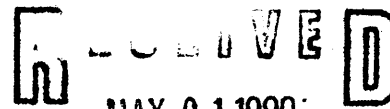


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Old St. Luke's Episcopal Church & Cemetery
other names/site number St. Luke's Church

2. Location

street & number 5555 N. Tropical Trail n/a not for publication
city, town Courtenay (Merritt Island) n/a vicinity
state Florida code FL county Brevard code 009 zip code 32952

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] Date 4/25/90
Signature of certifying official
Florida State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 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] 6/15/90
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Wood
Metal: Aluminum
roof Asphalt
other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Architecture

Significant Person

n/a

Period of Significance

1888-1940

Significant Dates

1888

c1919

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Unknown/Unknown

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

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property Approximately 1 acre

UTM References

A

1	7
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5	2	7	6	5	0
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3	1	4	7	7	2	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is indicated by the heavy dashed-dotted line on the accompanying map entitled, "Sketch of Legal Description for Paul A. Perrine, Jr., Vicar".

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the original parcel of land donated to the church by Edward P. Porcher. It is the land that has been historically associated with Old St. Luke's Episcopal Church and Cemetery.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara E. Mattick/ Historic Sites Specialist
 organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date April 1990
 street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333
 city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 Old St. Luke's Episcopal Church & Cemetery,
Courtenay, Brevard Co., FL

SUMMARY

Old St. Lukes Episcopal Church is an 1888, one story, frame church built in the Late Gothic Revival style. Constructed of cypress, cedar, and native pine, it is a modest example of typical Episcopal churches built in Florida in the 1870s and 1880s, with a vertical board-and-batten exterior; front, double gabled roof; off center bell tower; and small cross gabled extension on the side. It has fixed windows, with six or eight lights, or patterned stained glass. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The interior has a central aisle plan. It is surrounded by a cemetery.

SETTING

The area immediately surrounding the church is little changed from its original appearance. It is located on Merritt Island, three miles from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, in an area dominated by citrus groves. The church building is immediately surrounded by large oak trees and a cemetery which contains, in addition to its numerous conventional grave markers, a large above ground tomb located just north of the original church building (Photo 1). A new sanctuary and a Sunday School building were built on land adjacent to the original lot in 1978 (Photos 2 & 3).

Courtenay is beginning to rapidly develop. Old St. Luke's Church, however, remains isolated among the old orange groves, and is a sort of oasis among the rising condominiums in the surrounding area.

EXTERIOR

The main block of the original St. Lukes Church is oriented on an east-west axis. It is rectangular with a front gabled roof. The roof at the east end is lower with a parallel gable. On the north and south elevations there are single, eight-light gabled windows, with three lights and a gable hood at the top. The east elevation of the main block has three lancet, stained glass windows; the central window is flanked by two smaller windows. The east ends of the north and south elevations have single lancet windows (Photo

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4). A small extension with a gable roof, and fixed, six-light windows extends from the north side of the main block. There is a single door with a shed roof porch on the west elevation of the extension (Photo 5). A square bell tower with a slightly flaired pyramidal roof, topped with a cross, is located near the east end of the north elevation. There are two gabled vents, one in the middle and one in the top third of the tower, on each side (Photo 4).

The main entrance is a single door centered on the west elevation. A small porch with a front gable roof shelters it. The pediment of the gable is decorated with two circular holes and triangular patterns. A wheelchair ramp extends to the south of the porch (Photo 6).

INTERIOR

The interior plan has a central aisle with a raised chancel at the east end. Three stained glass windows are centered over the altar, which is placed against the east wall (Photo 7). The transept extends north to a small area for the organ and choir (Photo 8). East of the chancel is the entry to the sacristy which is located at the bottom of the bell tower (Photos 9 & 10).

One of the most notable features of the interior is the fact that, except for some beaded wainscoting, the interior walls are completely unfinished. The walls are the inner side of the exterior board-and-batten. The rafters are exposed, as are the structural beams of the framing. The diagonal boards between the studs around the nave are placed so as to form a triangular pattern. The floors are also exposed wood except for carpeting on the aisle and in the chancel (Photos 11 & 12).

