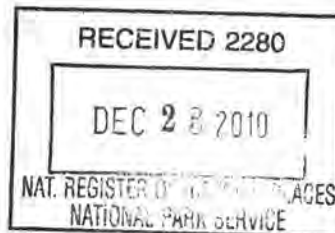


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE

other names/site number N/A; FMSF #DE00731

2. Location

street & number 640 West Whidden Street N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Arcadia N/A ☐ vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Desoto code 027 zip code 34266

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.)

Barbara C. Mattick / DSHPO 12/21/2010

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) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

2-14-11

RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL, HOUSE

Name of Property

Desoto Co., FL

County and State

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ 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.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC/Secondary Building/Garage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC/Secondary Building/Garage

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE/Wood Frame Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick Pier

walls Wood

roof Asphalt Shingle

other

Narrative Description

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

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
ARCADIA, DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The William Oswald Ralls House, located at 640 West Whidden Street in Arcadia, Florida, is a two-story frame vernacular dwelling that was constructed in two phases. It was originally a one-story, two room residence constructed c. 1905. The two-story addition was added c. 1915. The house has an irregular ground plan, a brick pier foundation, drop siding exterior walls, and a multi-gable roof sheathed with composition shingles. The main fenestration consists 1/1-light and 2/2-light double-hung wood sash windows. Decorative wooden garlands adorn the window trim on all elevations. The one-story porch extends along the main facade to where it abuts the original portion of the residence and has a concrete deck that replaced the earlier wooden structure. The porch is sheltered by a flat roof supported by square wooden columns, and the roof deck is bordered by a balustrade composed of square posts topped with small finials, molded railings, and simple balusters. The front-gabled east section of the house reportedly had a one-story porch that wrapped around the side. This porch was removed at an unknown date. Formerly open porches at the rear of the house were enclosed c. 1960 to create a family room and laundry room. The wood frame garage located at the rear of the property was constructed c. 1960 and is considered a noncontributing resource. The interior of the house contains three bedrooms, a parlor, kitchen, dining room, breakfast room, music room, family room, and two baths. A large open area near the second floor landing has been designated a sewing room.

SETTING

The city of Arcadia is the county seat of DeSoto County, Florida. The population of Arcadia was 6,604 as of 2000. According to the U.S Census estimates of 2005, the city grew to 7,151. Arcadia's local economy is heavily reliant upon agriculture. Primary agriculture elements include citrus, cattle and watermelons. Additionally Arcadia has experienced a surge in home development due in part to residents relocating from surrounding counties and commuting to their work destinations. During the winter months many retirees from the Midwest relocate to Arcadia, which provides a needed contribution to the local economy. The setting of the Ralls House has changed considerably since the original portion of the building was constructed about 1905. The house was originally located on a large un-subdivided parcel of property just west of the original subdivisions that formed the City of Arcadia. The house was originally surrounded by a large orange grove owned by the Ralls family. In 1948, it was incorporated into the Ralls Addition of the City of Arcadia. With the creation of the subdivision and the subsequent development of the Ralls tract, the groves were eliminated. The present site of the Ralls House measures 3/4 of an acre, which remains relatively large when compared with surrounding lots and parcels containing buildings of more recent construction. A noncontributing garage is located at the rear of the property.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
ARCADIA, DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

PRESENT AND ORIGINAL APPEARANCE

Exterior

South Elevation

The Ralls House is a two-story Frame Vernacular residence. It was constructed in two phases, originally being a one-story, three room building, which was incorporated into the east elevation of the present house. The original section was constructed c. 1905. The two-story main block of the house was added c. 1915. The building has an irregular ground plan and is oriented north-south with the main (south) elevation facing West Whidden Street (Photo 1). The residence rests on a brick pier foundation, has a balloon frame structural system and drop siding exterior fabric. The main block of the house has a steeply pitched cross-gable roof with open eaves. The three-bay front porch extends along the main block of the south facade until it meets the one-story east wing of the house which comprised the original residence. The porch has a concrete deck and is covered by a flat roof supported by square wooden columns. The roof deck is bordered by a wooden balustrade composed of finial topped newel posts united by flat balusters and hand and foot rails. The first story facade of the main block of the building features a pair of 1/1-light double-hung wood sash windows and a wood and glass panel main entrance door surmounted by a single-light transom. The one-story east wing, which directly abuts the front porch, has a front-facing gable roof and a pair of 2/2-light double-hung wood sash windows. The second story of the main facade has three pairs of 1/1-light double-hung wood sash windows. All of the original windows in the house have similar frame and trim details. Decorative wooden garlands have been added to the window frames on all elevations.

