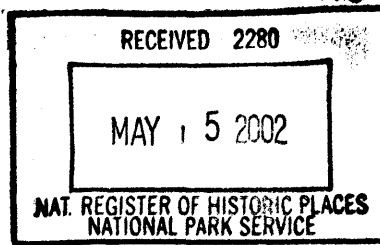


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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 West Ocala Historic District

other names/site number /MR3199

2. Location

street & number Roughly: NW 4 St, RR, W. Silver Springs Blvd, NW 12 Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Ocala N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Marion code 083 zip code 34475

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.)

Janet Snyder Matthews 5/1/2002
Signature of certifying official Title Date

Florida 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) _____

Edson H. Beal Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 6/27/02

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	
104	22	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
104	22	total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

EDUCATION/school

RELIGION/Religious Facility

COMMERCE/specialty store

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

EDUCATION/school

RELIGION/Religious Facility

COMMERCE/specialty store

VACANT/Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE: Frame Vernacular/Masonry

LATE 19TH-EARLY 20TH AMERICAN: Craftsman

OTHER: Folk Victorian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE PIERS

walls WEATHERBOARD

roof ASPHALT SHINGLES / METAL

other BRICK

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

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
 COMMUNITY PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT
 ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

Period of Significance

C1900 - 1952

Significant Dates

C1900

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

West Ocala Historic District
Name of Property

Marion, Florida
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 35 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	3	8	8	3	7	0	3	2	2	9	3	6	0
	Zone		Easting						Northing						
2	1	7	3	8	8	6	8	0	3	2	2	9	3	6	0

3	1	7	3	8	8	8	5	0	3	2	2	9	0	3	0
	Zone		Easting						Northing						
4	1	7	3	8	8	2	7	0	3	2	2	9	0	3	0

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 Connie Pinkerton, Technician; Sherry Anderson, Historian; Gary V. Goodwin, Historic Preservation Planner

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date April, 2002

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. 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 City of Ocala

street & number Post Office Box 1270 telephone (352) 629-8529

city or town Ocala state Florida zip code 34478-1270

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.

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 West Ocala Historic District
Marion County, Florida

SUMMARY

The West Ocala Historic District is a predominantly residential neighborhood located west of downtown Ocala and within the current city limits. Historically, the focal points of the district were the railroad tracks, the commercial area along Broadway (now West Silver Springs Boulevard/Route 40), and Howard Academy, Ocala's first African-American school. The remaining historic core is encompassed within this area: Howard Academy is situated at the north end of the district, the railroad tracks denote the east end, and West Silver Springs Boulevard marks the southern end of the district. The western end is currently bounded by Gerig-Webb Park, the original location of the Marion County fairgrounds. Gerig-Webb Park was developed during the Depression era but its historic buildings are no longer extant.

The district is primarily residential in character. A variety of residential architectural styles, typical of those popular in the United States during the first half of the 20th century, are represented in the district. The major residential styles include Frame Vernacular, Craftsman, and Folk Victorian. The district includes 126 buildings, of which 104 contribute to the historic character of the district (approximately 88 percent of the total). Of the contributing buildings, 100 are residences, 2 are commercial, 1 is religious, and 1 is educational. There are 22 noncontributing resources located within the boundaries.

SETTING

The city of Ocala is located in Marion County, Florida, and has been the county seat since the city was established on January 2, 1846. Ocala is the largest city in Marion County and has a population of approximately 43,000 people. Located in north-central Florida midway between Tampa and Jacksonville, Ocala is situated along the central ridge of the Florida peninsula at the intersection of I-75, US 441, and US 301. The West Ocala Historic District historically characterized the area west of downtown. It centered around West Broadway (now Silver Springs Boulevard/Route 40). West Ocala grew north and south out from West Broadway. The majority of African Americans in Ocala resided, attended school, worshipped, and worked in this area. Additionally, many of the businesses in this area were owned and operated by African Americans.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The West Ocala Historic District is a neighborhood of historic residences situated near Howard Academy, an African-American school established in 1866. The current site of the school dates to the late 1880s, and the extant building dates to 1936. The bordering neighborhood developed primarily in the 1890s through the 1920s. The West Ocala area historically incorporated a much larger area than the core currently proposed as a district but much of the area has limited historic integrity. The widening of West Broadway (now Silver Springs Boulevard/Route 40) in the mid-20th century resulted in the loss of this historic streetscape and

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 7 Page 2 West Ocala Historic District
Marion County, Florida

the majority of its historic buildings. Some historic buildings remain and may be eligible for individual listing; however, they are too far removed from the core historic area to be considered part of the district.

