National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

09

NATION/

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 an 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	Townsend Build	ing				· ·		
other names/site number	Old Drugstore/	8Un213						
2. Location								
street & number	410 West Main	Street				n/a	_ 🗆 not fo	or publication
city or town	Lake Butler					n/a	□ vi	cinity
stateFlorida	codeFL_	_ county _	Unio	n		code 12	5 zip co	de 32054
3. State/Federal Agency	Certification							
Signature of certifying offi Florida Dept. State of Federal agency a In my opinion, the proper comments.)	of State, Divis	ion of H	istorio	cal Reso	urces			dditional
Signature of certifying offi	cial/Title		Date					į
State or Federal agency a	and bureau							
4. National Park Service	Certification	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						
I hereby certify that the property entered in the National See continuation determined eligible for the National Register	Register. n sheet.			the Keeper		red in onal Re	the gister	Date of Action
☐ See continuation ☐ determined not eligible f National Register. ☐ removed from the Nation Register.	or the							
other, (explain:)								

Name of Property		County and State	
5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)	
□ private□ public-local□ public-State□ public-Federal	□ building(s)□ district□ site□ structure□ object	Contributing Noncontributing buildi sites struct object Total	tures ts
Name of related multiple p (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources previously lin the National Register	isted
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation walls	
		roof	
		other	

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

Townsend	Building
Name of Prope	
- AL :	

Union	County,	Florida
County and	State	

5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Re (Do not include pro	sources within Propert eviously listed resources in the	y e count.)
☑ private	☑ building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
☐ public-local☐ public-State	☐ district	11	0	buildings
□ public-State □ public-Federal	☐ site ☐ structure	0	0	sites
·	☐ object	0	0	structures
		0	0	objects
		1	0	Total
Name of related multiple p (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of cor in the National	ntributing resources pro Register	eviously listed
n/a		0		
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Function (Enter categories from		
Commerce/Trade: Spec	cialty Store	Vacant/Not i	n use	
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from	instructions)	
Italian Renaissance		foundationBr	ick	
Other: Masonry Verna	cular		rick	
		roof As	phalt	
		1001	od	
		outer	etal	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

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

Please see continuation sheet.

CFR 67) 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 # _____

- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- □ Local government
- □ University
- □ Other

Name of repository:

Bureau of Historic Preservation

Townsend Building	Union County, Florida
Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 7 3 7 0 5 4 0 3 3 2 1 8 6 0 Northing 2 1	Zone Easting Northing 4 See continuation sheet
Verbai 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 <u>Charles Green</u> , Jr./ Barbara E. Mattick	, Historic Sites Specialist
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation	date <u>August 27, 1992</u>
street & number R.A. Gray, 500 S. Bronough Street	
city or townTallahassee	_ state <u>Florida</u> 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 pr	operty's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having	g large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the pro-	operty.
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 Charles L. Green, Jr.	
street & number 110 N.W. 3rd Avenue	telephone (904) 496-2310
city or town <u>Lake Butler</u>	state Florida zip code 32054
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for	applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate

Union County, Florida

properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

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

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NATIONAL REGISTER

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SUMMARY

The Townsend Building, located at 410 West Main Street in Lake Butler, Union County, Florida, is a c1900, two story, flat roofed, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Although masonry vernacular, it exhibits strong influences of the Italian Renaissance Style. Notable features include its original storefront and decorative pressed metal cornice. Fenestration is generally single, small, round arched windows at the first story, and paired, 1/1, double hung sash windows with arches at the second story. The first floor consists of one large room, while the second floor has a side hall and six interconnecting offices. The interior has suffered significant fire damage, but remains sufficiently intact to allow restoration.

SETTING

The Townsend Building is located on the southwest corner of 4th Avenue (formerly Dekle Street) and State Road 100 (also called Main Street), the main highway through the small, rural community of Lake Butler (Photo 1). The building was originally part of a six building complex which extended over now vacant adjacent lots. The buildings were embraced by a canopy which wrapped around the ends of the complex (See photocopies of historic photographs). The attached buildings were torn down in the early 1950s, leaving only the corner building as a free standing building. Once part of a busy downtown area, the building now stands at the edge of the town's commercial development.

There is evidence that all six buildings may not have been built at the same time. In a historic photograph, the two story building to the west appears to have cornice work on the interior (east) side and there is no access from the second story to the canopy. These features, or the lack thereof, imply that the building may have been constructed prior to the one at the corner, which has no cornice work on the interior (west) side and has a door to the canopy at the second story (See photocopies of historic photographs).