East Elevation

The east wing of the house (Photos 2-4) is one-story in height and has a front-facing gable roof. Like the main body of the house, the exterior walls are sheathed in wood drop siding. It rests on a brick pier foundation and has two 2/2-light double-hung wood sash windows on its east wall that are separated by a small one-light hopper window that illuminates one of the two bathrooms found on the first floor. The other bathroom is found in an addition that also contains the family room. This section of the house has a hip roof, surfaced with galvanized sheet metal in a V-crimp pattern. This section appears to have been created by the enclosure of what was an open porch at the northeast end of the house.

North Elevation

The north elevation includes the original portions of the house, an enclosed porch and a one-story kitchen wing (Photo 5). The enclosed porch is located behind the original one-story wing and west of the bathroom addition. The porch extends along the north elevation of the one-story, early portion of the house. Windows are

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3

RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
ARCADIA, DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

aluminum awning. The breakfast room found immediately west of the family room is accessed by a wood and glass jalousie door found at the top of cast concrete steps. A one-story kitchen wing is located to the rear of the main two-story block. A brick chimney stands at the intersection of the kitchen wing and the two-story section of the house. On the east elevation of the kitchen wing is a small addition or porch enclosure containing a laundry room. Both the laundry room and breakfast room feature jalousie windows. These areas were remodeled c. 1960.

West Elevation

The west elevation (Photo 6) features both the one-story kitchen wing and the two-story main block and kitchen wing. The kitchen wing exhibits a pair of 2/2-light double-hung wood sash windows. The main body of the house has both single and paired examples of 1/1-light windows, and a small 1/1-light window illuminates the upstairs bathroom. A tall narrow exterior brick chimney that warms the downstairs parlor rises above the side-gable roof.

Noncontributing Garage

A noncontributing one-story wood frame garage (Photos 7-8) constructed c. 1960 stands at the rear of the property. It has an L-shaped ground plan and rests on a continuous poured concrete foundation. Like the main house, the exterior walls are sheathed in drop siding. The intersecting gable roof has open eaves and is surfaced with galvanized sheet metal in a V-crimp pattern. The front of the garage has a two-vehicle-wide entrance bay, and the side ell contains another small vehicle bay with a lift door. On the south side of the ell is a wood and glass door that allows access to the building without opening the vehicle door.

Interior

The floors throughout the interior are made of heart pine. The interior wall and ceiling finishes in the c. 1905 section of the house are plaster over wood lath, whereas the c. 1915 section exhibit painted tongue and groove siding for both the walls and ceiling. The main door features glass windows in the upper panels of the main door and transom above. The window and door moldings are simple. Most of the interior doors are multi-panel wood types that retain their original hardware. The French doors connecting the dining room and kitchen are also original.

First Floor

The interior of the Ralls House contains major spaces on the first floor. The principal entrance provides access to an entrance foyer and open stairs (Photos 9-10). An original parlor with a simple fireplace is located on the west side of the foyer and was part of the original portion of the building (Photo 11). Adjoining the parlor is a

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 4 RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
ARCADIA, DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

dining room (Photo 12), and a kitchen (Photo 13) is located immediately north of the dining room. The breakfast room (Photo 14) is found east of the kitchen. The east side of the first floor contains an enclosed porch now used as a family room (Photo 15), a music room (Photo 16), and a bedroom (Photo 17). The music room and bedroom were part of the original c. 1905 section of the house. There are two steps at the bottom of the stairs in the foyer that made it necessary to construct corresponding steps for the downstairs bedroom door (Photo 18).

Second Floor

The second floor is accessed by the flight of stairs that ascends from an entrance foyer (Photos 19). A wooden balustrade lines the hall side of the stairs to the second floor landing, which is also bordered by a similar balustrade. The balustrade consists of a stringer, flat balusters, a handrail and newel posts. Historic stenciling remains in the east wall of the main stair (Photo 20). The large open area of the landing is used as a sewing room (Photo 21). There are two bedrooms (Photos 22-23) and a single bathroom on the second floor (Photo 24).

Alterations

Exterior

The Ralls House maintains its original physical appearance to a large degree. Alterations to the exterior include the removal and replacement of the original c. 1905 one-story front porch, which was replaced by the c. 1915 two-story porch. An ell was constructed on the east elevation prior to World War II to create a bathroom. The bathroom fixtures have been modernized. An exterior porch at the rear of the building was enclosed as a sitting area and a laundry room around 1960.

Interior

The original residence did not have interior bathrooms. Most of the interior alterations were made to accommodate the bathroom fixtures and kitchen appliances. All major rooms retain their original features and finishes. The interior alterations appear to be long-standing and embody the physical development of the building and its adaptation to modern needs and a contemporary use.

