

Preservation Considerations

for the

Koreshan Unity Cemetery

Prepared By

***Sharyn Thompson
for the
Koreshan Unity Cemetery***

April 1994

BK-0204

North

Koreshan Unity Cemetery

1	Louise Bradford Oct. 1846 - April 1931	9	James Price 1847 - Aug. 1932	17	William Appel Mar. 1852 - Dec. 1935	25	William Fisher 1882 - July 1938	33	G. W. Hunt - June 1942
2	Alfred Graham March 1855 - May 1931	10	Viola Place 1846 - Feb. 1934	18	Franklyn Jacky Jan. 1875 - Mar. 1936	26	Alvera Hobansheldt	34	Charles Faulkner 1864 - Nov. 1942
3	Emma Fisk Aug. 1931	11	Harry Bois 1876 - May 1934	19	Peter Blem 1880 - May 1936	27	Barbara Ehrissom - June 1939	35	Abbe M ^{rs} Cready 1859 - Jan. 1943
4	Hattie Newcomb 1843 - Feb. 1932	12	Orline Thatcher 1851 - Feb. 1935	20	Leroy H. Bubbett - Nov. 1936	28	John Irving 1853 - Sept. 1939	36	Chas. Hunt 1862 - Mar. 43
5	Martha Morgan 1841 - Feb. 1932	13	B.S. Boomer 1850 - July 1935	21	Frank Wilson - April 1937	29	John Watson Dec. 1861 - Feb. 1941	37	E. Silverfriend 1867 - Jan. 1944
6	Esther Stotler 1852 - Aug. 1932	14	Thomas Armstrong Dec. 1856 - July 1935	22	Chustar Faber 1852 - Oct. 1937	30	Bertha Boomer 1880 - Sept. 1941	38	Ella Graham 1861 - Apr. 1945
7	Imogene B. Bahn 1851 - Sept. 1932	15	Peter Campbell Jan. 1856 - Sept. 1935	23	David Richards 1876 - Oct. 1937	31	Tacy E. Weaver Mar. 1856 - Feb. 1942	39	Ida Fischer 1871 - May 1945
8	John Sargent 1846 - Sept. 1932	16	Evelyn Bubbett 1854 - Oct. 1935	24	Elzina Woodbury 1849 - Feb. 1938	32	Daniel Mc Namara 1866 - April 1942	40	Frank Lewis 1869 - Dec. 1945
9	Theodor Nesalows - April 1946	42	William Mc Cready	43	Henry Silverfriend - May 1949	44	Bella Armour - Sept. 1949	45	Emma Norton - Jan. 1950
46	Low H. Stator - March 1950	47	Jesse Putnam - Sept. 1950	48	Allan H. Andrews - Dec. 1951	49	Richard Dumbleton 1825-51	50	Rose M. Gilbert Sept. 12-53
51	Lawrence Bubbett Aug. 6-60	52	Alfred Christensen July 9-63	53	Conrad Schlender Oct. 12-65	54	Lillian Rugg Apr. 12-68	55	Vesta Newcomb Apr. 11-74

Robert Graham and Jennie Campbell are buried in this cemetery
Sept. 1951 Aug. 4 - 1952

South

PRESERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

FOR THE

KORESHIAN UNITY CEMETERY

Prepared by

Sharyn Thompson

for the

Koreshian Unity Cemetery

April 1994

BK-0204

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Koreshan Unity Cemetery	1
Introduction	1
Significance	3
Present-Day Conditions	3
Preservation Considerations	6
Documentation	6
Preservation/Restoration	10
Maintenance	12
Historical Character	13
Protection	15
Gopher Tortoises	17

Appendices

- A. Florida Master Site File #8LL01789
- B. Koreshan Unity Cemetery plat
- C. "Koreshan Unity Settlement Historic District"
 National Register of Historic Places nomination
 proposal (#8LL00094)

Note: This Cemetery is now located
inside the grounds of the
WCI Community - "Pelican Sound".

KORESHAN UNITY CEMETERY

Introduction:

During the last two decades there has been a growing interest in the preservation of historic cemeteries and graveyards. While public awareness of the value of preserving such sites has occurred throughout the nation, some notable efforts have taken place in the southeastern United States. Recently, restoration projects have been initiated in, among other places, Charleston, Savannah, Atlanta, Macon, Mobile, Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Florida has been a leader in cemetery preservation. The Department of State's Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation, has awarded grants for survey and planning and for restoration work, to some of Florida's most important cemeteries. These include Old City Cemetery in Tallahassee, St. Michael Cemetery in Pensacola, the Key West Cemetery, and the Old Huguenot Cemetery in St. Augustine.

Cemetery preservation has taken place in these cities because the municipalities recognize their responsibility for the stewardship of their historic sites. They also know that old cemeteries have value as open passive space, and as tourist attractions and heritage education.

The contributions that old cemeteries can make to a community's historical record are enormous. The information that can be obtained from a cemetery tells far more than a few family genealogies. Such things as religious beliefs, changing attitudes towards death and resurrection, ethnic diversity, settlement patterns, trade and transportation routes, architecture, demographics, epidemiology, linguistics, folk traditions, and the crafts of stone carving, can all be "read" from a burying ground.

The Koreshan Unity Cemetery located in Estero, Florida has an important role in the understanding and interpretation of Lee County's history and in the heritage of the Koreshan Unity group that

was established there at the turn of the 20th century. The cemetery, which is the second burying ground established by the Settlement, was opened in the early 1930s. It is the final resting place for a number of the members of the Koreshan Unity.

A preliminary field investigation was conducted in December 1993 to prepare this report, "Preservation Considerations for the Koreshan Unity Cemetery." Unfortunately, access to the Koreshan Unity Foundation's archives was not possible at that time, so some elements of the investigation that are usually considered in such report cannot be considered here. However, with the information provided by Mrs. Jo Bigelow and Mr. William Grace of the Foundation, and with documents regarding the Koreshan Settlement that are available from Florida's Division of Historical Resources, the goals of the study were essentially achieved.

The preliminary study of the Koreshan Unity Cemetery involves the following:

- Identifies historical/cultural features of the cemetery;

- Determines preservation/restoration needs and techniques for the cemetery;

- Identifies some potential problems for the protection of the cemetery in the future.

Significance:

The Koreshan Cemetery is owned by Koreshan Unity, Inc. of Estero, Florida. It is a significant element of the Koreshan Unity's heritage and of Lee County's history. It reflects the settlement history of the Fort Myers/Estero area and offers insight into the lives of the members of the Koreshan colony. Because of this, the cemetery is a resource for both local and state history, and may also be important to the study of various communal-living groups that developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the United States. Until additional research is conducted regarding the cemetery, and the site is cleared of the over-growing vegetation, the importance of the funerary materials at the site cannot be fully assessed.

Present-Day Conditions:

Because there is some question about the Koreshan Unity's attitudes towards death and resurrection, it is difficult to be precise about how the group's cemeteries were marked and maintained. Little is known about the appearance of the cemetery when it was an active burial ground. Currently, there exist only a few markers that can be considered contemporary with any of the burials. Physical evidence at the site indicates that simple wood markers (perhaps in the shape of Latin crosses) were used to mark some of the graves. A white marble marker is at one of the graves. These are the only markers that appear to have been placed in the cemetery at the time of the burials (or shortly thereafter). Other graves, which are marked with small, polished granite headstones, are believed to be either replacement or memorial markers.

The limited amount of funerary artifacts at the site suggests that any future restoration effort that is initiated will be relatively simple and inexpensive once the cemetery is cleared of vegetative over-growth. Long-term maintenance of the cemetery, and protecting it from encroaching development are two concerns that

should be addressed as soon as possible by the members of the Koreshan Unity Foundation.

When the field evaluation of the site was conducted, the only man-made features (other than the gravemarkers) noted at the site were a (collapsed) wall on the north boundary. The site is overgrown with vegetation typical of the "scrub" of the area, with the dominant plant being palmetto. Most of the gravemarkers are completely or partially hidden by the vegetation, and vehicles may be driving and parking on some of the unmarked graves.

The cemetery is situated outside the boundary of the Koreshan State Park, with a sand track leading to the site from the park. The cemetery is not a component of the Koreshan Unity Settlement National Register Historic District, nor is it included in the Park's formal interpretative programs.

A plat of the cemetery (see Appendix B), from the Koreshan archives, indicates that the cemetery is laid out in five north-south rows, with eleven graves in each row. Spaces separate each grave plot. Although the current condition of the cemetery makes it very difficult to compare the actual site with the plat, the existing gravemarkers do appear to be placed in relation to some of the graves as they are marked on the plat.

Each of the fifty-five grave plots is identified with the name of the person buried in it, the date of death, and in most instances, the year of birth. All fifty-five grave spaces are shown as occupied; a notation indicates that two other burials are in the cemetery, although the grave locations are not shown. (The date, source of information for this plat, and identity of the persons who compiled it, are not known).

When compared to the plat, the placement of some of the granite markers indicates that not all of those stones are marking graves. For instance, four markers clustered together are apparently not marking individual graves (unless one grave has been used for multiple burials) but rather represent a family group. The four stones may be at the grave of Alfred Graham (1855-1931) according

to the plat. This situation may also be true of other markers (Bertha Boomer (#30) and an adjacent marker).

PRESERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

I. Documentation:

1) Lack of information about the development of the cemetery and how it has appeared during various times over the past 60+ years, hinders development of a comprehensive preservation plan. It also leaves gaps in the local historical and genealogical records which would assist in placing the cemetery within its historical context. Two well-researched documents that are readily available are the National Register of Historic Places nomination proposal for the Koreshan Unity Settlement Historic District (8LL00094), and a lengthy and extensively detailed report by Mildred Fryman (who also prepared the NR nomination) entitled "Koreshan Unity Settlement: Research Needs and Possibilities of Interpretation" (1974). Unfortunately, neither of these documents addresses the cemeteries or the role the burying grounds had in the group's formal philosophy or in their daily routines at the Settlement. (The National Register nomination has been appended --Appendix C--to this report to provide some contextual framework for the cemetery).

To provide an understanding of the cemetery, research using Koreshan Unity archival materials and any other available primary and secondary documents should be conducted:

A detailed chronology of the graveyard should be written to include all known facts and folklore, no matter how seemingly inconsequential. The work should be properly documented, citing all sources, and include a complete bibliography.

Probate files and family papers should be searched for information about where grave-markers were obtained and how they were paid for.

Genealogies should be completed for all those known to be buried at the site.

A search for historical photographs should be conducted. Photos from earlier time periods will be supportive historical documentation and will serve as primary references for preservationists and conservationists.

