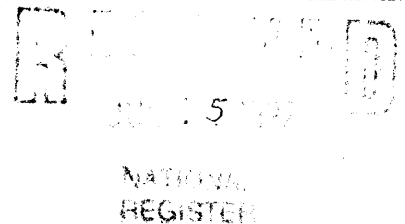


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Rockledge Drive Residential District  
other names/site number N/A 8Br 1611

### 2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet (Sec. 7, Page 9) N/A  not for publication  
city, town Rockledge N/A  vicinity  
state Florida code FL county Brevard code 009 zip code 32956

### 3. Classification

<b>Ownership of Property</b>	<b>Category of Property</b>	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>100</u>	<u>24</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>100</u>	<u>24</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Architectural Resources of Rockledge, Florida  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
Suzanne P. Walker (Deputy SHPO) 7/9/92  
Signature of certifying official 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.  
Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Ma J M. W. 8/21/92  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

---

---

---

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

---

---

---

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)No Style/Wood Frame Vernacular

---

Colonial Revival

---

Queen Anne

---

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

---

walls Wood

---

roof Asphalt

---

other Wood: Porch

---

---

---

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Exploration/Settlement  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1880-1926  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1880  
1887  
1924

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet

00 01 11

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Approximately 52 acres

**UTM References**

A 

1	7
---	---

5	2	6	3	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	1	3	5	7	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	7
---	---

5	2	8	4	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	1	3	2	6	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B 

1	7
---	---

5	2	7	2	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	1	3	5	7	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

D 

1	7
---	---

5	2	8	1	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	1	3	2	6	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

see continuation sheet

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

See continuation sheet

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date July 9, 1992

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1

Description

Summary

The Rockledge Drive historic district comprises buildings associated with the development of the city of Rockledge during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The district boundaries encompass a total of 124 buildings along Rockledge Drive and Orange Avenue. There are 100 contributing buildings and 24 noncontributing ones. The contributing buildings are mainly wood frame vernacular residences, but there are representative examples of other residential architectural styles that were popular throughout the United States during the period in which they were constructed.

Present Physical Appearance

Rockledge Drive is among the most scenic historic roads in Florida. It winds some two and one-half miles in a north to south course through the community along the west bank of the Indian River (photo 1). Palm, oak, citrus, and pine trees line both sides of the narrow two lane road, adding to the natural attractiveness of the area. Some of the original seawalls and sidewalks constructed along Rockledge Drive in the 1920s are still visible (photo 2).

Collectively, the buildings along Rockledge Drive represent a high concentration of important historic and architectural resources. The district is approximately Two and a half miles long but averages just 400 feet in width. It is bounded on the east by the Indian River and on the west by the rear property lines of the buildings fronting on Rockledge Drive. It extends from the city limits of the cities of Rockledge and Cocoa on the north to Park Avenue, 2.7 miles to the south. The boundaries also include short sections of both Orange Avenue and Rockledge Avenue. The majority of the buildings in the district are single family dwellings dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The district also contains a former city hall, one commercial building, and five boathouses. The buildings along Rockledge Drive occupy lots of various sizes and shapes, but all of the structures face the river. In addition to residences, some lots contain garages or other small outbuildings, and a few feature boat docks located on the river bank on the east side of the street. Five properties have associated boathouses that are also contributing structures (photos 3 and 8). Most of the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2

Description

historic buildings are in excellent condition and retain their original architectural character. Alterations to historic structures typically include the replacement of original wood siding with aluminum or vinyl and the replacement of original wood sash windows with modern metal frame varieties. The noncontributing buildings in the district are all residences or out buildings constructed after World War II.

