NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

OCT 1 8 2013

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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 OLD COLLIER COUNTY COURTHOUSE
other names/site number Everglades City Hall;FMSF#8CR139
2. Location
street & number 102 Copeland Avenue North N/A not for publication
city or town Everglades City N/A vicinity
state <u>FLORIDA</u> code <u>FL</u> county <u>Collier</u> code <u>021</u> zip code <u>34139-0110</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this \( \text{\substantial} \) nomination \( \text{\substantial} \) 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 \( \text{\substantial} \) meets \( \text{\substantial} \) does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \( \text{\substantial} \) nationally \( \text{\substantial} \) statewide \( \text{\substantial} \) locally. (\( \text{\substantial} \) See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  \( \text{\substantial} \) \( \substant
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:  Date of Action  Signature of the Keeper  Date of Action  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)

OLD COLLIER COUNTY COU	RTHOUSE	Collier Co., FL					
Name of Property		<del></del>	County and State				
5. Classification							
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Reso (Do not include any pr	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)				
☐ private ☑ public-local	buildings     district	Contributing	Noncontribut	ing			
☐ public-State ☐ public-Federal	☐ site ☐ structure ☐ object	1	0	buildings			
	□ oojeot	0	0	sites			
		0	0	structures			
		1	2	objects			
		2	2	total			
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of		Number of contr listed in the Nat	ibuting resources p ional Register	previously			
N	/A		0				
6. Function or Use							
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from ins	tructions)				
GOVERNMENT/Courthouse		GOVERNMENT/City	Hall				
		% <del></del>					
		9					
	-	19-					
7. Description		-					
Architectural Classification		Materials					
(Enter categories from instructions)		(Enter categories fro	m instructions)				
LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REV	/IVALS/Neoclassical Revival	foundation Stuce walls Stuce	0				
	-						
		oulei					

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

OLD COLLIER COUNTY COURTHOUSE	Collier Co., FL		
Name of Property	County and State		
8. Statement of Significance			
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)		
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	POLITICS SOCIAL HISTORY		
☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.			
☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance		
□ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.			
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates 1928		
Property is:	1948 1956		
□ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person N/A		
☐ B removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation		
☐ <b>C</b> a birthplace or grave.	N/A		
□ D a cemetery.			
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder		
☐ <b>F</b> a commemorative property.	Arch: Sparklin, William O./Bail Horton and Associates		
☐ <b>G</b> less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years	Blder: Sparklin Gift Construction Co./Tuell, C.A.		
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)			
9. Major Bibliographical References			
Bibliography Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one of the previous documentation on file (NPS):  preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) has been requested previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National	Primary location of additional data:   ☐ State Historic Preservation Office ☐ Other State Agency ☐ Federal agency ☐ Local government		
Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	☐ University ☐ Other Name of Repository ————————————————————————————————————		
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record	#		

COLLIER COUNTY COURTHOUSE  Name of Property	Collier Co., FL County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property Less than one	
UTM References (Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 7 4 6 1 4 8 0 2 8 6 0 0 8 Sanger Shape	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 Carol Moseman/Carl Shiver, Historic Preservationist	
organization Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation	date September 2013
street & number 500 South Bronough Street	telephone (850) 245-6333
city or town Tallahassee	state Florica zip code 32399-250
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the	e property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties ha	aving large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
	o proporty
Representative black and white photographs of the	e 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 <u>City of Everglades City</u>	
street & number P O Box 110 (102 Copeland Avenue North)	telephone (239) 695-3781
city or town Everglades City	_ state Florida zip code 34139-0110

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

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.

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				EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
				DESCRIPTION

#### **SUMMARY**

The Old Collier County Courthouse, now Everglades City Hall, located at 102 Copeland Avenue North, is a two-story Neoclassical Revival style building that was built in 1928 and modified in 1948 and 1956. In 1948, major changes were made to the portico and an addition was constructed to the rear of the courthouse. Shorter two-story additions were constructed on the northwest elevation in 1956. The building remained in operation as the county courthouse until 1962 when the county seat was transferred to Naples because of damage done to the building by Hurricane Donna in 1960. The Everglades City government moved into the building in 1963 following repairs made to the damage caused by the hurricane. The old courthouse was struck again by Hurricane Wilma in 2005 and appeared destined for demolition, but was spared by funding by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which restored the building to its 1956 appearance in 2007. The building currently houses the Everglades City government offices. Other features of the property include a contributing monument located on the southeast corner erected in 1928 that commemorated the opening of the Tamiami Trail. A similar noncontributing monument was erected on the southwest corner of the property on January 27, 2007, to celebrate the restoration of the building. A noncontributing flagpole on the southeast of the property was erected in 1969.

#### **SETTING**

Everglades (changed to Everglades in 1923 and now Everglades City) is a small community in Collier County, Florida (See Attachment 1). The number of people living permanently in Everglades in 2010 was 561 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. It is part of the Naples—Marco Island Metropolitan Statistical Area. It is located at the mouth of the Barron River, on Chokoloskee Bay, which is about ten miles long by two miles wide, and runs southeast to northwest along the mainland of Collier County. It is separated from the Gulf of Mexico by the northern end of the Ten Thousand Islands. The city has a total area of 1.2 square miles. Forty miles south of Naples, the city is four miles south of the Tamiami Trail on State Road 29. Interstate Highway 75, nicknamed Alligator Alley, stretches across the Everglades 25 miles to the north. Marco Island is 25 miles to the west, and Miami is approximately 60 miles to the east.

The Old Courthouse is located immediately northeast of the unnamed traffic circle that is at the center of the town. The courthouse building occupies a city block northeast of a traffic circle that joins Copeland Avenue and Broadway (Photos 1-2). Originally, the county jail (demolished) was found directly opposite to the southwest side of the Circle. Farther west of the courthouse, towards the Collier River, was the commercial center of town: the bank, inn, Rod & Gun Club, the Everglades Laundry (NR 2001, now the Museum of the Everglades), stores, a post office, etc. To the east on Lake Placid Street is the old 1928 Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Depot (now a restaurant). The Community Church found on the southeast side of the circle was built in 1940. The lot at the southwest side of the Circle now contains a restaurant built in the "Old Florida" style. The lots on the northwest side of the circle are a city park established in the late 1960s with tennis courts, a

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children's playground, and a pavilion for community events. The lots behind the Courthouse property contain the Fire Department and City Community Center built in the 1970s. Many properties found north and south of the Courthouse are private homes dating from late 1920s and have been well maintained. The center of the circle has a communications tower (Photo 3) that was installed in the 1950s.

