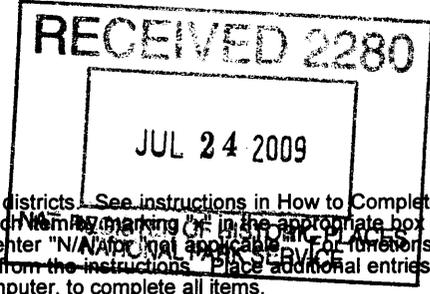


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

671



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" if final 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 HELM, JOHNSON HOUSE

other names/site number Helm-Nanney House; MA145

2. Location

street & number 2104 53rd Street N/A not for publication

city or town Bradenton N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Manatee code 081 zip code 34203

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.)

Barbara C. Mattick/Interim SHPO 7/20/2009
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

Edson H. Beall 9.2.09
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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	1	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	total

Name of related multiple property listings

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Romanesque

Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Concrete

roof Metal

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1907

Significant Dates

c. 1907

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: Maus, Joseph Sauder

Blder: J.S. Maus and Son

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of Repository

#

HELM, JOHNSON HOUSE
Name of Property

Manatee Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	3	4	7	9	9	4	3	0	3	6	9	8	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 Trish Slovinac, Architectural Historian; Andrew Waber, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date 13 July 2009

street & number 500 South 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 James Patrick & Margaret Baskerville Nanney

street & number 2104 53rd Avenue East telephone (941) 756-1106

city or town Bradenton state FL zip code 34203

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.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

SUMMARY

The Johnson Helm House, located at 2104 53rd Avenue East in Bradenton, Florida, is a Romanesque Revival style residence constructed between 1906 and 1908. This three-story structure has an irregular floor plan that features a one-story circular projection at the northeast corner, and a two-story tower at the southwest corner. The building is constructed of ornamental concrete block at the foundation and first and second stories; the gables are wood frame with Hardy Board siding.¹ The cross-gable roof is faced with 3-V crimp metal sheeting. Original fenestration consists of 1/1-light and 1/2-light double hung wood sash windows, and there are two brick chimneys. Decorative features of the Helm House include a low round-arched entrance to the north porch, molded concrete block construction, projecting molded block windowsills and lintels, cast concrete balusters bordering the two roof terraces and the north porch, round-arched openings within the northeast tower, a water table, and an oriel window on the north elevation.

SETTING

The Helm House (Photo 1) is located on an approximately one acre plot of land. A large, mature oak tree stands at the northeast corner of the parcel, and other trees are scattered throughout the property. A small, private, orange grove is found at the south end of the parcel. There are three secondary buildings on the property. One is a small, ornamental concrete block building contemporary with the main house. Constructed to store firewood, it is now a pump house. The other two buildings are a modern shed and a garage, which are noncontributing. The garage and orange grove lie outside the historic boundaries. The property is bounded on the north by State Road 70, a six-lane divided highway; and on the south by a residential property. To the east of the house is the Oneco Methodist Church, and to the west is a three-unit apartment building.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The Helm House has an irregular ground plan and rests on a continuous smooth-faced ornamental concrete block foundation. The exterior walls are also constructed of ornamental concrete blocks, but they have a rusticated face, in keeping with the principles of the Romanesque Revival style. Nearly all of the windows are 1/1-light double-hung wood sashes.

The asymmetrical main facade of the residence (Photo 2) is distinguished by three elements: a low, rounded arch, an oriel window, and a one-story tower at the northeast corner. The rounded arch provides a frame for the main entrance and foyer window (Photo 3). The entrance is composed of a wood-frame door with an oval glass

¹ Also called Hardie Board siding is a brand of cement board siding developed by James Hardie over a 100 years ago. The material is mixture of wood fiber strands, Portland cement, and finely ground sand.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2 HELM, JOHNSON HOUSE
BRADENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

pane, and is fitted with a wood screen door. A molded concrete block lintel surmounts the entire doorway. To the west of the entrance is a large picture window, topped by a leaded glass transom, which provides light to the foyer and the interior staircase (Photo 4). A similar window is found to the east of the entrance. The rounded arch also divides the north porch lengthwise into two sections: an open area and an incised area. The open porch is accessed via a set of concrete steps, lined with a low concrete wall on each side. Extending from the steps around the perimeter of the open porch is a cast concrete balustrade (Photos 2 and 3). On the second story of the north elevation is a 1/1-light double hung sash window at the east end and, directly above the center of the arch, is an oriel window, with a 1/1-light double hung sash window on each of its three sides (Photo 5). This oriel window is topped by a gable roof that projects from the west end of the main gable, and is supported at the west end with a cast concrete bracket (Photo 6). The main gable of this elevation contains an arched, 1/1-light double hung sash window, above which is a diamond-shaped louvered vent. Both gables contain a simple cornice below the roof, and are faced with Hardy Board shingles.

