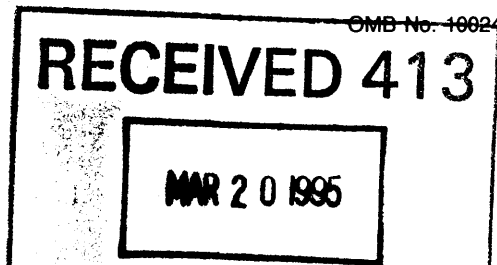


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 NPS Form 10-900a. Complete each appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name FRERE, JULES, HOUSE

other names/site number Site File # 8SL0999

2. Location

street & number 2404 Sunrise Boulevard n/a not for publication

city or town Fort Pierce n/a vicinity

state Florida code FL county St. Lucie code 111 zip code 33482

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.)

Suzanne P. Walker / Deputy SHPO 3/14/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain: _____)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall Entered in the National Register 4/20/95

Frere, Jules, House

Name of Property

St. Lucie Co., Fl.

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(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
Secondary Structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling
Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Stucco
roof Ceramic Tile; 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

1931-1945

Significant Dates

1931

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Frere, Jules, House
Name of Property

St. Lucie Co., Fl.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

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

3

Zone	Easting				Northing									

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 Sidney Johnston/ Sherry Piland, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date March 1995

street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough telephone (904) 487-2333

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 _____

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 to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

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

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

RECEIVED 413
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FRERE JULES HOUSE
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FL.
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUMMARY

The Jules Frere House, at 2404 Sunrise Boulevard in Fort Pierce, is one of the best examples of the Spanish Colonial Revival style in the community. Completed in 1931, the house was designed and constructed by Jules Frere as his residence. The house has an irregular plan. Although relatively small, encompassing 1,200 square feet, the dwelling displays exceptional detailing in its complex roof line, window treatments, balconets, and statuary niches. Constructed of hollow tile, the exterior walls are finished with textured stucco. Throughout the house a combination of arched casement and zinc-alloy pivot windows, with central fixed sections and transoms, is used. The profuse use of glazed tile in the interior is an exceptional feature of the house. The residence retains its architectural integrity to a high degree.

SETTING

The Frere house is two miles south of downtown Fort Pierce in the Maravilla Subdivision, planned in the 1920s as one of Fort Pierce's fashionable residential areas. U.S. Highway 1 lies a few blocks east. Virginia Avenue, a primary east/west corridor, is one block north. Sunrise Boulevard extends at an oblique angle across Virginia Avenue, providing a pleasant contrast from the orthogonal grid of the surrounding neighborhoods. Located on a small parcel, the house is set back from the road fifty feet and shaded by a large live oak tree on the front, or west, elevation. A contributing outbuilding lies at the rear of the property. Although several additional houses built during the 1920s lie to the south along Sunrise Boulevard, the majority of surrounding residences date from the post-World War II period. Commercial buildings and apartments of recent construction lie to the north.

DESCRIPTION

EXTERIOR

The main facade of the Frere House faces west and is dominated by a projecting gabled wing that terminates in a striking series of leaded stained glass French doors, set in arched surrounds and leading to a shallow balcony with a wrought-

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2FRERE, JULES, HOUSE
ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FL.

iron railing (photo 1). The double center door is taller than the flanking doors. The gable end wall contains a small balconet with a molded terra cotta pedestal and wrought-iron baluster. The balconet interrupts a terra cotta string course.

To the north of this projecting wing is an elevated, railed patio, approached by a flight of three steps on both the north and west sides (photo 2). The primary entrance, recessed in a short tower set at an oblique angle facing the northwest, is at the rear of the patio. The patio has ceramic glazed tile flooring. The entry tower has a curvilinear parapet and a small arched window at its upper level. The tower terminates in a shaped parapet. A suspended stained glass sconce hangs in the recessed porch of the tower.

The west end of the south elevation has a steeply-pitched gable roof, surfaced with ceramic French tiles (photo 3). As it meets the roof line, the stucco wall surface curves to form a shallow eave. A distinctive stepped chimney shaft contains statuary niches and a terra cotta arched cap adorned with fleur-de-lis. A pair of arched casement windows bracket the chimney. Small decorative rectangular panels adorn the edges of the chimney and wall corners. The roof of the east end of the south elevation is concealed by a curvilinear parapet. This portion of the south elevation also features projecting beams, metal pivot windows, and a statuary niche.

The north elevation is similar in many details to the south elevation, including the curvilinear parapets, projecting beams, and arched divided casement and metal pivot windows (photo 2).

