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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Gamble Place Historic District

other names/site number 8 Vo 4387

2. Location

street & number 1819 Taylor Road N/A not for publication

city or town Port Orange N/A vicinity

state Florida code FL county Volusia code 127 zip code 32124

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Suzanne P. Walker/Deputy SHPO 5/19/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick Andrews

9/29/93

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5		buildings
	1	sites
5	1	structures
14		objects
25	2	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/Single Dwelling
- Agriculture/Citrus Packing House
- Domestic/Single Dwelling
- Recreation & Culture/Private

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Recreation & Culture/Museum
- Recreation & Culture/Museum
- Recreation & Culture/Museum
- Recreation & Culture/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- No Style/Wood Frame Vernacular
- Other/Chalet

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Masonry
- walls Wood
- roof Fiber Glass; Asbestos
- other Wood: Porch

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

~~Entertainment and Recreation~~
Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1907-1938

Significant Dates

1907

1938

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Johnson, Gus (builder, 1907)

Widmer, Ernest (builder, 1938)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 9 approximately

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	117	495560	3217720
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joyce E. Cusick/W. Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date September 14, 1993

street & number 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name The Nature Conservancy

street & number 2699 Lee Road, Suite 500 telephone (407) 628-5887

city or town Winter Park state Florida zip code 32789

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1GAMBLE PLACE HISTORIC DISTRICT
VOLUSIA CO., FL.Summary Paragraph

The Gamble Place Historic District is an approximately 10 acre tract of land, located on the upper reaches of Spruce Creek in rural Volusia County. The site is located approximately one mile west of the city of Port Orange, Florida. Contributing resources in the district, dating between 1907 and 1938, comprise 11 buildings and structures and 14 objects. One unexcavated historic archaeological site and the boat dock on Spruce Creek are the only noncontributing resources in the district. The property is partly wooded, giving a portion of the district a natural and undisturbed appearance. All of the buildings are of wood or wood frame and include a bungalow, a citrus packing house/barn, a well house, and a "fantasy" cottage whose Black Forest chalet design was styled on that of the dwarfs cottage in the 1937 animated motion picture "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." Other resources in the district associated with the "Snow White" theme include the two-story mining shaft tower cabin and a witch's hut made from an aged tree trunk. Also on the grounds are a rustic style gazebo, artesian well, and cut-out and concrete figures representing characters from the animated motion picture.

Supporting Narrative

Below is a summary of the contributing buildings, structures and objects found in the Gamble Place Historic District:

1. Gamble Bungalow, c. 1907, the main family residence, a one-story, wood frame vernacular building exhibiting some bungalow features and details.
2. Citrus Packing House/Barn, c. 1907, used for packing oranges and storing tools associated with citrus farming, also contains living quarters, and an office. A one-story, wood frame vernacular building, with a small Classical Revival style portico at the main entrance.
3. Well House, c. 1907, a wood frame vernacular outbuilding near Gamble Bungalow.
4. Cistern #1, c. 1907, a brick and mortar structure located near the well house, holds water from artesian well.
5. Cistern #2, c. 1907, a brick and mortar structure located near historic orange grove.

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VOLUSIA CO., FL.

6. Snow White Cottage, 1938, a wood frame, "Black Forest" style chalet, incorporating visual elements from the Walt Disney animated motion picture "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."
7. Dwarfs Mine Shaft/Tower Cabin, 1938, a wood frame fantasy structure continuing the Snow White theme.
8. Wicked Witch's Hut, 1938, a hollow dead cypress trunk, part of the Snow White complex.
9. Rustic Gazebo, 1938, one-story, open cypress limb construction, part of the Snow White complex.
10. Wishing Well & Spillway Pools, 1938, field stone structure associated with artesian well, part of Snow White complex.
11. Dwarfs Oven/Barbecue Pit, 1938, field stone structure associated with Snow White Cottage.
12. Cutouts, c. 1938, board cutouts (9) of Snow White, the Wicked Witch, and Seven Dwarfs, objects installed in the Snow White Cottage.
13. Concrete Dwarfs, c. 1938, five small, painted concrete dwarfs distributed outside in the vicinity of the Snow White Cottage.

Noncontributing Resources:

The noncontributing resources located in the district are the modern boat dock on Spruce Creek and the unexamined dump site. The dock appears to have been constructed on the site of the landing used by the Gamble family between c. 1898 and 1938. The archaeological site appears to be a late 19th-early 20th century dump site containing ceramics, glass, and other objects and refuse associated with the use of the property by the Gamble family and predecessors (George Leffman?). Since the site has not been examined and documented by a professional archaeologist, it has been listed as noncontributing for the purpose of this nomination. It may, however, provide valuable information about the use of the Gamble property in the future.

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VOLUSIA CO., FL.Pre-1907 Resources

Reports that a wood frame "shack" existed on the property when Gamble bought the land on Spruce Creek have not been verified by archaeological research, nor has evidence of any other pre-1907 structures been found at this time.

