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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name CAPTIVA SCHOOL & CHAPEL-BY-THE-SEA HISTORIC DISTRICT

other names/site number Captiva School, FMSF#LL1079

2. Location

street & number 11580 Chapin Lane N/A  not for publication

city or town Captiva N/A  vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Lee code 071 zip code 33924

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Barbara C. Mattick / DSHPO 9/11/2013  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Wilson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 1023-13

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	0	total

**Name of related multiple property listings**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School \_\_\_\_\_  
 FUNERARY/Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_  
 RELIGION/Parsonage \_\_\_\_\_  
 RELIGION/Church Office \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Church \_\_\_\_\_  
 FUNERARY/Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_  
 RELIGION/Parsonage \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Frame Vernacular \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete Pier \_\_\_\_\_  
 walls Wood \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 roof Asphalt Shingle \_\_\_\_\_  
 other \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our 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.
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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) 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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

c. 1897-1965

Significant Dates

1897

1901

1917

1926

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: Unknown

Blder: Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of Repository

#

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 1.2

**UTM References**

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1   7	3   8   1   1   8   6	2   9   3   3   8   8   4
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Stephen Olausen, / 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 Florida zip code (239) 472 - 1646

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Nathale Pyle, President, Board of Associates, Captiva Chapel-By-Sea

street & number 11580 Chapin Lane telephone (651) 747-7504

city or town Captiva state Florida zip code 33924

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

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section number 7 Page 1

CAPTIVA SCHOOL & CHAPEL-BY-THE-SEA HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CAPTIVA, LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
DESCRIPTION

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**SUMMARY**

The Captiva School & Chapel-by-the-Sea Historic District at 11580 Chapin Lane in Captiva, Florida, includes four contributing resources: the Chapel, the Minister's Study, the Parsonage, and the Cemetery. The district occupies just over an acre of property that was part of the homestead of William Herbert Binder (1850-1932) who came to Captiva in 1888. The cemetery, which contains 91 graves, was established in 1897. The chapel was originally a school erected c. 1910 that was also used for religious services for the residents of the village of Captiva. The Minister's Study dates from 1926, when it replaced an earlier building that was destroyed by a hurricane. The Parsonage was constructed in 1965 to provide a residence for visiting preachers who lived there from November to April of each year. All of the buildings are examples of the Frame Vernacular style.

**SETTING**

Captiva is one of a series of barrier islands in the Gulf of Mexico, located west of the larger neighboring Pine Island and mainland Lee County. Captiva has a long north-south axis that runs approximately six miles in length. At its widest, the island measures approximately one-quarter mile. The Captiva Census Designated Place (CDP) consists of 10.5 square miles of which 1.2 square miles is land and 9.3 square miles is water. Captiva has a year-round population of 379. Passes separate Captiva Island from Sanibel Island to the south and North Captiva and Cayo Costa islands to the north. Charlotte Harbor is found to the northeast and empties through Boca Grande Pass north of Captiva. Sanibel lies to the south, connected to Captiva by Blind Pass Bridge. Captiva is connected to the mainland by the Sanibel Causeway, which was completed in 1963. The seat of government of Lee County, Fort Myers, is located approximately thirty miles east of Captiva. The district boundaries encompass a parcel of land that includes the Chapel, Parsonage, Minister's Study, and Cemetery. The property is accessed by a sand road that leads from the northwest corner of the intersection of Wiles Drive and Chapin Lane. The site has a variety of trees, including palmettos, oaks, magnolias, and a variety of sub-tropical plants. To the north and east of the property are several large modern condominiums.

**DESCRIPTION**

Captiva Chapel-By-The-Sea c. 1901

Exterior

The Chapel is a irregularly shaped Frame Vernacular building with a front-facing gable roof featuring a small hip roofed belfry that extends from the south ridge of the roof, which is surfaced with composition shingles (Photo 1). The building originally had a rectangular plan, but in 1961 a small shed roof addition was added to the east side (Photo 2). The fenestration of the building is 1/1-light double-hung wood sash windows. There are two windows on the main (south) facade rear (north) elevation (Photo 3) and four windows on the west

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elevation (Photos 4-5). The east side also features four windows, two on the original building and two on the shed roofed addition. The building features three wooden doors: one on the main facade of the original building and two on the shed addition. The exterior walls are clad with wood drop siding, and the foundation consists of masonry piers. The dominant feature of the main facade is a gable roofed porch that extends over the main entrance. The porch roof is supported by square wood posts. The entrance is a single wood and glass panel door with nine lights. Flanking the porch are single rectangular windows. The west elevation of the chapel has four evenly-spaced rectangular window openings with simple wood surrounds. The rear of the building contains two rectangular window openings that are set at the corners.

