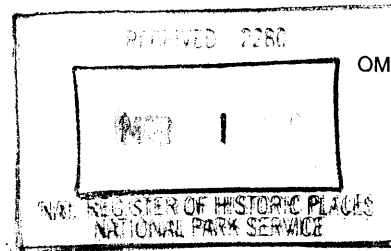


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



358

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 THE DEZELL HOUSE

other names/site number 328 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street FMSF #GD29

2. Location

street & number 328 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Greensboro N/A  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Gadsden code 039 zip code 32330

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.)

Barton C. Mattick, DSHPO 3/30/06  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

Edson H. Ball

5.10.06

**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
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

"N/A"

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single family  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY  
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Prairie School  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation WOOD  
walls STUCCO/WOOD  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof ASPHALT  
other GLASS  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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

COMMERCE

**Period of Significance**

1912 - 1937

**Significant Dates**

1912

**Significant Person**

Dezell, James A.

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Dezell, James. (designer/builder)

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of Repository

# \_\_\_\_\_

Dezell House  
Name of Property

Gadsden Co., FL  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 6	7 1 6 3 8 0	3 3 8 3 5 8 0
	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 Poucher, Lynne L./Robert O. Jones, Historic Preservationist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date March 2006

street & number 500 South Brounough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state FL 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 West Gadsden Historical Society c/o Lynne L. Poucher

street & number Post Office Drawer D telephone 850-442-6434

city or town Greensboro state FL zip code 32330

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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Section number 7 Page 1 **THE DEZELL HOUSE, GREENSBORO,  
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**SUMMARY**

The Dezell House is located at 328 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Greensboro, Gadsden County, Florida. It is on the northwest corner of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Green Avenue/State Road 12. It is a one-story Prairie Style residence built in 1912. It is distinguished by its prominent horizontal lines, broad eaves on a complex hip roof with dormers on each of the four elevations radiating from the roof peak. The house retains a high degree of its historic integrity.

**SETTING**

The Town of Greensboro is the smallest of Gadsden County's incorporated areas with a current population of 626. From 1908 until 1965 it was a busy agricultural community. State Road 12 runs north/south through the center of town. Highway 12 is the main corridor north to Georgia, and south to Liberty County. Two blocks north of the Dezell House is the post office, and on the same block a small library and volunteer fire station occupy the same building. Gardner Hall (city hall) is located east of the library/fire station building. Within this block are tennis and basketball courts, and a small park with an outdoor pavilion which covers a historic bandstand. One block to the west is the north/south railroad tracks of the Apalachicola-Northern Railroad. The tracks and their right-of-way create a broad green swath through the center of town. A large warehouse fronts the rails one block northwest of the Dezell House. The land is gently rolling with mature trees remaining throughout the community.

Greensboro's oldest remaining buildings are from the early 1900's, and they are the Dezell House and the Badger Fletcher House. The Dezell House is the more visible of the two since it is located on the north/south Greensboro thoroughfare. Most buildings from that era were destroyed by fire during the last thirty-five years. The Dezell House is presently one of seven houses on State Road 12 (Photo #1). The Dezell House architecture distinguishes it from all others within the town. It is painted two shades of green, and has always been so according to some of the area's oldest residents. Directly south of the Dezell House across East 8<sup>th</sup> Street is a vacant parcel of land, several city lots in area.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

**Exterior**

The Dezell House is a one story building measuring 48' x 44' in an L-shaped plan containing 2000 plus square feet of interior space. This frame house has a low pitched hipped roof with broad eaves. The roof rafters are exposed and their ends are finished with a simple 1" x 6" wood fascia. The exterior walls are sand textured stucco with wooden siding below the windows. Horizontal exposed timbers align with the window heads. Four low broad dormers crown the roof, each centrally placed on the four roof slopes. These dormers also have low hipped roofs and sculpted diagonal brackets bracing the eaves. Windows are

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centered in each of the dormers. Exterior wall articulation is horizontally asymmetrical, with coherence being derived by the division of the walls into horizontal bands. All of the windows are of the same height establishing a common head and sill line running the perimeter of the house.

The **south, façade elevation** contains the centrally located main entrance (Photo #2). Two concrete steps access an inset porch occupying the eastern two-thirds of the elevation. Three windows facing south have double hung sashes. The lower portion of the sash is 42" single light, while the upper portion is only 12" high divided by mullions in a diamond and "double-house" pattern. Two of these windows are to the west of the door, and one is to the east fronting onto the porch. The entrance wooden door is 42" wide with a large single light. A mechanical door bell is mounted below the glass within the door. The dormer on this elevation has wooden louvers on each side of the windows, appearing as shutters. These louvers have screen attached inside and act as ventilation for the attic. Three of six textured glass window panes in this dormer have been replaced with clear glass. Vertical mullions intersect with a half diamond pattern at the top of the sash. The concrete porch floor was poured onto a wooden sub-floor. There is a 2" trough (Photo #3) formed into the concrete towards the front of the porch. This allows proper drainage of water during rains.

The **eastern elevation** fronts onto Green Avenue. The inset porch is visible at the south corner, and three windows with 2/2 double hung wooden sash are within the elevation. The dormer on this elevation (Photo #4) is the same in appearance as the one to the south. A corbelled brick chimney pierces the dormer hip roof. To the north is a concrete driveway, giving access to the wing that contains the kitchen and a small wooden porch (Photo #5). A wooden exterior on this kitchen wing is an added utility room. A detached non-historic concrete block garage is to the north of the drive.

The **north elevation** contains the main block of the building, and at the juncture of northern entrance, extends a northern gabled wing (Photo #6). A single 2/2 double-hung wooden sash is within the wall, and an opening where two non-historic windows have been installed encloses the east corner of the back porch. A door, aligned with the south elevation main door, is at this east corner of the porch. The dormer on this elevation has a four light window sash.

