

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88001849

Date Listed: 10/17/88

Townsend, James H., House

Marion

FL

Property Name

County

State

N/A

Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Amy Schlager*  
Signature of the Keeper

10/17/88  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

The property is significant within a local context; "local" should be checked as the level of significance. In addition, 1978 and 1986 should not be included as significant dates; rather they relate to the more modern changes to the buildings, as noted in the text.

Discussed and concurred in by Florida SHPO on October 17, 1988.

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DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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SEP 2 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name James W. Townsend House  
other names/site number Orange Springs Inn /8MR 1509

2. Location

street & number Northwest Corner Main and Spring Streets N/A  not for publication  
city, town Orange Springs N/A  vicinity  
state Florida code 012 county Marion code 083 zip code 32682

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
[Signature] 8-26-88  
Signature of certifying official Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
               
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
        
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. [Signature] 10/17/88  
 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 of the Keeper        Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Single Dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Hotel

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

No Style/ Wood Frame Vernacular

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick Piers

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walls Wood/ Drop Siding

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roof Metal/ Galvanized Iron

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other Wood/ Verandas

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Townsend House in Orange Springs, Florida, is a two-story, wood frame vernacular structure with an L-shaped plan. The former residence is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Main Street and Spring Street, about 900 feet south of the mineral springs which gives the town its name. The ground dimensions of the structure are approximately 55 feet wide by 85 feet deep, including the long rear ell. The main block of the house is only about 35 feet deep. The building rests on a foundation of brick piers and is surmounted by a side gable roof surfaced with corrugated galvanized metal. A hipped roof, two-story veranda extends the width of the main (south) facade and includes all of the side elevations on the second story; however the first story veranda embraces only a small portion of the side elevations, owing to the installation of bathrooms for the east and west bedrooms. The rear of the upper veranda was also enclosed to provide bathrooms and a linen closet for the two bedrooms on the second floor. The long rear ell also features a gable roof and has shed roofs over the screened porch and a bedroom at the rear of the house..

The verandas of the main block of the house are supported by chamfered posts that are decorated scroll brackets. Both verandas feature wooden balustrades with simple rails and plain palings. Screened porches are found on the ground story at the northwest corner of the main block of the house and on the west elevation of the one-story rear ell. The porches and verandas are all approximately eight and one-half feet deep and are canted to drain rainwater away from the house.

The exterior of the house is simple and reflects the influence of no formal style. The exterior siding is drop siding and the main original windows are 2/2 light double hung wooden sashes. The main (south) facade is divided into five bays on both stories, with rather tall windows flanking wood and glass paneled doors framed by surrounds that contain unusually large sidelights and transoms that were constructed to enclose the formerly open breezeway. When the house was completed in 1912, doorways fitted with wood paneled doors stood on either side of the first story breezeway. It is unclear when these were replaced by wood sash windows, but it must have been early in the history of the house for the south walls of the first floor bedrooms show the same narrow beaded siding as is found throughout the house, and there is no visual evidence remaining of the existence of the former doorways. The house has only one brick chimney, which is located on the west elevation and serves only the bedroom on the first floor.

 See continuation sheet

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DescriptionInterior Description

The first floor of the main block of the house contains two bedrooms that flank the central hall. Each bedroom has a bathroom that occupies a portion of what had formerly been the veranda. The west bedroom also has a doorway that gives access to the small screened porch at the northwest corner of the main block of the house. The central hall leads to a large living room that was converted to a dining room when the house became an inn in 1986. The room had been remodelled in the 1970s and the beaded wall and ceiling boards had been covered with simulated natural wood paneling and acoustical ceiling tiles. The original wall and ceiling fabric of the second dining room--located immediately south of the former living room--remains in its original state. This room was also used as a dining room when the building was still a private residence. The second dining room is located in the rear ell of the inn, which also contains a kitchen, restrooms for the restaurant patrons, a screened porch--also used as a dining area--and storage spaces. The owners of the Orange Springs Inn remodelled the kitchen for commercial use and installed the dining area restrooms. At the extreme rear of the house is another bedroom and bathroom. These were installed in a former storage area in the 1970s by Townsend's granddaughter.