The east, or rear, elevation is relatively plain. A low-pitched, V-shaped, built-up roof is visible. A rear door and stoop are located at the south end of this elevation. A projecting window-box has replaced an original window adjacent to the door. The remaining window on this elevation is a paired casement window (photo 4).

INTERIOR

A pine entrance door opens from the patio into the 21' X 18' living room. The ceiling in this room is vaulted and rises to a height of 25 feet where it terminates in a recessed troffer, or

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**FRERE, JULES, HOUSE
ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FL.**

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recessed light, with a leaded stained glass cover (photo 5). The triple, stained glass French doors at the west end of this room depict scenes of Florida flora and fauna (photo 6). Only partially discernible from the exterior, these scenes become clearly visible from within the room. The most striking feature of the living room, in addition to the stained glass doors, is the lavish use of glazed tile in soft blue and brown hues. A series of glazed tile arches separates the living room from the dining room to the east (photo 7). The central arch provides access into the dining area; the smaller secondary arches contain bookshelves. Tiled arches also embellish the front door and French doors. A six-foot wainscotting of brown and blue ceramic tile extends around the room (photo 8). A fireplace centered along the south wall has a black marble mantelpiece with brass figurines attached to the pilasters, a brass rinceau beneath the mantel, and brass corner pateras (photo 9). The floor and baseboard of the living room are finished with ceramic tiles with quatrefoil and circular patterns fired in browns and blues on a white background. Textured plaster covers the walls and ceilings.

The dining room has plaster walls, simple wood door surrounds, and a coved crown molding that joins the walls and ceiling (photo 10). A telephone niche is located in the northeast corner. Paneled cypress doors lead into the kitchen and hall. The kitchen, remodeled in the 1980s, extends to the east of the dining room and also features ceramic tile. The kitchen contains a breakfast nook, set in an arched opening.

A hall, bathroom, and two bedrooms are north of the dining room. Although the bathroom window has been replaced, the original floor tile and fixtures remain. Bedrooms located on either side of the bathroom are finished with simple crown, floor, window, and door moldings. In each bedroom, cypress closet doors feature original hardware and inset mirrors. The floors of the dining room, kitchen, and bedrooms are finished in oak.

OUTBUILDING

In 1931 a garage was constructed at the northeast corner of the property (photo 11). It was converted to an apartment ca. 1985, but basically retains its original design features. It has

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**FRERE, JULES, HOUSE
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a flat roof, concealed by a broken, curvilinear parapet. Textured stucco serves as the exterior wall fabric. The dimensions of the original garage doors are still discernible, but the doors have been replaced with a wood entrance door and windows. A small metal awning shelters the entrance.

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**FRERE, JULES, HOUSE
ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FL.**

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SUMMARY

The Jules Frere House fulfills criterion C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The house possesses significance in the area of architecture as one of the best examples of the Spanish Colonial Revival style in Fort Pierce. Completed in 1931, the dwelling was designed and constructed by Jules Frere, a local merchant. The Frere House conveys a distinctive historic ambiance and retains its original architectural integrity to a high degree.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The modern development of Fort Pierce is associated with the arrival of the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) in the 1890s. At the turn of the century, Fort Pierce's economy was fueled by citrus production. The town was incorporated in 1905 and named the seat of St. Lucie County. Over the following decade, a commercial district emerged, a courthouse was constructed, residential neighborhoods formed, and schools were built. The Florida Citrus Exchange formed a cooperative in Fort Pierce in 1909, and large investments in land for citrus cultivation were made following reclamation projects by the Fort Pierce Farms Company. Cattle ranges were developed in rural lands west of town and a sand ridge along the bank of the Indian River provided sites suitable for pineapple cultivation. The riverfront became dotted with fish houses and packing plants for processing and shipping seafood products. The population reached 1,333 in 1910.

Land development companies, such as the Florida Coast Line Canal Company, the Florida Immigration Company, and the FEC, were involved in dividing large tracts of land in close proximity to the Indian River and the railroad. In 1912, the FEC completed a new depot in Fort Pierce, and by 1915, a commercial district extended along Orange Avenue between the Indian River and 4th Street. However, the community's growth was slowed by the advent of World War I.

In the early 1920s, a real estate boom that began in south Florida spread throughout the state. In virtually every city and town, new subdivisions were platted and lots sold and resold for quick profits. In Fort Pierce, a Masonic Temple, hotels, and commercial arcades were built by 1924. John Sherwood, a local

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FRERE, JULES, HOUSE
ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FL.

