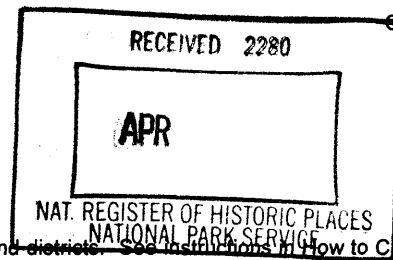


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Property

historic name ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

other names/site number Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School; FMSF HI09710

2. Location

street & number 3205 South Ferdinand Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Tampa N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Hillsborough code 057 zip code 33606

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barbara C. Mattick, DSHPO 4/13/06
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

for
Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5.31.06

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	total

Name of related multiple property listings

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Mediterranean Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stucco
walls Stucco
roof Clay Tile
other

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

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 or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Checkboxes for documentation on file (NPS).

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1925-1956

Significant Dates

1925, 1946, 1954

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: Bonfoey, B.C.

Blder: Horton & Smith

Primary location of additional data:

- Checkboxes for primary location of additional data.

Name of Repository

#

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	3 5 2 6 0 0	3 0 8 8 6 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charlette Hein/Carl Shiver, Historic Preservationist

organization Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation date April 2006

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (850) 245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

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 Superintendent, School District of Hillsborough County

street & number 901 E. Kennedy Boulevard telephone (813) 272-4000

city or town Tampa state Florida zip code 33602-3507

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 request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

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.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Roosevelt Elementary School, located at 3205 South Ferdinand Avenue in Tampa, Florida, consists of three buildings, two contributing and one noncontributing. The major contributing resource is a Mediterranean Revival style auditorium/administration building with flanking classroom wings constructed in 1925 that was enlarged in 1946 by the extension of the classroom wings. The other contributing resource is a detached classroom building, constructed in 1954 and modified slightly in 2002. The noncontributing building is the school cafeteria, which was erected in 1961. The arcaded walkways of the classroom wings were to include the cafeteria in 1961, creating a central courtyard framed by the major building elements surrounding it. The main facade of the two-story auditorium block features an arched entranceway framed by an elaborate frontispiece that combines engaged classical columns that support an entablature surmounted by a smaller classical motif that frames three double-hung, wood sash windows above which an elaborate bas-relief decorative ribbon element encloses a shield containing the letters "TR" for Theodore Roosevelt. Two massive towers arise in two stages from the sides of the main facade of the core building which contains the school auditorium on the second floor, beneath which one finds the school's administrative offices. The classroom wings and the detached annex are one-story in height and have gable roofs surfaced with clay tile.

SETTING

Tampa is located in the western part of central Florida and lies at the mouth of the Hillsborough River which empties into Old Tampa Bay, an inlet to the Gulf of Mexico. It occupies the entire Hillsborough peninsula, spreading north and west from the north edge of Hillsborough Bay. Tampa is the seat of Hillsborough County and is a major seaport. It is a financial center of the state, and light manufacturing plays an important role in the economy, as do tourism and professional sports. Cigar manufacturing, which once employed thousands of workers, has ceased to contribute significantly to the economic life of the city; however, the industry has left its mark on the population with the high percentage of residents of Latin background, the majority of whom are of Cuban origin. Tampa is a city of approximately 300,000 residents and part of a metropolitan area in west Florida having a population of about 2,000,000. The nearby beaches, tourist attractions such as Busch Gardens, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers football team, the Devil Rays baseball team, and the climate bring many thousands of tourists to the area each year, adding to the economic vitality of the area.

PRESENT AND ORIGINAL APPEARANCE

Exterior Description

The Roosevelt Elementary School is located in Palma Ceia Park residential neighborhood which is found southwest of downtown Tampa. The school is surrounded by modest residences that date from the 1920s and later. The paved streets are somewhat narrow, and the area is distinguished by mature shade trees. All of

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 7 Page 2 ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

the neighborhood streets are paved but few of them have sidewalks. South of the school, on the other side of Tacon Street, which is closed to traffic access, is a former school playground which is scheduled to be redeveloped. The detached classroom building, erected in 1954, lies north of Obispo Street, which is closed to normal traffic now serves as a parking lot for school staff and visitors. A covered walkway connects the two buildings. The forecourt of the school is a mostly grassy area where the school flagpole and sign bearing the legend "Roosevelt Elementary School" are located.

