

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



791

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" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name LEWIS, W. HENRY HOUSE

other names/site number FMSF# PO2347

2. Location

street & number 424 North Oak Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Fort Meade N/A vicinity

state Florida code FL county Polk code 105 zip code 33841

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 / DSHPO 7/31/2012
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation
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 W. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 9.19.12

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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	1	structures
6	0	objects
9	1	total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

"N/A"

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls WOOD

roof METAL
other GLASS (beveled and leaded)

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

1901

Significant Dates

1901

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number

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1

**W. HENRY LEWIS HOUSE, FORT
MEADE, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**

SUMMARY

The W. Henry Lewis house is located at 424 North Oak Avenue, in Fort Meade, Polk County, Florida. The wooden two-story Queen Anne Style house is built on brick piers, has an irregular footprint, and was built in 1901. A square hip main roof has second-story gable extensions on the north, east, and south elevations. The main entrance consists of two single doors centered on the east elevation. The entrance is reached off of a first-story shed/hip roofed verandah that extends across the east façade, and wraps onto the north and south elevations. The verandah roof is supported by pairs of Tuscan Styled columns. The exterior has horizontal wooden siding, and windows are filled with 1/1 double-hung wooden sashes. The home is built entirely of cypress wood. It encloses over 10,000 square feet under a 7,000 square foot roof and has 42 windows, and 60 doors.

Included on the property is an unpaved driveway on the north side of the house, and a concrete walkway to the main/east entrances. A circular water pond, probably an earlier fountain, is located within a ring of shrubs to the northeast of the corner of the house. A concrete pad remains to the south of the house which is all that remains of a garage. Six square entry defining bollards are along to west side of the property, marking the driveway, the walk up to the main entrance, the unused drive to the porte-cochere, and at the southeast corner of the property. A historic storage building is located near the northeast side of the house.

SETTING

Fort Meade is laid out on a rectangular grid with the main north/south corridor being State Highway 17/98 running three blocks west of the Lewis House. The block that the Lewis House is on is the second block north of Third Street. Third Street is the northern boundary of an existing National Register Fort Meade Historic District. The geography of the district is flat with straight paved neighborhood streets, spacious residential lawns, and varieties of mature trees across the landscape. The Lewis House is located at the southeast corner of Oak Avenue and 5th Street, and the property occupied roughly half of its block #24. The lawn covered lot contains mature oaks trees on all sides, including a mature magnolia to the north, and denser growth on the east/rear side of the house (Photo #1). An unpaved driveway extends from the southwest corner of the lot to the south elevation of

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the house. A straight concrete walk extends from the public sidewalk on Oak Avenue to the porch on the façade of the Lewis House. A concrete pad exists to the north of the house where a non-historic, (1984) garage used to be (Photo #2). Short square masonry bollards mark the entry to the access sidewalk, the drive to the porte-cochere, the current drive to the south, and the northwest corner of the lot (Photo #3).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The frame house has horizontal siding, a complex metal hip and gable roof, windows with 1/1 double-hung original wooden sashes, and two brick chimneys, one external and one internal. Large molded hand rails with turned balusters are located on all porches and the balcony.

The west/main façade of the house is symmetrically arranged with a shed roofed verandah spanning the first story, with six pairs of Tuscan columns supporting the roof (Photo #4). Two single wooden doors with large beveled oval glass, and stained glass transoms, are centrally located on the porch (Photo #5). The wooden porch is accessed by six concrete steps with large brick knee-walls. Large single windows flank the two entrances. The paired Tuscan columns are raised on brick pedestals. The north end of the verandah is screened in.

The second story of the façade has a central gable pediment extending from a hip roof, and supported by pairs of columns on either corner (Photo #6). The pediment shelters a balcony that is accessed by a single door in the west wall that repeats the use of oval glass and transoms on the first story. Flanking the balcony are single windows. The pediment has cornice returns, sculpted bargeboards, spindle work, and a small central window flanked by rectangular louvered vents (Photo #7). The main roof of the house exhibits enclosed, corniced eaves.

