NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

OMB No. 1024-0018 RECEIVED 2280 22

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and this recipies and this recipies and this recipies in the properties 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

1. Name of Property
historic name HOMELAND SCHOOL
other names/site number FMSF# PO262
2. Location
street & number 249 Church Avenue N/A not for publication city or town Homeland N/A vicinity
state Florida code FL county Polk code 109 zip code 33847
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this \(\triangle \) nomination \(\triangle \) 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 \(\triangle \) meets \(\triangle \) does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \(\triangle \) nationally \(\triangle \) statewide \(\triangle \) locally. (\(\triangle \) See continuation sheet for additional comments.) \(\triangle \)
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 A Notifical Park Samina Contification
4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that the property is: Osignature of the Keeper Date of Action 2 2 7 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)

Homeland School		Polk Co., FL				
Name of Property			County and State			
5. Classification						
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)				
☐ private ☑ public-local	buildings district	Contributing	Noncontribu	ting		
☐ public-State ☐ public-Federal	☐ site ☐ structure ☐ object	1	0	buildings		
	_ osject	0	0	sites		
		0	0	structures objects		
		1	0	total		
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of	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)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)				
EDUCATION: School		RECREATION AND C	ULTURE: Museum			
7. Description						
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from	n instructions)			
OTHER: Frame Vernacular		foundation <u>BRIC</u> walls <u>WOOD</u>	K			
		roof <u>ASPHALT</u> other				

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Homeland School	Polk Co., FL
Name of Property	County and State
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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
NA Donate Comment of the Alberta of	EDUCATION
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	ARCHITECTURE
□ 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.	Period of Significance
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations	Significant Dates
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	1878-1879
Property is:	1910
□ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person N/A
■ B removed from its original location.	
	Cultural Affiliation
C a birthplace or grave.	N/A
D a cemetery.	
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
☐ F a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder Unknown
☐ 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 Previous documentation on file (NPS):	more continuation sheets.) Primary location of additional data:
☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36	State Historic Preservation Office
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record	#

Homeland School Name of Property	Polk Co., FL County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property less than one	
UTM References (Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 7 4 1 8 3 8 0 3 0 7 7 2 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	t.)
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Hacking, Gary/Jessica Forbes, Robert O. Jones, His	storic Preservationist
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation	date December 2006
street & number 500 South Brounough Street	telephone <u>850-245-6333</u>
city or town Tallahassee	state zip code
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	f 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 Polk County Board of County Commissioners	
street & number 330 West Church Street	telephone
city or town Bartow	state FL zip code 33830

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this 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.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	Page	1	HOMELAND SCHOOL, HOMELAND, POLK
				COUNTY, FLORIDA

SUMMARY

The Homeland School is located at 249 Church Avenue, Homeland, Polk County, Florida. It is on the southeast corner of a five acre plot of land currently known as the Homeland Heritage Park. The building was constructed in 1878, and relocated in 1879 approximately one mile from its original location. An addition onto the east end of the original building in 1910 gave the schoolhouse its "L" shaped footprint. Care was taken on the part of the 1910 builder to match the addition to give the building a uniform appearance. The one-story Frame Vernacular school has covered porches on the south and east elevations. A handicapped access ramp is located on the northeast corner of the building.

SETTING

Homeland, Florida, is located six miles south of Bartow, the county seat of Polk County, and one mile west of the Peace River. Once the center of an expansive frontier farming community, the town of Homeland is now surrounded by reclaimed phosphate strip mines. The Homeland Heritage Park consists of the school building and four additional buildings: the Homeland Methodist Church (1887), the Raulerson Farm House (1900), the English Family Log Cabin, and the Pole Barn (1890) (see Homeland Park diagram). These local buildings were moved to the park, and the school is the only building in the park that remains in its historic location. The historic character of the community of Homeland is much as it was in the early part of the twentieth century when phosphate mining dominated the local economy.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION Exterior

The entire building is of wood construction with framing of rough sawn pine and cypress. The building is supported on piers of both sand brick and clay brick. The exterior of the school is clad with 1x6 clapboard siding. The doors are wood paneled of various styles, including the exterior doors with five horizontal panels. The interior doors have two-over-two panels. The windows are filled with 2/2 double-hung wooden sashes. There are two sizes of windows. The glass of the windows is putty glazed. There are no screens over the windows as, historically, there were no screens on the windows when it was used as a school. The windows are the major form of ventilation for the building.

