

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received DEC 22 1986

date entered

JAN 22 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Old Jacksonville Free Public Library

and/or common Carnegie Library/Bedell Building Associates

2. Location

street & number 101 E. Adams Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Jacksonville

N/A vicinity of

state Florida

code 012

county Duval

code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Bedell Building Associates

street & number 101 E. Adams Street

city, town Jacksonville

N/A vicinity of

state Florida

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Duval County Courthouse

street & number 330 E. Bay Street

city, town Jacksonville

state Florida

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historical, Architectural and Archaeological Survey

title Duval County, Florida

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date August 1976-September 1980

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Bureau of Historic Preservation

city, town Tallahassee

state Florida

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Jacksonville Free Public Library is a two-story, cross plan structure constructed of a steel frame with terra cotta block infill, sheathed in a limestone ashlar veneer. It is capped by a large hip roof featuring a skylight and classical parapet. It also has a basement which is partially exposed above ground level. The building is located at the northeast corner of Ocean and Adams streets in downtown Jacksonville. To the north is a large Gothic Revival church, and across the street to the west is an old city fire station. A modern library complex is located across the intersection to the southwest. A series of small commercial buildings is located to the south, and a large parking lot is found on the east.

The south (main) facade of the historic library is composed of five bays, three of which are framed by a three-bay colossal classical portico. The portico exemplifies the Composite order, a late Roman combination of elements from the Ionic and Corinthian orders. The massive stone columns support a copper pediment and frieze. The columns rest on simple bases, and the capitals have masks representing famous scholars set between the volutes. Within the portico lies the main entrance to the building, which consists of double glass paneled doors set in a limestone architrave with the words "open to all" inscribed in the frieze. Flanking the entrance are small niches set in simple architraves with keystones in the lintels. The three window openings of the second story set behind the portico have similar architraves. The tripartite windows in the two stories of the flanking bays are separated on each story by paneled copper spandrels. Each window complex consists of a 1/1 double hung wood sash window flanked by narrow 1/1, all of which is surmounted by a "Roman grille" transom. The windows of the upper and lower stories are set in one large architrave.

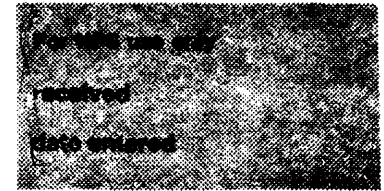
The east and west elevations are identical and consist of three bays of windows that repeat the window treatment of the wings of the south facade. The north elevation consists of a central projecting pavilion with two-story vertical windows set in simple surrounds on each of its three sides. There is a rear entrance on the ground story.

Originally the first floor interior was arranged with a central lobby flanked by large reading rooms with smaller offices set to the north of the reading rooms. A large stack area was located to the north of the main lobby which contained the circulation desk. This lobby featured a barrel vault ceiling with dentilated ribs and a large leaded glass skylight. On either side of the main entrance are stairways which ascend to the upper floor. The stairs have marble treads and metal grillwork risers, wrought iron balusters and square metal newels. The hand rails are of wood. Massive square columns support the upper balcony which surrounds the well of the skylight. The balcony has a balustrade similar to that of the stairs.

The reading rooms were large open spaces with simple plaster walls and massive wooden architraves around the windows. The arrangement was the same on both floors. The book stacks north of the circulation desk consisted of rows of oak shelves which rose to the ceiling. From all available information, the building underwent few changes during the time it served as a library. At some unknown point, the skylight was covered and the lightwell floored. The ceiling details and balusters were also

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DESCRIPTION

concealed. The city recreation department constructed partitions to subdivide the large reading rooms and dropped the ceilings. The west reading room, which also served as an auditorium, had its small stage removed. The oak shelving was removed when the ceilings were lowered in the 1960s. All of the original lighting fixtures and library furnishings were also removed from the building.

The recent renovation of the building for use as commercial offices resulted in the restoration of the skylight and main lobby. The lightwell was reopened and the balusters were uncovered and repainted. The skylight was repaired and all of the original plaster trim restored. The partitions of the reading rooms were reconfigured during the renovation. New partitions were constructed, but the high ceilings were retained in the new offices, exposing the window transoms which had been covered when the ceilings were previously dropped, thus recreating the spacial feeling of those areas.

In the stacks, renovation returned much of the former spacial qualities. The later partitions were removed and the plaster repaired and restored. New shelves for a law library were put in place and research carrels installed along the north wall.

