

# THE OLD DAVIE SCHOOL

## *BIRTH AND REBIRTH OF A BROWARD LANDMARK*

by BILLIE K. COLE

*The realization by a community that its older buildings are historic and a meaningful part of its existence is a reflection of a community's change in how it perceives itself. With the recognition that older buildings may be worthy of preservation, a community is tacitly admitting that it has a history significant to its future.*

Wilderness to Metropolis<sup>1</sup>

By its decision to actively pursue the preservation and restoration of the Old Davie School, the Town of Davie may be evidencing its maturity as a community. The Davie School has an abundance of claims to historical significance. It was the first permanent school in the Everglades and is the oldest existing school building in continuous use in Broward County.<sup>2</sup> In addition, the building was designed by August Geiger, one of Miami's most prominent architects of the day. Many of Geiger's buildings still stand in Miami and throughout Dade County. Included are the Miami Women's Club, Miami City Hospital (the "Alamo"), Miami Beach High School, the Miami Beach Community Center, The Carl Fisher residence, and the Homestead Public School. Geiger also served as associate architect on the 1925 Dade County Courthouse. Among these

buildings, the Miami Women's Club, Miami City Hospital, and the Homestead Public School are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>3</sup> In Broward County Geiger also designed the Dania School (1913), the Hallandale School (1915), and the Fort Lauderdale High School (1915).<sup>4</sup> Only the Davie School (1917-18) still stands in Broward. Mr. Geiger designed numerous school buildings throughout Dade County as architect for the Dade County School Board and was a recognized authority on school design. In his "Model School Plan for Tropic

Florida," he stressed the importance of large areas of windows for sunlight and cross-ventilation, and concrete construction for more equable temperatures and for fireproofing.<sup>5</sup> All of these features were incorporated into the Davie School plan.

The Davie School is a two story, masonry vernacular structure built in 1917-18 which, with its blended Spanish and Moorish architectural styles, clearly reflects the inclination of architects of the day to borrow details and flourishes from exotic locales. Though its original appearance was

*As the first Florida town built on reclaimed Everglades muckland and as Broward County's only substantial settlement west of the coastal ridge for nearly four decades, Davie has a particularly rich and unique history. Unfortunately, relatively few structures testify to that illustrious past. Because of the settlement's remoteness and the population's preoccupation with wresting a living from the soil, many of Davie's early buildings were undistinguished and impermanent. A notable exception is the Davie School. Completed in 1918, this well-designed and solidly built structure not only served the educational needs of Davie and the surrounding farmlands, but provided a venue for local entertainment and social and political gatherings. As a result, the school became both the practical and symbolic center of the community.*

*Author Billie K. Cole, a native of Davie and former student at the Davie School, presents the history of the structure from its inception to current restoration efforts, and sketches the background of Everglades drainage, agriculture, and changing demographic patterns which have shaped the school's seven decades of existence. Mrs. Cole holds a B.A. in history from Florida Atlantic University, and currently teaches that subject in the Broward County school system. Long interested in local history, she is a member of the Davie School Foundation.*

changed slightly by the 1926 hurricane and by more modern additions in the 1950s, the building remains "one of the least altered elementary school buildings in South Florida."<sup>6</sup> But beyond these obvious honors, the Davie School has a broader claim on history. It is a rare early landmark of Broward County's westward development, a monument to the last vestiges of pioneering in the United States, and a symbol of early twentieth century progressivism in Florida.

The Town of Davie has its roots in Napoleon Bonaparte Broward's massive plan to drain the Everglades and open the area to farming. Progressive politics, an outgrowth of the populist movements of the late 1800s and a reaction against the ultraconservative Bourbon Democrats who had controlled Florida and other southern state governments since the end of Reconstruction, had been slowly gaining ground for years when Broward, a leading progressive Democrat, was elected Governor of Florida in 1904. Progressives, who received the bulk of their support from farmers, small businessmen, and professional groups, sought to liberalize state government by involving it more closely in the regulation of large corporate interests (specifically the railroads), and in the expanded provision of public services to private citizens. In most respects the progressive reform agenda in Florida was similar to that in other states. Tied to the Florida issues, however, was the

controversy surrounding the ownership and development rights to the state's vast wetlands, including the Everglades.<sup>7</sup>

