United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received FEB | 4 |985 date entered MAR | 4 |985

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

1. Name

historic Journey's End

and/or common Journey's End

2. Location

street & number Beachfront at 18th Street

city, town Boca Grande

N/A vicinity of

county Lee

state Florida

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| district | public |
| building(s) | public _X private |
| structure | both |
| site | Public Acquisition |
| object | in process |
| • | being considered |

Status <u>X</u> occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible <u>X</u> yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no

code 12

Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military

____ museum ____ park _X_ private residence ____ religious ____ scientific ____ transportation

N/A not for publication

code

071

___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name James M. Ingram, M.D.

N/A

street & number Box 18, College of Medicine, University of South Florida

| city, to | wn Tampa | N/A vicinity of | state | Florida |
|----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 5. | Location of | Legal Description | | |
| courth | ouse, registry of deeds, e | c. Lee County Courthouse | | |
| street | & number | 2115 2nd Street | | |
| city, to | wn | Ft. Myers | ، state | Florida |
| 6. | Representa | tion in Existing Sur | veys | |
| title | N/A | has this property be | een determined e | ligible? yes _X no |
| date | N/A | | federal sta | ate county local |
| deposi | tory for survey records | N/A | | |
| city, to | wn N/A | | state | N/A |

7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Journey's End is a residential complex, consisting of a two-story main house, four cottages and a garage located on approximately one acre of beachfront property on Boca Grande Island. The main house was built in 1914. Two cottages and the garage were added in the 1920s, one cottage in 1937 and the last cottage in 1944. The original house was built by B.S. Barnett and is frame vernacular. The main house has been moved directly east twice because beach erosion seriously threatened to undermine the foundation. The early abandonment of the house and the deleterious environment necessitated replacement of much of the exterior fabric of the main house, but the massing, orientation, details and general physical appearance remain much the same.

Journey's End is a residential complex consisting of five wood frame houses and a garage. Other significant features of this property include a walled patio, brick walkways, and cisterns. All buildings on this landscaped, gulf-front property rest on brick and concrete piers. This property has been owned as a single unit by seven owners since construction of the main house in 1914.

The main house has two stories and is of wood frame construction. (photo 5) The hipped roof has an intersecting gable on the main (west) facade and is covered with asphalt shingles. The house has one fireplace with a single chimney intersecting the south slope of the roof. The house is covered with white asbestos siding with painted wood trim. The broad porch which encircles the house on the west, south and east retains its original posts. All windows are single hung, aluminum frame.

On the main facade, the north half of the porch is open while the south half has been screened. A large bay window, which forms the west end of the living room, separates the open porch from the screened porch. A second bay window on the west facade is located on the second floor above the main entry. The gable roof over this bay is covered with wood shingles.

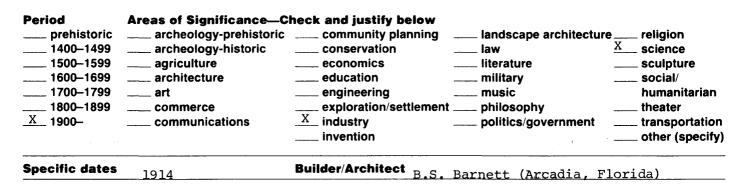
The south facade faces the walled patio which connects the main house to the Sea Cottage to the south.(photo 7) This side is partially surrounded by a screened porch, and contains entry steps and doors, both into the porch and into the first floor pantry. The brick chimney and upstairs bedroom windows are located on this side.

The east or rear elevation contains, on the first floor, the screened porch of the kitchen and rear entry steps and door with bedroom and bathroom windows above. (photos 3, 4) A circular driveway of packed shell connects this elevation to the west end of 18th Street.

The north elevation contains the windows of the kitchen and bathroom on the first floor, the bedroom windows of the second floor, and the stair-landing window mid-way between. (photos 8, 9) Two functioning cypress cisterns and a pump shed are placed near the house on the north side.