2) After the cemetery is cleared of over-growing vegetation, a map showing the location of all extant markers, the boundary wall(s), grave depressions and any historical plant material should be compiled. Black and white photographs of all of the above mentioned items should be taken at the time the map is drawn (these should be processed and printed according to archival standards). This will create a record of the resources currently at the site. The documentation will protect the few remaining artifacts against vandalism, loss or theft, and also provide a data base for determining rates of deterioration and weathering of the various objects.

3) An archaeological survey of the cemetery should be considered. A survey will help locate unmarked graves and vacant areas within the cemetery. It may also locate grave markers or additional sections of the boundary wall that have fallen and been buried under soil or litter.

Any archaeological investigation must be done using non-invasive techniques -- no excavation work should be done. Non-invasive techniques will avoid disturbance of the graves and will prevent negative publicity that could arise from members of the general public mistakenly assuming the graves are being desecrated.

An investigative method that has proven useful for work in burying grounds is ground-penetrating radar (photomagnetometry). This allows information to be gained without disturbing the cemetery's surface or subsurface. A machine that contains an

antenna, pulled along the surface, directs radar waves into the ground. As the waves strike buried objects or changes in soil texture, they are bounced back to the surface and another machine, attached to the antenna, gives a continuous print-out of the subsurface features that are encountered (grave pits, coffins, etc.). The information shown on the print-out can then be "truthed," if necessary, by using an auger to confirm identification of features.

If such an investigation is conducted, the entire cemetery should be explored. The areas just outside the known boundaries should be examined to make sure that no unmarked graves are excluded. However, no study should be authorized until the qualifications of the professional staff, and the methods they propose to use, have been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors of the Koreshan Unity Foundation, by an approved consulting archaeologist, and/or by staff of Florida's Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources.

4) According to the Koreshan Unity's publication "Flaming Sword" (Vol. XV, no. 2, 01 Feb 1901 in Fryman's "Koreshan Unity Settlement: Research Needs and Possibilities of Interpretation"), the Koreshan Unity's belief regarding death and resurrection was that "Reincarnation is the central law of life -- the law of the resurrection; reincarnation and resurrection are identical. Resurrection is reached through a succession of re-embodiments. One generation passes into another; the millions of humanity march down the stream of time together."

Research should be conducted to determine how this belief may have affected the group's burial traditions and the maintenance of its cemeteries. Their attitudes, and how they related to the cemetery, would be important to know prior to any restoration or public interpretation program.

The Koreshan Unity did follow traditional Christian attitudes with regard to orientation of graves in the cemetery. The graves are on an east-west axis, with head to the west, feet to the east. This is consistent with the Christian belief that on Judgment Day the

dead will be resurrected and will face the rising sun and the Second Coming of Christ.

II. Preservation/Restoration:

1) The cemetery and the surrounding acreage should be cleared of the vegetation that has over-grown the site. This will allow the boundaries to be identified, as well as reveal grave depressions and markers that might now be hidden by brush.

Clearing should be done by hand. Persons involved with the project should be aware that some deteriorated wood markers are at the site and that these must be left in place. The same is true of any other funerary materials that might be found, including fencing, grave cradles, etc.

2) There are only a few markers at the cemetery. The preliminary field investigation identified one marble marker, three wood markers, and several granite headstones that have been placed recently.

a) The granite markers are in good condition and require no conservation treatment.

b) The marble marker is covered with black mildew (typical of the biological growth that occurs on white marble in the South). The base of the marker is not level; it should be leveled with hand tools.

Scrubbing the marker with clean water and a natural bristle brush will remove much of the mildew. If some staining remains after the washing, a solution of water with calcium hypo chlorite (used for retarding algae growth in swimming pools), or water and plain ammonia can be used to remove more of the stain. A formula of 4:1 (four parts water to one part ammonia or calcium hypo chlorite) is strong enough to further clean the stone without damaging it. The gravestone should be drenched with clean water before the solution is applied, and it must be thoroughly rinsed after cleaning. The stone should be cleaned from top to bottom to avoid streaking. Under no circumstances should muriatic acid, household bleach (such as clorox) or sandblasting be used to clean the marker.

c) The wood markers are in a deteriorated condition. Because the wood will continue to disintegrate, the Koreshan Unity Foundation Board may wish to consider removing these markers to the archives. If this is done, all markers should be documented by photography and mapping prior to removal. Replacement markers might be placed at the graves so the locations of the graves will not be lost.

If the markers remain in the cemetery (which is preferable to removing them) it may be possible to provide some protection from the elements by coating them with a mixture of linseed oil and paraffin. The advice of a qualified conservator should be sought prior to any such action, however.

3) A collapsed wall is on the northern boundary of the cemetery. The structure appears to be made of concrete with a large amount of shell material in the matrix. It is possible that the wall was made at the Koreshan Unity's factory which produced similar concrete block material for the Settlement, (research is required to confirm or disprove this).

The wall is one of the few remaining artifacts associated with the cemetery. The wall should be restored using the same construction technique and mortar formulas that were originally used. Advice and assistance from a qualified archaeologist should be used when the collapsed wall is excavated. Also, other boundaries should be investigated to determine if walls are on other sides of the cemetery.

III. Maintenance of Markers and Grounds

The Koreshan Unity Cemetery is a relatively small site with only a few gravemarkers. No historical plantings were identified during the preliminary field investigation, although some may be found during various growing seasons after the site is cleared of the over-growth. The cemetery has few of the problems that are generally common to the upkeep of historic cemeteries. Grass mowing and trimming, establishment of ground covers, and the avoidance of the use of fertilizers and herbicides, are not applicable for discussion here.

The following suggestions apply to the Koreshan Unity Cemetery after it has been cleared of vegetative over-growth and the markers are exposed to view:

Sweeping or raking of fallen leaves, and pulling or trimming of unwanted vegetation should be done on an "as needed" basis. Plants such as cabbage palms and palmetto should not be allowed to spread --they should be clipped or dug out by hand. Herbicides should never be used because the chemicals may damage the markers.

All markers should be periodically inspected, particularly during the wet season, to monitor their physical condition. Vegetation should be removed from on and around markers by hand pulling or hand clipping

A quarterly inspection of each marker should be initiated. Any changes or damages should be reported to the proper authority as soon as they are noticed.

IV. Preservation of Historical Character and Integrity:

Florida Statute 704.08 states that, "The relatives and descendants of any person buried in a cemetery shall have an easement for ingress and egress for the purpose of visiting the cemetery at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner. If the cemetery is abandoned or otherwise not being maintained, such relatives and descendants may request the owner to provide for reasonable maintenance of the cemetery, and, if the owner refuses or fails to maintain the cemetery, the relatives and descendants shall the right to maintain the cemetery."

The Koreshan Unity Cemetery is currently inactive. According to the cemetery plat, the last burial occurred in 1974. Depending upon the goals the Koreshan Unity Foundation has regarding the cemetery, the Board may wish to determine if additional burials will be allowed at the cemetery, what burial regulations will be enforced, and who will be allowed to be buried there.

In addition, if the Koreshan Unity Foundation continues to administer and maintain the cemetery, it is advisable for the Board of Directors to consider initiating regulations that will protect and preserve the historical character and integrity of the site. The following points might be incorporated into any protective regulations that are adopted:

The Board of Directors of the Koreshan Unity Foundation shall be the sole authority for the cemetery. It shall set all regulations and requirements for its preservation and care.

Gravemarkers and other funerary materials cannot be removed or replaced, nor can materials be added to graves or plots, without review and approval of the Board of Directors.

New gravemarkers must correspond in style, size, and material to the existing markers,

and must be compatible with the historical fabric of the site. Markers must be approved by the Board of Directors prior to being placed.

All work done to markers and other materials at the cemetery must be done in accordance with approved restoration methods and standards, by artisans recognized as skilled for the work. No work will be done without the prior approval of the Board of Directors.

No plantings will be placed with the cemetery without authorization from the Board of Directors.

V. Protection of the Cemetery

The land that surrounds the Koreshan Unity Cemetery was recently sold to a development corporation. The cemetery and a parcel of land totaling five acres was retained by the Koreshan Unity Foundation. Details regarding the Foundation's arrangements for a buffer zone around the cemetery, and access to the cemetery, were not available at the time of the preliminary field investigation. For continued protection of the cemetery, and its historical setting and integrity, the Board of the Foundation may wish to consider the following:

1) If at some time in the future, the Foundation may no longer be able to maintain the site, how will it be cared for? If the Board of Directors believes that this is a possibility, consideration should be given to establishing a perpetual care fund for the cemetery and/or appointing an organization that would be responsible for the cemetery if the Foundation was no longer able to care for it.

2) With regard to the above, if the cemetery will ultimately be surrounded by incompatible development, and if the Foundation may not be able to maintain the site in perpetuity, it may wish to consider a conservation easement for the cemetery, assigning responsibility for maintenance and protection of the site to another body. This may be a municipality or local government, a local historical society or preservation organization, or the Koreshan Unity Settlement State Park which is located nearby.

3) Additional status (and therefore, protection) may be gained for the cemetery through its designation as an historic site or landmark. If Lee County has a landmarks program, listing the cemetery at the local level should be pursued.

4) A consultation with Mr. William Thurston, Supervisor of the Survey and Registration Section of the Bureau of Historic Preservation, resulted in a preliminary opinion that the cemetery may not meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as an individual site. However, this question cannot

be adequately addressed until a well-documented history of the site is completed, with evidence of past and present appearance of the cemetery, the philosophy of the original Settlement members toward it, and its place within the history of the Settlement and the Lee County area determined.

It may be possible to include the cemetery as a component of the Koreshan Unity Historic District. This would require consultation with both the Bureau of Historic Preservation and the Florida Park Service. Currently, the cemetery is considered "discontiguous" from the existing National Register Historic District, but it does have clear historical associations with the District.

VI. Possible Presence of Gopher Tortoises

A large male gopher tortoise was found just outside the cemetery boundary during the field investigation. The gopher tortoise is a Species of Special Concern in the state of Florida and is protected under laws administered by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. If tortoises or tortoise burrows are identified at the cemetery, no clearing of vegetation and no restoration work should be done until the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is notified and authorization to proceed with work is given. Requests for information should be made to Mr. Don A. Wood, Endangered Special Coordinator, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in Tallahassee, Florida.

