

BROWARD COUNTY SITES ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STRANAHAN HOUSE

Built 1901¹, listed in the National Register 1973

335 South East Sixth Avenue, Fort Lauderdale



STRANAHAN HOUSE, 1920s (courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society)

Stranahan House, built in a classic Florida frontier design, is the oldest surviving structure in Broward County. It overlooks the picturesque New River. Home to two of Fort Lauderdale's best known pioneer residents, Frank and Ivy Stranahan, it was originally constructed as a trading post, the third such structure on the site. Mr. Stranahan married Ivy Julia Cromartie in 1900. When they first met she was an 18-year-old who had come from Lemon City to teach at the first Fort Lauderdale school.

The Stranahans welcomed the Seminole Indians who would sleep on the house's broad porches when they came to town to trade. Mrs. Stranahan was an early advocate of education for both Indians and blacks. Although she only formally taught school for a year, many of the Indian children who visited her home learned to read through her efforts. The Stranahans donated land for the third school for black children, Old Dillard School, in Fort Lauderdale.

Frank Stranahan's major business interests were in real estate and banking. He organized the Fort Lauderdale State Bank in 1910 and served as its president. He was also active in local politics. When the "land boom" collapsed after the 1926 hurricane and the great depression, the Fort Lauderdale State Bank failed. Mr. Stranahan's other business interests also suffered. Despondent and in poor health, he drowned himself in the New River.

The house has served over the years as a post office, town hall and restaurant. Mrs. Stranahan died in 1971 having watched Broward County's tremendous growth. In her will she left her property to the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The house was purchased shortly thereafter by the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society and the Fort Lauderdale Board of Realtors, which began the restoration effort. The house features Dade County pine walls (termite resistant) and oak flooring. In 1982, extensive archaeological investigations were conducted by archaeologist Robert Carr. This work not only helped document the late 19th century history of the site, but also revealed deposits of much older prehistoric artifacts. It is now a house museum, run by Stranahan House, Inc., open to the public for tours and special events. This well-restored house museum focuses on the Stranahan family and Fort Lauderdale's early 20th century history.

954-524-4736

www.stranahanhouse.com

¹ (Note: This is the date most frequently used in current literature, however, both the Florida Master Site File (Historical Data Supplement, Statement of Significance) and the National Register (Significance,8) list the year built as 1902).

NEW RIVER INN

Built 1905, listed in the National Register 1972

231 South West Second Avenue, Fort Lauderdale



NEW RIVER INN, early view (courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society)

One of the earliest establishments of its kind in the area, the New River Inn was built by Edwin T. King for Philemon Bryan in a masonry vernacular style. The concrete construction made the building hurricane resistant. Originally called the New River Hotel, this building replaced a 1902 wooden structure known as the Bryan Hotel, which was moved to the rear of the site and served as a hotel annex. In the 1940s the name was changed to the New River Inn and it served as a hostelry until 1955.

"In a letter dated July 31, 1968, Stuart L. Bryan, grandson of the builder of the New River Inn, stated: 'The present concrete building was completed in 1905 from blocks made on the grounds in detachable iron molds by hand labor. The sand for the blocks used in the New River Inn was brought from the beach on barges. All walls inside and out were of this beach sand concrete. The inn is a two-and-a-half story whitewashed structure. The roof is hipped with dormers projecting from all sides. There is a belt course of smooth blocks at the second floor level creating a marked contrast with the rusticated effect of the rest of the building. By using two different types of molds, the effect of ashlar and rusticated masonry has been simulated. Thirteen stone columns support a two-story verandah on the south and east sides of the building.'"²

"Its proximity to the New River and its location adjacent to the railroad emphasize the importance that early modes of transportation played in the development of the Fort Lauderdale area. Visitors to the inn merely had to disembark at the dock on the south lawn of the inn and were surrounded by tropical gardens and scenic walks leading to the entrance."³ The "...hotel featured 40 guest rooms, dining room, sewer and irrigation systems, running ice water and was lit with carbide lamps."⁴ Located in the heart of Downtown Fort Lauderdale's historic district, the New River Inn has been faithfully restored. It now houses the Old Fort Lauderdale Museum of History operated by the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society and is open to the public for tours.

954-463-4431

www.oldfortlauderdale.org



NEW RIVER INN, 1999 (Bill Cunningham)

2 New River Inn Florida Master Site File, Historical Data Sheet.

3 *ibid.*

4 Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, ©2001, revised 19 Jun. 2002, 12 Dec. 2002, (text modified from <http://www.srdfortlauderdale.org/>).

HILLSBORO INLET LIGHT STATION

Built 1905 - 1907, listed in National Register 1974

Hillsboro Inlet, Hillsboro Beach



HILLSBORO INLET LIGHT STATION,
(courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society)

In 1904, the overall drawing for the proposed lighthouse at the Hillsboro Inlet was approved and signed by the "Office of the Lighthouse Engineer." It was to be an octagonal pyramid iron skeletal tower with a cylindrical central staircase. "In 1905 the Russell Wheel and Foundry of Detroit, Michigan, was awarded the contract for the ironwork at the price of \$24,000."⁵ An existing lighthouse on the coast of Cape Fear, North Carolina served as a basis for the design.

The structure was first assembled to check for soundness and then taken apart and shipped. The fabricated metal components were moved by a steamer down the Mississippi River, into the Gulf of Mexico, and then to the Hillsboro Inlet. "Erection of the lighthouse was awarded to a New Orleans contractor, J. H. Gardner, for \$16,729."⁶ The lighthouse stands 142 feet high.⁷ In 1905, the support buildings around the lighthouse were constructed, which included three two-story homes for the lighthouse keeper, his assistant, their families, and a barn for each family.

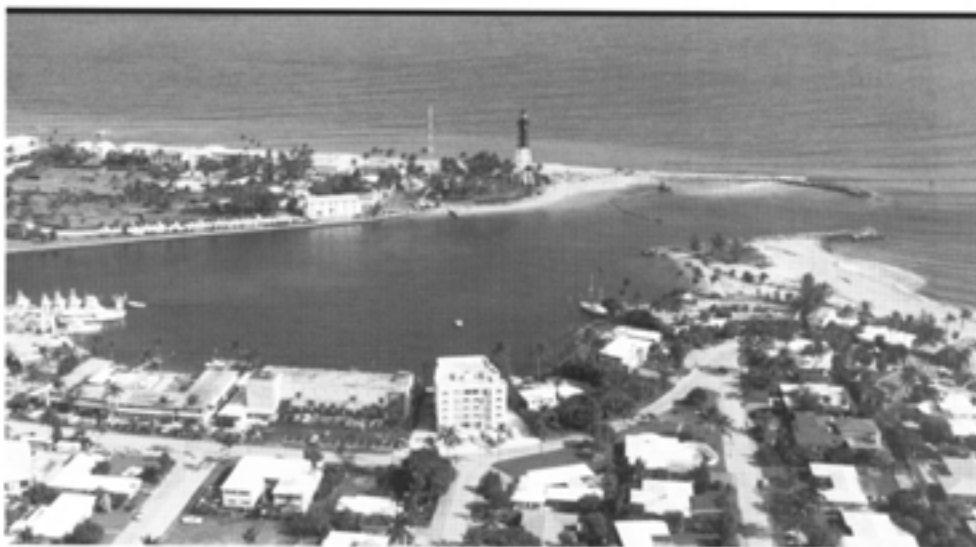
"In 1906 a contract was awarded to Barbier, Benard and Turenne of Paris, France, for 'one second order flashing lens' at a price of \$7,250. The clamshell "bivalve" design of the Fresnel lens was revolutionary and "gave a brilliant light equivalent to the light from 550,000 candles. It was installed in 1907 and the first keeper, Captain A. A. Burgell, was appointed. The first lamp was fueled by kerosene which had to be carried up to the top of the lighthouse. After electricity became available during the 1920s, the lantern was replaced by four 250-watt bulbs. This improvement increased the light to 2,500,000 candlepower, making Hillsboro one of the most powerful lights in the United States, with its beam visible twenty-eight miles out to sea."⁸

"After the United States entered World War II, a crew barracks was built and armed Coast Guardsmen patrolled the beach on horseback, and lookouts with binoculars manned the platforms on top of the lighthouse towers."⁹ "The top, or light and watchtower, is reached by a winding iron stairway on the inside of the tower, secure from the wind and weather."¹⁰ There are 175 steps to the lantern room. The stairs wind inside the center of the 9-foot diameter column. In 1995 an extensive restoration of the lighthouse took place and in 1998 the Fresnel lens was restored. It had originally been suspended in toxic mercury but now is turned by a ball bearing system.