Description of Representative Buildings in the DistrictWood Frame Vernacular

Wood frame vernacular residences comprise the majority of the architectural resources within the district. Typical of the vernacular residences in the district are the houses at 587, 635, and 1101 Rockledge Drive (photos 7, 20, 21). Nearly all of the frame vernacular houses in the district were erected near the turn of the century and are notable for their plain construction, having little or no reference to known period styles. These buildings are generally two-story structures having steeply pitched, cross gable roofs and each rest upon masonry pier foundations. Every residence features either a porch or veranda supported by posts on the main facade. Houses that retain their original exterior fabric, typically combine horizontal wood siding on the exterior walls with wood shingles in the gable ends. Windows are double hung wood sashes, and most of the houses have chimneys.

Frame Vernacular Boathouses

The five contributing boathouses in the district represent distinctive functional vernacular designs. All are located along the west bank of the Indian River and are associated with contributing residences in the district. They range from one to two stories in height and have large "garage bays" designed to house boats. Typical of the boathouses is the one associated with 709 Rockledge Drive (photo 8). It has a hip roof with a deck surrounded by a balustrade. A wooden stairway leads to the roof from the bank of the river. All of the boathouses have horizontal wood siding and rest upon continuous masonry foundations.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3

Description

Colonial Revival

After wood frame vernacular buildings, Colonial Revival style houses represent the largest category of residential structures in the district. Two representative examples of the style in the district are those at 351 and 629 Rockledge Drive (photos 9 and 10). The Colonial Revival styling expressed by 351 Rockledge Drive is seen in the boxed eaves and end returns of the side gable roof, and the small portico supported by double Tuscan columns on the central entrance of the symmetrical main facade. The exterior fabric is weatherboard, and the windows are double hung wood sashes with 9/1 lights. A one-story bay window is found on the north elevation of the house, which was constructed in 1922.

The large, two-story residence located at 629 Rockledge Drive features a low pitched pedimented gable roof with boxed eaves and a cross gable extension. The symmetrical facade is composed of single and paired double hung sash windows with 2/2 lights, which frame a central entrance that has a transom and sidelights. The exterior fabric wood drop siding and a hip roof veranda supported by square Tuscan columns embraces the main (east) facade and south elevation. The only significant alteration to the original structure has been the enclosure of the south bay of the veranda.

Mediterranean Revival

Buildings exhibiting Mediterranean Revival style were among the last added to the Rockledge Drive area during the historic period. All seven examples of the style within the district date from the Florida land boom years of the mid 1920s. Among the most impressive Mediterranean influenced residences along Rockledge Drive is the two-story house at 219 Rockledge Drive (photo 11). Constructed in 1923, it features a flat roof with a stepped parapet, two pent roofs with ceramic barrel tile surfacing, and stucco exterior wall fabric. A gable portico extends from the center of the main (east) facade and has a round arch opening supported by round columns. Fenestration consists of double hung sash windows with 4/1 lights.

The Mediterranean Revival style was also applied to the two buildings within the district that serve unique functions. The Rockledge Municipal Building is a two-story masonry structure located at 11 Orange Avenue (photo 12). Its Mediterranean Revival styling expressed by its flat roof with a gable parapet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4 Description

and stucco exterior surfacing. The windows of the front facade are rectangular, while those on the sides are set in round arch openings. The building was designed by prominent local architect Richard Rummell and was constructed in 1924. Alterations to the original structure include the enclosure of the original two bay fire engine garage and the replacement of all windows on the first floor.

The other Mediterranean Revival style building that has a unique function within the district is the one-story masonry commercial building located at 1-3 Orange Street (photo 13). Notable architectural features of the building include a flat roof with parapet and stucco exterior wall fabric. A hip roof tower with recessed round arch panels and a cantilevered overhang is located on the northeast corner of the building. A pent roof with barrel tile surfacing runs the length of the north facade. The two bay store front consists of fixed plate glass display windows and two rectangular entrances. The building has been modified by the replacement of the original storefront windows and a large one-story, flat roof addition to the southeast corner.

Queen Anne

The two examples of the Queen Anne style within the district are among the most significant historic and architectural resources in Rockledge. The H.S. Williams House at 1219 Rockledge Drive is a two and one-half story wood frame Queen Anne (photo 15). It features a cross gable roof, octagonal corner tower, and a hip roof veranda. The building is sheathed with weatherboard and wood shingles and rests on a brick foundation. It was constructed in 1880 by Hiram S. Williams, one of the founders of Rockledge. The major alteration to the building was the replacement of the original wood sash windows with aluminum awning ones.

