

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 an 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 Young Men's Hebrew Association
other names/site number Maceo Elk Lodge #8/ 8Du269

2. Location

street & number 712 West Duval Street n/a not for publication
city or town Jacksonville n/a vicinity
state Florida code FL county 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.)
Suzanne P. Walker / Deputy SHPO 9/21/92
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation
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 Delores Byers Date of Action 10/29/92

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)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	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)

Social: Clubhouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social: Clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Masonry Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Concrete

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 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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Ethnic Heritage: European

Period of Significance

1914-1932

Significant Dates

1914

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Hawkins, J.W.H./ McDonald, E.J.

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	435900	3355430
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 Robert Bennett/ Barbara E. Mattick, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date September 18, 1992

street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. 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 Maceo Elk Lodge No. 8, IBPOE of W (James S. Genwright, Exalted Ruler)

street & number 712 West Duval Street telephone (904) 356-9008

city or town Jacksonville state Florida zip code 32202

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 Young Men's Hebrew Association, Duval Co., FL

SUMMARY

The Young Men's Hebrew Association, currently the Maceo Elk Lodge #8, is a 1914 one-story with basement Masonry Vernacular building located at 712 West Duval Street, in the LaVilla area of Jacksonville, Florida. Except for a one-story with basement addition attached to the west elevation, the building retains much of its original appearance.

Setting

The Young Men's Hebrew Association, located on the seven-hundred block of Duval Street, occupies two lots of block L-122, in the original LaVilla Subdivision platted in the 1870s. With its north facade fronting Duval Street, the building is a landmark surrounded by wood frame residences. The B'Nai Israel synagogue, whose congregation founded and supported this chapter of the YMHA, was located across the street until it was demolished in 1975. The Young Men's Hebrew Association is now one of two masonry buildings associated with community religious and social functions on the sevenhundred block of Duval Street.

PRESENT AND ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Exterior

Important architectural details of this Masonry Vernacular building are conveyed in the overall symmetry of the main (north) elevation and its brick exterior wall fabric (Photo 1). Character defining features in its design include a stylized gabled/crenellated parapet topped with buff brick coping, port-hole windows (Photo 2), and an arched center entrance. The entrance is accentuated with a corbelled surround and cast keystone (Photo 3). A shed overhang supported by knee braces provides shelter for the main entrance and exterior stair landing. A double-sided entrance stair with a center landing provides access to the main floor which is elevated on a raised basement (Photo 4). The stair has pipe hand railing connected to brick posts. The posts have plinth blocks and act as pedestals for urn planters (Photo 5). A set of partially-glazed wood panel doors with an overhead rectangular transom light serves as the main entrance. The words "ELKS HOME" and "MACEO LODGE NO 8 IBPOE OF W," are embossed in gold letters in the arched area over the doorway. The 1/1 tripartite double-hung sash windows flanking the entrance are accentuated with overhead recessed panels which

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Young Men's Hebrew Association, Duval Co., FL

are stuccoed. Brick string courses define the ground floor and ceiling levels.

The east elevation is comprised of a straight eave with brick coping and six paired, 1/1 double-hung sash (Photo 6). Other features include three large, and three small vent openings at the basement level. Two down-spouts, which drain the interior rain-gutter system, descend the exterior wall at either end of the east elevation.

The south (rear) elevation has a gabled parapet with brick coping and three rectangular window openings with paired 1/1 double-hung sash (Photo 7). The lower area has a segmental arch vent opening to the basement space and a bricked-in doorway to the basement level (Photo 8). Also visible is the one-story with basement addition to the west elevation.

The west elevation has a one-story vestibule with a flat roof and an addition (Photo 9). The square, brick-clad vestibule contains two rest room areas. The shed roofed addition has a raised basement finished with stucco and a main level which has aluminum exterior wall fabric. Metal sash windows provide natural interior lighting to this area of the building. Constructed some time after 1940, the addition is mostly hidden from view from the main elevation by the brick vestibule.

