 38: Hand Dug Canal, view looking south, 2010 (BISC)

24 of 38: Totten Key Lime Grove, Close-up of fruit 2011 (BISC)

25 of 38: Fordson Model F Tractor, view of front of tractor, looking north, 2011 (BISC)

26 of 38: Fordson Model F Tractor, view of rear of tractor with trailer, looking south, 2011 (BISC)

27 of 38: Farmhouse/Packing House, wood beam from former foundation, looking southwest, 2011 (BISC)

28 of 38: Farmhouse/Packing House, detail of concrete foundation and wood beam, northwest corner of structure, 2010 (BISC)

29 of 38: Farmhouse/Packing House Dump Area, remnants of former drum, 2011 (BISC)

30 of 38: Farmhouse/Packing House Dump Area, remnants of former drum, 2011 (BISC)

31 of 38: Water Tank 1, view looking north, 2011 (BISC)

32 of 38: Water Tank 1, view looking northeast, 2011 (BISC)

33 of 38: Water Tank 2, detail of remnant of tank, 2011 (BISC)

34 of 38: Water Tank 2, detail of remnant of tank, 2011 (BISC)

35 of 38: Drum Dump, Drum #6, 2011 (BISC)

36 of 38: Drum Dump, Drum #1 with Vermoral knapsack pesticide applicators inside the drum, 2011 (BISC)

37 of 38: Totten Key Lime Grove Rock Mounds, located on west side of roadway/rail bed trace, 2012 (TJC)

38 of 38: Totten Key Lime Grove Rock Mounds, located on west side of roadway/rail bed trace, 2012 (TJC)

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Jones Family Historic District
Name of Property

Dade County - Florida
County and State

name National Park Service
street & number 1201 Eye Street, NW telephone 202.354.2222
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20005

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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Jones House, Porgy Key with Lancelot, circa 1970. Source: Biscayne National Park Archives.

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National Park Service**

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Jones House, 1970. Source: Biscayne National Park Archives.

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Jones House, Date Unknown. Source: Biscayne National Park Archives.

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National Park Service

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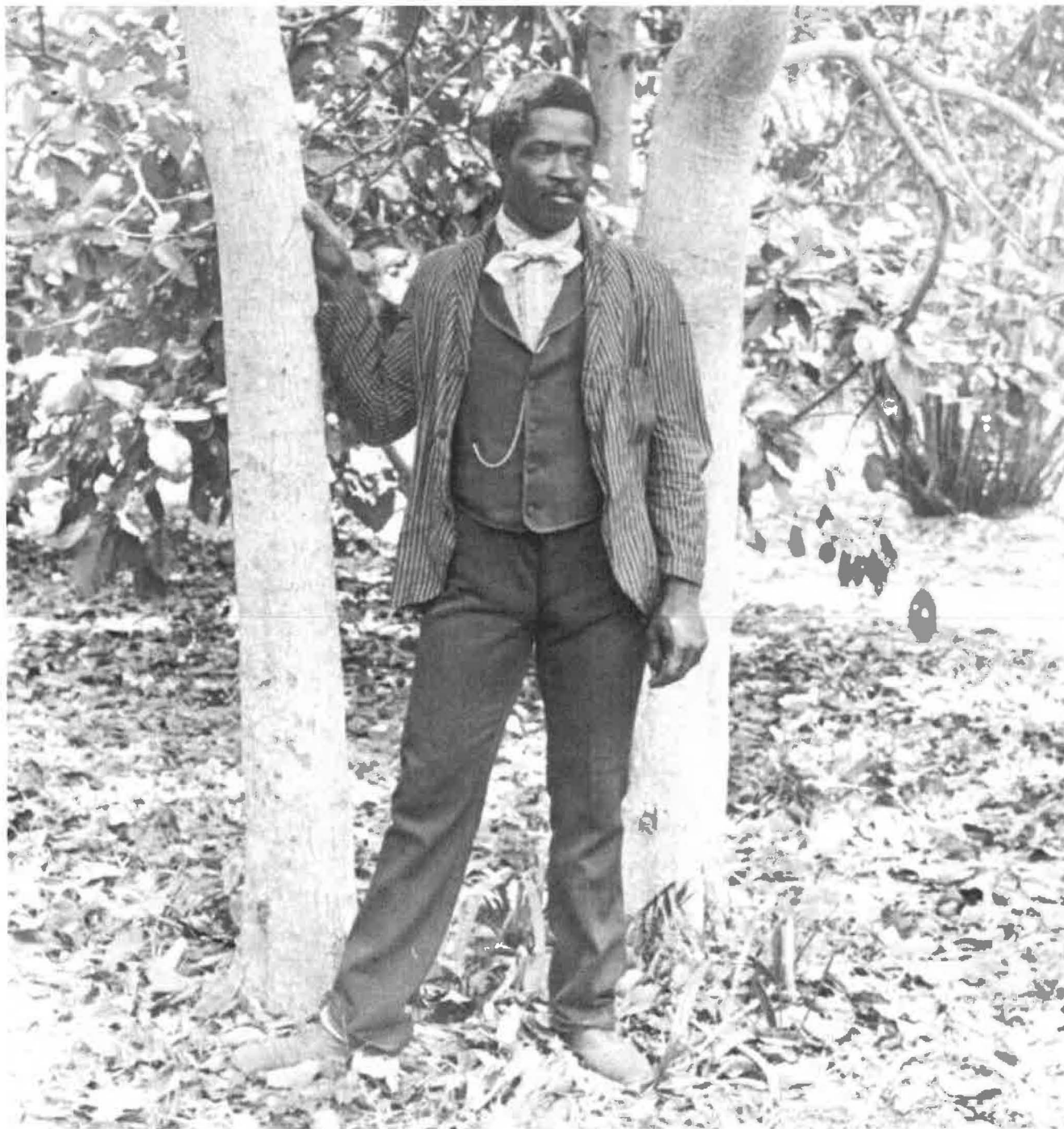
Jones Family Historic District

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Israel Jones, Date Unknown. Source: Biscayne National Park Archives.

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Mozelle and Israel Jones, Date Unknown. Source: Biscayne National Park Archives.

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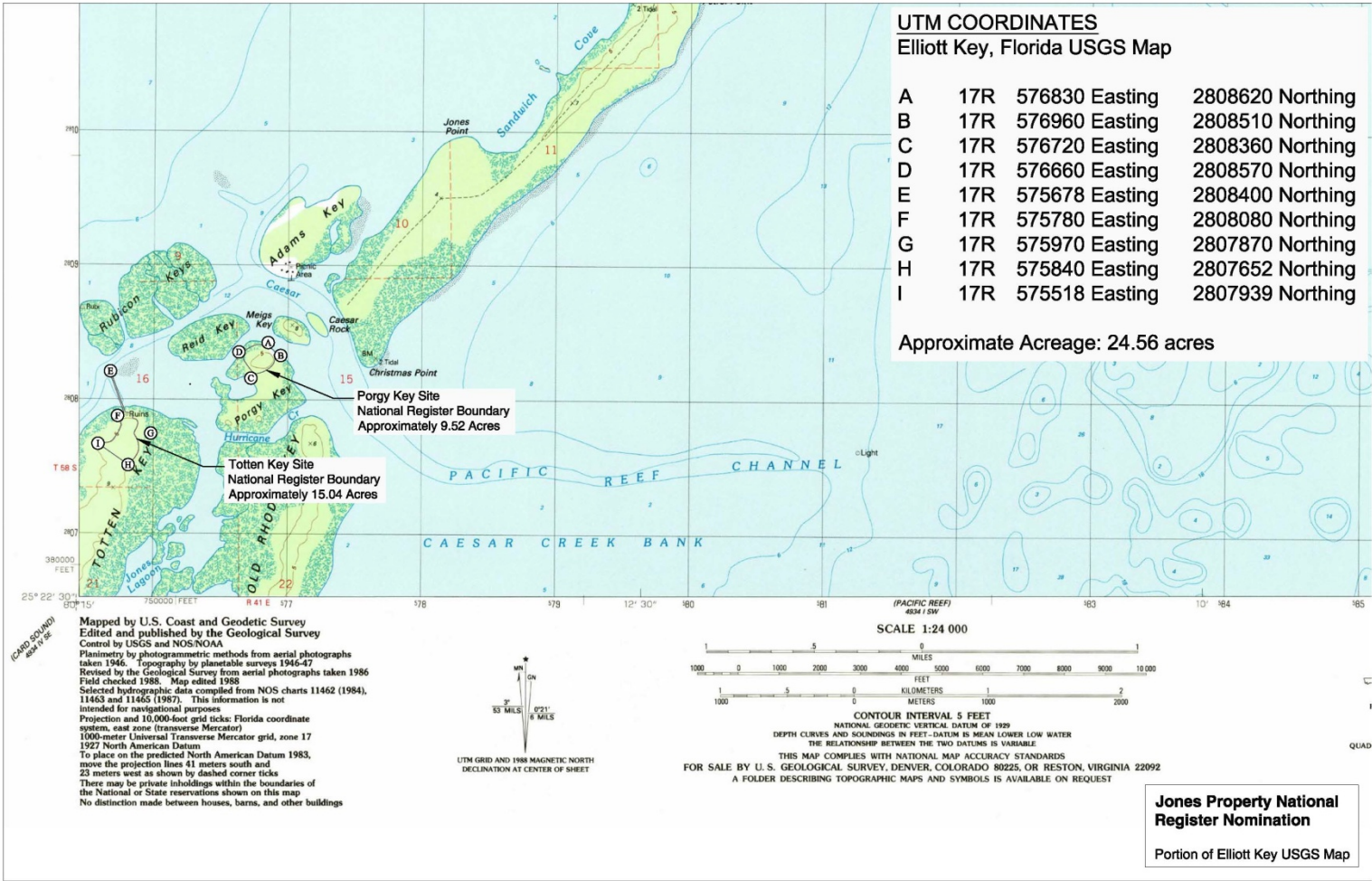