#### DESCRIPTION

#### Main Facade

The Old Collier County Courthouse is a two-story Neoclassical Revival stucco-covered wood frame and masonry building built in 1928 that was modified in 1948 and 1956 (Photo 4). The main southwest facade (Photo 5) has a two-story portico that was constructed in 1948. It has four colossal Composite style columns that support an entablature, behind which is a stepped parapet that surrounds a flat built-up roof. Four pilasters divide the three-bay facade. Six decorative urns are found at the corners of the portico and the edges of the roof line. Concrete steps ascend the main (southwest) facade to a raised deck leading to the double front doors, above which is a small balcony. Beneath the fascia of the flat roof-line, there are five rows of half-round molding. Wrought iron balustrades also occupy the two outer bays of the portico and flank the steps leading to the porch deck. Another wrought iron railing is found in the center of the steps.

The main entrance is framed by Doric pilasters that support a flat entablature whose frieze bears the name "City Hall" in narrow capital Roman letters (Photo 6). The main entrance consists of glass and wood double doors that feature 10-light panels. A single-light transom is found directly above the doorway. Atop the entablature is a shallow ogee arch panel in the center of which is a medallion motif. Curved brackets support the balcony above the entranceway. The balcony (Photo 7) is bordered by a wrought iron balustrade, and a pair of 10-light French doors open onto the balcony. There is a 2-light transom with a straight header above the French doors. The two 8/8-light windows to the left and right of the central bay were topped with semi-circular sunbursts with keystone adornment. The windows on the second story are located near the top of the portico ceiling and lack the sunburst motif.

#### Southeast Elevation

The southeast elevation exhibits the wall of the original 1928 portion of the courthouse and the side views of the 1948 portico and rear addition. The 1928 section has four bays framed by shallow pilasters that rest on the water table and rise to support a ribbed architrave, above which is found a high cornice. The fenestration of the 1928 section of the building consists of 8/8-light double-hung sash windows on the first and second stories. The southwest section of the 1948 rear addition exhibits pairs of 8-light metal awning windows. A concrete ramp with a metal railing connects to a metal fire escape that rises to the second story of the 1948 addition. A parking area is found on that side of the building.

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## Northeast (Rear) and Northwest Elevations

The northeast elevation of the courthouse reveals portions of the 1948 and 1956 two-story additions to the building (Photo 9). The rear of 1948 addition still exhibits the distinctive entablature and cornice found on the 1928 section of the courthouse. The fenestration consists of metal awning windows with fixed sidelights. In 1956, the rear addition was extended to the west for two stories with a lower roofline. A new single-story block was added to the west, which expanded the vault and provided office space (Photo 10-11).

#### Interior

The interior of the building has central corridors on both floors that terminate in large rooms (Photos 12-14). There are offices to the left and right of the hallway on both the first and second floors, which are linked by a staircase to the left of the main entrance (See Attached Floor Plans). Interior changes reflect the 1948 and 1956 additions as more office space was added (see attached Floor Plans). During restoration, the old courtroom was converted into the City Council Chamber (Photo 15). The building currently houses not only the city offices (Photo 16) but also a branch of the County Library (Photo 17), and the office of the Historical Library of the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation. The City Clerk's and Mayor's offices are found in the small rooms previously used by the judge and jury. Interior doors have opening transoms over them with hardware that is a replica of the originals. The decorative molding around the door to the vault has been retained and other details have been preserved, such as the gold lettering above the interior doors and the leaded glass window above front door.

## Contributing and Noncontributing Ancillary Objects

A contributing 1928 monument on the southeast corner of the courthouse property commemorates Barron Collier and the opening of the Tamiami Trail in 1928 (Photos 18-19). A noncontributing monument similar to that from 1928 dedicated to the recovery from Hurricane Wilma (Photos 20-21) was erected on the southwest corner of the property and unveiled on January 27, 2007, to commemorate the restoration of the building. The noncontributing flagpole to the southeast was erected in 1969.

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#### **SUMMARY**

The Old Collier County Courthouse is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government as the first seat of Collier County and for Social History. Collier County was created May 8, 1923, and the board of county commissioners resolved on April 2, 1928, to advertise for the building of a courthouse, which previously had been housed in Collier Corporation Administration Building constructed c.1925. The courthouse was completed on April 28, 1925. The courthouse remained in operation until 1962 when the county seat was transferred to Naples because of damage done to the building by Hurricane Donna in 1960. After the former courthouse became city hall in 1963, the courtroom used for meetings of the city commission. The city clerk's and mayor's offices occupied the small rooms previously used by the judge and jury. Other rooms became various city government offices. The Everglades City Hall became the focal point of community activities. In addition to city offices, the building currently houses a branch of the county library and the office of the Historical Library of the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation.

#### HISTORIC CONTEXT

The area around Chokoloskee Bay, including the site of Everglades City, was occupied for thousands of years by Native Americans of the Glades culture, who were absorbed by the Calusa shortly before the arrival of Europeans in the New World. By the time Florida was transferred from Spain to the United States in 1821, however, few people of European ancestry remained in the area. In the late 1700s, Spanish fisherman from Cuba found the waters around Charlotte Harbor and Tampa Bay a productive place to catch fish in the fall and winter months. Within decades, these seasonal Cuban fishing camps had become year round communities, until the people were forced to flee the area because of the Second Seminole War (1835-1842).

The Ten Thousand Islands and neighboring mainland at the bottom of Florida's Southwest coast were homesteaded after the Civil War, often by farmers moving south to seek a frost-free climate. The first permanent settler was William Smith Allen, who in 1873 arrived in the vicinity of present-day Everglades City on the banks of Potato Creek, renamed the Allen River. After Allen retired to Key West in 1889, George W. Storter, Jr. became the principal landowner in the area. Storter settled in the late 1880s along the banks of what is now the Barron River. He opened a trading post in 1892, and established a post office called "Everglade" in 1895. Storter also began entertaining northern tourists who came to Everglades by yacht in the winter to hunt and fish. His house eventually grew into the Rod & Gun Club, visited by United States Presidents Herbert

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Unearthing Florida," http://unearthingflorida.org/inside/listen4.htm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "Everglades Florida History," http://www.evergladesonline.com/history.htm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Charlton W. Tebeau, <u>The Story of the Chokoloskee Bay Country with the Reminiscences of Pioneer C.S. "Ted" Smallwood</u> (Miami, FL: Banyan Books, 1976), p. 3.

