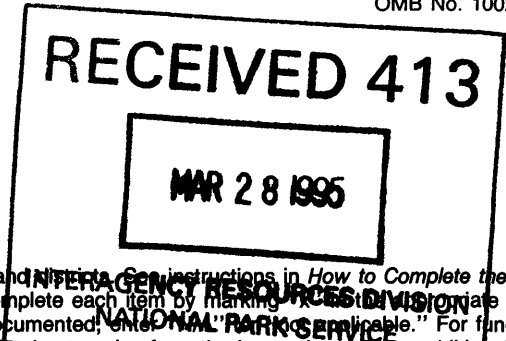


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A". 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 OLGA SCHOOL

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number South Olga Road n/a not for publication

city or town Olga n/a vicinity

state Florida code FL county Lee code 071 zip code 33902

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 3/21/95
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:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

Edson A. Beall
Signature of the Keeper
Date of Action 4-27-95
Entered in the
National Register

Olga School
Name of Property

Lee County, Fl.
County and State

5. Classification LEVEL

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)
Category of Property (Check only one box)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object |

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	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

0

Historic Resources of Lee County, Florida

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/ School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/ Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls stucco
roof asphalt
other terra-cotta

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1927-1938

Significant Dates

1927

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: W.O. Sparklin

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Olga School
Name of Property

Lee County, Fl.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approx. 3 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	4 2 9 0 8 0	2 9 5 5 1 8 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 Stephen Olausen/ Sherry Piland, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date March 1995

street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough 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 _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

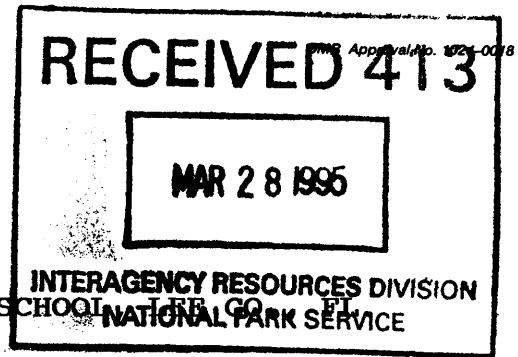
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain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

OLGA SCHOOL, LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Olga School is located on South Olga Road in the unincorporated town of Olga, Lee County, Florida. The one-story, Mediterranean Revival style school was constructed with a hollow tile structural system. The building has a truncated T-shaped plan. The exterior wall fabric is rough stucco and the building sits on a raised concrete foundation. The roof of the building is flat and encircled by a shaped parapet with tin coping. The Olga School contributes to the Historic Resources of Lee County, Florida, multiple property group under property type F.3., **Education Buildings.**

Setting

The Olga School is located on approximately three acres of land along the west side of South Olga Road. The building is set back approximately forty-five feet from the road on the northern half of the lot (photo 1). The property is planted with a variety of bushes and trees, including oak, palm, pine, and cypress. Vacant lots are to the north, south, and west of the school; to the east is an orange grove. Following its conversion to use as a community center in the 1960s, several landscape features have been added to the grounds, including tennis and shuffleboard courts, a picnic area, playground, and a non-contributing concrete block utility shed (photo 2). The southern half of the lot contains a sand and shell parking area.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The main facade of the Olga School faces east (photo 3). The entrance is set within a terra-cotta surround terminating in a decorative pediment with pointed urn finials resting on a simple entablature (photo 4). A fanlight is located above the glass entry door. Two casement windows are located on each side of the entrance. These windows are set in rectangular openings with masonry sills. Those closest to the door have six lights and those near the corners have twelve lights. Two original brass light fixtures flank the entrance.

The north and south elevations of the building are identical in their architectural composition (photos 5 and 6). The most

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Continuation Sheet

OLGA SCHOOL, LEE CO., FL.

Section number 7 Page 2

prominent feature is a large rectangular recessed panel with a masonry sill. Within this panel are two metal sash replacement windows. Hooded vents extend from the roof line above the panels. Original tin downspouts are located at the corners of each side elevation.

