NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

DEC 1 C 2017

OMB No. 1024-0018

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 EUGENE KNOTTS HOUSE
other names/site number John and Nancy Smith House/LV00918
2. Location
street & number 1 Genie Court N/A not for publication
city or town Yankeetown N/A vicinity
state FLORIDA code FL county Levy code 075 zip code 32751
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this in 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 statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.) See
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 Signature of the Keeper Z·1·2018
☐ 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)

Name of Property		County and State				
5. Classification						
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)				
□ private □ public-local	☑ buildings☐ district	Contributing	Contributing Noncontributing			
☐ public-State ☐ public-Federal	site structure	2	0	buildings		
	☐ object	0	0	sites		
		0	0	structures		
		0	0	objects		
		2	0	total		
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of		Number of contr listed in the Nat	ibuting resources រុ tional Register	oreviously		
	JRCES OF THE SARASOTA RCHITECTURE	0				
6. Function or Use						
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from ins	structions)			
DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling	_	DOMESTIC/Single D	DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling			
DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure	<u>, </u>	DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure				
7. Description						
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories fro	om instructions)			
MODERN MOVEMENT/Sarason	ta School of Architecture	foundation Cond	crete			
		walls <u>Glass</u>				
		Wood Tar and Gr	ravel			
			lavei			
		OHIGI				

Levy Co., FLs

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

EUGENE KNOTTS HOUSE

EUGENE KNOTTS HOUSE Name of Property	Levy Co., FL County and State
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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
 ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. 	ARCHITECTURE
■ 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.	Period of Significance
□ 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.)	Significant Dates 1953
Property is:	
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person
☐ B removed from its original location.	
☐ C a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation N/A
□ D a cemetery.	
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
☐ F a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder Arch: West, Jack/Twitchell, Ralph
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years	Blder: Associated Builders
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 o Previous documentation on file (NPS): preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) has been requested	Primary location of additional data: ☐ State Historic Preservation Office ☐ Other State Agency
 □ previously listed in the National Register □ previously determined eligible by the National Register □ designated a National Historic Landmark □ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # 	☐ Federal agency ☐ Local government ☐ University ☐ Other Name of Repository
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record	#

EUGENE KNOTTS HOUSE	Levy Co., FL
Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 1.32 acres	
UTM References (Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 7 3 3 4 7 2 2 3 2 1 2 7 2 9 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 John W. Smith/W. Carl Shiver, Historic Preservationis	t
organization Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation	date
street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street	telephone <u>(850)</u> 245-6333
city or town Tallahassee	_ state Florida zip code
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the	e property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties ha	ving large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the	e 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 John W. and Nancy S. Smith	
street & number 631 Domerich Drive	telephone (407) 920-5495

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.).

state Florida

_ zip code

32751

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.

Maitland

city or town

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	Page	1	EUGENE KNOTTS HOUSE
		- ,		YANKEETOWN, LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA
				DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

The Eugene Knotts House, located at 1 Genie Court in Yankeetown, Florida, is a one-story Sarasota School of Architecture Style residence constructed in 1953. It was designed by architect Jack West, with the assistance of Ralph Twitchell, both prominent members of the Sarasota School of Architecture. The Knotts House is rectangular in plan, with exterior walls of glass and a flat roof surfaced with tar and gravel set on an embankment on a bend of the Withlacoochee River on the west coast of Florida. The property includes a building containing a carport, boat house, and workshop. An important landscape feature of the property is a decorative freshwater pool found at the front of the house. The glass walls, several of which slide open, and areas with rolling window sections expose most of the general living area of the house. The two main bedrooms have glass exterior walls and skylights. The main entrance is found on the west through a glassed-in area entryway that leads to the sliding glass doorway at the rear of the house. The rear sliding glass doorway opens onto a deck that overhangs the Withlacoochee River. The interior of the house is open plan, with the living and dining areas occupying the center of the house that has the quality of a glassed-in pavilion. The enclosed areas of the house are on the north and south ends, with the master and guest bedrooms found on the north end and the kitchen, and the third bedroom and study on the south.

