

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

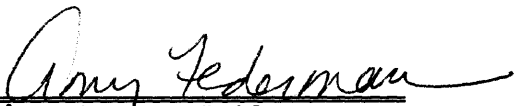
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000107 Date Listed: 02/20/91

Dillard High School Broward FL
Property Name County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

02/21/91
Date of Action

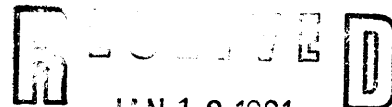
=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Criterion Consideration G should be checked since the period of significance goes up through 1942.

Discussed and concurred in by FL SHPO staff on February 21, 1991.
Will not count in audit as per conversation with Barbara Mattick.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without attachment)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



JAN 18 1991

NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 18).

1. Name of Property

historic name Old Dillard High School
other names/site number Colored School, Walker Elementary/ 8Bd193

2. Location

street & number 1001 N.W. Fourth Street
city, town Ft. Lauderdale
state Florida code FL county Broward code 011 zip code 33311

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal
Category of Property: building(s), district, site, structure, object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing (1), Noncontributing (0), Total (1)

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: Suzanne P. Walker (deputy)
Date: 1/14/91
State or Federal agency and bureau: Florida State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[X] entered in the National Register.
[] See continuation sheet.
[] determined eligible for the National Register. [] See continuation sheet.
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[] removed from the National Register.
[] other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper: Amy Federman
Date of Action: 2/20/91

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: School

Recreation & Culture: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Masonry Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stucco

roof Other: Tar & Gravel

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Education

1924-1942

1942

Ethnic Heritage: Black

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Peterman, John Morris/

Cayot & Hart

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

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

A

1	7
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5	8	4	4	6	0
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2	8	8	9	6	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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--	--	--	--	--	--

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara E. Mattick/ Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date December 1990

street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

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SUMMARY

The Old Dillard High School at 1001 Northwest Fourth Street in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is a 1924, two story, T-shaped Masonry Vernacular building with some Mission Style features. In c1940 a four room, two story addition of compatible design was made on the north side. The exterior is stuccoed, and the roof is flat with parapets and tile, scupper-like attic vents. Fenestration is generally triple or double 6/1 double hung sash with three-light transoms and concrete sills. It has a fairly regular central hall plan.

SETTING

The school building is located on the northwest corner of Northwest Tenth Avenue and Northwest Fourth Street, in a residential area of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, originally known as Tuskegee Park. The school was originally centered on a 200 x 220 foot plot of land in Block 8 of the Tuskegee Park Subdivision. Over the years, temporary buildings were placed on the property. A two room concrete block building was built east of the main building, along Northwest Tenth Avenue c1947, but it has been demolished. In the 1950s, Walker Elementary School, a complex of buildings, was built immediately west of the Old Dillard High School (photo 1). A large recreation area occupies the entire northern half of the block, and school buildings and parking lots occupy the southern half.

EXTERIOR

The main entrance to the Old Dillard High School is centered on the south elevation. It has double, panelled doors with four fixed lights in the upper half, side lights, and a transom. It is sheltered by a canopy and approached via two concrete, terraced steps. A double window is centered over the door at the second floor level. Two sets of triple windows flank the central axis of the elevation on both floors. Pilasters are located between the sets of windows (photo 2).

The east elevation has three bays marked by the same elements as those on the south elevation. Double windows at

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the first and second floor are located at the south end. Both the central and northern bays have two sets of triple windows separated by a pilaster. The northern bay, which is the east elevation of the c1940 addition, is distinguished from the central bay by its smaller pilaster and lack of scuppers. The side of the rear stairway is also visible on the east elevation (photo 3).

The rear or north elevation has a single, central entrance and no windows. The elevation is dominated by a red tile roofed concrete stairway which was added during recent renovations (photo 3). Windows on the north side of the head of the T are also visible.

The north bay of the west elevation mirrors its counterpart on the east elevation. The central bay, however, differs, having two sets of double six-light windows and one single six-light window on the second floor, and three doorways on the first floor. The south bay is plain except for scuppers (photo 4).

