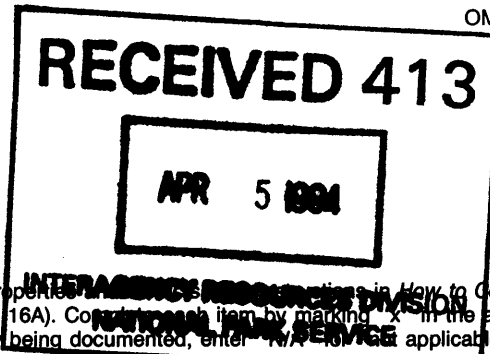


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties. Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" if 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 Old Belleair Town Hall

other names/site number Belleair Garden Club

2. Location

street & number 903 Ponce de Leon Boulevard N/A not for publication

city or town Belleair N/A vicinity

state Florida code FL county Pinellas code 103 zip code 34616

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.)

Suzanne P. Walker / Deputy SHPO 3/28/94
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
 State of 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.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Edson H. Beall Entered in the National Register: 5/6/94
 Date of Action:

Old Belleair Town Hall
Name of Property

Pinellas, Florida
County and State

RECEIVED

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- Building(s)
- district
- site

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(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)

Government/Town Hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social/Clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style/Masonry Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Concrete: Porch

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1931

Significant Dates

1931

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wakeling, Roy (Architect)

Thompson, Robert (Builder)

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 67) 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:

Old Belleair Town Hall
Name of Property

Pinellas, Florida
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

117	322500	3091120
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

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 W. Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date March 11, 1994

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (904) 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 Belleair Garden Club, Inc.

street & number 903 Ponce de Leon Boulevard telephone (813) 586-4021

city or town Belleair state Florida zip code 34616

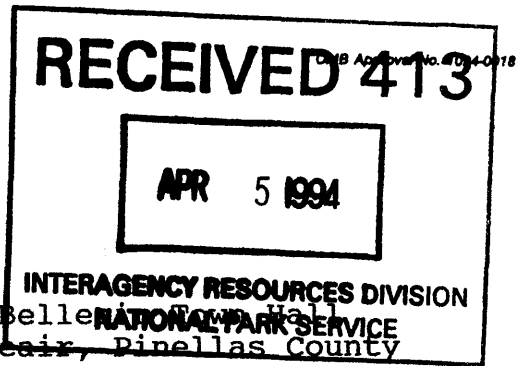
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1



Old Belleair Town Hall
Belleair, Pinellas County
Description

Summary Paragraph

The Old Belleair Town Hall is a small, one-story masonry building with a hip roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The structure rests on a concrete slab foundation that rises about eighteen inches above grade, and the exterior brick walls are laid in common bond and have been painted white. The primary windows in the original section of the building are wooden double hung sashes with 6/6 lights. Those on the main facade are covered with iron grilles. The most significant decorative details on the exterior of the former town hall are associated with the main entrance, which features a recessed doorway flanked by classical pilasters that are crowned with a curved pediment. The interior of the building has four office spaces, a cross hall, an area for the display and storage of plants and a large meeting room. Modern, one-story additions with flat roofs are found on the east and south elevations.

Supporting Narrative

The Old Belleair Town Hall is located in the center of Belleair and is surrounded by a residential neighborhood of single family dwellings. The town has no commercial business district, its approximately 2,500 residents instead depending on the shopping areas in Clearwater, St. Petersburg and other surrounding communities to provide necessary goods and services. Over the years the property immediately surrounding the former town hall building has been developed as a municipal recreation and governmental services area. The lot on which the building stands originally measured approximately 146.45 feet along Ponce de Leon Boulevard, 155 feet on the rear along Osceola Boulevard, and was 250 feet deep. The lot was considerably reduced in size when the new Belleair Town Hall was constructed immediately west of the original building in 1965. The site now measures about 107 feet on Ponce de Leon Boulevard and is only 100 feet deep, so that it no longer extends to Osceola Boulevard. The land behind Old Town Hall is now used as a public park and recreational center.