Below is a more detailed description of the major buildings located on the Gamble Place grounds.

Bungalow (1907)

The main residence on the Gamble Place is a one-story, wood frame vernacular structure exhibiting some details characteristic of the Bungalow style that was popular in the United States from c. 1903 to 1930. The irregular plan buildings has a steeply pitched, side gable roof and weatherboard siding. The house sits on masonry piers and the main facade faces Spruce Creek on the south. A one-story integrated porch extends the full width of house and connects with a breezeway on the west that separates the dining and kitchen area of the residence form the other rooms of the structure. The main rooms of the house consist of a master bedroom, an office (that doubled as a bedroom), and a large living room. The two bedrooms shared a single bathroom, and the fireplace in the living room was the sole source of heat for the house. Natural lighting for the residence is provided by 1/1 double hung, wood sash windows. The kitchen and dining areas found west of the breezeway include a service porch and a masonry water cistern with a water pump. A brick flue at the northwest corner of the kitchen served the cook stove.

Citrus Packing House/Barn (1907)

The 1907 citrus packing house is a wood frame vernacular building with a gable roof and weatherboard siding. The L-shaped structure is distinguished by a one-story "portico" at the northeast corner of the packing house. This small structure has a gable roof and is supported by square posts. The doorway sheltered by this small porch give access to sparse living quarters consisting of a living room, bedroom, bath and kitchen area, all of which is confined to the north half of the building. The south half of the building contains the barn, or packing house, and an open area covered by a shed roof to shelter a wagon or some other vehicle. Access to the storage/packing area is gained by wood double doors located in the south elevation of the

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VOLUSIA CO., FL.

building. The room contains a variety of implements associated with maintenance of the orange grove.

Snow White Cottage (1938)

The Snow White Cottage is a one-story, L-shaped log structures with a gable roof that rests on a continuous field stone foundation. Notable features of the exterior include a massive field stone chimney that rises above the house at the juncture of the ell and a small, one-story screened porch. Gothic style openings frame the doorways. The large door of the main entrance has strap iron hinges. The interior of the house is paneled throughout with pecky cypress. The interior of the house contains a large living room, bedroom, bath, kitchen, and dining room. The large field stone double fireplace serves both the living room and bedroom. A stairway in the living room leads to a loft that was the sleeping quarters of the dwarfs where the footboards of the dwarfs' beds are found, each inscribed with the name of its owner. Throughout the interior of the chalet are details executed in the Gothic style or that recall the cottage in the motion picture. These include light fixtures and other hardware, door frames, stair railings, and other items. Unfortunately, the darkness of the interior made it impossible to obtain clear photographs of these details.

Alterations

The structures in the Gamble Place Historic District have had few alterations. The only substantial change has been to replace the roofing materials of the bungalow and Snow White Cottage with fiberglass shingles, because of their durability. The appearance of this material, however, is similar to that which the fiberglass replaced. The packing house still has the asbestos shingles which were applied to the roof at an unknown date.

Conclusion

The Gamble Place and the surrounding Spruce Creek preserve is a scenic combination of Florida's rich natural environment and unique historic past. The 150 acre preserve (which includes the district) was a gift to the Nature Conservancy made in 1893 by Louise and Louis Nippert, Gamble family descendents. In 1988, the Conservancy entered into an inter-agency agreement with the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona, Florida, to manage the property and its historic resources and to develop the preserve

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**GAMBLE PLACE HISTORIC DISTRICT
VOLUSIA CO., FL.**

as an interpretive center for environmental and historic public education. Through support money from the Junior League of Daytona Beach, the Gamble House and other significant structures have been restored to their original turn of the century splendor. The historic grounds are now available for the enjoyment of the public.

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Photographs

List of Photographs

1. Gamble Bungalow, Gamble Place Historic District
2. Vicinity of Port Orange (Volusia County), Florida
3. Joyce E. Cusick
4. 1992
5. Museum of Arts and Sciences
6. East Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo No. 1 of 37

The name of the district and items 2-5 are the same for all the following entries unless otherwise indicated.

1. Gamble Bungalow
6. South Facade & East Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 2 of 37

1. Gamble Bungalow
6. South Facade, Looking North
7. Photo No. 3 of 37

1. Gamble Bungalow
6. West Elevation & South Facade, Looking Northeast
7. Photo No. 4 of 37

1. Gamble Bungalow
6. West & North Elevations, Looking Southeast
7. Photo No. 5 of 37

1. Gamble Bungalow
6. Interior, Breezeway, Looking South
7. Photo No. 6 of 37

1. Gamble Bungalow
6. Interior, Parlor, Looking Southwest
7. Photo No. 7 of 37

1. Gamble Bungalow
6. Interior, Parlor, Looking East
7. Photo No. 8 of 37

1. Gamble Bungalow
6. Interior, Kitchen, Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 9 of 37

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Photographs

-
1. Gamble Bungalow
 6. Interior, Dining Room, Looking Southwest
 7. Photo No. 10 of 37

