

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 30 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number See Section 7 n/a not for publication
city, town Century n/a vicinity
state Florida code FL county Escambia code 033 zip code 32535

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>45</u>	<u>5</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>46</u>	<u>5</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
[Signature] Aug. 24, 1989
Signature of certifying official Date
Florida State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____
[Signature] **Entered in the National Register** 9/28/89

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling
religion: Religious Structure
Social: Clubhouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling
Religion: Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Frame Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Wood: Weatherboard
roof Asphalt
other n/a

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION SHEETS.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning & Development

Industry

Period of Significance

1900-c1939

Significant Dates

1901

1939

Significant Person

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION SHEETS.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION SHEETS.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property approximately 23 acres

UTM References

A

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

C

1	6
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4	7	5	7	5	0
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3	4	2	5	8	6	0
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B

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

D

1	6
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4	7	5	2	6	0
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3	4	2	6	2	7	0
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the district is shown as the heavy dashed line on the accompanying map entitled, "Original Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Planned Mill Town, Century, Florida."

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the area of the original mill town of Century, built by The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company, which retains its historic and architectural integrity.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Debbie Nickles/Century Town Planner & Barbara E. Mattick/Historic Sites Specialist
 organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date August 1989
 street & number R.A. Gray Blg., 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333
 city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

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Historic District

SUMMARY:

The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District is a small, primarily residential district in Century, Florida, a small community at the Florida-Alabama state line, in Escambia County. Its period of significance is 1900-c1939, the years of the establishment of the town and the construction of the original buildings, all of which are frame vernacular. There are 46 contributing resources, including 41 residences and outbuildings, 2 churches, a hotel, 2 recreational buildings, and one site. There are five noncontributing resources: trailers located on three vacant lots and two houses which have been altered. This yields a contributing ratio of 90%.

SETTING:

The district is located northeast of the original mill site on five streets: Jefferson Avenue between Front and Fourth Streets (Photo 1); Front Street (Photo 2), southeast of the L. & N. Railroad line; Church Street (Photo 3); Fourth Street (Photo 4); Mayo Street (Photo 5); and Pinewood Avenue (Photo 6). This area is in the southeast part of the present Town of Century.

Original Setting:

Originally, the town had four distinct levels of housing: small shotgun houses for the black workers, located southwest of the mill on Pond Street; small, frame vernacular houses of various styles for the white workers, located on Front Street, Pinewood Avenue, and Church Street; larger, one-story, frame vernacular houses for the foremen and managers, located on Fourth Street; and large, two-story houses for the officers and administrators, located on Jefferson Avenue. Shortly after Century was established, several shops and professional offices were built in addition to the company-built and run commissary. These were located on the northwest side of Jefferson Avenue, primarily between Front and Church Streets. The first post office was across the street, and a hotel was built on Front Street near the intersection with Jefferson Avenue (428 Front Street). Directly across Jefferson Avenue from the mill, between Front and Pond Streets, was an open area reserved for cut lumber. South of the mill itself was the

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mill pond (Postcard, c1930). The streets were lined with company-planted water oaks, some of which formed a canopy over Jefferson Avenue. Many of the houses had picket fences.

Alterations to the Setting:

The original mill burned in 1910, but it was replaced immediately. In 1939, the planing mill and dressed lumber sheds were destroyed by fire, along with the original office, the commissary, the meat market and pharmacy on Jefferson Avenue, and the doctor's office, barber shop, and ice house on Front Street.

A 1940 map of the mill shows the sawmill, dry kilns, lath shed, sap shed, rough shed, dressed shed, lumber shed, planing mill, timber skids, machine shop, welding shop, supply house, engine room, and two water towers. Most of this is gone today; the dressed shed and planing mill were demolished in 1978. The major industrial operation for the Jim Walter Door Company is located just west of the old mill site, closer to the railroad tracks. Most of the buildings associated with the Jim Walter Door Company have been erected since the 1950s.

Some buildings have been removed from the district. The residence of Edward Hauss, one of the original officers, and president from 1917-1957, was at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Fourth Street. It was moved to Santa Rosa County after his death in 1963; his garden remains, and is included in the district as a site. A mobile home, a non-contributing resource, now sits on the remainder of the lot. The old post office was removed from its original site on Jefferson Avenue by a former mill supervisor. He moved it to nearby Clancy Way (outside the district) in 1975, and restored it in 1976. It had been the company office building until the mid-1920s when the Recreation Hall/Office was built.

The most drastic recent alteration to the original town of Century was the loss of the original shotgun houses in the black workers' residential area on Pond Street, northwest of Jefferson Avenue. In 1986, the Town of Century was awarded a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant to replace the shotgun houses which were in extreme

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disrepair. They were demolished and replaced with double wide trailers. Before demolition began, the Florida Department of State documented and photographed the houses. The remaining historic residences on Pond Street southeast of Jefferson Avenue have been extremely altered, and are, therefore, excluded from the district. Many of the water oaks have died, and few houses now have picket fences.

