NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90

OMB No. 1024-0018

1636

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 MCKEE JUNGLE GARDENS

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 350 U.S. Hwy 1 N/A ☐ not for publication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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 12/4/97

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) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

Edson H. Beall — 1/7/98

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	1	buildings
1	0	sites
11	0	structures
1	0	objects
15	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

9

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/Garden/Street Furniture/Object

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/Garden/Street Furniture/Object

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
walls N/A
roof N/A
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)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
COMMERCE
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1931-1947

Significant Dates

1931

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Landscape Archs: Phillips, W. Lyman
Reinsmith, W.H.

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

_____

_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 18 apprx.

UTM References
(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	560640	3054110
2	17	561520	3054110
3	17	561520	3053480
4	17	560860	3053480

☐ 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 Sherry Piland/Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date December 1997

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (850) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating 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 _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

SUMMARY

McKee Jungle Gardens is a native Florida hammock that was transformed into a botanical garden, tourist attraction in the early 1930s. Of the original 80 acres, an irregular parcel of 18 acres survives. This acreage encompasses most of what was open to the public. Included in the property are several contributing buildings, trails, water features, and structures such as stone benches and bridges. A large portion of the original landscape design and circulation pattern are intact.

SETTING

McKee Jungle Gardens is located about three miles south of the city of Vero Beach. It is approximately 200 yards south of Indian River Boulevard which runs east/west. It lies between the Indian River Lagoon and U.S. Route 1, a principal north/south artery which forms the west boundary of the property. To the north is an access road to the Vista Gardens condominium development and a wind break of Australian pine, giant bamboo, live oaks, and other trees. A drainage canal and perimeter sand road are to the south. The east boundary is defined by a 8 1/2 foot high block wall, approximately 1/4 mile long, that separates McKee Jungle Gardens from the condominium development.

DESCRIPTION

Circulation System (roads, paths)

The entrance to McKee Jungle Gardens is directly off US A1A, into a paved parking lot. A prominent feature of the parking area is a 3,000 year old bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) stump brought from the interior of Florida (Photo 1 and Print 1). Formerly a twelve-foot wide sign advertising "McKee Jungle Gardens" was located near the stump.

A carefully laid out system of gravel trails with coquina curbs led the visitor through the jungle. The tourist, accompanied by a guide, could enjoy the gardens in about an hour's walk. Some trails (no longer included in the boundary of the nominated property, see 1933 Map of Gardens) led approximately one-half mile east to the salt marsh. There, hikers could spend hours traversing water features where wooden bridges crossed rock lined ponds. Although the basic trail system was designed by 1933, some trails were later expanded as animal displays were added in the late 1930s.

A 1932 docent guide documents what the visitors were taught as they were accompanied along the foot paths. The visitors first encountered a fruit juice stand, presumably where an admission fee was paid. Then the visitor passed through an arched corridor of lattice work, covered with flowering vines (Print 2). This corridor led to the Greeting Park, a cleared area which provided a vista of a trail entering the jungle. The Entrance Trail (Prints 3 and 4) led through an arch of oaks and cabbage palms and was flanked by the jungle-like hammock. Several trails branched off the entrance trail. The Main Trail extended east from the Entrance Trail and then turned south to encircle an area known as the Glade. Located in the Glade is a giant oak (Photo 2), known as the "Old Man of the Jungle." The Main Trail extended further east to a "Watery Maze," the "Garden of the Gods," and an azalea garden (not extant and beyond the current property boundary).

At the juncture of the Main Trail with the Duck Pond Trail, leading to the south, was a small waterfall (Photo 3) and a pool used as an alligator enclosure. The Duck Pond Trail continued in a southeasterly direction to a small Meditation Garden, and past an aviary and animal cages before reaching a petting zoo. Yet another trail lead north from the Entrance Trail to the Main Pond, which was divided into two sections by a stone bridge (Photo 4). One could continue on this trail to the "Cathedral of Palms" (Print 5) and then eventually wend back to the pond at the northwest corner of the property, and from there return to the fruit juice stand.

Drainage and engineering structures (water features, bridges)

Because of its low elevation and proximity to the Indian River, the control of water was an important planned element of the Gardens. Four artesian wells located on the property were used for an irrigation system and, through a network of underground pipes, fed the ponds and streams. The designers were careful to study the tides in relation to the water level of the ponds. Overflow ditches for the ponds were constructed.

The 1933 map of the Gardens shows four principal ponds. The Main Pond (Photo 5) was located north of the juncture of the Main Trail with the Duck Pond Trail. A bridge bisected this pond. A small pond, whose sides are lined with rock (identified today as the Southwest Pond), was located at the north end of the parking area (Photo 6). A sulphur spring (Photo 7) fed another pond (Photo 8) just north of the Entrance Corridor. It is known today as the Northwest Pond. A Watery Maze, north of the Glade (and beyond the current property boundary), was enlarged from an existing stream bed not only to add a visual attraction to the Garden, but to eliminate adjacent stagnant pools of water.

Small waterfalls were also incorporated into the Garden design. One is located near the bifurcation of the Main Trail and the Duck Pond Trail (Photo 3), another is located in the area known as the Meditation Garden, and a third is a feature of the Aviary (Photo 9). Consideration was given to the construction of a five foot hurricane dike, although it is unclear if this was realized. A drainage ditch along the north property line, and other small ditches were cut to eliminate standing water from low areas. Some simple wood bridges were constructed over flood ditches. These no longer exist.

Measures were also undertaken to eliminate the risk of forest fires during dry seasons. A system of fire trails and fire breaks was created. In addition, an engine was on hand to water-down piles of brush if needed.

Vegetation of the Surviving Trail System

McKee Jungle Gardens was developed from a large, natural hammock. This coastal land was underlaid by a limestone base and thinly covered with a layer of sandy, marl loam. The tropical hammock consisted of a mix of trees, shrubs, vines and herbs. Most of the hammock was left in its natural state, altered only by paths cut through the jungle.

A 1932 status report on the garden noted that 159 native plant species had been identified on the grounds and that an additional 698 species had been planted or were grown for sale in the green houses. By 1940, the garden could boost of masses of azaleas and 100 types of hibiscus. Large greenhouses (no longer extant) provided orchids of all colors, sizes, and varieties. Water lilies thrived in the ponds, many of which were developed through cross pollination by the Garden's botanist, Jens Hansen. A recent inventory by botanist James Haeger has identified approximately 140 surviving species in the Gardens. Five of the introduced trees on the grounds have recently been awarded champion status for their size by the Florida Department of Forestry: a 12-foot gru-gru palm (Acrocromia totai), a 28-foot queen sago palm (Photo 10), a black sugar palm (Photo 11), a hybrid Senegal date palm, and a toog (Bischofia javanica). Other important surviving tropical trees in the Gardens include 15 date palms; a number of royal palms; 500 cabbage or sabal palms (Sabal palmetto), clumps of giant bamboo (Photo 12); ten ficus trees; and live oak, laurel oak, red maple, and a Cuban laurel tree (Photo 13). Five eucalyptus trees are growing near the south boundary of the property.

Each of the defined areas in the Garden had its own unique vegetation. Adjacent to the parking area are a false banyan (Photo 14) or council tree (Ficus Altissima), four Washingtonia palms, sword ferns, a large Senegal date, three royal palms, the Champion Gru-Gru palm, a clump of Chinese fan palms (Livistonia chinensis). A Canary Island date palm is located adjacent to the dry Southwest Pool. In the Corridor, which no longer exists, were many species of exotic ferns, passion vine, vanilla orchid vines, and Dutchman's Pipe (a butterfly larval food).

The Greeting Park, which the visitor encountered on exiting the Corridor, was designed as an open glade ringed with coconut palms. An azalea garden featuring many varieties was formerly located on the east side of the Main Pond. The garden area still exists, although azaleas are no longer growing there. Beyond the pond were spices, such as allspice, spiceberry, tea; poinsettias; tree strawberry; angel's trumpet; and palms, ferns, and a wide variety of ornamentals.

An arch of live oaks provided an inviting vista east from the open expanse of the Greeting Park to the Entrance Trail leading into the jungle (Photo 15). Also along this trail are the following species: sausage trees (Print 6), marlberry and grape vines, slash pine, Hercules club (a larval food plant for the giant swallowtail butterfly), two varieties of wild coffee shrubs, podocarpus, cassia, black eyed Susan vine, sleeping hibiscus, and a queen crepe myrtle tree. Exotic Chinese fan palms have volunteered along the trails.

Today, the Entrance Trail terminates at its eastern end with a small glade. This is the location of the "Old Man of the Jungle," a large oak estimated to be over 400 years old whose trunk is covered by a blanket of resurrection ferns (Photo 2). The only other surviving species in the Glade is the Golden Wonder Senna (Cassia splendida), which provides food for butterflies. Historically, the Glade had been planted with a Ylang Ylang, a perfume tree; red bougainvillea vine; calabash tree with 10-12 inch fruit; Pachira, a relative of the balsawood tree; and a bombax fiber tree (silk cotton tree).

The Duck Pond Trail begins on the east side of the Greeting Park and extends to the south. Vegetation in and around the Meditation Garden (on the east side of the Duck Pond Trail) includes a large patch of bromeliads known as flowering pineapple (Ananas comosus), and lady palms. On the west side of this trail is the dry bed of the water lily pond. Along this trail are the following species: Chinese fan palm, slash pine, red mulberry tree, and large clusters of red ginger and shell ginger. On the trail northeast of the Meditation Garden is a majestic Canary Island date palm (Phoenix canariensis) (Photo 16), surrounded by stands of a South American shrub called the red powder puff (Catliandra haematociphala).

The wire cage of an aviary (Photo 17) near the south end of the Duck Pond Trail is covered with cassia, pelican flower vines, and possum grape vines. On an adjacent path is a Java glorybower. Opposite the Aviary is an assonia tree; a champion royal poinciana tree, thirty-feet in diameter; and Florida hydrangea (Dombeya wallichii).

Two major features of the Gardens no longer exist, the Garden of the Gods and the Orchid Glade, for they were located east of the block wall where the condominium development is now located. The Garden of the Gods was a natural garden of native flora and contained Agave variagata, Surinam cherry, rice paper plants, and sabal palms, with endangered shoestring and polydium ferns and airplants (Tillandsia) growing on the palm trunks.

Site Furnishings

In keeping with the naturalistic school of landscape design, most of the site furnishings at McKee Jungle Gardens were made of native materials. The rustic features made out of wood no longer exist. However, there are several rock bridges and rustic stone waterfalls. The Meditation Garden, on the east side of the Duck Pond Trail, in addition to the rock work water fall (Photo 19) has a seat carved from stone (Photo 20).

Buildings

The entrance corridor was originally flanked by frame greenhouses, or plant propagating buildings. These no longer exist. Beginning around 1940, several structures were built to provide more amenities for visitors and to expand the attractions offered.

The **Hall of Giants**, built in 1940, strongly reflects Waldo Sexton's eclectic approach to construction and building materials. The rectangular, two-story structure (Photo 21) served as a gift store and, on occasion, as a dining hall. The 2,000 square foot building is 25 feet high, 60 feet long, and 40 feet wide. The pole and beam structural members rest on a foundation of yellow pine poles sunk in a cement slab, overlaid with flagstones. The exterior is distinguished by cypress board and batten walls, decorative truss work, and a rustic balcony on the main (west) facade. The building has a gable roof, consisting of cypress boards covered with corrugated, galvanized steel panels. The Hall of Giants was originally decorated with huge chains, ancient Spanish doors, stained glass windows, wrought iron chandeliers, bells and other artifacts of iron and wood that Sexton salvaged over the years. On the interior, balconies run the length of both

sides of the building (Print 7). Access is gained by stairwells located on each side of the west facade (Photos 22 and 23). While years of neglect and adverse weather conditions have had a deteriorating impact on the building, most of the large heart pine timbers are sound.

Petting Zoo Building

The petting zoo is a simple, rectangular, masonry building has a gable roof and stucco walls (Photo 24). It was constructed in the early 1940s as a maintenance building and was later converted into a facility for a petting zoo. One exterior wall is painted with a whimsical mural (Photo 25), attributed to artist Peter Hunt.

Structures:

Spanish Kitchen: This reinforced concrete structure was built in 1940 as a replica of a Mexican fiesta-type kitchen. The three-sided kitchen measures approximately 30 feet by 15 feet (Photo 26) and contains six open grills where, reportedly, 100 steaks could be cooked at the same time. Some of the copper hoods of the grills remain in place. The structure has a curved concrete roof, finished with tile and wood beams. The native stone floor of the kitchen extends into a flagstone courtyard leading to the main entrance of the Hall of Giants.

Tropical Bird Aviary: This rectangular structure was built in the late 1930s-early 1940s. It has low concrete walls to which is attached a wire mesh enclosure, covered with vines (Photo 17). Within the aviary is a small stone waterfall (Photo 9) and stream of water.

Animal Pens: Animal pens (Photos 27 and 28) were constructed over the years to house the various animal attractions that were formerly part of the McKee Garden Tour. Deer pens and alligator pens were constructed in the late 1930s-early 1940s. Monkey Cages were built ca. 1940. These pens consist of concrete or rustic stone walls, surmounted by chain-link fencing. Although animals will no longer be part of the McKee Jungle Gardens attractions, they are still part of the natural setting. In 1993, members of the Vero Beach Audubon Society documented 34 species of birds in the Gardens. There are also 26 species of butterflies which appear in season in great numbers and thrive on the available food.

NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES/BUILDINGS

Tiki Hut

A pagoda-type Tiki Hut was built around 1960 and served as a ticket booth until the Gardens closed in 1976 (Photo 29). It is of wood construction and built on a wood platform. The Tiki Hut measures approximately nine feet square and rises to a height of 35 feet at the peak of the pagoda roof. The 30 degree, pitched roof is covered with wooden shingles.

ALTERATIONS/CHANGES

Among the major changes since McKee's inception are those at the entrance, which was changed three times. Originally the entrance was defined by a wrought iron grilled gate (Print 13). The gates led into the arched corridor. This was replaced ca. 1935 by a more intricate wrought iron gate of Spanish design (Print 15), which in turn was replaced by the Tiki Hut ticket booth.

Three retention ponds were added along the north boundary of the property ca. 1980.

SUMMARY OF RESTORATION PLANS

After twelve years of benign neglect and the whims of man and nature, McKee Jungle Gardens became impenetrable in many areas, overgrown with weeds, trees, vines, and storm-felled branches. The Indian River Land Trust (IRLT) initiated an environmental restoration plan, beginning with clearing trails and pond margins. Dedicated volunteers have expended many hours at the site serving as tour guides and clearing the Gardens of debris. Over a period of 18 months, the famous vistas and trails have begun to emerge as the aggressive growth of potato vines and pepper trees has been pruned away.

In 1994, the IRLT engaged the services of the Coral Gables landscape architectural firm of Wallace, Roberts & Todd to update the original design made by Phillips and to "to preserve, recreate or emulate as much as possible the McKee Jungle Gardens experience." The intent is to emphasize the botanical rather than the amusement/attraction aspect of the Gardens while retaining the historic integrity of the property. Future plans, contingent upon funding, anticipate a restored entrance, and rehabilitation of the Hall of Giants, Spanish Kitchen, and water features. The Petting Zoo building will undergo a cleaning and painting, and the unique exterior mural will be restored.

The primary change to the original design of the gardens is the anticipated relocation of the royal palm grove from the northeast corner of the property to the southwest corner. The original location of this grove of over 300 royal palm trees offered no protection from north winds. The Vero Beach area is subject to periodical cold snaps. Freezes in 1940, 1948, 1958, 1962, and the early 1980s thinned out vulnerable plants. Thus, the "Cathedral of Royal Palms" (Print 5) was destroyed by several successive freezes in the 1980s. At the southwest quadrant of the property, the palms would be protected by taller forest trees. This new location was formerly the site of the McKee-Sexton nursery, and its use as a palm grove will not destroy important historic landscape features.

It is anticipated that after restoration, operating funds will be enhanced by modest admission fees, plant sales, gift shop revenues, and the rental of meeting space for professional and social events. The IRLT also hopes to establish a museum to enhance the educational aspects of the facility.

SUMMARY

McKee Jungle Gardens, in Vero Beach, Florida, meets National Register Criteria A and C. The Gardens are significant under Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Commerce. McKee Jungle Gardens was a multifaceted tourist attraction located on an important north/south thoroughfare on the east coast of Florida, U. S. 1. The Gardens were an important element of the tourism industry in the Vero Beach area, improving the economy at the local level by bringing in tax dollars and providing jobs. The attraction featured nature trails, water features and a diversity of native and exotic flora, along with different species of exotic animals in a natural environment. McKee Jungle Gardens provided local residents and tourists alike with family oriented entertainment and recreation. It opened to the public in January 1932 and operated until 1976, drawing as many as 100,000 visitors each year.

Under Criterion C, McKee Jungle Gardens is significant in the area of Landscape Architecture. It was developed by two visionary entrepreneurs, Arthur McKee and Waldo Sexton, and was designed by landscape architect William Lyman Phillips. It is one of the oldest and largest botanical gardens in Florida. It became famous for its water lily and orchid collections and the hybridizing of exotic plants. McKee Jungle Gardens was the first to successfully grow dozens of varieties of hybrid orchids outdoors year-round in trunks of trees and in special air conditioned greenhouses, designed by Arthur McKee. During World War II it served as a safe haven for prized orchids shipped from England and France. McKee Jungle Gardens had a thriving business in its nursery stocks of both imported and native flora.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Vero Beach

Settlers began to arrive in the Vero Beach area in the 1880s as a result of the Homestead Act of 1862. Early homesteaders found the land rich with promise. Henry T. Gifford, a pioneer arrived about 1888, and established the first post office, known as Vero, in his house in 1891. When railroad lines reach Vero in the 1890s, it accelerated the community's growth as an agricultural center. The first school was established in 1906 and the first church in 1908. The Indian River Farms Company incorporated in 1912, and drained thousands of surrounding acres, many of which became orange groves. A bank was opened in 1914. Vero, with less than 700 residents, was incorporated in 1919 and was selected as the county seat in 1925. The town was later renamed Vero Beach.

During the early 1920s, thousands of Floridians speculated in real estate. Land was bought, sold, and resold at exorbitant prices. The Florida real estate boom ended in 1926. The economic climate further deteriorated when the area was hit by destructive hurricanes in 1926 and 1928, and the stock market crashed in 1929, leading to the Great Depression. The economic reversal which began in 1926 and continued through the 1930s reduced Vero's rate of population growth. Its population in 1930 was 2,300. The first public courthouse, completed in 1937, was built with WPA funds.

The excesses of the boom years crippled Florida economically until the early 1940s. The economic crisis in Indian River County, which was established in 1925, and Vero was mitigated by a diverse economy of fishing, cattle, citrus, agriculture, and tourism. In 1942, the Vero Beach airport was converted into a Naval Air Station and became a training ground for navy pilots. The influx of hundreds of thousands of service personnel and families during World War II ended Florida's economic crisis and initiated a new period of growth.

Tourism in Florida

Tourism has long been one of the bedrocks of Florida's economic foundation. Prior to the 1880s, travel in Florida was difficult, expensive, and time-consuming. That changed during the era of railroad expansion. Henry Flagler's East Coast Railroad reached Miami by 1896; Henry Plant established an integrated rail and steamship network and had added over 2,000 miles of track across the state. Both Plant and Flagler constructed opulent hotels for the tourists traveling their lines. With travel less difficult, thousands began to visit Florida, seeking the health-restoring benefits of sunshine. Others came because of the good hunting and fishing provided by the state's unspoiled environment. Florida's earliest tourist attraction, the Orchid Jungle, opened in 1886 near Homestead. Silver Springs, near Ocala, operated commercial, glass-bottom boat rides beginning in the 1890s. St. Augustine's Alligator Farm was in operation by 1893.

During the 1920s, Florida's tourism industry surged, due in large measure to the increasing popularity of travel by automobile. The auto enabled more middle-class tourists to visit and opened up new facets of tourist activity. For example, in 1924, Silver Springs was expanded and developed into a major tourist attraction by Carl Ray and W. M. Davidson. To take advantage of the benefits the auto could offer, an expansive effort to improve roads in Florida was undertaken. In 1925, the state had fewer than 900 miles of hard-surfaced roads. By 1930 this figure had soared to 3,254 miles. Automobiles, tourists, and good roads led to the development of house

trailers, gasoline stations, diners, motels, and tourist attractions throughout the state. In 1926, 1.8 million tourists visited Florida. The collapse of Florida's real estate boom spurred state officials to increase efforts to draw more people to Florida. Despite the Depression, tourists continued to travel to the state. Two million tourists visited Florida in 1936, spending $224 million. By 1940, the state attracted 2.8 million tourists, and over four million by 1946, with expenditures of $800 million.

A wide gamut of attractions were devised to entice the Florida tourist, such as motorboat tournaments, golf and tennis resorts, sailing regattas, and spectator sports such as baseball, polo, horse racing, and jai alai. Several state parks were developed and improved during the Depression years by CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) workers, providing low-cost recreational outlets.

Botanical gardens proliferated during the 1930s, capitalizing on Florida's unique and colorful tropical and sub-tropical vegetation. Several of these were listed in the Federal Writer's Project volume, Florida: A Guide to the Southernmost State, and include the following: Sarasota Jungle Gardens; Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota; Oriental Gardens, Jacksonville; Ormond Tropical Gardens; Holly Hill Jungle Gardens; Japanese Gardens, near Belleair; Key West Botanical Gardens; and Azalea Ravine Gardens, Palatka.

Two of the most important botanical gardens established at this time were the Fairchild Tropical Garden in Coral Gables, and Cypress Gardens, near Winter Haven. Fairchild Tropical Garden, which opened around 1934, was developed in a coastal hammock with live oak and sable palms. Many exotic plants were introduced, as they were in McKee Jungle Gardens, and its native flora was enhanced with palms and cycads. The U. S. Department of Agriculture, under the guidance of David Fairchild, operated a plant introduction station in Miami for subtropical species from which Fairchild Tropical Garden received most of its exotic plants. In 1932, Richard and Julie Pope began development of Cypress Gardens, adjacent to Lake Eloise, near Winter Haven. They converted a swamp into a 220-acre garden featuring native and exotic plantings, and winding foot trails. Cypress Gardens opened in 1935, and following World War II, added water sking shows. Other attractions that could be considered precursors to the world-famous Disney World, which opened near Orlando in 1971, include Marine Studios, near St. Augustine, which opened in 1938 (NR 1986); Weeki Wachee Springs, near Brooksville, which opened in 1947, and featured underwater mermaid shows; and Key Biscayne's Seaquarium, dating from 1955.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Among the botanical gardens designed to attract the tourist trade, and pre-dating both Cypress Gardens and Fairchild Tropical Garden, was the McKee Jungle Gardens, near Vero Beach. McKee Jungle Gardens was developed by two visionary men, both of whom were avid horticulturists, Arthur McKee and Waldo Sexton. McKee, a Cleveland industrialist and Sexton, a pioneer realtor, citrus farmer, and entrepreneur, formed the McKee-Sexton Land Company in 1922. They bought an 80-acre coastal hammock along the Indian River to preserve it from citrus grove development. At first, they cleared a few paths and used it as a private retreat and a place to pursue their hobby of horticulture. Later, they used the perimeter of the property for growing nursery stock. They grew tropical orchids and bromeliads in six greenhouses located near the entrance to the property.

In 1925, the partners entered into the operation of a nursery, the Royal Park Exotic Gardens. By 1929, they had decided to transform the pristine hammock and lush Florida jungle into a landscaped botanical garden. Harvard-trained landscape architect William Lyman Phillips was engaged to design the gardens, combining ponds, streams, trails, bridges, waterfalls and plantings into one harmonious setting. Phillips selected landscape architect W. H. Reinsmith as his on-site assistant. Much of the credit for the early development of McKee Jungle Gardens rightfully belongs to Reinsmith, who implemented Phillips' sketches, designs, and verbal instructions. He supervised the day-to-day operation, coordinated all changes with McKee and Sexton, and kept Phillips informed of any problems or changes demanded by Sexton. Construction of the Gardens began in May 1931, and was completed in November of 1931.

Surviving letters between Reinsmith, Phillips, and Sexton, provide an excellent insight into the creation of the Garden. It is clear from the letters that Sexton was very involved in the project, making design suggestions and soliciting advice about his ideas for the Gardens. Reinsmith, in a letter to Phillips, described his days as filled with mapping, leveling, grading, planting, and supervision, but mostly of arguing with Sexton. In one letter he noted that Sexton was going to Chicago for a month, "and then we'll get something done here for a change." It is also apparent that most of the financial support was coming from Arthur McKee.

As early as June 1931, Phillips was expressing concern to Sexton that an effective entrance was needed to capture the attention of motorists speeding down the highway at sixty miles per hour. He suggested that this problem of enticing the motorist could be solved by designing a distinctive entrance, perhaps one with striking pylons or markers; a widening of the roadway where cars

would be leaving the highway; and a change in character of the roadside at the hammock frontage, such as a high clipped hedge, to arouse interest in what was beyond it.

After the motorist had stopped at the Gardens, Phillips wanted to provide the visitor with a varied experience. He suggested providing a brief transitional space, such as a walled and roofed corridor (perhaps vine covered), to shut the visitor off from what they had been seeing, so that on emerging from the corridor the jungle would appear in a striking and dramatic manner. Just beyond this corridor he wanted a circular lawn, 100-120 feet in diameter, of brilliant rye grass with exotic plants around its edges. As the visitor looked beyond this central void, opposite the corridor, he would see a cut in the jungle that narrowed as it receded, providing a deep mysterious view into the forest. He acknowledged that this plan involved a touch of artificiality, but one that was not without precedent in nature.

Phillips felt that narrow, rambling trails through the hammock would become monotonous and suggested, instead, a network of more direct paths, going from one point of interest to another. Some of these paths could ramble with sharp deflections; others could be straight, but with irregular edges. Phillips stressed the importance of the principle of contrast, with the gloom of the forest counterbalanced by passages of sunlight. He also suggested that the paths be cleared to a width of from 10-12 feet, making it less likely that the visitor would encounter red bugs by brushing against weedy growth, and helping to dispel their fear of snakes.

McKee Jungle Gardens, a name which was chosen for its tourist appeal, was officially opened to the public, without an admission charge, on January 1, 1932. Reinsmith had suggested a charge of fifty cents, which was later adopted and subsequently raised to $1. The small admission fee only partially covered the expenses and cost of maintenance, and the partners subsidized the gardens from other sources. By the end of the first year, McKee Jungle Gardens had attracted visitors from thirty-seven states and three foreign countries. In March of 1932, however, Sexton was still concerned about the problem of attracting tourists. In a letter to Phillips he noted that "People see our signs and stop, but when they get up to the entrance they seem to have the impression it is nothing but a nursery." Letters between Sexton and Phillips show that the entrance was still being improved as late as July 1938.

Assisting with publicizing the Gardens seems also to have been one of the responsibilities assigned to Reinsmith. He noted in August 1931, that magazines were requesting articles and that he was making presentations to the Woman's Club in Fort Pierce and the Rotary Club. By the mid-1930s, McKee Jungle Gardens was receiving excellent press coverage as a major tourist attraction

in Florida. Newspapers, vacation magazines, and other periodicals such as the National Geographic ran favorable stories about McKee Jungle Gardens and the breathtaking splendor of a lush natural paradise which included unusual buildings and flora gathered from all over the world. The Gardens attracted more than 25,000 visitors annually during the last half of the 1930s.

The guides had an important share in the success of McKee Jungle Gardens. They opened the grounds at 7 AM, prepared the fruit stand for operation, and until visitors arrived, spent their time watering, weeding, and gathering up debris. They greeted the visitor who passed down the Corridor from the juice stand, and offered to tour them through the facility. The guides were provided a comprehensive plant list for each part of the gardens which they were expected to memorize along with particular features that should be pointed out. For visitors who might not want to walk the trails, such as the elderly, other transportation was available. A pedicab (rickshaw), could be pulled by a guide; and, from May to October, a ten-passenger train was pulled by a small tractor. To protect visitors from mosquitoes during the summer months, the train was covered by a wire screen. The marshland, eastern portion of the property, was never an active part of the tour, but if visitors wished, they could walk existing, dry trails as they were made useable.

In an effort to attract more visitors, animal exhibits were added in the early years of the Gardens' history, with varying success. A pheasant had to be released because he persisted in dashing himself against his cage; some wild herons escaped, while others had to be released to comply with a state law forbidding their captivity during mating season; the turkeys had a tendency to roam the highway, and one was struck and killed by a car; many of the black snakes who liked to sun themselves on lily pads were shot (presumably to dispel the fears of visitors); and the alligators escaped from a small pen which had been constructed to contain them ca. 1932. More successful were the parrots which adorned the conservatory, the strutting peacocks, deer (for whom a pen was constructed ca. 1932), native frogs, and the tropical fish in the ponds and waterways. By 1938, Sexton was expressing interest in adding a monkey display to the Gardens' features. In the late 1930s-early 1940s, a petting zoo and tropical bird aviary were added to the Gardens. Birds and butterflies continue to be attracted to the food sources offered by the Gardens. Twenty-six species of butterflies have been documented and in 1993, the Vero Beach Audubon Society recorded thirty-four species of birds.

In 1941, McKee bought Sexton's share and became sole owner of the attraction. Thereafter, he designed and built the first mechanically air-conditioned greenhouse in existence. For four years during World War II, McKee Jungle Gardens was closed to the public and was used to train Navy

and Marine personnel in jungle combat and survival. Considered too large after World War II to maintain with the limited available labor, the commercial size of McKee Jungle Gardens was cut by 50 percent. The change appealed to many visitors who liked the shorter tours.

In 1946, Mckee hired David Fairburn, an orchiodologist from the St. Louis Botanical Gardens as McKee Jungle Gardens' director. Fairburn and his wife, Mary, developed the best and most extensive orchid collection in Florida. The cultivation of orchids made the Gardens internationally famous and become one of its greatest attractions during the 1940s and 1950s. Orchids grown in hollowed out logs filled with moss were placed in aesthetically pleasing circles around the waterfall. McKee's grandson, Arthur McKee Latta, subsequently expanded and built a modern air-conditioned orchid display house (not extant).

LATER HISTORY

By the early 1970s, attendance at the Gardens had dropped dramatically due to competition from new large-scale attractions such as Disney World, and because new super highways built inland shifted traffic away from U. S. 1. In 1976, after forty-four years of operation, Arthur McKee's grandson, Arthur McKee Latta, decided to sell the Gardens. The property was purchased by Vista Properties of Vero Beach for $1 million. Vista developed 62 acres into condominiums, golf course, and club house, leaving a little over 18 acres (the heart of the Gardens) in its natural state for the condominium residents to enjoy. In the mid-1980s, Latta's widow appealed to the Board of County Commissioners to buy the remaining eighteen-acre tract for $1 million. This appeal failed.
In 1988, Vista Properties announced its decision to either sell or develop the remaining acreage. An option was obtained for the development of a shopping center, subject to County approval. This motivated a group of dedicated local citizens, led by botanist Jim Haeger, to form the McKee Jungle Gardens Preservation Society, Inc. When the shopping center was turned down by the County in early 1989, this group expressed an interest in purchasing the property. However, they lacked the $2.5 million asking price, and again tried to interest the County in purchasing the property. A referendum was placed before the voters in November of 1989, but failed by 600 votes.

In 1990, the McKee Jungle Gardens Preservation Society changed its name to the Indian River Land Trust (IRLT) and continued its pursuit of the preservation of the Gardens. In January 1994, the IRLT with the help of the Trust for Public Land (TPL) obtained a one year option to purchase McKee Jungle Gardens, along with 80 acres of wetlands, for $1.6 million. In a recent fund raising

campaign, $2 million in cash and pledges was raised. The IRLT finalized the purchase of the property in December 1995, insuring an opportunity for McKee Jungle Gardens to continue to provide educational and recreational programs for visitors, along with substantial economic benefits to the community of Vero Beach.

SEXTON AND MCKEE

Waldo E. Sexton was one of Vero's earliest successful land developers and has been variously called one of the most colorful persons that Florida has ever known, an imaginative entrepreneur, an outrageous, old-time eccentric, and an "irresponsible screwball."

Sexton was born in 1885 in Shelbyville, Indiana, and graduated from Purdue University School of Agriculture in 1911. A temporary trip to Florida in 1914 to sell tilling machines extended to a lifetime career in Vero where he was instrumental in the economic development of the community through his activity in citrus and cattle farming, tourism, and real estate. He helped organize the Indian River Citrus League and developed three varieties of avocados, one named "Sexton" by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He built and operated the Driftwood Inn and Restaurant (NR 1994). In 1958, he was honored as one of Indian River County's outstanding citizens. Sexton died in 1967 at the age of eighty-two.

Arthur G. McKee was the principal financial backer of McKee Jungle Gardens. McKee, born in Pennsylvania in 1871, graduated from Penn State with a degree in mechanical engineering. In 1904, McKee created a new and more efficient process of smelting iron ore and is credited with many improvements in the blast furnace and rolling mill operation methods used in the production of steel. He founded and served as President and Chairman of the Board of the Arthur G. McKee Co. of Cleveland, Ohio. The company designed and built petroleum and iron and steel industrial plants around the world, one of which was the largest steel mill in Russia.

LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE

McKee Jungle Gardens is an excellent example of the naturalist school of landscape design. This type of landscape design can be traced to the writings of Andrew Jackson Downing. His Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening (1841) was a popular basic guide that was revised by a number of authors as late as the 1920s. Downing's writings helped cultivate an aesthetic appreciation of the picturesque quality of untamed nature. The naturalistic tradition of landscape gardening that grew out of his influence stressed scenic vistas, variations in topography,

and natural features such as vegetation, streams, and rock outcroppings. Naturalistic landscape gardening takes advantage of dramatic devices, such as strong variations of light and shadow, the sounds of moving water, and enveloping vegetation. This design ethic also spurred an appreciation for the use of native materials (logs, wood, stone, thatch) in the construction of roads and trails and in picturesque man-made structures such as steps, seats, shelters, and bridges. Rockwork was an important scenic component of naturalistic landscape design.

Downing's aesthetic principles were influential in the design of America's urban parks in the late-nineteenth century and in the establishment of an American style of natural gardening. In 1917, An Introduction to the Study of Landscape Design was published by Henry Hubbard and Theodora Kimball of Harvard's School of Landscape Architecture. Revised in 1929, this was the major textbook in schools of landscape architecture until the 1950s. The text strongly promulgated the naturalistic gardening style and served to translate Downing's concepts into practical approaches for twentieth-century designers.

In the early twentieth century an interest developed in regional variations of naturalistic gardening. Wilhelm Miller, a horticultural writer, published articles on gardening specific to New England and to the Midwest prairie. A regional style also developed in California, beginning with the 1914 publication of California Gardening by Eugene O. Murmann.

The unique climate and temperature of Florida would appear to have fostered a regional school as well. As early as 1885, the special gardening challenges and rewards of Florida were being documented. However, as late as 1924, gardeners in Florida found that practical and dependable information on plants adapted to the state was "scattered and incomplete." Still, there was a strong interest in gardening in Florida. Nurseries operating in the state in the late nineteenth century offered a variety of exotic, native tropical and sub-tropical plants. Garden clubs throughout the state were instrumental in disseminating gardening information particular to Florida. The Garden Club of Jacksonville, organized in 1922, published a series of booklets between 1924 and 1931, that dealt specifically with Florida's landscape possibilities. One of the earliest manuals for Florida gardeners, In Florida Gardens, was prepared in 1924, by two members of the Garden Club of Jacksonville.

McKee Jungle Gardens draws from all these sources in its naturalistic design: the aesthetics of Downing, the influence of Harvard's School of Landscape Design, and the specific knowledge compiled about Florida's own diverse plant life. Located in a native hammock, McKee Jungle Gardens was developed to take advantage of this unique natural setting. As part of the Indian

River estuary, McKee Jungle Gardens still retains a natural stand of live and laurel oak, red maple, cabbage palm, slash pine and palmetto, with an intricate weaving of morning glories, moon flowers, Spanish moss and wild grapes. At this latitude the coastal forest has an understory of subtropical flora. All this was augmented with flowering shrubs, orchids and USDA-introduced fruits, palms and other experimental plants. The Harvard-trained designer of the Gardens incorporated and harmonized manmade improvements into this natural setting, using informal design elements, preserving existing vegetation and rock formations, creating naturalistic rockwork, developing vistas and viewpoints, and constructing rustic shelters. McKee Jungle Gardens remains predominantly as it was when McKee and Sexton owned it.

The construction of rustic site furnishings to enhance the naturalistic gardens was a particular challenge to the landscape architects. Rustic rock bridges and stone seats were constructed without difficulty. However, the dampness of the environment made it difficult to construct anything out of wood. At one time, rain shelters were constructed. These open structures with palmetto frond roofs supported by four upright poles no longer exist.
Attempts were also made at constructing wooden park benches and bridges. In a letter to Sexton in October 1931, Phillips expressed some dislike of the wood bridges that had been erected over the Watery Maze portion of the Gardens, saying "admittedly, the perishability of rustic work in Florida tends to discourage its use, but I have an impression that Red Mangrove limbs would prove to have a durability quite sufficient for use as girders and handrails." In a letter to Phillips, Reinsmith suggested the use of black mangrove, or of using less expensive live oak and accepting the fact that rustic work would need to be replaced every two years. In a letter to McKee in October 1932, Reinsmith reported that some of the bridge rails in the Watery Maze had been replaced by "very clever giant bamboo members fastened with wire." He noted that as yet he had not found a suitable and lasting wood for a truly rustic bridge, although he had yet to try pencil cedar which had been recommended to him.

Park benches with glued cypress ends had not held up well, but Reinsmith was investigating a suggestion that the ends be made of reinforced concrete with a coquina finish. If that was successful, only the wood slats would need periodic replacement. The architects also discussed the need for native and comfortable rustic seats in the Cathedral and Glen areas, primitive enough to blend in with the setting.

McKee Jungle Gardens has ties and similarities to Fairchild Tropical Garden in Coral Gables, which opened around 1934. Fairchild Tropical Garden was also developed from a coastal hammock that contained live oak, sable palms, and cycads. David Fairchild operated a plant

introduction station for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Both gardens received a number of their exotic plants from this source. Many of the exotic plants for Mckee were personally collected by McKee, Sexton, and their master gardener and horticulturist, Jens Hansen. Hansen served as the superintendent at the Royal Park Exotic Gardens nursery and then at McKee Jungle Gardens from 1927 until his death in 1949.

William L. Phillips

William Lyman Phillips was born in Somerville, Massachusetts, in 1885. He graduated from Harvard in 1908, and received a Masters degree in Landscape Architecture from Harvard in 1910. His career as a landscape architect provided him with opportunities for travel and he lived and worked in Montreal, Panama, Puerto Rico, France, and California. After graduation from Harvard, he was employed for a period in the Olmsted Brothers firm. In 1913-1914, he was the official landscape architect to the Canal Commission and laid out the headquarters town of Balboa, at the Pacific entrance to the Panama Canal. During World War I, he served in the Construction Division of the Army in Puerto Rico, and later as a camp planner in several southern towns including Columbia, South Carolina, and San Antonio, Texas. He was living in Paris in 1923, when he met and married his wife, Simone. They had two daughters. Between special engagements, he worked for Olmsted Brothers on projects in California and Florida. By around 1928, Phillips had settled in Florida and was engaged in a number of projects throughout the state, including the landscape plan of the Mountain Lake Sanctuary near Lake Wales, Florida (NR 1993, as Mountain Lakes Estates Historic District). In 1933, Phillips helped plan projects for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Dade County. In 1934, he drew up plans for Greynolds Park and Matheson Hammock.

He also designed Crandon Park, Bakers Haulover Park, and Homestead Bayfront Park. When the intent to build Fairchild Tropical Garden was announced in 1938, Phillips became involved in the design of the project, and supervised CCC work on its construction. He remained with the CCC until 1941. From 1943-1954, Phillips was the landscape architect of Fairchild Tropical Garden. Through his work throughout the state of Florida, Phillips was instrumental in the development of a regional landscape design that incorporated the state's unique vegetation, topography, and climate.

Phillips described his philosophic approach to life and his work as follows: "Works of art I think, though they may give pleasure to others for a certain time, are chiefly of value to the doer in the doing. The reward was spread out along the way in having something to do and knowing how to

do it, in being able always to look on the world curiously, finding interest in the works of nature and the works of man."

Winton H. Reinsmith

Winton H. Reinsmith was the on-site architect who translated and implemented all of Phillips' designs into practical use. He supervised the day-to-day operations and worked with both McKee and Sexton to realize the Gardens. His status reports, prepared for Phillips, provide an excellent account of the development of the project. The dates of Reinsmith's employment at McKee Jungle Gardens are uncertain. His last status report to Phillips is dated October 19, 1932; however, Reinsmith's signature is on a map of the Gardens dated May 25, 1933. Little is known of his private life other than he was married, had two children, and while working at McKee Jungle Gardens, lived in the Vero Beach area.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Parcel No. 13-33-39-00007-0000-00002.0, Indian River County Property Appraiser Office.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The approximate 18 surviving acres of the McKee Jungle Gardens is identified by a bold line on the accompanying site plan map. The remaining acreage of the historical gardens has been subdivided and developed into a condominium community.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. McKee Jungle Gardens, 350 U. S. 1
2. Vero Beach, Indian River County, Florida
3. Suzan Phillips
4. 1996
5. McKee Botanical Garden, 4871 North A1A, Vero Beach, Fl.
6. Bald Cypress Stump, near parking lot; view looking north
7. Photo 1 of 29

Items 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

6. Giant oak ("Old Man of the Jungle"), view looking east
7. Photo 2 of 29

6. Waterfall at juncture of Main Trail and Duck Pond Trail, view looking southeast
7. Photo 3 of 29

6. Stone bridge over Main Pond, view looking east
7. Photo 4 of 29

6. Main Pond, view looking southwest
7. Photo 5 of 29

6. Southwest Pond, view looking southwest
7. Photo 6 of 29

6. Sulphur Spring feeding Northwest Pond; view looking southwest
7. Photo 7 of 29

6. Northwest Pond, view looking northwest
7. Photo 8 of 29

6. Aviary, view looking north
7. Photo 9 of 29

6. Champion queen sago palm, view looking south
7. Photo 10 of 29

6. Champion black sugar palm, view looking east
7. Photo 11 of 29

6. Giant bamboo, view looking east
7. Photo 12 of 29

6. Cuban laurel tree, view looking southeast
7. Photo 13 of 29

6. False banyan tree, view looking southeast
7. Photo 14 of 29

6. Main Entrance Trail, view looking east
7. Photo 15 of 29

6. Canary Island date palm, view looking north
7. Photo 16 of 29

6. Aviary, view looking north
7. Photo 17 of 29

6. Rock lined sides of the dry bed of the Main Pond, view looking southwest
7. Photo 18 of 29

6. Waterfall in Meditation Garden, view looking east
7. Photo 19 of 29

6. Stone seat in Meditation Garden, view looking east
7. Photo 20 of 29

6. Hall of Giants, main (west) facade; view looking northeast
7. Photo 21 of 29

6. Hall of Giants, main (west) facade; view looking east
7. Photo 22 of 29

6. Hall of Giants, main (west) facade; view looking northeast
7. Photo 23 of 29

6. Petting Zoo Building, north elevation; view looking southeast
7. Photo 24 of 29

6. Detail, Petting Zoo Building, north elevation; view looking southeast
7. Photo 25 of 29

6. Spanish Kitchen, view looking northwest
7. Photo 26 of 29

6. Animal Pen, view looking east
7. Photo 27 of 29

6. Animal Pen, view looking south
7. Photo 28 of 29

6. Tiki Hut, view looking northwest
7. Photo 29 of 29

Historical Prints, McKee Botanical Garden Archives:

1. View of original parking lot, showing cypress stump, ca. 1940.

2. View through arched Corridor into Greeting Park, ca. 1935.

3. View along Main Trail, ca. 1935

4. View along Main Trail, ca. 1940

5. Cathedral of Royal Palms, ca. 1940

6. Sausage Tree, ca. 1960

7. Postcard, interior of Hall of Giants, ca. 1953

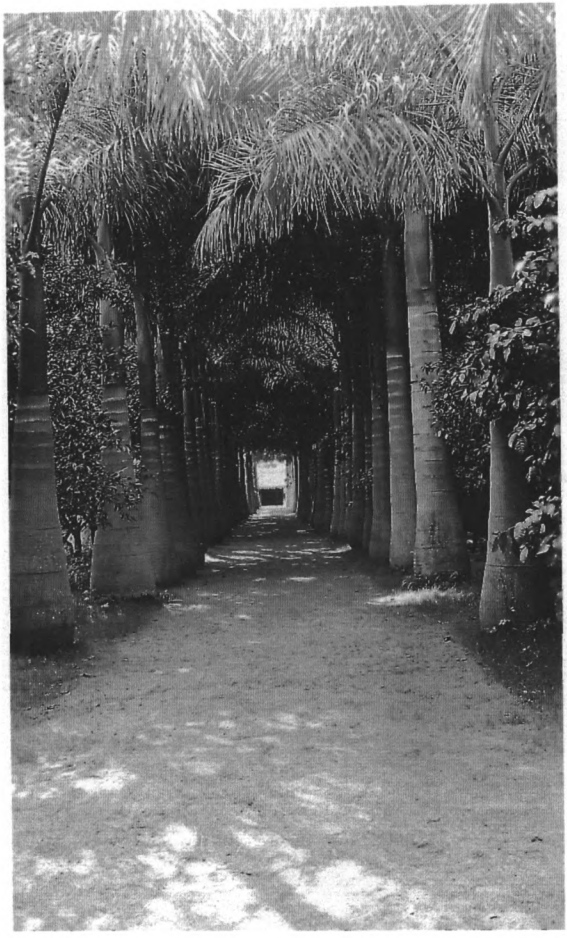
13. Original Entrance Gate, ca. 1935

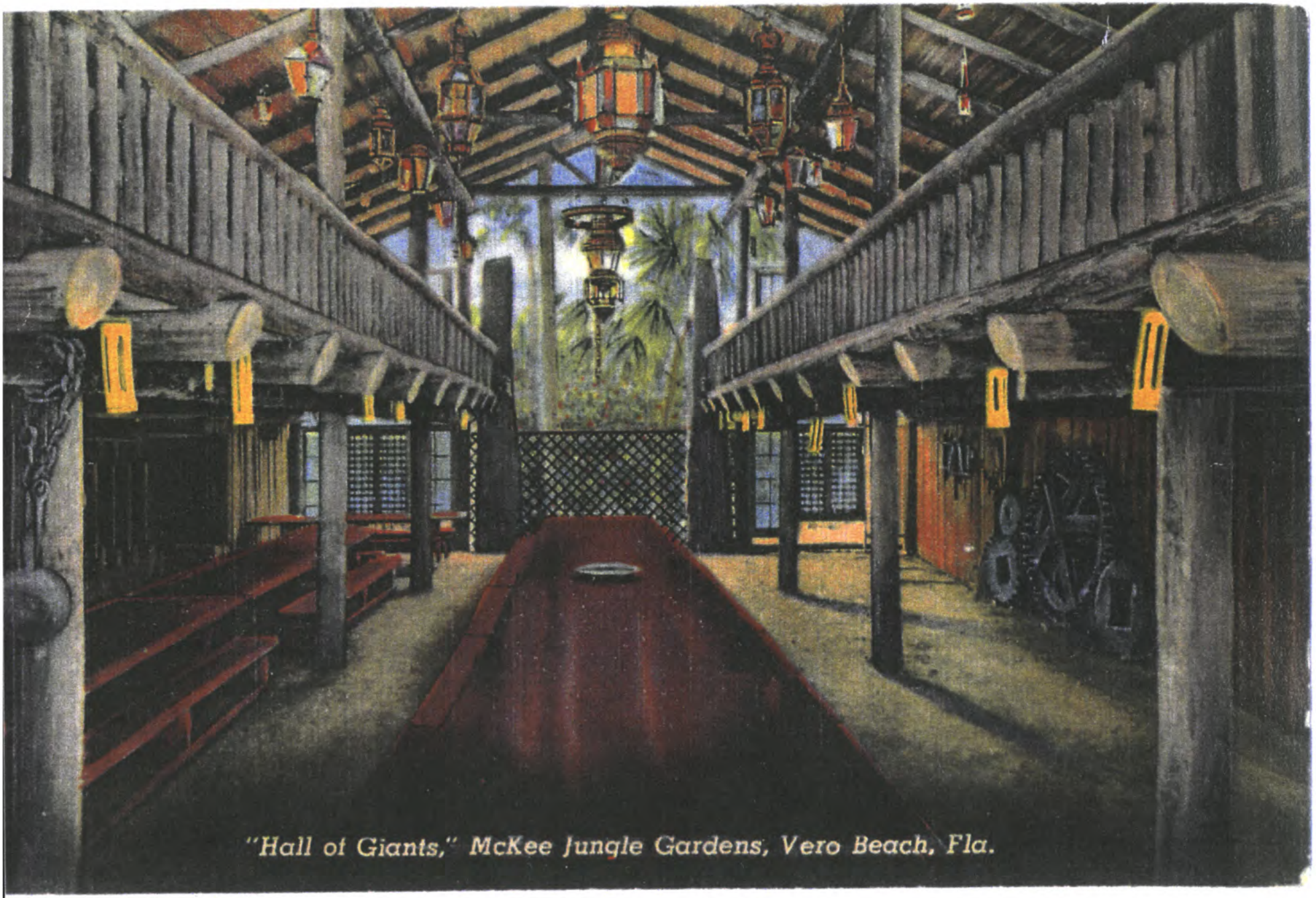
15. Second Entrance Gate, ca. 1940

Print 1

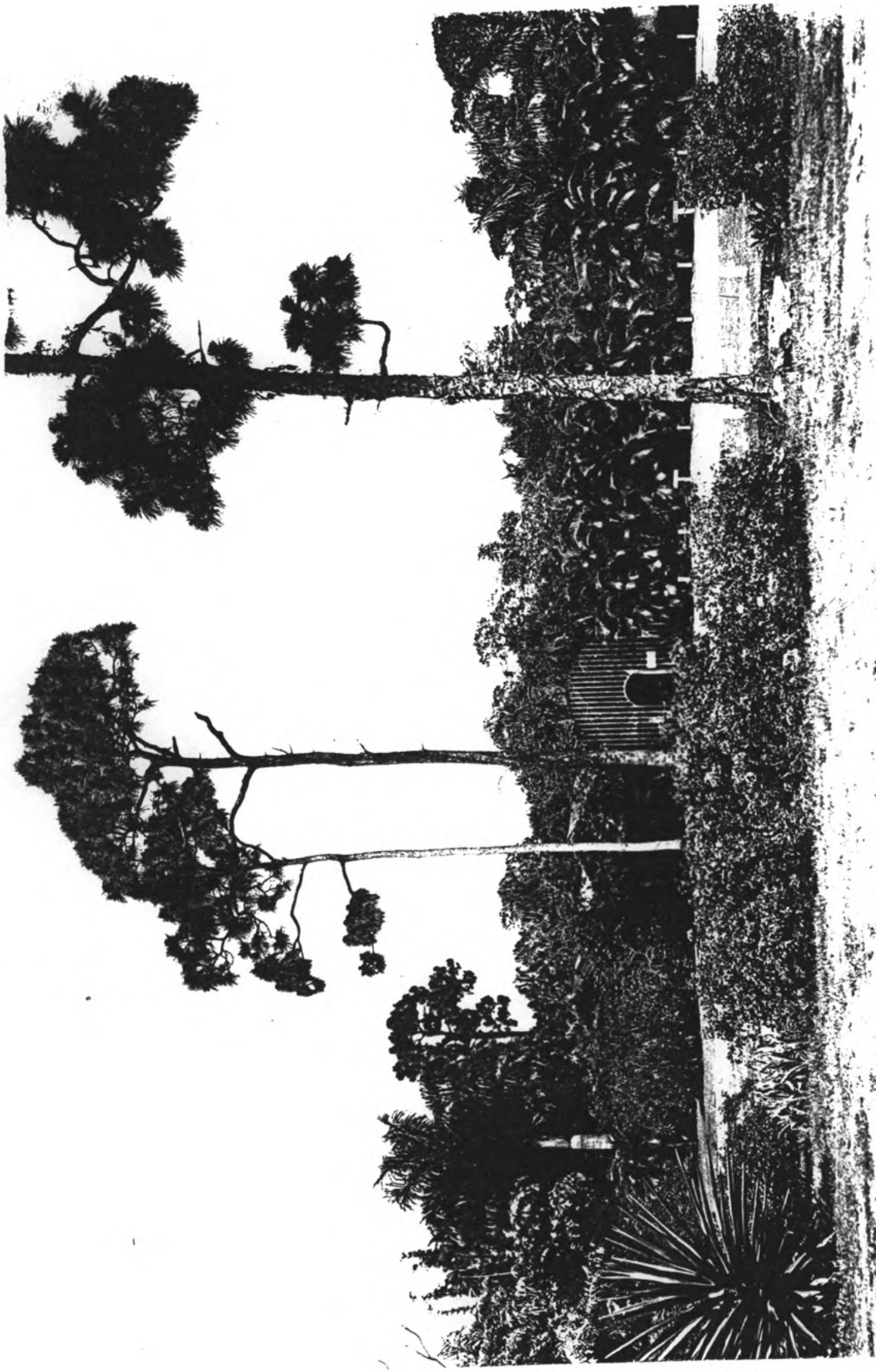
Print 2

Print 5 - Cathedral of Royal Palms

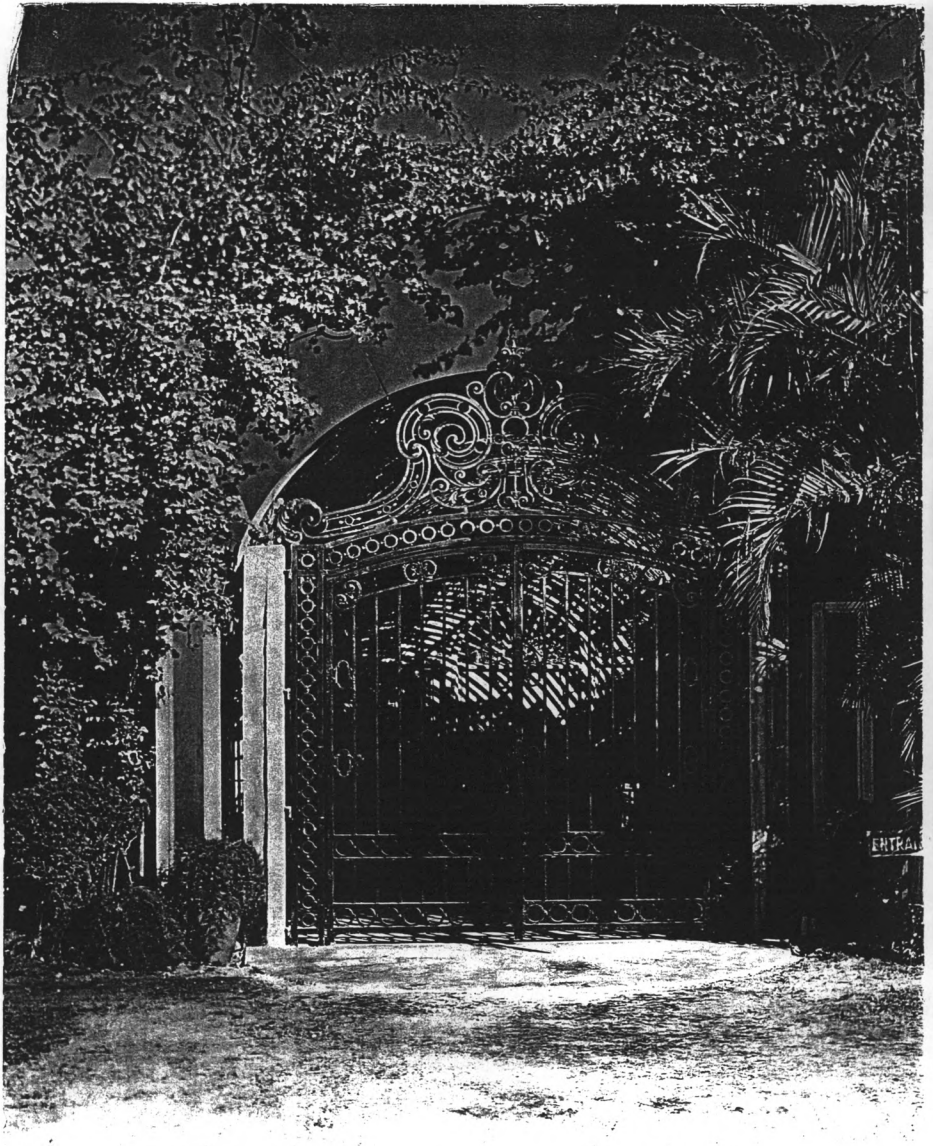



"Hall of Giants," McKee Jungle Gardens, Vero Beach, Fla.

Print 13 - Original Entrance Gate



Print 15 - Second Entrance Gate



McKEE JUNGLE GARDENS

SITE PLAN

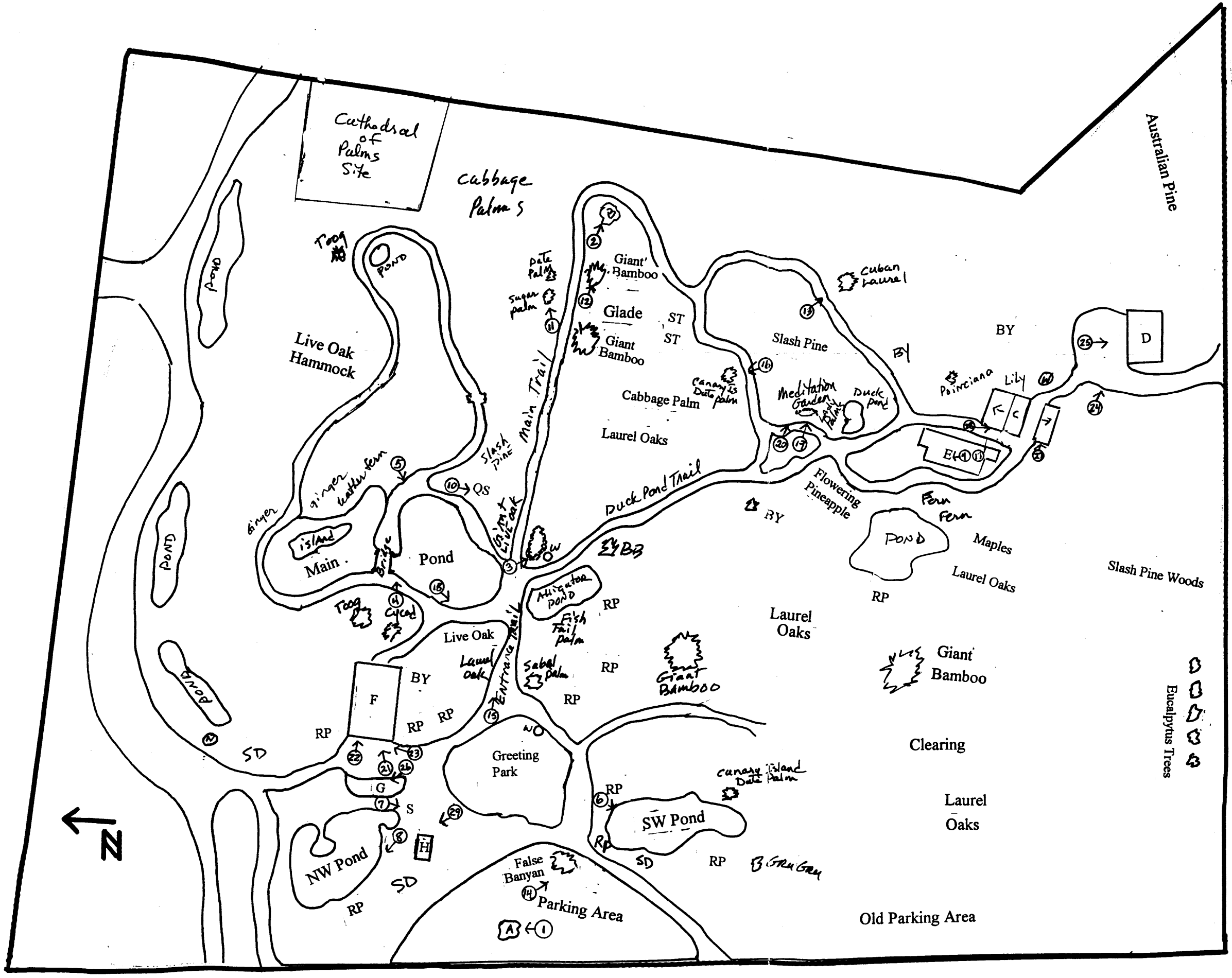
Photo Direction

Boundary

Approx. Scale: 0.5" = 42'

KEY

A - Cypress Stump	W - well
B - "Old Man of Jungle"	S - Sulphur Spring
C - Animal cages	RP - Royal Palm
D - Petting Zoo	BB - Bamboo
E - Aviary	BY - Banyan
F - Hall of Giants	ST - Sausage Tree
G - Spanish Kitchen	QS - Queen Sago
H - Tiki Hut	SD - Senegal Date Palm



U.S. 1