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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Punta Gorda Ice Plant  
other names/site number Kazwells Furniture Store/ 8CH00447

2. Location

street & number 408 Tamiami Trail  not for publication  
city, town Punta Gorda  vicinity  
state Florida code FL county Charlotte code FL 015 zip code 32399-0250

3. Classification

<b>Ownership of Property</b>	<b>Category of Property</b>	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Punta Gorda Multiple Property Group  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
Suzanne P. Walker (deputy) 10/17/90  
Signature of certifying official State Historic Preservation Officer Date  
Florida Dept. of State - Bureau of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Federman 12/12/90  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/  
manufacturing facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/vernacular, masonry

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
walls BRICK  
STUCCO  
roof COMPOSITION  
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Punta Gorda Ice House, located at 408 Tamiami Trail, in Punta Gorda, constructed in 1913 and 1926, contributes to the Punta Gorda Multiple Property Group under Associated Property Type, Buildings of Punta Gorda, 1884-1930. The one and two story structure is an excellent example of the subtype, Industrial Architecture.

Built in 1913 and expanded in 1926, the Ice Plant is a two story red brick commercial style building. The 1913 portion of the building is a gabled brick structure with massive insets. The building measures 41' by 41' with brick walls 21" thick with six inches of cork insulation. In addition, the floor space of the freezing tank area is 30' by 60'.

The 1926 addition, added by the second owner, the Florida Power and Light Company, features such stylistic details as curvilinear parapets and string course. The area previously utilized for boilers and generators was converted to a cold storage area as the plant was now powered by electricity. The original wood sash windows were removed.

ALTERATIONS

The one story cold storage facility has been altered with a mansard roof and glass storefront windows for adaptive use as a furniture showroom.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
COMMERCE

Period of Significance  
1913-1930

Significant Dates  
1913, 1926

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

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## SIGNIFICANCE

### SUMMARY

The Punta Gorda Ice Plant, located at 408 Tamiami Trail, is significant at the local level under Criterion A for its association with the fishing and railroad industries in Punta Gorda. The Ice Plant contributes to the Punta Gorda Multiple Property Group under Associated Historic Context: Exploration, Settlement and Early Development of Punta Gorda, 1884-1930, and Associated Property Type: Buildings of Punta Gorda, 1884-1930. The one and two story structure is an excellent example of the subtype, Industrial Architecture.

### HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The original 1890s ice plant, located on this site, was powered by steam located in the northwest corner of the building. The freezing tanks were in the center of the building and the ice storage area and loading platforms were at the south end. The railroad spur that served the Punta Gorda Hotel also served the ice plant. By 1902, the plant was producing 25 tons of ice per day.

In 1903, the Desoto Manufacturing Company became owners of the ice plant. By 1909, the plant was running 24 hours a day to produce 20 tons of ice daily. Wood burning furnaces generated steam to produce power to run the equipment in the plant. Water was provided from an artesian well. The railroad tracks ran on both the east and west sides of the plant.

In 1913, the Desoto Manufacturing Company was bought out by the Southern Utilities Company. Extensive improvements were made to the plant including the construction of a new brick ice storage building. The storage building measured 41' by 41' with brick walls 21' thick with six inches of cork insulation. In addition, the floor space of the freezing tank area was enlarged by 30' by 60'. A new railroad line was extended from the plant to the fish houses on the Railroad Dock. An office was built on King Street to the southeast of the plant which was known at this time as the Punta Gorda Ice and Electric Company.

In 1926, the citizens voted by referendum to sell their electric power distribution to the Southern Utilities Company. Within a month, the Florida Power and Light Company acquired the

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Southern Utilities Company and began to construct a new Punta Gorda plant. The power plant was located southeast of the ice plant, across the railroad tracks.

The ice plant was modified by Florida Power and Light Company as it no longer had to generate its own power. The original wood frame building and some of the 1913 additions were removed and replaced by a masonry building which was longer and narrower than its predecessor. The area previously occupied by the boilers and generators was converted into a cold storage area. The 1913 brick ice storage building was retained. Florida Power and Light continued to produce ice to serve the commercial fishing industry, as well as providing for the general use of Punta Gorda during the Boom period.

**CONCLUSION**

The Punta Gorda Ice Plant played a significant role in the success of both the fishing and railroad industries in Punta Gorda from 1913 to 1939. Without this facility, fish catches could not be kept fresh to be shipped to northern markets. The ice plant provided the ice that was so integral to the success of the fishing industry not only in Punta Gorda, but as far south as Fort Myers. It is also the only tangible link remaining in Punta Gorda directly related to the fishing industry. The long docks and warehouses were destroyed by fire in 1939.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

PLEASE SEE COVER NOMINATION

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Specify repository:**

Bureau of Historic Preservation

**10. Geographical Data**

Acceage of property Less than one Acre

**UTM References**

A 17 396040 2979220  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lot 5, Block 65, Plat of Punta Gorda, Township 41S Range 23E Section 6

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary follows the legal boundary historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Vicki L. Cole - Historic Sites Specialist Gladys Cook - Consultant  
 organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date August 14, 1990  
 street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333  
 city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

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Punta Gorda Ice Plant

1. Punta Gorda Ice Plant
2. Punta Gorda, Florida
3. John McCarthy
4. 7-4-88
5. Historic Preservation Consultants, Inc.
6. Front elevation, camera facing northeast
7. #1

Items 1-5 are the same for all of the photographs.

6. Front elevation, camera facing north
7. #2
6. Rear elevation, camera facing southwest
7. #3
6. Side elevation, camera facing southeast
7. #4



SITE PLAN

**PUNTA GORDA ICE PLANT**

408 Tamiami Trail

Punta Gorda, Florida

1< = photograph number and direction

