NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



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 Saxon, Frank, House	
other names/site number <u>HE00187</u>	
2. Location	
street & number 200 Saxon Avenue	N/A not for publication
city or town Brooksville	N/A LI vicinity
state <u>FLORIDA</u> code <u>FL</u> county <u>Hernando</u>	code53 zip code <u>34601</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
□ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering projection of Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Parallel meets □ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be continuationally □ statewide □ locally. (□ See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of certified official/Title □ Date Plorida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources	art 60. In my opinion, the property nsidered significant
Signature of certifying official/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification i hereby certify that the property is: left entered in the National Register	Date of Action NOV 5 1998
Saxon, Frank, House Name of Property	Hernando Co., Florida County and State

5. Ciassification						
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 ☐ structure	1	0	buildings		
	☐ object	0	0	sites		
		0	0	structures		
		0	0	objects		
		1	0	total		
Name of related muitiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of		Number of contributing resources previously ilsted in the National Register				
N	//A	0				
6. Function or Use						
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instru	uctions)			
Domestic: Single dwelling		Work in Progress				
7. Description						
Architectural Ciassification		Materiais				
(Enter categories from instructions)		(Enter categories from	instructions)			
Other: Frame Vernacular		foundation Brick				
		walls <u>Wood: We</u>	atherboard			
		roof Metal				
		other N/A				

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

Saxon, Frank, House	Hernando Co., Florida County and State
Name of Property	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 ca. 1875
□ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.	Classificant Dates
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Ca. 1875
Property is:	
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person N/A
☐ B removed from its original location.	Cuitural Affiliation
C a birthplace or grave.	N/A
☐ D a cemetery.	
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder
☐ F a commemorative property.	Unknown/Unknown
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years	
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or r Previous documentation on file (NPS):	more continuation sheets.) Primary location of additional data:
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) has been requested previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of Repository

Saxon, Frank, House Name of Property	Hernando Co., Florida County and State
10. Geographicai Data	
Acreage of Property Approximately 2 acres	
UTM References (Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 7 3 6 4 9 1 0 3 1 5 9 0 6 0 Zone Easting Northing 2	Zone Easting Northing 4 See continuation sheet
Verbai Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	
Boundary Justification (Expiain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Leslie Draper Stalcup, Consultant/Barbara E.Mattick,	Historic Preservationist Supervisor
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation	date September 1998
street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street	telephone <u>(850) 487-2333</u>
city or town Tallahassee	state Florida zio code 32399-0250
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Марз	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the	property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties have	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 Mrs. Margaret Ghiotto	
street & number 48 Olive Street	telephone
city or town Brooksville	state FL zin code 34601

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

state <u>FL</u>

__ zip code 34601

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				Brooksville, Hernando Co., FL

SUMMARY

The Frank Saxon House, at 200 Saxon Avenue in Brooksville, Florida, is a two-story, Frame Vernacular residence with Queen Anne influences. The irregular shaped residence is covered with weatherboard and rests on a brick pier foundation with brick infill. It has a cross-gabled, metal roof with decorative bargeboard. Two, corbelled, brick chimneys are located on the ridge of the roof on the northeast side and on the exterior of the south elevation. A two-story verandah covers three-quarters of the west facade and the entire north elevation. The porch, which has been restored to its original condition, has decorative porch supports and decorative scrolled wooden railing.

SETTING

Brooksville, Florida is located approximately 40 miles north of Tampa in Hernando County. The Saxon House is located approximately one-mile south of downtown Brooksville. The Saxon House is situated on approximately two acres near the Rogers Christmas House, facing US 98, in a non-residential area. The Christmas House complex, a local landmark which is a series of older houses used for the selling of Christmas items, is approximately 500 feet northeast of the Saxon House. A historic live oak tree is found on the north side of the house. On the east side of the property are the remnants of a circular brick foundation of an unknown structure and a stand of trees.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The west (main) facade features matching entrances on both the first and second stories. Both double wooden doors with arched glass panels and original hardware are surrounded by six-light transom windows and three-light sidelights (Photo #1). A quarter of the west facade on the southern most side extends slightly past the porch area. The first-story porch area, south side, features a four-paneled, wooden door. The south wall of the porch on the second-story features a six-over-six, double-hung sash window. To the south of the entrances in an extension of the house is a two-story bay area. The first-story bay features three, six-over-six double-hung sash windows. The second-story bay area was once a porch and features the same porch supports as the two-story verandah. On the north side of the double entrances on both the first and second stories are four, independent, six-over-six, original wooden, double-hung sash windows, two on each floor (Photo #2). Barge boards are found on the southwest side.

