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NOTICE OF ACTION ON
PETITION TO DESIGNATE A HISTORIC RESOURCE

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on February 5, 1990, the Lee County
Historic Preservation Board voted to:

 Approve
 X Approve with the conditions stated below
 Deny

A Petition to Designate the historic district described below as:

Bokeelia Historic District

This designation is subject to the following conditions (if any):

See attached resolution

The historic resource is described as follows:

Address: Main Street, Bokeelia
Pine Island, Florida
STRAP NO. see attached resolution

Legal Description: See attached

A copy of the Resolution regarding this petition is attached and will be
recorded in the public records of Lee County, Florida.

I HEREBY certify that a copy of this notice and the accompanying
resolution has been furnished to the following persons or entities:

Clayton, Hugh C.; Striar, Daniel E.; TITF (Property Owners)
Hans Behrens, Director, Division of Codes & Building Services
Pauline Camelia, Director, Division of Zoning
Charlie Green, Clerk of Court
Alton Roane, Director, Division of Planning
Harry Glaze, Director, DOT&E
Ken Wilkinson, Property Appraiser
Steve Hartsell, Attorney



Signature of Historic Preservation Board
Chairman

FEB. 19, 1990
Date

OR2134 PG2081

RECORD VERIFIED - CHARLIE GREEN, CLERK
BY: G. SHERWOOD, D.C.

Designation No. HD 89-11-01(a) (District)
STRAP No. 25-43-21-00-00007.0000
25-43-21-01-00012.0000

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING
HISTORIC RESOURCE

WHEREAS, the Lee County Historic Preservation Board is authorized by Ordinance No. 88-62, the Lee County Historic Preservation Ordinance, to consider requests to designate archaeological and buildings, and structures and sites as historic district resources in order to preserve these resources from uncontrolled alteration or destruction; and

WHEREAS, Lee County Final Development Order No. 11-13-87 was issued on a property owned by Daniel E. Striar with the stipulation that the Turner House and Captain's House shall be retained and shall not be demolished or moved off-site without obtaining an amendment to the Development Order after review and recommendation from the Lee County Historic Preservation Board; and

WHEREAS, a request has been filed to designate the Bokeelia Historic District, located at Main Street, Bokeelia, Pine Island, Florida, as a historic district resource; and

WHEREAS, a designation report meeting the requirements of Ordinance 88-62 was filed with the Board's staff on November 20, 1989; and

WHEREAS, Notice of Intent to designate a historic resource was sent to the following property owners:

Daniel E. Striar, #1 Foxhill Drive, S. Walpole, MA 02071
Hugh S. Clayton, P.O. Box 12, Bokeelia, FL 33922
TIITF, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Room 412, Tallahassee, FL 32399

by letters dated November 28, 1989, sent to the aforementioned owners by registered mail, return receipt requested; and

WHEREAS, the Notice of Intent to designate was advertised on December 27, 1989, for a public hearing on January 8, 1990; and

WHEREAS, on January 8, 1990, there was a motion passed, and a resolution rendered which required further clarification of the Board's intent because Daniel E. Striar's representatives have not been authorized to agree to restore the Turner House, Captain's House and "Gloria Sajgo Shed,"; and

WHEREAS, this February 5, 1990, meeting of the Board has been duly noticed and advertised; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the Bokeelia Historic District meets the criteria for designation set forth in Ordinance 88-62.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEE COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD:

1. The Board hereby revises and replaces the previous Resolution dated January 8, 1990, Designation No. HD 89-11-01 (District) and hereby issues in its place this clarified Resolution, Designation No. HD 89-11-01(a) (District).

2. Daniel E. Striar, owner of the parcels described by STRAP Nos. 25-43-21-01-00007.0000; 25-43-21-01-00008.0000; 25-43-21-01-00009.0000; 25-43-21-01-00010.0000, consents through his attorney, Steven C. Hartsell, and the Board does hereby designate as contributing historic structures, as described in Exhibit A, of the Bokeelia Historic District, within the meaning of Ordinance No. 88-62 the Captain's House and Turner House as those structures are shown in Lee County Final Development Order No. 11-13-87.

3. Daniel E. Striar, owner of parcels described by STRAP Nos. 25-43-21-01-00007.0000; 25-43-21-01-00008.0000; 25-43-21-01-00009.0000; 25-43-21-01-00010.0000, consents through his attorney, Steven C. Hartsell, and the Board does hereby designate, the "Gloria Sajgo Shed" [shown existing next to the drainfield, and to be relocated on site, in the plans approved with Final Development Order No. 11-13-87] as a contributing historic structure, as described in Exhibit A, of the Bokeelia Historic District, within the meaning of Ordinance No. 88-62 and the Board agrees that the shed may be relocated anywhere onsite at the option of the owner as shown in Final Development Order No. 11-13-87.

4. The remaining portions of Daniel E. Striar's property shall not be included in the Bokeelia Historic District.

5. On the record, through his attorney, Daniel E. Striar waives any and all rights to appeal the Board's designation of the Bokeelia Historic District and the designation as Historic Resources of the Captain's House, Turner House and the "Gloria Sajgo Shed" as delineated herein.

