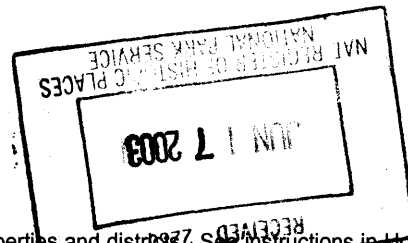


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Osborne School

other names/site number Osborne Elementary School/ PB9833

2. Location

street & number 1718 S. Douglas Street n/a not for publication

city or town Lake Worth n/a vicinity

state Florida code FL county Palm Beach code 099 zip code 33460

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.)

Janet Snyder Matthews 6/12/2003
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) _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
AUG 1 2003

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

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

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

Florida's Historic Black Public Schools

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)

No Style: Masonry Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stucco
walls Stucco
roof Tar & Gravel
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage: Black

Education

Period of Significance

1948-1971

Significant Dates

1948

1971

Significant Person

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Architect: Wortman, Edgar S.

Builder: Odums, P.W. and Able, Wilson

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	5 9 3 9 8 0	2 9 4 1 6 8 0	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				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 Geoffrey B. Henry and Jared N. Tuk/ GAI Consultants & Barbara E. Mattick/DSHPO for Survey & Registration

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date May 2003

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone 850-245-6333

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 City of Lake Worth

street & number 7 North Dixie Highway telephone (561) 586-1605

city or town Lake Worth state Florida zip code 33460

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.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 **OSBORNE SCHOOL
LAKE WORTH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION**

SUMMARY

The Osborne School is a one-story, three-bay-wide, six-bay-deep, concrete block building completed in 1948 in a vernacular variant of the International Style. The building is oriented west towards Douglas Street. The building has a flat roof covered with rolled asphalt shingle that is sealed with tar around the edges. The roof has 2'-wide wooden eaves trimmed with a wooden box cornice, painted brown. A metal gutter carries rainwater to the ground level. The building is constructed with concrete blocks laid in regular courses above a poured concrete slab foundation. The blocks have been covered with a thin layer of plaster, painted light yellow. The exterior walls are in a good state of preservation, with no evidence of repair, deterioration, or alteration.

SETTING

The Osborne School (Osborne Elementary School) is located at 1726 Douglas Street, at the northeast corner of Douglas and Truman Streets, within the Lake Worth city limits in Palm Beach County, Florida. The Osborne School property is located in the southwest quadrant of Lake Worth, in the historically African-American Osborne neighborhood of the city. The .82-acre property is bounded on the north by the rear lot lines of properties on Latona Avenue, on the west by Douglas Street, on the south by the south corporate limits of the City of Lake Worth, and on the east by the west lot line of Lot 60. The east boundary is delineated by a chain-link fence; the other boundaries are open and unfenced. The surrounding land use is residential and consists of one-story, detached, single-family houses.

The Osborne School property is level, with landscaping consisting of a grass lawn on all four sides of the school. There are mature deciduous trees at the southwest corner of the property. A cement sidewalk runs along Douglas Street, in front of the school. A 4'-wide cement walk runs approximately 50' between this sidewalk and the front of the school, before turning to the south and continuing along the south side of the building. There is a flagpole located at the northwest corner of the property.

DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The Osborne School is a one-story, three-bay-wide, six-bay-deep, concrete block building completed in 1948 in a vernacular variant of the International Style (Photo 1). The building is oriented west towards Douglas Street. The building has a flat roof covered with rolled asphalt shingle that is sealed with tar around the edges. The roof has 2'-wide wooden eaves trimmed with a wooden box cornice, painted brown. A metal gutter carries rainwater to the ground level. The building is constructed with concrete blocks laid in regular courses above a poured concrete slab foundation. The blocks have been covered with a thin layer of plaster, painted light

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

**OSBORNE SCHOOL
LAKE WORTH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION**

yellow. The exterior walls are in a good state of preservation, with no evidence of repair, deterioration, or alteration.