Roosevelt Elementary School (Photo 1) exhibits a variation of the Mediterranean Revival Style, with the visually dominant two-story main block flanked by the single-story classroom wings on both north and south sides. The original part of the school was constructed in 1925 and consisted of the main auditorium block flanked by classroom wings (Attachment A) that were connected to the central block by covered arcaded walkways. The auditorium block resembles a Baroque era Spanish or Italian church. Originally the one-story wings extended toward the front of the auditorium (Attachment B) but in 1946 the wings were almost doubled in length by additions made to their rear. A detached classroom building located north of Obispo Street was constructed in 1954 (Attachment C). The new building was connected to the north classroom wing with a covered walkway. The cafeteria building was constructed in 1961 and the arcaded walkway was extended to connect it to classroom wings, creating a nearly enclosed courtyard behind the central auditorium building.

The auditorium block (Photos 1-2) features a gable roof surfaced with red clay tile, stucco-covered exterior walls, a symmetrical main facade, and two fully-developed bell towers. These towers, which house the staircases leading to the auditorium found at the mezzanine level, rise above the ridge line of the gable roof. The top level of the towers is faceted and decorated with pilasters and (originally open) arches, topped with a low hip clay tile roof and a finial element. The windows in the lower sections of the towers illuminate the stairs leading to the auditorium. The middle section of the main facade is decorated with a two-story frontispiece. The main entrance consists of double ten-light doors set under a rounded arch and transom. Two pairs of engaged Corinthian columns standing atop classical bases frame the lower level and support the frieze that serves as the base for decorative elements on the second story. A tripartite window is flanked by decorated pilasters that support a delicate frieze above the windows. A scrolled motif floats on the wall above this frieze and frames a shield containing the letters "TR" for Theodore Roosevelt.

The single story classroom wings (Photos 3-4) run east and west, and are connected at their mid-points to the auditorium block by short gable-roofed sections of covered walkway. The fenestration (Photo 5) pattern of the 1925 classroom wings is simple: Double-hung wood sash windows found on the exterior walls illuminate the classrooms. Originally, there were also windows in the walls along the arcade, but these were filled in when the present HVAC system was installed, eliminating the need for cross-ventilation. The gable roofs of the wings slope down to an arcaded walkway. Inside the arcade the classrooms exhibit only a series of doors. The north and south walls of the exterior hold banks of six (now replacements) double hung sash units. Currently, one window per set supports a wall HVAC unit.

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Section number 7 Page 3 ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

The 1946 additions to the east/west wings are joined at the west by a transition space that continues the gabled roofline. While the arcade of the 1946 addition continues uninterrupted in placement as well as style, the inside wall has high set windows (Photo 6) in addition to individual classroom doors. The fenestration patterns on the outside walls are consistent with the originals on their respective facades. There are bands of large vertical double hung replacement windows, although the 1946 additions have seven window units instead of six, with the A/C wall units hung in the center unit.

New sections of arcaded walkway were constructed to join the 1961 cafeteria with the classroom wings creating the enclosed courtyard. The entrance facade of the cafeteria (Photo 7) is relatively featureless. The building receives natural illumination from large banks of aluminum Miami windows found at the side elevations. While the roof is flat, a Mission style scrolled parapet above the main facade stylistically links it to the other buildings in the complex.

The building north of Obispo Street (Photos 8-9) maintains an overall relationship to the main complex. A low gabled tiled roof covers a series of classrooms, all fronting to an open arcade. The arcade's rhythm in this case is based on square support columns with an extended plain capital and squared openings rather than the archways on the original wings. The Obispo Street facade has doors and an upper band of aluminum windows, but the overall relationship to the main complex is still strong despite the small addition of four classrooms in 2002. Overall, the fundamental concept of the original plan, massing, materials and decorative treatments remain largely undisturbed, despite numerous additions over the years. Most of these are subordinate in scale and detail and does not distract from the integrity of the complex. Roosevelt Elementary School and its site retain a high degree of historic and architectural integrity and designation will protect the existing building as well as promote continuity on any future additions or renovations.

Interior Description

The most significant interior space in Roosevelt Elementary School is the auditorium. The classroom units (Photos 10-11) have no significant details and what was originally the school cafeteria located beneath the auditorium now serves as the administrative offices for the school. The area was subdivided when the present cafeteria building was constructed in 1961 and now houses the principal's office, a reception area, and staff work areas.

