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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service		RECEIVED 22	80 699
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTOF REGISTRATION FORM		JUN - 7 2007	7,
This form is for use in nominating or requesting deter Register of Historic Places Registration Form (Nationa the information requested. If any item does not appl classification, materials, and areas of significance, en tems on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). U	minations for individual properties a al Register Bulletin 16A). Complete ly to the property being documenter ter only categories and subcategori se a typewriter, word processor, or o	religistricts. See instruction each item by marking /840 , enter "NA" for "not struct es from the instructions." He computer, to complete all ite	is in How to Complete the Nation Rhe and ropriate box or by enterin pable. For functions, architectur the additional entries and narrativ ms.
1. Name of Property			
historic name <u>ARCHBOLD BIOLOGICAL S</u>	TATION AT RED HILL		
other names/site number <u>Roebling Red Hill</u>	Estate		
2. Location		an an an Adapting and a second se	
street & number 123 Main Drive		N/A	not for publication
city or town Venus		····	vicinity
state <u>FLORIDA</u> code	FL_county <u>Highlands</u>	code <u>055</u>	_ zip code <u>33960</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification			
Barbara C. Mattick, Signature of certifying official/Title State Historic Preservation Officer, Divisio State or Federal agency and bureau	Date on of Historical Resources		-
comments.)	meet the National Register criteria.	See continuation sheet fo	or additional
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date	-	
State or Federal agency and bureau			-
4. National Park Service Certification	- APV	AA	Data of Asting
hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Register See continuation sheet	C (Signature of the Keel C Signature of the Keel	per	Date of Action $7 \cdot 18 \cdot 7$
 determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. 			
determined not eligible for the National Register			<u></u>
 See continuation sheet. removed from the National Register. 			······································
other, (explain)	 ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		

Highlands Co., FL

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	Noncontribu	ting		
public-Statepublic-Federal	site	4	0	buildings		
	object	0	00	sites		
		1	0	structure		
		0	0	objects		
		5	0	total		
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register				
N	/A	0				
6. Function or Use	* • * • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			······································		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instru-	ctions)			
STOREHOUSE & DWELLING		OFFICES/RESEARCH LABORATORIES/EDUCATION SECONDARY STRUCTURE/Garage and Offices SECONDARY STRUCTURE/Generator House				
SECONDARY STRUCTURE/Ga						
SECONDARY STRUCTURE/Ge						
SECONDARY STRUCTURE/Put		SECONDARY STRUCTURE/Pumg House				
SECONDARY STRUCTURE/Sto	prage Shed	SECONDARY STRUCTURE/Storage Shed				
·						
7. Description	1	BA = 4 = 1 = 1 =				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from i	instructions)			
NO STYLE/Masonry Vernacular		foundation Concre	te			
		walls Concrete				
.			ay Tile			
		other				

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

ARCHBOLD BIOLOGICAL STATION AT RED HILL Name of Property

8.	State	ment	of	Sigr	nifica	Ince
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

igtriangleq A Property is associated with events that have made	9
a significant contribution to the broad patterns of	
our history.	

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive cha	aracteristics
of a type, period, or method of constr	uction or
represents the work of a master, or pe	ossesses
high artistic values, or represents a si distinguishable entity whose compone	
individual distinction.	

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

A owned by a	religious	institution	or	used	for
religious purp	oses.				

B removed from its original location.

- **C** a birthplace or grave.
- **D** a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

- **F** a commemorative property.
- **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SCIENCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1930-1957

Significant Dates

1930 1941

Significant Person

Archbold, Richard

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: Blair, Alexander Blder: Blair, Alexander

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): Primary location of additional data: preliminary determination of individual listing (36 State Historic Preservation Office CFR 36) has been requested Other State Agency previously listed in the National Register Federal agency previously determined eligible by the National Local government University Register designated a National Historic Landmark Other recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey Name of Repository #

#

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record		recorded by	y Historic	American	Engineering	Record
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Highlands Co., FL County and State

CONSERVATION

ARCHBOLD BIOLOGICAL STATION AT RED HILL Name of Property	Highlands Co., FL County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 2 apprx.	
UTM References (Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 7 4 6 5 1 4 0 3 0 6 0 3 6 0 Zone Easting Northing	3
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 Fred E. Lohrer, Information Manager/Carl Shiver, Historic F	Preservationist
organization Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation	date June 2007
street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street	telephone (850) 245-6333
	e <u>Florida</u> zip code <u>32399-0250</u>
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the prop	perty's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having I	arge acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the prop	perty.
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 <u>Hilary Swain, Executive Director, Archbold Biological Station</u>	<u></u>
street & number P.O. Box 2057	telephone (863) 465-2571
citv or town Lake Placid state	e <u>Florida</u> zip code <u>33862-2057</u>
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Re list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with	gister of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to 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 re completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (10	esponse including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and n to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, 24-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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ARCHBOLD BIOLOGICAL STATION AT RED HILL HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

The Archbold Biological Station at Red Hill, originally the John A. Roebling II Red Hill Estate, includes four Industrial Vernacular masonry buildings that surround a central plaza and a small concrete storage shed. All of these resources were constructed between 1930 and 1935. The largest of the buildings is the Storehouse (Main Building #1), constructed 1930-1931, which originally contained a two-story residence, workshops, and bays to store furniture and building materials. This building now contains research laboratories and offices, and serves other functions as well. East of the Main Building across the plaza is a one-story former Garage (Rand Building #2) that was constructed in stages between 1932 and 1935; nine of the original eleven bays were converted into offices in 1995. The Generator Building (#3), located on the north side of the plaza was completed 1931-1932 and provided electrical power to the other buildings via a diesel generator. The Pump House (#4), found south of the plaza, was constructed in 1933 and contained the deep-well pump that provided potable water for the residents and contained a fire engine. This building continues to fulfill its original function. The former Explosives Storage Shed (#5), located near the center of the plaza, was constructed 1931-1933 and accommodated both explosives used for demolition and dangerous combustible materials. The shed is no longer used for explosive storage. The detached Annex Building found immediately north of the Storehouse was constructed in 1986, does not contribute to the historic character of the Archbold Biological Station (although it is in a compatible style, exterior finish, and color), and is located outside the proposed National Historic Register boundary.