Jones Family, Date Unknown. Source: Biscayne National Park Archives.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Jones Family Historic District
Name of Property
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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

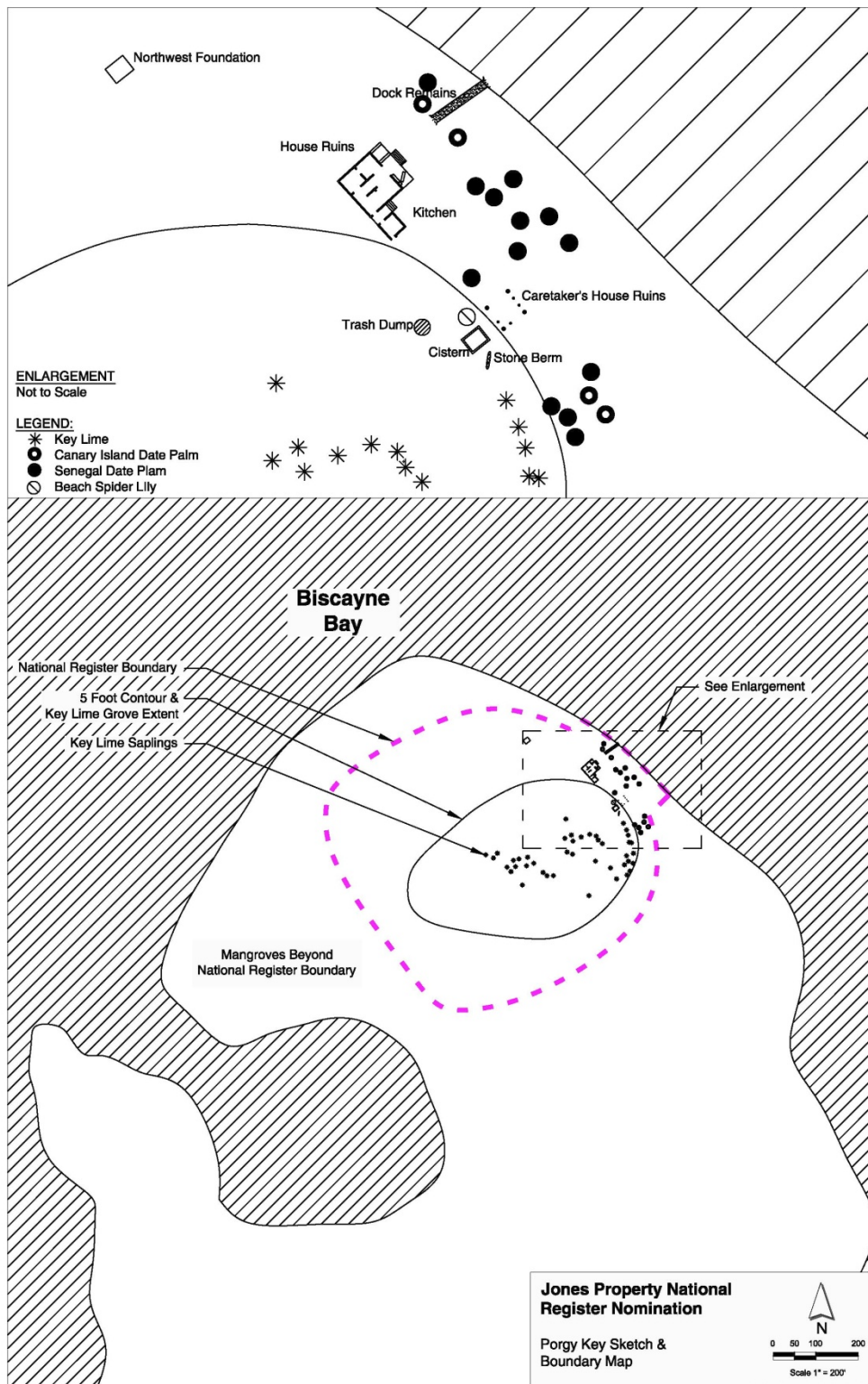
Jones Family Historic District

Name of Property

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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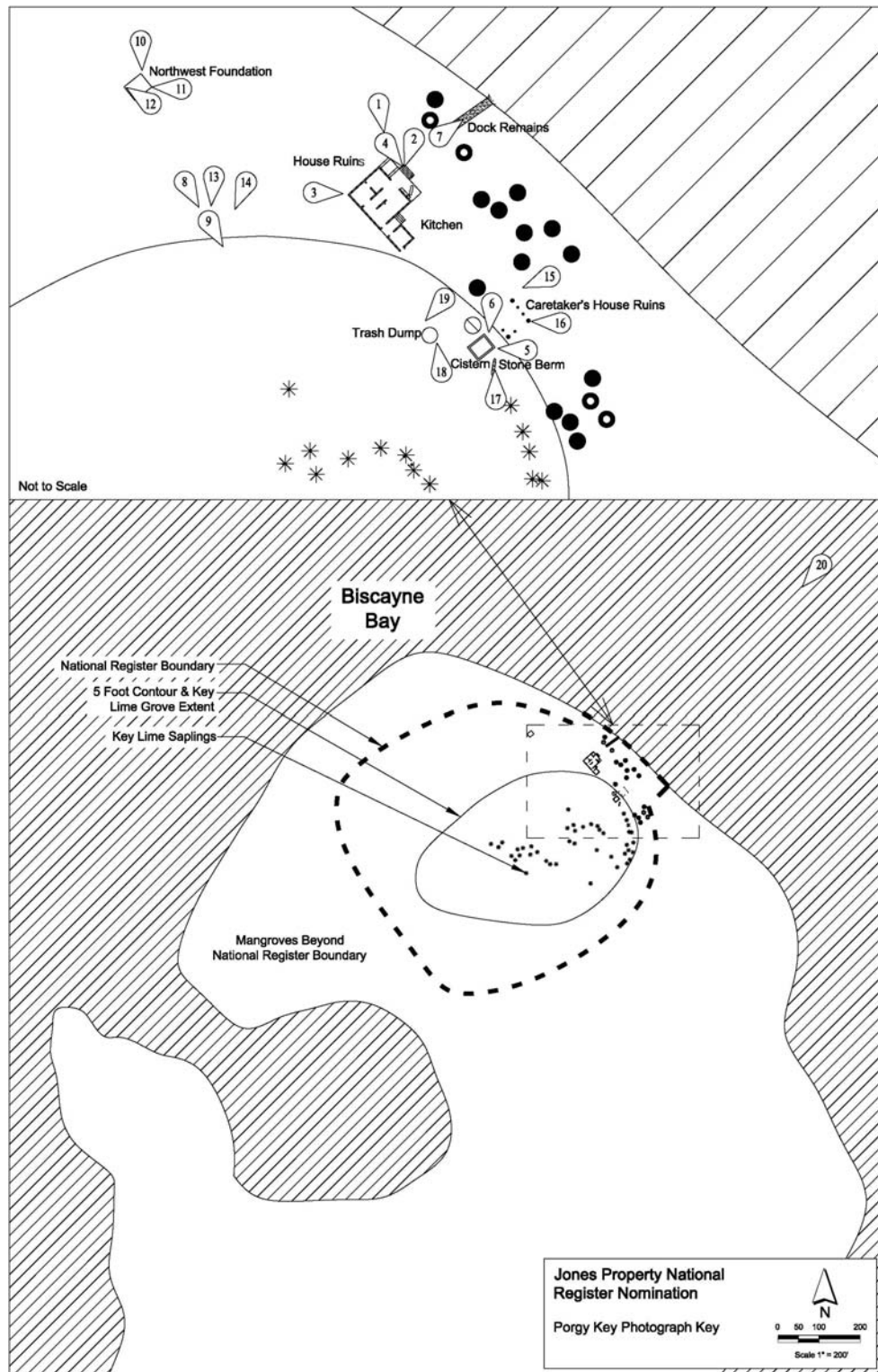
Jones Family Historic District

