

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Chalet Suzanne
other names/site number Carleton Club 8PO 1550

2. Location

street & number 3800 Chalet Suzanne Drive, US HWY 27 & CNTY RD 17A N/A not for publication
city, town Lake Wales vicinity
state Florida code FL county Polk code FL 105 zip code 33859

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>15</u>	<u>5</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] State Historic Preservation Officer
 Florida Dept. of State - Bureau of Historic Preservation
 State or Federal agency and bureau

Date 6/7/90

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
 State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper
7/24/90 Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/hotel
COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/hotel
COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/eclectic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls STUCCO
WOOD
roof METAL/tin
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1931-1943

Significant Dates

1931, 1943

Cultural Affiliation
n/a

Significant Person
n/a

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property approximately 14 acres

UTM References

A	1,7	44,06,1,0	3,09,27,7,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1,7	44,16,0,0	3,09,21,0,0

B	1,7	44,14,6,0	3,09,26,4,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1,7	44,08,6,0	3,09,21,0,0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Section 15, Township 20, Range 27, Subdivision 862500 Parcel 003010/ Carlton Club, Inc. REPLAT PB 27 PG 25 BLK C BEG SW COR Run N 328 FT to left 89 DEG 58 MIN to LOT LINE N 30 FT W to N LINE OF DR W ALONG DR 110 FT TO RIGHT 87 DEG 10 MIN 143 FT TO LEFT 13 DEG 226 FT to LAKE WLY ALONG LAKE 612 FT S 826 FT E 398 FT, To KIRCH SUB N 205 FT E 408 FT S to center of road E to BEG & N1/2 of that part of STARR AVE lying BETW Lots 119 & 94 W.J.HEWEY SUB 114 FT in Length Lying 1994.5 ft w of c/1 Alt 27 & Part of closed st betw BLKS B & D Less BLK D Lots 1 & 2 and ST. N of Same See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the district follows the legal boundary historically associated with the property since 1931.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jan Johnson/Chalet Suzanne - Vicki L. Cole/Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date June 6, 1990

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

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Chalet Suzanne

SUMMARY

Chalet Suzanne is a complex of distinctly eclectic buildings clustered around a collection of natural and man-made landscape features. The district contains fifteen contributing structural and landscape resources and five non-contributing resources for a total of twenty resources. Of the five landscape features, four contribute to the district.

ORIGINAL SETTING

The boundaries of Chalet Suzanne encompass approximately 14 acres in northern Polk County, Florida, near the central highlands region of the Florida Peninsula. Originally part of a vast highland, the area was extensively cleared for citrus production and agricultural use in the early 20th century. In 1925, the Carleton Club, later named Chalet Suzanne, was located in a sparsely populated area known as Lake of the Hills, four miles north of Lake Wales on Scenic Highway, now US Highway 27A. Two dirt roads, Scenic Highway and Starr Avenue, provided access to the property. The surrounding area included the small community of Starr Lake, developed around 1914.

An Atlantic Coast Line Railroad station site, Mountain Lake Station, was located within a mile of the development at the end of Starr Avenue. The property was surrounded by citrus groves. Cabbage palms were planted along the entrance drive during the mid 1920s and exotic fauna was planted for landscaping and for commercial resale.

PRESENT SETTING

Today, the setting of the Chalet Suzanne is similar to its setting in 1925. The entrance drive starts from Masterpiece Road (County Road 17A) and winds south for approximately one quarter mile to the restaurant and villa complex. The drive is lined with numerous large Canary Island Date Palms. From the entrance drive, Lake Suzanne and Chalet Suzanne can be seen through heavy wrought iron gates where the paved entrance drive changes to brick pavers. This brick drive winds past a lily pond with

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Chalet Suzanne

fountain to a small cul-de-sac with a second pond and carved Mexican stone fountain. Lake Suzanne's water level has dropped considerably over the past twenty years, reducing the "suspended" effect of the main dining room.

LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Chalet Suzanne is a landscaped district that combines natural and manmade landscape features. The district contains cultivated lawn areas with small fountains and statuary interspersed with native and exotic flora. Particular landscape features include Lake Suzanne, the lily pond, hand-laid brick paver streets, stone grotto and air strip. An archaeological survey could be expected to yield potentially significant data given its highland location and continued settlement by white settlers since the turn of the century. (See Photos 1, 2, 3)

1. Lake. The property was developed around the small circular Lake Suzanne. The lake has subsided from the 1920s mean high water mark as the surrounding citrus groves and cyclical drought conditions deplete the natural aquifer that feeds the spring lake. The lake has a sandy bottom and shoreline and measures approximately 3500 feet in diameter. (See Photos 35, 36)

2. Lily Pond. Landscaped in 1924, the lily pond was to be a central focus for the Carleton Club subdivision and clubhouse. The pond is believed to be a naturally occurring pond fed by the limestone aquifer. Lilies were grown and sent north as a part of the Carleton Club Nursery venture. The pond was not altered with the exception of continued pruning of native shoreline vegetation. (See Photo 3)

3. Brick Paved Roads. The brick pavers for the Chalet Suzanne drives were hand-laid during the early and mid 1930s. Bricks were imported from south Georgia or scavenged from surrounding construction and destruction sites. The pavers were laid during the summer months which, while providing dry weather, also proved to be exceedingly exhausting work in the sub-tropical heat. (See Photos 4, 14)

4. Grotto. Located behind the Pink Building, the native rock grotto was built during the late 1930s. Rocks were quarried (no documentation available) near Lake Wales and were laid in a piecemeal fashion during slow seasons. The grotto has grown in

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Chalet Suzanne

significance to the district as ceramic tiles, made on site, are personally autographed and painted by numerous famous guests and honeymooning couples. (See Photo 35)

5. Air Strip. (Non-Contributing) The Chalet Suzanne air strip is a flat strip of grassy area approximately 2450 feet in length, and 300 feet in width. The area was partially cleared in the 1920s to accommodate a golf course. The area was more extensively cleared and leveled during the late 1940s and early 1950s. (See Photo 35)

CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURAL RESOURCES

The buildings of Chalet Suzanne are a collection of small wood framed vernacular structures connected in piecemeal fashion during the years following their construction in 1924. Each structure was stuccoed during the repositioning of the buildings to create a new, cohesive structure. As the buildings were constructed and reconfigured by lay persons with limited construction knowledge, roof lines, corners, fenestration and other construction and architectural features are extremely eclectic and unique.

