NPS Form 10-900	RECEIVED 4	نو OMB No. 10024-0018		
(Oct. 1990)				
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	JUN 27 1994			
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form	INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE			
This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for in <i>National Register of Historic Places Registration Form</i> (National Regist by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900)	ter Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking ne property being documented, enter "N/A" for only categories and subcategories from the inst	g "x" in the appropriate box or 'not applicable." For functions, ructions. Place additional		
1. Name of Property				
other names/site number <a>Palmer, Dorothy Bir	ney, House			
2. Location		<u></u>		
street & number <u>8431 Immokolee Road</u> city or town <u>Fort Pierce</u>				
state Florida code _FL county _		-		
3. State/Federal Agency Certification				
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preserv request for determination of eligibility meets the documental Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requ Manuels does not meet the National Register criteria. I red nationally statewide X locally. (Deputy, Signature of certifying official/Title Florida Division of Historical State of Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National National Procession of Historical	ation standards for registering properties in the N uirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opin commend that this property be considered signification the set for additional comments.) <u>SHPO 6/20/94</u> Date Resources, Bureau of His	lational Register of inion, the property ficant <u>storic Preservation</u>		
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:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action		
National Register				
<pre>determined not eligible for the</pre>		<u></u>		
removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)	, 			

Immokolee Name of Property			St. Lu punty and	<mark>icie, Florida</mark> ^{State}	
5. Classification	NOOL Y C MIL	<u> </u>			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Numbe (Do not in	r of Rea	sources within Propert viously listed resources in th	Y e count.)
 private public-local public-State public-Federal 	K fbuilding(s)↑ ☐ district ☐ site ☐ structure ☐ object	Contribu 1 1	uting	Noncontributing 2	buildings sites structures objects
		2		2	Total
Name of related multiple pr (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of	operty listing of a multiple property listing.)			ntributing resources pr Register	eviously listed
N/A		N/	Ϋ́Α		
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current F (Enter catego			
DOMESTIC/single dw	elling	DOMEST	<u>IC/si</u>	ngle dwelling	
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIS	TENCE/agricultural field	AGRICU	ILTURA	AL/SUBSISTENCE/	<u>agriċultu</u> ra field
7. Description Architectural Classification		Materials		· ·····	
(Enter categories from instructions)		(Enter catego		instructions)	
LATE 19th and 20th	CENTURY REVIVALS/	foundation	conc	rete	
Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival		walls	stuc	:C0	
		 roof	cera	mic tile	
		other	wood	l	
Narrative Description					

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

, • ·

. . .

Immokolee

Name of Property

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.
- \Box **C** a birthplace or grave.
- \Box **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

Bibilography

(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 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 #______

St. Lucie, Florida County and State

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance 1931-1944

Significant Dates distant of the other of the second secon

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) Dorothy Binney Palmer

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Blder: Franklind Tyler

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- □ Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- □ University
- Other

Name of repository:

Immokolee	St. Lucie, Florida	
me of Property County and State		
10. Geographical Data		
Acreage of Property <u>approx</u> . 40 acres		
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)		
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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 <u>Sidney</u> Johnston/Sherry Piland,	Historic Sites Specialist	
organization Bureau of Historic Preservatio	on date _June 1, 1994	
street & numberR.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bror	noughtelephone(904) 487-2333	
city or town <u>Tallahassee</u> ,		
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

Design of the Original State

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

Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	
name	
street & number	telephone
city or town	state zip code

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 to amend existing 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.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

IMMOKOLEE ST. LUCIE CO., FL.

Section number <u>7</u> Page <u>1</u>

SUMMARY

"Immokolee," a 40-acre estate, is located at 8431 Immokolee Road, Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County, Florida. The residence was constructed in 1931 and is a significant local example of the Mediterranean Revival style. The house is nestled in a hammock of live oak, palm and pine trees and mature bamboo. A citrus grove is to the east and south. The two-story, eighteen-room residence, containing approximately 5,000 square feet, is among the largest historic houses in the county. The house has an irregular plan and rests on a concrete foundation. The hollow tile walls are surfaced with stucco. A complex pattern of crossgable and hip roofs and shed extensions, surfaced with barrel tile, provides an interesting silhouette. Four chimneys with arched openings and barrel tile cresting pierce the roof and vent six interior fireplaces. The owner, Dorothy Binney Palmer, was actively involved in the design of the house which was constructed by Franklind Tyler, a Fort Pierce builder. Α swimming pool, constructed ca. 1933, contributes to the significance of the property. Immokolee retains its architectural integrity to a high degree.

Setting

Immokolee lies seven miles northwest of downtown Fort Pierce on Immokolee Road in unincorporated St. Lucie County. Relatively isolated in a rural setting, the house is located several miles east of Interstate 95 and the Florida Turnpike. Immokolee Road extends about one mile west of Kings Highway, an important north/south connector in the area. Five miles to the south is State Road 68 (Orange Avenue), an east/west corridor through Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County.

The house sits back approximately 200 feet from Immokolee Road and is approached by a winding lane that leads past a landscaped pool (photo 1). The house is sited in a hammock of approximately six acres. A thirty-four acre citrus grove lies to the south and east of the house (photos 2 and 3). A variety of trees, plants and shrubs, including Ligustrum, oleander, palm, and pine, add character and variety to the setting, provide an effective windbreak, and form a distinctive visual break between the grove and surrounding roads. A contributing swimming pool lies 200 feet south of the home.

