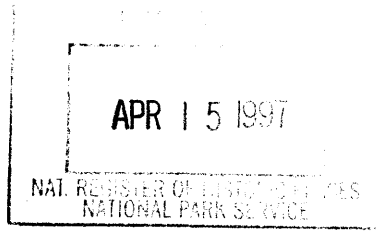


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Norton, Gould Hyde House

other names/site number /LA2026

2. Location

street & number 1390 East Lakeview Drive N/A not for publication

city or town Eustis N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Lake code 069 zip code 32726

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.)

[Signature] 4/8/97
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) _____

[Signature] 5/26/97
Signature of the Keeper 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	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
3	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/hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

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 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, 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):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, landmark, survey, engineering record.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Architecture

Early Settlement

Period of Significance

c.1880-1940

Significant Dates

c.1880

Significant Person

Norton, Colonel Gould Hyde

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State Agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of Repository

#

NORTON, GOULD H. HOUSE
Name of Property

LAKE, FLORIDA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	4	3	4	4	7	0	3	1	9	0	4	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 Paul L. Weaver, Consultant; Gary V. Goodwin, Historic Preservation Planner

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date April, 1997

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 June and Jess Schmidt

street & number 1390 East Lakeview Drive telephone

city or town Eustis state FL zip code 32726

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

**GOULD H. NORTON HOUSE
Eustis, Lake County, Florida**

SUMMARY

The Gould H. Norton House in Eustis, Florida, is a c.1880 two-and-one half story wood frame residence with a truncated, low pitched, hipped roof, and exterior chimney. The exterior of the building exhibits detailing associated with the Italianate style. The interior was designed originally as a single-family residence, but in recent years has been sensitively adapted for use as a bed and breakfast inn. The major alteration, the rebuilding of the front porch, occurred about 1993.

PRESENT AND ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Setting

The Norton House is located east of downtown Eustis on Lakeview Avenue. It is within a 1.5 acre parcel. The parcel is the highest point of what remains of a 160 acre quarter section, conceded to Colonel Norton as a federal land grant. Originally within the grant were citrus groves and a commercial nursery. The land encompassing the nursery, known as Interlaken, sloped south to an isthmus between West Crooked Lake and East Crooked Lake. The nursery was apparently named for its location between the lakes.

As property values increased due to population growth in Eustis, most of the 160 acres surrounding the Norton House was sold and converted to use as residential subdivisions, consisting of detached single-family homes on small lots of a half acre or less. Judging by the age of the adjacent houses, this process began during the 1920s and intensified during the 1960s. Even during the 1960s much of the land surrounding the house remained planted in citrus groves. The Norton House is clearly distinguished from its surroundings because of its age, design, size, and the amount of land surrounding it.

The boundaries of the Norton House are defined by several man-made features. The south and west boundaries of the property are survey lines dividing the Norton House from adjacent properties. On the north side is Lakeview Avenue and on the east is Fahnstock Street. The setting consists of the main house, a historic garage and cottage, and a non-historic pool. Other site features are live oaks, cabbage and sago palms, and other trees, plants, and shrubs (photographs 1-3, 13-14).

Exterior

The main block of the Norton House has a nearly square ground plan measuring forty feet by thirty feet with a ten foot deep enclosed porch at the rear. The house rests on a raised, brick pier foundation, and its structural

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

**GOULD H. NORTON HOUSE
Eustis, Lake County, Florida**

system is wood balloon frame. The exterior finish is wood, lap-siding. Doors and windows are numerous and provide a system of cross ventilation (photographs 1-3).

The fenestration is regular and symmetrical. The main (north) elevation is five bays wide and the east and west are four bays wide. The windows are wooden, double-hung sash with 1/1 lights and feature wooden shutters. They are rectangular in form, singly placed, and located in ranks one above the other on the main and side elevations (photographs 1-3).

The main entrance is centrally placed and highly detailed. It features sidelights and a fanlight above the entrance and an eight-panel wooden door. The fanlights and sidelights have leaded comes. In the fanlights the comes and glass form a sunburst pattern. The sidelights have a geometric pattern consisting of diamonds and ovals (photograph 4).

