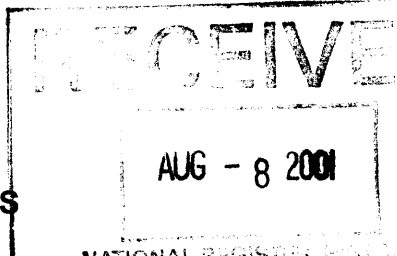


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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, mark "N/A" or "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 Everglades Laundry

other names/site number Museum of the Everglades, Everglades Woman's Club/CR155

2. Location

street & number 105 West Broadway n/a not for publication

city or town Everglades City n/a vicinity

state Florida code FL county Collier code 021 zip code 34139

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.)
Janet Snyder Hottel 7/31/2001
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Florida State Historic Preservation Office, 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 of the Keeper Entered in the National Register Date of Action 9/22/01

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 | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | 0 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 1 | 0 | total |

Name of related multiple property listings
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce: Laundry

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Frame Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood: Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Glass

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)

- Commerce
- Community Planning and Development
- Architecture
-
-
-

Period of Significance

1927-ca. 1942

Significant Dates

1927
1928

Significant Person

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Sparklin, William O., Architect
Sparklin-Gift Construction Company, Builder

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

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | 1 7 | 4 6 1 3 7 0 | 2 8 5 9 7 2 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 Sidney Johnston, consultant & Barbara E. Mattick, Deputy SHPO

organization Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation date July 2001

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

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Collier County

street & number 3301 Tamiami Trail East telephone (941) 774-8476

city or town Naples state FL zip code 34102

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

**EVERGLADES LAUNDRY
EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION**

Summary

The Everglades Laundry at 105 West Broadway is an important historic resource in Everglades City (Collier County), Florida. Located at the southeast intersection of Broadway and Storter Avenue, the one-story Frame Vernacular building faces north and contains 2,800 square feet of interior floor space. It has a rectangular plan measuring eighty feet by thirty-five feet. The steeply pitched gable-on-hip roof is interrupted by a louvered ridge monitor, and finished with asphalt shingles and exposed rafter ends. A small entrance porch projects from the front facade. Its wood balloon frame is covered by drop siding and cornerboards, and punctuated by wooden casement windows. A foundation system of concrete block piers supports the building. The resource has been rehabilitated for use as the Museum of the Everglades, which is maintained by Collier County. Grant assistance amounting to \$361,000 from the Florida Department of State, Bureau of Historic Preservation helped rehabilitate the building in 1997. Notwithstanding the adaptive use and the modification of a new entrance along the east elevation, the building retains its early twentieth century character to a high degree.

Setting

Everglades City is located in Collier County near the southwestern tip of the Florida peninsula. Forty miles southeast of Naples, the city is four miles south of the Tamiami Trail on State Road 29. Interstate 75, nicknamed Alligator Alley, stretches across the Everglades twenty-five miles to the north. Macro Island is twenty-five miles to the west, and Miami is approximately sixty miles to the east. Nearly five hundred people live in Everglades City, which was historically the southernmost point of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. Although the tracks were dismantled several decades ago, the depot still stands about five blocks east of the laundry.

Broadway is the central east/west corridor through the city. The building occupies lot 3, block 27, near the center of the historic town plan, which was laid out about 1924. Commercial buildings of relatively recent origins lie to the south and east, and a county park consisting of tennis courts and pavilions occupies the site to the north. A vacant lot, formerly occupied by an old garage, is located to the west. The Everglades Bank (NR 1999) stands in an adjacent block to the northwest, and the city's central circular drive and park is located one block to the east. Collier County's first courthouse, now the Everglades City Hall, stands on the northeast side of the central park. The terrain is flat, but ambiance is provided by plantings of Royal Palm trees and small shrubs.

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Section number 7 Page 2

EVERGLADES LAUNDRY
EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

Physical Description

Exterior

The symmetrical front (north) facade (photograph 1) displays a gable-on-hip roof embellished with a molded roundel in the face of the gable. A central entrance porch projects from the facade, and is finished with a gable roof, and arched openings pierce the front and sides of the porch. Pairs of ten-light casement windows punctuate the facade, centered between the eaves and foundation skirt, and bracketing the central porch. The innermost casement window openings are slightly larger than the outermost. Six-light transoms embellish the former and five-light transoms adorn the latter. Historic-period photographs confirm this arrangement.

The west facade displays the distinctive louvered ridge monitor (photographs 2, 3). The monitor has a gable roof, and the walls are finished with drop siding and cornerboards. The main wall of the west elevation has an asymmetrical rhythm provided by eight openings of casement windows of different sizes. The windows are set high on the walls to provide maximum interior lighting. The two northernmost window openings are filled with ten-light casement windows accented with five-light transoms. These openings are longer than the remaining six openings, which are filled with twelve-light casement windows.

