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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 Hallstrom House

other names/site number Hallstrom Farmstead/8IR0385

2. Location

street & number 1723 SW Old Dixie Highway N/A not for publication

city or town Vero Beach N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Indian River code 061 zip code 32962

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.)

Jane Snyder Matthews 4.18.2002
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

Colin H. Beall 6/6/02
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
2	1	structures
0	0	objects
4	1	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

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION and CULTURE/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MASONRY VERNACULAR

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

WOOD

roof ASBESTOS SHINGLES, 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.)

- 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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
ETHNIC HERITAGE: EUROPEAN

Period of Significance

1918 - 1952

Significant Dates

1918
1923

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

HALLSTROM, AXEL

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

#

HALLSTROM HOUSE
Name of Property

INDIAN RIVER, FLORIDA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Five acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	5	6	1	6	7	0	3	0	4	9	6	7	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 Christiana E. Jackson, Consultant; Gary V. Goodwin, Historic Preservation Planner

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date April, 2002

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (850) 245-6333

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 INDIAN RIVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

street & number 1723 OLD DIXIE HIGHWAY S.W. telephone (561) 794-2379

city or town VERO BEACH state FLORIDA zip code 32962

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

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

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HALLSTROM HOUSE
Vero Beach, Indian River County, Florida

SUMMARY

The Hallstrom House is a Masonry Vernacular dwelling located in the unincorporated area of Indian River County in the historic community of Oslo. The house and contributing tractor barn sit on a 5-acre site on the west side of Old Dixie Highway atop the ancient coastal sand ridge. The five-acre site is a portion of the original 40-acre property purchased by Axel Hallstrom in 1909 for his pineapple plantation. He expanded his land holdings in 1913 to a 160-acre plantation that later became one of the area's first citrus groves. The Main house, completed in 1918, is a two story, three bay, side-gabled building flanked on the north facade by a small flat, metal roof porch wing and on the east/main façade by a one story flat roof portico, a two story polygonal bay and a gable dormer with balcony. Decorative brickwork and patterned wood shingles are visible at both north and south gable ends. The windows are original and predominantly one over one, single hung wood frame. Upon the five-acre site to the north of the main house stands one contributing brick, terra cotta hollow tile and wood vernacular tractor barn with a pyramidal hipped metal shingle roof. There is a wood cistern contributing structure with a corrugated metal shed roof located north of the tractor barn. A non-contributing metal open carport structure is located to the northwest of the main house. Finally, a contributing masonry wall structure runs north south in front of the main house along Old Dixie Highway.

SETTING

The Hallstrom House stands upon five acres of a sloping ancient coastal sand dune, a portion covered with lush green grass. The estate is set high on the ridge amid spacious grounds with a view overlooking Old Dixie Highway. The landscape is dotted with various native and exotic plants, shrubs and trees, including a small pineapple patch and fruit trees such as pecan, fig, peach, citrus, avocado, mango and guava. Many were brought to the site and cultivated by Axel Hallstrom and his family.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

Oral history indicates the construction of the Hallstrom House began in 1915 and was completed in 1918. Axel Hallstrom designed the building and in an effort to build his home he enlisted the aid of local Swedish and Norwegian craftsmen, transient railroad laborers and craftsman from out of state. The house is a two-story, three bay, irregular plan, brick on frame construction with a concrete foundation, side-gabled asbestos tile roof and center ridge chimney (Photo 1). The main façade is adorned with a wood and masonry portico with a flat metal roof supported by brick columns, a two story polygonal bay and a cross-gable dormer with a balcony (Photo 2). A flat, metal roof porch enclosed with stucco is located on the north side (Photo 3). A smaller, flat, metal roof suspended by simple wood brackets is located above the west/rear entrance (Photo 4). A two story polygonal bay is also located on the south façade (Photo 5). The house retains its original plan and materials since its completion date in 1918. One single alteration was the enclosure of the side porch on the north facade

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HALLSTROM HOUSE
Vero Beach, Indian River County, Florida

in the 1990's. During this renovation, windows were removed and replaced, and improvements were added to provide for a laundry and modern handicap bathroom.

The Main house was built on a concrete foundation made with oyster and shell that is visible from the interior crawl space. Open vents, most likely enclosed when the heating system was added in 1972, are visible from the crawlspace. There are two openings in the foundation at the northeast corner of the building on both the north and east side. Both openings are closed off from the interior cellar by a single interior wood shutter (Photo 6). Exterior walls are brick arranged in a running bond. Patterned brickwork is located in the gable on the north and south gable ends (Photos 7, 8). Some bricks are inset at a diagonal, while others protrude out about half an inch from the wall. There is a gable ornament made of patterned wood variegated shingles in the tympanum of each gable end (Photo 9).

There is a large wooden entablature that consists of an architrave, frieze and cornice. At the gable ends there is a wood raking cornice, frieze and return (Photo 10). There is a one and half foot overhang and box cornice and the soffit is made of wood bead board. The roof is a side-gable and the roof shingles are a diamond pattern asbestos shingle fastened with copper roofing nails stamped with a star. Galvanized metal gutters and downspouts painted white are located on the east/main and west/rear facade of the house.

Poured concrete lintels are located above most of the exterior windows and doors. Windows are predominantly one over one, single hung wood frame. On the first floor there are three windows whose top pane is decorated with a band of leaded glass in a diamond pattern (Photo 11). There also is a lattice casement attic window with a fanlight located at both north and south gables (Photo 12). The remaining windows are 6/1 and 8/1 wood windows.

There are five exterior doors, excluding the two screen doors that are located at the east/main entrance and west/rear entrance to the house. Three exterior doors are on the main facade. The first is at the main entrance on the first floor (Photo 13). It is a wood door with one pane of thick beveled glass. The second entrance on the main facade is located above the porch on the second floor. It is actually a pair of double doors. The doors are both half glass 3-panel doors with eight divided lights. The third exterior door on the main facade is in the gable dormer and is a half glass 3-panel door with six divided lights (Photo 14). This door leads into the attic and has been blocked off from the exterior with plywood. The fourth exterior door is located centrally at the west/rear entrance of the house. It is a 4-panel half-glass door. The fifth exterior door is at the north entrance to the house, which leads directly into the now enclosed side porch. This door was not original to the construction of the house. It is a 4-panel door with three horizontal divided lights.

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HALLSTROM HOUSE
Vero Beach, Indian River County, Florida

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior plan of the main house retains its original historic character. Ceilings on the first and second floor are 9 feet 11 inches. Wood baseboards are 9 1/2 inches throughout, and flat casing surrounds doors and windows. Flooring on both floors are predominantly wood and consist of two layers of wood; 2 1/2-inch tongue and groove oak on top of 6-inch pine boards. Kitchen floors are green marbled vinyl tiles on top of wood, porch floors are concrete, and the downstairs bathroom is white ceramic tile.

