



56-931

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 Cox Family Log House

other names/site number FMSF# AL01339

2. Location

street & number 1639 NW 11th Road not for publication

city or town Gainesville vicinity

state Florida code FL county Alachua code 001 zip code 32605

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.)

Missa Slade Lotane 2/22/17
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation
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) _____

For
Jim [Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5-1-2017

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	1	buildings
0	0	sites
1	4	structures
0	0	objects
2	5	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

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY MOVEMENTS

Other: Rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD

roof ASPHALT

other CONCRETE

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

Period of Significance

1937

Significant Dates

1937

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

#

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 10

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

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

3 Zone Easting Northing
4

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 Murray D. Laurie; Andrew Waber, Historic Preservationist

organization date February 10, 2017

street & number 2858 SW 14th Drive telephone (352) 335-6784

city or town Gainesville state FL zip code 32608

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 Robert T. Mounts

street & number 1639 NW 11th Road telephone (352) 665-9296

city or town Gainesville state FL zip code 32605

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 REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 **Cox Family Log House
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida**

SUMMARY

The Cox Family Log House is located at 1639 NW 11th Road in Gainesville, Florida. The property, which is located eleven blocks north and west of the center of downtown Gainesville, lies within the Florida Park Subdivision. The house was built circa 1937 of local cypress logs and stone. The logs were hauled to the property, where they were allowed to dry and were then peeled and trimmed before construction. The one- and two-story log house has intersecting gables and two chimneys of local chert stone. The continuous foundation is of concrete block faced with chert stone. The two chimneys are of the same stone, as is the fireplace in the living room. The round cypress logs are set on one another with rounded saddle notches and the ends are staggered at the exposed corners. The logs are chinked and the chinking is white. The high-ceilinged living and dining room has exposed log walls and four massive cross beams with V-shaped trusses. Most of the interior walls are also of exposed logs. The contributing resources are the main house and contemporary pond. Noncontributing resources include the garage/office, swimming pool, gazebo, pump house/storage shed, and stone patio fence.

SETTING

The Cox Family Log House is sited on a gently sloping 2.43-acre lot at the corner of NW 11th Road (Oakwood Avenue) and NW 17 Street (Springwood Street) in the Florida Park Subdivision (see Figure 1).¹ The house, which faces south, was built shortly after the subdivision was platted in 1936, and the roads were unpaved when the construction took place (Photo 1).² A spring and a small stream flowing from it to the south are located at the bottom of the slope, at the east boundary of the more-or-less square-shaped lot (see Figure 2). The stream was dammed by the Cox family and turned into a rustic swimming hole with rock sides and cement steps, which in turn empties into Rattlesnake Creek (Photo 2). The pine trees grow on the slope down to the pond, and other mature trees and shrubs are part of the landscaping (Photos 3-5). Many of the original trees that stood on the property were lost during storms and to Southern pine beetles.³ The surrounding neighborhood is composed of houses built later, in the 1950s and 1960s, in a variety of styles, mostly ranch houses and mid-century modern homes. Rattlesnake Creek, a tributary of Hogtown Creek, runs through the south part of Florida Park. The spring and creek on the property are part of this larger watershed.

¹ Street names were changed to numbered streets and avenues in Gainesville around 1950. These are the street names indicated on the plat of Florida Park Unit #1, BookC, Page 65. Alachua County Plat Book.

² Alachua County Official Records. Warranty Deed, Book 162, Page 318. Barney and Eddie Sue Colson sold all of Block 4 in Florida Park Unit #1 to J. O'Neal and Mary J. Cox on April 24, 1936.

³ William Riffée, former owner, email to present owner, Robert Mounts, July, 2016.

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Section number 7 Page 2 **Cox Family Log House
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida**

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Main Building

Exterior

The intersecting gables of the roof are clad in architectural grade composition shingles (Photos 3-6). Two separate sections of the roof, one on the south side and one on the west side, form shed roof extensions. The gable roof of the second story section intersects with the dominant side gable and has a shed-roofed wall dormer on each side, facing west and east, respectively (Photo 7). The separate intersecting gable roof of the one-story apartment to the rear is also clad in composition shingles, as is the lower roof over a former porte cochere that links the two sections of the building. There are wide roof overhangs on all sides, supported by log rafter ends, which help to protect the exposed ends of the logs that form the walls (Photo 6).

The two stone chimneys are expertly constructed of local chert fieldstone. The largest chimney is on the north wall of the living room and is wider at the base, tapering to the top, which is finished with a curving stone bonnet (Photo 7). A square stone chimney rises above the west-sloping roof and originally served the wood-burning stove in the kitchen (Photo 8). It also helped heat the second story bedrooms. The same chert stone is used to face the continuous foundation of the house.⁴

Main (South) Facade

The main entrance to the house is on the south elevation, dominated by two front gables set with horizontal logs (Photo 3). The wide white chinking between each log is a distinctive feature of the walls, both outside and inside of the house. A paved walk leads to a set of broad concrete steps flanked by wide rock side forms topped with lights that provide access to an open, unroofed patio with tile paving (Photo 3). Non-contributing low rock walls finish the south and east sides of the patio. The patio, which was built in the 1980s, leads to the original screened porch. The porch is enclosed with glass on the south and east walls.⁵

⁴ This locally quarried stone, limestone mixed with harder chert stone, was used to build many distinctive homes in the Gainesville area in the 1920s and 1930s, so there would have been local masons who were familiar with it.

<https://gatorpreservationist.wordpress.com/2009/12/12/gainesvilles-chert-houses/>

⁵ Geoff O'Meara, conversation with Murray Laurie, June 2, 2016. Mr. O'Meara, a contractor who worked for several of the subsequent owners, said that wood steps that had originally led up to the front screened porch had rotted and were replaced by the more substantial patio. The screened porch was later enclosed by fixed glass panels in the same pattern as the original screening.

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Section number 7 Page 3 **Cox Family Log House**
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida

West Elevation

The west wing of the house forms an L and extends forward on the south facade, forming the west wall of the patio and porch. It is marked by a front gable and a façade set with a broad picture window overlooking the south lawn (Photo 4). The exposed ends of the logs that form the walls are staggered, with some cut straight across and some with more or less jagged ends that reflect the tools used to hand cut the cypress trees. Set back a little from this front gable is a section of a 1983 addition to the west side that is clad in painted weatherboard siding (Photo 9).⁶ With the exception of this addition, all of the exterior walls are of chinked cypress logs with extended, staggered ends, set one atop the next with rounded saddle notches (Photo 6).⁷

East Elevation

The east elevation is also L shaped, with a wide, one-story gable set with a triple window that overlooks the east lawn and swimming hole (Photo 5). The same staggered log ends crisscross at the corners, adding to the rustic, hand-built aspect of the house (Photo 6). The more-or-less square second-story section is recessed behind this side gabled wing, and a stone patio is set in the inner space. The screened swimming pool forms the east edge of the patio (Photo 10). A glass and wood door to the patio from the house has a sloped ramp set with tile leading to the patio. This door is flanked by the original, wood-framed, double-hung windows used throughout the house. Also opening to this patio is a similar door to the enclosed breezeway and similar windows set on either side of the door.