The property on which the lighthouse sits is surrounded by the private and exclusive Hillsboro Club. Access to the property is denied to non-members.¹¹ The tower and grounds are not open to the public except by special arrangements with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society.

954-942-2102

www.hillsborolighthouse.org



HILLSBORO INLET LIGHT STATION, 1976 (Smith Aerial)

5 Butler, "Hillsboro Lighthouse," 42.

6 Hamilton, "Hillsboro Lighthouse Legend Exploded by Research," *Fort Lauderdale Daily News*, 7 Dec. 1951, 1B.

7 Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society Website, "facts" page, June 2002, 12 Dec. 2002 (text modified from <http://hillsborolighthouse.org>). (Note: John Vile, Florida's History Through its Places (Sarasota, FL, Pineapple Press, 1996), 13, states it is 132 feet high, and C. Clinton Page, "Long in Light Service: Captain Thomas Knight, Served in Station of Which His Father and Grandfather Also Were Keepers," *Broward Legacy*, Winter/Spring 1982, vol. 5, nos. 1 & 2, 27, states 136 feet high).

8 *ibid.*, 43.

9 *ibid.*, 44.

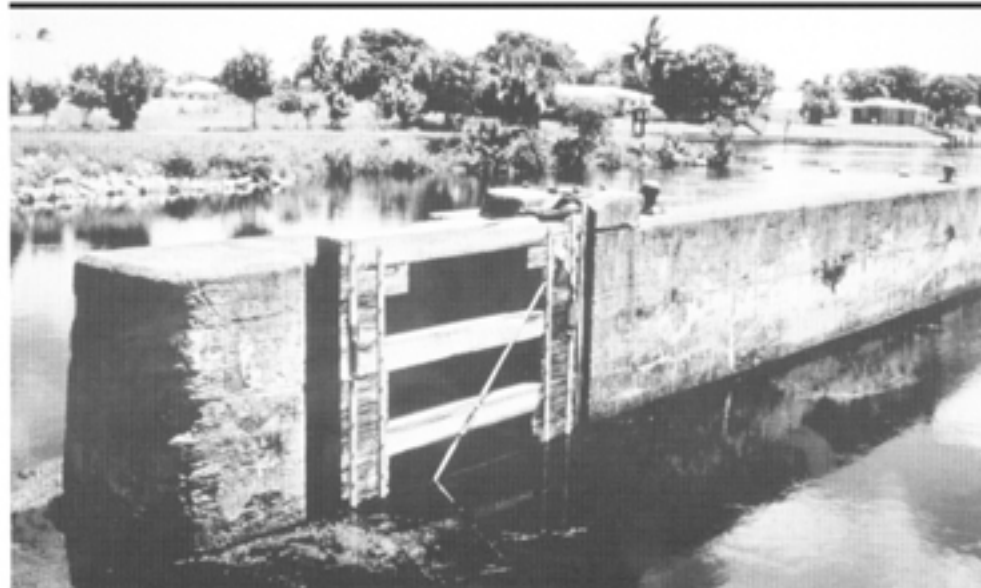
10 Page, "Long in Light Service," 27.

11 Christie Caliendo, "Local Beacon to Illuminate Coast Again," *Deerfield Beach/Lighthouse Point Times*, 28 Jan. 1999, 5.

LOCK NO. 1 NORTH NEW RIVER CANAL

Built 1912, listed in National Register 1978

6521 State Road 84, Davie



LOCK NO. 1, 1999 (Bill Cunningham)

Also known as the Sewell Lock and the Broward Memorial Lock, Lock No. 1 is located on the North New River Canal, south of Plantation on State Road 84, just west of the Davie Road Extension. It was built for the Everglades Drainage District and was constructed by the Furst-Clark Construction Company. It is a 149-foot-long single lock. The entry was controlled by wooden gates. It was designed to allow increased agricultural activity along the New River Canal.

"The Everglades drainage program which was begun in 1905 has probably had a greater historical and continued impact on South Florida than any other single factor. One of the canals, the North New River Canal, was, in the early years, a major transportation artery between Fort Lauderdale and Lake Okeechobee. In order to make the canal useful for transportation, locks had to be constructed. Lock No. 1 at the south end of the canal was the first to be built in South Florida."¹²

"The opening of the lock led to an increased agricultural exploitation of the newly drained land along the New River Canal. Produce grown in this area and around Lake Okeechobee was brought down the canal through the locks to the railroad in Fort Lauderdale. An even more important cargo was Okeechobee catfish. New River was lined with fish houses, overhanging the river. The fish were brought down by small launches in box-like cabins. Boats traversed the distance between the lake and Fort Lauderdale in groups. This made the trip go faster since more than one boat could get into the hand-operated lock and thus make it more efficient.

"The locks also made it possible for small steamboats to operate on a regular basis between Fort Lauderdale and the lake as well as Fort Myers via the Caloosahatchee River. Regular scheduled steamers included the Suwanee, Lily and Passing Thru. These boats carried passengers, cargo and tourists up and down the river. By 1926 the canals had shoaled to the point that boat traffic was no longer practical and the waterway had been replaced by a railroad and highway as the primary transportation artery to and from the lake. That year the locks were closed permanently and allowed to deteriorate due to the lack of use."¹³

The Broward County Historical Commission worked with the site's owner, the South Florida Water Management District, Department of Natural Resources, to get the lock listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. The boat lock had been inoperative for many years but was in remarkably good condition at the time. In the early 1990s the Historical Commission worked with the County division of Engineering, the Florida Department of Transportation and South Florida Water Management District, Department of Natural Resources to have the lock restored and a park created on the site. It stands today as a reminder of the importance of the great drainage project to the development of South Florida.



LOCK NO. 1, 1977

¹² Lock #1 Florida Master Site File Historical Data Sheet, (unnumbered).

¹³ *ibid.*

BONNET HOUSE

Built 1920 to 1921, listed in the National Register 1984

900 North Birch Road, Fort Lauderdale



BONNET HOUSE, 1980s (© John D. Pearce)



BONNET HOUSE, 1990s

Hugh Taylor Birch was a wealthy lawyer and real estate investor from Chicago who came to Fort Lauderdale in the late 1890s and began to buy the undeveloped land on the barrier island along the Atlantic Ocean. His daughter, Helen, shared her father's love of the rugged Florida wilderness and visited him in the winter months. After she married millionaire art collector and artist Frederic Bartlett, her father, as a wedding present, gave the couple the land that would later be the site of Bonnet House. Tragically, she died in 1925 not long after Bonnet House was completed.

The house itself was designed totally by Frederic Bartlett. He used local contractor Samuel Drake and local builder W. H. Rogers to organize the work.¹⁴ He used indigenous materials in the construction of the house including coral rock, cypress, Dade County pine and concrete blocks made from beach sand. The eclectic architectural style was influenced by Bartlett's extensive world travels.

Frederic Bartlett later married Evelyn Fortune Lily and this whimsical estate became their winter retreat. Evelyn Bartlett was also an artist and their unconventional personal touches are evident throughout the property. In the main house are ceiling murals, faux painting on the walls and floors and decorative shell work inlays. The house was designed for tropical beachfront living. Nestled among miles of beachfront development, the 35-acre estate rests on the barrier island with the Intracoastal Waterway on the west side of the property and the Atlantic Ocean on the east.