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A small non-contributing residence lies along the western boundary of the property. To the north, across Immokolee Road, are several houses of recent construction.

Exterior

The primary entrance to the house is located on the north elevation, at the juncture of a north/south wing with an east/west wing. The entrance is sheltered by an arched loggia that supports a second floor porch (photo 4). The main entrance consists of a screen door with a cypress frame and balusters and a paneled solid cypress door with large ornamental wrought-iron hinges and a single light. Ceramic tile surrounds the entrance. A quarter-turn staircase, east of the entrance loggia, leads to the second floor screened-porch. A large rectangular decorative tile wall panel embellishes the staircase. The risers are also surfaced with tile. Beneath the staircase is a small fountain/pond and statuary niche containing a vase (photo 5). The second story porch has hewn cypress posts and railing. The porch extends the depth of the house, from east to west.

A large porte cochere, constructed in 1991, extends from the north wall of the house (photo 6). The porte cochere protects a secondary entrance. To the east, near the corner of the house, is a small fountain set in an arched tile panel (photo 7). The second floor of this elevation is fenestrated with single pane, fixed windows and narrow, rectangular windows. A small arched decorative window is placed in the gable end.

A wing projects on the east elevation and features a onestory front-facing gable containing bronze French doors with a lighted transom, flanked by bronze casement windows and small wrought iron lamps (photo 8). The deep set windows have concrete lintels. A small arched window in the gable end has a decorative console inscribed "Immo-ko-lee" (photo 9).

The south elevation presents a two-story cross-hip extension, a one-story gable wing, a small shed extension, and a chimney (photo 10). The small shed roof extension protects an arched opening filled with multi-light wood casement windows. A paneled wood door is located on the east elevation of the shed extension. Bronze casement windows recessed in the walls

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punctuate the textured stucco walls on the two-story hip and onestory gable extensions.

Two projecting wings form a U-plan on the west elevation (photo 11). Between the arms of the "U" and enclosed by a steel frame and screening, is an in-ground pool, constructed in 1991. A second floor balcony is located between the two wings. The balcony features hewn cypress posts, handrails, balusters, and supporting carved purlins. A stairway on the north side of the pool, sheltered by a broad eave, leads up to the balcony. The balcony opens into the second floor porch that extends the depth of the house. Arched doors at the north end of the balcony open into several interior rooms.

Arched openings on the first floor, under the staircase, contain a pair of bronze French doors that lead into the dining room. A chimney interrupts the balcony and pierces the eave. The blue/green barrel tile cresting on the chimney cap is the only original roof tile remaining on the house. When the roof was replaced in 1991 due to broken barrel tiles and deteriorated decking, the tiles on the chimney were left deliberately by the present owners to indicate the original roof surfacing.

Interior

A rich combination of materials gives the interior significant presence and character. Textured plaster covers the walls, contrasting with beamed ceilings of hewn pecky cypress. Ceramic tiles and baseboard finish many floors; in others oak or pine serve as the flooring. Most of the doors have wrought-iron hinges and hammered brass handles. Exterior doors are typically either unfinished pecky cypress or bronze; interior doors characteristically are finished cypress.

The first story contains eleven rooms, including living and family rooms, guest rooms, bathrooms, an unusual den, and reception and entrance halls. The design of the house largely places private and formal rooms on the south side, and informal, servant, and children areas on the north. The dining room serves as the divider between the two sections.

The main entrance opens into a 12' X 12' reception hall, featuring a statuary niche, ceramic floor, tile baseboard, and a

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small wall fountain (photo 12). Arched openings lead on the left, or east, into the music room (photo 13). Encompassing the entire east wing of the house, the music room is fifteen inches lower than the reception hall. The 20' X 30' room has an eighteen foot ceiling finished with pecky cypress decking, rafters, tie beams, and king posts. Bronze entrance doors bracketed with casement windows open at the east elevation. A quarter-turn pecky cypress staircase on the west wall extends to the second floor. The staircase has massive hewn newels and carved handrails and balusters. Carved brackets support the landing. A large fireplace dominates the south wall, displaying a tapered chimney shaft, molded chimney breast and mantel, and an arched fire box protected by fire screens mounted in wrought-iron frames (photo 14).

The den, or captain's cabin, is located immediately to the right of the living room fireplace. This unusual room measures 7' x 16' and contains a brick fireplace, bunk, and inglenook (photo 15). The arched ceiling is finished with boxed beams. Fenestration consists of a small porthole and an arched opening filled with multi-light casement windows. The poured concrete floor is incised to represent ship planking. The walls consist of teak wood panels and mahogany beams. Conveying a distinctive maritime ambiance, the room differs markedly in scale and materials from other areas of the house.

Formal guest bedrooms lie to the south and west of the reception hall. Both rooms have plaster walls and ceilings, oak floors and baseboard, and cypress doors and surrounds. The closet doors in each room were painted with colorful or silhouette murals in 1931 (photo 16). A bathroom is between the bedrooms and has tile flooring and wainscot. The toilet and bath are contained within arched alcoves (photo 17). The guest bedroom on the west includes a corner fireplace with a textured plaster chimney breast, mantel, shaft, and arched opening protected by fire screens (photo 18). An unusual half-arch cypress door near the northeast corner opens into a long corridor that leads to a large closet, half-bath, and the west end of the reception hall.

