

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000347

Date Listed: 4/14/94

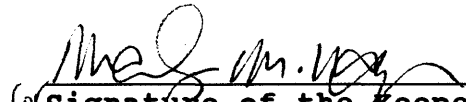
Fort Braden School, Old
Property Name

Leon
County

FLORIDA
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

4/14/94
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 5

This nomination is amended to add two non-contributing buildings (the portable buildings mentioned in Section No. 7) to the count.

This change was confirmed by phone with the Florida SHPO (4/12/94)

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

MAR 14 1994

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 an 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 Old Fort Braden School

other names/site number Fort Braden Elementary School/8LE2111

2. Location

street & number Star Route 2, Box 8224 (Jackson Bluff Road) n/a not for publication

city or town Tallahassee vicinity

state Florida code FL county Leon code 073 zip code 32304

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.)

Suzanne P. Walker / Deputy SHPO 3/8/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper <u>Mary M. ...</u>	Date of Action <u>4/14/94</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Old Ft. Braden School
Name of Property

Leon 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)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	(Basketball/Tennis Ct.) structures
0	0	objects
2	1	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education: School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Frame Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stucco

walls Wood: Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other n/a

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 67) 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

1926-1944

Significant Dates

1926

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Fitchner, E.D., architect

Parker & Yeager Construction, builder

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Old Ft. Braden School
Name of Property

Leon Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.25 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	116	7367910	33683510
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 Barbara E. Mattick/ Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date February 1994

street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Leon County School Board

street & number 2757 W. Pensacola Street telephone (904) 487-7100

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32304

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 to amend existing 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
Old Fort Braden School, Leon Co., FL

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Fort Braden School, built in 1926, is a basically rectangular, one-story, frame vernacular building, with a complex, gable-on-hipped roof, with six chimneys and covered with asphalt shingles. The hipped parts of the roof have exposed rafter tails. The exterior is of drop siding. Fenestration is regular, with single or double, 6/6, double hung sash windows, many with six-light transoms. Small additions are located at the east and west ends of the building. The foundation is stuccoed. There is also a 1920s pump house toward the rear of the campus.

SETTING

The Fort Braden School (Photo 1) is a rural school, located on 4.25 acres on the south side of State Highway 20 (Jackson Bluff Road), eighteen miles west of Tallahassee, the county seat and state capital. The building is set 136 feet back from the highway, and is accessed by vehicles by a circular drive in front of the main entrance. A private residence is located to the east, and open farmland and forested areas lie to the west and south, and across the road to the north. The grounds have not been extensively paved. Large oak, pine, and magnolia trees and evergreen shrubs are located on the campus and near the building.

The rear of the school property presently contains two noncontributing portable buildings and one historic building, a small pump house (Photos 2 & 3). Basketball-tennis courts are located west of the building (Photo 4), and a playground and baseball diamond are located on the east side of the campus (Photo 5). The portable buildings and walkway will be removed.

DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The main (north) elevation (Photo 1) of the Fort Braden School is very symmetrical. The main entrance is inset in a slightly projecting, central, gable roofed bay, defined horizontally by corner boards. The entrance (Photo 6) is approached by five steps flanked by brick cheeks with cast concrete coping. Double doors with six lights in the upper half are flanked by matching side panels with six lights, and surmounted by a six-light transom. The entrance to the porch is accented by a molded surround with gable returns. Within the

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Old Fort Braden School, Leon Co., FL

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tympanum of the gable is a round arch, accented by scrolls at its base. The porch is flanked by paired, 6/6 double hung sash windows and a small, louvered, rectangular vent is centered above the porch (Photo 1).

The north elevation of the east and west wings mirror each other, with a single window, a corbelled exterior chimney, and three sets of double windows (Photo 1). A small, shed roofed addition with a small square window is located at each end of the building (Photos 6 & 7).

The east and west elevations (Photos 5 & 4) mirror each other, with side entrances to the shed roofed additions and main building, exterior chimneys, single windows, and three sets of double windows. A small, detached custodian's shed is located near the entrance on the east elevation.

The south elevation (Photo 8) has a central bay with single and double windows and two interior chimneys. A small, stooped entry, and a small, shed roofed storage area attached to the main block are located near the west end of the elevation (Photo 9). Slightly projecting wings with no fenestration flank the main block of the building.

