

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 an 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 Biddle, Perry L., House

other names/site number 8WL803

2. Location

street & number 203 Scribner Avenue n/a not for publication

city or town DeFuniak Springs n/a vicinity

state Florida code FL county Walton code 131 zip code 32433

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.)

Suzanne P. Walker / Deputy SHPO 7/9/92
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources
 State of 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:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper <u>M. J. M. [Signature]</u>	Date of Action <u>8/28/92</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Biddle, Perry L., House
Name of Property

Walton Co., FL
County and State

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)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Historic Architectural Resources of
DeFuniak Springs, Florida

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Frame Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Wood: Weatherboard
roof Metal: Tin
other Asphalt

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning & Development

Architecture

Period of Significance

1887-1938

Significant Dates

1887

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Unknown/Biddle, Perry L.

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 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Biddle, Perry L., House
Name of Property

Walton Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

10 1

1	6
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5	8	4	2	6	0
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3	3	9	8	7	5	0
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2

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3

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4

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sidney Johnston/Barbara E. Mattick, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date July 1992

street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough Street telephone 904/487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name P.H. Biddle, c/o Stella B. Fitzgerald

street & number Route 2, Box 57 telephone -

city or town Chester state SC zip code 29706

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.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 Perry L. Biddle House, DeFuniak Springs, Walton Co., FL**SUMMARY**

The Perry L. Biddle House, located at 203 Scribner Avenue, is a two story, Frame Vernacular building with a wrap around veranda. It has a tin roof, 1/1 double hung sash, and ornate millwork. Built in 1887, the building is associated with the Chautauqua-Era Development, 1884-1919 as outlined in the historic contexts of the Historic Architectural Resources of DeFuniak Springs Multiple Property cover. The building is also associated with the F.1 property type of the DeFuniak Springs Multiple Property cover, Residential Buildings of the Chautauqua Era, 1884-1919. The property also includes a separate garage.

Setting

The Biddle House lies at the intersection of Minnesota Street and Scribner Avenue, three blocks south of the DeFuniak Springs Historic District. Both Minnesota and Scribner are small secondary streets that run two blocks. The house and an accompanying outbuilding are located in a small subdivision that was carved from W.J. Van Kirk's DeFuniak Springs town plan in 1887. The house lies on terrain that slopes gently to the south, where little development has occurred, although scattered dwellings lie to the east and west.

Exterior

The Biddle House is a large symmetrical Frame Vernacular design that displays a cross gable roof with a simple frieze that encircles the building. The original, two-story primary unit has the shape of a "T," and a roof covered with tin standing seam panels, which appear to have replaced the original pressed-metal shingles. A center-ridge chimney pierces the roof, and the gable ends display decorative pressed metal shingles. Clapboard serves as the exterior wall fabric, and wainscoting is employed as a foundation skirt. Cornerboards mark changes in wall angles, and simple 1 x 4 planks embrace door and window openings. Fenestration is regular with 1/1-light, double hung sash windows, individual or grouped in pairs. The house rests on brick piers.

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The east facade displays a large veranda with a hipped roof, which wraps around the north and south elevations, respectively (Photos 1 & 2). Turned posts, which support the roof, are embellished with a simple frieze with dentils, large scroll brackets, smaller carved brackets set in pairs, and spindle work (Photo 3). The south portion of the veranda has a temporary enclosure consisting of a stud-and-sill form with screen (Photos 1 & 4).

The original, two-story west elevation of the building, some of which has been obscured by later additions, contained no openings on the second floor and a door and window piercings on the first floor. One-story additions made sometime during the 1930s consist of a gable extension and a shed addition, with the former connecting with the latter along the north elevation (Photos 5 & 2). Those additions display metal standing seam and 3-V crimp roof surfacing, weatherboard exterior wall fabric, and double-hung sash and awning windows. Concrete block foundation piers support the additions. A rear entrance is located at the northwest corner of the shed extension, and an end-exterior chimney built with concrete block and brick pierces the roof ridge.

A small 1920s shed extension protrudes at the south elevation (Photo 4). It has weatherboard exterior walls, awning windows, and brick foundation piers. The dark red brick piers that support the shed addition contrast with the brick piers under the original house, which contain a high percentage of clay, giving them a dark orange hue.

