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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAY 12 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Oakland Park Elementary School
other names/site number 8BD1077

2. Location

street & number 936 Northeast 33rd Street not for publication
city, town Oakland Park vicinity
state Florida code FL county Broward code FL011 zip code 33334

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
[Signature] 5/16/88
Signature of certifying official 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.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____

[Signature] **Entered in the National Register** 6/9/88

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/schoolRECREATION AND CULTURE/auditoriumSOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/schoolRECREATION AND CULTURE/auditoriumSOCIAL/meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls hollow clay tile

roof rolled asphaltother stucco

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Oakland Park School Complex contains two contiguous and one freestanding Mediterranean Revival style structures. The one-story main classroom building (1926) is U-shaped and distinguished by its arcaded walkways and open courtyard. The two-story auditorium (1927) is rectangular in plan and is attached to the open (south) end of the classroom building by an extension of the arcaded walkway. Its most distinguishing interior feature is the massive exposed beams in the auditorium. The historic buildings are constructed of hollow clay tile with rough-textured stucco finishing. The original clay barrel tile roofing, replaced with rolled asphalt, is currently being restored. A detached original covered water fountain in the center of the courtyard had been enclosed and renovated into an office. It also is being restored to its original configuration. The complex is located in a residential area with commercial intrusions to the south of it (in rear). Concrete block structures, c. 1958, on the lot are connected to the complex by way of three flat-roofed walkways. They are bolted on and reversible. The historic structures retain a high degree of their physical integrity.

Main Classroom Building

Constructed in 1926, the main classroom of the school is contained within a one-story tri-gabled ell in a U-shaped configuration. The two connecting bays project slightly from the corners of the front wing. The structure is hollow clay tile with rough-faced stucco exterior finishing. The main entrance of the front facade (north) is a centered, gable-roofed projecting bay with four rectangular panels to each side. The projecting corner bays contain a triple round-arched panel. All panels are the original fenestration infilled with mortar and finished in smooth stucco to complement the original surface treatment. This was done c. 1960 when central air was added to the complex. The infill is in keeping with the pointed-arched entrance which contains staggered quoin blocks in a smooth finish.

Centered over the main facade is a Mission style stepped parapet with concrete finial. A circular lamp of knowledge plate and the decorative scroll work on the parapet are painted in dark trim. Two semi-circular concrete benches flank the main entrance. Two scrolled corner blocks are positioned in the upper corners of the rectangular entrance on the rear of the front entrance. A covered walkway, c. 1958 is attached to the front of the main entrance with bolts.

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The classroom building contains six rectangular classrooms, two in each ell. Each room contained four double hung wood sash window and each of the corner bays contains the triple set of arched windows as described above. The three exterior elevations have been altered as indicated on the front (north) facade. A wide veranda extends along the inside of the "U" with arcaded openings onto the center courtyard. Six sets of eight-panel double doors, one for each classroom, open onto the veranda.

A single eight-panel door covers the entrance to each of two restrooms, located at the south ends of each of the side wings (east and west, respectively). The restrooms were added in the Fall of 1926, slightly later than the original construction date. This is when the San Equipment Septic Tank Company bid \$360.00 to install a 2,000 gallon septic tank. Square ventilation stacks project from the roof above each restroom.

Auditorium Building

Attached to the southern end of the classroom building is the auditorium, constructed in 1927, within months of the final construction date of the 1926 structure. It is of hollow clay tile construction with rough-faced stucco finishing. It is hip-roofed, and was originally covered with barrel clay tile. A synthetic tile much like the clay barrel tile is currently being installed.

The auditorium is elevated above ground level and is approached through the U-shaped arcaded walkway that encloses the interior courtyard. Seven steps lead up to the walkway. Wrought iron gates at the east and west ends are contained within the round arches to allow the courtyard to be secured. A half-story projection centered over the walkway allows for the projection room. A parapet with corner scrolls ornaments the front facade as does a small ornamental shield. The front facade contains two sets of oversized eight panel double doors.

The side elevations (east and west) are divided into seven sections separated by buttresses. The front five sections contain three-quarter length fenestration. The center sections are multi-casement with fixed half-sized flanking panels. Original stained glass has been destroyed by adverse weather and malicious mischief and has been replaced with clear panes. Interior blinds reduce the heat and light from the outside.

