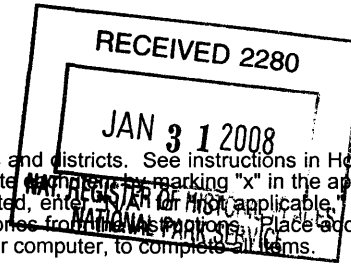


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



163

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 this form by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" or "N/A" if applicable. For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the National Register. 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 LARIMER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

other names/site number Larimer Arts Center, Putnam County Public Library, FMSF# PU392

2. Location

street & number 216 Reid Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Palatka N/A  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Putnam code 107 zip code 32177

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.)

Barbara C. Mattick / D SHPO 1/28/08  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation  
State or 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  See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

for  
Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper  
Date of Action 3.12.08

**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)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include any 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 listings**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

"N/A"

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: library

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/CULTURE: arts center

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals/Classical Revival  
Modern Movement/Art Deco

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
walls STONE  
roof COMPOSITION  
other IRON  
TILE

**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)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1929

**Significant Dates**

1929

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Klutho, H.J.

**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 36) 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

# \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	4 3 8 9 6 0	3 2 7 9 7 2 0
	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 Berlepsch, Janice/Robert O. Jones, Historic Preservationist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date January 2008

street & number 500 South Brounough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state FL 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 City of Palatka

street & number 201 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street telephone 386-329-0102

city or town Palatka state FL zip code 32177

**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 amend 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.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 **LARIMER LIBRARY, PALATKA, PUTNAM  
COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**SUMMARY**

The Larimer Memorial Library, currently named the Larimer Arts Center, is located at 316 Reid Street, Palatka, Putnam County, Florida. It was built in 1929 and was designed by the architect H.J. Klutho of Jacksonville. It is an outstanding example of a public building in the Classical form embellished with Art Deco ornamentation. The solid limestone masonry building consists of a main floor and basement. The building has a symmetrical southern facade, large arched windows, a flat roof and decorated parapets. The façade has a centrally located 1-½ story recessed, arched entrance accessed by a flight of stone steps. The building retains its original floor plan with original terrazzo floors, skylight, globed lighting, and ornamental details.

**SETTING**

Larimer Memorial Library is on the corner of Reid Street and Third Street, in downtown Palatka (Photo #1). Reid Street is a major east/west thoroughfare, in an area that is well maintained and occupied by commercial and institutional agencies. Larimer Library has a prominent presence among other historical buildings, churches and the City Hall. The adjacent community is arranged in a rectangular grid streetscape. The elevation is largely flat, and the St. Johns River and a bridge are two blocks to the east. Landscaping consists of low shrubs around the front of the building, several oak trees and a small garden of native plants on the corner of Reid Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

**Exterior**

The building has an irregular footprint constructed on a continuous concrete foundation with a flat roof surrounded by decorated parapets. The exterior is smooth limestone. There is an embossed fascia, and large arched windows on the south, east and west elevations. Each arched window is filled by a grouping of three 1/1 double-hung wooden sashes. The outer sashes are narrow. The arched transom is composed of four fixed lights. The library has a piano-nobile design, with the main public floor elevated and accessed by stone steps. Small basement windows are visible below the main floor level.

The main (south) facade fronts onto Reid Street, and is dominated by a 1 1/2 story arched recessed portico, that is accessed by 15 stone steps (Photo #2). On either side of the steps are cheeks made from limestone block with black metal handrails running alongside (Photo #3). A black metal lamppost on each side has five large globed lights (Photo #2). A repeating wrought iron circle-in-square grill frames the arched entry (Photo #4). Flanking the arch, two massive pilasters rise above the roof line and terminate at angled points. Foliated carving above incised lettering is just below the point on each pediment. The lettering to the west reads, "Ignorance Breeds Crime" and to the east is "Knowledge is Power" (Photo #5). Above the portico and between the extended pilasters, the parapet rises to a central peak below which is an ornamental relief panel of fruit. On the wall

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Section number 7 Page 2 **LARIMER LIBRARY, PALATKA, PUTNAM  
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above the arch are black metal letters that read "Larimer Arts Center," and below the letters is a rectangular vent filled with an ornamental metal grill (Photo #6). An embossed stone cornice with simple projecting discs in repeating square recesses goes around the building just below the stepped parapet. There is a large window with semi-circular arched top in the walls to each side of the entrance with stone windowsills. Above each arched window, directly under the cornice, is a small rectangular window with white circular art deco motifs set within.

