

DATA SHEET

5.18

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 10 1978
DATE ENTERED	JUN 18 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC South Ward School

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 610 S. Fort Harrison Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Clearwater

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT five

VICINITY OF

STATE Florida

CODE 12

COUNTY Pinellas

CODE 103 ✓

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Pinellas County School Board

STREET & NUMBER 1960 East Druid Road, Post Office Box 4688

CITY, TOWN Clearwater

VICINITY OF

STATE Florida 33516

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pinellas County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Clearwater

STATE Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The South Ward Grade School complex consists of three main buildings. The most important of these is the 1906 structure which replaced an 1884 school which was located on approximately the same plot. A second structure, built in 1912, although compatible, is architecturally undistinguished and marred by its proximity to a school cafeteria constructed in 1959.

The single-pile, central hall plan 1906 structure is of concrete block construction. The exterior fabric is rusticated concrete blocks with a smooth surface. Courses of rough-faced, rusticated blocks delineate sill and lintel lines as well as the basement story (below the water table). Quoins having the same surface treatment provide a similar contrast.

The 7-bay east (entrance) facade has a projecting three bay pavillion with a flat roofed porch supported by two wrought iron posts. The central entrance consists of double two-panel doors. One-over-one double hung sash flank the doorway which also has a transom light. The only major exterior alterations are the entrance steps and porch which have been replaced and widened and have new iron railings installed.

The fenestration of the 1906 structure is symmetrically spaced one-over-one double hung sash with glazed transom sashes. Crowning the building is a low hipped roof with cross gables and flared eaves. Two internal brick chimneys are located on the ridge.

The single-pile, center hall plan, considered the most advanced concept in school design at the time, has a single run stairway which leads to the second floor classrooms. Though the building's original high ceilings have been somewhat reduced by the addition of suspended accoustical tile, these modern alterations have not marred the structure's original character.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The South Ward School is historically significant because it is the site of the first public elementary school and high school in Pinellas County. Mere age, however, is not the only significance of the site as the South Ward School has contributed to the education and social heritage of the Clearwater community. It is also the oldest school building in Pinellas County.

The area of the South Ward School has educational connections which predate the Civil War. The Taylor School, located on the homestead of John S. Taylor, an early settler from Brooksville, in 1855, was the first¹ school on the Pinellas County Peninsula. Part of the Taylor homestead included the site of the present South Ward School.² In 1873, the first organized public school in Pinellas County was established. Classes met in a log structure originally built for the Midway Baptist Church which was organized in 1866.³

Educational facilities returned to the former Taylor homestead site when the South Ward Primary School, a four room wooden structure, was built in 1884. William Campbell donated the land for the school site.⁴ The building was enlarged in 1888 and in 1902 there were ninety pupils. The primary school became graded in 1903 and the need for expansion was again realized. In 1906 the oldest of the existing South Ward School buildings was constructed. This building, facing Fort Harrison Avenue, was the first public school built with public funds in Pinellas County. Growth continued and a high school was built behind the original building in 1912. The principal of South Ward, Dixie M. Hollins, became the first county school superintendent when Pinellas County split from Hillsborough County in 1912.⁵ By 1917, the high school was an accredited institution with courses in manual training and domestic science.⁶

Between 1951 and 1969 two more buildings were added to the school complex. The South Ward School has been in continuous use as an educational institution since 1906.

Historically the South Ward School has played an important role in stabilizing the older west side downtown residential area of Clearwater. While constant modernization has changed the character of much of downtown Clearwater, the Ward School has become an important cultural symbol to many local residents.

(See continuation sheet for footnotes)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dunn, Hampton. Yesterday's Clearwater. Miami: E.A. Seemann, 1973.

South Ward Preservation Committee. "South Ward Preservation Report," 1976.

Woman's Club of Clearwater. "A History of Clearwater," March, 1917.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 7 | | 3 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 0 | | 3 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 0 |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

South Ward School (1906 structure and grounds), 1320 feet west and 3358.08 feet south of the northeast corner of Section 16, thence south 207.8 feet, west 120.0 feet north 207.8 feet, east 120 feet to P.O.B.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Terence H. Nolan, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management

DATE

3/17/78

STREET & NUMBER

Department of State, The Capitol

TELEPHONE

(904)487-2333

CITY OR TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida 32304

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

6/27/78

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles Adams
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

John A. ...
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6-18-75

ATTEST: *Lucretia ...*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/18/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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South Ward School

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

- ¹Woman's Club of Clearwater, "A History of Clearwater," March, 1917, p. 13.
- ²Hampton Dunn, Yesterday's Clearwater (Miami: E.A. Seemann, 1973), p. 16.
- ³Woman's Club, "A History of Clearwater," p. 13.
- ⁴Ibid.
- ⁵Dunn, Yesterday's Clearwater, n.p.
- ⁶Woman's Club, "A History of Clearwater," p. 14.