

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 ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 820 N.E 3rd Street N/A not for publication

city or town Fort Lauderdale N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Broward code 011 zip code 33301

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.)

[Signature] Date 8/12/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 9/26/97
Edson H. Beall

St. Anthony School
Name of Property

Broward County, Florida
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

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

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Mission/
Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Stucco

roof Ceramic Tile; 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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
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:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
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)

- ARCHITECTURE
SOCIAL HISTORY
EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1926-1940

Significant Dates

- 1926
1938
1940

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

- Abreu, Francis (Architect)
Olsson, John (Builder)

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

#

St. Anthony School
Name of Property

Broward County, Florida
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	5	8	6	4	7	0	2	8	8	9	5	8	0
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 Sherry Piland/Barbara Mattick, Historic Preservationist Supervisor/Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date July 1997

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

city or town Tallahassee state Florida 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 _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

**St. Anthony School
Broward County, FL
Physical Description**

SUMMARY

The St. Anthony School is a complex of five buildings at the southeast corner of NE 3rd Street and NE 9th Avenue in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Three of these buildings are contributing properties: St. Anthony School, 820 N.E. 3rd Street (Building A), built in 1926; the convent (Building B) built in 1938; and the Gymnasium (Building C) built in 1940. The other two buildings are not historic and are, therefore, non-contributing properties: a classroom addition (Building A-1), constructed in phases between 1953-1959; and a storage building (Building D), constructed in 1964. All the buildings are of masonry construction. The St. Anthony School (Building A) is a fine example of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture.

SETTING

The St. Anthony School complex is located immediately east and slightly north of the downtown area of Fort Lauderdale. U.S. 1, a primary north/south thoroughfare, is one block to the west. Broward Boulevard, the north/south division of the city's quadrant street system, is two blocks to the south. The New River is just south of Broward Boulevard. From the school grounds, many of the city's downtown high rise office buildings are prominently visible.

The school property occupies two city blocks, bounded by NE 2nd Street to the south, NE 3rd Street to the north, NE 7th Avenue to the west and NE 9th Avenue to the east. NE 8th Avenue, which formerly ran through the property, has been vacated. The school playground is to the west of the school building. This area has been improved several times over the past seventy years. The entire complex is enclosed by a masonry boundary wall with a wrought metal cap rail and decorative gates at several points. The parish church and the rectory, both built in 1948, are vacated on NE 9th Avenue, across the street from the school grounds.

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**St. Anthony School
Broward County, FL**

Physical Description

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION: SCHOOL

The main facade of St. Anthony School faces north (Photo 1). The two-story, masonry block building is finished with a stipple textured stucco. It rests on a concrete slab foundation. It has a variety of roof treatments: flat, tar and gravel areas and barrel tiled shed and gabled areas.

The main (north) facade consists of five sections. Projecting from the center of the building is a one-story, office area that has a gable, barrel tile roof with bracketed eaves (Photo 2). Smooth, stucco, quoining defines the corners of this section. The north wall of this section has a panel of three, 12-light, double hung unit windows with semicircular fanlights. On the east and west elevations of this projecting room are windows identical in size and shape to those on the main facade. A small statue niche is located above the windows (Photo 4). Still projecting slightly from the main block of the building, but set back from this projecting one story segment, the second story is fenestrated with a central paired window (Photo 2). This window is flanked by narrow, fixed, three-light, rectangular windows covered by iron grilles.

This portion of the building terminates in a shaped parapet, defined by a smooth band course. The central area of the parapet wall features a decorative cartouche. The parapet is surmounted by a stone cross, approximately four feet in height.

Arcaded walkways extend to the east and west from the gabled, central section of the building on the first floor (Photo 3). The main entrance doors to the building are from these arcades (Photo 5). The paneled, wood doors have 8-light transoms. The north wall of the first story, sheltered by the arcade, has five 1/1 double hung windows on each side, each with a single-light transom.

The arcades have beamed ceilings. The barrel tile, shed roofs of the arcades are supported on each side by four slender columns with composite capitals (Photos 5 & 6). The second floor, above the arcade, is fenestrated with windows in groups of

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**St. Anthony School
Broward County, FL**

Physical Description

three (Photo 3). The 1/1, double hung, sash windows have single light transoms. The barrel tile, pent roof above the windows has a bracketed eaves. Between the paired brackets are terra cotta pipe roof vents, installed in sets of three.

The end bays of the school consist of projecting, one-story, segments that terminate in shaped parapets that conceal flat roof areas (Photo 1). The north wall of each of these bays contains triple windows, surmounted by blind arches (Photo 7). The 1/1, double hung, windows have single light transoms. Just below the center section of each parapet is a cartouche containing the letter "A" (Photo 8).

An interior hallway connects the school building with the 1950s school addition to the south. At the intersection of the two buildings, the hallway opens to a transitional area that is paved with tile and with interlocking brick pavers (Photo 10).

