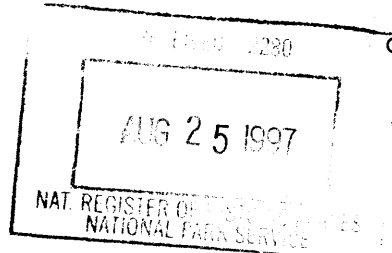


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1172

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 CLEWISTON HISTORIC SCHOOLS

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 325 E. Circle Drive and 475 E. Osceola Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Clewiston N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Hendry code 051 zip code 33440

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.)

[Signature] 8/19/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
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] 9/26/97
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	total

Name of related multiple property listings

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/Education-related
WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE/Masonry Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Brick
Stucco
roof Built-up
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:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1927-1947

Significant Dates

1927

1940

1944

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: Gatling, James; Clark, L. Philips

Blder: Wheeler, Howard; Bussey, Paul

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

#

CLEWISTON HISTORIC SCHOOLS
Name of Property

Hendry Co., Florida
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	5	0	7	1	2	0	2	9	5	9	2	2	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 Victoria "Mikki" Hartig, Sherry Piland, Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date _____

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 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 Board of Public Instruction

street & number P.O. Box 1980 telephone _____

city or town LaBelle state Florida zip code 33935

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

CLEWISTON HISTORIC SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Clewiston Historic Schools, in Clewiston, Florida, consists of two adjacent masonry school buildings, each two-stories in height. The Grammar School, 325 E. Circle Drive, was completed in 1927. The building is constructed of hollow clay tile, surfaced with brick. It rests on a concrete foundation and has a flat, tar and gravel roof. The building has a modified rectangular plan.

The Junior-Senior High School, 475 E. Osceola Avenue, was completed in 1940. It is constructed of masonry block, finished with stucco. It also has a concrete foundation, modified rectangular plan, and a flat, tar and gravel roof. Both structures retain their architectural integrity to a high degree.

SETTING

Clewiston, in Hendry County, in south central Florida, is located on the southwest shore of Lake Okeechobee. The city is sited 20 miles southeast of Moore Haven and about half-way (approximately 60 miles) between Ft. Myers and West Palm Beach. U. S. 27, which runs east to west, bisects the city.

The historic schools are located on a parcel of approximately four acres containing a total of eight school-related buildings. An adjoining vacant ten acres on the south side of E. Osceola Avenue is also owned by the Hendry County School Board. A 1927 Cafetorium is located to the northeast of the Grammar School. It is excluded from this nomination because of extensive changes to its windows resulting in a loss of the building's architectural integrity. The remaining non-contributing buildings on the four acre site were built between 1966 and 1982.

The area surrounding the school property is composed of residential housing stock, some of which is historic; two churches; and several city parks. Most of the city's commercial

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CLEWISTON HISTORIC SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

development lies to the south, along both sides of U. S. 27 and south of that corridor.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION—GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The main facade of the Clewiston Grammar School faces to the west (Photo 1). The 11,000 square foot, brick building features decorative elements of the Collegiate Gothic Style. The symmetrical main facade is divided into five bays with a central, projecting, two-story bay that contains the entrance on the first floor (Photo 2). The door is set within a classically-derived entablature (Photo 3). The entrance door has been altered. It was probably originally a double wood door; currently there is a single wood door with a semi-circular light. A panel of three, 12-light, wood casement windows is above the entrance, on the second story. A three-light transom is placed above each window. Square stucco panels, framed with brick and with brick inserts, are placed above and below each window. The entrance bay terminates in a shaped, brick and stucco parapet.

The bays flanking the entrance bay are fenestrated with 15-light, steel, pivotal windows. The top three lights of each window on the first floor have been obscured by paint. The remaining bays on the main facade are fenestrated with identical windows, grouped in threes. Each window group is linked by a continuous stucco sill.

This main elevation is further decorated with brick laid in decorative patterns; rectangular and diamond shaped, stucco insets in brick panels; and stucco ornament and panels across sections of the parapet (Photo 4).

The north and south elevations are basically identical. Each contains a projecting entrance bay nearly identical in design to the one on the primary facade. The entry on the north elevation connects to a canopy over a sidewalk that leads to another classroom building (Photo 5). The south elevation also connects to a canopy over a walkway (Photo 6). The second story windows above this entrance have been removed and were replaced

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CLEWISTON HISTORIC SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

with a door leading to a metal fire escape. This opening is now boarded over.

Three, one-story additions extend from the rear (east) elevation, all constructed in 1944 (Photo 7). At each end of this elevation are small, rectangular, bathroom additions. A five-sided, library addition also projects from the north end of this elevation. Both additions match the original building in design and materials.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION--GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The main entrance leads into a small foyer that connects to the north/south central hallway. Office spaces flank the foyer and classrooms open off each side of the hallway. The doors to the classrooms have hinged transoms and 3/3, single hung windows also line the hallway (Photo 8). The transoms and interior windows were installed to insure adequate ventilation to the classrooms. The opening to the office on the north side of the foyer appears to have been enlarged at some point (Photo 9). A staircase at the each end of the hallway provides access to the second floor. The staircases have simple wood banisters and hand railings (Photo 10).