Interior

The main entrance of the building opens into a single room (Photos 6-7), which contains 25 wooden pews for seating the congregation. Three of these are located in the east addition. The ceiling angles down at the sides to match the exterior slope of the gable roof. The ceiling and walls are covered with flush heart pine boards. The original heart pine floors are covered with vinyl floor tiles. An altar area is located on the north wall. A stud wall with plywood covering has been added to create a blind lancet arch opening in the center of the wall and false lancet window to allow light in from the existing rectangular windows. Metal rods have been installed to brace the building against high winds. The room created by the east addition is accessed through a large rectangular opening. It contains three additional pews and two small closets. The Chapel seats 120 people.

Alterations

In its original function as a school, the building footprint was a simple rectangle with an entrance and two windows on the main facade and three windows on the east and west elevations. The porch was constructed in the 1950s. In 1961, the building was extended twelve feet to the north to provide more space for seating and a new altar. The exterior fabric was re-sided at that time and new wood flooring was installed. New 1/1-light windows were installed to replace the original 2/2-light double-hung wood sash windows at this time. A small shed roof addition was added to the east side of the building to add three more pews, and the present bell tower was constructed in place of the original, which was added to the building in 1950. The present pews were installed in 1966.

The Minister's Study (1926)

This is a small one-story Frame Vernacular building clad in drop siding (Photo 9). Constructed in 1926, the small square building with a side gable roof features an shed roofed open porch extension. This original building is flanked by two side gable roofed additions: one on its east elevation and the other on the west elevation. These additions are compatible with the style and character of the original building. The roof material

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is asphalt shingles. The minister's study has aluminum awning windows. A wooden garage door is found on the east elevation (Photo 10).

The Parsonage (1965)

The Parsonage is a small Frame Vernacular building featuring a side gable roof. The exterior of the building is clad in drop siding. The fenestration consists of 1/1-light double-hung windows, a pair of which flank a fixed plate glass picture window. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and the house rests on a masonry pier foundation with wood lattice infill. The house features a narrow wood deck with a wood railing and steps that provides access to the kitchen (Photo 11). There is intersecting gable over the rear screened porch (Photo 12)

The Cemetery (1897)

Located just south of the Captiva Chapel-by-the-Sea, the cemetery contains 91 graves, most of which have markers. The grave markers are all small and most of them were constructed of marble or granite. A number of the graves are unmarked. The earliest grave dates from 1897 and the most recent burial is that of John Neitzke, a Korean War veteran who was buried on February 23, 2013.

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CAPTIVA SCHOOL & CHAPEL-BY-THE-SEA HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CAPTIVA, LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SIGNIFICANCE

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**SUMMARY**

The Captiva School & Chapel-by-the-Sea Historic District is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Social History. It includes a surviving example of an early one-room schoolhouse (built in 1901) that also served as the primary place of religious worship for the early settlers of Captiva Island until it was converted into a Methodist mission church in 1921. Two other buildings in the district also contribute to its historic significance. These are the Minister's study, constructed in 1926 and the Parsonage constructed in 1965. The chapel has continued to serve as a place of worship on a nondenominational or interdenominational basis with services conducted by visiting clergy until the present day. The site is also significant for its small historic cemetery, founded in 1897, in which a number of the early settlers of Captiva are interred. Over a hundred years old, the cemetery continues to be an active burial place.

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Juan Ponce de Leon, the official discoverer of Florida, sailed into the waters of the Calusa Nation in May 1513. He described the islands of Sanibel and Captiva as "jutting out into the sea." Upon his return to Calusa waters in 1521, Juan Ponce once again entered the dangerous waters of the Calusa. He organized a colonizing expedition to Florida consisting of two ships and 200 men, including priests, farmers, and artisans, 50 horses and other domestic animals, and farming implements. The colonists began to build a settlement probably located on Punta Rassa but were attacked by Calusa warriors. Eighty of the colonists were killed and Ponce de Leon was himself wounded with an arrow. He sailed to Havana, Cuba, where he died of his wound.<sup>1</sup>

**Exploration/Settlement**

Captiva Pass was named by the Spanish in the 1500s. When the United States acquired Florida in 1821, the only inhabitants of Sanibel and Captiva islands were a few Cubans who maintained fishing camps there. In 1862, the Homestead Act was passed, giving 160 acres of federal land free to persons who would live on the land and cultivate it; however, it was not until 1888 that Captiva was opened to homesteaders. In 1870, the census taker, who perhaps considered only white settlers, counted three persons living on Sanibel Island. These were William S. Allen, assistant marshal of Monroe County, his wife, and his son George, aged 16. By 1890, forty families had settled on Captiva and Sanibel islands. William Herbert Binder (1850-1932) came to Captiva in 1888 and established a homestead near the center of Captiva Island. Ten years later, George W. Carter came to Captiva with his family and homesteaded the northern end of the island.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Juan Ponce de Leon Bibliography, <http://www.travelponce.com/Ponce-de-Leon-bibliography.html>.