The idea of Everglades drainage and development was nothing new. Interest in such a project had been recorded as early as 1848. Legislation passed in 1851 and 1855 established the Internal Improvement Fund (IIF).<sup>8</sup> Governed by a board of trustees consisting of the governor, controller, treasurer, attorney general, and registrar of state lands, its job was to administer the state program of wetlands reclamation and development, via private sector financing, by deeding large grants of the wetlands to railroad and canal companies. In turn, these companies would be responsible for drainage, improvement, and ultimately settlement.<sup>9</sup>

By the end of Governor William D. Bloxham's second term of office in 1901, it had become obvious that something had gone awry with this plan. It was discovered that the state had granted to the railroad and canal interests some 3,000,000 acres more than the approximately 20,000,000 it possessed.<sup>10</sup> Amid threats and court battles that continued throughout his term of office, William S. Jennings, the new progressive-backed governor elected in 1900, decided to return to the provisions of the original 1855 charter, to reclaim the wetlands for the state, and begin efforts to drain and develop them for public use and at public

expense.<sup>11</sup> Thus it was with Jennings, not Broward, that serious efforts in this direction actually began. It is likely, in fact, that Broward, who seemed only vaguely interested in the wetlands reclamation issue at the beginning of his campaign, became its most vocal spokesman mainly in order to draw a clearer contrast in the vaguely defined issue differences between himself and Robert W. Davis, his chief opponent in the Democratic primary of 1904.<sup>12</sup> Whatever his reason, it is apparent that Broward, in his campaign to convince Floridians of the value of Everglades reclamation, also convinced himself. He became almost obsessively involved in its promotion and remained so until his death in 1910.

Broward's progressive agenda extended well beyond the issue of reclamation, however. He championed such issues as improved education, higher teacher pay, compulsory school attendance and uniform school rules, restrictions on child labor, development of tourism, and support for organized labor.<sup>13</sup> The Broward Era in Florida history was clearly characterized by legislation that transformed the role and nature of state government. Florida's government became stronger, committed itself to the provision of much-needed public services, especially education, and made significant strides toward more effective state regulation of large business and corporate activities.

Below is the Davie School as it appeared shortly after its 1918 completion. Note barrel-tile roof, awning projection, and wood louvers beneath first floor windows, all omitted in remodeling which followed the 1926 hurricane (photo courtesy of Davie School Foundation, Inc.). At right is architect August Geiger (photo courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society).



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### REFERENCES:

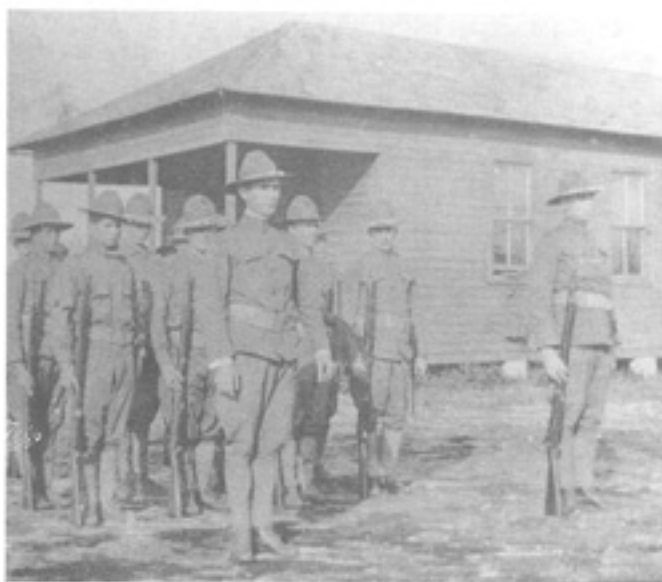
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At left is an Everglades Land Sales Company advertisement for reclaimed muckland in the Davie area. Above, Davie's first school building can be seen in the background of this photo of the community's World War I Home Guard (photo courtesy of Davie Historical Society).

It is as a direct result of Napoleon B. Broward's governorship and Broward Era progressive thought and politics that what is now Broward County was given the opportunity to expand and urbanize through the reclamation of the overflowed lands which easily comprised most of its area. And it is as a result of that expansion and reclamation that what is now the Town of Davie came into existence.

