

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Davie School
other names/site number Old Davie Elementary School

2. Location

street & number 6650 Griffin Road not for publication
city, town Davie vicinity
state Florida code FL county Broward code FL 011 zip code 33314

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		_____	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____
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, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] Date Feb. 9, 1988
Signature of certifying official
Florida State Historic Preservation Officer/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.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Candace Skell 3-29-88
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/administrative

RECREATION & CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other, Masonry Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls concrete with stucco

roof hip

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Davie School is a two-story, masonry vernacular structure constructed in 1918. T-shape in plan, this concrete building is finished with a textured stucco surface and is topped by a shallow hip roof behind a parapet. Decorative features include horseshoe and bell-arched openings, raised stucco bands, and bands of multi-light windows. Located in the heart of Davie on the town's major east-west highway, the school is set back from the road and is now partially obscured by several additions to the school complex. Despite the unsympathetic location of the newer buildings, the original school itself retains a high degree of physical intergrity.

Symmetrical in composition, Davie School contains a central entrance within a one-story masonry porch. This flat roofed porch, which displays the name "Davie School" along the parapet, is articulated by battered walls and horseshoe-arched openings on each side. The original horseshoe arched entrance has been replaced by a rectangular opening. Within the porch are paired wood panel doors with nine lights each. The main, (north) facade is further embellished with battered walls at each corner, raised stucco bands between the first and second stories, large downspouts, and scuppers.

Bands of five windows flank the main entrance on both the first and second stories. Windows are wood double hung sash with 9/2 lights and continuous concrete sills. Above the entrance on the second story are three bell-arched windows, with 9/2 and 6/1 lights. All windows are original, although some have been modified to house air conditioning units. Fenestration on the south facade and second story of the west facade repeats that of the north elevation. Windows on the east facade and first story of the west facade, however, are smaller and contain only 2/2 lights.

A two-story wing, one bay deep, is located on the rear (south) facade and is connected to the main building by a small hyphen. The hyphen contains original doorways on each side as well as a later second story exit with a masonry stairway on the east facade. A small, one-story addition (1954) projects from the south facade of the rear wing.

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When originally constructed, the Davie School was articulated by a single row of Mission tiles along a portion of the parapet and porch. A shed roof covered with Mission tiles and a flagpole were located on the central portion of the building, and panels of wood louvers were located beneath first story window. Photographs indicate these features were removed shortly after the 1926 hurricane damaged the building. Striped wood awnings were added to the building for protection, and the school assumed its present appearance at that time.

Recent alterations to the school include a metal fire escape and doorway on the east facade and a small half-story pump room addition on the northwest corner.

The interior of the school is simple in design and materials featuring a central corridor flanked by four classrooms on each floor. The original wood panel doors, with transoms on the first floor only, still remain. A stairway is located in the rear wing of the building and features solid concrete balustrades with a plain concrete floor. Small offices flank the stairway both on the first floor and on the landing. Restrooms are located in the newer wing on the first floor. Although classrooms have been altered by paneling and partitions, the building's original features remain intact.

Since the late 1940s, numerous additions have been made to the school complex. The majority of these buildings are one-story in height and are located between the historic building and Griffin Road. The only physical connection between the old and new buildings is a breezeway attached to the main entrance. Although the integrity of setting has been compromised somewhat, the Davie School remains the focal point of the school complex and one of the least altered elementary school buildings in South Florida. Only the historic building is included within the boundaries of the National Register nomination.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____
Education _____
Social History _____

Period of Significance

1917-1925 _____

Significant Dates

1918, 1925 _____

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

August Geiger-architect
W. E. Martin-builder

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

The Davie School is significant to the architectural, educational, and social history of both the Town of Davie and Broward County. The first permanent school building to be constructed in the Everglades, the Davie School is the oldest extant school building in continuous operation in Broward County. The school was designed in 1918 by August Geiger, one of South Florida's most prominent architects, and served for decades as the heart of the Davie community. The building remains as the town's most enduring structure.

Advertised as the "first improved town in the Everglades," Davie attracted its first permanent settlers in 1909. This settlement was the first of the great demonstration projects designed to prove the almost unlimited possibilities for the production of citrus fruit and vegetables from the reclaimed and drained black muck soil of the Everglades. By 1916, approximately 100 families were farming this rich land around Davie.