The gabled wing has two non-historic metal windows and a wood stove vent between them (Photo #7). The gable contains a louvered vent, and is surfaced with sheet roofing metal. On the northeast corner is a wood surfaced room that houses the electric panel box and the hot water heater.

The **west elevation** has seven windows, five of which have 2/2 double-hung wooden sash (Photo #8). A small awning window second from the south was added when a bathroom was added beside the southwest bedroom. A non-historic metal sash window is at the north end. The west dormer window has the same

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mullion pattern with half-diamonds as the south and east dormer windows, but does not have wooden louvers as seen on the south and east facades.

**Interior**

The interior has hardwood floors, plaster walls and tongue and groove wood ceilings. Ceilings are nine feet high. The interior consists of a living hall, hall; four bedrooms, dining area, kitchen, and two bathrooms. The living hall, the back hallway, and the dinning room have vertical tongue and groove wood wainscoting. Every other board in the wainscoting was planed to make it thinner than the boards next to it. Although the boards are of identical width, the appearance is of board and batting.

Entering the south, main door, is the living hall (Photo #9). It is larger than a typical foyer, and has wainscoting and picture molding around the room. Immediately to the left (west) is a door into a bedroom, and the east wall has a door into a bedroom. A fireplace is on the west wall with a wooden mantel that extends over wooden cabinets on either side of the fireplace. Open shelves are beside the cabinet to the north (Photo #10). A decorative metal casting surrounds the firebox. The fireplace's hearth is tile. In the ceiling is a wagon-wheel-shaped skylight (Photo #11). The skylight is constructed of ribbed glass panes between wooden spokes, hub and rim. Light enters the attic through each of the four dormer windows and in turn lights the skylight. Through two French doors in the north wall is a small hall that exits onto a rear, north porch.

There are two bedrooms to the east, and two bedrooms to the west of the central living hall and small north hall. The two bedrooms to the east have crown molding between wall and ceiling, and picture moldings. A three piece baseboard is in the southeast room. The east rooms have back-to-back fireplaces in the center of the shared wall. The fireplaces have plain wooden surrounds with wooden mantels supported by two round columns (Photos #12&13). Each fireplace is flanked by a wood box built into the wall. In the same wall are closets in each room that are lined with tongue and groove cedar.

The bedrooms on the west have crown molding at the ceiling but no picture molding. The southwest room has a three-part base board. The rooms to the west of the living hall have canted corner fireplaces (Photos #14 & 15). The two western bedrooms and living hall fireplaces have a common chimney. The two mantles are smaller than and have several ornamental appliquéés on each fireplace surround. A small bathroom was added to the northwest bedroom in the 1950s, reducing the space in the southwest bedroom. The bathroom includes a cast iron tub, a wall mounted sink, and toilet with a cabinet built above the toilet (Photo #16). Doors enter the bathroom from both western bedrooms.

From the small north hall are doors into the northeast and northwest bedrooms. Another door to the west enters the dining room and kitchen (Photo #17). A wall between these two rooms was removed during a kitchen renovation. The original kitchen had a wood stove against the north wall, and a sink with running

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water. A pantry was to the east of the kitchen which served as storage space for the canned fruits and vegetables from the family's garden.

The original bathroom was located in the rear northeast corner of the house. Since no electricity was available, the hot water for the shower was provided by a kerosene hot water heater. The original bathroom's fixtures have been removed. There is one entrance into the bathroom from the north porch, and a second from the northeast bedroom. The bathroom floor material was known as "Kelly Stone." This floor was formed with a gentle curve joining the floor and the stucco wall.

The attic is accessed with an extension ladder through an opening in the ceiling of the northeast bedroom. Although the attic has headroom, it has no flooring (Photo #18). It is framed of rough sawn 2" x 4" lumber. The brick chimneys pierce the roof, and occupy the attic space with the east chimney built at an angle.

The original wiring was of the knob and tube type, and remains in place. It was installed after construction. The Dezell House had electricity earlier than most homes in Gadsden County. Dezell had a Delco power unit with glass battery jars that occupied an entire shelf in a shed room just outside the kitchen toward the east. This power unit was operated only when needed. Gadsden County's electricity services expanded in the 1940's via the Rural Electrification Act and the creation of Talquin Electric Cooperative, Inc. Dezell also was one of the few citizens that had not only electricity but telephone service as well, being listed in the 1920 Quincy Telephone Company directory.

**Non-Contributing Building**

There is one outbuilding on the site. This front gabled rectangular garage and storage room was constructed of concrete blocks with a tin roof in 1964. At that time there was an aluminum carport attached to the northeast side of the house that was removed in the 1970's.

No longer remaining is an original garage that was west of the house and opened to the south onto East 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Also gone are a wash shed and a chicken house that were located on the north end of the property.

**ALTERATIONS:**

The second small bathroom by the western bedrooms was added circa 1950. In 1964 a garage was added to the north of the house, and an eastern kitchen entrance was opened. An exit from the dining room to the rear porch was removed since the kitchen door was installed. A dining room window on the east wall was removed. Bathroom fixtures were removed from the original bathroom in the 1970's to make a large walk-in closet. During the 1970's the wall was removed between the kitchen and dining room. At this time the kitchen cabinets were remodeled. Two wooden windows were removed from the front porch during the



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1970's returning it to the original screened arrangement. The exterior wooden shingles were removed due to moisture deterioration about 1980, and replaced with wooden siding.

