United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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and/or commor	nford Grammar School			••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
2. Loc		SCHOOL	·····	······································
street & numbe	Casterna			N/A not for publication
city, town Sa	anford	N/A vicinity of		·
state Flori	ida coc	ie 012 count	Seminole	code 117
3. Clas	ssification			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership _X public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered N/A	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted X yes: unrestricted mo	entertainment government	<pre> museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:</pre>
4. Owi	ner of Prope	rty	· · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
name Semir	ole County School B	oard		
street & numbe	r 1211 Mellonvill	e Avenue		
	Sanford	_{N∕A} _ vicinity of	stat	e Florida

North Park Avenue street & number

city, town	city,	town
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6.

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state Florida

Sanford **Representation in Existing Surveys**

title	N/A	has this property been determined eligible? yes	_ <u>X_</u> no
date	N/A	federal state county _	local
deposi	tory for survey records N/A		<u> </u>
city, to	wn N/A	state N/A	

7. Description

Condition excellent X_ good	deteriorated	Check one unaitered X_ altered	Check one X_ original s moved	ite date
&_ good fair	ruins unexposed	altered	moved	date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Sanford Grammar School was constructed in 1902, with significant additions in 1916 to the main building. Jacksonville architect Wilbur Talley designed the main building in the Romanesque Revival Style, a two-story rectangular red brick facade, dominated by a massive three-story bell tower with an open belfry showing Romanesque arches on all four sides. The 1916 additions, designed by Sanford architect Elton Moughton, consist of one-story wings east and west of the main building that blend in harmony with the original. The building's exterior features decorative corbeling, string- and belt-courses, and recessed round arched entryways. The school is a fine example of public architecture at the turn of the century.

The Sanford Grammar School, known as the Sanford High School from 1902 to 1911, is a typical Victorian public building, located in a tree-shaded neighborhood of other schools, churches, and an assortment of late nineteenth and early twentieth century dwellings. It overlooks a large park that was donated by the city's founder, General Henry Shelton Sanford. Constructed in 1902 (with later sympathetic additions), the school is a late example of the Romanesque Revival style popular in the last half of the nineteenth century for schools, churches and government buildings. That style links it with the early period of Sanford's growth and development.¹

The two-story, hip-roofed building features a central-three story bell tower topped by a concave pyramid roof (photos 1 and 2). Early photographs show a metal standing seam roof highlighted by ornamental iron cresting and balanced at the corners by four brick chimneys (photo 15). The Romanesque round-arch motif present throughout the building is repeated on all three levels of the tower. The main entry is recessed behind an arch accented by archivolt molding with imposts (photo 14). Above it, the original principal's office has a rounded fanlight window (photo 1). An open belfry on the third level features Romanesque arches on all four sides (photo 2). The side entrances to the school are likewise inset behind rounded arches (photo 9). The windows for the classrooms feature more modest semi-elliptical arches. The flatness of the wall surfaces is relieved by setbacks next to the tower, by several string- and beltcourses, and by ornamentatal brick corbeling in a 5:3:5:3 pattern at the top.

A limited polychromatic effect is obtained by the contrast of granite steps and window sills to the otherwise brick building, and by a white cornice hearing the name of the school and a white plaque giving the date of construction. More subtle is the use of darker brick for a band of diamond-shaped lozenges and for quoins on the belltower.

This solid example of Victorian school architecture--one of the few surviving in Florida--was designed by architect Wilbur B. Talley of Jacksonville. One of the founders of the Florida Association of Architects in 1912, Talley's commissions ranged across the state and included designs that run the gamut of popular contemporary style from Romanesque and Gothic revivals through Neoclassical and Prairie School.²

Pressures of growth by 1908 called forth a plan to enlarge the school with a nineroom, two-story addition to the rear. Another high school was constructed instead, and in 1911 Talley's building became Sanford Grammar School. Five years later, architect Elton J. Moughton designed additions to the school. For many years, Moughton was Sanford's leading architect. He was responsible for several civic buildings and the massive Mediterranean Revival Hotel Forrest Lake.³ Moughton's design for the expansion of the grammar school included matching one-story, T-shaped wings linked to the original building by open loggias with Romanesque arches. Constructed of brick, its decorative corbeling, string- and beltcourses, and recessed round-arched entryways reflected the original building, while the flat parapet roof and flat arches over the windows reflected the changing architectural taste of the intervening decade and a half. Taken as a whole,

