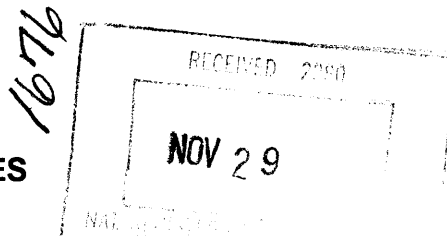


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 RICHARDSON HOUSE

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1603 1st Avenue W N/A not for publication

city or town Bradenton N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Manatee code 081 zip code 34205

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 11/26/2002
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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) _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

1-8-03

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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	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

DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure/Garage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure/Garage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN

MOVEMENTS/Craftsman/Bungalow

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls 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

1924

Significant Dates

1924

Significant Person

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: Unkown

Blder: Unkown

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

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	3	4	4	1	0	0	3	0	4	2	4	6	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 Mikki Hartig/Carl Shiver Historic Sites Specialist

organization Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation date October 2002

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

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-025

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 Clyde St. Leon

street & number 1603 1st Avenue W telephone (941) 745-3183

city or town Bradenton state Florida zip code 34205

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 RICHARDSON HOUSE
BRADENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

The Richardson House is a one-story Craftsman style bungalow located at 1603 1st Avenue W, Bradenton, in Manatee County, Florida. The wood frame house was constructed in 1924 and has wood shingle and stucco exterior siding. The dwelling rests on a continuous stone foundation wall and has an irregular rectangular plan. Multi-gable roofs cover the structure. The main fenestration is a combination of 12-light wood casement windows and 5/1-light double-hung, wood sash windows. A partial-width front entrance porch is covered by a separate front-facing gable roof. All roof structures are surfaced with asphalt shingles. A detached frame single car garage is located on the site, south of the residential building. Both the house and garage retain virtually all of their original architectural integrity and the house reflects many of the essential characteristics of the Bungalow/Craftsman style.

SETTING

Located about forty-five miles southwest of Tampa, Bradenton is the largest city and the county seat of Manatee County. With a population of close to 50,000, it is also the center of commerce, government, health, social services, and cultural life for much of the surrounding area. Although increasingly cosmopolitan in character as part of the Sarasota-Bradenton metropolitan area, the city retains much of its small-town charm. A number of new residential sections complement older established neighborhoods in both urban and suburban settings. Interstate 75, the major north-south route along much of the west coast of Florida, has contributed to the rapid growth of county, particularly in the area of residential development.

The Richardson House is located in a historic residential neighborhood found only a few blocks from the historic and present commercial core of the city. The Manatee River, with its newly developed riverfront of shops and restaurants is located approximately one block north of the site and is visible from the front yard of the house. The residence and detached garage (Photos 1-4, 10) occupy a corner site with minimal side and front yard setbacks at the southwest corner of the intersection of 1st Avenue W and 16th Street W. A massive mature oak tree dominates the front yard. Several mature palm trees line the property on the north and east. These trees, along with additional trees and lush vegetation, provide a picturesque setting for the property. Access to the house is provided by brick walkways leading from the concrete city sidewalk on 16th Street. Thick hedges align the walkways. A concrete driveway extends from 16th Street W to the detached garage at the rear of the property.

Exterior

The house comprises three main sections: the enclosed entrance porch, a central block, and a rear extension. The house has a slightly irregular ground plan and rests on a continuous coursed rubble fieldstone foundation. The exterior walls are sheathed with wood shingles, except for the enclosed porch or "Florida Room," which is surfaced in stucco. A combination of cross-gable and gable roofs, surfaced with composition shingle

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

RICHARDSON HOUSE
BRADENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

covers the structure. Exposed rafter tails extend under the wide eaves. The primary facade is oriented to the north. A four-bay partial-width entrance porch is located on the main (north) facade. The fenestration of the porch is symmetrical with four pairs of 6-light wood casement windows, placed in a ribbon pattern, extending along the same elevation.

The main entrance to the house is accessed from the front entrance porch. A short brick walkway, bordered by boxwood hedges, extends from the city sidewalk along 16th Street to the main entrance of the house on the east side of the Florida Room, whose 12-light wood and glass panel door is original. A similar door is found on the west side of the enclosed porch. This door leads out to the landscaped front yard. Both doors are flanked by single-leaf, 6-light wood casement windows (Photos 5-7, 9). The exterior walls of the entrance porch are stucco over wood frame, contrasting with the wood shingles used on the exterior of the main block of the house. A wide masonry stringcourse extends along all three elevations of the porch, just above the windows and doors. Massive boxed stuccoed columns with masonry banding, inset panels, and curvilinear wing extensions with masonry caps support the separate low-pitched, front-facing gable roof over the porch. The stuccoed wing walls extend to short stuccoed columns with masonry caps on which original masonry planters rest. A wood lattice attic vent provides a decorative detail under the eaves on the front gable wall of the porch (Photos 1-6.)