Interior

The building is entered through a rectangular foyer, which has doors leading to offices on either side of the hall and a set of double doors leading into the auditorium (Photo 10). The auditorium measures roughly seventy feet long by forty feet wide (Photo 11). Major features include the original wood floor, plastered walls, and stair to the balcony area at the north end of the building. The stage, located at the south end of the building, was installed about 1945 (Photo 12). Separated from the auditorium by a partition, the stage is elevated on a platform and has back stage areas to either side of the principal opening. The auditorium ceiling has acoustical tile and florescent lights. A door, near the stage on the west wall, leads into the addition on the west elevation.

The balcony area, accessed by a set of straight wooden stairs with a simple banister and balustrade, overlooks the auditorium (Photos 13 & 14). Part of the balcony is cantilevered over the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 Young Men's Hebrew Association, Duval Co., FL

auditorium, and a railing with balustrade traces its partially curved footprint.

The basement contains a banquet room and a series of offices which are located in the addition to the west elevation (Photo 15). The space of the banquet room is interrupted by a series of steel posts which support the superstructure of the main floor level.

ALTERATIONS

Exterior

A c1925 photograph of the north elevation indicates that some changes have been made to the exterior of the main facade, but they have little impact on the design of the building. The original 6/1 and 12/1 double-hung sash windows have been replaced with 1/1 double-hung sash. The recessed panels over the tripartite windows, now stuccoed, originally possessed bricks set in a diagonal pattern. The port-hole windows have been replaced with steel screen and now have galvanized steel hoods which project from the top of each opening. The sidewalk entrance at the center of the main stair landing, which originally had a flat lintel and threshold stone, now has a segmental arch lintel constructed of buff brick and no threshold stone.

On the east elevation, a basement entrance vestibule, at the north corner of the east elevation has been removed. A small doorway located at the foot of the east stair case appears to be a modern alternative for the basement entrance vestibule.

The addition to the west elevation is the most obvious alteration to the exterior of the building. Elevated on a raised basement clad in stucco, the main floor of the addition has a shed roof. The exterior wall fabric is aluminum siding. Natural interior lighting for the addition is provided by metal sash windows. Hidden behind the original bathroom vestibule on the north end of the west elevation, the addition has minor impact on the appearance of the building when viewed from the street.

Interior

The addition of the stage, about 1945, the installation of acoustical tile and florescent lighting, and plywood wainscoting, comprise the alterations to the auditorium area. These alterations have not destroyed the integrity of the original

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 **Page** 4 Young Men's Hebrew Association, Duval Co., FL

fabric, and the building retains a strong sense of feeling. The basement area remains mostly intact except for a series of doors in the west wall which provide access to the ground floor of the addition to the west elevation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 Young Men's Hebrew Association, Duval Co., FL

SUMMARY

The Young Men's Hebrew Association building, built in 1914, is significant under Criterion A at the local level in the areas of Social History and Ethnic Heritage: European as one of two remaining buildings associated with the European Jewish community in the LaVilla area of downtown Jacksonville. At the time of its incorporation into the City of Jacksonville in 1887, LaVilla was ethnically a very mixed community. In addition to the large black population located chiefly in the north part of the area, LaVilla was also home to whites, many of whom were Jewish.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association: National Movement

The Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association was a national organization active in cities throughout the United States and Canada. The organization had its roots in Jewish young men's literary societies which were established in American cities during the 1840s. The first Young Men's Hebrew Association was founded in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1854. Twenty years later, another chapter was formed in New York City. An auxiliary group, the Young Women's Hebrew Association was formed in 1888.