APPENDICES

HISTORICAL CEMETERY FORM FLORIDA SITE FILE

Version 2.0: 7/92

Site #8 LL01789
Recorder # _____
Field Date 12/93
Form Date 03/94

IDENTIFICATION

CEMETERY NAME(S) KORESHAN UNITY CEMETERY
COUNTY Lee TOWNSHIP 46S RANGE 25E SECTION _____
SURVEY NAME _____ DHR # (if known) _____
OWNERSHIP TYPE: Private Public
Family - name: _____
Church - denomination: _____
Fraternal order-name: _____
Other private Koreshan Unity Foundation Other public _____
 City State
 County Federal
Other: _____

LOCATION

Attach a photocopy of a USGS 7.5' map with the cemetery marked in red, and a larger scale map of the immediate area with access and landmarks (a sketch map is acceptable; consider sketching on an enlargement of the USGS map).

USGS MAP NAME _____
NEAREST CITY Estero In current city limits? y n
DIRECTIONS TO VISIT Near intersection of U.S. Hwy 41 and the Estero River
outside of boundaries of Koreshan State Park
PLAT OR OTHER MAP _____

HISTORY

CURRENT STATUS: Used for burials Maintained but not used Abandoned
NUMBER OF MARKERS WITH DATES FROM: 19th century All 20th century
RANGE OF DEATH DATES: 1931* Earliest to 1974* Most Recent
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND When (1931) and why was the cemetery established?
When (____) and why closed, if it was? Are any of the people buried here important in local, state, or national history? Are there distinctive grave markers, monuments, and/or architectural features? Have there been previous repair, cleaning, or restoration efforts?
Cemetery founded c1931 for the Koreshan Unity settlement, the second such burial ground established by the group. Persons interred are apparently members of the group, with leaders either buried at the earlier cemetery or on the grounds of the Settlement. Some wood markers (number unknown) are at a few of the grave sites.

*dates taken from plat of cemetery provided by the Koreshan Unity Foundation staff

DOCUMENTATION Has the cemetery been listed in a published or unpublished genealogical survey? Has a history of the cemetery been written? Are there old maps or plats of the graves? Give title, author, date, and location of references, especially for unpublished materials; for Manuscripts of the Florida Site File, give the file number. _____

See National Register of Historic Places nomination form for Koreshan Unity Settlement Historic District (8LL00094) for background information.

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC PROPERTIES

When possible, record related, overlapping, or adjacent historic sites. For historical buildings or structures (e.g., a church in whose grounds lies the cemetery, or a historic homesite related to a nearby family cemetery), use the *Historical Structure Form*. For historic or prehistoric archaeological sites (e.g., an historic homesite indicated by building remains and artifacts, or a prehistoric Indian site that is adjacent to the cemetery), those without archaeological training should use the *Archaeological Short Form*. Archaeologically trained persons should complete the *Archaeological Site Form*. Copies of forms and instructions can be obtained from the office below. Associated forms are best submitted to the Site File all together with any extra explanations.

RECEIVED: DEC 19 1975
DATE ENTERED: MAY 4 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

** HISTORIC
Koreshan Unity Settlement Historic District
AND/OR COMMON
Koreshan Unity State Park

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
U.S. 41 at Estero River
CITY, TOWN
Estero
STATE
Florida
VICINITY OF
CODE
12
COUNTY
Lee
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Seventh Tenth
CODE
071
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED (1 bldg.)	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
see continuation sheet
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Lee County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Ft. Myers

STATE

Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

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

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE *	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

*tropical horticulture

SPECIFIC DATES	1894	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
----------------	------	-------------------

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Koreshan Unity has been described by one of its members as a "commonwealth, conforming to the ancient Christian communal life" (Michel, "A Gift to the People"). The movement was founded in the latter part of the nineteenth century by Dr. Cyrus Teed and reached its fruition in the first decade of the twentieth century at Estero, Florida. The settlement which was developed there beginning in 1894 by members of the Koreshan Unity declined after the death of its founder in 1908. The physical remains of the community for the most part are now included in the grounds of the Koreshan State Park. The remaining structures deserve preservation because they represent a unique philosophical and religious movement, because they illustrate a cooperative settlement of a past era, and because they are the remnants of a pioneer community which in many ways typified life on the south Florida frontier around the turn of the twentieth century. The extant gardens are of value to tropical horticulturalists.

Born in 1839, Cyrus Teed grew up in the "Burned-Over" district of New York state, an area which produced a number of religious cults in the late nineteenth century. He became a doctor of eclectic medicine (naturopathy) and established a practice in Deerfield, New York. In 1869, while conducting some scientific experiments, Dr. Teed had a vision in which the Virgin Mary told him he was a prophet who was to save the human race. From that point forward, Dr. Teed developed a complex system of explanations concerning the universe and human society which he called Koreshan Universology.

During the 1870's and 1880's, Dr. Teed (who had begun to refer to himself as the prophet Cyrus) attracted some followers with his ideas on healing and his beliefs about the nature of the universe. In 1886, he moved to Chicago where he succeeded in making more converts. A church - the Church Triumphant - and an educational institution - the World's College of Life - were founded in that year to propagate his theories. An organization for prospective members, the Society Arch Triumphant, was formed in 1887, and in 1888, a cooperative home for members of the Church and a publishing house for dissemination of information about the movement were established in Chicago. Within a short time (1890-1891), a business organization for laborers was also founded. By that time, Cyrus Teed was using the name Koresh, derived

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Koreshan Unity Settlement Historic District
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

General Description of Present Physical Appearance:

The Koreshan Unity Settlement at the present time reflects the original landscaping and architecture of the turn of the century community. The grounds contain trees, flowers, and shrubs which include a fine collection of exotic tropical and subtropical species. Nature trails have been laid out in the horticulturally interesting areas. Evidence of ornamental concrete and bamboo structures remains. However, decades of growth, and at times of neglect, have altered greatly the appearance of both botanical and man-made features of the grounds.

With the exception of a picnic table and an activity shelter recently built in the "chickee" style by Seminole Indians, all the structures currently standing in the district are related to the Koreshan Unity community. All but two of them - the new store (#9: sketch map & photo) and the post office (#10: sketch map) - were constructed during the first fifteen years of the settlement's existence. The current condition of the remaining structures varies from good to poor. The major existing buildings are described individually in the following section.

Description of Structures Still Standing:

Art Hall (#1: sketch map & photo): Constructed in 1905, this building was suitable for the presentation of concerts, dramatic productions, etc. It consists of one large room with a wide, high stage across the west end, behind which is a closed backstage area.

In its present form, the building is a one story, wood frame structure featuring clapboard siding, a hipped roof, wide eaves reminiscent of those used in older, small railroad stations, numerous windows which permit good cross-ventilation, and a "U"-shaped porch encircling the building to the east. The building is raised up off the ground on wooden pole sections.

The building has been restored in recent years, but comparison with photographs of the original show that the restoration was not an accurate one. The roof line and porch arrangement differ significantly from the original construction. The building has been air-conditioned and provided with electric

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

MAY 10 1975

MAY 4 1976

Koreshan Unity Settlement Historic District
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

lights as well. It currently contains a display of documents, records and artifacts relevant to the history of the Koreshan Unity. The building is used by local groups as an assembly and meeting hall. It is located in the southeast area of the western section of the proposed district. Because it is fairly close to the highway, any widening of that road would threaten the integrity of the site if not the structure itself.

Founder's House (#7: sketch map and photo): Built in 1896, this structure served as the residence of Dr. Cyrus Teed on his visits to the Estero community. There was another apartment on the second floor of this two-story structure. The house is a wood frame structure with cast concrete facings made to resemble stone on the lower level, and drop siding on the upper level. At one time, a cement archway stood a little distance away from the building along the south side. This structure, which is in very poor repair today, faces east and is located behind the store and post office buildings not far from U.S. Highway 41 and fairly near the Estero River.

This building was constructed as an elongated rectangle and has a very narrow vertical facade. Windows are casement in type, and the fenestration is irregular. The roof is pitched with a long ridge and front and rear gables. An external earmark of the period of its construction is the spindle and knob balustrade which defines the upper, uncovered portion of the east portico. Alterations include the placing of jalousie windows on the south facade and the placing of drop siding on the north side.

Planetary Court (#2: sketch map and photo): Intended for use as a dormitory for the leading female members of the Koreshan Unity settlement at Estero, this two-story building was completed about 1903. Its name was derived from the title given women of high position within the organizational structure of the Koreshans: the Planets. Each of the two floors is composed of four large rooms and a central hallway running east and west. A wide, covered veranda encircles the structure at both levels. The exterior fabric of this wood frame structure is thin clapboard. The foundation is wood and cement block; the gable roof is surfaced with 5-V crimped tin. At one time, a cupola surmounted the roof. Considerable interior alterations have been made in this structure. The house is furnished mostly with items brought from Chicago by the colonists who arrived at Estero in 1903.

4

RECEIVED DEC 9 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAY 4 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Koreshan Unity Settlement Historic District
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

Numerous books and documents as well as an extensive photograph collection relevant to the history of the Koreshan Unity movement are currently housed in the Planetary Court. The upstairs area provides living quarters and office space for the current president of Koreshan Unity, Inc., Miss Hedwig Michel, who edits a conservation-oriented newspaper, The American Eagle, from those premises. (This newspaper was first published in 1906 by a member of the Koreshan Unity and with the exception of a few years has been in publication ever since.) There is an accommodation for guests on the main floor. This building is located in the south central area of the western section of the proposed district; a garage and a driveway are nearby.

Post Office (#10: sketch map): The original post office at the settlement was located in the old store building; when that structure burned (c. 1920), a portion of the new store was used for a time. The post office is now housed in a rectangular, wood frame building with clapboard siding. The old mail counter and the cabinet used to hold mail for individuals are still in place. The building is used today as an office for the Koreshan Unity, Inc. It is located just south of the new store building (#9: sketch map and photo) and is very close to U.S. Highway 41. If that road were widened, the post office would have to be demolished.

Medical Office (#8: sketch map & photo): This structure, originally a one room cabin, was built prior to 1894 on a site farther down the river by Gustave Damkohler, the settler from whom land for the nucleus of the Koreshan Unity Settlement was obtained by Cyrus Teed. It was relocated, and at some point a small addition was made to it. This wood frame structure originally featured board and batten siding, but presently has asbestos siding and a tin roof. This structure has served several functions and is known today as the Medical Office in reference to one of the purposes for which it was used. It is located southwest of the U.S. Highway 41 bridge over the Estero River, on the south bank of that river.

New Store Building (#9: sketch map & photo): This building is the second store building to be constructed at the Koreshan Unity Settlement. The first, which stood just north of the present building on the river bank, burned about 1920. The present structure was already under construction at the time.