<sup>2</sup> "Captiva History," [http://www.gloriaoflannery.com/area\\_history\\_captiva.asp](http://www.gloriaoflannery.com/area_history_captiva.asp).



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CAPTIVA SCHOOL & CHAPEL-BY-THE-SEA HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CAPTIVA, LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
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In the first years of the 20th century, Captiva and Sanibel became a prime destination for sports fishermen. By the 1920s, however, hurricanes destroyed Captiva Island's only hotel and a number of other buildings, giving little hope that the island would thrive and grow as a vacation destination. In 1927, however, a developer named Clarence Bennett Chadwick came to Captiva and built a key lime plantation and began to acquire land which he subsequently resold to developers.<sup>3</sup>

In the mid 1920's, ferries began shuttling cars and people to a dock near the lighthouse at the south end of the island, and continued to do so until the causeway opened in 1963. An important development on Captiva was the establishment of the 'Tween Waters Inn (NR 2011) by Grace and Bowman Price in 1931 to accommodate wealthy tourists from all over the country. In 1931 the Bowmans made alterations to the primary inn and the built a series of small cottages just east of Captiva Drive. The Inn was the first tourist facility encountered by tourists after crossing Blind Pass Bridge. In 1935, the Public Works Administration (PWA) provided funds for the paving of Captiva Drive with a sand-asphalt surface, thereby making access to the island even more attractive to automobile traffic.<sup>4</sup> The 1963 completion of the Sanibel Causeway, a toll road, spurred development in the islands.

**Social History**

Lee County Schools

Concern for the educational needs of their children provided part of the impetus for the residents of today's Lee County to request separation from sprawling Monroe County in 1887. The first public county school in Fort Myers was the wood frame Fort Myers Academy erected in 1878. The school was destroyed by fire in 1886, and when the local representatives of Fort Myers petitioned the Monroe County Board of Education for funds to erect a new schoolhouse, their request was denied. Already angered by the seeming lack of interest by county officials in the development of Fort Myers, local citizens pleaded with the State Legislature for the creation of new county. Lee County was formally established on May 9, 1887.

The Lee County Board of Public Instruction held its first official meeting on August 27, 1887. Six existing school districts had been established while Lee County had been a part of Monroe County. New districts would be added in the ensuing years, as the population of the county grew. During the remainder of the nineteenth century, the board struggled to provide adequate facilities and staffing for the county, which had an area of approximately 4,000 square miles and had numerous isolated settlements. Over forty schools were established in the county during this period. Some of these were operated out of private homes, but most were located in one- and two-story wood frame buildings built by funds allocated by the Board of Public Instruction. Fort

<sup>3</sup> "About Captiva Island," <http://www.captivaislanhomesandvillas.com/captivaisland.aspx/>.

<sup>4</sup> Fort Myers News-Press, November 28, 1935.

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Myers, the largest population center in Lee County, had the largest school building, a two-story, wood frame structure erected in 1887 to replace the building that had burned in 1886. Known as the Fort Myers School, this facility was later replaced by the Gwynne Institute, the county's first masonry school building. The only school building in Lee County surviving from the nineteenth century is the Buckingham School (N.R. 1988), constructed in 1895.

The Lee County school system continued to expand during the first decades of the twentieth century. The 1900 census recorded a total of 855 school age children, including 791 whites, 32 blacks, and 32 Native Americans in the county. Hampered by inadequate means of transporting students to centrally located schools, the school board continued to construct facilities in the many far-flung rural settlements under its jurisdiction.

The Captiva School is the only one of the wood frame pioneer schools in Lee County remaining on its original site. The East Sanibel for White Children was constructed in 1896 to replace the one erected in 1894 but then destroyed by a hurricane. The school stood on the corner of Bailey Road and Periwinkle Way and then was moved farther up Periwinkle in 1903, where it sat for over 100 years. The building, a classic one-room schoolhouse, had a platform in the front where different grades took turns doing lessons with the teacher. In the center of the room was a wood stove used to warm it in winter, as well as to heat soup and cocoa. In 1932, a second room was added and more windows installed. The schoolhouse was able to house grades one through eight. It was vacated in 1964 due to the construction of the new Sanibel Elementary School. Children from both Captiva and Sanibel began attending the new school. The old wood frame school was transformed into a little theater that presented a variety of performances. In 2004, the building was moved to the Sanibel Historical Museum and Village and restored to its 1932 appearance. The Historical Village was founded in 1984 to preserve and share Sanibel history. Seven historic buildings, including the elementary school, were moved from their original island sites to the Historical Village. Each building has been restored to its original state. There was also a school in western Sanibel in the small community called Wulfert. The school is no longer extant. Today children from both Captiva and Sanibel attend the 1964 Sanibel School at 3840 Sanibel-Captiva Road for grades from kindergarten through the eighth grade. High school students ride a bus to Fort Myers to attend district neighborhood or magnet schools, which specialize in various disciplines. Students can also attend a variety of private schools off the island.

