

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Multiple Property Documentation Form**

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

☐ New Submission ☐ Amended Submission

**A. Name of Multiple Property Listing**

Architectural Resources of Bartow, Florida

**B. Associated Historic Contexts**

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

1. Late Nineteenth Century Settlement: 1881-1899
2. Progressive Era Development: 1900-1919
3. Florida Land Boom: 1920-1929
4. The Great Depression: 1930-1941

**C. Form Prepared by**

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date March 26, 1993

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**D. Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Suzanne P. Walker Deputy SHPO  
Signature and title of certifying official

4/1/93  
Date

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

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

[Signature]  
Signature of the Keeper

5/18/93  
Date of Action

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## Table of Contents for Written Narrative

Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and the title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

### Page Numbers

**E. Statement of Historic Contexts**

(If more than one historic context is documented, present them in sequential order.)

**F. Associated Property Types**

(Provide description, significance, and registration requirements.)

**G. Geographical Data**

**H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods**

(Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.)

**I. Major Bibliographical References**

(List major written works and primary location of additional documentation: State Historic Preservation Office, other State agency, Federal agency, local government, university, or other, specifying repository.)

**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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## Section E

## STATEMENT OF HISTORIC CONTEXTS

Summary

The Historic Properties of Bartow are significant under National Register criteria A and C at the local level in the areas of Architecture, Commerce, and Community Planning and Development. The buildings in the three districts eligible for listing under this cover were constructed between 1886 and 1935. During that period, Bartow experienced four distinct periods of development. The first began with the founding of the community in the late nineteenth century, followed by a period of rapid development in the first two decades of the twentieth century when the historic districts assumed much of their present character. A period of consolidation marked the 1920s and was followed by a decade of decline and stagnation with the onset of the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The history of Bartow is marked by four distinct periods of development extending between 1882 and 1941. These periods are: Late Nineteenth Century Settlement (1882-1895), the Progressive era (1896-1919), the Florida Land Boom 1920-1929, and the Great Depression (1920-1941). The beginning of the Great Depression marked the end of the historic period of dramatic growth in Bartow that had been tied directly to progress in the development of transportation methods, particularly railroads and highways that allowed. Progress in transportation allowed the exploitation the natural resources and climatic advantages offered by Central Florida, making possible the establishment of citrus culture, phosphate mining, and the development of a host of agricultural enterprises whose impact was felt both nationally and world wide. Tourism also played a significant role in the development of Bartow during this period, even if its effect was less dramatic than in the coastal region of Florida.

## HISTORIC CONTEXTS

1. Late Nineteenth Century Settlement: 1882-1899

White settlers began to move into Central Florida shortly after the end of the Second Seminole War (1835-1842), prompted in part by the passage of the Armed Occupation Act which granted 160 acre homesteads to settlers who would maintain residence on the

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property for five years and resist Indian raids. A number of the settlers moving into the area, however, were squatters who often violated treaty agreements with the Seminoles by seizing reservation lands. Conflicts between the Indians and these unauthorized residents led to renewed warfare. The community of Bartow developed on the site of Fort Blount, which was established in 1853 as a refuge for settlers against Seminole raids that eventually precipitated the Third Seminole War (1855-1858). The legislation resulted in an increase in population that brought about the creation of new counties in the region. Polk County, named in honor of President James K. Polk, was created from portions of Hillsborough and Brevard counties in February, 1861, on the eve of the Civil War.

The county had various county seats until Bartow was chosen as the permanent location of the county government in 1866. There was little military activity in Polk County during the Civil War, and Bartow began to emerge as a permanent community shortly after the end of the conflict. The first town plat was drawn up in July, 1866. It consisted of eighteen streets set in a grid pattern which became the basis for subsequent development. Included in the plat was the site of the original courthouse. The settlement acquired a post office in 1869 and was officially known as Peace Creek, until the name of the town was changed to Bartow ten years later.

Subsistence farming, citrus, and cattle raising were the primary occupations of the residents of Bartow over the next decade. Inadequate means of transportation prevented the development of most agricultural activities as large scale commercial enterprises. Only a few poorly maintained military trails snaking into the interior of the Florida peninsular served as roads. There were navigable waterways in the peninsular region of Florida, and railroad construction began to make its presence felt only in the 1880s.