Intact exterior features of buildings include walls of textured stucco finish with inlaid hand-painted Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Moroccan wall tile accents around windows and doors. Roof materials vary from cedar shingled gables to asphalt shingles to painted tin shingles. Roof shapes vary from gable, hip or flat roofed areas. The walkways are brick pavers, with steps to compensate for changes in level, and broken concrete in the villa courtyards. Railings are of ornate wrought iron or wood. Fenestration includes original 1/1 and 2/2 double hung wood sash, imported stained glass wood sash casements and replacement aluminum jalousies.

6. RESTAURANT - The restaurant was built in 1925 as a hexagonal screened teahouse extending over Lake Suzanne. During the 1930s, the teahouse was expanded and became a playhouse for family and guests. In 1943, when additional rooms were added, the playhouse became the new restaurant. The restaurant entrance faces the southeast. It is wood framed with a smooth stucco finish. The roof contains a variety of gables at various slopes and levels. (See Photos 4-8)

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Chalet Suzanne

The interior features include low textured plaster main foyer ceilings and walls, oak parquet flooring, and arched top entrance door and windows. Hand painted murals by Bertha Hinshaw cover the foyer entrance. From the foyer the floor level descends several steps to a living room with low plastered ceilings and heart of pine flooring. To the right, down steps, is a small cocktail lounge with hand-painted murals by Carl F. Hinshaw, Jr. Further to the right is a small gift shop. A small dining room leads to the hexagonal shaped main dining room overlooking Lake Suzanne. Both rooms have low ceilings and walls finished in pecky cypress paneling. Flooring is heart of pine. To the right are two additional dining rooms, the English and Swiss Dining rooms. They have old English hand painted tile flooring, pecky cypress finished cathedral ceilings, high stained glass windows facing west and several different levels of flooring. During the 1930s, these rooms were open cafe styled rooms with access to Lake Suzanne. The continued receding of the lake resulted in the rooms being enclosed c. 1945. (See Photos 10-13, 37).

Restaurant Guestrooms - There are three guestrooms above the restaurant overlooking Lake Suzanne to the west. These were constructed along with the renovation of the structure into the restaurant in 1943. An exterior stairway on the east and west sides give access to a wrap around roof top balcony where the three rooms are situated. (See Photos 5-8)

7. RECEPTION OFFICE - The original homestead site, the house was rebuilt in 1943 after a fire destroyed the front part of the house. It is constructed of wood frame with stucco finish and faces east. It is multilevel with steps to compensate for the changes in levels. The roof varies from high pitched to low pitched gable to flat. The north and south elevations have plate glass windows. There are two below ground rooms connected by a narrow passageway. There are two outside stairways, one on the north and one on the south that provide access to the rooms below. (See Photo 14)

There is a brick fireplace on the south interior wall of the main reception room with a carved wooden mantle. All interior spaces have textured plaster ceilings and heavy wood trim. A narrow wood framed glass door provides access to a large terrace with hand cut green Italian marble flooring, wrought iron rails and steel and fiber-glass patio roof. A narrow winding staircase gives access to a second story room which faces east. The

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Chalet Suzanne

terrace overlooks a Dutch tiled swimming pool and open terrace which in turn overlook Lake Suzanne to the north. Constructed in 1943, the pool was built on the site of the original house/restaurant. (See Photos 15, 16)

8. GUEST HOUSE - The Guest House, built in 1925, is an L-shaped Mediterranean Revival style wood frame house with stucco finish. The house faces east. The roof is constructed of red clay barrel tile with varying roofs ranging from medium pitch gable to flat. An attached garage has been enclosed. (See Photos 17, 43)

Guest Rooms - The 31 guests rooms for Chalet Suzanne are housed in four main buildings. All of the rooms feature low rough plaster ceilings and walls painted in pastel shades. The rooms vary in size and shape due to the unique construction techniques employed by Bertha Hinshaw. One room, in particular, reflects this eclectic architecture in its various 13 angles. The floors are concrete tile or heart of pine flooring. All baths are decorated with hand painted tiles from around the world. Many of the deep tubs were hand-laid with imported tiles by Bertha Hinshaw and her son Carl. See Photo (17) Tile Bath.

9. The Pink Building - This building was built in 1926 as a part of the main house and is one portion of the house that survived the fire of 1943. The building faces east and north and is now connected to the reception building by a wooden staircase. The building houses 7 guest rooms. (See Photos 18-20)

10. The Blue Building - This c. 1925-1927 building faces east and west and houses 12 guestrooms. Construction is of wood frame with stucco finish. It was built to provide additional guestrooms for the growing business. (See Photos 21, 22)

11. The Green Building - This present building is constructed of various stables, rabbit pens and hen houses from the original Carleton Club. As the Chalet Suzanne prospered, the Hinshaws expanded the guest rooms to these wood framed structures. Although the frames date from 1926, the reconfiguration of the structures into their present form would give the building a c. 1938 date. The building was stuccoed during the 1930s period. (See Photos 23, 24)

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12. The Help House - The Help House was constructed c. 1924 to house the service personnel. Oriented to the north and east, the building was renovated into two guest rooms in 1943 to house service men. It is wood frame with wood siding. (See Photo 22, 24)

13-15. GREEN, ROWLAND AND GILBERT "HELP HOUSES" - These three wood framed and stuccoed buildings are located east of the brick road and just north of Starr Avenue. The houses were built during the 1920s and were used as "Help Houses" to house employees. They are still in use today as housing for Chalet employees. (See Photos 25, 26)

16. Gardener's Shop. This one story wood framed structure maintains it's original function and houses the gardening equipment for the property. It was subdivided in 1945 to house 3 guestrooms, a laundry, a storage area, the Ceramic Salon, a plant nursery and the gardner's shop. Hand painted murals by Carl Hinshaw, Jr. decorate the eaves line on the north elevation. (See Photos 27, 28)

NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURAL RESOURCES

17. Antique Chapel - Built during the 1950s, the antique chapel is a rectangular wood frame building with painted metal siding. It has a high pitched gable roof. (See Photo 29)

18. Carpenter Shop - The carpenter shop was built during the 1950s of wood frame with wood siding and contains two large areas known as the Wreck Room and the Carpetner Shop. The shop faces west while the wreck room is oriented to the east. The building is a rectangular wood frame with a metal gabled roof. A central hallway separates the two main areas. (See Photo 30)

19. Cannery. Constructed in 1975, the Chalet Suzanne Cannery is a massive metal hanger-type structure sectioned into a cannery, distribution center, and hanger. (See Photo 31)

20. Farewell House. This 1924 wood framed house was relocated to the Chalet Suzanne property in 1975. It has since be remodeled into a one-story hip roofed house with replacement fenestration and extended shed roofed porches at all elevations. (See Photo 32)

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RESOURCES OF CHALET SUZANNE

1.	Lake Suzanne	c	site	no date
2.	Lily Pond	c	site	no date
3.	Pavers	c	structure	c. 1931-37
4.	Grotto	c	object	c.1937
5.	Air strip	nc	structure	c.1949-53
6.	Restaurant	c	building	1924-1943
7.	Reception Office	c	building	1924, 1943
8.	Guest House	c	building	1924
9.	Pink Building	c	building	1926, 1931
10.	Blue Building	c	building	1926, 1935
11.	Green Building	c	building	1926, 1931
12.	Help House	c	building	1924, 1943
13.	Green Help House	c	building	c. 1924
14.	Rowland Help House	c	building	c. 1924
15.	Gilbert Help House	c	building	c. 1924
16.	Gardner's Shop	c	building	1924
17.	Carpenters Shop	nc	building	c. 1950
18.	Antique Chapel	nc	building	c. 1950
19.	Cannery	nc	building	1975
20.	Farewell House	nc	building	1975

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES
NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES
TOTAL RESOURCES

15
5
20

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Chalet Suzanne

SUMMARY

Chalet Suzanne is located between Lake of the Hills and the City of Lake Wales in Polk County in Central Florida. The Chalet began as a residential development and nursery in 1924. It is architecturally significant at the state level under Criterion C as a one of a kind collection of architecturally unique buildings. It is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Commerce for its association with tourism and military training activity in Polk County during the 1930s and World War II. The Chalet has a period of significance from 1931 to 1943.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Polk County, created in 1861, began to experience its first significant increase in population as a result of the location of railroad depots at Mountain Lake and Lake Wales in 1917. Railroad depots provided access to the area for tourists and new residents as well as practical transportation of crops from the surrounding citrus groves to northern markets. By early in the twentieth century, Polk County had become prosperous as an agricultural and phosphate mining area.

Lake Wales, like all of Florida, benefitted from the stock market and real estate speculation of the 1920s. Increased economic activity in Polk County promoted new developments such as the Carleton Club and Nurseries by Carl F. Hinshaw and J. L. Kraft. By 1926, however, Polk County's relatively modest growth (compared to the rest of central and south Florida) had slowed and eventually came to a complete halt in late 1929. For the next ten years, Polk County witnessed the demise of numerous businesses and a resulting decrease in population.

Until the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Florida's depressed economy experienced little change. While Florida's tourism industries was drastically curtailed as the state geared up for the defense effort, other industries such as agriculture, lumber and cattle, flourished. This change was accompanied by a massive increase in military construction in Florida during the years of 1941-1945. New army and navy bases from Pensacola to Miami brought thousands of construction workers and servicemen and women and their families to Florida. For example, Florida witnessed an increase in military airfields from six in 1941, to forty by 1945.

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This buildup of military activity led to the conversion of tourist facilities to wartime needs. Hotels became training and recruiting centers, while other hotels became hospitals, convalescent homes and redeployment centers; restaurants became mess halls. Lake Wales and Polk County experienced the same changes as did the rest of the State. With new military bases in Bartow, Sebring and other towns nearby, Lake Wales and Chalet Suzanne would no longer be able to maintain normal operations; the Chalet was able to adapt to the new circumstances and continued to operate.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Carl Franz Hinshaw was born in Westfield, Indiana, in 1875. One of five children, he moved to Chicago as a young man where he was employed by the Outcault Advertising Agency. Later, he earned national recognition as one of the top private banking insurance agents throughout the country. In 1918, he married Bertha Hutchens. They subsequently had two children, Carl Jr. and Suzanne. Extensive travelers, the Hinshaws invested \$3,500 in 14 acres, complete with a small lake, near Lake Wales, Florida soon after their marriage. In 1923, they traveled to Lake of the Hills to visit Mrs. Hinshaw's brother and view their property. Impressed by what they saw, they bought 240 more rolling acres encircling the lake, cleared the land and built a small house.

In 1924, Hinshaw went into real estate with business partner J. L. Kraft, the successful Chicago based cheese manufacturer, creating the Carleton Club and Nurseries, a residential subdivision for restricted clientele. Included in the plans were a nine hole golf course, club house and extensive residential plots on landscaped lots. Hinshaw initiated the enterprise by constructing a small circular structure over the water, near his new house on Lake Suzanne. He had his house built to accommodate the expected visitors and investors in the Carleton Club. Dwight James Baum, architect of John Ringling's Ca'd'zan, a recently completed Venetian styled estate, contracted to design the club house for the Carleton Club. Landscaping and design of a proposed golf course was to be completed by Stiles and Van Kleek of St. Petersburg. In addition, a plant and palm nursery was developed as was the making of lawn furniture and garden statuettes. Rare tropical water lilies, grown in the nursery, were displayed in the lily pond where visitors entered the subdivision. (See attached scaled drawing.)

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It is not clear whether Hinshaw was able to sell many of the parcels of land. Few houses were constructed and development was limited to the clearing of lands and cultivation of citrus. This small real estate market completely collapsed following the stock market crash in October, 1929. Having suffered great financial losses, the Hinshaws raised water lilies, chickens and rabbits and manufactured limestone garden statues and lawn furniture to make ends meet. They built chicken coops, rabbits hutches and various other out buildings adjacent to Lake Suzanne.