The south, east and west elevations have large, four-section, awning windows, covered with iron grilles (Photo 9). The central portion of the south elevation is obscured by its connection to the 1950s addition.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION: SCHOOL

The building contains 4,800 square feet of space. Doors at the east end of the west arcade and at the west end of the east arcade open into a foyer and central stairway. The foyer provides access to an office area and to two classrooms (Photo 10). Doors at the east end of the east arcade and at the west end of the west arcade provide access to two additional classrooms. The classrooms have plaster walls and a ceilings and tile floors. The original blackboards and chalk rails are in place (Photo 11).

The building has quarry tile flooring and plaster ceilings. The corridors of the first floor have tile flooring and walls covered with decorative wood paneling with applied moldings. The stairway has a simple railed balustrade (Photos 10 & 12).

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**St. Anthony School
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The south section of the central corridor is flanked on the west side by a restroom and on the east by a small office. Double wood doors at the south end of the corridor lead to, yet are clearly differentiated from, the 1950s classroom additions.

Until 1938, the second floor served as a convent. The space is now utilized as a library, meeting room and office.

DESCRIPTION: CONVENT

The main facade of the Convent faces east. This is a two-story, 3,600 square foot building, constructed of concrete block with a stucco exterior. The low pitched, hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The primary entrance is located off-center, to the north. The recessed, paneled, wood entrance door is approached by a series of curved steps, complementing the curved walls of the entrance bay (Photo 15). The door is flanked by sidelights. The entrance bay is defined by a bracketed band course over the recessed entrance door and flanking metal casement windows.

DESCRIPTION: GYMNASIUM

The gymnasium (Photo 16), built in 1940, is a masonry vernacular building with a low pitched, gabled roof covered with barrel tile. The building is two stories in height, but has only one floor. There are five sets of paired aluminum awning windows, each with seven lights. A shed roof shelters the entrance on the main (east) elevation.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

An addition (Building A-1) was appended to the rear of the original school building by way of a transitional, semi-open corridor, in 1953 and was further enlarged in 1959. Several modifications have been made to the 12,000 square foot, concrete block building since that time. This building houses classrooms,

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**St. Anthony School
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a cafeteria and a large meeting room. The addition, designed by Chicago architect Gerald Barry, is clearly different from the 1926 building and does not detract from the architectural significance of Abreu's 1926 design. The building is non-contributing because of its age.

NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The main facade of Building D faces east (Photo 18), although the entrance doors are located on the north and south elevations. Garage-type doors are located on the west elevation. This multi-purpose, 2,700 square foot, masonry building was constructed in 1964 to house the school maintenance shop, two classrooms, and two offices. The building has a flat roof.

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**St. Anthony School
Broward County, FL**

Statement of Significance

Saint Anthony School, 820 Northeast Third Street, Fort Lauderdale, meets National Register criteria A and C in the areas of Social History, Education and Architecture. Saint Anthony was the first Roman Catholic parish church and the school was the first Catholic school in Broward County. The fortunes of the small Catholic community were tied to the early political and social development of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County. The 1926 school building was designed by an important local architect, Francis Luis Abreu.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Frank Stranahan is generally considered the first permanent resident of the modern settlement of Fort Lauderdale. Stranahan had come to the Fort Lauderdale area from Ohio in 1893 in hopes that the warm climate would improve his health. He built a trading post, the Stranahan New River Camp. In addition to trade with the local Seminoles, the camp offered accommodations to sportsmen and yachtsmen attracted to the area by the abundant fish and game. Among the guests at Stranahan's camp was the Reverend Father Fontaine who said the first Catholic mass in the territory at the camp on December 25, 1894.

In the 1840s, the large Bryan family migrated from Georgia to north Florida following the Second Seminole War, settling first in Hamilton County and later in Volusia County. They were to have a profound effect of the development of the area that became Fort Lauderdale. Philemon ("Phil") N. Bryan was a businessman, grovesman, and first mayor of the town of New Smyrna. The Great Freeze of 1895 wiped out all seven of his Volusia County orange groves and put his four packing houses out of business. Bryan was acquainted with Standard Oil executive and hotel and railroad magnate Henry Flagler, who was extending his Florida East Coast Railway to South Florida. Phil Bryan given the job of building the roadbed north from the New River to Pompano Beach, came to Fort Lauderdale in 1895.

Other Bryan family members followed Phil to the New River area. Franklin ("Frank") Americus Bryan, Philemon's half

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**St. Anthony School
Broward County, FL
Statement of Significance**

brother, began farming near Hallandale and eventually became chairman of the Dade County Commission and first Clerk of the Broward County Court. Phil's cousin, John Milton Bryan, Sr. and his sons, John M., Jr. and Nathan, began farming near Dania. Nathan P. Bryan later became the U.S. Senator from Florida, and in 1920 was appointed Judge in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals by President Wilson.

There was a marriage connection between the Philemon and John Milton branches of the Bryan family. Phil's wife, Lucy, was aunt to John M. Bryan, Jr.'s wife, Guilda. Lucy Bryan, who was educated at a convent school in Saint Augustine, was a communicant of the Roman Catholic church; she was probably the first Catholic to reside in Fort Lauderdale.