SETTING

The Archbold Biological Station at Red Hill is in rural Highlands County, Florida, about 8 miles south of the town of Lake Placid, and about 7 miles north of Venus, a rural settlement. The entrance gate lies 1.8 miles south of State Road 70, on Old State Road 8. Archbold Biological Station is an independent, not-for-profit research facility, devoted to long-term ecological research and conservation. The Station consists of: four major buildings surrounding a central plaza, seven wood frame residences occupied by Station personnel and visiting scientists, and several other buildings (shop building, vehicle barn, laundry building, water treatment plant, and water tower) supporting the operations of the Station. The primary focus of Archbold Biological Station is the study of the organisms and environments of the nearby Lake Wales Ridge, and adjacent central Florida. The Station owns and manages an 8,841-acre globally significant natural preserve, and other ecologically significant properties. The Station lies approximately 110 miles southeast of Tampa and 70 miles northeast of Fort Myers.

DESCRIPTION

1. The Red Hill Storehouse (Main Building) [FMS HG00863]

Located on the west side of the central plaza (Photo 1), this 17,600 square foot, poured concrete building is the nerve center of the Archbold Biological Station and consists of the original six-unit Storehouse wing and

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ARCHBOLD BIOLOGICAL STATION AT RED HILL HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA DESCRIPTION

attached two-story former residence whose construction was completed in 1931, plus the dining room addition on the south which was added in 1941. The residence wing exhibits conventional stylistic features for the period, having a hipped main roof, hipped roof dormers, bronze casement windows, and bronze doors, frames, and jambs. The six units of the former Storehouse are composed of square warehouse bays joined at connecting interior walls. Each unit is covered with a complicated roof structure featuring a clipped gable roof and dormer with an enormous clearstory window. The roofs are supported by massive riveted steel girder trusses, overlain by a two-inch pre-cast concrete roof deck, originally covered with flat terracotta tiles, and with flat-seam copper panel crickets between the units. The terracotta tiles were replaced with transite¹ shingles in 1960; these shingles are to be removed (2007-2008) and replaced with new terracotta tiles matching remaining original tiles, as part of a roof restoration project.² The dormers, with their north-facing clearstory window walls, originally provided ample natural light to the storage bays and workshop below. The construction of floors in the attic area in the 1940s ended the skylight function of these structures. Each section of the building now serves particular functions. Moving from south to north, and labeled (Photo 2) according to Roebling's original drawings these are: DR) the Dining Room wing; A1, A2, B) the former two-story residence which serves as the Kitchen, Lounge, Main Office, Administrative offices, student dormitories, and Education Office; C) Avian Ecology Laboratory; D) Vertebrate Laboratory; E) Invertebrate Laboratory; F) Plant Ecology Laboratory; G) Library and Computer Center; and H) Multi-purpose Classroom and Multi-user Laboratory.

Roebling Era Construction: Construction of the Storehouse began in 1930 (Photos 3-4) and was nearing completion by December 22, 1931 (Photo 5). Construction supplies were delivered via a railroad siding constructed by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad along the western side of the Storehouse building (Photo 6). The Storehouse housed workshops, a machine shop, and rooms to store tools and materials for the construction of future buildings (Photos 7-9). The two-story dwelling unit attached to the south end of the building (Photo 10) was occupied by Alexander Blair who was the supervising engineer who oversaw construction of all the buildings and other improvements made to the property. The two-story residence included offices, kitchen, dining room, bedrooms, and bathrooms. Alterations to the building during the Roebling era (1930-1941) were limited to two changes in doors and windows.

Archbold Biological Station Era Modifications: The east porch roof over the walkway and to the dining room was added in 1941 (Photos 11-12). In the early 1940s, typical passage doors were added to the east, and probably west openings of the storage bays (but the 'dwelling' part of the building, and other normal passage doors, are all still original). These were replaced by sliding glass doors when units became air-conditioned, c. 1950s-1981. The doors on the east side and the west door of the Avian Ecology Laboratory were later replaced by aluminum storefront doors. Behind these modern storefront doors the Roebling era copper-bronze single-panel overhead freight doors remain and are still functional, having retained their original mechanisms

¹ "Transite" is a rigid board type material containing asbestos, mineral fibers and Portland cement.

² Florida Division of Historical Resources, Special Category Award Funding, 2006-2008.