The <u>south elevation</u> features the original 1878 schoolhouse or southern wing (Photo #1). A centrally located porch with shed roof, supported by five square posts, and accessed by three steps occupies the middle portion of the elevation. Wooden railings run the length of the porch on either side of the steps. From the porch there are three doors leading to the interior of the school's three original classrooms. There are six windows on the south elevation; two front onto the porch and two are on either side of the porch.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	Page	2	HOMELAND SCHOOL, HOMELAND, POLK
				COUNTY, FLORIDA

The <u>east elevation</u> is the façade fronting onto Church Avenue, and features the eastern wing (1910 addition) (Photo #2). A covered porch runs the length of the wing, with a set of three steps providing access to the porch. Wooden railings run the length of the porch on either side of the steps. On the south side of the porch is a pair of doors with five horizontal panels. Near the center of the porch is a single door with five horizontal panels. There are five windows fronting on the porch. There is a handicapped ramp that extends from the north end of the porch. The south end is the gable end of the original school, and it contains two windows and an exterior brick chimney. A rectangular louvered vent is in the gable peak.

The <u>north elevation</u> has the gable end of the eastern wing (Photo #3), and the rear wall of the southern wing. The gable end has two windows in the wall, and a rectangular wooden louvered vent in the gable peak. On the rear wall of the southern wing there are two exterior brick chimneys, three windows, and a single paneled door.

The <u>west elevation</u> has the gable end of the southern wing (Photo #4), and rear wall of the eastern wing (Photo #5). The gable end has two windows in the wall, and a rectangular wooden louvered vent in the gable peak. The wall of the eastern wing has five windows, and a single paneled door near the north corner.

Interior

The interior has pine wooden flooring, and beaded board walls and ceilings (Photo #6). The "L" shape of Homeland School lent itself to a variety of student uses. The school is divided into five separate rooms, each with at least one door leading to the exterior. The eastern wing is divided into two separate rooms that were referred to as classrooms 101 and 102. The original 1878 wing can be divided into three rooms or left open to serve as a large assembly hall. These three classrooms are referred to as classrooms 103, 104, and 105.

The westernmost portion of the southern wing is known as classroom 105 (Photo #7). The floor of the room sits above the floor level of the rest of the building, allowing it to be used as a stage when wall partitions are open. A built-in cabinet is located in the southwest corner. The room has two windows in the north wall, and two windows and a door leading to the south porch in the south wall. There are two blackboards in the classroom, one mounted on the south wall and one on the west wall.

The middle portion of the south wing, classroom 104, could be partitioned off from the classrooms to the west and to the east (Photo #8). Classroom 103 at the east end of the wing also has a stage with two steps at its western edge. There is an entrance door to rooms 103 and 104 from the south porch, and four windows along the south wall. There are two windows within the east wall on either side of a centrally located blackboard.

The eastern wing (1910 addition) contains classrooms 101 and 102 that are currently used as exhibit spaces. In the southern room (#102) the east wall has two windows, and a double door that opens onto the eastern porch. A broom closet is in the southeast corner of the room next to a set of stairs leading to a door that goes onto the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	Page	3	HOMELAND SCHOOL, HOMELAND, POLK
				COUNTY, FLORIDA

stage in classroom 103 (Photo #9). There is an oversized door (Photo #4) in the south wall leading to room 103, and three windows are in the west wall (Photo #10). There is a door on the north wall leading to room 101. Classroom 101 currently contains a general store exhibit. Room 101 has three windows in the east wall. There are two windows in the north wall (Photo #11). The west wall contains two windows and a door (Photo #12).

ALTERATIONS

Built in 1878, the original school building was moved a mile to this site in 1879. In 1910 the east wing was added to the building. Repairs were made to the building in 2002 and 2003 using restoration funds from the State of Florida. During the restoration, the entire roof was replaced with tin shingles of the same design and measurements as the original shingles. The level of architectural integrity is very high.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	8	Page	1	HOMELAND SCHOOL, HOMELAND, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

SUMMARY

Homeland School is nominated to the National Register for local significance under Criteria A and C in the areas of Education and Architecture. Homeland, known as Bethel before 1885, was settled in the mid-19th century by farmers and cattlemen. The Homeland School, once referred to as Bethel Academy, was built in 1878. The building was moved in 1879 to where it is now, approximately one mile from its original location. The Homeland School served as a public school until 1956 when the Polk County School Board closed it and used the facility as a repair shop for school equipment. The Frame Vernacular school is an excellent example of a small rural school, its construction and its innovative spatial arrangements. The rooms containing stages and movable partitions provided for versatile uses. The Homeland School building is the oldest remaining public school building in Polk County.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

