

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic / Joseph W. Russ, Jr., House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 310 W. Lafayette Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Marianna N/A vicinity of

state Florida code 12 county Jackson code 063

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	public	occupied	agriculture	museum
X building(s)	X private	X unoccupied	commercial	park
structure	both	work in progress	educational	private residence
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	entertainment	religious
object	in process	X yes: restricted	government	scientific
	being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
	N/A	no	military	X other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name See Continuation Sheet

street & number See Continuation Sheet

city, town See Continuation Sheet N/A vicinity of

state See Continuation Sheet

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Marianna state Florida

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Florida Master Site File has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date October 1971, October 1977 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Division of Archives, History and Records Management

city, town Tallahassee state Florida

For NPS use only
received JUN 9 1983
date entered

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair		<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> original site <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Russ House as originally designed possessed distinctive architectural features characteristic of the Queen Anne style. Between 1910 and 1912, alterations were introduced which gave the building the Classical Revival appearance it has today. It survives in a residential neighborhood bordering on Marianna's commercial district, a neighborhood which once contained many of the town's finest homes.

The original physical appearance of the Joseph W. Russ, Jr., House as constructed in 1892-96 (architect and builder unknown) is depicted in a photograph now in possession of family members.¹ Only the east and portions of the south facades can be seen in this photograph, which shows a two and one-half story, wood frame house of the Queen Anne style design then popular in America. The residence was finished in alternating vertical and horizontal siding separated by wide horizontal boards. This exterior fabric remains intact today on many portions of the Russ House. The gabled roof featured dark shingles with a wide band of lighter shingles running parallel to the ground. The tower portion of the house (see below) was originally topped by a conical roof with at least two dormer windows; the cone was truncated so that it had a flat top. The shingles of this turret also were dichromatic, with five alternating light and dark bands.

The asymmetrical plan and massing of the house prior to its alteration were characteristic of the Queen Anne style. The house was built on tall brick foundation piers, with the spaces between filled by latticed wooden enclosures. The main entrance of the house as originally constructed was located on the west side; a balustraded flight of steep steps led to a small entrance porch, the hipped roof of which was supported by slender columns and ornate brackets. This entrance was located at the base of the tower. Both wings terminated in window bays which were longer on the side than on the end. As a result, the gable ends of the house were quite narrow in comparison with the actual roof line above them; the wide roof overhangs were emphasized with ornate bracketry and a band of modillions. At the point where the two and one half story entrance tower joined the rest of the house, a small, two-story, flat-roofed porch ran along the southeastern facade. This porch featured complex balustrades, lattice work, and multiple columns. A long flight of steps led up to the first level of this porch from the south; a secondary entrance was located where the only front entrance to the house is located today. Inspection of the current interior indicates that the west facade probably featured a centrally located, recessed porch area at both levels. On the first floor, this porch probably was flanked by part of the dining room on the north and by a small room (possibly a sewing room or breakfast room) on the south connected to the family living room (as opposed to the formal parlor). It is possible that a detached kitchen stood to the rear of the house or that this recessed area contained a kitchen on the first level. The configuration of rooms in the house before its remodelling included a wide, long entrance hall with a large but simple staircase leading to the second floor, a parlor and a dining room to its north and a family living room and another small chamber to the south on the ground floor. Upstairs, there originally appears to have been three bedrooms; the largest lay on the south side of the house and included an adjacent dressing or perhaps bathing room. The present floor plan retains these elements. Some interior and exterior wall alterations have occurred, but these changes have not drastically altered the basic configuration of these rooms.

(See Continuation Sheet)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below							
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation				
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)				

Specific dates 1892-96; 1910 **Builder/Architect** Langston (1910) Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Joseph W. Russ, Jr. House is a local architectural landmark in Marianna, Florida. It gains historical significance from the fact that it was erected by a member of a family which came to that area during the 1820's, rose to prominence within Jackson County, and still has members living in the community. Family members occupied the house continually from its erection in the early 1890s until 1981 and still own the property. The house was built during the period in which Marianna experienced its first real growth and remodelled early in the 1900s as a reflection of the increased prominence of its owner within the community. Family members retained the house through the Depression years, maintaining it without significant major alteration. Its continuous presence as part of Marianna's visual heritage adds to its significance within the community and the Panhandle region of Florida.

