

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 NATIONAL REGISTER INSTRUCTIONS.** 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. **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE** 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 Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood

other names/site number The New England Colony at Belleview/MR2700

2. Location

street & number SEE LIST ATTACHED N/A not for publication

city or town Belleview N/A vicinity

state Florida code FL county Marion code 083 zip code 34420

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.)

[Signature] 7/15/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State of 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.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper
Edson H. Beall

Date of Action
8/20/99

Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood
Name of Property

Marion, Florida
County and State

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	
44	17	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
45	17	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 Dwelling
- Commerce: Hotel/Sanitarium
- Commerce: Mercantile
- Religious: Church
- Agricultural: Animal Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic: Single Dwelling
- Commerce: Apartment Building
- Commerce: Medical Office
- Religious: Church
- Agricultural: Storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Other: Frame Vernacular
- Other: Masonry Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Brick; Concrete
- walls Weatherboard
- Stucco
- roof Fiberglass Shingles
- other Metal
- Stone: Fieldstone

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
Community Planning
Early Settlement

Period of Significance

1884 - 1930

Significant Dates

1884
1900
1930

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown
Unknown

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

#

Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood
Name of Property

Marion, Florida
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Approximately 30 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	3	9	7	3	5	0	3	2	1	5	1	4	0
	Zone	Easting	Northing												
2	1	7	3	9	7	6	4	0	3	2	1	5	3	6	0

3	1	7	3	9	7	8	4	0	3	2	1	5	1	1	0
	Zone	Easting	Northing												
4	1	7	3	9	7	5	8	0	3	2	1	4	8	8	0

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 Joyce E. Cusick, Consultant; Gary V. Goodwin, Historic Preservation Planner

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date July, 1999

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (850) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida 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 See attached list

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town Bellevue state Florida zip code 34420

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.

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

**LAKE LILLIAN HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Bellevue, Marion County, Florida**

SUMMARY

The Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood is the remaining historic part of the 1884 New England Colony and Winter Home at Bellevue, located in the southern part of Marion County. The Town of Bellevue was developed as a winter and health resort around Lake Lillian, and for the purpose of growing citrus trees and vegetables in Marion County. Bellevue was platted by the Marion Land & Improvement Company in 1885. The historic settlement is situated around the banks of Lake Lillian, in portions of SE 1/4 of Section 25, and the NE 1/4 of Section 36, of Township 16 South, Range 22 East, and NW 1/4 of Section 30 and the SW 1/4 of Section 31, of Township 16 South, Range 23 East. The Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood district consists of a concentration of two-story Frame Vernacular residences, a one-story Masonry Vernacular residence, and other historic buildings associated with early settlement dating from 1885 to 1930. These buildings include: The Sanitarium/Lakeview Hotel/Apartments, ca.1884 - 1886; a Victorian frame vernacular hotel; a 1900 Frame Vernacular church; a Frame Vernacular civic center, ca.1912; a barn and various carriage houses/garages and storage buildings. The greenspace surrounding Lake Lillian, the focal point of the district, is counted as a site. Non-contributing buildings in the district include; a one-story masonry residence ca.1930; a two-story Frame Vernacular residence, built in 1998; eight, one-story concrete block residences, constructed from 1949 - 1998, and a ca.1908 altered native limestone library.

SETTING

The highest land in the Lake Lillian area is about 75 feet above sea level at the Grotto of Lake Lillian Park. The live oak hammocks and sandy soil of the park gradually slope downward and east towards Lake Lillian. The Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood district lies on slightly rolling hills with sandy soil and surrounds Lake Lillian and the park area. Originally a wooded area, the large, long leaf, yellow pines were cut down in 1884 to make way for the buildings of The Town of Bellevue and orange trees. Other landscape features include huge oaks and magnolias, planted by early settlers, which line the roadways, providing a thick canopy shading and uniting the neighborhood roads and buildings. Numerous varieties of palms and sweet bay trees (wild magnolias) are among the remaining original trees. In the mid 1880s, citrus trees, especially orange, were planted over some of the original plat by the developers and the early settlers, who sometimes purchased adjoining lots for planting small groves. Large commercial groves surrounded the town outside the platted Town of Bellevue. Devastated in the big freeze of 1894/95, the groves were replanted and flourished until the freeze of 1985 destroyed most of them. Apple and pear trees, white dogwood, azaleas and tall, colorful camellias, crepe myrtle and various landscape plants and succulents are also included in the district.

Marion Land & Improvement Company, organized in February of 1884, built a store office and hotel on SE Front Road. On August 18, 1885, the company filed the first plat for the Town of Bellevue. This plat

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shows the lots, blocks and roads west of the Florida Railroad and Navigation Company Line. In 1882, the line extended diagonally southeasterly through the SW 1/4 of Section 30 and the NW 1/4 of Section 31 in Township 16, Range 23. The original plat of the Town of Bellevue included approximately one square mile of land located in Township 16 S, including the SE 1/4 of Section 25, and the NE 1/4 of Section 36, both in Range 22 East, and the SW 1/4 of Section 30, and the NW 1/4 of Section 31, in Range 23 East. Through agent James Foss, the Marion Land & Improvement Company purchased land from local owners David E. Stroble (the SE 1/4 of Section 25), John F. Pelot (the SW 1/4 of Section 30 and the NW 1/4 of Section 31), and William H. Mason, who by this time owned the NE 1/4 of Section 36. The 1885 plat includes most of the original town. The town was laid out on a grid that surrounds Lake Lillian and runs perpendicular to the railroad tracks.

SE Lake Lillian Circle surrounds Lake Lillian. On the 1885 plat it was named Lake Lillian Trace. Many of the roads running northeast/southwest on the 1885 plat were named for the developers or other notable people in the town. The roads in the district include Earp Avenue (now SE Earp Road); Robinson Avenue (SE Robinson Road), named for the President of Marion Land & Improvement Co.; Stetson Avenue (SE Stetson Road); and Foss Avenue (SE Foss Road). Foss Avenue west of Lake Lillian Circle was renamed SE 109th Street. Front Street (SE Front Road) ran parallel to the western side of the railroad line. The roads running northwest/southeast were numbered streets. Second Street ran parallel and west of Front Street (Road) and so on. The numbered streets became roads when they were renamed for popular trees including: SE Cypress Road (Second Street), SE Dogwood Road (Third Street), SE Holly Road (Fourth Street), SE Magnolia Road (Fifth Street) and SE Mimosa Road (Sixth Street). The SE designation was added after the historic period.

DESCRIPTION

The configuration of railroad tracks and roads remains as it was originally platted in 1885 (Photo # 1). A clay foot path around the grassy banks of Lake Lillian allows for leisurely strolling just as in the early days of the Town of Bellevue. Covered pavilions, a wooden dock, a playground and small paved parking areas added in 1993 continue the historic use of Lake Lillian for leisure and recreation (Photo # 2). The masonry vernacular Lions Club, built in the mid to late 1950s, various City Public Works buildings and a water tower were also constructed after the historic period which ends in 1930.