Interior

The first floor contains five primary rooms, a bathroom, and a storage facility. Many interior paneled wood doors and their hardware remain, and plaster covers most walls. The front entrance, which consists of an original screen and paneled door with a large arched pane of glass, opens into a living room, where a small chandelier hangs from a plaster medallion. Hopper window transoms allow for ventilation. Window and door surrounds consist of fluted 1 x 4 planks that are interrupted by pateras at the corners. A flue plate covers a chimney-stack opening in the west wall (Photos 6, 7 & 8).

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A pair of paneled doors open into a family room, the largest room on the first story (Photos 8 & 9). Many original features remain, including a plaster medallion and chandelier, door and window surrounds, and transoms. The family room provides access to two bedrooms, a kitchen, bathroom, and staircase. The west wall of the family room marked the western limit of the original house. The southeast corner of the room contains an original door that opens onto the screened portion of the veranda. The kitchen has been remodeled with paneling that covers the original plaster (Photo 10). The doorway from the family room into the kitchen originally served as the rear entrance of the house. A small bathroom is accessed through an opening at the northeast corner of the kitchen. A small bedroom is located in an addition to the south of the family room (Photo 11).

A quarter turn staircase to the second floor extends along the original west and north interior walls of the building (Photo 12). A small balustrade protects the second floor from the open stair well. The second floor consists of two large bedrooms, both of which contain plain lighting fixtures and door and window surrounds. A flue plate covers an opening in the wall, where a wood-burning stove pipe once exited (Photo 13).

OUTBUILDING

A small outbuilding, built about 1920 and located about fifteen feet from the northwest corner of the house, displays a gable roof with standing seam panels, vertical board siding, a small door, and an earthen floor (Photo 14).

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Section number 8 Page 1 Perry L. Biddle House, DeFuniak Springs, Walton Co., FL

SUMMARY

The Perry L. Biddle House, built in 1887, is locally significant under **Criterion A**, in the area of **Community Planning and Development** as one of the best examples of the houses constructed in an early subdivision of DeFuniak Springs, outside of the heavy development which took place around Lake DeFuniak. The house, has further local significance under **Criterion C** as a good example of Frame Vernacular construction. Its design is consistent with national and statewide trends in architecture. The house contributes to the Historic Architectural Resources of DeFuniak Springs Multiple Property nomination under the historic context: Chautauqua-Era Development, 1884-1919, and is associated with the F.1 property type: Residential Buildings of the Chautauqua Era, 1884-1919.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Biddle House was built in 1887 by Perry L. Biddle, who settled in DeFuniak Springs about 1886. Born in Pennsylvania in 1848, Biddle was attracted to West Florida by the mild climate and development opportunities associated with the organization of the Florida Chautauqua in DeFuniak Springs. Soon after he arrived, Biddle purchased for investment purposes portions of blocks 1924 and 1928, which lay south of W.J. Van Kirk's formal town plan of DeFuniak Springs. Measuring 1,000 by 500 feet, the land was carved out of two large acreage blocks, from which he platted a residential subdivision in March 1887. Later that year, Biddle supervised the construction of his residence on a 100 by 50 foot lot at the south end of the plat.

Measuring two by three blocks, the subdivision was laid out in a rectangle bordered by Bruce and Lewis Avenues and Michigan and Illinois Streets. Located about one-quarter mile south of Lake DeFuniak, the subdivision experienced little development during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when most residences in DeFuniak Springs were built within several blocks of the lake and near the center of the town plan. Neither Michigan nor Minnesota Avenues was extended south of the Biddle House, where Lewis Avenue was to have served as the southern extent of the subdivision. The Biddle House was one of a few late nineteenth century residences in DeFuniak Springs built on

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the outskirts of town, where it remains in a relatively isolated area of town.

Biddle and his wife, Stella, whom he married in 1886, raised three children. To support his family, Biddle made numerous real estate investments in DeFuniak Springs. Apparently, he constructed several wood frame buildings on property he owned in the commercial area, and rented them to merchants. Following the 1898 fire which devastated much of the downtown, Biddle supervised the development and construction of several additional commercial buildings for rental purposes. Biddle also established a small farm behind his house, where he cultivated vegetables for market. Biddle's public service included several terms as town alderman. He was one of seven aldermen elected to the town council in 1901, the year DeFuniak Springs was incorporated. A vegetarian, Biddle was known for his excellent health and tremendous strength. He lived in the house until 1938, when he died at the age of ninety.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The historic Biddle House has an important presence at the south end of the City of DeFuniak Springs. Although not as large as many of the Frame Vernacular examples near Lake DeFuniak, it is among the best preserved and displays some fine ornamentation. One of the earliest examples of the style in DeFuniak Springs, the building is distinctive for its symmetry, proportion, and detailing. The building has simple visual lines, which contrast with a veranda that wraps around three sides of the building and is embellished with turned posts, a simple frieze with dentils, scroll and carved brackets, and spindle work. The building also displays pressed metal shingles in the gable ends, a unique application even for buildings with formal architectural styling.

