

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100001734

Date Listed: 10/12/2017

Property Name: Richloam General Store and Post Office

County: Hernando

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

10/12/2017

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Areas of Significance

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT and GOVERNMENT are hereby deleted as areas of significance. They are not supported in the nomination.

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

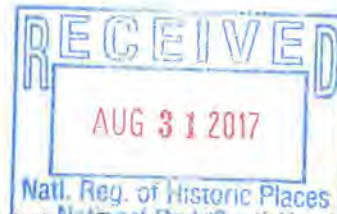
DISTRIBUTION:

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



56-1734

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 Richloam General Store and Post Office

other names/site number HE00805

2. Location

street & number 38219 Richloam Clay Sink Road

not for publication

city or town Webster

vicinity

state Florida

code

FL

countv Hernando

code

053

zip code 33597

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.)

Missa Solano, Deputy SHPO 8/25/17
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

Date of Action

10-12-2017

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	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	2	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)

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

GOVERNMENT: post office

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls METAL

roof METAL

other BRICK

WOOD

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)

- COMMERCE _____
- GOVERNMENT _____
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

1928-1936

Significant Dates

1928

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

Richloam General Store and Post Office
Name of Property

Hernando County, FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	3	9	1	0	5	3	3	1	5	3	2	7	4
	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 Andrew Waber, Historic Preservationist

organization Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation date June 2017

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (850) 245-6430

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399

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 Eric Burkes

street & number 38215 Richloam Clay Sink Road telephone (352) 277-1503

city or town Webster state FL zip code 33597

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 Richloam General Store and Post Office
Hernando County, Florida

SUMMARY

The Richloam General Store and Post Office is a small single story frame vernacular building with metal siding located in the historic community of Richloam, in unincorporated Hernando County, Florida. The building is plain and unadorned, with a metal gable roof, concrete slab foundation, a brick chimney, and a prominent flat roof forecourt shelter supported by wood posts extending from the main façade. Fenestration consists of 1/1 double hung sash wood windows with metal burglar bars. The main entrance of the building is a wood glazed double door with burglar bars similar in appearance to those over the windows. A sign that reads "Richloam" is located over the top of the main entrance below the forecourt shelter. The interior consists of one larger room which historically was the general store and post office and two smaller rooms used for storage. There are still distinctive writings and markings on the interior from when the building was used as a general store. There is one non-contributing resource on the property, which is a mobile home of recent construction.

SETTING

The Richloam General Store and Post Office is located in the western section of unincorporated Hernando County, which is adjacent to the Gulf Coast north of Tampa. Its county seat is Brooksville while Spring Hill is the largest community. Much of the county remains undeveloped but its proximity to Interstate 75 and the larger population centers of Pinellas and Hillsborough counties to the south has drawn some businesses into the area. The immediate setting of the Richloam General Store and Post Office is rural, undeveloped, and heavily forested. The building is located along Richloam Clay Sink Road, which is a small two-lane rural road, near where the road intersects with Goat and Riverland roads. The immediate vicinity is located close to a large conservation area dominated by the Richloam Wildlife Management Area, the Green Swamp Wildlife Management Area, and Colt Creek State Park.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The Richloam General Store and Post Office is a small single store frame vernacular building with corrugated metal siding. It rests on a concrete slab foundation and has a metal gable roof. There is a brick chimney along the midpoint of the northwest wall. The brick chimney was built using bricks repurposed from a nearby turpentine still that burned in the 1920s. Fenestration consists of 1/1 double hung sash wood windows.

Main (Southwest) Facade

Perhaps the most prominent feature of the building's exterior is the metal flat roof shelter that extends across the historic forecourt of the main façade (Photo 1). This shelter is supported by two wood posts and has a wood

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structural frame underneath the metal roof. The main entrance of the building features wood glazed double doors flanked by 1/1 double hung sash windows accessed via a concrete slab porch. This area would have historically housed a gas pump used by the community. A prominent wood sign with the words "Richloam" and the building number 38219 are above the main entrance below the shelter roof.

Northwest Elevation

The northwest elevation of the building, like most of the building, is plain in appearance with little to no adornment (Photo 2). This elevation features three 1/1 double hung sash windows and a brick chimney, which extends near the midpoint along the wall.

Northeast (Rear) Elevation

The rear elevation features a simple single wood door and a shed roof shelter extending supported by wood posts resting on concrete slab (Photo 3). The air conditioning unit is visible on this elevation.

Southeast Elevation

The southeast elevation of this building features three 1/1 double hung sash windows with burglar bars installed (Photo 4). A wood picket fence that surrounds the rear of the property extends from this elevation near the middle window, obscuring the north portion of this wall. On the north side of this elevation, on the other side of the fence, is an enclosed doorway (Photo 5).

Interior

The interior of the building is plain in appearance with one large room historically used for the general store and post office and two smaller rooms historically used for residential quarters but currently used for storage (Photos 6-7). The interior walls are metal while the floor is concrete slab. The interior of the building has a high degree of integrity, especially in the general store/post office area. The building still has its original mail counter, sign, and partial walls, which were used for the post office (Photo 8). The shelving and counter space, which are set up in the area of the building historically used to sell merchandise, are modern replacements but they are removable furnishings (Photo 9). There is also a fireplace found on the northwest side of the general store space (Photo 10).

The building's interior walls still have distinctive writings and markings left there while it was a store, including phone messages (Photos 11-12), personal notes (Photo 13), shipping stamps (Photo 14), carvings in the wood (Photo 15).

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There is a single wood door and a wall on the northeast side of the general store space which separates and provides access to the two rooms on the rear of the building (Photos 16-17). These two rooms were historically used for residential quarters but are now used for storage. The interior door leading into the general store/post office section of the building opens into the north room. From this room are two wood doors, one that provides access to the second room and the other used as a rear entrance into the building. Both of these doors are original to the building and the rear wood door retains its original locks.

Alterations

This building has undergone a number of changes over the course of its history, some of which are historic. The building as it sits now reflects its original circa 1928 configuration, with the exception of the infilled doorway on the southeast elevation. Some prior to 1936, one of the windows on the southeast elevation of the building was covered over, the living quarters on the rear were expanded, and a single-story addition with a brick chimney was added to the rear. After 1936, this building, which was historically a combination residential/commercial building, was exclusively a residence. There would have been a gas pump in the forecourt that has since been removed. In 2016, the building underwent extensive renovations. Due to deterioration, nearly all the wood in the building with the exception of some prominent wood fixtures such as the front and rear doors and the post office box needed to be replaced. Some of the wood with historic markings on them were kept. Most of the metal, which formed most of the exterior fabric, was salvaged. The windows, the front door, and the roof were replaced. The historic rear addition was torn down and the decision was made to restore the building to its original 1928 appearance. The historic window opening on the southeast elevation was found and restored. The historic side entrance on the southeast elevation was enclosed but the remnants of this doorway are still visible on the exterior. The building was also modernized, with HVAC installed and electrical wiring added.

