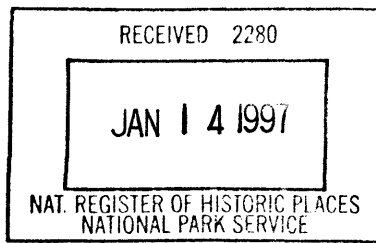


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 BAKER, SAMUEL HOUSE

other names/site number /PA562

2. Location

street & number 5744 Moog Road N/A  not for publication

city or town Elfers N/A  vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL countv Pasco code 101 zip code 34680

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 1/7/97  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida 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) \_\_\_\_\_

Elson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action  
2-14-97

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	4	buildings
0	0	sites
0	2	structures
0	0	objects
1	6	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

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Frame Vernacular

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation WOOD: Cedar Log Sections

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof WOOD: Cedar Shingles

other WOOD

Narrative Description

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

Name of Property

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.)

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EARLY SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1882 - 1913

Significant Dates

1882

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

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):

- Checkboxes for documentation types: preliminary determination, previously listed, designated landmark, recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey, recorded by Historic American Engineering Record.

Primary location of additional data:

- Checkboxes for data locations: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State Agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of Repository

#

SAMUEL BAKER HOUSE  
Name of Property

PASCO, FLORIDA  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 2.12 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	3	3	1	2	2	0	3	1	2	1	3	4	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 Maxine Clayton, Consultant; Gary V. Goodwin, Historic Preservation Planner

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date January, 1997

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 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 Pasco County Facilities Management Department

street & number 7220 Osteen Road telephone (813) 847-8151

city or town New Port Richey state Florida zip code 34653-2318

**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 7 Page 2

**SAMUEL BAKER HOUSE  
Elfers, Pasco County, Florida**

---

appearance, both porches had to be rebuilt. A ramp has been added to the west porch to accommodate the handicapped.

The Baker House has a decidedly nautical touch, having no structural frame. The board and batten that form the walls are joined in the same way ship builders fastened together wooden hulls. The house "holds" itself together by distributing the weight of the roof and attic evenly on the unsupported walls. The planks are "book-matched," and there are pegged joints connecting the 2 x 4s running around the house at the top of the walls. The method used at the Baker House is an amalgamation of "country carpentry" and the skills of a shipwright. The structural framing of the house from the first floor supports to the top wall plates are half-lapped and pegged. Support for the attic floor framing and roof rafters (top of wall plates) is accomplished by securing the framing to the wall boards with nails installed from the exterior. Double-hung sash windows, with eight over eight panes on the first floor and six over six panes on the second floor, are present on each elevation.

**Interior Description**

The floor plan has two rooms separated with a center "dog trot" hall on the first floor, and two rooms separated by a reconstructed wall on the second floor. The walls are formed with vertically placed boards butt jointed and the joints are covered with a molded batten on both the interior and exterior. The only studs in the walls are in the door and window openings. The wall boards are book-matched beginning at the center point of the end walls. The interior wall on the first floor, dividing the hall from the first floor bedroom, is reconstructed (Photo 6). The floors are constructed of heart-pine boards, and wooden door and window trim are found throughout the house.

Designed as a private residence, the building has a parlor and a bedroom on the first floor, and two bedrooms on the second floor. As you enter the dog trot from the front porch on the west facade, the parlor is to the south, and the first floor bedroom is to the north (Photos 7 and 8).

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Section number 7 Page 3

**SAMUEL BAKER HOUSE  
Elfers, Pasco County, Florida**

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The living room, also called the parlor, occupies the southern part of the first floor (Photos 9 and 10 ).

A stairway (Photos 6 and 19) on the east wall of the living room leads to the two bedrooms on the second floor. From the top of the stairs, located in the south room, the wooden pegs used in construction are visible (Photo 11). The ceiling of the south bedroom shows the rafters and the roof's cedar shingles (Photo 12). The pegs used for hanging the children's clothes are also visible in the second floor bedroom (Photo 13). The two bedrooms upstairs are divided by a reconstructed wall (Photo 14). The second floor wall has two doorways (Photos 14 and 15).