South of the entrance porch is the central block of the house which has walls surfaced with wood shingles above an approximately 3-foot high continuous stone foundation wall. This block is covered by a side-facing gable roof. Inside the enclosed porch, on the facade wall of the central block, the entrance door is flanked on one side by a pair of wood casement windows with diamond patterned lights in the upper sash and a single light in the lower sash. On the other side is a single casement window of matching design. Flanking the porch on the exterior portions of the north wall are individual 5/1-light double-hung wood sash windows whose upper lights are arranged so that the center light is in the form of diamond. Similar windows, in singles or pairs, are found on the other elevations of the building. The east elevation of the central block displays a massive stuccoed chimney with stepped sides, masonry banding, and three recessed panels. A pair of wood casement windows with diamond shaped lights is found on both sides of the chimney (Photos 8-9).

On the west elevation of the house are paired wood casement windows, featuring the same diamond light design as seen elsewhere, placed in a ribbon pattern. The elevation features a secondary entrance that provides access between the kitchen and side yard. An open side entrance porch with a simple wood railing resting above stone knee walls projects forward beyond the secondary entrance and is sheltered by a shed roof with exposed rafter tails. The roof is surfaced with composition shingles and is supported by simple wood knee braces (Photos 14-17).

South of the central block is the third or rear projecting block. The exterior walls of this block duplicate the exterior materials of the central block, wood shingles above the stone foundation. A cross gable roof covers this block. Fenestration along the east elevation consists of two pairs of wood double hung sash windows with central diamond patterned lights on the upper sash and a single light on the lower sash and a smaller matching window

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3

RICHARDSON HOUSE
BRADENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

placed independently. (Photos 8 & 9). The south elevation of the rear block has a small projection which is covered by a shed roof with exposed rafter tails surfaced in composition shingle. Paired wood casement windows with the same diamond patterned lights matching the design of other windows pierces the south wall of the room projection. West of the room projection, along the south or rear elevation of the house, is a single pair wood double hung sash windows with the diamond pattern configuration. (Photos 11-13).

Interior

The interior of the house displays some superb architectural details characteristic of the Craftsman style of architecture. The interior floor plan includes a large front entrance porch, a living room, dining room, three bedrooms, a kitchen, and two baths. Floors throughout the house are original heart pine. The house also retains its original interior wood paneled doors and brass door and window hardware. The existing light fixtures in the house are Craftsman style reproductions and not original to the house. The coffered beadboard ceiling on the front entrance porch is original to the house (Photos 18-19).

The main entrance accesses a foyer area between the living room and dining room. South of this space is a central hallway running north to south that accesses the three bedrooms, baths and kitchen (Photos 21, 26, 32-33). The living room has a coffered ceiling with boxed ceiling beams. Wood wainscoting with a plate shelf extends half way up the wall around the entire perimeter of the room (Photo 29). The original brick fireplace is flanked by original bookcases with glass doors that are set within brick surrounds that are an extension of the fireplace surround. (Photos 20-26).

The dining room is separated from the living room by a decorative room divider, featuring boxed columns and bookcases with glass doors that face the living room (Photos 24-27). The room retains its original coffered ceiling with boxed wood beams, wood wainscoting, and built-in buffet with original brass hardware. (Photos 28-29). South of the dining room is the kitchen which is connected to the dining room by a separate doorway. Simple wood cabinetry with brass pulls appropriate to the period and style of the house was installed in recent years during the updating of the kitchen. The original built-in ironing board remains in place in the room (Photos 30-31).

One of the two bathrooms is found at the end of the central hallway and separates the two rear bedrooms (Photo 33). The facility features original built-in cabinetry. (Photos 39-43). Although the hexagon floor tile on the bathroom floors is appropriate to the style and period of the house, it is not original to the house. The style of the existing bathroom fixtures is also in keeping with the original architecture of the house but are contemporary replacements. The original interior wood moldings, window and door casings, and wide baseboards are original and in excellent condition, as is the original wood built-in cabinetry in the living room, dining room, hall, and main bath. Original brass door and cabinet hardware throughout the house has been restored to its original polished finish. The other bathroom is connected to the master bedroom found at the southeast corner of the house.

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RICHARDSON HOUSE
BRADENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

Detached Garage

A detached one-story frame garage is located southeast of the residential structure. It has a rectangular plan with a front-facing gable roof, surfaced in asphalt shingle, and rests on a concrete slab. Exterior walls are surfaced with wood shingles (Photos 10-11, 13).