 1. Gamble Bungalow
 6. Interior, Dining Room, Looking Northeast
 7. Photo No. 11 of 37

 1. Gamble Bungalow
 6. Front Porch, Looking Southwest
 7. Photo No. 12 of 37

 1. Well House
 6. North and West Elevations, Looking South
 7. Photo No. 13 of 37

 1. Cistern
 6. (Near Well House), Looking South
 7. Photo No. 14 of 37

 1. Gamble Bungalow
 3. Unknown
 4. c. 1920 (copy)
 6. South Facade, Looking North
 7. Photo No. 15 of 37

 1. James N. Gamble with Guests at Bungalow
 3. Unknown
 4. Unknown
 6. South Facade, Looking North
 7. Photo No. 16 of 37

 1. Citrus Packing House
 6. East Elevation, Looking Northwest
 7. Photo No. 17 of 37

 1. Citrus Packing House
 6. South Elevation, Looking North
 7. Photo No. 18 of 37

 1. Citrus Packing House
 6. Interior, Looking Southwest
 7. Photo No. 19 of 37

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Photographs

1. Citrus Packing House
6. Interior, Looking West
7. Photo No. 20 of 37

1. Citrus Packing House
6. Interior, Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 21 of 37

1. Citrus Packing House
6. Interior, Looking Northeast
7. Photo No. 22 of 37

1. Citrus Packing House
6. Interior Detail, Looking West
7. Photo No. 23 of 37

1. Citrus Packing House
6. Residence Interior, Looking West
7. Photo No. 24 of 37

1. Cistern Near Grove
6. Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 25 of 37

1. Snow White Cottage
6. Southwest Facade, Looking Northeast
7. Photo No. 26 of 37

1. Snow White Cottage
6. Northeast & Southeast Elevations (Porch),
Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 27 of 37

1. Wishing Well
6. Looking Northwest Toward Mine Shaft/Cabin Tower
7. Photo No. 28 of 37

1. Mine Shaft/Cabin Tower
6. North Elevation, Looking South
7. Photo No. 29 of 37

1. Witch's Hut
6. South Entrance, Looking North
7. Photo No. 30 of 37

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Photographs

1. Snow White Cottage
6. Southwest & Northwest Elevations, Looking Northeast
7. Photo No. 31 of 37

1. Snow White Cottage
6. Southwest & Northwest Elevations, Looking Northeast
7. Photo No. 32 of 37

1. Gazebo
6. Northeast Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo No. 33 of 37

1. Spruce Creek Boat Dock
6. Land Side, Looking Southwest
7. Photo No. 34 of 37

1. Fireplace & Patio
6. Looking West
7. Photo No. 35 of 37

1. Snow White Cottage
3. Unknown
4. c. 1939 (copy)
6. Main Facade, Looking Northeast
7. Photo No. 36 of 37

1. Snow White Cottage
3. Unknown
4. c. 1939 (copy)
6. Interior, Showing A.K. Nippert at Fireplace.
7. Photo No. 37 of 37

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Continuation SheetGAMBLE PLACE HISTORIC DISTRICT
VOLUSIA CO., FL.Section number 8 Page 1Summary

The Gamble Place Historic District is an important complex of buildings, structures, and objects that are significant on the state level under Criterion A in the area of Entertainment and Recreation, and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The property is important as the late nineteenth and early twentieth century winter retreat of James N. Gamble. The district contains buildings associated with citrus production as well as with the use of the property by Gamble and his family who resided there during the winter months of each year. These included the family residence and an assortment of other buildings and structures erected largely for their entertainment value. The landscaping of the property was also designed to reinforce the sense of fantasy, particularly those elements associated with the "Snow White" cottage erected in 1938.

Historical Context

One of the major trends in Florida's history after the Civil War was the development of winter resort communities. Seasonal visitors were attracted to interior towns, particularly in the pineland areas, by the mild climate, attractive natural setting, bountiful hunting and fishing, and, in some cases, healthful mineral springs. By the turn of the century, spurred by Henry Flagler's efforts to convert St. Augustine into the "Winter Newport" and changes in recreational interests, the focus was shifting to the coastal areas. However, as the twentieth century progressed, inland communities such as DeLand, Winter Park, Lakeland, and Lake Wales challenged such seaside resorts as Ormond Beach, Daytona Beach, Palm Beach, and Miami.

At the same time, many wealthy winter residents preferred a more secluded retreat in which to pursue personal interests and provide a variety of leisurely entertainment and recreation for close associates with similar tastes and interests. Such secluded seasonal residences, dotting the rural countryside throughout the state, also reflect the aesthetic tastes and avocational interests of their owners in a wide variety of architectural styles, utilitarian outbuildings, and landscaping features. In many cases, individual rural winter estates were developed as hunting and/or fishing retreats; in other instances, a widespread popular interest in the development of citrus culture led many of the state's winter residents to experiment,

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GAMBLE PLACE HISTORIC DISTRICT
VOLUSIA CO., FL.

