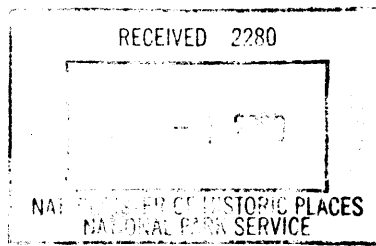


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 ELKS CLUB BUILDING

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 201-213 North Laura Street

N/A not for publication

city or town Jacksonville

N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA

code _____

FL

countv Duval

code _____

031

zip code 32202

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 1/24/2000
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) _____

Elson H. Beal
Signature of the Keeper

3-9-00
Date of Action

Elks Club Building
Name of Property

Durval Co., FL
County and State

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	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	total

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

"Historic Buildings of Downtown Jacksonville"

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store/restaurant

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Italian
Renaissance

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls STUCCO
CAST STONE
roof ASPHALT
other CAST STONE

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.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** 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.
- D** 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

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1926

Significant Dates

1926

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Benjamin, Roy

Baird, H.S., Construction Company

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

Elks Club Building
Name of Property

Duval Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	4	3	6	6	6	0	3	3	5	5	1	4	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 Katherine Boruff/Robert O. Jones, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date _____

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 Wilson and Nolan of Florida, LLP, David Surface, Managing Broker

street & number One Independent Dr., Suite 2210 telephone 904/633-2095

city or town Jacksonville state FL zip code 32202

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	4 3 6 6 6 0	3 3 5 5 1 4 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.)

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 **ELKS CLUB BUILDING, JACKSONVILLE,
DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA**

SUMMARY

The Elks Club Building is located at 201-213 North Laura Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida. The two-story with mezzanine commercial building is in downtown Jacksonville, has a cast stone and stucco exterior, and was built in 1926. The Italian Renaissance Style Elks Club was designed by prominent local architect Roy Benjamin. The building has been altered on the exterior and interior, but retains its historic integrity. The resource contributes to the Historic Buildings of Downtown Jacksonville Multiple Property Listing under property type F.1, Historic Commercial Buildings of Downtown Jacksonville, 1901-1927.

SETTING

The Elks Club Building sits on the northeast corner of Laura and Adams Streets. Other two and three story buildings are located on the same block. The building is located one block south of Hemming Park in the heart of downtown Jacksonville, and is one of many buildings in the immediate area constructed during the Great Florida Land Boom, 1901-1927. Buildings west of the Elks Club on Adams Street are well maintained and house retail, commercial and institutional agencies. Buildings along Laura Street are underused or vacant, and a cleared lot immediately south of the Elk Club is vacant.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The seven bay, square, masonry commercial building is constructed in the Italian Renaissance Style, Romano-Tuscan mode (Photos #1&2). The style is expressed by a decked roof, originally tiled, but in 1952 surfaced with asbestos shingles on the hips. This alteration creates a wide overhang with boxed and bracketed eaves. The first story walls are coursed stone, and the second story is stucco with cast stone quoins uniting the two stories. A rounded arch loggia with Ionic columns and balustrade is recessed in the second story of the Laura Street elevation. The west and south street elevations are divided into two distinct levels by a wide cast stone band and stringcourse. This band is broken on the Adams Street elevation at the third, fourth and fifth bays by balustrade rails. The cornice features a frieze with stucco panels and circular, plaster moldings. Copper gutters, added when the building was re-roofed in 1952, replaced an original integrated gutter system. The north elevation and east alley elevations have brick walls. The alley wall is covered with the original concrete wash, and second story window openings are widely spaced and elaborately treated with a complete entablature above each. Hoods are flat over all windows except those on the Adams Street elevation in bays three through five (Photo #3). The window in the fourth bay features a flat-arched lintel; the flanking windows have pedimented lintels. Small windows correspond in type without the transom light. Windows on these street elevations were wooden casements with fixed transoms; metal replacements, installed in the 1980s, now fill these openings. The alley elevations retain their original 2/2, double hung, wood-framed sashes; these are glazed with wire mesh panes.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2 **ELKS CLUB BUILDING, JACKSONVILLE,
DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA**

The main (west) facade fronts onto Laura Street. The first story was designed for commercial uses with retail in the front, and offices in the back of the building. Originally, it consisted of three storefronts on either side of a centrally located, ornately decorated, cast stone trimmed door, with an open-work stone transom (Photo #4). The transom is backed with glass. The main, plate glass paneled, double front doors are recessed in a vestibule. The door is original, although bars were installed over the glass in the 1970s. A cartouche with the letters BPOE (Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks) is above the front entrance. Copper storefront remnants mixed with replacement aluminum moldings installed in the 1960s, and prism glass transom lights remain around four of the six storefronts. A large "Elks" sign projects from the second story of the southwest corner of the building.

