

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 Austin House

other names/site number 8MA1008

2. Location

street & number 227 Delmar Avenue n/a not for publication

city or town Sarasota vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Manatee code 081 zip code 34234

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.)

[Signature] 12/31/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, 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] _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall 2/5/98

Austin House
Name of Property

Manatee 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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	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

Hist. & Archit. Resources of Whitfield Estates Subdivision,
Manatee Co., Florida

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Domestic: Secondary Structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Domestic: Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stucco

walls Stucco

roof Asphalt Shingle

other _____

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution road 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 of represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1926-1947

Significant Dates

1926

1947

Significant Person

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Monk, T.A.

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

Austin House
Name of Property

Manatee Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	3	4	4	7	3	0	3	0	3	2	0	3	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 Mikki Hartig & Sherry Piland/Barbara E. Mattick, Historic Preservationist Supervisor

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date December 1997

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (850) 487-2333

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 _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places
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AUSTIN HOUSE
MANATEE CO., FL.

Section number 7 Page 1

The Austin House, at 227 Delmar Avenue, in Manatee County, is a two-story, wood frame residence. The exterior is surfaced with stucco. The house has an irregular plan and rests on a concrete foundation. The complex gable and hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The Austin House contributes to the **Historic and Architectural Resources of Whitfield Estates, Manatee, County, Florida**, multiple property group under Associated Property Type F.1, **Residential Buildings**. In addition to the residence, a guest house, constructed in 1947, is also located on the property.

SETTING

The Austin House is located in the portion of Whitfield Estates that lies west of U.S. 41. It is sited on the north side of Del Mar Avenue, a street only one block in length. Mature oak, orange, grapefruit and banyan trees are located on the property.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The main facade of the Austin House faces south (Photo 1). This facade is concealed by heavy vegetation. A walkway leads from the drive to a slightly raised terrace surfaced with broken tiles set in mortar (Photo 2). Three pointed-arched openings, trimmed with brick, provide access to an entry porch (Photo 3). These openings have iron grill doors. An original light sconce is to the east of the doors. The wood, double entrance doors have large glass panels, and are flanked by leaded glass side lights and transoms. The configuration of the transom and side lights is original, although the leaded glass is a recent replacement.

A secondary entrance is located on the east elevation. Projecting from the rear of this elevation is a garage addition, added ca. 1978. A large screened porch projects from the west elevation (Photo 4).

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MANATEE CO., FL.Section number 7 Page 2

The rear (north) elevation of the residence is distinguished by a screened patio, located between two wings of the house (Photo 5). Wood arches create a vaulted screened roof over the patio. The patio has a tile floor. An decorative wrought iron grille serves as the end wall of the patio.

The original windows of the house were 6/6, wood, double hung sash. While several of these still exist, a number of the windows in the house have been replaced by modern, stained glass windows, created by the current owner.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The residence contains approximately 3,000 square feet of living space. The floors are oak; the walls are plaster. The plaster ceilings have both simple and enriched wood cornices.

The first floor contains a foyer, living room, great room, dining room and kitchen. Access to the first floor is from the entry porch into a foyer containing a quarter-turn stairway with a landing, leading to the second floor (Photo 6). The stairway has a wood handrail and decorative, wrought iron balusters. The foyer leads west to the living room which contains a fireplace at its eastern end.

A grilled opening separates the living room from the Great Room, to the north (Photo 7). Flanking the grilled opening are Baroque-styled niches, with the concave surface of the niche contrasted with a convex base (Photo 8). The great room has a coved ceiling. The wood entablature placed at the junction of the walls and ceiling conceals indirect lighting (Photo 9). The entablature is supported at intervals by short, fluted columns with Tuscan-type capitals (Photo 10). The columns rest on tall wood bases. A half-bath is located in the southwest corner of the Great Room (Photo 11). At the north end of this room is a marble fireplace decorated with gilt trim and engaged spiral columns (Photo 12). French doors on the west side of the Great Room lead onto a large, screened porch with a terrazzo floor, wood ceiling, and Chippendale-type porch railings and screen-framing (Photos 13 and 14).