The east elevation of a rear apartment wing, rebuilt in 2011 after it was destroyed by fire, also has a door leading to the patio (Photo 11). It was originally a smaller, one-room addition on the north side of the now enclosed porte cochere, and was used by the Cox family as servant's quarters.⁸ As a result of the fire, nothing was left of the original material and this portion of the house was rebuilt in the same style with chinked cypress logs.⁹

⁶ Jackie Levine. "Log House Is Dream Come True." *Country Magazine*, August/September, 1987.

⁷ Eugene Russell Davis, AIA, designed the addition, which included a bathroom, a walk-in closet, and enlarged back bedroom on the first floor. The 1983 architectural drawings in the possession of the owner clearly show the additions. The 1960 Sanborn Map of Gainesville held in the collection of the Matheson Museum was also consulted to determine the original footprint of the house.

⁸ Sanborn Map of Gainesville, 1960. Matheson Museum collection. Daniel Cox, youngest son of O'Neal and Mary Cox, confirmed in an email to the current owner (June 15, 2016) that the north apartment was the residence of the family's maid. He also recalls that the carriage way was open and paved with cypress and that the screened swimming pool was installed by his parents in the 1960s.

⁹ Jim Keeton, owner of BK Cypress Company of Bronson, FL, conversation with Murray Laurie, June 6, 2016. BK Cypress rebuilt much of the rear apartment. He provided expert information on the building technology of traditional cypress log houses.

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North Elevation

A fenced dog yard encloses part of the north area of the property, and there is a service drive from NW 11 Road leading to the back of a non-contributing storage shed and pool pump house to the north of the swimming pool, believed to have been built in the 1960s as part of the pool complex. The north elevation of the L-shaped rear apartment is visible, as is the north elevation of the garage and office, built in the 1990s, that faces NW 17 Street (Photo 12). The storage shed, pump house, and the swimming pool are non-contributing.

West Elevation

The west elevation of the (noncontributing) three-bay garage partially hides the west side of the main house, which is separated from it by a paved courtyard and flower beds (Photo 8). The west elevation of the rear apartment shows an arrangement of double-hung windows on the long wall and a bay window on the short extension on the short wall that is opposite the office attached to the north end of the garage. Also visible are the door and windows that enclose the west end of the former breezeway, now used as a game room, which are similar to those on the opposite end leading to the east patio (Photo 13). This game room was originally open at both ends, connecting the main house and the maid's room. A double casement window is set in the original wall of the house where the kitchen is located. A small, screened porch is set in the inner wall, off the southwest corner of the kitchen. A wall dormer is set in the slope of the roof of the second story section. The west elevation also shows the 1983 addition, which has a bay window and a set of four square windows set rather high in the wall (Photo 8).

Interior

First Floor

The main entrance to the interior is from the open patio on the south elevation that opens to a glass-enclosed porch, formerly screened (Photo 14). A wood cocktail bar is installed at the west end of this room. The six-light glazed front door still has its original iron hardware.

Most of the interior walls look just like the exterior, rounded cypress logs with white chinking. The wood floors are of pine. Many of the solid doors throughout the house are fashioned of plain vertical boards, while others have six panes of glass at the top with cross-braced wood panels at the bottom.

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The living/dining room has an open ceiling, sixteen feet high (Photos 15-17). Four massive beams with V-shaped trusses are spaced across the room, and the exposed wood ceiling is composed of boards and smaller logs. Four six over six double hung windows and the front door are spaced along the south wall. A trio of the same kind of windows overlook the sloping lawn down to the pond on the east wall. Similar windows are arranged on the north wall on either side of the stone fireplace and hearth (Photo 17). The dining room is at the west end of the space. (See Figure 3) A door opens to a breakfast room to the north on this wall, and another double-swing door to the kitchen is located at the end of the north wall. A door on the south end of the west wall leads to the interior hallway.

A staircase composed of round log supports and half log treads leading to the second story is placed along the east side wall of the hall (Photo 18). The base of the second stone chimney is visible next to the stairs. The original wood-burning stove in the kitchen once fed into the chimney. There is evidence that a pipe on the east side of the chimney once directed heat into the dining room area as well. The largest bedroom, located in the front of the house, facing the south lawn, opens to the south from the hall (Photo 19). It too has a high, open ceiling with four beams arranged across the space. On the east wall of this room one door opens to the enclosed porch and another to the patio. A broad picture window with wood-framed side windows overlooks the south lawn (Photo 1). A bathroom and closet added on in 1983 opens to the west. The bedroom walls are of chinked logs like the living/dining room walls.

Adjacent to this room is a smaller bedroom, which also opens to the inner hall. It was enlarged when the addition was built in 1983. The original downstairs bathroom, which also opens to the hall is to the north of this bedroom. The door to the kitchen opens from the north end of hall. To the west of the kitchen is a small screened porch. The kitchen has been remodeled several times, but has not been enlarged (Photo 20). The stove is now located on the west wall. It is vented through the roof by means of a metal chimney. A freestanding island is located in the middle of the kitchen. A casement window opens to the west and a double hung wood-framed window on the north wall opens to the enclosed game room/breezeway. The patch where the stovepipe for the original wood stove was attached to the chimney is still visible on the south wall. A vertical cypress log at the east end of the kitchen is marked with the growth lines of the three Cox sons through the years, carved into the wood (Photo 20). A pantry door in the northeast corner of the kitchen is scarred with the marks of the Cox boys' knife-throwing contests.

A small dining area or breakfast room is adjacent to the kitchen, overlooking the east patio. A door on the north wall leads, with two steps, down to the old breezeway, now used as a game room (Photo 21). Doors and windows at each end of this room were constructed to enclose this area and it was paved with tiles in the 1980s. Three large cypress logs help brace the ceiling. A door from this area leads to the rear apartment, and a high

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shelf on the north wall holds a variety of antique items. According to Geoff O'Meara, this was installed when he constructed the end walls.¹⁰

Second Floor

There are two bedrooms and a bathroom on the second floor.¹¹ The room to the right of the small landing overlooks the east patio and pool. It also has exposed walls of logs with chinking and a small built-in cupboard (Photo 22). A double-hung window is on the north wall and one on the east wall. The bathroom is sited between the two bedrooms. The west bedroom is smaller, with access to an attic space at the south end. The kitchen chimney rises through this attic, which has beams of unstripped cypress logs and shows some of the chinking process without the finished layer.