**Alterations**

The first photograph (Photo 1) shows the appearance of the house prior to restoration. To restore the house to its 1882 appearance, a kitchen, bathroom, fireplace and chimney were completely removed; the front and back porches and the north wall of the "dog trot" were reconstructed (Photo 2). The restoration work included the replacement of deteriorated framing, replacement of roof shingles, miscellaneous carpentry and paint removal. Also, on the second floor, the wall between the two bedrooms was reconstructed. A reconstructed privy occupies the northwest corner of the yard (Photo 16) and a ramp has been added to the south end of the west porch to accommodate the handicapped. The reconstructed kitchen is connected to the west porch (Photo 21) by an uncovered walkway.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number PHOTOS Page 1

**Samuel Baker House  
Elfers, Pasco County, Florida**

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY**

- 1) Samuel Baker House, 5744 Moog Road
- 2) Elfers, Pasco County, Florida
- 3) West Pasco Press, New Port Richey, Florida
- 4) Unknown—probably 1987
- 5) Mary C. Vinson, PO Box 653, Elfers, FL 34680
- 6) Exterior of Baker House before restoration. Camera facing southwest.
- 7) 1 of 21

- 3) Photographic Concepts, New Port Richey, Florida
- 4) March 2, 1993
- 5) Photographic Concepts
- 6) North and West exterior elevations. Camera facing southeast.
- 7) 2 of 21

- 3) Unknown
- 4) Unknown—probably 1993
- 5) Mary C. Vinson
- 6) Detail of plaque on north elevation. Camera facing south.
- 7) 3 of 21

- 3) Photographic Concepts, New Port Richey, Florida
- 4) March 2, 1993
- 5) Photographic Concepts
- 6) South and West exterior elevations. Camera facing northeast.
- 7) 4 of 21

Unless noted otherwise, items 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

- 6) South elevation. Camera facing north.
- 7) 5 of 21

- 6) Interior central “dogtrot” hallway. Camera facing east.
- 7) 6 of 21

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number PHOTOS Page 2

**Samuel Baker House  
Elfers, Pasco County, Florida**

- 
- 6) First floor interior, bedroom. Camera facing west.
  - 7) 7 of 21
  
  - 6) First floor interior, bedroom. Camera facing north.
  - 7) 8 of 21
  
  - 6) First floor interior, living room. Camera facing west.
  - 7) 9 of 21
  
  - 6) First floor interior, living room. Camera facing northeast.
  - 7) 10 of 21
  
  - 3) Ruth Tompkins, New Port Richey, Florida
  - 4) April 28, 1995
  - 5) Ruth Tompkins
  - 6) Second floor interior, detail of wooden pegs. Camera facing southeast.
  - 7) 11 of 21
  
  - 6) Second floor interior, bedroom. Camera facing southeast.
  - 7) 12 of 21
  
  - 6) Second floor interior, original bedroom clothes pegs. Camera facing west.
  - 7) 13 of 21
  
  - 6) Second floor interior, reconstructed wall between bedrooms. Camera facing south.
  - 7) 14 of 21
  
  - 6) Second floor interior, bedroom. Camera facing northeast.
  - 7) 15 of 21
  
  - 6) Exterior of non-contributing structure (Privy). Camera facing northwest.
  - 7) 16 of 21
  
  - 6) Exterior of non-contributing structure (Pumphouse). Camera facing southeast.
  - 7) 17 of 21



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number PHOTOS Page 3

**Samuel Baker House  
Elfers, Pasco County, Florida**

- 
- 6) Exterior of non-contributing structure (Garden Club). Camera facing northwest.
  - 7) 18 of 21
  
  - 3) Fran Nurrenbrock
  - 4) January 13, 1996
  - 5) Mary C. Vinson
  - 6) First floor interior, looking up stairs from "dogtrot". Camera facing south.
  - 7) 19 of 21
  
  - 6) First floor interior, north wall of "dogtrot". Camera facing north.
  - 7) 20 of 21
  
  - 6) Newly built kitchen adjoining the west porch on the south end. Camera facing southeast.
  - 7) 21 of 21

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

**SAMUEL BAKER HOUSE  
Elfers, Pasco County, Florida**

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**Summary**

The Baker House, located at 5744 Moog Road, Holiday (Elfers), Pasco County, Florida, is a one and one-half story, wood frame vernacular residence constructed c. 1882. The side gable roof is covered with cedar wood shingles, and porches on the east and west (main) elevations are major exterior features. The house, originally designed as a single-family residence, sits on its original site and was lived in by the Baker family and descendants until 1978. It is now a part of a cultural complex located on approximately 2.12 acres owned by Pasco County. Non-contributing buildings and structures within the boundaries are a reconstructed kitchen and privy, the Elfers Garden Club building, and a pump house, in addition to an entrance ramp and walkway.

**Setting**

The Baker House is part of forty acres purchased by Samuel Baker in 1880. At the time of purchase the property was located in Hernando County; Pasco County was established out of Hernando County in 1887. The house, which remains on its original site, is one of three buildings in county owned Centennial Park, which also includes a new County Library and the County Arts Center (Anderson House, NR 1996). The house is located in the southwest corner of Centennial Park. The reconstructed kitchen, connected to the house by a wooden walkway, is to the south of the building, and a pump house sits to the east of the kitchen. The Garden Club building and the reconstructed privy occupy the northwest corner of the parcel.