As you enter the east/main entrance you would be standing in the Stair Hall. In front of you facing west and on the left is an open wooden staircase which leads to the second floor (Photo 15). A hallway on the right leads under the staircase to the rear portion of the house (Photo 16). The Parlor is located through a door directly to the south and the Office is located through a door to the north. (Photos 17, 18). As you proceed to the back of the house you pass underneath the staircase passing an under-the-stair closet on the left. Standing in the rear hall and facing west is the west/rear entrance. The Dining Room is located through a door directly to the south. At the south end of the room is a bay window (Photo 19). There is a 6-foot cased opening between the Dining Room and the Parlor (Photo 20). A brick fireplace with a wood mantle supported by brackets is located on a diagonal at the north east corner of the Dining Room (Photo 21).

The Kitchen is located through a door to the north of the rear hall (Photo 22). On the right is the original wood-burning stove (Photo 23). Standing in the middle of the kitchen and facing north you would see a glazed wood door which leads to an enclosed porch which has been converted into a Laundry Room and separate Bathroom with ceramic tile floors. A cased opening that separates the kitchen from the Pantry is located to the east. In the Pantry there is a steep concrete staircase that leads to a cellar located directly under the Office. The floors and walls in the cellar are poured concrete, unpainted and covered with stucco over a portion of the walls (Photo 24).

First floor interior doors are two-panel wood. Walls and ceilings are plaster on top of wood lath. A two-inch decorative piece of wood trim is located about twelve inches from the ceiling in the Hall and Office and used for hanging pictures. The ceilings in both the Parlor and the Dining Room are decorated at the cornice with an elaborate concave plaster molding. Lighting fixtures are original Egyptian gothic brass chandeliers of varying sizes and decoration (Photo 25).

Access to the second floor is by the wood staircase in the central hallway in the front Stair Hall. The balustrade and spindles are of a very simple design and there are two landings. Upon reaching the second floor you arrive in an open hallway at the rear of the building (Photo 26). Bedroom #1 is located to the south. This room is located directly above the Dining Room on the first floor and it too has a bay window. There is one closet in this room that is shared by Bedroom #2 directly to the east (Photo 27). There are three closets in the open hall. Standing at the top of the staircase and facing west is a door leading to the attic stair. A large walk-in storage

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HALLSTROM HOUSE
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room is located directly to the north of the hall. Turning north and heading east in a clockwise fashion down the hallway passed the walk-in storage room, there is a bathroom to the north (Photo 28). Progressing further east is a door to Bedroom # 3. This bedroom is connected in a southward direction by a door to a large Sitting Room with a bay window (Photo 29). The Sitting Room is located in the central portion of the house directly above the Stair Hall (Photo 30). There is a small room off the Sitting Room to the south separated by a 6 foot cased opening. You may exit this small room through a door to the west that leads back into the second floor Stair Hall. On your left is a door to Bedroom # 2. Continuing forward in a westerly direction you will return to the top of the stair near the attic door.

Walls are plaster on wood lath and there is a stenciling decoration at the cornice (Photo 31). All second-floor doors that exit from rooms into the Stair Hall are two-panel wood doors with a glazed operable transom. Closet and Attic doors are 2-panel wood doors (Photo 32). Lighting fixtures are original and vary. They are all attached to the ceiling, and decorative and ceramic in composition with some variance in color (Photo 33).

The Attic stairway is rustic and has one landing. The interior of the Attic is a large unfinished open space (Photo 34). There is a small room to the north side of the attic that is partially finished. Floors are made of pine and are laid in a diagonal fashion. Methods of construction are apparent from this space (Photo 35). The chimney in the attic is on a slant (Photo 36). The house has retained much, if not all, of its original historic integrity without any major alterations. Minor improvements to the first floor of the building since its construction include the addition of a heating system in 1972, air-conditioning in 1992, and a renovation of the north porch. Updated wiring, electrical boxes, outlets and fixtures were added in isolated areas. An alarm system was added in the 1990's.

PRESENT CONDITION

The overall condition of the building is good. There are concerns where cracks in the plaster on the entire interior second floor walls (Photo 37). Very minor changes have been made to the house since its construction in 1918.

OTHER CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

The Tractor Barn/Pump House, built in 1923, is located directly north of the main house (Photo 38). It is a rectangular plan brick and clay tile building with a pyramidal hipped stamped metal shingle roof building with a concrete foundation. Three operable sliding barn doors are located on the main (south facade). The pump room is located on the northeast end of the building and a storage room is located on the northwest side of the building. Each of these rooms must be entered from the exterior of the building. Windows in the building are sliding 6 light windows.

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HALLSTROM HOUSE
Vero Beach, Indian River County, Florida

Located behind the Tractor Barn on the north side of the building is a small, wood Cistern (Photo 39). Finally the last contributing resource located on the five acres is a masonry wall. It is built of stone and mortar and is located near the entrance to the property along Old Dixie Highway (Photo 41)

NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

There is one non-contributing resource on the property, a 1990's steel and metal open carport structure with a concrete pad located approximately fifty feet northwest of the Main House (Photo 40).

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HALLSTROM HOUSE
Vero Beach, Indian River County, Florida

SUMMARY

The Hallstrom House is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Ethnic Heritage: European, and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The Hallstrom Farmstead began as a 40- acre pineapple plantation in 1909 with a small house and chicken coop currently located eastward across Old Dixie Highway from the 5- acre Hallstrom House parcel. In 1916, citrus replaced pineapples as the primary cash crop and construction had begun on the main house located on the west side of Old Dixie atop the sand ridge. The Axel Hallstrom House was designed by its owner in the Masonry Vernacular style and retains nearly all of its architectural integrity of design, materials and workmanship as it did when construction was completed in 1918. The Hallstrom House is a two-story, gable roof, brick on frame residence and was constructed by Swedish and Norwegian craftsmen. The residence served as the permanent home for Axel Hallstrom, his sister Johanna and daughter Ruth throughout their lifetimes, until it was donated to the Indian River County Historical Society in July 2000 by his daughter.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

American migration to Florida did not begin until after Florida was established as a territory of the United States in 1821. Living conditions were crude and settlements in the area remained sparse. As Seminole aggressions flared, Florida remained a large wilderness for the most part until after the passage of the Armed Occupation Act in 1842. Two years later in 1844, there were approximately 1200 settlers living in the Indian River region.¹ The Civil War and continued Native American aggressions deterred many persons from permanently settling in the region until the late 1880's.