Pond

The artificial pond located on the property is contemporary to the house and is considered a contributing structure to the property. Its presence supplements the rustic look and feel strived for with the property. The adjacent stream was dammed by the Cox family and later turned into a rustic swimming hole with rock sides and cement steps, which in turn empties into Rattlesnake Creek (Photo 2). The concrete edge of the lining of the roughly oval-shaped pond is visible, and a few steps can be seen on the north end of the pond. Despite these alterations, the pond retains its configuration and enough integrity to be considered contributing to the resource.

Non-Contributing Resources

There are five non-contributing resources located within the boundary of the Cox Family Log House:

Garage/Office

Located to the rear of the property is a one-story garage/office building constructed circa 1990 (Photo 8). The three-bay garage partially hides the west side of the main house, which is separated from it by a paved courtyard and flower beds. Due to its age, it is considered a non-contributing building.

¹⁰ Geoff O'Meara, conversation with Murray Laurie, June 2, 2016.

¹¹ Daniel Cox confirmed that his two older brothers occupied the two upstairs bedrooms and that his bedroom was next to his parent's bedroom. He was about three years old when they moved into the house.

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Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida**

Swimming Pool

A non-contributing screened swimming pool is located to the east of the house (Photo 10). Connected to the house via a patio, the pool was built circa the 1960s and was later upgraded with a jacuzzi. It is considered non-contributing due to its age.

Gazebo

A small wood gazebo, built in the 1980s, stands a few feet from the south west side of the pond. Due to its age, it is considered non-contributing to the property (Photo 23).

Pump House and Storage Shed

There is a small one-story wood frame pump house and storage shed located adjacent to the pool. It rests on a poured concrete foundation, has a metal shed roof, and features a simple shed roof extension and wood glazed double doors. Due to its age, it is considered not contributing to the property (Photo 24).

Stone Fence

A chert stone wall or fence encloses the patio located on the main (south) elevation of the house (Photo 3). This wall, which closely matches the stone material used in the historic chimneys, was erected circa the 1980s. Due to its age, it is considered non-contributing to the property.

ALTERATIONS

The 1960 Sanborn Map shows how the original footprint of the house has changed. The rear apartment, to the north, burned in 2011 and was rebuilt and slightly enlarged shortly thereafter. It has walls of rounded cypress logs with white chinking, which match the walls in the main house (Photo 11).¹² The addition to the west side of the main house by subsequent owners in 1983 provided space for a large bathroom and closet for the largest bedroom and doubled the size of the adjacent small bedroom (Photo 9). Closets can be difficult to build with log walls and several solutions were used, including free-standing storage pieces or later-built additions. The present entrance and raised patio were also added in the 1980s. A sketch, completed in 1983 before this feature was built, but after the addition to the west side was in place, shows what the original main entrance looked

¹² Jim Keeton, owner of BK Cypress Company of Bronson, FL, conversation with Murray Laurie, June 6, 2016. His firm built the walls and ceilings, but other work on this rebuilt section was contracted to R&R Construction, Inc. of Gainesville.

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like.¹³ The screen porch was enclosed with glass in the late 1970s or early 1980s¹⁴ (Photo 10). The breezeway, once open, has been enclosed and the front patio added in the 1980s (Photo 21). The second story bathroom was also upgraded around this time. The screened swimming pool has been upgraded and a jacuzzi added (Photo 10).

According to Geoff O'Meara, a contractor who worked for several of the subsequent owners, wood steps that had originally led up to the front screened porch had rotted and were replaced by the more substantial patio. The screened porch was later enclosed by fixed glass panels in the same pattern as the original screening. Eugene Russell Davis, AIA, designed the addition, which included a bathroom, a walk-in closet, and enlarged back bedroom on the first floor. The 1983 architectural drawings in the possession of the owner clearly show the additions. The 1960 Sanborn Map of Gainesville held in the collection of the Matheson Museum was also consulted to determine the original footprint of the house.

Integrity

The Cox Family Log house is an unusual surviving example of residential Rustic architecture in Gainesville. It retains a high degree of material and workmanship integrity in the main house, preserving its cypress logs and chinking and original hardware. The design integrity has been impacted by changes over time, including additions and the reconstruction of a modified apartment following a fire in 2011. However, most of these additions have respected the original design of the house, using either similar materials and construction techniques (as in the apartment) or are designed in such fashion as to appear subordinate to the main core of the 1937 house. The Cox house retains integrity of location and setting, with extensive plantings screening the house from its later neighbors. Additionally, the house retains integrity of feeling and association, and is able to clearly express its significance as a 1930s example of Rustic architecture.

¹³ Sketch by Nick DeCarlis, circa 1983, provided by former owner, Diane Junior. Mrs. Junior indicated that the additions to the west were completed before they moved into the house, but the construction of the front patio was undertaken later.

¹⁴ Diane Junior, email to the present owner, May 21, 2016.

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decade as the stock market crashed in 1929. The land boom came to an end as inflated property prices cooled the building fever and the Depression set in early in Florida. Although Gainesville did not suffer the extremes of the real estate crash experienced in south Florida, most of the planned developments did not survive the downturn of the economy in the 1930s, and the restrictions on non-military building projects as the country went to war during the 1940s. One of the most dramatic events of the 1930s was the fire in the heart of downtown Gainesville in 1938 that caused \$300,000 in damages, destroying most of the stores in the block just west of the courthouse, at the corner of University Avenue and South Main Street.¹⁸

The postwar years transformed Gainesville as the University of Florida (UF) experienced its own building boom. Veterans returning to civilian life in the 1950s used the GI Bill to enroll at UF. New housing was built for women students and new academic buildings replaced temporary postwar buildings. The UF College of Medicine was launched in 1956, and the on-campus Health Science Center continuously expanded medical educational opportunities as well as bringing jobs to the area at Shands Teaching Hospital and at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, built across Archer Road in 1967. Gainesville had a population of more than 46,000 by 1960 and the city continued to annex new areas of suburban housing.¹⁹

The subdivisions that had failed to develop and thrive in the 1930s became prime real estate once more in the 1950s and 1960s. New, modern homes, some designed by professors in the UF College of Architecture, appealed to faculty families and a growing professional class in Gainesville. Florida Park, for example, was popular for its proximity to the university, newer shopping centers, and its forested lots, which were sold off. Most of the old-growth pine trees and other native species that had been left in place formed an appealing natural setting for the mid-century modern homes and ranch houses that quickly filled the lots platted in the 1936. Like many of the Gainesville neighborhoods developed after World War II, Florida Park has gentle hills with creeks meandering through the area.²⁰

Although Gainesville's downtown continued to be a center for civic and government activity, as well as entertainment and culture, westward development in the 1960s and 1970s drew commerce and residential development toward Interstate 75 and Oaks Mall, about six miles to the west. Three older neighborhoods developed in the 1800s and early 1900s near downtown were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the 1980s, which led to preserving hundreds of historic homes and revitalizing the real estate market.²¹

¹⁸ John. B. Pickard, *Florida's Eden: An Illustrated History of Alachua County*. (Gainesville: Maupin Press, 1994) 96.