**Exterior Description**

Architectural features associated with rural folk frame vernacular dwellings that are displayed in the Samuel Baker House include a wood shingled gable roof, and symmetrically placed doors and windows (Photo 2). The Baker House has a rectangular shaped plan and rests on raised wooden piers (Photo 4). Incised porches run the full width of the house on the front (west) and rear (east) elevations (Photo 5). This pioneer home, the last of its kind in West Pasco County, has a standard central hall feature called a "dog trot"(Photo 6). To restore the house to its 1882

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section number 8 Page 1

**SAMUEL BAKER HOUSE  
Elfers, Pasco County, Florida**

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**Summary**

The Baker House, built on this site c.1882 by pioneer businessman Samuel Baker, is historically significant under Criterion A in the area of Early Settlement at the local level as one of the oldest remaining buildings in Pasco County. Baker purchased 40 acres in 1880 through Florida's Internal Improvement Fund, a program established by the Florida Legislature in 1855 to promote settlement. The building is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level because the wood-frame vernacular building is the last remaining house in West Pasco County with a "dog trot" floor plan. The period of significance is 1882 - 1913, corresponding to the period it was owned by the Baker family.

The wood-frame building was assembled with wooden pegs and built by an unknown shipwright as a ship would be built. By custom, in the Southern states, the kitchen was a separate building, to keep the house cooler and to prevent accidental fires. More than fifty years ago, the original Baker House kitchen was torn down. A new kitchen patterned after the style and structure of the house was built during a 1991 restoration of the property. The new kitchen, which stands to the southwest of the house is connected to the house by a non-contributing walk-way.

**Historic Context**

Pasco County was named in honor of Samuel Pasco, president of the 1885 Florida Constitutional Convention, speaker of the Florida House of Representatives in 1887, and a two-term U.S. senator from Florida. On June 2, 1887, the Florida Legislature enacted the law which divided old Hernando County (named for the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto) into three parts, separating Citrus County to the north and establishing Pasco County out of its southern third.

The town of Elfers was once an Indian hunting ground called Alafia. Surveyed by Samuel Hope in the 1840s, this area was successively known as Alfiers, The Neck, Sapling Woods, and Elfers—a variation of the Indian name. Fishing, timber and citrus supported the early residents.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

**SAMUEL BAKER HOUSE  
Elfers, Pasco County, Florida**

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The Tampa and Tarpon Springs Land Company was a major promoter of the area in the early 1900s. The town was incorporated from 1925 to 1933.

**Historic Significance**

Samuel Baker was born December 8, 1843, in Key West, Monroe County, Florida. His spouse, Elizabeth Pinder, was born in the Bahamas c.1842. They were married in Key West on April 9, 1866. During the 1870s, Samuel Baker purchased land at Baillie's Bluff, along the coast where he built kraals (crawls) to hold sponges brought in for cleaning and drying. Because the sponges off the Gulf Coast of Florida were thought to have better texture than those from the islands around Key West, spongers had begun moving toward Florida's central Gulf coast. It was necessary to store sponges in kraals until they were ready to take the entire catch to Key West. The kraals were enclosures eight to twelve feet in length and six to eight feet wide, made by driving poles or the trunks of small trees into the ground in shallow water. On Friday afternoons, the vessels usually came in and deposited the week's catch, until the sponges were ready to ship.

Baillie's Bluff became a center of great activity as boats came from Key West, Apalachicola and Tarpon Springs to deposit for safe keeping their sponges harvested from the Gulf of Mexico. In 1886, spongers from Key West built a pavilion to store the sponges they were pulling from the Gulf. There were often more than 100 glass-bottomed hook boats operating off Baillie's Bluff. Some of the crews working on the ships and at Baillie's Bluff were experienced Bahamians or Key West blacks, and some were local settlers new to the trade. The settlement declined after 1905 when Tarpon Springs opened a sponge exchange to the south.

In 1878 Samuel Baker also raised cattle in the Elfers area. The cattle had to be shipped out on barges from Pinders Landing, near the Baker House, and floated down the Anclote River into the Gulf of Mexico to be taken to Tampa. On May 19, 1880, Baker bought 40 acres of land in Elfers for \$1.00 per acre through the Internal Improvement Fund. In 1882 he built a home there, and planted an orange grove, which eventually totaled 70 acres. Baker raised a variety of citrus, and like the cattle he raised, the fruit had to be loaded onto barges on the Anclote River for shipment

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3

**SAMUEL BAKER HOUSE  
Elfers, Pasco County, Florida**

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to Tampa. Furthermore, in 1882, when his family came to Elfers, a school was built. The legal description places the school in Elfers, nine miles from the Gulf of Mexico. The school was named Baillie School in District 22. Samuel served as a Trustee of the school from 1887 to 1892. He also sold the school a cistern next to the school building, and made and sold the school its blackboards.