SETTING

The Knotts Glasshouse is located in a wooded section of Yankeetown in Levy County, Florida, on a bend in the Withlacoochee River. The town of Yankeetown borders the neighboring community of Inglis. Yankeetown is found west of U.S. Highway 98 along "Follow that Dream Parkway," which intersects with Riverside Drive. The population of Yankeetown was 502 at the 2010 census. The house is located on a rocky embankment overlooking the Withlacoochee River, several feet above the water level.¹

DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The basic layout of the Knotts House is a 30-foot-by-80-foot rectangle. The walls are made of 1,400 square feet of plate glass resting in aluminum frames. The foundation is a concrete slab covered with a charcoal terrazzo floor throughout and the slab roof is supported by steel posts. The main (west) facade of the house (Photos 1-2) is approached by a wide concrete walkway that terminates at the concrete steps of the stoop where the aluminum and glass main doorway is located. The stoop is wide enough to hold outdoor furniture as Adirondack chairs.

¹ Mary Anne Rose, "Their House is Made of Glass, <u>Palm Beach Post</u>, September 8, 1963.

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At the other end of the walkway on the front lawn of the house is a curvilinear pool (Photos 3-4) fed by an artesian well. The pool wall curves around in the center of the front yard and provides not only a good swimming area, but a graceful landscaping feature that enhances the beauty of the house and property. On the kitchen side of the house is an Ocala block retaining wall (Photos 5-6), that helps prevent the slopping earth from sliding down to the carport.

The house is approached by a driveway connecting to Genie Court and terminating at the carport. Located immediately southwest of the main house is a one-story building that houses a carport, workshop/guest room, and boathouse (Photos 7-9).

The building has a flat roof, with the carport and boat landing sections supported by round metal poles, while the workshop is constructed of Ocala block and sliding glass doors.² On the east elevation on the house is a two level wood and concrete deck (Photos 10-12) that overlooks the Withlacoochee River. The upper level is surrounded by a metal railing and has space for outdoor furniture. The deck is supported on metal I-beams and has a stairway and glass panels that leads to the lower level, whose wooden deck is supported by wood posts.³

Interior

The interior of the house is an open plan. Rolling blinds hang from the ceiling to floor and cover the entire glass perimeter of the house, but the blinds are seldom closed even at night because of a lighting feature that gives privacy. Yellow lights recessed in the outside roof overhang are turned on at night. The outside light, which is brighter than the indirect lighting within the house, cuts the view of the passerby. Square partitions (Photos 13-14) separate the central living/dining area from the kitchen and study at one end of the house and the two major bedrooms at the other end (Photos 15-16). Within the partition at the sleeping end of the residence are two bathrooms and a dressing room. The two bathrooms are the only rooms in the house that are enclosed but even in these areas the sunlight streams through the Plexiglas domes in the ceiling (Photo 17). The partitions are made of Philippine mahogany and are simply keynoted with built-in bookcases, fireplace, shelves, and drawer space.⁴

The kitchen and third bedroom/study are found at the south end of the house. Like the main facade of the residence, the kitchen has an aluminum and glass panel door for entry and exit (Photo 18). The third bedroom/study (Photos 19-20), like the living room and bedroom, allows a view which bends around the property. On the river side, every other glass panel slides open to allow exit or entry from any room.

² Gloria Biggs, "People Who Live In Glass Houses," St. Petersburg Times, December 8, 1955.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

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				DESCRIPTION

Alterations

The building and its associated outbuilding and structures maintain a high level of integrity. Aside from an expansion of the terrace onto the east side of the house, the building has seen few changes besides routine maintenance.

