

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1357

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 JENNINGS HIGH SCHOOL

other names/site number North Hamilton Elementary School FMSF#HA371

2. Location

street & number 1291 Florida Street N/A not for publication

city or town Jennings N/A vicinity

state Florida code FL county Hamilton code 047 zip code 32053

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 11/27/2007
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]
Signature of the Keeper
Edson H. Beall
Date of Action
1.10.08

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	2	buildings
0	0	sites
0	3	structures
0	0	objects
1	5	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

"N/A"

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)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revival/ Mission Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
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:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
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

1927-1957

Significant Dates

1927

1933

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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 approx. 4 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	2 9 9 3 6 0	3 3 8 7 3 0 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 Laurie, Murray/Robert O. Jones, Historic Preservationist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date November 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 Hamilton County School Board

street & number 4280 SW County Rd. 152 telephone 386-792-1228

city or town Jasper state FL zip code 32052

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.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 **JENNINGS HIGH SCHOOL, JENNINGS,
HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA**

SUMMARY

The Jennings High School is located at 1291 Florida Street in Jennings, Hamilton County, Florida. The U-shaped, one-story brick building was built in 1927, opened in January of 1928, and was enlarged in the early 1930s. The historic building is still used as a Hamilton County public school, and is surrounded on three sides by fifteen non-historic buildings. The Spanish Mission Revival Style façade lends architectural distinction to the building, which is in good condition. A section of the large grassy field to the north of the building historically used for sports and recreation is included in the nomination boundary encompassing roughly 4 acres. Within the National Register boundaries to the north of the school are two noncontributing buildings and three movable sets of metal bleachers.

SETTING

Jennings is located in the northern part of Hamilton County, less than two miles from the Georgia border. The school is on Florida Street in the center of the town of Jennings, at the intersection of Plum Street (US 41) and Hamilton Street (County Road 143). The eight-acre school site is level and is enclosed with a chain link fence. The school building is oriented on a northeast/southwest axis. Florida Street, which is the primary and historic access to the school, enters the property from Plum Street (US 441) and then curves to the southeast. A large, open grassy field is located in front and on the north side of the historic building. Currently, fifteen buildings, constructed after the period of significance on the campus to accommodate a growing school population, are located on the north, south, and west of the historic school building.¹ An athletic field with an oval track and basketball court is located in the southeast corner of the campus. Landscaping consists of low shrubbery planted close to the walls of the school, and palm trees are on each side of the walkway leading to the front entrance. Parking areas are designated along the curving road in front of the school.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The Jennings High School is a one-story, U-shaped masonry building. The building has an off-grade foundation with several feet of crawl space, and beams and floor joists support the wood floors. The symmetrical, 160-foot northeast façade faces Florida Street (Photo #1). The principal entrance to the school is through an arch at the base of a wall with a sculpted parapet at the roofline (Photo #2). The arch is emphasized by a band of white stucco and leads to a shallow porch with elongated arched openings on each side of the arch and on each of the side walls of the porch. The current name of the school, "North Hamilton Elementary School," was applied to the wall above the arch after the high school classes were transferred to Jasper High

¹ Many of these buildings are portable structures. Because the needs of the school change from time to time, the number of buildings on the campus may change.

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School in 1965. Double wood doors open on to a wide interior hallway. One half of the original set of concrete steps to the porch has been adapted for handicapped use with a low ramp. Fenestration consists of a row of grouped windows on either side of the entrance. On each end of the front facade, short wings project northeastward from the main block. The parapet walls of the side projections have curved outlines that rise above the height of the hip roof. Decorative brickwork, inlaid tile squares, and a set of small triple arches set below the top of the parapet add modest embellishments to the end walls.

The two wings extend to the southwest from the main block (Photos #3 & 4), and form an open courtyard in the southwest of the building (Photo #5). The exterior surface is red brick, with a continuous stuccoed base approximately four feet high (Photo #6). The brickwork is of high quality, and the deeply raked mortar is dark, giving the fabric of the building a uniform deep red tone. The surface of the flattened hip roof is covered in composition shingles. Fenestration consists of a band of 1/1 double-hung wooden sashes set in arched openings. A continuous stuccoed band runs below the sills of the groupings of windows, which are separated by narrow, vertical brick spacers. The northwest elevation of the school features fenestration as on the facade (Photo #7). Concrete steps with cheeks lead to the arched doorways that form the west entrances to the wings (Photo #8).

The wings are 200 feet long. On the northeast and southeast elevations, a short distance from the façade corner are secondary arched entrances providing access to the interior through recessed double doors (Photos #3 & 7). Approximately two-thirds of the distance from the facade, the quality of the brick in the walls changes which indicates the additions constructed in 1933 (Photo #4). The southwest elevation of the main block that forms the inner section of the U-shape also has 1/1 wood-framed, double-hung windows and an entrance to the school auditorium in each corner (Photo #8).