The rear (south) elevation (photographs 3, 4) is pierced by pairs of twelve-light casement windows and a central entrance protected by a pair of wood braced delivery doors. The face of the gable displays the same type of molded roundel that accents the front facade. Part of the original design, a continuous concrete block foundation supports the rear twenty feet of the building.

The east elevation (photographs 4, 5) continues the asymmetrical theme of the window pattern evident on the west elevation. To help meet ADA code requirements, however, the northernmost window openings were eliminated and replaced by a six-light entrance door. A wooden ramp extends along the elevation.

Interior

The interior plan of the building consists of two spaces, defined as the lobby gallery and the main gallery. The lobby gallery contains 360 square feet of interior floor space, and has offices on the west elevation to support the museum staff (photographs 6-8). The lobby gallery served as the original office area and quarters for the manager and his family. The ceiling rises twelve feet and is finished with beaded boards, a product also used to enclose and finish the office areas. Simple planks finish the door and window openings, and toe moldings along the floor. A wall finished with beaded boards divides the lobby and main galleries. Access between the areas is furnished by a pair of five-panel wood doors centrally located along that wall.

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Section number 7 Page 3

EVERGLADES LAUNDRY
EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

The main gallery (photographs 9-10) is a large unbroken space with small, enclosed areas at the northeast corner for a restroom and storage area. The ceiling and walls are unfinished, revealing the trusses and framework of this simple building. The trusses are built using a king-and-hammer-post system, and additional support is added with steel tie-rods secured with turnbuckles. The floor is finished with heart pine, with the exception of the rear twenty feet, which is poured concrete to support the laundry equipment.

This area originally supported the laundry activities, and presently serves as exhibition space. During rehabilitation of the building in 1997, Allen Tuttle of High Springs, Florida, donated old commercial laundry equipment to the museum. Interpretive exhibits of local history are located in glass cases framed with wood, and an exhibit prepared by the Florida Humanities Council stands near the southeast corner. The laundry machinery occupies the rear of the building on the poured concrete floor.

Alterations

The ridge monitor was not part of the original design of the building, which was completed in 1927. Extreme heat from the surrounding environment and the operation of the equipment in the interior compelled its addition about 1928.

Relatively few alterations were made to the exterior of the building during its rehabilitation. Badly deteriorated from years of neglect, some of the exterior wall fabric was replaced. A product with similar characteristics of the original siding was used to ensure compatibility. In addition, new concrete block piers were installed to replace the crumbling original pier system. Two casement window openings were removed at the north end of the east elevation for the installation of a second door, which provides access into the building from the wooden ramp. These minor changes do not substantially alter the character of the building, and do not compromise its historic integrity.

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Section number 8 Page 1

EVERGLADES LAUNDRY
EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Significance Paragraph

The Everglades Laundry fulfills Criteria A and C at the local level in the areas of Architecture, Commerce, and Community Planning and Development for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Under Criterion A, the building was constructed in 1927 to house a commercial laundry operation. The building has local significance as part of the original infrastructure and operation of the Town of Everglades, a planned community and company town developed by businessman Baron Gift Collier near the tip of the Florida peninsula during the 1920s. The laundry, as well as many of the other buildings in the town, was designed by architect William O. Sparklin of Fort Myers, and the Sparklin-Gift Construction Company supervised its construction. The Collier Company leased the laundry to several people, including T. M. Sellars and then Christopher and Lois Ayers. Employees included various members of the Echols family. For nearly fifteen years, the business laundered the clothing of residents, Collier's employees, and even Collier's personal clothing while he was living in Florida. The laundry closed during World War II because of a lack of personnel, and was briefly used as an office, by the Civilian Air Patrol, and then as a woman's club. In 1988, the woman's club conveyed the property to County of Collier, which completed the rehabilitation of the building for use as the Museum of the Everglades in 1997. Under Criterion C, the building is derived from Frame Vernacular characteristics. It represents the simple wood frame architecture that historically infilled the town plan and supported Collier's company town. Most of the original company town buildings have been destroyed by fires, demolition, hurricanes, or insect infestation. Remarkably, this wood frame building has withstood the test of time in this harsh, humid climate, where few wooden buildings from the 1920s still stand. A testimony to the use of materials, design, and craftsmanship skills of its builders, the building displays a design consistent with national and statewide trends in architecture.