North of the district is a small commercial area that developed after the period of significance. Immediately outside the boundaries are a modern post office, health clinic, hospital, and baseball field (Photo 3).

PRESENT PHYSICAL APPEARANCE OF THE BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT

Workers' Residences:

All of the contributing resources in the district are simple frame vernacular buildings. Although all the workers' residences are one-story "cottages", there is some architectural variety among them. Four square, hip roofed houses, with full porches, and board and batten siding are located on Pinewood Avenue. An example is 7630 Pinewood Avenue (Photo 7). The highest concentration of workers' houses is on Front Street where the houses are primarily rectangular or L-shaped with gabled roofs. Attached porches on the main facades have either shed or hipped roofs, supported by square posts. Some have stick railings. Examples of the various styles are 420 Front Street (Photo 8), 402 Front Street (Photo 9), 308 Front Street (Photo 10), 303 Front Street (Photo 11), 302 Front Street (Photo 12), and 241 Front Street (Photo 13). Similar houses are on Church Street, such as the house at 531 Church Street (Photo 14), though some have inset porches, such as the house at 571 Church Street (Photo 15). The house at 7511 Mayo Street was the last house in the district built by the company (Photo 16).

Managers' Residences:

Larger, one or two story, rectangular houses with front gabled roofs were rented to the managers and foremen on Fourth Street. These were very similar to the workers' residences, with attached, shed roofed porches supported by square posts and stick railings. Examples are the houses at

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616 Fourth Street (Photo 17) and 612 Fourth Street (Photo 18). The Myers House at 615 Fourth Street was the home of the Commissary Manager (Photo 19).

The Mark Mayo House is the oldest house in the district. It was built c1900 in the community then called Teaspoon, and is the only building in the district that preceded the Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company. It had belonged to Mark Mayo, from whom most of the land for the town site was bought, shortly after the town was started. It is a one-story, rectangular, frame vernacular house, with a side gabled roof and a clapboard exterior. An attached, hip roofed porch stretches across the main facade. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash. There is a rear addition. After the company bought the house, it was used as the Planer Mill Superintendent's House (Photo 20).

Administrators' Residences:

The first buildings erected by the Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company were homes for the administrators who came to establish the mill and town and to hire the workers and managers. Their houses were very large, two-story residences, some with attached, one-story porches on the main facades. Sometimes the porches wrapped around the sides. The houses rest on brick piers and have composition shingle roofs. Unlike the anonymous workers' and managers' houses, most of the homes of the administrators can be associated with their specific occupants.

The Ranney House at 7501 Jefferson Avenue was the home of Arthur W. Ranney who was the vice president of the Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company. Built in 1901, it was one of the first buildings erected. The house is T-shaped with a wood shingle exterior, corner boards, and gabled roofs. An attached hipped roof porch supported by simple square posts, wraps around the side and base of the T. Part of it is screened. Fenestration is 2/2 double hung sash. It has two contributing outbuildings, a garage and a garden hut (Photo 21).

The Glover-Whigham House at 7410 Jefferson Avenue was the home of Henry L. Glover who came from Mobile to be Superintendent of the mill. He was responsible for getting the mill built, buying equipment, and hiring the employees.

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His daughter married Andrew L. Whigham who was the town pharmacist. Glover's son, George E., was later the General Superintendent of the company. The rectangular, frame vernacular house with novelty siding has Classical Revival features. Its roof is front gabled with a pediment. An attached hip roofed porch runs across the main facade and wraps around the northeast elevation. It is supported by double or triple, square columns with applied bases and capitals. It has five bays with a central entrance and symmetrically placed 2/2 double hung sash windows (Photo 22).

The J. Houston Jones House at 7420 Jefferson Avenue was the home of one of the Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company's most active administrators. He joined the company in 1909 with an official title of Land Agent, but he also served as the Assistant Postmaster, Trustee of the Century Schools, and a member of the School Board from 1922-1932. The Jones House is very similar to the Glover-Whigham House, but has three bays. Like the Glover-Whigham House, its attached, hip roofed porch is supported by double and triple columns. Remodeled in 1976, it retains its Classical Revival entrance with side lights and a transom. Although the original windows were replaced by 9/6 aluminum sash windows, the building continues to reflect its historic appearance and character (Photo 23).

The Taylor House at 7430 Jefferson Avenue is also known as the Bookkeeper's House. It has Classical Revival features, novelty siding, a pedimented front gable, and an attached hip roofed, wrap around porch supported by double columns. There are three bays, a central entrance and 2/2 double hung sash windows (Photo 24).

Other Resources

The district also includes other resources that were not built as single-family dwellings. The Hotel, located on Front Street near the intersection of Front Street and Jefferson Avenue, was built in 1901 to house transients. It is a twenty-seven room, rectangular, two-story building with a front gabled roof, and an attached, one-story porch across the main facade. There are two side entrances on the southeast elevation. It has a wood clapboard exterior with

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cornerboards. The windows are 2/2 and 6/6 double hung sash (Photo 25).