On the first and second stories of the north elevation are two, four-paneled, original wooden doors on the southwest side, nearest the southern end of the porch. Also on the first and second stories are two other original wooden doors on the northeast corner of the wing extension (Photo #3). On the second story above the door is

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a six-over-six, double-hung sash window. On the extended portion of the north elevation are two, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows on both the first and second stories. A recessed area of the porch on the east side features four, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows on the first and second stories. To the east of the windows on the first and second stories are two, four-paneled wooden doors original to the construction of the building.

On the extension of the main wing is a two-over-two, wooden double-hung sash window. To the south of the window is a six-over-six, double-hung sash window. The second-story contains two, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows that align with the first-story windows. To the south of the windows in a recessed portion of the main wing are two, four-paneled wooden doors. To the south of the doors are four, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows, two on each floor (Photo #4).

The south elevation contains two, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows on the first and second stories on the recessed area near the easternmost side of the wing. To the west of the windows are two, four-paneled wooden doors on both the first and second stories. At the current time, the doors do not lead to a landing. On the extended wing of the south elevation to the south of the doors, most of the window openings are boarded up. It appears that the original window spaces have been retained and a few six-over-six, double-hung sash windows remain. A brick chimney separates the window openings (Photo #5).

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the Saxon House retains much of its original integrity. Original decorative hinges, key holes, and four-paneled wooden doors are found throughout the house (Photo #6). The original staircase with wooden spindles and turned wooden newel post located on the northeast section of the central hall area remains, as well as original hardwood floors (Photos #7, 8). All seven rooms in the house contain fireplaces with original Classical Revival influenced wooden mantelpieces.

The south parlor, located on the southwest side of the central entrance hall, is entered through an original door. Near the center of the south wall is a Classical Revival style fireplace with original brick hearth. The center of the west wall has an arched bay area with Classical Revival styled pilasters on the north and south sides of the arch way. The bay area measures approximately ten feet across (Photo #9).

On the northwest wall of the hall way is an entrance that leads into a living room area. On the east wall toward the north side is a door that leads to the porch area. To the south of the door is another door that leads to a small closet To the south of the closet door is an original Classical Revival inspired mantelpiece (Photo #10).

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The kitchen is entered through a door off the north porch. A Classical Revival styled mantelpiece is featured on the center of the west wall.

The second floor features four rooms, three of which are entered off the landing area. The fourth room is entered through a four-paneled door on the northeast side of the porch area. An original wooden mantle, identical to others found throughout the house, is located in the center of the west wall.

The southwest bedroom, entered from a door on the westernmost side, has a door on the west wall that leads to a bay area porch space. In the corner of the south and east walls is a chimney space that features a smaller version of the Classical Revival mantelpieces in the other rooms (Photo #11). A door on the east wall, north side, leads to the southeast bedroom space. A brick fireplace in the corner of the west and south walls features a mantelpiece like the one in the southwest bedroom. A door on the north wall leads to the landing area.

On the north wall, east side, is an entranceway that leads into a large northeast bedroom. On the east wall, north side is a door that leads to the wrap around porch area. On the center of the east wall is a mantelpiece identical to the others found in the house in stylistic details.

The fourth bedroom on the easternmost side of the house is entered through a door found on the south wall of the porch area. Most of the plaster has been removed over the years, but the room still features original hardwood floors, a Classical Revival Style mantelpiece on the west wall north side, and a small closet on the west wall south side. A door that once led to a porch at the back of the house is on the south wall, west side (Photo #12).

ALTERATIONS

Few alterations have been made to the Saxon House. The only major alteration was the addition of a bathroom on the first floor; it was removed by the current owners.

CONCLUSION

The Saxon House exhibits a high degree of integrity and is one of the oldest buildings remaining in Hernando County. The current owners, Margaret Ghiotto and Mary Belle Rogers, owners of Rogers' Christmas House, plan to restore the home.