Historical Context of Everglades City

Settled in the late-nineteenth century, Everglade (the predecessor of Everglades City) was a remote outpost at the southwest tip of the Florida peninsula until the 1920s. William Smith Allen arrived there about 1870, when he named the settlement Everglade and designated the nearby river the Allen River. A native of Alabama, George W. Storter settled at Everglade about 1881, after working as a cowboy in Manatee County. He purchased Allen's property in 1889, operated a small farm, and sold firewood in Key West. In 1892, he opened a general store, and the following year the federal government established a post office in the village. Agents with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, resident Seminoles, and area settlers considered Storter's general store one of the best trading posts in the western Everglades.

About 1900, Storter built a hotel to accommodate an increasing tourist industry in south Florida. In 1910, only 144 people lived in the Everglade precinct, but a decade later the census bureau tallied 215 residents. In 1917, Storter laid out the Everglade plat along the Allen River, and by 1919 he owned nearly 700 acres in the region.

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EVERGLADES LAUNDRY
EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

Still, by 1920, the Everglade settlement consisted of little more than several one-story wood-frame buildings standing along the east bank of the Allen River.

About 1921, Storter met Barron Collier, a prominent New York City businessman and seasonal Florida resident of Charlotte Harbor. Collier had first visited Florida in 1911, and in 1921 purchased some of Storter's property. He acquired Storter's general store in 1922, and by 1925 Collier owned nearly 1,000,000 acres in southwest Florida, including the area that became Everglades City. To help him develop the property, he hired engineer D. Graham Copeland, who eventually became general manager of Collier's Florida interests. A native of South Carolina, Copeland graduated from the United States Naval Academy, and then Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, in 1908. Copeland directed construction of naval air stations in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Ireland; and New Orleans, and after World War I worked in private industry in Louisiana.

Copeland joined Collier's team in 1924. His initial projects included platting the Town of Everglades along the Allen River, which Collier renamed the Barron River. Containing forty blocks, Copeland's plan radiated from north-to-south along the east bank of the river. Avenues named for early settlers and Collier's business associates ran north-to-south; streets ran east-to-west with names reflecting native flora. Broadway was the central east-west divider, and formed a circular drive at its intersection with Copeland Avenue. Broadway was reserved for commercial and public buildings, and residential areas lay on larger lots to the north and south. Small revisions in 1931 and 1950 had little effect on the overall characteristics of the plan. Copeland's later achievements included the design and survey of the Tamiami Trail, and a railroad grade between Immokalee and Everglades. He became chief engineer of Alexander, Ramsay & Kerr, Inc., an engineering company formed by Collier. He served on the Collier County commission between 1929 and 1949, as the town manager of the Town of Everglades between 1926 and 1929, and was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1949.

Residents incorporated the Town of Everglade in 1923, and changed the name to Everglades in 1925. The principal function of the elected officials was to enact ordinances necessary to sanction Collier's activities. For nearly thirty years, then, Everglades operated as a company town where few people owned a business or property. Indeed, Collier largely developed the town to house and provide services for employees who dredged canals, reclaimed land, and constructed roads for him. Collier's company even hired people to operate its automobile garage, general store, laundry, meat market, and other businesses in the town. Collier also organized the Collier County News and established telephone service. In May 1923, the Florida Legislature created Collier County, in part, because of Collier's promise to personally fund the construction of the Tamiami Trail through the newly-created county. Already an integral part in Collier's vision to improve his Florida landholdings, the Town of Everglades became the seat of government for Collier County, apparently the only company town ever to serve as a county seat in Florida.

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Section number 8 Page 3

EVERGLADES LAUNDRY
EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

Everglades experienced a brief period of development. Collier funded the development of the company town personally through the Sparklin-Gift Construction Company, which he formed with Fort Myers architect William Sparklin. Collier's Manhattan Mercantile Company operated a drug store, dry goods store, meat market, shoe store, bakery, and filling station. As the town took shape, commercial and public buildings were sited along Broadway, and dwellings largely stood to the north of the central east-west divider. The Everglades Club clubhouse was built in 1924, and the Everglades Inn, Everglades School, and Seminole Lodge were built the following year. A Community Church organized in 1925. A bank was completed in 1926, a laundry in 1927, and the new county courthouse was dedicated in 1928. The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad completed its line into the town, where a picturesque depot was built in 1928. Writing in the late-1920s, W. E. Dahlgren of Chicago's Field Museum noted that Everglades "was a trim and clean-cut, thoroughly modern, spotless looking town," rather than the primitive fishing village he had expected to see. The buildings displayed a uniform color scheme of yellow walls with white trim and green stained roofs. A celebration of the opening of the Tamiami Trail occurred at Everglades City in April 1928, and in 1930 the population of the town reached 692.

