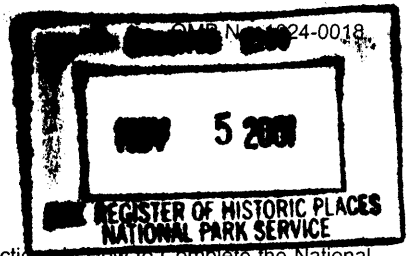


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1262



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 WINSTON SCHOOL

other names/site number FMSF# PO6452

2. Location

street & number 3415 Swindell Road N/A not for publication

city or town Lakeland vicinity

state Florida code FL county Polk code 105 zip code 33810

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] 10/31/2001
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	Signature of the Keeper <u>Entered in the National Register</u>	Date of Action <u>12/20/01</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain) _____	_____	_____

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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	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)

OTHER: Frame Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

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)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1928-1951

Significant Dates

1928

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Mendenhall, G.D. and H.D.

Ridge Construction

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 1.05 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	4 0 0 3 6 0	3 1 0 3 7 4 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 Lisa L. Parks/Robert O. Jones, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date October 2001

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399

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 School Board of Polk County

street & number 1915 South Floral Avenue telephone 863-534-0500

city or town Bartow state FL zip code 33830

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 **WINSTON SCHOOL, POLK COUNTY, FL**

SUMMARY

Winston School is located at 3415 Swindell Road, near Lakeland, Polk County, Florida. The school is a one-story Frame Vernacular building constructed in 1928. Winston School has a symmetrical "T" floor plan, with a cross gable roof. The exterior is brick clad, and the fenestration is 6/6 double-hung sash to match the original windows.

SETTING

The Winston School complex is located at the northwest corner of Swindell Road and Sutton Road, with the main south entry facing Swindell Road. The 1928 school building occupied a two acre site that has expanded to approximately 17 acres which contains 15 non-contributing buildings and parking areas. The original Winston School is located in the southwest corner of the complex. Immediately surrounding the school development consists of residences to the east and west, and small scale, isolated commercial buildings fronting on Swindell Road. Vacant land also lies to the east and north of the site reflecting the original farming uses. A quarter mile directly south is the east/west Interstate 4, and an interchange exit to Lakeland. A golf course is south of the interchange.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The one-story school building of approximately 10,000 square feet, is of frame construction, on a continuous off-grade foundation, with a brick exterior. The footprint is a symmetrical "T" with a large central extension on the north elevation of a side gable rectangular main block. The projecting eaves with open cornice and exposed rafter ends extend around the building (Photos 1, 5-9). Fenestration consists of 6/6 double-hung metal sashes. They replicate the original sashes that suffered termite damage. The wood frames were not replaced.

The main (south) façade is the broad side of the building's main, rectangular block (Photo #1). A large central gable projection defines the main entrance. A portico with a pedimented roof, supported by two Tuscan columns projects from the center of the gable projection (Photo #2). Within the pediment is the inscription "Winston Dist 18." Two concrete steps wrap the portico on all three sides. The floor of the portico has square red clay tiles. The entry is recessed, and contains double doors, and a 16 light transom. Flanking the portico are pairs of windows, and one on each side has been filled with an air-conditioning unit. A circular louvered wooden vent is within the gable above the portico. On the eastern corner of the gable projection is a marble cornerstone identifying the date of erection, school board officials, architect and contractor (Photo #3). The brick exterior is laid in a stretcher bond, with a header course at the floor level, and stacked bonds surrounding the windows verticals, and soldier course across the windows lintels. Flanking the entrance projection, the walls of the elevation contain two, groups of five windows.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2 **WINSTON SCHOOL, POLK COUNTY, FL**

The west elevation has the gable end of the building's main block, and visible to the north is the side wall of the northern extension. The gable end of the roof has an overhang that is supported by five timbered brackets. An entrance is centered in the elevation that is sheltered by a short gable roof supported by timbered brackets (Photo #4). The original paneled double doors are recessed and have a 6 light transom. A second entrance is within a gabled projection on the northwest corner (Photo #5). It has a single door and 10 light transom. The west elevation of the northern projection has three windows with 8/8, double-hung sashes, and a single door (Photo #6). Each of these elements has a pilaster between them.

The north elevation has the gable end of the north projection, and the rear walls of the building's main block (Photo #6). On the north projection, the gable roof overhang has 5 support brackets, and a single door is at the east and west corners. The main block to the west (Photo #7), and the main block to the east (Photo #8), both have two groups of five windows, and a single window near the respective west and east corners.

The east elevation has the gable end of the building's main block, and the side wall of the north projection. The gable contains a circular louvered vent, and the recessed double doors with transom is centered in the wall (Photo #9). A covered walkway to a more contemporary school building has replaced the bracketed gable roof over the entrance. The east elevation of the north projection mirrors the west side (Photo #10).

Interior

The school was designed to house classrooms, offices, restrooms, and an auditorium. No cafeteria or other uses were housed in the space. These original spaces and uses have been retained, but expanded into non-historic school buildings. The original wooden floors remain, carpeted, as well as the plaster walls and ceilings. The walls are surfaced with dry wall, and acoustic drop ceilings have been added except in the bathrooms.