As demonstrated by the enclosed photographs taken in 1924 (photos 27, 28, 29) of the house in its abandoned state, there have been few structural or design changes on the exterior of the house since it was built in 1914. The original physical appearance of the exterior of the house has been altered by covering the horizontal novelty wood siding with asbestos shingle siding, and the replacement of the original wood frame, single hung, six over six windows with aluminum frame windows of identical design. These alterations were made in 1962. The original wood shingle roof survived from 1914 until it was replaced, for fire protection, with an asbestos shingle roof in 1978. The wood shingle roof lasted a remarkable 64 years.

8. Significance



Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This 1914 house is significant in the history of Gasparilla Island for its direct relationship with three trends which influenced development. Journey's End is associated with the building of the railroad for the shipment of phosphate, the evolution of the island as a winter resort, and the establishment of the island as a world famous area for tarpon fishing.

In the history of development on Gasparilla Island, the most significant event was the building of the Charlotte Harbor and Northern Railroad in 1907. This railroad was built to ship phosphate from mines near Bartow, in the central interior of Florida, to the deep-water port of Boca Grande. While the railroad was built to service the phosphate industry, it also offered an opportunity for development of the island as a winter resort and it made Boca Grande Pass more accessible to tarpon fishermen.

Prior to the building of the railroad, the island was sparsely occupied by a few commercial fishermen at the northern end and, after 1901, by the lighthouse keeper. Only five land patents were issued for island property by the federal government between 1891 and 1901. In 1910, three years after completion of the railroad, the Thirteenth Census of the United States listed 211 permanent inhabitants of Gasparilla Island. The year round population was little changed by 1914 when Journey's End was built.

The owners of Journey's End for the past 73 years, and the duration of their ownership are summarized as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stackhouse, 1911-1916 - five years

The Punta Gorda Bank and C.W. Whidden, 1916-1924 - eight years - The Main House was abandoned during this time

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Johns, 1924-1944 - twenty years

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony B. Drexel, 1944-1948 - four years

Judge and Mrs. John A. Bolles, 1948-1957 - nine years

Mrs. Marjorie B. Cotton and Mrs. Frances B. Hughes, daughters of Judge and Mrs. John A. Bolles, 1957-1962 - five years

Dr. and Mrs. James M. Ingram, 1962-1984 - twenty-two years

The first owners of Journey's End, and the builders of the Main House, were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stackhouse (1911-1916). The couple acquired the major portion of the present property by warranty deed on April 20, 1911. The location of the original property on the current plat book is "Lots 25, 26 and 27, Block 43-A."

Henry Stackhouse came to Boca Grande from Louisiana in 1905 and worked as a construction foreman in the building and maintenance of the Charlotte Harbor and Northern Railroad. He is listed as a white male, age 51, occupation "construction" in the 1910 census. His wife, Daisy E. Stackhouse, is listed as 47 years old and his son as 16 years old, occupation "construction". All three were born in Louisiana. Nothing is known of the personality or activities of the wife or son. The financial dealings of Mr. Stackhouse appear to have been as complex as his personal behavior. Following

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

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The interior of the main house retains its original floor plan, except for the division of the large bathroom in the east end of the second floor into two smaller bathrooms by the third owner, William H. Johns, in 1925. On the first floor there is a foyer, living room with fireplace, dining room, bathroom, pantry and kitchen. (photos 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15) On the second story are four bedrooms, a hall and two bathrooms. (photos 17, 18, 19) The two floors are connected by an open, L-shaped staircase on the north side of the house. (photo 16) At the time of the renovation in 1962, the original floor plans of the house were found on a transverse stud-brace of the living room wall. This floor plan, unfortunately, was lost in 1963.

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The original shaggy composition beaverboard wall coverings and ceilings were decaying and sagging when the present owner began the renovation of the main house upon acquisition of Journey's End in 1962. While the exterior repairs of the house required only moderate effort, the work on the interior was a major undertaking. All wall studs were preserved in their original state and location. The beaverboard wall coverings were removed and replaced with painted sheet rock. All electrical wiring and plumbing and one bathtub were replaced to conform to the building code. The virgin heart of pine strip floors, both downstairs and upstairs, had been covered with many layers of gray paint. A terrazzo grinder was required to remove the paint and to sand the floors, because of the extreme hardness of the wood. All floors, as well as the original stairs, newel and supporting posts and hand rails were refinished and have been maintained in the original clear varnish finish.

