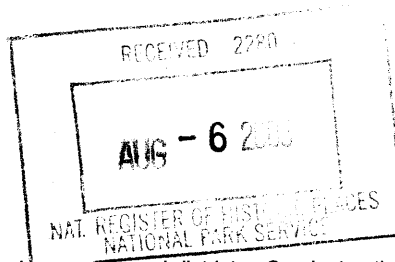


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 TERRA CEIA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION HALL

other names/site number Terra Ceia Woman's Club; FMSF# MA490

2. Location

street & number 1505 Center Road N/A not for publication

city or town Terra Ceia N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Manatee code 081 zip code 34250

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.)

Janet Snyder Matthews 7/30/03
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Florida Division of Historical Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet 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 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Daniel J. Viva 9/16/03

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	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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

CLUBHOUSES OF FLORIDA'S WOMAN'S CLUBS

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Auditorium

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE/Frame Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete & Brick

walls Wood

roof Metal

other

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
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:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
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)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1906-1953

Significant Dates

1906

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: Weatherall, Joseph E.

Blder: Weatherall, Joseph E.

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

#

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	3	4	3	8	6	0	3	0	5	0	7	0	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 Cathy Slusser, Historian/Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date July 2003

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street telephone (850) 245-6333

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 Terra Ceia Village Improvement Association

street & number P.O. Box 201 telephone (941) 722-3403

city or town Terra Ceia state Florida zip code 34250

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.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

TERRA CEIA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION HALL
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

The Terra Ceia Village Improvement Association Hall, located at 1505 Center Road in the small community of Terra Ceia, Florida, is a one-story, Wood Frame Vernacular building that was constructed in 1906. The building has an irregular ground plan and rests on concrete and brick piers that elevate the structure approximately twenty inches above grade. The exterior walls are sheathed with wood shingles that have been stained a dark brown color. The building is covered with a hip roof surfaced with v-crimp metal sheeting. On the main (east) facade is a one-bay, hip roof entry porch that is supported by shingled wood posts at the outer corners. The steps and deck of the porch are constructed of concrete. The major fenestration of the meeting hall is 2/2-light, double hung, wood sash windows. The interior of the building comprises a large, open meeting room with a stage at the north end. At the rear (west) end of the building is a kitchen ell that also contains a restroom and storage space.

SETTING

The island of Terra Ceia is located approximately five miles north of the city of Palmetto in Manatee County, Florida. It is bordered by Frog Creek to the east, Tampa Bay to the north, Miguel Bay to the west and Terra Ceia Bay to the south. The southern end of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge is also located here. About 300 families live on the island. The Terra Ceia Village Improvement Association Hall is located to the west of U.S. Highway 19. It stands parallel to the west side of Center Road just north of Sunset Lane and south of K. Hubbard Lane. The main facade faces east. The surrounding terrain slopes slightly to the west toward a small bayou that drains into Miguel Bay. Vegetation in the immediate vicinity of the hall consists of two royal palms at the east facade entrance, large oak trees on the north side, and a hedge of ligustrum and podocarpus across the east elevation. Bordering the property on the south is a single family dwelling built about 1905. To the north is a recently constructed home built on the site where the Terra Ceia School once stood.

PRESENT AND ORIGINAL APPEARANCE

The building is basically rectangular in shape, except for the kitchen ell on the west elevation. The size of the main block of the building is approximately 32 feet by 62 feet. The ell is approximately 14 feet by 20 feet. The building stands 20 inches above grade, resting on cement brick piers, except at the south elevation and west extension, where three of the brick piers were replaced with pre-cast concrete piers. The height of the exterior walls is 14 feet from the bottom edge of the shingles to the fascia board beneath the roof soffit. The exterior siding is cedar shingles that are approximately 16 inches long and have 6½ inch to 7½ inch exposure. The fascia above the shingles is a simple 10 inch wide wood board, painted white. The main fenestration consists of 2/2-light double hung, wood sash windows. The main roof is hipped, and the roofing material is v-crimped galvanized steel. The floor framing is four bays wide with wood beams extending north to south. The tops of the beams are approximately 30 inches above grade.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