On completion of his work for Flagler, Phil Bryan and his sons began farming near Fort Lauderdale. By 1897, he owned one hundred and twenty acres in the New River vicinity, planted in orange trees and tomatoes. In 1900, Phil Bryan built a small hotel in Fort Lauderdale's fledgling downtown. This was the impetus for younger son Tom's career; he began to look for ways to promote the urban expansion of the region. In time, Tom built the first ice plant, started the electric company, and the first phone company. In 1905, Phil Bryan replaced his hotel with a new structure, the New River Inn.

By 1910, Fort Lauderdale's population had reached one hundred and forty three. Stranahan's trading post was enlarged. The town's small business district, centered on Brickell Avenue, was thriving. The FEC docks were shipping a growing volume of farm produce from the area. The Fort Lauderdale State Bank, with Frank Stranahan as president, received its charter in 1910; Tom Bryan was a bank board member.

The spark for all of this development was Napoleon B. Broward's championship of Everglades drainage; it was a major plank of his 1904 gubernatorial campaign. His plan was to cut canals and drain the rich muck lands so they could be used for agriculture. Once this project was authorized by the state

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**St. Anthony School
Broward County, FL**

Statement of Significance

legislature, Broward, who was distantly related to the John Milton Bryans, hired Reed Bryan to supervise the work.

Fort Lauderdale was incorporated in 1911. William H. Marshall was the first mayor, and Tom Bryan was one of the first councilmen. Two newspapers were started in the town that year, William Heine's Fort Lauderdale Herald and George Mathews' Fort Lauderdale Sentinel.

Lauderdale men became convinced that their interests were being neglected and started a drive to separate from Dade County. In May 1913, a committee that included Reed Bryan and George Mathews, lobbied for the county division in Tallahassee. As an experienced journalist, Mathews clearly understood the value of the media in a political fight; the campaign was largely conducted in the pages of the Sentinel. After some delay the state legislature approved the county division and it was eventually ratified by the voters in April 1915. Fort Lauderdale became the new county seat.

The new county had named a Superintendent of Public Instruction and a school board; each town had elected a slate of school trustees; however, Dade County was to continue to supply teachers to Broward County for the 1915/1916 school year. Among the new teachers was a Miss Julia Murphy. The Lauderdale school trustees, however, refused to accept her as a teacher because they had discovered that she was Catholic. At a public meeting called to consider the trustees' refusal of Miss Murphy, the assembly voted one hundred and eighty-one to seven to uphold the trustees' decision.

Miss Murphy's pastor in Miami, Father Clifford McLaughlin, S. J., approached Frank Stoneman of the Miami Herald for support. Stoneman roundly condemned the Fort Lauderdale action in a series of articles in his newspaper. The recently installed Bishop of Saint Augustine, Michael J. Curley, sent copies of Stoneman's articles to every newspaper in Florida and many outside the state; he also wrote a letter of protest that was widely printed. The action of the school trustees was severely criticized across the state. In the Sentinel Mathews reproved critics of the

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**St. Anthony School
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trustees' action, saying among other things, "Thank God, the people are waking up. We will no longer stand for the Catholics to receive eighty-five per cent of the salaries paid by this government." It was all politics, a prelude to the coming 1916 elections, and was given full coverage by the politically opposed Fort Lauderdale newspapers.

Prior to 1914, George Mathews' political position, as expounded in the Sentinel, had been purely populist--for the little man and against the corporations and private ownership of utilities. Rather abruptly, Mathews began to work the racial, anti-Catholic, anti-alien angle. Perhaps this was related to the reorganization the Fort Lauderdale Herald after its purchase by Carl Weidling in 1915, and the addition of new investors. In July 1915, Weidling hired John Sherwin as editor.

Sydney J. Catts, candidate for governor, was in Fort Lauderdale in December of 1915 speaking to school children. Mathews editorialized on Catts' visit, noting that "he showed the danger that menaced this nation from the Catholic Hierarchy." Catts and incumbent governor Park Trammell, who was running for the U.S. Senate seat held by Bryan's cousin Nathan P. Bryan, had embraced the nativist positions.

Mathews had been preparing the way for candidates of anti-Catholic and anti-alien persuasion. In December of 1914 he wrote "Every foreigner who comes here will lessen the chance, and impede the progress of some unborn American." In answer to an editorial in the Saint Augustine Meteor critical of the Murphy incident, Mathews wrote "In every country where Catholics have held power they have debased the people and corrupted the government. Spain at one time the foremost nation in the world, has been reduced to a fourth rate power by the Jesuits." Mathews also did some traveling and speech making on behalf of Catts and Trammell; he went to Jacksonville to speak at a Baptist Church, but the minister of that church objected to his pulpit being used for an anti-Catholic diatribe.