5

RECEIVED - 9 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAY 4 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMKoreshan Unity Settlement Historic District
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

This structure is a two-story, wood frame rectangular building covered with stucco. The false front with stepped parapet adds some interest to the main facade, although the erratic and irregular fenestration is visually displeasing. Windows, single and paired, are double-hung sash and the building has paired, double entrance doors with transoms.

This building contained a store, a restaurant and second floor sleeping quarters. The store is no longer in operation. The rooms are still in use for visitors to the settlement. It is located on the west edge of U.S. Highway 41 and would be demolished if that road were widened.

Bakery Building (#5: sketch map & photo): This two-story, wood frame structure originally contained a bakery on the main floor and sleeping quarters on the second floor. It was constructed about 1903-1905. The ovens, which extended from the south side of the building for a distance of several feet, have been removed.

The sparse openings in this rectangular building are small and vertical. The exterior fabric is thin, shiplap clapboard with corner boards. A single, hooded entry is located in the extreme lower corner of the main facade. The building is capped with a hipped roof now covered with tin.

Kitchen facilities remain in the building. Today, the large main hall on the first floor is used as a dining room for visitors. The upstairs sleeping quarters are also used by guests. This building is located on the north side of the main shell road which runs through the central area of the proposed historic district.

Dwelling Cottages (#4a & 4b: sketch map & photos): The date of construction of the remaining cottages is unknown. They were used as dwellings for members of the settlement. The structure in photo 4a is referred to today as a "one Member" house. This structure features vertical board and batten exterior, shiplap in gable, and is simply framed with a ridge roof and pent roof over a simple porch on the front.

The structure in photo 4b is referred to as a "two Member" house. It is a wood frame duplex of a regular design. Currently it has a tin roof.

6

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC - 9 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAY 4 1976

Koreshan Unity Settlement Historic District
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

These cottages are located on the north side of the shell road. These structures are usable today.

Machine Shops (no photo): Three frame buildings still stand at the southwest corner of the proposed district. These were and are today machine shops. They are not in good condition.

Bamboo Landing and Concrete Steps (#12: sketch map & photo): A dock on the Estero River on the south bank was used by the settlement members from the early years of the community's existence. The dock used today is of modern construction but stands on the original piles. A clump of bamboo planted nearby gave the landing its name. Concrete steps were constructed to lead up to the higher level. The terrain at this point curves and rises and forms a low natural amphitheatre. Before the Art Hall was built, this area was used for musical performances, etc. The performers used the dock or a boat on the river itself as a stage and the audience sat around on the steps and the nearby curving bank.

Three-Bedroom Dwelling (no photo): The wood frame structure is located on the east side of U.S. Highway 41 in the eastern section of the proposed district. It is the only family dwelling remaining from the original settlement.

RECEIVED DEC 1 1976

DATE ENTERED

MAY 4 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Koreshan Unity Settlement Historic District
CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

from Cyrus in the Hebrew language, and was rapidly developing his theories.

The Koreshan Unity has been referred to as "a religious and fraternal commonwealth" (Mackle, pp. 1-2) and the beliefs of Koreshanity include statements on religion, science, and the social and economic organization of the human race. As Dr. Teed wrote, "Koreshan Universology is a complete system of Science of the great Universe of Life . . ." (Flaming Sword, inside cover). Of particular interest because of its uniqueness is Teed's view of the physical construction of the universe. "The universe is a cell," he wrote, ". . . the sun is at the center. We live on the inside of the cell; and the sun, moon, planets, and stars are all within the globe" (Flaming Sword, inside cover). Several experiments were conducted under Dr. Teed's direction in an attempt to prove this viewpoint. The most extensive of these experiments was the geodetic survey carried out with the use of a measuring device called a rectilineator on the Gulf Beach near Estero in the spring of 1897. The results of this research satisfied Dr. Teed that his theory was correct; he subsequently published a book, The Cellular Cosmogony, which presented both theory and proof to the public.

In 1893, Dr. Teed decided to establish what was originally intended as a branch colony, and in the fall of that year he visited the Ft. Myers area of Florida in search of a site for his new settlement. Within a few months, he received a donation of land on the Estero River from a German settler named Gustave Damkohler and soon a nucleus of colonists arrived there to begin to construct a community. In spite of the difficulties presented by climate, terrain, and insects, a few buildings were constructed at the settlement in the first two years (see physical description section).

The period from 1894 to 1904, which may be regarded as a formative one for the settlement, was devoted not only to construction of the physical environment but also to the erection of a social and economic structure for the Estero community. The economic views of the Koreshans were essentially communistic. The model for this communal activity was the early Christian Church, not Marxist theory. However, Cyrus Teed's theories seem to have been very much influenced by the currently popular Utopian and communal philosophies such as those of the Shakers and the Harmonists. The result was a concept of a cooperative community which was not a politically motivated rejection of the capitalistic system. Dr. Teed thought that the basis of wealth

8

RECEIVED DEC 8 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAY 4 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMKoreshan Unity Settlement Historic District
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

lay in the relation of labor to the resources of nature; thus the Koreshan cooperative would own its own industry, land, shipping, and other means of transportation. Each individual would own a share of the wealth of the cooperative equal to the portion of the total labor of the community which he performed. The wealth of the group would be used to build cities, railroads, schools, colleges and parks, and to support education.

Such was the projection. In actuality, the living conditions and standards of the Estero community were very similar to those of any other pioneer settlement in south Florida at that time. Fishing and subsistence agriculture provided the main sources of food; any surplus was sold to the public. Services (bakery, laundry) were performed and rudimentary industries (concrete making, sawmilling, etc.) were manned by the residents of the settlement. With the arrival in 1903 of a new contingent of colonists from the terminated Chicago cooperative, a new phase of construction began and an era of relative prosperity began.

The period from 1904 to about 1908 marked the peak years of the Koreshan Unity settlement at Estero. Changes in the physical appearance are discussed in the physical description section of this nomination. In 1903, the Unity had been incorporated under the laws of the state of New Jersey (that corporation still exists) in anticipation of economic growth. The Pioneer University of Koreshanity was established at Estero and featured practical education as well as academic work. The emphasis upon education within the Koreshan Unity was very strong. Many of its leaders were well-educated people and the level of cultural activity at the settlement in Estero was unusually high for a frontier community. Musical and theatrical performances provided a large proportion of the social activity for the residents. There was a conscious effort directed towards raising the educational and cultural level of the Koreshans, young and old. This attitude continues to be reflected at the Koreshan settlement today as groups of students and others visit the park to learn about the tropical plants located there, about ecology, and about community planning.

In 1908, Dr. Teed died. The membership of the settlement diminished over the next several decades, the buildings fell into disrepair or were in some cases destroyed or demolished. Income was for a time provided by a store, filling station and restaurant located on the Tamiami Trail and by the various industries practiced

9

RECEIVED DEC 8 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAY 4 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Koreshan Unity Settlement Historic District
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

at the settlement. Publications continued to be issued by the Guiding Star Publishing House until 1949, and a periodical, the American Eagle, which had begun as a voice of the settlement but later became a horticultural journal, is still in existence. The tropical plants and trees which were cultivated in the gardens of the Koreshan Unity settlement still flourish and have attracted the attention of professional tropical horticulturalists such as Henry Nehrling, who lived and worked in nearby Naples.

In 1961, the Koreshan Unity, Inc. deeded the land on which the Koreshan State Park is now located to the state of Florida for use as a recreational area. Other land is retained by Koreshan Unity, Inc., including that part of the proposed district lying just east of Highway 41 on which some of the original structures of the settlement were located. The Koreshan State Park opened its facilities to visitors in January, 1967.

10

RECEIVED DEC 18 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAY 4 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Koreshan Unity Settlement Historic District
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

American Eagle. Various issues. Articles by Hedwig Michel and Claude J. Rahn included.

Andrews, Allen. A Yank Pioneer in Florida. Jacksonville, Fla.: Douglas Printing Co., Inc., 1950.

Berrey, Richard S. "The Koreshan Unity: An Economic History of a Communistic Experiment in Florida." M.A. thesis, University of Florida, 1928.

Brown, Barrett, and Brown, Adelaide. A Short History of Fort Myers Beach: Estero and San Carlos Islands, Florida. Fort Myers Beach, Fla.: Estero Island Publishers, 1965.

Bubbett, Laurence W. Biographical Sketch of Dr. Cyrus Read Teed (Koresh). Estero, Fla.: The Koreshan Unity, Inc., 1951.

Co-Operative Industry for the Millions: Explanatory Introduction to the Booklet The Koreshan Unity Co-operative. Estero, Fla.: The Koreshan Unity Press, 1908.

Damkohler, E. E. Estero, Fla., 1882: Memoirs of the First Settler. Fort Myers Beach, Fla.: Island Press, 1967.

Fine, Howard David. "The Koreshan Unity--Utopian Community: We Live Inside the World." M.A. thesis, Notre Dame University, 1972.

Fort Myers Press. Various issues in 1893-1910 period.

Fryman, Mildred L. "Koreshan Unity Settlement: Research Needs and Possibilities of Interpretation." A report prepared for the Division of Parks and Recreation. Tallahassee: Division of Archives, History and Records Management, 1974.

Koresh [Cyrus R. Teed]. The Cellular Cosmogony, or, The Earth a Concave Sphere. Estero, Fla.: Guiding Star Publishing House, 1922 (Reprint 1951).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 19 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAY 4 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Koreshan Unity Settlement Historic District
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

_____ [presumed author]. [Presentation of scientific and religious beliefs.] Flaming Sword. Vol. XV, No. 2 (February 1, 1901), inside cover.

_____ and Victoria Gratia [Annie G. Ordway]. The Koreshan Unity: General Information Concerning Membership and its Obligations. Chicago: The Koreshan Unity, c. 1903.

_____ and Wester, E. B. The Koreshan Unity, Co-operative. Estero, Fla.: Guiding Star Publishing House, 1907.

L'Amoreaux, Leroy. Early Days on Estero Island. Fort Myers Beach, Fla.: Estero Island Publishers, 1967.

Mackle, Elliott J., Jr. "The Koreshan Unity in Florida, 1894-1910." M.A. thesis, University of Miami, 1971.

Michel, Hedwig. "A Gift to the People." n.p., no publisher, [1961].

_____. Personal Interview (by Mildred L. Fryman), March 26-27, 1974, Estero, Fla.

The Pioneer University of Koreshan Universology. Estero, Fla.: The Koreshan University System, n.d.

Pittsburg Daily News. May 19, 1897.

