

DATA SHEET

PHO 698300

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 28 1979
DATE ENTERED APR 11 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Boynton Woman's Club

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1010 South Federal Highway

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Boynton Beach

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Eleventh

VICINITY OF

STATE

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY

Palm Beach

CODE

099

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Social/ Humanitarian

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Boynton Woman's Club

STREET & NUMBER

1010 South Federal Highway

CITY, TOWN

Boynton Beach

STATE

Florida 33435

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Palm Beach County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

West Palm Beach

STATE

Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Boynton Woman's Club Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Boynton Woman's Club is a two story hollow clay tile building of buff painted stucco with a red tile roof. Addison Mizner's typical asymmetry is found throughout.

Exterior -- West Facade

Originally, the existing 5-bay arcaded loggia and deck above was enclosed on the south side with a cubic stair tower mass and enclosed on the north by a former stair tower, similar in exterior massing to the existing stair tower on the northeast corner. Widening of U. S. 1 required the removal of the northeast tower and the north bay of the gallery. The loggia was reduced to the existing four bays, and the chimney became asymmetrical on the west wall. The removal of this tower also required some alteration to the north end of the west facade. New casement windows on both floors at the extreme north end and the replacement of French doors with wood casements utilized the arched openings on both floors. On the first floor, the segmental arches of the gallery spring from rectangular stuccoed piers with simplified capitals. The loggia has a moulded cornice, built up of wood elements. Wood is similarly used on the deck on the east facade. In all other cases, drawn plaster cornices are used. The deck has a wrought iron railing which is similarly used on the exterior and interior stairs. On the interior, however, the hand railing is a flat wrought iron strap. The arched openings of the doors and windows on this facade differ on each level. On the first story, there are twelve light semi-circular fans, whereas on the second story the arches are of an extended trefoil shape with eight lights. The loggia floor is glazed marbelized tile, and the ceiling is a plastered barrel vault. The deck floor is scored concrete. The single chimney in the structure has a tiled hip cap and latticed tile vents. An additional decorative feature on this facade is the tabernacle-like window surround on the second story window which illuminates the stairwell within. This window is framed by slender columns with delicate composite capitals, resting on a bracketed sill, and supporting a classical entablature just below the drawn plaster cornice.

Exterior -- South Facade

The southwest stair tower (previously described) terminates the entrance loggia with a deck above. The loggia is open on the east end. The stair tower contains small rectangular three-light windows with wrought iron grilles, symmetrically placed on the first story and a larger casement, axially placed, on the second story. The loggia consists of an extremely wide flat arch outer bay flanked by two semi-circular arches springing from rectangular piers with simplified capitals. A drawn, plaster cornice is located between the arcade and the wrought iron balustrade above. The wall of the main mass contains three arched openings in the wide, central bay with wood, French doors, eight lights each and twelve-light fans above. Also, on the first story is a typical window with a wrought iron grille. On the second story, the axial composition over the central bay below consists of alternating wood casement windows (six lights) and French doors (ten lights). The three central bays are framed by colonettes resting on the window sill line. Also on the second story is a six light wood casement window east of the axial composition. The loggia floor is glazed concrete tile and the deck is scored concrete.

(Continued)

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Boynton Woman's Club
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Exterior -- East Facade

This facade was intended to be a mirror image of the west facade with subtle differences. Two dissimilar stair towers frame the five bay loggia with a deck above. The southernmost bay of the arcaded loggia has been filled in with stuccoed concrete block and a central wood casement window. The flanking stair towers contain typical windows with wrought iron grilles located off-center on the first story. At the second story, two wood casement windows are symmetrically located in the south tower, whereas in the north tower there is a single casement window placed asymmetrically at an intermediate level between floors. Wood French doors opening into both the loggia and the deck reflect those on the west facade, including the fanlights -- the only difference being in the extreme north bay with a single door (eight lights) on the first story and French doors set in a rectangular opening on the second story. The enclosing walls at both levels contain single wood panelled doors. The loggia floor is glazed concrete tiles and the ceiling is barrel vaulted. The deck has a scored concrete floor. The cornice separating the two levels is of wood.

Exterior -- North Facade

Since this is the service end of the structure, it is the least detailed. In plan, the north facade has a slightly projecting two story mass with a stair tower to the southeast. The rectangular window openings containing 3-light casements appear to be randomly located. A single service door to the kitchen is located in the east wall of the center bay.