The federal government established a post office (called Security) at the Baillie's Bluff site and made Samuel's son, Otis, the postmaster. The Post Office served the area from 1900 to 1908. Samuel set up and operated a small general store where spongers could buy groceries. Next to the store and sponge building, a large open pavilion was used for church services on Sundays. Many townspeople attended, bringing picnic lunches to eat under the trees.

The Baker estate was held by descendants until it was sold in 1913 and again in 1937. The property was purchased by Pasco County in 1983. The site is now a part of Centennial Park, which includes the Charles B. Anderson House (NR 1996), the headquarters of the Pasco County Fine Arts Council, and the Holiday branch of the Pasco County library. Currently the Baker House house-museum is operated by members of The Baker House Restoration Project, Inc.

**Architectural Significance**

Although some parts of the Baker House had to be reconstructed, most of the original features, including the dog trot, remain intact. Of particular significance are the examples of fine carpentry and early construction techniques, as exemplified by the book-matched planks and pegged joints. The Baker House is the oldest and most significant building remaining from the settlement period of Pasco County's history.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section number 9 Page 1

**Samuel Baker House  
Elfers, Pasco County, Florida**

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**Bibliography**

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Stanback, Richard J., *A History of Hernando County — 1840-1976*, Action '76 Steering Committee, Brooksville, Florida.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

**Samuel Baker House  
Elfers, Pasco County, Florida**

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**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundaries of the Samuel Baker House are those shown on the accompanying site map.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundaries shown on the map enclose all the historic resources associated with the Samuel Baker House and the associated land that retains its integrity.

GARDEN CLUB  
 (NON-CONTRIBUTING)  
 outhouse → N 89° 53' 27" W 96.30'  
 (NON-CONTRIBUTING)