As previously mentioned, at the northeast corner of the residence is a one-story tower with a flat roof terrace (Photos 7 and 8). Spaced evenly around the perimeter of this tower are four arched openings. The first of these is a doorway that opens onto the open porch. The other three contain single hung sash windows, with projecting sills composed of a single block of molded concrete. The top course of block for this tower is decorated with a leaf motif above which is a simple cornice consisting of a row of dentils at the bottom and egg and dart molding at the top. The flat roof serves as a terrace and has a cast concrete balustrade around its perimeter, similar to that along the open porch (Photo 9).²

The east elevation is divided into five vertical bays (Photo 10). The central bay contains a wood-framed screen door at the first story level, which was added in the early 1940s to provide access to the second floor. To the west are two vertical bays, each with a 1/1-light double hung sash window per floor level. The vertical bay to the immediate east of the center contains the same pattern of fenestration. Like those on the north elevation, all of these windows have lintels and sills composed of a single molded block of concrete. The northern-most vertical bay on this elevation contains a portion of the northeast tower at the first story and a wood swing door on the second floor that leads to the tower's roof terrace. At the south corner of this elevation is a brick chimney that pierces the roof and features recesses in each of its four sides.

Three vertical bays divide the south elevation (Photo 8). At the second story level, each of these bays has a 1/1-light double hung sash window, with sills and lintels identical to those on the north and east elevations. Originally, the first story level contained an inset porch, which extended for the width of the facade as evidenced by the four molded concrete block piers (Photo 11).³ Presently, the west bay of the first story has an original four-panel, one-light wood swing door with a similar screen door as that on the north entrance, which is

² See the "Alterations" section on page 7-4 for additional information about the northeast tower.

³ See the "Alterations" section on page 7-4 for additional information about the south elevation.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3 HELM, JOHNSON HOUSE
BRADENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

accessed from the original porch. The central bay has a paired, three-light casement window, and the east bay has a screen door and single, four-light casement window. The roof gable for the south elevation is nearly identical to that on the north, with an arched 1/1-light double hung sash window and a diamond-shaped louvered vent. Also like the north gable, the south gable is faced with Hardy Board shingles.

At the southwest corner of the house is a circular tower, which rises the entire height of the residence and is topped with a conical roof (Photo 12). Each story level has three, 1/1-light double hung sash windows, each with projecting molded concrete block lintels and sills. At the third level, it is an open terrace, with molded concrete block pillars to support the conical roof, and a cast balustrade similar to that on the northeast terrace and the north porch. As for the remainder of the west elevation, the first floor level has two narrow one-over-one double hung sash windows, and an arched opening at the north end, which corresponds to the north incised porch. At the second floor level, there are two one-over-two double hung sash windows and a wood swing door, which is accessed by a set of wood steps, built along the wall. Like the other windows around the structure, these contain projecting molded concrete lintels and sills. Also visible from this elevation, is a brick chimney, which pierces the roof where the circular projection meets the straight wall. Recesses in each of its four sides characterize this chimney, like the one at the southeast corner.

Interior

The original hardwood floors and plastered walls remain throughout the house. In addition, the original plaster ceilings are intact in every room except for the dining room. The doors, door and window surrounds, door hardware (Photo 13), baseboards, wainscoting, and balusters are original to the house. Some of the internal partition walls were constructed in the 1940s.⁴

The first floor of the interior maintains much of its original layout. It is divided into four rooms; two at the north and two at the south. The northwest room serves as the foyer (Photo 14) and contains the U-shaped staircase to the second floor. This staircase is constructed of wood, with turned balusters. The newel posts are also made of wood and have carved wood crowns and wood appliques on the sides (Photos 15-16). At the south end of the room is a fireplace, with a carved wood mantel, which features an oval mirror at the top and shelving units with leaded glass doors on each side. Surrounding the fireplace opening is glazed tile (Photo 17). To the east of the fireplace are two openings, one into the dining room (west) and one into the kitchen (east). The east wall of the foyer features a large opening supported by two Corinthian-style wood columns on paneled wood bases (Photo 19), which leads to the living room. From the living room, a door on the north wall opens into the family room, within the northeast tower. Along the south wall of the living room is an opening to a small hallway, which provides access to an exterior door on the east elevation and the kitchen (Photo 20). Projecting from the north wall of the kitchen is a laundry room. The west wall of the kitchen has a doorway

⁴ For additional information, see the "Alterations" section on page 7-4.