The collapse of the Florida land boom had relatively little impact on Collier or the town. Instead of restricting his activities following the collapse of the land boom, Collier expanded his Florida Gulf Coast Hotel, Inc. by adding to his chain of resort hotels, which included the Gasparilla Inn at Boca Grande, the Charlotte Harbor Hotel at Punta Gorda, and the Pennsylvania and Dixie Terrace Hotels in West Palm Beach. The onset of the Great Depression, however, ushered in a period of reversals. As his advertising fortune diminished, he ended his subsidy developing the Town of Everglades, and was compelled to sell some of his Florida landholdings. The company continued to operate Everglades as a company town, however. In 1939, when Collier died, he owned nearly one million acres of Florida real estate, which was valued at approximately \$17,000,000. His estate continued to operate Everglades as a company town, renting homes and leasing commercial operations. By 1940, the population of the Town of Everglades had decreased to 518 residents. World War II drained the civilian labor pool, although the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Army maintained several dozen servicemen in the town. Nearly eight thousand people poured into Everglades in December 1947 for the dedication ceremonies of Everglades National Park. In 1950, the town plan of Everglades was revised, and in 1953 the Florida Legislature rechartered the town as Everglades City.

Barron Collier Context

A entrepreneur of keen vision and business acumen, Barron Gift Collier was born in Tennessee in 1873, and established a brokerage advertising business in Memphis in 1890. Buoyed by his initial success, Collier expanded the business significantly in 1900, when he moved to New York City. There he opened Barron G. Collier, Inc. Street Railways Advertising Company, which became one of the largest advertising companies in the United States. Collier was the first to systematically place advertisements of the sides of streetcars and subways, initially in New York City, and then in cities throughout the country. His interests in roadways led to his appointment as New York City's chief of the Bureau of Public Safety, where he implemented anti-jay

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Section number 8 Page 4 EVERGLADES LAUNDRY
EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

walking measures and painted yellow stripes down the middle of roadways to visually separate lanes of traffic. These practical visionary measures implemented by Collier were among the earliest attempts in the United States to improve vehicular safety.

Collier first visited Florida in 1911, and purchased the Useppa Inn on Useppa Island in Charlotte Harbor as his winter estate. He annually sailed from New York harbor to Charlotte Harbor, and often brought with him influential friends. Intrigued with ongoing reclamation efforts in Florida, he began investing in real estate in the early-1920s in Lee County with the idea of creating new real estate opportunities and improving transportation in the region. In 1921, he acquired 20,000 acres, and another 600,000 in 1922. More purchases followed in 1923 and 1924, and by 1925 his Florida holdings amounted to 1,186,000 acres. Indeed, Collier and his companies owned more real estate by the mid-1920s than any other single interest. His influence and landholdings persuaded the Florida Legislature in 1923 to create Collier County, most of which Collier interests then owned.

Studying maps of the area, Collier saw that Everglades City was nearly halfway between Miami and Naples astride an ill-fated roadway, the Tamiami Trail. The roadway had been started in 1915, but foundered because of revenue shortfalls. He conceived the idea of completing the roadway, much of which would extend through his landholdings, to help him sell property and bring more tourists to southwest Florida. Everglades City began as a company town to house employees who worked on the road and other projects initiated by the businessman. Indeed, Collier spent nearly \$1,000,000 to complete the Tamiami Trail, which opened in 1928.

Collier's other Florida interests included the Deep Lake Railroad, which was absorbed by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad; the Florida Railroad and Navigation Corporation, which operated a fleet of steamers; the Inter-County Telephone and Telegraph Company based in Fort Myers; the Florida Development Company and the Empire State Development Company; Collier Florida Coast Hotels; Tamiami Trail Tours based in Fort Myers; and the Manhattan Mercantile Corporation, which operated general stores throughout southwest Florida. A member of the Florida Historical Society and the Virginia Historical Society, Collier served on the board of directors of the Boy Scouts of America and was a founder of the Museum of the City of New York. Collier resided on East 75th Street in New York City, and maintained his main business office at 745 Fifth Avenue. Useppa Island was his favorite vacation spot in Florida; he also maintained a seasonal estate in Pocantico Hills, New York.

Historical Significance

The Everglades Laundry was among the simplest, smallest, and last buildings to infill Collier's company town at Everglades. Apparently, the building was developed through the Florida Development Company, one of Collier's Florida corporations. William O. Sparklin drafted the plans for the building, and the Sparklin-Gift Construction Company supervised its construction. The building replaced a smaller laundry facility built earlier

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 5 EVERGLADES LAUNDRY
EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

in the decade, but which had become inadequate to keep up with demand for clean garments. The Collier County News announced the completion of the new building on 27 October 1927. Initially, the Collier Company leased the laundry to T. M. Sellars, and Lula Neal served as his office assistant. A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Sellars had learned the dry cleaning business in his home state, and moved to Fort Myers about 1925. In 1926, he arrived in Everglades to operate the laundry.¹