Integrity

The Knotts House is still located in its original location and the surroundings have remained relatively unchanged. Hence, the building possesses sufficient integrity of location, setting, and association. The house and associated outbuildings have also undergone few changes and still maintain their character defining features, form, and materials. The building retains sufficient integrity of design, workmanship, materials, and feeling for listing in the National Register.

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				YANKEETOWN, LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA
				SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

The Eugene Knotts House is being proposed for listing under Criterion C at the local level in the area of Architecture. The period of significance is 1953, the date of its construction. Built with a combination carport, workshop, and boathouse, the house is a locally significant example of the Sarasota School of Architecture designed by master architects Jack West and Ralph Twitchell. Like the majority of the buildings designed by the small group of architects that came from the Sarasota School of Architecture, the Knott House is a highly individual stylistic statement, a one-of-kind design created for to suit the needs of a client for a comfortable and visually distinctive residence. The extensive use of glass in the exterior walls, the flat roof, and open floorplan aimed at blurring the lines between exterior and interior spaces are all character-defining features of the Sarasota School. Ralph Twitchell was one of the most important architects operating in the Sarasota School. He was instrumental in the career of the renowned architect Paul Rudolph. The two formed a partnership that lasted from the 1940s into the early 1950s that was widely credited for creating and popularizing the Sarasota School of Architecture. Although Rudolph dominated the field following the end of the partnership in 1952, Twitchell remained an important architect throughout the decade, working primarily in Siesta Key later in his career. The Knott House, which was actually the first designed by the partnership, is an excellent example of the work of the Twitchell and West firm, which lasted for a brief period in the early 1950s.

The Knotts House contributes to the ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES OF THE SARASOTA SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE Multiple Property Submission under Early Development of Modern Architecture in Sarasota, 1941-1946; The Collaboration of Ralph Twitchell and Paul Rudolph, 1947-1952; The Influence of New Architects, 1953-1959 Historic Contexts; and the F.1 Property Type: Residential Buildings.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

History of Yankeetown

What is now Yankeetown was founded by Aramis F. (A.F.) Knotts as a fishing and hunting camp in 1919. A member of the Indiana State House of Representatives who was instrumental in the founding of Gary, Indiana, A.F. Knotts established the Izaak Walton Lodge there in 1924. A small community of mostly seasonal northern residents built cabins and houses nearby. The name "Yankeetown" was coined by a local mail carrier in reference to the mostly northern population residing there. Although never large, the town grew to a sufficient size so that by 1925, the state of Florida formally incorporated it as Yankeetown. A.F. Knotts served as its first mayor, a position he held until his death in 1937.

⁵ Tom Knotts, See Yankeetown: History and Reminiscences (Yankeetown, FL: Withlacoochee Press, 1970), 6-9, 60-62.

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Eugene Knotts, the builder of the Knotts House, was a nephew of the town's founder and was prominent in municipal affairs for decades. After his uncle's death in 1937, Eugene Knotts was elected as the town's mayor, a position he would serve for 33 years. Knotts was also heavily involved in land development, platting out the Riverside Subdivision, the River Forest Subdivision, and Riverside Units II and III during the 1950s.⁶

Eugene Knotts House

The Eugene Knotts House was the first design of the Twitchell-West partnership. Knotts was an early devotee of the Sarasota School style, having earlier worked with the Rudolph-Twitchell firm to design a house that was never constructed due to finances. The builders of this house was Associated Builders, a general contracting firm owned by Ralph Twitchell that built almost all of the Rudolph and Twitchell firm's buildings in Sarasota. In this new house, the architect West cited Mies van der Rohe as his most direct influence in its design. One of the most important architects operating in the United States after World War II, Mies was particularly famous for his groundbreaking use of the glass box design. Mies' Farnsworth House, which was finished in 1951, combined the glass box and pavilion built into the natural settings around it. Many of the design principles of the Farnsworth House can be seen in the Knotts House. The Knotts House also exhibited the simplicity of design found in the Revere Quality Institute House, a one-story International Design private residence designed by Ralph Twitchell and Paul Rudolph which adheres to the tenets of the Sarasota School of Architecture. The house was completed and opened for public inspection in 1949. It incorporated the most up-to-date building materials and techniques with careful attention being paid to climate and site. The Revere Institute, in its promotional literature on the house, described it as "bringing the outdoors in."