Few alterations have been made to the building. One, a small shed extension protruding at the south elevation, was built about 1925 (Photo 4). Local tradition asserts that Biddle's son, Perry H. Biddle, was born in the room in 1893, but the lack of a foundation skirt, and the use of foundation piers and wood exterior fabric which differ from those employed on the original building, indicate that the room was an early twentieth century addition. Additional

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one-story additions, probably built about 1935, consist of a gable extension and a shed addition, with the former connecting with the latter along the north elevation (Photos 2, 3). The shed extension originally served as a rear porch, but was enclosed several years later. Each of those additions, made to the rear or side of the building, are relatively small and compatible with the original design, and do not compromise its integrity.

CONCLUSION

The historic Biddle House fulfills Criteria A and C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It has local significance in the areas of architecture and history. Fulfilling Criterion A, the house is associated with Community Planning and Development as one of the few houses built in an early subdivision of DeFuniak Springs.

The Biddle House also has architectural significance, thus fulfilling Criterion C. A large Frame Vernacular design, the building is on the south end of Lake DeFuniak, several blocks south of the historic district. Although secluded and not visible from the main arteries of town, the house has an important presence at the south end of the community. The Biddle House retains much of its original architectural integrity, and contributes to the sense of time, place, and historical development of the community through its location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It provides an important architectural link to the heritage of DeFuniak Springs.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

DeFuniak Springs. City Council Minute Book, July 30, 1901;
July 8, 1902.

Interview, Harold Gillis by Sidney Johnston, 1991.

Interview, Perry L. Biddle, Jr. and Virginia Cate by Sidney
Johnston, 1990.

Jacksonville Florida Times-Union, August 2, 1901.

"Subdivision of Blocks 1924 and 1928, Map of DeFuniak
Springs, Walton County," March 1887, Map Book 1.

United States, Bureau of the Census. Twelfth Census, 1900.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The building lies in Lot 1, Block 6 of the Subdivision of Blocks 1924 and 1928 of the Map of DeFuniak Springs.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the city lot which has historically been associated with the property.

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Photographs _____ 1 Perry L. Biddle House, DeFuniak Springs, Walton Co., FL
Section number _____ Page _____

- 1 1) Perry L. Biddle House, 203 Scribner Avenue
- 2) DeFuniak Springs, Walton Co., FL
- 3) Sidney Johnston
- 4) 1991
- 5) Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, FL
- 6) Main facade (E elevation); camera facing W
- 7) 1 of 14

Items 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

- 2 6) N & E elevations; camera facing SW
- 7) 2 of 14
- 3 6) Detail of veranda millwork, NE corner; camera facing SW
- 7) 3 of 14
- 4 6) S elevation; camera facing N
- 7) 4 of 14
- 5 6) W elevation; camera facing E
- 7) 5 of 14
- 6 6) Main entrance from Living Room; camera facing E
- 7) 6 of 14
- 7 6) Living Room showing detail of chandelier, ceiling molding, and transom; camera facing SW
- 7) 7 of 14
- 8 6) Living Room, looking into Family Room; camera facing SW
- 7) 8 of 14
- 9 6) Family Room; camera facing NW
- 7) 9 of 14
- 10 6) Kitchen; camera facing NE
- 7) 10 of 14
- 11 6) First Floor Bedroom Addition; camera facing SW
- 7) 11 of 14
- 12 6) Stairway; camera facing N
- 7) 12 of 14

