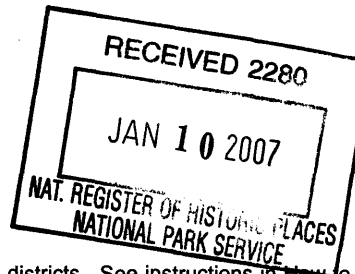


58

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 VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE BUILDING

other names/site number FMSF#FL285

2. Location

street & number 1001 East Howe Street N/A not for publication

city or town Bunnell N/A vicinity

state Florida code FL county Flagler code 35 zip code 32110

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.)

Barbara E. Mattick / DSHPO 1-8-2007
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

for
Edson H. Beall 2.21.07

Vocational Agriculture Building
Name of Property

Flagler Co., FL
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
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.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Florida's New Deal Resources

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: schoolhouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE: museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Masonry 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

Period of Significance

1938-1956

Significant Dates

1938

~~1996~~

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Holland, Zachary: Builder

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

Vocational Agriculture Building
Name of Property

Flagler Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	4	7	5	2	0	0	3	2	6	0	1	6	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 Johnston, Sidney/Robert O. Jones, Historic Preservationist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date January 2007

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

city or town Tallahassee state FL 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 Flagler County Public Schools

street & number Post Office Box 755, 3039 Highway 100 East telephone 386-437-7526

city or town Bunnell state FL zip code 32110

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

Vocational Agriculture Building
Bunnell, Flagler Co., FL

Section Number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Vocational Agriculture Building is located on the campus of Bunnell Elementary School at 1001 East Howe Street, Bunnell, Flagler County, Florida. The oldest surviving education-related resource in Flagler County, the diminutive building is an example of Masonry Vernacular construction. Built from "Type B" plans furnished by the Florida Department of Education, the building contains approximately 1,100 square feet of interior floor space. The building has a rectangular plan with a gable roof and wood frame structural system finished with textured red bricks. Fenestration is irregular and asymmetrical with paired and groupings of 9/9 double-hung sash windows and four-light casement windows. Triangular brackets are mounted under the eaves. A small gable roof accented with large carved brackets projects from the front (southeast) façade to protect the entrance. Poured concrete steps flanked by brick stem walls with concrete caps provide access to the concrete porch on the facade. A small shed extension continues from the plane of the rear (northwest) roof, which is also pierced by a brick chimney. A continuous brick foundation supports the building. The building currently serves as a museum that illustrates Flagler County's public education system in the early twentieth century. Well-designed and preserved, the building contributes to the sense of time, place, and historical development of the public education in Flagler County and the Town of Bunnell through its location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Retaining its early twentieth century character to a high degree, the building provides an important architectural and education link to the heritage of Bunnell. The building is nominated under the "Florida's New Deal Resources" Multiple Property Submission, under F.1 Property Type, "Buildings."

SETTING

The seat of government of Flagler County, Bunnell lies approximately thirty miles northwest of Daytona Beach and thirty miles south of St. Augustine. Founded in the 1890s, the town has a population of 2,122 (2000). The primary corridors include United States Highway 1, which runs in a northwest/southeast alignment through Bunnell's downtown on its route between Daytona Beach and St. Augustine. The other primary thoroughfares into the town include State Road 11, which extends south from Bunnell to DeLand. Originating at Flagler Beach, State Road 100 merges with United States 1 in downtown Bunnell, but resumes its westerly alignment beyond the downtown and extends to San Mateo, Palatka, Starke, Lake City, and Jasper. Approximately five miles to the northwest is County Road 13, which is historically known as Dixie Highway (NR 2005). The original highway extended through Bunnell southward to Daytona Beach. The Florida East Coast Railway's tracks run parallel to United States Highway 1 through the town.

The school campus lies several blocks north of Bunnell's downtown. The building faces southeast toward Howe Street with Chapel Street, Magnolia Street, and Palmetto Street forming the remaining boundaries of the campus. These streets form the historic boundaries of the property associated with the historic building. Approximately twenty additional permanent and temporary buildings of modern construction stand on the site. Generally, relatively large permanent buildings lie to the east and south of the historic building while temporary portable buildings occupy sites to its north and west. Each is set back appropriately from the historic building. The closest

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 7 Page 2

**Vocational Agriculture Building
Bunnell, Flagler Co., FL**

temporary building is set back approximately forty feet and the closest permanent building approximately 100 feet. A large playground is to the southwest of the historic building. No modern additions interrupt the walls of the historic building, which is served by concrete sidewalks that extend to neighboring buildings. Outside the school campus modern and historic residences align the adjoining streets. Landscaping is sparse, consisting of live oak trees and shrubs.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

Having a symmetrical appearance, the front (southeast) façade (Photo #1) has a central entrance with a three-light transom protected by a gable roof and large wood brackets. Pairs of 9/9 double-hung sash windows bracket the entrance. The southwest elevation (Photos #1 & 2) has triangular brackets mounted under the eaves, a small louvered vent in the gable end, and an offset grouping of three double-hung sash windows. The northwest (rear) elevation (Photos #2 & 3) has a brick chimney, a pair of doors at the southwest corner, and an offset shed extension with two-light and four-light casement windows on opposing walls. The elevation also has a grouping of four 9/9 double-hung sash windows. The northwest elevation (Photo #3) has an uninterrupted brick wall with a louvered vent in the gable end, which is accented by triangular brackets.

Interior

Containing approximately 1,100 square feet of floor space, the interior contains two primary spaces which historically included a classroom and a shop. The interior circulation pattern and room divisions remain intact. The ceilings and walls are finished with smooth plaster and the floors with two-inch tongue-and-groove pine boards. The ceiling rises twelve feet. The walls are finished with picture moldings and the floors with molded toe plates. The original wood paneled entrance doors have been replaced with metal doors for security and code requirements, but two original paneled wood interior doors with brass hardware remain in place.