6. The Board recommends that Daniel E. Striar and Lee County work toward extending the effectiveness of Final Development Order No. 11-13-87 if it would in fact facilitate the removal and relocation of the two remaining "Jury structures" through the coordination of the Board's staff.

7. This Resolution shall be recorded in the Public Records of Lee County, Florida within twenty-five (25) days of the date the Resolution is signed, unless a timely appeal of the Board's decision as reflected in this Resolution, is filed.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Lee County Historic Preservation Board upon a motion by Creighton Sherman and seconded by Jan Brown and, upon being put to vote, the result was as follows:

Creighton Sherman	Aye
Linda Sickler Robinson	Aye
Patricia Meiser	Aye
Stephanie Keyes	Aye
Ernest Hall	Absent
Jan Brown	Aye
Eugene Schmitt	Aye

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DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of February, A.D., 1990.

ATTEST:

LEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

BY:

Maria M. Deigo
As Clerk for the Lee County
Historic Preservation Board

BY:

Eugene D. Schmitt
Chairman

Approved as to form by:

John H. MacKie III
County Attorney's Office

EXHIBIT A

PARCEL IN
LOTS 8 AND 9, KREAMER'S SUBDIVISION
SECTION 25, T. 43 S., R. 21 E.
BOCILLA ISLAND, LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

"THE SHED"

A lot or parcel of land lying in Lots 8 and 9, Kreamer's Subdivision, Plat Book 1 at Page 68, Lee County Records in Section 25, Township 43 South, Range 21 East, Bocilla Island, Lee County, Florida which lot or parcel is described as follows:

From the drill hole in the concrete seawall cap at Charlotte Harbor on the line common to Lots 6 and 6-1/2, Kreamer's Subdivision run S 00° 01' 34" W along said common line for 81.62 feet to a steel pin on a traverse line; thence run S 87° 27' 26" E along said traverse line for 200.44 feet to a concrete monument on the line common to Lot 7 and 8, said subdivision; thence run S 00° 01' 34" W along said line for 220.00 feet; thence run S 89° 58' 26" E for 80.00 feet to the Point of Beginning of the herein described parcel.

From said Point of Beginning continue S 89° 58' 26" E for 24.00 feet; thence run S 00° 01' 34" W for 42.00 feet; thence run N 89° 58' 26" W for 24.00 feet; thence run N 00° 01' 34" for 42.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Bearings hereinabove mentioned are derived from deed recorded in Official Record Book 1538 at Page 2041, Lee County Records.

AND

PARCEL IN
LOTS 6-1/2 & 7, KREAMER'S SUBDIVISION
SECTION 25, T. 43 S., R. 21 E.
BOCILLA ISLAND, LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

"THE TURNER HOUSE"

A lot or parcel of land lying in Lots 6-1/2 and 7, Kreamer's Subdivision, Plat Book 1 at Page 68, Lee County Records in Section 25, Township 43 South, Range 21 East, Bocilla Island, Lee County, Florida which lot or parcel is described as follows:

From the drill hole in the concrete seawall cap at Charlotte Harbor on the line common to Lots 6 and 6-1/2, Kreamer's Subdivision run S 00° 01' 34" W along said common line for 131.62 feet; thence run S 89° 58' 26" E for 77.00 feet to the Point of Beginning of the herein described parcel.

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From said Point of Beginning continue S 89° 58' 26" E for 53.00 feet; thence run S 00° 01' 34" W for 90.00 feet; thence run N 89° 58' 26" W for 53.00 feet; thence run N 00° 01' 34" E for 90.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Bearings hereinabove mentioned are derived from deed recorded in Official Record Book 1538 at Page 2041, Lee County Records.

AND

PARCEL IN
LOT 10, KREAMER'S SUBDIVISION
SECTION 25, T. 43 S., R. 21 E.
BOCILLA ISLAND, LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

"THE CAPTAIN'S HOUSE"

A lot or parcel of land lying in Lot 10, Kreamer's Subdivision, Plat Book 1 at Page 68, Lee County Records in Section 25, Township 43 South, Range 21 East, Bocilla Island, Lee County, Florida which lot or parcel is described as follows:

From the drill hole in the concrete seawall cap at Charlotte Harbor on the line common to Lots 6 and 6-1/2, Kreamer's Subdivision run S 00° 01' 34" W along said common line for 81.62 feet to a steel pin on a traverse line; thence run S 87° 27' 26" E along said traverse line for 499.72 feet to a 3/4" pipe on the line common to Lots 10 and 11, said subdivision; thence run S 00° 01' 34" W along said line for 47.00 feet; thence run N 89° 58' 26" W for 34.00 feet to the Point of Beginning of the herein described parcel.

From said Point of Beginning run S 01° 13' 10" E for 46.00 feet; thence run S 88° 46' 50" W for 60.00 feet; thence run N 01° 13' 10" W for 46.00 feet; thence run N 88° 46' 50" E for 60.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Bearings hereinabove mentioned are derived from deed recorded in Official Record Book 1538 at Page 2041, Lee County Records.