The main roof is a truncated low pitched hip type. Where the roof planes meet is a platform which originally formed part of a railed widow's walk. Although widow's walks are normally associated with coastal houses, the one on the Norton House served an important function. Given the location of the house at the high point of the Norton holdings, the widow's walk provided an observation point for viewing the surrounding nursery and citrus groves. The rail system of the widow's walk has been removed (photographs 1-3).

The eaves of the roof are boxed with brackets and decorative soffit panels. The brackets are highly detailed. They have a scroll shaped form and turned and pressed elements. Gabled dormers are located on the north and west slopes. The roof and dormers are covered with asphalt shingles. The porch has a flat roof with a deck and non-historic cast iron railing. An exterior brick chimney is located on the east elevation (photograph 5).

The porch is three bays wide and supported by four ionic columns on the first floor. The porch roof is slightly sloped to drain rainwater away from the house (photograph 1).

The south wing, (photograph 2) containing a family room, was added about 1970. Constructed of wood frame with horizontal board siding, it is subordinate to the historic portion of the building and of compatible design. On the site are a cottage (photograph 13) and garage (photograph 14) probably dating from the 1920s. Both are part of the historic development of the site and are compatible with the architecture of the main building. A pool dating from the 1970s is located southeast of the main residence.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3

**GOULD H. NORTON HOUSE
Eustis, Lake County, Florida**

Interior

The interior, designed as a private residence, was laid out with public spaces such as parlors on the first floor and private spaces such as bedrooms on the second floor. All of the major spaces in the house retain their original use. A one-story Florida room, dating from the 1970s has been added at the rear of the building. The upper half story contains a finished attic (photographs 6-12).

The Norton House has a central hall plan with a parlor, dining room, kitchen and central hall on the first floor. The parlor is located on the east side of the main hall and extends from the front to the back of the main block. The upstairs shares a similar room layout except the master bedroom occupies the space above the first floor parlor on the east side of the central hall. Two bedrooms separated by a bathroom are located on the north side of the central hall.

Interior detailing is extensive. Much of the interior detailing is concentrated in the parlor, dining room, and stair hall. The floors are narrow oak boards. Baseboards, door and window trim, and wainscoting are found throughout the house and provide a unifying design. Doors are four panel type with much of the original hardware intact. Cornice molding and reeded casing around door and window openings are found in the main downstairs rooms and master bedroom (photographs 6, 9-12).

There are two mantels. One is located in the first floor parlor, and the second above in the master bedroom. The fireplace in the front parlor is highly detailed. It has classically derived features, including a plinth block, Tuscan columns, a cornice above the face, a frieze, and a second cornice forming the top shelf. The upstairs mantel is similar in composition but with a pilaster instead of columns flanking the brick surrounds (photographs 9,12).

The stair is a straight-flight type. It extends directly to the second floor with no turns, landings, or winder stairs. The stair is highly detailed. At the base of the stair is a newel with a square base, a shaft with panels, and a turned headpiece. The balustrade consists of a handrail and a series of balusters in a turned wood, bead and reel pattern. It extends unbroken up the main flight before turning 180 degrees and proceeding along the edge of the well at the second floor (photographs 7,11).

Integrity

The main block of the Norton House on both the exterior and interior is currently well-maintained and retains a good degree of architectural integrity. The major alteration has been the removal of the original porch and its replacement. The original one-story porch was four bays wide and extended along the south elevation. It

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 4

**GOULD H. NORTON HOUSE
Eustis, Lake County, Florida**

featured posts with jig-sawn brackets. Historic photographs indicate that it was removed prior to 1930. In 1993 a new porch was constructed on the main elevation. In many ways it matches the features of the original porch. The height, depth, and width on the main elevation closely approximate the original porch. The tongue-in-groove wood decking is also probably similar to the original. The columns and cast iron railing do not, however, match historic features.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

**GOULD H. NORTON HOUSE
Eustis, Lake County, Florida**

SUMMARY

The Gould H. Norton House, located at 1390 E. Lakeview Drive, Eustis, Florida, is being nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria B and C at the local level. It is significant under criteria B for its association with Gould Hyde Norton, an early settler of Eustis and one of the town founders. His residence is associated with the formative period of the town's development. Norton was an innovator in the development of the Lake County citrus industry and a prominent individual in the political development of Eustis. This house was also the setting for many of Norton's business affairs, associated with the Interlaken Nursery which then surrounded the property. The Norton House has architectural significance under criteria C as a fine example of the Italianate style and the residential architecture of late nineteenth century Central Florida. Its raised foundation, generous attic spaces, and numerous windows and doors are obvious adaptations of traditional wood frame construction to the warm climate of the state. It is one of the oldest and best designed and constructed residences in the town of Eustis.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Settlement and Development of Eustis, c. 1870-1940