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AUSTIN HOUSE
MANATEE CO., FL.

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A dining room is located at the east end of the foyer (Photo 15). The door leading from the dining room into the kitchen area is flanked by trompe l'oeil painted niches (Photo 16). These appear as arched openings with a shell motif in the arch.

A small hallway separates the dining room from the kitchen, to the north. At the east end of this hallway is a secondary door to the exterior. East of the kitchen is a utility room and a passage to the three-car garage. The screened patio can be accessed from the kitchen, as well as from the Great Room.

The second floor contains a bedroom and bath, connected by a hallway. Between the two bedrooms is a small study with built-in bookcases (Photo 17). The master bedroom is located at the west end of the second floor hall. It has a fireplace decorated with old Dutch tiles (Photo 18). The wood mantel has a low, arched, wood mantel with gilt trim (Photo 19).

GUEST HOUSE

A small, L-shaped, guest house is located north of the garage (Photo 20). The wood framing is covered with clapboard. The cross-gable roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A double entrance door is located, on the west facade, is flanked by classical columns (Photo 21). This house has both four-light, metal casement and picture windows.

ADDITIONS

The guest house was constructed in 1947. In 1947, a screened porch was added at the west end of the house and much of the interior embellishment was added.

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**AUSTIN HOUSE
MANATEE CO., FL.**

Section number 8 Page 1

The Austin House, at 227 Delmar Avenue in Manatee County, Florida, is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The house was built ca. 1926 and reflects the prevailing architectural tastes of the Florida Boom years. The interior was richly embellished in 1947; however, the floor plan was changed only by the addition of a screened porch on the rear elevation. The richly detailed interior reflects the taste of the owner at the time, E. Everett Austin. The Austin House contributes to the **Historic and Architectural Resources of Whitfield Estates Subdivision, Manatee County, Florida**, multiple property group under historic context I, **Development of Whitfield Estates, 1925-1926**, and under historic context III, **Renewal of Whitfield Estates, 1940-1956**. The house is an example of property type F.1, **Residential Buildings**.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

A number of prominent local architects and builders designed and built residences in the Whitfield Estates Subdivision during the Real Estate Boom of the early 1920s. In April 1925, T. A. Monk, a builder from Bradenton, Florida, purchased twenty lots at \$1,000 each from Whitfield Estates, Inc., on the condition that he would construct houses restricted to a minimum cost of \$7,500 and sell them upon completion. Among the houses he constructed was the house at 227 Delmar Avenue. However, the house did not sell until March of 1928, when it was purchased by Marie Whyte who died less than a year later. Monk was forced to take the property back from her estate in April of 1929. Less than ten days later, Monk sold the house to Otis and Ella Jackson Prescott who retained ownership until 1944. Biographical information on the Prescotts has not been located. Title to the house was held briefly by two other owners before it was purchased by Everett Austin, Jr. on September 24, 1947.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

A. Everett Austin Jr. was known as "Chick" to many of his friends. Austin, the son of a physician, was born in Brookline, Massachusetts, in 1900. He received a B. A. in Fine Arts from Harvard University in 1922. He became a leading museum curator. For seventeen years Austin served as the Director of the

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AUSTIN HOUSE
MANATEE CO., FL.

Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford, Connecticut. The Athenaeum was one of the premier museums in the United States, and a large measure of its standing could be attributed to the discerning taste, hard work, and enthusiasm of Austin.

Dr. Edward Forbes, one of Austin's former professors and Director of the Fogg Museum at Harvard, became aware of the creation of a position for the first director of the John and Mable Ringling Museum while he was on vacation in Sarasota. The museum had been bequeathed to the State of Florida by John Ringling upon his death. The museum did not open for ten years, as Ringling's estate was being settled. Dr. Forbes informed Austin of the open position, who applied immediately. Austin was hired, with the recommendation of Dr. Forbes, and moved to Sarasota in 1946.

