PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PO Box 490, STATION 11 **GAINESVILLE, FL 32627-0490**

> 306 N.E. 6™ AVENUE P: (352) 334-5022 P: (352) 334-5023 F: (352) 334-2648

TO:

Historic Preservation Board

FLORIDA

Information Item: A

FROM:

Planning & Development Services Department

starts with passion

DATE: January 3, 2017

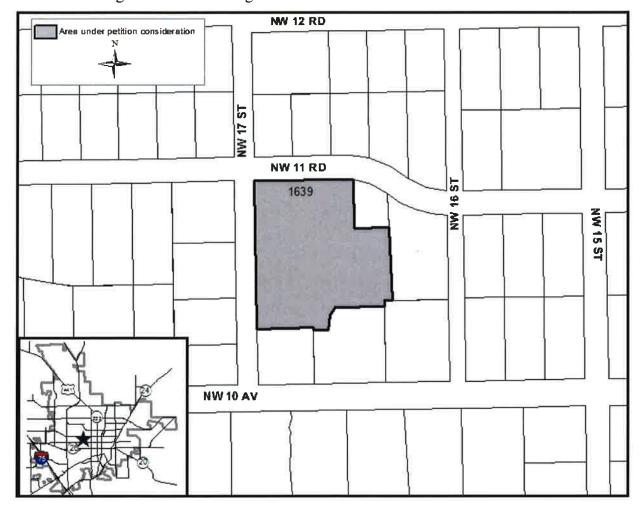
Staff

SUBJECT:

<u>Information Item A.</u> National Register Nomination: Cox Family Log House. Located at 1639 NW 11th Road. Robert T. Mounts, owner.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Historic Preservation Board support the nomination of this property to the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the HPB may provide official comments to the Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation as to whether or not this property meets eligibility criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.



Project Description

The property, located at 1639 NW 11th Road, has been nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places by the State of Florida, Division of Historical Resources. The nomination proposal will be reviewed by the Florida National Register Review Board in a public meeting early this year. If the Review Board finds that the property meets the criteria for listing established by the National register, a formal nomination will be submitted to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington D.C., who will make the final decision (see Exhibit A-1).

Inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places provides recognition that the property is deemed by the federal and state governments to be significant to our history at the national, state and/or local levels.

Background

"The Cox Family Log House is located at 1639 NW 11th Road in Gainesville, Florida. The property, which is located eleven blocks north and west of the center of downtown Gainesville, lies within the Florida Park Subdivision. The house was built circa 1937 of local cypress logs and stone. The logs were hauled to the property, where they were allowed to dry and were then peeled and trimmed before construction. The one-and two-story log house has intersecting gables and two chimneys of local chert stone. The continuous foundation is of concrete block faced with chert stone. The two chimneys are of the same stone, as is the fireplace in the living room. The round cypress logs are set on one another with rounded saddle notches and the ends are staggered at the exposed corners. The logs are chinked and the chinking is white. The high-ceilinged living and dining room has exposed log walls and four massive cross beams with V-shaped trusses. Most of the interior walls are also of exposed logs. The contributing resources are the main house and contemporary pond. Noncontributing resources include the garage/office, swimming pool, gazebo, pump house/storage shed, and stone patio fence."

Summary

"The Cox Family Log House is nominated to the National Register for local significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Built circa 1937, it is an unusual example of a residential adaptation of the New Deal Era Rustic Style of architecture. Its incorporation of rough-hewn, locally produced cypress wood and stone into the building and usage of a log cabin style of construction chinked with mortar are indicative of the Rustic Style. It is the oldest house in Florida Park, an area principally developed in the 1950s and 1960s. Although it has undergone some changes, the building retains enough integrity to qualify for listing in the National Register."

Information Item A January 3, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Persons

Interim Principal Planner

Prepared by:

Jason Simmons

Jason Simmons

Planner

List of Exhibits

Exhibit A-1 Notification Letter from Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation to Planning

Department

Exhibit A-2 Florida Master Site File Report AL01339

Exhibit A-3 National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Exhibit A-4 National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheets with Floor Plan and Maps

Exhibit A-5 Photos of Property





RICK SCOTT Governor KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

December 8, 2016

Mr. Jason Simmons Planner City of Gainesville Post Office Box 490, Station 11 Gainesville, Florida 32602-0490

Re: Cox Family Log House, 1639 Northwest 11th Road, Gainesville, Alachua County

Dear Mr. Simmons:

A Florida National Register Nomination Proposal for the above referenced property has been received by the State Historic Preservation Officer. We solicit your review and recommendation concerning eligibility in accordance with the procedures established by the National Historic Preservation Act [Title I, Section 101 (16 U.S.C. 470a) (c)(2)] which created the basis for the participation of Certified Local Governments in the Florida National Register of Historic Places nomination process.

According to the Act, before a property within the jurisdiction of the certified local government may be considered by the State to be nominated for inclusion on the National Register, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall notify the owner, the applicable chief local elected official, and the local historic preservation commission. The commission, after reasonable opportunity for public comment, shall prepare a report as to whether or not such property meets the eligibility criteria. Within sixty days of the notice from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the chief local elected official shall transmit the report of the commission and his recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Officer. If no such report and recommendation are received within sixty days, the State shall proceed with the nomination process.

If <u>either</u> the preservation agency or the chief local elected official supports the nomination of the property, the proposal will be scheduled for consideration by the Florida National Register Review Board. If <u>both</u> the commission and the chief local elected official recommend that a property <u>not</u> be nominated to the National Register, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall take no further action, unless within thirty days of the receipt of such recommendation by the State Historic Preservation Officer an appeal is filed with the State. Any party may file an appeal with the State Historic Preservation Officer, after hearing the appeal, determines that the property is eligible, he shall proceed with the





Simmons December 8, 2016 Page 2

nomination process. The State Historic Preservation Officer shall include any reports and recommendations from any party along with the nomination submitted to the Keeper of the Register.

The staff would like to bring to your attention two particular issues with this building which we would appreciate your review and input. Originally, the house was attached to a contemporary apartment via a porte cochere. This apartment building burned down and was replaced by a new building which matched the construction method and materials of the original. This reconstruction was expanded beyond the original footprint of the historic apartment building. Also, the porte cochere connecting the two buildings has been enclosed and converted into a room in the house, effectively turning what was two buildings into one. There have been other changes to the property over time, including a rear addition added onto the back of the historic core of the house, an enclosed patio with a non-contributing stone fence, a non-contributing pool, and a non-contributing garage building.

Our office feels that despite the changes that have taken place, the building retains sufficient integrity to qualify for listing in the National Register. It retains a high degree of material and workmanship integrity in the main house, preserving its cypress logs and chinking and original hardware. The design integrity has been impacted by changes over time. However, most of these additions have respected the original design of the house, using either similar materials and construction techniques or are designed as to appear subordinate to the main core of the 1937 house. The Cox house retains integrity of location and setting, as well. Additionally, the house retains integrity of feeling and association, and is able to clearly express its significance as a 1930s example of Rustic architecture.

Lastly, we have identified only one other Rustic 1930s residence in the Gainesville city limits. We are hoping your office might verify this finding and assist us in establishing a more complete context of Rustic Style buildings in your community, including additional extant examples of the style found there.

We look forward to your recommendation and comments regarding this property. If we can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact Historic Preservationist Andrew Waber at (850) 245-6430.

