

RECORD NUMBER: 278

Page 1

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update

HISTORICAL STRUCTURE FORM
FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE

site 8 BB 1454

SITE NAME:

HISTORIC CONTEXTS: Post-Reconstruction

NAT. REGISTER CATEGORY: Building

OTHER NAMES OR MSF NOS: W.T. Wells House/Green Gables

COUNTY: Brevard

OWNERSHIP TYPE: Private, Individual

PROJECT NAME: Melbourne: S+P

DHR NO. 2978

LOCATION:

ADDRESS: 1501 Riverview Drive

CITY:

VICINITY OF/ROUTE TO: See attached maps

SUB: W. T. Wells

BLOCK F

LOT 1

PLAT OR OTHER MAP: City of Melbourne Official Zoning Map

TOWNSHIP: 28 S RANGE: 37 E SECTION: 3 1/4: 1/4-1/4:

IRREGULAR SEC? y n LAND GRANT: None

USGS 7.5 MAP: Melbourne East, FL 1980

UTM: ZONE: EASTING: NORTHING:

COORDINATES: LATITUDE: D M S LONGITUDE: D M S

HISTORY

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER: W. T. Wells

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1896 RESTORATION DATE(S):

MODIFICATION DATE(S):

MOVE: DATE:

ORIG. LOCATION:

ORIGINAL USE (S): Private Residence

PRESENT USE (S): Private Residence

DESCRIPTION

STYLE: Queen Anne

PLAN: EXTERIOR: Rectangular

PLAN: INTERIOR:

NO. STORIES: 2 OUTBLDGS: 0 PORCHES: 1 DORMERS: 0

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM(S): Wood, Balloon

EXTERIOR FABRIC(S): Clapboard

FOUNDATION: TYPE: Continuous

MATERIALS: Concrete block

INFILL:

PORCHES: E/veranda/hip roof, posts/5 bay

ROOF: TYPE: Gable

SURFACING: Metal, pressed

SECONDARY STRUCS:

CHIMNEY: NO.: 1

MATERIALS: Brick

LOCATIONS: E/offset

WINDOWS: Double-hung sash, 2/2 lights

EXTERIOR ORNAMENT: Conical tower, brackets

CONDITION: Good

SURROUNDINGS: Residential

NARRATIVE:

See Continuation Sheet

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AT THE SITE

FMSF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FORM COMPLETED? y X n
ARTIFACTS OR OTHER REMAINS: None observed

RECORDER'S EVALUATION OF SITE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------|-----------|
| ELIGIBLE FOR NAT. REGISTER? | y | X | n | likely, need info | insf info |
| SIGNIF. AS PART OF DISTRICT? | y | X | n | likely, need info | insf info |
| SIGNIFICANT AT LOCAL LEVEL? | X | y | n | likely, need info | insf info |

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

See Continuation Sheet

* * * DHR USE ONLY * * * * * DHR USE ONLY * * * * *

* DATE LISTED ON NR _____ *

* KEEPER DETERMINATION OF ELIG.(DATE): _YES _____ _NO _____ *

* SHPO EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY (DATE): _YES _____ _NO _____ *

* LOCAL DETERMINATION OF ELIG. (DATE): _YES _____ _NO _____ *

* OFFICE _____ *

* * * DHR USE ONLY * * * * * DHR USE ONLY * * * * *

RECORDER INFORMATION: NAME: Steve Olausen
DATE: 09/12/90 AFFILIATION: Historic Property Associates, Inc.

PHOTOGRAPHS

LOCATION OF NEGATIVES: HPA, St. Augustine, Florida
NEGATIVE NUMBERS: Roll 10, #4

PHOTOGRAPH M A P

See Attachments

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architectural Narrative: This two-story wood frame residential building is located at 1501 Riverview Drive. Its Queen Anne styling is expressed by a gable roof, a conical tower, brackets, and a veranda. The veranda has a hip roof and is supported by posts. The exterior wall fabric is clapboard. Fenestration consists of 2/2 double hung sash windows. With few alterations, this building has retained most of its architectural integrity.