TERRA CEIA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION HALL
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

Exterior

Main (East) Facade (Photos 1-3)

On the main (east) facade there is a one-bay, 8 foot by 10 foot wooden entry porch with a hip roof supported by wood posts and surfaced with v-crimp metal sheeting. The porch is not centered in the facade wall, but is located several feet south of center. Hanging from the porch lintel is a small wooden sign that reads "Terra Ceia V.I.A." The steps leading to the porch are concrete and are flanked by metal pipe railings. The porch deck, itself, is constructed of wood. One 2/2-light double hung sash window is found south of the entrance porch. Three more are found to the north of the porch. A pair of smaller double hung sash windows is found near the northeast corner of the building. These windows provide light to the stage area.

North Elevation (Photo 4)

On the north elevation there is one set of paired 2/2-light double hung sash windows that provides lighting for the rear of the stage area. There is a wood paneled door set high in the wall (stage floor) level that originally allowed access to the stage. The wooden stairs that once served this secondary entrance are no longer extant. Brick piers support this side of the building.

West Elevation (Photos 5-8)

The west elevation features the kitchen ell at the southwest corner of the core building. The extension houses a kitchen and small restroom. The ell has wood paneled door located on its west elevation near the southwest corner. The entrance is accessed by a short flight of wooden steps without any railing. There is no porch but the doorway is partly sheltered by the overhang of shed roof that covers the ell. The ell roof is surfaced with v-crimp metal sheeting. Immediately to the north of the doorway is a pair of small 1/1-light double hung sash windows. The north side of the kitchen addition features a small single pane pivot window. Nestled into the corner between the kitchen addition and the main body of the building is a small storeroom bay. The structure has a flat roof covered with metal sheeting and a small single pane pivot window on its south side. The main wall of the west elevation features four 2/2-light double hung sash windows. Three are grouped at regular intervals in the wall near the storeroom bay. The fourth is found in the stage area near the north elevation of the building. Cast concrete piers support this side of the building.

South Elevation (Photo 9-10)

The south elevation features three irregularly spaced 2/2-light double hung wood sash windows. Near the southwest corner of the elevation is a kitchen addition and a small storage bay.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3

TERRA CEIA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION HALL
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

Interior

Assembly Hall (Photos 11-15)

Most of the interior of the building is occupied by the assembly hall with a stage at the north end. The ceiling is approximately 12 feet above the floor. Both the walls and ceiling are clad with 1-inch by 2-inch bead board. Surrounding the room is a 36 inch high wainscot that has been stained a dark color. The walls and ceiling have been painted white. The doors, doorframes, and window trim have all been stained a dark color. Original doors, hardware, and finishes remain in place. The stage at the north end of the assembly hall has a set of four wooden steps at each side.

Kitchen Addition and Restroom (Photos 16-18)

The small kitchen and bathroom addition at the rear of the building was probably not part of the original structure but was added at some time between the 1920s and 1940s. The kitchen and restroom feature modern appliances and cabinetry.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

TERRA CEIA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION HALL
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Terra Ceia Village Improvement Association Hall is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Social History and Entertainment/Recreation. The building is significant as a meeting place for the Terra Ceia Village Improvement Association (VIA), the oldest formally organized women's social service organization in the area. Erected in 1906, the clubhouse is one of the oldest in the state of Florida. Since its construction, the hall has been used for the club's monthly meetings. For years, it also served as an auditorium and library building for the no longer extant Terra Ceia School which once stood nearby. For more than 90 years, the clubhouse has provided a venue for a wide variety of community gatherings, such as religious meetings and entertainment functions. Today the building continues to serve the purposes envisioned by the founders of the Terra Ceia Improvement Association. The clubhouse contributes to the **CLUBHOUSES OF FLORIDA'S WOMAN'S CLUBS** Multiple Property Submission under the Early Formation of Woman's Clubs in Florida, 1895-1914 Historic Context and the F.1 Property Type: Clubhouses.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Joseph and Julia Atzeroth, immigrants from Germany, settled Terra Ceia Island in 1843 seeking a healthful environment and free land made available under the Armed Occupation Act.¹ The Atzeroths were not alone for long, as many settlers soon followed them to Terra Ceia. Life was hard for these early pioneers. The necessities of life had to be brought to the island by sailboat, roads were made of sand, farming was done with mule drawn plows, mosquitoes spread disease, wild animals threatened livestock, and bad weather ruined crops. Yet, with its prime location on Tampa Bay and the Manatee River, halfway between the two major ports of Apalachicola and Key West, and its fertile soil irrigated by artesian water, the island's population grew.