At about the same time that Mathews was in Jacksonville, Senator Bryan was denouncing the Guardians of Liberty, a nativist

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St. Anthony School
Broward County, FL

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organization, strongly influenced by Tom Watson, a Georgian with a winter home in Fort Lauderdale. Watson was active in support of Catts and Trammell. Watson had been the Populist nominee for vice president in 1896, and in 1911 he had helped to organize the Guardians of Liberty, a secret society that opposed foreign immigration and Roman Catholicism. His newspaper, The Jeffersonian, published anti-Catholic, anti-Jew, and anti-Negro doctrines. Throughout the campaign Senator Bryan's opponents, citing his controversial appointment of a Catholic postmaster in Jacksonville in 1914, portrayed him as unduly influenced by Rome. The Senator's Catholic kin never became an issue in the campaign, although the connection was certainly known to George Mathews, and through him to his nativist cohorts, and possibly to Tom Watson.

Neither Tom nor Reed Bryan were Catholic, at least not in their later years, but Lucy and Philemon and at least one sister, Florence Bryan Barrett were. Mrs. Barrett, wife of the first president of the First National Bank of Lauderdale, was active with the Altar Guild. The Bryans must have been disturbed by the threat to their parents' and sister's religion, and the possible consequences to the Senator's career, if knowledge of the Catholic connection became public. Since Tom Bryan chose not to run for office that year, as a private citizen his parents' religious preference was no one's business.

In April Governor Trammell used his gubernatorial powers and evoked the 1913 legislation that prohibited white people from teaching Negroes in Negro schools; he ordered the arrest of three nuns in Saint Augustine who had taught Negro children in Catholic schools. As Trammell probably expected, it drew his opponent's ire; Bryan objected to the arrest. It was enough to convince voters of Bryan's Catholic indebtedness and he lost the election. Catts and Trammell were elected governor and U.S. senator respectively.

After the election Mathews dropped his overt anti-Catholicism. World War I had broken out in Europe, so he turned his attention to the identification of German sympathizers. After Dr. G. C. Holland replaced him as mayor in 1914, Mathews

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never again served in an elective office; his serious political interests were expressed through his support of nativist influenced school trustees. Mathews sold his newspaper in 1925. After the sale, Mathews took part in some political activities, but without the newspaper his influence on the town's political affairs was negligible.

Between 1910 and 1915, the population of Fort Lauderdale increased from a few hundred to almost two thousand. The construction of an up-scale tourist hotel in the town drew the attention of many out-of-town investors. In January of 1918, developer George Henry of Winchester, Massachusetts, announced plans to build a \$125,000 hotel at Andrews Avenue and the river; Reed Bryan was one of the local investors in the project. The hotel opened in November 1919. Having motion picture director D. W. Griffith sign in as the first guest was wonderful publicity.

Now, Fort Lauderdale was on the verge of a much greater expansion. From 1917 into the 1920s, a number of subdivisions were developed, including Las-Olas-by-the-Sea, Birch Ocean Front Estates, and Idlewyld. Mary Brickell began developing the Rio Vista subdivision in 1920.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

In 1913, the small Fort Lauderdale Catholic congregation had purchased a house for use as a church. Father McLaughlin came from Miami once a month to say mass. In 1916, fifteen ladies formed an Altar Society. They held bake sales and bazaars to pay off the remaining indebtedness on the house. The Catholics were following the pattern of most of the church congregations of the town by meeting in temporary quarters and having periodic visits by their clergy.

In 1921 Bishop Michael J. Curley met with the Catholics of Fort Lauderdale and announced that their congregation would have a church. The task of selecting a site for the new church and rectory was given to Mrs. Edward Heimberger and Miss Corinne

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Cheadle. They chose a site at Las Olas Boulevard and Valentine Avenue about three blocks east of the new Hotel Broward.

Reverend Father Plunkett and Reverend Father Callahan were assigned by the diocese as pastor and assistant for the new parish. Father Callahan was the first resident priest, and had arrived in Fort Lauderdale in December 1920. Father Plunkett arrived in Fort Lauderdale in January 1922. He had been supervising building projects for the church for fourteen years and had just finished a church building in Ocala. Prior to that he had overseen construction of a \$60,000 church for the Jacksonville black community. Fathers Plunkett and Callahan were diocesan priests; until this time the South Florida mission field had been given to the Jesuits.

Bishop Curley, through a series of agreements with the society, opened up the territory to other priests. Father Plunkett's job was as much public relations as church building. He announced that after he said mass that first Sunday he would meet with the parishioners. The parishioners were encouraged to examine the plans for the new church. Father Plunkett presented himself as a man who wore a Roman collar, but also as a man who could be found wearing overalls, working on the building site, at the railway yard supervising the unloading of a shipment of stone, or dickering for the best price with a building materials supplier. By his active involvement, Father Plunkett earned the respect of local businessmen and his contractor, John Olsson, a strict Lutheran.

The church and rectory were completed in October, 1922, but not dedicated until December; the delay was to allow Bishop Patrick Barry of Saint Augustine to attend the ceremony. In his sermon, Father O'Sullivan, of Miami, noted the denominational distention that had plagued the community in the past and pointed out that Catholics "looked to Rome in religious matters but in political matters and governmental affairs their first allegiance was to America."