The present-day Oslo community located near Vero Beach in south Indian River County remained for the most part a wilderness until the 1890's when a small Scandinavian settlement was established. The roots of this settlement first began in 1895 south of Oslo on the Atlantic Coastal Ridge in the north part of present-day Ft. Pierce. Norwegian carpenter and pineapple farmer Jens Helseth named the community Viking; today it is known as Indrio. The Viking cemetery, where a handful of the early settlers are buried, is still in existence and is located on the east side of U.S. 1 on Indrio Road. In 1896, Jens Helseth encouraged his brother Ole E. Helseth, who was living in Minnesota, to come to Florida. Ole Helseth moved to Florida and settled a few miles north of Viking. He named this settlement Oslo after their native Norwegian capital. Oslo was located north of Viking and south of Vero also along the Atlantic Coastal Ridge, close to the Florida East Coast Railway. Oslo, at first a Norse settlement, would soon become home to a handful of Scandinavian families who joined others in Florida in growing pineapple along the ridge. In 1898 Ole Helseth helped establish the first railway stop and post office in Oslo. The post office was located in their family home until 1919 when all post offices were moved to Vero. In the same year a small shack was converted into a school until a larger school

¹ *A History of Indian River County: A Sense of Place* (Vero Beach: Indian River County Historical Society, [2000]), 18.

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HALLSTROM HOUSE
Vero Beach, Indian River County, Florida

was built in 1912 on the east side of Old Dixie Highway. By then, other Scandinavian families had joined the community, including the Hallstroms, a Swedish family who grew pineapples, flowers and had one of the area's first citrus groves. The Laws, a native family, operated a commercial fishing business at Oslo dock near the river. Fish, pineapples and vegetables were shipped north from the express depot at Oslo. There was no general store nearby, therefore residents traveled to Vero or to Peter P. Cobbs in Ft. Pierce monthly for supplies.

In 1905, counties in Florida were reconfigured and the village of Oslo was located in St. Lucie County with the county seat in Ft. Pierce. Agriculture was a means of survival for those living on the ridge and became increasingly important to the local economy as a commercial industry. Pineapples and citrus were the primary cash crops. Settlements grew slowly during the first decade of the twentieth century. In the 1910 census, there were about 1100 people living on homesteads near the river in Indian River County.² While Oslo remained a small agricultural and largely Scandinavian settlement, Vero was quickly taking shape. The selling of reclaimed lands changed the face of the state and county in the next decade. In 1919, after the end of World War I, Vero was incorporated as the Town of Vero, the great land and population boom had begun and citrus had replaced pineapple as the dominant cash crop. During the 1920's Vero experienced its most significant period of growth. In 1925 Vero had expanded such that it became the City of Vero Beach and was now the county seat of the newly formed Indian River County, with Oslo being located at the south end of the county. Vero was a popular tourist destination for winter guests especially with the advent of the automobile. During the Land Boom, prices were inflated and many new subdivisions and roads were being carved out of the natural landscape on the barrier island and the mainland. The citrus industry was a major economic boost for the county.

Indian River County was not spared the effects of the Great Depression. Although the economics waned with several banks failing, the towns in the county experienced growth and agricultural production continued to expand.³ Over the next decade the county witnessed improvements of roads and waterways. World War II brought economic and social change. Indian River County and its environs was the site of a U.S. Navy Base, and naval training missions were conducted on the barrier islands.

After the end of World War II, Vero Beach and Indian River County continued to grow steadily into the next millennium. The citrus industry thrived, yet tourism became the dominant industry for the economy. Over time, persistent growth brought change that included the demolition of many historic buildings and the replacement of vacant land and citrus groves for housing. The city and county worked hard to mitigate the effect of these transformations brought about by rapid growth. Now in the current millennium, development pressures are especially evident in the vicinity of Oslo. Growing sprawl along nearby U.S.1 and an increasing number of housing developments to the west are quickly swallowing up agricultural lands. Once a quiet

² *A History of Indian River County: A Sense of Place* (Vero Beach: Indian River County Historical Society, [2000]), 47.

³ *A History of Indian River County: A Sense of Place* (Vero Beach: Indian River County Historical Society, [2000]), 92.

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HALLSTROM HOUSE
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agricultural village located on the outskirts of town, Oslo is now the gateway to south Indian River County. Amazingly, the historic Oslo area still retains the essence of its historic character through its existing historical buildings and a portion of the historic landscape especially along Old Dixie Highway.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Hallstrom House, a stately brick home located upon the Atlantic Coastal Ridge on the west side of Old Dixie Highway in the Oslo area, is an example of the influence of the culture and the experiences of its owner and designer Axel Hallstrom of Sweden. The house stands not only as an example of exemplary architecture, but serves as testimony of a past era. The original buildings, their contents and the landscape serve as an historic document of design and craftsmanship, Florida's pineapple industry, agricultural practices, daily pioneer life, and Swedish immigrant history during the early twentieth century in Florida.

Axel Hallstrom was born in Orup, Esarp parish, Sweden in 1870. His family moved later to Ostra where he finished his schooling at the age of 18 while working on his parents' farm. He decided to study horticulture and for the next three years worked on larger estates in Sweden. After reading about horticulture in foreign countries, he decided to leave Sweden for further study. The following two years he worked on estates in Denmark and Germany. In 1895 he went to London where he studied and worked in various branches of horticulture at the Kew Gardens. In 1898 Axel Hallstrom left Southampton for New York on the last American ship to cross the Atlantic Ocean before the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. From New York, he joined his brothers and sister in Chicago who had immigrated to the United States previously. In Chicago, Axel found full-time employment, seven days a week in a floral shop and was paid \$32 per month. In 1899, Axel took the position in St. Paul, Minnesota, as head gardener for the estate and conservatories of James Jerome Hill earning \$50.00 per month. J.J. Hill was the railroad promoter and financier who was greatly interested in the improvement of agriculture and livestock as well as crops and maintained several greenhouses with rare orchids and tropical plants. While in St. Paul, Axel married Emely Bjorkelund a native of Sweden. They had one child Ruth Matilda Christina born January 5, 1904. Upon hearing favorable reports from Colonel Van Du See of the Minnesota Company, and Mr. Wright about their prospects in Florida, Axel decided to investigate in the spring of 1904. After making a trip down the East Coast to Miami, he decided to purchase land eight miles north of Ft. Pierce in a Scandinavian village called Viking. Axel, in partnership with his two brothers, Nels and John, purchased land from Ft. Pierce attorney and pineapple farmer Charles McCarty in Viking for \$3,000. After clearing the jungle, Axel joined other farmers along Florida's East Coast and planted several hundred pineapples.