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1915

Significant Dates

c. 1915

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: Unknown

Blder: Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 1 RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
ARCADIA, DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The William Oswald Ralls House is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. It is a distinctive example of a two-story Frame Vernacular residence built in the early decades of the twentieth century that was later expanded as the Ralls family grew in size. It is one of the few remaining examples of a large pioneer home constructed in Arcadia and DeSoto County before the 1920s. The house exhibits many features of early 20th century construction in Florida through its use of materials, massing, and simple decorative details. Except for the enclosure of formerly open porches at the rear of the house to create additional living and utility spaces, the house largely retains its c. 1915 appearance. Windows, doorways, wall finishes, and hardware are mostly original.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Citrus cultivation was one of the major economic activities in Arcadia beginning in the 1880s. A freeze in 1886 severely damaged citrus crops and trees throughout the North Florida citrus belt along the St. Johns River. South Florida, including DeSoto County, benefited from the disaster as citrus growers began moving southward to more frost-free regions. The railroads, the State of Florida, and large real estate companies joined in promoting land sales, promising great profits from citrus cultivation. By 1891, there were thirty-six citrus growers in Arcadia and its environs. They owned approximately 400 acres of grove land in Arcadia and produced an estimated 34,000 boxes of fruit annually. Most of the land within the present corporate limits of Arcadia was planted in citrus groves.¹

William Oswald Ralls

William Oswald Ralls was a prominent Florida citrus grower, timberman and saw mill owner. He was born on December 26, 1858, in Russellville, Monroe County, Georgia. He was the son of William Oswald Ralls and Cassandra Hardin, both Georgia natives. Annie Causey Ralls was born in Seville, Volusia County, Florida, on January 29, 1871. She and the younger William O. Ralls were married in Seville on March 1, 1899.² At the time of his marriage, Ralls was a well-established entrepreneur. He was owner of Ralls and Gunn, manufacturer of long-leaf yellow pine lumber.³ He owned large parcels of land that provided timber for his lumber operations. In Arcadia, he was also a partner in Heard, Ralls and Reynolds, a firm specializing in growing, purchasing and brokering commercial citrus. One of Rall's partners was J.J. Heard, a pioneer Florida banker and businessman.⁴

¹Historic Property Associates. "Cultural Resource Survey of Arcadia, Florida." St. Augustine, Florida, 1982, p. 45.

²State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Application for Birth Registration, Ella Ralls, June 12, 1942.

³W.O. Ralls to Annie C. Ralls, personal correspondence, February 2, 1903.

⁴The Arcadian, February 17, 1943; W.O. Ralls to Annie C. Ralls, personal correspondence, June 8, 1901.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
ARCADIA, DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

William Ralls and his wife were part of the migration of citrus growing families from North Florida to the milder climate of South Florida. Prior to relocating to Arcadia, the Ralls lived in Maitland in the Central Florida citrus region. According to family records, W.O. Ralls' business interests in Arcadia date to as early as 1900.⁵ In August 1904, Ralls and a partner, John K. Treadwell, bought a parcel measuring approximately ten acres from E.A. Thomas for \$12,000. This parcel encompassed a substantial portion of what today is the northwest portion of the city of Arcadia. The parcel included the present location of the Ralls House.⁶ In April 1905, John Treadwell sold his interest in the property to Ralls, who had the original residence constructed on its present site the same year.⁷

Although William Ralls died in December 1906, the Ralls family retained ownership of the property for more than ninety years. The present house dates primarily from c. 1915, when the building was enlarged from a three-room one-story structure to its present two-story appearance. Annie Ralls, resided at the home until her death in 1957. The Ralls' daughter, Ella, a school teacher in the DeSoto County schools for many years, resided at the home until shortly before her death in January 1996 at the age of 95.⁸ In 1948, the family created the Ralls Addition to the City of Arcadia and over time sold the surrounding grove lands for redevelopment as residential property. In 1997, surviving members of the Ralls family conveyed their home to the present owners Bruce Neveau and Dennis Tyson.⁹ The construction of the Ralls House and other early residences was part of the development of Arcadia from a sparsely populated frontier settlement to an established community during the years between 1886 and 1905. Its completion was the result of the efforts of William Oswald Ralls, one of the most important citrus growers and entrepreneurs in Arcadia during the city's initial period of development.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Frame Vernacular

The Frame Vernacular style was the most popular form of residential architecture in Florida from the Territorial Period (1819-1845) to the present. "Frame Vernacular" is defined as the standard wood construction techniques of lay or self-taught builders. Local builders relied on readily available materials and their own designs and experience during the construction process. The Industrial Revolution allowed for the standardization of building materials and elements. Furthermore, magazines and catalogs helped perpetuate building trends and

⁵ State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Application for Birth Registration, Ella Ralls, June 12, 1942; Ralls family records held by Bruce Neveau and Dennis Tyson, 640 W. Whidden Street, Arcadia, Florida

⁶ Desoto County Deed Book 50, p. 174; Florida State Deed Records, Volume H, p. 694.

⁷ Desoto County Deed Book 50, pp. 338-340.

