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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

APR 17 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Old Lake Worth City Hall
other names/site number Lake Worth City Hall Annex, Museum of the City of Lake Worth
8PB555

2. Location

street & number 414 Lake Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Lake Worth N/A vicinity
state Florida code FL county Palm Beach code FL 099 zip code 33460

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Clayton W. King Signature of certifying official April 11, 1989 Date
State Historic Preservation Officer
Florida Department of State-Bureau of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Shelton Byers Entered in the National Register 5/18/89

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT-City Hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT-Government Office

RECREATION AND CULTURE- Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

SPANISH COLONIAL REVIVAL:mediterranean revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls concrete block

stucco

roof asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1926-1939

Significant Dates

1929

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

King, Floyd-architect
Mizner Industries

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	7
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5	9	4	2	9	0
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2	9	4	4	0	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Block M, (less S 3.5 feet) of East 39.64 feet of Lot 1, S 3.5 feet of Lot 8 and 3.5 feet of Alley lying west of and adjacent to Lot 8 RD R/W.

or Parcel -CY 38 RG43 TWP 44 SEC 21 SUB 15, BLK 517 Lot 0010 OPR-ID County of Palm Beach, Florida

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary follows the historic and legal boundary of Block M and follows that boundary designated in the deed of sale to the City of Lake Worth, 1926.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Vicki L. Welcher - Historic Sites Specialist

organization FL Dept of State-Bureau of Hist. Preservation date April 10, 1989

street & number 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
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Old Lake Worth City Hall

SUMMARY

The Old Lake Worth City Hall, now the Lake Worth City Hall Annex, is a two story, stuccoed, Mediterranean Revival style structure. Built in 1929, it incorporates major structural elements of a 1916 concrete block school building that had been heavily damaged by a hurricane in 1928. The main facade, facing south, contains a two story center entrance with a monumental arched opening and a decorative arched frieze molding at the eaves line. Other architectural details include the hollow clay tile roofing, original 6/6 fenestration, a keystone arch at the west elevation, original wrought iron light fixtures and window grills, and corner quoins at all elevations.

ORIGINAL SETTING

The Old Lake Worth City Hall is located at 414 Lake Avenue, Lake Worth, Florida. The property is contained within Block M of the original town of Lucerne, later changed to the City of Lake Worth. During the historic period the property was bounded by Lake Avenue to the south, Lucerne Avenue to the north, M Street to the west, and N Street to the east. The 1929 structure was situated slightly off center of the property with a small water fountain at the west side of the property. The lot contained several banyan trees at the north end, partially destroyed by the Hurricane of 1928, palm trees and other smaller vegetation at all elevations. A small fountain, decorated with grotesques and garlands was situated at the west boundary of the west elevation. (See Photo 9)

PRESENT APPEARANCESetting

The present setting of the Lake Worth City Hall is similar to the original setting. Landscape features such as palm and banyan trees have remained intact with some replacement. The east elevation has seen the major change with the installation of a drive-thru lane and the upgrade of N Street to Federal Highway (U.S. 1.)

Exterior

The Lake Worth City Hall is a two story Mediterranean Revival style structure with a one story wing at the north elevation. The stuccoed concrete block structure has a poured concrete foundation, barrel tile roofing and original 6/6 double hung wood sash fenestration. All corners of the modified H-plan structure are decorated with symmetrical quoin blocks at the first level only. All roofs on the main building are hipped. The one story wing has a flat, rolled asphalt roof.

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Old Lake Worth City Hall

The main (south) elevation of the structure contains a two story gabled entrance with a monumental arched opening. The 9 bay elevation has original rectangular fenestration with belt courses at the second story sill and header levels. The arch at the central entrance contains a recessed concave panel that provides the surround for the second story fenestration contained within the entrance. The entrance doors are recessed behind this second opening. This second opening contains arched casement windows with four wood panel sills. Flanking the entrance are two original wrought iron light fixtures. The cornice of the gabled entrance bay is arcaded. (See Photo 1)

The west elevation contains three blocks of four bays each with the center block recessed. The right (south) and center blocks are two story while the left (north) block is one story. All blocks contain the 6/6 fenestration and two beltcourses. A small 1/2 story utility room is located between the north and central blocks. A parking lot and fountain are situated to the west of this elevation. (See Photo 2)