CHAIN LINK  
 FENCE 6" H →

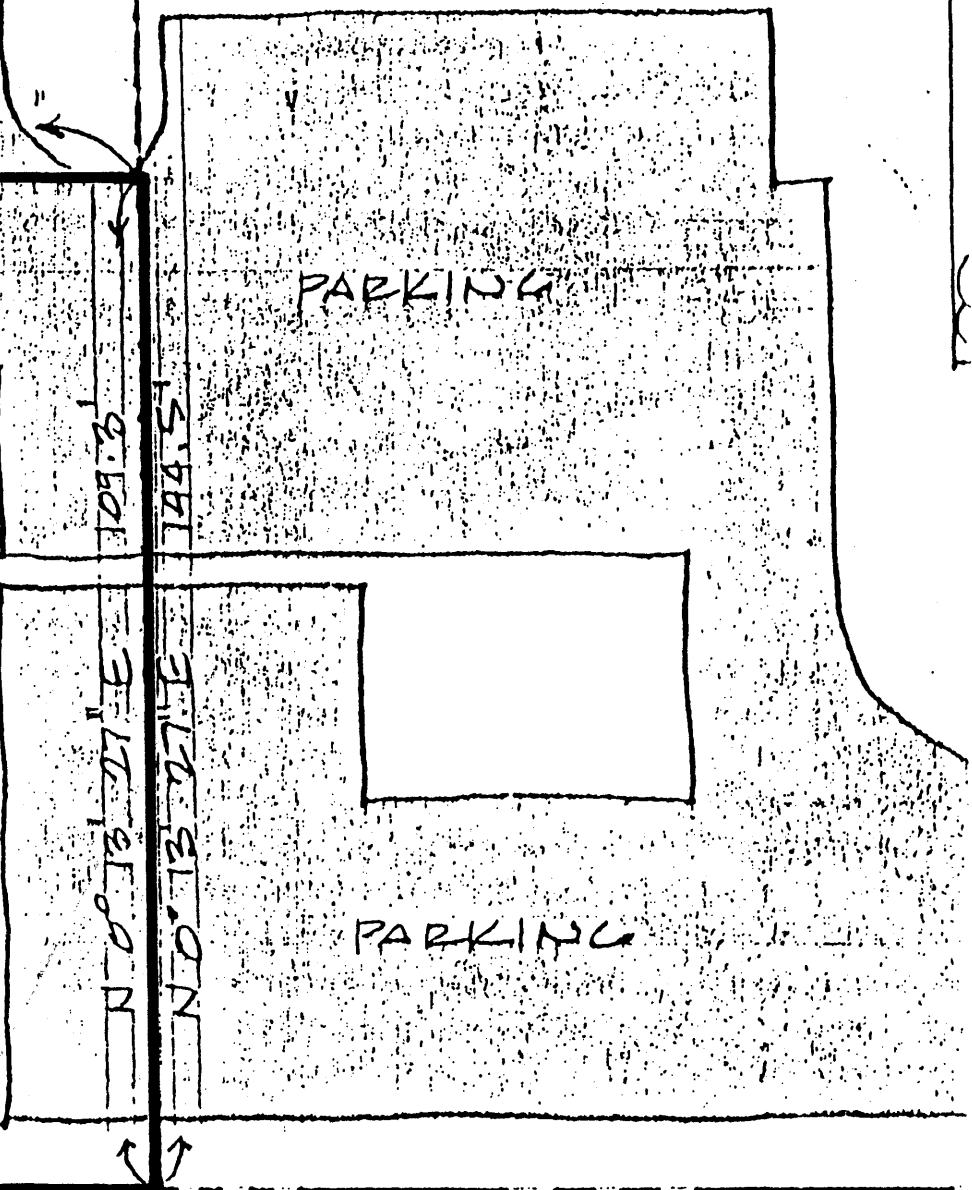
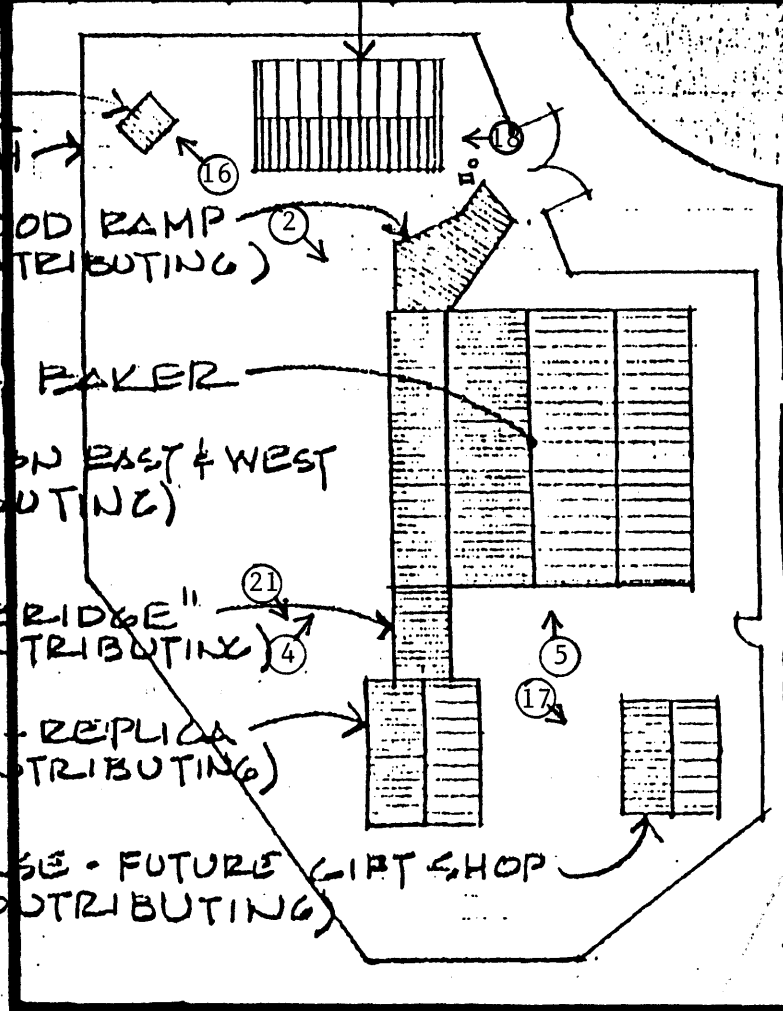
ADA-WOOD RAMP  
 (NON-CONTRIBUTING)

SAMUEL BAKER  
 HOUSE  
 PORCHES ON EAST & WEST  
 (CONTRIBUTING)

WOOD "BRIDGE"  
 (NON-CONTRIBUTING)

KITCHEN-REPLICA  
 (NON-CONTRIBUTING)

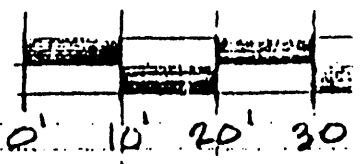
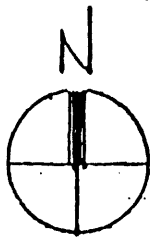
PUMP HOUSE - FUTURE LIGHT SHOP  
 (NON-CONTRIBUTING)



→ N 89° 53' 27" W 96.30'