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PRESENT APPEARANCE

Exterior

The main facade (north elevation), which faces directly onto West Main Street, has the most architectural detail (Photo 4). The <u>first story</u> has a centrally located, recessed, double door entrance flanked by obliquely placed plate glass display windows (Photos 3 & 4). Transoms are located above the door and each entryway window, and kick panels are located at the base of all plate glass windows. Decorative iron posts flank the entryway. Wood siding has been applied around the storefront area. A marquee separates the first and second stories.

The second story of the main elevation is distinguished by Italian Renaissance fenestration (Photo 2 & 5). center of the facade is a door with an arched transom. door originally provided access to the canopy which embraced the original six building complex. The door is flanked by paired, arched, 1/1, double hung sash windows. have hoods with corbelled imposts. The roof line is distinguished by a pressed metal cornice. At each end of the cornice is a large, fluted bracket accented by a fourpetalled flower design on its face, and topped with a finial. Between the end brackets are smaller, evenly spaced brackets. Below each small bracket is a small patera. metal cornice work is applied to only the main facade and the east side of the building. The brick of the main facade is buff colored, contrasting the red brick of the rest of the building. The buff brick extends into the east and west elevations, giving the suggestion of quoins (Photo 5).

The fenestration of the <u>east and west elevations</u> is identical at the second story level, each elevation having six paired windows with segmental arches. Most of the glazing is missing, but traces of 2/2, double hung sash remain in place. The first story of the east elevation has two arched entries at the south end (Photos 6 & 7), four small arched windows in the center, and a boarded, arched window at the north end. The first story of the west elevation has four similar arched windows over two small square windows, and two tall, arched openings at the south

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end. The southernmost is obscured by a nonhistoric addition at the rear of the building.

The <u>rear (south) elevation</u> has two rectangular single windows with segmental arches at the second story (Photo 6). A one story, flat roofed, cement block addition is attached at the first story level. It abuts the original building and is accessed from the old building through an original rear doorway.

Interior

The first floor consists of one large, open space (Photo 8) with a straight-flight stair to the second floor on the south wall (Photo 9). The top of the stairway enters a hallway which runs along the west side of the second floor The hallway provides direct access to three (Photo 10). offices east of the hall. The southernmost office is accessed through one of the interior offices. north end of the hall accesses an office in the northwest corner of the building (Photo 11). Access to a northeast corner office is gained through the northwest office (See Floor Plan). Interior finishes include wooden floors and ceilings. The load bearing, brick, exterior walls are finished with wainscoting and plaster, and the interior walls are of beaded siding.

Alterations

The major alteration to the building occurred in the early 1950s when the companion buildings to the west were torn down and a canopy, supported by bracketed posts, which embraced the six buildings was removed. A marquee was added to the front of the remaining Townsend Building and wood siding was applied to the storefront area. A one story, insulated room was attached to the rear of the building in 1974. Access from the old building was provided through existing doors at the rear of the original building. A fire in 1983 caused considerable damage to the building, but the floor plan is still intact, and enough original features remain that the building can be easily restored.

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SUMMARY

The Townsend Building is significant under Criterion A in the area of Commerce as the most distinctive commercial building which remains from the turn of the century, the period when Lake Butler was a booming agricultural center. It is also significant under Criterion C as one of the most elaborate commercial buildings that remains from that period. Although damaged by fire, it retains significant architectural features which reflect the two-part block commercial design which was popular at the time, and Italian Renaissance Style.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Lake Butler and Union County, 1859-1936

When Lake Butler was established in 1859, it was in what was then Bradford County. Great rivalry existed between the communities of Lake Butler and Starke as to which would be the county seat, and the official designation exchanged places between them four times. The question was not settled until 1921 when Union County was created from the old Bradford County, and Lake Butler was designated as the seat of government for the new county (Union County: A Collection of Historical Photographs, p. 3).

Throughout its history Lake Butler has been an agricultural community. In 1886, its population of 200, which produced Sea Island cotton, oranges, sugar, and syrup, supported four general stores, one school, two hotels, three churches, and two water powered saw and grist mills (Fla. State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1886-7).