The exterior of the building has seen no major alterations. The limestone has remained in fairly good condition and the joints have been caulked. The windows have been repaired and restored where needed. The copper cornice and trim have also been cleaned and repaired. The small below grade basement windows were enclosed to prevent water intrusion. The area is used for offices and file storage.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1903-1905 **Builder/Architect** Henry John Klutho

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Jacksonville Free Public Library is locally significant as one of the first public buildings constructed in Jacksonville after the disastrous fire of 1901. It was also one of the first major commissions of the noted local architect John Henry Klutho. The structure is an excellent example of the eclectic Classical Revival style as interpreted by a regional architect and influenced by the Carnegie Foundation which emphasized conservative architectural styles in the construction of its libraries.

The Jacksonville Free Public Library traces its origins to the formation of the Jacksonville Library and Literary Association in 1878. The first library was a rented room in the Astor Building at the southeast corner of Bay and Hogan streets. In 1883, the organization was renamed the Jacksonville Library Association under the patronage of J.Q. Burbridge. A lot was leased at the corner of Laura and Adams streets, and a building was completed in 1884. In 1892, the library trustees, in association with the Elks Club, created the Union Building Association which sold the library and acquired property at Adams and Main streets. Here they erected the Union Building in 1894-95.<sup>1</sup> The building contained both the public library and the offices of the Jacksonville Board of Trade. The fire of 1901, which devastated nearly all of downtown Jacksonville, destroyed this structure.

A movement led by Joseph Richardson, president of the Richardson Investment Company, began to work in 1902 to erect a new library. At the same time, a new city hall, county courthouse, police station, several churches, and other important buildings were under construction or being planned for the downtown area. Richardson was able to secure a grant from the Carnegie Foundation for the project. The agreement required that the city of Jacksonville provide a site for the library and contribute \$5,000 per year for its maintenance. The Library Association and the Board of Trade agreed to sell its property and donate the proceeds toward the project. Voters approved a referendum in support of the financial backing of the library on November 4, 1902, and the property at the corner of Ocean and Adams streets was purchased by the city.<sup>2</sup>

In an article which appeared in the North American Review in 1891, the industrialist Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) set forth seven philanthropic aims on which to use his great wealth: (1) the foundation of universities, (2) the establishment of hospitals, (3) the creation of public parks, (4) the construction of public halls with organs, (5) the donating of public swimming pools, (6) the building of churches, and the erection of free libraries. The most visible and successful of these efforts was the endowment of libraries. Library giving quickly became a business, as efficient and standardized in procedure as the filling of orders for steel produced by one of Carnegie's plants. The size of the gift was based upon the population of

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1

Quadrangle name Jacksonville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

117	4	316	91210	313	515	01610
Zone	Easting			Northing		

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing		

C 

Zone	Easting			Northing		

D 

Zone	Easting			Northing		

E 

Zone	Easting			Northing		

F 

Zone	Easting			Northing		

G 

Zone	Easting			Northing		

H 

Zone	Easting			Northing		

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Harts Map of Jacksonville, Block 12, Lot 1

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date December 4, 1986

street & number R.A. Gray Building telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

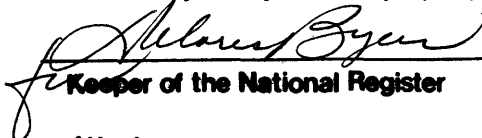
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date December 4, 1986

### For NPS use only

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

  
Keeper of the National Register

date 1-22-87

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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SIGNIFICANCE

the town, usually \$2.00 per capita, which worked very well indeed for cities from 25,000 to 100,000 in population. In the latter instance, for example, Carnegie would give \$200,000 for the building, and the city would pledge \$20,000 a year for maintenance. But in many of the small villages that also received libraries, the annual amount pledged in order to receive the gift might be as low as \$200 a year.<sup>3</sup>

At first Carnegie made no attempt to provide building plans along with his grant of money, leaving the architectural design to be determined by each locality, but complaints from librarians about poor and inadequate construction eventually led the Carnegie Corporation of New York to send out standard designs along with the monetary grant. The public generally believed that Carnegie insisted that his name be engraved above the front entrance of the libraries he financed. This was not true, but he certainly never objected to its being done. He did request that there should be placed over the entrance a representation of the rays of the rising sun and the inscription "LET THERE BE LIGHT," but not all communities complied with this wish.<sup>4</sup> By 1902 Carnegie had made grants for the erection of more than 375 libraries.<sup>5</sup>

