

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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OCT - 2 2015

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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 DAN BRANCH HOUSE

other names/site number FMSF#AL 5712

2. Location

street & number 5707 Southwest 17 Drive N/A not for publication

city or town Gainesville N/A vicinity

state Florida code FL county Alachua code 001 zip code 32608

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.)

Flister Lodge Stone Date 9/28/15
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Jon Sakher

11-12-2015

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	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Midcentury Modern

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls CONCRETE
GLASS, WOOD
roof ASPHALT
other _____

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1965

1967

Significant Dates

1965

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Branch, Dan

Lee, Johnnie

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	3	6	9	9	4	5	3	2	7	5	1	5	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 Murray Laurie/Robert O. Jones, Historic Preservationist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date September 2015

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

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Dr. Anita Spring

street & number 5707 Southwest 17 Drive telephone 352-376-4833

city or town Gainesville state Florida zip code 32608

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 REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 **DAN BRANCH HOUSE, GAINESVILLE,
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

SUMMARY

The Dan Branch House is located at 5707 Southwest 17th Drive in the Maloré Gardens subdivision south of Gainesville, Florida. It was designed by University of Florida Professor of Architecture Dan Branch in 1965 as his family home. The four-level residence with attached carport is constructed primarily of concrete block and wood with large areas of glass, particularly evident in the glass walls of the two-story living room overlooking a small pond. The house has a slab foundation, flat roof, and geometrical arrangement of each elevation of the house with clean and unadorned lines. The large expanses of glass walls and sliding glass doors provide visual continuity between indoors and outdoors. This Mid-century Modern house reflects various schools of Modern architecture and is integrated with its Florida environment. The Dan Branch house possesses a high degree of historical and architectural integrity.

SETTING

The City of Gainesville is the county seat and largest city in Alachua County, Florida. The population of Gainesville in the 2013 United States Census was 127,488, a 2.4% growth from 2010. Gainesville is the largest city in the region of North Central Florida. Gainesville is home to the University of Florida, the nation's eighth largest university campus by enrollment, as well as to Santa Fe College. The Gainesville Metropolitan Statistical Area was ranked as the number one place to live in North America in the 2007 edition of Cities Ranked and Rated. Also in 2007, Gainesville was ranked as one of the "best places to live and play" in the United States by National Geographic Adventure. The city is characterized by its medium size and central location, about two hours driving time from either Jacksonville or Orlando, two hours driving time from Tampa, and five hours driving time from either Atlanta or Miami.

The Dan Branch House is located in the Maloré Gardens subdivision, which has one entrance/exit, fronting a divided roadway that provides access to the west side of United States Highway 441. This major thoroughfare leads north towards central Gainesville and south towards Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park less than a mile to the south (Figure 1). Seven other homes were built on lots surrounding the pond and about forty other houses

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are sited on short streets leading off the streets circling the pond (Figure 2). The other single-family homes in this residential-only neighborhood were built over a period of fifty years, with a variety of styles and materials.

The modernist Dan Branch home is situated on a paved street that circles the pond that is the centerpiece of the subdivision (Photo 1). The house is placed at the wide end of a triangular shaped parcel that slopes down a gradual hill to the waterline (Figure 3). The pointed end of the lot which is oriented towards the northeast is submerged, with a shoreline that fluctuates with the depth of the natural pond. This shallow body of water relies on rainwater rather than a spring or a stream. The house was one of the first homes built in Maloré Gardens, a wooded area platted as a private subdivision in 1956.¹ The architect preserved some of the mature live oaks when the lot was prepared for construction in 1965. These trees provide for a dramatic landscape, particularly the large oak off the northeast elevation between the house and the pond. A small terrace with a low concrete wall faces the pond and surrounds the tree. A paved driveway leads to the façade from Southwest 17th Drive. Several large oak trees and natural landscaping set off this public view of the house (Photo 2). A contemporary newspaper article published in 1966 shows the exterior elevation facing the pond with a view of the living room (Figure 5).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The Dan Branch House was constructed in 1965 as a flat-roofed, four-level square cube with a divided, one-story double garage placed in front of the southwest elevation. The original floor plans of the Branch residence show this design (Figure 4). Because of the slope of the land, the first and second levels have direct access to the outside. Early photographs show the post and beam construction of the two open garages (Figure 6). A walkway between the garages leads to a small garden area behind the garages and on either side of the main entrance. By 1967 Branch enclosed the two garages and converted them into offices, one for himself and one on the west with a darkroom for his wife, a

¹ Plat map of Maloré Gardens, Alachua County Records, Book 52, page 101, surveyed by Harris Green, 1956.

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photographer. At this time the former garages were extended to the rear and became incorporated into the main house.²

The one-story south façade of the house formed by this conversion now features panels of vertically grooved redwood, painted white, and a series of clerestory windows shaded with wood louvers just under the roofline (Photos 3 & 4) (Figure 6). In 1972, Branch added a square, flat-roofed carport to the southeast corner of the house.³ Concrete block pillars support the flat roof of the carport with wood panels inserted between the pillars on the sides (Photo 5). The view from this main façade shows the main block of the residence rising above the one-story former garage section. This part of the house reveals only the top level of the main house, which consists of concrete block wall ends that frame vertically grooved redwood panels. Narrow bands of clerestory windows are set just below the flat roof-line of the main house (Photo 3). A deeply recessed main entrance was formed by the path between the two former garages (Photo 6).

The symmetrical arrangement of the west and east exterior elevations relates to the essentially cube form of the main house, which measures thirty-one feet on each side. These walls extend from the ground level to the roof in an arrangement of twelve concrete block walls or pillars that form the “skeleton” of the surprisingly complex house. Jan Hochstim, author of *Florida Modern*, featured the house and commented: “The boxlike interior volumes are clearly expressed on the outside of the house. Masonry bearing walls supporting wood floors and a flat roof delineate the structural order, with large areas of glass and vertical wood siding denote the non-bearing enclosures.”⁴ Another publication commented on the play of geometry and the open floor plan. It described the structural system of the house as a series of twelve “columns,” where sheer walls of concrete-filled blocks supported built-up plywood beams.⁵

On the west and east elevations, wood-sided storage units extend from the main walls next to the former garages. On each of the side elevations of the first story of the main house,

² Dan Branch, phone conversation with Murray Laurie, April 11, 2015. Also, Arlene Haufler. “Four Little Branches Living Among Trees.” *Gainesville Sun*, August 17, 1969.

³ Branch – Laurie Conversation, April 11, 2015.

⁴ Jan Hochstim. *Florida Modern: Residential Architecture 1945-1970*. (New York: Rizzoli, 2005), 239.

⁵ *Architecture for Florida Living*, Florida Association of AIA, 1967-1967.

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sliding glass doors open to small patios on the ground level. These are set below exterior screened balconies that project from the main walls at the top level (Photos 7 & 8). The side walls of the upper and lower levels are composed of grooved redwood panels set between the concrete columns. A large window is set at the top of the second level on each side wall above these wood panels. On the northwest wall at the lower level, a horizontal row of windows is also placed to provide light for the kitchen (Photo 7).

