

PH0022241

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida	
COUNTY: Duval	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
2	2 SEP 1972

No
1/2
1/2



1. NAME

COMMON:
Riverside Baptist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2650 Park Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Jacksonville

STATE: Florida CODE: 12 COUNTY: Duval CODE: 031

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Trustees of the Riverside Baptist Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
2650 Park Street

CITY OR TOWN: Jacksonville STATE: Florida CODE: 12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bay Street

CITY OR TOWN: Jacksonville STATE: Florida CODE: 12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
none

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Florida

COUNTY: Duval

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: 2

DATE: 2 SEP 1972

7. DESCRIPTION

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

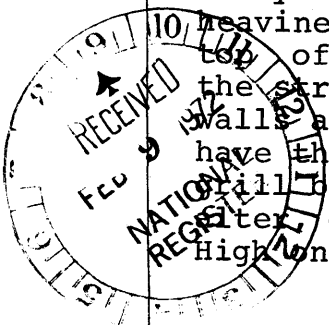
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Riverside Baptist Church, erected in 1925, is an octagonal structure of grey limestone blocks with a red tile roof. Structurally, the main body of the building is supported and carried by steel trusses with eight inch cypress beams beneath which are exposed on the interior. The roof of the nave and transept is carried on wood trusses with rafters beneath. The entire foundation is of brick laid on concrete footings and all flooring is concrete. In the auditorium, baptistry and corridors Spanish tile has been laid over the concrete and in the choir wood flooring has been laid. The exterior walls of the building are covered with stucco and the interior walls are plastered. The walls were marked off while still wet to achieve the effect of aging.

The floorplan of the building forms a Greek Cross with a layout of rooms grouped around the octagonal nave. Bays extend from four sides of the octagon giving it the cross structure. An ambulatory goes all the way around the interior and a central aisle extends from the apse to the groin vaulted narthex in the east portico. The east bay serves as the main entrance to the church and has double doors of carved pecky cypress with a carved tympanum above. Above the tympanum the wall is pierced with three arched windows carried on miniature columns. The total effect of the east wall is a three part division of doors, tympanum and windows flanked by giant pilasters and subsidiary entrances. The north and south bays are lower with the wall surface divided in half. Below are the carved double doors with their Greek Cross motif and above large radial windows, the spokes of which are tiny columns whose capitals are replicas of interior supporting columns. Fenestration occurs in the octagon walls on the four sides left free of projecting bays and in each case are the arched windows in groups of three. Directly below these are grouped three blind arches. The main ornamentation throughout is cast stone and includes all columns, window and door trim and capitals.

On the interior, the effect of height has not been achieved, perhaps due to the fact that the dome is carried directly on the side walls of the octagon with no subsidiary vaulting. There is, consequently, a feeling of heaviness about the building. An illuminated zone at the top of the nave walls lights the base of the dome and gives the structure its only real feeling of lightness. The nave walls at either side of the apsidal opening are pierced and have three arches carried on columns with ornamental iron grill between. The choir, traditionally located behind the altar, occupies the space immediately above the narthex. High on each of the 8 walls scriptural phrases have been

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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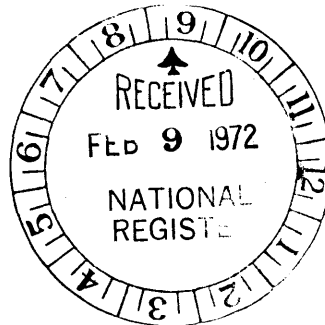
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Duval	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 22 SEP 1972	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.

placed according to the usage and meaning of that portion of the building. The octagonal pulpit, pews and rostrum furniture are of American black walnut and were made locally.



5. SIGNIFICANCE

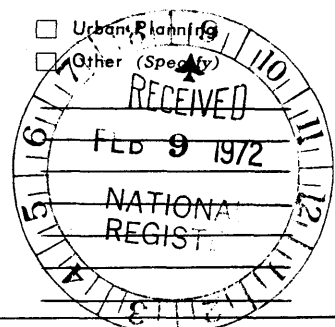
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<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) **1925**