Within the main, south entrance, a linear corridor runs east/west separating facing rows of four classrooms (Photo #11). The entry contains small administrative offices located immediately to the east and west (Photo #12). Bathrooms are located at the east and west ends on the north side of the central corridor (Photo #13). The bathrooms have non-historic tile flooring and three-quarter height tiling of the walls. Classrooms each have banks of windows and retain the blackboards (Photos #14,15). The auditorium retains its original configuration and stage, curtain, and side dressing rooms (Photo #16). The vaulted ceiling remains but with drop ceiling installed. Seating and doors have been replaced.

ALTERATIONS

The windows were replaced with sashes of the same configuration due to termite damage. The wooden window sills were not damaged and were retained. The eight classrooms were converted into four by the removal of dividing walls. The east elevation has a covered walkway attached where the original entrance shelter roof was. Drywall and acoustic ceilings were installed over the plaster surfaces.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3 **WINSTON SCHOOL, POLK COUNTY, FL**

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

Directly northeast of the main school, a one-story rectangular brick building was constructed in 1946 (Photo #17). The building was built on a slab foundation, has a side gable roof with composition shingles, and exposed rafter ends under the eaves. Windows are filled with pairs of steel casement sashes with four lights each. A two-light transom is above each window. The building has a single open room with plaster walls and acoustic drop ceiling (Photo #18). The building was constructed to serve as a lunchroom without cooking facilities. The buildings has recently served as a library and music room.

Non-contributing Buildings

The site contains fifteen detached, non-historic permanent structures, incorporating classroom buildings, media center, cafeteria, administrative functions and storage buildings. The non-historic buildings are excluded from the boundary.

Conclusion

Despite alterations primarily to the interior, the integrity of the Winston School is good, and its historic character has been retained. The addition of non-historic buildings to the original two acres has altered the character of the school property and the nomination boundary reflects this reduced setting.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1 WINSTON SCHOOL, POLK COUNTY, FL

SUMMARY

The Winston School at 3415 Swindell Road, near Lakeland, Polk County, Florida, is significant at the local level under Criteria A and C in the areas of Education and Architecture. The school was known as a "strawberry school" and operated on a summer schedule from 1928 until 1952 so that students could assist in the harvesting of strawberries, the predominate cash crop in this agricultural region. The school mirrors the institutional, vernacular architectural approach to public school construction common to other Lakeland area schools.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

By the latter 1880s the discovery and mining of phosphate in the central part of the state, which included Polk County, along with the cultivation of citrus and strawberries, initiated a new agricultural base.¹ Polk County, like many areas of the state, had significant acreage that was under ownership of the government.² In 1881, with the selling of 4,000,000 acres of land to Hamilton Disston, a wealthy saw manufacturer from Philadelphia, the heavy debt of the State's Internal Improvement Fund was relieved. Development was accelerated by the renewed emphasis on the expansion of railroads. Between 1881 and 1891, 2,566 miles of railroad were placed into operation in the state. The Seaboard Air Line, traversing more than half of northern Florida, began linking to the Atlantic Coast Line. The combination of the two lines partially fulfilled the original scheme of railroad construction projected through the Internal Improvement Fund.³ The completed main line of the South Florida Railroad (later Plant System) from Tampa to Sanford, running through western Polk County and the "new" city of Lakeland, was opened to the public on February 11, 1884. The opening of the rail line through this part of Polk County brought with it the prospect of new commerce, a way to get products to market. Due to the area's newfound access to markets, including the Port of Tampa, the local agricultural export industry was given a means by which to expand.⁴ At the turn of the century, the population of central Florida was growing, particularly within the incorporated cities, such as neighboring Lakeland. Growth was bringing with it greater demands for public services.

Those learning of the availability of land and the access to rail for shipping were also attracted to the outlying farming regions. With the presence of rail transportation and the ability to get produce to market before it spoiled, truck farming became more prevalent and included vegetables such as corn, sweet potatoes, rice, sugar cane, cotton, peanuts. Even more significant was the growing of strawberries. Farm life was typically a family enterprise, with both children and adults involved in the planting and harvesting of crops.

¹Dorothy Dodd, Florida, The Land of Romance, (Tallahassee, Florida: Department of Agriculture, Peninsular Publishing Co., 1956), 56-63.

²Ibid., 64.

³Cutler, History of Florida, 57-60.

⁴Hetherington, History of Polk County, Florida, 89, 93; Joseph E. Spann, Jr., "Polk County's First Railroad 1880-1893", Polk County Historical Quarterly 12, #4, (March 1986): 1-3, 7.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2 WINSTON SCHOOL, POLK COUNTY, FL

Concurrently, large areas of timber land were being cleared for turpentine operations and saw milling. This included the area in northwest Polk County now known as Winston. The area is believed to be named for a railroad builder, a Mr. Winn. In 1891, the Winston train yard was established.⁵

From the late 1800s, the area of northwest Polk County began establishing itself as one of the main winter capitals for strawberry production. Mr. Henry Galloway in the winter of 1888 conducted an experiment to determine if his 50-acre farm north of Lakeland would grow a profitable strawberry crop. He was successful, for by the end of the season he had made a \$600 profit, and other area farmers started growing the fruit. The initial strawberry growing areas north of Lakeland included the still unincorporated communities known as Galloway, Kathleen, Gibsonia, Griffin, Socrum, and Winston.