Old Town Hall was originally a rectangular building measuring approximately 51 feet wide and 40 feet deep. The building was enlarged in 1978 by additions made to south (rear) and east elevations. The foundation of the structure is a poured concrete slab whose floor level stands about 18 inches above grade. Exterior walls are painted brick laid in common bond with

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetOld Belleair Town Hall
Belleair, Pinellas County
DescriptionSection number 7 Page 2

battered mortar joints. The walls are about 10 feet high and a dentilated wooden cornice runs across the main facade at the juncture between wall and the eaves of the roof. The original part of the building has a hip roof covered with asphalt shingles and has a small, eyebrow ventilation dormer found centered over the main entrance.

The 1931 portion of the building has a symmetrical, five-bay main (north) facade. The front door occupies the central bay and consists of a recessed doorway framed by a wooden surrounds consisting of classical pilasters that support a rounded pediment. The door is approached by a flight of three semicircular steps flanked by slightly curved wrought iron railings. Flanking the main entranceway are two small 4/4 light double hung sash windows. The two other bays of the main facade are occupied by larger 6/6 light double hung sash windows. All four of the windows on the main facade have decorative wrought iron grilles. Both the east and south additions of Old Town Hall have flat, built-up roofs. The east addition features metal awning windows. The fenestration of the west elevation of the building consists of one 4/4 light and one 6/6 light double hung sash window in the original section of the structure, while the rear addition has a single metal awning window. The rear wall of the present building has no windows. Two secondary entrances to the structure are found on the east side of the building. Both of these were added in the 1978 remodelling of the Old Town Hall undertaken by the Belleair Garden Club.

The arrangement and finishes of the four office spaces at the front of the Old Town Hall remain largely as they were constructed in 1931; however, two rooms on the east side of the interior were lost in 1978 when the commission meeting chamber was enlarged to provide a larger assembly hall for the members of the Belleair Garden Club. The partitions of the rooms were removed and the original rear wall of the building was demolished when the south wing was added to produce the present assembly hall. The original structural columns found in these areas, however, still remain in place. The new east wing provided an area for the display and temporary storage of flowers and other plants. The wing also contains a large storage area for materials and tools used by the Belleair Garden Club. The floor of the building is finished throughout with vinyl tile, and the ceilings have been dropped to accommodate modern light fixtures and air conditioning ducts.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Old Belleair Town Hall
Belleair, Pinellas County
Photographs

Section number 7 Page 3

List of Photographs

1. Old Belleair Town Hall
2. 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Belleair (Pinellas County). FL
3. Howard Hansen
4. 1993
5. Howard Hansen
6. North (Main) Facade, Looking South
7. Photo No. 1 of 6

1. Old Belleair Town Hall
2. 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Belleair (Pinellas County). FL
3. Howard Hansen
4. 1993
5. Howard Hansen
6. North (Main) Facade and East Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo No. 2 of 6

1. Old Belleair Town Hall
2. 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Belleair (Pinellas County). FL
3. Howard Hansen
4. 1993
5. Howard Hansen
6. North (Main) Facade and West Elevation, Looking Southeast
7. Photo No. 3 of 6

1. Old Belleair Town Hall
2. 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Belleair (Pinellas County). FL
3. Howard Hansen
4. 1993
5. Howard Hansen
6. Detail, Main Facade, Looking South
7. Photo No. 4 of 6

1. Old Belleair Town Hall
2. 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Belleair (Pinellas County). FL
3. Howard Hansen
4. 1993
5. Howard Hansen
6. Interior, Hallway Looking East
7. Photo No. 5 of 6

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Belleair Town Hall
Belleair, Pinellas County
Photographs

Section number 7 Page 4

1. Old Belleair Town Hall
2. 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Belleair (Pinellas County). FL
3. Howard Hansen
4. 1993
5. Howard Hansen
6. Interior, Old Commission Chamber, Looking Southeast
7. Photo No. 6 of 6

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Old Belleair Town Hall
Belleair, Pinellas County
Significance

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary Paragraph

The Old Belleair Town Hall is significant at the local level under criterion A in the area of Politics and Government as the only historic structure associated with the government of the town of Belleair. The building was constructed in 1931 and used as seat of the municipal government for the community until 1965, when a new town hall was constructed on an adjoining plot of land. The original building became the headquarters of the Belleair Garden Club and continues to fulfill an important civic and social function in the community.