Interior

The double front doors of the Jennings High School open on to an entrance hallway with school offices on either side (Photo #9). This hall intersects with a lateral corridor off of which offices, classrooms, and the auditorium open. The floors of the hallways are covered with black and white linoleum tile. The walls are plaster above beaded board wainscoting original to the school. Ceilings in the halls are dropped to accommodate fluorescent lighting and ducting for the heating and air conditioning system.

The classrooms also have lowered ceilings, florescent lighting, carpeting and plastered walls (Photo #10). Original wainscoting is still in the cloakrooms, which provide storage in each classroom.

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The school auditorium has a full stage on the northeast end (Photo #11), and the original sloping wood floors under the auditorium seating (Photo #12). Windows are along the southwest wall. The walls are plastered and the ceiling is dropped acoustic tile. Pictures of previous high school graduating classes adorn the walls.

ALTERATIONS

In 1933 the westward wings were extended to include high school students within the 1927 building. Non-historic alterations include the replacement of the original 6/6 windows. The current name of the school was added above the main entrance in 1965. The ceilings have been lowered with acoustical tile and florescent lighting was installed. Heating and air conditioning units have replaced the original furnace. The roof above the auditorium has been rebuilt. To handle increased enrollment of students, fifteen additional buildings have been added to the property, largely to the south and southwest of the historic school building. These buildings are not included in the National Register boundary.

NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

Two non-contributing buildings are included within the National Register boundary. A one-story red brick science building that is located to the southwest between the wings (Photo #13). A one-story wood frame classroom building is near the northwest corner of the school (Photo #14). Three temporary metal frame bleachers are located near the northwest side of the school and within the National Register boundary.

Not included within the National Register boundaries, but located on the school campus to the south and the west, are thirteen one-story buildings that were located on the property at various times after 1960 (Photo #15). These buildings include a media center, gymnasium, cafeteria, and classrooms. A concrete sidewalk parallels the school along its southwest and southeast sides (Photo #16). All of these non-historic buildings are compatible in scale with the historic school.

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HAMILTON, COUNTY, FLORIDA**

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

The Jennings High School is nominated to the National Register under Criteria A and C for local significance in the areas of Education and Architecture. Built in 1927 - 1928 and enlarged in 1933, the school is significant for its contribution to education in Hamilton County and for its embodiment of early twentieth century school design theories. First opened as an elementary school in January of 1928, the building also accommodated high school classes between 1933 and 1965. Since then, the school has served as the main building on the campus of the elementary school serving the northern part of Hamilton County. The façade of the U-shaped, red brick school incorporates elements of the Spanish Mission Revival Style. The building is distinguished by quality masonry construction, has retained a high degree of architectural integrity, and represented the most current educational facility planning considerations for the time. These considerations included ample natural lighting provided by banks of windows, and a dedicated assembly area, the auditorium. Additions were made in 1933 to accommodate high school grades. The historic playing field to the north and east of the school and the historic entry road (Florida Street) form the setting for the school. The school's original 1928 name is not clear, so the 1933 name, "Jennings High School," which continued as such through the historic period, is used for this nomination.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Hamilton County and Jennings

Although the Florida legislature had enacted a law in 1869 that authorized a uniform system of free, common schools, they provided little funding to support it. Fiscally conservative political leaders aimed to reduce taxes and slashed the county school taxes by one-half, so most counties found it difficult to pay teachers, maintain schools and purchase supplies.¹ It was not until the late 1880s that the Florida Legislature began to seriously plan for the funding and improvement of the state's public school system. The system evolved from one-and two-room schools where one or two teachers taught children with a mix of ages and abilities, to graded elementary schools that provided more age-appropriate curriculum and books, to high schools that prepared students for careers or for higher education. Teacher-training became an important focus in the latter part of the nineteenth century as Florida assumed responsibility for providing Normal Schools (specifically focused on preparing students to teach), in-service classes and summer classes, and preparation for teacher certification tests.²

¹ Samuel Proctor. "Prelude to the New Florida, 1877-1919". in, Michael Gannon, Ed. *A New History of Florida*. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1996), 267.

² Nita Katharine Pyburn. *The History of the Development of a Single System of Education in Florida: 1822-1903*. (Tallahassee: Florida State University, 1954), 135-138.