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Hoover, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and other notables.<sup>4</sup> The area was part of Monroe County until 1887, when Lee County was formed with its seat at Fort Myers. The growing population was generally self-sufficient because of the limited modes of travel at that time; only the local Seminoles could navigate over land through the Everglades. A Methodist circuit rider began visiting Everglades in 1888, and a Methodist minister became resident the next year, but he left after four years. After that, Everglade was occasionally visited by itinerant preachers of various denominations. The first school in Everglades was organized in 1893. The school moved into a new building in 1895, but the building was destroyed by a tornado later in the year. The next school building was washed away by the 1910 hurricane.

## Barron Gift Collier (1873-1939)

Barron Gift Collier was born in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1873. He earned his first million from his street lighting business. Then moving into the printing and advertising business, Collier began selling advertising card franchises to the nation's booming train, trolley, and subway lines. Collier had visited Jacksonville and Tampa on business trips around 1900 and in 1906 accepted the invitation of a railroad friend to visit his personal retreat on Useppa Island, a barrier island located in Lee County. Collier fell in love with the area and visited Southwest Florida again in 1911 and "got sand in his shoes." He quickly established himself as a prominent land owner. In 1921 he purchased the Deep Lake citrus grove, which had been linked by a 13-mile rail track to the head of the Barron River, and bought more land until he owned nearly a million acres in the early 1920s.

Although few believed him at the time, Collier announced an ambitious economic plan to bring new vitality and development to South Florida's swamp and wilderness. From the very beginning, considerable care and financial risk went into planning every detail for transforming Everglades into a modern 1920s community. The Allen River was renaned the Barron River and dredged for fill-in to raise the town site above the level of the surrounding mangrove swamp. As the new town began to take shape, a vanguard of surveyors, engineers and architects went to work landscaping and laying out docks, buildings, streets, and railroads. In 1922, Baron Collier began buying large areas of land in southwest Florida. He agreed to finance the building of a portion of the Tamiami Trail, a 264-mile roadway linking Tampa on the Gulf Coast to Miami on the Atlantic, through what was then Lee County (todays Lee, Collier, Hendry, Glades, and Charlotte counties) in exchange for favorable consideration with the state legislature to have a county named after him. Construction of the Trail began in 1915 and was funded by the various counties through which it passed. In 1923, the Florida Legislature created Collier County from Lee County with the county seat at Everglades.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Bruce Hunt, Florida's Finest Inns and Bed and Breakfasts (Sarasota, FL: Pineapple Press, 2009), p. 152.

Maureen Sullivan-Hartung, Hidden History of Everglades City & Points Nearby (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2010), p. 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> "Everglade: New Directions," http://www.colliermuseums.com/history/everglades\_new\_directions.php.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Collier County Museum, "Tamiami Trail: Florida's Modern Apian Way", 2003: Collier County Museum, Naples, Florida.

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#### SIGNIFICANCE—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Collier County was created May 8, 1923. The first Collier County Board of County Commissioners met on July 7, 1923, at the Rod & Gun Club (formerly the Storter home) and elected George Storter, Jr., as Chairman. Other pioneering members were James Barfield and W. D. Collier (no relation to Barron Collier) of Marco Island and Adolphus Carson of Immokalee. The long-standing clerk of the court and unofficial county manager was Ed Scott, whose wife Margaret took over after his death in 1959. Judge of the court was Seward Stokley Jolley, whose name is perpetuated in the bridge to Marco Island located farther up the coast at Naples. Tax assessor Daniel McLeod served from 1923 until his death in 1960; he was also the first mayor of Everglades City and had been mayor of the town before that, serving a total of almost 35 years. The City Park next to the Old Courthouse is named in his honor.

Everglades (adding the "s") was incorporated as a town in 1923, the same year Collier County was created from Lee County. The town consisted of only a dozen permanent families at the time, but some northern sportsmen had established winter homes there. The Tamiami Trail, which crossed Collier's domain, passed five miles north of Everglades City. While construction was proceeding on the Trail (it was completed in 1929), Collier pushed construction of what became State Road 29 from Everglades City to Immokalee, providing the town with its first land connection to the rest of the state.

In Florida, Collier developed the resort on the island of Useppa<sup>10</sup> and was active in many southwest Florida enterprises from agriculture to transportation to public media. He bought the <u>Fort Myers Press</u> which combined with the <u>Tropical News</u> to become the <u>Fort Myers News-Press</u>. In Collier County, most of which he owned, he founded the <u>Collier County News</u> (now the <u>Naples Daily News</u>), the telephone company, the Bank of Everglades (NR July 15, 1999), and had branches of his Manhattan Mercantile department store in the county. When he visited Everglades, often on his yacht "Barron," he would stop at his Rod & Gun Club where he had hired a Bavarian chef "Snooky" Senghaas (who later was famous for welcoming President Eisenhower to the Club for fishing holidays). Barron Collier died in New York in 1939 after a heart attack just before his 66th birthday. <sup>12</sup>

The still to be completed initial courthouse was to be the focal point of the planned community designed by David Graham Copeland (1884-1949). He joined Collier in 1924, laid out the town, supervised construction of the buildings and roads, and became manager of the Collier companies. Born in Bamberg, South Carolina, he

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Board of County Commissioners, Minute Book 1, p. 7, July 7, 1923.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Everglades City Council, Minute Books, January 4, 1960.

<sup>10 &</sup>quot;History: The Collier Period," www.useppa.com.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Chet Perry's History of The News Press from the 1930s through the 1970s," www.news-press.com.

<sup>12</sup> New York Times, March 14, 1939.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Henry R. Hoffman, ed., Collier County Heritage (Naples, FL: Heritage Publications, 1976), p. 44.

