### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **REGISTRATION FORM**

	2002	SEC. C. FLAR	OMB No
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OMB No. 1024-0018

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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.

4

### 1. Name of Property

4

historic name BING ROOMING HOUSE

other names/site number Bing-Washington House	
2. Location	
street & number 205 South Allen Street city or town Plant City	N/A not for publication
	vicinity 057 zip code <u>33566</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. II meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)	in the National Register of n my opinion, the property
Signature of certifying official/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continual comments.)	tion sheet for additional
Signature of certifying official/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	Date of Action
Pentered in the National Register	Q 1// AZ
<ul> <li>See continuation sheet</li> <li>determined eligible for the National Register</li> <li>See continuation sheet.</li> </ul>	<u> </u>
□ determined not eligible for the National Register □ See continuation sheet.	
<ul> <li>removed from the National Register.</li> <li>other, (explain)</li> </ul>	

Hillsborough Co., FL County and State

5. Classification	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	······	<u> </u>		
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Reso (Do not include any p	reviously listed resources	r <b>ty</b> in the count)	
⊠ private □ public-local	⊠ buildings ☐ district	Contributing	Noncontribut	Noncontributing	
<ul> <li>public-State</li> <li>public-Federal</li> </ul>	☐ site ☐ structure	1	0	buildings	
	object	0	0	sites	
		0	0	structures	
		0	0	objects	
		1	0	total	
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of		Number of contr listed in the Nat	ibuting resources p tional Register	previously	
"N	/A"		0		
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from ins	structions)		
DOMESTIC: hotel		DOMESTIC: single dv	welling		
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
	,,				
7. Description					
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions)			
OTHER: Frame Vernacular		foundation CON	ICRETE		
		walls <u>WOOD</u>	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
		roof ASPHALT			
		other			

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

### 8

Hillsborough Co., FL County and State

8. Statement of Significance
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**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

#### 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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK

### **Period of Significance**

1928-1952

### **Significant Dates**

1928

#### Significant Person

N/A

### **Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

### Name of Repository

#

Bing	Rooming	House
Name	of Property	/

Hillsborough Co., FL County and State

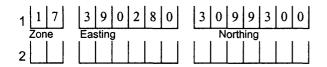
10. Geographical	Data
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**Acreage of Property** 

less than one

### UTM References

(Place additional references on a 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 Schwarz, Rebecca Spain/Robert O. Jones, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation	<del></del>		date July 2002
street & number 500 South Bronough Street			telephone 850-245-6333
city or town Tallahassee	_ state	<u>FL</u>	zip code <u>32399-0250</u>

#### 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.

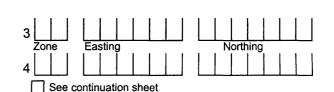
#### **Additional items**

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner			
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)			
name The Improvement League of Plant City, attn: Leista Sykes			
street & number Post Office Box 3962	telephone <u>813-757-6760</u>		
city or town Plant City	state Florida zip code <u>33564-3962</u>		

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.



### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

### BING ROOMING HOUSE, PLANT CITY, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

### SUMMARY

The Bing Rooming House is located at 205 S. Allen Street in Plant City, Hillsborough County, Florida. It is a two-story, residence of frame vernacular construction, built ca.1928. Built on concrete piers, the front gable building has a drop-siding exterior. A ca.1940, one-story extension on the west elevation has a front gable roof, and extends four feet beyond the north and south elevations of the main block. The main façade fronts east on Allen Street and has a double porch that spans the gable end, and is sheltered by a shed roof.

### SETTING

The house occupies the northern half of Lots 7 & 8 of Block 14 in the Lincoln Park subdivision, that is in the southeast quadrant of Plant City. The house fronts onto the north/south South Allen Street (Photo #1). The neighborhood's streets are laid out in a rectangular grid. Two main thoroughfares run east/west, and one is Laura Street, which is directly south of the Bing Boarding House (Photo #2), and the other is Haines Street. Laura Street is lined with residences, churches, and businesses. The geography is flat, with scattered mature trees, and grass lawns. The streets have asphalt paving, and Laura Street has concrete curbing. Historically most of the neighborhood streets were not paved. The neighborhood contains some vacant lots where older homes had been, and according to the earlier Sanborn maps, many historic churches have been rebuilt (Sanborn, 1925; City Directory, 1937-1938). The neighborhood remains as a thriving community with well-kept homes and lots. A few trees and bushes are located to the east and west of the house, and one large oak tree is just southwest of the property. One other concrete block residence is located on this block to the northwest, on a parcel owned by one of Bing descendents.