The front entrance opens into the original classroom (Photos #4 & 5), the larger of the interior spaces. Providing natural cross-ventilation and interior lighting, four windows open along the southeast wall and two along the northwest wall. Uninterrupted by any opening, the northeast wall supports a chalkboard. Vintage bookshelves, chairs, desks, and tables contribute historical character to the classroom space. Fabricated in 1942, one cabinet is the handicraft of Rem Murray, then a Bunnell High School student who assembled the cabinet in the building. A small paneled wood door at the southwest corner opens into a restroom (Photo #6) with a pair of casement windows.

At the center of the southeast wall opens a large paneled wood door that provides access into the former shop (Photos #7 & 8). Designed with a dropped floor of poured concrete, the space supports two windows on the southeast elevation, three windows along the southwest elevation, and two delivery doors along the northwest elevation. Museum cases and exhibits fill the space, providing historical information and scenes of Flagler

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 7 Page 3

**Vocational Agriculture Building
Bunnell, Flagler Co., FL**

County's public school history and public education in general.

ALTERATIONS

Beyond the modern minor changes of replacement exterior doors, exterior conduit lines, and modern lighting and fans on the interior, the building has not been altered.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Vocational Agriculture Building
Bunnell, Flagler Co., FL**

Section Number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Vocational Agriculture Building is nominated to the National Register under criterion A at the local level in the area of Education. The building was developed during the New Deal with funding provided by the Flagler County Board of Public Instruction and the Works Projects Administration (WPA), a New Deal federal agency. Developed to teach a program that had been implemented by the Smith-Hughes Act, a Progressive-Era reform measure, the building was constructed in part by the WPA, thereby linking two important associated Democratic Party reforms. Construction was completed under the supervision local WPA superintendent Zachary D. Holland in 1938. During the New Deal, the building contained Bunnell High School's vocational agriculture department and the local chapter of the Future Farmers of America (FFA). Students met daily in the building, studying agricultural topics and planting methods in the classroom, working on projects in the shop, and traveling to nearby agricultural fields to plant, cultivate, and harvest crops. Between 1938 and 1942, students held fund-raising activities to travel to Havana, Cuba, World's Fair in New York City, Washington, D.C., and the Florida State Fair in Tampa. The building is an example of a "Type B" vocational agriculture building. The plans were supplied by the U. S. Office of Education and Florida State Board of Public Instruction. The building represents one of the few Depression-era buildings in Bunnell and the only remaining education-related resource developed in the town with New Deal dollars. The building contributes to Florida's New Deal Resources Multiple Property Submission (MPS) under "The New Deal in Florida," historic context and the F.1, "Buildings," Property Type.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

In November 1936, seven years after the onset of the Great Depression and three years into the New Deal, the Flagler County Board of Public Instruction met with G. A. Duncan, a representative of the Florida State Planning Board, to explore ideas for improving the county's public school infrastructure. The board then consisted of chairman G. L. Biddle, K. K. Knight, J. O. Buckles, and secretary Z. E. Booe. M. B. Fuller, the owner and editor of the Flagler Tribune newspaper, served as county superintendent. In Bunnell, the seat of government and the largest town in the county, the school board had constructed a brick high school in 1924, but in little more than a decade the school required additional classrooms for supporting activities. A farming community with a depot on the Florida East Coast Railway, Bunnell then contained the only high school in Flagler County. With Duncan's guidance, the board envisioned a six-year program to expand the county's public education facilities to include, among other resources, a new auditorium-gymnasium, home economics building, and a black school. In perfecting its plan, the board later discussed adding a vocational agriculture program to Bunnell's high school. Receiving instruction from the board and Fuller, high school principal Paul E. Peters made arrangements to implement the Smith-Hughes Vocational Agriculture course into the high school's curriculum as an elective. Within the backdrop of this local activity were earlier Progressive Era education reforms and politics, and contemporary New Deal agency relief measures that contributed to the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 2

Vocational Agriculture Building
Bunnell, Flagler Co., FL

creation of Bunnell High School's vocational agriculture department, a local chapter of the Future Farmers of America (FFA), and the construction of a building to house those activities.¹

Historians often associate the Progressive Era (1896-1919) with reform movements in America in the fields of agriculture, business, education, food processing, government, labor, medicine, and transportation. Replete with political labels, including President Theodore Roosevelt's "New Nationalism," and President Woodrow Wilson's "New Freedom," the era received its impetus from revolutionaries, muck-rakers, and reformers, and unfolded during the terms of Democratic and Republican presidents. The era brought substantial changes to Florida's landscape, including land reclamation, school consolidation, the expansion of roads, railroads, and citrus groves, and a construction boom that touched cities and towns throughout the state. The Smith-Hughes Act came near the end of the Progressive Era, which closed with the end of World War I. A more conservative political environment prevailed during the 1920s, culminating in the Great Depression. The introduction of the New Deal in 1933 by the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt returned America's political landscape to a host of new reform measures, some of which were unfulfilled benchmarks of the earlier Progressive Era and the New Freedom of President Wilson. Enacted by the Congress in February 1917, the Smith-Hughes Act, or National Vocational Education Act, did for secondary public education what the Morrill Act of 1862 had done to promote the growth of America's land-grant colleges and universities. Representative Dudley Hughes of Georgia and Hoke Smith, owner-editor of the Atlanta Journal and governor of Georgia, sponsored the Progressive-Era reform. If the Act was sponsored and heavily promoted by southern politicians, then much of the technical expertise within the Act lies with northeastern and midwestern politicians and educators in the form of Senator Carroll Page of Vermont, a protégé of Justin Morrill of Morrill Act renown, and Charles Prosser, executive director of the National Society for the Promotion of Industrial Education.²

