

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 15000207

Date Listed: 5/5/2015

Property Name: Axline House

County: Alachua

State: FL

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

5-5-2015

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Significant Dates

1953 is hereby deleted as a significant date.

The Florida State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

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 AXLINE HOUSE

other names/site number Brice/Williams House; Cross Creek Grove House; FMSF# AL2326

2. Location

street & number 18507 South County Road 325 N/A not for publication

city or town Hawthorne vicinity

state Florida code FL county Alachua code 001 zip code 32640

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.)
Alissa Lohau, DSHPO 3/13/15
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet
 - determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper Jong Sullin Date of Action 5-5-2015

Axline House
Name of Property

Alachua Co., FL
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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	
3	1	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	1	total

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

"N/A"

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single residence

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Frame Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls WOOD

roof METAL
other _____

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

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

Period of Significance

1885

Significant Dates

1885

1953

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Builder; Evans, William

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository

Axline House
Name of Property

Alachua Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.26 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

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

3															
	Zone		Easting					Northing							
4															

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 Laurie, Murray D./Robert O. Jones, Historic Preservationist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date March 2015

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state FL 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 Kathleen Barnes

street & number 18507 South County Road 325 telephone 352-466-3590

city or town Hawthorne state Florida zip code 32460-8412

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.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 **AXLINE HOUSE, ALACHUA
COUNTY, FLORIDA**

SUMMARY

The Axline House, also known as the Brice/Williams House, whose family referred to the property as the "Grove House," is located at 18507 South County Road 325, in unincorporated Cross Creek, Alachua County, Florida. The wooden two-story Frame Vernacular house with Folk Victorian influence, mostly found in the gable and porch ornament, was constructed circa 1885. The main block of the house has a front gable roof with decorative bargeboard and paired wood brackets in the west/facade end. A one-story extension on the east/rear has a separate gable roof. A screened veranda wraps the west and south elevations. Three other auxiliary historic structures are on the property: a stable/barn, a well, and a fruit stand. There is one noncontributing, non-historic building that serves as an artist's studio. The main house has a high degree of architectural integrity.

SETTING

Cross Creek is an unincorporated rural community in the southeast part of Alachua County. Cross Creek is defined by houses strung along County Road 325, a two-lane paved road that extends from Island Grove and Highway 301 to the east and then north to Grove Park and Highway 20. Narrow side roads, mostly unpaved, extend short distances from County Road 325. Cross Creek is located between Orange Lake and Lake Lochloosa, and is named for the narrow creek that links the two lakes. County Road 325 passes over the Cross Creek Bridge about one-half mile northwest of the Axline House. About 700 yards to the south is the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park and an Alachua County park with a boat ramp that provides access to Orange Lake. The Rawlings home and grove are listed as a National Historic Landmark (NHL 2007). The Cross Creek Baptist Church and the Cross Creek Volunteer Fire Department are 1000 yards south of the Axline House. The geography of the area is flat and the residential lots in Cross Creek are bound by the shores of the creek and the two lakes. The Axline House faces west and is set back about twenty yards from County Road 325 on a 2.26-acre lot. (Photo #1) Large oak trees, Sabal palmetto, citrus trees and mature stands of bamboo are planted on the grounds surrounding the house. On the south side of the house next to the main steps there is a flat-stone patio with a brick fire pit and small fish pond. These features were added in the 1970s by the current owner.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The two-story frame house set on brick piers has horizontal cypress siding with corner boards, a metal standing-seam gable roof, windows with 2/2-light double-hung wood sashes and two internal brick chimneys with corbeled tops. Solid wood shutters flank the windows (Photo #1). The verandah that wraps around the west and south elevations has a horizontal frieze of spindles running above the turned posts with decorative saw cut brackets that support the shed roof. The verandah was originally open, but has been screened with wood support framing placed on the inside of the posts. The veranda roof is supported by turned wood posts with decorative wood corner brackets. Wooden lattice-work runs between the brick piers. The footprint of the main house measures 26 x 58 feet. The extension to the east measures 12 x 52 feet.

The west façade of the house fronting CR 325, is symmetrically arranged with the verandah spanning the first story and extending to the south (Photo #1). The original main entrance to the house is a single door in the south half of the first story. The door has a textured glass light in the top half of the door, and blue glass in the transom. An original brass twist hand-turned doorbell is affixed to the door, and the glass and a bottom panels are framed in ornamental wood trim. A wood screen door is also present. A single window pierces the north half of this elevation beside the door. A paired set of windows with wooden shutters are centered in the second story, beneath a small circular window. The use of bargeboard with ornamental cut-out panels and a king-post decorative truss is reflected in the gable end. Six paired large brackets support the eaves beneath the bargeboard (Photo #2). The verandah has four turned posts with ornamental scroll-sawn brackets near the top which support a spindlework frieze beneath the roof eaves. Wood steps that led to the verandah in front of the door have been removed.

The south elevation, which now serves as the main entrance, is accessed by a concrete walk from the driveway (Photo #3). The main door in the south elevation is identical to the one on the west façade except the original etched glass is present, and the transom has red glass (Photo #4). The five bay first story verandah continues the use of turned posts, brackets and frieze similar to the west section of the verandah (Photo #5). Five wood steps

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lead to the single door and screen door that opens off of the verandah. Single windows are on either side of the door (Photo #6). The second story contains three evenly spaced windows with shutters. The broad side of the metal roof is visible with a brick chimney piercing the roof-ridge near the eastern edge, and a brick chimney piercing the roof-ridge near the center. A one-story flat roofed extension is at the east end of the main two-story block. Turned posts, brackets, and frieze continue to the verandah roof supports and this space is enclosed (Photo #3). Two windows with shutters are in this easterly portion of the south elevation.

A one-story eastern wing with gable roof, about half width of the main house, was attached to the east elevation of the main house in 1953. The windows in this wing have aluminum sashes (Photo #7). There are four windows and two doors in this wing on this side. At the east end of the wing is a non-historic small screened porch (Photo #8).

The east elevation with gable end is the rear of the house. The east wing has a vent in its gable. The one-story flat roofed portion has two windows and exposed rafter ends (Photo #9), and a sheltered open porch visible on the north side (Photo #10). The two-story main block has two symmetrically placed windows with 2/2-light wood sashes on the second floor and two square vents that are boarded up.