The south elevation of the house is accessed by the driveway, and includes an entrance through a pair of French doors off of the first-story verandah, and an entrance into a kitchen wing from a gable roofed brick porch to the east (Photo #8). The main hip roof has a second-story gable extension at the northeast corner with an exterior brick chimney at the west corner of this extension that pierces the cornice return (Photo #9). The extension

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contains two single windows, cornice returns, and sculpted bargeboards, spindle-work, and a small window flanked by rectangular louvered vents within the gable. A window with a pair of single sashes is in the main-block elevation of the second story. The first-story of the extension has one window composed of three sashes. The first-story verandah with its hip shed roof spans from the northwest corner to the gable extension (Photo #10). The shed roof is supported by three pairs of Tuscan columns. Concrete steps rise to a screened door onto the verandah which is screen enclosed to the west corner. The side of the second-story, west elevation gable extension and balcony is visible to the west. A one-story gable extension is on the east side, and set back from the gable extension. At the connection of the main building block and the one-story east extension is a single door accessed by a brick porch, sheltered by a gable portico, supported by two Tuscan columns (Photo #11). Steps rise to the porch from the east side. The one-story elevation has two windows, one with a pair of wooden sashes, and the second with a single sash.

The east elevation is the rear of the house. A one-story gable extension for the kitchen is at the south corner, with a cornice return on the south and a shed extension to the north (Photo #12). Centered in the gable is a small window, and directly below it is a regular sized single window. A window composed of three sashes is within the shed portion. A one-story shed and hipped roofed portion is aligned with this extension's wall, and runs to the north corner. A single door is located at the junction of the two one-story portions. To the north of the door and filling this wall are two windows. One window contains three sashes, and the one to the north contains two sashes. At the north corner of the second story is a gable extension. The gable has a single window and cornice returns. In the wall of the second story extension is an enlarged window at the south edge. The second story wall above the one-story gable extension has two small single windows and a single regular sized window.

The north elevation has a one-story gable roofed porte-cochere connected to the house a little west of center (Photo #13). The porte-cochere roof is supported by three square brick columns on brick pedestals at each corner. The first-story verandah wraps onto the north elevation and extends half-way through the porte-cochere. A short set of stairs between ground and verandah is located there (Photo #14). A one-story exterior wall with a shed roof extends from half-way through to the porte-cochere to the northeast corner. A pair of small sashes fills a window under the porte-cochere, and a window containing three sashes,

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and a single window fill the rest of this wall. The elevation also has a gable on the main roof that also contains cornice returns, bargeboards, spindle-work, and a single window flanked with louvered vents, as in the other gables.

Interior

The two single main entry doors on the west façade enter the parlor to the south, and the living room on the north (Photo #15). The walls are plaster, the floors are hard wood, and both rooms have picture rails. The living room has a fireplace with a wooden surround with an arched top beveled mirror over the mantel in the east wall (Photo #16). Two paneled wooden doors on the north wall access a bathroom (Photo #17), and a family room to the east. A broad opening between the living room and parlor is defined by elaborate wood work that includes two round columns mounted on squared wooden pedestals (Photo #18). The top of the opening forms an elliptical arch. The parlor has another arched entrance that opens to the east into the dining room (Photo #19). The entrance opening has the same elaborate wood work as between the parlor and living rooms. The dining room also has picture rails, and to the east has a pair of French doors in the south wall that open onto the verandah (Photo #20). A door in the northeast corner of the room accesses the kitchen, and a door in the northwest corner of the room accesses the hall to the north. The kitchen retains its original counter arrangement and cabinets (Photo #21). The sink is against the south wall, and most cabinets are against the east wall. A door in the north wall accesses a sitting room, a laundry, storage, and bathroom. To the north of the dining room is a hallway that includes the landing of a stairway to the second floor (Photo #22). Also off the hall is a family room (Photo #23).

The second story has a landing and central hallway that runs east/west with a door onto the balcony at the west end (Photo #24). A bathroom is to the south off the hall (Photo #25). A bedroom is in the southwest corner, and the master bedroom is in the northwest corner (Photo #26).

OTHER RESOURCES

In the western lawn, to the southwest of the corner of the house, is a circular concrete water pond surrounded by a circular hedge (Photo #27). It is assumed that the pond

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historically was a fountain because of the water-source pipe at its center. East of the house is a rectangular wooden storage building with a gable metal roof and horizontal siding (Photo #28). A single door is in the south elevation of the storage building.

