

(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



152

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 Cypress Gardens

other names/site number PO6756

2. Location

street & number One LEGOLAND WAY n/a not for publication

city or town Winter Haven vicinity

state Florida code FL county Polk code 105 zip code 33884

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.)

Barbara E. Mattick / DSHPO 2/26/2014
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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) _____

Signature of the Keeper

4-14-2014
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
1	0	sites
15	1	structures
0	1	objects
19	0	total

Name of related multiple property listings

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE; outdoor recreation

LANDSCAPE: garden

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation

LANDSCAPE: garden

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, and D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

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):

- Checkboxes for documentation on file (NPS) including preliminary determination, National Register status, and Historic American Buildings Survey/Engineering Record.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1935-1969

Significant Dates

1935

Significant Person

Pope, Richard Downing

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Pope, Richard. and Pope, Julie

FERA

Name of Repository

#

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Approximately 23

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	4	3	1	6	1	2	3	0	9	7	0	2	7
	Zone		Easting				Northing								
2	1	7	4	3	1	9	0	7	3	0	9	7	0	7	7

3	1	7	4	3	2	0	4	4	3	0	9	6	3	1	8
	Zone		Easting				Northing								
4	1	7	4	3	1	5	8	9	3	0	9	6	2	8	2

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 Bob Gernert, Ex. Dir. Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce; Robert Jones/HP & Barbara E. Mattick/DSHPO

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date February 2014

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state FL 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 Polk County

street & number 330 West Church Street, P.O. Box 9005 telephone _____

city or town Bartow state FL zip code 33830

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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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 **CYPRESS GARDENS**
Winter Haven, Polk Co., FL

SUMMARY

Cypress Gardens is located at One LEGOLAND Way, Winter Haven, Polk County, Florida. The historic gardens make up approximately 22.77 acres of what is Legoland. The National Register district includes the historic gardens as well as the lake-front from which the water ski shows were viewed. The period of significance is 1936, when the gardens opened to the public, until 1969, when the last important elements of the historic park were completed. The gardens is a site that incorporates the shorelines of lakes Eloise and Summit, canals, meandering pedestrian walkways, lawns, and garden objects such as sculptures and a waterfall. Set against the natural foundation of native cypress and oak trees, the extensive collections of plants include botanical specimens from around the world.

SETTING

The gardens and the beachfront area are located on the northeastern shore of Lake Eloise, and southern shore of Lake Summit in Winter Haven, Florida. Cypress Gardens are located on the southeastern side of the City of Winter Haven, and is located just off the north/south route of Highway 17. Between 1931 and the January of 1936 opening, a marsh area was drained and canals were cleared and dug. Pedestrian trails were laid, lawns and gardens were planted. Azaleas and camellias provide the foundation ornamental shrubbery, and native live oaks and cypress trees along the waters' edge are the foundation trees.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Cypress Gardens fronts westward onto Lake Eloise, and the north end of the garden front northward onto Lake Summit. An open lake-front with two audience bleachers provided the setting for the world famous Cypress Gardens water ski shows that began in 1941 (Photo #1). Immediately north of this open lake-front is a cove with cypress trees located in the lake and along the shore (Photos #2 & 3). An inlet among the cypress trees (Photo #4) opens to the east into what is known as the "Big Lagoon." South of the lagoon and encircled by a canal on the east is an island. The island is accessed by a pedestrian bridge which for most visitors is the entry to the historic gardens (Photo #5). To the northeast from the lagoon is a broad lawn surrounded by a curving walkway and a white-domed gazebo (Photo #6). To the north, the lagoon extends into a canal which divides lakefront land from the main land. This canal extends northward into Lake Summit. Curving walkways along the strip of land between the lake and canal provide many beautiful lake-front views (Photo #7). Directly north of the broad lawn fronting the gazebo is a looping walkway and the location of a lawn with statues of St. Francis and St. Fiacre, patron saint of gardens (Photo #8). Immediately to the north the walkway passes the majestic and intriguing Banyan tree with its numerous branches that grow vertically and root into the ground

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Winter Haven, Polk Co., FL**

(Photo #9). To the west of the Banyan tree is a waterfall that serves as the centerpiece of a garden that features plants from around the world (Photo #10). The walkway winds northward to an Oriental Garden with a large Buddha sculpture facing southward across a pool of water (Photos #11 & 12). Due west of the Oriental Garden, on the strip of land fronting on the lake, is a large swimming pool in the shape of the State of Florida, which juts into Lake Eloise (Figure #1). The pool was built in 1953, for celebrity swimming star Ester Williams for the filming of the movie, "Easy to Love." At the north end of Cypress Gardens the canal intersects with the waters of Lake Summit, and the walkway hugs the shoreline. Several small islands were sculpted there in 1955, to serve as media sets, with pedestrian bridges providing access to them (Photo #13). The islands are sometimes referred to as the "car islands," because they served as pedestals for new model automobiles to be photographed for advertising.

The gardens were designed so that beautiful views could be seen from all directions wherever one stood. Dick Pope, consciously with assistance of photographer Robert Dahlgren, decided the layout on site while the property was being cleared and canals dug. Pope's type of design is considered "natural" with scenic beauty being its aim. He used the lake-front and existing tropical growth as the garden's foundation, then sculpted the waterways and contoured the land. Winding pedestrian pathways direct the visitor sequentially from one view-scape to another; some are denser and intimate, while others are wide vistas. He balanced the use of water, lawn, and tropical volume in his compositions. Although he was designing a "natural" garden, the human manipulated elements were no more evident than in the areas of formal plantings, sculpture, and architectural features which became centerpieces to the views. Because it was important to have colorful plantings all year around, plants from around the world were incorporated so that perpetual blooming was assured. Colorful leaved plants, such as Crotons from South Asia, served the same purpose.

