

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 an 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 Stawn Historic Sawmill District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 5710 Lake Winona Road N/A not for publication

city or town DeLeon Springs N/A vicinity

state Florida code FL county Volusia code 127 zip code 32130

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.)

Suzanne P. Walker / Deputy SHPO 8/3/93
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
 State of 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.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register Date of Action

Delores Bryan

9/15/93

Strawn Historic Sawmill District
Name of Property

Volusia, Florida
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>3</u>		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Citrus Industry Resources of
Theodore Strawn, Inc.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry/Sawmill

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry/Sawmill

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style/Wood Frame Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Wood
Metal
roof Metal
other Metal: Conveyor Housing

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Industry

Period of Significance

1932-1942

Significant Dates

1932

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Strawn Historic Sawmill District
Name of Property

Volusia, Florida
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2 approximately

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	7	4	6	4	9	4	0	3	2	2	3	2	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

3

Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date July 21, 1993

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

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 Theodore Strawn, Inc.

street & number Post Office Box 68 telephone _____

city or town DeLeon Springs state Florida zip code 32130-0068

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 to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

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

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

Description

Summary Paragraph

The Strawn Sawmill Historic District, located at 5710 Lake Winona Road in DeLeon Springs, is an approximately two acre industrial area comprising three contributing buildings erected between 1932 and 1942. There are no noncontributing buildings or structures. The resources consist of a large open shed or pavilion that houses the milling machinery, a sawdust building, and a lumber storage shed. All of the structures are constructed of wood and are vernacular in design. The machinery is still operational and all of the resources retain a high degree of historical physical integrity.

Supporting Narrative

The Strawn Historic Sawmill District is located immediately north of DeLeon Springs on a site bounded by Lake Winona Road on the east, U.S. Highway 17 on the north, undeveloped land on the west, and the CSX Railroad right-of-way and County Road 3 on the south. The district occupies an approximately quadrilateral tract of land, the boundaries of which parallel roadways on three sides. The surrounding area is rural, and buildings and structures in the vicinity are widely scattered and include a U.S. Forest Service fire tower, private residences, and farms. The Strawn Historic Citrus Packing House District lies immediately to the southeast of the sawmill.

The buildings in the district stand in a grassy area surrounded by pines and live oaks. The mill building (A) has a northwest/southeast axis that approximately parallels the railroad tracks. The sawdust building (B) has the same orientation as the mill, but the lumber shed (C) is oriented on a east/west plane. The lumber shed lies about 200 feet southeast of the sawmill. All of the structures in the district are examples of functional vernacular construction and are completely lacking in decoration or references to popular architectural styles. The mill building (Photos 1-4) measures approximately 70 by 25 feet and houses all of the milling machinery. The structure is actually an open shed with a gable roof supported by square wood posts that rest upon a foundation of concrete piers. The roof is covered with crimped metal sheeting, and the gable ends are filled with vertical wood siding. The side elevations of the mill building feature a high skirt of vertical wooden siding that is designed to protect the knee braces of the roof trusses from the rain. The open bays formed by this type of

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

Description

construction allow free movement by the workers along the conveyors.

Logs enter the mill at the south elevation, where a slab saw trims bark and other cull materials from them. A conveyor (D) that extends thirty feet from the southwest corner of the building (Photo 2) is used to load slabs into trucks. Carriages mounted on rails run along the west elevation of the building. These haul trimmed logs to the head saw, which because of the threat of vandalism is removed when the mill is not in use. This saw is located near the north end of the building and leaves planks in a rough cut state. Lumber produced by the mill is not planed or finished. A conveyor located at the northeast corner of the mill carries sawdust to a small wood frame storage building (Photo 5 and 6). The sawdust storage bin has a gable roof covered with crimped metal panels and supported by knee braces in the gable ends. The structure has vertical exterior wood siding that is fixed to the interior frame with battens. The building stands on stilts to provide space for the hopper beneath it from which the sawdust is dumped into trucks. The wood posts that support the sawdust bin rest on concrete piers.

The lumber storage shed (Photo 7) is a two-story rectangular structure measuring approximately 120 by 30 feet. It has a shallow pitched gable roof covered with crimped metal panels and exposed rafter ends. The gable ends are defined by "Y" shaped walls, knee braces, and corrugated metal exterior wall fabric. Massive wood posts set on concrete piers support the building and create nine storage bays. Large braces extend at an angle from each post to support the eaves of the roof and provide additional storage space in second-story bays.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

Photographs

List of Photographs

1. Sawmill Building, Strawn Sawmill Historic District
2. DeLeon Springs, Florida
3. Sidney Johnston
4. 1992
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Northwest and Southwest Elevations, Looking Southeast
7. Photo No. 1 of 7

Name of district and numbers 2-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

1. Sawmill
6. Southwest Elevation, Looking Northeast
7. Photo No. 2 of 7

1. Sawmill
6. Southeast Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 3 of 7

1. Sawmill
6. Interior, View of Machinery, Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 4 of 7

1. Sawdust Bin
6. Southeast Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 5 of 7

1. Sawdust Bin
6. Northwest Elevation, Looking East
7. Photo No. 6 of 7

1. Lumber Shed
6. South And East Elevations, Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 7 of 7

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

Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Strawn Historic Sawmill District is significant at the local level under criterion A in the areas of agriculture and industry. The district is significant for its association with Theodore Strawn, Inc., historically one of the most important citrus operations in the town of DeLeon Springs and Central Florida. At its present site, beginning in 1932, the mill produced lumber for the construction of field and packing crates used in the gathering and shipment of citrus processed at the nearby citrus packing plant. The mill complex is typical of small operations in Florida that were historically moved from one site to another to take advantage of surrounding stands of timber.