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SUMMARY

The Frank Saxon House is significant under Criterion C at the local level as one of the earliest examples of Frame Vernacular architecture with Queen Anne Revival influence in Hernando County. Queen Anne influences are seen in the bargeboards along, corbelled brick chimney caps, the bay area on the main facade, and the decorative porch supports and railing along the porch.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Brooksville and Hernando County

Hernando County, Florida, began as the southwest segment of what was known as Alachua County in the early 1800s. This included the areas of present-day Alachua, Marion, Sumter, Citrus and Hernando counties. The Second Seminole War in the mid 1830s helped establish settlement patterns for this portion of the huge county. Government officials granted land rights to veterans of the wars as payment for services rendered. The main settlement of Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco County, however, occurred in the early 1840s, after the passage of the Armed Occupation Act. This legislation granted individuals the right to settle land if they took the following steps: obtained a permit from the Registrar, resided on the land for five years, erected a house and cultivated at least five acres of land, and settled within one year of the land being granted. In 1842, 1312 permits were issued for settlement in the Hernando County area. In order to honor Senator Thomas Hart Benton, who had proposed the legislation, settlers decided to name the area Benton County. However, Senator Benton's lack of support for Southern interests prior to the Civil War angered the predominantly Southern settlers, many of whom came from Georgia and South Carolina. In 1850, the citizens changed the name to Hernando in protest of the Senator's actions. In the late 1880s, the citizens of what is now Citrus and Pasco counties voted to break away from Hernando County to form their own counties.

Brooksville, the county seat of Hernando County, was not officially incorporated until October 1880. Melendezville and Pierceville, the original names for the town, were supplanted by Brooksville to honor Senator Preston Brooks of South Carolina after he caned Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts in the Senate chambers of the U. S Capitol.

In his 1882 work, *Florida for Tourists, Invalids and Settlers*, George M. Barbour spoke highly of the Hernando region, noting its rolling hills and lovely landscape. Barbour also noted that at the time Brooksville had the following amenities: tobacco stores, a hairdresser, attorney's office, carriage builders, restaurants, a boarding house, newspapers and a skating rink. Around the time of its incorporation, Brooksville had a population of 800.

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After the initial settlement of the county, however, a number of factors prevented the growth, the main one being the fact that the railroad had not yet been introduced to Hernando County. Not until 1885 did a spur of the Florida Southern Railroad reach Brooksville, the county seat of Hernando County. Even with this railroad spur, development did not occur rapidly, partly because the railway was mainly used as a shipping line for the county's citrus fruits with little passenger service. This inhibited the mass migration of visitors and new residents into the area. In 1887, the population of the county actually decreased when the state divided the county into two other areas, Pasco County to the south and Citrus County to the north.

The county suffered a further setback to growth in 1894 and 1895 after a devastating freeze destroyed much of the orange and tangerine crops throughout the state. The earlier freeze in December, 1894, caused the defoliation of trees, thus leaving the trees in a weakened state for the more severe freeze in February, 1895. This particular freeze resulted in the total loss of the damaged trees, creating financial havoc throughout the state. The local bank closed and many settlers left the county for better opportunities. It took the area nearly twenty years for the trees to produce fruit on a regular basis and farmers to recover; however, the damage had already been done to the economy.

Frank Saxon

The Saxon House was built by Frank Saxon for his bride Tululu Hope sometime in the 1870s. Saxon had originally been married to Marena May in 1866 and resided in the May-Stringer House (NR March 1997). During this time, Saxon served as a member of the Florida legislature representing Hernando County. Marena Saxon died in 1869 giving birth to the couple's second child. Frank Saxon later married Tululu Hope, daughter of one of the earliest settlers in the county, William Hope. Saxon built the Saxon House a half mile south of the May-Stringer House for himself and his new bride. Since the Saxons, the house has had a number of owners, including the O'Neal family; L.B. Varn, who purchased the home in 1906; members of the Scarborough family; and the present owners, the Rogers sisters. Few architectural changes were made to the house, although the Scarboroughs added a bathroom on the easternmost wall of the southeast parlor area sometime in the 1980s. It has since been removed.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Frame Vernacular

Frame Vernacular, the prevalent historic architecture of Florida, refers to the common wood frame construction technique used by property owners and self-taught builders. They represented the available materials, adaptation to local environments, and the tastes of the builder or owner. Houses built prior to the Civil War

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were primarily constructed of local materials. With the advent of the Industrial Revolution, homeowners had access to relatively inexpensive materials and finished architectural products.

Frame Vernacular buildings are typically one or two stories in height, with wood balloon frame structural systems and brick pier foundations. Plans are usually rectangular, though L-shaped plans are often used to maximize cross-ventilation. Gabled or hipped roofs usually have steep pitches. Horizontal drop, weatherboard, and board and batten siding are the most common exterior wall surface materials. Fenestration is regular, but not always symmetrical. Windows are generally multi-paned, double-hung sash. Exterior decoration is often limited to ornamental woodwork.

