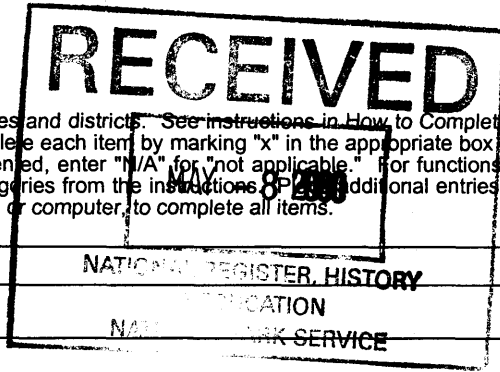


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



638

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 Armstrong House

other names/site number Melton-Shands House/MR1770

2. Location

street & number 18050 U.S. Highway 301 North N/A not for publication

city or town Citra N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Marion code 083 zip code 32113

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.)

Janet Audrey Matthews 4/28/2000
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 6-9-00

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	
2	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	total

Name of related multiple property listings

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Frame Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD

WEATHERBOARD

roof METAL

other

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

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

Period of Significance

1901

Significant Dates

1901

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Barker, C.

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

#

ARMSTRONG HOUSE
Name of Property

MARION, FLORIDA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.10 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	3	9	2	2	5	0	3	2	5	4	0	0	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 Marcia J. Tanner, Property owner; Gary V. Goodwin, Historic Preservation Planner

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date April, 2000

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (850) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name James R. and Marcia J. Tanner

street & number 107 12th Street, Southwest telephone (813) 645-4659

city or town Ruskin state Florida zip code 33570

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

ARMSTRONG HOUSE
Citra, Marion County, Florida

SUMMARY

The Armstrong House, located at 18050 US Highway 301 north, in Citra, is a one-story, Frame Vernacular building constructed in 1901. The building is an excellent example of Frame Vernacular architecture. Typical features of the style, which the house incorporates, consist of an asymmetrical mass with an irregular floor plan, and a series of cross-gable metal surfaced roofs, large verandas, and double-hung sash windows with a variety of muntin patterns. The architecture of the house together with the contributing carriage house also built in 1901, reflect the farm life-style prevalent in rural Marion County in the early twentieth century.

SETTING

The house is located in the small, north Marion County community of Citra. It is sited on 1.10 acres with 330' of frontage on US Highway 301, the main north-south traffic artery that passes through the area. The other contributing buildings are a carriage house and a two-car garage with an attached garden shed. The focal point of the landscaping is a huge pecan tree in the middle of the back yard. The perimeter boundaries flank the property with mature dogwoods, magnolias, oak and maple. Development is dispersed in the town of Citra, with few blocks containing more than two or three buildings. Typical of this pattern, the Armstrong House has a generous lot, which encompasses much of the block.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The architecture of the Armstrong House is Frame Vernacular. The building rests on a brick pier foundation. The asymmetrical shaped balloon frame house exhibits common clapboard siding, it has four high-pitched gable roof elevations clad with metal, and pierced by four corbelled brick chimneys. The main (north) elevation features a three column, small porch entranceway with a glass and wood panel double door (Photo #24).

The south elevation is comparatively regular. The south side of the house features a pair of six over six double hung sash windows and show the brick pier foundation (Photo #19). The west elevation continues the asymmetrical design of the building. The west elevation has three entrances, a variety of windows, and a porch with stick balustrade (Photo #20). The irregular plan and asymmetrical rhythm of the building is evident from the east elevation. The east elevation displays a seven column, screened-in porch protected by hip and shed roofs, two entrances with beveled plate glass, and 7'x3' windows (Photo #25).