Garden groupings were arranged with descending sizes of plants that included blends of textures and colors. The already existing cypress trees, oak and magnolia trees were large foundational plants, and Pope added the Banyan tree from South Asia as a focal point. More than thirty varieties of palms were added to the gardens, and well as twenty-six varieties of banana trees. Foundational shrubbery mainly consisted of more than forty varieties of azaleas and thirty varieties of camellias which came from China and Japan. Flowers were used for decorative beds, to enhance the front areas of clustered plantings, and to edge the walkways in some places. The horticultural diversity of specimens from around the world was impressive. Cypress Gardens had what they called "world collection," and "plant collections." The world collections were drawn from Africa; South Asia; China; Japan; Australia/Oceania; South America; Mexico/Central America, and Florida/West Indies. The plant collections focused on varieties of arrowroot; palms; banana; azaleas; camellias; begonias; ginger, and bromeliads.

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Section number 7 Page 3 **CYPRESS GARDENS**
Winter Haven, Polk Co., FL

List of Historic Garden Elements

Gardens	1	Site	1935
Canal, including Big Lagoon	1	Structure	1935
Big island and lake-front island	2	Structures	1935
Eight arched pedestrian bridges	6	Structures	1935
Pedestrian walkway	1	Structure	1935
Gazebo	1	Structure	1947
Florida Pool	1	Structure	1953
Tropical "Car" Islands	3	Structures	1955
Boat Rental/Snack Shop	2	Building	1968
Ski Show Grandstand #1	1	Building	1968

Non-historic Garden Elements (created in the 1970s)

Ski Show Grandstand #2	1	Building	1973
Buddha sculpture	1	Object	1974
Waterfall	1	Structure	1974

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Winter Haven, Polk Co., FL

1922 and 1926, those packing houses exported some 1.7 million boxes of citrus annually. The Winter Haven Citrus Grower's Association, an affiliate of the Florida citrus Exchange, was organized in August 1909.

The Polk County road system, historically one of the finest in the state, expanded significantly during the period. Although Florida's Good Roads Association had been active since the late 1890's, it was not until 1915 that the movement gained momentum, leading to funding and construction of the Dixie Highway, which was completed during the 1920s. Polk County's paved roads totaled fewer than twenty miles in 1900 and developed initially with little state support. Activity began in earnest in 1914 with the sale of bonds, which enabled Polk County to build more miles of road than other county in Florida. By 1916, Polk County had paved 217 miles of asphalt roads, and in 1923 that figure reached 340. Among the most important paving projects undertaken by the county during the period was the "Scenic highlands highway," which resulted in a stretch of paved road that ran down the Highlands Ridge through Polk and parts of Highlands, Hardee and DeSoto counties. The road system greatly facilitated communication with neighboring counties and promoted development and tourism.

The Peace Creek Drainage District, created in 1915, was organized in part to drain some 48,000 acres in the Winter Haven area. Canal construction eventually connected twenty lakes. The drainage project effectively lowered and equalized the level of Winter Haven's lakes and permitted recreation boats to travel throughout central Polk County.

The period between 1896 and 1919 brought expansion to Winter Haven as the commercial and residential sections of the town began to mature. The town's location among numerous lakes and gently rolling terrain presented an attractive site for settlers. Several hundred buildings sprinkled the Winter Haven landscape. Many lots in the downtown had been filled with commercial buildings facing central park. Neighborhoods with boarding houses, churches, and school, and residences had appeared around the downtown. Generally, after 1916 the domestic building trade declined as the United States turned its energies toward assisting the allied forces in World War I. Federal government restriction on the construction industry reduced residential building, causing a postwar housing shortage that was then compounded by rising material costs. Nevertheless, Winter Haven's infrastructural improvements in the form of an electricity plant, some five miles of paved roads, and rail service laid a solid foundation for growth when development resumed in the 1920s.

Florida Land Boom, 1920-1928

The war's end ushered in an era of enthusiastic economic expansion throughout Florida. Real estate sales almost at once mushroomed. It is difficult to exaggerate the speculative proportions of the ensuing "boom". Miami and Palm Beach are generally regarded as the scenes of the most frenetic activity, but few communities in the state failed to experience a fever for real estate. In early 1925, some 25 passenger trains, filled with

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Winter Haven, Polk Co., FL

Conservation Corps (CCC), Civil Works Administration (CWA), Federal Emergency Relief Agency (FERA), Public Works Administration (PWA), and Works Progress Administration (WPA).

Winter Haven, with the rest of the nation, crawled out the Depression on the back of a growing defense industry. Annual personal income rose from \$513 in 1940 to \$1,090 in 1945. One of the few states to show a population increase during the war, Florida became an important location for military installations, particularly airfields, due its generally good weather and flat terrain. Winter Haven's population grew appreciably during the war, rising from 6,199 to 8,109 between 1940 and 1945.

The physical development of Winter Haven resumed following World War II as the state entered another period of growth. Many veterans who had served on military bases in Florida during the war returned at its close to seek permanent residence. The cultivation of Florida's image as a retirement haven resulted in statewide population growth. Dim patterns of future urban sprawl began to take form with the destruction of older residential and commercial buildings that fell victim to the wrecking ball to make way for parking lots, church expansions, and new commercial buildings. Countless new acres were planted in citrus as some older groves were sold by farmers and replaced by residential subdivisions. Citrus continued to provide hundreds of jobs and in 1949, the Florence Citrus Growers Association built a frozen concentrate factory. In the 1949-1950 season, Florida's citrus farmers reaped their richest harvest in history. Concentrate juice became the "Cinderella Product" of the industry, spurring still more planting of groves in Polk County. In 1950, the population of Winter Haven reached 8,605.