Most of the remaining historic buildings appear much as they did in the pioneer days of this early settlement in the Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood within the New England Colony at Bellevue. The narrow two lane dirt roads were paved in the 1950s, except for SE Park Road which remains a single lane sandy road just as it was in 1885. Traveling along SE Robinson Road, with its canopy of huge oak trees, the vista transports one back in time to the 1880s, when Bellevue was an active, bustling community (Photo # 3). Native fieldstone columns, and portions of the early low stone wall, both typical of small New England towns,

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mark the entrance walks to the Sanitarium/Lakeview Hotel/ Apartments, 1884-1886 (Photo # 4), and the James Penfield House, 1885, (Photo # 5). The fieldstone wall and entrance columns are also found across the road in front of The Gale/Abshier/Anderson House, 1918 (Photo # 6). Remains of a much later concrete sidewalk are also found along SE Robinson Road.

Commercial lots were planned along SE Front Road, adjacent to the railroad tracks for easy access of goods and produce by rail to and from northern markets. The commercial blocks include small lots 100 feet deep with an 80 to 85 foot frontage along the railroad tracks and SE Front Road near SE Hames Road. The blocks along SE Robinson Road were planned for civic, commercial and residential use. The greatest concentration of 1880s buildings are located on SE Robinson Road. By 1890, the Sanateria/Lakeview Hotel/Apartments and the residences appeared much as they do today. SE Lake Lillian Circle and SE Earp Road developed in the 1880s as primarily residential streets. Small farms dotted SE Stetson Road, SE 109th Street and SE Foss Road in the 1880s. The remaining historic residences on these roads date from the early 1900s. Lots from SE Front Road maintain the 100 foot depth as far as SE Magnolia Road, then increase to a 140 foot depth. The remaining blocks drawn in various sizes in order to fit around Lake Lillian, were planned for residences with small citrus groves or vegetable gardens. Service alleys ran behind the lots, so that carriages could be stored and deliveries made in the rear. The residential lots around Lake Lillian are within easy walking distance of the railroad and passenger service to other Florida cities and the North. Further west, larger lots and blocks, without alleys, were designed for large groves and truck farming. Both plats included a hotel site overlooking Lake Lillian that was never developed as a hotel.

Residential lots, were usually fenced in the early years, keeping domestic animals in and cattle and hogs from the open range areas that surrounded Bellevue. Families kept their carriage horses, a milk cow, chickens, hogs, etc., as well as small vegetable gardens and fruit trees within their fenced house property. The houses were constructed on various parts of the lots, most of which ranged from 100-140 feet deep. Apparently there were no established setbacks as residences were constructed at various places on the lots. Many of the residences had white picket fences in the front. The oak and magnolia trees, planted along the streets on Arbor Day of 1886 by Bellevue workers, provided shade and privacy. The trees and fences also provided a buffer from the dusty streets.

The Sanitarium/Lakeview Hotel/Apartments is the earliest and most architecturally intact building remaining in the district. The front building was started by Dr. Harvey Knight in 1884 or early in 1885, and appears much as it did when the third building was completed in 1886. Located at 5838 SE Robinson Road and the corner of SE Mimosa Road, the twenty-two room health spa/hotel is a Victorian frame vernacular complex of three connected buildings. All three buildings have modified hip roofs with metal surfaces. A tower and bay elements enhance the more decorative front building with half timbering and decorative shingles. The two-story

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front elevation has decorative board and batten vertical siding across the front and weatherboard siding. The two story second/middle building and three story third building have weatherboard siding (Photo # 4).

By 1885 residential development was located along SE Earp Road, SE Robinson Road and SE Lake Lillian Circle. Much of this area has remained intact with a concentration of Victorian frame vernacular houses. The mid 1880s buildings were constructed of hard, yellow pine timber, which was readily available and needed to be cleared from the woods that covered the community. Cedar shake shingles or metal were used as surface roofing material along with shiplap or beveled (weatherboard) wood siding. Many of the historical houses retain these materials even when modern materials have been installed over the original. Gingerbread and decorative shingles adorn the 1880s houses. Folk Victorian frame vernacular styles from the post railroad era predominate in the residences built in Bellevue during the 1880s. Several examples of frame vernacular, residential architecture in the Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood reveal a prevalence of styles typical of New England towns in the late nineteenth century. They include: gable front and wing or the L shape; more elaborate cross gabled roofs; and gable front cottages. Side gabled I-houses and front gabled cottages are also found in the Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood district. Some of the mid 1880s houses have steep "snow" roofs characteristic of homes in the North. Nearly all the early residences have full width or cross front open porches with lathe turned posts and railings. Many have gingerbread bargeboards, vergeboards or decorative cross bracing at the peak of the front gable end and decorative shingles and detailing on the gable ends, rafter and porch brackets along with lathe turned columns or posts and spindlework railings.

The gable front and wing style is exhibited in the earliest remaining residence, The Charles Babb/Bairstow House, 1885, (Photo # 7) 5916 SE Earp Road. The Gale/Davenport/Abshier House, (ca.1885), 5925 SE Robinson Road, has decorative cross bracing in the front gable end overlooking Lake Lillian. The Wilkinson/Benedict House ca.1890, (Photo # 8), 5931 SE Robinson Road, is another example and has a steep pitch roof. The Dridley House, ca.1886, (Photo # 9), 6005 SE Robinson Road exhibits a vergeboard in the front gable end and a center gable on the porch with another gingerbread vergeboard. Decorative gingerbread spindlework railings and lathe turned posts on the porch also enhance the Folk Victorian Dridley House along with a white picket fence in front. A later example of the gable front and wing or L style is the Dr. Dent/Burton House, (ca.1818), 5820 SE Lake Lillian Circle. Decorative shingles adorn the gable ends of this house, which overlooks Lake Lillian.

The more elaborate cross gabled roof styles usually have wrap around porches across the front or on at least one elevation. Most have gingerbread rafter brackets and some have decorative bargeboards or vergeboards and shingles on the gable ends. Examples of the cross gabled style include: The James Penfield House, 1885, (Photo # 5); The Rev. J. A. Ames/Dr. Hanson House, 1886, (Photo # 10), 5845 SE Lillian Circle; The Stetson/Hopkins/Powers House, (1886), 5837 SE Lake Lillian Circle; and The Rev. Rouse House, 1886,

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(Photo #11). The George G. Bush House/Bellevue College was built in 1886, (Photo # 12), at 6017 SE Robinson Road. Double doors with glazing in the upper half, bounded by small, multi-colored stained glass lights, adorn the front entrance, which faces SE Front Road. The Martin House, (ca.1918) 5822 SE Magnolia Road, is another cross gabled residence.

The Turner/Hall House, 5943 SE Robinson Road (Photo # 13); and The Goodnough/Schlee House, ca.1920, at 5946 SE Earp Road are frame vernacular side gabled I-houses. The Schmidt/Landreth House, (1920), 5947 SE Earp Road is another side-gabled house. The Baldorf/F. Gale/V. Abshier/Anderson House, (1918), (Photo # 6), 5803 SE Robinson Road, has a prominent multi-sided central dormer with hip roof that was original with the house, and two flanking dormers that were installed soon after the house was built. A two-story frame vernacular outbuilding with a gable roof and weatherboard siding is situated at the rear boundary of the property.