Interior

The main entrance to the school opens into a small central hall (Photo 10). To the west are the principal's and school secretary's offices (Photo 11). To the east are a kitchen and small storage area (Photo 12). The entry hall leads to a central, east-west corridor (Photo 13) which accesses the other rooms of the building. At the south end of the entry hall is a central room that was originally an auditorium (Photos 14, 15, & 16) with a small stage at its west end. Four classrooms (Photos 17 & 18) with small cloakrooms (Photo 19) occupy the four corners of the building. Additions to the original 1926 building include girls' and boys' restrooms at the east and west ends of the building, respectively, and a small storage room on the rear elevation. It is accessed by an exterior entrance on its east elevation (Photos 15 & 19; See Floor Plan).

Most of the interior features and finishes are intact. Original wood floors remain, covered with carpet in the main corridor, auditorium, and classrooms. The walls are plaster on wood lath. A chair rail is found in the hallways (Photo 13).

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Ten-foot, tongue-and-groove ceilings with step and crown molding remain exposed in all but the principal's and secretary's offices (Photo 11). The restrooms are unaltered.

Natural ventilation and light were provided for the interior with the placement of numerous windows, including 6-light hopper windows in the corridor walls of the classrooms (Photos 13 & 17).

ALTERATIONS

The first major alteration to the school was the addition of modern restrooms at the east and west ends of the buildings (Photos 7 & 8). These were built in the early 1930s by the order of health officials to replace a latrine which was located toward the rear of the campus. The school has always had electricity. Before 1938, however, it was powered by a generator housed in a small building to the rear of the main building. The school was originally heated by wood burning stoves in each classroom and the auditorium. In 1940, the stoves were converted to fuel oil.

The exterior configuration of the Fort Braden School has changed little since the early 1930s. The original roof, probably asbestos, has been replaced with asphalt shingles. The exterior was sandblasted and repainted in the late 1980s.

Most of the other changes are minor alterations made in 1975. On the exterior, these include the enclosure and stuccoing of the foundation, which conceals heating and air conditioning and meets fire codes, and the addition of the small storage room on the rear of the main building (Photo 9).

On the interior, there have been changes in the uses of some of the rooms, but no major structural changes. The auditorium was converted into a library (Photo 15), and the stage was enclosed with plasterboard to create a teachers' workroom (Photo 20). The northeast classroom was converted into a lunchroom, the northwest classroom became a clinic/office, and the principal's office was remodelled with panelling and lowered ceilings (Photo 11). Carpeting, which covers the original wood floors in the classrooms and main corridor, was also installed in 1975.

The grounds were changed slightly with the construction of the basketball-tennis courts on the west side of the campus in 1955 (Photo 4). Modern portable buildings have been on the

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campus since 1975. Covered walkways (Photo 9) were built between the main building and the portables c1990.

In spite of these changes, the historic character and feeling of the school remain in its proportions, plan, and setting. The original ten foot, tongue-and-groove ceilings remain exposed except in the principal's office, and most of the original hardware, windows, and interior finishes remain in place.

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Old Fort Braden School, Leon Co., FL

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SUMMARY

The Old Fort Braden Elementary School, built in 1926, is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Education as the oldest rural school building in Leon County. It played a vital role in the education of children in western Leon County, particularly in the unincorporated community of Fort Braden, and is an example of the schools that were built in an effort to consolidate the numerous one-room school houses that once dotted the rural areas of the county.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Florida constitution of 1885 introduced the concept of the special school tax district, in effect laying the groundwork for the modern school system. This legislation granted citizens in these newly created special tax districts the authority to levy a three to five mill tax on property to support public schools in their tax district. Ironically, this liberal piece of legislation also reaffirmed the practice of separate schools for the races. Initially, Leon County had only two districts, Tallahassee and Miccosukee, but in the 1920s, four new districts were created: District 3, Chaires; District 5, Woodville; District 6, Moore; and District 8, Fort Braden.

The Fort Braden community traces its beginnings to the erection of a fort along the Ochlockonee River in 1839, during the Second Seminole War. Designed to protect settlers west of Tallahassee from Indians, the fort was abandoned at the conclusion of the war in 1842. The rural farming community which had grown up around the structure adopted the fort's name shortly thereafter.

School consolidation and transportation were vitally important to the creation of the Fort Braden School. Prior to consolidation, only single room schoolhouses dotted the western portion of the county, and the education offered at these small schools was inferior to that provided at the schools within the City of Tallahassee. With consolidation, rural students would attend larger, centrally located schools in their respective regions of the county. Attempts at consolidation at the turn of the century failed, however, primarily due to the lack of adequate road systems that were needed to transport students to these central locations.