Sincerely,

Ruben A. Acosta

Survey & Registration Supervisor Bureau of Historic Preservation

RAA/ajw Enclosures

10	EXHIBIT
tabbies	A-2

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

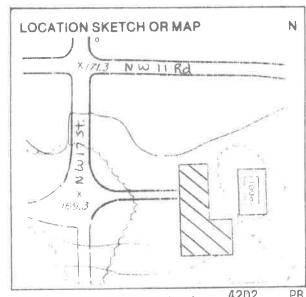
FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE

Division of Archives, History and Records Management	Site Invente	ory Form	FDAHRM	802 = =
DS-HSP-3AAA Rev. 3-79		-	52 A) 15	1009 = =
Olfo Allena		Site	No. 3 AC 1	820 = =
Address of Site: 1639 NW 11th	Rd	830 = = Su	vey Date 8007	905 = =
Instruction for locating	110			303 = -
matraction for locating				813 = =
Location: Florida Park	(see	tax roll no.	9052)	868 = =
subdivision name		lock no.	lot no.	808 = =
County: Alachua		ad Dianus		000 = =
Owner of Site: Name: Hodgk: Address: 1639	Inson, K.D. a	nd Dianne	210-23	
				902 = =
Type of Ownership private	nesville, Fl 848 = =	Recording Date	<u> </u>	832 = =
Recorder:		Hecolding Date		
Name & Title: Ann DeRosa	a Byrne, (Con	sultant)		3
Address: The Histor	ry Group 30	O W. Peachtre	e St.	
Suite 16	DE Atlanta	Ga. 30308	private reside	818 = =
Condition of Site: Integrity of	Site:	Original Use	private restu	= = 858
Check One Check On	e or More		nnivate meside	anc eso
	858 = =	Present Use	private reside	844 = =
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	858 = =	6	- COULT OF CLASSIC	
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Moved()(D)ate:)()858 = =			
NR Classification Category: <u>b</u>	uilding			916 = =
Threats to Site:				
Check One or More				
Zoning ()()()878 = =	Transportation ())()878 = =
☐ Development ()()()878 = =	Fill(X) B78 = =
Deterioration ()()()878 = =	☐ Dredge ()()()878 = =
Borrowing ()()()878 = =			
Other (See Remarks Below);		878 = =		
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Significance:				

Perhaps the largest of several Gainesville "log" houses, this rambling "cabin" is located in Area 13, in a neighborhood of 1940s and 1950s Period Houses and Ranch Style houses.

SEE SITE FILE STAFF FOR ORIGINAL PHOTO(S) OR MAP(S)

ARCHITECT	872 = =
BUILDER	874 = =
STYLE AND/OR PERIOD World War II	964 = =
PLAN TYPE irregular; irregular	986 = =
EXTERIOR FABRIC(S) Wood: log	854 = =
STRUCTURAL SYSTEM(S) Log PORCHES	856 = =
	942 = =
FOUNDATION:	942 = =
ROOF TYPE: intersecting gable	942 = =
SECONDARY ROOF STRUCTURE(S): Wall dormer: shed	942 = =
CHIMNEY LOCATION: west offset	942 = =
WINDOW TYPE: DHS, 6/6, wood	942 = =
CHIMNEY: brick	882 = =
ROOF SURFACING: Composition shingle	882 = =
ORNAMENT EXTERIOR:	882 = =
NO. OF CHIMNEYS 952 = NO. OF STORIES 2	950 = =
NO. OF DORMERS	954 = =
Map Reference (incl. scale & date)	
	809 = =
Latitude and Longitude:	800 = =
Site Size (Approx. Acreage of Property): LT 1	833 = =



Township	Range	Section	
098	20E	31	812==

UTM Coordinates:

Zone Easting Norming

Photographic Records Numbers 42D2

42D2 PB C-65

860 = =

Contact Print



Creamer, Dawn

From: Hunt, Susanne

Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2007 1:54 PM

To: Edwards, Scott; Creamer, Dawn; Mattick, Barbara; Gaske, Fred; Ferro, David; Wisley, Phil

Subject: Gainesville Log cabin home, article



http://www.gainesville.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070510/DAYBREAK/70510001

1931 log cabin is rooted in history

KATIE HENDRICK

Special to The Sun

May 10. 2007 6:01AM

Step onto Bill and Judy Riffee's property, and you've entered a sanctuary.

University Avenue is less than a mile away, riddled with traffic and swarms of students most hours of the day. But her home, built on 4 1/2 gently sloping acres, shrouded by a fortress of shady oaks and pine trees and - depending on the time of year - camellias or azaleas, presents a welcoming change of scenery.

And amid this peaceful setting, the Riffees' home offers a unique taste of Gainesville history.

Construction began on the home, a log cabin, in 1929, when mules dragged logs from Sweetwater Cypress Swamp, now near the site of Lowe's Home Improvement on NW 13th Street. The logs sat for a year to air-dry, and the 3,400-square-feet home on the corner of NW 11th Road and NW 17th Street was finally completed in 1931.

"Although people will come in here and say, 'I feel like I'm in Colorado or Wyoming,' this house couldn't be more native," Riffee said.

It was originally built for O'Neal and Mary Cox of the Cox Furniture family, who owned three stores back when Gainesville's commercial area consisted of the intersection between University Avenue and Main Street.

Back then, the house had only one bathroom and relied on a wood fire cooking stove and one fireplace as the lone sources of heat. For entertainment, the Coxes enjoyed taking a dip in their "swimming hole," a natural spring at the bottom of a hill beneath the front porch, tossing knives at the kitchen door after dinner, and holding strength contests to see who could pull themselves on the cypress pole beams that ran across the 16-foot-tall ceiling in the living room.

In most respects, the home has held up well and retains its original rustic feel, including the knife-scratched door.

Dave Wilber, customer service manager for AmerLink Log Homes, credits the log for this durability.

"Wood is the only self-renewing natural resource for building materials," he wrote in an online article. "A wooden log 'breathes.' Log cabins have been around for a long time. And they will be around for many more generations to come."

But naturally, there have been some renovations in nearly eight decades. Gary and Dianne Junior, who owned the house from 1983 to 1996, added extra bathrooms and a third bedroom, a chlorine swimming pool (although black-bottomed to give a natural look), and a porte de cocher, a narrow hallway that formerly served as a driveway, bridges the main house to a 1,900-square-foot guest house. Riffee and her husband, Bill, moved into the home 10 years ago with their daughter, Luci, then 10, and son, Joel, then 16, when Bill accepted the position as dean of the College of Pharmacy at the University of Florida. Two older sons were away at college at the time.

"Bill called me in Texas while he was househunting, and I still remember exactly how he put it," Riffe said. "He told me, 'Unless our tastes are less dissimilar than I think they are, we need to pray that the Juniors sell this house."

The Riffees' prayers were answered. Shortly after the phone call to his wife, Bill Riffee drafted a contract with Gary Junior in the kitchen of his new home.

The living room also served as center stage for two of their sons' weddings, which required removing all the furniture, leaving a long wooden floor as the focal point, although tulle hung from the rafters.

"Before people came in, I swear it looked like a bowling alley!" Riffe said.

Of course, the home has seen some hard times, too. The 2004 hurricane season wiped out three laurel oak trees, dropped another tree right in the middle of the bathtub in the master bathroom, and killed all the koi that swam in the Riffees' pond. It took about a year to repair all the damage, Riffee said.

But just as it has done since the days of the Great Depression, the house held up, and added another chapter to its history.

"This house tells a magnificent story," Luci Riffee said.

For more photos of the Riffee residence go to The Sun's Real Estate section

Susanne Hunt, Editor
Florida History & the Arts magazine
Florida Department of State
Room 411, R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250
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www.flheritage.com/magazine

http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/comments/

Please Note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state and local officials regarding state or local business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may therefore be subject to public disclosure.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

Adapted for the PROPOSAL
of Properties in Florida for
Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Grayed Areas for Use by Staff	
1. Name of Property	
historic name Cox Family Log House	
other names	FMSF Number 8AL01339
2. Location	,
street & number 1639 NW 11th Road	not for publication
city or town Gainesville	vicinity
stateFLORIDAcodeFLcounty Alachua	codeAL zip code 32605
3. Owner Awareness Statement	
for its nomination for listing in the National Register of Historic Plareview of the proposal by the State Historic Preservation Office a and for the formal nomination of the property at the discretion understand that I will be notified of the date and place of the considered by the Florida National Register Review Board, and the comments and to appear in person in support of or opposition to the At this time I support oppose reserve opinion Signature of property owner or representative	and the Florida National Register Review Board, n of the State Historic Preservation Officer. I e public meeting at which the proposal will be nat I will be given an opportunity to submit written the nomination of the property.
4. Legal Description of Property (according to county property appr	raiser's office)
Please also provide:	
Name of USGS Quadrangle: East Gainesville	
Township, Section and Range: T 09S S 31	R 20E
Tax Parcel #:09052-000-000	
Attach continuation sheet if necessary	

Cox Family Log House		Alachua, Florida			
Name of Property			County and State		
5. Classification					
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Reso (Do not include any p	reviously listed resources	rty in the count)	
⊠ private □ public-local	□ buildings □ district	Contributing	Noncontribut	ting	
public-State public-Federal	site structure object	1	2	buildings	
	□ object	0	0	sites	
		11	3	structures	
		0	0	objects	
		22	5	total	
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of		Number of cont listed in the Na	ributing resources p tional Register	oreviously	
N	/A		0		
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from in			
DOMESTIC: Single dwelling		DOMESTIC: Single of	lwelling		
					