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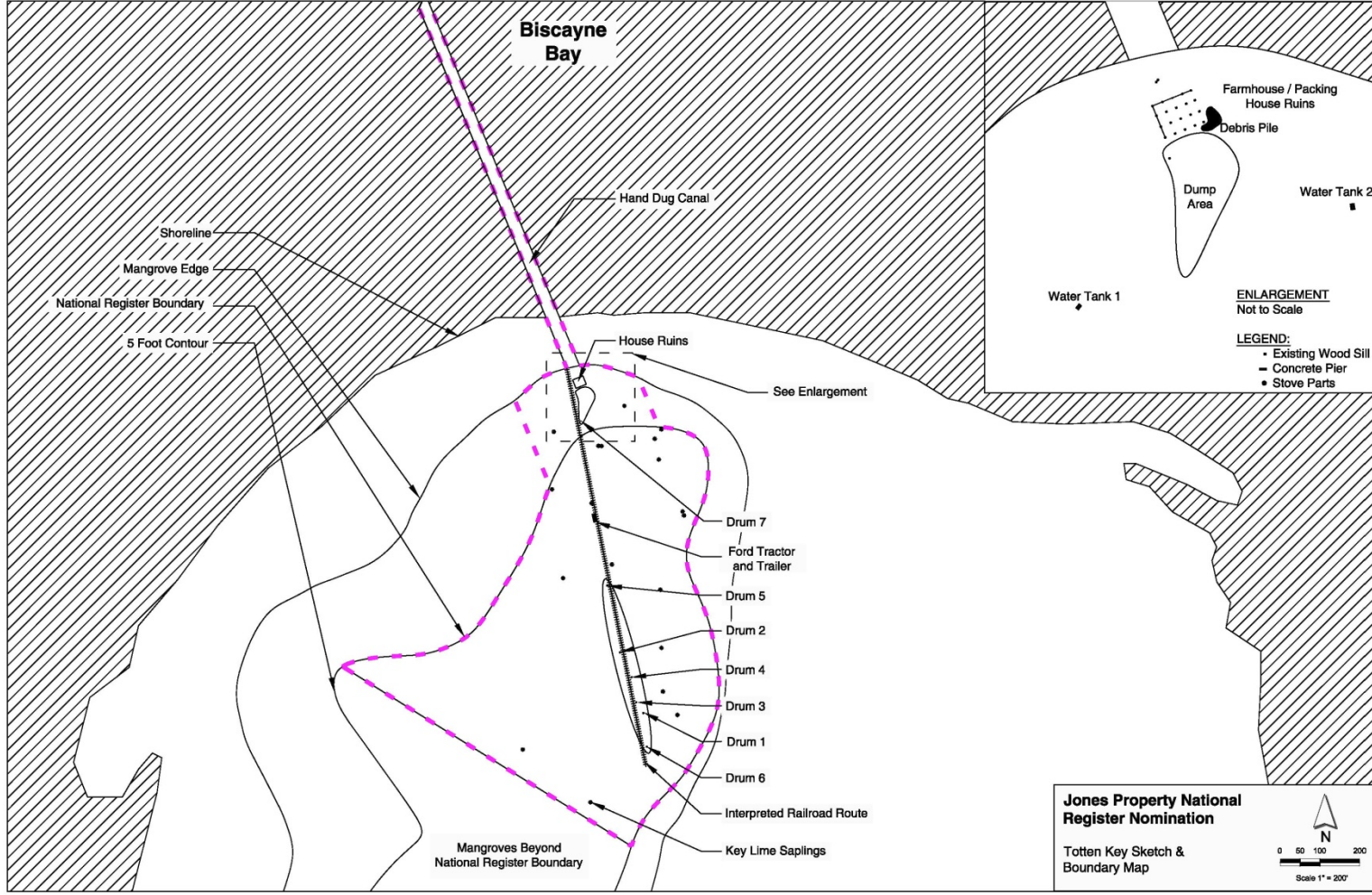
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