Bartow, first settled in the 1850s, emerged as a political and commercial center in Polk County during the late nineteenth century. Designated as the seat of government for Polk County in 1866, Bartow experienced significant growth during the 1870s and was incorporated in 1882, but the town only began to grow dramatically with the arrival of the railroad two years later. Construction of the South Florida Railroad had begun in the same year that Bartow was incorporated, proceeding south from Sanford to Orlando and reaching Tampa in 1883. The Bartow branch of the line, which extended south from the mainline at Lake Alfred, was

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completed in late 1884. A year later, the Florida Southern Railway Company provided a second rail line connecting Bartow with Lakeland, making Bartow a rail center. In 1902, the both railways became part of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

The availability of rail transportation made a wide variety of agricultural enterprises commercially viable, particularly the growing of citrus. Previously the raising of oranges and grapefruit had been little more than a novelty, with little of the fruit from Central Florida reaching markets outside the state. The discovery and mining of phosphate in Polk County also stimulated development in Bartow. Although phosphate was mined in Florida in the early 1880s, large-scale exploitation of the mineral did not begin until the 1890s. Land pebble phosphate, the type commonly found in Polk County, was initially inferior in quality to the phosphate deposits located farther north.

Within several decades, however, new refining techniques and the discovery of richer deposits improved the quality of that phosphate, which soon surpassed hard rock phosphate in price per ton. Phosphate was discovered near Bartow in 1883 during a survey conducted by the U.S. Army. In 1887, larger deposits were unearthed east of Fort Meade, and soon a rush ensued. In 1890, the Pharr Phosphate Company and the Florida Phosphate Company, both near Bartow, established mines, and the first commercial shipments from the area were made in 1891. By 1894, five companies were based in Bartow and nearly twenty additional companies were mining phosphate along the Peace River between Bartow and Port Charlotte.

Sparked by its industries and the arrival of the railroads, Bartow experienced its first significant period of development during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. However, growth was still slow at first. In 1885, Bartow had only about twenty-five house and a scattering of stores and other buildings. Commercial development centered around the courthouse square, located at the intersection of Main Street and Broadway Avenue, with dwellings located nearby. A fire in 1886 devastated much of the nascent commercial district, which was rebuilt in the following decades. Despite its small size, Bartow by 1895 was the largest community in the county and had earned the nickname "Queen City" of Polk County because of its importance as a center for the railroad and the citrus and phosphate industries. The population of Bartow was nearly twice as large as Lakeland, the second largest community in the county.

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What had been a virtual wilderness in the 1870s had by 1895 become a rapidly growing community with constantly expanding economic base founded on citrus, phosphate, and railroads. The economic boom prompted expansion of the commercial district and the establishment of new residential areas. The construction of new houses south of the courthouse square began in the mid-1880s and accelerated in the early 1890s. By 1890, the population of Bartow had grown to 1,386. Five residential subdivisions had been added to the original town plat, and the community ranked as the thirteenth largest city in Florida.

The growth of Bartow during the late nineteenth century was retarded temporarily by the nationwide financial crisis of 1893 and by hard freezes during the winter of 1894-1895 that devastated local citrus groves. Despite these difficulties, the city government and business leaders implemented steps to insure the health, safety, and quality of life in their community. In 1894, a home and building loan association was organized to help finance construction of new buildings in town. Oak trees were planted to improve the appearance of the city, and before the end of the century, the community had a municipal water system and electric power. The groves were replanted, and by 1900 the economic and physical growth of Bartow had completely recovered its momentum.

**2. Progressive Era Development: 1900-1919**

The period between 1900 and 1919 is often referred to as the "Progressive Era" for much of Florida. The era was marked by reform movements in business, education, government, and labor practices that brought substantial changes to the economic and social landscape of Florida. The most tangible legacies of the era include land reclamation and a widespread public works construction program throughout the state. The period was also characterized by the rapid growth of existing communities and the establishment of new ones in the wake of increasing population growth resulting from the arrival of new settlers from other states. Bartow experienced one of the most significant periods of development in its history. The population rose from 1,983 in 1900 to 2,662 by 1910. A decade later the population stood at 4,203. During the first two decades of the twentieth century numerous buildings that still survive were erected. The citrus and phosphate industries continued to be the main underpinnings of the economy. Improvements in the Florida railroad network made local industries more competitive, and road construction in

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Polk County made it easier to move phosphate and agricultural products to railroad loading stations.