Inside the portico there is a hanging leaded glass light. The centrally located double glass and wooden doors have flower motifs. A multi-light arched transom window spans the double doors. On each side of the door is a rectangular window with white wooden trim. Covering the windows are black metal grilles that have circular motifs in the center and at the top. The porch floor is terra cotta bordered with black tile.

The West Elevation (Photos #7&8) of the building includes a series of nine windows. This fenestration is comprised of three large arched windows identical to the windows in the front; three small rectangular casement windows at ground level, untrimmed with cement sills; and three small rectangular windows with circular motif under the cornice. At the north corner the building indents to an extension that housed the stack area. A limestone block chimney runs up the west rear elevation; there are two rectangular windows and a service door.

The East Elevation (Photo #9) is identical to the west elevation until the north corner indentation. The extension contains an arched window, two rectangular windows, and a series of four small rectangular windows with stone sills. Roof gutters run along the top of both west and east elevations.

The North Elevation (Photo #10) is distinguished by fenestration of seven long, narrow vertical windows with stone sills that illuminated the stack area. Above each of these is a small square window with the circle motif. At ground level are a series of 6 casement windows, three to each side with stone sills.

**Interior**

The original floor plan is intact. The majority of the floors retain the original terrazzo surface with some carpeting. All walls and ceilings are painted plaster. All windows and doors have original trim of dark wood with a high gloss finish. Original decorative globe lights extend down on metal chains from the ceilings. All rooms have original wooden baseboards that are faced with black tile squares.

The main entrance of the library is accessed through a front foyer. The foyer opens into a large central room that is the reception area. This room has hanging globed lights and terrazzo floors. A distinguishing element of the room is the large segmented skylight that is trimmed with raised molding and accented by hanging globe lights that hang from each corner. Decorative corner brackets in a Classical motif set off the large open entranceways into each adjoining room (Photo #11).

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Section number 7 Page 3 **LARIMER LIBRARY, PALATKA, PUTNAM  
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The north end of this central room used to be the stack area of the library, and is presently the Scarlett-Hill Theatre. This area is separated from the main room by a heavy curtain (Photo #12). There is a door to each side of this curtain that goes into the theatre. The wooden doors have raised molding. Above each door is an inset decorative metal motif and above the curtain is a raised Art Deco relief. The theatre area has occupancy for 80, is comprised of a small stage and raised seating area for the audience.

On the east side of the reception area are two rooms (Photos #13&14). Large entranceways give access to each room and the large arched windows are the most prominent features. Original radiators, no longer functional, are set under each window. The terrazzo floors in these rooms have been covered with carpeting. In addition to the globed lights, track lighting has been installed. These two rooms are presently used for art displays. A restroom is located adjacent to the northeast room.

The west side of the reception area has a large entranceway that goes into the west side of the building (Photo #15). All of the rooms in this section have hanging globed lights and terrazzo floors. Arched windows match the windows from the east wing but these windows have wooden louvers over the arched transoms. The north side of the west wing is separated into two rooms, a handicapped restroom and a kitchen. The kitchen area has original wooden cupboards, a large original sink, a closet, and a modern refrigerator. Next to the kitchen is a renovated area that has a handicap accessible restroom that has one arched window and a hanging globed light. Between the north and south sections of this wing is a large central area with a large arched window and two globe lights. The south side of the west wing contains an art display room and an office. These two rooms have large arched windows. All baseboards are faced with black tile squares.

The basement is accessed at the north end of the kitchen. The first flight of stairs goes down to a back service door at ground level and a second flight goes down to the basement level. The basement is divided into numerous rooms intact from the original building design, and their construction is a part of the structural foundation. All of the walls in the basement are a combination of integrated clay tile (vitreous tile) with brick. The room under the "stack"/stage area is divided down the middle by a wall with open arches. The ceiling of this room has pan-joint construction. The ceilings in all other rooms have form-board construction. The floor of the basement is painted concrete, and most walls and ceilings are painted. Arched openings divide the space into rooms and allow light from the peripheral windows to flow throughout. A furnace room is located in the west rear corner. The basement provides 2500 square feet of space. Currently all basement rooms are empty due to water problems of the two past years.