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Two of the state- and county-supported schools that prepared teachers between 1880 and 1910 were located in Hamilton County: Jasper Normal Institute, headed by Professor Guilliams, and the Normal School and Business Institute in White Springs headed by Professor J. L. Skipworth. Institutes like these raised the level of the high school curriculum as well as that of the graded elementary schools, and by 1903 subjects and lists of schoolbooks were made uniform by state law.³ Hamilton County historian Cora Hinton states that the first school called Jennings appeared in county records in 1893. T.B. Johns taught for the four-month term. Hinton found in the records she examined that there were two public schools in the north part of Hamilton County at the turn of the century, located south of town near the Jennings Bluff Cemetery: the Oak Grove Colored School and the Newsome White School. These were probably one-room schoolhouses.⁴ She states that Jennings High School for white students was built in 1914, with an auditorium on the second floor used for chapel services, and that additions were made to the school in 1916. However, in her history of Hamilton County, two photographs of the Jennings School dated 1900 show white children in a wide range of ages lined up in front of a large, two-story wood frame structure with a tall belfry. From the photographs, it appears that all grades were taught in this building. This school was the center of social activities in the town as well as its principal educational facility.⁵

By the 1920s, the three high schools for white children in Hamilton County were noted in the Biennial Reports of the State Department of Education, but not all had classes through grade 12.⁶ Hinton reported that the high schools in Jennings, Jasper, and White Springs competed in Jasper on Field Day in the 1920s, but students in Jennings would have had to attend the Jasper High School if they wanted a full 12-year diploma.⁷ In addition to schools in the three main towns in the county, there were about thirty small rural schools for both white and black students. Many of these rural schools eventually closed when consolidation and bussing began in the 1920s and 1930s.⁸ The economic hard times of the Great Depression had an impact on the school system of Hamilton County. Teachers were paid with script and many children went to school barefoot and were lucky to have cold biscuits or sweet potatoes for lunch. Education for black students was even more severely curtailed.⁹ However, in 1938-39 a new school serving grades 1-12 was built in White Springs in the south part

³ Pyburn, 143-145.

⁴ Hinton, 34.

⁵ Hinton, 113-114.

⁶ *Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Florida* 1927-1928, and 1931-1932. These reports provide various statistics for individual Florida schools until 1934, including data on student and teacher population, accreditation status, and grades served.

⁷ Hinton, 57.

⁸ Hinton, 108-110.

⁹ Hinton, 59.

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of Hamilton County, partially funded by the federal Public Works Administration on land donated by local families. This building, now the South Hamilton Elementary School, is a contributing building in the White Springs Historic District (NR 1996).

Although the state's educational budget increased while Governor Fred P. Cone (who made his home in Hamilton County) was in office from 1937 until 1941, teachers' salaries remained low, and black teachers always earned less. In 1940, only about fifty percent of eligible students of both races were enrolled, but the situation gradually improved when state laws requiring compulsory attendance were passed and schools remained open more days of the year.¹⁰ School accreditation and teacher certification were increasingly important state standards, but were not always easily met. The 1927-1928 state report listed only the White Springs elementary school in Hamilton County as accredited.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Elementary School/Jennings High School

The pattern of funding public education in Hamilton County, like the rest of Florida, depended upon the collection of adequate local tax revenues, and most of the available resources were directed to schools serving the white children. In a period of relative prosperity during the 1920s, the school board of the county was able to finance a remarkably fine brick schoolhouse for the white elementary school students in Jennings.

Construction on the new brick elementary school began in 1927. Mr. James E. Kinsey, who was about age six when the construction began, recalls the town's keen interest in the new school. Professor J. A. Stephens and his wife came to Jennings from Wartrace, Tennessee, to teach in the new school, which opened in January of 1928. Mr. Kinsey recalls that the students carried books from the old frame school to the new school. A large bell located outside on the southwest side of the building called the children to school, and chapel classes conducted by a local minister began each day.¹¹

The two-story, wood-frame high school built earlier in the century was worn and overcrowded. To provide additional classrooms for the white high school students in Jennings, the two wings of the 1927-28 elementary school building were extended in 1933. These additions are evident from the different brickwork and color of mortar on the exterior walls of the wings. In 1931, the school had 180 students in grades 1 through 6, taught by five teachers under the direction of principal J. A. Stephens, who also taught a class.¹² When high school

¹⁰ Proctor, 313-315, 300.

¹¹ James E. Kinsey, personal communication, January, 2006.

¹² *Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Florida* 1927-1928, and 1931-1932 Hamilton County was not listed in the 1929-1930 report.

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students moved into the building with the elementary grades in 1933, electric bells were installed to announce the change of classes. A coal-fired furnace provided heat for the school, and radiators were installed in each classroom and the hallways. The large, centrally located auditorium was used for chapel, assemblies, music recitals, class plays, graduation ceremonies, and special programs. There was no cafeteria at first. Children who lived too far from the school to go home for lunch brought their lunches. A gymnasium, cafeteria, library, and an agricultural classroom were added to the campus later, but these buildings have either been altered or replaced with other buildings dating after the period of historic significance.