The original mantle and facings of the fireplace were removed by vandals during the unoccupied period of 1916-1924.(photos 27, 28, 29) The design and materials of these structures are unknown. The present fireplace mantle and facings were installed by William H. Johns in 1925. The mantle is of painted wood and the facings of painted wood and brick. The floor fire apron is of the original glazed, green ceramic tile. The original cabinets and counters in the kitchen and pantry were of painted wood. They were replaced with cabinets and counters of stained walnut in 1962.

The construction of the main house is unique in that it is built entirely of virgin heart of pine timber, grown and milled near Arcadia, Florida. The builder was Mr. B.S. Barnett of Arcadia, Florida, and the architect, if any, is unknown. All of the building material, including lumber, bricks, nails, wiring, plumbing, and the mules and wagons necessary for building, were floated down the Peace River and across Charlotte Harbor by barges. These barges were then moored in the bayou on the east side of the island, and the material was carried by mule-drawn wagons across to the beach on a corduroy road made of Sabal palm trunks.

Because of the use of virgin heart of pine in construction, the house has remained impervious to termites for 70 years. The common iron nails used in the original construction have bonded with the resin of the heart of pine, so that the original nails can neither be removed or driven inward. The nails were sawed off flush with the wall stude during the renovation of 1962.

The method of construction of the house was so thorough that it has withstood the major hurricanes of 1921, 1935, and 1960, plus four lesser storms. This same painstaking quality of construction allowed the house to be moved twice on the same parcel of land because of beach erosion; 45 feet east and 14 feet north in 1926 and later 65 feet east following the building of the seawall in 1935. (photo 31) Two

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CARETAKER'S COTTAGE

Continuation sheet

The Caretaker's Cottage which was built in 1927 and faces north, is rectangular, of wood frame construction, and has a gable asphalt tile roof with wood plank drop siding. (photo 26) A flat roof of asphalt tile covers the screened front porch. The exterior is covered with painted wood novelty siding. This cottage contains a living room with brick fireplace and chimney, dining room, three bedrooms, kitchen and two baths. The external appearance is unchanged from the original except for the replacement of a rolled composition roof with asphalt tile in 1960. The internal floor plan and appearance is unchanged except for the replacement of beaverboard wall coverings with stained plywood in 1964.

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CIRCLE COTTAGE

The Circle Cottage which was built in 1927 and faces south on the circular driveway, is a rectangular, wood frame building, with a gable roof of asphalt tile, and a flat roof of asphalt tile covering the screened front porch. (photos 21, 22) The exterior is painted novelty siding. Its two rooms consist of a bedroom-kitchen and bathroom. The external appearance has been altered from the original only by the replacement of a rolled asphalt roof with asphalt tile. The interior floor plan has been changed by the removal of one wall to enlarge the bedroom and by replacing composition wallboard coverings with stained plywood, both in 1965.

GARAGE

The Garage which was built in 1927 and faces south, is a rectangular, wood frame building with a gable roof and painted wood plank exterior. (photo 22) The exterior appearance is unchanged from the original. The interior has been altered by the addition of cabinets and a work bench to convert it to a tackle storage area and workshop in 1966.

SEASIDE COTTAGE

The Seaside Cottage was built in 1937 and faces west. (photo 20) It is an L-shaped house with an intersecting gable roof covered with rolled asbestos. It has a screened front porch. It contains a sitting room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. The exterior appearance is unchanged except for the addition of asphalt shingle siding over the original horizontal novelty plank finish and the replacement of one wood frame window with an aluminum window in the sitting room on the west side. The interior floor plan is original. The stained plywood walls of the bedroom have been renewed. All changes were made in 1965.

REDROOF COTTAGE

The Redroof Cottage was built in 1944 and faces south. (photos 23, 24) It is rectangular in shape and has a gable roof and screened front porch. The exterior fabric is of painted novelty siding. It contains a bedroom, sitting room-kitchen and bath. (photo 25) The walls are of painted composition wallboard. Both the exterior and interior physical appearance are unchanged from the original construction of 40 years ago except for renewal of the asphalt shingle roof in 1981.