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architect, reported commissions to design buildings worth \$600,000 that year. The population reached 2,115 in 1920 and increased to 4,803 in 1930. Utilities and roads were extended to many areas. New residential subdivisions were platted and development occurred at an unprecedented rate. Exclusive residential subdivisions, such as Maravilla, Pinewood, and San Lucie Plaza were created with features such as curvilinear or diagonal boulevards, sidewalks, green spaces, and irregular lots. Hundreds of residences were constructed.

The economy of Fort Pierce was spurred by the real estate boom. Processing centers packed citrus and fish, and a new ice plant was constructed. As a division yard on the FEC, the town was the location for the railroad's large repair shops. Noted for abundant fish and game, Fort Pierce was heavily promoted as a vacation destination. Many seasonal residents took advantage of the mild winter climate. In 1924, a causeway was constructed that spanned the Indian River, providing access to the beaches and opening more land to development.

The land boom slackened in late 1925 and collapsed when destructive hurricanes struck south Florida in 1926 and 1928. An economic depression fell upon Florida three years before it enveloped the rest of the country. Buoyed by its agriculture and industries, commercial district, harbor, and government center, Fort Pierce survived the late-1920s better than many other areas of Florida. In 1927, the FEC expanded its freight yard to handle increased vegetable and citrus harvests from St. Lucie County's western region. In 1928, municipal improvements included a power station and expanded telephone service. The industrial payroll was three times the amount of the early 1920s and the fish market was valued at a million dollars annually. Fort Pierce benefitted from extensive highway improvements, including a 200-mile network of hard-surfaced roads linking Fort Pierce with rural areas. The Dixie Highway extended through downtown Fort Pierce, which also served as the eastern terminus for two cross-state highways that attracted seasonal tourists.

Harbor improvements, begun in the late 1920s, provided jobs and buoyed the economy through the Great Depression and eventually provided Fort Pierce with the largest port between Miami and Jacksonville. Shipping, despite a disastrous economic climate, showed steady growth and during the early 1930s, a packing house, cannery, tractor factory, and two fertilizer

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

**FRERE, JULES, HOUSE
ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FL.**

plants were built. Warehouses and refrigerated buildings designed to accomodate produce for shipment were constructed. Passenger cruise lines also used the harbor.

The changing patterns of Florida tourism played a significant role in the state's development. Increasing numbers of tourists took to the highways as America's love affair with the automobile blossomed. Many who came to visit the Fort Pierce area eventually remained and residential construction persisted throughout much of the decade. The population reached 8,040 in 1940. During World War II, the Federal government requisitioned Fort Pierce harbor and the Navy established an amphibious training base in 1943. In 1945, the population of Fort Pierce reached 9,482.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Frere house is historically associated with Jules J. Frere, a merchant who moved with his family to Fort Pierce in 1913. About 1919, he and his father, Jules A. Frere, established the Acme Lumber Company, incorporating the business in 1923 with \$25,000 in capital stock. It was one of two building supply companies in Fort Pierce. The company's warehouses and a sales office were located at the corner of 5th Street and Orange Avenue. Acme Lumber sold a variety of finished wood products, brick, hollow tile, windows, paints, nails, and numerous other building supplies. The elder Frere placed special emphasis on importing products from Europe, especially Belgium, the family homeland. These products included ceramic tile, terra cotta, earthen ware and pottery, novelties, and leaded glass products from France. The Freres, through the Acme Lumber Company, also supervised the construction of homes.

Maravilla Subdivision, located two miles south of the downtown, was platted in 1924 as one of Fort Pierce's exclusive subdivisions. The plat included a nine-hole golf course. Stucco arches spanned Sunrise Boulevard at the entrances and deed restrictions specified appropriate setbacks, construction cost minimums, and use of a Spanish design motif. In early 1924, six "Spanish bungalows" were completed and plans were underway for the construction of several more.

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**FRERE, JULES, HOUSE
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In 1927, Jules J. Frere acquired a lot in the Maravilla Subdivision. The following year he became engaged to Corrine Cox, who contacted several architects in Miami about designing a home for the betrothed couple. Eventually, she and Jules toured Miami and Coral Gables, looking at Mediterranean, Mission, and Spanish Revival style houses. They settled on an attractive model on which to base their Fort Pierce home. Frere sketched the plans and ground was broken in 1928, with Frere supervising construction. Building materials, including wall and roof tiles, cement, wood, windows, wrought-iron, and stucco, were secured through Acme Lumber. Leaded glass was imported from France and a fireplace mantelpiece and floor and wall tiles were imported from Belgium. In late 1928, Cox broke off the engagement. The ensuing economic difficulties associated with the collapse of the Florida land boom and onset of the Great Depression delayed completion of the house until 1931.