Context: Richard (Dick) Downing Pope (1900-1988)

Richard Downing Pope, better known as Dick Pope, was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on April 19, 1900, the son of L. Walker Pope and Lily May. The elder Pope was a real estate broker and developer in Winter Haven and Lake Wales at the beginning of the 1920s Florida real estate boom, and taught his son the trade. At the age of 12, Dick would help his father, even making his own sale when his father was away. When Dick was 18, his father became ill, so the teenager began working at the real estate firm, doing so well, he dropped out of Stetson College (in DeLand, Florida) to pursue a career in real estate sales.

Dick met Julie Downing in North Carolina, and they were married on April 7, 1926, just as the Florida land boom was about to collapse. Abandoning real estate, Dick turned to outboard boat motors, which were just becoming popular at the time. He started working for Johnson Outboard Motors of Waukegan, Illinois. To promote Johnson Motors, he filmed dangerous boat races all over Florida that featured the company's motors. He became the first person to water ski off a 25-foot ramp, and his brother Malcom ski jumped over a boat, thus boosting the sport of water skiing. Always a promoter, Dick left Johnson Motors to go to Chicago, where he

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Winter Haven, Polk Co., FL

Through hard work and determination, the canals were completed, the swamp was drained, paths were laid, and \$300 worth of azaleas, carnellias, and other plants were joined with donations from neighbors throughout Winter Haven to create the beautiful Cypress Gardens.

Dick Pope had been derided as “Swami of the Swamp” and “Master of Muck” – the butt of many jokes of those who doubted his resolve. With grit, determination, and Julie’s green thumb Cypress Gardens opened on January 2, 1936, with one hundred eighty-two people paying 25 cents to gain admission.

By 1940, Cypress Gardens was well established. In December of that year, however, freezing weather damaged the flame vines at the Gardens’ entrance. Julie Pope dressed a staff member in a colorful antebellum dress with a shawl and placed her at the entrance to hide the freeze-damaged vines, while assuring visitors that the interior of the gardens were fine. This was the birth of Cypress Gardens’s iconic Southern Belles, young women dressed in antebellum-style, wide-hoop-skirted dresses, who were stationed throughout the gardens to greet visitors.

The United States joined World War II in December of the next year. Dick Pope joined the war effort in Europe, and Julie was left to manage the Gardens. It was during that time that Julie sent a photograph of the Gardens to the *Orlando Sentinel* newspaper, hoping for publicity. The Pope children were water skiing in the background. Shortly thereafter, several servicemen arrived at the garden entrance, asking when the ski show would take place. Julie, ever quick on the uptake, replied that the show would be at 3:30 p.m., and suggested they see the gardens in the meantime. She then called the school and had her children and friends prepare to “put on the show.” That began what became the world famous Cypress Gardens Ski Show. Many attractions had closed during the war, but Cypress Gardens had been declared “an essential industry” during the war, and drove of military service personnel visited it during the war (Vickers, 93).

In 1943, Dick Pope returned from the war, and began to use photography extensively to promote the Gardens. In laying out the Gardens, he had the assistance of Winter Haven photographer Robert Dahlgren to assure that the landscaping produced ideal settings and views for photographs. He produced movie shorts featuring military themes, and scenes from the feature-length movie, “Moon Over Miami,” were filmed at Cypress Gardens. The Gardens was gaining recognition throughout the country as a result of these promotions, and in 1948, Florida’s Governor Millard Caldwell presented Dick and Julie Pope a plaque for their services in the post-war battle for the nation’s tourist trade.

Over the next several decades the Popes would do even more to promote the state of Florida as they made “Cypress Gardens” a household name known throughout the country and even internationally. In 1949, the Gardens sent its first “Traveling Ski Show” to appear at the Rail Show in Chicago, Illinois. In 1951, Steve Trumbull of the *Miami Herald* wrote: “Florida’s most fantastic press agent owns a swamp near here so isolated

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Winter Haven, Polk Co., FL

and primitive that no more than 500,000 tourists find it each year and pay \$1.25 [a far cry from the 182 people who paid 25 cents to visit the gardens in 1936]. In 1952, Dick Pope was formally named "Mr. Florida" by the *Orlando Sentinel* publisher, Martin Anderson. Anderson is quoted as saying, in regard to Pope, "... the man who had done more to publicize the state than any other." In 1953, "Easy to Love," a water-based musical with Esther Williams playing the girlfriend of Cypress Gardens's owner (played by Van Johnson) was released nationwide. The Florida Pool, located on Lake Eloise, at the southwest corner of the botanical garden, was constructed for one scene of that movie. Pope's magic formula of promoting Florida -- citrus and Cypress Gardens -- is evident throughout the movie. Pope also used print media for his promotions. In 1954, the *Tampa Tribune* reported that each day of the year, a Cypress Gardens photo appears in at least 100 newspapers. More than 1000 newsreels were produced that year, and 170,000 people a day and saw the 3D Cinerama "Easy to Love" movie in New York City. Photographs of Cypress Gardens appeared on the pages of national magazines, including *Life*, *Coronet*, *Red Book*, *Outboard*, *Household*, and *Columbia*.

Pope's emphasis on photography was a major factor in the success of Cypress Gardens. Besides laying out the gardens to ensure that visitors would always have an excellent view to take pictures, visitors were afforded the benefit of expert photographic help, and cameras were even available to borrow (Anniversary Booklet, 16). Pope had numerous promotional techniques to make Florida's Cypress Gardens a household name: he regularly sent gardenia-scented packages of photos of the Gardens to newspapers and nationally distributed magazines; he arranged for the crowning of "queens" at the Gardens, e.g., Citrus Queen, Watermelon Queen, and even Miss America. To get good photographic shots of the Gardens water skiers, he invented special photo boat that had special equipment to move along with the skiers and enable the photographer to get shots from various angles. A by-product of the promotions was a boost in the popularity of water skiing. In 1955, General Motors shot a double-spread advertisement at Cypress Gardens to introduce their newest automobile. This resulted in the development of what were known as the "Car Islands," man-made islands that served as "pedestals" for new car models, at a time when cars looked distinctively different from year to year. Pope began calling this area "Studio B," and it was set aside for shooting motion pictures and television shows.

