

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 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 BEE RIDGE WOMAN'S CLUB

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 4919 Andrew Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Sarasota vicinity

state Florida code FL county Sarasota code 115 zip code 34233

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 1/3/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Florida 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:)

for
Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Entered in the National Register 2/10/95
Date of Action

Bee Ridge Woman's Club
Name of Property

Sarasota County, Fl.
County and State

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
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	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)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/ Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete pier

walls WOOD/ weatherboard

roof Metal

other _____

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

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1921-1944

Significant Dates

1921

1924

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: John MacKintosh

Blder: Thomas A. Crisp

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Bee Ridge Woman's Club
Name of Property

Sarasota County, Fl.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

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3	0	1	8	3	1	0
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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 Victoria "Mikki" Hartig/ Sherry Piland, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date October 1994

street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough St 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 _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

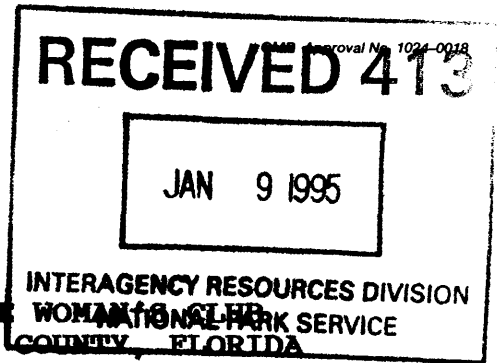
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain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

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SUMMARY

The Bee Ridge Woman's Club, a simple rectangular bungalow, is located at 4919 Andrew Avenue in Sarasota County, Florida. The one-story frame structure, sheathed with clapboard, was constructed in 1922. The entire structure is raised on precast concrete piers which expose an eighteen inch open crawl space. The structure has a gable roof with exposed rafter ends. The roof is surfaced with metal shingles. Although it has undergone some alterations, the building continues to maintain its historic integrity in design, materials, workmanship, location, setting, feeling and association. The building is well maintained.

SETTING

The Bee Ridge Woman's Club is located in the unincorporated area of Sarasota County, approximately four miles southeast of the city of Sarasota, Florida. The site, consisting of 4 lots, is less than an acre in size. The rural community known today as Bee Ridge was platted as the Town of Bee Ridge in 1912. The clubhouse building was constructed near the center of the original plat. The area surrounding the clubhouse presently consists of residential housing from a later period. The Bee Ridge Hotel, constructed in 1915, stood on the parcel north of the clubhouse until it was demolished in the 1920s. Until the last two decades, the Bee Ridge area remained relatively free from dense residential development and a large portion of the surrounding area continues to consist of citrus grooves and undeveloped land. Directly to the rear (east) of the building is a railroad track, first laid in 1912 and still used for freight transportation, although trains no longer stop in the Bee Ridge community.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The main facade of the Bee Ridge Woman's Club faces west, onto Andrew Avenue (photo 1). An entrance is centrally located, approached by a short flight of steps. The entrance is flanked by paired rectangular windows with fixed single panes. A historic photograph reveals that originally a screened porch extended across the facade (photo 2). A low shed dormer is centrally located on the west roof slope. The dormer's ribbon

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setting and the residential design was probably selected for both economic and symbolic reasons. The wood frame bungalow was relatively inexpensive to construct. Wood framing, siding and trim would have been readily available in the area, and construction practices which were widely used by local carpenters could be utilized. The domestic architectural form would also have suggested the clubhouse as a home away from home for the membership, a place of comfort and companionship.

Constructed in its rural community with limited financial resources, the practical architectural form has served and continues to serve its intended function and use. The Bee Ridge Woman's Club is one of only two remaining structures from the early Bee Ridge settlement that at one time was a town of 5,000 residents. The building contributes to the sense of time, place, and historical development and provides an important link to the history of the Bee Ridge Community.

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window is currently boarded over. An exterior brick chimney is located on the north elevation (photo 3). A shed roof addition extends across the rear (east) elevation of the building (photos 3 and 4). A doorway is located at the south end of the east elevation. Another entrance is located on the south elevation (photo 5). Triangular brackets support a shed roof over this doorway. The door is flanked by rectangular windows with fixed single panes.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior space of the Club consists of a large central meeting hall, a full service kitchen, lounge area, and two baths. The original pine floors still exist, as well as the original brick fireplace surround and wood mantle. The Club ceiling was finished in pecky cypress in 1934.

