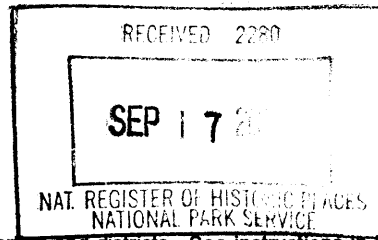


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



RECID
02-180

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 REID, LEONARD HOUSE

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1435 7th Street N/A not for publication

city or town Sarasota N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Sarasota code 115 zip code 34236

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 9/12/2002
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Sarah D. Pope

10/29/02

REID, LEONARD HOUSE
Name of Property

Sarasota Co., FL
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

Name of related multiple property listings
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Children's Day Care Center

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE/Frame Vernacular/Shotgun House

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Wood
roof Metal
other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made 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 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.
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 purposes.
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)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK

Period of Significance

1926-1952

Significant Dates

1926

Significant Person

Reid, Leonard

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: Unknown.

Blder: Unknown

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):

- 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 #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of Repository

#

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than 1

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid for reference 1: Zone 17, Easting 347500, Northing 3025300

UTM grid for reference 3: Zone, Easting, Northing

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 Mikki Hartig, Historic Consultant/Lee Williams, Other Personnel Services/Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date August 2002

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street telephone (850) 245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Donald J. Wallace

street & number 420 Golden Gate Point, Apt. #2 telephone (941) 906-1386

city or town Sarasota state Florida zip code 34236

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Leonard Reid House at 1435 7th Street in Sarasota, Florida, is a one-story single family “Shotgun House” that was completed in 1926. Construction is wood drop siding over a wood frame. The house rests on concrete block foundation piers and has a rectangular ground plan. A front-facing gable roof covers the main block of the house which has a full-width enclosed porch at the front of the building that has been integrated into the main roof. There is also an enclosed full-width porch covered by a slightly sloping shed roof at the rear of the house. Both roof structures are covered by 3v metal crimp sheeting. The former residence largely retains its original physical features. The building, however, has been moved and reoriented to face south rather than east, and a wooden ramp has been constructed at the rear entrance to provide handicap access. There is a public parking area at the rear of the building, and a contemporary six foot high wood fence has been constructed along the perimeter of the property on the north and west. The former residence now serves as a privately owned child care center. The building is located in the Overtown Historic District, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 19, 2002, but does not contribute to the historic character of the district, because it was moved from another location immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the district to prevent its demolition.

SETTING

The Leonard Reid House is located in Sarasota, a city located in central Florida on the Gulf of Mexico. The house was moved approximately three blocks from its original site at 623 Coconut Avenue (Photo 1) in August of 1999 and rehabilitated. The house was originally sited on a parcel of property located just southwest of the intersection of Coconut Avenue and 6th Street—now Boulevard of the Arts— (See Attachments A & B). The main facade of the one-story residence was oriented east toward Coconut Avenue, and its south elevation paralleled a no longer extant alley named 5th Way. When the building was moved to its present location at 1435 7th Street, it was turned so that the main facade now points south, overlooking 7th Street. The basic relationship between the structure and the nearby street corner (Cohen Way) is very similar to its original site near 6th Street. The house was relocated to save it from demolition. The purchaser of the original property required that the land be cleared for redevelopment, necessitating that the building either be moved or demolished. Both the original site of the property and its new location are found in Overtown, Sarasota’s first major African American neighborhood.

In order to maintain its historic significance within its historic setting, a deliberate effort was made to relocate the structure within its original historic neighborhood to which its original owners and their children were firmly linked throughout their lives. Both the original and new site are approximately two blocks from the core of the historic Overtown business district. The new site is appropriate and is within an area of Overtown that at one time contained many similar period residential structures.

Two one-story frame single family residential structures of very similar architecture and construction, also dating from the 1920s, are immediately west of the new site, aligning the same side of the street as the subject

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2 REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

structure. In addition, a number of 1920s residential dwellings, including one that formerly stood on the lot to which the subject structure was moved, originally existed in the vicinity of the new site but were demolished in recent years due to deterioration and code violations. This can be documented by early Sanborn fire insurance maps. Although the house was originally oriented to the east, the size and street orientation of the new site did not allow the house to be oriented in the same direction. There are few mature trees or dense vegetation in the Overtown areas, so both the original and new sites are similar in their topographical appearance.

A number of early businesses and residences in the historic Overtown community (today's Rosemary District) have been lost through demolition, but some do survive. In recent years, a considerable amount of revitalization, rehabilitation, and streetscape improvements have been made by both private property owners and city government in this section of the city. In addition, the Overtown National Register Historic District encompasses the historic central core of the neighborhood.

DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The house is sited on a narrow deep lot with minimal setback from the street. The main facade is oriented to the south. It is one-story in height with a rectangular plan. Construction is of wood drop siding over a balloon wood frame. Concrete block piers support the structure. A front-facing gable roof, surfaced in 5/v crimp metal, covers the main block of the structure. Exposed rafter tails extend under the wide eaves. A louvered wood attic vent is centered on the front south and north end gable walls near the roof peak (Photos 2-6). The Leonard Reid House was among the larger Shotgun House variations constructed in Overtown during the 1920s. It is approximately 25 feet wide and 56 feet long, including the front and rear porches, which are each eight feet deep.

A full-width front entrance porch, integrated under the structure's main gable roof extends across the primary facade. Although the porch was originally screened, it has been enclosed with the installation of fixed glass panels of glass within the original screened openings above wood knee walls. A paneled wood entrance door has multiple lights in the upper section (Photos 2-7). Beyond the porch, the original paneled wood main entrance door, with a single fixed light of glass in the upper half, accesses the house from the porch (Photo 20). A single original 1/1 wood double hung sash window flanks the door to the house at either side.

The east elevation of the house has a secondary entrance. Several original independently placed windows pierce this exterior wall. A brick chimney rises up and above the exterior wall on the same elevation (Photos 5-9).

On the north or rear elevation is a full-width original former service porch, enclosed with novelty wood siding, differing from the wood drop siding used on the main block of the house. Window openings on this elevation are filled with single sheets of fixed glass which replaced the aluminum awning windows that were

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3

REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

installed when the porch was enclosed c.1970. The rear service porch is covered by a shed roof surfaced in 3v metal crimp sheeting. A central contemporary solid wood entrance door accesses the porch, beyond a recently constructed wood handicap ramp, whereas, an original paneled wood entrance door on the back wall of the main block of the house provides access to the porch from the house (Photos 8-11). The house retains all of its original wood 1/1 double hung sash windows which are placed as single units or in pairs.