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

**ARMSTRONG HOUSE
Citra, Marion County, Florida**

Interior

The single-story house has twelve-foot ceilings and a wide central hallway (Photo #2), that keeps cool air circulating throughout the large house during the summer. The massing and floor plan are irregular. The main rooms come off the central hallway. The plan includes an arrangement in which the parlor, living room, a bedroom, laundry room, and bath occupy the west side. The east side of the house consists of two bedrooms, music room, dining room, bathroom and kitchen. It has seven decorative fireplaces. Several of these fireplaces are adorned with marble and intricately carved mantels (Photos #3, 5, 6, 9, 11 & 13). Another feature of the house are the bay windows in the shuttered dining room, living room and parlor (Photo #4). The construction material is native "heart pine" including the framing, peg constructed doors, floors, mantels and all woodwork, as well as the window shutters. French doors open into the central hallway from the southeast bedroom (Photo #7). Fenestration consists of original one over six sash windows, and multi-paned casement windows with transoms (Photo #10). Original doorframes and doors have paneled features and brass hardware (Photo #12). A built-in china breakfront (Photo #14) in the dining room and a floor to ceiling bookcase with bench are also included in the original design. The walls are lath and plaster and there are some bead and board ceilings (Photo #17) and picture molding in most rooms.

The Armstrong House is a good example of Frame Vernacular architecture with several decorative elements. Relatively few alterations have been made, and the original plan and definition of interior spaces remain intact. The main house and other contributing buildings have been well maintained and retain a high degree of architectural integrity.

Carriage House

The wood frame carriage house (Photo #26), located just south of the main house, was constructed approximately the same time as the main house, ca.1901. The building has clapboard siding, a metal covered, gable roof with exposed rafter ends. The east elevation has a glass and wood panel door bordered by two six over six double hung sash windows. A sliding carriage door takes up much of the north elevation. The interior area is one open space.

NONCONTRIBUTING

Garage/Storage Shed

The two-car garage and storage shed was added in the area southwest of the main house sometime in the early 1920s. The design of the building is well integrated with the main house. It has wood siding and a metal gable roof with exposed rafter ends (Photo #27). The original hinges and hardware remain.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number PHOTOS Page 1

**ARMSTRONG HOUSE
Citra, Marion County, Florida**

List of Photographs

1. Armstrong House, 18050 US Highway 301 North
2. Citra, Marion County, Florida
3. DM and Mary Armstrong
4. June, 1998
5. 107 12th Street SW, Ruskin, Florida
6. Main entrance, Glass and Wood Panel Double doors, camera facing northeast
7. Photo #1 of 28

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs:

6. Central hallway, camera facing north
7. Photo #2 of 28

6. Close-up, Parlor fireplace, camera facing southwest
7. Photo #3 of 28

6. Living room shuttered bay windows, camera facing northwest
7. Photo #4 of 28

6. Close-up, Living room fireplace, camera facing south
7. Photo #5 of 28

6. Close-up, Northeast Bedroom fireplace, camera facing southwest
7. Photo #6 of 28

6. Southeast Bedroom French doors, camera facing southwest
7. Photo #7 of 28

6. Southeast Bedroom fireplace, camera facing northwest
7. Photo #8 of 28

6. Southwest Bedroom fireplace and closet doors, camera facing northeast
7. Photo #9 of 28

6. Close-up, casement windows with transoms, camera facing east
7. Photo #10 of 28

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

**ARMSTRONG HOUSE
Citra, Marion County, Florida**

-
6. Music room fireplace, camera facing south
 7. Photo #11 of 28

 6. Dining room, detail of door and surround, camera facing west
 7. Photo #12 of 28

 6. Dining room fireplace, camera facing northeast
 7. Photo #13 of 28

 6. Dining room built-in breakfront, camera facing northeast
 7. Photo #14 of 28

 6. Dining room shuttered bay windows, camera facing east
 7. Photo #15 of 28

 6. Dining room built-in breakfront and fireplace, camera facing north
 7. Photo #16 of 28

 6. Dining room wood ceiling
 7. Photo #17 of 28

 6. Kitchen "pass through" opening
 7. Photo #18 of 28

 6. South elevation, camera facing north
 7. Photo #19 of 28

 6. West elevation showing open verandah and west entrance, camera facing east
 7. Photo #20 of 28

 6. West elevation showing bay windows, camera facing east
 7. Photo #21 of 28

 6. North elevation showing bay windows, camera facing southwest
 7. Photo #22 of 28

 6. Entrance porch and glass and wood panel double doors, camera facing southwest
 7. Photo #23 of 28

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number PHOTOS Page 3

**ARMSTRONG HOUSE
Citra, Marion County, Florida**

-
6. North elevation showing bay windows and entrance porch, camera facing south
 7. Photo #24 of 28