On Saturday, February 28, 1931, Carl Hinshaw died of pneumonia. Bertha, new to business dealings, signed away the majority of the Carleton Club and Nursery to J. L. Kraft. Two weeks later, with \$1,700, an old Studebaker, a Packard, and a six room house a mile down a dirt road from the main highway, Bertha opened her home to the public and started serving meals. She named the business, Chalet Suzanne, after her daughter, Suzanne.

What Bertha began as a small wayside restaurant quickly became a small inn as Bertha convinced first one family, and then others, to spend their family vacations in Polk County. The house Hinshaw had built in 1924 was easily converted into a "Bed and Breakfast." As Hinshaw had constructed the house to accommodate visiting potential buyers and investors, Chalet Suzanne was instantly able to adapt to its new role. Small changes were made to the floor plan, and several families were able to seek accommodations at the same time.

Because of their economic situation, Bertha and her son, Carl Jr., did much of the manual labor involved with starting up and maintaining a restaurant and small country inn. During the 1930s, they hand laid the brick pavers for the road leading from the main highway to the Chalet. They made their own signs, built their own buildings, cooked the meals, and catered to their guests.

After the first year in business, Bertha Hinshaw realized the need for more advertising aimed at northern families coming to Florida for vacation. She shipped 100 signs to within 100 miles of New York and put another 100 signs in her camper. Heading north, Bertha placed the signs along the major thoroughfares as she visited northern friends and relatives. As there was little or no restrictions at that time, and competition

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Chalet Suzanne

limited to the "666" signs and the "Clabber Girl" signs, the Chalet Suzanne signs received ample attention.

With Chalet Suzanne a success, Mrs. Hinshaw began to enlarge the small inn and restaurant. By the late 1930s, Bertha had converted some of the chicken coops and garages to living quarters. In addition, Chalet Suzanne contained several antique horse-drawn carriages, carriage houses, and stables. What once was a collector's hobby soon turned into the biggest tourist attraction in the area save for Bok Tower a few miles away. Guests were taken to Bok Tower by horse drawn carriage, driven by one of two full time black hired drivers, or Bertha's son, Carl Hinshaw, Jr.

As the living accommodations at Chalet Suzanne were enlarged, Bertha once again began making trips abroad. A seasoned traveler both before and during her marriage, Bertha made 18 trips abroad between 1931 and 1950, each time bringing back either an object or an idea to recreate at the Chalet. On a trip to India, she was charmed by a live-abroad barge she had seen, and promptly had one built. A trip to Paris inspired an outdoor cafe, a clock-spire was inspired a trip to Norway, and a sunken garden idea came from Italy.

She watched the French remove stained-glass windows and install machine guns at the outbreak of World War II, and brought the windows back with her and placed them in the restaurant. In London she bought out an entire tile factory after the war. Bertha and Carl utilized the many tiles to line bathtubs, frame windows and doors, cover the table tops of the dining room tables and the dining room and kitchen floors. Every year, except during the height of World War II, Bertha visited some part of the world returning with a new recipe, iron-work, pieces of furniture, decorations, tiles, lamps, pottery, and new costumes for herself and those who worked with her at the Chalet.

Although the war in Europe had not deterred Bertha from continuing her trips abroad, it had very definite economic effects on the Chalet. Where once the Chalet was filled with vacationing families, now there was an ever increasing number of vacancies. Bertha quickly realized that the rooms could be utilized to house the growing number of service men stationed in the surrounding Army bases. With few other places able to accommodate them, servicemen, (usually officers and pilots) were

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boarded at the Chalet. Once again, circumstances had kept the small business from collapsing.

But the Chalet had numerous setbacks during the late 1930s and war-time 1940s. The week of February 1, 1940, brought disaster to the Chalet. A fire originating from an exploding boiler destroyed a large hen house and 3700 chickens. The Hinshaws rebuilt the chicken coop and continued to raise poultry for use in the restaurant as well as for sale as an extra source of income. Another fire in the early 1940s destroyed the c.1931 carriage house and 13 antique carriages.

In 1943, a fire burned much of the 1924 main house which had become the restaurant in 1931. Unable to rebuild the house/restaurant, Bertha made the decision to relocate the restaurant in the 1924-1938 playhouse that jutted out over Lake Suzanne. In the midst of World War II, lumber was strictly allocated by the government, and the Hinshaws had a difficult time trying to rebuild. Bertha, as usual, was undeterred. She wrote to officials in Washington, D.C., and stated that if the authorities would allow her enough material to join and recondition her chicken house stables and help houses, she could provide housing for the many servicemen and their families in the Sebring and Avon Park air bases. Her request was granted and she began to build again.

"I took a two-room house ... and part of the old horse stables, and a chicken coop. I had a man from town come and move them all together. I sat there on the lawn and told him to put it this way, then, no, that way, until I had it just right.

But I couldn't get enough lumber to connect them. I'd send plans to the government and they'd come back rejected. I'd try again - rejected. Then I thought, I already had some boys from Bartow Air Base staying with me, and so I wrote that if I tied the buildings together, I could house some more men. Then plans came back right away - accepted."

For the remainder of the war, the Chalet offered the servicemen a well deserved break from the rigors of war time military service as well as relieving some of the bases of their pressing housing shortages.

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Chalet Suzanne

Today Bertha's patchwork architecture is still intact. The sunken Swedish Bar is the old chicken coop, with the original ceiling. The front of the entrance room to the dining complex is the old servant's shack, its two rooms now one large area, though a small bump in the floor shows where the old wall used to be.

The Hinshaws painted the exotic murals in the restaurant. Bertha painted the murals in the dining room foyer, Carl painted the Swedish murals in the Swiss bar and the murals above the French Laundry and Ceramic Studio.