Streetscape and landscape features of the district include mature oak trees and a variety of tropical and semi-tropical trees and plants. The presence of sidewalks is sporadic in the district; however, there is relatively low traffic flow due to the lack of major through streets. Consequently, the core retains its residential nature. The setback of the houses, with a few exceptions, is fairly regular. There are few outbuildings located in the historic district. Those that are substantial in size have been counted as contributing or noncontributing depending upon their age and integrity.

The majority of buildings in the area consist mostly of residential types. However, there is one educational building and two commercial buildings. The residential buildings are mainly Frame Vernacular types with limited detailing. The homes are generally single-family dwellings with wood-frame construction, weatherboard or drop siding and front porches.

Noncontributing residential buildings are found scattered throughout the district. Most of these are single-family or multiple-family dwellings that have been constructed within the last fifty years. Insensitive alterations to the historic buildings include the covering or replacement of the original exterior siding with inappropriate materials, the enclosure of the porches, the replacement of windows with non-historical types, the removal of original architectural details, and the construction of additions that alter the buildings' historic appearance.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

The historic district displays a variety of building types and styles dating from the 1900s through the 1950s. The predominant style represented in the historic district is Frame Vernacular. Several good examples of Craftsman, Masonry Vernacular, Folk Victorian, Ranch, and Minimal Traditional are also extant in the historic district.

Frame Vernacular

The majority of contributing resources, 88 buildings (85 percent), in the historic district exhibit the Frame Vernacular style and generally feature a balloon wood frame structural system sheathed in weatherboard or drop siding. Other elements and materials of construction include gabled or hipped roofs, front porches, wood detailing, and rectangular shape. Seven building sub-types were identified among the Frame Vernacular homes in the proposed historic district: shotgun, double pen, hall and parlor, saddlebag, and central hall.

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Section number 7 Page 3 West Ocala Historic District
Marion County, Florida

Shotgun. Shotgun houses are constructed one room wide and two or more rooms deep and generally have a front porch. Gabled roofs are common. Shotgun houses are historically identified as worker housing and are frequently associated with railroad or industrial development. The example at 911 NW 4th Street is typical of this building form in the historic district (Photograph 1). Two rows of shotgun houses are located adjacent to the railroad on W. Silver Springs Place and NW 1st Street (Photographs 2 and 3).

Double Pen. The double pen is a single-family house consisting of two rooms and having two front doors. Rear additions and front porches are common. The example at 106 NW 10th Avenue has both rear and side additions (Photograph 4).

Central Hall. This building form consists of two rooms divided by a central hallway. Located at 112 NW 11th Avenue, this single-family home has one chimney in the gabled end (Photograph 5). The original construction would be one room deep; however, rear additions are common.

Hall and Parlor. Hall and parlor houses are two rooms wide and one room deep with one exterior entrance into the "hall". Front porches are common. The example at 210 NW 10th Avenue has a rear addition (Photograph 6).

Saddlebag. Two of the frame vernacular buildings in the proposed historic district were identified as having the saddlebag form. The saddlebag form consists of two rooms divided by a central chimney. The building is two rooms wide by one room deep. The example at 205 NW 11th Avenue has a screened porch and a rear addition (Photograph 7).

Craftsman

The Craftsman style is a ubiquitous feature of Florida neighborhoods developed during the first decades of the 20th century. In the West Ocala Historic District, 8 buildings were identified with this house style. Craftsman-style homes are generally characterized as wood frame buildings with a low-pitched roof, a generous front porch, unenclosed eaves overhang, and exposed rafter tails. The house at 1109 NW 2nd Street is a detailed example of a Craftsman residence (Photograph 8). It is a two-story frame house featuring a low-pitched gabled roof with overhanging eaves. Other elements include exposed rafter tails, screened sleeping porch, and battered wood columns resting on fieldstone piers.