-					
7. Description					
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories fr	rom instructions)		
LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CE	NTURY MOVEMENTS	foundation STC	ONE		
Other: Rustic		walls WOOD			
ž 		roof ASPHAL	Т		
		other CONCRI			

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

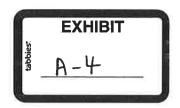
Cox Family Log House	Alachua, Florida		
Name of Property	Cou	nty and State	
8. Statement of significance			
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instruction	s)	
□ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution broad patterns of our history.	☐ Agriculture☒ Architecture☐ Archaeology☐ Community Planning	☐ Industry☐ Maritime History☐ Military☐ Politics/Government	
■ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	Commerce Education	☐ Recreation ☐ Social History	
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction of represents the work of a master, or possesses	☐ Early Settlement☐ Health/Medicine	☐ Transportation Other:	
high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance		
□ 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.)	Significant Dates	7	
Property is:	,		
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person		
☐ B removed from its original location.	N/A		
☐ C a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation		
□ D a cemetery.	NA		
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.			
☐ F a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder		
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years	Unknown		
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 preparingthis form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Cox Family Log House Name of Property	Alachua, Florida County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property less than 10	
UTM References (Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 7 3 6 9 9 6 6 3 2 8 2 1 3 2 Zone Easting Northing 2	3 Zone Easting Northing 4 See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Murray D. Laurie	
organization	date
street & number 2858 SW 14 Drive	telephone <u>352-335-6784</u>
citv or town Gainesville s	tate <u>FL</u> zip code <u>32608</u>
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets (All information on continuation sheets m	nust be typed.)
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) Do not write up	on or attach labels to this map.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties havir	ng large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative digital color or black and white phot (Do not write upon or attach permanent labels to the pl	
Additional items (check with the area Historic Sites Specialist at [904] 487-2333 for any addition	nal items)
Property Owner	
name Robert T. Mounts	
street & number 1639 BW 11 th Road	telephone <u>352-665-9296</u>
city or town Gainesville s	tate <u>FL</u> zip code <u>32605</u>

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET



Section number	7	Page	1	Cox Family Log House Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida

SUMMARY

The Cox Family Log House is located at 1639 NW 11th Road in Gainesville, Florida. The property, which is located eleven blocks north and west of the center of downtown Gainesville, lies within the Florida Park Subdivision. The house was built circa 1937 of local cypress logs and stone. The logs were hauled to the property, where they were allowed to dry and were then peeled and trimmed before construction. The one- and two-story log house has intersecting gables and two chimneys of local chert stone. The continuous foundation is of concrete block faced with chert stone. The two chimneys are of the same stone, as is the fireplace in the living room. The round cypress logs are set on one another with rounded saddle notches and the ends are staggered at the exposed corners. The logs are chinked and the chinking is white. The high-ceilinged living and dining room has exposed log walls and four massive cross beams with V-shaped trusses. Most of the interior walls are also of exposed logs. The contributing resources are the main house and contemporary pond. Noncontributing resources include the garage/office, swimming pool, gazebo, pump house/storage shed, and stone patio fence.

SETTING

The Cox Family Log House is sited on a gently sloping 2.43-acre lot at the corner of NW 11th Road (Oakwood Avenue) and NW 17 Street (Springwood Street) in the Florida Park subdivision (See Figure 1). The house, which faces south, was built shortly after the subdivision was platted in 1936, and the roads were unpaved when the construction took place (Photo 1). A spring and a small stream flowing from it to the south are located at the bottom of the slope, at the east boundary of the more-or-less square-shaped lot (See Figure 2). The stream was dammed by the Cox family and turned into a rustic swimming hole with rock sides and cement steps, which in turn empties into Rattlesnake Creek (Photo 2). The pine trees grow on the slope down to the pond, and other mature trees and shrubs are part of the landscaping (Photos 3-5). Many of the original trees that stood on the property were lost during storms and to Southern pine beetles. The surrounding neighborhood is composed of houses built later, in the 1950s and 1960s, in a variety of styles, mostly ranch houses and mid-century modern homes. Rattlesnake Creek, a tributary of Hogtown Creek, runs through the south part of Florida Park. The spring and creek on the property are part of this larger watershed.

¹ Street names were changed to numbered streets and avenues in Gainesville around 1950. These are the street names indicated on the plat of Florida Park Unit #1, BookC, Page 65. Alachua County Plat Book.

² Alachua County Official Records. Warranty Deed, Book 162, Page 318. Barney and Eddie Sue Colson sold all of Block 4 in Florida Park Unit #1 to J. O'Neal and Mary J. Cox on April 24, 1936.

³ William Riffee, former owner, email to present owner, Robert Mounts, July, 23016.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	Page -	2	Cox Family Log House Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Main Building

Exterior

The intersecting gables of the roof are clad in architectural grade composition shingles (Photos 3-6). Two separate sections of the roof, one on the south side and one on the west side, form shed roof extensions. The gable roof of the second story section intersects with the dominant side gable and has a shed-roofed wall dormer on each side, facing west and east, respectively (Photo 7). The separate intersecting gable roof of the one-story apartment to the rear is also clad in composition shingles, as is the lower roof over a former porte cochere that links the two sections of the building. There are wide roof overhangs on all sides, supported by log rafter ends, which help to protect the exposed ends of the logs that form the walls (Photo 6).

The two stone chimneys are expertly constructed of local chert fieldstone. The largest chimney is on the north wall of the living room and is wider at the base, tapering to the top, which is finished with a curving stone bonnet (Photo 7). A square stone chimney rises above the west-sloping roof and originally served the wood-burning stove in the kitchen (Photo 8). It also helped heat the second story bedrooms. The same chert stone is used to face the continuous foundation of the house.⁴

Main (South) Facade

The main entrance to the house is on the south elevation, dominated by two front gables set with horizontal logs (Photo 3). The wide white chinking between each log is a distinctive feature of the walls, both outside and inside of the house. A paved walk leads to the recessed gable part of the house to a set of broad concrete steps flanked by wide rock side forms topped with lights that provide access to an open, unroofed patio with tile paving (Photo 3). Non-contributing low rock walls finish the south and east sides of the patio. The patio,

⁴ This locally quarried stone, limestone mixed with harder chert stone, was used to build many distinctive homes in the Gainesville area in the 1920s and 1930s, so there would have been local masons who were familiar with it. https://gatorpreservationist.wordpress.com/2009/12/12/gainesvilles-chert-houses//

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	Page —	3	Cox Family Log House Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida

which was built in the 1980s, leads to the original screened porch, now glass-enclosed on the south and east walls.⁵

West Elevation

The west wing of the house forms an L and extends forward on the south facade, forming the west wall of the patio and porch. It is marked by a front gable and a façade set with a broad picture window overlooking the south lawn (Photo 4). The exposed ends of the logs that form the walls are staggered, with some cut straight across and some with more or less jagged ends that reflect the tools used to hand cut the cypress trees. Set back a little from this front gable is a section of a 1983 addition to the west side that is clad in painted weatherboard siding (Photo 9).⁶ With the exception of this addition, all of the exterior walls are of chinked cypress logs with extended, staggered ends, set one atop the next with rounded saddle notches (Photo 6).⁷

East Elevation

The east elevation is also L shaped, with a wide, one-story gable set with a triple windows that overlook the east lawn and swimming hole or pond (Photo 5). The same staggered log ends criss-cross at the corners, adding to the rustic, hand-built aspect of the house (Photo 6). The more-or-less square second-story section is recessed behind this side gabled wing, and a stone patio is set in the inner space. The screened swimming pool forms the east edge of the patio (Photo 10). A glass and wood door to the patio from the house has a sloped ramp set with tile leading to the patio. This door is flanked by the original, wood-framed, double-hung windows used throughout the house. Also opening to this patio is a similar door to the enclosed porte cochere and similar windows set on either side of the door.