Interior

The main entrance door opens into the living which provides access to one of the four original bedrooms and the narrow central hall. The inclusion of a central hall was unusual in Shotgun House design, since living space in the smaller variations was at a premium. Located on either side of the hall were the other three bedrooms (each approximately 10 feet by 10 feet in size), a kitchen, pantry, and a bathroom. There was brick fireplace in the living room that provided some warmth for the family during the cold winter months, but the house had no other source of heat. The porches provided shade and cooling breezes during the heat of summer. The house was fitted with electric lighting and indoor plumbing when it was constructed in 1926.

With the exception of the partial removal of one interior wall between two original bedrooms, the house retains its original central hall floor plan. The original floor plan included a living room, dining room, two pantries, four bedrooms, and a single bath. All of the rooms flank the central hall (Photos 12 & 18). Until the partial removal of one interior wall in between two of the bedrooms, the bedrooms were all approximately the same size. The wall was removed between the second and third bedrooms on the west side of the hall. A section of the dividing wall was retained to express the original existence of two rooms combined to make one larger room (Photo 15). The fourth bedroom is off the hall on the east. The single bathroom is located at the rear of the hall on the west (Photo 16). The bathroom fixtures are not original to the house. The house has only one closet, which is accessed from the central hall to the west.

Except on the rear porch where modern partitions and ceilings are of wallboard, interior walls and ceilings in the house are beadboard hung both vertically and horizontally (Photos 12-20). Carpeting presently covers sheets of plywood, the original flooring apparently removed at some earlier time. The house retains all of its original wood panel doors and operable single light wood transoms (Photos 12, 13, 16, & 18). The living room features an original brick fireplace, with a wood mantle, centered between two tall narrow single fixed light windows on the east wall (Photo 19).

Alterations

The Leonard Reid House retains much of its original architectural character, but its move to a new location required some repair and renovation of original fabric, and some changes were made to meet current building codes and to meet the requirements for its new use as a neighborhood learning center. All of the remaining 1926 original

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 4

REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

windows were removed, sanded, repainted, and then reinstalled. The aluminum awning windows on the front and rear porches, which had been installed c. 1970, were removed and replaced with untinted single sheets of fixed glass in the original screened window openings. The original exterior wood siding was repaired and repainted wherever possible. Siding was replaced only where it was severely damaged. The existing electrical system was outdated and could not meet code. An all new electrical service system and HVAC unit were installed. Repairs were made where necessary. A security system and smoke detectors were installed in the interior. Both the exterior and interior of the house were repainted with high grade acrylic paint. Since all of the original rooms in the house were small, a wall partition was removed between two of the former four bedrooms to create a common area. A fifteen inch section of the original wall was left near the ceiling to express that a wall formerly divided the space between the two rooms.

The size and location of the original single bathroom was not altered, and the fixtures were left in their original locations. The water damaged beadboard around the tub was replaced with beadboard closely matching the original. A new handicap accessible bathroom was also built on the east side of the rear porch of the house. This facility is not visible from the exterior of the building. A wood handicap ramp was installed at the rear of the building. The ramp was constructed of pressure treated wood to resist weathering, and the simple cedar railing and balustrade were painted to match the color of the exterior of the house.

The brick chimney that originally served as a kitchen flue located near the rear of the house was badly deteriorated and could not be moved or rebuilt. The top of the chimney for the living room fireplace was removed for the relocation of the house to the new site. The upper section of the chimney was reconstructed at the new location, using the original brick. The house originally stood on a concrete pier foundation, but the new location was provided with a continuous concrete block foundation. The move and alterations to the house were undertaken as part of the federal tax incentives program to rehabilitate historic buildings for commercial use.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1 REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Leonard Reid House is locally significant under Criterion B in the area of Black Ethnic Heritage as the only surviving building or other resource associated with Leonard Reid, a highly respected early African American civic leader in Sarasota, Florida. Reid was one of the earliest residents of Overtown, Sarasota's first major African American residential and commercial community, and developed several parcels of real estate in the area. Reid led the drive to found Payne Chapel, Sarasota's second oldest African American church. He was also involved in the organization and activities of various African American fraternal groups that were devoted to promoting the commercial and social success of Overtown and to assisting distressed and indigent members of the black community of Sarasota. Reid is one of only two pioneer African American residents of Sarasota for whom city streets have been named in honor of recognizing their social and economic contributions to the early development of the city. The building at 1435 7th Street falls under the requirement for the application of Criteria Consideration B because it was moved to its present location from its original site in the Overtown neighborhood to prevent its being demolished to make way for new construction.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Overtown

As early as the 1890s, African Americans settled north of downtown Sarasota in an area then known as "Black Bottom," but by the mid-1920s would become Overtown. The Overtown community had its beginnings in 1897 when Lewis Colson (1844-1922), an African American land developer who had arrived in Sarasota with the original surveyors of the town in 1884, donated land he owned in the area for the construction of Bethlehem Baptist Church. The church was erected to serve the spiritual needs of the small black population—mainly fishermen, day laborers, and their families. A lay preacher, Colson was the first minister of the church. Bethlehem Baptist Church, which stood at the corner of Central Avenue and Seventh Street was a community center for educational, cultural, and recreational activities for seventy-four years. Colson served as pastor from 1899 to 1915. Lewis Colson and his wife, Irene, are the only black people buried in Rosemary Cemetery, Sarasota's first municipal cemetery, which is located at the northwest corner of Overtown.¹

By 1916, the Overtown Community had a theater, stores, and a baseball park. When a new hotel opened on 8th Street in 1926, it was named the Colson Hotel. By the mid 1920s, Overtown was a thriving residential and business district. It grew as businessmen, fishermen, physicians, contractors, carpenters, laborers, drivers, masons, blacksmiths, laundry workers and railroad workers made the area their home. Along today's Central Avenue were

¹ "Dreamers of Our Past, Lewis Colson 1844-1922," Sarasota County Historical Resources internet web site, http://www.co.sarasota.fl.us/historical_resources/Dreamers/dreamer_colson.asp

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 2 REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

pressing clubs² and lunch rooms, a movie theater, meat and fish markets, grocery and general merchandise stores, and a variety of other businesses that provided goods and services to the community. Residential architecture varied in size, but most houses were modest, one-story, wood-frame structures incorporating front porches.

