# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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	TYPE ALL ENTE	RIES COMPLETE ALL SI	ECTIONS	
NAME	MRNS #23			
HISTORIC		n's Club (sarosta	MRA)	
AND/OR COMMON	Florida,State T	heatre		
LOCATION	7			
STREET & NUMBER	1241 North Palm	Avenue	FMSF	F #8So278
CITY, TOWN	Sarasota	VICINITY OF	•	<u> </u>
STATE	Florida		COUNTY	
CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRE	SENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X.BUILDING(S)	X_PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
_STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITIO	ON ACCESSIBLE	<u>Z</u> ENTERTAINMEN	ITRELIGIOUS
OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	_YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	X.YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	_NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
OWNER O	FPROPERTY			
NAME	Florida Studio	Theatre, Inc.		
STREET & NUMBER	1421 N. Palm Av	enue		
	1761 H. JUHN AV			21° CODE 33577
NWOT .YTE	Sarasota	VICINITY OF F10	state rida	335//
LOCATION			rida	335//
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#### CONDITION

CHECK ONE

\_UNALTERED

CHECK ONE

AORIGINAL SITE

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

#### SUMMARY OF PRESENT AND ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The structure located at 1241 N. Palm Avenue is a one and one-half story wood-framed structure designed in the Jacobethan style. Supported on brick piers, the building is an irregularly-planned "ell-shape" entered through a gable projection at the intersection of the wings. Originally dormer windows projected from the low gable roof. Dormer windows were glazed in a diaper pattern and timber straps were applied to the gable ends. The wrap-around screen porches have been replaced by jalousied windows. Restoration plans call for the replacement of the dormers and the removal of the jalousies.

#### TEXT SUPPORTING SUMMARY OF PRESENT AND ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The 1-1/2 story wood frame irregularly-planned Jacobethan Style structure located at the corner of N. Palm Avenue and Cocoanut Avenue was built beginning in December of 1914 and opened in April, 1915 as the headquarters of the Woman's Club of Sarasota, Florida.(1-2) The wood-frame structure rests on a foundation of brick piers between which has been inserted a concrete block in-fill. (3-4) In style, the Woman's Club originally exhibited Jacobethan or Elizabethan characteristics, a style vaguely based on English prototypes dating from the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and James I of England. The Revival Style reached a minor zenith between the years of 1890 and 1915. (5) The appearance of pargeted and half-timbered gable ends as well as quarrelled window openings and narrow, darkly stained horizontal and vertical timber strips applied to the gable and gablette ends of this early Club are Elizabethan in tradition. It might also be added that 17th century American structures such as the Whipple House in Ipswich, Massachusetts also displayed the diaper glazing bar patterns known as quarrels. In scale and massing with the low roof overhang, the piazza or verandah areas provided at the southwest, south, southeast and north elevations, the structure is reminiscent of the bungalow or bungaloid form. The use of verandahs was a sympathetic design solution for the Sarasota climate.

The roof surfaces of the gable, gablettes and dormer windows were originally in a dark brown, wood shingle material which contributed to the Jacobethan flavor of the Woman's Club. A brick chimney appears at the northeast elevation of the structure and the main entrance is located at the intersection of the north-south and east wings, providing a corner entrance at the original intersection of North Palm Avenue and Park Street. The screened porches or verandahs are characterized by the use of the narrow wood vertical and horizontal slats of wood which were originally picked out in a white tone. The screened porch wood supports reflected the parget or half-timbered pattern present at the body of the building with its half-timbering and parget in tones of beige with dark strips. The pattern was repeated in a negative pattern, screened areas read as dark units with the white supports providing the vertical and horizontal punctuations. The original entrance was characterized by the use of a gable end which intersected the two main wings. A shaped wood bargeboard with pierced triangular opening located at the bargeboard apex complemented the parget and half-timbered gabled entrance. The original door which opened on to the piazza

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Item Number: 7 (Description)

area was protected by a hinged screened door with a stylized cut-out bracket located at the east corner of the screened door. (6) Duplex shades were originally provided for the windows. (7)

Dormered, triple window projections once appeared at the gabled rooflines. Clad in wood shingles, dormer windows were located at the eastern raking slope of the north-south block and the southern raking slope of the intersecting east wing, each dormer window flanked the main entrance. A pair of dormer windows was located on the western raking eave at the west elevation of the Woman's Club. Although the dormered window projections no longer exist at 1241 North Palm, adequate photographic documentation as well as physical evidence present at the roofline of the Florida Studio Theatre exists, which would facilitate the reconstruction of these stylistically significant dormered windows. (8)