This land is a product of the drainage and reclamation of the Everglades by the State of Florida. Begun as early as 1845, the drainage project received financial support during the administration of Governor Napoleon Bonaparte Broward in 1905. Initially begun as a means of draining and producing prime sugar cane fields, the project produced large tracts of reclaimed land previously uninhabitable. When the project ran into financial difficulties in 1908, the State sold the land for \$2 an acre. Two of the new landowners were R. P. Davie and the Davie Realty Company. These lands are today part of Broward County.

The Davie School had its beginnings in 1912 when residents of the new community on the edge of the Everglades requested the establishment of a school. Heeding the requests of the residents, the Dade County Board of Public Instruction (Broward County was not a separate entity until 1915) purchased one acre of land in Davie in 1913 and authorized the construction of a two-room school. This building soon proved inadequate, and in 1917 the Broward County Board of Public Instruction sold the old school building for an additional four acres of land in order to erect a new building.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	7	5	7	6	4	3	0	2	8	8	2	8	3	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

That portion of the North 1/2 of Tract 52 Everglades Land Sales Company Subdivision encompassing the footprint of the "Old Davie School Building" and extending outwards 10 feet from the exterior walls, as shown by the dotted line on the accompanying map entitled "Old Davie School, Davie, Florida."

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Eaton/Vicki L. Welcher - Historic Sites Specialist
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date 2/8/88
street & number 500 S. Bronough Street/R.A.Gray Building telephone (904) 487-2333
city or town Tallahassee, state Florida zip code 32399-0250

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August Geiger was retained as architect by the Board in 1917 and, in June of that year, presented plans and specifications for the new school. Geiger, one of South Florida's most well-known early architects, was born in 1888 and came to Miami in 1905 from New Haven, Connecticut. As architect for the Dade County Board of Public Instruction, Geiger designed the Homestead Public School (listed in the National Register 12/4/85) in 1914 and the Miami Beach High School. He was also responsible for the Miami Woman's Club (listed in the National Register 12/27/74), Miami Beach Municipal golf Course House, and the Carl Fisher House on Miami Beach. Geiger served as associate architect for the Dade County Courthouse in 1925.

The Davie School represents one of the two typical designs for school architecture in South Florida during the first two decades of the twentieth century. While many schools were one-story in height and built around a central patio, an relatively equal number, including the one at Davie, featured a two-story block with a central corridor. Although vernacular in design, the Davie School reflects the penchant of South Florida architects to borrow architectural details from exotic locales. Here, the horseshoe arches impart a Moorish flavor in the midst of the Everglades. The school's size and architectural design has made it one of the small town's most distinguished buildings.

The Davie School was constructed by W. E. Martin, who had presented a low bid of \$12,424. The school was completed in April, 1918, and was dedicated on May 10, 1918. Approximately 90 students were enrolled during that first year.

The Davie School is Broward County's oldest extant school in continuous operation. A two-story building in Hallendale, constructed in 1910, appears to be the county's oldest schoolhouse. That building, which was used as a parish hall by the Bethel Lutheran Church from 1916 to 1966, was moved from its original location in 1966. Other early schools in Broward built prior to 1920 have been demolished.

From the day of its opening in 1918, the Davie School served as the center of the community. The auditorium on the second floor was the site of numerous town activities, such as dances, pageants, holiday celebrations, civic meetings, and cultural events. Major events in the town's history took place here including the gatherings of residents in 1925 and 1926 to initiate the proceedings for incorporation, to elect the first mayor, and to pass the first code of laws for the town.

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Although new buildings were added to the school complex after 1947, the facility soon proved inadequate and a new Davie Elementary School opened in 1978. The old school now houses the administrative offices of the Broward County School System. Anticipating that the historic school complex would become surplus property, the Soroptomist International of Davie initiated a program in 1983 to save and restore the historic school building. The Davie School Foundation, Inc. was established in 1984 to guide the project on a continuing basis. Plans for the school include historical exhibits, artist and craftsman workshops, civic meeting rooms, and outdoor recreational areas. The Foundation has enlisted the support of the School Board and community in nominating the building to the National Register.

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