By the beginning of the second decade of the twentieth century, the citrus industry was booming throughout Central Florida, especially in the Highlands Ridge region of the peninsula. The Bartow Citrus Subexchange and Association was established in 1909 as part of the statewide Florida Citrus Exchange, and in 1910 Polk County growers shipped over 330,000 boxes of oranges to markets throughout the world. During this period Polk County was second only to neighboring Orange County in citrus production in Florida. By 1920, production levels surpassed 1 million boxes shipped annually. The Polk County share of Florida's \$20 million orange crop was \$3.5 million that year.

During the period prior to 1920, the railroad continued to play a preeminent role in the development of Bartow, as the citrus and phosphate industries remained heavily dependent upon rail lines to deliver products to markets. The railroads also provided vital passenger service to and from the area. Between 1902 and 1910, the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad had sole control of rail service in Polk County. However, the competing Seaboard Air Line Railroad sought to gain a foothold in the area, due to expansion of the citrus and phosphate industries and the establishment of new communities throughout in Polk County. The S.A.L. extended its line to Bartow in 1913 and built its own depot there. By 1917, Bartow had three stations serving passenger and freight traffic.

The pace of residential subdivision development quickened after 1900 and persisted until World War I. The commercial district expanded with the addition of a new courthouse, several business blocks, a post office, and a hotel. Brick streets and other municipal services were extended into emerging residential neighborhoods. Significant development occurred south of the commercial district, where nearly ninety buildings were constructed between 1900 and 1916. Although most were dwellings, several public buildings, including a church, a library, and a school were built. Large residences were constructed along primary corridors, such as Broadway Avenue and Oak Street. Numerous smaller dwellings filled empty lots on secondary streets.

The Polk County road system also expanded significantly during this period. Although the Good Road Association had been

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active in Florida since the 1890s, it was not until 1915 that movement had gained enough momentum to induce the state government to begin construction of the Dixie Highway, which was largely completed by the end of the 1920s. The demand for new roads was the result of growing reliance on what at first had been no more than a novelty of the rich: the automobile. Even as early as 1907, Bartow had gained a reputation as an "automobile town," with one newspaper reporting that, with seven cars dashing about the streets, Bartow is truly putting on "metropolitan airs." The Polk County road system had totaled fewer than twenty miles in 1900, but with state support began to expand dramatically in 1914. By 1916, Polk County had more miles of asphalt highway (217) than any other county in Florida, and by 1918 paved road mileage had grown to 287, with Bartow at its hub.

After 1916, subdivision platting and building construction in Bartow declined as the nation turned its energies toward winning the war in Europe. The period between 1900 and 1919 brought significant expansion in the historic residential neighborhood south of the Bartow commercial district. By the beginning of World War I, the area contained over 100 buildings, and became the primary neighborhood for Bartow business leaders and politicians. The extension of service utilities into that neighborhood during the Progressive Era laid a solid foundation for growth in the 1920s.

3. Florida Land Boom: 1920-1929

In the 1920s, the nation entered a period of enthusiastic economic expansion. In Florida, a land boom began almost immediately after World War I and grew to a fevered pitch within just a few years. It is difficult to exaggerate the speculative proportions of the boom period. Miami and Palm Beach are generally regarded as the scenes of most intensive building activity, but few communities in the state failed to experience a fever for real estate. The era of wild speculation reached its height in 1925. Early in that year some seventy-five passenger trains, filled with visitors, were arriving daily at Jacksonville, whose Chamber of Commerce also reported that 50,000 automobiles from out of state passed through the city that season. Twenty thousand people were thought to be arriving daily in the state. That fall, the Florida legislature issued an open invitation to wealthy investors with approval of a constitutional amendment prohibiting either income or inheritance taxes. The



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resulting capital infusion accelerated an already well developed surge of land purchasing