Healthful exercise and team sports were part of the modern school program, and the school in Jennings was fortunate in having an eight-acre site with room for a variety of organized sports. The football team practiced on the large field located in front of school, but played games in a stadium at Jasper High School. The playing field was also used for high school baseball games, both the boys' and the girls' teams. Home base was in the northeast corner of the field, with a dugout for both teams, and bleachers for the fans. The Jennings community identified with the school athletic teams, the Panthers, and supported their efforts, an important aspect of fostering pride and continued interest in public education in the county.¹³

Until the mid-1960s, when Hamilton County high schools in White Springs, Jennings, and Jasper were consolidated into one high school complex located in Jasper, the Jennings school housed all grades for white students in the northern part of the county. The last high school class to graduate from the school in Jennings was the Class of 1964-65. After 1965, students in grades 9 to 12 were bussed to Jasper, and the school in Jennings became North Hamilton Elementary School, serving grades 1 through 8. Schools were integrated around 1967 and kindergarten classes were added in 1970. In 2001, the seventh and eighth grades were transferred to a new middle school. Today, the North Hamilton Elementary School serves grades K through 6, with about 415 students enrolled.

Teacher training and certification was a goal of public educational officials, so as to ensure future excellence in education. Many of the school's current teachers and current School Superintendent are proud to acknowledge they graduated from the school.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

While nineteenth century architects occasionally directed their attention to schoolhouses,¹⁴ it was the institutions of higher learning, such as Teachers College at Columbia University in New York City and the

¹³ *The Lair*, Jennings High School Yearbooks, 1962 and 1963.

¹⁴ Thurston Chase. *A Manual for School Houses and Cottages for the People of the South*, (Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1868) and E. C. Gardner. *Town and Country School Buildings*. (New York: E. L. Kellogg and Co, 1883) produced drawings that influenced towns across the county to build attractive and home-like schools in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

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George Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee, that influenced school districts to rethink their approach to building design in the early 1900s. Experts on school hygiene like the most prominent Professor Fletcher B. Dresslar of Peabody offered guidance on proper site selection, orientation of buildings, placement of windows, playground and classroom equipment, sanitary facilities, ventilation and other considerations as early as 1911.¹⁵ Dresslar called for consolidation and the closing of old dilapidated schools. He and others promoted a nationwide social movement of educational betterment, of the school as a "citadel of democracy," with healthy and spacious schoolhouses so beautiful that they were in themselves an exercise in aesthetic education.¹⁶

Fletcher B. Dresslar and his colleagues conducted surveys of schools in the South early in the twentieth century, noting the inadequate, unsanitary, and outdated conditions of school facilities, particularly in small towns and rural areas. They also worked with the Julius Rosenwald Fund to develop plans for schools for African American children in the southern states. Rosenwald, a Sears Roebuck executive, established a fund to help with the construction of these schools in the 1920s and early 1930's. Although the Rosenwald Fund ended in 1932, the innovative architectural plans developed for the Rosenwald schools were used by school boards or adapted to school buildings for white children as well in the racially divided South. By 1928-29, the Interstate School Building Service was distributing Rosenwald school plans throughout the educational community and continued to do so through the 1930s, when the federal government became involved in school construction through the federally funded relief programs such as the Public Works Administration (PWA) and Works Projects Administration (WPA).

Many Florida public schools built early in the twentieth century were influenced by the Spanish Colonial Revival or Mission Revival architectural style that was popular throughout the state in the 1920s. Mission-shaped roof parapets were a distinguishing feature of the Mission Revival Style that had emerged in California in the 1890s, and spread eastward by 1915.¹⁷ Mission Revival Style schools had been popular since the turn of the century in California, and were readily adopted in Florida.¹⁸ Decorative detailing was generally modest, although inset tiles and other wall surface ornament were used.¹⁹ Florida's Spanish Colonial heritage contributed to the widespread use of this style in the early part of the twentieth century. In Florida the style appeared in buildings devoted to education as well as train stations, resort hotels and residences. Hispanic design elements such as the use of arched openings, tile and the sculpted parapets derived from those of the

¹⁵ Fletcher B. Dresslar. *School Hygiene*. (New York: Macmillan, 1913), 28-35, 57-59, 142.

¹⁶ Fletcher B. Dresslar. *American Schoolhouses*. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1911), 9, 67, 101-102.

¹⁷ Marcus Whiffen. *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles*. (Cambridge, MA: M.I.T. Press, 1981), 235-237.

¹⁸ Dresslar, *American Schoolhouses*. 125. Dresslar thought the beauty and simplicity of Mission style architecture was particularly suited to schools.

¹⁹ Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester. *Field Guide to American Houses*. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986), 409-410.

