

1215

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name HORR, CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HOUSE

other names/site number Site File #8CR203

2. Location

street & number Wiskey Creek Drive N/A not for publication

city or town Key Marco, Marco Island vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Collier code 021 zip code 33967

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.)

George W. Perry 8/29/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
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) _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

10/8/97
Date of Action

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A, B, C, D, E, F, G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1877-1923

Significant Dates

1877

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: Unknown

Blder: 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):

- Criteria for previous documentation on file (NPS).

Primary location of additional data:

- Criteria for primary location of additional data.

Name of Repository

#

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	
0	0	buildings
1	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)

NOT IN USE/RUINS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE/MASONRY VERNACULAR

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Tabby

walls Tabby

roof N/A

other N/A

Narrative Description

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

HORR, CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HOUSE
Name of Property

Collier Co., Florida
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	4 3 1 1 0 0	2 8 6 5 0 0 0
	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 Sherry Piland/Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date August 1997

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (904) 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 _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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
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Section number 7 Page 1

HORR, CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HOUSE
COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Captain John Foley Horr House site is located on the north side of Whiskey Creek Drive on Horr's Island, in Collier County, Florida. The site consists of the tabby ruins of Captain Horr's House, once part of his large pineapple plantation.

SETTING

Horr's Island is a small island of approximately 160 acres. It lies to the southeast of Marco Island, across Barfield Bay. Horr's Island is linked to Marco Island by a bridge across Blue Hill Creek, on County Road 92 (San Marco Road). Marco Island is approximately 16 miles south of Naples. Horr's Island is adjacent to the west boundary of the Cape Romano Ten Thousand Islands Aquatic Preserve. Horr's Island and Marco Island are the only islands in the immediate area which have relatively high ground. The other islands are composed of low-lying mangroves.

Prior to the development of Horr's Island into an upscale housing development, access to the island was only by boat. In the early 1990s, a bridge was constructed across Blue Hill Creek and roads were constructed. Access to the island is now restricted by a gated entry.

The developers of the island have preserved the Horr House site and protected it with an archaeological easement. In 1995, the site was designated a locally significant property by the Collier County Board of County Commissioners.

DESCRIPTION

Only ruins remain of the Captain John Horr House, located on the highest, most conspicuous point of Horr's Island. The ruins are near the west end of the Island. The two-story tabby house (Photo 1) was probably oriented to the north, to overlook Barfield Bay.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The house rested on two, poured, tabby footings. It had tabby flooring, approximately 6 inches thick. The house was rectangular in shape, measuring 12 feet by 35 feet, with the long axis oriented east-west. The walls on the west end of the house average 16.5 inches in thickness (Photo 2); those on the east end are 12.5 inches (Photo 3). The thicker walls would offer more strength to bear the weight of a second story, which was erected on this portion of the building.

The interior and exterior walls have a smooth, stucco-type surface (Photo 4). Areas that reveal the interior wall composition show the use of a number of whole shells in the tabby material (Photos 5 and 6).

The insertion areas of the floor rafters are clearly visible on the interior walls of the second floor section of the building (Photo 7). Nothing remains of the roof.

An interior wall divided the first floor into two rooms, joined by a doorway (Photo 8). An exterior door was located on each facade of the house. Seven window openings are evident on the first floor; the upper floor appears to have had 5 or 6 windows. Fragments of the wood door and window jamb material are present (Photo 9). Cast iron lintels are also visible in some window openings (Photo 10). However, no door or window hardware remains. A hole near the top of the east wall may have served as a stove pipe outlet (Photo 11).

A historical photograph (Photo 12) and information obtained from John H. Brautigam (Captain Horr's great grandchild who spent time on the island as a youth) indicate that at some point a frame porch extended almost all the way around the house. Horr also enlarged the house with a frame addition on both floors. The historic photograph reveals a long one story wing extending from the west side of the house. Several small outbuildings are shown west of the house. A packing plant was located west of the house, on the waterfront.

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COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Currently, the growth of vegetation within the tabby walls poses the threat of structural damage to the remaining ruins (photos 13 and 14).

A tabby cistern is located approximately 3 feet beyond the east wall of the house. The walls and floor of the cistern, excavated 5 feet below grade, were also of tabby. For safety reasons, the cistern has recently been covered over and is no longer visible.