### **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

### Exterior

The Bing Rooming House is two-stories, and of frame vernacular construction upon block piers, with a front gable roof (Photo #3). The exterior has drop siding. The roof is surfaced with asphalt rolled roofing, and the eaves have exposed rafter ends. A one-story addition, 38 x 16 feet, extends across the west elevation, and is wider than the main block by 4 feet on each side. Like the main block, the addition has a front gable roof. The main block of the Bing Rooming House is a 30' by 30' square. Generally, the windows are filled with 2/2, double-hung wooden sashes in the main block, and 1/1, double-hung wooden sashes in the west addition. The windows on the second story were replaced with metal sashes in the same configuration as the original sashes.

The <u>main (east) façade</u> has a gable end, and has a double porch that spans the elevation on the first and second stories (Photo #4). The porch at the first story is concrete with a concrete block knee-wall capped with a brick course. The wall includes four concrete half piers with caps that historically supported battered wooden columns (Photo #5), but now have ornamental metal supports. The second story porch is wood with an open

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### BING ROOMING HOUSE, PLANT CITY, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

wood railing with a wooden "x" pattern. The porch's shed roof is supported at the second story by four square wooden posts. A narrow (2'-6" wide) open wood stairway leads to the second floor at the north end of the porch. There is a central door at both the first and second floors. The main first story entry has a wooden paneled door with a single light in the top half, and a screen door. A window with a pair of wooden sashes is located south of the first floor door and a single sash window is located to the north. At the second story the single windows have metal sashes, now boarded-up. The second story door and screen door are like those on the first story. A simple rectangular wood attic vent is located in the gable end.

The <u>north elevation</u> has three individual windows evenly spaced, at the first and second stories (Photo #3). The north end of the west addition has a small window and a regular sized window containing a pair of sashes.

The <u>south elevation</u> has six openings evenly spaced as on the north elevation except that a door is at the southwest side of the second story, accessed by exterior steel and concrete stairs (Photo #6). A window with metal sash has replaced the historic window at the first story, northeast location, and an air-conditioning unit has been inserted in the wall. The south end of the west addition contains a window with a pair of small sashes, and door at the west corner.

The <u>west elevation</u> has the gable ends of the main block's second-story and one-story addition (Photo #7). Three evenly spaced windows are at the second story. The addition has three windows with pairs of sashes in each. The northern window is larger than the other two. A shed roof over the addition's south door is visible.

### Interior

Upon entering the main door, a hall extends through the center of the house to the west (Photo #8). The first floor rooms have wood flooring covered with carpet. Sheet rock or drywall walls are found in the living room, dining room and main hall, whereas the original wooden beaded paneling bedroom walls have been covered with wood paneling. Acoustical tile has been attached to all of the ceilings. Three bedrooms are to the north of the hall. The living room and dining room are to south of the hall (Photo #9). The wall between the hall and the dining room is about one foot thick with several storage alcoves inset from both sides. A central oil heating unit is located in the rear hall, at the end of this wall. A door in the southwest corner of the dining room accesses the kitchen. The one-story rear addition contains a hall that runs perpendicular to the main hall. A bathroom is located to the north, two bedrooms are to the west and a kitchen is at the south end. A three-door, full-height, wood cabinet occupies the east end of the hall (Photo #10). A door from the kitchen leads south to a small concrete slab porch with a shed roof supported by decorative metal porch supports.

Access to the second floor is by the wooden exterior stairway at the north end of the front porch (Photo #11). The second story central door opens into a central hall (Photo #12). The floors are wooden, with linoleum sheet flooring in many areas. The walls and ceilings are beaded board paneling, and all doors are five-panel wood. Three bedrooms are on the north and three on the south. A bathroom is located at the west end of the hall. Many pieces of original furniture (dressers, bed frames, and chairs) remain in these rooms (Photo #13).