Front gabled frame vernacular residences include: The Cogswell/Sheldon Adams House, ca.1928, (Photo # 14), 5908 SE Robinson Road; The John Hames House, (1904), 5819 Mimosa Road, (Photo #15); The French House, (c.1886), 6006 SE Front Road; The V.G. Haviland House, 5927 SE Stetson Road, and The E. F. Haviland House, 5933 SE Stetson Road, which are similar two-story houses built by brothers around 1918. (second house from the right in Vista Photo # 16). The Shaw/Newland House, (ca. 1920), 5736 SE Park Road is also a front gabled residence.

The Front gabled style roof was also used for early public buildings in the Town of Bellevue. The Methodist Church, located at 5930 SE Robinson Road (Photo #17) was formally organized in 1886. Members built the chapel in 1899 on land donated by Marion Land and Improvement Co. The frame vernacular, front gabled edifice with double entrance doors, has a steeple/bell tower with a pyramidal hipped roof. The Masonic Lodge # 95/Medical Center, (1904), another front gabled building, is located at 6108 SE Front Road (Photo # 18).

The Pyramidal style, named because of its hipped roof that rises to a point over a square or rectangular, one or two story frame vernacular building, was popular in the historic district in the early twentieth century. An important pyramidal style, public building is the Bungalow style Bellevue Civic Center (1912), (Photo # 19) at 5920 SE Stetson Road, built by the Bellevue Civic League. Native field stone bases with 1/2 wood columns support the extended hip roof over the open full width/cross front porch. An eyebrow dormer allows light into the open interior of the meeting place. The Bellevue Civic Center/Marion Grange #207 has maintained its original appearance with fieldstone entrance columns at the foot of the masonry front steps and entrance walk. A low fieldstone wall constructed after 1926, marks the front boundary line of the property.

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Residences were constructed on Stetson RD soon after the Bellevue Civic Center opened its doors. Across the road from the Bellevue Civic Center/Marion Grange #207 is the Pyramidal style Dustin/ Smith House, 1923, (Photo # 20), 5921 SE Stetson Road, that has a double gallery full width porch. Other residences built in the pyramidal style include the two-story frame vernacular A. L. Nott House, ca.1918, (far right, Vista Photo # 16), 5943 SE Stetson Road; the Kurzhals House, 5729 SE Foss Road; and the Heffner/Evans House, 5827 SE Robinson Road built ca.1908. The Wellington/Dorothy House, ca.1920, (Photo # 21), 5836 SE Lillian Circle, is a frame vernacular bungalow, with a modified hip roof that has a prominent front gabled dormer and side dormers. Built of native fieldstone, the one story Armstrong/Pelot House, (ca.1919), 5821 SE Foss RD, has an accompanying one story fieldstone garage with gable roof.

Contributing outbuildings include: the Nott frame vernacular barn (Photo # 22) with gable roof and board and batten vertical siding; small frame vernacular sheds with gabled roofs situated at the rear of the residences and used for storage; and various carriage house/garages such as the one at the Schmidt/Landreth House, (1920), at 5947 SE Earp Road, (Photo # 23). Its frame vernacular double door garage with a gable front roof has weatherboard siding similar to that of the house.

Alterations

The Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood has retained its original street and block configuration. Many of the residences have maintained the original weatherboard siding and metal roofs. Except for some changes in roofing materials, some siding installed over the original weatherboard, and the enclosure of some porches, the historic residences in the Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood district appear much as they did in the days of early settlement in the New England Colony at Bellevue. Small kitchen and bathroom additions have been attached to the side or rear of some of the residences. A small one story addition on the southeast elevation of the 1886 Rev. Ames/Dr. Hanson House is set back and does not detract from the historic appearance of the residence. The late 19th and early 20th centuries residences could be restored to their original appearance quite easily. Newcomers are moving into the neighborhood, restoring the houses for mostly residential use. Some may be restored for commercial and professional purposes. An example is The George G. Bush House /Bellevue College, (1886). The owner plans to restore the Victorian frame vernacular building for use as an art gallery.

The Victorian Frame Vernacular Sanitarium/Lakeview Hotel/Apartments remains as it was when completed in 1886, except for the floor of the front porch. An addition was built on the 1900, frame vernacular Methodist Church extending from the sides and at the rear for an office, dining room, kitchen, restrooms and six

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classrooms in 1949. When a new Methodist Church was built in 1976, away from the Lake Lillian area, the historic 1900 building was sold to the Shiloh Baptist Church. The new owners built a concrete block building and attached it to the earlier addition and a front gabled over hang, required by building code.

The 1904 Masonic Building/Medical Center has exchanged its Masonic emblem for a medical emblem on the front gable end. A handicapped ramp was added to the south side of the full width open porch which also has replacement columns. The original front elevation windows and double entrance door openings have been maintained. This historic building on SE Front Street is all that remains of the once thriving commercial area, which has moved around the corner outside of the neighborhood to SE Hames Road and Highway #441/301/27.

Non-contributing Resources

The Bellevue Public Library (Photo # 24) located at 6007 SE Earp at the corner of Magnolia Road, is a masonry vernacular, pyramidal style building. It was constructed of native fieldstone, by stone mason, W. W. Cole, in 1908. The original building is intact complete with roof, fireplace and front elevation, with the original front entrance maintained; however, because of the 1980s addition which surrounds the 1908 building on the sides and rear, it is non-contributing. The Hahn House, (1923), 5905 SE Earp Road, is another non-contributing resource, because the original appearance of the house has been changed with complete modern coverings and materials, front entrance, windows and awnings. A small, masonry vernacular, one story cottage with a hipped roof, (left side of Photo # 25) is also non-contributing. Built about 1948, it is located at 5928 Stetson Road. A concrete block outbuilding with a shed roof is near the rear of this property. A two-story frame vernacular, two family residence with a gable roof was built in 1997 adjacent to the cottage at 5924/5926 SE Stetson Road (right side of Vista Photo #25). Modern one story, concrete and brick houses were constructed all over the City in the 1950s; however, the non-contributing residences from this period, built within the boundaries of the Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood, have had little impact on the general appearance of the area. The canopy of huge oaks in this "City of Oaks," as the Town was sometimes referred to, tends to conceal them from view. The same is true for the various small metal and concrete block storage sheds located behind the residences, and they are not included in the building count. The two story frame vernacular historic residences, built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, are even more prominent in contrast to the non-contributing resources.