On March 26, 1926, The Fort Lauderdale Morning Sun reported that the Catholics of the town were planning to build a \$60,000

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Statement of Significance

school building. Only four years previously the church had been built for \$10,000. The greater expense of the school building reflects the impact of the Florida real estate boom of the 1920s. During the boom the city had achieved great, although inflated, prosperity. The population had increased from 2,065 in 1920 to 5,625 in 1925. However, it also suffered a housing shortage and the subsequent health problems associated with overcrowding. The boom was over by 1926, partly due to a devastating freight embargo that affected shipments of building materials by the Florida East Coast Railway.

With all of this, the Catholics' plan to build must have seemed a reassuring sign of confidence in the city's future; so it may have been, but there were other factors influencing the project. Bishop Curley, who was now Archbishop Curley of the Diocese of Baltimore, was a strong advocate of Catholic education, as he had proved in his spirited defense of the Saint Augustine nuns in 1916. Given his earlier acquaintance with the city, the Bishop probably felt that there was a definite need for Catholic education in Fort Lauderdale.

Architect Francis Abreu was commissioned to design the school and it was completed by August 19, 1926, when the women of Saint Anthony Parish gave a benefit dance at the building. On August 23rd, four Adrian Dominican nuns arrived to staff the school. Bishop Barry of St. Augustine dedicated the school. The official opening was announced for September 13, with classes to begin on September 16th.

The anticipated start of a new school year in a new building was quickly dispelled by a hurricane that struck in the early morning hours of September 18th. The storm had a major impact in an area from the upper Keys to Palm Beach County. Downtown Fort Lauderdale was mostly underwater for two days following the storm; however, the school had been unaffected by the storm surge and subsequent flooding. Damage to the building was minimal, with the loss of only a few windows. It was put to service to house some of the many made homeless by the storm.

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**St. Anthony School
Broward County, FL**

Statement of Significance

The school has been in continual operation since October, 1926. Four nuns handled the teaching duties in 1929. In 1939 the Adrian Dominican nuns moved to a separate convent building and, as had been planned from the beginning, the second floor of the school building was turned to classroom use. Expanding enrollment dictated the addition of portable classrooms and a cafeteria on the school campus. An auditorium/gymnasium was added after 1939. In 1939, high school grades nine through twelve were added. By 1948, eighteen nuns were teaching in the school. Saint Anthony was the only Catholic high school in Broward County until Saint Thomas Aquinas High School was built in southwest Fort Lauderdale in 1952. In the 1970s, five Adrian Dominican nuns were assisted by nineteen lay teachers. At the present time, lay people make up the entire faculty, and the school educates children from pre-kindergarten through the eighth grade.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

A wide array of buildings were constructed in Florida in the 1920s, incorporating stylistic features of Spanish Colonial, Byzantine, Moorish, Mission, and Italianate architecture. This architecture which draws heavily on design elements derived from architecture in the area around the Mediterranean Sea, especially Italy and Spain, is generally referred to as the Mediterranean Revival style. The Mediterranean Revival style and its sub-types, such as the Mission Revival style, are found most frequently in states, such as Florida, which have a Spanish Colonial heritage. However, the style did gain national popularity. During the 1890s, the Southern Pacific Railway used the Mission Revival style for depots and resort hotels in California and the Southwest. The style was renewed and popularized throughout the 1915 Panama-California Exposition at San Diego. Most of the Exposition buildings were designed in the New York office of Bertram Goodhue.

Some general characteristics of the style include: a preference for barrel clay tile roofs, stucco walls, porches, patios, balconies, arched entrances and windows, complex roof

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St. Anthony School
Broward County, FL

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lines, and ceramic tile decorations. Other identifying features include arcaded wings; multi-light casement and double-hung sash windows, often deeply set in the walls or arched openings; use of wrought iron; and balconets. While the Mediterranean Revival style was especially popular in residential architecture, and proved a perfect marketing device for Florida resort communities, it was adapted to all building types, including schools.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

St. Anthony Parish School was designed in the Mediterranean Revival style by one of Fort Lauderdale's first architects, Francis Luis Abreu. Abreu was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Diego Abreu. Diego Abreu was a sugar planter with property in Cuba and Newburgh, New York. Mrs. Abreu was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Juan Jacinto Jova, owner of the Jova Brickworks in Newburgh.

When the Diego Abreu family moved to Fort Lauderdale from Newburgh in 1919, their son Francis was a student at Cornell's College of Architecture in Ithaca, New York. Although his studies were interrupted by military duty during World War I, Abreu graduated with a degree in architecture in 1921. Soon after, he was probably living in Fort Lauderdale where his parents had purchased a winter cottage on the New River. Family sources believe that he worked for Joseph Young at Hollywood-by-the-Sea. Young's company, Hollywood Land and Water Company, had a complete engineering department, which employed architects among other technicians.

