

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SURVEY
OF MELROSE, FLORIDA

Prepared for the
Town of Melrose
and
Historic Melrose, Inc.

by

Murray D. Laurie
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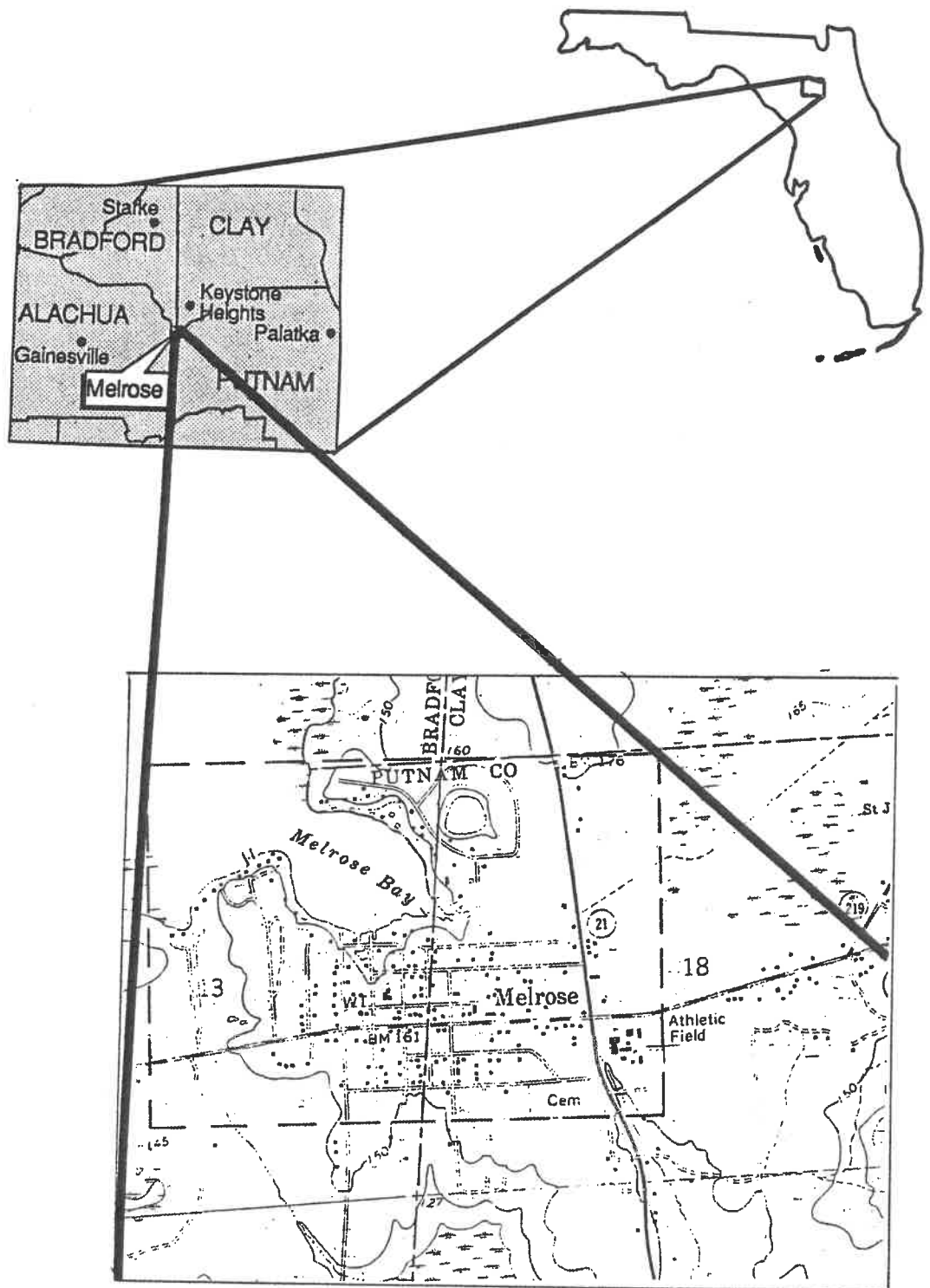
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INTRODUCTION

In 1966, the United States Congress passed the National Historic Preservation Act which established the National Register of Historic Places. The Act provided for the designation of State Historic Preservation Officers responsible for the implementation of the National Register program within each state and the identification of statewide historic, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources. Review Boards were created within each state and charged with the responsibility of reviewing the National Register nominations. In Florida the Division of Historical Resources (formerly the Division of Archives, History, and Records Management) serves as the staff for the State Historic Preservation Officer, administers the National Register program, distributes federal and state grants-in-aid for preservation projects, and performs other duties associated with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and subsequent supplementary federal and state preservation legislation.

In order to assess potential National Register sites and to plan for their preservation, the Division of Historical Resources has developed the Florida Master Site File. The File is a compilation of historical and graphic data relevant to sites in Florida which is used as a planning tool for the assessment of sites affected by state and federally funded projects over which DHR has powers of review. The File is also a local planning tool in that designated sites may be included in the preservation elements of comprehensive plans.

The residents of the Town of Melrose have recognized that preserving the cultural resources of the community is important and have determined that a professionally documented and compiled inventory of architectural and historical resources is necessary if preservation decisions are to be based on reliable data. Historic sites should not be selected on the basis of arbitrary decisions, but on established criteria and documentation. Long-range planning activities can utilize the inventory to identify sites and/or districts requiring protection from future threats. No previous comprehensive inventory of historic, archaeological, or architectural sites in Melrose exists, although a few individual sites have been included in the Florida Master Site File and one building, the Melrose Women's Club, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.¹



LOCATION OF THE SURVEY AREA



BAY VIEW -- BUILT 1877



THE DARLINGTON HOUSE -- BUILT 1885

Funding

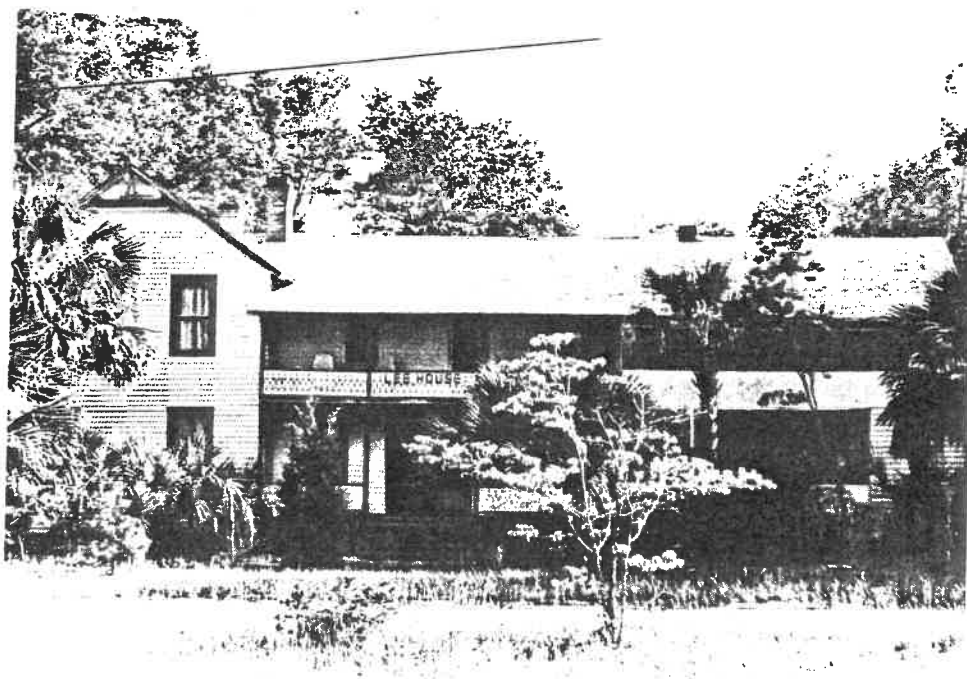
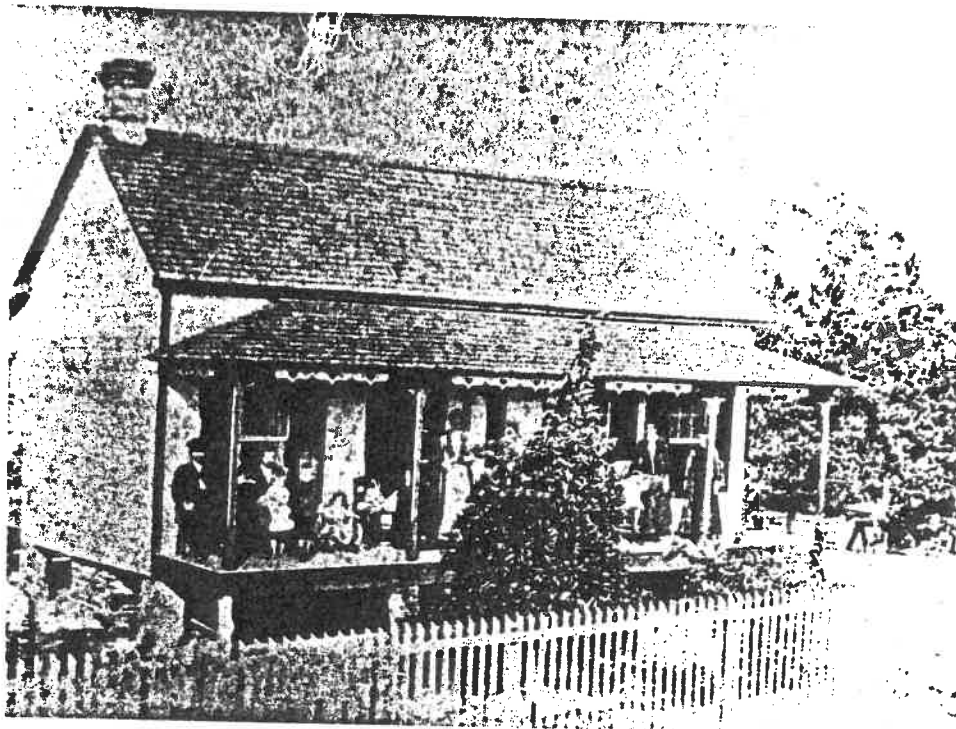
In 1988 Historic Melrose, Inc. received a preservation planning grant-in-aid from the Division of Historical Resources to conduct a survey of the original town site of Melrose and its environs and to nominate the Melrose Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. Acting as the preservation action organization for the unincorporated Town of Melrose, HMI chose a historic preservation consultant with a graduate degree in history to conduct the survey and prepare the nomination. Volunteers assisted the consultant in compiling historical background, recording architectural information, and photographing sites.