**SIGNIFICANCE—SOCIAL HISTORY**

The oldest surviving 20th century school in Lee County was the Captiva School, built in 1901 as a one-room schoolhouse by Lee County Board of Public Instruction on land donated for the purpose on the homestead of William Herbert Binder. The building was also used for religious services on Sundays for the people of Captiva and Sanibel on occasions when a circuit rider came over to the island from the mainland. At such times, the people also enjoyed picnics, games, and a community get-together. A photo taken about 1913-1914 (Photo 19) shows teacher Miss Nell Gould with her class outside the school with her students. Pictured (but not in order)

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CAPTIVA SCHOOL & CHAPEL-BY-THE-SEA HISTORIC DISTRICT  
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are Mary Hunter, Wilson and Jesse Bryant; Audrey, Ella, and Thelma Bates; Beulah Brainerd; Chubb Mickle; Vera Brewer and two Doyle girls. All of the children had to walk to school, since there were no roads suitable for carriages on either island or the mainland. The first Lee County school bus was a horse-drawn wagon that carried students to Edgewood Elementary School in Fort Myers c. 1914. On their way to school, the students strolled leisurely and even went swimming, sometimes getting to school late, and were chastised in a mild sort of way.

In 1921, the Board of Public Instruction sold the school building and land to the Methodist Church for use as a mission church; however, due to the lack of Methodists on the islands, the Chapel (then known as the Wayside Chapel) evolved into the Captiva Chapel-By-The-Sea and services were conducted by a preacher brought over from the mainland by ferry. The building also continued to be used as an elementary school. Religious services continued to be conducted by visiting clergy until 1947, when the Captiva Civic Association, by arrangement with the Methodist Church, took over operation of the chapel and cemetery on a nondenominational or interdenominational basis. In 1951, the Captiva Civic Association agreed to the separation of the chapel and cemetery from active connection with the Association. In 1952, the Captiva Chapel-By-The-Sea was incorporated to operate as an interdenominational church to extend a welcome to all members of the Christian faith regardless of denomination or creed.

In 1954, the Methodist Church deeded the chapel land and building and the cemetery to the Captiva Chapel-By-The-Sea, which has continued to manage and operate them to this day. The Chapel now offers weekly Sunday services from the third Sunday in November through the third Sunday in April. After April 2013, the Chapel will appoint a new Minister for a three-year term. It continues to be interdenominational. Its ministers serve for one year terms, which may be renewed for a total of not more than three years. It is the custom that the ministers of the same denomination not follow one another. It is important to note that Captiva Chapel-By-The-Sea has not been expanded in the past and has no plans to expand in the future. Because the entire congregation can not be accommodated in the small building, the overflow is accommodated in chairs outside the building, where they listen to the service as it is broadcast by loudspeakers attached to the exterior of the chapel. Thousands of people from all over the country and the world come to visit the chapel and arrange to be married there; however, Chapel policy dictates that either the bride or groom must have a prior connection to Captiva or Sanibel.

The Minister's Study (1926)

The ministers study had its origin c. 1920 as a lean-to or shed that was supported in part by two palm trees. It was built to provide overnight shelter for the circuit preachers who came to the island to lead worship services. In 1926, the structure was destroyed by a hurricane. In the same year, it was replaced by a free-standing building that was constructed out of remains of the lean-to and lumber contributed by the residents of the island. The new building continued to be used for overnight housing for visiting preachers and later became the

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minister's study. At a later time, the building was extended on the east for a garage addition and on the west and for a lavatory and storage room for hymnals and folding chairs for overflow congregation to sit in the chapel yard. The building ceased to be the minister's residence when the parsonage was constructed in 1965. The central part of the building continues to be used as the minister's study.<sup>5</sup> The building is also used for welcoming visitors and for arranging marriage ceremonies in the chapel for parishioners and persons with historical connections with Captiva and Sanibel.<sup>6</sup>

The Parsonage (1965)