Although the black residents provided much needed workers for building Sarasota, their proximity to downtown prompted some anxiety in the white population of Sarasota. In 1911, an article in the Sarasota Times suggesting that Rosemary Cemetery be moved stated that, "The location [of the cemetery], having to pass through the colored quarters to reach the cemetery, is not desirable."³ In 1925, Manatee Memorial Park Cemetery was opened in the nearby community of Oneco to provide another option for the burial of white residents of Sarasota. Some residents exhumed family members from Rosemary Cemetery and re-interred them at the new cemetery.⁴ As early as 1915 some Sarasota residents encouraged the African American population to move north of the Overtown area. Sarasota developer Charles N. Thompson and his son Russell opened a subdivision of four acres named Newtown, three-quarters of a mile north of town out of the city limits, "not to make money but to provide the Negroes with better places in which to live."⁵ The subdivision had 240 lots, several of which were dedicated for the construction of a Methodist church, a Baptist church, and a school. With more land available and a greater opportunity for ownership, African Americans started a slow migration to Newtown.⁶

Despite the opening of Newtown, Overtown continued to remain as the main center of African American life in Sarasota. The 1913 Sanborn fire insurance map of Sarasota shows wood frame stores and residences in the vicinity of present-day Central Avenue (then Mango Avenue), 6th Street (then 12th Street), and Coconut (originally Cocomanut) Avenue. Businesses in the area included a drug store, a general merchandise store, a tailor, a barber shop, grocer, a fish market, a lunch counter, a boarding house, and an artificial stone manufacturer.⁷ In the 1916 Sarasota City Directory, residents were listed as cooks, fishermen, porters, laborers, laundresses, and domestic workers, but some residents of Overtown were business owners offering goods and services to black families. Businesses such as the Royal Palm Pressing Club, William Green's restaurant, the Sarasota Shoe Shop, Wright Bush's general merchandise and grocery, Toney Colson's Fish Market, Washington & Roberts Cold Drinks, McQueen's Grocery, Tom and Annie Mason's Cafe, and the Sarasota Ice

² Women's beauty parlors that specialized in straightening the hair of black women.

³ "The Removal of the Cemetery...", Sarasota Times, 8 June 1911. Subject files, Sarasota County Historical Resources, included in The ADP Group, "City of Sarasota, Small Area Plan," Appendix C.

⁴ Rosemary Cemetery Timeline, [http://www.ncf.edu/ncarchaeology/Rosemary History.htm](http://www.ncf.edu/ncarchaeology/Rosemary%20History.htm).

⁵ Karl H. Grismer, The Story of Sarasota: The History of the City and County of Sarasota, Florida. Tampa: M. E. Russell and the Florida Grower Press, 1946, 179.

⁶ "A New Addition," Sarasota Times, 16 April 1914. Subject files, Sarasota County Historical Resources, Sarasota, also included in The ADP Group, "City of Sarasota, Small Area Plan," Appendix C; Muldowney, 1997.

⁷ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (New York: Sanborn Map Company, November 1913).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 3 REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

and Electric Company provided work for local residents. Masons and carpenters were listed as residents of Overtown, and Frank Williams, who had a residence on Coconut Avenue, was listed as a Sarasota blacksmith.⁸

To meet the growing need for African American housing, Newtown Heights, an addition to Newtown, opened in the mid-1920s. Some African Americans, who had rented houses in Overtown, moved to the Newtown and Newtown Heights areas and constructed their own homes there in the 1920s.⁹ The development of both Newtown and Overtown also created an increased demand for skilled masons and carpenters. The influx of temporary construction and farm workers prompted the construction of boarding houses and hotels, such as the Colson and Central Hotels, in Overtown. Edwin O. Burns constructed the Colson Hotel in late 1926. Named for the Reverend Lewis Colson, the hotel was designed in the modern Mediterranean Revival style with 28 rooms at a cost of \$35,000. According to the article advertising its opening, each room featured curtains, rugs, towels, and linen sheets. The hotel also had a comfortable lobby with a "great fireplace," a club room with a "fine dance floor," four large bathrooms, and shops on the ground floor. Built for "the colored population and colored tourists," the hotel, like similar facilities in larger cities across the United States, also provided housing for traveling African American entertainers. According to the article, Burns "has given them a warm, comfortable place to live, at a cost so reasonable that the lowest salaried Negro can afford a room and other privileges at the Colson." The hotel, now used as apartments, still stands at 1425 8th Street.¹⁰

Despite the establishment of the Newtown neighborhood, Overtown continued to flourish throughout the 1920s and 1930s and had reached its height of importance as an African American commercial and cultural center in Sarasota by the onset of World War II. As suburbanization and urban renewal led residents to leave Overtown, many buildings were abandoned and demolished. However, revitalization during the 1990s has led to the rebirth of this area prompting the reinvestment and reuse of the remaining historic buildings.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Leonard Reid (1881-1952) played a significant role in the growth and development of Sarasota's African American community from the time of his arrival in 1900 at age 19 until his death in 1952. Leonard Reid was born Leonard Sproles, in Greenwood, South Carolina, on August 24, 1881, and was raised in Savannah, Georgia, by his stepfather whose last name he adopted. He graduated from the Savannah (Georgia) Normal School as valedictorian of his class.¹¹ There are two versions of the story of how Reid got to Sarasota. One states that Reid

⁸ Miller and Mayfield, comp. Sarasota City Directory. Asheville: Florida-Piedmont Directory Company, 1916, 1918, 1921-22, 1923-24, 1927-28, 1930.; Annie M. McElroy, But Your World and My World: The Struggle for Survival: A Partial History of Blacks in Sarasota County, 1884-1986. No location: Black South Press, 1986, 1-2, 11-12.

⁹ McElroy, 1-27.

¹⁰ "Colson Hotel is Novel One," Sarasota Herald, 15 December 1926. Subject files, Sarasota County Historical Resources.