ALTERATIONS

A kitchen was added to the south rear portion of the building in 1924. A north rear bathroom addition was constructed in 1952. In 1967, the center section between these two additions was filled in by the construction of a lounge area. The full-width front porch was enclosed in May 1956.

All of the exterior doors have been replaced with modern units within the original openings. With the exception of two small 1/1 double-hung sash windows (one on the east elevation and one on the north elevation), all windows were replaced in 1956 with either fixed glass panels or jalousie units. All except one were fitted into the original frames. Plans are under way to restore all doors and windows to the original design.

The original shingle roof covering was replaced by pressed metal shingles in 1937.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Built in 1921, the Bee Ridge Woman's Club building is typical of Craftsman bungalows constructed throughout Sarasota during this time period. The building is placed in a park-like

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SUMMARY

The Bee Ridge Woman's Club is historically significant as one of the few remaining structures of the early Bee Ridge community, first settled in the 1860s. The Club was organized in 1915 for the purpose of providing a social and civic focus for women in the small community. The clubhouse was completed in 1922. Over the years, the Club has made numerous charitable contributions to various organizations and several civic improvements to the community. It has continued to provide a social and civic arena for the community. The Club's present membership includes several third generation members. The Bee Ridge Woman's Club meets National Register Criterion A for its role in the social life of this small community.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Among the 800 heads of households in Manatee County in 1880 (Sarasota County was not created out of Manatee County until 1921), were Isaac Alderman Redd and his wife Eleanor. They were the first settlers in the Bee Ridge Community, arriving about 1867. To the west, Sarasota was also being settled.

In the winter of 1910, Mrs. Potter Palmer, a wealthy Chicago widow and international socialite, came to Sarasota, with her brother, father and two sons. Mrs. Palmer and her relatives found their investment interests stimulated by that first visit. Working with Joseph Lord, a Chicago-based lawyer and major investor in Sarasota, they began to acquire thousands of acres. Eventually, the Palmer interests held an estimated one-fourth of the land of present-day Sarasota County.

In 1912, the Town of Bee Ridge was platted (although never chartered) by Joseph H. Lord and Mrs. Palmer's son, Honore Palmer, through their business partnership, the Sarasota-Venice Land Company. The Bee Ridge project covered an area of twelve-square-miles and included a stretch of railroad tracks and lots laid out over a quarter of a mile from First Street to Fourth Street.

Although Sarasota had acquired a railroad by 1903, it was not extended through Bee Ridge, and on to Venice, until 1912. A post office was established about the same time. Most of the

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residents of the developing community took advantage of the fertile soil of the area and became farmers, growing citrus fruits, watermelon, cantaloupes, strawberries as well as fresh vegetables. The railroad was an important asset in getting their produce to market.

In 1914 Mrs. Palmer and her sons established a sawmill at Bee Ridge. As land was cleared for citrus groves, trees were selected for suitable lumber and sent to the sawmill. Most of the first groves in the Bee Ridge area were established by the Palmers. Their citrus groves and vegetable and celery farms were called Bee Ridge Farms. In addition, they began selling lots in 1915, under the auspices of Bee Ridge Homesites. The Palmers employed W.A. Sumner as their general manager. He was in charge of the Palmer's Sarasota-Venice Company, including the Bee Ridge section and south to Laurel, Florida where they owned and operated another sawmill.

In 1914 the Palmers also constructed the Bee Ridge Hotel to accommodate visitors, homeseekers, and residents awaiting the construction of their homes. Two years later, the Seaboard Air Line Railway, with a financial contribution from the Sarasota-Venice Company, erected a passenger depot and freight station for the Town of Bee Ridge at a cost of \$6,000. The depot has since been demolished.

By 1916, the twelve-square mile tract originally held and placed for sale by the Sarasota-Venice Company was practically sold out, mainly in ten, twenty, and forty acre parcels. The Bee Ridge community was flourishing. In 1916, the Bee Ridge Canning Company was constructed to process fruits and vegetables that were too ripe to withstand shipping to the north. A dairy was established the following year. In the spring of 1920, the Palmer-Florida Company established a wood distillation plant for the production of charcoal and tar oil.