The second floor has a similar arrangement, with classrooms opening off the central corridor. The classrooms retain their original blackboards and built-in coat and storage closets. Most of second floor classrooms retain their original ceiling cornices. Several original wood bookcases and storage closets remain in the library.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION--JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

The 11,000 square foot, Junior-Senior High School building faces to the southwest (Photo 11). The two-story, building is constructed of concrete block and covered with stucco. It rests on a concrete foundation, and has a flat, tar and gravel roof.

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CLEWISTON HISTORIC SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The recessed, main entrance is centrally located on the southwest facade (Photo 12). The wall surface of the entrance bay is curved, and a flight of curved steps leads to the entrance. Flanking the entrance are paired, metal casement windows. Over the doors and windows is a narrow, cantilevered eyebrow window shade. To the southeast of the entrance bay is a band of four, casement windows, set in a slightly recessed panel. The identical window opening to the northwest of the entrance bay is still present, but the windows have been removed and the openings filled in. The second story is fenestrated with three sets of metal, pivotal windows, grouped in fours. A simple band course runs above the windows. This portion of the building terminates in a parapet that steps back slightly from the wall plane.

The end bays of the building are set back slightly and each is fenestrated on the southwest elevation with a rectangular, metal, pivotal window. Small, grilled vents pierce the second story, just below the parapet all around the building.

A secondary entrance is located on the northwest elevation of the building, sheltered by a flat canopy roof, and accessed by a low ramp (Photo 12). A one story section extends from the north corner of the building.

The rear (northeast) elevation also contains a secondary entrance and a one story projection at the east corner (Photo 13). Some of the windows on the second story of this elevation have been filled in. The existing windows are similar in design to those of the main facade.

A secondary entrance on the southeast elevation connects to a canopy sheltering a walkway leading to another building (Photo 14).

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION—JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

A small entrance foyer leads to the central corridor, running the length of the building from northwest to southeast.

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CLEWISTON HISTORIC SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

This corridor is flanked by classrooms. A staircase to the second floor is located at the south corner of the building. The building retains its original wood doors and plaster walls. The floors are covered with carpet.

ALTERATIONS

The only significant changes to either building are the small 1940s additions to the rear of the Grammar School. Both buildings retain their architectural design features and their original floor plans. The Grammar School is presently being restored with the assistance of a historic preservation grant.

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Section number 8 Page 1

CLEWISTON HISTORIC SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

Clewiston's Historic Schools are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level in the areas of Community Planning and Development, Education, and Architecture. The Clewiston Historic Schools symbolize the community's confidence in future growth. They served for many years as the sole educational facilities for the community. The location of the buildings conform to the suggestion of John Nolen's 1923 plan for the city of Clewiston. The buildings are excellent examples of regional vernacular school architecture, and they represent changing tastes and ideas about school architecture between the 1920s and the 1940s. The Clewiston Grammar school is one the few 1920s non-residential buildings in the city that have not undergone significant exterior modification.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

White settlers did not arrive in the area west and south of Lake Okeechobee until the last two decades of the nineteenth century. The area was considered unsuitable for settlement because of the large amount of swampland. A U.S. Senate bill of 1848 granted Florida twenty million acres of land, mostly around Lake Okeechobee on condition that drainage projects be financed by the sale of public lands at \$1.25 an acre. Known as the Swamp Land Bill, the legislation was passed into law in 1850. However, settlement continued to be slow. Homesteaders were deterred by the heat, abundant snakes and insects, and the continued presence of Indians. By 1859, the Indians had been removed. Following the departure of the soldiers sent to remove the Indians, the next white men to pass through the area were cattlemen taking part in cattle drives, beginning in the 1860s.

Few new settlers came to the area until the 1880s, when the Atlantic and Gulf Coast and Okeechobee Land Company began land reclamation projects. These projects including draining the area around the Lake and dredging the Caloosahatchee River to control flooding and make it navigable to Lake Okeechobee. As flooding

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CLEWISTON HISTORIC SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

decreased, settlement increased, especially when it was discovered that the rich muck land was found to be excellent for growing vegetables, citrus, and sugar cane.

In 1881, Philadelphia industrialist Hamilton Disston purchased four million areas of Florida swampland at twenty-five cents per acre. He contracted with the trustees of the Florida State Internal Improvement Fund to drain land surrounding Lake Okeechobee in exchange for half of the agency's reclaimed land.

The earliest settlement in the Clewiston area was established by a dozen Japanese farmers from California, who cleared land along the high ridge bordering Lake Okeechobee and began farming it in 1915. A tract of land near this ridge was purchased in 1922 for \$10,000 by John O'Brien and his wife, Marion Horwitz O'Brien. Financial backing was provided by Alonzo C. Clewis, president of the Exchange National Bank of Tampa. The O'Briens and Clewis established the town of Clewiston, named for Clewis. These three investors financed much of the town's early development and improvements. They had the Atlantic Coastline Railroad extended from Moore Haven to Clewiston, and they established a post office, hotel, bank, and several tomato packing houses. Noted Boston city planner John Nolen was commissioned to design and lay out the new city.