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EXHIBIT B

That part of Section 25, Township 43, Range 21 beginning at the intersection of the centerline of Harbor Drive and Port Drive, thence South 106 feet, thence East 146 feet, thence North to the centerline of Harbor Drive, thence East to the intersection of the centerline of Buttonwood Drive, thence South 86 feet, thence East 50 feet, thence North to the centerline of Harbor Drive, thence West to Point of Beginning.

AND

All that part of Lots 12 and 13 of Kreamer's Subdivision of Bocilla Island, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 1, page 38, public records of Lee County, lying South of the centerline of Charlotte Harbor Drive.

LESS

A tract or parcel of land lying in Lot 12, Kreamer's Subdivision, as recorded in Plat Book 1, page 38, public records of Lee County, in Section 25, Township 43 South, Range 21 East, Bocilla Island Club, Lee County, Florida, which parcel is described as follows:

From the steel pin marking the intersection of the southerly line of Harbor Drive (formerly S.R. 767) with the East line of Lot 13 of said Kreamer's Subdivision run North 00° 01' 34" East along said East line of 31.66 feet; thence run North 84° 20' 07" West for 99.86 feet; thence run North 83° 25' 50" West for 100.15 feet to an intersection with the West line of said Lot 12; thence run South 00° 01' 34" West along said west line for 254.58 feet to a 3/4" pipe with cap and the Point of Beginning of the herein described parcel.

From said Point of Beginning continue South 00° 01' 34" West along said West line of 49.75 feet to a concrete monument; thence run South 89° 58' 26" East perpendicular to said west line for 17.25 feet; thence run North 00° 01' 34" East parallel to said West line for 49.75 feet; thence run North 89° 58' 26" West for 17.25 feet to the Point of Beginning. Containing 858 square feet more or less. Bearings hereinabove mentioned are derived from those descriptions recorded in Official Records Book 1538, at page 20, public records of Lee County, Florida.

AND

A tract or parcel of land situated in the State of Florida, County of Lee, lying in Section 25, Township 43 South, Range 21 East, being a part of Lot 14 of Kreamer's Subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 1 at page 38, public records of Lee County, Florida, and further bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the West line of said Lot 14 with the Southerly right-of-way line of State Road 767 (66.0 feet wide); thence South 00° 01' 34" West along said West line for 110.29 feet; thence North 27° 14' 54" East for 33.76 feet; thence North 00° 44' 26" West for 28.97 feet; thence North 21° 29' 06" West for 36.82 feet; thence North 05° 11' 26" West for 17.12 feet to the principal place of beginning.

(6480W)

OR2134 PG2087

CHARLE GREEN LEE CITY FL
90 MAR 12 PM 2:26

LEE COUNTY
DESIGNATION REPORT

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts pursuant to Ordinance No. 88-62.

1. Name of Property

historic name: _____
other names/site number: Bokeelia Historic District

2. Location

street & number: Main Street
city, town: Bokeelia
strap number: see list zip code: _____

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources Within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	_____ building(s)	<u>17</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
_____ public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
_____ public-State	_____ site	_____	_____ structures
_____ public-Federal	_____ structure	_____	_____ objects.
	_____ object	<u>17</u>	<u>0</u> Total

4. Official Actions

Date of Petition for Designation: 11-20-89 Date the designation report was filed with the Historic Preservation Board: 11-20-89
Date of Historic Preservation Board's written resolution: _____
Resolution No.: _____ Date designation is recorded: _____
Initiated by: Historic Preservation Board
Note: If initiated by owner, or owner's agent, attach notarized letter of authorization.
Other (as available): Variances, Special Exceptions or Re-zonings granted pursuant to this application:

5. Designation

I hereby certify that this property is:

- _____ Designated as an individual historic resource.
- _____ Designated as an individual archaeological site.
- _____ Designated as a historic district.
- _____ Designated as an archaeological zone.

Signature of the Chairman of the
Historic Preservation Board

Effective Date

6. Individual Historic or Archaeological Buildings, Structures or Sites
(pursuant to Section 7A1, 88-62)

- a. A physical description of the building, structure or site and its character-defining features, accompanied by photographs.

Architectural Classification

Materials

foundations _____
walls _____
roof _____
other _____

Photographs attached: ___ yes ___ no (black and white glossy, 3X5 or larger)

- b. Statement of Significance: A statement of the historical, cultural, architectural, archaeological or other significance of the building, structure or site as defined by the criteria for designation as established by Ordinance 88-62.

Applicable Criteria (check all that apply)

Section 7.D.1 ___ a ___ b ___ c ___ d ___ e
Section 7.D.2 ___ a ___ b ___ c ___ d ___ e
Section 7.D.3 ___ a ___ b ___ c ___ d ___ -
Section 7.D.4 ___ a ___ b ___ c ___ d ___ e

Criteria consideration exceptions (check all that apply)

Section 7.D.5 ___ a ___ b ___ c ___ d ___ e

Areas of Significance (enter categories)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Significant Person

State significance of property, and justify criteria considerations and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Statement attached: yes no

- c. Description of the existing condition of the building, structure or site including any potential threats, or other circumstances that may affect the integrity of the building, structure or site.

- d. A statement of rehabilitative or adaptive use proposals.

- e. A location map showing relevant zoning and land use information.