Abreu opened his first office in Fort Lauderdale in 1923, but he had surely taken commissions in the town before that date. Although there are no city building records remaining from the 1920s and few newspaper sources, approximately thirty buildings in Fort Lauderdale have been identified as the work of Abreu. One of his first documented projects was a remodeling job for his grandmother, Mrs. J. J. Jova, on a house she had purchased in Colee Hammock, just around the corner from the Abreu cottage. In 1924, he designed a beach house for her.

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**St. Anthony School
Broward County, FL**

Statement of Significance

Abreu designed many projects for community leader Tom Bryan. In 1925 he was working on two apartment projects for Bryan and an office building on S.W. Second Street. In that same year he designed Bryan Court on Andrews Avenue, where Abreu located his office. In 1926, he designed a house for Tom and Camille Bryan on Tarpon Bend. In December 1926, Abreu completed a Post Office building project for Tom Bryan. Probably through the influence of Tom Bryan, he received the commission to design a clubhouse for a municipal golf course.

Abreu received a number of important commissions in 1925 and 1926 in Fort Lauderdale, including: a waterfront mansion for Mrs. Ida Erkins of Cincinnati; the Towers Apartments, on the Himmarshee Canal, for Albert Erkins; the smaller, Himmarshee Court apartments for Frank Pope; a home on Andrews Avenue for Frank Croissant, chief salesman for the Croissant Park Development; a home, barn, and farm buildings for Ross Clark; a home for Dr. Scott Edwards, Tom Stillwell's son-in-law; and ten homes on Idlewyld island for Allison, Forey and Kyle.

Abreu also received the commission to design the new St. Anthony Parish School in 1926. In September, when the hurricane hit, the school had just been completed and the golf clubhouse was nearing completion. Both buildings survived the storm quite well; the clubhouse was opened in December of 1926.

Unfortunately, his architectural practice did not fare as well and as the real estate boom collapsed, Abreu had to let most of his staff go. In 1927, probably through the influence of Tom Bryan, Abreu received the commission for the new West Side Fire Station and a beach casino. These buildings, and the seawalls along the river, were the only municipal projects to be undertaken in Fort Lauderdale for a number of years.

The casino (swimming pool) project was the idea of tireless booster and advertising man Commodore A. H. Brook. It was financed by municipal bonds. Abreu received the commission in 1927; the project was completed and opened in 1928. When Albert Jones, the executive in charge of the Sea Island project in Georgia, visited Fort Lauderdale, he was impressed by the casino.

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**St. Anthony School
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Statement of Significance

He sought out the architect and suggested that he might be able to obtain work in Brunswick, Georgia. Abreu visited Brunswick in 1928 and this became his new home, although he continued to maintain an office in Fort Lauderdale and accepted commissions there throughout the 1930s.

Much of Abreu's work in Fort Lauderdale, including St. Anthony School, is designed in the fashionable style of the period, the Mediterranean Revival. Abreu was by no means limited to this one style, as he proved in one or two projects in the town and in his later career at Sea Island and Atlanta.

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**St. Anthony School
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Section number 9 Page 2

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**St. Anthony School
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St. Anthony School
Broward County, FL
Geographical Data

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Resub Blks 9-12 Holmberg and McKees 3-115 D Lots 1-12 and Vac Alley Abutting said lots and Vac R/W Abutting lots 1-12, Block 10; and Resub Blks 9-12 Holmberg and McKees 3-115 D Lots 3-12 and Vac Alley Abutting said lots and Vac R/W Abutting lots 6-7, Blk 11.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property has been historically associated with St. Anthony School, and is shown as a solid line on the accompanying site plan.

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**St. Anthony School
Broward County, FL
Photographs**

1. St. Anthony School, 820 N.E. 3rd Street
2. Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida
3. Roberto Valencia
4. April 1996
5. St. Anthony School
6. Building A, main (north) facade, looking southwest
7. Photo 1 of 18

Items 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

6. Building A, detail of central bay of the main (north) facade, looking south
7. Photo 2 of 18
6. Building A, detail of loggia, main (north) facade, looking south
7. Photo 3 of 18
6. Building A, detail of niche with statue of St. Anthony, main (north) facade, looking south
7. Photo 4 of 18
6. Buildings A, detail of entrance at end of loggia, main (north) facade, looking east
7. Photo 5 of 18
6. Building A, detail of column capital, main (north) facade, looking east
7. Photo 6 of 18
6. Building A, detail of end bay fenestration, main (north) facade, looking south
7. Photo 7 of 18
6. Building A, detail of cartouche, main (north) facade, looking south
7. Photo 8 of 18

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**St. Anthony School
Broward County, FL
Photographs**

- 6. Building A, west elevation, looking east
- 7. Photo 9 of 18

- 6. Building A, interior detail of foyer paneling and entrance into transition area, first floor, looking south
- 7. Photo 10 of 18

- 6. Building A, interior detail, typical first floor classroom, looking southwest
- 7. Photo 11 of 18

- 6. Building A, interior detail of stairway, first floor, looking southeast
- 7. Photo 12 of 18

- 6. Building A, interior detail, second floor office, looking northeast
- 7. Photo 13 of 18

- 6. Building B (Convent), main (east) facade, looking west
- 7. Photo 14 of 18

- 6. Building B (Convent), detail of main entrance, main (east) facade, looking west
- 7. Photo 15 of 18

- 6. Building C (Gymnasium), main (east) facade, looking west
- 7. Photo 16 of 18

- 6. Building A-1 (classroom addition), west elevation, looking east
- 7. Photo 17 of 18

- 6. Building D (storage building), main (east) facade; view looking west
- 7. Photo 18 of 18

ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL
Fort Lauderdale, Broward Co., Fl.