By the decade of the 1910s, Lake Butler had increased in population to 850 and enjoyed the services of both the Georgia, Savannah and Florida Railroad and the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. Cotton was the staple crop. There were four churches, a bank, and three hotels (R.L. Polk, 1911-1912). In 1918, the population remained at 850, but there were then two banks, one of which was the Farmers and Dealers Bank (R.L. Polk, 1918). By 1925, even though Lake Butler was the county seat of the new Union County, the population was only 900. Public services increased, however, with the establishment of a high school, the

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installation of municipal electric lights, and the construction of ice and cold storage facilities (R.L. Polk, 1925). The community had reached a pre-World War II peak in the 1920s, for the Federal Writers' Project reported a population decrease to 886 in 1936. Lake Butler, with a current population of 2,140, remains a small town with an economy based on agriculture and services to nearby state prison facilities.

James Walter Townsend

J.W. Townsend was born in Liberty County, Georgia, in February 1864. He and his older brother, William Columbus, moved to Florida in 1889, bought large tracts of land, and established timber and naval stores operations at Salt Springs and Orange Springs. In 1895, they settled permanently in Lake Butler. The two brothers, in partnership, built many brick buildings in the western part of the community until Columbus Townsend retired in 1907. Among their investments were the Farmers and Dealers Bank and the Townsend Buildings on Main Street. J.W. Townsend was the president of the Farmers and Dealers Bank in the 1910s and 1920s (Dovell, IV, 941-942; History of Union County, 9-10; Makers of America, 425.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

The building now at 410 W. Main Street was originally part of a commercial complex known as the Townsend Buildings, constructed c1900 by Columbus and J.W. Townsend. It consisted of six one or two story attached buildings with addresses running from 140 to 145 Main Street (Sanborn Maps, 1913 and 1920). A canopy covered the walk all along the main elevation on Main Street. Over the years, various businesses or concerns occupied the buildings, including general stores, an undertaker, restaurants, and a grocery store. In 1920, according to Sanborn insurance maps, the second floor of the building at 142 served as the City Council Room. All but the building at the corner of Dekle (now 4th Avenue) and Main Street were torn down in the 1950s.

The building at 145, at the corner and now designated as 410, is all that remains of the Townsend Buildings. This particular unit served primarily as a drug store. Its

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second floor was used temporarily for courthouse offices and court rooms after Union County was created in 1921. In more recent years, the building was used as a barbecue restaurant. It has remained vacant, however, since 1983 when a fire caused extensive damage.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Two-Part Block Commercial Buildings

The two-part block was one of the most common commercial designs used in small cities and towns in the United States between 1850 and 1950. It is characterized by a horizontal division into two distinct zones which correspond to particular uses of the interior spaces of the building. The lower zone was usually used for retail activities and contained large plate glass display windows, while the upper zone corresponded to interior spaces used for offices or apartments. At the lower, storefront area, shop windows were often flanked by pilasters or iron work which framed the area used for displaying merchandise. Horizontal or kick panels often framed the bases of the display windows. The business entry was frequently recessed and framed by two obliquely placed windows on each side, and by a transom above. Metal or wood canopies or canvas awnings were often used over commercial storefronts, providing space for advertising and shelter for shoppers and street displays of merchandise.

Italian Renaissance Style

The Italian Renaissance Style, a revival style of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, is characterized by masonry buildings with flat roofs, overhanging, boxed eaves with decorative brackets, quoins, tall arched windows with hoods, and molded cornices.

CONCLUSION

The Townsend Building is significant as the best representative of the days when Lake Butler prospered as a cotton and naval stores trading center. The architectural detail, including its original storefront, arched windows, and metal cornice work set it apart from the only other turn of the century store that remains in Lake Butler, the

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comparatively plain Fowler Brothers Building at 190 West Main Street (Photo 12). Although the Farmers and Dealers Bank remains in operation on its original site across the street from the Townsend Building, it was extensively altered in 1962.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1. Townsend Building, 410 West Main Street, Lake Butler
- 2. Union County, Florida
- 3. Barbara Mattick
- 4. June 1992
- 5. Bureau of Historic Preservation, Tallahassee, Florida
- 6. North and east elevations, camera facing southwest
- 7. 1

Items 1-5 are the same for photos 1-11.