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**SUMMARY**

The Dezell House is significant on the local level under Criteria B and C in the areas of Architecture and for its biographical association with James A. Dezell. The house was designed and built in 1912 by James A. Dezell, Greensboro's first mayor and a local businessman. The Dezell House is an excellent example of the Prairie Style popular during the early 1900's, one of the oldest houses in the town, and the only house of this style in Greensboro. With its wood and stucco exterior, and emphasis on horizontal lines and complex hip roof with dormers on all four elevations, it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Prairie Style.

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

**Greensboro**

Greensboro began as a purchase of 160 acres by J. William Green in 1889. He platted the town and secured a post office. It was known only as Green's in the early days. It became known as the Town of Greensboro in the early 1900's. Green's was centrally located between the much older communities of Providence, Juniper, Sycamore, Flat Creek, Alamo and Sawdust. Upon completion of the railroad in 1907, the town began to grow. James A. Dezell served as mayor of the unincorporated town from 1908 through the acceptance of its first charter on May 10, 1911, that made it officially the Town of Greensboro. The area's economy was fueled by farming, livestock, turpentine, and lumbering. The population of the town reaching 309 by 1920.

Though its population was small, the town was supported by all of the people living in the outlying rural communities. All of these communities had their own schools early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but as travel became readily accessible Greensboro became home of a school for everyone in the area. The Greensboro High School building was erected in 1923. This school served whites only, grades 1-12, until 1967. There were plays produced at the high school that brought entertainment to many throughout the area. The Greensboro Hotel (built 1905) was home to many young women just graduated from the Florida State College for Women (Florida State University). These young women would come to Greensboro for their first teaching assignment. The teachers found work, but many of the local bachelors found wives. The hotel was a social center for the community. Greensboro had its own bank, established in 1911 and closed voluntarily in 1934; a theater established in 1945; a pharmacy with a soda shop; café; farm-supply and dry goods stores.

Most of the local farmers raised shade tobacco. Shade tobacco was grown under a framework of posts and wire overlaid with cheesecloth to provide protection for the delicate plants. This tobacco was used for cigar wrappers; therefore, the leaves had to be perfect with no holes or tears. In 1946, Mr. William Inman built a tobacco packing house in Greensboro. It was in operation until 1952. During that year Mr. Charlie Macon

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was hired to retool the packing house, making it a cigar factory rather than just a warehouse. The cigar factory employed over 225 people who were fed lunch each day in the factory cafeteria. The cigar factory was in business from 1952 until 1957. In addition to tobacco, most of the farmers also raised corn, livestock and sugarcane. With the rationing of sugar during World War II, demand for sugarcane syrup grew rapidly. Sugarcane was a crop harvested and made into syrup during the fall and winter months after the tobacco crop had already gone to market during the summer. Due to the demise of the tobacco business in the 1970s and many fires in Greensboro that claimed some of the commercial buildings, the school and the hotel, the Town of Greensboro was no longer a center for activity. The present population, however, has increased to 626.

Across the street, south of the Dezell house is a parcel, once owned by S. W. Anderson, a local businessman and banker, was the site of the Anderson family home. Mr. Anderson, a contemporary of Mr. Dezell founded the Bank of Greensboro. This very bank was later moved to Quincy and is now the Bank of America. The Anderson House was one of three residences along with the Dezell House and the Badger Fletcher House listed as having historic value in the 1991 analysis of the Town of Greensboro for its land use and comprehensive development plan. The Anderson House was purchased by a developer, moved to Indian Pass on Florida's Gulf Coast, remodeled and re-sold in 2003. Not wanting to see this sort of thing happen again, a group of Gadsden County's concerned citizens formed the West Gadsden Historical Society, Inc. (WGHS) in June, 2004. The primary goal of WGHS was to purchase the Dezell House, restore it to its earlier splendor developing it as a museum and visitors' center showcasing the many historical treasures and the natural beauty of this region of the Florida panhandle.

**James A. Dezell**

James A. Dezell, moved to Gadsden County in 1886, where he worked as a building contractor, had a lumber mill business, land development, and was noted for his furniture crafting business. In 1905 he was chosen to build the Greensboro Hotel. He was selected as Greensboro's first mayor during a citizens' meeting August 13, 1908. During this meeting he signed the first fifteen municipal ordinances as his first official act.

Dezell was born June 3, 1867 in Chicago. His parents, Samuel and Mary Ford Dezell moved their family to Missouri in 1870. In 1880 the Dezell family along with another family named Snider moved to Gadsden County, Florida. Mr. Snider had purchased land in Gadsden County, sight unseen. It took months for the two families to make the long journey from Missouri by covered wagon. They were forced to camp along the roadside for two months while the children recovered from a measles outbreak. The Dezells originally settled in Mt. Pleasant, Florida. Samuel and James, both contractors, built several houses in the Mt. Pleasant area. James expanded with a lumber mill and hardware in Greensboro.

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On September 13, 1893, James married a Gadsden County native, Margaret "Maggie" Leila Shepard. James and Maggie had five children, three boys and two girls between 1894 and 1903. In 1912, James and Maggie purchased lots 5 and 6 of block 71 in Greensboro from E. W. Scarborough. To accommodate their family they constructed their 2000+ square foot home on the two lots. In 1923, Lot 4 of Block 71, lying directly north of lots 5 and 6 was purchased from Mr. W. J. Brogden. Dezell built several other residences in the Town of Greensboro as well as the aforementioned hotel. He died June 2, 1937, one day short of his seventieth birthday. During his career Dezell formed two corporations. The Dezell Enterprise Company, of Greensboro was incorporated May 20, 1912. The shareholders were James A. Dezell with 10 shares, I. F. Shepard with 10 shares, and Maggie Dezell with 30 shares. The Dezell Company, of Quincy was incorporated May 28, 1920. Shareholders were James A. Dezell, Wilbur S. Dezell and Frank G. Dezell, each having 25 shares and John R. Jinks having 10 shares. Upon James' death the family business was left in the capable hands of his eldest son, Wilbur S. Dezell, Sr. Wilbur and his wife, Bella, expanded the company into a prosperous molding and furniture manufacturing business during World War II. During the war The Dezell Company was contracted by the defense department to build wooden footlockers. Each soldier had his own footlocker. There are several Gadsden County natives that remember working for Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Dezell in the business during the 1940's. After the war the company made chairs, moldings and other pieces of furniture. In 1958 the business was sold to Higdon-Bell Company which was also in the furniture manufacturing business. Today this business operates in Quincy, Florida, and Cairo, Georgia, as Higdon Furniture Company.