The north elevation is the one story wing with a center arched entranceway. The 9 bay elevation contains 6/6 fenestration, a belt course and stepped parapet in front of the flat roof. The arched entrance contains an arched surround with stepped quoins and keystone. The entry has been altered to accommodate automatic sliding doors, but retains the elliptical transom. A handicap ramp leads to the entry from the right (west) side of this elevation. The site is landscaped with banyan trees from the historic period. Historic photograph indicate the original 1913 banyans were heavily damaged in the Hurricane of 1928. Given the proliferous nature of the trees, it is possible that these are indeed the 1913 trees. (See Photo 3)

The east elevation contains three blocks of four bays each, with the right (north) bay being one story. The central bay has been filled to accommodate a drive through window and is the only portion of the structure that does not contain original 6/6 fenestration. The elevation has little landscaping as it contains the driveway and is located in close proximity to a main thoroughfare. (See Photo 4)

Interior

The interior of the Lake Worth City Hall has retained its original configuration with minimal changes. Divided north and south by a central hall, the first and second floors contain office spaces with a minimum of interior separating walls. (See Floor Plan 1) The second floor retains the large open office spaces as designated in original floor plans. A split stairwell with wrought iron railings is located at the south end of the central hall. Original double hung wood sash and vertical multi-pane transoms

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at the mezzanine level office remain from the original 1916 schoolhouse. (See Photo 5) At the south elevation entrance are four steps with original unglazed tile flooring. (See Photo 6) In addition, the southern entrance contains a wall with etched graffiti from the 1916 schoolhouse.

ALTERATIONS

The building has seen three alterations since its reconstruction in 1929. The first was the infill of the center block of the east elevation. This was done in 1965, and was constructed using like materials to resemble the original building as closely as possible. The second 1965 alteration was the construction of the utility room at the west elevation. The third alteration was made in 1981 to accommodate the handicapped in compliance with Federal standards for municipal/public buildings. Again, like materials were used to minimize the impact on the historic structure.

FOUNTAIN

Located near the mid-point of the western boundary of the property is a four foot high fountain/bird bath. Constructed of concrete and marble, the fountain rests at the center of an octagonal base with ornamental panels at the ground level. The stem of the fountain is fluted and decorated with garlands and a copper medallion. The basin itself is embellished with lion grotesques. The fountain, donated to the site by Mizner Industries, contains the following inscription:

MEMORIAL TO MEMBERS OF LAKE WORTH BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL
WOMENS'S CLUB JUNE 1, 1926.

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Old Lake Worth City Hall

SUMMARY

The Old Lake Worth City Hall is significant at the local level under Criterion A through its association with city government and the Hurricane of 1928, which caused major destruction and loss of life in South Florida. The building serves as an excellent example of a severely damaged structure. Rebuilt in a remarkably different design to reflect a more modern city image, it is significant at the local level under Criterion C as an example of the prevalence of the Mediterranean Revival style in Palm Beach County during the 1920s Land Boom Period.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

In 1912, the Palm Beach Farms Company, a Colorado firm, bought large holdings in rural Palm Beach County, Florida. The land was surveyed and platted with farm lots centered around the new town of Lucerne. The firm of Bryant and Greenwood was hired to market these sites throughout the United States and Canada. Five-acre farm plots sold for \$250, and, as an incentive, came with a free residential lot in the town. A lottery held in April, 1912, determined the location of each of the farms and separate town lots. The day of the drawing brought with it heavy rains; new property owners were unable to view their lands without the aid of a rowboat. Many left immediately, but others remained to drain and cultivate the land and establish the town.

In late 1912, a post office was established and the name of the town was changed to Lake Worth. The community also realized the need for a school house and the Palm Beach Farms Company donated Block M to the Palm Beach County Board of Public Instruction for this purpose. The block was located between Lake Avenue to the south, and Lucerne Avenue to the north. A small wood frame structure was built on the site and, during the summer of 1913, four banyan trees were planted on the site by pioneer Bertha Gainer.