During the depression years, the Chalet Suzanne became one of the few businesses in Polk County to actually prosper and grow. From 1931 to 1943, as the country recovered from its economic disaster, travelers began spreading the fame of the Chalet, foremost among these was Duncan Hines. The Chalet was included in his 1936 book Adventures in Good Eating. The resulting response from the book was a boom in tourism to the area.

Since 1945, the Chalet's reputation has continued on the international level, attracting thousands of tourists each year to the Lake Wales area. The Chalet has been voted one of the top ten restaurants in Florida for the last twenty years by the readers of Florida Trend Magazine along with numerous other fine dining awards such as Travel/Holiday, the Ambassador Award, Mobil 4 Star rating and many others. Through word of mouth and reams of free publicity the Chalet has contributed to the evolution of Lake Wales as a winter resort and social setting for area residents by attracting world famous celebrities to the area.

Chalet Suzanne is a unique combination of "Yankee Ingenuity" and "Southern Charm." Constructed, reconstructed, and continuously improved upon thorough 1945, the Chalet presents a collection of unique architecture created out of the need to accommodate tourism and the defense effort.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 1

Chalet Suzanne

1. Chalet Suzanne
2. Lake Wales, Florida
3. Jan Johnson
4. Chalet Suzanne
5. 1989
6. Promenade facing west
7. Photo 1 of 44

Items 1-2 are identical for all photos

Items 1-5 are identical for photos 1-37

6. Promenade facing east
7. Photo 2 of 44

6. Lily Pond facing southwest
7. Photo 3 of 44

6. Restaurant facing north
7. Photo 4 of 44

6. Restaurant facing northeast
7. Photo 5 of 44

6. Restaurant facing east
7. Photo 6 of 44

6. Restaurant facing southwest
7. Photo 7 of 44

6. Restaurant facing west
7. Photo 8 of 44

6. Main entrance of restaurant facing north
7. Photo 9 of 44

6. Foyer of restaurant facing north
7. Photo 10 of 44

6. "Living Room" of restaurant facing north
7. Photo 11 of 44

6. Main dining room facing north
7. Photo 12 of 44

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 2

Chalet Suzanne

-
- 6. Lounge facing northwest
 - 7. Photo 13 of 44

 - 6. Reception office facing west
 - 7. Photo 14 of 44

 - 6. Reception office terrace facing east
 - 7. Photo 15 of 44

 - 6. Interior of Reception office facing north
 - 7. Photo 16 of 44

 - 6. Guest house facing northeast
 - 7. Photo 17 of 44

 - 6. Pink building facing north
 - 7. Photo 18 of 44

 - 6. Pink building facing northwest
 - 7. Photo 19 of 44

 - 6. Pink building facing south
 - 7. Photo 20 of 44

 - 6. Blue building facing northwest
 - 7. Photo 21 of 44

 - 6. Blue buiding and help house facing south
 - 7. Photo 22 of 44

 - 6. Green building facing west
 - 7. Photo 23 of 44

 - 6. Green building facing east
 - 7. Photo 24 of 44

 - 6. Green help house facing north
 - 7. Photo 25 of 44

 - 6. Rowland help house facing east
 - 7. Photo 26 of 44

 - 6. Gardner's shop - laundry and guest rooms facing southeast
 - 7. Photo 27 of 44

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Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Photos Page 3

Chalet Suzanne

6. Gardner's shop interior detail
7. Photo 28 of 44

6. Antique Chapel facing west
7. Photo 29 of 44

6. Carpenter's shop facing northeast
7. Photo 30 of 44

6. Cannery facing southwest
7. Photo 31 of 44

6. Farewell house facing south
7. Photo 32 of 44

3. Carl Hinshaw, Jr.
4. c. 1943
5. Chalet Suzanne
6. Restaurant and dhow (barge) facing southwest
7. Photo 33 of 44

3. Carl Hinshaw, Jr.
4. c. 1938
5. Chalet Suzanne
6. Bertha Hinshaw painting murals
7. Photo 34 of 44

3. Jan Johnson
4. 1989
5. Chalet Suzanne
6. Aerial view facing north
7. Photo 35 of 44

3. Jan Johnson
4. 1989
5. Chalet Suzanne
6. Aerial view of air strip showing grotto, facing northeast
7. Photo 36 of 44

3. Jan Johnson
4. 1989
5. Chalet Suzanne
6. Interior detail of Swiss Room that was once sunken, cafe, terraced, outdoor room, facing east
7. Photo 37 of 44