In applying for the planning and survey grant-in-aid, Historic Melrose, Inc. noted that Melrose reflects a mixture of early Florida tourism; expressive and varied architecture of the Gilded Age; maritime interests; and the commercial, agricultural and horticultural, extractive, and transportation enterprises of nineteenth century North Central Florida. The devastating freezes of the 1890s depressed the area, but the built environment which reflects turn-of-the-century life and culture in Melrose survived. Within the town and around Melrose Bay are many highly individual homes built by affluent Northern winter residents and local families between the 1870s and the turn of the century. The Melrose Historic District is compact, contiguous, and relatively homogeneous. It is also, like many other small towns near larger urban centers, the target of ill-conceived development schemes and speculation fueled by rising land values. The survey and inventory described in this report is intended to help focus public attention on the need for preserving the tangible symbols of Melrose's past and defending its fragile cultural heritage.

Methods

The survey began in April and continued over a period of five months. The consultant compiled a bibliography of materials pertaining to the history of Melrose by researching the collections of libraries in Melrose, in the city of Gainesville, and at the University of Florida. Residents of Melrose helped locate other materials and provided useful background information in oral interviews. A chronology of events was prepared and individuals significant in the history of the town were identified. A preliminary narrative was prepared to support the field study and to provide a context for evaluating the significance of the individual properties.

Volunteers assisted the consultant with a block-by-block identification of sites thought to have potential significance. Although the survey was concentrated in the 30 blocks platted in



WILLIAM LEE HOUSE
BEFORE AND AFTER ADDITIONS

1877 as the town of Melrose, vernacular structures lying outside the original town were also inventoried.

Regular workshops were held to discuss architectural styles and features and to share historical information on the individual structures. As a general rule, only buildings constructed before 1938 were considered to be significant. The survey recorded all noncontributing structures within the tentative boundaries of the district, but Florida Master Site File forms were prepared only for those structures which were felt to have some architectural or historical significance. The consultant prepared the forms, attaching a photograph and map to each.

Approximately eighty sites were recorded on FMSF forms, most of them structures. Not all will be included in the historic district. The amount of information available for each site varied considerably. In some cases documentation suffered from lack of specific historical background; in other cases, a great deal of reliable information was located.

Historiography

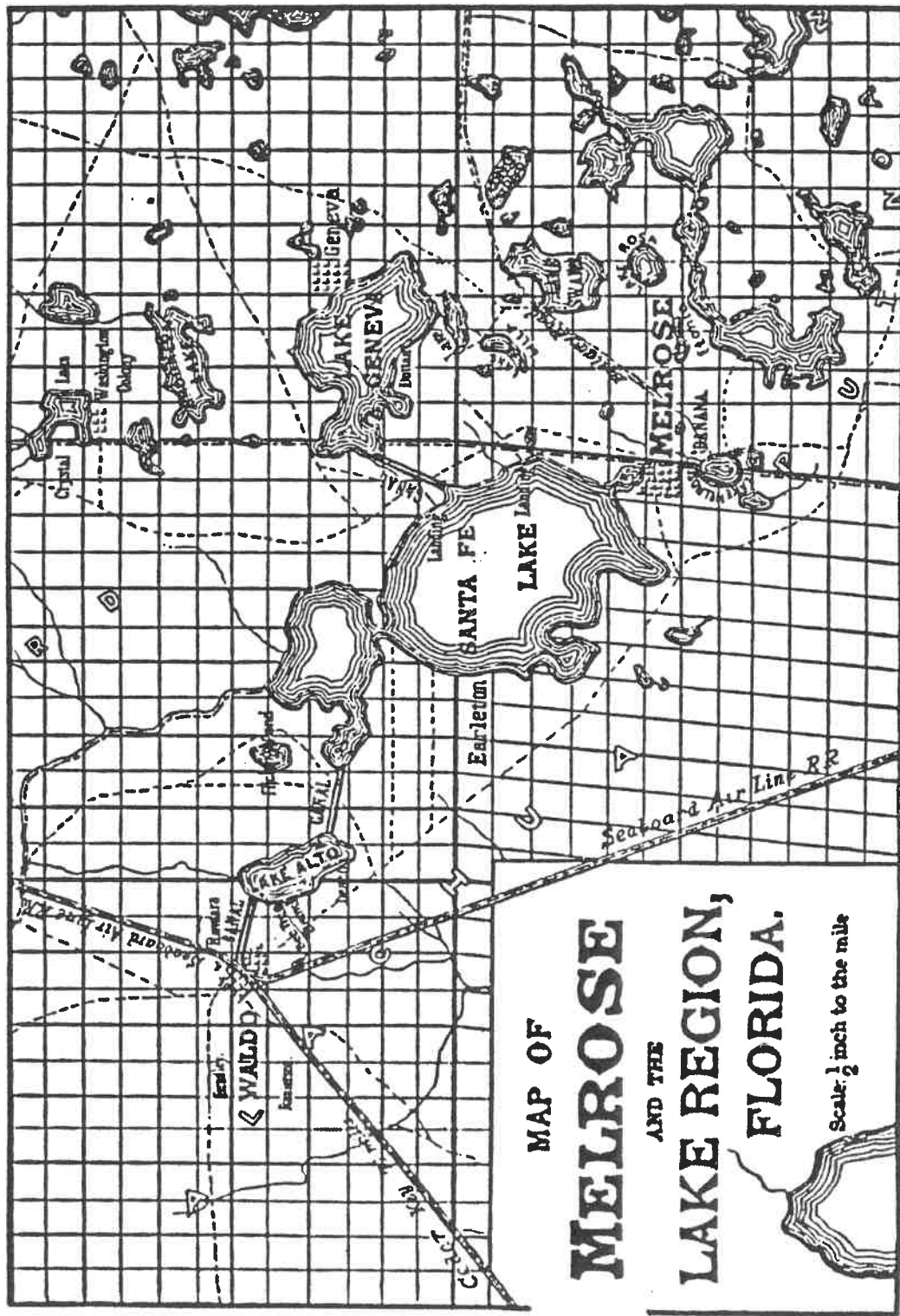
Melrose is fortunate to have a dedicated historian in Zonira Hunter Tolles, who has published two parts of a trilogy of the history of Melrose, Shadows On The Sand and Bonnie Melrose. They have been a rich source of information about people and places in the Melrose area.

Kennie Lambdin Howard published her reminiscences of a childhood spent in Melrose in Yesterdays In Florida which gives a lively picture of daily life in the late nineteenth century. The River Flows North: A History of Putnam County by Brian Michaels was valuable for information on Putnam County. For Alachua County, F. W. Buchholz' History of Alachua County, Florida was consulted. Melrose in the 1880s is described by Carl Webber in Eden of The South.

The collection of the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History at the University of Florida yielded some materials in the form of church and women's club papers, clippings, photographs, maps, and letters dating from the 1880s and 1890s. The Melrose Public Library also provided copies of some interesting manuscripts. Mr. Joe Daurer, who took the photographs included on the Site File forms and in this report, has an extensive collection of historic photographs, and these were placed at our disposal.

Personal interviews were a useful additional source of specific and general information on Melrose.

The following historical and cultural background of Melrose is based on the sources outlined above.



EARLY MAP OF THE MELROSE VICINITY, ca 1900

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF MELROSE

Physical Setting

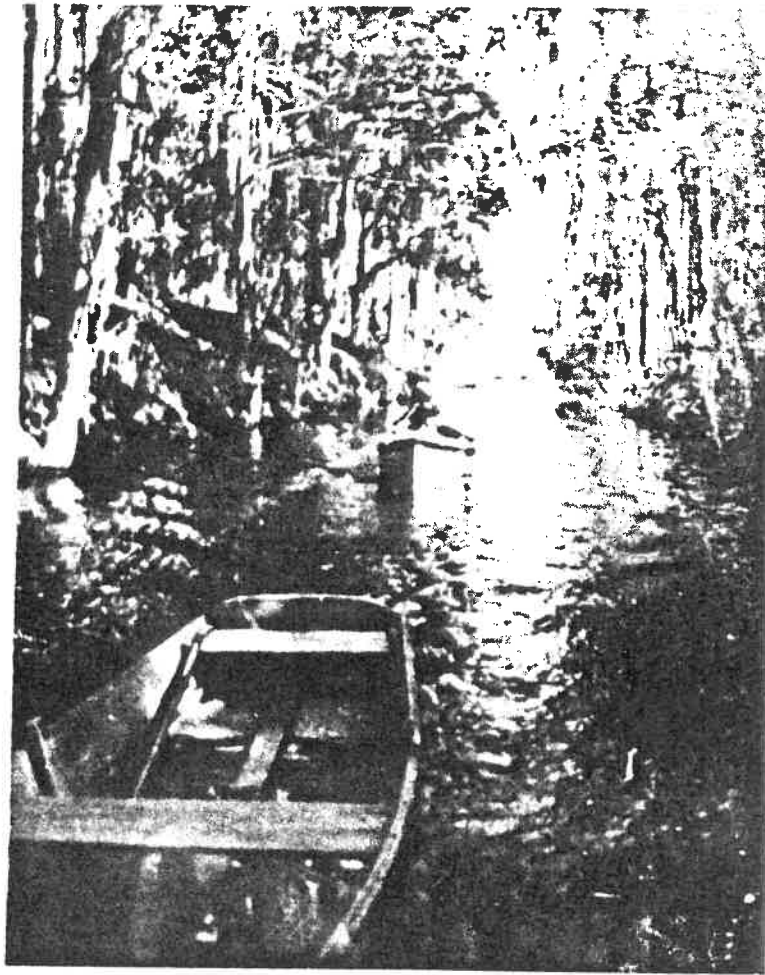
Melrose is located in north central Florida, fifty-five miles southwest of Jacksonville and twenty miles east of Gainesville, where four counties join boundaries, a geographical and political situation which somewhat complicates research. Most of the town (and all of the original town platted in 1877) is located south of Melrose Bay, a small body of water which is part of the larger Lake Santa Fe, which lies in Alachua County. The line between Alachua County and Putnam County to the east runs through the center of Melrose, from north to south at a slight diagonal. The homes situated north of Melrose Bay are in Putnam County. Just north of Melrose and the Putnam County line, the southwest corner of Clay County and the southeast corner of Bradford County meet.