Early in June 1906, Governor Broward came to Fort Lauderdale to launch the first of many planned dredges. The dipper dredge *Everglades* was to move westward out of the New River, cutting a swath through the sawgrass and creating dry land as it moved toward Lake Okeechobee to complete the first lake-to-ocean drainage canal through the Everglades, the North New River Canal. In April 1907, a second dredge, the *Okeechobee*, was launched and began work on the South New River Canal.<sup>14</sup> Progress on the canals was slower and more expensive than expected, but by the summer of 1908 the land southwest of Fort Lauderdale had dried to the point that R. P. Davie, a speculator and developer from Colo-

rado Springs, agreed to a contract with the Internal Improvement Fund to purchase some 27,500 acres of the dredged and drained land. Under the terms of the contract, Mr. Davie was to establish an experimental demonstration farm on the property and dig, at his own expense, a north/south drainage ditch and dyke to connect with the South New River Canal.<sup>15</sup> It was this experimental tract of land, intended to show the limitless possibilities of Everglades muck soil, that came to be known as the "Davie Farm." Mr. Davie, along with J. R. McKinnie and several other partners, then organized the Everglades Sugar and Land Company and in February 1909 the Everglades Land Company, which, with its various subsidiaries, held, developed, and sold most of the land in and around Davie for the next several years.<sup>16</sup>

An advertisement of the Everglades Land Sales Company, appearing in a September 1909 special edition of *The Miami Metropolis*, offered for sale "The finest deep muck soil" and "the best of the best soil in the world. . ." This and similar ads drew responses from people all over the United States

and many parts of the world, including Russia, Canada, and the Panama Canal Zone, who then bought ten acre tracts of land from the company. It was the early settlers from the canal zone who gave the little settlement its first name of Zona.<sup>18</sup>

In 1912 William Hammer of Alberta, Canada, learned of the new farm land being offered for sale in Florida. He made three trips to Zona to investigate. His daughter, Norma Hammer Albury, recalls that:

*He came back each time with more glowing accounts and descriptions of the place. He brought back coffee cans full of muck, grapefruit (which we children thought was horrible), seashells, a stuffed alligator, maps, pictures, and talk, talk, talk.<sup>19</sup>*

Then as now the lure of tropical Florida was strong, and William Hammer finally decided to make the move. He arrived in Zona with his wife and eleven children in January 1913.<sup>20</sup> Already there were the Griffins, Hills, Formans, Aunapus, Lowes, Earles, and a few other families who comprised the small settlement of about 200.<sup>21</sup>

In spite of the glowing reports of the



wondrous productivity of the Everglades muck soil, life in Zona was extremely difficult for the settlers, who had to deal with floods, crop failures, and fluctuating markets, in addition to insects, snakes, and generally primitive living conditions. Still, the little community was not down-trodden and showed surprising concern for the finer points of life, such as culture and education. The A. B. Lowe family, for instance, was typical. They may have lived in a tent; but they owned a piano.<sup>22</sup> More importantly, the settlers had already managed to establish a school. The previous February (1912), Dale Miller, an officer of the Everglades Land Sales Company, had escorted members of the Dade County School Board to Zona to show them the large number of school age children there and to convince them of the need for a school.<sup>23</sup> Zona residents were so insistent that the Dade officials agreed to provide the land, a teacher, and building materials if the residents would agree to build the school themselves.<sup>24</sup> The result was a two-room wooden schoolhouse which opened on April 1, 1912, under schoolmaster Milton Geere.<sup>25</sup> This building served the community for about six years.

On October 1, 1915, Broward County was officially created from parts of northern Dade and southern Palm Beach counties. The Broward County Board of Public Instruction was formed to handle all school business, with J. M. Holding as the county's first superintendent of instruction.<sup>26</sup>

In 1916, in spite of the sporadic (at best) nature of the state drainage program, Davie was a thriving community of some 100 families. The town boasted a Davie Telephone Company

(with thirty-two subscribers), a Davie Board of Trade, an Everglades Growers Association, and even an Everglades County Club.<sup>27</sup> The town name had been officially changed to Davie in 1914.<sup>28</sup> The small, two-room school building had been outgrown, and a new one was requested from the Broward County Board of Public Instruction.