Transportation was key to the early settlement and economic development of Eustis, a small central Florida community in Lake County. Settlement was initially concentrated at a place called Pendryville on the eastern shore of Lake Eustis. Pendryville became a shipping point for citrus products and a destination for tourists and winter residents who arrived on steamboats plying the waters of the Ocklawaha River during the 1870s.

Also during the 1870s, a second settlement began near Pendryville in what today is downtown Eustis. Beginning in 1881 with the first general store, the commercial center of Eustis began to emerge. Citrus cultivation and distribution was the key economic activity for the fledgling community. Northern markets were accessed by way of Lake Eustis, the Ocklawaha and St. Johns rivers or overland by way of Sanford, the southernmost accessible port on the St. Johns. During the 1880s and 1890s, the construction of railroads into the area provided a catalyst for settlement and economic development of Eustis. In 1880 the St. Johns and Lake Eustis Railroad reached Eustis. Over the next two decades Eustis became part of an ever expanding central Florida rail network.

Formal political organization followed the arrival of the railroad. Eustis was incorporated in 1883 under the leadership of among others, Colonel G.H. Norton. By 1885 Eustis had three hotels and a bank. These included the Eustis House, owned by Moses Taylor and his associates, and the Ocklawaha, which became a nationally known tourist destination.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

**GOULD H. NORTON HOUSE
Eustis, Lake County, Florida**

During the winter of 1894-1895, several major freezes devastated the citrus industry of Eustis and Lake County. Not until the following decade, did the economy of Eustis fully recover from the "Great Freeze." Economic development was facilitated by improvements in transportation. Automotive transportation became a factor in the local economy for the first time. Local efforts resulted in a number of improved city streets between 1900 and 1910. A county financed effort known as the Good Roads Movement increased the number of hard-surfaced roads in Lake County in 1912. In 1913 a city bond issue resulted in a system of brick paved streets. A "White Way" of street lights was erected in 1914 on major city streets. Between 1916 and 1918, the Dixie Highway was built through Eustis, thus connecting the city with the national highway system.

During the 1920s, Eustis, like most Florida towns and cities, experienced a period of unprecedented growth known as the Florida Real Estate Boom. Tourism remained an important economic activity. Although the famous Ocklawaha Inn burned to the ground on November 15, 1922, it was replaced the following year by the Fountain Inn, a Spanish style hotel with 164 rooms. The All States Tourist Club, organized in 1926, resulted from the merger of many of the state based tourist clubs. The annual regatta and the boat parade held on Lake Eustis were major tourist draws. Many of the important public buildings long associated with downtown Eustis were built during the 1920s. These included the Eustis City Hall, the fire station, the public library, and a civic auditorium.

The Florida Boom collapsed in 1926 and began an economic downturn which would affect Eustis and surrounding communities for years to come. That same year the stock market crashed, initiating the Great Depression. Because of the distressed national and state economies, tourism declined significantly both in Eustis and throughout Florida. The Grand View Hotel, one of three large historic tourist hotels in Eustis, burned in 1930, and in December, 1936, the Fountain Inn, the third, was forced to close its doors. Several public works projects, funded by the WPA, helped stimulate the local economy during the mid-1930s, but full recovery would await the post-World War II boom.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Citrus and the Development of Lake County, c. 1870-1930

Since the 1870s, commercial citrus production has been an important economic activity in what today is Lake County. Citrus was initially planted in the rolling hills and rich hammock lands around the rivers and lakes found throughout the county. These features together with Florida's warm climate produced an ideal environment for the cultivation of citrus.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3

**GOULD H. NORTON HOUSE
Eustis, Lake County, Florida**

Early groves in Lake County were planted with sweet orange seedlings. The seedlings were grown under controlled conditions until large enough to be transplanted to groves. A number of famous varieties of oranges were developed in or near Lake County. These included Parson Brown, Boon's Early, Pineapple, and Homossassa.