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 checked="" 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 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Addison Mizner, whose sphere of influence stems from the architecture which he did in Palm Beach and Boca Raton in the 1920's was a man reputed to be only vaguely interested in matters pertaining to religion. However, in a 1925 letter to his brother, the Reverend Henry Mizner, Addison stated that he and another brother Wilson had decided "that the best thing to do would be to build a Cathedral of the Madonna in memory of Mamma Mizner." Apparently, Mizner originally intended that this "cathedral" should be located in the millionaires' colony at Boca Raton and should be taken over by the Episcopal Church with a construction cost of two or three million dollars. This plan never did materialize, but in 1924, at the height of Mizner's popularity, he was approached by Dr. H. Marshall Taylor of Jacksonville concerning the designing of another church. Members of the building committee of the Riverside Baptist Church under the leadership and influence of Dr. Taylor agreed to approach Mizner with their meager funds requesting that he design a new church for the then small congregation. Perhaps remembering his promise to his mother or perhaps challenged by the idea of building a religious structure, Mizner agreed to design the church and accepting no fee, to carry it through to completion.

Located on the southeast corner of King and Park Streets in the Riverside section of Jacksonville, the church is an impressive structure from any angle. Built of grey limestone blocks with a red tile roof, the building embodies features of three major types of architecture: Romanesque, Byzantine and Spanish. The rather eclectic nature of the building is typical of Mizner's architectural style, one for which he was severely criticized by many. In the case of the Riverside Church, however, the design would seem to be more an intelligent adaptation of pre-existing styles. Careful study on the part of the architect regarding the play of light and shadow and the position of the sun at certain times of the day produced an almost perfect natural lighting of the interior. During

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Florida Architecture of Addison Mizner. Introduction by Ida M. Tarbell. New York: William Helburn, Inc., 1928.
 Mizner, Addison, Palm Beach Life, Vol. 54 (May, 1961), 80.
 (A letter to his brother Henry Mizner dated August 15, 1925).
 Seiden, Steven Arnold. "The Mizner Touch". Palm Beach Life, Vol. 54 (August 24, 1961), 30-33.

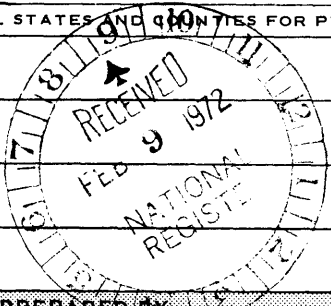
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		30°	18'	6"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		81°	41'	37"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Diane D. Greer, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Division Archives, History & Records Mgt. DATE: 9/8/71

STREET AND NUMBER: Department of State - The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 William

Title: _____

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert Van Ueey
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 9/22/72

ATTEST:
William Huntley
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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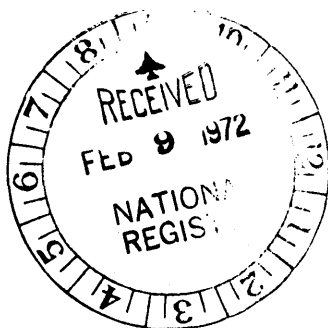
(Continuation Sheet)

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morning services the sun filters through an amber tinted window suffusing a golden light over the congregation. Mizner further placed blue glass in the side windows transforming the sunlight into soft blue illumination at a later time of day. Despite the great care which Mizner took to create a beautiful church there were many in the congregation who were displeased with the general style of the building, feeling that it resembled more an Episcopal or Catholic church. On these grounds some of the congregation was lost. It is true that in the history of Baptist architecture the Riverside Church is a complete break with tradition in both style and iconography. During the cornerstone laying ceremonies on January 25, 1926, the speaker said, "I do not know of a church quite so remarkable as this gem of architecture." The building speaks for itself as a tribute to the genius of Addison Mizner.



Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Duval	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 22 SEP 1972	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Riverside Baptist Church
AND/OR HISTORIC: same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2650 Park Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Jacksonville

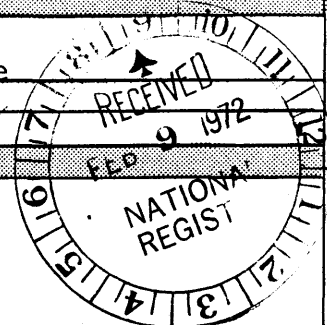
STATE: Florida	CODE 12	COUNTY: Duval	CODE 031
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3. MAP REFERENCE