INTERIOR

The first floor of the interior has a central hall which accesses four classrooms, restrooms, a Director's Office, and an elevator and stairway which lead to the second floor. The second floor has a central corridor which accesses five classrooms, storage areas at the south end of the corridor and just north of the stairway, and the elevator (photos 5, 6, & 7).

The floors are wood; and 1920s type light fixtures, augmented by recessed fluorescent lights, are in place. Fine tile work is located in the restrooms and around water fountains (photos 8 & 9).

ALTERATIONS

Restoration of the Old Dillard High School was completed in the spring of 1990. Many alterations made to the building since 1924 were reversed, and the building now reflects its c1940 appearance to a very high degree.

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Structurally, the exterior is little changed, except for the new concrete fire escape on the north elevation (photo 10), and doorways in the central bay of the west elevation. An historically significant exterior feature which has been altered several times in the history of the building is the name which was applied at the top of the central bay of the main elevation. "Colored School", the name by the school was first known, was there originally (photo 4). Sometime in the 1940s, perhaps when the building was cleaned or restuccoed, "Colored" was removed, leaving only "School" (photo 11). Since then, these letters were also removed. The restoration plans call for the replacement of "Colored School" in applied metal letters.

The historic configuration of the interior remains intact, although some rooms have new uses: the center classroom on the east side of the first floor corridor has been converted into restrooms and a breakroom; and the old boys' and girls' restrooms on the west side of the corridor are now a Director's Office and an equipment room for a newly installed elevator. The former girls' restroom is now accessed only by an exterior door. The second floor has been altered only with the addition of the elevator.

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SUMMARY

The Old Dillard High School, originally known simply as the "Colored School", is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage: Black as the first black high school in Broward County. It is the symbol of one minority community's struggle for equal opportunities in education, and since its construction, has been an important center of Afro-American life in Fort Lauderdale and Broward County, Florida. Because Blacks in Broward County were finally granted equal school terms in 1942 through the efforts of the Dillard High School principal, the period of significance is extended beyond 1940 to 1942.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Blacks in Fort Lauderdale and Broward County

Black migration to the Broward County area began during the late 1880s and early 1890s, as black families moved to South Florida from Central Florida and Georgia. Some were descendants of native born Americans or freed/runaway slaves, and others came from the Bahama Islands off Florida's east coast. These settlers were skilled in farming, carpentry, blacksmithing, and other craft trades. They formed the majority of the labor force for Henry Flagler's railroad as it pushed its way south along the Florida east coast during the 1890s. When the railroad was finished, many of the laborers stayed in the area and worked as sharecroppers. Very few blacks owned their own fields, but many owned their residential lots.

As Fort Lauderdale began to grow in the early 1900s, blacks concentrated in the northwestern part of the community. This area, north of Broward Boulevard and west of the Florida East Coast Railroad tracks, was relatively isolated and quickly became known as Fort Lauderdale's "colored town". This segregation was reinforced later in 1927 when the city government adopted a plan which officially sanctioned the separation of the black community, restricting black homes to the northwest quadrant, and

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forbidding Negroes to travel to other sections of the city after certain hours.

In Florida, the 1920s were a time of a booming economy, population growth, and real estate development. Fort Lauderdale had incorporated in 1911, and Broward County had split from Dade County in 1915. Rum runners brought in liquor from the Bahamas, and tourists took advantage of railroads and automobiles to visit South Florida. In such an environment, blacks could count on jobs in construction trades and tourism, as well as their traditional employment in agriculture.

Education in Broward County

The first school in Fort Lauderdale was established on October 2, 1899. Miss Ivey Cromartie, an eighteen year old teacher with a newly earned third grade teaching certificate, was brought to the area from Lemon City, a settlement near Miami, Florida. She had nine pupils, none of whom was black. In Florida, Black Codes developed during Reconstruction did provide for separate Negro schools, to be supported by a tax of one dollar on Negro men plus tuition fees. They were to pose no expense to the state. By 1901, Dade County had twenty-six wood frame schools; twenty were for whites and six were for blacks. The total student enrollment for the county was 997.

