

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received **DEC 28 1983**

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic J.J. Bridges House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 704 S. Kuhl Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Orlando N/A vicinity of

state Florida code 12 county Orange code 095

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Bridges House Limited

street & number 532 S. New York Avenue

city, town Winter Park N/A vicinity of state Florida

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Orange County Courthouse

street & number 65 E. Central Avenue

city, town Orlando state Florida

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title DAHRM Survey of Orlando has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date November, 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Division of Archives, History and Records Management

city, town Tallahassee state Florida

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Completed in 1916, the J.J. Bridges House is a two-story wood frame residence, located due south of the central commercial area of Orlando, Florida. It rests on a brick foundation and has a wood clapboard exterior, a rectangular plan and a gable roof. Its overall design and individual architectural features are inspired by the Colonial Revival architectural style, popular in Florida during the first several decades of the twentieth century. With the exception of the glass enclosure of its rear porches, it retains a remarkable degree of its original architectural integrity.

The Bridges House is a large two-story gable-roofed dwelling located on a corner lot. The main entrance is at the side--the east elevation--to allow the portico of the north gable with its balcony to overlook Lake Lucerne and an identical portico with balcony to look out on the rear garden. The south portico has always been screened or glassed-in.¹ Walled with widely lapped clapboards, the enclosed portion of the structure divides into three broad bays on the east -- with center entrance -- and three narrower bays north and south corresponding to the interval of the four simple classically-inspired columns of each portico. All windows are simply enframed, typical of the American Federal Style, and are floor-length north, east and south at ground floor; any and all can function as doors. The facades are perfectly symmetrical, each ground floor opening or decorative element has its near equal at second floor level. All openings, save those used as doors, have heavy fixed louver blinds on pintles.

The spare ornament of both the house and garage derives from the neo-classical composition of cornices, gable ends, entrance door surround, the fretted balustrades of the balconies and the arched window head of the garage. The north and south gable cornice is a low pitched pyramidal composition centered by a half circular window blinded by fixed louvers. The blind, half circular detail is repeated over the entrance door, all within a boldly denticulated entablature visually supported by four simple pilasters which frame the inner door-surround and the 2/2 double-hung sidelights with fretted panels below. Within a delicate arched inner frame is an eight-panel front door with half-circular, blind transom above. Pilasters with simple fluted capitals define each corner of the house. The columns, four each, of the north and south porticoes are simple wooden shafts with fluted collars or capitals. Richness is provided the composition by the fretted balusters of the balconies of each portico at second floor level. The balustrades are interlaced lozenges which arc at their points in a manner of the late eighteenth-century Chinese fret.

The rear or west elevation is an asymmetrical composition of 8/8 double-hung sash windows framed by fixed louver blinds. The west elevation is not street visible, other than the large two-story fireplace chimney at the building's northwest corner. The northwest sixth of the plan is over a partial furnace basement entered from an outside hatchway. All windows at second floor level which front on a portico are functional French doors of ten panes each (twenty panes to the pair).

The materials, gable pitch and trim of the garage are identical to that of the house. Window heads, at second floor level, however, are half-circular with the interlaced pattern of glazing bars reflecting the fret pattern of the balcony balustrades of the house. The garage has four windows east and west and single windows at first and second floors on the north and south elevations. The original garage door has been filled in with clapboarding. However, the undercut profiles of brackets which supported a pergola or open canopy across which vines grew, remain in situ.

(See Continuation Sheet)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1916 **Builder/Architect** Henry Green (builder); Wilson E. Ely(Arch.)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Reverend Dr. J.J. Bridges House, Orlando, Florida fulfills criterion C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Completed in 1916, it was designed by Wilson C. Ely of Newark, New Jersey and built by Henry Green, an important Orlando contractor. It reflects the design and ornament of finely crafted New York area residences of the Federal period, 1780-1820. Its carefully detailed Federal-style doorway, precisely designed and crafted cornice work, expanses of white clapboard walling, pairs of many-paned French windows and doors with fixed louvered blinds complete the Federal Revival style composition. The Bridges House is the earliest of the finely crafted academic Colonial homes in Orlando. Its millwork and design subsequently served as a model for local architects and builders.

