

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received **MAR 11 1985**
date entered **APR 11 1985**

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

1. Name

historic Mickens House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 801 Fourth Street N/A not for publication

city, town West Palm Beach N/A vicinity of

state Florida code 012 county Palm Beach code 099

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

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. Alice F. Mickens

street & number 801 Fourth Street

city, town West Palm Beach N/A vicinity of Florida state Florida

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Palm Beach County Courthouse

street & number Olive Street

city, town West Palm Beach state Florida

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

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 Mickens House is a frame vernacular, two-story dwelling located at 801 Fourth Street in West Palm Beach. It is in excellent condition and is essentially unaltered. The building is basically an American four square in plan and design. Distinguishing features include a front porch which spans the first floor of the main elevation and the awnings which shield each window opening and the porch. The building is one of the oldest surviving residences in West Palm Beach.

The roof of the Mickens House is a shallow hip. A hipped roof dormer with two windows is located on the south slope of the main roof. The building is clad in narrow weatherboard siding on each of its elevations with narrow corner posts. Although the building is basically rectangular in plan, a bay window is located on the south (main) facade and a porch on the north facade. Also located on the south facade is a porch which spans the entire ground floor. The porch is supported by three columns which are slightly battered. A railing with rectangular balusters runs along the porch. A break in the railing identifies the main entry. A metal awning covers the porch.

The windows throughout the house are one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash. The windows are placed at regular intervals on both the first and second floors. On the south facade, some of the windows have been grouped in pairs. All windows on the house are shaded from the sun by metal awnings, similar to those on the front porch.

As with many four-square houses, the interior floor plan is very simple. There is an entryway and three large rooms downstairs. These rooms serve as a living room, dining room, and kitchen with adjacent pantry. On the second floor there are three bedrooms, a study and a bath. The stairway connecting the first and second floors is located along the west wall. Of particular interest are the ceilings in the living room and dining room which display raised mouldings crafted by Thomas Wilkens, a craftsman who plied his trade on the interiors of many of the early homes in Palm Beach. Many of the furnishings are original to the residence and were purchased by Mrs. and Dr. Mickens shortly after they moved to the house.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input 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 1917 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1917, the Mickens House is significant in the areas of education and social and humanitarian services through its association with its long-time resident, Dr. Alice F. Mickens. The building has served as the focal point and meeting place for local, state and national educators, both black and white, and as a hub of community activities. Dr. Mickens has been a driving force in furthering the cause of higher black education in Florida and in black and white civic affairs in West Palm Beach. The Mickens House is one of the oldest continuously black owned residences in West Palm Beach and includes significant interior plasterwork executed by Thomas E. Wilkens, a West Palm Beach Craftsman.

On May 1, 1893, Henry Morrison Flagler initiated work on his Royal Poinciana Hotel in Palm Beach. To house workers for his hotel project he put together a community of tents and shanties called the "Styx." At that time there were few settlers living on the west side of Lake Worth across from Palm Beach. Flagler decided to establish a commercial town there, leaving the east side of the lake for the wealthy winter visitors. He bought several hundred acres and laid out the town site for "Westpalmbeach," later written as "West Palm Beach." The terminus for the Flagler railway was planned for the west side of the lake. Flagler moved the "Styx" across the lake to West Palm Beach, which grew rapidly into a thriving town. The town of West Palm Beach was incorporated on November 19, 1894, and, in 1909, Palm Beach County was created out of Dade County.

In 1917, Haley Mickens had a house built in West Palm Beach. The building exhibited features similar to those found on smaller residences in Palm Beach, such as large paired windows, broad roofs, wide eaves, and simple ornamentation. At the time the house was built, Mickens was employed by Colonel Edward P. Bradley of Palm Beach. Colonel Bradley was a leading citizen of Palm Beach. His most notable endeavor was to operate the Beach Club, a gambling casino in Palm Beach. Haley Mickens was responsible for Colonel Bradley's popular concession - a wicker carriage propelled by a bicycle. Mickens was also a founder of the Payne Chapel A.M.E. Church in West Palm Beach in the early part of the twentieth century.

Haley Mickens married Alice Frederick on November 19, 1917 and lived with his wife at 801 Fourth Street from shortly after their marriage until his death. Alice Frederick Mickens was born in Bartow, Florida but spent most of her life in West Palm Beach. After graduating from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, she continued her education at the College of the City of New York and at A. and T. College of Greensboro, North Carolina. Dr. Mickens was a pioneer in the field of education in the State of Florida and was a powerful force in society in West Palm Beach.

Her numerous memberships and accomplishments include founder of the City Association of West Palm Beach, member of the Women's Civic League, past President of the Florida Association of Women's Clubs, member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs; member of the Florida Open Forum, Trustee for Bethune-Cookman College, an Honorary Life Member of the America Lung Association, founder of the Florida Association of Girls Clubs and Chairman of the U.S. Treasury Department of War Bonds. Dr. Mickens was also named "Outstanding Woman of the Century" at the American Negro Emancipation convention held in Chicago in 1963 and was chosen as "Outstanding Floridian" in 1970.