Maggie Dezell was known for her gardening and flowers. She had a flower room located on the west end of the front porch. Located on the south façade, her plants survived the North Florida winters. Several years after James' death, Maggie moved to Delray to live with her eldest daughter, Mary Leila Dezell Davis. She died March 11, 1958. After her death the Dezell family home was sold to T. B. Fletcher, who bought the house as an investment, renting it until he sold it to Robert and Lottie Burke in March, 1960. The Burkes lived in the Dezell House four years then sold it to Mr. & Mrs. Thomas D. Layton in July 1964, who used it only a short time before returning to the Sycamore Community, several miles to the north. The Laytons rented the property to several families throughout the years. One of these was the Hatchers, Lonnie and Lorene. Coincidentally Mr. Hatcher was employed by Higdon Furniture Company. In 1979, the Hatchers purchased the Dezell House. In 1988 the Hatchers sold it to Betty Jones. Between the years of 1988-2004 the house was rented and fell into great disrepair and even foreclosure by the Wakulla Bank. The West Gadsden Historical Society purchased the Dezell House October 15, 2004, from Wakulla Bank.

Additionally, the public records of Gadsden County show 34 parcels of land, 16 sold and 18 purchased by James A. & Maggie Dezell between the years of 1895-1929. The Dezell Enterprise Company or Dezell Company purchased another 8 parcels and sold 10 parcels from 1912-1928. In 1917 there are entries recorded identifying The Dezell Enterprise Company as a vendor of Gadsden County. From The Dezell Enterprise Company the county purchased items such as shop wood and hardware.

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GADSDEN, COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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All of these business dealings as well as his tenure as Greensboro's first mayor show James A. Dezell played an important role in the development of Greensboro and Gadsden County. Under the leadership of Mr. Dezell, Ordinances 1-15 prescribing the general powers and duties of the town council, the mayor, the town marshal, the town clerk, providing for levy, assessment and collection of taxes, the public safety, health, decency and morals of the people within the town, the preservation of the streets, squares and public property, fencing of the railroad, as well as the public peace, the town police and punishment of vagrants and tramps, qualifications and registration of electors, setting forth the general provisions for the town government, were passed. There is a plat recorded in the Public Records of Gadsden County known as Dezell's Addition to the City of Quincy. This plat was surveyed by Pierce McDonald August, 1923 and recorded January, 1924. It is evident that James A. Dezell and his wife, Maggie, had an impact on the growth and development of Gadsden County.

The West Gadsden Historical Society, Inc. has located two of James and Maggie Dezell's grandsons, Mr. James R. Dezell of Coral Gables, Florida, and Dr. J. Kenneth Davis of Clearwater, Florida. Dr. Davis was born in the Dezell house in Greensboro, December 31, 1920. A great-granddaughter, Lori Dezell, lives in Tallahassee, Florida, only 35 minutes from Greensboro. It has been with the help of these Dezell family members we have been able to piece together this early history of the Dezells and the Town of Greensboro.

### **ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT**

The Prairie Style dates to the first two decades of the twentieth century, and originated in Chicago, a truly American style. The best known landmark examples are in that region, and publications and pattern books spread the design concepts and more modest examples across the country. The style's popularity quickly diminished after World War I. The facades usually emphasized horizontal lines, and low pitched hip roofs had broad eaves. A sub-type of the style was asymmetrical with asymmetrical facades and inconspicuous entrances. Most of this type had masonry walls. Windows and their treatments provided vertical emphasis. Windows were often double sashes with artistic mullion arrangements. Wooden panel doors with multiple glass openings, sometimes filled with leaded lights or beveled plate glass, were frequent.

### **ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Dezell House is an excellent example of the Prairie Style, and is a distinctive landmark within the small North Florida community of Greensboro. The low hip roof with dormers and broad eaves appears to hover above the low, horizontal one-story exterior walls. A hip roofed dormer is centered on each roof slope of the four elevations of the main building block. Each dormer radiates from the peak of the roof (see roof plan diagram). The short sashes within the dormers have mullions forming half-diamond patterns across the tops. The exterior walls are wood from the window sills to the ground, and stucco finish above. Plain

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wooden trim runs vertically beside each window and door to the height of the window or door, where a horizontal trim spans the elevation. This horizontal trim falls within the shadow of the eaves. The house has always been painted pale green across the stucco exterior which, in contrast to the wood exterior emphasizes the horizontal line of the house. The inset south screened porch occupies the eastern two-thirds of the façade. The windows beside the main door and in the southeast bedroom have mullions forming diamond patterns across the top. Two elements in keeping with the period's Craftsman Style are the four sculpted brackets under the eaves at each dormer, and the built-in cabinets and shelves in the living-hall. Two elements reflecting Dezell's craftsmanship and sensibilities are the wagon wheel-like sky-light centered in the living-hall ceiling, and the alternating thickness of wainscoting boards giving the impression of board and battens. The integrity of the Dezell House is high.