The second floor of the inn is reached by the stairs located in the central hall. The upper floor contains only two guest rooms and their bathroom. These bathrooms are located at the rear of the house and, like those on the first floor, were installed by enclosing a part of the veranda. The bathrooms in the main block of the house constitute the only major exterior visual alterations to the building. According to local information, the bathroom for the west bedroom was installed prior to the death of James Townsend. The others were constructed in the 1970s when his granddaughter renovated the residence. Except for the former living room and the rear bedroom, all the other major rooms have their original beaded "novelty" wall and ceiling boarding.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture; Commerce  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1912  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1912, 1978  
1986  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Townsend, James Walter

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary Statement

The Townsend House (Orange Springs Inn) in the town of Orange Springs Florida is significant under criterion B for its association with James Walter Townsend (1864-1944), who was instrumental in developing the turpentine industry in Central Florida during the latter part of the nineteenth century and further contributed to the commercial and economic life of the region through his activities in banking, ranching, and farming. Also, the wood frame vernacular house is locally significant under criterion C for its size and distinctive adaptation of vernacular plan types. It is also associated with a natural mineral spring that was an important tourist attraction in pre-Civil War Florida. Furthermore, the house is constructed entirely of locally milled lumber.

Historical Background

The town of Orange Springs is located in the northeast sector of Marion County, just south of Orange Creek which forms the boundary between Marion and Putnam counties and empties into Lake Oklawaha, about a mile to the east of town. Orange Springs is mentioned as a settlement as early as the 1820s, when Florida was still a U.S. territory. Fort Russell was built in the vicinity of Orange Springs during the Second Seminole War (1832-1841), and the district was surveyed when the military roads were established. After the war, the Seminole Indians were removed, and the Armed Occupation Act was passed by the U.S Congress to encourage of the region. The act declared that any man who would agree to settle in the area, build a house, cultivate the land, and remain on it for five years would receive free title to 160 acres of land. Numerous settlers began to move into that area of Central Florida which now forms Marion and Putnam counties owing the transportation routes provided by the St. Johns and Oklawaha rivers. The property surrounding the springs was purchased in 1843 by John W. Pearson, a wealthy planter from South Carolina and by David Levy, Florida's first U.S. Senator and founder of the Florida Railroad, the state's first trans-peninsular railway.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than one

UTM References

A 

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

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description :** Begin at the northwest corner of the intersection of Main and Spring Streets and run west along the north side of Main Street approximately 150'; then run north immediately west of the Orange Springs Inn approximately 325' along a line between the Inn itself and the small barbecue cookhouse; then run east at the rear of the Inn approximately 150' to the west side of Spring Street; then run south approximately 325' to the northwest corner of the intersection of Main and Spring Streets, the point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary description includes only the property on which the Townsend House stands, as the former residence is the only structure present on the Orange Springs Inn property associated with J.W. Townsend. The others were erected by the owners of the Orange Springs Inn after 1986.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title W. Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist  
organization Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation date 8-26-88  
street & number 500 S. Bronough St. telephone (904) 487-2333  
city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

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Significance

David Levy (1811-1886), who later changed his surname to Yulee, was the son of Moses Elias Levy, who began to acquire land in Florida during the Second Spanish Colonial Period (1784-1821). Moses Levy was a prosperous merchant who in 1815 received a 36,000 acre land grant in Middle Florida for services rendered to the Spanish government while he had been a resident of Havana, Cuba. His son David managed his father's plantation lands in Alachua and Marion counties after receiving his education at Harvard University. He studied law in the office of attorney Robert Reid of St. Augustine and was admitted to the bar in 1832. He entered politics and became a member of Florida's constitutional convention in 1838-39. In 1841, he was elected territorial delegate to the U.S. Congress. After Florida was admitted to statehood in 1845, he became its first U.S. Senator.