In 1908, Axels' wife Emely died of a lingering illness. In 1909 he sold the successful plantation in Viking to Mr. Kobelgard, and moved farther north to another Scandinavian farming community called Oslo. Axel purchased 40 acres in Oslo at \$50/acre from Paul Kroegel along the Atlantic Coastal ridge and adjacent to Old Dixie Highway and the Florida East Coast Railway. Here he developed a large pineapple plantation. In 1910,

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he built a small two-story, frame vernacular dwelling, chicken coop and two barn buildings on the east side of Old Dixie Highway. In 1913 Axel decided he wanted a plantation with more than pineapples, so he added citrus trees, citrus nurseries, and vegetables, and increased his acreage to 120 acres. In 1914 he became interested in the St. Lucie County Bank at Ft. Pierce and became a director in 1928. In 1948 he was named chairman of the board and assumed the presidency of the Bank in 1950. This bank was one of the few that remained open throughout the Depression.

In 1915 Axel began work on a more permanent home in Oslo located on the west side of Old Dixie highway atop the sand ridge. Local Swedish and Norse craftsmen helped to build the two-story, majestic brick on frame home. They used lumber from the Olso sawmill and the brick came from Georgia. The house took two years to build. Construction was slowed due to the scarcity of materials during World War I. Once the house was completed in 1918, the Hallstroms had a four-day house warming party and entertained local friends and neighbors. By then Axel's daughter Ruth was 14 years old and his sister Johanna had come from Chicago to live with them. They both helped with household chores and managing the family farm. The Hallstroms' house was the largest in the neighborhood and could be seen for a long ways down the road. Ruth entertained several school friends at the house and held dances in nearly every room. A tractor barn was added to the property in 1923. It housed their first Ford in 1924; Ruth used it for traveling to the Orchid School where she taught for one year.

As the volume of citrus fruit increased in the vicinity of Oslo, a cooperative growers association was organized and affiliated with the Florida Citrus Exchange, of which Axel was a charter member. A director from its start, Axel assumed the presidency in 1927. Axel's daughter Ruth began school at the Oslo Schoolhouse down the street from their house in 1911. Her father would sometimes take her to school by mule and cart. Later, Ruth traveled several miles to attend the St. Lucie High School where she graduated in 1921. Previously in 1910, the family had traveled to Sweden by rail and steamer, and after graduation Ruth decided to return there to attend finishing school for two years. After completing school in Sweden, she returned to her family home, acting as her father's caretaker. In the 1960's Axel was growing primarily citrus and his plantation reached from the sand ridge down to the edge of the Indian River. Upon her father's death in 1966, Ruth managed the groves until the 1980's, and lived in the house until her own death in 1999.

Both Axel and his daughter were faithfully committed to both St. Lucie and Indian River counties. They were great supporters of Indian River Community College and Grace Lutheran Church. Axel was a member and founder of the American Swedish Historical Foundation, Swedish Colonial Society, Swedish Chamber of Commerce of America and Odd Fellows Lodge. In 1958, he was decorated by the King of Sweden and made a knight of the Royal Order of Vasa for outstanding service in promoting good relations between the United States and Sweden. Axel and Ruth were both members of the American Scandinavian Foundation. Ruth was a member of the Garden Club, Humane Society of Vero Beach, The Florida Farm Bureau, the Women's Republican Club of Indian River County, the Early Settlers of Indian River County, and the Swedish American

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Society among others. They both remained very active and enjoyed traveling throughout their lifetime, yet always looked forward to returning to their home on the ridge in Oslo, Florida.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Masonry Vernacular is a common form of architecture found in Florida. Vernacular architecture refers to structures built of local materials in a functional style devised to meet the needs of common people in their time and place. These structures were built by self-taught builders and without professional designers or architects. They are generally composed of brick, stone, hollow clay tile or concrete.

According to Stephen Olausen in 1989 in his description of the masonry vernacular style in the Hallstrom House Master Site File record, "Prior to the Civil War, vernacular designs were local in nature, transmitted by word of mouth or by demonstration, and relying heavily upon native building materials. With the coming of the American Industrial Revolution, mass manufacturers became the pervasive influence over vernacular house design. Popular magazines featuring standardized manufactured building components, house plans, and house decorating tips flooded the consumer markets and helped to make building trends universal throughout the country. The railroad also aided the process by providing cheap and efficient transportation for manufactured building materials. Masonry Vernacular is more commonly associated with commercial building types than with residential architecture where wood frame dominates. In Florida, most examples pre-dating 1920 were brick, but a number of older examples feature rough faced cast concrete block popularized by Henry Hobson Richardson in his Romanesque buildings of the late 19th century."⁴ Hollow clay tile and concrete block were commonly used in the Masonry Vernacular buildings of the 1920's and 1930's. After World War II until the present, concrete block became the most popular building component of the Masonry Vernacular style.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Hallstrom House is a two and one half story brick on frame, Masonry Vernacular residential building. Notable architectural features include its gable roof, gable dormer, polygonal bay extensions, entrance porch with brick columns, a running brick bond exterior wall fabric, decorative patterned brickwork and one over one windows with diamond shape leaded glass.

Buildings of this style and with this particular detail in residential architecture are rare in Indian River County, and this house retains its architectural integrity to a high degree, having undergone little change since it was built. The owner and designer, Axel Hallstrom, was intent on building a home that would last. As for design, he had a wealth of inspiration and diverse experiences to draw upon. He had been raised on the Swedish

⁴ Stephen Olausen, *The Hallstrom House*, Research as part of the Master Site File Record on the Hallstrom House located in Tallhaasse, Florida, the Bureau of Historic Preservation.

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countryside, and had lived in several European and American towns and cities before choosing to reside in Oslo, Florida.

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HALLSTROM HOUSE
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Legal Description:

Commencing at the intersection of the Easterly projection of the North line of "Plantation Ridge" Subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 12 at Page 46 of the Public Records of Indian River County, Florida AND the center baseline of "Old Dixie Highway" as shown on the F.D.O.T. right-of-way Maintenance Map for State Road #605, Section 88030 (and being at station 53+30.02) as recorded in Plat Book 9 at Page 87 of the Public Records of Indian River County, Florida. (Said point also being on the South line of the Northeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 21, Township 33 South, Range 40 East) Thence N 18 58' 35" W along said baseline, for 820.36 feet; Thence N 89 51' 20" W for 16.45 feet to the Westerly maintained right-of-way line of said map and the POINT OF BEGINNING of the parcel described herein; Thence N 89 51' 20" W for 467.00 feet; Thence N 18 58' 36" W for 494.27 feet; Thence S 89 51' 20" E for 467.06 feet to the Westerly maintained right-of-way line for State Road #605; Thence S 18 47' 08" E along said right-of-way line for 150.00 feet; Thence S 18 41' 25" E for 200.00 feet; Thence S 19 32' 59" E for 144.46 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Containing 5.0 acres more or less.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property as indicated on the accompanying Site Map includes land, buildings and structures historically associated Axel Hallstrom in 1918.