ALTERATIONS

When St. Luke's was built in 1888, there was a small belfry over the west end of the main block of the building (Photo 13). The only major alteration has been the removal of the belfry and the addition of the bell tower c1919. It was built, presumably, when a bell was transferred from Grace Episcopal Church in Merritt when that church was

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Courtenay, Brevard Co., FL

closed in 1919. The original shake roof is still in place, but is covered with metal (c1965).

The interior was altered slightly when the chancel area was raised, and the three stained glass windows above the altar were raised to maintain their visibility. The wainscoting around the windows was replaced at that time also. The church was air conditioned in 1970. Aluminum siding, applied in 1977, conforms to the pattern of the original board and batten, which remains in place. A small wheelchair ramp leads up to the south side of the main entry porch. The church maintains its essential historic architectural integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, association and location to a large degree.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 Old St. Luke's Episcopal Church & Cemetery,
Courtenay, Brevard Co., FL

SUMMARY

Old St. Luke's Episcopal Church is significant under Criterion A in the area of Exploration and Settlement as one of the earliest surviving buildings in Courtenay, Florida. It is significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of the simple Episcopal churches built throughout Florida in the late nineteenth century.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Episcopal Church in Florida (1821-1892)

Prior to Florida's acquisition by the United States in 1821, most churches in Florida were Roman Catholic except for during the British Period (1763-1783) when the Church of England predominated. In 1821, Trinity Church was established in St. Augustine and its building, the first Episcopal church building in the Territory, was completed in 1825. Other churches followed in Pensacola, Tallahassee, Key West, and Jacksonville. There were seven parishes in the Diocese of Florida when it was organized in 1838.

Settlement spread to the Florida east coast after the passage of the Armed Occupation Act of 1842 which restricted the Seminole Indians to the interior of the peninsula. Indian uprisings continued, however, and settlers generally abandoned the area until after the Civil War.

In 1869 John Freeman Young, the Bishop of the Diocese of Florida, sent missionary clergy to the Indian River area. They surveyed church needs and established missions over the next twenty years. In May 1878, Bishop Young, himself, and another clergyman went to the Halifax and Indian River region and included visits to the new Merritt Island settlements of Courtenay and Merritt. This was the first visit ever made by Episcopal clergymen to the region. A result of this trip was that the Reverend H.B. Stuart Martin from New Jersey was sent to minister in the area. He served congregations in Titusville and New Smyrna, and made "occasional trips across the river to Merritt Island."

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Courtenay, Brevard Co., FL

So much church growth occurred that in 1880 the diocese established distinctions in church status. A "parish" was defined as a self supporting church which was capable of supporting mission activity of its own. A "mission" was defined as a congregation which had any number of persons "of whom three, at least, shall be male communicants, had assembled for services two consecutive Sundays, and adopted the Articles of Association." A mission was not self supporting, but depended upon diocesan funds or support from the national church.

The efforts to establish missions in Florida were supported by two very mission-minded bishops, John Freeman Young and his successor, Edwin Gardner Weed. Financial support also came from Mrs. Lucy A. Boardman, a winter resident from New Haven, Connecticut, who donated funds for the building of numerous churches in the Indian River region. The Episcopal Church grew rapidly across the state, and by 1893, there were 21 parishes and 64 missions.

Courtenay

Courtenay is located on North Merritt Island. Merritt Island was originally settled in the mid-1800s. Most settlers, however, evacuated the area during the Seminole War (1838-1842). The first settlers who came to what was to become Courtenay were the James LaRoche and John H. Sams families. They came to Florida from South Carolina in the 1870s after their homes were destroyed during the Civil War. The families came by boat from Charleston, South Carolina, to Savannah, Georgia, sailed south to the mouth of the St. Johns River, then up the St. Johns to Enterprise across the river from Sanford, Florida. From there the families continued their journey by ox cart to Sand Point, now called Titusville. Settling in Courtenay, they ventured into the citrus business. According to old records, the settlement was named for the mayor of Charleston, South Carolina, who was a friend of Johns Sams. Cattle, citrus, pineapple, bananas and vegetables were the primary products of the area.

