

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received

MAR 11 1987

date entered

APR 9 1987

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Abbey

and or common Thompson's General Store/Rhodes House

2. Location

street & number 426 S. Beach Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Daytona Beach

N/A vicinity of

state Florida

code 012

county Volusia

code 127

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. William P. Doremus

street & number 426 S. Beach Street

city, town Daytona Beach

N/A vicinity of

state Florida

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Volusia County Courthouse

street & number New York & Indiana Streets

city, town DeLand

state Florida

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Properties Survey of South Beach Street, Daytona Beach, Florida has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date June, 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation

city, town Tallahassee

state Florida

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Abbey at 426 South Beach Street in Daytona Beach, Florida, is a two-story, wood frame vernacular residence located on a narrow lot in a residential neighborhood, overlooking the Halifax River. The house has an irregular plan and rests on brick a brick pier foundation. The exterior siding is weatherboard, except on the rear ell which has drop siding. The main roof and that of the large rear ell are both gabled, while the lateral wings have hip roofs with paneled parapets. The house also features flat, shed, and pavilion roofs on its various bays and porches.

The majority of the windows are 2/2 double hung sash, most of which are found in the central block of the house and probably date ca. 1875 when the structure was Thompson's Store. The main facade, however, has 6/6 windows (2nd story) and French doors (1st story) which were installed when the original storefront was removed ca. 1904. The south wing, which forms the two-story "sun porch", has 8-light triple casement windows, while the narrow north wing has 4/4 light double hung sash windows. Both wings were added ca. 1904.

The house has several porches. A one-bay, flat roofed portico marks the main entrance found at the northwest corner of the facade. Two square wood columns support a narrow entablature with dentils. The same motif can be found in the architrave above the French doors found just south of the main entrance. These doors open onto a brick patio which also forms the foundation for the portico. A two-story screened porch is found at the rear of the main block of the house just south of the rear ell. The structure has a shed roof supported by square wooden posts. Instead of balustrades, the porches have parapet walls made of novelty siding. The rear porch and gallery probably date ca. 1875 but were modified when the ell was added early in the twentieth century. A small one-story porch is found on the north elevation of the house at the junction of the central block and rear ell. This structure has a flat aluminum roof supported by a square aluminum post. It is therefore a modern addition but probably replaced an earlier wooden structure.

Other than replacing the facade, the major alterations to the Abbey in 1904 were the addition of the north and south wings and the rear ell. The construction of the sun porches on the south resulted in the removal or covering of about the western one-third of the original 1875 fabric. The northern addition, however, involved about three-quarters of the elevation, which is evidenced by the 4/4 windows found on almost the entire length of that side of the house. The rear ell, clearly constructed when the other major additions were made, uses 2/2 windows that are probably from that part of the 1875 structure that was demolished when the building was enlarged.

The first floor of the house contains a foyer where the main stairs leading to the second floor are located. South of the stairs is a short hall leading to the library, which is found just west of the connecting living room. The sun porch is located immediately south of the living room. One enters the irregularly shaped dining room from the library, which connects with the only bedroom found on

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1875/1904 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The house known as The Abbey in Daytona Beach, Florida is eligible for listing on the National Register on the basis of criteria (A), its association with the founding and settlement of the city and (B), its connection with Laurence Thompson and Harrison G. Rhodes, both of whom made important contributions to the city's early history. Thompson was among the community's first residents and was a merchant and city official who made a number of contributions to the town's development. Rhodes was an American author and drama critic whose major contribution to Daytona Beach and the state of Florida was to support the early development of Bethune-Cookman College, one of the first and most important educational institutions in the state dedicated to providing opportunities for higher education to the state's black citizens.

Daytona Beach, now a city with a population of approximately 56,000 persons located on the east coast of Florida, had its origins in 1870 when Matthias Day (1824-1903), a native of Ohio, purchased a large tract of land along the Halifax River in Volusia County as a speculative real estate venture. Day hoped to resell the land at a profit by subdividing it and attracting "colonists" from his home state to settle on the new townsite. Day's association with the project was short-lived, however, for in 1872 he was unable to raise the mortgage payment on the land which had been valued at \$8,000. The original owner reclaimed the property and subsequently sold it to two new investors. Day returned to Ohio, leaving Daytona Beach with little more than his name.¹

A promotional pamphlet for the town appearing in 1875 described it as having about 70 inhabitants, 20 wood frame houses, and 2 stores. One of the stores belonged to Laurence Thompson (1848-1924) who had arrived earlier in the year with his wife, infant son, and younger brother. Thompson purchase the lot at 426 South Beach Street on which he built a two-story, wood frame building to house his general store. He also built a one and one-half story, wood frame house for his family immediately south of the store. This latter building no longer survives.²