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Only in the boomtime 1920s, with the advent of the motorized school bus and improved roadways, did the twenty year old dream of consolidation become a reality. Within the next twenty-five years, the number of white schools in Leon County decreased from thirty to eight. In 1923, the school board approved a \$150,000 bond issue to construct the elaborate Mediterranean Revival style Caroline Brevard Elementary School in Tallahassee (NR 1987). Building continued until 1941, with new buildings constructed for Fort Braden Elementary, 1926; Chaires Elementary, 1929; Sealy Memorial Elementary, 1929; Leon High, 1937 (NR 1993); Miccosukee Elementary, 1941; and Woodville Elementary, 1941.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

In June 1926, the trustees of the newly formulated Special Tax District #8, in the western portion of the county, had requested the consolidation of all schools in the district, except for the Campbelle, Springhill, and Hale schools. The school board approved the motion to provide the district's white students with a new multi-room schoolhouse.

The site of the four classroom Fort Braden School could not be determined until the path of the new Jackson Bluff Road was decided. The east-west Jackson Bluff Road also provided the area's older students access to the county's only white high school, Leon High, located in Tallahassee, eighteen miles to the east.

For the sum of \$244.25, the school board employed local Tallahassee architect E. D. Fitchner to prepare the architectural plans for the school. Fifteen thousand dollars in time warrants were issued for construction of the Fort Braden School. Due to this limited appropriation, the construction bid process yielded only two bids: C. C. Brown Construction, \$16,764 and Parker and Yeager Construction, \$15,650. Construction began in September and reached completion shortly before Christmas, 1926.

Rural Fort Braden's frame vernacular building seems unsophisticated and frugal when compared to other elementary schools constructed in Leon County during the 1920s. For instance, the Caroline Brevard and Chaires elementary schools each cost ten times more than the \$15,000 allocated for Fort Braden. Such disparity can only be attributed to variations of wealth among the county's communities. The highly decorative Caroline Brevard school, in Tallahassee, and the brick Chaires

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school in eastern Leon County, were located in more affluent communities.

Although Fort Braden's entire building was not fully utilized until the 1927-28 school year, a single room within the building served nearby students in January of 1927 until the end of that term. I. G. Foraker was appointed as the school's first principal in 1927, and served in that position until his resignation in 1933.

Throughout the ensuing decades, the Fort Braden School served the area as an educational facility and a public meeting place. In 1991, because of Fort Braden Elementary's continued student growth, the Leon County School Board decided to construct a new Fort Braden school on State Road 20, one mile east of the present site. The old Fort Braden School is now vacant, but will probably continue to be used by the community. The remaining portable buildings and covered walkways will be removed.

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Note: For purposes of photograph identification, the main elevation is identified as N, rather than NW, the rear as S, etc.

- 1 1) Fort Braden School
- 2) Leon County, Florida
- 3) Barbara E. Mattick
- 4) November 1993
- 5) Bureau of Historic Preservation, Tallahassee
- 6) Main (N) elevation, camera facing S
- 7) 1 of 20

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

- 2 6) E elevation, showing present outbuildings at rear of campus, camera facing W
- 3 6) 1920s pump house (L) and a portable building (R), camera facing SW
- 4 6) W elevation, camera facing E
- 5 6) Playground, camera facing W toward school building
- 6 6) Main entrance, camera facing S
- 7 6) W restroom addition and main (N) elevation, camera facing SE
- 8 6) W and S (rear) elevations, camera facing NE
- 9 6) Rear storage room and exit, camera facing NW
- 10 6) Foyer, camera facing N
- 11 6) Secretary's Office, camera facing SW
- 12 6) Kitchen, camera facing S
- 13 6) Main corridor, camera facing E
- 14 6) Auditorium/Library, camera facing SE
- 15 6) Auditorium/Library showing enclosed stage, camera facing SW

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- 16 6) Auditorium/Library, camera facing NE
- 17 6) Classroom/Lunchroom; camera facing SE
- 18 6) Typical classroom; camera facing SW
- 19 6) Typical cloak room; camera facing E
- 20 6) Stage/Teacher Workroom, camera facing S

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chang, Penny, "School Bell Will Keep Ringing At Fort Braden, Board Rules," Tallahassee Democrat, 17 December 1986.

Cochran, Thomas Everette. History Of Public-School Education In Florida. Tallahassee, FL: State Department of Education, 1921.

Ellis, Mary Louise and Rogers, William Warren. Tallahassee and Leon County: A History and Bibliography. Tallahassee, FL: Florida Department of State, 1986.

Florida. Department of Education. Office of Educational Facilities. School Facilities Inventory, Fort Braden School, File Number 06033, 1991.

Leon County. School Board Minutes [1926-1933].

Rhodes, Francis A., "A History of Education in Leon County, Florida," Master's Thesis, University of Florida, 1946.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Township 1 South, Range 3 West, Section 4. Please see Site Plan.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the area that has been historically associated with the property.