As early as 1854, a sparsely settled community of farmers and cattlemen lived in the area of modern Homeland. The area was then a part of Hillsborough County with Tampa as the county seat. A United States government survey conducted that year lists homesteads for the prominent pioneer families, the Durrances, Parkers and Carltons. Early settlers encountered wild growing citrus fruit when they arrived in the Peace River area and quickly began cultivating and developing citrus groves. Throughout the late 19th century, Homeland was largely associated with the citrus industry, and new settlement continued throughout the 1850s and into the Civil War. In 1860 the first and most influential public institution was the Bethel Methodist Campground. For many years, the Bethel Methodist Church served as the center of the community, provided a school, and gave the community its name, and the Methodist Campground provided a venue for annual gatherings held each October. This was the early location of a Bethel Academy school. These meetings were significant for both social and religious reasons, so much so that they continued to be held throughout the Third Seminole War and American Civil War.2 The camp meetings continued through 1883 when the construction of more churches in the community replaced the campground as a gathering place. During the 1880s, the railroad was built beside the town, the name Homeland was adopted in 1883, and the town grew. At the same time, the discovery of phosphate in the area led to the establishment of phosphate and fertilizer companies that caused an economic boom in the 1890s. During the twentieth century the population of Homeland declined as did the school enrollment, as the phosphate industry purchased land surrounding Homeland from residents.

¹ Freddie Wright. "Homeland Heritage Park," Polk County Historical Quarterly 17, no. 4 (March 1991): 2.

² Brown, Florida's Peace River Frontier, 216.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	8	Page _	2	HOMELAND SCHOOL, HOMELAND, POLK
				COUNTY, FLORIDA

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

In spring of 1878, John Snoddy arrived in Homeland and began to teach a small group of students. Under Snoddy's tutelage the attendance grew from 5 to 60 students within four months, and within those four months the newly constructed Homeland School building opened. The Homeland School, then known as the Bethel Academy, was constructed near the Bethel Methodist Campground. In 1879, Snoddy moved to nearby Fort Meade, Florida. The summer after his departure, the school building was moved approximately one mile from its original location to its current location within the town proper. The school then reopened with Daniel C. Kantz as the teacher. By 1910 the student population had grown to over 100 students and an addition was made to the school in 1910 giving the building its "L" shaped footprint. The 1910, expansion came at the height of phosphate discovery, and after that time the demand for phosphate led to the depopulation of the once thriving farming community.

In 1956 the school board closed the school and utilized the building as a repair shop for school equipment for the next several decades.⁴ The building served in that capacity until 1985 when the school board deeded the Homeland School building and surrounding five acres to the Polk County Historical Commission and Polk County Historical Association to develop a heritage park. The Homeland School is the cornerstone of the Homeland Heritage Park, used as a museum, as a venue for the "1880's School Day Program," and as an assembly hall for historic programs. In its current capacity, the Homeland School building is a physical link to the past that will continue to be used to educate the public to the history of the region.

The Homeland School is the oldest remaining public school building in Polk County. Like the Bethel Church, the Homeland School was an important institution on the Peace River frontier south of Bartow. Not only was the school used to educate the area's children, it also served as the town meeting hall and twice a month the community church. Education was supported by the community, and historian Canter Brown reveals that the Homeland School was a well known and respected institution in his description of the area as it was in the 1800s, he states "A remarkable community by frontier standards, Homeland was respected as an educational and teacher training center thanks to its Bethel Academy." John Snoody, the first teacher in the Homeland School building, was known to employ innovative methods for educating students, particularly the use of music as a teaching aid. Snoody's methods, like the physical plan of the school, indicate an increasingly progressive approach to education taken in Homeland in the late 19th century.

³ "Homeland Heritage Park." Polk County Historical Quarterly, Volume 21, June 1994, p.1.

⁴ Ibid, p.2.