Map attached: yes no

- f. Staff recommendation concerning the eligibility of the building, structure or site for designation pursuant to Ordinance 88-62 and a listing of those features of the building, structure or site which require specific historic preservation.

7. Historic or Archaeological Districts

- a. A physical description of the district, accompanied by photographs of buildings, structures or sites within the district indicating examples of contributing and noncontributing properties within the district. Also, a list of all contributing properties outside the proposed boundaries of the district.

See Continuation Sheet

- b. A description of typical architectural styles, character-defining features, and types of buildings, structures or sites within the district.

See Continuation Sheet

- c. An identification of all buildings, structures and sites within the district and the proposed classification of each as contributing, contributing with modifications, or noncontributing; with an explanation of the criteria utilized for the proposed classification.

See Continuation Sheet

- d. A statement of the historical, cultural, architectural, archaeological, or other significance of the district as defined by the criteria for designation established by Ordinance 88-62.

See Continuation Sheet

- e. A statement of recommended boundaries for the district and a jurisdiction for those boundaries, along with a map showing the recommended boundaries.

See Continuation Sheet

- f. A statement of incentives requested, if any, and the specific guidelines which should be used in authorizing any alteration, demolition, relocation, excavation or new construction within the boundaries of the district.

See Continuation Sheet

7.a. General Physical Description

The Bokeelia Historic District is a linear district on Main Street in the community of Bokeelia on the northern end of Pine Island. The district is bounded on the north by Charlotte Harbor, to the south by Jug Creek, to the east by the Bocilla Island Club and to the west by a privately owned trailer park.

The contributing buildings of the Bokeelia Historic District are located on Main Street, a narrow, winding road that separates the beach from the buildings. At the eastern end of the district, the cottages of Shady Nook are small wood frame buildings, some of which were brought to Bokeelia from Fort Myers Beach in the late 1970's. These vernacular buildings are now owned by the Florida Department of Natural Resources, Division of Recreation and Parks. They will be used for offices for the land-based operations of Cayo Costa State Park.

Traveling west along Main Street, the next contributing building is known as the "Captains House" and is a large, prominent wood frame vernacular building featuring a roof walk and open veranda. This building, constructed in 1916, is a scenic resource in the district, surrounded by tropical vegetation. Several small wood frame "cracker" houses are located on the same parcel as the Captains House. These are very typical of the architecture of the early settlers to Florida and are characterized by a side facing gable roof, shed porch, and kitchen addition to the rear. The next structure is a large Bungalow to which a two story colonial portico has been added. This building is known as the "Turner Mansion" and also the Harry Poe Johnson house and was built in 1912. This prominent building is significant for its architectural features and its setting on a large lot with ample space.

The district follows the shoreline past a grouping of non-contributing buildings. Some of these are constructed in a style reminiscent of historic building methods and so complement the contributing historic buildings. The western end of the district contains the old general store and inn constructed by Harry Martin in 1904. This building today houses the Crab Shack restaurant and a gift shop. A small one story wood frame vernacular building at one time served as the Bokeelia post office. The Bokeelia Pier extends from this point and replaces the original pier that was blown down in 1960 during Hurricane Donna.

7.b. Architectural Description

Frame Vernacular

Many of the contributing structures located within the Bokeelia Historic District are wood frame vernacular in architectural design. The vernacular refers to construction using local materials and labor, usually without the benefit of plans, and built at the most economical price at the time. This form of architecture is the most common in Lee County and dates from the 1900's to 1920's. The style may derive from cabins with wrapped

porches common in northern Florida and among pioneers throughout Florida. It is characterized by a wood frame construction with a gable roof which often flares over an enclosed porch. The flared roofs were tied directly into the gable ends by continuous siding or shingling.

The Captains House is an elaborate variation of the Frame Vernacular which also incorporates elements from the French Provincial style. These include a wide hip roof, encircling veranda, and elevated first floor to avoid flooding. Square in plan, the two story building has a metal hip roof with a covered roof walk in the center of the roof. The roof walk has multi-light windows on all four sides. An open, wide veranda wraps the east, north and west elevations of the one and one half story building. The veranda rafters are visible. The porch balustrade consists of vertical, unturned balusters. Shed dormers are found on each elevation providing four small windows. The interior is a central hall form with a fireplace in the western end of the building.

Another variation of this style found in the district is the old general store and inn at the Bokeelia fishing pier. This two story wood frame building has a hip roof and has encircling porches under the main roof on both stories. A dormer with a hipped roof protrudes from the roof of the north elevation. At one time it is likely that this had window openings for light and ventilation. The siding is beveled wood siding and the roof is clad in asphalt shingles. Windows are wood sash with two over two fenestration. Some windows are grouped.

Bungalow

The Johnson House is a Bungalow structure, Type IV. This refers to a large one and one half or two story structure with the gable roof parallel to the front which incorporates a shed dormer. The veranda is inset under the main roof and is supported by posts. This style is reminiscent of the New England Salt Box style with the use of shed roof dormers. One main difference is the lack of a central fireplace that would have been common on northern examples. The Johnson House has a fireplace at the gable end. This building has been altered, sometime in the 1970's, with a large two story gabled portico extending over the front veranda.