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Section number 7 Page 4 HELM, JOHNSON HOUSE
BRADENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

that leads into the dining room (Photos 21). Within the dining room is an iron stove along the north wall, and a door to the south porch.

The second floor of the residence features a large stair landing area, which is currently used as a computer/office area (Photo 22). To its east is a large bedroom, which provides access to the northeast roof terrace. To the south is a small sitting room, which leads to the master bedroom on the west (which includes the southwest circular projection), and a bathroom directly to its south. To the east of the bathroom is another room, which is currently used as an office.

The third floor of the house contains a one-bedroom apartment in the central portion (north-south), with storage areas to either side. The bedroom sits at the north end (Photo 23), the entry vestibule and bathroom are in the middle, and the kitchen and living room are at the south ends. The living room (Photo 24) features a door, which opens onto the southwest roof terrace. Throughout the apartment, the original beaded board wall and ceiling remains intact.

Additions & Alterations

Throughout its existence, the Johnson Helm House has undergone several alterations, as well as restorations. In the 1940s, the Cogleys divided the house into six apartments. At this time, the entrances on the east and west elevations were created. Also at this time, the eastern two-third of the south porch was enclosed, using standard concrete block and metal casement windows. The original molded concrete block piers, however, were left in place. In the 1970s, the Herzogs restored the first floor of the residence to its original state. However, the northeast tower, which was once a circular porch area, was converted into an interior room through the installation of jalousie windows and a door in the arched openings. With the purchase of the house by Margaret Nanney in the 1980s, she began to restore the second floor to its original state, but left the 1940s partitioned master bathroom intact. In the 2000s, the Nanneys replaced the jalousie windows in the northeast tower with more traditional-looking single hung sash windows. Also at this time, due to severe deterioration, Hardy Board shingles were used to replace the original cedar shingles in the gables.

Secondary Buildings

Located south of the residence is a wood storage shed, constructed of molded concrete block, which is contemporary with the house. This small structure, now used as a pump house, measures roughly 6.5 ft by 6.5 ft, with a height of around 7 ft (Photo 25). It is considered a contributing resource to the property. To the south of the pump house is a modern wood-framed storage shed, with a modern wood-framed garage to its south. Both of these buildings are considered non-contributing resources.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1 HELM, JOHNSON HOUSE
BRADENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Helm House is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. This imitation stone block building is a surviving example of a Romanesque Revival style residence. It also represents the work of Joseph S. Maus, a locally prominent homebuilder, who constructed several cast concrete block buildings in the Sarasota-Bradenton area. Significant features of the Romanesque Revival style embodied by the residence include a one-story circular veranda at the northeast corner with round arched openings, a two-story tower at the southwest corner, a wide rounded arch that frames the main entrance, a defined water table, ornamental balustrades along the porch and two roof terraces. The building is also representative of a concrete residence built using a technique of molding concrete into blocks.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In 1855, the Florida Legislature created Manatee County, encompassing the area from Tampa Bay, south to Charlotte Harbor, inland to the Kissimmee River, and Lake Okeechobee. Prior to this, Reice Roberts purchased the land that would eventually comprise the Oneco Community.⁵ Additional settlers gradually arrived in the area, including Pliny Reasoner, who arrived in 1882 and purchased 160 acres of land in Oneco, where he started a large nursery.⁶ The first post office in Oneco was established on August 2, 1889.⁷

The Helm family moved to Florida from Delaware County, Indiana, in 1877 and settled in Manatee County. Johnson Helm (1860-1934) married Fannie Younglove in 1880, and they had one son, Harold (1886-1913).⁸ In 1904, they purchased a 5-acre parcel of land, on which the present house sits.⁹ On the south portion of the property, Helm planted grapefruit trees and sold the fruit to northern markets.¹⁰ Helm owned a grocery store located near the railroad tracks, and was an active member of the Oneco Methodist Church. He was also involved with the Bank of Manatee in Bradenton, where he was a stockholder and president.¹¹

⁵ Oneco School-Ninth Grade Civics Class. Story of Oneco, Manatee County: Oneco School, 1951) 1; Janet Snyder Matthews. Journey to the Centennial. (Sarasota: Coastal Printing, 1997) 38.