Frederic Bartlett died in 1953. Evelyn Bartlett continued to spend her winters at the estate. Fearing the encroaching development, in 1983 she gave the property to the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. She died two months before her 110th birthday, in 1997. Bonnet House, Inc. operates the property as a house museum and tropical garden. It is one of the few complete homes and studios of a recognized American artist open to the public. Tours are available Wednesday through Sunday.

954-563-5393

www.bonnethouse.org

¹⁴ Jayne Rice, *Reflections of a Legacy*, (Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Bonnet House, Inc., 1989), 29.

SAMPLE-McDOUGALD HOUSE

Built 1916, listed in the National Register 1984

450 North East 10th Street, Pompano Beach (Formerly at 3161 North Dixie Highway)

The Sample family arrived in South Florida soon after the turn of the century. John M. Sample, the first to settle in the Pompano area, had purchased farming land from the Florida East Coast Railway prior to 1910. Albert Neal Sample, a one-time architect, followed his younger brother John to the Broward County area in 1911. Neal purchased his brother's land on June 11, 1915, and began building the house in 1916. The Sample-McDougald Home, also known as the Old Sample Estate and Pine Haven, is a 17-room Colonial Revival structure constructed by Sample in the style of a Greenville, South Carolina home he previously owned. It is unquestionably one of the most architecturally significant homes in the county.

The home, built of cypress throughout, features a wide columnar porch that extends in a U-shape around the north side of the house to the rear, and once faced busy Dixie Highway. Its 11-foot ceilings and numerous windows are a good example of pre-air conditioning/climate control. The foundation was reinforced with extra brick pillars and because of its superior construction withstood the devastating hurricanes of 1926 and 1928. The home served as the base for Sample's farming operations that stretched from Lighthouse Point out west past what is today Powerline Road. Sample funded and constructed a road in 1917 for reaching his crop land.



SAMPLE-McDOUGALD HOUSE



SAMPLE-McDOUGALD HOUSE, 2002 (Bill Cunningham)

Today that thoroughfare, Sample Road, bears his name. In the days when Pompano was a farming community and the recently completed Dixie Highway was the only passable highway leading into Miami, the Sample-McDougald home was a stopover for motorists.

Following Mr. Sample's death in 1941, Sarah Sellers and William D. McDougald, Sr. purchased the home on August 14, 1943. Over the decades, the McDougalds watched farmland surrounding their residence transformed into commercial property and the strip once known as the new Dixie Highway become the old Dixie Highway. A founding member of several North Broward historical societies, Mrs. McDougald feared that because of its location the structure was threatened and its future uncertain and she supported its preservation and inclusion in the National Register. The McDougald children inherited the house, and in keeping with their mother's desire, placed it in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. Anxious to see the house preserved for future generations, the McDougalds supported several attempts to preserve it, but logistical and financial complexities could not be overcome.

In 1999 several community volunteers created the Sample-McDougald House Preservation Society, Inc. They sought community support for moving and restoring the historic landmark and municipal, state and citizens' contributions were forthcoming.

During the late evening hours of May 29, 2001, the house was moved off its original site and over the next seven hours moved south on Dixie Highway and then east on NE 10th Street to its new location. Hundreds of people lined the streets to view this once-in-a-lifetime sight.¹⁵ When restoration, furnishing, landscaping and site development is completed the house will be opened to the public.

954-786-4047

dambobby@samplemcdougald.com

www.samplemcdougald.com

¹⁵ Sample-McDougald House Website, 17 Sep. 2001, 16 Dec. 2002, (all text modified from www.growton.com/dambob/).

OAKLAND PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Built 1926 and AUDITORIUM built 1927, listed in the National Register 1988

936 North East 33 Street, Oakland Park

Designed by Thomas D. McLaughlin Associates and built by Mills & Norton Construction Company, the original U-shaped one-story school building is representative of the Spanish style of architecture prevalent in Florida during the 1920s.¹⁶ The McLaughlin firm also designed the Deerfield School, another of the places listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Florida East Coast Railroad Company donated the lot the school was built on.

"Built at an original cost of \$29,155, the school was meant to accommodate 200 students."¹⁷ Its arcaded walkways, wrought iron gates and open courtyard give the main classroom building its Spanish character. All classrooms in the original core building face the courtyard to take advantage of the cross breezes. Many older Florida schools, because they were built before the widespread use of air-conditioning, were designed with arcaded walkways.



OAKLAND PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

The auditorium building, which is adjacent to the school, is also Spanish in style. The auditorium was designed by Sutton and Routt and built by Gahan Construction Company. Both buildings are of concrete block and stucco over frame. The auditorium has hardwood floors, 250 seats, a projection booth at the back, eight chandeliers and a high timber-trussed roof with massive pecky cypress beams. It served as a hurricane shelter during the deadly 1926 storm and continues to be one of the area's prime hurricane shelters because of the structure's strength.

The school served the small farming community, originally called Floranada, which was established in 1923. The school has been and continues to be an educational and cultural center for Oakland Park. Political debates were held there, and the school has served as a polling place. It opened January 4, 1926 for the first day of school with about 200 students and is the oldest school still in operation in Broward County.



OAKLAND PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.



OAKLAND PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 1999 (Bill Cunningham)

¹⁶ Oakland Park Elementary School National Register Nomination Proposal - Florida, Statement of Significance, 5.

¹⁷ Rafael Matos, "It's a Tradition," *Sun-Sentinel*, 17 Jul. 1994, 9.

OLD DAVIE SCHOOL

Built 1918, listed in National Register 1988

6650 Griffin Road, Davie



DAVIE SCHOOL.

This masonry vernacular style building with notable Spanish, Mission and Moorish details was designed by August Geiger. Geiger was one of South Florida's best-known architects and he served as architect to Dade and Broward County School Boards. Many of his buildings still stand in Miami and other areas of Dade County. He also designed the Hallandale School and the old Fort Lauderdale High School, both of which no longer exist.¹⁸ The Old Davie School is a concrete building finished with a textured stucco surface. The T-shaped plan and shallow hipped roof behind a parapet create a symmetrical composition. Horseshoe and bell arched openings add decorative elements to the imposing structure.

The Old Davie School was the first permanent school in the Everglades and was built at a cost of \$12,000.¹⁹ When it opened its doors in 1918 it welcomed 90 students.²⁰ It was in continuous use as a school through 1980. The large windows were carefully placed to take advantage of natural light and to facilitate cross-ventilation. It was the first facility in the area with indoor plumbing making it a source of community pride. The concrete construction helped keep the building cooler as well as adding a fireproofing element.

Its solid construction proved valuable during the 1926 hurricane and other storms when residents sought shelter there, saving many lives. The large upstairs auditorium (41 by 70 feet)²¹ served as a space for social, recreational and civic gatherings in a town which was at one time largely isolated from the mainstream of south Florida until it became the bustling town of today.

A grass roots movement by civic leaders saved the building from becoming a bus maintenance repair shop for the Broward County School Board in 1983. The school board, responding to community interest in the building, donated the five-acre site to the Davie School Foundation. Davie's most enduring institution remains today much as it was in 1918. A Pioneer Village is being developed on the site to tell the story of Davie's early culture with original, transplanted and reproduction buildings. Recently there have been discussions concerning moving the historic 1912 Viele House to the site.²² Having always served the area as an educational and community hub, the Old Davie School, supported by the Davie School Foundation, is now a museum which is open to the public.

954-797-1044



DAVIE SCHOOL.

18 Billie K. Cole, "The Old Davie School Birth and Rebirth of a Broward Landmark."

19 "Davie School Dedicated Last Friday", *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, 9 May 1918, p. 8.

20 Old Davie School Historical Museum Brochure, circa 2002 (cream color).

21 "Contract Let For Davie School", *Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel*, 15 Jun. 1917, 1.

