National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

APR 1 1 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property			
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
nistoric name Woman's	Club of New Smyrna		
ther names/site number 8yo437			
. Location			**************************************
treet & number 403 Magnolia	Street	N/A_	not for publication
ty, town New Smyrna Beach		N/A	vicinity
tate Florida code	FL county Volusia	code 727	zip code 32069
	7		
. Classification			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
wnership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resour	ces within Property
private	x building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
public-local	district	1	buildings
public-State	site		sites
public-Federal	structure		structures
3,5	object		objects
		1	O Total
ame of related multiple property listin	a.	Number of contribu	iting resources previously
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State/Federal Agency Certification	itlon		
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6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions) Social: Clubhouse		ctions (enter categories from instructions) Clubhouse			
7. Description					
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)				
	foundation _	Brick			
Mediterranean Revival	walls	Stycco			
	roof	Asphalt			
	other				
Describe present and historic physical experience					

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

(PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS)

St. Contract

8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property nationally sta	in relation to other properties: tewide $\boxed{\mathbb{X}}$ locally	
Applicable National Register Criteria	D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	D	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Social History Architecture	Period of Significance 1924-1939	Significant Dates 1924 1934
Architecture		1934
	Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Significant Person N/A	Architect/Builder Read, Philip H.	
	Griffin, Harry M.	
State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considera	ations, and areas and periods of signific	cance noted above.

(PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS)

Para transfer de la constanta de la CALIDA	See continuation sheet
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Drimon, location of additional data.
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:
has been requested previously listed in the National Register	State historic preservation office Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings	University
Survey #	Other
recorded by Historic American Engineering	Specify repository:
Record #	oposity.
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of property Less than 1 acre	
3	
UTM References	- 1
A 117 5 017 617 10 312 110 21610	B Zone Easting Northing
Zone Easting Northing	
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	See continuation sheet
	See continuation sneet
Verbal Boundary Description	
Lot 61, Block 4 of Andrews Addition to the Ci	tu of Now Smarna and according to man or
plat of record in Volusia County Public Record	
Township 17 South, Range 34 East (said plat a	
as recorded in Map 2, Page 68 said County & S	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
as resorted in hap ry rage to said country a s	
	See continuation sheet
December 1 and 1 a	
Boundary Justification	
The boundary includes the lots that have histe	orically been associated with the property
The boundary includes the lots that have his	ortedity peel associated with the broberty.
	See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Barbara E. Mattick, Historic Sites Sp	ecialist
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation	date March 1989
street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough	
city or townTallahassee	

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Summary:

The Woman's Club of New Smyrna is a 1924/1934 one-story, stuccoed, concrete block building with Mediterranean Revival style influences. It is basically rectangular in plan. Although built in 1924, the interior was not completed until 1934. The main block of the building has a low hipped roof. A flat roofed area extends out from the main block on the west and north sides. There is one exterior chimney on the north side. The Mediterranean Revival influence is seen in the stylistic details of a small arched loggia on its main facade, and a parapet surrounding the flat roof.

The interior is divided into four main spaces: a foyer, an auditorium, a meeting room, and a kitchen. There are also men's and women's rest rooms, and a half basement under the entire clubhouse. The building has had few alterations since its interior was completed in 1934, and has its original 8/8 and 4/4 wood sash windows.

Setting:

The clubhouse is located in the center of New Smyrna Beach in Volusia County on the east coast of Florida. It is at the corner of Magnolia Street and Lytle Avenue, in a residential area at the center of the community. It is surrounded on three sides by large oak trees; the fourth side has a parking lot. Its setting has not changed significantly since the club was built (Photo 9).

Present Physical Appearance:

EXTERIOR

The Woman's Club of New Smyrna is a very simple, one-story, concrete block, stuccoed building, deriving its Mediterranean Revival style from a clipped, arched loggia on its facade, and a simple parapet with widely spaced merlons at the roof on the main facade and north elevation, the sides most visible from the street. The low hipped main roof is covered with diamond patterned asphalt shingles. The flat roof is covered with asphalt.