The Parsonage was constructed in 1965 to house the minister who is historically was resident at the chapel from November to the Easter season. The need for a resident minister was apparent to the Chapel Board. Because of the increases in real estate prices and rentals, the Board could not afford to provide housing for a minister unless they constructed a residence on site. Because of the existence of the chapel as a tourist attraction for weddings, the Board has been able to call upon ministers who have achieved prominence in their home churches and communities. Different ministers have served over the years from November until the Easter season in April. In 2016, ministers will be given a three-year appointment. The parsonage was designed by Leon R. Levy (1900-1975)<sup>7</sup> and built by Karl Wrightman. Leon R. Levy, AIA, was born in Savannah, Georgia, in 1900 and earned a degree in architecture from Georgia Tech University. He practiced architecture in New York with his brother Lionel (1902-1982)<sup>8</sup> whose firm designed the New York Coliseum and a number of projects for city planner Robert Moses. Illness forced Levy to retire from the practice of architecture in 1962. He began to spend increasing parts of the year in Sanibel. Levy designed the parsonage at the request of the Chapel Board. He died in Sanibel in 1975.<sup>9</sup> Karl Wrightman of Captiva was the builder of the parsonage. His grandparents settled in Sanibel in 1917. His family built a home that they later operated as the Gulf View Inn. Wright moved away from Sanibel shortly after completing construction of the parsonage.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Jacker, Dick. "Captiva Chapel-By-The-Sea," Lee County Landmark Designation Report, 1994, p. 5.

<sup>6</sup> "Chapel by the Sea Weddings," <http://www.captivachapel.com/weddings.htm>.

<sup>7</sup> Florida Death Records, <http://www.death-record.com/d/n/Leon-Levy/Florida>.

<sup>8</sup> New York Times, December 3, 1984.

<sup>9</sup> Jacker, Dick. "Captiva Chapel-By-The-Sea," Lee County Landmark Designation Report, 1994, p. 6.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 7.

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The Cemetery (1897)

Located south of the Captiva Chapel-by-the-Sea, the cemetery is located on a portion of the William Binder homestead. This small Island cemetery began in 1897 with the interment of an unnamed stillborn daughter of Herbert D. and Hattie Brainerd. This was followed in 1899 by the burial of another stillborn daughter. The small parcel of land where the infants were interred was purchased from Binder c.1900 by the Brainerd's 10-year old daughter Ann Emma with a gold piece given to her as a birthday present by her grandmother. She herself died in 1901 from tetanus, and her parents buried Ann on her small parcel of land along the Gulf of Mexico (Photos 20-21).<sup>11</sup> The cemetery is a site closely associated with the history of Captiva Island and is significant because it is directly associated with the lives of many of Captiva's early settlers who are buried there. Among the graves is that of the original homesteader William Binder who died in 1932. Herbert D. Brainerd, who died in 1914, is also buried there. After Herbert's death, Hattie remarried Alvin Gore and was buried under her new married name at her death in 1945. Hattie retained ownership of the cemetery until 1936, when she donated it to the Methodist Church. The grave markers are all small and most of them are constructed of marble or granite. Some of the graves are unmarked. The cemetery continues in use, and the latest recorded burial is that of John Neitzke, a Korean War veteran who was buried on February 23, 2013.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid., p. 5.

<sup>12</sup> "Lee County Past to Present Cemeteries," <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flswphs/cem/captiva/>.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   9   Page   1  

CAPTIVA SCHOOL & CHAPEL-BY-THE-SEA HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CAPTIVA, LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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First Alva and Lee County school bus. 1924  
State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, Image Number RC08113

Alva Grade School  
State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, Image Number N027611

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

CAPTIVA SCHOOL & CHAPEL-BY-THE-SEA HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CAPTIVA, LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Captiva Chapel-by-the-Sea and Minister's Study

Parcel 35-45-21-00-00002.0000  
11580 CHAPIN LANE CAPTIVA FL 33924  
PARL IN NW 1/4 DESC IN OR 1665 PG 2766 + IN OR 0232 PG 0367

Parsonage and Cemetery

Parcel 35-45-21-01-0000A.0000  
15135 WILES DRIVE CAPTIVA FL 33924  
GORES A M SUBD PB 4 PG 7 LOT A CEMETERY

**Boundary Justification**

The historic resources of The Captiva School & Chapel-by-the-Sea Historic District are all found in the parcels of property found above and are shown as a dashed line in the map of the district accompanying the National Register Nomination.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

CAPTIVA SCHOOL & CHAPEL-BY-THE-SEA HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CAPTIVA, LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

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1. Captiva School & Chapel-By-The-Sea Historic District
2. 11580 Chapin Lane. Captiva (Lee County), Florida
3. Mike Boris
4. April 2013
5. P.O. Box 162, Captiva, Florida
6. Main (South) Facade, Looking North
7. Photo 1 of 21