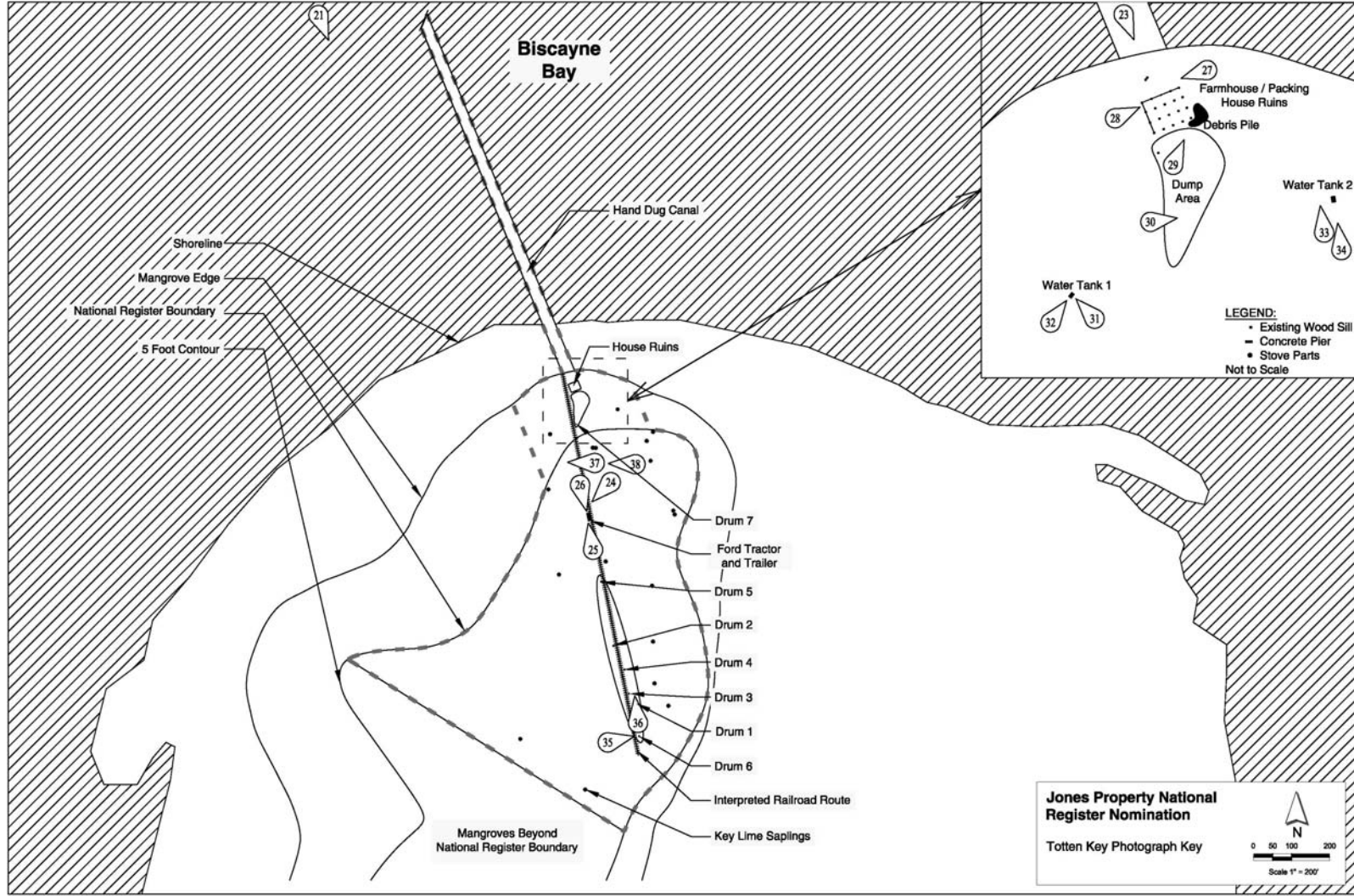
Jones Family Historic District

Name of Property

Dade County - Florida

County and State

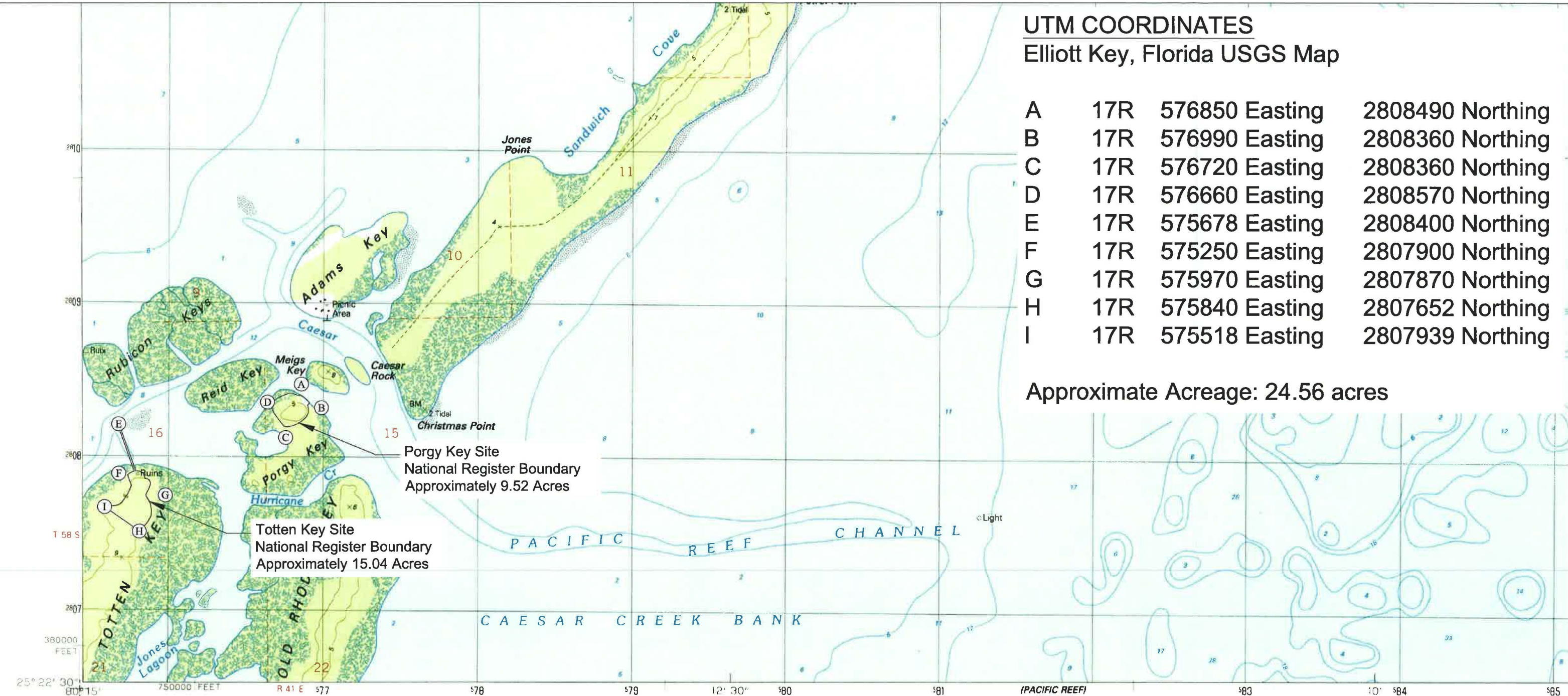
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



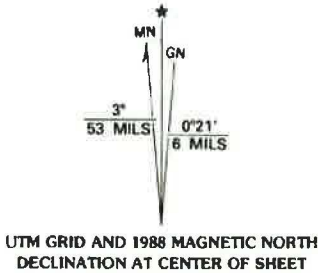
UTM COORDINATES
Elliott Key, Florida USGS Map

A	17R	576850 Easting	2808490 Northing
B	17R	576990 Easting	2808360 Northing
C	17R	576720 Easting	2808360 Northing
D	17R	576660 Easting	2808570 Northing
E	17R	575678 Easting	2808400 Northing
F	17R	575250 Easting	2807900 Northing
G	17R	575970 Easting	2807870 Northing
H	17R	575840 Easting	2807652 Northing
I	17R	575518 Easting	2807939 Northing