The school opened October 20, 1912 with 24 students ranging in age from 5 to 15. By the end of the first school year, enrollment had almost doubled to 46. It was evident that the school needs of the fast growing community could not be accommodated by the small schoolhouse. In 1914, the school board commissioned an architect to design a much larger masonry school at the same location. The new school opened in 1916 with 12 classrooms containing 36 large or 45 small desks.

Over the next decade, Palm Beach County continued to experience rapid growth. By 1924, the City of Lake Worth needed a permanent location and more adequate space for its administrative function, which were then housed with the fire station, jail and library in a single building. The Board of Public Instruction, having already constructed a high school for the ever growing

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Old Lake Worth City Hall

student population, was planning two primary schools at North and South K Street. Block M, with its central location and access to the two main roads in town, seemed an ideal central location for a city hall and the existing building would be readily adaptable for this purpose. A conditional sale of the property was signed between the City and the school board in 1924. In August, 1926, with the completion of the two new schools, the Board of Public Instruction signed over the building to the City.

Historic Significance
Criterion A

By 1914, it was evident that the original wood frame school house located in Block M was not adequate for the growing population of the Lake Worth. A \$25,000 bond was approved and a new school building was designed and constructed. The new building was two story with two, three story towers and constructed in rusticated concrete block, as was common to institutional buildings in Florida at that time. Both the towers and the rest of the H-shaped building contained hip roofs covered in asphalt shingles. The first floor contained classrooms, a small principal's office, a lunchroom, restrooms and the janitor's room. The upper story contained classrooms, an assembly room and access to the attic. Towers provided space for small study rooms.

After its purchase by the City in 1926, the building was renovated for use as the city hall. Classrooms were changed into offices and a new, modern telephone was installed. The building was rededicated as the Lake Worth City Hall in July, 1927. During this time, the City of Lake Worth continued to grow at a rapid pace. Only slightly hindered by the Hurricane of 1926 the previous year, the future looked bright for the town.

On September 16, 1928, a devastating hurricane struck the southern half of the State of Florida, in particular Palm Beach and Dade Counties. It killed over 2800 people in the Lake Okechobee area and flooded the entire area. Barely 20 miles east of Lake Okechobee, Lake Worth was rocked by the force of the estimated 150 mile per hour winds. Weakened after it hit land, but reviving over the open water of the lake, the hurricane left little standing in its wake.

Unlike many of the town's buildings, the Lake Worth City Hall was only partially destroyed. The north tower was destroyed at the second story level as was the entire exterior wall of the northwest corner of the building. The second story of the northeast bay of the building was removed completely and the entire roof structure was razed. The city was left once more without a functional center for city government.

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By early October, Lake Worth had been cleaned up sufficiently for the City Commission to once again address the problem of an accessible city hall building. The commission quickly decided that the same reasons for acquiring the Block M property were valid justification for rebuilding the existing structure. Central location made the site the most practical location for a community center. Even though the building had lost one tower and a portion of one wing, the remaining walls and floor were still sound, and the basic plan for the building was still intact and practical for governmental offices.

Floyd King was appointed architect and new plans were drawn up to restore the city hall. In doing so, the City Commission agreed that the new city hall should reflect the new, more modern image of progressive city located in Palm Beach County, Florida. The new plans, when submitted, showed a building designed in the Mediterranean Revival style associated with the Town of Palm Beach, located immediately to the east of Lake Worth.

Criterion C

New styles and techniques in architecture were seen throughout Florida during the 1920s Land Boom Period as planned communities and developments sought to create tropical paradises in exotic locales. Moorish, Spanish, Northern Italian, Pueblo Indian, California Mission, Mid-Eastern and Chinese style elements were used with sometimes surprising results. The most successful of these styles was the Mediterranean Revival style. One architect credited with using the Mediterranean Revival style is Addison Mizner.

Addison Mizner came to the Town of Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida in 1918. Mizner, familiar with the classic elements of both the Spanish and Italian architecture, used these elements to create residences in Palm Beach and West Palm Beach that would take advantage of the tropical breezes while sheltering the house from the heat of the sun. The resulting style was aesthetically appealing to a wide variety of individuals and was soon employed throughout the State. The style was seized upon by commercial enterprises and local governments and the style soon spread to all buildings types.