Purportedly, Austin's main impetus for taking the post as Director of the Ringling Museum was his great interest in the Museum's excellent collection of Baroque Art, which had been acquired by John and Mable Ringling. Austin was a researcher and curator of art from both the Baroque and Renaissance periods, and in addition, had a strong interest in Surrealism and other aspects of modern art. By December of 1946, Austin had overseen the renovation of over half of the museum galleries. Less than one year later, the remainder of the galleries were completed and opened to the public.

In 1948, Austin was responsible for acquiring the first addition to the painting collection of the Ringling Museum since the death of Ringling, the Peter Paul Rubens Portrait of Archduke Ferdinand II. Austin is also credited with the Ringling Museum's shrewd purchase of an eighteenth-century theater from Asolo, Italy. In 1952, the theatre was disassembled and reassembled at the Ringling Museum as an exhibit and as an actual performance hall. It is still in use today.

Austin's diverse talents led some of his contemporaries to refer to him as a Renaissance man. He was an accomplished set designer, archaeologist, artist, scholar, and musician. Austin also became involved in local performances of the Sarasota Players Theater, and he spent his summers in New Hampshire as a theater director. He also performed magic using the name "The Great Osram." Among Austin's friends were Gertrude Stein,

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Salvador Dali, Joseph Pulitzer, and George Gershwin. The connections Austin carefully cultivated while attending Harvard and living in Hartford continued to serve him well after he relocated to Sarasota.

About half way through the renovation of the Museum galleries, Austin purchased the house at 227 Delmar Avenue and it became his primary residence. The house was a perfect compliment to his active social life. His zeal for life inspired him to throw many gala parties and he had a reputation for being a gourmet chef and an extraordinary entertainer, whether it was a planned museum event or an impromptu party at his private residence.

Certainly, Austin lived life to the fullest until his death from lung cancer on March 29, 1957. A year after Austin's death his life's work and his dedication to art was honored in a joint retrospective exhibit shown at both the Wadsworth Atheneum and the Ringling Museum. It was titled, "A Homage to A. Everett Austin, Jr.: A Director's Taste and Achievement". A number of prominent artists, scholars, critics, and dealers gathered to speak in his honor.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE

The Austin House embodies a vernacular exterior treatment, with some Mediterranean Revival features, primarily in the treatment of the entry way. Austin took this fairly modest dwelling and imaginatively embellished it to meet his own tastes and needs. The Great Room and Austin's 1947 addition of a large porch provided the perfect space for Austin's considerable entertaining. The Neo-classical ornamental elements that embellish the interior, especially the classically-inspired woodwork in the Great Room, convey a sense of dignity, refined good taste, and gracious living. This unusual combination of simple exterior and lavish interior reflects the sophistication and aesthetic preferences of A. Everett Austin, as well as the historical evolution of the house over time.

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AUSTIN HOUSE
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"A. Everett Austin, Headed Atheneum," New York Times, 31 March 1957, p. 89.

Kipling, Kay. "Chick Austin: His Brilliant Career," Sarasota Magazine, February 1996.

"Memorial Exhibit Will Honor A. Everett Austin," Sarasota Herald-Tribune, 14 February 1958.

"Museum's Director, A. Everett Austin, Dies," The News [Sarasota], 30 March 1957.

**Manatee County Public Records, Manatee County Courthouse,
Bradenton, Florida**

Manatee County Deed Book 73, p. 62.

Manatee County Probate Records, Letters of Testamentary, No. 126,
p. 155.

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**AUSTIN HOUSE
MANATEE CO., FL.**

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 3,4,5, and West 1/2 of Lot 6, Block 6, Whitfield Estates.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the A. Everett Austin, Jr., House.