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PATIO AND WALKWAYS

The Main House and Seaside Cottage are connected by a patio paved with cast concrete tile surrounded by a wall of painted slump-brick construction. The Patio was built in 1927 and rebuilt in 1948. There are three heavy wood gates, opening on the east to the circular shell driveway on the south to the Seaside Cottage, and on the west to the front lawn and beach. All other buildings are connected by cement-tile walkways. A seawall of limestone boulder and cement slab protects the 150 foot border of the property on the Gulf side. The 1.1 acre of land is heavily planted in tropical and subtropical grass, shrubs, and trees; most of the latter being present when the property was acquired by the present owner in 1962.

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acquisition of the property in 1911, it was mortgaged three times. In 1912, a mortgage for \$1,000 was taken and later satisfied. In 1913, a mortgage for \$1,300 was taken, and in 1914 a mortgage for \$2,500 was obtained. This adds support to information from primary sources that the Main House was built in 1914.

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All building materials for the Main House were transported from Arcadia to Gasparilla Island by barge. Although the house was built within 100 feet of the railroad right-of-way, the builder of the house, contractor B.S. Barnett, of Arcadia, Florida, elected to transport all building material by barge from Arcadia, because water transportation, then as now, was less expensive than rail. Mr. Barnett had acquired several old barges formerly used to haul phosphate down the Peace River from just below Arcadia to Port Boca Grande. These barges were able to accommodate both larger and heavier construction materials than would boxcars.

The occupancy of the Stackhouse family was a short two years, as the latter two mortgages were foreclosed by The Punta Gorda Bank and C.H. Whidden in 1916. Henry Stackhouse had become increasingly involved in personal and business disputes. Several horses disappeared and were found slaughtered; later a man was killed. How deeply Stackhouse was connected to these events is not known, but he did find it wise to depart abruptly "during the night" in 1916.

Under the second owners, the Punta Gorda Bank and C.H. Whidden (1916-1924), the Main House lay abandoned for eight years. The property surrendered to underbrush, and the banana patch behind the house grew rapidly to fill the whole back yard. In 1921, the area's worst hurricane rolled the Gulf in from the west, and over the island. Whatever windows, doors, and furniture that had not been taken from the house by vandals were blown to the mainland. Over a foot of sand covered the floor, but the house survived its first of seven hurricanes. Its gaunt and forbidding appearance gave it the name of "The Haunted House." Almost inevitably it acquired its own ghost story, that of a headless woman who walked the beach at night between the house and little Gasparilla Pass.

The third owners of Journey's End (1924-1944) were Mr. and Mrs. William H. Johns. Mr. Johns was a successful businessman and investor of real estate in Queens, New York. The Johns named their new winter home Journey's End.

The John's family was an early and active member of the winter resort colony at Boca Grande, residing each season at the Gasparilla Inn for seven years until the acquisition of Journey's End in 1924. Of all the owners, they brought about the most changes in the property. Mr. William H. Johns restored the Main House, built the Caretaker's Cottage in 1926, the Circle Cottage and Garage in 1927, and the Seaside Cottage in 1937. Because of beach erosion, the family moved the Main House twice; 45 feet east and 14 feet north in 1926, and later 65 feet east, following the building of the seawall in 1935.

In 1926 the Johns sold and rebought the existing property in a one dollar transaction with the Boca Grande Corporation. This was done to allow the platting of a large area of the island north of the village of Boca Grande. As Journey's End was the only building north of the village of Boca Grande, the plat was laid out in a manner that allowed the beachfront drive, Shore Lane, to curve inland or eastward behind Journey's End, and allowed 18th Street to terminate at the east end of the property. The new plat appears to have

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been based on the position of Journey's End, as Eighteenth Street is the only east-west street on the plat of 1926 that does not terminate directly on the beach. The Johns enlarged the parcel of property to its present size by the purchase of inland Lot 10, Block 43 in 1926 and Lot 9, Block 44 in 1940. The acquisition of Lot 9 in 1940 appears to have been an afterthought and a bolstering action to squatter's rights, as the Johns had built the Circle Cottage on a portion of Lot 9 in 1926. As John Johns wrote of his father, "when he needed more land, the Boca Grande Corporation just moved his stakes out further. Land didn't mean anything that far up the road in those days."