Built in 1916,¹ the Bridges House was the first of the highly academic Colonial Revival style homes built in the city. It is important because it inspired a documentable second generation of residences which are simple and elegant as opposed to the more massive, opulent, columned "great houses" by Edward Pringle Hyer of the late nineteen twenties and the nineteen thirties.

The Rev. John J. Bridges, D.D., and his wife Isabel retired to Orlando following a distinguished career as a clergyman in New York and northern New Jersey.² The Bridges used as their architect, Wilson C. Ely of Newark, New Jersey.³ Mr. Ely and his father, John H. Ely, built numerous hospitals, insurance buildings, city halls, churches and residences in Bergen and Essex Counties, New Jersey between 1885 and 1932. The design of the Bridges House is that of the derived neo-classicism of the New York City-northern New Jersey areas in which the Ely's lived and worked. It is not archaeologically correct classicism, but a broad, ground-hugging, precisely proportioned classicism with ornamental elements reflective of their geographical area during the period 1790-1830. The great denticulated overdoor is similar to that of the Ford Mansion at Morristown, New Jersey. The Ford Mansion, which served as Washington's Headquarters, was under restoration and open to the public at the time the Bridges House was designed. The columns of the porticoes are of no classical "order" -- they have collars rather than capitals. The fluted collars with astragals are typical of Federal period work in the New York area in the early years of the nineteenth century, particularly that of Ezra Weeks. Weeks was New York City's major producer of decorative architectural elements from 1796 until 1842, to which the Ely's were exposed to his work in Newark, Bloomfield, and Montclair, New Jersey. The Chinese fret motif was popular in the area as can be observed at the Jumel Mansion, Washington Heights; Alexander Hamilton's 'The Grange;' and Boscobel for Staats Morris Dykeman. All had to do with John Macomb and the Weeks Brothers, Ezra and Levi.

The Bridges contracted with Henry Green and his brother to build their house.⁴ The Green Brothers had been long established in Orlando as contractors, having built or worked on the Rosalind Club, the old and new courthouses and numerous fine residences.⁵ None of the Green's previous buildings resemble the Bridges House nor are there comparable examples of the design in Orlando which pre-date the house. However, several of the City's

(See Continuation Sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1

Quadrangle name Orlando West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

All of Lot 1, Block F of Dempsey's Addition to the City of Orlando. The boundary includes all the significant features of the property.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul L. Weaver, III, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Division of Archives

date December 13, 1983

street & number The Capitol

telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee

state Florida

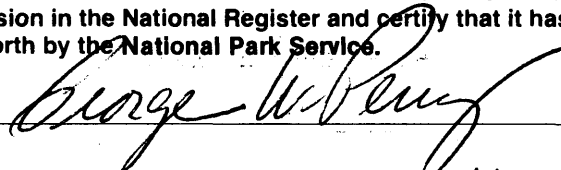
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

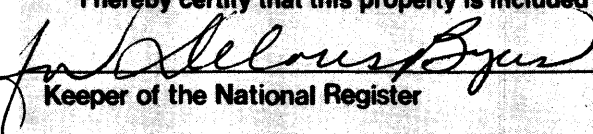


title George W. Percy, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/14/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register



Entered in the
National Register

date 1/20/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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Continuation sheet One

Item number 7

Page 1

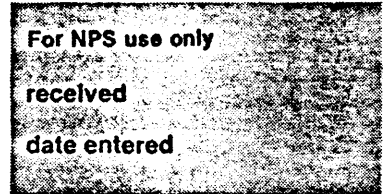
The Bridges House is not heavily decorated or ornamented. It has great simplicity and restraint of ornament, an indication of the architect's skill and the elegance of the derived neo-classical style. Its original integrity is remarkably intact and it has been pristinely maintained.

FOOTNOTES

¹City of Orlando, Building Inspection, Records of Building Permits. Clerk of the City of Orlando, City Hall. II, p. 96.

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Continuation sheet Two Item number 8 Page 1

finest Colonial Revival homes of a slightly later date resemble it strongly although they are not designed by Wilson C. Ely. They are: the Yowell House, 602 S. Lake Avenue, 1935; the George Stuart House at 800 Euclid Avenue, 1924; and the Brimmer House at 647 Bourne Place, 1922, plus two remodeled homes on Hillcrest Street which show similar trim elements.