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The main entrance on the west side has double doors with eight fixed lights in each door, and is sheltered by a loggia with seven arches; it is clipped on the north end (Photo 1).

The building is virtually devoid of any other architectural detailing, and windows and entrances are the main architectural features on the other elevations. Almost all of the windows are 8/8 wood sash (Photo 2). There are, however, 4/4 fixed light windows at the east end of the north elevation (kitchen) (Photo 3), and at the ground level of the east elevation (basement). An entrance at the north end of the east elevation, sheltered with a shed roof, accesses the kitchen. There is also a sunken entrance to a coquina rock half cellar in the center of this elevation (Photo 4).

There are also 4/4 fixed light windows on either side of the projecting chimney in the center of the north elevation. They are placed at an angle, forming a three sided cant bay with the chimney in the center (Photo 3).

INTERIOR

The interior has four major spaces: 1) a foyer at the west end, 2) an auditorium with a stage and two dressing rooms on either side of a stage at the east end, 3) a meeting hall that parallels the north elevation, and 4) a kitchen immediately east of the meeting hall in the northeast corner of the building. There are also men's and women's rest rooms. In keeping with the simple exterior, the interior of the building is almost austere, with little ornamentation. Its most distinctive interior features include the ceiling in the auditorium, a decorative proscenium, and a large coquina fireplace in the meeting hall.

Three segmental arches lead from the foyer to the auditorium which is dominated by the stage at the east end of the hall. Doors at either end of the east wall lead to dressing rooms on either side of the stage. Evenly spaced 8/8 wood sash windows are on the south wall. The most distinctive decorative features are exposed pecky cypress beams with carved wave motif brackets at their north and

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south ends, two octagonal vents in the ceiling, and the proscenium with scalloped corners (Photos 5 & 6).

Three more segmental arches lead into the adjoining meeting hall on the north side of the building. The dominant feature of the room is a large coquina fireplace in the center of the north wall. It is set into a bay with 4/4 sash windows at an angle on either side (Photo 7). A door in the southwest corner of the room leads to the women's rest room area, and another door in the southeast corner leads to the kitchen in the northeast corner of the building (Photo 8).

Alterations:

When the clubhouse was opened for use in 1924, its interior was left unfinished. A fire in 1934 damaged the interior to such an extent that Harry M. Griffin was hired to design the interior finishes which remain unaltered. Only a few alterations, none of them structural, have been performed since that time: a heating system was installed in 1961, a plywood ceiling was installed in the kitchen in 1975, and ceiling fans were added to the auditorium in 1979. The roof was replaced in 1982. Aside from other maintenance, the 1924 exterior remains virtually untouched.

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Summary:

The Woman's Club of New Smyrna is significant under Criterion A for its continued service to the local community as a social center since its construction in 1924. It is significant under Criterion C as a vernacular building which displays an unusual application of Mediterranean Revival architectural elements and employs rare building materials and features. It is also architecturally significant because of its association with Harry M. Griffin, one of the most important architects in Florida from 1925 to the late 1950s. The building was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C on October 18, 1984.

Contexts for Criterion A:

NEW SMYRNA BEACH

The area of New Smyrna Beach was the site of one of the earliest European settlements in Florida. It was occupied by Spanish missionaries to the Timucuan Indians in the First Spanish Period (1565-1763), and was the site of the Andrew Turnbull colony from 1767 to 1776, during the British Period (1763-1783). Turnbull, a Scottish doctor, attempted to establish a colony, New Smyrna, using Minorcan, Greek, and Italian indentured workers. The colonists raised indigo, sugar, and fruit. Conflicts between Turnbull, the governor of East Florida, and the colonists led to the disintegration of the settlement.

There was little activity in the area again until 1803 when Spanish land grants spurred settlement again. Timber cutters came to the Mosquito Inlet to cut live oak for ship building. The Second Seminole War (1835-1842) prevented any great development, however, and the settlement remained a small hamlet from 1821 to 1865. During the Civil War, it was the site of Confederate salt works and home for some Confederate blockade runners.