The two churches in the district were built on land donated to the congregations. The Century Methodist Church at 530 Church Street was built in 1902. It is a simple, basically rectangular, frame vernacular building with a front gabled roof. A square tower with a pyramidal steeple roof forms the entrance in the middle of the main facade. There is a small, gabled roof over the entry steps. An addition on the rear gives the building a T-formation. The exterior is wood clapboard with cornerboards (Photo 26). The Century Baptist Church, built in 1904, is similar, but has a bell tower at the southern corner of the main facade, and a small, gabled vestibule in the middle of the facade (Photo 27).

In the 1920s, the company built two recreational facilities. One of these was the Club House (7500 Jefferson Avenue) built c1922 at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Fourth Street. This was used by the Century Club, an elite, membership-by-invitation-only, social group in Century from 1922-1946. Members were not necessarily employees of the lumber company. Various conveniences were provided for the members, including hot baths, and a clothes pressing service. Recreational and cultural facilities included a library, game room, sitting areas, kitchen, and a dance hall. There was a tennis court behind the building.

The Club House has a low-pitched front gable on gable roof, and an attached, hip roofed, wrap around porch, supported by plain posts. There is a stick balustrade. Two hip roofed dormers with two 2/2 fixed windows pierce each side of the roof. The central double door with transom is flanked by two 2/2 sash windows on one side and a bay window on the other (Photo 28).

Across the street from the Club House was built a Recreation Hall (7421 Jefferson Avenue), used for meetings, dances, and the showing of silent movies for the general public. The rectangular, two-story, clapboard building has a gabled roof with three small gabled ventilation dormers. On the south elevation are a small gabled entrance and two gabled extensions at either end. The building was later also used as the company office (Photo 29).

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The Hauss Garden, the only site in the district, is located at 7510 Jefferson Avenue. Originally Edward Hauss' vegetable garden northeast of his house, it later was made into a flower garden with running roses along a trellised fence. The house was moved after Hauss' death in 1963, and a trailer, a non-contributing resource, now sits on the lot (Photo 30). Although the garden is now overgrown, the trellised fence remains and the garden is easily recognized (Photo 31). It is the only remnant in Century of the personal life of Edward Hauss who was so important to the community.

ALTERATIONS TO THE CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Originally, all of the company buildings were painted gray, a color which did not change until the company repainted them green in 1928. After the houses were sold to individuals in the 1960s, there was no established uniformity.

Individual ownership also brought some alterations to the buildings. The larger administrators' and managers' houses have not been noticeably changed, but some of the workers' houses have had alterations such as enclosed or screened porches, new windows, small additions, and siding. In spite of these changes, they still possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association with the Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company town of Century as it was from 1900-c1939.

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**THE ALGER-SULLIVAN LUMBER COMPANY RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC
DISTRICT**

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

CHURCH STREET

530	Century Methodist Church	1902
531	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
550	Century Baptist Church	1904
561	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
571	Worker's Residence	1901-1905

FOURTH STREET

610	Manager's Residence	1901-1905
612	Manager's Residence	1901-1905
615	Thomas Myers Residence	1901-1905
616	Manager's Residence	1901-1905
619	Manager's Residence	1901-1905

FRONT STREET

241	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
300	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
301	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
302	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
303	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
306	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
307	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
308	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
309	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
400	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
401	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
402	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
405	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
406	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
407	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
410	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
414	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
416	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
420	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
428	Hotel	1901

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JEFFERSON AVENUE

7390	Mark Mayo House	c1900
7410	Glover-Whigham House	1901
7420	J. Houston Jones House	c1901
7421	Alger-Sullivan Recreation Hall/Office	c1925
7500	Club House	c1925
7501	Arthur W. Ranney House	1901

PINEWOOD AVENUE

7610	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
7620	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
7630	Worker's Residence	1901-1905
7640	Worker's Residence	1901-1905

CONTRIBUTING SITE

Hauss Garden	c1901
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NONCONTRIBUTING

CHURCH STREET

541
581

FRONT STREET

403
424

JEFFERSON AVENUE

7510

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SUMMARY:

The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District in Century, Florida, is significant on a local level under Criterion A: Industry, for its association with one of the largest and most important lumber mills in Escambia County and Northwest Florida in the first half of the twentieth century; and Community Development and Planning, as an intact example of a planned company town which visibly demonstrated the social stratification of the company's employees. The period of significance is 1900-1939, the years when the remaining original company buildings were constructed.

CONTEXTS

Lumber Industry

Timber has been an important part of the Escambia County economy since the colonial period. The Spanish had utilized the abundant yellow pine in the Pensacola area as early as 1743 when two masts of yellow pine were shipped to Havana, Cuba. It remained an important trade item during Florida's British Period (1763-1783). During the second Spanish occupation, in 1798, Milan de la Carrera constructed one of the first sawmills in the area. The number of sawmills steadily increased, and by the mid-nineteenth century, Northwest Florida lumber was exported worldwide. The American Civil War briefly disrupted the prosperity of this industry, for the Confederates destroyed the mills as they abandoned Pensacola to Federal troops.