⁶ Victoria "Mikki" Hartig and Sherry Piland. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Reasoner, Egbert, House. 1995. Florida Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee.

⁷ Alford G. Bradbury and E. Story Hallock. A Chronology of Florida Post Offices. (The Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs, 1962) 61.

⁸ United States Census Bureau. 1900 Census. (United States Census Bureau, Population Division.) Accessed via Ancestry.com. Rowland H. Rerick. Memoirs of Florida. Volume 2. (Atlanta, GA: The Southern Historical Association, 1902), 552-553.

⁹ Manatee County. Deed Books. Book 8, Page 448, March 24, 1904.

¹⁰ Lillie B. McDuffee. The Lures of Manatee. (Atlanta: Foote & Davies, Inc., 1961) 292.

¹¹ Margaret Nanney. Notes from interview with Jo Herzog, December 1, 2007; Oneco United Methodist Church. History of the Oneco United Methodist Church. 1979. Margaret Nanney personal collection; Rowland H. Rerick. Memoirs of Florida. Volume 2. (Atlanta, GA: The Southern Historical Association, 1902), 552-553.

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Section number 8 Page 2 HELM, JOHNSON HOUSE
BRADENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

Around 1906, the Helms hired Sarasota contractor Joseph S. Maus to build their house in Oneco. Various newspaper clippings from 1907 revealed that the stonework was finished by August 2, 1907, and the carpenters, "Messrs Hebb & Pake," were "putting the finishing touches on the inside work."¹² By November 1, 1907, the entire residence, including a barn (no longer extant), a stone wood house, and a stone fence along the perimeter of the yard, was nearly completed. The November 8, 1907, issue of the Manatee Record reported, "Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Helm went to Tampa last week to buy furnishings for their new buildigg [sic]. They are now about ready to move in. But Mr. Helm says he hasn't the time to move."¹³ A photograph taken around 1908 (Photo 26) shows Johnson Helm and his wife Fannie seated on the front patio of their house in Oneco.

Johnson Helm's son Harold married Mary Thompson in 1904, but he died in 1913 at age 27 shortly after the birth of his second daughter Anna. His parents took his older daughter Lorree to live with them after his death. Johnson Helm died in 1934 at the age of 74. The following year, his wife and granddaughter Lorree sold the house to Henry and Sarah Cogley.¹⁴ The Cogleys divided the house into six apartments. Fortunately, rather than remove any original woodwork, they covered it all with wood paneling. They also enclosed the eastern two-thirds of the south porch. Additionally, they removed the original stone fence around the yard, and used the blocks to construct the three-unit apartment building to the west of the Helm House. They also subdivided the original parcel of land, giving a portion to the Oneco Methodist Church.¹⁵

After a little over a decade of ownership, the Cogleys sold the house, which was now situated on approximately one acre of land, to J. Irvin and Helen Griffith. They occupied the east side of the first floor, continued to rent the remaining units, and enclosed the north veranda, fitting the arched openings with jalousie windows.¹⁶ The Griffiths kept the property until 1973, when they sold it to Edwin and Anna Wilson. Edwin Wilson was the great-grandson of the original owners of the house, Johnson and Fannie Helm. The Wilsons sold the house a year later to Thomas and Jo Herzog.¹⁷

During their ownership of the house, the Herzogs restored the first floor to its original condition using two c. 1908 photographs of the interior (Photos 27-28). In 1985, Margaret Nanney purchased the property from the Herzogs. Since then, the Nanneys restored the second floor of the house to its original condition. They also replaced the jalousie windows in the veranda with single hung sash windows. In addition, due to the

¹² Manatee Record, August 2, 1907.

¹³ Manatee Record, November 1, 1907, November 8, 1907.

¹⁴ Manatee County. Deed Books. Book 145, Page 491, March 26, 1935.

¹⁵ Jo Herzog. Letter to Robin R. Strassburger, Historic Sites Specialist, regarding MA145, 1979. Florida Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee.