The other Queen Anne residence is located at 621 Rockledge Drive (photo 16). Its Queen Anne styling is expressed by a steeply pitched hip roof with flared eaves, front facing cross gable extension with a faceted bay window, round corner tower with a steep conical roof, and a hip roof veranda. The house is clad with drop siding, and ornate wood shingles are found near the eaves line and gable ends. Fenestration consists of 1/1 light double hung sashes and one light single casement windows.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 5

Description

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Constructed around 1890, the residence has retains much of its architectural integrity.

Bungalow

The Bungalow style is represented by two buildings within the district. Typical of the style is the building at 1347 Rockledge Drive (photo 17). It features a low pitched gable roof with exposed rafter ends and triangular brackets under the eaves and a gable roof entrance porch with double square columns on brick piers. The exterior fabric is wood shingle and drop siding. A polygonal bay extends from the north side of the building. Alterations to the original structure include a large two-story addition to the south side.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Building List

List of Contributing Buildings in the  
Rockledge Drive Historic District

<u>Address</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>Rockledge Avenue</u>		
15 A-B	Frame Vernacular	c. 1924
20	Frame Vernacular	c. 1924
21	Frame Vernacular	c. 1924
23	Frame Vernacular	c. 1924
<u>Rockledge Drive</u>		
219	Mediterranean Revival	1924
219 B	Outbuilding	c. 1925
225	Colonial Revival	c. 1915
227	Frame Vernacular	c. 1910
351	Colonial Revival	1923
351 Rear	Outbuilding	1924
403	Colonial Revival	c. 1925
403 Rear	Outbuilding	c. 1924
409	Frame Vernacular	c. 1925
409 Rear	Outbuilding	c. 1924
515	Colonial Revival	c. 1925
549	Frame Vernacular	c. 1920
549 Rear	Outbuilding	c. 1924
573	Frame Vernacular	c. 1900
573 A	Outbuilding	c. 1924
573 B	Outbuilding	c. 1924
587	Frame Vernacular	c. 1900
587 Rear	Outbuilding	c. 1924
607	Frame Vernacular	c. 1880
607 Rear	Outbuilding	c. 1924
611	Colonial Revival	c. 1925
611 Rear	Outbuilding	c. 1924
613	Colonial Revival	c. 1925
613 Rear	Outbuilding	c. 1924
617	Frame Vernacular	c. 1915
621	Queen Anne	c. 1890
623	Frame Vernacular	c. 1920
629	Colonial Revival	c. 1905
629 Rear	Outbuilding	c. 1924
633	Folk Victorian	c. 1910
635	Frame Vernacular	c. 1905
639	Colonial Revival	c. 1915

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 7

## Building List

Rockledge Drive (cont.)

