NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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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 end having properties for appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enternation property and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. The 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 Tice Grammar School
other names/site number Tice Elementary School/LL1976
2. Location
street & number 4524 Tice Street N/A not for publication
citv or town $\overline{\text{Tice}}$ $\overline{\text{N/A}}$ \square vicinitv
state FLORIDA code FL county LEE code 071 zip code 33905
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.) Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources State or Federal agency and bureau
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that the property is: Pentered 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)

Tice Grammar School		Lee Co., FL				
Name of Property			County and State			
5. Classification						
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)		rces within Properiously listed resources in			
☐ private ☑ public-local	☑ buildings ☐ district	Contributing	Contributing Noncontributing			
☐ public-State ☐ public-Federal	☐ site ☐ structure ☐ object	1	0	buildings		
	object	0	0	sites		
				structures		
		0	0	objects		
		1	0	total		
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of	· ·	Number of contri	buting resources onal Register	previously		
Historic Resources o	f Lee County, Florida	0				
6. Function or Use						
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instru	uctions)			
Education: School		Education: School				
7. Description						
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from	instructions)			
Late 19th and 20th Century Revive	als [.]	foundation Stucco)			
Mission/Spanish Colonial Reviva		walls <u>Stucco</u>				
		roof Asphalt				
		other Terra-Cotta	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			

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

Tice Grammar School	Lee 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	Education Architecture		
a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Arcinicature		
■ 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	D. 1. 60'- 15		
represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack	Period of Significance		
individual distinction.	1927-1949		
□ 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 1927		
Property is:			
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person		
☐ B removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation		
☐ C a birthplace or grave.	n/a		
☐ D a cemetery.			
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder		
☐ F a commemorative property.	Architect: Sparklin, W.O. Builder: Roundtree, A.C.		
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years	Dunder. Roundiec, A.C.		
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 r Previous documentation on file (NPS):	more continuation sheets.) Primary location of additional data:		
 □ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 □ CFR 36) has been requested □ previously listed in the National Register □ previously determined eligible by the National 	✓ 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	#		

Tice Grammar School Name of Property	Lee Co., FL County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre	
UTM References (Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 7 4 1 8 3 2 0 2 9 4 9 9 7 0 Zone Easting Northing 2	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 Stephen Olausen/Consultant & Barbara E. Mattick/	/Historic Preservationist Supervisor
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation	date May 1999
street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street	t telephone (850) 487-2333
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	
	That might all eagle of manner case recounted.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of	f 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 Lee County District School Board, Facilities (Stephani	ie Keys)
street & number 2055 Central Avenue	telephone (941) 479-4204
city or town Fort Myers	state Florida zio code 33901

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.).

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	Page	1	TICE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
			-	Tice, Lee Co., FL

SUMMARY

Tice Grammar School is located in a residential area of the unincorporated community of Tice, Lee County, Florida. The historic two-story Mediterranean Revival style building sits at the northern end of the five acre school property. Several non-contributing school buildings are located to the rear of the historic school. The school is constructed of hollow cement tile and steel and has a smooth stucco exterior. It has a significant amount of applied ornament and retains a high degree of its architectural integrity.

PRESENT AND ORIGINAL APPEARANCE

Setting

The school is located at 4524 Tice Street, an east/west running street that intersects with State Road 80 one block west of the school property. The school property is a five-acre tract in the middle of the block bounded by Tice Street on the north, Lynneda Avenue on the east, Glenwood Avenue on the south, and New York Avenue on the west. The area immediately surrounding the school consists primarily of one-story residences constructed between about 1925 and 1970. The historic school building is located at the northern end of the property. Non-contributing cafeteria and classroom buildings are located to the southwest and south, respectively, of the original school. The southern half of the lot contains a playground area.

Exterior

Tice Elementary School is a two-story Mediterranean Revival style building with a full basement (photo 1). It has a central block with wings plan and a steel frame and hollow cement tile structural system. The roof is flat and has a surrounding parapet. The exterior walls are clad with smooth stucco.