The auditorium (Photos 12-15) retains its original dimensions, stage, sloped floor, and wooden seats; however, a dropped ceiling and new fluorescent light fixtures were installed during one of the school's many renovation phases. The original windows were also replaced with new units similar in style to those installed in 1925.

ALTERATIONS

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 4

ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

- 1946 – Extension of original wings to the west
- 1954 – Obispo Street was vacated for a teacher's parking area and a detached classroom building erected
- 1961 – Cafeteria building with kitchen added
- 1990 – Overall refurbishment program undertaken
- 2002 – Four classrooms added to Obispo Street addition

While the school has regularly been updated and expanded, care to reference and enhance the original design generally has been a priority. The 1946 additions to the west ends of the classroom wings reflect the appearance of the originals by continuing the arcades. The 1954 addition across Obispo Street strongly references the original design elements of the arcaded wings and is joined to the main building complex by a covered walkway. The construction in 1961 of the cafeteria building and its associated covered walkway to the west of the auditorium created a central courtyard that also reflects the tradition of Mediterranean Revival architecture. The 2002 addition to the detached building constructed north of Obispo Street is visually the least sensitive alteration to general design components of the Roosevelt Elementary School but is too minor to seriously affect the eligibility of the resources for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 8 Page 1 ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

Roosevelt Elementary School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level in the areas of Architecture and Education. Completed in stages beginning in 1925, the original building is associated with a massive building campaign undertaken by the Hillsborough County School Board in the 1920s to construct new modern school facilities in the rapidly growing city of Tampa. The school is an excellent example of Mediterranean Revival style architecture applied to a public school building constructed during the land boom years of the mid 1920s. Designed by Bayard Clayton Bonfoey, the Roosevelt Elementary School demonstrates Mediterranean Revival features that Bonfoey often used for his designs. The builder was Horton & Smith, as noted on a 1925 Burgert Brothers photograph of the newly constructed school (See Attachment A). This elementary school was designed to blend nicely into its surrounding new upscale neighborhood dominated by Craftsman Bungalow and Mediterranean Revival style houses of the kinds that were constructed in many residential subdivisions in Tampa during the 1920s.

HISTORIC CONTEXT—DEVELOPMENT OF TAMPA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The first community school for white children in Tampa was held in the new Hillsborough County Courthouse, constructed in 1848. There were fourteen students and a teacher named W.P. Wilson of Boston, who had come to Florida for his health and been persuaded by the town leaders to start a school. The tuition fees were paid by the parents.¹ A private school for both boys and girls was established in 1853 by a Methodist minister named Jasper K. Glover. At first the school prospered with 45 students, but competition from a girls' school established a short time later by Emelia Porter, who had come from Charleston, South Carolina, left Glover's school with only boys, so he was unable to make enough money to earn a living, and the school closed.²

The first public schools in Hillsborough County opened in 1854, but the school term lasted only a few weeks, owing to the inability of the county government to pay the teachers a sufficient income to keep classes going.³ Another small school building was built circa 1858 by General Jesse Carter for his young daughter, Josephine Carter. After Henry Plant bought the property for the Tampa Bay Hotel, the schoolhouse was used at first as the hotel drugstore and later as a tool shed. This one-room building is the city's oldest surviving structure. The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.⁴

¹ Karl H. Grismer, *Tampa, A History of the City of Tampa and the Tampa Bay Region of Florida* (St. Petersburg, FL: The St. Petersburg Printing Company, Inc., 1950), pp. 111-112.

² Grismer, pp. 121-122.

³ Ibid.

⁴ "Old School House," National Register of Historic Places Inventory Form, Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation, Tallahassee, Florida, 1974.

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Section number 8 Page 2 ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

Tampa had a variety of private schools up until 1870. It was at that point that the newly elected County Board of Public Instruction obtained the money to employ a principal and staff and opened a public school in the abandoned city hall. With the school term lasting only six weeks, this arrangement held until 1876. At that point, Tampa first public school building was constructed on Franklin Street for a cost of \$2,350.⁵ The Hyde Park Grammar School was built in 1889. Constructed at the edge of the city limits in the newly developing residential neighborhood on the west side of the Hillsborough River, its location drew protests about putting such a fine structure out in the wilderness. In 1915, the name of the school was changed to Dr. John B. Gorrie Elementary School to honor this man's great achievements in medical science and the invention of the first ice-making machine, which became the forerunner of the early compression refrigerator and the modern air conditioner.