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AUSTIN HOUSE
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

1. Austin House, 227 Delmar Avenue
2. Manatee County, Florida
3. Mikki Hartig
4. September 1996
5. Historical and Architectural Research Services, 3708 Flores Avenue, Sarasota, Florida
6. Main (south) facade, view looking north
7. Photo 1 of 21

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

6. Detail, entry terrace, main (south) facade; view looking west
7. Photo 2 of 21
6. Detail, doors to entry porch, main (south) facade; view looking northwest
7. Photo 3 of 21
6. West elevation, view looking east
7. Photo 4 of 21
6. North elevation, showing screened patio; view looking south
7. Photo 5 of 21
6. Interior detail, first floor, stairway; view looking northwest
7. Photo 6 of 21
6. Interior detail, first floor, Great Room; view looking south
7. Photo 7 of 21
6. Interior detail, first floor, Great Room; view looking southeast
7. Photo 8 of 21
6. Interior detail, first floor, Great Room; view looking north
7. Photo 9 of 21
6. Interior detail, first floor, Great Room, view looking northwest
7. Photo 10 of 21

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AUSTIN HOUSE
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

- 6. Interior detail, first floor, Great Room; view looking southwest
- 7. Photo 11 of 21

- 6. Interior detail, first floor, Great Room fireplace; view looking northwest
- 7. Photo 12 of 21

- 6. Interior detail, screened porch, west elevation; view looking southwest
- 7. Photo 13 of 21

- 6. Door to screened porch, north elevation; view looking south
- 7. Photo 14 of 21

- 6. Interior detail, Dining Room; view looking north
- 7. Photo 15 of 21

- 6. Detail, Dining Room; view looking north
- 7. Photo 16 of 21

- 6. Interior detail, second floor hallway, looking into study; view looking southwest
- 7. Photo 17 of 21

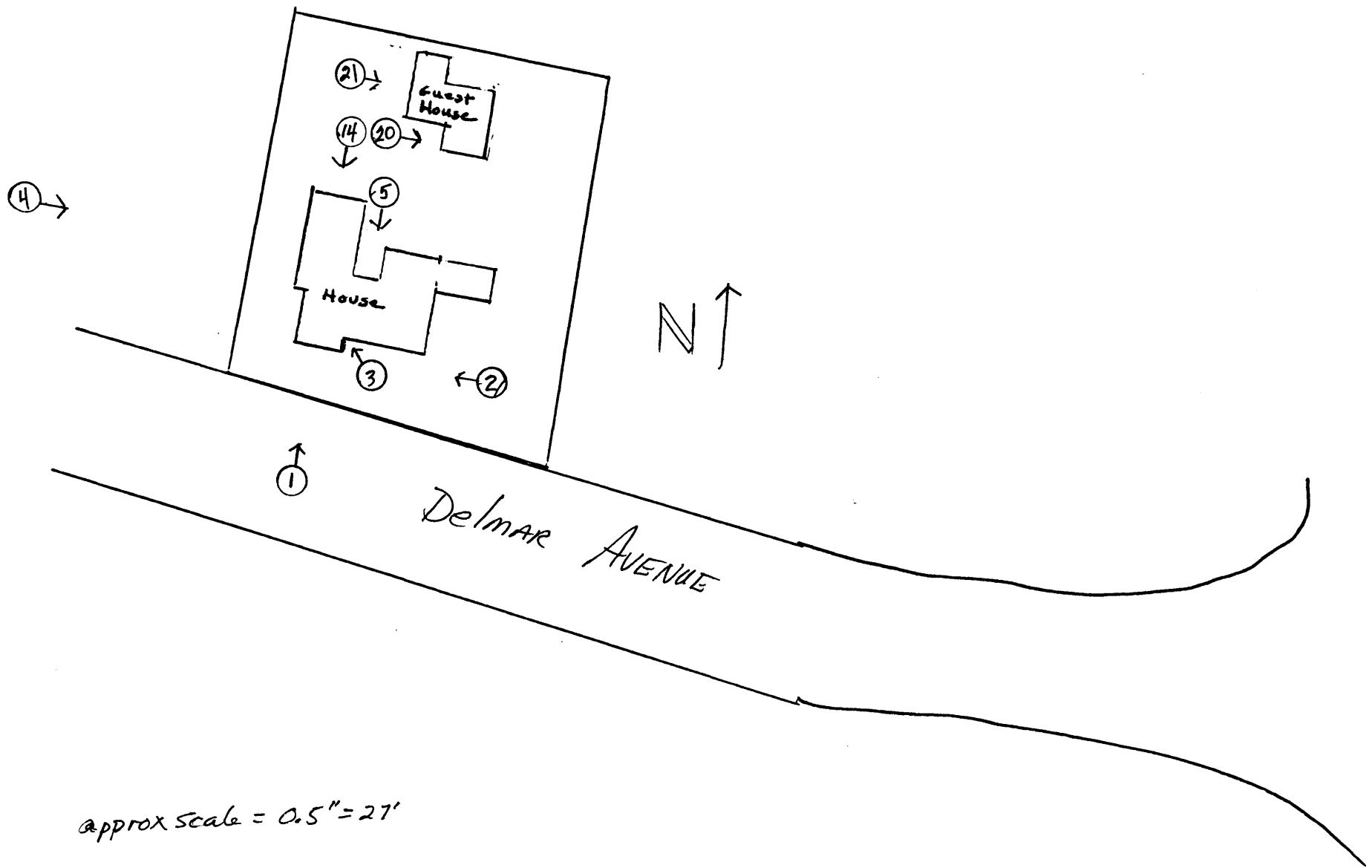
- 6. Interior detail, second floor, master bedroom; view looking southwest
- 7. Photo 18 of 21