By the 1880s, the island had become a stop on the steamship route between Hillsborough and Manatee counties. Steamships, which were larger and faster than sailboats enabled residents to expand their farms to ship local agricultural products to northern markets. Six privately owned docks extended out into Terra Ceia Bay from the south shore of the island, with a public dock at the south end of Center Road.² Here, steamers regularly brought supplies necessary to sustain the island's residents and loaded island grown fruits and vegetables for shipment to distant markets. In 1897, 138 households were listed on Terra Ceia in the Manatee County General Directory. Most of the households were headed by men; however, two single women were also listed as vegetable growers. Although the majority of the residents were vegetable or citrus growers or agricultural laborers, the population included a pipe manufacturer, a nurseryman, a merchant, and one teacher.³

¹ Ollie Z. Fogarty, They Called It Fogartyville (Brooklyn, New York: Theo Gaus' Sons, Inc., 1972), p. 82.

² Andrew I. Meserve, A Complete General Directory of Manatee County, Florida, (Braidentown, Florida, 1897), p.88.

³ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

TERRA CEIA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION HALL
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

While island life revolved around the seasons and farming, not all the residents' time was spent in the fields. Mrs. W.H. Abel, who taught island children in the parlor of her home, established the first Terra Ceia School. In 1894, the first schoolhouse on the island was constructed. Music and art lessons became available and a drama group was active in the 1890s. The Terra Ceia Methodist Church was organized in 1899 and the First Baptist Church of Terra Ceia was formed in 1904.⁴

At the turn of the century, two major changes took place on the island. The first was the arrival of the railroad. The Seaboard Airline Railway and the Atlantic Coast line railroad laid spur lines to Terra Ceia, extending the tracks to the north end of Center Road. The center of island life moved from the south end of Center Road and the waterfront to the north end where a railroad depot and packing houses had been constructed. Vegetables and citrus were produced on an even larger scale. Celery grown in Terra Ceia became known throughout the northern United States and many acres of the island were covered in celery fields. When William Howard Taft was inaugurated as United States President on March 4, 1909, the flowers used to decorate the east portico of the U.S. Capitol were grown on Terra Ceia.⁵ The greater accessibility provided by the railroad brought more people to the island. The 1918 City Directory listed 323 adults living on Terra Ceia. These included truck farmers, fruit growers, laborers, farmers, bankers, fishermen and a painter.⁶

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Another major impact on the island was the establishment of the Terra Ceia Village Improvement Association (VIA). On May 2, 1901, a group of nine island women organized a woman's club. The goal of this club was to improve and beautify the island of Terra Ceia. In the early years of the club, the women paid for a cistern for the Terra Ceia School, painted the school, hired a janitor for its maintenance, furnished oil for the school's lamps, and built a wooden fence in front of the school. They also improved island roads by covering the sand with shell and cutting weeds along the roads. Also, they organized a library and a Sunday School, which met in the schoolhouse.⁷

In 1903, the VIA began talking about building a clubhouse and community center. The Manatee River Journal reported on May 1, 1903 that the principal topic of discussion at the last VIA meeting had been a proposal for "building of a hall, which is badly needed."⁸ They also discussed using the grounds around a hall for a park. At that time, the newspaper quoted one of the members who "dream(ed) of a hall and reading rooms

⁴ Catherine J. Bayless, "Terra Ceia Island: Its History and Historical Sites."