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original Spanish missions, worked well on buildings of almost any shape and size. The use of the style reflected a growing interest in the state's Spanish Colonial heritage, particularly during the Florida Boom era.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Mission Revival Style of the new brick school in Jennings, with its shaped roof parapet and modest decorative elements influenced by Spanish Colonial architecture, was distinctive and in step with other modern schools in Florida. The triple arches on the side parapets of the school façade are derived from this tradition. The children who attended the Jennings school and their parents were proud of their school. They moved from a crowded and outdated wood structure into an attractive building constructed of fire-resistant materials with well-lighted classrooms, indoor bathrooms, and a spacious auditorium. Each class had a separate room with its own teacher, the principal had an office where records could be stored, and there was ample room for expansion and for playground areas on the eight-acre campus, features that were markers for modern schools.²⁰ The Jennings school was also in accord with national standards. The United States Department of Education took an increasingly active role in the 1920s and 1930s promoting the construction of safe, hygienic, and attractive schools. Federal relief programs such as the PWA promoted changes in the curriculum of elementary schools and the most efficient use of new and existing buildings.²¹

Although the name of the Jennings High School's architect is unknown, it is apparent that he was influenced by the new ideas in school design. (Hamilton County School Board records in the 1920s and 1930s cannot be located.) The school reflects the concern with ventilation and illumination. It was oriented so that the light came from the east or west, and the grouping of windows separated by narrow mullions controlled glare and prevented eye strain.²² The generous number of tall, grouped window sashes in each room in the Jennings school reduced the need for artificial lighting and providing better ventilation. The centrally located assembly hall was intended to provide design unity, dignity, and convenience. Auditoriums were intended to encourage frequent, large assemblies, and foster loyalty to community and scholarly ideals. The Jennings High School has retained its architectural integrity to a high degree.

²⁰ A. D. Hamlin (Professor of Architecture, Columbia University). *Modern School Houses* (New York: The Sweetland Publishing Co., 1910); Warren Richard Briggs, *Modern American School Buildings*. (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1912); G. D. Strayer and N. L. Englehardt. *Standards for Elementary School Buildings*. (New York: Teachers College, Columbia University, 1923; William George Bruce. *Grade School Buildings, Book II*. (Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing, 1925).

²¹ Alice Barrows. *Functional Planning of Elementary School Buildings*. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1937). 1.

²² Dresslar, 55, 63-65.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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Section number 10 Page 1 **JENNINGS HIGH SCHOOL, JENNINGS,
HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA**

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Jennings High School is located on publicly owned property generally described according to the Hamilton County Property Appraiser office as Parcel #7149-000. National Register designation is extended to a portion of the public school property. The historic designation consists of all or portions of parcel numbers 7149-000, 7150-000, 7151-000, 7230-000, 7231-000, 7232-000. (see scaled site map)

The boundary of the historic property begins at the south corner of the school building and follows a sidewalk in a northeasterly direction along the southeast side of Florida Street to the right of way of US 41, then across Florida Street to the northwest corner of the street. The boundary then runs in a southwesterly direction along the northwest side of Florida Street to the school fence line running northwesterly along the northeast boundary of the playing field, then running southwesterly along the fence line that follows County Road 149 to the point aligned with the sidewalk that runs along the southwest of the school building, then runs along the sidewalk to the point of beginning. This area encompasses approximately 4 acres.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses the 1928-29 school building, the playing field to the northeast, and this constitutes the concentration of historic resources that remain, and excludes the non-historic construction and altered setting.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Photo _____ Page 1 **JENNINGS HIGH SCHOOL, JENNINGS,
HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA**

PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST

1. Jennings High School, 1291 Florida Street, Jennings
2. Hamilton County, Florida
3. Murray D. Laurie
4. February, 2005
5. Murray D. Laurie
6. Front façade of school, photographer facing south
7. Photo #1 of 16

Information in numbers 1-5 is the same for each photograph.