Pope's many movie shorts gave way to major Hollywood productions, many of which featured some of the era's most popular stars. In 1945, *Moon Over Miami*, starring Don Ameche, Betty Grable, and Robert Cummings, was shot at Cypress Gardens, followed in 1947 by "On an Island With You," starring Esther Williams and Ricardo Montalban, which premiered in Winter Haven. Williams also starred in "Easy to Love," with Van Johnson and Tony Martin; the iconic "Florida Pool" was built for the movie. He also used photography to promote Florida's citrus industry, with clever photos, such as those showing the Florida pool filled with floating citrus, and a trick picture showing a swimmer, surrounded by oranges supposedly holding her head in her hand. In 1958, he served on the Florida Citrus Commission.

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Section number 9 Page 1 **CYPRESS GARDENS**
Winter Haven, Polk Co., FL

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Cypress Gardens 60th Anniversary Celebration, 1936-1996, n.p.: n.p., [1996?].

Flekke, Mary M. Sarah E. McDonald, and Randall M. McDonald. *Images of America: Cypress Gardens*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2006.

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Vickers, Lu. *Cypress Gardens, America's Tropical Wonderland: How Dick Pope Invented Florida*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2010.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1 **CYPRESS GARDENS**
Winter Haven, Polk Co., FL

PHYSICAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

THAT PT LYING IN SECS 2 & 3 T29 R26 KNOWN AS PROTECTED PCL FURTHER DESC AS: COMM NE COR OF W1/2 OF SEC 2 W ALONG N LINE SEC 2410.24 FT S00-21-58E 24.25 FT TO POB S38-33-27E 37.74 FT S19-03-30W 142.04 FT S79-58-29W 171.04 S53-23-17W 119.48 FTS10-35-40W 70.04 FT S69-45-51E 254.51 FT N84-27-39E 427.74 FT S00-17-09W 206.06 FT S02-56-58E65.95 FT S00-50-48W 22.66 FT S03-57-28W 52.53 FT S02-00-01E 120.03 FT S06-38-11E 80.92 FT S41-01-10W 129.96 FT S38-22-50W 45.14 FT

See boundary maps. Approximately 22.77 acres, a portion of this described parcel #26-29-02-0000-033020

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This described boundary is historically associated with the historic botanical gardens and the ski show area of Cypress Gardens.

**CYPRESS GARDENS
WINTER HAVEN, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**



Google earth

feet 2000
meters 600



- 1) Zone: 17 Easting: 431612 Northing: 3097027**
- 2) Zone: 17 Easting: 431907 Northing: 3097077**
- 3) Zone: 17 Easting: 432044 Northing: 3096318**
- 4) Zone: 17 Easting: 431589 Northing: 3096282**