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### BING ROOMING HOUSE, PLANT CITY, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

### ALTERATIONS

The most significant non-historic changes were the replacement of some windows with metal sashes, and the four front porch supports. The westernmost second floor window on the south elevation has been replaced with a door to access an exterior metal stair as a fire precaution. A central oil heater to the west of the first floor hall was installed circa 1958, and heats all rooms. The house retains its historic integrity to a large degree. The Bing's commercial duplex at the south end of Lot #8 was demolished in the 1970s.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 1

### BING ROOMING HOUSE, PLANT CITY, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

### SUMMARY

The Bing Rooming House is nominated to the National Register under Criterion A for significance in the area of Ethnic Heritage: Black. Constructed ca.1926 as a boarding house in Plant City, Hillsborough County, Florida, the rooming house was owned and operated by Mrs. Janie Wheeler Bing in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Plant City during the segregation era when African Americans were not allowed to stay at local white hotels or eat at white establishments. The Bing Rooming House served as the temporary living quarters for many African Americans, local residents as well as visitors. There was another African American rooming house in the community, but the Bing Rooming House is the only one remaining, was in continuous use for a longer period of years, and had the best reputation for cleanliness and good food.

### HISTORIC CONTEXT

In 1883, Henry B. Plant purchased a railroad charter for the South Florida Railroad to complete the railroad from Kissimmee to Tampa. At the same time, the Tropical Florida Railroad was being extended south from Ocala (HT/HCPB 1990). Judge Henry L. Mitchell of Tampa and his associates, acting as "The Tampa Syndicate," purchased 55 acres where the two railroads were proposed to intersect. Lewis Warren was hired to survey and plat the land for a new town to be named for Henry Plant. The plat, called "Warren's Survey of Plant City" was dated November 1883. Daily rail service between Tampa and Plant City began on December 10, 1883. By January 23, 1884, about a month later, rail service continued eastward to Lakeland. A post office was established for Plant City in March 1884.

One-square mile of land was incorporated as the town of Plant City in 1885, with the center located at the intersection of Thomas Street and the South Florida Railroad (later to become the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad). In 1889 the Tropical Florida Railroad or the Florida Central & Peninsular Railroad connected with Plant City. Plant City's commercial core developed northwest of the intersection of both railroads. Known as Downtown Plant City, it was listed in the National Register in 1993. The first residential neighborhood, north and west of downtown, started in the late 1890s. Known as the North Plant City Residential District, it was listed in the National Register in 1993. At about the same time, land was also being surveyed and platted southeast of the intersecting railroad lines. The first subdivision in this area was the Ohio Colony Company's Addition to Plant City, platted in October 1886 (Plat Book 1, Page 10). Six other subdivisions were platted in this area between 1903 and 1909, including South Lincoln Park (South Lincoln Park; 15 small square blocks in west half, 10 larger rectangular blocks in east half; for Allen and Merrin, April 1907, Plat Book 4, Page 95).

The Lincoln Park neighborhood, locally known as "The Bottom," extends east of the SAL Railroad tracks, whereas Madison Park, called "Dark Town," extends to the west. Industrial buildings in the form of fruit packing buildings, and lumber and manufacturing were located on E. Laura Street where it crossed the SAL Railroad. Eastward along E. Laura Street, there were the Allen A.M.E. Chapel, an auto repair shop, a cleaners and pressing shop, and the St. Lukes M.E. Church. There were several restaurants (one with a pool room), and small stores, a sanitarium, a movie house and a lodge hall. Residences mixed with the commercial

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### BING ROOMING HOUSE, PLANT CITY, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

buildings on both sides of the street. Most residences were small, one-story, frame buildings, and many remain today.

Midway Academy elementary school, was built in Lincoln Park as an African American segregated school in 1922. The school served grades one through eight, and was a "Strawberry School," in that the school had summer rather than winter sessions so students could do agricultural work harvesting strawberries. African American students who wanted to continue their education above eighth grade often traveled to Lakeland, where they attended Washington Public High School (Joyner 2002). After 1936, one grade was added each year to Midway Academy until there were twelve grades. In 1939, the Plant City Negro High School came into existence. The name was changed to Marshall High School in 1949, and a new high school where both junior and senior high school classes were taught was constructed in 1957. The old Midway Academy, later named Lincoln Elementary, again included grades one through six. Due to overcrowding, fifth and sixth graders were sent across town to Simmons Elementary, built in 1951.