Facade (north elevation)

The facade is divided into three parts, consisting of a central main unit and two flanking wings (photo 2). The central block contains a significant amount of ornamentation. It projects slightly from the wings and is topped by a gable and stepped parapet with masonry coping. At the corners of the parapet are decorative terracotta crests. The center bay of the unit contains an elaborate entrance, which is reached by a pair of curved masonry staircases (photo 3). A double door entrance with an arched transom is recessed in an arched opening with a decorative surround. The surround consists of square pilasters with intricate foliated designs, clover leaf medallions, and an entablature with urn finials at the corners (photo 4). The words "Tice Grammar School" are inscribed in the frieze. The entablature is topped by an arched window with a smaller surround that echoes that

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	Page	2	TICE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
				Tice, Lee Co., FL

of the arched opening. It has similar pilasters and an entablature. A coat-of-arms crest is flanked by urn finials. A fountain with a semi-circular pool is located at the base of the staircase (photo 5).

The two wings of the facade are identical. They have decorative repeating arch cornices which extend from below the coping of the parapets (photo 6). The upper two stories each have two rectangular openings that contain four evenly spaced windows. The basement level has eight single rectangular windows.

East and West elevations

The east and west elevations of the building are similar in design (photos 7 and 8). They are dominated by hip roof stairwell additions that were placed on the building during a 1987 renovation. The roofs are surfaced with ceramic barrel tile and narrow fixed windows pierce the walls. Flanking the additions near the roof line are original terra-cotta crests with drop pendants.

Rear (south) elevation

A gable roof auditorium extension projects from the center of the rear elevation (photos 9 and 10). It contains a series of rectangular windows on its east and west elevations and an arched vent in the rear-facing gable end. The south elevations of the wings are identical in configuration to those of the facade (photo 11).

Exterior Alterations

In addition to the stairwell additions to the east and west elevations, the exterior of the building has been altered by the replacement of all the original windows and doors. In their original configuration, the rectangular openings of the facade and rear elevation of the wings contained uninterrupted ribbons of metal pivot windows. During the 1987 renovation of the building the window openings were changed to contain only four windows with areas of fill placed in between. In the late 1970s the original ribbon windows of the auditorium were removed and replace with those of the present.

Interior

The main first floor entrance opens into an open reception area that leads to the main hall (photo 12). Surrounding the reception area are the administrative offices of the school. The hall runs east and west from the administrative area. Archways define the transition from the building's central block to its classroom wings (photo 13). South of the main entrance is a hall that leads to a media center, the largest interior space in the building (photo 14). The classrooms in the wings retain their original configuration and conform to a standard size of 22 x 34 feet (photo 15). Stairwells at both ends of the hall lead to the second and basement floors (photo

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	Page	3	TICE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
				Tice, Lee Co., FL

16).

The second floor has a long east/west hall through which all of its rooms are accessed (photo 17). Like the first floor, the hall contains two archways that mark the junction of the central block and wings of the building. The classrooms in the wings are also identical to those of the first floor (photo 18).

The basement wings have the same general floor plan as the upper stories, including the hall with arches and similar size classrooms (photo 19). The area beneath the auditorium floor of the first story has been utilized as space for music, art, and teacher planning rooms (photo 20).

Interior alterations

In its original configuration the building contained sixteen classrooms, two offices, an auditorium, and girl's and boy's rooms on the first and second floors. With the exception of the reception and hall areas of the central block, all ceilings were lowered to accommodate the installation of electrical and ventilation conduits in 1976. The most significant alterations have occurred in the auditorium and basement areas. The auditorium floor, which originally slanted toward a stage area in the rear of the building, was leveled and the space subdivided for use as a media center in 1978. The following year the basement, which had to that point been left unfinished was partially subdivided. It received its present configuration during a major renovation of the school in 1987. Also during that year, the reception area and administrative offices of the first floor were created. The central block area of the second floor, which originally contained an open landing for the two main staircases of the building, was subdivided. One of the stairs was removed and the other is now used as a faculty stairway. The open landing area has been subdivided into rooms that now serve as a teacher's lounge and offices for the school's behavioral specialist.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	8	Page	1	TICE GRAMMAR SCHOOL	
				Tice, Lee Co., FL	