⁸ Ralls family records held by Bruce Neveau and Dennis Tyson, 640 W. Whidden Street, Arcadia, Florida; Desoto County Official Records Book 336, p. 491.

⁹ Desoto County Official Records Book 383, pp. 917-920.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3

RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
ARCADIA, DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

ideas. The railroad was used for low-cost, efficient transportation of manufactured building products. Many popular vernacular building forms were used by builders during the late-nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Frame Vernacular residential buildings were generally one or two stories in height and utilize a wood frame structural system situated upon brick or concrete pier foundations. A variety of plans were employed including rectangular, ell, and irregular footprints. However, one of the most popular plans consisted of a rectangular central unit with projecting room extensions. Earlier forms generally exhibit steeply pitched pyramidal, hip, or gable roofs clad with either wood shingles or metal surfacing such as standing seam or 3V crimp; however, many of the roofing materials have been replaced with composition shingle. Common exterior wall surfaces included weatherboard, wood shingles, drop siding, and board and batten. Windows were generally double-hung with a 2/2-light configuration being most popular prior to the Civil War. While later forms also exhibit the 2/2-light configuration, 1/1-light windows also gained popularity. Additional features generally included front or wrap-around porches. Exterior decoration was sparse and limited to ornamental woodwork, balustrades, knee braces, purlins, and exposed rafter ends under the eaves.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The William Oswald Ralls House is significant as a distinctive example of Frame Vernacular construction which dates from c. 1905-1915, the period when the northwest section of the city of Arcadia was being developed. The house is irregularly massed and reflects two phases of construction. The first phase was a one-story, three-room front gabled type of dwelling. About 1915 a two-story side gabled addition was added to the one-story structure. The addition enlarged the dwelling considerably and altered its exterior appearance. The size of the house grew with the number of family members. The addition has a boxy form with an ell-shaped ground plan and a one-story kitchen wing on the north elevation. The ell-shaped plan was likely an accommodation to the Florida climate to facilitate cross ventilation of the interior. The ell plan of the house is formed by the north and east elevations of two-story portion. In addition to its distinctive plan and massing, the Ralls House embodies many of the other features and materials associated with early wood frame residences in Arcadia and other parts of Florida. One of these is the use of heart or long leaf yellow pine for construction. The use of this was favored by home builders in the late 19th and early 20th centuries because of its durability and resistance to termite infestation. Ralls was a manufacturer and dealer of yellow pine lumber in Arcadia, and the lumber for construction of the house was supplied from his firm. The interior of the house exhibits many features that represent its early construction and period of development. The construction is simple and lacking ornamentation. The turned newel posts on the staircase are one of the few concessions to decoration. The fireplace in the parlor has a simple wooden mantelpiece and paved outer hearth. The main decorative element is the marble facing of the firebox. Only simple narrow moldings mark the intersection of the walls, ceilings and floors. The doors also have simple molded jambs and lintels.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1

RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
ARCADIA, DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Unpublished Materials

Appalachian Woods, "History of Heart Pine" October, 2006. www.appalachianwoods.com.

Historic Property Associates. "Cultural Resource Survey of Arcadia, Florida." St. Augustine, Florida, np, 1982.

Ralls family records held by Bruce Neveau and Dennis Tyson, 640 W. Whidden Street, Arcadia, Florida.

W.O. Ralls to Annie C. Ralls, personal correspondence, June 8, 1901.

W.O. Ralls to Annie C. Ralls, personal correspondence, February 2, 1903.

W.O. Ralls to Annie C. Ralls, personal correspondence, March 5, 1904.

DeSoto County Courthouse

Deed Book 50, p. 174; Deed Book 50, pp. 338-340.

Official Records Book 383, pp. 917-920.

Public Records

Florida State Deed Records, Volume H, p. 694.

State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Application for Birth Registration, Ella Ralls, June 12, 1942.

State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Application for Birth Registration, James Causey Ralls, August 13, 1942

Newspapers

The Arcadian, February 17, 1943.

RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL, HOUSE
Name of Property

Desoto Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	4	1	4	1	4	9	3	0	1	0	8	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 Paul Weaver, Consultant/Carl Shiver, Historic Preservationist

organization Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation date November 2010

street & number 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 Bruce E Neveau and Dennis A. Tyson

street & number 640 West Whidden Street telephone (954) 494-0235

city or town Arcadia state Florida zip code 34266

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
ARCADIA, DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See scaled boundary map. The property borders West Whidden Street on the south. The legal description of the property is: Ralls Addition to Arcadia Lots 1,2,3, & 4 less 20 FT adjacent to lot 5.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above boundary description encompasses all of the historic resources associated with the William Oswald Ralls house.