The interior of the auditorium is unaltered and retains its original fixtures. The most distinguishing feature is the exposed pecky cypress beams and ceiling. The beams rest on the concrete brackets of the buttresses

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between windows. All wood is rough-hewn and unvarnished. Each of the beams contains a center pendant as well as flanking scrollwork. Original circular brass lamp fixtures descend from between the beams to each side.

The stage retains its original parquet floor, floodlights and side steps. The stage opening is surrounded by a molded cornice with segmented arch and convexed upper corners. To each side of the stage are stage doors with broken pediments. A short flight of stairs from each door leads to the back stage area containing two dressing rooms and two restrooms. The stage and backstage area comprises one fourth of the auditorium.

Other interior ornamentation includes all three sections of the original hinged, wooden seated theater chairs. Ornamental semi-circular motifs above the windows are embellishes with funerary urn reliefs.

Water Fountain Structure

In the center of the interior courtyard stands a circular structure that originally was a large covered water fountain. The original structure contained only the six smooth columns. The 1940s infill is concrete block construction with rough-faced stucco finishing. The conical roof has lost its original clay barrel tile roofing, and currently is covered in rolled asphalt. The six original load bearing columns remain intact. The structure was enclosed during the late 1940s to create an office for the principal. Plans for reroofing the historic structures with tile comparable to the original include the fountain area. Removal of the mortar to restore the structure to its original use has been approved and will be carried out during the summer of 1988. The original plans are to be used to ensure authenticity of configurations..

The Oakland Park Elementary School is essentially the same as it was upon the completion of the auditorium in 1927. The infilling of the fenestration to the classroom building to accommodate central air conditioning was done in such a manner as to retain as much structural integrity as possible. This type of infill was necessary to ensure the continued use of the school for its original purpose. Any change in its usage would cause the site to revert back to the Florida East Coast Railway as stipulated in the deed. The walkways approaching the historic classrooms were also done to limit intrusions into the historic area. Walkways abutt the 1920s structures with bolts and are potentially reversible.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Education
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1926-1938
1926-1938
1926-1938

Significant Dates

1926, 1927
1926
1929

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

McLaughlin, Thomas D.-architect
Norton, Frank - builder
Mills, Charles - builder

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

The Oakland Park Elementary School is locally significant in the areas of architecture, education and community planning and development in South Florida during the Boom Period of the 1920s. The school is in the Mediterranean Revival style. It is the oldest extant school in Broward County still in use.

The Oakland Park Elementary School employs the Mediterranean Revival style of architecture for its compatibility with the semi-tropical environment of South Florida. Because this style enabled the structure to take advantage of the cross breezes, it became the most prevalent of the styles for schools during this period. One of the distinguishing features of the Mediterranean Revival style, the arcaded loggias, developed into the covered walkway in schools. This became a distinguishing feature of all styles of school in Florida until recent times. With the advent of efficient, commercial air conditioning, school designs abandoned the arcaded open walkways for the economical interior hallway design. This style, reminiscent of penitentiary construction, reduced the effects of the hot Florida sun.

In 1899, Dade County stretched from the Upper Keys north to Jupiter Inlet and encompassed 5,840 square miles excluding Lake Okeechobee. After the turn of the century, the northeastern land of Dade County was renamed Palm Beach County. Broward County was created out of land from Palm Beach County and Dade County in April, 1915.

Broward County is named for Napoleon Bonaparte Broward who served as governor from 1905 to 1909. Broward is credited with the successful drainage and reclamation of the Everglades on New River in July, 1906. As early as 1845, when Florida was admitted to the Union, efforts had been made to drain certain portions of the Everglades in an attempt to provide a navigable waterway across the center of the state. The shipping industry had long sought ways to reduce the time and safety factors of traversing the often hazardous Florida Keys. What resulted from this project was vast tracts of land covered with fertile "muck" soil. It was not long before cattle and citrus industries put this soil to good use.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	7	5	8	6	4	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing	

2	1	8	9	4	3	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing	

C

Zone		Easting				Northing	

B

Zone		Easting				Northing	

D

Zone		Easting				Northing	

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Those portions of Lots 9-12 and 20-22 of Block 60, Oakland Park Subdivision Second Addition encompassing the footprint, courtyard inclusive, of the "Oakland Park Elementary School" as shown by the heavy lining on the accompanying map entitled "Oakland Park Elementary School, Oakland Park, Florida."

