

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, Thomas R. House *A on map*
other names/site number Parr House/8MR1485

2. Location

street & number 11885 S.E. 128th Place n/a not for publication
city or town Oklawaha n/a 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 *Delores Egan* **Entered in the National Register** Date of Action 7/13/93

Ayer, Thomas R. 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
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

Early Residences of Rural Marion Co., FL

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

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 _____

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A, B, C, D, E, F, G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration & Settlement
Architecture

Period of Significance

c1885-1889

Significant Dates

c1885

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Unknown/

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):

- Criteria for previous documentation on file (NPS).

Primary location of additional data:

- Criteria for primary location of additional data.

Name of repository:

Ayer, Thomas R. House
Name of Property

Marion Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1

1	7
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4	0	6	9	0	0
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3	2	1	2	1	5	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
R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough Street 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 _____
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 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 Thomas R. Ayer House, Oklawaha,
Marion Co., FL

SUMMARY

The Thomas R. Ayer House is a c1885, two-and-one-half story, Queen Anne influenced frame vernacular building, located west of the community of Oklawaha, near the northeast shore of Lake Weir. It is an irregularly massed, balloon framed building resting on brick piers. The architectural integrity of the house is excellent; with the exception of some upgrading and remodeling of kitchens and baths, it is has been little altered since it was originally constructed. 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

When the Thomas R. Ayer House was built, the land surrounding it was planted in orange grove and sparsely populated. Buildings were limited to several scattered grove houses and outbuildings and a few lakeside cottages. The local meeting house of the Chautauqua Society bordered the property to the southwest, but has since been demolished.

The Ayer House is 250 yards from Lake Weir and approximately the same distance from U.S. Alternate 27 and 441 (Marion County Road 25). It borders S.E. 119th Court (the Old Lake Weir Road) on its southeast side. The lot on which the building is sited is almost perfectly square and covers slightly more than an acre. Until the mid-1980s the surrounding acreage was planted in citrus grove. The grove was decimated by harsh freezes at that time and has been cleared. Much of the original grove land, particularly that on the lake, has been subdivided into one to two acre lots.

PRESENT AND ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

EXTERIOR

The exterior finish of the Thomas R. Ayer House is horizontal, wood, weatherboard. The building has a variety of roof forms, most of which are gabled, with various degrees of pitch. Other types of roofs and roof features include a gable dormer, a flat roof, pent roof, and shed roofs. Both primary and secondary roof surfaces are covered by galvanized sheet metal in a V-crimp pattern. The roof is pierced by two brick, corbelled chimneys on the north and west sides of the building, and an

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Continuation Sheet**

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

exterior brick chimney is located on the east side of the rear addition.

The main (S) elevation has three irregular bays (Photo 1). The west bay has two and a half stories with a front gabled roof. The first story level is distinguished by a three-sided, flat roofed projecting bay. Each face of the bay has a 2/2, double hung sash, wooden window. At the second story level, double French doors open onto the balustraded roof of the bay. A pent roof supported by brackets shelters and accents the doorway. A small, square 2/2, double hung sash window is located near the peak of the gable which is distinguished by decorative verge board.

The central bay is a three story tower above the recessed main entrance (Photo 3). The upper stories are marked by single, 2/2 double hung sash windows flanked by louvered shutters (Photo 1). A two story, screened porch sheltered by a large shed roof forms the eastern bay and carries elaborate jig-sawn balusters and a frieze (Photo 2).

The east elevation (Photo 4) reveals the gabled end of the east wing with single, 2/2 double hung sash windows at each story and decorative verge board at the peak of the gable. The rear unadorned portions of the house have low pitched shed roofs which graduate down to a one story, gable roofed outbuilding connected to the main house by a breezeway.

The rear (N) elevation (Photo 5) has an open attached porch. The roof is irregular with various roof levels and features. The three brick chimneys are visible from the rear. A one story wing, perpendicular to the rear of the house, appears to have been originally a detached kitchen or servants' quarters (Photo 6).

INTERIOR

The first floor of the Thomas Ayer House has a central hall which provides access to a parlor or living room, family room, dining room, kitchen, and bath. At the rear is a wing which is finished as an efficiency. The downstairs contains two fireplaces with decorative mantels (Photo 7), and a number of original ceiling features (Photo 8). A centrally placed stairway (Photo 9) with a turned newel post and delicate balusters leads to the second floor which contains three large bedrooms and a

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Section number 7 Page 3 **Thomas R. Ayer House, Oklawaha,
Marion Co., FL**

bath. The floor plan is also organized around a central hall which contains a continuation of the stair rail system from below (Photo 10). The second floor also contains two fireplaces with mantels and original ceiling features (Photo 11). The upper half-story attic space has an open plan used for a den and bedroom.