The Smith-Hughes Act stipulated, in part, "...to provide for the promotion of vocational education; to provide for cooperation with the States in the promotion of such education in agriculture and the trades and industries; to provide for cooperation with the States in the preparation of teachers of vocational subjects; and to appropriate money and regulate its expenditure..." In its various sections, the act provided annual funding appropriations, and "... in order to secure the benefits of the appropriation for any purpose specified in this act, the State board shall prepare plans, showing the kinds of vocational education for which it is proposed that the appropriation shall be used; the kinds of schools and equipment; courses of study; methods of instruction; qualifications of teachers; and, in the case of agricultural subjects, the qualifications of supervisors or directors; plans for the training of teachers; and, in the case of agricultural subjects, plans for the supervision of agricultural education, as provided for in section ten. Such plans shall be submitted by the State board to the Federal Board for Vocational Education..." Providing money to local authorities on a matching basis, the act with its subsequent revisions and expansions provided financial support for teacher education and instruction of

¹ Minutes, 10 November 1936, 17 April 1937, Flagler County School Board.

² Arthur S. Link, *Woodrow Wilson and the Progressive Era, 1910-1917* (New York: Harper Torchbooks, 1954), 1-54; William O'Neill, *The Progressive Years: America Comes of Age* (New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1975), 1-20; Michael Gannon, *The New History of Florida* (Gainesville: University Presses of Florida, 1996), 266-286.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Vocational Agriculture Building
Bunnell, Flagler Co., FL**

Section Number 8 Page 3

agriculture, home economics, and industrial vocational subjects. Created by the Florida Legislature in 1917, Flagler County remained a largely rural and farming jurisdiction during the 1930s and 1940s, with Bunnell as home for many of the county's wealthiest farmers and prominent politicians. Consequently, the implementation of vocational agricultural education at Bunnell High School and the creation of a local chapter of the FFA were received with enthusiasm and support, if not a sense of being long overdue.³

In contrast to Bunnell's rural farming demographic, the State of Florida, already containing a majority urban population in 1930, boasted only a 16.5% percent farm population in 1940. The counties then containing the state's five largest cities supported nearly one-half of Florida's population. Consequently, the state committed relatively few resources to vocational agriculture education under the Smith-Hughes Act and lagged far behind traditional farm states. The State Board of Public Instruction initiated its fledgling commitment to vocational agriculture education in Florida's public schools in 1919, when only 311 students enrolled statewide. Attendance in the elective course grew at a glacial pace. The number of students selecting agriculture reached 1,000 in 1929, and the state opened its first FFA camp in 1935, in conjunction with the development of O'Leno State Park. In 1935, only thirty-four of Florida's sixty-seven counties maintained agriculture departments in their public school systems. Supporting agriculture training in five schools, Alachua County then boasted the clearest commitment to the Smith-Hughes Act. In 1935, 2,814 students were enrolled in the program statewide. Still, the state FFA made some notable gains during the era, adding 546 members between 1934 and 1936. Federal resources amounted to \$36,628 and statewide commitments reached \$15,875. Despite an overall lethargic trend, some communities strongly supported agriculture training. In 1936, the towns of Alachua, Hastings, Lake City, Marianna, Palmetto, and Plant City each maintained vocational agriculture departments for both black and white students and several counties maintained four programs in various schools. None was located in Flagler County. Despite the relatively slow growth, Florida produced some of the nation's top-ranked vocational agriculture teachers and students. In 1935, the U. S. Office of Education selected M.B. Jordan of Chiefland as the nation's master agriculture teacher of the year. Jacques Waller of Plant City was elected as the national FFA's student secretary, and the national best student judge awards for dairy cattle and hogs, respectively, went to Bonner Carter of Sanford and Oscar Watson of Jay. In 1935, the Florida FFA implemented a radio broadcast program on the third Saturday of each month on WRUF radio from the campus of the University of Florida in Gainesville. These and other developments provided the context behind vocational agriculture in Florida, and promoted the creation of a vocational agriculture department and local chapter of the FFA in Bunnell in 1937.⁴

In mid-1937, the Flagler County School Board enacted several measures to supplement its regular courses of study with the new program. In June, the board authorized the payment of an instructor in the newly-created

³ National Vocational Education (Smith-Hughes) Act, Public Law No. 347, Sixty-fourth Congress S. 703, February 23, 1917; Carl Gross and Charles Chandler, *The History of American Education* (Boston: D. C. Heath & Company, 1964), 208.

⁴ William S. Cawthon, *Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Florida for the Two Years Ending June 30, 1936* (Tallahassee: State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1936), 222-230; V. O. Key, Jr., *Southern Politics in State and Nation* (New York: Vintage Books, 1949), 82-85.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Vocational Agriculture Building
Bunnell, Flagler Co., FL

Section Number 8 Page 4

department through its teacher salary fund. The board then hired educator Joe H. Norfleet to teach the classes and organize the inaugural year using two rooms in the basement of the 1920s building. In August 1937, after communicating with Florida's Board of Public Instruction about projected enrollment needs for the new course and just before classes began in the 1937-1938 school year, the board received plans for a two-room "Type B" school house. Supplied by the State Board of Public Instruction, but developed through the United States Office of Education, the plans revealed a small, two-room building with a gable roof and brick veneered walls. The school board turned to Zachary D. Holland, the local Works Projects Administration (WPA) supervisor, for assistance in completing its WPA application, which was authorized for funding in late-1937. The federal agency agreed to supply the labor, or approximately eighty percent of the cost of the project, and the school board paid for the materials. In January 1938, the school board developed a materials list, which included 8,000 common hard bricks and 15,000 rough, or craft, textured bricks, Portland cement, builder's lime, and various finished wood products and sizes of nails. A Bunnell builder's supply store, Johnsons Incorporated, was awarded the materials bid. WPA supervisor Holland broke ground on the project later that month, anticipating construction to be completed in mid-1938. During the New Deal, Holland completed several projects in Bunnell, including a civic center and jail. Holland completed the new school building in July 1938, when he delivered the keys to the school board. The cost of construction amounted to \$5,091.22 of which the school board provided \$1,474.22. Under the leadership of Joe Norfleet, the Vocational Agriculture Department and local chapter of the FFA initiated use of the building in the 1938-1939 school year.⁵