The architectural features of the building are largely intact. Windows are wood sash with a configuration of nine lights over one, which is typical of this style. The building is sided with cedar shingles and horizontal wood siding. The roof material is asphalt shingles. The roof overhangs are very wide, and are supported by knee braces. The front elevation is symmetrical in plan, with paired windows flanking a double door. The interior is unaltered, with a central hall floor plan.

There are other forms of the bungalow in the district. These include many of the Shady Nook Cottages. These are Type I bungalows characterized by a low hip roof and inset porches under the roof. The buildings are rectangular in plan with a hall and

parlor floor plan. Windows are typical wood sash with a one over one or two over two configuration. Metal or composition roofs are found. Siding is beveled wood siding.

7.c. Identification and Classification of All Buildings.

Contributing Structures

25-43-21-01-00012.0000 Shady Nook Cottages. Ten wood frame buildings on property. Contributing with modifications.

25-43-21-01.00010.0000 Captains House. Contributing, unaltered.

25-43-21-01-00090.0000 Jury property. One wood frame building. Contributing, unaltered.

25-43-21-01-00080.0000 Two wood frame buildings. Contributing, unaltered.

25-43-21-01-00070.0000 Johnson House. Contributing with modifications.

25-43-21-01-00010.0000 Old post office building only. Contributing, unaltered.

25-43-21-00-00007.0000 Old general store and inn. Contributing with modifications.

Non-Contributing Structures

No non-contributing structures are included in the district.

7.d. Statement of Significance

Historical Background

The Bokeelia Historic District is located on Charlotte Harbor at the northern end of Pine Island. The district is actually located on an island itself, known as Bocilla Island. The word "bocilla" is Spanish for "little mouth," possibly referring to an early Spanish name for the entrance to Jug Creek. It is probable that local pronunciation of the Spanish gradually became the contemporary name of "Bokeelia." The history of settlement in this area extends back over 5,000 years when aboriginal peoples known as the Calusas made this a center of their kingdom. The Calusas were a fishing, hunting and gathering society with a large population extending throughout Southwest Florida. The Calusas traded and took tribute from this area and even beyond. The Calusa economy was supported by the abundance of marine resources, as evidenced by the very large middens, or refuse mounds made from discarded shellfish. One of these mounds was located at the eastern end of Bocilla Island and was known as the Howard Mound. This mound was at one time over sixty feet tall and served as a landmark to early Spanish and American fishing and military vessels sailing the harbor. There is also evidence of Calusa remains on the island to the west of Bocilla Island, known as Little Bocilla Island, and on other nearby property.

Ponce de Leon visited Charlotte Harbor in 1513 where he reportedly received a fatal wound in an Indian skirmish in the Pine Island area. He died in Cuba upon returning from the ill-fated trip. Scholars believe that Hernando deSoto may have sailed through Charlotte Harbor and landed at a point near present-day Burnt Store Road. The calvary, it is theorized, rode north to a point near where the present city of Punta Gorda is located. Here, it is theorized, deSoto rendezvoused with the fleet for passage across the Peace River to Live Oak Point where he began his trek inland and northward. (1)

In 1565 a mission was established presumably on one of the barrier islands of Charlotte Harbor, possibly Pine Island. This was shortly after Pedro Menendez de Avila established the permanent settlement of St. Augustine. The mission and later fort was abandoned in 1568 due to the inability of the mission to secure enough food for sustenance from the local Indian population. (2) While the Christian missionary activities failed, the trade was more successful and began a long significant relationship between the Indians of the area and Havana. In 1698, commerce with the Calusa Indians amounted to over 18,000 pesos through informal trade relations involving dried fish and spanish beads, axes and other trade goods. (3)

Spanish political pressure continued on the Indians, eventually forcing them to move onto the mainland and the mound villages were destroyed. Yet commerce on the out islands seems to have continued and probably involved remnants of the Calusa kingdom.

Spanish fisheries were established as early as the beginning of the seventeenth century and by 1770 over thirty vessels from Cuba were involved in the trade. (4) The earliest descriptions of these was by George Gauld who wrote extensively of fishing practices witnessed on a 1765 exploration.

They begin by pressing the fish with a great weight; after, it is split and salted; then hanging it up to dry...The last operation is to pile it up in the huts ready for loading. They supply the Havana and the other Spanish settlement in the West Indies in the Lent season. (5)

Bernard Romans reported in 1770 that fishing operations were located on the north and south sides of the entrance to Charlotte Harbor. They consisted of neat, well-thatched homes with extensive sheds for drying fish and storehouses for salt and provisions. The operations were seasonal and occurred between September and March. Romans reports that three to four hundred men and twelve to fourteen fishing boats were employed in the fishery which produced about one thousand tons of fish a year. (6)

William A. Whitehead, the Key West Customs Collector of 1831, identified fisheries at Bokeelia, Useppa and up the Caloosahatchee River. They consisted of palmetto huts measuring fifteen to twenty feet square. (7)

Some Spanish firemen did not return to Key West or Cuba during the slack season as was traditional, but preferred to live year round at the ranchos. White women were not brought to the ranchos, but many fishermen took Indian wives. In addition, many Seminoles worked for the fisheries when they were in operation. Trade was carried on with the markets of Havana for tools, arms and alcohol.