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ernest H. Miller, Bradentown, Manatee, Palmetto and Sarasota Directory, 1918-1919, (The Tropic Series, Bradentown, Florida). pp. 235-238.

⁷ Pat Piper, "Village Association Is Florida's Oldest," St. Petersburg Times, January 21, 1961, p. 4-B.

⁸ Manatee River Journal, May 1, 1903.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3 TERRA CEIA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION HALL
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

and hope our dreams may come to pass.”⁹ In June of 1903, they agreed to buy a four-acre parcel of land from Mrs. Eliza Vanderipe on the west side of Center Road, but the deal was not consummated until March 29, 1905.¹⁰

In April of 1905, they sold the south part of the property to John L. Hasty for \$500. To sell this property, they were advised to elect trustees. The first trustees of the VIA were Mrs. W.H. Abel, Mrs. F.C. Armstrong and Mrs. E.S. Hubbard. The club’s legal advisor, Col. Arthur Temple Cornwell, Sr. had his offices in Tampa. One of the trustees drove her horse and buggy over the small wooden bridge across Frog Creek and along sand roads between Terra Ceia and Palmetto to the livery stable on Main Street in Palmetto. There, she left her horse and buggy, and walked the four blocks to the Palmetto dock on the Manatee River where she caught the ferry across to Bradenton. After consulting with the attorney, the process was reversed.¹¹ The full day trip takes mere 10 minutes by automobile today.

The VIA members devoted many hours of work to realize their dream of providing Terra Ceia with a community meeting place. To finance the construction of the new clubhouse, they held ice cream socials, boating excursions, picnics, evenings of vaudeville-style entertainment, oyster suppers, and bazaars to raise the funds needed to purchase the land and build the Hall.¹² In 1906, club members selected plans for the Hall. They were drawn by Joseph Eugene Weatherall of Palmetto.¹³ Weatherall, who is listed in the 1918 Palmetto City Directory as a contractor, was hired to build the Hall for \$1,500.¹⁴ On January 10, 1907, the first meeting took place in the newly constructed building.

The main club fundraiser event each year was the annual excursion to Tampa in June. The Plant Line steamer “Manatee” was chartered for the purpose. The shallow draft side-wheeler was filled with residents of Terra Ceia and their friends who paid the 75 cents round trip fare for adults and 50 cents fare for children. This ticket also included the price of lunch, which was usually fried chicken.¹⁵ Sponsored by the VIA, these kinds of events continued to be held to benefit the island community. Once it was complete, the Hall served as the location for many local functions. The hall also served as the auditorium and library building for the Terra Ceia School which was once located to the north of the building.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Manatee County Deed Book 12, page 86.

¹¹ Pat Piper, “Village Association Is Florida’s Oldest,” *St. Petersburg Times*, January 21, 1961, p. 4-B.

¹² Pat Piper, “Village Association Is Florida’s Oldest,” *St. Petersburg Times*, January 21, 1961, p. 4-B.

¹³ Mrs. Mason Parker, “Speech Given to the Manatee County Historical Society, History of Terra Ceia Island,” November 15, 1978.

¹⁴ Ernest H. Miller, *Bradentown, Manatee, Palmetto and Sarasota Directory, 1918-1919*, (The Tropic Series, Bradentown, Florida).

pp. 190.