The cultivation of strawberries required careful attention to the delicate berries which were sensitive to freezing weather. The plants were covered with pine straw to save the blooms and berries from freezing. The straw was collected from areas heavy with pines, and deposited between the rows of berries. The "strawing" would take place just when the berries began to bloom, typically in late October and early November, when the threat of a freeze loomed. The straw was kept on the plants for up to three to four days, until the threat of a freeze had passed; the straw was then placed between the rows once again.⁶ Prior to the existence of refrigerated rail cars to preserve the berries during shipment, a sheet of galvanized metal was laid above each crate, ice was placed on top of the metal, and the whole crate was secured with a heavy, tightly sealed lid.⁷

During the latter 1920s when the Florida "Boom" collapsed and the economy dramatically deteriorated, strawberry farmers in northwest Polk County were not a part of a farm cooperative. In nearby Plant City, which had come later to the production of strawberries, farmers formed a cooperative that was large enough to command better prices. The cooperative resulted in the shift of major strawberry production westward to Plant City in the adjacent county of Hillsborough. Plant City remains the winter strawberry capital of the world.⁸

The Winston community growers, recognizing the importance of Plant City's strengths, sought to become a "shipping point" for strawberries. In December of 1931, an assembly was held in the Winston School, the one public community building, to discuss their interest in having their product pass through the Miller auction at Plant City. Lee R. Miller was present as was J.G. Kensett, the commercial agent for the Coast Line Railroad. A change to the railroad crossing was discussed with the hope that a suitable platform could be constructed. Kensett promised quick service in the inauguration of the loading platform at the Winston station. The Winston farmers expressed plans to form a cooperative of their own. Miller encouraged the farmers in this regard, "pointing out that through such an organization they could obtain best results," and, indicated his auction business would cooperate.⁹

⁵Lakeland Public Library, Special Collections Archives, Vertical File.

⁶Harry Otis Prine, Kathleen and Nearby Residents, 1920-1940, (Harry Otis Prine: 1995), 7-9.

⁷Louise Frisbie, Yesterday's Polk County, (Miami, Florida: E. A. Seemann Publishing, Inc. , 1976), 46-48.

⁸Berries Have Roots In Polk, The Ledger, 21 February 1999.

⁹Berry Meeting (at) Winston School, Lakeland Ledger, 30 December 1931; Berry Station For Winston, Lakeland Ledger, 31 December 1931.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3 WINSTON SCHOOL, POLK COUNTY, FL

Local School Districts

Earliest written records of the public school system in Polk County, Florida are dated from 1886. At the time there was the state *Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction* in Tallahassee, Florida, which was responsible for reviewing the status of school funds under county level Board(s) of Public Instruction. The County Superintendent and local school board was to maintain the financial records and make monthly reports of all financial activity to the state. The Board of Public Instruction of Polk County was responsible for establishing free public schools where needed within the county. The County Board would establish Special Tax (School) Districts to serve the local communities. These districts voted on millage and elected three trustees (serving as the Board of Trustees) which were in turn commissioned by the County Board of Public Instruction. During these early years the Board of Public of Instruction selected the teachers for the individual schools.¹⁰

During the difficult economic times of post-Boom Florida, the Central Bank and Trust in Lakeland, Florida, closed in March 1928. The Board of Public Instruction, having an account with funds in it for several sub-districts, including District #16, requested that the securities be surrendered or sold and proceeds be sent to the Board. In May of the same year, District #16 had to borrow \$300 to pay interest on the bonds. As the economic situation worsened locally and across the state, the County Board was unable to fully compensate teachers. The county hoped that a proposed State general sales tax would pass the legislature and provide public school relief. In February 1929, the Board borrowed \$44,000 to run the schools, and by June of 1930, the Board approved a shortened school schedule that called for eight months for high schools and five months for grammar schools.¹¹

The Winston School superceded two previous wood frame community schools known as the Miram School. The first, a single room school, was built ca.1900. Hogs were permitted to lie beneath the building, and soon fleas became a problem. In an effort to smoke them out the fleas, pine needles were set on fire resulting in the loss of the school. Soon after a second single room school was built. In 1905-1906 two rooms were added and the school name was changed to Winston.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Winston School, built in 1928 as a “strawberry school” for grades one through eight, is significant for its relationship to the local farming economy as evidenced by its school term schedule that allowed public school to be held during the “summer term,” to permit the children of the farming families to work in the strawberry fields during the harvest season. Robert Tiller wrote in a 1984 University of South Florida report, “In 1902, the

¹⁰Ibid., 9-29, 475; Minute Book Vol. 3, 7 May 1925; Minute Book Vol. 4, 27 May 1927.

¹¹Ibid. 2 March 1928,p. 100; 7 September 1928, p. 147; 17 November 1929, p. 201, 202; 14 February 1929, p. 203; 27 June 1930, p. 234.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 4 WINSTON SCHOOL, POLK COUNTY, FL

leading crop was strawberries...Strawberry farming was so extensive in the area that the local schools were called strawberry schools...The school term began in the middle of March and ran until the middle of December. When the schools were not in session, the students picked strawberries to supplement family income.”¹² The Winston School was one of six “Strawberry Schools” constructed in Polk County.