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attended the Citadel, the U. S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He worked as an engineer for the Navy during World War I, supervising large construction projects. Shortly after arriving in Everglades, Copeland was elected to the Board of County Commissioners in 1929 and served as Chairman from then until 1947, when he was elected to the Florida House of Representatives (1947-1949). 14

The original plat map of Everglades featured a circle in the center of the town with streets and avenues laid out in a grid form. The commercial buildings were west of the circle, on the half-mile segment of Broadway that terminated at the river. These buildings included the first bank in the county, post and telegraph office, a meteorological station, engineering and design office, administration and payroll building, commercial laundry, library, a five-bed hospital, bakery, grocery, community center and the Everglades Inn which housed a drug store and department store and a restaurant. An electric streetcar ran through the city. Collier had homes built as part of his company town which was a "trim and clean-cut, thoroughly modern, spotless looking town." 15

The town of Everglades was incorporated as a city in 1953<sup>16</sup> at a time when the Collier Corporation was moving its interests to the fast-growing Naples area. In 1956, there was a request by the Naples Bar Association to have branch offices of county functions (e.g., Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sheriff) in Naples.<sup>17</sup> In 1959 the county held a referendum to decide where the county seat should be. After a run-off vote, East Naples was selected.<sup>18</sup> Everglades Mayor Kenneth Snyder led a legal challenge against the decision but was eventually defeated.<sup>19</sup>

#### **Courthouse Construction History**

Collier Corporation Administration Building: 1926 Courthouse

The Collier Corporation Administration Building (Photo 22) was constructed c.1925 was used as the courthouse until the official one was completed in 1928. Its architect and builder are unknown. The Administration Building was a one-story Classical Revival style building. The building appears in several historic photographs, including one showing the impact of the 1926 hurricane that struck Everglades City (Photo 23) and an aerial photo taken in 1928 showing both the Corporation Building and the other buildings bedecked with bunting to celebrate the official opening of the Tamiami Trail on April 27, 1928 (Photo 24). The photo shows that David Copeland's town plan is nearly complete with the green boulevards and traffic circle near the newly constructed courthouse (See Attachment 2). Most of the commercial buildings shown in the photograph are no longer extant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Fort Myers News-Press, October 19, 1949.

<sup>15</sup> Henry R. Hoffman, ed. Collier County Heritage (Naples, FL: Heritage Publications, 1976), p. 45.

<sup>16</sup> Florida Bill #961.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Board of County Commissioners, Minute Book 5, p. 205, May 15, 1956.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Hampton Dunn, <u>Florida's Historic Courthouses</u>, (Virginia Beach, VA: Hallmark Publications, 1998), p. 57. <sup>19</sup> "Difficult Legal Battle Places Collier County Courthouse at East Naples", <u>Florida Bar Journal</u>, October 1963.

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### 1928 Courthouse

The Board of County Commissioners resolved on April 2, 1928, to advertise for the building of a courthouse and a bid by Sparklin Gift Construction Company for \$24,563.49 was accepted on May 7th. The courthouse (Photo 25) was built on a foundation of wooden pilings and concrete beams which have since been reinforced after years of erosion. The concrete-block walls, faced with wood and stucco rose to a flat roof surrounded by a parapet. There was dentil banding around the top of the building. A shallow portico had four columns which rose up to a simple entablature with a rectangular applied raised molding decoration. Six decorative urns graced the roof line. The walls were broken up with pilasters which delineated the double-hung 8/8-light sash windows. The front wall had three bays, the central one containing 10-light French doors topped by an overdoor broken pediment with urn motif. The two 8/8-light windows to the left and right of the door were topped with semi-circular sunbursts with keystone adornment. The courthouse was completed in time for the dedication of the opening of the Tamiami Trail on April 28, 1925.

#### 1948 Additions

In July 1946, the Board instructed the city clerk to advertise the proposal for an addition to the Courthouse and allocated \$30,000 to the project in the budget for the fiscal year starting on October 1, 1946. Due to shortage of material and labor, the project was put on hold and an appropriation of \$40,000 was included in the budget for October 1, 1947. On March 1, 1948, the Board resolved that an addition was needed, according to specifications prepared by Bail, Horton and Associates, Architects, and that a further \$25,000 be put in the budget for October 1, 1948. On May 12, 1948 (Photo 26), the construction contract for \$65,000 was awarded to C. A. Tuell of Naples. In 1948, the facade was modified. A wooden pediment enclosing a shallow-arch sunburst with keystone adornment on the tympanum lowered the roof line of the portico. The depth of the portico was increased and the main staircase was offset to the left and right. The second story center window was converted into French doors with a narrow balcony surrounded by a wrought iron balustrade and the overdoor decoration on the first floor was changed to a medallion. The fenestration on the two-story addition to the rear was of a more modern design. The dentil banding was changed to five rows of semi-rounded trim and continued around the perimeter of the addition. The foundations were of concrete pilings.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Board of County Commissioners, Minute Book 1, p. 279, April 2, 1928.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Board of County Commissioners, Minute Book 1, p. 288, May 7, 1928.

Board of County Commissioners, Minute Book 3, p. 109, July 13, 1946.
 Board of County Commissioners, Minute Book 3, p. 179, March 1, 1948.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Board of County Commissioners, Minute Book 3, p. 192, May 12, 1948

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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				EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
				SIGNIFICANCE

#### 1956 Additions

In February 1956, the architectural firm of Bail, Horton and Associates presented plans for a further addition to the courthouse to be used for a new judge's chamber and jury room (Photo 27). In November 1956, a contract for \$61,954.50 for the construction was awarded to C.A. Tuell. A further contract with Coastal Cooling Corporation was awarded for \$13,181 for air-conditioning in February 1957. In 1956, two-story rear addition with a roofline lower than the original courthouse was constructed on the west elevation of the building. A new single-story block was added to the west which expanded the vault and provided more office space. The front staircase was changed to the present narrow steps between the two central columns. Lettering was applied to the entablature identifying the building as COLLIER COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

## Post-Hurricane Alterations and Restoration

When Hurricane Donna struck in 1960 (Photo 28), the water rose to waist high on the first floor of the courthouse, destroying many of the county's records. The water was 7-8 feet deep in the streets, causing 200 residents of the city to seek shelter on the second floor. Once repairs to the building were made after the hurricane, no changes were made to the building, except for the construction of a handicap ramp on the east elevation in 1986 and the addition of a new roof in 1987. By 1998, however, it was obvious that the building generally was in need of repair and a study in 2001 showed that the wooden foundations under the 1928 section of the building had eroded from exposure to the flooding from Hurricane Donna. Changes were made to the building to remedy these problems.<sup>29</sup> After Hurricane Wilma struck in October 2005 (Photos 29-30) the building was condemned. Although FEMA urged that it be torn down and replaced with a modern edifice, the mayor insisted that the city hall be restored, and a report by a FEMA Historical Specialist reinforced his view.<sup>30</sup> Engineering work began just in time as the foundations had started to sink further and the monumental portico became separated from the main part of the building.<sup>31</sup> The project included repairing the roof, replacing the windows and doors with replicas that had hurricane-resistant glass, installing new wood flooring, resurfacing interior and exterior walls, installing an elevator, modern air-conditioning, and new electrical wiring. Following months of work, the much anticipated reopening ceremony was held on January 7, 2007, with more than 300 citizens attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The building once again opened with the renovated council chambers and mayor's office, and the majority the departments of the Everglades city government.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Board of County Commissioners, Minute Book 4, p. 188, February 20, 1956.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Board of County Commissioners, Minute Book 4, p. 297, November 26, 1956.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Board of County Commissioners, Minute Book 4, p. 342, February 26, 1957.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Bail, Horton & Associates, "Specifications for 1956 Addition & Alterations, Collier County Court House," presented to Board of County Commissioners, Collier County, August 1956.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Ardaman & Associates, Inc., "Everglades City Hall Underpinning," Ardaman File #01-4909, August 30, 2001.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Federal Emergency Management Agency, Section 106 Review Consultation, December 20, 2005.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Everglades City Special Town Meeting, Mayor's Report on City Hall Building, April 18, 2006.