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HORR, CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HOUSE
COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Captain John Foley Horr House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a significant site under Criteria A and C in the areas of Exploration and Settlement and Architecture. The tabby ruins of the house, constructed ca. 1877, represent an unusual construction technique for this area of Florida. Captain Horr played a significant role in the development of Horr's Island, Marco Island, and Collier County.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Early Occupation

The coastal area of southwest Florida, from Gordon's Pass at Naples south to Cape Sable has been called the area of "Ten Thousand Islands." The area consists of a low lying coastal region with many tidal rivers, bays, sounds and lakes with thousands of shoal water islands and mangrove swamps. The land surfaces in this area are nearly all below five feet elevation except where shell and sand dunes rise higher. The largest island in this area is Marco Island, consisting of approximately 6,000 acres.

This area of Florida was originally occupied by Calusa Indians. After suffering disease and death during the early Spanish explorations of Florida, by the late 1700s only their shell mounds remained. Spanish-Cuban fisheries were established along the southwest Florida coast at least as early as the beginning of the seventeenth century. At first the fishing was seasonal, with the fishermen arriving from Cuba in late August and establishing fishing camps (ranchos) on the coastal island. The fishing season closed in March. The ranchos were usually rebuilt annually at the same locations, and consisted of thatched huts and racks for drying fish. By the late eighteenth century, several groups of Cuban and Indian fishermen were inhabiting their ranchos year round. By the 1820s, American fishermen were also working the southwest Florida coast and soon began to establish permanent settlements. They cultivated some of the

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HORR, CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HOUSE
COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

larger islands, supplying fruits and vegetables to the fishing fleets and, later, directly to the Havana market. Islands with extensive shell middens seem to have been preferred for agriculture. John Lee Williams explored the area in the 1820s and found several settlements in the Marco/Horrs Island area, including "several well cultivated plantations, long hid from the civilized world."

By the later 1830s, the Second Seminole War was underway and U.S. troops had been sent to the area to remove the Seminoles. In 1838, a U.S. Army expedition found several deserted American or Cuban plantations and one Seminole camp in the Marco/Horrs Island area, and several large plantations on Cape Romano. The Army reports described an island with "bluff banks and high ground throughout where once was a very large plantation, and upon which the Lemon and Sugar Cane was Cultivated." This was probably Horr's Island.

The Seminoles had been removed from the area by 1858, but settlers did not arrive in the Marco Island region in appreciable numbers until after the Civil War. W. T. Collier moved his family to Marco Island from New Smyrna in 1870. At that time, four black families were farming on Marco Island. Collier bought their claims, paid for their transportation back to Fort Myers, and set up a small store. Only one other white settler was in the area. On the surrounding islands and on the nearby mainland south and east of Marco Island small settlements appeared, flourished for a time, and died, often leaving little trace of occupation.

Pineapple Plantations

From the 1850s through the 1880s, pineapples from the West Indies and the Bahamas were the main source of the fruit for the Eastern United States. Subtropical pineapple production began in South Florida in 1860 when a Key West farmer planted some pineapple slips from Havana on Plantation Key. As railroads extended their tracks in Florida and shipping facilities became more plentiful, a sizable plantation industry developed on

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COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Florida's east coast. In 1881, pineapples were planted near Titusville, and several hundred acres had been planted in the locality of Eden by 1889. This area became a center of pineapple production.

The land used for pineapple production in Florida increased over 100% between 1895 and 1910. The greatest expense incurred in establishing a plantation was preparing the land for cultivation. Since the soils were typically low in organic matter, fertilization was necessary. Pineapple growth requires considerable moisture, and eventually the area along the Indian River proved too dry to grow the fruit. Growers began to use irrigation and shelters were built over the new growth in order to lessen the evaporation of moisture.

The kind of well-drained sandy soil necessary for pineapple production could be found on both coasts. A government scientist wrote, in the 1880s, that there was no reason the southeast coast, in the vicinity of Fort Myers, could not be successful in production of the fruit. Between 1890-1900, a few growers were producing pineapple in Orlando, Winter Haven, and Fort Myers. In 1920, twenty-seven acres near Punta Gorda was in pineapple production. The elevated dune ridge on Horr's Island was an advantage to pineapple growth, for it offered increased protection against killing frosts. On the west coast a shipping network was established to transport the easily bruised fruit to market, instead of the rail transportation favored on the east coast.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Large post-bellum plantations were established on several of the Marco area islands, probably on the sites of earlier plantations. These plantations produced fruit and vegetables. Initially, trade was limited to the fishing vessels that visited the area. However, Key West, with an increasing population and permanent naval base, had a burgeoning market for food crops. In the 1880s, a sailing vessel began to make regular trips to Key

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West to deliver produce. This attracted other settlers to the island community.