Architectural Context: Queen Anne was a popular residential building style in the United States between 1880 and 1900 and remained popular through the first decade of the 20th century. The name of the style is misleading. It actually draws most heavily upon earlier Jacobean and Elizabethan precedents rather than the more restrained Renaissance architecture of the reign of Queen Anne (1702-1714). English architect Richard Norman Shaw is most often credited for developing the style in his designs for grand manor houses during the mid-nineteenth century. The first American example is generally considered to be the Watts-Sherman House in Newport.

The Queen Anne style was very popular in northern Florida between 1880 and 1910, as it was in most states in the South. Unfortunately, the buildings were often built close to commercial districts or along major transportation arteries. As towns grew into cities many of the Queen Annes were razed to create space for modern buildings. Examples of the style are now relatively scarce.

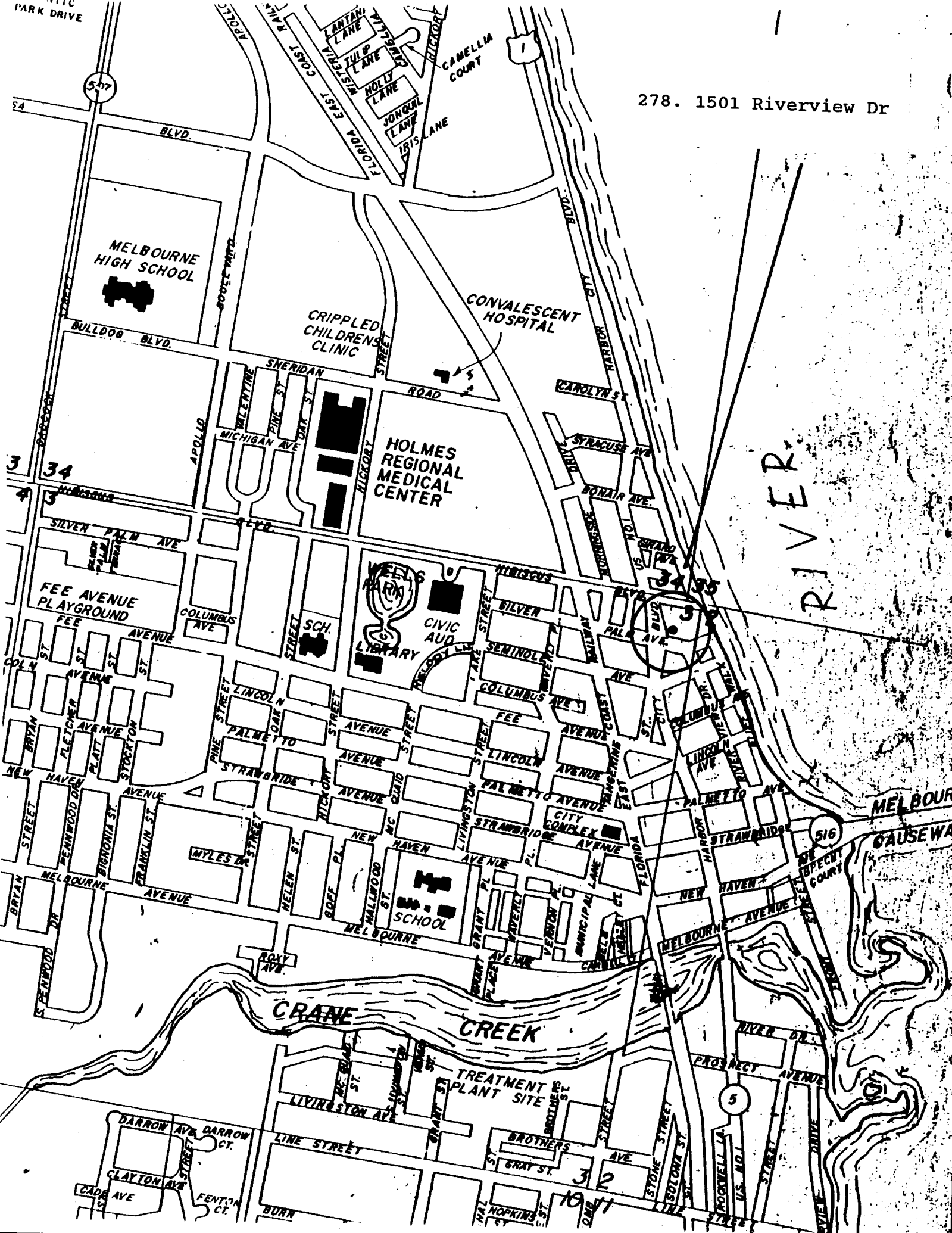
Identifying features of the Queen Anne style include steeply pitched roof lines with intersecting extensions; irregularly shaped floor plan; decorative truss work and patterned shingles in the roof gables; veranda porches with spindle work or decorative brackets between turned porch roof supports; canted bay extensions; polygonal or conical towers; various exterior fabrics, often different from one story to the next; multi-paned double-hung sash windows with decorative glazing patterns; and massive corbelled chimneys with decorative brick work.