Other Styles

In the historic district, there are several other styles that are represented with one, two, or three examples. These styles include Masonry Vernacular (3 examples), Folk Victorian (2 examples), Ranch (2

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Marion County, Florida

examples), and Minimal Traditional (1 example). One of the most significant buildings in the district, Howard Academy, at 208 NW 7th Avenue, reflects the Masonry Vernacular style. This brick building reflects the limited detailing associated with Depression-era buildings. It features a hipped roof and exposed rafter tails (Photograph 9). An example of a commercial Masonry Vernacular building is at 638 NW 1st Street (Photograph 10). Known as the Sunlight Temple, now the First Born Church, this two-story concrete block building features limited detailing. Two of the oldest buildings in the district represent the Folk Victorian style. One of these buildings is located at 802 NW 1st Street and dates from c1900 (Photograph 11). The term Folk Victorian refers to those buildings constructed in a fashion typical of the Victorian era yet without many of the elaborate decorative elements. This example is a two-story house with a high-pitched roof and front porch with chamfered supports.

Noncontributing Buildings

The 22 noncontributing buildings comprise 12 percent of the buildings in the historic district. These buildings are usually less than fifty years of age. The majority of these are generally in character with the surrounding historic buildings in regard to uniform setbacks, relative height and width, and building materials.

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Marion County, Florida

LISTING OF CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

Address	Function	Style	Date	FSF#
<u>W. Silver Springs Place</u>				
517	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1935	8MR2900
519	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1935	8MR2901
521	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1935	8MR2902
523	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1935	8MR2903
525	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1935	8MR2904
609	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1915	8MR2905
617	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1925	8MR2906
619	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1920	8MR2907
630	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR3114
631-633	Residential	Frame Vernacular	1937	8MR3113
704	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1925	8MR2919
724	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1935	8MR2920
803	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1920	8MR2908
805	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1915	8MR2909
809	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1920	8MR2910
814	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1925	8MR3116
815	Residential	Craftsman	c1920	8MR2911
822	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1925	8MR3115
907	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1920	8MR3119
908	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1935	8MR2922
912	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1935	8MR2923
915	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1925	8MR2914
916	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2924
925	Residential	Frame Vernacular	1914	8MR3120
926	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2925
1002	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1935	8MR2926
1003	Residential	Craftsman	c1930	8MR3121
1011	Residential	Minimal Traditional	c1935	8MR2915
1017	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2916
1018	Residential	Frame Vernacular	1937	8MR3118
1021	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1940	8MR2917
1022	Residential	Frame Vernacular	1937	8MR3117

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Marion County, Florida

NW 1st Street

514	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1935	8MR2927
516	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1935	8MR2928
518	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1935	8MR2929
524	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1935	8MR2930
528	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1925	8MR2931
607	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR3183
617	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2947
624	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1925	8MR2936
638	Religious	Masonry Vernacular	c1945	8MR2937
713	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1925	8MR2949
720	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2938
721	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1900	8MR3122
801	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1900	8MR3133
802	Residential	Folk Victorian	c1900	8MR2939
808	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1910	8MR2940
814	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1915	8MR2941
817 A	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2951
818	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1945	8MR2842
821	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1925	8MR2952
915	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2954
924	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2943
1010	Residential	Ranch	c1945	8MR2944
1016	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2945

NW 2nd Street

526	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1920	8MR2956
534	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1925	8MR2957
616	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2958
628	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2960
636	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2961
814	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2962
916	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1935	8MR2965
922	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1935	8MR2966
1109	Residential	Craftsman	c1935	8MR3101
1110	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1920	8MR2968
1113	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR3126
1114	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2969