Throughout most of the house is four inch wide heart pine, tongue and groove flooring. Bathrooms and kitchens have vinyl flooring and the hallway is asbestos tile. Wall finishes are plaster over lathe. Molded trim around windows, doors, and baseboards is found throughout the house. Transom lights are located above doorways.

ALTERATIONS

The exterior of the building is remarkably unchanged. The major alteration has been the replacement of the original wood roof shingles with sheet metal. This alteration was probably undertaken early in the century and has gained a significance in its own right.

The interior also has excellent integrity. The principal alterations have been to floor surfaces, where vinyl has covered the original wood flooring. Bathrooms were added early in the century.

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4Thomas R. Ayer House, Oklawaha,
Marion Co., FL**SUMMARY**

The Thomas R. Ayer House, built c1885 and located in the vicinity of Oklawaha, Marion County, Florida, is significant at the local level under **Criterion A** in the areas of **Exploration & Settlement** because of its association with the early development of Oklawaha and Marion County. It is also locally significant under **Criterion C** as an unusual application of Queen Anne architectural details to a basically vernacular residential building. The Thomas R. Ayer 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: **Residential Buildings, c1870-c1940**.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thomas R. Ayer House was constructed c1885, shortly after the settlement of Oklawaha, near the northwest shore of Lake Weir. Oklawaha was first settled in 1884, following the construction of the Florida Southern Railway through the area in 1883. Oklawaha became one of the principal citrus producing communities in Marion County.

Although the property is known as the Ayer House, property records indicate the original owners of the building were actually L. J. and Lucy Parr who bought the land from General Robert Bullock in 1885. By 1887, the Parrs had conveyed the parcel, with the building apparently already constructed, to Thomas Ayer.

Thomas Ayer was one of the pioneer citrus growers of Marion County. He arrived in the county c1880 from Charleston, South Carolina, with other family members, Dr. Lewis M. Ayer and Alfred Ayer. All of the Ayers were prominently associated with the development of citrus at Lake Weir, and all constructed elaborate houses on or near the northwest shore of the lake. Thomas Ayer also was politically prominent, serving on the Marion County Commission in the late nineteenth century.

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 20th century, the Ayer House has had numerous owners.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5 **Thomas R. Ayer House, Oklawaha,
Marion Co., FL**

The Thomas R. Ayer House is architecturally significant as the best example of the Queen Anne style in rural Marion County. Typical features of the style which the house incorporates include irregular massing and roof lines, projecting bays, and highly decorative woodwork, such as brackets and verge boards. The period of significance is c1885 to 1889, from the time it was built through the time it was associated with Thomas Ayer, a citrus pioneer of Marion County.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 6 **Thomas R. Ayer House, Oklawaha,
Marion Co., FL**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

_____. Plat Books. Marion County Courthouse, Ocala, Florida.

_____. Tax Assessor. Tax Rolls. Marion County Courthouse,
Ocala, Florida.

The Belleview Leader, 12 April 1978.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 7 **Thomas R. Ayer House, Oklawaha,
Marion Co., FL**

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Thomas R. Ayer House are roughly square, measuring approximately 210' by 210'. They are more particularly described as parcel #45014, Marion County Property Appraiser's records. The property is bounded on the southwest by S.E. 119th Court; from S.E. 119th Court, the boundary proceeds northwest 210'; thence southwest 210'; thence southeast 210' to S.E. 119th Street; thence northeast along S.E. 119th Street to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The northeast, northwest, and southeast boundaries of the property are clearly defined by property lines. The southeast boundary is defined by S.E. 119th Court. The boundaries contain all significant resources associated with the Thomas R. Ayers House.