In 1862, during the war, the Homestead Act was passed to encourage settlement of the country's vast public lands. Settlers could buy land at \$1.25 an acre if they built a house on the land and farmed it. Many wealthy investors, particularly lumber companies, abused the law, hiring pseudo-homesteaders to purchase land for them. In 1866, after the war, to ensure that lands would be available to the newly freed slaves, the Southern Homestead Act was passed. It provided that lands in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi should be reserved for bona fide homesteaders, suspended the provision for cash sales, and limited each entry to eighty acres. This virtually put an end to commercial development.

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There was much opposition to the law in the South, for the region was actively trying to attract investors and industrialization. By the mid 1870s, the North's vast forests of white pine were exhausted, and lumbermen looked to the South's yellow pine forests as a substitute to meet the demands of an expanding post war economy. The Southern Homestead Act was repealed in 1876, resulting in a flood of speculation. Large scale lumber operations spread throughout the South, many in Northwest Florida.

The growth of railroads in Northwest Florida also contributed to the growth of large lumbering operations in the area. Until 1884, water was the only practical means of transporting cut timber, and mill sites had been limited to rivers or coastal areas. With the coming of the railroads into the region in 1884, whole areas of previously inaccessible virgin timber were made available. By 1909, there were sixty-nine sawmills in Northwest Florida.

The growth in the southern lumber business rejuvenated many of the old mill towns that had been in existence in Escambia County since before the Civil War. It also led to the establishment of new towns, such as Century. These mill communities, both new and old, began to provide housing for the workers, stores, and a community social life.

Most of the lumber mills established after the Civil War, however, lasted only about twenty years, closing between 1900 and 1920. This was due to a decline in the demand for lumber as new building materials were developed, but more importantly because the forests were depleted and not replanted.

Company Towns

The nineteenth century saw the rise of company towns in the United States, planned communities laid out and owned by an industry to produce a stable labor force. They were usually located close to whatever natural resources supplied the industry with raw materials, power, or transportation. There were many advantages to such communities, but there was also the danger that a town built around a single industry was subject to the fluctuations of the general

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economy, and dependent upon the health of its one supporting industry. As a result, many company towns disappeared.

One of the earliest examples of a planned company town was Manchester, New Hampshire (1831-1911). It was laid out by a company engineer and displayed a gradation of housing between the workers and supervisors. Pullman, Illinois, (begun in 1874) provided amenities for the workers; Gary, Indiana (1905) had residential areas separated from the industrial area, and public buildings.

Numerous planned mill communities were established in Northwest Florida during the lumber boom at the turn of the century. Such planned communities, however, were not new to the area. The earliest example of a "mill town" in Florida was Arcadia (1817-1855) in Santa Rosa County, where living quarters for the workers were provided. Bagdad, also in Santa Rosa County, was an offshoot from Arcadia. It was established in 1840 around a lumber mill on the Blackwater River. The parent company, Forsyth and Simpson, provided housing for its workers in 1855, but many of the houses were burned during the Civil War. Despite the setbacks of the war, by the 1880s the mill at Bagdad was one of the largest in the Southeast.

From 1870-1910, new housing was built for the Bagdad workers. The Stevens and Culver Syndicate conducted a housing program from 1903-1910 aimed to make Bagdad a model mill community. All levels of society were included, and for nearly a century it was an all-inclusive, self-sufficient, self-contained town. The depletion of the lumber supply led to the closing of the mill, and the company housing was sold to private individuals in 1939.

Bagdad was one of the oldest already well established mill towns in Escambia County. Other mills had been established before the Civil War, but not until the post-Reconstruction era were planned communities associated with them. Millview, which may have had a mill as early as 1783, at one time had six mills and a population of 3,000. After the Civil War it was acquired by the Southern States Lumber Company which donated property for a church, school, and other buildings. It declined in 1893 after the forests had been depleted. Muscogee, owned by the Southern Lumber Company, was a bustling community before 1900, with neat,

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well kept buildings for its 700 citizens. The company owned thousands of acres of timberland in Northwest Florida and Alabama, as well as all the town buildings. Included were a church, school, commissary, and other stores. In the 1920s, it, too, faded with the passing of the forests, and the buildings were torn down and sold for lumber.

Russell A. Alger and Martin H. Sullivan

In 1900, at the peak of this period of economic development, General Russell Alexander Alger and Martin H. Sullivan formed the Alger-Sullivan Syndicate to establish lumber operations in the South. Alger was born February 27, 1836 in Ohio. He practiced law there for a few months in 1859 before moving to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he entered the lumber business. During the Civil War, he rose to the rank of colonel and was later brevetted major general. After the war, he returned to his Michigan lumber interests and became quite wealthy. He served as Michigan's governor 1885-1887, and was the state's favorite son candidate at the 1888 presidential convention. During the Spanish-American War, he was President William McKinley's Secretary of War. In 1902, Alger was appointed to a U.S. Senate vacancy, and was elected on his own in 1903. He died in Washington, D.C. on January 24, 1907.