In 1821, the United States acquired the territory of Florida. Soon reports were circulating the Congress on the nature and extent of fisheries and other events that brought concern. Escaped Negro slaves had migrated to the area and in one case were armed and had taken control of the north end of Pine Island. It is likely that their position was held atop the Howard Mound as this was an easily defensible post with wide visibility of the harbor. They had obtained arms from the Spanish fishermen and received protection from local inhabitants, including some Seminole Indians. In 1824 a patrol was dispatched from Fort Brooke in Tampa and at least one vessel was stopped at Charlotte Harbor.

Federal control was a difficult matter for the fishermen although many of the fishing smacks paid taxes and duties as required. Many Spanish fishing vessels responded to the attempts at regulation by flying the American flag.

In 1832 a customs district was established in the area to control the fisheries and possible smuggling that was occurring between the Spanish fishermen and the Seminole Indians who were beginning to appear in the area in greater numbers as they were forced south by the military and settlers in northern Florida. The first customs inspector, Hendry B. Crews, was installed at Useppa near the Caldez fishery. The military was disturbed at the number of Indians at the ranchos and their potential threat as the Seminole War escalated.

A band of Seminoles attacked the rancho at Useppa in December of 1835 and burned several buildings including the Customs house. Crews was murdered by a supposedly friendly Seminole employee while hunting on an island south of Useppa. The inhabitants were rescued by the U.S.S. Vandalia outside the harbor entrance and soon a force of five hundred soldiers under the command of General Smith searched the Peace River area for the Indians. It is thought that the Spanish fishermen served as guides to the fleeing Indians through this unknown area. (8) (9)

By 1836, the Seminole War in Florida had escalated as news of the Dade Massacre spread fear and terror among all who lived in the area. The fishing ranchos were abandoned and many were destroyed by both Indian and U.S. forces, although some remained in existence since many Indians worked at them. (10)

The Third Seminole War brought new hostilities and several of the old forts were re-opened. Forts as Punta Rassa, Fort Myers, Useppa and Fort Ogden were included and several were added at Fort Winder and Camp Whipple. The Kennedy Store was burned in a raid, giving the area south of Punta Gorda, Burnt Store, its name.

Many of the fishermen's Indian wives were deported as part of the Indian removal policy. The fishing trade with Cuba, along with the results of a trade war with Spain, greatly reduced that trade activity. Latin American fishermen continued to fish the waters of Charlotte Harbor maintaining settlements on the islands.

During the Civil War, Charlotte Harbor was blockaded to prevent the shipping of cattle from Lee County to Rebel forces. The blockade was penetrated on a regular basis as cattle were shipped out, but not to the Confederacy. Cattle were shipped to Cuba in payment of gold and consumer goods. Reconstruction after the war resulted in a carpetbagger government in Manatee County and the arrival of many homesteaders.

Cuban fishermen resumed fishing the waters of Charlotte Harbor in competition with the efforts of newly arrived homesteaders. Until 1896, large quantities of salted fish were sent to Havana aboard sailing vessels or steamers. After 1896, a high tariff was imposed on imported fish as a consequence of the Spanish American War. Fishing in state waters by foreign vessels was prohibited but due to the sparse population of the west coast and the absence of revenue cutters, Spanish subjects continued to fish uninterrupted. They often came into the bays to fish and sometimes even prepare their catch on shore, particularly at Cayo Costa. (11)

American fishing interests brought the fish to Tampa, then the terminus of the railroad. A large number of small vessels were employed in taking the catch from camps to the city. An 1897 study of the Florida fisheries industry reported that the camps were most numerous around the entrance to Charlotte Harbor and Caloosahatchee River, St. James City and Punta Rassa. The report described the camps as "consisting of collections of cheap wooden buildings sometimes constructed over the water on pilings, but usually on the mainland or keys on leased ground, convenient to fishing grounds." (12)

The arrival of the Florida Southern Railroad to Punta Gorda in 1886 revolutionized the fishing industry in Charlotte Harbor. A major ice plant was constructed on a spur of the railroad and local fishing could supply fresh fish directly to northern markets and leave the salt fish market to the dwindling Cuban interest. A 4200 foot railroad dock was completed in 1886 to accommodate the large steamers plying the harbor. The Morgan Line docked there, along with several major seafood dealers whose fish houses lined the wharf. A.K. Demere, Carnes and Monk, Bill Lewis and others operated an extensive system of icing and procurement of fresh fish from as far south as Estero Bay.

The fisheries operated a system of run boats that ran to a string of water and land-based buildings built throughout Charlotte Harbor. The run boats would make rounds delivering ice to the remote houses and pick up fish to be off-loaded on the long dock onto trains and shipped to northern destinations.

The commercial fishing industry in Punta Gorda was among the largest in Florida. A study made in 1897 estimated that 230 persons worked the offshore fisheries with 25 or more working onshore. One hundred and forty vessels operated. Gill netting for mullet formed the vast majority of the fishing industry in Punta Gorda. The 1895 catch according to the study amounted to 1,627,015 pounds for which the fishermen received \$43,573. (13) Spanish mackerel, redbfish, oysters and channel bass were also major catches.