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**PHYSICAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The Dezell House property is on three 100'x50' lots within the platted Map of Greensboro, Gadsden County, Florida, and consists of 0.344 acres. Lots 4, 5, & 6, Block 71. The parcel number is Parcel #: 3-16-2N-5W-1180-00071-0040.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary encompasses the property historically associated with the Dezell House.



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GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST**

1. The Dezell House, 328 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Greensboro
2. Gadsden County, Florida
3. Richard Pohlman
4. August 2005
5. Pohlman, Gainesville Florida
6. Dezell from State Road 12, looking southwest
7. Photo #1 of 18

The items 1 – 5 are the same for the following photographs.

6. South elevation, looking north
7. Photo #2 of 18
  
6. Front, south porch, looking east
7. Photo #3 of 18
  
6. East elevation seen from Highway 12, looking west
7. Photo #4 of 18
  
6. East elevation with garage and driveway, looking west
7. Photo #5 of 18
  
6. North elevation showing ell extension, looking southwest
7. Photo #6 of 18
  
6. North elevation, gable end, looking south
7. Photo #7 of 18
  
6. West elevation, looking southeast
7. Photo #8 of 18
  
6. Living hall and main door, looking south
7. Photo #9 of 18
  
6. West wall, fireplace, cabinets and shelves in living hall, looking northwest
7. Photo #10 of 18

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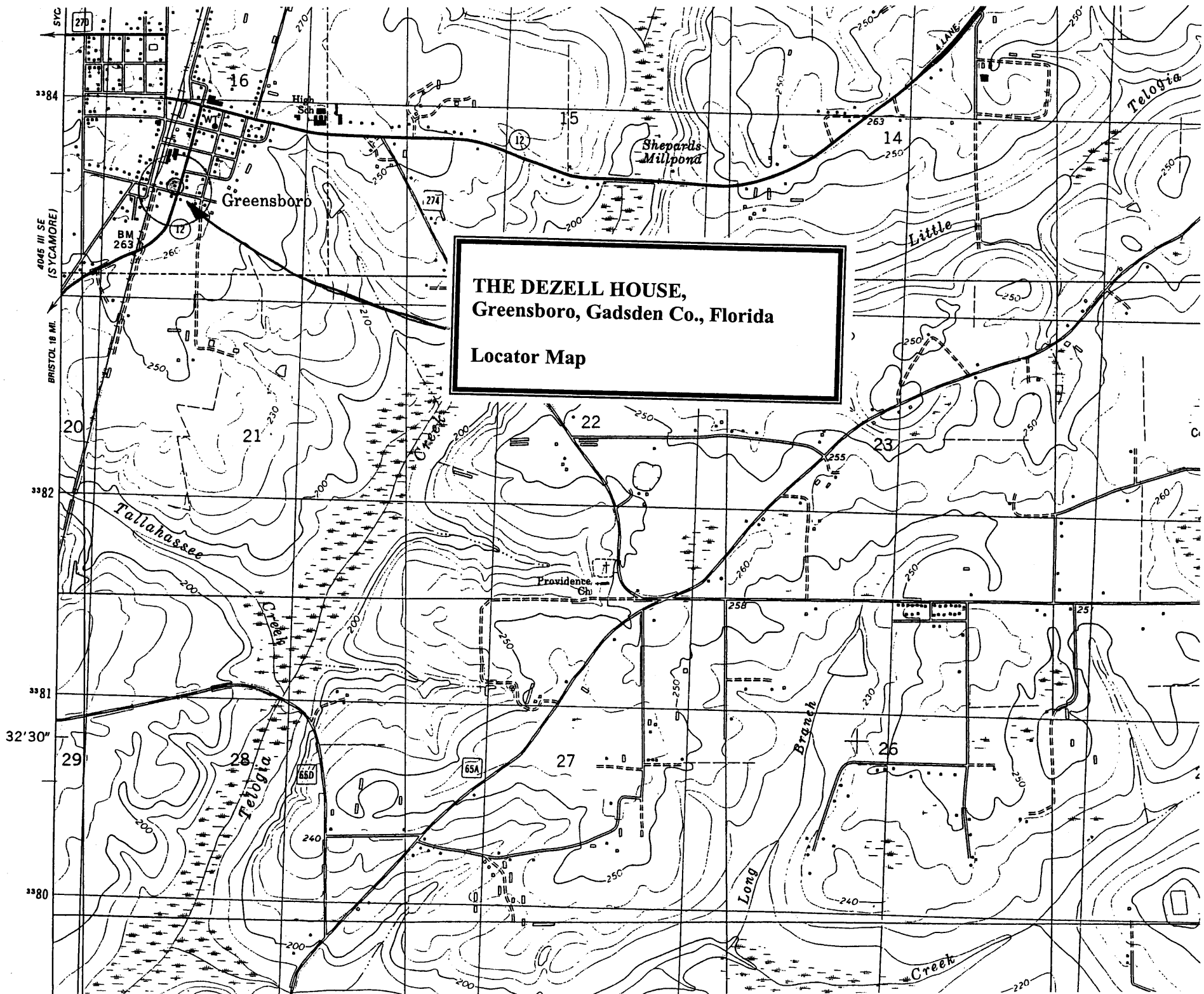
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**THE DEZELL HOUSE, GREENSBORO,  
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- 6. Living hall with skylight, looking north
- 7. Photo #11 of 18
  
- 6. Fireplace in northeast bedroom, looking south
- 7. Photo #12 of 18
  
- 6. Fireplace in southeast bedroom, looking north
- 7. Photo #13 of 18
  
- 6. Canted fireplace in southwest bedroom, looking northeast
- 7. Photo #14 of 18
  