Historical Narrative: The W.T. Wells House/Green Gables was constructed in 1896 by W.T. Wells. Wells, the original and most important owner of the house, was a wealthy landowner from New York who gave the city land which is now Wells Park. It is significant for its association with the development of Melbourne's residential area during the Florida period of Expansion of the late 1800's and early 1900's. In addition, the building's design reflects national trends in architecture during the period in which it was constructed. (Gladys McClung, interview by Weona Cleveland, 1990; *Melbourne Times*).

Historical Context: Melbourne and Eau Gallie, situated along the Indian River in southern Brevard County, were settled in the 1870s. Relatively undeveloped during the nineteenth century, Melbourne was incorporated in 1888 and five years later a town charter was enacted for Eau Gallie. The introduction of the railroad in the early 1890s spurred construction in both settlements, much of which centered around Crane Creek in Melbourne and Elbow Creek in Eau Gallie. Although the devastating freezes of the mid 1890s slowed development there, by 1900 the population of each settlement totaled nearly 200. By 1910, both communities had small commercial districts. Although land reclamation projects had a limited effect on construction in those settlements during the Progressive Era, dredging of the Melbourne-Tillman canal opened the area west of Melbourne to agricultural development about 1915. Melbourne especially experienced significant development during the Florida land boom of the 1920s, when numerous residential buildings were constructed and the commercial district enlarged. To improve the quality of life in both communities, roads were paved, water mains laid, and mosquito control ordinances passed. By 1930, the population of Melbourne had increased to 2,500 and that of Eau Gallie to nearly 1,000. Although building construction dropped off in both communities during the Great Depression of the 1930s, both cities experienced population booms during World War II. The NASA program at nearby Cape Canaveral in the 1950s promoted development in Melbourne and Eau Gallie, the latter becoming incorporated into Melbourne in 1969. Although much of the historic fabric of both communities has been destroyed by development since the 1950s, those historic resources that remain constitute an important part of Brevard County's architectural heritage.