Approximate Acreage: 24.56 acres

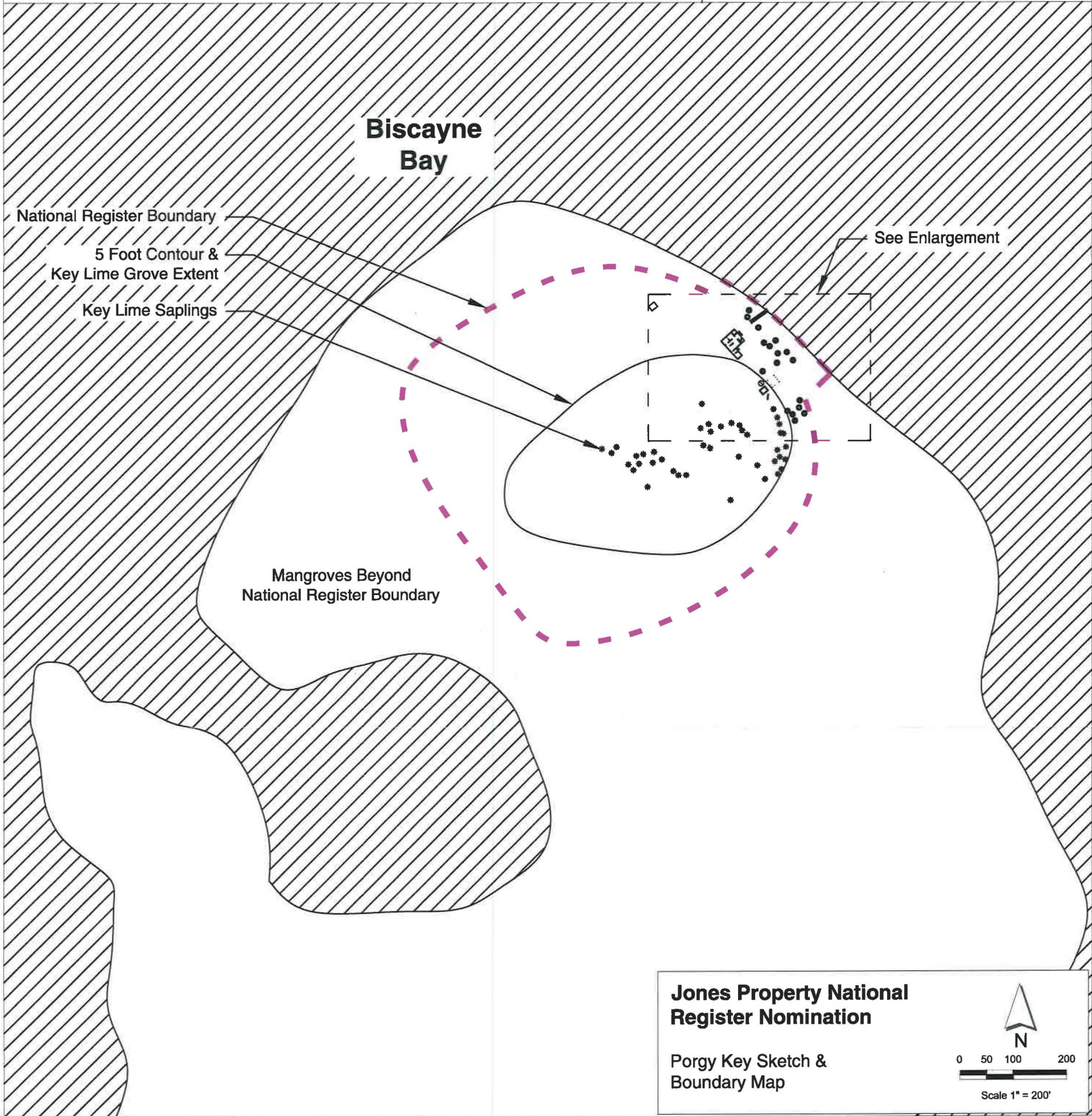
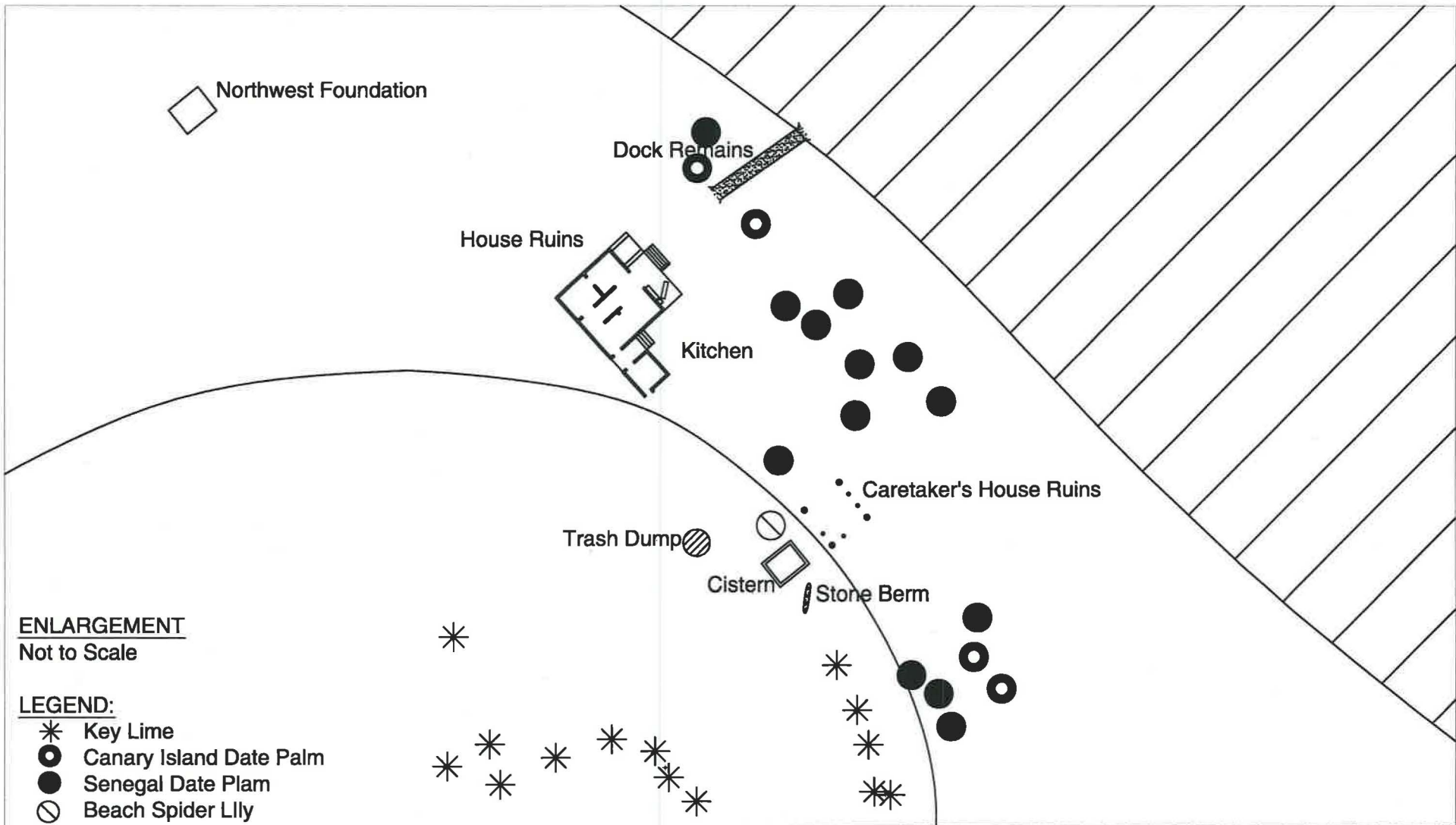