Settlement increased after the war, and by 1869, New Smyrna was a travel base for the area, with ships docking three times a week. A school was built in 1872, and a union church was established in 1875. In the 1880s railroads further opened up the Florida peninsula to tourists. In

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1886 the small village had a population of 150. Its industries were orange cultivation, honey production, and fishing. It was also known as a winter and summer resort. In 1887, the Blue Springs, Orange City and Atlantic Railroad was completed, linking the east coast with the St. Johns River and making New Smyrna even more accessible. The railroad reached New Smyrna itself in 1892, drawing more people to the village. Growth was further engendered with the building of the Conner Bridge which connected New Smyrna to the beach in 1893. A lighthouse was built on the Mosquito Inlet (now called Ponce de Leon Inlet), and New Smyrna was incorporated. The population supported two churches, two stores, two hotels, a meat market, and a school.

By 1911, the population was 750. There were six churches, five hotels, a bank, and a newspaper. The community began to grow; seven years later, there were 2,500 citizens, and by 1926 there were 8,000. The Florida East Coast Railroad bought the old rail line in the 1930s, established repair shops in New Smyrna, and was the major employer by the 1940s. The community's name was changed from New Smyrna to New Smyrna Beach in 1937. The area still depends on tourism, agriculture, and commercial fishing.

WOMAN'S CLUBS

Woman's clubs were formed in the United States in response to women's desires for intellectual stimulation and out of an awareness of and willingness to meet community needs. Until 1889, such groups were strictly local organizations. The Sorosis Club celebrated its twenty-first anniversary in 1889 by convening a meeting of women's groups from across the country. The result was the creation of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Florida's first such club for women was organized in Green Cove Springs in 1887. The goal of its members, mostly winter residents, was village improvement through the introduction of order and cleanliness, and the provision of a "social centre for intelligent intercourse of women with one another." The group was incorporated in April 1889 as "The Ladies' Improvement Association of Green Cove Springs, Florida." After solving the village's immediate health problems, the club took up other objectives, such as

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literary pursuits, the creation of parks, and the digging of wells.

Meanwhile, other clubs had been established in Florida, and on February 21, 1895, the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs was created in Green Cove Springs. There were six charter members: the clubs in Palmetto, Green Cove Springs, Orange City, Crescent City, Fairfield, and Tarpon Springs. Clubs pursued various activities depending upon their community's needs, but many chose the establishment of libraries as a major project. In 1898, five woman's clubs in Florida had established libraries. Over the years the clubs have contributed greatly to the welfare of their communities in other ways as well, providing cultural activities, support of the war effort during the World Wars, and ministering to the needs of the poor and disadvantaged and children. The Florida Federation was admitted to the General Federation of Women's Clubs January 25, 1898, and was incorporated April 12, 1915. The Florida Federation remains an active organization with a membership of over 30,000 women, and publishes the quarterly magazine, Florida Clubwoman.

Historic Significance:

The Woman's Club of New Smyrna was organized in May 1911 at the home of Mrs. H.T. Hofreiter and met in various places for the next several years. In 1916, the group started a building fund. Through various projects, including teas and violin and piano concerts, \$1,200 was raised, enabling the club to purchase a lot at the corner of Magnolia Avenue and Lytle Avenue in 1920. In 1923, a committee was formed to raise \$10,000 for a building. Eight local businessmen each donated \$100, and the Fidelity Bank made a "liberal loan offer" for the balance.

Plans for the building were completed by Philip H. Read, a local carpenter and builder. He also worked on several other commercial buildings and private residences, including an addition to the home of Mrs. Mary Vaughn at 209 Lytle Avenue (8Vo435). William H. Berger, husband of the secretary of the club, and Colonel Joseph Bird, both "having much experience in this line," offered their services gratis to supervise the construction of the building.