The north elevation which faces the pond, is composed of a balanced set of symmetrical squares and rectangles that express the box-like volumes of the design. A recessed section at the center of the façade joins the two main blocks of this composition (Photo 9). On the ground level, the kitchen opens on to the tree-shaded patio with sliding glass doors, and the dining room is paired with the kitchen on the right, with access to the patio via sliding glass doors. On the upper level, where the living room is located, shallow screened porches, set flush with the façade, frame the view of the pond. Natural redwood and wider panels of white-painted wood frame the geometrical shapes on the elevation.

Interior

The unadorned, geometrical form of the house expressed the functional needs of the Branch family and the experimental nature of the architect's vision. The indoor/outdoor character of the Florida modern home provides views of the pond and natural setting and provides access to the exterior from each room with full-length sliding glass doors, screened porches, and large windows at each level. On the upper floor one overlooks the tops of trees, with changing views of the natural landscaping as one moves down toward ground level. Hochstim, in *Florida Modern*, commented on the three-dimensional character of the interior around the up-and-down mode of the central stairs and the cubical division of all of the spaces on both sides of the circulation of this spine.⁶

Upon entering the house from the deeply recessed, street-side entrance through the double wood-louvered doors, one passes the open office and studio space on either side created from the integration of the former garages into the main building (Photo 10). The floors are tiled in this area. Skylights are set into the flat roof, which is braced with a series of open beams on each side. Double wood-framed glass doors provide access to the main

⁶ Hochstim, 239.

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house through a small foyer that affords a distant view of the pond (Photo 11). An office with sliding glass walls to a small patio is located on the left, and a utility room and bathroom are on the opposite side of the entry hall. A set of open-tread stairs leads down to the formal dining room to the left (Photo 12), and kitchen on the right (Photo 13). This lower level reveals the slope of the land and allows direct access to the pond-side exterior and the paved patio. Sliding glass doors set in the walls that overlook the pond permit light into these two spaces with an additional horizontal band of windows on the side wall of the kitchen. Passage between the kitchen and dining room is through openings to the hallway down the center of this level.

The central stairway with oak treads rises two levels to the living room that also has glass walls overlooking the pond (Photo 14). Part of the glass wall that extends from the ground to the roofline is created by sliding glass doors that open to shallow screened porches, allowing for an insect-free flow of air into the house. Set above these glass doors are glass panels that extend across the entire elevation to roof level. A free-standing stove/fireplace is set on a brick hearth at the center of this wall (Photo 15), dividing the two equal sides of the spacious living room with oak floors (Photos 16 & 17). Overlooking the two-story living room and facing the pond, two narrow loft rooms with three-foot-high walls set on each side of the central core of the house are accessed from the next level of the central stairway (Photo 18). The back walls of these semi-enclosed lofts that share the pond view with the living room are set with bookshelves and have been used as children's play rooms, a music room, and to display the owners' private art and artifact collections (Photo 19). Photos of these areas show the way the architect used thin bands of natural wood throughout the house to outline the windows, doors and other elements of the interior.

The private living areas are placed at the fourth floor of the house, accessed by the top section of the central stairway. A bathroom is set between two bedrooms of equal size, accessed from the hall at the top of the steps (Photo 20). Each bedroom has a balcony on the side wall with a sliding glass door and screen. Clerestory windows are set on the back wall of each bedroom (Photo 21).

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ALTERATIONS

Already mentioned are the major alterations made by the architect: the enclosure of the two garages in 1967 and the addition of the carport in 1972. The enclosures were done with the same grooved redwood panels used on the exterior of the second story of the house, and interior walls of the garages. Since that time, only minor changes have taken place, mostly in the form of upgrading tile in bathrooms, kitchen cabinets, and painting the exterior wood paneling of the front façade white instead of the original natural wood finish. High quality maintenance over the years has kept the house in a condition very close to the original intent of the architect.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dan Branch House is significant under Criterion C for its expression of the Mid-century Modern Style. Architect Dan Paulk Branch, who designed the house for his family, was influenced by Florida architects Paul Rudolph and Gene Leedy. As a member of the faculty of the University of Florida, Branch taught modern architectural theory and practiced in Gainesville from 1961 to 1973. The Dan Branch House, built in 1965, exemplifies his high standards of modern architectural design that were specifically adapted to its North Florida setting. This building retains a high degree of physical integrity of location, setting, design, materials and workmanship that reflect its significant historic associations.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Gainesville, the county seat of Alachua County, was founded in 1854 when the Florida Railroad established a stop on its Fernandina to Cedar Key cross-state railroad. It was settled mostly by small farmers and cotton planters from other southern states. During the Civil War, Gainesville served as a distribution point for food and supplies for the Confederate Army. The town after the conflict expanded as a center for agriculture and phosphate mining. With the founding of the University of Florida in Gainesville by 1906, new residents came to the area would built homes in the established neighborhoods near the center of town. Several of these older neighborhoods are now historic districts and exhibit an array of residential building styles that were popular throughout the country.¹ The University itself chose the traditional Collegiate Gothic Style for the buildings on its campus, a dozen blocks west of the Alachua County Courthouse. Part of the campus is now designated as a historic district.²

Following World War II, and like many universities throughout the United States, the University of Florida expanded rapidly as returning veterans enrolled and brought their families with them to Gainesville. In the mid-1950s, the College of Medicine and five

¹ Northeast Gainesville Residential District (1980), Pleasant Street Historic District (1989), and Southeast Gainesville Residential District (1988).

² University of Florida Campus Historic District (1989).

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other health-related colleges were established, adding further to the growth of the university and the city. New subdivisions, some with mid-century modern architectural influences, were established near the university and to the west of downtown Gainesville to accommodate the growing student, staff, and faculty population. The university chose to embrace modern architecture during this period, building modern dormitories, academic buildings, and medical school facilities that stepped away from the Collegiate Gothic as new areas of the campus were developed in the 1950s and 1960s.³

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Numerous young architects who had received their architectural training under masters of the Modern or International Style such as Walter Gropius and Mies van der Rohe, found their way to the Florida Gulf Coast community of Sarasota between 1941 and 1966. They were eager to create innovative buildings that adopted the design concepts of the modern movement to Florida's climate and post-war casual lifestyle, and found willing, affluent clients in the area.⁴

Other talented Modernist architects like Alfred Browning Parker designed homes in the Miami area that drew national attention.⁵ The renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright brought his unique vision to the buildings he designed for Florida Southern College in Lakeland in the 1930s, and his principles of organic architecture which embraces the fitting of the design of the building to its site and its natural setting, had a lasting impact on architects in Florida. The International Style also influenced the state's young architects as they used the concepts developed in Europe that included the logical use and expression of structure, the separation of structure and enclosure, simple building form, and the honest use and expression of materials and details. Architects like Le Corbusier in France, Mies van der Rohe, and Walter Gropius in Germany, who exploited the materials and

³ Some of these buildings were included in an addition to the University of Florida Campus Historic District in 2008.