Melrose is in Florida's "Lake Region." The water-oriented life-style is in strong evidence, and this has been true for over one hundred years. It was by water that one first approached Melrose in the 1870s and 1880s, before a small railroad linked the town for a short time to Green Cove Springs on the St. John's River. Within a fifteen mile radius of Melrose dozens of lakes and ponds can be found. Fine fishing drew many of the first tourists to the area, and boating and fishing are still important attractions.

The land is level, with occasional sinkholes, swampy areas, and small streams. Pine woods and oak hammocks covered the land, with cypress growing at the edge of lakes, but much of the virgin forest was cut in the 1850s and 1860s for the principal crop in the pre-Civil War economy, Sea Island cotton. However, citrus became important during Reconstruction and the Post-Reconstruction period when Melrose first developed. The climate is generally moderate, but the occasional severe freezes have all but eliminated citrus culture.

History and Development of Melrose

Melrose was isolated from the mainstream of Florida's development by lack of good roads and rail links. When a canal between Lake Alto and Little Lake Santa Fe was completed in 1881, small steamboats could carry passengers and freight from Waldo, on the Florida Central and Peninsular Railroad, to Melrose.² The



SANTA FE CANAL -- PHOTOGRAPH ca 1920



MELROSE BAY, 1988

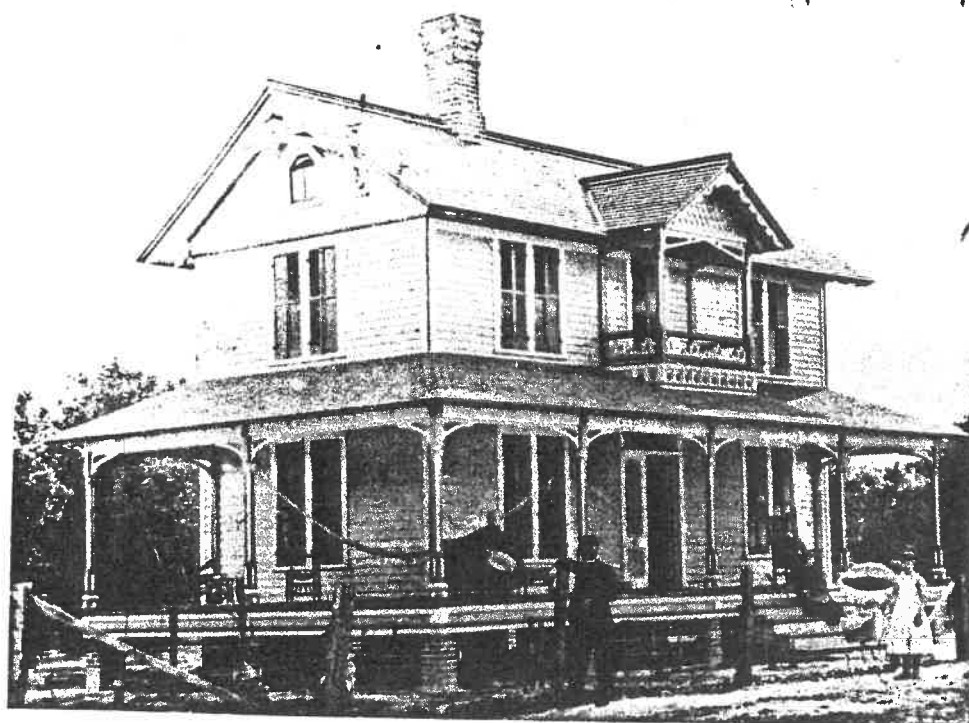
people who came to winter in Melrose went to a considerable amount of trouble to reach their destination; they valued the out-of-the-way location and tranquil beauty, for many of them eventually built homes and returned each winter.

This is not to suggest that the travelers who came to Melrose in the 1880s were the first to settle in the area. The fertile land and game-rich woods had supported native-Americans for centuries. Archaeological investigations have revealed artifacts and village sites; it is likely that further exploration would be worthwhile.³ If Spanish soldiers or English traders passed through Melrose, they left no lasting trace. By 1823 Florida was a Territory of the United States, and the scattered settlers petitioned for a public road to link St. Augustine to Pensacola. Surveyors described the vicinity of Melrose as "an uninhabited Wilderness, except a few Indian villages . . . large and impassable Swamps and lakes will render the passage of the mail . . . impracticable."⁴ However, a route for the state's first federally funded road named for the main contractor, John Bellamy, was selected to pass south of Lake Santa Fe and is still commemorated by the alternate name of State Road 26, the main east-west road through Melrose, Bellamy Avenue. But settlement patterns shifted north and west of this route and it was little used except for local traffic.⁵

There were only a few scattered farming families in the area throughout the 1850s, as indicated by census and post office records. The settlement called Banana about one mile southeast of the present town was the site of a grist mill.⁶ The Florida Railroad from Fernandina to Cedar Key passed to the west, but the Melrose area was virtually untouched by the new transportation system. The 1860s brought war and disruption to all peaceful progress in Florida. During the Civil War there were some raids on local plantations by federal troops, and the Orange Springs road which ran north and south close to the present State Route 21 became a contraband route as supplies were routed northward.⁷

It was not until the late 1870s that Melrose began to develop. In fact, most of Florida was an economic backwater until the 1880s, a thinly populated frontier, slowly trying to recover from the devastation of the war years.⁸

Until this time, the Lewis cotton fields spread across the future town site, and folks gathered from time to time at the intersection of the old Bellamy Road and the Orange Springs Road for informal horse races. The site was called Shake Rag Corner because the starter shook a rag to begin each race.⁹ Alex Goodson bought up much of this land and with his neighbors and partners, Meredith Granger and Isaac Weston, had a 30-block parcel south of Melrose Bay surveyed in 1877 by William L. Sims (or Simms). The plats were recorded in the courthouses of Alachua, Bradford, Clay, and Putnam counties.⁹ Melrose



TOLLES HOUSE -- MONTCLARE COTTAGE
 BELLAMY AVENUE
 THEN AND NOW

"consisted of a saw mill, a half dozen frame shanties, and several log cabins."¹⁰ Goodson anticipated a proper town, however, for he set aside two town squares in the center of Melrose, where later a park, the town hall, fire station, and post office were located. Many of the first purchasers of town lots were already established residents of the area.¹¹

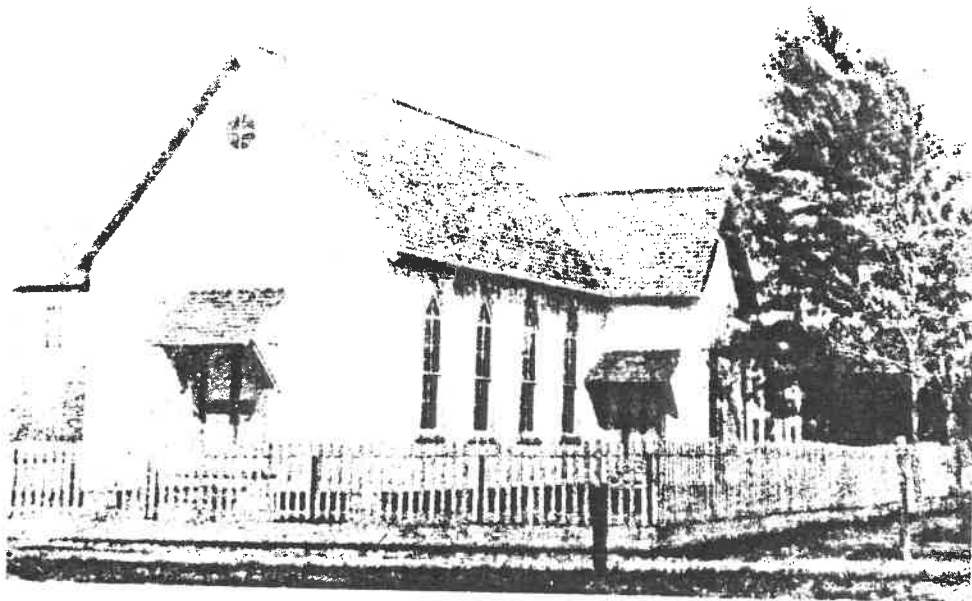
Among the early settlers in Melrose were the McKendrie Lambden family. Bay View, their home on the shore of Melrose Bay, became the social center of the town and accommodated guests for several years until the Melrose Inn was built. Mac Lambdin was the agent for the Canal company and the main dock was just east of Bay View. He had brought the first sawmill to Melrose, setting it up on the shore where the Hamlyns later built a home. Mrs. Ella Lambdin was a gracious hostess, organizing social events and encouraging projects to benefit the town.¹²

Greenberry Jackson from Ohio was the first to build a house within the surveyed town. That house stands on the northwest corner of Bellamy Avenue and Trout Street, and it is still occupied by descendants of the builder.¹³ It is a sturdy and commodious example of the frame vernacular homes which make up much of the built environment of Melrose today. Goodson must have felt that the proposed canal which would link Melrose Bay and Little and Big Lake Santa Fe to Lake Alto and the railroad at Waldo would attract settlers and increase the salability of his town lots. In 1877 work was underway to cut the mile long canal connecting the Santa Fe lakes to Lake Alto; by 1879 twenty-six Melrose lots had sold.¹⁴ It is not clear whether the canal was the reason for the town, or the town was the reason for the canal, so closely were they linked.