The radical change in styles exhibited in the 1929 reconstruction of the Old Lake Worth City Hall reflects the change in the architectural tastes of the community of Lake Worth. No longer content with styles that suited the pioneer feeling of the once small town, the choice of the Mediterranean Revival style for the new city hall building reflects the enormous influence the style had on the community and county and state. Instead of curtailing the cost of reconstruction, the city made a conscious decision to conform to a style that so radically changed the face of Florida architecture.

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Published Material

Lake Worth Herald, April 30, 1914 - May 3, 1929.

Linehan, Mary Collar. Early Lantana: Her Neighbors and More.
St. Petersburg, Florida: Byron Kennedy and Company, 1979.

McIver, Stuart B. Yesterday's Palm Beach. Miami: E. A. Seemann
Publishing, Inc., 1976.

Pictorial History, 75th Anniversary of the City of Lake Worth
1913-1988. City of Lake Worth, 1988.

Pratt, Theodore. That was Palm Beach. St. Petersburg, Florida:
Great Outdoors, 1964.

Ratrie, Stephanie L. Lake Worth: The Wonder City, Florida
Municipal Utilities Association News. n.p., March, 1988.

Spencer, Wilma Bell. Palm Beach: A Century of Heritage.
Washington, D. C.: Mount Vernon Publishing Co., Inc., 1975.

Travers, J. Wadsworth. History of Beautiful Palm Beach. Palm
Beach, Florida: n.p., 1928.

Will, Lawrence E. Cracker History of Okeechobee, St. Petersburg
Florida: Great Outdoor Association, 1964.

Unpublished Material

Minutes: Lake Worth City Commission, City of Lake Worth,
September 17, 1928 - April 24, 1929.

Oral Interview with John Couse by Helen Vogt Green, 1987.

Oral Interview with Norman Curry by Helen Vogt Green, 1987.

Oral Interview with Lulu Forshay by Helen Vogt Green, 1987.

Oral Interview with Kenneth J. Hughes by Helen Vogt Green, 1987.

Plans, City of Lake Worth City Hall, 1928, 1929.

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Section number Photos Page 1

Old Lake Worth City Hall

1. Old Lake Worth City Hall
2. Lake Worth, Florida
3. Helen Vogt Green
4. October, 1987
5. Museum of the City of Lake Worth
6. Main (South) Elevation facing north
7. Photo 1 of 15

Items 1-5 are the same for Photos 1-9

6. West Elevation facing east
7. Photo 2 of 15

6. North Elevation facing south
7. Photo 3 of 15

6. East Elevation facing west
7. Photo 4 of 15

6. Interior shot of stairwell landing facing south
7. Photo 5 of 15

6. Interior shot of central hall facing north
7. Photo 6 of 15

6. Interior detail of wall graffiti facing east
7. Photo 7 of 15

6. Interior detail of wall plaque facing east
7. Photo 8 of 15

6. Exterior detail of fountain facing north
7. Photo 9 of 15

1. Old Lake Worth City Hall
2. Lake Worth, Florida
3. unknown
4. c. February, 1916
5. Museum of the City of Lake Worth
6. Lake Worth School House, direction assumed facing northwest
7. Photo 10 of 15