One of those settlers was John F. Horr. Horr was born in Ohio in 1843 and served in the Union Army during the Civil War. In 1865 he married Lucinda E. Frazier. The couple had three children. Sometime after his marriage, Horr moved with his family to Key West where he operated a wholesale grocery business. He also became the director of the First National Bank in Key West, and from 1889 to 1893, was the Collector of Customs for the Key West District. In 1898, Horr was appointed U.S. Marshal for the southern district, which extended from Key West to Jacksonville. He held this position for 15 years. Horr was also a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1892 and again in 1900. In 1900, he was a Republican nominee for Florida Secretary of State, but lost the election.

It was probably through his grocery business that Horr became aware of the agricultural potential of the Marco island area. Around 1877, Horr built a house on one of the highest shell mounds on an island southeast of Marco island, which has since become known as Horr's Island. It is unclear when or how Horr came to acquire the island that was to bear his name. The first record of Horr in the area is found on the 1877 survey map of Township 52 South, Range 26 East. Horr's Island is so identified and a structure labeled "John Horr" is indicated in section 22, in the approximate location of the ruins that stand today. On the eastern end of the island in Section 24 are shown a house labeled "Roberts" and nearby, a "mound."

It appears that Horr used the island chiefly as a vacation retreat, living there with his family only periodically. Because of his public activity in Key West, it is unclear how much time he could have spent on the island. He did establish a small citrus grove and a larger pineapple plantation, which were probably placed in the hands of a caretaker, with Horr functioning simply as an absentee landlord. Black workers were hired for the plantation. Horr did take the Federal Census in the area in 1880, and he could well have visited the island during certain seasons to oversee critical agricultural or

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HORR, CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HOUSE
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

marketing operations. Enough people lived on the island to maintain a school there for a brief time. It appears that Horr grew a large variety of crops initially, but by the turn of the century he had abandoned this broad-based approach and devoted his land to pineapple production. He eventually built a pineapple packing plant and cannery. These structures are not extant. According to a 1923 deed conveying the property to E. M. Elliott, the plantation had some form of irrigation.

Information has not been located to document the size or success of Horr's pineapple production. In 1905, 370,000 crates were shipped from the east coast area. In 1909, 1,100,147 crates were shipped, but then production began to fall. By 1917, the pineapple boom in Florida collapsed and the following year only 25,000-30,000 crates were shipped. This decline in the industry was attributed to disease, soil exhausted of necessary nutrients, and competition from Cuban growers.

Although Horr operated a canning facility, the necessary rail lines to transport the canned fruit to northern markets did not exist. By the early 1920s Horr was selling his property. Parcels were bought and sold by a number of people, some apparently speculators. In 1923, he completed the sale of all of his property, including his house, and returned to Ohio. He died there three years later.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The Horr House is an unusual example of tabby construction, an early American building technique popular on the Atlantic coast from the late 1500s to the mid-1800s. Tabby, a simple concrete, was composed of equal parts of lime, water, sand, and shells. The lime was produced by burning mollusk shells, either in a kiln or in the open. The most common source of shell for the tabby was from archaeological shell middens, because freshly gathered shell was unsuitable for tabby due to its high salt content. The tabby material was poured into wooden frameworks, in layered fashion.

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Two major periods of tabby construction in the southeast United States have been identified: the Spanish period (1580-1763), centered at St. Augustine; and the British period (1703-1842), centered around the Charleston and Beaufort, South Carolina area, and later extending down the Georgia and North Florida coasts. This tradition fostered the most extensive use of tabby on coastal plantations. Tabby construction was highly regarded for its strength, resistance to fire, and for its economy. However, the popularity of tabby waned after the Civil War when commercially prepared cements became available at reasonable prices.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

In the waning days of tabby construction on the Atlantic coast, the technique enjoyed a limited resurgence on the Florida Gulf Coast. The Braden and Gable plantations in the Manatee River area employed tabby construction almost exclusively between 1843 and 1859.