Citrus was the coming crop and there was talk about railroads to link the lakes to northern markets. But the best Melrose could do was cheer for the opening of the canal in 1881 when the stern-wheeler F. S. Lewis began regular runs between Waldo and Melrose.¹⁵

By 1882 Melrose was described as "beautifully situated on the edge of Lake Santa Fe . . . Its houses are new and pretty. . The country is rolling . . . well populated with young orange trees."¹⁶ Progress and prosperity were just around the corner and there was giddy talk of a Green Cove Spring and Melrose Railroad. By 1884 the population was above 200 and a two-story school and two churches had been built in town. A business directory of the state published in 1884-85 notes the attractive location of the water resort, mentions a sawmill and cotton gins, and lists dozens of land owners.¹⁷

A gala formal ball marked the opening of the Melrose Inn, the town's first hotel, in 1890, and the beginning of the "Golden Age" of Melrose. A citrus warehouse was built near



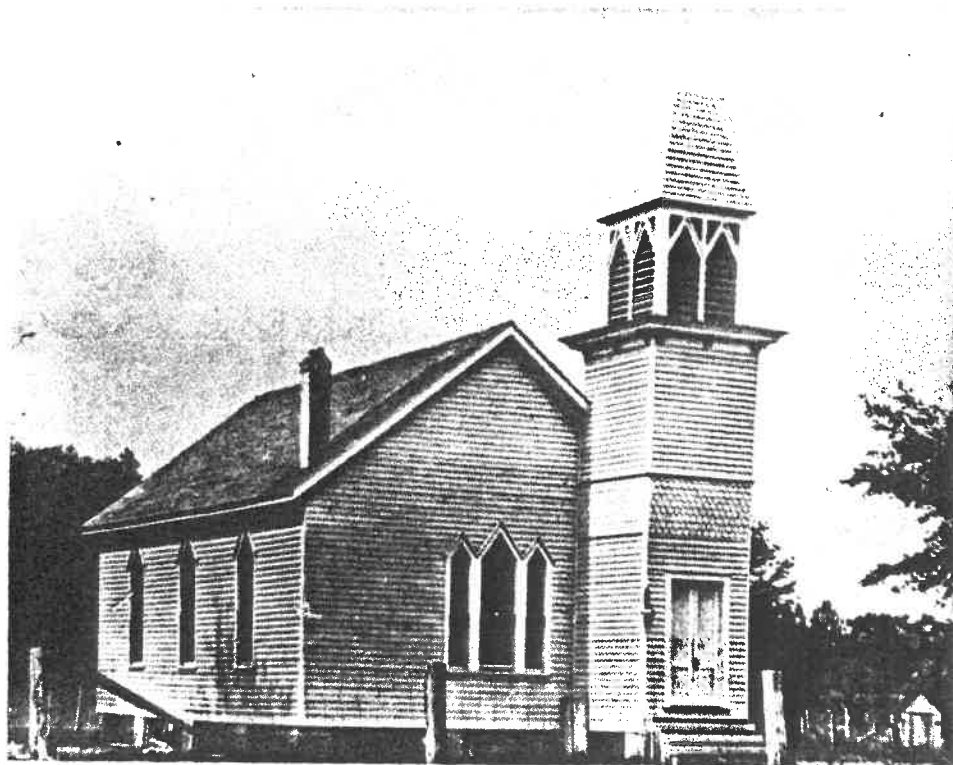
HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BUILT 1886
THEN AND NOW

the dock to handle the shipping of oranges and grapefruit, as well as other fruits and vegetables.¹⁸ Northern families came to visit, stayed to invest in citrus and build homes, and became a part of the growing community. A railroad company was formed in the late 1880s and by 1890 the line between Green Cove Springs on the St. John's River and Melrose was completed.¹⁹ In 1890 the hotels and boarding houses were full, there were five stores, two drug stores, a millinery shop, and a livery stable. A tennis court was built on the Bay View lawn and a horseback riding club was formed.²⁰ Melrose was a booming tourist town, a transportation center for citrus and other crops, and a thriving small community.

A series of killing freezes in the winter of 1894-95 all but destroyed this prosperous and productive town, as it destroyed all of the citrus trees. Homes and groves were abandoned, buildings were deserted or burned, stores closed, the trains stopped running and the track was taken up, the hotels closed.²¹ But Melrose did not become a ghost town; the setting was too favorable, too attractive. Early in the twentieth century a new group of winter residents from the north discovered and claimed Melrose--many of the older homes were refurbished and some new ones were built.

Melrose was incorporated for a few years early in the twentieth century, but did not remain so. A Board of Trade was formed to encourage development, but the "Golden Age" did not return.²² Land values dropped and few new homes were built. The canal became clogged with water hyacinths, and the economy for awhile depended on turpentine activities which exploited the remaining stands of pine trees.²³ The 1903 state business directory reported a population of 267, with only one hotel and a handful of stores.²⁴

But many of the comfortable and attractive homes which had been built in the late nineteenth century were kept up; new winter residents came to Melrose and revived interest in the lake region. Members of the Pearsall family from New York and New Jersey acquired many of the lakefront properties, and they drew friends and acquaintances to the area. Smart looking motor launches appeared on Melrose Bay, hotels and boarding houses once more accommodated guests. Paved roads and the coming of the automobile attracted residents of nearby cities who built weekend cabins and summer retreats on the lake shores, and, as the twentieth century has progressed, the town of Melrose continues to be a desirable place to live.



MELROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HISTORIC AND RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS

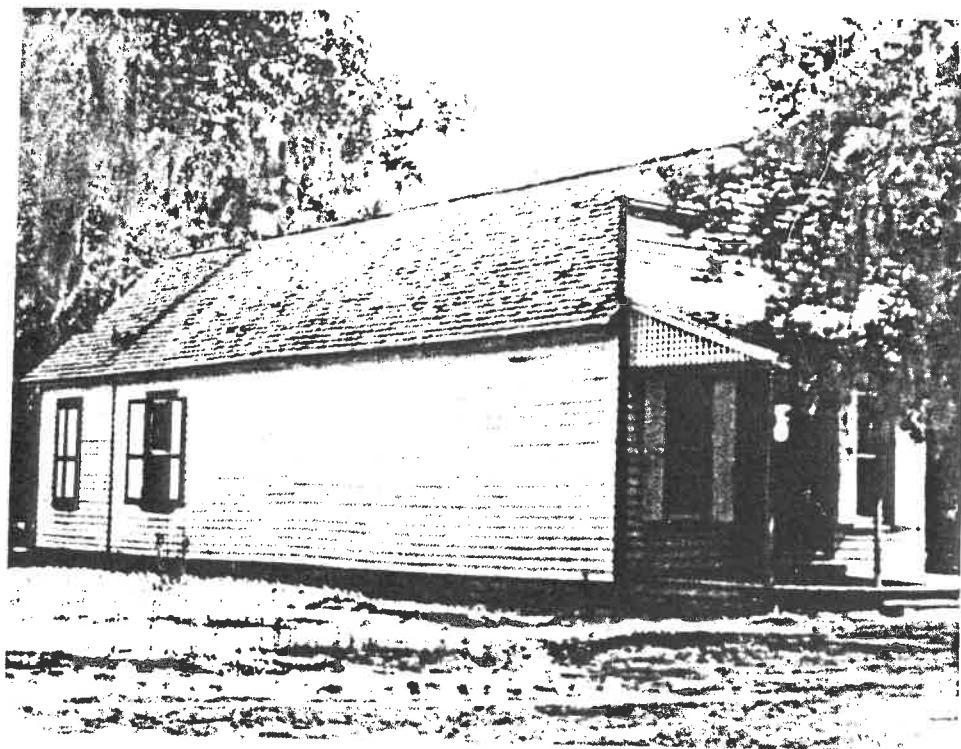
THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT OF MELROSE

Before Mac Lambdin brought a sawmill down to the shore of Melrose Bay in the early 1880s, most of the buildings in the area were log cabins. The Bonney brothers built a farmhouse on the north shore of the little bay of hand-hewn timbers, pegged together without nails, with clay chimney and fireplace. Lambdin used the same construction with the original one-story structure of his Bay View,²⁵ but the Jackson's house on Bellamy and Trout may have been one of the first to use the milled lumber. This house still stands, as does Bonnie Mount and Bay View, excellent examples of early construction methods and house forms.