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			<u></u>	HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
				DESCRIPTION

and fittings except for the west doors of the Avian Ecology Laboratory and the Library, which are not functional. The overhead freight doors are now typically maintained in their "up" position except during major storms. An entrance for what is presently the Dining Room at the south end of the building was enclosed by Richard Archbold. The east section of Unit B was open to the weather until early 1980s, when windows and air-conditioning were added and the space eventually became the Education Office. The former Storehouse houses the Main Office and several administrative offices, the Library (Photo 13), Computer Information Center, four large biological research laboratories and a Chemistry Laboratory, the Education Office, a classroom (Photo 14) and adjacent laboratory (Photo 15), the herbarium, the insect collection, darkroom, two dormitory rooms, Kitchen, Dining Room, Lounge, and storage areas. A detached annex building, containing an Auditorium, Conference Room, and offices, was constructed north of the original Storehouse in 1986. It is connected to the original building by a covered walkway.

Attic floors were added to the bases of the overhead girders for five storage units during the 1940s or 1950s (Photo 9). The attic over Unit B, a former tool storage unit, was converted to dormitory space by Archbold during the 1950s, then renovated during 1970s (no photo available), and again during 1999-2000. A portion of Unit B was converted to a photography dark room and Chemistry Laboratory, c. 1950s, and modified during late 1960s and in 1983. In 1997, the attic over the Library was converted to a Computer Center. Attics over three laboratories (Units C, E, and F—Avian Ecology, Invertebrate, and Plant Ecology) are to be converted to offices beginning in late 2006. The attic offices will been fitted with partition walls and drop ceilings, but the original dormers with north-facing clearstory window walls will continue to provide ample natural light to these offices. Unit H, formerly the Machine Shop, was first converted to a classroom in 1983, and in 2000-2001 was modified to be used as a classroom and laboratory. Unit D was converted in 1967 to the Vertebrate Laboratory. Unit F was converted from a carpenter shop to the Plant Ecology Laboratory.

2. Garage (Rand Building) [Site File Number HG00866]

The Garage was constructed of poured concrete between 1932 and 1933 and consisted of nine vehicle bays opening on the west side of the building (Photos 16-17). The basic roof construction was the same as the Storehouse with steel girder trusses overlaid by concrete roof deck and terracotta tiles that were replaced c.1960 with transite shingles. Two more bays were added at the north end of the building between 1934 and 1935. Richard Archbold added vehicle bays (open to the weather) to the east side of the garage, preserving the original exterior underneath the new roof (c. 1941-1967). During late 1960s, the three units (east side) at the south end were enclosed to be used as animal observation rooms. In 1995, the nine units (west side) at the south end were converted to offices and renamed the Rand Building (Photo 18). Concrete was added to bring the floors 15 inches above grade, and standard commercial aluminum windows and doors were added to the west openings. The original Roebling steel overhead coiling doors remain and are still functional. The offices have been fitted with standard dry wall, drop ceilings, and wall-to-wall carpeting. The roof dormers still provide exterior light to the offices below.

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ARCHBOLD BIOLOGICAL STATION AT RED HILL HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA DESCRIPTION

3. Generator Building. [Site File Number HG00865]

The Generator Building was constructed between 1931 and 1932 (Photo 19). The walls consist of poured concrete and feature metal frame outward swinging awning windows over fixed steel-frame sashes. The ground plan is square and the building is covered by a pyramidal roof, supported by steel girder trusses and a concrete deck similar to those of the Storehouse, but with a monitor vent/cupola at the peak of the main roof. Awning windows similar to those found on the main facade are also found in the other elevations. The entrance to the building consists of double, steel panel and glass doors. A small light fixture hangs over the entranceway. Power to the buildings of the complex was originally provided by a diesel generator and storage batteries (Photo 20). No major changes have been made to the building since it was completed c. 1932 (Photos 21-22), except the original terracotta tiles were replaced with transite shingles in 1960. The original generator was replaced in the 1960s and the electrical distribution system modernized in 1987, 2005, and 2007.

4. Pump House. [Site File Number HG00867]

The Pump House is similar in construction to the Generator Building and was completed in 1933 (Photo 23). This building is the only one that retains the original terracotta tiles. The building features a fire engine bay and houses a water pump for a deep well found immediately beneath the building. The water from the well is used as a back up supply for the Station's other (c. 1960) deep water well for drinking water. Archbold Biological Station uses a Roebling water-treatment plant (not included in this application) and a small 1970s building for chlorination. No major changes have been made to the pump house building since it was completed in 1933 (Photos 24-25) except for renovation of the pump in 2006.

6. Explosives and Flammable Materials Storehouse.

This small windowless concrete shed was constructed some time between 1931 and 1933 (Photos 26). It is set slightly below grade and is accessed by concrete steps. It is covered with a shed roof. Originally intended to store explosive materials such as dynamite and combustibles, it was used to store a variety of chemicals. It was cleared of all chemicals in 2002, and is now used solely for the storage of reagent-grade alcohol (Photo 27).

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ARCHBOLD BIOLOGICAL STATION AT RED HILL HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