 6. East elevation, camera facing west
 7. Photo #25 of 28

 6. Carriage house, camera facing southwest
 7. Photo #26 of 28

 6. Garage/storage shed, camera facing west
 7. Photo #27 of 28

 6. Garage/storage shed (rear), camera facing southeast
 7. Photo #28 of 28

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

**ARMSTRONG HOUSE
Citra, Marion County, Florida**

SUMMARY

The Armstrong House fulfills criterion C at the local level in the area of architecture. Under criterion C, the building and outbuilding display Frame Vernacular styling with several decorative elements, and are significant as examples of statewide and national trends in frame vernacular architecture. The house was constructed in 1901 as one of the first permanent residences in Citra, and is associated with the establishment of this rural Marion County community. The building is one of the few remaining historic residences in Citra.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The earliest white settlement in Marion County was Fort King, a frontier outpost with a federal Indian agent that was established in 1827. During the Second Seminole War (1835-1842), steamboats on the Ocklawaha and Withlacoochee rivers played a major role, bringing troops, supplies and communications to the numerous forts found along the rivers. Later the steamers continued to carry mail and passengers as the forts and camps became settlements and towns after the arrival of homesteaders under the Armed Occupation Act of 1842. Settlers accepted the offer of inexpensive lands, agreeing to bear arms against the Indians along the rivers and within a twenty-mile radius of Fort King.

In 1844, Marion County was created from parts of Alachua, Hillsborough, and Orange counties, and was named for General Francis Marion, the celebrated "Swamp Fox" of the American Revolutionary War. Settlement of Citra began shortly after the Civil War, along with the discovery of the wild orange trees along the shore of Orange Lake. The development of Marion County, even from the time of its early settlement, was closely tied to the cultivation of citrus. The county was particularly significant in the early development of rootstock and several notable varieties of citrus fruit.

Some of the early farmers experimented with the orange trees doing some grafting and developed the pineapple orange that was highly sweet and sought by all who tasted it. Grafting or "budding" as the growers called it brought forth a sweeter orange. Consequently, the citrus industry was established. By the mid-1870's the citrus industry was flourishing. Local community development and population were booming. Until 1880, the fruit was harvested by hand, wrapped in paper, packed in sawdust or white sand in barrels and shipped out on barges and steamers on the Ocklawaha River to the St. Johns River and Jacksonville, where it was then bound for the northern market. Early in the 1880's the small town of Citra was laid out by James A. Harris, the railroad track was laid and the first rail connection in the county had arrived. This opened a whole new world for the farmers and citrus growers. Citra soon became the citrus capital of the world. Citra and the east coast's Merritt Island were the largest producers of citrus in the state during the 1880s and 1890s. The population of Citra doubled in five years. In 1890, 250,000 boxes of oranges were shipped from Citra per year. This boom required the development of support industries. The sawmill business was in high demand to keep up with new construction. The economy waned and flourished through the years as major freezes took their toll on the

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

**ARMSTRONG HOUSE
Citra, Marion County, Florida**

groves. The Great Freeze of 1894-1895 dramatically reduced the agricultural economy of Citra. However, the citrus industry stayed in Citra until the "crash" in 1929. Afterward the community became a quiet rural farming area as the citrus industry moved further south to be established below the frost line.

The Armstrong family came to Citra in 1890 and purchased land to build a house, which was constructed in 1901 by a Mr. C. Barker, a local builder. Census records indicate a local farmer, Lee Armstrong was living in Citra in 1900, with his wife Mary L. and son Roy. The house that the Armstrongs built has survived nearly a century and stands on the hill in Citra looking north over the center of town. The locals refer to it as the "big white house on the hill" or the "long white house."

By 1924, the Melton family purchased the Armstrong house after renting it for many years. James Wilburn Melton owned and operated several large sawmills. His son, James, was the tenor, James Melton, a popular artist of radio, concerts, and opera. Soon after James's birth in Moultrie, Georgia, on January 2, 1904, the family moved to Citra. Later, the family moved to Ocala where James Melton started his singing career at the local high school.