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CONTRIBUTING SITE

Lake Lillian Park (Greenspace surrounding Lake Lillian)

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

Note: FV = Frame Vernacular
MV = Masonry Vernacular

<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>SE Earp Road</u>			
5916	Residence	FV:Gable Front & Wing	1885
5946	Residence	FV:Gable Side	ca.1920
5947	Residence	FV:Gable Side	ca.1920
5947 A	Outbuilding		
<u>SE Foss Road</u>			
5821	Residence	MV:Pyramidal	ca.1919
5821 A	Garage	MV:Pyramidal	ca.1919
<u>SE Front Road</u>			
6006	Residence	FV:Gable Front	ca.1886
6108	Social/Professional	FV:Gable Front	ca.1904
<u>SE Lake Lillian Circle</u>			
5820	Residence	FV:Gable Front	ca.1918
5820 A	Outbuilding	FV:	ca.1918
5836	Residence	FV:Pyramidal/Bungalow	ca.1920
5836 A	Outbuilding	FV:	ca.1920
5837	Residence	FV:Cross Gabled	1886
5845	Residence	FV:Cross Gabled	1886

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Bellevue, Marion County, Florida**

SE Magnolia Road

5822	Residence	FV:Cross Gabled	ca.1923
5822 A	Outbuilding		
5910	Residence	FV:Pyramidal	ca.1928

SE Mimosa Road

5819	Residence	FV:Gable Front	1904
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SE Park Road

5736	Residence	FV:Gable Front	ca.1920
5736 A	Garage	FV:Gable Front	ca.1920

SE Robinson Road

5758	Residence	FV:Cross Gabled	1885
5803	Residence	FV:Gable Side	ca.1918
5803 A	Outbuilding	FV:Gable	ca.1918
5827	Residence	FV:Pyramidal	ca.1908
5827 A	Garage	FV:Gable Front	ca.1908
5838	Hotel/Apartments	FV:Pyramidal	1885
5838 A	Carriage House/Res	FV:Gable Front	ca.1900
5840	Residence	FV:Cross Gabled	ca.1886
5908	Residence	FV:Gable Front	ca.1928
5925	Residence	FV:Gable Front	ca.1885
5930	Church	FV:Gable Front	1904
5931	Residence	FV:Gable Front & Wing	ca.1890
5943	Residence	FV:Gable Side, I-House	ca.1886
6005	Residence	FV:Gable Front & Wing	ca.1886
6017	Residence	FV:Cross Gabled	1886

SE Stetson Road

5920	Civic Center/Grange	FV:Pyramidal, Bungalow	ca.1912
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5921	Residence	FV:Pyramidal	1923
5921 A	Garage	FV:Gable Front	ca.1923
5927	Residence	FV:Gable Front	ca.1918
5933	Residence	FV:Gable Front	ca.1918
5933 A	Garage	FV:	ca.1918
5943	Residence	FV:Pyramidal	ca.1918
5943 A	Barn	FV:Gable Front	ca.1918

SE 109th Street

5729	Residence	FV:Pyramidal	ca.1900
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LIST OF NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Date</u>	
<u>SE Earp Road</u>				
5905	Residence	FV:Gable Front	1923	(altered)
5916 A	Outbuilding	FV		
5917	Residence	F	ca.1955	
5915	Residence	M	ca.1955	
6007	Library	MV:Pyramidal	1908	(altered)

SE Front Road

6006 A	Outbuilding	FV	ca.1980	
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SE Lillian Circle

5836 B	Outbuilding	MV	ca.1960	
5837 A	Outbuilding		ca.1960	

SE Mimosa Road

5819 A	Outbuilding	FV	ca.1960	
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SE Robinson Road

5758 A	Outbuilding	MV	ca.1960
5809	Residence	M	ca.1980
5854	Residence	F	ca.1960
6017 A	Outbuilding	MV	ca.1960

SE Stetson Road

5928	Residence	MV:Pyramidal	1948
5924/5926	Residence	FV	1997
5943 B	Outbuildings	FV	ca.1950

SE 109th Street

5729 A	Outbuilding	Metal	ca.1980
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**LAKE LILLIAN HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Bellevue, Marion County, Florida**

PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY

1. Aerial view of Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood
2. Bellevue, Marion County, Florida
3. Joyce E. Cusick
4. 1998 (retake of historic photo date about 1959)
5. Bellevue City Hall
6. Aerial, camera facing north
7. Photo #1 of 26

Items 2-3 and 5 are the same for the remaining photographs, Item 4 is 1998:

1. Lake Lillian towards SE Foss Road and Lake Surrounds
6. Camera Facing Northeast
7. Photo #2 of 26

1. Vista, SE Robinson Road
6. Camera Facing East
7. Photo #3 of 26

1. The Sanitaria/Lakeview Hotel/ Apartments, 5838 SE Robinson Road
6. Camera Facing Southeast
7. Photo # 4 of 26

1. The James Penfield House, 5758 SE Robinson Road
6. Camera Facing Southwest
7. Photo #5 of 26

1. The Baldorf / F. Gale / V. Abshier / Anderson House, 5803 SE Robinson Road
6. Camera Facing Northwest
7. Photo #6 of 26

1. The Charles Babb/Bairstow House, 5916 SE Earp Road
6. Camera Facing Southwest
7. Photo #7 of 26

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1. The Wilkinson/Benedict House, 5931 SE Robinson Road
6. Camera Facing Northwest
7. Photo #8 of 26

1. The Dridley House, 6005 SE Robinson Road
6. Camera Facing North
7. Photo #9 of 26

1. The Rev. J. A. Ames / Dr. Hanson House, 5845 SE Lillian Circle
6. Camera Facing East
7. Photo #10 of 26

1. The Rev. Rouse House, 5840 SE Robinson Road
6. Camera Facing Southeast
7. Photo #11 of 26

1. The George G. Bush House / Bellevue College, 6017 SE Robinson Road
6. Camera Facing South
7. Photo #12 of 26

1. The Turner /Hall House, 5943 SE Robinson Road
6. Camera Facing Northwest
7. Photo #13 of 26

1. The Cogswell/Sheldon Adams House, 5908 SE Robinson Road
6. Camera Facing South
7. Photo #14 of 26

1. The John Hames House, 5819 Mimosa Road
6. Camera Facing Northeast
7. Photo #15 of 26

1. Vista Photo, SE Stetson Road
1. The E. F. Haviland House, 5933 SE Stetson Road, (second house from the right)
6. Camera Facing Northwest
7. Photo #16 of 26

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1. The Methodist / Shiloh Baptist Church, 5930 SE Robinson Road
6. Camera Facing Southeast
7. Photo #17 of 26

1. The Masonic Lodge # 95 / Medical Center, 6108 SE Front Road
6. Camera Facing Northwest
7. Photo #18 of 26

1. The Bellevue Civic Center, 5920 SE Stetson Road
6. Camera Facing East
7. Photo #19 of 26

1. The Dustin/ Smith House, 5921 SE Stetson Road
6. Camera Facing North
7. Photo #20 of 26

1. The Wellington /Dorothy House, 5836 SE Lillian Circle
6. Camera Facing Southwest
7. Photo #21 of 26

1. The Nott Barn, 5943 SE Stetson Road
6. Camera Facing Southwest
7. Photo #22 of 26

1. The Schmidt/Landreth Garage, 5947 SE Earp Road
6. Camera Facing Northwest
7. Photo #23 of 26

1. The Bellevue Library, 6007 SE Earp Road
6. Camera Facing West
7. Photo #24 of 26

1. Vista Photo SE Stetson Road
6. Camera Facing South
7. Photo #25 of 26

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Bellevue, Marion County, Florida**

