

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 19 1975
DATE ENTERED	MAY 13 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
* *W* * Porter, Thomas V., House
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
510 Julia Street

CITY, TOWN
Jacksonville

STATE
Florida

VICINITY OF
Third

COUNTY
Duval

CODE
12

CODE
031

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
First Christian Church

STREET & NUMBER
510 Julia Street

CITY, TOWN
Jacksonville

STATE
Florida

VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Duval County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Jacksonville

STATE
Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
N/A

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1925</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house which Henry John Klutho designed for Mr. Thomas V. Porter was originally located at 317 West Church Street (west ½ of lot 3, block 57) on a piece of property which Porter purchased in 1901 (Duval County Records, Deed Book 3, p. 274). The house remained in the Porter family until its sale in 1925 to the First Christian Church of Jacksonville (Duval County Records, Deed Book 302, p. 482). In order to make room for a new church building, the Porter House was moved around the corner to face on Julia Street where it presently stands on church property and is used as a Sunday school and recreation facility.

As originally constructed, the house rested on brick piers and at the time of its relocation in 1925 the building was placed on a brick foundation which included a partial basement. Entry to the basement is gained via two stairwells, one on the east front to the left of the portico and another on the north side near the northeast corner of the building. Windows are placed at regular intervals within the foundation wall to admit light to the basement area and they are double-hung sash in plain wooden surrounds. Other alterations included the removal of four tall brick chimneys and the balustrade which defined the roof deck. The most significant alteration, however, was the removal of the one story veranda which extended from both sides of the portico the full length of the side elevations of the house. This veranda was classically treated with paired Corinthian columns placed at regular intervals and rising to a full entablature with dentilled cornice and a deck defined by a wooden balustrade.

The Porter House is perhaps the finest of Klutho's Classic Revival houses, certainly ranking with the Jacksonville Free Public Library of 1904 and the east and west additions to the Florida State House made in 1923 (original drawings for east and west wing of the Capitol are in the Florida Archives, Tallahassee). The house is imposing even in the midst of larger, more recent structures. It is particularly large for a dwelling house and awe-inspiring in its attention to exterior detail. Two-and-a-half stories in height, the building is of frame construction with a weatherboarded exterior. In keeping with the classical theme, corner boards are treated as pilasters. The house has a low hipped roof with flat deck and Palladian dormers on the north, east and west elevations. The focal point of the east or main facade is a two story portico and it is here that the attention to detail is carried to the fullest. Groups of three colossal ^{Composite} Corinthian columns located at each of the front corners of the portico rise to a full entablature and dentilled cornice which surrounds the entire structure. Above the cornice are wide bracketed eaves with acanthus motif in the brackets. At the second level of the house, within the portico, is a serpentine balcony defined by a spindle post balustrade and resting on a platform of dentilled cornice and plain entablature. The egg and dart motif

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is used consistently on the exterior of the building, being incorporated into the entablature above the dentil course. The portico has a coffered ceiling, the indented panels defined by egg and dart borders with rosettes in each of the corner coffers. The two story frontispiece is in perfect balance with a pair of double hung sash windows with transoms leading onto the balcony. Immediately beneath the balcony, the main entrance to the house consists of a pair of glazed doors in oak frames flanked by large leaded sidelights, all of which is set into fluted framing pilasters. Above is a leaded glass lunette, which covers the whole expanse of doors and sidelights. A molding of rosettes encloses the lunette and carved heraldic devices are located in the upper corners of the entrance piece. There is a subsidiary entrance on the north side of the house which consists of double glazed doors with transoms and sidelights. Most interesting about this grouping is the swag motif used in the entablature above. Located on the second floor directly above this entrance is a Palladian-like window grouping of windows with colored glass depicting mythological scenes. On the interior of the house this window occurs at the first landing of the stair (see photo #3). This same mythological theme appears in other colored glass windows located throughout the house in addition to classical and mythological figures used in light fixtures, wall coverings, etc. All windows with the exception of transoms and those filled with colored glass are double-hung sash. In addition, all second story windows have an oval motif in the upper one-third of the upper sash.