Original landscaping features once included a sodded Bermuda grass lawn covering and scarlet hibiscus plants, the scarlet hibiscus is the Club's flower. (9) Original interior layout included a reception hall, auditorium, reading room and library space; the Woman's Club provided space for the public library which was formerly housed on the second floor of the Gillespie Block. (10)

Use & Alterations: The Woman's Club former headquarters serves today as the Florida Studio Theatre. The dormer window projections have been removed from the gabled rooflines and the original wood shingled surface has been replaced by a composition shingled material in a brown color. The original piazza or verandah areas have been enclosed, the in-fill material being a stuccoed surfaced in-fill which frames replacement jalousie window openings. The half-timbered and pargeted entrance gabled end projection has been resurfaced in stucco. The parget and half-timbered gabled end projection located at the south elevation has been replaced by wood clapboarding. The intersecting wing located at the northeast elevation has an original gabled-end half-timbering and parget facade which is partially obscured by the Florida Studio signboard. As previously stated, adequate photographic and physical documentation exists to permit an accurate restoration of this early Jacobethan Style clubhouse. (11)

Plans have been prepared to restore and rehabilitate the structure. The roof will be replaced in the original configuration with a full historically accurate restoration of the projecting dormers and diaper glazed windows. Existing asphalt shingles will be replaced by wood shingles. The jalousie windows will be replaced by enclosing the verandah with a wall infill of double-hung wood windows and parget construction. The original brick piers will be repainted and existing masonry infill at the foundation level replaced by wood lattice. Deteriorated wood trim will be replaced with new trim added to restore the original appearance. The original brick chimney will be sensitively cleaned. The existing porch columns will be repaired as necessary. The existing ramp will remain for handicapped access. Original steps at the north elevation will be repaired and nonoriginal doors will be replaced with those typical of the period.

SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1914-1915	BUILDER/ARCI	HITECT H. N. Hall,	G. L. Lysat
1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 1900-	_AGRICULTUREARCHITECTUREARTCOMMERCECOMMUNICATIONS	LECONOMICS LEDUCATION LENGINEERING LEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT LINDUSTRY LINVENTION	LITERATUREMILITARYMUSICPHILOSOPHYPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT	sculpture X_social/humanitariantheatertransportation X_other(specify) Civic Improvements
1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

#### SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sarasota Woman's Club was built in 1915 (12) in the Jacobethan Revival Style and was designed by local architect H.N. Hall and constructed by Sarasota contractor George L. Lysat. (13) Founded in 1913, the Club's aim was "to promote such civic work as it can for the improvement of the City and the intellectual, moral and social improvements of the community. (14) Indeed, the Club was and is responsible for a long list of civic improvements including the improvement of Rosemary Cemetery, the beautification of two parks, the railroad station, and the planting of 181 water oaks on Main Street in honor of WWI veterans. (15-16) The Library Committee assembled and maintained the Town Library until 1932. (17) The Woman's Club remained in the structure until 1979, always an active and contributing force in the civic arena of Sarasota. The structure is significant for its long-time association with the Sarasota Woman's Club and also for its architectural merits. The building is a fine example of the Jacobethan style and represents the only

non residential example in Sarasota. It is also of design significance by heading a block of National Register properties on Palm Avenue.

#### TEXT SUPPORTING SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The 1-1/2 story Jacobethan Revival Style wood framed, half-timbered and parget facade structure located at 1241 North Palm Avenue was built between December 1914 and April 1915 as the headquarters of the Woman's Club of Sarasota, Florida. (18) The Woman's Club was built at a total cost of \$6,372.73; construction expenditures consisting of \$2,000 for purchase of the site from Burns Dock and Commercial Company, a \$3,941 fee for the contractor, George Lysat, architectural service fee to H. N. Hall in the amount of \$295.74 and expenditure of \$136.45 for the purchase of light fixtures and the painting of the roof. (19) The building plans and designs were supplied by H. N. Hall who was listed as architect and contractor in the 1916 Sarasota Director. (20) The local architectural engineer, H. N. Hall, later participated in the design and construction of the U.S. Post Office in 1934 (MRNS #16, 111 South Orange Avenue) with George Albree Freeman and Louis Simon. The contractor of record, George L. Lysat worked in partner-ship with J. C. Emerson in the firm of Lysat & Emerson, Contractors, with an office at 102 South Gulfstream Boulevard in 1916. (21)

The Woman's Club was founded on April 14, 1913, "to promote such civic work as it can for the improvement of the city and the intellectual, moral and social improvements of the community. (22) Committee categories included civic, education, library, cemetery and social.

Prior to the erection of the Woman's Club headquarters, the Club members met in the offices of the Board of Trade. (23) During the years 1914-1915, the Club conducted a successful building campaign, the clubhouse cornerstone was laid on New Year's Day of 1915 and opening ceremonies took place on April 14, 1915. (24) In addition to undertaking the erection of a headquarters, club members supplied the Town with a municipal

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Board for consistency with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

The Sarasota Woman's Club building is significant for its association with the important civic institution primarily, and also significant architecturally on a stylistic basis. In a City resplendant in Mediterranean Revival architecture, the Jacobethan Revival building is a prominent, unusual and refreshing landmark. The structure also heads a block of National Register properties; the Frances Carlton Apartments, De Canizares Residence and L.D. Reagin residence. The building's architect, H.N. Hall, also provides another point of significance -- another of his works, the U.S. Post Office of Sarasota, is listed on the National Register.

The Sarasota Woman's Club relocated to North Cocoanut Avenue in 1979 and continues its important function in the community. The listing and preservation of their historical headquarters is an honor to the Club's many contributions.

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Christmas tree, conducted birth registration for the Town Census, in January 1915, offered health lectures and a lyceum course to the community, completed the beautification of two small parks, the railroad station and grounds surrounding their new clubhouse and instigated a "most successful lawn contest" which elicited approximately 128 entries. (25) The Club membership is credited with supporting the movement for the creation of sidewalks and hard-surfaced streets which resulted in a paving program in August of 1915. (26) The Education Committee organized the PTA and introduced school, medical and dental inspection and "cooperated with the City Hospital to secure free medical treatment for poor children;" philanthropic accomplishments included contributions to the Belgian Relief Fund. (27) The cemetery committee was responsible for suppying a shell roadway and stone curbing as well as grass, shrubs and flowered landscape for the early Rosemary Cemetery. (28)

Under the Library Committee's leadership the town library was moved from Main Street to the new clubhouse in April of 1915 where it remained until 1932 when the library was moved to "the old red brick school building on Main Street." (29) The Woman's Club retained responsibility for the library collection until 1940 at which point responsibility was assumed by the City of Sarasota. (30) The Club planted more than 250 cocoanut palm trees along the waterfront and in March of 1918 planted 181 water oak trees on Main Street from Orange Avenue east to the city limits, an area which was officially renamed Victory Avenue in memory of World War I veterans. (31)

By 1936 the Woman's Club had standing committees devoted to bird protection, Club history, Sarasota History, and Legislation and Citizenship. (32) During WWI and WWII, the Clubhouse was used by the group to aid in the war effort, making bandages, collecting donated food and other activities. (33) In 1930, the Woman's Club began the Sarasota Music Club and later the Senior and Junior Woman's Club. The Clubhouse was shared with the Daughters of the American Revolution until that group had a clubhouse of its own. Contributions were made to many groups and causes including the Community Chest, Sarasota County Tuberculosis and Health Association, the Sarasota Animal Shelter, the Red Cross and the Girl Scouts. In 1953 the Clubhouse was "redecorated and remodeled" and boasted a Steinway piano. (34) In 1957 the Clubhouse mortgage was burned in a ceremony witnessed by over 200 people. (35)

Many of the Woman's Club leaders were the wives of men who were also important figures in Sarasota's history. Cora Browning for example was wed to Hugh Browning, son of Alex Browning who was among the original Scot colonists to Sarasota in 1885 and also one of the only Scot families to actually remain in the area. Mrs. J. D. Hazen was the wife of an early City Commissioner. Mrs. Joseph Halton was a past president whose husband, Dr. Halton, was a very promient pioneer doctor. Their home at 303 Cocoanut Avenue is listed on the National Register. (36)

The Woman's Club structure represents the social, cultural and civic center of Sarasota -- as early members convey, it was <u>the</u> meeting place in Sarasota. (37) The current owner, the Florida Studio Theatre, continues the civic tradition as an immensely popular community theatre offering dramatic productions, workshops and special programs for children.

While altered, plans are underway to restore the structure as nearly as possible to its original appearance while at the same time increasing its current use as a theatre. The building is officially designated under the local ordinance, and as such, alterations will be subject to review by the Sarasota Historic Preservation

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#### **CONTINUATION SHEET**

Item Number: 7 (Description), 8 (Significance)

NOTES FOR NOMINATION PROPOSAL--FLORIDA NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES MULTIPLE RESOURCE NOMINATION SARASOTA

