APPENDIX D:

National Register of Historic Places Request for Determination of Eligibility: Strite

House (8OR9844)

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Rev. 10-90

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of P	roperty									
historic name	Strite House									
other names/s	site number 80R	19844								
2. Location										
street & numh	oer 6229 Plymou	th-Sorrento R	oad						not for publication	1
									_	ı
city or town	Apopka								vicinity	
state	FLORIDA	code _	FL_c	county	Orange		code	95	_ zip code <u>32712</u>	
3. State/Fede	eral Agency Cer	tification								
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Signature of o	certifying official/Title		D	ate						
State or Fede	eral agency and bure	au							-	
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Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property	Orange County, Florida County and State		
	Southly 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 instructions)		
7.5	AGRICULTURE		
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT		
our history.	ARCHITECTURE		
■ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.			
of a type, period, or method of construction or			
represents the work of a master, or possesses	Period of Significance		
high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack			
individual distinction.	1910-1958		
□ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield			
information important in prehistory or history.			
	Significant Dates		
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	circa 1910		
Property is:			
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person		
☐ B removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation		
☐ C a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation		
□ D a cemetery.			
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	A 114 4/D 111		
☐ F a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder		
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance			
within the past 50 years			
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)			
9. Major Bibliographical References			
Bibliography			
Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one of Previous documentation on file (NPS):	or more continuation sheets.) Primary location of additional data:		
preliminary determination of individual listing (36	State Historic Preservation Office		
CFR 36) has been requested	Other State Agency		
previously listed in the National Register	Federal agency		
previously determined eligible by the National	Local government		
Register	☐ University ☐ Other		
 ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey 	☐ Other Name of Repository		
#			
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record	#		

Strite House	Orange County, Florida					
Name of Property	County and State					
10. Geographical Data						
Acreage of Property ~48 acres						
UTM References (Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)						
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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 Robert J. Taylor, Jr.						
organization Janus Research	date <u>2/21/2008</u>					
street & number 1300 N Westshore Blvd. Suite 100	telephone <u>813-636-8200</u>					
citv or town <u>Tampa</u>	state FL zip code 33607					
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:						
Continuation Sheets						
Maps						
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the	property's location.					
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.						
Photographs						
Representative black and white photographs of the property.						
Additional items (check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)						
Property Owner						
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)						
name Ruth Strite Holder						
street & number PO Box 32	telephone					

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

_state <u>FL</u>

32776

_ zip code

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Sorrento

city or town

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	Page	1	Strite House
				Orange County, Florida
				DESCRIPTION

SETTING

The Strite House is located at 6229 Plymouth-Sorrento Road, which is located on the east side of Plymouth-Sorrento Road, between Haas Road and Boch Road in Township 20 South, Range 28 East, Section 6 of the Sorrento USGS Quadrangle Map (1960 PR 1980). The house was built in what was historically referred to as the Bay Ridge area, which is roughly six miles northwest of Apopka, Orange County, Florida. The house is set on approximately 48 acres of agricultural land. The main house is set back approximately 1,190 feet from the road. Other historic buildings and structures on the property include a garage, a water tower, and swimming pool. A circular drive leads from Plymouth-Sorrento Road to the main house, and the garage and water tower are located just to the rear of the main house. The swimming pool is located approximately 400 feet south of the house near a natural spring. The majority of the property is covered with trees; however, a large former grove has been cleared and is now used for hay cultivation.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Strite House is a type of house that may be characterized in Florida as a "Cracker" house, exhibiting an interpretation of the Georgian Form. The term Cracker generally refers to the early Florida settlers and the houses they built. The term Cracker was coined because of the way the settlers cracked their own corn to make meal, the staple in every aspect of their diet (Haase 1992, 10). Cracker architecture was largely unadorned in style and functional in form. The term Vernacular has also come to be used in describing these houses in the sense they represent the regional language or dialect of architecture. The earliest Cracker houses in the midnineteenth century were commonly single pen structures with dirt floors. Over time, these Cracker houses became double-pens, saddlebag, and dog-trot houses. By the early twentieth century, the central hallway was enclosed, another set of rooms had been added to the back, and a second floor was included creating an interior pattern of rooms very similar to the plan of Georgian houses from the late eighteenth century (Haase 1992, 66). Often a kitchen ell was attached to the rear of the building to isolate heat and fire hazard from the main massing of the house. Although the interior of the Strite House was inaccessible, the exterior shape and bay configuration of the house resembles the later Cracker style interpretation of the Georgian form. The circa 1910 construction date of the Strite House is also consistent with the early twentieth century construction period attributed to that form of construction.