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Section number 8 Page 1 **W. HENRY LEWIS HOUSE, FORT MEADE,
POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**

SUMMARY

The W. Henry Lewis House is nominated to the National Register under Criterion C for local significance in the area of Architecture. Built in 1901, the two-story wooden Queen Anne Style home is an excellent example of the style. The house retains a very high level of historic physical integrity.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The 1849 Seminole War fort named Fort Meade was named after the United States Army Captain George Gordon Meade, later famous for his role at the Battle of Gettysburg in the American Civil War. In 1849, Meade was in Central Florida, selecting a military route between Tampa and Fort Pierce. The fort, a collection of buildings on the west bank of the Peace River, was a major link between Tampa and interior Florida, and points east and south. A few settlers homesteaded near the fort in the early 1850s. By late 1850, the military abandoned their presence as government surveyors laid out tracts of land. The final plat was done in August of 1856. In 1855, a school was ordered by the county. Voting was needed for county elections, and law enforcement was established. From late 1855 till 1858, the Billy Bowlegs Seminole War was waged in the area, requiring a renewed military presence and government funds helped boost settlement. A result of the war was that Fort Meade was the first interior town in South Florida. By 1860, 400 settlers lived in the vicinity. There was a general store; a large steam saw mill, and a post office.

Raising cattle had been an economic mainstay across the prairies of Central Florida since Florida's Territorial Period, and Fort Meade became a staging area for supplying the Confederate army with beef during the Civil War. The war left many local Confederate soldiers dead, many animosities, and the heart of the community burned to the ground. In 1867, the International Ocean Telegraph Company chose a route through Fort Meade for their line between New York City and Havana, Cuba. The route was accompanied with a service road that in time became known as Broadway, the major commercial corridor through town. The cattle business in South Florida expanded distribution to Savannah, Georgia, and New York, and distribution to Cuba expanded greatly throughout the 1870s. The trade to Cuba, which was paid for in gold, provided cash into the South Florida economy, a rarity up until that time. Fort Meade's commerce expanded, and investments

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in land sales grew.¹ In the late 1870s into the 1880s, land speculation and subdivision development pushed settlement westward from the Peace River, the first fort area, to an area around second fort area from the Billy Bowlegs War. This western development resulted in the layout of the city present today. The Town of Fort Meade, a four-mile by four-mile square, was incorporated in January 1885.²

W. Henry Lewis is mentioned twice in historian Cantor Brown's book about Fort Meade. Lewis arrived in the town in 1883, and from 1890 to 1891 served as a town alderman.³ Lewis had been a successful cattleman working around the Kissimmee River since 1858. He remained in the cattle business and in later years also raised citrus.⁴

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The Queen Anne Style was a popular residential style favored by the affluent from 1880 to 1910. The name Queen Anne is misleading, for the style derived from earlier Jacobean and Elizabethan precedents rather than the more restrained Renaissance architecture associated with the reign of Queen Anne (1702-1714). Richard Norman Shaw, an English architect, is credited for developing the style for grand manor houses in the 1860s. One of the first American examples was the Sherman House in Newport, Rhode Island, designed by H.H. Richardson in 1874. The American Architect and Building News architecture journal featured early models and disseminated the style. Typically expansive in scale, in the early 20th century, the buildings were too large for America's diminishing family size. About 1900, a variety of other styles, primarily Colonial Revival and Prairie, eclipsed the Queen Anne Style.⁵ The popularity of the style went through roughly three stages. The

¹ Canter Brown, *Fort Meade: 1849-1900*, Tuscaloosa, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1995, p.1-59.

² Ibid., p.100-104.

³ Ibid. p.85 & 167.

⁴ W. Henry Lewis House, Florida Master Site File, #PO245.

⁵ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986, p.268.

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early stage being the stately Elizabethan, the middle stage more Jacobean with towers and turrets, and the later with classical elements of columns and Palladian windows.⁶

The Queen Anne Style has a vertical emphasis through the use of steeply pitched roofs with gable extensions and multiple wall surfaces. Wall texture variations are provided with exterior fabrics ranging from brick, rough-face block, or stone, to various wood shingles and sidings. Bay extensions and towers often protrude from a corner of the house. Decorative truss work and patterned shingles adorn gable ends. Verandas are embellished with turned posts, spindle work, and decorative brackets. Later models often have Colonial Revival details including Palladian windows, round columns with classical capitals supporting porches. Double-hung sash windows often have with multi-light patterns, and corbelled brick chimneys extend far above the roof.⁷