Born in 1907 in Virginia, Norfleet arrived in Florida in the late-1920s. He initially resided in Newberry, Alachua County, Florida, where he worked as a traveling salesman in the dry goods trade. Apparently, the Great Depression compelled him to look for work elsewhere, and about 1932 the St. Johns County Board of Public Instruction hired Norfleet to teach vocational agriculture classes and serve as a FFA advisor at Hastings High School (NR 2005). His success in expanding the Hastings programs resulted in Flagler County hiring him in 1937 to establish a similar program at Bunnell High School. Norfleet remained at Bunnell until 1942, when he left for nearby Crescent City High School in Putnam County, again, to teach in vocational agriculture. Well-known in Florida's vocational agriculture circles, Norfleet attended annual statewide FFA conferences, speaking at the convention in Daytona Beach in 1937. Norfleet retired from teaching at Crescent City, where he also served as the first high school football coach.⁶

A good communicator and teacher, Norfleet occasionally published articles in Bunnell's local newspaper, the Flagler Tribune, and by example encouraged his students to submit compositions to the newspaper about their projects, travels, and accomplishments. One of Norfleet's initial articles outlined the high school's agriculture course, one of several electives then available to students at Bunnell's public high school. Norfleet explained that he divided his time between the vocational agriculture department and the FFA. In the former, he taught

⁵ *Flagler Tribune*, 13 January, 21 July 1938, 1 February 1940; Minutes, Flagler County School Board, 19 June, 3 July, 4, 14 August, 15 December 1937.

⁶ *Palatka Daily News*, 14 February 2004; *Flagler Tribune*, 22 July, 5 August 1937; Bureau of the Census, 1930, Population Schedules, Newberry Precinct, Alachua County, FL.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Vocational Agriculture Building
Bunnell, Flagler Co., FL**

Section Number 8 Page 5

students crop planting methods, the benefits of fertilizer, harvesting techniques, and then had them practice those skills on small plots of land. He guided students through the application process to secure crops loans through the Production Credit Association, an agency based in Jacksonville. He taught students about crop selection and rotation, purchasing seeds and fertilizers, and soil preparation. He encouraged them to experiment with crops planted in single and double rows, in part, to measure the effects of water and fertilizer conservation and plant growth and yield. As an advisor/teacher in the FFA, Norfleet conveyed lessons about social aspects of life, that is, among other subjects, public speaking, cooperative farming, and parliamentary procedures. Organized in 1928 in Kansas City, Missouri, the National FFA was derived from the National Congress of Vocational Agriculture Students who had met in Kansas City in 1926. Developed by vocational agriculture educators and students, the charter of the FFA sought to stimulate among America's youth a greater interest in rural life and farming, encourage recreational and educational activities for vocational agriculture students, and promote leadership skills for America's future farmers. Typically, faculty members in public schools who taught vocational agriculture courses also served as advisors in the FFA, which was only in its infancy when Flagler County and Bunnell brought the program to its high school. Bunnell's vocational agriculture program was part of a larger education process that experienced growth during the Great Depression. At the close of the 1937-1938 school year, the Florida Board of Public Instruction reported that twenty-two new vocational agriculture departments had been established in Florida's public school system, primarily in rural areas with total enrollment statewide reaching 7,357. Despite the upward trend, by 1940 eighteen of Florida's counties still did not support vocational agriculture in their public school systems. Of the forty-nine counties supporting vocational agriculture training, only twenty—most notably Alachua, Dade, Hillsborough, Holmes, Jackson, Marion, and Polk—made agriculture a priority by developing multiple programs in their respective high schools.⁷

Norfleet's engaging teaching style and the opportunity for students to work and play outdoors during the day and take occasional field trips to other areas of the state and nation soon made his course the most popular at Bunnell High School. In the 1937-1938 school year, forty-six students from the junior and senior high schools enrolled in the vocational agriculture course. Somewhat smaller in size, the charter organization of the FFA at Bunnell High School consisted of George Allen, Bill Burnsed, John F. Clements, Victor Cyzycki, Curtis Deen, Bill Durrance, Gilbert Higginbotham, Zachary G. Holland, Jr., Ira Holton, Howard Hunter, Teddy Krol, Martin McDaniel, Henry Mikulka, Ralph Novak, Cordell Robertson, Louis Simuson, Owen Thomas, Marvin Tucker, and Brady Wadsworth. To help ensure its success and popularity, Norfleet had his students plan, organize, and conduct fund-raisers for summer field trips to Cuba, New York, Tampa, and Washington, D.C.⁸

⁷ *Flagler Tribune*, 29 July 1937, 1 September 1938; *Christian Science Monitor*, 22 November 1928; Colin English, *Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Florida* (Tallahassee: State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1940), 244-245.