Non-Contributing Resources

There are two non-contributing resources to this proposal: a modern mobile home (Photo 18) and a wood picket fence that wraps around the rear of the general store (Photo 19). Both of these resources postdate the period of significance. They also can both be removed without affecting the historic general store.

Integrity

The Richloam General Store and Post Office is still in its original configuration and location, the surroundings are still heavily forested, and the remnants of the railroad that once ran adjacent to the building are still present. As a result, it still keeps a high level of integrity of Location, Setting, and Association. Despite the changes that have taken place over time, the building still retains much of its original materials, including the metal siding, chimney, post office fixtures, and most of its original doors. The character-defining feature of its prominent

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forecourt shelter and concrete slab foundation and floor, as well as the configurations of its interior floorplans and fenestration remain essentially unchanged. Although the doorway onto the southeast elevation was enclosed, the remnants of the doorway are still visible from the outside. As a result, it retains sufficient integrity of Design, Workmanship, Feeling, and Materials.

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SUMMARY

The Richloam General Store and Post Office is being listed under Criterion A in the areas of Exploration/Settlement, Government, and Commerce at the local level. The period of significance extends from 1928 to 1936, when the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad (ACL) pulled out of the area. The building served as the only general store in the community and functioned as the post office for the surrounding area as well as the only gas station. The post office also served the neighboring community of Clay Sink (originally known as Slaughter). The settlement of Richloam was founded in the 1890s along what became a spur line of the ACL. The town largely ceased to exist by 1936, as the Shroeder Lumber Company and the Richloam Land Company sold out their land interests to the federal government. At the time, the post office moved to Webster and the store closed. The Richloam General Store and Post Office, which was a significant building in the community during its period of significance, is the last remnant of this period of Richloam's development.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Hernando County

The origins of Hernando County date back to the Second Seminole War period, when a number of fortifications were erected by the United States Army. In an effort to encourage settlers to occupy recently seized Seminole land, US Senator Thomas Hart Benton pushed across the Armed Occupation Act. This law, which passed in 1842, allowed for grants of land for settlers who met a certain set of criteria, including five years of occupancy, the erection of a house, and improvement of at least five acres of land. Aided by the act, the area grew quickly. By 1843, Hernando County was created out of parts of Alachua County. The settlers decided however to rename Hernando County after Thomas Hart Benton in gratitude for his role in opening the area for settlement. It was known as Benton County until 1850, when Benton's support of the Missouri Compromise proved unpopular amongst local residents, who changed the name back to Hernando County. By 1850, there were a little over 600 white inhabitants and a little over 300 enslaved African Americans living in the county. The first permanent county seat selected was in Bayport, but after much negotiation, a more centrally located county seat was chosen in 1856. The new town was named Brooksville, after Representative Preston Brooks, who made national headlines for his assault on Senator Charles Sumner. By 1860, there were 1,200 people living in the county.¹

After the Civil War, there was very limited development in Hernando County. The inhabitants of the county were primarily engaged in agriculture. The area's timber resources were exploited, with shipments of wood going through Bayport on the Gulf coast. With limited methods of transportation through the area, however, vast swaths of the county remained undeveloped, especially in the eastern section. This all began to change

¹ Richard J. Stanaback, *A History of Hernando County* (Brooksville, FL: Action '76 Steering Committee, 1976), 11-29.

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starting in the 1880s as wealthy northerners began to arrive into Florida. Hernando County first began to experience development along the coast and in the south portion of the county. By 1887, the county was developed enough to split into three counties: Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco counties. Brooksville remained the county seat of Hernando County, which assumed its current boundaries. In addition to the lumber industry, Hernando County also saw much development in the citrus industry. It was particularly known for the growing of tangerines. The industry, which nearly died out from the freezes of the 1890s, came back and flourished with the arrival of the railroads. By the 1910s, the Brooksville Citrus Association alone was shipping out 700,000 boxes of citrus a year.²

Orange Belt Railway

The Orange Belt Railway, which was chartered in 1885, proved critical to the development of the area, most notably St. Petersburg, the port hub. The railway, which ran from Sanford to St. Petersburg, was one of the longest narrow gauge railroads in the county upon its completion in 1888. The man perhaps most identified with this operation was Peter Demens, a Russian immigrant who acquired the railroad after the original owners were unable to pay a debt owed to him. It was Demens who was responsible for the naming of the city of St. Petersburg. The railroad went into heavily into debt and was sold off in 1889. After a brief period of reorganization as the Sanford and St. Petersburg Railroad, the railroad entered into additional difficulties following the great freezes of the mid-1890s. Soon, Henry Plant acquired the railroad and it became part of the Plant System of railroads, shipping lines, and hotels. Plant converted the narrow gauge track to standard gauge. By the early 20th century, the Plant System was absorbed into the Atlantic Coastline Railway.³

John Schroeder Lumber Company and Riverland

The John Schroeder Lumber Company was a large lumber conglomerate that was founded in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1867. The company started moving into Florida in the 1890s, taking advantage of the opportunities provided by incoming railroad and purchasing a large tract of land that included Richloam at around that time. In 1902, a subsidiary company known as the Shroeder Land and Timber Company was created to help manage the vast tracts of forest lands in the southeast.⁴

The construction of the Orange Belt Railway through the area had profound effect upon its development. The section of track on which Richloam developed was between the towns of Lacoochee and Tarrytown (Figure 1).

² Ibid., 47-55; Alfred A. McKethan, *Hernando County: Our Story* (Brooksville, FL: Alfred A. McKethan, 1989), 66-69.

³ Don Hensley, "Tap Lines: The Orange Belt Railway," <http://www.taplines.net/March/obstory1.htm>; Stephanie Murphy-Lupo, *All Aboard! A History of Florida's Railroads* (Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot, 2016), 97-98.

⁴ Eric Burkes, "History of Richloam" [unpublished manuscript], p. 10-12; *Times-Democrat* [New Orleans, LA], "To Increase Holdings," 29 Sep 1902.