**ALTERATIONS**

In 1991 the city removed asbestos, installed French drains, and resurfaced the roof. The book stacks were removed when the public library was relocated and the building became the Larimer Arts Center. A stage and

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Section number 7 Page 4 **LARIMER LIBRARY, PALATKA, PUTNAM  
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raised seating area was built into this stack area at that time. Also, a wall was built in the west wing to make an art room. In 1999, renovations included making the restroom handicap accessible; electrical upgrades, door and window repairs, mortar joint repairs, refinishing the terrazzo floors, skylight repairs, theatre lighting, electrical work, gutter and roof repairs. At this time the black metal handrails were added to the front entrance. In 2002 new air conditioning was installed along with electrical upgrades.

Most of the ceilings stucco is in urgent need of repair. The terrazzo floors, skylight, and heat and air systems need repair.



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Section number 8 Page 1 **LARIMER MEMORIAL LIBRARY, PALATKA,  
PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**SUMMARY**

The Larimer Memorial Library is nominated to the National Register under criterion C in the area of Architecture. It was built in 1930 and designed by the notable Jacksonville architect Henry J. Klutho. Larimer Library is an outstanding example of a large, well-detailed public building, having the form and fenestration of a monumental Classical building and the ornamentation of the Art Deco Style. Klutho is known as one of North Florida's most notable historic architects, and innovative and prolific designer.

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

James R. Mellon, son of a wealthy northern industrial family and a seasonal resident of Palatka, commissioned Henry John Klutho, a noted Jacksonville architect, to design a library which he then built and donated to the city in 1930. The building was named and dedicated to Mellon's wife, Rachel Hughey Larimer. The library's dedication in 1930 was a major event in the city. A special edition of the Palatka Daily News heralded the library's opening and thousands of people journeyed to Palatka for the event. The notable attendees included the Presidents of The University of Florida, Florida Southern College, Stetson University and the Florida State College for Women. Each President delivered a brief address.

The completion of the library marked one of the most modern and up to date libraries in the South. It housed more than 50,000 volumes and had space reserved for current publications such as papers, magazines, and bulletins. The stack area had double-faced bookracks of steel construction. Compact design and modern equipment were combined to afford all possible assistance to the researcher. The east side of the building was dedicated to a magazine room and a children's room. The west half was the main reading room, staff and librarian's room and office. The library served the community for 62 years, and during that time it also served the community as a center where adult and children's art workshops were held.

In 1992, with Mellon's permission, the library became the Larimer Arts Center. The center is leased to the Arts Council of Greater Palatka, Inc., an umbrella organization designated to serve the county's cultural needs.

**ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT**

The Classical Revival Style and Art Deco architecture were both influential, popular styles in America at the turn of the twentieth century. A revival of interest in Classical Styled public building was spurred by the World's Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago in 1893. Many of the best known architects of the day designed buildings for the Exposition based on classical precedents. Examples varied from monumental copies of Greek temples to smaller models that drew heavily from designs of Adam and Georgian buildings erected in America during the colonial and antebellum periods. The Exposition, which drew large crowds, helped make

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Section number 8 Page 2 **LARIMER MEMORIAL LIBRARY, PALATKA,  
PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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the style fashionable again. In Florida, the Classical Revival became a popular design approach for commercial, government, and public buildings. The application of the style to residences is less common.

Another style of architecture common of the modernistic movement in America was Art Deco. Art Deco, an eclectic style of the 1920s and 1930s, is based on the decorative combination of neo-classical, gothic, and baroque features. Characteristics of Art Deco include curving organic lines, recessed unframed windows, surface decoration consisting of textiles and metal fittings with repeated patterns, geometric forms, parquet floors, arched asymmetrical windows and entranceways.

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

**Architect Henry John Klutho (1873-1964)**

Henry John Klutho came to Jacksonville, Florida, from New York in 1901, to help rebuild a city leveled by fire. He was the first architect in Florida registered with the American Institute of Architects. His greatest architectural works, built before World War I, belong to what was then a radical movement in American architecture, now called the Prairie School. Klutho's innovations to modern architecture include water-jetted caissons for concrete pilings, and his high-rise buildings were the first constructed of reinforced concrete in the South. Klutho's first commissions in Jacksonville (1901) included the Dyal - T.V. Porter House (NR 1976), and the St. Clair-Abrams Mausoleum in Evergreen Cemetery. He won a competition to design the City Hall and in 1902 he designed the sanctuary of First Baptist Church. In 1903 he designed the Carnegie Library Building.