639 A	Outbuilding	c. 1924
653	Folk Victorian	1896
657	Frame Vernacular	c. 1910
657 Rear	Outbuilding	c. 1924
663	Frame Vernacular	c. 1900
663 Rear	Outbuilding	c. 1924
Boathouse at 663	Frame Vernacular	c. 1900
703	Frame Vernacular	c. 1905
703 A	Outbuilding	c. 1924
703 B	Outbuilding	c. 1924
703 C	Outbuilding	c. 1924
Boathouse at 703	Frame Vernacular	c. 1905
709	Frame Vernacular	c. 1915
709 A	Outbuilding	c. 1924
709 B	Outbuilding	c. 1924
Boathouse at 709	Frame Vernacular	c. 1915
715	Frame Vernacular	c. 1902
715 A	Outbuilding	c. 1924
1101	Frame Vernacular	c. 1900
1119	Colonial Revival	c. 1910
1119 Rear	Outbuilding	c. 1924
1125	Colonial Revival	c. 1910
1125 Rear	Outbuilding	c. 1924
1201	Bungalow	c. 1915
1219	Queen Anne	1880
1219 Rear	Outbuilding	c. 1924
1265	Colonial Revival	c. 1900
Boathouse at 1265	Frame Vernacular	c. 1900
1267	Frame Vernacular	c. 1905
1269	Frame Vernacular	c. 1910
1271	Frame Vernacular	c. 1910
1273	Frame Vernacular	c. 1905
1275	Frame Vernacular	c. 1910
1277	Frame Vernacular	c. 1915
1279	Frame Vernacular	c. 1905
1283	Frame Vernacular	c. 1910
1283 Rear	Outbuilding	c. 1924
1287	Mediterranean Revival	c. 1925
1289	Frame Vernacular	c. 1925
1291	Frame Vernacular	c. 1900
1291 Rear	Outbuilding	c. 1924
1297	Colonial Revival	c. 1909
1297 Rear	Outbuilding	c. 1924
1305	Mediterranean Revival	c. 1925

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 8

## Building List

Rockledge Drive (cont.)

1305 A	Outbuilding	c. 1924
1305 B	Outbuilding	c. 1924
1311	Colonial Revival	c. 1925
1319	Frame Vernacular	c. 1910
1319 A	Outbuilding	c. 1924
1319 B	Outbuilding	c. 1924
1323	Colonial Revival	c. 1909
1325	Frame Vernacular	c. 1909
1331	Frame Vernacular	c. 1909
1341	Mediterranean Revival	c. 1920
1347	Bungalow	c. 1920
1347 Rear	Outbuilding	c. 1924
1357	Mediterranean Revival	c. 1925
1357 Rear	Outbuilding	c. 1924
1359	Frame Vernacular	c. 1890
1361	Folk Victorian	c. 1890

Orange Avenue

Boathouse at foot of Orange Avenue	Frame Vernacular	c. 1915
1-3	Mediterranean Revival	c. 1925
11	Mediterranean Revival	1926

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

Building List & Location

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List of Noncontributing Buildings in the  
Rockledge Drive Historic District

Address

Orange Avenue

9

Rockledge Drive

555  
587 B  
625  
625 Rear  
635 Rear  
639 B  
715 B  
1107  
1201 Rear  
1209  
1209 Rear  
1229  
1275 Rear  
1285 Rear  
1295  
1295 Rear  
1307  
1315  
1327  
1329  
1335  
1337  
1359 Rear

**2. Location: street & number**

219-1361 Rockledge Drive; 15-23 Rockledge Avenue; 1-11 Orange Avenue

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

Photographs

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List of Photographs for the Rockledge Drive  
Residential District

1. Streetscape, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking Southeast from 657 Rockledge Drive
7. Photo 1 of 29

1. Streetscape, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking East from 1101 Rockledge Drive
7. Photo 2 of 29

1. Boathouse at 663 Rockledge Drive,  
Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking Southeast
7. Photo 3 of 29

1. 527 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking West
7. Photo 4 of 29

1. 1025 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking Northwest
7. Photo 5 of 29

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 11

Photographs

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1. 1101 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking West
7. Photo 6 of 29

1. 657 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking West
7. Photo 7 of 29

1. Boathouse at 709 Rockledge Drive,  
Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking East
7. Photo 8 of 29

1. A.H. Smith House, 351 Rockledge Drive,  
Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking West
7. Photo 9 of 29

1. 629 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking West
7. Photo 10 of 29

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 12

Photographs

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1. 219 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking West
7. Photo 11 of 29

1. Municipal Building, 11 Orange Avenue,  
Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking Southeast
7. Photo 12 of 29

1. 1-3 Orange Avenue, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking South
7. Photo 13 of 29

1. 653 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking West
7. Photo 14 of 29

1. Hiram S. Williams House, 1219 Rockledge Drive,  
Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking West
7. Photo 15 of 29



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 13

Photographs

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1. 621 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking West
7. Photo 16 of 29