¹¹ Hayes, Ethel Reid, daughter, in a 1983 transcribed interview, copy in biographical file of Leonard Reid at the Sarasota County Department of Historical Resources, and McElroy, Annie, Black South Press, 1986, p. 6.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 4 REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

came to Sarasota with a Greek fisherman in January 1900 to open a market for salted and sun-dried fish for Cuban traders. By the time the two arrived, however, an ice plant had been established in Tampa, and steamships made the rounds to Sarasota three days a week to take fresh fish on board, eliminating the need for a dried fish market. Another version, provided by Reid's eldest daughter, Ethel Reid Hayes, in a 1983 interview, stated that on his way to Cuba he stopped in Sarasota where he met some people and spent the night with them partying. Upon returning to the dock to continue his trip to Cuba, he found that he had missed the boat.¹²

With little connection to Sarasota, Reid briefly found employment with a fish merchant. A short time later, he was introduced to and employed as a house servant by John Hamilton Gillespie, a native of Scotland who became an important early developer of property in Sarasota and was elected the Town's first mayor.¹³ Shortly after Gillespie arrived in Sarasota, he had become the local manager of the Florida Mortgage and Investment Company, which in 1885 had persuaded a group of Scottish colonists to come to Sarasota by promising them that the location had a bright economic future. The first arrivals were disillusioned by the heat, insects, and the primitiveness of the area, and within a short time, most of them left for other areas. Gillespie, however, remained in the still small village, for he was certain that it had prospects for rapid future development. He expanded his financial interests in the community and made it his home for the rest of his life.

Leonard Reid undertook a variety of domestic tasks for Gillespie, serving as manservant, butler, coachman, constant companion, and close confidante (Photos 21-22). Gillespie placed great trust in Reid, even to the extent of leaving the family home in Reid's care when Gillespie and his family traveled to Scotland to attend the funeral of his father, the Scottish nobleman, Sir John Gillespie.¹⁴ J. Hamilton Gillespie was an avid golfer, and according to an account made in later years, Reid stated that he assisted Gillespie in laying out the plan for the first nine-hole golf course in Sarasota in 1901.¹⁵ The two men walked through an area of palmettos near downtown, where Gillespie sketched out the plan on a map while Reid placed wood stakes to mark the fairways and greens. A few weeks after Gillespie produced the plan, workmen began clearing the land of trees and brush from the area to be occupied by the course.¹⁶ Reid became the first caretaker and greenskeeper for the nine hole course. Reid continued to assist in the maintenance of the golf course when Gillespie left Sarasota for Europe in 1916 to serve with the Allied Forces during World War I.¹⁷

While still employed by Gillespie, Reid met Eddy (Addy) Coleman, a young woman of color, who had been living in the Gillespie home for a number of years. She had been raised and educated by Gillespie's first wife,

¹² Swalm, Neal Chapline, "Leonard Reid Sarasota's Pioneer 'Man Friday'" The Sarasota County Historian, February, 1983, p. 13.

¹³ Sarasota Herald, November 12, 1952.

¹⁴ Sarasota County Historian, February, 1983, p.13.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Sarasota Herald, November 12, 1952.

¹⁷ Sarasota Times, November 23, 1916, copy of undated Sarasota Times article located in Leonard Reid biographical file at the Sarasota County Department of Historical Resources, and Sarasota Herald-Tribune, November 12, 1952.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 5 REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

Mary. Eddy's mother, who was related to the early developer Lewis Colson, had come to Sarasota some time before 1886 from Perry, Florida.¹⁸ Eddy's father died, leaving her mother with six small children, and then her mother died when Eddy was 7 years old, leaving the children with no means of support. An article appearing in the February 1983 issue of The Sarasota County Historian stated that Mrs. Gillespie had undertaken the task of caring for the children.

Leonard Reid and Eddy Coleman were married in 1901.¹⁹ Both he and his wife continued to work for the Gillespies after they were married and lived in a small house on the Gillespie property. Their first child, Ray Field, was born there in 1902. In 1903, Leonard Reid and his family moved to a small rental house on Central Avenue in Overtown.²⁰ The Reids eventually had four children.²¹

In 1904, Reid discussed with Gillespie the prospect of investing \$400 he had in savings to open a grocery store and go into business for himself. Instead, Gillespie encouraged Reid to invest his money in land.²² In 1906, Reid purchased four lots in Overtown from Gillespie. The property included the parcel at the intersection of Coconut and 6th Street where the Reid family home originally stood. Early Sarasota city directories indicate that Reid and his family lived for a time in a no longer extant house located at the northeast corner of Coconut Avenue and 6th Street and moved later to the house he had constructed near the southwest corner of Coconut Avenue and 6th Street. Over the next several years, Reid purchased additional land in the Overtown section of Sarasota.²³ Although his real estate dealings contributed significantly to his income, Reid continued his association with Gillespie until his benefactor's death in 1923.²⁴ Afterward, Reid related the story that when he and Eddy married, Gillespie knew they would want a home of their own, but said "...not too far away, for I cannot do without ye." Reid responded that he would not.²⁵

While still remaining in Gillespie's employment, Reid undertook jobs for other people when they were available. Reid and his wife were often called upon by parents of prominent white families to watch their children—usually at the Gillespie home—while they attended various social functions. Reid was also hired by to assist in the preparation and serving of food and refreshments at dinner parties, teas, and dances.²⁶

¹⁸ Hayes, Ethel Reid, 1983 interview.

¹⁹ McElroy, 1986, p. 5.

²⁰ Hayes, Ethel Reid, 1983 interview.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Sarasota County Historian, February, 1983.

²³ The Sarasota County Historian, February, 1983, p. 13.

²⁴ Sarasota History Biographies, <http://newsltr.com/sarasota/biographies.htm#gillespie>.

²⁵ Ibid., p.13.

²⁶ The Sarasota County Historian, February, 1983, p.14.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 6 REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

Reid and his wife were founding members, along with community leaders Campbell Mitchell, F.H. Haynes, and C.H. Murphy, of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church of Sarasota. In 1903, the congregation constructed a small wood frame building on a lot donated by the Florida Mortgage and Investment Company at Central Avenue and present-day 5th Street. With 59 members in 1910, the church rallied to raise money for the construction of a new building. In 1914, the original building was replaced with a new wood frame structure to serve the growing congregation.²⁷ Reid and his wife also played a prominent role in establishing Sarasota's second oldest African American church, Payne Chapel,²⁸ which was founded in 1906.²⁹ The first church building was a one-room frame building built on land at the northwest corner of Central Avenue and 5th Street that Hamilton Gillespie had donated for the purpose. The building served for a time as the only meeting place available for large groups from the Sarasota African American community.³⁰ The church was destroyed by a hurricane in 1927, and a new Mediterranean Revival style church was erected on the same site (Photo 23). The building still survives but no longer serves as a church and was rehabilitated for use as the offices of a local architect.