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The development of Richloam itself was rather recent and short-lived. Its history is closely tied to the village of Riverland located north (Figure 2). By 1888, Riverland began appearing on Hernando County maps as a stop on the Orange Belt Railroad. The maps of this area also have a place name known as Injun Hammock, near to Riverland. There is a likelihood that this was an earlier name for the settlement.⁵ By 1890, the depot of Riverland had its own post office along with a general store and turpentine still. By 1895, Riverland had a population of roughly 100 people along with a school.⁶ By 1908, Riverland also had its own Western Union telegraph office. In 1910, the Schroeder Land and Timber Company acquired a large stretch of land in Hernando and Pasco counties, which it leased out a portion to George A. McLeod, a Tampa entrepreneur who invested heavily in the lumber industry. McLeod subleased the lumber rights to the J. Ray Arnold Company and kept the turpentine rights, which he used for his company, the Lorraine Turpentine Company.⁷

By the early 20th century, the Schroeder Land and Timber Company also began actively promoting Riverland to farmers. Sometime before 1916, they had established a demonstration farm and lodge in the area to serve the dual purpose of promoting agriculture and providing practical expertise and advice for farmers in the area. They sold lots off to farmers for no money down and no payments for five years on the stipulation that the farmer clear a set amount of acreage every year.⁸ By 1918, the village of Riverland had a population of 50 people, with a general store, post office, a Southern Express connection and the convict-run turpentine operation owned by the Dade City Turpentine Company.⁹ Despite the Schroeder company's efforts, the area's economy remained strongly tied to the lumber industry going into the 1920s.

From early on, there was a presence of convict labor camps dealing primarily with turpentine in the Riverland/Richloam area. This state convict lease system began in 1877 as a way for the State of Florida to help pay back the debts accrued during Reconstruction. Initially supported by the public, who viewed hard work as a deterrent against crime, the system became notoriously corrupt as state and local officials realized how lucrative the industry became. Conditions were also difficult, as companies sought to extract the maximum amount of labor from prisoners. Although the system exploited labor of both whites and blacks, it was disproportionately assigned to African Americans. The timber industry was one of the largest employers of convicts, especially for

⁵ Mathews-Northrup Company, *New Sectional Map of the Eastern and Southern Portion of the State of Florida* (Buffalo, NY: Mathews-Northrup Company, 1888); William M. Bradley and Bros., *Bradley's atlas of the world for commercial and library reference* (Philadelphia, PA: William M. Bradley and Bros., 1889), p. 240-241.

⁶ Cotton States Publishing and Advertising Company, *Florida R.R. Gazetteer and State Business Directory* (Atlanta, GA: Cotton States Publishing and Advertising Company, 1895), p. 227.

⁷ "Transcripts of Record of Proceedings in the Circuit of Pasco County Florida in the suit of Richloam Farms Company..., and Schroeder Land & Timber Company... vs. George A. McLeod and Lorraine Turpentine Company" in *George A. McLeod and Lorraine Turpentine Company v. Richloam Farms Company and Schroeder Land & Timber Company*, Florida Supreme Court Case File No. 5,732 (18 July 1930), State Archives of Florida, p. 2-8.

⁸ Schroeder Land and Timber Company, "A Square Deal in Florida Farm Lands," *Hoard's Dairyman*, Vol. 52, no. 20 (8 Dec 1916), p. 710.

⁹ R.L. Polk and Company, *Florida State Gazetteer and Business Directory* (Jacksonville, FL: R.L. Polk and Company, 1918), p. 497.

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turpentine camps. In 1902, J.B. McNeill and Company, which was based near Riverland, placed an ad in the local newspapers offering a \$100 reward for the return of an escaped convict. In 1911, the Riverland Turpentine Company was formed. Like many turpentine camps in the state at the time, this company ran off convict labor. While the conditions at this camp were unknown, there was at least one incident of violence reported at Riverland. A prisoner named Alex Handy, who was working for the Riverland Turpentine Company, struck the guard with a hoe and escaped with the guard's gun. The state's outlawing of the convict lease system in 1921 may have had something to do with the relocation of the Riverland operations although it is unclear.¹⁰

Among the proprietors listed in Riverland in 1918 were Henry L. Debbink and Lucius "Sid" Brinson, who ran the town's general store. Debbink was a native of Milwaukee who graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in agriculture. Sometime in the mid-1910s, he was hired by the Schroeder Land and Timber Company to run their demonstration farm. In 1916, Debbink was appointed as postmaster of Riverland, a position he held until 1918, when he was replaced by Brinson. Debbink eventually left to serve in the United States Army during World War I, and would later return to Milwaukee after the war. Brinson was the last postmaster of Riverland, which was changed to Richloam in 1922.¹¹

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

In 1921, the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, successor of the Orange Belt Railway, applied to the Florida Railroad Commission for permission to remove its depot from Riverland to Richloam, an application which was approved.¹² The exact rationale for this decision is not known, but it likely had something to do with the opening of a turpentine camp in Richloam as well as the outlawing of the convict lease system in Florida in 1921. The settlement of Richloam was sufficiently populated to receive the post office formerly known as Riverland in 1922 (Figures 3-5). In addition to being the last postmaster of Riverland, Sid Brinson also served as the first and only postmaster of Richloam. Brinson first came to Riverland as an employee of the Schroeder Land and Timber Company in 1913, serving as the manager of the lodge. Working first in partnership with Debbink in Riverland, by 1922, he established the general store in Richloam. With the exception of a brief

¹⁰ Connor McElwee Donegan, "Incarceration and State Terror: Racial Capitalism in the American South, 1865-1945" (master's thesis, University of British Columbia, 2013), p. 120, 127.

¹¹ Henry L. Debbink Selective Service Draft Registration Card, United States, Selective Service System. *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration; R.L. Polk and Company, *Florida State Gazetteer and Business Directory* (Jacksonville, FL: R.L. Polk and Company, 1918), p. 497; Henry L. Debbink Appointment as Postmaster of Riverland, Florida, in *Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-1971. NARA Microfilm Publication, M841, 145 rolls. Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group Number 28*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives.

¹² Florida Railroad Commission, "Twenty-Fourth Annual Report of the Railroad Commission of the State of Florida," (Tallahassee, FL: T.J. Appleyard, 1921), p. 43.