The south elevation fronts onto Adams Street. The elevation is on a sloped grade, and includes a series of seven small windows along the top of the first story (Photo #5). A centrally located entrance features double doors with large, single lights and a semi-circular transom above it painted with an Elks sign (Photo #6). Bars were installed over the Adams Street door panes at the same time as over the Laura Street main entrance doors. To the east of the entrance are two storefronts where there were originally three storefronts. These two fronts were probably combined in the 1930s when a restaurant leased the space.

Interior

The building plan features first floor commercial space, offices, an intermediate mezzanine level with a ladies lounge, and second floor club rooms for the Elks Lodge. Two wide halls bisect the building east to west, and divide the south half into quadrants. (See attached existing floor plans.) The commercial space includes stores along the street frontages and a vacant restaurant on the interior. Several commercial spaces to the rear of the building are accessed from the hallways running from building entrances on both elevations. Each store is finished and arranged differently, but most have drop ceilings, and contemporary floor materials. The large commercial space at the northeast corner of the floor has wooden paneling 2/3 up the walls (Photo #7). The Laura Street entrance leads to a short hall with an elevator to the left and a narrow stair leading to the second floor to the right (Photo #8). The original metal stairwell is within the wall to the south. The short hall has an arched ceiling, crown molding and a chair rail, and a clay tile floor. The Adams Street hall has been paneled in the last 20 years. The original tile floors remain.

At the top of the stairs at the Laura Street entrance is the mezzanine level that contains a large open sitting room to the south, and a Ladies Lounge on the north half (Photo #9). Plaster ceilings and walls, original window surrounds, chair rail, and linoleum flooring predominate on this level. A boiler room and toilets are located adjacent to the east wall. Several offices are located behind the sitting room. A wide stairwell leads to the second floor and main lodge area. Attic space for the first floor shops occupies the area fronting on Laura Street.

The second floor contains the Elks Club which includes and a large Game Room overlooking Adams Street. A short raised stage is located at the southwest corner of the room (Photo #10), and a bar is located in the northeast corner (Photo #11). A yellow pine floor became visible after the recent removal of floor tiles. To

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3 **ELKS CLUB BUILDING, JACKSONVILLE,
DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA**

the west, via pocket doors, is the Library and Writing Room which overlooks the corner of Adams and Laura Streets. This room contains a large cast stone fireplace and mantel against the west wall (Photo #12), and wooden window and wall moldings. Carpeting covers the original oak floor. The north half of the second floor is the Lodge Room where all official functions took place (Photo #13). Paired pilasters frame a dais at the east end of the room (Photo #14). Theater seats on low risers are arranged along the other three sides of the room (Photo #15). The original cove plaster ceiling has a simple plaster molding around the edge and a wood dentil crown molding. Original wainscot paneling is present in part of the room, and most of the original frosted glass and brass chandeliers remain. A unique feature of the Lodge Room is the "In Memoriam" marble tablets which line most of the south wall. Sixteen panels list members who died between 1905 and 1952. A fire exit is located along the north wall and empties into the alley below. An office, toilets, kitchen and storage room located on the east wall, make up the balance of this floor.

ALTERATIONS

Exterior

All of the storefronts received alterations over the years. Major changes took place to two storefronts on each elevation, giving the appearance of one less storefront on each side. The south elevation changes took place in the 1930s. Alterations to the west elevation took place as new tenants rented space from the late 1950s through the early 1980s. The storefront windows and doors were replaced with aluminum framing, angled windows of various sizes, ceramic tiles, contemporary signs and awnings. Two small display windows dating from about 1960 pierce the masonry wall on the Adams Street side near the corner of the building. In 1952 an asbestos shingle roof replaced the original mission barrel tile covering. In the early 1980s, the second story casement and fixed light windows were replaced with burnished aluminum, double glazed sash windows.