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				EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
				SIGNIFICANCE

#### SIGNIFICANCE—SOCIAL HISTORY

The Old Collier County Courthouse building served the town well and is significant in the area of Social History. The Court Room was used for meetings of the Masons, Eastern Star, and even Sunday School.<sup>32</sup> It is said that the front steps were used to watch snake fights (cock fighting being illegal).<sup>33</sup> After it became City Hall in 1963, the building was a focal point in the community and housed at various times: religious services, teenage dances, travel agency, video rental shop, realtor, clothing store, branch bank, and other commercial activities in rented rooms. While the National Register listed Everglades Laundry building was being converted into the Museum of the Everglades, historic artifacts and photographs were displayed in a "preview museum" in City Hall. The front porch is often used for receiving visiting dignitaries during community events.<sup>34</sup> It is the headquarters of the Betterment Association which organizes the annual Seafood Festival that has taken place during the first weekend in February since 1973 and draws some 50,000 visitors to the town.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Board of County Commissioners, Minute Book 3, p. 227, March 8, 1949.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Al Burt, "Seats of Justice, Sites of Pranks, Snake Fights", <u>Miami Herald</u>, January 3, 1993. <sup>34</sup> Everglades City Council, Minute Books, various dates; <u>Everglades Echo</u>, various dates.

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				MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RESOURCES	

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## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 3 OLD COLLIER COUNTY COURTHOUSE EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLOR MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RESOURCES	JDA
Collier County Board of County Commissioners, Minute Book 1, p. 279, April 2, 1928.	
Collier County Board of County Commissioners, Minute Book 1, p. 288, May 7, 1928.	
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				MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RESOURCES	

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Section number	10	Page	1	OLD COLLIER COUNTY COURTHOUSE
				EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
				GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

## Verbal Boundary Description

UNPLATTED LANDS EVERGLADES 14-23-59 COMM NW CNR OF REFERENCED BLK 23, RUN E 178FT, S95FT, 8 35DEG W 24.40FT, S85.08FT, W104.46F, NWLY ALG CURVE, 85.35FT, N141FT TO POB Parcel No. 840906650606

Beginning at a concrete monument marking the N. W. corner of Block 23, Town of Everglades, Collier County, Florida as recorded in Plat Book 1 at Pages 87 to 95 inclusive, of the Public Records of Collier County, Florida, being THE POINT OF BEGINNING; thence East 178.00 feet to a Concrete Monument; thence South 95.00 feet to a 3/4 inch Iron Pipe; thence South 35.56'32" W 24.70 feet to a Concrete monument; thence South 85.08 feet to a Chisel Cross in concrete in a driveway; thence West 104.46 feet to a Brass Screw in the sidewalk; thence in a Northwesterly direction along the arc of a curve concave to the left with a radius of 120 feet, central angle 40.45'04.92" said arc being feet to a Brass Screw in the sidewalk; thence North 141.00 feet to a Concrete Monument, THE POINT 0? BEGINNING containing 0.71 of acre more or less.

#### **Boundary Justification**

The above described boundary encompasses all of the historic resources associated with the Old Collier County Courthouse.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	Page	1	OLD COLLIER COUNTY COURTHOUSE
-	_		EVERGLADES CITY, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
			LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

#### LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1. Old Collier County Courthouse
- 2. 102 Copeland Avenue North, Everglades City (Collier County), Florida
- 3. Marya Repko, President & Membership Secretary
- 4. April 2013
- 5. Everglades Society for Historic Preservation
- 6. Main (Southwest) Facade and Southeast Elevation, Looking North
- 7. Photo 1 of 30

## Items 1-5 are the same for the following photographs unless otherwise indicated.

- 6. Main (Southwest) Facade and Northwest Elevation, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 2 of 30
- 6. Communications Tower in Traffic Circle, Looking North
- 7. Photo 3 of 30
- 3. Collier County Property Appraiser
- 4. 2007
- 5. Collier County Property Appraiser
- 6. Aerial View of Courthouse Showing Additions
- 7. Photo 4 of 30
- 6. Main (Southwest) Facade, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 5 of 30
- 6. Main (Southwest) Facade, Detail Showing Transom over Main Entrance
- 7. Photo 6 of 30
- 6. Main (Southwest) Facade, Detail Showing Main Entrance and Balcony
- 7. Photo 7 of 30
- 6. Southeast Elevation Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 8 of 30

7. Photo 20 of 30

7. Photo 21 of 30

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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	Northeast (Rear) Elevation, I Photo 9 of 30	Looking So	uthwest	
	Northwest Elevation, Lookin Photo 10 of 30	g Northeas	t	
	Northwest Elevation, Detail, Photo 11 of 30	Looking N	ortheast	
	Interior, First Floor Corridor, Photo 12 of 30	, Looking S	Southwest	t
	Interior, First Floor Corridor, Photo 13 of 30	, Looking N	Northeast	
	Interior, First Floor Cross Ha Photo 14 of 30	ıll, Looking	g Northwe	est
	Interior, Second Floor, Coun Photo 15 of 30	cil Chambe	ers, Looki	ing Northwest
	Interior, First Floor, Water D Photo 16 of 30	epartment,	Looking	North
	Interior, First Floor, Library, Photo 17 of 30	Looking S	outhwest	
	1928 Tamiami Trail Monum Photo 18 of 30	nent, Lookii	ng North	west
	1928 Tamiami Trail Monum Photo 19 of 30	ent, Lookin	g Southe	ast
6.	2007 Hurricane Wilma Mon	ıment, Loo	king Nor	theast