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often with significant results, in this and other areas of agriculture. Often, the activities of landowners keenly interested in their avocational pursuits contributed significantly, through publication or the informal exchange of information, to advances in land and wildlife management, animal husbandry, and, especially in central Florida, citrus culture. But whatever the primary motives, these properties generally attained a highly individualistic character that reflected the personality, character, and even the personal whims of their owners.

The state's rapid development and population growth since World War II have engulfed many of these once rural properties in urban sprawl or industrial development. Of those that survive, few have retained the physical and architectural integrity of the Gamble Place.

James N. Gamble

James Norris Gamble (1836-1932) was the son of a founder of Procter and Gamble, and served for many years as president of the firm. A frequent winter visitor to the Daytona Beach area, he acquired land there in the 1890s and built a three story winter home. At about the same time, he discovered this western Port Orange land by way of Spruce Creek in the late 1890s. For a hunting and fishing enthusiast like Gamble, the place had much to offer. On April 6, 1898, Gamble purchased the 150 acre tract of land from George W. Leffman, who had recently acquired it from his brother Robert Leffman.

James Gamble was born in Cincinnati, Ohio to one of the city's prominent families. He received a master's degree in chemistry from Kenyon College, but seriously considered taking up the practice of law before his father persuaded him to join the family firm of Procter and Gamble in 1859. He learned the process of manufacturing soap and candles and used his background in chemistry to develop Ivory soap, which has been a widely recognized and popular consumer product for more than 100 years. The advertising campaign for the soap was based on its "purity" and its ability to float.

During the Civil War Gamble served as a captain in the Cincinnati Home Guards and commanded the Eighth Regiment of the Ohio Militia. In 1862, Gamble married Margaret Penrose of

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GAMBLE PLACE HISTORIC DISTRICT
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Inniskillen, Ireland, and adopted the daughters of Margaret's sister. He raised the daughters, Olivia and Maud, as his own children. Olivia never married, but Maud married Alfred K. Nippert in 1898. They had two sons, Louis and James.

When a fire destroyed the Procter & Gamble Factory in 1884, it was James N. Gamble who personally planned and supervised the construction of the company's new plant. The leadership of the Republican Party continually asked Gamble, a lifelong member, to run for office, but the only elected office Gamble ever held was mayor of the town of Westwood, Ohio, where the new manufacturing plant was located. Other businesses and interests in which he served as an officer or trustee included: the Cincinnati Southern Railroad, the University of Cincinnati, and the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners. Gamble also rose to the presidency of Procter & Gamble, a position which he held until his death in 1932.

Philanthropy played a large role in the lives of James N. Gamble and his family. The Gambles helped found Christ Hospital in Cincinnati in 1835 and donated the family home for use as the first hospital building. James N. Gamble endowed the Institute of Medical Research and contributed to many charities, including the Freedman's Bureau and the Mayo Clinic. His philanthropic activities in Florida included assistance to Mary McLeod Bethune in establishing a school for black girls in 1904. That institution eventually became Bethune-Cookman College.

Gamble Place

Around the turn of the century, Gamble built his hunting and fishing retreat, Gamble Place, and the adjacent orange packing house on Spruce Creek. His fondness for rustic and southern country architecture is reflected in the design of the main house. Adapting the then popular "bungalow" style, Gamble incorporated many vernacular Florida "cracker" architectural features into his overall design of the residence, including wide porches, an open breezeway that separates the kitchen from the rest of the house, a steeply-pitched roof, and paired windows that allowed cross ventilation. The final result was a more sophisticated version of the typical "cracker" rural house of the time that visually and physically integrates the outdoors and indoors.

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GAMBLE PLACE HISTORIC DISTRICT
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Gamble's primary reason for acquiring the Spruce Creek property was to use it as a rural winter retreat where his family and close friends and associates could enjoy outdoor sporting and recreational activities. Nevertheless, he continued to use the land for the cultivation of citrus. He not only continued to grow citrus in the grove planted by George Leffman after the disastrous freeze of 1894-95, but also experimented with the development of new varieties. Many varieties of citrus grown at Spruce Creek were introduced with the assistance of a horticulturist named Lou Gim Gong, who developed at least one new variety which bears his name. While some of the fruit produced at the Gamble Place was sent to family and friends in the north, a substantial portion of the annual crop was shipped to commercial markets.

The small citrus packing house on the property was erected about the same time James Gamble built his residence at Spruce Creek. Packing houses dating from this early period are rare in Florida, whatever the size. This structure, with its unusual Greek Revival style portico at the front doorway and its pine and cedar interiors and living quarters, adds immeasurably to the unique character of the Gamble Place. Fruit from the grove, including many exotic species of citrus, such as the Mandarin orange and the kumquat, were processed through this packing barn.