Interior -- First Floor

The foyer extends across the south end; two large rooms extend longitudinally north and south; service and storage areas extend across the north end. Although the two sets of stairs at the east and west ends of the entrance foyer are symmetrically placed, they are entirely different. The east stairway consists of two runs with a single wide landing, whereas the west stair has three runs with two intermediate landings. The typical wrought iron railing with flat strap hand rail is identical in both stairways. The treads and risers are wood. In the spacious foyer, the floors are glazed cement tile similar to those on the exterior loggias. Walls are painted plaster with wide arches leading to the lower flights of both stairways. The ceiling is flat plaster. Ceiling lights and wall sconces are hexagonal wrought iron with Tiffany-like glass inserts. The latter are undoubtedly products of Mizner Industries in West Palm Beach. There are two arches with wrought iron gates on the north wall of the foyer leading to the major rooms beyond. The room on the west is the library, with a terrazzo floor, painted plaster walls, and a plaster ceiling. The latter has exposed beams supported by plastered brackets. Centered in the third bay is a large

(Continued)

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Boynton Woman's Club
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

fireplace with an arched opening. The face of the mantle is plaster scored in a random ashlar pattern. The chimney breast above is plastered. At the north end of the west wall the arched opening of a former French door now contains a wood casement window with the original fan. A two-panel wood door leading to the kitchen is located at the north end. On the east wall there are two sets of glazed French doors leading to the "Lounging Room," which is similar in size to the library. Floors are terrazzo; walls and exposed ceiling beams are plastered. Brass chandeliers are suspended from the ceiling. Six sets of French doors are located in the center of the east wall. In the north and south bays are an in-swinging glazed door with eight lights, and a typical small wood window, respectively. A two panel, wood door in the north wall leads to the kitchen. The entire north end of the building contains the restaurant-size kitchen flanked by store rooms on the west and east. The latter also contains the northeast stair tower, although there is no access to it from the store room. The kitchen floor is sheet vinyl; walls and ceilings are plaster.

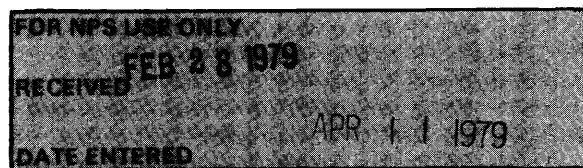
Interior -- Second Floor

The plan of this floor is also tripartite. At the south end, a large foyer serves the auditorium, adjacent to the north. The alternating casement windows and French doors on the south wall open to the deck above the entrance loggia with its unscored concrete floor. Floors in the foyer are wood; walls and ceiling are plaster. In the north foyer wall, the original double doors have been removed. These cased openings lead to the vast auditorium with its five bays defined by trusses boxed with a natural pecky cypress. These trusses and the pecky cypress ceiling provide a sense of warmth to the large room. Iron tie rods are exposed. From each truss are suspended two small and one large wrought iron and glass light fixtures, identical to those in the first floor foyer. French doors on both the east and west walls lead to the terraces above the lower galleries. As on the first floor, the French doors formerly at the north end have been replaced by a casement window which incorporates the original stilted trefoil arch above. A rectangular French door is in the north end of the east wall, similar to the door on the first floor. These rectangular openings break the rhythm of the fanlighted doors, and are therefore part of the unexpected to be found in Mizner's work. In the north wall, there is an elevated stage with proscenium arch, complete with an antique, painted canvas curtain with local merchant advertising. This arch is framed by free standing columns. On each side of the stage, single two panel doors lead to dressing rooms and lavatories. In the east wall of the northeast dressing room, a door leads to the top landing of the northeast stairway. Typical wrought iron railings are found here. The demolished northwest stair was identical, and has now been replaced by a solid wall with a window reproducing the stilted trefoil window found in the auditorium. The rear wall of the staged is coved, and simulating a cyclorama, has a tropical mural painted on it. All floors on the second level are wood and the walls are plaster.

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



Boynton Woman's Club
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

The interior and exterior treatments of the Boynton Woman's Club are essentially Mizner. In typical Mizner fashion, certain changes were made to the original drawings during construction such as a different fireplace mantle, the addition of the south loggia and the revised trusses. The existing flooring of the first floor and the enclosed bay in the east loggia can be easily restored to their original condition. In spite of the removal of the northwest stair tower and the north bay of the west loggia, the exterior character of the building is not appreciably altered. The resulting asymmetrical composition of the west facade would be consistent with Mizner's style.

Item Number 9 Page 1

Abstract of Title. Gulfstream Title Company.

Boynton Beach Historical Society. Boynton Woman's Club historical data. Located in the Boynton Beach Historical Society, Boynton Beach, Florida.

Boynton Progress. "Woman's Club Announces \$50,000 Home," June 5, 1925.

Boynton Woman's Club. "Boynton Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida." Boynton Beach, 1942.

_____. "Boynton Woman's Club History, 1909-1959."

"Boynton Woman's Club Will be Dedicated This Afternoon." Newspaper unknown, April 16, 1932.