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period from 1928 to 1929, when he operated the store in partnership with Elbert “Son” Boyett, Brinson ran the store in Richloam as a single proprietorship.¹³

Aided by the construction of the ACL depot, Richloam was a bustling little town with a turpentine still, work camp, lodge, demonstration farm, and sawmill. To the north of the general store was the turpentine still and tenement housing for African Americans. In 1925, O.D. Rowlett was appointed justice of the peace for Richloam.¹⁴ Perhaps the most notorious incident which occurred in Richloam was in 1926, when a local African American turpentine worker, Charlie Davis, shot and killed Hernando County Deputy Sheriff William O’Berry at the turpentine still. This prompted a massive manhunt that resulted in Davis’ arrest. While under transport to Brooksville to stand trial, a lynch mob overtook the escort and hanged Davis.¹⁵

In 1926, the Schroeder Land and Timber Company divested itself of much of the land in the area, first to J.M. Smoot, Inc., and later to the Richloam Farms Company. This new company, hoping to exploit the Florida Land Boom, renewed earlier efforts made by the Schroeder company of marketing lots to farmers. The demonstration farm built in Richloam continued to operate under the guidance of Sid Brinson. The timing of this transaction proved poor, however, and the company never succeeded.¹⁶

The general store’s function as a post office would have made it a target for robbery. In January 1928, the store burned completely to the ground, likely as a result of arson to cover up for a robbery. The new general store and post office was constructed very quickly due in large part to the metal siding. By February 1928, the store was rebuilt and was in full operation (Photo 20-21). Sid Brinson and Boyett operated the store as a partnership for a brief period until 1929, when Boyett left. Afterwards, Brinson operated the business as a single proprietorship. By this time, the building underwent some changes as it served a dual purpose as both a residence and store. The living quarters were extended and a one-story addition was added to the rear of the building sometime prior to 1936.¹⁷

Sid Brinson continued to play a prominent role in the community after his relocation to Richloam, not only serving as postmaster, but also continuing his involvement with the Schroeder Land and Timber Company and the Richloam Farms Company. He served as manager and chief surveyor of the operations and was a designated

¹³ Burkes, “History of Richloam,” p. 31-33; Lucius S. Brinson Appointments as Postmaster of Riverland and Richloam, Florida, in *Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-1971*. NARA Microfilm Publication, M841, 145 rolls. Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group Number 28. Washington, D.C.: National Archives.

¹⁴ Office of the Secretary of State of the State of Florida, “Report of the Secretary of State of the State of Florida: Part I,” (Tallahassee, FL: State of Florida, 1926), p. 123.

¹⁵ Burkes, “History of Richloam,” 43-45.

¹⁶ “Transcripts of Record of Proceedings in the Circuit of Pasco County Florida in the suit of Richloam Farms Company..., and Schroeder Land & Timber Company... vs. George A. McLeod and Lorraine Turpentine Company,” p. 3-6.

¹⁷ Burkes, “History of Richloam,” 33, 59-60.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 6 Richloam General Store and Post Office
Hernando County, Florida

local representative for both companies. The Brinson family became particularly involved in Richloam, as Sid's brothers Cliff, Barney, and Titus Brinson would all join him. In 1932, Sid Brinson was appointed as the local registrar for Richloam by the Florida Bureau of Vital Statistics, which meant he was responsible for recording birth and death certificates for the community.¹⁸

The settlement of Richloam did not last long. Due in part to the Great Depression and a general decline in the naval stores industry, the area faced economic hardships. By 1934, the ACL applied for, and received, permission to discontinue rail service. The post office at Richloam was discontinued in 1936 and the general store closed. The focus of the area shifted from economic interests to conservation, as the federal government acquired the land as part of the US Land Resettlement Program. The Richloam Farms Company and the Schroeder Land and Timber Company sold out their remaining interests in Richloam, and Sid Brinson followed the Schroeder company to Sarasota. Under management of the US Forest Service, a forestry tower was erected at Richloam on the location of the former lodge and demonstration farm. Today, the area is known as the Richloam Tract of the Withlacochee State Forest.¹⁹

After Sid Brinson left, the building became exclusively a residence for the Mills family, who rented the building from Brinson. Harry Mills, who lived in the building with his parents, worked at the forestry tower until the 1950s. The Richloam General Store and Post Office building sat vacant until 1973, when Sid Brinson's nephew John Brinson acquired the property from Sid Brinson's estate. It was used as a general storage building until 2016, when John Brinson's son Eric Burkes, the current owner of the property, restored the building and opened it once again as a general store for the community.²⁰

The Richloam General Store and Post Office remains as the only still-standing remnant of the short-lived settlement of Richloam. During its period of significance, it functioned as the only general store and gas station in the community. As a post office, it serviced the surrounding area, including neighboring settlements that are still standing. Given the temporary nature of many of the buildings and structures in this area during the period, the survival of such resources are highly unusual.

¹⁸ Ibid., 33-38; Florida State Board of Health, "Health Notes: Official Monthly Bulletin," vol. 25, No. 2 (January 1933), p. 31.

¹⁹ Burkes, "History of Richloam," 18-21, 40-42, 64-65.

²⁰ Ibid., 40-42, 64-65.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1 Richloam General Store and Post Office
Hernando County, Florida

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 2 Richloam General Store and Post Office
Hernando County, Florida

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1 Richloam General Store and Post Office
Hernando County, Florida

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary encompasses all of parcel number R09 423 22 0000 0010 0010, in the Hernando County, Florida, Property Appraiser's Office records. The total acreage of the property is one acre.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the property historically associated with the Richloam General Store and Post Office operations.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 1 Richloam General Store and Post Office
Hernando County, Florida

PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST

1. Richloam General Store and Post Office
2. 38219 Richloam Clay Sink Road, Webster, Hernando County, Florida
3. Eric Burkes
4. May 2017
5. Eric Burkes
6. View of main (southwest) facade, facing northeast
7. Photo 1 of 21

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the following photographs, except where noted:

6. View of northwest elevation, facing southeast
7. Photo 2 of 21

6. View of northeast (rear) elevation, facing southwest
7. Photo 3 of 21

6. View of southeast elevation, facing northeast
7. Photo 4 of 21

6. View of southeast elevation, facing
7. Photo 5 of 21

6. Interior view of general store, facing south
7. Photo 6 of 21

6. Interior view of main general store counter, facing east
7. Photo 7 of 21

6. Interior view of mail area and general store, facing north
7. Photo 8 of 21

6. Interior view of main entrance, facing west
7. Photo 9 of 21

6. Interior view of fireplace, facing northwest
7. Photo 10 of 21

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 2 Richloam General Store and Post Office
Hernando County, Florida