The rear (west) elevation contains a rectangular recessed panel similar to those found on the sides of the building (photo 7). This panel contains three metal sash replacement windows and is flanked by rectangular entrances. Each entrance is topped by a rectangular six-light transom (photo 8). Exterior chimneys are located at the corners of the rear elevation. The parapet between them is shaped.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the Olga School is in excellent condition and retains much of its original appearance. The interior is divided into eight rooms that are accessed through a U-shaped hallway. The front entrance leads to a foyer with an elongated arch that opens into the main north-south running hallway (photo 9). Directly across from the foyer is the primary entrance to the auditorium. A small stage, elevated about two feet from the floor, is at the south end of the auditorium (photo 10). Original blackboards are located on the north and east walls of the auditorium (photo 11). A kitchen adjoins the foyer on the south and restrooms are located to the north. The north wing of the building contains a classroom, office, and storage area, while the south wing consists of a single large classroom (photo 12).

The rooms within the Olga School retain their original configuration. The walls are finished with textured plaster and the floors are tongue-and-groove pine. The original two-panel wood doors are still in place, as are the pine baseboards and door moldings.

ALTERATIONS

The most significant alteration to the Olga School is the removal of the original windows on the sides and rear of the building. In 1964 the rectangular openings where the original

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

OLGA SCHOOL, LEE CO., FL.

Section number 7 Page 3

windows were located were filled with concrete block and small metal sash windows were installed. All of the original exterior doors have also been replaced with modern aluminum and plate glass doors.

The only significant alterations to the interior also occurred during the 1964 remodelling. A wall dividing the south classroom into two rooms was removed. Drop ceilings were installed to provide space for air conditioning ducts. Two doors that led from the stage to the south hallway were removed and filled in.

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Continuation Sheet

OLGA SCHOOL, LEE CO., FL.

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Olga School is locally significant under criteria A and C. It contributes to the Historic Resources of Lee County, Florida, multiple property group under property type F.3, **Education Buildings** and historic context III, **The Florida Land Boom, 1919-1927**. It is one of only a handful of buildings dating from the historic period that survive in the community and is the only surviving historic educational building in Olga. The Olga School has further significance under criterion C as an example of the work of local architect W. O. Sparklin and as the only surviving Mediterranean Revival style building the community.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Olga School was constructed as part of a general educational facility expansion initiated in Lee County during the Florida Land Boom years of the mid-1920s. High school enrollment in the county increased from 1,984 to 3,495 between 1924 and 1927. A similar increase in the lower grades caused severe overcrowding in what had become an antiquated system of small wood frame school buildings, most of which had been constructed in the 1890s and early 1900s. In response, the City of Fort Myers and the Lee County School Board undertook an ambitious program to construct new school buildings, upgrade equipment, and hire more qualified teachers. Fourteen new schools were constructed in the county during the Land Boom years, raising the total number of classrooms from eighty-seven in 1924 to 166 in 1927. Of the 137 teachers employed by the School Board in 1927, 101 were college graduates or had received two years of normal school training.

The most significant expenditure for new school construction was authorized under a \$983,000 bond issue let by the City of Fort Myers and Lee County in May 1926. Fort Myers was to receive the bulk of the funds for a \$750,000 school and a \$100,000 apartment building to house teachers. Other areas that were targeted for new schools were Tice, Bonita Springs, Estero, Alva, and Olga. All of the new school buildings were to be designed in the "Spanish style," incorporating large, well lit classrooms, auditoriums, and the most up-to-date educational equipment. The

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Continuation Sheet**

OLGA SCHOOL, LEE CO., FL.

Section number 8 Page 2

School Board also stipulated that only local firms be employed in the construction of the schools.

In March 1927 the Lee County School Board voted to advertise for bids for the construction of elementary school buildings at Olga, Bonita Springs, and Estero and a high school at Alva. In the next month eleven bids were received by the Board for the erection of an elementary school at Olga. Local contractor Edward W. Goodman was chosen to execute the design of the school's architect, W. O. Sparklin of Fort Myers. The land for the school was acquired in late April when the Board purchased three acres from Olga residents Ila and B.F. Walker. Construction commenced immediately after the property was acquired.