Local chapters of the YMHA and YWHA provided cultural, social, physical education, and outdoor activities, such as camping for all age groups. Their goal was to perpetuate Judaism as a positive aspect in community life through health education, recreation, democratic training, and informal education in Jewish culture. In the late nineteenth century these organizations played a significant role in assimilating Jewish immigrants to American life. From the early twentieth century until the 1930s, the organization focused on providing services for young people. In 1913, the National Council of Young Men's Hebrew and Kindred Associations were formed. This organization united the 175 YMHA and YWHA's throughout the United States and Canada. This merged in 1921 with the National Jewish Welfare Board, an organization formed in 1917 to provide for the religious needs and welfare of Jews in the United States armed forces in World War I. The Jewish Welfare Board provided aid in planning and programming; personnel recruitment, training, and placement; building planning and construction; and administrative services and publications.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2 Young Men's Hebrew Association, Duval Co., FL

By the 1960s, there were over 300 Jewish Community Centers or "Y's" in over 240 cities of the United States and Canada. The combined membership totalled more than 700,000. These organizations employed over 1500 social group workers, operated 275 day camps and more than 100 residential summer camps. As programs were broadened to include all aspects in the Jewish community, the original YM-WHA organizations were phased out and became known as the Jewish Community Center.

Jacksonville's Early Jewish Community: 1890-1910

The history of the Jewish community in Jacksonville began in the mid-nineteenth century. Mostly of German descent, these people were merchants or proprietors of small businesses in the dry goods or clothing trades. They were so highly regarded by the Jacksonville community at large that a Jewish mayor was elected in the 1880s. Many other Jewish citizens were business leaders, civic leaders, or held public offices.

During the flood of Eastern European immigration to the United States in the 1880s, southern cities like Jacksonville were attractive alternatives to the overcrowded cities of the north. Many immigrants who came to Jacksonville took residence in the LaVilla neighborhood where their German predecessors had initially settled.

Russian and Romanian immigrants to Jacksonville had strong ties to the Orthodox Judaism practiced in their homelands. Since other synagogues in Jacksonville were Reformist, they established an Orthodox temple which they named B'nai Israel. Established in 1901, the cornerstone of the synagogue was laid in 1908 at the intersection of Duval and Jefferson Streets in the LaVilla neighborhood.

As the Jewish community grew, so did the need for a center to promote the general well being of its men. Founded about 1910, the Jacksonville Young Men's Hebrew Association was proposed as a non-religious meeting place for members of both Jewish congregations in the city. The purposes of the organization as set forth in the preamble of its constitution drafted at the initial meeting were as follows:

We, the Jewish people of this community, in order to promote the general welfare, to promulgate moral and educational principles,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3 Young Men's Hebrew Association, Duval Co., FL

for a higher and systematic physical development, and to establish a meeting place for the free discussion of the fundamental principles of manhood, do ordain and provide this Constitution for the Young Men's Hebrew Association of Jacksonville Florida.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE**Jacksonville's Young Men's Hebrew Association, 1910-1932**

After its founding about 1910, Neil Finkelstein, chairman of the building committee, and the members of the B'Nai Israel Synagogue began raising funds to construct a building to house the YMHA. Located across Duval Street from the synagogue, the building site for the YMHA measured seventy feet along the street by one hundred fifty-one feet deep. The building was proposed to contained office space, an auditorium, and a balcony on the main level, and a swimming pool with locker rooms for men and women in the basement area.

In 1913, architect J.H.W. Hawkins was commissioned to draft plans to carry out these functions. His design included all of the concepts in the proposal. As construction proceeded, however, Hawkins' plans were changed by other architects. Contemporary newspaper accounts credited the locally prominent firm of Talley and Summer with the architectural design, while the building permit application lists Benjamin and Ball as the architects. A possible explanation is that Hawkins created the initial concept as indicated on the original plans, which were modified by Talley and Summer, and then by Benjamin and Ball, who were cited as architects on the building permit. The swimming pool proposed for the basement area was never constructed.