Levy was interested in the Orange Springs property as one of the focal points of a potential cross Florida steamboat and railroad line that would link the town of Palatka on the St. Johns River with Tampa Bay on the Gulf of Mexico. However, nothing ever came of the project and Levy sold his interest in the tract to Pearson. Pearson erected a number of buildings in Orange Springs, including a hotel, a mercantile store, a cotton gin, a lumber mill, a grist mill, and a machine shop. Even at this early date visitors were coming to the spring to stay at the hotel and "take the waters." River traffic could proceed along the St. Johns and Oklawaha rivers to the vicinity of Orange Springs and a stage line ran from that point to Tampa on the Gulf of Mexico. It was undoubtedly these assets that had led Levy to consider the possibility of constructing a railroad through the area. A private school for young ladies was established in the community and a large Methodist Episcopal church constructed. By the mid-1850s, however, the popularity of Orange Springs waned as more tourists began to discover the more spectacular Silver Springs near Ocala, approximately twenty miles to the southwest.

Orange Springs achieved a certain importance during the Civil War, due in large measure to its rather remote location which served to protect it from raids by Federal forces. It became a refuge for the citizens of Palatka and families whose homesteads along the St. Johns River were threatened by Federal gunboats. It also became a center for the manufacture, storage, and shipment of material used to support the Confederacy. Florida's railroad system was still in its infancy at the beginning of the Civil War in 1861 and proved of little military or economic value during the conflict. The lack of rapid and reliable overland transport became a major handicap in the supply of salt, timber, and cattle which Florida made to the Confederacy. Confederate sentiment ran high in the area of Orange Springs, as most of the settlers were from Georgia and South Carolina. John Pearson organized the Oklawaha Rangers and his neighbor, J.J. Dickison led the Second Florida Cavalry. Pearson and his associates used his machine shop and a foundry to manufacture muskets, cannons, and munitions used in the defense of the Confederate fortifications surrounding Tampa.

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Significance

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Following the Civil War, economic conditions in Orange Springs were depressed. The activities that had supported the community during the conflict came to an end, and the refugees returned to their homes. John Pearson had died in 1864 as the result of wounds he had received while fighting in Virginia. His widow was unable to pay the taxes on the Orange Springs property, and it was sold at public auction in 1875. The Pearson property, including the mineral springs itself, was purchased before 1900 by James W. Townsend, who built a residence on it in 1912. James W. Townsend and his brother, William Columbus Townsend (1855-1921) were both Georgians who had moved to Florida in the 1880s to make their fortune in the naval stores industry.

Historic Significance

James Walter Townsend was born on his father's rice plantation near Hinesville, Georgia, in Liberty County on February 21, 1864. He was the youngest of six children born to James and Martha (Middleton) Townsend. He was educated locally and as a youth worked on his father's plantation. William Townsend was nine years older than his brother and, after attending the local schools entered the Bradwell Institute in Savannah in 1874 and graduated as a teacher two years later. For a time he taught in the public schools, but soon became involved in the turpentine industry and other commercial activities in his native Liberty County and neighboring McIntosh County. He was joined by Walter Townsend in his business activities about 1884, and the formed the firm of Townsend and Townsend. Shortly thereafter, William Townsend moved to Lake Butler, Florida, in Union County where he taught school and began to acquire pine lands for turpentine production. James Townsend joined him and together the brothers began to establish themselves as major figures in the production of naval stores in Florida. They began to become involved in other enterprises also.

The naval stores industry deals with the clipping of pine trees to obtain resin, a sticky gum, and the distillation of this resin to secure spirits of turpentine and rosin. Other products of the industry are tar, pitch, and various gums and pine oils. The 1870s had seen a "boom" in the naval stores industry in Georgia and the Carolinas. The United States was becoming increasingly industrialized, and there arose a growing need for the various commodities resulting from turpentine production. The mounting demand for pine products both in America and Europe quickly exhausted the available stands of pine lands in Georgia, and the Townsend brothers decided to avail themselves of the virgin resources of Central Florida. Having established themselves in Lake Butler, the Townsends began to build turpentine stills in various locations, including Orange Springs and nearby Salt Springs in Marion

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Significance

County. Eventually, their operations included portions of Union, Bradford, Clay, Volusia, Marion, Putnam, and Hillsborough counties.