The east elevation of a rear apartment wing, rebuilt in 2011 after it was destroyed by fire, also has a door leading to the patio (Photo 11). It was originally a smaller, one-room addition on the north side of the now enclosed porte cochere, and was used by the Cox family as servant's quarters.⁸ As a result of the fire, nothing

⁵ Geoff O'Meara, conversation with Murray Laurie, June 2, 2016. Mr. O'Meara, a contractor who worked for several of the subsequent owners, said that wood steps that had originally led up to the front screened porch had rotted and were replaced by the more substantial patio. The screened porch was later enclosed by fixed glass panels in the same pattern as the original screening.

⁶ Jackie Levine. "Log House Is Dream Come True." *Country Magazine*, August/September, 1987.

Eugene Russell Davis, AIA, designed the addition, which included a bathroom, a walk-in closet, and enlarged back bedroom on the first floor. The 1983 architectural drawings in the possession of the owner clearly show the additions. The 1960 Sanborn Map of Gainesville held in the collection of the Matheson Museum was also consulted to determine the original footprint of the house.
 Sanborn Map of Gainesville, 1960. Matheson Museum collection. Daniel Cox, youngest son of O'Neal and Mary Cox, confirmed in an email to the current owner (June 15, 2016) that the north apartment was the residence of the family's maid. He also recalls that the carriage way was open and paved with cypress and that the screened swimming pool was installed by his parents in the 1960s.

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was left of the original material and this portion of the house was rebuilt in the same style with chinked cypress logs.⁹

North Elevation

A fenced dog yard encloses part of the north area of the property, and there is a service drive from NW 11 Road leading to the back of a non-contributing storage shed and pool pump house to the north of the swimming pool, believed to have been built in the 1960s as part of the pool complex. The north elevation of the L-shaped rear apartment is visible, as is the north elevation of the garage and office, built in the 1990s, that faces NW 17 Street (Photo 12). The storage shed, pump house, and the swimming pool are non-contributing.

West Elevation

The west elevation of the (noncontributing) three-bay garage partially hides the west side of the main house, which is separated from it by a paved courtyard and flower beds (Photo 8). The west elevation of the rear apartment shows an arrangement of double-hung windows on the long wall and a bay window on the short extension on the short wall that is opposite the office attached to the north end of the garage. Also visible are the door and windows that enclose the west end of the former porte cochere, now used as a game room, which are similar to those on the opposite end leading to the east patio (Photo 13). This game room was originally open at both ends, serving as a carriageway between the main house and the maid's room. A double casement window is set in the original wall of the house where the kitchen is located. A small, screened porch is set in the inner wall, off the southwest corner of the kitchen. A wall dormer is set in the slope of the roof of the second story section. The west elevation also shows the 1983 addition, which has a bay window and a set of four square windows set rather high in the wall (Photo 8).

Interior

First Floor

The main entrance to the interior is from the open patio on the south elevation that opens to a glass-enclosed porch, formerly screened (Photo 14). A wood cocktail bar is installed at the west end of this room. The front door with its original iron hardware is unusual in that it is split in half, the upper section set with six panes of glass and the bottom section of solid vertical boards.

⁹ Jim Keeton, owner of BK Cypress Company of Bronson, FL, conversation with Murray Laurie, June 6, 2016. BK Cypress rebuilt much of the rear apartment. He provided expert information on the building technology of traditional cypress log houses.

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Most of the interior walls look just like the exterior, rounded cypress logs with white chinking. The wood floors are of pine. Many of the solid doors throughout the house are fashioned of plain vertical boards, while others have six panes of glass at the top with cross-braced wood panels at the bottom.

The living/dining room has an open ceiling, sixteen feet high (Photos 15-17). Four massive beams with V-shaped trusses are spaced across the room, and the exposed wood ceiling is composed of boards and smaller logs. Four six over six double hung windows and the front door are spaced along the south wall. A trio of the same kind of windows overlook the sloping lawn down to the pond on the east wall. Similar windows are arranged on the north wall on either side of the stone fireplace and hearth (Photo 17). The dining room is at the west end of the space. (See Figure 3) A door opens to a breakfast room to the north on this wall, and another double-swing door to the kitchen is located at the end of the north wall. A door on the south end of the west wall leads to the interior hallway.

A set of steps composed of round log supports and half log treads leading to the second story is placed along the east, side wall of the hall (Photo 18). The base of the second stone chimney is visible next to the stairs. The original wood-burning stove in the kitchen once fed into the chimney. There is evidence that a pipe on the east side of the chimney once directed heat into the dining room area as well. The largest bedroom, located in the front of the house, facing the south lawn, opens to the south from the hall (Photo 19). It too has a high, open ceiling with four beams arranged across the space. On the east wall of this room one door opens to the enclosed porch and another to the patio. A broad picture window with wood-framed side windows overlooks the south lawn (Photo 1). A bathroom and closet added on in 1983 opens to the west. The bedroom walls are of chinked logs like the living/dining room walls.

Adjacent to this room is a smaller bedroom, which also opens to the inner hall. It was enlarged when the addition was built in 1983. The original downstairs bathroom, which also opens to the hall is to the north of this bedroom. The door to the kitchen opens from the north end of hall. To the right is a door to the small screened porch next to the kitchen. The kitchen has been remodeled several times, but has not been enlarged (Photo 20). The stove is now located on the west wall. It is vented through the roof by means of a metal chimney. A freestanding island is located in the middle of the kitchen. A casement window opens to the west and a double hung wood-framed window on the north wall opens to the enclosed game room/porte cochere. The patch where the stovepipe for the original wood stove was attached to the chimney is still visible on the south wall. A vertical cypress log at the east end of the kitchen is marked with the growth lines of the three Cox sons through the years, carved into the wood (Photo 20). A pantry door in the northeast corner of the kitchen is scarred with the marks of the Cox boys' knife- throwing contests.

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A small dining area or breakfast room is adjacent to the kitchen, overlooking the east patio. A door on the north wall leads, with two steps, down to the old porte cochere, now used as a game room (Photo 21). Doors and windows at each end of this room were constructed to enclose this area and it was paved with tiles in the 1980s. Three large cypress logs help brace the ceiling. A door from this area leads to the rear apartment, and a high shelf on the north wall holds a variety of antique items. According to Geoff O'Meara, this was installed when he constructed the end walls. ¹⁰

Second Floor

There are two bedrooms and a bathroom on the second floor. The room to the right of the small landing overlooks the east patio and pool. It also has exposed walls of logs with chinking and a small built-in cupboard (Photo 22). A double-hung window is on the north wall and one on the east wall. The bathroom is sited between the two bedrooms. The west bedroom is smaller, with access to an attic space at the south end. The kitchen chimney rises through this attic, which has beams of unstripped cypress logs and shows some of the chinking process without the finished layer.

Pond

The artificial pond located on the property is contemporary to the house and is considered a contributing structure to the property. Its presence supplements the rustic look and feel strived for with the property. The adjacent stream was dammed by the Cox family and later turned into a rustic swimming hole with rock sides and cement steps, which in turn empties into Rattlesnake Creek (Photo 2). The concrete edge of the lining of the roughly oval-shaped pond is visible, and a few steps can be seen on the north end of the pond. Despite these alterations, the pond retains its configuration and enough integrity to be considered contributing to the resource.

Non-Contributing Resources

There are five non-contributing resources located within the boundary of the Cox Family Log House:

Garage/Office

¹⁰ Geoff O'Meara, conversation with Murray Laurie, June 2, 2016.

Daniel Cox confirmed that his two older brothers occupied the two upstairs bedrooms and that his bedroom was next to his parent's bedroom. He was about three years old when they moved into the house.

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Located to the rear of the property is a one-story garage/office building constructed circa 1990 (Photo 8). The three-bay garage partially hides the west side of the main house, which is separated from it by a paved courtyard and flower beds. Due to its age, it is considered a non-contributing building.

Swimming Pool

A non-contributing screened swimming pool is located to the east of the house (Photo 10). Connected to the house via a patio, the pool was built circa the 1960s and was later upgraded with a jacuzzi. It is considered non-contributing due to its age.

<u>Gazebo</u>

A small wood gazebo, built in the 1980s, stands a few feet from the south west side of the pond. Due to its age, it is considered non-contributing to the property (Photo 23).

Pump House and Storage Shed

There is a small one-story wood frame pump house and storage shed located adjacent to the pool. It rests on a poured concrete foundation, has a metal shed roof, and features a simple shed roof extension and wood glazed double doors. Due to its age, it is considered not contributing to the property (Photo 24).