(See Continuation Sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than 1

Quadrangle name Palm Beach

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	7	5	9	3	5	0	0	2	9	5	5	2	8	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 Lots 13 and 14, Block 19, Clows Addition. This boundary includes all significant properties directly associated with the Mickens House.

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 Alexander Green/Michael F. Zimny

organization Florida Division of Archives

date February 20, 1985

street & number The Capitol

telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee

state Florida

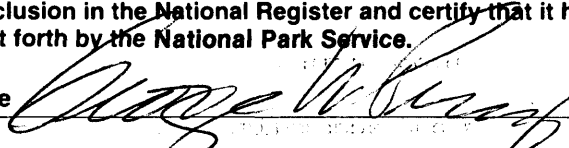
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



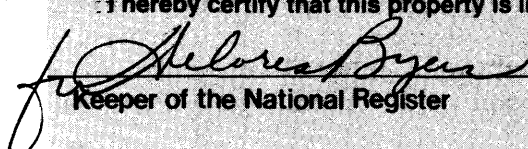
title George W. Percy, State Historic Preservation Officer

date

2/25/85

For NPS use only

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



Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

4-11-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Through her interest in education, juvenile delinquency and civic improvements, Dr. Mickens came in contact with leaders in education such as Mary McLeod Bethune, Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Deborah Cannon Partridge, Dr. Helen G. Edmund, Dr. Howard Thurman, and Henrine Ward Banks. In addition to these educators and public speakers, Dr. Mickens opened her home to cultural and social leaders such as A. Phillip Randolph, Lois Towles and Phillip Schyler.

In addition to the very significant association of the building with Haley and Alice Frederick Mickens, the Mickens House is also noteworthy for its association with Thomas E. Wilkens, a West Palm Beach craftsman. Wilkens executed the geometric plasterwork ceilings of the Mickens House for his friend Haley Mickens. Wilkens is credited with similar work executed for the Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Hilltop Baptist Church in West Palm Beach and for his work on the Everglades Club and on Seaspray and Seabreeze Avenues in Palm Beach. With no formal training, Wilkens used plaster and lime in the construction of his mouldings. His four sons followed his footsteps by entering the construction business in Palm Beach County.

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Continuation sheet

Two

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Haskens, James. Ralph Bunche - A Most Reluctant Hero. New York: Hawthorn Books, 1974.

Hoffstot, Barbara D. Landmark Architecture of Palm Beach Pittsburgh: Ober Park Associates, 1980.

Mickens, Dr. Alice F. by Alex Green. Interview, 15 November 1983.

Mickens, Dr. Alice F. Personal letters and papers on file at 801 Fourth Street, West Palm Beach, Florida.

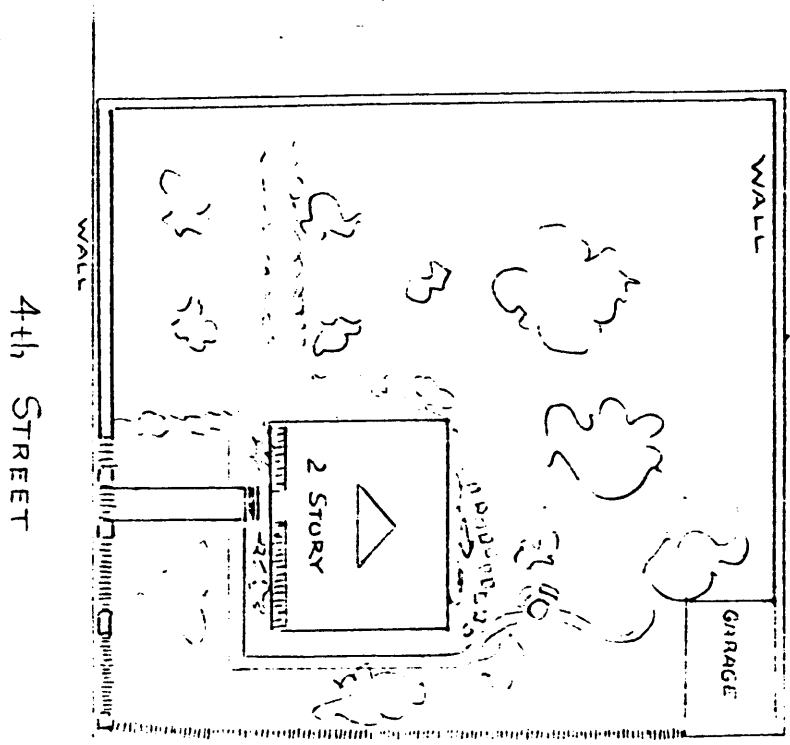
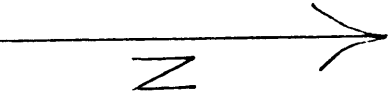
Moore, Alice by Alex Green. Interview, 20 January 1984.

Nance, Dr. Ellwood C. The East Coast of Florida. A History, 1500-1961. Delray Beach: Southern Publishing Co., 1962.

Presentation given at the dedication of the Alice Frederick Mickens Science Lecture Hall. Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida, 10 March 1983.

Travers, J. Wadsworth. History of Beautiful Palm Beach. Palm Beach: The Palm Beach Press, 1927.

Wilkins, Thomas E. by Alex Green. Interview, 10 December 1983.



4th STREET

DIVISION STREET