SUMMARY

Tice Grammar 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 education and architecture. Completed in 1927, the building is associated with a massive building campaign undertaken by the Lee County School Board in the 1920s to improve school facilities throughout the county. It is an excellent example of the Mediterranean Revival style as it was applied to large public buildings in Florida during the land boom years of the mid 1920s. It contributes to the *Historic Resources of Lee County, Florida* multiple property group under historic context V, **Historic Development of the Lee County School System, 1887-1950** and property type F.3, **Education Buildings**.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT OF TICE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The unincorporated community of Tice is located on the south bank of the Caloosahatchee River, just east of the Fort Myers city limits. It was initially settled as an agricultural area for citrus cultivation in the late nineteenth century, but did not experience significant development until the land boom years of the 1920s.

During the boom, several large residential subdivisions were platted on the north and south sides of present-day State Road 80. A number of Mediterranean Revival style residences located along the community's interior streets are evidence of the development that occurred during the period.¹

By 1925 the school age population of Tice had grown to a point where the erection of a school building in the area was necessary. Early in the year, the Fort Myers school district petitioned the Lee County Board of Public Instruction (LCBPI) for permission to issue bonds for new construction. The amount of the issue was to be \$350,000 and was intended for the erection of a new elementary school in the city, a school for the community of Tice, and a school for black children, which later became known as the Paul Laurence Dunbar School. The property on which the Tice School was to be constructed was purchased by the board in August 1925 for \$15,000. It consisted of 5 acres with a 330 foot frontage on Tice Street, which was the major east/west transportation artery through the community at the time.²

In February 1926, the LCBPI announced that an amended bond issue totaling \$983,000 would be let. The Fort Myers district was to receive the bulk of the funds for the Edison Park, Tice, and Dunbar schools, as

¹Florida Preservation Services, "Lee County Historic Sites Survey," (Report prepared for the Lee County Planning Department, December, 1986) 77.

²Donald O. Stone and Beth W. Carter, *The First 100 Years: Lee County Public Schools*, 1887-1987 (Fort Myers, Florida: Department of Printing, The School Board of Lee County, 1987) 156; Lee County School Board, Minutes, January 22 and August 5, 1925.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	8	Page	2	TICE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
		·		Tice, Lee Co., FL

well as an apartment building to house teachers. Other areas that were targeted for funding were Estero, Bonita Springs, Alva, and Olga. All of the new school buildings were to be designed in the Spanish style and feature

large, well lit classrooms, auditoriums, and the most up-to-date educational equipment. The School Board also required that only local construction firms be employed in the construction of the schools.³

W.O. Sparklin, one of two architects selected by the board to design schools under the 1926 bond issue, was given the commission to design the Tice school. The project was the first of Sparklin's Lee County schools. He subsequently designed schools in Olga and Alva, but the Tice school was, by far, his most impressive educational design in the county. His plans called for the erection of a two-story building with a full basement. The upper two stories of the building were to contain sixteen classrooms, three library rooms, a principal's office, separate student and teacher bathrooms, and a large auditorium. The basement floor was to be left unfinished, but provisions were to be made for its easy conversion into additional classroom space.⁴

In March 1927 the LCBPI accepted a bid of \$133,000 by the A.C. Roundtree construction firm. Roundtree's bid included an alternate for fireproof construction using a combination steel and concrete tile structural system. An additional \$11,000 was spent on electrical and plumbing contractors. Work on the building commenced in the Spring of 1927 and was completed the following August in time for the opening of the school term.⁵

When it was completed, Tice Grammar School was the largest facility of its kind in the county. The total area of finished space, excluding the basement, was close to 12,000 square feet. The number of school children who enrolled at the school for the 1927-28 term was only sufficient to fill one classroom for each grade from 1 through 6, but by 1931 the enrollment had grown to about 200 students.⁶

The school continues to serve the community of Tice. In 1955 a cafeteria building was added to the property behind the original school. Another classroom building was constructed on the campus in 1968. In

³Lee County School Board, Minutes, February 3, 1926; *The Fort Myers Press* September 11, 1926.