Photo Direction ○→

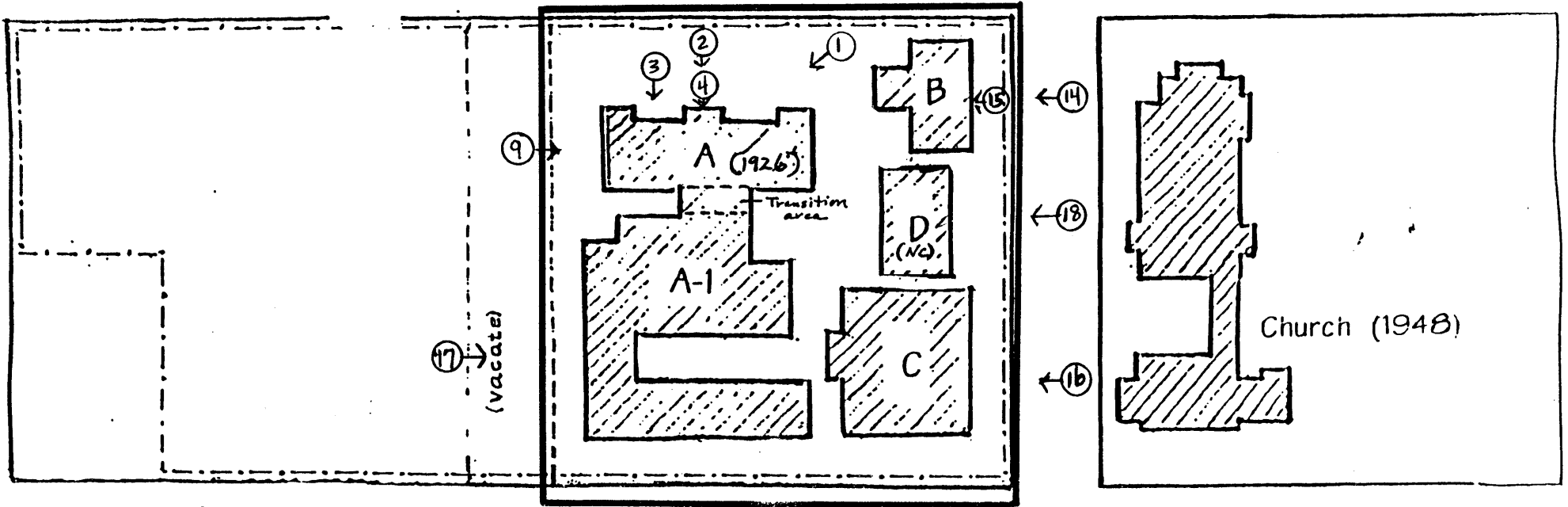
Boundary ———

Approx. Scale: 0.5"=18'



N.E. 8TH Av.

N.E. 3RD St.



N.E. 2ND St.