¹⁵ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 4

TERRA CEIA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION HALL
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

As the Terra Ceia community grew, so did its commerce. The Bank of Terra Ceia was established in 1911.¹⁶ Stock certificates were sold to island residents and throughout the county. In 1912, a bank building was constructed on the corner of Center and Terra Ceia Roads. The island continued its prosperity and growth until the Florida Land Boom failed in 1926 and Florida entered a period of economic depression several years before the rest of the country. In August of 1926, the Seaboard Airline Railroad discontinued service to Terra Ceia.¹⁷ The 1930s were years of change for the island. The Bank of Terra Ceia closed its doors in 1931 and in 1932, a tidal wave hit the Gulf Coast of Florida. Island farms and groves were killed by the invading salt water, which ruined the soil for agricultural purposes for many years. The island's time as a major agricultural area was over.¹⁸

Sometime between the 1920s and the early 1940s, two changes were made to the clubhouse. While the early pictures of the hall show the exterior made of clapboard, longtime residents who were children during these years remember only siding made of cedar shakes, the current material on the exterior of the building. A kitchen and bathroom were added to the west side of the building, but interviewees cannot date the addition. They recall that these facilities "were always there." While they cannot date when the changes occurred, a photograph of an observation tower built next to the building during World War II shows the exterior siding made of cedar shakes and the small addition containing the kitchen and restroom in place.

During the 1940s, very little growth took place. From 1941 to 1943, an observation tower was maintained on the VIA grounds to check for enemy aircraft. The effort of the members was highly commended by the United States Army Aircraft Warning Service. T. Ralph Robinson, an island citrus grower, was captain of the team of volunteers.¹⁹ On February 29, 1944, the Trustees of the VIA accepted title to property known as Clyatt's Point or the "Old Seabreeze." Many hours of fun and activity were spent relaxing and socializing there among island residents. In 1951, the State of Florida purchased this property for the right of way for U.S. 19 and a bridge across Terra Ceia Bay. This extension of U.S. 19 was made in preparation for the opening of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, which would provide an automobile link between Pinellas and Manatee counties. With the funds received from the sale of the "Old Seabreeze," the VIA purchased from Ralph Haben, Sr., a bay front tract further to the west on Horseshoe Loop Road. A major portion of the property was sold to pay for improvements to the "New Seabreeze." The club's waterfront recreational area was dedicated on July 4, 1954.²⁰

The year 1954, was significant for two other reasons. In that year, a major change in the club's membership took place. On May 5, 1954, the club was incorporated and the by-laws were changed to include

¹⁶ Manatee County Incorporation Book B, pp. 34-38.

¹⁷ Bradenton Herald, August 18, 1926.

¹⁸ Catherine J. Bayless, "Terra Ceia Island: Its History and Historical Sites."

¹⁹ Mrs. William L. Clyatt Sr., "History of the Terra Ceia Village Improvement Association," p. 2.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 2-4.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 5

TERRA CEIA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION HALL
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

men in the membership. However, it was not until 1974, that a man was elected president of the VIA. On September 6, 1954, the Sunshine Skyway Bridge was opened to the public. VIA President, Mrs. B.S. Decker and her husband were invited to participate in the opening of the bridge along with state dignitaries and county mayors along the Sun Coast.²¹ With the opening of the bridge, Manatee County became more accessible to residents of Pinellas County. The population of Terra Ceia and north Manatee County grew as people who worked in Pinellas County took advantage of the bridge's convenience that allowed them to live in a more rural setting while working in St. Petersburg.

While the island is still home to some groves, small farms and nurseries, it is primarily a residential community. The VIA has been instrumental in maintaining that sense of community while protecting the island from large-scale development. The organization monitors government actions that affect the island as well as plans for new construction. County officials and property owners are encouraged to maintain the existing zoning restrictions of one unit per acre. The Hall is the site for monthly meetings to inform residents about any change that might affect their environment, and is used as a polling site for voting in local, state, and national elections. It is also the place where island residents come to socialize and celebrate holidays and special occasions. Annual events held at the hall such as the Halloween Hayride and party and the Christmas party are treats island children look forward to each year. While in the past, the Hall was the site of phonograph parties and musicales, today, it is the location for more modern fund raising events such as yard sales and the starting point for the Terra Ceia Triple Crown, a bike, walk and skating race. Proceeds from this event help the VIA maintain the Hall and the waterfront park, the Seabreeze.