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Continuation Sheet**

Photos 8

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Marion Co., FL**

- 1 1) Thomas R. Ayer House, 11885 S.E. 128th Place
 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, facing N
 7) 1 of 11

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

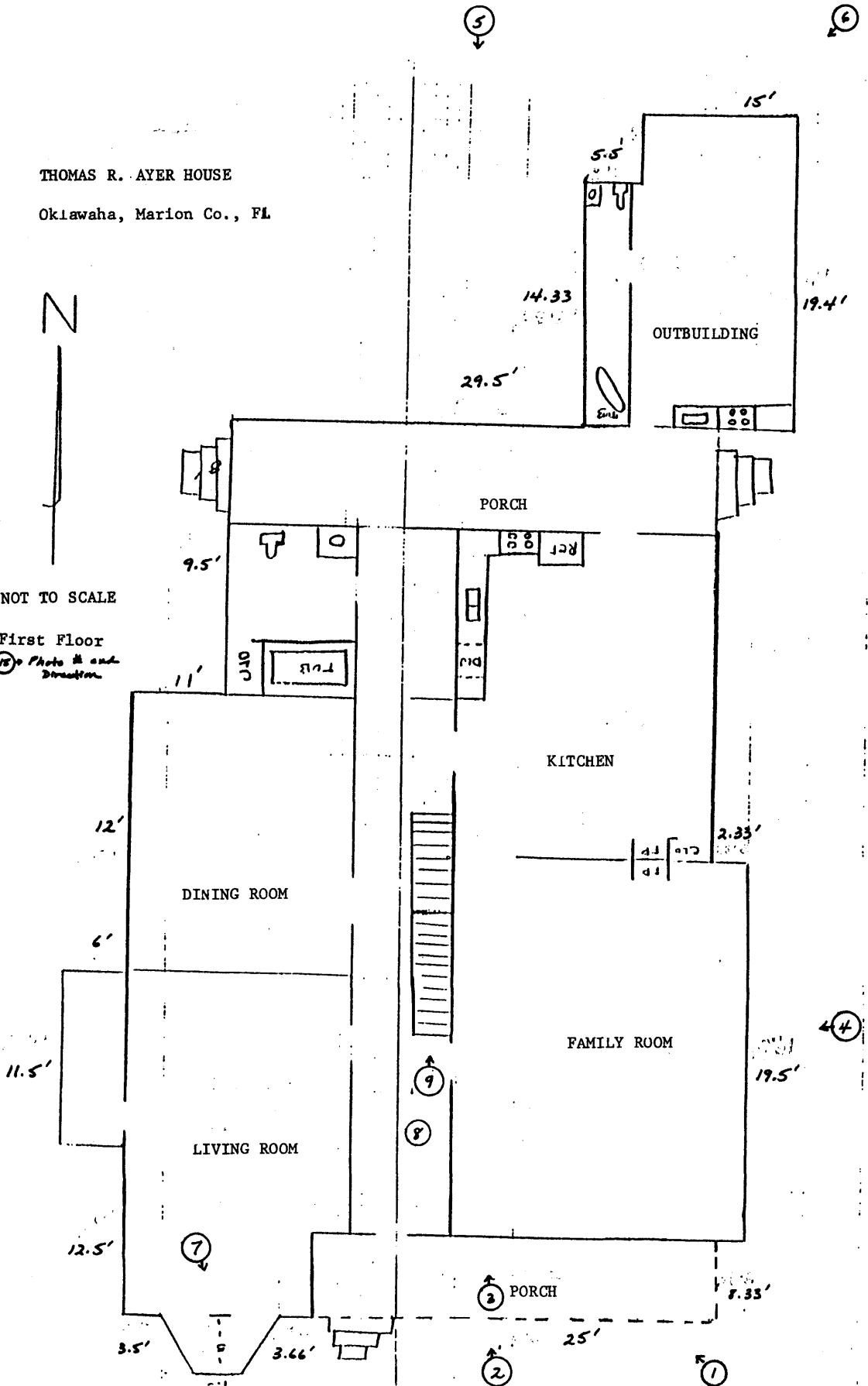
- 2 6) Main entrance and porch, S elevation, facing N
 7) 2 of 11
- 3 6) Main entrance, S elevation, facing N
 7) 3 of 11
- 4 6) E elevation, facing W
 7) 4 of 11
- 5 6) N elevation, facing S
 7) 5 of 11
- 6 6) N & E elevations, showing kitchen wing, facing SW
 7) 6 of 11
- 7 6) Living room, showing fire place
 7) 7 of 11
- 8 6) First floor stair hall, original light fixture
 7) 8 of 11
- 9 6) First floor stair hall
 7) 9 of 11
- 10 6) Second floor stair hall
 7) 10 of 11
- 11 6) Second floor bedroom, original light fixture
 7) 11 of 11