By the time the Olga School was completed in August 1927, the county was beginning to feel the effects of the collapse of the land boom. The onslaught of the Great Depression two years later took a heavy toll on Florida's rural agricultural communities, including Olga. The demise of the Olga School during the Great Depression is linked to broader trends in Florida's Depression Era history. As in other rural agricultural-based communities, Olga lost much its population during the Depression as locals were forced to abandon their farms to seek employment in the city. The Depression caused prices for locally produced crops to plunge and many people were forced to seek work or relief in Fort Myers or other cities. By 1931 the Olga School required only one teacher to administer a meager enrollment of thirteen pupils. In the ensuing seven years the total number of pupils never rose to more than nineteen and in 1938 the school was closed. The community did not fully recover until well after World War II.

The Olga school remained vacant until 1949 when the School Board leased it to the Olga Church for worship services at a cost of \$25.00 per year. In 1964 the school was leased to the community of Olga and converted to use as a community center. The building was remodelled and equipped with air conditioning. Tennis and shuffleboard courts, a picnic area, and a playground were added to the grounds.

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OLGA SCHOOL, LEE CO., FL.

Section number 8 Page 3

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The school's architect, W.O. Sparklin, was one of two Fort Myers architects selected by the School Board to execute plans for the education facilities that were to be constructed under the 1926 bond issue. His previous work in Fort Myers included designs for the Fort Myers Elk's Club building, the Starnes building in East Fort Myers, and a number of the city's residences.

When it opened for the 1927-1928 school year, the Olga School had four spacious classrooms, an auditorium, indoor bathroom facilities, and an office. Those features, reflecting contemporary architectural concepts in school design, were intended to promote a healthy and functional learning environment. Through its shaped parapet, textured stucco exterior wall fabric, and decorative terra-cotta door surround, the Olga School also reflects the extension of the Mediterranean Revival influence into the rural communities of south Florida in the Boom period of the 1920s. Although relatively modest in scale and architectural detail, the Olga School retains its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship to a high degree.

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OLGA SCHOOL, LEE CO., FL.

Section number 9 Page 1

Board, Prudy Taylor and Patricia Pope Bartlett. Lee County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk and Virginia Beach, Virginia: Donning Company, 1985.

Fort Myers Press, 9 September 1926; 30 April 1927.

Grismer, Karl H. The Story of Fort Myers. Fort Myers Beach, Florida: Island Press Publishers, 1982. Facsimile reproduction of 1949 edition.

Lee County School Board. Minutes, 1926-1927.

Stone, Donald O. and Beth W. Carter. The First 100 Years: Lee County Public Schools, 1887-1987. Fort Myers, Florida: Department of Printing, School Board of Lee County, 1987.

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Continuation Sheet**

OLGA SCHOOL, LEE CO., FL.

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Begin at a point 877 feet north of the southeast corner of Section 21, Township 43 South, Range 26 East, then proceed as follows: west at a 90 degree angle 522.72 feet, then north at a 90 degree angle 250 feet, then east at a 90 degree angle 522.72 feet, then south at a 90 degree angle to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Olga School.