Prior to their activity in Clewiston, the O'Briens had held extensive real estate interests in Moore Haven and were active in that community's civic affairs. However, their Catholic religious affiliation and their practice of hiring black workers had caused ill will among the residents of in Moore Haven. This rancor followed them to Clewiston when they moved there about 1921. When a Catholic priest from Tampa said mass in their home, shots were fired into their house. The final indignity came when their house was burned to the ground. In 1924, the O'Briens left Clewiston for Palm Beach and never returned.

Following the departure of the O'Briens, three other investors (Isaac T. Cook, Paul Brown, and W. K. Bixby) rescued the town from oblivion. They purchased 70,000 acres southwest of Clewiston and formed a partnership with Bror G. Dahlberg, then

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CLEWISTON HISTORIC SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

president of the Celotex Company of Chicago. Celotex was a type of wall board made from a by-product of sugar cane. Dahlberg eventually phased out the Celotex operation and established the Southern Sugar Company with his three partners in 1929. By 1931, the company went into receivership and was purchased by Charles S. Mott and Clarence Bitting. They formed the United States Sugar Corporation, with its headquarters in Clewiston.

Clewiston was platted in 1925, but it was not incorporated until 1931. The town was founded on the sugar industry and is located in the heart of Florida's "Sugar Bowl." Clewiston is the home of the U.S. Sugar Corporation and the Florida Sugar Cane League. It is the major population center and fastest growing city in the area.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

In 1921, Lee County, of which Hendry County was originally a part, agreed to provide Clewiston with a teacher if the community would provide a building for the town's first school. A wood frame, one-room school was built on Avenida del Rio, south of Clewiston's industrial canal. The first principal was W. C. Cole, a graduate of both Kansas and Columbia Universities. Mary A. Manley was the first teacher. Sixteen students were enrolled in grades one through eight. The school board provided the new school with an operating budget of \$640.80 a month, or \$5.57 per pupil. No recreational programs were offered. This original wood frame building was enlarged a short time later because of increased enrollment.

Hendry County was created out of the eastern portion of Lee County in 1923. A new county school system was also created, with a \$30,000 budget for an eight-month term. The first Hendry County Superintendent of Public Instruction was Paul Eddy. The Clewiston District on the school board was represented by Harry Hall. By 1926, Edward Pfluge was the Hendry County School Superintendent. Under his direction, four new schools were completed in Hendry County.

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CLEWISTON HISTORIC SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

By June, 1926, Clewiston's growth had caused overcrowding in the original school building, and the need for a new facility was recognized. The Hendry County School Board agreed to issue bonds for the construction of a new school. A four acre tract of land identified as the "grammar school site" on Nolen's city plan was chosen for the school. Construction of the Clewiston Grammar School was underway by January 1927. Land for the school was donated by the Clewiston Company, which also provided the landscaping. Local architect James L. Gatling designed the building. Gatling was a graduate of Armour Institute in Chicago. He had formerly practiced in Memphis, Tennessee, and Little Rock, Arkansas, before moving to Clewiston. Howard Wheeler of Ft. Myers was the contractor.

The school opened on September 5, 1927. The enrollment of 76 pupils quickly rose to 84 in grades one through ten. Within two years, enrollment stood at 104 students. Children in the first through the tenth grades were taught in the new building. Students for grades eleven and twelve had to attend school in the town of LaBelle until 1933.

Five teachers, all with college degrees, taught at the new school in Clewiston in the early years. The first principal was Ralph Carmichael, a former resident of Indiana who graduated from Depew University and Marion College. He was also a graduate of the National School for Scout Executives at Briar Cliff Manor, New York. Carmichael had previously taught in several other Florida towns. In addition to his duties as principal, he also taught the fifth through ninth grades.

Among the early teachers were Clara Tubbs, who taught history and Latin, and A.T. Christoff, who provided instruction in mathematics and geography. Teaching the primary grades were Mrs. G.B. Thomas (fourth and fifth grades), Miss W.S. Whitten (second and third grades), and Miss Linnea Anderson (first grade). W.C. Owen served as an early school trustee. After an audit of the school's report in 1928, Hendry County School Superintendent, Edward Pfluge, and all of the school board members were criticized for their careless record keeping and

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CLEWISTON HISTORIC SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

financial management. The school's financial affairs were temporarily turned over to the LaBelle School Board.

Until 1933, Clewiston students in grades eleven and twelve traveled to LaBelle High School to complete their high school education. Henry Story is credited as the first student to graduate from high school at the Clewiston School. However, he was tutored by the principal, Mrs. Beardsley, and had to obtain special permission from the State Department of Education in order to receive his high school diploma in 1930. After 1933, high school classes were held in the Clewiston Grammar School building until the Junior-Senior High School was built.