⁸ *Flagler Tribune*, 29 July 1937, 16 May 1940; John Clegg, "A Report on a Survey of Bunnell High School," master's thesis, Gainesville, University of Florida, 1942, 33, 48, 64.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 6

Vocational Agriculture Building
Bunnell, Flagler Co., FL

He also depended heavily on a local newspaper to promote the program. Owned and edited by school board superintendent, M. B. Fuller, the Flagler Tribune published a weekly column called "Bunnell School News." Often buried on interior pages in the late-1930s and early-1940s, typical school news of spelling bees, music recitals, and students advancing through the regular course work often contrasted with achievements of vocational agriculture and FFA students, whose columns generally appeared on the front page. The front-page coverage included news about tours of Raiford State Prison, the WRUF radio station on the campus of the University of Florida in Gainesville; Florida State Fair in Tampa; Fat Stock Show in Jacksonville; annual FFA state conventions at various Florida cities; the trip to Havana, Cuba, to inspect sugar cane fields and other crops; and fund-raising events resulting in fifteen FFA students attending the New York World's Fair and a three-day tour of Washington, D.C., in 1939. At Silver Springs, students watched the making of an underwater movie, and later visited FFA chapters at DeLand, Green Cove Springs, Hastings, and Ocala. The coverage also included updates on the construction and completion of the new school building.⁹

Other school agriculture and FFA activities published on the front-page of the Flagler Tribune included student Victor Cyzycki's borrowing money to raise 937 New Hampshire Red chickens from which he earned \$122.84. Cyzycki persisted with the chicken ventures and in 1940 his results of raising three generations of New Hampshire Reds was published in the Florida Future Farmer, a statewide journal. Most students borrowed money from the Production Credit Association (PCA) to develop projects. Ralph Novak secured \$30.00 from the PCA to plant English peas. Experimenting with different row and planting methods, Novak harvested fifty-three hampers of peas, netting \$12.00 after paying for fertilizer, hampers, seed, market commission, transportation, and paying back his loan. Cordell Robertson wrote an article on his project that consisted of cabbages, English peas, and sweet potatoes. From a PCA loan of \$25.00, Roberson earned \$115.90 from his harvests. In all, the Bunnell students borrowed \$385.00 from the Jacksonville association and earned a profit of \$350.00 on their crops, dollars that were used to support out-of-state field trips. Most of the planting projects did not occur on school grounds, but on demonstration plots outside of the town. Initially, the school board considered purchasing a nearby ten-acre tract as a demonstration plot on which students could cultivate crops and experiment with lessons and theories taught in the classroom. But, instead, the board settled on renting a five-acre demonstration plot from Bunnell farmer Joseph Stanich. Later, in 1940, Norfleet leased the school board his own farmlands as a demonstration plot. Other local activities completed by the students included building twenty home sanitation projects, sharpening twenty-five saws for local farmers, planting eighty citrus trees in area groves, repairing toys donated to the American Red Cross, and planting 680 pine seedlings in reforestation projects. The accomplishments of Norfleet and his students drew the attention of state and national leaders in vocational agriculture. In September 1938, sixteen vocational agriculture teachers met in the new building, coming from Florida's fourth FFA district, which then ranged between Apopka, Brooksville, DeLand, and Ocala. Also in attendance to discuss improving agriculture education in the public schools and to tour the new building and demonstration plot were Professor Davis from the College of Agriculture at the

⁹ *Flagler Tribune*, 18 November, 9, 16 December 1937, 13 January, 10, 31 March, 7, 14, 28 April, 12 May 1938, 30 March, 29 June 1939, 6 June, 4 July 1940.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Vocational Agriculture Building
Bunnell, Flagler Co., FL**

Section Number 8 Page 7

University of Florida and J. F. Williams, Florida's director of vocational agriculture. Earlier, in 1937, Williams and the national president of the FFA, Lester Poucher, attended Bunnell's first annual FFA Father-Son Banquet, an event that included a tour of the vocational agriculture building then under construction. The Father-Son and Mother-Son FFA banquets became much-anticipated events with colorful banners, table settings, and plenty of fresh meats, fruits, and vegetables raised, cultivated, and harvested from local pastures and fields by students. Fund-raising events that occurred behind the vocational agriculture building included a Halloween Carnival with a "Cemetery Field" replete with tombstones in 1938, and rodeos in 1939 and 1940, with steer riding, wild cow milking, catching greased pigs, barrel races, climbing greased poles, and calf riding.¹⁰

In late-1939, Norfleet provided an accounting of Bunnell's graduates over the past decade. He found the highest number, thirty-seven, were day laborers, followed closely by thirty farmers cultivating crops on their own lands. College students accounted for twenty-three graduates and five worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Four graduates were then teachers, two worked as lawyers, and one a physician. Enthusiasm for the new agriculture course, wide-spread activities of the FFA, and the WPA-built school house soon spilled over into the rest of campus and town. In November 1939, school board superintendent and newspaper owner Fuller floated an article in the Flagler Tribune about overcrowded conditions at Bunnell High School and the benefits of constructing additional buildings on the campus. Citing the availability of WPA grants, he explained the need for an auditorium with a stage, gymnasium, and a band and glee club room. None of the projects, however, carried the community-wide appeal associated with the recently-completed agriculture building and school board members deferred on submitting applications for any of the proposals.¹¹

In 1940, the Bunnell FFA chapter earned the highest rank in Florida's FFA high school statewide program. Judges assessed students for achievement in community service leadership, cooperative activities, earnings and savings from demonstration plots, and recreational and scholarship activities. Herbert T. Cook, a Bunnell attorney and Flagler County's representative in the Florida Legislature between 1937 and 1955, provided the students with \$25.00 in recognition of their achievement. The Bunnell chapter then advanced to the national FFA competition, in which the students placed in the top fifteen entries, winning an honorable mention and \$15.00 from the national FFA. By then, the FFA in Florida consisted of 111 chapters with 3,500 students. The national contest included 3,000 chapters representing approximately 65,000 students. That year, Zachary Holland, Jr., a recent graduate of Bunnell High School and the 1938-1939 president of Bunnell's FFA chapter, won a new Ford tractor and Ferguson plow, equipment valued at \$800, in a competition with young farmers from Florida and Georgia. Holland credited his winning, in part, to participating in vocational education and the FFA while at Bunnell. In 1941, the local school board instituted a wood-working program in Bunnell's vocational agriculture building, with the United States Office of Education supplying resources to purchase the necessary tools. That year, brothers Alfred and Marvin Tucker were awarded the FFA's state planters degree,

¹⁰ *Flagler Tribune*, 18 November, 9, 16 December 1937, 13 January, 10, 31 March, 7, 14, 28 April, 12 May, 2 September, 6, 20 October 1938, 9 January, 30 March, 28 June 1939, 22 February 1940; Minutes, Flagler County School Board, 5 February, 2 July, 5 October 1940.