Property values rose dramatically and quickly. In virtually every city and town new subdivisions were platted and lots sold and resold for quick profits. Polk County and Bartow shared in this growth. Property assessments county wide doubled from \$15 million in 1917 to \$35 million by 1927. Bank deposits swelled. In Bartow, buildings permits increased from \$132,569 in 1922 to over \$1 million by 1925. The population grew from 4,203 to 6,000 in the five years from 1920 to 1925. Building construction in commercial and residential districts surged. A hospital was built, and municipal services were extended into enlarging areas of the community. The City of Bartow sponsored a road paving program, which resulted in sixteen miles of paved streets by 1924. Although the commercial district expanded, residential neighborhoods made the largest gains. By 1925, nearly eighty buildings, most of theme residences, had been constructed south of the commercial district.

The speculative land bubble in Florida began to deflate in 1925. Bank deposits in the state, which had risen from \$180 million to \$875 million between 1922 and 1925, declined in late 1925. In August 1925, the Florida East Coast Railway announced an embargo on freight shipments to south Florida, where ports and rail terminals were clogged with unused building materials. Bankers and businessmen throughout the nation began to complain about transfers of money to Florida. Newspapers suggested fraud in land sales and large withdrawals followed in early 1926, traditional months for winter tourists and speculators. That year, forty Florida banks collapsed and real estate assessments statewide began to decline precipitously. Devastating hurricanes that hit south Florida in 1926 and 1928, killing thousands of people, provided a sad closing chapter to the land speculation fever gone bust. These dramatic events, however, were felt more strongly in Miami, Palm Beach, and those coastal communities where speculation in land sales and building construction had far exceeded the availability of people willing to establish residences or businesses in those areas. Other cities, like Bartow, continued to grow steadily throughout the last years of the 1920s, although not at as rapid a rate as earlier in the decade.

The boom produced no areas of concentrated development in Bartow, and few new subdivisions were established solely as a speculative enterprise. Most of the subdivisions created during

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this period were small plats that were merely extensions of established developments. The La Serena and Hacklake subdivisions, which were platted south of downtown in 1925 and 1926, did represent local attempts to develop large residential tracts like those founded in South Florida at the height of the boom, but they fell victim to the bursting of the speculative bubble in land development and few buildings were ever constructed there. The last years of the decade of the 1920s in Bartow were ones of the consolidation and improvement of the resources that had been created in previous years.

4. The Great Depression, 1930-1941

The experience of Bartow during the Great Depression decade differed little from that of the rest of the country. Numerous Florida state and national banks collapsed, including a number of banks across Polk County. Statewide deposits and investments fell, and annual income per capita declined. Florida's diversified base of agriculture and tourism alleviated some of the worst effects of the Depression. In Bartow, the cattle, citrus, and phosphate industries supported the economy. The tourist industry, primarily along the coast, provided revenue to hotels and restaurants, which were not part of the economy of most other sections of the country. Changing patterns of Florida tourism played a significant role. Tourists took to the road in increasing numbers as the love affair of Americans with the automobile blossomed. Florida communities in their path experienced persistent growth and tourism actually picked up in the 1930s as New Deal programs with shorter work weeks and enforced vacation time came into effect, creating a larger market of middle class tourists. Besides tourism, Florida industries included citrus, timbering and naval stores, phosphate mining, fishing, and cattle ranching, a diversification that helped to buoy the economy. Fruit fly infestation in orange groves, bank collapses, and low produce prices in the late 1920s had created so much economic havoc in Florida that the state could go virtually nowhere but up.

Although few subdivisions were established in Bartow during the 1930s, some residential construction took place. Approximately ten buildings were constructed, most in the latter half of the decade, after the harshest effects of the Depression had subsided. "New Deal," relief programs of the Roosevelt administration provided funds to states and municipalities for a host of public improvement projects, including infrastructure

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renewal, conservation activities and the construction of recreational facilities. Such programs assisted the city of Bartow with providing a variety of essential municipal improvements, including the construction of a civic center and an armory.

CONCLUSION

Events associated with World War II dampened growth that had resumed in Bartow in the late 1930s. Following the war, development rebounded, some of which resulted in the destruction of historic buildings. Nevertheless, much of the historic building fabric of Bartow remains intact.