- 6. Interior detail, second floor, master bedroom fireplace; view looking southwest
- 7. Photo 19 of 21

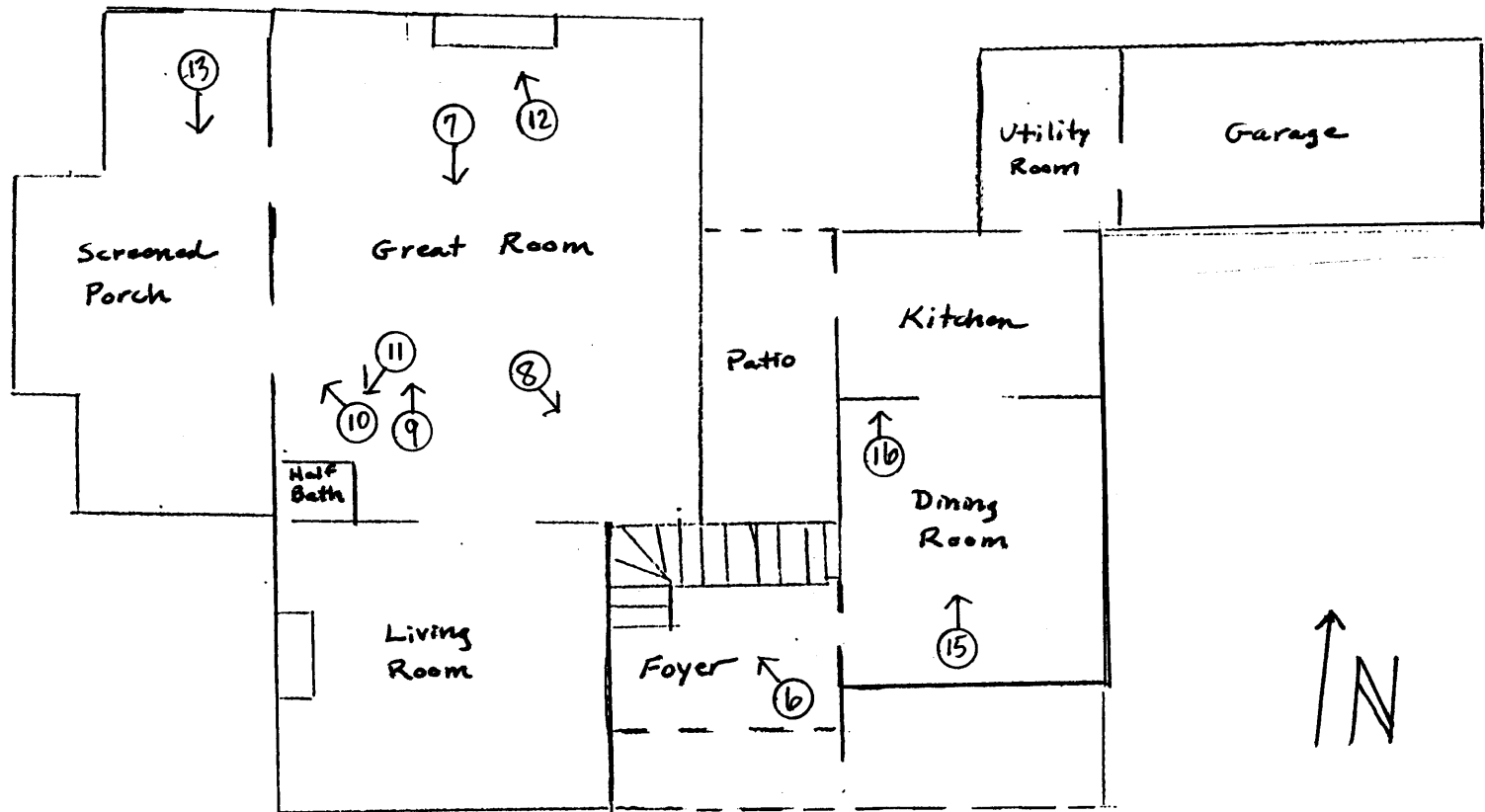
- 6. Guest House, view looking northeast
- 7. Photo 20 of 21