⁵ Ibid, p.1.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	8	Page	3	HOMELAND SCHOOL, HOMELAND, POLK
	-			COUNTY, FLORIDA

The school's growth paralleled that of the region as it went from an open frontier to a cultivated land rich in citrus, to a vast, strip mined region. As more children began attending the school, the building doubled in size to accommodate the students. With the 1910 addition and partitions between classrooms, the students could be separated by class and curriculums for each age group. From 1878 until its closure in 1956, the school taught children from the first grade through the eighth grade, providing generations of the region's residents with their educational foundation. Many of the Homeland School's pupils, both black and white, became teachers in the Tampa Bay area and educated generations of residents. Serving as an important center of frontier education, social, and religious life, the Homeland School building is a very significant remnant of late nineteenth century Central Florida frontier life.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Frame vernacular construction techniques and forms are used by lay or self-taught builders. The industrial revolution permitted a standardization of building materials and parts which exerted a pervasive influence over vernacular house design. Popular magazines disseminated information about building trends and styles throughout the country, and railroads provided affordable distribution of manufactured building products. Locally available materials and suitability to the environment usually influenced the construction. Vernacular building trends are significant for their ability to define unique regional and local characteristics.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Prior to the construction of the Homeland School, Peace River and Tampa Bay area schoolhouses were primarily log buildings, or, as Homeland's early school building was described by teacher John Snoddy, "a board shanty." These modest one room log buildings had limited space and facilities. The Homeland School is a frame vernacular building constructed from local heart pine trees milled by a Henry Wilson and his father. It was built with an arrangement specific to its use as a school. The construction of the Homeland School indicates a desire to move towards a more modern school facility in that the structure, though constructed in 1878, possesses a number of elements of what would become popular school architecture in the early 20th century. Windows placed on all sides of the structure provided for better ventilation and lighting. The raised platform and moveable walls allowed for both the creation of separate classrooms for separate age groups and the ability to create an assembly hall for school and community assemblies. This multi-functional approach to school architecture was ideal for rural schools that did not have a need for separate auditoriums and classrooms, but occasionally needed an assembly space. The Homeland School retains a high degree of physical integrity, and conveys its significance through its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and associations.

⁶ Canter Brown, Fort Meade, 1849-1900. (Tuscaloosa, AL: The University of Alabama Press, 1995), 76.

Accessed 2006.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number _	9	Page _	1	HOMELAND SCHOOL, HOMELAND, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA
BIBLIOGRAPHY				
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Beedle, June, "The H	Iomeland	l School," (ı	ınpublis	hed) (located Polk County Genealogical Library, Bartow).
Brown, Canter. Flori	da's Peac	ce River Fro	ntier. O	rlando, Florida: University of Central Florida Press, 1991.
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Brown, Canter. <u>In th</u> Florida: Sent			Makes L	ife Worth Living, Polk County, Florida To 1940. Tallahassee
Brown, Canter. Non University of				s, Polk County, Florida 1940-2000. Tampa, Florida
•	•			n in the United States."

- Hettie, L., E.W. Whatley, Martha Snell, and Dwight Wilson, interview, September 22, 2005. (Daily schedule of the Homeland School).
- "Homeland Heritage Park, "Polk County Historical Quarterly, June 1994, Vol. 21, #1, p8.
- Wright, Freddie. "Homeland Heritage Park." <u>Polk County Historical Quarterly</u>, Vol. 17, #4, March 1991, pp 1-3.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	10	Page	1	HOMELAND SCHOOL, HOMELAND,
				POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Parcel "A": Block Two, less 144 feet off the West end of said Block two, of Homeland, Florida according to Plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 1, page 5B, public records of Polk County Florida. Polk County Property Appraiser parcel # 253104431500002004. The National Register boundary is a rectangular portion of this parcel that extends 195' from the southeast corner along the south boundary to the north/south sidewalk, and north along the sidewalk 174' to the large tree north of the school and south of the barn.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Parcel "A" consisting of approximately 5 acres has been historically associated with the Homeland School. The non-historic placement of local historic buildings onto the parcel of land has altered the setting and integrity of the school's site. An arbitrary boundary of 195' on the south and north, and 174' on the east and west, provides the immediate historic setting for the school.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	Photo	Page	1	HOMELAND SCHOOL, HOMELAND, POLK
				COUNTY, FLORIDA

PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST

- 1. Homeland School, 249 Church Ave., Homeland
- 2. Polk County, Florida
- 3. Gary Hacking
- 4. October 2004
- 5. Homeland Heritage Park, Homeland
- 6. South elevation, looking north
- 7. Photo #1 of 12