The African American community also had a number of active fraternal organizations. In 1916, the Sarasota City Directory listed the International Order of Odd Fellows, the Household of Ruth, the Masonic Lodge, and the Knights of Pythias.³¹ Reid played a vital role in the founding and organizing of several of them³² He was a charter member Masonic Lodge #314 in Sarasota where he eventually rose to a 33rd degree Mason and served for many years as the Worshipful Master.³³ He also was instrumental in the founding chapters of other fraternal organizations in which he enjoyed membership, including the Odd Fellows;³⁴ the Household of

²⁷ "The Colored Methodist Church of Sarasota....," Sarasota Times, 21 April 1910. Subject files, Sarasota County Historical Resources; McElroy 1986:80-83.

²⁸ Named in honor of Daniel Alexander Payne, the driving force behind the development of the A.M.E. churches.

²⁹ Hayes, 1983 interview, and Reid, Viola, October, 1995 interview with Hartig.

³⁰ McElroy, p. 80-83.

³¹ Miller and Mayfield, comp. Sarasota City Directory. Asheville: Florida-Piedmont Directory Company, 1916.

³² Neal Chapline, Once Upon a Morning (Franklin: Macon Graphics, Inc., 1980), 74-77; McElroy 5, 80-83; Janet Snyder Matthews, Journey to Centennial Sarasota. Revised ed. Sarasota: Sesquicentennial Productions, Inc., 1997, 83; Yolanda Rodriguez, "Foundation of Sarasota's African-American History: Home in Path of Progress," Sarasota Herald-Tribune, 28 July 1998; Pete Schmidt, "The Friendship of Leonard and the Colonel," Times Newspapers, 19 November 1989. Subject files, Sarasota County Historical Resources; Richard Glendinning, "Leonard Reid Was Beloved Sarasotan....," The News, 19 December 1958. Subject files, Sarasota County Historical Resources; "City's Golfing History Older Than Township of Sarasota," Sarasota Herald-Tribune, 12 November 1952. Subject files, Sarasota County Historical Resources; Ethel Reid Hayes, Unknown interviewer, 1983, Sarasota. Biographical file, Ethel Reid Hayes, Sarasota County Historical Resources, Sarasota; Archaeological Consultants, Inc., "Historic Recordation and Documentation of 521 Coconut Avenue and 1341 6th Street, Sarasota, Florida," Submitted to the City of Sarasota, (Sarasota: Archaeological Consultants, Inc., 7 August 1998). Manuscript on file, Archaeological Consultants, Inc.; Doris Jones, Telephone Interview by Jeanette Knowles, 26 March 2001. Project files, Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Sarasota.

³³ McElroy, p.-, and Sarasota City Directory, 1916.

³⁴ Sarasota City Directory, 1916.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 7 REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

Ruth #3538, in which he served as secretary; and the Knights of Pythias.³⁵ Reid's daughter, Ethel Reid Hayes, stated in a 1983 interview that her father based his religion around the Masonic Order and read each night from Masonic books.³⁶

Both the churches and fraternal organizations were active in charitable work, requesting donations of money and services from their members to provide food, shelter, clothing, and even medical care for the families of members of the congregations and clubs who had fallen on hard times. The death of the principal breadwinner, the loss of the family home by fire, or a severe illness that prevented the head of the household from working would prompt these community groups to take action. In addition to the direct solicitation of funds to provide relief to those in need, the churches and fraternal organizations would hold community-wide "rent parties," barbecues, and other social events at which the participants contributed money and other items to assist afflicted families. The care of elderly or disabled residents of Overtown was a particular goal of community groups, and Leonard Reid took a leading role in many of these efforts.³⁷

Reid was a strong advocate of the education of black children. He established a neighborhood library in his home, using his own collection of books, and encouraged his own children and those visiting the family to read each night.³⁸ Reid hired a piano teacher from Tampa to teach piano to neighborhood children in his home every Wednesday. He also took pleasure in gathering together young men and offering them guidance.³⁹ The Overtown community also organized to teach their children. In 1911, community leaders petitioned the school board for an African American school. The school was designated the "Sarasota Colored School No. 26." The first classes were held at the Knights of Pythias hall at 404 Coconut Avenue.⁴⁰ Reid instilled the importance of education in his own children as well. His daughter, Ethel, graduated from Florida A & M University in Tallahassee in 1931 and began her career as a teacher at Booker Elementary School in Sarasota. Eventually, she obtained a masters degree from her alma mater and taught for many years in the Sarasota County school system.⁴¹ Reid's other daughter, Viola, also obtained a degree from Florida A & M University and taught school in Sarasota. All of Reid's children shared his love of music and were accomplished piano players. Reid's oldest son, Ray, became a commercial fisherman in Sarasota, but his younger son, James, became a professional musician and moved to California.⁴²

³⁵ McElroy, pp. 80-83.

³⁶ McElroy, p.-, and *Sarasota City Directory*, 1916.

³⁷ Hayes, 1983 interview, and Reid, Viola, October, 1995 interview with Hartig.

³⁸ Hayes, 1983 interview, and Reid, Viola, October, 1995 interview with Hartig.

³⁹ McElroy, p.5.

⁴⁰ McElroy 4, 10, 37-54; Mulrone, 1997.

⁴¹ Hayes, 1983 interview, and Reid, Viola, October, 1995 interview with Hartig.

⁴² Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 8 REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

In 1925, Reid began to build a new home for himself and Eddy on the parcel of property at the southwest corner of Coconut and 6th Street that he had purchased almost twenty years earlier from Gillespie. Reid allegedly oversaw the construction of his new home and the three outbuildings on the property.⁴³ On the north stood a small frame storage shed. To the southwest was a larger frame building used a workshop, and to the west was a frame garage.⁴⁴ After the death of Hamilton Gillespie, Reid went to work for Calvin Payne, one of Sarasota's major land developers during the 1920s, and also worked for various people as a gardener and groundskeeper.⁴⁵ The 1927-1928 Sarasota city directory shows the Reids living in the house at 623 Coconut Avenue and lists Reid as being the janitor of the American National Bank of Sarasota.