In March 1925, a petition signed by 25% of the qualified electors of District #16 was presented to the Polk County Board of Public Instruction requesting an election authorizing \$20,000 worth of bonds to construct a school at Winston; \$17,500 was for building the school and \$2,500 was for equipment. The election was delayed until May. Prior to the election the Board, sitting in session on May 5, 1925, passed a motion awarding a contract to Mr. H.C. Hosford to draw plans and specifications for the Winston School. The election was held and the bonds failed with a tie vote.¹³

On November 4, 1927, a proposal for bonds was raised again, this time to include issuing the bonds through the National Park Bank of New York. The Board approved the proposal and established the date of December 10, 1927 for the vote to be taken. The election was held and the issuance of 25 bonds at \$1,000 each was approved: 25 votes in favor, 2 votes against. The trustees of the Winston School recommended this time that Mendenhall Architects of Lakeland draw the plans for the new school. The Board approved.¹⁴ At the January 17, 1928 meeting of the County Board, however, it was acknowledged that no sealed bids for the issuance of the bonds had been received. The Board therefore voted to offer them at public auction. Brown-Crummer Company purchased the \$25,000 in bonds for 100.56% of their par value.¹⁵ Finally, plans for the school could proceed.

Bids on the construction of the Winston School were received. Ridge Construction Company was awarded the contract at a price of \$17,926. The furniture purchases included “two teachers desks and chairs from Office Equipment in Lakeland, six teachers desks and chairs (and) all children’s desks and auditorium seats from the Columbia Supply Company, Indianapolis, Indiana.”¹⁶ The school opened in 1928.

Due to financial shortfalls, the trustees found themselves having to adjust the number of months of operation. By 1931, the Board established as policy that all Polk County schools were to operate for eight months. The County was to assume responsibility for funding six months of operation, with individual subdistricts responsible for the remaining two months. In November of 1931, the Winston trustees stated that school would run for only seven months. By April of 1932, the policy set by the Board of Public Instruction called for the “Strawberry Schools” to begin in May; the Winston trustees, however, prevailed with a June start

¹²Berries Have Roots In Polk, The Ledger, 21 February 1999; Strawberry School Days, The Ledger, 6 February 1999, B-1.

¹³ Bartow, Florida, The Polk County Board of Public Instruction, Minute Book Number “3”, 20 March 1925, 7 April 1925, 5 May 1925, 22 May 1925, 2 June 1925.

¹⁴ Bartow, Florida, The Polk County Board of Public Instruction, Minute Book Number “4”, 4 November 1927, p. 64, 15 December 1927, p. 78, 6 January 1928, p. 89.

¹⁵ Ibid. 17 January 1928, p.89, 91; 3 February 1928, p.93; 2 March 1928,p. 100;

¹⁶ Ibid. 17 January 1928, p. 91; 3 February 1928, p.93.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 5 WINSTON SCHOOL, POLK COUNTY, FL

date that year. Again, in 1940, the Board called for an eight month school schedule for the "Summer School Calendar," beginning in late April and running through late December.¹⁷

In 1946 a second school building was constructed adjacent to the main building. The original school was built without a cafeteria, and the new building was used as a lunchroom. The habit had always been for the students to bring their lunches and eat outside. A few who lived close to the school were free to go home for lunch. By the 1930s some mothers began the custom of bringing prepared food they could offer the students. The 1946 building accommodated all those who brought lunch and the mothers with prepared food. The lunchroom complimented the existing school in its brick exterior, gable roof, and exposed rafter ends.

In July of 1950, "patrons" of the old Consolidated Special Tax District #16, which included the Kathleen, Griffin, and Winston Schools, called for a referendum/election to determine whether these schools should continue to be operated as "Summer Schools" or be converted to the "Winter School Calendar." The election was to be held at the "Kathleen White High School Building and the Winston White Elementary School Building." This proposal did not result in changing the schedule, but the concept was resurrected in November of 1951. Fifteen patrons of the area schools again requested the change to a Winter School schedule. Although there were concerns that the Winter Schedule would cause a hardship for families dependent on their children's working during the strawberry harvest, a referendum in February of 1952 resulted in the adoption of a regular Winter Schedule for all the county schools.¹⁸ So ended the era of the "strawberry school" in Polk County.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE

The design of new schools in the 1920s reflected the latest educational theories of the time, incorporation specialized use areas in addition to classrooms within a large building format. There, innovative approaches in presenting curricula were implemented. The buildings also reflected a new interest in the aesthetics of design as an element of community pride, resulting in the hiring of professional architects to design buildings using not only the latest construction techniques but also up-to-date stylistic features.

By the 1920s, frame public schools in Polk County were superceded by larger institutional constructions that most often utilized brick on the exterior. The population had grown, and county coordinated bond raising facilitated fund raising. An institutional, vernacular type of school architecture was common to public schools of the 1920s and 1930s in Polk County, and the community of Lakeland. Polk County schools of the 1920s exhibit broad similarities, but each are different. The historic buildings were designed as single buildings, not a complex of buildings. The exteriors are brick veneered. While the buildings are not ornamented, varying brick course bonds, corbeling, and distinctive brick window and door trim contribute decorative detailing. Cast stone is frequently utilized. The main entries are typically centered on the façade, and provide the building's defining character. A parapet was often used at the front entry to add to the perceived height of the building.