The Archbold Biological Station at Red Hill is significant statewide under Criteria A, B, and C in the areas of Science, Conservation, and Architecture.³ In the areas of Science and Conservation, Archbold Biological Station is significant as an independent, not-for-profit research facility, devoted to long-term ecological research and conservation of natural habitats for both plants and animals. The buildings are central to the conservation and management of Archbold Biological Station's 8,841 acre property, a site of international conservation importance harboring a globally threatened ecosystem, the Florida scrub, and many associated threatened and endangered plants and animals. In 1987 the land surrounding the Station buildings was designated as a National Natural Landmark for its conservation value.⁴ The Station is funded principally by proceeds from an endowment overseen by Archbold Expeditions, a not-for-profit organization founded by Richard Archbold. The station is significant under Criterion B for its association with Richard Archbold, who made important contributions to biological exploration, the study of ecology, and the preservation of the natural environment. In the area of Architecture, the group of buildings represents an attempt to counter the risks of damage from hurricane-force winds and other factors associated with the humid, sub-tropical climate of central Florida. The most important of the buildings is the Red Hill Storehouse—now the main research building and headquarters of Archbold Biological Station—which was designed to maximize the use of natural light in the interior through its unusual dormer forms. The group of buildings was designed in 1929 by Alexander Blair, who was hired by John A. Roebling II to be the designer/builder of his Red Hill Estate, intended to be a winter residence for himself and his wife. Even though the death of his wife in 1930 caused Roebling to abandon his plans to use the property for his private use, construction and maintenance of the estate continued from 1930 to 1941, when Roebling decided to donate the buildings and surrounding 1,058 acres of land to Richard Archbold, a world famous aviator and explorer, who founded the present research station.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Much of central Florida remained essentially isolated up until the end of the nineteenth century. There were no serviceable roads and few rail lines. The Kissimmee and Peace rivers provided limited access. Railroads built by Henry Flagler and Henry Plant were making their way slowly down the east and west coasts, respectively, of the state, but the interior of the Florida peninsula had attracted little railroad building activity. The present town of Lake Placid drew the attention of several settlers in the immediate post-Civil War period but its isolation discouraged agricultural or commercial development. A Manatee County resident, Thomas Knight, acquired a small tract of land in the present-day area of Lake Placid, built a house, and established an orange grove on the property. After Knight died in 1881, the property was purchased by Joseph Lastinger, who increased the size of the grove. Following the Great Freeze of the winter of 1894-1895, which devastated many of the citrus groves

³ Lohrer and Swain, 2007.

⁴ National Park Service, US Department of the Interior.

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in central Florida, the property was subsequently taken over by a Sumter County grower named S.D. Steel, who found that the trees in the region had survived the freeze, and he began planting additional groves.

The development of what was then Desoto County moved at a more rapid pace with the founding of the city of Sebring in 1911 by George Sebring (1859-1927), a pottery manufacturer from Ohio. He had built himself a winter residence in Daytona Beach in 1909 and shortly afterwards began to formulate plans to develop a community in the central highlands section of the state that was based on citrus cultivation. George Sebring's search for an appropriate site for the community ended in 1911, when A.G. Smith from Wauchula accompanied him on a fishing trip to Lake Jackson, the beauty of whose surrounding countryside deeply impressed Sebring. Immediately after acquiring 9,000 acres of land for a town site, Sebring began planning for the new settlement which he intended to name Sebring.⁵

Construction of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad southward from Sebring opened the southern part of the county to agricultural development and settlement. In 1916, the line reached the small settlement on the shore of Lake Stearns and a station, called Wicco, was constructed. Two years later, the Lake Grove Company purchased a large tract of land in the area, including property in Wicco, renaming the community Lake Stearns. A Lakeland civil engineer, Ossian Drane, drew a plat for the Town of Lake Stearns in early 1919. The town began to grow during the Florida Land Boom of the early 1920s, but when the boom collapsed in 1926, property sales dropped dramatically in the town.

Attempts to reenergize the growth of Lake Stearns attracted the attention of Melville Dewey (1851-1931), the inventor of the Dewey Decimal System, who in the winter of 1927 had come to Lake Stearns to purchase a hotel as a winter destination for the members of the Lake Placid Club. In 1895, Dewey had founded the Lake Placid Club in Lake Placid, New York, as a social and recreational club. Dewey renamed the hotel the Lake Placid Club Lodge and persuaded the Florida Legislature to change the name of Lake Stearns to Lake June in Winter, and the nearby town from Lake Stearns to Lake Placid, and another neighboring lake (formerly Lake Childs) to Lake Placid. Dewey had the hotel enlarged and constructed resort buildings on the north shore of Lake Placid. Accompanying Dewey on his trip was John A. Roebling II, the son of Washington Augustus Roebling (1837-1926), the builder of the Brooklyn Bridge and grandson of John Augustus Roebling (1806-1869), a German engineer, who had constructed numerous suspension bridges in the northeastern United States during 1845-1869.⁶

The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad ran due south from Lake Placid towards Immokalee, with local sidings at Childs, Red Hill, and Hicoria (with Red Hill and Hicoria now abandoned). Childs siding lay immediately north

⁵ Olausen, pp. 6-7.

⁶ The Brooklyn Bridge project was actually begun by John Augustus Roebling in 1869 and completed by Washington Roebling in 1883.

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ARCHBOLD BIOLOGICAL STATION AT RED HILL HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA SIGNIFICANCE

of the present day junction between Old State Road 8 and State Road 70, about 2 miles north of the Red Hill Estate Storehouse. The railway siding at Hicoria lay immediately north of where Old State Road 8 now crosses the railroad line, about 3 miles south of the Red Hill Storehouse. The area around the Hicoria siding was subdivided in 1917, as the town of Hicoria, by the Atlantic Land and Improvement Company, a subsidiary of the Atlantic Coastline Railroad, and then became the site of an ephemeral lumber town, clustered around the Sherman Mill, which operated during 1928–1935.⁷ The Sherman Mill had rights to extract lumber from land belonging to Consolidated Land Company (Consolidated Naval Stores) in the region around Hicoria, which excluded the 1,058 acres purchased for the Red Hill Estate just beforehand by John A. Roebling II. Hence the Red Hill Estate was never cut for timber. The Sherman Mill burned down in 1935 and was abandoned. Hicoria was soon depopulated and was virtually extinct by World War II.