Less than a week before Leonard Reid's death, an article in the Sarasota newspaper, The Breeze, published biographical information on a number of Sarasota's surviving earliest settlers. Reid was the only African American mentioned.⁴⁶ Leonard Reid died in his home on Coconut Avenue of a heart attack on November 19, 1952, one week after being featured as one of the pioneer citizens honored for Sarasota's 50th birthday celebration.⁴⁷ Following his death, an article appearing in the Sarasota Herald Tribune on November 20, 1952 referred to him as the pioneer Negro citizen of Sarasota. Eddy Reid survived her husband by eighteen years and passed away in the family home on Coconut Street in 1970. Following her death, her daughters Ethel and Viola (now both widowed), lived in the house. Ethel died on January 6, 1991, and in 1995 Viola—now in her 80s—sold the property and moved into a nursing home.

To honor Reid as one of the pioneer settlers of Sarasota and for the contributions he made for the betterment of the community, a portion of Mango Avenue in the Newtown section of Sarasota was renamed Leonard Reid Avenue. The street is one block east of U.S. Highway 301 (Washington Boulevard) and extends north from Martin Luther King Boulevard (formerly 27th Street). Another street in the area was renamed Colson Avenue in honor of Lewis Colson, another pioneering resident of Overtown. Neal Chapline Swalm, who as a young man had known Leonard Reid and encountered him again in Sarasota shortly before Reid's death in 1952, wrote in an article about him in The Sarasota County Historian in February 1983, stating that the "love, trust and admiration for Leonard by everyone was never misplaced and was to have a lasting effect on the lives of all who came in contact with him."

⁴³ Reid, Viola, October 1995 interview with Hartig.

⁴⁴ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. 1929.

⁴⁵ Sarasota City Directories, 1930, 1936, 1940 & 1946 - 1951.

⁴⁶ The Breeze, November 13, 1952.

⁴⁷ Sarasota Herald, November 20, 1952.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 9

REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

On December 19, 1958, six years after Reid's death, an editorial in The News written by Richard Glendining, entitled "Leonard Reid Was Beloved Sarasotan," credits Reid with being much more than a "yard man." The writer extols Reid's work with Hamilton Gillespie in laying out Sarasota's first golf course, having no doubt supplied some of the actual muscle power in creating and maintaining the course. The writer, who became acquainted with Reid when the civic leader was in his late 60s, characterizes him as "tall, light of step" and that he carried himself with the dignity of a Scottish chieftain. In closing, Glendining writes how Reid's death was a loss to both the white and colored communities alike and how it would be "a shame if his name, too, was lost in a welter of progress."

Criterion Considerations and Conclusion

Although the present site of the Leonard Reid House is located within the boundaries of the Overtown Historic District, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 19, 2002, the house can not be considered a contributing property in the district because of its recent move to the new location. Nevertheless, it appears to possess adequate historical significance to merit individual listing. It is the most important and single surviving property that is associated with Leonard Reid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 1

REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 2

REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 3

REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 4

REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 1

REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
GEOGRAPHICLA DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

LOT 5 SUB LOT 12 BLK Y PLAT OF SARASOTA

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the property encompass the entire lot to which the house was relocated in 1999.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Page 1 REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHOTOGRAPHS

PHOTO LOG

1. Leonard Reid House
2. 623 Coconut Avenue, Sarasota (Sarasota County), Florida
3. Mikki Hartig
4. July, 1999
5. Historical & Architectural Research Services
6. Main (East) Facade and North Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 1 of 23

1. Leonard Reid House
2. 1435 7th Street, Sarasota (Sarasota County), Florida
3. Mikki Hartig
4. October, 2000
5. Historical & Architectural Research Services
6. Main (South) Facade, Looking North
7. Photo 2 of 23

Nos. 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs except where indicated.

6. Main (South) Facade, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 3 of 23

6. Main (South) Facade and East Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 4 of 23

6. Main (South) Facade and East Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 5 of 23

6. Main (South) Facade and East Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 6 of 23

6. East Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 7 of 23

6. East and North Elevations, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 8 of 23

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Page 2

REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHOTOGRAPHS

- 6. East and North Elevations, Looking Southwest
- 7. Photo 9 of 23

- 6. Rear (North) Elevation, Looking South
- 7. Photo 10 of 23

- 6. Rear (North) and West Elevations, Looking South
- 7. Photo 11 of 23
- 6. Interior, Central Hallway, Looking North
- 7. Photo 12 of 23

- 6. Interior, Detail of Door and Transom along Central Hall, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 13 of 23

- 6. Interior, Former Southwest Bedroom, Looking Southwest
- 7. Photo 14 of 23

- 6. Interior, Former Center Bedroom (Third Bedroom on West), Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 15 of 23

- 6. Interior, Bathroom, Looking West
- 7. Photo 16 of 23

- 6. Interior, Fourth Bedroom, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 17 of 23

- 6. Interior, Central Hall, Looking South
- 7. Photo 18 of 23

- 6. Interior, Former Living Room Fireplace, Looking East
- 7. Photo 19 of 23

- 6. Interior, Living Room Looking Southwest towards Front Porch
- 7. Photo 20 of 23

- 6. Interior, Former Living Room, Looking South toward Front Porch
- 7. Photo 21 of 23