¹⁷ Ibid. 2 September 1931, p. 307; 4 November 1931, p. 312; 6 April 1932, p. 330, 331; ²³ February 1940.

¹⁸ Ibid. 6 July 1950; 4 November 1951; 3 January 1952; 23 January 1952.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 6 **WINSTON SCHOOL, POLK COUNTY, FL**

Fenestration is generally regular, and sashes are grouped to provide light within the classrooms. The floor plans usually include a rectangular central portion with wings or projections. The interior plans have a corridor off which classrooms are housed, and in some cases double loaded. Typically, the schoolhouses contain an auditorium or assembly room.

The Winston School closely reflects these characteristics. The gabled portico entry is pronounced, with the front projection being of wood construction with tapered Tuscan order columns. The auditorium is in a projecting wing centered off the main classroom corridor. As in other period schools, no cafeteria or kitchen facilities were constructed. The triangular brackets enhance the wood overhangs on the gabled roofs.

G.D. and H.D. Mendenhall Architects

Winston School was designed by the firm of G.D. and H.D. Mendenhall Architects of Lakeland. During the mid 1920s the firm was responsible for the design of several prominent buildings within Polk County, Florida. Among them are the Mission styled buildings of All Saints' Episcopal Church (1923), Lakeland Cash Feed (c.1925), and the Vanity Fair Arcade (c.1924), and the Sullivan building (c.1924), within the Munn Park Historic District (NR 1997). The firm's design of buildings with Mediterranean Revival influences is notable in the Rhodesbilt Arcade (1924) in the Lake Wales Commercial Historic District (NR 1990) in eastern Polk County. George D. Mendenhall was a civil engineer and surveyor who moved to Lakeland in 1912; that same year the architectural practice of C.D. and H.D. Mendenhall was established. Advertisements were printed for G.D. & H.D. Mendenhall, Civil Engineer and Architect. Herbert D. Mendenhall was a 1926 founding director of the Polk County Association of Registered Architects, a time when there were 20 architects within Polk County.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1 **WINSTON SCHOOL, POLK COUNTY, FL**

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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 **WINSTON SCHOOL, POLK COUNTY, FL**

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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 **WINSTON SCHOOL, POLK COUNTY, FL**

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Parcel number 232809000000024020

W 15 Ac of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ & 2 Ac in SE Cor of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ less St Rd S 542A

The National Register boundary (see scaled map) is a part of this parcel.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses two buildings historically associated with Winston School. The addition of numerous non-historic buildings to the school property have altered the historic setting, and therefore are excluded from the National Register boundary.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Photo _____ Page 1 **WINSTON SCHOOL, POLK COUNTY, FL**

PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST

1. Winston (Elementary) School, 3415 Swindell Road, Lakeland,
2. Polk County, Florida
3. L.L. Parks
4. December 2000
5. City of Lakeland, Community Development Department
6. View of front (south) facade, major entrance, looking northeast
7. Photo # 1 of 18

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

6. Main (south) entry, looking north
7. Photo # 2 of 18

6. Corner stone, looking north
7. Photo #3 of 18

6. Entrance on west gable end, looking southeast
7. Photo #4 of 18

6. Entrance at northwest corner of west elevation, looking north
7. Photo #5 of 18

6. East elevation showing auditorium wing, looking west
7. Photo #6 of 18

6. North elevation of west end, looking south
7. Photo #7 of 18

6. North elevation of east end, looking south
7. Photo #8 of 18

6. East elevation, looking west
7. Photo #9 of 18

6. East elevation of auditorium wing, looking west
7. Photo #10 of 18

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photo Page 2 **WINSTON SCHOOL, POLK COUNTY, FL**