¹¹ *Flagler Tribune*, 2, 30 November 1939.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 8 Page 8

**Vocational Agriculture Building
Bunnell, Flagler Co., FL**

the first members of the Bunnell chapter to earn the coveted honor. Activities during the early-1940s included visiting the WRUF radio station at the University of Florida, constructing bleachers at the football field behind Bunnell's civic center, collecting and selling junk metal for the war effort, and building wooden airplane models for use by the Department of the Navy's military instructors to teach the profiles of friendly and enemy aircraft. In 1942, John Alfred Clegg, a 1936 graduate of Bunnell High School who then was completing his master's degree in Education at the University of Florida, composed his thesis on his public school alma mater. Then teaching English and History at Fort Meade High School in Polk County, Florida, Clegg had graduated from Bunnell High School several years before the introduction of vocational agriculture and FFA into the curriculum. In his appraisal, Clegg found that "The most effective organization in the high school is the Future Farmers of America... It has been the most active and probably the most effective course in the school." In his assessment, Clegg reported that the physical plant of the high school consisted of four buildings: the main brick high school, the brick vocational agriculture building, a small wood-frame structure with tin sheathing for five buses, and a small wood-frame janitorial storage building.¹²

The building housed the school's vocational agriculture training and FFA activities until 1970, when a fire severely damaged the main two-story building. After considerable debate, the high school was rebuilt at a new site on State Road 100 and Bunnell Elementary School was relocated to the old high school campus and built anew. Although the former high school building was razed and the hard-fire brick salvaged for resale, the former vocational agriculture building remained untouched. In the process of the clearing of the former foundations and construction of the new elementary school, the former agriculture building became a storage facility and then a liability that was boarded over and neglected. In 1986, three teachers—Nell Brown, Betty Latham, and Diane Marquis—initiated an effort to save the building from imminent destruction, and restore it as a little red schoolhouse museum. After receiving approval from the Flagler County School Board, the teachers embarked on fund raising efforts under the aegis of the Friends of the Little Red Schoolhouse. Brown and Latham left the following year for positions at the newly-built Wadsworth Elementary School in Palm Coast. Assisted by faculty and staff members Richard DuPont, Nancy McFeeley, and Nancy Willis, Marquis persisted nearly single-handedly to carry on the vision of rescuing the building from deterioration and destruction. Marquis secured contributions for the preservation project from many organizations, including the Bunnell Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization, Cultural Heritage Study Group, Flagler Beach Women's Club, Hammock Women's Club, ITT-Palm Coast, and Palm Coast Women's Club. Among other activities, school children made small miniatures of the old school for placement in stores and businesses in the community to collect funds and promote awareness of the project. Her efforts were supplemented in 1992 with a Blueprint 2000 grant for \$10,000 from the Florida Legislature. In addition to obtaining financial resources, Marquis collected various furnishings and antiques for the building, including a blackboard, books, chairs, and desks. Built in 1942, one cabinet was donated by Rem Murray, a former student who fabricated the furniture in the building as a vocational project. On 15 November 1993, the building was dedicated as the Little Red

¹² *Flagler Tribune*, 18, 25 July, 21 November 1940, 23 January, 19 June, 25 September 1941, 15 January, 19 February 1942; Clegg, "Bunnell High School," 33, 48, 64.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 8 Page 9

**Vocational Agriculture Building
Bunnell, Flagler Co., FL**

Schoolhouse Museum. Retired from teaching, Marquis provides education tours to students and visitors, recounting the history of public education in Flagler County as seen and experienced through the Little Red Schoolhouse Museum.¹³

¹³ Diane Marquis, informant, 2006; *Flagler-Palm Coast Community Times*, 19 April 2000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 1

Vocational Agriculture Building
Bunnell, Flagler Co., FL

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vocational Agriculture Building
Bunnell, Flagler Co., FL

Section Number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary encloses a small portion of the property associated with Bunnell Elementary School, a parcel described as Town of Bunnell Blocks 10-14, 22-23, 29-30, 41-42, otherwise known as 1001 East Howe Street, and parcel number 10-12-30-0850-00100-0000 by the Flagler County property appraiser. The irregular National Register boundary lines follow a poured concrete sidewalk system that extends along the northeast, southeast, and southwest elevations of the Vocational Agriculture Building. The boundary is set back between five and thirty-five feet from the walls of the building with the largest setbacks on the front (southeast) and the smallest along the side elevations. On the rear (northwest) elevation, the boundary is marked by a playground and temporary classroom building, resulting in an irregular line set back approximately twenty-five feet from the northwest elevation. See attached scaled site plan.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encloses property historically associated with the Vocational Agriculture Building. The boundary has an irregular shape because of geographic features of concrete sidewalks, a neighboring building, and playground along the northwest elevation.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Vocational Agriculture Building
Bunnell, Flagler Co., FL**

Section Number Photo Page 1

PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST

1. 1001 East Howe Street
2. Bunnell (Flagler County), Florida
3. Sidney Johnston
4. 2006
5. Historian, DeLand, Florida
6. View showing front (southeast) façade and southwest elevation, facing north
7. Photo #1 of 8