Lambdin built a two-story addition to Bay View, on the south shore of the lake, and later owned and enlarged the Bonney place also.²⁶ Melrose had a number of skilled builders and their work can still be seen. Edson L. Judd from Connecticut built the Episcopal Church, a fine example of Upjohn-inspired Carpenter Gothic, and the Melrose Women's club.²⁷ William Lee built his family home as a simple one-story cabin but kept adding to it as the family grew and as the Lees expanded their home into a hotel with double tiered open verandahs. Lee built the Eliam Baptist Church, now demolished, which stood near the cemetery; Miss Mossman's home on Bellamy Avenue; and the Ittner and Darlington homes on Quail Street.²⁸

Melrose has always been noted for its churches, and four of the early churches are still standing, although only two are still used for services, the Melrose United Methodist Church (1879) and Trinity Episcopal Church (1886). The Lutheran Church has been a private home since the 1920s and the Interdenominational Church is an antique store.

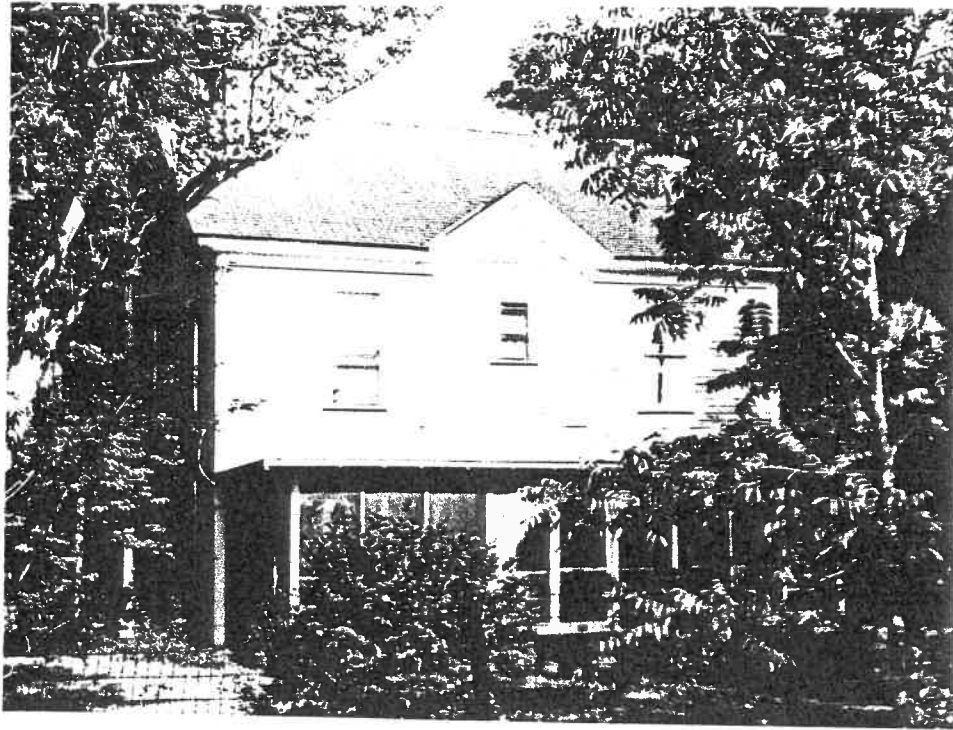
Social organizations have played an important role in the life of the community, particularly women's organizations. The Melrose Women's Club, organized in 1890 as the Literary and Debating Society, built "The Hall" in 1893 as a meeting place for the society and the community. A lending library was organized and music recitals, plays, flower shows, and receptions were held there.²⁹ The building is still in use, one of the oldest Women's Clubs in the state. The Homemakers Club meets in the former drugstore on the corner of Pine and Centre and is concerned with the betterment of the community and domestic arts in general.



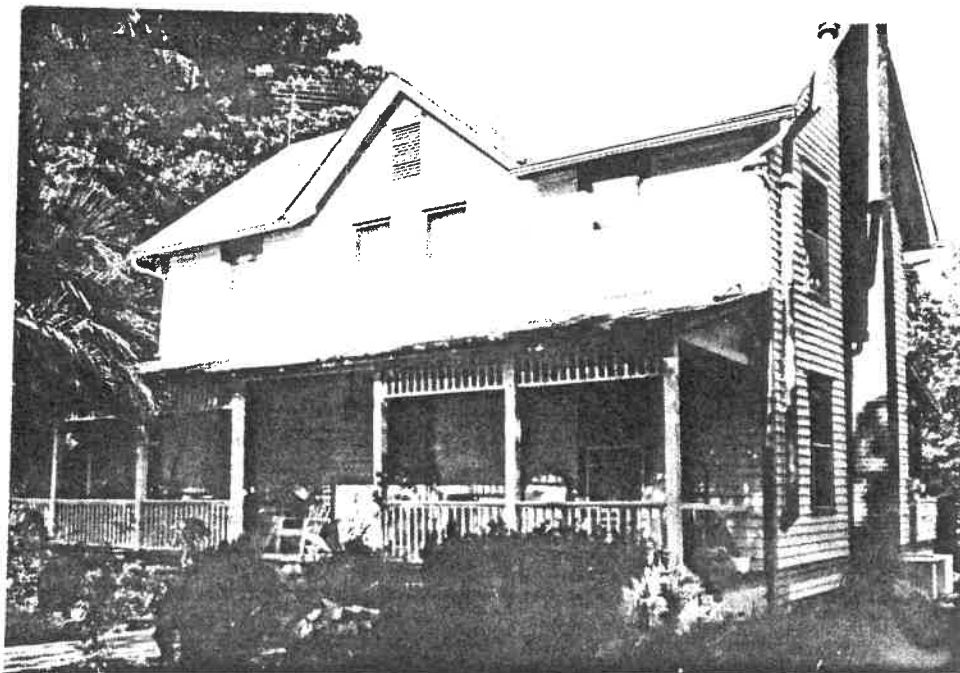
VOGELBACH PHARMACY, BUILT 1879



HOMEMAKER'S CLUB, 1988
(FORMERLY VOGELBACH PHARMACY)



THE HUFFMAN HOUSE



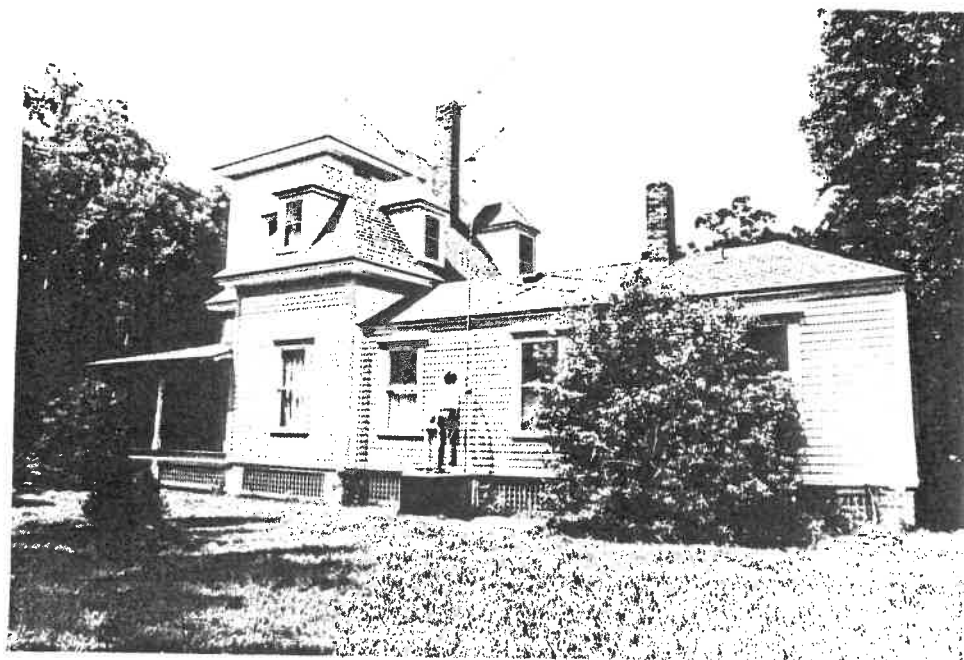
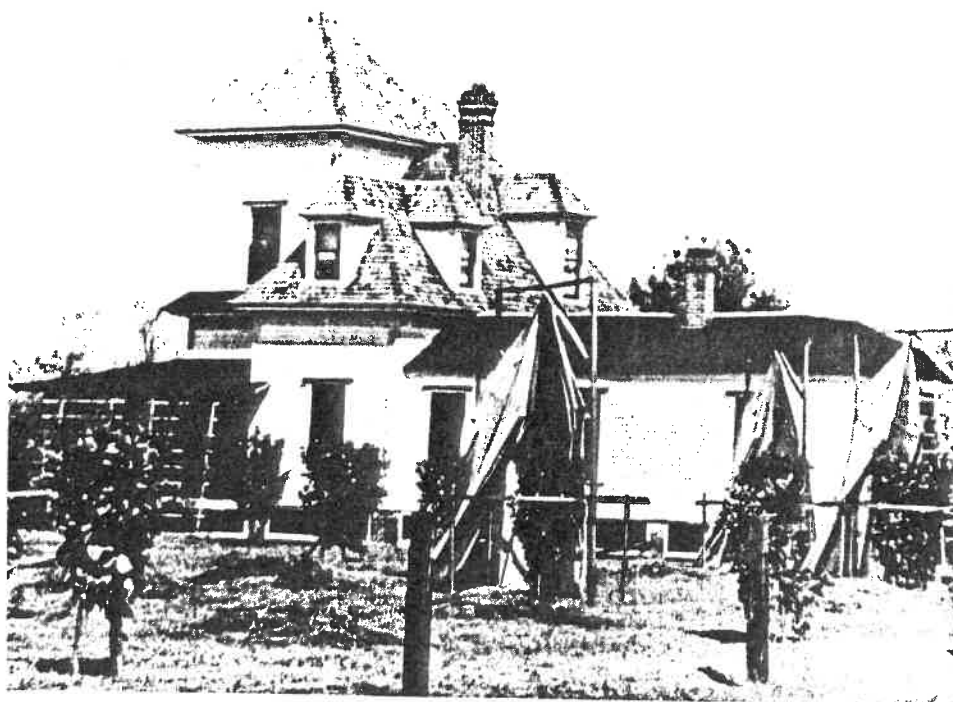
THE JOHN ROSS HOUSE

Most of the commercial buildings in Melrose have been replaced by modern buildings, but the Baldwin store on Bellamy Avenue, which may have been built by William Lee, is still in use as an auto-parts store, an excellent example of commercial frame vernacular construction. The Vogelbach pharmacy (now the Homemaker's Club) was one of the first stores built in Melrose.