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The club's first event in their building was a bazaar/flower show on February 22, 1924. The interior was unfinished, and remained so for the next ten years. A newspaper account of the bazaar described the new building as being attractive with a green and white color scheme throughout. The unfinished interior walls were decorated with bamboo, palms and moss. Furniture was borrowed from a local furniture company. More funds to pay for the building were raised through May Day festivals, and a suite of furniture was donated by a local citizen.

The New Smyrna woman's club members held the same social concerns as members of other woman's clubs throughout the state. Some of their earliest meetings were concerned with child welfare, and in 1923 they took steps to provide lunches to school children. Also in the 1920s, the club participated in a city beautification program in conjunction with the Exchange Club and the Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of this program was to make New Smyrna more attractive, especially to incoming northern visitors.

The building has been used as the meeting place for the woman's club since its construction, but has also served as the community's primary facility for social and cultural events. Musicals were conducted for the community there in 1924. In 1933, the club sponsored flower shows, art exhibits, and lectures. The members also donated the use of their clubhouse for high school honor society and senior banquets. The Girls Reserve also used the building for meetings in the 1930s.

On January 23, 1934, a fire broke out in the kitchen, the result of a kerosene stove accidentally left burning by the Girl Reserves. The interior of the building had never been completed, and it was thought that the fire ignited the exposed lath of the kitchen wall. The building was saved, but the roof, interior, and furnishings were damaged. Harry M. Griffin, the noted Daytona Beach architect, was hired to perform renovations, and his work enable the clubhouse to continue to serve as a social center for New Smyrna.

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Contexts for Criterion C:

MEDITERRANEAN REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE

The Mediterranean Revival Style generally refers to a style derived from a combination of architectural elements borrowed from countries and cultures surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, particularly Spain and Italy. This practice became popular in the late 1910s as part of the increased national interest in historical styles and architecture. Interest in such styles was especially fostered by the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego in 1915. The style, so suitable for Florida's Mediterranean-like climate and Spanish history, became extremely popular in Florida and is closely associated with the Florida Land Boom of the 1920s.

General design characteristics include features taken from the Mission, Spanish Colonial Revival and Italian Renaissance styles: Moorish columns; low pitched, clay tile, gable and hip or flat parapeted roofs; stucco exteriors with terra cotta decorative features; and multilevel plans. Loggias and arcades are common features with cartouches, tile, and terra cotta insets. Highly decorated door and window surrounds are common.

HARRY M. GRIFFIN:

Harry Milton Griffin (1890-1979) was one of the foremost architects in Florida from the 1920s to the late 1950s. He was born in Connersville, Indiana, where he completed his early schooling. After high school, he studied at the Herron Art Institute in Indianapolis, and spent two-and-a-half years at the University of Illinois. He began his architectural practice in Connersville in 1912. By 1917, his firm was well established through the success of his designs for residential, commercial, and manufacturing buildings, and schools. After serving in World War I from 1917-1918, he resumed his practice in Connersville until 1925, specializing in school buildings.

In 1925 Griffin vacationed in Daytona Beach, Florida, and decided to stay. There he developed a large general practice. His commissions in Daytona Beach included: post

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offices and junior and senior high schools, the Tides Apartment, Johnston's Restaurant, a YMCA building, college buildings, the News-Journal Building, the Peninsula Woman's Club, and the S. Cornelia Young Library. He also designed the New Smyrna Yacht Club, and buildings for the Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee, and for the federal government.

Griffin was active in professional organizations. He served as president of the Indiana Society of Architects in 1924; was a member of the State Board of Architects of Florida from 1934 to 1939, and president in 1940; was president of the Daytona Beach chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1947, and afterward vice president. He also served on the Daytona Beach Park Board. Griffin retired in the late 1950s and died in 1979.