1. Old Lake Worth City Hall
2. Lake Worth, Florida
3. unknown

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Old Lake Worth City Hall

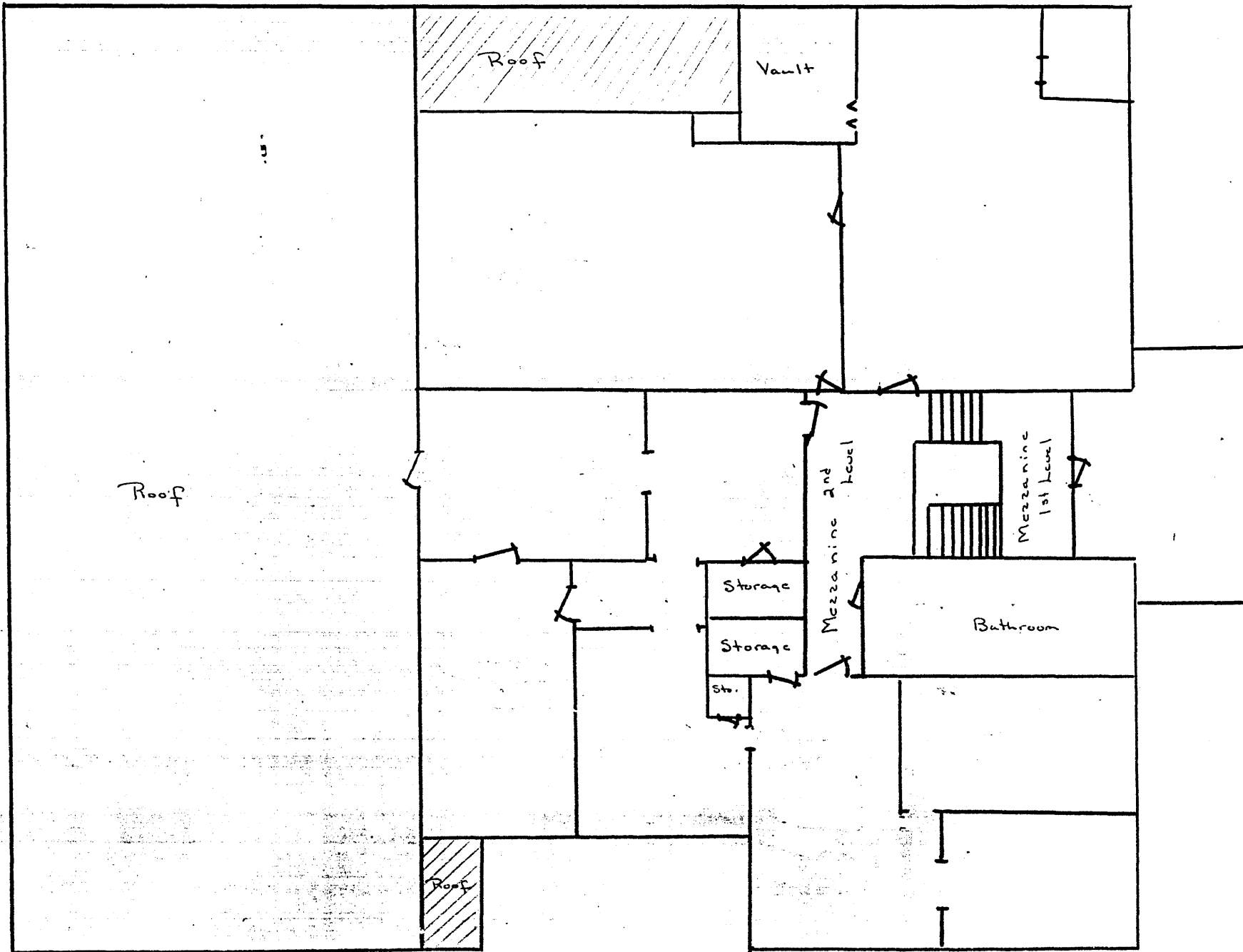
4. c. February, 1919
5. Museum of the City of Lake Worth
6. Lake Worth School House, direction assumed facing northwest
7. Photo 11 of 15

1. Old Lake Worth City Hall
2. Lake Worth, Florida
3. unknown
4. September, 1928
5. Museum of the City of Lake Worth
6. Lake Worth School House partially destroyed by hurricane, west elevation facing southeast
7. Photo 12 of 15

1. Old Lake Worth City Hall
2. Lake Worth, Florida
3. unknown
4. September, 1928
5. Museum of the City of Lake Worth
6. Lake Worth School House partially destroyed by hurricane, north elevation facing southwest
7. Photo 13 of 15

1. Old Lake Worth City Hall
2. Lake Worth, Florida
3. unknown
4. c. 1938
5. Museum of the City of Lake Worth
6. Lake Worth City Hall facing northwest
7. Photo 14 of 15

1. Old Lake Worth City Hall
2. Lake Worth, Florida
3. unknown
4. c. 1964
5. Museum of the City of Lake Worth
6. Lake Worth City Hall facing northwest
7. Photo 15 of 15