22 Jerry Berrios, "Davie seeking grant to move Viele House," *The Herald*, 5 Dec. 2002.

JOSEPH W. YOUNG HOUSE

Built 1925, listed in the National Register 1989

1055 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood



JOSEPH W. YOUNG HOUSE, circa 1925 (courtesy of Patricia Smith)

During the heyday of the 1920s Florida land boom, Joseph W. Young, designer and founder of the made-to-order city of Hollywood, built his residence at 1055 Hollywood Boulevard. Young oversaw every detail in the development of Hollywood. "An urban developer, Young sought to protect environmental quality, prevent misuse of land and enhance property values by guiding Hollywood's growth and development. He introduced to South Florida the concepts of a physical grid for the town's layout, building restrictions, zoning and oceanfront development. Young also championed the creation of present-day Port Everglades, located between Hollywood and Fort Lauderdale. Through the early application of growth management tools, Young stimulated and encouraged the creation of residential neighborhoods in attractive surroundings."²³

The 1926 hurricane devastated Young's dream city and the bottom fell out of South Florida's booming real-estate market. Young lost control of much of his Hollywood holdings as a result of lawsuits and other legal actions. Not disillusioned, he continued to invest in land. In 1934, he died of heart failure in the study of his Hollywood home.

One of the first residences constructed in Hollywood, Young's Mediterranean Revival style dwelling was built for \$25,000.²⁴ The 6,000-square-foot house was designed by the prominent Indianapolis architects, Rubush and Hunter, who also designed the Indianapolis City Hall and, locally, the Hollywood Beach Hotel and the Flamingo Hotel on Miami Beach. "The house displays all the classic features of Mediterranean Revival style architecture such as an inner courtyard, various types and levels of roofs, balconies, balconets, loggias, arches, parapets, scuppers, enriched corbels and medallions. Materials include red clay barrel tile, terra cotta, stucco, heavy timbers and wrought iron. Large stone urns flank the major entrances."²⁵ The house has a bell tower, inner courtyard and elegant pool. "The interior of the house is distinguished by hardwood or clay tile floors; heavy beamed, 12-foot ceilings; wrought iron gates and fixtures, arches, and stuccoed or rough plastered walls."²⁶

The house has been in the possession of many owners over the years, some of whom have been more sensitive than others in retaining its unique historical characteristics. Fortunately, the original architect's blueprints exist. The elegant 23-room mansion was renovated and restored to its former grandeur in the late 1980s, only to be later abandoned. It is currently being restored again.



JOSEPH W. YOUNG HOUSE, circa 1970s

23 Joseph Young House National Register Form, section 8, 5.
24 Virginia Elliott TenEick, *A History of Hollywood Florida*, (Patricia M. Smith and Classics Library, Port Salerno, Florida, 1989), xxi.

25 Joseph Young House National Register Form, section 8, 1.
26 Joseph Young House National Register Form, section 7, 3.

CAP'S PLACE RESTAURANT

Built 1928-29, listed in National Register 1990

2980 North East 31 Avenue; and is reached from Cap's Dock, 2765 North East 28th Court, Lighthouse Point



CAP'S PLACE RESTAURANT (courtesy Cap's Place, Hasis Family)

Eugene Theodore Knight, also known as "Cap," built this wonderful example of 1920s frame vernacular architecture on a spit of land between the Intracoastal Waterway and Lake Placid near the Hillsboro Inlet. It consists of a collection of five one-story wood frame structures which retain their historic usage as a restaurant and bar. The first restaurant building was constructed on a beached dredging barge purchased in Miami for \$100.00 in 1928 and was enlarged in 1929.²⁷

The main building walls are made from old growth Dade County pine and pecky cypress. The roofs are covered with tar paper and asphalt shingles. Open rafters grace the ceilings and all the light bulbs on the property are bare, with no fixtures, a Cap's Place tradition. The bar structure is a rectangular building. On the north side of the interior is a large bar constructed of bamboo from the Everglades. The top of the bar was fashioned from decking from an old ship. Other structures include Cap's original home, dock and walkways.



CAP'S PLACE RESTAURANT (Bill Cunningham)

By the 1930s the restaurant and bar were frequented by gamblers. The casino and slot machines were removed in 1954, after a federal investigation into gambling in Broward County. Cap died in 1964 and his business associate Al Hasis and his family took over operation of this one-of-a-kind restaurant. Originally called Club Unique, Cap's Place can be reached by a short, free boat ride on the Intracoastal Waterway. Cap's Place is the oldest structure in Lighthouse Point and is like a time capsule amidst the expensive waterfront dwellings surrounding it.

954-941-0418

www.capsplace.com

²⁷ Cap's Place, National Register of Form, Architectural Significance, 3.

DEERFIELD SCHOOL

Built 1926-27, listed in the National Register 1990

651 North East 1st Street, Deerfield Beach

This two-story masonry structure was designed by Thomas McLaughlin, one of Florida's "boom-time architects." He designed the Oakland Park Elementary School (1926), which is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The school is a fine example of the Mediterranean Revival style that was popular in the southwest United States during the period 1915-1940. The basis of Mediterranean Revival style is Spanish architecture; it also borrows elements from other styles such as Italian Renaissance, Gothic, Moorish and Byzantine.²⁸

Deerfield School continues to be used as a public school and remains essentially unchanged. Decorative details include arched walkways, intersecting gable roofs covered with S-shape Spanish terra cotta barrel-tiles and a bell tower with twisted Corinthian columns. Open air loggias form primary corridors connecting classrooms and offices. The L-shaped building sits on a concrete foundation and the masonry walls are covered with a painted shell-clash stucco finish. It has one of the earliest examples of terrazzo floors in Broward County.²⁹

There is a one-and-a-half-story auditorium wing which seats 277³⁰ and was designed for religious, educational and community events, including a community theater for the City of Deerfield. It is also used as a hurricane shelter. The auditorium has been restored to its original appearance. The school is the second oldest operating school in Broward County, the first being Oakland Park Elementary.



DEERFIELD SCHOOL



DEERFIELD SCHOOL, 1970s

²⁸ Deerfield School National Register Nomination, Significance, 3.

²⁹ Nicki Grossman, Chairman, Broward County Commissioners to Keeper, National Register, circa 1989.

³⁰ Deerfield School National Register Form, Section 8, 3.

SEABOARD AIR LINE RAILWAY STATION

Built 1926-27, listed in the National Register 1990

1300 West Hillsboro Boulevard, Deerfield Beach



SEABOARD AIR LINE RAILWAY STATION, 1999 (Bill Cunningham)

This Mediterranean Revival structure was designed by Gustav A. Maass, an innovative architect from Louisiana. Maass also designed three other stations for the Seaboard Airline Railway, the stations in West Palm Beach, Boynton Beach and Delray Beach. The station in Boynton is identical to the Deerfield station. The stations were designed for both passenger and freight service. In 1927, over 30 years after Henry Flagler had brought the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) into South Florida, the Seaboard Airline Railway (SAL) became the second railroad line serving the region when the 'Orange Blossom Special' arrived on January 8.

The Butler brothers, prominent farmers in the Deerfield area, assisted in getting the right-of-way for the railroad. It is said that they stipulated that any station built be equal to that in Delray. It was a produce shipping center and many farmers from Lake Okeechobee and Pompano rented warehouses there. There was a dirt road that led from the station to Oakland Park Boulevard. The Butler brothers shipped carloads of cucumbers, beans, peppers and eggplant to Chicago and New York.

In 1942, the Army Air Force took over the warehouses to store materials for building the base in Boca Raton. The Seaboard Coastline Railroad is typical of terminal building construction of the "Boom" period of the 1920s. It is essentially unchanged, except for minor interior alterations.³¹

Under the management of the Deerfield Beach Historical Society the South Florida Railway Museum is located in the historic former Seaboard Air Line Station. Its goal is to preserve the history of railroads in southern Florida, and educate the public about the importance of railroads in the region past and present. A comprehensive museum dedicated to the impact of the railroad on South Florida history is planned for the site.