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1. Noncontributing Houses, SE 109th Place
 6. Camera Facing Southeast
 7. Photo #26 of 26

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**LAKE LILLIAN HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Bellevue, Marion County, Florida**

SUMMARY

The Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood at Bellevue, has local significance under Criterion A for its association in the areas of Early Settlement, and Community Planning and Development. It is also architecturally significant at the local level under Criterion C, as an example of the vernacular architecture found in Marion County in small settlements along the railroad lines. The architecture of the residences, Sanitarium/Lakeview Hotel/Apartments, Methodist/Baptist Church, Civic Center and other associated buildings reflects the life style and taste of most of the settlers, who came from the northern states to build their homes in the New England Colony at Bellevue.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Early settlement in Bellevue dates back to the 1842 Armed Occupation Act. The land was located near Lake Lillian, then known as Butler Pond, and later Roach Pond. No battles were fought in the Bellevue area during The Civil War, although local landowners fought with Marion County units in the Confederate Army. The Hart Line, a steamship company organized in Palatka in 1860 to provide service on the Ocklawaha River, utilized its steamers for the Confederate effort during the war years. After the war, steamship service on the river was restored, providing transportation south from Palatka to Silver Springs east of Ocala and south to Lake Weir. Winter visitors from the North toured the State of Florida, with the Ocklawaha River cruise a popular excursion. Many returned and eventually settled in Marion County.

The years of Reconstruction from 1865-1879, saw a decrease in the large plantations, with their labor intensive crops of sugar cane and cotton, and an increase of citrus groves, especially in South Marion County. Many of the former black slaves remained on the plantations and large farms, sharecropping and enduring the hard times of the rebuilding effort along with the white landowners. Short on cash with taxes due, they worked together just to survive. With slave labor no longer available to grow cotton and sugar cane, many of the large plantations of Marion County turned to vegetable crops. Citrus, timber and turpentine were the major industries in the Bellevue area from the 1860s through the 1880s.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

By the early 1870s, new settlers again found the Bellevue area attractive. Most of these early settlers in Marion County originated from the Southeastern United States. Settlement of the Bellevue area began in earnest in the late 1870s, when John F. Pelot established his homestead in 1879, in the SW 1/4 of Section 30 and the W 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 31, Township 16 South and Range 23 East. Born in South Carolina, he

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Bellevue, Marion County, Florida**

married Mary Jane Fogg August 17, 1862. A merchant, John F. Pelot came to Marion County before 1867, the year his name first appears on the County Tax Rolls. He also served as a teacher and minister.

Railroads played a major part in the resettlement of Marion County. The Florida Railroad Company line from Fernandina (near the Florida/Georgia East Coast border) through Gainesville to Cedar Key, provided transportation across the state. Tourists to Marion County, coming to enjoy the mild winters, increased in 1881, when the Florida Transit Railroad built a line from Waldo to Ocala. Many of the tourists became settlers or annual winter visitors. News of the railroad expansion through Marion County prompted more settlers to establish homes and small farms in the Bellevue area. In 1882, the Peninsula Division extended a line from Ocala south through Bellevue. When it was completed, the railroad line gave Bellevue area farmers access to shipping and northern markets. The construction of the Peninsula Line preceded the development of the Town of Bellevue. The Florida Railroad & Navigation Company was organized from the combined lines in 1884. That same year, the first Bellevue Post Office was established, with Charles A. Babb as Postmaster and Depot Agent. The mail arrived every evening by train, which also transported local produce to northern markets and brought tourists and winter visitors to Bellevue.

The developers gave the new settlement a name sure to attract northern investors from New England who came as tourists by railroad to enjoy the mild winters and the "beautiful view" of the Bellevue area. The name was also inspired by Belle Pelot, born in 1884, the daughter of John and Mary (Fogg) Pelot. The settlement at Bellevue was incorporated on April 8, 1885. Voter registration books were opened April 13-30 at the Trask and Newman store, once located at the corner of SE Front and Hames Roads. The first election was held in May of 1885, with 70 votes cast. Officials included: Mayor: Alfred Stetson, Clerk: J. J. Williams, Aldermen: James Penfield, R. C. Ridge, C. A. Babb, W. E. Strong, C. F. Trask, D. J. Fogg, and M. L. Smith. The first Marshall was G. H. Cone. Even before the plat was filed settlers began building their homes and establishing the institutions and organizations that make life in a small town desirable. The Charles Babb House and the James Penfield House were among the first homes erected in the new settlement.

The Marion Land & Improvement Company donated land on SE Robinson Road to the town in 1885, and built a one story frame building with a gable roof and a steeple with a bell. The history of Bellevue's schools and government are intertwined as the first town hall was also used as the school. William "Bill" Mason, owned a saw mill and supplied the lumber, and with his helpers built many of the early local buildings, including the Florida Railroad & Navigation Company Depot and the 1885 City Hall/School referred to as "an educational temple." Classes began in 1885 in the City Hall/ School building with the Rev. Harvey Woodward, a retired minister, as Principal and Miss Helen J. Nichols the first teacher.

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**LAKE LILLIAN HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Bellevue, Marion County, Florida**

Since Bellevue was a platted town developed by professional financiers in an undeveloped area except for a few farms, there was no black community within the town limits. The Mayo Turpentine Still, owned by Nathan Mayo, Florida's Commissioner of Agriculture (1923-1960), was located about one half mile north and outside the town limits. A community of black people resided near the Mayo operation and worked in the mill and in the town for local businesses and white families.

Life in Bellevue was reported on a regular basis in The Ocala Banner, a weekly newspaper distributed throughout Marion County. The newspaper described the completed passenger depot, as "one of the handsomest structures of its kind on the line," and new settlers were arriving daily. The "hideous" freight depot and a chapel were also finished. Meanwhile, the Marion Land & Improvement Company was constructing two new residences, for company President C. L. Robinson and the other for General Manager James H. Foss. Lake Lillian, it is believed, was named for Mrs. Lillian Foss. Mr. Foss installed benches under the oak trees in "Park Lillian" so that residents and visitors could look at the beautiful view in comfort. Hunting was good with game prevalent, and fishing was good in Lake Lillian and other nearby lakes. Excursions were also made on the train to Lake Weir.

Church activities held a major place in the lives of the settlers. Not formally organized until 1886, the Methodist Church held services in 1885 in the home of the Rev. Ames, (Rev. Ames / Dr. Hanson House, 5845 SE Lillian Circle). Other denominations, including a Congregational Church, soon followed. On alternating Sundays, the Methodists and Congregationalists held services in the Town Hall/ School chapel or met in homes of members until their churches could be erected. Social interaction and civic involvement were also an important part of life in the Town of Bellevue.

The Abshier family originally came to Bellevue from Indiana in 1886, with five children. Doctor Alfred Abshier, born in 1846, was elected Town Mayor in 1900. Dr. and Mrs. Abshier, the former Nancy Ray, settled into the "New England Colony." Dr. Abshier was a medical doctor, but his practice was limited due to a Civil War injury. He established Abshier's Parlor Grocery and continued to serve the people of Bellevue throughout his life. By 1886, 300 people lived in the Town of Bellevue. Citrus was the major crop, grown near homes and on large lots apart from the Lake Lillian area.