The conversion or adaptation of buildings to new uses has been an on-going trend in the evolution of building styles in Melrose. The accommodation of visitors, many of whom stayed for weeks or months, if not the entire season, began as a matter of simple hospitality, as the Lambdins, for example, made room in their home for passengers on the steamboat, later adding a two-story wing. Mrs. Minerva Tillman, a widow, also took in guests for a time. The Melrose Inn was built specifically as a hotel, and was very successful, but was later converted to a private school in 1909. (It burned in 1911.) The Huffman House was enlarged as a hotel, later converted back into a home. Dr. Russell Bingham's large shingle style house became the popular Santa Fe Hotel, but is once more a private home. Dr. Vogelbach's home on Bellamy Avenue has operated as a bed and breakfast hotel, modern successor to the old boarding house. The Lee house is another home which owes its present configuration to additions built to accommodate boarders. The Mizell home on South Quail was a boarding house also, as was the Alex McRae home on Centre Street.³⁰ It is interesting to note that all of the surviving buildings which once catered to tourists still resemble houses. There are no motels, apartment complexes, or resort hotels in Melrose.

Melrose is oriented to the water and many of the larger homes are built on the shore. Before the trees planted by the citizens of the new town reached their present height and density, almost everyone had a lake view, if only from the second story balcony. Docks and boat houses, even a fanciful gazebo, dotted the shores of the protected bay just off Big Lake Santa Fe. Major Willetts, an Englishman, built his "marine villa" half over the water on pilings,³¹ and Captain Sexton from Connecticut had his winter home built like a steamboat with the tidy pilot house rising from the first floor. Broad verandahs shade the rooms and capture the lake breezes. Most lakefront property is developed as private residences, but a small area at the end of Quail Street has been set aside as a public beach, and there is a boat launching ramp at the end of Trout Street.

Maritime enterprises were responsible for the growth of Melrose. Without the canal which was cut between Lake Alto and Little Lake Santa Fe, Melrose would have remained isolated. The canal was responsible not only for bringing tourists to Melrose, but for getting produce to the railroad in Waldo for shipment to northern markets. The paddle-wheel steamer F. S. Lewis, and later the Alert, stopped not only at Melrose, but at docks all



CALDWELL HOUSE -- RUTHVEN LODGE
THEN AND NOW

around the lakes. A canal to link Lake Santa Fe to Lake Geneva to the east was proposed but never implemented.³²

The town plan is a grid, the basis being the 1877 survey. There are varying degrees of setbacks, some as deep as 100 feet, such as Bay View, others within twenty feet of the lot line. Wire fences about three feet high enclose many yards, often softened by vines and other landscaping. Some brick walls and few wooden picket fences define lot boundaries; other lots have no defined limits or structured barriers.

Maintenance in some yards is meticulous; others are left natural. The generous collection of large trees benefits the district by providing shade and defining the public and private spaces. In addition to the indigenous species such as oak, pine, and hickory, several varieties of palms and cycads were introduced and promoted early in the twentieth century. Whereas there are very few citrus trees left to mark the early importance of the crop, many pecan trees, which were introduced in 1889, still grow in the area.³³

The main east-west thoroughfare, State Road 26, called Bellamy Avenue within the town, was paved in 1926. It is a two-lane highway with parking lanes, cement curbing, and sidewalks. The side streets have either asphalt paving or are unpaved. Several of the streets--Park, Pine, and Centre--have median plantings of grass and trees. There are a few blocks in Melrose which are completely vacant. Most are not densely developed, and there is a feeling of spaciousness and serenity in the residential areas north and south of State Road 26.

An analysis of the built environment within Melrose reveals the following:

With the exception of the commercial corridors on State Road 26 and the intersecting State Road 21 to the east, Melrose is a residential community. Of the buildings considered historically and architecturally significant over three-fourths are private residences. Several homes located on busy Bellamy Avenue have been converted to commercial use, such as the Hilton House (a produce market), the Tolles House (a bank), the Mossman House (offices), the Minerva Tillman House (offices), and the Vogelbach House (an inn).

Of the buildings within the district, about half appear to have been built in the nineteenth century, in the "Golden Age" of Melrose. The diversity of these structures in style, embellishment, and setting is remarkable. There is no one dominant style; Southern house forms and those seen in Eastern states stand side by side. Most fall into the category of frame vernacular, although the Queen Anne, Stick and Shingle styles have influenced some of the homes, particularly in detailing such



OAK SHADED STREETS
MELROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN BACKGROUND



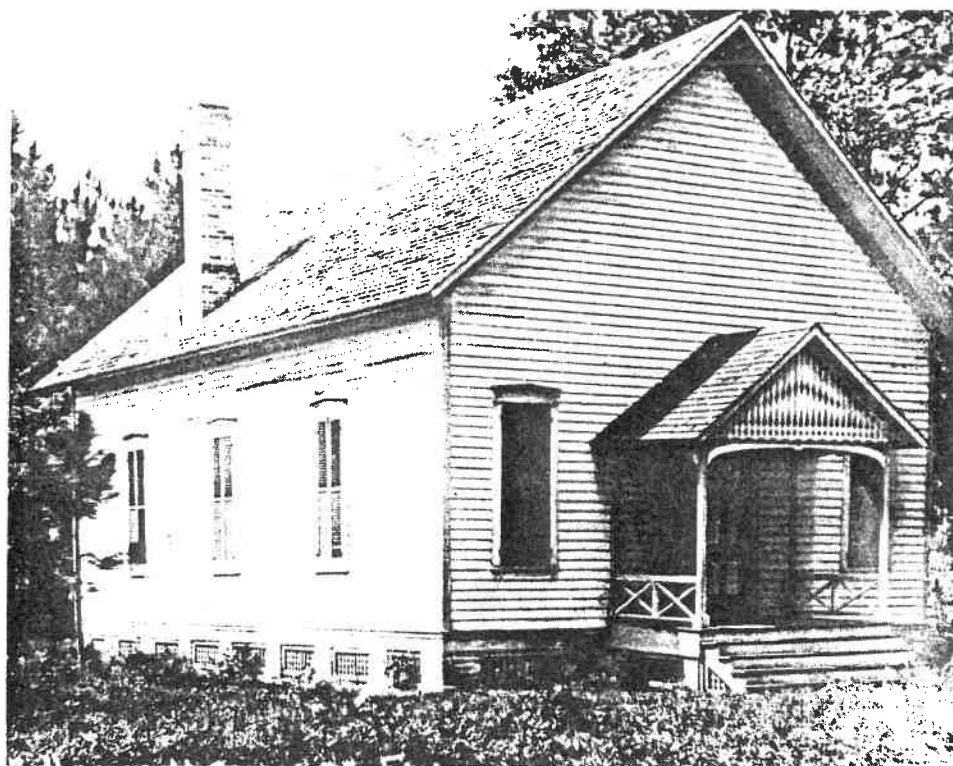
PARK AVENUE
ELIAM BAPTIST CHURCH IN BACKGROUND

as porch elaborations and patterned shingles. The majority of facades are symmetrical, with an even distribution of front gable, side gable, and intersecting gable plans. The bungalow form is only seen in the Wurts home on Quail Street, the Hugh Barnett home on North Hampton, and the Dann House on Pine Street. Four structures, Bonnie Mount, the Minerva Tillman, John Ross, and Huffman houses, have a prominent gable dormer centered on the front facade. The most elaborately embellished homes, those with the most variety in plan and exterior textural fabric, are the Caldwell, Walter Hamlyn, Bingham, and Whitehead houses. A boathouse built in 1910 to house Leigh Pearsall's motor launch is the earliest example remaining of this structural type. The conversion of garages to residential use is shown in Grey Moss, a cottage on the north side of Melrose Bay, originally a corrugated sheet metal garage, and the Pearsall garage apartment, where the living quarters are above the parking area.

Over sixty percent of the homes are more than one story, and the preferred material is wood, both pine and cypress. The Hugh Barnett and Dann house appear to be the only masonry homes and neither dates back to the nineteenth century. The sawmills of Melrose provided the main building material. Brick for chimneys and piers may have come the large brick manufacturing yard in nearby Campville.

Noncontributing structures within the Melrose Historic District are mostly one-story cement block homes and commercial structures which line the highways, the only area zoned for business. There are only two house trailers within the district. Most homes built within the past fifty years conform to the earlier homes in scale, size, and placement on the lot.

Although many of the older homes were built as winter homes and vacation cottages for affluent Northerners, they have avoided the showiness and ostentation which is evident in some Florida resort communities. Perhaps this would have come in time, if the orange boom had continued.