8. Significance

	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications	• •
Specific dates	1902. 1916	Walker/Talley (1902) Builder/Architect Venable/Moughton (1916)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Sanford Grammar School, known for a time as the Sanford High School, is one of the oldest schools still in use in Florida. A brick building in the Romanesque Revival Style, it was designed in 1902 by Architect W.B. Talley of Jacksonville. Two symmetrical one-story wings were added in 1916. The school has produced several generations of civic and state leaders. The building overlooks a park and playground donated by the area's pioneer developer, General Henry Shelton Stanford. The Sanford Grammar School fulfills criterions A, B, and C for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of our history, notably desegregation, its association with individuals prominent in state history, and as a structure representative of a notable style of architecture.

The property on which the school is located was acquired in 1834 by Moses E. Levy, pioneer Jewish settler, critic of slavery (though a slaveowner) and father of Florida's first United States Senator, David Levy Yulee. This protion of the extensive Levy holdings was foreclosed in 1849 and auctioned off for forty dollars. The purchaser, Joseph Finegan, was later the Confederate general in command at the battle of Olustee, the most conspicuous Southern victory in Florida during the Civil War.² In May 1870, the former Confederate general sold his 12,547.15 acre tract on the south shore of Lake Monroe for \$18,200 to Henry Shelton Sanford, an honorary Union general, and President Abraham Lincoln's minister in Belgium. Sanford rapidly became the most prominent of the state's postwar developers, establishing citrus grove and the city that bears his The experimental work carried on at his Belair Grove has been credited with name. introducing many of the varieties that made possible Florida's modern citrus industry. Since the settlement was located at navigable head of the St. Johns River (then in its golden season as a main artery of travel and commerce) it was called the "Gate City," It was a gateway to the further settlement not only of south Florida, but of the peninsula's west coast as well. Developer Henry Bradley Plant launched a steamboat line from Jacksonville to Sanford in 1880, and three years later purchased a sixty percent interest in the South Florida Railroad that ran from Sanford to Tampa. That rail link made possible the rapid growth of Tampa.⁴

As Sanford grew, so did its educational needs. It became unseemly to house its schools in log cabins or Victorian cottages, or even the wood-frame Public School Building No. 1, which had become overcrowded by the late 1890's. Agitation began to construct a good-sized brick high school in the city (the choice of building material influenced by the fact that Sanford's wooden business district had suffered a disastrous fire in 1887).⁵ An 1898 bond issue included \$5,000 for that purpose. A park that General Sanford had donated to the city was the preferred building site, but it proved legally impossible to alter its use from what the founder had prescribed. So in 1901, for the sum of \$950, six lots across the street from the park were purchased, the park thus providing a convenient school play ground. The four houses on the site were to be removed to make way for the building.⁶

(See Continuation Sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated propert Quadrangle name <u>Sanford</u>			Quadrang	le scale <u>1:24,000</u>
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Verbal boundary descripti All of block 9, Tier 6 properties.	-	. This ar	ea includes all sig	gnificant
List all states and countie	s for properties over	lapping state	e or county boundaries	
state _{N/A}	code _{N/A}	county	N/A	code _{N/A}
state _{N/A}	code _{N/A}	county	N/A	code N/A
11. Form Pre	pared By			
name/title William R. Ad	ams/Michael F. Zi	mny, Histo	ric Sites Specialis	st
organization Florida Divi	sion of Archives	<u> </u>	date October 12	, 1984
street & number The Capi	tol		telephone (904)	487-2333
city or town Tallahassee			state Florida	
12. State His	storic Pres	ervatio	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	ertification
The evaluated significance of	this property within the	state is:	·····	
national	state	_x_ local		
As the designated State Histor 665), I hereby nominate this pr according to the criteria and p	operty for inclusion in t	he National Re	gister and certify hat it ha	
State Historic Preservation Of	icer signature	UDG	W-Jung	
title George W. Percy, S	tate Historic Pre	Jeservation	Officer date	10/15/84
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this Control of the National Res	Byen	승규는 것이 같은 영상에 있다.		11-23-84
Attest:			date	
Chief of Registration				