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Page 1 RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
ARCADIA, DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. William Oswald Ralls House, 640 W. Whidden St.
2. Arcadia (DeSoto County), Florida
3. Bruce E. Neveau
4. 2010
5. Original Digital Image Bruce E. Neveau
6. Main (South) Façade, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 1 of 24

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

6. Main (South) Façade and East Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 2 of 24

6. East Elevation, Looking West
7. Photo 3 of 24

6. East and North (Rear) Elevations, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 4 of 24

6. Rear (North) Elevation, Looking South
7. Photo 5 of 24

6. West Elevation, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 6 of 24

6. Main (South) Elevation of Noncontributing Garage, Looking North
7. Photo 7 of 24

6. South and East Elevations of Noncontributing Garage, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 8 of 24

6. First Floor Interior, Foyer, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 9 of 24

6. First Floor Interior, Foyer, Looking North
7. Photo 10 of 24

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Page 2

RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
ARCADIA, DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

- 6. First Floor Interior, Parlor, Looking Southwest
- 7. Photo 11 of 24

- 6. First Floor Interior, Dining Room, Looking Southwest
- 7. Photo 12 of 24

- 6. First Floor Interior, Kitchen, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 13 of 24

- 6. First Floor Interior, Breakfast Room, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 14 of 24

- 6. First Floor Interior, Family Room, Looking West
- 7. Photo 15 of 24

- 6. First Floor Interior, Music Room, Looking South
- 7. Photo 16 of 24

- 6. First Floor Interior, Bedroom, Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 17 of 24

- 6. First Floor Interior, Steps to the Bedroom from Stairs, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 18 of 24

- 6. Second Floor Interior, Second Floor Landing, Looking South
- 7. Photo 19 of 24

- 6. Second Floor Interior, Wall Stenciling at Stair Landing, Looking East
- 7. Photo 20 of 24

- 6. Second Floor Interior, Sewing Area, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 21 of 24

- 6. Second Floor Interior, Front Bedroom. Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 22 of 24

- 6. Second Floor Interior, Rear Bedroom, Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 23 of 24

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Page 3

RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
ARCADIA, DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

6. Second Floor Interior, Bathroom, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 24 of 24

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Ralls, William Oswell, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, De Soto

DATE RECEIVED: 12/28/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/28/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/14/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/12/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000001

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 2.14.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the
nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
DESOTO CO., FL