Beside the seedling groves were stands of wild sour orange trees along the banks of the St. Johns; and Ocklawaha rivers and their tributaries. These sour orange trees were left over from earlier settlements. By the 1880s, budding varieties of orange on native sour orange root stock had become common practice. The demand for citrus plantings resulted in the development of the first commercial nurseries. Among the first to develop a commercial nursery in Lake County, and indeed Florida, was G.H. Norton of Eustis. Known as the Interlaken Nursery, Norton's enterprise was renowned for the quality of its orange, lemon, and other fruit trees. By the mid-1880s Interlaken Nursery was well established and widely promoted in state business directories and gazetteers.

Lake County experienced steady growth during the late 1880s and early 1890s largely due to the strength of the citrus industry. By the mid-1890s, Lake County and nearby Orange County were the leading citrus producers in Florida. Lake County was so important to the Florida citrus industry that in 1893 Eustis was selected as the site of the United States Department of Agriculture's Sub-Tropical Laboratory. The facility was donated by the people of Eustis and staffed by Professors Herbert John Webber and Walter Tennyson Swingle, two pioneers in agricultural science. Research at the laboratory initially focused on orange blight.

The "Great Freeze" of the winter of 1894 and 1895, however, brought development in Lake County to an abrupt halt. On December 29, 1894 a blast of unusually cold air swept into Florida causing severe damage to groves as far south as Vero Beach. Affected trees were denuded of leaves, but most survived. A period of warm weather followed, and it appeared that a good portion of the citrus crop would be saved. The hopes of central Florida growers were dashed, however, when a second, much harder freeze occurred February 7. The state, which had shipped more than 5 million boxes of fruit in 1894, managed only 88,355 in 1895 and a meager 150,000 boxes the following year.

Eustis and surrounding Lake County were devastated by the great freeze. All fruit was lost and most trees were severely damaged or destroyed. Primarily as a result of the freezes, the U.S.D.A. closed the Sub-Tropical Laboratory at Eustis in 1897 and recalled professors Webber and Swingle. Many growers abandoned their property, but others stayed and replanted. Among these was G.H. Norton whose nursery at Eustis provided stock for many of the replanted groves.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 4

**GOULD H. NORTON HOUSE
Eustis, Lake County, Florida**

By the end of the first decade of the twentieth century, citrus production had reached record levels both locally and across the state. In response to the revitalized citrus market and to regulate freight rates and sales of citrus, the Florida Citrus Exchange was formed in 1909. Over the next several years exchanges were established in many Lake County communities.

Citrus remained the backbone of the economy of Lake County through the 1920s. At that time, Lake County was third in citrus production behind only Polk and Orange counties. Its production exceeded 1.5 million boxes per year during the decade. By 1925 Eustis had eight large packing houses and many offshoot businesses such as hardware stores and nurseries which provided goods and services to citrus growers.

Hurricanes during the late 1920s, however, and an infestation of the Mediterranean fruit fly in 1929 impacted the citrus industry and contributed to economic decline in Eustis and communities throughout Central Florida. The citrus industry began to recover during the latter years of the 1930s.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Colonel Gould Hyde Norton House was constructed c. 1880 in Eustis, Florida. Its original owner was G. H. Norton, a pioneer developer of Eustis and the citrus industry of Central Florida. Norton was born February, 1840 at Elba, Genesee County, New York. He was raised at Stillman Valley, Illinois. In 1860 he enrolled at the Illinois Normal University at Bloomington.

Following the outbreak of the Civil War, G.H. Norton enlisted in the Union Army and was shortly thereafter promoted to Second Lieutenant in Company A, 33rd Illinois Infantry Regiment. He was later promoted to First Lieutenant and Captain in the same unit which was attached to General U.S. Grant's command and saw action in many battles throughout the Mississippi River Valley and east Texas. Norton was wounded by a ball in the chest during a charge of the Confederate line at the battle of Vicksburg, Mississippi, on May 19, 1863, while commanding Company A. At one point, during the military occupation of Vicksburg, he served as captain of the local military police.