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 4

Chalet Suzanne

3. Bertha Hinshaw
4. 1927
5. Chalet Suzanne
6. Entrance to Chalet Suzanne
7. Photo 38 of 44

3. Carl Hinshaw
4. 1927
5. Chalet Suzanne
6. Playhouse/Tea Room facing east
7. Photo 39 of 44

3. Bertha Hinshaw
4. 1926
5. Chalet Suzanne
6. Original House and Restaurant facing west
7. Photo 40 of 44

3. Carl Hinshaw, Jr.
4. 1943
5. Chalet Suzanne
6. Rebuilt reception office facing southwest
7. Photo 41 of 44

3. Known
4. c. 1943
5. Chalet Suzanne
6. Restaurant facing east
7. Photo 42 of 44

3. Berthaw Hinshaw
4. c. 1926
5. Chalet Suzanne
6. Guest house facing east
7. Photo 43 of 44

3. Carl Hinshaw, Jr.
4. 1943
5. Chalet Suzanne
6. Interior of restaurant facing north
7. Photo 44 of 44

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Chalet Suzanne

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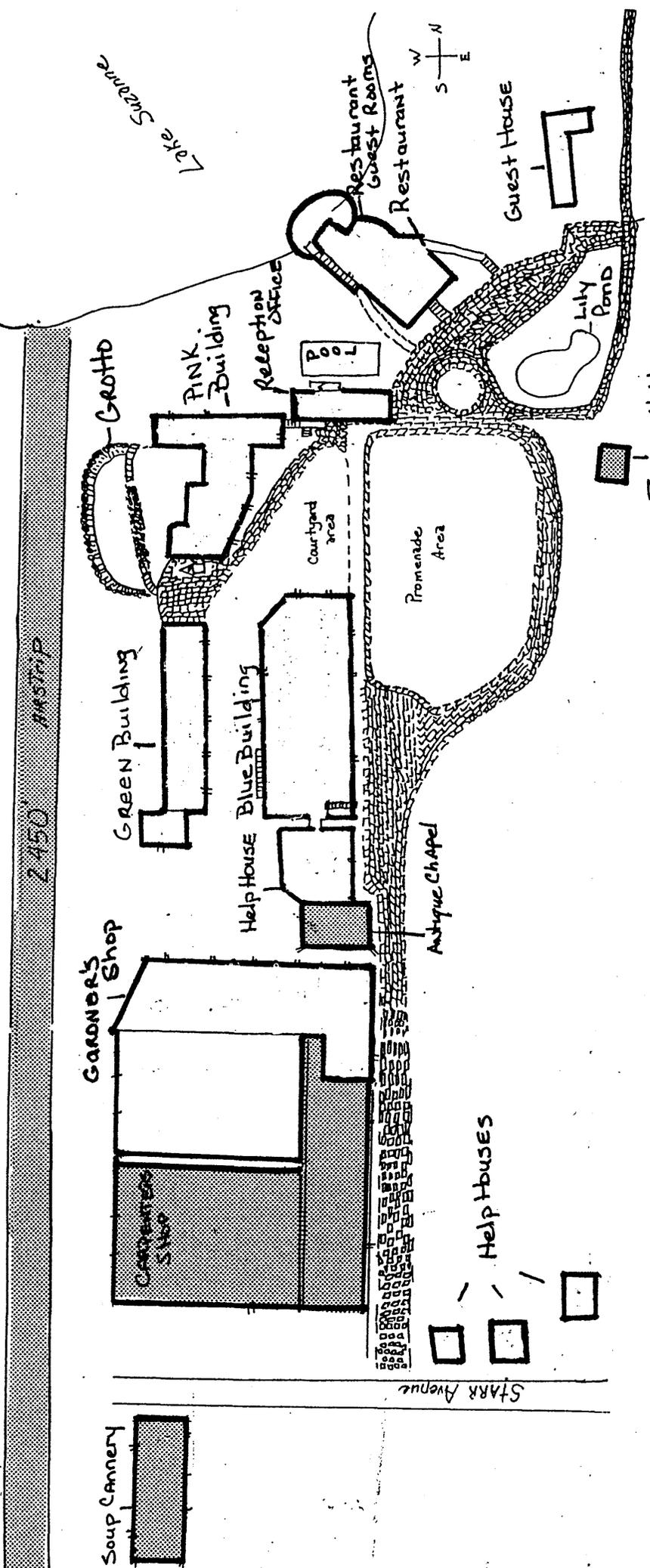
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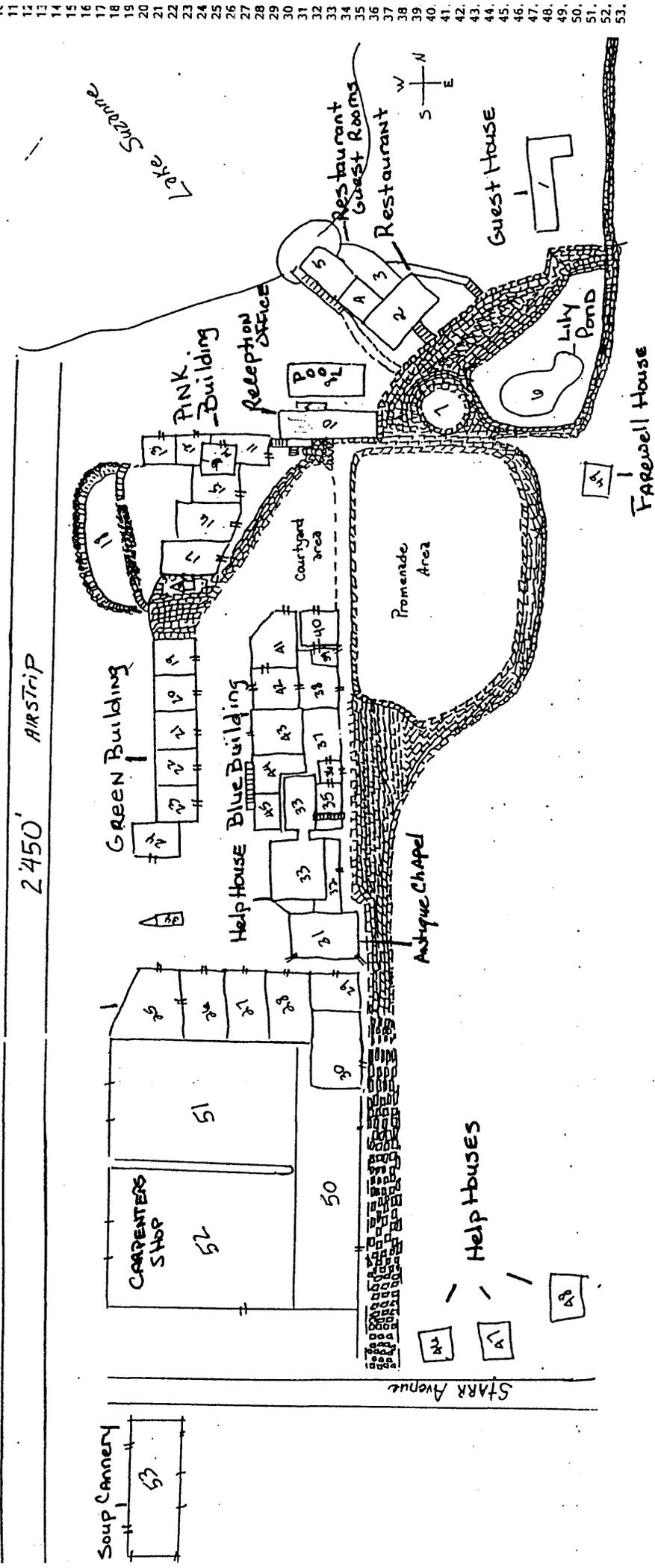
- - CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
- ▨ - NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
- ▩ - CONTRIBUTING HAND-MADE BRICK PAVERS