Jackson County, Florida was established during the first decade of Florida's Territorial Period (1821-1845); its county seat, Marianna, also was created during the 1820s. The Russ family arrived in the area during those same years. Joseph William Russ (b. c1780-d.1849) moved to Florida from North Carolina. He settled on the Upper Chipola River and became one of the county's early judicial officials.¹ His son, Joseph Washington Russ, born in North Carolina in 1813, achieved his manhood in Jackson County, where he became a farmer and later a merchant. After his marriage in 1848 to Mary W. Beman, J.W. Russ became a father. His oldest daughter, Anna (b. 1849), later married Moses Guyton, III of Marianna; another daughter, Caroline (b. 1852) married John Milton, Jr., son of Florida Governor John Milton, and also resided in Marianna. In 1866, Joseph and Mary Russ had a son who was named Joseph Washington, Russ, Jr.²

By that time, Joseph Russ, Sr., apparently had joined Alexander Merritt in the mercantile business in Marianna; a business which his son later would continue to operate until his death.³ It seems fairly certain that by 1870, the Joseph Russ, Sr., family lived in Marianna near the present Russ House site, they may have moved there even earlier. Mr. Russ continued his farming interests and accumulated quite a bit of land in Jackson County.⁴

In July, 1834 a man named Alexander Maultsby obtained title from the U.S. Public Land Office to two tracts of land which together made up the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 4, Township 4 North, Range 10 West. Shortly thereafter in August 1835, Maultsby sold all but 10 acres of the land to Joseph Russ.⁵ In 1837, Russ purchased at auction the east half of the northwest quarter of that section, and in 1840, he acquired forty acres in the southwest quarter.⁶ This large tract eventually came to have several family dwellings on it, including the nominated structure. Between 1870 and 1880, Russ' daughters married; census records from the latter year indicate that they and their parents all were neighbors; family members relate that all lived in separate homes on the large tract.⁷

(See Continuation Sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Marianna

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation Sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mildred L. Fryman/Larry S. Paarlberg, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Florida Division of Archives, History and date May 18, 1983

Records Management

street & number Dept. of State, The Capitol

telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee

state Florida

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

[Signature] (see incoming letter)

title L. Ross Morrell, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5-24-83

For NPS use only

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

[Signature] Entered in the
National Register

date

[Signature] 7/18/83

[Signature] Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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1. Margaret Dekle Lang
60 B Bayview Avenue
Mill Valley, California 94941
2. Clifton Merritt Dekle
216 E. 14th Street
New York, New York 10003
3. Bettie Dickerson Dekle
508 8th Avenue
Marianna, Florida 32446

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The photograph of the 1892-96 structure indicates that the Russ House always sat at an angle on the irregularly shaped lot, presenting a panoramic facade. Both the east and south sides of the house faced the main road, now West Lafayette Street.

Details of the 1892-96 features of the Russ House have been presented in order to enable readers to appreciate the nature of alterations which have occurred at the Russ House since the 1890's and to emphasize the fact that the residence always has presented striking architectural features. The dramatic impact of the massive semi-circular porch added to the front facades of the house a few years after its construction tends to mask the fact that much of the original fabric and original design of the house remain intact. The remodelling performed in the 1910-1912 period and later changes have generally resulted in the attachment of appendages to the original house rather than in alterations in the original unit of the structure.

When Joseph Russ, Jr., decided to make changes in his house (c. 1910), he clearly wished to emphasize his growing prominence in the community by creating a more imposing facade. Documents in possession of the family include lists of lumber ordered from and prepared for use by a local Marianna lumber company, Merritt and Merritt.² According to the family, a Mr. Langston from nearby Chipley acted as the builder or contractor for the remodelling which occurred in the 1910-1912 period. Census records for 1900 for the Chipley community indicate that Thomas E. Langston, a 39-year old carpenter, resided there at that time. Local informants indicate that Mr. Langston built a number of the larger homes in Marianna constructed in that period, and add that, on at least one occasion, he worked with a local architect/contractor named R.L. Moore.³ Mr. Moore is identified in Stanley's History of Jackson County as a contractor, but no mention is made of Langston in that work.⁴

