

OAK PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
4916 East Tenth Avenue  
Tampa  
Hillsborough County  
Florida

HABS FL-519  
FL-519

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
100 Alabama St. NW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

# HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

## OAK PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HABS No. FL-519

**Location:** 4916 East Tenth Avenue, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida

**Significance:** The Oak Park Elementary School is significant as an example of the Mediterranean Revival style adapted to academic architecture. The remaining historic portion of the school building, designed by Frank Dunham, exhibits a high level of craftsmanship and retains characteristic elements of the Mediterranean Revival style popular during the 1920s Boom Times era of Florida. The school also serves as an important link to a long history of local education in the area, stretching back to 1911, as the remaining historic portion of the school, constructed in 1928, is actually the third school building to be constructed on the site. The remaining historic portion of the school is currently flanked to the east and west by non-historic additions constructed in the 1990s. These non-historic additions alter the historic character of the school and compromise its historic physical integrity.

**Description:** Built in 1928, the historic portion of this two-story Mediterranean Revival style elementary school has a rectangular plan with a masonry structural system that rests on a continuous foundation. The flat roof is covered in built-up materials and the exterior is clad in brick laid in a Flemish Stretcher Bond. The distinguishing feature of the historic portion of the school is a detailed entry pavilion in the middle bay of the south façade. Framed by brick pilasters, the entry pavilion features engaged cast-stone Solomonic columns with composite capitals that support a stepped, cast-stone rounded arch. Recessed within the arch is a double-bay door divided by a sidelight with a rounded transom above. Over the arched entrance engaged Solomonic columns are situated between a three-bay window located on the second floor. The entry pavilion rises above the parapet of the flat roof by means of a low-pitched gable. This gable exhibits a cast-stone corbelled cornice, decorative pierced-screen central roundel, decorative brick work, barrel tile coping, and a cast-stone finial at the peak. A cast-stone corbelled cornice situated below the parapet runs the length of the front facade on the historic portion of the school. An arched arcade on the east side of the historic portion of the school connects to a non-historic, two-story wing. Fenestration consists of metal single-hung sash replacement windows with six-over-six and four-over-four light configurations set in three-and-four-ribbon configurations. The historic portion of the school is flanked to the east and west by two-story, masonry, non-historic additions. The eastern addition of the school is appended via the arched arcade. The western addition is connected to the historic portion of the school by a covered walkway. These non-historic buildings consist of brick and stucco exterior walls and flat roofs. Fenestration on these non-historic wings consists of ribbon windows with six-over-six single-hung metal sash windows. Two non-historic, one-story, outbuildings are situated to the north and northeast of the school. The outbuilding situated north of the school served as the media center, while the outbuilding to the northeast served as a storage area for the now demolished food service building.

**History:** The extant historic portion of the Oak Park Elementary School is actually the third school building constructed on the site. An original wood frame schoolhouse, constructed in 1911, was lost to a fire. The second school building was constructed in 1915 to replace the destroyed school building. The current historic portion was constructed in 1928 and appended, via an arched arcade, to the 1915 schoolhouse. The 1915 portion was demolished in the 1990s to make room for the existing eastern addition. The only remaining historic portion of the school, built in 1928, is currently flanked to the east and west by non-historic wings constructed in the 1990s. Frank Dunham designed both the 1915 and 1928 portions of the school.

**Sources:**

Hole, Donna C. and C. Richard Bierce. *Historic Schools Analysis: Hillsborough County Public Schools*. Tampa Preservation, Inc., 1999.

Janus Research. *Oak Park Elementary. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*, 1992.

**Historian:**

Michael Kenneally, Janus Research, August 10, 2005