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The W. Henry Lewis House is a distinctive variation on the Queen Anne Style of architecture in that the main façade shows the influence of Colonial Revival formalism with its symmetrical design, and use of round Tuscan columns. The house is an excellent example of the later stage of the style. A first-story verandah is prominent, spanning the west/façade and wraps portions of the north and south elevations. The broad horizontal verandah weighs the house to the ground, however, in keeping with the style's emphasis on verticality, the steep pitch of the main hip roof and pitch of the second-story gable extension, along with pairs of columns on the corners of the gable aligned with pairs of columns flanking the first-story entrance, provides a strong sense of verticality at the second story. The irregularity of all elevations with multiple walls and gable extensions is in keeping with the style. The use of ornamental wood work is restrained compared to many Queen Anne homes, but spindle-work balusters used with hand rails, and spindle-work in all peaks of the gables along with sculpted bargeboards are hallmarks of the style. Windows, doors, and vents have molded heads that resemble cornices, and jams have small sculpted elements consisting of horizontal molding. The formal public rooms of

⁶ Renee Kahn, "The Queen Anne Style," *The Old-House Journal*, Vol. 5, No. 1, January 1977, p.1.

⁷ Virginia and Lee McAlester, P.263-268.

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Section number 8 Page 4 **W. HENRY LEWIS HOUSE, FORT MEADE,
POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**

parlor and living room at the main entrances to the house have prominent woodworked entries with arches between these rooms, and the dining room. These arched openings supported by columns mounted on pedestals, and flanked by narrow openings are known as Serlianas after the 16th century Italian architect Sebastiano Serlio.⁸ The glass within main doors is beveled, as well as beveled mirrors over the fireplaces. Leaded colored glass transoms are at the main façade entrances.

The quality of workmanship is high throughout the house, and the owner has retained all original materials in the course of repair and maintenance. This includes repairs of all original windows, and repair and coating of the historic metal roofing. The level of historic physical integrity is very high.

⁸ Francis D.K. Ching, *A Visual Dictionary of Architecture*, New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1997, P.274.

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Ching, Francis D.K., A Visual Dictionary of Architecture, New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1997.

“Fort Meade Historic District,” Florida Master Site File #PO4791.

Kahn, Renee, “The Queen Anne Style,” The Old-House Journal, Vol.5, No.1, January 1977.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986.

“W. Henry Lewis House,” Florida Master Site File #PO245.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Hooker & Robinsons Add DB 1 Pg 217 & DB L Pg 438 Blk 24 Lots 1 thru 4 Less S 125 Ft of 3 & Less S 150 Ft of Lot 4 & Less E 93 Ft of N 107 Ft of Lot 1 & Less E 100 Ft of S 85 Ft of Lot 1 & Less E 100 Ft of N 42 Ft Lot 4.

Parcel #25-31-27-456500-024011

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is historically associated with the W. Henry Lewis House.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST

1. 424 North Oak Street, Fort Meade
2. Polk County, Florida
3. Errol Gifford
4. December 2011
5. Lewis House on its lot, looking east
6. Photo #1 of 28

Items 1 – 4 are the same for the remaining photographs.

5. Concrete slab, looking north
6. Photo #2 of 28

5. Entry marker bollards, looking east
6. Photo #3 of 28

5. Main, west façade, looking east
6. Photo #4 of 28

5. Main entrance, owner and children, looking east
6. Photo #5 of 28

5. Second story balcony on façade, looking northeast
6. Photo #6 of 28

5. Balcony gable on main façade, looking east
6. Photo #7 of 28

5. South and west elevations, driveway, looking northeast
6. Photo #8 of 28

5. South elevation, looking north
6. Photo #9 of 28

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- 5. Verandah, north elevation, looking east
- 6. Photo #10 of 28

- 5. Southeast corner and kitchen porch, looking northwest
- 6. Photo #11 of 28

- 5. East elevation, looking west
- 6. Photo #12 of 28

- 5. West and north elevations, looking southeast
- 6. Photo #13 of 28

- 5. North elevation and porte-cochere, looking southeast
- 6. Photo #14 of 28

- 5. Interior main doors, looking west
- 6. Photo #15 of 28

- 5. Living room, looking north
- 6. Photo #16 of 28

- 5. Bathroom off of family room, looking west
- 6. Photo #17 of 28

- 5. Parlor, looking northwest
- 6. Photo #18 of 28

- 5. Dining room and sirliana, in parlor looking east
- 6. Photo #19 of 28

- 5. Dining room, looking south
- 6. Photo #20 of 28

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-
5. Kitchen, looking east
 6. Photo #21 of 28