The Young Men's Hebrew Association held a bazaar to open its doors to the public on Monday evening, February 8, 1915. The auditorium was decorated with flags, bunting, flowers, and potted plants. Activities included live music and dancing. Demonstration booths, which represented numerous Jacksonville businesses, lined the auditorium. Jac Swearingen, Jacksonville's mayor, addressed the large gathering on the opening night. The festivities continued each evening and ended on Thursday night. Placards which announced plans for the addition of two stories by 1918 were a conspicuous part of the festival.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4 Young Men's Hebrew Association, Duval Co., FL

The YMHA occupied the building at 712 West Duval Street for eighteen years. Henry Hertzberg was the executive director of the organization for much of that time. He was the first YMHA executive director in the country to receive pay for his services. His responsibilities included planning and organizing events, raising funds, promoting the organization, recruiting new members, and handling club financial matters. Events and functions included weddings, plays, concerts, readings, organized debates, and meetings of all kinds. The auditorium also had a basketball court. The YMHA basketball team played Jewish organizations from Florida and other cities in the Southeast.

By 1928, the Jewish population of Lavilla began moving into suburban neighborhoods, such as Riverside, Avondale, and Springfield. Naturally, both synagogues, the YMHA, and other organizations moved with them. In 1929, a group spun off from the Orthodox congregation of B'Nai Israel, and relocated to Third and Silver Streets in the Springfield neighborhood north of downtown Jacksonville. Springfield was chosen because many of its congregation moved to the area and others already living there were potential members. With the move to Springfield, the synagogue changed its ritual format from orthodox to conservative. They called the new synagogue The Jacksonville Jewish Center.

The remaining members of B'Nai Israel were unable to maintain their synagogue, and after moving into a small interim building, the Orthodox group became a part of the Jacksonville Jewish Center. They held many of their services in an area separate from the Conservative worshippers. In 1932, the YMHA also relocated to Springfield in a building adjacent to the Jacksonville Jewish Center. This was a much expanded organization housed in a larger building which catered to the diverse needs of a growing Jewish Community. The old synagogue on Duval Street was torn down in 1975, leaving the YMHA building as the only physical remnant of LaVilla's once thriving European Jewish population. The old YMHA building was sold to the Maceo Elk Lodge, the present owners and occupants, in 1945.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1 Young Men's Hebrew Association, Duval Co., FL

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Florida Times-Union, February 9, 1915, p. 2.

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Jewish Community Alliance of Jacksonville, "Pride in the Past: Jewish Community Center Movement," Jacksonville, 1986.

Safer, Joseph P. Interviewed by Robert Bennett, November 1991.

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Wood, Wayne W. Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage. Jacksonville: University of North Florida Press, 1989.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1 Young Men's Hebrew Association, Duval Co., FL

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property occupies all of lots 1 and 2 of Nooney's
Subdivision, Jacksonville, Florida.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encloses the two city lots that have been
historically associated with the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs 1 Young Men's Hebrew Association, Duval Co., FL

Section number _____ Page _____

- 1 1) Young Men's Hebrew Association, 712 W. Duval St.
2) Jacksonville, Duval County, FL
3) Art Williams
4) 1991
5) Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, FL
6) Looking S at N (main) elevation
7) 1 of 15

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

- 2 6) Looking SW at N elevation, port-hole
7) 2 of 15
- 3 6) Looking SE at N elevation, main entrance
7) 3 of 15
- 4 6) Looking E at N elevation, main stair
7) 4 of 15
- 5 6) Looking NE at original urn on stair post plinth
7) 5 of 15
- 6 6) Looking SW at E and N elevations
7) 6 of 15
- 7 6) Looking NW at S elevation
7) 7 of 15
- 8 6) Looking N at enclosed basement access on S elevation
7) 8 of 15
- 9 6) Looking SE at W elevation (addition in background)
7) 9 of 15
- 10 6) Looking S at interior entrance foyer
7) 10 of 15
- 11 6) Looking S at auditorium and stage
7) 11 of 15
- 12 6) Looking S at stage
7) 12 of 15
- 13 6) Looking N at balcony, stair, and foyer doors
7) 13 of 15

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs 2 Young Men's Hebrew Association, Duval Co., FL