6. Main entrance, facing south
7. Photo #2 of 16

6. Southeast elevation, facing southwest
7. Photo #3 of 16

6. Southeast elevation showing connection of 1933 addition, facing west
7. Photo #4 of 16

6. Southwest wall of main building block, facing north
7. Photo #5 of 16

6. Foundation wall and vented crawl space, facing west
7. Photo #6 of 16

6. Northwest elevation and bleachers, facing southeast
7. Photo #7 of 16

6. Stairs on southwest side of school, facing southeast
7. Photo #8 of 16

6. Hallway in southeast wing, facing southwest
7. Photo #9 of 16

6. Classroom, facing southeast
7. Photo #10 of 16

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Photo _____ Page 2

**JENNINGS HIGH SCHOOL, JENNINGS,
HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA**

- 6. Stage within auditorium, facing west
- 7. Photo #11 of 16

- 6. Auditorium, facing south
- 7. Photo #12 of 16

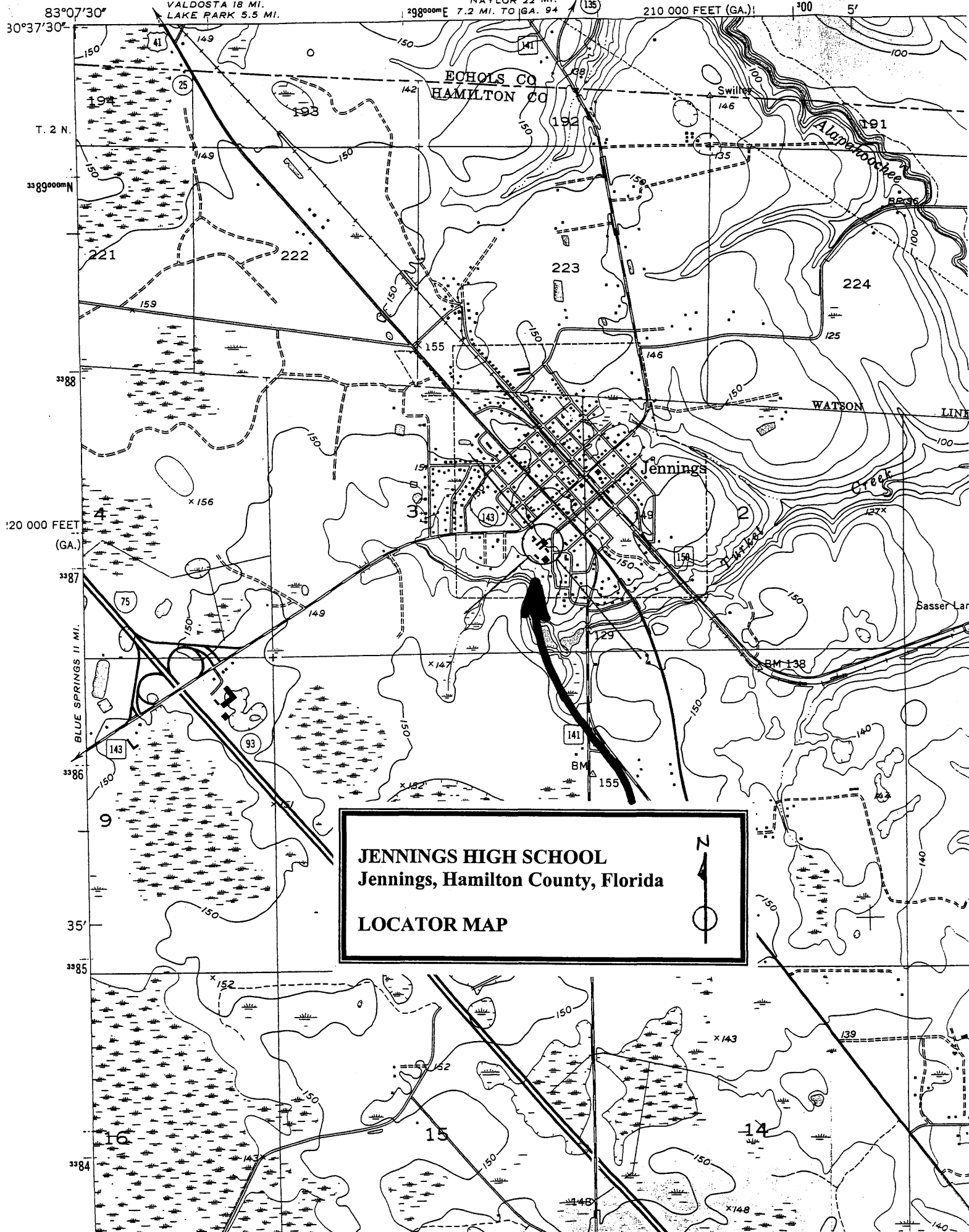
- 6. Non-contributing science buildings, facing west
- 7. Photo #13 of 16

- 6. Non-contributing classroom building, facing southwest
- 7. Photo #14 of 16

- 6. Curved drive off of Florida Street and non-historic buildings, facing south
- 7. Photo #15 of 16

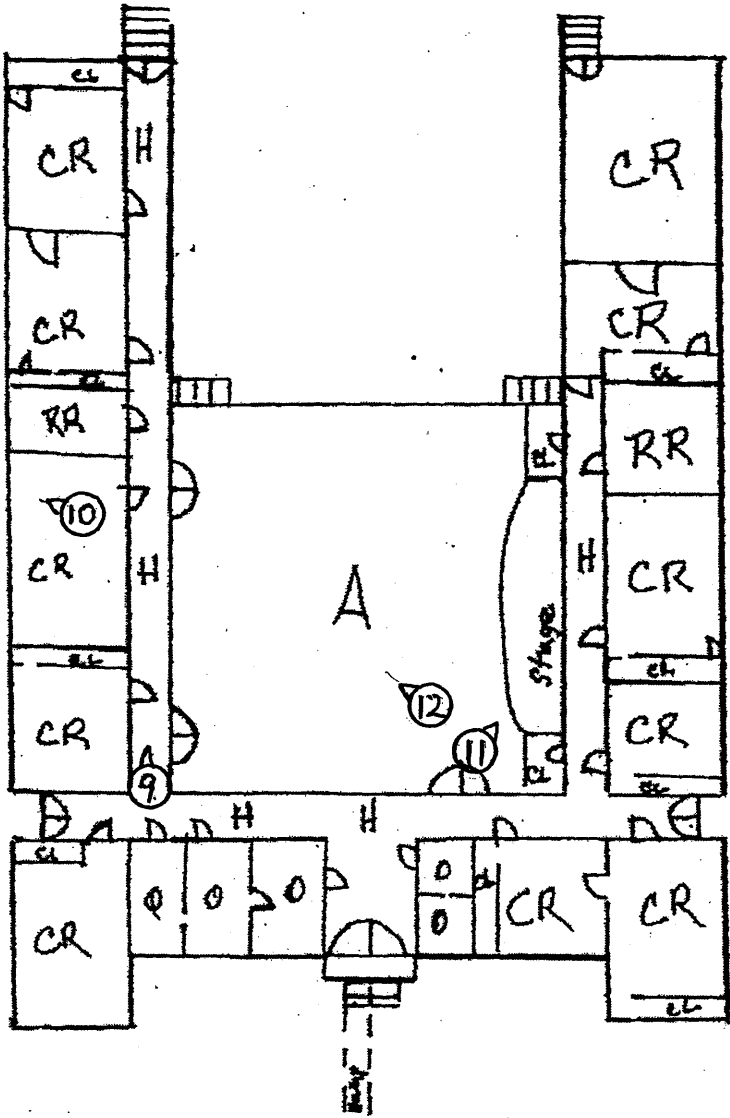
- 6. Walkway and non-historic classroom at northwest corner of school, facing southwest
- 7. Photo #16 of 16