The Bridges House is the earliest purely academic treatment in the Colonial Revival form known to have been built in Orlando. Its location then and now is prime.⁶ Highly visible to thousands daily, the building is handsomely maintained, almost pristine. It was published in its day as one of Orlando's finest homes, and the 1924 photograph is a mirror image of the building in 1983.⁷

FOOTNOTES

¹City of Orlando. Building Inspection. Records of Building Permits. Clerk of the City of Orlando, City Hall. II, p. 96.

²Orlando Reporter - Evening Star, February 10, 1916.

³Wither, Henry T. & Elsie R., Biographical Dictionary of American Architects. Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956. p. 197.

⁴Records of Building Permits. City of Orlando, II. p. 96.

⁵Jean Yothers. Curator, Orange County Historical Society, Orlando, Florida. Interview, February 11, 1983.

⁶Records of Orange County, Courthouse, Orlando, Florida. Deed Book 186, p. 12. James L. & Nannie B. Giles to John J. & Isabel N. Bridges, Warranty Deed, \$5000. Lot 1, of Block 7, Dempsey's Addition.

⁷Orlando Magazine. Orlando, Florida, March 1924. Collections of the Orlando Public Library.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet Three

Item number 9

Page 1

PUBLISHED MATERIALS

Orlando Reporter-Evening Star. Orlando, Florida. February 10, 1916.

Withey, Henry F. & Elsie Rathbun. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (deceased).
Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Company, 1956.

UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS

City of Orlando. Records of Building Permits. 3 Vols. 1905-1935. Clerk of the City of
Orlando, City Hall, Orlando, Florida.

City of Orlando. Tax Assessment Records 1897-1929. Clerk of the City of Orlando, City
Hall, Orlando, Florida.

Records of Orange County, Courthouse, Orlando, Florida. Deed Book 186.

INTERVIEWS

Jean Yothers, Curator, the Orange County Historical Society, Orlando, Florida, February 11, 1981.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Orlando Magazine. Orlando, Florida, March 1924. Collections of the Orlando Public Library.