¹⁶ Manatee County. Deed Books. Book 242, Page 81, November 29, 1947; Jo Herzog. Letter to Robin R. Strassburger, Historic Sites Specilist, regarding MA145, 1979. Florida Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee.

¹⁷ Manatee County. Deed Books. Book 609, Page 676, May 2, 1973; Jo Herzog. Letter to Robin R. Strassburger, Historic Sites Specilist, regarding MA145, 1979. Florida Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

deterioration of the original cypress shakes in the gables, they replaced them siding with Hardy Board shingles, cut to resemble the original shingles.¹⁸

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Romanesque Revival is a style of building employed in the late 19th century inspired by the 11th and 12th century Romanesque style of architecture, major examples of which were churches constructed in Italy and France. Popular features of these revival buildings are round arches, semi-circular arches on windows, and belt courses. Unlike the historic Romanesque style, however, Romanesque Revival buildings tended to feature more simplified arches and windows than their historic counterparts. The style was quite popular for courthouses and university campuses in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, especially in the United States; a well-known example is the University of California, Los Angeles. The style was widely used for churches, and occasionally for synagogues such as the Congregation Emanu-El of New York on Fifth Avenue built in 1929. By far the most prominent and influential American architect working in a free "Romanesque" manner was Henry Hobson Richardson. In the United States the style derived from examples set by him are termed Richardsonian Romanesque.¹⁹

Another important movement in architecture at this time was the increased use of ornamental concrete block, also referred to as decorative block, cast block, imitation stone, and artificial stone. This provided a less expensive alternative to stone or brick, while retaining a great deal of strength. The use of concrete in the U.S. dates back to the 1830s, although it was used sparingly. The 1860s saw a growth in the use of concrete, and by the 1870s, it was being mass-produced throughout the country. Soon, companies such as Sears, Roebuck and Company were selling block machines in a variety of forms, which local contractors could use on the construction site. A major innovation was the "down-face" block machine. In this case, a special decorative form sat at the bottom of the machine, and a roughly one inch thick layer of fine-mix concrete was poured in, followed by a mixture of coarse-mix concrete, which provided strength to the block. After the concrete set, the machine was rotated 90 degrees for the removal of the block.²⁰

Joseph Sauder Maus, Architect and Builder

Joseph Sauder Maus (c.1852-1913) was the owner of J.S. Maus and Son, a construction company specializing in the use of molded concrete blocks for residential and commercial construction. Originally from Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Maus married Esther Marr Holter c. 1872 and relocated to Sarasota,

¹⁸ Manatee County. Deed Books. Book 1132, Page 937, December 1, 1985; Margaret Nanney, Interview with Trish Slovinac, October 9, 2008.

¹⁹ Romanesque Revival Architecture, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanesque_Revival

²⁰ J. Randall Cotton. "Ornamental Concrete Block Houses." *The Old House Journal*. October 1984 (Volume 12, Number 8) 165, 180-183.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 4 HELM, JOHNSON HOUSE
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SIGNIFICANCE

Florida, sometime before 1910, after living for a time in Mount Carroll, Illinois. In Sarasota, Maus went into business with his son Edgar C. Maus (1873-1949s) and formed the Maus and Son construction company, the name of which was later changed to Edgar C. Maus & Company after Joseph's death in 1913. They were responsible for the construction of several buildings in the Sarasota and Bradenton area, including the Dr. Halton House (NR 1984), the Hazen residence (demolished), and the Iwerson Block Building in Sarasota (part of the Downtown Sarasota Historic District (NR 2009) and Christ Episcopal Church in Bradenton. Joseph Maus also built structures such as the stone fence surrounding the family plots of Edward W. Morrill in Rosemary Cemetery (NR 2003) in Sarasota and the seawall for the John Ringling estate in Sarasota. Maus used molds produced by the Miracle Pressed Stone Company of Minneapolis to create many of his buildings, but the company responsible for molds used to build the Helm House is uncertain. Maus purchased the mold through Sears, Roebuck, and Company.²¹