⁴ "The Architectural Resources of the Sarasota School of Architecture," Multiple Property Cover, 2007.

⁵ Randolph C. Henning. *The Architecture of Alfred Browning Parker*. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2011); Parker also taught at University of Florida, and his papers and drawings are part of the Smathers Library collection at the University of Florida; Other Florida architects, including Dan Branch, are discussed by Jan Hochstim in *Florida Modern: Residential Architecture 1945-1970* (New York: Rizzoli, 2004). See pages 238-239.

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technology of the day, abandoned historic precedents as they taught Modernist principles. Some of the European architects who introduced this International Style during the 1930s immigrated to this country as World War II loomed. Several of them joined the faculty of American schools of architecture and influenced generations of architectural students in the structural and theoretical concepts they taught.⁶ Walter Gropius at Harvard, and Mies van der Rohe at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, headed leading American schools of architecture.

Geometric forms and the elimination of superfluous ornamentation, as well as an emphasis on the functional aspects of the modern home, were the hallmarks of domestic architecture influenced by the International Style. Modernist architects were open to revolutionary design concepts that emphasized function and the visible expression of the skeleton of the building, and such elements as ribbons of windows, floor-to-ceiling glass walls, and cantilevered roofline projections.⁷ The Sarasota architects blended the concepts of the International Style with an approach that included respect for and adaptation to the environment and to the play of light and shadow.⁸ These young architects made excellent use of new materials, some that were just coming into the residential construction market. Large sliding glass doors, originally custom made with wood frames, became available with lighter aluminum framing, and the use of exposed concrete block gained respectability. Walls extended into outdoor space and plywood was used to construct beams and structural elements. Instead of designing pseudo-traditional facades, they made honest use of materials and structural expression that fit within the physical requirements of informal living in a year-round warm climate.

While the influence of the young Sarasota architects in the mid-twentieth century, and the venerated work of Frank Lloyd Wright in the 1930s has been studied in depth, less scholarly attention has been drawn to architects in North Florida. Only recently has the modern architecture of the postwar era in Florida been analyzed and books published that

⁶ Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986) 469-470.

⁷ McAlester and McAlester, 470.

⁸ "The Architectural Resources of the Sarasota School of Architecture."

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define the characteristics of Florida Modern residential houses and give credit to the young architects and the few established professionals who designed along the same lines.⁹

These architects practiced in a region of the state more similar in climate, terrain, and traditional cultural values to other southern states across the border, compared to semi-tropical south Florida, and many of these design professionals educated generations of architects who adapted Modernist design principles to Florida's unique and varied environment. Some of the young architects were graduates of the architectural program at the University of Florida in Gainesville.¹⁰

Jacksonville architect Robert Broward was a student of Frank Lloyd Wright, later taught at University of Florida, and enjoyed a distinguished career. He was inducted into the Florida Artist's Hall of Fame in 2012.¹¹ The strong architectural program at the University of Florida in Gainesville and active participation by architects in the Florida AIA helped to disseminate the architectural ideas influenced by modernism and the adaptation of the International Style to Florida's climate and relaxed way of life.¹²

Another prominent north Florida architect is William Morgan, a pioneer in researching the origins of architectural creativity, who received the honorary degree of Doctor of Arts from the University of Florida in 2012. After graduating from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and working in the offices of Paul Rudolph, he established a successful practice in Jacksonville in 1961. Morgan served as a visiting studio critic at the University of Florida in the 1960s, and as the Beinecke-Reeves Distinguished Professor of Architectural Preservation from 1998-2000.¹³

As has been noted earlier, the northern section of Florida is more similar to the states of the Deep South than to South Florida. Most of the domestic architecture of central and north Florida is traditional. Jan Hochstim, a professor of architecture at the University of Miami, notes that in Gainesville, modern residences designed by College of Architecture

⁹ Hochstim, 13.

¹⁰ Among those listed in the "Architectural Resources of the Sarasota School of Architecture" as having studied at University of Florida are Gene Leedy, William Rupp, Edward Seibert, and Carl Abbott.

¹¹ Florida Artist's Hall of Fame at <http://dos.myflorida.com>, accessed January 10, 2015.

¹² Hochstem, 23.

¹³ William Morgan, <http://www.dcp.ufl.edu/news/morgan>, accessed, January 10, 2015.

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professors are atypical, limited to their own family homes and the “rare client willing to challenge the town’s conservatism.”¹⁴ This is not an entirely accurate assumption. One has only to view the Gainesville City Hall and the adjacent City Library, built in 1966-1967, to see that Modernist architectural concepts were embraced as well in civic buildings. Dan Branch was one of the three architects who designed this complex in the heart of downtown Gainesville, approximately at the same time that he was designing his own home.¹⁵

ARCHITECT: DAN BRANCH, AIA

Dan P. Branch was born in Fitzgerald, Georgia, in 1931. He received his Bachelor of Architecture with honors from the University of Florida in Gainesville in 1954. He then earned his Master of Science in Architecture two years later from Columbia University. In 1956, he also received certification in Tropical Architecture from the Architectural Association in London. He returned to Columbia University to pursue doctoral studies in architecture and later worked in architectural offices in New York and in Jacksonville, Florida, and with Maxwell Fry in London and Leonardo Ricci in Florence. Branch continued to divide his professional career as an educator and as a practicing architect. He taught at Columbia University, where he gave the William Kinne Fellows address. His research was later published. Between 1961 and 1973, he taught at the University of Florida College of Architecture and Fine Arts. It was during this period that he constructed the Dan Branch House in 1965 for his family, his wife and two young sons. He also designed five other homes in Maloré Gardens during this period.¹⁶ His own home was one of eleven residential designs chosen from throughout Florida to be featured in the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects publication, *Architecture for Florida Living*, in 1967-68.¹⁷ He was part of the University of Florida’s influential faculty members who trained future architects in the Modernist approach to design. Branch

¹⁴ Hochstim, 232.

¹⁵ A bronze plaque in the front colonnade of the Gainesville City Hall states that the building was constructed in 1966 and 1967. Dan P. Branch, David P. Reaves, and Myrl Hanes are listed as architects. A similar plaque is fixed to the front of the former City Library, currently used for city administrative offices. The two buildings and their surrounding landscaping and parking occupy an entire block in the center of Gainesville.

¹⁶ Dan Branch. Phone conversation with Murray Laurie, April 11, 2015

¹⁷ Fotis N. Karousatos, Ed. *Architecture for Florida Living* (Miami: FA-AIA., 1968) 19-21.

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taught at the University of Miami in 1973 and 1974, then taught at the University of Louisiana from 1977 to 1998.¹⁸ He currently lives in Lafayette, Louisiana, but is retired and no longer practices architecture.