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Eugene Knotts House is a locally significant example of the Sarasota School of Architecture. Like the majority of the buildings designed in the Sarasota School Style, the Knott House is a highly individual stylistic statement, a one-of-kind design created to suit the needs of a client for a comfortable and visually distinctive residence. The extensive use of glass in the exterior walls, the flat roof, and open floorplan aimed at blurring the lines between exterior and interior spaces are all character-defining features of the Sarasota School. The Knott House is an excellent example of the work of the Twitchell and West partnership, which lasted for a brief period in the early 1950s.

The Knotts House was built at a time of transition within the Sarasota School Style. One of the reasons for the split in the Rudolph-Twitchell partnership was differences in philosophy over the use of raised platforms in

⁶ Knotts, See Yankeetown: History and Reminiscences, 60-66, 117.

⁷ Jack West, *The Lives of an Architect* (Sarasota, FL: Fauve Publishing, 1988), 38.

⁸ William J.R. Curtis, *Modern Architecture Since 1900* (New York: Phaidon Press, Inc., 1996), 401-403.

⁹ West, The Lives of an Architect, 38.

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residential construction. This was a marked difference in the whole idea of building the house to full integration into the landscape versus building a house that stands out from the environment around it. Twitchell was opposed to the usage of raised platforms. The Knotts House was essentially a continuation of the late 1940s and early 1950s Sarasota School design. As one of the first houses built by Twitchell after his partnership with Rudolph ended, the house itself is an important transitional work in Twitchell's career.

The Knotts House is the best surviving example of the Sarasota School Style found in Yankeetown and is the best representative example of what is a regionally significant modern architectural style. In his book, Jack West mentioned designing a second Sarasota School Style house in or near Yankeetown for the Tyler family, which was constructed on land once owned by Eugene Knotts. This house was very similar in design to the Knotts House. The Knotts House was the first built in Yankeetown and served as the model for the Tyler House. As a result, the Knotts House is the most significant surviving example of the style in the community.

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				YANKEETOWN, LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA
				BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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				GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

That part of the following shown on the site plan accompanying the National Register Nomination Proposal: SEC: 04, TWP: 17, RNG: 16, 04-17-16 RIVER FOREST BLK G LOT 11 & TRI TRACT IN NE COR OF LOT 10 -LESS TRACT 10 X 152 IN SW COR OF LOT 11- OR BOOK 836 PAGE 235

Parcel No. 0825200000

Boundary Justification

The above described boundaries encompass all of the significant historic resources associated with the Eugene Knotts House. This boundary includes the primary residence and the combination carport, workshop, and boathouse. The resources were constructed in 1953 and have not had any major alterations except for the expansion of the multi-level terrace on the east (Withlacoochee River) elevation of the main house.

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			LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS	

PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1. Eugene Knotts House
- 2. 1 Genie Court, Yankeetown (Levy County), Florida
- 3. John Smith
- 4. May-August 2017
- 5. Original Photos Property of John Smith
- 6. Main (West) Facade of Knotts House, Looking East
- 7. Photo 1 of 20

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

- 6. Main (West) Facade, Looking East
- 7. Photo 2 of 20
- 6. Main (West) Facade with View of Pool, Looking East
- 7. Photo 3 of 20
- 6. View of Pool at end of Sidewalk, Looking West
- 7. Photo 4 of 20
- 6. Concrete Block Retaining Wall, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 5 of 20
- 6. Concrete Block Retaining Wall, Looking Southwest
- 7. Photo 6 of 20
- 6. Carport-Workshop-Boathouse, Looking Southwest
- 7. Photo 7 of 20
- 6. Carport-Workshop-Boathouse, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 8 of 20
- 6. Carport-Workshop-Boathouse, Looking West
- 7. Photo 9 of 19