On January 2, 1917, the Board of Public Instruction accepted plans and specifications from architect Clarence Wait for the new Davie school building. The plans were approved and ordered advertised for bids with work to be commenced not earlier than March 15, 1917, and completed not later than August 15, 1917.<sup>29</sup> As of February 6, however, board minutes indicate that only one bid had been received (from Fleming Pitzer), and that it had been withdrawn.<sup>30</sup> Meanwhile, on January 10, 1917, the Board had purchased four acres of land from the Everglades Land Sales Company to enlarge and square up the old one-acre site.<sup>31</sup> Finally, on April 3, 1917, the Board instructed Superintendent Holding to confer with August Geiger and request plans and specifications for a school building.<sup>32</sup> These Mr. Geiger presented on June 1, 1917. The plans were approved and ordered advertised for bids.<sup>33</sup> This time two bids were received. The first was submitted by J. F. Woolworth for \$19,728 and the second by W. E. Martin for \$12,424. Mr. Martin's bid was accepted, and a building contract was ordered drawn on June 12, 1917.<sup>34</sup> A June 15, 1917 *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel* article reported the awarding of the contract and described the plans for the new building.

*The lower floor will contain four*

*classrooms each 20 feet by 30 feet, a corridor 8 feet wide through the center of the building and toilet, hallway and stairs to the rear.*

*The second floor contains an auditorium 41 by 70 feet, which will be capable of seating 500 people; a principal's office, a teacher's rest-room and library and hall.<sup>35</sup>*

The article continues on to praise Mr. Geiger's plans for incorporating all of the beauty of the old with the most modern advances in ventilating and lighting. Finally, on May 10, 1918, the school was dedicated with a full dose of the patriotic pomp and fanfare so representative of the era. There was a recitation of James Whitcomb Riley's "Old Glory," "Keep the Home Fires Burning" was sung, and the students performed a flag drill. Future Superintendent of Public Instruction James S. Rickards gave a patriotic address in which he compared the fine points of architecture in the new building to the desired points of character to be developed in the schools. In his best patriotic style, Mr. Rickards informed the crowd that:

*The results of proper education is the developing of a character charged with idealism, and the American youth, filled with his ideals and inspired by his sense of fairness, is feared by tyrants like the German Kaiser more than he fears the belching cannon.<sup>36</sup>*



After completing elementary grades at the Davie School, students traveled to Fort Lauderdale in this bus driven by one of their classmates, Maitland Hill.

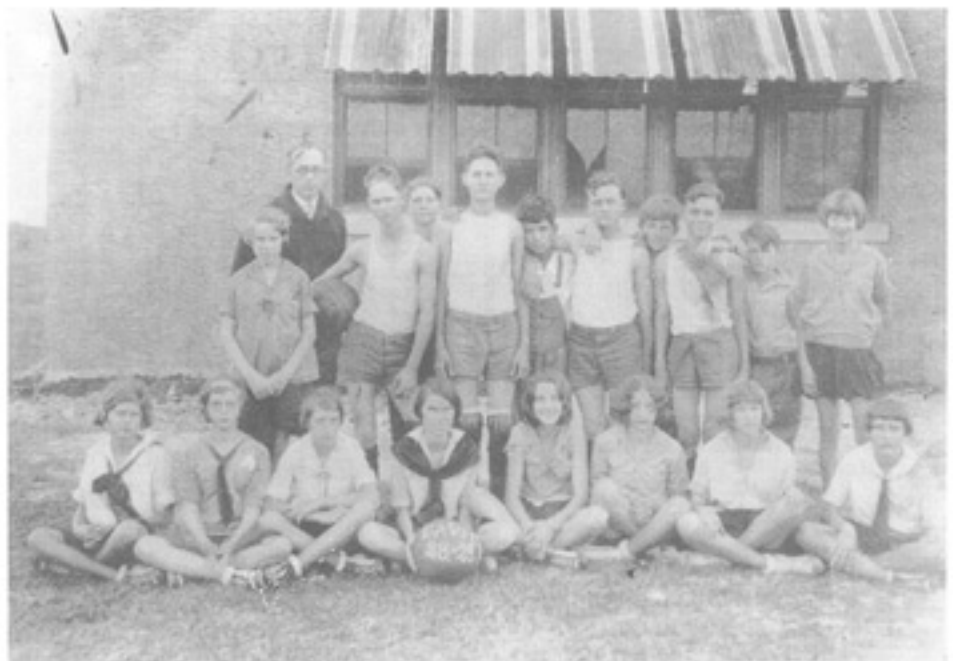


Davie School teachers and students, 1919-1920.