The dining room, north of the reception hall, is fifteen inches lower than the reception area and measures 14' x 16' (photo 19). It features beamed ceilings, a built-in buffet, and ceramic tile flooring. A corner fireplace has a statuary niche

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in the chimney shaft, wood mantel, and textured plaster chimney breast with an arched opening and fire screens. The east and west walls of the room contain bronze French doors.

A small butler's pantry connects the dining room with the kitchen. The kitchen maintains its original configuration and function, although it has been slightly modified by the expansion of a breakfast nook and the removal of a pantry. North of the kitchen is a maid's bedroom and bath.

The hall, west of the kitchen, originally contained a laundry facility. A stairway to the second floor was incorporated into the hall in 1990. The original arched screen and entrance doors at the north and south ends of the hall remain intact (photo 20). A family room is west of the entrance hall. It originally served as a two-car garage and was enclosed in 1991 to provide additional living space.

Second story

The second story contains seven rooms, including bedrooms, dressing and sitting rooms, bathrooms, porch, and study. A central, open porch, located above the first-story dining room, features cypress ceiling, ceramic tile flooring and baseboard, and a colorful mural of the State of Florida (photo 21). The arcaded east and west elevations lead onto balconies that have hewn cypress ceiling, posts, brackets, handrails, and flat jigsaw cut balusters.

To the south of the porch is a master bedroom, bathroom, walk-in closet, and sitting room. Arched screen and paneled cypress doors provide access between the master bedroom and the porch (photo 22). The master bedroom, measuring 17' x 30', has plaster walls, coved ceilings, and bronze casement windows. An arched opening at the east end of the room leads onto stairs that extend down to the music room (photo 23). An arched corridor extending to the west leads into a sitting room (photo 24). This room has unique arched cypress doors, a corner fireplace, and bronze casement windows.

An arched paneled cypress Dutch door at the northeast corner of the porch provides access into a small bedroom (photo 25). This room has plaster walls and ceilings, pine floor, wood

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double-hung sash windows, and paneled cypress doors (photo 26). North of the bedroom lies a sitting room (playroom), separated from a large den, to the west, by a stairhall. The den has ceiling beams of hewn cypress, cypress walls, and a fireplace with stucco surfacing, tapered chimney breast, statuary niche, tile decorations, and an arched fire box (photo 27).

Much of the wrought-iron hardware used throughout the house was handmade by Franklind Tyler at his workshop in Fort Pierce. Many of the other appointments, including pecky cypress doors, floor tile, and bronze windows, are believed to be products from Mizner Industries, a business organized by Addison Mizner, in Palm Beach, to produce finished architectural products.

Contributing Swimming Pool

A combined swimming pool and bath house, built around 1933, is located 200 feet south of the residence. The 70' X 20' pool is constructed of poured concrete footers and buttresses and hollow tile with concrete surfacing (photo 28). It rises twelve feet above the ground and steps lead from the ground at the northwest corner. The pool varies in depth from eight feet at the east end to approximately three feet at the west. A walkway and reinforced concrete posts with connecting round metal rails extend around the structure. A small clubhouse is located on the ground level at the northeast elevation. Bath and changing rooms extend along the north face of the structure. Seven storage compartments, large enough for vehicles, open along the south elevation (photo 29).

Historically, the citrus grove was irrigated periodically by water from the swimming pool. Water was emptied through a valve near the south side of the pool into a large irrigation canal, approximately ten feet wide (photo 30). The canal extends east/west across the grove. Water filled the canal, flooded its banks, and then spilled into secondary ditches before flowing between the rows of trees.

Non-Contributing Structures

A small non-contributing frame storage building is located approximately forty feet northwest of the residence (photo 31).

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The building has a gable roof, board-and-batten exterior walls and rests on concrete piers. A shed roof extends at the west elevation.

A non-contributing residence (8451 Immokolee Road) was erected in 1991 at the western edge of the property.

Alterations

Several changes have been made to Immokolee. The northwest wing of the house has been modified twice. The present family room was created in 1991 by the enclosure of a two-car garage. The garage originally had a flat roof with a parapet and was used as a sun deck. In 1940, wood framing was used to enclose this space and create a study over the garage. In 1991 the wood exterior walls were surfaced with stucco to match the rest of the house.

In 1991, the porte cochere at the north elevation was constructed. The roof of the residence was replaced with red barrel tile, replacing the original blue/green barrel tile which is no longer available.

Citrus Grove

Dorothy Palmer supervised the land clearing and planting of the citrus grove between February 1931 and February 1932. The grove included Valencia orange, pineapple orange, and grapefruit trees. Other than the canals and ditches, no formal system of permanent pipes or channels was installed. The north/south row configurations and irrigation ditches have been maintained. The spatial relationships, property boundaries, boundary vegetation, and design intent remain intact. The grove continues to contribute to the historic ambiance of Immokolee (photo 32).