Blacks living in the area pushed for greater educational opportunities for their children, perhaps seeing education as a rung on the ladder of upward mobility. The first Black school in what was to become Broward County was opened in 1903 in Deerfield Beach, a community north of Fort Lauderdale. According to Cooper Kirk, Broward County's official historian, "Negroes in Fort Lauderdale petitioned for a school in the summer 1904, but for some publicly undisclosed reason the board stated that it found it impossible to open a colored school in Fort Lauderdale [that] year." By 1906, however, there was so much agitation by the black community that the school board voted on July 10 to establish "at Fort Lauderdale for four months to begin August 6 a colored school."

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The first permanent black school in Fort Lauderdale opened in 1907. White pioneer Tom M. Bryan gave the community a one-room, frame building on the west side of Northwest Third Avenue. The building was also used for church services on Sundays. When this building was demolished to make room for an ice plant in 1910, black children got what little education they could in private homes and at a school set up in the Knights of Pythias Hall at Northwest Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue. The Hall, however, lacked adequate space, and parents were concerned that a pool hall in the basement of the building created an inappropriate environment for a school.

In addition to inadequate facilities, school sessions for black children were one to two months shorter than the sessions for whites, for black children were expected to help in the fields picking crops after school and during the winter harvest. In spite of, or perhaps because of these obstacles, blacks had a better school attendance record than did whites. State Superintendent of Public Instruction W.M. Holloway reported in 1910: "Average attendance is not known among the 'colored schools'. They keep it [attendance] well up toward the perfect mark." The first school census of the county was taken in 1915. It showed 421 white pupils and 75 black pupils in Fort Lauderdale. Fort Lauderdale had the largest concentration of black students in the county, yet had no public school for them. This condition still persisted in 1923, in spite of the fact that the black community of Fort Lauderdale had a principal and four teachers who taught through the eighth grade level.

. HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

In 1923, the Broward County School Board, under pressure to meet the demands of the black community, finally agreed to build a "colored school". Frank and Ivy Cromartie Stranahan, leading white citizens of Fort Lauderdale, offered to provide land in Tuskegee, a black subdivision, for the new school at a modest cost. School Board records show that prominent local architect John Morris Peterman received the contract to design the school, and builders Cayot and Hart were the successful bidders to do the construction. The total cost would be \$13,950.24. After

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the school was finished in March 1924 and accepted by the School Board, the Stranahans deeded the property to the School Board for \$1.00. Always interested in education, Mrs. Stranahan was the same woman who had been Fort Lauderdale's first teacher in 1899, Ivy Cromartie.

Although the completion of the new school building was a pivotal event in the evolution of black education in Broward County, it was the leadership of educators such as Joseph A. Ely and Clarence C. Walker which left the most enduring legacy to the community. Joseph Ely served as the first principal and renamed the new school, originally simply called the "Colored School", in 1924. Professor Ely chose to officially name the school after James Hardy Dillard, a white man who had promoted good relations between the races in the South. Born in 1856, Dillard was a member of the Louisiana State Board of Education from 1904-1908. From 1907 until 1931, he was the President of the Jeanes Foundation, an organization which funded Negro rural schools in the South. In 1928, Dillard was awarded a gold medal from the Harmon Foundation in New York for fostering good racial relations. It is perhaps curious that Professor Ely named his school after a white man, but Ely said at the time that "he wanted the Negro school named Dillard in recognition of the white man's outstanding services to the education of the Negro in the South." There was probably also pressure from the "white" establishment to name the school after a white person.

During the Depression of the 1930s, Lincoln Brown and J.W. Mickens followed Joseph Ely as principals of Dillard. Black children came from all over Broward County to attend the school. Until Dillard expanded to a full high school curriculum, however, students who wanted to complete their education had to leave the county and board elsewhere, an expense that few families could afford. Many of those who could sent students to black high schools in Miami or West Palm Beach.

Clarence C. Walker (1880-1942)

One man who shaped both the community and the Dillard School was Clarence C. Walker, who became principal in

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September 1937. Born on a farm near Jackson, Ohio on September 8, 1880, Walker was the son of an ex-slave. He attended Wilberforce University, an African Methodist-Episcopal school, and became friends with prominent black leaders such as Booker T. Washington. He served as principal at a number of schools before going to Fort Lauderdale, including Central Academy in Palatka, which he led to become the first accredited black high school in the state. Walker increased pay for black teachers and instituted such electives as shop, music and economics, besides stressing basic academic subjects. He saw education as the only way for blacks to get ahead, and black schools as centers of community pride.