Historic Context

The town of Belleair grew up around the Belleview Hotel built by Henry B. Plant in 1896. Construction of the hotel complemented the erection of the Tampa Bay Hotel built in downtown Tampa by the Plant Railroad System to attract wealthy tourists and potential investors to the Tampa Bay area. In 1895 the Plant System acquired the bankrupt Orange Belt Railroad that ran from Sanford to St. Petersburg, Florida. An area of high bluffs fronting on Clearwater Harbor approximately one mile south of the town of Clearwater was chosen by the railroad as a site for a new resort hotel. The Belleview Hotel was successful and expanded several times during the early twentieth century to include a complex of two 18 hole golf courses and private "cottages" on the extensive grounds of the hotel.

In 1923 the City of Clearwater tried to annex the Belleview Hotel and private winter cottages that had grown up around it. To prevent this action, the approximately 200 residents living in the environs of the Belleview Hotel decided to incorporate into the town of Belleair Heights. The town charter is dated May 20, 1923. The first mayor was Earle Carley with Ed Haley and W.N. Barnes as commissioners. In 1925 the town was reorganized and granted a new charter.

Most of the property in Belleair Heights was acquired in 1923 by the Belleview Development Company, which was owned by Earle Carley and Roland Conklin. The men hoped to take advantage of the Florida Land Boom that had been underway since 1921 to make their fortunes in reselling the land as residential property. A new subdivision for the Town of Belleair was designed in 1924 by John Nolen, who had already produced a similar design for Venice, Florida. The site of the town hall

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Belleair, Pinellas County
SignificanceSection number 8 Page 2

was designated as the "civic center" on the master plan for the community designed by Nolen. Approximately thirty Mediterranean Revival style single family houses were built in this subdivision during the boom years. The collapse of the boom in 1926 caused the Belleair Development Company to declare bankruptcy in 1927, and the unsold property was acquired by Belleair Estates Incorporated. In 1930 this company also went bankrupt and its holdings were acquired by Pinellas Properties Incorporated.

Because of the financial difficulties suffered by these various developers and a lack of public funds available to the municipal government, no building to house the town government had been built on the site designated by John Nolen by the end of the 1920s. In June 1929 the Town of Belleair issued \$1,119,000 of municipal improvement bonds at 6% interest to finance street paving and lighting, a water system, a fire department, and a garbage collection system. The town itself went into bankruptcy in 1932 and its bond debt was not repaid until the 1950s.

History of the Belleair Town Hall

During a special meeting held on October 1, 1931, the town commission decided on the location of a site for the new town hall. A plan to locate the proposed building hall on Block 1 of the Belleair Estates Subdivision was rejected because Donald Roebing, a principal partner of Pinellas Properties, Inc., threatened to sue the town if this site was chosen. He wanted the Town Hall located in the area designated as a "Civic Center" on the Nolen master plan. The Town Commissioners agreed to purchase this plot of land for the sum of \$5,000. On October 7, 1931 the town commissioners reconvened at another special meeting when Mr. D.G. Haley, the agent of Pinellas Properties, Inc. informed them that the land in question would cost \$50.00 per front foot or \$7,322.00. The commissioners reluctantly agreed to this higher price.