Interior

In the late-1930s the toilets on every floor were moved from the center of the floor to the east wall. The basement originally had toilets and showers for the Elks Club members, but the plumbing has been removed. In 1952 a tiled kitchen was added to the basement, and the addition of the elevator and stairwell in the Laura Street hall closed the first floor hall and directed all club traffic to that entrance. The raised dais and seating were added in the Lodge Room. The stage riser in the Game Room was added and the bar was relocated from the east wall to the northeast corner. Current rehabilitation of the building is being done in accordance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards. Despite the changing commercial uses and alterations, the integrity and character of the exterior, and interior mezzanine and second floor remain. Many of the historic surfaces, and most of the interior arrangements remain on the commercial first floor.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1 **ELKS CLUB BUILDING, JACKSONVILLE,
DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA**

SUMMARY

The Elks Club Building is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The building is a good example of the Italian Renaissance Style, and was designed by prominent Jacksonville architect Roy A. Benjamin. The resource contributes to the Historic Buildings of Downtown Jacksonville multiple property listing under historic context, "Jacksonville During the Great Florida Land Boom, 1921-1927", and associated property type F.1, "Historic Commercial Buildings of Downtown Jacksonville, 1921-1927."

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The Renaissance Revival Style was popular in the United States from the 1890s into the 1930s. The Renaissance Revival: Romano-Tuscan Mode is historically linked with club uses, as Charles Barry is credited with using it for London clubhouses in 1829. One of the first major American buildings in the style was the Philadelphia Athenaeum, a clubhouse built in 1845. The style was revived a second time in 1883 by McKim, Mead and White with the Villard House in New York, and continued with the New York City University Club and the Boston Public Library. The perfection of masonry veneering techniques after World War I made it possible for even modest examples of the Italian Renaissance Style to mimic the stone of the original Italian prototypes. The revival of this style lasted nationally in various interpretations until the 1930s. It was used in Jacksonville after the Great Fire of 1901 through the 1930s.

Although Florida has a number of fine examples of this style, it was not as popular as the contemporary eclectic Spanish styles. Most of the state's Italian Renaissance Style buildings were built in the decade preceding the collapse of the Florida Land Boom in 1926. Identifying features of the style include: symmetrical facades; masonry and stucco exteriors; low-pitched hip roofs, usually covered with ceramic tiles; and wide overhanging, with boxed eaves commonly containing decorative brackets underneath. Quoins are frequently used, and a recessed central entrance usually with an arched opening, sometimes accentuated by small classical columns or pilasters, is common. Residential versions have second story windows that are generally smaller and less elaborate than the ones in the first story; and public-use and municipal versions had few and small windows on the first story. Each story has a different window type. The first story is usually of rusticated, coursed stone.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Elks Club is a good example of Italian Renaissance architecture by its use of coursed cast-stone first story, stucco second story, broad hip roof, and symmetrical arrangement. The style is elaborated by the ornate cast-stone entrance on the main facade, recessed round-arched loggia on the second story, alternating window entablatures, and use of quoins. The façade of the Elks Club building contributes a harmonious symmetry to the ambiance of Laura Street. The reinforced steel support structure with a brick, cast-stone, and stucco exterior,

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2 **ELKS CLUB BUILDING, JACKSONVILLE,
DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA**

and sculptural relief ornamentation made possible by twentieth century building technology marries a Tuscan Renaissance façade with a structure meant to withstand exposure to the Florida environment and resist fire. **Roy A. Benjamin**, the architect (1888-1963), moved with his family to Jacksonville from Ocala, Florida, in 1902 and began his architectural career in 1907. He was one of Jacksonville's most prolific and talented architects. Known throughout the southeastern United States as a theater specialist, Benjamin designed more than two hundred movie houses, including Jacksonville's Florida Theatre (NR 1982). Benjamin designed the Elks Club during the same time as he was supervising architect for the Florida Theater building downtown and the Park Lane Apartments in Riverside, both of which share similar stylistic influences with the Elks Club Building. Benjamin's reputation was well-established thanks to numerous commissions downtown, in Riverside, Avondale and Springfield, and an earlier partnership with Mellen C. Greeley. Benjamin's other Jacksonville works include the Park Lane Apartments, San Juline Apartments, Leon Cheek Mansion, Riverside Memorial Park, Doggett-Tucker House and the Arcade and San Marco Theaters.