On the north elevation the east wing has four windows and one door. The flat roofed portion has a gable roofed porch and door projecting north (Photo #10). The two-story block is symmetrically arranged with two single windows on each floor (Photo #11), the broad side of the roof and its chimneys are visible, as is the side view of the western verandah.

Interior - First floor

The interior of the house is surfaced with hard wood floors, and plaster walls and ceilings. Throughout the house there is baseboard trim, and both doors and windows have beaded casing with rosette corner blocks. Through the main door on the south elevation, the central hall provides access to the other rooms of the house. The hall has a flight of stairs against the west wall leading to the upper floor (Photo #12). A storage closet is under the staircase. The parlor is through an opening to the west, and the dining room is through an

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opening to the east. An original glass pendent hanging light fixture illuminates the hall. The dog-leg stairway with landing has finished wood steps, molded hand rails, turned balusters, and the large newel combines a tapered octagonal shaft and turned portions.

The western parlor (13'x17') has windows on the north, west and south walls, and in the east wall is a fireplace (Photo #13). The brick fireplace has a wood surround, fluted at the sides, and mantle supported by four curved brackets. Shelves are built into the wall on either side of the fireplace. The original light fixture hangs from the center of the ceiling. A four-paneled door on the east wall leads to the side hall.

The dining room located to the east of the hall and is the same size as the parlor. It has one window on both the north and south walls, and a fireplace in the east wall. The fireplace has a wood surround with the mantle supported with one tapered bracket at the center, and beaded side pieces (Photo #14). Access to a small bathroom, formerly part of the pantry, is north of the fireplace, and on the south is a built-in cabinet. The original light fixture hangs from the center of the room. To the south of the cabinet is a door that leads to the kitchen.

The kitchen displays a combination of vertical wood panels and plastered walls (Photo #15). The ceiling has some exposed wood beams. A stove and built-in cabinets are located on the west wall, and additional cabinets and sink are at the north wall. The pantry that opens to an exit door on the north side contains a refrigerator and additional storage cabinets. Two windows and a wood door with transom pierce the south wall. Oral tradition suggests that this transom originally had green glass. The door opens to a small enclosed area, once part of the open verandah. The walls and ceiling of this area have tongue and groove paneling. A single door leads to the south lawn. A door on the east wall leads to the one-story east wing, and the door on the west wall leads to the south verandah.

The one-story east wing is accessed from the main house from the small room in the southeast corner next to the kitchen. The interior walls and ceilings are of tongue-and-groove paneling. It contains a sitting room (Photo #16), a bathroom, and a bedroom. An exterior screened porch is at the east end (Photo #8). The east end of the wing has the same exterior siding as the main house and is probably the original detached kitchen.

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Interior - Second floor

The central stairway leads to a second floor with a curved handrail at the dogleg (Photo #17). The stairwell at the edge of the second story flooring is ornamented with scroll-sawn wave patterns and beaded wood trim (Photo #18). The second floor hall has a single window in the south wall, with a door to the west in the southwest corner, a door to the east, and a door to a bathroom in the southeast corner. The western bedroom has windows on the north, west and south sides, and the fireplace in the east wall has a carved wood surround and mantel like the one in the dining room (Photo #19). A closet is built into the wall to the north of the fireplace.

The eastern bedroom has windows in the north and east walls, a fireplace in the east wall with a wood surround like in the dining room, with a closet built into the southeast corner (Photo #20). A hatch in the ceiling of this room provides access to the attic.

At the southeast corner of the floor is the bathroom with an original built-in copper tub, marble sink and commode (Photo #21). A water storage tank in the attic originally served the bathroom.

ALTERATIONS

The original Axline family detached kitchen was the room furthest east with a stove at the east end. The bathroom in the east wing occupied the space of the food preparation porch for the original kitchen. A food service room in the main house was converted to a kitchen by the Brice family in the 1930s.¹ The eastern portion of the verandah was enclosed by G. Hugh Williams and used as a citrus grove office sometime during the 1950s.² In 1953, owners enclosed the connection from the main house to the early kitchen, and a bathroom was installed in that space. By 1960, a palm tree toppled during a severe storm onto the corner of the kitchen and pantry. This portion was repaired with pine drop siding, rather than the cypress material used on the rest of the house. The current metal roof was installed in 1972. Underneath the metal roof is an asphalt roof, which covers the original wood shingle roof.

¹ Kathleen Barnes, communication to Robert Jones, February 21, 2015

² George H. Williams, III, great-grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Brice. Personal communication with the owner, March 12, 2014.

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CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Stable/Barn

An unpainted, two-story wood barn with board and batten siding is situated due south of the house (Photo #22). A document found in the barn indicates that this structure, referred to as a "stable," was built in 1896.³ The building has a rectangular footprint and rests on a continuous concrete footing. Two wide doors, now topped by fixed glass panes, face west. On the north side, one double-hung window is placed at the center on the first and second floors, with several additional small windows on the first floor (Photo #23). An open shed porch is attached to the rear (east) elevation.

Well

Located north of the barn, a deep well was installed by the Brice family for their citrus operation, as evident from c. 1920s photographs. The well has a round brick base about three feet tall, and is sheltered by a covered shed with wood lattice sides (Photo #24).

Fruit stand

A small tin-roofed open shed is located next to the west fence, south of the entrance driveway to the property (Photo #25). The stand was built by the Brice family where bags of citrus from the owner's grove were sold to passing motorists on County Road 325. It is in dilapidated condition and is currently used for storage.

NON CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Studio

A noncontributing, one-story wood building was built east of the barn in 1996 for use as an artist's studio (Photo #26).

³ The piece of paper used to record the date and the names of the carpenters who built the barn is a recycled invoice from the firm of Axline and Markham in Cincinnati, Ohio. The address of the firm, a fruit wholesale business, was helpful in researching Jasper Axline's business associations and gives a clue as to why he was interested in owning orange groves and why he had the means to build such a costly residence. The paper was found in the barn several years ago by Kate Barnes.

