

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 First Clewiston Post Office

other names/site number Clewiston Post Office and Telephone Office, FMSF# 00677

2. Location

street & number 111-113 Bond Street not for publication

city or town Clewiston vicinity

state Florida code FL county Hendry code 051 zip code 33440

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.)

Missie Llane 12/28/14
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation
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) _____

Joe Salby
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

3.7.2017

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	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	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)

GOVERNMENT: Post Office

OTHER: Telephone Exchange

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Mediterranean Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stucco

roof Tar and gravel

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)

- Government _____
- Commerce _____
- Architecture _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

1929-1940

Significant Dates

1929

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: Lawrence, Clark J.
Blder: Clewiston Builders

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

First Clewiston Post Office
Name of Property

Hendry Co., Florida
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property <1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	5	0	6	6	1	8	2	9	5	9	1	5	8
	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 Raymond Leonard Carroll, Jr., M.D.; Dr. Carl Shiver, FLSHPO; Andrew Waber, FLSHPO

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date December 2016

street & number 500 South Bronough St. telephone (850) 245-6333

city or town Tallahasee state FL 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 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 Raymond Leonard Carroll, Jr., M.D.

street & number 107 Ridgewood Avenue telephone (863) 983-1609

city or town Clewiston state FL zip code 33440

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

FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE
CLEWISTON, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The First Clewiston Post Office at 111-113 Bond Street was constructed in 1929 as the post office and telephone company location in downtown Clewiston. The Mediterranean Revival style building was designed by architect Clarke J. Lawrence of Palm Beach, Florida, who designed several other buildings in Clewiston. Although basically a two-part, one-story building, the old post office (111 Bond Street) contains a small second story or tower at the northeast corner. The telephone company was located in the 113 Bond Street section of the building next door. Both the 111 and 113 section of the building are now vacant. The building is one of a series of buildings along Bond Street between East Sugarland Highway on the north to East Ventura Avenue on the south.

SETTING

Clewiston is located in eastern Hendry County, in Florida's rural interior on the shore of Lake Okeechobee, 61 miles west of the city of West Palm Beach and 62 miles East of Fort Myers. It has a population of over 7,000 and is the largest of two incorporated cities in Hendry County, the other being LaBelle. U.S. Highway 27, which in Clewiston is State Road 80, bisects the city. Clewiston lies on the fringe of the Everglades and on the western boundary of what is known as America's Winter Market Basket. State Road 80 links Clewiston with all areas on the east and west coasts, and U.S. 27 is Florida's central artery from Tallahassee to Miami. The city is the site of the headquarters of the United States Sugar Corporation. Based on the city's association with the sugar industry it is often referred to as "America's Sweetest Town." Clewiston is also the site of a United States Army Corps of Engineers District Station, including its administrative offices. Local marinas offer accommodations and other services for recreational fishing and boating enthusiasts.

DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The architectural details 111-113 Bond Street are found on the main (east) facade and the north elevation (Photos 1-3). Of particular note is the second story tower on the northeast corner of the building with its pyramidal roof surfaced with clay tile and its rectangular vents found on the north and east sides of the tower. The concrete walls are surfaced with textured stucco. The windows on the main elevation are fixed multi-light show windows flanking a recessed central entrance with double wood and glass panel doors. Between the main entrance and the secondary entrance at the south end of the building is a triple set of metal frame 12-light fixed windows. The secondary entrance features a single wood panel door with a cloth canopy surmounted by a molded concrete label motif. The windows on the north elevation (Photo 4) are three sets of paired 12-light metal frame windows. The windows have concrete sills. There is also a single wood panel door on this elevation. The two-story block of the building at the northeast corner has pyramidal roof surfaced with clay tile.

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FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE
CLEWISTON, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

In the frieze area of the facade are a pair of plaster roundels containing polychrome wreaths. A molded stringcourse which is a continuation of the cornice of the one-story section of the building separates the frieze with the upper story is surmounted by a pair of metal vents. A running arched molding found just below the terra-cotta cornice extends the width of the one-story section of the main facade. The one-story section of the building has a tar and gravel roof. At the rear of the building (Photos 5-6) is a single wood frame door sheltered by a shed-roofed console. There is also a paved passageway with a wrought iron gate. The passageway features a pair of multi-light metal frame windows. The passageway ends at a single leaf wood and glass panel door. The rear of the Old Post Office Building has a small paved parking lot. The building backs onto the rear of the buildings facing U.S. Highway 27.

Interior

The main entrance to the building opens onto the ground floor of 111 Bond Street which was originally the post office (Photos 9-10). The stairs to the second floor (Photos 11-12) have been renovated. The rear exit (Photo 13) is found in a back room and opens onto the alley at the east side of the building. A storage room (Photo 14) is also found at the rear of the first floor. The stairs lead to a landing (Photo 16) on the second floor where a small loft (Photos 15-17) is located. A restroom (Photo 18) is found at the rear of the first floor. The entrance to 112 Bond Street next door features a short flight of tiled stairs (Photo 19) that leads to a small foyer (Photos 20-21). The main room of the first floor (Photos 22-24) is found just east of the foyer. A hallway (Photo 25) connecting 111 and 113 Bond Street is found near the middle of the building. Large rooms (Photos 26-29) are found at the northeast and northwest corners of 113 Bond Street. A small restroom (Photo 30) is found on the west side of the interior of 113 Bond Street. A hallway runs east (Photo 31) toward the doorway connecting 111 and 113 Bond Street. An L-shaped hallway running west (Photo 32) is found near the small middle room and continues back to the foyer.