1. 1347 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking West
7. Photo 17 of 29

1. 663 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking West
7. Photo 18 of 29

1. 709 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking West
7. Photo 19 of 29

1. 587 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking West
7. Photo 20 of 29

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 14

Photographs

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1. 635 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking Southwest
7. Photo 21 of 29

1. Boathouse at 703 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking Southeast
7. Photo 22 of 29

1. 1361 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking West
7. Photo 23 of 29

1. 1323 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking Northwest
7. Photo 24 of 29

1. 1119 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking Southwest
7. Photo 25 of 29

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 15

Photographs

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1. 1125 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking West
7. Photo 26 of 29

1. 1287 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking West
7. Photo 27 of 29

1. 1331 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking West
7. Photo 28 of 29

1. 715 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge Drive Residential District
2. Rockledge (Brevard County), Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1991
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Looking Northwest
7. Photo 29 of 29

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1

Significance

Summary

The Rockledge Drive Historic District is significant under Criteria A and C on the local level in the areas of exploration/settlement and architecture. The district derives its primary significance from the varied architectural resources stretching along the course of scenic Rockledge Drive that reflect the early development of the city of Rockledge in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Rockledge was one of the first settlements in Brevard County and is connected with the development of tourism and the citrus industry in Florida during the period from the 1880s to the 1920s.

Statement Of Significance

Rockledge Drive is the oldest settled area of the city of Rockledge, having been developed prior to the formal incorporation of the community and preceded the establishment of platted subdivisions. Most of the buildings along the roadway are large, single family dwellings that have been advantageously sited to overlook the Indian River. The warm climate and the potential for development drew early settlers to the Rockledge area. Development of the Rockledge Drive area began after Gardner S. Hardee's purchase of the first tract of land at Rockledge in 1868. Hardee planted an orange grove and later constructed a rooming house along the banks of the river.

The residences in Rockledge reflect its period of development. Prominent in the district are wood frame vernacular and Queen Anne residences that typify the building practices and architectural taste of the late nineteenth century in Florida. The Queen Anne houses are simpler in form and are more restricted in the use of various building materials than those constructed at the same period in northern states. There is little use of stone, either native or imported, and the vocabulary of decorative details is also more restricted. The hot moist climate discouraged the use of delicate forms and elaborate constructions that were prone to decay or damage by frequent coastal storms.

Wood frame vernacular houses are generally simple constructions, having little or no reference to formal styles popular during their period of construction. Some residences do make use of patterned wood shingles and decorative millwork such as turned posts and balusters, sawn brackets, and spindle bands;

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

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Significance

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however, such minor touches were typical of American domestic architecture in the later nineteenth century.

These early buildings demonstrate the success of Rockledge as a pioneer Florida community and are a visual record of the connection of the community with the early citrus industry, tourism, and the development of the state's railroad network along the east coast circa. 1885 to 1895. Later residences, particularly the Colonial Revival, Bungalow, and Mediterranean Revival style structures, exhibit the stability and continuity of the city after the beginning of the twentieth century and culminating in the Florida Boom period of the 1920s.

The oldest documented building in Rockledge is located in the district at 1219 Rockledge Drive (photo 11). It was constructed in 1880 by Hiram S. Williams one of the first settlers of Rockledge. A house dating from the turn of the century is the John D. Shepard House at 621 Rockledge Drive (photo 16). An architecturally significant building dating from the early twentieth century is the house at 629 Rockledge Drive (photo 10). It was constructed c. 1905 by John Derby, a local land developer and citrus grower. The residence at 653 Rockledge Drive (photo 14) is also significant for its association with the early development of Rockledge. It was constructed in the 1880s for Julia Wood.

The Rockledge Municipal Building at 11 Orange Avenue is the only building designed to serve a governmental purpose in Rockledge (photo 7). It has significance for its association with Rockledge's development during the land boom period of the mid-1920s and is important architecturally as an example of the work of prominent local architect Richard Rummell. The first discussion of the need for larger and more appropriate quarters to replace the old Town Hall at 24 Barton Avenue began in 1921 when the Town Council authorized Rummell to draw plans for the proposed structure. A lack of funds, however, forced the Council to table the project for consideration at a later date. It was not until late in 1924 that serious consideration was again given to the construction of a municipal building.