From 1930 to 1969, the house was owned by the Shands family. Thomas Walter and Annie C. Shands purchased the house on November 12, 1930. Their son, William Augustine Shands served in the Florida Senate from 1940 until 1958, and was Senate president in 1957. Shands, a native of Bronson, Florida, was instrumental in the establishment of the medical center and teaching hospital at the University of Florida, and the teaching hospital was named in his honor in 1965. He is also credited as a major force in obtaining the 1949 legislative authorization for a medical school and nursing school to be established at the University of Florida. Although William Shands owned the Armstrong property from 1945 until 1953, it is unclear whether or not he ever lived there.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Frame Vernacular

The term "Frame Vernacular," the prevalent style of historic residential architecture in Florida refers to common wood frame construction techniques employed by lay or self-taught builders. Before the Civil War, residents relied upon local materials and their own methods and designs to construct houses. The Industrial Revolution permitted standardization of building materials and parts and exerted a pervasive influence over vernacular house design. Popular magazines helped to make architectural trends universal throughout the country. The railroad provided cheap and efficient transportation for manufactured building materials. Ultimately, individual builders had access to finished architectural products from which to create their own designs.

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Section number 8 Page 3

ARMSTRONG HOUSE
Citra, Marion County, Florida

Frame Vernacular houses are typically one or two stories in height, with wood balloon frame structural systems and brick pier foundations. Plans are usually rectangular, though L-shaped plans were often used to maximize cross-ventilation. Gable or hip roofs usually display steep pitches, which accommodate attic space. Horizontal drop siding and weatherboard are common exterior wall surface materials. Porches, most commonly simple entrance or end models, are common features of the style. Fenestration is regular, but not always symmetrical. Windows consists of double-hung sashes or casements, and paneled wood doors often contain glazing. Exterior decoration is scant and limited to ornamental woodwork.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Armstrong House, located at 18050 US Highway 301 North, in Citra, is a one-story, Frame Vernacular building constructed in 1901. It is one of the few remaining historic residences in the community. The building has asymmetrical massing with an irregular floor plan. It also features a series of cross-gable, metal surfaced roofs, large verandas, and double-hung sash windows with a variety of muntin patterns. Another contributing building is a 1901 carriage house.

The house is an outstanding example of the architectural style with several decorative and useful design elements. For instance, the twelve-foot ceilings, a wide central hallway, and window placement kept cool air circulating throughout the large house during the summer. The heart pine woodwork on the doors and window surrounds, picture rails, and the seven fireplace mantles display skillfull craftsmanship. Detailing on the house, such as the bay windows with small brackets at the clipped corners reflect the workmanship devoted to its construction as well. Another good example of this workmanship included in the original design is apparent in the built-in china breakfront in the dining room. Other significant characteristics of the house include the Doric columns on the north and east porches, and the steeply pitched roof with the corbelled chimneys.

The Armstrong House, along with its 1901 carriage house, retains its historic integrity in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to a very high degree, making it one of the most outstanding historic residences in Citra.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1

**ARMSTRONG HOUSE
Citra, Marion County, Florida**

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

**ARMSTRONG HOUSE
Citra, Marion County, Florida**

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is located in Section 28, Township 12, and Range 22. Lot 2, Except South 21 feet of West 112 feet and East 86 feet of Lot 1, Block A, Except portion lying Westerly of and within 53 feet of Centerline of State Road 200 and South 20 feet of Lot 1 subject to Right of way RJ Steels Addition to Citra, as recorded in Plat Book A, Page 110, Public Records of Marion County, Florida.