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



JENNINGS HIGH SCHOOL
Jennings, Hamilton County, Florida
LOCATOR MAP

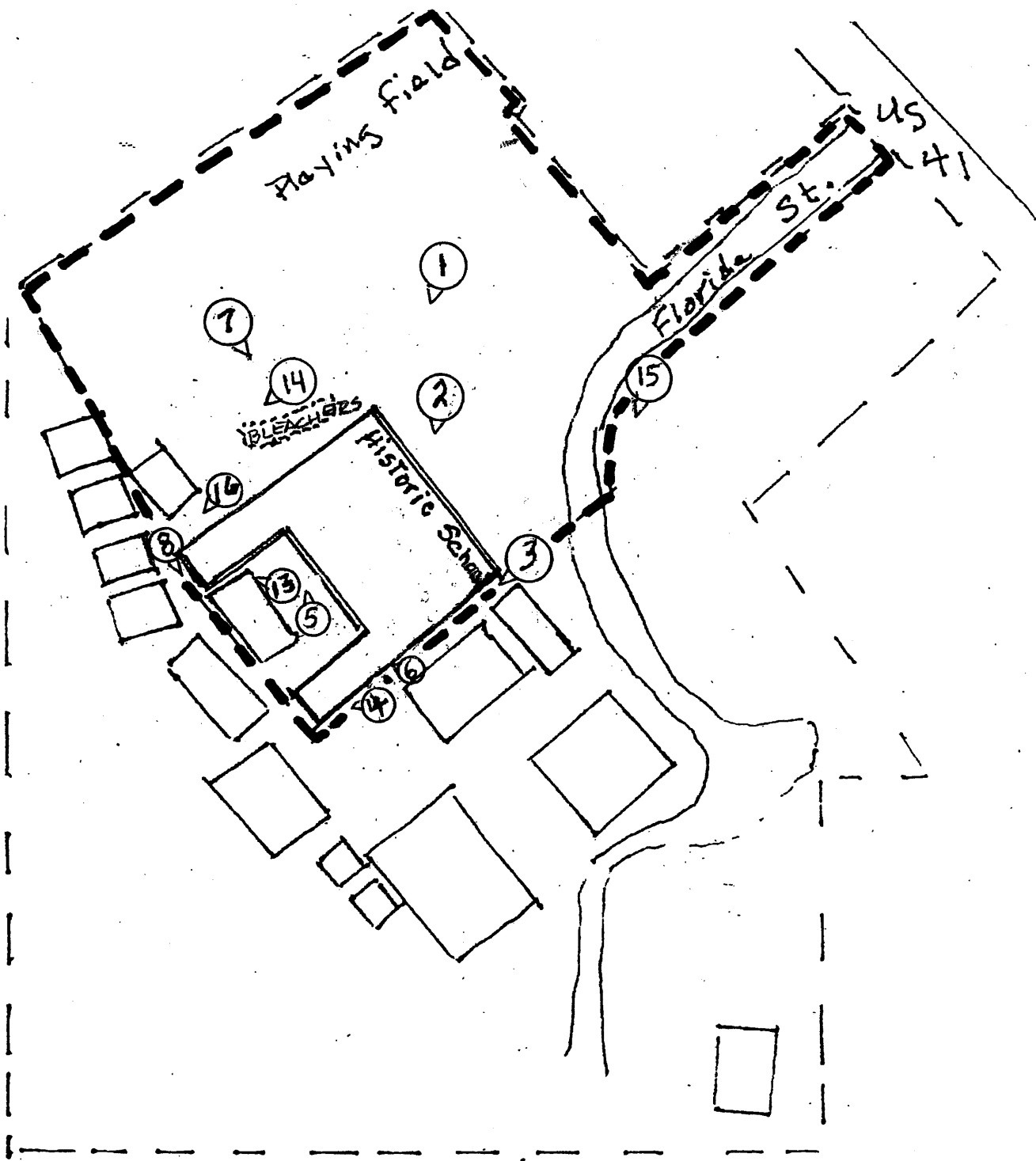




- A auditorium
- H hall
- O office
- CR class room
- Cl closet
- RR rest room

JENNINGS HIGH SCHOOL
 Jennings, Hamilton Co., Florida

Floor Plan & Photo Diagram