FIGURE 1 CYPRESS GARDENS, Winter Haven, Polk Co., FL

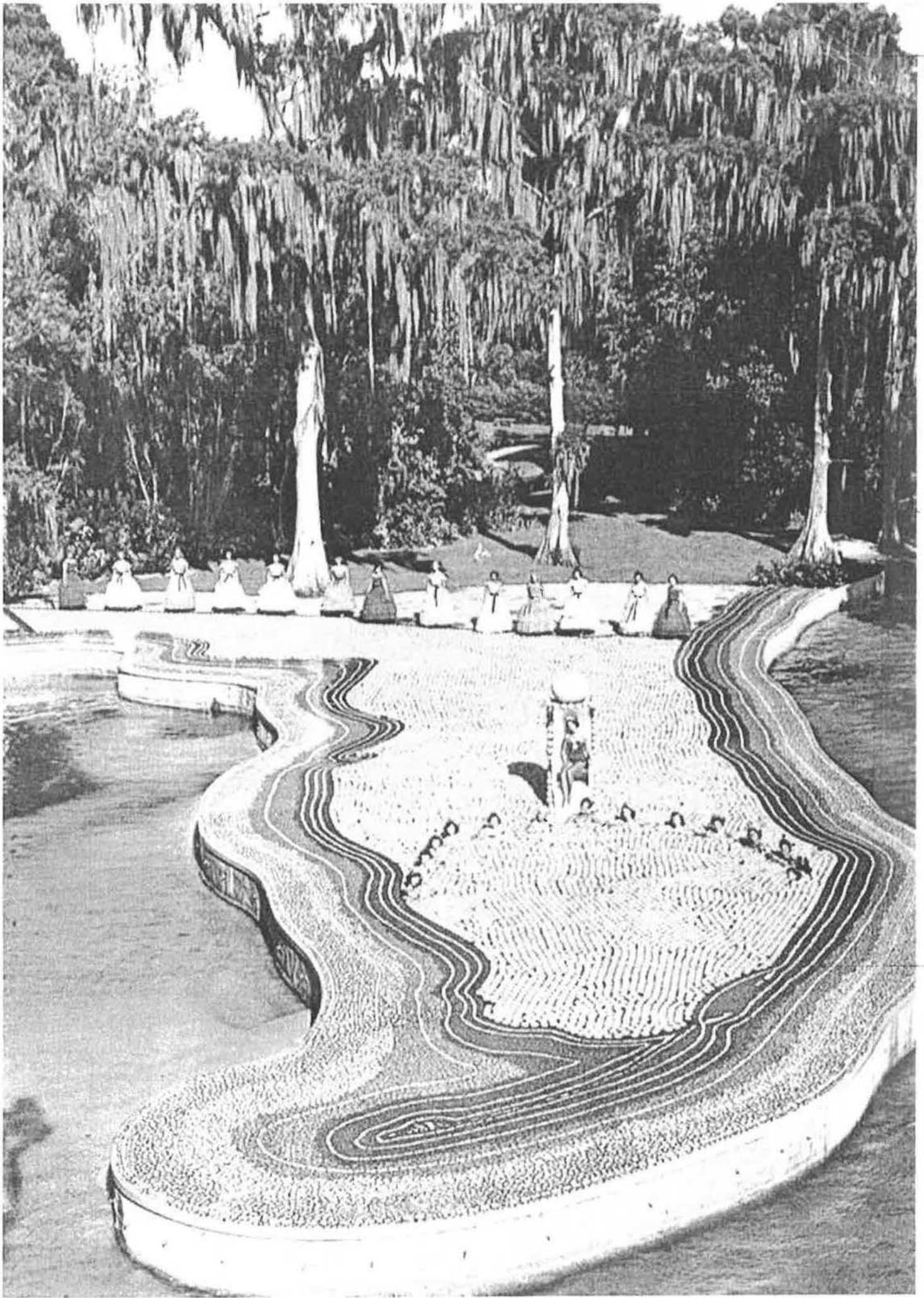