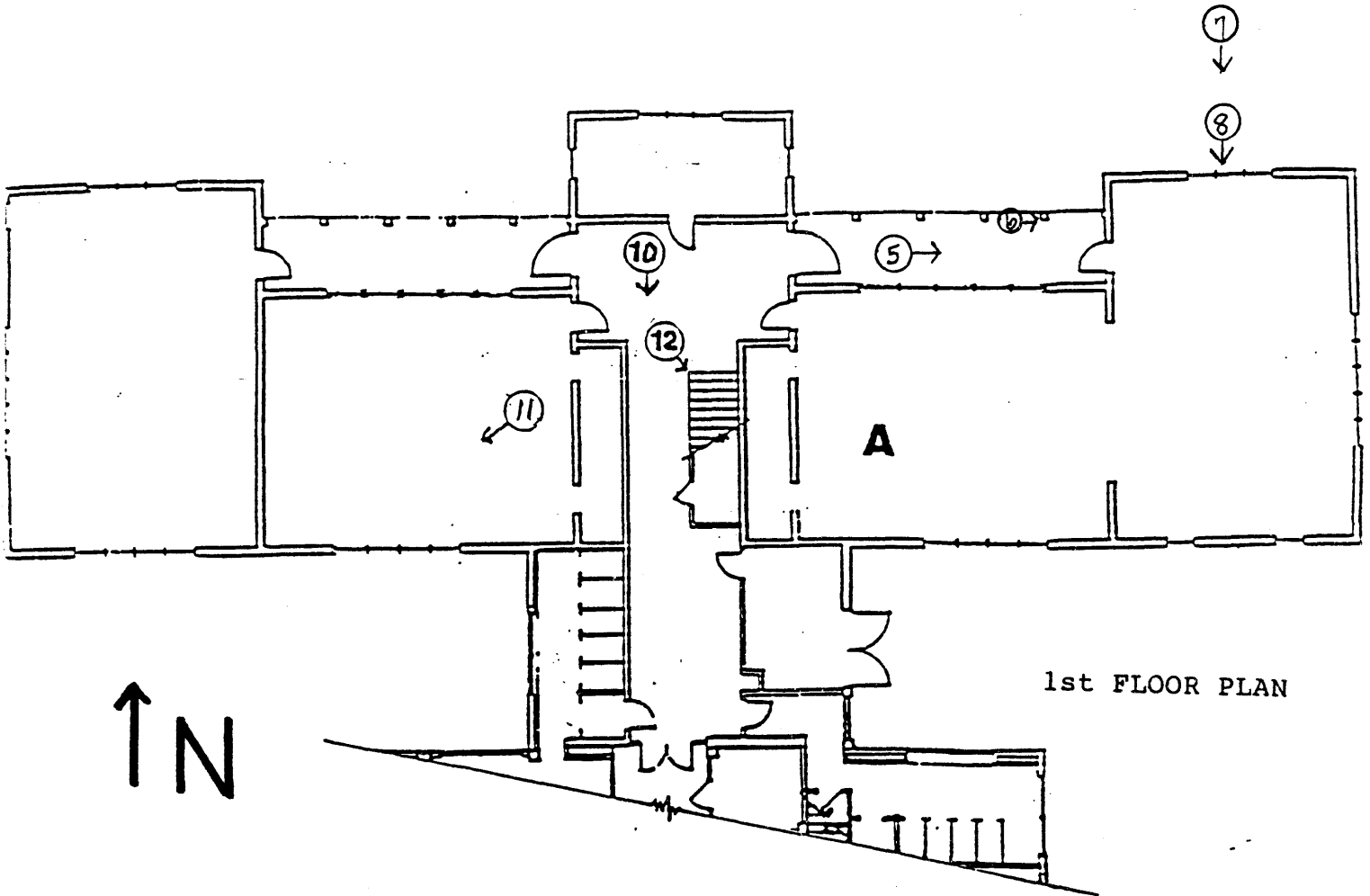
Boundary

E. 9TH Av.

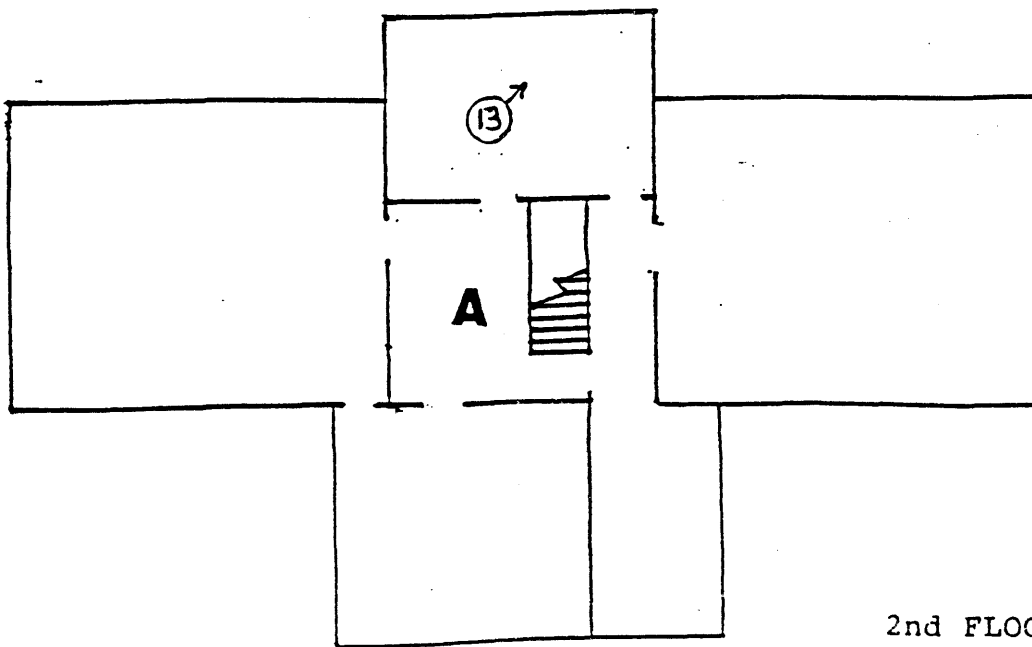
ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL
Fort Lauderdale, Broward Co., Fl.

Photo Direction ○→

Approx. Scale: 0.5"=3.5'



1st FLOOR PLAN



2nd FLOOR PLAN