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 8 Page 1 RICHARDSON HOUSE
BRADENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

The Richardson House is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. It is an excellent and well-preserved example of a Craftsman style bungalow and is among the best examples of the bungalows found in the city of Bradenton, Florida. The house has received only minimal interior alterations and displays outstanding exterior and interior characteristics of its style. This residence was identified and recorded in the 1981 architectural survey of the city of Bradenton and is described as "one of the most distinctive Craftsman dwellings in the city and illustrates how well the bungalow mode could be adapted to both small and large houses."¹

HISTORIC CONTEXT

In 1821, Florida officially became a United States territory after being acquired in 1819 through the Adams-Onís Treaty with Spain. It initially contained only two counties, Escambia and St. Johns. Gadsden County was formed from St. Johns in 1823. In 1824, Mosquito County was created from Gadsden County and included the Tampa Bay region, and in 1834, the bay area was named Hillsborough County. Manatee County was formed in 1855, encompassing the area between Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor and inlet to the Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee. DeSoto County was divided from Manatee in 1877, and finally Sarasota County was created in 1921.²

The first settlement activity in the vicinity of what would become Bradenton took place in 1841 when Josiah Gates and his brother-in-law, Miles Price, took a cruise up the Manatee River to scout for land that would soon become available for homesteading. Upon their arrival, they came upon palmetto shacks occupied by Spanish fishermen. Ancient ruins left by the Spanish from years earlier could also be seen. Josiah Gates returned to his home in Ft. Brooke (Tampa), Florida, and collected his family for a move to a parcel of land on the south shore of the Manatee River already cleared of timber and brush. The Armed Occupation Act of 1842 allowed citizens 160 acres for a homestead on land selected in those parts of Florida recently cleared of Seminole Indians. Gates built a log house with six spacious rooms, a passage and a detached kitchen. Soon a few other settlers began to arrive, and vegetable farming and raising sugar cane for the production of molasses became the primary means of livelihood.³

An economic depression struck the nation in 1857, and the settlers found that there were no longer any northern markets for their products. Many of the settlers in the area suffered severe financial circumstances, including the loss of their lands. In 1867, Manatee County was beset by yellow fever, and the whole county was placed under quarantine.⁴ Development of the area lagged until after the Civil War when a number of changes

¹William L. Sheppard, A Historical and Archaeological Survey of the City of Bradenton, Florida. (Bradenton: City of Bradenton, 1981), pp. 35-37; Florida Master Site File #MA212.

²Tebeau, Charlton W., A History of Florida, (Coral Gables, 1971), pp. 114-115.

³Lillie B. McDuffee, The Lures of Manatee (Atlanta: Foote & Davies, Inc., 1961), pp. 24-25.

⁴Ibid., pp. 103, 19-19.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 8 Page 2 RICHARDSON HOUSE
BRADENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

began to take place and many new families came to the area seeking prosperity. Agriculture continued to play the primary role in maintaining a living for these families, and the sugar and molasses industries began to grow again. Other agricultural activities such as the cultivation of citrus and the cutting of virgin forest to produce lumber also sprang up.⁵

On May 5, 1888, the Village of Manatee was incorporated and Josiah Gates was elected the town's first mayor.⁶ That same year, the citizens of Manatee County voted to move the county seat from Pine Level to the small town of "Braidentown," a neighbor community of Manatee Village. The following year saw the establishment of the Manatee County State Bank, and a ferry linking Palmetto to "Braidentown" was started.⁷ In May of 1903, "Braidentown" was incorporated and one of its first official acts was to remove the "i" from its name. In 1924 the "w" was dropped.

In the early 20th century, Manatee County began to see its first winter tourists. The Atlantic Coastline Railroad transported produce and lumber to northern markets and returned bringing an influx of tourists. The 1920s saw major construction in the city. New schools, churches, roads, numerous homes, and tourist related structures were built.⁸

In 1944, the Village of Manatee and the City of Bradenton were joined.⁹ Manatee County today is still largely agricultural, but the constant influx of new residents into the metropolitan Sarasota area and the ever growing construction of new homes and businesses on the nearby barrier islands in the Gulf of Mexico have added considerably to the population of Bradenton in recent years. For the most part, however, the nucleus of the city of Bradenton looks much as it did during its heyday of the 1920s.

Richardson House—Historical Information

The Richardson House was completed either in late 1923 or early 1924 in the Point Pleasant neighborhood of Bradenton, where a number of new homes were being completed as a result of the influence of the Florida Land Boom of the 1920s. The house was reportedly built for Charles A. Birney as a home for his daughter, Harriet Birney Richardson, and her husband, Bentham S. Richardson. Harriet Richardson suffered from the effects of polio, and the house was built to special specifications with doorway widths and counters made to accommodate her wheelchair.¹⁰

⁵Ibid., p. 216

⁶Ibid., p. 273.

⁷Ibid., p. 285.

⁸Ibid., p. 305-306.

⁹Arthur C. Schofield, *Yesterday's Bradenton*, (Miami: E.A Seemann Publishing, Inc., 1975), pp. 26-27.