954-429-0378

www.geocities.com/dhbhf/



SEABOARD AIR LINE RAILWAY STATION, circa 1944

³¹ Deerfield Beach Historical Society Web site, 24 May 2002, 11 Dec. 2002 (all text modified from www.geocities.com/dhbhf/).

OLD DILLARD HIGH SCHOOL

Built 1924, listed in National Register 1991

1001 North West 4th Street, Fort Lauderdale



OLD DILLARD HIGH SCHOOL, 1942



OLD DILLARD HIGH SCHOOL,
1999 (Bill Cunningham)

The Old Dillard School was built in the masonry vernacular style with Mission style elements. It was designed by prominent local architect John Morrison Peterman and constructed by the firm of Cayot and Hart on land donated by civic leaders Frank and Ivy Stranahan.

Dillard High School was the third school for black children in Fort Lauderdale. The first was a wood-frame school house built on land donated by Tom Bryan in 1907. It "was a one-room frame structure on the west side of what is now Northwest Third Avenue between present-day Broward Boulevard and Northwest Second Street."³² That school was torn down in 1910. "By 1915, the black school was headquartered in the Knights of Pythias Hall at Northwest Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue where it remained until March 1923."³³ When Old Dillard High School was constructed in 1924, the nine-room two-story building had an inscription over the front door that read "Colored School." The first principal, Joseph A. Ely, named the school in honor of James H. Dillard, a philanthropist, educator and promoter of education for blacks.

Another principal was Clarence C. Walker, Sr. who served as principal from 1937 until his death in 1942. During his tenure in office, the School Board had ordered a split term for black schools in the county due to a farm labor shortage. Black students were expected to work in the fields harvesting the crops. The board decision was reversed in 1942 after Walker lead a successful boycott. In June 1954, a citizens committee requested that the school be named in honor of Clarence C. Walker for his untiring efforts and civic prestige in retaining a continuous school term for black students. It was renamed after the current Dillard High was built at 2501 NW 11th Street.

By the late 1940s the word "Colored" was removed from the outside of the building. In 1974 the school was converted to administrative offices and a new Walker Elementary School was built on adjacent land along North West Fourth Street. The building was boarded up and condemned in 1980, but through community activism was saved and now serves as a public museum and cultural center. "The preservation of the school is important for Fort Lauderdale because it means that at least the building will stand as a monument to the struggles we've had to go through in segregation and upgrading curriculum for blacks," said Mary Smith, president of the Black Historical Society and a 1952 graduate of the school when it was called Dillard High.³⁴

The old school is now the Old Dillard Cultural Arts Museum home to exhibitions, a recreated historic class room, art displays, and historical/cultural artifacts, representing the rich and proud African-American heritage.

954-765-6952

³² "Dillard Elementary School," *New River News*, 31 Jan. 1966, 4.

³³ *ibid.*

³⁴ Denise L. Stinson, "Board: Make Walker School a Landmark," *Fort Lauderdale News*, 14.

BUTLER HOUSE

Built 1923, listed in the National Register 1995

380 East Hillsboro Boulevard, Deerfield Beach



BUTLER HOUSE, 1999 (Bill Cunningham)

This Mediterranean Revival style building was the home of Deerfield Beach pioneers and civic leaders, James D. and Alice Butler. The plans for the house were obtained from a popular ladies magazine, the *Ladies Home Journal* of September 1923. It cost \$10,000 to build and it is situated on almost four city lots. The house is built of hollow tile, the interior walls are plaster on lath and the roof is made from Spanish terra cotta tiles.³⁵

The Butlers married in 1906 in Texas and came to Deerfield Beach in 1910 on a visit and stayed to become two of Deerfield Beach's most popular and public-spirited citizens. When Broward County was formed in 1915, Mr. Butler was a member of the first school board. For eight years he served on the Broward County Board of County Commissioners and for four years on the Deerfield Beach City Commission. He died in 1965. Mrs. Butler helped found the Deerfield Beach Woman's Club and they both assisted in the establishment of the First Baptist Church of Deerfield.³⁶ She died in 1965.

The house and grounds were bequeathed to the Deerfield Beach Historical Society in 1977. It is now the group's headquarters and is operated as a museum. The historic Butler House has been completely restored. It contains many of the original furnishings with the exception of the dining room table that was replaced after the first one was used to board up the west dining room window during the 1928 hurricane. Furnishings include the wicker furniture purchased by the Butlers in 1923 for \$500.

The museum is open for tours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday and on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

954-429-0378

www.gocities.com/dbhsfl/



BUTLER HOUSE

³⁵ Deerfield Beach Historical Society, "The Historic Butler House".

³⁶ *ibid.*

HOLLYWOOD WOMAN'S CLUB

Built 1927, listed in the National Register 1995

500 North 14th Avenue, Hollywood



HOLLYWOOD WOMAN'S CLUB, 1999 (Bill Cunningham)

The Hollywood Woman's Club is fine example of frame vernacular architecture with Colonial Revival details. It was built on two lots donated by Joseph W. Young, founder of the city of Hollywood. The Woman's Club was designed by architect Frederic A. Eskridge. The building was constructed by C. E. Payne, general contractor, and completed August 5, 1927... and the club house has since been continuously occupied by the Hollywood Woman's Club. The building is a one-story wood frame structure with a front gable roof. "The club had originally planned a larger structure, but their plans were changed after the devastating 1926 hurricane."³⁷ "The front door is accentuated with a decorative crown, side pilasters, fanlights and sidelights. The roof is a front facing gable covered with composition shingles. Windows are shuttered but originals have been replaced with the aluminum awning style."³⁸

"Organized in 1922, the Hollywood Woman's Club functioned as a community center. The early officers were wives of members of the J. W. Young organization who wanted to establish normal community life as they had known it in the Midwestern states from which they came."³⁹ The ladies of the Hollywood Woman's Club assisted in the development of the first public library in Hollywood and provided medical examinations for children in public schools.

The club has served over the years as a public library, a voting place and a site for the community to hold educational, cultural and social gatherings, as well as frequent charity fund raising and political events. The building has been carefully maintained by the members and remains relatively unchanged.

37 Michelle Chapman, "Older Than Hollywood," *Sun-Tator*, 22 Mar. 1985.

38 City of Hollywood, Florida, "Historic Lakes District Multiple Property Resource Listing, Hollywood Woman's Club, 501 North 14th Avenue Local Historic Site", 1991, (unnumbered).

39 Hollywood Woman's Club Florida Master Site File.

BRYAN BUILDING

Built circa 1913, listed in the National Register 1997

220-230 Brickell Avenue, Fort Lauderdale



BRYAN BUILDING, 1999 (Bill Cunningham)



BRYAN BUILDING, at end of block, after 1926 hurricane

The two-story Bryan Building was constructed for Thomas Bryan, a member of one of Fort Lauderdale's most influential pioneer families. The Bryan building was one of the first hotels in Fort Lauderdale's original downtown district. It was one of the first commercial buildings to be built after the 1912 fire that destroyed much of the original city. This masonry vernacular building has a brick facade which is unusual for South Florida, but typical in other areas of the country at the time it was built. Masonry buildings are more fire resistant than wooden structures. It is considered the least altered building of its era in downtown Fort Lauderdale. The 14,200-square-foot building has old growth Dade County pine floors.

"The first floor traditionally was used as offices while the upstairs served as either a hotel or a rooming house."⁴⁰ The building housed the post office on the first floor from 1914 to 1925⁴¹ and the Fort Lauderdale Bank until at least 1924.⁴² "The Hotel DeSoto occupied the building from at least 1919 to at least 1927⁴³, the Lee Hotel from 1936 to 1938, the Hotel Boris from 1940 to 1948, and the Dorsey Hotel from 1950 to 1965."⁴⁴ The Dorsey Hotel did not allow women visitors and was known for its cowboy theme. "Rooms were painted with western scenes that ranged from corrals to hangman's nooses."⁴⁵

In the mid 1940s the building was purchased by local real estate developer Bailey R. Howard. Howard's daughter Bette and son-in-law Ennis Shepherd eventually acquired the building. Ennis Shepherd became a City Judge and prominent attorney. He maintained his law office on the ground floor from 1947 until the early 1990s.⁴⁶

This building was widely known as the Shepherd Building because Shepard's well-known law office was housed there for many years. This tastefully restored building is now used as office and retail space.