"Design is of paramount importance," Klutho said. "A project should be so designed as to indicate its function. A church, a school, a hospital, a public building or an office building should each be recognizable as such. A project should be made to harmonize with its environment."<sup>1</sup> Klutho was best known as the foremost practitioner of the Prairie School in Florida, but he also designed important works in the Classical Style. The best known of these was the 1907 Florida Governor's Mansion done in the Greek Revival Style, and the 1921 Classical addition to the State Capital. He lived and worked in Jacksonville until his death.

"He was one of the few architects in America who could stroll downtown and see one or more of his unusual buildings in nearly every block. It is no wonder that he considered Jacksonville his own personal creation, and his buildings are the best examples of Prairie School (style of architecture) left in the country, in my opinion, his work will be important a hundred years from now, when few other buildings, even those being put up

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<sup>1</sup>Jacksonville Historical Society  
<http://www.cowart.info/Florida%20History/Klutho/klutho.htm>

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section number 8 Page 3 **LARIMER MEMORIAL LIBRARY, PALATKA,  
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downtown right now, will still be standing,” said Jacksonville architect Robert C. Broward, author of *The Architecture of Henry John Klutho: The Prairie School In Jacksonville*.

The Larimer Memorial Library is symmetrical and its arrangement is easy to understand. It has a reception lobby and reading rooms to the right and left, lit with ample daylight. Across the rear of the one-story design is the stack area. Large open spaces well articulated and delicately ornamented; terrazzo floors, and a central skylight, characteristics of Art Deco design, define the interior. Klutho artfully expressed the formal Classical Style with his handling of the inner spaces as well as the exterior, which is characterized by his use of clean-cut limestone with tight joints, symmetrical front façade, a horizontal roofline and well-articulated ornamentation.

The central entrance is characterized by the Art Deco Style with a well defined arched entry framed by a delicate filigree of metal circles set in square frames. A flight of stone steps leads to the entrance with two low flanking walls, each surmounted by a five-globed decorative lighting fixture. A pilaster occurs at each side terminating with foliated carving above incised lettering, which to the left reads, “Ignorance Breeds Crime” and to the right “Knowledge is Power.” Typical Klutho mini-pediments (Art Deco) occur above the entrance and the pilasters. An embossed fascia runs around the building above the arches except at the entrance, which is kept clean for vertical emphasis. Large Classical arched windows offset the striking straight lines of the building giving it an openness. There is a combined feeling of both Classical and Art Deco Styles, with an emphasis on the latter in regard to the metal filigree work and incised ornamentation. To the north/rear, accommodating the stack areas, are vertical slit windows occurring between the stacks, providing a very functional fenestration.

This building has a well proportioned monumentality. The library is as beautiful and distinctive today as it did when it opened over fifty years ago.<sup>2</sup> The library is an outstanding example of the accomplishments of Henry J. Klutho, a very important architect in the history of North Florida.

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<sup>2</sup> Broward, Robert C., *The Prairie School in Jacksonville, The Architecture of Henry John Klutho*, University of North Florida Press, Jacksonville

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section number 10 Page 1

**LARIMER MEMORIAL LIBRARY, PALATKA,  
PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**VERBAL LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Dick's map of Palatka MB2 P46 Blk 10 Lot 4 (ex E 30ft) BK 43 P170 (Larimer Arts Center). Parcel # 42-10-27-6850-0100-0041.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

This parcel is historically associated with the Larimer Memorial Library.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photo \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1 **LARIMER MEMORIAL LIBRARY,  
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**PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST**

1. Larimer Memorial Library, 316 Reid Street, Palatka
2. Putnam County, Florida
3. Janet Berlepsch
4. May, 2006
5. City of Palatka, Parks Department
6. Main façade from Reid Street, looking northwest
7. Photo #1 of 15

The following photos have the same information for items 1-5.