Land was advertised for sale in the "New England Colony at Bellevue," by Charles W. Campbell, Jr., Surveyor and Inspector of Lands, Union Block, Ocala, Florida, in The Ocala Banner, Friday, March 5, 1886. In addition, the Marion Land & Improvement Company prepared a brochure to advertise the thriving community. The cover of the brochure included a pen and ink drawing of the area around Lake Lillian, complete with the buildings in place. Inside were more drawings, including the Sanitarium, the school (also City Hall), and several residences. In 1887, an addition to the 1885 Plat was filed on January 6, and E. W. Agnew became

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Bellevue, Marion County, Florida**

Acting President of the Marion Land and Improvement Company. Most of the residential lots were sold by February 8, 1887, when the company sold its Hotel/Office/Store and many of the remaining lots to John F. Dunn. Frank A. Teague became President of the company in 1888. The same year large blocks of lots were sold to individual investors including, John F. Dunn and Frank A. Teague. Tax certificates were sold on many of the lots to local residents, who received deeds for the land. The town also acquired additional property at this time.

Organized in November 1886, The Bellevue Library Association members met in the Town Hall/School chapel, and appointed a committee to write a constitution. The Chairman was retired Professor George G. Bush from Dorchester, Massachusetts. Committee members included: F. W. Brooks, the Rev. H. Woodward, and Mrs. M. L. Smith, all Marion County residents; and Mrs. G. G. Bush and Mrs. F. H. Rowse, from Portland, Maine. The constitution, dated November 19, 1886, established the Association as a creditable asset to the growing town. Professor Bush, was elected the first President. Other officers were: Judge William Perkins, Vice President; James C. Wade, Secretary; and William E. Strong, Treasurer. The Directors included: the Rev. T. H. Rouse, T. W. Brooks, the Rev. H. Woodward, Mrs. C. W. Newman, Mrs. M. L. Smith, and Mrs. F. N. Ramsdale.

Education was important to the northern settlers, and school activities became a significant part of the community life. In 1889, The Bellevue College was established in the home of Professor Bush, which faces SE Front Road at the corner of SE Robinson Road. A brochure describing the classes offered and the quality education that could be had in the Town of Bellevue was prepared and sent to New England and other areas in the North. The Marion Land and Improvement Company donated land to the Town in the park area overlooking Lake Lillian. Sometime after 1886, they built the two room school building that served the Town of Bellevue until 1928. By 1890, the town center and residential area around Lake Lillian in the Town of Bellevue was essentially established. The significant remaining residences of the 1880s are concentrated on SE Earp Road, SE Robinson Road and SE Lillian Circle.

The orange trees in the groves were fully mature and laden with fruit, when a double disaster struck in December of 1894 and February 1895. The "Big Freeze" (actually two big freezes), destroyed orange groves and produce. Some of the Bellevue citrus growers managed to replant their groves but others were unable to raise enough capital to start again. As a result of the freeze, the First National Bank of Ocala, a heavy financier of the citrus industry in Marion County, closed its doors on April 30, 1895. The Merchants National Bank, also in Ocala, managed to remain in business a little longer, however, eventually closing in 1897. Many Bellevue growers and residents were wiped out and returned to the North. Bellevue, with its residences, mercantile, hotels, boarding houses and churches, survived the major recession that followed the "big freeze" and bank failings of the mid 1890s, and was determined to flourish.

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Bellevue, Marion County, Florida**

Members of the Methodist Church built their first chapel in 1899, located at 5930 SE Robinson Road. The hands-on building efforts of the members as well as their monetary contributions stand as testimony to the strengths and dedication of Bellevue parishioners. The Rev. David Phillips was Pastor when the new edifice was dedicated on February 4, 1900. By 1900, new businesses were established including, Ridge & Gale's, Charles T. Trask, and The Magnolia Nurseries.

Some major changes occurred in the railroad lines in 1902, when the Florida Central & Peninsular Railroad joined Seaboard Airline Railroad. The Seaboard Airline then combined use of its tracks with The Atlantic Coast Line and The Plant System Railroad. Another major change was caused by a fire on January 8, 1904. The fire equipment kept at the town hall could not pump water from Lake Lillian fast enough to put out the raging blaze, and it burned the "Bellevue Block," including the town hall, the 1885 Chapel, the Marion Land and Improvement Company's store and hotel, and the library reading room. Several residences also burned. They were located in blocks 5, 6, 8 & 9, on SE Robinson Road, SE Earp Road, SE Hames Road and SE Front Road, SE Cypress Road and SE Dogwood Road. Many of the early records of the town were destroyed by this fire. The Trask mercantile on the corner of SE Front and SE Hames Roads, and the Methodist Church escaped the blaze.

Devastated by this disaster the residents set out to rebuild what they had lost. The Town Hall was quickly replaced on the same site with another frame building. The 1885 Chapel was not rebuilt, and the original Marion Land and Improvement Company hotel and store site was sold to The Masonic Lodge # 95. They built their new meeting place on the site at 6108 SE Front Road. Residents whose homes were destroyed did not rebuild on the original sites, purchasing other houses within the community that were vacant at the time or rebuilding on other sites.

The Board of Directors of the Library Association met on March 4, 1907 to plan the new library building. Located on the original site of the burned reading room, at the corner of SE Earp & Magnolia Roads, the Bellevue Library was constructed of native fieldstone by stone mason, W. W. Cole. By 1911-12, the Bellevue population had decreased to 150, only half as many people as the 300 reported in 1886. C. A. Tremere was Postmaster and M. J. McPaul was the Railroad and Express Agent. Callie Rickards taught music, Otto Saltsweedle was a local printer and J. N. Shedd was listed as a carpenter. Blacksmith J. A. Freeman cared for the horses that pulled the carriages. Gale & Nott owned the dry goods store located on the corner of SE Hames and SE Front Roads (formerly the Trask & Newman Store).

Around 1912, The Bellevue Civic Center was constructed at 5920 SE Stetson Road by the Bellevue Civic League, a social organization. John Thomas Harnes was the carpenter for the frame vernacular bungalow style building. Both local and traveling plays, as well as the popular Al Jolson type "Minstrel Shows," were

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Bellevue, Marion County, Florida**

held in the large hall. The Civic Center was indeed the center of Bellevue social life; among the varied entertainment were ladies recitations, meetings, and the popular Wednesday afternoon teas (businesses closed Wednesday afternoon). The building was always open, even to the school children who went there after school on weekday afternoons. C. P. Dustin, a winter visitor, who built his home across the street at 5921 SE Stetson Road (The Dustin/Smith House), was very much involved with the Civic Center's activities during the winters. Other residences were also constructed on SE Stetson Road soon after the Civic Center opened its doors.