¹⁹ Pickard, 104-106, 112; Hildreth and Cox, 173-174. See also the ERLA Study (The Comprehensive Preservation and Conservation Plan). Phase 1 Survey Report. The History Group of Atlanta. September 30, 1980.

²⁰ Mary Newell, "Florida Park: With its winding, tree-lined roads, it's a quiet village in the middle of town." *Gainesville Sun*, December 13, 1987. Hogtown Creek and Rattlesnake Creek flow through Florida Park.

²¹ The Northeast Gainesville Historic District was listed in 1980, to be followed shortly after by the Southeast Historic District and the Pleasant Street Historic District. <http://www.cityofgainesville.org/PlanningDepartment/HistoricDistricts.aspx>

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Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida**

Attention is now being drawn to the preservation and documentation of buildings and areas of the city built after World War II, particularly Florida Park.²²

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE



Sketch of Cox Family Log House, circa 1983, showing original front entrance (source unknown)

When O'Neal and Mary Cox built the log house on Block 4 of Unit 1 in Florida Park, they did not intend for it to be their permanent home, although they would live there for the next thirty-five years. A development plan of the property prepared for them in 1934 indicates that they planned to build a much larger home and a tennis court on the west part of Block 4 (referred to as Block 10 on the Florida Park Survey).²³ They purchased the land in 1936 from Barney Colson. Tax records for the following year show an assessment value of \$300 for the block, but the following year, the 1937 taxable value is listed as \$1,000, indicating the improvements on the lot.²⁴

²² The Historic Preservation Program in the UF College of Design, Construction and Planning sponsored a graduate student survey of Florida Park. The Historic Preservation Practicum report was presented under the direction of Dr. Linda Stevenson in April of 2016.

²³ Herbert L. Flint, Landscape Architect, Orlando, FL, prepared a Plan for Development for Mary and O'Neal Cox in 1936. A copy of the fragile blueprint is framed and displayed in the house.

²⁴ Alachua County Official Records: Deed, Book162, Page 218. April 24, 1936 Tax records, 1937 and 1938

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Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida**



Early view of the pond with the house in the background, circa 1960 (source unknown).

Mary Baker Cox was a cousin of Barney Colson. That may have been one reason why they acquired the large lot on land held for decades by Colson and Bowers. O'Neal Cox was a successful businessman with deep roots in Alachua County. His father, Daniel Cox, the founder of Cox Furniture Store, was born in LaCross. In his later years, Daniel Cox returned to the farm where he was raised as his sons expanded the string of Cox Furniture Stores in Orlando, Tallahassee, Lake City, and Cross City.²⁵

²⁵ Richard Cox, Oral History, Matheson Center, Gainesville, recorded August 16, 1996, by John Bynum. Richard (Dick) Cox was the oldest son of O'Neal and Mary Cox. Both the Cox Furniture Store and the Cox Furniture Warehouse were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994, three years after the family went out of business in Gainesville.

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Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida**



Mary Cox in dining room, circa 1960 (source unknown)

The main Cox Furniture Store in Gainesville owned by O'Neal Cox and his father and brothers was located on South Main Street, across from the Alachua County Courthouse. They also owned a warehouse a few blocks further south on Main Street.²⁶ The Cox family members prospered, due in large part to the growth brought to the area by the Florida Land Boom. New homes were built, which required products and services their company provided. By 1930, Gainesville had a population of approximately 13,000 and 3,000 students enrolled at UF.

On April 25, 1938, a roaring fire consumed most of the commercial buildings on the southwest corner of University Avenue and Main Street. The Cox Furniture Store, only insured at half its value, burned to the ground. Some of its inventory was salvaged and they advertised a "fire sale" at their warehouse on South Main Street the following week.²⁷

Following the fire, the Cox family purchased the Baird Building, a block to the east, and reopened Cox Furniture Store there. They completely remodeled the building for their new retail operation, which opened in

²⁶ Cox Furniture Store, National Register of Historic Places, listed in 1994, contains a comprehensive history of the Cox family.

²⁷ *Gainesville Daily Sun*, "Fire Causes \$300,000 Damage," April 25, 1938.

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Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida**

July 1939. Architect Sanford Goin designed the new furniture store, which required the installation of interior steel beams to support the showroom floors and an elevator, as well as exterior modifications.²⁸

The timing was evidently not right for O'Neal and Mary Cox to go forward with their plans to build a larger house while the family company was investing a considerable amount of money in the new store. Furthermore, the Depression set in and business did not prosper as expected during the rest of the 1930s and into the 1940s. O'Neal and Mary Cox never built the intended new home and tennis court, but years later sold those parcels to two of their three sons, who built homes on those lots. The parents continued to live in the log house until the early 1970s.²⁹ The house and about half of Block 4 were sold to Richard and Diane Hodgkinson in 1978.³⁰ Gary and Diane Junior purchased the property in 1983 from the Hodgkinsons and made considerable changes and additions. Gary Junior was a Gainesville City Commissioner and served as the Mayor of Gainesville in the 1980s.³¹ The next owners were Dr. William and Judith Riffée. Doctor Riffée was the dean of the UF College of Pharmacy. Robert Mounts and his wife, the current owners, purchased the Cox Family Log House in 2013. Whereas O'Neal and Mary owned the entire block, the boundary of the property today occupies 2.43 acres of the west half of the block.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Rustic Architecture

The National Park Service (NPS) and US Forest Service (USFS) are generally credited with developing the Rustic architectural motif. The style became one of the significant characteristics of the NPS during the Great Depression. Applied to buildings, bridges, signs, and other structures in national parks, the Rustic style derived its roots from contemporary needs and traditional American values. Drawing from colonial and early American antecedents, Depression-era rustic buildings largely reflected folk and rural precedents. The style assumed various forms and materials, depending upon the architect, regional contexts, availability of materials, local economics, and personnel. Concrete, hewn lumber, wood shingles, and natural stone constituted the primary building materials. Architectural features included gable roofs, log or square hewn timbers chinked with composite mortars, post-and-girt construction, extensive porches with exposed materials, stone chimneys, exposed rafter ends, projecting purlins, gable-end trusses, and articulated foundation systems.³²

²⁸ "Cox Furniture Announces Plans for New Store." *Gainesville Daily Sun*, July 2, 1939.