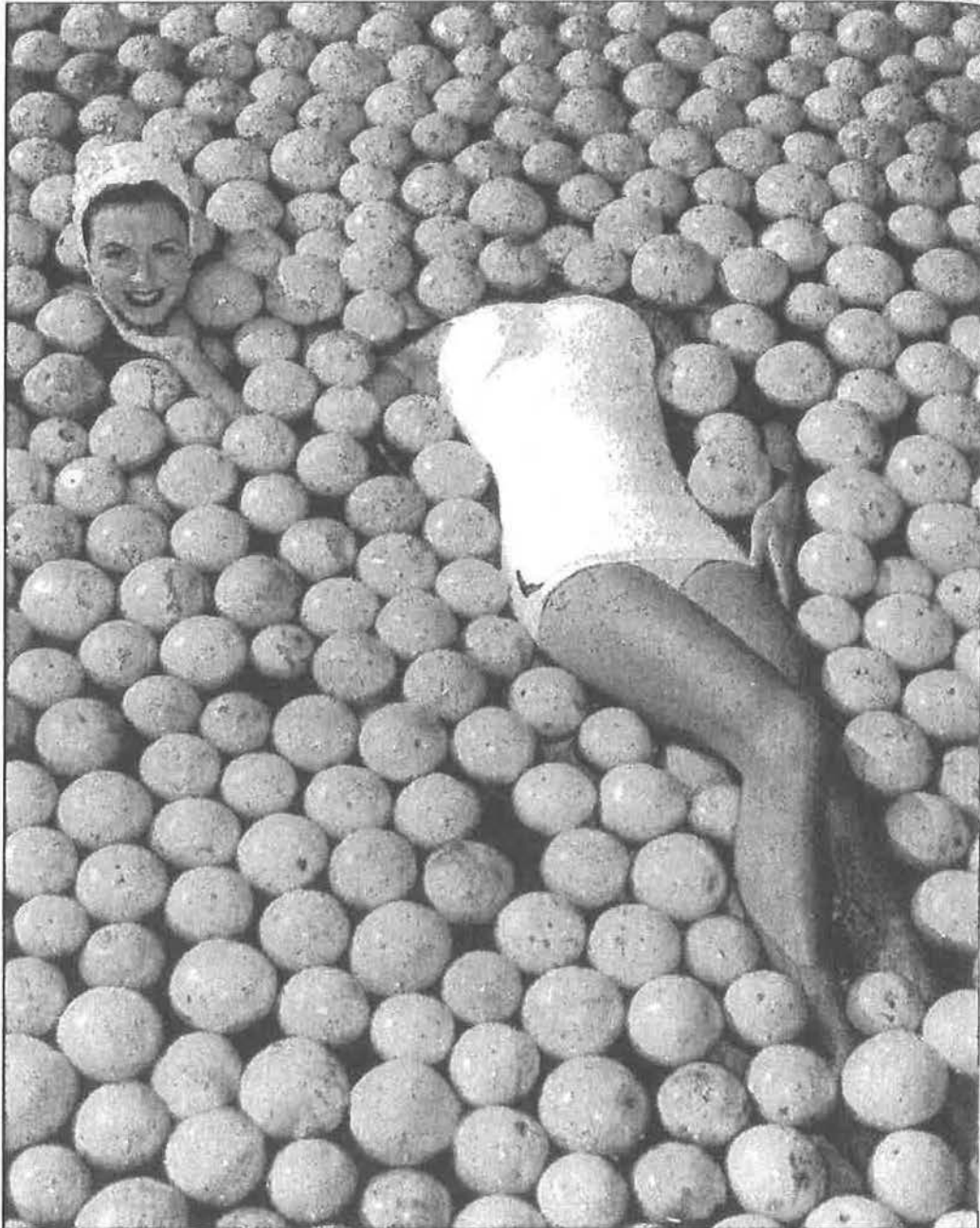
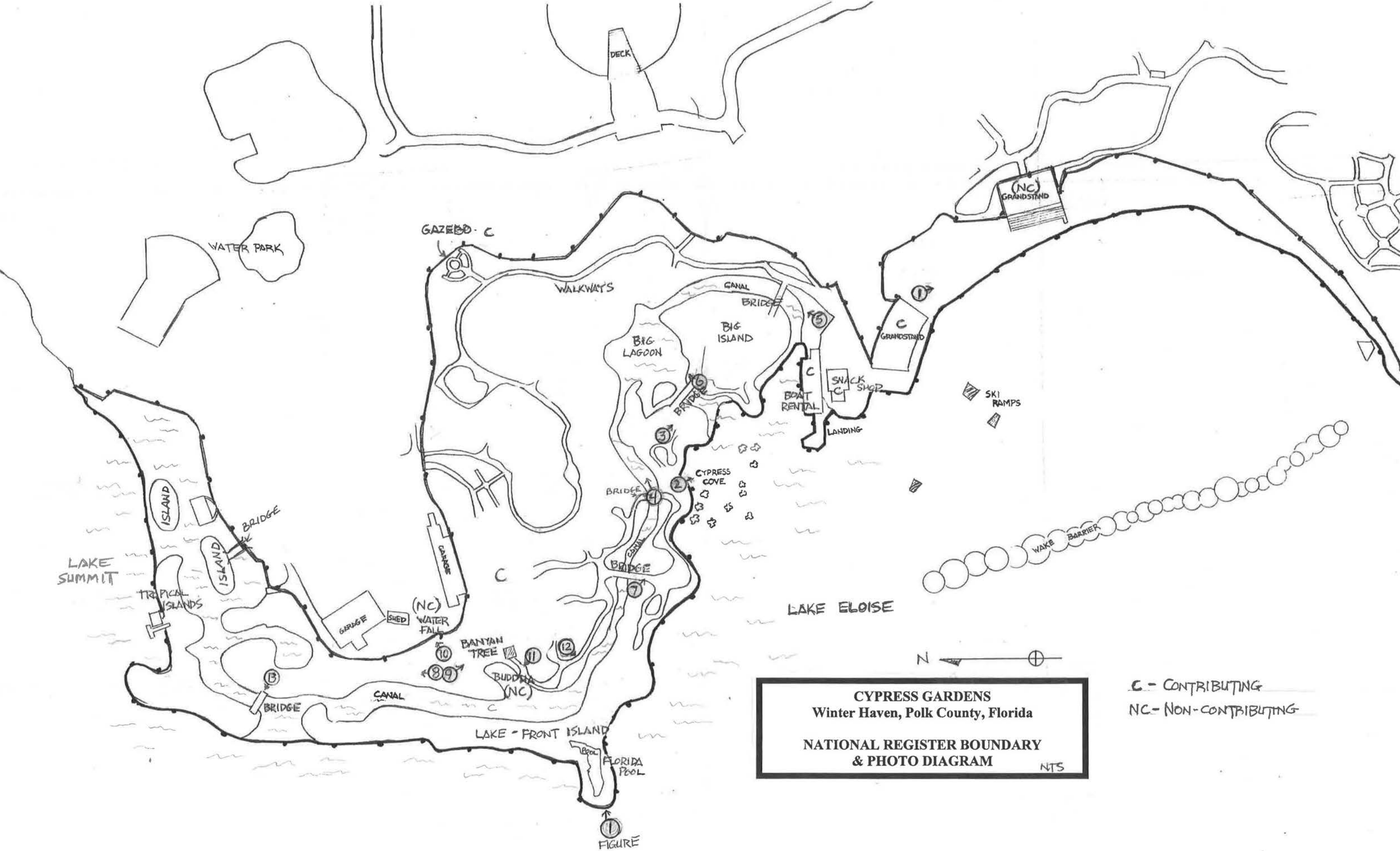