⁴Lee County School Board, Minutes, February 9, 1927; *The Fort Myers Press*, February 18, 1927; Stone and Carter, *The First 100 Years*, 230.

⁵Lee County School Board, Minutes, March 21 and August 24, 1927; *The Fort Myers Press*, February 18, 1927.

⁶W.O. Sparklin, "Floor Space in Tice Building," typescript list of room dimensions, c. 1927; Lee County School Board. Minutes, June 6, 1928; Stone and Carter, *The First 100 Years*, 157.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	8	Page	3	TICE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
				Tice, Lee Co., FL

1979 the basement, which had flooded often during the history of the building, was finished to provide space for nine additional classrooms, music and art rooms, and teacher planning areas. During a 1987 renovation of the building the original windows were replaced and stairwell additions were added to the ends of the east and west wings.

CONCLUSION

Criterion A

Tice Grammar School is eligible for listing the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A in the area of education. It is was constructed as part of the first concerted effort by the county's school districts to provide modern and safe educational facilities for their school age children. In the context of Florida's history, it is also a relatively rare example of a historic school that continues to serve its original function.

Criterion C

The building has additional significance under Criterion C as an example of the use of contemporary architectural concepts in educational facility design. Designed to service the immediate and future educational needs of the community, the school was the largest educational building erected in the county at the time it was completed. It contained sixteen spacious, well lit classrooms, a large auditorium, and a library, all designed to promote a healthy and functional learning environment.

The school has further significance under criterion C as an example of the work of prominent local architect W.O. Sparklin, who was one of three architects hired by the LCBPI to design buildings under the 1926 bond issue that led to the construction of seven new schools in the county. The building is among the most architecturally elaborate of all the schools constructed during the historic period in Lee County. It features a Mediterranean Revival style design that is expressed in its gable and stepped parapet roof, curved stairway, and decorative terra-cotta door and window surrounds. The school was also the first in the county that was constructed with a steel frame structural system and the only one to feature a full basement. The exterior of the building retains its original appearance to a high degree.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	9	Page	1	TICE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
		·		Tice, Lee Co., FL

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Florida Preservation Services. "Lee County Historic Sites Survey." Report prepared for the Lee County Planning Department, December, 1986.

Fort Myers Press, September 11, 1926; February 18, 1927.

Lee County School Board. Minutes, 1925-1930.

Sparklin, W.O. "Floor Space in Tice Building," typescript list of room dimensions, c. 1927.

Stone, Donald O. and Beth W. Carter. *The First 100 Years: Lee County Public Schools, 1887-1987*. Fort Myers, Florida: Department of Printing, The School Board of Lee County, 1987.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	10	Page	1	TICE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
				Tice, Lee Co., FL

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries the historic Tice Grammar School are that part of the NW quarter of the NW quarter of section 9 in township 44S, range 35E enclosed by the boundary line shown on the attached site plan of the property.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries encompass of the significant historic resources and the area immediately around them that were associated with the school during the period of significance, 1927-1949.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	Photos	Page	1	TICE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
				Tice, Lee Co., FL

INVENTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1. TICE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
- 2. LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
- 3. STEPHEN OLAUSEN
- **4.** NOVEMBER 1996
- 5. HISTORIC PROPERTY ASSOCIATES
- 6. STREETSCAPE VIEW OF SCHOOL PROPERTY, FACING EAST
- 7. PHOTO NO. 1 OF 20