Architectural Significance:

The Woman's Club of New Smyrna is architecturally significant because of some unusual architectural features. and as a work associated with Harry M. Griffin. building was initially designed in 1924 by a local contractor, Philip H. Read. Although extremely simple, the building displays some distinctive architectural features. In the meeting room there is a large fireplace made of coquina rock, commonly used in the 1920s, but now a rare and protected natural substance. A basement, also of coquina rock, extends under the entire building. Basements, especially those that extend under an entire building, are rare in Florida due to the high water table near the coasts and limestone formations. In addition, the building's design is unusual in that a flat roof extends out on the north and west sides from the hipped roof of the main block, creating the illusion that there is a courtyard behind the exterior north wall.

Griffin's interior designs for the building, executed in 1934 after a fire, were actually the first interior finishes applied to the clubhouse which had been built in 1924. Blueprints for his work show that the building's interior finishes were completed with virtually no change to the main structure itself. Philip H. Read's signature on the blueprints indicates that he was on the renovation

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committee, so the interior finishes designed by Griffin are probably faithful to the original architect's intent.

Griffin's work included the installation of new cabinets, counters, doors and woodwork in the kitchen where the fire began. The auditorium was refinished with a new plaster wall and windows on the south side, a new insulation board ceiling, and two octagonal ceiling vents. He replaced the square entrances to the auditorium with open plastered arches, and redesigned the proscenium. Probably the most distinctive feature he added to the auditorium was pecky cypress beams with crested brackets. He also remodeled the women's rest room area.

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BOOKS

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PERIODICALS

- The Florida Bulletin (Published by the Florida Federation of Woman's Clubs), February 1925.
- New Smyrna Beach News, "'Florida's Smartest Little City' Has Rich Historic Background," November 21, 1947.
- New Smyrna Daily News, [1923-1934].
- News & Observer (New Smyrna Beach), "Fate of Woman's Club building still uncertain," April 15, 1984.

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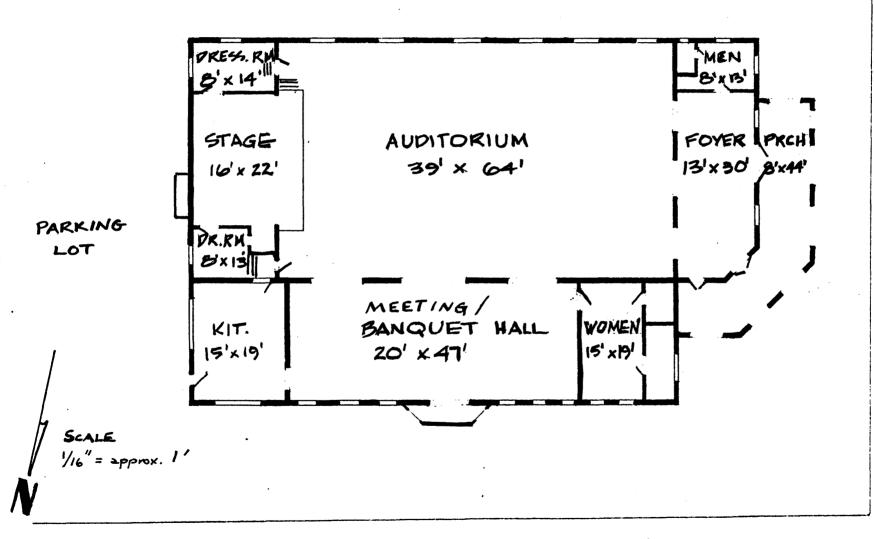
UNPUBLISHED

Griffin, Harry M. Blueprints for "Alterations and Additions for the New Smyrna Women's Club, New Smyrna, Florida," [1934].