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HALLSTROM HOUSE
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1. Hallstrom House, 1723 Old Dixie Highway S.W.
2. Vero Beach, Indian River County, Florida
3. Clarence F. Korker
4. March, 2001
5. Hallstrom Farmstead Museum, Special Collections
6. View of: Main (east) elevation and contributing tractor barn, camera facing northwest.
7. Photo 1 of 41.

Note: Items 1 through 5 are the same for all photographs.

6. View of: Main (east) elevation, camera facing west.
7. Photo 2 of 41.

6. View of: North elevation, enclosed porch, camera facing south.
7. Photo 3 of 41.

6. Oblique View of: Southwest elevation showing rear entrance, camera facing northeast.
7. Photo 4 of 41.

6. View of: two-story bay window on south elevation, camera facing west.
7. Photo 5 of 41.

6. View of: Cellar window from interior, camera facing north.
7. Photo 6 of 41.

6. View of: North gable patterned brickwork, camera facing south.
7. Photo 7 of 41.

6. View of: North gable patterned brickwork, camera facing south.
7. Photo 8 of 41.

6. View of: North gable patterned wood decorative shingles, camera facing south.
7. Photo 9 of 41.

6. View of: Northwest corner of gable roof overhang, camera facing south.
7. Photo 10 of 41.

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6. View of: Main elevation window, camera facing southwest.
7. Photo 11 of 41.

6. View of: South elevation, camera facing north.
7. Photo 12 of 41.

6. View of: Main entrance from interior, camera facing east.
7. Photo 13 of 41.

6. View of: Interior of attic dormer door, camera facing east.
7. Photo 14 of 41.

6. View of: Stair hall, staircase.
7. Photo 15 of 41.

6. View of: Stair hall, passage to rear hall, camera facing west.
7. Photo 16 of 41.

6. View of: Parlor, east wall, camera facing east.
7. Photo 17 of 41.

6. View of: Office, north wall, camera facing north.
7. Photo 18 of 41.

6. View of: Dining room; alcove; plaster molding; south wall, camera facing south.
7. Photo 19 of 41.

6. View of: Cased opening between parlor and dining room, camera facing southwest.
7. Photo 20 of 41.

6. View of: Dining room fireplace, northeast corner, camera facing northeast.
7. Photo 21 of 41.

6. View of: Kitchen northeast corner, camera facing northeast.
7. Photo 22 of 41.

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6. View of: Kitchen, wood stove, southeast corner, camera facing southeast.
7. Photo 23 of 41.

6. View of: Cellar, northwest wall, camera facing northwest.
7. Photo 24 of 41.

6. View of: Dining room chandelier, camera facing south.
7. Photo 25 of 41.

6. View of: Second floor stair hall, camera facing northeast.
7. Photo 26 of 41.

6. View of: Second floor closet between bedroom 1 and bedroom 2, camera facing southwest.
7. Photo 27 of 41.

6. View of: Second floor bathroom, camera facing north.
7. Photo 28 of 41.

6. View of: Second floor sitting room, northeast wall, camera facing northeast.
7. Photo 29 of 41.

6. View of: Second floor sitting room, northeast wall, camera facing northeast.
7. Photo 30 of 41.

6. View of: Cracks in south wall ascending staircase, stenciling, camera facing south.
7. Photo 31 of 41.

6. View of: Typical second floor 2-panel door with transom, camera facing northwest.
7. Photo 32 of 41.

6. View of: Typical second floor ceiling light fixture.
7. Photo 33 of 41.

6. View of: Attic, south wall, camera facing south.
7. Photo 34 of 41.

6. View of: Attic, plaster on wood lath, roof construction details.
7. Photo 35 of 41

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6. View of: Attic interior showing slanting chimney, camera facing south.