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Section number 8 Page 1

FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE
CLEWISTON, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The First Clewiston Post Office building in Clewiston, built in 1929, is locally significant under Criterion A: Government and Commerce for housing the U.S. post office, banking services, and local telephone office, and Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a good local example of Mediterranean Revival architecture designed by Clark J. Lawrence, an area architect who provided plans for several other buildings in Clewiston. The period of significance for the building extends from 1929 until 1940, when it ceased operation as a post office and likely as a telephone exchange building. When the building opened in 1929, it not only functioned as a post office but also as a type of bank, housing a branch of the US Postal Savings System. The system, which allowed for depositors to place money at the post office in exchange for federal government backed certificates of deposit which paid two percent interest, proved especially important after the stock market crash of 1929, when many people lost faith in banks. The building also housed the Clewiston Telephone Company, later the Inter County Telephone and Telegraph Company, which was crucial to the development of the city, connecting its residents with the outside world. The Clewiston Telephone Company was one of the several companies under the control of Bror G. Dahlberg, cofounder and principal owner of the Southern Sugar Company, and was a component of Dahlberg's plan of developing Clewiston into a sugar town.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Clewiston was settled relatively recently in history, even by Florida standards. Nearby LaBelle, established c. 1886 as the center of the local cattle industry, became the first town and commercial center in what later would become Hendry County. Clewiston, the second town to be incorporated in Hendry County, experienced its earliest notable settlement in 1914 but did not undergo any real growth until the early 1920s. This was a time known as the Florida Land Boom, when many other areas of Florida were also experiencing unparalleled growth due to the investment of northern capital.

The first significant settlement of Clewiston was undertaken in 1921 by Captain John J. O'Brien, a former city editor of the Philadelphia Ledger and then vice-president of the South Florida Lands Company. O'Brien sought financing from Alonzo C. Clewis, president of the Exchange Bank in Tampa. One of the other partners in this venture was O'Brien's wife Marian Newhall Horwitz, who became the first woman in the southeast to be elected mayor when she was selected to lead Moore Haven in 1917. O'Brien purchased a \$17,714 tract of land from the State of Florida and an additional \$12,000 worth of land from the South Florida Land Company for the establishment of a new city.¹ The completion of the Moore Haven and Clewiston Railroad opened the area up to further development. This spur was the first railroad ever built in the Everglades. The railroad was a 15-mile extension from the Atlantic Coast Line terminus at Moore Haven.²

¹ State Deed No. 21284, Dated November 9, 1921, Filed May 19, 1922, Recorded in Deed Book 61, Page 686 (Lee County Record).

² Lawrence Will, Swamp to Sugar Bowl, Pioneer Days in LaBelle (Glades Historical Society, 1984), pp. 81-82.

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FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE
CLEWISTON, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

Despite the influence of the Florida real estate boom, Clewiston's real impetus for its first period of substantial settlement and growth was the establishment of the Southern Sugar Company in 1925 by a number of wealthy and successful northern businessmen.³ The chief investor and head of operations was Bror G. Dahlberg, who was the head of the Celotex Company of Chicago, which specialized in using sugarcane in the use of wallboards for construction.⁴ Most of these chief organizers of Southern Sugar expanded their personal and financial interests into ownership in and development of the Clewiston town site. Subsidiary companies, with the same principals involved in the ownership and management of Southern Sugar, were organized to oversee and profit from the planning strategies of the period and to exercise tight control over the implementation of such strategies and methods of planning. Nationally acclaimed firms were sought out to guide them in their goals. Prominent Boston city planner John Nolen was commissioned to create a master plan for the layout of the town. The Olmsted brothers, widely celebrated landscape architects, were commissioned to create a lush setting.⁵

Southern Sugar Company was reorganized as the United States Sugar Corporation in September 1931 with little impact on its operations. Local construction was continuous because of its impact as Clewiston's largest employer.⁶ Beginning in July 1930, after the U.S. Congress and President Herbert Hoover approved the Lake Okeechobee and Cross-State Waterway Project, the U.S. Corps of Engineers became a strong presence in the community. Evidence of the city's original historic character can be seen in a number of Mediterranean Revival buildings found throughout the city. A number of commercial buildings were completed between 1927 and 1930. In some cases, the original facades of historic commercial buildings have been obscured with new storefronts installed in the 1960s. Consequently, although the majority of the city's historic commercial buildings have survived, it appears that no contiguous group of historic commercial building exist that retain enough original architectural integrity to qualify for listing in the National Register as a historic district. Only two commercial buildings in Clewiston, the Dixie Crystal Theater (NR 9/25/98) and the Clewiston Inn (NR 2/21/91) have been listed in the National Register, although there are others, including the First Post Office that might meet the criteria for listing.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The town of Clewiston was first awarded its post office on February 24, 1922, shortly after its founding. Thelma O'Brien was named as the first postmaster of the town; she was replaced by L. L. Ramsey in 1925, who served in this capacity until 1929. The post office at this time was based out of the Clewiston Supply Company building, where Ramsey worked with Art Lawrence, who would later take over as postmaster of Clewiston in

³ Hendry County News, December 18, 1925.

⁴ Steve Davis and John C. Ogden, Everglades: The Ecosystem and Its Restoration (Boca Raton, FL: St. Lucie Press, 1997), 93.

⁵ Hendry County News, March 12, 1926 and April 9, 1926.

