

1-17-73

PH000 2461

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Florida
COUNTY:	Polk
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	JUL 24 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
South Florida Military College

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 Block South Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:
Bartow

STATE Florida	CODE 12	COUNTY: Polk	CODE 105
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Milton D. Wilson

STREET AND NUMBER:
1140 South Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:
Bartow

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Polk County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Bartow

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

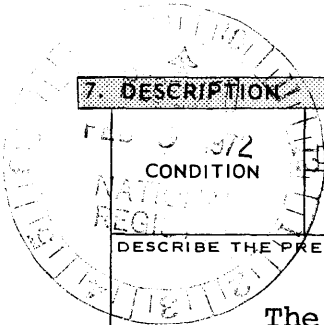
STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Florida
COUNTY:	Polk
ENTRY NUMBER	JUL 24 1972
DATE	

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered		<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original barracks building of the South Florida Military Institute was constructed in 1895. It was a two-story wooden structure with a flat roof and foundation of brick piers. At each end of the building was a projecting two-story octagonal tower. The towers extended about two feet above the roof of the building. In the center of the barracks building was a similar three-story tower with an opened recessed archway at its base. Each of the three towers had a single blind arch below the roofline. To the rear of each end tower wings extended approximately thirty-five feet beyond the central structure giving the building a u-shaped appearance from the back. There was a walkway along the second floor rear of the barracks so that the cadets could file out of their rooms and exit to the front parade grounds through the central archway. The overall impression presented by the building when viewed from the front was that of a military fort.

To the north of the barracks was a smaller two-story faculty building of similar architecture with a two-story octagonal tower at its north end. There was a covered front porch to the south of the tower. This building is still standing.

The fenestration of both buildings was uniform with rows of elongated double hung sash windows on each floor. The buildings had decorative brackets supporting a thin cornice.

The school ceased to function in 1905 and the property passed into the hands of Milton D. Wilson who removed the central tower of the barracks and remodeled the interior of the remaining north and south portions. What had been the north section of the barracks, Mr. Wilson converted into his home, and it is now sometimes referred to as "The Wilson House".

What had been the south section of the barracks, Mr. Wilson converted into two apartments, one on each floor. This building burned in 1944. The building which originally served as the faculty living quarters was also used by the Wilson family as a private residence.

The main structural change to the Wilson home, or the converted north wing of the barracks, was the addition of a front porch which extended around the north side of the building forming a porte cochere. A balustrade was placed on the roof of this structure.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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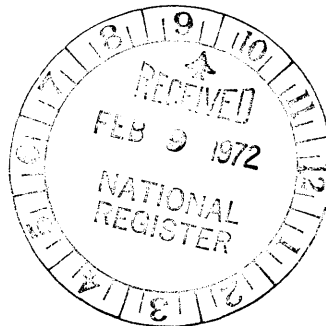
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		Florida
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JUL 24 1972		

(Number all entries)

7.

The Wilson House and nearby faculty residence are in excellent condition structurally. The interiors are also in very good condition. The exteriors are somewhat in need of painting but otherwise show no serious defects.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

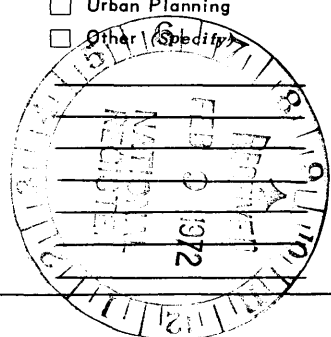
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The South Florida Military Institute of Bartow, Florida was founded in 1894 by Major General Evander McInver Law, an experienced teacher and Confederate veteran who, after General Hood was wounded, commanded Hood's Division at Gettysburg and Chickamauga.

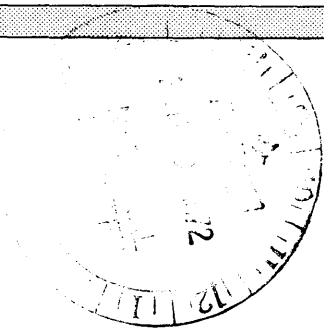
General Law moved to Bartow in 1893. The following year he organized the South Florida Military Institute patterning the program after The Citadel, Virginia Military Academy, and the United States Military Academy. Early in 1895 a delegation of citizens headed by General Law appealed to the State of Florida for support. They secured an initial appropriation from the Legislature for \$6,400 and the school was placed under the control of the State Board of Education. The appointment of a local Board of Trustees was also prescribed by law. In the same year, 1895, the main three tower barracks building was built, the north section of which still stands. In 1903 the State Legislature changed the name of the school to South Florida Military College and granted it the authority to confer college degrees.