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			LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

- 6. Two Level Wood and Concrete Deck on River Side, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 10 of 20
- 6. Two Level Wood and Concrete Deck on River Side, Looking South
- 7. Photo 11 of 20
- 6. Two Level Wood and Concrete Deck on River Side, Looking North
- 7. Photo 12 of 20
- 6. Interior, Living Area, Looking North toward Fireplace and Hall
- 7. Photo 13 of 20
- 6. Interior, Living and Dining Areas, Looking East toward River Deck
- 7. Photo 14 of 20
- 6. Master Bedroom, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 15 of 20
- 6. Guest Bedroom, Looking Northeasts
- 7. Photo 16 of 19
- 6. Guest Bathroom, Looking North
- 7. Photo 17 of 20
- 6. Kitchen, Looking South
- 7. Photo 18 of 20
- 6. Third Bedroom and Study, Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 19 of 20
- 6. Third Bedroom and Study, Looking North
- 7. Photo 20 of 20

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Figures Page YANKEETOWN KNOTTS GLASSHOUSE YANKEETOWN, LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA FIGURES

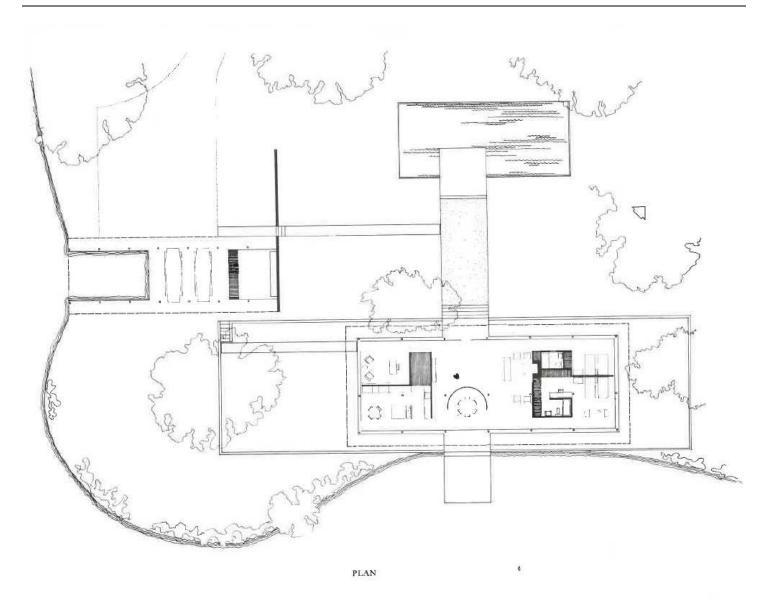


Figure 1: Architect's sketch plan of Knotts House, circa 1953 (source: Jack West, *The Lives of an Architect*, p. 39)

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Section number Figures Page YANKEETOWN KNOTTS GLASSHOUSE YANKEETOWN, LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA FIGURES