Stone Fence

A chert stone wall or fence encloses the patio located on the main (south) elevation of the house (Photo 3). This wall, which closely matches the stone material used in the historic chimneys, was erected circa the 1980s. Due to its age, it is considered non-contributing to the property.

ALTERATIONS

The 1960 Sanborn Map shows how the original footprint of the house has changed. The rear apartment, to the north, burned in 2011 and was rebuilt and somewhat enlarged shortly thereafter. It has walls of rounded cypress logs with white chinking, which match the walls in the main house (Photo 11).¹² The addition to the west side of the main house by subsequent owners in 1983 provided space for a large bathroom and closet for the largest

¹² Jim Keeton, owner of BK Cypress Company of Bronson, FL, conversation with Murray Laurie, June 6, 2016. His firm built the walls and ceilings, but other work on this rebuilt section was contracted to R&R Construction, Inc. of Gainesville.

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bedroom and doubled the size of the adjacent small bedroom (Photo 9). Apparently, closets are difficult to build with log walls and several solutions were used, including free-standing storage pieces or later-built additions. The present entrance and raised patio were also added in the 1980s. A sketch, completed in 1983 before this feature was built, but after the addition to the west side was in place, shows what the original main entrance looked like. The screen porch was enclosed with glass in the late 1970s or early 1980s (Photo 10). The porte cochere, once open, has been enclosed and the front patio added in the 1980s (Photo 21). The second story bathroom was also upgraded around this time. The screened swimming pool has been upgraded and a Jacuzzi added (Photo 10).

According to Geoff O'Meara, a contractor who worked for several of the subsequent owners, wood steps that had originally led up to the front screened porch had rotted and were replaced by the more substantial patio. The screened porch was later enclosed by fixed glass panels in the same pattern as the original screening. Eugene Russell Davis, AIA, designed the addition, which included a bathroom, a walk-in closet, and enlarged back bedroom on the first floor. The 1983 architectural drawings in the possession of the owner clearly show the additions. The 1960 Sanborn Map of Gainesville held in the collection of the Matheson Museum was also consulted to determine the original footprint of the house.

Integrity

The Cox Family Log house is an unusual surviving example of residential Rustic architecture in Gainesville. It retains a high degree of material and workmanship integrity in the main house, preserving its cypress logs and chinking and original hardware. The design integrity has been impacted by changes over time, including additions and the reconstruction of a modified apartment following a fire in 2011. However, most of these additions have respected the original design of the house, using either similar materials and construction techniques (as in the apartment) or are designed in such fashion as to appear subordinate to the main core of the 1937 house. The Cox house retains integrity of location and setting, with extensive plantings screening the house from its later neighbors. Additionally, the house retains integrity of feeling and association, and is able to clearly express its significance as a 1930s example of Rustic architecture.

¹³ Sketch by Nick DeCarlis, circa 1983, provided by former owner, Diane Junior. Mrs. Junior indicated that the additions to the west were completed before they moved into the house, but the construction of the front patio was undertaken later.

¹⁴ Diane Junior, email to the present owner, May 21, 2016.

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SUMMARY

The Cox Family Log House is nominated to the National Register for local significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Built circa 1937, it is an unusual example of a residential adaptation of the New Deal Era Rustic Style of architecture. Its incorporation of rough-hewn, locally produced cypress wood and stone into the building and usage of a log cabin style of construction chinked with mortar are indicative of the Rustic Style. It is the oldest house in Florida Park, an area principally developed in the 1950s and 1960s. Although it has undergone some changes, the building retains enough integrity to qualify for listing in the National Register.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Gainesville, the county seat of Alachua County, is situated in north central Florida. Gainesville emerged from a small village along Hogtown Creek into an important market town when the Florida Railroad was built through the site in the early 1860s. The railroad, which linked Fernandina on the east coast with Cedar Key on the west coast, opened up the interior of the state to settlement and commerce, and the Gainesville train depot promised to became a vital part of the local economy. The fertile soil, abundance of creeks and lakes, mild climate, and affordable cost of land attracted planters, small farmers, citrus growers, and ranchers in growing numbers. The expansion of the railroad system that followed the devastation of the economy during the Civil War between 1861 and 1865 facilitated the growth of Gainesville. It grew from a cluster of stores, livery stables, civic buildings, and hotels around the courthouse square to a more prosperous-looking county seat with handsome residential neighborhoods featuring a variety of late Victorian style homes by the end of the nineteenth century. Gainesville's population grew as it became an emerging center for education as well as agriculture and phosphate mining in 1905 when the University of Florida was established about a mile and a half west of downtown Gainesville.¹⁵

Like much of Florida, Gainesville experienced a real estate boom in the 1920s when the boundaries of the city expanded as new subdivisions were platted and developed. The *History of Gainesville* describes the "carnival atmosphere" that prevailed in the mid-twenties, when developers, builders, and those who sold goods to new homeowners, like the Cox Furniture Company and Wilson's Department Store, advertised extravagantly in local papers. ¹⁶ Gainesville realtors and land owners Barney R. Colson and G. M. Bowers platted a tract that would become Florida Park subdivision in 1936. The plat map showed the new street plans and lots for sale as

¹⁵ Charles H. Hildreth and Merlin G. Cox. *History f Gainesville, Florida, 1854-1979* (Gainesville: Alachua County Historical Society, 1981). 2-3, 7-9, 53-57, 104-106

¹⁶ Hildreth and Cox, 125-126, 144, 158.

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they hurried to cash in on the Florida land boom (See Figure 1).¹⁷ In the 1920s, the town's population grew from 6,800 to 10,465, but the nation was facing a downward trend that would last more than a decade as the stock market crashed in 1929. The land boom came to an end as inflated property prices cooled the building fever and the Depression set in early in Florida. Although Gainesville did not suffer the extremes of the real estate crash experienced in south Florida, most of the planned developments did not survive the downturn of the economy in the 1930s, and the restrictions on non-military building projects as the country went to war during the 1940s. One of the most dramatic events of the 1930s was the fire in the heart of downtown Gainesville in 1938 that caused \$300,000 in damages, destroying most of the stores in the block just west of the courthouse, at the corner of University Avenue and South Main Street.¹⁸

The postwar years transformed Gainesville as the University of Florida experienced its own building boom. Veterans returning to civilian life in the 1950s used the GI Bill to enroll at UF, many with young families in tow. New housing was built for women students and new academic buildings replaced temporary postwar structures. The UF College of Medicine was launched in 1956, and the on-campus Health Science Center continuously expanded medical educational opportunities as well as bringing jobs to the area at Shands Teaching Hospital and at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, built across Archer Road in 1967. Gainesville had a population of more than 46,000 by 1960 and the city continued to annex new areas of suburban housing. The subdivisions that had failed to develop and thrive in the 1930s became prime real estate once more in the 1950s and 1960s. New, modern homes, some designed by professors in the UF College of Architecture, appealed to faculty families and a growing professional class in Gainesville. Florida Park, for example, was popular for its proximity to the university, newer shopping centers, and downtown and for its forested lots, which were sold off plot by plot. Most of the old-growth pine trees and other native species that had been left in place formed a basis for an appealing natural setting for the mid-century modern homes and ranch houses that quickly filled the lots platted in the 1936. Like many of the Gainesville neighborhoods developed after World War II, Florida Park has gentle hills with creeks meandering through the area.

Although Gainesville's downtown continued to be a center for civic and government activity, as well as entertainment and culture, westward development in the 1960s and 1970s drew commerce and residential development toward Interstate 75 and Oaks Mall, about six miles to the west. Three older neighborhoods

¹⁷ Abstract of Title for Lot 2, Block14, Unit #4 of Florida Park Subdivision, prepared by the Alachua County Abstract Company. The abstract (which is not for the Cox property) reveals that Colson and Bowers bought 192 acres near the town for \$12,000 in 1912, well ahead of the land boom of the 1920s. The plat of Florida Park Unit #1 was recorded in Book C, page 65.

¹⁸ John. B. Pickard, Florida's Eden: An Illustrated History of Alachua County. (Gainesville: Maupin Press, 1994) 96.

¹⁹ Pickard, 104-106, 112; Hildreth and Cox, 173-174. See also the ERLA Study (The Comprehensive Preservation and Conservation Plan). Phase 1 Survey Report. The History Group of Atlanta. September 30, 1980.