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SUMMARY

The Axline House, also referred to as the Brice/Williams House, is nominated to the National Register under Criterion C for local significance in the area of Architecture. Built circa 1885, the two-story Frame Vernacular house with Folk Victorian influences is an excellent example of vernacular construction. The Axline House retains a very high level of architectural integrity. At one time, this house was among a small community of other Frame Vernacular houses along County Road 325, all of which have disappeared. From a 2000 survey of structures in unincorporated Alachua County, this house was determined to be eligible for individual listing on the National Register.¹

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Alachua County was founded in 1824, three years after Spain formally ceded Florida to the United States as a territory. Newnansville became the seat of government for the county, which originally stretched from the Georgia border south to Charlotte Harbor. As Florida's population increased, twenty-one additional counties were created from this original county land mass. Early settlers were drawn to the natural advantages of Alachua County, but it was not until the construction of railroads that timber, cotton, citrus and produce harvested in the area could be transported to lucrative markets. Early roadways were often impassable sandy tracks through a dense wilderness. Florida became a state in 1845 and the Florida Railroad finally linked Alachua County to both coasts early in 1860, shortly before the Civil War began. Following the end of the Civil War, thousands of settlers moved into Alachua County, which was called "The Eden of the South" by promoters.²

Cross Creek, a rural village in the southeastern sector of Alachua County, is named for the narrow creek that joins two large bodies of fresh water, Orange Lake and Lake Lochloosa. Cross Creek is six miles west of Island Grove, which became a center for the processing and distribution of citrus when the Florida Railway and Navigation Company extended its

¹ Sherry Anderson, "Historic Structures Survey of Unincorporated Alachua County, Florida." Manuscript #5986, 2000.

² Charles H. Hildreth and Merlin G. Cox. *History of Gainesville, Florida, 1854-1979* (Gainesville, Alachua County Historical Society, 1981) 1-3, 11-13; John B. Pickard. *Florida's Eden: An Illustrated History of Alachua County* (Gainesville: Maupin House, 1994), 12-18, 35-36; Charles Henry Webber, *The Eden of the South* (New York: Leve & Alden's, 1883).

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tracks south from Hawthorne, in Alachua County, to Citra, in Marion County, late in the nineteenth century. This early line later became part of the Seaboard Airline Railroad. Another railroad line was built on the west side of Orange Lake that ran from Gainesville, southward to Ocala, in Marion County. A small port was established at the mouth of Cross Creek, where it meets Orange Lake, a short distance from the Axline House. Historic photographs taken in the 1890s show a dock, packing houses, and small steamboats loaded with crates of oranges, which were ferried across Orange Lake to the train station known as Boardman. The convenience of this facility may have been the reason that Jasper Axline chose to settle in Cross Creek. The railroads also drew winter visitors from northern and Midwestern states to Alachua County to enjoy the mild climate. Investors were attracted to the region by the promise of making a fortune, or at least an easy living, growing oranges.³

The Spanish introduced citrus to Florida in the sixteenth century. By 1563 they had planted citrus groves in St. Augustine and along the St. Johns River and as far south as Orange Lake. Although citrus was vulnerable to periodic freezes, the citrus industry continued to expand. Grown from seed, most of the early trees produced sour oranges, but growers learned to graft sweet orange varieties to the sour root stock. They later introduced other types of citrus such as grapefruit and tangerines. By 1890 almost 115,000 acres in Florida were planted in citrus, with Alachua County producing one-third of the state's crop. Four years later the yield was estimated at six million boxes of citrus, each box weighing 90 pounds. However, disastrous freezes in December 1894 and February 1895 killed as much as 90 percent of the trees and wiped out thousands of groves. Some growers replanted, introduced hardier cultivars, quit altogether, or moved further south.⁴

Although Cross Creek in the early 1880s had a packing house and dock where oranges were shipped to Boardman, the Cross Creek community failed to thrive after the 1894-1895 freezes. The warmer climate between the two lakes had somewhat protected the trees during hard freezes and some larger growers, who had other sources of income, continued to grow citrus. The few newcomers in the 1920s, like the Glisson family and author

³ Picard, 36, 39-40; F. W. Buchholz. *History of Alachua County Florida: Narrative and Biographical* (St. Augustine: The Record Company, 1929). 167-169.

⁴ Larry K. Jackson and Frederick S. Davies. *Citrus Growing in Florida*. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1999) 10-12.

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Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, struggled to make their groves viable. Although some groves survived or were replanted, the majority of citrus processing in the area moved east to Island Grove where a larger packing house was built next to the railroad tracks.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The authors of *A Field Guide to American Houses*, Virginia and Lee McAlester, would identify the Axline House as Folk Victorian, due to the Victorian decorative detailing applied to a vernacular house form primarily along the gable edge and porch framing.⁵ The growing network of railroads facilitated the spread of Folk Victorian houses throughout the country. By the 1880s, sophisticated woodworking machinery capable of fashioning turned posts and spindles, intricately carved cut-work brackets and braces, and other embellishments originally crafted by hand tools, became readily available. This relatively inexpensive woodwork detailing was applied to new homes and used to update older ones. These elements were supplied by local lumber yards or shipped in from distant mills by rail. Although similar in appearance to Queen Anne Style homes with similar styling and sometimes massing, Folk Victorian houses are more symmetrical in form with a simple front- or side-gabled roof, or gable front and wing. The addition of an ornamented gable end and a broad veranda provided visual interest on an otherwise plain frame building.

Porches of all type were particularly suited to the Florida climate and they served the inhabitants as secondary living space and offered easy and direct access to the outdoors. The veranda is characterized by lighter support posts and rails, with the continuous, open space often extending across the front and sides of the house. It is intended for socializing, walking or sitting and may have more than one access point from the interior or exterior.⁶

⁵ Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986) 309-310

⁶ Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings. *American Vernacular Design: An Illustrated Glossary, 1870-1940*. (New York, Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1985). P.112.