6. 2007 Hurricane Wilma Monument, Looking Southwest

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- 3. Unknown
- 4. 1928
- 5. Florida Photographic Collection, Image No. KOR0314
- 6. Koreshans on Steps of the Collier Corporation Administration Building, Looking West
- 7. Photo 22 of 30
- 3. Unknown
- 4. 1926
- 5. Florida Photographic Collection, Image No. KOR0321
- 6. Everglades City Following 1926 Hurricane
- 7. Photo 23 of 30
- 3. Unknown
- 4. April 26, 1928
- 5. Collier County Musem
- 6. Bird's Eye View, Tamiami Trail Opening, Looking North
- 7. Photo 24 of 30
- 3. Unknown
- 4. 1928
- 5. Collier County Museum
- 6. View of Main Facade and West Elevation, Looking North
- 7. Photo 25 of 30
- 3. Unknown
- 4. 1950
- 5. Florida Photographic Collection, Image No. N030421
- 6. Main (Southwest) Facade of Courthouse, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 26 of 30
- 3. Unknown
- 4. 1957
- 5. Florida Photographic Collection, Image No. RD0059
- 6. Main (Southwest) Facade, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 27 of 30

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- 3. Unknown
- 4. 1960
- 5. Florida Photographic Collection, Image No. RC15683
- 6. Collier County Courthouse after Hurricane Donna, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 28 of 30
- 3. Unknown
- 4. 2005
- 5. Naples Daily News
- 6. Old Courthouse after Hurricane Wilma, Looking Southwest
- 7. Photo 29 of 30
- 3. Unknown
- 4. 2005
- 5. Naples Daily News
- 6. Old Courthouse after Hurricane Wilma, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 30 of 30

#### ATTACHMENT 1 OLD COLLIER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

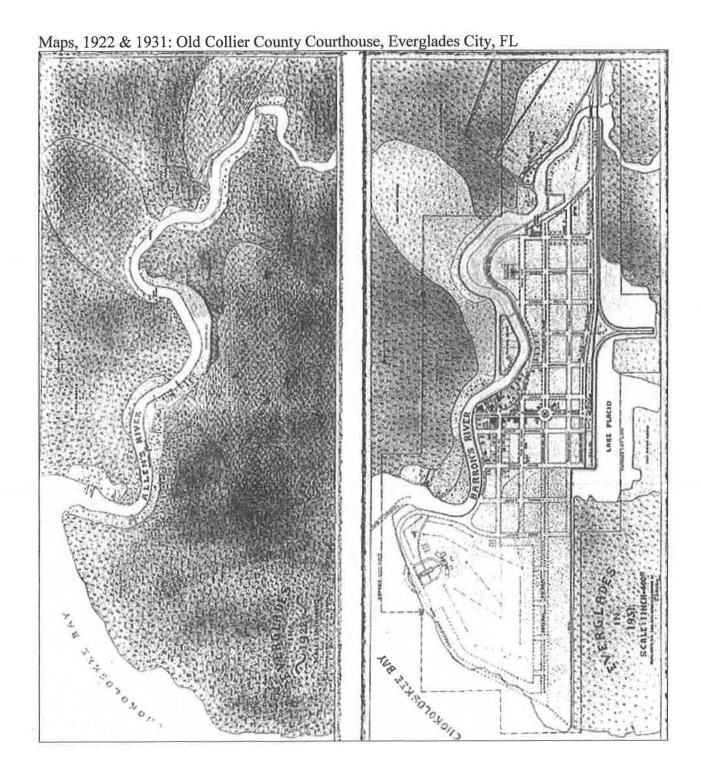
# Collier County Property Appraiser

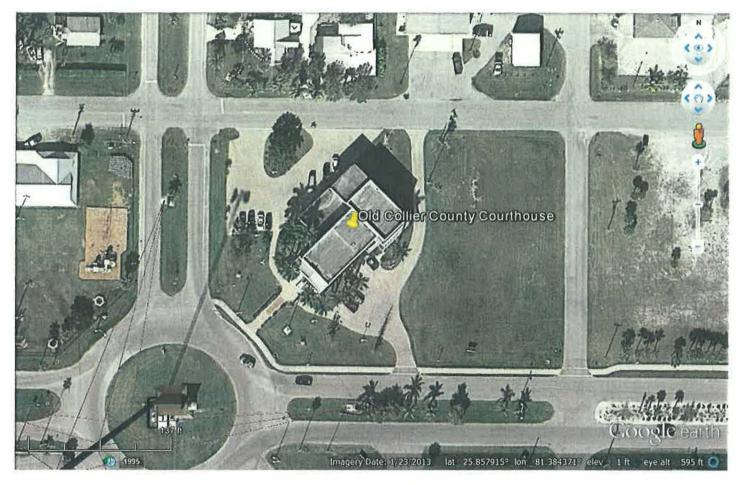
AERIAL VIEW OF THE COURTHOUSE AND TOWN PLAN