In the early 1900s, the railroad was essential to the livelihood of Plant City. Trains were used to ship agricultural products from the surrounding farms to major markets. They were also the primary mode of distance travel for both residents and visitors. At one time so many trains passed through Plant City that some called it the "City of Perpetual Trains." With the exception of Jacksonville, Plant City was the largest railroad distributing point and junction in the entire state. By 1930, railway service through Plant City included forty-four passenger trains daily during the winter tourist season (Bruton 1984:189). The population almost doubled from 1920 to 1925, increasing from 3,729 to 6,624 residents. The city did not grow during the 1930s, and the Great Depression, but did see more visitors as the automobile became a popular mode of transportation in the late 1930s.

The Bing Rooming House provided a public service during a time of legislated racial segregation in the United States and Florida. In 1892, the Plessy v. Ferguson decision set the precedent that 'separate' facilities for blacks and whites were constitutional as long as they were 'equal.' The 'separate but equal' doctrine was quickly extended to cover many areas of public life, such as restaurants, theaters, restrooms, and public schools. Not until 1954, in the equally important Brown v. Board of Education decision, would the 'separate but equal' doctrine be struck down (Cozzens 1995). This decision determined that 'separate but equal' was not necessarily true in education and required the desegregation of schools across America. It did not, however, ban segregation in other public areas, such as restaurants and restrooms, nor did it specify when the public schools should be desegregated (Cozzens 1995). The Civil Rights Movement peaked during the 1950s, but it was not until ten years later that the United States Congress passed the Civil Rights for all Americans, regardless of race. It took nearly a decade of nonviolent protests and marches, ranging from the 1955-1956 Montgomery bus boycott to the student-led sit-ins of the 1960s to the huge March on Washington in 1963, to enact this legislation (Cozzens 1998).

Hillsborough County began desegregation of schools after much discussion and planning by members of both races. Faculties were integrated at all levels in the fall of 1969, and integration of the student body began

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### BING ROOMING HOUSE, PLANT CITY, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

with the 1971 school term. An attempt was made to have the same percentage of each race in each school as existed in the general population (Bruton 1984:279).

During the years of segregation, African Americans could not travel easily from city to city like the rest of the American population. They were restricted in their mode of transportation (segregated railroad cars and limited automobile use) and were limited by the places they could stay overnight. Most long trips had to be planned in advance so they could coordinate overnight stays with family or friends enroute to their final destination. Even professionals such as doctors, teachers, and ball players could not stay in most hotels. In Black communities of many Florida cities, therefore, there was often a boarding house or small hotel to fill this social need.

Miss Janie Wheeler, the future owner of the Bing Rooming House, moved to Plant City in 1917. She was born on December 2, 1889, in Alachua County. Her father, Thomas Wheeler, was a railroad man who was killed in a railway accident when she was a child. Her mother, Alice Bradley, raised their six children alone. Janie Wheeler attended school in Alachua County and later studied at Florida A&M University. In 1917, she received her teaching certificate and decided to move to Plant City to work. She planned to earn enough money to buy a suitable wardrobe before taking a teaching position in Miami. In a newspaper interview, Janie stated that soon after arriving in Plant City she met Elijah L. Bing and was "swept off her feet" (Jameson, 1980). They eventually married and had three children. Elijah was from South Carolina and was a businessman who owned a restaurant, a dry cleaning business, and had a rooming house with his former wife, Lula Bing, at 514 East Hines Street. He was a tall, dignified man who wore a tie to the dinner table every day (James Washington 2001).

Janie Wheeler Bing gave up teaching to be a full time mother. Elijah L. Bing, Jr. was born in June 1921, Mildred was born in April 1923, and Janie was born in March 1925. All of the children were born before the Bings moved to the house on S. Allen Street. At the time, they lived in a house at the southeast corner of Gordon and Alabama Streets. The house is no longer there. The Bing family was educated and influential in Plant City's African American community. Their three children, Elijah, Jr., Mildred, and Janie, all attended college and became teachers, following their mother's example. Elijah, Jr. was a principal at Marshall High School from June 1954 until 1967 when he was made Director of Federal Projects (Bruton 1984:279). Elijah, Jr. became the first African American assistant in education at the county level. In 1971 he worked as a member of the Hillsborough County School Board to draft a landmark desegregation plan which was approved and implemented. This plan became a model for the nation. In 1983 Elijah, Jr. was appointed by then Governor Bob Graham as the first African American Hillsborough County Commissioner. He was also a lifetime member of the NAACP. Janie Bing Green, the Bing's youngest daughter, became a school teacher in Plant City. James Washington, son of Mildred Bing Washington Majors, was born in the house in April 1944. He was raised by his grandmother, Janie Bing, in this house and continues to reside there serving as the best source of information for the history of this house. He has been actively involved with the local NAACP.