 5. First floor stairway and hall, looking east
 6. Photo #22 of 28

 5. Family room off of hall, looking north
 6. Photo #23 of 28

 5. Second floor hall, looking west
 6. Photo #24 of 28

 5. Second floor bathroom, looking east
 6. Photo #25 of 28

 5. Main bedroom, looking southeast
 6. Photo #26 of 28

 5. Circular pond in front lawn, looking north
 6. Photo #27 of 28

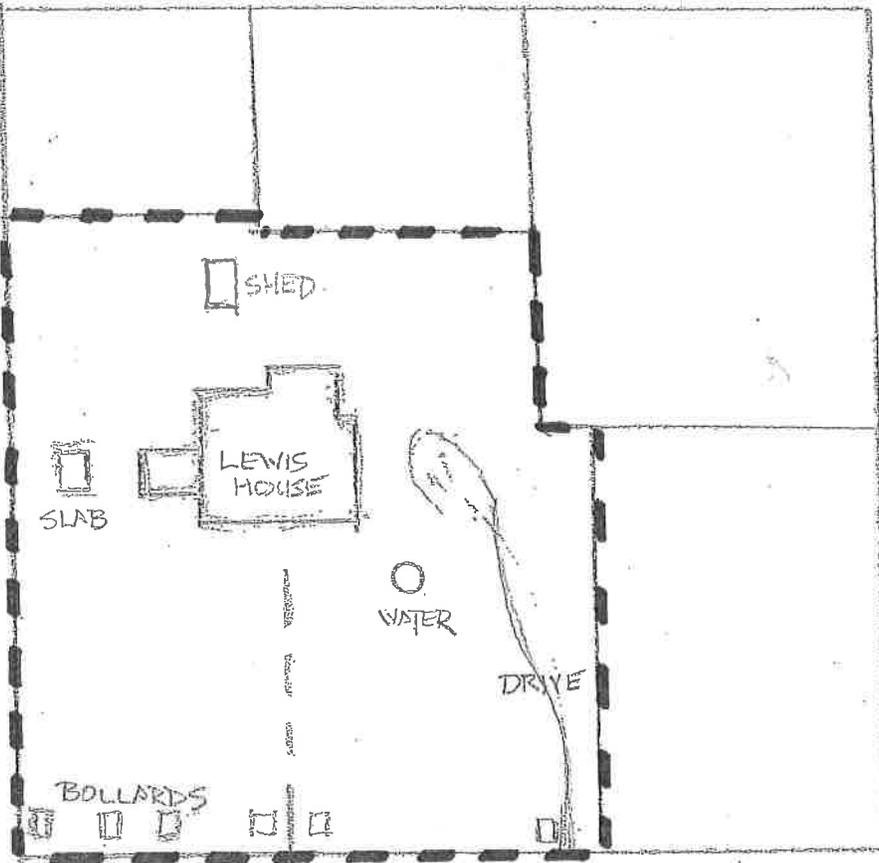
 5. Storage building, looking northwest
 6. Photo #28 of 28