Section number _____ Page _____

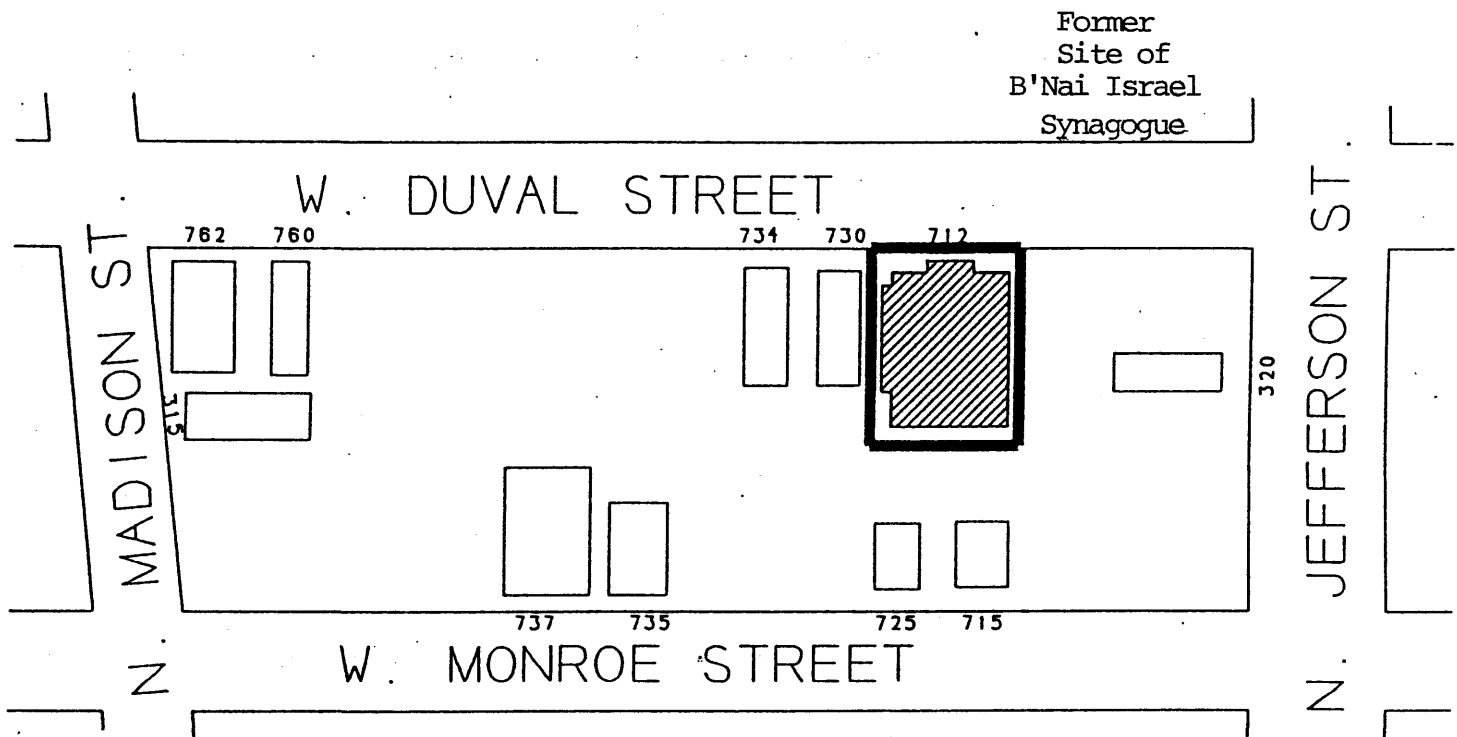
- 14 6) Looking NW at stair to balcony in auditorium
7) 14 of 15