MELROSE WOMEN'S CLUB
THEN AND NOW

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

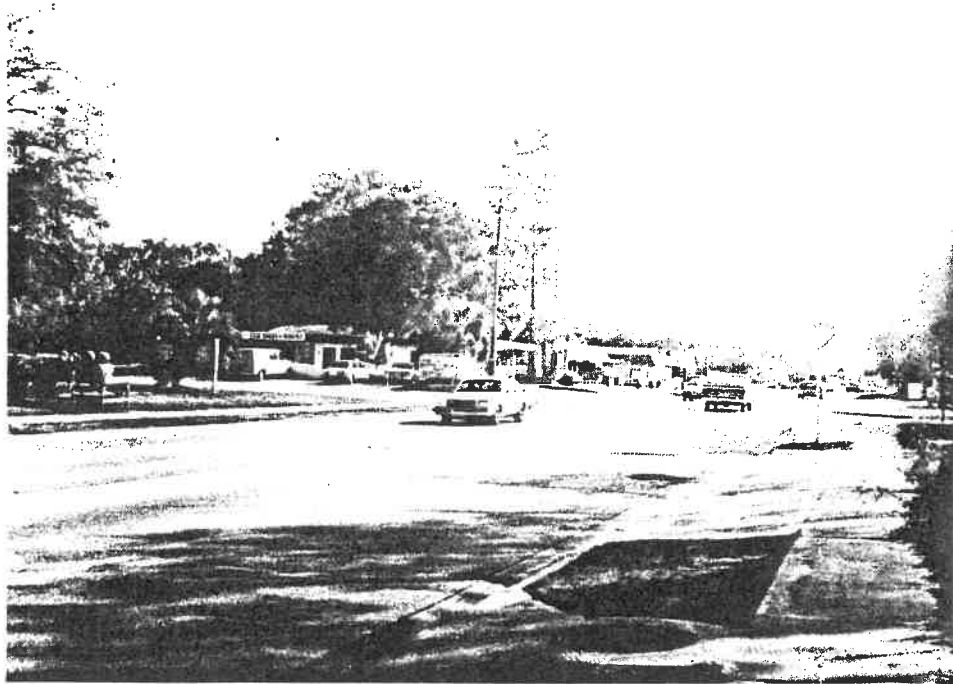
The survey project concentrated on the area in and adjacent to the 30 blocks platted in 1877 and the properties located around Melrose Bay. Eighty sites were identified as contributing to the character of the Melrose Historic District. The large percentage of structures built before the turn of the century and their architectural integrity over time merits recognition and designation as a historic district.

The boundaries of the district should encompass as many of the buildings which contribute to the character of Historic Melrose as possible. Melrose developed as a compact community clustered around the lake; the district should preserve this historical orientation and not try to include scattered sites, interesting as they may be, in a nomination proposal to the National Register of Historic Places.

Further investigations into the lifestyle of the early tourists and winter visitors, their backgrounds and reasons for coming to Melrose, would increase our understanding of this important period in the growth of the region and the state. The survival of the homes they built, the churches they worshipped in, and the institutions they valued give us tangible insights into the Post-Reconstruction period when Florida experienced one of its periodic booms. Like the residents today, early Melrosians struggled with the problems of being at the outer fringes of four counties, welcomed newcomers from all parts of the world, and were resourceful entrepreneurs. The continued preservation of the historic environment of Melrose, not only the individual structures, but also the strong sense of community, is an important goal.

Melrose has an unusual history and much of the physical evidence of that exists in the homes and churches which have endured. Visitors and residents alike enjoy the peaceful, unspoiled ambiance of the town. To allow dense commercial development and heavy traffic in this fragile environment would destroy the very qualities which have made Melrose an important tourist mecca for over one hundred years. More and more travelers seek out places where the past has been preserved, and wise communities guard their heritage as a valuable community asset.

With its spacious yards, shady streets, and well-cared-for historic homes, the past seems alive and just around the corner in Melrose.



NONCONTRIBUTING COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES
BELLAMY AVENUE

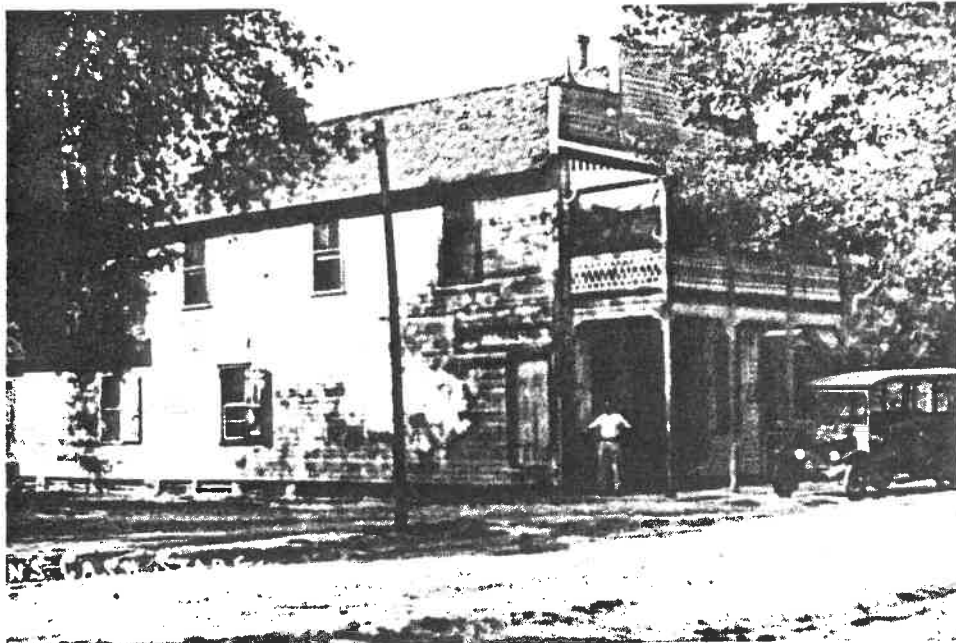


BLUE WATER BAY -- MODERN RESTAURANT
BELLAMY AVENUE

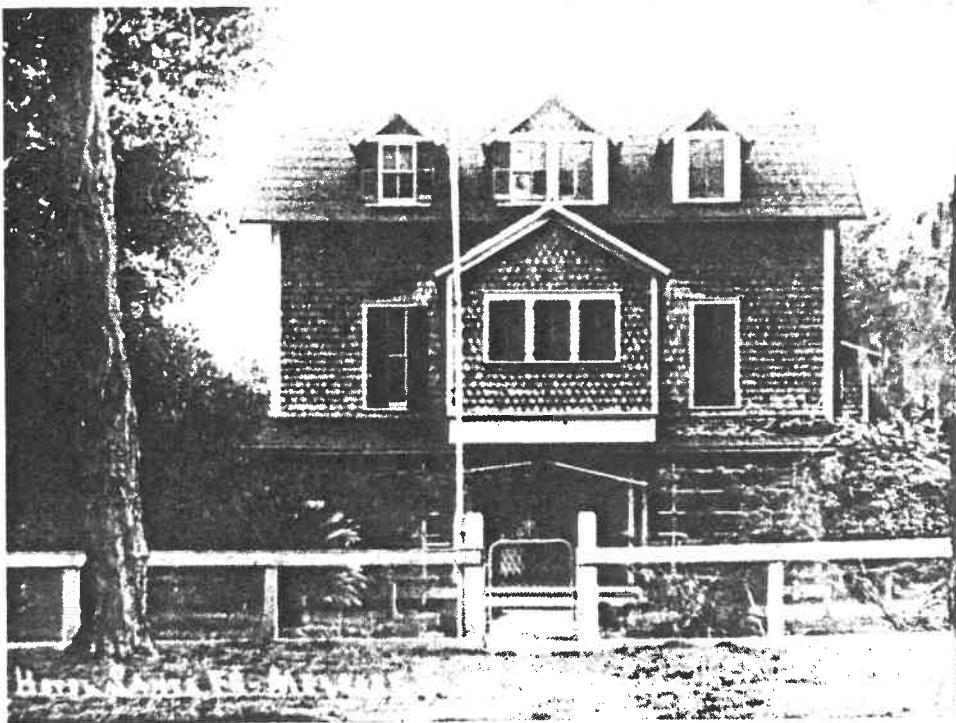
Notes

1. Florida Master Site File forms for archaeological sites are 8AL-106, 114, 459, 8PU-79. These are in the area but not within the proposed district. The Women's Club is listed as 8PU-70.
2. Zonira Hunter Tolles, Bonnie Melrose (Keystone Heights, FL: Author, 1982), pp. 68, 83, 84; Carl Webber, Eden of the South (New York: Leve and Allen's, 1883), pp. 102-103.
3. Kennie L. Howard, Yesterdays In Florida (New York: Carlton Press, 1970), pp. 23, 201.
4. Zonira Hunter Tolles, Shadows on the Sand (Keystone Heights, FL: Author, 1976), pp. 99, 119.
5. Tolles, Shadows, p. 110.
6. Ibid., pp. 37, 149.
7. Ibid., p. 184; Charlton Tebeau, A History of Florida (Coral Gables: University of Miami Press, 1971), pp. 235-236.
8. Tebeau, pp. 257-258, 271, 291-292.
9. Tolles, Bonnie, p. 20.
10. Ibid., pp. 53.
11. Ibid., p. 75.
12. Howard, pp. 65-66.
13. Tolles, Bonnie, p. 55.
14. Ibid., p. 69.
15. Ibid., p. 85.
16. Ibid., p. 97.
17. Howard, pp. 73, 86, 96; Ross A. Smith, The Florida State Gazetteer and Business Directory (Charleston, SC: Southern Directory and Publishing Company, 1884-54), pp. 328-329.
18. Tolles, Shadows, pp. 267-268; Tolles, Bonnie, pp. 194, 215, 217; Howard, pp. 135, 162-163, 171.
19. Tolles, Bonnie pp. 219, 220-223.