²⁹ Sanborn Insurance Map of Gainesville, 1960, shows the original dimensions of the house.

³⁰ Alachua County Official Records. Deed book 216, Page 870, January 25, 1978.

³¹ Gary Rex Junior Obituary, *Gainesville Sun*, October 5, 2008.

³² Sidney Johnston, "Florida's New Deal Resources," U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (2004), F-94-95.

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National Park Service**

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Section number 9 Page 1 **Cox Family Log House
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida**

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Chert Stone Houses in Gainesville. <https://gatorpreservationist.wordpress.com/2009/12/12/gainesvilles-chert-houses/>

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Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida**

Cox, Daniel, email communication, June 14, 2016.

Cox Furniture Store, National Register of Historic Places, listed, 1994.

Cox, Richard. Oral History, Matheson History Museum, Gainesville, recorded August 16, 1996, by John Bynum.

Gainesville Sun, October 5, 2008. Obituary, Gary Rex Junior

Junior, Diane, email communication, May 21, 2016.

Keeton, Jim, phone conversation, June 6, 2016.

O'Meara, Geoff, phone conversation, June 2, 2016.

Riffee, William, email communication, July, 2016

Sanborn Map of Gainesville, 1960.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number _____ Page 1 **Cox Family Log House
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida**

PHOTO LIST

1. Cox Family Log House
2. 1639 NW 11th Road, Gainesville (Alachua County), Florida
3. Murray D. Laurie
4. Murray D. Laurie
5. June, 2016
6. View of the south lawn, facing south
7. Photo 1 of 24

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the following photographs, except where noted:

6. View of the pond, facing south
7. Photo 2 of 24

6. View of south façade and main entrance to Cox Family Log House, facing northwest
7. Photo 3 of 24

6. View of south façade, facing north
7. Photo 4 of 24

6. View of east façade, facing northwest
7. Photo 5 of 24

6. View of corner of east wing showing ends of logs, facing southwest.
7. Photo 6 of 24

6. View of north façade with chimney and patio, also showing second floor, facing south
7. Photo 7 of 24

6. View of west façade of Cox Family Log House, facing southeast
7. Photo 8 of 24

6. View of west corner and south façade showing 1983 addition, facing north
7. Photo 9 of 24

6. View of swimming pool, facing northeast
7. Photo 10 of 24

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Section number _____ Page 2 **Cox Family Log House**
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida

- 6. View of rebuilt rear apartment, facing south
- 7. Photo 11 of 24

- 6. View of noncontributing garage/office, facing northeast
- 7. Photo 12 of 24

- 6. Exterior view of former porte cochere, facing west
- 7. Photo 13 of 24

- 6. View of interior of enclosed front porch, facing east
- 7. Photo 14 of 24

- 6. View of living room area, facing southeast
- 7. Photo 15 of 24

- 6. View of dining room area, facing west
- 7. Photo 16 of 24

- 6. View of fireplace in living room, facing north
- 7. Photo 17 of 24

- 6. View of stairs to second floor, facing northeast
- 7. Photo 18 of 24

- 6. View of large front bedroom on first floor, facing northwest
- 7. Photo 19 of 24

- 6. View of kitchen, facing west
- 7. Photo 20 of 24

- 6. View of game room (former porte cochere), facing west
- 7. Photo 21 of 24

- 6. View of upstairs bedroom, facing northeast
- 7. Photo 22 of 24

- 6. View of gazebo, facing east
- 7. Photo 23 of 24

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

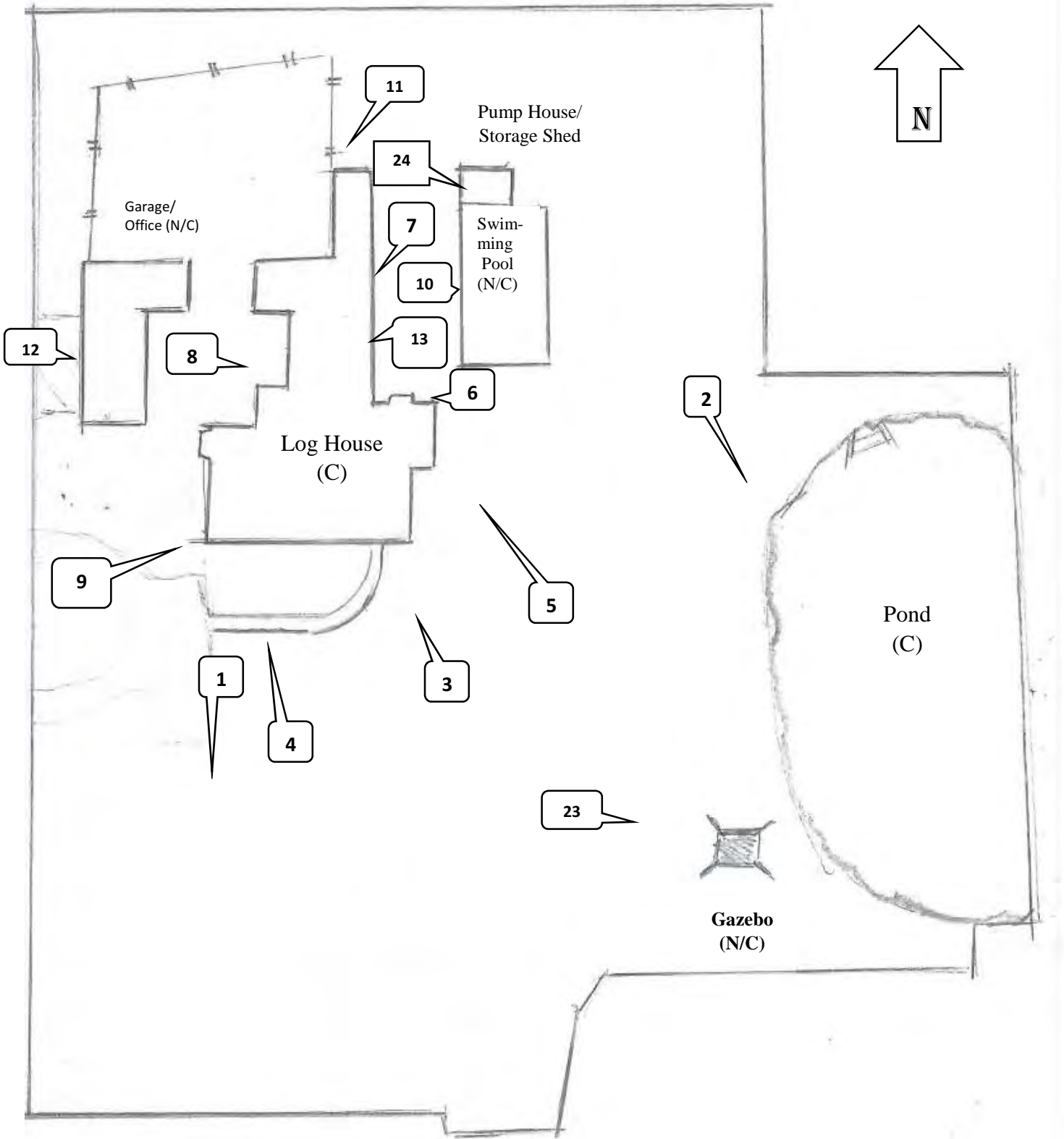
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Page 3 **Cox Family Log House**
Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida

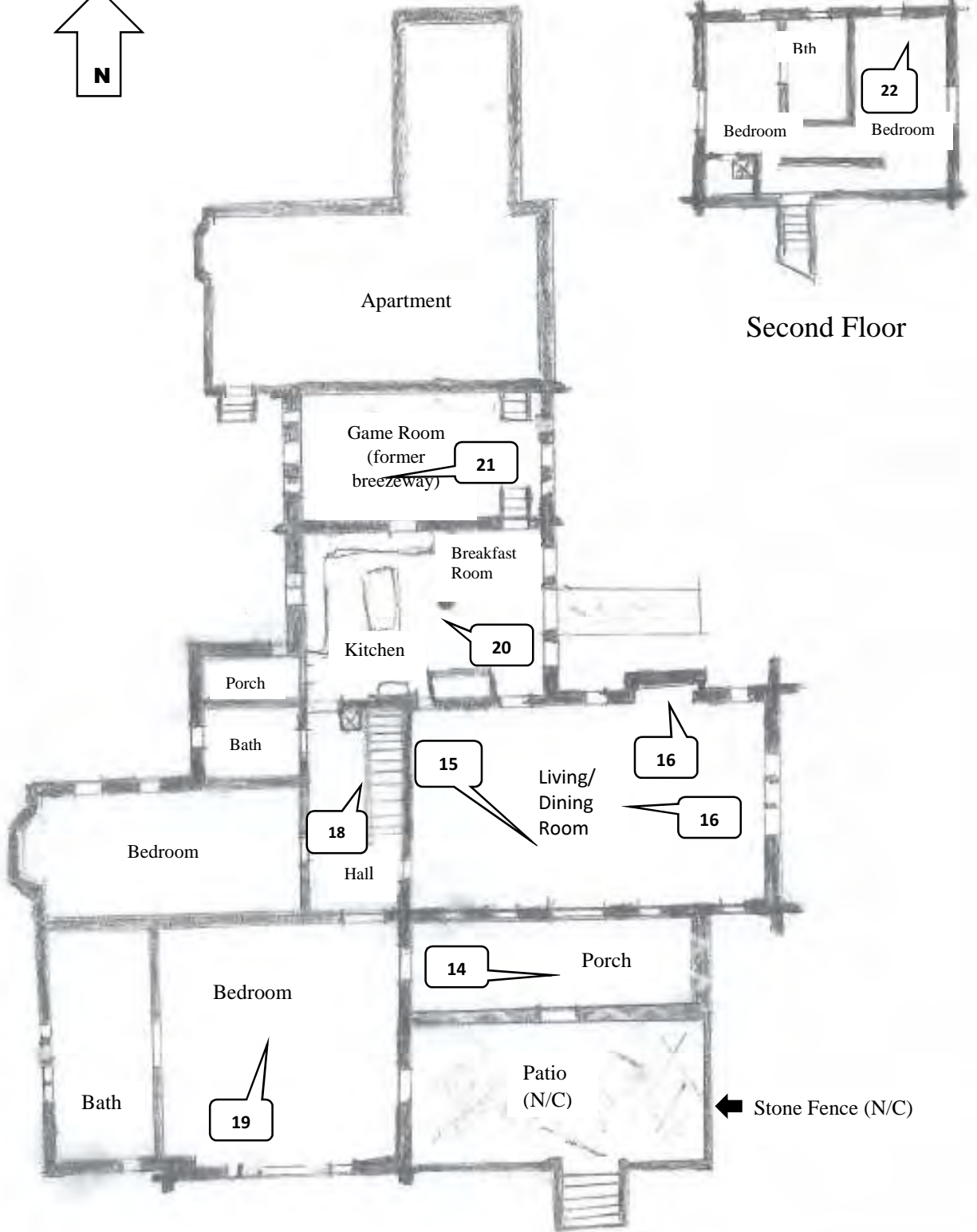
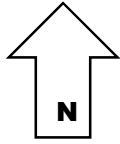
6. View of pump house/storage shed, facing southeast
7. Photo 24 of 24