The west elevation is distinguished by slightly projecting wing walls that flank the central entrance. These form a projecting flat-roofed portico (Photo 2). The entrance has a metal double-door with metal handle, and is accessed by a short flight of three painted cement steps. Above the entrance are the words "OSBORNE SCHOOL" in incised block capital letters. The letters have been painted a contrasting dark brown. There are no other openings on this elevation.

The south elevation consists of five window groupings and an entrance on the southeast corner (Photo 3). The west window is an 18-pane window with metal frames and mullions and jalousie panes opened by a crank from the inside (all other windows are of the same type). To its right is a tri-partite 12-pane window, also with metal frames and mullions. To its right is an 18-pane window, followed by two shorter 15-pane windows. The entrance on the southeast corner has a single metal door reached a by a single cement step.

The east elevation has a central entrance with a double, metal door reached by a flight of six painted cement steps with a metal handrail (Photo 4). Above the entrance is a wooden shed roof covered with asphalt shingles and supported by wooden knee braces. There is a 6-pane window located at the southeast corner. It has metal frames and mullions.

The north elevation is similar to the south elevation, except that it lacks an exterior entrance (Photos 5 & 6). The window at the northeast corner has 18 panes with metal frames and mullions. This is followed to its right by a tri-partite 12-pane window, an 18-pane window, a wall space, an 18-pane window, a tri-partite 12-pane window, and an 18-pane window.

Interior

The Osborne School interior consists of a wide, central east-west hall (Photo 7) flanked by two classrooms on the north, with a classroom, two bathrooms, a kitchen, and a dining room on the south. A secondary transverse hall leads from the central hall to an office and a storage closet. The interior plan is original and has not been altered.

The interior walls are plastered and painted. The unusual ceiling consists of bleached poplar or pine boards laid flush and then varnished. Modern ceiling fans and fluorescent lights are the only alterations to the ceiling.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3

**OSBORNE SCHOOL
LAKE WORTH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION**

At the east and west ends of the central hall are small semi-enclosed vestibules. The central hall floor is covered with black and white linoleum tiles laid in a checkerboard design. The floors are trimmed with a molded baseboard. The bulletin board, metal water fountain, and hanging glass case are not original.

The northeast classroom (Photo 8) is accessed by a metal door from the hall. This classroom has large slate blackboards with molded wood frames and recessed upper panels on the east and south walls. There are built-in shelves below the windows on the north wall. The room retains its original linoleum tile floor, baseboard trim, and flush-board ceiling. Alterations include the fluorescent lights and the filling in of a transom window above the door. A door on the west leads to the northwest classroom.

The northwest classroom has slate blackboards with molded wooden frames and recessed upper panels on the south and west walls. There are built-in shelves below the windows on the north wall. The room retains its original linoleum tile floor, baseboard trim, and flush-board ceiling. Alterations include the fluorescent lights and the filling in of a transom window above the door.

The southwest classroom is accessed by a metal door from the hall. There are slate blackboards with wooden frames and recessed upper panels on the west and north walls. There are built-in shelves below the windows on the north wall. The room retains its original linoleum tile floor, baseboard trim, and flush-board ceiling. Alterations include the fluorescent lights and the filling in of a transom window above the door to the hallway.

A door from the northeast corner of the classroom leads to a semi-enclosed kitchen. The walls, floors, and baseboard trim are original. The appliances, consisting of a sink, stove and refrigerator, are not. Another opening at the southeast corner of the classroom leads to a small room, originally a lunchroom. This room is presently used for storage.