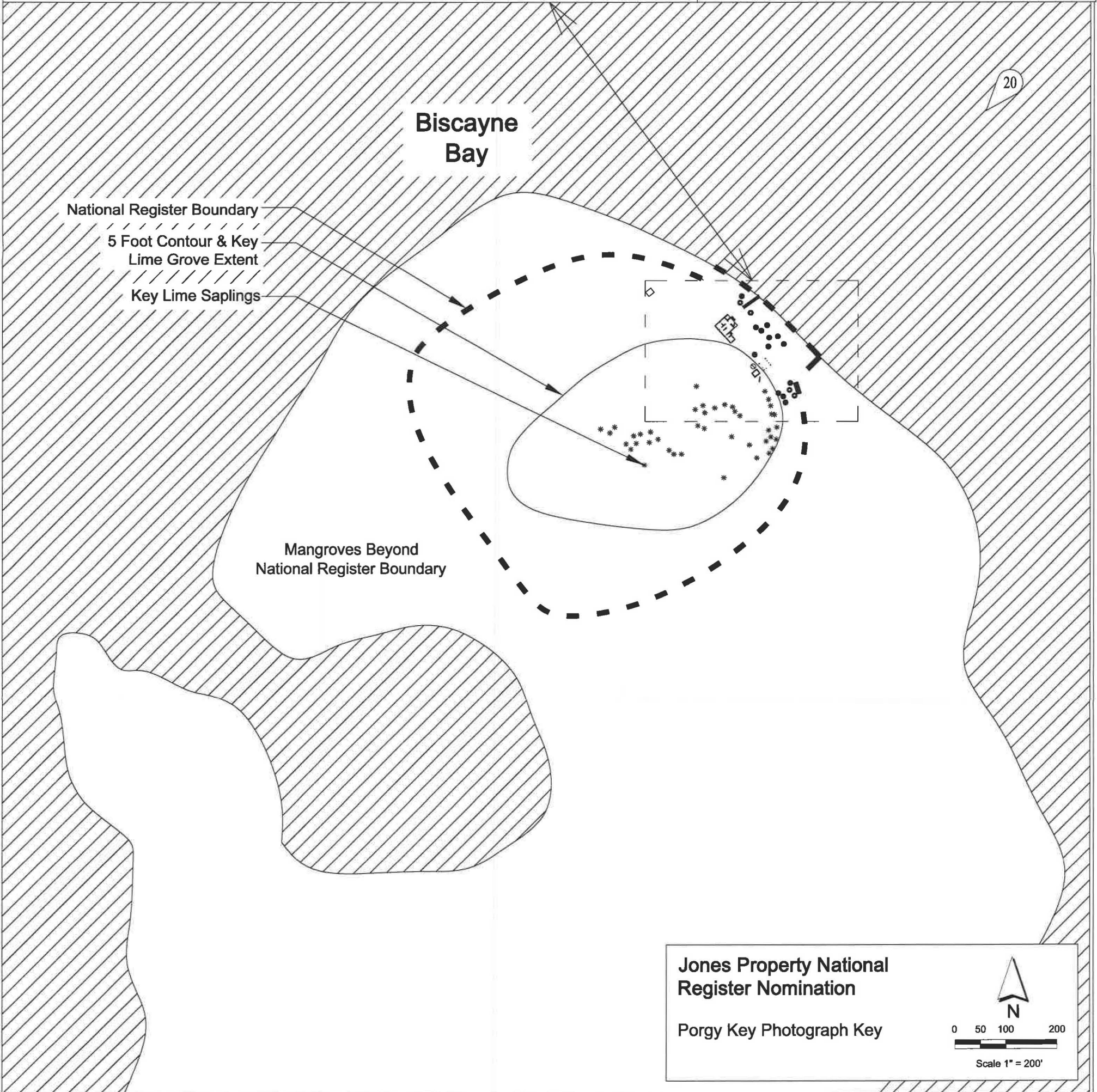
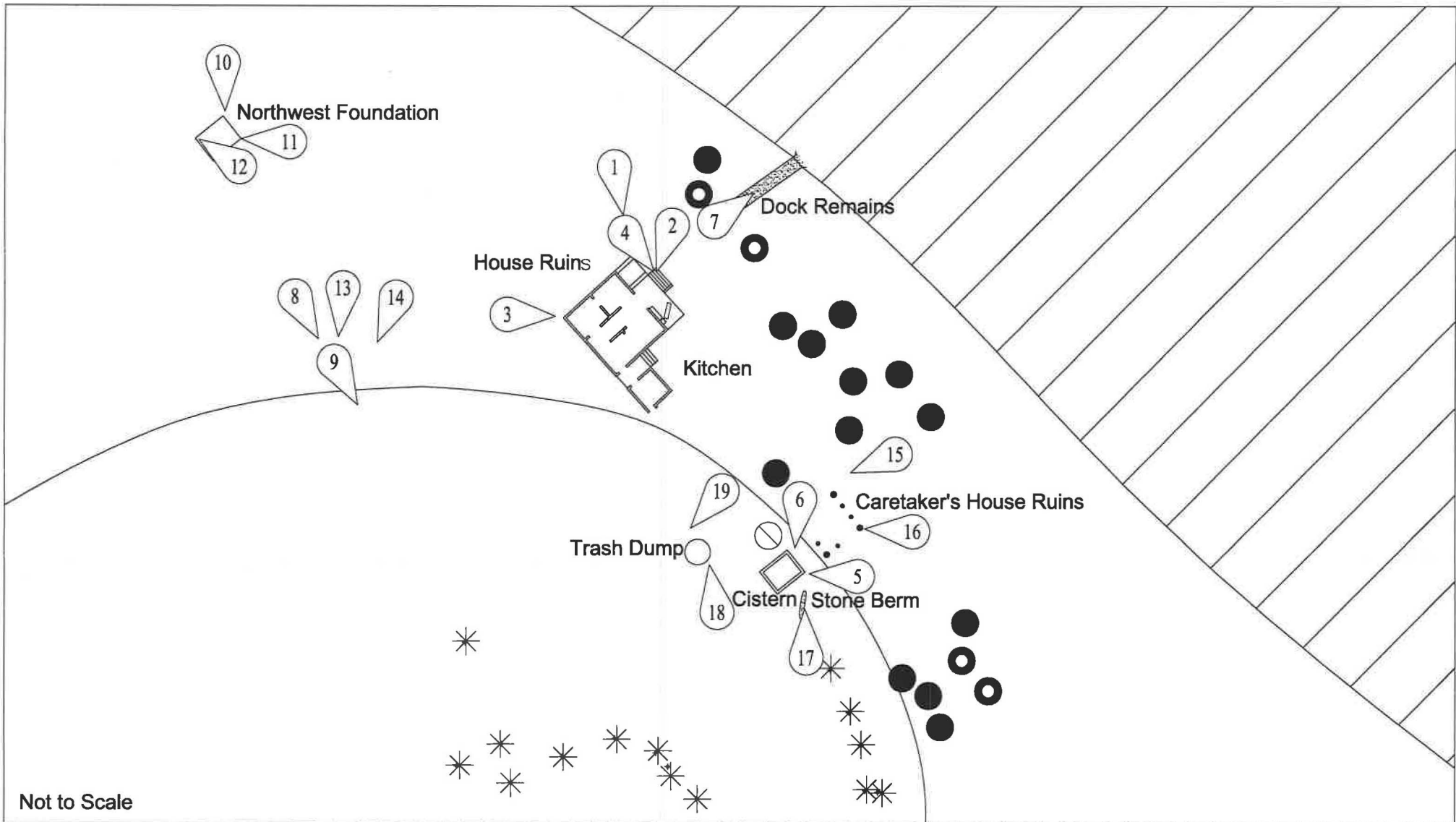
Mapped by U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1946. Topography by planetable surveys 1946-47
Revised by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1986
Field checked 1988. Map edited 1988
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 11462 (1984), 11463 and 11465 (1987). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Florida coordinate system, east zone (transverse Mercator)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 17
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 41 meters south and 23 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map
No distinction made between houses, barns, and other buildings