The ice plant was the core of the fishing industry in Charlotte Harbor. Originally powered by steam boilers, the plant was converted to commercial electric in 1913, power which also supplied the city of Punta Gorda. Tons of ice were produced for use on the northern bound trains, the run boats, and the icing stations in the harbor. The ice plant, while it has been altered and added onto, is still standing, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The fish companies often had the rail cars brought to the dock already loaded with ice so that when the fish were loaded, the car could be joined with the train and expresses to northern customers. The fish companies were equipped with telegraph to take daily orders and make express shipments.

Commercial fishing involved the use of remote fishing cabins on stilts over the water where fishermen could fish for several weeks at a time. Run boats brought ice and groceries and a change of crews. This method continued in use throughout the first part of the twentieth century. With the improved technology of gasoline engines and the construction of roads to Pine Island where land based fish houses were built, fishermen began to be able to make a daily run to the land based fish houses. The stilt buildings served as shelter for extended fishing trips and otherwise stood vacant.

One of the first settlers to arrive in Bokeelia was Henry Martin who arrived with his wife Minta in 1904. They built a house, a long dock and a rooming house. Mail and supplies arrived at the long dock to provide for the inn and small general store and post office the Martins had built. The James Howard family arrived in 1906 and settled upon the Indian Mound that bears their name, the Howard Mound.

Land ownership in Bokeelia was often granted by the government to surveyors in lieu of fees. This is how Harry Kreamer, one of the islands largest land holders, came to own his acreage. Kreamer platted Bocilla Island as Kreamers Subdivision in 1908 as one hundred foot wide lots running from Jug Creek to the harbor.

Kreamer gave Henry Martin 70 acres in return for Martin's construction of a bridge linking Bocilla Island to Pine Island and for building a public dock at Bokeelia. The old dock blew down in 1960 in Hurricane Donna. It was replaced in the same location. A schoolhouse was built about 1909. The school was used as a

community meeting place by Bokeelia residents and the Pine Island Homemakers Club. It is possible that the building is still standing although it has been moved off Bocilla Island.

Harry Poe Johnson arrived in 1914 and built a large home facing the harbor. Johnson platted the western end of Bocilla Island into thirty-one lots that went from Jug Creek to the harbor. With the exception of the easternmost lots, the subdivision was never developed and is today classified as a Resource Protection area. Johnson's home was later occupied by Senator Mark Bacon in 1926.

The Honc family arrived in Bokeelia in 1918 when Vincent J. Honc, Sr. and his bride Ludmilla of Czechoslovakia vacationed in Boca Grande and decided to stay in the Pine Island area. They bought property and along with Captain John Smith of St. James City and Harry Poe Johnson, planted groves of mango trees. Bokeelia mangos gained worldwide fame when John Ringling, owner of the Ringling Brothers Circus, discovered the aristocratic tropical fruit. Ringling had his own reserved tree on the Honc property and would order dozens of jars of fruit.

In 1916, Peter C. Hains arrived in Bokeelia with his three sons. Hains had shot and killed his wife's "friend" and eventually fled to Bokeelia to escape incarceration. Hains built the two story house known as the Captains House and ventured into the agricultural business on the advice of the University of Florida. His twenty acres of avocados failed and when the Florida land boom came he sold the acreage. Hains died from suicide not long after.

The community of Bokeelia remained essentially the same throughout the Depression and War years. After the War, a fish house at the end of the long dock did a booming business as the long dock at Punta Gorda had burned and it was now possible to truck fish off the island by way of crude but passable roads. The remaining lots on Bocilla became populated with travel trailers as winter residents flocked to Bokeelia to enjoy the warm winters and quiet way of life. Three of the Shady Nook Cottages were brought in, some from Fort Myers Beach, to provide for weekly and monthly guests enjoying fishing trips. The others were built in the 1930's. A new post office was built in the 1960's replacing the two early offices, one in the Martin general store, the second next door to the store.

It has been determined that the Bokeelia Historic District is eligible for designation pursuant to Lee County Ordinance 88-62 according to the following criteria:

SECTION 7

D. Criteria for Designation

1. The Board shall have the authority to designate historic resources based upon their significance in Lee County's history, architecture, archaeology or culture and/or for their integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship or association, and because they:

- a. Are associated with distinctive elements of the cultural, social, political, economic, scientific, religious, prehistoric or architectural history that have contributed to the pattern of history in the community, Lee County, Southwestern Florida, the state or the nation; or
 - b. Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
 - c. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, style or method of construction or are the work of a master; or that possess high artistic value; or that represent a distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
2. A historic resource shall be deemed to have historical or cultural significance if it is:
- a. Associated with the life or activities of a person of importance in local, state, or national history; or
 - b. The site of a historic event with a significant effect upon the county, state or nation; or
 - c. Associated in a significant way with a major historic event; or
 - d. Exemplary of the historical, political, cultural, economic, or social trends of the community in history; or
 - e. Associated in a significant way with a past or continuing institution which has contributed substantially to the life of the community.

