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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Florida

COUNTY:
Martin

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
MAY 3 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
House of Refuge at Gilbert's Bar

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hutchinson Island, bet. Negro and Bessie Coves

CITY OR TOWN:
Stuart vic.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Ninth

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
I2

COUNTY:
Martin

CODE:
085

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Green turtle research</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Martin County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Martin County Courthouse - East Ocean Blvd.

CITY OR TOWN:
Stuart

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Martin County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Ocean Blvd.

CITY OR TOWN:
Stuart

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
N/A

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State

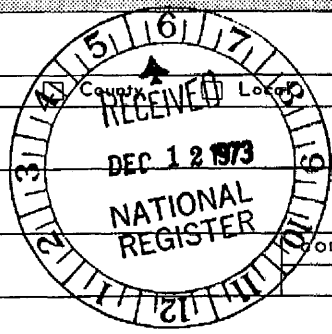
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Florida

COUNTY: Martin

ENTRY NUMBER: MAY 3 1974

DATE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Constructed in 1876 as a refuge station for shipwreck victims, the house at Gilbert's Bar, as originally constructed, was a two-story wood frame structure erected on pilings. The exterior was covered with clapboard which has since been covered over with shingles but remains intact beneath. The house has a gable-on-hip roof topped with a subsidiary structure originating at the ridge and running nearly the full width of the roof on both sides. This structure contains twelve small, outward opening, hinged-at-the-top windows all set beneath a common roof with wide eaves and brackets. There is a small casement window in each of the end gables and fenestration on the east and west sides of the ground floor is regular with sash windows being the type employed. A wide veranda crosses the west front of the house and returns back across the south side. The veranda originally had slender square supporting posts, bracketed at the top. In addition, the treatment of the balustrade area was unusual in that one horizontal wooden stretcher with brackets replaced the traditional spindled balustrade. In recent years the south and west sides of the porch have been enclosed with screen and the brackets are now gone.

On the interior of the building, floors are of pine. There are three large rooms on the first floor which were originally used as office space, eating facilities, etc. The upstairs provided sleeping space for the shipwreck victims. The building is now used as a small museum of local maritime history and it remains in an excellent state of repair although there have been minor changes to the exterior.

There are, today, several other buildings within the refuge complex--a lookout tower of wooden construction, water storage tanks and a concrete block storage building. Although it is certain that there were originally some dependencies associated with the House of Refuge, these are not the original structures.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



4. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1876**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

During a hurricane which affected the southeast Florida coast in October, 1873, the crew of a vessel wrecked by the storm reached the shore only to find no aid was available to them there. This situation was brought to the attention of the federal government, and shortly thereafter, the Superintendent of the U. S. Life Saving Service ordered the construction of five "houses of refuge" on the east coast of Florida. By an act of Congress passed in June, 1874, the recommended refuge stations were established; eventually, a total of ten houses of refuge were built. They were spaced at intervals along the east Florida coast so that shipwreck victims who reached the shore could walk to one of them and receive assistance. No rescue services were provided, but the houses of refuge gave aid, food, and shelter to those who made their way to them. A stock of salted and dried foods, clothing, medicine and books was maintained at each house of refuge for use by the shipwreck victims. Each house contained downstairs living quarters for the keeper and his family and a single large room upstairs which served as a sort of dormitory for those who sought refuge there.

The Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge, as it is commonly known, was authorized by the above mentioned act of the U.S. Congress in June, 1874. A contract for the construction of two refuge stations then established was awarded to Albert Blaisdale on October 18, 1875; one of these was Station Number Two to be located at "St. Lucie Rocks." Blaisdale presented a bill for the construction of that house of refuge shortly before April 6, 1876, by which time the building was presumably completed. The first keeper, Fred Whitehead, was appointed for a term commencing on December 1, 1876. Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge at St. Lucie Rocks continued to serve as an aid station for shipwreck victims until December 31, 1940, on which date it ceased to function in that capacity. During World War II, the facility was used as a submarine patrol base manned by the Coast Guard. Later, ownership of this station passed to the Martin County Historical Society (in 1955) and then to the Martin County Commissioners, who created the House of Refuge as a museum in the fall of 1969.

(con't)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached sheet.

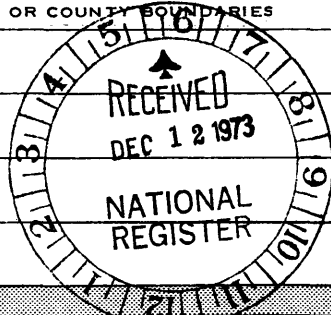
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N27 11 58	W80 09 57	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mildred L. Fryman, Graduate Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Div. of Archives, History & Records Mgt. DATE: June, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]
 Title: Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 12-5-73

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/3/74

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5.2.74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Martin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 3 1974

(Number all entries) 8. Significance

The Martin County Historical Society administers the museum for the county. Research on turtles and spiny lobsters is carried out at the site under the direction of the University of Florida, Department of Zoology.



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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Martin	
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MAY 3	1974

(Number all entries)

9. Bibliography

Biondi, Eugene, Inspector, to Superintendent of Construction, U. S. Life-saving Service, September 4, 1876. "Letters Received by the Life-saving Service," Vol. 3, B-104, Washington, D.C.: National Archives.

Collector of Customs, Boston, Massachusetts, to Superintendent of Construction, U. S. Life-saving Service, October 4, 1875, "Letters Received by the Life-saving Service," Vol. 3, B-17. Washington, D.C.: National Archives.

Hellier, Walter R. Indian River: Florida's Treasure Coast. Coconut Grove, Florida: Hurricane House Publishers, Inc., 1965.

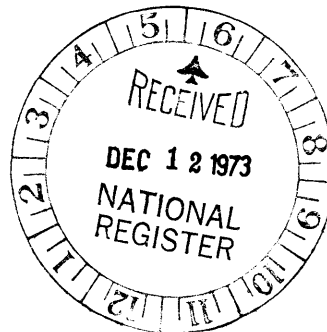
Hutchinson, Janet. "History of Stuart House of Refuge." Typescript.

Kerber, Shephen. "United States Life-saving Service and the Florida Houses of Refuge." Unpublished Master's Thesis, Florida Atlantic University, 1971.

Merryman, J.H., Superintendent of Construction, U.S. Life-saving Service, to the Secretary of the Treasury, April 6, 1876, "Letters Received by the Life-saving Service," Vol. 3, B-71. Washington, D.C.: National Archives.

Voss, Gilbert. "The Orange Grove House of Refuge No. 3," Tequesta, Vol. 28 (1968), pp. 3-18.

Voucher to Albert Blaisdell from Superintendent of Construction, U.S. Life-saving Service, March 30, 1876. Washington, D.C. National Archives.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME		
COMMON House of Refuge	AND/OR HISTORIC Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS) MAY 3 1974
2. LOCATION		
STATE Florida	COUNTY Martin	TOWN Stuart
STREET AND NUMBER Hutchinson Island		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE USGS St. Lucie Inlet Quad.	DATE 1948 (revised 1970)	SCALE 1:24000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW;