The Strite House is two stories tall and has a symmetrical front facade; in keeping with its Georgian form (Photograph 1). The façade is divided into three bays with the entrance centrally located and a single window on each side. The second floor fenestration matches that of the first floor with a central window in place of the door. The building is topped by a pyramidal roof clad in 5-V sheet metal. A one-story kitchen ell extends off the rear and is topped by a hipped roof clad in 5-V sheet metal. A small second story sleeping porch also extends off the rear and is set on top of the kitchen ell. This room is covered with a hipped roof clad in 5-V sheet metal as well (Photograph 2). The wood frame structural system is clad with drop siding and rests on a continuous

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	Page	2	Strite House
				Orange County, Florida
				DESCRIPTION

rusticated concrete block foundation. A one-story flat-roof screened porch has been appended to the northwest corner of the house and wraps around portions of the front and side facades partially interrupting the symmetry of the front facade (Photograph 3). According to the Jerry Holder, the son of the current owner, this porch was added in the 1950s and replaced an earlier front porch (Holder 2008). A second, original porch is located on the south side of the house. This screened porch is topped by a hipped roof clad in 5-V sheet metal and is supported by wood Doric columns (Photograph 4). The original front porch that has been replaced originally had columns that matched those of the side porch (Holder 2008). The house retains all of its original windows which are mostly wood double-hung sash with one-over-one light configurations, but there is also a pair of wood casement windows with four panes each on the rear kitchen ell. The original wood-frame screens are present on most windows. The house has a pair of interior brick chimneys that likely are placed between the front and rear rooms on the interior of the house (Photograph 5). The building is simple and functional in design; yet has some modest ornamentation. The windows and doors have wood surrounds with molded architraves, a molded cornice board wraps around all sides of the house, and the eaves are boxed in with bead board.

As Haase's fieldwork on Florida Cracker houses indicates, many of these old houses have either been abandoned by their owners, or allowed to fall into a state of disrepair (Haase 1992, 14). Simple construction techniques often make constant work and repair on the house a necessity which becomes a burden. Temperature regulation is also challenging due to the wood frame construction and old windows. The Strite House is representative of this trend. The property has been owned and occupied by the same family since the 1920s, and since then, there have been few updates or repairs to the house, which has consequently caused some minor deterioration of architectural elements, although has also resulted in few compromising alterations or additions. The only visible modification to the exterior of the house is the replaced front porch, which is itself historic. The Strite House, therefore, conveys its original historic appearance and maintains much historic physical integrity.

A historic garage building and water tower structure are located behind the main house (Photograph 6). The garage has a wood frame structural system covered in drop siding. It is topped by a rear-sloping shed roof clad in 5-V sheet metal. The front facade of the building faces west, and is five bays wide, including three centrally located open garage bays, flanked by enclosed storage areas (Photograph 7). The open bays are divided and supported by square wood posts, with diagonal braces in the upper corner of each. The storage bay on the south end is accessed through an interior doorway located in the open garage area. The storage bay on the north end is accessed through a doorway on rear of the building. This building is likely contemporary to the construction of the house, circa 1910 (Holder 2008). Located adjacent to the garage, is a historic water tower structure (Photograph 8). The tank has been removed and replaced with what appears to be a galvanized tub. The steel support tower structure remains in tact, and is approximately 30 feet tall. It has four steel legs braced by a system of purlins and diagonal tension rods. A ladder is located on one side and extends to the top of the structure.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	Page	3	Strite House
			_	Orange County, Florida DESCRIPTION

A historic swimming pool, constructed circa 1930s is also located on the property (Holder 2008). This pool is located approximately 400 feet to the south of the house near a natural spring. The pool is rectangular in shape and consists of concrete block walls and floor (Photograph 9). It is about three feet deep at the shallow end, and slopes to a depth of seven feet at the other end. The pool is fed by the nearby spring through a pipe that flows into the pool; overflow is then directed through a pipe that allows the spring water to continue flowing through its natural path (Holder 2008). The pool ceased being used in the 1960s and has since been partially silted in, although the actual structure remains in good condition.