Chadwell, Bertha Williams. Personal communications with Mrs. Herbert Keatts, 1978. Tape on file at the Boynton Woman's Club, Boynton Beach, Florida.

Contract. George H. Boynton, Anna Parker, Edith Wright, Francis Patterson, Albert E. Parker and the Boynton Woman's Club. April 3, 1925.

Contract. Heaton and Adams and the Boynton Woman's Club. n.d.

Miller, Nancy. "Bertha Williams Chadwell recalls when Boynton was a Wilderness." News Journal, December 11, 1975.

(Continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1925 ~~XXXXXX~~/ARCHITECT Addison Mizner

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Boynton Woman's Club is significant both for its architectural merit and its contributions to the social and cultural development of Boynton Beach. The building was designed in 1925 by Addison Mizner, known for his distinctive adaptation of Spanish elements which created a style that greatly influenced Florida architecture in the 1920s and 1930s. Mizner's building opened in 1926, becoming the social hub of Boynton--which had no hotel at the time--while continuing to house the town's only library, which was founded by the Woman's Club.

In 1908, a group of civic minded women met in Boynton's frame schoolhouse to organize as a woman's club with the purpose of contributing to the welfare and civic growth of Boynton. The Boynton Woman's Club was formally organized in October, 1909, and was incorporated in 1911, at which time it joined the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs. That same year, lumber salvaged from a shipwreck was used to build a \$10,000 two story structure which was offered to the women as a clubhouse. In 1912, the first \$1000 payment was made, and the Woman's Club occupied the second floor of the building still located at 502 E. Ocean Avenue, while renting the ground floor to business firms. The mortgage was paid within ten years, but during that time the needs of the club had outgrown the small frame building, which also housed the town's only library. The library was begun in 1915 with books donated, or left behind, by winter guests and employees of the Boynton Beach Hotel, and consisted of over 300 volumes which were used by the townspeople and the schools.¹ When the members of the club sold the old building in 1924 for \$10,000, they voted to apply the funds toward a larger building which would better serve Boynton as a meeting place, a library, and a center for community activities.

About that time, the heirs of the town's founder, Major Nathan S. Boynton, were planning to contribute funds to a memorial for their father. Upon the suggestion of Mrs. Bertha Williams Chadwell (and after many conferences), Major Boynton's son and three daughters agreed to donate \$35,000 toward the construction of the clubhouse, with the additional money to be raised by the club members. Mrs. Chadwell, who has been living in Boynton since 1907, approached Palm Beach architect Addison Mizner, who was a personal friend of hers. After learning of the club's plans, he suggested that if the building would be worth at least \$50,000, he would donate the plans and supervise the construction. Mizner thought that with this gesture he might create a feeling of good will among the residents and lessen their resistance to his proposal of building a hotel in Boynton.²

Addison Mizner, of Palm Beach and New York, was known at the time as a "world-famous architect" for his significant and distinctive interpretation of the Spanish style. Brought to Palm Beach in 1918 as the guest of Paris Singer, Mizner began to transform the area with such buildings as the Everglades Club (1918), the Gulf Stream Club (1923),

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1, 7</u>	<u>5 9, 3 8, 2, 0</u>	<u>2, 9 3, 3 3, 0, 0</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that part and parcel in the Park Estates Subdivision known as Lots 4, 5, 6, and 7.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Elizabeth B. Monroe, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management

DATE

October 5, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Department of State, The Capitol

TELEPHONE

(904) 487-2333

CITY OR TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida 32304

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE 2/23/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

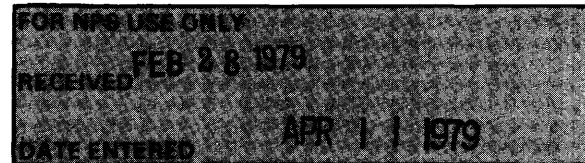
DATE 4-11-79
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Bill Laborich
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE April 10, 1979

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



Boynton Woman's Club

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Via Mizner (1924), and numerous private residences. He adapted Spanish architecture to Florida with his own emphasis on flat surfaces with rhythmic but random window placement, asymmetrical plans, loggias, and an integration of exterior design and interior decoration.³ Although the Woman's Club was more conservative and not as elaborate as some of Mizner's other buildings, there is still evidence of his characteristic asymmetry, variety of window openings, chimney tower, and overall elegance. The south entrance is flanked by dissimilar stair towers, and the symmetry of the rest of the building is broken by door and window treatments which differ on the east and west sides. The first floor is divided into four rooms: a full-size kitchen sweeping across the north side, a library on the west side, a combination dining-card room to the east, and a south loggia flanked by wooden staircases leading to the second floor auditorium, with its enormous pecky cypress boxed trusses, proscenium stage, and dressing rooms. Mizner's original light fixtures remain intact throughout the interior of the building. Some exterior alterations were required by the Department of Transportation when Federal Highway was widened in 1959: the northwest stair tower and the north bay of the west gallery were removed at that time. However, since the windows which were installed after the alteration are replicas of the existing ones, very little of the original character was lost. Although most of Mizner's buildings are in the areas around Boynton, the Woman's Club was his only design actually built there. In 1925 he designed a proposed Boynton City Building and Fire Station, but with the collapse of the Florida land market in 1926, it was never built.⁴