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 19 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAY 4 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Koreshan Unity Settlement Historic District
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 1

Owners of Site

- (1) State of Florida
Division of Recreation & Parks
Larson Building
Tallahassee, Florida
- (2) Koreshan Unity, Inc.
P.O. Box 57
Estero, Florida

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 19 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAY 4 1976

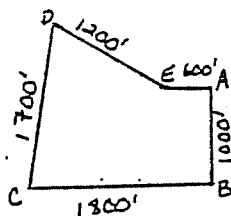
Koreshan Unity Settlement Historic District
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

Verbal Boundary Description

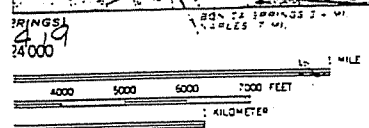
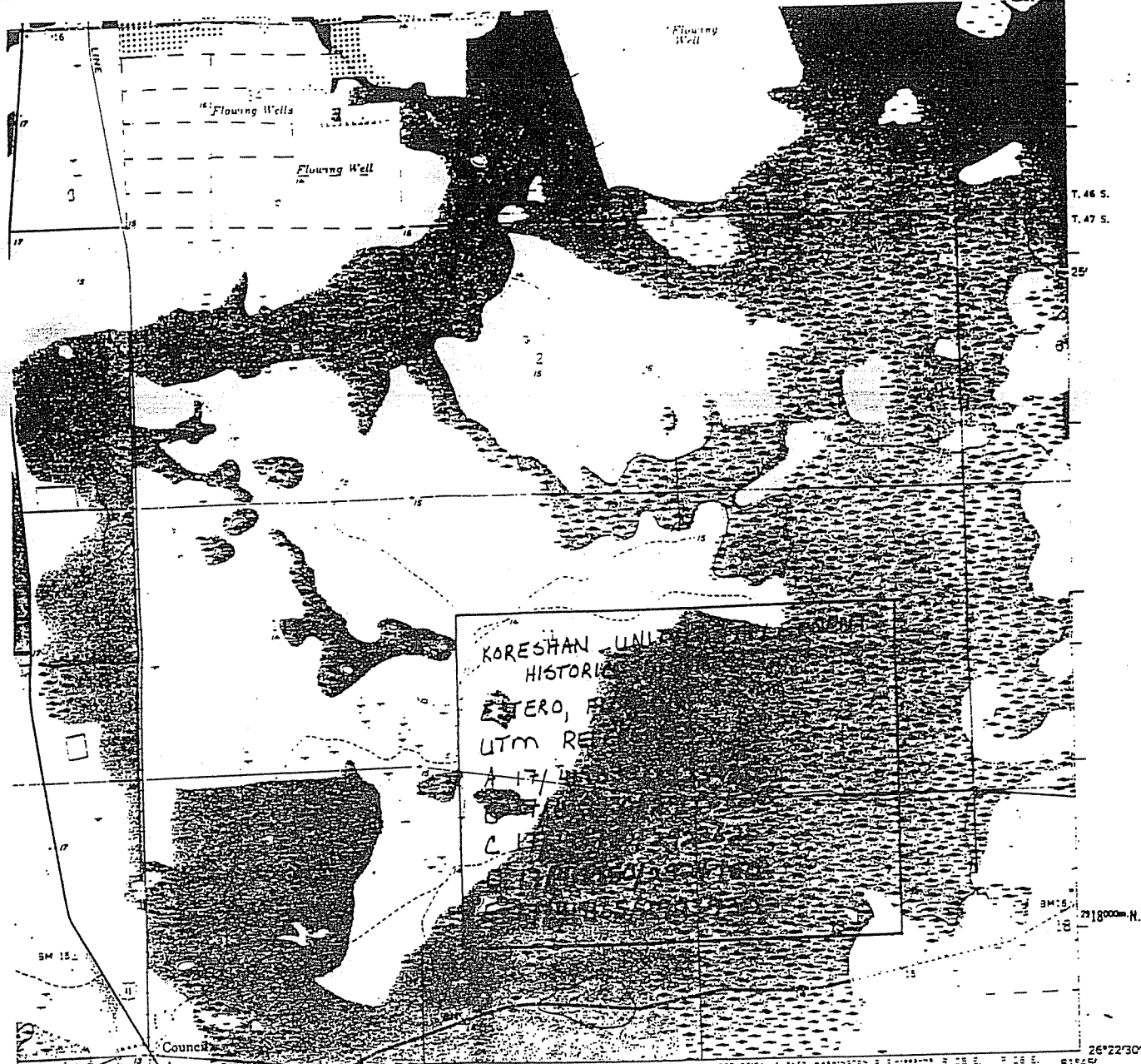
Koreshan Unity Settlement Historic District as nominated consists of approximately 54 acres located in T46S, R25E, sections 28 and 33, Lee County, Florida. The district has been defined as a five-sided polygon. The eastern boundary (line A-B) is c. 1000 feet in length and runs parallel to U.S. highway 41 at a distance of about 600 feet to the east of that road. The southern boundary (line B-C) is an 1800 foot long, east-west line which parallels the section line between sections 28 and 33 of T46S, R25E at a distance of about 900 feet south of that line. The western boundary (line C-D) forms an angle of about 80° with the southern boundary and runs in a north-northeasterly direction until it intersects the northern boundary at a point on the north side of the Estero River. The northern borders of the district follow the course of the Estero River and run along the north side of that river a short distance (maximum c. 300 feet) from the water. The first leg of the northern boundary (line D-E) runs south-southeast for a distance of about 1200 feet. The second leg (line E-A) of the northern boundary runs 600 feet in an east-west line. Shell roads, the Estero River, and U.S. highway 41 pass through the district.



UTM Coordinates:

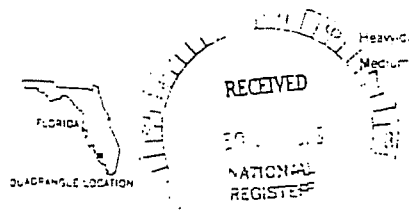
	Z	E	N
A	17	419330	2923925
B	17	419330	2923625
C	17	418780	2923625
D	17	418850	2924150
E	17	419165	2923930

14



VAL 5 FEET
 SEA LEVEL
 DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
 DEIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
 APPROXIMATELY 2 FEET

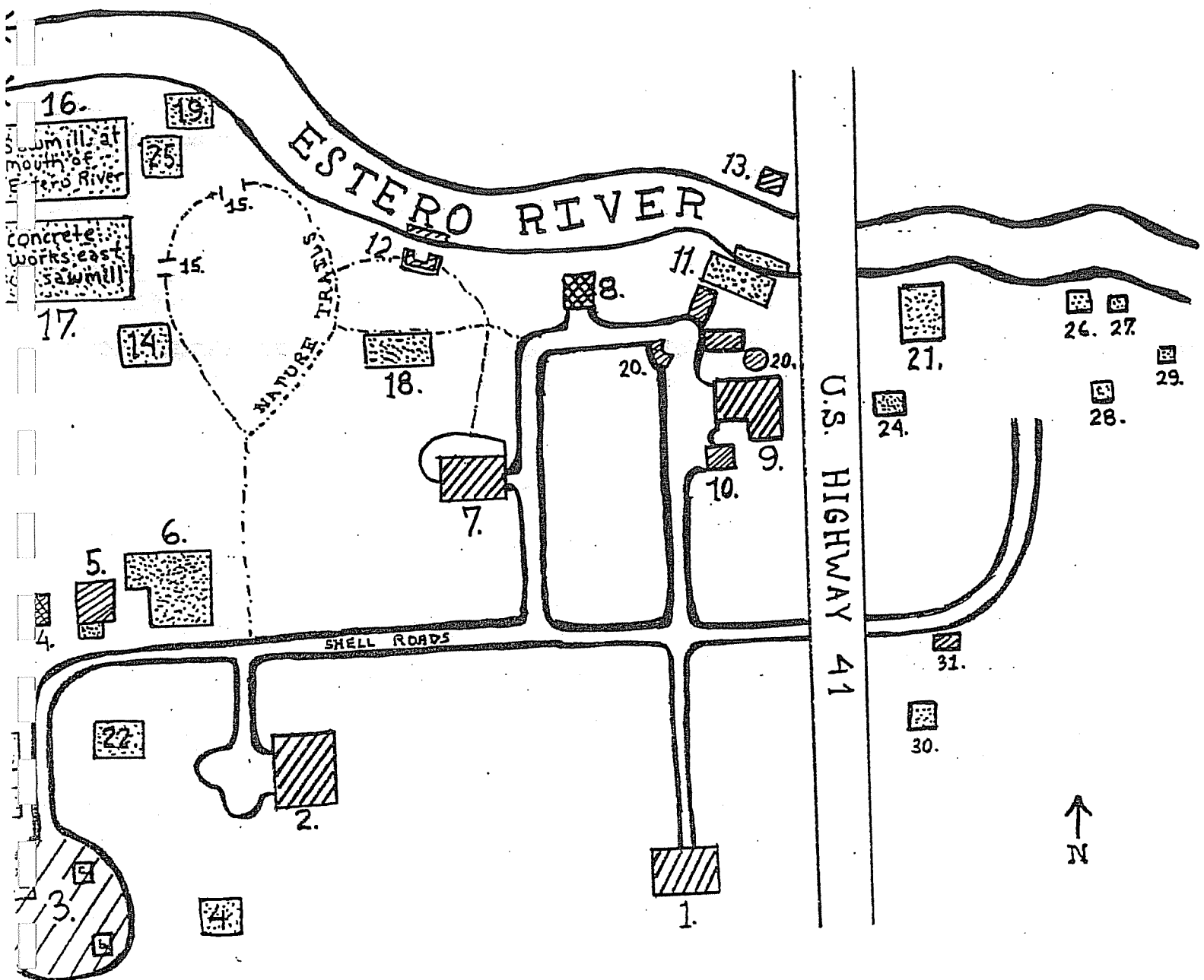
U.S. MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 JRVY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
 NO SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Heavy-duty _____
 Medium-duty _____
 Light-duty _____
 Unimproved dirt
 U.S. Route _____