⁶ Florence Fritz, Unknown Florida, (Coral Gables, FL: University of Miami Press, 1963), p. 159

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FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE
CLEWISTON, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

the 1930s. By the late 1920s, the US Postal Service, then known as the Post Office Department, announced plans to construct a new building to accommodate the growing town.⁷

Completed in September 1929, the First Clewiston Post Office building housed both the local post office and the offices and telephone exchange for the Clewiston Telephone Company. The building also functioned as a bank, with the post office offering postal savings accounts, savings bonds, and money orders for the community. The building, constructed at a cost of \$4,000, included a money order, postal savings and registry window, and a stamped general delivery and parcel post window. There were roughly 530 post office boxes of various sizes in the post office and equipment such as parcel post package cases; combination mailing cases; a dumping and stamping table with pad; a general delivery letter case with a table; and a general delivery paper case with a table.⁸ In 1930, the original concrete floor was covered over in Celotex.⁹ The first mailbox in Clewiston was installed outside the post office building later that year.¹⁰

The savings department of the Clewiston Post Office would have been an important center of financial transactions in the community. It was a branch of the US Postal Savings System, which was originally founded in 1910 to encourage people distrustful of banks to safely and conveniently deposit their money. In exchange, they were handed certificates of deposit which were backed by the federal government that they could redeem on two percent interest paid annually. The money was usually sent for safekeeping to a system of local banks, who paid the federal government 2.5 percent interest in return, which subsidized the system. Depositors also had the opportunity to invest their money directly in postal savings bonds, which paid a higher interest and required larger denominations for investment. The Postal Savings System was especially important to rural communities that were underserved by banks. With the stock market crash of 1929, the number of depositors into the Postal Savings System skyrocketed from \$153 million in 1929 to \$1.2 billion in the 1930s, reaching a peak of \$3.4 billion after World War II. In March 1933, as the national banking crisis reached its height, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt called for a national moratorium on all banking transactions. This was preceded by a five-day partial moratorium placed by Florida governor David Sholtz. In Clewiston, customers who deposited their money with the Post Office were the only ones with access to their money during this time.¹¹ After the war, as the economy boomed, banks raised their interest rates to two percent and offered the same federal government guarantee as the Postal Savings System, thanks to the creation of the FDIC. This

⁷ Clewiston News, "Appointment of Art Lawrence Now Effective," July 4, 1930.

⁸ Clewiston News, "Specifications for Post Office Bldg. Are Announced Here," September 13, 1929; Clewiston News, "Post Office is Opened in Civic Center Section," September 27, 1929.

⁹ Clewiston News, "Celotex Floor in Local Post Office Gets Official O.K.," January 31, 1930.

¹⁰ Clewiston News, "Town Gets First Street Mail Box," May 2, 1930.

¹¹ Clewiston News, "Business Doesn't Slump in Spite of Shortage of Cash," March 10, 1933.

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FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE
CLEWISTON, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
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spelled the beginning of the end of the system as deposits decreased. By 1967, the Postal Savings System officially came to an end.¹²

When the federal government began issuing United States Savings bonds, known as “baby bonds,” in 1935, they were widely available for purchase in US post offices across the country. The federal government also stopped issuing postal savings bonds in 1935 but continued with the Postal Savings System. In Clewiston, citizens who wished to take advantage of the US Savings Bond program bought their bonds from the post office.¹³ In 1937, the Clewiston post office was 7th in the state per capita in the amount of savings bonds it sold, selling over \$10,000 that year alone.¹⁴ The post office also saw a lot of business in issuing money orders, with over \$39,000 worth of money orders issued in 1938 alone.¹⁵ The money kept there made it a target. In September 1934, a robber held up the post office assistant A.W. Sias, tying him up and stealing \$175 out of the safe. Sias was able to free himself after getting the attention of the telephone operator Maude Hare next door. The thief was later apprehended. Sias would later take over as the postmaster of the town.¹⁶

In August 1937, there was much excitement in town as the first ever air mail shipment in Hendry County was made through the Clewiston airport as part of the larger Florida Air Mail Week promotion. Over 100 people were on hand to witness Postmaster A.W. Sias hand over a mailbag containing 300 air mail letters to the pilot. From there, they were delivered via airplane to West Palm Beach and distributed to northern destinations.¹⁷ In 1938, a new rural mail route servicing five of the US Sugar Corporation’s sugar plantations began. The opening of the mail route marked a significant milestone in the development and expansion of that section of Hendry County.

Clewiston Telephone Company

The Clewiston Telephone Company was formally incorporated on August 31, 1929. The president of the company was Southern Sugar Company head Bror G. Dahlberg.¹⁸ Prior to the construction of the telephone exchange, telephone service was more or less confined to a few places in town, with only one long distance line extending to Moore Haven. When the post office and exchange building first opened in September 1929, telephone company officials decided to just initiate local service. Long distance service was started later in 1929 when telephone lines extended directly to West Palm Beach and Fort Myers. The success of this service was

¹² United States Postal Service, “Postal Savings System,” July 2008, <https://about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-history/postal-savings-system.pdf>.

¹³ Clewiston News, “Baby Bonds’ For Sale at Local Post Office,” March 8, 1935.

¹⁴ Clewiston News, “Clewiston Ranks 7th in U.S. Bond Sales in Fla.,” March 25, 1938.

¹⁵ Clewiston News, “Increased Receipts Shown by Local Post Office in 1938,” January 6, 1939.

¹⁶ Clewiston News, “Bandit Robs Post Office; Attempts Suicide in Jail,” September 7, 1934.

¹⁷ Clewiston News, “Air Mail Plane Receives Cordial Welcome Here,” September 3, 1937.

¹⁸ Clewiston News, “Charter of Clewiston Telephone Company,” Aug 30, 1929.