In the early 1930s, Acme Lumber began failing, and in 1935 the company became bankrupt. Jules went to work for Sunrise Lumber Company, eventually becoming manager. His father opened the Acme Gift and Pottery Shop to help generate income. Several times during the mid-1930s, Frere's Maravilla property was nearly foreclosed and taxes went into arrears. Finally, in 1938, no longer able to afford the mortgage and expenses associated with the property, Frere sold the house. In 1940, the McDonald family acquired the house, living there through the 1960s. The current owner, attorney Vincent Lloyd, uses the house as rental property.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The Spanish Colonial Revival style embraces a broad category of subtypes of revival architecture, including Mediterranean and Mission revival. The style gained popularity in the American Southwest and Florida during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as architects began using regional historical precedents to design buildings within a local context. In California during the 1890s, the Southern Pacific Railway applied the Mission Revival style to depots and resort hotels. The influence of Mission, Spanish, and other Mediterranean-derived styles found additional expression through Bertram Goodhue's designs of buildings for the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego in 1915. The publicity generated by the Exposition encouraged architects to look directly to the Mediterranean

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Continuation Sheet**

**FRERE, JULES, HOUSE
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basin, where they found additional architectural motifs from which to draw.

In Florida, the popularity of the Spanish Colonial Revival style soared in the 1920s and maintained a pervasive influence on building design until World War II. The style came to symbolize Florida architecture during the 1920s and was adapted for a variety of building types including churches, country clubs, townhouses, commercial and government buildings, hotels, mansions, railroad depots, theaters, and small residences. Identifying features of the style include a variety of roof types, often with ceramic tile surfacing and/or coping; bell towers; arcaded wings; textured stucco exteriors; the use of sconces, and ceramic tiles and medallions to decorate walls and chimneys; entrance porches and arched loggias; multi-light casement and double-hung sash windows, often deeply set in the walls or arched openings; and wrought-iron balconets.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Frere House embodies Spanish Colonial Revival styling as expressed by an irregular plan, complex roof with shaped parapets, textured stucco exterior wall fabric, statuary niches, balconets, and a patio with imported tile and pebble-veneer columns and balustrades.

In many ways, the building could have served as an advertisement for the Acme Lumber Company's products. The interior, especially, utilizes many decorative elements sold by the company, such as cypress paneling, imported leaded stained glass French doors, and ceramic tiles, used for wainscotting and baseboards. Sited on a east/west axis, the plan takes advantage of prevailing breezes and provides adequate natural interior lighting and ventilation. The design, materials, and setting of the house create a unique sense of place. Frere's house, while not the largest in the Maravilla Subdivision, was the most distinctive and ornate.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

FRERE, JULES, HOUSE
ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FL.

Section number 9 Page 1

City Directory of Fort Pierce. Fort Pierce Chamber of
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Commission, Deed, Mortgage, and Plat Books, Record of
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Interviews by Sidney Johnston: Helen Frere Ford and Jules
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FRERE, JULES, HOUSE
ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FL.

Section number 9 Page 2

Van Landingham, Kyle. Pictorial History of St. Lucie
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County, 1976.

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Continuation Sheet**

FRERE, JULES, HOUSE
ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FL.

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

Maravilla Subdivision, West 150 feet Lot 5 (OR 438-2435).

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Jules Frere House.

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Continuation Sheet**

**FRERE, JULES, HOUSE
ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FL.**

Section number Photo Page 1

-
1. Jules Frere House, 2404 Sunrise Boulevard
 2. Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County, Florida
 3. Sidney Johnston
 4. 1994
 5. Sidney Johnston, 535 N. Clara Ave., DeLand, Fl. 32702
 6. Main (west) facade; view looking east
 7. Photo 1 of 11