Martin H. Sullivan was born in Ireland, March 19, 1838, and immigrated to the United States in 1851, perhaps to New York. One source says that he and his brother, Daniel F., had seen the vast forests of Alabama when they served in the Union Army in the area during the Civil War. After the war, they liquidated their assets in New York and bought thousands of acres in southern Alabama. Later acquisitions included the mill in Foshee, Alabama, a mill town established in the 1880s. Martin Sullivan had moved to Pensacola c1871. He was also involved in railroading, and in 1891, was president of the Escambia Railroad Company based in Mobile.

Between Alger's term as Secretary of War and his entrance into the Senate, he joined with Martin H. Sullivan, to form the Alger-Sullivan Syndicate, based in Detroit, Michigan, in 1900. The syndicate purchased the 225,000 acres of the Sullivan holdings in Alabama, including the

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mill in Foshee. It was the first mill owned by the Alger-Sullivan Syndicate.

Sullivan was the major stockholder in the Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company, but seems to have had little direct influence on Century. He died October 15, 1911, at the Johns Hopkins Infirmary in Baltimore, after a long illness, and is buried in the Sullivan Mausoleum in St. Michael's Cemetery in Pensacola. He was considered one of the wealthiest men in Florida at the time of his death.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

In late 1900, the Alger-Sullivan Syndicate decided to locate another mill in Teaspoon, a small village in north Escambia County, Florida, forty-two miles north of Pensacola and two miles south of Flomaton, Alabama. Much of the land in this area had been homesteaded by James Abercrombie before the Civil War and had passed through several owners prior to 1878, when Mark Mayo acquired it. He held the property until T.J. Millen, land agent for the Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company, acquired the land and then sold it to the company in 1901. At that time Teaspoon included only one store, the Pilgrim Lodge Church, and a few scattered houses.

Although most of the Alger-Sullivan Syndicate's timberlands were located in Alabama, they decided to locate a second mill at Teaspoon for several reasons. It was close to the Escambia River, where logs could be floated to Escambia Bay and Pensacola. Additionally, the port of Pensacola at this time boasted of having the most "available and convenient terminal facilities" and the "greatest depth of water to the open seas" in the area. The local populations welcomed the decision to build at Teaspoon because of the benefits the sawmill would bring to the Pensacola port and the area's economy.

The company's officials changed the name of the village from Teaspoon to Century in light of their optimism for the economic development of the region and because the community's construction was at the dawn of a new century. The Pensacola Daily News proclaimed the city was "destined to become the wonder of this, the twentieth century." According to the newspaper, that modern magician, money, had

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Historic District

worked its magic and "where only a few months ago was a wild woodland landscape, there has sprung into existence a modern, thriving, bustling, busy city--the new model city of the Alger-Sullivan Syndicate."

The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company, a subsidiary of the syndicate, had been formed in 1900, and on September 14, 1900, Edward Hauss was appointed superintendent of the company operations. He came from Detroit where he had been a commercial executive. He had had experience with the Michigan lumber industry and knew well the tragedy of deforestation.

Hauss guided the company as president from 1917 to 1957, serving the community and mill in various capacities, as "president, town planner, unofficial judge and jury over employee relations, mediator in family arguments and philanthropist." One of his most important contributions was his dedication to the concept of replenishing the forests. The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company was the first company in the area to adopt a policy of reforestation on a large scale. Thousands of acres would be purchased for initial cutting, and other land, already cut, would be bought and replanted. Because of this policy, Century remains, unlike so many of the other mill towns of the region which became virtual ghost towns after the timber supplies were depleted.

Hauss was among the company administrators who were the first to arrive in Century in late 1900 to plan the mill and town, and to hire the workers and foremen. By January 9, 1901, the deal to purchase the mill site was completed, and by February 22, 1901, Hauss reported that "Mr. Glover is pushing along the building of the new mill and railroad." Henry L. Glover had come from Mobile to be the superintendent of the mill. His son, George E. Glover was later the General Superintendent of the Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company. Some of the larger houses in the district for these managers were built at this time. The Mark Mayo House was bought and became the planer mill superintendent's house.

During the construction of the community and the sawmill, the company employed over three hundred artisans to provide the city with its "wide streets and broad avenues

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Historic District

and the cottages and residences." It appears that the company used its own staff to design the houses, other buildings, and general town plan, rather than a professional architect. Five two-story, ten-room residences were built for the company officers, and six seven-room houses were constructed for the foremen of the mill. Smaller frame vernacular houses were constructed for the white workers. All of these houses were located on the northeast side of the centrally located mill. Southwest of the mill along Pond Street, shotgun houses were erected for the black workers. Thus, the lines between the social strata were sharply defined.

The company also built a twenty-seven room hotel in 1901 to house transients. The Pensacola Daily News described the plans of the model town, reporting that the community would have a drug store, beef market, barber shop, millinery store, churches, and schools, as a sign that the "capitalists who are constructing it are looking to the comfort of their employees." The mill company also provided water, garbage service, and electricity for its workers. The town was kept clean by community effort, with clean-up crews on duty each day.