The separate boys' and girls' bathrooms are accessed from the central hall. They retain original stalls, porcelain sinks, and toilet facilities. The north-south transverse hall has a metal door leading to a small storage/cleaning closet. At the south end of this hall is a small office with original floors, baseboard trim and ceilings. This room has an outside entrance on the south.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1 **OSBORNE SCHOOL
LAKE WORTH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Osborne Elementary School (Osborne School) is significant under **Criterion A** on the **local level** in the area of **Education** for its role in the history of public education in Lake Worth. The period of significance is 1948-1971. The school was designed in 1948 by Edgar S. Wortman, the architect for several other Palm Beach County public schools during the 1930s and 1940s. The Osborne School was in operation between 1948 and 1971, but the school building has remained in use as an educational facility. The building has not been altered or added onto, and still maintains its required level of integrity. The Osborne School is the most intact of the five public schools built in Lake Worth during the city's history.

The Osborne School also is significant under Criterion A on the local level in the area of **Ethnic Heritage: Black** as Lake Worth's only public school built specifically for African-American students. The Osborne School served residents of the city's segregated African-American Osborne neighborhood between 1948 and 1971. The school closed in 1971, but reopened as a Head Start and community education facility in 1980. It has remained a focus of the Osborne neighborhood and Lake Worth's African-American community. The building contributes to Florida's Black Public Schools Multiple Property Submission (MPS) under the context Great Depression To the Era of Integration, 1929-1971, therefore meeting **Criteria Consideration G** as defined in the Registration Requirements in the cover. It represents **Associated Property Type F.1 Black Public Schools**.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE

Development of present-day Palm Beach County's tourist and agricultural resources began in 1894 with the completion of Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway to West Palm Beach (then part of Dade County). Flagler's railroad brought Northern vacationers to his luxury resort at Palm Beach and sparked a series of speculative real estate ventures along Florida's "Gold Coast" (Janus Research 1998: 8-30).

The railroad also spurred the growth of the region's agricultural economy during the early 1900s, which consisted mostly of small-scale but highly productive fruit and vegetable farms. Because the small resident population was not sufficient to harvest and process these crops, many local farmers hired African-American agricultural workers from the Bahamas, south Georgia, and central and south Florida. Many of these rural residents lived on the farms themselves, often in small compounds of wooden houses.

In 1909, Palm Beach County was formed from a portion of Dade County, reflecting the rapid population growth in this area. Most of the county's population increase was centered in the many small thriving coastal communities that grew up during the 1910s and 1920s, including Lake Worth, Delray Beach, Boynton Beach, West Palm Beach, and Jupiter.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2 **OSBORNE SCHOOL
LAKE WORTH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE**

In 1912, the Palm Beach Farms Company platted the town of Lucerne (soon renamed Lake Worth), south of Palm Beach and promoted it as an agricultural community (Janus Research 1998: 8-29). By 1913 the town contained 318 residents and 77 buildings. By 1914, the town had a small commercial district around Lake Avenue and Dixie Highway. Lake Worth's economy relied on agriculture as well as tourism.

According to the 1920 US Population Census, Palm Beach County held more than 19,000 residents by that date, up from less than 6,000 in 1910 (Janus Research 1998: 8-30). African-Americans made up nearly half of the population of Lake Worth, Delray Beach, and West Palm Beach during the 1910-1920 period. Nevertheless, African-American residents were rarely, if ever, free to buy and build on properties anywhere in these communities. This reflected the racial codes, or Jim Crow laws, that restricted Florida's African-Americans from equal access to housing, employment, education, and public transportation.

Many east coast Florida resort communities actively discouraged African-American home ownership within their corporate boundaries. A 1914 promotional publication entitled "Come to Lake Worth-The Wonder City of the East Coast" boasted that: "Lake Worth is the only city in Florida without Negroes. There are none there. No property is sold to colored people" (Bryant & Greenwood 1914). This was not entirely true, as most cities and towns in Florida restricted property sales to African-Americans during this period.

This segregation was reflected in the educational facilities for Palm Beach County's African-American residents. For example, a school for Boynton Beach's "colored" children was recommended as early as 1907, but no public school was built for the town's African-American children until the 1940s. Meanwhile, schools for white children were built in Palm Beach (1908), Lantana (1908), Long Beach (1912), Boynton (1913), Delray Beach (1913), and Pelican Point (1914) (Piland 1996: 8-3). For the most part, the county's African-American students were educated in churches or fruit-packing warehouses, with vastly inferior facilities and learning materials.