Many Bellevue residents served with honor during World War I (1914-1919). Life continued for residents around Lake Lillian much as it had before the war. Citrus was still grown in the area; however, the major income came from vegetable crops. Transportation by train north was fast and efficient and some of the produce was transported by truck. In 1914, the town built a carbide gas plant to generate electricity and a six inch pipe was sunk in 1918, to provide fresh water for residents. Then a pipe was extended into the "Grotto", a 60 foot wide and 80 foot deep sink in the Lake Lillian Park with a fresh water spring at the bottom. The Grotto provided the town's water supply for several years. In 1920, Bellevue Utilities was organized by F. E. Martin, Dr. Brighton Tanner, and E. S. French to provide electricity for the town from the ice plant, located on SE Babb Road near the railroad line. Later, flickering street lights were installed around Lake Lillian. Bellevue Utilities was sold to Florida Power in the 1920s.

Automotive transportation had a large impact on the Bellevue economy in the 1920s. Traffic through the Town increased as goods were transported and people moved more freely from one place to another. Highway #441/301/27 was paved through the town in 1926, allowing traffic and people to flow more easily from Ocala to Bellevue and then to Leesberg and Orlando. Trucks carried much of the area's produce to northern markets, and the use of the railroad diminished. Roads were still rough in the Lake Lillian area, paved only with stone from the rock crusher. SE Hames Road (Dunn Avenue), also identified as Hwy. 441A and 25, was paved in 1928. Traffic was diverted onto SE Robinson Road and then south on SE Magnolia Road (Fifth St.).

The land boom, which affected all of the state of Florida, had some effect on Bellevue in the early 1920s. Lots that had originally been planned for agricultural purposes were subdivided and sold as residential lots. Growth continued in the town, with the population numbering about 250 full time residents. As new people moved into the Bellevue area, children and grandchildren of the original residents were raising their own families. As vacant houses were sold to new owners, the Lake Lillian Neighborhood remained much as it was in the 1880s. The area continued to be a resort for winter visitors and fishing was still a popular sport on Lake Lillian. The Sanitarium became the Lakeview Hotel, serving wonderful meals and catering to guests.

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The two room school was so overcrowded (City Hall was again being used for classes), that the Marion County Board of Public Instruction approved a new school building for Bellevue on the North/South Dixie Highway (SE Abshier Blvd.), providing easy access for area children. After being abandoned for nearly forty years, the two room school was moved to Santos for the black children. Commerce and residential development followed the 1928 Bellevue School along the main highway.

Economic depression reached Florida three years before it was experienced in the rest of the country. The land boom of the 1920s offered a short lived spurt to the city's economy. There were no banks in Bellevue; however, residents lost money deposited in Ocala banks when they closed their doors in the wake of the 1929 stock market crash causing severe hardship for local residents. Land values fell and were severely depressed in the 1930s, all over the United States, as well as in Bellevue. The poultry farms and vegetable gardens that were always important became mainstays. Social life continued much as it had before the depression, centered around the school, churches and the Civic Center. Lake Lillian continued to provide recreation for the Town's residents, visitors and tourists staying in Bellevue.

Fire was responsible once again for the loss of many buildings in Bellevue. About 1932 or 1933, Gale's Store near the railroad depot burned, along with the post office located there. The post office was relocated to the Masonic building Annex on SE Front Road. During the depression, the Postmaster and depot agent were the only salaried people in town. By the time the third town hall was lost to fire in 1935, the native long leaf yellow pine that the three previous structures had been built of, was about gone from the area. The Public Works Administration (PWA) was responsible for the construction of a the fourth City Hall in 1936, which helped to improve the local economy. The new City Hall was built of native limerock, a fieldstone abundant in Marion County.

Railroad passenger service was discontinued after World War II; however, produce was still shipped by freight. Bus service took over public transportation, with frequent, regularly scheduled routes. Bellevue in 1945, appeared much as it had in the 1930s. There were still only a few automobiles in the area, and the paved Highway #441/301/27 constructed in 1926 and SE Hames Road were still the only paved streets in town. After the war, a few new residences were built in the Lake Lillian Neighborhood, with the bungalow the most popular style; however, materials were scarce and the demand great for several years after the war. For the most part the area continued its historic appearance. Modern one story, concrete and brick houses were constructed all over the City in the 1950s; however, those constructed in the Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood had little impact on the general appearance of the area. The canopy of huge oaks in this "City of Oaks," as the Town was sometimes referred to, tended to conceal them from view. The two story frame vernacular residences, built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, became even more prominent in contrast. Except for SE Park Road, the roads in the Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood were paved during the 1950s.

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**LAKE LILLIAN HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Bellevue, Marion County, Florida**

Many changes occurred after the Town of Bellevue became the City of Bellevue in 1965, with 300 registered voters inside the corporate limits. A new elementary school replaced the 1928 Bellevue School, which the city purchased in 1965 for use as City Hall. The 1936 City Hall was sold to John Heirs in 1966 for use as a funeral home. The railroad depot, no longer used by the railroad, was moved to the new City Hall site in 1982 for use by the Chamber of Commerce. A new Methodist Church was built in 1976 away from the Lake Lillian area, and the historic 1900 building was sold to the Shiloh Baptist Church. The Bellevue Grange # 207, purchased The Bellevue Civic Center around 1992. The 1904 Masonic Building has exchanged its Masonic emblem for a medical emblem on the front gable end, and is presently the Bellevue Medical Center. This historic building on SE Front Street is all that remains of the once thriving town center area, which has moved around the corner to SE Hames Road and Highway #441/301/27.

Modern Bellevue is an expanding city that has retained its friendly small town atmosphere. Lake Lillian, with its central fountain, surrounded by a foot path overgrown with reeds and wild grasses, was given an entirely new look about 1993, with the development of the Lake Lillian Park. Residents still stroll along the footpath much as they did in the 1880s, enjoying the fresh air and "beautiful view." Each year in May about 10,000 residents and visitors enjoy a festive weekend as the Chamber of Commerce sponsors a Founder's Day Celebration on the banks of Lake Lillian and the park. The Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood has retained its original street and block configuration. The Victorian Frame Vernacular Sanitarium/Lakeview Hotel/Apartments remains as it was completed in 1886, with the native fieldstone columns at its entrance walkway slightly askew and tipped inwards. Bellevue's Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood is historically significant as an example of planned early settlement along the railroad lines in Marion County.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The frame vernacular residences and associated buildings of the Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood are architecturally significant on the local level as important examples of early frame vernacular architecture in the City of Bellevue and Marion County. The concentration of 1880s buildings on SE Earp Road, SE Robinson Road, and SE Lake Lillian Circle represent Northern, especially New England, late nineteenth century styles, while the historic architecture on SE Stetson Road, SE Mimosa Road and SE Magnolia Road reflects the more Midwestern styles of the early 1900s.