EXHIBIT 1a

Bridges House

W. Jerome Cir.

1st floor Plan

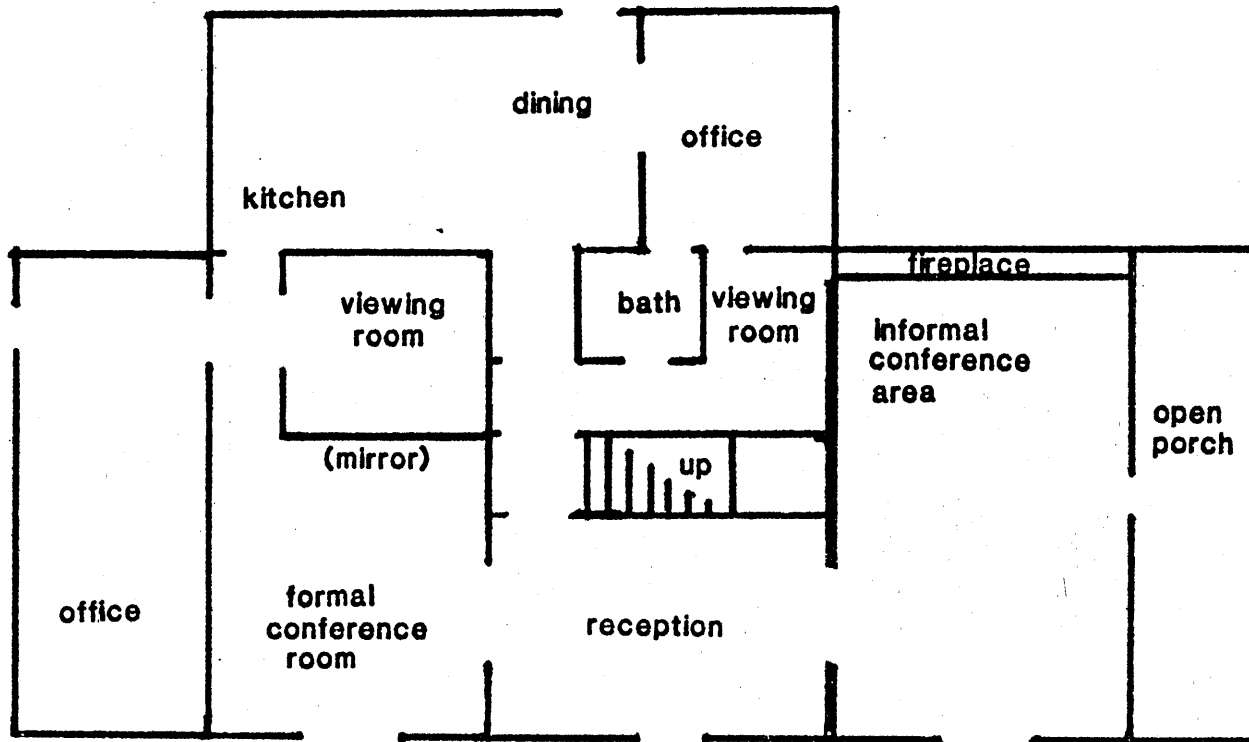
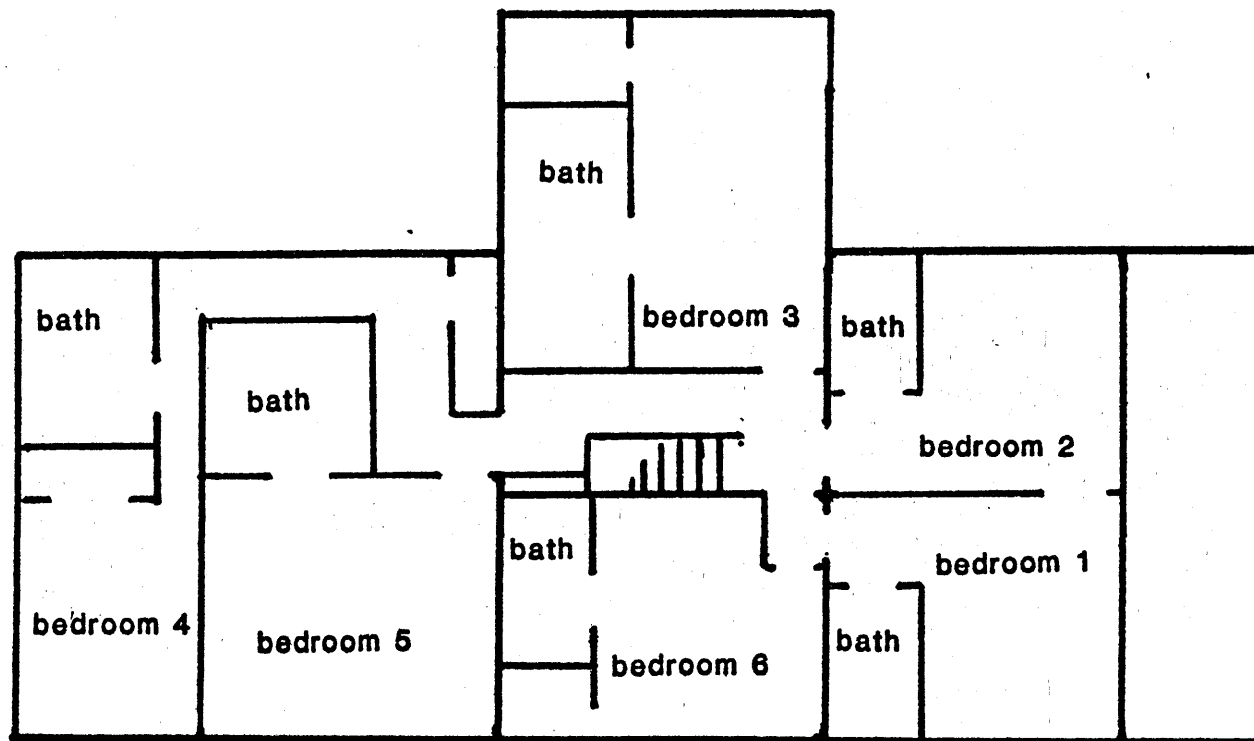