When the Hendry County school population had reached 865 in 1938, it became obvious that the school facilities needed to expand. In late 1938, a bond issue in the amount of \$33,000 was approved to provide funding for the construction of a Junior-Senior High School building in Clewiston. When the initial plans drawn by architect L. Philips Clark of West Palm Beach were examined, it was determined that the amount of money made available would not be adequate to carry out his elaborate design. After an unsuccessful attempt was made to secure a loan from the Public Works Administration for additional funds to construct the original design, the School Board voted to construct a building with a simpler design.

In a special School Board session in February, 1939, the board approved payment of \$1,500 to Clark for his initial set of drawings, with the understanding that he would design another building, complete with equipment, that would not exceed the funds available. The new two-story building was to include four classrooms, two rest rooms, a library, and an administrative office. The upper floor was to be devoted entirely to an auditorium. This would make it possible to convert the second floor auditorium of the Grammar School into classrooms.

These changes, however, did not take place until 1940. By the late 1930s, the School Board was finding it difficult to meet operating expenses and teachers' salaries, which at the time were \$3 a day for high school teachers and \$2 for elementary teachers.

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**CLEWISTON HISTORIC SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Many bills remained unpaid, and the Board faced a deficit payroll. In spite of this fiscal difficulty, the School Board requested in February of 1939 that Superintendent S. A. Graves notify all district trustees to have their teacher recommendations prepared by April, so that the Board could hire the necessary teaching staff before the end of the school term. The Board also decided to borrow money from the First Bank of Clewiston to pay the salaries of the teachers.

Bonds to finance the new construction were sold in May 1939, and construction bids were requested. The first set of bids were rejected. The second set produced a low bid of \$30,400. By August, the contract for construction was awarded to local contractor Paul Bussey in the amount of \$31,673. However, because of the severe school budget shortages, Bussey graciously reduced his fee by \$200. The school was ready for occupancy at the beginning of the second semester in January, 1940.

By 1966, the Clewiston schools were again overcrowded and a one-story classroom building was constructed to the west of the existing two buildings. In 1971, a one-story middle school was built within the school complex. Middle school students returned to the Junior-Senior High School building when a new high school was built at another site in 1989. Most of the Grammar School building has been largely vacant since 1989; however, some offices were used for a sixth grade student center. The Junior-Senior High School building has not been used for classes since 1973. It currently houses a Hendry County School Board sub-office.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

In the late nineteenth century, most schools in Florida's rural areas were simple, one-room, wood frame buildings. Beginning in the 1890s, increased attention was paid to practical interior improvements, such as illumination, ventilation, sanitation, furniture, and equipment. In the early twentieth century, larger and more permanent masonry buildings were

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CLEWISTON HISTORIC SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

constructed. These were frequently embellished with architectural details drawn from one of the revival styles.

By the 1930s and 1940s, more simplified architectural designs had become popular. This change in architectural taste was expressed in school buildings as well as in other building types. Part of the move toward simplicity can be attributed to the economically difficult Great Depression and World War II years.

New industrial and technological developments in the early 1930s led to the evolution of the Art Moderne style, a late phase of the Art Deco period, which reflected the current interest in the streamlined designs in vogue for ships, airplanes and automobiles. The Moderne style emphasized the horizontality of the building through the use of bands of contrasting finish materials and bands of windows. The style featured smooth wall surfaces that were frequently curved and usually stuccoed. Glass block and steel railings for stairs and balconies were common. Machine-inspired imagery gave the style a sleek and modern appearance.

The International Style also gained popularity in the 1930s and 1940s. This style grew out of the attempts of European architects of the period to design without reference to historical styles, using new materials and building techniques. Their ideas were introduced to the United States by architects who immigrated to the United States to escape the European turmoil that preceded World War II. The International Style usually employed a steel structural frame, inconspicuous window and door surrounds, white wall surfaces, and a conscious absence of all applied ornament.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Clewiston Schools reflect the changing tastes in school architecture and design between the 1920s and the 1940s. The Clewiston Grammar School contains decorative elements associated with the Collegiate Gothic Style. The modernistic elements of

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CLEWISTON HISTORIC SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

the Junior-Senior High School building are relatively rare in predominantly rural areas of the state. The introduction of these modernistic elements, drawn from the Art Moderne and International Styles, reflects the influence of West Palm Beach architect L. Phillips Clarke.