- 6. Canted fireplace in northwest bedroom, looking southeast
- 7. Photo #15 of 18
  
- 6. Bathroom, looking west
- 7. Photo #16 of 18
  
- 6. Kitchen, looking north
- 7. Photo #17 of 18
  
- 6. Attic, looking west
- 7. Photo #18 of 18



**THE DEZELL HOUSE,**  
**Greensboro, Gadsden Co., Florida**  
**Locator Map**

LOT 10

LOT 9  
BLOCK 71

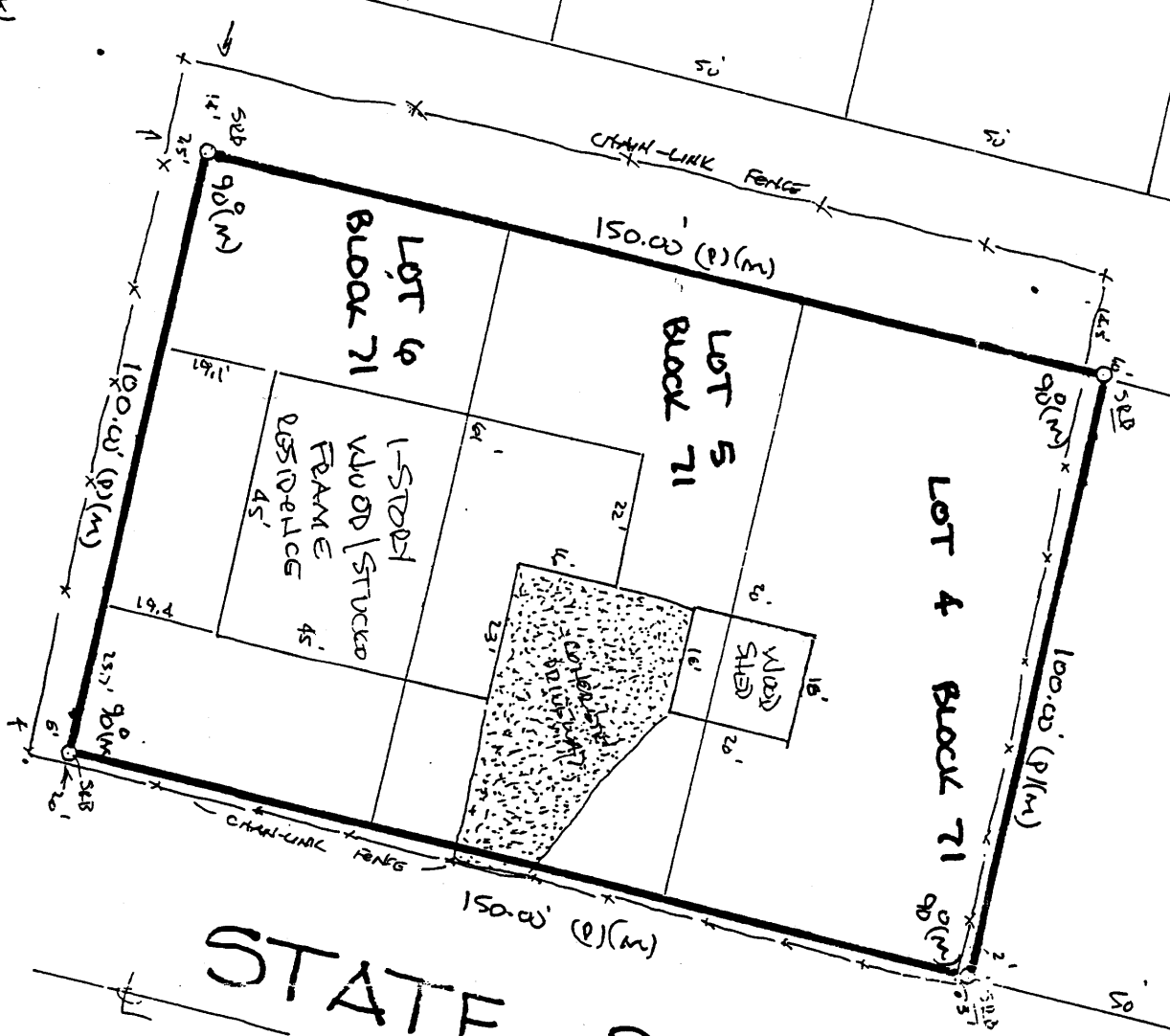
LOT 8  
BLOCK 71

LOT 7  
BLOCK 71

EAST