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

- 6. VIEW OF FACADE (NORTH ELEVATION), FACING SOUTHWEST
- 7. PHOTO NO. 2 OF 20
- 6. DETAIL VIEW OF CURVED STAIR CASE LEADING TO THE MAIN ENTRANCE, FACING SOUTHWEST
- 7. PHOTO NO. 3 OF 20
- 6. DETAIL VIEW OF CENTRAL ENTRANCE BAY, FACING SOUTH
- 7. PHOTO NO. 4 OF 20
- 6. DETAIL VIEW OF FOUNTAIN AT THE BASE OF THE CENTRAL STAIRCASE, FACING SOUTH
- 7. PHOTO NO. 5 OF 20
- 6. DETAIL VIEW OF WESTERN PORTION OF FACADE, FACING SOUTHWEST
- 7. PHOTO NO. 6 OF 20
- 6. VIEW OF EAST SIDE, FACING NORTHWEST
- 7. PHOTO NO. 7 OF 20
- 6. VIEW OF WEST SIDE, FACING SOUTHEAST
- 7. PHOTO NO. 8 OF 20

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Sec	tion number Photos Page 2 TICE GRAMMAR SCHOOL Tice, Lee Co., FL
6.	VIEW EASTERN PORTION OF REAR ELEVATION AND EAST SIDE OF AUDITORIUM, FACING NORTHWEST
7.	PHOTO NO. 9 OF 20
6.	VIEW OF WESTERN PORTION OF THE REAR ELEVATION AND REAR ELEVATION OF THE AUDITORIUM, FACING NORTH
7.	PHOTO NO. 10 OF 20
6.	VIEW OF WESTERN PORTION OF THE REAR ELEVATION AND WEST SIDE OF THE AUDITORIUM, FACING EAST
7.	PHOTO NO. 11 OF 20
6. 7.	INTERIOR VIEW OF FIRST FLOOR RECEPTION AREA, FACING SOUTHEAST PHOTO NO. 12 OF 20
6. 7.	INTERIOR VIEW OF FIRST FLOOR WEST HALL, FACING WEST PHOTO NO. 13 OF 20
6.	INTERIOR VIEW OF FIRST FLOOR MEDIA CENTER IN THE FORMER AUDITORIUM, FACING SOUTHWEST
7.	PHOTO NO. 14 OF 20
6.	INTERIOR VIEW OF A TYPICAL FIRST FLOOR CLASSROOM, FACING NORTHEAST
7.	PHOTO NO. 15 OF 20
6.	INTERIOR VIEW OF EAST SIDE STAIRWELL ADDITION, FACING NORTH
7.	PHOTO NO. 16 OF 20
6.	INTERIOR VIEW OF SECOND FLOOR HALL, FACING WEST
7.	PHOTO NO. 17 OF 20