- 6. Main interior hall, looking west
- 7. Photo #11 of 18

- 6. Main entry, looking southeast
- 7. Photo #12 of 18

- 6. East end bathroom, looking north
- 7. Photo #13 of 18

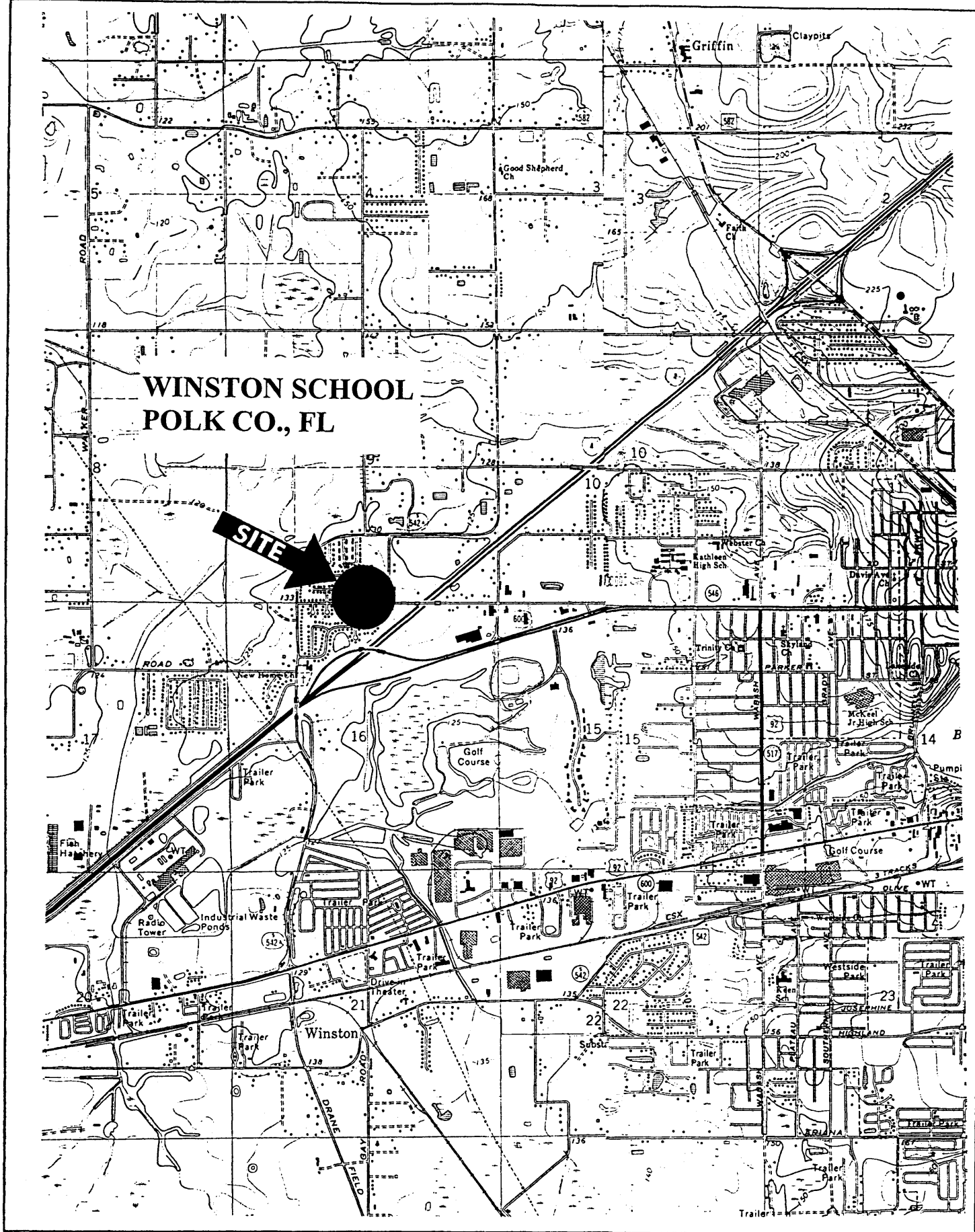
- 6. Classroom, looking southeast
- 7. Photo #14 of 18