Over 90 years since its completion, the Hall still proudly stands on Center Road in the middle of Terra Ceia Island. Its preservation symbolizes the dedication of the Terra Ceia Village Improvement Association to preserve a piece of the past and a quiet, rural existence while meeting the needs of its modern residents and members.

²¹ Ibid., p. 3.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1

TERRA CEIA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION HALL
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
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

TERRA CEIA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION HALL
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Books

Fogarty, Ollie Z. They Called It Fogartyville. Brooklyn, NY: Theo Gaus' Sons, Inc.; 1972.

Brochures

Bayless, Catherine J. "Terra Ceia Island: Its History and Historical Sites."

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

TERRA CEIA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION HALL
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

BEG 166.3 FT N OF SE COR OF SEC 27, THENCE N 200 FT, W 130 FT, S 200 FT, E 130 FT P-29
PI#21546.0000/7 (According to the Manatee County Property Appraiser Records)

Boundary Justification

The above boundaries encompass all of the historical resources associated with the Terra Ceia Village Improvement Hall.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Page 1

TERRA CEIA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION HALL
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHOTOGRAPHS

List of Photographs

1. Terra Ceia Village Improvement Association Hall
2. 1505 Center Road, Terra Ceia (Manatee County), Florida
3. Unknown
4. c.1910
5. Manatee County Historical Society Archives, Bradenton, Florida
6. Looking Northwest on Center Road
7. Photo 1 of 18

1. Terra Ceia Village Improvement Association Hall
2. 1505 Center Road, Terra Ceia (Manatee County), Florida
3. Tami Zonies, Terra Ceia Village Improvement Association
4. 2001
5. Cathy Slusser, Manatee County Historical Resources Department
6. Main (East) Facade, Looking west
7. Photo 2 of 18

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

6. Main (East) Facade, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 3 of 18

6. North Elevation, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 4 of 18

6. North Elevation, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 5 of 18

6. Rear (West) Elevation with Restroom and Kitchen Addition, Looking South
7. Photo 6 of 18

6. Rear Kitchen Addition, Looking East
7. Photo 7 of 18

6. Kitchen Addition and Restroom, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 8 of 18

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Page 2

TERRA CEIA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION HALL
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHOTOGRAPHS

- 6. South Elevation and Kitchen Addition, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 9 of 18

- 6. South Elevation and Kitchen Addition, Looking North
- 7. Photo 10 of 18

- 6. Interior, Assembly Hall, Looking Southeast toward Main Entrance
- 7. Photo 11 of 18

- 6. Interior, Assembly Hall, Looking Southwest
- 7. Photo 12 of 18

- 6. Interior, Assembly Hall, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 13 of 18

- 6. Interior, Assembly Hall, Looking Northwest toward Stage
- 7. Photo 14 of 18

- 6. Interior, Assembly Hall, Looking West toward Kitchen
- 7. Photo 15 of 18

- 6. Interior, Kitchen Addition, Looking East toward Assembly Hall
- 7. Photo 16 of 18

- 6. Interior, Kitchen Addition, Looking Southwest
- 7. Photo 17 of 18

- 6. Interior, Restroom, Looking North
- 7. Photo 18 of 18



1. Terra Ceia Village Improvement Association Hall
2. 1505 Center Road, Terra Ceia (Manatee County), Florida
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TAMPA
BAY

Sunshine
Skyway
Bridge

MIGUEL BAY

US 19

Terra Ceia Road

VIA
HALL

Sunset Lane

Center Road

Bayshore Dr.