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

6. East Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 2 of 21

6. Rear (North) Elevation, Looking South
7. Photo 3 of 21

6. Main (South) Facade and West Elevation, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 4 of 21

6. West Elevation, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 5 of 21

6. Interior, Nave, Looking North toward the Altar
7. Photo 6 of 21

6. Interior, Nave, Looking South toward Entrance
7. Photo 7 of 21

6. Interior, East Addition, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 8 of 21

1. Minister's Study
6. Main (Northeast) Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 9 of 21

1. Minister's Study
6. Southeast Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 10 of 21



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2

CAPTIVA SCHOOL & CHAPEL-BY-THE-SEA HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CAPTIVA, LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

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1. Parsonage
6. Main (Northeast) Facade, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 11 of 21

1. Parsonage
6. Rear (Southwest) Elevation, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 12 of 21

1. Cemetery
6. Front Gate, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 13 of 21

1. Cemetery
6. South Side of Cemetery, Looking North toward Main Gate
7. Photo 14 of 21

1. Cemetery
6. Middle of Cemetery, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 15 of 21

1. Cemetery
6. Southeast Corner, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 16 of 21

1. Cemetery
6. North Section of Cemetery, Looking West
7. Photo 17 of 21

1. Cemetery
6. Northeast Section of Cemetery, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 18 of 21

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 3

CAPTIVA SCHOOL & CHAPEL-BY-THE-SEA HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CAPTIVA, LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

---

1. Captiva Island School
2. 11580 Chapin Lane. Captiva (Lee County), Florida
3. Unknown
4. Between 1910-1915
5. State Library of Florida Photographic Collection, NO28699
6. Uncertain
7. Photo 19 of 21

1. Headstone of Ann Emma Brainerd
2. 11580 Chapin Lane. Captiva (Lee County), Florida
3. Mike Boris
4. April 2013
5. P.O. Box 162, Captiva, Florida
6. Southwest Section of Cemetery, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 20 of 21

1. Headstone of Ann Emma Brainerd
3. Mike Boris
6. Southwest Section of Cemetery, (Detail) Looking west
7. Photo 21 of 21



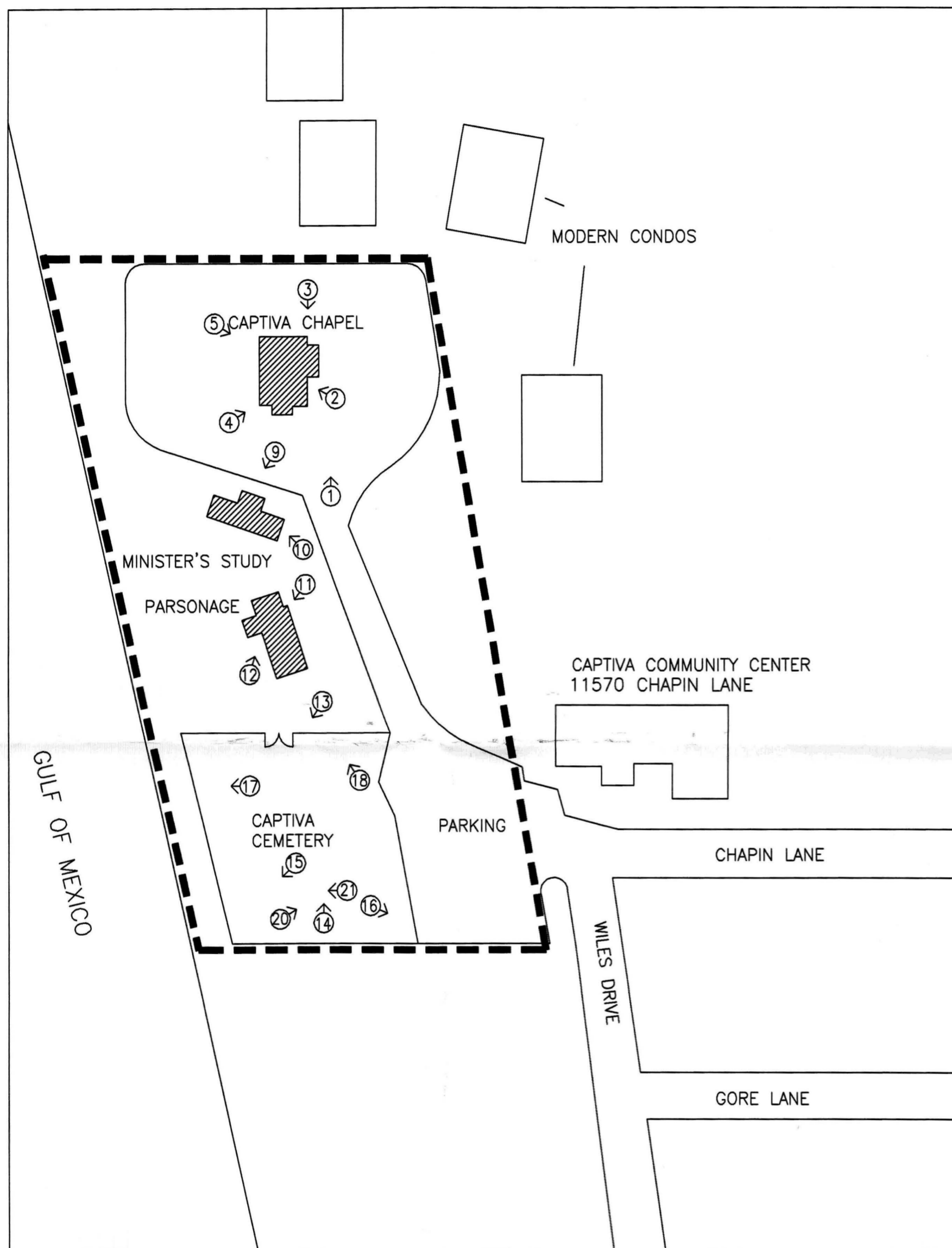
**CAPTIVA SCHOOL & CHAPEL—BY—THE—SEA  
CAPTIVA, LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**UTM REFERENCES**