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the additions blend in harmony with the original, highlighting its features rather than detracting from them. The progression in rising steps from the one-story wings to the two-story block add dominance to the central three-story tower and form a highly satisfactory composition (photos 3, 4, 5 and 6).

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A second addition came to the property in 1921 when a one-story wood frame bungaloid building was constructed behind the school to serve as a lunchroom.

Elton J. Moughton's connection with the school continued for over thirty years, as he later designed heating and lighting systems for the complex. In 1956, his heating system was redesigned by the well-known Florida architect James Gamble Rogers II, who retained the old stack but replaced the boiler room as part of a modernization of facilities. In 1962, Sanford architect John A. Burton IV added a storage room to the boiler complex and replaced the metal fire escapes Moughton had added in 1916 with a two-story concrete block fire tower--fortunately placed at the rear of the building where it was least visible (photo 7).

Many other changes have been made in the school over the course of time. Some were functional: the original outhouses were replaced by indoor plumbing and the gaslights by electricity; a fairly inconspicuous wheelchair ramp was added. Others were ornamental: the decorative metal roof cresting that high-lighted the original building is now gone. So is the cornice above the main entrance (photos 16 and 2). The diamondpaned windows in the roof dormers have been replaced, over the years, by louvered vents. The metal standing seam roof was removed (except on the tower) and fiberglass shingles installed instead. The four chimneys that balanced the corners of the main building no longer remain.

There have been several interior modifications. The staircases have been widened, partitions added, some of the ceilings dropped, plywood paneling and floor carpeting added in places. The blackboards are now green. Most of these "improvements" are cosmetic in nature and could be easily removed to reveal the original fabric which still exists beneath.

More noticeable than the changes are the many things that remain the same: doors, windows, transoms, cornerblock bullseye moldings, beaded-edge ceiling board, vertical v-groove wainscoting, pine floors (photos 11, 12 and 13). The overall effect is of a gracious old school that has survived the ravages of time to become a landmark and symbol of community pride.

FOOTNOTES

¹On the popularity of this style for public buildings, see Carroll L.V. Meeks, "Romanesque Before Richardson in the United States." <u>Art Bulletin</u> XXXV (March 1953) pp. 17-33.

²Sanford <u>Herald</u>, July 3, 1923, p. 9. Information supplied by Steve Tool, Director, Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission.

³Jerry W. Mills, "A Chronology of the Development of the City of Sanford, Florida," unpublished paper on file at the Sanford Public Library, p. 24. Interview with Mrs. E.J. Moughton.

⁴The blueprints for work on the school done by Moughton, Rogers, and Burton are on file at the offices of the Seminole County District School Board, Sanford, Florida.

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Though there were objections to the extra cost of brick, and assertions that "no one now living would ever see the proposed school house filled with pupils," those of larger vision carried the day. A shortage of funds was made up by the Sanford City Council, which added two thousand dollars to the available bond money in 1902, and a contract was signed with architect Wilbur B. Talley of Jacksonville to proceed with Sanford High School. Talley, whose wife came from Sanford, practiced in Jacksonville from the turn of the century until the early 1920's, when he relocated his practice to Lakeland. A leader in his profession, Talley was one of the founders of the Florida Association of Architects in 1912, and his commissions ranged across the state. He designed churches in Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Lakeland, and Tampa; schools in Starke, Lake City, Ocala, Kissimmee, Orlando, Eau Gallie, and Sanford; and major governmental structures like the Palm Beach County Courthouse, the Duval County Courthouse Annex, and the Duval County Armory. His designs run the gamut of popular contemporary styles from Romanesque and Gothic revivials through Neoclassical and Prairie School.⁸