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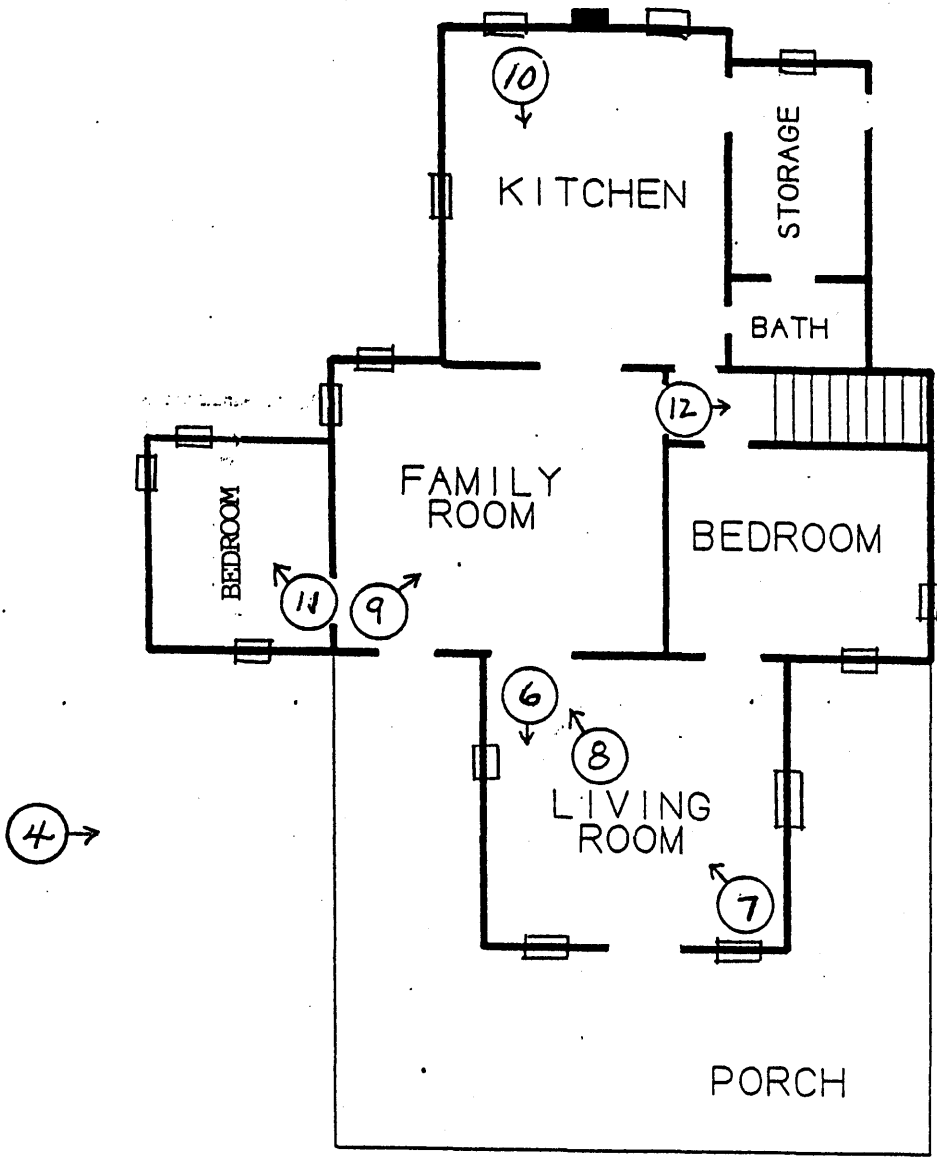
Photographs _____ 2 Perry L. Biddle House, DeFuniak Springs, Walton Co., FL
Section number _____ Page _____

- 13 6) First Second Floor Bedroom; camera facing S
7) 13 of 14

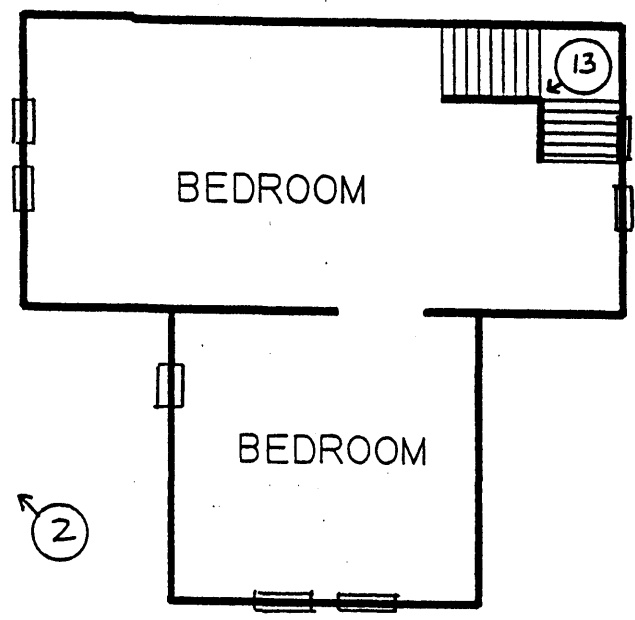
- 14 6) Outbuilding; camera facing NE
7) 14 of 14