N 89° 53' 27" W

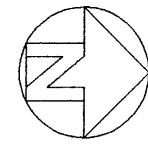
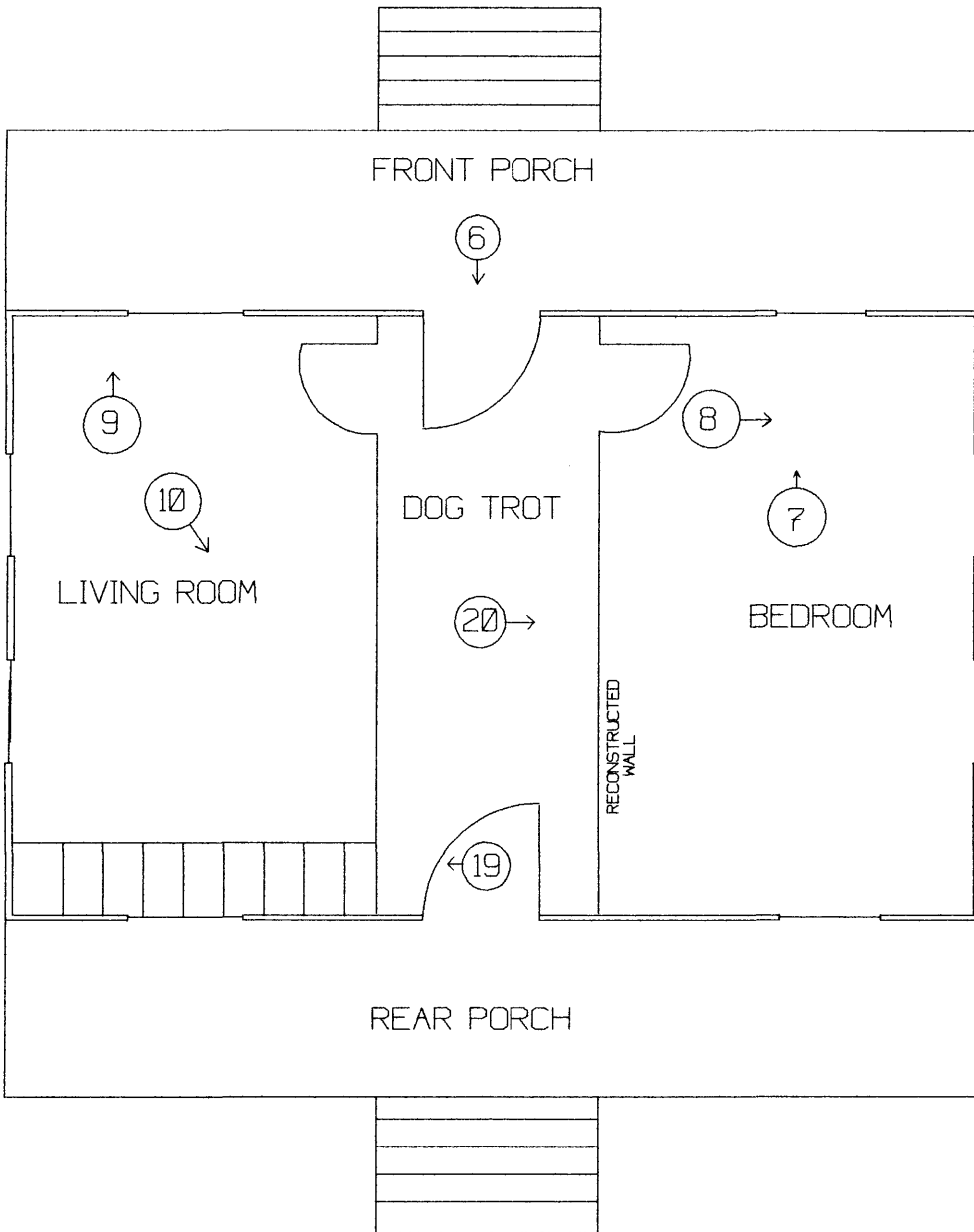
SITE PLAN  
 1" = 30'-0"





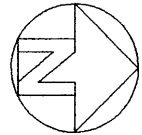
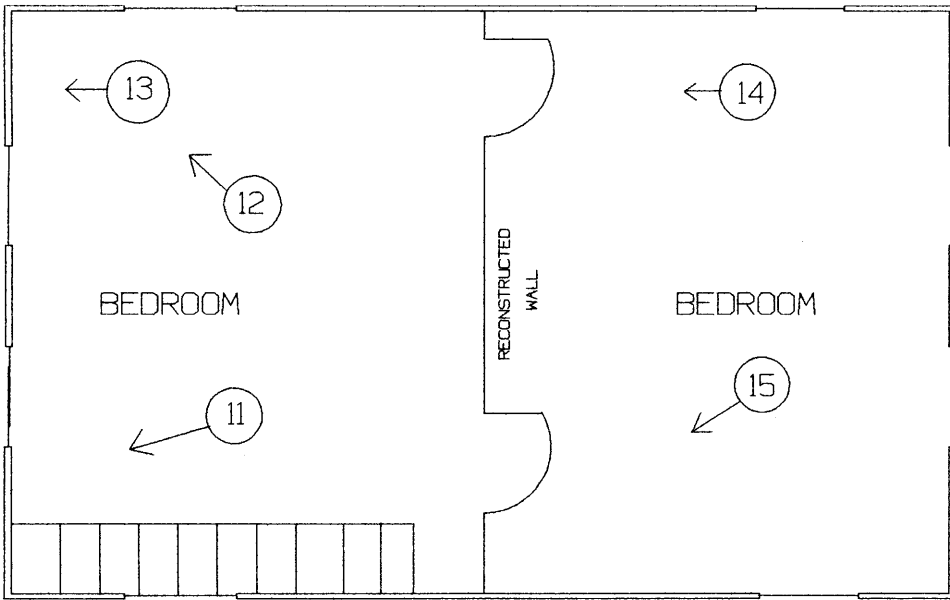
SAMUEL BAKER HOUSE  
Elfers, Pasco County, Florida  
1st Floor Plan