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
17	381186	2933884

Latitude: 26.520522°

Longitude: -82.192400°

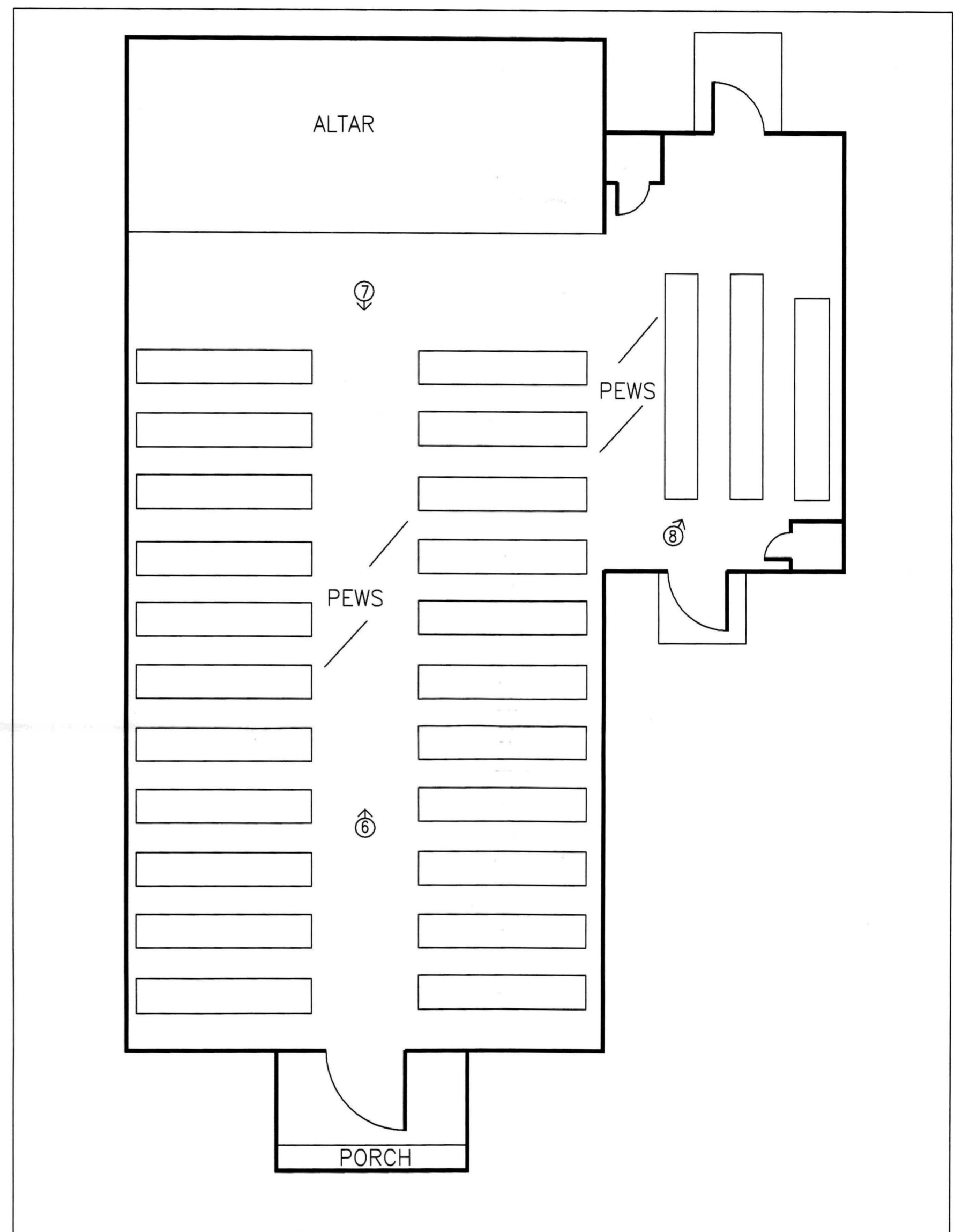


FLOOR PLAN CAPTIVA CHAPEL  
11580 CHAPIN LANE, CAPTIVA FLORIDA



0 20 40 60  
scale feet

PREPARED BY  
HISTORIC PROPERTY ASSOCIATES, INC.  
NOVEMBER 1996



FLOOR PLAN CAPTIVA CHAPEL  
11580 CHAPIN LANE, CAPTIVA FLORIDA



0 4 8  
scale feet

PREPARED BY  
HISTORIC PROPERTY ASSOCIATES, INC.  
NOVEMBER 1996

LEGEND	
CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS	
NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS	
STREET NAMES	CHAPIN LANE
STREET ADDRESSES	11580
HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARIES	
PHOTO NUMBERS	

CAPTIVA CHAPEL-BY-THE-SEA HISTORIC DISTRICT  
11580 CHAPIN LANE, CAPTIVA FLORIDA  
CAPTIVA (LEE COUNTY), FLORIDA

SCALE: SEE PANELS

ORIGINAL MAP PREPARED BY:  
STEVE OLAUSEN  
HISTORIC PROPERTY ASSOCIATES  
P.O. BOX 1002  
ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32085-1002  
Tel: (904) 794-5028

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

DRAWING NUMBER SHEET NO. 1 OF 1  
N/A

THE DEAN PARK HISTORIC RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT MAP WAS DRAWN IN AUTOCAD USING A VARIETY OF VISUAL RESOURCES INCLUDING PHOTOS AND BUILDING FOOTPRINTS DOWNLOADED FROM THE LEE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER, GIS AND SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAPS, GOOGLE STREET VIEW, AND PHOTOS TAKEN ON SITE. THE MAP WAS DRAWN TO APPROXIMATE SCALE, BUT VARIATIONS WERE ALLOWED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLARITY.

MAP REVIEWED BY: 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



Chapel By The Sea  
INTER-DENOMINATIONAL  
Sunday Worship 11:AM  
The Rev. Thomas E. Nyman  
*Welcome*





























**CAPTIVA'S HISTORIC CEMETERY**  
**MAINTAINED BY**  
**CHAPEL BY THE SEA**















ANNEMMA BRAINERD  
DAUGHTER OF H.D.S.  
& M.E. BRAINERD  
BORN IN STANSTEAD CO  
CANADA JAN 17 1831  
DIED SEPT 13 1901





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Captiva School and Chapel-by-the-Sea Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Lee

DATE RECEIVED: 9/13/13      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/26/13  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/11/13      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/30/13  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000853

