

**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 any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name VAN BRUNT HOUSE

other names/site number Morris House

**2. Location**

street & number Main Street (S.R.59), north of the intersection of Moccasin Gap-SR 59 N/A  not for publication

city or town Miccosukee N/A  vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Leon code 073 zip code 32309

**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 11/14/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 2-27-97

Van Brunt House  
Name of Property

Leon Co., FL  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	total

**Name of related multiple property listings**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

"N/A"

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: vernacular  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
walls WOOD  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof ASPHALT  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

**8. Statement of significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

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

Property is:

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

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

**Period of Significance**

1911-1946

**Significant Dates**

1911

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Primary location of additiona data:**

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

Name of Repository

# \_\_\_\_\_

Van Brunt House  
Name of Property

Leon Co., FL  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approx. 1 acre

### UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	6	7	8	3	2	5	0	3	3	8	8	2	4	0
	Zone		Easting					Northing							
2															

3															
	Zone		Easting					Northing							
4															

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

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

### Boundary Justification

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

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Vivian Young/Robert O. Jones, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date November 1996

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 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 Ronald B. and M.A.G. Morris

street & number Main Street, Route 7, Box 340 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Miccosukee state Leon zip code 32308

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

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

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MICCOSUKEE, LEON CO., FL

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**SUMMARY**

The Van Brunt House, constructed in 1911, is a one-and-one-half story, frame vernacular residence. The main (east) facade fronts on State Road 59/Main Street, Miccosukee, Leon County, Florida. The building has an irregular footprint, sits on brick piers, and has a clapboard exterior. The complex, side gable roof has composition shingles, and is pierced by two brick chimneys and three dormers. The property contains a non-contributing outbuilding. The house is one of two prominent residences which remain that are associated with, and reflect the 1908 Herring's Addition platting of the community.

**SETTING**

Miccosukee is a sparsely settled, thickly wooded rural community two miles west of Lake Miccosukee. The house is located on lot #28 of Herring's Addition. The historic Strickland-Herold House is immediately south of the house, a contemporary house is to the north, a dirt road runs north/south to the west with trees and undergrowth across this road. To the east, across Main Street, is a broad expanse of pecan grove and agricultural land. The property lot is bordered by oak trees and a fence, and the lot has scattered mature trees and shrubbery. A non-contributing storage building/car cover is located to the northwest of the house.

**DESCRIPTION**

**Exterior**

The main (east) facade is symmetrical, and is dominated by a centered, gabled portico supported by two square columns (Photo #1). Three steps access the front porch which has handrails and balusters. The main door has a transom and is flanked by sidelights in the upper half. An

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original screened door is present with scroll sawn brackets and spindles (Photo #2). Centered in the walls on either side of the main entrance are 2/2, wooden sash windows. The original louvered shutters with brass latching mechanisms are present. The broad view of the side gable roof is interrupted by two hip roofed dormers, centered above the first story windows. Brick chimneys rise from the ridge at the northern and southern ends.

The southern elevation has two windows with shutters on the first story, and two windows with shutters within the gable (Photo #3). Large gable returns are present. Visible to the west is the side of a shed roofed extension, and screened porch. Within the extension is a small window. Beneath the porch a lattice screen encloses a storage area and sub-house access.

The west elevation has ten brick steps leading to screen doors into the porch (Photo #4). To the north is a gabled extension which originally contained the kitchen. The extension has a pair of 1/1, sash windows with replicated shutters, a louvered vent within the peak of the gable, and large gable returns. Within the broad roof is a shed roofed dormer, centered over the door.

The north elevation has four windows across its width. Within the building's main block are two 2/2, sash windows, and two smaller sash windows are within the extension to the west (Photo #5). Two 2/2, sash windows are within the second story gable. Large gable returns are present. Visible is the side of the dormer on the eastern side of the roof, as well as the side of the main porch. A small latticed enclosure with shed roof is beside the extension to the west, to shelter a heat and air-conditioning unit.

**Interior**

The interior of the house has wooden floors largely covered with carpet, plaster walls. The walls have vertical, beaded, tongue and groove wainscoting, and the

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ceilings are also composed of these beaded boards. Door and window trim is plain except for spun corner blocks.

Within the main door is a central hall running east/west, with two rooms located off of either side (Photo #6). The hall contains a stairs with a landing and two quarter turns, decorative newel, and railing with spindle balusters (Photo #7). Square railing posts on the second floor extend into the hall ceiling and serve as decorative elements. The hall has picture rails.

The four main rooms have picture rails, and fireplaces canted into the exterior corners of the inner walls. The house's two chimneys serve six fireplaces. The fireplace surrounds are wooden with scroll cut brackets supporting mantels (Photo #8). The northeast parlor has the most elaborate fireplace surround, with two-tiered, turned columns, supporting two mantels, and a beveled mirror in between (Photo #9). West of the house's main block is a north/south hall containing a bathroom to the south, and kitchen to the north. The screened porch opens off the hall. A family room is within the western end of the extension, where the kitchen was originally.

The second floor contains a central walk area with two bedrooms, one to the north and one to the south (Photo #10). The rooms contain fireplaces on the north and south exterior walls. Windows are positioned on either side of the fireplaces. The ceilings are angled with the pitch of the roof. The house's only closet is within the northern room (Photo #11). A bathroom is off the central hall, between the two rooms, under the angle of the east roof.