John A. Roebling II, Founder of Red Hill Estate

John A. Roebling II (1867-1952) was born in Muhlhausen, Germany (his grandfather's birthplace), where his father had gone to conduct research in construction methods for bridge piers/towers preliminary to work on the Brooklyn Bridge. During 1870-1883, the Roebling family lived in Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York, and John A. Roebling II first attended the Collegiate School in Manhattan, and later the Brooklyn Boy's Preparatory School in Brooklyn. In 1883, when the Brooklyn Bridge was completed, the Roebling family moved to Troy, New York, where John entered Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1884. He graduated in 1888 as the President of his class and with a degree in civil engineering. He was later awarded a Master's degree in chemistry. For the 1900 census, when John Roebling was living in Asheville, North Carolina, he listed his occupation as "Civil Engineer." Construction and engineering were his heritage and training, but they never dominated his life, much of which was devoted to philanthropic interests. In 1930, when he was 62, he began a construction project in rural Florida, the Red Hill Estate. Roebling was attracted to the area by its natural beauty and thought the mild winter climate might be healthful to his wife, Margaret Shippen Roebling, who suffered from tuberculosis.

Margaret Shippen Roebling (1867-1930) was born in Trenton, New Jersey. She married John A. Roebling II in 1889. Less than 10 years after her marriage, she developed tuberculosis and spent several years in Arizona whose dry cool climate in the mountains was thought to be more healthful for sufferers of lung diseases. From there, she spent several years in the hills of North Carolina before moving back to New Jersey. Margaret Roebling became the driving force behind the establishment of the Red Hill Estate. She had been a student of botany and a fervent supporter of preserving and studying wilderness areas. During 1929-1930 the Roeblings purchased from Consolidated-Tomoka Land Company (Consolidated Naval Stores) 1,058 acres of land about eight miles south of the Town of Lake Placid on which to build a country estate that would be self-sufficient but preserve the natural beauty and character of the surrounding area.

⁷ Charlotte Wilson unpublished manuscript, 1995, which represents a major source for the history of Hicoria.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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John A. Roebling II and his wife further demonstrated their interest in conserving wilderness areas in Florida at the same time that construction was underway on their Red Hill Estate. In 1930, Margaret Roebling donated the \$50,000 needed by a local group of citizens to purchase a 500-acre, pristine cabbage palm-live oak forest, Hooker Hammock, located near Sebring in Highlands County, Florida. A private, not-for-profit corporation, the Tropical Florida Parks Association, was formed to manage the park. Margaret Roebling was a charter member of the corporation, and the Red Hill Estate Engineer, Alexander Blair, was a Vice-President of the corporation and also Mrs. Roebling's representative. After the death of his wife on October 24, 1930, John A. Roebling II continued support of the park's development and maintenance (fencing, and construction of roads, paths, and water-control structures), contributing a further \$300,000 during 1931-1934, when his Red Hill Estate engineer, Alexander Blair, was also the supervisory engineer for the park. In 1935 the land was donated to the state of Florida as the nascent Highlands Hammock State Park, one of a handful of newly-created state parks. At the transfer of property John A. Roebling II also donated another \$25,000 for maintenance.⁸

John A. Roebling II had intended to construct a winter home on the high point of the property on Red Hill, about 210 feet above sea level, but first wanted to construct support buildings that could provide him and his wife some of the amenities of civilization. These included a Storehouse to hold the necessary building materials and other satellite buildings to provide electricity, fresh water, and house motor vehicles for transportation and construction work on the property. He also arranged for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, which ran north-south along the western boundary of the property, to construct a railroad siding along the western side of the Storehouse to facilitate the delivery of building materials and supplies that the workforce would need to realize his vision of the winter estate. Roebling hired a construction engineer, Alexander Blair, to oversee the construction, and the building of the Storehouse began in August 1930. Unfortunately, Mrs. Roebling died at the family home in Bernardsville, New Jersey, on October 24, 1930. John Roebling remarried soon thereafter and lost interest in constructing the mansion on Red Hill. Nevertheless, construction of the support buildings continued through 1933, with modifications to the buildings continuing through 1935.

The United States was struggling under the Great Depression in 1935 and John Roebling seemed to consider the continued development of the property his own Works Progress Administration⁹ project. He employed about 100 men and insisted that all work be done by hand; eschewing any mechanized labor-saving machinery wherever possible, so that he could employ a large number of men. The Storehouse and support buildings were designed to test construction methods that might withstand the destructive force of hurricane winds. Two major hurricanes had swept over southern Florida during the late 1920s, killing over 1,000 people. The building of a hurricane-proof building, therefore, was important to Roebling. In 1935, John A. Roebling's II son Donald used the Storehouse as a base to test the first version of the "Alligator" in nearby Lake Annie. The Alligator

⁸ A. Altvater, 1979. Highlands Hammock. Sebring, Florida, Sebring Historical Society.

⁹ A federal work relief program 1935-1943 that provided jobs income to the unemployed during the Great Depression.