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FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE
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such that by the end of the year in 1929, there were more long distance calls being handled through the exchange office than there were people in the town of Clewiston, which was around 6,000 people at the time.¹⁹ By April 1930, the number of phone calls grew to 36,000.²⁰ The Hare family played a pivotal role in the running of the telephone service. Originally from South Carolina, RM and Maude Hare moved to Clewiston with their children in 1929 to take over the telephone office, actually taking up residence in the building. When the Inter County Telephone and Telegraph Company of Fort Myers acquired the Clewiston Telephone Company in 1939, Maude and her daughters Evelyn and Dorothy were the only phone operators the town knew since operations began ten years earlier.²¹ The exact date of when the Inter County Telephone and Telegraph Company stopped using the First Clewiston Post Office is not known but it was likely that the telephone company left the building by 1940. The telephone company was still occupying the building as of 1934 but there were no references to the telephone company in articles detailing the relocation of the post office in 1939 and 1940. By 1959, the telephone company relocated to 113 West Ventura Avenue.²²

As the city grew, it quickly became apparent that the facilities used were insufficient for the post office. A request was made by the postal inspector for the construction of a new facility shortly after the Clewiston post office was upgraded by the US Postal Department. In November 1939, the Post Office Department selected a spot across the street from the original post office building adjacent to the Royal Store Building and chose the Royal Lumber Company to construct the new building. The Royal Company used local contractor J.F. Tippey for the new post office. Construction was completed in March 1940.²³ In 1941, Maldon Wright acquired the First Clewiston Post Office, from which he ran the Clewiston Appliance and Furniture Store. The store remained there less than a year, when it moved down the street into the Hopkins Block Building. In ca. 1942, Arch Simmons ran the Seminole Liquor Package Store out of the First Post Office building. He later sold the business in 1944 to Berlin Griffin.²⁴ What happened with the post office building from this point is not certain. The US Sugar Company owned this building in 1972, when they sold it off.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE

Although the First Clewiston Post Office is not a major example of the Mediterranean Revival style in Florida it is a distinctive example of the style applied to a small commercial building constructed during the early

¹⁹ Clewiston News, "Steady Increase Marks Operation of Telephone Co.," December 27, 1929.

²⁰ Clewiston News, "36,000 Telephone Calls Made in April," May 2, 1930.

²¹ Clewiston News, "Telephone Service now in Charge of Ft. Myers Company," January 6, 1939; R.M. Hare, Jr. Obituary, Palm Beach Post, June 21, 2007.

²² Clewiston City Directory (Richmond, VA: R.L. Polk & Co., 1959).

²³ Clewiston News, "Royal Gets Contract for New Post-Office Building," November 10, 1939; Clewiston News, "New Post-Office to be in Use by Tomorrow Night," March 15, 1940.

²⁴ Clewiston News, "Maldon Wright Buys Markette Building," September 5, 1941; Clewiston News, "Building Addition has Been Completed," March 20, 1942; Clewiston News, "Seminole Package Store Sold by Arch Simmons," August 11, 1944.

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FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE
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development the city of Clewiston, and it was designed by architect Clark J. Lawrence who achieved a national reputation. The most popular style of architecture in Florida during the 1920s was the Mediterranean Revival. The style contains architectural elements derived from the area around the Mediterranean Sea, especially Italy and Spain. It is found in the parts of the United States which have a Spanish Colonial heritage, such as Florida, but it and its subtypes were nationally popular. Various aspects of the Mediterranean Revival style have been categorized as Spanish Colonial or Mission Revival, and the result is a wide array of eclectic buildings. All variations of the style have some general characteristics, including a preference for clay tile roofs, stucco walls, arched entrances and windows, porches, patios, balconies, complex roof lines and ceramic tile decorations. Other identifying features include arcaded wings, balconets, multi-light casement and double-hung sash windows, often deeply set in the walls or arched openings, and the use of wrought iron. Other features include the curvilinear dormer and roof parapet and the use of quatrefoil windows.

The Clewiston post office was constructed in 1929. Two early photos (Photos 8-9) from the collection of the University of Florida show the building's original design. One titled the "Hopkins Block," the name of one of the buildings designed by Clark, shows the post office at the right side of the photograph. The automobiles parked along Bond Avenue are all 1920s vintage. Except for the Hopkins Block on the other side of the street, none of the other building now found along Bond Avenue have yet been constructed, suggesting that the photo dates from the 1920s. Another early photo shows a sign clearly identifying the building as the U.S. Post Office and contains a telephone pole with a pipe carrying the telephone wires into the upper part of the building.

Clark J. Lawrence

The First Clewiston Post Office was designed by architect Clark J. Lawrence (1889-1966), a native of New York and a graduate of the College of Architecture of Cornell University. The builder of the post office was the firm Clewiston Builders, which partnered with Glenn Heard and G.W. Gordon, a contracting firm responsible for erecting Lawrence's other buildings in Clewiston, including the Executive House. During his years at Cornell, Lawrence received the Brown Memorial Medal for excellence in architectural design. His early years in the field were spent in the offices of Charles A. Platt and Trowbridge & Ackerman, both of New York and both famous for their domestic architecture. Lawrence served in World War I, achieving the rank of Major of Field Artillery in the reserve corps of the U.S. Army. He continued to use his title of "Major" for the rest of his life. For two years prior to coming to Florida, Lawrence worked in a partnership with George Gray of New Haven, Connecticut, and his firm did all of the design work for Berea College in Berea, Kentucky where an extensive building program was carried out. The firm also specialized in large residential work during this period.