ESTERO, FLA.
 N2622.5-W8145/7.5
 1958

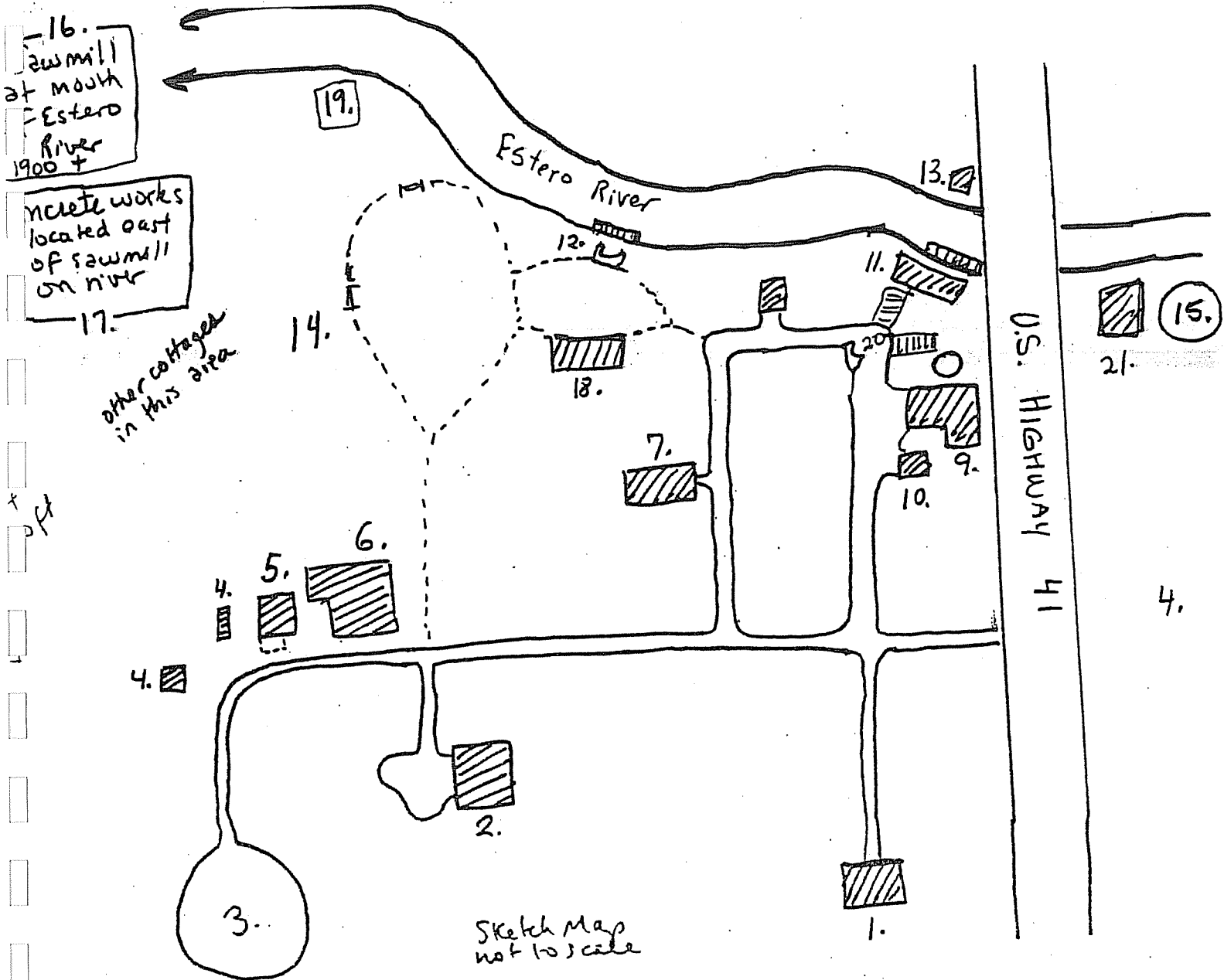
15



KORESHAN UNITY SETTLEMENT

SKETCH MAP ~~is~~ NOT TO SCALE

-  STRUCTURES STANDING IN SITU
-  STRUCTURES STANDING MOVED
-  STRUCTURES NO LONGER STANDING



16. Sawmill at mouth of Estero River 1900 +

concrete works located east of sawmill on river

17. other cottages in this area

15.

21.

4.

Sketch Map not to scale

KORESIAN UNITY SETTLEMENT

AT ESTERO

- 1. Art Hall
- 2. Planetary Court
- 3. Machine Shop Area
- 4. Cottages (Member House)
- 5. Bakery
- 6. Site of Dining Hall

- 7. Founder's Home
- 8. Medical Office
- 9. New Store
- 10. Post Office
- 11. Site of Old Store
- 12. Bamboo Landing & Steps

- 13. Bathhouse
- 14. Area of Log House
- 15. Area of Shoe Repair, Carpentry Shops
- 16. Sawmill
- 17. Concrete works
- 18. Site of Children's Bldg.
- 19. ~~approx~~ location of Ordway home
- 20. ornamental concrete works - pool + fountain site
- 21. Print Shop Publishing House Site
- 22. tennis court
- 23. incident report.
- 24. Sawmill, carpenter shop
- 27. Boat Building sh.
- 28. Shoe Repair shop
- 29. Spring Worked Hive
- 30. Rustic Tea Garden
- 31. "El Katin" member house

- 24. filling station
- 25. airport

Prepared by M.F.

25

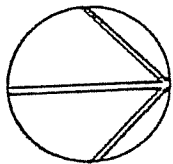
KORESHAN UNITY SETTLEMENT
KEY TO SKETCH MAP

The area included in this map coincides roughly with the suggested Koreshan Unity Settlement historic district. All structures and sites indicated on this sketch map with the exception of Nos. 16 and 17 are contained within the boundaries of the nominated district.

1. Art Hall*
2. Planetary Court*
3. Machine Shop Area
 - a) Large Machine Shop
 - b) Power House
 - c) Little Machine Shop
4. Cottage (Member House) a) One Member Dwelling* b) Two Member Dwelling*
5. Bakery (Oven Area Removed)*
6. Site of Dining Hall
7. Founder's House*
8. Medical Office*
9. New Store*
10. Post Office
11. Site of Old Store & Dock
12. "Bamboo Landing" & Concrete Steps*
13. Boat House
14. Site of Log House (Brothers' Dormitory)
15. Bamboo Bridges
16. Sawmill Site
17. Concrete Works Site
18. Site of Children's Building
19. Approximate Site of Annie Ordway Home
20. Ornamental Concrete Features: Pool, Fountain, & Steps
21. Site of Publishing House
22. Tennis Court Site
23. Site of Laundry
24. Site of Filling Station
25. Approximate Site of Sisters' Dormitory
26. Old Sawmill & Carpentry Shop Site
27. Boat Building Shop Site
28. Shoe Repair Shop Site
29. Apiary Workshop & Beehive Site
30. "Rustic Tea Garden" Site
31. "El Retiro": Member House

*photo supplied and enumerated to correspond with this item

KORESHAN UNITY SETTLEMENT

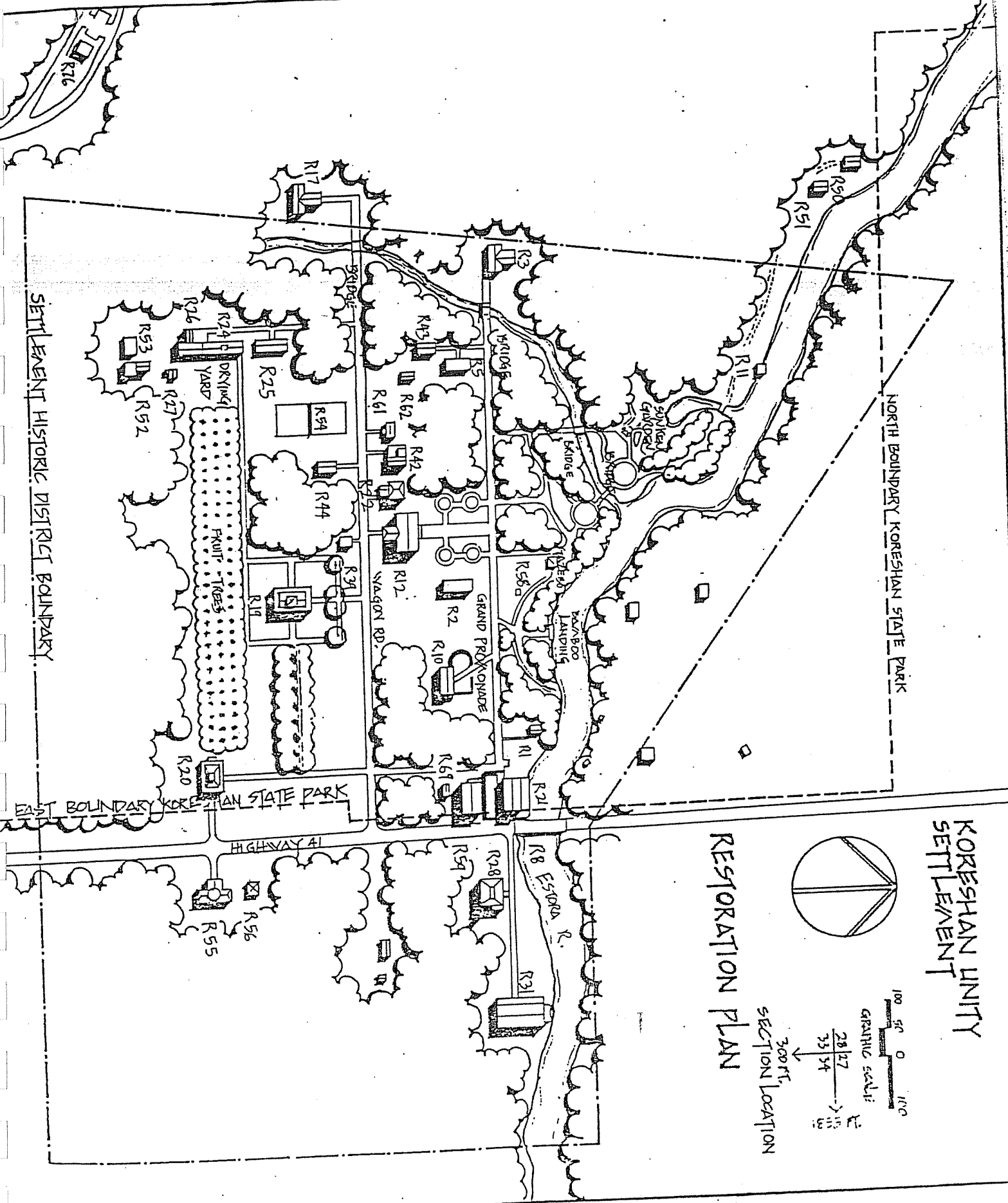


100 50 0 100
GRAPHIC SCALE

28 27
35 34
→

300 FT.
SECTION LOCATION

RESTORATION PLAN



HISTORIC SITE DATA SUPPLEMENT

Site Name Koreshan Unity
Settlement
Historic District

Present Use (check one or more as appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural 850== | <input type="checkbox"/> Government 850== | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park 850== | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation 850== |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial 850== | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial 850== | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence 850== | Other (Specify): |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational 850== | <input type="checkbox"/> Military 850== | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious 850== | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ 850== |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment 850== | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum 850== | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific 850== | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ 850== |

Period (check one or more as appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian 845== | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century 845== | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century 845== | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century 845== |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century 845== | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century 845== | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century 845== | |

Specific Dates: Beginning 1894 844== Ending 846 846==

Areas of Significance (check one or more as appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology
Prehistoric 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature 910== | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-
itarian 910== |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology
Historic 910== | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economics 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> Military 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater 910== |
| * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> Education 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> Music 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation 910== |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy 910== | Other (Specify): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/Govt. 910== | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Explora-910== |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention 910== | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> tion & 910== |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> Science 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> Settle- 910== |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community
Planning 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture 910== | <input type="checkbox"/> ment 910== |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Law 910== | | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ 910== |
- *tropical horticulture

Thematic Classification:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal 912== | <input type="checkbox"/> Military 912== | Other (Specify): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural 912== | <input type="checkbox"/> Political 912== | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> socio-economic 912== |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Arts 912== | <input type="checkbox"/> Society 912== | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious/ 912== |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration & Settlement 912== | <input type="checkbox"/> Science & Technology 912== | <input type="checkbox"/> educational 912== |

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary)

The Koreshan Unity has been described by one of its members as a "commonwealth, conforming to the ancient Christian communal life" (Michel, "A Gift to the People"). The movement was founded in the latter part of the nineteenth century by Dr. Cyrus Teed and reached its fruition in the first decade of the twentieth century at Estero, Florida. The settlement which was developed there beginning in 1894 by members of the Koreshan Unity declined after the death of its founder in 1908. The physical remains of the community for the most part are now included in the grounds of the Koreshan State Park. The remaining structures deserve preservation because they represent a unique philosophical and religious movement, because they illustrate a cooperative settlement of a past era, and because they are the remnants of a pioneer community which

Remarks & Recommendations:

835==

Major Bibliographic References:

see continuation sheet

920==

Description (Evidence):

862==

Present & Original Physical Appearance (use continuation sheet if necessary)

A major portion of the original Koreshan Unity Settlement at Estero is now located within the boundaries of Florida's Koreshan Unity State Park. Koreshan Unity, Inc., at one time owned a sizeable amount of land in Lee County and still retains property which far exceeds the boundaries of that state park. At one time, structures belonging to the Settlement were located on Estero Island, at the mouth of the Estero River, and at various points near that river in its western reaches. The river served as a major transportation and communication route for the Koreshan Settlement. A road running north and south which over the years developed from a pioneer track to a county road to the Tamiami Trail (currently U.S. 41) was the other important link to Ft. Myers and the outside world.

935==

CONTINUATION SHEET

Statement of Significance (cont.)

in many ways typified life on the south Florida frontier around the turn of the twentieth century. The extant gardens are of value to tropical horticulturalists.

Born in 1839, Cyrus Teed grew up in the "Burned-Over" district of New York State, an area which produced a number of religious cults in the late nineteenth century. He became a doctor of eclectic medicine (naturopathy) and established a practice in Deerfield, New York. In 1869, while conducting some scientific experiments, Dr. Teed had a vision in which the Virgin Mary told him he was a prophet who was to save the human race. From that point forward, Dr. Teed developed a complex system of explanations concerning the universe and human society which he called Koreshan Universology.

During the 1870's and 1880's, Dr. Teed (who had begun to refer to himself as the prophet Cyrus) attracted some followers with his ideas on healing and his beliefs about the nature of the universe. In 1886, he moved to Chicago where he succeeded in making more converts. A church - the Church Triumphant - and an educational institution - the World's College of Life - were founded in that year to propagate his theories. An organization for prospective members, the Society Arch Triumphant, was formed in 1887, and in 1888, a cooperative home for members of the Church and publishing house for dissemination of information about the movement were established in Chicago. Within a short time (1890-1891), a business organization for laborers was also founded. By that time, Cyrus Teed was using the name Koresh, derived from Cyrus in the Hebrew language, and was rapidly developing his theories.

The Koreshan Unity has been referred to as "a religious and fraternal commonwealth" (Mackle, pp. 1-2) and the beliefs of Koreshanity include statements on religion, science, and the social and economic organization of the human race. As Dr. Teed wrote, "Koreshan Universology is a complete system of Science of the great Universe of Life . . ." (Flaming Sword, inside cover). Of particular interest because of its uniqueness is Teed's view of the physical construction of the universe. "The universe is a cell," he wrote, ". . . the sun is at the center. We live on the inside of the cell; and the sun, moon, planets, and stars are all within the globe" (Flaming Sword, inside cover). Several experiments were conducted under Dr. Teed's direction in an attempt to prove this viewpoint. The most extensive of these experiments was the geodetic survey carried out with the use of a measuring device called a rectilineator on the Gulf Beach near Estero in the spring of 1897. The results of this research satisfied Dr. Teed that his theory was correct; he subsequently published a book, The Cellular Cosmogony, which presented both theory and proof to the public.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Statement of Significance (cont.)

In 1893, Dr. Teed decided to establish what was originally intended as a branch colony, and in the fall of that year he visited the Ft. Myers area of Florida in search of a site for his new settlement. Within a few months, he received a donation of land on the Estero River from a German settler named Gustave Damkohler and soon a nucleus of colonists arrived there to begin to construct a community. In spite of the difficulties presented by climate, terrain, and insects, a few buildings were constructed at the settlement in the first two years (see physical description section).

The period from 1894 to 1904, which may be regarded as a formative one for the settlement, was devoted not only to construction of the physical environment but also to the erection of a social and economic structure for the Estero community. The economic views of the Koreshans were essentially communistic. The model for this communal activity was the early Christian Church, not Marxist theory. However, Cyrus Teed's theories seem to have been very much influenced by the currently popular Utopian and communal philosophies such as those of the Shakers and the Harmonists. The result was a concept of a cooperative community which was not a politically motivated rejection of the capitalistic system. Dr. Teed thought that the basis of wealth lay in the relation of labor to the resources of nature; thus the Koreshan cooperative would own its own industry, land, shipping, and other means of transportation. Each individual would own a share of the wealth of the cooperative equal to the portion of the total labor of the community which he performed. The wealth of the group would be used to build cities, railroads, schools, colleges and parks, and to support education.

Such was the projection. In actuality, the living conditions and standards of the Estero community were very similar to those of any other pioneer settlement in south Florida at that time. Fishing and subsistence agriculture provided the main sources of food; any surplus was sold to the public. Services (bakery, laundry) were performed and rudimentary industries (concrete making, sawmilling, etc.) were manned by the residents of the settlement. With the arrival in 1903 of a new contingent of colonists from the terminated Chicago cooperative, a new phase of construction began and an era of relative prosperity began.

The period from 1904 to about 1908 marked the peak years of the Koreshan Unity Settlement at Estero. Changes in the physical appearance are discussed in the physical description section of this nomination. In 1903, the Unity had been incorporated under the laws of the state of New Jersey (that corporation still exists) in anticipation of economic growth. The Pioneer University of Koreshanity was established at Estero and featured practical

98

CONTINUATION SHEET

Statement of Significance (cont.)

education as well as academic work. The emphasis upon education within the Koreshan Unity was very strong. Many of its leaders were well-educated people and the level of cultural activity at the settlement in Estero was unusually high for a frontier community. Musical and theatrical performances provided a large proportion of the social activity for the residents. There was a conscious effort directed towards raising the educational and cultural level of the Koreshans, young and old. This attitude continues to be reflected at the Koreshan settlement today as groups of students and others visit the park to learn about the tropical plants located there, about ecology, and about community planning.

In 1908, Dr. Teed died. The membership of the settlement diminished over the next several decades, the buildings fell into disrepair or were in some cases destroyed or demolished. Income was for a time provided by a store, filling station and restaurant located on the Tamiami Trail and by the various industries practiced at the settlement. Publications continued to be issued by the Guiding Star Publishing House until 1949, and a periodical, the American Eagle, which had begun as a voice of the settlement but later became a horticultural journal, is still in existence. The tropical plants and trees which were cultivated in the gardens of the Koreshan Unity settlement still flourish and have attracted the attention of professional tropical horticulturalists such as Henry Nehrling, who lived and worked in nearby Naples.

In 1961, the Koreshan Unity, Inc. deeded the land on which the Koreshan State Park is now located to the state of Florida for use as a recreational area. Other land is retained by Koreshan Unity, Inc., including that part of the proposed district lying just east of Highway 41 on which some of the original structures of the settlement were located. The Koreshan State Park opened its facilities to visitors in January, 1967.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Present & Original Physical Appearance (cont.)

Description of Original Physical Appearance:

The nuclear area of the original settlement was concentrated around the junction of those two transportation routes. The major structures which provided communal living quarters, dining facilities, and accommodations for the settlement's social activities were grouped in a rather small area immediately south of the river and west of the roadway. Individual or dual family dwellings and structures providing housing for supportive activities or industries (sawmill, machine shops, etc.) were located in the peripheral areas of that central core. As the years passed, residents of the Koreshan Unity Settlement gave special attention to the grounds. The result was complex landscaping complete with ornamental concrete sculptures, walkways, decorative bamboo bridges, benches and park areas.

The surviving structures described below are representative of the varieties of buildings which were erected at the Koreshan Unity Settlement over the years; many of these buildings have since disappeared. Existing graphic evidence and verbal descriptions indicate that all the earlier structures were of wood. The cottages (see #4a & #4b: sketch map and photos) which provided family residences were very simple in design. At least one of the earliest buildings was constructed of logs (#14: sketch map); the settlement's sawmill soon provided milled lumber for later structures. Multi-story buildings somewhat like the bakery (#5: sketch map & photo) were utilized as a dining hall (#6: sketch map) and publishing house (#21: sketch map). At least one later structure, the new store (#9: sketch map and photo), was given a stucco exterior treatment. The so-called "Bamboo Landing" (#12: sketch map and photo) gives a suggestion of the landscaping concept employed at the settlement but fails to capture the spirit of the sculptures produced by workmen of the community.