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1 **ELKS CLUB BUILDING, JACKSONVILLE,
DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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**United States Department of the Interior
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

**ELKS CLUB BUILDING, JACKSONVILLE,
DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA**

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Lot 1, Block 33, Harts Map of Jacksonville (39-2S-26E)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses the property historically associated with the Elks Club Building.

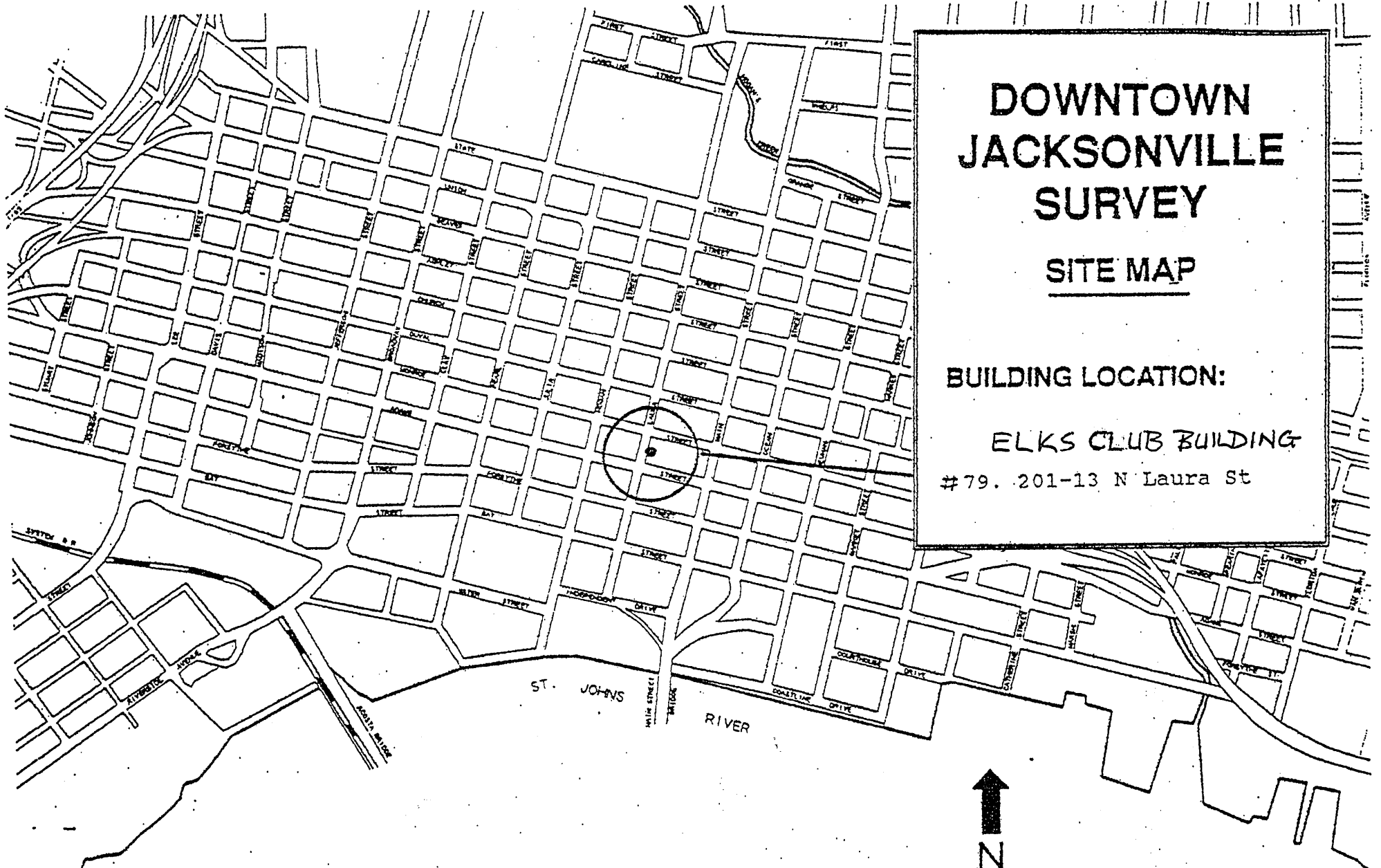
DOWNTOWN JACKSONVILLE SURVEY

SITE MAP

BUILDING LOCATION:

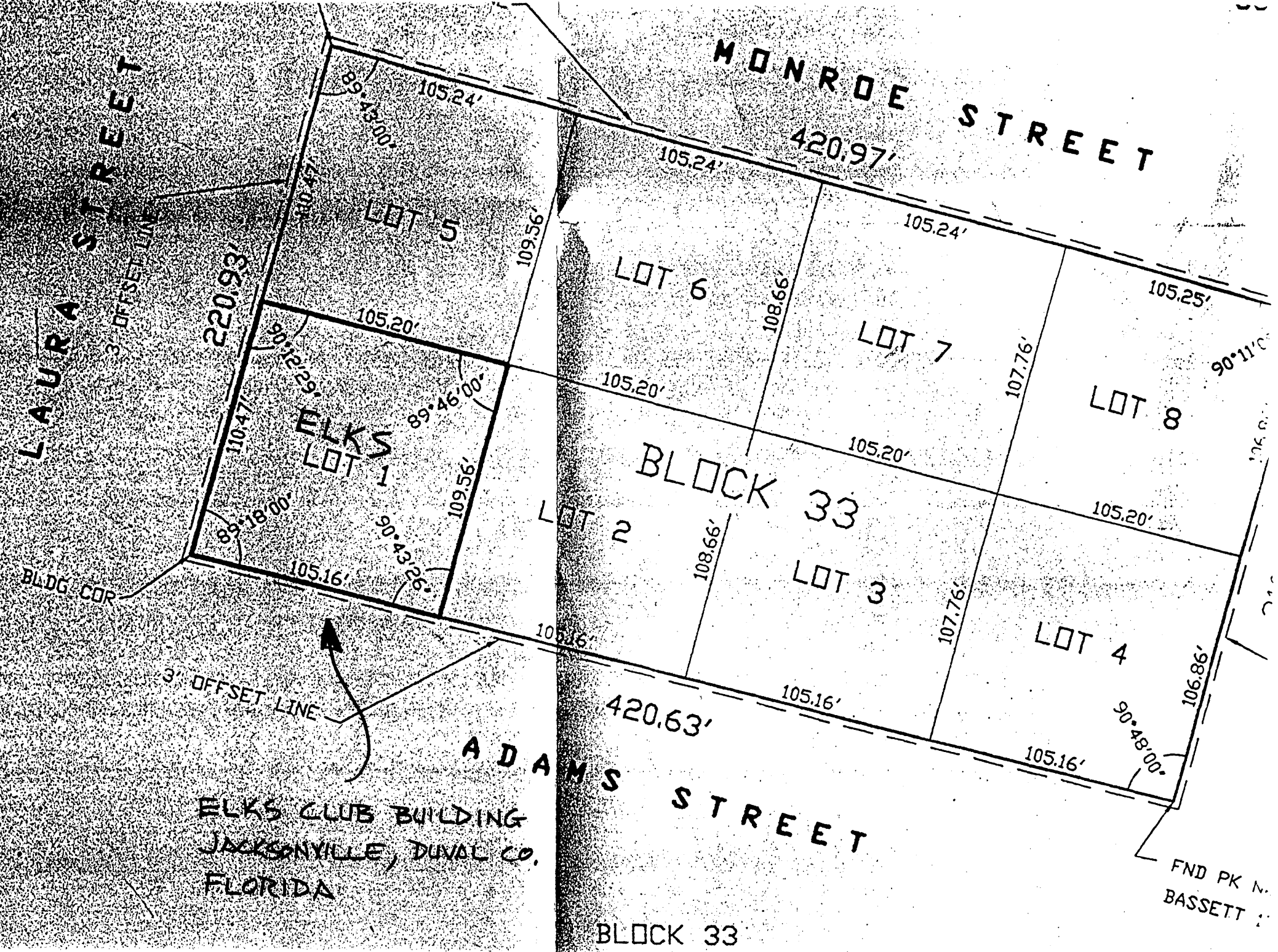
ELKS CLUB BUILDING

#79. 201-13 N Laura St



L A U R A S T R E E T

M O N R O E S T R E E T



BLDG COR

3' OFFSET LINE

ELKS CLUB BUILDING
JACKSONVILLE, DUVAL CO.
FLORIDA

A D A M S S T R E E T

BLOCK 33

FND PK N.
BASSETT

LOT 5

LOT 6

LOT 7

LOT 8

ELKS
LOT 1

LOT 2

BLOCK 33

LOT 3

LOT 4

220.93'