The Porter House is square in plan with a wide central hall. All of the entrance hall and staircase hall, including the stairs, is St. Domingo mahogany (Klutho, n.p.). The house was completed at a cost of \$25,000 (Klutho, n.p.). The main hall is fourteen feet wide. All of the rooms in the house are commodious and all ground floor rooms have dentilled crown molding and channelled window and door surrounds with corner blocks. Double sliding doors of oak lead into all of the ground floor rooms off the main hall. The building is well maintained and is in constant use.

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1902

BUILDER/ARCHITECT H. J. Klutho

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the words of the architect, Henry John Klutho, "this is a 'Classic Colonial' residence, and from a point of artistic effect and beauty, will hold its own anywhere in the South" (Klutho, n.p.). It is for this reason that the Thomas V. Porter House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Despite its exterior alterations and its relocation, it survives in downtown Jacksonville amidst many modern structures as the finest remaining classical residence of the period and certainly the best of Klutho's classical designs.

At the time of its construction in 1902, it occupied a position of prominence near the intersection of Church and Julia Streets. The desirability of this location is substantiated by the fact that the house on the northeast corner of this intersection was the home of the Hon. James P. Taliaferro, U.S. Senator from Florida from 1899 to 1911 and the home on the southeast corner of the intersection was that of the Hon. Duncan U. Fletcher, U.S. Senator from Florida from 1909 until his death (Florida Times-Union, May 26, 1909, p. 3). In a streetscape of the period, it is noteworthy that the houses are not only of comparable size but very similar in style and exterior detail. Today only the Klutho design remains to attest to the magnificence of these dwellings.

Thomas V. Porter was a native of Jefferson County, Texas, where he was born in 1852. Following a formal education in Illinois and a period of mercantile work in Texas, he came to Florida in 1885 due to failing health. He moved from Gainesville to Jacksonville in 1890 and was one of the organizers of the wholesale grocery house of Porter, Rogers and Company which later incorporated and merged into the C. B. Rogers Company. In 1902, this was one of the largest wholesale grocery houses in the state with T. V. Porter as its second vice-president. In addition, he was a Director of the National Bank of Jacksonville, a director of the Florida Naval Stores Company, and a large owner and dealer in real estate, including orange groves in central Florida (biographical information about Porter from Rerick, p. 46; real estate information from Duval County Records, Probate Department, Will of Thomas V. Porter, July 11, 1914).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	43,646.0	33,554,80
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
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

Diane D. Greer, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Div. of Archives, History & Records Mgmt.

DATE

October, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

Dept. of State, The Capitol

TELEPHONE

904-488-7365

CITY OR TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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

Robert Williams

TITLE

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12/10/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

5/13/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

5-12-75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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As an active and prominent Jacksonville merchant at the turn of the century, Porter would have become familiar with the work of Henry John Klutho, who by 1902 had already completed several sizeable buildings. It is probably safe to say, however, that the Porter House was the first of his residential commissions in Jacksonville. Klutho had come to Jacksonville from New York immediately after the fire of 1901 in an effort to help rebuild the city. In the next ten years he designed all of the major downtown buildings, both commercial and municipal. Although Klutho's later work is normally categorized as Prairie School (because of his associations with Frank Lloyd Wright and because of the influence which Wright had on his designs), his earliest Jacksonville buildings tend to be Sullivanesque if commercial, and classical if residential.

The Thomas V. Porter House, now serving a viable adaptive use, survives as the best of Klutho's classical designs.

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Duval County Courthouse, Jacksonville, Florida. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Duval County Records (Subgroup: Deed Book 3, p. 274; Deed Book 302; p. 482).

_____. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Duval County Records (Subgroup: Will and Probate Papers of Thomas V. Porter, July 11, 1914).

Florida Times-Union, May 26, 1909, p. 3.

Klutho, H. J. Some Buildings by the Architect, H. J. Klutho. Unpublished pamphlet dated 1904, no page numbers. Xerox copy in possession of Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Tallahassee, Florida.

Photograph of building on its original site showing its juxtaposition to other houses in the vicinity. Photo dates from around 1905 and a xerox copy is on file in the Historic Preservation Section of the Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Tallahassee, Florida.

Rerick, Roland. Memoirs of Florida. Vol. I. Atlanta: The Southern Historical Association, 1902. This volume contains a brief biography of the life of Thomas V. Porter.