On August 19, 1918, the Davie School opened a little less flamboyantly for its first full year of instruction.<sup>37</sup> Althea Jenne was the first principal of the school, appointed by the Board of Public Instruction at a salary of \$75.00 per month.<sup>38</sup> Mrs. Jenne continued on at Davie School in the capacity of principal or teacher for some thirty years. Helen Parker and Alma Grant received monthly salaries of \$65.00 and \$60.00 respectively to teach the seventy students enrolled.<sup>39</sup>

The new school building soon became the virtual center of community life in Davie. It was quite an impressive structure for a tiny farming village perched on the edge of the wilderness, and the people of Davie were justifiably proud of it. Every kind of social and civic activity took place in the large upstairs auditorium. There were dances and "box suppers" almost every week. School holiday programs and community plays of every description were also common. The social functions at the school were regularly attended not only by Davie people but by visitors from Fort Lauderdale and Dania as well. Davie gained a reputation for knowing how to have a good time. The *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel* saw fit to publish the entire program of the 1922 Christmas Day celebration given by the Davie Sunday School in the school auditorium.<sup>40</sup> In 1921 the school was put to perhaps its most unusual use when the new principal, A. J. Albertson, received permission from the school trustees and the Board of Public Instruction to live in one of the classrooms, as he was unable to find adequate housing in the area.<sup>41</sup> Just how long Mr. Albertson remained a resident in the school is unclear, but it appears to have been a period of several months at least. Political rallies and elections were held in the school building as well. In 1925 forty-eight residents met in the auditorium to initiate incorporation of the town and elect the first mayor.<sup>42</sup> During the 1947 flood the second floor of the school was one of the few dry spots in town, and many took shelter there. The school building was routinely used as a hurricane shelter. Alice Woodward, principal of Davie School from 1939-56, expressed that "the school was simply the center of everything the people undertook."<sup>43</sup>

The Davie School maintained its central role in the community for several decades. As Davie grew and changed, accompanying changes occurred at the school. In 1923 the Broward County Board of Public Instruction approved the installation of electric lights at a cost of \$750.00.<sup>44</sup> In 1926 the hurricane of September 17-18 was the source of the first physical alterations to the school. As a result



Davie girls' and boys' basketball teams in front of the school, 1929 (photo courtesy of Davie School Foundation, Inc.).

of damage by the storm, the building was remodeled without its mission-tiled roof and wood louvers beneath the first story windows.<sup>45</sup> On July 5, 1927, the board approved, at the anxious insistence of school trustee Mrs. Charles Stoddard, the installation of wooden window awnings as protection against further storm damage.<sup>46</sup> Considering Davie's location on the edge of the Everglades, its tendency to flood, and the frequent use of the school as a shelter, storm protection was a vital consideration.

In the late 1940s, in order to accommodate growing enrollment, the upstairs auditorium was converted into four additional classrooms, and a separate cafeteria was built east of the old building. In 1954 two new classrooms were built in front of the original building and connected to it by a covered breezeway. It was at this time that the original, Moorish-style arched doorway was replaced with a broader, rectangular opening, probably the only truly destructive change the building has endured since the 1926 hurricane. Finally, in 1959, an administrative wing, new cafeterium, and six additional classrooms were constructed between the old school and Griffin Road, greatly obscuring the original structure from view.<sup>47</sup>

After the mid-'50s the school's function as a community center began to decrease as Davie's population grew and became more diverse. Nevertheless, school and holiday programs were still numerous and widely attended and continued to be so throughout the building's use as a school. In 1977 a new Davie Elementary School was

built to accommodate the rapidly growing Davie population.<sup>48</sup> The old site was renamed Griffin Elementary School and continued in use as a school until 1980. Since that time it has been occupied by the South Area Offices of the Broward County School Board. This use was never meant to be permanent. When the School Board has completed its planned central offices, the old buildings will be vacated.

Until 1983 the fate of the old school was uncertain at best. In 1977 there was talk of using the facility as a terminal and maintenance center for school buses. The Town of Davie also considered acquiring the building and converting it into a town hall.<sup>49</sup> Neither of these plans came to fruition.