In 1917, a five-block, ten-acre neighborhood in Lake Worth located west of the FEC railroad and Dixie Highway was reserved for black laborers and their families. The original plat, entered in the Palm Beach Land Records on October 17, 1917, was labeled "Osborne Colored Addition to Lake Worth" (Palm Beach County Plat Book 1, page 24). The name Osborne was presumably derived from nearby Lake Osborne in Lake Worth. The Osborne neighborhood was also popularly known as "the Quarters," a reference to former housing still used by some of its older residents (Pecora 1998: 4).

Original residents of the Osborne neighborhood moved to this area from the Bahamas, and south Georgia. Family surnames of these original settlers included Glinton, Gibson, Jackson, Knowles, and Grimes. After 1922, several residents moved to the Osborne neighborhood from neighboring Lantana, which had passed an ordinance prohibiting "members of the colored races and people of foreign birth" from owning property in the town.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3

**OSBORNE SCHOOL
LAKE WORTH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE**

Lake Worth's population increased from 1,106 residents in 1920 to 6,000 by 1930, adding further pressure to restrict African-Americans to a defined neighborhood. A notice in the 27 October 1926 *Lake Worth Herald* stated that "an ordinance establishing, designating, and setting apart the section known as the Osborne Colored Addition as the district in which only persons of the Negro race may reside was placed on its initial reading at the regular meeting of the city commission Monday night." Other southeast Florida communities established similar segregated communities during this period, including Fort Lauderdale, which platted the Tuskegee subdivision in 1927 (Mattick 1990: 8-1).

The construction of schools for African-American students in Florida occurred only after intense pressure from black parents and their few white allies. Stanton High School in Jacksonville was completed in 1917 following a legal challenge brought by local black residents (Tool 1983: 8-1). Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale was completed in 1927 after the city's black population threatened similar action (Mattick 1990: 8-1). Dunbar High School in Fort Myers was constructed in 1927, and during its history it was the only secondary school facility for blacks in Lee County (Taylor 1991: 8-1).

Educational facilities for African-Americans nearly always lacked the same books, teaching materials and extra-curricular activities available to white students. In many primarily agricultural communities, such as Palm Beach County, the school term for African-American students was also greatly abbreviated. Schools were often closed during the winter months to allow children to work on farms and in agricultural related industries such as packing plants (Mattick 1990: 8-3).

Although the Osborne neighborhood was laid out in 1917, the Palm Beach County School Board made no provision for the local education of the residents' school-age children. Until the early 1940s, most African-American students in Lake Worth were bused to segregated schools in Delray Beach, nearly 15 miles to the south (Hornsby 1994: 3). Between 1934 and 1938, the Rev. Harold Glinton operated an elementary school in a portion of St. John's Episcopal Church on Washington Avenue (Sullivan 1988: B1).

By the 1940s, population growth in Palm Beach County spurred the construction of several new schools for African-American students. A 15 January 1944 article in the *Lake Worth Herald* noted that the Palm Beach County School Board was planning schools in the Range Line, Bean City, and Belle Glade communities. In 1944, the Palm Beach County School Board authorized construction of the Range Line School, located west of Boynton Beach (*Lake Worth Herald* 7 September 1944).

On 13 August 1945, the Palm Beach County Board of Public Instruction authorized the purchase of land in the Osborne section of Lake Worth scheduled for sale for tax delinquency (Palm Beach Board of Public Instruction 1945: 13). The Board declared that the land was to be used for a public elementary school. A 24

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 4 **OSBORNE SCHOOL
LAKE WORTH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE**

January 1946 *Lake Worth Herald* article, discussing improvements to Washington Avenue in the Osborne area, mentioned “the site of the new Negro school to be built by the County School Board.”