James and William Townsend also turned their hands to cattle ranching and milling lumber for construction. They erected a number of commercial and residential buildings in the town of Lake Butler, including their own houses. Their personal residences in Lake Butler have, however, been demolished. James Townsend became president of the Farmers & Dealers Bank in Lake Butler, and his brother was one of the officers of the bank. In 1907, William C. Townsend sold his interests in the partnership and from that time until his death in Lake Butler in 1921 lived in semi-retirement, giving his attention to managing his investments. James Townsend continued to oversee the various enterprises he and his brother had founded and in 1912 constructed a "vacation home" in Orange Springs from which he could oversee his business interests in Marion County and the surrounding counties, some fifty miles to the south, in relative comfort.

The brothers had married sisters in Lake Butler and the Orange Springs property, with its large wood frame house, provided the close-knit families with the opportunity for many enjoyable vacations, as well as being of assistance to James Townsend in conducting his business affairs. Townsend purchased the property the same year that the Ocala Northern Railroad linked Orange Springs with Ocala on the south and Palatka on the north. It was also at this period that the New South Farm and Home development Company purchased property in the area and began to feature Orange Springs in its promotional literature, declaring the mineral springs to have "waters of wonderful medicinal qualities." With Townsend's permission, the real estate company built a concrete rim around the springs, which had long served the community for swimming and as a gathering place for political rallies, picnics, church outings, and camp meetings. However, the real estate development failed, as did the railroad, whose track were removed in the 1920s.

Again in the 1930s, by which time the turpentine boom had passed, a developer named William Ellison began to advertise the springs as "Ponce de Leon's Fountain of Youth," but once again attempts to make property in the area attractive to investors failed. James Walter Townsend died on September 24, 1944, but the property remained in the Townsend family until it was purchased by its present owners in the 1986. The house remained seldom used for almost twenty-five years after Townsend's death, owing to a disagreement among family members as to the disposition of the property. However, one of Townsend's granddaughters acquired the house in the late 1970s and made some improvements to it. Later interior alterations were made when the building was converted into and inn in 1986.

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Significance

Architectural Significance

The Townsend House is a significant local example of "cracker" architecture: basically an unstyled wood frame building using locally milled lumber in its construction. The house is the largest historic residential structure in Orange Springs, a community with a population of less than 100 persons, and embodies two important native building traditions, now somewhat masked by additions. These are the Southern I-house and the dog trot plan. As can be seen by closely examining the structure, the Townsend House was originally a two-story, one room deep building with a central breezeway, or dogtrot, separating the two bedrooms on each floor. Evidence of the former dog-trot plan can be seen in the door surrounds on the main facade and the corner boards that still remain in the center of the rear elevation. When completed in 1912, the two-story veranda completely encircled the house, except at that point where the rear ell joined the house.

The house, therefore, combines two building traditions: (1) the double pen house which grew out of log construction and (2) the late, or extended, I-house which was born in the era after 1850, when railroads and local sawmills made milled lumber widely available for construction. In the American colonial era, the early Germanic settlers in the core area of Pennsylvania and neighboring colonies were among the first to build log houses. These were almost square, with a three room plan and a central chimney (the Continental log house). Scotch-Irish and English pioneers adopted the log building techniques and modified the three room plan to the more familiar one room deep linear plan with external chimney that dominated the Tidewater South. A principal problem of log-walled houses is the difficulty of expanding them as additional space is required, because the strength of the structure depends on the four corner joints. Log houses are, therefore, made up of room-sized square or rectangular units called "pens."

As the building technique moved into the warmer climate of the Deep South, the problem of ventilating houses using this rather inflexible means of construction by separating the "pens" with a breezeway colorfully called a "dogtrot." Two-story log houses had breezeways on both floors, particularly after the establishment of local sawmills provided milled lumber to construct framed additions and porches. Even after frame construction had largely replaced log-building techniques, the form of the double pen house persisted in the Deep South, although to find it still being used in 1912 when the Townsend House was constructed is unusual.