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was an amphibious vehicle that was the prototype of the military landing craft used by the U.S. military in World War II.¹⁰

Alexander Blair, Builder of Red Hill Estate

Alexander Blair (1877-1975), was the resident engineer who designed and supervised the construction of the Red Hill Estate for John A. Roebling II during 1930-1941. Blair was born in Cheshire, England, and studied civil engineering at Liverpool Institute. He worked as a surveyor's assistant while studying engineering in England and served with the British Royal Engineer Corps in England and France during World War I. He immigrated to the United States in 1919 and took a job with the New Jersey Highway Department, Bridge Division, and later became City Engineer for Westfield, New Jersey, where he worked until 1927. In 1929, he was hired by Roebling to fulfill his dream of a building a country estate near Lake Placid, Florida. Blair designed and constructed all of the major buildings, fences, roads, and a railroad siding, and provided the estate with electric power and fresh water. He provided for several temporary wooden construction buildings (one remains as the vehicle barn but moved from its original site along the north plaza to a location just north of the water tower), 6 poured-concrete buildings and a 75,000-gallon water-storage tank. Blair belonged to a number of professional organizations, including the American Association of Engineers, and served for a time as President of the Florida Engineering Society. He also served as President of the Highlands Hammock State Park Advisory Council for 35 years (1935-1970) and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Environmental Council of Highlands County.¹¹

Richard Archbold and the Founding of the Archbold Biological Station

With the death of Margaret Roebling, neither John A. Roebling II nor anyone else in the family seemed interested in fully realizing the development of the Red Hill property. John Roebling wanted the estate to go to someone who would be "sensitive to the unspoiled beauty of the land." It was Donald Roebling (1908-1959), a school-time friend of Richard Archbold, who facilitated the donation of his father's Red Hill Estate to Richard Archbold, a world famous aviator and explorer. Richard Archbold (1907-1976) was the grandson of John Dustin Archbold (1848-1916), who headed Standard Oil of New Jersey for John D. Rockefeller. Richard Archbold spent much of his youth on his family's plantation near Thomasville, Georgia. He was educated at various private schools and took courses at Columbia University, studying anatomy. At the age of twenty-one, he served as an assistant mammologist and photographer on an international expedition to Madagascar. The American component of this expedition was solely supported by Richard's father, John, and later by his mother, May, and Richard himself. Five years later, he organized and funded Archbold Expeditions, a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Archbold led three biological expeditions (1933-1939) to the interior of New Guinea. The expeditions resulted in numerous

¹⁰ Roebling's Amphibian, http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/1987/RRW.htm.

¹¹ "Placid Pioneer Dies," <u>The Sebring News</u>, April 24, 1975.

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scientific publications, articles in popular publications, and important geographical, botanical, zoological, and anthropological discoveries. The trips documented and gathered invaluable plant and animal specimens, many of which had been completely unknown to the Western World. These expeditions are still famous for their comprehensiveness and significance to science. They included the discovery of a major human civilization in the New Guinea highlands, previously unknown to the outside world.¹²

In 1940, when deteriorating political conditions in the western Pacific prevented a planned fourth expedition to New Guinea, Richard Archbold led a six-month biological expedition to southeastern Arizona to "collect facts instead of specimens."¹³ It was in Arizona that the importance of a good physical plant for a field station was re-enforced in Richard's mind. After the Arizona expedition, a chance meeting occurred between Richard Archbold and Donald Roebling in New York City. It was there that the son of John A. Roebling II learned of Archbold's desire to keep his team of research biologists together during the post-New Guinea period. Donald, mindful of his father's plan to donate his Red Hill Estate for a not-for-profit use, told Richard of the existence of the Red Hill Estate. Richard visited Red Hill and saw its potential for a biological field station.¹⁴ Therefore on July 21, 1941, John A. and his second wife Helen Price Roebling deeded the 1,058-acre Red Hill Estate to Richard Archbold (Archbold Expeditions) as an "absolute, unqualified and unrestricted gift."

CRITERION A, SCIENCE, CONSERVATION

The Archbold Biological Station is significant for being a research center that conducts long-term research on native plants and animals in their natural environment. On July 21, 1941, John A. Roebling and his second wife, Helen Price Roebling, donated the 1,058-acre Red Hill Estate (which included the six concrete buildings and a steel water-storage tank) to Richard Archbold who founded and sustained the Archbold Biological Station where scientists could conduct research on the ecology of native plants and animals of central Florida.¹⁵ The Roebling Storehouse became the station's Main Building. It had six independent storage units and a two-story dwelling at its south end. Archbold converted the units to suit his research goals. These uses have developed and changed along with the goals of the research center over the subsequent decades.

CRITERION B, RICHARD ARCHBOLD

Richard Archbold lived in the two-story residential section of the Storehouse until his death in 1976. After taking possession of the property in 1941, Archbold constructed six wood frame "housekeeping" cottages on property just east of the core Roebling buildings. During World War II, these were used to house employees, but after the war some became available to visiting scientists.

¹² Fred A. Lohrer, "Richard Archbold, Patron of Science," http://www.archbold-station.org/ABS/archbold/archbold.htm.

¹³ Austin L. Rand, "Arizona Expedition," <u>Natural History</u>, Vol. 48, No. 4, p. 232.

 ¹⁴ "Founding of the Archbold Biological Station," http://www.archbold-station.org/ABS/archbold/legacyRoeblingArchbold.htm
 ¹⁵ Archbold Biological Station Archives.