On 25 February 1947, the Board of Public Instruction authorized drawing up plans for a new Osborne School (called the Lake Osborne School in the minutes). The Board instructed its architect, Edgar S. Wortman, to utilize surplus lumber from the newly decommissioned Camp Murphy (Palm Beach Board of Public Instruction 1947: 257). Wortman, who was the unofficial architect for the Palm Beach County School Board, was responsible for many other schools in the county (including Pahokee School, Riviera Beach Junior High School, and part of Palm Beach High School) during the 1930s and 1940s.

On 26 March 1947, Wortman submitted plans for a three-room building for the Lake Osborne site “which is to be constructed from some of the materials salvaged from Camp Murphy,” and the Board authorized him to secure bids. In June 1947, local residents P.W. Odum, Able Wilson, and Frank Jones completed the construction of the first Osborne School. This school was of frame construction, with materials provided by the school district; the residents had to supply their own labor. This was not unusual, as parts of Douglas Street had been constructed with local labor a few years earlier, using sand and shell donated by a local trucker (Pecora 1998: 4).

Odum was one of several self-taught builders who lived in and constructed houses in the Osborne neighborhood during the 1940s and 1950s. According to one source, Odum built a barber shop and an eight-unit motel along Washington Avenue. The latter was used by black visitors to Lake Worth who were not allowed to stay in the “whites-only” motels in the east half of the city (Hornsby 1994: 1).

Lake Worth was hit by a severe hurricane on 16 September 1947. At a special meeting of the Palm Beach County Board of Instruction, the Board noted that the Lake Worth School was one of several in the county badly damaged by the hurricane and needed to be replaced by a more permanent building. On 17 October 1947, Wortman submitted a new set of plans for the Osborne School, utilizing concrete block construction instead of frame (“Lake Osborne Colored School,” Edgar S. Wortman, Architect for the Palm Beach County Board of Public Instruction, October 10, 1947). At the 16 December 1947 meeting, “Mr. Wortman reported the blackboards for Lake Osborne School will be delivered by Mr. George Hopkins and the school should be ready for occupancy by the time the Christmas vacation is over” (Palm Beach Board of Public Instruction 1947: 74).

An article in the 19 February 1948 *Lake Worth Herald* noted the gala opening of the new Osborne School. With the headline “Negro School in Osborne Section Dedicated Tuesday,” the article described the opening ceremony: “The new school building for Negroes in the Osborne neighborhood was dedicated on last Tuesday afternoon, when a program was given by Lake Worth’s Sorosis Club, sponsor of the educational advancement. Mayor J.T. Barton, Tom G. Smith, former mayor and Chamber of Commerce President, County

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 5

**OSBORNE SCHOOL
LAKE WORTH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE**

Supervisor Leonard, Chiefs Sanders and Brause of the Police and Fire Departments, were among the attendees. Mrs. James B. Wiley, president of the Sorosis, presided. On behalf of the club, Mrs. Hiram Booth presented pictures of the school and Mrs. Henry Murphy, an encyclopedia and other reference books.”

The Osborne school quickly became a center of the African-American community’s educational and social life and was a source of community pride. Many of its teachers were locally trained and educated. The first teacher appointed to the school was Angenora J. Younge who took her post in 1947; she was replaced in 1948 by Jausita Denson (Palm Beach Board of Public Instruction 1947: 296).

The construction of the Osborne School undoubtedly solidified the neighborhood’s goals toward improvement. After 1950, some city services, such as paved streets, garbage collection, and public sewer systems, were extended to portions of the Osborne neighborhood. Zoning ordinances adopted in 1967 re-classified the Osborne neighborhood from H zone, which allowed nearly uncontrolled construction, to single-family and multi-family construction and limited commercial use (Owen 1967: 1).