The company also looked to the cultural needs of its employees. Steps to provide churches for the employees were taken in 1902. Land was donated for a Methodist-Episcopal Church, and lumber was provided at wholesale cost, less a fifteen percent discount. Similar arrangements were later made at the request of a Baptist Church. Educational needs were also addressed when land (outside the district) was bought from Mark Mayo and then donated for a school. The company built the schoolhouse which was then bought from them by the School Board at a very reasonable rate. The building of a library was also discussed in 1902, but apparently the proposal was never carried through.

The sawmill was 60 feet by 300 feet and equipped with a double-cut two-band saw capable of producing 300,000 board feet in ten hours. The sawmill complex also consisted of planing mills, dry kilns, and lumber stackers. This complex and the community acted as a nerve center for the lumber operation whose supply arteries extended into a vast area of timberland in the form of over one hundred miles of railroad track.

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The mill was destroyed by fire in 1910, but was rebuilt immediately. By this time the company had an average of about five hundred employees. With families and tradespeople added, Century had a population of 1400 in 1911. Edward Hauss was the Treasurer of the company then, but also served as head of the general store (probably the company commissary) and as the postmaster for Century after a post office was established on May 29, 1911.

By 1918, the population was 1500, and Hauss was the president of the company. The business community included medical practitioners, three general stores, two grocers, a druggist, jeweler, milliner, and furniture store. In 1925, there were also a meat market, two garages, a company-built Club House and theater (the Recreation Hall) where silent movies were shown for the 1500 citizens of Century.

By 1930, the Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company was the largest company in Escambia County, as well as the highest tax payer. It had substantial assets in Florida and Alabama, owning both the Century mill and the mill at Foshee, Alabama. It also had interests in the town commissary, turpentine manufactures, and the naval stores industry.

In September 1939, fire destroyed the planing mill, dressed lumber sheds, meat market, pharmacy, barber shop, and ice house, along with several railroad cars. There was no damage to either the sawmill or the dry kilns, however, so the actual operations were able to continue on schedule. The house at 7511 Mayo Street, dating from 1938 or 1939, was the last company-built house in the district.

The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company and Century after the
Period of Significance:

The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company operated until 1957, when it sold its facilities to several lumber concerns and Leon Clancy, an Alabamian, who continued the mill operation until 1967. About 1962, Clancy and the company began to sell the company-owned residences to their occupants. In 1967, Jim Walter Door Corporation purchased the mill site. The construction slowdown in 1974, and an unusually high inventory resulted in a plant shutdown for about six months

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in late 1974 and early 1975. In April 1975, the company resumed the production of doors. The WDC Door Corporation took over garage door production sometime in 1984 or 1985. The WDC Door Corporation, like its predecessors, the Jim Walter Corporation and the Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company, is the major industry in Century.

Century remained unincorporated until 1980. South Flomaton, an incorporated community of only 495 people located just north of Century, approached the people of Century concerning annexation. Century, with a population of 1899, agreed to the annexation provided South Flomaton change its name to Century. This was agreed to, and the Town of Century was incorporated April 22, 1980, with a population of 2,664.

The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Mill Company Historic District is significant in the very fact that it exists. Other mill towns, such as Muscogee and Millview, became virtual ghost towns because of the depletion of timber. Although the Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company has been gone from Century for over thirty years, many of the original buildings remain and the town still relies on the lumber industry as its primary means of support. Century remains because the Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company, particularly through the efforts of Edward Hauss, was a leader in reforestation programs.

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- 1
 - 1) The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
 - 2) Century, Escambia County, Florida
 - 3) Jerry Fisher
 - 4) April 1989
 - 5) The Alger-Sullivan Historical Society, c/o Margaret Collier, P.O. Box 476, Century, Florida 32535
 - 6) Streetscape of Jefferson Avenue, camera facing NE
 - 7) 1 of 35

- 2
 - 1) The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
 - 2) Century, Escambia County, Florida
 - 3) Barbara Mattick
 - 4) December 1988
 - 5) Bureau of Historic Preservation, R.A. Gray Building, Tallahassee, Florida
 - 6) Streetscape of Front Street, camera facing SE
 - 7) 2 of 35

- 3
 - 1-5) Same as for Photo 1
 - 6) Streetscape of Church Street, camera facing SE
 - 7) 3 of 35

- 4
 - 1-5) Same as for Photo 2
 - 6) Streetscape of Fourth Street, camera facing SE
 - 7) 4 of 35

- 5
 - 1-5) Same as for Photo 1
 - 6) Streetscape of Mayo Street, camera facing NE
 - 7) 5 of 35

- 6
 - 1-5) Same as for Photo 1
 - 6) Streetscape of Pinewood Avenue, camera facing N
 - 7) 6 of 35

- 7
 - 1) 7630 Pinewood Avenue, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
 - 2-5) Same as for Photo 2
 - 6) Main elevation, camera facing E
 - 7) 7 of 35