By 1897, a Florida Times-Union newspaper article reported: ". . . Courtenay has an Episcopal Church, school,

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Courtenay, Brevard Co., FL

store; the celebrated ostrich farm of H.J. Tiffin; club house, and many vegetable gardens, and several of the finest orange groves in Brevard County. Sugar cane is grown quite extensively." The area was not serviced by the railroads that were built down the Florida East Coast in the early 1900s, however, and by 1939, Courtenay had become an isolated, rural community, described in Florida: Guide to the Southernmost State as, "a settlement that seems a part of the dark enveloping jungle . . . [with] orange trees occupying almost all space between its weathered frame stores and houses."

In spite of the rapid growth in Central Florida after World War II, Courtenay has remained a quiet, rural community surrounded by orange groves, primarily by the design of local homeowners associations. Until recently, they have been successful in limiting development to single families on one acre lots. Their control is waning, however, and the area will soon expand with the construction of multifamily dwellings and condominiums.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

In 1879 St. Luke's Episcopal Church was formed as a congregation by the Porcher, LaRoche and Sams families, who had settled in Courtenay on North Merritt Island. The first services were held in the home of John Sams in Courtenay. The new congregation met in homes of other members and finally in a store building.

The Old St. Luke's Church building was built in 1888 on land donated by Edward P. Porcher and with \$600 provided by Mrs. Lucy A. Boardman, a winter resident from Connecticut. A carpenter from Merritt was hired to build the church. Julia Porcher later deeded enough additional land to make a square block for the church. Both the building and land were consecrated c1890.

Services for the mission were conducted by clergy from neighboring congregations, primarily St. Mark's in Cocoa and St. Gabriel's in Titusville. Lay members conducted Morning or Evening Prayer two Sundays a month, and a priest usually was present twice a month, in addition to conducting

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Courtenay, Brevard Co., FL

weddings and funerals. The 1888 church building was used full time by the congregation until a new building was constructed in 1978. At that time, the old building was designated to be a chapel. The church obtained full parish status in the Diocese of Central Florida on November 15, 1974.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The church buildings erected in the 1870s and 1880s, during the great spread of Episcopal missions, were usually simple, board-and-batten, Late Gothic Revival buildings. The Late Gothic Revival style was the style Bishop Young believed to be most appropriate for ecclesiastical construction for it better reflected the Anglo-Catholic movement then sweeping through the church. While serving as the assistant rector at Trinity Church in New York City, Young had been exposed to the works of the nationally known architect, Richard Upjohn. Upjohn had designed Trinity Church in 1846. His work was so outstanding that he became the foremost church architect in the country. He adapted his designs for small rural parishes, but maintained basic principles of simplicity. Typical features of a church included steeply pitched gabled roofs of varying heights, an asymmetrical plan with a tower and spire set at one side of the main axis, a minimum of external ornament, and intricate interior carpentry in the roof.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Old St. Luke's Church is a modest example of the Late Gothic Revival architectural style developed by Richard Upjohn, and promoted for Episcopal churches in Florida by Bishops John Young and Edwin Weed in the 1870s and 1880s. It is faithful in the use of board and batten and displays the hallmark features of an asymmetrical plan with a tower to one side of the main axis, and pitched roofs of varying heights. The exterior is extremely plain.

The interior of Old St. Luke's Church is distinctive among Florida's Episcopal churches built at that time because it was never completely finished, and provides an unusual view of the structural members of the building.

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Although the lower parts of the interior walls have wainscoting, the studs and interior sides of the walls are exposed, and the rafter system is plainly visible. Together, these features create an intricate and pleasing pattern of triangles, suggesting that the omission of interior finishes may have been intentional.

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Section number 9 Page 1 Old St. Luke's Episcopal Church & Cemetery,
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Continuation Sheet

Photographs 1 Old St. Luke's Episcopal Church & Cemetery,
Section number _____ Page _____ Courtenay, Brevard Co., FL

- 1 1) Old St. Luke's Episcopal Church & Cemetery
2) 5555 N. Tropical Trail, Merritt Island (Courtenay),
Brevard County, Florida
3) Brian L. Joslyn
4) July 1989
5) 1225 Faulkingham Avenue, Merritt Island, FL 32952
6) N elevation, showing Mausoleum, camera facing S
7) 1 of 13

Items 1-5 are the same for Photographs 2-12.