It is not known exactly when the breezeways of the Townsend House were enclosed, but it was probably not too long after the house had been completed. Such a primitive structure could not have been very comfortable, even as a purely recreational "vacation house," and the modifications suggest a more frequent and formal usage of the residence. These alterations resulted in the

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house becoming a modified version of the Southern I-House, a type based on Tidewater English building traditions. The extended I-house remains basically a one room deep structure, with a central hall, porches or verandas, external chimneys, and a rear ell containing a kitchen and dining area. This type of house became extremely popular in rural areas and small towns in the latter part of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth as improved railroad transportation moved lumber from distant sawmills both rapidly and cheaply and light framing construction techniques made traditional construction plans more flexible and gave birth to new popular forms.

Conclusion

The Townsend House is, therefore, significant for its association with James Walter Townsend, who, along with his brother William C. Townsend, was instrumental in developing the turpentine industry in Central Florida during the latter part of the nineteenth century and was active in other aspects of the economic life of the region. Also, the wood frame vernacular house is locally significant for its size and its distinctive adaptation of vernacular plan types. It is also associated with a natural mineral spring that was an important tourist attraction in pre-Civil War Florida.

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U.S.G.S. Keuka Quadrangle. 1949, photorevised, 1981.

INTERVIEWS

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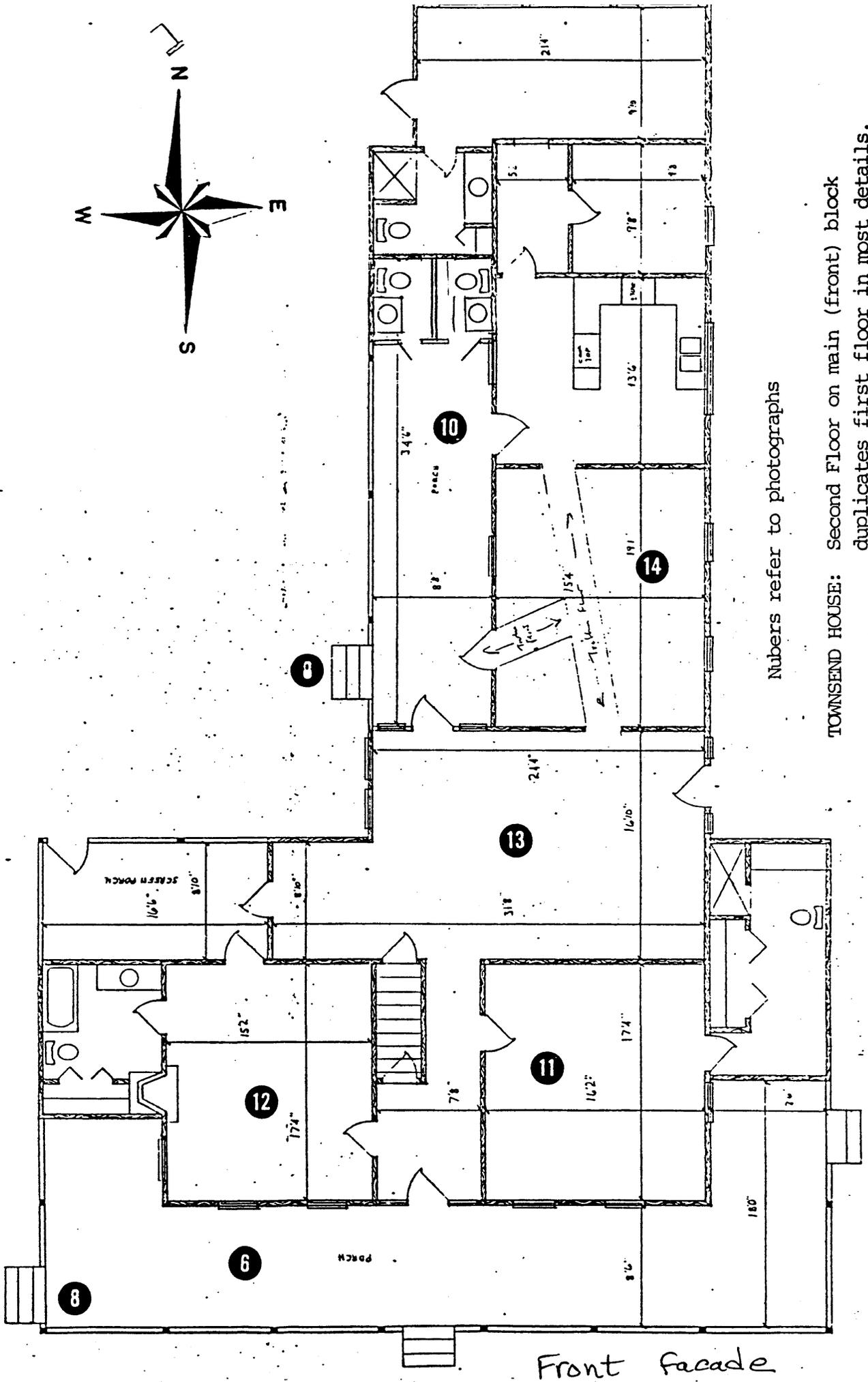
Eldon, John. Operated ferry, came to Orange Springs in 1920s. Interviewed August 16, 1987.