Sellars used modern equipment in the new laundry. He purchased a bronze washer manufactured by the Henrici Laundry Machine Company of Boston, and, to wring out clothing, he installed a centrifugal extractor from the Troy Laundry Machinery Company of Troy, New York. He also acquired a commercial drier from the Troy-based company. The drier operated using heat from a fifty horsepower boiler located in a small wood frame building (demolished) behind the laundry. The other pieces of equipment operated using leather belts attached to electric motors. Other services offered at the laundry included dry cleaning, dyeing, altering, and tailoring. The equipment produced excessive amounts of heat within the building, however, which compelled the Sparklin-Gift Company to install a louvered monitor on the roof ridge about 1928.²

Apparently, Sellars left Everglades about 1933, and sold the equipment to the Collier Company. But, Collier's losses associated with the Great Depression forced a reorganization of his business interests, and in 1933 the Florida Development Company conveyed the laundry equipment to Alexander, Ramsay & Kerr, Inc., another Collier corporation. Management of the facility was then assumed by Christopher and Lois Ayers. About 1935, after Christopher Ayers died, several of Lois Ayers' relations assisted her at the laundry. They included William Jackson Echols, Ralph A. Echols, E. C. Echols, Lola Lurine Echols, and Virgil Smith. In 1939, to improve efficiency, the business acquired nearly \$1,200 worth of equipment from the Pantex Pressing Machine Company of Atlanta, Georgia. But, about 1942, the laundry closed because of a lack of personnel to operate the equipment. Most of the Echols had left Everglades by 1945, except Ralph Echols, who worked as a clerk in one of Collier's stores. Eventually, he also left town, and moved to Clewiston, and then Naples.³

Following the war, the Collier & Long Insurance Company occupied the original office space, and the Civil Air Patrol was installed in the rear section of the building. The Collier Development Company continued its use of the building for office and storage space until 1960. Then, in March 1963, it sold the property to Edward and Olga Navakas of Hialeah, Florida. Two years later, the Navakas conveyed the property to the Everglades Woman's Club. The woman's club had been organized in 1928, but disbanded until 1963, when it was reactivated and federated with the Florida Federation of Woman's Clubs. In 1988, the woman's club transferred ownership of the building to Collier County, which rehabilitated it with grant monies from the

¹Collier County News, 4 August, 27 October 1927, 26 April 1928; Charlton Tebeau and Ruby Carson, Florida From Indian Trail to Space Age, 3 vols., (Delray Beach: Southern Publishing Company, 1965), 3: 11.

²Collier County News, 27 October 1927; Tebeau et al., Florida, 3: 11.

³Miscellaneous Book 1, p. 136-138, 375-376, Collier County Courthouse, Naples, Florida; Naples Daily News, 27 August 1984.

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Section number 8 Page 6 EVERGLADES LAUNDRY
EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

Bureau of Historic Preservation in 1997. The Museum of the Everglades presently occupies the former laundry.⁴

Architect and Builder

Trained as an artist, William O. Sparklin later enrolled in engineer school and eventually became an architect. Because of his interest in the arts, he initially worked on designing theaters in Baltimore and the District of Columbia. Theater design brought him to Jacksonville, Florida, where he associated with George B. Hills in the design of a downtown theater and several dwellings in the Riverside neighborhood. He arrived in St. Petersburg, Florida, in 1921, where he designed dwellings in the Granada Terrace subdivision and fashionable homes in Pasadena, Florida. He remained in St. Petersburg until 1923, when he met Barron Collier, who persuaded him to relocate to Fort Myers and help develop the Town of Everglades. The Collier County Courthouse (1928) and the Everglades Laundry (1927), both in Everglades City, represent his flair for vernacular and Classical architecture. With Collier, Sparklin organized the Sparklin-Gift Construction Company, which became the design-build firm that developed most of the buildings in Town of Everglades, including the courthouse and laundry.⁵

During the late-1920s, Sparklin also remodeled buildings in Fort Myers and elsewhere in southwest Florida for Collier, and drafted the plans for nearly one hundred buildings in the Lee County seat of government, including three schools and two churches. Pleased with Sparklin's attention to detail, Collier even hired him to design buildings for his businesses in New York City and elsewhere in the Northeast. During the period, Sparklin maintained offices in Fort Myers, Jacksonville, and St. Petersburg, and designed the Durham-Florida Arcade in Haines City, Florida. Following the onset of the Great Depression, Sparklin ended his association with Collier, and returned to St. Petersburg. In the late-1930s, he completed the plans for estates for C. Perry Snell in St. Petersburg and Frank Combes on Snell Isle. Sparklin designed his own Streamline-style dwelling on Bennett Beach in Pinellas County in 1937. His design of the A. J. Howard House in Trapnell (Hillsborough County) came in 1948 near the end of his career.⁶

Architectural Context

The term "Frame Vernacular," a prevalent style of architecture in the decades preceding World War II, refers to common wood frame construction techniques employed by lay or self-taught builders. Before the Civil War, residents relied upon local materials and their own methods and designs to construct houses. The Industrial

⁴Deed Book 135, p. 87, Deed Book 433, p. 829, Collier County Courthouse; Naples Daily News, 5, 26 October 1995; Everglades Echo, 13 August 1996.