Finally, in 1983, Soroptomist International of Davie identified the acquisition, preservation, and restoration of Old Davie School as a community project. In 1984 the Davie School Foundation, Inc., was created to work with the Town of Davie to achieve this end. The process has been a long and difficult one, but is beginning to produce exciting results. On March 29, 1988, the historical significance of the Old Davie School was officially recognized with its placement on the National Register of Historic Places. In June of that year the Broward County School Board declared the Old Davie School "surplus property" and in July transferred ownership to the Town of Davie.<sup>50</sup> The project was slated to receive \$422,162 in preservation funds in 1990 which will accomplish major restoration work. Total need for restoration is estimated at approximately \$1,000,000. The building will be

# DAVIE SCHOOL

a special place



in a unique town



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SCHOOL  
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Davie School Foundation brochure promoting restoration, 1990-1991.

returned to its appearance in the late 1920s (after the 1926 hurricane).

Plans for the school's use include restoring the upstairs auditorium as a home for historic exhibits, civic activities, public forums, and artisan workshops. The four original downstairs classrooms will provide a museum of local history, civic meeting rooms, archives, educational programs, and a restored classroom of the period to be used as a "hands-on" learning center for Broward County school children.<sup>51</sup>

In an area plagued by the wholesale destruction of its historical and cultural legacy, the story of Davie School provides a glimmer of hope. Though development is usually seen as the culprit in the loss of historic buildings, it is also often the very thing that finally sparks the attention of people too busy to otherwise notice or care much about the destruction of one more old building. Yet that is exactly how they are lost — one by one. For sixty years the Davie School sat in a sleepy little "cow town", unnoticed by anyone but the people of Davie, many of whom not only attended school there but watched their children and grandchildren do the same. They loved the old building; it was a part of the very fabric of their lives. Still, no one thought much about restoration until the boom-type development in the Davie area, coupled with the building's soon-to-be "surplus" status threatened its existence. It was this threat that sparked Davie people to begin the process of trying to save their school,

and it was this process that brought into focus the wonderful significance of the old building, both in its origins and its sentimental value to Davie. It is once again becoming a common ground for the citizens of Davie to claim and an important focal point for Davie in its thirty year struggle, amid rapid and often traumatic growth, to find an expression of its true identity as a community.

In light of what the Old Davie School is once again coming to mean to the town of Davie, the words of Colonel C. A. Walsh, when he officially accepted the new Davie School building on behalf of the citizens of Davie in May 1918, take on real meaning:

*We accept and thank you for this splendid building, a building no matter how large and important this community may grow, will ever be the center of its social action and the main cause of any progress we may make. The citizens of Davie will take pride in it, will maintain it and cherish it.*<sup>52</sup>

It looks as though Davie intends to keep its promise.



## FOOTNOTES

1. Margot Ammidown and Ivan A. Rodriguez, eds., *From Wilderness to Metropolis, The History and Architecture of Dade County (1825-1945)* (Miami: Metropolitan Dade County, 1982), introduction.
2. "Davie School Building Dedicated Last Friday," *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, May 17, 1918, 8; An earlier structure (approximately 1910) exists in Hallandale. The small frame building was only used as a school for a short time, however, and has been moved from its original site.
3. Ammidown and Rodriguez, eds., *From Wilderness to Metropolis*, 172.
4. "Site of New School Building at Dania Chosen," *The Weekly Miami Metropolis*, April 12, 1912, 6; Minutes of the Board of Instruction for the County of Broward, State of Florida, Book 1, 1; Cooper Kirk, "The Broward County Public School System — The First Quarter Century," *Broward Legacy*, vol. 11, nos. 3 & 4 (Summer/Fall 1988), 30.
5. August Geiger, "The Model School Plan for Tropic Florida," *The Tropic Magazine*, June 1914, 12-13.
6. Sarah Eaton, National Register of Historic Places, Inventory/Nomination Form, The Davie School Foundation, Inc.
7. James Thomas Brooks, Jr., "Napoleon Broward and the Great Land Debate," *Broward Legacy*, vol. 11, nos. 1 & 2 (Winter/Spring 1988), 41.