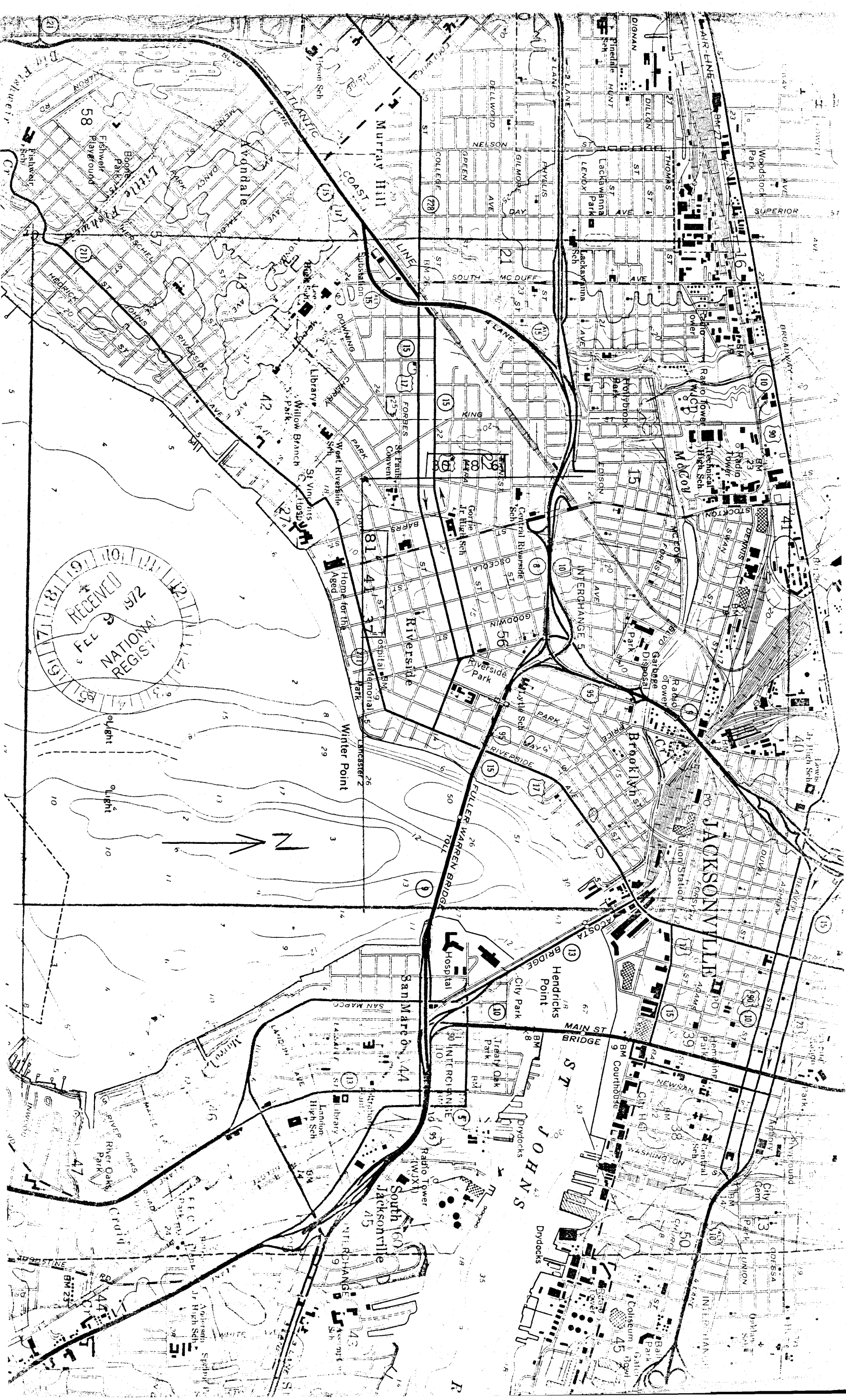
SOURCE:
USGS Jacksonville Quadrangle 7.5 minute
SCALE: 1:2400
DATE: 1964

4. REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
 2. North arrow.
 3. Latitude and longitude reference.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS



RECEIVED
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NATIONAL
REGISTER



Murray Hill

Avondale

JACKSONVILLE

JOHNS

South Jacksonville

San Marco

Winter Point

St. Vincent's

Willow Branch

Library

Boone Park

Fish Creek

City Park

City High Sch

City High Sch

City High Sch

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