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Associated Property Type F. 1

I. Name of Property Type: Historic Domestic Buildings of  
Bartow 1885-1941II. Description:

The historic domestic buildings of Bartow are mainly confined to two districts contained within the geographical area defined in Section G of this cover. They include small scale residences and multi-family dwellings built during the last two decades of the nineteenth century and the first four decades of the twentieth century. Buildings included in this property type are located in areas that were predominantly residential during the historic period. Their designs reflect contemporary national trends in vernacular and styled architecture of the times in which they were constructed. A number of buildings, across the span of the historic period, exhibit elaborate planning and architectural detailing.

The buildings are generally similar in scale, setting, and construction materials. They range in height from one to three stories and have gable or hip roofs. Roof pitch is governed by the prevailing architectural trends of the period in which the buildings were constructed. Buildings constructed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries tend to have more steeply pitched roofs than those constructed later in the historic period. The majority of historic buildings feature roofs surfaced with asphalt and asbestos shingles, or with varieties of sheet metal.

The ground plans of some vernacular residences are a simple rectangle, but most buildings have irregular footprints. Many buildings are comprised on two-story main blocks with one-story extensions. Most of the domestic buildings have a wood frame structural system that is sheathed in various type of wood fabric, particularly weatherboard and drop siding. However, there are also a significant number of masonry and masonry veneer structures included in the overall inventory of domestic buildings. Stuccoed concrete block and hollow tile construction is also present, particularly in the larger South Bartow Residential District. Fenestration varies with the architecture and date of the buildings. Those with designs based on classical precedents exhibit symmetrical window and door placement, while those that descend from the Medieval tradition incline toward asymmetry in both plan and the placement of windows. Double hung

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wooden sash windows are the most common type found in the residential districts, but there are a number of instances where wood and metal sash casements are used. The type of window form and the number and arrangement of lights depends both on period and style of construction.

Porches are present on nearly all the domestic buildings in the areas embraced by this cover. A notable exception would be a few of the small Mediterranean Revival residences found in the South Bartow Residential District. Variations include verandas, entrance, end, portico, and tiered porches. Most of these have gable, shed, or hip roofs. Porch and veranda roofs are usually supported by either round or square columns, but a few of the older houses may have turned posts. The columns in some cases may be tapered and stand on masonry piers. Porches may also feature balustrades, brackets, drops, and spindle bands.

All of the domestic buildings were constructed on raised masonry foundations. Brick and concrete block piers are common, but some structures may feature continuous brick or concrete foundations. These latter are usually pierced with vents and in some cases may be stuccoed. The majority of domestic buildings feature one or more chimneys. These are usually brick with corbelled caps and may occupy various points in the buildings.

### III. Significance:

The historic residential buildings of Bartow are significant at the local level under the National Register criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Community Planning and Development. They are significant in the area of Architecture as examples of national trends in residential architecture constructed in the city during the late nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. In the area of Community Planning and Development, the buildings are associated with the development of residential neighborhoods in Bartow during the historic period. The districts covered by this nomination represent the only notable concentrations of residences constructed in Bartow during the historic period. There are, however, several isolated residential properties in the community that meet National Register criteria for individual listing. These may be added to the multiple property nomination at a later date.

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**IV. Registration Requirements:**

For buildings to be eligible for nomination under this property type they must serve a historic residential function, have been constructed during one of the historic periods outlined in Section E and lie within the city limits of Bartow. Districts nominated under this property type should possess a concentration of relatively well-preserved historic resources. Eligibility for individual buildings is restricted to (1) exceptional examples of a style or type of architecture; and (2) buildings associated with important local historical events. Individual buildings must retain their original appearance to a high degree. A building that has been altered by significant additions, the application of materials inconsistent with the historic period in which they were constructed, or the removal of significant architectural details is excluded from eligibility.

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Associated Property Type F. 2

I. Name of Property Type: Historic Commercial Buildings of  
Downtown Bartow, 1887-1935

II. Description:

Most historic commercial buildings in downtown Bartow embody the architectural designs commonly found in cities throughout the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They are found concentrated in one section of the area defined in Section G of this cover and reflect a variety of applied styles. The buildings are masonry structures that range in height from one to three stories. They conform to a standard setback to allow for sidewalks and were generally constructed to completely fill the lots upon which they are situated.

