

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Florida
COUNTY:	Dade
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAR 26 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Woman's Club of Coconut Grove

AND/OR HISTORIC: Housekeepers Club

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 2985 S. Bayshore Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Coconut Grove CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Twelfth

STATE: Florida CODE: 12 COUNTY: Dade CODE: 025

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

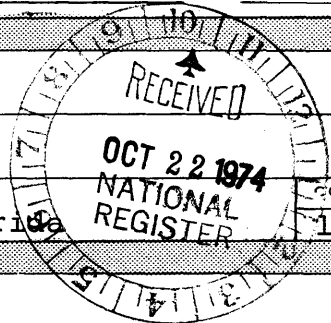
Agricultural
 Commercial
 Educational
 Entertainment
 Government
 Industrial
 Military
 Museum
 Park
 Private Residence
 Religious
 Scientific
 Transportation
 Other (Specify) Woman's Club

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Woman's Club of Coconut Grove

STREET AND NUMBER: 2985 S. Bayshore Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Coconut Grove STATE: Florida CODE: 12



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dade County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: 73 West Flagler Street

CITY OR TOWN: Miami STATE: Florida CODE: 12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: 1. Inventory, Board of Parks & Hist. Memorials, Dept. Nat. Resources; 2. State of Fla. Hist. Sites Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1. 1959 2. 1972 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: 1. Dept. Natural Resources; 2. Div. Archives, History & Records

STREET AND NUMBER: 1. Larson Building 2. The Capitol, Dept. of State

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Coconut Grove Woman's Club building was constructed in 1921 on its present site overlooking Biscayne Bay in Coconut Grove. The structure stands on a slight crest, 100 feet back from South Bayshore Drive and is nearly obscured from view by dense growth of trees and plants. Landscaping includes numerous live oak trees draped with moss and air plants, part of the native plantings that covered the lot when it was purchased.

The building faces south, and is bound on the west by the Coconut Grove Library; on the east side is a multi-story high rise apartment building. The property is located at one of Coconut Grove's busiest intersections. Land area on which the building is situated measures 75- by 100 feet. Dimensions of the building are 74 ft. 4 inches by 57 ft. 4 inches.

The building is a five-bay, square shaped structure constructed of irregular, rough coral rock blocks. The use of native "Miami stone" was popularized as a building material in South Florida until the late 1920's, when the building "boom" reached its peak.

A series of recessed, semicircular arches extending around the building on three sides is a distinguishing feature of the one and one-half story structure. The first floor level has a flat roof with a low parapet. At the second level, the structure has a gable roof, with a buff-colored stucco extension at the gable end on the main facade. This extension is decorated with an inverted cone-shaped finial. A wooden, shed-like projection booth was attached to the exterior of this portion, directly over the entrance door. However, the projection booth was blown away during the 1926 hurricane and never replaced. Louvered vents were installed in place of the projection booth.

Porches surround the building on three sides, and the screened arches provided ventilation to the interior. The screens were later replaced by jalousies.

The building was designed by Walter C. DeGarmo, an early architect in Coconut Grove. Its design is compatible with the South Florida climate, combining high ceilings with twelve-foot wide porches, and the spacious arched openings which were popularized in the area during the boom period. The use of native field rock, oolite limestone, was a distinctive South Florida touch.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



(con't.)

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1921

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Housekeepers Club was organized with six members on February 19, 1891 by Flora McFarlane, pioneer settler and school teacher in Coconut Grove. Women of the community formed this group for religious and social purposes, and for education of the children. Membership of this club was comprised of the pioneer women of Coconut Grove who filled many needs of the settlers, and played a vital role in the development of the small, bayfront community. Many pioneer family names appear on the membership roll of the Housekeepers Club.

Fund raising for a Sunday School building was one of the first projects of the club. When completed, the one-room structure known as Union Chapel formed the beginning of Plymouth Congregational Church. The club members also sponsored social functions and contributed to the education and cultural development of Coconut Grove's residents. On land donated by Commodore Ralph Munroe, the members built their first club house in 1897. The site was adjacent to the new church which also was donated by the Commodore. In order to raise money for the building fund, Flora McFarlane donated five acres of her homestead land, and Henry Flagler contributed one hundred dollars. The new building served club and community until 1917.

In 1901, the Housekeepers Club became federated with the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, organized in 1895. It is the oldest federated club in South Florida.