- (1) <u>Sarasota Times</u>, December 17, 1914. On file Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.
- (2) <u>Sarasota Times</u>, April 15, 1915.
- (3) Photograph L-60, "Laying Cornerstone . . . The Woman's Club, corner Palm Avenue and Park Street, Sarasota, Florida, January 1, 1915. On file Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.
- (4) Field Notes, Sarah Kearns, March 1983.
- (5) Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780, A Guide to the Styles, Cambridge, Massachusetts, MIT Press, 1969, pp. 178-182.
- (6) Photograph L-55, circa 1916. On file, Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.
- (7) Sarasota Times, April 15, 1915.
- (8) Photographs L-55, L-68, on file, Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.
- (9) Sarasota Times, April 15, 1915.
- (10) <u>Sarasota Times</u>, January 1, 1914.
- (11) Photographs L-55, L-68 on file Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.
- (12) Sarasota Times, December 19, 1914 and April 15, 1915.
- (13) Woman's Club. Club Annals, 1914-1915, Sarasota. Private Collection, Miss Lillian Burns, Sarasota, Florida.
- (14) The Sarasota Sun, "The Woman's Club Edition," v. 1, June 28, 1913. On file Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.
- (15) Club Annals, 1914-1915.
- (16) Karl Grismer, The Story of Sarasota, Sarasota: 1946, p. 197.
- (17) Ibid., p. 268.
- (18) <u>Sarasota Times</u>, December 17, 1914 and April 15, 1915.
- (19) Woman's Club. <u>Club Annals</u>, 1914-1915. Private Collection, Miss Lillian Burns, Sarasota, Florida.

site No. MKNO #23
site Name Sarasota Woman's Club

#### **CONTINUATION SHEET**

Item Number: 7 (Description), 8 (Significance)

- (20) <u>Sarasota Directory</u>, 1916, p. 205.
- (21) Ibid., p. 212.
- (22) The Sarasota Sun, "The Woman's Club Edition," v. 1, June 28, 1913. On file Sarasota County Historical Archives.
- (23) <u>Ibid</u>.
- (24) Sarasota Times, April 15, 1915.
- (25) Woman's Club. Club Annals, 1914-1915.
- (26) Grismer, The Story of Sarasota, p. 194.
- (27) Club Annals, 1914-1915.
- (28) <u>Ibid</u>.
- (29) Grismer, p. 268.
- (30) Ibid.
- (31) Ibid., p. 197.
- (32) Sarasota Woman's Club Yearbook, 1936. On file Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.
- (33) Sarasota Woman's Club Yearbook, 1942. On file Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.
- (34) Sarasota Herald Tribune, September 18, 1955.
- (35) <u>Sarasota Herald Tribune</u>, October 8, 1957.
- (36) Sarasota Woman's Club Yearbook, 1916-1945. On file Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.
- (37) Barger, Stuart, <u>Historical Research Study of the Woman's Club</u>, 1241 N. Palm Avenue, Sarasota, Florida, Stuart H. Barger, A.I.A., Inc., 1983.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

# **GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

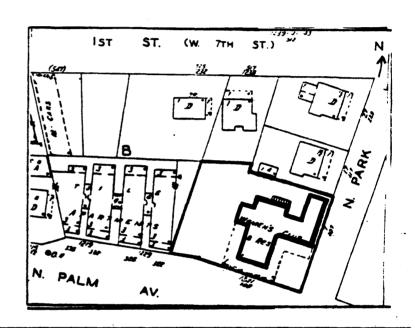
Site Size (Approx. Acreage of Property):
Less than 1

### **UTM Coordinates:**

11.7 3 4.7 1.1 0 3.0 2.4 4.7.0 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

USGS Sarasota 7.5 1973

Township	Range	Section
T36S	R18E	19



#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 3, 4 subdivision of Lot 34, subdivision of Lots 30, 32, 34 Block B Plat of Sarasota

 LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES			STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES	
STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
 STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# III FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sarah Latham Kearns / Preservation Consultant,	City of Sarasota
ORGANIZATION	DATE
c/o Planning Department	May 1983
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
City Hall P.O. Box 1058	(813) 365-2200 ext. 261
CITY OR TOWN	STATE ZIP CODE
Sarasota	Florida 33578

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

\* Division of Archives, History
and Records Management
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#### **CONTINUATION SHEET**

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- Barger, Stuart, <u>Historical Research Study of the Woman's Club, 1241 N. Palm Avenue, Sarasota, Florida.</u> Stuart H. Barger, A.I.A., Inc. 1983
- Chamber of Commerce. <u>Chamber of Commerce Brochure</u>. Sarasota: 1925. On file Sarasota County Historical Archives. Sarasota, Florida.
- Sarasota City Directory. 1916. 1927-28. On file Sarasota County Historical Archives. Sarasota, Florida.
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- The Sarasota Sun. "Woman's Club Edition," June 28, 1913. On file Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.
- Sarasota Herald Tribune, 9-18-55, 10-8-57. On file Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.
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  April 15, 1915.
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- Stickley, Gustav. <u>Craftsman Homes: Architecture and Furnishings of the American Arts and Crafts Movement</u>. 1909. Reprint, New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1979.
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