7. Photo 36 of 41.

6. View of: Bedroom 2, typical cracks in exterior second floor walls, camera facing south.

7. Photo 37 of 41.

6. View of: Tractor barn, southeast elevation, camera facing northwest.

7. Photo 38 of 41.

6. View of: Cistern located behind (to the north) of Tractor Barn, camera facing east.

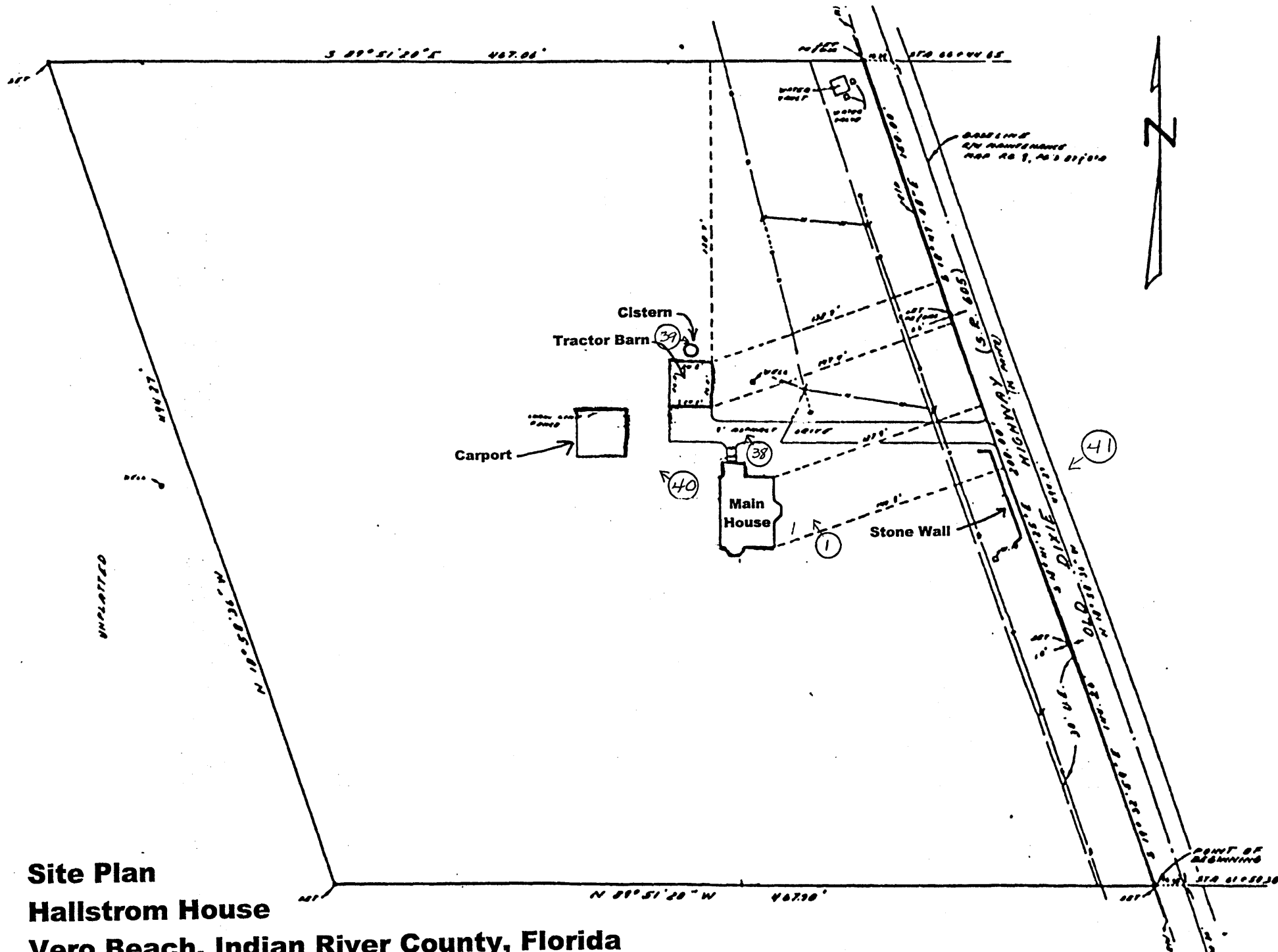
7. Photo 39 of 41

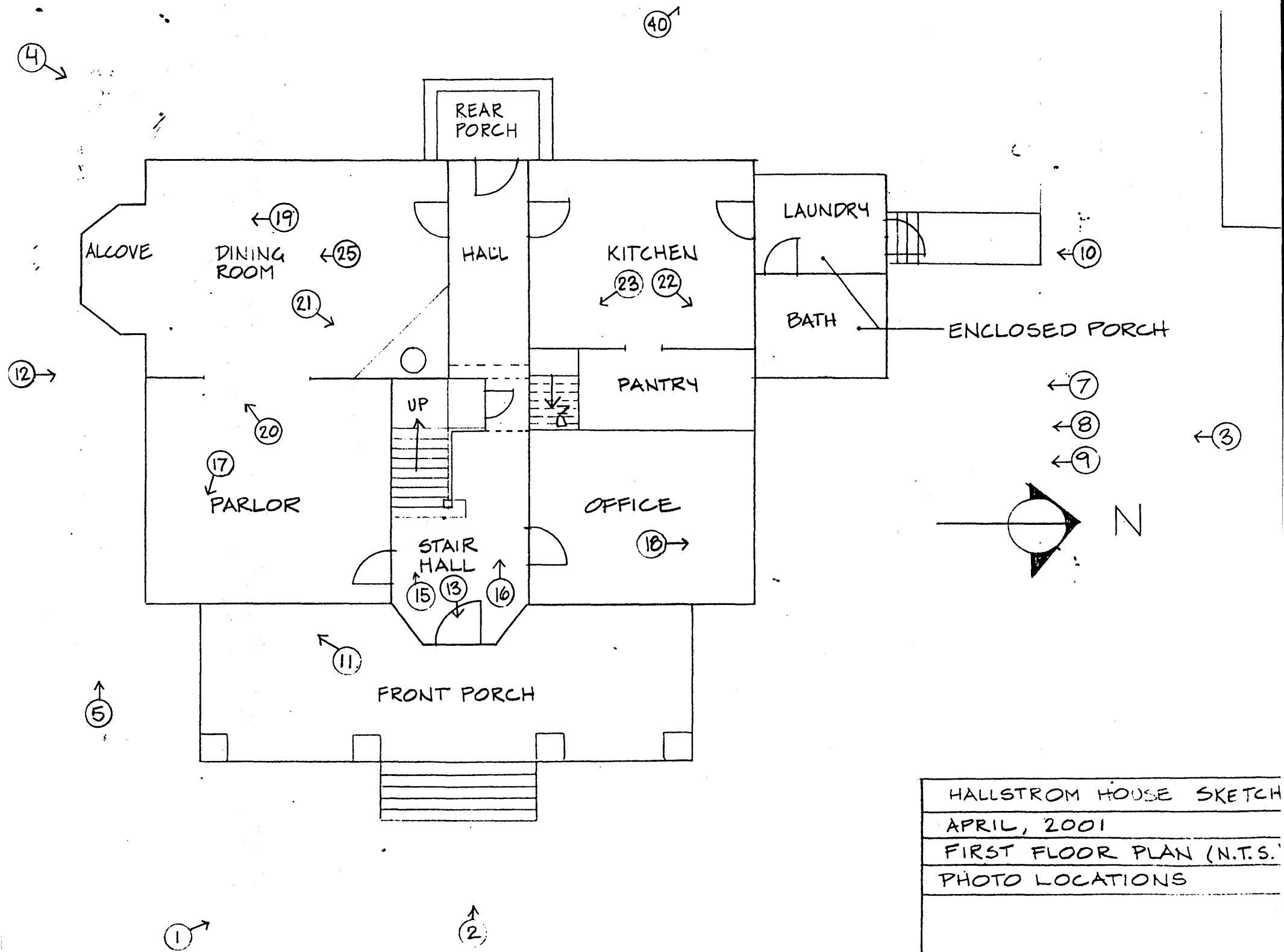
6. View of: Non-contributing carport structure.