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

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    10.23.13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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



September 11, 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

### **Captiva School and Chapel-By-The-Sea Historic District, Lee 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 E. Mattick*

Barbara E. Mattick, Ph.D.  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
for Survey & Registration

Enclosures



DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES  
R. A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250  
Telephone: 850.245.6300 • Facsimile: 850.245.6436 • [www.flheritage.com](http://www.flheritage.com)  
Commemorating 500 years of Florida history [www.vivaflorida.org](http://www.vivaflorida.org)



**Captiva Chapel By the Sea**  
**Post Office Box 188**  
**Captiva Florida 33924**



September 15, 2013

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Cultural Resources  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400  
1849 C Street, N. W.  
Washington, DC 20240

To the Keeper of the National Register:

The Board of Associates of the Captiva Chapel By the Sea is excited about the prospect of our historic property being placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Our building has served our island community for well over one hundred years, first as a school and now a non-denominational Chapel.

Our historic cemetery that is owned and lovingly tended by the Chapel is a final resting place for Captiva homesteaders and other island residents.

Every year, the Chapel and Cemetery are visited by an increasing number of visitors to the island who are interested in the heritage of this island location on the southwest coast of Florida.

We hope that you will give favorable consideration to the nomination by the State of Florida to grant the Captiva School and Chapel By the Sea Historic District the national historic recognition it deserves.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Nathalie Pyle, President  
Captiva Chapel By the Sea Board of Associates

*"From an original oil painting by William North"  
Chapel by the Sea, Captiva Island, Florida*



Captiva Chapel by the Sea

PO Box 188

Captiva FL 33924

FT MYERS FL 339

17 SEP 2013 PM 11



U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Cultural Resources  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240