Laurence operated the store with his brother Graham. The upper floor was used as offices and a meeting hall. When Daytona Beach was incorporated in 1876, Laurence became city clerk. In addition to selling merchandise, he also tried his hand at developing citrus groves in the area, but soon turned to selling real estate. In 1891, Thompson sold the store on Beach Street to Lyman Robbins, another Ohioan, and became a partner in the real estate and insurance agency of Bingham & Thompson. His brother Graham opened a bicycle shop. The name of real estate agency became Thompson & Thompson after Laurence and his son took control of the firm in 1918. The elder Thompson died in Daytona Beach in 1924.³

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than One

Quadrangle name Daytona Beach

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	1	7	4	9	1	8	3	1	4	1	0	3	1	2	3	1	0	5	1	0	1	0
Zone			Easting						Northing													

B

Zone			Easting						Northing													

C

Zone			Easting						Northing													

D

Zone			Easting						Northing													

E

Zone			Easting						Northing													

F

Zone			Easting						Northing													

G

Zone			Easting						Northing													

H

Zone			Easting						Northing													

Verbal boundary description and justification

The North Half of Lot 3, Block 3 of Hodgeman's Map of Daytona, Except for the North 1 Foot Thereof.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation

date March 3, 1987

street & number R.A. Gray Building

telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee

state Florida 32301

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *George W. Perry*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date March 3, 1987

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

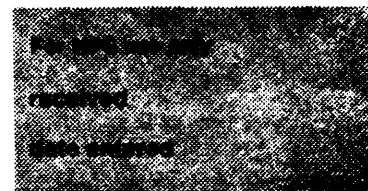
date 4-9-87

John Alcorn Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

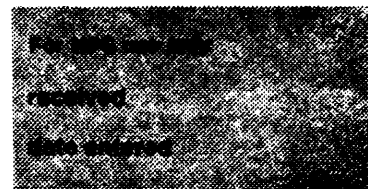
SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

Adelaid Robbins Rhodes, the sister of Lyman Robbins, moved to Daytona Beach in 1893 after the death of her husband, James H. Rhodes, in Cleveland, Ohio. She brought her daughter Margaret to live with her and for a time made her residence in her brother's house. In 1904, she acquired the old store from Lyman and had it converted into a house by adding wings to the north and south elevations and by removing the "false front" from the gable of the facade. Adelaide's son Harrison Garfield Rhodes began spending his winters with his family in Daytona Beach about 1905.⁴

Harrison G. Rhodes was an author and drama critic who had his permanent residence in New York City and often spent part of the year in England or Italy. He began his writing career shortly after graduating from Harvard University in 1892, working for the Stone & Kimbally Publishing Company which produced the Chap Book and House Beautiful. In 1901, he became the drama critic for the Chicago Tribune. His first novel, The Adventures of Charles Edward, appeared in 1902 and a play, Captain Dieppe, opened at the Herald Square Theater in New York City in the same year.⁵

Rhodes wrote about a dozen plays, some of them in collaboration with other authors. His best known plays were A Gentleman from Mississippi (1908), The Willow Tree (1917), and Ruggles of Red Gap (1922). His novels included The Lady and the Ladder (1906) and The Flight to Eden (1907). The latter was set in Daytona Beach during the first years of the settlement. In addition, Rhodes wrote articles for a number of magazines including Harper's and the Saturday Evening Post, plus the travel books A Guide to Florida (1912), In Vacation America (1915), and American Towns and People (1920). Rhodes' most important contribution to Daytona Beach and the state of Florida, however, was his early support of Bethune-Cookman College.⁶

The founder of the college, Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955) was born the daughter of former slaves in Mayesville, South Carolina. After graduating from Moody Bible School in Chicago in 1895, she taught at mission schools in the South and decided to open her own school for the education of Negro girls in Daytona Beach in 1903. She appealed to prominent members of the white community who wintered in the city and found champions for her cause in Adelaide Rhodes and James N. Gamble, the son of one of the founders of the Procter & Gamble Company. Both became members of the board of trustees of what then was known as the "Daytona Normal School for Negro Girls." Mrs. Rhodes also enlisted her son to take Mrs. Bethune to New York City to introduce her to wealthy citizens who could contribute money for the construction of school buildings, the establishment of student scholarships, and the payment of teachers' salaries. Harrison Rhodes undertook the task with enthusiasm and also successfully applied to the Carnegie Foundation for a grant with which to purchase books for the nucleus of a school library.⁷