LaPert, George. Came to Orange Springs in 1920s. Interviewed August 1, 1987.

Turner, Martha Collins. Granddaughter of J. W. Townsend. Interviewed August 16, 1987.

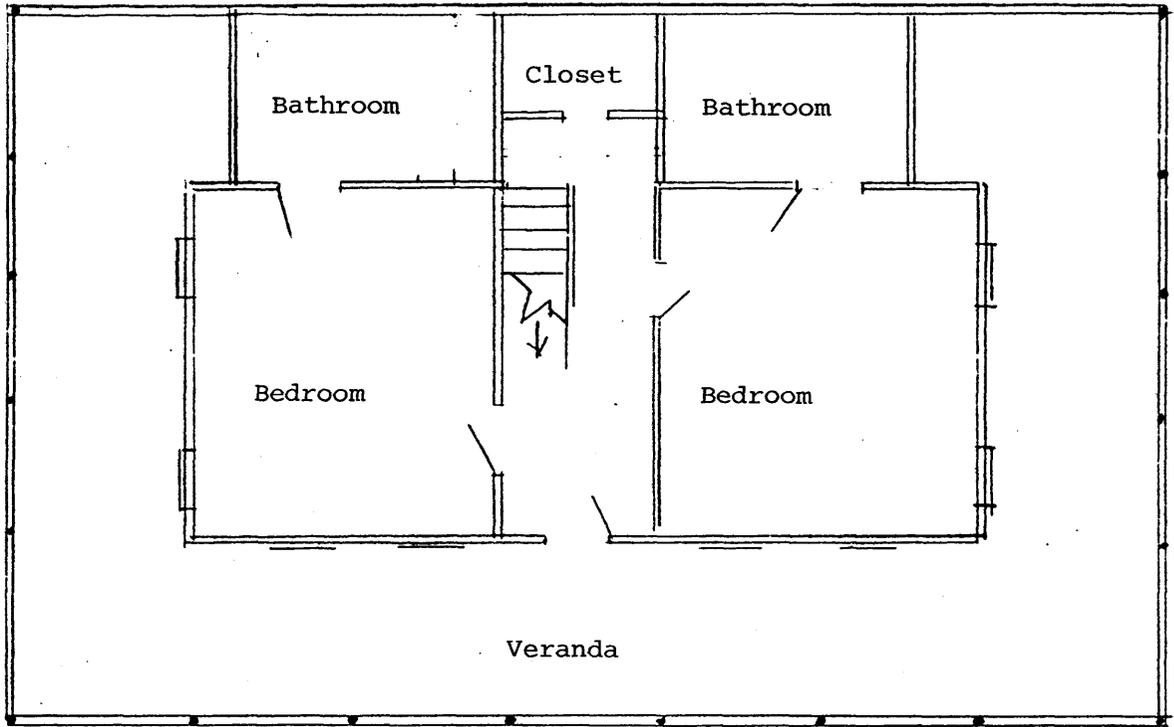
Townsend House, Orange Springs, Ca 1912, original in possession of Martha Turner,  
Townsend's granddaughter-who spent many summers in the house.



