

PH0063894

## DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida
COUNTY: Dade
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JAN 21 1975

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

First Coconut Grove School ~~House~~

AND/OR HISTORIC:

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

3429 Devon Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Coconut Grove

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Eleventh

STATE

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY:

Dade

CODE

025

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific

RECEIVED  
Comments

JAN 9 1975

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Plymouth Congregational Church, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:

3429 Devon Road, Coconut Grove

CITY OR TOWN:

Miami

STATE:

Florida

CODE

12

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Dade County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

73 West Flagler Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Miami

STATE:

Florida

CODE

12

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Florida Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: Summer, 1972  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Division of Archives, History and Records Management

STREET AND NUMBER:

Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN:

Tallahassee

STATE:

Florida

CODE

12

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
FloridaCOUNTY:  
Dade

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Coconut Grove School House, a one-room structure built of Dade County pine, was constructed in 1894. Although it has undergone considerable restoration and reconstruction, much of the original fabric remains. A comparison of the present structure with an 1899 photograph on file at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida supports the authenticity of the reconstruction. According to Mr. Hollice Plotts who supervised the reconstruction, photographs of the original structure formed the basis for restoration work. In addition, residents of Coconut Grove who attended classes in the school house were consulted, and some of the reconstruction was based on their recollections of the building as it appeared originally. In some instances, evidence of the original construction was found when the building was moved to its new location on the grounds of the Plymouth Congregational Church in 1969.

The property on which the school house was built was sold to the Ryder Systems in 1969. The company donated the structure to the church, and assumed the costs involved in the transfer to the new location. Ryder Systems also provided the equipment used in the move. At the time of transfer, several wings and additions which had been made to the structure were removed since they were not a part of the original. Restoration was begun early in 1970, and the building was dedicated as a school house museum in 1971.

Of the original materials that remain are five full length boards on the siding, siding above and below the windows, five panes of window glass, and all heavy timbers (rafters, siding, floor joists, undersiding, and sills.) The original wood that was undamaged and usable was treated and incorporated into the reconstruction. The bell above the entry is the original bell that existed when the school was built in 1894. Original color of white with buff trim on the exterior has been repeated on the present structure. Roof covering of shake shingles is new, but again, duplicates the original roof material.

Many of the interior appointments are original; e.g. a bookcase which has been replaced in its original position; a cast-iron stove which had been kept by one of the local residents; and the kerosene lamps. The desks and chairs were hand made by Mr. Plotts and are replicas of the original furnishings.

(CONT)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1894**

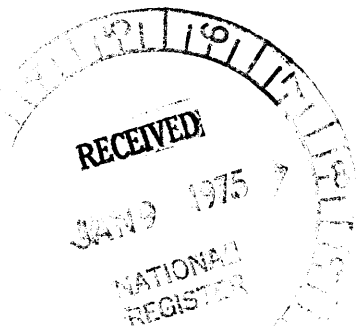
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>Settlement</u>                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Coconut Grove School House relates directly to the settlement of Coconut Grove and is the forerunner of the Plymouth Congregational Church. This building, constructed by the men of the community, served the religious and educational needs of the pioneers. It also served as a meeting hall for the first women's club in the area, the Coconut Grove Housekeepers Club. This club, organized by Miss Flora McFarlane in 1891, received national coverage in an 1892 issue of Harpers Bazar. The Housekeepers Club met in the building from 1891 to 1894 when use of the school building was then restricted "to School, Religious, or Literary purposes and meetings." As the community grew, need for a larger facility became apparent, and in 1894 the new school building was constructed. It is this building, a one-room bungalow style house of Dade County pine, that exists today as a museum on the grounds of Plymouth Congregational Church. Before its relocation to the present site, the school house was occupied as a private residence after it was no longer used as an educational facility. In 1902, it was sold by Charles Peacock for \$400, and it remained in the hands of the new owner until 1944 when it was again sold. The property was purchased by Ryder Systems in 1969 for the sum of \$75,000. The building was subsequently donated to the Church by Ryder, was relocated on the new site, and restored as a museum and reminder of the efforts of Coconut Grove's pioneer residents.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