It has been postulated that Captain Horr's use of tabby at this rather late date outside the major centers of tabby construction is related to two factors. First, immense aboriginal shell deposits in the gulf coast area provided a ready source of building materials. Secondly, many of the settlers in the Marco/Horr's Island area were originally from Georgia and Carolina and may have possessed the knowledge of tabby construction. Horr could have learned of the technique from them. In addition, Mound A, a thirty foot conical shell mound approximately 100 yards east of the house, appears to have been Horr's source of shell.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

An archaeological investigation of Horr's Island was undertaken by Alan McMichael and Jerald Milanich in the summer of 1979. Field work was carried out in two stages: first, all sites were located and tentatively identified; then, test excavations

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COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

were conducted to determine the nature of the sites and the potential of each site for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Various forms of survey methodology were employed, according to variations in ground cover and site density. Several shell middens were identified and recorded in the Florida Master Site File. After the island had been surveyed, two prehistoric sites on the north end were selected for test excavations. Although it appears that the sites may be eligible for listing in the Register under Criterion D, their archaeological significance is not addressed in this nomination.

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HORR, CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HOUSE
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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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**HORR, CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HOUSE
COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Horr's Island A.K.A. Key Marco, Plat Book 21, pp. 5-19, Inclusive "Tract Q," Horr's Homestead, Collier County, Florida.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated site consists of an archaeological easement of approximately 0.67 acres that contains the ruins of the home associated with Captain John Foley Horr. The boundary of this easement is shown as a dashed line on the enclosed site plan.

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HORR, CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HOUSE
COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHOTOGRAPHS

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Captain John Foley Horr House, Whiskey Creek Drive
2. Marco Island, Collier County, Florida
3. Nancy Siemion
4. August 1996
5. Collier County Government, Community Development and Environmental Services, 2800 N. Horseshoe Drive, Naples, Fl.
6. South facade on left, east elevation on right; looking northwest
7. Photo 1 of 14

Items 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs, unless otherwise indicated.

6. Detail, window, south facade; looking northwest
7. Photo 2 of 14

6. East elevation, looking northwest
7. Photo 3 of 14

6. Looking into interior from north elevation; looking southeast
7. Photo 4 of 14

6. Detail of tabby material, doorway; looking northwest
7. Photo 5 of 14

6. Detail of tabby material, doorway; looking west
7. Photo 6 of 14

6. Interior view, looking north
7. Photo 7 of 14

6. Interior view, looking east
7. Photo 8 of 14

6. Window detail, interior, looking west
7. Photo 9 of 14

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HORR, CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HOUSE
COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHOTOGRAPHS

- 6. Window detail, second floor interior, looking south
- 7. Photo 10 of 14

- 6. East elevation, looking west
- 7. Photo 11 of 14

- 3. Unknown
- 4. Unknown
- 6. Historic photograph, showing Captain Horr's House, north elevation; looking south from Barfield Bay
- 7. Photo 12 of 14