Elijah Bing, Sr. purchased Lot 8 of Block 14 in the South Lincoln Park subdivision on September 1, 1925, located at the northwest corner of E. Laura and S. Allen Streets. Soon after, on September 17, 1925, he applied for a permit to build in the city limits. Permit No. 443 indicated that a one-story, wood frame store (40' wide by

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### BING ROOMING HOUSE, PLANT CITY, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

50' deep) would be built by Carey and Walters for E.L. Bing at an estimated cost of \$2000. This building is shown on the November 1925 Sanborn Map. The Bing's operated the Seminole Restaurant in the eastern half of the store, closest to the corner. Janie Bing later related that "she could cook, clean up and deal with customers while still keeping an eye on the children settled in one corner with their lessons" (Jameson 1980). The earliest City Directory (1937-38) available for Plant City lists Elisha L. and Janie Bing at 725 E. Laura Street where they operated a lunch room. There were 9 African American lunch rooms listed out of a city total of 15, most of these were along E. Laura Street. Elijah Bing, Sr. died in 1955. Janie Bing stopped running the Seminole Restaurant at that time.

### SIGNIFICANCE

The growth of the Bings' family in addition to the success of their Seminole Restaurant soon necessitated the construction of their residence and rooming house immediately to the north of their business, on lot #8. The Bing family and relatives resided on the first floor, and the six second floor rooms were for renters. Mrs. Bing ran the rooming house as a business until 1975. The renters who lived there were teachers, lawyers, ball players, ministers, and other prominent people. The house had a TV, hot and cold running water, showers, and a relaxed atmosphere. Within three blocks of the house were four churches, and when churches had their conferences in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, the delegates stayed at the Bing Rooming House and dined at the Seminole Restaurant (Washington, 2002).

Several Plant City residents recall the rooming house. James Jackson, born in 1908, was raised in the Madison Park section of Plant City, and described life at the rooming house. In the early 1930s, when he was "single and wild" he lived at the "hotel" and ate at the restaurant. A room was \$1.50 a week. "We couldn't go up town and eat or stay in the hotels there because of segregation. We had it rough". ... Bing's sister and a girl named Crissy, all of whom stayed at the house, would make the beds and clean the rooms, but he was responsible for his laundry. ... "The restaurant is where everybody hung out. She [Mrs. Bing] would let us play cards—whist—and we could dance there" (Snow, 1996).

Riley Sloan, who was 84 in 1996, was born in Plant City and worked at the restaurant around 1925 when he was 12 or 13, waiting on tables. "My biggest job was [taking care of] her three children while Mrs. Bing was working. ... At that time there must have been 3-4 black hotels but the Bing Rooming House lasted the longest. ... Blacks were not allowed to stay in the white hotels or eat in downtown restaurants, so the hotels and restaurants in the black community were patronized by black teachers, baseball players, Pullman porters, cooks, brakemen, and many others. ... The hotel was briefly home to Frank Robinson, a Hall of Fame baseball player with the Baltimore Orioles. Robinson spent a spring training season in Plant City. He later became baseball's first Black manager" (Snow 1996).

David N. Stewart served as inspector of hotels and restaurants from August 1969 until February 1992. He recalled that "She [Mrs. Bing] kept it very clean. ... for black people it was (the best place), 'cause they had no other place to go. I understand during those times she took care of ministers, athletes, what have you. ...I

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enjoyed working there, inspecting the place 'cause Ms. Bing did a good job of taking care of everything' (Stewart, 1998).

The Bing Rooming House was a landmark in community through the early 1970s. It remained in business longer than any other Black hotel, and it had an excellent reputation. It is the only Black community boarding house/hotel that remains from the years of segregation. A large, two-story rooming house located close to the railroad tracks at 514 E. Haines appears on the 1919 Sanborn map. It was owned and operated by Lula Bing, Bing's first wife, but no longer exists.

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### Section number 9 Page 1 BING BOARDING HOUSE, PLANT CITY, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Lincoln Park South, Lots 7 and 8, Block 14. Property ID# P-28-28-22-5BZ-000014-00007.0.

### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

This boundary encompasses the property historically associated with the Bing Boarding House.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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### BING ROOMING HOUSE, PLANT CITY, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

### **PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST**

- 1. Bing Rooming House
- 2. Plant City, Florida
- 3. Rebecca Spain Schwarz
- 4. January 2001
- 5. PBS&J, Tampa, Florida
- 6. Property from Laura Street, looking north
- 7. Photo #1 of 13

Information for items 1 through 5 is the same for the following photographs except where noted:

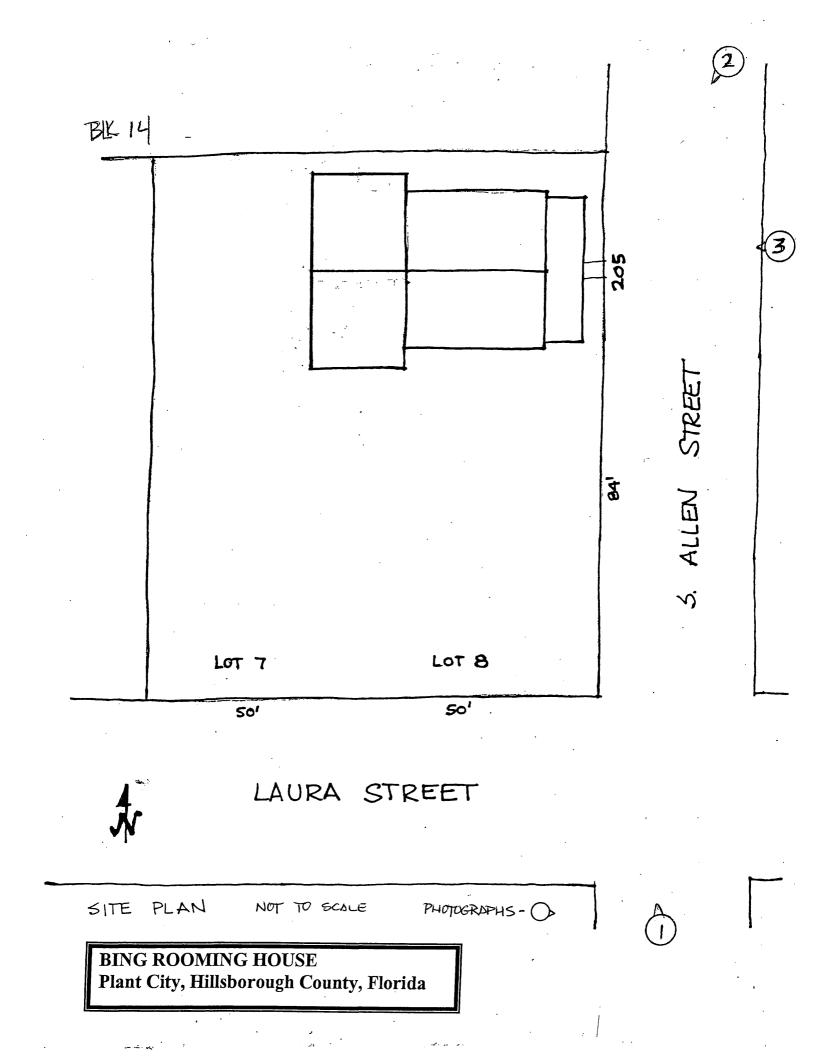
- 6. House from Allen Street, looking southwest
- 7. Photo #2 of 13
- 6. East (front) and north elevations, looking southwest
- 7. Photo #3 of 13
- 6. East porch, looking west
- 7. Photo #4 of 13
- 3. Photographer unknown
- 4. Date unknown
- 5. Negative location unknown
- 6. Historic photograph of Mrs. Janie Bing and daughter Janie Bing Green on front porch, looking west
- 7. Photo #5 of 13
- 6. South elevation, looking northwest
- 7. Photo #6 of 13
- 6. West (rear) elevation, looking east
- 7. Photo #7 of 13
- 6. First floor central hall, looking west
- 7. Photo #8 of 13
- 6. Dining room and living room, looking east
- 7. Photo #9 of 13

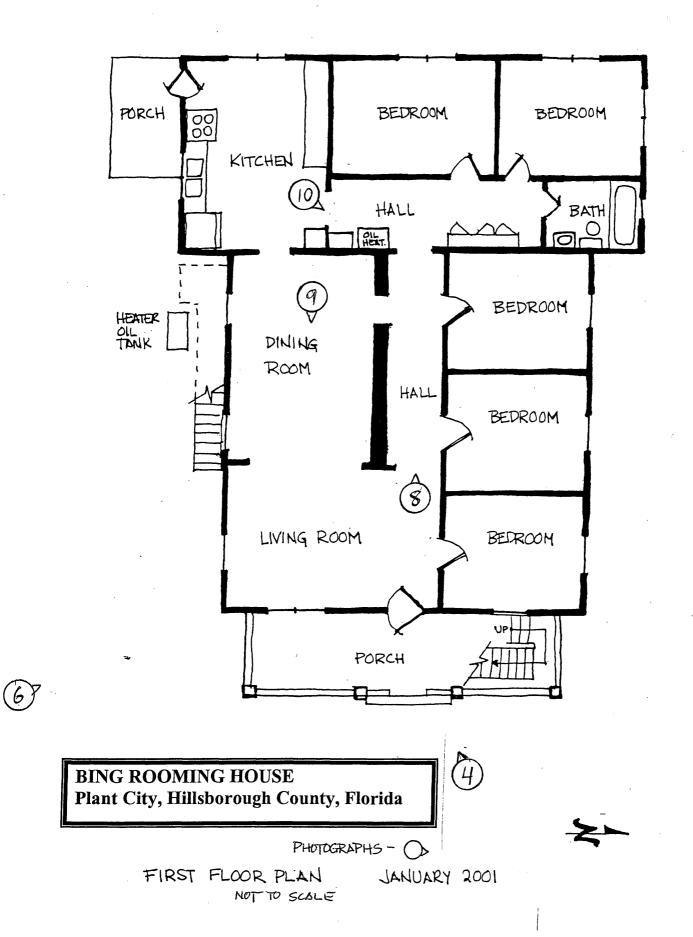
## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

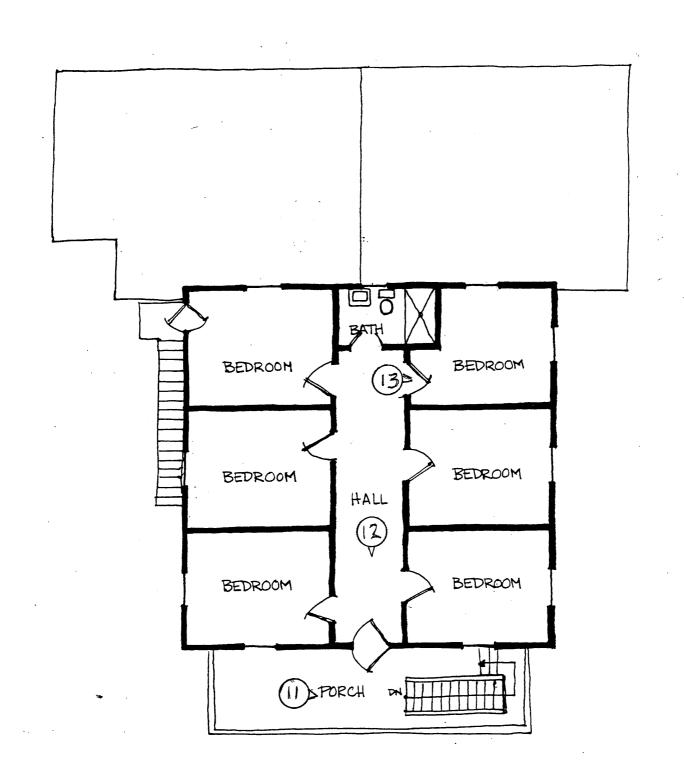
Section number Photos Page 2

### BING ROOMING HOUSE, PLANT CITY, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

- 6. Built-in cabinet doors in rear hall, looking northeast
- 7. Photo #10 of 13
- 6. Second floor entrance porch, looking north toward stairway
- 7. Photo #11 of 13
- 6. Second floor entrance door, looking east
- 7. Photo #12 of 13
- 6. Second floor northwest bedroom showing original furniture, looking north
- 7. Photo #13 of 13







BING ROOMING HOUSE Plant City, Hillsborough County, Florida



SECOND FLOOR PLAN NOT TO SCALE JANUARY 2001 Photographs - 🔿