¹⁰Richardson, David, grandson of Charles Birney and son of Harriet Birney Richardson, in a telephone communication with Mikki Hartig on July 28, 2001.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3 RICHARDSON HOUSE
BRADENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

Charles Birney brought his family, which included his wife and three daughters, Eloise, Marjorie and Harriet, to Bradenton from the Chicago/Evanston area of Illinois in 1911. Birney had made a fortune in purchasing cattle out west and shipping them to Chicago for slaughter.¹¹ At the time the Birney family arrived in Bradenton in 1911, his daughter Harriet was approximately eleven years old. Upon the family's arrival, Birney rented a home for his family with no intention of becoming involved in local business or politics.¹² Nevertheless, by September, 1911 he had decided to remain a permanent resident and quickly became active and well-known in local affairs. In February, 1913, he was elected mayor of Bradenton and served from 1914-1916. He also served as Director of the Board of Trade (later Chamber of Commerce) and was a stockholder and director of the Bradenton Bank & Trust. He also acquired several valuable properties in the city and county. According to Birney's grandson, David Richardson, Charles Birney also had a home built for another of his three daughters, Eloise Birney Curry, who had married into one of the pioneering families of Bradenton.¹³

Harriet Birney Richardson was born in 1900. She and Benthan S. Richardson were married on August 20, 1921, when he was 23 and she was 21.¹⁴ Richardson was born on May 14, 1898 in South Carolina and came to Ellenton, Florida, as a young boy with his father, who was employed with the Fuller's Earth Plant¹⁵ in Palmetto, Florida near Bradenton. The 1923-1924 Bradenton City Directory indicates that after their marriage, the Richardsons were living on 4th Avenue W, and that Bentham Richardson was employed by the Dunan Lumber Company.

On May 10, 1923, the vacant land on 1st Street W on which the present house and garage stand was purchased with cash by Harriet B. Richardson from L.B. and Louise Clifton.¹⁶ By mid-1924, the couple was living in the residence.¹⁷ Sometime between 1924 and 1926, Bentham Richardson became a partner in the real estate firm of Curry-Richardson and Barney Realty Company whose offices were located on Main Street in downtown Bradenton.¹⁸ This firm comprised three partners, all husbands of the Birney daughters. Their real estate enterprise was short-lived, most likely because of the failure of the Florida Land Boom in the mid-1920s. By 1928-1929, Bentham Richardson was working as a salesman at the Bradenton Hardware Company and his brothers-in-law were also employed elsewhere.¹⁹

¹¹Richardson, David, in a telephone communication with Mikki Hartig on August 13, 2001.

¹²Manatee Journal, January 12, 1911.

¹³Manatee Journal, September 21, 1911, October 5, 1911, and February 11, 1913.

¹⁴Marriage Records of Manatee County, Florida.

¹⁵ A mineral substance originally used in the fulling of wool to remove oil and grease but is now used chiefly in bleaching and clarifying petroleum and secondarily in refining edible oils. Fuller's earth is mined in many parts of the United States, Georgia and Florida being the leading producers.

¹⁶Deed Books 66, Page 198, and Deed Book 68, Page 398, of the Public Records of Manatee County, Florida.

¹⁷Richardson, David, July 28, 2001.

¹⁸Richardson, David, July 28, 2001, and Polk, R.L., Bradenton City Directory, 1926.

¹⁹Polk, R.L., Bradenton City Directory, 1928.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 4 RICHARDSON HOUSE
BRADENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

Subsequent Owners

The Richardsons had two sons, David, born in 1922, and John, born in 1924. The family resided in the house until about 1930 or 1931, when they moved to 40 acres that Richardson owned on the Ellenton/Gillette Road.²⁰ On May 5, 1932, the Richardsons transferred ownership of the subject property to J.C. Brannen for \$3,600.²¹

Harriet Richardson died on November 19, 1932 of complications from polio, leaving her husband with their two young sons. Bentham Richardson continued to live on the Ellenton property with his children and in 1933, he married Lillian Vowell of that city. Together, he and his second wife raised the two older boys and had a son and daughter of their own.²² During the 1940s, Richardson was employed by Miller Trailers. During the 1950s, he worked as a carpenter. Later he worked in the maintenance department of Manatee Memorial Hospital. From 1930 until his death in 1994, Bentham Richardson continued to live on his Ellenton property, which still remains under the ownership of his daughter.²³

Jesse Cleo Brannen, who became the second owner of the property when he purchased it from the Richardsons in 1932, owned and operated the Brannen and Ganey Drug Store on Manatee Avenue W in Bradenton. Brannen and his wife, Emily, occupied the house until his death on October 12, 1939.²⁴ On May 10, 1940, Emily Brannen, by then living in Alabama, deeded the property to C.C. Brannen, perhaps a son or other relation, of Moultrie, Georgia.²⁵

It is not known who occupied the house from the time of Jesse Brannen's death in 1939 until the property was sold on October 26, 1942 by Dr. C. C. Brannen to Wilbur and Grace Smith for \$10,500.²⁶ Wilbur Smith was the Treasurer of Hardin Realty and in the 1950s served on the Bradenton City Council.²⁷ He died on October 28, 1967 with his wife, Grace, as his sole survivor.²⁸

²⁰Richardson, David, July 28, 2001.