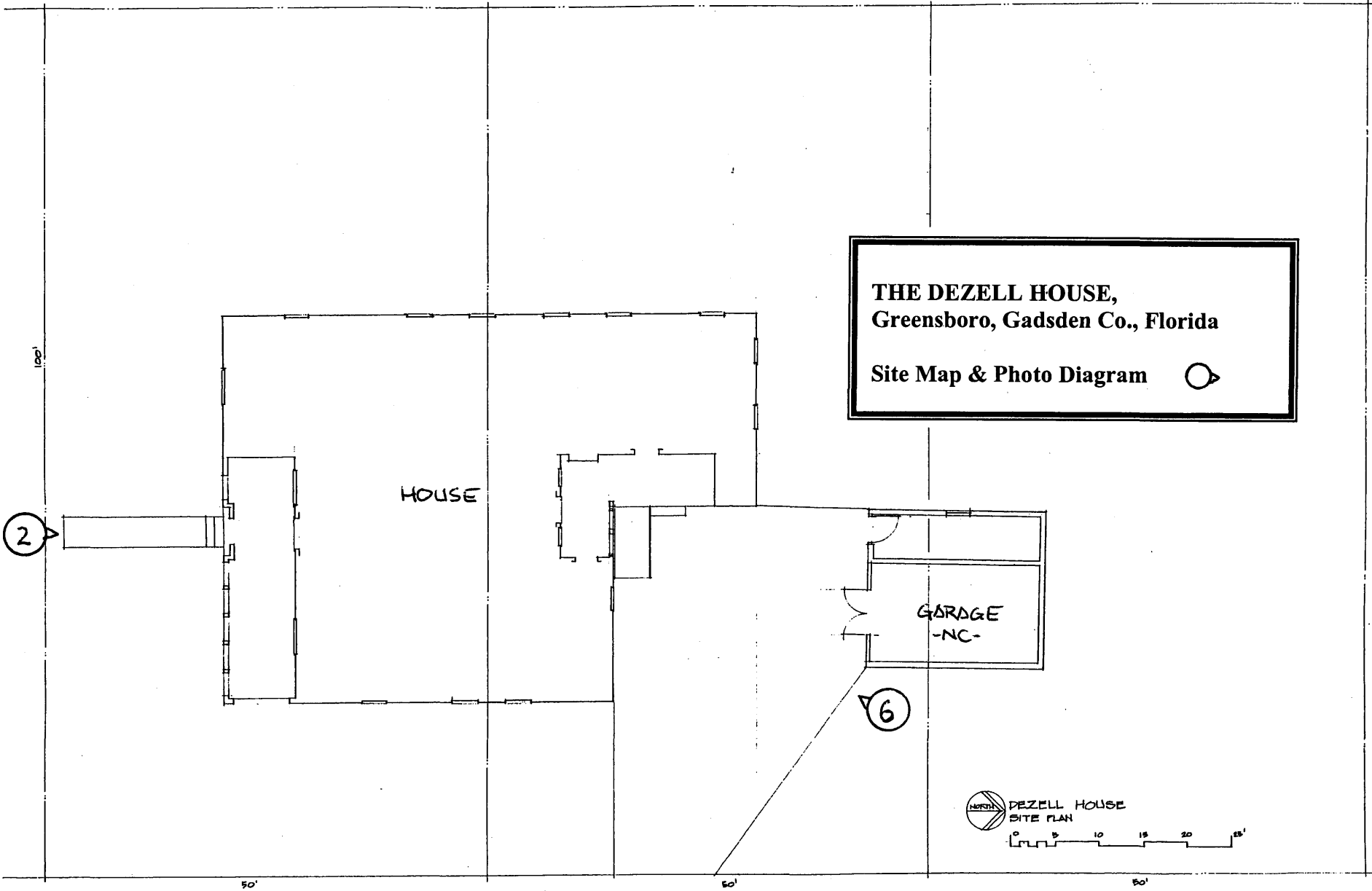
75° 32' 20" W  
70 Feet  
EIGHTH


PAVED  
STREET



STATE ROAD NO. 12  
N14° 27' 40" E (BEARING BASE)

THE DEZELL HOUSE,  
Greensboro, Gadsden Co., Florida  
Site Map



**THE DEZELL HOUSE,**  
**Greensboro, Gadsden Co., Florida**  
**Site Map & Photo Diagram** 

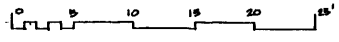
2

HOUSE

GARAGE  
-NC-

6

DEZELL HOUSE  
SITE PLAN



50'

50'

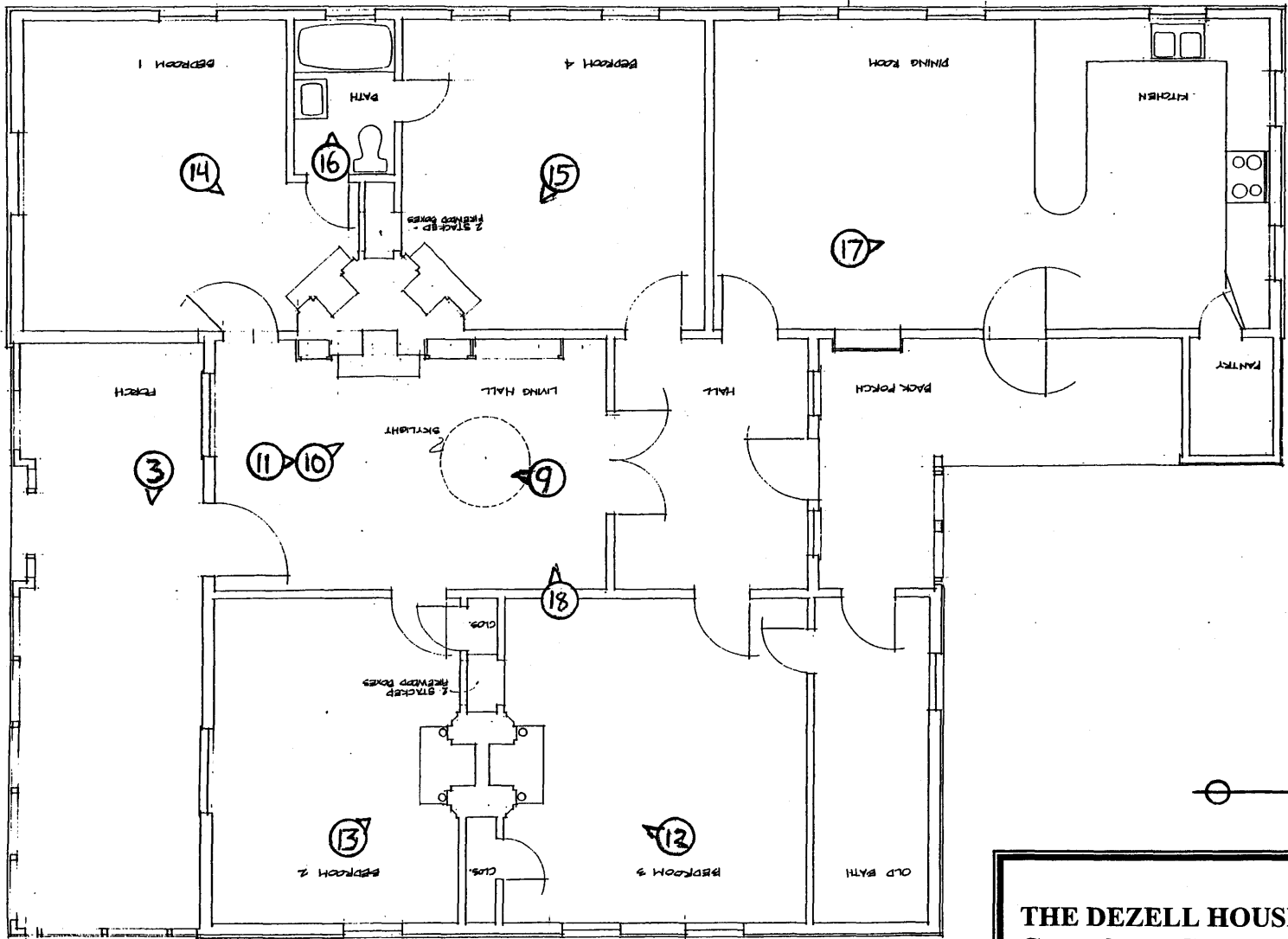
50'

4 STATE ROAD 12


5

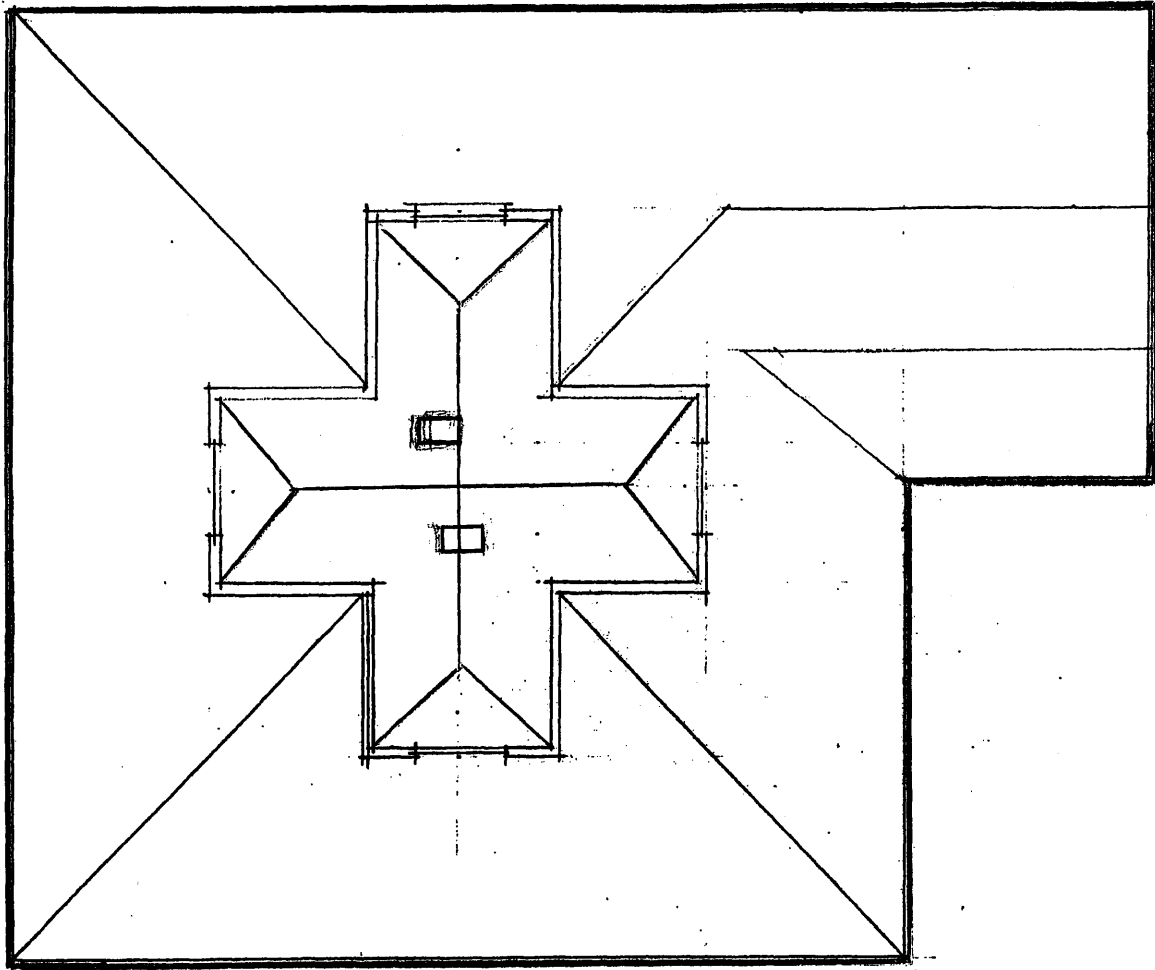
1

DEZELL HOUSE  
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



**THE DEZELL HOUSE,**  
Greensboro, Gadsden Co., Florida

**Floor Plan & Photo Diagram** 



ROOF PLAN

**THE DEZELL HOUSE,  
Greensboro, Gadsden Co., Florida**  
**Roof Plan Diagram**