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ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Axline House is an excellent example of the Folk Victorian style with its fine exterior ornamentation applied to a side gabled I-house modified to be entered via a primary side elevation facing the access road. Many homes like this were built in Florida at the end of the nineteenth century as winter residences. Other examples can still be seen in the nearby towns of Melrose and Micanopy. Jasper Axline, from Cincinnati, Ohio, bought his Cross Creek property in 1883, and built the house circa 1885.⁷ Axline retained his former home in Cincinnati, spending only part of the year in Florida.⁸ The principal home of the Axline family was in Norwood, a subdivision north of downtown Cincinnati, developed in 1873, that still contains many Victorian influenced homes including elaborate Queen Anne Style houses. It appears that Axline, the owner of a successful wholesale fruit business in Cincinnati, was determined to create a comparable home for his family in Florida.⁹ A photograph of their Cross Creek residence taken in the mid to late 1890s depicts the entire family (Rachel and Jasper Axline, and their sons, Morton and Clyde, and a second woman, possibly Morton's young wife, Lucy), their horses, dogs, and buggy posed in front of the house, with a partial view of the large barn to the south.¹⁰ (Figure #1)

Jasper Axline approached the design of his Frame Vernacular home with an original perspective. The traditional I-House form with central hall and the main door centered on the broad side of the rectangular foot print, was modified to be entered from the primary side-gabled west side, complete with ornate door and blue glass transom. This positioned the façade of the Axline House at the narrow gable end, and the main door is off center on that elevation. Another of Axline's adaptations was to attach a one-story extension onto the east gable end of the I-House form. Typical Southern I-house construction placed

⁷ Alachua County Records, Deed Book O, page 306. The parcel is in Section 1, Township 12 S, Range 21 E, and consisted of 38.25 acres.

⁸ Obituary. Jasper Axline, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, August 24, 1900, p. 7. Services were held at the Axline home at the corner of Forest and Hudson Avenue, Norwood.

⁹ Homes still extant in Norwood can be seen online at <http://cincinnatihistorichomes.com/norwoodpres.html>

¹⁰ The photograph of the Axline house is part of the Wentworth Family collection of photographs of Cross Creek taken in the 1880s. Copies of the photographs are in the possession of the owner of the Axline House. An invoice, dated 1894, is written on a left-over form from the Cincinnati firm of Axline and Markley. It states that Sam Shaw and William Evans, Carpenters, designed and built a stable, no doubt the large barn still standing. Both names appear on the 1900 Census of Hawthorne.

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chimneys on the exterior gable ends of the house, to deflect heat outside. Axline, instead, placed two chimneys within the interior. One was placed to serve the west room and backed up to the wall of the central hall. The other served the east room and backed up to the wall shared by the one-story extension. The essential I-House form and character was retained, but circulation patterns within the space were altered.

No records exist regarding the source of building supplies or the contractor who built the house. But by 1885, building supplies and hardware was readily available in the immediate area due to the intersection of the Florida Railroad Company and the Florida Southern Railway through the City of Gainesville. This hub of commerce is what prompted the city to be named the new county seat of Alachua. The importation and distribution of supplies through the city was a resource for the whole region.¹¹ Lumber was a major industry in North and Central Florida, and a lumber mill was in operation only a couple of miles north of Cross Creek, and south of Hawthorne.¹² Attesting to the availability of decorative architectural wood trim are the wonderfully preserved homes in Gainesville, in the Northeast Gainesville Residential District (NR 1980).¹³

Axline included ornamental woodwork in the house, and the degree of interior trim and fine workmanship is excellent. Doors and windows have casings with a single bead sawn down the center for ornament. Three of the fireplace surrounds have side panels with beading detail sawn down the center. The staircase railing and newel post display exceptional craftsmanship. The scroll-sawn “wave” pattern that embellishes the stairwell is an extra touch of care that went into the ornamental woodwork in the Axline House.

The large barn with rough board and batten siding still standing on the property was built by local carpenters. An invoice dated 1894 reveals that two men, Sam Shaw and William Evans, both residents of Hawthorne, built a stable for Axline. No cost for the work is

¹¹ National Register of Historic Places, “Baird Hardware Company,” Florida Master Site File #AL1309, 1985.

¹² National Register of Historic Places, “Hawthorne Cemetery,” Florida Master Site File #AL4181.

¹³ Homes built in the 1880s in Gainesville can be viewed at the following website, accessed March 13, 2014. http://growth-management.alachua.fl.us/historic/historic_commission/historictowns/gainesville/se/sehist.htm

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noted.¹⁴ William Evans III, descendent of the earlier William Evans who is documented as working on the stable, told the owner that his ancestor had worked to build the house.¹⁵

After acquiring this house and property, Axline purchased several additional parcels on which citrus groves were established.¹⁶ The family referred to the Cross Creek property as “the plantation.” After his death in Cincinnati in 1900, Jasper’s wife, Rachel and two sons, neglected the Cross Creek property.¹⁷ In 1911, the property was acquired by William Riley Brice, who owned a store in Island Grove.

In his personal account of growing up in Cross Creek in the first part of the twentieth century, writer and artist J. T. Glisson describes some abandoned houses built by settlers in the 1880s and 1890s as combining “features brought from the North with the builder’s personal ideas of how a Florida house should be designed.” Constructed of local cypress with steep roofs covered in cypress shingles (usually replaced later by galvanized metal), they all had open porches on the south and west sides, and were well ventilated by their tall windows and many exterior doors. Though others were built, the Axline House is the only surviving house of this kind in Cross Creek today. Glisson as a child, was impressed by this house, long occupied by the Brice family, and its “formidable barn,” set in an orange grove.¹⁸ Writing in her book, *Cross Creek* (1942), Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings indicates that the house and its neglected grove had been purchased for “an unpaid mortgage” by W. R. Brice. She was friendly with Brice and describes the house fancifully as a “rococo two-story affair, tall and gangling like an antique spinster.”¹⁹

In the 1930s, Mr. and Mrs. Brice’s daughter, Grace, and her husband, G. Hugh Williams, became owners of the house and the operation of the orange grove. Mr. and Mrs. Brice continued to live in the house with the Williams family until their deaths in 1945. Members of the Williams family were responsible for the alterations in the rear section of

¹⁴ .See Note #10.

¹⁵ Kathleen Barnes, communication to Robert Jones, February 21, 2015.