Also in the year 1903 an unusual event in the history of the school occurred. General Law resigned after a clash with the Board of Trustees and upon the suggestion of a future Secretary of State of Florida, Robert A. Gray of the Class of 1903, all but three members of the senior class resigned in protest. Finally, in 1927, the Florida Legislature authorized the University of Florida to issue diplomas to the members of this class who had resigned.

Under the Buckman Act of 1905 the South Florida Military College was merged into the University of Florida and ceased to function as a separate entity. In 1909 the graduates of the Bartow college were authorized by the State Legislature to receive diplomas from the University of Florida.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Attached Sheet)



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	27	53	07	81	50	34
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than one acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
H. D. Kirkland

ORGANIZATION: **Division of Archives, History & Records Mgt.** DATE: **8/16/71**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of State - The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: **Tallahassee** STATE: **Florida** CODE: **12**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Robert William*

Title: _____

Date: _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert W. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *7/24/72*

ATTEST:

Bradford
Keeper of The National Register

Date: *7/19/72*

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

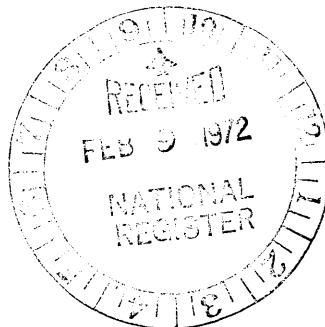
STATE	Florida
COUNTY	Polk
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(Number all entries)

8.

The college properties were put up for bid and secured by W. B. Swearingen in 1906. He subsequently turned them over to his law partner, Milton D. Wilson of the Class of 1904. Mr. Wilson removed the central tower of the barracks building and remodeled the remaining north and south wings. The south section was turned into two apartments which subsequently burned and the Wilson family took up residence in the now separate north section. Mrs. Wilson, who is eighty-five, still lives in the original house. The faculty building which is just north of the Wilson home is also still standing. It now belongs to the family of Mrs. Isabelle Wilson Boswell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Wilson. The Boswell family lived in this house until 1971 when it was rented to another family.

The institution has a significant place in the development of higher education in Florida and warrants nomination on that basis.



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COUNTY Polk	
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(Number all entries)

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY.

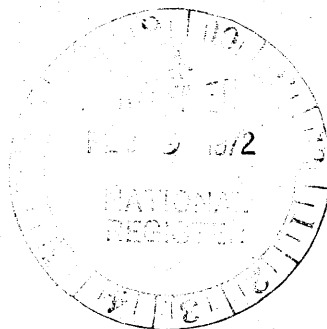
Carpenter, Lillian. Manuscript materials on South Florida Military Institute. History Library, Polk County Courthouse, Bartow, Florida.

Frisbee, W.L. "Pioneers," The Polk County Democrat, July 8, 1971.

Gray, R.A. "I Saw A General Cry," Orlando Sentinel, December 29, 1963.

Gray, R.A. Personal Interview (by Donald Kirkland), August 9, 1971. Tallahassee, Florida.

Proctor, Samuel. "The South Florida Military Institute (Bartow): A Parent of the University of Florida." Florida Historical Quarterly, XXXII (July 1953 - April 1954).



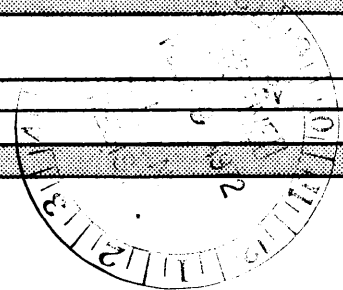
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