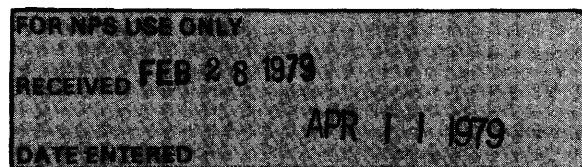
Construction began on the Woman's Club in June, 1925, when the firm of Heaton and Adams contracted to complete the \$50,000 project by October 1 of the same year.⁵ Although the building was finished in the fall of 1926, the last bill to the contractor was not paid until August 27, 1927 (due to the land market collapse), and the club further postponed the dedication ceremony until final payment on the building was made. On April 16, 1932, the corner stone was laid, and the building and the property were dedicated to the memory of Major Nathan S. Boynton.⁶ Boynton came to the area in 1897 from Michigan, bought a number of acres, and returned North. The tract he acquired by purchase was legally named Boynton, and when he came back to the area in the autumn of the same year, he built the grand Boynton Beach Hotel. Boynton died in 1914, and his heirs sold a large portion of his estate in 1925, including the hotel.⁷

The Boynton Beach Hotel was demolished in 1926. Another hotel, the Cassandra, was begun in 1925, but it was never completed, its steel skeleton remaining until the late 1930s.⁸ Thus, due to the lack of a hotel in the early days, the Woman's Club has served as both the social and cultural center of Boynton's activities since its completion in 1926. Dances, meetings, socials, theatricals, and innumerable other activities were held there; churches and societies organized in the club and met

(Continued)

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



Boynton Woman's Club
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

there until they had their own buildings. The club was also used as a storm shelter by those who were made homeless by hurricanes, and as a Red Cross and U.S.O. center during World War II. The Woman's Club library was, from its inception, the only library in Boynton, and was supported solely by the club members until 1954, when the City Council agreed to pay for a part-time librarian. The books were not moved from the clubhouse until 1961, when the city opened a permanent library building.⁹

The Boynton Woman's Club continues to play an active role in the city's community life, as the building is constantly used by local groups for various functions. It has always been a very public building, and is one of the very few structures designed by Addison Mizner that the general public can experience, since Mizner's architecture served predominantly private and exclusive clients. And, because of the agreement between the Boynton heirs and the Woman's Club, the building will continue to be used as a clubhouse and will remain a memorial to Major Boynton as long as it is owned by the club.

¹ Mrs. Bertha Williams Chadwell, personal interview by Mrs. Herbert Keatts, Boynton Beach, Florida, Mary 12, 1978.

² Palm Beach Post-Times, "Mizner-Designed Building Home of Active Woman's Club," March 4, 1956.

³ Christina Orr, Addison Mizner, Architect of Dreams and Realities (Palm Beach: Norton Gallery and School of Art, 1977).

⁴ Boynton Beach Historical Society, Boynton Woman's Club historical data, located in the Boynton Beach Historical Society, Boynton Beach, Florida.

⁵ Contract, Heaton and Adams and the Boynton Woman's Club, n.d.

⁶ Newspaper unknown, "Boynton Woman's Club Will be Dedicated This Afternoon," April 16, 1932.

⁷ Boynton Woman's Club, "Boynton Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida," (Boynton Beach, 1942).

⁸ Boynton Beach Historical Society, Boynton Woman's Club historical data.

⁹ Kathryn Mitchell, "Library Dedication Monday is a Dream Come True," Palm Beach Post-Times, April, 1961.

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Boynton Woman's Club
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Mitchell, Kathryn. "Library Dedication Monday is a Dream Come True." Palm Beach Post Times, April, 1961.

Mizner, Addison. Building plans of Addison Mizner. Located in the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum, Palm Beach, Florida.

News Journal. "Boynton Woman's Club Had Its Beginnings in 1908," November 21, 1968;
"Mizner's Artistry Leaves Mark on Area," December 29, 1977.

Orr, Christina. Addison Mizner, Architect of Dreams and Realities. Palm Beach: Norton Gallery and School of Art, 1977.

Palm Beach Post-Times. "Mizner-Designed Building Home of Active Woman's Club," March 4, 1956.