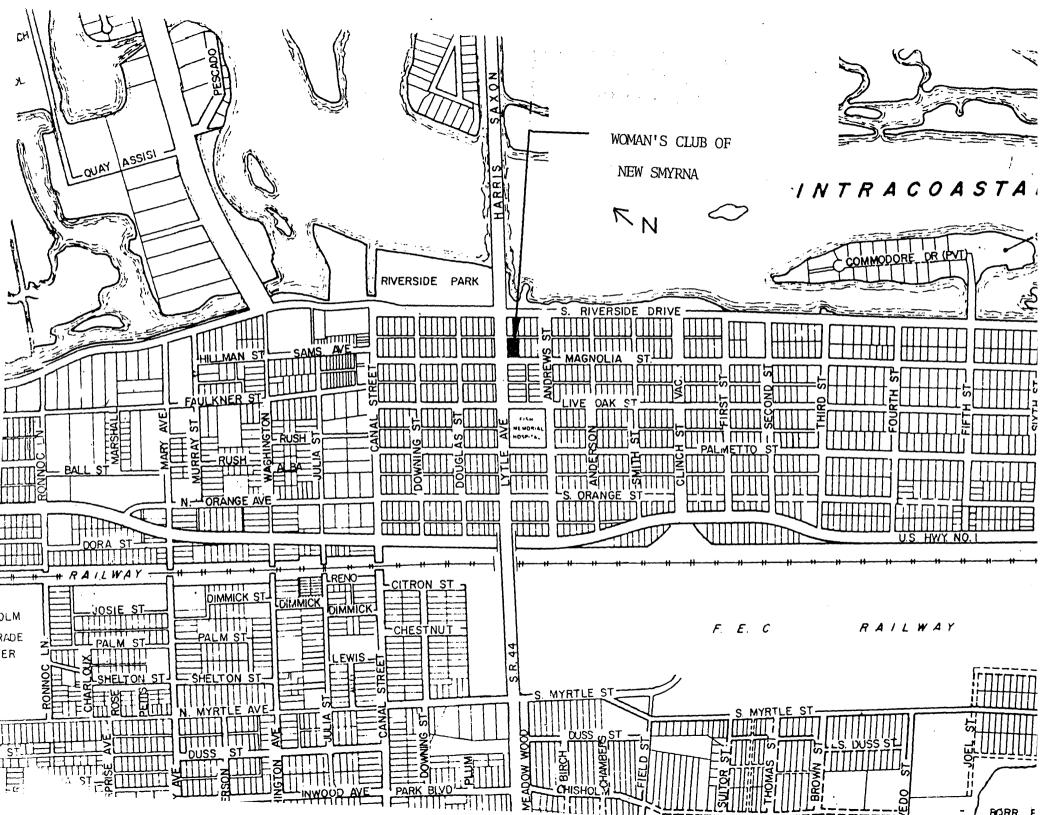
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

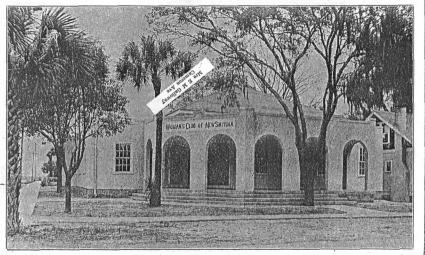
Section r			ographs 1 WOMAN'S CLUB OF NEW SMYRNA Page
	1	2) 3) 4) 5) 6)	Woman's Club of New Smyrna, 403 Magnolia Street New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida Gary Luther, Historic New Smyrna Beach Preservatio Commission February 1988 Woman's Club of New Smyrna Main entrance, west elevation, camera facing east Photo 1 of 9
	Items	1 -	-5 are the same for photographs 2-8.
	2		South elevation, camera facing northwest Photo 2 of 9
	3		North elevation, camera facing southwest Photo 3 of 9
	4		East elevation, camera facing west Photo 4 of 9
	5		Auditorium, showing stage, camera facing east Photo 5 of 9
	6	6) 7)	Auditorium, camera facing west Photo 6 of 9
	7		Meeting hall, camera facing west Photo 7 of 9
	8		Kitchen, camera facing southeast Photo 8 of 9
	9	1) 2) 3) 4) 5) 6)	Woman's Club of New Smyrna, 403 Magnolia Street New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida Mary Anne Peters 1983 Florida Department of Transportation North and west elevations, camera facing southeast Photo 9 of 9

NEW SMRYNA WOMEN'S CLUB



LYTLE AVE. (SR 44)





NEW SMYRNA CLUB HOUSE

February 1925