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Helm House embodies elements of the Romanesque Revival style, including a broad round arch framing the main entrance, rounded arch openings on the circular tower at the northeast corner, a two-story turret at the southwest corner, floral designs in the top block course of the towers, and egg-and-dart and dentil cornices on the towers. In addition, the house is constructed of ornamental concrete block, using forms sold by Sears, Roebuck & Company. A comparison of the block with images from the Old House Journal shows that the foundation was constructed using "Design No. 6-Panel Face;" the walls are of "Design No. 18-Broken Ashlar Face;" and the decorative course at the top of the towers were made with the "Wreath Face" mold.²² The contractor produced the blocks on site. Much of the door hardware was purchased from the Sears, Roebuck and Company catalog.²³ The Johnson Helm House was the most visually spectacular of the houses in Sarasota and Manatee counties designed by Joseph Maus. The Dr. Halton House in Sarasota, constructed 1909-1910, uses rusticated concrete construction like the Helm House and even features a roofed second story terrace, but the transitional Queen Anne style residence is more restrained than his Romanesque Revival masterpiece in Oneco. No other Romanesque Revival or Queen Anne style houses of this quality and excellent state of preservation have yet been recorded in Manatee or Sarasota counties.

²¹ Dr. Joseph Halton House National Register Nomination; Edgar C. Maus and Joseph S. Maus household, 1910 US census, Manatee County, FL, population schedule; Edgar C. Maus obituary, undated; Sons of the American Revolution, SAR Magazine (Louisville, KY: Sons of the American Revolution, 1940), p. 15; untitled, Sarasota Sun, 25 May 1911.

²² J. Randall Cotton. "Ornamental Concrete Block Houses." The Old House Journal. October 1984 (Volume 12, Number 8) 180-183.

²³ Margaret Nanney, Interview with Trish Slovinac, November 2, 2008.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

That part of the eastern portion of the property contained in parcel number 1792300004 in Township 35 South, Range 18 East, Section 18 northeast quarter, in the Oneco community of Bradenton, Manatee County, Florida, as enclosed by the boundary line shown on the accompanying site and floor plans included with this National Register Nomination Proposal.

Boundary Justification

This includes all of the historic resources associated with the property historically associated with the residence as constructed c. 1906-1908.

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1. Helm, Johnson House
2. 2104 53rd Avenue East Bradenton (Manatee County), Florida
3. Margaret Nanney
4. December 2008
5. Archaeological Consultants, Inc.
6. Helm property from across SR-70, looking southwest
7. Photo 1 of 29

Items 1, 2 and 5 are the same for photographs 2-34.

3. Margaret Nanney
4. December 2008
6. North elevation, looking south
7. Photo 2 of 29

3. Trish Slovinac
4. December 2008
6. Detail view of balustrade and arch on north elevation, looking south
7. Photo 3 of 29

3. Margaret Nanney
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6. Detail view of foyer window showing leaded glass in top pane, looking southwest
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3. Trish Slovinac
4. November 2008
6. Detail view of oriel window, looking south
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3. Margaret Nanney
4. December 2008
6. Detail view of corner bracket at northwest corner, looking east
7. Photo 6 of 29

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- 3. Trish Slovinac
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- 3. Trish Slovinac
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- 6. Detail view of balustrade on northeast roof terrace, looking southwest
- 7. Photo 9 of 29

- 3. Margaret Nanney
- 4. December 2008
- 6. East elevation, looking northwest
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- 3. Trish Slovinac
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- 3. Trish Slovinac
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- 3. Margaret Nanney
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- 6. Foyer, looking southwest
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- 3. Trish Slovinac
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- 6. Detail of stair newel post and balusters, looking northwest
- 7. Photo 15 of 29

- 3. Margaret Nanney
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- 6. View from staircase towards foyer, looking northeast
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- 3. Trish Slovinac
- 4. November 2008
- 6. Detail of fireplace in foyer, looking southwest
- 7. Photo 17 of 29

- 3. Trish Slovinac
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- 6. Living room, looking northeast
- 7. Photo 18 of 29

- 3. Margaret Nanney
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- 6. Detail of capital on living room opening columns, looking northeast
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- 3. Margaret Nanney
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- 6. Dining room, looking southwest
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- 3. Trish Slovinac
- 4. November 2008
- 6. Second floor landing/office area, looking northwest
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- 3. Margaret Nanney
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- 6. Third floor apartment, bedroom, looking northwest
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- 3. Margaret Nanney
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- 3. Trish Slovinac
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- 6. Wood storage house, looking west
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- 3. unknown
- 4. 1908
- 6. North and west elevation, looking southeast
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- 4. 1908
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- 6. View into foyer from living room, looking northwest
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- 3. unknown
- 4. 1908
- 6. Detail view of foyer fireplace, looking southwest
- 7. Photo 29 of 29