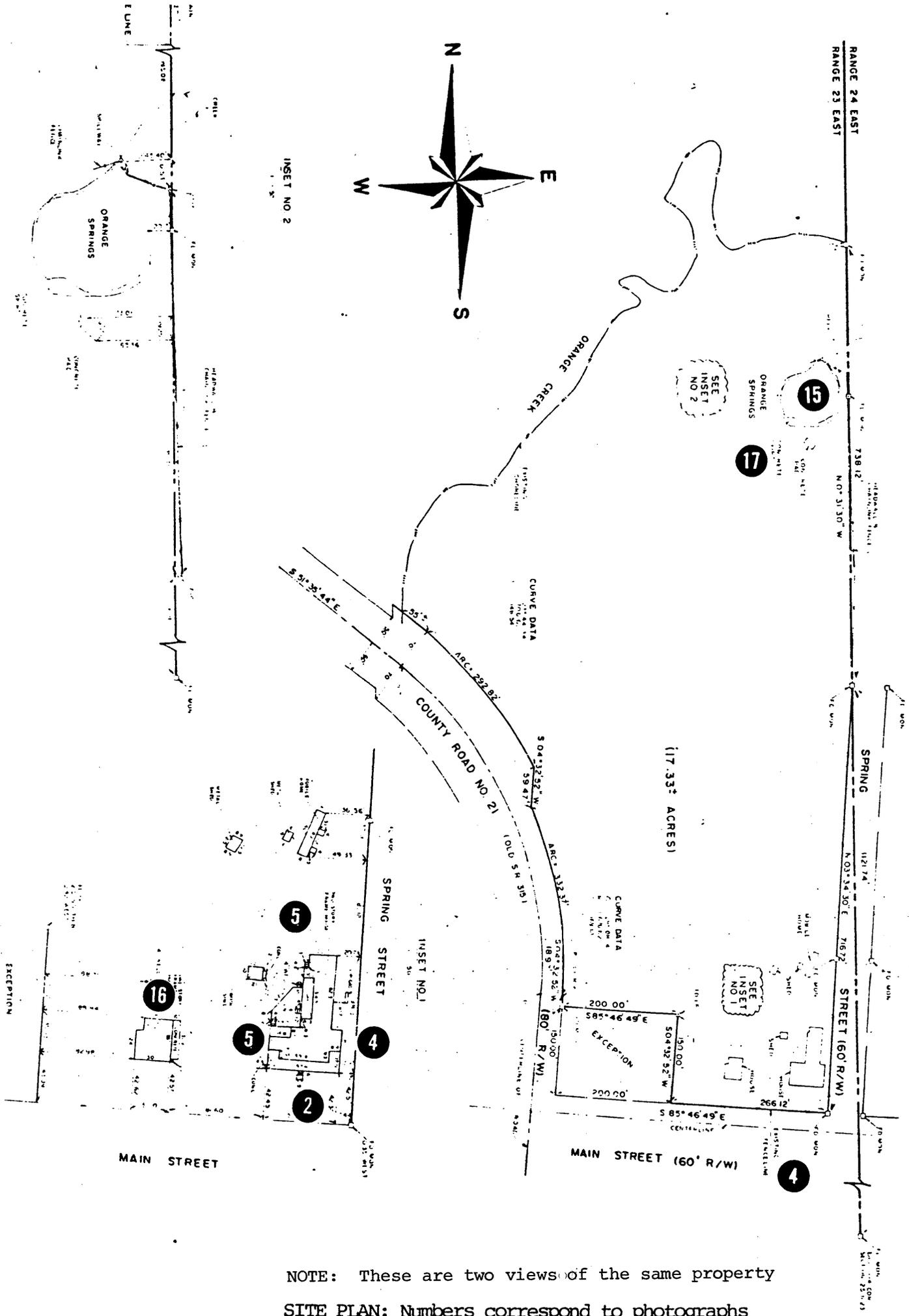


Nubers refer to photographs

TOWNSEND HOUSE: Second Floor on main (front) block  
 duplicates first floor in most details.