- 6. Classroom, looking north
- 7. Photo #15 of 18

- 6. Auditorium, looking north
- 7. Photo #16 of 18

- 6. Lunchroom building, looking northeast
- 7. Photo #17 of 18

- 6. Interior of lunchroom building, looking east
- 7. Photo #18 of 18



**WINSTON SCHOOL
POLK CO., FL**

SITE

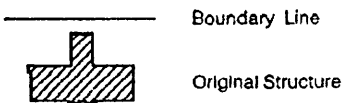
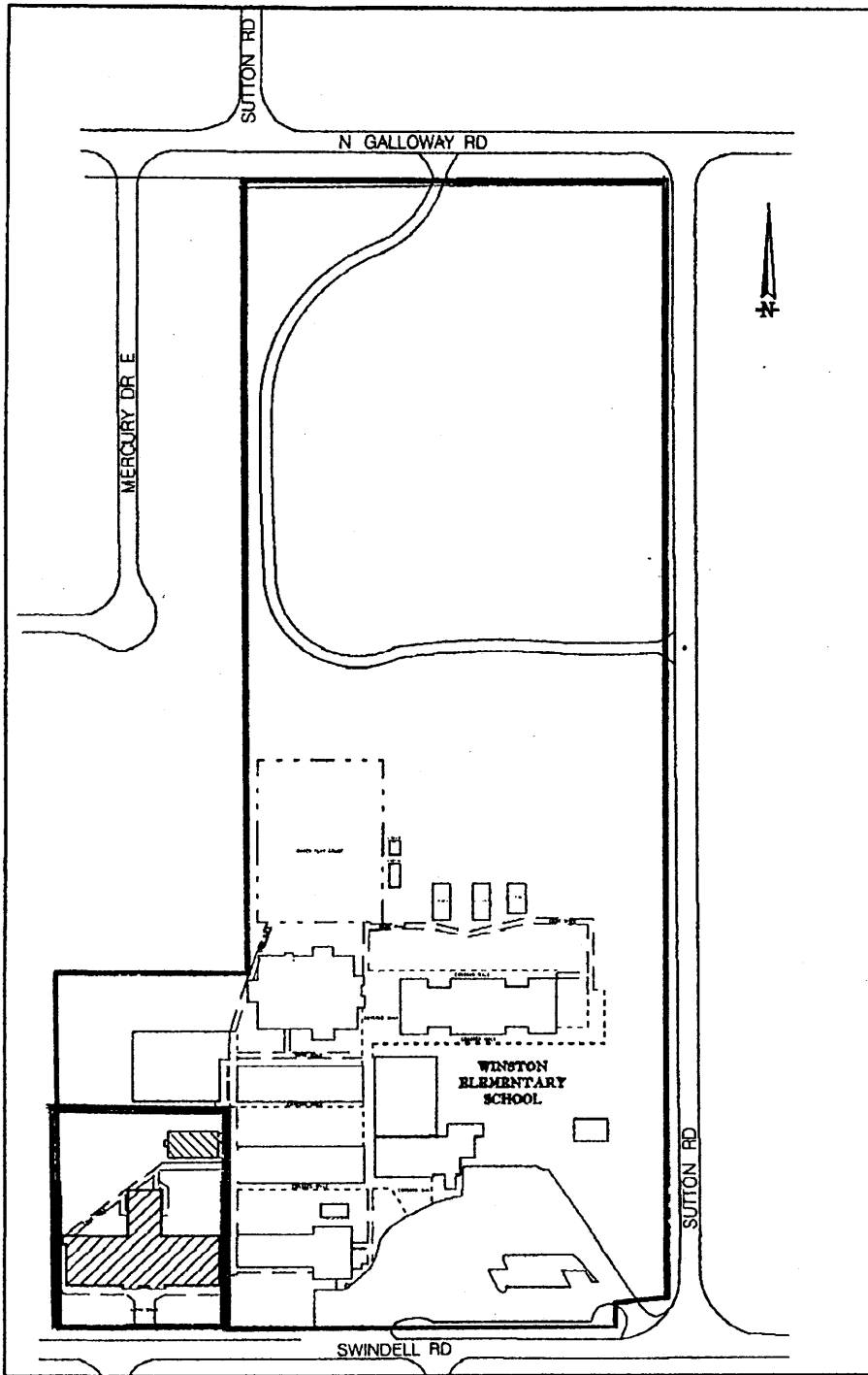
FMSF #PO6452