²⁰ Mary Newell, "Florida Park: With its winding, tree-lined roads, it's a quiet village in the middle of town." *Gainesville Sun*, December 13, 1987. Hogtown Creek and Rattlesnake Creek flow through Florida Park.

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developed in the 1800s and early 1900s near downtown were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the 1980s, which led to preserving hundreds of historic homes and revitalizing the real estate market. ²¹ Attention is now being drawn to the preservation and documentation of buildings and areas of the city built after World War II, particularly Florida Park. ²²

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE



Sketch of Cox Family Log House, circa 1983, showing original front entrance (source unknown)

When O'Neal and Mary Cox built the log house on Block 4 of Unit 1 in Florida Park, they did not intend for it to be their permanent home, although they would live there for the next thirty-five years. A development plan of the property prepared for them in 1934 indicates that they planned to build a much larger home and a tennis court on the west part of Block 4 (referred to as Block 10 on the Florida Park Survey).²³ They purchased the land in 1936 from Barney Colson. Tax records for the following year show an assessment value of \$300 for the block, but the following year, the 1937 taxable value is listed as \$1,000, indicating the improvements on the lot.²⁴

The Northeast Gainesville Historic District was listed in 1980, to be followed shortly after by the Southeast Historic District and the Pleasant Street Historic District. http://www.cityofgainesville.org/PlanningDepartment/HistoricDistricts.aspx

The Historic Preservation Program in the UF College of Design, Construction and Planning sponsored a graduate student survey of Florida Park. The Historic Preservation Practicum report was presented under the direction of Dr. Linda Stevenson in April of 2016.

²³ Herbert L. Flint, Landscape Architect, Orlando, FL, prepared a Plan for Development for Mary and O'Neal Cox in 1936. A copy of the fragile blueprint is framed and displayed in the house.

²⁴ Alachua County Official Records: Deed, Book162, Page 218. April 24, 1936 Tax records, 1937 and 1938

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Early view of the pond with the house in the background, circa 1960 (source unknown).

Mary Baker Cox was related to Barney Colson: her mother was Sabrina Colson Baker, a cousin of the man who sold the lot to the Cox family. That may have been one reason why they acquired the large lot on land held for decades by Colson and Bowers. O'Neal Cox was a successful businessman with deep roots in Alachua County. His father, Daniel Cox, the founder of Cox Furniture Store, was born in LaCross. In his later years, Daniel Cox would return to the farm there where he was raised as his sons expanded the string of Cox Furniture Stores in Orlando, Tallahassee, Lake City, and Cross City.²⁵

²⁵ Richard Cox, Oral History, Matheson Center, Gainesville, recorded August 16, 1996, by John Bynum. Richard (Dick) Cox was the oldest son of O'Neal and Mary Cox. Both the Cox Furniture Store and the Cox Furniture Warehouse were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994, three years after the family went out of business in Gainesville.

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Mary Cox in dining room, circa 1960 (source unknown)

The main Cox Furniture Store in Gainesville owned by O'Neal Cox and his father and brothers was located on South Main Street, across from the Alachua County Courthouse. They also owned a warehouse a few blocks further south on Main Street.²⁶ The Cox family members were prospering, due in large part to the way that Gainesville and the surrounding area was growing during the Florida Boom. New homes were being built, requiring the kind of products and services their company could provide. Gainesville had a population of approximately 13,000 and UF had enrolled 3,000 students by 1930.

However, in the early morning on April 25, 1938, a roaring fire consumed most of the commercial buildings on the southwest corner of University Avenue and Main Street. The Cox Furniture Store, only insured at half its value, burned to the ground. Some of its inventory was salvaged and they advertised a "fire sale" at their warehouse on South Main Street the following week.²⁷

Cox Furniture Store, National Register of Historic Places, listed in 1994, contains a comprehensive history of the Cox family.
 "Fire Causes \$300,000 Damage." Gainesville Daily Sun, April 25, 1938. The front page article indicated that most of the buildings in the block on the southwest corner of University Avenue and Main Street were destroyed. The Cox family reported that they were only insured for fifty percent of their structure and that only \$2000 worth of their inventory was saved

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This disaster might have ruined their business, but it seems that they rallied and purchased the Baird Building, a block to the east, and reopened Cox Furniture Store in that large structure, built in 1887. They completely remodeled it for their new retail operation, which opened in July of 1939. Architect Sanford Goin designed the new furniture store, which required the installation of interior steel beams to support the showroom floors and an elevator, as well as exterior modifications.²⁸

The timing was evidently not right for O'Neal and Mary Cox to go forward with their plans the build a larger house while the family company was investing a considerable amount of money in the new store. Furthermore, the Depression set in and business did not prosper as expected during the rest of the 1930s and into the 1940s. O'Neal and Mary Cox never built the intended new home and tennis court, but years later sold those parcels to two of their three sons, who built homes on those lots. The parents continued to live in the log house until the early 1970s.²⁹ The house and about half of Block 4 were sold to Richard and Diane Hodgkinson in 1978.³⁰ Gary and Diane Junior purchased the property in 1983 from Mr. Hodgkinson and made considerable changes and additions. Gary Junior was a Gainesville City Commissioner and served as the Mayor of Gainesville in the 1980s.³¹ The next owners were William and Judith Riffee. Dr. Riffee was the dean of the UF College of Pharmacy. Robert Mounts and his wife, the current owners, purchased the Cox Family Log House in 2013. Whereas O'Neal and Mary owned the entire block, the boundary of the property today occupies 2.43 acres of the west half of the block.

During the thirty-five years that O'Neal and Mary Cox and their three sons, Richard Emory Cox, John O'Neal Cox, JR., and Daniel Baker Cox, lived in log house, one of the first to be built in Florida Park, they saw the lots platted in 1935 gradually fill with modern houses, the dirt streets paved and utilities installed, and the city of Gainesville expand its population and boundaries all around them.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Rustic Architecture

The National Park Service (NPS) and US Forest Service (USFS) are generally credited with developing the Rustic architectural motif. The style became one of the significant characteristics of the NPS during the Great Depression. Applied to buildings, bridges, signs, and other structures in national parks, the Rustic style derived

^{18. &}quot;Cox Furniture Announces Plans for New Store." *Gainesville Daily Sun*, July 2, 1939. Plans for the remodeled building were featured on the front page.

²⁹ Sanborn Insurance Map of Gainesville, 1960, shows the original dimensions of the house.

Alachua County Official Records. Deed book 216, Page 870, January 25, 1978.

Obituary, Gary Rex Junior. *Gainesville Sun*, October 5, 2008. Gary Junior served on the Gainesville City Commission from 1976 to 1979 and from 1980 to 1983 and was mayor from 1982 to 1983. He owed an office furniture store in Gainesville.

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its roots from contemporary needs and traditional American values. Drawing from colonial and early American antecedents, Depression-era rustic buildings largely reflected folk and rural precedents. The style assumed various forms and materials, depending upon the architect, regional contexts, availability of materials, local economics, and personnel. Concrete, hewn lumber, wood shingles, and natural stone constituted the primary building materials. Architectural features included gable roofs, log or square hewn timbers chinked with composite mortars, post-and-girt construction, extensive porches with exposed materials, stone chimneys, exposed rafter ends, projecting purlins, gable-end trusses, and articulated foundation systems.³²

The NPS issued several publications during the 1930s documenting the extent and variety of buildings, structures, and objects constructed in both national and state parks. Albert H. Good, an architectural consultant to the NPS, composed two series which helped standardize future park development and building construction. Providing a permanent visual record of Rustic architecture, Good's volumes helped codify an important part of the Great Depression ethos - make do, or do without.³³

The NPS relied heavily on the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which provided the construction crews for the development of parks and construction of buildings and structures during the Great Depression. In Florida, the CCC made extensive use of Rustic architecture while developing the first state parks. The CCC had a presence in Gainesville, playing a role in the development of the nearby Devil's Millhopper State Geological Park.