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CLEWISTON HISTORIC SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
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CLEWISTON HISTORIC SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section number 10 Page 1

CLEWISTON SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 123, Buildings 1 and 2, Clewiston, Florida

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property, indicated by a solid line on the site plan, includes the parcels historically associated with the Clewiston Grammar School and Junior-Senior High School buildings.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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CLEWISTON SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHOTOGRAPHS

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Clewiston Historic Schools, 325 E. Circle Drive and 475 E. Osceola Avenue
2. Clewiston, Hendry County, Florida
3. Mikki Hartig and George Cordes
4. February and March, 1996
5. Historical and Architectural Research Services, 3708 Flores Avenue, Sarasota, Florida
6. Grammar School, main (west) facade on right, north elevation on left; looking southeast
7. Photo 1 of 14

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

6. Grammar School, main (west) facade; looking east
7. Photo 2 of 14

6. Grammar School, detail of entrance bay, main (west) facade; looking east
7. Photo 3 of 14

6. Grammar School, main (west) facade on left, south elevation on right; looking northeast
7. Photo 4 of 14

6. Grammar School, detail of north elevation; looking southeast
7. Photo 5 of 14

6. Grammar School, south elevation; looking northeast
7. Photo 6 of 14

6. Grammar School, rear (east) elevation; looking northwest
7. Photo 7 of 14

6. Grammar School, interior detail, first floor; looking north
7. Photo 8 of 14

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CLEWISTON SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
PHOTOGRAPHS

6. Grammar School, interior detail, first floor; looking west
7. Photo 9 of 14

6. Grammar School, detail of stairway leading to second floor; looking east
7. Photo 10 of 14

6. Junior-Senior High School, main (southwest) facade; view looking northeast
7. Photo 11 of 14

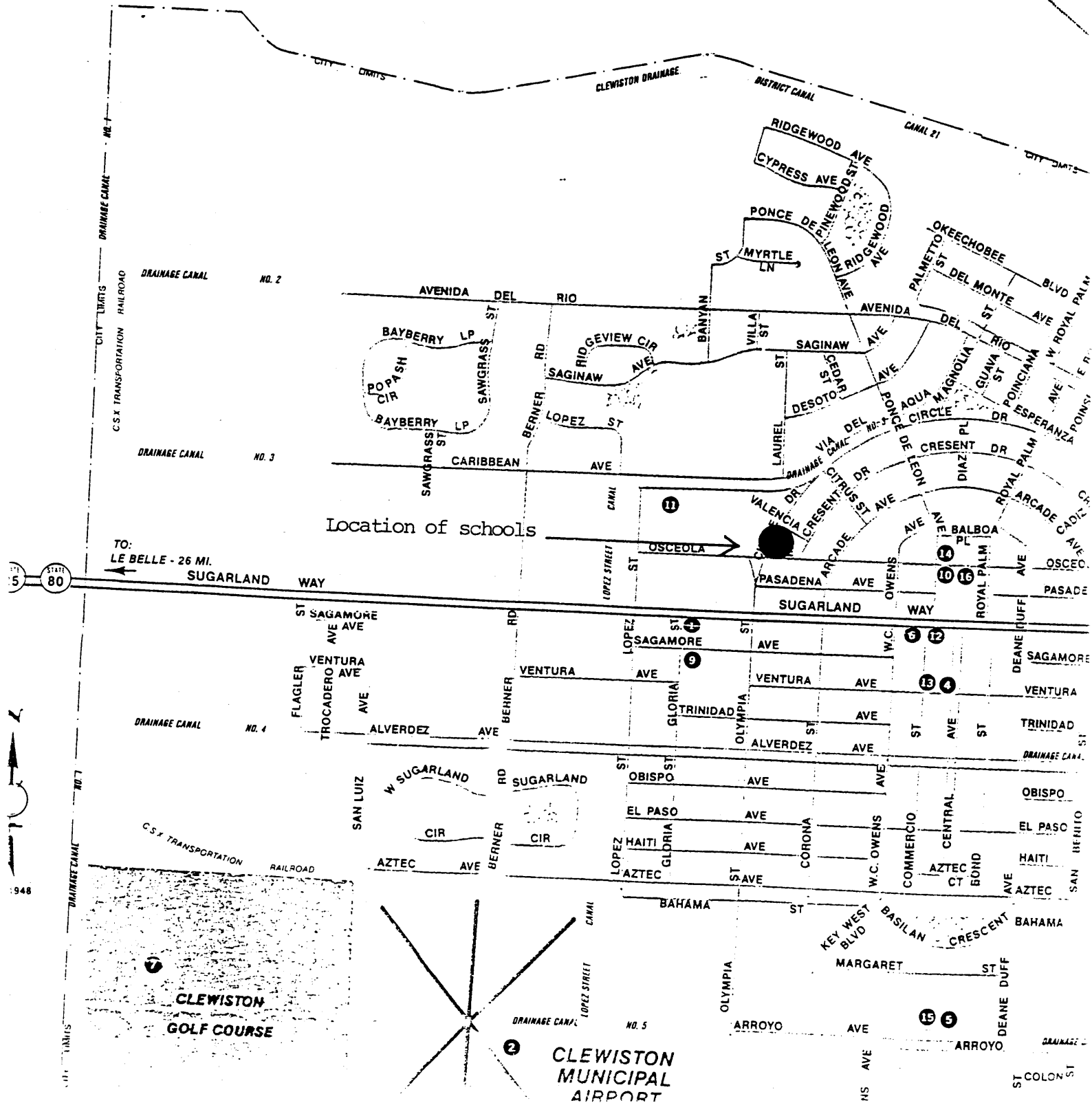
6. Junior-Senior High School, main (southwest) facade on right, northwest elevation on left; looking east
7. Photo 12 of 14

6. Junior-Senior High School, rear (northeast) elevation; view looking southeast
7. Photo 13 of 14

6. Junior-Senior High School, partial of main (southwest) facade on left, southeast elevation on right; looking northeast
7. Photo 14 of 14

CLEWISTON

CLEWISTON HISTORIC SCHOOLS
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA



PLAYGROUND

N
1/8" = 1'-0"

ESPERANZA AVE

BUS LOOP

SAN PEDRO

CAFETERIA
(N.C.)