- 6. Detail, south elevation, looking north
- 7. Photo 13 of 14

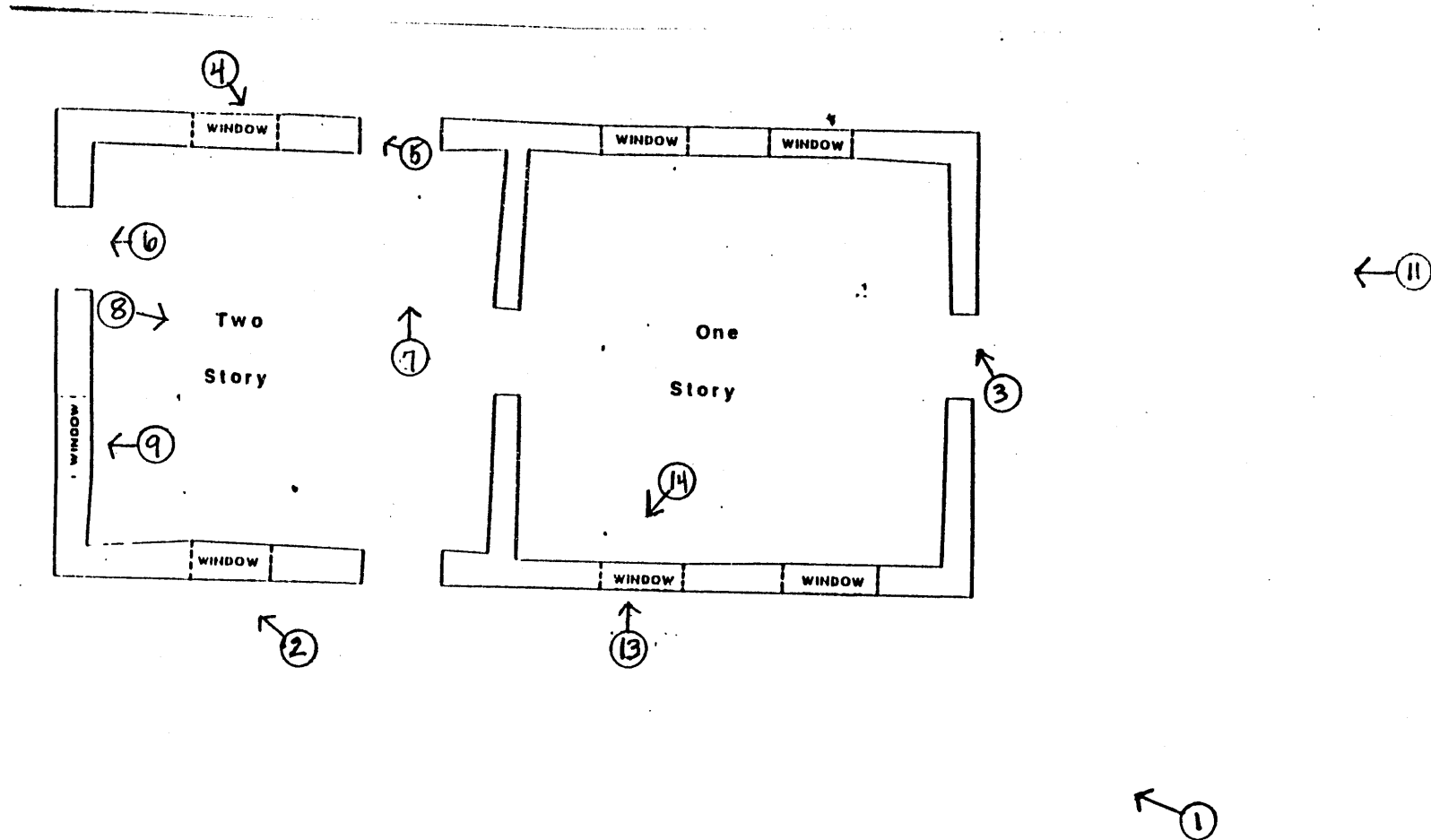
- 6. Detail, interior, looking southwest
- 7. Photo 14 of 14

CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HORR HOUSE
COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA

Photo Direction 

Approx. Scale: 0.5"=2.2'

FIRST FLOOR



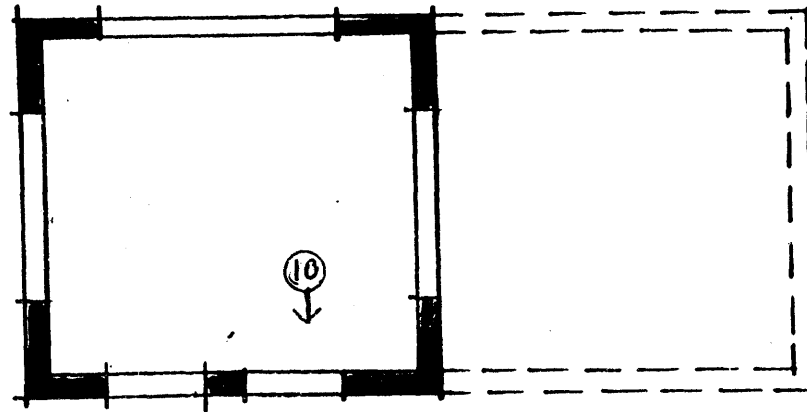
CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HARR HOUSE

COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA

Photo Direction ○→

Approx. Scale: 0.5"=3'

SECOND FLOOR

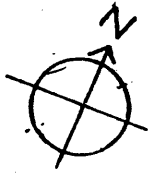


CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HORR HOUSE

COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA

Boundary - - - - -

Approx. Scale: 0.5"=18.6'



BARFIELD BAY

EDGE OF WATER

DEVELOPMENT LIMIT LINE
PER SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
DATED JULY 20, 1982