8. Charlton W. Tebeau, *A History of Florida* (Coral Gables: University of Miami Press, 1971), 346-47.
9. Brooks, "Great Land Debate," 41.
10. Samuel Proctor, *Napoleon Bonaparte Broward — Florida's Fighting Democrat* (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1950), 218.
11. *Ibid.*, 190-91.
12. Brooks, "Great Land Debate," 42.
13. Tebeau, *History of Florida*, 331-32.
14. Proctor, *Napoleon Bonaparte Broward*, 244; Nelson M. Blake, *Land Into Water, Water Into Land, a History of Water Management in Florida* (Tallahassee: University Presses of Florida, 1980), 98.
15. Blake, *Land Into Water, Water Into Land*, 104.
16. "A Gigantic Concern Organized to Grow Sugar Cane, Cotton and Various Crops on the Everglades Land in Dade County," *The Miami Metropolis*, June 12, 1908, 7; "Everglades Land Co., A New Organization Now Incorporating," *The Miami Metropolis*, February 6, 1909, 1.
17. Advertisement from Special Edition of *The Miami Metropolis*, September 1909 (no page number).

18. "First School in the Everglades Opens April 1, at Town of Zona, the New Colony From Panama," *The Weekly Miami Metropolis*, March 22, 1912, 3.
19. Norma Hammer Albery, "Please Remember, Mama," *Broward Legacy*, vol. 10, nos. 1 & 2 (Winter/Spring 1987), 15.
20. *Ibid.*, 16.
21. "Planning To Make Zona an Incorporated Town; Site Already Laid Out," *The Miami Metropolis*, October 10, 1913, 3.
22. Bernarr Lowe, Interview by Connie Dickey, videotaped at Davie, Florida, February 1990.
23. "Zona To Get First School in the Everglades," *The Weekly Miami Metropolis*, February 16, 1912, 6.
24. *Ibid.*
25. "First School in the Everglades Opens April 1, At Town of Zona, The New Colony From Panama," *The Weekly Miami Metropolis*, March 22, 1912, 3.
26. Kirk, "Broward Public School System," 29.
27. Typed manuscript of untitled article in the *Fort Lauderdale Herald*, December 15, 1916.



28. "Davis Now a Reality and Zona No More," *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, May 1, 1914, 1.
29. School Board Minutes, Book I, 65.
30. *Ibid.*, 69.
31. Warrantee Deed Between the Everglades Land Sales Company and the Board of Public Instruction for the County of Broward, State of Florida, January 10, 1917.
32. School Board Minutes, Book I, 75.
33. *Ibid.*, 82.
34. *Ibid.*, 87.
35. "Contract Let For Davis School," *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, June 15, 1917, 1.
36. "Davis School Building Dedicated Last Friday," *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, May 17, 1918, 8.
37. School Board Minutes, Book I, 152.
38. *Ibid.*, 88.
39. *Ibid.*, 88, 118.
40. "Christmas Day Celebration at Davis," *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, January 5, 1923, 4.
41. School Board Minutes, Book II, 357.
42. Marilyn Kemper. "The Taming of Broward's Wild, Wild West: An Analysis of 'The Code of the Town of Davis,'" *Broward Legacy*, vol. I, no. 1 (October 1976), 3. This incorporation was short-lived. In 1926 the citizens of Davis petitioned the state legislature to dissolve the charter, and Davis remained unincorporated until 1961.
43. Alice Woodward, Letter to State Historic Preservation Office in support of placing Davis School on the National Register of Historic Places.
44. School Board Minutes, Book II, 565.
45. *Ibid.*, Book IV, 1183-1184.
46. *Ibid.*, Book V, 1211.
47. State of Florida, Florida School Survey — School Plant Information, October 8, 1959, 1.
48. Davis's population has exploded in the past thirty years. In 1960 there were approximately 2,000 residents in Davis. Today there are an estimated 47,000.
49. Untitled article, *Western News*, October 13, 1977.
50. School Board of Broward County, Resolution #88-82, Agenda Item A-1: Declare Surplus — Portion of "Old" Davis Elementary School Site #009.0 as not needed for educational purposes, June 16, 1988. Agenda Item K-3: Transfer a portion of Site #009.0 ("Old" Davis Elementary) to Town of Davis, July 7, 1988.
51. "Davis School, A Special Place in a Unique Town," Brochure of the Davis School Foundation, Inc.
52. "Davis School Building Dedicated Last Friday," *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, May 17, 1918, 1.



Courtesy of Davis School Foundation, Inc.