FIGURE 1 CYPRESS GARDENS, Winter Haven, Polk Co., FL



Winter Haven's Jo Tapley clowns around in the Florida pool, surrounded by hundreds of grapefruit. Advertising with citrus was productive for Cypress Gardens and for the citrus industry, which had a substantial economic impact in Polk County. (Courtesy Cypress Gardens.)

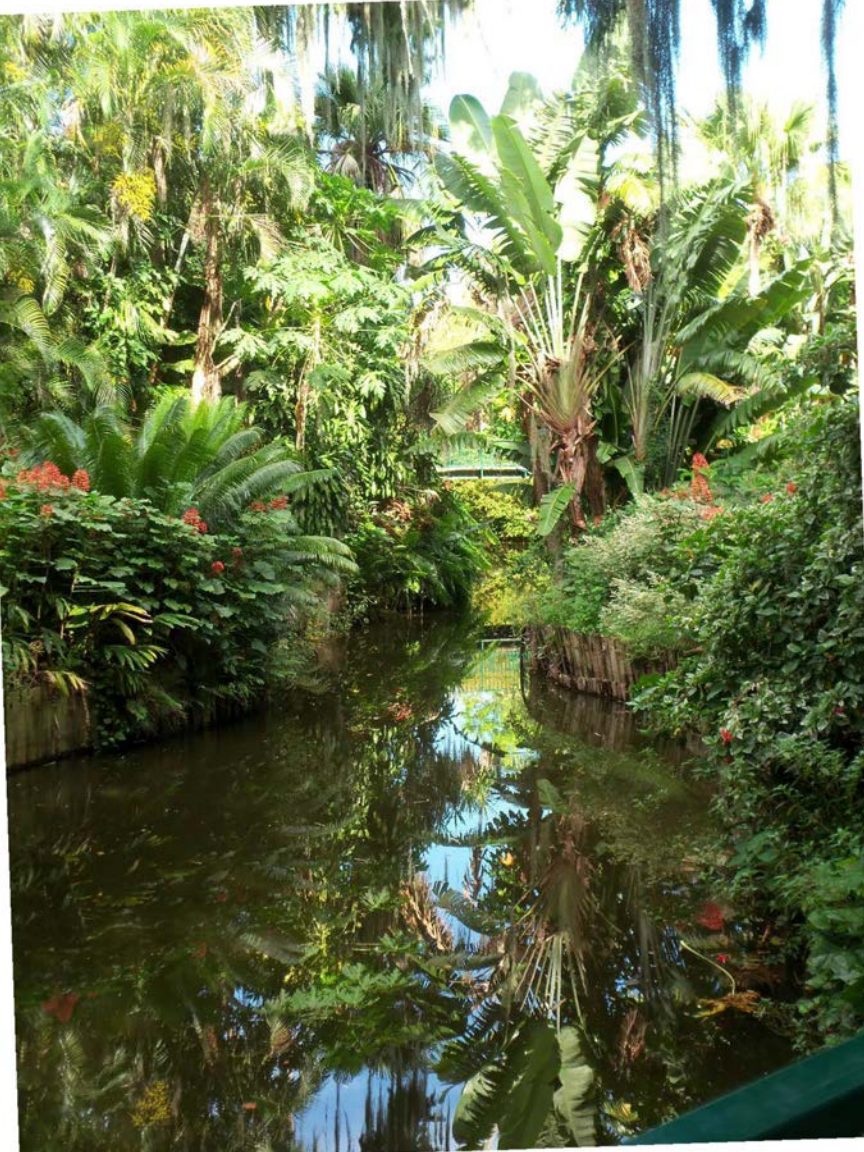
FIGURE 2 **CYPRESS GARDENS, Winter Haven, Polk Co., FL**







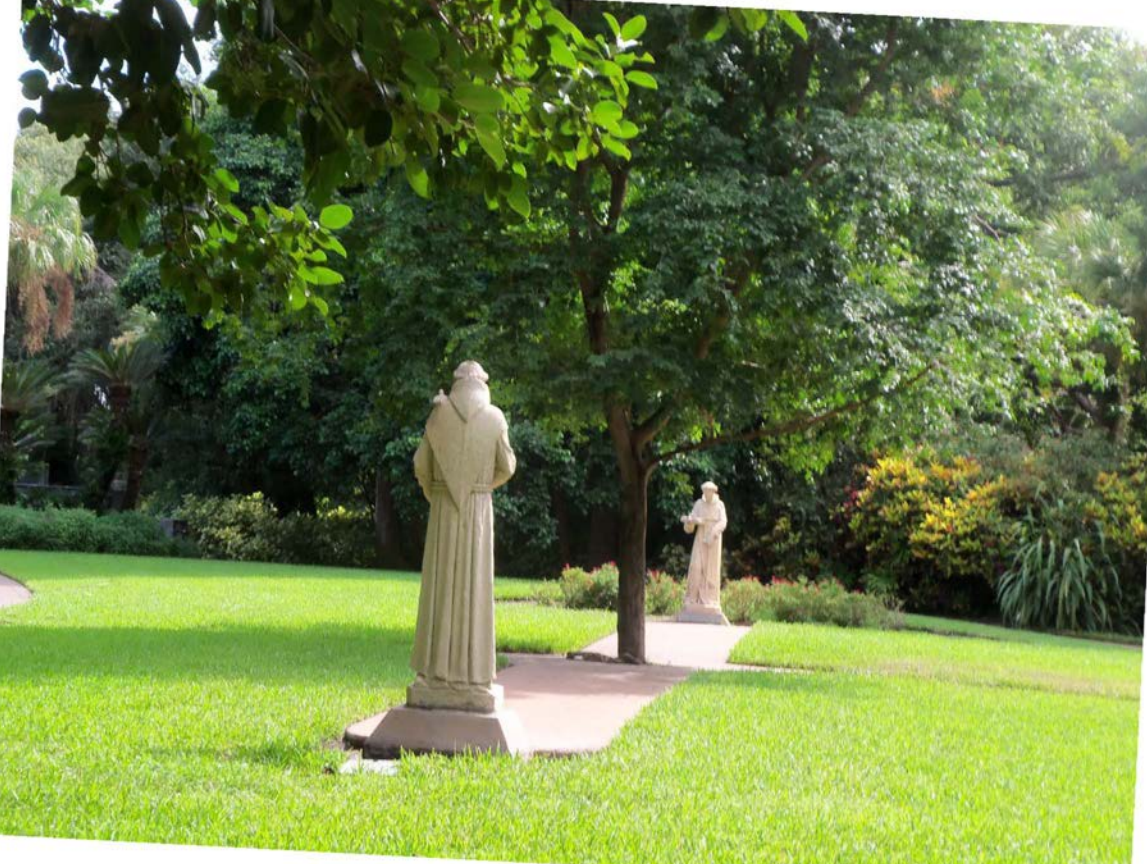




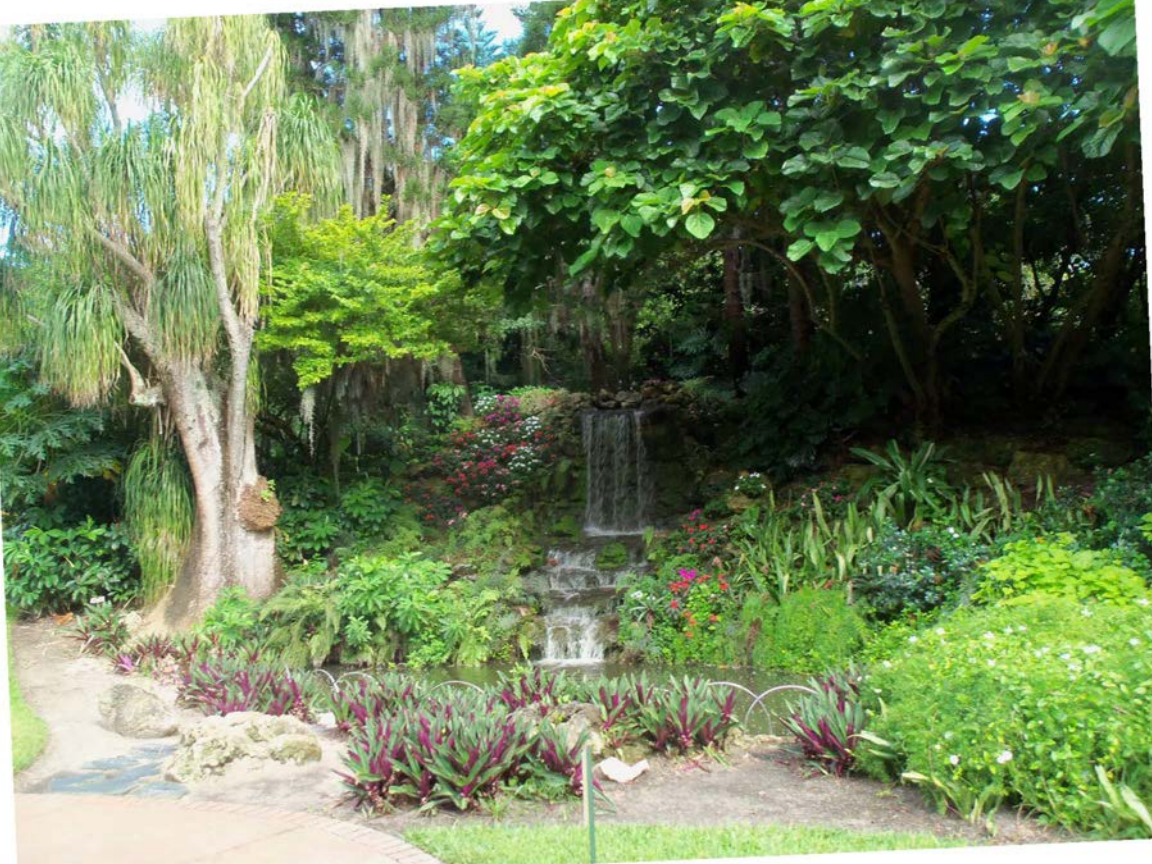


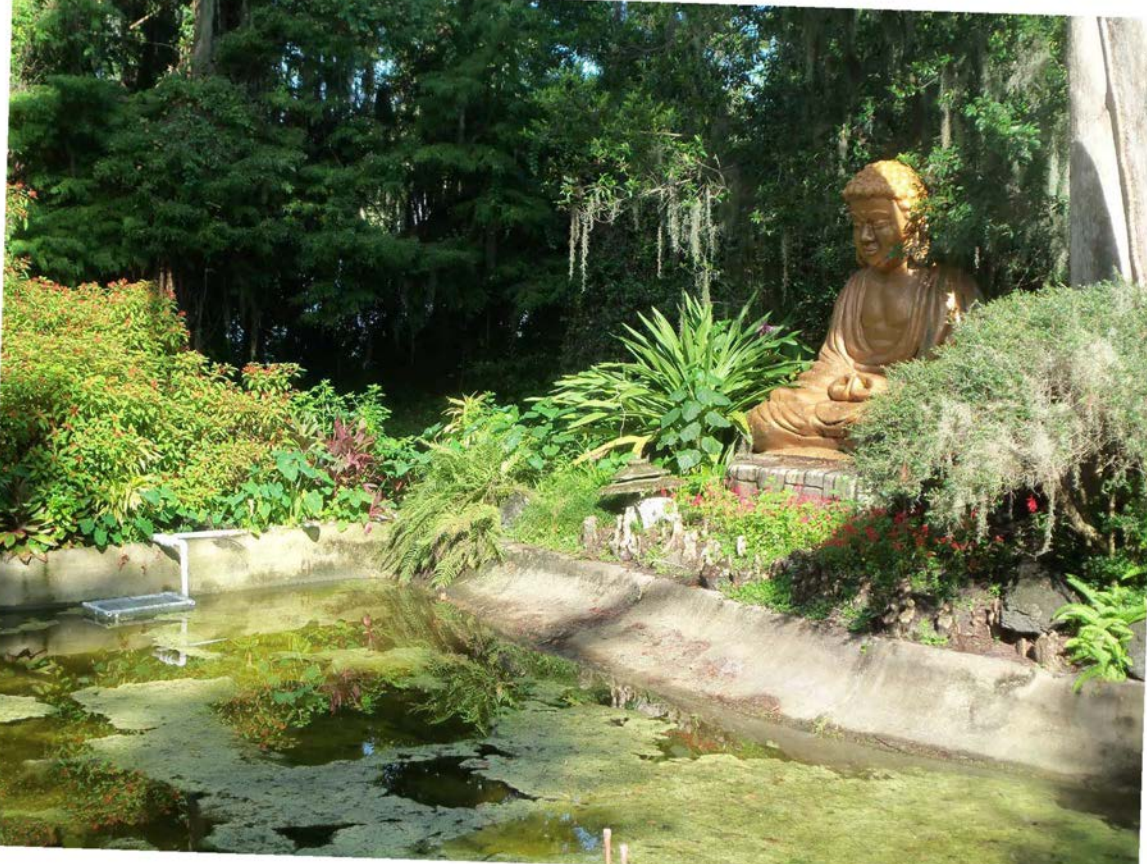
















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Cypress Gardens
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Polk

DATE RECEIVED: 3/07/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/27/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/11/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/23/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000152

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 4-14-2014 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Cypress Gardens was a pioneering tourist attraction in Florida. Its founder, Dick Pope, through his tireless promotion of this naturalistic designed landscape, succeeded in helping to shape the country's vision of "Florida."

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A, B, + C

REVIEWER Jim Gabbert 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.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State



February 27, 2014

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Department of Interior
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is the submission of the nomination and additional materials (nomination form, continuation sheets, site plan, GIS data, digital images and disk) for

Cypress Gardens, Winter Haven vicinity, Polk County, Florida

Please do not hesitate to contact Bob Jones at (850) 245-6333 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Barbara E. Mattick

Barbara E. Mattick, Ph.D.
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
for Survey & Registration

Enclosures

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

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