Rummell's plans for the building were revised to incorporate elements of the popular Mediterranean Revival style. Bids for the erection of the building were let in November 1924. Actual construction, however, did not begin until September of the following year when local builder and councilman W. Herbert

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

Significance

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Bower's bid of \$18,240 was accepted. Completed in early 1926, the Municipal Building had a two bay garage to house the town's fire engines, office space for the police department, a meeting room for the Town Council, and housed the town library. It served as the primary community building until the new City Hall on Barton Avenue was constructed in 1988.

The buildings along Rockledge Drive represent a varied and significant collection of local historic resources. The setting in which the homes were constructed and the buildings themselves have retained a high degree of integrity. The resources in the district are historically important in understanding Rockledge's past.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 1

Boundary Description

Boundary Description

Begin in the city of Rockledge, south of the Rockledge/Cocoa city limits on the west shore line of the Indian River at a point parallel to the north boundary line of 219 Rockledge Drive, then run west along said line to the west line of the property, then run south along said line to the north curb line of Sutton Street, then run east along said curb line approximately 245 feet and run south along the west property lines of the buildings fronting on the west side of Rockledge Drive to the south property line of 409 Rockledge Drive, then run east along said line to the west curb line of Rockledge Drive, then run south along said curb line to a point parallel with the north property line of 515 Rockledge Drive;

then run west along said line to the west line of the property, then run south along said line to the south line of the property, then run east along said line to the west curb line of Rockledge Drive, then run south and east along said curb line to the southwest corner of the intersection with Hardee Drive, then run southwest along the southeast curb line of Hardee Drive to a point parallel with the west property line of 549 Rockledge Drive, then run south along the west property lines of the buildings fronting on the west side of Rockledge Drive to the south property line of 629 Rockledge Drive, then run at an angle southwest from the south property line of 629 Rockledge Drive to the west property line of 639 Rockledge Drive, then run south and east along said line to the south line of the property;

then run east along said line to the west curb line of Rockledge Drive, then run south and east along said curb line to a point parallel with the north property line of 653 Rockledge Drive, then run west along said line to the west line of the property, then run south along the west property lines of the buildings fronting on the west side of Rockledge Drive to the south property line of 715 Rockledge Drive, then run east along said line to the west curb line of Rockledge Drive, then run south and east along said curb line to the south curb line of Orange Avenue, then run west along said curb line to the intersection of Sharpes Drive and run south along the east curb line of Sharpes Drive to a point parallel with the south property line of 11 Orange Avenue;

then run east along the south property lines of 11, 9, and 1-3 Orange Avenue to the west curb line of Rockledge Drive, then run south and east along said curb line to the southwest corner of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 2

## Boundary Description &amp; Justification

the intersection with Barton Avenue, then run west along the south curb line of Barton Avenue to a point parallel with the west property line of 1101 Rockledge Drive, then run south along the west boundary of the buildings fronting on the west side of Rockledge Drive to the south property line of 1229 Rockledge Drive, then run east along said line to the west curb line of Rockledge Drive, then run south and east along said curb line to a point parallel with the north property line of 1265 Rockledge Drive, then run west along said line to the west line of the property, then run south along the west property lines of the buildings fronting on the west side of Rockledge Drive to the north curb line of Park Avenue, then run east along said curb line to the west shore line of the Indian River, then run north and west along said shore line, including in the district boundaries the historic boathouses represented on the map, and return to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The above described boundaries contain all of the historic resources located on both sides of Rockledge Drive associated with the development of the community between 1880 and 1925 that are located within sufficient geographical proximity to be included within the boundaries of said district. Any resources along Rockledge Drive not contained within these boundaries will need to be addressed in the future as individually significant properties.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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