Most of Florida's New Deal buildings associated with Rustic architecture stand within federal and state forests and parks. Those buildings typically feature a gable or hip roof with cypress shake surfacing; wood frame or masonry wall systems; gable-end trusses and brackets mounted under the eaves; cypress, palm, or pine log walls; post-and-girt or mortice-and-tenon joinery; limestone chimneys; and limestone piers or articulated limestone foundations supported by concrete slabs.³⁴

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Cox Family Log House is an unusual residential adaptation of the New Deal Era Rustic architecture. Its incorporation of rough-hewn, locally produced cypress wood and stone into the building and usage of a log cabin style of construction chinked with mortar are indicative of the Rustic Style. The farm style glazed wood doors and large open interior spaces with exposed rafters and trusses found in the home along with a rambling, asymmetric interior floorplan also reflects the Rustic Style. The building has undergone some changes. There

³² Sidney Johnston, "Florida's New Deal Resources," U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (2004), F-94-95.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

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were originally two buildings, a main house and apartment building on the north connected by a porte cochere. In 2011, following a fire, the apartment was rebuilt and expanded. The porte cochere was also enclosed. Despite this, the building retains sufficient integrity to qualify for listing on the National Register. The 1983 west addition is distinguishable from the historic core of the building and does not overwhelm the rest of the building. The location, workmanship, materials, and design are still relatively the same as are the feeling and association.

The Cox Family Log House is one of two identified residential examples of the style found in the city limits of Gainesville. The other residence is located at 2250 Northwest 8th Avenue. Although it possesses a higher degree of integrity, 2250 Northwest 8th Avenue is a smaller, less developed version of the style.

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Sanborn Map of Gainesville, 1960.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	9	Page – –	2	Cox Family Log House Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida		
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Cox Furniture Store, National Register of Historic Places, listed, 1994.						
Cox, Richard. Oral History, Matheson History Museum, Gainesville, recorded August 16, 1996, by John Bynum.						
Gainesville Sun, October 5, 2008. Obituary, Gary Rex Junior						
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Keeton, Jim, phone conversation, June 6, 2016.						
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Parcel # 09052-000-000

FLORIDA PARK UNIT NO 1 PB C PG 65 COM NW COR BK 4 POB E 240.05 SELY ALG CURVE 6.23 FT S 123 FT E 87.69 FT S - 01 DEG 43 MIN 47 SEC E 182.91 FT S 89 DEG 19 MIN 14 SEC W 19.90 FT S 00 DEG 05 MIN 32 SEC W 14.93 FT N 89 DEG 51 - MIN 34 SEC W 122.36 FT S 37 DEG 44 MIN 36 SEC W 21.85 FT S 09 DEG 59 MIN 48 SEC W 38.24 FT N 88 DEG 32 MIN 06 SEC W - 36.39 FT N 04 DEG 28 MIN 00 SEC W 4.87 FT N 89 DEG 54 MIN 54 SEC W 140.11 FT N 00 DEG 02 MIN 51 SEC W 370.14 FT POB - OR 4202/1921

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This property is historically associated with the Cox Family Log House.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	Page	1	Cox Family Log House Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida

PHOTO LIST

- 1. Cox Family Log House
- 2. 1639 NW 11th Road, Gainesville (Alachua County), Florida
- 3. Murray D. Laurie
- 4. Murray D. Laurie
- 5. June, 2016
- 6. View of the south lawn, facing south
- 7. Photo 1 of 24

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the following photographs, except where noted:

- 6. View of the pond, facing south
- 7. Photo 2 of 24
- 6. View of south façade and main entrance to Cox Family Log House, facing northwest
- 7. Photo 3 of 24
- 6. View of south façade, facing north
- 7. Photo 4 of 24
- 6. View of east façade, facing northwest
- 7. Photo 5 of 24
- 6. View of corner of east wing showing ends of logs, facing southwest.
- 7. Photo 6 of 24
- 6. View of north façade with chimney and patio, also showing second floor, facing south
- 7. Photo 7 of 24
- 6. View of west façade of Cox Family Log House, facing southeast
- 7. Photo 8 of 24
- 6. View of west corner and south façade showing 1983 addition, facing north
- 7. Photo 9 of 24
- 6. View of swimming pool, facing northeast
- 7. Photo 10 of 24

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Secti	on number Page 2 Cox Family Log House Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida						
6.	View of rebuilt rear apartment, facing south						
7.	Photo 11 of 24						
6.	View of noncontributing garage/office, facing northeast						
7.	Photo 12 of 24						
6.	Exterior view of former porte cochere, facing west						
7.	Photo 13 of 24						
6.	View of interior of enclosed front porch, facing east						
7.	Photo 14 of 24						
6. 7.	View of living room area, facing southeast Photo 15 of 24						
6.	View of dining room area, facing west						
7.	Photo 16 of 24						
6. 7.	View of fireplace in living room, facing north Photo 17 of 24						
6.	View of stairs to second floor, facing northeast						
7.	Photo 18 of 24						
6.	View of large front bedroom on first floor, facing northwest						
7.	Photo 19 of 24						
6.	View of kitchen, facing west						
7.	Photo 20 of 24						
6. 7.	View of game room (former porte cochere), facing west Photo 21 of 24						
6. 7.	View of upstairs bedroom, facing northeast Photo 22 of 24						
6.	View of gazebo, facing east						

Photo 23 of 24

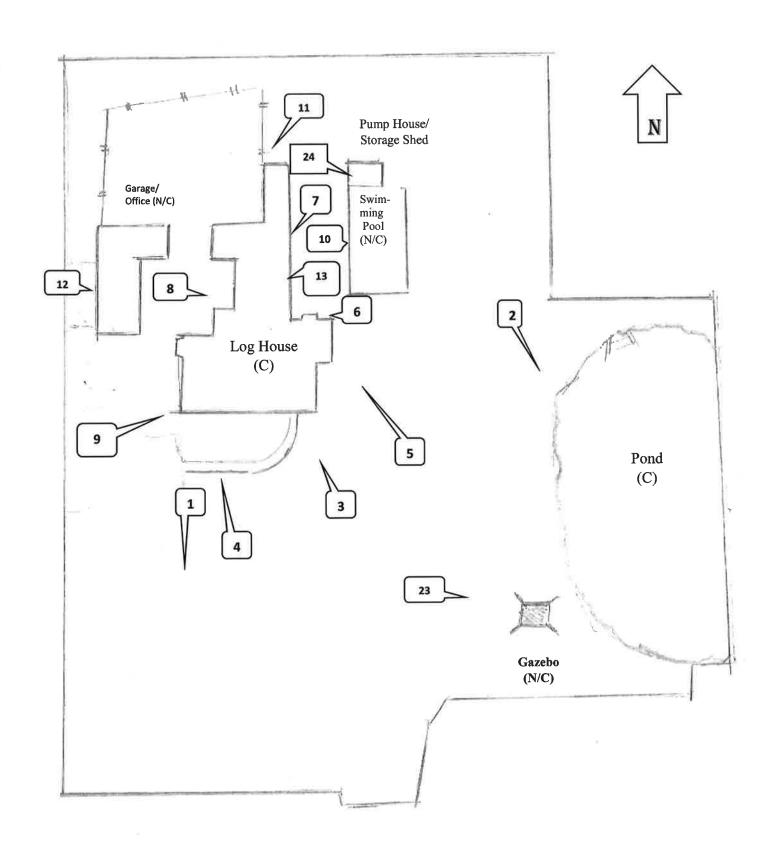
7.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

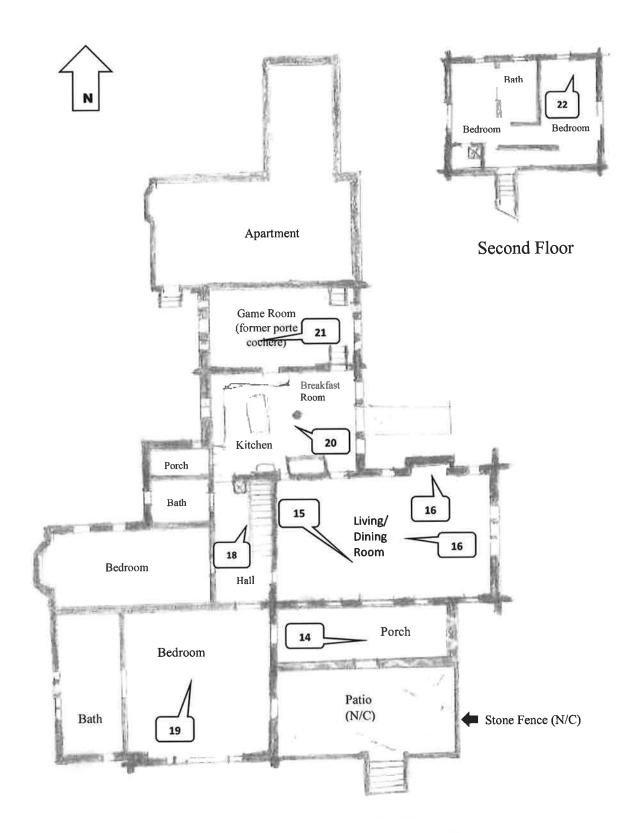
Section number	 Page -	Cox Family Log House Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida

6. View of pump house/storage shed, facing southeast

^{7.} Photo 24 of 24

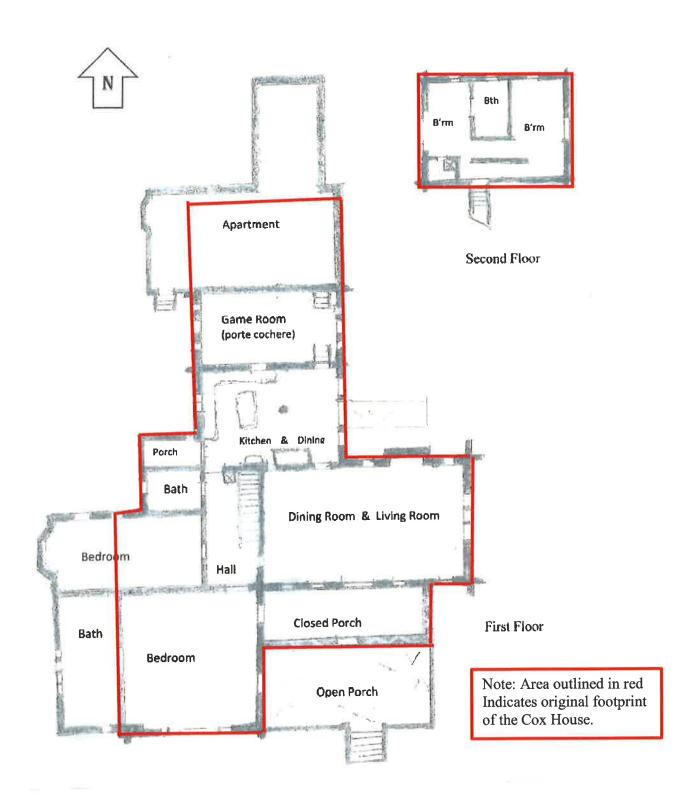


COX FAMILY LOG HOUSE: Key to Photos of Exterior



COX FAMILY LOG HOUSE: Key to Photos of Interior

Note: not to scale



Cox Family Log House: Floor Plan

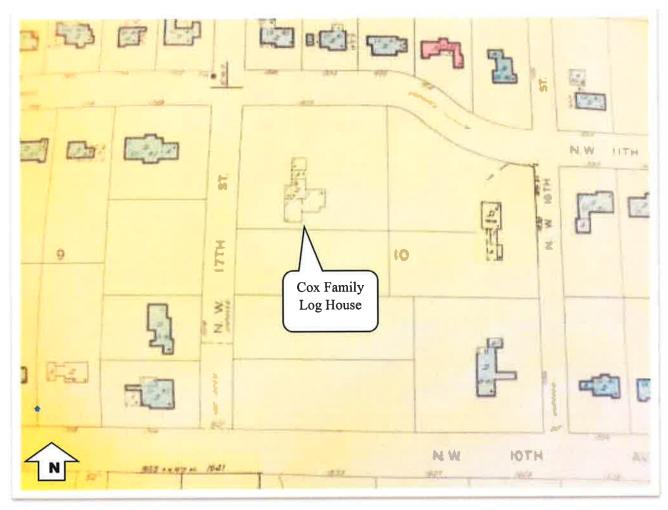


Figure 1: Sanborn Map of Gainesville, 1960

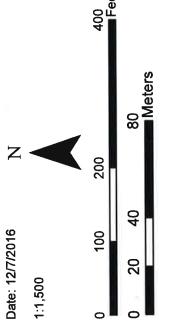
Cox Family Log House

1639 Northwest 11th Road Gainesville, Alachua Co., FL

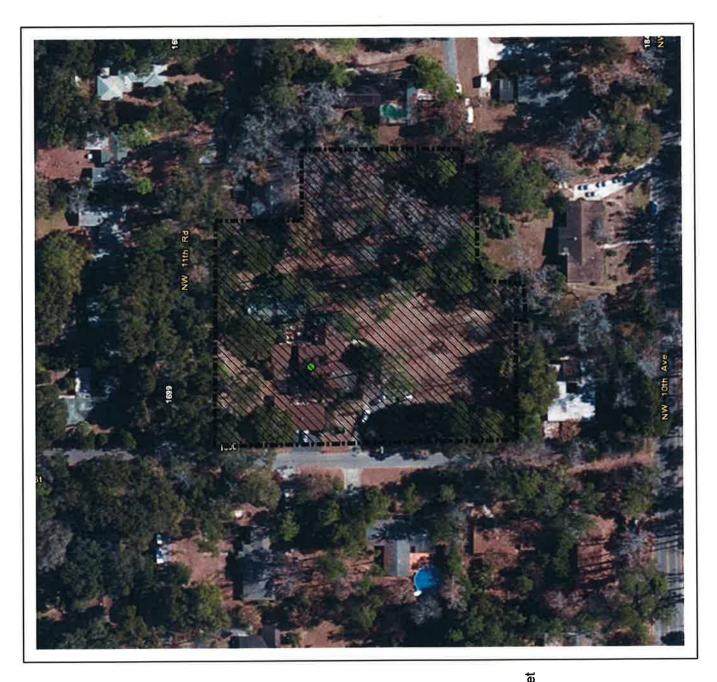
UTM: 17R 369966 3282132

Datum: WGS84

Legend



Basemap Source: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



Cox Family Log House

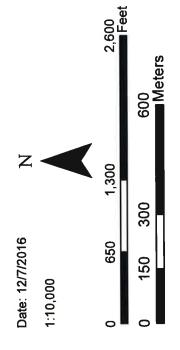
1639 Northwest 11th Road Gainesville, Alachua Co., FL

UTM: 17R 369966 3282132

Datum: WGS84

Legend

Proposed National Register Boundary



Basemap Source: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



Cox Family Log House

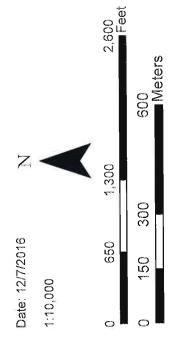
1639 Northwest 11th Road Gainesville, Alachua Co., FL

UTM: 17R 369966 3282132

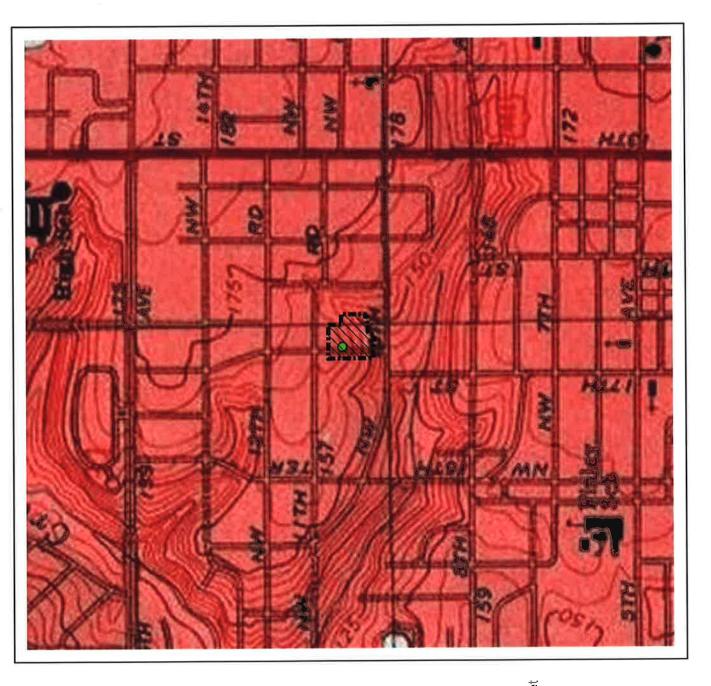
Datum: WGS84

Legend

Proposed National Register Boundary



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EXHIBIT





