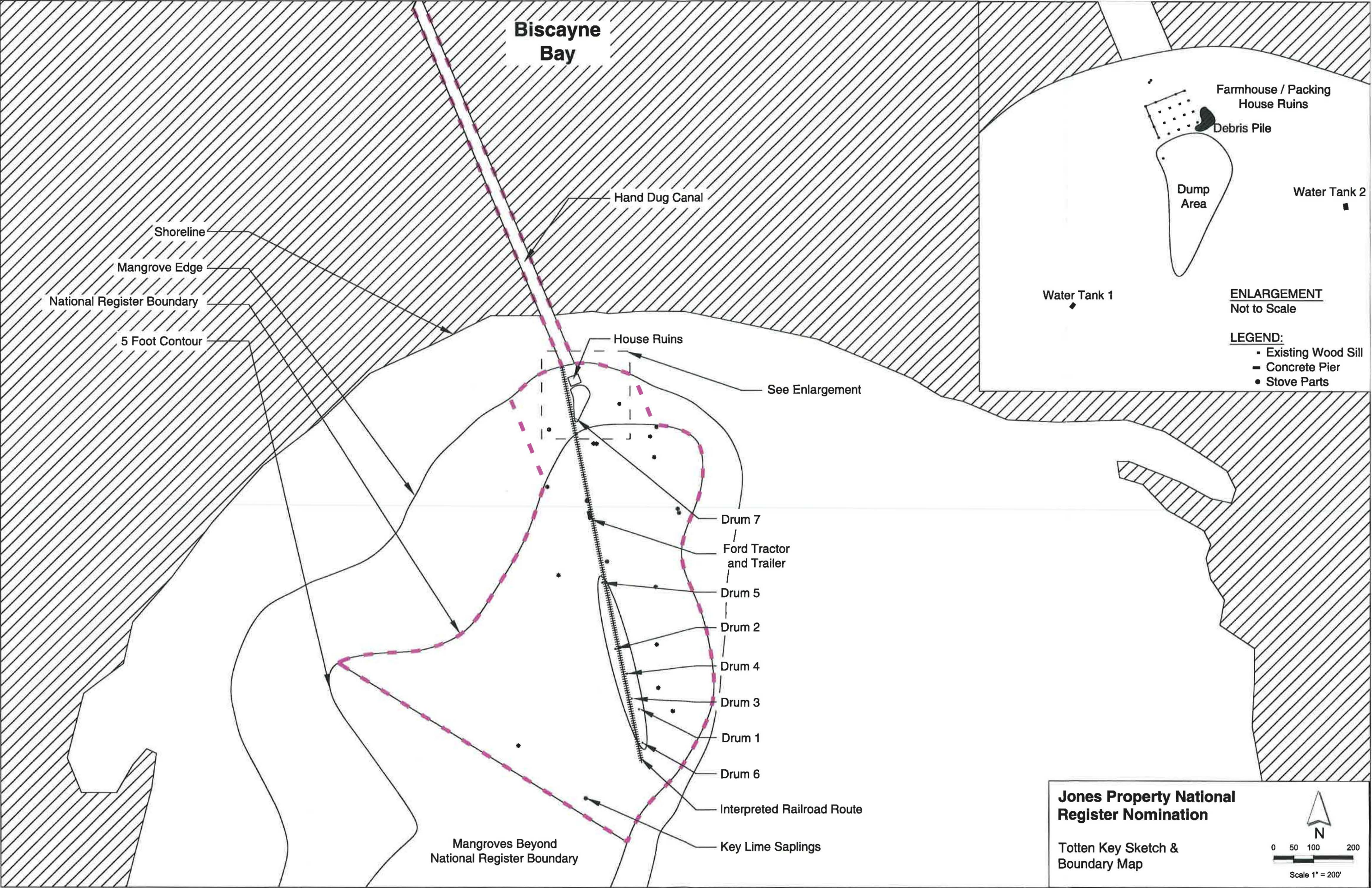


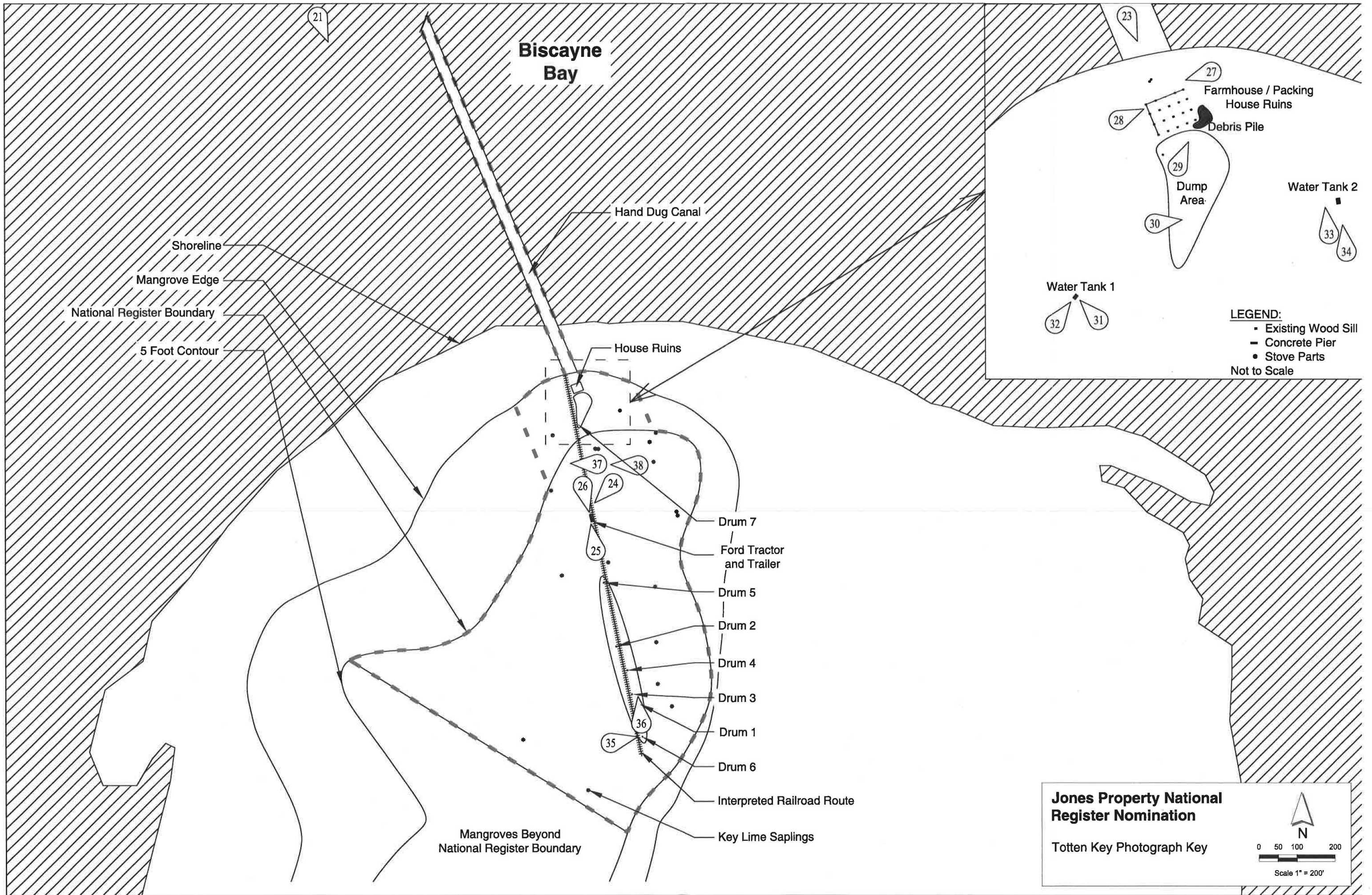
SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET-DATUM IS MEAN LOWER LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

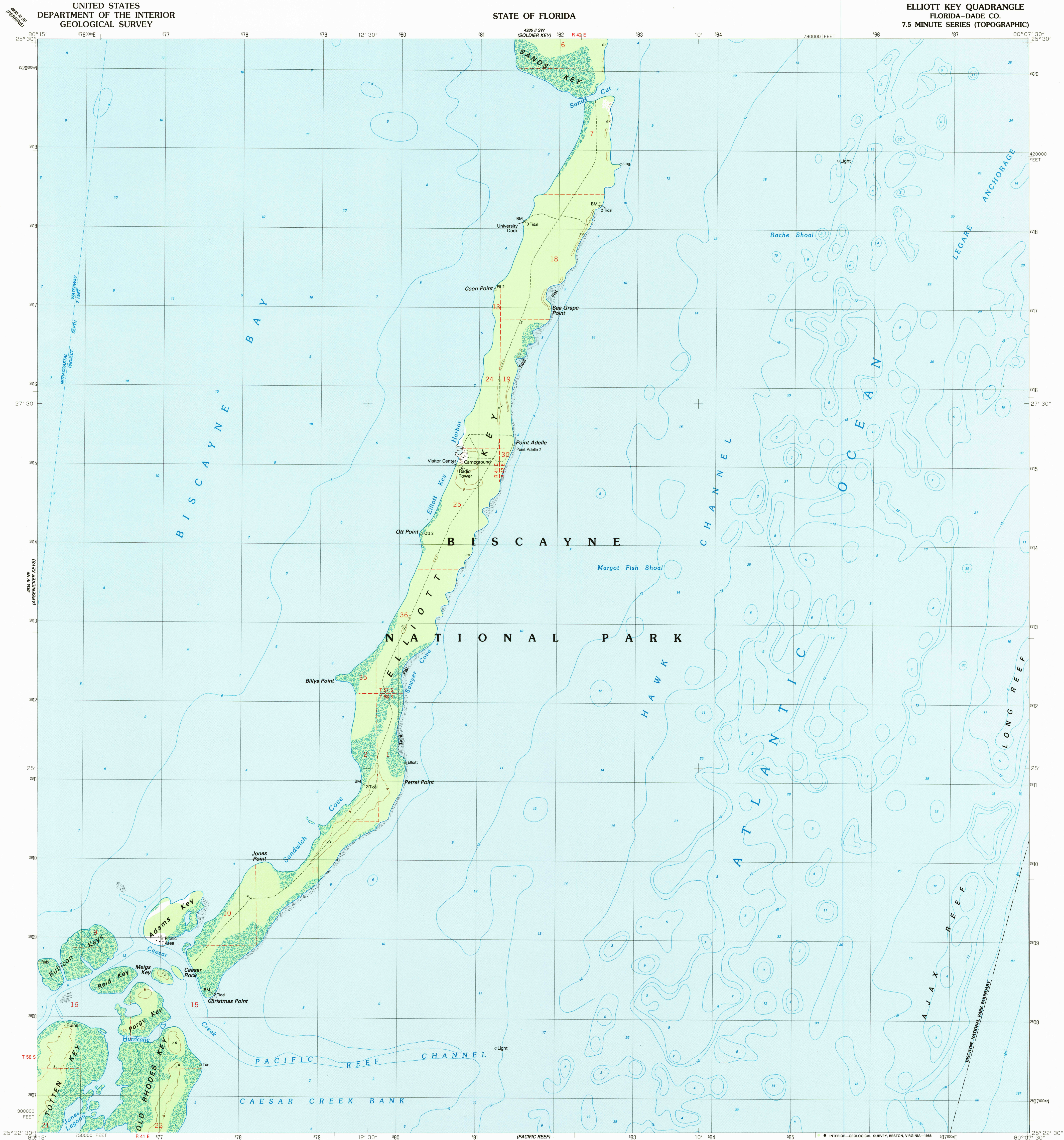
Jones Property National
Register Nomination
Portion of Elliott Key USGS Map