- 15 6) Looking NW in basement
7) 15 of 15

Site Plan

Young Men's Hebrew Association Building

712 West Duval Street



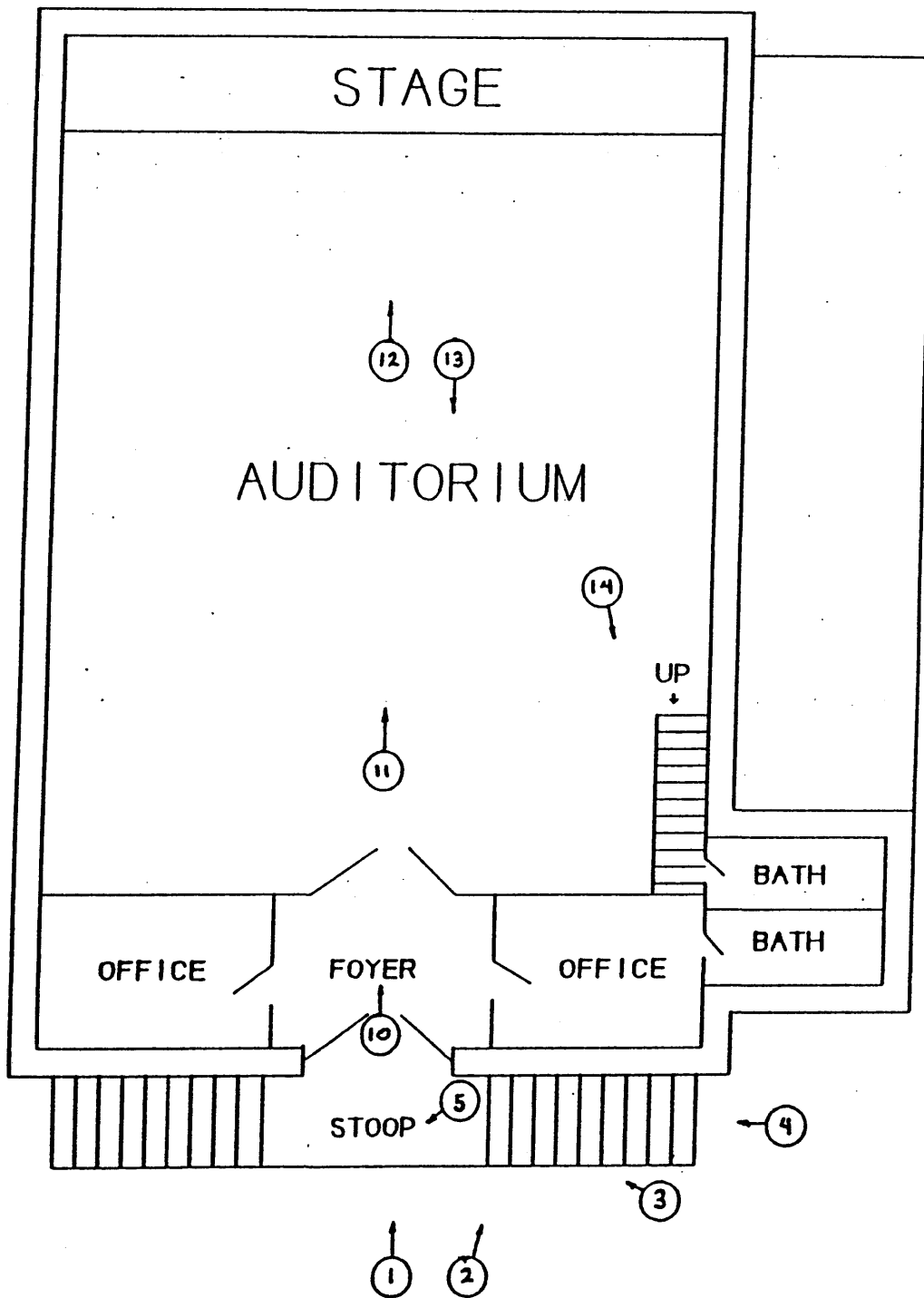
Key:
Boundary 
Contributing Building 
Scale: 1" = 125'

PHOTOGRAPH KEY

1st Floor

Young Men's Hebrew Association Building

scale: 1" = 16'