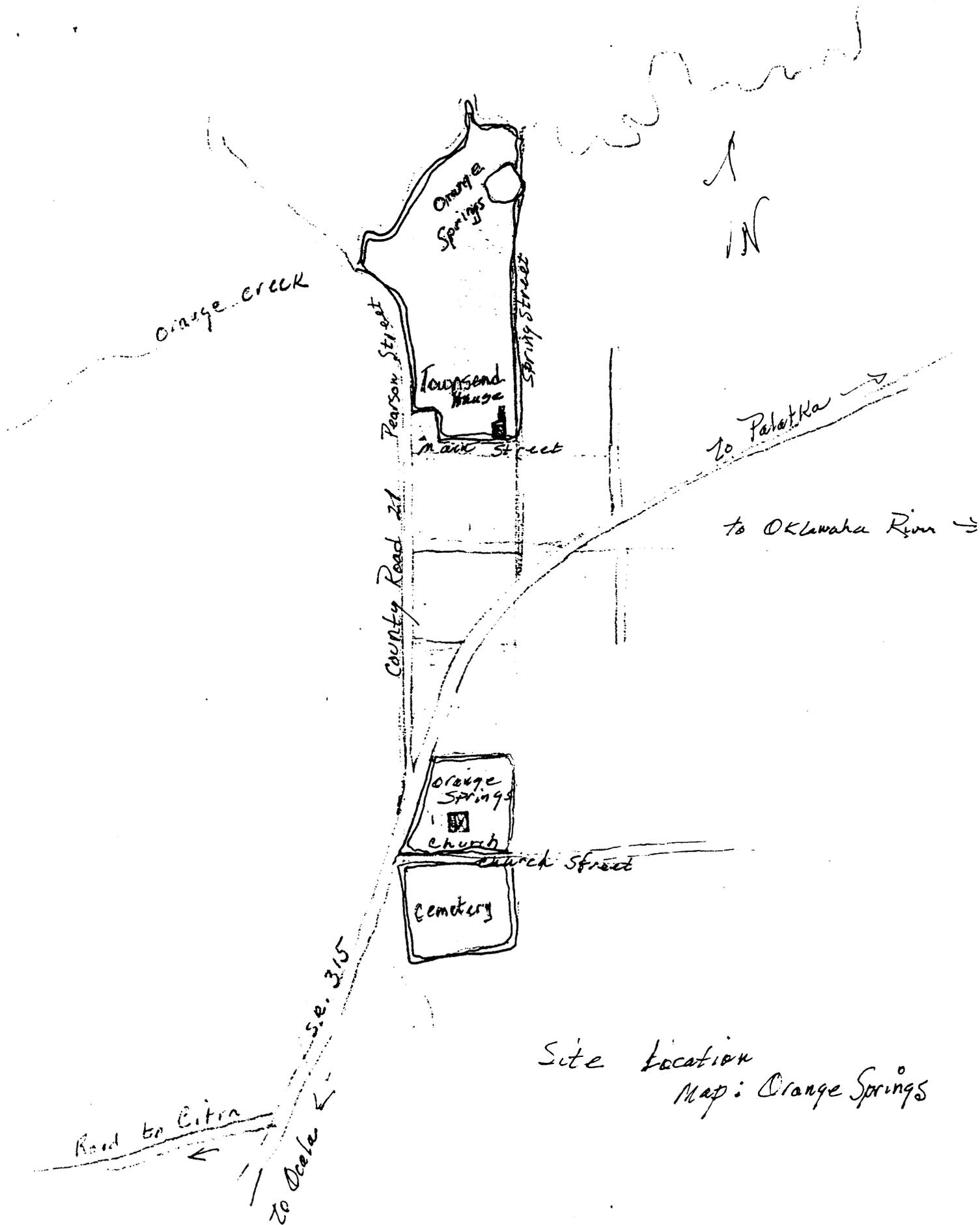


TOWNSEND HOUSE (ORANGE SPRINGS INN), Second Floor Plan



Based on 1986 survey

NOTE: These are two views of the same property  
 SITE PLAN: Numbers correspond to photographs



Site Location  
Map: Orange Springs