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs

6. North elevation; view looking southeast
7. Photo 2 of 11

6. Main (west) facade on left, south elevation on right;
view looking northeast
7. Photo 3 of 11

6. South elevation on left, east elevation on right; view
looking northwest
7. Photo 4 of 11

6. Interior detail, living room ceiling troffer with
leaded, stained glass cover; camera looking up
7. Photo 5 of 11

6. Interior detail of living room showing leaded, stained
glass French doors; view looking west
7. Photo 6 of 11

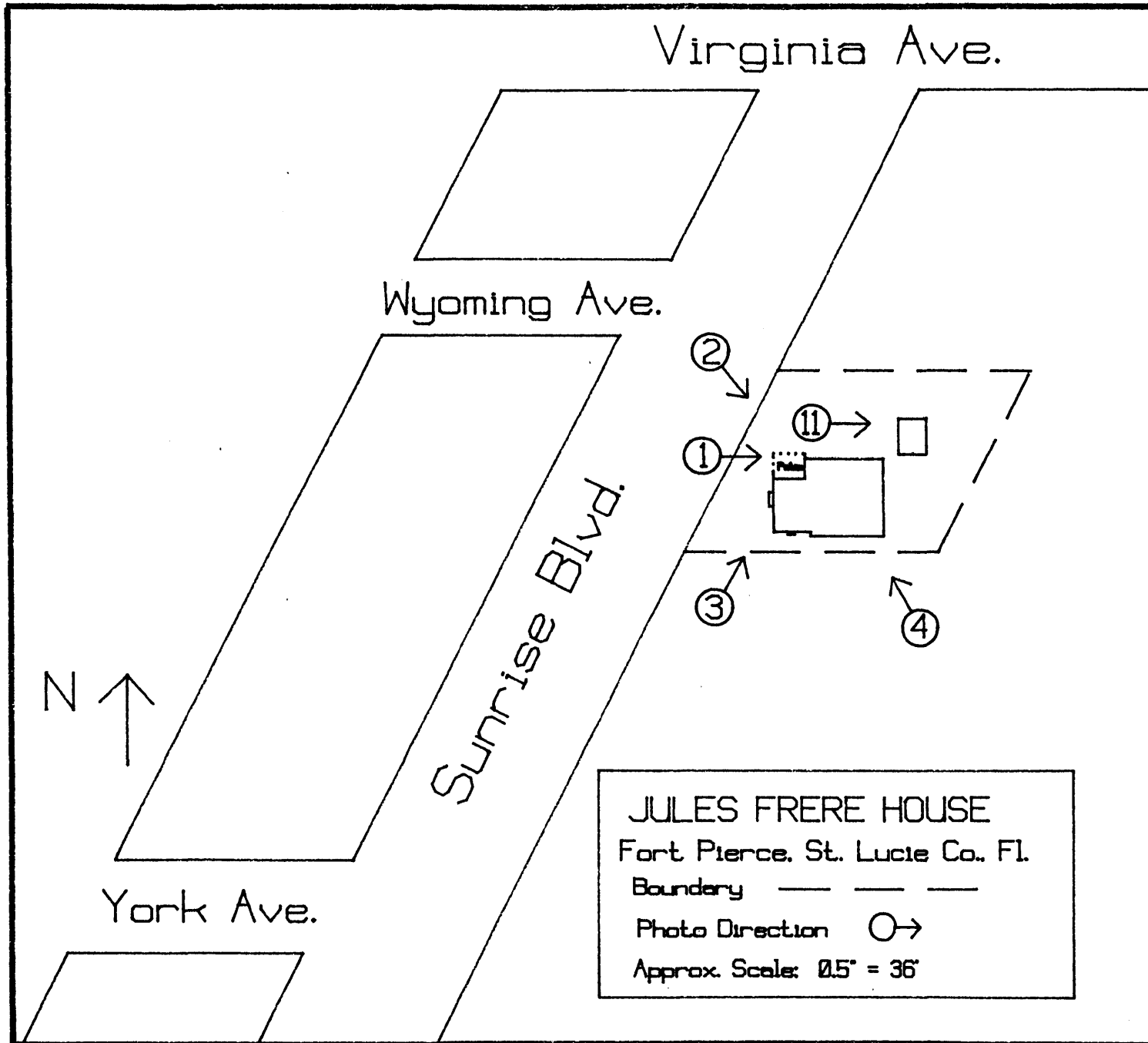
6. Interior detail, looking east, from living room into
dining room
7. Photo 7 of 11

6. Interior detail of living room, view looking southwest
7. Photo 8 of 11

6. Interior detail, living room fireplace; view looking
south
7. Photo 9 of 11

6. Interior detail, dining room; view looking northeast
7. Photo 10 of 11

6. Main (west) facade of rear apartment; view looking east
7. Photo 11 of 11.



Virginia Ave.

Wyoming Ave.

N ↑

Sunrise Blvd.

York Ave.

JULES FRERE HOUSE
Fort Pierce, St. Lucie Co., Fl.
Boundary — — —
Photo Direction ○→
Approx. Scale: 0.5" = 36'

JULES FRERE HOUSE
Fort Pierce, St. Lucie Co., Fl.

Photo Direction ○ →

Approx. Scale: 1" = 9.6"