NATIVE
HABITAT
PARK
TRACT

CISTERN
HORR'S
HOMESTEAD

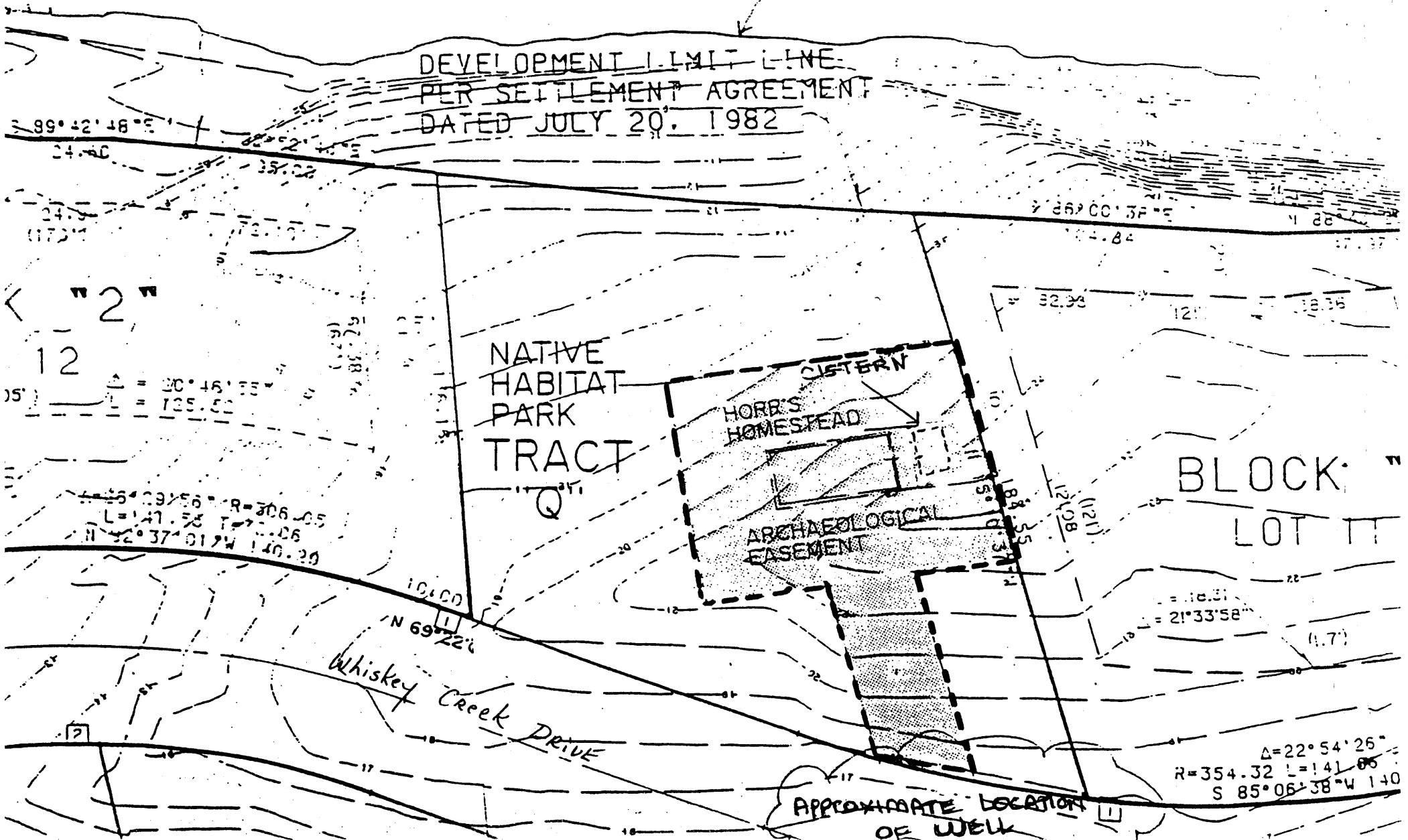
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EASEMENT