⁵St. Petersburg Times, 12 December 1937.

⁶St. Petersburg Times, 5, 12 December 1937.

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Section number 8 Page 7 EVERGLADES LAUNDRY
EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

Revolution permitted standardization of building materials and parts, and exerted a pervasive influence over vernacular building design. Popular magazines helped to make architectural trends universal throughout the country. The railroad provided cheap and efficient transportation for manufactured building materials. Ultimately, individual builders had access to finished architectural products from which to create their own designs.

Frame Vernacular commercial buildings were often the first buildings to appear in a downtown. Built with a pine or cypress wood balloon frame, these buildings often burned in fires, outlived their usefulness, or simply deteriorated and were replaced by new masonry structures. Consequently, wood Frame Vernacular commercial buildings are relatively rare, especially in Florida where insect infestation, a humid climate, and deferred maintenance quickly deteriorates structural systems and causes extensive amounts of damage to wood buildings.

Frame Vernacular commercial buildings generally rise one to two stories and display gable, hip, or flat roofs, often obscured by a parapet. Constructed with a wood balloon or braced framework, most buildings have a rectangular plan with the narrow profile facing the street. The facade often comprises little more than plate glass windows with a sizeable wall area between the windows and the parapet or cornice to provide a place for advertising. Some buildings displayed small porches with canopies. Wood products in the form of either clapboard, drop siding, wood shingles, or weatherboard serve as exterior wall fabrics. Exterior decoration is minimal, although brackets are often mounted along the parapet or under the eaves, and purlins may extend from under the gable ends of the roof. Canopies often shade storefronts, which typically display clerestories, plate glass windows that are often divided by mullions, and paneled kick boxes. Fenestration on the other elevations is often irregular and asymmetrical consisting of double-hung sash, casement, pivot, or hopper style windows.

Architectural Significance

The Everglades Laundry is a particularly old and well-preserved example of Frame Vernacular commercial architecture. Indeed, it is one of few historic wooden commercial buildings standing in Collier County. The resource displays a simple rectangular floor plan protected by a distinctive gable-on-hip roof surmounted by a ridge monitor. The walls are finished with wood drop siding and cornerboards. A small porch opens along the front facade, and large casement windows punctuate the walls of the building. The interior plan retains its original design, and allows for a natural flow between rooms. The original division of spaces within the building remains evident. The design, materials, and setting of the resource create a distinctive ambiance and sense of place in Everglades City.

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EVERGLADES LAUNDRY
EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
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EVERGLADES LAUNDRY
EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The property boundary is defined as lot 3, block 27 Town of Everglades.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encloses less than one acre of property historically associated with the Everglades Laundry.

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EVERGLADES LAUNDRY
EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHOTOGRAPHS

List of Photographs

1. Everglades Laundry, 105 West Broadway
2. Everglades City (Collier County), Florida
3. Sidney Johnston
4. 2000
5. Sidney Johnston, DeLand, Florida
6. Front (north) facade, facing south
7. Photo 1 of 10

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

6. Front (north) facade and the west elevation, facing southeast
7. Photo 2 of 10

6. West and south (rear) elevations, facing northeast
7. Photo 3 of 10

6. East and south (rear) elevations, facing northwest
7. Photo 4 of 10

6. Front (north) facade and the east elevation, facing southwest
7. Photo 5 of 10

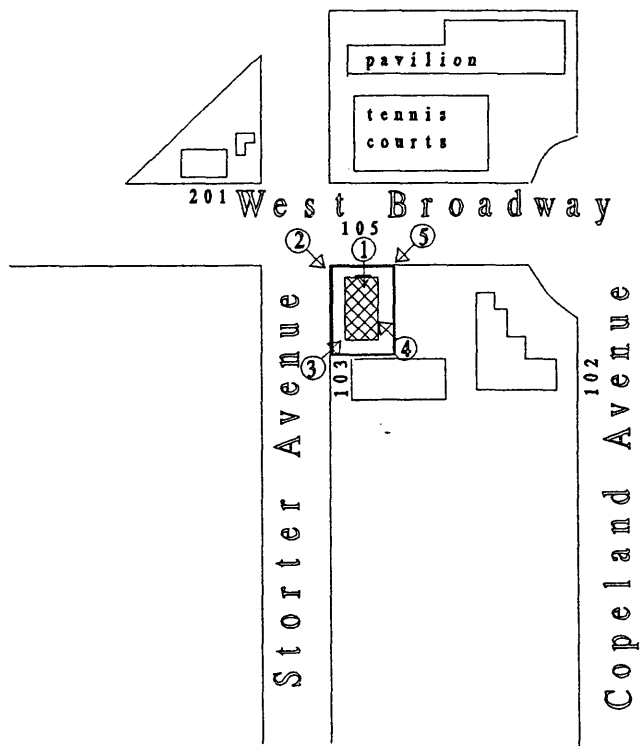
6. Lobby gallery, facing northeast
7. Photo 6 of 10

6. Lobby gallery, facing southeast
7. Photo 7 of 10

6. Lobby gallery, facing west
7. Photo 8 of 10

6. Main gallery, facing south
7. Photo 9 of 10

6. Main gallery, facing southwest
7. Photo 10 of 10



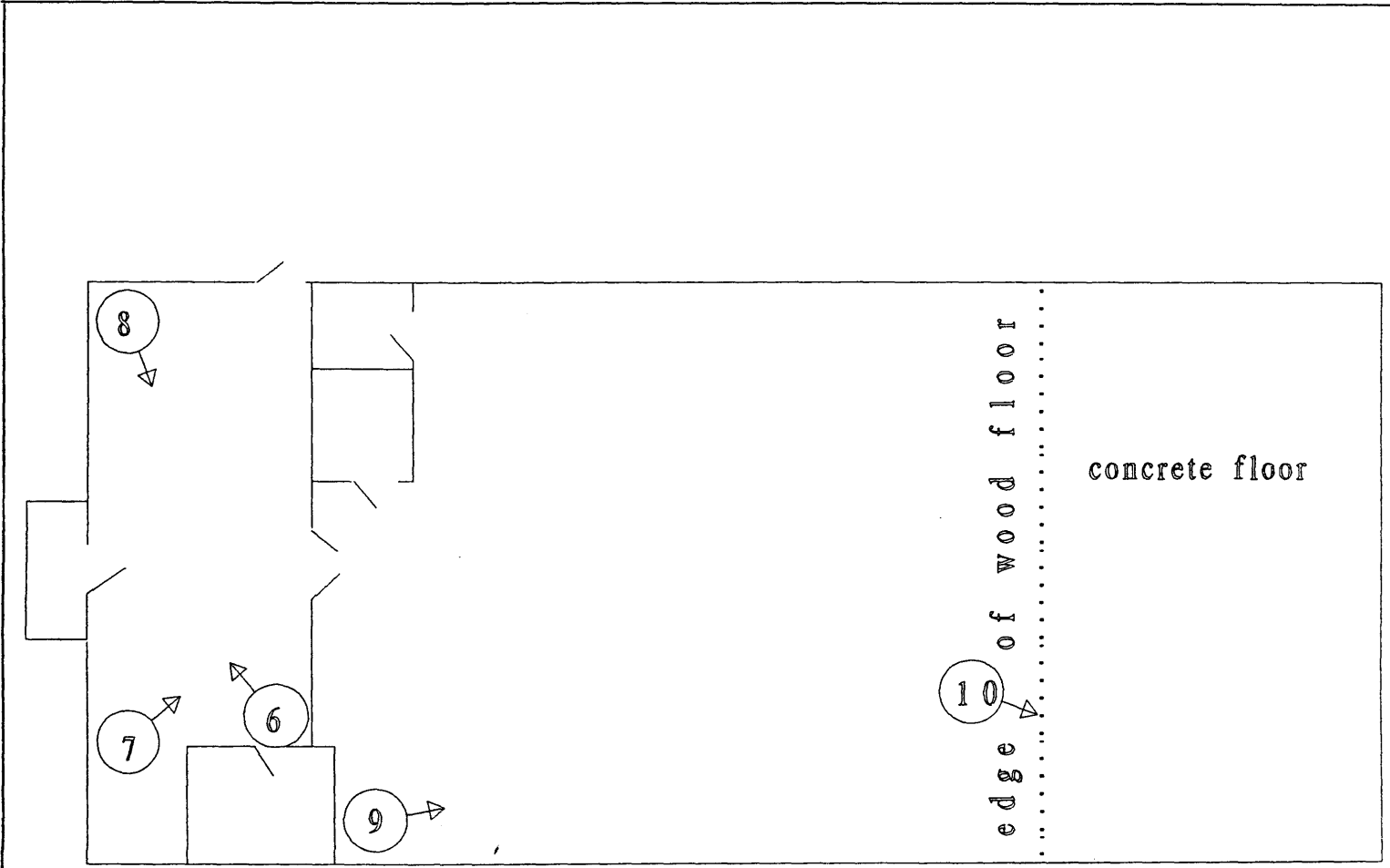
Everglades Laundry

Site Plan 1"=200'