7. Photo 40 of 41.

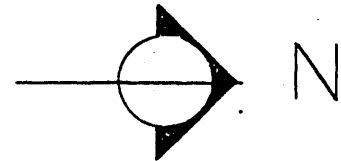
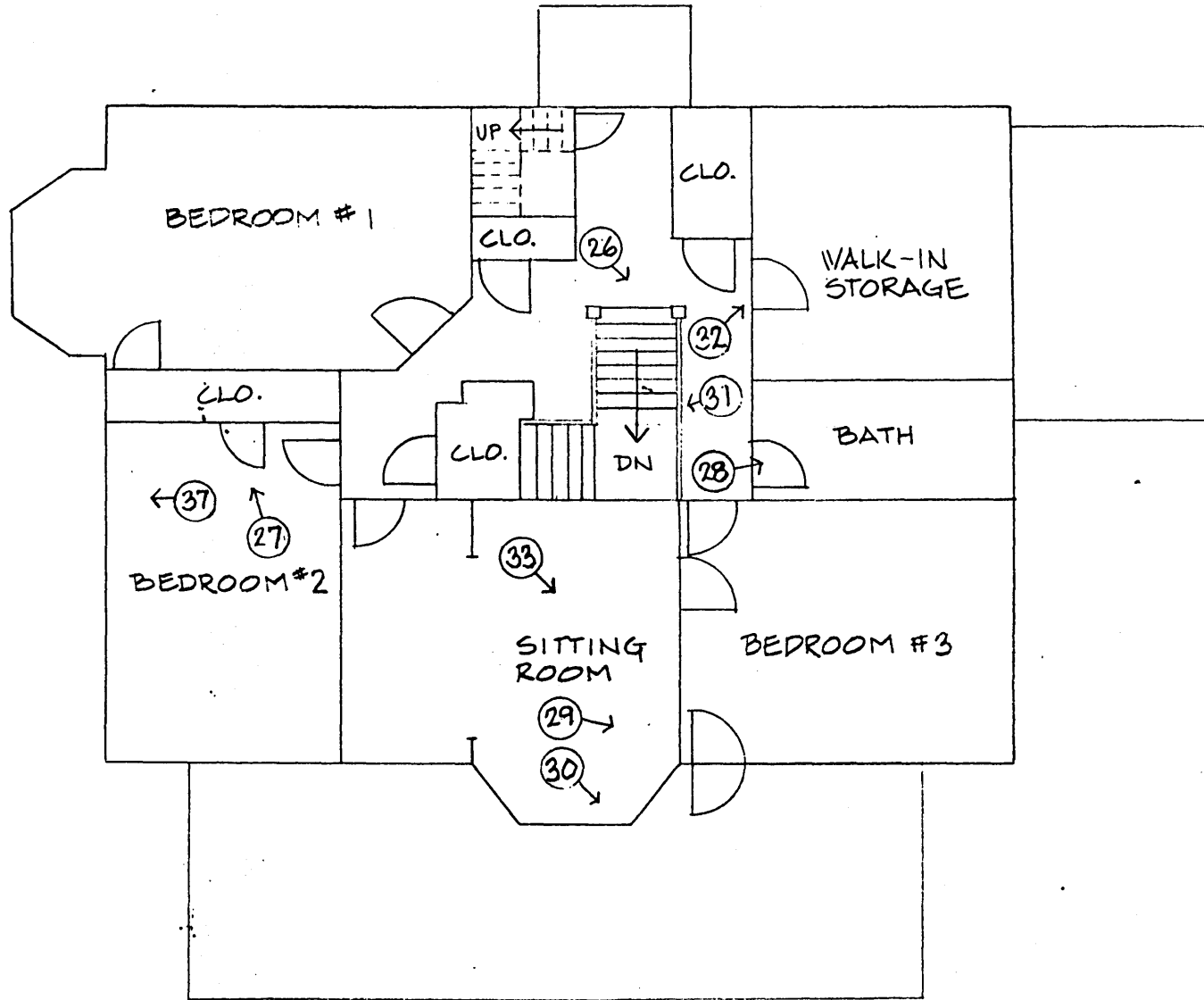
6. View of: Knee Wall in front of main house

7. Photo 41 of 41.

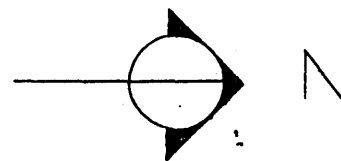
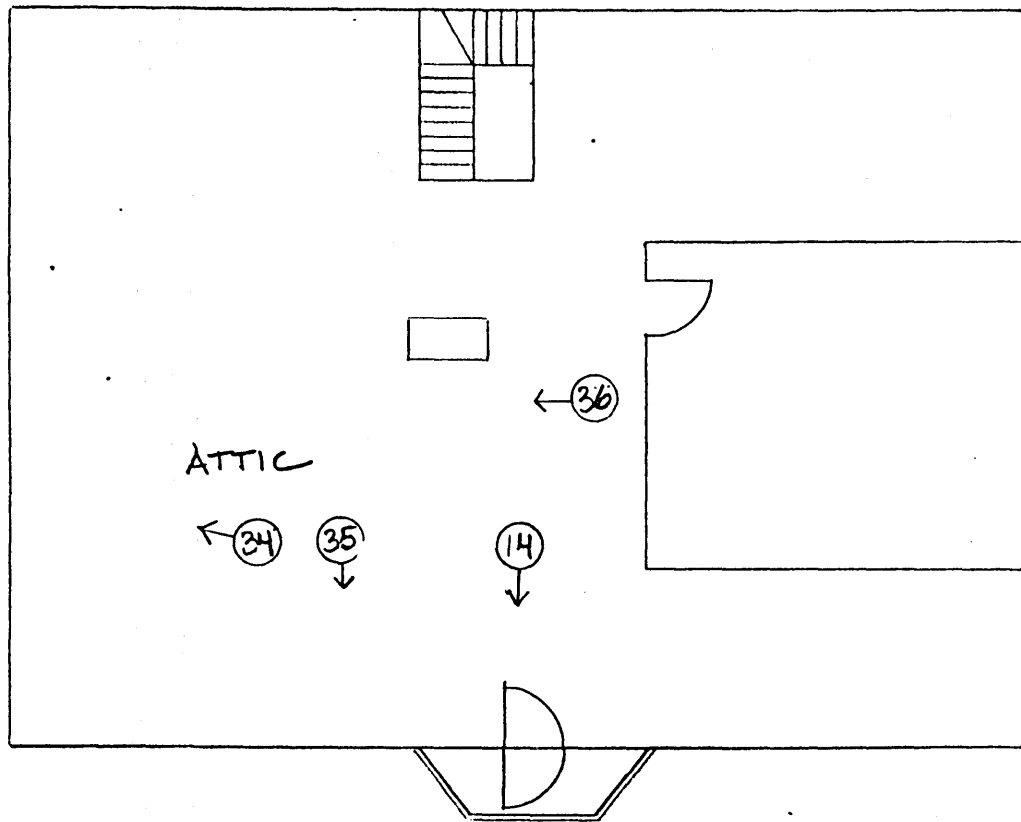