QUEEN ANNE STYLE

The Queen Anne style was established in England by designer Norman Shaw. The name was an attempt at describing the resemblance of the style to rural English architecture, although the main embellishments appear to have been influenced by Tudor or Elizabethan styles of architecture. Queen Anne styles in America more commonly utilized brick and wood in the design of the house. Artistic embellishments, such as shingle designs and lattice work, gave further charm to the style for American home buyers. The style, which lasted in America from 1876 until the early 1900s, was popular mainly in residential design. Fred Whiffen stated that the popularity of the Queen Anne style could be attributed to Americans need to "conjure up a period of the past that was just distant enough to appear rosy in the eyes of an America that had lost so much of its confidence in the future during the financial panic of 1873" (Noble, Wood, Brick and Stone).

Characteristics of the Queen Anne style include a steeply pitched roof of irregular shape, usually with a dominant front-facing gable, as well as patterned shingles, cutaway bay-windows. The style also exhibits an asymmetrical facade with a partial or full width porch, which is usually one story high and extended along one or both wall surfaces.

CONCLUSION

The Saxon House is one of the earliest residences remaining in the Brooksville area. While basic in form, the Saxon House does exhibit some influences of Queen Anne style, especially evident in the decorative eaves work, the bay area on the facade, and millwork on the porch balustrades. The Saxon House also exhibits a high degree of integrity in the interior. Of particular note are the mantelpieces, newel posts, and doors.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Jones, James. History of Brooksville City Government. Brooksville, FL, 1965.

McKethan, Alfred A. Hernando County: Our History. Gainesville: University Press, 1989.

Noble, Allen. Wood, Brick, and Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1984.

Stanaback, Richard J. A History of Hernando County, 1840-1976. Brooksville, 1976.

Weaver, Paul and Barbara Mattick. Nomination for the Bullock, General Robert House. Marion County, 1993.

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of blocks 17 and 18 of Saxon's addition.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the house and two acre lot which is historically associated with the Saxon House.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY

- 1. Saxon House
- 2. 200 Saxon Avenue
- 3. Leslie Draper Stalcup
- 4. October 1997
- 5. Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250
- 6. West (main) facade, facing northeast
- 7. #1 of 12

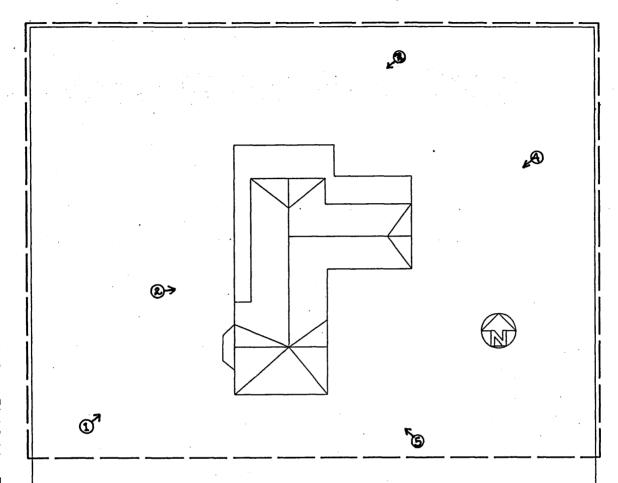
Items 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs

- 6. West facade (main entrance), facing east
- 7. #2 of 12
- 6. North elevation, detail of window location, verandah/ ornate railing, facing southwest
- 7. #3 of 12
- 6. East elevation, detail of back ell, facing southwest
- 7. #4 of 12
- 6. South and east elevation, with chimneys, facing northwest
- 7. #5 of 12
- 6. Second floor, detail of wooden doors leading to porch, facing west
- 7. #6 of 12
- 6. First floor, staircase, detail of turned posts and spindles, facing east
- 7. #7 of 12
- 6. Second floor, staircase, detail of banister, facing east
- 7. #8 of 12
- 8. First floor, southwest parlor, detail of bay area, facing east
- 9. #9 of 12

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- 6. First floor, northwest living room, detail of fireplace, facing west
- 7. #10 of 12
- 6. Second floor, northeast bedroom, detail of fireplace, facing west
- 7. #11 of 12
- 6. Second floor, northwest bedroom, detail of fireplace, facing east
- 7. #12 of 12



0 10 20 30 feet scale (scale approximate) SAXON AVENUE

S

1 = PHOTOGRAPH

Saxon House

200 SAXON AVENUE BROOKSVILLE (HERNANDO COUNTY). FLORIDA

200 SAXON AVENUE 3ROOKSVILLE (HERNANDO COUNTY), FLORIDA