JENNINGS HIGH SCHOOL
 Jennings, Hamilton County, Florida
 Site Plan with Photo Diagram

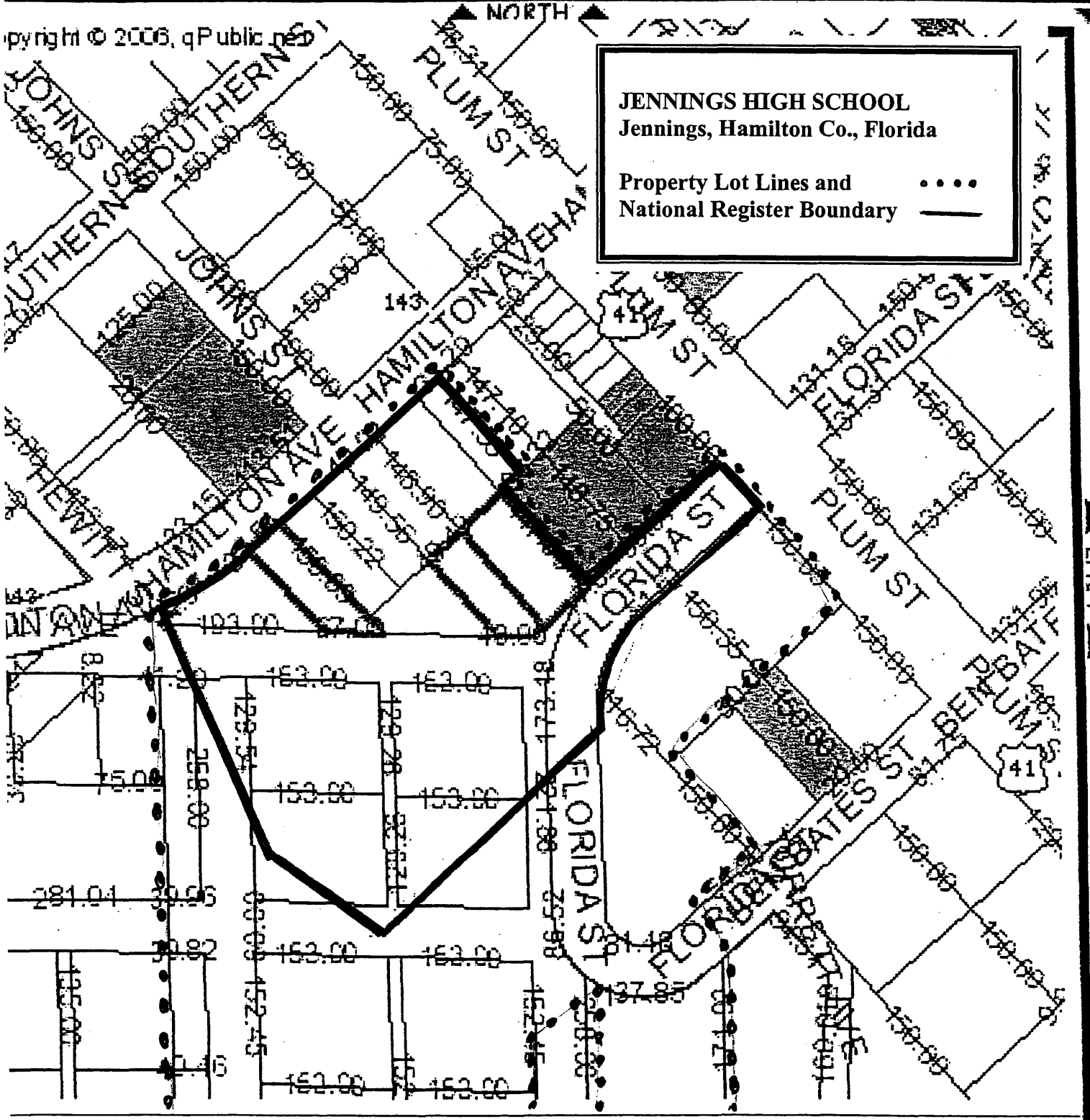


Hamilton County Parcel Maps

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JENNINGS HIGH SCHOOL
Jennings, Hamilton Co., Florida

Property Lot Lines and
National Register Boundary ———



▲ SOUTH ▼

0 280 560 840 1120 ft