Growth in the Bee Ridge community continued to be noted in the local newspapers well into the 1920s. Between 1923 and 1925 more than fifty new homes were constructed. In 1925, a fund was established by property owners for landscaping of the residential and business sections of the community. That year Bee Ridge was taken into the incorporated city of Sarasota, although it has since been removed from the city's boundaries.

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The collapse of the Florida Land Boom ended Bee Ridge's most active period of growth. The community maintained its essentially rural character until it was eventually enveloped by the urban sprawl of modern Sarasota. Today, the only surviving elements of the heart of downtown Bee Ridge are the abandoned railroad tracks, the Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church, and the Bee Ridge Woman's Club.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Women's clubs, which proliferated in the nineteenth-century, were an important avenue for intellectual pursuits and civic involvement. The initial impetus for the formation of a women's club was often the desire to improve the physical surroundings in order to insure healthful and clean living conditions. Village improvement societies, usually organized by women, were among the first such organizations. The first village improvement society was started in Stockbridge, Massachusetts in 1853. The first such group in Florida was started in 1887 by women in Green Cove Springs. Their group was incorporated in 1889 as the "Ladies' Improvement Association of Green Cove Springs, Florida." Their goal was: "To promote neatness and order in the city, and do whatever may tend to improve and beautify the town as a place of residence, and keep it in a healthy condition."

The first influential literary clubs of their kind, the Sorosis organization of New York City and Boston's New England Woman's Club, were established in 1868. These groups provided an intellectual and social improvement program outside the realm of the household. In 1890 the founder of the Sorosis Club, Jane Croly, initiated the formation of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs. She reasoned that a national association with the collective response of clubwomen to various issues would carry greater weight with legislators.

The several women's clubs that had formed in Florida by 1895 collectively established the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs. The Florida group was admitted to the General Federation of Woman's Clubs in January of 1898 and was incorporated in 1915. The Florida Federation remains an active organization with a membership of over 30,000.

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On October 12, 1915, a group of Bee Ridge women met at the newly completed Bee Ridge Hotel and organized the "Get Together Club.". The Club's general purpose was to promote sociability among the community's residents and to improve and beautify the community. The Club was often the first contact newcomers would have with their neighbors in the farming community. Mrs. Potter Palmer graciously allowed the Club to hold its meetings and social events at the Bee Ridge Hotel at no cost. An initial fee of five cents was paid by each member, with an additional monthly fee of one cent. There were eleven charter members and Mrs. Dumbaugh was elected the Club's first president. Three women were elected to serve as a Committee to visit strangers and sick neighbors each month. The Club began with eleven members and had grown to 18 members by January, 1916.

With very little social activity in the community, the Club was appreciated and enjoyed by the women, most of whom had moved to the area from northern states. In 1917 club member Eva Stockett suggested that the Club become a formal Woman's Club with the adoption of a constitution and by-laws. Eight charter members of the earlier Get Together Club became members and signed the constitution of the new Bee Ridge Woman's Club

In April of 1920 a committee was appointed to investigate the purchase of a lot for a clubhouse. The following month the Club voted to purchase Lot 21, measuring 50 feet by 117 feet, for \$50. Half of the purchase price was paid at that time and the balance was paid in full by June of 1921, when plans were made to raise money for the cost of constructing a clubhouse. In 1921, Honore Palmer and Potter Palmer, sons of Bertha Palmer and Trustees of her estate, gave Lots 23 and 24, Block 11 of Bee Ridge Township to the Club to be used as a public park with the stipulation that the property never be sold. These two lots join the Club property on the north. In addition, another lot adjoining the property was donated by club member Mrs. Ashton in 1925. In 1921, several successful Club events, combined with a donation of \$500 from the Palmers, allowed sufficient funds to appoint a Building Committee to develop and acquire plans and specifications. Mrs. Ethel MacKintosh was appointed the Committee's Chairman. Her husband, John MacKintosh, was an architect and is credited with the design of the clubhouse building as well as the 1917 Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church. Thomas A. Crisp, a general contractor, was selected to build the clubhouse. His wife, Annie, was also a member of the Bee Ridge

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Woman's Club at that time. Crisp constructed several buildings in Sarasota during the 1920s. He estimated costs for construction of the clubhouse at \$885 for the house, \$237 for the chimney, paint, oil, etc. Construction began in June 1921 and Crisp's bill was paid in full on January 4, 1923. Early that month a shower was given for the new clubhouse to provide for its furnishings. The building was completed in October 1922. The first public event was a chicken supper, and reportedly, a large amount of money was made. There was no sink at the time and tables, chairs, pots, pans, and silver were carried from members' homes to entertain a full house.