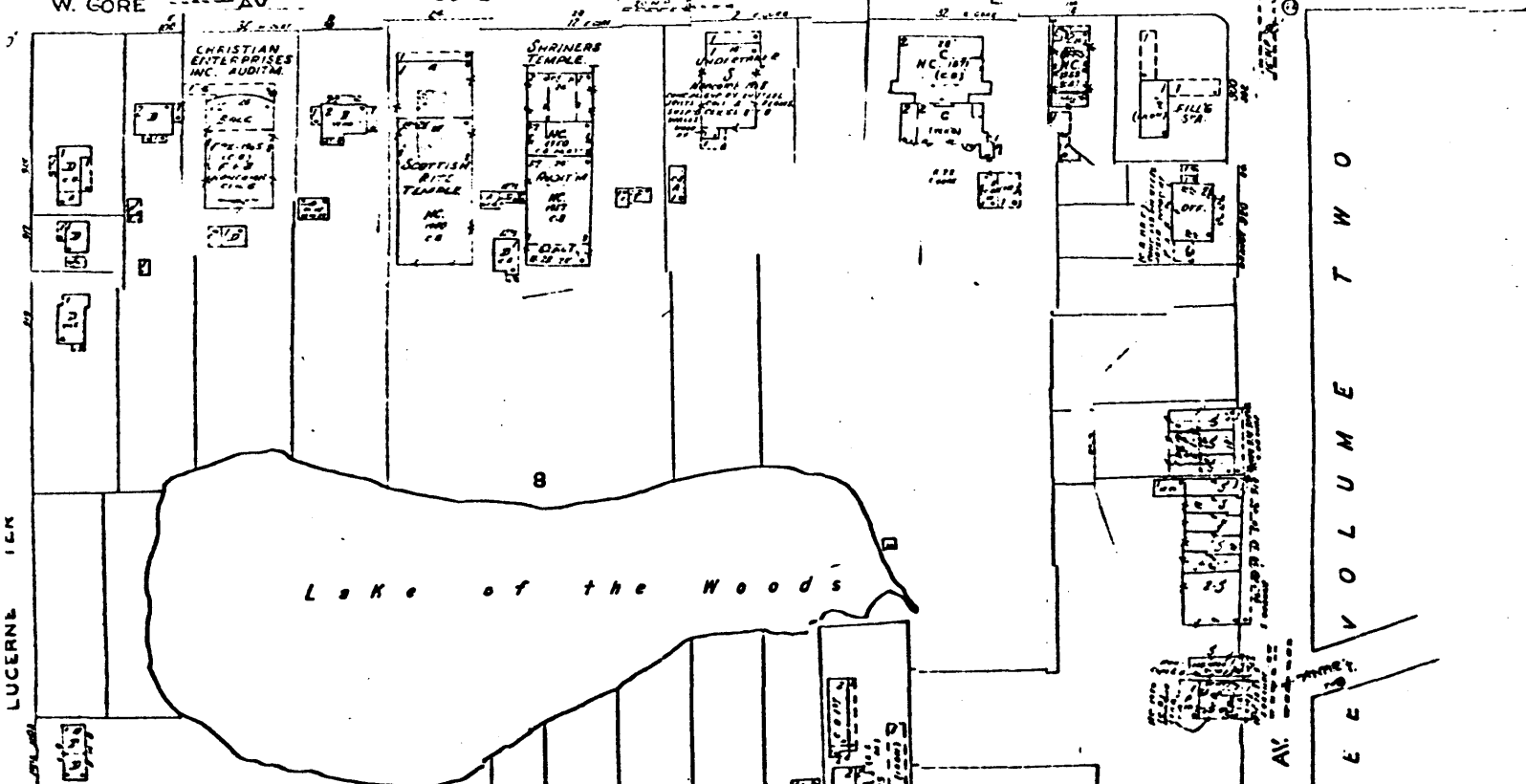
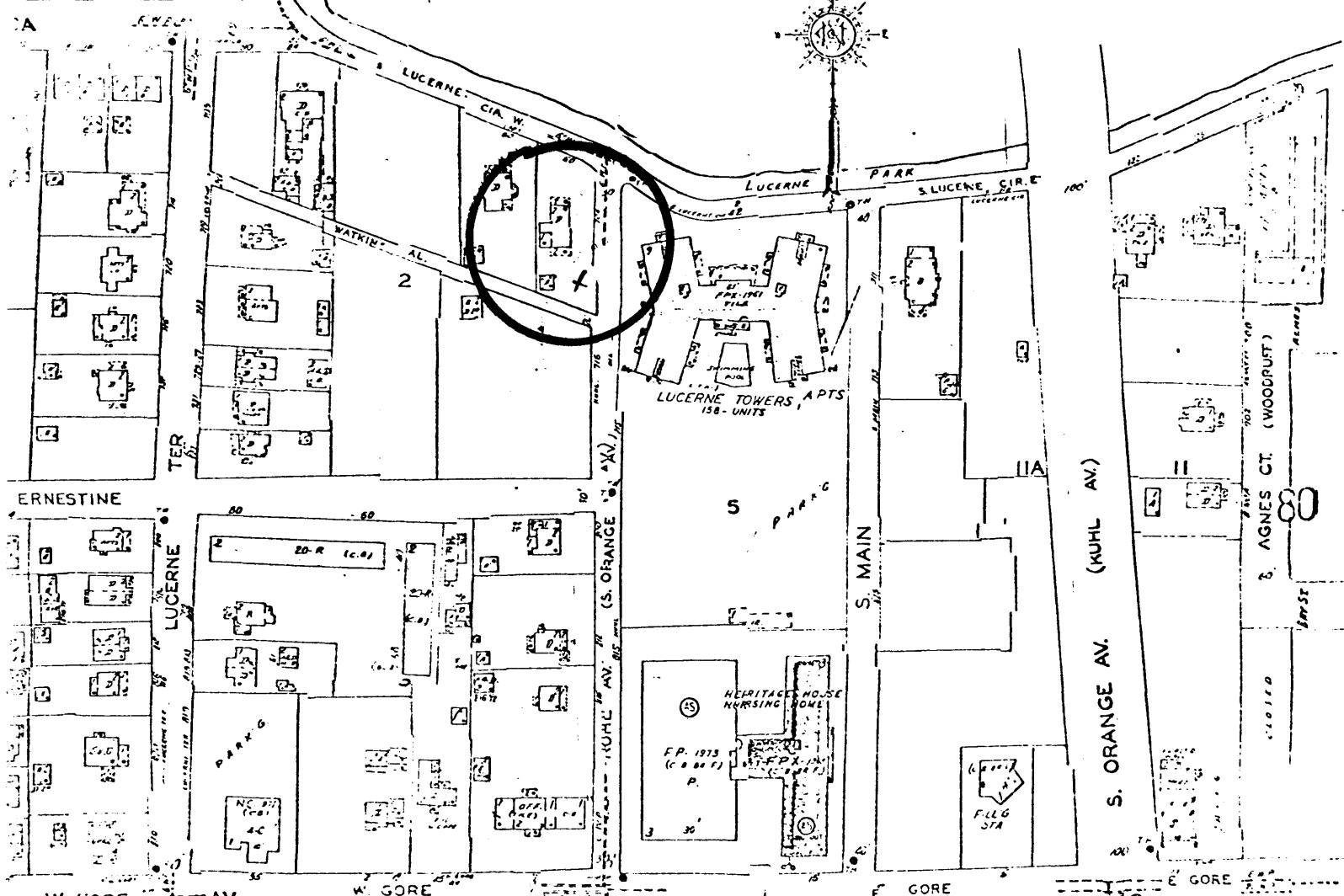


EXHIBIT 1b

Bridges House
W. Duane Cir.
2nd floor plan



Lake Lucerne



LUCERNE TER
ERNESTINE
LUCERNE
W. GORE
LUCERNE TER

AGNES CT. (WOODRUFF)
S. ORANGE AV. (KUHLE AV.)
S. MAIN
S. LUCERNE CIR. E
AV. E
VOLUME TWO