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

6. View showing southeast and rear (northwest) elevations, facing east

7. Photo #2 of 8

6. View showing rear (northwest) and northeast elevations, facing south

7. Photo #3 of 8

6. View original main classroom, facing southwest

7. Photo #4 of 8

6. View showing original main classroom, facing west

7. Photo #5 of 8

6. View showing restroom, facing east

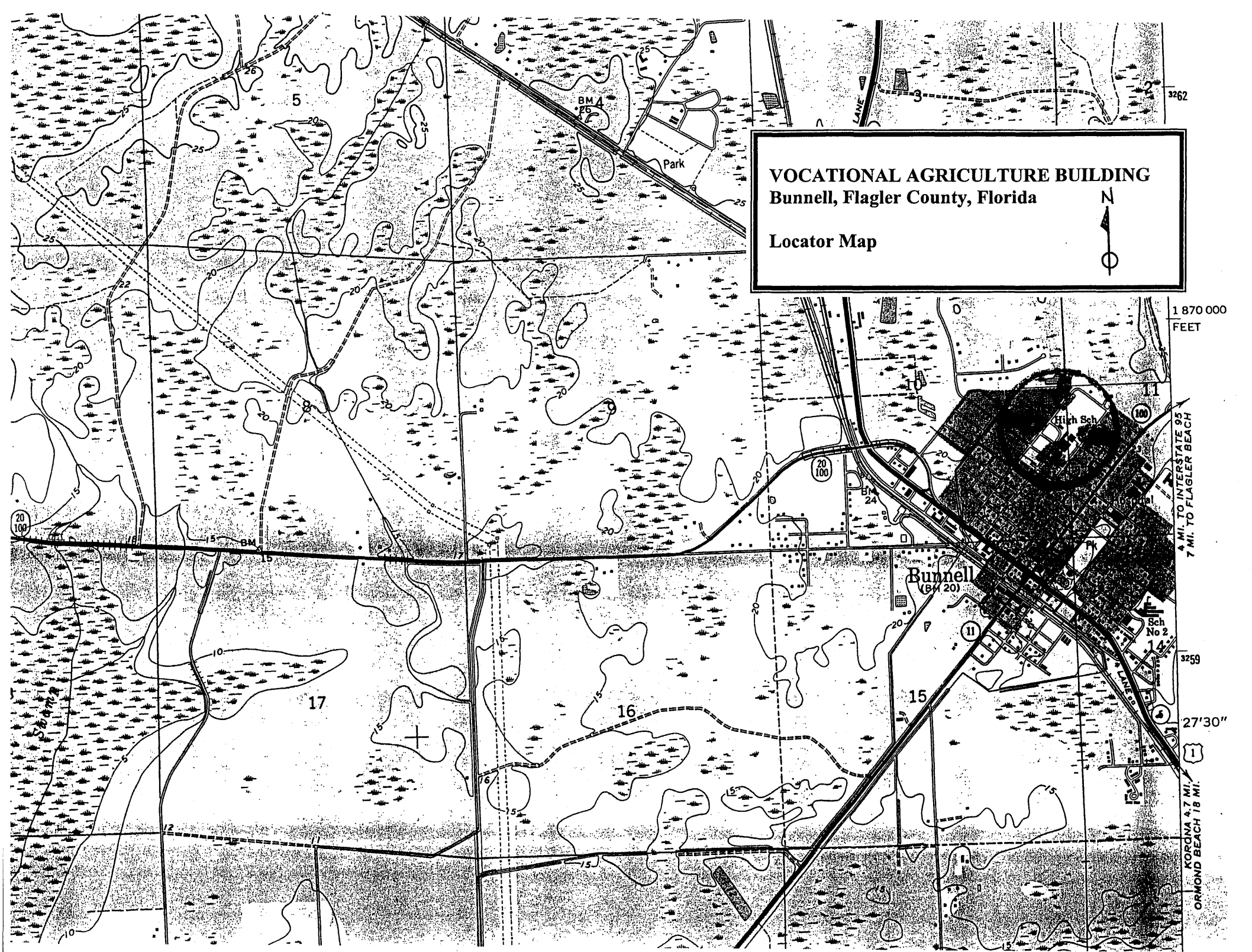
7. Photo #6 of 8

6. View showing original shop, southeast

7. Photo #7 of 8

6. View showing original shop, facing north

7. Photo #8 of 8



VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE BUILDING
Bunnell, Flagler County, Florida