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SUMMARY

"Immokolee," the forty-acre estate of Dorothy Binney Palmer, fulfills criteria B and C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Dorothy Binney Palmer, an heiress of the Crayola Crayon fortune, made important contributions to the social and cultural organizations of Fort Pierce. Her home is significant as one of the largest and best preserved examples of the Mediterranean Revival style in St. Lucie County. The house was constructed in 1931 by Fort Pierce builder, Franklind W. Tyler. The design was largely that of Dorothy Palmer.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Fort Pierce, the seat of government for St. Lucie County, lies 58 miles north of West Palm Beach, along Florida's Atlantic coast. Settlement of the city began in the late nineteenth century, following the arrival of rail lines linking the region with the population centers of the eastern seaboard. In 1901, Fort Pierce was organized into a town, its economy fueled by citrus products, which were shipped by rail to northern markets. In 1905, St. Lucie County was created and newly incorporated Fort Pierce became the county seat. Over the following decade the commercial district and surrounding residential neighborhoods formed. Like many Florida communities, Fort Pierce experienced an era of frenetic growth in the 1920s, culminating in the crash of the Florida Land Boom late in the decade.

When the Land Boom declined in the late 1920s, Florida's economy fell on difficult times which were exacerbated by additional calamities: a Mediterranean fruit fly infestation in the citrus groves, bank collapses, devastating hurricanes, and low produce prices. By 1928 those hardships brought the state's economy to such a low point that it could hardly fall farther. As a result, Florida experienced less economic decline during the Great Depression decade of the 1930s than many other states. Florida's diversified economy alleviated some of the worst economic effects during the Great Depression. Industries such as citrus, lumbering and naval stores, phosphate mining, fishing, and cattle ranching, permitted many areas of the state to weather the economic storms better than other regions of the country.

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Fort Pierce's harbor helped sustain the surrounding area through the Great Depression. The construction of a new inlet, channel, turning basin, deep water terminal, and associated buildings provided the city with the largest port between Miami and Jacksonville. The channel opened in February 1930. Despite the disastrous economic climate, shipping showed steady growth in the early years of the 1930s. Passenger cruise lines also used the harbor. Continuing work on the federal intracoastal waterway project also stimulated the local economy.

During the 1930s, the Federal government embarked on several flood control projects in Florida, including one around Lake Okeechobee. The project included a drainage system to control the level of the lake. The canal system consisted of the Caloosahatchee Canal, which emptied the lake to the Gulf, and the St. Lucie Canal, which terminated at Fort Pierce. The canals represented another transportation link from the "back country" to Fort Pierce's packing houses and terminals. In 1933, over 200,000 tons of freight were shipped by barge on the canal.

The natural resources of the peninsular interior, which included high quality agricultural soils and timber, fueled the economy throughout the decade. Recreational facilities were developed along the Indian River and Atlantic beaches, where hotels grew in number and prosperity. Residential and apartment construction persisted throughout much of the decade. The commercial and government sectors continued to expand with the construction of business blocks and a new post office, the completion of a municipal pier into the harbor, and the construction of an airport.

In the late 1930s, the fertilizer industry, sustained by phosphate mines in peninsular interior areas, supported the establishment of two factories in Fort Pierce. The Grove Tractor Company opened a factory in the town in the late 1930s. Fort Pierce Beach, developed by G.D. Alexander, a prominent Miami businessman, included 2,000 feet of ocean frontage with several hundred home sites and a number of business lots. The tourist industry, spurred by new roads and the increasing popularity of the automobile, continued to grow during the late 1930s. Many tourists who came to visit the St. Lucie county area eventually remained. Growth consequently continued through the decade. St. Lucie County's population rose from 7,057 in 1930 to 12,958 in 1940. During World War II, the Federal government requisitioned

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the harbor, and the Navy established an amphibious training base in Fort Pierce in 1943. In 1945, the population of Fort Pierce reached 9,482.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Immokolee is historically associated with Dorothy Binney Palmer, an heiress to the Binney & Smith Company and the Crayola crayon fortune. Her father, Edwin Binney, had established Binney & Smith in 1885. The company became a large producer of natural gas and developed a specialized by-product, carbon black. By adding a wax compound to carbon black, a formula for "dustless carbon" was developed. This revolutionized the use of colored crayons for artistic, educational, and industrial uses. Binney served as a director for a number of companies, including the Columbian Carbon Company, Peerless Carbon Company, Mississippi River Fuel Corporation, and Western Carbon Company.

Beginning in 1911, Binney and his family made seasonal trips to Florida, establishing a winter home at Indrio, a small settlement northwest of Fort Pierce. Over the subsequent thirty years, Binney contributed significantly to the development of Fort Pierce. He invested in local real estate and used his fortune and influence to promote the important harbor improvements, land reclamation and citrus grove projects, and the development of refrigeration facilities for the storage of perishable fruits. He helped organize and served as a director and president of the Fort Pierce Financing and Construction Company and St. Lucie County Bank, and chairman of the Fort Pierce Port Commission.

Dorothy, born about 1891, was raised in Connecticut and graduated from Massachusetts' Wellesley College in 1910. While in college she met George Putnam, the heir to the prominent Putnam publishing house of New York. They were married in 1911 and moved to Oregon, where George organized a newspaper and served several terms as the mayor of the city of Bend. Later, Putnam served as secretary to the governor and then as the state's lieutenant governor. Following World War I, the Putnams returned to New York, where George assumed leadership responsibilities in his father's publishing firm. During their marriage, George and Dorothy shared interests in aviation, exploration, natural science, sports, and travel.