From the time the Club was organized, its members continued their original purpose of serving the community. The Club was able to meet its charitable obligations as well as its expenses. Over the years the club has been active in numerous civic endeavors and has aided various organizations in Bee Ridge and Sarasota including the Y.M.C.A., Red Cross, Sarasota Hospital, War Work Fund and the churches in Bee Ridge. The Gillespie School at Bee Ridge received considerable attention from the club, through the inspiration of two club members who were teachers at the school. During the Depression, the Club helped pay the salary of the school's teachers. Twice they made repairs to the roof and an active Civic Committee kept the grounds well planted. The two teachers were given honorary membership to the Club.

The clubhouse served as a social center for the community and was the site of neighborhood social events and suppers. The Club organized and installed a library in 1917, made up of good books donated by interested friends and Club members.

In 1919 the Club planted shade trees in memory of the twenty boys from the community serving in the Army and the Club joined the National Federation of Woman's Clubs. In May of that same year, the first Club baby was born, Henry Lloyd Brooks, and the Club voted to present each Club baby with a silver spoon.

In the 1920s the Club held sewing classes twice a month and sponsored regular monthly family suppers. The Club remained active in raising money for charitable organizations, such as the Children's Home in Jacksonville and the local hospital. Many organizations requested the use of the clubhouse and the Boy Scouts met there regularly. An annual Fair and Christmas Tree

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Party were held at the clubhouse. The Club also assisted the County Welfare Board in obtaining medical supplies, disinfectant, and clean towels during the Depression years. Luncheons were given for the local school children during the 1930s. Members paid for a new deep water well on the Gillespie School grounds and for many necessary repairs to the school building. The Welfare Committee of the Club received and distributed over five hundred yards of material among needy families in the community. Fabric was also given to the High School P.T.A. for distribution to needy families. All the members were glad to do anything for the betterment of the Club and worked very hard in the community.

In January 1940, a decision was made to hold Club suppers once a month, a practice which continues today. Regular contributions were made by the Club to the Red Cross for its war efforts. From 1945 to about 1965, the Clubhouse served as the polling place for the surrounding residents.

By the mid 1950s, membership in the Bee Ridge Woman's Club had increased to over forty members. This necessitated enlarging the clubhouse by enclosing the front porch to make a larger meeting room. Over the following years, the Club has maintained a steady membership and continued its regular monthly functions and fundraising activities for civic and charitable organizations. Several of the Club's current active members are descendants of some of the Club's earliest members. In 1989 the Sarasota County Historical Commission officially recognized, by a marker, the historic significance of the property and its link to the early Bee Ridge community.

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Section number 9 Page 1

Blackman, Lucy. The Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, 1895-1939. Jacksonville: Southern Historical Publishing Assoc., 1939.

Blair, Karen. The Clubwoman as Feminist: True Womanhood Redefined, 1868-1914. New York: Holmes and Meier, 1980.

Croly, Jennie. The History of the Woman's Club Movement in America. New York: Henry G. Allen and Co., 1898.

Lindsey, Mildred C., "History of Bee Ridge Woman's Club", 1987.
Bee Ridge Woman's Club Archives.

Matthews, Janet Snyder. Sarasota, Journey to Centennial. Tulsa: Continental Heritage Press, 1986.

Robbins, Mary C. "Village Improvement Societies." Atlantic Monthly 79 (February 1891):212-222.

Sarasota Herald Tribune, 1 July 1970.

Sarasota Origins. Sarasota: Historical Society of Sarasota County, 1989.

Sarasota Times, 19 September 1912; 14 October 1914; 10 and 17 December 1914; 25 March and 9 September, 1915; 1 June, 30 March, and 2 November, 1916; 14 June 1917; and 11 March 1920.