Chalet Suzanne
 General sketch of
 Lake Wales, FLORIDA- Polk County

NOT TO SCALE

CHALET SUZANNE, LAKE WALES, FLORIDA, POLK COUNTY

SKETCH MAP INDICATING LOCATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL ROOMS
NOT TO SCALE



General sketch of Property

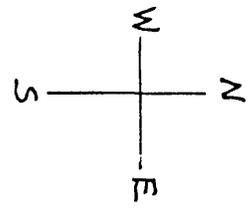
1. Hinshaw House (Guest House)
2. Restaurant
3. Balcony Honeymoon Suite (Second Floor)
4. Governor South Guestroom (Second Floor)
5. Governor North Guestroom (Second Floor)
6. Lily Pond
7. Carved stone fountain
8. Pool
9. Patio
10. Reception Building/Original site of main house
11. Lakeview Guestroom
12. Palm Guestroom
13. Papaya Guestroom
14. Tower Guestroom (Second Floor)
15. Azalea Guestroom
16. Banana Guestroom
17. Orchid Guestroom
18. Secret Garden and autograph wall
19. Courtyard Guestroom
20. Marigold Guestroom
21. Periwinkle Guestroom
22. Rosewood Guestroom
23. Hideaway North Guestroom
24. Hideaway South Guestroom
25. Petal Patch Plant Nursery
26. Ceramic Salon
27. French Laundry and Sewing Room
28. Breezeway Guestroom
29. Chapel Suite Guestroom
30. Brickroad Suite Guestroom
31. Chapel Antique Shop
32. Sunshine Cottage
33. Bluesky East Suite Guestroom (Second Floor)
34. Hose House
35. Blue Tree South Guestroom
36. Blue Tree common area
37. Blue Tree North Guestroom
38. Blue Gate Suite Guestroom
39. Little Sixteen Guestroom
40. Terrace Suite Guestroom
41. Holiday Suite Guestroom
42. Pine Guestroom
43. Bell Guestroom
44. Peacock Guestroom
45. Blue Sky West Suite Guestroom (Second floor)
46. Green House (Help House)
47. Rowland House (Help House)
48. Gilbert House (Help House)
49. Farewell House
50. Wreck Room
51. Gardeners Shop
52. Carpenters Shop
53. Soup Plant

Chalet Suzanne 1943

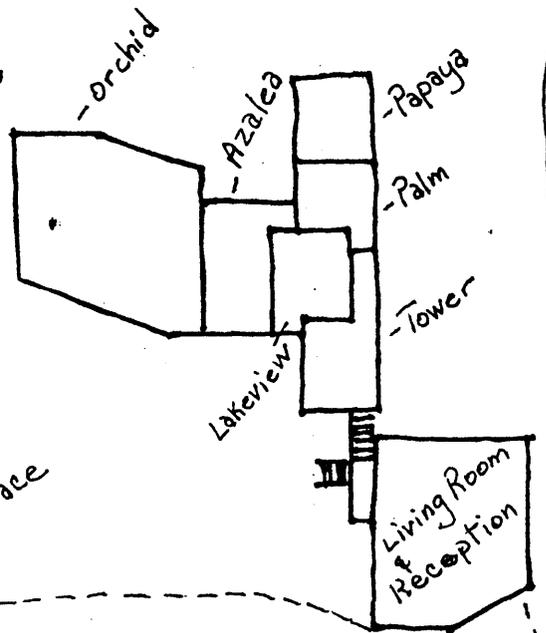
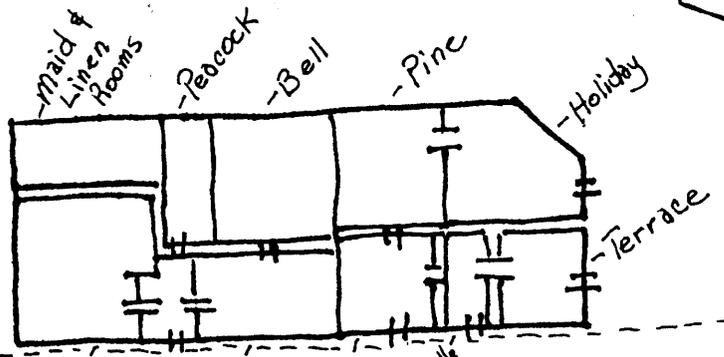
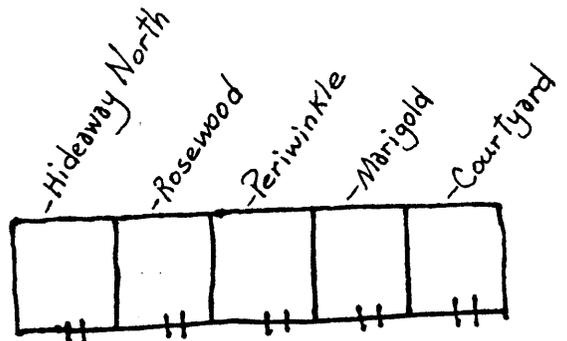
Chalet Suzanne, Lake Wales, Florida, Polk County
Citrus Groves

Sketch of district in 1943

1943



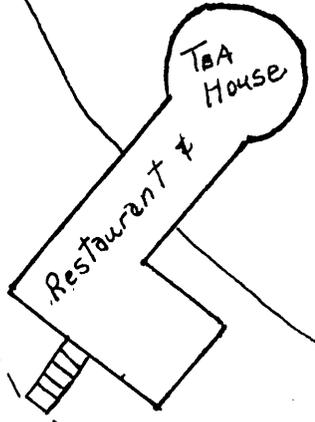
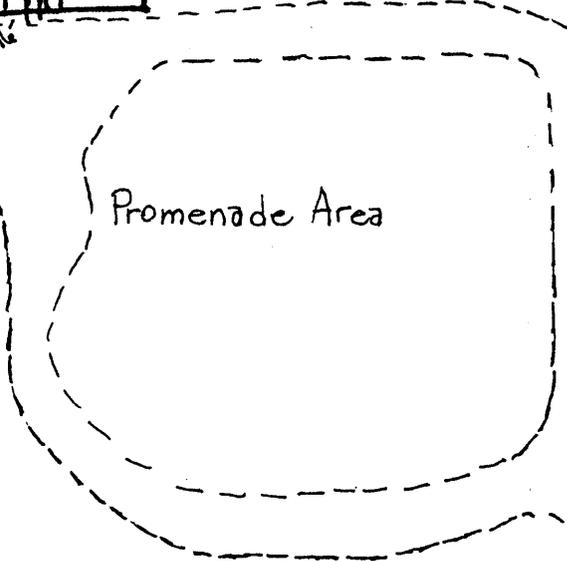
Workshop