Figure 1: Sanborn Map of Gainesville, 1960

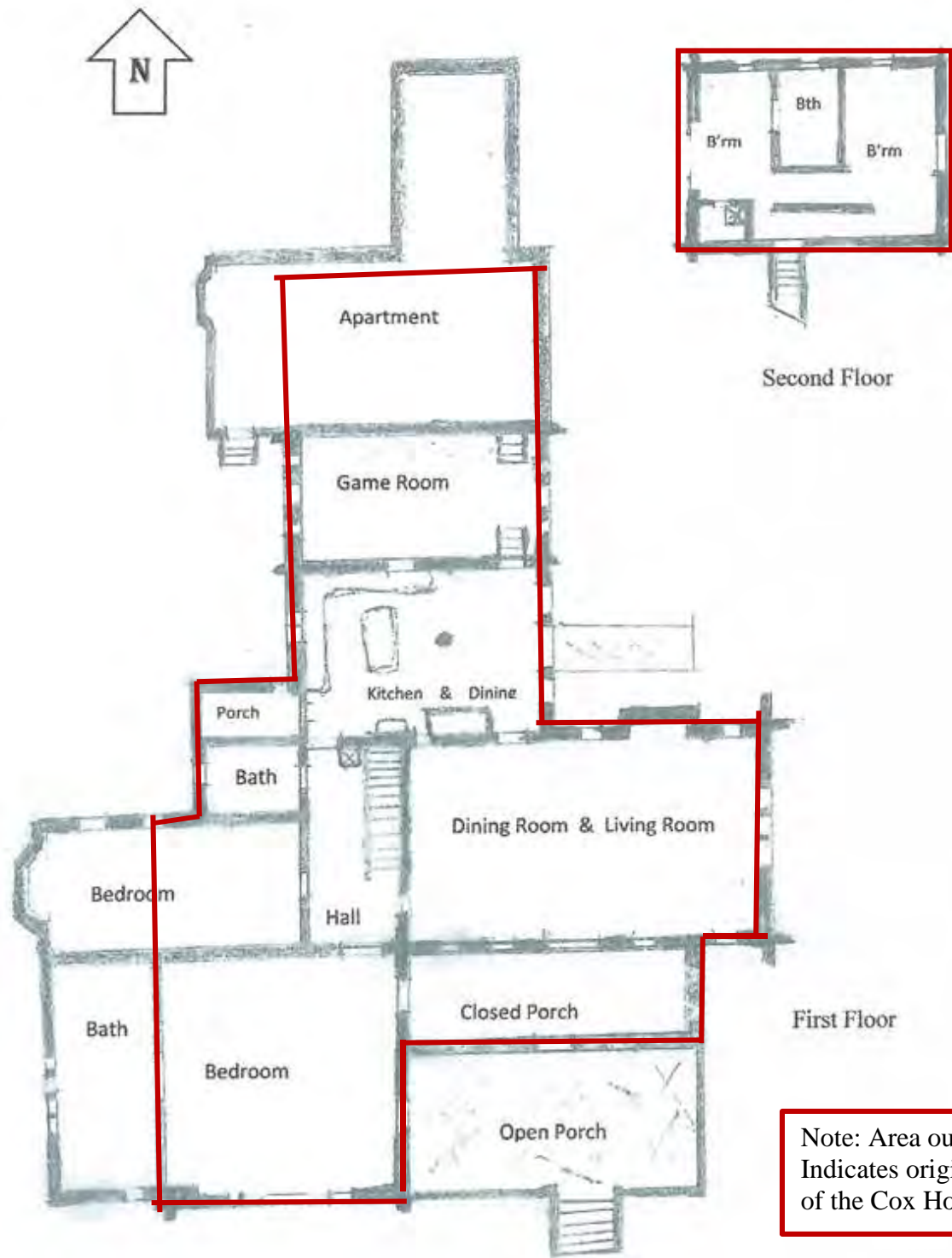


COX FAMILY LOG HOUSE: Key to Photos of Exterior



COX FAMILY LOG HOUSE: Key to Photos of Interior

Note: not to scale



Note: Area outlined in red Indicates original footprint of the Cox House.

Cox Family Log House: Floor Plan

Cox Family Log House

1639 Northwest 11th Road
Gainesville, Alachua Co., FL

UTM:
17R 369966 3282132

Datum: WGS84

Legend

 Proposed National Register Boundary

Date: 12/7/2016

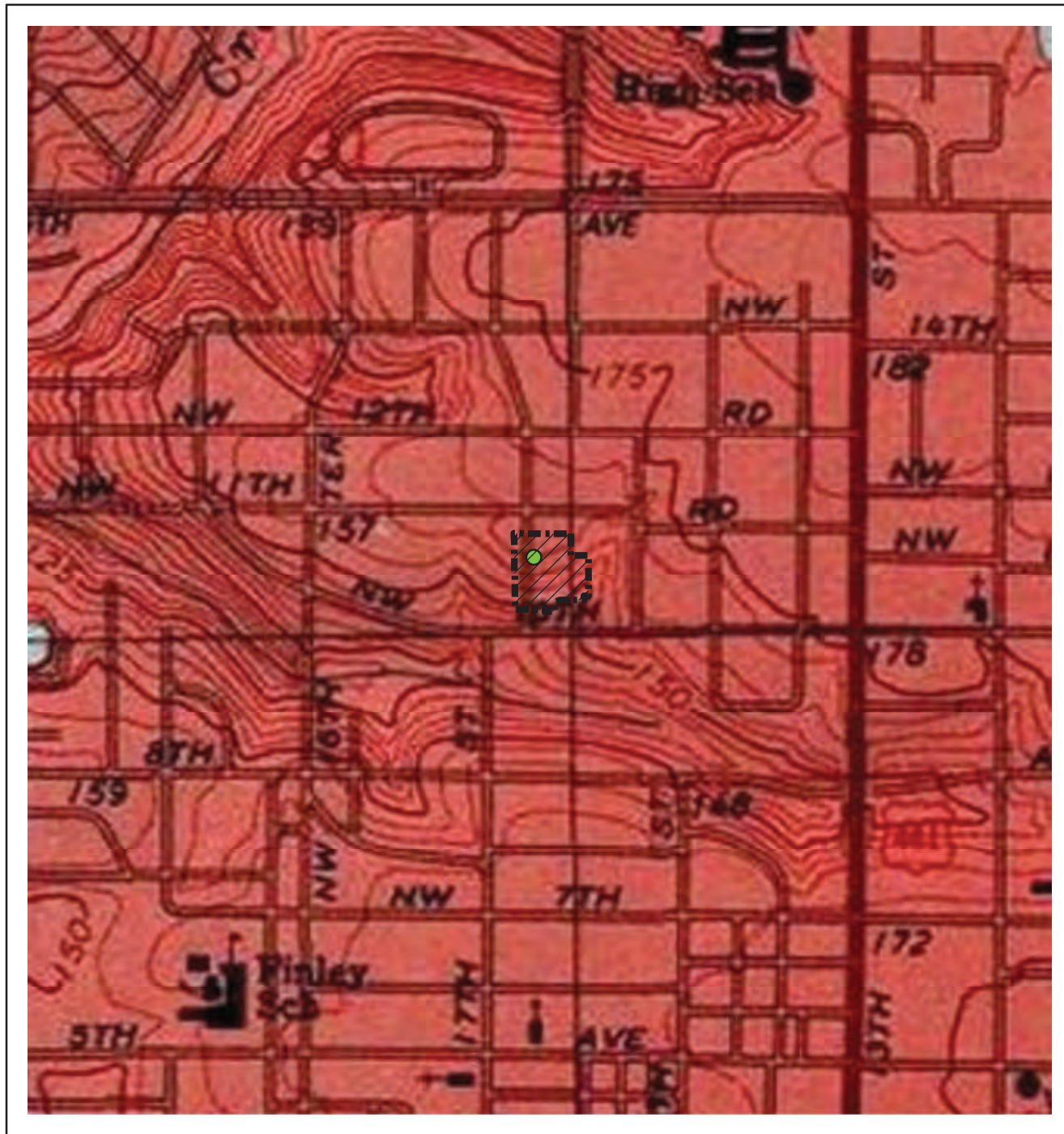
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0 650 1,300 2,600 Feet