110.47'

89°18'00"

105.16'

89°12'29"

105.20'

110.47'

89°43'00"

105.24'

89°46'00"

109.56'

109.56'

105.16'

420.63'

105.24'

108.66'

420.97'

108.66'

105.20'

105.16'

105.24'

107.76'

107.76'

105.20'

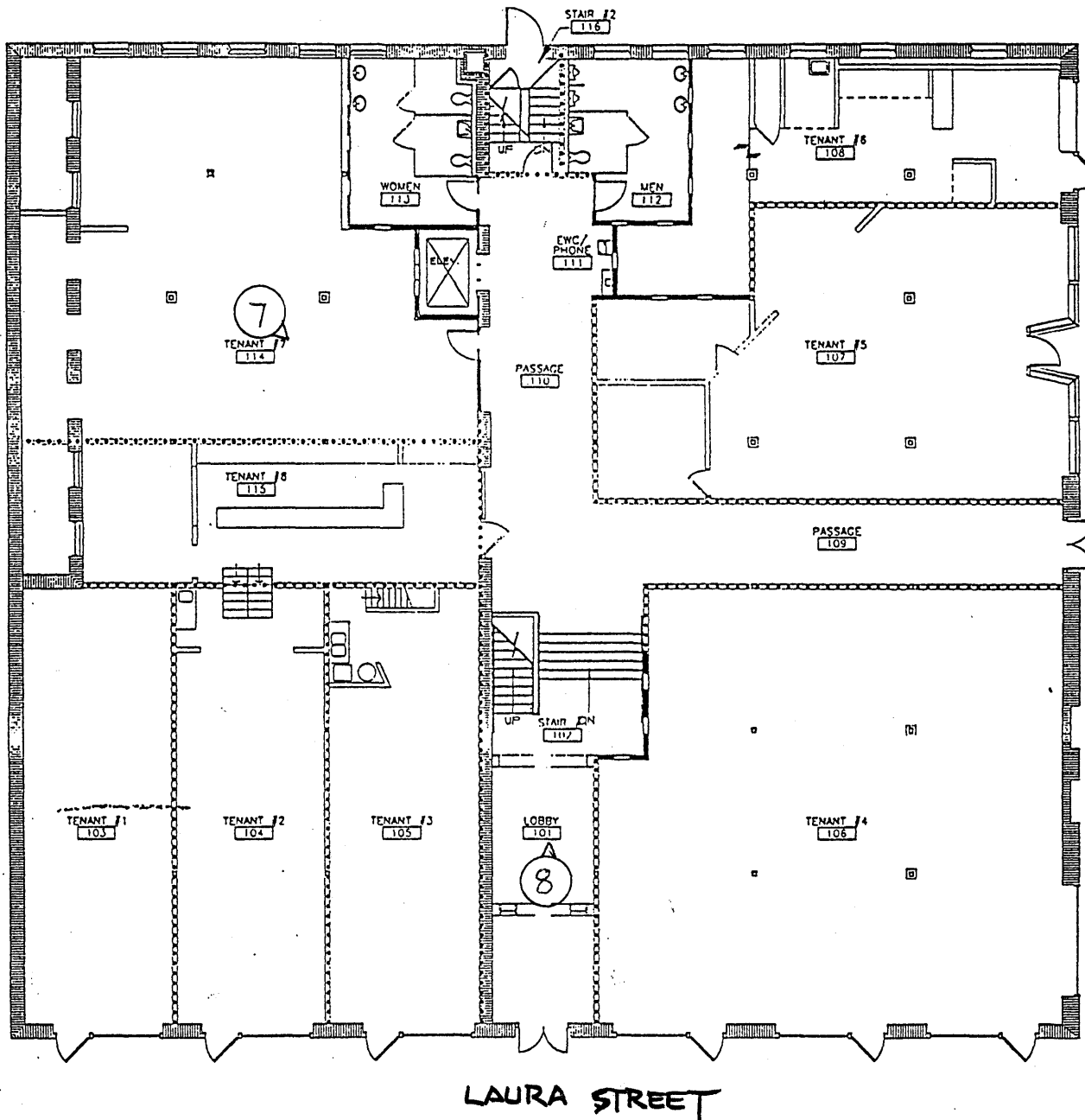
105.16'