In a recent conversation, Dan Branch stated that he had been deeply influenced as a student by Paul Rudolph, who occasionally taught part-time at the University of Florida in the 1960s. He also worked with Gene Leedy, another prominent member of the Sarasota School of Architecture.¹⁹ He won commissions for projects not only in Florida, such as the Junior Museum in Tallahassee, but also in other parts of the country. Paul Rudolph and Louis Kahn shaped his competition designs. His publications indicate his interest in vernacular architecture and experimental investigations in natural ventilation.²⁰

In 1973, the Branch family left Gainesville, and the house was purchased by another University of Florida professor of architecture, Ed Crane. In 1978, the house was purchased by the present owner, who has respected the architectural integrity of the home to a remarkable degree.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

In 2004, Jan Hochstim chose the Dan Branch house as a good example of Florida Modern architecture in his chapter on Central and Northern Florida, where he found “only a handful of projects worthy of note” in that part of the state.²¹ This is not the first time that the architectural significance of this particular house had been recognized. In 1968, the Dan Branch house was selected by leading Florida architects as one of eleven residences worthy of special note and featured it in a publication of the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects that looked at contemporary homes throughout the state.²² Architect Dan Branch adapted Modernist design principles to Florida’s unique and varied environment. The house fit its densely wooded site on a small pond, and brings a sense of

¹⁸ Hochstim. 238.

¹⁹ Dan Branch, April 11, 2015.

²⁰ Dan Branch, Statement of Qualifications summarizing his career. Branch published, *Folk Architecture of the East Mediterranean* in 1966, based on his doctoral studies as a William Kinne Fellow in architecture at Columbia University in New York.

²¹ Hochstim, 231-232.

²² Karousatos, 19-20

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 7 **DAN BRANCH HOUSE, GAINESVILLE,
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

the outdoors into the home through the use of glass walls of one kind or another in virtually every room. Branch used geometric forms, arranged symmetrically for the most part, and brought light to the center of the house as he arranged domestic spaces around the open tread stairway that connects the various levels. Throughout the house, the circulation patterns from room to room, up and down stairs, and across open hallways is a dynamic element of the modern aesthetic that prevails in the house. Like other young architects in the 1950s and 1960s, Dan Branch made use of exposed concrete blocks and natural wood panels both inside and outside and installed aluminum-framed sliding glass doors in many of the rooms to provide direct access to the outdoors. The unadorned exterior and the visible expression of the skeleton of the building also exemplify salient features of the Modernist Style as it was interpreted in Florida. As an educator as well as a practicing architect, Dan Branch helped open and expand the curriculum at the University of Florida, College of Architecture to the design principals of the Midcentury Modern Style.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1 **DAN BRANCH HOUSE, GAINESVILLE,
ALACHUA 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 **DAN BRANCH HOUSE, GAINESVILLE,
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

MACINTOSH GRANT MALORE GARDENS OR52/104 LOT 7 OR I710/2315 & OR
3062/1024
Parcel # 07136-007-000
Less than one acre

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This property is historically associated with the Dan Branch House.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photo Page 1 **DAN BRANCH HOUSE, GAINESVILLE,
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST

Information in 1-5 is the same for all photographs

1. Name of property: Dan Branch House
2. County and State: Alachua County, Florida
3. Photographer: Murray D. Laurie
4. Date of photographs: January to April, 2015
5. Location of original images: Murray D. Laurie
6. Patio and pond, facing east
7. Number 1 of 21

6. Street and driveway, facing west
7. Number 2 of 21

6. Façade from street, photographer facing north
7. Number 3 of 21

6. Façade, photographer facing east
7. Number 4 of 21

6. Façade and carport, photographer facing northwest
7. Number 5 of 21

6. Front entry, photographer facing north
7. Number 6 of 21

6. East elevation, photographer facing west
7. Number 7 of 21

6. North/west corner, photographer facing south
7. Number 8 of 21

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photo Page 2 **DAN BRANCH HOUSE, GAINESVILLE,
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

- 6. North, rear elevation, photographer facing southeast
- 7. Number 9 of 21

- 6. View of studio, photographer facing northwest
- 7. Number 10 of 21

- 6. Entrance to main house, photographer facing southwest
- 7. Number 11 of 21

- 6. Dining room, photographer facing southeast
- 7. Number 12 of 21

- 6. Kitchen, photographer facing northwest
- 7. Number 13 of 21

- 6. Stairs between first and second level, photographer facing southwest
- 7. Number 14 of 21

- 6. Fireplace in center of living room, photographer facing southwest
- 7. Number 15 of 21

- 6. West side of living room, photographer facing northwest
- 7. Number 16 of 21

- 6. East side of living room, photographer facing southeast
- 7. Number 17 of 21

- 6. Loft room overlooking west side of living room, photographer facing north
- 7. Number 18 of 21

- 6. Loft room overlooking east side of living room, photographer facing south
- 7. Number 19 of 21

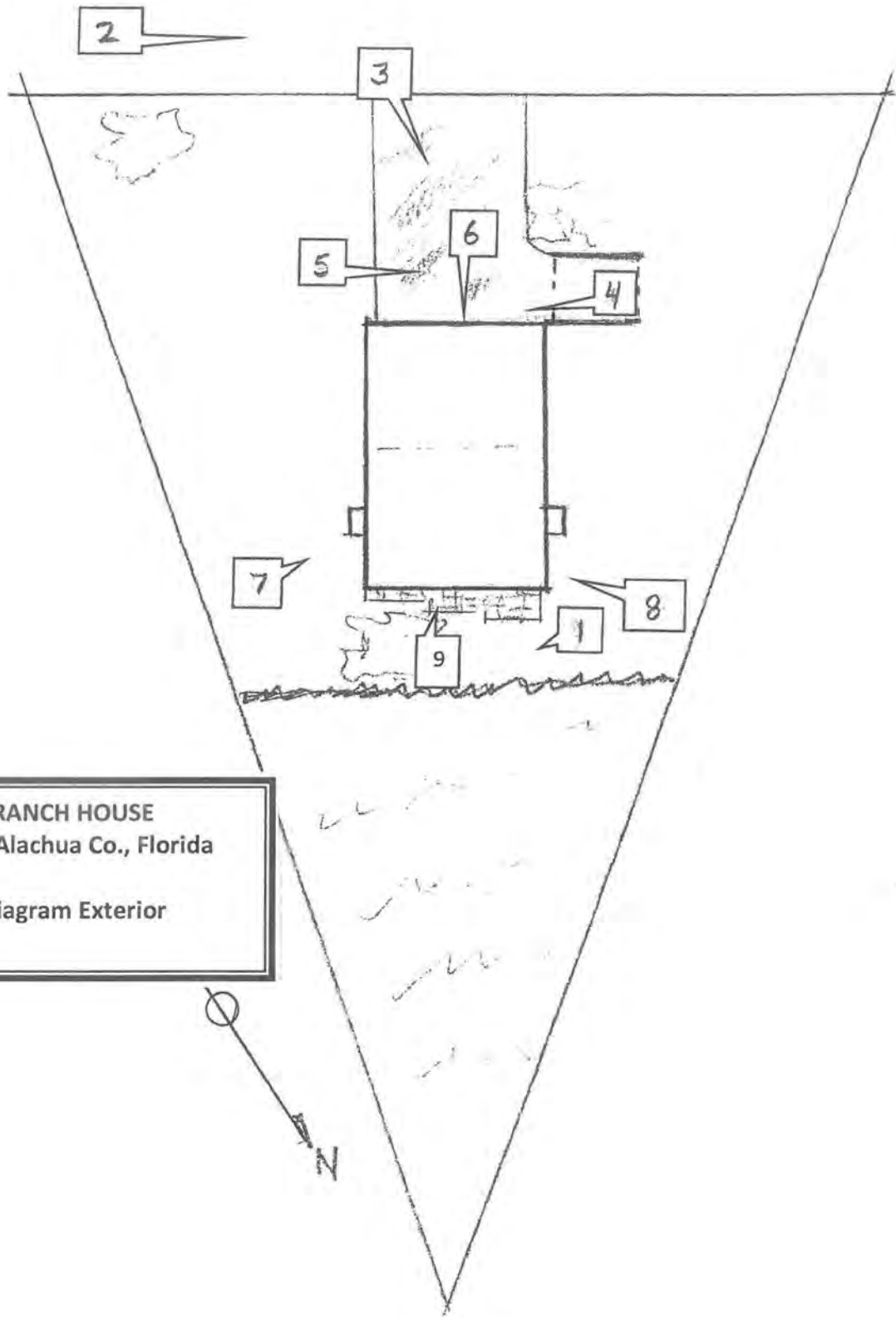
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photo Page 3 **DAN BRANCH HOUSE, GAINESVILLE,
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