0 150 300 600 Meters

Basemap Source: Source: Esri,
DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar
Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS,
USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping,
Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo,
and the GIS User Community




Cox Family Log House

1639 Northwest 11th Road
Gainesville, Alachua Co., FL

UTM:
17R 369966 3282132

Datum: WGS84

Legend

 Proposed National Register Boundary

Date: 12/7/2016

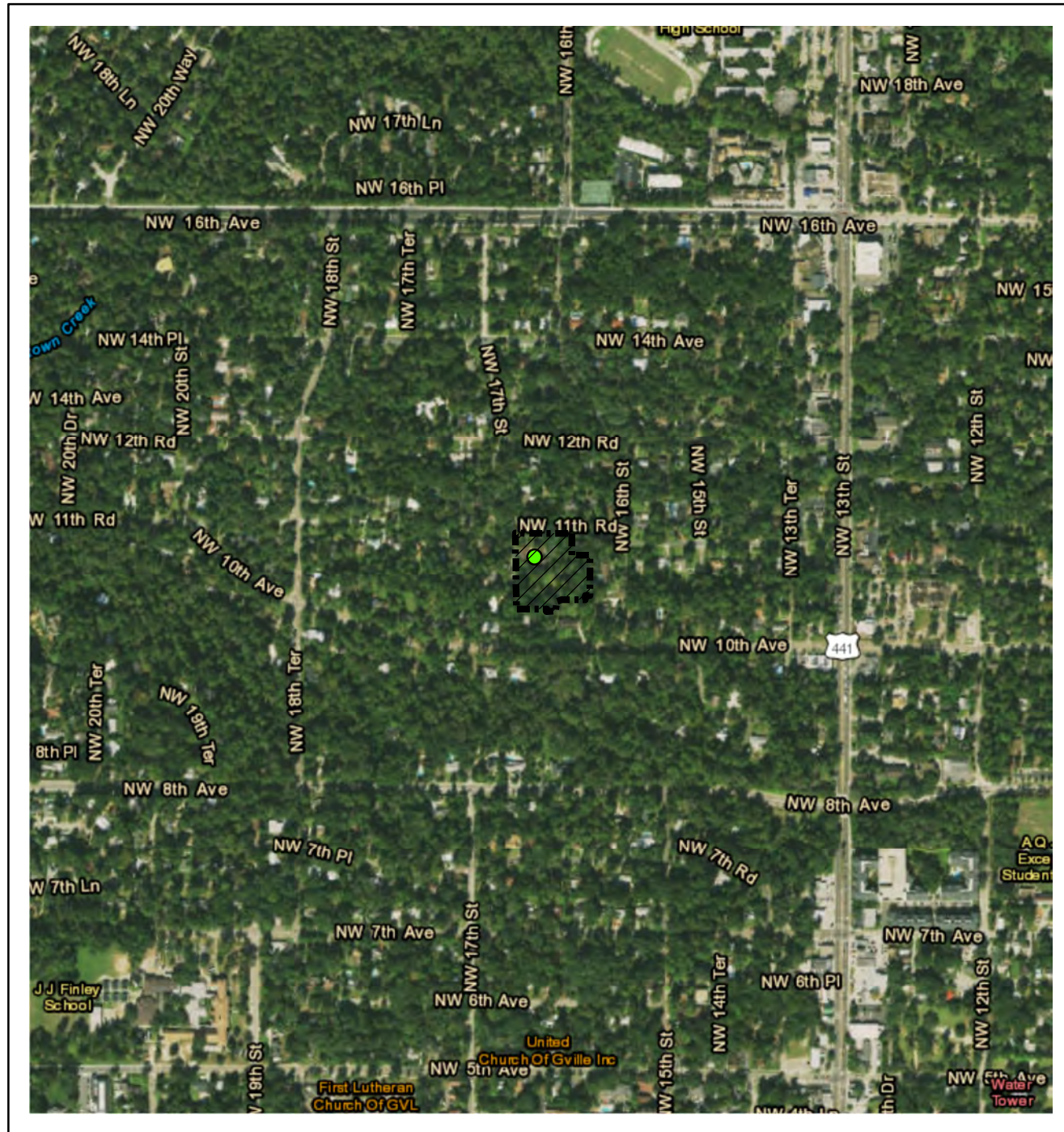
1:10,000



0 650 1,300 2,600 Feet

0 150 300 600 Meters

Basemap Source: Source: Esri,
DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar
Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS,
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Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo,
and the GIS User Community




Cox Family Log House

1639 Northwest 11th Road
Gainesville, Alachua Co., FL

UTM:
17R 369966 3282132

Datum: WGS84

Legend

 Proposed National Register Boundary

Date: 12/7/2016

1:1,500



0 100 200 400 Feet

0 20 40 80 Meters

Basemap Source: Source: Esri,
DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar
Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS,
USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping,
Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo,
and the GIS User Community





















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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Cox Family Log House

Multiple Name:

State & County: FLORIDA, Alachua

Date Received: 3/17/2017 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List: 5/1/2017

Reference number: SG100000931

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 5/1/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary: Interesting, architect-designed rustic (log) house situated on a wooded lot in Gainesville.
Comments: Combines aspects of modern design in the layout of rooms and spaces with rustic materials. Additions to the house have respected the original design intent.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / C

Reviewer: Jim Gabbert

Discipline: Historian

Telephone: (202)354-2275

Date: _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

January 9, 2017

Andrew Waber
Division of Historical Resources
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: Cox Family Log House

Dear Mr. Waber:

On Tuesday, January 3, 2017, during a regularly scheduled meeting, the City of Gainesville Historic Preservation Board voted to support the nomination of the Cox Family Log House to the National Register of Historic Places. The vote was 7-0, with no official comments. The property, located at 1639 NW 11th Road, and built circa 1937, is an unusual example of the residential adaptation of the New Deal Era Rustic Style of architecture. The board noted the unique character of the house. Several members of the board are familiar with the property and they are pleased to support the effort to register the property on the National Register.

If we can be of any additional service, please do not hesitate to contact us at 352-334-5022.

Sincerely,



Jay Reeves, Jr., Chair



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE



RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

March 8, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief,
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
Department of the Interior
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Cox Family Log House (FMSF#: 8AL01339), in Alachua County**, to the National Register of Historic Places. The related materials (digital images, maps, and site plan) are included.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6364 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Ruben A. Acosta
Supervisor, Survey & Registration
Bureau of Historic Preservation

RAA/raa

Enclosures