THOMAS R. AYER HOUSE
 Oklawaha, Marion Co., FL



NOT TO SCALE

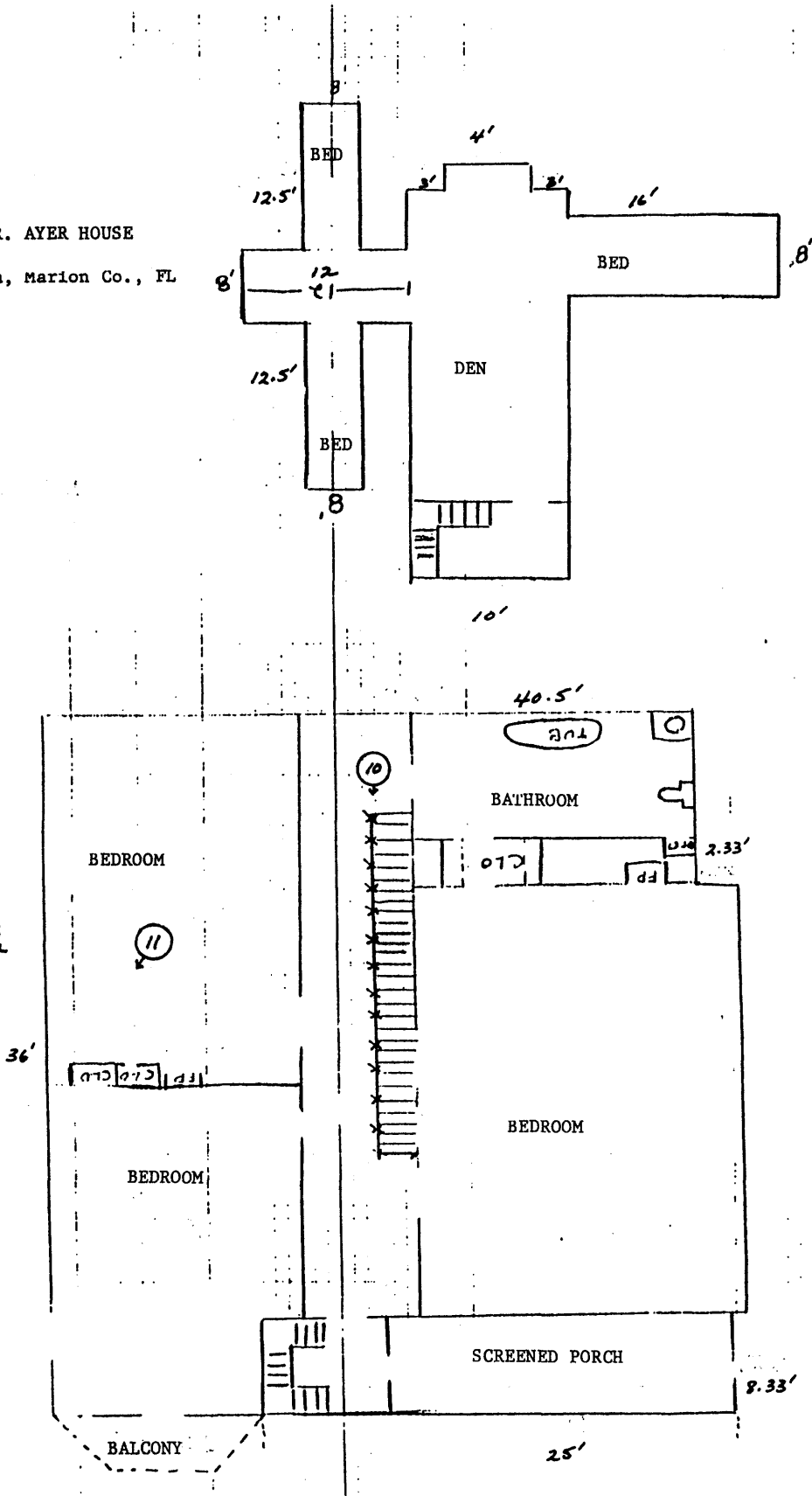
First Floor
 (15) Photo # and Direction



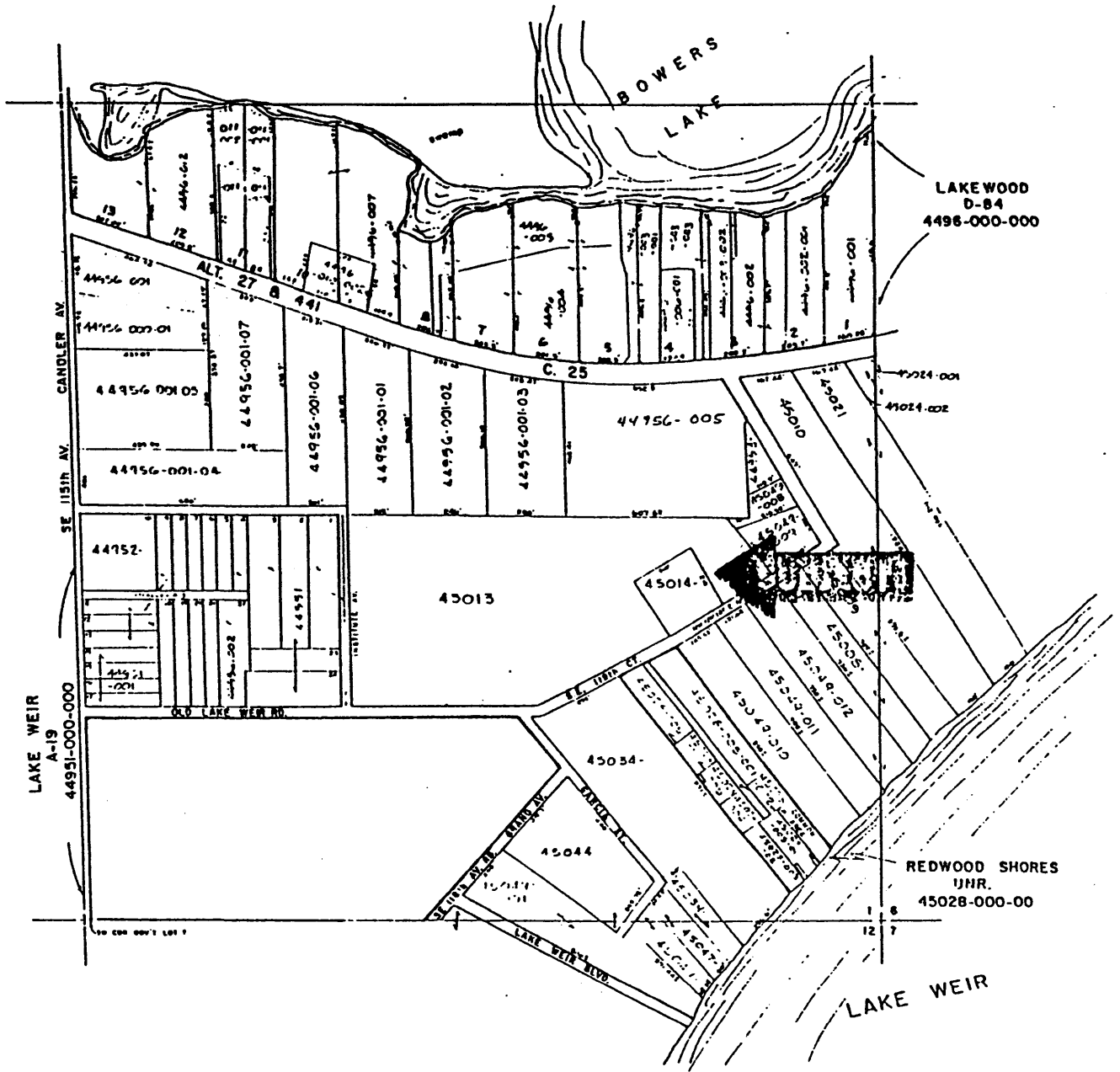
THOMAS R. AYER HOUSE
 Oklawaha, Marion Co., FL



NOT TO SCALE
 (10) Part of the and
 Direction
 Second Floor



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INFORMATION SHOWN HEREON IS FOR USE OF THE COUNTY APPRAISER'S OFFICE AND SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR A SURVEY OR LAND TRANSFER OF ANY TYPE

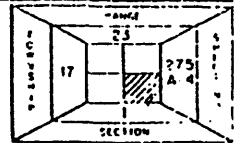


MARION COUNTY, FL.

OFFICE OF PROPERTY APPRAISER

SCALE 1" = 200'

REVISED MAR. 6, 1985 80



THOMAS R. AYER HOUSE