The great majority of the commercial buildings are boxy in appearance and have a rectangular plan. Most have load bearing masonry walls, but some of the buildings feature a skeletal steel structural frame. Unless they are detached or sited on a corner, the buildings normally exhibit a single, primary facade where all entrances, windows, and decorative elements are placed. They generally display storefronts consisting of plate glass windows and recessed entrances on the ground story and symmetrical, rectangular and segmental arch fenestration on the upper stories.

Applied ornamentation is present on nearly all of the historic commercial buildings in downtown Bartow. This takes the form of dentils, corbelled cornices, string courses, and panels. Also prevalent are coped parapets, pilasters, and window pediments. Shop windows are flanked by masonry pilasters that provide an inviting frame for displaying merchandise. Horizontal kick panels begin at the ground level and rise several feet to serve as a practical conclusion to the storefront display areas. These panels may be constructed of a variety of materials. Metal

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and wood canopies and canvas awnings are also common features on the commercial buildings.

III. Significance:

The historic commercial buildings of Bartow are significant at the local level under the National Register criteria A and C in the areas of Architecture and Commerce. They represent stylistic trends in architecture consistent with those found throughout Florida during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The buildings have further significance for their association with the development of the Bartow commercial center during the historic period.

IV. Registration Requirements:

For buildings to be eligible for nomination under this property type they must serve a historic commercial function, have been constructed during one of the historic periods outlined in Section E, and lie within the city limits of Bartow. Districts nominated under this criterion should possess a concentration of relatively well-preserved historic resources. Eligibility for individual nominations is restricted to (1) exceptional examples of a style or type of architecture; and (2) buildings associated with important local historical events. Buildings nominated under this area of significance must retain their original appearance to a high degree. A building that has been altered by significant additions, the application of materials inconsistent with the historic period in which they were constructed, or the removal of significant architectural details is excluded from eligibility.



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Associated Property Type F. 3

I. Name of Property Type: Historic Religious Buildings of  
Bartow 1907-1926

II. Description:

The historic religious buildings of Bartow are contained within the geographical area defined in Section G of this cover. These buildings represent the most visual landmarks within the city. They were designed for the most part by architects who drew on Gothic, Romanesque, and Classical architectural precedents for inspiration. Those presently featured within the scope of this nomination are three examples found within the South Bartow Residential District. The churches involved are constructed of fireproof masonry materials. Fenestration consists of round or pointed arch windows featuring stained glass. The windows may also have decorative moldings or surrounds. Entrances are usually recessed and may also have decorative features. In general, the churches retain their original architectural integrity, although some later additions may be present. Only three significant religious structures covered by the limits of this nomination have been identified, all them found in the South Bartow Residential District.

III. Significance:

The historic churches of Bartow are significant under criterion C for their associations with national trends in religious architecture during the early twentieth century and as examples of the work of locally prominent architects.

IV. Registration Requirements:

For a building to be eligible under this property type it must have been constructed to serve a religious function and been built between the years 1885 and 1941. In addition the structure must retain most of its original exterior and interior appearance. Additions constructed during the period of significance should be considered part of the historic evolution of the structure. Large additions or connected buildings should be excluded from consideration for nomination. If, however, the design of the addition is harmonious with the original building, it should not detract from the overall significance of the property.

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Associated Property Type F. 4

I. Name of Property Type: Historic Public Buildings of  
Bartow, 1885-1941

II. Description:

The historic public buildings of Bartow are contained within the geographical area defined in Section G of this cover. Buildings under this property type were developed during the twentieth century portion of the historic period. Included are buildings other than churches involving government, education, and social services. According to data compiled in surveys of historic resources in Bartow, about ten buildings historically served one of those functions. The most important of these is the Old Polk County Courthouse located in the Downtown Commercial District. The remainder are found in the South Bartow Residential District or in areas of the city outside these districts.

Potential sites not included in the present cover would be individually eligible for listing in the National Register. These public buildings assume a variety of styles and forms. The Polk County Courthouse is a large masonry Classical Revival style structure erected in 1910. The property is already listed in the National Register. Functions associated with these structures may include activities not specifically identified above and may date from any time during the historic period from 1885-1941.