1110 PARK DRIVE

278. 1501 Riverview Dr



RIVER

MELBOURNE CAUSEWAY

CRANE CREEK

TREATMENT PLANT SITE

516

5

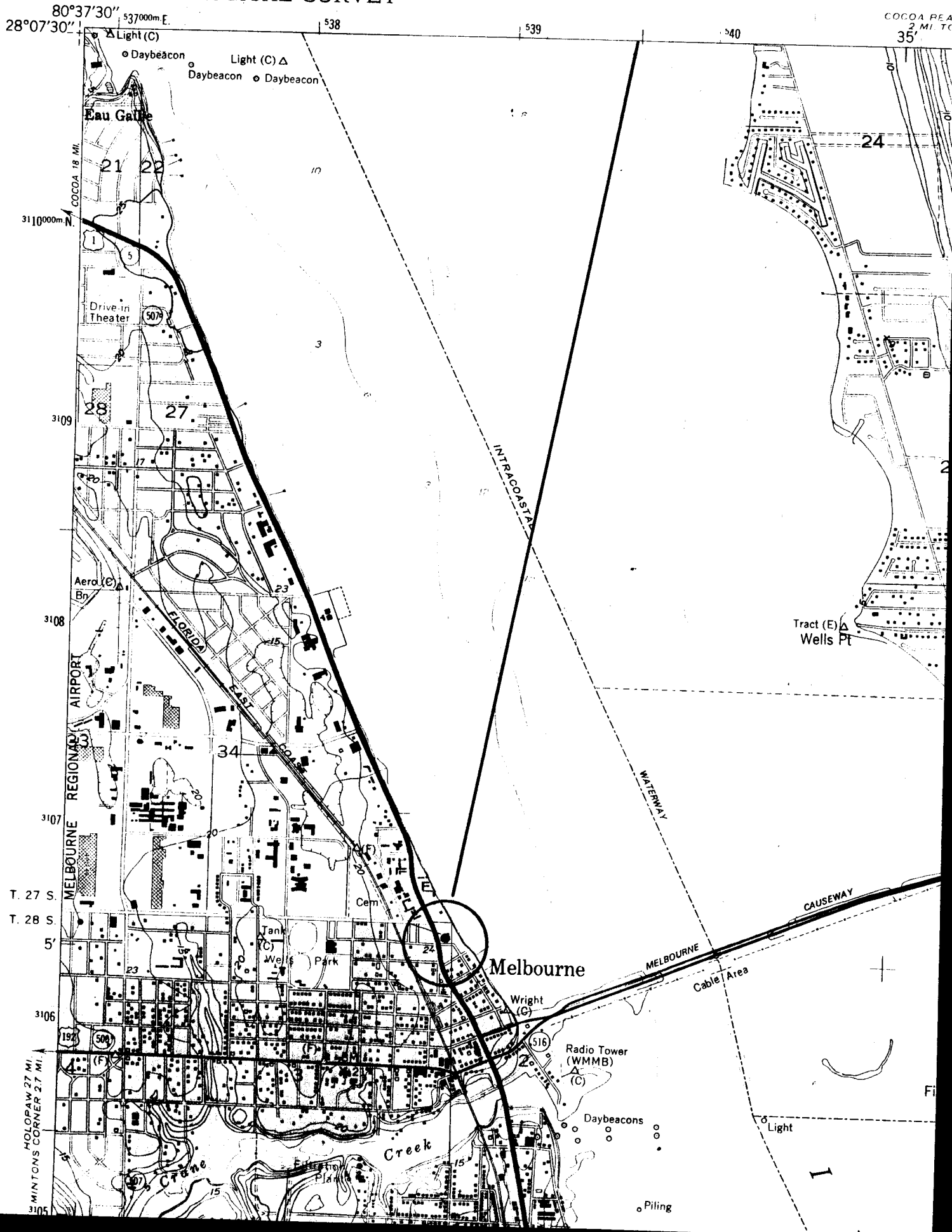
3 2

10 11

4840 11 NW
(EAU GALIE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

278. 1501 Riverview Dr



COCOA BEACH
2 MI TO
35'

80°37'30"
28°07'30"

537000m.E.

538

539

540

3110000m.N.

3109

3108

3107

3106

3105

COCOA 18 MI

MELBOURNE REGIONAL AIRPORT

T. 27 S.
T. 28 S.
5'

HOLOPAW 27 MI
MINTONS CORNER 2.7 MI

INTRACOASTAL

WATERWAY

CAUSEWAY

Cable Area

Melbourne

Creek

Piling

Tract (E)
Wells Pt

24

FI