²¹Deed Book 137, Page 286, Public Records of Manatee County, Florida.

²²Knaack, Jan, daughter of Bentham and Lillian Richardson, in a telephone communication with Mikki Hartig on July 28, 2001.

²³Richardson, David, and Knaack, Jeannie "Jan", daughter of Bentham and Lillian Richardson, in telephone communications with Mikki Hartig on July 28, 2001.

²⁴Polk, R.L., Bradenton City Directory, 1939, and Probate File #9027, Public Records of Manatee County, Florida.

²⁵Deed Book 177, Page__, public records of Manatee County, Florida.

²⁶Deed Book 183, Pages 397 and 399, Public Records of Manatee County, Florida.

²⁷Polk, R.L., Bradenton City Directories, 1945, 1947, 1950, and 1955.

²⁸Probate File of Wilbur Smith, Probate Files of Manatee County, Florida.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 5 RICHARDSON HOUSE
BRADENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

Wilbur and Grace Smith sold the property to Wilfred and Mary Porter on October 23, 1947 for \$20,000. Porter was a Methodist minister.²⁹ He and his wife were childless. Dr. Porter died on October 21, 1949,³⁰ and his widow remained living in the house until 1973.³¹

Subsequent owners included Nelson Kirkland, a minister. Kirkland purchased the house as an investment in about 1978 but did not occupy it. In 1981, his son, Nelon Kirkland II, an attorney, jointly purchased the house with a friend and they occupied the house as roommates for a few years. In 1983, Kirkland married and purchased his friend's interest in the property. The Kirklands' son was born in 1984 while they were living in the house.³² The present owner, Clyde St. Leon, purchased the house in December 2000.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Throughout the nineteenth century, Bradenton was a small river town serving the agricultural and timber industries in the region of the lower Manatee River. The early architecture of the town was plain, practical and generally small. The housing types that developed were typical of most isolated and developing towns in coastal Florida. They were mainly one and two-story frame vernacular houses. A specific house type found in early Bradenton was the I-House, a two-story, one-room deep house with a hall through the center. These houses had attached porches.

During the late nineteenth century, Bradenton began to show its response to the influence of the popular Queen Anne style which became popular throughout the country from the end of the Civil War up through the turn of the century. Most of these houses were two-stories in height and were irregular in ground plan. Large verandas or porches wrapped around several sides of these houses to provide summer shade and protection from rain. Fully developed Queen Anne houses featured towers and turret bays.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, the Colonial Revival style of architecture began to influence the design and decoration of Bradenton's homes. Again, this mirrored a new national trend, away from the more flamboyant Queen Anne to the more restrained Colonial Revival; however, simple vernacular housing continued to dominate the built environment in Bradenton.

As with most towns in America, residential construction in Bradenton began to spread outward from the central or commercial core of the city to nearby suburbs. This movement began to take place in Bradenton in the 1910s and 1920s. Such expansion brought with it examples of America's first tract house of the early twentieth century, the bungalow. In the Point Pleasant neighborhood and others along the fringes of the downtown area,

²⁹Polk, R.L., Bradenton City Directory, 1947.

³⁰Probate File 1592, Public Records of Manatee County, Florida.

³¹Polk, R.L., Bradenton City Directories, 1950-1973.

³²Kirkland, Nelon, II, in a telephone interview with Mikki Hartig on July 24, 2001.

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SIGNIFICANCE

residential structures suggestive of the Greene and Greene bungalows of California began to appear. These structures departed radically from the high pitched angular Queen Anne and the boxy Colonial Revival style influenced houses. The sprawling bungalows had low pitched roofs with distinctive knee braces. The exterior walls exhibited a wide variety of materials and textures. The interiors of these houses featured built-in furniture such as buffets, seats, and bookcases. The rooms were large and generally opened onto adjacent ones either through double pocket doors or open room dividers. The Florida Boom of the 1920s in Bradenton saw the construction of numerous bungalows with a wide range of details, from the almost text book example of the Craftsman style to simpler local and less expensive examples of the style.

Craftsman Style Bungalows

The exterior of Craftsman Style homes display a variety of unpretentious architectural forms borrowed from the English Arts & Crafts, the American Shingle, and the Colonial Revival styles. The Craftsman played a major role in popularizing the Bungalow, by far the most popular house type of the early twentieth century. The small amount of decoration that was used expressed structural considerations. Exposed rafter ends were almost a Craftsman trademark. Symmetry for the sake of symmetry was not sought but was used for simplicity's sake. Stone or brick exterior chimneys suggested a broad hearth within the house.

Although Craftsman plans always suggested appropriate building materials, homeowners were expected to make their own choices from what was readily available and economical in the area. Ideally, the materials used were ones found or produced near the building site.