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On April 19, 1902, the cornerstone was laid. Downtown merchants closed their stores, and the local lodge of Masons led a parade to the site. The marble cornerstone bears the Masonic seal. That summer, over a thousand dollars worth of equipment was ordered from the Hudson School Furniture Company of Athens, Ohio. Sanford High School opened in the fall. W.B. Lynch, the superintendent of schools in Orange County, became the first prinicpal of the new institution.⁹

In other ways, 1902 was a watershed year in the city's history. General Sanford's heirs sold his Belair Grove. Henry Plant's heirs sold his railroads. The original citrus groves that had been destroyed by the great freezes of the 1890's were being replaced by another cash crop: celery.¹⁰ Those who would build the new Sanford in the new century would receive their schooling in a building marked, architecturally, as a relic of the city's earlier period. Those who had predicted that the school would never be filled were soon proved wrong, for by 1908 the need for an addition was evident. In 1910 the problem was resolved, temporarily, by building a new high school and transforming the old one into Sanford Grammar School--a name it has kept since 1911.¹¹

In 1913, Seminole County was formed, with Sanford as its seat. It was the fourth change of nomenclature for the area. After the American acquisition of Florida in 1821, it had been part of St. Johns County, then Mosquito County, then Orange County, then, finally, Seminole County. The Sanford school thus pre-dates the organization of the county in which it is located.¹²

The new county proceeded to prepare a \$75,000 bond issue for school purposes, which was approved by the voters in 1915. It included \$15,000 to be used for improving and enlarging Sanford Grammar School.¹³ Architect W.B. Camp prepared plans for a twostory addition, while Elton J. Moughton proposed matching one-story wings. The school board accepted Moughton's version and signed a contract with him in July 1916. Builder George W. Venable was the low bidder for carrying out the work. The Sanford <u>Herald</u> noted approvingly "the fact that the board in all their actions and deliberations favored local talent and local business men when the contract was let."

The contract to design the school additions was one of architect Elton J. Moughton's early commissions. Born in Cleveland in 1893, Moughton attended architectural classes in Minneapolis, then followed the rest of his family to Florida. He worked first in

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Jacksonville before establishing his office in Sanford, where he worked from 1914 until his death in 1956. He designed buildings as far away as Bartow and New Smyrna, but the bulk of his work was in Sanford where for many years he was the leading architect. He was responsible for the City Hall, the county jail, the hospital, and the area's outstanding monument to the 1920's Boom, the massive Mediterranean Revival Hotel Forrest Lake, on the shores of Lake Monroe. Later renamed the Mayfair, it was owned for some time by the New York Giants, who held their Spring training in Sanford.

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The cornerstone was laid in August, and once again the Masons had charge of the ceremonies, which began with a parade to the site. The press boasted that "The new building as now contemplated will give Sanford one of the most complete and systematic plans for education in the state."¹⁶ The matching wings were completed, inspected by the school board members, and accepted in January 1917.

The facilities were improved with the additions, but the school still lacked a lunchroom. Pupils went home to eat, or brought a packed lunch with them, and bought treats from the bakery wagon or ice cream cart that come during recess. By 1921, the Sanford Women's Club decided to do something about the situation and raised money through bake sales, suppers, and other events to build and equip the county's first school lunchroom. The one-story wooden building behind Sanford Grammar School was opened in October 1921 at a cost of \$1,500. It not only provided ten-cent lunches for the grammar school students, but also prepared and delivered food to other schools in the area. During the Depression, additional money-raising projects were conducted to keep the lunchroom

open. In line with the policy of segregation, the Sanford Grammar School was built for whites. Shortly after the contract was signed for its construction in 1902, a mass meeting of black citizens had protested that "it was the previous understanding between voters and bond trustees that bond taxes should go for building of better schools for all." The 1915 bond issue did allocate five thousand dollars "To be used in improving and enlarging the colored school"--though that was only a fraction of the money allocated for white schools.