Lake Suzanne

Starr Avenue ↑

Blue Tree S.
Blue Tree N.
Blue Gate

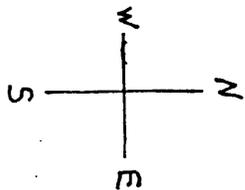


Palms

Chalet Suzanne 1931

Chalet Suzanne, Lake Wales, Polk County, Florida
Sketch of district in 1931

1931



Citrus Groves

Lake Suzanne

Rabbit Houses

Guestrooms

Rabbit Houses

Kitchen,
Dining
Rooms &
Reception

Tea House

Promenade Area

Cabbage Palm

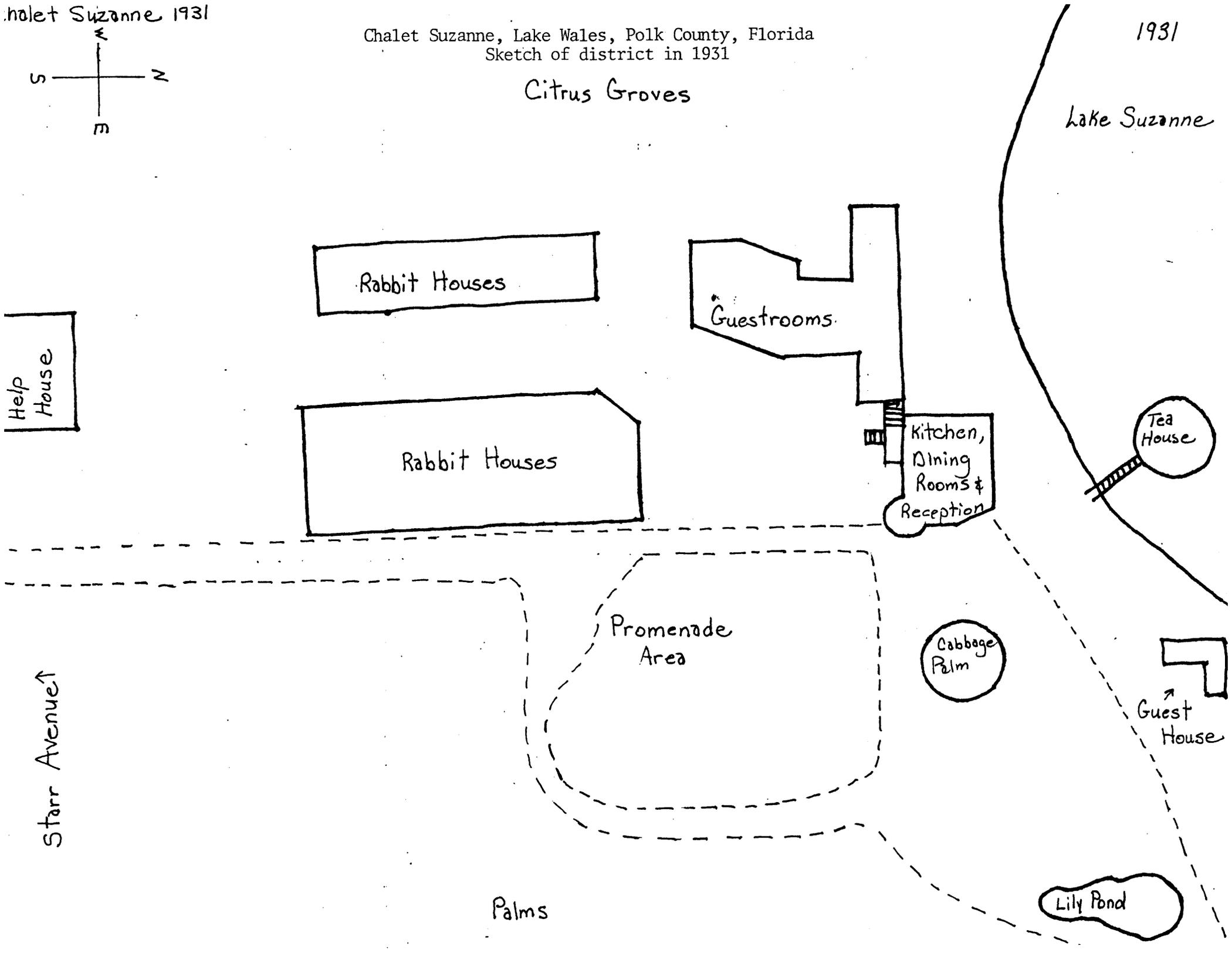
Guest House

Starr Avenue ↑

Palms

Lily Pond

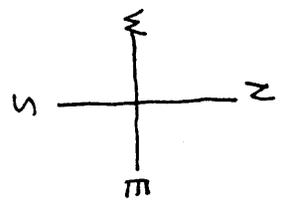
Help House



Chalet Suzanne 1924

Chalet Suzanne, Lake Wales, Polk County, Florida
Sketch of district in 1924

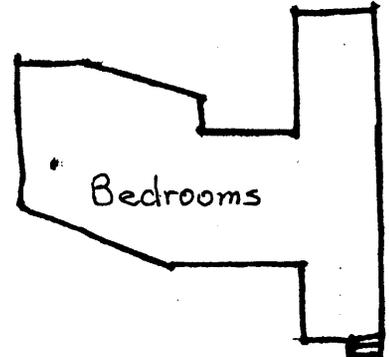
1924



Citrus Groves

Lake Suzanne

House



STARR Ave ↑

Palms