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

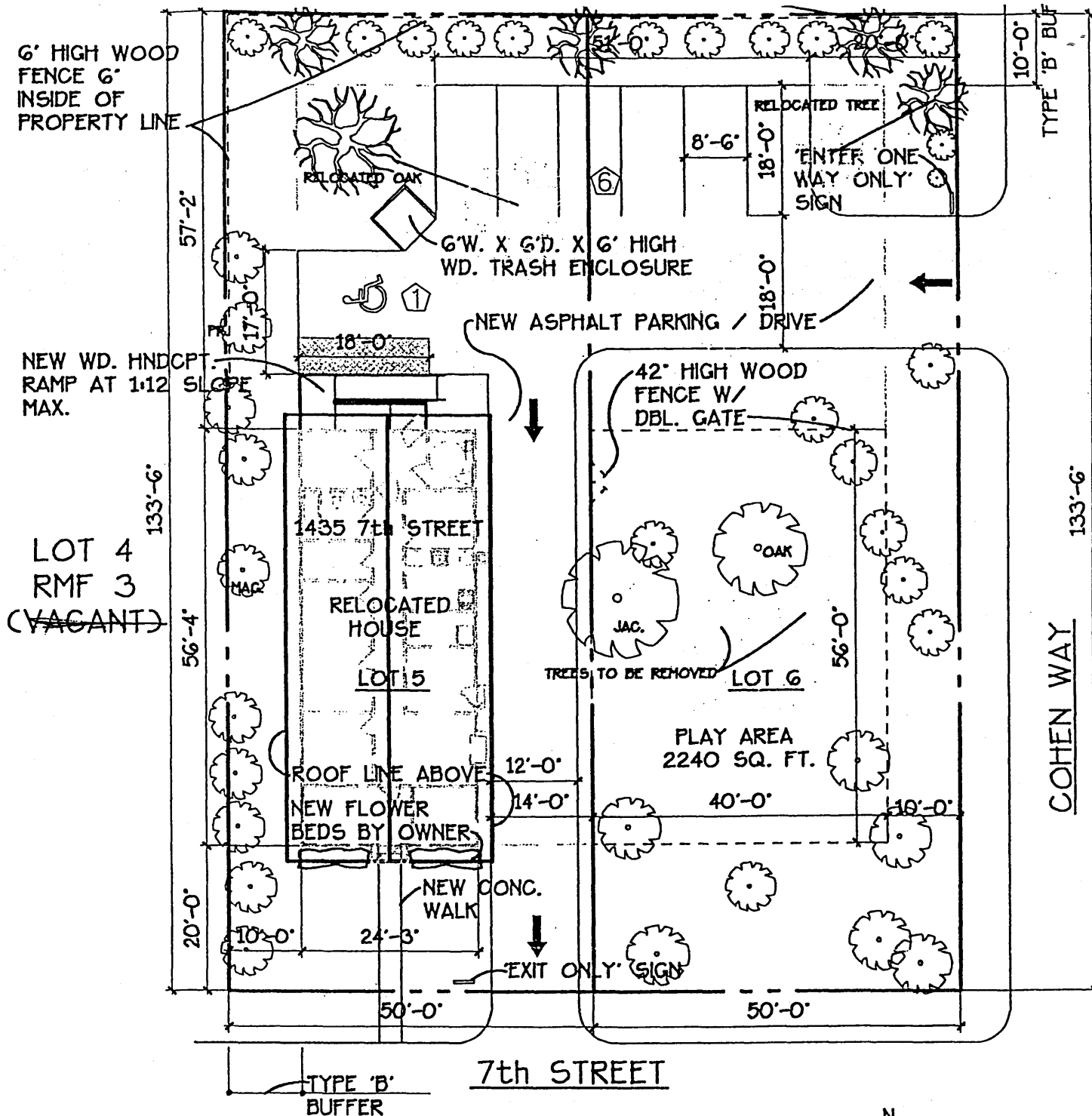
Section number _____ Page 3

REID, LEONARD HOUSE
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Location Unknown
2. Sarasota (Sarasota County), Florida
3. Unknown
4. c. 1905
5. Sarasota Historical Society Photo Archives
6. Leonard Reid, Mary Gillespie and Her Sister (in Carriage) and J. Hamilton Gillespie (Standing)
7. Photo 21 of 23

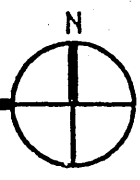
1. J. Hamilton Gillespie House
2. 1672 Morrill Avenue Sarasota (Sarasota County), Florida
3. Unknown
4. c. 1905
5. Sarasota Historical Society Photo Archives
6. Leonard Reid, Mary Gillespie and J. Hamilton Gillespie
7. Photo 22 of 23

1. Payne Chapel
2. 513 Central Avenue, Sarasota (Sarasota County), Florida
3. Unknown
4. c. 1928
5. Sarasota Historical Society Photo Archives
6. Main (South) Facade and East Elevation
7. Photo 23 of 23



SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 20'



LEONARD REID HOUSE RELOCATION FOR USE AS THE
 LEONARD REID LEARNING ACADEMY (DAY CARE)
 PREPARED FOR DONALD WALLACE
 OPERATOR: MARTIE PARKER
 PREPARED BY: HOYT.DSW, INC.
 JEFFREY S. HOLE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTANT

8889
 17A 99

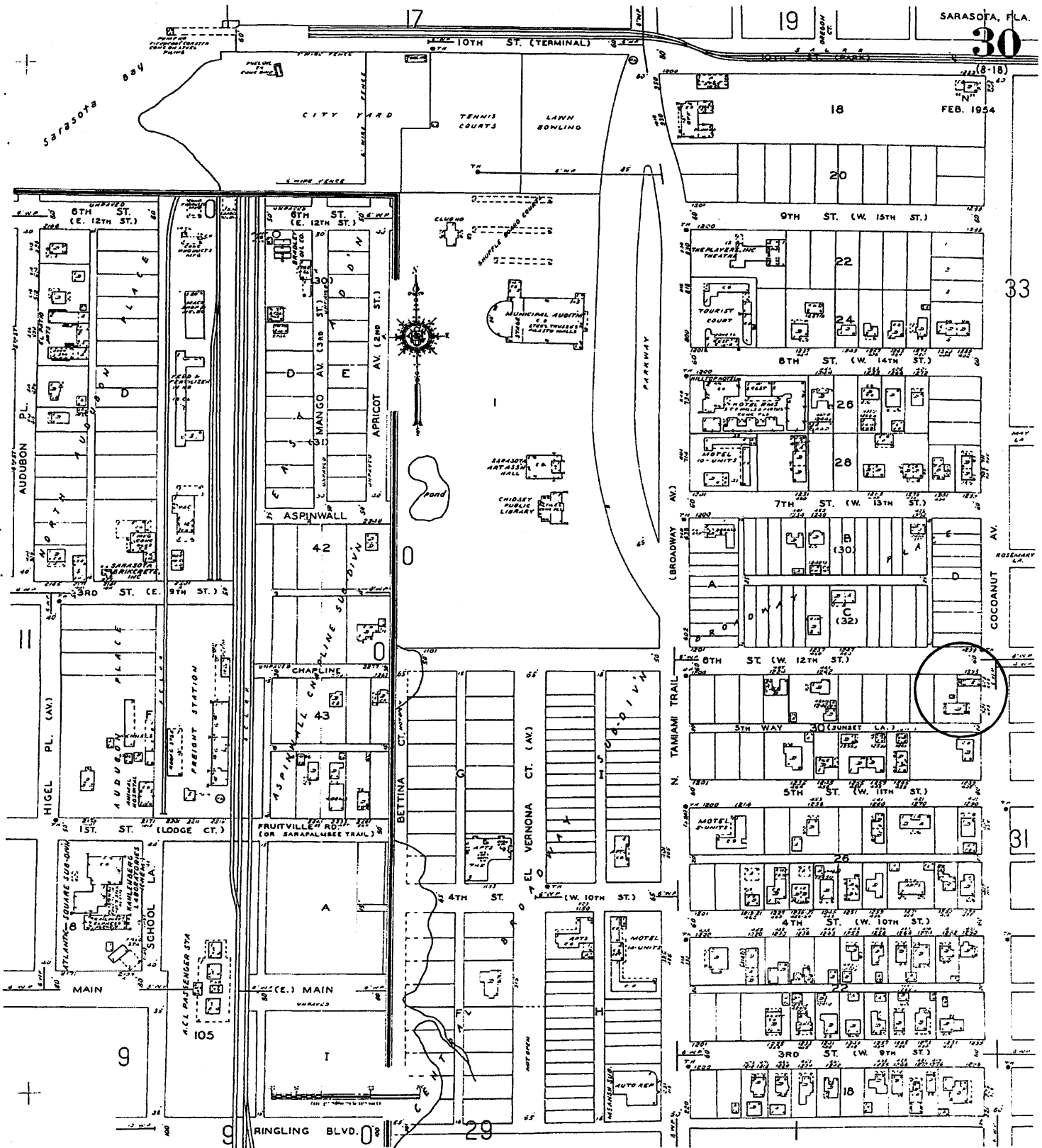
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SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