Leaded glass windows are located throughout the house and are the collection of the current owner. Only one is installed at the top of the stairs, but is not original to the house.

**ALTERATIONS**

Indoor plumbing and the bathrooms were added in the 1930s. In 1969 a metal roof was replaced with composition

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shingles. In the process, evidence of original wooden shingles was revealed. The shed roofed screened porch was added to the west side, and the kitchen was located where the pantry had been. The original kitchen area at the extension's west end was used as a family room. A brick chimney for a wood stove was removed, but a portion was left within the attic out of regard for its original use (Photo #12). In the 1980's a one-story verandah, which spanned the main facade and wrapped the southeast corner, was removed due to its deteriorated condition. In 1994, the current main facade portico was added.

**NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

To the northwest of the house is a contemporary, wooden storage shed/car port (Photo #13).



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**SUMMARY**

The Van Brunt House is nominated at the local level under Criteria A and C in the areas of Community Planning and Development and Architecture. The residence, despite the changed character of the main porch, is one of the finest examples of rural vernacular construction in the county. The house is one of two prominent residences that reflect the design for the community of Miccosukee as embodied in Herring's Addition, the first, and most significant platting at the crossroad.

**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

The community of Miccosukee is located on the western shore of Lake Miccosukee, and approximately 18 miles northeast of Tallahassee. It is at the intersection of State Road 59 and Moccasin Gap-Cromartie Roads. This is the heart of what once was Florida's richest agricultural region.

The community's name is derived from the Mikasukis, a Native American tribe of Creek origin, who lived in the area beginning around the mid-1700s. Sometimes known as "Seminoles" or "runaways," they included runaway African-American slaves. A 1778 map indicates the settlement as "Mikasuki." It was the largest of the Seminole towns, with a population of 1,000 in the early 1800s.

In 1800, angered over Spanish and American treaties which opened their area to white settlement, the Mikasuki's leader, Kinhagee, joined with William Augustus Bowles, leader of the region's Creek Indians, in declaring war on Spain. They attacked and captured the Spanish fort at St. Marks, in present Wakulla County. The Creek War of 1813-1814 ended with the Treaty of Fort Jackson, which deprived the Creeks of half their territory. This encouraged white settlement in the region. Frontier violence increased, and Native Americans from the region relocated at Mikasuki. In

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1817, the Creeks massacred the Americans at Ft. Scott in Georgia. In retaliation, Andrew Jackson led an army attack on the Indians and burned the villages in the area. Most Indians dispersed.

The region was still claimed by Spain, and even though some Seminoles remained, it was quickly resettled by whites. Many come from the Carolinas and Georgia, to take advantage of the fertile soil. In the late 1820s, the population was scattered and the Concord Methodist Episcopal Church, and Indian Springs Baptist Church were located south of the intersection. A U.S. Post Office was established in 1831, and an election was held at the Bryd and Parrish Store in Miccosukee. Within the decade a community was clustering there. During Florida's antebellum period, the Miccosukee area had several of Leon County's largest plantations.

With the end of the Civil War and slavery, agriculture went into a decline. Tenant and small land owning farmers began to predominate. By the 1870s, small cross-road communities prospered in the region, providing services to the farmers. Post offices, druggist, medical services, schools, stores, and churches clustered at cross-roads, expanding and declining with the economy. Six large stores were located in Miccosukee by 1886. Miccosukee gained the advantage over other crossroad communities in the region when the Florida Railway and Navigation Company lay tracks through the community in 1888, and built a depot.

In the 1890s, wealthy northern industrialists began buying plantations in south Georgia and north Florida, for use as winter quail hunting retreats. Agricultural production was not a priority on these estates, and they marked the end of large farm dominance in north Florida agriculture. This had a depressing effect on Miccosukee which depended on servicing the small farmer.

Nevertheless, in 1908, within a month of each other, the community's first two plats of property were surveyed. James A. Herring platted the Herring's Addition which occupied land from Main Street and the cross-roads on the east, to the railroad, a block to the west. A cotton gin

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was kept busy, and another store was established, but the community changed little. When the automobile became common, travel to Thomasville, Georgia, and Tallahassee became easier, drawing commerce away from the cross road. Today, most business is gone from the community, along with the commercial buildings; but well kept homes remain. Most residents commute to work in Tallahassee or Thomasville. Miccosukee is one of Leon County's best remaining examples of a rural crossroad community.

**ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT**

Vernacular architecture reflects the common wood frame or masonry construction techniques of lay or self-taught builders. This type of construction is the product of the builder's experience, available resources, and responses to the local environment. A variety of frame vernacular houses with no particular style spread throughout the country as part of the expansion of the railroads. Sometimes called the National Style, this variation of American folk housing was made possible by innovations in sawmill produced building supplies and balloon frame construction techniques. The basic differences depend on the shape of the house.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

James A. Herring and Joe Walter Collins platted the community's first two subdivisions in 1908, optimistic of the areas future growth (Illustrations 1&2). Herring's Addition was the first and most significant attempt at a formal planned development for the community. The properties included the main row of commercial development along Railroad Street, to the west of the crossroads, and also large lots intended to attract residential growth on land north of the commercial strip. Herring proposed an alley way through the middle of the commercial lots; an east/west street called "Duval," between the commercial and residential lots; and a north/south street called "Blake"

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running behind the two residential lots fronting on Main Street.

