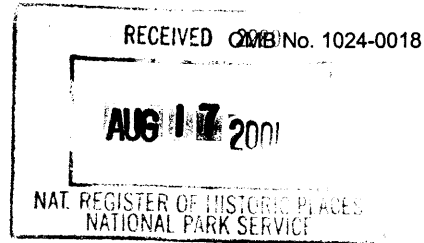


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name MANDARIN STORE AND POST OFFICE

other names/site number Walter Jones Store and Post Office Museum

2. Location

street & number 12471 Mandarin Road N/A  not for publication

city or town Jacksonville N/A  vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Duval code 031 zip code 32223

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Janet Snyder Matthews 8-10-2001  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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  See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Entered in the  
National Register

10/1/01

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

**Name of related multiple property listings**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

"N/A"

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

GOVERNMENT: post office

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE: museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Frame Vernacular

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD

roof METAL

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE
ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Period of Significance

1911-1951

Significant Dates

1911

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Monson, William

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) 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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of Repository

#

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 1 1/4 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	4 3 6 4 6 0	3 3 3 6 6 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James W. Towart/Robert O. Jones, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date August 2001

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (850) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

##### Continuation Sheets

##### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

##### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

##### Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mandarin Community Club

street & number 12447 Mandarin Road telephone 904-268-1622

city or town Jacksonville state Florida zip code 32223

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

**MANDARIN STORE AND POST OFFICE,  
JACKSONVILLE, DUVAL CO., FLORIDA**

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**SUMMARY**

The Mandarin Store and Post Office is at 12471 Mandarin Road, in Jacksonville, Duval County. The historic community of Mandarin has been incorporated into Jacksonville. The store sits on the south side of Mandarin Road at the corner of Brady Road. Built in 1911, this building was used as a general store and post office until 1964. The store is a one-story, Frame Vernacular building with a drop siding exterior. The front gable roof has a metal surface, and there is a full width porch across the front elevation. The building retains its historic integrity to a high degree and is in good condition.

**SETTING**

The Mandarin Store and Post Office is located in the southern part of Duval County, in what historically had been the community of Mandarin on east shore of the St. Johns River. Mandarin Road roughly parallels the river, and was an area of early settlement. The property is located diagonally across the road from the site of the winter homes of famed 19th century author Harriet Beecher Stowe, and is contiguous with the Mandarin Community Club (originally built by Harriet Beecher Stowe). The surrounding community is largely recent residential development with a few historic homes and a cemetery remaining in the vicinity. About one mile of Mandarin Road is being locally designated as a historic roadway.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

The Frame Vernacular building with a rectangular footprint, measures 30' 6" in width, and 40' 6" in length. It is constructed on short brick pier foundations, and has a front gable and side shed roof finished with 5-V crimp sheet metal. The exterior is surfaced with drop siding with corner boards.

The main, north façade fronts onto Mandarin Road (Photo #1). There are two single-door front entrances with screen doors. One door goes into the store, flanked by two windows, and the other into the post office. The windows are 6/6, double-hung wooden sashes, and have wooden shutters. A porch spans the entire elevation, and is sheltered by a shed metal roof supported by five square posts. Two steps span the porch. Two benches affixed to the front porch were recreated from early photographs. Turned spindle balusters are at the east end of the porch (Photo #2). Within the gable above the store door is a large wooden louvered vent. A sign reading "Walter Jones" covers part of the vent. The post office portion of the building is covered with a side-shed roof, obscured from the north façade by the porch roof. At the top edge of the roof, above the post office door, is a small sign that reads "Post Office Mandarin, Fla."

The west elevation is a windowless solid wall (Photo #3). A seam toward the south corner indicates where a historic addition was made.

On the south elevation there are double doors on a straight line with the store's front door (Photo #4). The door is flanked by two windows with 2/2, double-hung wooden sashes, and wooden shutters. The gable

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**MANDARIN STORE AND POST OFFICE,  
JACKSONVILLE, DUVAL CO., FLORIDA**

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contains a rectangular vent with wooden louvers. The shed roof on the post office side of the building is evident. A recent wooden porch and access ramp rises from the east side.

The east elevation has one window filled by a 6/6, double-hung wooden sash, with a wooden shutter (Photo #5).

The interior of the building contains four rooms plus a restroom. The floor is heart pine, and the walls and ceiling are tongue and groove paneling. A great room, 20 feet wide running from north to south, comprises the general store (Photos #6,7). A second room measuring 10 feet wide by 8 feet long is the outside room of the post office, accessed only from the front porch (Photo #8). A third room 10 feet wide by 7 feet long is the inside room of the post office, accessed from the store by an interior door (Photo #9). The fourth room, 10 feet wide by 19 feet in length, was known as the "feed" room. A rest room, 10 feet wide by 7 feet long, with commode, sink, and broom closet, is a recent addition. The only side window in the building is to illuminate the inside post office room. The outside room of the post office houses the mailboxes, which were filled from the inside room. Many items from the old store such as the cash box, scale, ledgers, crates, boxes, barrels, bottles, a chopping block, etc. have been donated by descendants of the store's original owners.