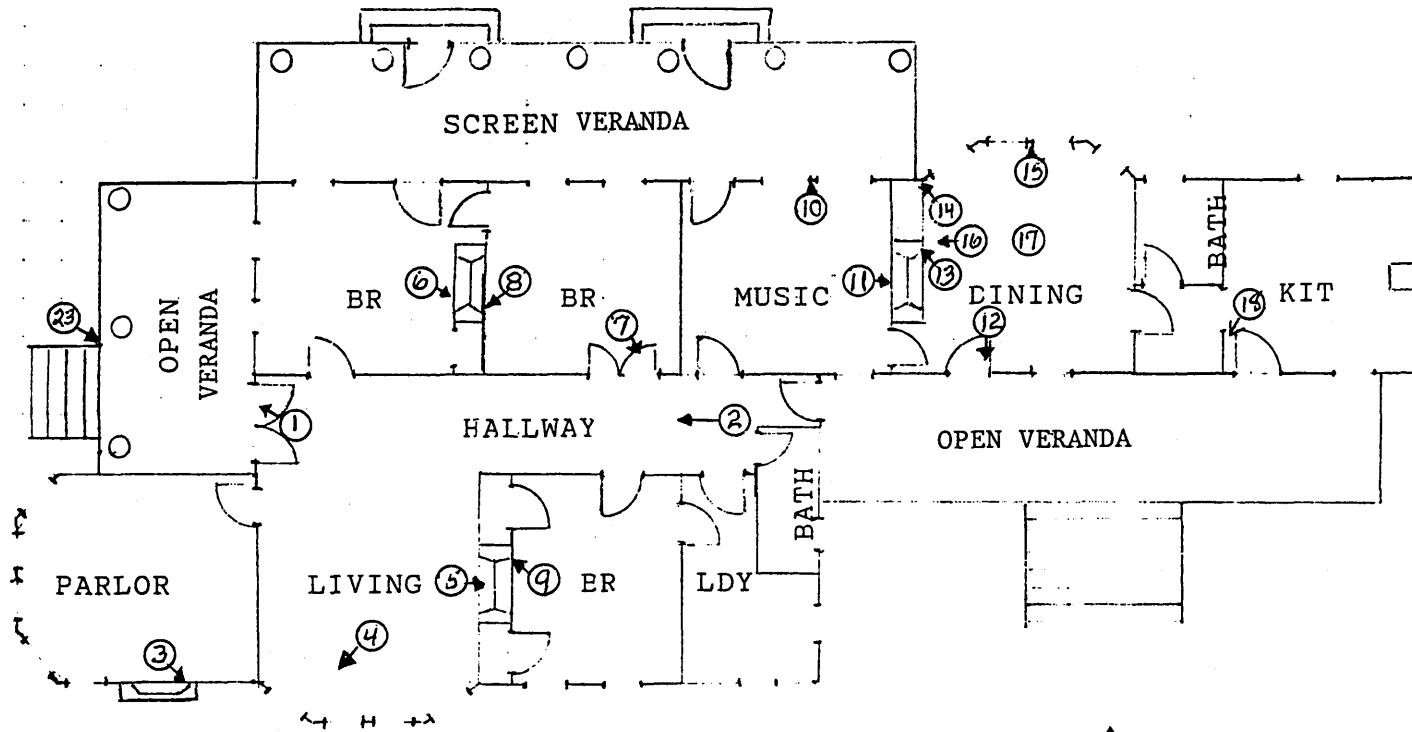
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encloses 1.10 acres of property historically associated with the Armstrong House, 18050 US Highway 301 North, Citra, Marion County, Florida.

PHOTOGRAPH KEY



25



19

CARRIAGE HOUSE 24

20

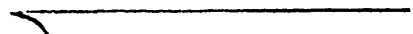
27 GARAGE/SHED FRONT

28 GARAGE/SHED REAR

ARMSTRONG HOUSE
Citra, Marion County, Florida

(Not to scale)