INTERIOR VIEW OF A TYPICAL SECOND FLOOR CLASSROOM, FACING SOUTHEAST

- 6. INTERIOR VIEW OF BASEMENT HALL, FACING EAST
- 7. PHOTO NO. 19 OF 20

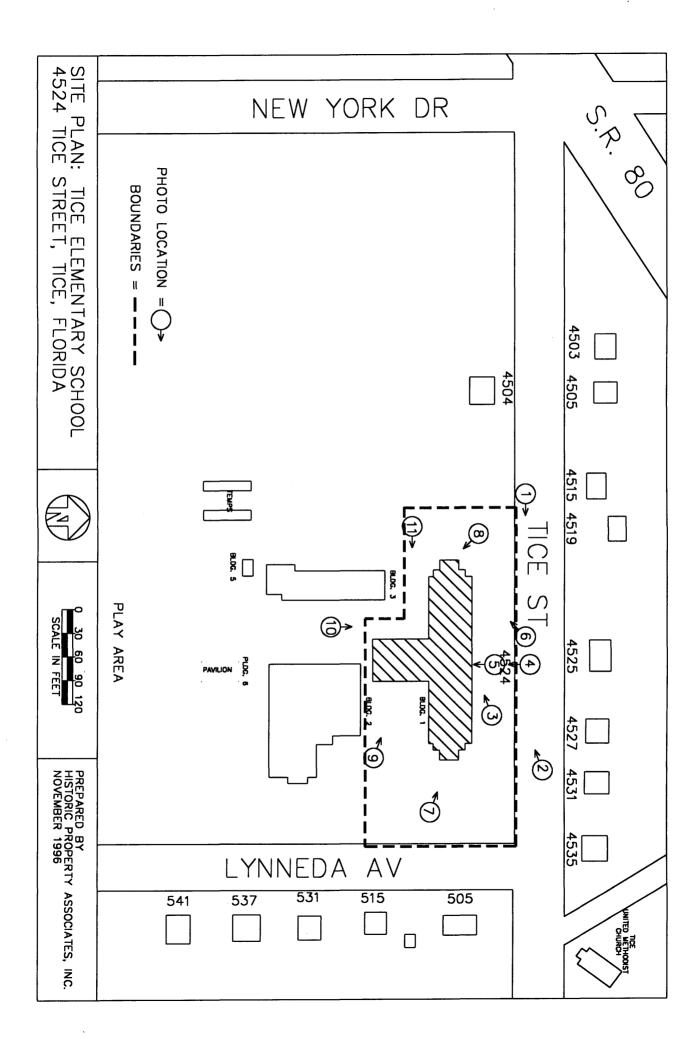
PHOTO NO. 18 OF 20

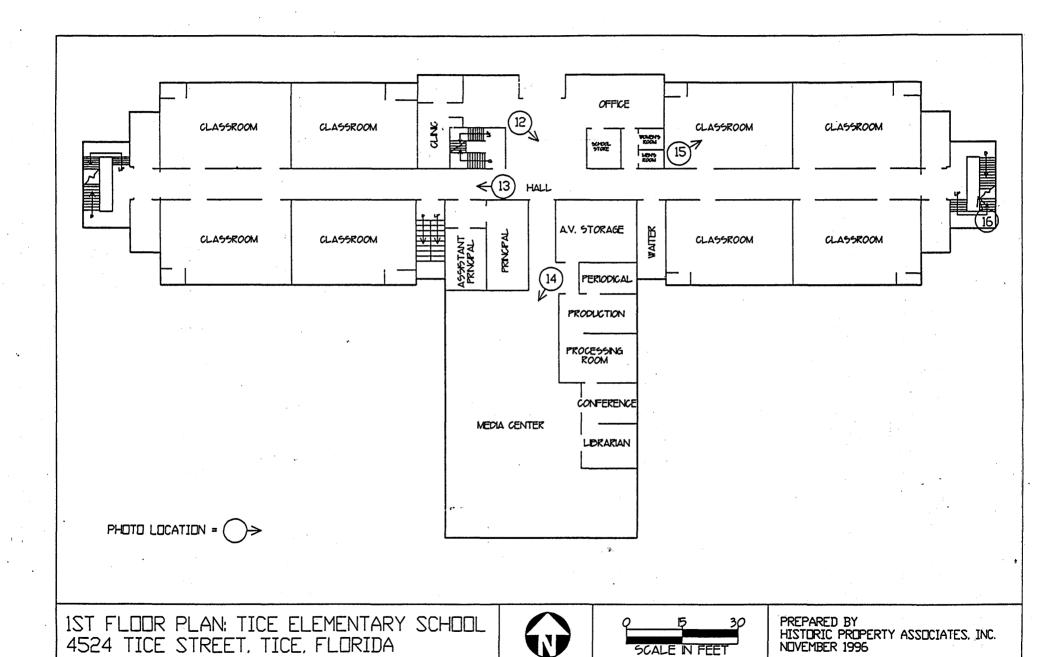
6.7.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	Photos	Page	3	TICE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
				Tice, Lee Co., FL

- 6. INTERIOR VIEW OF BASEMENT TEACHER PLANNING ROOM, FACING SOUTHEAST
- 7. PHOTO NO. 20 OF 20





SCALE IN FEET