- 6. Guest House, view looking west
- 7. Photo 21 of 21

AUSTIN HOUSE
Manatee County, Fl.
Site Plan
Photo Direction ○→
Boundary —

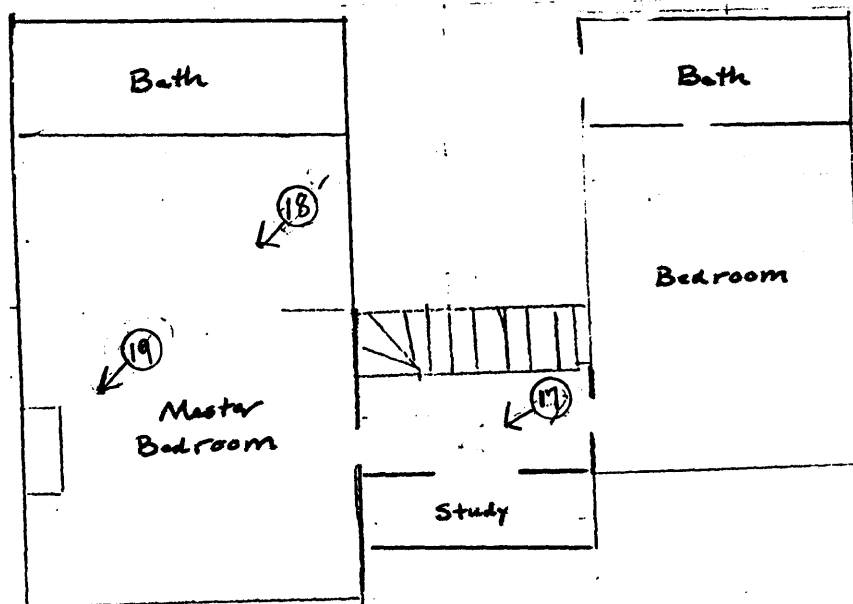


approx scale = 0.5" = 27'



AUSTIN HOUSE
 Manatee County, Fl.
 First Floor Plan
 Photo Direction ○→

NOT TO SCALE



AUSTIN HOUSE
Manatee County, Fl.
Second Floor Plan
Photo Direction ○→

NOT TO SCALE