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Photographs 2 The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential
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- 8 1) 420 Front Street, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main elevation, camera facing NE
7) 8 of 35
- 9 1) 402 Front Street, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main elevation, camera facing N
7) 9 of 35
- 10 1) 308 Front Street, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) S and E elevations, camera facing N
7) 10 of 35
- 11 1) 303 Front Street, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main elevation, camera facing SW
7) 11 of 35
- 12 1) 302 Front Street, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main elevation, camera facing N
7) 12 of 35
- 13 1) 241 Front Street, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main and NW elevations, camera facing SE
7) 13 of 35
- 14 1) 531 Church Street, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main and NW elevations, camera facing SE
7) 14 of 35

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Photographs 3 The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential
Section number _____ Page _____ Historic District

- 15 1) 571 Church Street, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber
Company Residential Historic District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main elevation, camera facing SW
7) 15 of 35
- 16 1) 7511 Mayo Street, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber
Company Residential Historic District
2-3) Same as for Photo 2
4) June 1989
5) Same as for Photo 2
6) Main elevation, camera facing NE
7) 16 of 35
- 17 1) 616 Fourth Street, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber
Company Residential Historic District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main elevation, camera facing NE
7) 17 of 35
- 18 1) 612 Fourth Street, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber
Company Residential Historic District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main elevation, camera facing NE
7) 18 of 35
- 19 1) 615 Fourth Street, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber
Company Residential Historic District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main and NW elevations, camera facing SE
7) 19 of 35
- 20 1) Mark Mayo House, 7390 Jefferson Avenue, The Alger-
Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic
District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main elevation, camera facing SE
7) 20 of 35

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Photographs 4 The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential
Section number _____ Page _____ Historic District

- 21 1) Ranney House, 7501 Jefferson Avenue, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main and SW elevations, camera facing NE
7) 21 of 35

- 22 1) Glover-Whigham House, 7410 Jefferson Avenue, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main elevation, camera facing SE
7) 22 of 35

- 23 1) J. Houston Jones House, 7420 Jefferson Avenue, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main and NW elevations, camera facing SE
7) 23 of 35

- 24 1) Taylor/Bookkeeper's House, 7430 Jefferson Avenue, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main elevation, camera facing SE
7) 24 of 35

- 25 1) Hotel, 428 Front Street, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main and SE elevations, camera facing N
7) 25 of 35

- 26 1) Century Methodist Church, 530 Church Street, The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main and SE elevations, camera facing N
7) 26 of 35

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Photographs 5 The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential
Section number _____ Page _____ Historic District

- 27 1) Century Baptist Church, 550 Church Street,
The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential
Historic District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main and SE elevations, camera facing N
7) 27 of 35
- 28 1) Club House, 7500 Jefferson Avenue, The Alger-
Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic
District
2-5) Same as for Photo 2
6) Main elevation, camera facing SE
7) 28 of 35
- 29 1) Recreation Hall, 7421 Jefferson Avenue, The Alger-
Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic
District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) SE elevation, camera facing NW
7) 29 of 35
- 30 1) Hauss Garden, 7510 Jefferson Avenue, The Alger-
Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic
District
2-5) Same as for Photo 2
6) Garden, showing trellised fence, camera facing S
7) 30 of 35
- 31 1) 7510 Jefferson Avenue (noncontributing), The
Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic
District
2-3) Same as for Photo 2
4) June 1989
5) Same as for Photo 2
6) Main elevation, camera facing SW
7) 31 of 35
- 32 1) 581 Church Street (noncontributing), The Alger-
Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic
District
2-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Main elevation, camera facing SW
7) 32 of 35