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

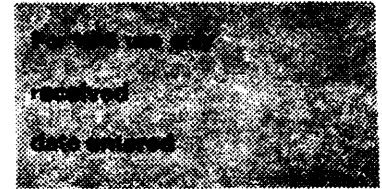
Under the influence of Mrs. Bethune, James N. Gamble, and the Rhodes family, the school prospered and grew. Harrison Rhodes became vice president of the board of trustees in 1912. In 1923, the school merged with the all male Cookman Institute in Jacksonville to become the Daytona Collegiate Institute, a coeducational facility. It was renamed Bethune-Cookman College in 1928 and continues today to play a vital role in providing quality higher education for the state's black citizens and those of all races and backgrounds as well.⁸

Adelaide Rhodes died in 1918. Harrison Rhodes said that his mother was dedicated to the success of the institution she helped found because she "belonged to that generation which had an impassioned belief in education and...aveneration for the achievements of the mind."⁹ Harrison Rhodes died of a stroke in 1929 while visiting England with his sister. His remains were returned to New York City for funeral services in the Cathedral of St. John the Devine, and a choir from Bethune-Cookman College sang at the Episcopal service. He was buried alongside his father and mother in the family cemetery plot in Cleveland, Ohio. In his will, Rhodes left the house in Daytona Beach to his sister and also the income from his estate during her lifetime. After her death the income was to pass to Bethune-Cookman College. Margaret Rhodes died in Daytona Beach in 1951 and when the estate was settled in 1960, the college received \$560,000. The school had already memorialize Harrison Rhodes in 1942 when it named its newly constructed library the Harrison G. Rhodes Memorial Library.¹⁰

The house at 426 Beach Street which had been named "The Abbey" by Adelaide Rhodes was purchased in 1955 by Dr. William P. Doremus, who still lives in the house. He has preserved many of the furnishings left by the Rhodes family, including those of the library used by Harrison Rhodes which contains copies of many of his works. The house is a simple, wood frame structure with some Colonial Revival detailing and was, therefore, not considered significant on the basis of architecture. It nevertheless stands as one of the most important landmarks of Daytona Beach because of the preservation of the 1875 structure to which the 1904 wings were added and its association with Laurence Thompson and the Rhodes family.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

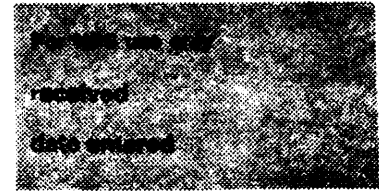
4

SIGNIFICANCE--FOOTNOTES

1. Harley L. Freeman, "Let's Spell His Name Correctly," Volusia County Record 3:1 (March, 1971): 1-3.
2. Pleasant Daniel Gold, History of Volusia County (DeLand: E.O. Painter Printing Co., 1927): 103-106.
3. Daytona Beach News-Journal 15 November 1964; Gold, p. 198.
4. Ianthe Bond Hebel, Harrison Rhodes, 1871-1929, unpublished typescript, 1961, n.p.
5. Ibid.; New York Times 22 September 1929.
6. Hebel.
7. National Cyclopedia of American Biography Vol. XLIX (New York: James T. White & Co., 1966): 118; Rackham Holt, Mary M. Bethune (New York: Vanguard Press, 1951): 148-150.
8. Ibid.
9. Holt, p. 148.
10. Hebel.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Daytona Beach News-Journal 15 November 1964
2. Florida Gazetteer & Business Directory, 1884-1927. New York: R.L. Polk Publishing Co.
3. Freeman, Harley L. "Let's Spell His Name Correctly," Volusia County Record 3:1 (March, 1971): 1-3.
4. Gold, Pleasant Daniel. History of Volusia County. DeLand: E.O. Painter Printing Co., 1927.
5. Hebel, Ianthe Bond. Harrison Rhodes, 1871-1929. unpublished typescript, 1961, n.p.
6. National Cyclopedia of American Biography. Vol. XLIX. New York: James T. White & Co., 1966.
7. New York Times 22 September 1929.

Florida, and map book
all rights, title and
first part in and to
of said granted premi
riparian rights, ti

BEACH ST.

Grass Par

HALFAX RIVER

Original Red Line Beach Street as per

BACK OF EXISTING SIDEWALK

6' SIDEWALK BEACH STREET AS PER

PAVED AREA

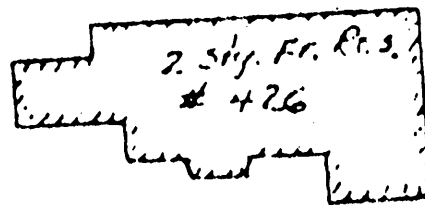
443.27 to back of sidewalk

3.6



2 sty Fr. Bldg.

2 sty. FHg. d



2 sty. Fr. Bldg.
426

closed patio



449.92 to back of sidewalk

notes

