NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

RECEIVED 2280

FEB - 3 1997

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OMB No. 1024-0018

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 MAY-STRINGER HOUSE
other names/site number <u>8HE382</u>
2. Location
street & number 601 MUSEUM COURT N/A not for publication
city or town BROOKSVILLE N/A vicinity
state <u>FLORIDA</u> code <u>FL</u> county <u>HERNANDO</u> code <u>053</u> zip code <u>34601</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this in 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 of certifying official/Title Date J STPO 1/27/97
Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Florida Division of Historical Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau
In my opinion, the property $\square$ meets $\square$ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( $\square$ 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:  Date of Action  Date of Action  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)

MAY-STRINGER HOUSE Name of Property		HERNANDO, FLORIDA County and State				
**************************************			County and State			
5. Classification						
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)		urces within Prope viously listed resources in			
☐ private ☑ public-local	buildings     □ district	Contributing	Noncontribut	ting		
☐ public-State ☐ public-Federal	☐ site ☐ structure ☐ object	1	1	buildings		
	L 00)000	0	0	sites		
		0	0	structures		
		0	0	objects		
		1	1	total		
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register				
N	//A	0				
6. Function or Use						
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instru	uctions)			
DOMESTIC/Single dwelling		RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum				
7. Description						
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from	instructions)			
OUEEN ANNE		foundation <u>BRICK</u> walls <u>WOOD</u>				
		roof <u>METAL</u> other <u>N/A</u>				
		CHIRT INTX				

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

MAY-STRINGER HOUSE	HERNANDO, FLORIDA
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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
☐ A Property is associated with events that have made	ARCHITECTURE
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	Period of Significance
distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1855
individual distinction.	1903
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations	Significant Dates
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	1855
	1903
Property is:	
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person N/A
☐ B removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation
☐ C a birthplace or grave.	N/A
□ D a compton:	
D a cemetery.	
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder
☐ F a commemorative property.	UNKNOWN
☐ 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	
<b>Bibliography</b> Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or n	nore continuation sheets )
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) has been requested	
<ul><li>☐ previously listed in the National Register</li><li>☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register</li></ul>	<ul><li>☐ Federal agency</li><li>☐ Local government</li><li>☐ University</li></ul>
designated a National Historic Landmark	Other
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	Name of Repository
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record	#

MAY-STRINGER HOUSE Name of Property	HERNANDO, FLORIDA County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property APPR. ONE ACRE	
UTM References (Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 7 3 6 4 8 8 0 3 1 5 9 3 5 0  Zone Easting Northing 2	Zone Easting Northing  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 Leslie Draper, Consultant; Gary V. Goodwin, Historic	: Preservation Planner
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation	date January, 1997
street & number R.A. Grav 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 th	e property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties ha	aving large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the	ne 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 Hernando County Heritage Museum/ Virginia Jackson, C	Director
street & number 601 Museum Court	telephone (352) 799-0129
city or town Brooksville	state Florida zip code 34601

Passwork 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.).

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	Page	1	MAY-STRINGER HOUSE
				Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida

#### **SUMMARY**

This four-story, Queen Anne style building, located at 601 Museum Court in Brooksville, is one of the best examples of Queen Anne architecture in Hernando County. The building features wall texture variation, with elaborate shingle work; a high pitched gabled roof and tower; spindle work along the porches; and exterior window treatments. Originally, it was a two-story, four room frame house, built circa 1855. In circa 1903, it was transformed into a four-story, twelve room, Queen Anne building, with a three bay facade and a two story wrap around porch. Weather boarding covers the house, which is supported by brick piers. The building has an aluminum, five gabled roof, with a four gabled tower on the south side.

#### SETTING

The May-Stringer House is situated on an approximately one acre lot at 601 Museum Court atop one of the highest points in Brooksville, Florida. It is located in a tranquil residential neighborhood just north of downtown Brooksville. The property includes the main house; a small, non-contributing shed; and a small garden space, located on the northwest side of the property. A wide yard with mature live oaks, other trees and plants are among the natural features of the grounds.

#### **EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION**

The May-Stringer House has an extended entrance way on both the first and second floors, as well as a tower, which extends two stories above the second floor (Photo 1). The front entrance features an original wooden, double door, with a transom. Each door has an arched panel over a small rectangular panel and the original doorknobs (Photo 1). The second story entrance, that leads to the second story portico, features an original double door. The upper half is glazed with diamond stained glass panels; the lower half has a rectangular panel (Photo 2). This door also features original hardware. The tower, which has four bays, facing north, south, east, and west, has a four gabled, aluminum roof. Three 2/2, double hung sash windows are found on the lower portions of the south, east and west bays. Each side of the tower features both a fish scale and zigzag shingle design on the upper bay (Photo 3). Original 2/2, double hung sash windows are found in each portion of the bay area.

The south elevation is dominated by a two story, wrap around verandah and bay area, which extends from the southwest portion of the building to the northern portion of the east elevation (Photos 3 & 4). The verandah has wood planks and features thirteen, square, wooden columns, each with a simple bull's eye design at the top. The south facade has three bays with original 2/2, double hung sash windows. A triangular wooden lintel tops each

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	_ Page _	2	MAY-STRINGER HOUSE Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida
window (Photo 3)				

The east elevation contains a portion of the verandah area. Partial spindle work is evident on both the first and second floors, as well as lattice work at the end of the verandah area on the second floor (Photo 4). Two original 2/2, double hung sash windows are located closest to the south elevation, one on each floor. Three original floor length, 2/2, double hung sash windows are found closest to the northern end of the verandah area, two on the first floor and one on the second (Photo 4). An original four-paneled door on the second floor is located to the north of the second floor window, closest to the north side of the porch. The windows and door have lintels like those on the south elevation. An original four paned window is located within the third floor gable area. A recessed chimney is visible on the south side of the east gable area (Photo 4).

The east elevation also features additions made to the May-Stringer house which are not included in the verandah area. Three 2/2, double hung sash windows run the length of the lower wall of the east elevation, off the verandah (Photo 5). A canopied, recessed area on the second floor closest to the porch area houses a 2/2, double hung sash window, which was part of the circa 1855 house configuration. A 2/2, double hung sash window is found to the north of the recessed area on the second floor, between the two lower windows, closest to the north elevation. Three ten-light windows, which are original to the back ell portion, run the length of the ell (Photo 5).

The west elevation also features three ten-light windows, which run the length of the back ell portion. A small porch area, circa 1903, on the northernmost side of the early addition features a turned balustrade and bracketing along the eaves (Photo 6). An original, 2/2, double hung sash window is visible on the northern side of the porch area. A doorway is also visible on the southern wall of the porch area. A small window, original to construction on the lower floor to the south of the porch area, has a double paned window. An original, 2/2, double hung sash window sits atop the smaller window.

The south elevation bay area, circa 1903, on both the first and second floors, features 2/2, double hung sash windows. A band of shingles separates the first and second floor bay area (Photo 7). A small, pedimented portico on the third floor features original turned balustrade and original lattice work along the eaves. A 2/2, double hung sash window is located in the middle of the wall of the porch area (Photo 7).

The porch, circa 1903, retains most of the integrity of the exterior trims of the dwelling. On the south wall of the porch is an original stained glass door. The eastern wall of the porch contains two original, 2/2, double hung sash windows with triangular lintels.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	Page	3	MAY-STRINGER HOUSE
				Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida

#### INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

In the dwelling's interior, the hardware and decorative detail retain a high degree of integrity throughout the house (Photo 8). Original wooden plank floors and door surrounds are intact. Bunched grape designs are located in each corner of the circa 1903 window and door surrounds. The fireplaces and mantelpieces in the southern parlor and eastern dining room also maintain their integrity (Photo 9). Stained glass found in the rear door in the western doctor's office on the first level, and in the double doors leading out to the second story portico are also original to the 1903 building (Photo 10). Wainscoting and baseboards found throughout the house are original to the 1903 construction (Photo 11).

An unusual feature of the May-Stringer House are curved, plaster walls found on the north side of both the first and second floor stairways and in the upper hallway near the southeast bedroom (Photos 12 & 13). This particular wall is the exterior portion of a closet in the southeast bedroom (Photo 13). The walls near the stairs have no apparent purpose, other than to possibly add support to the tower portion.

The basic plan of the May-Stringer house is centered on the hallway. A quarter turned stairway on the eastern wall of the hallway features a decorative chamfered newel post and an Eastlake influenced balustrade (Photo 14). A vernacular version of a square rosette tops an unusual curled design. There is a vernacular shelled design at the bottom of the post. A small trimmed doorway leading into a storage space is located at the bottom of the stairway. Three rooms flank the hallway, two on the east side of the hall, and one on the west. An enclosed, recessed arch is located between the eastern rooms (Photo 15). A single door with a decorative stained glass pattern is found at the end of the hall, leading to the enclosed porch (Photo 16).

A doorway located in the southeast side of the hallway leads into the circa 1855 parlor area. A circa 1880s decorative mantelpiece with Queen Anne features is located in the northwest corner of the room (Photo 17). Double pocket doors with six panels and original hardware lead into the dining room, immediately north of the parlor area.

The circa 1855 dining room, features an unadorned wooden mantelpiece in the southeast corner of the room (Photo 18). A single door on the north wall leads into a small hallway area, which separates the dining room and kitchen. It has a small staircase which leads to the back ell of the second floor. Pocket doors in the west wall of the dining room lead to the center hall, and are immediately adjacent from the entrance way into the west parlor, or doctor's office circa 1903.

The northern wall of the doctor's office has a five paneled doorway with a stained glass transom which leads into a modern bathroom (Photo 19). An extended bay area is located on the west wall of the parlor. Another five

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	Page	4	MAY-STRINGER HOUSE
				Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida

paneled doorway, with a transom, is located in the westernmost wall, leading to the west section of the front porch. The modern bathroom located to the north of the doctor's office retained an original 1/1, double hung sash window in the western wall. An original doorway in the eastern wall leads to the enclosed porch area. An original doorway on the northern portion of the eastern wall leads into the kitchen. The kitchen, circa 1903, has a small pantry area cut into the south wall. A hallway in the north side of the kitchen leads into the back ell, circa 1903 (Photo 20).

The second floor mirrors the first floor with the exception of the northern addition to the house over the enclosed porch area, circa 1900. A quarter turned stairway with chamfered newel post is located on the western side of the center hallway (Photo 21).

The southeastern bedroom on the second floor contains a small closet on the westernmost wall. The closet still contains the original doors and hardware. An unadorned wooden mantelpiece, not original to the house, is located in the northeast corner of the room. An unadorned doorway on the northern wall leads into the northeast bedroom, which is currently being used as a display area.

The middle bedroom on the east side contains an unadorned fireplace with a brick hearth (Photo 22). A four paneled doorway, circa 1903, in the east wall leads to the second story portion of the verandah. Another four paneled doorway, circa 1903, leads to the exterior of the building, but has no apparent purpose. A doorway with a clear transom window leads out to the center hallway.

The northwest bedroom is entered from a raised wooden stoop. This room is found in the section of the house that is delineated by a decrease in floor level, indicative of the evolutionary nature of the house. Across the hallway is a small office area, circa 1980.

The southwest bedroom, circa 1903, contains a five paneled doorway leading to the second story verandah on the south wall. A bay area, reflective of the first floor bay space in the west parlor, is found on the west wall. A five paneled doorway in the north wall leads into a closet space. The southwest bedroom currently houses a mock schoolroom display that has not detracted from the physical integrity of the room.

A wooden stairway on the southwest side of the hallway has the same artistic embellishments as the first floor stairway. This stairway leads to the third and fourth floor tower area.