In addition to his intense work within the school and among blacks, Walker worked to inform the white citizens of Fort Lauderdale about what was going on across town at the Dillard School. The school chorus was recognized throughout the county, and Walker secured engagements for the group at civic and cultural events within the white community. Before introducing the chorus, he would take the opportunity to speak of the achievements, problems, and needs of the Dillard School. In addition, in April, May and July of 1939, the local newspaper published articles by Walker about black education at the Dillard School. He reported that he had one main building and four portables. His school population was 786 and he had 19 teachers, all with college degrees.

He used these techniques very effectively in his efforts to extend Dillard's curriculum from the eighth grade to the twelfth grade. In May 1938, Walker presided over the first senior high school commencement for blacks in Fort Lauderdale. The next year he expounded on his desire to teach "practical knowledge of the worthwhile things in life," and speculated that "Dillard High School is destined to become the gateway school for Negroes of the Everglades." Indeed, there were so many black children in Broward County who wanted a high school education that Walker further pushed the School Board to provide transportation for those who lived in the north Broward communities of Deerfield and Pompano Beach.

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With more and more of Broward's black students attending Dillard, more space was needed. In early 1940, after considerable effort, Walker convinced the School Board to authorize the construction of a four room addition to the north end of the Dillard School. It was completed in a style much like the original building, but lacked some of the architectural detailing.

Another of Walker's major goals was the expansion of the school term for black children to a full nine months of instruction. As late as 1940, Dillard High School, like many other black schools in the state, had only a seven month school term. Instead of starting school in September like the white students, blacks started in July and had a break during the winter picking months, from November until March of each year. The purpose was to encourage the black children to harvest green beans and peppers, the chief winter crops in Broward's farming communities of Deerfield, Oakland Park, and Pompano Beach.

Walker saw the injustice of this system, and traveled throughout Broward County collecting signatures on petitions supporting the extension of Dillard's school term to a full nine months. When this approach was unsuccessful, he organized a boycott of the schools beginning July 1941. Eight hundred students stayed out of school in the summer. Teachers reported as usual, but the children did not arrive until September, when white schools opened. Because a nine month term was required for schools to be accredited, the School Board at first agreed to the new school calendar. Under pressure from the growers, however, the Board soon changed their minds and reversed their decision. The black community rallied around Walker. The Fort Lauderdale Colored Women's Club, the clergy of many churches, and the Negro Businessmen of Fort Lauderdale all went before the Board in favor of Walker's cause. The School Board was not moved, however, and on June 30, 1942, once again voted to open Dillard in July for a seven month term.

In the early morning hours of July 8, 1942, Clarence C. Walker died of a heart attack at age sixty-two. Participants in the events of 1941-42 recollect that Walker was deeply distressed by the School Board's decision to

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close Dillard School for the winter vegetable harvest, and it is believed he "died of a broken heart." Ironically, it was Walker's death that seemed to reverse the Board's position. It voted to change its policy and make equal terms for all schools in the county. Dillard High School opened for the 1942-43 school year in September.

New Dillard High School Since the Period of Significance

The original Dillard High School remained the most important educational center of the northwest black section of Fort Lauderdale until the growing population needed a larger high school. A new Dillard Elementary School and a new Dillard High School were established at 2365 Northwest Eleventh Street between 1952 and 1954. The old 1924 building, although nameless, remained open as an elementary school with over 300 students. The Negro Chamber of Commerce conducted a poll in the black community to choose a new name. "Clarence C. Walker Elementary School" received the most votes, and on June 16, 1954, the Broward County School Board voted to make the name official. Between 1954 and 1975, additional classroom buildings and related facilities were added to Walker Elementary School. The old building became an administrative annex for the Division of Instruction in 1974.