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In addition to improving and enlarging Journey's End, the Johns family, by their personal habits of frequently entertaining and being entertained, changed Journey's End from an island landmark and ghostly legend into a pleasant and busy cog in the active social life of the winter residents. It thus became an early component in the development of the island as a winter resort.

Although they were not owners, the George Knight family, as Journey's Ends' longest occupants (1923-1948), were a significant part of its history. During the 25 years that George Knight lived with his family in the Caretaker's Cottage, he was fishing guide, builder of all the cottages, caretaker, confidant and friend for 21 years to the Johns family and for four years to the Drexel family. In 1923-24 George improved the rutted road from the Main House to the village (photo 30). Supplies were hauled over this road for renovation and construction until platted streets were cleared.

During their 25 years at Journey's End, George and Frances Knight reared their six children. Because there was no doctor on the island, five of the children were born on the mainland. The eldest son, Johns Knight was named for Mr. Johns, and a daughter Florence, for Mrs. Johns. One child, Hannah Margaret Knight, was the only child ever born at Journey's End; her birthday was August 20, 1932. She died tragically of burns at Journey's End at the age of seven years.

With the death of Mr. William H. Johns in 1944, Mrs. Johns moved for the rest of her winters to the Gasparilla Inn, and Journey's End was sold to its fourth owner, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony B. Drexel of Philadelphia and Shelter Island, New York (1944-1948). They were members of the nationally known Drexel family, and were prominent in financial and social circles in this country and in Europe. Their trans-Atlantic steam yacht, <u>Queen of Scots</u>, was at the time of its launching, the largest private yacht ever built. When the Drexels acquired Journey's End as a winter home, they were already part of the winter colony of the island. Their four years of ownership were clouded with misfortune, but they made significant contributions to the history of Journey's End. Less than a month after their purchase, the major hurricane of September 1944 roared over the island, causing damage to Journey's End and other island buildings. The Drexels quickly repaired Journey's End, and they were able to keep it open and functional during the latter years of World War II, when many of the winter residences had to be closed. The Redroof Cottage was built by George Knight for the Drexels.

On January 24, 1943, Mrs. Drexel, fishing in Boca Grande Pass, caught a 187 pound tarpon. This tarpon, caught during her ownership of Journey's End, held the title as the Woman's All-Tackle World Record on 24 thread (72 pounds) test line. The catch was

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remarkable in two ways. It was made in the rather unlikely month of January, and the record stood for 18 years.

In 1948, saddened by the death of her husband and her son Tony, Mrs. Drexel chose to sell Journey's End and to spend her following winters in other homes on the island. As a patient of Dr. Ingram, in the winter of 1950-51, she provided many accurate details of history.

Judge and Mrs. John A. Bolles were the fifth owners of Journey's End (1948-1957). Judge Bolles was a leader in New York Republican politics for many years. He was Dean of the Kent Law School in Irvington, New York, and served as a Judge in the New York City court. He was a senior attorney with the firm of Finnegan and Bolles in New York from 1923 until his death in 1951. The Bolles family, like the Johns, was large, convival and fun loving. During the winters, Judge and Mrs. Bolles, their daughters and families, and their friends filled up Journey's End to overflowing. They continued the tradition of the Johns family in making Journey's End an active part of the winter colony. Mrs. Nelle Bolles' champagne party on New Year's Day became an established island custom. Her good friend, Mrs. Florence Johns, widow of William Johns, was welcome to come from the Inn to her former house to entertain at any time. On these occasions, Mrs. Bolles graciously and happily assumed dual roles of co-hostess and guest in her own home. The Bolles, during those pleasant years, restored the happiness that Journey's End had formerly known and had lost during the Drexel's ownership.