6. Main, south façade, looking north
7. Photo #2 of 15
  
6. Entry detail, looking northwest
7. Photo #3 of 15
  
6. Arched entry detail, looking north
7. Photo #4 of 15
  
6. Pilaster inscription, looking north
7. Photo #5 of 15
  
6. "Larimer" inscription, looking north
7. Photo #6 of 15
  
6. West elevation and northwest corner, looking southeast
7. Photo #7 of 15
  
6. West elevation, looking northeast
7. Photo #8 of 15
  
6. East elevation and northeast corner, looking southwest
7. Photo #9 of 15

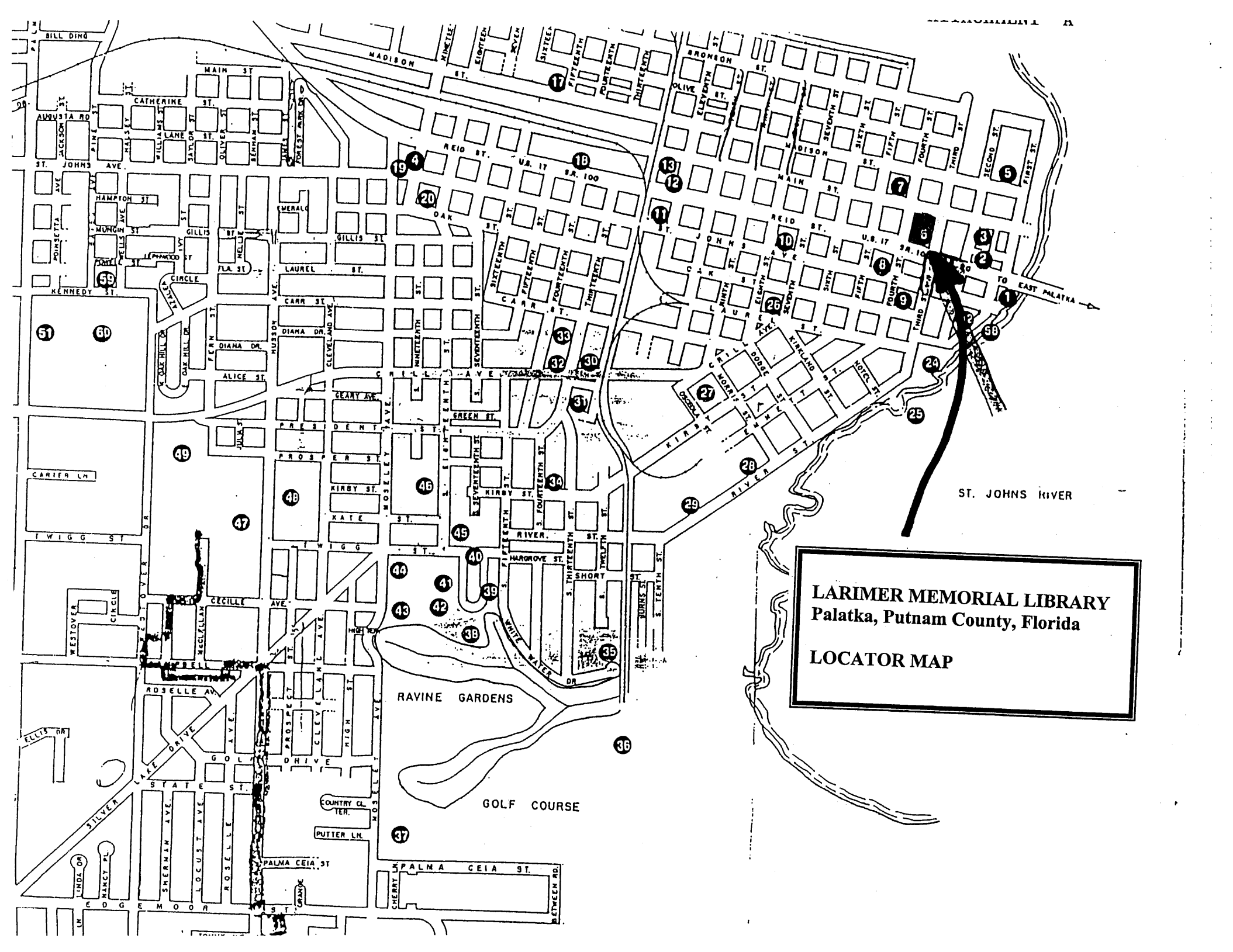
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photo \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2 **LARIMER MEMORIAL LIBRARY,  
PALATKA, PUTNAM COUNTY,  
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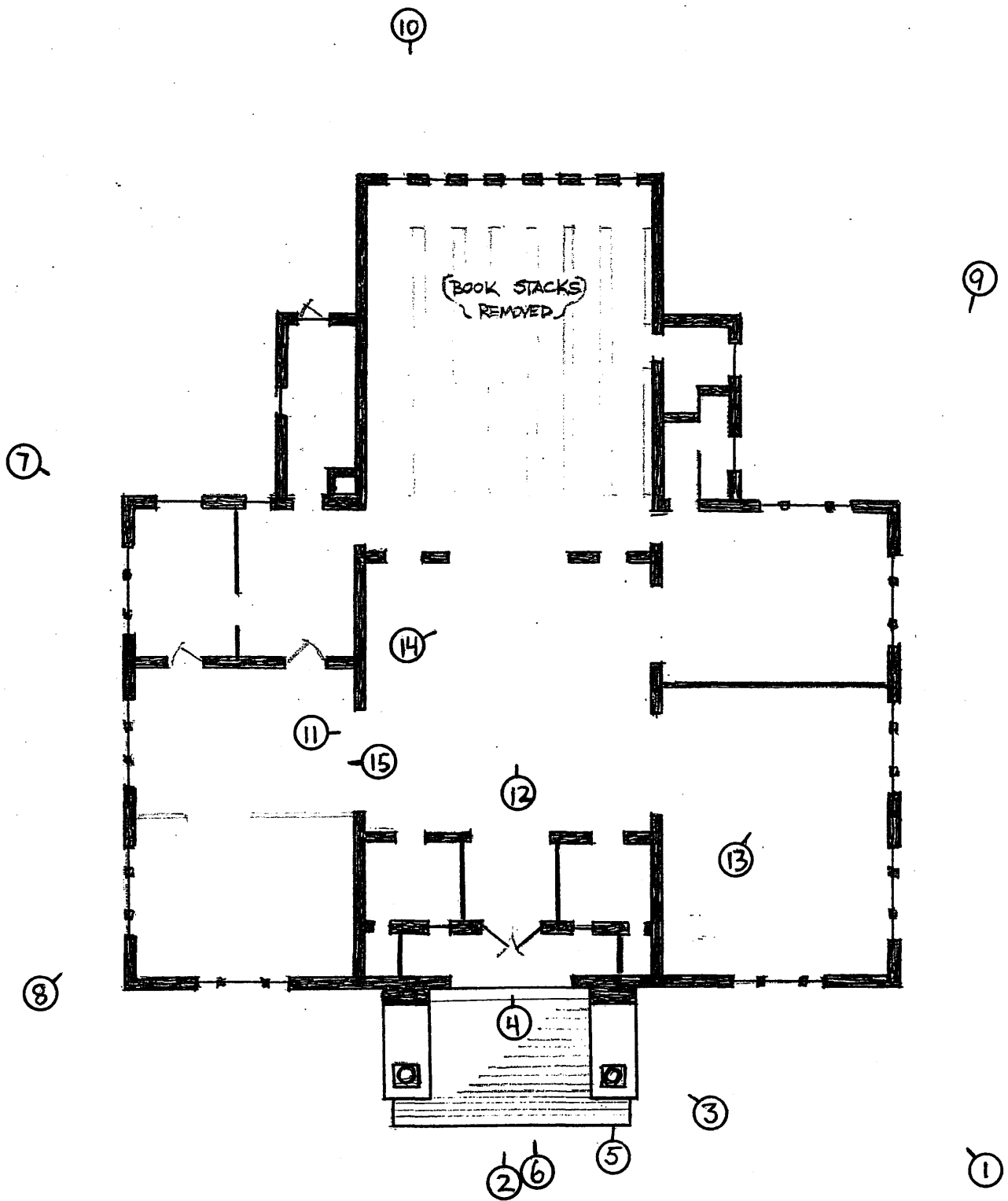
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- 6. North extension and elevation, looking south
- 7. Photo #10 of 15
  
- 6. Decorative brackets and globe lights, looking east
- 7. Photo #11 of 15
  
- 6. Central room and curtain over stack room, looking north
- 7. Photo #12 of 15
  
- 6. Southeast gallery room, looking northeast
- 7. Photo #13 of 15
  
- 6. View across central room and northeast gallery, looking northeast
- 7. Photo #14 of 15
  
- 6. Entry/gallery in west side of building, looking west
- 7. Photo #15 of 15



LARIMER MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
Palatka, Putnam County, Florida  
LOCATOR MAP





LARIMER MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
 Palatka, Putnam County, Florida  
 FLOOR PLAN & PHOTO DIAGRAM