20. Howard, pp. 172-173, 184.
21. Ibid, pp. 187, 192.
22. Melrose Board of Trade brochure, ca 1911, in collection of the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida, Gainesville.
23. Howard, pp. 200-201.
24. Georgia, Alabama, Florida Business and Professional Directory (Washington, DC: State Publishing Co., 1903), p. 1010.
25. Howard, pp. 65-66, 158.
26. Ibid., pp. 66, 139, 158-160.
27. Tolles, Bonnie, pp. 144, 146.
28. Ibid., p. 138; Tolles, Shadows, pp. 194-197.
29. Howard, pp. 168-169.
30. Tolles, Shadows, pp. 267-269.
31. Tolles, Bonnie, p. 208.
32. Ibid., pp. 57, 123.
33. Ibid., p. 177.



BALDWIN STORE -- BUILT IN 1902



SANTA FE HOTEL -- FORMER DR. RUSSELL BINGHAM HOME

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TO SANTA FE CANAL
(83)

LAKE
SANTA FE

MELROSE BAY

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS

STATE ROAD NO. 21

STATE ROAD NO. 26

PALATKA

GAINESVILLE 20 MILES

ONE MILE SOUTH

MELROSE HISTORIC SURVEY SITES

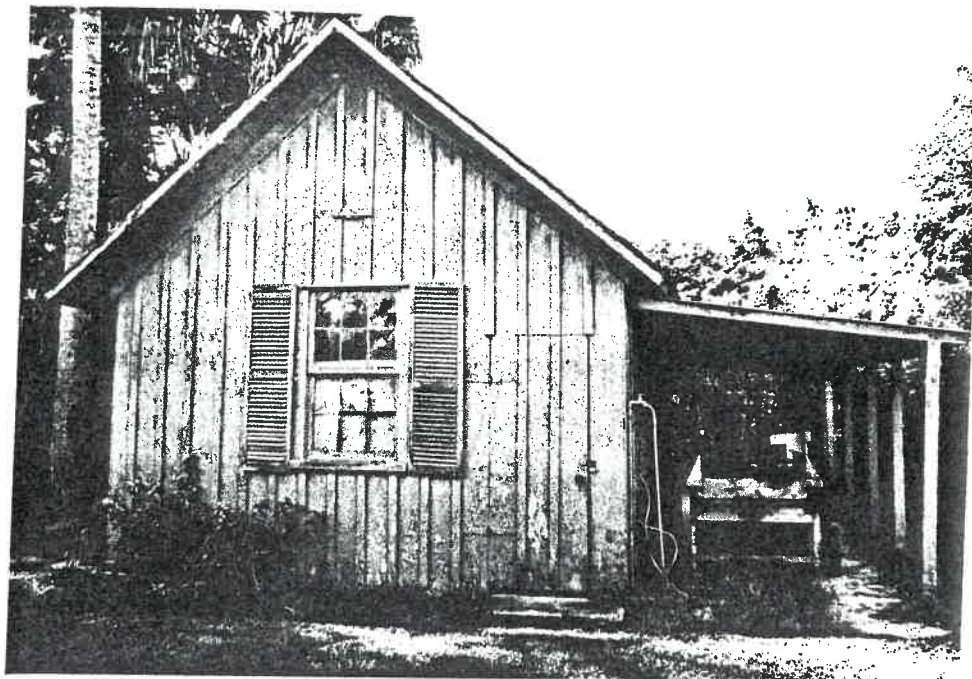
SITE INVENTORY LIST

The various properties in Melrose do not have street numbers, therefore it is not possible to give a full street address. The following list is by number, keyed to the map on page 32 by site name, and by street. Florida Master Site File forms contain complete directions for locating each site.

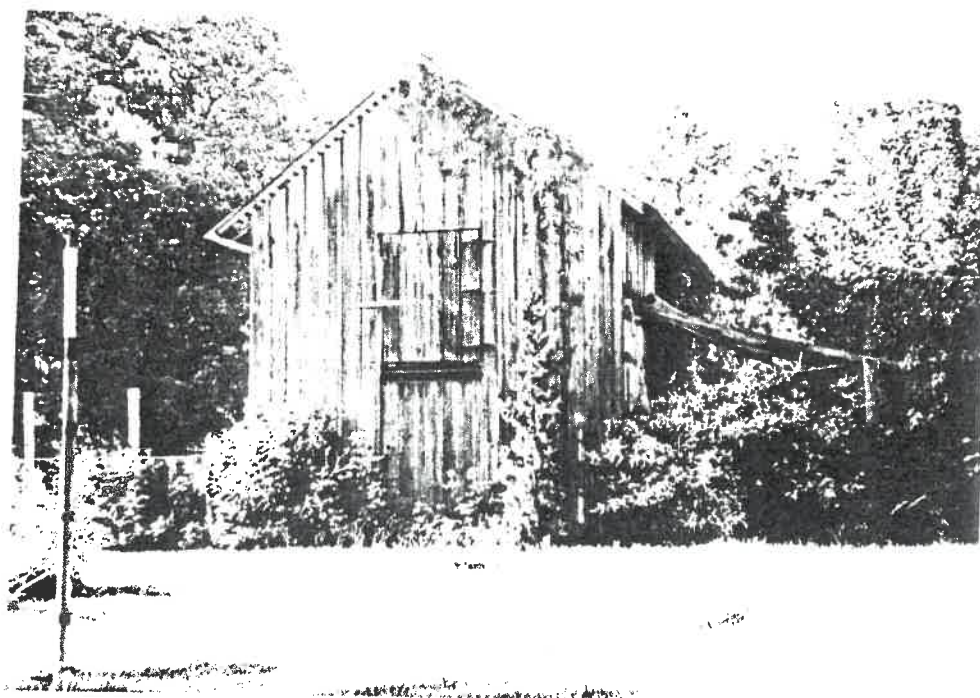
1	Bonnie Mount	Seminole Ridge Road
2	Seven Oaks	Seminole Ridge Road
3	Pearsall-Danis House	Seminole Ridge Road
4	Grey Moss	Seminole Ridge Road
5	Terry-Pritchett House	Seminole Ridge Road
6	Chamberlain-Berkleman House	Seminole Ridge Road
7	Cason-Fortner House	Pearsall Circle
8	Pine View	Seminole Ridge Road
9	Pearsall Garage Apartment	Seminole Ridge Road
10	Pearsall Boathouse	Seminole Ridge Road
11	Whitehead-Muir House	Seminole Ridge Road
12	Dr. Russell Bingham House	Centre Street
13	Nathaniel Orr House	Devonia Street
14	Walter Hamlyn House	Devonia Street
15	Willetts House	Devonia Street
16	Bay View	Melrose Bay
17	Rogers House	Melrose Bay
18	Latchstring Cottage	Melrose Bay
19	Grimes House	Lexington Street
20	Coward-Robinson House	Lexington Street
21	Birt House	Lexington Street
22	Nobles House	Lexington Street
23	Cason House	Lexington Street
24	Lutheran Church	N. Quail Street
25	Hamlyn-Waters House	N. Quail Street
26	Sexton-Williams House	N. Quail Street
27	Ittner House	N. Quail Street
28	Darlington House	N. Quail Street
29	Potter House	N. Quail Street
30	Wurts House	N. Quail Street
31	Lewis House	N. Quail Street
32	Painter-Preston House	N. Quail Street
33	Dunbar House	Bellamy Avenue
34	Mizell House	S. Quail Street
35	Jellen House	S. Quail Street
36	Craig House	S. Trout Street
37	Tuttle House	S. Trout Street
38	Bilham-Tolles House	S. Trout Street
39	La Petite Chez	S. Trout Street
40	J. W. Barnett House	S. Trout Street

42 Tolles House
 43 Jackson House
 44 Riley-Pack House
 45 Dann House
 46 Huffman House
 47 Caldwell House
 48 William Rhodes House
 49 Hugh Barnett House
 50 SE corner Pine & Hampton
 51 Nobles Meat Market
 52 Hilton House
 53 Nell Ross House
 54 Melrose Methodist Church
 55 Myer House
 57 Homemakers Club
 58 Alex McRae House
 59 Pastorium for Baptist Church
 60 John Ross House
 61 Whitney Cottage
 62 Columbia Cottage
 63 Lee House
 64 Baldwin House
 65 Baldwin Store
 66 McRae-Preston House
 67 Susie Preston House
 68 Annie Sapp House
 69 Trinity Episcopal Church
 70 Old Free Church
 71 Mossman House
 72 Minerva Tillman House
 73 Melrose Inn
 75 Chiappini Store
 76 Melrose Women's Club
 77 Palm Nursery & Garden
 78 Perry House
 79 Mamie Elliot House
 80 Melrose School
 81 Melrose Cemetery
 82 Woodruff House
 83 Santa Fe Canal

Bellamy Avnue
 Bellamy Avenue
 Park Street
 Pine Street
 N. Hampton Street
 N. Hampton Street
 N. Hampton Street
 N. Hampton Street
 Pine Street
 N. Hampton Street
 Bellamy Avenue
 S. Hampton Street
 Pearl Street
 S. Hampton Street
 Park Street
 N. Centre Street
 Pine Street
 N. Centre
 N. Centre
 Pine Street
 Park Street
 Bellemey Avenue
 Bellamy Avenue
 Pearl Street
 Cypress Street
 Pearl Street
 Bellamy Avenue
 S. Grove Avenue
 Bellamy Avenue
 Bellamy Avenue
 Bellamy Avenue
 Bellamy Avenue
 Pine Street
 Seminole Ridge Road
 S.R. 21
 S.R. 26 & S.R. 219
 S.R. 21 & S.R. 26
 S.R. 21
 S.R. 21
 Between Lake Altho &
 Little Santa Fe Lake



OUTBUILDING ON THE TOLLES HOUSE PROPERTY



OUTBUILDING ON THE BINGHAM HOUSE PROPERTY