The building complex is set back approximately 1,190 feet from Plymouth-Sorrento Road on a narrow dirt drive. Much of the front portion of the property is wooded which obscures the view of the complex from Plymouth-Sorrento Road. The driveway loops in front of the house, creating a circular lawn that is surrounded by historically planted mature Camphor Laurel trees (Photograph 10). Much of the property is wooded; however, the southern portion of the property consists of open hay fields.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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				Orange County, Florida
				STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Strite House is one of the oldest remaining buildings in what was formerly known as the Bay Ridge area. Constructed circa 1910, the house reflects the Florida "Cracker" interpretation of the Georgian house form. Turn-of-the-century buildings of this are a rare and disappearing resource type (Historic Property Associates, Inc. 1995). This particular building retains a majority of its historic physical integrity and maintains its original siding, massing, windows, and architectural details. Additionally, the property the house is located on retains its agricultural character and historic integrity. The property has been continuously used for cultivation, although the specific crops grown have changed several times. Many of the ancillary structures and character defining features of the property remain. Due to these factors, the Strite House is considered potentially eligible for inclusion in the *NRHP* on an individual basis under Criterion A in the areas of Agriculture and Exploration/Settlement, and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Agriculture/ Exploration/Settlement

The overall property this house is sited on was originally deeded to James P. Kerr in 1883 (FDEP 1883). James Kerr was originally deeded the entire SW quarter of Section 6 of Township 20 South, Range 28 East. The precise date of construction for the buildings, and the person responsible for building them are unknown; however, when the property was purchased by Edgar Kitchen in the 1920s, the house, garage, and water tower were already present. In the 1930s, Edgar Kitchen gave the property to his daughter, Alice Kitchen and her groom, Newton E. Strite, as a wedding gift. The property was later passed down to their daughter, Clara Ruth Strite, to whom the property still belongs.

When Edgar Kitchen purchased the property in the 1920s, it included approximately 180 acres which consisted of the current property, and extended south of Haas Road. At that time, the overall property was being used to harvest timber and turpentine (Holder 2008). According to the family, Kitchen proceeded to convert the property into citrus groves. When the property was passed down to his daughter, Alice Kitchen, and her husband, Newton Strite, in the 1930s, they continued to grow citrus on the property, and were members of several local citrus cooperatives (Holder 2008). By the 1960s, several freezes and insect infestations had effectively destroyed the groves to the point that citrus farming was stopped, and the family switched to raising chickens. Several large chicken coops were constructed at this time; however they are located off the original Strite House property, on a separate parcel to the north that is still owned by the family (Holder 2008).

In recent years, the family has ceased raising chickens, and now grows hay. Many of the former citrus groves have been cleared for the hay to grow. The historic garage is no longer used for agricultural purposes; however, the former chicken coops now function as storage for the farm equipment. While the property has undergone

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				Orange County, Florida
				STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

several phases of agricultural production including a variety of crops, the property is still used as a family-owned farm. Many of the characteristics of the property's history are still evident, and the house retains a high degree of integrity. Due to these factors, the Strite House is considered significant as an excellent example of an early farmstead in north Orange County, that has adapted over the years, and still functions as an agricultural producing property.

Architecture

The region of Orange County just north of the City of Apopka contains several of Florida's earliest agricultural communities. Communities which date from the turn-of-the-twentieth century, located in this region include Tangerine, Plymouth, Bay Ridge, and Rock Springs (Historic Property Associates, Inc. 1995). Despite the rapid growth and development occurring in other sections of Orange County, this region has retained many of these early small settlements and remained predominantly agricultural. Much of the earliest architecture however has been lost. According to a survey done in 1995 by Historic Property Associates, only nine early twentieth-century buildings, not including the Strite House, were recorded in this region (Historic Property Associates, Inc. 1995).

The Strite House is an excellent example of the Florida Cracker House interpretation of the Georgian Form. Constructed circa 1910, the house is a late example of the Cracker style, although coincides with the shift towards larger and more permanent construction after the turn-of-the-century. The massing, roof shape, exterior siding, decorative features, and majority of the windows have all remained unchanged since its construction date. The historic replacement of the original front porch is the only visible alteration to the exterior of the house, and the loss of physical integrity due to this modification is minimal.