PHOTOGRAPH KEY

PERRY L. BIDDLE HOUSE
203 Scribner Avenue
DeFuniak Springs, Walton Co., FL



FIRST FLOOR



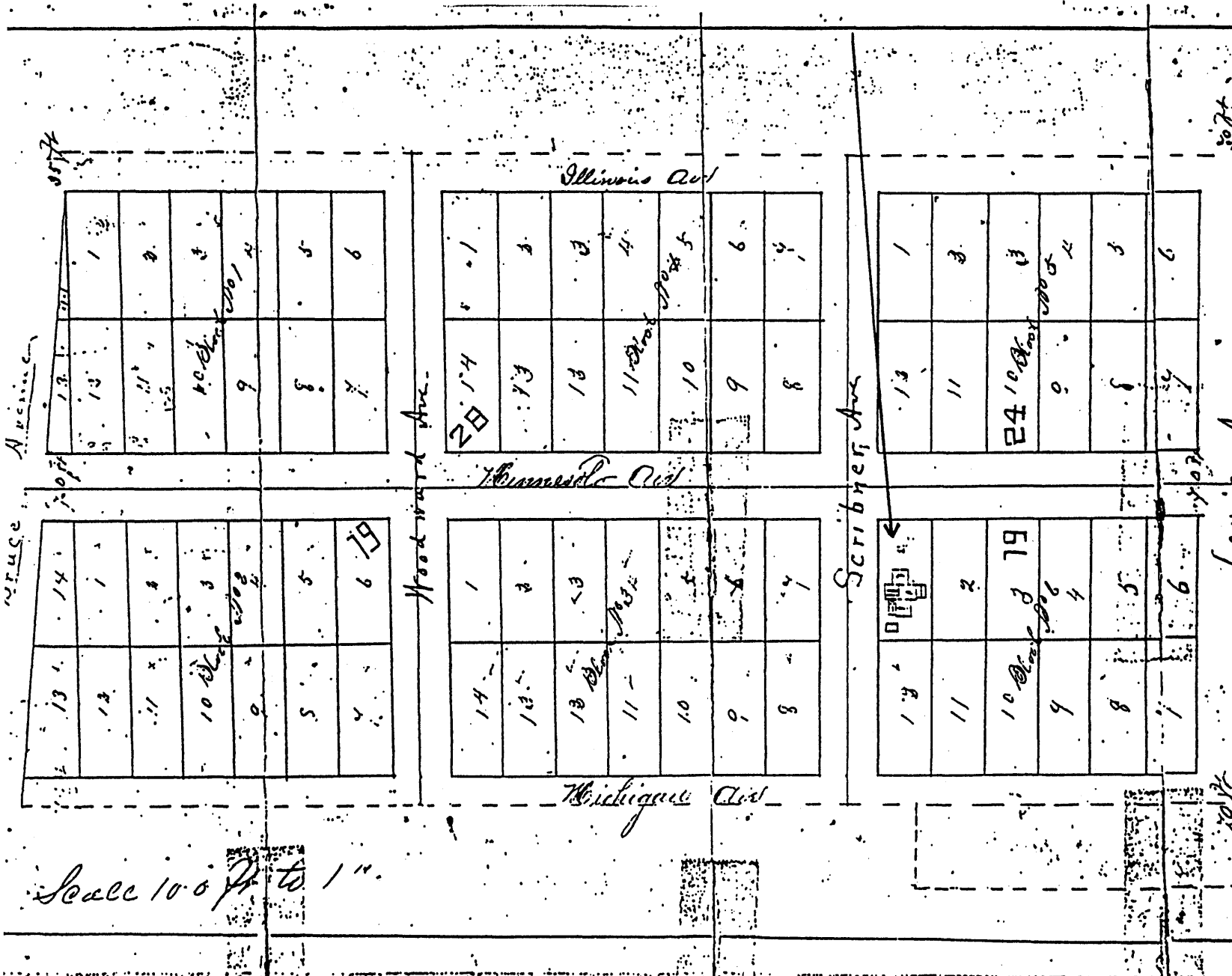
SECOND FLOOR

SCALE: 1" = 10'
→ N

1



1 20



Subdivision of Blocks
 101924 and 1925 as
 per Map of the Vi-
 cinity of the DeFuniak
 Springs, Walton Co.
 Florida, Diverse
 in Section 15 Town
 3 N., Range 19 W.
 County of Jackson
 Fla. 1935.