- 6. Stairs to top landing, photographer facing northeast
- 7. Number 20 of 21

- 6. Bedroom, photographer facing east
- 7. Number 21 of 21

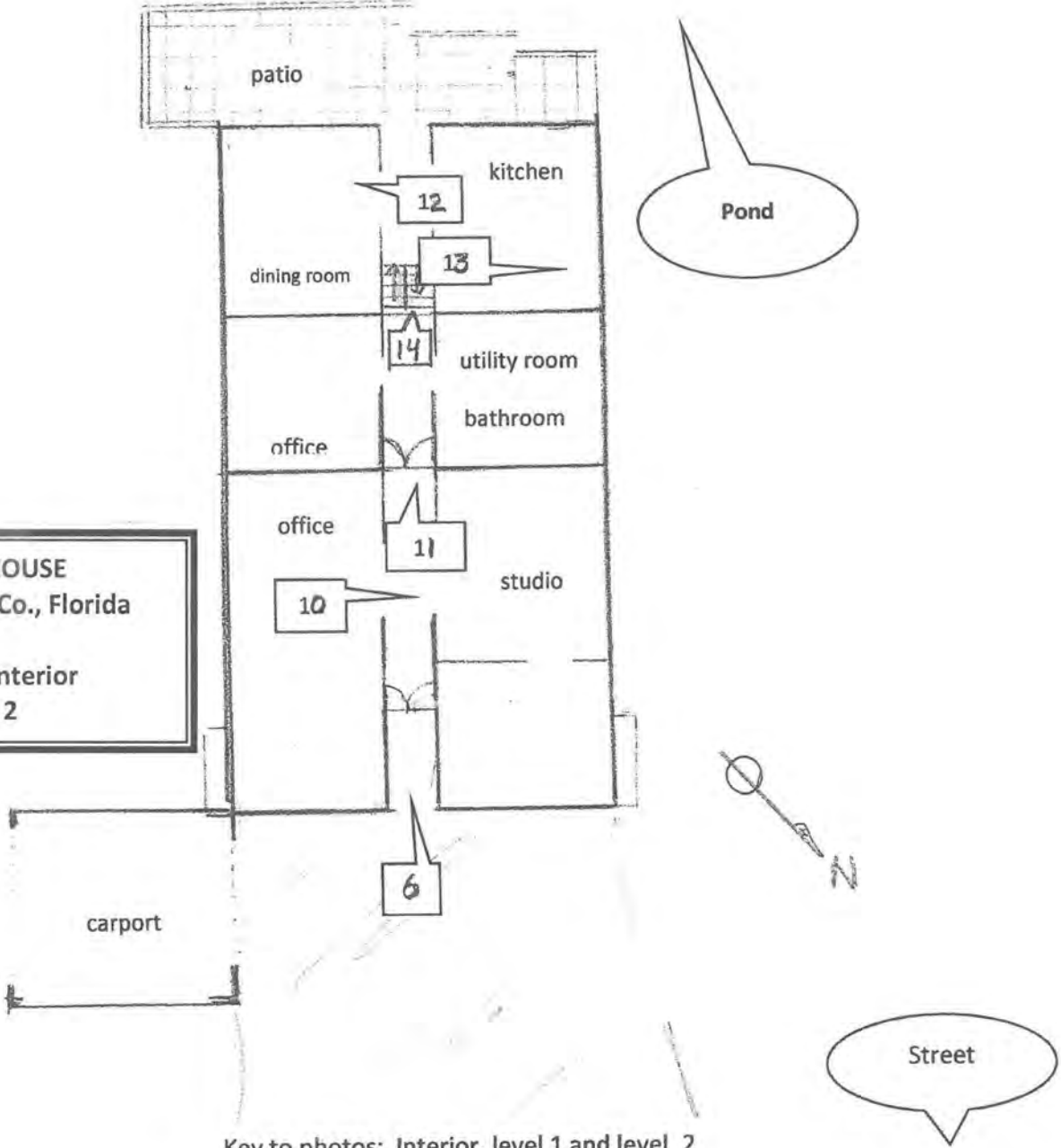


DAN BRANCH HOUSE
Gainesville, Alachua Co., Florida
Photo Diagram Exterior

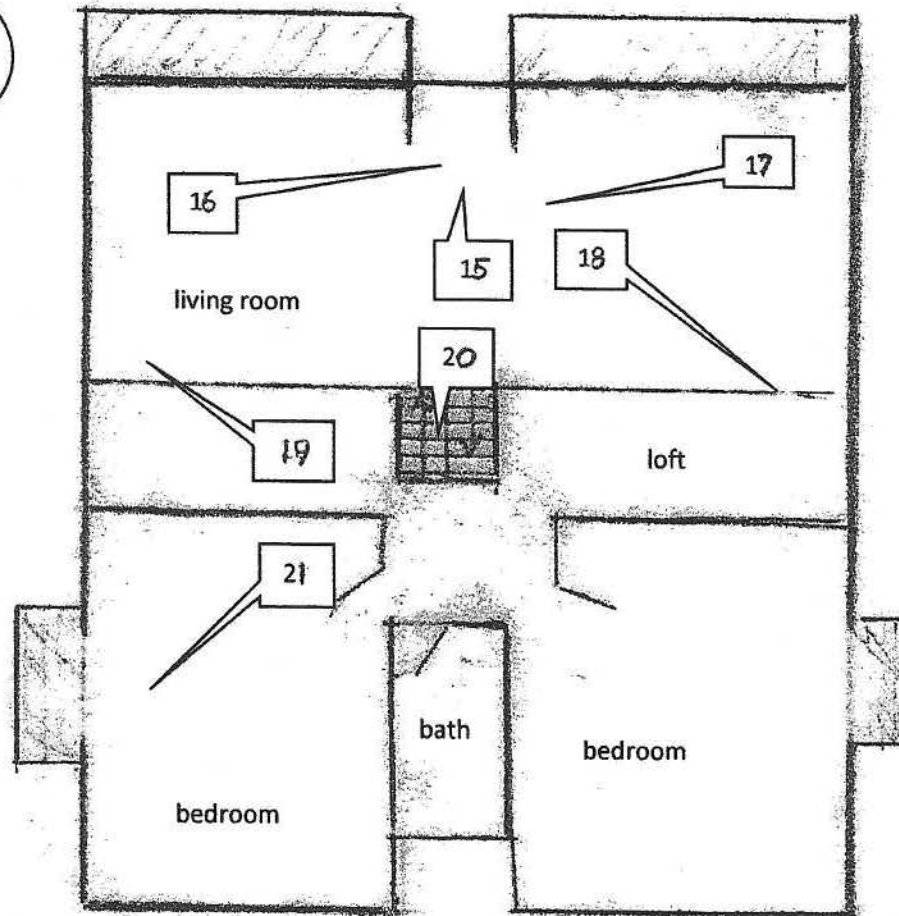
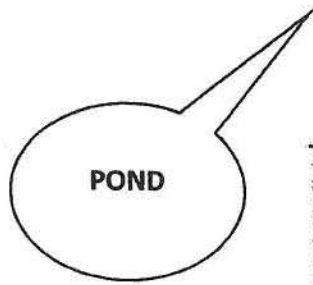
Key to photos: Exterior

DAN BRANCH HOUSE
Gainesville, Alachua Co., Florida

Photo Diagram Interior