¹⁶ Alachua County Records, Deed Book 32, page 619; Book 37, pages 127-128.

¹⁷ Jasper Axline obituary.

¹⁸ Glisson. *The Creek*, 10, 23.

¹⁹ Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. *Cross Creek* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1942), 21.

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the structure in the 1950s, but they did little to change the original two-story house.²⁰ They sold citrus from a small wooden stand on County Road 326, across from the entrance to their property. The barn was used as a packing house to clean and sort the oranges. The nearby well was dug to provide extra water for this processing operation as there was already a house well just east of the kitchen. Mr. Williams used the dining room in the house as his office when he served for four terms as a member of the Alachua County School Board. When he died in May of 1966, his widow, Grace, left Cross Creek to live in Gainesville.²¹

The house was unoccupied until June 30, 1971, when Gary Haskins, a potter, and Kathleen Barnes, an artist, became the owners of the Axline House and its adjacent property to the east, a parcel of several acres. They utilized the barn as studio space and built a separate art studio to the rear of the barn in 1996. Kate Barnes coauthored a cook book in 1983 that featured her sketches of the Axline House and its surroundings.²² She remains the owner of the house and refers to it as the “Cross Creek Grove House.”

²⁰ Personal communication to Kate Barnes by George Hugh Williams, III, great -grandson of W. R. Brice. March 10, 2014.

²¹ Obituary, W. R. Brice, “W. R. Brice Dies Monday,” *Gainesville Daily Sun*, January 2, 1945; Obituary, G. Hugh Williams, “G. Hugh Williams, School Board, Dies,” *Gainesville Sun*, May 24, 1966.

²² Kate Barnes and Sally Morrison. *Cross Creek Kitchens*. (Gainesville: Triad Publishing, 1983).

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

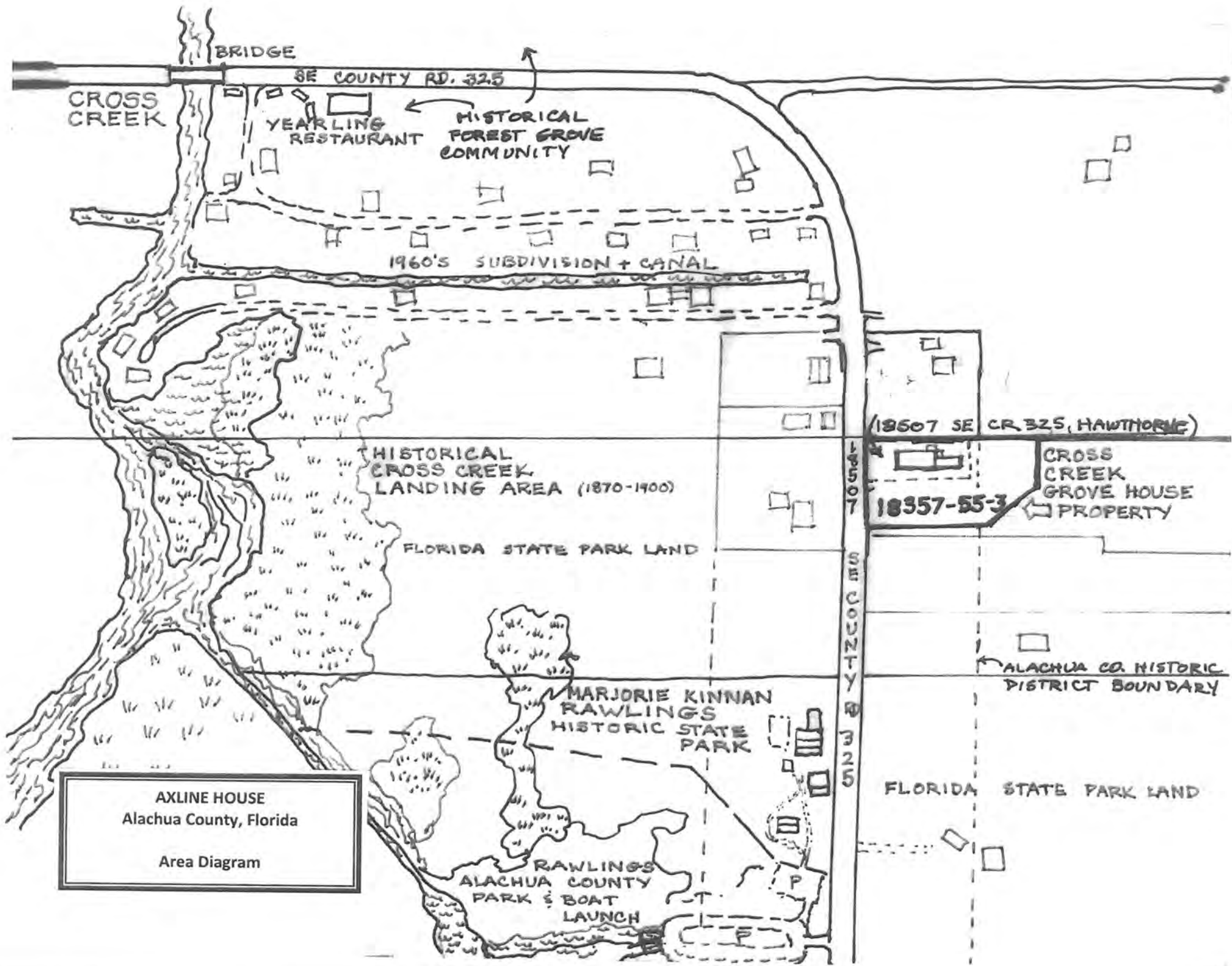
COM NE COR OF SEC S 87 DEG W ALG N/L OF SEC 816.70 FT TO POB S 11 DEG W 114.46 FT S 43 DEG W 174.41 FT S 86 DEG W 320.06 FT TO E R/W CO RD 325 N ALG R/W 240.95 FT TO N/L OF SEC N 87 DEG E ALG N/L 470.20 FT TO POB OR 1950/2832

Parcel # 18354-055-003

Acreage 2.26 acres

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is historically associated with the Axline House (also known as the Brice/Williams House, and Cross Creek Grove House).