III. Significance:

The historic public buildings of Bartow are significant under criterion C for their associations with national trends in architecture during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and as examples of the work of locally prominent architects. Individual properties submitted under this cover in the future may also meet other criteria.

IV. Registration Requirements:

For buildings to be eligible for nomination under this property type they must serve a historic function associated with activities other than commercial enterprise or residential use, primarily those associated with defense, education, government, or transportation. They also need to have been constructed in

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must lie within the city limits of Bartow. Districts nominated under this criterion should possess a concentration of relatively well-preserved historic resources. Eligibility for individual nominations is restricted to (1) exceptional examples of a style or type of architecture; and (2) buildings associated with important local historical events. Buildings nominated under this area of significance must retain their original appearance to a high degree. A building that has been altered by significant additions, the application of materials inconsistent with the historic period in which they were constructed, or the removal of significant architectural details is excluded from eligibility.

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Geographical Data

The properties eligible for listing under this cover are located within the city limits of the City of Bartow, Florida.

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## Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

Surveys were conducted in 1990 and 1991 to determine the nature and extent of historic properties in Bartow. The initial survey, which accounted for 551 buildings, included a large area of Bartow, bounded by Van Fleet Drive and Stuart Street on the north and south and by East and Woodlawn avenues on the east and west. The second survey, during which ninety-two buildings were recorded, examined properties that lie outside the first survey boundaries, but within the current city limits. The methodology used in conducting the surveys consisted of several steps. Initially, a documentary search was conducted to determine the periods of development, activities, and personalities significant to the development of the community, and to identify any previously recorded historic buildings and standing structures. It was found that four buildings in Bartow have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and that about forty additional buildings had been previously surveyed in the 1970s. At this stage, it was determined that all buildings constructed before 1942 would be considered for inclusion in the survey.

The intermediate level consisted of the field survey, which confirmed the location of extant properties, an evaluation of preliminary research and the sites recorded in the field survey, recording site data, and compilation of a basic inventory. The final level consisted of an analysis of properties and the community by theme and period of significance, evaluation of the significance and concentration of the historic buildings, and recommendations for National Register nominations and locally recognized landmarks.

In accordance with the survey criteria 643 properties, all of them buildings, were recorded during the course of the projects. The survey team field inspected, photographed, and recorded the location of each property on a base map or U.S. Geological Survey map. The team noted its condition, integrity, and surroundings. After the completion of field work, the team recorded the aforementioned information along with the legal description of each property and its address.

The development of a historical context for evaluating properties in Bartow constituted a major portion of the survey. The consultant's team of historians conducted a documentary search that focused on the chronological development of the city, emphasizing important events, individuals, and significant themes associated with that development. They conducted research at the

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Polk County Courthouse, Polk County Historical and Genealogical Library, Bartow City Hall, and Bartow Library. In addition to those primary source areas, background research was performed at the St. Augustine Historical Society Library, St. Augustine; the Florida State Library and the Library of the Bureau of Historic Preservation, both in Tallahassee; the P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida, Gainesville; and the DuPont-Ball Library at Stetson University in DeLand. The research information formed the basis for the preliminary and final historical reports, and historical information included on the FMSF forms.

Upon completion of the survey, it was determined that a large percentage of resources eligible for listing in the National Register lay within potential historic districts. A small number of other buildings lay outside potential districts and were identified as potentially eligible for individual listing in the National Register. Further research was conducted in 1991 to determine the full extent of the significance of those buildings, and evaluate the extent and potential boundaries of historic districts in the community. Subsequently, it was determined that there were three separate districts in the survey area. In addition, a number of individual buildings outside the historic districts were selected for nomination to the National Register. Scaled maps were prepared and numerous photographs taken to provide reviewers with visual aids that convey a sense of setting for the varied historic resources of Bartow.

The historic buildings of Bartow represent a significant collection of cultural resources. Bartow presently has four properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The historic South Florida Military Institute (listed in 1972), the B.F. Holland House (listed 1975), The John J. Swearingen House (listed 1982), and the Polk County Courthouse (listed 1989).

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