- 6. North and west elevations, camera facing southeast
- 7. 2
- 6. Close-up of main (north) elevation, first story, camera facing south
- 7. 3
- Close-up of main (north) entrance, camera facing southeast
- 7. 4
- 6. Metal cornice, camera facing southwest
- 7. 5
- 6. East elevation, camera facing northwest
- 7. 6
- 6. Entrance on east elevation, camera facing southwest
- 7. 7
- 6. Interior of first floor, camera facing south
- 7. 8
- 6. Interior staircase, camera facing west
- 7. 9
- 6. Second floor hallway, camera facing north
- 7. 10
- Second floor interior, northwest corner, camera facing northwest
- 7. 11

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- 1. Fowler Building, 190 West Main Street, Lake Butler
- 2. Union County, Florida
- 3. Barbara Mattick
- 4. June 1992
- 5. Bureau of Historic Preservation, Tallahassee, Florida
- East and north (main) elevations, camera facing southwest
- 7. 12

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- Sanborn Company Fire Insurance Maps, Lake Butler, 1913 and 1920.
- U.S. Census. Population Schedule, Union County, 1910.
- "William Columbus Townsend" and "James Walter Townsend," in Dovell, Junius E., F<u>lorida, Historic, Dramatic</u>

 <u>Contemporary</u>, Vol. IV. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1952.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 21 and 0.6 feet N on Main Street and 2.95 feet W over on Lot 20 on North Line. On South Building Line, Building is 3.0 feet W on Lot 20 MCKINNEYS ADDITION, as recorded in Plat Book #2 Page #1 and Deed Record Book #4 Page #13 of Union County, Fla. See survey map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary corresponds to the city lots which have historically been associated with the property.

Townsend Block, c1910 Camera facing southwest



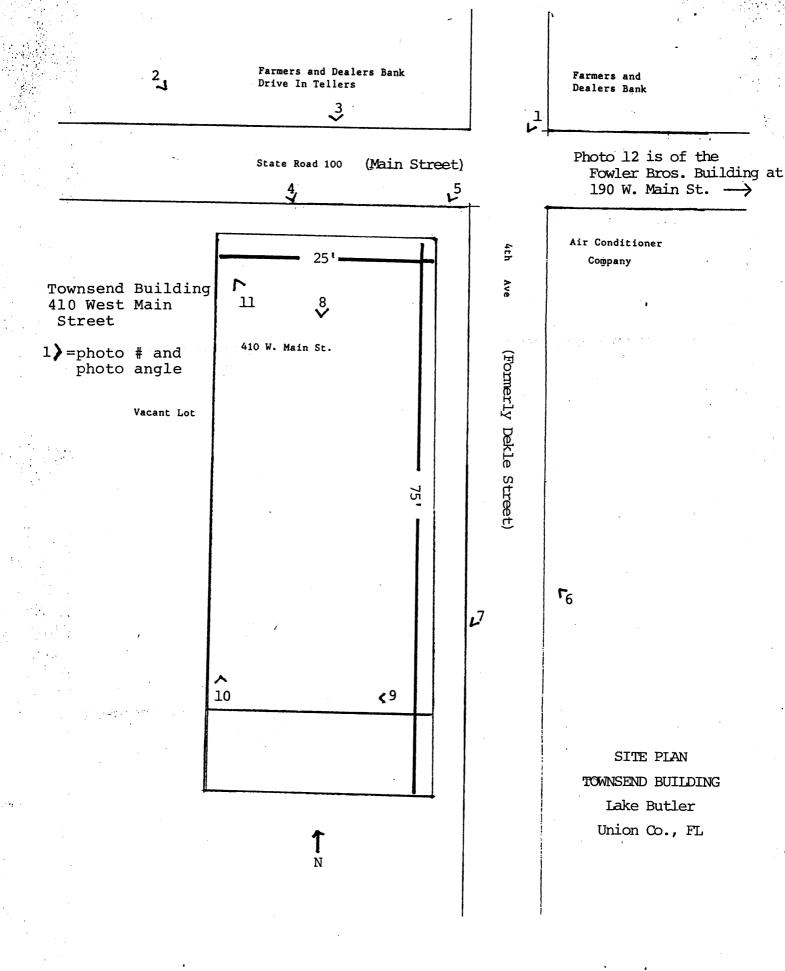
Townsend Building (far left), cl910
410 West Main Street, Lake Butler
Union County, Florida
Photocopy of historic photograph
(Photographic print could not be located for duplication.)