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Marion County, Florida

1121	Residential	Minimal Traditional	c1940	8MR3100
<u>NW 3rd Street</u>				
1111	Residential	Craftsman	c1930	8MR2977
<u>NW 4th Street</u>				
909	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1920	8MR2998
911	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1920	8MR2999
916	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2978
918	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2979
1000	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2980
1110	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2976
<u>NW 6th Terrace</u>				
21	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1925	8MR2933
24	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2925
116	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1915	8MR2959
<u>NW 7th Avenue</u>				
11	Residential	Craftsman	c1930	8MR2918
205	Commercial	Masonry Vernacular	c1951	8MR3125
206	Educational	Masonry Vernacular	1936	8MR3111
<u>NW 9th Avenue</u>				
104	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1925	8MR2953
115	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1935	8MR3127
121	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2963
132	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2964
206	Residential	Folk Victorian	c1915	8MR3110
<u>NW 10th Avenue</u>				
106	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1915	8MR2955
117	Residential	Craftsman	1949	8MR3103
131	Residential	Craftsman	c1935	8MR3106
203	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1920	8MR2981
204	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1915	8MR3104
210	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1920	8MR3105
216	Residential	Craftsman	c1920	8MR3107

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Marion County, Florida

304	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2982
<u>NW 11th Avenue</u>				
112	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1915	8MR3102
123	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2971
124	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2970
129	Residential	Ranch	c1940	8MR2972
204	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1935	8MR2973
205	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1915	8MR3099
211	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1920	8MR3098
306	Residential	Frame Vernacular	1923	8MR3097
309	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1930	8MR2974
315	Residential	Frame Vernacular	c1935	8MR2975

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Marion County, Florida

LISTING OF NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

W. Silver Springs Place

712
716
802
814A
1012
1012A

NW 1st Street

637
717
821A (outbuilding)

NW 2nd Street

724
804
1120
1121B

NW 3rd Street

1119

NW 7th Avenue

110-112

NW 9th Avenue

110
114

NW 10th Avenue

119 (2 buildings)
126

NW 11th Avenue

105
303

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Section number 8 Page 1 West Ocala Historic District
Marion County, Florida

SUMMARY

The West Ocala Historic District is locally significant under Criteria A and C in the areas of Community Planning and Development, Architecture and Ethnic Heritage: Black. The neighborhood developed along West Broadway (now West Silver Springs Blvd/Route 40) and the railroads and near Howard Academy, the first African-American school in Ocala. The district is almost exclusively residential and displays a variety of building types and styles dating from the 1900s through the 1950s. Major architectural styles represented in the district include Frame Vernacular, Craftsman, and Folk Victorian. The area is characterized by traditional building forms such as shotgun, central hall, and hall and parlor. Additionally, African Americans who have significantly contributed to the heritage of the area have historically settled the neighborhood.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The first residents of Marion County, Florida were likely the Timucua Indians, who occupied what they called "Ocali" in the vicinity of present-day Ocala. After a brief period of British occupation, Florida reverted to Spain and land grants were sold to those Spanish citizens who would settle in Florida. The United States acquired Florida in 1821, but settlements of white European Americans did not occur until after an 1823 treaty that restricted Native Americans to the southern portion of Florida was ratified. In 1827, Fort King was constructed just east of present-day Ocala. The fort continued to be occupied until the 1840s. Marion County was established on March 25, 1844 and one year later, Ocala became the county seat. The census of 1850 indicated that African Americans accounted for 38% of the population of Marion County. By 1860, this percentage had jumped to 62%. African Americans lived mainly on several large plantations and comprised the slave labor force that supported the ante-bellum economy. During the Civil War, Marion County, with its large workforce, served as a production center, providing food, clothing, and arms to the Confederate Army.

Following the war, the Freedman's Bureau was created to assist the former slave population. The Bureau promoted education among the former slave population and opened 87 schools around Florida. In Ocala, a branch of the Freeman's Bureau was opened in 1867. James H. Howard, a former slave owner, donated a parcel of land on the corner of Osceola and 3rd Streets for the first African American school in Ocala. Financial support for Howard Academy, as well as teachers, came from the North. On April 20, 1867, a meeting of 1000 former slaves was held in Ocala. There, the Reverend Samuel Small appealed to the crowd to educate themselves and use their freedom wisely.

In 1876, the Atlantic Gulf West India Transit Company established a railroad between Waldo and Ocala. This led to a boom in commercial trade as well as providing easy access for visitors. By the 1880s, the expanding railroads were taking business away from steamboats, which had been the main mode of transportation until this period. The coming of the railroads resulted in a population increase in Marion County

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2 West Ocala Historic District
Marion County, Florida

and the development of railroad towns near train stops. The entire state benefited from this, and between 1880 and 1885, the state experienced a population growth of 25%.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

By this period, Ocala was beginning to expand outside of its original city limits. The majority of African American residents began to settle west of the downtown core and near several rail lines that ran north-south and east-west through the area. Ocala's main east-west thoroughfare, Broadway, was the commercial heart of downtown. Headed west from downtown, Broadway was home to many of Ocala's most prosperous African American businessmen and leaders.

