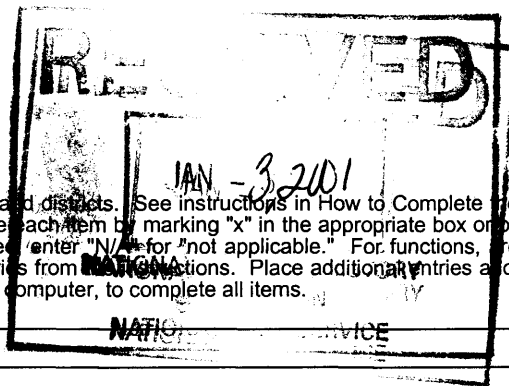


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 City of Waldo Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Various

N/A not for publication

city or town Waldo

N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Alachua code 001 zip code 32694

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.)

Barbara C. Mattie / DSHPO 12-27-00
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

2/2/01
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
60	41	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
60	41	total

Name of related multiple property listings
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

COMMERCE/Business

RELIGION/Church

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

COMMERCE/Business

RELIGION/Church

EDUCATION/School

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

See Continuation Sheet

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick Pier

walls Wood

Concrete Block

roof Asphalt

other Wood: Porch

Metal: Roof

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

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)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1860 - 1950

Significant Dates

1860

1881

1923

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
- Other

Name of Repository

City of Waldo Historic District
Name of Property

Alachua, Florida
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 56 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	3 8 6 6 6 0	3 2 9 6 2 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 7	3 8 7 0 8 0	3 2 9 6 2 4 0

3	1 7	3 8 7 0 8 0	3 2 9 5 8 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 7	3 8 6 6 6 0	3 2 9 5 8 2 0

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 Murray D. Laurie, Consultant; Gary V. Goodwin, Historic Preservation Planner

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date December, 2000

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 Various

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

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

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

**CITY OF WALDO HISTORIC DISTRICT
Waldo, Alachua County, Florida**

SUMMARY

The Waldo Historic District covers approximately 20 blocks within the City of Waldo. It is comprised of a residential neighborhood that contains a number of Frame and Masonry Vernacular style buildings and Craftsman Bungalows, a school, and two churches, and a small business area. The historic district consists mainly of one-story and two-story single family dwellings and less than 12 brick and frame commercial buildings constructed between the 1860s and 1940s.

SETTING

The Waldo Historic District is located in the northeastern quadrant of Alachua County, approximately 12 miles north of the county seat of Gainesville. Two major, four-lane highways pass through Waldo. State Road 24 divides as it goes through the city's small commercial district (Photo 1). A high overpass to the north of the historic district was built when US 301 was widened in the 1960s. The residential neighborhood in the district is distinguished by tree-lined streets, some of which are unpaved (Photo 2). The historic district is in the center of the city, which covers approximately two square miles. The CSX railroad tracks run just to the east of the district. Waldo is surrounded by pine forests and is located just west of Lake Alto.

DESCRIPTION

Approximately 37 of the buildings in the district are single family dwellings. Some of these have outbuildings such as garages or storage sheds. Among the contributing structures are two church buildings, one of which now serves as a community meeting place, and the Waldo Community School (K-6 grades). Also contributing to the district is a block of masonry stores and three other detached business buildings located in a two-block area between SW 4th Boulevard and SW 5th Boulevard. Because the original plat of Waldo was aligned with the diagonal train track, the streets within this part of the district are at an angle to streets later platted in an east-west and north-south direction. Less than 20% of the buildings were constructed before 1900 and approximately 50 % were constructed in the twentieth century before 1930.

Frame and Masonry Vernacular and Craftsman/Bungalow are the favored architectural styles for the residential buildings. There are 30 examples of the vernacular and 10 Bungalows. One church has Gothic Revival styling and the school is influenced by the Moderne style of the 1920s. The commercial buildings are mostly masonry with minimal decorative brickwork. Most of the buildings within the district have been altered in some fashion, either by additions to the original structure, enclosure of open porches, or alterations to windows or doors.

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Section number 7 Page 2

**CITY OF WALDO HISTORIC DISTRICT
Waldo, Alachua County, Florida**

Frame Vernacular

More than 50% of the buildings in the Waldo Historic District are Frame Vernacular structures. The two-story house at 175 SW 2nd Avenue (Photo 3) has weatherboard siding, a prominent front gable, a portico marking the entrance, and symmetrical fenestration. A wing extends to the rear of the main house. A large garage or carriage house is located in the side yard of the spacious property. It could be argued that this house and the one at 220 Line Avenue (Photo 4) might also be characterized as Neocolonial or Georgian Revival because of the symmetrical facades, but Frame Vernacular appears to be the more conservative attribution. The side-gabled house at 120 NW 1st Avenue (Photo 5) has an unusual front porch arrangement, paired bays on either side of the entrance with cut shingle edging under the flaring rooflines. The L-shaped house at 24 NW 2nd Street (Photo 6) has a high-pitched roof, a small entrance porch and a side addition with a lower pitched roof. One of the oldest houses in Waldo (ca.1860) is located at 282 SW 2nd Place (Photo 7). The front section has a side gabled roof, with a wing to the rear. The original windows have been replaced and the chimney no longer is in use. The garage apartment at 225 SW 2nd Boulevard (Photo 8) has a hip roof, drop siding, an entrance on the second floor and two garage bays on the first level. The Frame Vernacular cottage at 176 NW 1st Avenue (Photo 9) has an open porch and a carport on the side. The old Entenza Cigar Factory at 252 SW 4th Boulevard (Photo 10) is also a Frame Vernacular structure with a two-story porch extending across the front facade and wrapping around the side. The porches are embellished with turned balustrades and spindle friezes.

Masonry Vernacular

Only one contributing Masonry Vernacular residential dwelling is located in the historic district, the side-gabled brick house at 222 SW 2nd Place (Photo 15). A small portico with iron supports marks the front entrance. The Methodist Church (220 SW 2nd Way, Photo 19), built in the 1920s of molded concrete block, has a bell tower with a pyramidal roof and Palladian-type windows in the front and rear facades.

Craftsman Bungalow

Ten of the dwellings in the district are influenced by the Craftsman Bungalow style. The residences at 185 SW 3rd Way and 178 NW 1st Avenue have wraparound porches with battered columns set on brick piers and low-pitched gable roofs, all typical features of the style (Photos 11 and 12). Some of the owners of bungalows in Waldo have enclosed their front porches, but the Craftsman Bungalow features can still be seen, as in the example at 55 NW 1st Avenue. Another notable feature of this property is a low stone wall in front of the house (Photo 13). The bungalow at 70 NW 1st Avenue is much simpler; its front porch has been enclosed, but the characteristic knee brackets under the eaves are still in place (Photo 14).

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Section number 7 Page 3

**CITY OF WALDO HISTORIC DISTRICT
Waldo, Alachua County, Florida**

Gothic Revival

The wood frame church at 150 SW 2nd Place has a tall bell tower with steeple, simple Gothic detailing at each window, and decorative bracing in the front eaves. A handicap access ramp has been built on the side to provide access to the front door, which is at the base of the tower (Photo 20).

Moderne

The Waldo Community School was built in 1923 of concrete block with a stucco finish. With its simple cornice, flat roof, recessed central bay with four square columns, and balanced fenestration, it references the Moderne styling that was prevalent in the 1920s (Photo 21). An auditorium wing extends to the rear. The school is surrounded by recent campus additions, not connected to the original structure, such as portable classrooms, trailers, new classrooms and a cafeteria (Photo 22).

Commercial

While two of the commercial buildings in the district are of frame construction, the remainder of the stores in Waldo (Photos 17 and 18), including the Bank of Waldo at 204 SW 4th Boulevard (Photo 16), are of brick or concrete block construction with minimal decorative elements. The Bank has the most elaborate brickwork of all of them, with two-story pilasters and denticulated courses at the roofline.

Noncontributing Buildings

There are 41 noncontributing buildings in the Waldo Historic District. Many of these were built after 1950 and do not meet the age requirement for contributing structures. Two of the noncontributing buildings were constructed during the period of significance but have been severely altered. On the campus of the Waldo Community School are nine auxiliary buildings that are noncontributing. Half of them are trailers or portable classrooms that may or may not be permanent additions to the campus.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 4

CITY OF WALDO HISTORIC DISTRICT
Waldo, Alachua County, Florida

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Date Built</u>	<u>Original Use</u>	<u>Style</u>
Line Avenue			
150	1923	School	Moderne
150A	ca.1930	Auxiliary Building	Masonry Vernacular
202	ca.1890	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
294	ca.1930	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
NW 1st Avenue			
55	ca.1930	Single Dwelling	Craftsman Bungalow
55A	ca.1940	Outbuilding	Frame Vernacular
70	ca.1930	Single Dwelling	Craftsman Bungalow
92	ca.1940	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
108	ca.1920	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
120	ca.1890	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
168	ca.1950	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
178	ca.1930	Single Dwelling	Craftsman Bungalow
282	ca.1930	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
NW 1st Street			
45	ca.1940	Single Dwelling	Craftsman Bungalow
NW 2nd Street			
28	ca.1880	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
NW 3rd Street			
4	ca.1947	Single Dwelling	Craftsman Bungalow
4A	ca.1947	Garage	Frame Vernacular
4B	ca.1947	Outbuilding	Frame Vernacular
26	ca.1947	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
39	ca.1938	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
48	ca.1940	Single Dwelling	Craftsman Bungalow
48A	ca.1940	Outbuilding	Frame Vernacular
87	ca.1900	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
98	ca.1950	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular

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**CITY OF WALDO HISTORIC DISTRICT
Waldo, Alachua County, Florida**

98A	ca.1950	Garage	Frame Vernacular
SW 1st Boulevard 285	ca. 1930	Single Dwelling	Craftsman Bungalow
SW 1st Way 185	ca. 1929	Single Dwelling	Craftsman Bungalow
SW 2nd Boulevard 225	ca.1937	Garage Apartment	Frame Vernacular
SW 2nd Place 150	ca.1890	Church	Gothic Revival
175	ca.1880	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
175A	ca.1880	Outbuilding	Frame Vernacular
180	ca.1930	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
180A	ca.1930	Garage	Frame Vernacular
215	ca.1935	Single Dwelling	Craftsman Bungalow
222	ca.1939	Single Dwelling	Masonry Vernacular
282	ca.1860	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
SW 2nd Way 220	1910	Church	Masonry Vernacular
252	ca.1927	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
320	ca. 1900	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
SW 3rd Boulevard 102	ca.1940	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
SW 3rd Way 80	ca.1940	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
80A	ca.1940	Outbuilding	Frame Vernacular
185	ca.1925	Single Dwelling	Craftsman Bungalow
205	ca.1920	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
335	ca.1900	Vacant	Frame Vernacular
452	ca.1940	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
452A	ca.1940	Garage	Frame Vernacular
455	ca.1900	Store	Commercial

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**CITY OF WALDO HISTORIC DISTRICT
Waldo, Alachua County, Florida**

SW 4th Boulevard

204	ca.1907	Bank/ Store	Commercial
252	ca.1880	Hall/Factory	Frame Vernacular
302	ca.1930	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular

SW 5th Boulevard

102	ca.1908	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
102A	ca.1930	Garage	Frame Vernacular
204	ca.1893	Store	Commercial
218	ca.1900	Store	Commercial
220	ca.1924	Store	Commercial
226	ca.1940	Store	Commercial
226A	ca.1900	Store	Commercial
305	ca.1930	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular
315	ca.1930	Single Dwelling	Frame Vernacular

NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

Line Avenue

150	ca.1970-1998	9 School Auxiliary Buildings
224	ca.1959	Single Dwelling
225	ca.1960	Single Dwelling
264	ca.1980	Single Dwelling

NW 1st Avenue

194	unknown	Mobile Home
226	unknown	Single Dwelling

NW 1st Street

57	ca.1954	Single Dwelling
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NW 2nd Street

44	ca.1955	Single Dwelling
74	ca.1984	Mobile Home
82	ca.1970	Single Dwelling
98	ca.1964	Single Dwelling

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**CITY OF WALDO HISTORIC DISTRICT
Waldo, Alachua County, Florida**

NW 3rd Street

59A	unknown	Outbuilding
59B	unknown	Outbuilding
70	unknown	Single Dwelling
73	ca.1973	Mobile Home
80	unknown	Single Dwelling

SW 1st Way

322	ca.1990	Mobile Home
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SW 2nd Place

170	ca.1990	Library
285	unknown	Single Dwelling
315	ca.1982	Single Dwelling
322	ca.1975	Single Dwelling

SW 2nd Way

200/200A	unknown	Fire Station & Garage
282	ca.1956	Single Dwelling
325	ca.1963	Single Dwelling
9	unknown	Store

SW 3rd Way

275	ca.1960	Single Dwelling
325	ca.1963	Single Dwelling

SW 4th Boulevard

152	ca.1986	Mobile Home
207	ca.1900	City Hall/Police Station
242	ca.1976	Child Care Center

SW 5th Boulevard

275	unknown	Store
300	unknown	Store

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Section number 8 Page 1

**CITY OF WALDO HISTORIC DISTRICT
Waldo, Alachua County, Florida**

SUMMARY

The Waldo Historic District is significant at the local level under criteria A and C in the areas of community planning and development and architecture. The district is significant for its association with the early residential and commercial development of Waldo. The district consists of dwellings, churches, a school, and commercial structures, the majority of which are Frame and Masonry Vernacular style buildings constructed between 1860 and 1950. The Waldo Historic District possesses architectural significance as it reflects the architectural development of this north Florida community, and includes some fine examples of styles that were typical of the late 19th and first half of the 20th centuries. There are 60 contributing buildings and 41 noncontributing resources in the district.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Waldo, one of Alachua County's oldest towns, was once a thriving railway center, but like many other cities and towns in north Florida, it began as an agricultural settlement. In the early 1820s, William Sparkman, a South Carolina planter, established a plantation on the present town site, and a small colony grew on its outskirts. With the construction of the Bellamy Road in 1826, the village became known as Bellamy Station. Appointed as a county Road Commissioner, Sparkman was responsible for the upkeep of the new thoroughfare in his vicinity.

The Bellamy Road, which connected Pensacola and St. Augustine, was Florida's first federally funded highway project, constructed after the Spanish colony became a U. S. territory in 1821. Little more than a rough wagon trail with a few bridges, the road stretched for some 600 miles through the wilderness that was Florida. Despite its deficiencies, the Bellamy Road proved to be an important stimulus for settlement, especially to those in the cotton-producing states to the north who were searching for inexpensive land not worn out by many decades of cultivation. It was inevitable that these white settlers would clash with the Seminole Indians who had occupied the rich lands of *La Florida* since the middle of the eighteenth century. Efforts by the U. S. government to remove the Indians set off the bloody conflict known as the Second Seminole War. There were numerous raids on the scattered and isolated farms by the Seminoles in the 1830s, and the white settlers sought shelter at fortified towns like Newnansville to the west and at forts established by the Army, such as Fort Harlee a few miles to the north, on the Santa Fe River. The 1840 census of Alachua County records many families in the Bellamy Station area.

After the war, when the Seminoles had been pushed south to the Everglades or sent to western reservations, the white settlers took up their lives once more, and by the middle 1850s a bridge had been built over the Santa Fe River. Bellamy Station had two main streets and its own post office. When the Florida Railroad connecting Fernandina to Cedar Key reached the area in February 1, 1859, the celebration included a town renaming. Though he did not live in the area, Dr. Benjamin Waldo of Ocala, a noted

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**CITY OF WALDO HISTORIC DISTRICT
Waldo, Alachua County, Florida**

physician and friend of the railroad's founder David Yulee, was honored in this renaming. A railroad depot was built and Original Waldo and East Waldo were platted. However, the happy prospects of growth and progress brought by the railroad were dimmed during the Civil War years.

Waldo was the location of Col. J. J. Dickson's Civil War campground from which he launched raids on federal troops advancing on Gainesville in 1864. During this period, Waldo persisted in its role as a railroad town, for trains continued to call at the inland city, bearing passengers north to Lake City where connections could be made to lines leading to Georgia. Although Waldo was by no means the transportation hub it would become later, hotel or boarding house accommodations were available for those who needed to wait for the irregularly scheduled trains. Although some buildings on the outskirts of the town were burned during raids by Union forces, the depot, the stores, and residences were not affected, and regular train service to Fernandina and Cedar Key was soon restored when the war was over.

After the Civil War, the good soil, mild climate, and ready water sources--Lake Alto, the Santa Fe River, and some natural springs--as well as the railroad connections to northern markets, attracted new settlers to Waldo from other parts of the country. Cultivation of citrus promised some a bright future, but there were horticulturists who also developed new varieties of pears, peaches, and pecans. Some experimented with sweet potatoes, other ground crops, and several successful types of lilies, irises, gladioli, and other floral favorites provided diversification for Waldo's farmers and growers.

In the late 1870s, a major construction project was initiated to connect Waldo to Melrose through Lake Alto and Lake Santa Fe. This brought substantial new commerce to the town. During the late decades of the nineteenth century, Waldo became a major shipping point for agricultural products. The Santa Fe Canal was created to connect Lakes Alto and Santa Fe so that produce from Melrose could be shipped to Waldo for rail transportation to northern states. Built and activated in 1877, a steam dredge reached Lake Alto in 1879 and Little Santa Fe Lake in 1881, excavating the thirty-foot-wide canal to an average depth of five feet. Vessels carrying oranges, other fruits, vegetables, barrels of turpentine, and passengers made daily trips between Waldo and Melrose, and popular moonlight cruises for tourists and courting couples were an added attraction. The F. S. Lewis, a ninety-foot side-wheeler built in Waldo, made the first trip through the canal on April 26, 1881, charging \$1 for a round trip and 60 cents one-way. The Lewis was succeeded by other boats such as the Alert and Viola.

After twenty-five years, this water route between the two cities fell into disuse, but a boat ramp at the head of the canal in Waldo still provides access to Lake Alto. In spite of several severe freezes late in the nineteenth century that devastated the local citrus crops, Waldo continued to thrive as a railroad center and the population increased. The first two decades of the twentieth century were prosperous ones, with steady income from railroad jobs.

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**CITY OF WALDO HISTORIC DISTRICT
Waldo, Alachua County, Florida**

Soon after, a combination of events spelled disaster to the entire area. In particular, the depression in the late 1920s in Florida, and the decision of the Seaboard Airline Railroad, which had acquired the previous rail companies, to move its operations out of Waldo at this same time, contributed to the economic decline. The Bank of Waldo failed several times and finally closed in 1932, leaving a number of families in financial ruin.

Despite some relief during World War II when Camp Blanding was activated in Starke, some miles to the north, Waldo never fully recovered from these events. Pecan trees planted early in the century still produce generous crops, and several of Waldo's historic commercial buildings have become antique shops, including the old cigar factory and the Bank of Waldo. Although much diminished, the railroad continues to have an impact on the community. The original two-story depot has been replaced by a modest Amtrak station, and travelers still go to Waldo to catch the train as they have for more than 150 years. In celebration of its railroad heritage, Waldo holds a "Railroad Days" festival each April with many events centered around the old red caboose on display in the City Park.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Community Planning and Development

The impact of the railroad on Waldo's early development and its community planning has been indicated. Waldo also owes its current street pattern to the railroad. Because the tracks crossed through Sections 14 and 23 of Township 8 South and Range 21 East, the present location of Waldo, on a diagonal from northeast to southwest, the first streets were laid out in an angled grid system. The 1924 Sanborn map shows that Original Waldo, where the greatest concentrations of historic structures are located, preserved this configuration. As the town expanded, however, the later streets were oriented in a north-south and east-west direction, creating the present pattern within the city.

The commercial life of Waldo revolved around the train depot, an imposing, two-story frame structure now only a memory and an image in historic photographs. To beautify the unpaved streets, oak trees were planted along the main street and eventually a landscaped park was developed near the depot. The Waldo House, across the street from the depot, was an attractive structure with broad porches extending across the front facade on both floors. Smaller hotels and boarding houses offered additional accommodations within walking distance of the depot. After the fire of 1893 destroyed most of the downtown establishments, new stores were built of fireproof brick. Some of these still stand with entrances at both ends for the convenience of customers entering from either SW 4th Boulevard or SW 5th Boulevard. These parallel one-way boulevards now form a divided section of busy State Road 24, also known as the Waldo Road, connecting Waldo to Gainesville.

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**CITY OF WALDO HISTORIC DISTRICT
Waldo, Alachua County, Florida**

Because of the railroad tracks to the east of the commercial section of Waldo, only selected streets are open between State Road 24 and US 301, also known as Main Street, a few blocks to the east. This divided highway with its high overpass, links Hawthorne to the south with Starke to the north. The impact of these two highways on the street plan of Waldo has been enormous, dividing the city into separate zones and creating hazardous traffic and pedestrian barriers. Of course, this "division" of Waldo is a legacy of the railroad era, when several railroad tracks ran through the city, including a spur to the Waldo Canal. Hence, it should be noted that Waldo has evolved in response to transportation patterns rather than natural features, since the town grew in all directions after the tracks were laid in the 1860s. Today, one railroad track still runs through Waldo, stopping for passengers at the small Amtrak station just off State Road 24.

Waldo's population in the 1880s reached 1,000, making it the second largest city in the county with several resort hotels, two theaters, and an opera house. The railroads brought tourists to the area, advertised as "a winter playground" for its excellent hunting, fishing and boating opportunities. It also brought many who invested in land, built homes, and helped Waldo become even more prosperous and diversified. The town, located at the junction of the Southern and Central divisions of the Florida Railway and Navigation Company line, had a number of thriving businesses: an ice factory and cold storage plant, a grist mill, a cotton gin, a saw mill, a wagon factory, and a broom manufacturer. Waldo supported five churches, a newspaper, two schoolhouses, express and telegraph offices, and a dozen stores. Land for the Laurel Grove Cemetery was donated and properly fenced; graves of some of Waldo's earliest pioneers can still be seen there.

The El Toney cigar factory, which employed forty to ninety people, was established, and the lumber and turpentine industries flourished. The citrus groves also were producing excellent crops. A series of disastrous freezes late in the nineteenth century climaxed in February 1899 when the temperature remained below freezing for four straight days and two inches of snow covered the ground, effectively ending Waldo's golden age as a horticultural Eden.

Despite this misfortune, Waldo continued to prosper as a railroad junction, with steady jobs and plenty of trade for the town's shops and businesses. Conductors, engineers, and other trainmen built homes and the local social groups and churches thrived. Following a fire in 1893 that destroyed many of the wooden commercial buildings as well as the shade trees that lined the main street, Waldo's commercial establishments had been rebuilt in fireproof brick. As the location of one of the state's largest railroad turntables, Waldo's work shop and roundhouse serviced a steady stream of steam engines and freight trains that rolled through town. Water was pumped from the canal to replenish the large water tank that serviced the steam engines passing through Waldo. Twelve passenger trains a day stopped at Waldo, which was still a floral showplace. T. K. Godby, one of the state's most successful flower growers, shipped out carloads of gladioli, iris, and canna bulbs. The population held steady and plans were made to build a new high school. Completed in 1923, the Waldo School is still a vital source of community pride. It is the

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location of numerous civic meetings, holiday programs, and athletic events. The 1924 Sanborn map indicates that the town's light and power plant and icehouse were close to the depot, and two commercial garages catered to the driving public.

Within the historic district, few buildings were constructed during the Florida Land Boom in the 1920s, although notes in the Gainesville paper indicate that developers targeted Lake Alto to the east for waterfront subdivisions. When the combination of the Depression and the departure of the railroad from Waldo, economic hardship created negative pressures on the town and its residents. Many homes were abandoned or fell into disrepair, and the population dwindled. It was not until the 1940s, when jobs at Camp Blanding, an Army training base located in Starke, became available and many of the older homes were remodeled and renovated to serve as rentals for military families, that Waldo bounced back economically.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT and SIGNIFICANCE

Frame Vernacular

Frame Vernacular is the leading style for houses in Waldo, a style based on tradition rather than architectural form. Builders and carpenters, many of them self-taught, often constructed Frame Vernacular buildings from memory, using resources that were affordable and familiar to the community. Waldo, like most towns, had a sawmill, and the railroad made other building supplies and fixtures readily available. A number of books and magazines featured popular plans which the prospective homeowner or builder could refer to for stylish details. Frame Vernacular buildings did not represent major stylistic trends, but sometimes components of "high style" were applied to facades or porches. In Waldo, as elsewhere in Florida, Frame Vernacular houses were one or two stories in height, constructed of the plentiful native yellow pine using the balloon frame structural system. This popular building technology adapts readily to additions and alterations as a family grows, needs a larger kitchen, builds an indoor bathroom, accommodates an aging parent, or adds central heat or air conditioning. The structures are mounted on masonry piers, mostly of brick, and have a single front or side gable or intersecting and cross gable roofs. Horizontal drop siding or weatherboard is the most widely used exterior wall surface, and roofing materials may be composition shingles or the more traditional standing seam metal roofing. Some resemble the farmhouses that dotted the countryside, others are simple cottages for the working man who, in Waldo, was often employed by the railroad. Some of the notable Frame Vernacular homes in Waldo illustrates the wide range of variations that this style represents. The properties located at 202 Line Avenue, 120 NW 1st Avenue, and 39 NW 3rd Street are a few examples.

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Craftsman Bungalow

The Craftsman Bungalow, introduced in this country in the 1890s by California architects, found a ready market in Florida early in the twentieth century. Its low-pitched roof, wide unenclosed eaves, often accented with knee brackets, and thick sloping porch columns set on brick piers were in marked contrast to older styles and gave builders and homeowners a fresh new look at a modest price. Most were unpretentious and in harmony with any landscape or site size. The porch was an integral part of the Bungalow design, and with the increasingly important role of the automobile in domestic life, the carport became an element of the house design rather than an afterthought. Bungalow plans appeared in newspapers, magazines, and pattern books, and the popular house could even be ordered in pre-fabricated packages. Builders in Waldo readily adapted the Bungalow style, which could be varied according to taste and pocketbook. The typical thick, sloping, or battered, columns on brick piers set off the front porches of these homes, which were valued by Waldo homeowners for their modern styling in the 1920s and 1930s. Broad, low-pitched roofs and horizontal lines set the Bungalow apart from older homes, and an attached carport was a convenient feature. The residences at 185 SW 3rd Way and 178 NW 1st Avenue have wraparound porches with battered columns set on brick piers and low-pitched gable roofs, all typical features of the style.

Moderne

The Moderne or Modernistic style was built from about 1920 to 1940. It features smooth wall surfaces, often stuccoed, and a flat roof, usually with a small coping at the roofline. The style, similar to Art Deco and influenced by European architectural tastes, became popular in Florida in the 1920s. During the 1920s and 1930s, many masonry schools throughout the state were built in this style, with its horizontal lines and refreshing, clean lines. Although Moderne hotels and residences often had asymmetrical facades, most schools in the style opted for a more balanced design. The Waldo Community School, with its recessed central bay with foursquare columns, suggests the Moderne styling that was prevalent in the 1920s. Built in 1923 of concrete block with a stucco finish, its simple cornice, flat roof, and balanced fenestration is a wonderful example of this style.

Gothic Revival

The Gothic Revival was a popular architectural force in the late 19th century. In addition to magnificent stone churches with steeply pitched slate roofs, soaring spires, arched windows, and ornate tracery and ornamentation, many smaller, simpler versions were built of wood by local carpenters. Sometimes called Carpenter Gothic, these country churches employed as many of the favored elements as was affordable, including tall bell towers, windows with pointed arches, and symbolic details such as

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crosses and trefoils, symbolizing the Trinity. The wood frame church at 150 SW 2nd Place has a tall bell tower with steeple, simple Gothic detailing at each window, and decorative bracing in the front eaves.

Commercial

Many of Waldo's earlier commercial structures have not survived, but those that remain serve as reminders of the type of businesses that sustained the community. They are of vernacular design, built by local carpenters and masons of brick, concrete block or wood. They are adaptable and have served many different purposes through the years. All of the masonry commercial buildings have flat roofs, fixed windows, and simple decorative elements. The Bank of Waldo at 204 SW 4th Boulevard, is a creditable example with two-story pilasters and denticulated courses at the roofline. Constructed ca.1907, of brick or concrete block with minimal decorative elements, bank has the most elaborate brickwork of all the commercial buildings in Waldo.

The buildings in the Waldo Historic District are the product of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century building technology and aesthetics and are closely associated with the development of north central Florida and Alachua County. The styles represented also reflect the period of development of Waldo. The majority of the buildings exhibit vernacular designs. Although Waldo flourished in the 1880s and 1890s, the more elaborate Victorian and Queen Anne style buildings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century do not appear in the district, or have not survived. This may be due to the modest means of the community which depended largely on agriculture and railroad jobs, or it may reflect the loss of a significant portion of its earlier buildings to fire and poor economic conditions. Most of the frame vernacular buildings that have survived were constructed as single family residences, with commercial, educational, and religious being the only other historic functions evident in Waldo's historic resources. Because of the overall architectural and contextual character of the Waldo Historic District, it is distinguishable from the other areas within the City of Waldo.

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List of Photographs

1. Streetscape, Business District, Waldo Historic District
2. Waldo (Alachua County), Florida
3. Murray D. Laurie
4. March, 2000
5. Murray D. Laurie
6. SW 4th Boulevard (SR 24), Looking North
7. Photo 1 of 22

The information for items 2-5 is the same for the remaining photos for the Waldo Historic District.

1. Residential Street Scene, Waldo Historic District
6. Waldo, Florida
7. Photo 2 of 22

1. 175 SW 2nd Avenue, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (South) Facade, Looking North
7. Photo 3 of 22

1. 202 Line Avenue, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (East) Facade, Looking West
7. Photo 4 of 22

1. 120 NW 1st Avenue, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (South) Facade, Looking North
7. Photo 5 of 22

1. 24 NW 2nd Street, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (East) Facade, Looking West
7. Photo 6 of 22

1. 282 SW 2nd Place, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (East) Facade, Looking West
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**CITY OF WALDO HISTORIC DISTRICT
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1. 225 SW 2nd Boulevard, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (West) Facade, Looking East
7. Photo 8 of 22

1. 176 NW 1st Avenue, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (South) Facade, Looking North
7. Photo 9 of 22

1. 252 SW 4th Boulevard, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (South) Facade, Looking North
7. Photo 10 of 22

1. 185 SW 3rd Way, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (West) Facade, Looking East
7. Photo 11 of 22

1. 178 NW 1st Avenue, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (South) Facade, Looking North
7. Photo 12 of 22

1. 55 NW 1st Avenue, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (North) Facade, Looking South
7. Photo 13 of 22

1. 70 NW 1st Avenue, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (South) Facade, Looking North
7. Photo 14 of 22

1. 222 SW 2nd Place, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (North) Facade, Looking South
7. Photo 15 of 22

1. 204 SW 4th Boulevard, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (East) Facade, Looking West
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**CITY OF WALDO HISTORIC DISTRICT
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1. 202 SW 5th Boulevard, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (East) Facade, Looking West
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1. 220 SW 5th Boulevard, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (East) Facade, Looking West
7. Photo 18 of 22

1. 220 SW 2nd Way, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (East) Facade, Looking West
7. Photo 19 of 22

1. 150 SW 2nd Place, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (East) Facade, Looking West
7. Photo 20 of 22

1. 150 Line Avenue, Waldo Historic District
6. Main (South) Facade, Looking North
7. Photo 21 of 22

1. 150 Line Avenue, Waldo Historic District
6. View of School Campus, Looking North
7. Photo 22 of 22

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**CITY OF WALDO HISTORIC DISTRICT
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Verbal Boundary Description




See attached scaled map of the City of Waldo Historic District.

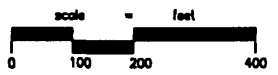
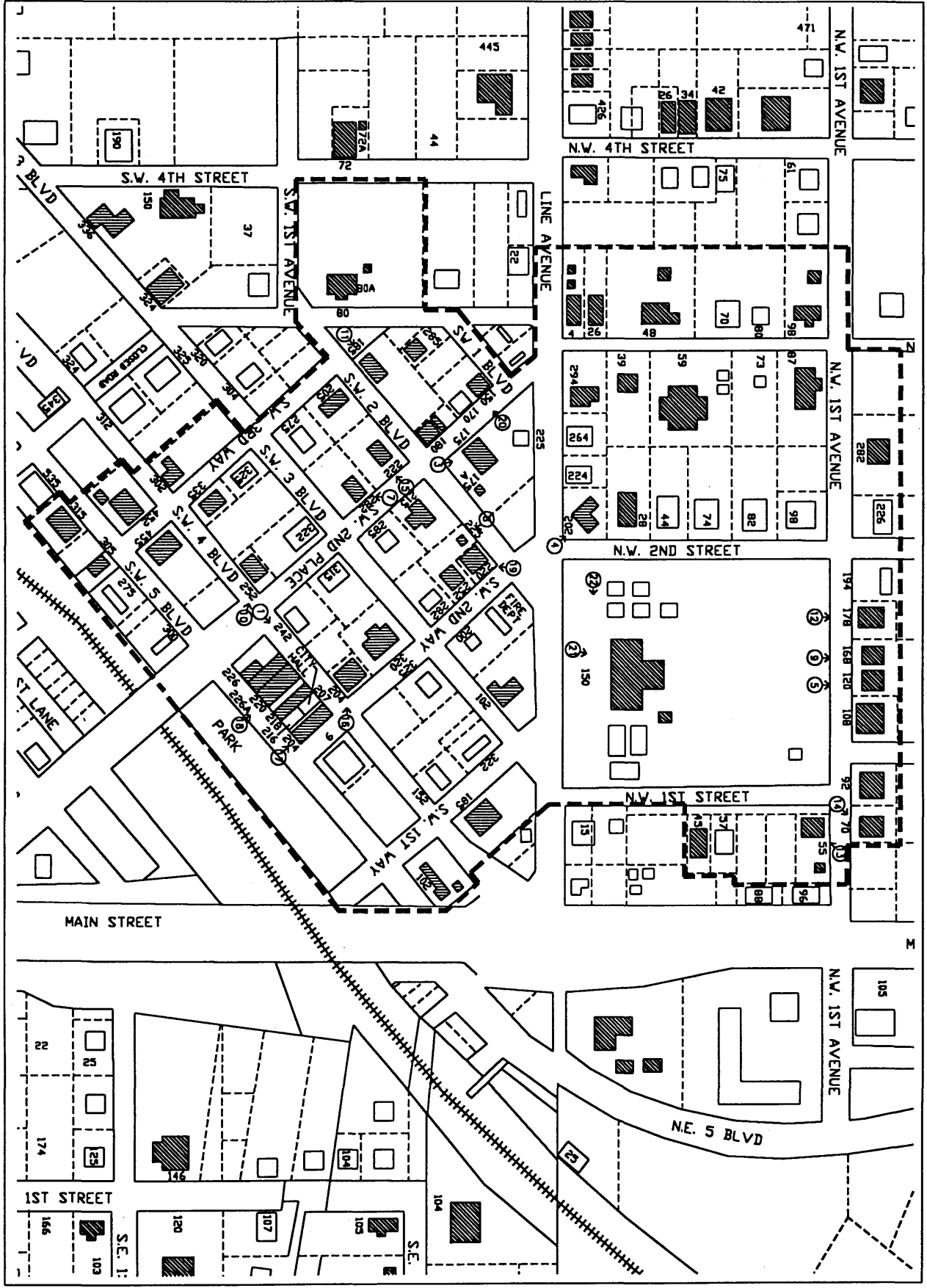
Boundary Justification

The boundary of the district encloses a significant concentration of historic buildings historically associated with the City of Waldo.

NOTE:
 THIS MAP IS BASED UPON AN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WILCOX COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT. THE MAP WAS PREPARED BY THE WILCOX COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT. THE WILCOX COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT HAS REVIEWED THE MAP AND HAS DETERMINED THAT THE MAP IS ACCURATE AND COMPLETE. THE WILCOX COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT HAS REVIEWED THE MAP AND HAS DETERMINED THAT THE MAP IS ACCURATE AND COMPLETE.



- LEGEND
-  CONTRIBUTING BUILDING
 -  NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING
 -  BUILDING LINE
 -  PROPERTY LOT LINES
 -  STREET ADDRESS
 -  PROPERTY NUMBER
 -  ZONE



City of Waldo Historic District

Waldo (Alachua County), Florida

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