The Osborne School remained in operation until 1971, when Palm Beach County’s public schools were officially desegregated. Former students of Osborne School were bused to Lake Worth’s two other elementary schools, leaving the by-now inadequate Osborne School empty. In 1980, the school building was re-opened for use as a Head Start facility. In 1985 it was purchased by the City of Lake Worth, and then leased to local community groups, who now operate the school as an after-school training and educational facility.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 1 OSBORNE SCHOOL
LAKE WORTH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 2 **OSBORNE SCHOOL
LAKE WORTH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

**OSBORNE SCHOOL
LAKE WORTH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated Osborne Elementary School property are described as follows: "All that parts of Lots 58 and 59 on the Amended Plat of Latona Court, Colored Addition to Lake Worth."

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries were chosen to include the Osborne Elementary School and its immediate setting. The nominated boundaries enclose the property historically associated with the Osborne Elementary School.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

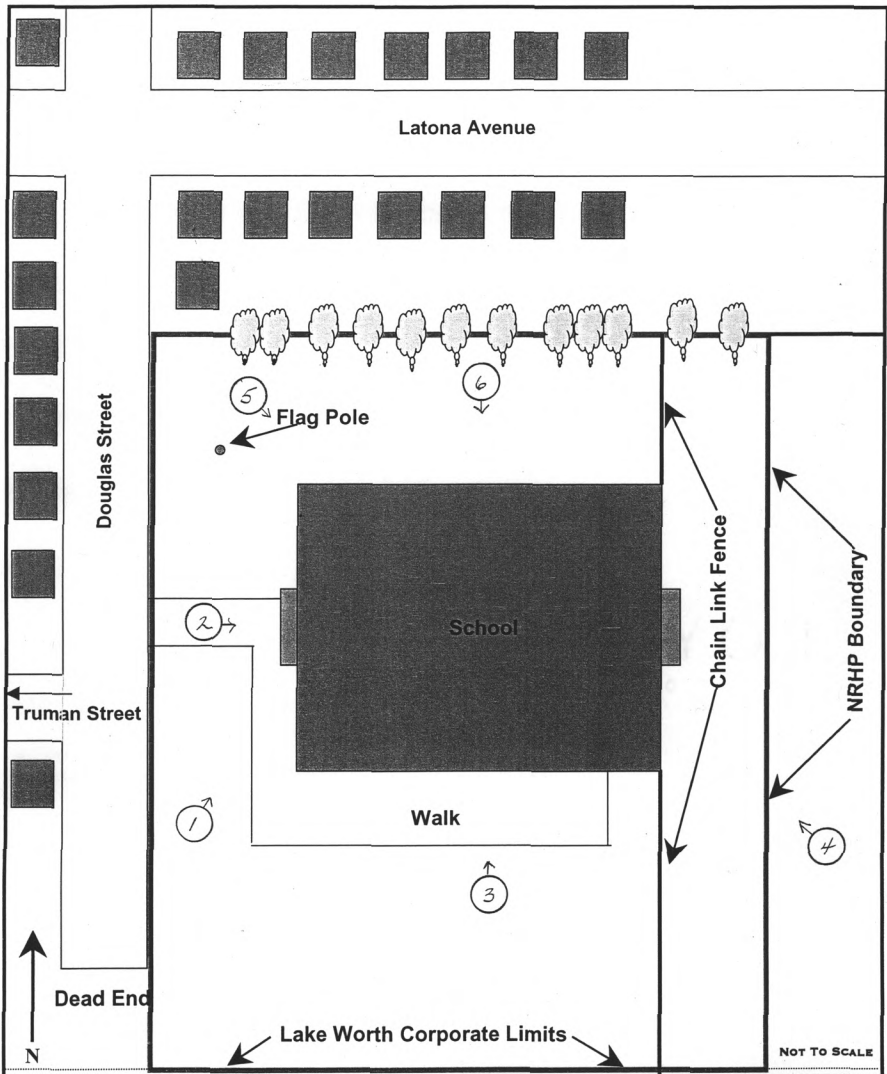
Section number _____ Page 1 OSBORNE SCHOOL
LAKE WORTH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHOTOGRAPHS

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1) **Name of Property:** Osborne (Elementary) School, 1726 Douglas Street, Lake Worth
- 2) **County and State:** Palm Beach County, FL
- 3) **Photographer:** Jared Tuk and Geoffrey Henry, GAI Consultants-Southeast, 201 East Pine Street, Suite 200, Orlando, FL
- 4) **Date:** December 11, 2001
- 5) **Negatives Held:** Florida SHPO, Division of Historical Resources, R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

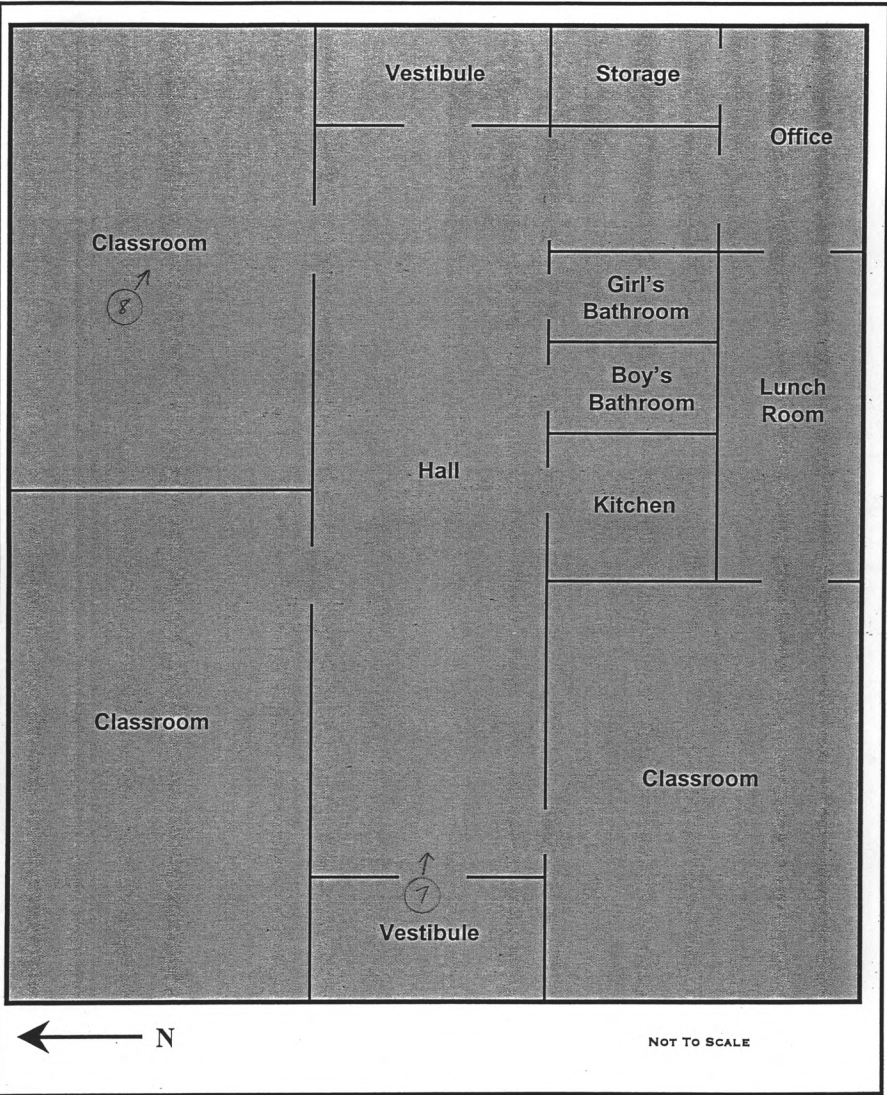
Items 1-5 are the same for all of the photographs.