AXLINE HOUSE
 Alachua County, Florida
 Area Diagram

BRIDGE

SE COUNTY RD. 325

CROSS CREEK

YEARLING RESTAURANT

HISTORICAL FOREST GROVE COMMUNITY

1960'S SUBDIVISION + CANAL

HISTORICAL CROSS CREEK LANDING AREA (1870-1900)

FLORIDA STATE PARK LAND

(18507 SE CR 325, HAWTHORNE)

1857-55-3

CROSS CREEK GROVE HOUSE PROPERTY

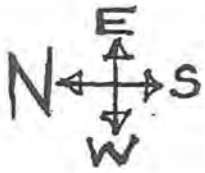
ALACHUA CO. HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY

MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS HISTORIC STATE PARK

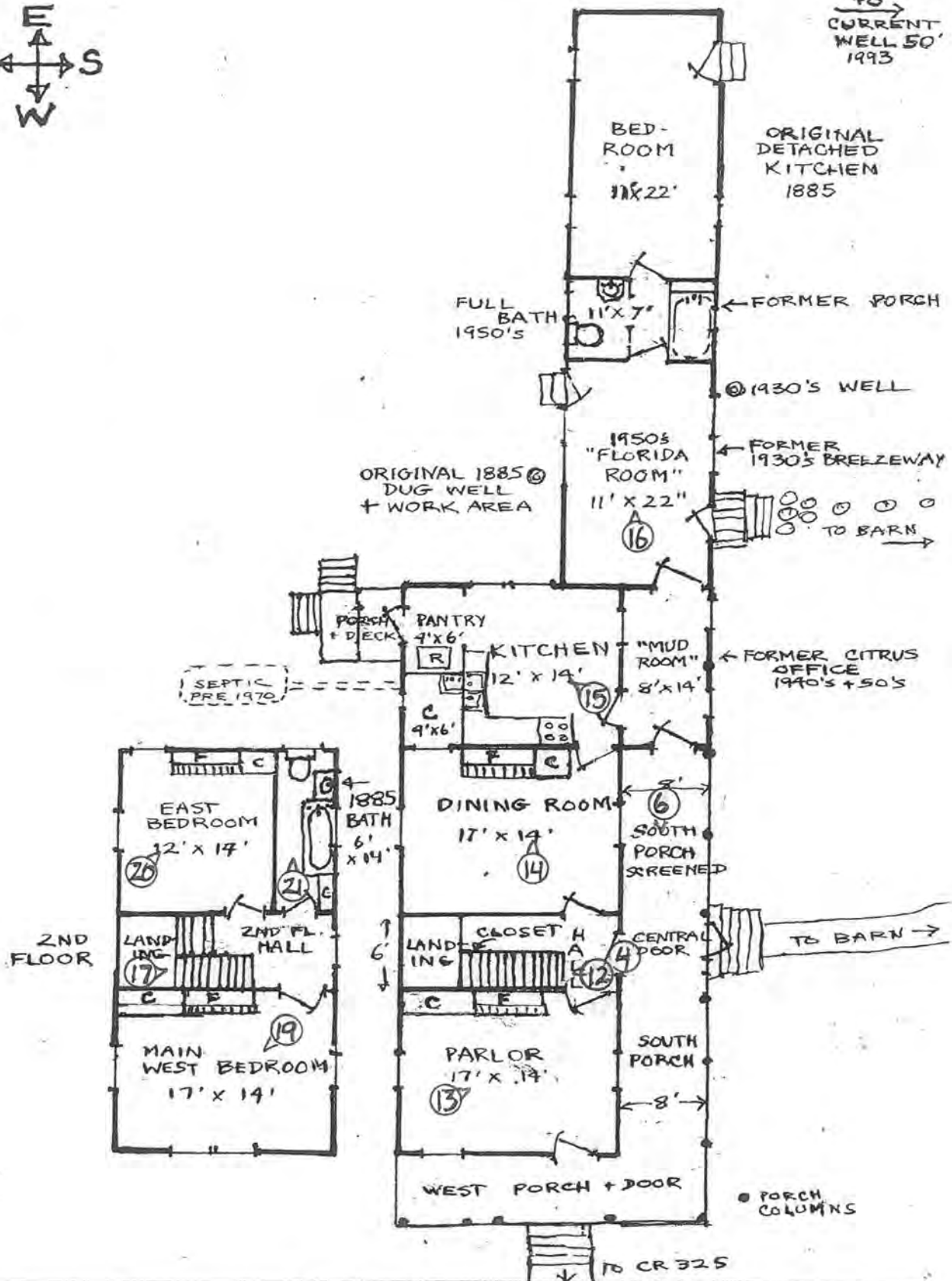
FLORIDA STATE PARK LAND

RAWLINGS ALACHUA COUNTY PARK & BOAT LAUNCH

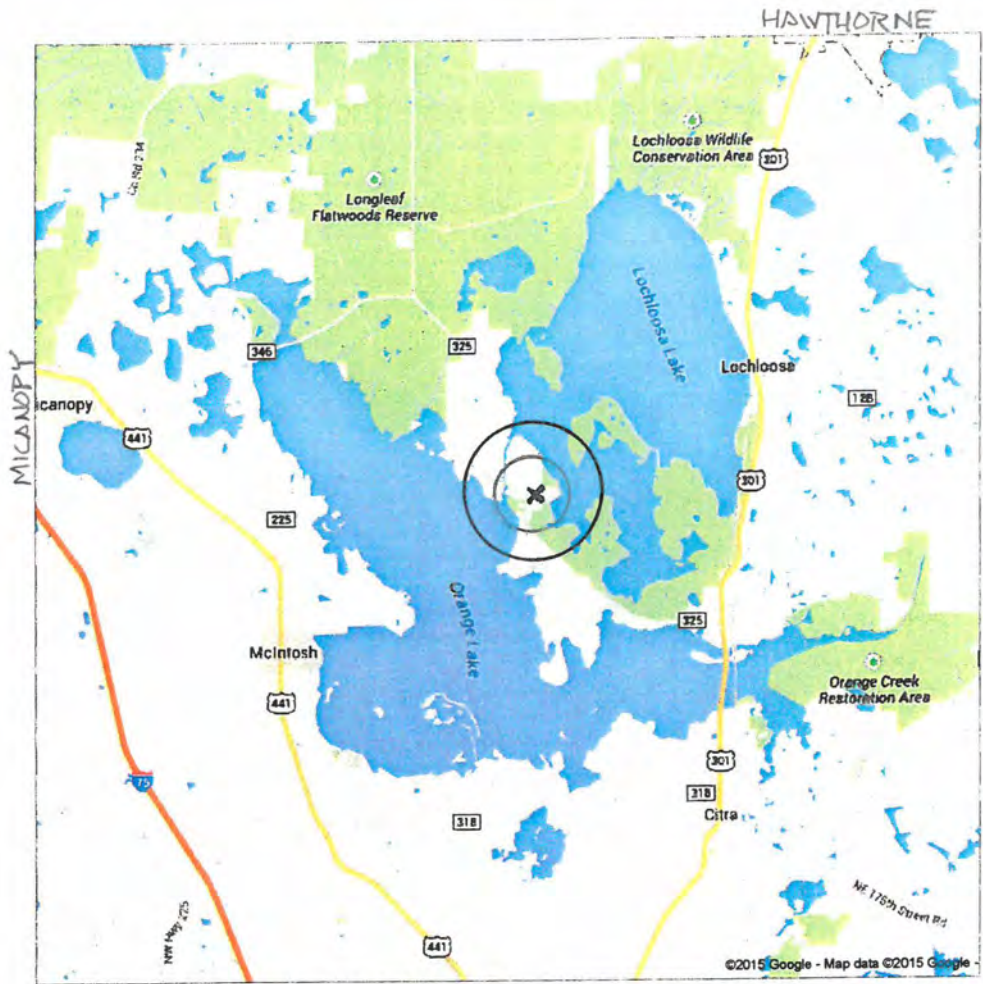
SE COUNTY RD 325



TO
CURRENT
WELL 50'
1993

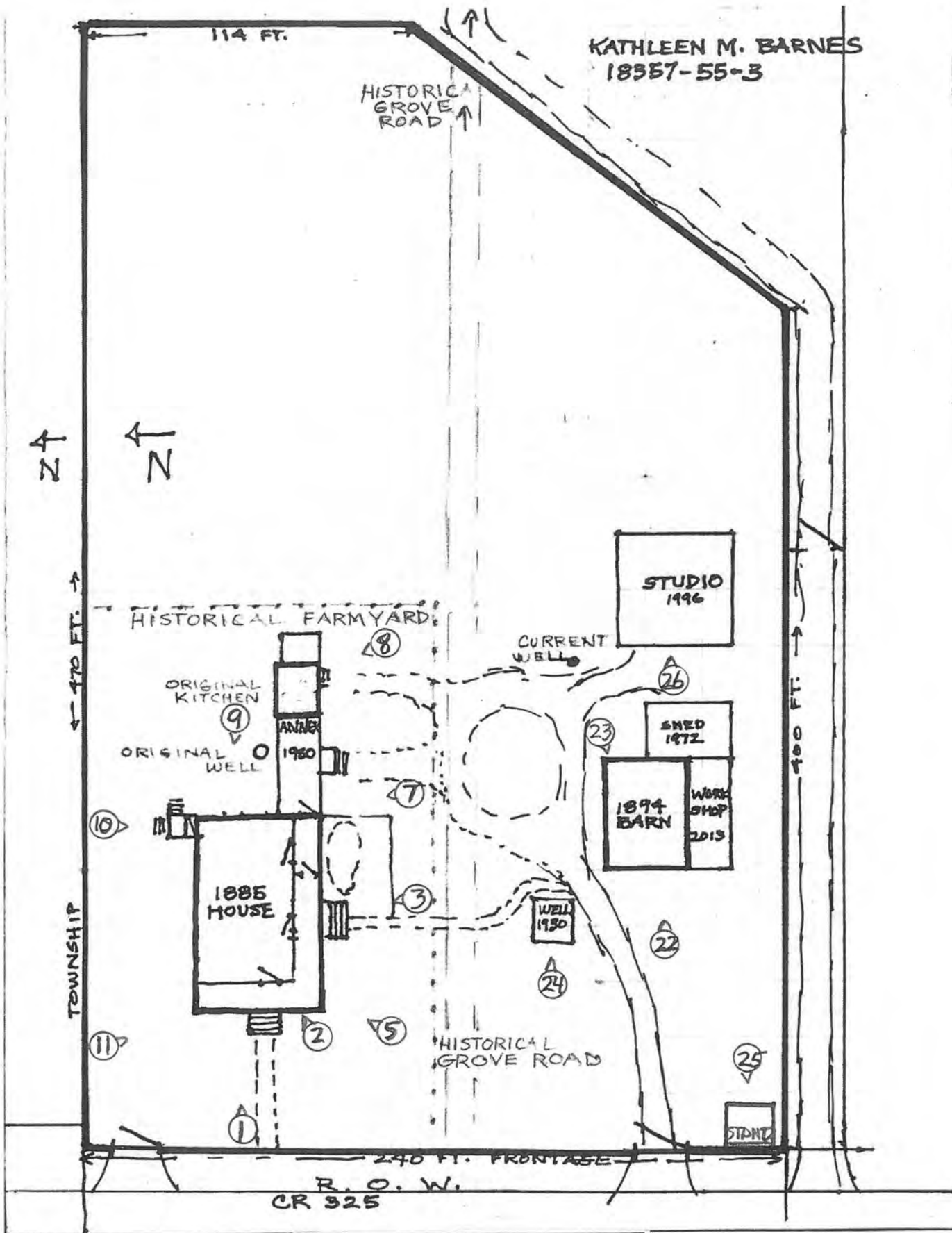


AXLINE HOUSE
Alachua County, Florida
Floor Plan & Photo Diagram



AXLINE HOUSE
Alachua County, Florida
Location Map

UTM
Zone 17 Easting 387620 Northing 3262112



AXLINE HOUSE
 Alachua County, Florida

 Site & Photo Diagram

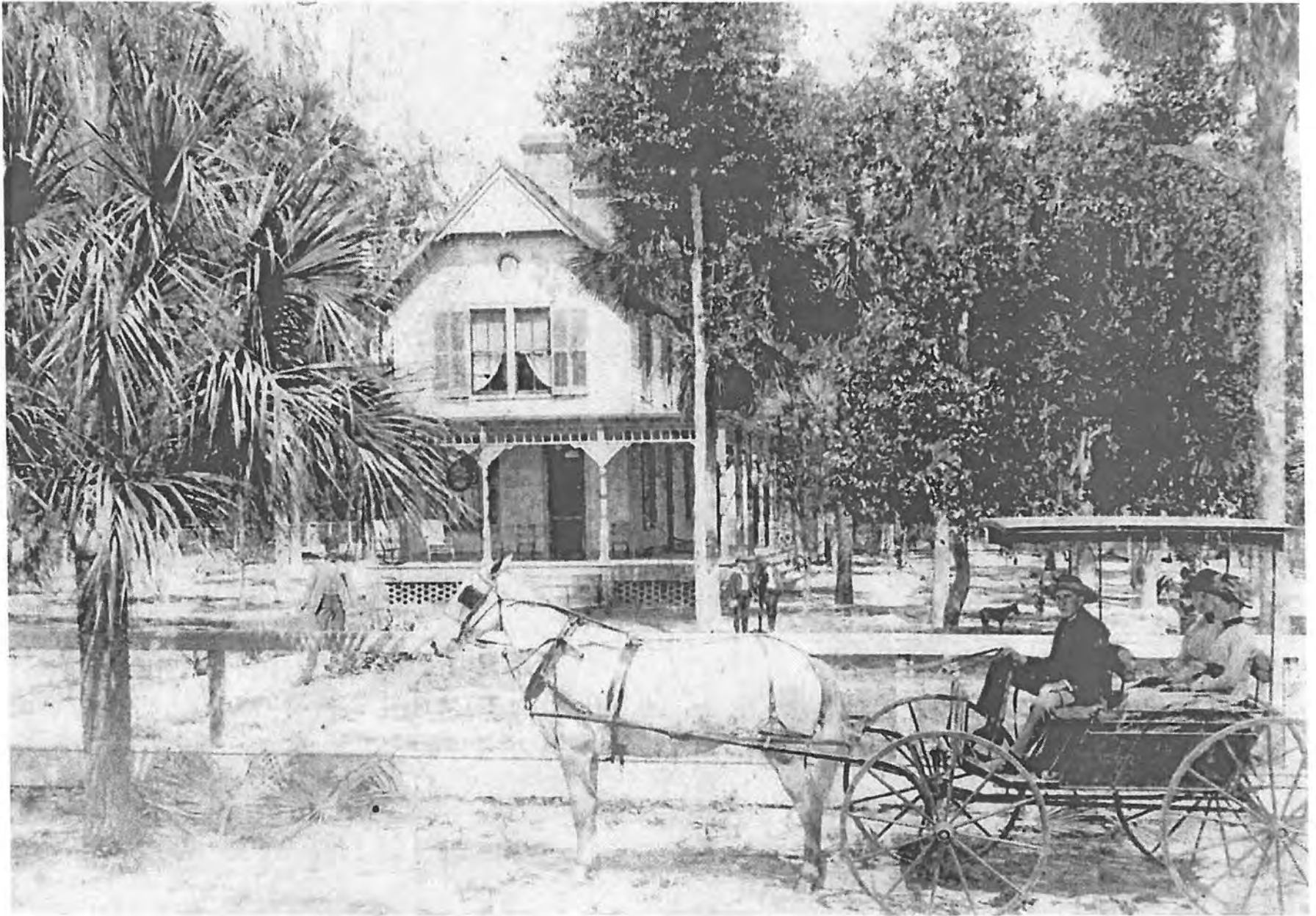


FIGURE 1: THE AXLINE FAMILY IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE, CIRCA 1890.
(Historic photo courtesy of the Wentworth Family Collection)





















































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Axline House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Alachua

DATE RECEIVED: 3/27/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/20/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/05/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/12/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000207