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Dorothy led a full and varied life that included organizing civic clubs, becoming involved in social issues, and considerable travel. In 1912, when Oregon granted women the right to vote, Dorothy was among the first women in the state to cast a ballot. During World War I, she served as a director of the U.S. Inspection Division for returning troops. In the 1920s, she traveled throughout much of the world and climbed Mt. McKinley in Alaska and Acatenango in South America. She accompanied William Beebe, a renowned explorer, on a scientific expedition to the Galapagos Islands and toured Africa, China, Iceland, and Sweden. In 1926, she and her husband traveled 8,500 miles to the Arctic with Bob Bartlett, another noted explorer.

In 1928, Dorothy divorced Putnam, sharing custody with him of their two children, David (b. 1913) and George III (b. 1921). Apparently, during the late-1920s George became attracted to Amelia Earhart, America's renowned female pilot, and in the process of promoting and cultivating her image as an aviator, fell in love. Notwithstanding George and Dorothy's marital difficulties, Dorothy and Amelia developed a friendship and appreciation for each other. In 1931, George married Earhart who was lost at sea in a flight around the world in 1937. In an effort to recover from her divorce from Putnam, Dorothy moved to Fort Pierce in 1928 and lived with her parents in quiet seclusion, away from the glare of society's spotlight.

In 1930, she married Frank Upton, a retired naval officer. Born in 1896, Upton won the Congressional Medal of Honor in World War I, rescuing six crew members of a merchant ship destroyed by U-boats near Brest. In 1926 he was decorated by King George V for helping rescue the crew of a British freighter as it sank in the North Atlantic. Upton had moved to Fort Pierce about 1927, where he operated a local air transport company and served as harbor master for the Port of Fort Pierce. In the 1930s, he served several terms on the St. Lucie County Commission. For a brief period, Dorothy and Frank lived at Casa Caprona (NR 1984), a large apartment house northwest of Fort Pierce that Dorothy's parents acquired and renovated in 1929. For several years, the Binneys used Casa Caprona as their home and to entertain visitors and guests. Dorothy had derived an interest in citrus cultivation from her father. Although she was financially secure, she became determined to find suitable land from which to operate her own citrus grove. In May 1930, Dorothy and Frank

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acquired a parcel of rural land, west of Casa Caprona on which to make their home. They selected a six-acre tract in a secluded hammock as the home site and an adjoining thirty-four acres were designated for planting citrus groves.

Dorothy was interested in architecture and she actively involved herself in the design of the new home. Her interest in Spanish architecture first emerged in the early 1920s, when she collected House Beautiful and other magazines and design books She became especially that promoted new trends in home design. attracted to houses displaying Mediterranean influences. Later. she prepared notes and marked features that she wanted incorporated into her home. Her diaries indicate that in 1928, while in Reno, Nevada obtaining her divorce from George Putnam, she took lengthy walks in new subdivisions containing houses displaying Spanish-derived architectural influences. In Fort Pierce she became intrigued with the home of Franklind W. Tyler, a local contractor. His two-story Mediterranean Revival house was built about 1924. She commissioned Tyler to build her new house and worked closely with him on its design. She named the house "Immokolee," a Seminole word that she translated as "My Home Place."

Dorothy supervised much of the land clearing, road building, landscaping, and construction associated with the development of Immokolee. She marked trees and flora that Tyler was to preserve to provide the house with proper shade and ambiance. In addition, stands of bamboo were planted and several small ponds created. A circular drive was built around the home site. In early 1931, when Immokolee was nearing completion, Dorothy supervised the planting of approximately twenty acres in citrus, including Valencia orange, pineapple orange, and grapefruit trees. By mid-1932, the approximately thirty acre grove, with almost 2,000 trees, was appraised at \$20,160. Dorothy, sensitive about water conservation and making efficient use of resources, provided for a large east/west canal to the south of a swimming pool and a series of smaller ditches between the rows of trees. Well water and water from the pool were periodically emptied into the canal to irrigate the trees.

During the period Immokolee was under construction, Dorothy's social contacts included a number of prominent Palm Beach residents. During the early 1930s, Dorothy developed a friendship with Alice DeLamar, a wealthy heiress, prominent Palm

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Beach personality, and a close friend of Horace Chase, nephew of the renowned architect Addison Mizner. In 1928, DeLamar financed the publication of <u>Florida Architecture of Addison Mizner</u>. Given Dorothy's level of wealth, interest in architecture, social contacts, and friendship with DeLamar, it is quite likely that she became familiar with DeLamar's book and impressed with Mizner's design skills and craftsmanship.

Shortly before construction began in October 1930, Dorothy made several trips to Palm Beach to purchase roof tiles, windows, doors, and other architectural products on which she spent a small fortune. Although never indicated directly in Dorothy's diary, it is quite likely that many of the features in the house were built by Mizner Industries, a large craft shop operated by Mizner during the 1920s and early 1930s. Mizner Industries produced a variety of architectural products, including roof and floor tiles, cast stone, bronze windows, pecky cypress doors, and wood furniture. Dorothy's expenditures on architectural features for Immokolee included \$1,500 for bronze casement windows, \$1,500 for floor tile, and \$1,000 for bathroom fixtures. The roof tile, pecky cypress exterior doors, ceiling planks, carved beams, and finished interior cypress doors were also acquired in Palm Beach, probably from Mizner Industries. Immokolee was completed in March 1931, at a cost of nearly \$40,000.