1/24



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
DESOTO CO, FL

2/24



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
DESOTO CO., FL

3/24



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
DESOTO CO., FL

4/24



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE

DE SOTO Co, FL

5/24



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
DESOTO CO., FL

6/24



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
DESO TO CO, FL

7/24



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
DESOTO CO., FL

8/24



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
DESOTO CO., FL

9/24



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE

DESOTO CO., FL

10/24



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE

DESOTO CO, FL

11/24



RAUS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE

DESOTO CO., FL

12/24



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
DE SOTO CO, FL

13/24



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
DEBOTO CO., FL

14/24



RALLS WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE

DESOTO CO, FL

15/24



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
DESOTO CO., FL

16/24



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE

DESOTO CO, FL

17/24



RAILS, WILLIAM BSWELL HOUSE

DESOTO CO, FL

18/24



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
DESOTO CO, FL

19/24



RAILS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE

DESOTO Co., FL

29/24



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE

DESOTO CO, FL

2 1/24



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE

DEBOTO CO. IL

22/24



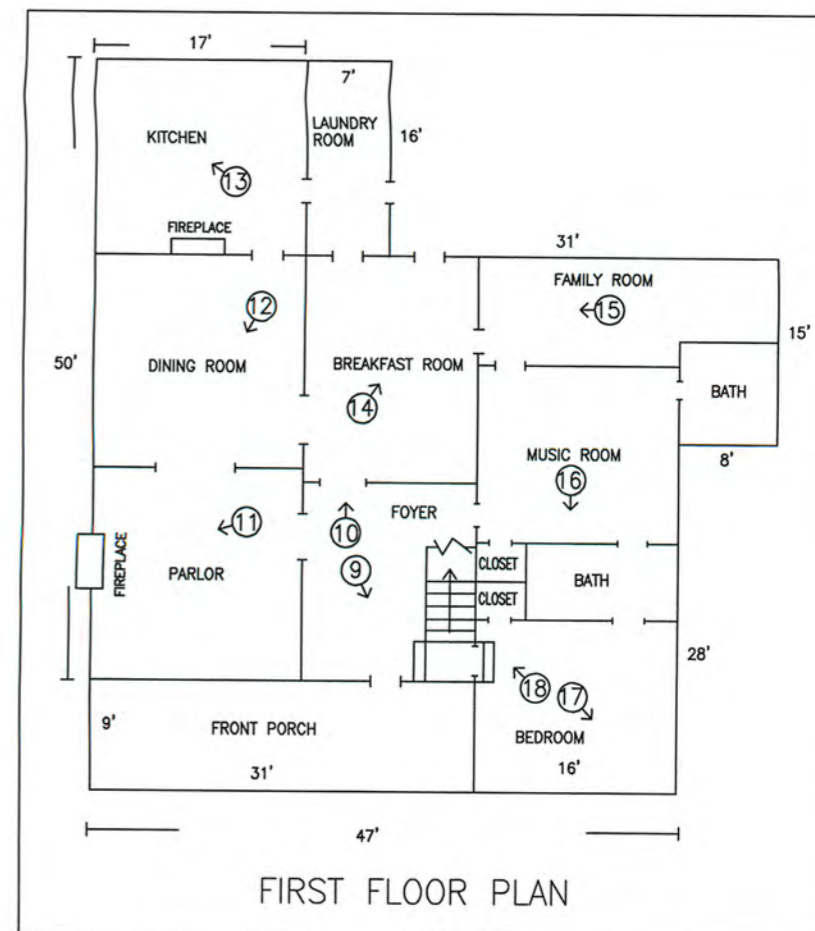
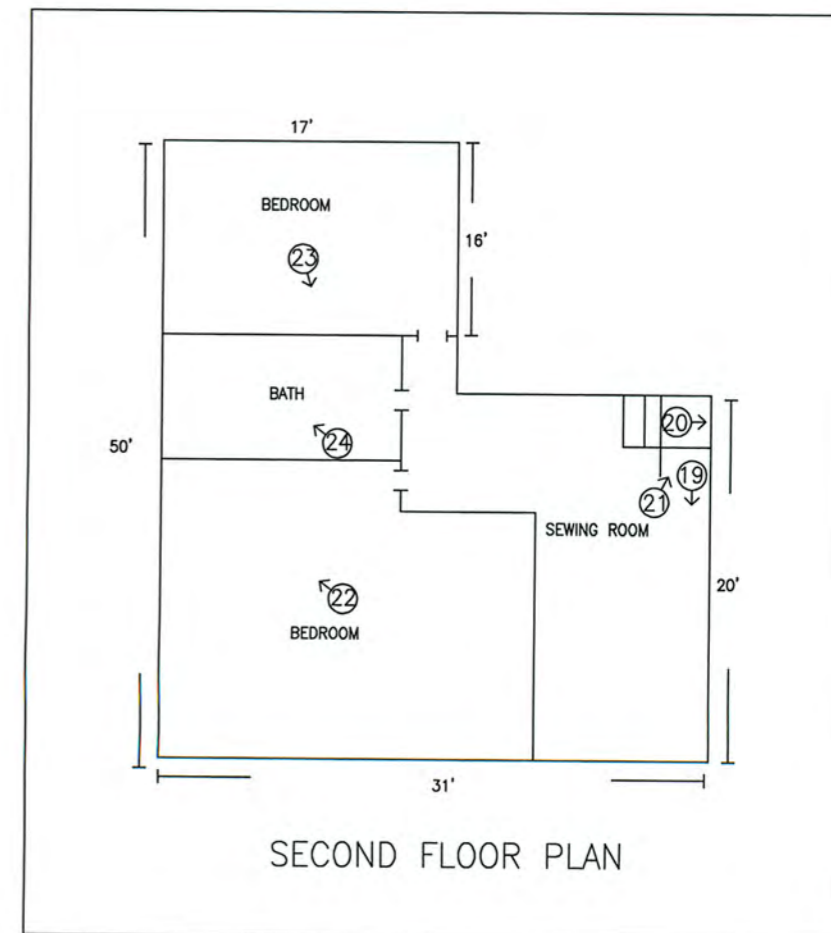
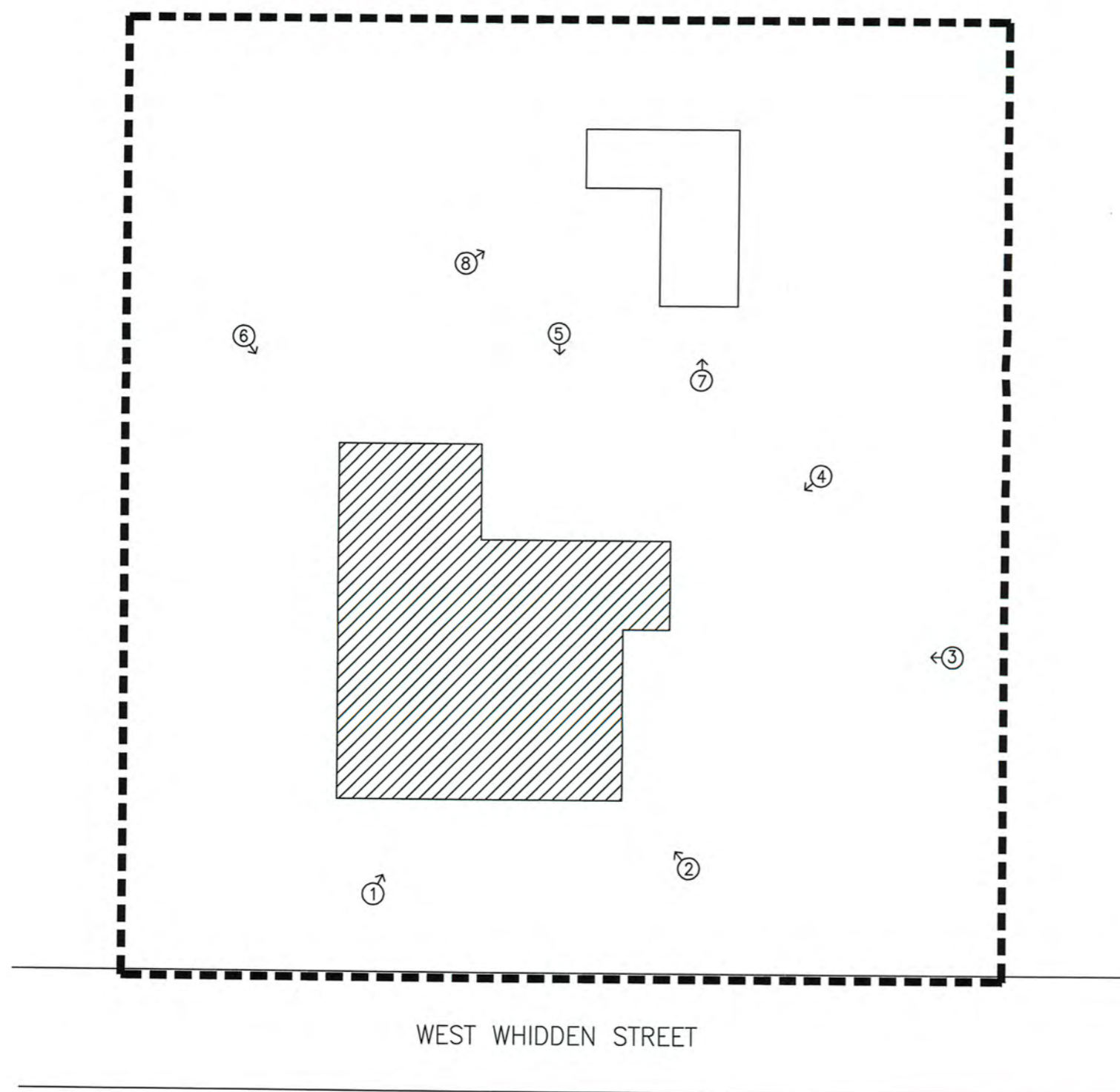
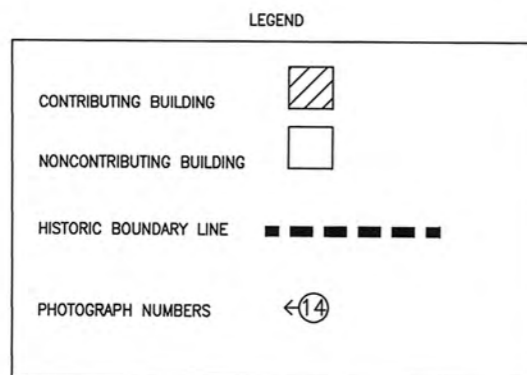
RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
DESOTO CO, F-