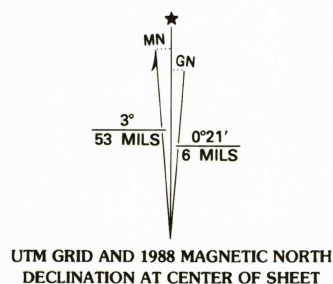








Mapped by U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey
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No distinction made between houses, barns, and other buildings



SCALE 1:24 000
1 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10 000
MILES
1 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10 000
FEET
1 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10 000
METERS
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
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ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Trails
ELLIOTT KEY, FLA.
25080-D2-TF-024
1988
DMA 4934 I NW-SERIES V487

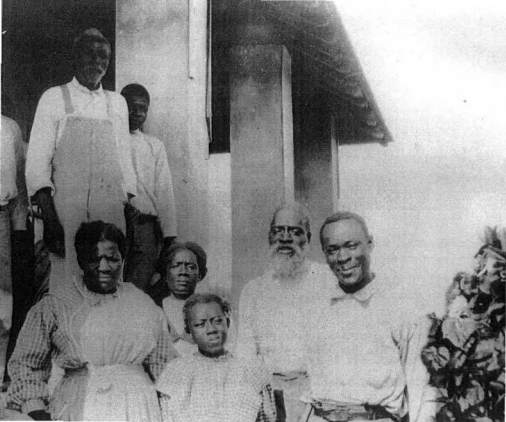
















Please do not walk on ruins
Favor de no
caminar en las ruinas
National Park Service



THE JONES FAMILY HOMESITE

Porgy Key was purchased by Israel Lafayette "Parson" Jones on July 7, 1897, and continuously occupied by the Jones family from 1902 until August 23, 1992. This foundation represents the remains of the two story, four bedroom home built in 1912 and destroyed by fire in 1982.

The Jones family farmed pineapples on Porgy Key and on nearby Totten Key, which was purchased in 1916. They also owned property on Old Rhodes Key. Over 250 acres were owned by the family. Pineapples were taken by boat to Key West for sale. After the hurricane of 1906 destroyed the pineapples, the family became one of the largest key lime producers in Florida prior to World War II. The family was completely self sufficient. Rain provided the necessary fresh water and was stored in the cistern under the kitchen. What food and materials the sea did not provide were brought by boat from the mainland.

Israel came from Raleigh, North Carolina, in the 1890's and worked on Key Biscayne before moving to Porgy Key. He died September 29, 1982, in his late 70's. His wife, Mozelle Albury Jones, came from Harbour Island, Bahamas, and was head cook at the Peacock Inn in Coconut Grove before moving to Porgy Key. She died circa 1925 in her 50's.

Two sons, Arthur, born in 1897, and Lancelot, born on Key Biscayne on October 2, 1898, became fishing guides after World War II. They guided numerous visitors to South Florida, including Herbert Hoover, Lyndon Johnson, and Richard Nixon. Arthur died February 22, 1966. He served in the Navy in World War I and the Army in World War II. Lancelot continued to live alone on the island until forced to leave, at the age of 94, by Hurricane Andrew in 1992. For the second time his home, then located to the east of this foundation, was totally destroyed.

Lancelot was well known to area boaters as the "Philosopher of Porgy Key". He would welcome all who stopped at his dock with his sponge lectures, his recollections of local history, and comments on current events. After formation of Biscayne National Park, he continued to share his knowledge with school children at the Environmental Education Center located on Adams Key.

When the Joneses, a black family, bought Porgy Key, Dade County had fewer than 5,000 residents. When they left there were almost two million.

Placed by friends of the Jones family.
1993

















































11-17-11
DUMP 1 BSC - 04





11-17-11 BISC -104
DUMP 1

211111



11-17-11 BSC-104
WATER TANK



11-17-11 BISC-104
WATER TANK



11-17-11 BISC-104
WATER TANK 2



11-17-11 BISC-104
WATER TANK 2



11-17-11 BISC - 104
DRUM 6



11-17-11 BISC-104
DRUM 1





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Jones Family Historic District

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Dade

DATE RECEIVED: 9/06/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/26/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/11/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/23/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000846

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 10.23.13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240



September 6, 2013

Memorandum

To: Acting Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

From: Deputy Federal Preservation Officer, National Park Service *Rewth Man*

Subject: Jones Family Historic District nomination, Biscayne National Park

I am forwarding the National Register nomination form for the Jones Family Historic District in Biscayne National Park. The Park History program has reviewed the nomination and found that the district is eligible at the local level of significance under criteria A and D, with the areas of significance of Conservation, Exploration and Settlement, and Archeology: Historic Non-Aboriginal.

Page	Line #	Comment	Reviewer	Response
global		Replace “Porky” with “Porgy”	Lawson	Corrected
3	1 of Summary paragraph	Add a sentence: “The district includes the former home and farm of Israel Lafayette Jones and his family.”	Lawson	Corrected Inserted as second sentence.
3	1 of Summary paragraph	Add “(now unincorporated)” in front of “city of Islandia,” and add “a municipality that was”	Lawson	Corrected
3	2 nd paragraph	Jones was not introduced to the readers...which Jones family member grew fruits and vegetables?	Walton	Corrected Inserted Israel
3	para 4, line 1	“...two contributing resources comprised <u>on the sites of...</u> ” should be “ <u>comprised of the sites of</u> ”...	WASO-NR	Corrected
11	In table	Totten Key Lime Grove does not have an LCS number, delete 040759 and replace with “none.” Sorry this was my mistake, I had a typo in the table I sent—Cynthia	Lawson	Corrected
13		Criteria Considerations: The second sentence is missing a word or something? “This exception due...”		Corrected Inserted “is”
22		Editing is needed: <i>With “the incorporation of the City of Islandia in December 1960, which included Elliott Key Park, other publicly owned property and 385 tracts owned by 346 individuals [this is a sentence fragment. Was the quote truncated? If so, please insert ellipses where appropriate to indicate the truncation]. Proposals for causeways, deep water channels, real estate and industrial developments” posed immediate threats to this natural area which included Porgy Key and Totten Key. Starting in 1961 and continuing throughout the sixties, a harsh political battle ensued between investors who incorporated the city with the hope</i>	WASO-NR	Corrected. The first two sentences were combined and the original third sentence noted that the battle was between investors and conservationists.

		<i>to develop the islands. [between investors and who else? Sentence doesn't seem to have been finished].</i>		
22		Last paragraph first sentence: Replace “Joneses” with Jones’	Walton	Corrected
	Photos	Remember that the official NR Photographs cannot be submitted in a word file. They will need to be printed (see NR photo policy online for guidance).	Walton	Hard copies of photographs included with this final submittal
28	Photo 1 caption	Change southeast to “northernmost”	Lawson	Corrected
28	Photo 2 caption	Change northeast to “southwest”	Lawson	Corrected
28	Photo 3 caption	Change northwest to “southernmost”	Lawson	Corrected
29	Photo 20 caption	Change SE to “southwest” This error is also in the caption of the actual photo. That caption should read “view of the Porgy Key homesite from the water” (not Porky)	Lawson	Caption corrected.
29	Photo 21 caption	Did not use direction abbreviations elsewhere in document, so change SE and NW to “southeast” and “northwest”. Also edit the associated photosheet caption.	Lawson	Corrected
31	Photo on continuation sheet	This is a reversed image (backward slide scan), and is the exact same picture displayed on page 33. Remove the page 31 image.	Lawson	Page 31 image deleted and image on 33 moved to 31
36		Make photo a little smaller so that caption can fit on same page	Walton	Corrected
Porgy Key Photo graph Key map		Photo number 20 (the panoramic shot of the island) was taken on the northeast side of the island (in the upper right quadrant of the map) pointing directly at the dock and homesite.	Lawson	Corrected
	Maps	understanding of boundary lines or status of resources should depend on color, because we cannot	WASO-NR	The boundary lines are shown as dashed lines and

		guarantee that photocopies would be made in color. They need to be understandable in black and white.		when printed in black and white can be understood, thus this was not changed.
Final page	Map	Wrong map in the review doc. We have two versions of the Totten Key boundary and sketch map but no version of the totten Key Photograph Key	Lawson	Corrected