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary includes only that portion of the block that includes the structures constructed in 1926 and 1927.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Midge Turpin/Vicki L. Welcher - Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date May 6, 1988

street & number 500 S. Bronough Street telephone 904-487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

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The first half of the second decade saw the beginning of the Florida Land Boom. Florida, and in particular South Florida, was advertised nationally as the "Tropical Paradise". Planned communities flourished and counties saw their populations explode. Utopian communities borrowed from exotic locales to create thematic cities such as Opa-locka. Other cities such as Coral Gables expanded quickly because of detailed city plans by such men as George Merrick, Glenn Curtiss and Donald P. Davis.

Because of its intractable watery wastelands, Broward County became the last portion of extreme southeast Florida to be extensively settled. With eight-nine percent of its area officially located in the Everglades, topography of the county retarded settlement except by the hardest pioneers. Although extollers of public education advocated regular attendance by school children, it was rarely achieved. The running of farms, ranches and citrus groves as well as the demands of harvesting and picking the products often resulted in the majority of students being absent for extended periods of time.

The Broward County public school system, with a student population of approximately 130,000 in 1988, is an outgrowth of the Dade County public school system of education which began in 1899. Local school patrons assumed the full obligation of public education with the creation of Broward County. There was little money in the new county's budget for new school buildings and teachers' salaries. Teachers were paid a yearly income of \$40 which did not include transportation costs. Few teachers lived in the small communities such as Colohatchee (Oakland Park), and either rented rooms during the week, or paid a local farmer to carry them by wagon to and from school each day.

In September, 1914, the first rudimentary school was constructed in Colohatchee, present day Oakland Park. It was known as the Prospect School and was run by Mrs. Mattie Raulerson Baker out of her brother's house. Mrs. Baker was one of the first teachers in South Florida to hold a college degree. In September of the following year, the school was moved to a barn and became known as the Whidby School. Student attendance increased from fourteen to twenty.

The "Great Florida Land Boom" became apparent in Fort Lauderdale and the Oakland Park area in the Fall of 1924 as the number of residents and tourists rapidly increased. Under the aegis of Superintendent James M. Rickards, many bond issues passed for the enlargement of the school system, the largest in 1925 for \$500,000.

In early 1925, the fast developing Oakland Park community petitioned the Broward County School Board for a permanent school building. On May 20, 1925, the Board approved the construction of a school in then unincorporated Oakland

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Park. At the time, the nearest schools were at Pompano Beach to the north, and Fort Lauderdale to the south.

At this time, architect Thomas D. McLaughlin had come to Broward County from Lima, Ohio, and contracted to design the school as well as one in Deerfield (Beach). He also designed an addition to the West Side Elementary School in Fort Lauderdale. McLaughlin is one of a group of architects that came to be known by later residents as "The Boom-Time Architects." They appeared in the area in the mid-twenties, and disappeared in the late-twenties, following the devastating hurricane of 1926 and the stock market crash of 1929. It is known that, unlike many of these architects, he returned to his former practice in Ohio where he was a member of AIA in Toledo and continued to design schools for the Lancaster School System. He died in 1966.

The Board contracted with Frank Norton and Charles Mills for the construction of the building. The new school opened January 4, 1926 with a teaching staff of nine, a principal who also taught, and two hundred students.

From 1926 to present the building has served a multiplicity of public functions, as well as its primary educational function. For two generations the majority of the population of Oakland Park consisted of small farmers. The low income per capita limited the construction of municipal structures and cultural centers. The relatively large, esthetically appealing and centrally located school was used as a community center for many years. In the early years, it was used not only for classes, but also for church and city council meetings and was the official hurricane shelter during the Hurricane of 1926.

By June of 1927, the need for a community center was immediate. Because of the advantages of the Oakland Park Elementary School, the decision was made to add an auditorium to the school property. The structure was added to the south of the complex, attached to the U-shaped classroom building by a loggia with wrought iron gates at the ends. In June, 1929, the auditorium was the meeting place of the communities of Floranada and Oakland Park. The two towns combined to become the City of Oakland Park.

Since that time, the school has been used continuously for various community, civic and church organizations. Political debates, Sunday School for new churches, the primary polling location, community picnics and get togethers and local theater and drama events have all been held in the auditorium or on the property. The grounds have long been utilized for child/adult recreation programs and after-school programs sponsored by the School Board and by the Oakland Park recreation division. It has also served the community for fund raising events such as carnivals and ice cream socials.