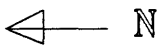
N ▲ contributing resource

boundary —

Everglades City, Collier Co., FL



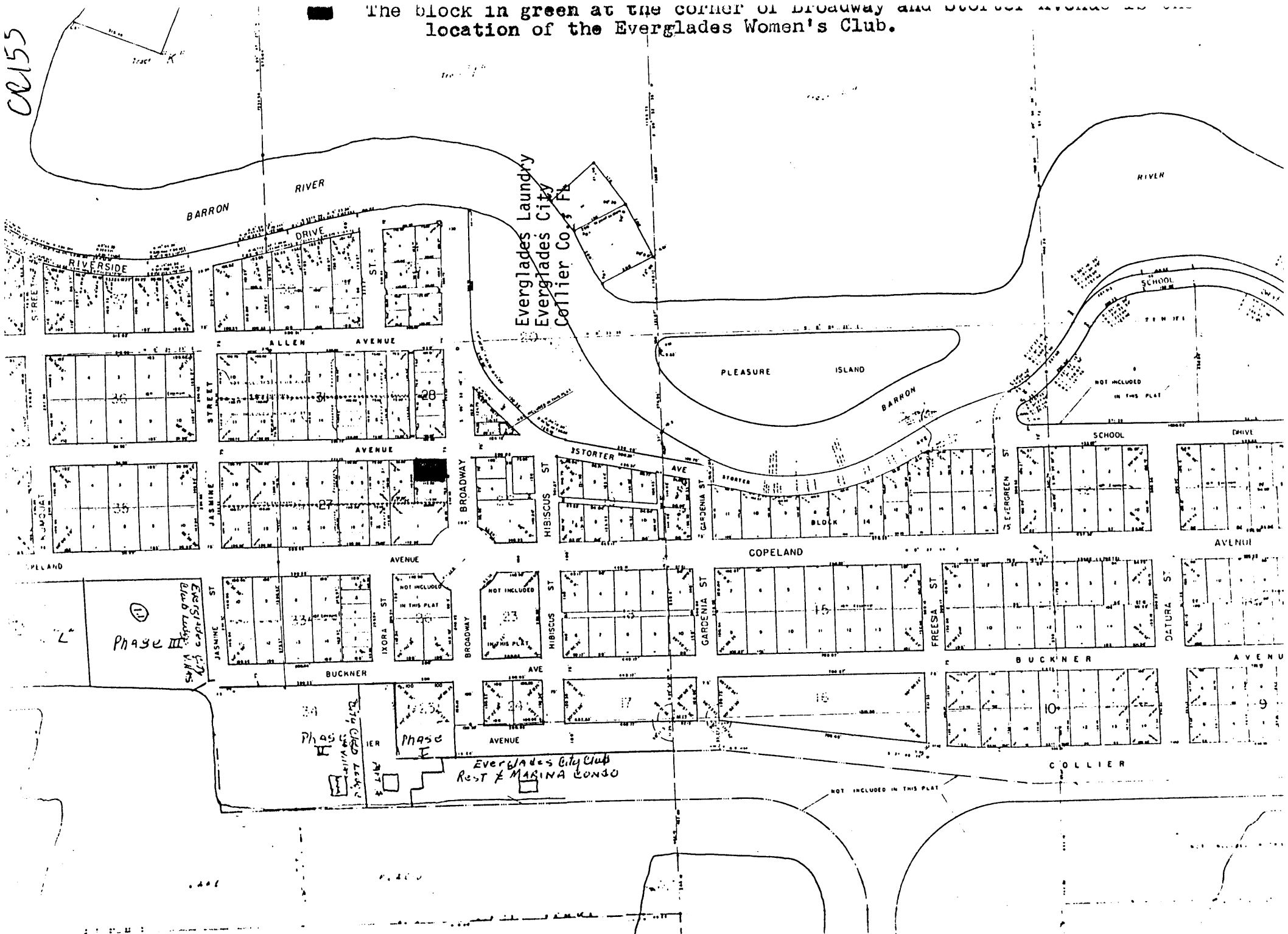
Everglades Laundry
Floor Plan 1" = 11'



Everglades City, Collier Co., FL

CR155

The block in green at the corner of Broadway and Collier Avenue is the location of the Everglades Women's Club.



Everglades Laundry
Everglades City
Collier Co., Fla.

PLEASURE ISLAND

Phase III

Phase II

Phase I

Everglades City Club
Rest & Marina Condo

COLLIER

Everglades City Club
Rest & Marina Condo

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