Level 1 and 2



Key to photos: Interior, level 1 and level 2



DAN BRANCH HOUSE
Gainesville, Alachua Co., Florida

Photo Diagram Interior
Level 3 and 4

Key to photos: Interior, level 3 and level 4

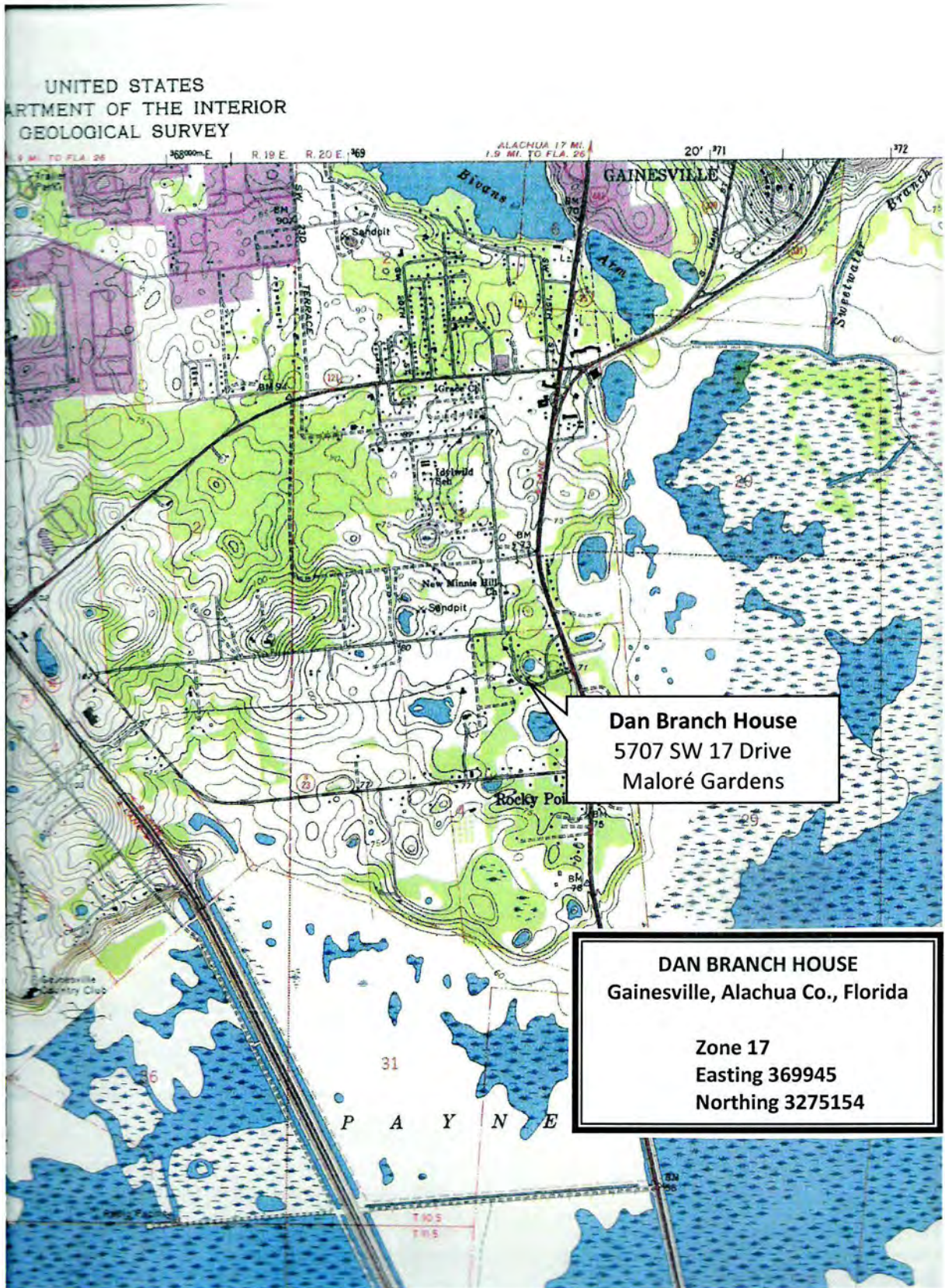


Figure 1. Location Map. *Micanopy Quadrangle, USGS Map, 1966, Photo revised 1988*



Figure 2. Map of Maloré Gardens Subdivision, showing Dan Branch property. From Alachua County Property Appraiser website.