○ → = Photo

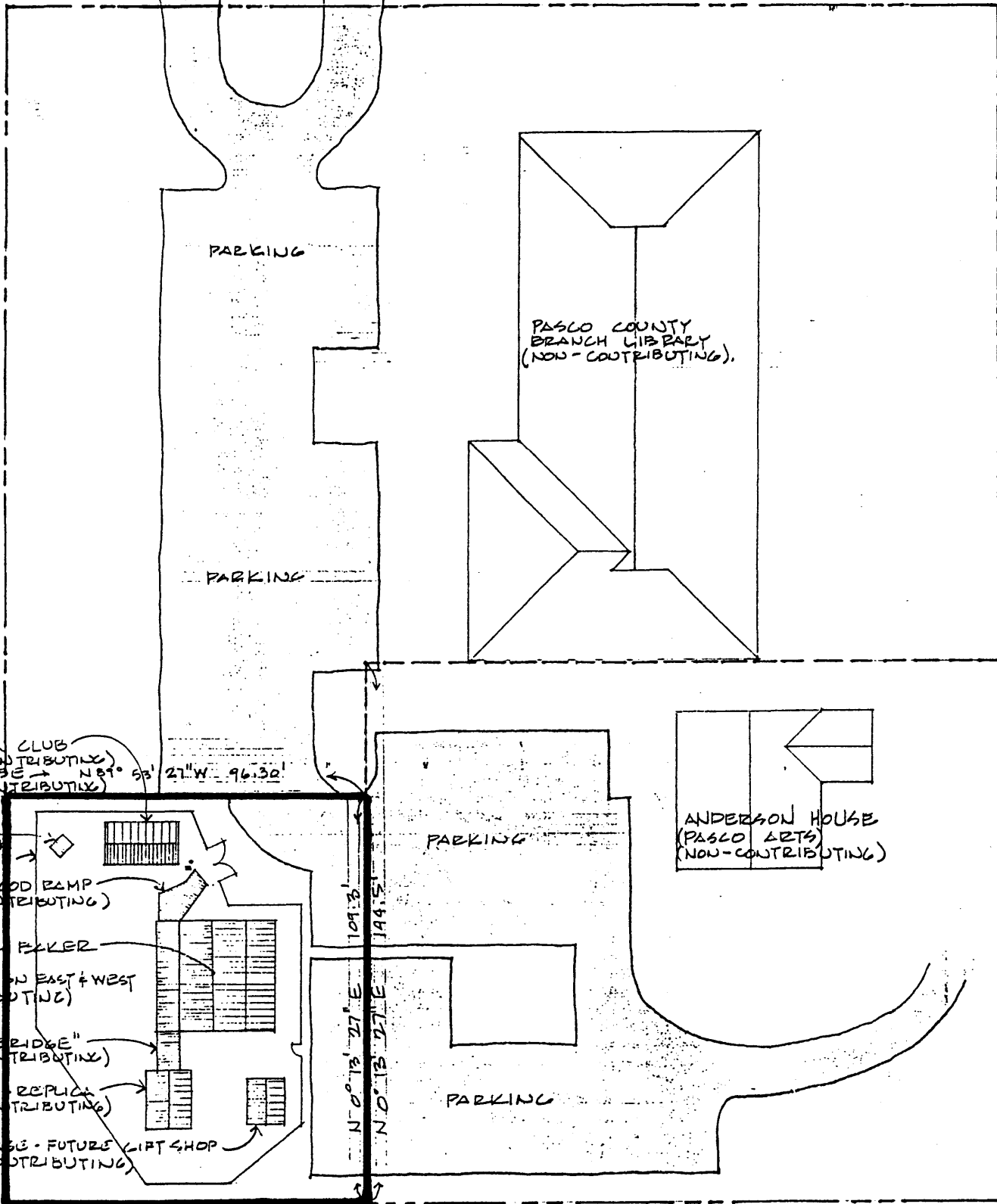


NOT TO SCALE

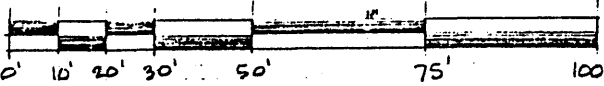
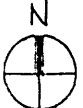
Samuel Baker House  
Elfers, Pasco County, Florida  
2nd Floor Plan  
O= Photo