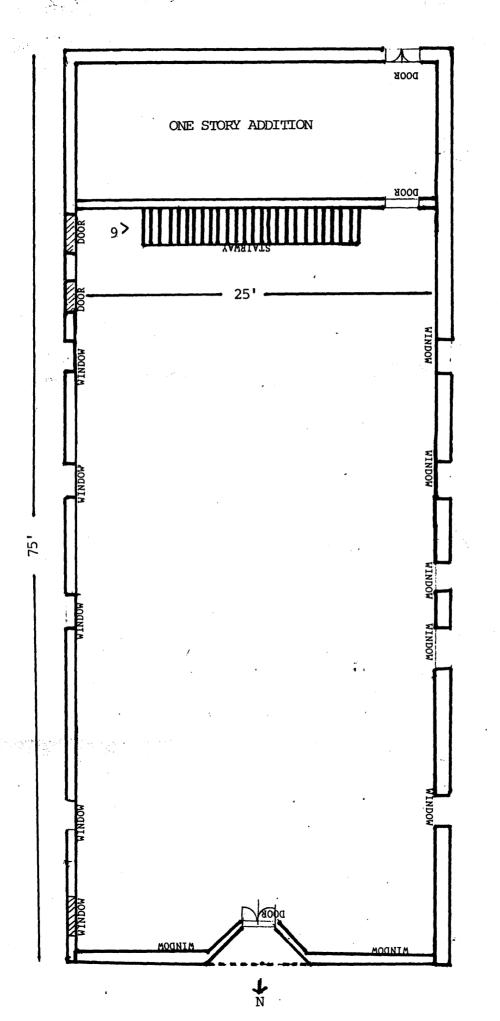
2



Townsend Block in Lake Butler, Date Unknown

Townsend Building (far left)
410 West Main Street, Lake Butler
Union County, Florida
Photocopy of historic photograph, camera facing southeast
(Original print could not be found to duplicate.)



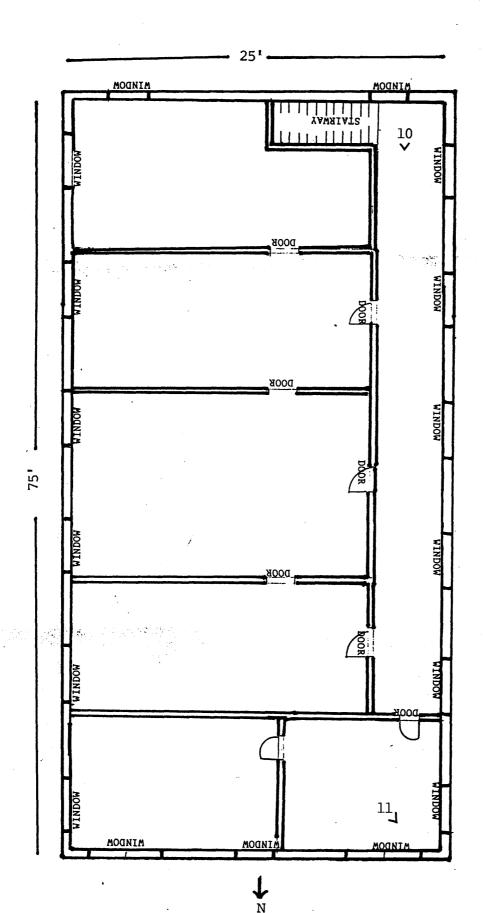


TOWNSEND BUILDING

Lake Butler

Union Co., FL

First Floor



TOWNSEND BUILDING

Lake Butler

Union Co., FL

Second Floor

Survey Of Lots 19,20 + ZIM CHINN ey's Addition To Town Of Lake Butler, Florida.

: Main Street 10' Side will It. Wood Shed cover 2- Story Building is o. 6 feet North on Main Street and 2.55 feet West over on Lot 20 on North Line. On South Building Line, Building is 3.0 feet West on Lot 20. There has been several disputes asto Center Line of Dakle Street. I have run Lots and found corners both East + West of same which check with Spike in Center Line of Dekle Street. Soid spike is 30.0 feet East of North East Corner of Lot 20 Block #4. 4 19 20 Description

Lot19,20+21 Block #4 Mc Kinneys Iddition To Loke Butler, Fla. os recorded in Plat Book #2 Page "I and Deed Record Book "4 Page"13 of Union County. Flo.

Scale l'Inch = 20' feet. Surveyed for Mrs. W.C Collins

Note.

Hive used this spike 75 basis for this survey

/Union County 3 /Union County | Thereby coertify that I have state of Florida | surveyed above Wescribed Lots in Block & McKinneys Addition To Lake Butler, Fla. State of Florida is correct. Witness my hand and seal this 15th day of llugust - 1950. Henry a authory. Relief