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Continuation Sheet

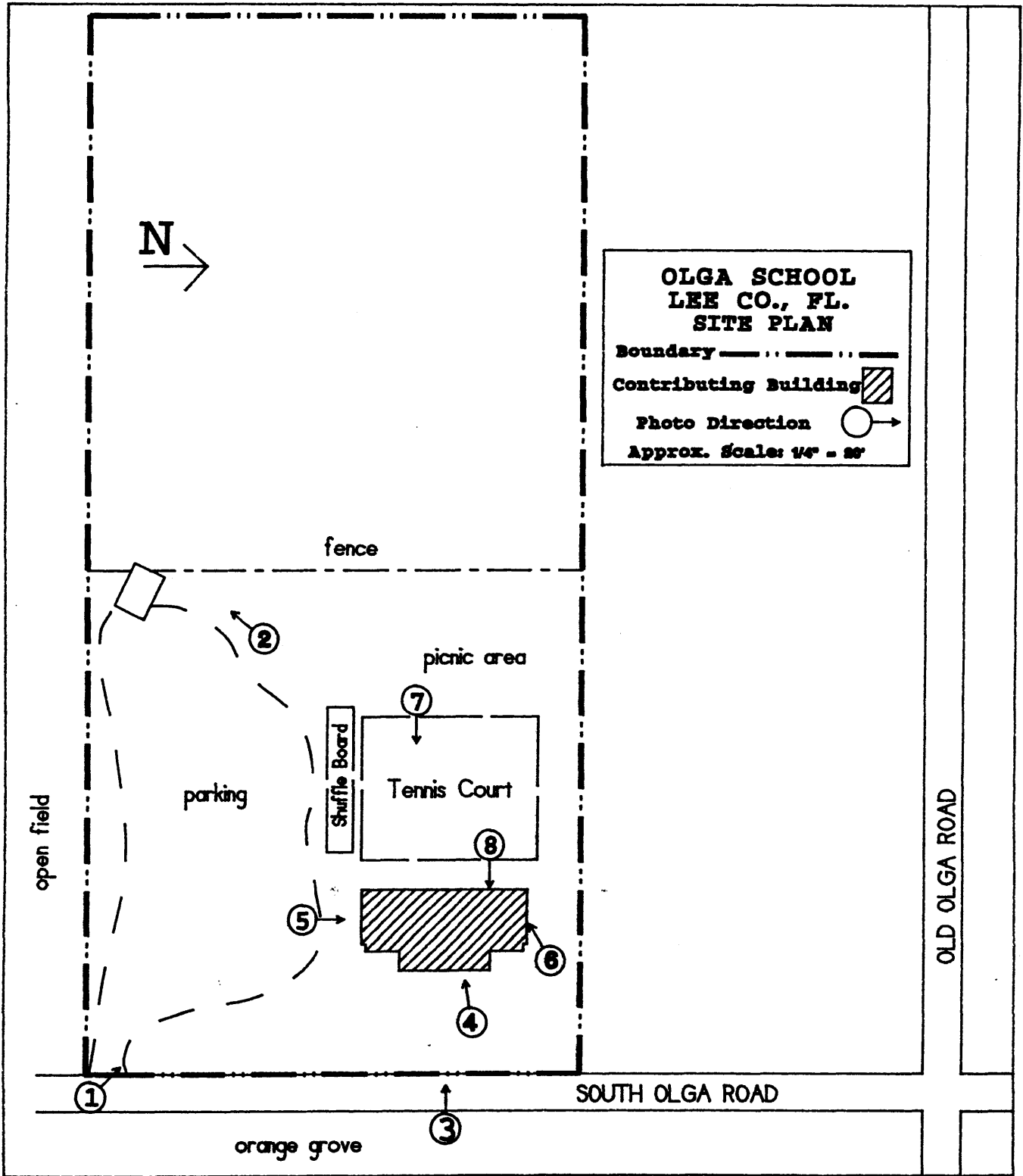
OLGA SCHOOL, LEE CO., FL.

Section number Photo Page 1

-
1. Olga School
 2. Lee County, Florida
 3. Stephen Olausen
 4. March 1994
 5. Historic Property Associates
 6. Looking northwest across Olga School property; Olga School in left background
 7. Photo No. 1 of 12

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

6. Non-contributing storage building, facing southwest
7. Photo No. 2 of 12
6. View of main (east) facade, looking west
7. Photo No. 3 of 12
6. Detail, main (east) entrance door, looking west
7. Photo No. 4 of 12
6. South elevation, view looking north
7. Photo No. 5 of 12
6. North elevation, view looking southwest
7. Photo No. 6 of 12
6. Rear (west) elevation, view looking east
7. Photo No. 7 of 12
6. Detail, entrance, west elevation; view looking east
7. Photo No. 8 of 12
6. Interior detail, looking south down main hallway
7. Photo No. 9 of 12
6. Interior detail, auditorium stage, view looking southeast
7. Photo No. 10 of 12
6. Interior detail, auditorium, view looking north
7. Photo No. 11 of 12
6. Interior detail, south classroom, view looking northeast
7. Photo No. 12 of 12



N →

**OLGA SCHOOL
LEE CO., FL.
SITE PLAN**

Boundary - - - - -

Contributing Building 

Photo Direction 

Approx. Scale: 1/4" = 20'

fence

picnic area

Shuffle Board

Tennis Court

parking

open field

OLD OLGA ROAD

SOUTH OLGA ROAD

orange grove

①

②

⑦

⑧

⑤

⑥

④

③