In 1905, a resolution proposed by the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs resulted in a 4,000 acre grant of Everglades property by the State of Florida to the Federation for a Federal Forest Reservation to preserve the royal palms. As the club membership grew, the scope of activities extended into cultural projects, community improvement projects, and improved public schools.

During World War I, the club served in numerous civilian war programs, sponsored community sings, and entertained Navy personnel stationed at Dinner Key.

(con't.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		N 25° 43' 37"	W 80° 14' 23"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

17/576246
2845490
00

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than an acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A		N/A	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mary K. Evans, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Dept. of State, Div. Archives, History & Records DATE: February 27, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Robert Williams
 Title: Historic Preservation Officer
 Date: October 14, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 3/26/75

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 3-25-75

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7. Description

The interior dimensions measure 1,959 square feet, which includes a 12-foot stage at the front. Openings from the auditorium to the surrounding porches are large and can be closed with folding French doors, eight feet high. Walls of the auditorium are 15 feet high. The ceiling extends upward to a ridge, 24 feet above the floor, and is supported by heavy wooden beam trusses, bolted with iron rods. The ceiling and trusses are polished pine, and the effect is that of a cathedral. A rock fireplace, 12 feet long and 7 feet high, is located in the main auditorium.

A kitchen, store room, rest rooms and living quarters for the resident caretaker are located at the rear section of the porch.

At the rear of the building is a small garden, now overgrown.



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8. Statement of Significance

In 1916, the original club house was sold and plans for a new building were begun. The present building was erected in 1921 on a 250 ft. corner lot fronting on Bayshore Drive, where it exists today. Walter De Garmo designed the building, which required ninety-six loads of native coral rock to complete. To defray building costs, the club hosted three pageants which included a Florida Historical Pageant given on the Miami River, and a tour of nearby estates including the William Jennings Bryan home, Villa Serena. Club members served the community in other ways such as organization of the first Girl Scout troop in Dade County.

In the 1926 hurricane, the club house was severely damaged. Biscayne Bay waters reached within two feet of the club house steps and the building was unroofed. It was, however, replaced in its original design.

The club is considered to be one of the most important organizations in the history of Coconut Grove. It is a direct link to the settlement of this bay community and symbolizes the dedication of a group of pioneer women who endeavored to contribute to the education, social life and cultural development of Coconut Grove's residents.



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Bibliography.

"A Housekeepers' Club," Harpers Bazar, Vol. XXV, Number 16, April 16, 1892.

Blackman, E. V. Miami and Dade County, Florida. Washington, D. C.: Victor Rainbolt, 1921.

Blackman, Lucy W. The Women of Florida--Biographies. The Southern Historical Publishing Association, Vol. II, 1940.

Dade County Court House, Miami, Florida. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Dade County Records (Subgroup: deeds).

"Housekeepers' Club Widely Recognized Had Unusual Start," Miami Daily Metropolis, March 3, 1923.

Kent, Gertrude M. The Coconut Grove School in Pioneer Days, 1887-1894. Coral Gables: Parker Printing, 1972.

Kent, Mrs. Olga and Mrs. Tilney. Personal Interview (by Mary K. Evans) December 4, 1973. Coral Gables, Florida.

Kent, Mrs. S. J. and Mrs. David R. Thurman. The First Sixty Years of the Housekeepers' Club. Coconut Grove, Florida, 1951.

Muir, Helen. Miami, U.S.A. Coconut Grove: Hurricane House Publishers, Inc., 1953.

Munroe, Ralph Middleton & Vincent Gilpin. The Commodore's Story. New York: Ives Washburn, 1930. Reprinted Miami: Historical Association of Southern Florida, 1967.

Parks, Arva Moore. The History of Coconut Grove, Florida, 1821-1925. University of Miami, Master's Thesis, 1971.



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Woman's Club of Coconut Grove

8. Addition to statement of significance.

The Woman's Club of Coconut Grove is architecturally significant because it represents a particular style that prevailed in South Florida during the 1920's period. The use of native coral rock construction was an important building material in this area of Florida; therefore, this structure is representative not only of early building design, but of construction material as well. Only minor alterations have taken place through the years on this structure, as evidenced by a comparison of the 1921 photo with the 1974 photo (both enclosed with the nomination form.)