- 2 6) New church and education building, camera facing SE
7) 2 of 13
- 3 6) S elevation new education building, camera facing N
7) 3 of 13
- 4 6) N & E elevations, camera facing SW
7) 4 of 13
- 5 6) N elevation showing Choir/Organ area and side
entrance, camera facing SE
7) 5 of 13
- 6 6) Main entrance, W elevation, camera facing E
7) 6 of 13
- 7 6) Interior showing Altar and Chancel, camera facing E
7) 7 of 13
- 8 6) Interior of Choir/Organ area, camera facing NW
7) 8 of 13
- 9 6) Sacristy at bottom of Bell Tower, camera facing NE
7) 9 of 13
- 10 6) Interior of Bell Tower, camera facing up
7) 10 of 13
- 11 6) SW corner of Nave, showing wainscoting, camera
facing SW
7) 11 of 13

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Photographs 2

Old St. Luke's Episcopal Church & Cemetery,
Courtenay, Brevard Co., FL

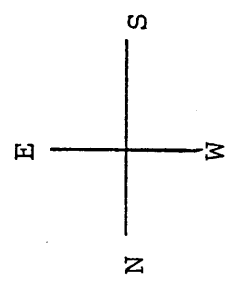
Section number _____ Page _____

- 12
 - 6) Rear of Nave, showing unfinished interior and framing, camera facing W
 - 7) 12 of 13

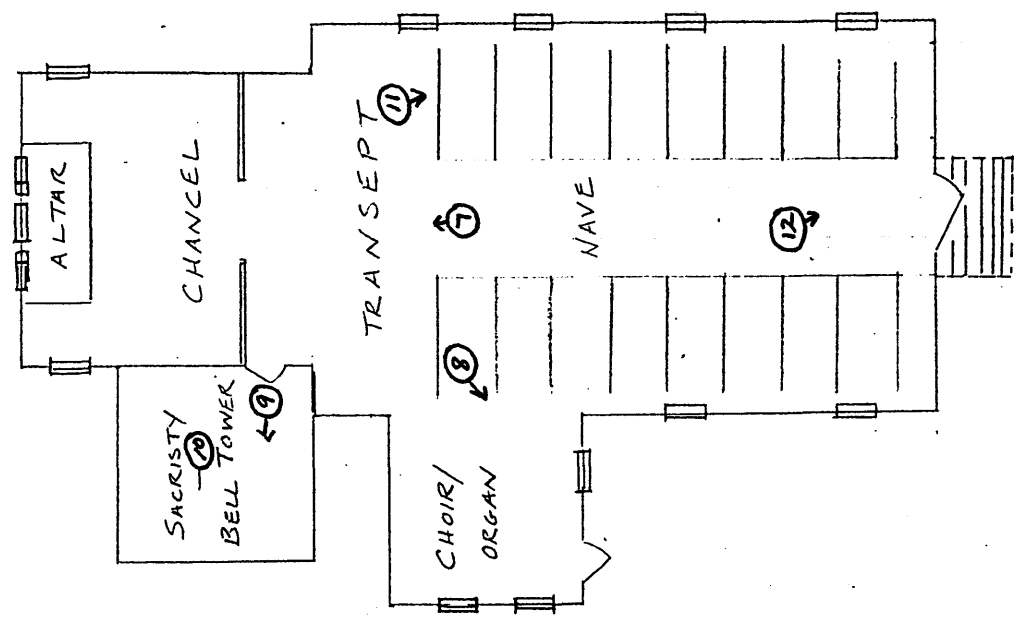
- 13
 - 1) Old St. Luke's Episcopal Church
 - 2) 5555 N. Tropical Trail, Merritt Island (Courtenay), Brevard Co., Florida
 - 3) Unknown
 - 4) March 14, 1898
 - 5) Florida Photographic Archives, Tallahassee, FL
 - 6) Historic photo of W (Main) elevation, camera facing E
 - 7) 13 of 13