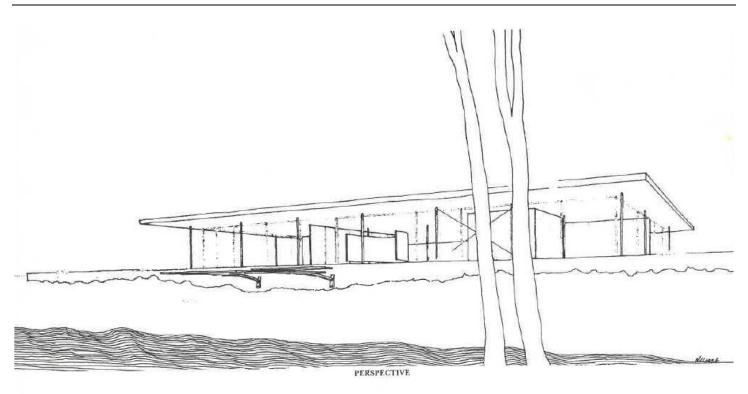
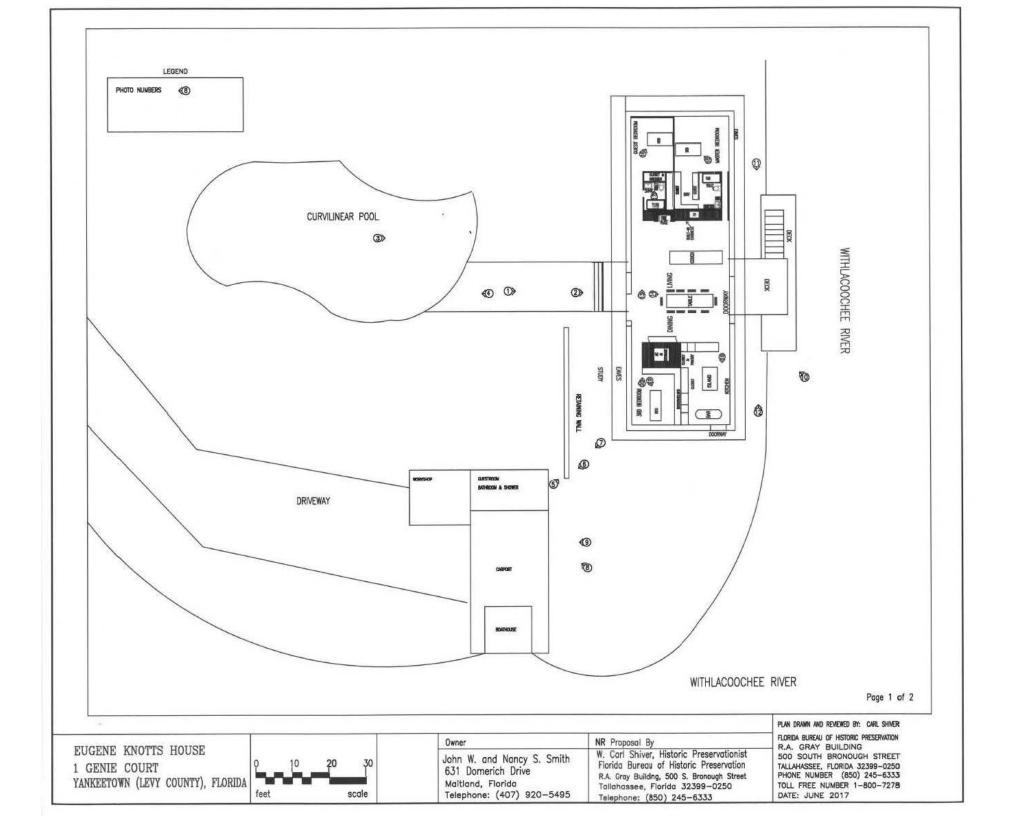
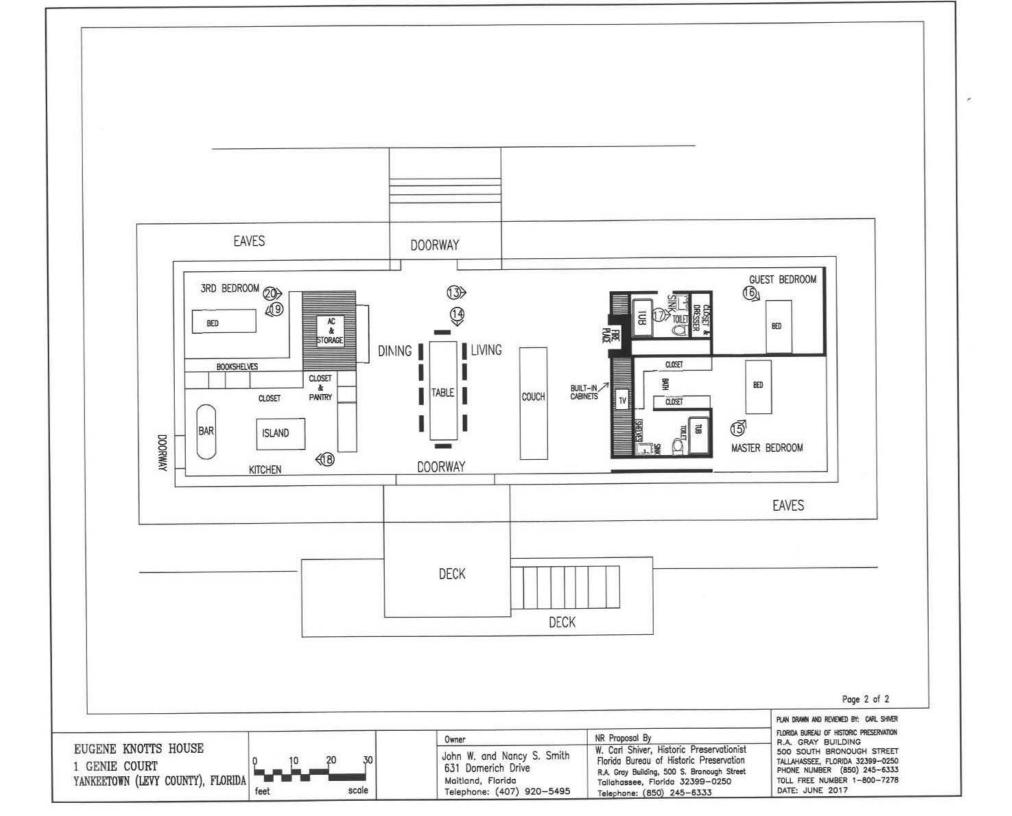