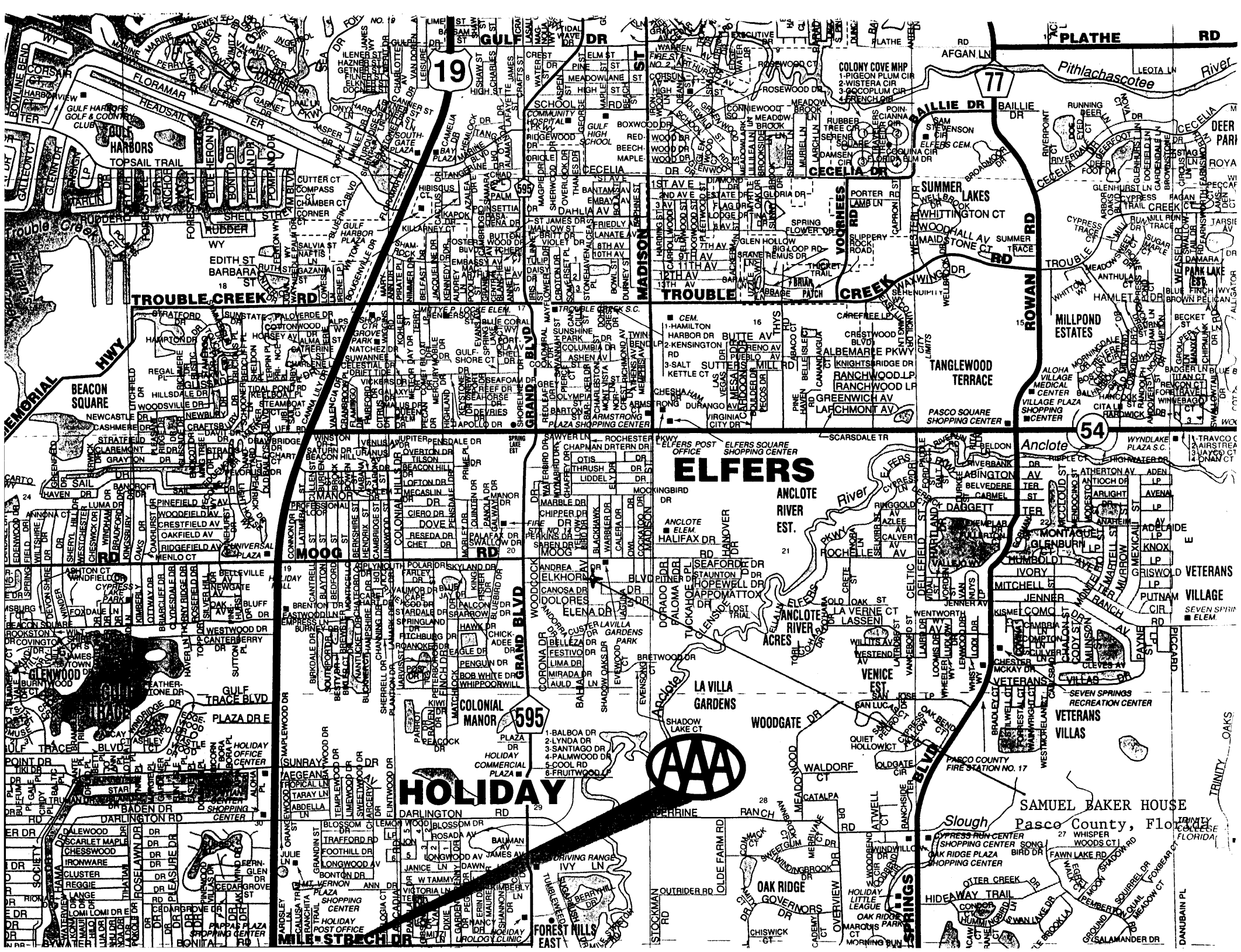


NOT TO SCALE



SITE PLAN  
1" = 30'-0"





19

77

54

595



TRouble CREEK RD

BEACON SQUARE

ELFERS

ANCLOTE RIVER EST.

Anclote

MOOG RD

GRAND BLVD

LA VILLA GARDENS

VETERANS VILLAS

HOLIDAY

Pasco County, Florida