**ALTERATIONS**

The original building was constructed with a single room containing the general store, and two east side rooms for the post office which had a service window and outside room opening onto the front porch. An addition extended the length of the store towards the south, and extended the post office portion also so they shared a common south wall. The addition is composed of materials identical to the original building, resulting in the assumption that the alteration came soon after 1911. The additions are noted on the floor plan attached. The building was restored in 1998. A restroom was installed. Front porch benches were replicated from historic photographs. Interior store counters were replicated from the damaged originals. Two signs that were on the building during its historic period have been restored and remounted in their original locations. The signs read "WALTER JONES," and "POST OFFICE MANDARIN, FLA." Some exterior siding, ceiling, wall, and floor boards were repaired with duplicated boards.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section number 8 Page 1

**MANDARIN STORE AND POST OFFICE,  
JACKSONVILLE, DUVAL CO., FLORIDA**

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**SUMMARY**

The Mandarin Store and Post Office is nominated to the National Register for its significance on the local level under Criteria A and C in the areas of Commerce, Communications, and Architecture. The store and post office served as the commercial and community center of the Mandarin community throughout the historic period. The store's current location since 1911 reflects the change in commercial transportation from the St. John's River, to paved roadways. The store and post office is a rare and excellent example of frame vernacular construction. The physical integrity is very high.

**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

The historic community of Mandarin, now a part of Jacksonville, is on the eastern shore of the St. John's River, on a rounded peninsula. Native-American, Spanish, and English settlement was drawn to the fertile land bordering the river. Archaeological evidence of human habitation dating to the time of European contact has been found (Florida Master Site File). Timucua speaking Indians left three large mounds near the water's edge, an indication that the area was a settlement. The Native Americans were an agricultural and gathering society. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish settlers lived in the region, although information about their settlement of the Mandarin area is not known. During the 20 year British custody of Florida (1763-83), a settlement was established on the Mandarin site and named St. Anthony. When the Spanish reclaimed Florida from 1784-1821, they kept the name, calling it San Antonio (Graff, 1953:6). Upon the American take-over in 1821, residents changed the name to Monroe, in honor of U.S. President James Monroe. It remained Monroe until July 29, 1830, when at the suggestion of Calvin Read--a citrus farmer from Vermont, it was changed to Mandarin in honor of the Mandarin orange, which the area was introducing into the national market (Graff, 1953:14).

In the 1830s, riverboats made regular stops at Mandarin while on trips between Savannah and Picolata on the St. John's. Five main docks lined the north shore from County Dock Road, to Store Lane, the center of community development. The orange trees were hurt by a serious freeze in 1835, and an insect blight several years later. In 1841 the legislature incorporated Mandarin, but the duration of incorporation is unknown. In December of 1841, during the Second Seminole War, Indians burned several houses and killed three settlers. As a result, settlers relocated to better defended city centers such as St. Augustine and Jacksonville. Never the less, a general store operated in Mandarin community beginning in the 1840s. Prior to the Civil War lumber, cotton, oranges and vegetables were shipped from the community.

During the Civil War, Federal forces occupied Jacksonville and established garrisons as far upriver as Palatka. Confederates did what they could to harass them by planting mines in the channel off Mandarin Point. Two U.S. transports, including the *Maple Leaf* (NHL, 1994) and *General Hunter*, were sunk there in 1864 (Graff, 1953:41). Following the war, Harriet Beecher Stowe, the author of Uncle Tom's Cabin, and her husband bought a house in Mandarin for winter use. She helped procure from the Freedman's Bureau a school that was

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**MANDARIN STORE AND POST OFFICE,  
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located in Mandarin. The Stowe's also helped established the Episcopal Church of Our Savior (Wood, 1989:284).

**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The origins of the Mandarin Store and Post Office as an institution go back to 1875, when John C. Brown built the original store on the riverfront at the foot of Old Store Lane, close to the Mandarin Wharf and Dock (Brown, 1963:2). Brown owned and operated the store until 1879, when he began to sell the inventory to another merchant to operate it. The last owner of the inventory was Walter Jones, who was appointed the postmaster in 1906. Son of an overseer of an estate near Liverpool, England, he had worked his way for passage to America in hopes of making a fortune. He worked at the store until, in 1911, it was replaced by the existing structure built by William Monson on property Monson owned on the northeasterly corner of Mandarin and Brady Roads (Graff, 1953:62).