In 1954 the United States Supreme Court in the case of <u>Brown vs. Board</u> ruled that "separate but equal" schools were inherently unequal, and the process of dismantling the dual school system began. Sanford Grammar School was first desegregated during the 1965-66 school year by the addition of a black teacher to the faculty. Black students followed, in small numbers, under a "freedom of choice" plan. The slow pace was accelerated after 1970 when the entire county school system was placed under a court-ordered integration plan.

Sanford Grammar School survived long beyond most of its contemporaries, becoming both a witness and participant in the great changes of the twentieth century. It was a point of pride in the community that alumni had gone on to Harvard Medical School, West Point, and other prestigious institutions. Generations of civic leaders--mayors, judges, city and county commissioners, state representatives and senators--received their early education here. One, Brailey Odham, had twice been a leading candidate for for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination. Another, Donna Lou Harper, married Reubin Askew and was First Lady of Florida while her husband was governor from 1971 to 1979. Best-known of the alumni to the public at-large is probably Walter L. "Red" Barber. Not only did he attend the school, but his mother taught there and served as principal in the fall of 1926. Red Barber was heard by millions over the years as the "voice" of the Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Yankees, and made history when he broadcast the first televised baseball game.²²

Though Sanford Grammar School will be closed in 1984, plans are underway to keep the historic building in use as an educational museum that will serve further generations 23 of Seminole County children as nobly as the shool itself did for more than eight decades.

FOOTNOTES

¹Jerry W. Mills, "A Chronology of the Development of the City of Sanford, Florida," unpublished paper on file at the Sanford Public Library, p. 1. Leon Huhner, "Moses Elias Levy: An Early Florida Pioneer and the Father of Florida's First Senator," Florida Historical Quarterly (April 1941), pp. 319-45.

²Mills, <u>op</u>. <u>cit</u>., p. 2. Lawrence E. Breeze, "The Battle of Olustee: Its Meaning for the British," Florida Historical Quarterly (1964-65), pp. 207-16.

³Joseph A. Fry, <u>Henry S. Sanford: Diplomacy and Business in Nineteenth Century</u> <u>America</u> (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1982), p. 96. Dorothy P. McMakin, "General Henry Shelton Sanford and His Influence on Florida," (M.A. Thesis, Stetson University, 1938), p. 91.

⁴G. Hutchinson Smyth, <u>The Life of Henry Bradley Plant</u> (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1898), p. 182. Richard J. Amundson, "The American Life of Henry Shelton Sanford," Ph.D. Dissertation, Florida State University, 1963), p. 232.

⁵"Sanford Grammar School 1902-1977: 75 Years," unpublished manuscript prepared for 75th anniversary, pp. 1-2. Amundson, op. cit., p. 294.

⁶<u>City Council Minutes</u>, Sanford, Florida, February 19, 1900; September 3, 1900; January 7, 1901; February 18, 1901. "Sanford Grammar...", pp. 2-4.

[']<u>City Council Minutes</u>, January 4, 1901; January 6, 1902; January 9, 1902; January 22, 1902; February 3, 1902.

⁸Sanford <u>Herald</u>, July 3, 1923, p. 9. Interview with Mrs. E.J. Moughton. Information supplied by Steve Tool, Director, Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission.

⁹"Sanford Grammar...", p. 5. <u>City Council Minutes</u>, August 21, 1902.

¹⁰ McMakin, <u>op</u>. <u>cit</u>., pp. 71, 93. Dudley S. Johnson, "Henry Bradley Plant and Florida," Florida Historical Quarterly (1966-67), p. 129.

¹¹"Sanford Grammar...", p. 7.

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¹²Mills, <u>op</u>. <u>cit</u>., p. 18. Mrs. J.N. Whitner, <u>The Tale of a Mosquito</u> (The Woman's Club of Sanford, 1977), pp. 1,3.

¹³"Sanford Grammar...", pp. 9, 16. <u>School Board Minutes</u>, Seminole County, Florida, August 2, 1915.

¹⁴ <u>School Board Minutes</u>, March 21, 1916; May 23, 1916; July 5, 1916; July 25, 1916. Sanford <u>Herald</u>, August 1, 1916, p. 1.

