

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93000590

Date Listed: 7/13/93

Ayer, Alfred, House
Property Name

Marion
County

FL
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

7/13/93
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Certification/Level of Significance:

The nomination originally contained an incomplete certification block. The submission is amended to acknowledge that the materials were submitted as a nomination, for a property that meets the National Register criteria.

The appropriate level of significance is amended to read Local.

This information was confirmed with Bill Thurston of the Florida SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUN 1 1993

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 an 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 Ayer, Alfred House *C. on map*

other names/site number Eagleton, James House/8MR1471

2. Location

street & number U.S. Alternate 27/441

not for publication

city or town Oklawaha

vicinity

state Florida

code FL

county Marion

code 083

zip code 32637

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.)

Suzanne P. Walker / Deputy SHPO 5/26/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation
State of 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.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick Andrus

7/13/93

Ayer, Alfred House
Name of Property

Marion 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)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Early Residences of Rural Marion Co., Fl.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Frame Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Wood: Weatherboard
roof Metal
other Wood

Narrative Description

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

Ayer, Alfred House
Name of Property

Marion Co., Fl.
County and State

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.

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 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration and Settlement

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1885-1895

Significant Dates

ca. 1885

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown/unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Ayer, Alfred House
Name of Property

Marion Co., Fl
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approx. 2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	7
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4	0	7	4	9	0
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3	2	1	2	5	2	0
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Zone

Easting

Northing

2

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3

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Zone

Easting

Northing

4

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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/Barbara E. Mattick, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date May 1993

street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (904) 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 Peter and Dorothy Chazal

street & number 508 N.E. 11th Avenue telephone _____

city or town Ocala state Fl. zip code 32670

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 to amend existing 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 Alfred Ayer House, Oklawaha,
Marion Co., FL

SUMMARY

The Alfred Ayer House is a c1885, two and a half story frame vernacular residence with some Italianate influences, located west of the community of Oklawaha, near the north shore of Lake Weir. It is regularly massed with intersecting gabled roofs. Fenestration is primarily single, wooden, 2/2 double hung sash. The house retains a high level of architectural integrity. It contributes to the **Early Residences of Rural Marion County, Florida Multiple Property Listing** under Associated Property Type **F.1 Residential Buildings, c1870-c1940.**

SETTING

The land surrounding the Ayer House was planted in orange grove and sparsely populated when Oklawaha was settled in the early 1880s. Buildings were limited to scattered houses and outbuildings and a few lakeside cottages. The Ayer House is north of U.S. Alternate 27/441 which once was the Old Lake Weir Road. The eight-acre, irregular parcel on which the building is sited is on a small spit of land on Bowers Lake. Until the mid-1980s, the land was planted in citrus grove. The grove was decimated by harsh freezes at that time and has since been cleared. A considerable amount of vegetation, however, exists around the house (Photo 1). There are two small, contributing sheds behind the house (Photos 2 & 3).

PRESENT AND ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Alfred Ayer House is two and a half stories in height. The ground plan of the building is T-shaped, formed by intersecting front and side facing gables with raked cornice returns. The massing of the side gabled portion takes the form of an I-house. The building has a one story kitchen wing on its north side (Photo 4). A hipped end porch fronts on the east end of the south elevation, facing the Old Lake Weir Road (Photo 1).

The Ayer House is regularly massed. It has a balloon frame structural system resting on brick piers. The exterior finish is horizontal, wood weatherboard. Secondary roof types include a gable roof over the kitchen wing, flat roofs over the bays on the east and west elevations (Photo 4), shed or hipped roofs over the porches (Photos 1 & 5). Both primary and secondary roof surfaces are covered by sheet metal in a V-crimp pattern, except for the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Alfred Ayer House, Oklawaha,
Marion Co., FL

bay window roofs which are tar and gravel. The primary roof is pierced by two massive, corbelled brick chimneys (Photo 1).

There are two porches, the most important of which is a hip roofed porch located on the main (south) elevation, facing Lake Weir (Photo 1). It is three bays wide on the south elevation and two bays deep on the east and west elevations. It covers the main entrance, which has a single doorway with a transom (Photo 5), and two side entrances to the house. A three bay wide side porch is located on the west side of the kitchen wing (Photo 4).

The fenestration of the building is regular. Original windows are singly placed, with the exception of paired windows on the front facing gable and the hexagonal bays on the east and west sides of the building (Photos 1 & 4). They are all wooden, 2/2, double hung sash.