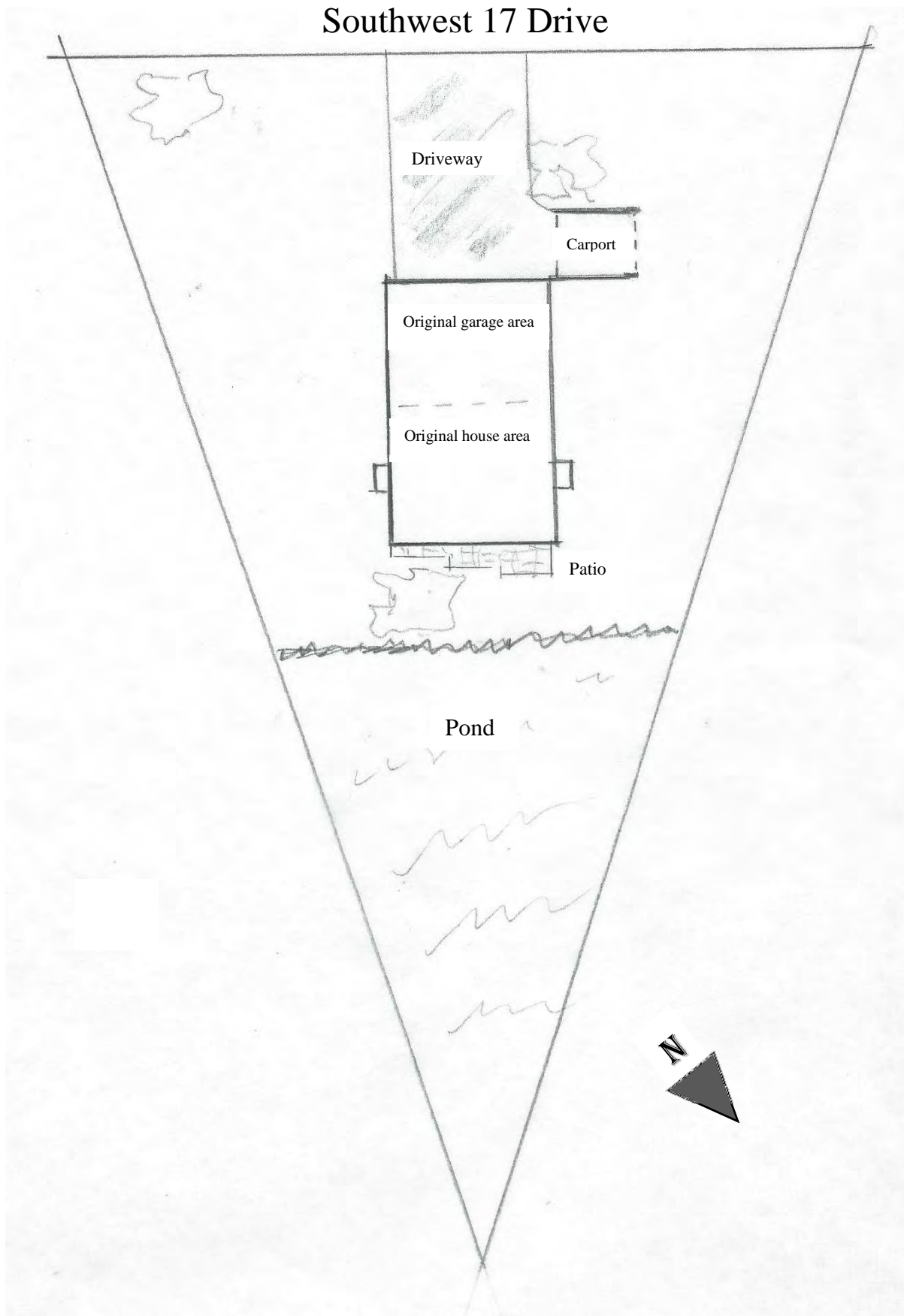


Figure 3: Dan Branch House: Site Map

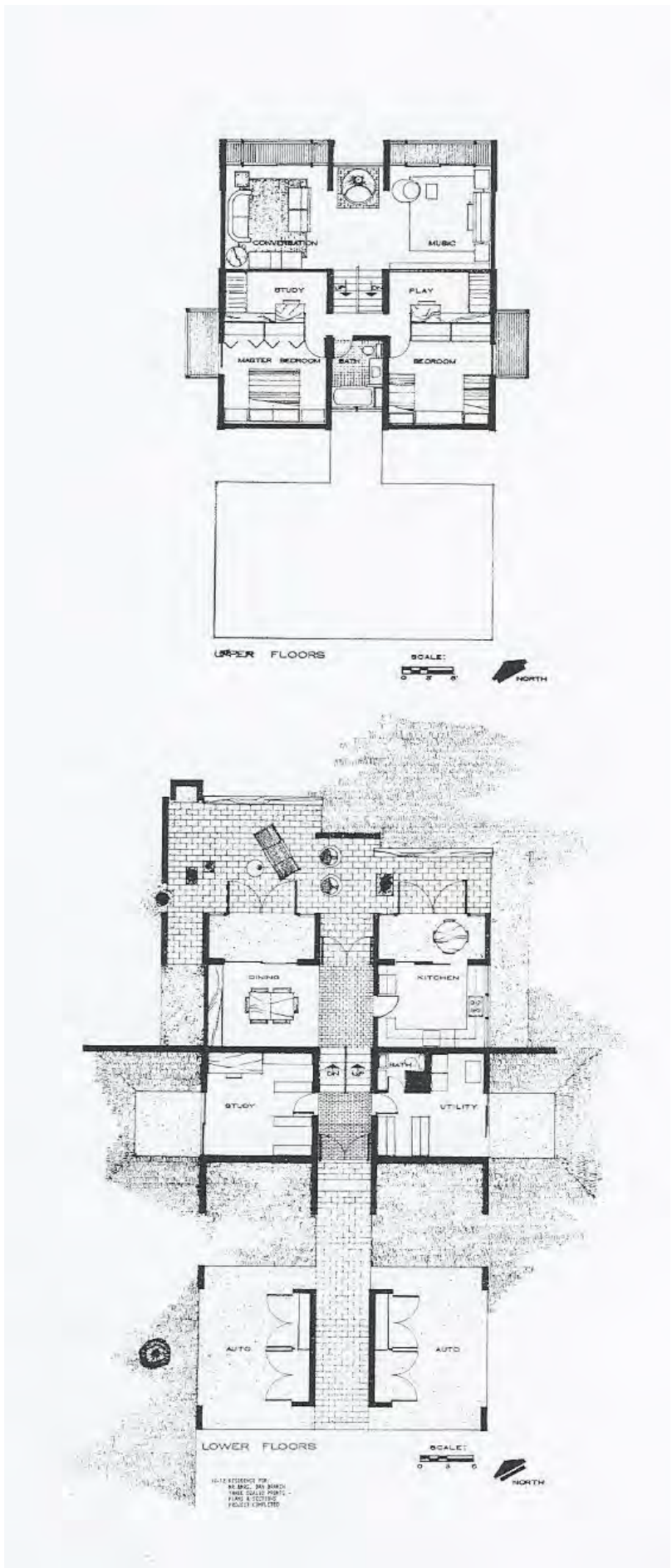


Figure 4. Original floor plans of the Dan Branch House, 1965. (From *Florida Modern*, Jan Hochstim, p. 238)

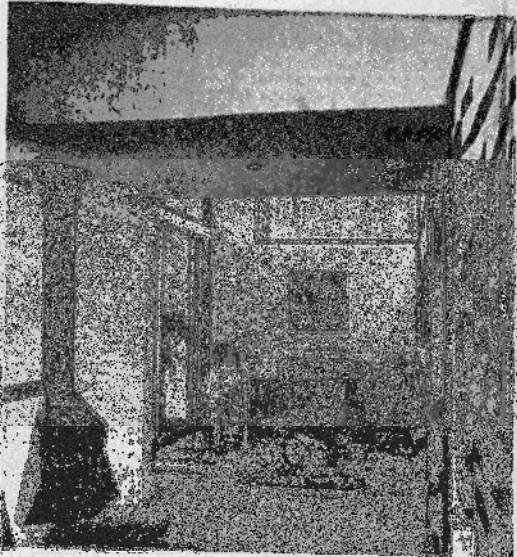
Gatesville
Sun

Real Estate & Classified Section

Sunday
Section D
Jan. 9, 1966

• AUTOMOTIVE • REAL ESTATE • DOROTHY DEAPER • EASY BUILD •

He
Was
On A
Spot



The living room with the fireplace and window.