The Sanitarium/Lakeview Hotel/Apartments is the earliest and most architecturally intact building in the neighborhood. The twenty-two room health spa/hotel is a Victorian frame vernacular complex of three connected buildings. Started by Dr. Harvey Knight in 1884 or early 1885, it appears now much as it did when the third building was completed in 1886. Folk Victorian frame vernacular styles from the post railroad era dominate the residences built during the early settlement of Bellevue in the 1880s. Gingerbread and decorative

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shingles adorn the 1880s houses. Several examples of frame vernacular, residential architecture concentrated in the Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood reveal a prevalence of styles typical of New England towns in the late nineteenth century. The most impressive style is the elaborated cross gabled roof style. The gable front and wing or the L shape; and gable front cottages. Side gabled I-houses and front gabled cottages are also found in the Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood. Some of the mid 1880s houses have steep "snow" roofs characteristic of homes in the North. The fine craftsmanship of local carpenters is revealed in the full width or cross front open porches with lathe turned posts and railings. Representative of the Folk Victorian styles are gingerbread bargeboards, vergeboards or decorative cross bracing at the peak of the front gable end and decorative shingles and detailing on the gable ends, rafter and porch brackets along with lathe turned columns or posts and spindlework railings. Except for changes in roofing materials, siding and enclosing of some porches, the historic residences in the Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood appear much as they did in the days of early settlement in the New England Colony at Bellevue.

The architecture of the residences, Sanitarium/Lakeview Hotel/Apartments, Methodist/Baptist Church, Civic Center and other associated buildings reflects the life style and taste of most of the settlers, who came from Northern states to build their homes in the New England Colony at Bellevue. The concentration of historic buildings in the New England Colony at Bellevue remaining in the Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood represents a noticeable example of frame vernacular architecture with prominent Victorian elements.

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Bellevue, Marion County, Florida**

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION






The historic settlement is situated around the banks of Lake Lillian, in portions of SE 1/4 of Section 25, and the NE 1/4 of Section 36, of Township 16 South, Range 22 East, and NW 1/4 of Section 30 and the SW 1/4 of Section 31, of Township 16 South, Range 23 East. The remaining buildings of the historic settlement of the Lake Lillian Historic Neighborhood of The New England Colony at Bellevue dating from 1884 - 1930, are located within the district boundaries as described on the attached district map.

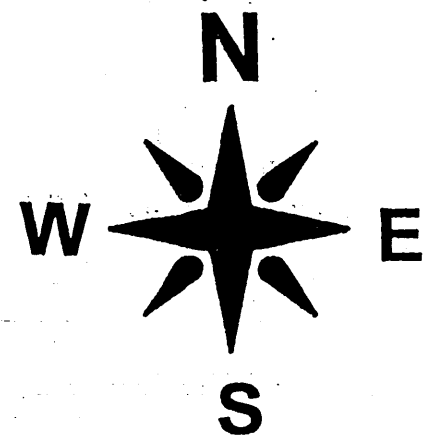
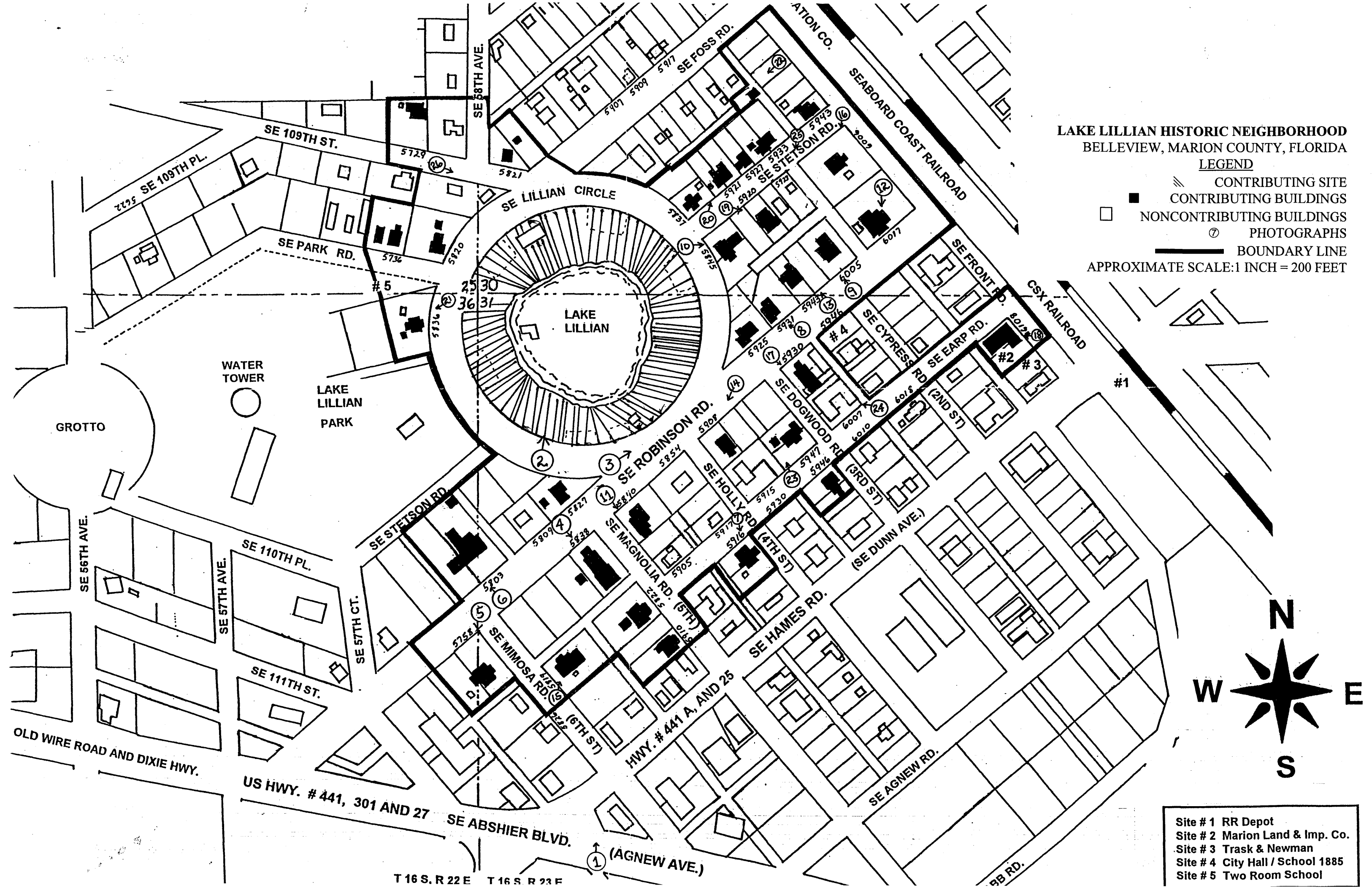
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries encompass the most intact part of the historic original New England Colony at Bellevue, including Lake Lillian and the surrounding park.

**LAKE LILLIAN HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
BELLEVIEW, MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA**

LEGEND

-  CONTRIBUTING SITE
 -  CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS
 -  NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS
 -  PHOTOGRAPHS
 -  BOUNDARY LINE
- APPROXIMATE SCALE: 1 INCH = 200 FEET



- Site # 1 RR Depot
- Site # 2 Marion Land & Imp. Co.
- Site # 3 Trask & Newman
- Site # 4 City Hall / School 1885
- Site # 5 Two Room School

T 16 S. R 22 E T 16 S. R 23 E