40 "Southwest 1st Ave. A Report on Historic Structures," typewritten document from Fort Lauderdale Historical Societies Files.

41 "Post Office Seeks Larger Quarters: Bids Requested," *Fort Lauderdale Daily News*, 6 Aug. 1925, 3.

42 Sanborn Maps, 1914 and 1924, Fort Lauderdale Historical Society.

43 Bryan Building National Register Form, Section 8, 3.

44 "Southwest 1st Ave. A Report on Historic Structures"

45 Shepherd, Bette H. (Mrs. Ennis) by Susan Krassy, Plantation, FL., 22 Oct. 1996 quoted in Bryan Building National Register Form, Section 8, 3.

46 Bryan Building National Register Form, Section 7, 3.

ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL

Built 1926, listed on the National Register 1997
820 North East 3rd Street, Fort Lauderdale

St. Anthony Parish is the oldest in the county. Their Mediterranean Revival style school was the first Catholic school built in Broward County and the first Catholic school between Gesu in Miami and Saint Ann in West Palm Beach.⁴⁷ There were few Catholics in Broward County in the early days. "Fort Lauderdale's Catholic community had long been a minority in the predominantly Baptist town of Fort Lauderdale, where robed and hooded Ku Klux Klansmen staged torch-light rallies in support of 'White Supremacy' and against the 'foreign Papist church'."⁴⁸

This fine example of Mediterranean Revival style architecture was designed by renowned architect Frances Abreu. Abreu did much to popularize the Mediterranean Revival style during the 1920s. The school was built for \$60,000⁴⁹ and placed in the "...heart of Victoria Park, a modest and middle-class new development of homes being built for the boom town's more solid, working class folk."⁵⁰ "In April of 1926, a story in the *Sun-Sentinel* made it very clear to all Fort Lauderdale that Broward's first Catholic school was being built for the future. The school was built with a capacity to take care of more than 200 pupils immediately and 200 more later; provision is being made for future wings to take care of additional increases in enrollment."⁵¹ The school was dedicated by Bishop Barry from St. Augustine. The official opening was announced for September, 1926.

The school served grades one through eight at first. "The four classrooms on the first floor each accommodated two grades in the early years."⁵² The second floor of the building was originally used as a convent for the teaching nuns. "In 1932, St. Anthony's became the first Catholic high school in Broward County.... That school split off into what is now St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Anthony's reverted to kindergarten through eighth grade."⁵³ Today, classes are taught by lay teachers. The school has been an educational facility for more than 75 years and continues to be in operation.



ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL, circa 1949



ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL, 1926, original architectural drawing (courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society)



ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL, 2002 (Bill Cunningham)

47 John DeGroot, "St. Anthony...Broward's Mother Church," from *St. Anthony Parish Fort Lauderdale, FL, Seventy-fifth Anniversary October 13th, 1996*, (unnumbered).

48 Rathbun, "St. Anthony Catholic Church & School," 8.

49 *ibid.*

50 DeGroot, (unnumbered).

51 DeGroot, (unnumbered).

52 Rathbun, 10.

53 Lora O'Connor, "St. Anthony's School Turns 75 Through the Years," *Sun-Sentinel*, 5 Oct. 2001, 2B.

LINK TRAINER BUILDING

Built 1942, listed in the National Register 1998

4050 South West 14th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

At the beginning of the United States' entry into World War II there was a need for training areas for Naval airmen. Broward County's flat undeveloped land and proximity to the Atlantic Ocean provided an ideal spot for training bases. The Navy purchased Merle Fogg Field and surrounding properties and constructed the Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station, with satellite fields built elsewhere in the County.

"The Naval Air Station was Broward County's largest World War II training facility, training pilots and crewmen of TBM and TBF Avenger torpedo bombers for service in the Pacific."⁵⁴ Radar and artillery development units were also located in the County. Other fields included Pompano Beach Municipal Field (Navy), Forman Field (now the site of Broward Community College), North Perry Field and West Prospect Field (now Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport). Former United States President George Herbert Walker Bush trained at the Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station.

The members of the "Lost Flight 19" were also among the trainees at this station. The "Lost Flight 19" was a group of five torpedo bomber airplanes carrying 14 men that went out for a training mission December 5, 1945 and mysteriously disappeared without a trace. Their disappearance spurred the legend of the Bermuda Triangle.

The Naval Air Station and other military training sites in the area brought thousands of soldiers and sailors to Broward County. Once here, many decided to relocate to the area after the war to enjoy the tropical climate.



LINK TRAINER BUILDING, 1999 (Bill Cunningham)



FORT LAUDERDALE NAVAL AIR STATION, 1947

One of the last remaining buildings of the original Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station, the 4000-square-foot rectangular Link Trainer building, housed several miniature airplane simulators used to train WWII pilots in the techniques of blind, or instrument, flying. The trainer was essentially a big blue box with little yellow wings. The Link Trainer was patented in 1931 by Edwin A. Link. "He had perfected his design in the basement of his father's piano and organ factory in Binghamton, New York. Organ bellows and a motor provided the means for the trainer, mounted on a pedestal, to pitch, roll, dive and climb as the student 'flew' it.

Ironically, most of his first sales were to amusement parks. "In 1934, after a series of tragic accidents while flying the air mail, the Army Air Corps bought six Link trainers to assist in training pilots to fly at night and in bad weather, relying on instruments"⁵⁵

The Link Trainer building was moved from an area designated for airport expansion to its present location in 2000. It is now maintained by the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Historical Association. Their mission is to preserve the history of the Naval Air Station and the memory of the 96 men who lost their lives while stationed there. A museum is being created at the site.

⁵⁴ Broward County Historical Commission, "Review of Florida Master Site File Records for Southern Broward County and Recommendations for Historic Site Consideration," 1 Oct. 1991, 21.

⁵⁵ "United States Air Station Fort Lauderdale Historical Association," Preliminary Plan, (date Unknown).

HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD HISTORICAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

Built 1920s – 1940s, listed in the National Register 1999

Located along Hollywood Boulevard between 21st Avenue and Young Circle

The Hollywood Boulevard Historical Business District contains one of the finest concentrations of 1920s commercial buildings in Broward County. "Construction began in 1921 when Joseph W. Young began building Hollywood and continued through the boom period. Many of Hollywood's earliest and most prominent buildings were located in this district."⁵⁶

The City of Hollywood spent millions of dollars to improve the lighting, sidewalks and streets in the area, which in turn prompted the property owners in the district to restore their buildings to their original appearance. Preservation of the buildings is encouraged by federal and local tax breaks given to those who perform improvements. Property values have increased dramatically since the area was named to the National Register of Historic Places.

The district is comprised of 45 buildings, four objects (sculptural memorials), two parks (Young Circle and Anniversary) and one structure (a band shell). It covers approximately 18 acres and contains mainly masonry vernacular buildings most of which were constructed between 1921 and 1946. The Mediterranean Revival and Art Moderne styles are also represented in the various decorative details applied to some of the buildings. The district includes the 1924 Mediterranean Revival style Great Southern Hotel, which was "...cited by the U.S. Department of the Interior as the area's most notable structure."⁵⁷ "Hollywood Boulevard with its circles and central location has been an integral part of the appearance, character, and civic and economic life of Hollywood throughout its history."⁵⁸ Inviting restaurants, galleries and eclectic shops line the charming streets of this highly successful historic district.



HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD HISTORIC BUSINESS DISTRICT, 1925



HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD HISTORIC BUSINESS DISTRICT, 1999 (Bill Cunningham)

⁵⁶ Broward County Historical Commission, "Review of Florida Master Site File Records for Southern Broward County and Recommendations for Historic Site Consideration," 1 Oct. 1991.

⁵⁷ David Cazares, "Recognition for Hollywood Blvd.," *Sun-Sentinel*, 13 Jun. 1999.

⁵⁸ Broward County Historical Commission, "Review of Florida Master Site File Records for Southern Broward County and Recommendations for Historic Site Consideration," 1 Oct. 1991.

NYBERG/SWANSON HOUSE

Built circa 1912⁵⁹, listed in the National Register 1999

101 West Dania Beach Boulevard, Dania

(Formerly at 202 South Federal Highway)

One of Dania's oldest structures, this one-and-a-half story, five-bedroom Colonial Revival style residence is a good example of early 20th century rough-face molded cast block construction. It was one of the earliest dwellings erected in the city of Dania, a city founded primarily by immigrant Danes and Swedes who settled in the area in the early part of the 20th century.

The Nyberg/Swanson house was constructed for Charles M. Nelson who was one of the community's early residents. "Nelson, a farmer, politician and developer, had immigrated to the United States from Denmark in 1896. He was among the first Scandinavian settlers in Dania. Between 1904 and 1917, he acquired numerous town lots and farm parcels and operated a truck farm. He was elected to the Dania Town Council, serving one term (1914 - 1915). His wife, Olive, helped organize the Dania Civic Improvement Club in 1913 and served as its first secretary. In 1917 the Nelsons sold their home to Carl Gustaf Nyberg and his wife, Emmy, for \$4,700..."⁶⁰ The Nelsons moved to Miami where they were listed in the 1920 census.



NYBERG/SWANSON HOUSE, 1999 (Bill Cunningham)



M. C. Frost's packing house operation, Dania, 1930's (Eby Collection)

Nyberg was an early tomato farmer and packing house operator in Dania. "Early immigrants prospered in tomato farming and, as early as 1910, the Florida East Coast Railway was shipping to northern U.S. cities from 'The Tomato Capital of the World.' During the three-month winter harvest, over 200 farmers shipped 1,000 to 1,500 train carloads of tomatoes and V. Taoring of New Orleans set up a tomato paste factory which contributed to local prosperity. In the late '40s, the tomato boom was over, as crops began to fail from salt water intrusion into the fields."⁶¹

After Carl Nyberg's death in 1918, Emmy married John Swanson. Both were immigrants from Sweden and active in the growing community. The Swansons continued to operate a truck farm and packing house and also speculated in real estate. Mr. Swanson held a seat on the Dania Town Council for a time. Emmy died in 1945. Swanson and/or family members lived in the house until 1975. The building was used as a hair styling salon until the early 1990s. The 44 by 60-foot building was relocated to its present site in 1993 to preserve the house from demolition. A Walgreen store is now on the original site. The Nyberg/Swanson House is currently owned by the City of Dania and operated for public use.

⁵⁹ Nyberg-Swanson House National Register Form, section 8.3.

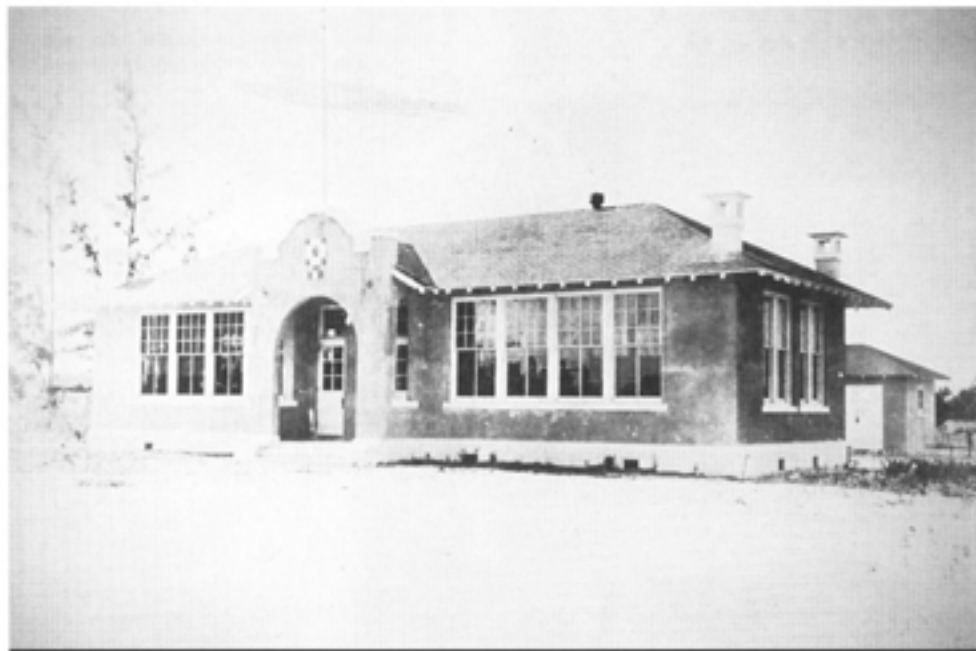
⁶⁰ *ibid.*

⁶¹ City of Dania-Beach, 12 Dec. 2002 (<http://ri.dania-beach.fl.us/history.html>).

DEERFIELD OLD SCHOOL HOUSE

Built 1920, listed in the National Register 1999

323 North East Second Street, Deerfield Beach



DEERFIELD OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, 1920



DEERFIELD OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, 1999 (Bill Cunningham)

The Old School House was designed by A. E. Lewis and built by Edgar S. Tubbs⁶² in combination Mission and Mediterranean Revival styles. It has two classrooms, stucco walls and a hip asphalt roof. The building has a "I" shaped footprint on a concrete slab foundation.

There was no electricity in the school in the 1920s, so there were no fans or heaters and, of course, no air conditioning. Large windows that lined three of the walls were installed to provide some relief from the South Florida heat. If the temperatures dropped too low in the winter, school was canceled. As early students remember, school supplies were provided by the county and consisted of pads of paper, pencils, inkwells and pens. Hours of operation were from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and a hand-tolled bell located in front of the school started school each day.

During its time of use the school was segregated. Black students attended the Braithwaite School down the street. The school is Deerfield Beach's oldest surviving school structure. Originally called Deerfield School, it is now called The Old School House. In 1926, after the larger Deerfield Elementary was built, The Old School House was used for Deerfield city government business.

"The polished wood floors of the school room have been restored, and the blackboard hangs in the original frame. The original glass windows are characterized by their 'wavy' appearance. Light is provided by three bare bulbs on wire hanging from the ceiling."⁶³ Deerfield Beach recently faithfully restored the interior with new plaster and paint. The Deerfield Beach Historical Society and the City of Deerfield Beach use one side of the building for meetings. The other side of the building is the museum and replica of a 1920s school house, often used for tours, lectures and historical events.

954-429-0378

www.gocities.com/dlshsfl

62 Old Deerfield School National Register Form, Section 8, 2.

63 "The Old School House," *Broward Legacy*, vol. 1, no. 3, (Apr. 1977), 33.

CROISSANT PARK ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Built 1922-23, listed in the National Register 2001

1421 South Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale



CROISSANT PARK ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, circa 1926 (From *Croissant Park Pictures Before and After the Storm of September 18, 1926*, Woods-Hoskins-Young Company brochure)

The architect of the Mediterranean Revival Croissant Park Administration Building is believed to be Francis Abreu, a well-known architect in the area during the 1920s and 1930s. The 6,000-square-foot building is L-shape and has two decorative octagonal masonry lanterns, reminiscent of towers, on the northeast and southwest roof corners.⁶⁴ The cut corner entrance, which fronts onto the intersection with Andrews Avenue, is a prominent feature as are the sculpted roof-line parapets so typical of the Mediterranean Revival Style. The building has old growth Dade County pine wood floors.