Following their introduction in California during the early part of the century, bungalows became one of the most successful vernacular houses ever built.³³ As opposed to frame vernacular houses, the bungalow, and more specifically the Craftsman style bungalow, are much more self-conscious in their expression of such sensibilities as grace, ease, naturalness, permanence, stability, complexity, massiveness, volume and other characteristics associated with the home as a place of safety, quiet and comfort. It is symbolized by the design of the roof which is usually low pitched and extends to the deep eaves. The usual porch and posts, walls, doors, and windows take their places quietly in the scheme or style receding under the dominant roof. In most cases, the bungalow is set low to

³³Groffried, Herbert and Jennings, Jan, American Vernacular Design 1870-1940, Iowa State University Press/Ames, 1985, p. 342.

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SIGNIFICANCE

the ground nestling into and becoming a part of the environment. Its casualness promotes the informal life of its occupants.³⁴

The bungalow enjoyed success during the first thirty years of the twentieth century. It was tirelessly promoted and enthusiastically constructed. It constituted a great proportion of the detached houses built during this time period. Due to an urgent need for housing and rapid expansion across the continent, more bungalows may have been constructed during this brief time than any other American house type in the nation's earlier history. The bungalow's quick rise to prominence, its expansion throughout the country, its significant numbers, broad appeal, types and facets, and originality could make it worthy as an art form reflecting the life of its era. Consisting of a house of moderate size, adequate for a small family, and constructed on a modest size lot, it afforded an overall effect of homey-ness. Most of all, its reasonable cost made it affordable to the average citizen and a good value.³⁵

³⁴Lancaster, Clay, American Bungalow, 1880-1930, General Publishing Company, Ltd, Toronto, Canada, 1985, pp. 11 & 13; "The Craftsman House," The Old House Journal. (Vol. VII, No. 11), November 1979, pp. 121,123.

³⁵Lancaster, p. 13.

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RICHARDSON HOUSE
BRADENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The north 110' (Less the W two (2) feet thereof) of Lot 1 of H.W. Fuller's Subdivision of Block 1 of Upham's Addition to Bradenton, as per plat of said H.W. Fuller's Subdivision recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 124, of the Public Records of Manatee County, Florida.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries have been established based on the boundaries that have historically been associated with the property.

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RICHARDSON HOUSE
BRADENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHOTOGRAPHS

PHOTO LIST

1. Richardson House
2. 1603 1st Avenue W., Bradenton (Manatee County), Florida
3. Clyde St. Leon
4. August, 2001
5. Clyde St. Leon, 1603 First Street, W., Bradenton, FL 34205
6. Main (North) Facade, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 1 of 43

Items 1-5 are the same for all the remaining photographs.

6. Main (North) Facade, Looking South
7. Photo 2 of 43

6. South and East Elevations, Looking Northwest along 16th Street W
7. Photo 3 of 43

6. Main (North) Facade and East Elevation, Looking Southwest from Intersection of 1st Avenue W and 16th Street W
7. Photo 4 of 43

6. North (Main) Facade, Detail of Enclosed Porch, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 5 of 43

6. North (Main) Facade, Detail of Entrance Porch, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 6 of 43

6. Main (North) Facade and East Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 7 of 43

6. East Elevation, Looking West
7. Photo 8 of 43

6. East Elevation, Looking West
7. Photo 9 of 43

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BRADENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHOTOGRAPHS

- 6. East and South Elevations with Detached Garage, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 10 of 43

- 6. South Elevation with Detail of Detached Garage, Looking West
- 7. Photo 11 of 43

- 6. South and West Elevations with Detail View of Detached Garage, Looking East
- 7. Photo 12 of 43

- 6. Main (East) Elevation of Detached garage and South Elevation of Main House, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 13 of 43

- 6. W elevation, camera facing NE
- 7. Photo 14 of 43

- 6. West Elevation and Entranceway to Enclosed Porch, Looking East
- 7. Photo 15 of 43

- 6. West Elevation Showing Secondary Entrance, Looking South
- 7. Photo 16 of 43

- 6. Main (North) Facade and West Elevation, Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 17 of 43

- 6. Interior, Enclosed Porch, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 18 of 43

- 6. Interior, Enclosed Porch, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 19 of 43

- 6. Interior, View from Dining Room into Living Room, Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 20 of 43

- 6. Interior, View from Dining Room into Living Room, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 21 of 43

- 6. Interior, Living Room, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 22 of 43

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BRADENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHOTOGRAPHS

6. Interior, Living Room, Fireplace and Flanking Bookcases, Looking East

7. Photo 23 of 43

6. Interior, Detail of Bookcase Divider between Living and Dining rooms, Looking West

7. Photo 24 of 43

6. Interior, Detail of Bookcase Divider between Living and Dining rooms, Looking West

7. Photo 25 of 43

6. Interior, View from Living Room into Dining Room, Looking West

7. Photo 26 of 43

6. Interior, View from Living Room into Dining Room, Looking West

7. Photo 27 of 43

6. Interior, Detail of Built-in Cabinets in Dining Room, Looking Northwest

7. Photo 28 of 43

6. Interior, Detail of Living Room Wainscoting and Plate Rail, Looking Southeast

7. Photo 29 of 43

6. Interior, Kitchen Sink, Counter and Cabinets, Looking West

7. Photo 30 of 43

6. Interior, Kitchen, Original Built-in Ironing Board, Looking South

7. Photo 31 of 43

6. Interior, Central Hall, Looking North toward Living Room

7. Photo 32 of 43

6. Interior, Central Hall, Looking South toward Bathroom

7. Photo 33 of 43

6. Interior, North Bedroom (Office), Looking Northeast

7. Photo 34 of 43

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PHOTOGRAPHS

6. Interior, Central Hall, Linen Closet and Southwest Bedroom, Looking West

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6. Interior, Southwest Bedroom, Looking Southwest