Dorothy hired several artists to add decorative finishes to the house. In December 1930, Don Blanding, a poet and artist from Hawaii whom Dorothy met in her travels during the 1920s, visited Immokolee and painted murals depicting undersea views and live oak tree silhouettes. Later, in April 1931, Hubbard Hutchinson, a Palm Beach artist, completed a mural of the State of Florida on the north wall of the second-story loggia. The mural included the location of many communities significant in the lives of Frank and Dorothy, and the sites associated with Immokolee, Florindia, and those houses of friends and relatives in south Florida. Another artist friend was A.E. "Bean" Backus Dorothy met Backus before building her new home of Fort Pierce. and in 1931 sponsored his first exhibition. She continued to be one of his major patrons, and he was a frequent visitor to her Several of his works still hang at Immokolee, including a home. painting of the house.

To accommodate Dorothy's love of swimming, a concrete, above-ground swimming pool, complete with dressing rooms, was

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constructed about 1933. The twenty by seventy-five foot pool was located two hundred feet south of the house. A local firm, Parklap Construction Company, apparently supervised the construction. Earlier, in 1930, the Parklap company built the same type of pool for the Binneys at Casa Caprona. Water for the pool was pumped from a nearby deep well.

Dorothy's first child, David Putnam, frequently visited Immokolee. As a child of wealthy, adventuresome parents who owned a prominent publishing company, David was encouraged to travel and then write about his experiences. In 1925, his first book, <u>David Goes Voyaging</u>, was published. Two of his books became best-sellers, and he became the youngest member of the Explorers Club. He also published accounts of his travels to Greenland and Baffinland and of his 1930 solo flight. In 1931, David spoke at the Fort Pierce High School during a visit to Immokolee. That year he wrote <u>David Sails the Viking Trail</u>, a tale of crossing the Atlantic Ocean in his boat, "The Jahala." Apparently, David wrote portions of the book while visiting at Immokolee.

During the early 1930s, Frank and Dorothy entertained guests from Fort Pierce and Palm Beach at Immokolee. During the period, Frank served as president of the St. Lucie County Bank and on the local county commission; from the latter he was suspended for neglect of duty. In the mid 1930s, the couple began to experience marital problems which culminated in a divorce about 1935. Following the divorce, Upton moved to Colorado and then served in the Navy during World War II. Following the war, he returned to Colorado where he spent the remainder of his life.

In the late 1930s, Dorothy immersed herself in local social clubs and entertaining at Immokolee. She had organized the Fort Pierce Garden Club in 1931 and served as president for nearly three decades. She promoted projects that included landscaping the commercial district and the Florida East Coast Railroad depot. In 1939, her flower arrangement, "Early Summer," was awarded the blue ribbon at the World's Fair held in New York. She continued to be interested in aviation. She made several continental flights with Charles Lindberg and served as governor of the Florida division of the Women's National Aeronautical Association.

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In 1940, Dorothy married Don Blanding, an old friend who had painted murals on several doors of the house. Born in 1894, Blanding studied at the Art Institute of Chicago before embarking on a career as an author and artist. In 1915, he moved to Hawaii, where he contributed local columns to the <u>Honolulu Star-Bulletin</u> and developed a commercial art business. Between 1919 and 1921, he studied art in Europe, visited Florida, and lived in central America. In 1928, after returning to Hawaii, Dodd & Mead published his <u>Vagabond's House</u>, which earned him the attribution "Poet Laureate of Honolulu."

About 1930, Blanding moved to south Florida. In the mid-1930s, he lived in Fort Pierce, where he served as the president of the Chamber of Commerce and where he shared a studio with "Bean" Backus, the painter. Once again, Dorothy provided her new husband with a special place at Immokolee. She had a secondstory patio at the northwest corner of the house enclosed to serve as Blanding's studio and study (photo 27). Blanding wrote several books during his brief marriage to Dorothy. The first, the popular Floridays, was published by Dodd & Mead in 1941 and went through seven reprintings. It included a dedication and several poems to Dorothy, and a photograph of him in his studio at Immokolee. The book included poems about Dorothy's children, Immokolee, Bok Tower, the Everglades, fishing, Florida's lush flora and fauna, Marineland, Seminole Indians, and tourists. Nearly 100 silhouette drawings, including one of Dorothy, appeared in the book.

The marriage apparently began to unravel shortly after it began. Dorothy rarely saw Blanding after he entered the service in 1942. Although Blanding's <u>Pilot Bails Out</u> (1943) and <u>Today Is</u> <u>Here</u> (1946) were published during his marriage to Dorothy, both were written in California during his service years and subsequent separation from her. In the introductory poem ("Where is Vagabond's House Now?") to one of his last books, <u>Joy Is An</u> <u>Inside Job</u> (1953), Blanding fondly referred to his worldwide travels and various homes, including Immokolee which he described as a "Dream House built around a Memory Room." By the time of his death, he had written and illustrated seventeen books, including <u>Floridays</u>, written at Immokolee.

After her divorce from Blanding, Dorothy continued her active life. In 1940, she was appointed a director of the Fort Pierce Hospital Board, a position she maintained into the 1950s.