Figure 2: Architect's concept sketch of Knotts House, ca. 1953 (source: Jack West, *The Lives of an Architect*, p. 39)





Eugene Knotts House

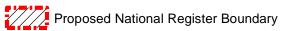
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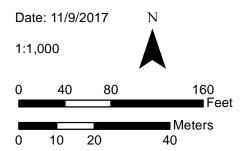
UTM: 17R 334722 3212729

Latitude: 29.0325 Longitude: -82.6986

Datum: WGS84

Legend





Basemap Source: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community











































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination										
Property Name:	Knotts, Eugene, House										
Multiple Name:											
State & County:	FLORIDA, Levy										
Date Rece 12/18/20				Date of 45th Day: 2/1/2018	Date of Weekly List:						
Reference number:	MP100002066			101							
Nominator:	State										
Reason For Review	:										
X Accept	Return	Reject	2/1/	2018 Date							
Abstract/Summary Comments:	Meets the registration requirements of the MPS. Outstanding example of "Sarasota School" of modernist design, married to its setting, and exemplifying the characteristics laid out in the MPS cover document.										
Recommendation/ Criteria	Accept / C				110 Al 31 - 11						
Reviewer _ Jim Ga	abbert	_	Discipline	Historian							
Telephone _(202)3	54-2275	_	Date	,							
DOCUMENTATION	: see attached comm	nents : No see a	ittached S	LR : No							

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the

National Park Service.





KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

RICK SCOTT Governor

December 11, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief, National Register of Historic Places Mail Stop 7228 1849 C St, NW Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Eugene Knotts House (FMSF#: 8LV00918), in Levy County, to the National Register of Historic Places. The related materials (digital images, maps, and site plan) are included.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ruben Acosta at (850) 245-6364 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Max Adriel Imberman

Historic Preservationist, Survey & Registration

Bureau of Historic Preservation

MAI/mai

Enclosures

