

PH 0504190

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 20 1977
DATE ENTERED	APR 6 1978

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Melrose Woman's Club

AND/OR COMMON

The Literary and Debating Society; "The Hall"

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Pine Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Melrose

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

4<sup>th</sup> and

STATE

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY

Putnam

CODE

107

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Social

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Melrose Woman's Club

STREET & NUMBER

Pine Street

CITY, TOWN

Melrose

STATE

Florida

— VICINITY OF

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Putnam County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Palatka

STATE

Florida

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Florida Master Site File

DATE

1976

— FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Division of Archives, History, and Records Management

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee,

STATE

Florida

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Melrose Woman's Club as originally planned and constructed by E.L. Judd, a builder from New England, was a simple 25' by 40' rectangular building placed in the northwest corner of the unnumbered lot east of lot 100 in the Town of Melrose. Today this location is in the Town of Melrose on the south side of Pine Street. It is two blocks north of State Road 26 and midway between Grove Street and State Road 21.

The building is one story high and symmetrically laid out. The foundation is brick piers with a 6" wood skirt and wood lattice enclosing the east, north and west sides. The south end is enclosed with wire. The walls are novelty lapping with boxed corners. The gable roof is covered with asbestos shingles replacing the original wooden ones. A fascia board and metal drip stops run along the eaves of the entire building.

The north facade has a gable end with an 8" fascia board running from each corner of the building to the peak of the gable. Double wood paneled doors with a decorative lintel are in the center of the wall. A window on each side of the doors is equally spaced between the doors and the corners of the building.

The original porch protecting the entrance has a gable roof with asbestos shingle covering. It is supported by four square posts. Plain wood lintels under which are flat, low decorative arches encircle the porch on three sides. The gable end is covered by decorative wood panels with the name Melrose Woman's Club in the center of the gable end. Simple wood railings enclose the lower part of the east and west sides. Concrete steps with pipe hand rails on each side have replaced the original wooden ones.

Ten eight-light double hung sash windows with fixed wood louvered shutters are evenly spaced on the front and sides of the building. A shallow pitch wood drip mold surmounts each window. There is a brick chimney on the east wall.

In 1896, the interior walls of the building were finished with plaster and a 4½' wood wainscoting. A 14 foot coffer ceiling was installed with a decorative cornice. A similar cornice encircled the room at a height of 10'. A 12' by 24' stage was added and the original raised fireplace hearth was floor level.

Alterations include a kitchen of the same design and construction added to the south end of the building and a porch is enclosed for a rest-room with a small swing out window on the east wall. The west end of the porch is screened.

A 10' coffer ceiling lowered the 14' ceiling in 1968. Twelve recessed lights were installed in the coffer.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES    +1893

BUILDER/ARCHITECT  
XXXXXXXX

E.L. Judd

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Melrose Literary and Debating Society, forerunner of the Melrose Woman's Club, was organized July 23, 1890 in Rosewood, the home of Mrs. Elmira Vogelbach, by a group of nine ladies. Mrs. Eliza King, a wealthy, well educated lady from England, was instrumental in organizing the Society and in building the clubhouse. She was the first president and gave the land on which the clubhouse was later built. Mrs. King was a strong advocate of equal suffrage and the early minutes of the Society report that many papers and discussions on women's rights were a part of the regular meetings of the Society.

The aim of the Society as stated in the preamble was to foster moral, mental, and social culture in its public entertainment as well as in its private meetings. The chief objective was to erect a hall where meetings of the Society could be held and community groups could meet. The objective was achieved in 1893 when "The Hall" was completed and the key turned over to the Society on November 10, 1893.

With completion of "The Hall", the Society extended its influence deeper into the life of the community. A lending library was organized and "The Hall" was open to citizens and other groups in the community and music recitals, dramatic productions, flower shows, and receptions for teachers were held there.

The loss of the citrus industry after the freeze of 1894-95, the dying tourist trade, World War I and the Depression brought change to the Society but it never disbanded. The minutes are filled with accounts of the Society breaking away from social activities and leaning toward civic consciousness with lectures by guest speakers on subjects of interest to women living in a society different from that of the founders.

Most of the members in the early years of the Literary and Debating Society, as well as Mr. E.L. Judd, the planner and builder of "The Hall" were from New England and the plan of the building reflects the colonial architecture of New England with adaptations to fit the climate of Florida and the material and labor available in the 1890's. It is similar in design and construction to the three churches built in the 1880's and still standing in Melrose.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives and Minutes of Literary and Debating Society and Melrose Woman's Club.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY LT 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 39,872,0 3,287,060  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

(See continuation sheet)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

L. Ross Morrell

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

9-13-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 4/6/78  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: William H. Cole

DATE 3-10-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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Melrose Woman's Club  
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

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Elizabeth B. Monroe, Historic Sites Specialist  
Division of Archives, History, & Records Management  
Department of State, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida

October, 1976  
(904) 487-2333

Maud C. Watkins  
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Keystone Heights, Florida