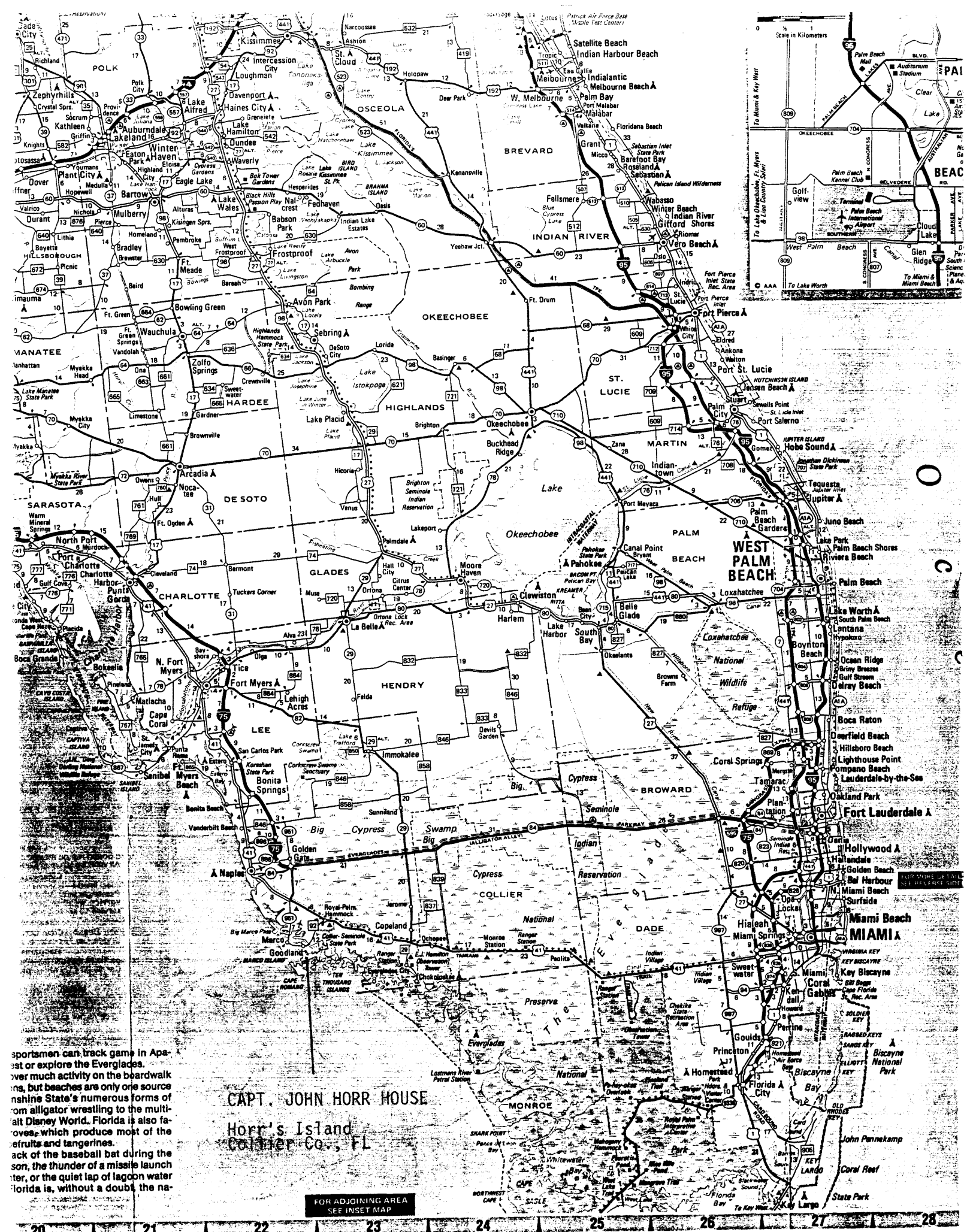
BLOCK
LOT II

Whiskey Creek Drive

APPROXIMATE LOCATION
OF WELL

$\Delta = 22^\circ 54' 26''$
 $R = 354.32$ $L = 141.05$
 $S 85^\circ 06' 38'' W 140$





sportsmen can track game in Ap-
 over much activity on the boardwalk
 ns, but beaches are only one source
 nshine State's numerous forms of
 om alligator wrestling to the multi-
 alt Disney World. Florida is also fa-
 vens, which produce most of the
 efruits and tangerines.
 ack of the baseball bat during the
 son, the thunder of a missile launch-
 er, or the quiet lap of lagoon water
 Florida is, without a doubt, the na-

CAPT. JOHN HARR HOUSE
 Horr's Island
 Collier Co., FL

FOR ADJOINING AREA
 SEE INSET MAP

FOR PORT OF CALL
 SEE BACK PAGE