On March 26, 1867, G.H. Norton married Annis J. Wilder of Vicksburg. Together they had five children. During the 1870s the family moved to Kansas, where Norton rose to the rank of Colonel of the Kansas Calvary. Norton and his brother Henry helped found the frontier town of Arkansas City, Kansas, and there established flourishing land, construction, and mercantile businesses until a locust invasion devastated the local economy in 1873.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 5

**GOULD H. NORTON HOUSE
Eustis, Lake County, Florida**

Between 1873 and 1876, the Norton family relocated to Eustis, where Colonel Norton secured a federal land patent under terms of the Armed Occupation Act. They became prominent in the development of agriculture, particularly citrus cultivation and the citrus nursery business. Colonel Norton's business interests were extensive and reached as far as Phoenix, Arizona.

About 1880 Colonel Norton constructed his house at Eustis. The surrounding property covered some 160 acres and extended down to East and West Crooked Lake. It included his own citrus groves and was known as the Interlaken Nursery. Colonel Norton apparently traveled widely in search of exotic plantings for the nursery. While mainly concentrating on citrus, his plant stock included Japanese plums, persimmons, peaches, grapes, guavas, and roses and other ornamental plants. He imported date palms from Arabia. According to published accounts, the Interlaken Nursery enjoyed a state-wide reputation for the quality of its stock.

Colonel Norton was also instrumental in the incorporation of Eustis and its early government. On January 1, 1883, he was selected as recording secretary for a meeting organized to incorporate the town. Following incorporation of the town, he was elected as one of the original town councilmen.

While in Florida, Colonel Norton became Commander of the Florida chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic. Because of his position, Colonel Norton was presented with relics recovered from the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln in 1886. During the Spanish-American War, Colonel Norton's sons, Oliver, Edward, and Gould Gregory joined Teddy Roosevelt's 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, known as the Rough Riders. They were the only three brothers to serve together in the unit and the only three from Florida. Oliver Norton was killed during the Rough Riders' famous battle at San Juan Hill. While serving with the Rough Riders, Edward Norton became intrigued with the possibility of commercial citrus in Cuba and Puerto Rico. His father subsequently invested in a citrus operation at Bayamon, Puerto Rico, between 1900 and 1902. Colonel G.H. Norton died at Bayamon on June 9, 1903 and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Italianate Style

The Gould H. Norton House is a significant example of the Italianate style adapted to the climate and materials of Florida. The Italianate, primarily a domestic style in the United States, was popular in much of the country from the mid- to late nineteenth century. The writings and designs of architects Andrew Jackson Downing, A.J. Davis, and Calvert Vaux promoted Italianate designs. The development of cast iron facades during the middle of the nineteenth century, when the style flowered, resulted in the construction of many Italianate commercial buildings.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 6

**GOULD H. NORTON HOUSE
Eustis, Lake County, Florida**

The Italianate style appears infrequently in Florida. Many of the best examples of the style are large private residences and commercial buildings found mainly in small north and central Florida towns, including Eustis. The Norton House, while not a pure example of the Italianate, does embody many of its features. These include a slight eave overhang with brackets, a low pitched hip roof, regular massing, and a symmetrical design with a centrally placed entrance and regularly placed windows.

Significant Property Type: Citrus Grove Houses

Historic grove houses, such as the Gould H. Norton House, and outbuildings and structures associated with them are important property types and contribute to the understanding of the development of the citrus industry. They are clearly significant for their association with the most prosperous agricultural activity in the state during the last one hundred years. Despite their importance, few properties associated with the Florida citrus industry are currently listed in the National Register of historic places.

Grove houses in Lake County share a number of common features. They generally are at least two stories in height, with a balloon frame structural system constructed of pine. They are sited on large parcels with outbuildings and structures associated with citrus and other agricultural endeavors. They are mounted on masonry piers of brick construction. Horizontal weatherboard and drop siding are the most widely used exterior wall surface materials. Wood shingles and sheet metal were original roof surfacing materials.

Porches are a common feature and include one-and two-story end porches or verandas. Decorative features consist of ornamental woodwork, frequently jig-sawn. Such features include a variety of patterned shingles, turned porch columns and balustrade, and ornamental eave and porch brackets. While generally constructed based on wood frame vernacular building traditions, they frequently exhibit features associated with a number of late nineteenth and early twentieth century architectural styles, particularly the Queen Anne, Italianate, and Colonial Revival.