US 19

BAY

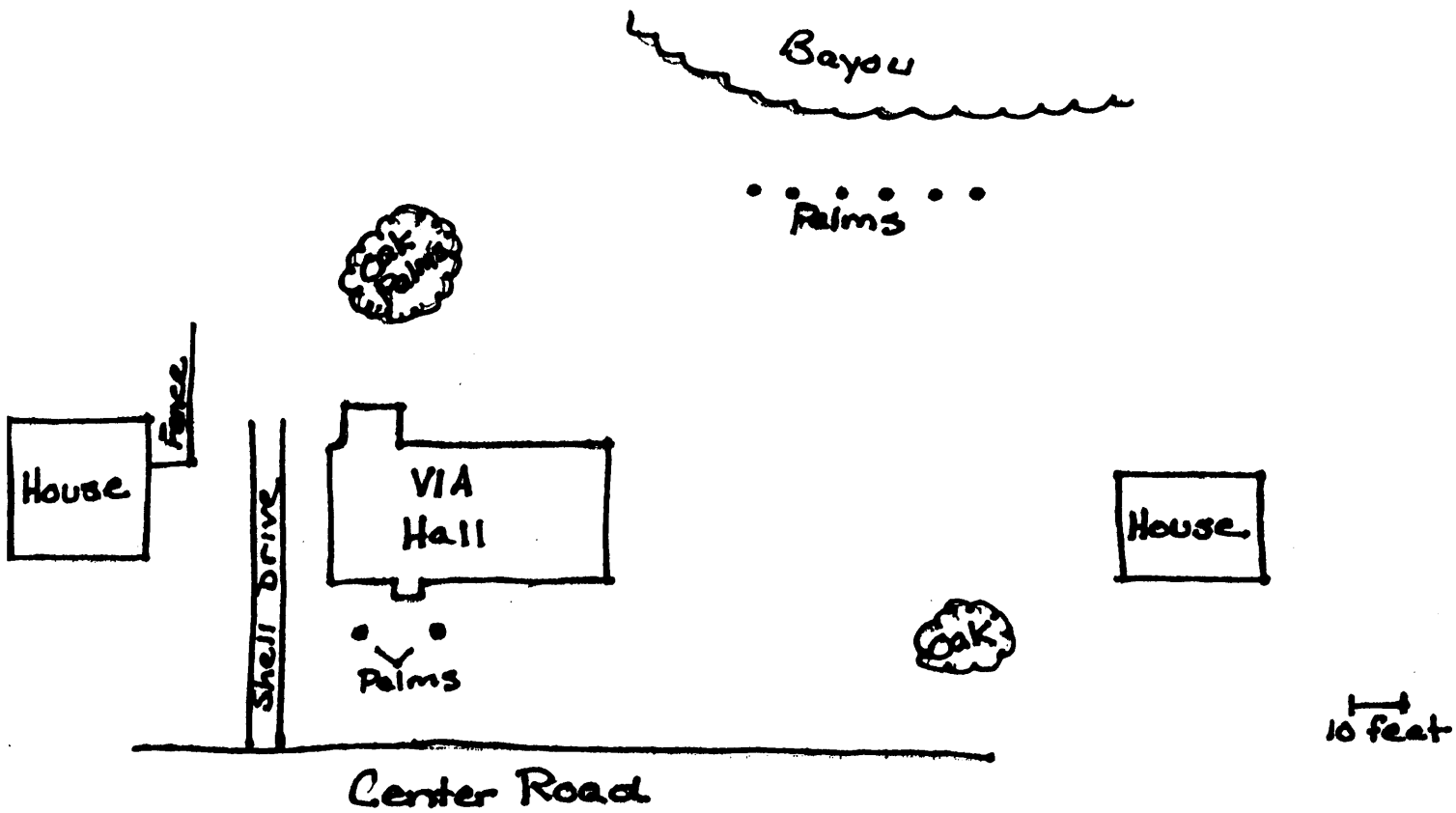
US 19

TERRA
CEIA

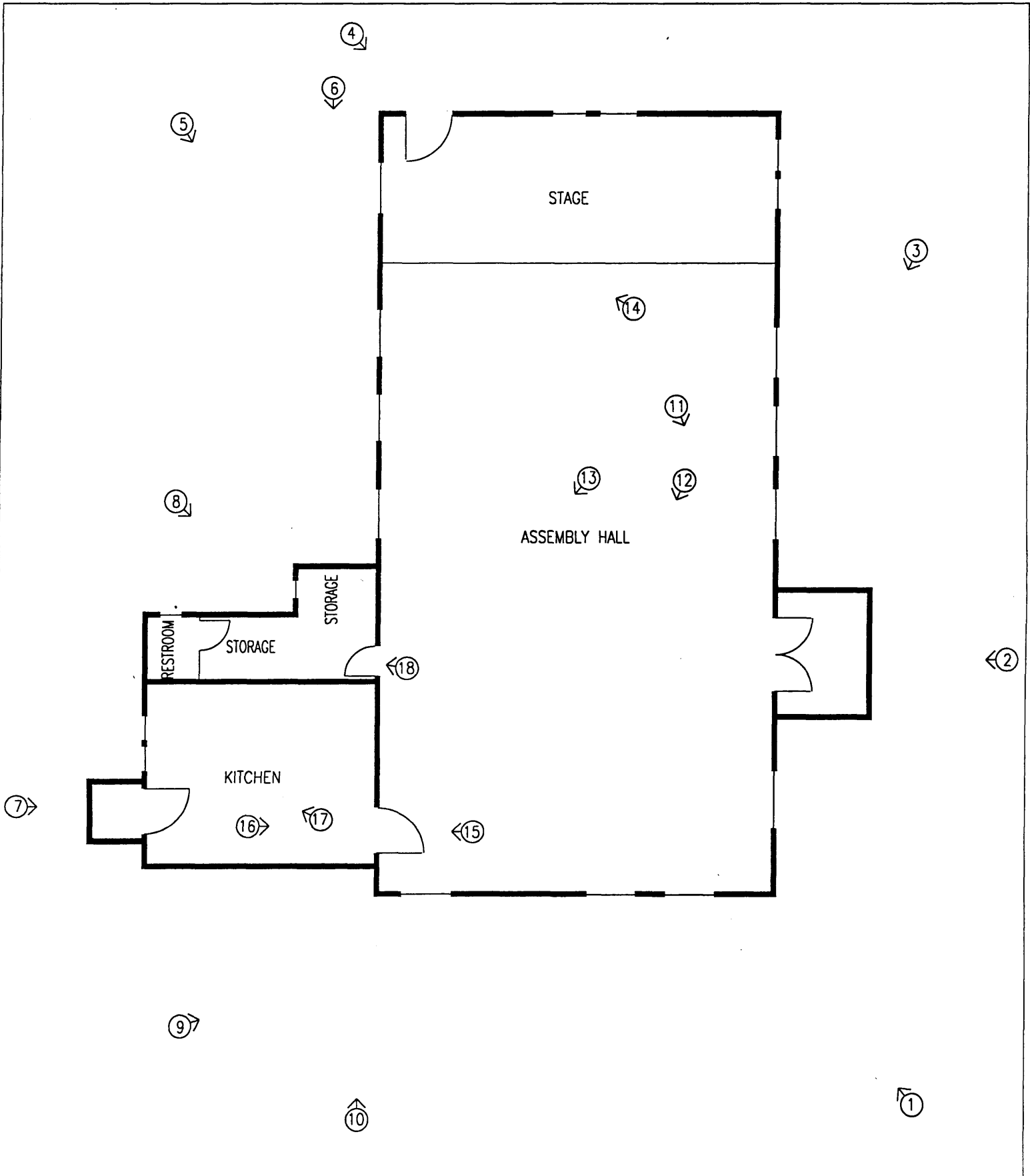
N
↑

1/4 mile

Terra Ceia Village
Improvement Association
Hall
1505 Center Road
Terra Ceia, Manatee County



→ N
Terra Ceia Village Improvement
Association Hall
1505 Center Road, Terra Ceia, FL
Manatee County



TERRA CEIA VILLIAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION HALL
 1505 CENTER ROAD
 TERRA CEIA (MANATEE COUNTY), FLORIDA



⊙ = PHOTO NUMBERS