Among the unusual and distinctive structures found in the district is the "Rustic" style gazebo. Hand-constructed by local craftsmen using trees from the preserve, the gazebo was positioned on the low bluff overlooking Spruce Creek to take advantage of the view. It was used by Gamble and his family for relaxation and for entertaining their guests in comfort out of doors. Reportedly, ice cream socials and picnics were a common and delightful custom under the roof of the unusual Gamble gazebo.

James Gamble's fondness for flowering plants is evident in the hundreds of introduced azaleas which he planted along the garden paths. These plants have grown to magnificent proportions over the century. The annual bloom in February and March transforms the gardens into a spectacular array of color and beauty. Every hue and shape of azalea is present during the bloom.

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GAMBLE PLACE HISTORIC DISTRICT
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Although Gamble was already 70 years of age when the bungalow was erected, he was still a robust man and delighted in inviting his friends and business contemporaries to the retreat to hunt, fish, and enjoy the peace and quiet of the Florida countryside. Among the dignitaries that accepted Gamble's invitation were President Howard Taft and John D. Rockefeller. Visitors would usually be entertained at the larger Daytona Beach residence before setting out to spend the weekend or holiday at Spruce Creek. Guests were conveyed to the country home via Spruce Creek on Gamble's motor yacht, the Seabreeze. Gamble received his visitors to Spruce Creek at the site of the present boat landing. To allow the Seabreeze to pass up the narrow waterway, the stream had to be dredged regularly and the railroad trestle downstream had to be dismantled and reassembled by workers twice a year. Fortunately, this effort was not a problem since Gamble owned the railroad company.

When James Gamble died, the Spruce Creek property was willed to his two adopted daughters, Olivia and Maud, and family members continued to enjoy the use of the Spruce Creek property. The Snow White Cottage was erected in 1938 as a playhouse for the young nieces of Alfred Nippert and Maud. The appearance of the structure was inspired by the Walt Disney animated cartoon motion picture "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," which was premiered on December 21, 1937. The "Black Forest" chalet is a stylized replica of the one in the movie. The cottage occupies a low bluff overlooking Spruce Creek and is surrounded by dense forest that recalls the setting in the film.

Items related to the film--such as the footboards of the dwarf's beds--are incorporated into the construction of the building, and the interior once contained such highly unusual items as a life-size Snow White doll encased in a glass coffin and dolls representing the seven dwarfs peeking from all corners of the roofs. Walt Disney, himself, gave the Nippert's these objects, which have unfortunately all disappeared in the more than fifty years since the cottage was constructed. Thematic objects today include painted cast concrete dwarfs--each of which is about 10 inches high--and painted plywood cutouts of Snow White, the seven dwarfs, and the wicked witch that are found in the cottage. These items all date from the period of significance.

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The "Witch's Hut" and the "Dwarf's Mine Shaft" are novel features of the fantasy landscape, based on the Snow White story, devised by Alfred Nippert to amuse the family's children and guests. The "Witch's Hut" was made from the hollow trunk of an old cypress tree that was salvaged by Alfred Nippert and moved onto a brick foundation. The old and dead tree served for many years as a mapping landmark for the area.

The environmentally unique and important Spruce Creek basin is also home to numerous species of birds, fish, and other wildlife. The Gamble Place enjoys the presence of some large and apparently ancient trees. Foremost among them is a magnolia tree, one of the largest in Florida, which was apparently already of considerable size when Gamble purchased the property in 1898. A conservative estimate of the age of the tree is approximately 300 years. The tree was once even more massive than it is today, but that portion of the forked trunk, now marked by a hollow stump, was lost--probably to a storm--many years ago. A story told by locals is that the tree was saved from the axe by Gamble who, when he was urged by the property's caretaker to remove it because it was "choking out the oranges," replied that he could always grow another orange tree, but it would take more than a lifetime to grow another magnolia that big.

Historic Significance:

I. Entertainment and Recreation

There can be no doubt that Gamble and his immediate family developed and used the property principally for their own recreational enjoyment and the entertainment of close personal friends and associates. The production of citrus may have been an important sideline, but mainly the preserve was used for hunting, fishing, and the entertainment of family and friends. The main residence, the Snow White Cottage, gazebo, gardens, and other features of the property are testimony to the family's intentions.

The landscaping of the property is highly individualistic and integrates both the simple vernacular residence and outbuildings and the "fantasy" architectural elements of the district with the natural setting. A wide variety of ornamental and flowering trees were planted by Gamble and the Nipperts, and many of the native species of trees and plants on the site were,

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together with the structural resources, designed to create a landscape suitable to their family activities and their personal aesthetic tastes, without formal reference to particular academic styles and traditions of landscape architecture.