No detailed records dealing with the construction of the Town Hall have been found in the town records, which appear to be complete from the first town meeting held in 1925. The building was erected rapidly in the autumn of 1931 and was ready for occupancy by the beginning of 1932. Robert Thompson, Sr., a contractor and partner of Pinellas Properties, Inc., built the Town Hall from plans made by an architect named Roy Wakeling. A watercolor rendering of the main facade of Town Hall signed "R. Wakeling" was discovered among Wakeling's papers after his death

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Old Belleair Town Hall
Belleair, Pinellas County
Significance

Section number 8 Page 3

and given to the Belleair Garden Club. Roy Wakeling designed many of the houses in Belleair built during the late 1920s and 1930s for which Robert Thompson served as contractor. The cost of constructing the building appears to have been borne by Donald Roebling and Robert Thompson, since the financial condition of the town government made it impossible to use public funds.

Town Hall functioned as the seat of government for Belleair until 1965 when a much larger building was constructed on adjacent property to its west. The 1931 Town Hall was converted into a municipal recreation center and served that function until 1974, when a property swap between the Belleair Garden Club and the town was approved by the Town Commission. The Belleair Garden Club has occupied this building to the present day. The club was organized in 1950 and has been active in the creation and maintenance of Belleair's extensive park system. The Garden Club enlarged the 1931 building in 1978 to suit its program needs.

Although the physical integrity of Old Town Hall has been compromised by the additions made to it in 1978, there is no other public building in the community that is associated with the early development of the town. The main facade of the building remains intact, as do the four office and hall spaces in the northern section of the structure. Moreover, residents of the community regard Old Town Hall as the only major landmark within the corporate limits of Belleair to be associated with early communal development of the town.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Belleair Town Hall
Belleair, Pinellas County
Bibliography

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Bibliography

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Pinellas County. Public Records. Pinellas County Courthouse, Clearwater, Florida.

Shiver, Carl. National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Belleview Hotel.

Straub, William L. History of Pinellas County. St. Augustine: The Record Company, 1929.

Town of Belleair. Minutes of Town Commission Meetings, 1931-1973.

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Section number 10 Page 1

Old Belleair Town Hall
Belleair, Pinellas County.
Boundary Description and
Justification

Boundary Description

Lots 21, 22, 23 & 24, Block 44, Belleair Estates, according to plat thereof recorded in Pinellas County Plat Book 18, Page 52.

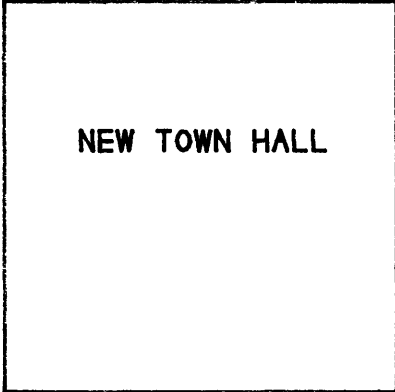
Boundary Justification

The above described boundary encompasses all historic resources associated with the Old Belleair Town Hall.