SAN JUAN

1944
add.

GRAMMAR
School
(1927)

Jr.-Sr. High
Sch. 1901
(1939-40)

CIRCLE DRIVE

SCEOLA AVE.

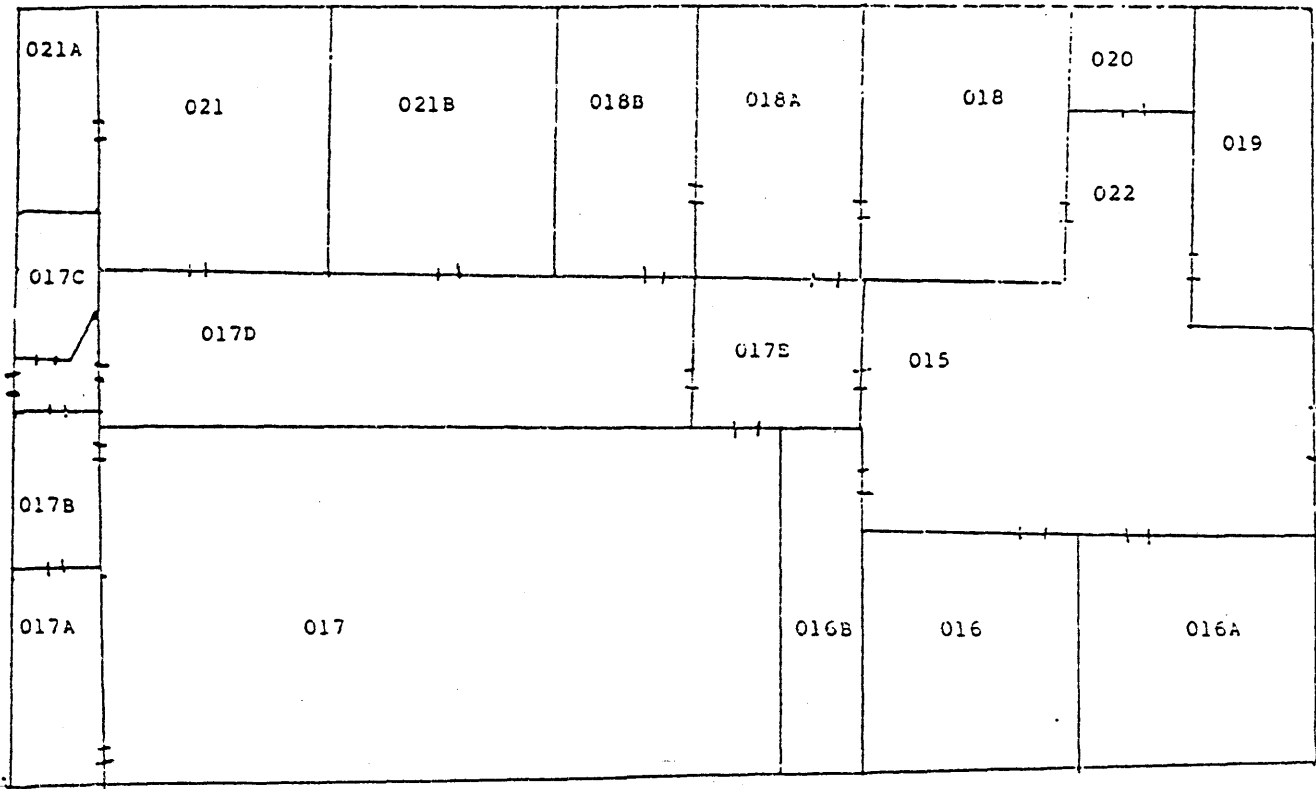
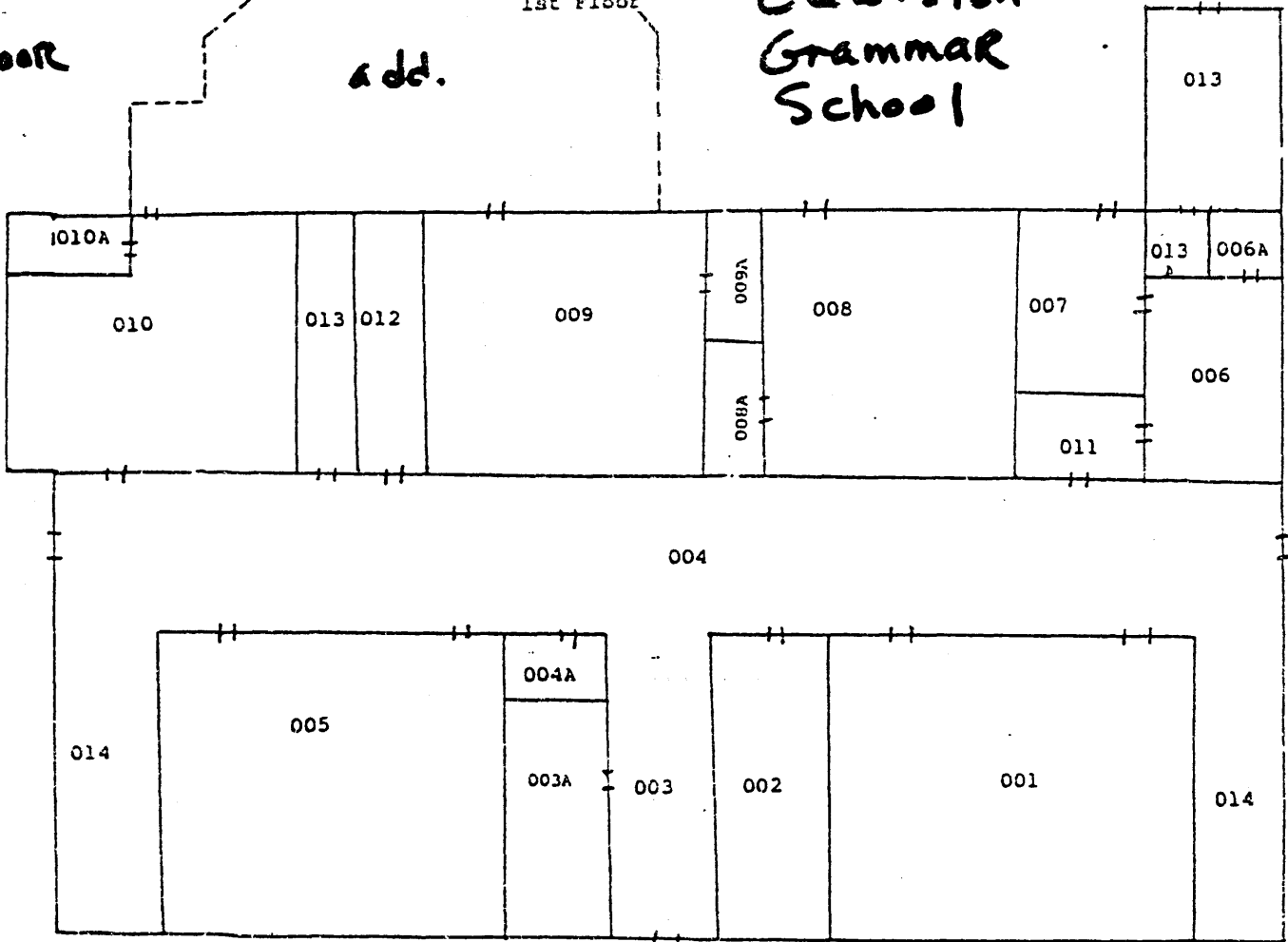
Clewiston Historic Schools