105.25'

106.86'

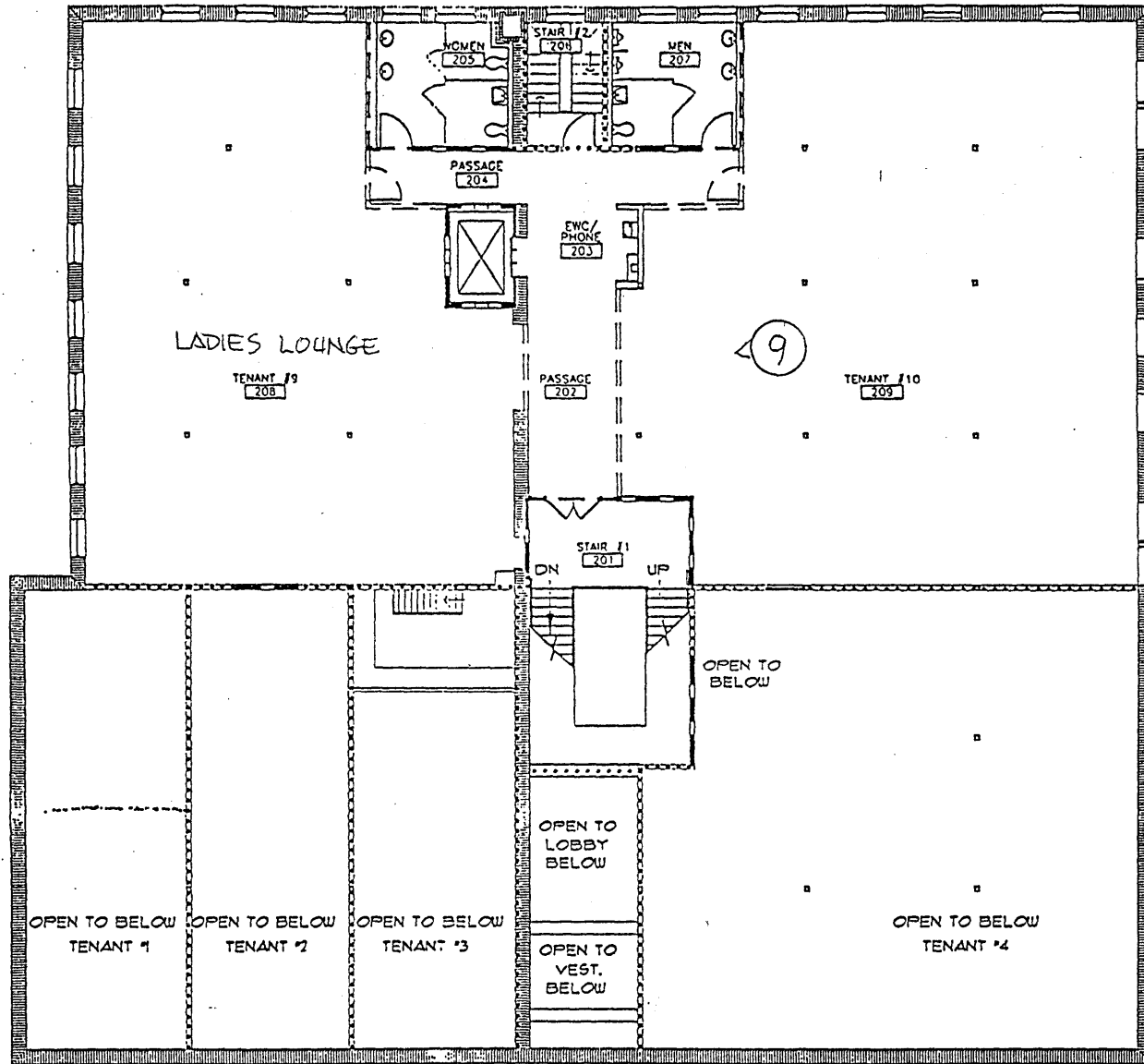
90°11'00"

90°48'00"