The third floor houses a viewing space with windows on the east, west and south sides of the room (Photo 23). Original wooden flooring, circa 1903, is found in this room. A small doorway on the north wall of the building leads into the attic space. The attic space contains original wood flooring, circa 1903, and has two additional

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number _	7	_ Page	5	MAY-STRINGER HOUSE Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida	
attic spaces located toward the southeast and southwest sections of the room (Photo 24).					

#### **NON-CONTRIBUTING**

A small shed, located on the northwest side of the property, is the non-contributing building within the boundary of the parcel.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	PHOTOS	Page	1	MAY-STRINGER HOUSE
				Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida

#### PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY

- 1. May-Stringer House
- 2. 601 Museum Court, Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida
- 3. Leslie Draper
- 4. March 1996
- 5. Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250
- 6. Southeast elevation, tower, facing west
- 7. #1 of 24

Items 1-5 are the same for remaining photographs.

- 6. Detail of front entrance, facing northwest
- 7. #2 of 24
- 6. South elevation, facing north
- 7. #3 of 24
- 6. East elevation, facing west
- 7. #4 of 24
- 6. East elevation, back ell, facing west
- 7. #5 of 24
- 6. Northwest elevation, back ell, facing southeast
- 7. #6 of 24
- 6. South elevation, bay area, facing northwest
- 7. #7 of 24
- 6. Interior detail of newel post
- 7. #8 of 24
- 6. First floor, east parlor, detail of mantelpiece, facing west
- 7. #9 of 24

6. Back stairway, facing south

7. #21 of 24

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Se	ection number PHOTOS Page 2 MAY-STRINGER HOUSE Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida
	Second floor, detail of double stained-glass doors, facing southeast #10 of 24
	Second floor, center hall with curved walls, wainscoting, facing west #11 of 24
	Interior detail, door frame, transom, wainscoting, and curved walls, facing north #12 of 24
	First floor stairway, curved wall, and wainscoting, facing southwest #13 of 24
	Detail of decorative post, facing west #14 of 24
	First floor, detail of recessed arch, facing north #15 of 24
	First floor, enclosed porch, detail of original stained-glass doorway, facing west #16 of 24
	First floor parlor, decorative mantelpiece, facing northeast #17 of 24
	First floor, dining room, facing north #18 of 24
6. 7.	First floor, doorway, facing west #19 of 24
6. 7.	First floor, kitchen hallway of the back ell, facing west #20 of 24

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number PHOTOS Page 3 MAY-STRINGER HOUSE Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida

- 6. Second floor, middle bedroom, facing northeast
- 7. #22 of 24
- 6. Third floor, viewing room, facing north
- 7. #23 of 24
- 6. Attic space, facing south
- 7. #24 of 24

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	8	Page	1	MAY-STRINGER HOUSE
				Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida

#### **SUMMARY**

The May-Stringer House is significant under Criterion C at the local level in the area of Architecture for its association with the Queen Anne architectural style. The house is one of the best examples of the Queen Anne style in Hernando County. Significant features of the Queen Anne style found throughout the house include exterior wall texture variations on the west elevation and tower; spindle work found along the exterior porches and exterior window treatments; detailed gable works and tower, and a complex floor plan. The house is also an excellent example of a turn of the century transformation of a simple antebellum house to an elaborate Queen Anne house.

#### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Hernando County, Florida, began as the southwest segment of what was known as Alachua County in the early 1800s. This land area included the land of present day counties of Alachua, Marion, Sumter, Citrus and Hernando. The Second Seminole War in the mid 1830s helped establish settlement patterns for this portion of the huge county. Government officials granted land rights to veterans of the war as payment for services rendered. The main settlement of Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco Counties occurred in the early 1840s. This was due to legislation proposed by Thomas Hart Benton, a United States Senator from Missouri, to help push the Seminole Indians south so as not to be a threat to settlers. Known as the Armed Occupation Act of 1840, the legislation granted settlers the right to settle land if they took the following steps: obtained a permit from the Registrar; resided on the land for five years; erected a house and cultivated at least five acres of land; and settled within one year of the land grant. In 1842, 1312 permits were issued for settlement in the Hernando County area. An early census taken in the 1850s indicated that most of the settlers in Hernando County came from South Carolina and Georgia.

#### HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The May-Stringer House was built on land associated with the Armed Occupation Act of 1843. Richard Wiggins was deeded 160 acres of land, which at the time was part of Alachua County. Little is known as to whether Wiggins built a house on the land. However, in 1855, Wiggins sold his property to John May. It is believed that May was the individual who constructed the first four rooms of the building at approximately this time. John May, a contractor, lived in the house for three years, up until his death in 1858. His wife, Marena, and their two daughters remained in the house. Prior to his death, May donated 15 acres of his land to the county for the construction of a courthouse.

Marena May married Frank Saxon in 1866. Saxon was a member of the Florida legislature as a representative of

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	8	Page	2	MAY-STRINGER HOUSE
				Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida

Hernando County. Marena Saxon died in 1869 while giving birth to the couple's second child. Frank Saxon later married Tululu Hope, daughter of one of the earliest settlers in the county, William Hope. Saxon built another house south of the May-Stringer House. Little alteration was done to the May-Stringer House while the Saxons lived there.

In 1903, Dr. Sheldon Stringer and his family purchased the house for \$2,600. Prior to this, the house had been sold to J. H. Reddic and Jennie Johnson. The Stringers expanded the house significantly, adding the entire western side of the house as well as the tower. Dr. Stringer used the first floor, southwest room as his doctor's office. A doorway on the western side of the front entrance way was the entrance into the office. The additions were more than likely built to accommodate the doctor's growing practice. In 1980, the Hernando Historical Museum Association leased the house with an option to buy from Dr. Earl Hensley. In 1981, the Hernando Historical Museum officially purchased the house.

#### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The May-Stringer House represents one of the best examples of the Queen Anne style architecture in Hernando County. The Queen Anne style originated in England in the mid-1880s when architect Richard Norman Shaw utilized the main components of what came to be known as the Queen Anne style.

The name was an attempt at describing the resemblance of the style to rural English architecture, although the main embellishments appear to have been influenced by Tudor or Elizabethan styles of architecture. Queen Anne styles in America more commonly utilized brick and wood in the design of the house. Artistic embellishments, such as shingle designs and lattice work, gave further charm to the style for American home buyers. The style, which lasted in America from 1876 until the early 1900s, was popular primarily for residential designs. Marcus Whiffen stated that the popularity of the Queen Anne style could be attributed to Americans' need to "conjure up a period of the past that was just distant enough to appear rosy in the eyes of an America that had lost so much of its confidence in the future during the financial panic of 1873."

The Queen Anne style borrowed heavily from Elizabethan and Jacobean eras of architecture, which are also reflected in American designs through the half timbered and patterned masonry. Spindlework became part of the American design in the 1880s. Queen Anne buildings exhibit high roof pitches and gabled or hipped roof forms, sometimes with projecting gables breaking the slope. Towers, such as the one found in the May-Stringer House, are also indicative of that style. Wall texture variation, such as the breaking of a smooth exterior wall with elaborate shingle work is also a common trait of the Queen Anne Style. The May-Stringer House also has original half timbered work that can be found in a small percentage of Queen Anne houses. Its rough artistic renderings in the interior of the house add to the overall beauty of the building.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	9	Page	1	MAY-STRINGER HOUSE
				Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida
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#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

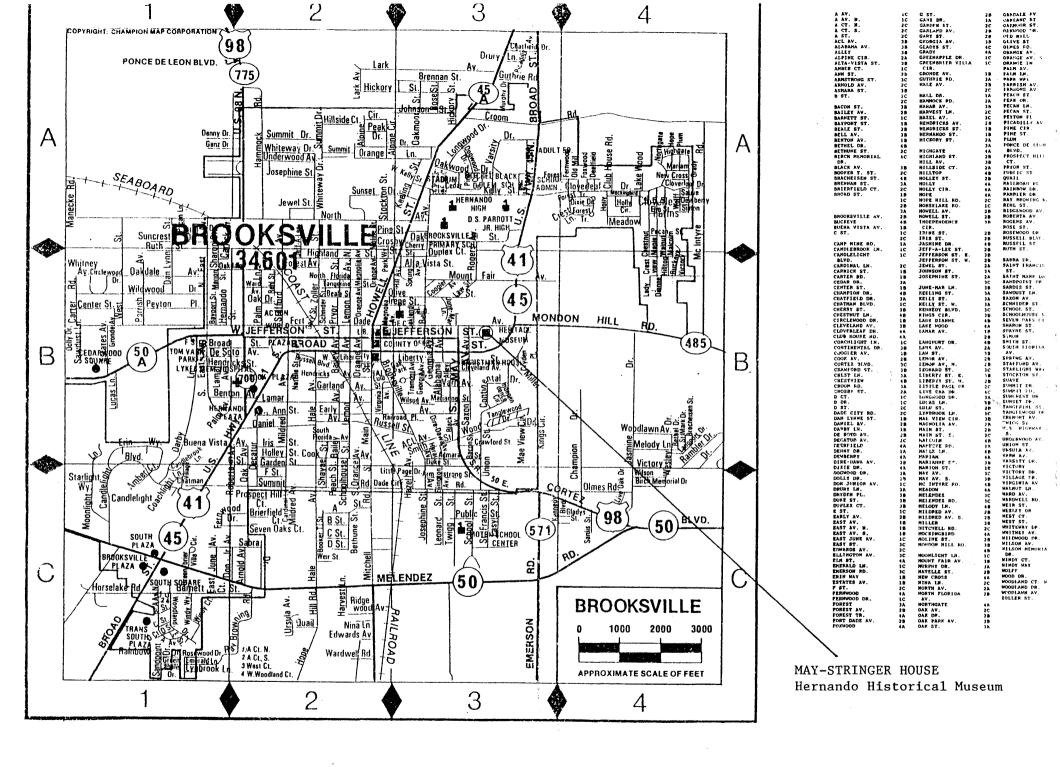
Section number	10	Page	11	MAY-STRINGER HOUSE
				Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida

#### **BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary of the May-Stringer House is shown as the bold line on the accompanying Hernando County tax map which has a scale of 1 foot to 300 feet. The legal description is Saxons Addition to the Town of Brooksville, all of Block 2, recorded in Plat Book 3 at page 1.

#### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary encompasses the lot that is historically associated with the May-Stringer House.





### TAX MAP

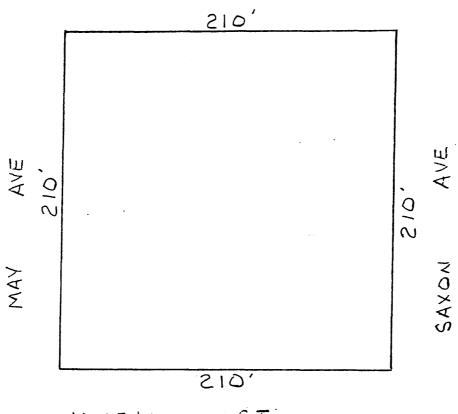
### MAY-STRINGER HOUSE Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida





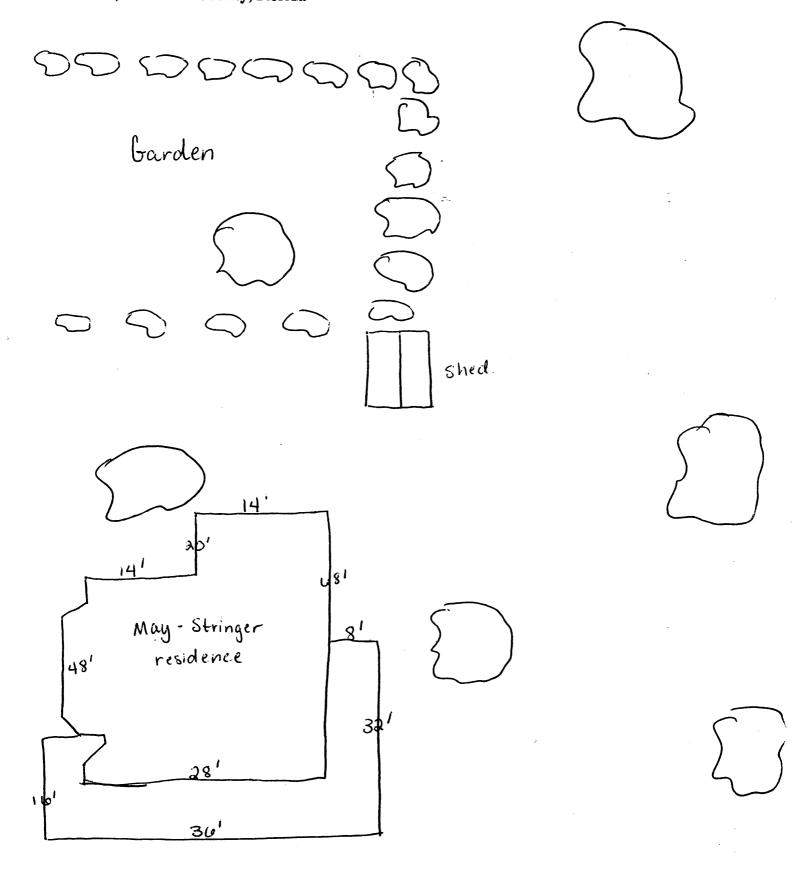
SCALE : 1" = 60'

FT. DADE AVE



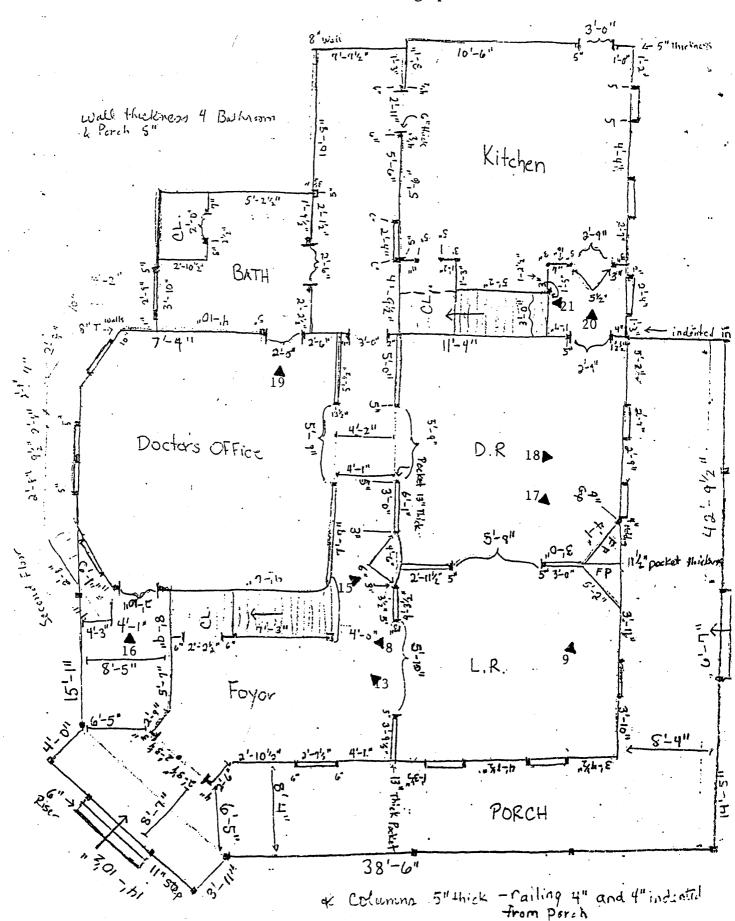
MUSEUM CT





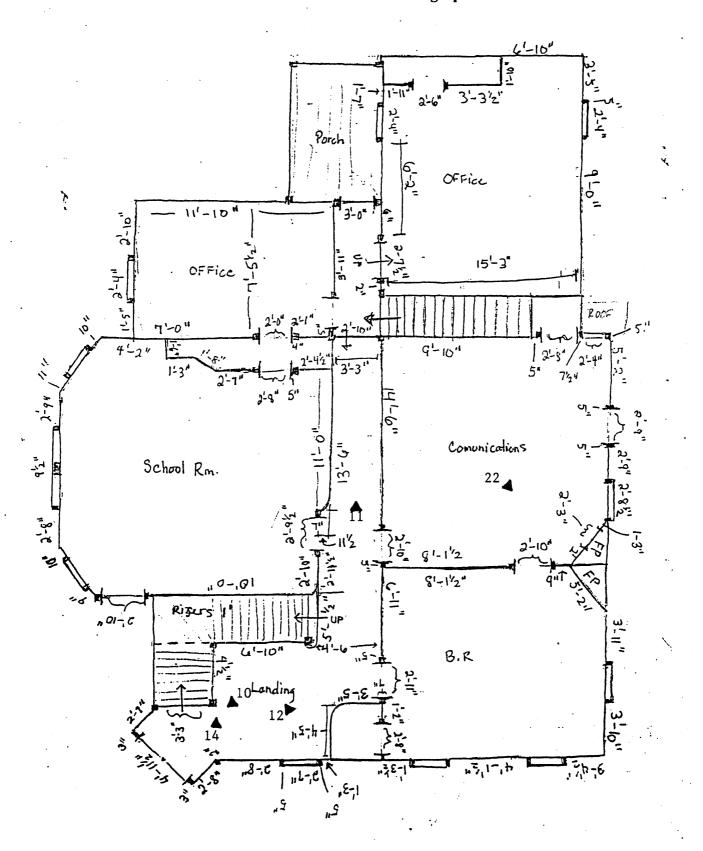
**N→** 

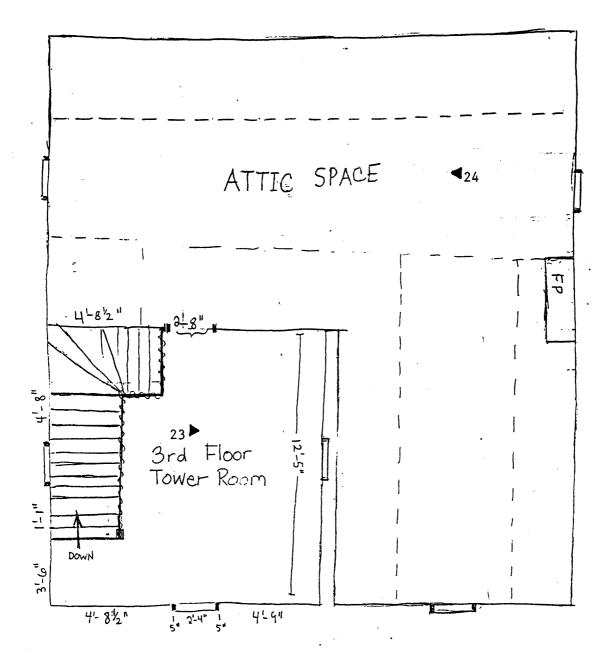
# MAY-STRINGER HOUSE Brooksville, Hernando County Florida Photographs = 0



 $\mathbb{N}$ 

MAY-STRINGER HOUSE
Brooksville, Hernando County Florida
Photographs = 0 ▶





attic-3rd floor John May-sheldon strunger Hame

**N→** 

MAY-STRINGER HOUSE
Brooksville, Hernando County Florida
Photographs = 0 ▶