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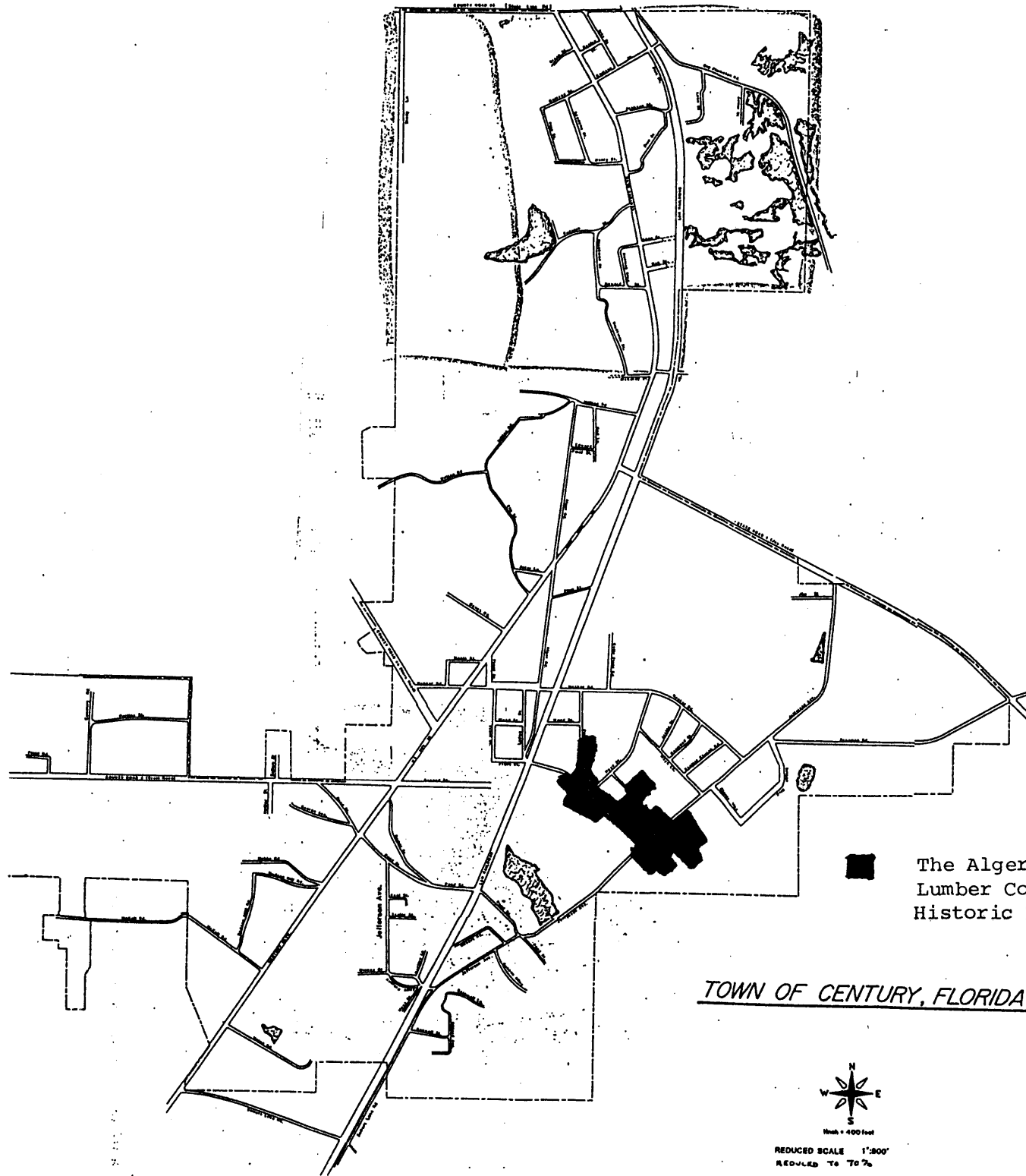
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Photographs 6 The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential
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- 33 1) 424 Front Street (noncontributing), The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
- 2-5) Same as for Photo 1
- 6) Main elevation, camera facing NE
- 7) 33 of 35

- 34 1) 403 Front Street (noncontributing), The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Residential Historic District
- 2-3) Same as for Photo 2
- 4) June 1989
- 5) Same as for Photo 2
- 6) Main and NW elevations, camera facing S
- 7) 34 of 35

- 35 1-5) Same as for Photo 1
- 6) Area between Front Street and the Mill Site, camera facing SE
- 7) 35 of 35

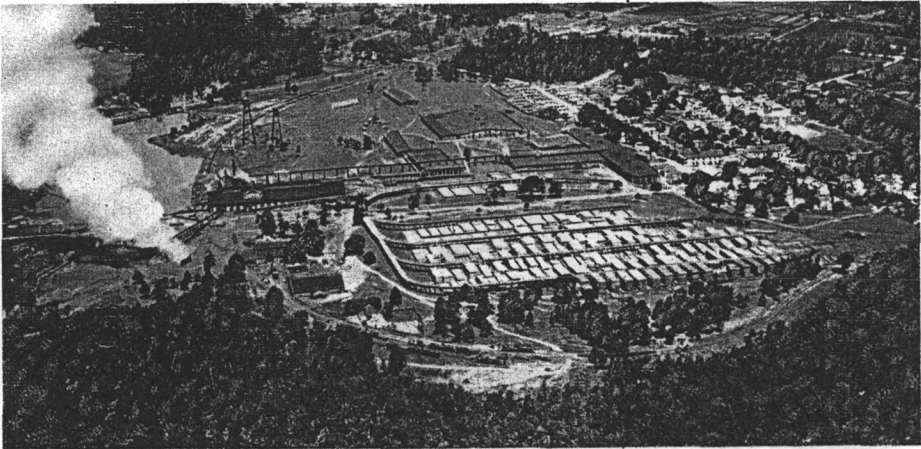


■ The Alger-Sullivan
Lumber Company Residential
Historic District

TOWN OF CENTURY, FLORIDA



Block = 400 feet
REDUCED SCALE 1"=800'
REDUCED TO 75%



THE ALGER-SULLIVAN LUMBER CO.

LONG LEAF YELLOW PINE
CENTURY, FLORIDA



117930-N

Postcard, c1930