The historic setting and landscape of the house also remains intact (Photograph 11). The house is set far back from the road, and the surrounding property is still used for agriculture (Photograph 12). Few non-historic buildings or developments are present in vicinity of the property, and overall the area appears much as it did historically. Although the citrus groves that surrounded the house in the early to mid-twentieth century are now gone, the land is now used for growing hay. The historic ancillary structures such as the garage, water tower, and swimming pool are still present on the property with few alterations. Much of the designed historic landscape on the property such as the circular drive, front lawn, and planted Camphor trees, are also still present.

The Strite House is a rare surviving example of Cracker architecture in what was formerly known as the Bay Ridge area of northern Orange County, Florida. The house exhibits the deterioration of some elements, but nearly all of the historic, character-defining features are retained. The overall property still reflects its historic use and appearance, and conveys the character of a historic farm. Due to these factors, the Strite House is considered significant in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of a turn-of-the-century Cracker

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	8	Page	6	Strite House
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				STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

farmstead. The historic garage, water tower, pool, and agricultural fields are considered contributing features to the property.

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Section number	9	Page	7	Strite House
<u>-</u>		_		Orange County, Florida
				BIBLIOGRAPHY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)

Various Dates Tract book Records for Township 20 South, Range 28 East

Haase, Ronald W.

1992 Classic Cracker: Florida's Wood-Frame Vernacular Architecture. Pineapple Press, Sarasota, Florida.

Historic Property Associates, Inc.

Survey of the Historic Architectural Resources of Orange County, Florida: Including all unincorporated areas and the cities of Belle Isle, Edgewood, Oakland, Ocoee, and Windermere. Copy on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

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2008 Interview with Rob Taylor and Amy Streelman of Janus Research, Tampa, Florida. February 20.

Shofner, Jerrell

1982 History of Apopka and Northwest Orange County. Apopka, Florida.

State University System of Florida (SUSF)

2004 Publication of Archival, Library & Museum Materials (PALMM) – Historic Florida Aerial Photography: (FLAP). Accessed online at http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/digital/collections/flap/

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	10	Page	8	Strite House
				Orange County, Florida
				GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary includes the entire land parcel currently associated with 6229 Plymouth-Sorrento Road. This is approximately 48 acres on the northeast corner of Plymouth-Sorrento Road and Haas Road; as shown in Photographs 12 and 13, and Figure 1.

Boundary Justification

While historically there has been additional property associated with the house, it has been separate parcels that have been acquired and sold off. The boundary of the Strite House described above includes the parcel of land that the house itself is, and historically has been, located on.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	Page	9	Strite House
			Orange County, Florida
			PHOTOGRAPHS

INVENTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1. Strite House Front and Side Facades
- 2. Orange County, Florida
- 3. February 2008
- 4. Janus Research
- 5. Amy Streelman
- 6. Facing Southeast
- 7. Photograph 1 of 13

Items 2-5 are the same for the remaining photographs except as noted otherwise.

- 1. Strite House Kitchen Ell and Sleeping Porch
- 6. Facing Southwest
- 7. Photograph 2 of 13
- 1. Strite House Front Facade
- 6. Facing East
- 7. Photograph 3 of 13
- 1. Strite House South Side Porch
- 6. Facing Northwest
- 7. Photograph 4 of 13
- 1. Strite House North Side
- 6. Facing South
- 7. Photograph 5 of 13
- 1. Strite House Rear with Historic Garage and Water Tower
- 6. Facing North
- 7. Photograph 6 of 13
- 1. Historic Garage Front Facade
- 6. Facing Southeast
- 7. Photograph 7 of 13
- 1. Historic Water Tower
- 6. Facing Southeast

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	_ Page _	10	Strite House
			Orange County, Florida
			PHOTOGRAPHS

- 7. Photograph 8 of 13
- 1. Historic Swimming Pool
- 6. Facing South
- 7. Photograph 9 of 13
- 1. Strite House Front Lawn
- 6. Facing East
- 7. Photograph 10 of 13
- 1. Strite House Front Facade
- 6. Facing East
- 7. Photograph 11 of 13
- 1. Historic Aerial Photograph of Strite House from 1941 with Boundaries Marked
- 6. N/A
- 7. Photograph 12 of 13
- 1. Current Aerial Photograph of Strite House with Boundaries Marked
- 6. N/A
- 7. Photograph 13 of 13