1. 6) Exterior. Southwest corner of building, looking northeast.
7) Photo 1 of 8
2. 6) Exterior. Detail of west elevation and entrance, looking east.
7) Photo 2 of 8
3. 6) Exterior. Northwest corner of building, looking southeast.
7) Photo 3 of 8
4. 6) Exterior. North elevation, looking south.
7) Photo 4 of 8
5. 6) Exterior. South elevation, looking north.
7) Photo 5 of 8
6. 6) Exterior. Southeast corner of building, looking northwest.
7) Photo 6 of 8
7. 6) Interior. Central hallway, looking east from west vestibule.
7) Photo 7 of 8
8. 6) Interior. Northeast classroom, looking northeast toward blackboard on east wall.
7) Photo 8 of 8



FIGURE

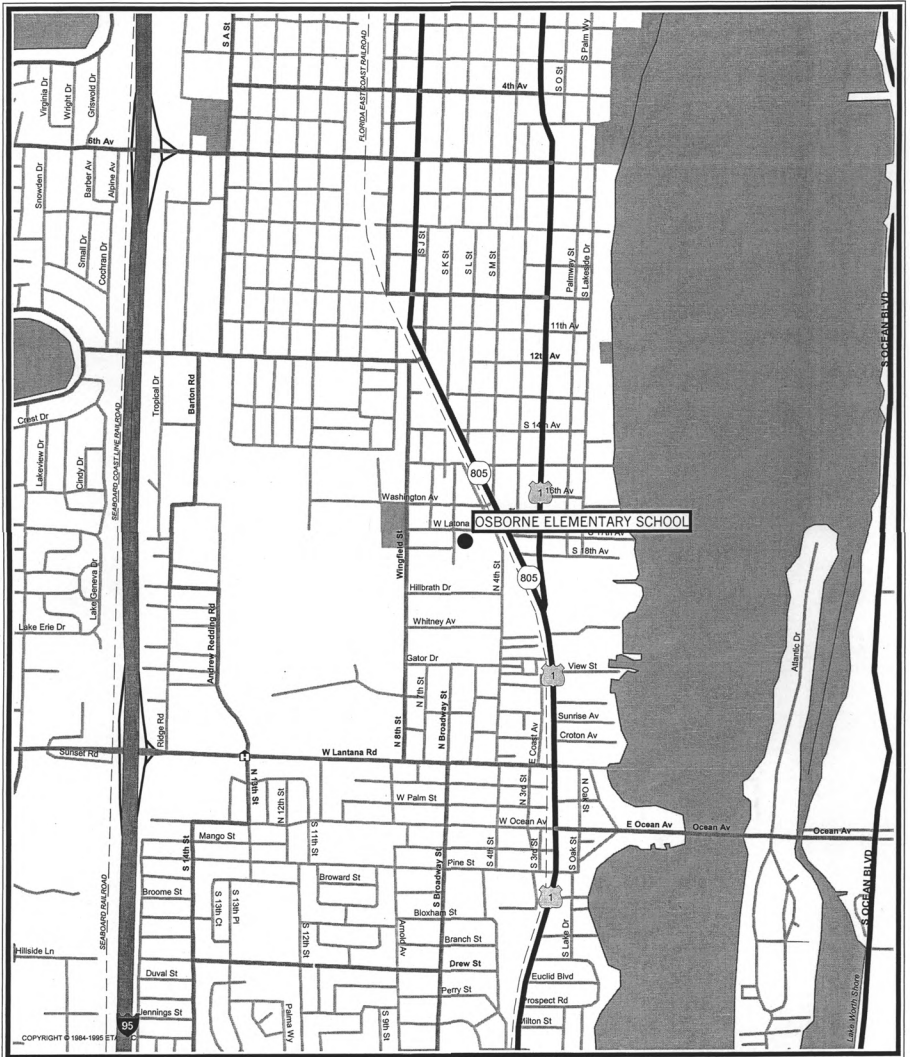
**SITE PLAN SHOWING NRHP BOUNDARY,
OSBORNE SCHOOL, LAKE WORTH, PALM
BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA**



FIGURE

FLOOR PLAN, OSBORNE SCHOOL, LAKE WORTH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

Current Map



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