Concerned about a proposal to close the Old Dillard High School building, the NAACP held a meeting in March 1975 and scheduled a protest march. In February 1976, members of Fort Lauderdale's black community petitioned the Broward County School Board to designate the Walker Annex (the Old Dillard High School) as a historical museum. At that time the original building housed the school system's administrative offices. Subsequently, the Broward County Black Historical Society began a decade-long drive to restore the Old Dillard High School as a black museum and cultural center. In 1986, these efforts culminated when the Florida Legislature appropriated \$400,000 to match funds committed by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, Broward County School Board, and the City of Fort Lauderdale for the purpose of restoring Old Dillard High. Restoration work was completed in the spring of 1990,

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and the building now serves as the Old Dillard School
Community Center.

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the northwest corner of the intersection of N.W. 10th Avenue and N.W. 4th Street, proceed north 200 feet along N.W. 10th Avenue. Then proceed west 177 feet. Then proceed 200 feet south toward N.W. 4th Street. Then proceed east 177 feet along N.W. 4th Street to the point of origin. The boundary is shown as the heavy line on the accompanying site plan.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the Old Dillard High School building and the east 177 feet of the original Stranahan donation. This is the part of the original grounds associated with the Old Dillard High School which does not include nonhistoric buildings.

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Photographs 1 Old Dillard High School, Broward Co., FL

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- 1
 - 1) Old Dillard High School
 - 2) 1001 Northwest 4th Street, Ft. Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida
 - 3) Jane Day
 - 4) May 4, 1990
 - 5) Research Atlantica, Inc., Coral Springs, Florida
 - 6) Main (S) and E elevation, showing proximity to the Walker Elementary School; camera facing NW
 - 7) 1 of 11

- 2
 - 1-5) Same as for Photo 1
 - 6) Main (S) elevation, camera facing N
 - 7) 2 of 11

- 3
 - 1-5) Same as for Photo 1
 - 6) E elevation, camera facing W
 - 7) 3 of 11

- 4
 - 1-2) Same as for Photo 1
 - 3) Unknown
 - 4) c1924-1930
 - 5) Broward County Historical Commission, Fort Lauderdale, FL
 - 6) Main (S) and W elevations, camera facing NE
 - 7) 4 of 11

- 5
 - 1-5) Same as for Photo 1
 - 6) Typical classroom, SE room on second floor, camera facing NNE
 - 7) 5 of 11

- 6
 - 1-5) Same as for Photo 1
 - 6) Second floor stairwell, camera facing W
 - 7) 6 of 11

- 7
 - 1-5) Same as for Photo 1
 - 6) Second floor hallway, camera facing S
 - 7) 7 of 11

- 8
 - 1-5) Same as for Photo 1
 - 6) First floor Ladies' Restroom, showing reproduction tile and louvered doors, camera facing E
 - 7) 8 of 11

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- 9 1-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) First floor drinking fountain, camera facing E
7) 9 of 11

- 10 1-5) Same as for Photo 1
6) Fire escape on N elevation, camera facing E
7) 10 of 11

- 11 1-2) Same as for Photo 1
3) Unknown
4) c1947
5) Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, Fort
Lauderdale, FL
6) Main (S) elevation, camera facing N
7) 11 of 11

N.W. 5th STREET

EXISTING RECREATION AREA

EXISTING STORAGE BLDG

BUILDING "D"

BUILDING "C"

EXISTING BUILDING NO. 5

EXISTING BUILDING NO. 4

BUILDING "B"

EXISTING BUILDING NO. 2

OLD DILLARD SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTER

BUILDING "A"