4. 2016

6. Detail view of phone message writing on wall

7. Photo 11 of 21

4. 2016

6. Detail view of phone message writing on wall

7. Photo 12 of 19

4. 2016

6. Detail view of personal note on wall

7. Photo 13 of 21

4. 2016

6. Detail view of shipping stamp stenciled on wall

7. Photo 14 of 21

4. 2016

6. Detail view of initials of former proprietor Elbert Boyett carved into wood

7. Photo 15 of 21

6. Interior view of storage room and rear entrance door, facing east

7. Photo 16 of 21

6. Interior view of rear storage room, facing west

7. Photo 17 of 21

4. June 2017

6. View of non-contributing mobile home, facing

7. Photo 18 of 21

4. June 2017

6. View of non-contributing wood fence, facing

7. Photo 19 of 21

3. Unknown photographer

4. circa 1936

6. Historic aerial view of Richloam, with general store in foreground

7. Photo 20 of 21

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 3 Richloam General Store and Post Office
Hernando County, Florida

3. Unknown photographer
4. Circa 1930
6. Historic image of motorists gathered in front of general store
7. Photo 21 of 21

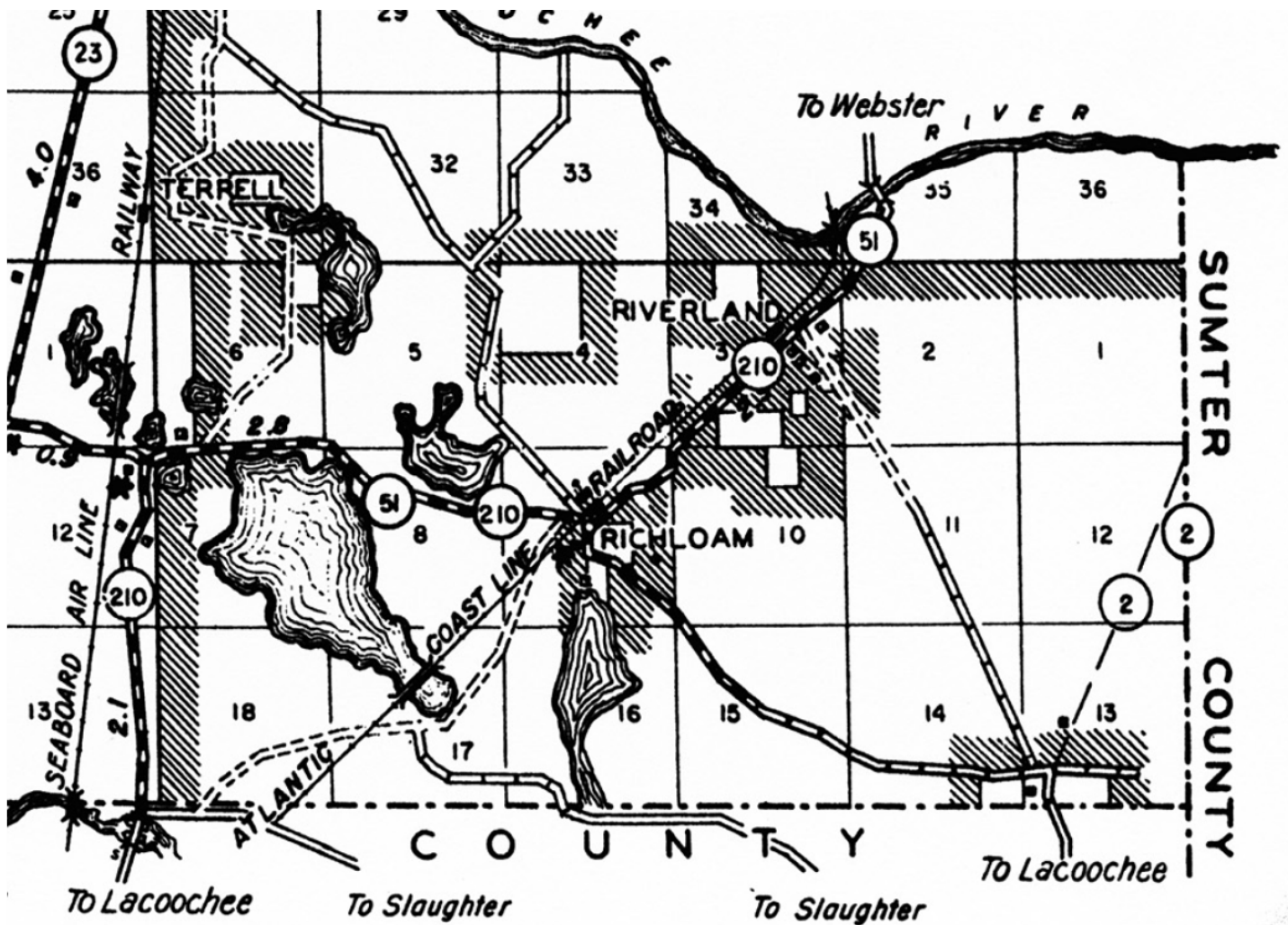
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Figures Page 1

Richloam General Store and Post Office
Hernando County, Florida

Figure 1:



Map of East Hernando County, dated 1936, showing Richloam and Riverland in relation to each other (source: Florida State Road Department, <http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/pages/700/f757/f757.htm>)

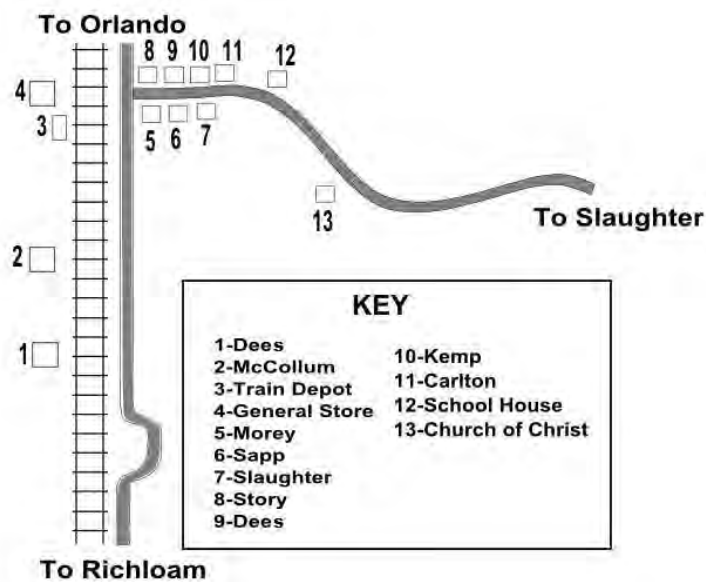
United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Figures Page 2

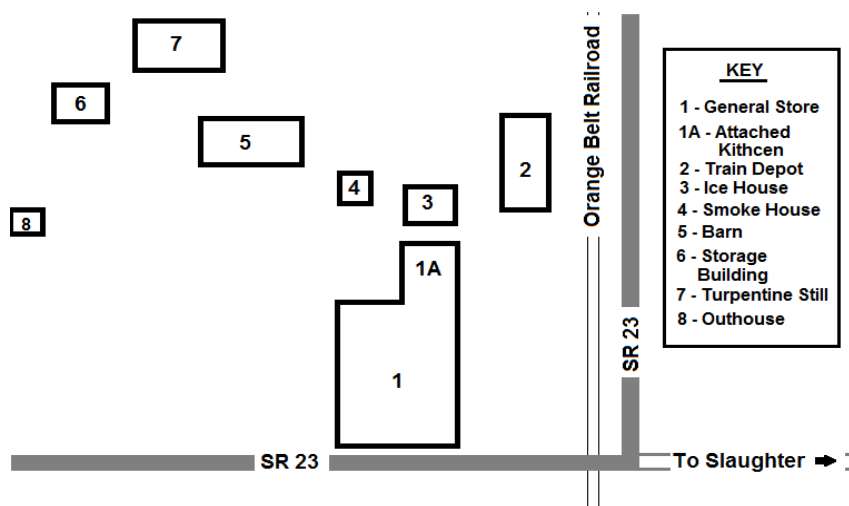
Richloam General Store and Post Office
Hernando County, Florida

Figure 2:



Map of Riverland, circa 1920 (Source: Burkes, "History of Richloam," p. 75)

Figure 3:



Map of Richloam General Store Property, circa 1930 (Source: Burkes, "History of Richloam," p. 57)

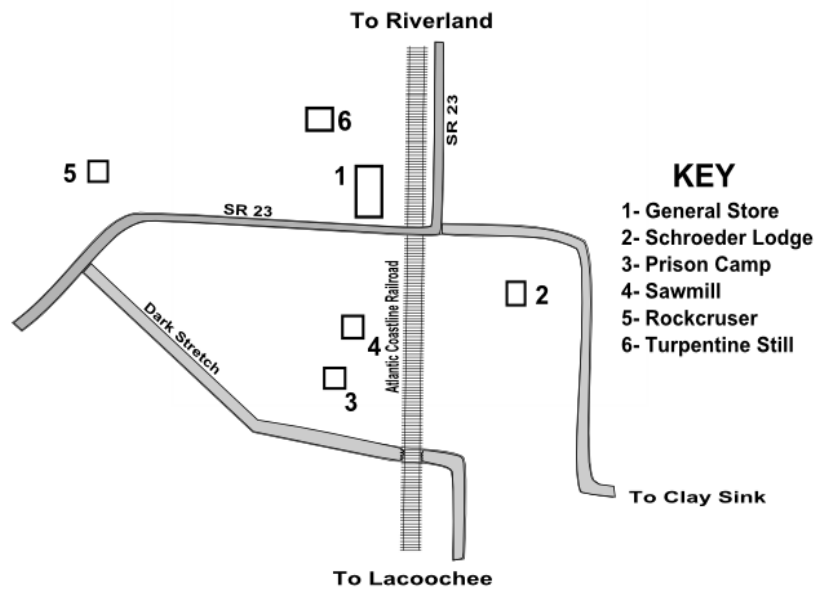
United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Figures Page 3

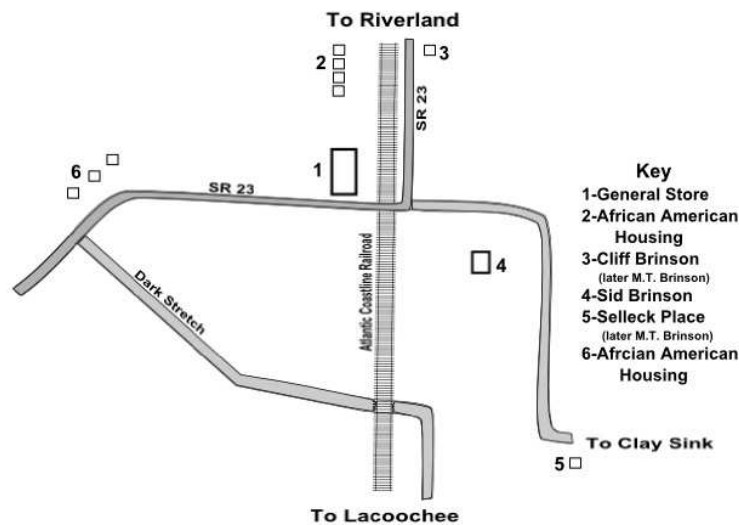
Richloam General Store and Post Office
Hernando County, Florida

Figure 4:



Map of Businesses in Richloam, circa 1930 (Source: Burkes, "History of Richloam," p. 46)

Figure 5:



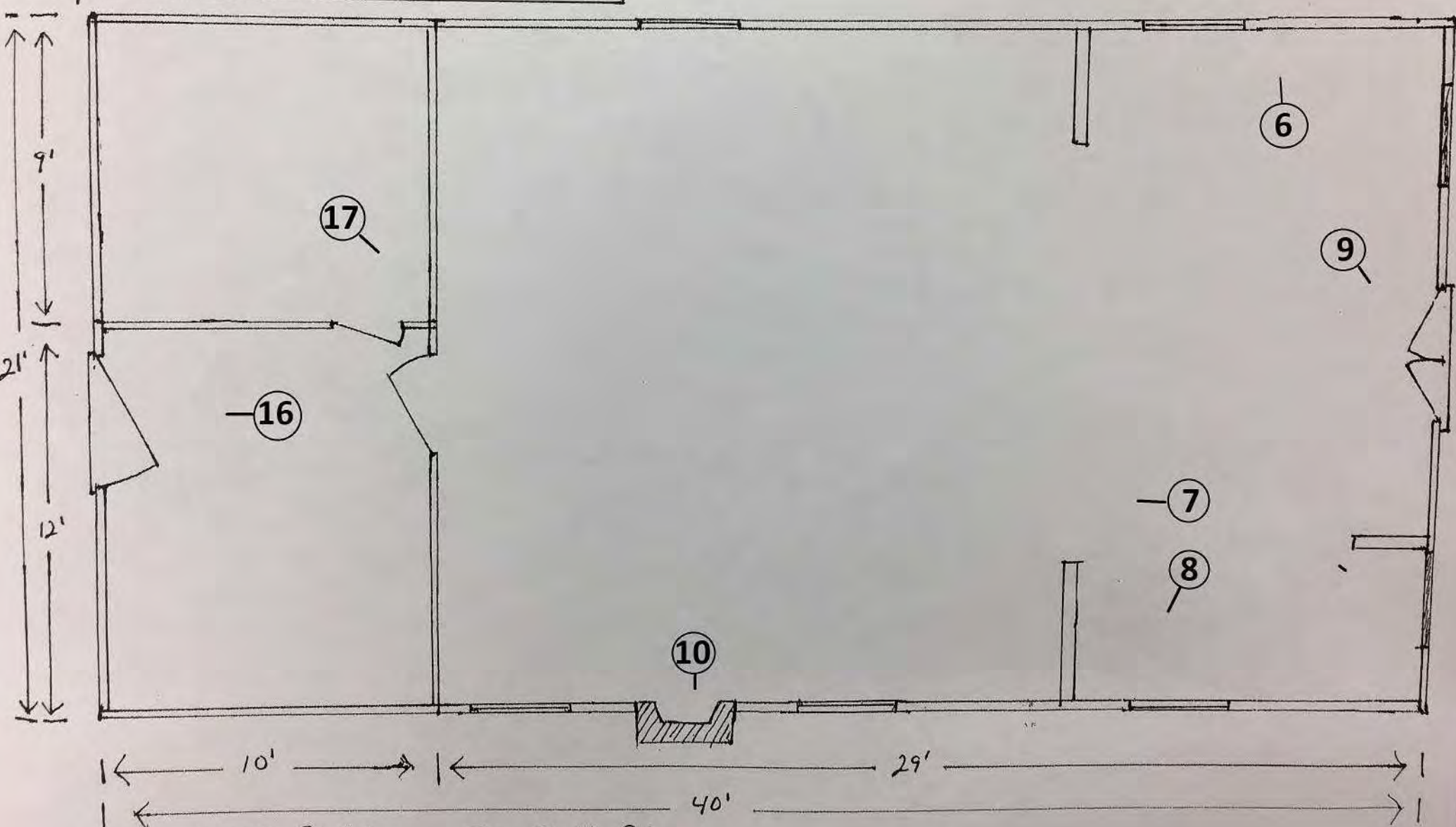
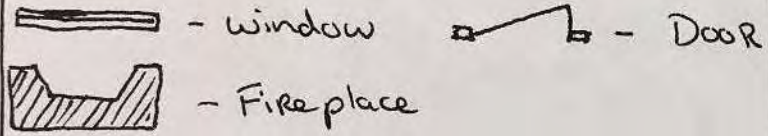
Map of Residences in Richloam, circa 1930 (Source: Burkes, "History of Richloam," p. 40)

Richloam General Store and Post Office
Hernando County, Florida

Note: Not to Scale



MAIN KEY



38219 Richloam Clay Sink Rd.

Richloam Post Office and General Store Exterior Photo Key

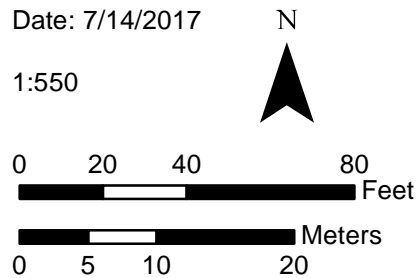
38219 Richloam Clay Sink Road
Webster, Hernando Co., FL

UTM:
17R 391053 3153274

Datum: WGS84

Date: 7/14/2017

1:550



Basemap Source: Source: Esri,
DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar
Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS,
USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping,
Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo,
and the GIS User Community




Richloom General Store and Post Office

38219 Richloom Clay Sink Road
Webster, Hernando Co., FL

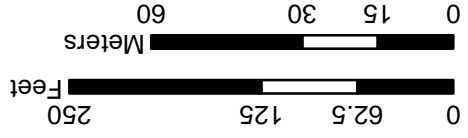
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17R 391053 3153274
Datum: WGS84