The Alfred Ayer House is an excellent example of the Italianate style applied to a simple vernacular form. The Italianate influences in the style are expressed through its brackets, window surrounds, and gable returns (Photos 1 & 4).

The interior of the Alfred Ayer House reflects the T-shaped plan. The main entrance opens into a large foyer which leads directly into a dining room. To the west of the foyer is a livingroom with a fireplace, and to the east is a bedroom, also with a fireplace. These rooms form the cross bar of the T. Directly north of the dining room is a one story kitchen wing which forms the base of the T. There is also a half bath on the first floor. A stairway on the east side of the foyer leads to the second floor which has two bedrooms, each with a fireplace, a den and a bathroom. Original pine wood floors, ten foot ceilings, and plastered walls remain.

ALTERATIONS

The exterior of the main block of the building is largely unaltered. Aside from some windows on the east side of the kitchen wing which have been changed to jalousie type, no substantial alterations have been made to the exterior.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3 Alfred Ayer House, Oklawaha,
Marion Co., FL

SUMMARY:

The Alfred Ayer House in the vicinity of Oklawaha, Marion County, Florida, is locally significant under **Criterion A** in the areas of **Exploration and Settlement** for its association with the early development of Oklawaha and Marion County. The house is significant under **Criterion C** as a large, frame vernacular house with Italianate influences which was typical of residences built by grove owners in Marion County during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. The house contributes to the **Early Residences of Rural Marion County, Florida Multiple Property Listing** under Associated Context: **Marion County, 1847-1900** and Associated Property Type **F.1, Residential Buildings, c1870-c1940**.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Alfred Ayer House is located in the vicinity of Oklawaha in southeast Marion County, near the northwest shore of Lake Weir. Oklawaha was first settled in 1884. Following the construction of the Florida Southern Railway through the area, it became one of the principal citrus producing communities in Marion County.

The house was constructed shortly after the settlement of Oklawaha by Alfred Ayer, one of the pioneer citrus growers of Marion County and one of the first settlers of the Lake Weir area. He arrived in Marion County in 1874 from Charleston, South Carolina, with other family members, Dr. Lewis M. Ayer and Thomas R. Ayer. All were prominently associated with the development of citrus at Lake Weir and all constructed large houses on or near the northwest shore of the lake. Alfred Ayer was also interested in truck farming and became a local authority on this activity as well as citrus culture. Active, too, in civic affairs, he served on the Marion Board of County Commissioners during the period. In 1889, Ayer sold the house to Enoch W. Agnew, owner of E. W. Agnew and Company, one of Marion County's most important mercantile and banking establishments. During the twentieth century the Ayer House has had numerous owners. Fortunately, all have chosen to maintain the essential features of the building.

The Alfred Ayer House is one of a group of private residences surrounding Lake Weir that are good surviving examples of late Victorian period architecture in rural Marion County. The Ayers House with its brackets, gable returns, classical window surrounds, and bay windows is one of the best examples of

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4 **Alfred Ayer House, Oklawaha,
Marion Co., FL**

a frame vernacular house with Italianate influences in rural Marion County. It is also one of the best examples in the county of the large houses constructed around Lake Weir and Orange Lake for grove owners during the latter two decades of the nineteenth century, when Marion County experienced a citrus boom.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 5 Alfred Ayer House, Oklawaha,
Marion Co., FL

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Florida State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1886-1887, Vol.

1. South Publishing Company, 1887.

Marion County. Clerk of the Circuit Court. Deed Books. Marion
County Courthouse. Ocala, Florida.

_____. Clerk of the Circuit Court. Plat Books. Marion County
Courthouse. Ocala, Florida.

_____. Tax Assessor. Tax Rolls. Clerk of the Circuit Court.
Marion County Courthouse. Ocala, Florida.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Alfred Ayer House, Oklawaha,
Marion Co., FL

Section number 10 Page 6

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The south 1/4 of parcel # 49050, Marion County Property Appraiser's records and identified as Lot 1, Ayers Subdivision in Plat Book A, page 138.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses the house and adjacent grounds historically associated with it.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photos 7

Section number _____ Page _____

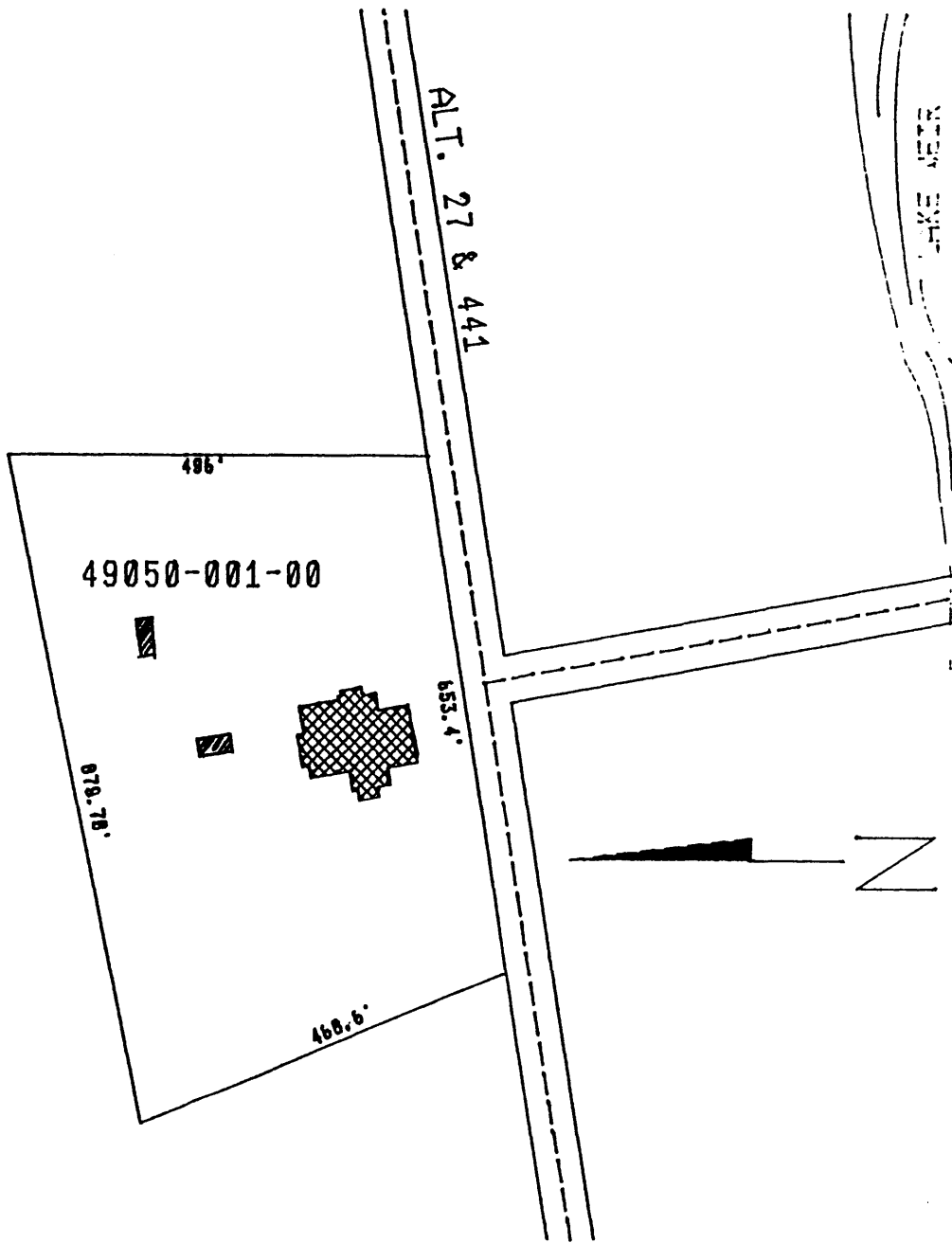
**Alfred Ayer House, Oklawaha,
Marion Co., FL**

- 1 1) Alfred Ayer House
 2) Oklawaha, Marion County, Florida
 3) Paul Weaver, Historic Property Associates
 4) August 1990
 5) Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, FL
 6) Main (S) elevation, camera facing N
 7) 1 of 8

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

- 2 6) Noncontributing shed, E side of property
 7) 2 of 8
- 3 6) Noncontributing shed, N side of property
 7) 3 of 8
- 4 6) W elevation, showing kitchen wing, facing E
 7) 4 of 8
- 5 6) Main entrance, S elevation, facing N
 7) 5 of 8
- 6 6) Gable detail and second story windows on S
 elevation, facing N
 7) 6 of 8
- 7 6) E elevation, facing W
 7) 7 of 8
- 8 6) N (rear) elevation, facing S
 7) 8 of 8

AYER HOUSE LOCATION MAP



NOTES:

ALFRED AYER HOUSE
Oklawaha, Marion County, FL

MARION COUNTY, DIVISION OF PLANNING

DATE: 9-18-90

DR. BY: M. A. S.