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5-5-2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Excellent, intact folk victorian house with outbuildings
that served as Hq. for a large citrus operation dating from 1880s*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Alachua County Advisory Board Program

Historical Commission

Mr. Ashley Wood, Chair
Mr. William Breeze, Vice Chair
Mrs. Karen Kirkman, Secretary

March 11, 2015

Robert Bendus, Director of Historic Preservation
Florida's National Register Review Board
Division of Historical Resources
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: National Register Nomination of Axline House, Hawthorne (Cross Creek), FL

Dear Members of the Florida National Register Review Board,

The Alachua County Historical Commission has reviewed the nomination documents for the Axline House, also referred to as the Brice/Williams House, and supports the National Register nomination under Criterion C for local significance in the area of Architecture. Built circa 1885, the two-story Frame Vernacular house with Folk Victorian influences is an excellent example of vernacular construction. The Axline House retains a very high level of architectural integrity.

From a 2000 survey of structures in unincorporated Alachua County, this house was judged to be eligible for individual listing on the National Register. The house environs of Cross Creek is one of the key historical centers of our County, and the listing will ensure recognition of the connections of the early Alachua County settlers with the vernacular tradition. The current owner (Kathleen 'Kate' Barnes, a prominent local artist and former County Commissioner) as well as the entire Cross Creek community recognize the value of the National Register listing.

The Historical Commission's staff liaison, Kathleen Pagan, Senior Planner in the Alachua County Department of Growth Management may be contacted at 352- 374-5249 if you need any further information. We appreciate your efforts to preserve our heritage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley M. Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Ashley Wood, Chair

xc: Kathleen 'Kate' Barnes



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State



March 13, 2015

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief,
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
Department of the Interior
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Axline House (FMSF #8AL2326), in Alachua County**, to the National Register of Historic Places. The related materials (digital images, maps, and site plan) are included.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6333 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Desiree Estabrook
Historic Preservation Supervisor, Survey & Registration
Bureau of Historic Preservation



Division of Historical Resources
R.A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850.245.6300 • 850.245.6436 (Fax) flheritage.com
Promoting Florida's History and Culture VivaFlorida.org