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During World War II, Dorothy served as a hostess at U.S.O. functions, introducing celebrities, mixing drinks, frying hamburgers, and washing dishes. She also opened Immokolee to officers and enlisted men. Between 1943 and 1945, some 2,000 servicemen enjoyed weekend barbecues and swimming parties as Dorothy's guests at Immokolee. The Navy also used the pools at Immokolee and Casa Caprona to conduct swimming training exercises. About 1948, she married Lewis Palmer. During the 1950s, she continued to contribute time to the Garden Club and Audubon Society. She wrote several books, including <u>African</u> <u>Overtones</u> (1950) and <u>Emerald Isles of the Atlantic and Caribbean</u> (1952). In 1956, Dorothy was included in the publication <u>Florida</u> Women of Distinction, which featured women of merit throughout Florida.

Dorothy had always personally managed the citrus grove, but with the infirmity of increasing years, she was no longer able to do so. The citrus groves gradually declined. Following her death in 1982, at the age of ninety-two, the house sat vacant for several years. Douglas Putnam, a grandson of George Putnam, acquired the estate and made some improvements to the house. In 1991, Putnam sold the property to John and Sally Chapman. John and Sally, the latter the daughter of David Binney Putnam and granddaughter of Dorothy, have restored the house and have begun the restoration of the citrus groves.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

MEDITERRANEAN REVIVAL STYLE

The Mediterranean Revival style is largely found in those states that have a Spanish colonial heritage. The style became especially popular in the Southwest and Florida during the twentieth century. The influence of the Spanish and other Mediterranean-derived styles found expression through a detailed study of Latin American architecture made by Bertram Goodhue at the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego in 1915. The Exposition prominently featured the rich Spanish architectural variety of South America. Encouraged by the publicity afforded the Exposition, architects began to look directly to Spain and elsewhere in the Mediterranean where they found still more interesting building traditions.

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In Florida, the Mediterranean Revival style displays considerable Spanish influence. A popular style in the 1920s, Mediterranean Revival had a pervasive influence on building design until World War II. The style was adapted for a variety of building types ranging from grandiose hotels and mansions to two-room residences. The popularity of the style became widespread, and many commercial and residential buildings underwent renovation in the 1920s to reflect Mediterranean influences. Identifying features of the style include complex roof plans, often a combination of flat, gable, and hip roofs with ceramic tile surfacing; stuccoed facades; chimneys with barrel tile cresting; entrance porches and loggias with arched openings; casement and double-hung sash windows; and ceramic tile decoration.

Immokolee embodies Mediterranean Revival styling as expressed by an irregular plan, complex gable, hip, and shed roofs surfaced with barrel tile, loggias, balconies, and textured stucco exterior wall fabric. Small statuary niches, panels of imported tile, balconets, fountains, and ponds also create a rich ambiance. On the interior, contrasting materials include cypress doors and ceilings, bronze windows, plaster, oak floors, and ceramic tile.

Sited on a east/west axis, the house was planned to take advantage of the prevailing breezes, to provide a natural flow between rooms, and to secure natural light and ventilation. Rooms commonly open to three exposures. The design separates formal functions on the south from more informal areas on the north. Loggias, balconies, and large windows tend to blur the distinction between interior and exterior spaces. Narrow hallways, an assortment of unusual arched doors, and contrasts between floor levels and room sizes give the house visual interest. Immokolee is among the largest and best preserved examples of the Mediterranean Revival style in St. Lucie County.

FRANKLIND TYLER

Immokolee was built by Franklind Tyler of Fort Pierce. A native of Connecticut, he moved to Fort Pierce in 1922 and established a general contracting business. Nicknamed the "Yankee Whittler," Tyler became renowned for the decorative woodwork and carvings in many of the local houses he built.

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During the mid 1920s, he was associated with George Miller, a prominent Tampa contractor. In addition to his own home on Second Street in Fort Pierce, Tyler also designed and built several large houses along Indian River Drive and the Horton House near White City. Immokolee and "Florindia," the latter completed in 1931 for Edwin Binney, were among the largest residential projects built by Tyler.

CONCLUSION

"Immokolee" is significant as the home of Dorothy Palmer, who made important contributions to the social and cultural organizations of Fort Pierce. The house, completed in 1931, is one of the largest residential examples of the Mediterranean Revival style in St. Lucie County. The design, materials, and setting of the house create a unique sense of place.

The historic swimming pool, one of the oldest examples of its type in St. Lucie County and central Florida, also retains its architectural integrity. Beyond its architectural significance as an unique structure, the pool also has significance as a local recreation site for Dorothy's guests during the 1930s and military servicemen during World War II.

The thirty-four acre citrus grove is an important feature of The normal productive life span of an orange tree the property. is approximately 30-50 years. When trees become injured, diseased, or are for some reason not productive, they normally are replaced on an individual basis. When Dorothy Palmer's grandson acquired the property in 1982, the grove had sat unattended for several years and the aged trees were no longer bearing fruit. The family undertook the replanting of the citrus grove as part of the total restoration of the property. They wanted to maintain the function of the estate Dorothy had planned. Portions of the grove were replanted in 1987 and in the spring of 1994 (photo 32). The original vegetation intent, north/south row arrangement, and circulation system have been maintained. Although an irrigation system has been added, the original irrigation canals and ditches have been retained. The boundary vegetation planted by Dorothy is intact and consists primarily of oak trees and a bamboo windbreak (photo 33). The house in an orange grove that had been Dorothy Palmer's retreat remains a distinctive landmark in St. Lucie County.