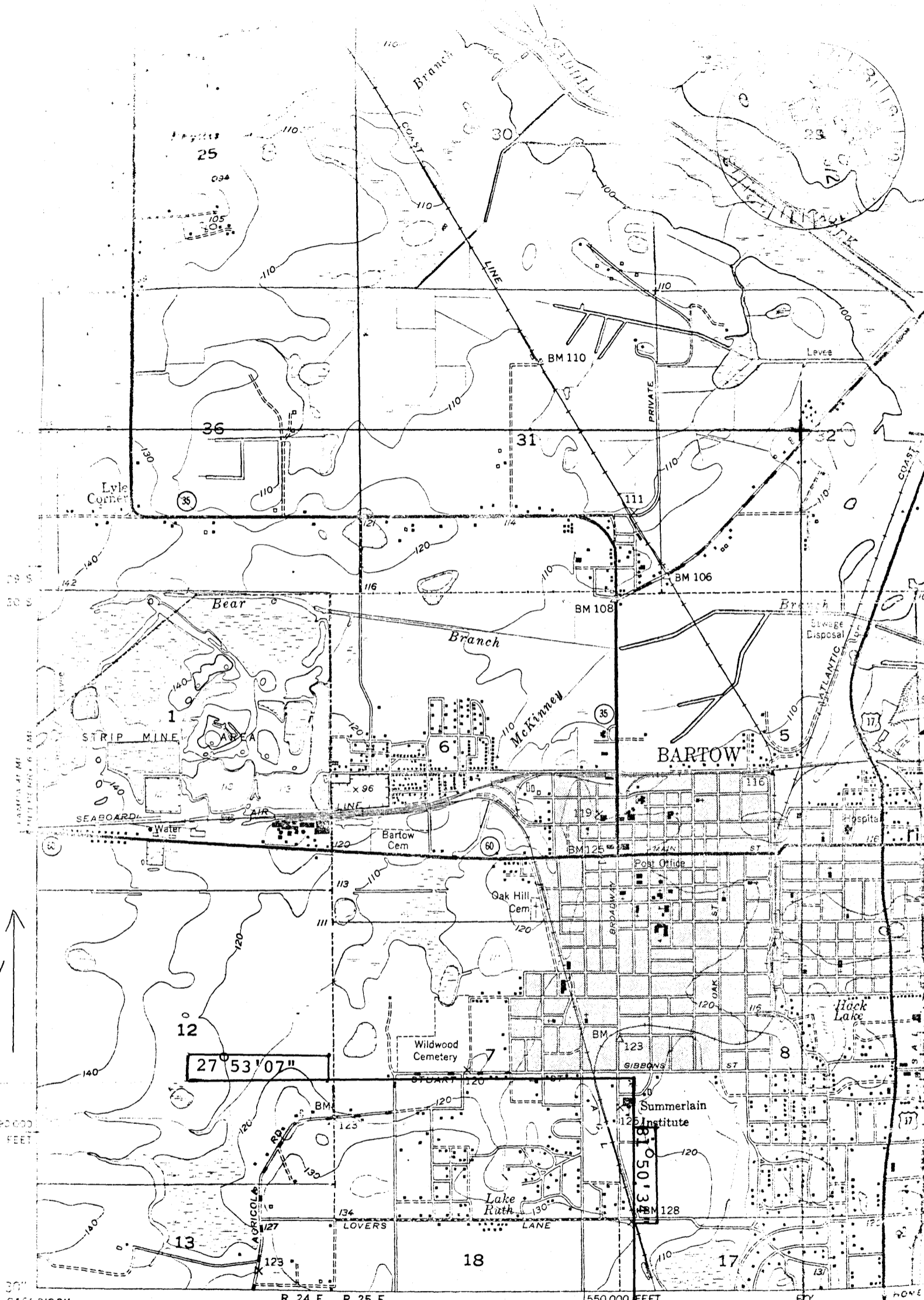
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Polk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUL 24 1972	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: South Florida Military College			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 Block South Broadway			
CITY OR TOWN: Bartow			
STATE: Florida	CODE 12	COUNTY: Polk	CODE 105
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. Bartow Quadrangle; 7.5 minute			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1949			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



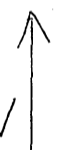


SOUTH FLORIDA MILITARY COLLEGE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Florida Geodetic Survey
 Culture and drainage in part compiled from
 aerial photographs taken 1941 and 1947
 Projection by plane-table methods 1949
 Projection. 192 North American datum
 based on Florida coordinate system,

TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH

APPROXIMATE MEAN
 DECLINATION 1959



293 000
 FEET

81° 52' 30"

R. 24 E. R. 25 E.

1550 000 FEET

50'

Scale of 1 inch = 1 mile (approximate)