Exterior view of the house facing the pond.

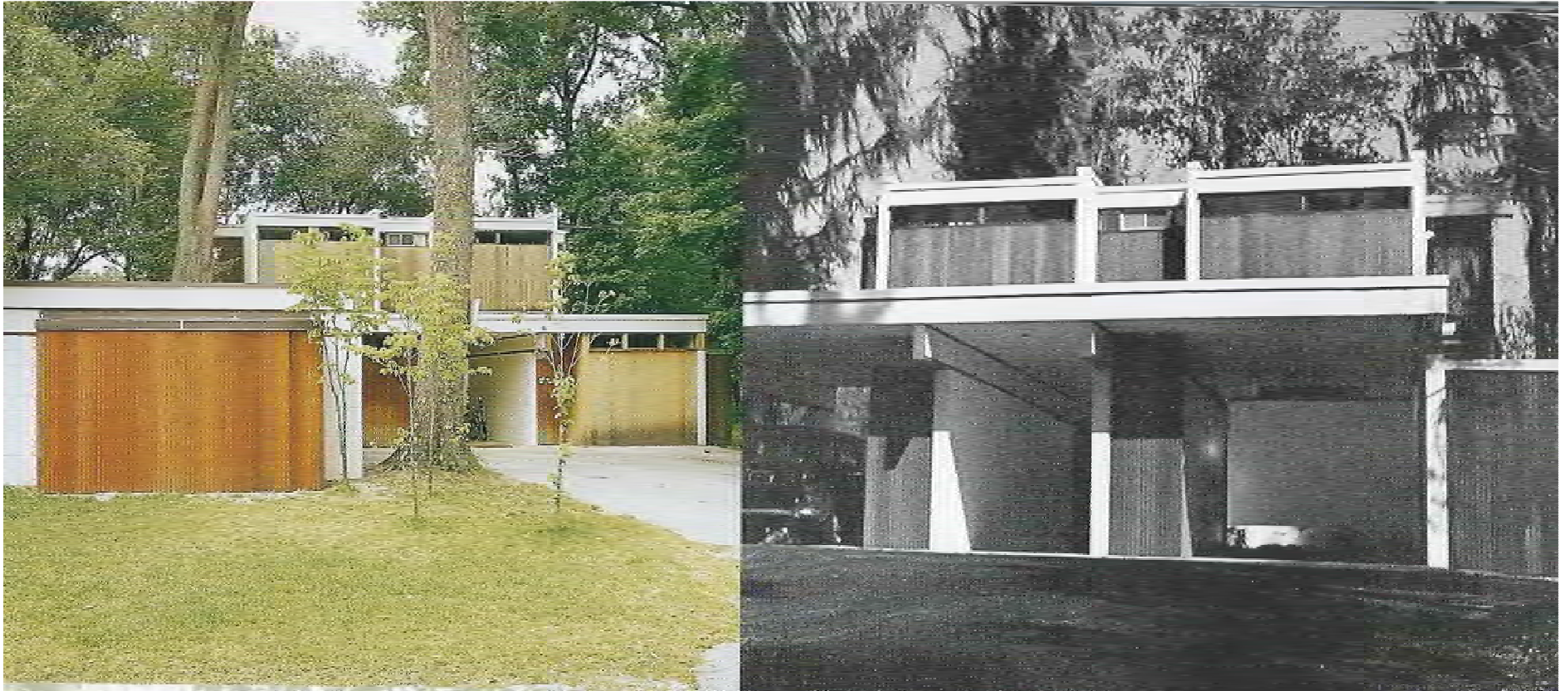
By [Name], [Address]
The house was built in 1958 in [Location]. It is a 2 1/2 story house with a full basement. The living room has a fireplace and a large window. The kitchen is equipped with a refrigerator, stove, and sink. The house is in excellent condition and is a must-see for anyone looking for a home in this area.

The price is \$12,500.00. Call [Phone Number] for more information. The house is located on [Address]. It is a quiet neighborhood with a large lot. The house is a great investment or a great home for a family.

Call [Phone Number] for more information. The house is a great investment or a great home for a family. It is located on [Address] and is a quiet neighborhood with a large lot.

Call [Phone Number] for more information. The house is a great investment or a great home for a family. It is located on [Address] and is a quiet neighborhood with a large lot.

Figure 5. 1966 view of living room and exterior view of façade facing the pond.



View of Front Façade, Circa 1978

View of Front Façade, Circa 1966

Figure 6. The view on the right shows the front façade of the Dan Branch House before the two garages were enclosed. The view on the left shows the front façade after the original garages were enclosed in 1967 and the carport added by the architect in 1972. (From *Florida Modern*, Jan Hochstim, p. 239)











































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Branch, Dan, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Alachua

DATE RECEIVED: 10/02/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/28/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/12/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/17/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000782

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 11-12-2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Small Addition in 1967 - Does not warrant Criteria Consideration G

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C

REVIEWER J. Hubbs DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

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



RECEIVED 2280

OCT - 2 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

September 28, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Dan Branch House (FMSF #8AL5712), in Alachua County**, to the National Register of Historic Places. The related materials (digital images, maps, and site plan) are included.

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

Sincerely,

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

Division of Historical Resources

R.A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399

850.245.6300 • 850.245.6436 (Fax) flheritage.com

Promoting Florida's History and Culture VivaFlorida.org





Alachua County Advisory Board Program

Historical Commission

Mr. Ashley Wood, Chair
Mr. William Breeze, Vice Chair
Ms. Kerryann Kanch, Secretary

September 9, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Bendus,

The Alachua County Historical Commission voted today to support the nomination of the Dan Branch House to the National Register. This modern architecture residence designed by a former UF Architecture Faculty is an important structure identified by "Gainesville Modern" and well documented. The significance of the Modern movement in Gainesville will be demonstrated by listing this building on the National Register.

As the Alachua County advisory board with the mission "To promote, preserve and protect Alachua County's historic resources," we are very pleased to add our support to including this very important structure to the collection of National Register listings within our County. We take pride in the large number and diverse examples of sites here, and the recent work of Gainesville Modern is increasing understanding and appreciation of these sites.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley M. Wood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashley Wood, Chair

Xc: County Commission via Dr. Lee Niblock, County Manager