General Description of Present Physical Appearance:

The Koreshan Unity Settlement at the present time reflects the original landscaping and architecture of the turn of the century community. The grounds contain trees, flowers, and shrubs which include a fine collection of exotic tropical and subtropical species. Nature trails have been laid out in the horticulturally interesting areas. Evidence of ornamental concrete and bamboo structures remains. However, decades of growth, and at time of neglect, have altered greatly the appearance of both botanical and man-made features of the grounds.

With the exception of a picnic table and an activity shelter recently built in the "chickee" style by Seminole Indians, all the structures currently standing in the district are related

CONTINUATION SHEET

Present & Original Physical Appearance (cont.)

to the Koreshan Unity community. All but two of them - the new store (#9: sketch map & photo) and the post office (#10: sketch map) - were constructed during the first fifteen years of the settlement's existence. The current condition of the remaining structures varies from good to poor. The major existing buildings are described individually in the following section.

Description of Structures Still Standing:

Art Hall (#1: sketch map & photo): Constructed in 1905, this building was suitable for the presentation of concerts, dramatic productions, etc. It consists of one large room with a wide, high stage across the west end, behind which is a closed backstage area.

In its present form, the building is a one-story, wood frame structure featuring clapboard siding, a hipped roof, wide eaves reminiscent of those used in older, small railroad stations, numerous windows which permit good cross-ventilation, and a "U"-shaped porch encircling the building to the east. The building is raised up off the ground on wooden pole sections.

The building has been restored in recent years, but comparison with photographs of the original show that the restoration was not an accurate one. The roof line and porch arrangement differ significantly from the original construction. The building has been air-conditioned and provided with electric lights as well. It currently contains a display of documents, records and artifacts relevant to the history of the Koreshan Unity. The building is used by local groups as an assembly and meeting hall. It is located in the southeast area of the western section of the proposed district. Because it is fairly close to the highway, any widening of that road would threaten the integrity of the site if not the structure itself.

Founder's House (#7: sketch map and photo): Built in 1896, this structure served as the residence of Dr. Cyrus Teed on his visits to the Estero community. There was another apartment on the second floor of this two-story structure. The house is a wood frame structure with cast concrete facings made to resemble stone on the lower level, and drop siding on the upper level. At one time, a cement archway stood a little distance away from the building along the south side. This structure, which is in very poor repair today, faces east and is located behind the store and post office buildings not far from U.S. Highway 41 and fairly near the Estero River.

This building was constructed as an elongated rectangle and has a very narrow vertical facade. Windows are casement in type,

CONTINUATION SHEET

Present & Original Physical Appearance (cont.)

and the fenestration is irregular. The roof is pitched with a long ridge and front and rear gables. An external earmark of the period of its construction is the spindle and knob balustrade which defines the upper, uncovered portion of the east portico. Alterations include the placing of jalousie windows on the south facade and the placing of drop siding on the north side.

Planetary Court (#2: sketch map and photo): Intended for use as a dormitory for the leading female members of the Koreshan Unity settlement at Estero, this two-story building was completed about 1903. Its name was derived from the title given women of high position within the organizational structure of the Koreshans: the Planets. Each of the two floors is composed of four large rooms and a central hallway running east and west. A wide, covered veranda encircles the structure at both levels. The exterior fabric of this wood frame structure is thin clapboard. The foundation is wood and cement block; the gable roof is surfaced with 5-V crimped tin. At one time, a cupola surmounted the roof. Considerable interior alterations have been made in this structure. The house is furnished mostly with items brought from Chicago by the colonists who arrived at Estero in 1903. Numerous books and documents as well as an extensive photograph collection relevant to the history of the Koreshan Unity movement are currently housed in the Planetary Court. The upstairs area provides living quarters and office space for the current president of Koreshan Unity, Inc., Miss Hedwig Michel, who edits a conservation-oriented newspaper, The American Eagle, from those premises. (This newspaper was first published in 1906 by a member of the Koreshan Unity and with the exception of a few years has been in publication ever since.) There is an accommodation for guests on the main floor. This building is located in the south central area of the western section of the proposed district; a garage and a driveway are nearby.

Post Office (#10: sketch map): The original post office in the settlement was located in the old store building; when that structure burned (c. 1920), a small, one room structure was built to house the mailroom. It is a rectangular, wood frame building with clapboard siding. The old mail counter and the cabinet used to hold mail for individuals are still in place. The building is used today as an office for the Koreshan Unity, Inc. It is located just south of the new store building (#9: sketch map and photo) and is very close to U.S. Highway 41. If that road were widened, the post office would have to be demolished.

Medical Office (#8: sketch map & photo): This structure, originally a one room cabin, was built prior to 1894 on a site farther down the river by Gustave Damkohler, the settler from

CONTINUATION SHEET

Present & Original Physical Appearance (cont.)

whom land for the nucleus of the Koreshan Unity Settlement was obtained by Cyrus Teed. It was relocated, and at some point a small addition was made to it. This wood frame structure originally featured board and batten siding, but presently has asbestos siding and a tin roof. This structure has served several functions and is known today as the Medical Office in reference to one of the purposes for which it was used. It is located southwest of the U.S. Highway 41 bridge over the Estero River, on the south bank of that river.

New Store Building (#9: sketch map & photo): This building is the second store building to be constructed at the Koreshan Unity Settlement. The first, which stood just north of the present building on the river bank, burned about 1920. The present structure was already under construction at the time.

This structure is a two-story, wood frame rectangular building covered with stucco. The false front with stepped parapet adds some interest to the main facade, although the erratic and irregular fenestration is visually displeasing. Windows, single and paired, are double-hung sash and the building has paired, double entrance doors with transoms.

This building contained a store, a restaurant and second floor sleeping quarters. The store is no longer in operation. The rooms are still in use for visitors to the settlement. It is located on the west edge of U.S. Highway 41 and would be demolished if that road were widened.

Bakery Building (#5: sketch map & photo): This two-story, wood frame structure originally contained a bakery on the main floor and sleeping quarters on the second floor. It was constructed about 1903-1905. The ovens, which extended from the south side of the building for a distance of several feet, have been removed.

The sparse openings in this rectangular building are small and vertical. The exterior fabric is thin, shiplap clapboard with corner boards. A single, hooded entry is located in the extreme lower corner of the main facade. The building is capped with a hipped roof now covered with tin.

Kitchen facilities remain in the building. Today, the large main hall on the first floor is used as a dining room for visitors. The upstairs sleeping quarters are also used by guests. This building is located on the north side of the main shell road which runs through the central area of the proposed historic district.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Present & Original Physical Appearance (cont.)

Dwelling Cottages (#4a & #4b: sketch map & photos): The date of construction of the remaining cottages is unknown. They were used as dwellings for members of the settlement. The structure in photo 4a is referred to today as a "one Member" house. This structure features vertical board and batten exterior, shiplap in gable, and is simply framed with a ridge roof and pent roof over a simple porch on the front.

The structure in photo 4b is referred to as a "two Member" house. It is a wood frame duplex of a regular design. Currently it has a tin roof.

These cottages are located on the north side of the shell road. These structures are usable today.

Machine Shops (no photo): Three frame buildings still stand at the southwest corner of the proposed district. These were and are today machine shops. They are not in good condition.

Bamboo Landing and Concrete Steps (#12: sketch map & photo): A dock on the Estero River on the south bank was used by the settlement members from the early years of the community's existence. The dock used today is of modern construction but stands on the original piles. A clump of bamboo planted nearby gave the landing its name. Concrete steps were constructed to lead up to the higher level. The terrain at this point curves and rises and forms a low natural amphitheatre. Before the Art Hall was built, this area was used for musical performances, etc. The performers used the dock or a boat on the river itself as a stage and the audience sat around on the steps and the nearby curving bank.

Three-Bedroom Dwelling (no photo): The wood frame structure is located on the east side of U.S. Highway 41 in the eastern section of the proposed district. It is the only family dwelling remaining from the original settlement.

CONTINUATION SHEET
Major Bibliographic References

- American Eagle. Various issues. Articles by Hedwig Michel and Claude J. Rahn included.
- Andrews, Allen. A Yank Pioneer in Florida. Jacksonville, Fla.: Douglas Printing Co., Inc., 1950.
- Berrey, Richard S. "The Koreshan Unity: An Economic History of a Communistic Experiment in Florida." M.A. thesis, University of Florida, 1928.
- Brown, Barrett, and Brown, Adelaide. A Short History of Fort Myers Beach: Estero and San Carlos Islands, Florida. Fort Myers Beach, Fla.: Estero Island Publishers, 1965.
- Bubbett, Laurence W. Biographical Sketch of Dr. Cyrus Read Teed (Koresh). Estero, Fla.: The Koreshan Unity, Inc., 1951.
- Co-Operative Industry for the Millions: Explanatory Introduction to the Booklet The Koreshan Unity Co-operative. Estero, Fla.: The Koreshan Unity Press, 1908.
- Damkohler, E. E. Estero, Fla., 1882: Memoirs of the First Settler. Fort Myers Beach, Fla.: Island Press, 1967.
- Fine, Howard David. "The Koreshan Unity--Utopian Community: We Live Inside the World." M.A. thesis, Notre Dame University, 1972.
- Fort Myers Press. Various issues in 1893-1910 period.
- Fryman, Mildred L. "Koreshan Unity Settlement: Research Needs and Possibilities of Interpretation." A report prepared for the Division of Parks and Recreation. Tallahassee: Division of Archives, History and Records Management, 1974.
- Koresh [Cyrus R. Teed]. The Cellular Cosmogony, or, The Earth a Concave Sphere. Estero, Fla.: Guiding Star Publishing House, 1922 (Reprint 1951).
- _____ [presumed author]. [Presentation of scientific and religious beliefs.] Flaming Sword. Vol. XV, No. 2 (February 1, 1901), inside cover.
- _____ and Victoria Gratia [Annie G. Ordway]. The Koreshan Unity: General Information Concerning Membership and its Obligations. Chicago: The Koreshan Unity, c. 1903.
- _____ and Wester, E. B. The Koreshan Unity, Co-operative. Estero, Fla.: Guiding Star Publishing House, 1907.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Major Bibliographic References (cont.)

L'Amoreaux, Leroy. Early Days on Estero Island. Fort Myers Beach, Fla.: Estero Island Publishers, 1967.

Mackle, Elliott J., Jr. "The Koreshan Unity in Florida, 1894-1910." M.A. thesis, University of Miami, 1971.

Michel, Hedwig. "A Gift to the People." n.p., no publisher, [1961].

_____. Personal Interview (by Mildred L. Fryman), March 26-27, 1974, Estero, Fla.

The Pioneer University of Koreshan Universology. Estero, Fla.: The Koreshan University System, n.d.

Pittsburg Daily News. May 19, 1897.