Lakeland, FL
 USGS: 28082-A1-TF-024
 28081-A1-TF-024

WINSTON SCHOOL

Boundary and Contributing Structure Map

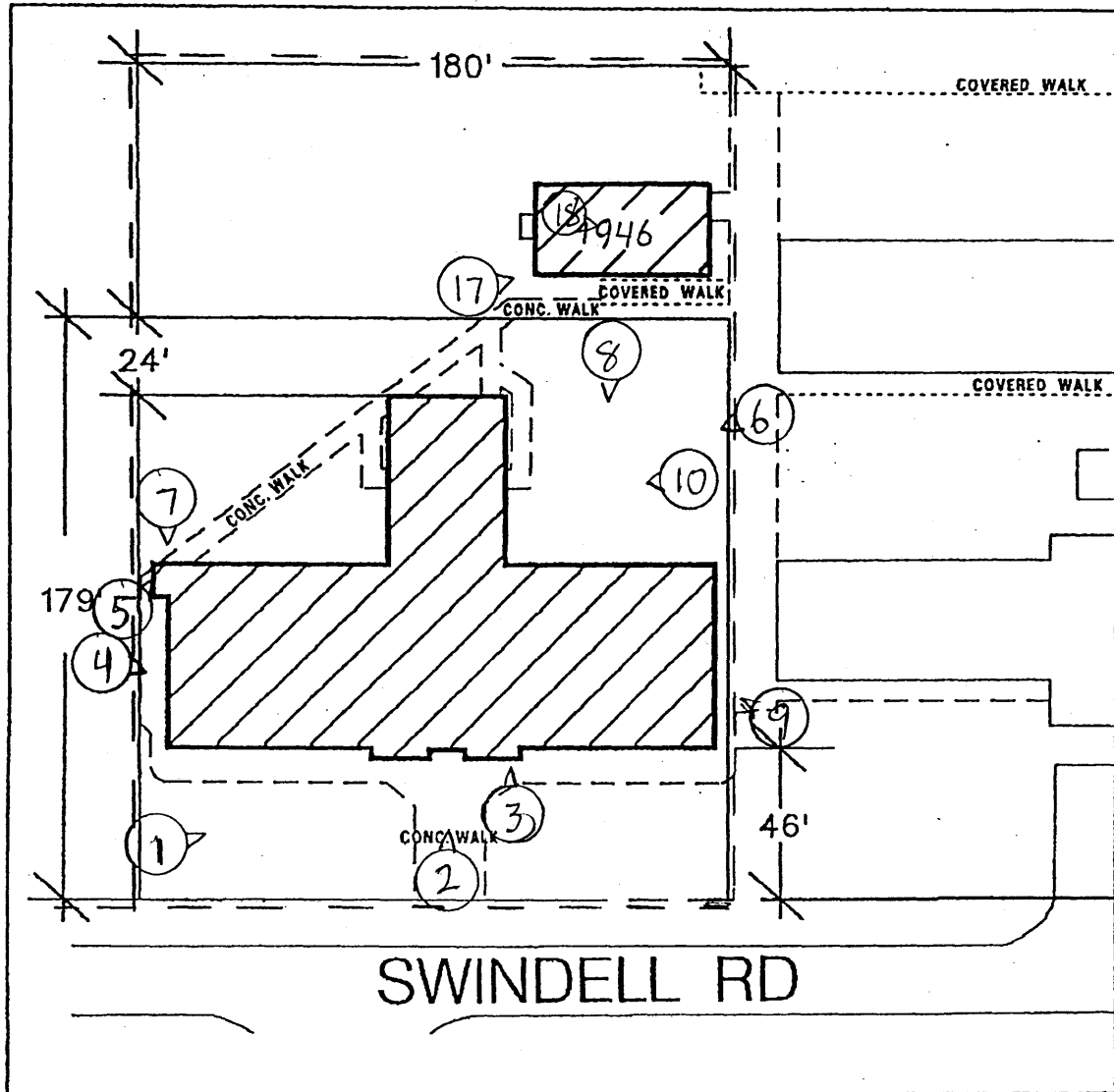
Polk County, Florida



Note: Temporary portable structures not shown

3415 Swindell Road
Lakeland, Florida
FMSF #PO6452

BOUNDARY MAP
WINSTON SCHOOL
POLK CO., FL

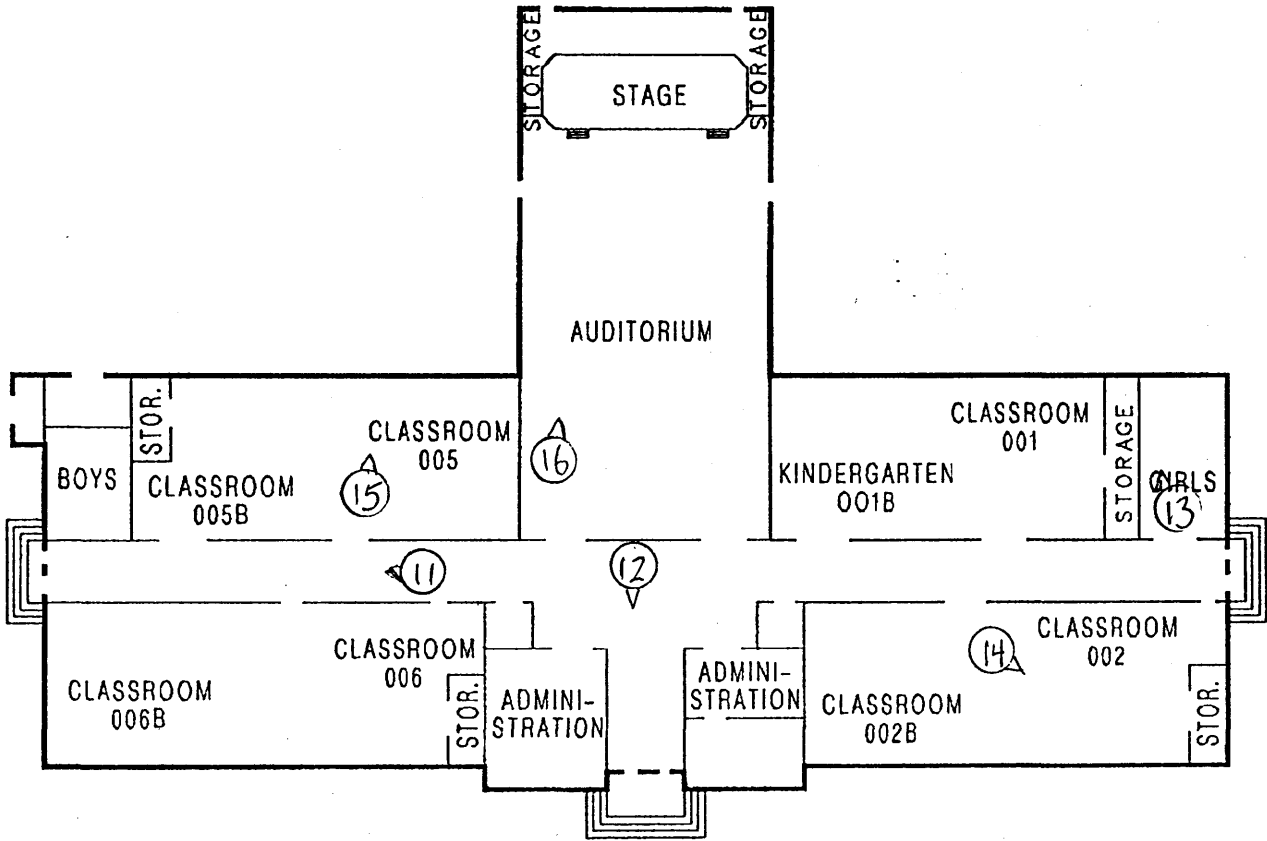


WINSTON SCHOOL

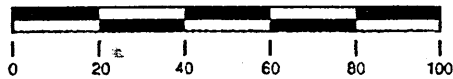
Floor Plans

National Register Nomination

Polk County, Florida



SCALE



FMSF # PO6452