In the first decade of the twentieth century, Tampa Heights, the upscale residential neighborhood north of downtown Tampa that had developed in the 1880s and 1890s was a choice location for new city schools. The Robert E. Lee Grammar School, constructed in 1906 as Michigan Avenue Grammar School, was among the first major school buildings constructed in Tampa. The two-story brick building still overlooks Columbus Avenue in the Tampa Heights Historic District (NR 1995). The three story brick school building, with its wooden floors and hand glazed windows was built by volunteers from the surrounding neighborhood. The school opened in April, 1906 with over 50 students, most of whom were Hispanic. In 1943, Michigan Avenue was renamed Columbus Drive, and the school was renamed Robert E. Lee Elementary School.⁶ There was also the need for a new, modern high school. When the Michigan Avenue Elementary School was completed, high school students were still occupying a wood frame building in downtown Tampa on Franklin Street. A plot of land on Highland Avenue in Tampa Heights was purchased in 1908, and the Hillsborough County High School was ready for occupation in 1911.

As the city of Tampa continued to grow during the 1910s, the Board of Instruction continued to construct new schools in the ever expanding residential subdivisions. One of the largest new buildings was the Woodrow Wilson Junior High School erected in Hyde Park in 1915. Other schools were erected in West Tampa and Ybor City, but the cycle of new construction accelerated with the onset of the Florida land boom of the 1920s. In 1890, the population of Tampa had been just 5,532, but it more than doubled every ten years, and by 1920 the city had 51,608 residents, causing an enormous demand for community services such as education. The population would more than double again throughout the decade, so that by 1930, it stood at 119,710.

ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL—HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

In 1925 bond issues totaling \$5,100,000 were voted for the construction of new schools in Tampa and

⁵ Grismer, p. 162.

⁶ "Lee Elementary School History," <http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/~Lee.elementary/history.htm>.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3 ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

West Tampa. The money funded the acquisition of school sites, buildings, and equipment. The school board built nine elementary schools, three junior high schools, two senior high schools, a vocational school, and an administration building. Four new schools were construction for African-American students and additions were made to seven existing buildings.⁷

Roosevelt Elementary was built in 1925 but actually opened in 1926. Roosevelt Elementary was named for Theodore Roosevelt, former President of the United States and Colonel during the 1898 Spanish-American War of the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment known as the "Rough Riders." The site of the Roosevelt School was the camping ground of the Rough Riders when Colonel Roosevelt's regiment was in Tampa

The site for the school was chosen to address the issue of the rapidly rising population in the South Tampa area during the Boom Times. Developed by the Tampa Bay Land Development Corporation as Palma Ceia Park, this area was integral to the development of the middle class living accommodations to satisfy the increasing demands of the growth resulting from a healthy economy in Tampa at that time. Choosing the well-known local architect B. C. Bonfoey to design the school demonstrated the faith in the successful development of this area, reinforced by the completion in 1924 of the Gandy Bridge linking Tampa and St. Petersburg.

The developer of Palma Ceia Park was James F. Taylor, who headed the Tampa Bay Land Development Company.⁸ The Hillsborough County Board of Public Instruction, forerunner to the Hillsborough County School Board, had to keep pace with the constantly expanding residential subdivisions in Tampa by providing primary and secondary schools in each new neighborhood.⁹

The Roosevelt Elementary School was constructed as part of a concerted effort by the county's school districts to provide modern and safe educational facilities for their school age children. The building is also significant as an example of combining contemporary stylistic architectural concepts in educational facility design.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The Roosevelt Elementary School displays a number of features associated with the Mediterranean Revival style which made its first important impact in the United States with buildings designed by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue at the 1915 Panama-California Exposition held in San Diego. Inspired by the wide publicity given the exposition, other fashionable architects soon began to look directly to Spain for source

⁷ Grismer, p. 266.

⁸ Grismer, p. 251.

⁹ Historic Schools Analysis, p. 4.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 4 ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

material. The inception of the Spanish revival styles occurred largely in California, but quickly spread to other areas with a Spanish colonial heritage, including New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, and Florida.