ENDNOTES

- (1) Lindsay Williams, Boldly Onward (Charlotte Harbor, Florida, 1986, p. 172)
- (2) Charles Dana Gibson, Boca Grande: A Series of Historical Essays (Great Outdoors Publishing Co., 1982)
- (3) Florence Fritz, The Unknown Florida (Coral Gables, Florida: University of Miami Press, 1963, p. 48)
- (4) James W. Covington, "Trade Relations Between Southwest Florida and Cuba, 1600-1840" Florida Historical Quarterly: 62:314

- (5) George Gauld, An Account of the Surveys of Florida, 1790, pg. 5
- (6) Bernard Romans, A Concise and Natural History of East and West Florida, 1775. (Fascimile, Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1962, p. 185-188)
- (7) E.A. Hammond, "The Spanish Fisheries of Florida," Florida Historical Quarterly: 51:365-66
- (8) Ibid., p. 370-72
- (9) James W. Covington, The Story of Southwestern Florida, Vol. 1, New York, New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., pg. 125-26
- (10) Ibid., p. 127
- (11) Vernon Peeples, Punta Gorda and the Charlotte Harbor Area: A Pictorial History, (Norfolk, VA: Donning Company, 1986, pg. 6)
- (12) Senate Document No. 100, 54th Congress. "Fisheries of the Coastal Waters of Florida"
- (13) Ibid., p. 52

7.e. Boundary Justification

The Bokeelia Historic District encompasses all of the contributing properties on Bocailla Island. The boundaries form a linear district that is bounded on the north by Charlotte Harbor, which forms the cultural and geographical linkage of the district. The western boundary is defined by the edge of the westernmost property containing a contributing resource. The eastern boundary is defined by the edge of the easternmost property containing a contributing resources. The southern boundary is defined by the property line of the contributing properties that have no other structures on the property and in the case of the old general store and old post office, is intended to include only the historic or contributing structure.

7.f. Incentives and Guidelines

The properties of the Bokeelia Historic District are waterfront and some contain several acres of vacant, developable land. Some of the buildings are in a deteriorating condition and are in need of stabilization and preservation measures. It may be appropriate for development applications to be considered for possible relief necessary in order to accommodate the preservation of the contributing structures. For instance, while the area is residential in character, it may be appropriate for the Captains House or Johnson house to be allowed an adaptive use such as a small restaurant or bed and breakfast inn.

It is important to maintain the historic character of the district by avoiding alterations to the buildings themselves that are not in keeping with the Standards for Rehabilitation and by maintaining the open space and vistas afforded by the beachfront. Main Street should be maintained as a curvilinear street to protect the scale of the views and slow the speed of traffic. Parking should be placed to the rear of the contributing structures. New buildings should not be built in front of the contributing buildings, nor should new buildings be of a scale or character that is not compatible with the historic structures.

CLAYTON, HUGH C.

P.O. BOX 12

BOKEELIA, FL 33922

25 43 21 00 00007 0000

DOR.....: 28 PARKING LOT, MH PRK

LOC.....: LEE COUNTY UNINCORPORATED

LEGAL 1: PARL IN NW 1/4 of NE 1/4

LEGAL 2: SEC 25 TWP 43 R 21

LEGAL 3: DESC IN OR 1197 PG 1140

STRIAR, DANIEL E.

#1 FOXHILL DRIVE

S. WALPOLE, MA 02071

25 43 21 01 00007 0000

DOR.....: 01 SINGLE FAMILY

LOC.....: LEE COUNTY UNINCORPORATED

LEGAL 1: KREAMERS SUBD BOCILLA ISL

LEGAL 2: PB 1 PG 38 LOTS 6 1/2 + 7+

LEGAL 3: W 20FT LOT 6 N of SR 767

25 43 21 01 00008 0000

DOR.....: 01 SINGLE FAMILY

LOC.....: LEE COUNTY UNINCORPORATED

LEGAL 1: KREAMERS SUBD BOKEELIA

LEGAL 2: ISLD PB 1 PG 38

LEGAL 3: LOT 8

25 43 21 01 00009 0000

DOR.....: 01 SINGLE FAMILY

LOC.....: LEE COUNTY UNINCORPORATED

LEGAL 1: KREAMERS SUBD BOKEELIA

LEGAL 2: ISLD PB 1 PG 38

LEGAL 3: LOT 9

25 43 21 01 00010 0000

DOR.....: 01 SINGLE FAMILY

LOC.....: LEE COUNTY UNINCORPORATED

LEGAL 1: KREAMERS SUBD BOKEELIA

LEGAL 2: ISLD PB 1 PG 38

LEGAL 3: LOT 10

TIITF

3900 COMMONWEALTH BLVD. RM 412

TALLAHASSEE, FL 33299

25 43 21 01 00012 0000

DOR.....: 82 FOREST, PARKS REC

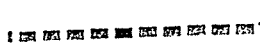
LOC.....: LEE COUNTY UNINCORPORATED

LEGAL 1: KREAMERS SUBD BOKEELIA

LEGAL 2: ISLD PB 1 PG 38

LEGAL 3: LOT 12

BOKEELIA HISTORIC DISTRICT



District Boundary



Contributing Building