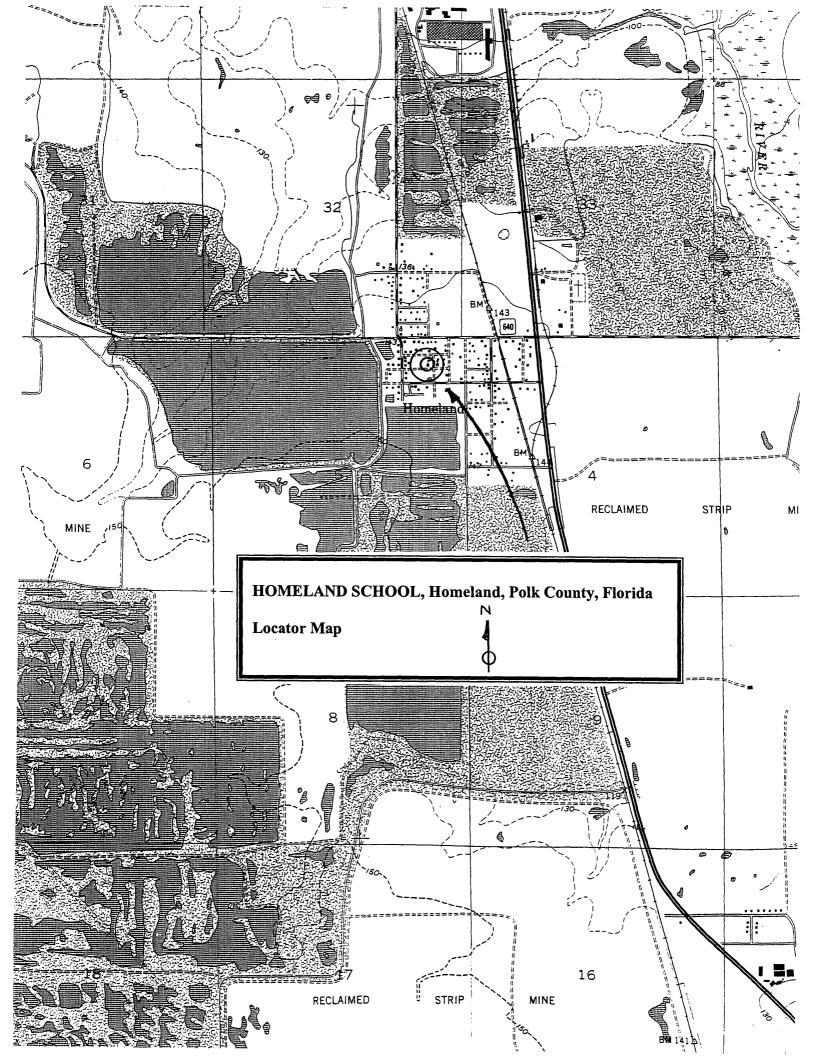
Items 1-5 are the same for the following photographs.