When the store moved, Jones moved with it, leasing it from Monson and carrying on as both manager and postmaster. The previous year (1910) he had moved his family into a modest farmhouse located on the St. Johns River at the foot of County Dock Road. He continued his dual role until his death on December 30, 1928. His daughter, Agnes Jones, then assumed the role of manager and postmistress and served until she closed the store in 1964, when the post office was relocated to State Road 13. The store was purchased by the Jones family in 1958.

The relocation of the store from the riverfront to Mandarin Road signaled a shift of transportation and commerce from the age of riverboats, to cars and railroads. The five main docks along the early community's river frontage were no longer the primary contact for material exchange, but the corner of Mandarin Road and Brady Road was a primary intersection of the early community. Brady Road was the main inland corridor through the community and the area where larger farms were developed.

The store and post office served as the central institution of the Mandarin community and surrounding countryside. People from all walks of life frequented the store. It was not only where the inhabitants got their mail, food, stock feed, thread and window glass, but it also served as gathering place and point of news exchange for villagers. The ledgers detail how most food was bought on credit, and home deliveries were made, but it was also customary to give one's shopping list to Agnes who gathered the items from the stock while the customer waited. A large collection of magazines and books were available so it also functioned as sort of a library. Agnes was an anonymous philanthropist who provided necessities for the needy (Roach, 2000).

After its closure in 1964, the building was used as retail and office space, including for a local newspaper, *The Mandarin Advertiser*. It was used as a residence until it was restored as the Mandarin Store and Post Office in 1998.

**ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE**

Frame vernacular construction techniques and forms are used by lay or self-taught builders,



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**MANDARIN STORE AND POST OFFICE,  
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exemplifying common building techniques based on forms and materials of a particular period or place (Ching, 1995:135). The industrial revolution permitted a standardization of building materials and parts that exerted a pervasive influence over vernacular house design. Popular magazines disseminated information about building trends and styles throughout the country. Railroads provided affordable distribution of manufactured building products.

The building was constructed by William Monson, a local builder who erected many homes in the vicinity during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was assisted by other local carpenters. The Mandarin Store and Post Office is the only historic building used exclusively for commercial purposes still standing in the Mandarin area. The Mandarin Store and Post Office is an excellent example of Frame Vernacular construction, and dates from 1911. The front gable, rectangular building has a sheet metal roof, drop exterior siding, corner boards, and brick piers. The front verandah has a shed roof. The building retains its integrity to a high degree, and still exemplifies a typical community store that also served as a post office.

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JACKSONVILLE, DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**MANDARIN STORE AND POST OFFICE,  
JACKSONVILLE, DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Part of the Samuel Fairbanks Grant, Section 22, Township 4 South, Range 26 East. More particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the intersection of the Southerly line of Mandarin Road and the Easterly line of Brady Road; thence along the Southerly line of Mandarin road, North 79 degrees 30 minutes E., 137.93 feet to an iron located at the Northwest corner of lands owned by Mandarin Community Club described in Deed Book 280, page 335; thence South 14 degrees 20 minutes East, along the Westerly line of lands owned by the Mandarin Community Club, 364.87 feet to an iron located on the Northerly line of lands owned by Frederick Billard described in Deed Book 62, page 528; thence South 79 degrees 00 minutes West, along the Northerly line of Frederick Billard land, 155.74 feet to an iron located on Easterly line of Brady Road; thence North 11 degrees 32 minutes West, along the Easterly line of Brady Road, 365.47 feet to the place of beginning.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary encompasses the property historically associated with the Mandarin Store and Post Office.

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**MANDARIN STORE AND POST OFFICE,  
JACKSONVILLE, DUVAL CO., FLORIDA**

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST**

1. Mandarin Store and Post Office Museum,
2. Duval County, Florida
3. Jim Towart
4. August 2000
5. Mandarin Store Museum
6. Main, north façade, looking south
7. Photo #1 of 9

Items 1 – 5 are the same for the following photographs.

6. Northeast corner, looking southwest
7. Photo #2 of 9
  
6. West elevation, looking east
7. Photo #3 of 9
  
6. South elevation, looking north
7. Photo #4 of 9
  
6. East elevation, looking east
7. Photo #5 of 9
  
6. Store interior from the main door, looking south
7. Photo #6 of 9
  
6. Store interior, looking north
7. Photo #7 of 9
  
6. Public lobby of post office, looking south
7. Photo #8 of 9
  
6. Post master office, looking northeast
7. Photo #9 of 9

**MANDARIN STORE  
& POST OFFICE  
JACKSONVILLE  
DUVAL CO., FL**

**32223**

**Mandarin**

Old Bull Bay

DUVAL COUNTY  
ST JOHN'S COUNTY

**32259**

Fruit Cove

50

51

52

53

54

55

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