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Above all, however, the school facilities have served as the educational focus for Oakland Park. Since 1926, four generations of Oakland Park children and students from contiguous areas have been educated and have socialized at this school. A number of former students have gone on to achieve distinction in government in both Broward County and the State of Florida as a whole. Among these were Broward County's long-time county attorney, John U. Lloyd; civic leader and public official J. W. "Bill" Stevens, who served in a number of local, county, and state positions including Mayor of Oakland Park, Broward county Commissioner, and State Senator; and jurist and historian L. Clayton Nance, Florida's first public defender, Circuit Court Judge, and founder of the Broward County Historical Commission. Numerous other former students have held various positions in Oakland Park and Broward County government, in education and in civic life.

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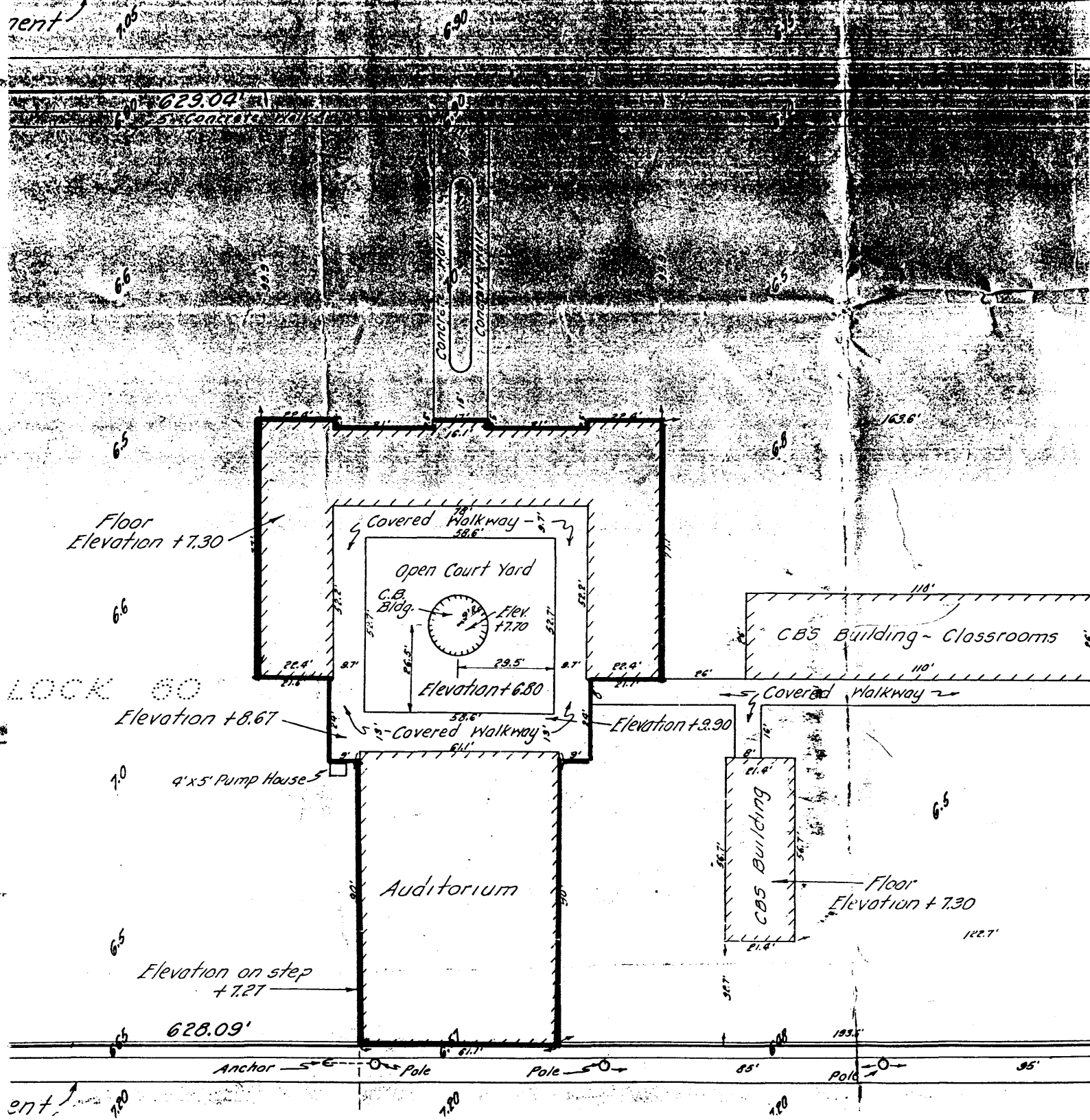
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N. E. 33RD ST.



Oakland Park Elementary School, Oakland Park, Florida.