Architects August Geiger and Addison Mizner did much to popularize this style in South Florida during the 1920s, and the genre was quickly taken up by other architects and builders throughout the state, particularly in the rapidly growing communities of Palm Beach, Boca Raton, Sarasota, and Tampa. The style reflects the architectural influences of the Mediterranean coast: Renaissance and Byzantine themes from Italy, Moorish themes from southern Spain, and Baroque elements from Italy and France.

In Mediterranean Revival architecture, applied Spanish baroque decoration is often generously used around openings, balconies, and cornices. Parapets, twisted columns, pediments, and other classical details also are frequently used. Arches are often featured. The most common materials are stucco walls, red tile roofs, wrought iron grilles and railings, wood brackets and balconies, and oolitic limestone, ceramic tile and terra cotta for ornament. Patios, courtyards, balconies, and loggias replace the front porch. Fenestration is usually the casement type. Ornamentation can range from simple to dramatic, and may draw from a number of Mediterranean references; however, elaborate Mediterranean Revival detailing is usually restricted to large buildings. Classical, Spanish, or Beaux-Arts architecture details are often incorporated into the design. The style was most commonly applied to schools, hotels, apartment buildings, commercial structures, and even residences of modest to palatial size.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Roosevelt Elementary School displays a number of characteristics of the Mediterranean Revival style: stucco finish, red clay tile roofing, lack of overhang on the eaves, and the arcaded courtyard. The design is basically that of a Mediterranean Revival style church, with the dramatic elements being confined to the main facade of the central block of the 1925 structure. The architect who designed the school was Tampa architect Bayard Clayton Bonfoey (1873-1953), one of the most prominent architects in Tampa during the 1920s. Before moving to Tampa in 1903, Bonfoey had worked for his father in the construction industry in Hartford, Connecticut. In 1908, he became partners with architect M. Leo Elliott (1886-1967) who had come to Tampa in 1907. Elliot was born in Woodstock, New York. After having attended public school through the eighth grade, Elliot moved to New York City and got a job as office boy in the architectural firm Welch, Smith and Pivot. He remained with the firm until 1906, attending evening classes to improve his architectural skills. After becoming a partner with Bonfoey, the firm went on to design many of Tampa's well-known buildings.¹⁰ Some of their

¹⁰ The two men often worked separately on important designs and received individual credit for the productions.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 5 ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

joint efforts include Tampa City Hall (NR 1974), the social clubs of Centro Austuriano (NR 1974) and Circulo Cubano (NR 1972) as well as many homes in Tampa, including the Wilson-Leiman House (NR 1974).

The original design of the school gains its inspiration from Baroque era Spanish or Italian churches. Spanish Colonial and Mediterranean Revival styling was widely used in the construction of new primary and secondary schools in Florida during the 1920s, but most of these took a more general approach to applying styling to the building, which beneath the arches, stucco, and terracotta remained rectangular building blocks. Although the result is much simpler for the purpose of efficiency and the limited space required, Bonfoey's design for the Roosevelt Elementary School clearly has ecclesiastical antecedents, not normally found in Florida public schools constructed during the 1920s. Among the innovations brought to the design by Bonfoey, was the placement of the school cafeteria slightly below grade beneath the auditorium. This allowed the building to appear more monumental and did not require space for the construction of a separate cafeteria building. The 1946 extension of the classroom wings was also designed by Bonfoey.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1

ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

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Grismer, Karl Hiram. A History of the City of Tampa and the Tampa Bay Region of Florida. St. Petersburg Print Company, 1950.

Long, John H., ed. Florida Atlas of Historical County Boundaries. Simon & Schuster Macmillan, New York, 1997.

Periodicals

Durwood Long. "The Historical Beginnings of Ybor City and Modern Tampa," Florida Historical Quarterly, XLIX (April 1971), pp. 38-39.

Other Resources

Historic Schools Analysis, Hillsborough County Public Schools, Tampa Preservation Inc. Project, 1999.

Transcribed notes from interview with Kenneth Bonfoey, Tampa History Center, nd.