(See Attached Sheet)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"		

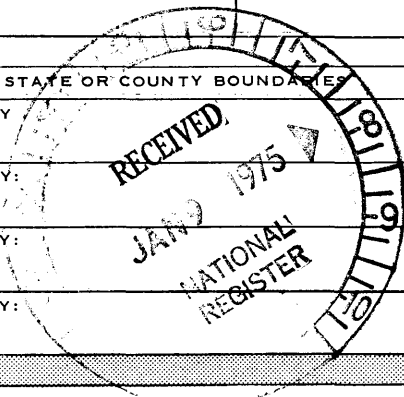
N25° 43' 19" W80° 14' 54"

UTM  
17/575370  
2844960

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: two

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Mary K. Evans, Historic Sites Specialist**

ORGANIZATION: **Division of Archives, History and Records Mgt.** DATE: **8/15/73**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Department of State, The Capitol**

CITY OR TOWN: **Tallahassee** STATE: **Florida** CODE: **12**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name *Robert Williams*  
**ROBERT WILLIAMS**  
Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date January 2, 1975

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Robert Williams*  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 1/21/75

ATTEST:

*Charles Henry*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 1.21.75

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Dade	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JAN 21 1975	

(Number all entries) 9. Major Bibliographical References

"A Housekeepers Club," Harpers Bazar, April 16, 1892. (facsimile).

Blackman, Lucy W. The Women of Florida--Biographies. The Southern Historical Publishing Association, Vol. II, 1940.

Dade County Courthouse, Miami, Florida. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Dade County Records. (Subgroup: deeds).

Ferguson, Gladys. Personal Interview (by Mary K. Evans) February, 1972. Plymouth Congregational Church, Coconut Grove, Florida.

Florida Collection. Documents, photographs, articles, news clippings. Miami Public Library, Miami, Florida.

Historical Museum of Southern Florida and the Caribbean. Special collection including photographs, documents, newspaper articles, and miscellaneous materials relating to Coconut Grove. Miami, Florida.

"Housekeepers Club Widely Recognized Had Unusual Start," Miami Daily Metropolis, March 3, 1923.

Kent, Gertrude M. The Coconut Grove School in Pioneer Days, 1887-1894. Coral Gables, Florida: Parker Printing Co., 1972.

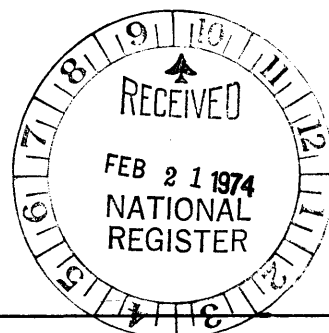
Minutes of School Board Meeting, February 7, 1894, Juno, Florida.

Muir, Helen. Miami, U.S.A. Coconut Grove, Florida: Hurricane House Publishers, Inc., 1953.

Munroe, Ralph M. and Vincent Gilpin. The Commodore's Story. New York: Ives Washburn, 1930. Reprinted Miami: Historical Association of Southern Florida, 1967.

Parks, Arva Moore. The History of Coconut Grove, Florida, 1821-1925. University of Miami, Master's Thesis, 1971.

Trapp, Mrs. Harlan. My Pioneer Reminiscences. 1940. (n.p.).



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Florida	
COUNTY	
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Present and Original Physical Appearance

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This structure, so closely associated to the development of the Plymouth Congregational Church, rests on a portion of the church property. The school house, although primarily a museum, is occasionally utilized as a classroom by students who attend the Plymouth Congregational School.

\*Note

In restoration, roughly milled lumber was used for the board and battens instead of the original material which had been salvaged from shipwrecks. Thus the existing structure is plumb and presents a slightly more unified appearance than that of the original. All details closely approximate the original even the belfry which admittedly would seem contrived at first glance.