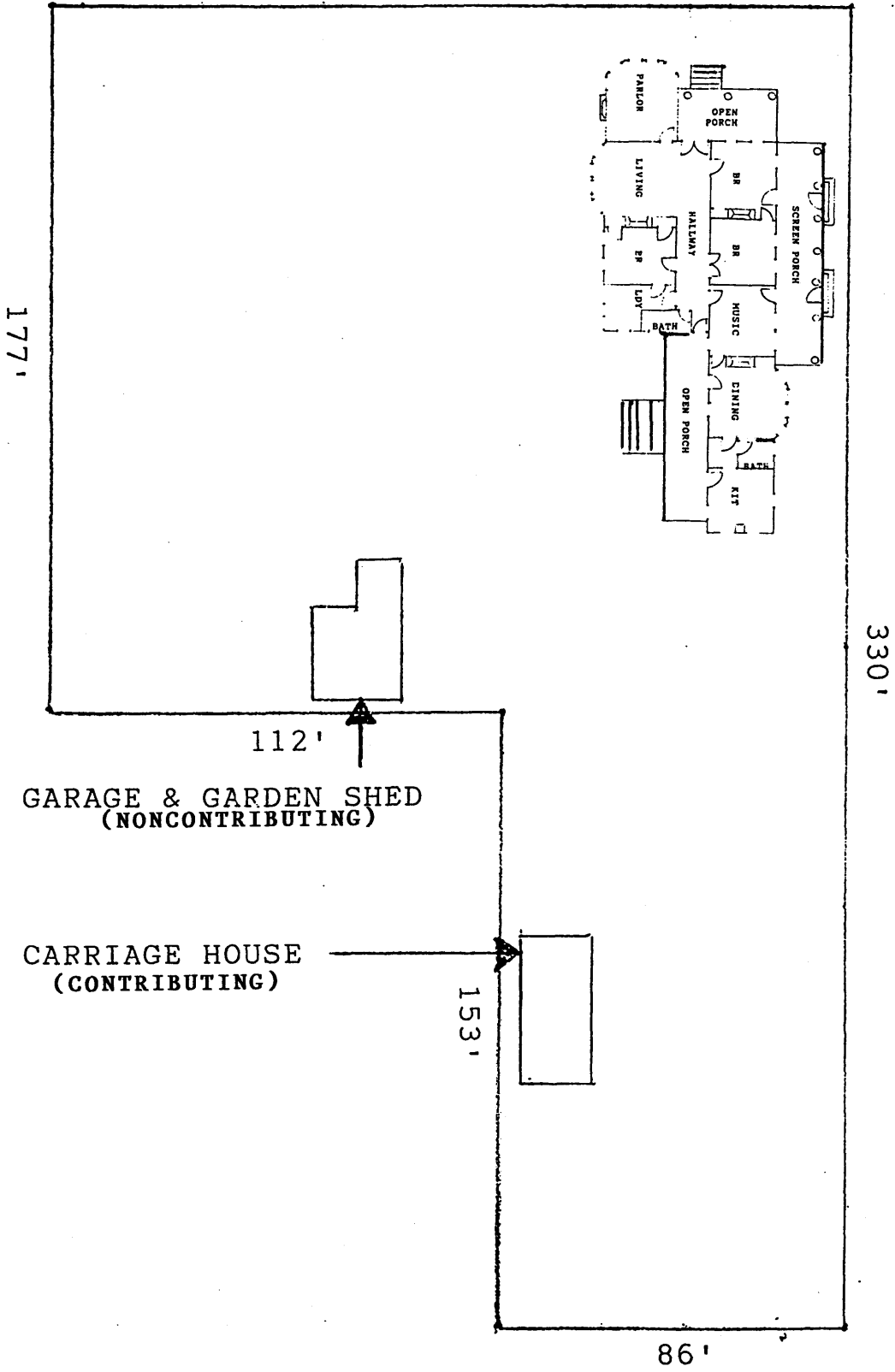
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ARMSTRONG HOUSE
Citra, Marion County, Florida PLOT PLAN

(Not to scale)

NE 180th LANE
198'

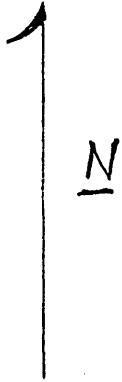


U S HIGHWAY 301 NORTH

NE 180TH STREET

ARMSTRONG HOUSE
Citra, Marion County, Florida

(Not to scale)



CITRA, FLORIDA
32113

- 1 - SUBJECT PROPERTY
18050 U S HWY 301 N
- 2 - CITRA FIRE DEPARTMENT
- 3 - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF CITRA
- 4 - U S POST OFFICE
CITRA