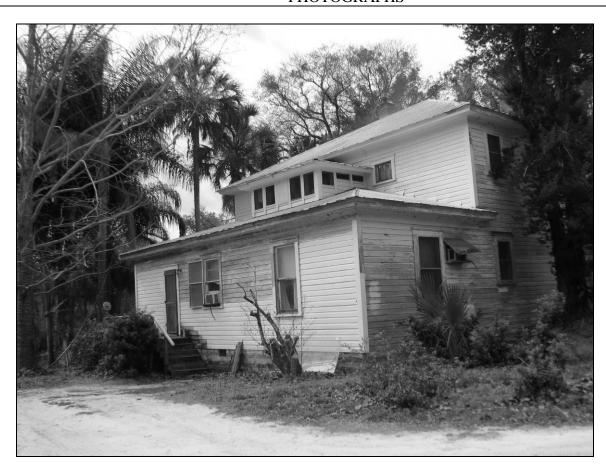
INVENTORY OF FIGURES

Figure 1 of 1 Strite House Property Site Plan (Not to Scale)

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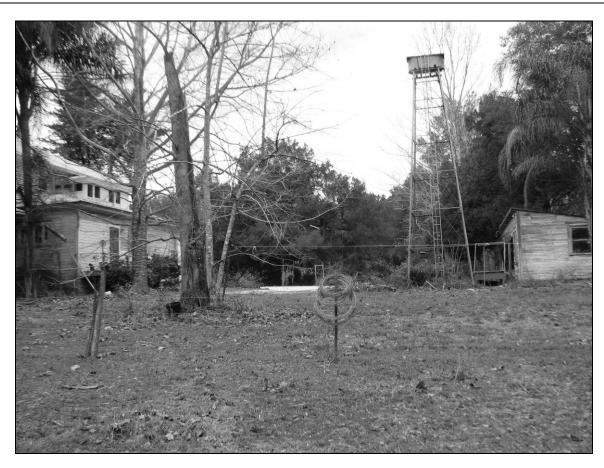
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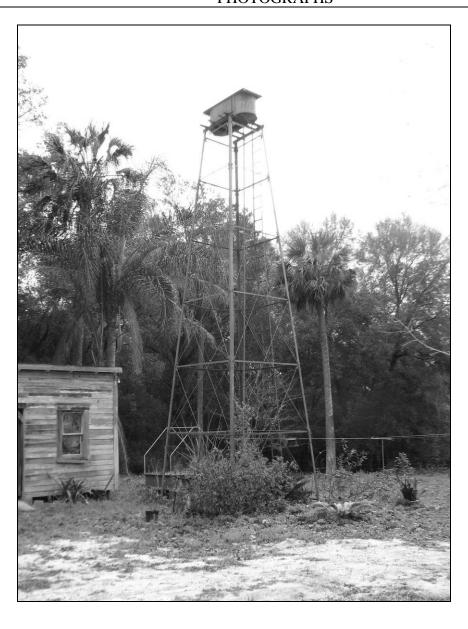
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Historic Aerial Photograph from 1941, Showing Boundary of Strite House Property

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Current Aerial Photograph, Showing Boundary of Strite House Property

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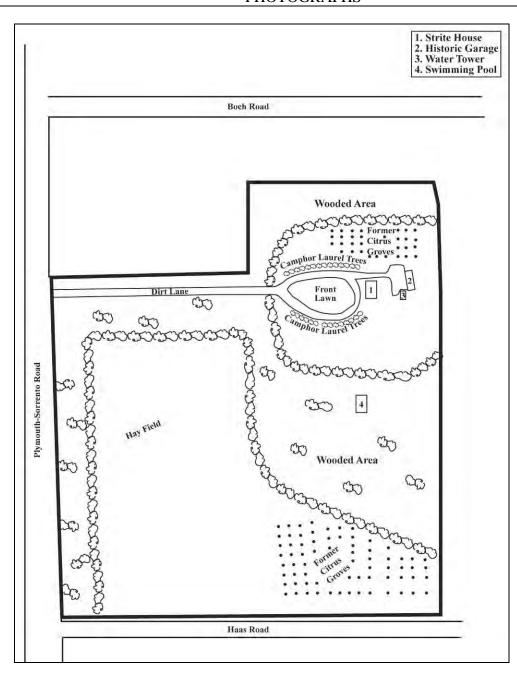


Figure 1 of 1

USGS QUADRANGLE MAP