Clewiston Grammar School

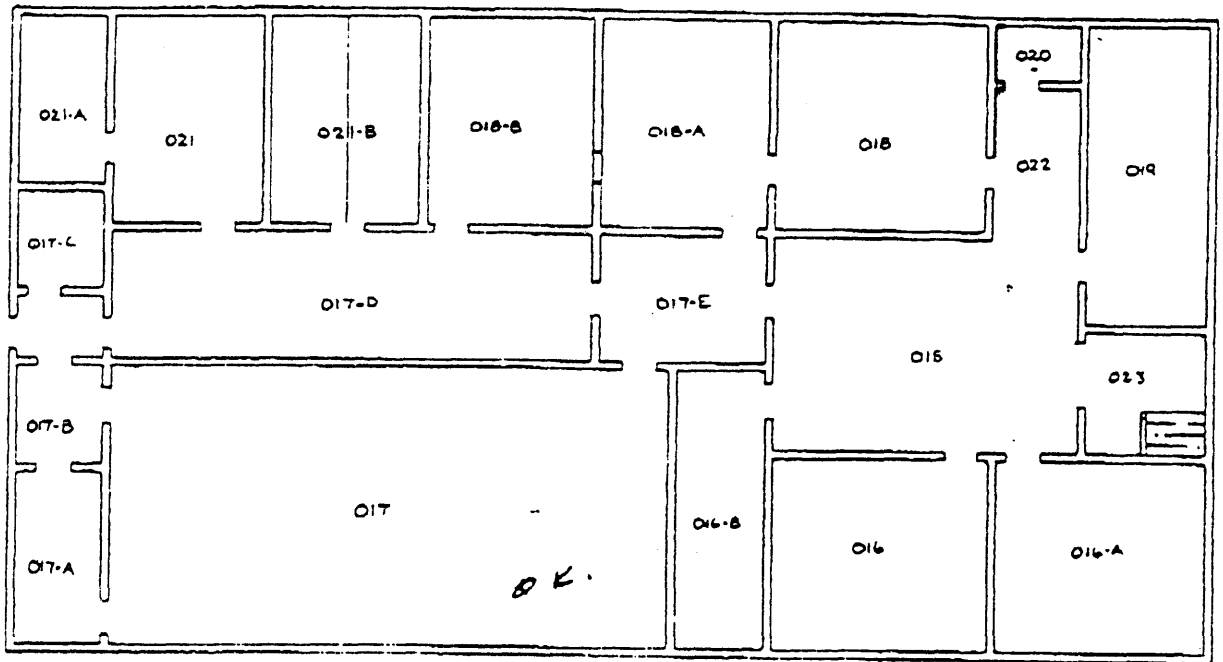
1st Floor

add.

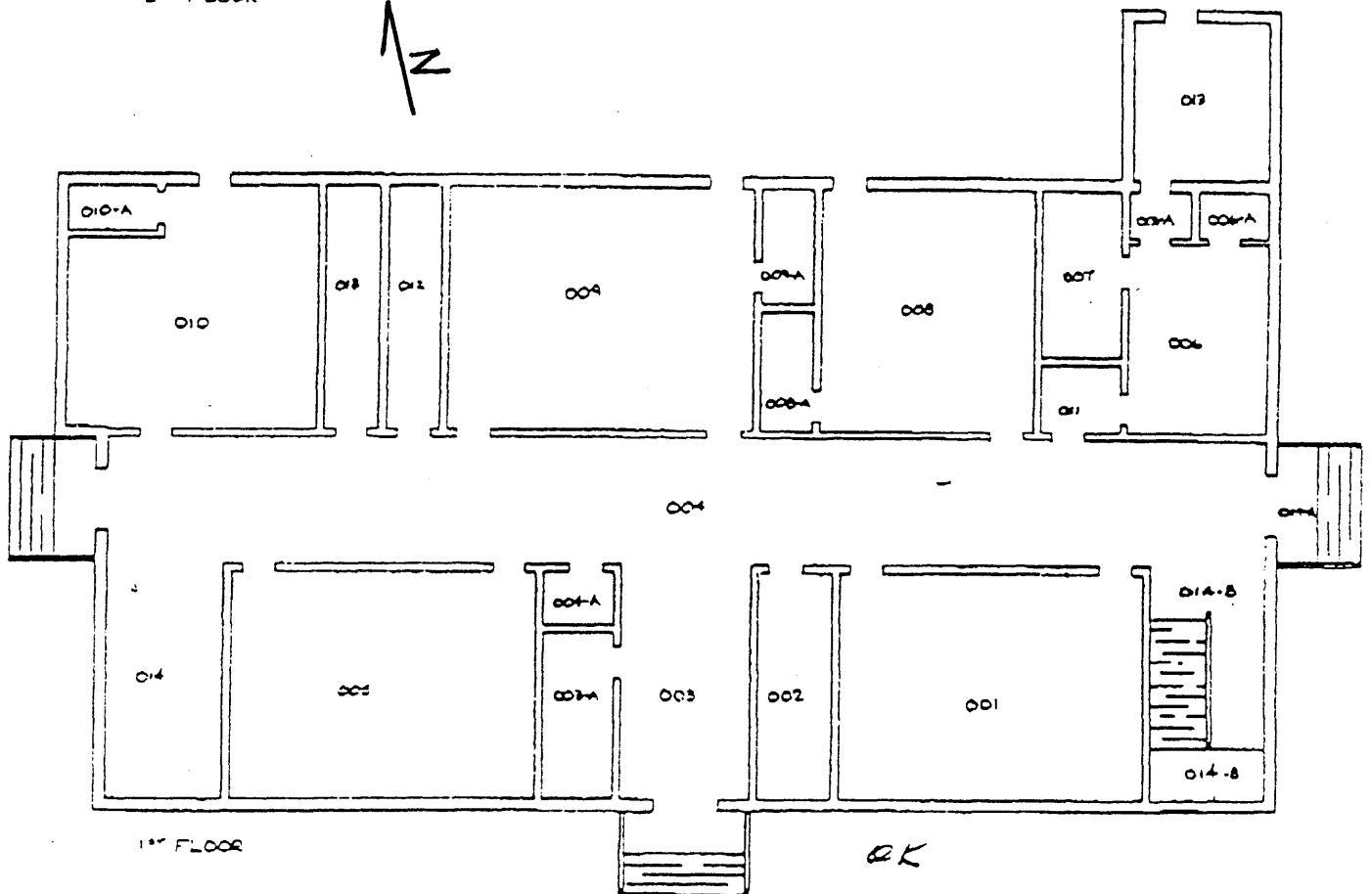
1st Floor



Second Floor



2ND FLOOR



1ST FLOOR

1940 Junior-Senior High School