"Women's Club Work in Florida." Florida Magazine, April 1922.

Interviews conducted by Mikki Hartig:

Taylor, Laurie Summers, 15 March 1994, Sarasota, Florida.

Vann, Evalina, 23 March 1994, Sarasota, Florida.

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**BEE RIDGE WOMAN'S CLUB
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 21, 22, 23, and 24, Block 11, Town of Bee Ridge.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Bee Ridge Woman's Club.

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-
1. The Bee Ridge Woman's Club
 2. Sarasota County, Florida
 3. Bernice Price
 4. April, 1994
 5. Bernice Price, 3507 Wilkinson Woods Drive, Sarasota, Florida
 6. Main (west) facade, view looking east
 7. Photo 1 of 5

1. The Bee Ridge Woman's Club
2. Sarasota County, Florida
3. Unknown
4. Early to mid-1920s
5. Bernice Price, 3507 Wilkinson Woods Drive, Sarasota, Florida
6. Main (west) facade and north elevations; view looking south-east
7. Photo 2 of 5

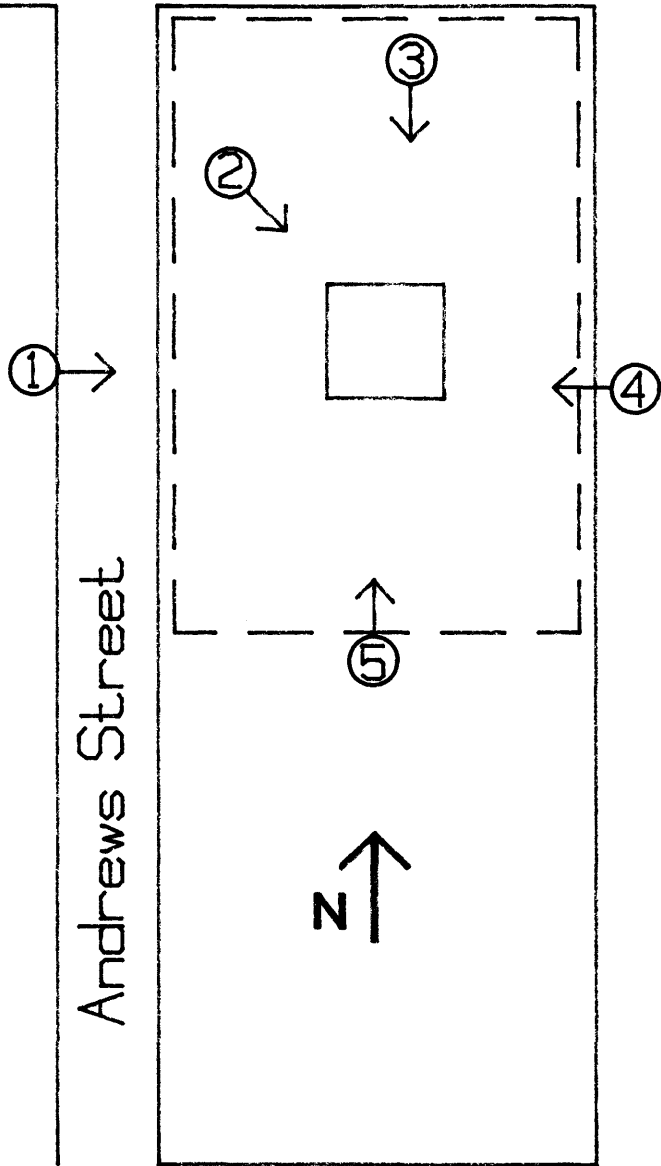
Numbers 1-5 for the remaining photographs are the same as numbers 1-5 of Photo 1

6. North elevation, view looking south
7. Photo 3 of 5

6. Rear (east) facade, view looking west
7. Photo 4 of 5

6. South elevation, view looking north
7. Photo 5 of 5

Proctor Road



① →

② ↙

③ ↓

← ④

↑ ⑤

N ↑

Andrews Street

BEE RIDGE WOMAN'S CLUB

Sarasota County, Florida

Boundary — — — —

Photo Direction ○ →

Approximate Scale: 1" = 66'