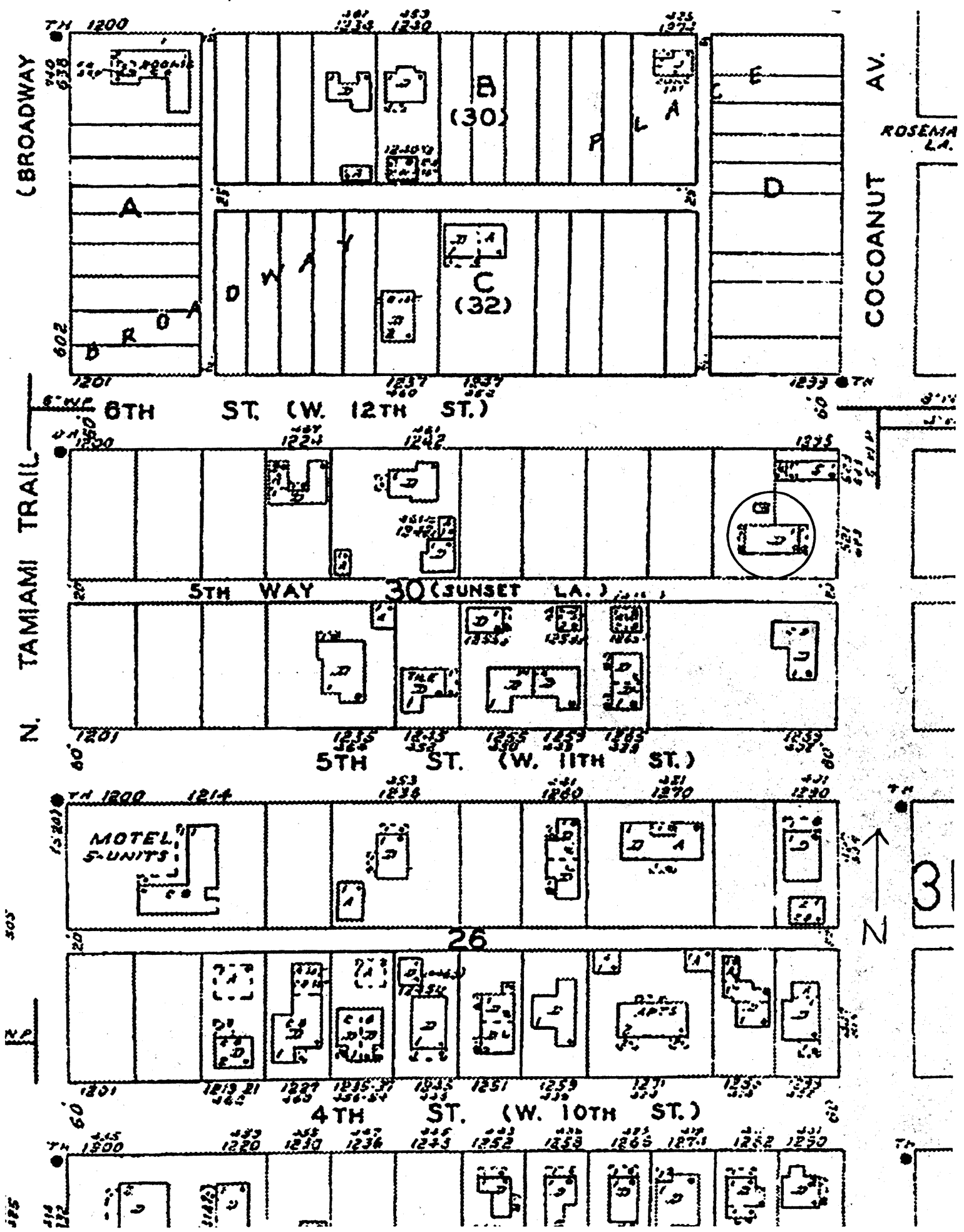
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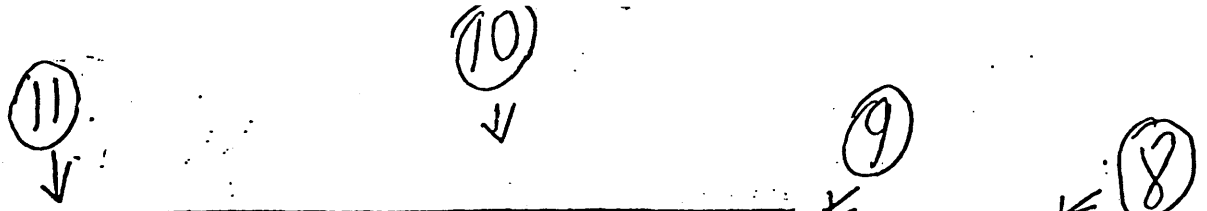
SARASOTA, FLA.

30

FEB. 1954







NOT TO SCALE

7th STREET

LEONARD REID HOUSE, Sarasota, FL

COHEN WAY

SARASOTA QUADRANGLE
FLORIDA-SARASOTA CO.
7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

82° 30' 27" 22' 30" 150 000 METERS 50 49 48 47 46

335 000 METERS