The Norton House embodies many of the features associated with grove houses in Central Florida. Many of these houses were austere. Because of the wealth of its owner, the Gould H. Norton House is one of the better designed and constructed examples in Lake County.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1

**GOULD H. NORTON HOUSE
Eustis, Lake County, Florida**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Secondary Sources

Blackman, William. **History of Orange County, Florida.** Orlando, 1927.

Cutler, Henry. **History of Florida, Past and Present.** 3 vols. Chicago, 1923.

Dovell, Junius. **Florida: Historic, Dramatic, Contemporary.** 4 vols. New York, 1952.

Kennedy, William Thomas. **History of Lake County, Florida.** St. Augustine, 1929.

Miscellaneous

Bennett, Francis A. "A Historical Sketch of Eustis." Unpublished essay. n.d. Vertical file, Rollins Archives.

Church, Beth. "Early Eustis." Unpublished manuscript, 1981.

Leeper, Mary Folk. A History of Eustis, Florida for Reference Use in the Intermediate Grades. Research Paper, John B. Stetson University, 1961.

Schmidt, June and Jess. Gould H. Norton Papers. 1390 E. Lakeview Drive, Eustis, Florida.

Taylor, Lottie C. "Early Settlement of Eustis & The Golden Triangle, 1875-1878." Unpublished essay. P.K. Yonge Library, Gainesville. 1920s and 1948.

Newspapers

Eustis Lake Region. November 3, 1898; April 27, 1889; November 30, 1934.

Centennial Edition Leesburg Commercial. c. 1980.

Gazetteers and Business Directories

Webb, Wanton S. **Webb's Historical, Industrial and Biographical Florida.** 1885.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 2

**GOULD H. NORTON HOUSE
Eustis, Lake County, Florida**

Richards, John L. Florida State Gazetteer, 1886-1887.

Polk, R.L. Florida State Gazetteer. 1912.

Polk, R.L. Florida State Gazetteer. 1918.

Polk, R.L. Florida State Gazetteer. 1925.

Polk, R.L. Eustis City Directory. 1924-1925.

Polk, R.L. Eustis City Directory. 1926-1927.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

**GOULD H. NORTON HOUSE
Eustis, Lake County, Florida**

Boundary Description

From the Northwest corner of Section 13, Township 19 South, Range 26 in the City of Eustis, Florida, run South 725.55 feet to a point on the South line of the right-of-way of Lakeview Avenue; thence run East along the South line of the said right-of-way a distance of 1048.8 feet for a point of beginning. From said Point of Beginning, run East along the South line of the right-of-way of Lakeview Avenue, a distance of 255 feet to the West line of the right-of-way of Fahnstock Street; thence run South 0 degrees 06' West along the West line of the right-of-way of Fahnstock Street a distance of 240.6 feet; thence run North 0 degrees 06' East 240.6 feet to the Point of Beginning. All lying and being in Lake County, Florida.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries shown on the attached map enclose all historic resources associated with the Colonel Gould H. Norton House.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number PHOTOS Page 1

**GOULD H. NORTON HOUSE
Eustis, Lake County, Florida**

PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY

List of Photographs

1. Gould H. Norton House
2. 1390 East Lakeview Drive, Eustis, Lake County, Florida
3. Paul Weaver
4. April, 1996
5. 1390 East Lakeview Drive, Eustis, Lake County, Florida
6. Main (north) elevation, camera facing south.
7. Photo 1 of 14