In 1889, Ocala sponsored the International and Semi-Tropical Exposition. The Exhibition Hall and grounds was constructed just west of the city limits along West Broadway, between 22nd and 24th Avenues (outside the historic district). West Broadway was temporarily renamed "Exposition Street" and the area between downtown and the Exposition grounds experienced development. Near the Hall was a burgeoning cigar village, which was later named Marti City. Promotional literature touted West Ocala as similar to "New York's Harlem...the coming popular city district for fashionable residence." It described the area as having electric lights, city water and fire protection. A street railway was constructed to connect Marti City to the downtown. This further attracted residents to the area.

Schools for African Americans in Marion County continued to grow and prosper in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. By 1880, Howard Academy was run by African American teachers. After the original building was destroyed by fire in 1887, a new school was built at the corner of Adams (NW 2nd Street) and Bay (NW 7th Avenue). In 1893, the Emerson Memorial Home and School, described as an "Industrial School for Colored Girls," was located at the corner of Madison (NW 4th Street) and 23rd Street (NW 12th Avenue) (no longer extant).

By the turn of the century, the collapse of the citrus crop due to the Great Freeze of 1894 threw Marion County into a depression. Even Marti City was abandoned by the cigar workers who migrated to Key West and Tampa to find work. However, other industries such as naval stores, turpentine, and lumber employed the majority of Marion County's large African-American workforce. In 1912, the H.A. Fausett Planing Mill was situated in the West Ocala area. The railroads also helped stabilize the economic situation. The Seaboard Air Line Railroad operated the line that ran north-south near Pine Avenue and the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad cut east-west through the area north of Howard Academy.

By 1906, West Ocala houses were still modest and tended to be scattered throughout the area. The exception was along West Broadway and across from Howard Academy, where the houses were large 2-3 story

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homes. Marion County began to diversify its crops after the failure of the citrus crop. To boost the growing agricultural prospects of livestock, cotton, tobacco, and vegetables, the Marion County Fair was established at the western edge of Ocala (Figure 2). The fairgrounds included a racetrack, exhibition buildings, and livestock sheds. The fair also attracted national figures, including Booker T. Washington, who gave a speech there in 1912.

The state's rapid growth during the 1920s took place primarily in South Florida but the effects of this so-called Boom Period reached every corner of the state. By 1924, the West Ocala area was substantially settled (Figure 3). Most of the dwellings were characterized by one-story wood structures. Along West Broadway, lots continued to fill up with many one-story buildings constructed near the railroad tracks. In 1925, a series of unrelated events combined together to bring the Great Depression to Florida. Real estate speculation inflated prices, transportation services could not keep up with the need to move building supplies, and the 1926 hurricane decimated portions of South Florida. The onslaught of the Great Depression resulted in a severe decline in property values, local governments went bankrupt, and unemployment skyrocketed.

By 1930, Ocala's city limits extended out to NW 16th Avenue. After Howard Academy was severely damaged by fire, another building was constructed in 1936 using funds appropriated by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). WPA projects undertaken during these years provided employment and civic improvements to Ocala. Gerig baseball field and softball park were also built on the old fairgrounds as part of the Depression-era program.

The 1940s, particularly after the War, brought in a new era for Ocala. War preparations resulted in an economic boom that brought Florida and the rest of the country out of the Great Depression. In 1941, a primary flight training school was opened at Ocala's municipal airport. The relocation of soldiers boosted the local economy. After the war, West Ocala rapidly changed. The Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 allowed the use of federal funds in acquiring right-of-ways for projects to be built in the next five years. When West Broadway was widened, many businesses and residents were lost. Modifying this street into a faster thoroughfare bisected the neighborhood and drastically altered the character of the area. Some of West Ocala's most beautiful and prestigious homes were destroyed. Many of the African American owned businesses along West Broadway were also lost or relocated.

ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK

Marion County and the city of Ocala have a strong ethnic history. The 1850 census reported that African Americans made up 38% of the population in Marion County that year. This percentage soared to 62% in 1860 and to 73% in 1870. African Americans remained in the majority until 1930 when this ethnic group accounted for 49% of the population of Marion County. As the city of Ocala grew economically and geographically during

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the early 20th century, the West Ocala neighborhood was established as a primarily African-American neighborhood. Black-owned businesses were scattered among the primarily residential buildings. By 1914, black residents were said to be some of the most prosperous in the South. African-American businesses lined West Broadway from Magnolia to 16th Avenue. At Howard Academy, enrollment continued to rise throughout the late-19th and early-20th centuries. In 1914, a separate elementary school was needed and the contract was given to one of West Ocala's most celebrated citizens, Levi Alexander. This African-American builder and his architect son were well known for their skill. Alexander had designed and constructed the Mt. Zion Church located downtown. The Alexanders lived on West Broadway along with many other prominent West Ocala citizens who had grown up in the area and who had attended school at Howard Academy. Frank Gadsden, who also lived on West Broadway, began Metropolitan Realty, the first African American corporation to be granted a charter by the State of Florida. Mr. Gadsden along with other prominent African-Americans began the Metropolitan Savings bank in 1914. It was the first African-American bank incorporated in Florida.

One of West Ocala's most memorable residents was Mrs. Mattie J. Shaw who started *The Florida Watchman* newspaper in 1925. Mrs. Shaw ran her own printing presses and reported on local community and church activities of West Ocala. At the time, Mrs. Shaw was the only African American woman in the state who solely owned and operated a printing business. The newspaper was originally housed in a building (no longer extant) located to the north of 4th Street, across from Howard Academy. The presses were later housed in the Sunlight Temple located at 626 NW 1st Street.

In 1925, Dr. R.S. Hughes opened the American National Thrift Association Hospital, which was the only facility to treat African Americans for hundreds of miles. Located on West Broadway and Pine Street, the hospital not only served residents of West Ocala but also of greater Marion County and beyond.

By the late 1920s, many African American businesses were suffering due to the effects of the Depression. When West Broadway was widened in the mid-20th century, many landmarks were destroyed, including prominent homes and the African-American hospital. Even with these losses, West Ocala retains a strong ethnic history. Howard Academy currently serves as a community center and remains a vital part of the historic district.

ARCHITECTURE

The West Ocala Historic District offers an important collection of building styles that give insight into the movements that characterized Florida's built environment of the 1900s through the 1950s. The resources date from this period and are associated with the overall development of West Ocala. The design of the buildings and the materials used in their construction are consistent with contemporary national and statewide architectural trends. Most buildings show the influence of national styles and are the product of local craftsmen.

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The pattern of architectural development in the West Ocala neighborhood followed the general trends of construction that occurred throughout Florida in African-American neighborhoods. There are a few larger homes, and small bungalows and folk form housing with limited detailing dominate the character of the neighborhood.

The West Ocala Historic District has several buildings of particular historical and architectural significance. One such building is Howard Academy. This school was established in 1866 at its original location outside the boundaries of the historic district. After the building was destroyed by fire in the 1880s, a new school building was constructed at its current site on the corner of NW 2nd Street and NW 7th Avenue. In 1914, an elementary school was built on the same property (no longer extant). A second fire damaged the main building in 1935 and the current brick building was erected in 1936. Howard Academy is significant for its association with the education of African Americans and stands today as a symbol of persistence and success. The current building is a one-story masonry (brick) vernacular building with a hipped roof and exposed rafter tails.

The Mack House at 206 NW 9th Avenue is one of the most imposing residences in the historic district. Built about 1915, the house was home to one of West Ocala pioneer families and is one of the few remaining two-story residences in the neighborhood. The house is characterized by a two-story mass with an intersecting gabled roof and a wrap-around porch with Craftsman-influenced supports and dropped frieze porch cornice (Photograph 12).

Two of the most unique buildings in the historic district are located at 1018 and 1022 W. Silver Springs Place (Photograph 13). These two buildings were constructed in the 1930s. They feature wood frame structural systems, fieldstone exterior siding, and front porches with palm trunk supports.