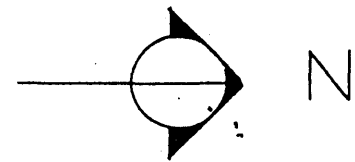
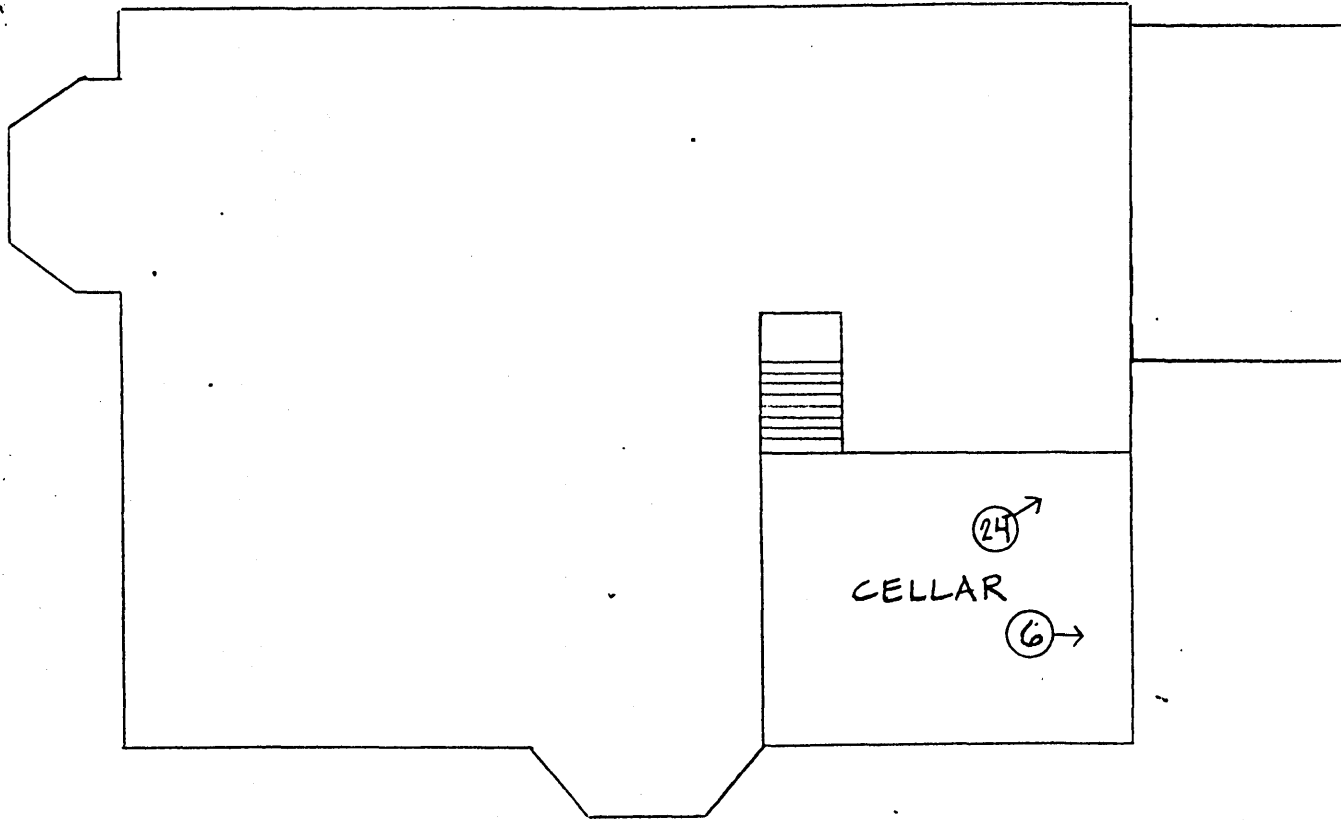
HALLSTROM HOUSE SKETCH
APRIL, 2001
FIRST FLOOR PLAN (N.T.S.)
PHOTO LOCATIONS



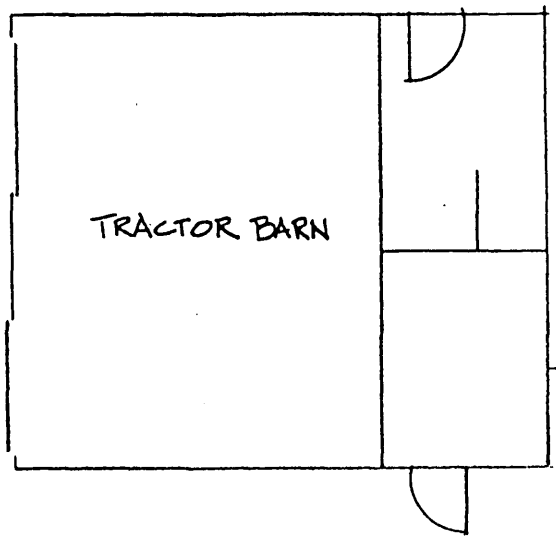
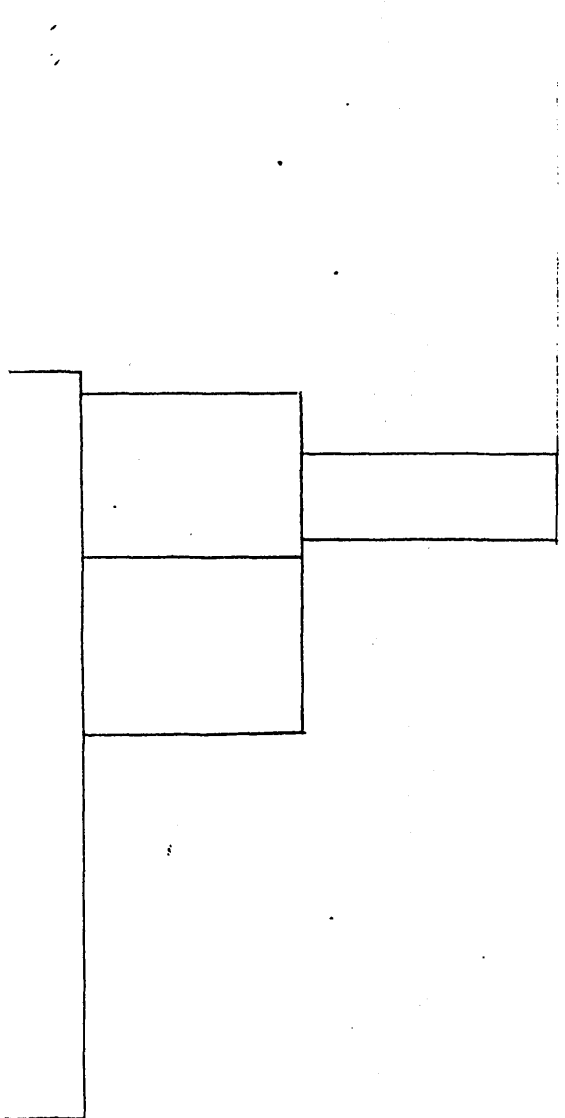
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APRIL, 2001
SECOND FLOOR PLAN (N.T.)
PHOTO LOCATIONS



HALLSTROM HOUSE SKETCH
APRIL, 2001
ATTIC FLOOR PLAN
PHOTO LOCATIONS



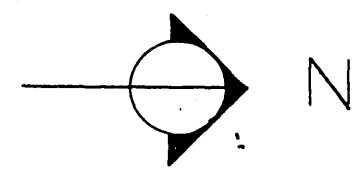
HALLSTROM HOUSE SKETCH
APRIL, 2001
BASEMENT PLAN (N.T.S.)
PHOTO LOCATIONS



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HALLSTROM TRACTOR BARN
APRIL, 2001
SCALE: N.T.S.
PHOTO LOCATIONS