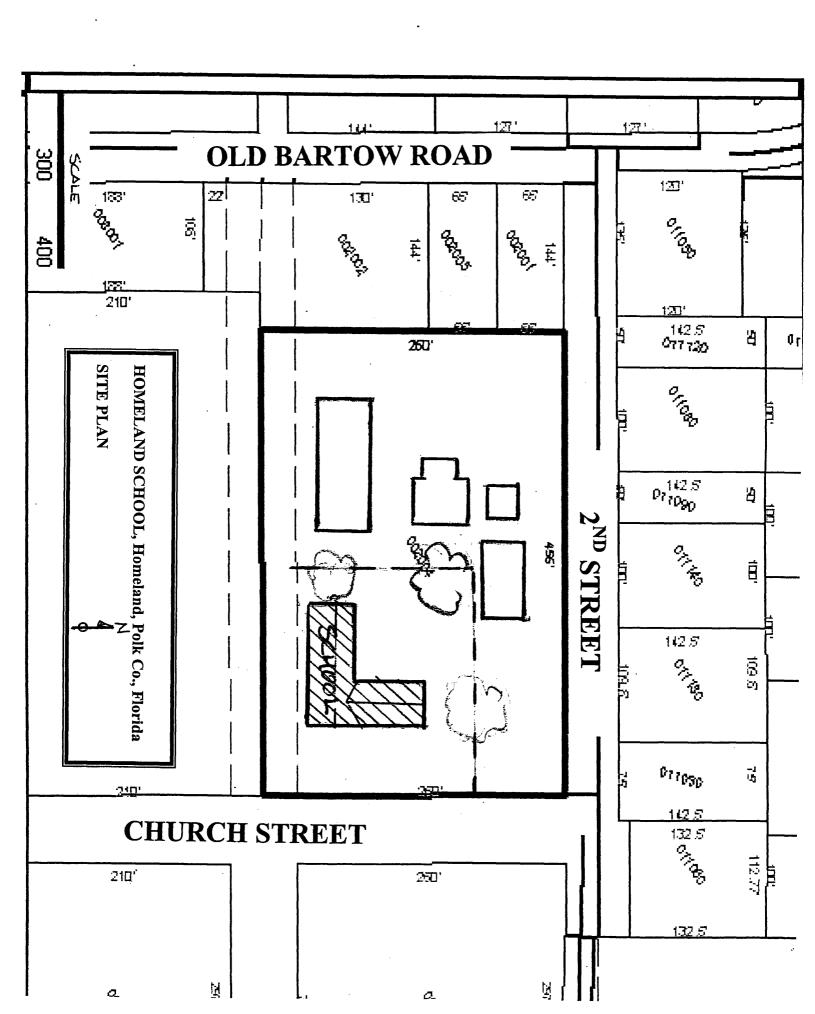
- 6. East, façade fronting Church Avenue, looking southwest
- 7. Photo #2 of 12
- 6. North elevation, looking south
- 7. Photo #3 of 12
- 6. West elevation, west gable end, looking east
- 7. Photo #4 of 12
- 6. West elevation, east wing, looking east
- 7. Photo #5 of 12
- 6. Interior, beaded board wall and ceiling, looking east
- 7. Photo #6 of 12
- 6. West end of the south wing, looking west
- 7. Photo #7 of 12
- 6. East end of the south wing, looking east
- 7. Photo #8 of 12
- 6. Door onto stage at east end of south wing, looking south
- 7. Photo #9 of 12
- 6. East wing, room 102, and door into south wing room 103, looking south
- 7. Photo #10 of 12

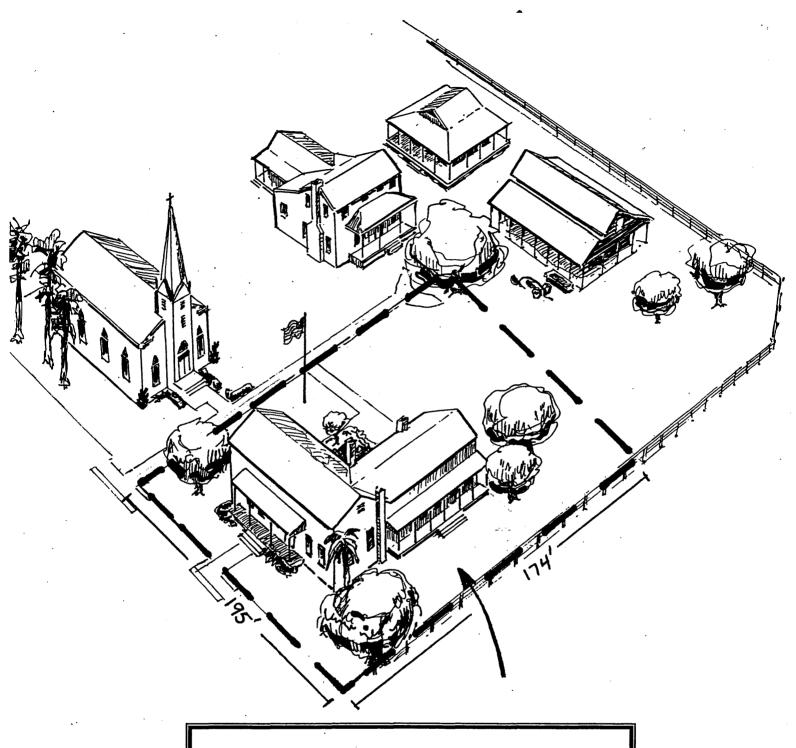
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	Photo	Page	2	HOMELAND SCHOOL, HOMELAND, POLK
				COUNTY, FLORIDA

- 6. North wall of east wing, looking north
- 7. Photo #11 of 12
- 6. West wall and door of room 101, looking northwest
- 7. Photo #12 of 12







HOMELAND SCHOOL, Homeland, Polk County, Florida
School within Homeland Park