7. Photo 36 of 43

6. Interior, Central Hall, View into Southwest Bedroom, Looking West

7. Photo 37 of 43

6. Interior, Southeast Bedroom, Looking Southeast

7. Photo 38 of 43

6. Interior, Hall Bathroom, Looking South

7. Photo 39 of 43

6. Interior, Hall Bathroom, Looking Southeast

7. Photo 40 of 43

6. Interior, Hall Bathroom, Detail of Cabinets, Looking South

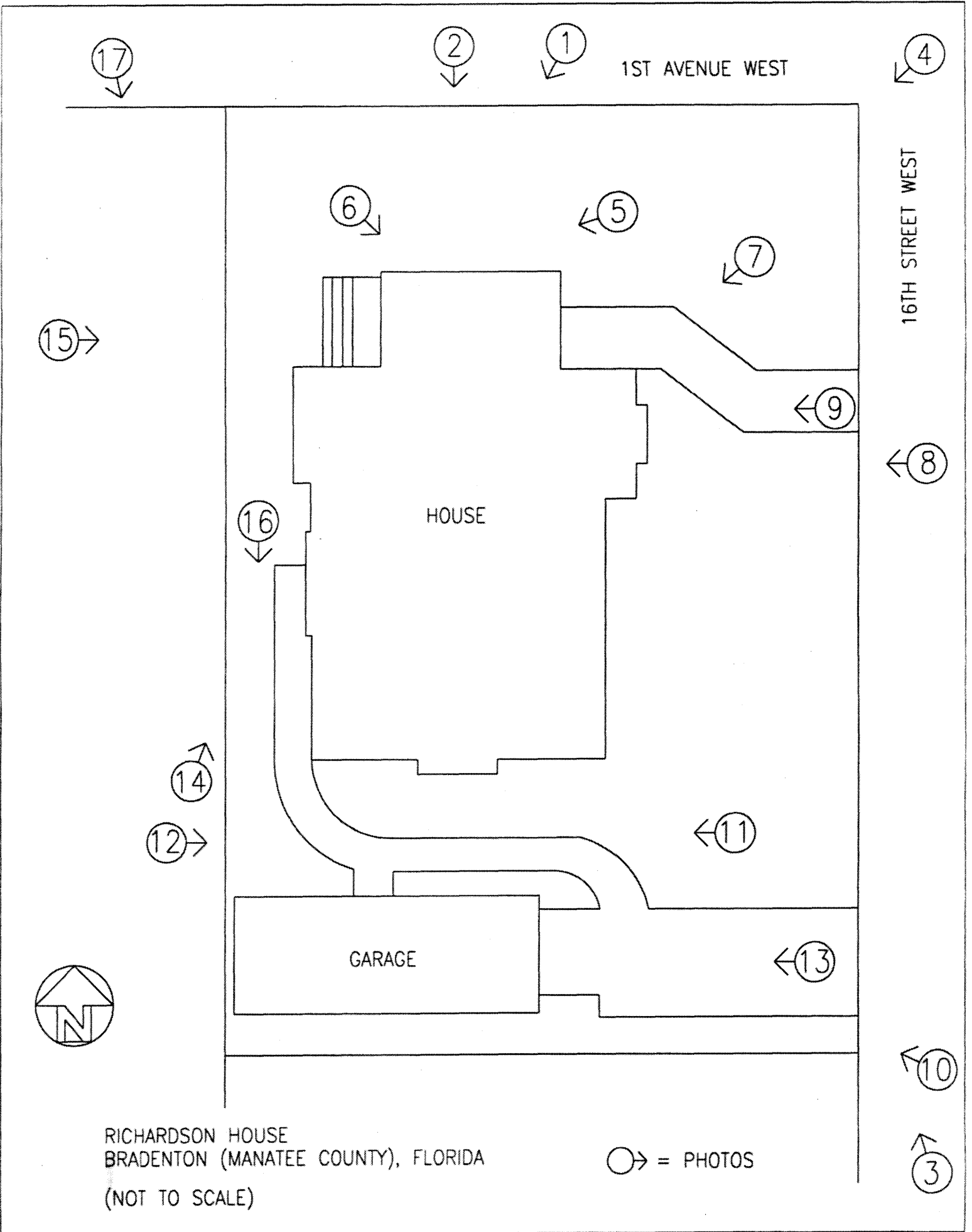
7. Photo 41 of 43

6. Interior, Hall Bathroom, Detail of Cabinets, Looking Southwest

7. Photo 42 of 43

6. Interior, Hall Bathroom, Looking Southeast

7. Photo 43 of 43

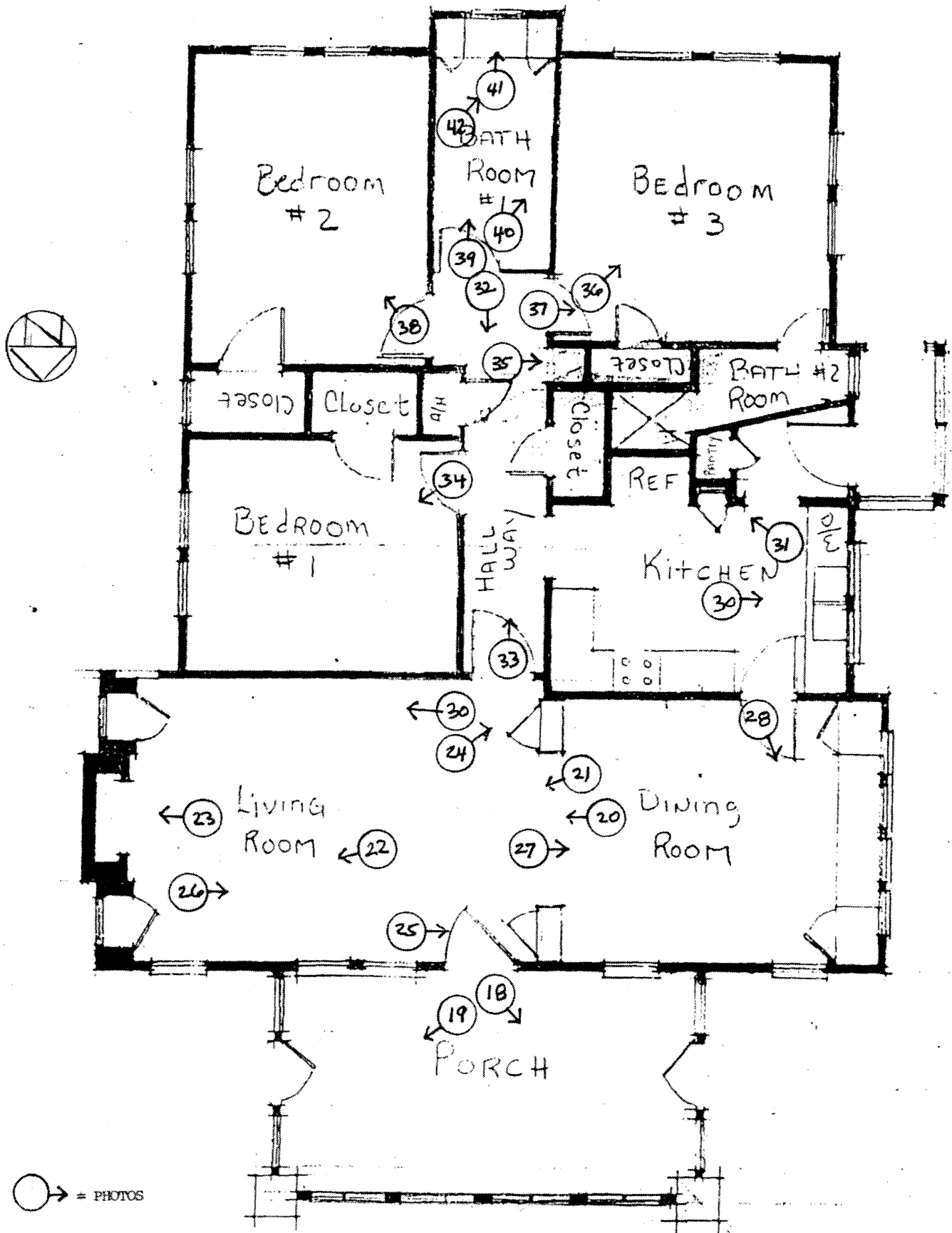


RICHARDSON HOUSE
 BRADENTON (MANATEE COUNTY), FLORIDA
 (NOT TO SCALE)

○→ = PHOTOS

RICHARDSON HOUSE
BRADENTON (MANATEE COUNTY), FLORIDA

Not to scale.



Current Map