Six years after the death of Judge Bolles in 1951, Journey's End was given by Mrs. Bolles to the sixth owners, her daughters, Mrs. Marjorie B. Cotton and Mrs. Frances B. Hughes (1957-1962). The daughters and their families continued to spend their winters there. In the Spring of 1956, the Ingram family, together with several other Tampa families, began their yearly tarpon fishing trips, using Journey's End as their headquarters. This pleasant association continued until the untimely death of Mrs. Cotton in 1961. The decision to part with Journey's End followed soon thereafter.

In May, 1962, Journey's End was acquired by its seventh owners, Dr. and Mrs. James M. Ingram (1962-1984). During 1962 and 1963 the first major restoration and renovation of the Main House, since that done by the Johns family in 1924, was carried out. Restoration and renovation of the cottages and garage were performed during the following three years. It was during this work on the Main House that the floor plans of the Main House were found inside the wall of the living room, once the wall coverings were removed. Unfortunately, these were lost the following year.

The Ingram family found the house to be filled with sentimental and happy mementos of all of its former owners and their guests. A number of the papers, pictures, and other objects of historical interest have been retained in redecorating the Main House, otherwise its irreplaceable atmosphere would have been lost. Among these was the documentation of the World Record tarpon caught by Mrs. Drexel.

Further relationship of Journey's End with the sport of tarpon fishing was established in the Summer of 1958, when John E. Randall, Ph.D., an already established ichthyologist, was assigned by The Marine Laboratory of the University of Miami (now the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science of the University of Miami) to study growth and migration patterns of the tarpon at Boca Grande.

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Dr. Randall, and his colleagues and marine biology students, whom he brought with him, had recently developed the vinyl and nylon "spaghetti tag", which allowed safe tagging of the tarpon behind the dorsal fin. They had acquired expertise in the use of the drug MS-222 (tricane methanesulfanate) as a general anesthetic, sprayed on the gills, so that the tarpon could be caught by hook and line, anesthetized, and brought inboard for study and tagging. The removed sample tarpon scales were transilluminated to enable reading of the yearly growth rings, thereby providing the age, growth pattern, and migration routes of the tagged tarpon, upon recovery.

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Members of Dr. Randall's research team were quartered at Journey's End, and the Main House was used as a common meeting site for the team during June, July and August 1958. Dr. and Mrs. Ingram participated in the catching, anesthetizing and tagging of the tarpon, and in the interpretation of the growth rings on the scales. One hundred eightyfive tarpon were tagged, and a research paper on this work was published.

Four years later, on June 3, 1962, Mrs. James M. Ingram boated a 184¹/₂ pound tarpon in Boca Grande Pass, which was recognized as a Woman's World Record on 50 pound test line. This record stood for nine years, well after her death, until it was surpassed by the catch of a larger tarpon hooked in Boca Grande Pass.

Since 1971, Dr. Ingram has served as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the College of Medicine at the University of South Florida in Tampa. In 1978-79, he served as King Gasparilla LXV of Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla in Tampa.

Through the gift of a patient, the late Luceil Vansant and her husband Richard, an endowed chair, the James M. Ingram Professorship of Gynecologic Oncology, was established in 1982 in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Duke University Medical Center.

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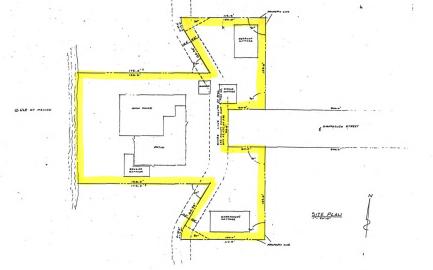
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These boundaries contain all significant features and buildings associated with the historic development of this property.



Site Plan of Journey's End showing Location of Buildings and Survey Measurements 1983

The Legal Description of this Property is as Follows:

Lots 25, 26 and 27, Block 43-A. Lot 10, Block 43 and Lot 9, Block 44, together with weated portion of Shore Lane, Town of Boca Grande, according to map or plat thereof on file and recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Lee County, Florids in Plat Book 7, pages 1 and 1-A.