W. HENRY LEWIS HOUSE
 Fort Meade, Polk County,
 Florida
LOCATOR MAP

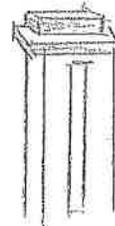
CLEVELAND AVE N

5th St NE



4th St NE

OAK AVE NE



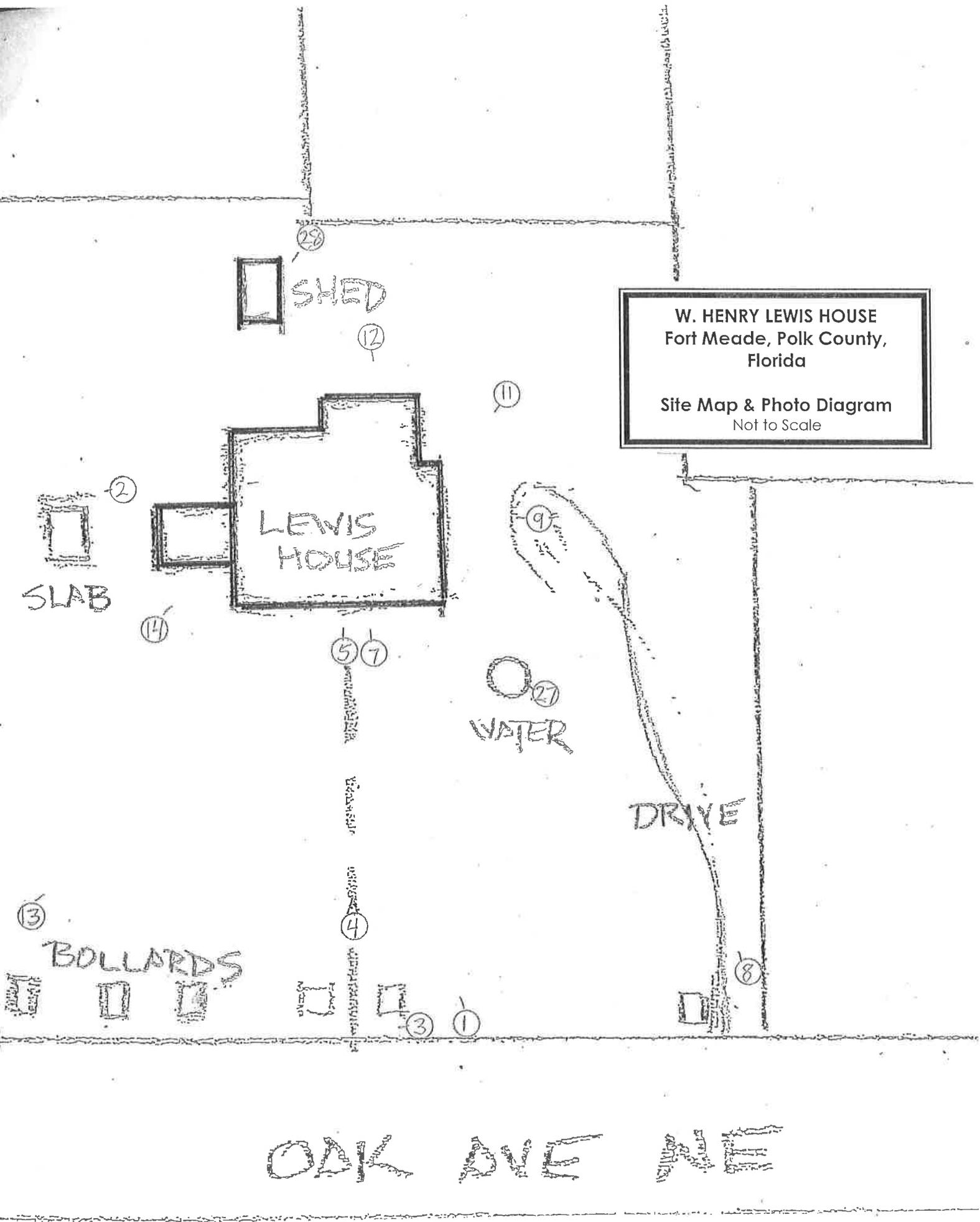
ENTRY BOLLARD



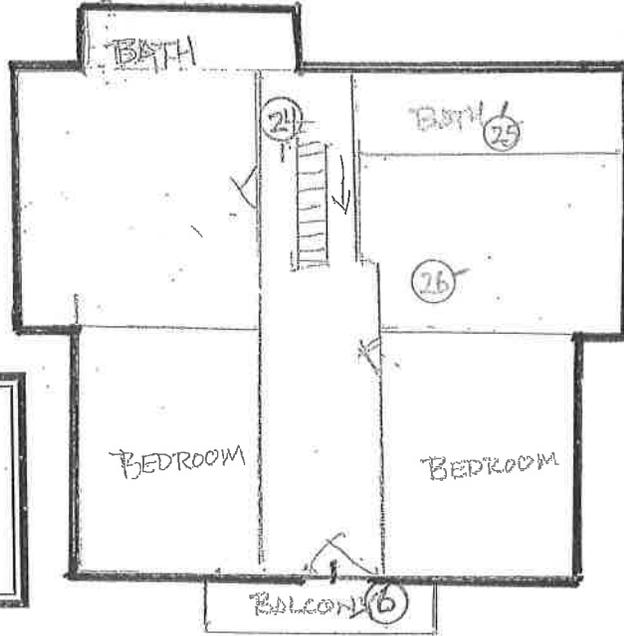
W. HENRY LEWIS HOUSE
Fort Meade, Polk County,
Florida