EXISTING BUILDING NO. 1

EXISTING BUS DROP-OFF

EXISTING BULKHEAD AREA

EXISTING PARKING

EXISTING BUILDING NO. 3

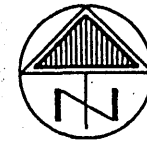
EXISTING PARKING

N.W. 4th STREET

N.W. 10th AVENUE

OLD DILLARD HIGH SCHOOL

Site Plan

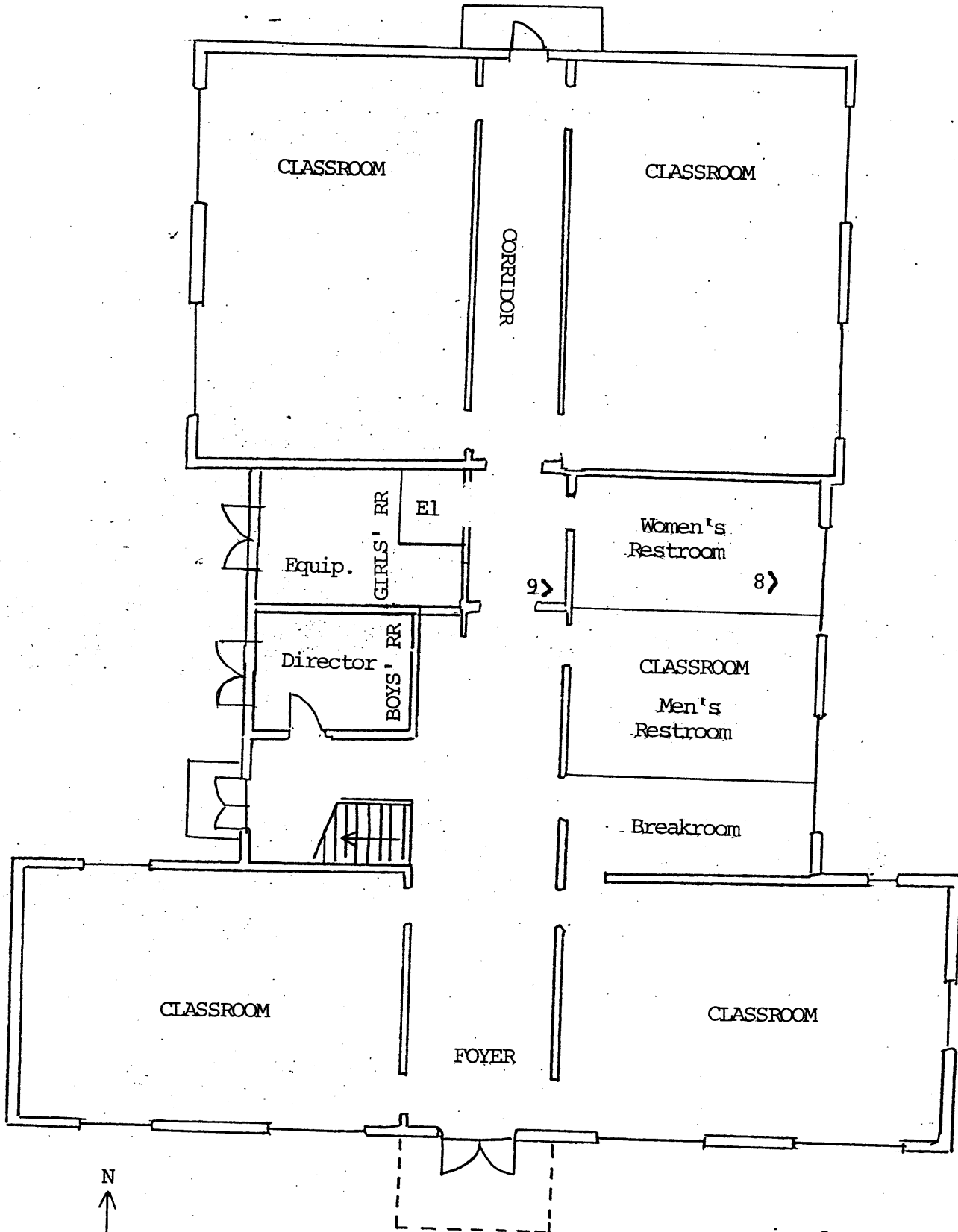


KEY TO SITE PLAN MAP

- 1 - OLD DILLARD HIGH SCHOOL-contributing
- * 2 - BUILDING No.1-Administrative Offices -non contributing (Walker Elementary)
- * 3 - BUILDING No.2-Walker Media Center -non contributing
- * 4 - BUILDING No.3-Walker Cafetorium -non contributing
- * 5 - BUILDING No.4-Walker Elementary, Classrooms and Music Lab -non contributing
- * 6 - BUILDING No.5-Classrooms, Art Lab, Science Lab and Offices -non contributing
- * Outside the boundary