The new design influence used in remodelling the Russ House was the Colonial Revival style then popular in the United States. The overwhelming feature of the alteration is the monumental, semicircular, two-story porch which wraps itself around the east and southeast portions of the house. Its fanlike nature is emphasized by the floor and ceiling laths. These were milled so that the portion of each long, unjointed piece is narrow at the point where it meets the house and gradually widens towards the porch edge. The effect is striking, and the work is intact today. The porch is supported by huge columns, constructed of fluted and tapered wood and topped with masonry Corinthian capitals. Balustrades surround the porch on both levels. Entrance steps are located at the same locations as in the original structure. The original main door has disappeared, while the other original front entrance now serves as the front door. On the second story of the porch about half the area has been enclosed to create a solarium effect; this change occurred in the early 1920's after the birth of Frances Dickerson's first child.⁵ The multiple casement windows of this addition contribute to the impact of the house upon the viewer; the original balustrade remains intact on that level.

The original rounded entrance tower was altered to remove the door and to create a set of bay windows to match those already in place on the parlor facade. The old dormered turret was replaced with a round, shingled, window-studded area and the shaft was topped with a pointed, shingled roof ending in a metal finial. The tower roof has a wide, bracketed overhang and decorated cornice to match those of the porch area below.

Another feature added to the east/southeast portion of the house at this time no longer exists. A portecochère stood at the eastern approach to the house. A family photo depicts this "carport" as being typical of those found attached to Colonial Revival homes of that period, complete with roof balustrades. Its positioning is clearly indicated on nearby porch columns and by remaining concrete driveway tracks. The 1922 Sanborn

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map of Marianna also indicates the configuration of this feature.⁶ Once beautifully landscaped, as surviving shrubbery indicates, the front lawn featured a gazebo on the Russ Street side. To the rear, a garden area contained a rose garden, grape arbor, and vegetable plot. The lot also included a smoke house, a spring house, servants quarters, stables, and a barn for livestock kept on the property.

Another change occurred on the south side of the house. The bay window area of the family living room disappeared, to be replaced by a tripartite window on the squared-off facade; a leaded glass fanlight capped these windows and remains an appealing feature of the house today. In addition to these and other changes, such as the porch additions and the turret or cupola redesign, the roof of the house became a hipped rather than gabled roof.

The lumber list in possession of the family (unfortunately, it is undated although signed in one place by J.W. Russ) indicates that a kitchen and rear porches were added to this house at the same time that the front was altered. A two-story porch with enclosed pantries and service rooms was added on the west facade; extensive lattice work enclosed these porches. Even the shelving in the pantries was itemized in that list. These porches and pantries, etc. still exist today, although this portion of the house is in poor repair. It is possible that the present kitchen area was added at that time, although it could have been part of the original structure. Also added on the second floor was a bedroom and bathroom extending over pantry area of the downstairs. On the north side of the house, a one-story addition or wing extended at the rear of the building to serve as a servants quarters.

The house today still contains fireplaces, mantle pieces, door and window molding and decorative trim, ceiling molding, half-panelling in the original dining room and other design features which certainly existed by 1912. On the second floor, plaster from the walls and ceiling has been damaged over the years, but even there, original fabrics and features have survived intact during the twentieth century.

Later additions and changes have been external for the most part, and have not interfered very extensively with the earlier fabric and design. A two-story bath and dressing room projection was added to the north side of the house leading off the original parlor and upstairs front bedroom, which resulted in removal of portions of the outside wall in this area. The original parlor and dining room both became bedrooms in the early 1940s. However, the massive wooden double doors connecting these rooms remain intact and in place. At several points in the house, original external walls, complete with siding and windows, can be seen in what are now internal walls; underscoring the fact that alterations in this house for the most part have not destroyed the original design and materials.

The Russ House and all neighboring structures in this area where homes of well-to-do Marianna citizens stood suffered severely when U.S. highway 90 (W. Lafayette Street) was four-laned in the early 1960's. The impact on lawns and landscaping altered the appearance of the whole district. As a result of this activity and of the sale of small parcels of land from the original family tract necessitated by financial conditions, the Russ House today sits on a much reduced lot. The house still attracts attention and interest. As nearby buildings of similar age and size disappear, the Russ House becomes a more significant landmark.

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for Marianna. Family members intend to put the home in good repair, and stabilizing actions have been initiated in an attempt to preserve this structure.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Russ-Dickerson-Dekle Family Papers.