VIEW OF THE COURTHOUSE ON THE CIRCLE

## ATTACHMENT 2 OLD COLLIER COUNTY COURTHOUSE





## OLD COLLIER COUNTY COURTHOUSE EVERGLADES, COLLIER COUNTY

## **UTM COORDINATES**

Zone 17 **Easting** 

Northing

461480

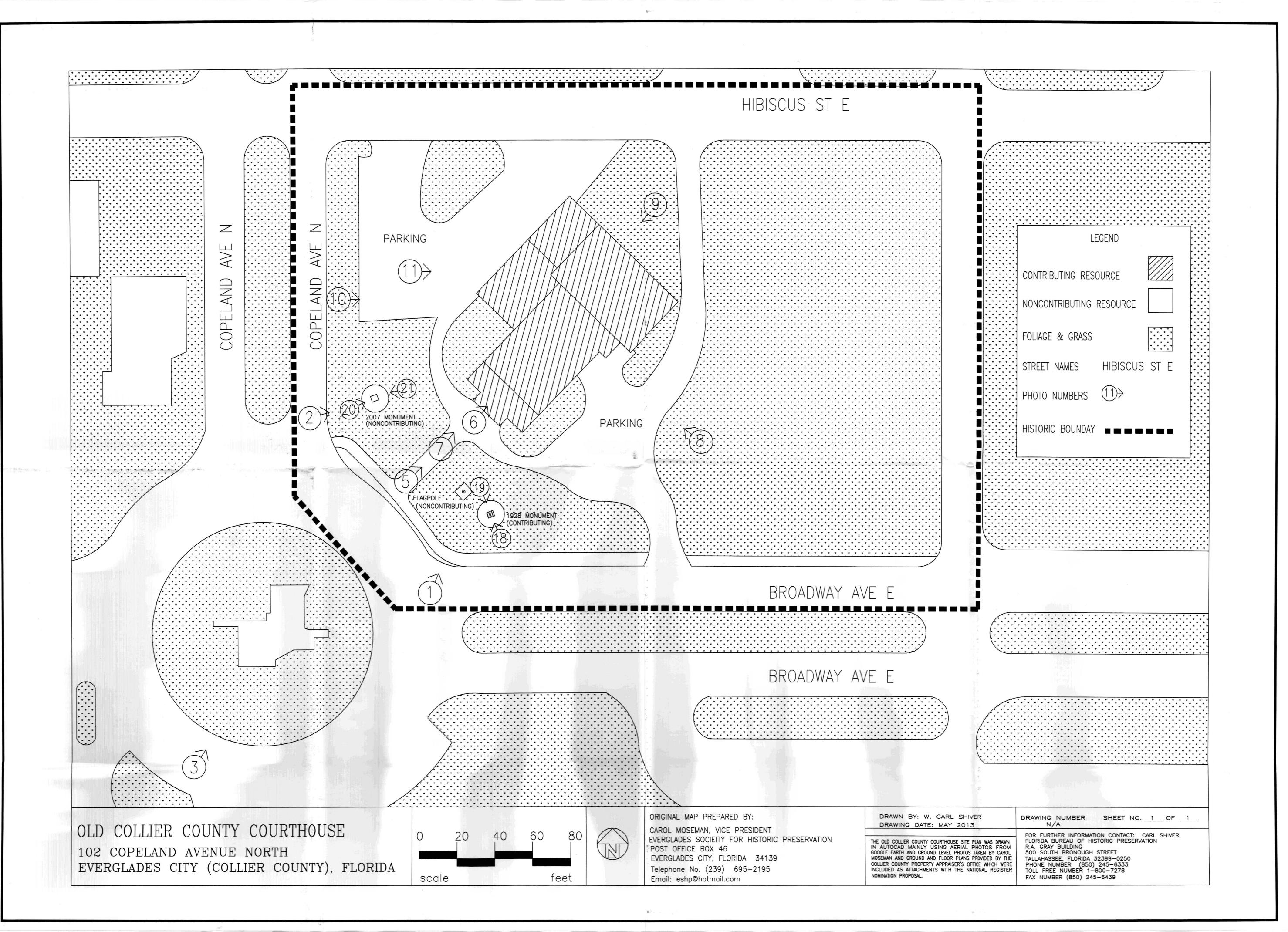
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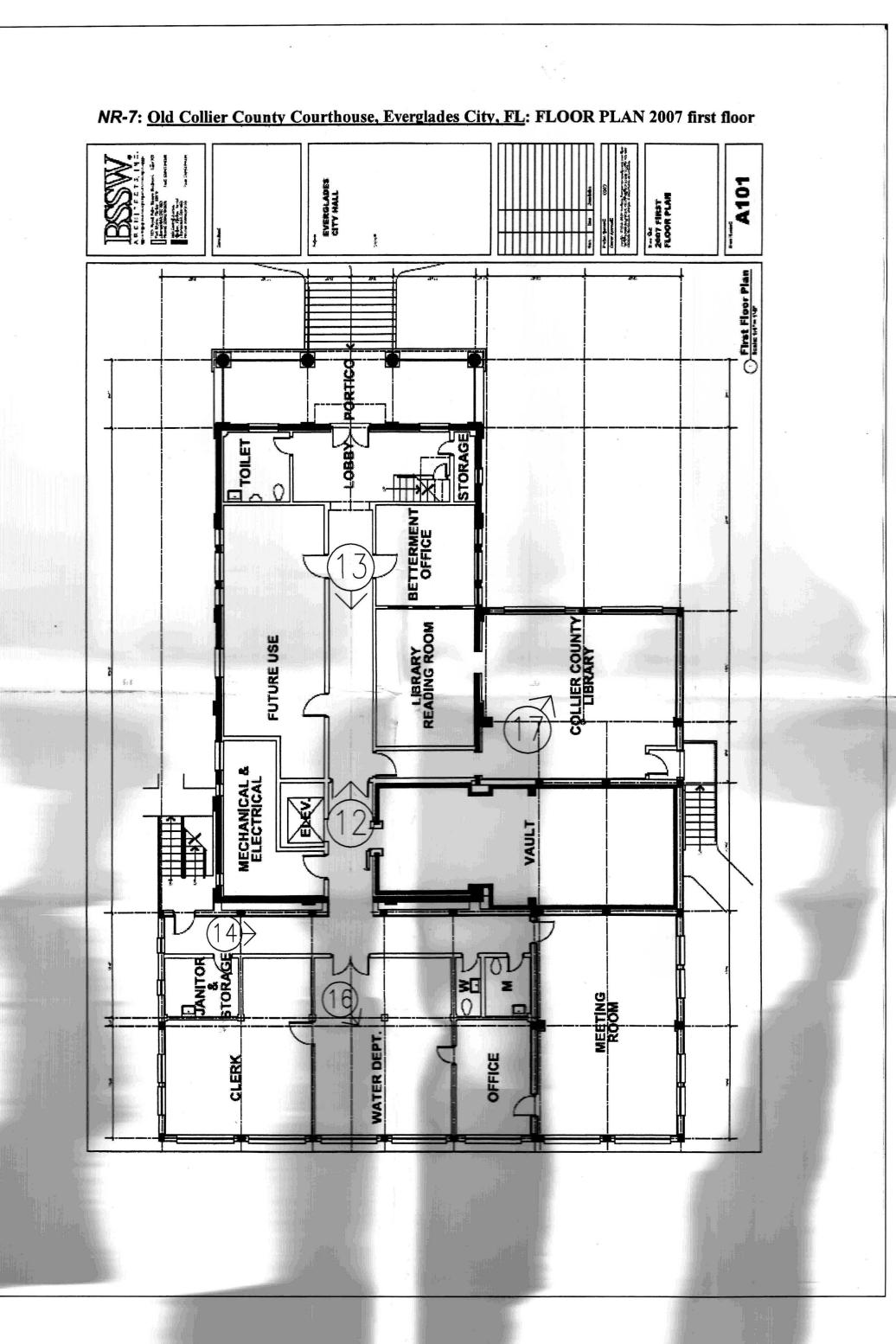
Latitude:

25.857958°

Longitude

-81.384350°





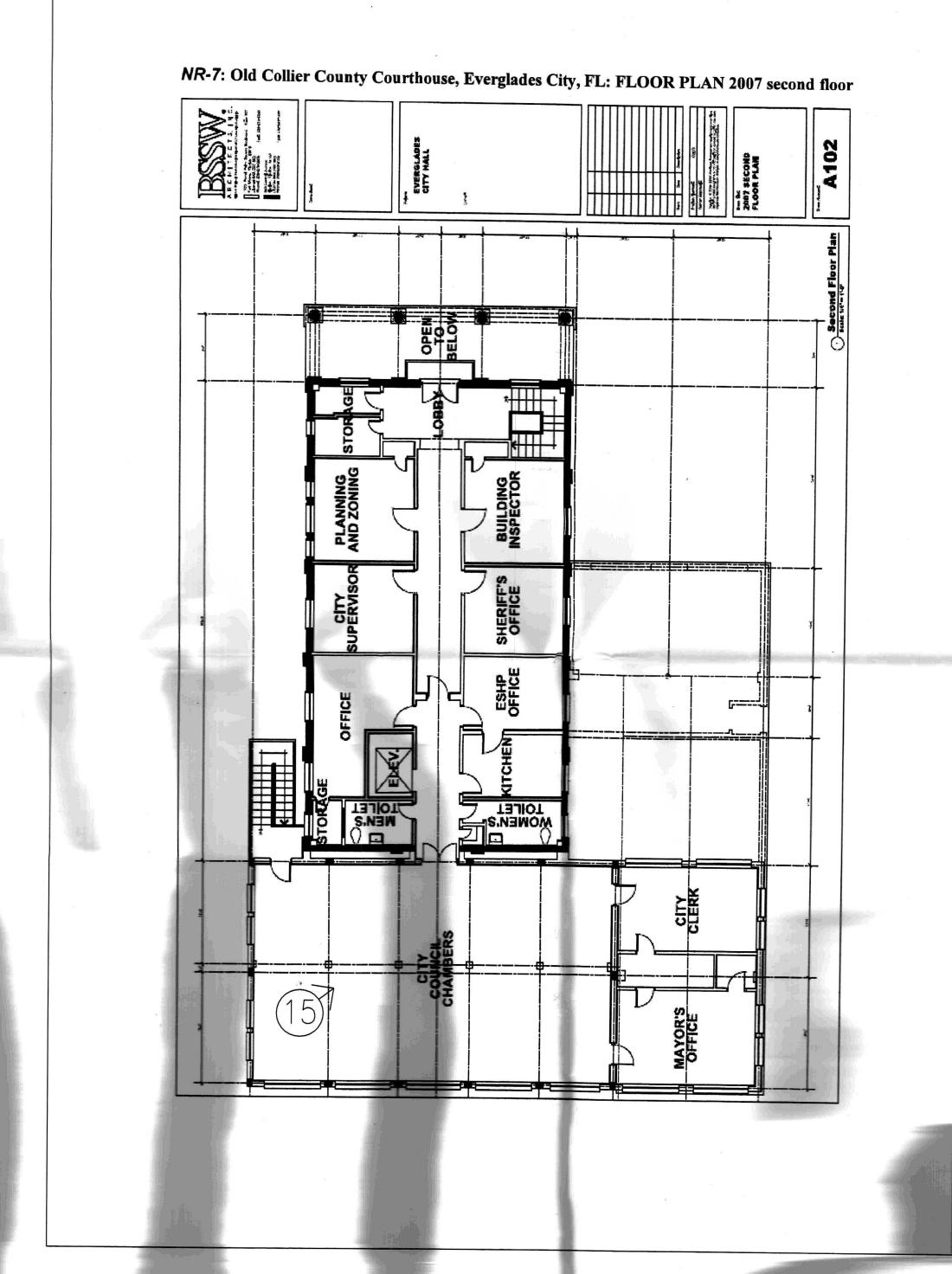


PHOTO NUMBERS (12)



OLD COLLIER COUNTY COURTHOUSE 102 COPELAND AVENUE NORTH EVERGLADES CITY (COLLIER COUNTY), FLORIDA

FLOOR PLANS Original Plan Scale 1/4-Inch = 1-Foot



ORIGINAL MAP PREPARED BY:

BSSW Architects, Inc.

1500 Jackson Street #200 Fort Myers, Florida 33901 Telephone No. (239) 278-3838

EDITED BY: W. CARL SHIVER DRAWING DATE: MAY 2013

THE OLD COLLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE SITE PLAN WAS DRAWN BSSW ARCHITECTS, INC. TO SHOW THE FINAL TO SHOW THE FINAL RENOVATIONS MADE TO THE HISTORIC BUILDING TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY HURRICANE WILMA IN 2005. THE PHOTOS OF BOTH THE EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING WERE TAKEN IN 2013 AND SHOW THAT BUILDING HAS MAINTAINED ITS HISTORIC INTEGRITY.

DRAWING NUMBER SHEET NO. 2 OF 2

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: CARL SHIVER FLORIDA BUREAU OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION R.A. GRAY BUILDING 500 SOUTH BRONOUGH STREET TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0250 PHONE NUMBER (850) 245-6333 TOLL FREE NUMBER 1-800-7278 FAX NUMBER (850) 245-6439





























































## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION
PROPERTY Old Collier County Courthouse NAME:
MULTIPLE NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Collier
DATE RECEIVED: 10/18/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/14/13 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/29/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/04/13 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:
REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000875
REASONS FOR REVIEW:
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:  Entered in The National Register of Historic Piaces
RECOM./CRITERIA
REVIEWERDISCIPLINE
TELEPHONEDATE
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICK SCOTT Governor Secretary of State

OCT 1 8 2013

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

September 23, 2013

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper National Register of Historic Places Department of Interior 1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is a submission of the nomination and additional materials (nomination form, continuation sheets, site plan, GIS data, digital images and disk) for

Old Collier County Courthouse, Everglades City, Collier County, Florida

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6364 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,
Barbara C. Mattick

Barbara E. Mattick, Ph.D.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

for Survey & Registration

**Enclosures** 