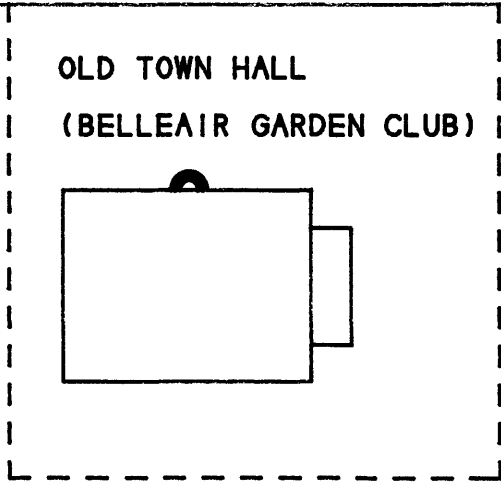
OLD BELLEAIR TOWN HALL

SITE PLAN

PONCE DE LEON BOULEVARD



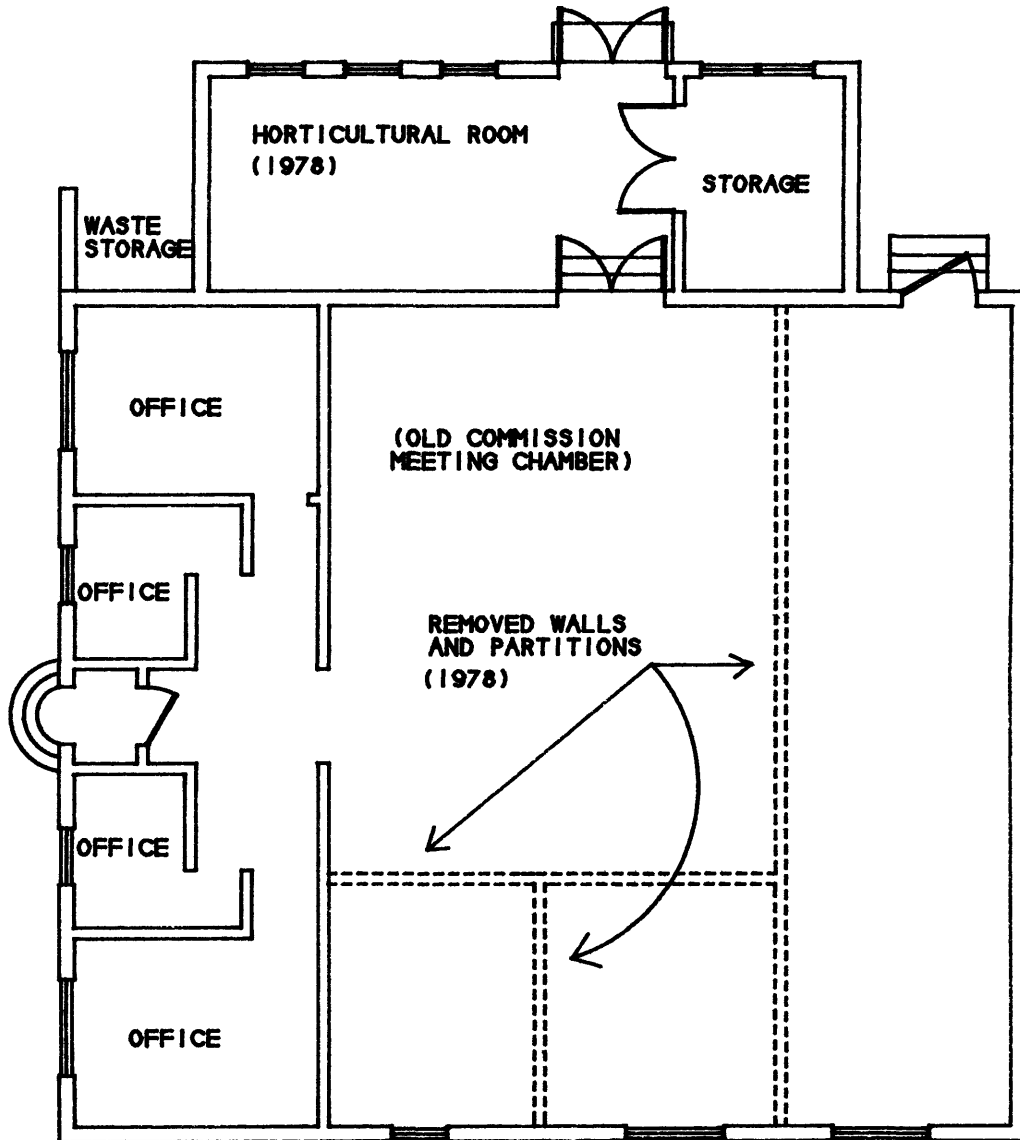
NEW TOWN HALL



OLD TOWN HALL
(BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB)



OLD BELLEAIR TOWN HALL
BELLEAIR (PINELLAS COUNTY), FLORIDA
FLOOR PLAN



0 5 10
scale feet