² Ibid.

³ Dekle to Fryman, December 27, 28, 1982, January 17, 1983.

⁴ Stanley, The History of Jackson County, pp. 69, 255, 258.

⁵ Dekle to Fryman, December 27, 28, 1982, February 20, 1983.

⁶ Sanborn Insurance Company, "Sanborn Insurance Map of Marianna, Florida," 1922 (sheet designation unknown - 1922 is only series featuring house site); Dekle to Fryman, February 20, 1983.

⁷ Dekle to Fryman, December 27, 28, 1982.

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Until the 1880s, Marianna remained very much a county seat village; its development was retarded by the absence of rail or river transportation facilities. Early in that decade the Louisville and Nashville Railroad connected Marianna with Pensacola and Tallahassee and the outside world; other rail connections followed. The town grew, the area's forest resources began to be exploited, and its merchants prospered.⁸ In 1883, just as Marianna's growth began, Joseph Russ, Sr., died. A few weeks after her husband's death Mary Russ deeded her daughter Caroline some land within the family tract mentioned above; that document indicates that the widow had a home located west of the nominated structure.⁹ The 1885 Florida state census presents evidence suggesting that the widow Russ no longer resided there but had gone with her son Joseph to live with her other daughter, Anna Guyton, nearby.¹⁰

Family members indicate that Joseph Russ, Jr., soon built a new home on the family tract for his mother; this structure was the original portion of the nominated site. By 1896, Joseph Russ, Jr., already had earned recognition as a "prosperous and leading merchant" in the Marianna community.¹¹ According to family members, the Russ House was built by 1892; tax records for the 1890 to 1894 period do not help document this date because all lands in the vicinity of the house were evaluated in a lump sum in those years. In 1894, a separate valuation was supplied for the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 4 (the house site) which clearly stated that no "improvements" existed on that land. In 1895, however, improvements valued at \$500 had been added, and by 1896, the value of the house site including land and improvements had risen to \$1950.00.¹² Thus it seems probable that the original portions of the nominated structure - the T-plan stick style house described in the physical description section - dated from the 1892-1896 period and certainly had been completed by the latter year.

In 1897, Mary Russ died. Two years later, Joseph Russ, Jr., married Bettie Erwin Phillips.¹³ It is possible that, in honor of this event, Russ made some minor changes in this home, for tax values increased slightly between 1897 and 1900. In the latter year, Frances Russ (later Frances Dickerson) was born in the house; she remained in residence until 1981.¹⁴

During the early twentieth century, Joseph Russ' prominence as a Jackson County business man and land owner increased steadily. Deed and tax records indicate the considerable magnitude of his real estate investments and business interests, including his general merchandise store. At some time between 1900 and 1912, Russ made some extensive changes in the front facade of his home and added some porches and a kitchen to its rear. Family members associate these changes with the latter years of this period; tax records indicate that the assessed value of the home remained relatively stable until 1912. In that year, its value increased almost fifty percent over that of the previous year.¹⁵

Joseph Russ' position in the community remained one of prominence until his death. He suffered greatly from the financial collapse of 1929; the family's extensive land holdings had to be sold to meet debt and tax obligations. In 1930, Mr. Russ committed suicide because of the impact of the Depression's onset on his life.

The Marianna community experienced economic decline during the 1930's. Frances Russ Dickerson, who had married in 1920, continued to live in the family home with her two young children after Mr. Russ' death, having purchased the home from his widow. In order

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to maintain the house, Mrs. Dickerson offered her home as a setting for community social events; she acted as a hostess for these affairs, using her belongings in serving guests. During World War II, she rented the upstairs bedrooms to military personnel. The family occupied the downstairs, having converted the parlor into a bedroom.¹⁶

During these and subsequent years, the Russ home remained a local landmark which aroused the interest of visitors to the city, who frequently stopped to inquire about its history. Today, although the grounds have been altered greatly, the house presents the same basic appearance as it did in 1913. Many nearby structures which gave character and identify to Marianna's main thoroughfare have been torn down, moved, or altered beyond recognition. The Russ House's significance as a local architectural and historical landmark is enhanced by the fact that it has survived while other structures passed from view.¹⁷

FOOTNOTES

¹Russ-Dickerson-Dekle Family Papers, in possession of Frances Russ Dickerson and Bettie Dickerson Dekle, Marianna, Florida (see especially "Russ Family History" prepared by Bettie Dekle); J. Randall Stanley, History of Jackson County (no place: published under the auspices of the Jackson County Historical Society, 1950), pp. 15, 22-23, 27.