Not to scale

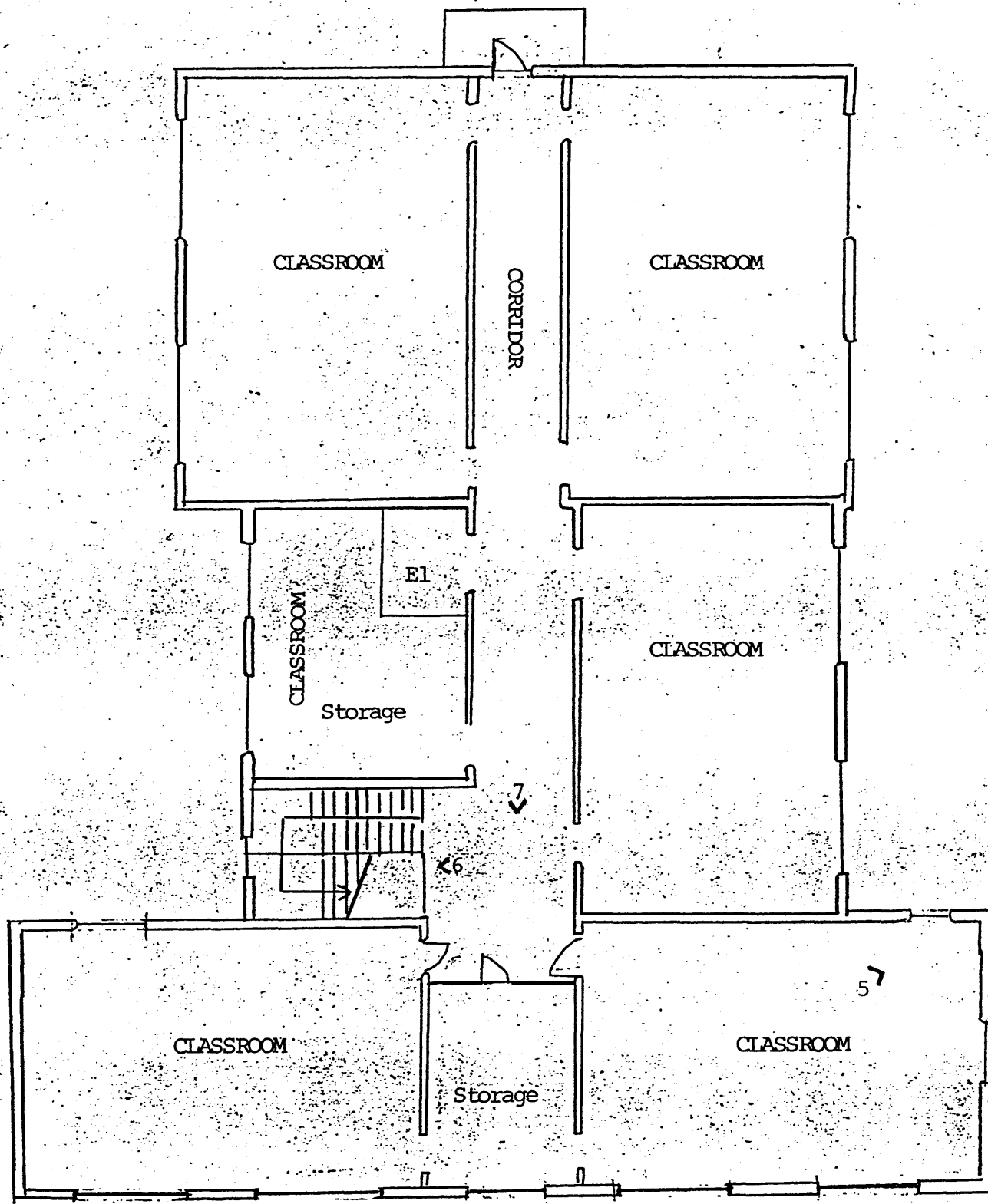
4' Photo # and direction



1st Floor

OLD DILLARD HIGH SCHOOL
 Ft. Lauderdale, Broward Co., FL

8> Photo #/direction



N
↑
1" = approx. 12'

OLD DILLARD HIGH SCHOOL
Ft. Lauderdale, Broward Co., FL

2nd Floor

57 Photo #/direction