Legend

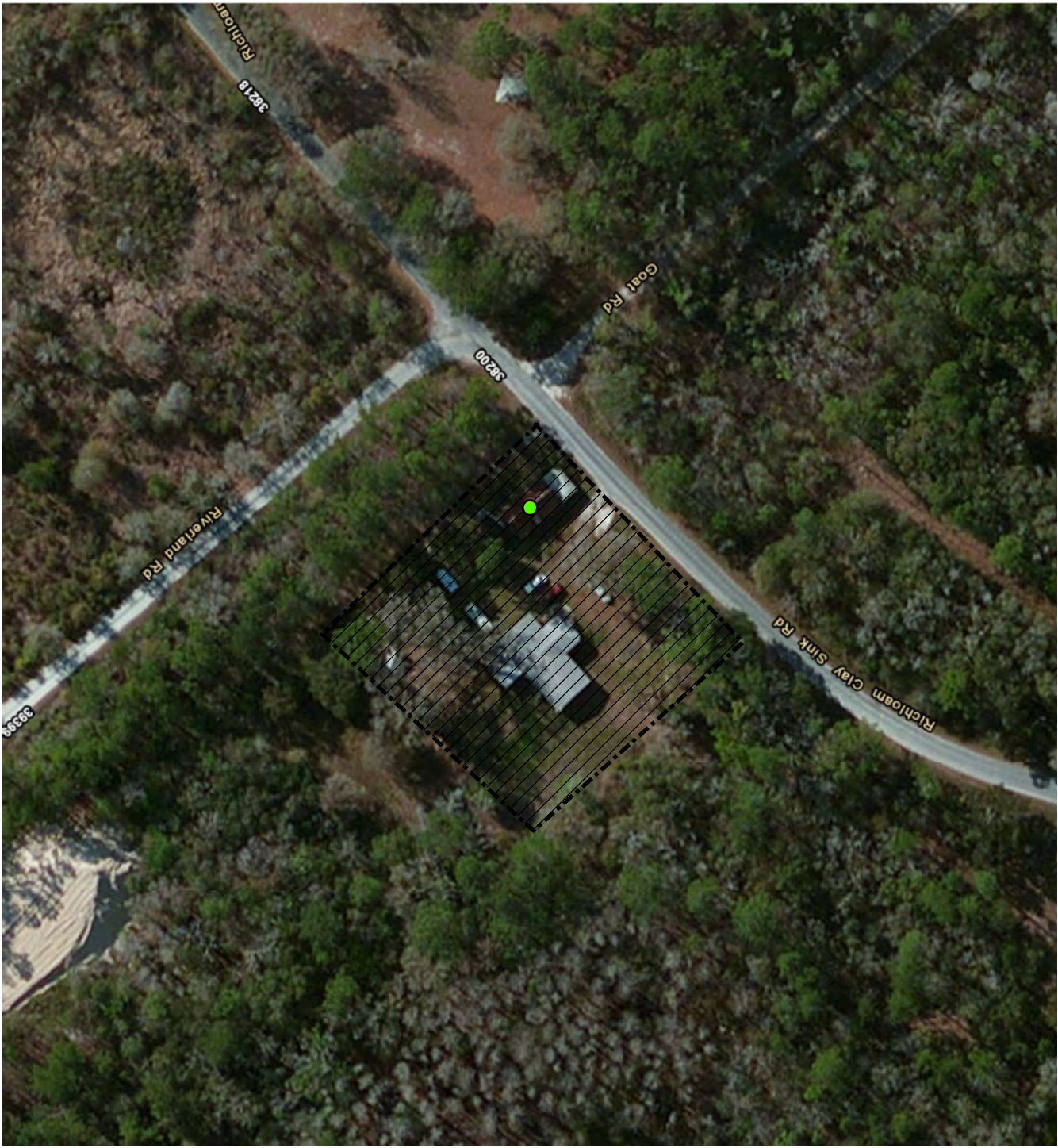
 Proposed National Register Boundary

Date: 6/23/2017

1:1,500



Basemap Source: Source: Esri,
DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar
Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS,
USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping,
AerGRID, IGN, IGP, swisstopo,
and the GIS User Community




Richloam General Store and Post Office

38219 Richloam Clay Sink Road
Webster, Hernando Co., FL

UTM:
17R 391053 3153274

Datum: WGS84

Legend

 Proposed National Register Boundary

Date: 7/11/2017

1:12,000



0 500 1,000 2,000
Feet

0 125 250 500
Meters

Basemap Source: Source: Esri,
DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar
Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS,
USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping,
Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo,
and the GIS User Community





38219

RICHLOAM

Richloam
38219
Richloam
38219
Richloam
38219









SON & DOUGHTY
GENERAL MERCHANDISE



OLD HICKORY
ICE PICKS
\$10

HONEY
FOR SALE



LIMIT 5
OF
1¢ CANDY



BE BACK
IN
5 MINS



STAMPS
FOR SALE
HERE

POST OFFICE
RICHLOAM M. FLA



CUSTOM DECALS



OLD FASHIONED
ICE

FREE TAKE ONE

LIMIT 5
OF
1lb CANDY



VERGARA

Yoo-Hoo
CHOCOLATE DRINK
BIG MURRY BOOST!

THERMACELL
MOSQUITO PROTECTION ZONE

FREE COMICS
- FORTUNES

PLANTERS
PEANUTS
50¢  BAG
SOLD HERE

CLOS

50¢



Jan 1871

3:54 P.M. 2nd

L.P. Brown &
Wm. T. Brown
highest credit
payment received

Commercial Credit

Freeman

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Nine Palm Harbor

44° PM

Lea R Wright

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whether passed
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~~Three Long Rings~~

Richardson

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1883

Saturday

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SIDNEY BRINSON 71101
ACL. RICHLOAN FLA



HERTZEL











LU-FLA-3-3



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 8/31/2017 Date of Pending List: 9/22/2017 Date of 16th Day: 10/10/2017 Date of 45th Day: 10/16/2017 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 10/12/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : **Yes**

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

20 NORTH MAIN STREET ♦ ROOM 263 ♦ BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34601
P 352.754.4002 ♦ F 352.754.4477 ♦ W www.HernandoCounty.us

August 8, 2017

Ruben A. Acosta, Survey & Registration Supervisor
Bureau of Historic Preservation
Florida Department of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: Richloam General Store, 38219 Richloam Clay Sink Road, Webster, Hernando County

Dear Mr. Acosta:

In response to your letter dated July 7, 2017, the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners would like to formally comment on the above-referenced property proposed for nomination for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The property owner, Mr. Eric Burkes, is a third-generation resident whose family settled the area around the turn of the last century in 1915, at a time when this was just a small lumber town. His ancestors served as local postmaster and general store owner at the referenced property.

The Richloam General Store served as the store, post office and train depot for the community of Richloam until 1936. Richloam Clay Sink Road was known as State Road 23 and was the main east/west artery through central Florida until the State Road 50 corridor was constructed. Mr. Burke authored a book which outlines in detail the history of this region and the role that this location played.

The building itself is made of metal siding that was installed in the early 1920s. Several items within the restored building have been relocated and repurposed back into the store. The store is currently open to the public and operable in its 1920's charm. Mr. Burkes has restored, at his own expense, this piece of history to both honor his family legacy and to remind all residents and visitors of a time gone by. Attached for your reference are two photographs depicting before and after appearance of the site.

On behalf of the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners, please accept this letter in support of the above-referenced property, Richloam General Store, for nomination for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Should you have any questions, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne Dukes".

Wayne Dukes, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Hernando County, Florida


WD:trd

Attachments

38219 Richloam Clay Sink Rd., Webster FL

Bldg seeking Historical Status

Legend

 38219 Richloam Clay Sink Rd



Google earth

© 2017 Google



7.35 ft



1357686 03/21/2017



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State



August 30, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief,
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Richloam General Store and Post Office (FMSF#: 8HE00805), in Hernando 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) 245-6364 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ruben A. Acosta in black ink.

Ruben A. Acosta
Supervisor, Survey & Registration
Bureau of Historic Preservation

RAA/raa

Enclosures

DANIEL WEBSTER
11TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0911

100001734

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1210 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-1002
(202) 225-6559 (FAX)

MINNEOLA OFFICE:
800 NORTH US HIGHWAY 27
MINNEOLA, FL 34715
(352) 241-9220
(352) 241-9181 (FAX)



August 31, 2017

Mr. Paul Loether
National Register Chief
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

I write in support of the nomination of the Richloam General Store in Webster, FL for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. This building served the Richloam community in Hernando County, Florida, during the 1920's and 1930's.

The Richloam General Store was originally constructed by Sidney Brinson in 1920 to serve as both a post office and grocery store. After a fire in 1928, it was rebuilt the same year and continued to serve the Richloam community until 1936. The Richloam General Store is the oldest historical building in the Richloam area and recently underwent extensive restoration which included rebuilding the wooden frame and maintaining the original 1928 metal structure.

In keeping with the goals of the National Park Service, the listing of the Richloam General Store on the National Register of Historic Places would preserve and promote Florida's rich heritage. As their representative in Congress, it is my pleasure to join the Richloam General Store in asking you to give full and fair consideration of their application for placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Webster".

Daniel Webster
Member of Congress