The Gamble Place was associated with the development of citrus culture in Volusia County during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The remaining physical evidence of this association are the citrus packing house and the nearby grove. In its more than 85 years of existence, the structure served as a tool shed, storage loft, workshop, and packing house. Most importantly it was used to maintain the adjacent citrus grove originally planted by George Leffman and later upgraded by Gamble. Fruit from the grove included such unusual (at the time) and exotic varieties as the kumquat and Mandarin Orange, plus varieties of the Lou Gim Gong orange, a type of Volusia County fruit developed and tested at the Gamble Place. The grove also featured several rare "carnival" trees on which, through creative grafting, several types of citrus could be grown at the same time. A single tree could bear lemons, limes, grapefruit, and oranges.

II. Architecture

Because of his experience in planning the development and construction of the manufacturing plant in Ohio, it is possible that Gamble was responsible for the siting and appearance of the buildings and structures erected on the property before his death in 1932. The district contains several structures of particular architectural interest. These wood frame buildings are vernacular structures having little decoration. The relatively plain residence built by Gamble c. 1907 is representative of a type of turn of the century hunting lodge that is increasingly rare in any part of Florida. The house has some features derivative of the Bungalow style, and a personal note is lent to the residence by the crescent moon cutouts in the shutters, the motif being the trademark of the Procter & Gamble Company.

The citrus packing house, although basically a vernacular structure, is distinguished by a small Greek Revival style portico. It represents an early type of agricultural structure that has largely disappeared from rural Florida. Most citrus groves had such buildings in the early part of the twentieth century. Producers of oranges and grapefruit boxed their own

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produce and typically had colorful and distinctive labels that identified the individual groves. These buildings and the crate labels that distinguished the various growers began to disappear by the 1920s as cooperative associations began steering the fruit from the groves to a central packing center.

The Snow White House is a faithful interpretation of the Dwarf's House depicted in the first feature length animated motion picture produced by Walt Disney Studios. Working from celluloids provided to Alfred Nippert by Walt Disney, Ernest Widmer, a local builder and master craftsman planned and built the rustic cottage entirely from local materials. While substituting cedar shakes and pine logs for the thatch roofed and earthen exterior of the film version, Widmer faithfully followed the basic design and meticulously reproduced the interior detail depicted in the original drawings. The result is a truly unique combination of setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association in a building that has retained its integrity to a remarkable degree. This and the other structures associated with the Snow White theme provide a highly individual distinction to the Gamble Place Historic District.

The Gamble Place Historic District presents an unusually varied and intact collection of resources that contribute to its significance. It reflects a distinctive trend in the historical development of Florida as a winter resort in the early twentieth century.

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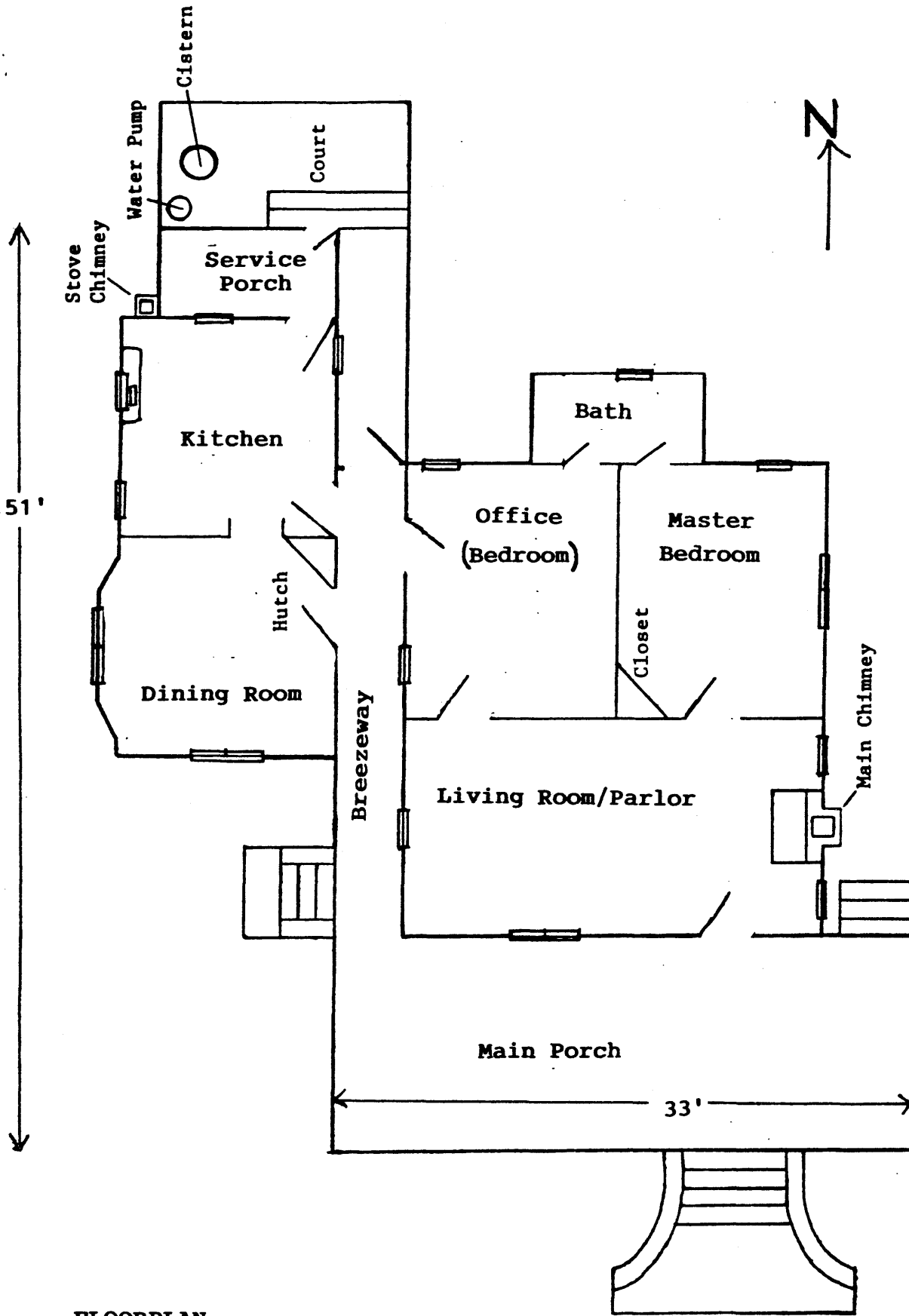
Boundary Description & Justification