Lawrence came to Florida in the fall of 1925 and achieved early success designing a number of buildings in Palm Beach and West Palm Beach. In Clewiston, Lawrence designed the 1929 addition to the Southern Sugar

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 7

FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE
CLEWISTON, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

Administration Building (non-extant), the Clewiston News newspaper building (1927), the Hopkins Block (1928), the Kettl Tearoom (1928) and a number of residences, including the Executive House at 125 West Del Monte Avenue, the residence of Bror Dahlberg. The residence is an excellent local example of the Mediterranean Revival style. The residence was listed in the National Register on February 5, 1998.²⁵

²⁵ Historic Properties Survey of Clewiston, Florida, Phase I, prepared for the Calusa Valley Historical Society. Prepared by the Historical and Architectural Research Services, Sarasota, Florida, January 1997.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1

FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE
CLEWISTON, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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_____. "Air Mail Plane Receives Cordial Welcome Here," September 3, 1937.

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_____. "Bandit Robs Post Office; Attempts Suicide in Jail," September 7, 1934.

_____. "Building Addition has Been Completed," March 20, 1942.

_____. "Business Doesn't Slump in Spite of Shortage of Cash," March 10, 1933.

_____. "Celotex Floor in Local Post Office Gets Official O.K.," January 31, 1930.

_____. "Charter of Clewiston Telephone Company," August 30, 1929.

_____. "Increased Receipts Shown by Local Post Office in 1938," January 6, 1939.

_____. "Maldon Wright Buys Markette Building," September 5, 1941.

_____. "New Post-Office to be in Use by Tomorrow Night," March 15, 1940.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 2

FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE
CLEWISTON, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 3

FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE
CLEWISTON, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE
CLEWISTON, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 32 and 33 in Block 358 of the general plan of Clewiston, Florida, as revised September 7, 1957, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 2, Pages 71-78, inclusive of the Public Records of Hendry County, Florida

Parcel no. 3-34-43-01-010-0358-013-0; Township 43 South, Range 34 East, Section 15

Boundary Justification

All of the historic resources associated with the First Clewiston Post Office are contained within the above boundaries.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 1

FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE
CLEWISTON, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. First Clewiston Post Office
2. 111-113 Bond Street, Clewiston, Hendry County, Florida
3. Raymond Leonard Carroll, Jr., MD
4. December 2015
5. 107 Ridgewood Avenue, Clewiston Florida
6. Main (East) Facade and North Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 1 of 32

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the following photos unless otherwise indicated

4. December 2016
6. Front (East) Facade, Main Entrance Looking West
7. Photo 2 of 32

4. December 2016
6. Main (East) Facade, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 2 of 32

4. December 2016
6. North Elevation, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 3 of 32

4. December 2016
6. North and (Rear) West Elevations, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 4 of 32

4. December 2016
6. North and South Wing Elevations, Looking South
7. Photo 5 of 32

4. December 2016
6. West (Rear) Elevation, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 6 of 32

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 2

FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE
CLEWISTON, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. First Clewiston Post Office
3. Unknown
4. c. 1927-1928
5. University of Florida Photo Archives
6. Bond Street, Looking South
7. Photo 7 of 32

1. First Clewiston Post Office
3. Unknown
4. c. 1927-1928
5. University of Florida Photo Archives
6. North Elevation of Post Office, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 8 of 32

6. Interior, 111 Bond Street, First Floor, Main Room, Looking West
7. Photo 9 of 32

6. Interior, 111 Bond Street, First Floor, Main Room, Looking East
7. Photo 10 of 32

6. Interior, 111 Bond Street, First Floor, Main Stairs, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 11 of 32

6. Interior, 111 Bond Street, First Floor, Main Stairs, Looking East
7. Photo 12 of 32

6. Interior, 111 Bond Street, First Floor, Rear Exit, Looking North
7. Photo 13 of 32

6. Interior, 111 Bond Street, First Floor, Back Room, Looking South
7. Photo 14 of 32

6. Interior, 111 Bond Street, Loft, Stairs, Looking North
7. Photo 15 of 32

6. Interior, 111 Bond Street, Loft, Looking East
7. Photo 16 of 32

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National Park Service**

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 3

FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE
CLEWISTON, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

6. Interior, 111 Bond Street, Loft, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 17 of 32

6. Interior, 111 Bond Street, First Floor, Restroom, Looking West
7. Photo 18 of 32

6. Interior, 113 Bond Street, Entrance Stairs, Looking West
7. Photo 19 of 32

6. Interior 113, Bond Street, Foyer, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 20 of 32

6. Interior 113, Bond Street, Foyer, Looking North
7. Photo 21 of 32

6. Interior 113, Bond Street, Hallway, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 22 of 32

6. Interior 113, Bond Street, Main Room, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 23 of 32

6. Interior 113, Bond Street, Main Room, Looking West
7. Photo 24 of 32

6. Interior 113, Bond Street, Main Room, Looking South
7. Photo 25 of 32

6. Interior 113, Bond Street, Northeast Room, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 26 of 32

6. Interior 113, Bond Street, Southwest Room, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 27 of 32

6. Interior 113, Bond Street, Southwest Room, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 28 of 32

6. Interior 113, Bond Street, Restroom, Looking South
7. Photo 29 of 32

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National Park Service**

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 4

FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE
CLEWISTON, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