SITE MAP

W. HENRY LEWIS HOUSE
Fort Meade, Polk County,
Florida
Site Map & Photo Diagram
Not to Scale

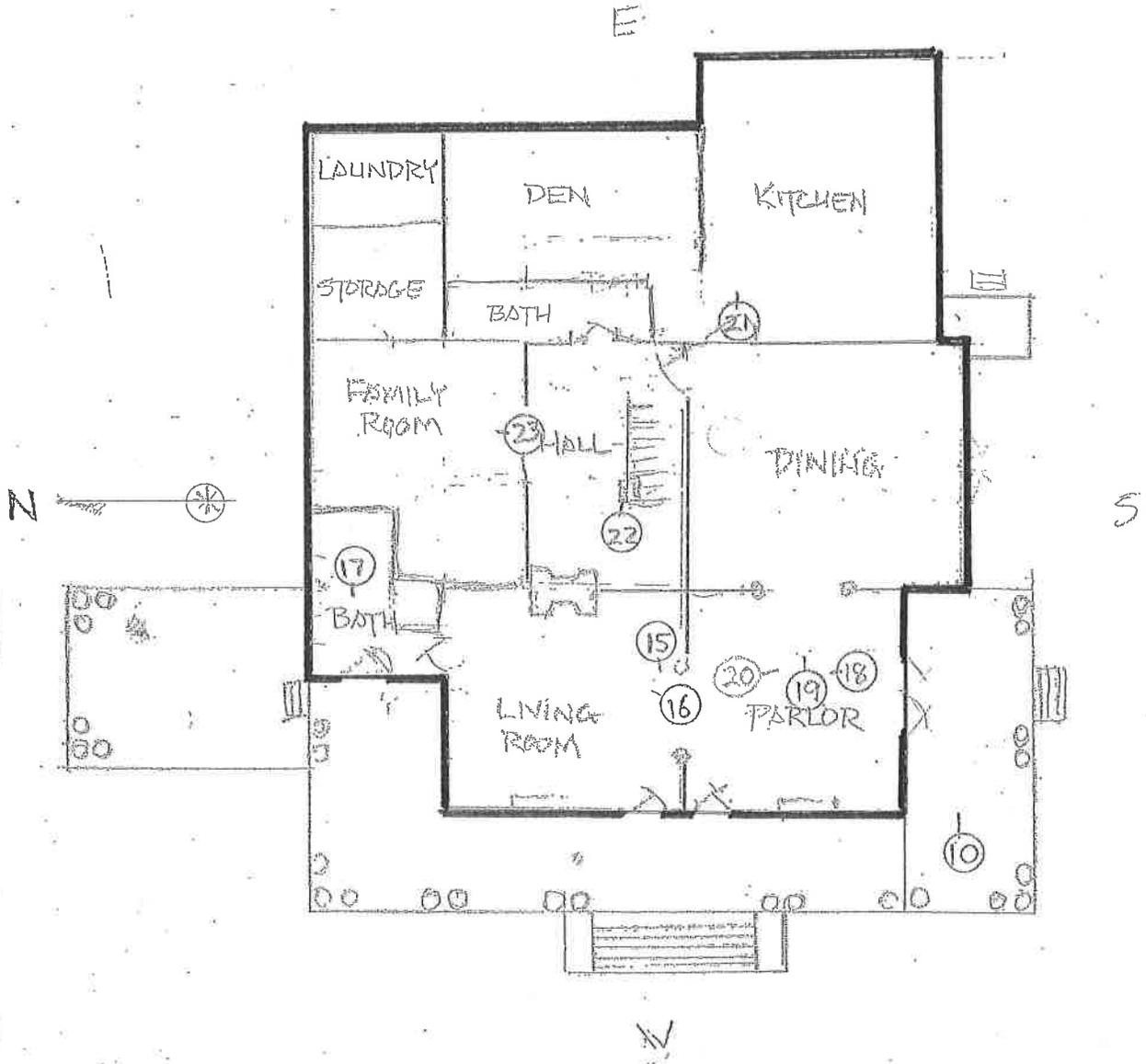


2ND FLOOR



W. HENRY LEWIS HOUSE
Fort Meade, Polk County, Florida

Floor Plan & Photo Diagram
Not to Scale













MAIL



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