District Boundaries

The Gamble Place Historic District is bounded on the south by Spruce Creek and an irregular footpath marking the boundary between the property and a swamp. The footpath terminates at Leffman Branch, a small stream, on the west. The western boundary of the district is Leffman Branch. The north and east boundaries of the district are defined by a wire fence and a dirt road inside the fence that runs parallel to the northern boundary. These boundaries encompass approximately 10 acres and are consistent with those shown on the accompanying map.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the district are consistent with the limits of the property used by the Gamble family for their regular recreational use and those associated with the historic orange grove. These limits are visually evident to persons viewing the property, and the grounds display a visual and physical character different from that property outside the boundaries.



FLOORPLAN

Approximate Scale

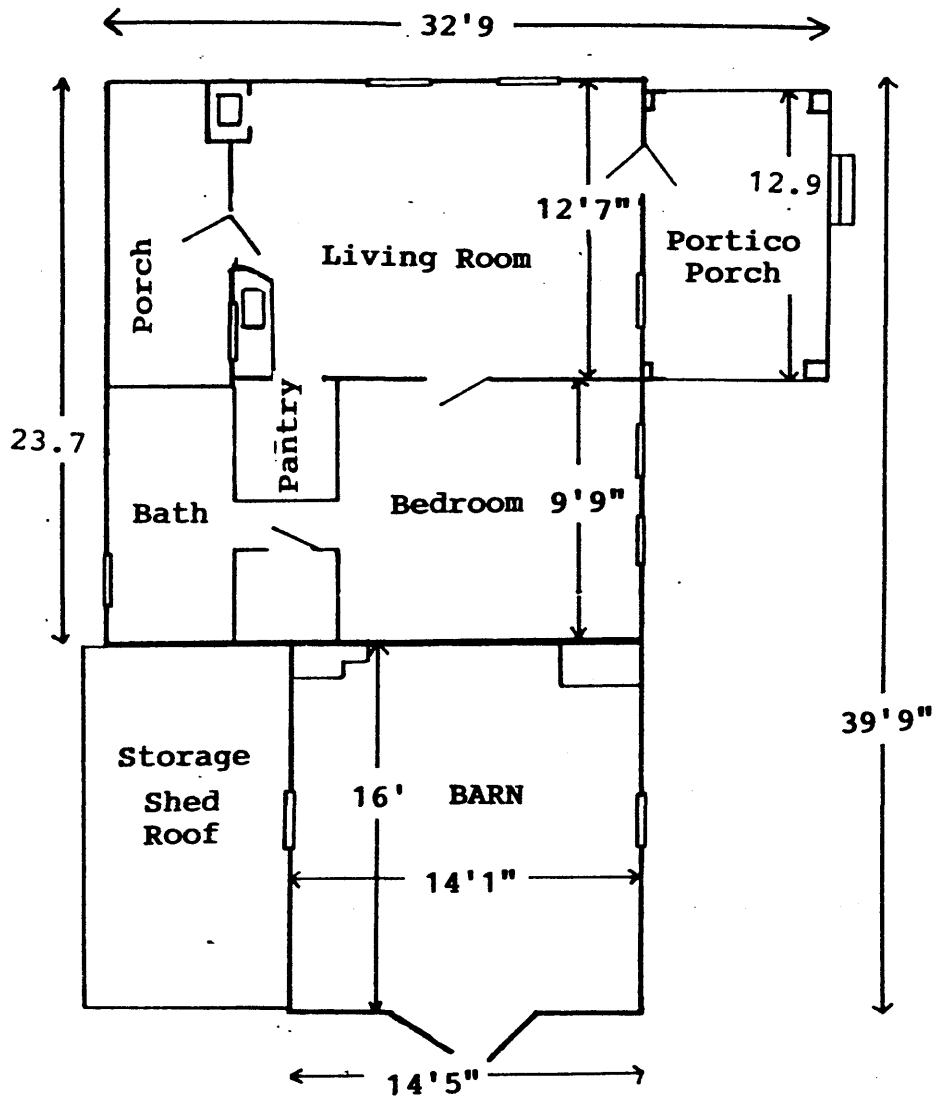
THE GAMBLE BUNGALOW

Scale 1 foot=1/8 inch

Front Entrance

Site # 1

Figure #1



GAMBLE CITRUS PACKING BARN/HOUSE

Site # 2

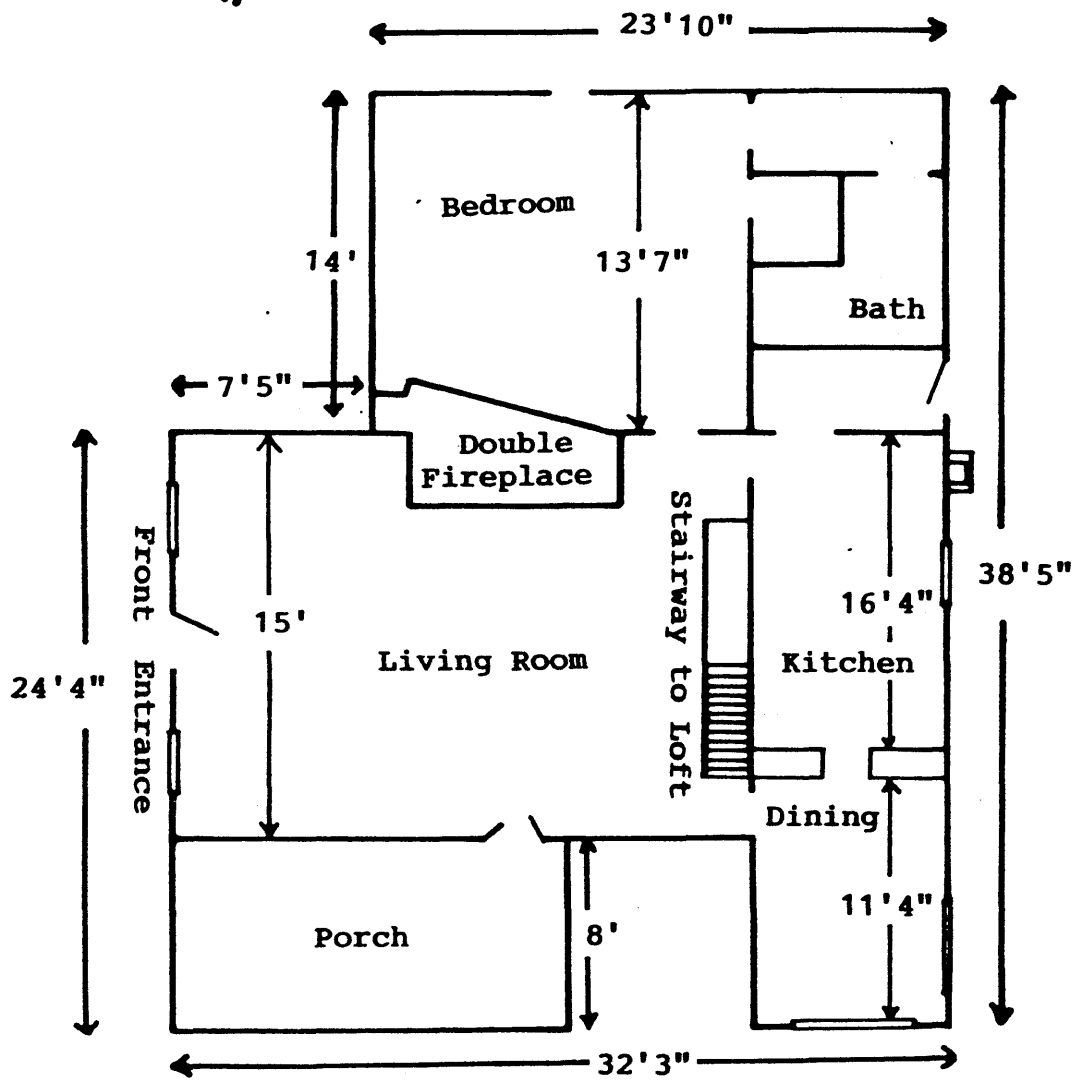
FLOORPLAN

Approximate Scale



Scale: 1 foot=1/8 inch

Figure #2



THE SNOW WHITE COTTAGE

Site # 6

FLOORPLAN

Approximate Scale



Scale: 1 foot=1/8 inch