¹⁵Interview with Mrs. E.J. Moughton. Sanford <u>Herald</u>, January 4, 1926, p. 1. Jerry Mills, "A Chronology of the Development of the City of Sanford, Florida," p. 24.

¹⁶Sanford <u>Herald</u>, August 18, 1916, p. 1; August 22, 1916, p. 1.

¹⁷<u>School Board Minutes</u>, January 2, 1917; January 5, 1917.

¹⁸"Sanford Grammar...", pp. 8, 12-13.

¹⁹<u>City Council Minutes</u>, April 7, 1902. "Sanford Grammar...", p. 16.

²⁰Interviews with Kenneth Echols, Frances Kaleel, and James J. Elliott.

²¹Echols interview. Sanford <u>Evening Herald</u>, February 27, 1984, p. 4A.

²²Sanford <u>Evening Herald</u>, February 27, 1984, p. 4A.

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Published Materials:

- Breeze, Lawrence E. "The Battle of Olustee: Its Meaning for the British." Florida Historical Quarterly (July 1964), pp. 207-16.
- Fry, Joseph A. <u>Henry S. Sanford: Diplomacy and Business in Nineteenth Century America</u>. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1982.
- Huhner, Leon. "Moses Elias Levy: An Early Florida Pioneer and the Father of Florida's First Senator." <u>Florida Historical Quarterly</u> (1941), pp. 219-45.
- Johnson, Dudley S. "Henry Bradley Plant and Florida." <u>Florida Historical Quarterly</u> (1967), pp. 118-33.
- Meeks, Carroll L.V. "Romanesque Before Richardson in the United States." Art Bulletin (March 1953), pp. 17-33.
- Schaal, Peter. Sanford As I Knew It 1912-1935. No publisher, 1970.
- Smyth, G. Hutchinson. The Life of Henry Bradley Plant. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1898.
- Whitner, Mrs. J.N. The Tale of a Mosquito: A Story of Early Sanford. The Woman's Club of Sanford, 1977 reprint of 1910 original.

Unpublished Materials:

- Amundson, Richard J. "The American Life of Henry Shelton Sanford." Ph.D. Dissertation, Florida State University, 1963.
- McMakin, Dorothy P. "General Henry Shelton Sanford and His Influence on Florida." M.A. Thesis, Stetson University, 1938.
- Mills, Jerry W. "A Chronology of the Development of the City of Sanford, Florida." University of Florida student paper for AE 684 Florida History for Professor F. Blair Reeves, Fall 1975, on file at the Sanford Public Library.
- "Sanford Grammar School 1902-1977: 75 Years." Paper prepared for the anniversary of the school.

Newspapers:

Sanford Herald, August 1, 18, and 22, 1916; July 3, 1923; January 4, 1926.

Sanford Evening Herald, February 27, 1984.

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Other Materials:

- Blueprints for Sanford Grammar School, Seminole County District School Board Offices, Sanford, Florida.
- City Council Minutes, City Hall, Sanford, Florida.
- Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission, 220 East Bay Street, Jacksonville, Florida. Correspondence, clippings, site files and photographs relating to architect Wilbur B. Talley.

School Board Minutes, Seminole County District School Board Offices, Sanford, Florida.

Oral Interviews:

Barber, Walter L."Red". Alumnus and son of former teacher and principal at Sanford Grammar School. Telephone interview, March 21, 1984, Tallahassee, Florida.

Carroll, Clay. Principal of school from 1973-83. Sanford, March 21, 1984.

- Echols, Kenneth. Current principal (and formerly a teacher and student) at the school Sanford, February 28 and March 21, 1984.
- Elliott, James J. Social Studies coordinator for the Seminole County District School Board. Sanford, February 28 and March 21, 1984.

Kaleel, Frances. Teacher at the school since 1961. Sanford, March 21, 1984.

Moughton, Lucy Whitner. Early graduate of the school, and widow of architect Elton J. Moughton who designed the additions to the building. Telephone interview, Longwood, Florida, March 28, 1984.