23/24



RALLS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
DESOTO CO, FL

24/24



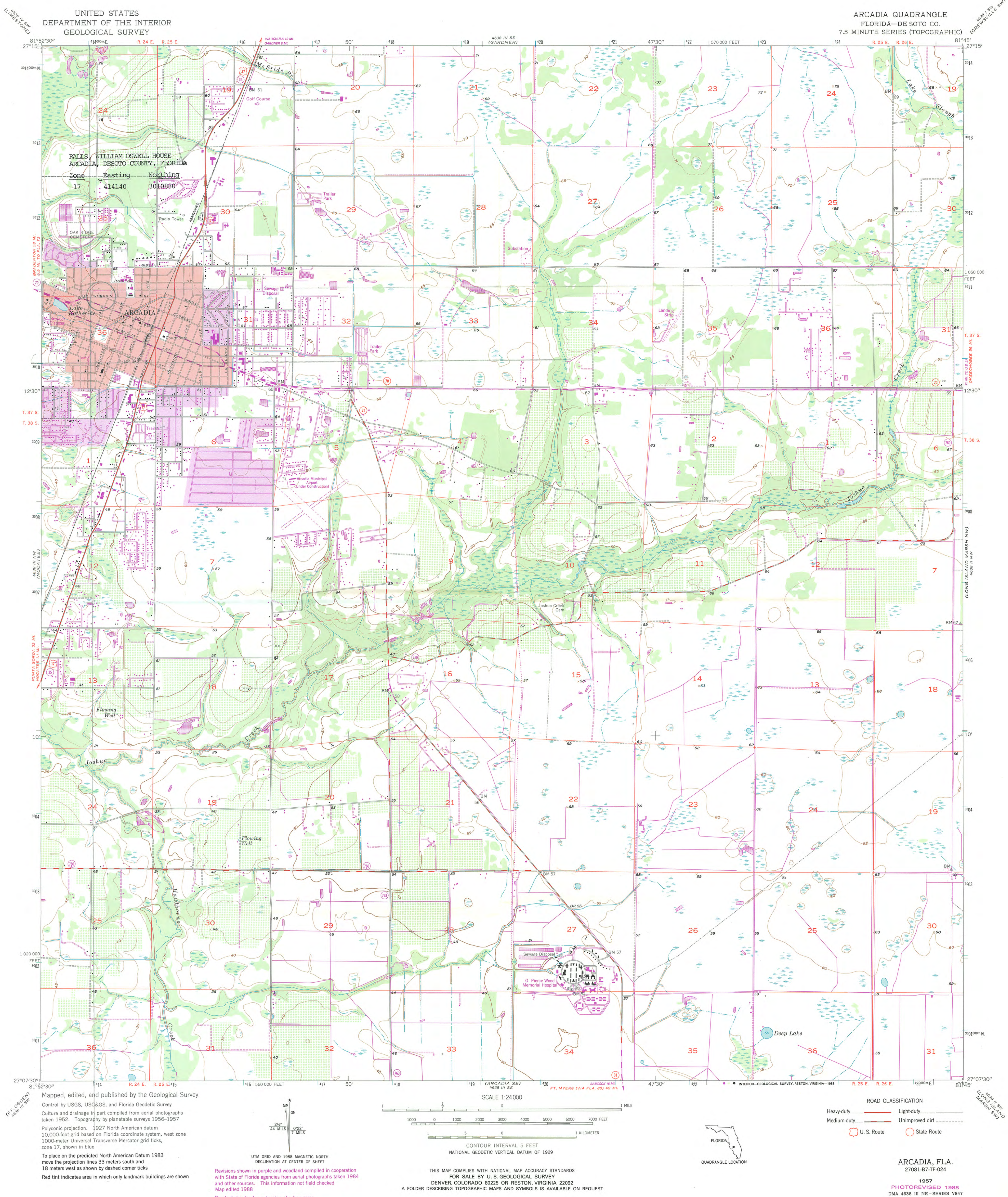
WILLIAM OSWELL RALLS HOUSE
 640 WEST WHIDDEN STREET
 ARCADIA (DESOTO COUNTY), FLORIDA



0 10 20
 scale feet

SITE AND FLOOR PLANS

PREPARED BY THE FLORIDA BUREAU OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
 FROM TECHNICAL SURVEY AND HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS AND ORAL
 INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE CURRENT PROPERTY OWNER.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

ARCADIA QUADRANGLE
FLORIDA-DE SOTO CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

RAILS, WILLIAM OSWELL HOUSE
ARCADIA, DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

Zone Easting Northing
17 414140 3010880

ARCADIA

T. 37 S.
T. 38 S.

65° 15' W
65° 30' W

Flowing Well

Joshua Creek

Flowing Well

Flowing Well

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGS, and Florida Geodetic Survey
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1952. Topography by planetable surveys 1956-1957
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Florida coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 33 meters south and
18 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation
with State of Florida agencies from aerial photographs taken 1984
and other sources. This information not field checked
Map edited 1988
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

UTM GRID AND 1988 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24,000
1 000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 0 1 2 3 4 5 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U. S. Route ——— State Route ———



ARCADIA, FLA.
27081-87-TF-024
1957
PHOTOREVISED 1988
DMA 4638 III NE-SERIES V847

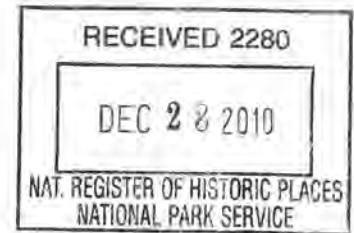
RECEIVED
BUREAU OF
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
2001 MAR 28 A 8:38



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Dawn K. Roberts

Interim Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES



December 22, 2010

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Department of Interior
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is a request to nominate the following property from the National Register:

William Oswell Ralls House, Arcadia, DeSoto County, Florida

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

Sincerely,

Barbara E. Mattick

Barbara E. Mattick, Ph.D.
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
for Survey & Registration

Enclosures

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

☐ Director's Office
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6436

☐ Archaeological Research
(850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6436

☐ Historic Preservation
(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437