6. Interior 113, Bond Street, Northwest Room, Looking South to Hallway
7. Photo 30 of 32

6. Interior 113, Bond Street, Hallway, Looking North
7. Photo 31 of 32

6. Interior 113, Bond Street, Hallway, Looking South
7. Photo 32 of 32

First Clewiston Post Office

111-113 Bond St.
Clewiston, Hendry Co.,
Florida


Lat./Long. Coordinates:
-80.933434 26.753708

UTM:
17R 506618 2959158

USGS Quad:
Clewiston North

Datum: WGS84

Legend

 Proposed NR Boundary

Date: 11/10/2016

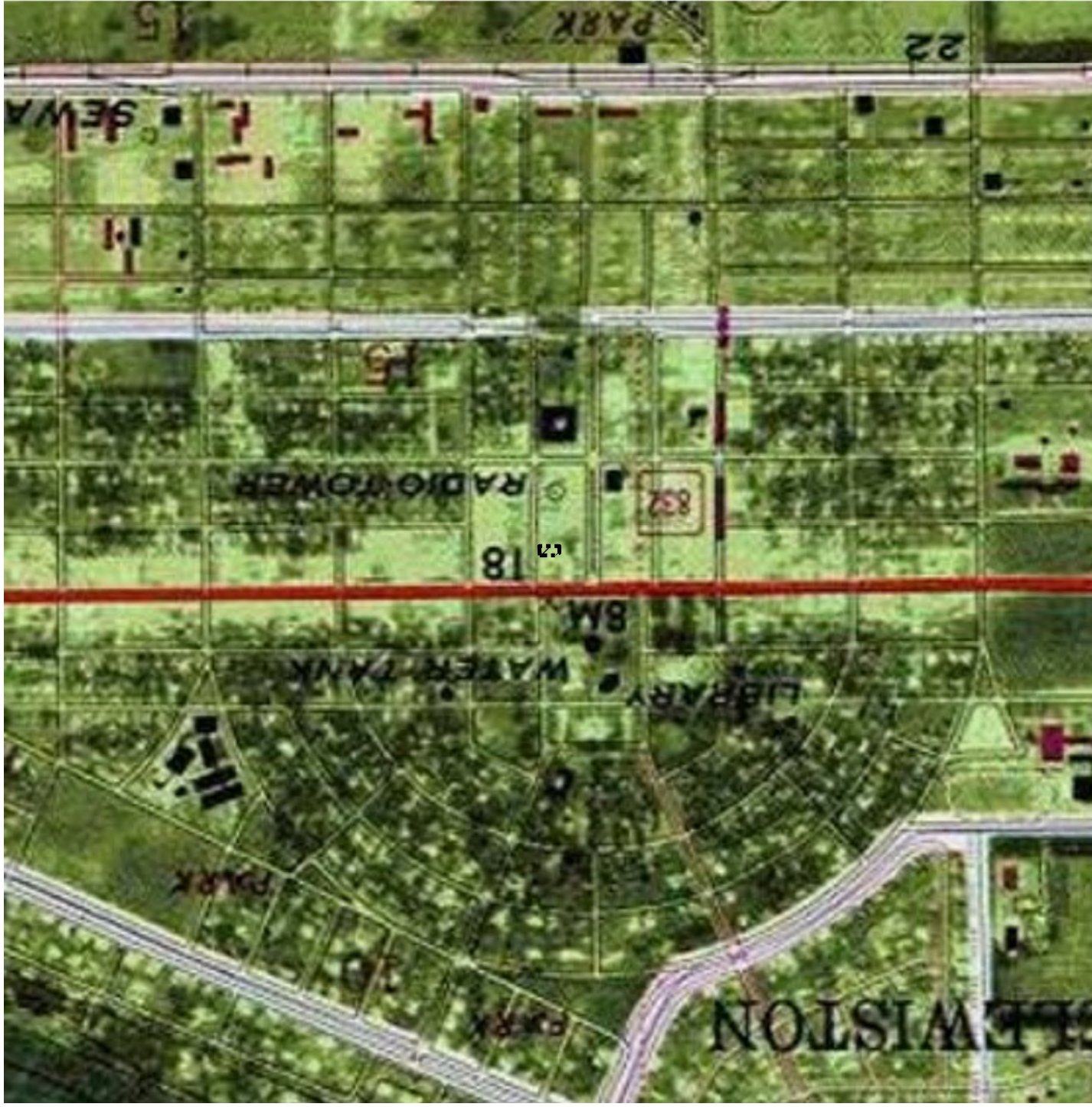
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Feet