In January, 1902, the Jacksonville city council appointed a board of trustees to build the new library. An open competition was held to which ten architects submitted plans under false names, so as not to prejudice selection by the trustees. Henry Klutho's design, which was submitted under the pseudonym "Veni, Vidi, Vici," was chosen. The project had a budget of \$50,000, and the Owens Building Company was awarded the contract to build the structure. On October 3, 1903, ground was broken and the library opened for business on June 1, 1905.<sup>6</sup>

Klutho became an influential architect in Jacksonville after the 1901 fire, particularly during the 1910s. He was born in Breese, Illinois, in 1873 and attended Commercial College in St. Louis. After a brief period in business, he decided to enter the profession of architecture and worked for several architects in St. Louis before moving to New York in 1894. There he worked for a number of architects, including Francis Kimball and W. Wheeler Smith. In 1898, he traveled to Europe to study and sketch in the Beaux Arts tradition. When Klutho returned, he opened his own office in New York City in 1899.<sup>7</sup>

When downtown Jacksonville was destroyed by fire, the news appeared in the New York newspapers, and a number of architects and builders, among them Kluth, saw a great opportunity for work. He arrived in Jacksonville about a month after the fire and immediately secured a partner, J.W. Goluke of Atlanta. His early work included several private residences and commercial buildings, but his most important commission was the Jacksonville City Hall in 1901.<sup>8</sup> His early building designs followed the tradition of the typical eclectic revivals. Other commissions from this period included St. John's Lutheran Church (1902)<sup>9</sup> and the First Baptist Church (1902), the latter of which is still standing.

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SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

In later years, Klutho became a champion of the more contemporary Prairie School, the Chicago School, and Sullivanesque architecture. His work dominated Jacksonville in the 1910s and thrust him to the forefront of the architectural profession in Florida during that period. A return of public taste for the traditional eclectic styles and financial problems resulting from investments in a failed attempt to establish the motion picture industry in Jacksonville, resulted in Klutho's decline as a major architect in the next decade.<sup>11</sup>

Klutho was never able to achieve the same professional stature that he had achieved immediately after the great fire, even though he once again employed eclectic design formulas. His early works were excellent examples of the Classical and Renaissance Revival. Only slowly did he begin experimenting with the "modern" stylistic vocabularies of Prairie and Chicago schools and to apply variations of exuberant Sullivanesque ornament to the exteriors of his commercial buildings. Klutho's effect on the Jacksonville skyline was dramatic. He claimed approximately forty buildings erected between 1907 and 1916.<sup>12</sup> In 1914, he was featured in the magazine Western Architect which supported new trends in architecture.<sup>13</sup>

The Jacksonville Free Public Library reflects the period in Klutho's career before he began to break new ground. His skill as an architect, however, is made apparent even in this and other designs by his simple and confident massing of forms and his lighthearted use of decorative elements such as the masks on the capitals of the library's portico. The library does not fit into Klutho's works which form his major contribution to progressive architecture in Jacksonville or Florida, but it does reflect the taste prevalent when he was a young architect just beginning to establish his professional reputation.

The library opened on June 1, 1905, and continued to be used for that purpose by the city until a new library facility was completed across the street in the 1960s. The building became offices for various city agencies until 1984 when it was purchased and renovated by Bedell Building Associates.

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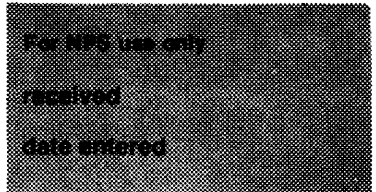
SIGNIFICANCE--FOOTNOTES

1. Davis, A History of Jacksonville and Vicinity, pp. 428-430.
2. Ibid., p. 430; Broward, The Architecture of Henry John Klutho, p. 30; Florida Times-Union 18 March 1902, 20 April 1902, 3 December 1902.
3. Wall, Andrew Carnegie, pp. 815-819.
4. Ibid.; Alderson, Andrew Carnegie: The Man and His Work, p. 157.
5. Ibid.
6. Broward, pp. 30-31; Florida Times-Union 16 September 1903; Jacksonville Metropolis 2 June 1905.
7. Froward, pp. 10-14.
8. Florida Times-Union 3 November 1901.
9. Florida Times-Union 22 April 1902, 16 September 1903.
10. Broward, pp. 44-221.
11. Ibid., pp. 50-57.
12. Ibid., pp. 318-322.
13. Ibid., pp. 184-186.



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