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1. Immokolee, 8431 Immokolee Road, Fort Pierce 2. St. Lucie County, Florida 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. North elevation from entrance road, view looking south 7. Photo No. 1 of 34 Numbers 1-2 are the same for the remaining photographs. 3. Sally Chapman 4. May 1994 5. 8431 Immokolee Road, Fort Pierce, Fl. 6. Citrus grove, looking south from Immokolee Road 7. Photo No. 2 of 34 3. Sally Chapman 4. May 1994 5. 8431 Immokolee Road, Fort Pierce, Fl. 6. Citrus grove, view looking south from northeast area of grove 7. Photo No. 3 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Entrance loggia and balcony, facing southwest 7. Photo No. 4 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Detail, entrance loggia, east elevation; view looking southwest 7. Photo No. 5 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. North elevation, facing southeast 7. Photo No. 6 of 34

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3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. North elevation, facing southwest 7. Photo No. 7 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. East elevation, facing west 7. Photo No. 8 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Detail, east elevation, facing west 7. Photo No. 9 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. South elevation, view looking northwest 7. Photo No. 10 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. West Elevation, screen pool enclosure, facing east 7. Photo No. 11 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Interior, Reception Hall, facing southwest 7. Photo No. 12 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Interior, Music Room, facing west 7. Photo No. 13 of 34

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3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Interior, Music Room fireplace, looking south 7. Photo No. 14 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Interior, Captain's Cabin, facing southwest 7. Photo No. 15 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Interior, first floor, closet door mural in south bedroom; facing north 7. Photo No. 16 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Interior, first-story bathroom, facing northeast 7. Photo No. 17 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Interior, first floor, west bedroom; view looking north. 7. Photo No. 18 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Interior, dining room, facing northwest 7. Photo No. 19 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. First floor, service hall and stairs; view looking south 7. Photo No. 20 of 34

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Section number <u>Photo</u> Page <u>4</u>

3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Second-story porch and east balcony, view looking east 7. Photo No. 21 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Interior, second floor, door between master bedroom and porch; view looking northeast 7. Photo No. 22 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Interior, second floor, hall between sitting room and master bedroom, facing east 7. Photo No. 23 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1994 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Interior, second floor, hall between master bedroom and sitting room, facing west 7. Photo No. 24 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1994 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Door between second-story porch and north bedroom, looking northeast 7. Photo No. 25 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1994 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Interior, second-story north bedroom, looking northwest 7. Photo No. 26 of 34

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Section number <u>Photo</u> Page <u>5</u>

3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1994 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Interior, second floor, fireplace in den; view looking northeast 7. Photo No. 27 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1994 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Swimming pool, interior view, facing east 7. Photo No. 28 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Swimming Pool, oblique view, facing northwest 7. Photo No. 29 of 34 3. Sally Chapman 4. April 1994 5. 8431 Immokolee Road, Fort Pierce, Florida 6. Irrigation canal, south of swimming pool; view looking southeast. Recently replanted grove area in middle ground; south Bamboo wind screen in background 7. Photo No. 30 of 34 3. Sidney Johnston 4. 1993 5. Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, Florida 6. Storage building, facing northwest 7. Photo No. 31 of 34 3. Sally Chapman 4. May 1994 5. 8431 Immokolee Road, Fort Pierce, Florida 6. Citrus grove, view looking slightly southeast; older trees in background, newly planted trees in foreground 7. Photo No. 32 of 34

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- 3. Sally Chapman
- 4. May 1994
- 5. 8431 Immokolee Road, Fort Pierce, Florida
- 6. Citrus grove, view looking slightly southeast; newly planted trees in foreground, Bamboo and Oak wind screen in background
- 7. Photo No. 33 of 34
- 3. Sally Chapman
- 4. May 1994
- 5. 8431 Immokolee Road, Fort Pierce, Florida
- 6. Citrus grove, view looking southwest; newly planted trees in foreground, wind screen in background
- 7, Photo No. 34 of 34

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Verbal Boundary Description

Immokolee is located on the northeast 1/4 of the northwest 1/4 of Section 35, Township 34 South, Range 39 East, less the east 125 feet and less the north 25 feet, and also less the south 572.73 feet of the north 597.73 feet of the west 491.26 feet; and the south 567.73 feet of the north 597.73 feet of the east 331.26 feet of the west 491.26 feet of the northeast 1/4 of the northwest 1/4 of Section 35, Township 34 South, Range 39 East, St. Lucie County, Florida.

Boundary Justification

The boundary, indicated on the accompanying site plan by a dotted line, includes the residence, outbuildings and structures, and citrus fields that have historically been part of the Immokolee estate.

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Informants

Adams, Larry and Nancy, interview by Sidney Johnston, 1992.

Chapman, Sally, interviews by Sherry Piland, 1993 and 1994.

Horton, Benn. President of BBC Grove Service, Correspondence, 1994.

Terry, Jr., Bob, interview by Sidney Johnston, 1993.

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Armstrong, Frank. Fort Pierce Farms. Fort Pierce, 1910.

Blanding, Don. Floridays. New York: Dodd, Mead and Co., 1941.

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Manuscript Collections

Chapman Archives, Fort Pierce, Florida. John and Sally Chapman maintain a collection of appraisals, diaries, drawings, maps, newspapers, and photographs associated with the life of Dorothy Palmer, Sally's grandmother.

Public Documents and Records

Minute Books, County Commission, St. Lucie County.

Plat Books, Indian River Courthouse, Vero Beach, Florida.