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Meters

Basemap Source: 2013 National
Geographic Society, i-cubed



First Clewiston Post Office


111-113 Bond St.
Clewiston, Hendry Co.,
Florida

Lat./Long. Coordinates:
-80.933434 26.753708

UTM:
17R 506618 2959158

Datum: WGS84

Legend

 Proposed NR Boundary

Date: 11/10/2016

N

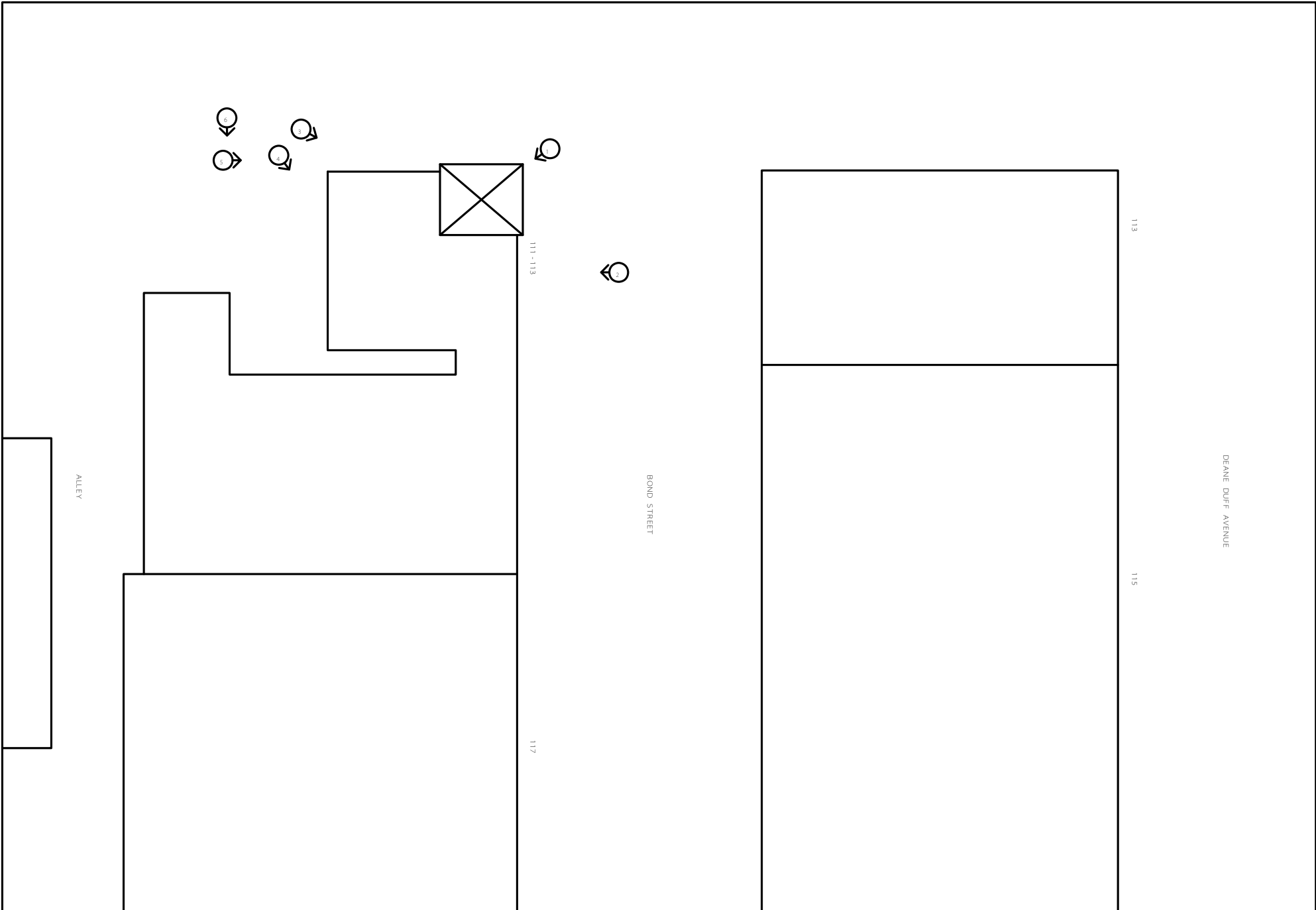
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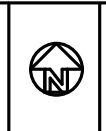
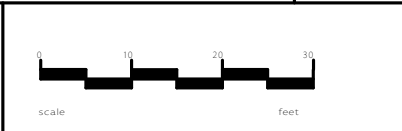
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Basemap Source: Source: Esri,
DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar
Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS,
USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping,
Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo,
and the GIS User Community





FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE
 111 - 113 BOND STREET
 CLEWISTON (HENDRY COUNTY), FLORIDA

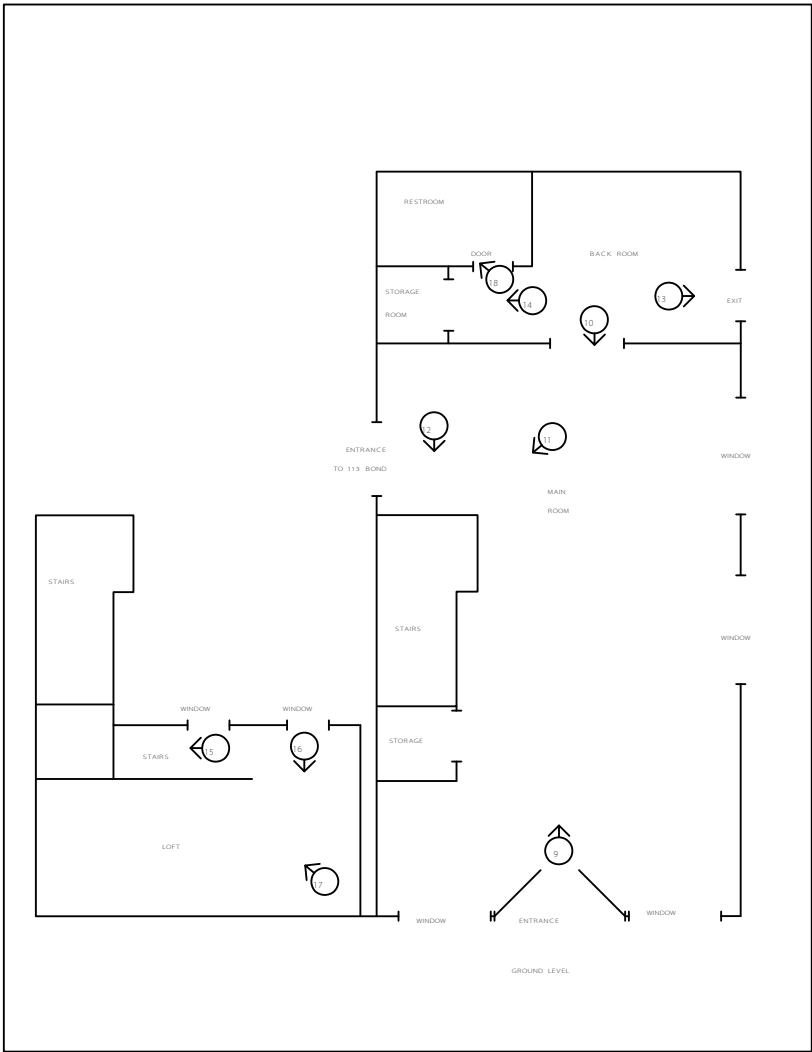
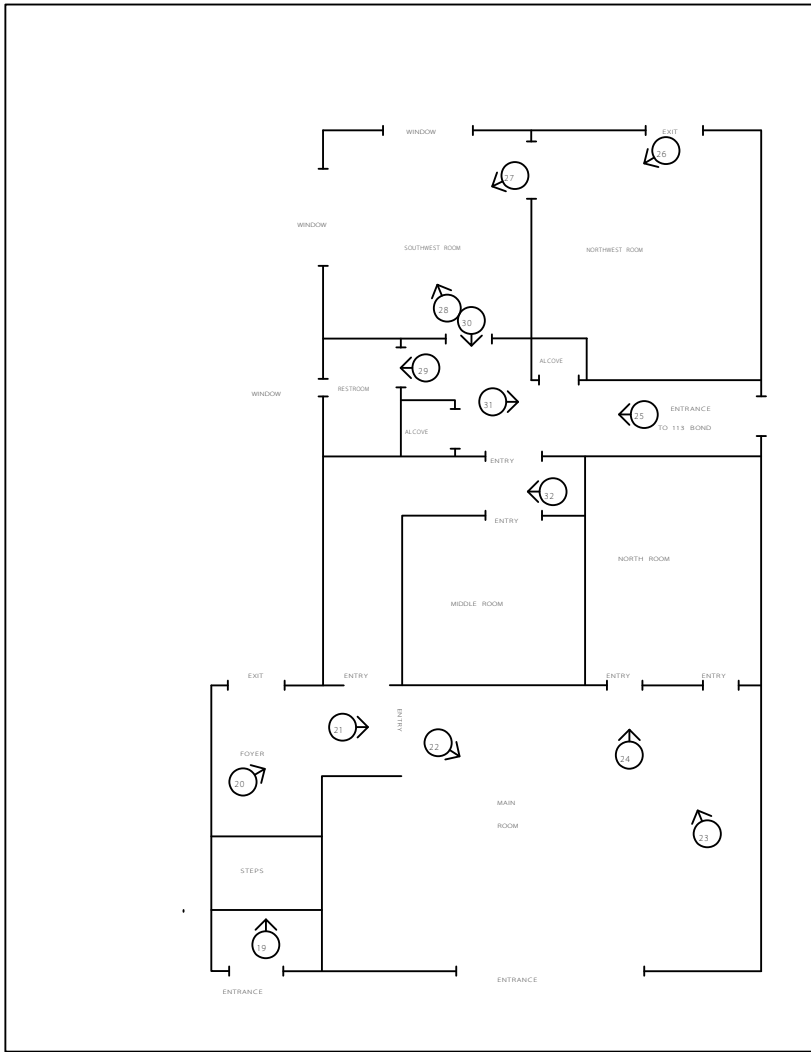


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 BRADY REAL ESTATE
 EMAIL: rcarroll@bradyrealestate.com

DESIGNED BY: W. CLAY THAYER
 DRAUGHTSMAN: JANUARY 2012
 THE FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE USE PLAN MAY BE REPRODUCED
 WITHOUT CHARGE, A VARIETY OF SPECIAL PERMISSIONS
 INCLUDING: PHOTO, VIDEO, OR DIGITAL STREET VIEW
 UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES AND APPROVAL BY MAPS

PLANNING NUMBER: N/A SHEET NO. 1 OF 1
 NOT TO SCALE BY: CARL SAUER
 FLORIDA BUREAU OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
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FIRST CLEWISTON POST OFFICE

111-113 BOND STREET
CLEWISTON (HENDRY COUNTY), FLORIDA



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CORCORAN, FLORIDA 32408
DATE: MAY 2008
EMAIL: raymond@carrollpostoffice.org

DRAWN BY: W. CARL SEEVER
DESIGNED BY: CAROLYN STEVENS
DATE: MAY 2008
THIS PLAN IS UNDESIGNED UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
NOTHING HEREIN IS A WARRANTY OF FITNESS, MERCHANTABILITY, OR ACCURACY.
DESIGNED BY: CAROLYN STEVENS
DATE: MAY 2008
DRAWING NUMBER: 10001-001-0001
SHEET NUMBER: 1 OF 2
JOB NUMBER: 10001-001-0001

DRAWING NUMBER: 10001-001-0001
SHEET NO.: 1 OF 2





XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX



POST OFFICE
XXXXXXXXXX









City of
CLEWISTON





HOPKINS BLOCK — CHEWISTON, FLA.



U.S. POST OFFICE
CLEWISTON FLORIDA

















































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 1/20/2017 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 3/7/2017 Date of Weekly List: 3/16/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 3/7/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

January 19, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief,
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
Department of the Interior
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for **First Clewiston Post Office (FMSF#: 8HN00677), in Hendry County**, to the National Register of Historic Places. The related materials (digital images, maps, and site plan) are included.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruben A. Acosta".

Ruben A. Acosta
Supervisor, Survey & Registration
Bureau of Historic Preservation

RAA/raa

Enclosures