Personal Interview with Principal of Roosevelt Elementary School, Colleen Vaverek, April 19, 2004.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

PALMA CEIA PARK LOTS 14 TO 18 INCL & LOTS 11 12 13 LESS N 2 FT AND LOTS 19 & 20 LESS N 3 FT BLOCK
77...LOTS 1 TO 20 INCL BLOCK 82...LOTS 3 TO 18 INCL BLOCK 85
PIN: A-34-29-18-3U4-000077-00014.0
Folio: 126436-0000

Boundary Justification

The above boundaries encompass all of the historic resources associated with the Roosevelt Elementary School as described in this National Register nomination proposal.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 1 Page 1 ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Roosevelt Elementary School
2. 3205 South Ferdinand Avenue, Tampa (Hillsborough County), Florida
3. Annie Hart
4. January 2005
5. City of Tampa Historical Preservation Commission
6. Main (East) Facade, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 1 of 15

Items 1 through 5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

6. Main (East) Facade, Detail of Main Entrance
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6. East Wing of South Arcade, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 3 of 15

6. East Wing of North Arcade, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 4 of 15

6. South Elevation of South Wing, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 5 of 15

6. 1961 Arcaded Walkway of North Wing, Looking West
7. Photo 6 of 15

6. Rear Courtyard Looking Northwest toward Cafeteria Building
7. Photo 7 of 15

6. 1954 Classroom Building, Looking Northeast from Covered Walkway
7. Photo 8 of 15

6. 1954 Classroom Building, Looking North along Covered Walkway
7. Photo 9 of 15

6. Typical Classroom, South Wing, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 10 of 15

6. Typical Classroom, South Wing, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 11 of 15

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

6. Auditorium Interior, Looking Southwest from Rear

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6. Auditorium Interior, Looking West from Rear

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6. Auditorium Interior, Looking East from Stage

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6. Auditorium Interior, Looking East from Stage

7. Photo 15 of 15

ATTACHMENTS

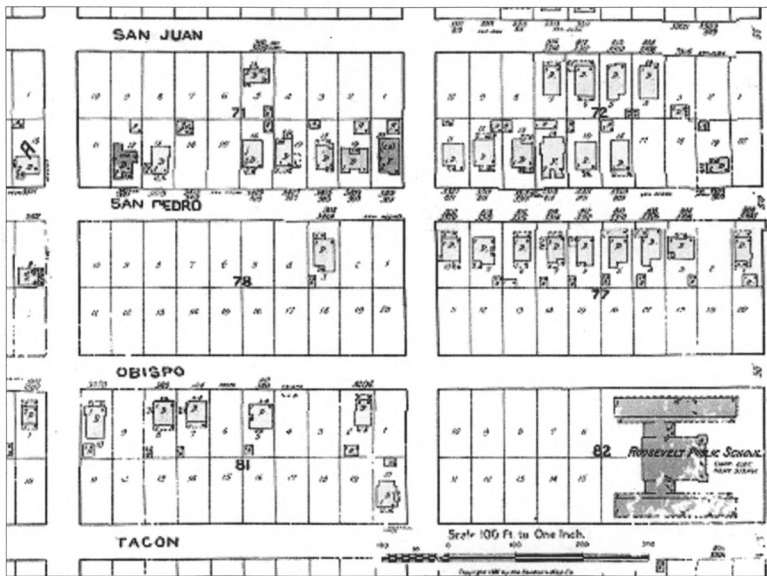
1. ATTACHMENT A—BURGERT BROTHERS PHOTOGRAPH, c. 1925-1926
2. ATTACHMENT B—SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP, 1925-1929
3. ATTACHMENT C—SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP, 1931-1955
4. ATTACHMENT D—CONSTRUCTION DATES

ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

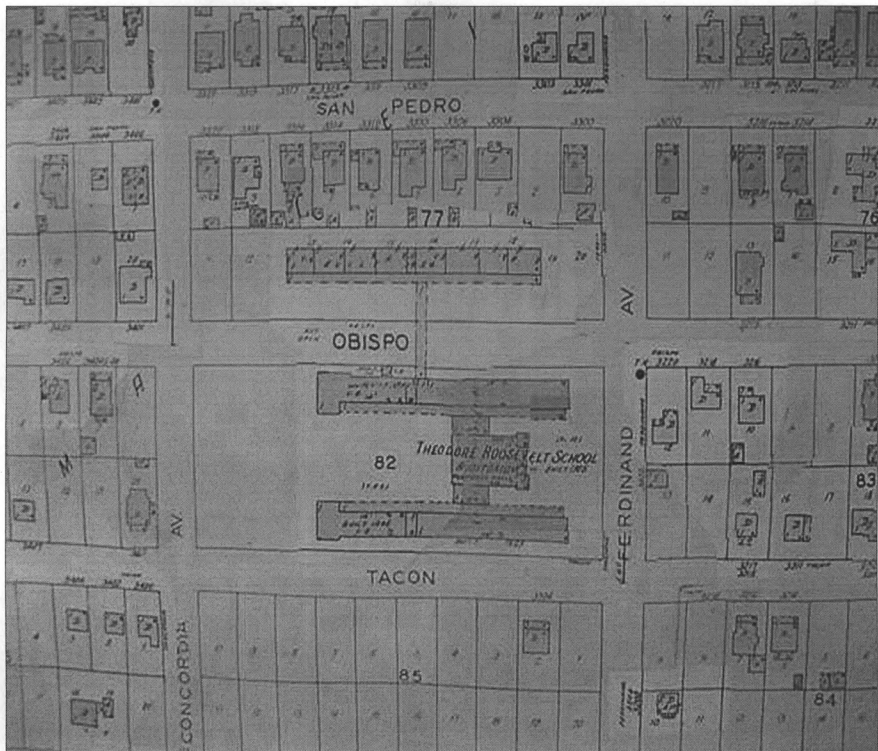


Palma Ceia School
Horton & Smith Builders
Tampa, Florida.

ATTACHMENT A—BURGERT BROTHERS PHOTOGRAPH, c. 1925-1926

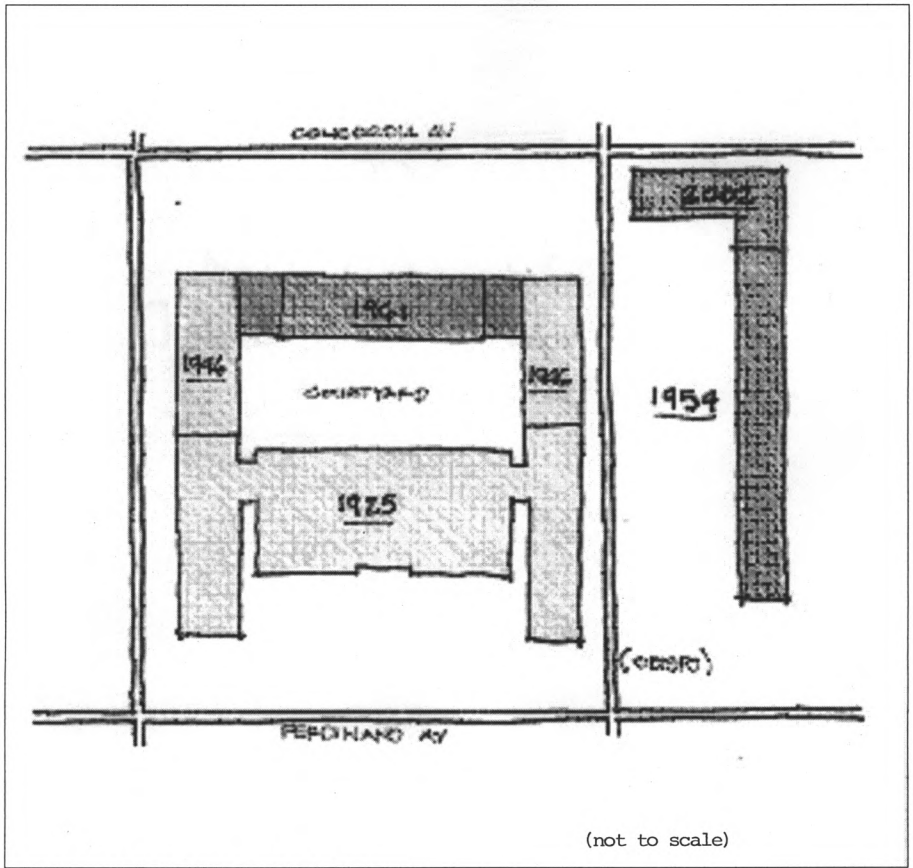


ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA



ATTACHMENT C., SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAPS, 1931-1955 (not to scale)





ATTACHMENT D—CONSTRUCTION DATES