Locator Map



1 870 000
FEET

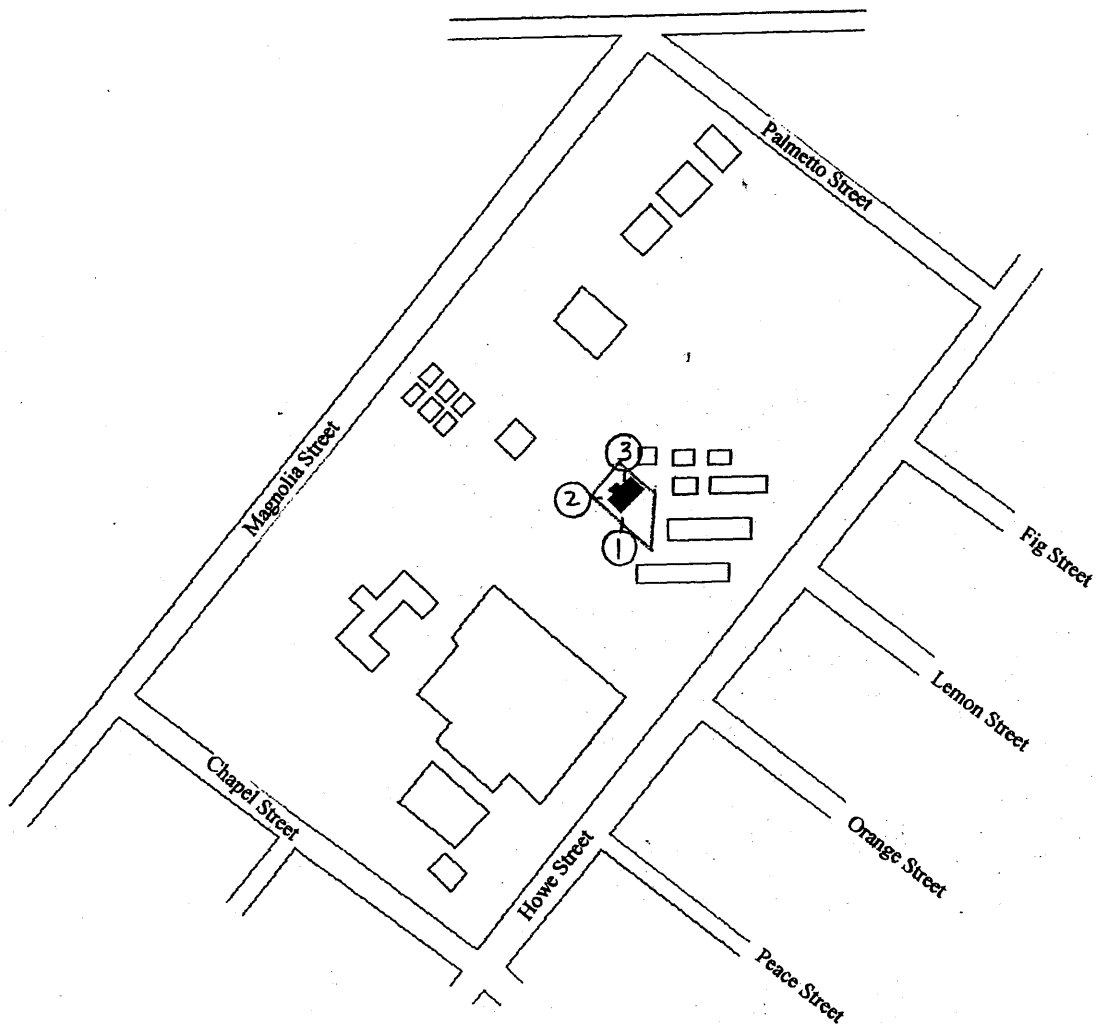
4 MI. TO INTERSTATE 95
7 MI. TO FLAGLER BEACH

3259

27'30"

KORONA 4.7 MI.
ORMOND BEACH 18 MI.





Vocational Agriculture Building at Bunnell High School
 Site Plan
 BUNNELL, FLAGLER CO., FL

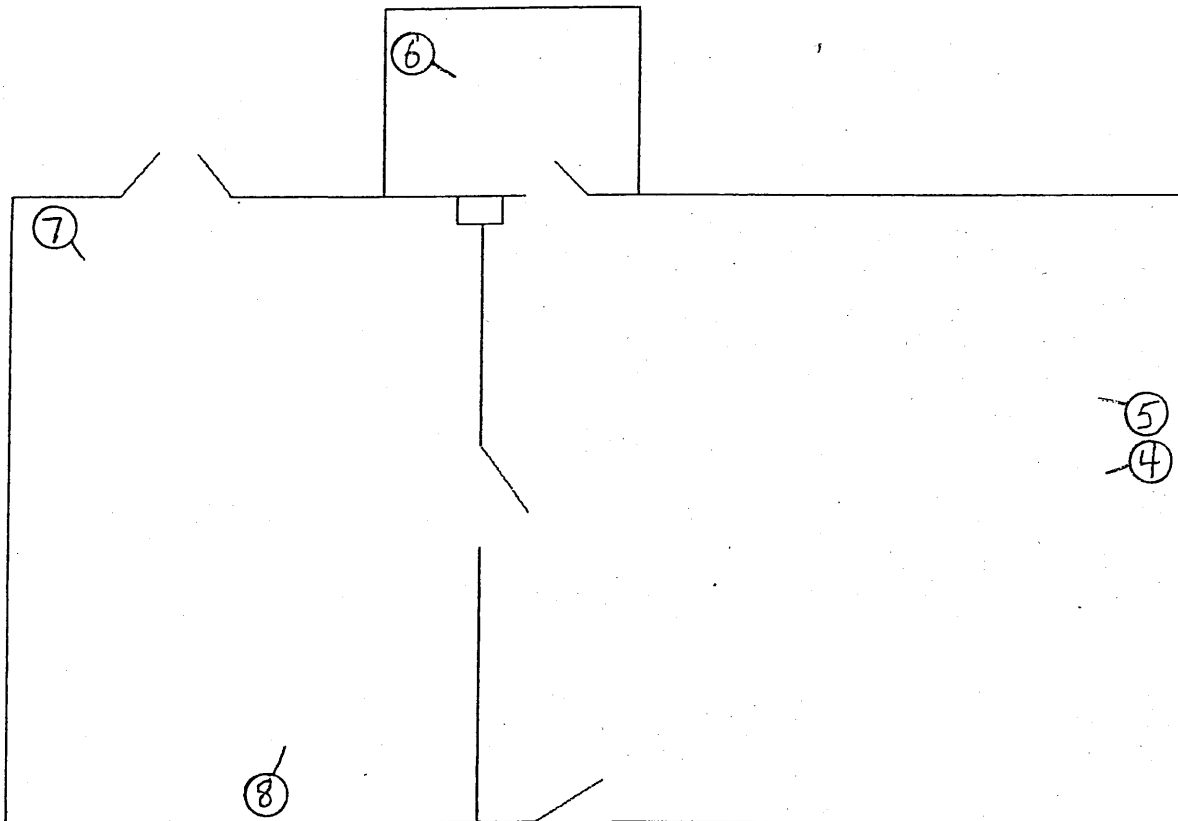
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Contributing Resource ■

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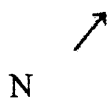
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Vocational Agriculture Building at Bunnell High School
Floor Plan

BUNNELL, FLAGLER CO, FL



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Photograph Arrow ♂

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