The commercial lots along Railroad Avenue, now Moccasin Gap Road, followed the existing trend to establish businesses there. The residential lots to the north prompted the building of four substantial homes in the years immediately following the platting. One of these houses is gone, and one located on lot #30 is obscured by growth. Blake Street still exists as a short sand road, providing access to the house at lot #30. Duval Street, unpaved also, is overgrown west of Blake Street, but a narrowed version exists south of lot #27. Dr. Edgar E. Strickland and Richard Van Brunt bought lots from Herring shortly after the platting. Both had lived outside the community, illustrating how Herring's Addition attracted new investment in the community.

Richard Van Brunt ran a very prosperous general store in the farming community of Iamonia, in northern Leon County. The store supplied all the personal and farming provisions most residents required. The store ran mostly on credit paid at the end of the year or when crops went to market. Van Brunt prospered as a merchant of cotton. The railroad depot at Miccosukee was his primary shipping point, and it required him to haul the cotton by wagon seventeen miles over poor dirt roads. Van Brunt built a new store in Miccosukee at the same time he bought lot #28 from James Herring. He built his house in 1911, and the store opened in January, 1912. Van Brunt died in 1914. His widow retained the house until 1948, and boarded the local school teachers in her home.

Van Brunt had the financial resources to build a home of exceptional quality. The arrangement of the interior is known as a four-square Georgian, with an extension on the back for a kitchen. Although the house is vernacular, it includes typical Classical Revival elements, such as the symmetrical, formal design, and refined proportions. The house was made of durable long-leaf needle pine, or heart pine. The quality of workmanship is high. The off grade

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design, high ceilings, central hall, and windows on all sides provided natural air circulation, adapting the house to its locale. The design, workmanship, and materials make the house one of Leon County's finest historic, frame vernacular residences.

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Leon County Deeds of Record.

Maps:

Stuart-Purcell Map of 1778.

Leon County Property Owners Map, 1883. On File at Strozier Library, Florida State University.

Periodicals:

*Florida State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1911-1912.*  
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Herold, Pat and Don, October 23, 1992, conducted by Nicole Shuey; November 19, 1993, conducted by Eleanore D. Lenington. Correspondence from Mrs. Pat Herold, August 31,

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Parcel # 1604510000280. All of lot #28, part of lot #27, in the Herring Addition to Miccosukee (See site map).

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary encompasses the property that is historically associated with the Van Brunt House, and maintains its integrity as a portion of Herring's Addition, the primary platting of the Miccosukee community.



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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

1. Van Brunt House  
Main Street (State Road 59)
2. Miccosukee, Leon County, Florida
3. Vivian Young
4. July 1995
5. Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board
6. Main (east) facade, camera facing west
7. Photo #1 of 13

Information above for items #1-5 the same for photos below.

6. Main entrance, camera facing east
7. Photo #2 of 13
  
6. South and west elevations, camera facing northeast
7. Photo #3 of 13
  
6. West elevation, camera facing east
7. Photo #4 of 13
  
6. North and east elevations, camera facing southwest
7. Photo #5 of 13
  
6. Central hall, camera facing west
7. Photo #6 of 13
  
6. Spindle balusters on stairs, camera facing south
7. Photo #7 of 13
  
6. Fireplace in southeast parlor, camera facing southwest
7. Photo #8 of 13
  
6. Fireplace in northeast parlor, camera facing northwest
7. Photo #9 of 13

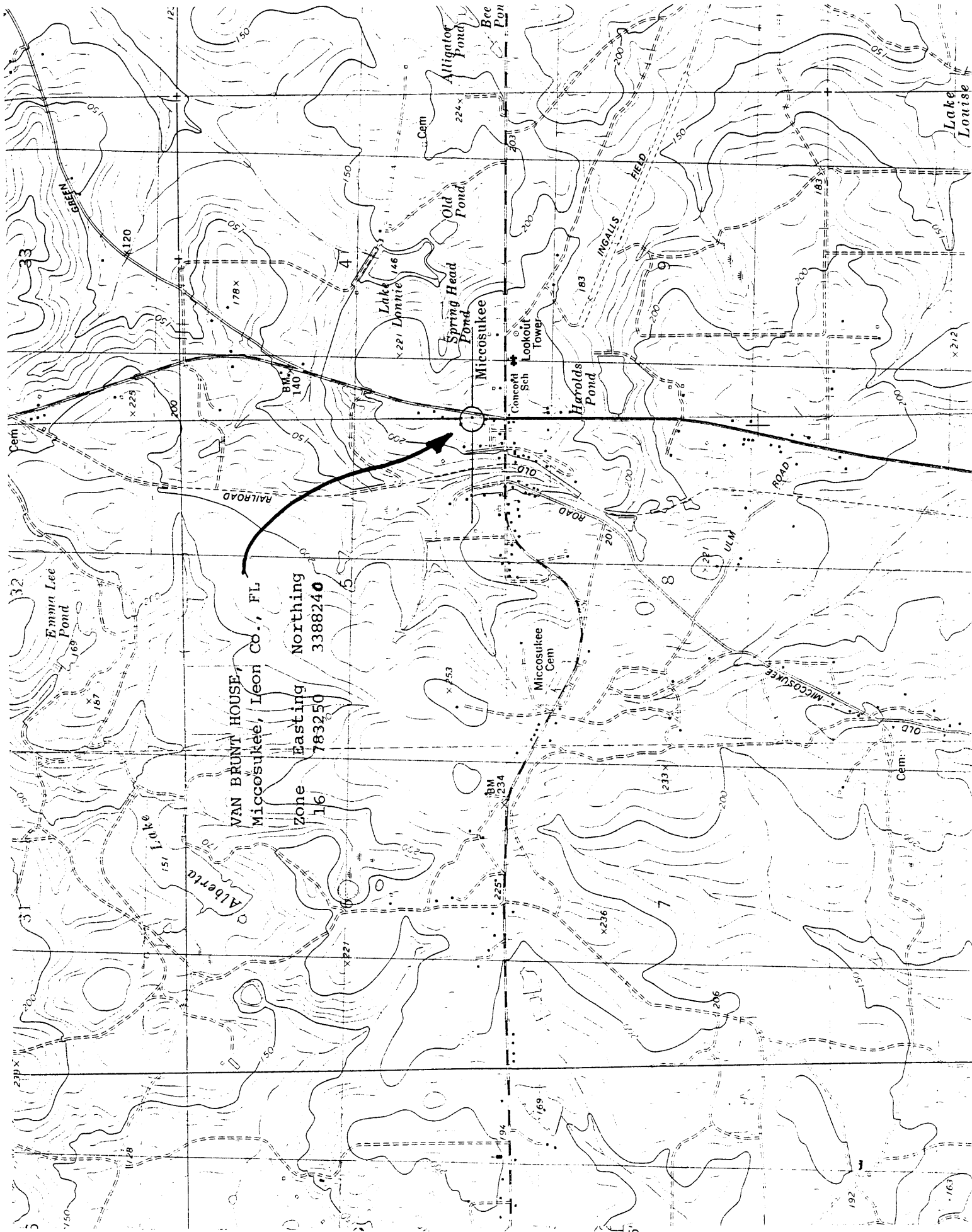
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- 6. Second floor north bedroom, camera facing north
- 7. Photo #10 of 13
  
- 6. Closet in second floor bedroom, camera facing southeast
- 7. Photo #11 of 13
  
- 6. Portion of kitchen chimney, camera facing west
- 7. Photo #12 of 13
  
- 6. Non-contributing outbuildings, camera facing west
- 7. Photo #13 of 13



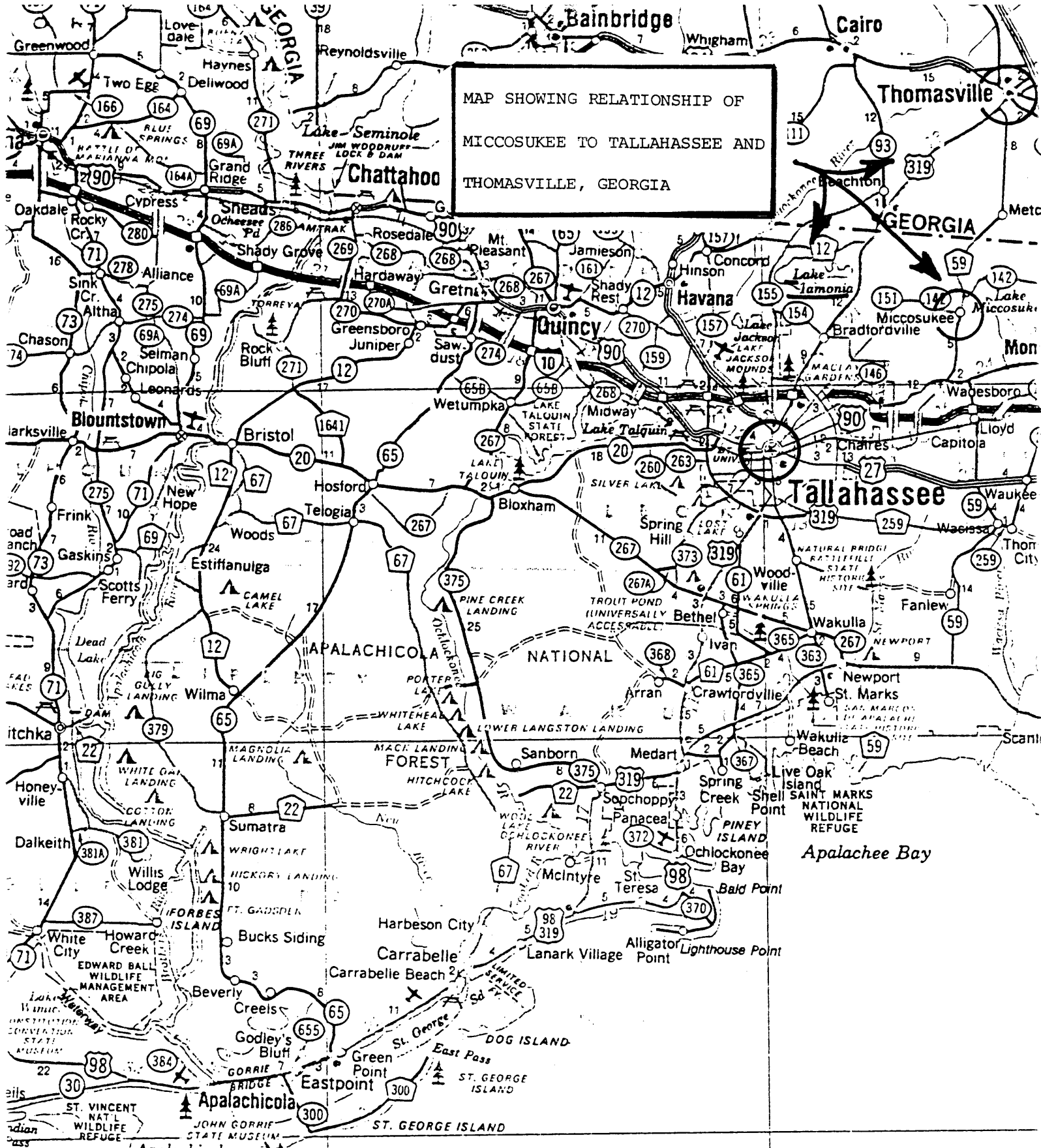
VAN BRUNT HOUSE,  
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Zone  
16

Easting  
783250

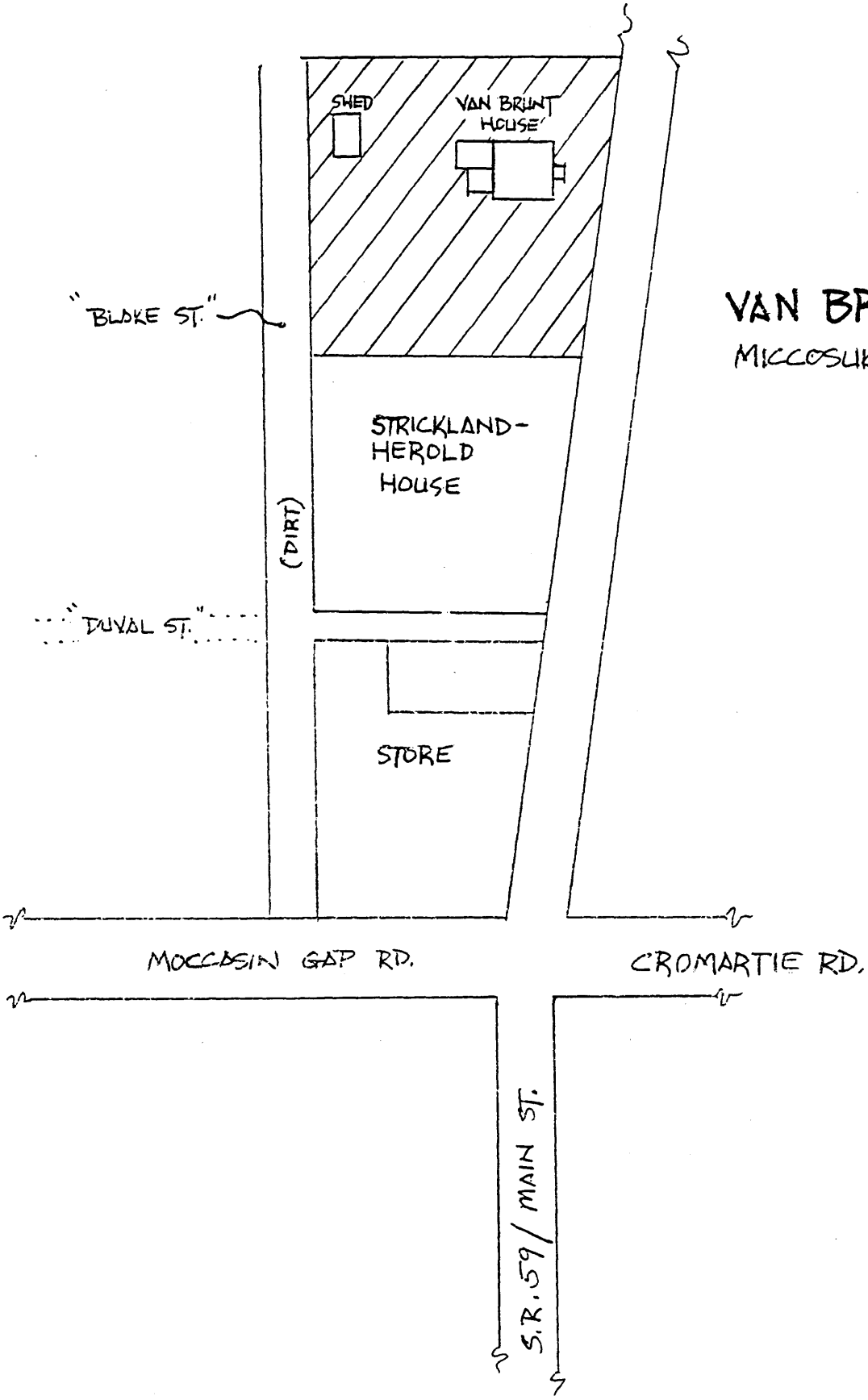
Northing  
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MAP SHOWING RELATIONSHIP OF  
MICCOSUKEE TO TALLAHASSEE AND  
THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

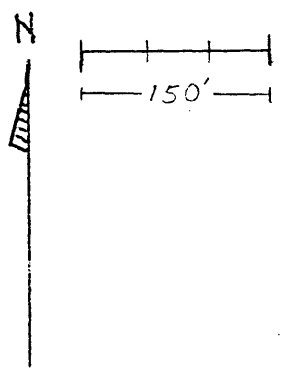


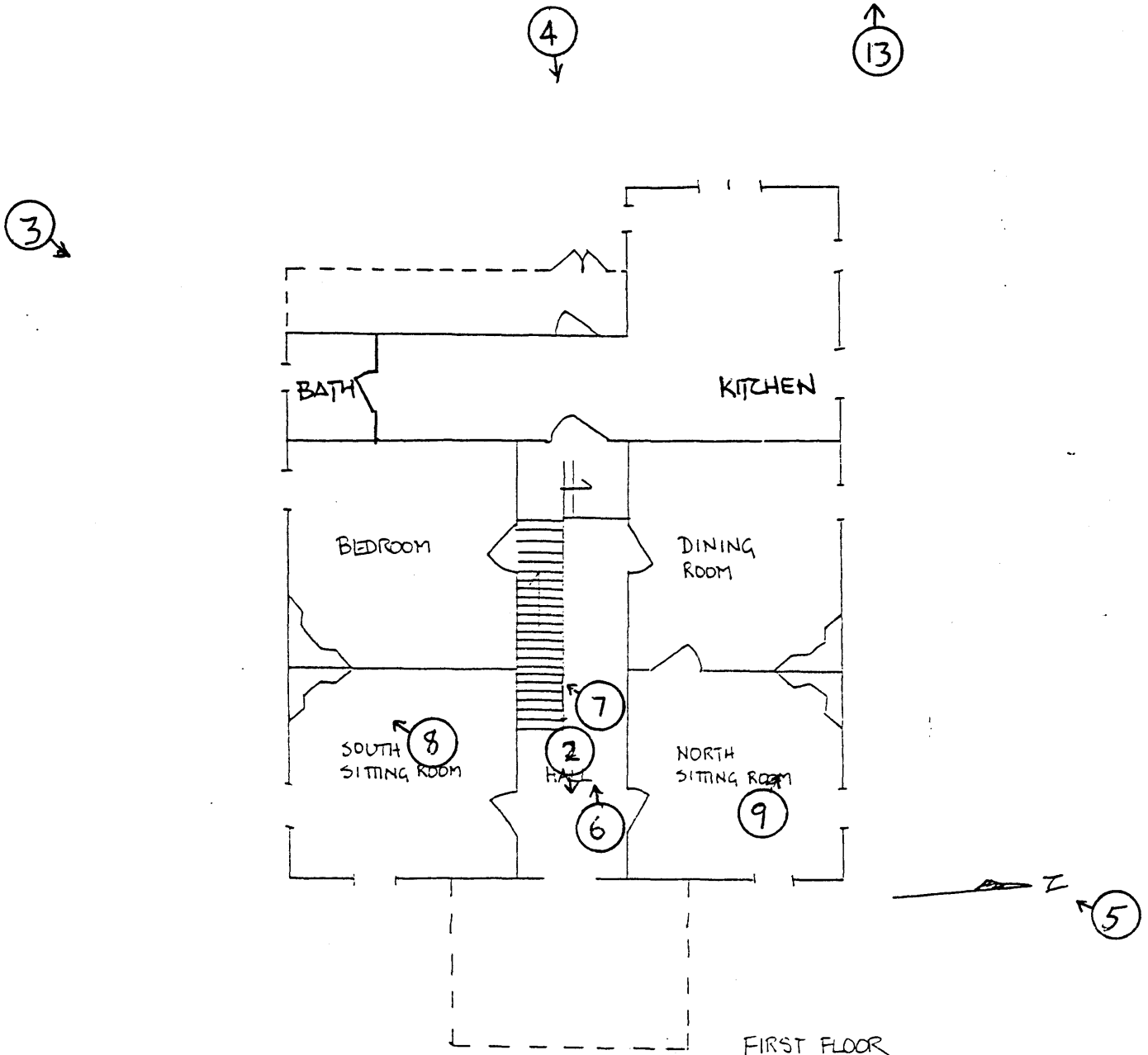
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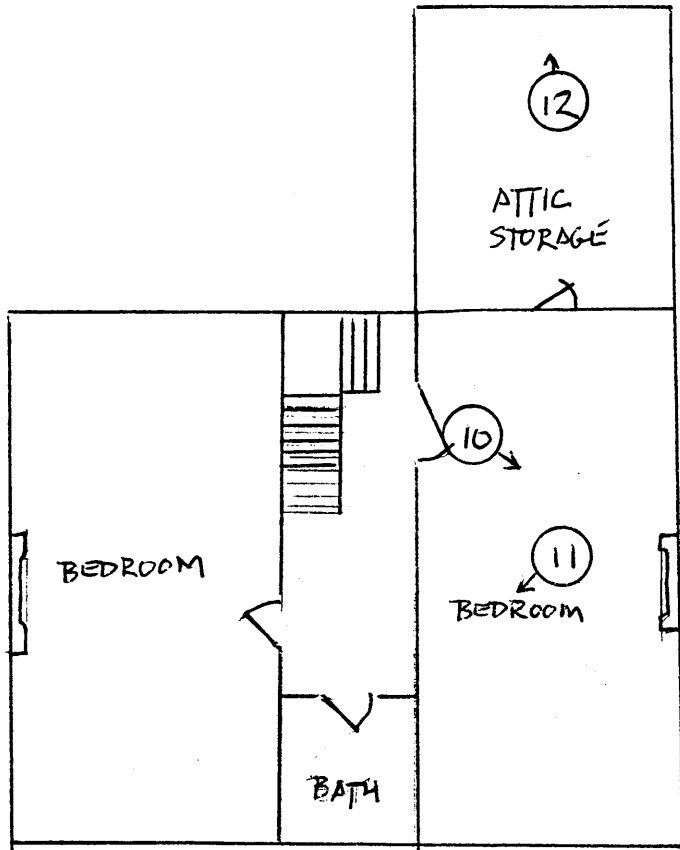
VAN BRUNT HOUSE,  
MICCOSUKEE, LEON CO., FL.