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Following World War II, Archbold continued to support biological explorations in New Guinea and Australia, but he lived at the research station for the rest of his life. Living at the Station, he became an active member of the Lake Placid community, assisting countless service organizations. With the foundation of Glades Electric he helped bring electricity to the rural regions of Highlands County. As the Station's Resident Manager he: worked constantly at improving the Station's facilities, collections, and library; personally supported the research and living costs of every scientific visitor; and took a keen interest in the research projects of the visiting and resident scientists and how he could facilitate them. The Station's excellent facilities and abundant protected land soon attracted a steady stream of biologists conducting research in ecology, behavior, physiology, and taxonomy.¹⁶

Richard Archbold died of cancer on August 1, 1976. He left his estate, Archbold Expeditions, to provide permanent core funding for the unique biological station that bears his name.¹⁷ His sister, Frances Hufty, and her family, serve on the Board of Trustees of Archbold Expeditions, nurturing the Station's research, conservation, and education mission. The original 1,058 acres of pristine pine and oak forest transferred by John A. Roebling II to Richard Archbold grew with the acquisition in 1973 of 2,773 acres of undisturbed Florida scrub. Further additions in the 1980s, 1990s, and in 2002, provided the Archbold Biological Station with its present 8,841 acres of scrub and forest land, pastures, and other native habitats. Today, the Archbold Biological Station is a center for the study of field biology and serves as a guide toward preserving and maintaining the natural diversity and environmental processes on which all life on earth depends.¹⁸

CRITERION C, ARCHITECTURE

The Red Hill Storehouse: The Red Hill Storehouse is the most important and innovative of the buildings at the Archbold Biological Station. Alexander Blair intended its design to overcome many of the difficulties of climate and weather that posed a threat to major constructions in Florida. The major influences on the design of the Red Hill Storehouse were railroad access, natural light, and hurricane-force winds. Other factors influencing the design of the estate buildings included the risks of fire from the surrounding pine-oak-palmetto landscape, termite attacks on wooden structures, and mold and mildew in still, humid sub-tropical air. A 2006 review of the Red Hill papers (Storehouse Design folder) reveals some aspects of the design process. On December 17, 1929, Alexander Blair apparently visited a railroad storehouse of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad in Jacksonville, Florida, to obtain measurements to ensure that the Red Hill Storehouse would be compatible with the loading and unloading of railroad boxcars. The dimensions of the Storehouse units, 40 feet square with a

¹⁷ "Richard Archbold and the Archbold Biological Station," http://www.archbold-station.org/abs/Biennial97/R7Education/R7 RArchboldBio.htm.

¹⁶ The science of classifying plants, animals, and microorganisms into increasingly broader categories based on shared features.

¹⁸ Maria Minno and Ronald Myers, "Archbold Biological Station, Its History and Its Biology, <u>The Palmetto</u>, Vol. 6, No. 4 (Winter 1986), pp. 5-7.

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central door on the side walls and elevated above grade, match exactly the dimensions of a string of railroad boxcars lined up along the long wall of the Storehouse. The saw tooth roof design created by the large dormers was dictated by the need for natural light inside the building. The design of the Storehouse contrasted greatly with the more conventional appearance of the residence wing, with its hipped roof, hipped dormers, and bronze window and door arrangements. The two major hurricanes, Miami in 1926 and Lake Okeechobee in 1928, which had destroyed hundreds of buildings and caused a great loss of human life in southern Florida, were a major consideration in Blair's plans for the design of the Storehouse. Blair also used existing published warehouse design details for the Red Hill Storehouse, and corresponded with manufacturers of steel trusses, windows, and other building elements, to arrive at the most suitable design. The Storehouse design was refined based on manufacturer's recommendations, especially concerning ventilation and the maximization of natural light inside the Storehouse.

John A. Roebling II wanted to build an enduring set of estate buildings, "like the castles on the Rhine." The history of reoccurring structural fires in wooden buildings at the Roebling wire mills in Trenton, New Jersey, certainly proved the necessity of concrete construction at the Roebling Red Hill Estate. And one drawing by Alexander Blair from the Red Hill papers (October 1929) indicates that Roebling himself selected, from several drawings, the building's existing saw tooth roof design.

The Red Hill Estate buildings are part of a national legacy of remarkable Roebling structures and buildings, most of which have some level of historical register recognition. John A. and Washington Roebling between them built more than 10 suspension bridges in the northeastern U.S. Three remain: in Cincinnati across the Ohio River; in rural Pennsylvania—New York across the Delaware River (upstream from Port Jervis, New York); and the Brooklyn Bridge. Several Roebling wire-mill buildings in Trenton, New Jersey, have been restored for use as museum, elementary school, senior-citizen housing, and retail sales. The mill-town of Roebling) exists in its entirety as a functioning community. Several Roebling family homes still exist: John A. Roebling Row, also in Trenton; and Donald Roebling's home, Clearwater, Florida. In addition, Robert C. Roebling, great-grandson of John A. Roebling, donated his 500-acre Modena Plantation on the northern tip of Skidaway Island (near Savannah) to the State of Georgia for the establishment of another biological research center, the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, where the well-built and diverse Roebling physical plant is still in use including; docks, housing, machine shop, and a steel and concrete cattle barn that functions as laboratory and storage space.¹⁹

¹⁹ Megathlin, 2003.

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ARCHBOLD BIOLOGICAL STATION AT RED HILL HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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ARCHBOLD BIOLOGICAL STATION AT RED HILL HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Archbold Biological Station are those shown on the accompanying site map, approximately two acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundary line encompasses the major masonry buildings, masonry storage shed, and central plaza that comprise the historic headquarters of the Archbold Biological Station.

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ARCHBOLD BIOLOGICAL STATION AT RED HILL HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

PHOTOGRAPHS (Note: Interior photograph numbers do not appear on plan.)