The Croissant Park Administration Building was the sales office for Croissant Park, a major housing development of Woods-Hoskins-Young Company that included Joseph Young developer of Hollywood. Part of the development was originally named "Palm City," then "Placidena," and the building was then referred to as the "Placidena Field Office." The development was created to resemble the planned city of Joseph Young, Hollywood, Florida. It was renamed Croissant Park around 1924 after Chicago and Florida real estate developer G. Frank Croissant took over operations.

Croissant billed himself as "The World's Greatest Salesman." He represented a group of wealthy Chicago land investors. "Croissant had his own sales organization in Chicago where he had built several large tract developments, the most notable, Calumet City."⁶⁵ Croissant brought his aggressive sales tactics to the Croissant Park development. Prospective buyers were taken to a pretty wooden gazebo on the roof of the office where they could look over the development and choose their future home site. Croissant also held bathing beauty contests, fish fries and concerts to draw attention to his development.

Neglected for several decades, the building was painstakingly restored in the late 1990s by its current owners, Jay and Jaimee Adams. It now serves as office space.



CROISSANT PARK ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 2002



CROISSANT PARK ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1970s

64 Croissant Park Administration Building, National Register Form, Section 7, 1.

65 *Ibid.*

COPENHAGEN UNDERWATER SHIPWRECK PRESERVE

Wrecked in 1900, listed in the National Register 2001

Located on the outside of the second reef on the Pompano drop-off just north of the Sea Watch Restaurant.

"The *Copenhagen* was built in England in 1898 and was one of several single-screw steamships that became the pride of Glasgow's merchant fleet. Constructed for cargo capacity and strength with a double bottom, and powered by triple expansion steam engines, the ship was put into service under contracts across the Atlantic.

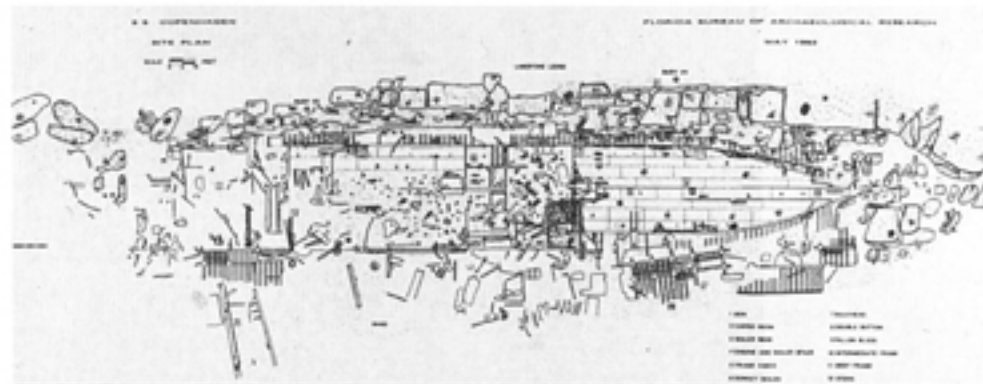
"Her career was cut short on May 26, 1900, when she ran hard aground on a rocky ledge close to shore just south of Pompano Beach. She was carrying 4,940 tons of coal on a voyage from Philadelphia to Havana. Despite extensive salvage efforts, the ship could not be freed from the reef, although her cargo was saved. The *Copenhagen* remained visible above the water for years until WWII naval fighter pilots helped her to become part of the reef by using her for target practice.

"The wreck of the *Copenhagen* is located approximately 3.3 nautical miles south of Hillsboro Inlet just outside the second reef on the Pompano drop-off adjacent to mooring buoys 3 and 4. Wreckage is scattered over an area of approximately 300 feet or more. The wreck lies with her bow pointed to the south and is approximately parallel to the reef. The depth varies from 16 to 31 feet, making it an ideal recreational dive spot.

"The site was dedicated a State Underwater Archaeological Preserve in 1994. The *Copenhagen* came to rest along a rocky ledge, made up of large limestone blocks divided by cracks and crevasses. After grounding, the ship listed to the port side; her starboard hull eventually collapsed onto the rocks and into crevasses, while the port side slumped onto the deeper sand bottom.



SS COPENHAGEN, 1898 - 1900
(painting by William Trotter)



SS COPENHAGEN UNDERWATER SHIPWRECK PRESERVE, site plan
(Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archaeological Research)

SS COPENHAGEN UNDERWATER SHIPWRECK PRESERVE, circa 1994
(Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archaeological Research)

"Over the years, much of the hull has fallen apart and settled over this uneven terrain. The lower hull is still in its correct order, especially in the stern. Coal from the ship's bunkers and cargo, camouflaged by marine growth, litters the bottom near the wreck. Today, much of the ship's structure has become part of the reef, and the wreckage provides an ideal haven for all kinds of marine life. Hard and soft corals and multicolored sponges thrive on the steel hull plates. Tropical fish dart in and out of the twisted structure, which serves as a sheltered nursery. Sea fans sway in the gentle surge along the length of the ship. The pillow block that supported the propeller shaft is a focal point for curious parrot fish. Empty beds for the ship's two boilers today house a population of damsel fish and sergeant majors energetically defending their niche in the sunken wreck.

"As with all other historical or archaeological sites on submerged bottomlands, the *Copenhagen* is protected by Florida laws which prohibit the unauthorized disturbance, excavation or removal of artifacts."⁶⁶

www.co.broward.fl.us/dni02700.htm

⁶⁶ Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection Biological Resources Division, 16 Dec. 2002, (all text modified from www.co.broward.fl.us/dni02700.htm).

SAM GILLIAN HOUSE

Built circa 1925, listed in National Register 2001

11 South West 15th Street, Fort Lauderdale

(Formerly 300 South East 9th Street)

Built by Samuel W. Gillian, the Gillian House is a distinguished example of a mission-type, Spanish eclectic style dwelling with Prairie Style influences. Gillian was the treasurer-manager of the Everglades Lumber Company⁶⁷ and a leader in the local Republican Party.⁶⁸ "Gillian was one of the few registered Republicans in the county, a fact that was cause for comment and amusement in the largely Democratic Broward County. He attended a number of Republican national conventions as a delegate from Florida.

"When president-elect Warren G. Harding visited Fort Lauderdale, Gillian, as one of his hosts, arranged a golf game at the new Southside Golf Course with local pro Norman Sommers. The game became famous in local lore; some accounts said Norm Sommers let the president-elect win, which pleased Harding. Gillian also worked for Herbert Hoover in his presidential campaign and he may have entertained Hoover when he was in Fort Lauderdale to assess damage from the 1926 hurricane. Gillian used the clout he gained in Washington, D.C. to get a \$175,000 appropriation for a new post office in Fort Lauderdale."⁶⁹

The 3,900-square-foot Gillian House was constructed of concrete and stucco-clad hollow clay tile, on two lots. The architect has not yet been identified. The house has a decorative green barrel tile roof. It features high ceilings, tiger oak floors and trim. The mahogany interior doors have unique inlaid contrasting wood detail. "It features red oak mantles, wide baseboards, French doors and distinctive multi-light casement windows."⁷⁰ The original kitchen, including the sink, is intact. It is one of the finer houses that were built in the area during the 1920s land boom and is one of the few still standing today.

The house was boarded up and scheduled for demolition in the early 1990s. Developer Jack Loos wanted to build an office building on the original site of the house on 300 South East 9th Street. He offered the house for free to anyone who would move it. Jay and Jaimee Adams paid to have the structure moved and renovated. The house, which has been lovingly restored, is now used as professional offices.



SAM GILLIAN HOUSE, 2002



SAM GILLIAN HOUSE (courtesy Fort Lauderdale Historical Society)

67 Alfredo, "Historic House to Relocate," *Sun-Sentinel*, 24 Jun. 1998.

68 Brad Bennett, "Home Moved, Called Historic," *Sun-Sentinel*, 26 May 1999, 3.

69 Gillian House National Register Registration Sheet, section 8, 3.

70 *Ibid.*