----- new partition walls

————— original walls

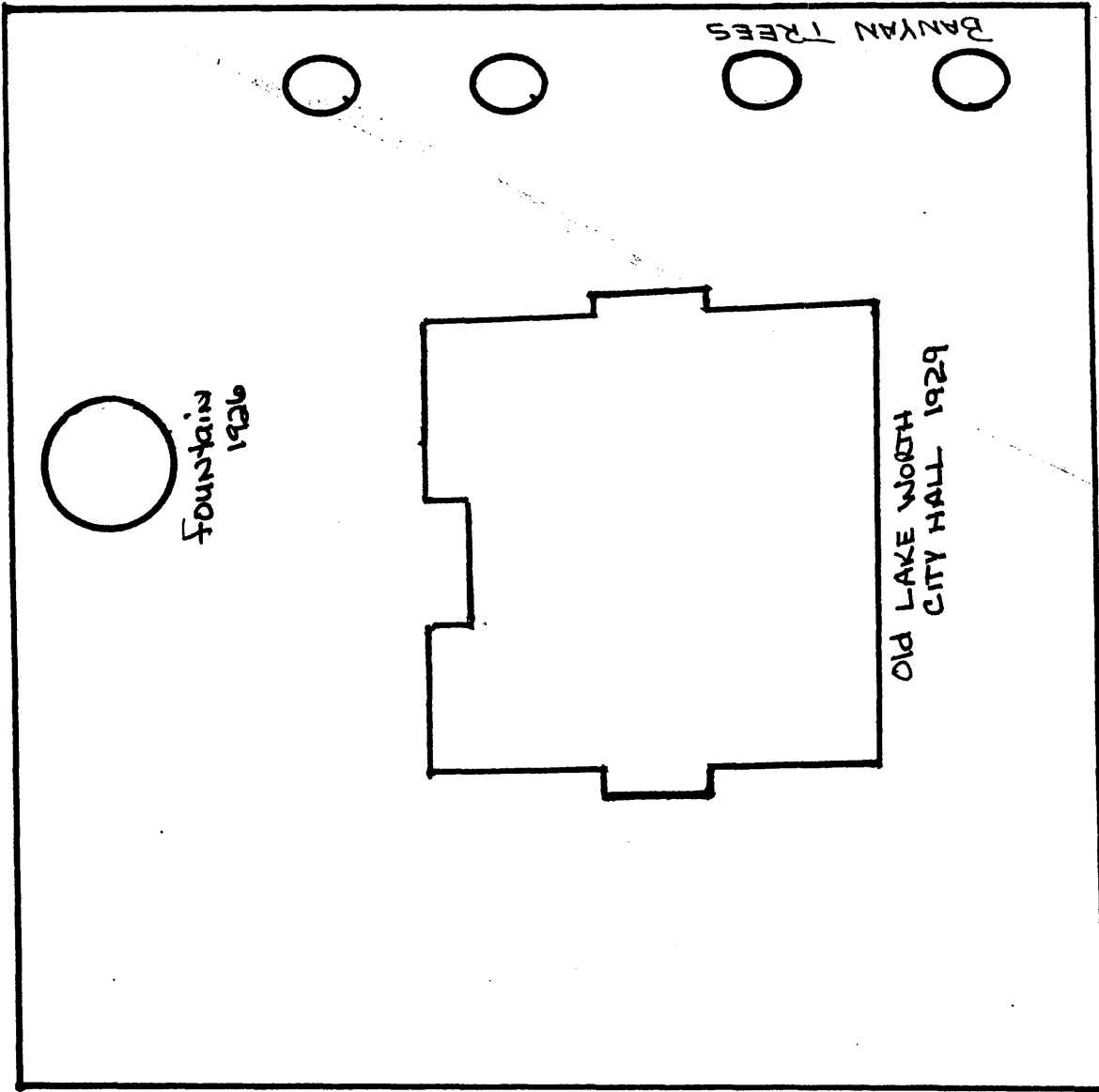
Old Lake Worth City Hall
414 Lake Avenue
Lake Worth, Florida

SECOND FLOOR PLANS



LUCERNE AVENUE

H STREET COID M STREET



LAKE AVENUE

OLD LAKE WORTH CITY HALL FEDERAL HIGHWAY (U.S. 1.)

Site PLAN

STATE OF TEXAS