



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Sue M. Cobb

Secretary of State

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

October 30, 2006

Dr. Bill Vogel, Superintendent
 Seminole County Public Schools
 400 East Lake Mary Boulevard
 Sanford, Florida 32773-7127

Re: Lunchroom Building
 Seminole County Student Museum Center for the Social Studies
 West 7th Street and South Myrtle Avenue
 City of Sanford
 Seminole County

Dear Dr. Vogel:

It has come to the attention of the Division of Historical Resources that the lunchroom building behind the Seminole County Student Museum Center is in eminent danger of demolition this week. This office requests that this decision be reconsidered because of the significance of the building.

The lunchroom building, currently used for museum storage, is of countywide significance, and is located on the historic Sanford Grammar School property that was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. It is also a property in the Sanford Residential Historic District, listed in the National Register in 1989. The lunchroom was completed and opened 85 years ago, October 1921, nineteen years after the Grammar School was built. The Woman's Club of Sanford raised money to build and equip the county's first school lunchroom. Lunches were also prepared and delivered to other schools in Sanford. Fund raising during the Depression kept the lunchroom open and providing much needed food for Sanford's children. The lunchroom is an important historic resource that played a significant role in the history of Sanford. Many aspects of the life of a community are tied to its schools, and are not limited just to the education of students. A historic school, and sometimes a specific building, is often a source of special pride for community.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Director's Office (850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6436	<input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Research (850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6452	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation (850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Museums (850) 245-6400 • FAX: 245-6433
<input type="checkbox"/> Southeast Regional Office (954) 467-4990 • FAX: 467-4991	<input type="checkbox"/> Northeast Regional Office (904) 825-5045 • FAX: 825-5044	<input type="checkbox"/> Central Florida Regional Office (813) 272-3843 • FAX: 272-2340	

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It is the opinion of this office that the proposed demolition of the historic lunchroom building may constitute an action pursuant to the provisions of Section 1.5, State Requirements for Educational Facilities. This provision stipulates that School Board of Seminole County is to notify the Division of Historical Resources, and afford the Division an opportunity to comment prior to the approval or expenditure of state funds for the demolition or rehabilitation of a historic building. If state funds are to be expended, the Board should notify this office of current plans involving the lunchroom building, and ensure that timely and adequate steps were taken by the Board to determine that no feasible and prudent alternatives to demolition exist before moving forward with this project. This office strongly requests that the Board delay the demolition of the lunchroom building.

Rehabilitation and integration of the historic lunchroom building into the Seminole County Student Museum Center's programs would provide an educational venue not available to many other students in their communities. This is opportunity to revitalize a community's sense of place by preserving a part of its heritage and providing another facility that can teach our children to respect the past as well as the future. The lunchroom is a perfect Social Studies lesson of local initiative for the provision of an education, as well as the health and welfare of Sanford's children.

This office has several professional preservation architects very experienced in evaluating the condition of historic buildings and historic rehabilitation options. We can assist in identifying acceptable alternative treatments that could make the preservation of the lunchroom building a feasible rehabilitation project. Therefore, we request an opportunity to consult with you and your staff to keep viable the possibility of rehabilitating the building into adapted new active or supportive museum facility.

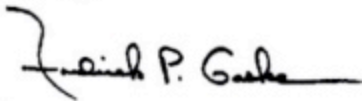
As you may be aware the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources administers a program of historic preservation grants-in-aid. We provided several preservation grants for the rehabilitation of the grammar school building as museum and education facility. One of the principle types of grants awarded is for appropriate restoration/rehabilitation of historic buildings like the lunchroom. Eligible applicants are units of state and local governments and not-for-profit organizations registered with the State of Florida Division of Corporations. Typically, the projects are being undertaken so that the building can continue in some type of public use, such as a museum or classroom facility. Applications for the current Small Matching Historic Preservation Grant cycle are due December 15, 2006. These grants provide a maximum of \$50,000 but require a 50/50 match and are frequently used for project planning. Depending on the county where the project is located, this match may be waived. The Special Category grant cycle deadline is May 31, 2007; and these grants provide a maximum of \$350,000, and are most often utilized for construction. You can see more information on our grant programs at <http://www.flheritage.com/grants>

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It has been our experience that the lessons of pride and community are the bonuses that can be passed on from one generation to the next. We encourage you to include the school's alumni dispersed throughout the community and state, and the Sanford community, to share ideas and experiences regarding what could be the best use for the lunchroom building and tying it to the Student Museum Center for the Social Studies.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Laura Kammerer at (850) 245-6333. We look forward to working with your office and School Board in making this a successful preservation project.

Sincerely,



Frederick P. Gaske, Director, and
State Historic Preservation Officer

Xc: Jeanne Morris, Chair, School Board of Seminole County
School Board of Seminole County - All Board Members
Hugh Harris, Director, Seminole County Student Museum Center for the Social Studies
Jonathon Hamrick, Educational Facilities, Department of Education
Linda Kuhn, Mayor, City of Sanford
Christine Dalton, Historic Preservation, Planning & Community Development, Sanford
Woman's Club of Sanford
Jeffrey Thirlwall, Central Florida Regional Office, Division of Historical Resources,
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