Vernacular Styles

Frame Vernacular. The Frame Vernacular style is somewhat a misnomer as "vernacular" implies a lack of style. Vernacular (or Folk) houses are designed without imitating a specific style. Most often they are built by nonprofessionals and, in many cases, by the occupants themselves. These structures tend to be simple, largely unornamented, and constructed out of readily available materials. In the project area, many of these houses incorporate Craftsman-influenced detailing and bungalow massing but generally are devoid of the more elaborate ornamentation and overall sense of design associated with this style. The majority of buildings in the historic district employ Frame Vernacular techniques and building materials (Photograph 14). A variety of vernacular forms were identified, including shotgun, double shotgun, single pen, double pen, central hall, and hall and parlor.

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Masonry Vernacular. The Masonry Vernacular style was also identified in the West Ocala Historic District and is represented by Howard Academy, and two commercial structures. This style features brick or concrete block structural systems with limited façade detailing. Howard Academy reflects the Masonry Vernacular style associated with buildings financed by the Depression-era WPA programs.

American Styles

Craftsman. The Craftsman style is an early twentieth century American architectural style that was philosophically related to the European Arts and Crafts movements. Gustave Stickley, a self-taught designer and writer who was heavily influenced by the theories of William Morris, published the *Craftsman Magazine* between 1901 and 1916. This magazine became the vehicle for popularizing the new architectural style. Stickley believed that an honest home made honest people, an honest home let its materials and structure is frankly and freely expressed, and the most honest home of all was one built by its occupant. He therefore provided plans and specifications not only for houses, but also for furniture and applied arts. Since the aim of the *Craftsman* was to influence the home environment of "the masses", the houses published in the magazine were of a scale, type, and materials that were affordable to the majority of people capable of financing the cost of a single family home. The technical simplicity of the construction and its cost effectiveness were the major reasons for the rapid spread of houses of this style in the early 20th century. Many of the Frame Vernacular buildings in the historic district utilize feature the bungalow form without the decorative detailing associated with the Craftsman style (Photograph 15).

Folk Victorian. The Victorian period in architecture includes such styles as Italianate, Second Empire, and Queen Anne, which were popular during the period between 1860 and 1900. Folk Victorian refers to those buildings constructed with the massing, asymmetrical facades, and intersecting rooflines common to Victorian styles, yet less ornamental detailing such as spindle work and patterned shingles. The two buildings that exhibit this style are the oldest remaining examples in the historic district.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the West Ocala Historic District are those shown on the accompanying historic district map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries shown on the historic district map encompass the highest density of historic resources associated the West Ocala neighborhood.

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 6. Facing North
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1. Shotguns at 521 W. Silver Springs Place, West Ocala Historic District
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 3. Connie Pinkerton
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 5. Anderson Consulting, Savannah, Georgia
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3. Connie Pinkerton
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1. 210 NW 10th Ave. (8MR3105) West Ocala Historic District
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3. Connie Pinkerton
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5. Anderson Consulting, Savannah, Georgia
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1. 205 NW 11th Avenue (8MR3099) West Ocala Historic District
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3. Connie Pinkerton
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5. Anderson Consulting, Savannah, Georgia
6. Facing East
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1. 1109 NW 2nd Street (8MR3101) West Ocala Historic District
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1. Howard Academy (8MR3111) West Ocala Historic District
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3. Connie Pinkerton
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1. 626 NW 1st St. (8MR2937) West Ocala Historic District
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3. Connie Pinkerton
4. October 2000
5. Anderson Consulting, Savannah, Georgia
6. Facing Southwest
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1. 802 NW 1st Street (8MR2939) West Ocala Historic District
2. Marion County, Florida
3. Connie Pinkerton
4. July 2000
5. Anderson Consulting, Savannah, Georgia
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1. 206 NW 9th Avenue (8MR3110) West Ocala Historic District
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3. Connie Pinkerton
4. October 2000
5. Anderson Consulting, Savannah, Georgia
6. Facing West
7. Roll 5, Exposure 9
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1. 1018 and 1022 W. Silver Springs Place (8MR3118 and 3117) West Ocala Historic District
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3. Connie Pinkerton
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5. Anderson Consulting, Savannah, Georgia
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1. NW Silver Springs Place, West Ocala Historic District
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