Subdivision of Blocks
 by Fred J. Jordan, S.R.
 1897.
 March 12th

ENDORSED
 Subdivision of Blocks
 No. 1924 and 1925 as per Map
 of DeFuniak Springs Walton
 Co Florida
 Filed in office the 15th
 day of March A D 1937.

D. L. McLeod
 Clerk Circuit
 Court
 Walton Co. Fla

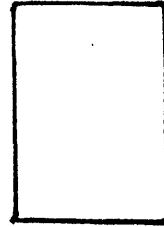
Scale 100 ft to 1"

SCRIBNER AVENUE

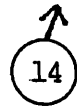
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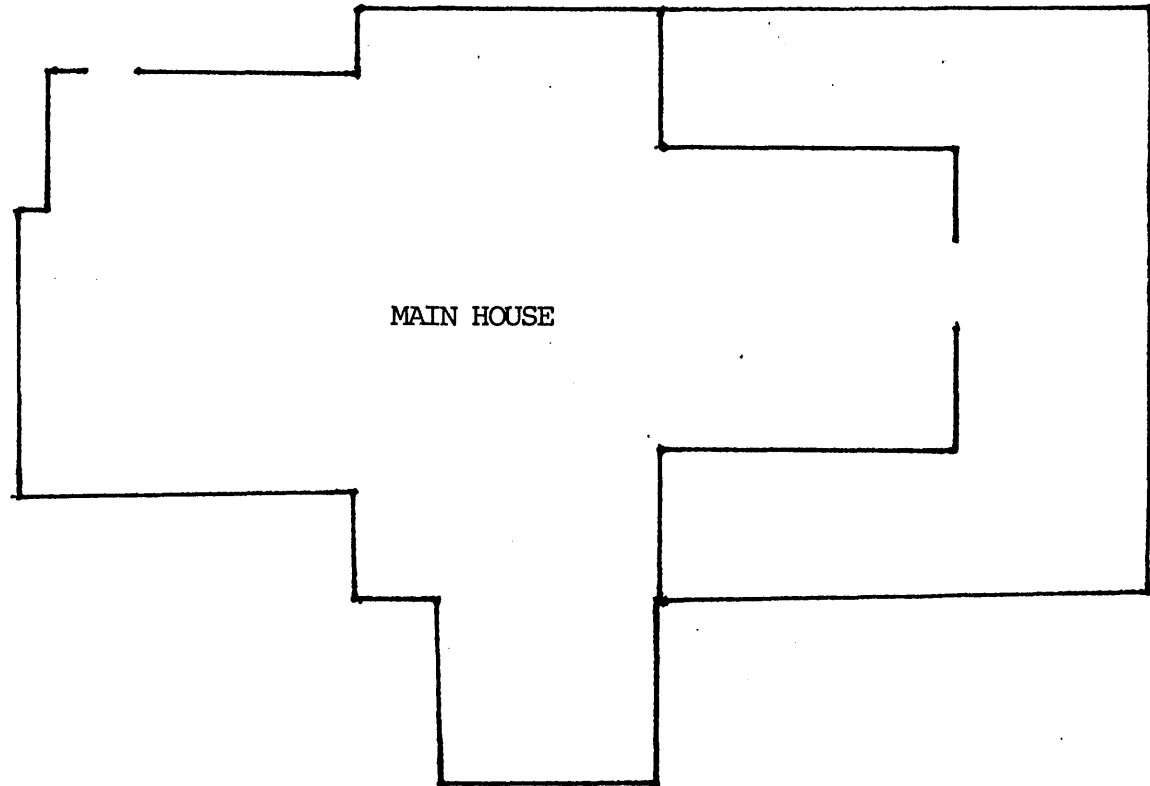
Not to scale



OUTBUILDING



14



MAIN HOUSE

SITE PLAN

Perry L. Biddle
House

203 Scribner Avenue

DeFuniak Springs, Walton Co., FL

DE FUNIAK SPRINGS EAST, FLA.

30086-F1-TF-024

1973

PHOTOREVISED 1987

DMA 3745 II NE-SERIES V847

FLORALA, ALA. 25 MI.
LIBERTY 10 MI.

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3398

42'30"

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T 2 N

3397

CRESTVIEW 31 MI.
MOSSY HEAD 17 MI.

3745 II NW
(DE FUNIAK SPRINGS WEST)

Davis Lane Ch

25

30

Radio tower

Radio tower

Co Office

Hospital

Lake De Funiak

De Funiak Springs

Biddle House

Creek

Bruce

12

6

7

Gra