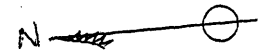
FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION PLAN

NOT TO SCALE



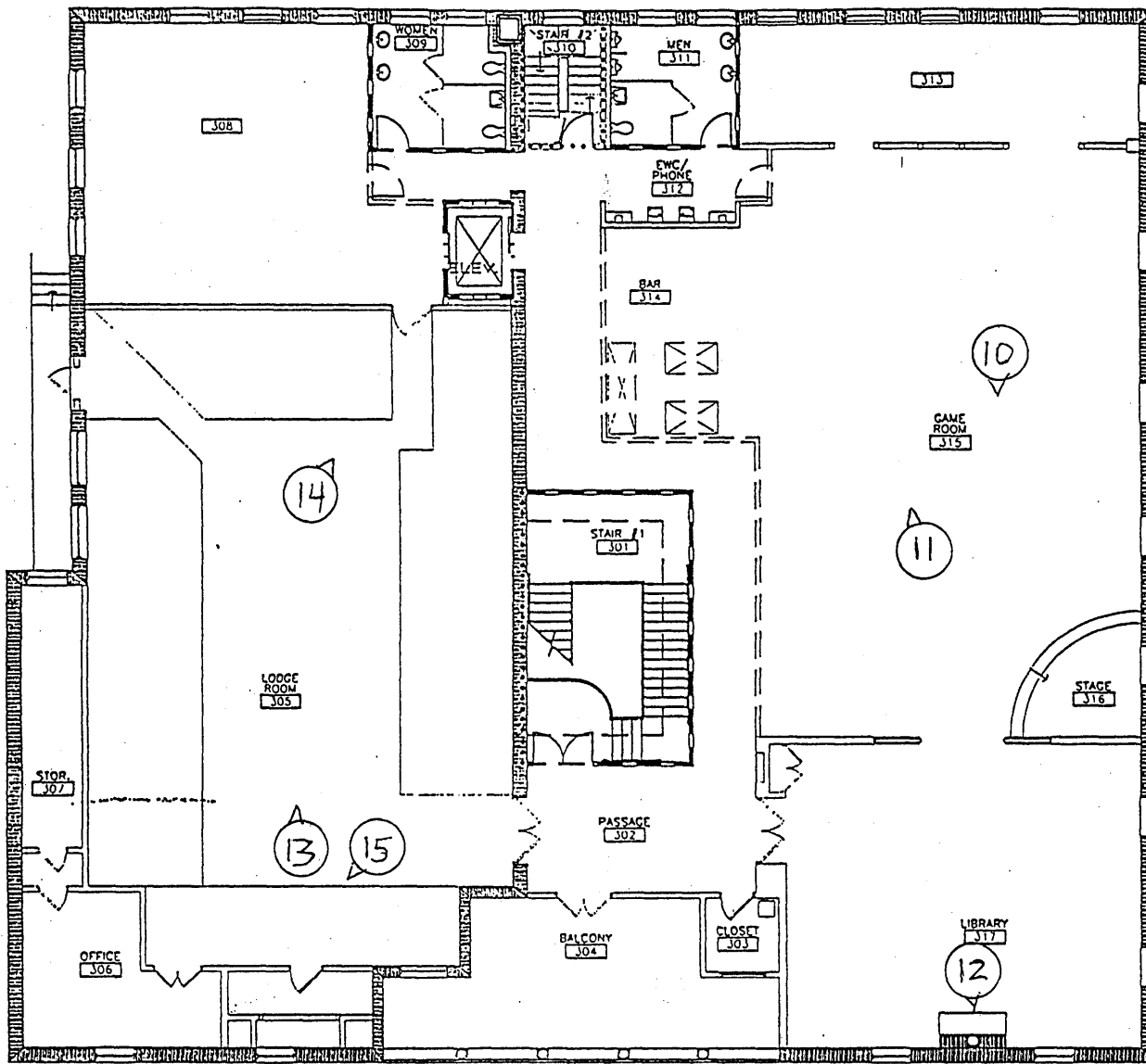
ADAMS ST.

LAURA ST.



MEZZANINE FLOOR CONSTRUCTION PLAN

NOT TO SCALE



ADAMS ST.

LAURA ST.

2ND FLOOR CONSTRUCTION PLAN

NOT TO SCALE