Items 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

6. West, and south elevations, camera facing northeast.
7. Photo 2 of 14

6. East elevation, camera facing west.
7. Photo 3 of 14

6. Entrance detail showing sidelights and fanlight, camera facing south.
7. Photo 4 of 14

6. Detail of roof line showing brackets, and cornice, camera facing west.
7. Photo 5 of 14

6. Interior of main entrance, camera facing north.
7. Photo 6 of 14

6. Main stair hall, camera facing south.
7. Photo 7 of 14

6. Main stair hall, camera facing north.
7. Photo 8 of 14

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number PHOTOS Page 2

**GOULD H. NORTON HOUSE
Eustis, Lake County, Florida**

-
6. Main parlor, camera facing north.
7. Photo 9 of 14

6. Dining room, camera facing north.
7. Photo 10 of 14

6. Upstairs stair hall, camera facing south.
7. Photo 11 of 14

6. Upstairs parlor, camera facing south.
7. Photo 12 of 14

6. Rear cottage, camera facing north.
7. Photo 13 of 14

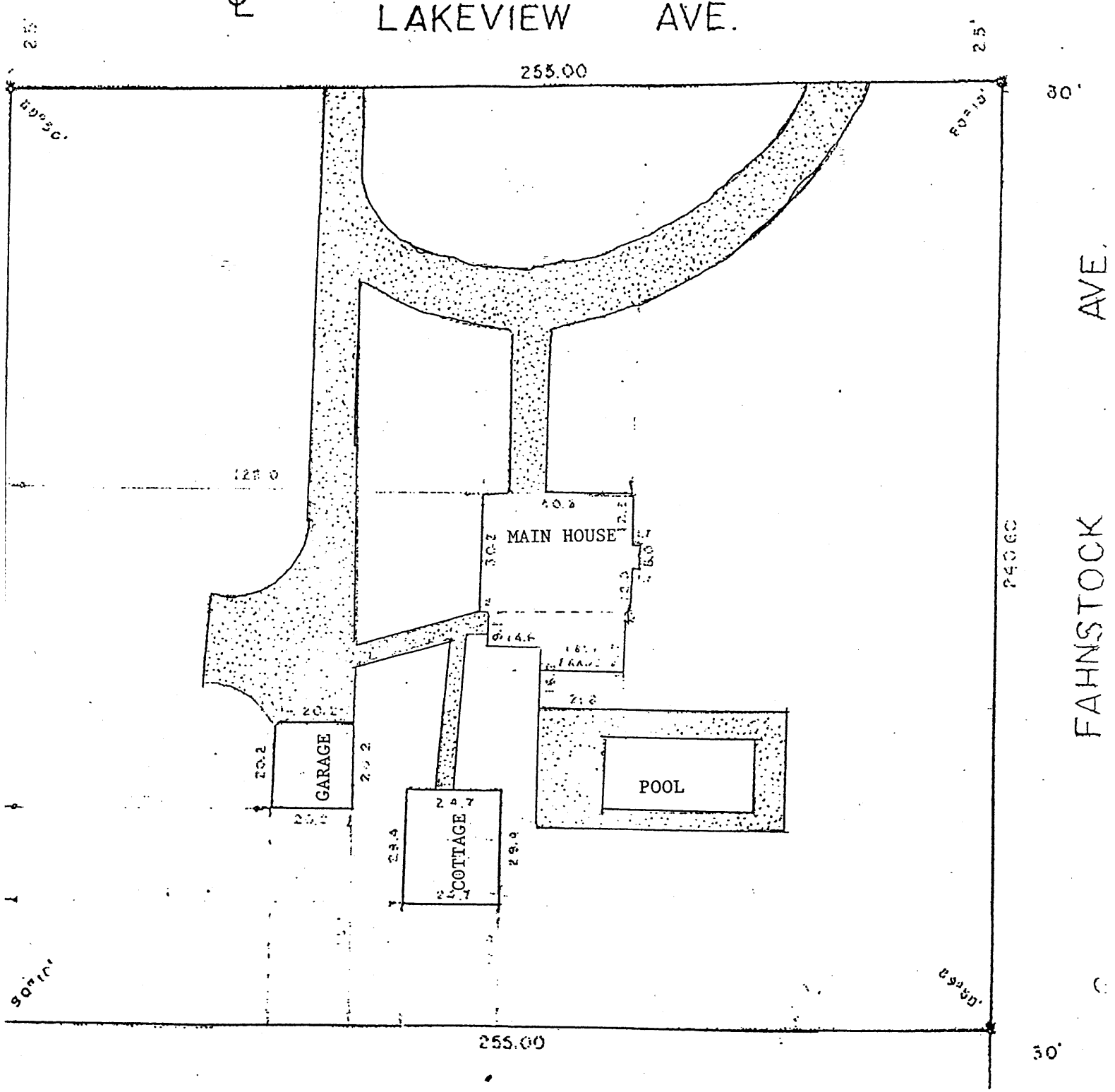
6. Garage, camera facing north.
7. Photo 14 of 14

PLAN OF SURVEY

FOR

1390 E. LAKEVIEW AVE.

LAKEVIEW AVE.



↑
N
1" = 30'

GOULD H. NORTON HOUSE
Eustis, Lake County, Florida