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH
Courtenay, Florida

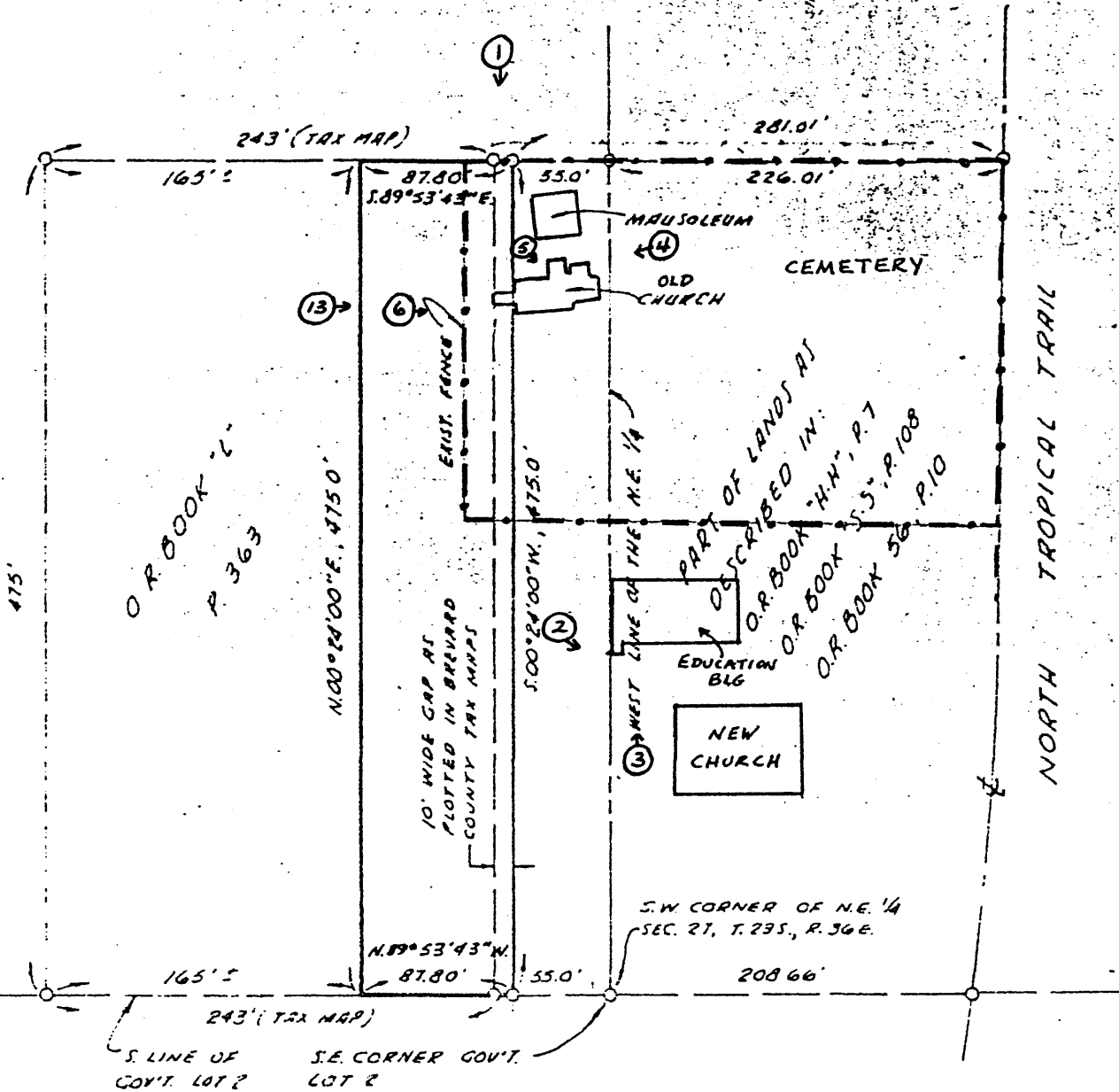
Scale: 1"=10'



⑦ Photo # and direction



OLD ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & CEMETERY
 Courtenay, Florida



SKETCH OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 for:

PAUL A. PERRINE JR.; VICAR

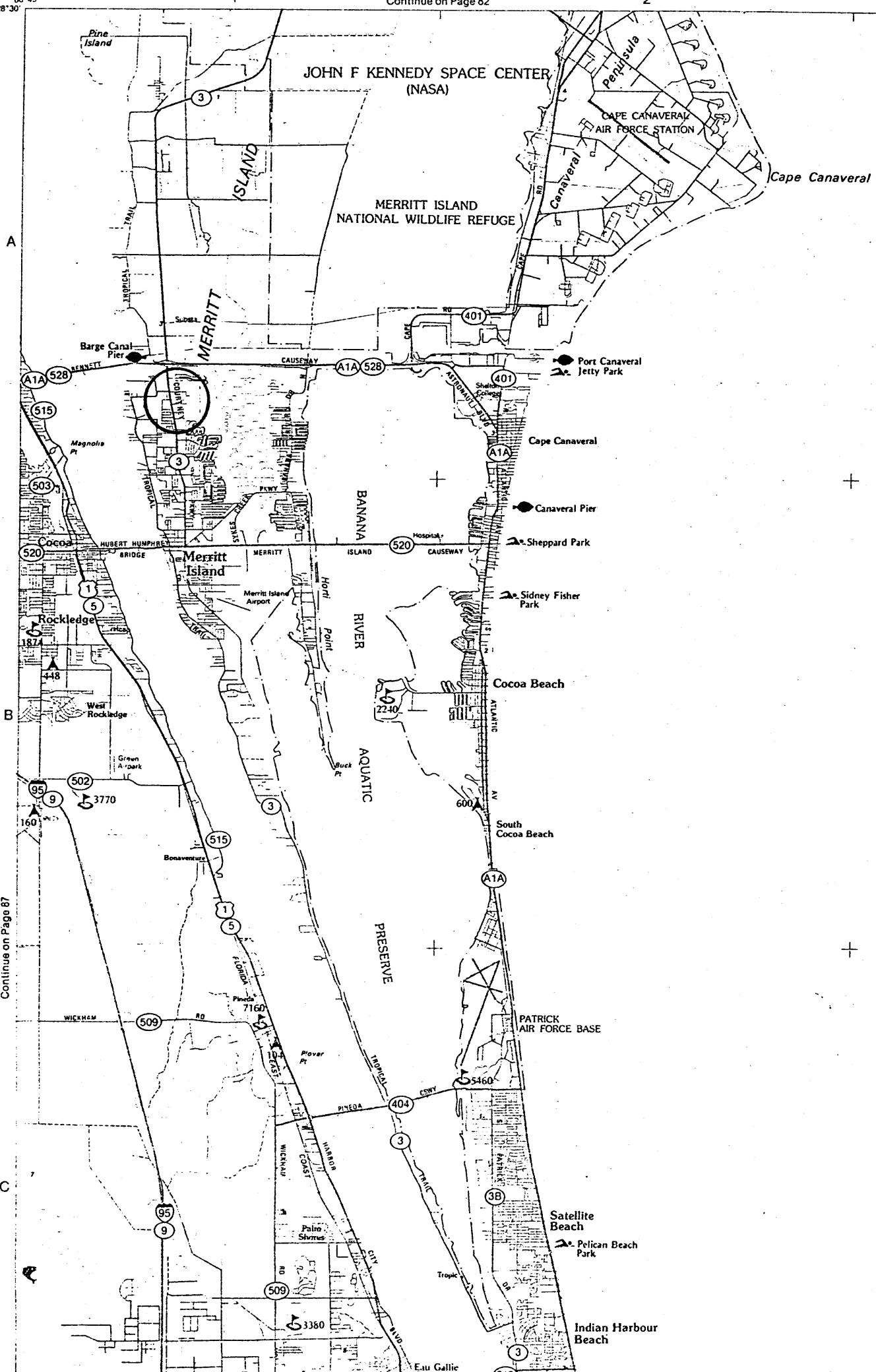
LOCATED IN SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH,
 RANGE 36 EAST



1" = approx. 100'

Boundary

② Photo # + direction



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C