Supporting Narrative

Theodore Strawn was born in Illinois in 1870. He attended Northwestern University where had studied law and was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1896. He came to Florida in the early 1880s to visit his parents, who in 1880 had settled in DeLeon Springs (then called Spring Garden). His father, Robert Strawn, was a winter resident of the community and had purchased several citrus groves in the area. The family also continued to maintain a farm in Illinois, returning there each spring. Theodore Strawn began making regular visits to Florida after 1897 and about 1905 began investing in real estate in DeLeon Springs and, like his father, purchased a number of citrus groves in the area.

Theodore Strawn assembled large citrus holdings over the next two decades, in part by acquiring existing groves that other growers could not make profitable. Through careful cultivation, using the latest scientific methods, he quickly made the groves profitable. He began his citrus packing operations about 1909, establishing his own "Bob White" brand. At first, he worked out of a small tent, moving from grove to grove boxing oranges. In 1912, Strawn constructed a two-story wood frame packing house located near the DeLeon Springs railroad depot. By 1915 he had become one of the major citrus growers in Central Florida, cultivating nearly 100 acres of groves and shipping approximately 20,000 boxes of oranges annually.

Among the parcels of property Strawn acquired in the vicinity of DeLeon Springs were two large tracts immediately north of the community on which he planned to develop new citrus groves. The property, however, contained valuable stands of pine

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

Significance

trees that needed to be cleared to make space for his groves. Strawn believed he could partly reduce his operating costs by using the timber for building construction and for assembling field boxes and citrus crates. Many citrus producers relied upon local independent lumber companies to provide them with such services, but Strawn wished to personally control every facet of his business operations. Strawn set up his first sawmill in 1918, purchasing the saws and other machinery from a company in the Midwest. The equipment for this first mill included saws, carriages, a steam boiler, drive shafts, conveyors, belts, and pulleys. The mill required about eleven men to run the machinery and was usually operated during the early fall, about two months before the citrus harvest.

The sawmill was assembled about two miles northeast of its present site near the shore of Lake Skull. The following year, the sawmill was dismantled and moved south to an area between lakes Carraway and Winona, once again being used to clear land for the establishment of new groves, the lumber produced being used for various operations by the Strawn Company. Between 1919 and 1921 the sawmill was used only occasionally. In 1921, the boiler for the steam engine was removed for use at the new citrus packing plant then being constructed by Strawn. A new diesel engine was installed to power the sawmill, since it was easier to transport to new locations. Use of the mill was intermittent for much of the next decade.

In 1932, the sawmill was once again dismantled and then rebuilt at its present site. The mill building, its equipment, and the sawdust bin were moved to the new location. In 1934, a large lumber shed was constructed to store wood cut at the mill. For a brief period during the 1930s, the Strawn Company operated the mill as a commercial enterprise. However, the rough cut lumber offered for sale could not compete with the better and less expensive grades readily available from lumber yards in nearby DeLand and Barberville. The depressed economy of the area also dampened building construction so that there was little demand for lumber. The company continued to operate the sawmill each year from October to November in order to cut enough wood to repair buildings and construct boxes for the winter citrus harvest.

The sawmill remained an essential part of the Strawn citrus operations that included the nearby packing plant and the complex of barns, residences and support structures found in the town of DeLeon Springs. Its purpose was to serve the immediate needs of

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

Significance

the company rather than supply lumber for the general commercial market. The mill also processed only that timber found on land owned by Strawn, Inc., rather than acquiring timber rights from other land owners. There were numerous large and small sawmill operations throughout Florida during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, but by the 1930s much of the state's timber reserves had been cut, causing the majority of the mills to close. By the mid 1930s, nearly all of the 16 million acres of virgin timber that had sustained Florida's lumber and naval stores industries since the 1870s had disappeared. The Strawn Historic Sawmill District, therefore, represents one of the few remaining historic sawmill operations in Florida and it has continued in existence in virtually the same form for more than fifty years.

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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Section I: Major Bibliographical References

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Description & Justification

Boundary Description

As shown on the district map. The district is defined by U.S. Highway 17 on the north, Lake Winona Road on the east, the CSX Railroad line and County Road 3 on the south, and a tract of undeveloped property on the west.

Boundary Justification

The district as shown on the map contains all of the buildings historically associated with the immediate operation of the sawmill.