²"Russ Family History"; Stanley, op. cit., 61; U.S. Bureau of Census, Florida, Jackson County, Population Schedules, 7th-9th, 1850-70.

³Florida, Jackson County, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Deed Records, Books, C. p. 902. Jackson County Courthouse, Marianna.

⁴9th Census, 1870; Florida, Jackson County, Tax Collector. Tax Rolls, various years, 1850-1870 period. Microfilm. State Library of Florida, Dorothy Dodd Room, R.A. Gray Building, Tallahassee. See also Jackson County Deed Records, 1850-1870 period.

⁵Jackson County Deed Records, Book A, pp. 528-29.

⁶Jackson County Deed Records, Book A, pp. 533-535.

⁷10th census, 1880; Dekle to Fryman, December 27-28, 1982.

⁸Stanley, op. cit., p. 7107, 3223; R.L. Polk and Company; R.L. Polk and Co.'s Florida Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1911-12 (Jacksonville R.L. Polk and Co. 1911). p. 289; Florida Times Union, Trade Edition, January, 1890, "Marianna, the County Seat."

⁹Jackson County Deed Records, Book L., p. 195 ff.

¹⁰Florida, State Census, Jackson County, Population Schedule, 1885. Microfilm. State Library of Florida, Dorothy Dodd Room, R.A. Gray Building, Tallahassee.

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¹¹ Dekle to Greer, September 26, 1971; Dekle to Fryman, December 27-28, 1982; Stanley op. cit., p. 61.

¹² Dickerson to Morrell, October 2, 1978; Dekle to Greer, September 26, 1971; Dekle to Fryman, December 27-28, 1982; Jackson County Tax Rolls, 1890-1896.

¹³ Dekle to Greer, September 26, 1971; Florida Jackson County, County Judge, Marriage Records, Book 3, p. 487, Jackson County Courthouse, Marianna.

¹⁴ Jackson County Tax Rolls, 1897-1900; Dickerson to Morrell, October 2, 1978.

¹⁵ Jackson County Deed Records, 1900-1930; Jackson County Tax Rolls, 1900-1918; "Estate File Prior to 1949 J.W. Russ," Florida, Jackson County, County Judge, Probate Records, Estate Files, Jackson County Courthouse, Marianna; Dekle to Fryman, December 27-28, 1982; Dickerson to Morrell, October 2, 1978.

¹⁶ Dekle to Fryman, December 27-28, 1982; February 29, 1983; Dickerson to Morrell, October 2, 1978.

¹⁷ Local and area newspapers from the 1890-1920 period, building permit including the nominated property dated earlier than 1920 all either have never existed or have failed to survive. Research focusing on specific dates important to this house has been hampered by the absence of these important resources.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commence on the outside of the concrete curbing at the intersection of Russ Street with Lafayette Street, and run thence northwardly along the street curb on the west side of Russ Street for a distance of 260 feet, to an iron stake, as a point of beginning of the lot here described, and from such beginning point, run westwardly across the lawn in front of the J.W. Russ residence in a straight line to Lafayette Street, a distance of 200 feet to the East curb on Lafayette Street to an iron stob, which line strikes Lafayette Street curb 258 feet from the aforementioned intersection point on Russ and Lafayette Street, thence run along the curb on the East side of Lafayette a distance of 85 feet, to an iron stob, thence Easterly in a straight line so as to clear the residence of J.W. Russ on the northwest side, a distance of 100 feet, to a stake or stob, thence easterly (clearing the J.W. Russ residence) a distance of 63 feet to an iron stob (which stob is 105 feet north of the first line of the lot here described, run at right angle), thence from said last mentioned stob in a straight line eastwardly a distance of 103 feet to an iron stob on the edge of the curb on Russ Street, which last mentioned stob is 75 feet north from the beginning point of the lot here described; the southerly, along the west side of Russ Street 75 feet to the point of beginning. All in the City of Marianna, Jackson County, State of Florida.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes all significant features of the property.