FIRST FLOOR  
 VAN BRUNT HOUSE  
 MICCOSUKEE, FLORIDA  
 PHOTO DIAGRAM  
 ←○ CAMERA DIRECTION





SECOND FLOOR  
VAN BRUNT HOUSE  
PHOTO DIAGRAM



ILLUSTRATION 1  
 HERRING'S ADDITION TO  
 MICCOSUKIE, 1908

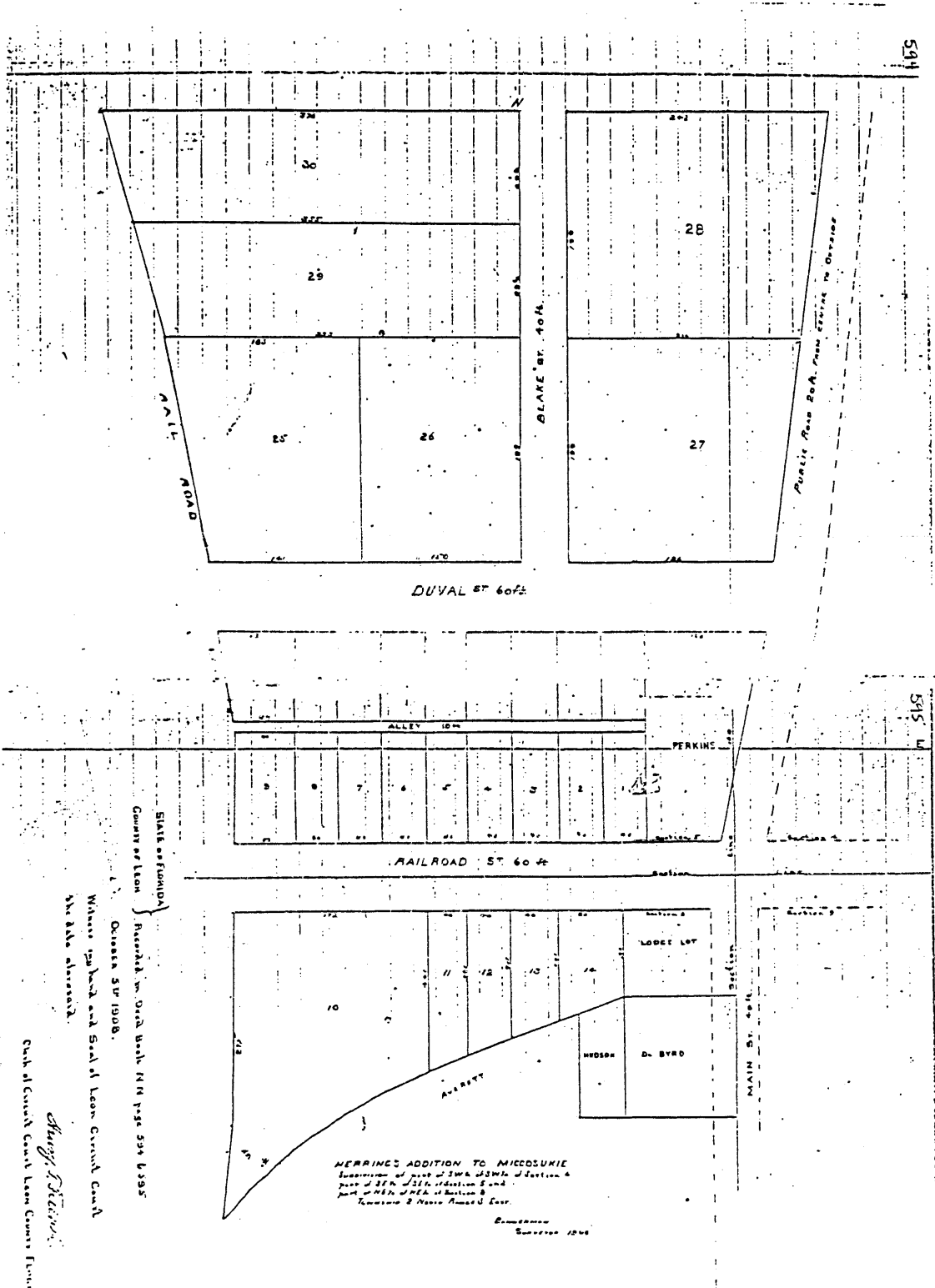
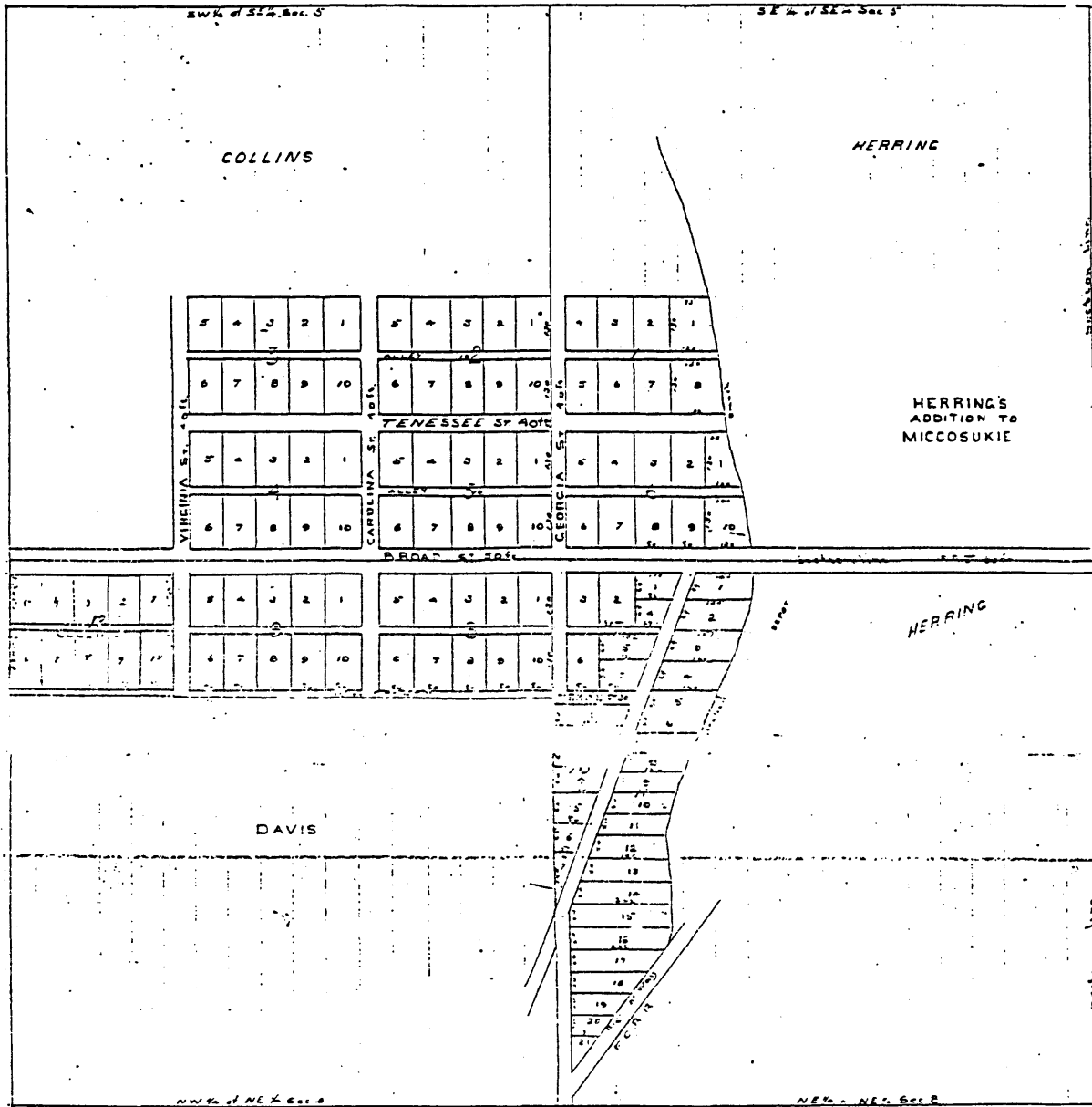


ILLUSTRATION 2  
 J.W. COLLINS SUBDIVISION,  
 1908

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J.W. COLLINS  
 SUBDIVISION OF SOUTH HALF OF SOUTH EAST 1/4 Sec 5  
 AND NORTH HALF OF NORTH EAST 1/4 Sec 6  
 TOWNSHIP 2 N RANGE 3 E

BANNERMAN 1908

STATE OF FLORIDA )  
 COUNTY OF LEON )  
 November 17<sup>th</sup> 1908 )  
 Witness my hand and Seal of Leon County Court this  
 Day of November

*Henry D. Foster*  
 Clerk of Court Leon County Florida