- 1. Archbold Biological Station at Red Hill
- 2. 123 Main Drive, Venus (Highlands County), Florida
- 3. Alexander Blair, Red Hill Engineer
- 4. November, 1935
- 5. Archives, Archbold Biological Station
- 6. Aerial View, Red Hill Plaza, Looking West toward Plaza and Surrounding Buildings
- 7. Photo 1 of 27

Items 2 and 5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

- 1. Main Building (Storehouse)
- 3. Mike Mazzeo, Archbold Biological Station volunteer
- 4. April 2005 (Downloaded from Internet Web Site 2007)
- 6. East Elevation, View from Water Tower, Looking West
- 7. Photo 2 of 27
- 1. Storehouse (Main Building)
- 3. Alexander Blair, Red Hill Engineer
- 4. February 1931
- 6. East and South Elevations, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 3 of 27
- 1. Storehouse (Main Building)
- 3. Alexander Blair, Red Hill Engineer
- 4. April 1931
- 6. East Elevation, Looking Southwest
- 7. Photo 4 of 27
- 1. Storehouse (Main Building)
- 3. Alexander Blair, Red Hill Engineer
- 4. 1931
- 6. East and North Elevations, Looking Southwest
- 7. Photo 5 of 27

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- 1. Storehouse (Main Building)
- 3. Alexander Blair, Red Hill Engineer
- 4. October 1935
- 6. South and West Elevations, Looking North
- 7. Photo 6 of 27
- 1. Storehouse (Main Building)
- 3. Alexander Blair, Red Hill Engineer
- 4. January 1939
- 6. Interior, Typical Storage Unit, Looking East
- 7. Photo 7 of 27
- 1. Storehouse (Main Building)
- 3. Alexander Blair, Red Hill Engineer
- 4. January 1939
- 6. Interior, Storage Unit B, Looking West
- 7. Photo 8 of 27
- 1. Storehouse (Main Building)
- 3. Alexander Blair, Red Hill Engineer
- 4. January 1939
- 6. Interior, Storehouse Workshop, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 9 of 27
- 1. Residence and Storehouse (Main Building)
- 3. Alexander Blair, Red Hill Engineer
- 4. November 1935
- 6. Residence Wing, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 10 of 27
- 1. Main Building (Former Residence and Storehouse)
- 3. Mike Mazzeo, Archbold Biological Station volunteer
- 4. Downloaded from Internet Web Site 2007
- 6. Dining Room and Main Offices, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 11 of 27

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- 1. Main Building (Storehouse)
- 3. Mike Mazzeo, Archbold Biological Station volunteer
- 4. Downloaded from Internet Web Site 2007
- 6. North End of Main Building, Looking Southwest along Exterior Walkway
- 7. Photo 12 of 27
- 1. Main Building (Storehouse), Unit G
- 3. Mike Mazzeo, Archbold Biological Station volunteer
- 4. Downloaded from Internet Web Site 2007
- 6. Interior, Library, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 13 of 27
- 1. Main Building (Storehouse), Unit H
- 3. Mike Mazzeo, Archbold Biological Station volunteer
- 4. Downloaded from Internet Web Site 2007
- 6. Interior, Multi-use Classroom, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 14 of 27
- 1. Main Building (Storehouse), Unit H
- 3. Mike Mazzeo, Archbold Biological Station volunteer
- 4. Downloaded from Internet Web Site 2007
- 6. Multi-purpose Laboratory, Looking West
- 7. Photo 15 of 27
- 1. Garage (Rand Building)
- 3. Alexander Blair, Red Hill Engineer
- 4. January 1938
- 6. Main, West Elevation, Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 16 of 27
- 1. Garage (Rand Building)
- 3. Alexander Blair, Red Hill Engineer
- 4. January 1939
- 6. Interior, Vehicle Bays, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 17 of 27

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- 1. Rand Building (Garage)
- 3. Mike Mazzeo, Archbold Biological Station volunteer
- 4. Downloaded from Internet Web Site 2007
- 6. Main (West) Facade, Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 18 of 27
- 1. Generator Building
- 3. Alexander Blair, Red Hill Engineer
- 4. December 1931
- 6. South Elevation, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 19 of 27
- 1. Generator Building
- 3. Alexander Blair, Red Hill Engineer
- 4. March 1932
- 6. Interior, Storage Batteries, Looking North
- 7. Photo 20 of 27
- 1. Generator Building
- 3. Alexander Blair, Red Hill Engineer
- 4. October 1935
- 6. Main (West) Facade and North Elevation, Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 21 of 27
- 1. Generator Building
- 3. Mike Mazzeo, Archbold Biological Station volunteer
- 4. Downloaded from Internet Web Site 2007
- 6. Main (West) Facade and North Elevation, Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 22 of 27
- 1. Pump House
- 3. Alexander Blair, Red Hill Engineer
- 4. October 1935
- 6. Main (West) Facade and South Elevation, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 23 of 27

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- 1. Pump House
- 3. Alexander Blair, Red Hill Engineer
- 4. October 1935
- 6. Main (West) Facade and North Elevation, Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 24 of 27
- 1. Pump House
- 3. Mike Mazzeo, Archbold Biological Station volunteer
- 4. Downloaded from Internet Web Site 2007
- 6. Main (West) Facade and North Elevation, Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 25 of 27
- 1. Explosives Shed
- 3. Alexander Blair, Red Hill Engineer
- 4. c. 1936
- 6. North Elevation, Looking South
- 7. Photo 26 of 27
- 1. Explosives Shed
- 3. Cheryl Henderson, Archbold Biological Station Executive Assistant
- 4. April 2007
- 6. North Elevation, Looking South
- 7. Photo 27 of 27