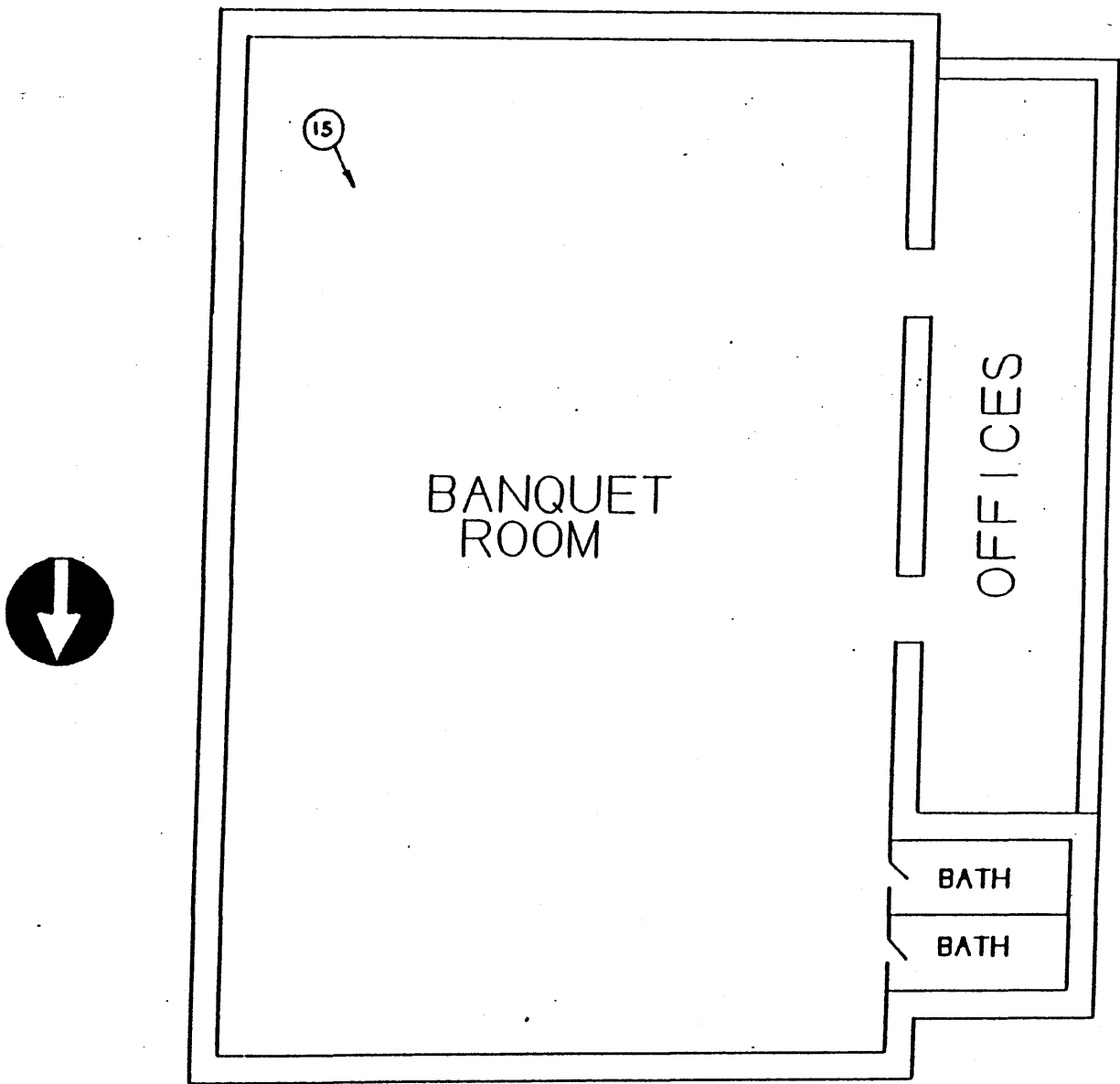


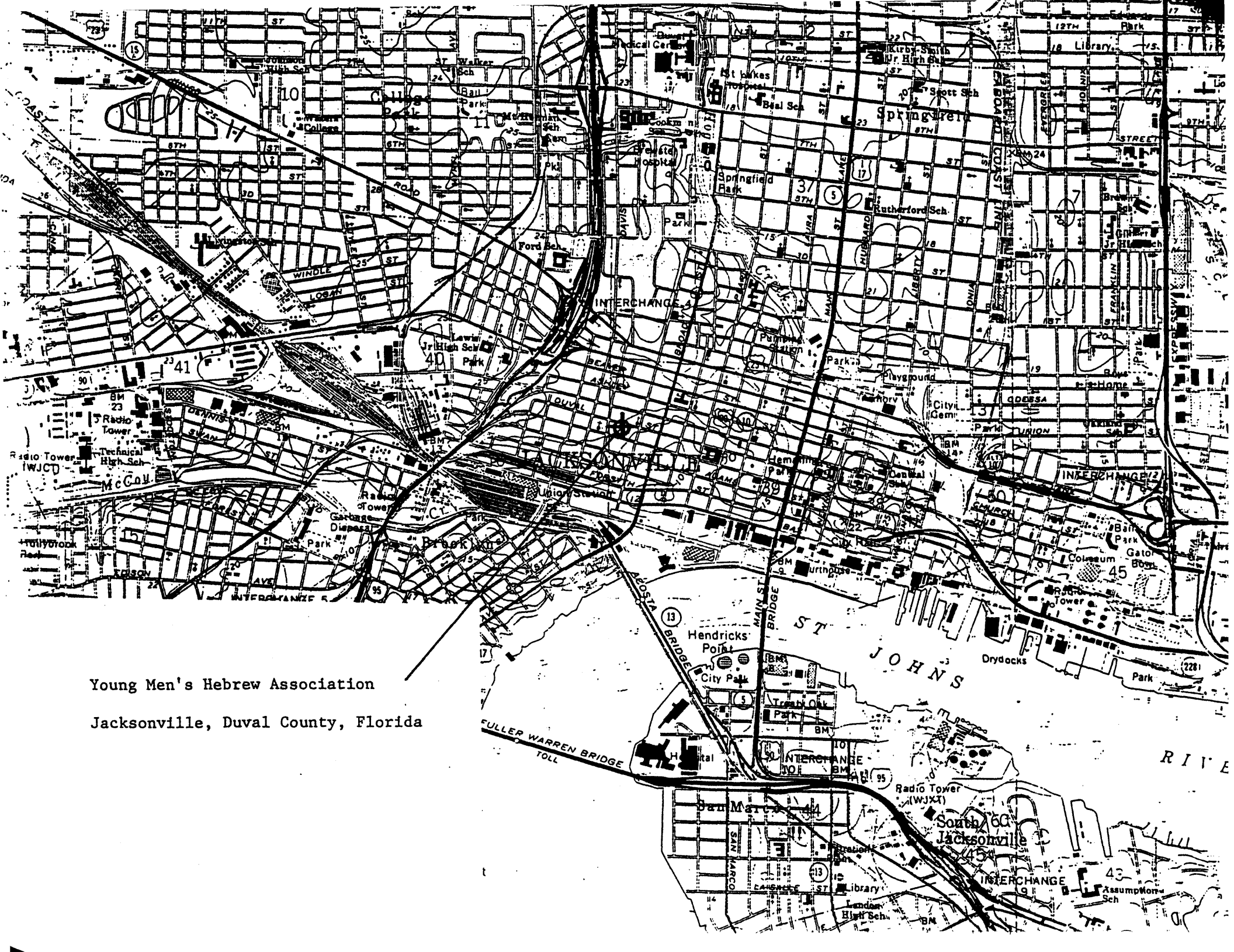
PHOTOGRAPH KEY

Basement

Young Men's Hebrew Association Building

scale: 1" = 16'





Young Men's Hebrew Association
Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida