

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



300

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 any 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 Veterans of Foreign Wars Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168

other names/site number William Weech American Legion Post 168/MQ2157

2. Location

street & number 803 Emma Street n/a ☐ not for publication

city or town Key West n/a ☐ vicinity

state Florida code FL county Monroe code 087 zip code 33040

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/DSHPO 4/4/2012
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
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) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5/30/2012

Veterans of Foreign Wars Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William
Weech American Legion Post 168
Name of Property

Monroe 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)

- ☒ 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.)

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

RECREATION AND CULTURE: dance hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE: masonry vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STUCCO

walls STUCCO

roof METAL

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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				DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Walter Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168, is a one-and-one-half story gable-roofed Masonry Vernacular building located in Key West, Florida. The most prominent architectural feature of this building is the stepped parapet along the main facade. A small one-story flat roof addition was added to the southeast elevation of the building. The interior features a stage area, bar, and a mezzanine. Aside from the addition, the most significant alteration to the exterior of the building was the removal of the glass blocks flanking the entrances on the facade. One of the entrances on the facade has been infilled and a handicapped access ramp was installed on the northwest elevation of the building.

SETTING

The Walter Mickens and William Weech Post is located in the historically black neighborhood [District VI] in Key West, Florida. Key West, the county seat of Monroe County, is located in the Florida Keys, which are a series of islands extending south from the Florida Peninsula between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Key West is also the largest city in Monroe County, with over 24,000 people in 2010.¹ With its strategic location between the Gulf, the Atlantic seaboard, and the Caribbean, the area has long been vital for both maritime trade and national security.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The Post building is a one-and-one-half story Masonry Vernacular building featuring stucco siding applied over concrete block walls. The 4,850 square foot building features a concrete slab foundation, a gable roof covered with sheet metal, and a small, one-story shed addition located on the southeast elevation. Fenestration on this building consists primarily of metal jalousie windows with masonry sills.

The main (southwest) facade of the building features two inset entrances topped by decorative coping (Photo 1). The entrance on the south side of the elevation serves as the main entrance to the building, with double metal doors accessed by concrete steps (Photo 2). A handicapped railing is at this entrance. The other entrance has been infilled and is no longer in use. Fenestration on this elevation includes three smaller jalousie windows on the first story and four larger jalousie windows on the upper story. All of the windows have masonry sills. A cornerstone in the southwest corner of the facade reads: "VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168 Dedicated August 25, 1951." There is also American Legion signage,

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, "State & County QuickFacts: Key West, Florida", <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/12/1236550.html>.

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exterior lighting flanking the main entrance and at the roofline, and a flagpole is on the far southwest corner of this elevation. The most defining architectural feature of this building is the stepped parapet along the roofline. The parapet has rounded edges, coping along the roofline, and two sets of three scuppers flanking the middle of the building just underneath the lighting.

The northwest elevation of the building is plain in design, with jalousie windows matching those found throughout the building (Photo 2). The first floor windows have been infilled with masonry. There is a handicapped access ramp on this elevation that leads to a side entrance to the building. The side entrance is a simple single metal door. A ventilation pipe juts out near the northwest corner of the building. The roof slightly overhangs the roofline, with wider coping near the roofline on the side elevations than on the main facade.

The northeast (rear) elevation of the building, much like the side elevations, is plainer than the facade (Photo 3). Fenestration consists of the same metal jalousie windows as those found elsewhere on the building. Much of this elevation is obscured by vegetation and access is very limited.

The southeast elevation (Photo 4) features an adjacent one-story, shed-like kitchen addition built with concrete walls and a flat roof. The addition has two entrances, one facing the main facade and other to the side facing the adjacent driveway. This addition has little decoration besides a simple raised parapet along the roofline facing the main elevation. Stylistically, the addition is a little different from the rest of the building, with the flat roof overhanging the exterior walls. A window facing the main elevation of the building has been replaced with a window air conditioning unit, while another has been partially covered over with wood boards. Another window has been infilled with concrete block. The addition does not extend the full length of the building, and part of the building extends beyond the addition. Another entrance into the building is located on this portion of the building, with a simple metal door providing access to the building (Photo 5).

Interior

The interior of the building has two levels, a first story and a mezzanine level. The layout of the first floor is slightly irregular, with the main entrance to the building on the southwest side, located just off center. The layout is generally open, with the most prominent features being a stage on the far northeast side of the building and the bar on the southeast side of the main floor (Photos 6-7). The stage is made of concrete and is supported by two steel poles that flank the center of the stage. Access to the stage is through two dressing rooms, one on each side of the stage (Photos 8-9). The bar, which is situated beneath the mezzanine, consists of a counter and other furnishings necessary for its operation (Photo 10). There are two restroom facilities in the main building, with the men's room adjacent to the infilled entrance on the northwest side of the main facade, and the women's room located between the men's room and the main entrance (Photos 11-12). Across the main entrance from the women's room is a storage room.

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The layout of the shed addition is very simple (Photo 13). The ceiling has exposed wood beams with decorative wood molding along the juncture of the ceiling and the wall. Flooring consists of vinyl tiling. The kitchen was designed to accommodate the needs of a commercial restaurant and is fully equipped to prepare cooked food. On the far northeast side of the addition is a small restroom and storage closet.

The floorplan of the mezzanine level is U-shaped, extending full-length across the southwest side of the building and a little past halfway up the southeast and northwest sides of the main building. Accessed via a staircase located in front of the public restrooms, the mezzanine overlooks the first floor, facing the stage area. The flooring is made of wood covered over with tile while a drop ceiling is above. A distinctive wood railing extends around the entire mezzanine, and a DJ booth is located near the middle of the southwest side (Photos 14-17).

Alterations

This building has undergone a number of small changes since its construction. A small one-story flat roof addition was added to the southeast side of the building. On the main facade, the glass block windows that originally flanked both entrances have since been infilled (Photo 18). The secondary entrance on the facade, which is still evident on the exterior, has also been infilled to make way for public restrooms. A handicapped access ramp has been installed on the northwest elevation. Several windows have been either infilled or replaced with air conditioning units. On the interior, the original horseshoe-shaped bar has been replaced (Photo 19), a drop ceiling has been added, and a DJ booth was added to the mezzanine. In 1996, the roof started to leak badly; and through the leadership of Comrade Theodore Burns, the members mustered enough funds to repair the roof.

The building suffers from some structural deficiencies. When constructed in 1952, saltwater was used in forming the concrete, resulting today in crumbling walls and exposed rebar. As a result, the City of Key West has declared the building a threat to public safety and has ordered the building condemned if nothing was done to address the problems. Despite the alterations and current state of deterioration, the building still retains its historic integrity to a very high degree.

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 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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Ethnic Heritage: Black

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1952-1963

Significant Dates

1952

Significant Person

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/BUILDER

Harvey, C. B.

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SUMMARY

The Walter Mickens and William Weech Post is eligible for listing under Criterion A at the local level in the areas of Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, and Ethnic Heritage: Black. Constructed in 1952, the building housed the local African American Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and American Legion posts. The building served as a significant social center within the Key West African American community, not only serving as the home of two prominent local veterans' organizations but also serving as a community center and performance venue.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

History of Key West

The Florida Keys and the island of Key West have long been known to Europeans. There is speculation that Ponce de Leon on his voyage to Florida in 1513 also spotted the Florida Keys. The island, known to the Spanish as Cayo Hueso, often served as a temporary base for fishing and wrecker operations off the coast. The first serious attempts at settling Key West, however, did not begin until after Florida was ceded to the United States in 1821. In 1822, John Simonton purchased the island from Juan P. Salas with the intention of establishing a port city. The development of the city progressed rapidly due in large part to the United States Navy. Later in 1822, the Navy sent Lt. Commander Matthew C. Perry to investigate the island's feasibility as a naval base. By 1823, a U.S. naval base was established on the island to serve as the headquarters for the West Indian Anti-Piracy Squadron. The squadron would move to Pensacola a few years later, but the Navy still maintained a supply depot in Key West.²

The first major industry to come to Key West was wrecking. In 1828, shortly after it formally incorporated as a city, Key West was designated as an official U.S. port of entry. The Federal Wrecking Act, passed in 1825, required that all wrecks salvaged from ships that sank in U.S. waters be taken to a U.S. port of entry. The Superior Court of the Southern District was created in Key West, which was granted admiralty powers. This, coupled with its close proximity to the dangerous shoals off the Florida Keys and the coast of Florida, created an ideal situation for Key West to capitalize off the wrecking trade. Among the other industries in the area that sprang up before the Civil War were fishing, salt production, and sponging.³

² Jerry Wilkinson, "History of Key West", <http://www.keyshistory.org/keywest.html>; Michael Zimny, Key West Historic District National Register of Historic Places nomination, Section 8, p. 1-3.

³ Wilkinson, "History of Key West"; Zimny, Key West Historic District NR nomination, Section 8, p. 4.

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The next major federal project that took place near Key West was the construction of Fort Zachary Taylor in 1845. Although this fort would not be complete until 1866, by the start of the Civil War, it was in a sufficient state of completion to render any attempts of a Confederate takeover of Key West futile. This fort would play a major role during the Civil War, serving as the headquarters for the Union Navy's East Gulf Coast blockade squadron. Due to the large military presence in the vicinity, the city was taken without a fight in 1861. Key West actually benefitted greatly from the Union presence, not only being spared much of the destruction that took place throughout the South, but also by profiting off seized cargo, which was dispersed there. By the end of the war, Key West was the largest city in Florida and would remain so for much of the 19th century.⁴

By the end of the 19th century, the major industry in Key West was the cigar industry. After a failed revolution in Cuba in the early 1870s, many Cuban refugees fled to Key West and other parts of Florida to escape reprisals from the Spanish authorities, many of whom worked in or owned cigar factories. With the arrival of these Cubans came the cigar industry. By 1876, there were 29 factories employing 2,100 Cubans and Bahamians. By 1890, Key West cigar makers produced more than 100 million hand-rolled cigars. By the end of the 19th century, however, the wrecking industry was greatly reduced, the sponging industry shifted to Tarpon Springs, and Tampa was able to lure the major cigar makers away.⁵

One of the major events in the history of Key West was the completion of the Overseas Railway in 1912. The project was started by Henry Flagler in 1905 as an extension of his Florida East Coast Railway. Despite the fact that the city's economy was on a downturn, Key West was still larger than Miami and possessed a port considerably deeper than that found in Miami. Its proximity to the newly completed Panama Canal and the Gulf, Atlantic, and Caribbean trading routes made the city an attractive candidate for a railroad depot. Despite the initial promise generated by the arrival of the railroad in 1912, it did not bring the long-term economic success hoped for by many people. The amount of revenue generated by the railroad never fully covered the cost of construction. The city saw a brief period of prosperity during World War I thanks to a large Navy presence there; a seaplane and submarine base were added and military housing was provided for service personnel.⁶

During the Florida Land Boom that took place in the 1920s, Key West saw only marginal development due to the lack of roads into the city. As a result, the crash of the Land Boom did not affect the city as much as it did other parts of the state. It was the further reduction of the naval base in 1932 and the removal of the Coast Guard presence in the city, followed by the Labor Day Hurricane of 1935, that caused the most damage to the

⁴ Wilkinson, "History of Key West"; Zimny, Key West Historic District NR nomination, Section 8, p. 7-8.

⁵ Wilkinson, "History of Key West", <http://www.keyshistory.org/keywestpage2.html>; Zimny, Key West Historic District NR nomination, Section 8, p. 11-12.

⁶ Wilkinson, "History of Key West"; URS Corporation, Inc., "Historic Resources Survey of Key West, Monroe County, Florida," (2004), Section 4, p. 7.

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city's economy. The hurricane destroyed the railroad bridge that connected the city to the rest of the world and served as its economic lifeline of the city. These events, combined with the bankruptcy of the city in 1934, prompted the state of Florida to turn to the federal government for help in salvaging Key West's economy. The Federal Emergency Relief Agency proposed a plan to develop the tourism industry through the construction of hotels and attractions and through reduced airfares. A number of residents were hired for civic works projects and cleanup crews in connection with this plan. The biggest boon to the economy came in 1938, when the Overland Highway was completed using repurposed Flagler era railroad bridges. By establishing a reliable route for automobile traffic connecting to the mainland, it paved the way for future, more sustained development in the city. During World War II, Key West flourished as over 15,000 servicemen were stationed in the city. The Navy reopened the naval station, converted the Trumbo Plant into an airfield, and formed the Fleet Sonar School. After the war, the Navy maintained a strong presence in Key West, with over 10,000 sailors stationed there by 1963. The opening of the Overland Highway and post-World War II prosperity brought in a wave of development to the island. Most of this development evolved around the tourism industry. By 1963, there were over 40 hotels in Key West.⁷

Blacks in Key West

From its beginnings, the city of Key West had a significant black presence. In the first official census of Key West in 1830, there were 149 blacks residing in the city, with 83 of them free and 66 of them slaves. This comprised over 28% of the overall population of the city. The slaves living in Key West were primarily involved in domestic work and dock work. Many free blacks came from the Caribbean, primarily from the Bahamas, and were drawn to the area largely through maritime trades. The emergence of the salt production and sponging industries in the 1830s and 1840s provided the impetus for the first wave of migration. The ratio of free blacks to slaves remained relatively equal until the 1840s, when the construction of Fort Zachary Taylor began. A number of slaves were contracted to the government to work at the fort, with the number at around 40 per month in 1861. While the population of slaves increased over this time, the number of free blacks remained relatively the same due in large part to immigration restrictions placed upon free people of color.⁸

Following the end of the Civil War, a neighborhood known as Black Town emerged on the western side of the island, inhabited primarily by residents of African descent. Bearing resemblance to many towns in the Caribbean at the time, the neighborhood was comprised primarily of simple one-story wood residences. The arrival of the cigar making industry brought several black Cubans into Key West, and by the end of the 19th century, the cigar industry was a major employer in the black community as well as the rest of Key West.⁹

⁷ Wilkinson, "History of Key West".

⁸ Sharon Wells, *Forgotten Legacy: Blacks in Nineteenth Century Key West* (Key West, FL: Historic Key West Preservation Board, 1982), 1-17.

⁹ Wells, *Forgotten Legacy*, 31-36.

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Several important social institutions emerged amongst the black population of Key West after the Civil War. Prior to the erection of black churches, both free and enslaved blacks attended white churches, in which areas were set aside for them, segregating them from the white members of the congregations. The first black church in Key West was St. Peter's African Methodist Episcopal Church, which began in 1865. By 1900, there were at least seven black churches in Key West. The first black public school in Key West, the Douglass Colored School, opened in the 1870s. Prior to this, black children went to the St. Francis Xavier School for Colored Boys and Girls, a Catholic school that opened in 1869. The Douglass School was first located at Jackson Street ca. 1800 before moving to a location on Angela Street. After the Navy acquired the property during World War II, the school found its final location near the VFW Walter R. Mickens and Weech American Legion Post Building on Emma and Front streets. Also after the Civil War, a number of fraternal and benevolent societies were established in the community. Among them were the Mount Moriah Lodge, which was founded in 1877, and the Abraham Lincoln Masonic Group, which first met sometime before 1893. A secret society known as Nanigo emerged amongst the black Cuban population in the early 1880s. Inspired by folk African traditions imported from Cuba, this group served as a religious, fraternal, and mutual aid society that reached its height in the 1880s, but continued until the 1920s.¹⁰

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Nationally, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) originated out of the merger of several smaller veterans organizations which emerged following the end of the Spanish American War, starting in 1898. Denied membership into the larger, more established Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), which kept its membership restricted solely to Union veterans of the Civil War, the Spanish American War veterans took matters into their own hands and started forming their own veteran support groups. The first of these was the American Veterans of Foreign Service, which was founded in Columbus, Ohio, in 1898. Four other groups also emerged between 1898 and 1902, primarily focusing on the eastern and western theaters of the war. By 1913, after a series of mergers with these smaller groups, the VFW was created. One crucial aspect of its survival that spelled the end of the GAR was the willingness of the VFW to accept as full members veterans of later wars who served overseas. This gave it considerably more power and influence following the end of World War I. From a relatively small organization of around 4,000 members just prior to World War I, the influx of returning World War I veterans swelled the number of members to 60,000 by 1921. The largest and most powerful veterans' group to emerge after World War I, however, was the American Legion.¹¹

¹⁰ Wells, *Forgotten Legacy*, 39-42, 47-48.

¹¹ Bill Bottoms, *The VFW: An Illustrated History of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States* (Rockville, MD: Woodbine House, Inc., 1991), 1-54.

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American Legion

Inspired by previous veterans' organizations that arose after the Civil War and the Spanish American War, the American Legion was the brainchild of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., the son of President Theodore Roosevelt, and three other comrades. The impetus of the implementation of the American Legion came as General John Pershing approached Roosevelt, Jr., about addressing the morale problems of the American forces. At Roosevelt's suggestion, a "morale conference" of twenty servicemen representing units stationed all across Europe was gathered to present a list of recommendations for the improvement of troop morale. Roosevelt utilized this opportunity to pitch his idea of a "GAR of the World War". Afterwards, a larger meeting was set up in Paris on March 15, 1919, in what became known as the Paris Caucus. A similar meeting took place in St. Louis, Missouri, in May of that year for veterans who had already returned to the United States. It was at these meetings that the groundwork for the American Legion, including the naming of the Legion and the creation of a Temporary Committee, was laid. In September 1919, the Legion was granted an official charter by the U.S. Congress. The official founding conference of the American Legion occurred shortly afterwards in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in November of that year.¹²

From its inception, the Legion was very active in political, economic, and social causes. While strategically remaining non-partisan, the Legion's large membership and public support gave it a considerable amount of political clout. Among its earliest victories won on the behalf of veterans was the increase in compensation for completely disabled veterans shortly after World War I and the Veteran's Bonus, which was achieved in 1925. The group also stood out for its strong Americanism and anti-Communism, a stance taken early on, especially in its St. Louis meeting in 1919. The group quickly emerged as a powerful voice. By 1920, there were over 840,000 members, a number aided in part by the Legion's more relaxed membership requirements that did not stipulate overseas service in order to join.¹³

Both the VFW and the American Legion supported many of the same veterans' rights issues and even shared members. Throughout the 1920s, the Legion remained the larger, more powerful of the two groups. That began to change in the 1930s. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) passed the Economy Act of 1933, which reduced disability benefits and implemented more stringent guidelines for proving disability. The Legion, which had only heard of the bill the day before it was to be passed, was not given sufficient time to organize and prevent its passage. This perceived inactivity on the part of the Legion and reversal of one of the group's biggest political accomplishments was a huge public relations setback for the organization. Another incident that changed the fortunes of the Legion and VFW during this time was the Veteran's Bonus payments. The

¹² Thomas A. Rumer, The American Legion: An Official History 1919-1989 (New York: M. Evans & Co., Inc., 1990), 8-37.

¹³ Rumer, The American Legion, 57-77.

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Veteran's Bonus, which both the VFW and American Legion actively supported, stipulated that payment from the federal government to World War I veterans in appreciation for their service was not due until 1945. They received this payment in the form of a certificate. As the Great Depression hit, however, many veterans began insisting on immediate payment. The VFW from the start firmly supported a platform in favor of early cash payments on bonus certificates, while the Legion remained largely inconsistent, both supporting and opposing the legislation at various times. As a result, the reputation of the Legion suffered, with over 160,000 members failing to renew their membership in 1933 alone. The VFW in turn gained significant prestige, culminating in its own Congressional charter in 1936. By 1936, it had over 199,000 members. With public sentiment slowly moving in favor of the veterans, the Legion eventually joined the VFW in supporting the cash bonus, a movement that led to the passage of the Patman-Vinson-McCormack Bill in 1936. Veterans were given Adjusted Service Bonds, which were immediately redeemable. Almost two billion dollars were distributed amongst nearly 3.5 million veterans.¹⁴

During the period leading up to World War II, both the Legion and VFW advocated for American neutrality, reflecting a sentiment shared by many people in the U.S. at that time. Both advocated for a policy of preparedness and national defense but strictly staying out of foreign wars. As World War II became an inevitability, however, both groups threw their full weight behind the war effort. They were both involved in civil defense, scrap and bond drives, and general improvements in the care and rehabilitation of returning soldiers. Perhaps the best-known piece of veteran's legislation passed during this period was the Servicemen's Readjustment Act or G.I. Bill of Rights (GI Bill), which was written by the American Legion in 1944. This bill, provided scholarship money for university or vocational school training; one year of unemployment pay; and special low interest home, business, and agricultural loans. This bill was a tremendous success as millions of returning veterans utilized these benefits to attain an education and new homes. In addition to augmenting the universities, the money from the G.I. Bill also encouraged new suburban developments across the United States.¹⁵

African Americans in the American Legion and VFW

Following a policy in place across the United States, both the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars allowed black membership, but primarily in segregated black posts. Not all Legion posts were segregated, however, as there were a number of integrated posts in the north. Officially, the Legion left it up to the individual state departments to determine their membership policies in regards to the race question, mindful of the potential impact imposing integrationist policies would have on the growth of the Legion in the south. The southern Legionnaires allowed for the creation of segregated black posts but disallowed black involvement at

¹⁴ Bottoms, The VFW, 75-82.

¹⁵ Bottoms, VFW, 86-90; Rumer, The American Legion, 243-248.

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the Department level. Despite some initial plans by Roosevelt, Jr., and other early Legion founders to include blacks in some leadership roles to encourage black recruitment, the white southerners won out. There was a fear amongst white southerners that black veterans, militarized and radicalized by their experiences in the war, would turn the Legion into a revolutionary organization if given full membership and voting rights within the group. As a result, black enthusiasm for the Legion was lukewarm during the period between the First and Second World Wars, especially in the south. In North Carolina in 1926 for instance, out of the 20,000 Legionnaires in the state, only 500 of them were black.¹⁶

Despite this, African American veterans have been involved in the Legion from its founding and there were several active African-American posts. One of the founding members in attendance at the Paris Caucus as well as the St. Louis Caucus in 1919 was Earl Dickerson, who would later go on to be the first black city alderman of the city of Chicago. The first black graduate of the University of Chicago Law School and Assistant State Attorney General of Illinois, Dickerson was also one of the founders of the George L. Giles Post 87 in Chicago.¹⁷ There were also active early African American posts. The local black post in Louisville, Kentucky, for example, had over 110 members and was active in the community, sponsoring a local jazz orchestra and Boy Scout troop.¹⁸

Key West Veterans Groups and African Americans

Among the first veterans' support organizations represented in the city of Key West were the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and the United Confederate Veterans (UCV). The GAR was well ahead of its time in that it was an integrated organization allowing for black veterans to both join and participate at all levels. Many black veterans joined, with many of them forming their own units. In Key West, the local GAR post was the Major B.C. Lincoln Post No. 3. The post dates back to before 1884, with the Commander listed as F. A. Wicker. In 1888, the membership was around 43 members with 68 in the women's auxiliary. From 1888 to after 1906, the Commander of this post was Dr. J.W.V.R. Plummer, a former mayor of Key West and member of the Florida House of Representatives. Plummer was white, but members of the black community were well represented amongst the officers of the group. The Senior Vice Post Commander of the post from sometime before 1900 to 1906 was Frank Shavers, a black grocer who was a prominent member of the black community of Key West. He served in the 34th United States Colored Infantry, where he rose to the rank of sergeant. The Junior Vice Post Commander in 1900 was Henry Coltson, a black carpenter. From 1900 through 1906, the Post Adjutant

¹⁶ William Pencak, *For God and Country: The American Legion, 1919-1941* (Boston, MA: Northeastern University Press, 1989), 68-69.

¹⁷ The American Legion, "A Moment in Time", <http://www.legion.org/moment-in-time/161283/which-legion-founder-was-one-first-black-aldermen-chicago-city-council>.

¹⁸ Pencak, *For God and Country*, 69.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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was James A. Roberts, a warehouse keeper under the employ of the Standard Oil Company. By 1911, the post was no longer listed in the Key West city directory.¹⁹

In 1911, the B.H. McCalla Camp No. 5 of the United Spanish War Veterans (USWV) was established in Key West with Ira B. Michael as its first leader. The USWV, like the VFW, had its origins amongst a conglomerate of fraternal societies that emerged after the Spanish American War. Unlike the VFW, however, the USWV maintained an exclusive membership to veterans of the Spanish War, the Philippine War, and the Boxer Rebellion. At its height, the USWV had over 111,000 members, but like the GAR and UCV, the USWV eventually declined as members started to pass away. The B.H. McCalla Camp of the USWV continued to meet past 1927, and by 1954 was no longer listed in the city directory. The officers of the McCalla Camp were all white, however, and it is likely that this post was a segregated unit.²⁰

The Arthur Sawyer American Legion Post 28, founded in 1920, quickly became the most prominent veterans' group in Key West. The Sawyer Post was very involved in the community, holding Memorial Day parades, hosting performances, and entertaining both white veterans and servicemen. Like many Legion posts in the south, the Arthur Sawyer Post was segregated. It would not be until the creation of the VFW Walter R. Mickens and William Weech American Legion posts after World War II that black veterans in Key West had their own posts to meet their needs.²¹

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

In 1945, the Black World War I veterans of Key West rented the band room located at Angela and Thomas Street, Key West, Florida, where they held their first meetings. On March 3, 1946, the VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 received its charter from the Veterans of Foreign Wars under the United Service Organization. The post was named after Walter R. Mickens, a native Key Wester killed during World War II.

On June 27, 1946, the William Weech American Legion Post 168 received its "Temporary Charter" from The American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. William Weech, another native Key Wester,

¹⁹ "The Grand Army: Florida" The National Tribune, March 20, 1884, 6; "Caring for Neglected Graves in Florida", The National Tribune, July 5, 1888, 6; Key West City Directory, (Atlanta, GA: The Maloney Directory Co., 1900), 46, 86, 195; Frank Shavers USCT Service Record, Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served With the United States Colored Troops: Infantry Organizations, 31st through 35th, Microfilm Serial: M1992; Microfilm Roll: 63 (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration); Key West Directory 1906-1907 (Columbus, OH: R.L. Polk & Co., 1906), 43, 259.

²⁰ "Today in Keys History", KeysNews.com, <http://keysnews.com/node/34060>; United Spanish War Veterans, United Spanish War Veterans: An Historical Sketch (Washington: United Spanish War Veterans, 1936), <http://freepages.military.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sunnyann/uswvhistoricalsketch.html>.

²¹ "Parade Will Be Feature", Key West Citizen, May 29, 1930, 1; "Heffner-Vinson Company Opens Here on Monday", Key West Citizen, February 19, 1935, 2.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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died on the USS Maine while it was docked in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, on February 15, 1898, an event that led to the Spanish American War. Two years later, on May 20, 1948, Post 168 received a permanent charter. After both posts received their charters, the members officially unified to continue service to their fellow comrades, their families, and the community in which they lived. These Veterans demonstrated their patriotism and determination to continue serving their community despite having to deal with segregation. The two veterans' groups worked together to raise funds to build their own Home Posts under one roof, which was uncommon.

The men and women of both Posts and the community supported this project and helped to construct the VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and the William Weech American Legion Post 168. Comrade Alphonso Dean was the first Commander of the VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and Comrade Earl McGee became the first Commander of William Weech American Legion Post 168. While in the process of building their new Home Post, the members of both posts secured a five-year lease on the Old Dixie Hall located at 711 Whitehead Street, which was owned by the Samaritan Lodge, a private organization that supported veterans.

As part of the effort to fund the construction of the new building, the Posts obtained a club license and operated the Old Dixie Hall as a nightclub, offering entertainment to the many black servicemen stationed in Key West. Many fundraising events, such as a Refrigerator Raffle, Building Bonds sold to members, and entertainment from shows with various well-known celebrities arranged by local promoter/entrepreneur Curtis "Bop" Brown and member Nathaniel "Sweet Lips" Richardson, helped the organizations raise funds for their new Post. The club sponsored a dance once a month and entertainers such as Ruth Brown, Diana Washington, B.B. King, James Brown, K.C. and the Sunshine Band, Lordy Miss Claudy and local musicians such as Lofton "Coffee" Butler and his Cups entertained many sailors, soldiers, and veterans within the community.

On August 25, 1951, the men purchased the land located at 803 Emma Street from the Key West postmaster, Fred Dion, and his wife Margaret Dion for \$10 and other good and valuable considerations to them in hand. Representatives from both posts were listed as trustees on the deed. Charles Major, Sr., one of the Trustees on the Deed, later became the Commander of the Tenth Division of the American Legion for fourteen years. The Tenth Division served an area covering Key West to West Palm Beach. On January 1, 1953, the Posts received the Warranty Deed from the Dions.

Key West Mayor C.B. Harvey provided the architectural plans for the building "Free of Charge". Judge/State Representative Jack Saunders donated the first 500 concrete blocks for the new Home Post. City of Key West Commissioner Robert Fernandez commended the men of this joint venture for their efforts, and donated 100 blocks towards the construction. Many local businesses also factored into the construction of the building. On February 28, 1952, the trustees opened a joint account with the Florida National Bank in Key West to deposit funds for the construction of the new Home Post.

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Many post members were adept carpenters, electricians, plumbers, masons, and handy men. They worked full-time at the Naval Station and after work hours, they would work on the new post. When the men fell short on funds to complete the building, they borrowed \$2,000 from American Legion Arthur Sawyer Post 28 in Key West to continue this project. On December 13, 1952, two days after completion of the building, the Posts and their auxiliary members held an official program and dedicated the building as VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168.

Business flourished in Key West during the 1950s and 1960s, due mainly to over 10,000 US Navy personnel in full deployment in Key West. Many military personnel became members of both Posts, which drove their membership to well over 200 people.

Many of the veterans deployed in Key West during this time married the local women and continued in membership with both Posts. The VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 held Post meetings on the second and fourth Monday of each month and William Weech American Legion Post 168 members held their meetings on the first and fourth Wednesday of each month. The Executive House Committee, consisting of six members from each Post, met every Sunday at 11:00 am. These men dedicated themselves to the Four Pillars of the American Legion: Veterans, Defend, Youth, and Patriotism. For example, even as the building was under construction, on June 25, 1952, during a regular meeting under Commander Phillip Sears, Comrade Floyd Hannibal moved to meet with the County Commissioners to seek recreational facilities for the kids in the Colored Park. The Committee, which consisted of members of the VFW and American Legion posts and civic organizations, voted unanimously to proceed. The Post (s) also sent donations to the Crippled Children's Foundation. Both the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW and the William Weech American Legion Auxiliary Unit 168 fulfilled their purpose in assisting the Posts in all of their endeavors, providing many services to the veterans, their families, and the community.

In 1954, a letter was sent to the Post from the Navy Hospital informing the Posts of the new Rules and Regulations governing entrance to the hospital, requiring a deposit before admittance. The Post (s) established a "Resolution" stating the objection of several posts and Arthur Sawyer Post 28 to the new Rules and Regulations, demonstrating hardships this new policy would bring to the city. The Mickens and Weech posts were very aware and involved in all veteran affairs locally and nationally.

Both posts were also very active in the community. The William Weech Post sent many boys and girls from the community yearly to Boys State and Girls State in Tallahassee. Annual Christmas parties for the children of the Veterans and Community received brown bags of fruit, candy and other goodies were distributed (Photos 20-21). The organization allowed their Post Home to become a safe place for Douglass High School students for dances, parties, and "Senior Night" graduates. Others groups such as churches and non-profit organizations and

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private citizens rented the hall at half-price. The building also served as a shelter for hurricane, fire, and other disaster victims at "No Charge," when necessary. The Posts also visited the schools and chose delegates to participate in the National Oratorical event, which was one of the mandatory functions of the American Legion. The eligibility requirements of the chosen candidates to present their speech on "I Speak for Democracy" at Church, the Post, District, and the Department of Florida levels, before speaking at the National event.

William Weech American Legion Post 168, Honor Guards rendered a full military ceremony with Taps and Bugle for their deceased Veterans. The Armory received rifles from the Veterans returning home from war and supplied the Post(s) with rifles for the Honor Guards to use. These rifles were used in Parades and other ceremonial functions conducted by the Post(s). The Honor Guards of William Weech American Legion Post 168 frequently raised funds and loaned the Post monies to rent a Greyhound Bus for the National Convention held in Orlando Florida. The members were very dedicated and participated in the American Legion Department of Florida programs as Legionaries.

The biggest political rally in the history of Key West was held in the building in 1962, in support of Hilario "Charlie" Ramos's campaign for state representative. Ramos ran against Bernie C. Papy, Sr., who had served as a state representative for 28 years. Ramos won the state representative seat by 28 votes, thanks in part to the efforts of students of the Douglass School.

The Era of Integration

In 1963, the members of VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168, the community at large, Monroe County, and City of Key West Officials held their first meeting on Integration at the Post to discuss integrating public schools in Monroe County. Members of the Post, men and women of the community, and other political officials attended.

Auxiliary members from the American Legion Auxiliary Units 28 and 168 conducted Annual Installations at this Post. Many "Conch" (Key West native) families, both black and white, were related and that shared history allowed them to have a very relaxed version of segregation.

After the era of segregation in 1968, Arthur Sawyer Unit 28 Auxiliary and William Weech American Legion Auxiliary Unit 168 conducted Installation of Officers in this building. During segregation, Arthur Sawyer Post and Auxiliary Unit 28 assisted and supported this Joint Venture in their endeavors.

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Recent Years

From 1997-2010, VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 lost its Charter due to a lack of membership and William Weech American Legion Post became the sole Charter of this Joint Venture. Many of the older members died and became ill. The younger generation and a few of the older women of the William Weech American Legion Auxiliary Unit 168 continued to sustain and assist the Post. The Auxiliary organized a Key West 2011 Reunion fundraiser on December 24- 31, 2010, toward the restoration and renovation of the building.

The following year on March 31, 2011, first vice Commander Josephus Chaplin, Sr., assumed Post Commander Paul Richardson's position until the completion of his term. Commander Chaplin has dedicated himself to achieving the same integrity and determination as the older members, in helping the Post reestablish its financial status. Currently, the Post sponsors teen dances for the children of the community every Friday, except for hall rentals at that time, and manages the Night Club, built by the members for revenue purposes and for providing entertainment for the community at large (Photo 22).

On May 5, 2011, William Weech American Legion Post 168, the American Legion, Inc.; under Post Commander Josephus Chaplin, Sr., submitted the application for the Sons of the American Legion Squadron, and received a "Permanent Charter" on May 15, 2011, to ensure the continuation of the Legacy.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1 VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William
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Key West, Monroe County, Florida
BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 2 VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William
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BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Newspaper Articles

"Caring for Neglected Graves in Florida", The National Tribune, July 5, 1888.

"The Grand Army: Florida" The National Tribune, March 20, 1884.

"Heffner-Vinson Company Opens Here on Monday", Key West Citizen, February 19, 1935.

"Parade Will Be Feature", Key West Citizen, May 29, 1930.

"Today in Keys History", KeysNews.com, <http://keysnews.com/node/34060>.

VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American
Name of Property

Monroe County, FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	4	1	8	6	1	1	2	7	1	5	4	3	5
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 Millicent L. Weech; Andrew Waber, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date March 29, 2012

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (850) 245-6333

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 Trustees, William Weech American Legion Post 168, c/o Commander Josephus Chaplin

street & number 803 Emma Street telephone _____

city or town Key West state FL zip code 33040

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 1

VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William
Weech American Legion Post 168
Key West, Monroe County, Florida
BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Legal Description: KW PT LOTS1-5 SQR2 TR3 G52-100-101 G66-440-441

Monroe County Parcel Number: 00014650-000000

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses the area immediately surrounding the VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168, an area historically associated with the post building.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number	PHOTOS	Page	1	VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168
				Key West, Monroe County, Florida
				PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168
2. Key West, Monroe County, Florida
3. Millicent Weech
4. July 2011
5. William Weech American Legion Post 168, 803 Emma Street, Key West, Florida
6. View of main (southwest) elevation, facing northeast
7. Photo 1 of 22

Items 1-5 are the same for the following photographs:

6. View of northwest and main (southwest) elevation, facing northeast
7. Photo 2 of 22
6. View of rear (northeast) elevation, facing southwest
7. Photo 3 of 22
6. View of southeast elevation of one-story addition, facing north
7. Photo 4 of 22
6. View of southeast elevation entrance, facing northeast
7. Photo 5 of 22
6. View of stage, facing northeast
7. Photo 6 of 22
6. View of bar, facing southeast
7. Photo 7 of 22
6. View of south dressing room, facing northeast
7. Photo 8 of 22
6. View of north dressing room, facing northeast
7. Photo 9 of 22

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Section number	PHOTOS	Page	I	VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168 Key West, Monroe County, Florida PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST
<hr/>				

6. View of bar, facing north

7. Photo 10 of 22

6. View of men's restroom, facing east

7. Photo 11 of 22

6. View of women's restroom, facing southwest

7. Photo 12 of 22

6. Interior view of side addition kitchen, facing southeast

7. Photo 13 of 22

6. View of main floor and mezzanine from the stage, facing southwest

7. Photo 14 of 22

6. View of mezzanine, facing southwest

7. Photo 15 of 22

6. View of mezzanine staircase and DJ booth, facing south

7. Photo 16 of 22

6. View of mezzanine, facing northeast

7. Photo 17 of 22

Items 1-2 and 5 are the same for the follow photographs

3. Unknown photographer

4. Unknown date

6. Historic photograph of main (southwest) elevation, facing northeast

7. Photo 18 of 22

3. Unknown photographer

4. Unknown date

6. Historic photograph of horseshoe bar taken from the mezzanine, facing southeast

7. Photo 19 of 22

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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- 3. Wilcrest Studio, Key West, Florida
- 4. Unknown date
- 6. Historic view of children's gathering on main floor, taken from the stage, facing southwest
- 7. Photo 20 of 22

- 3. Wilcrest Studio, Key West, Florida
- 4. Unknown date
- 6. Historic view of children's gathering on main floor, taken from the stage, facing southwest
- 7. Photo 21 of 22

- 3. Unknown photographer
- 4. c. 2011
- 6. View teen dance taken from bar, facing north
- 7. Photo 22 of 22



Google earth

feet
meters

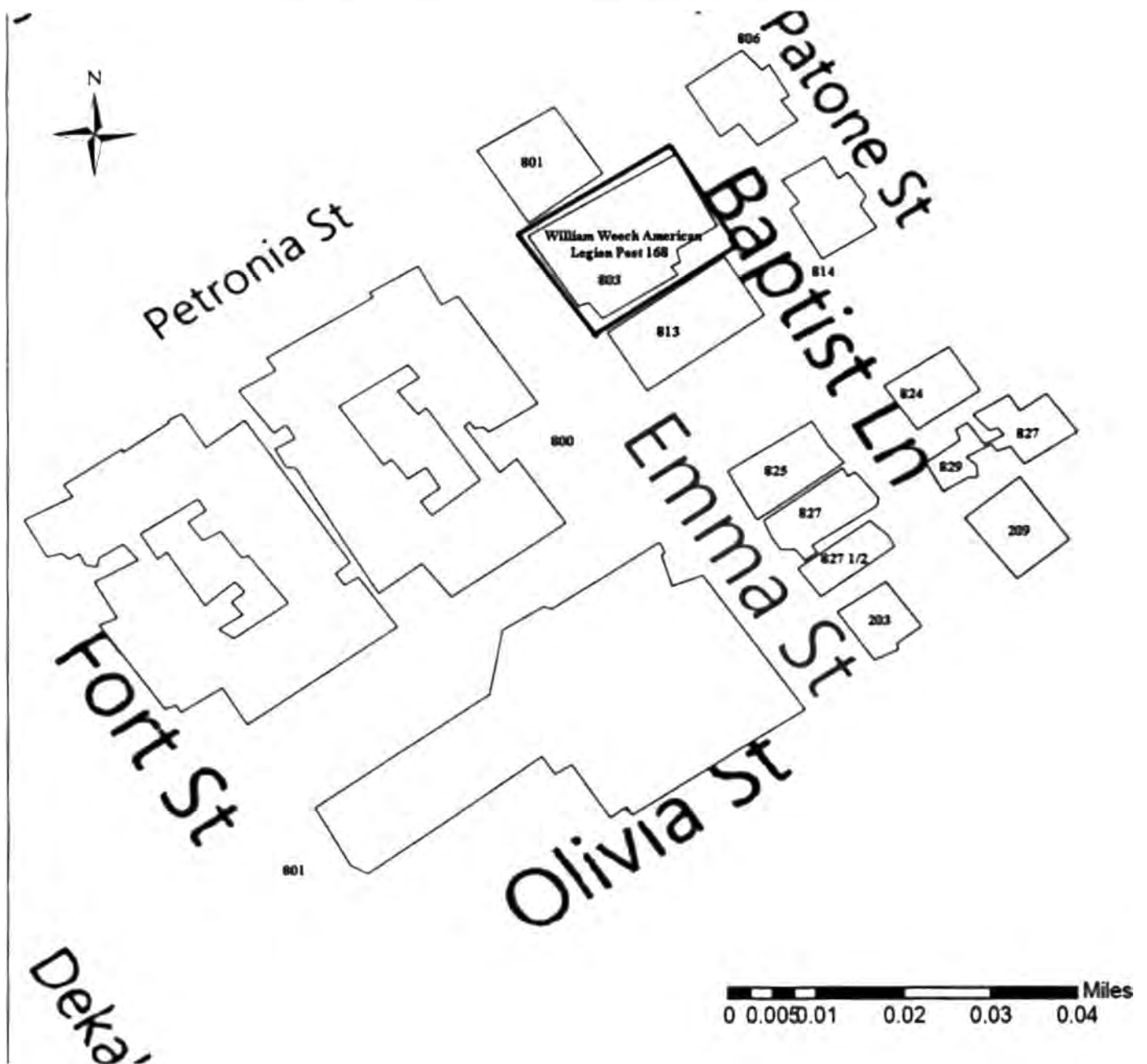
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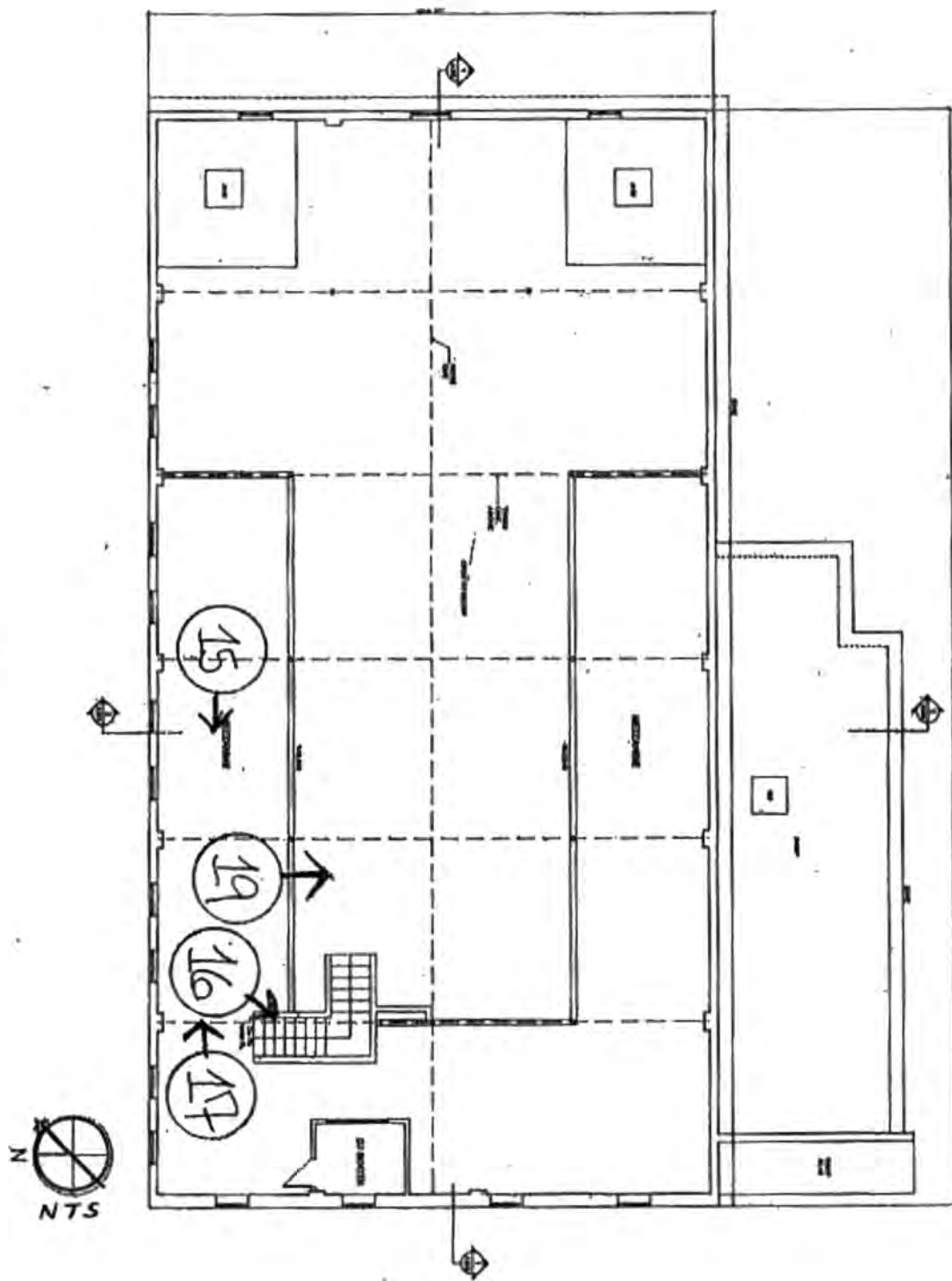


**VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 &
William Weech American Legion Post 168**

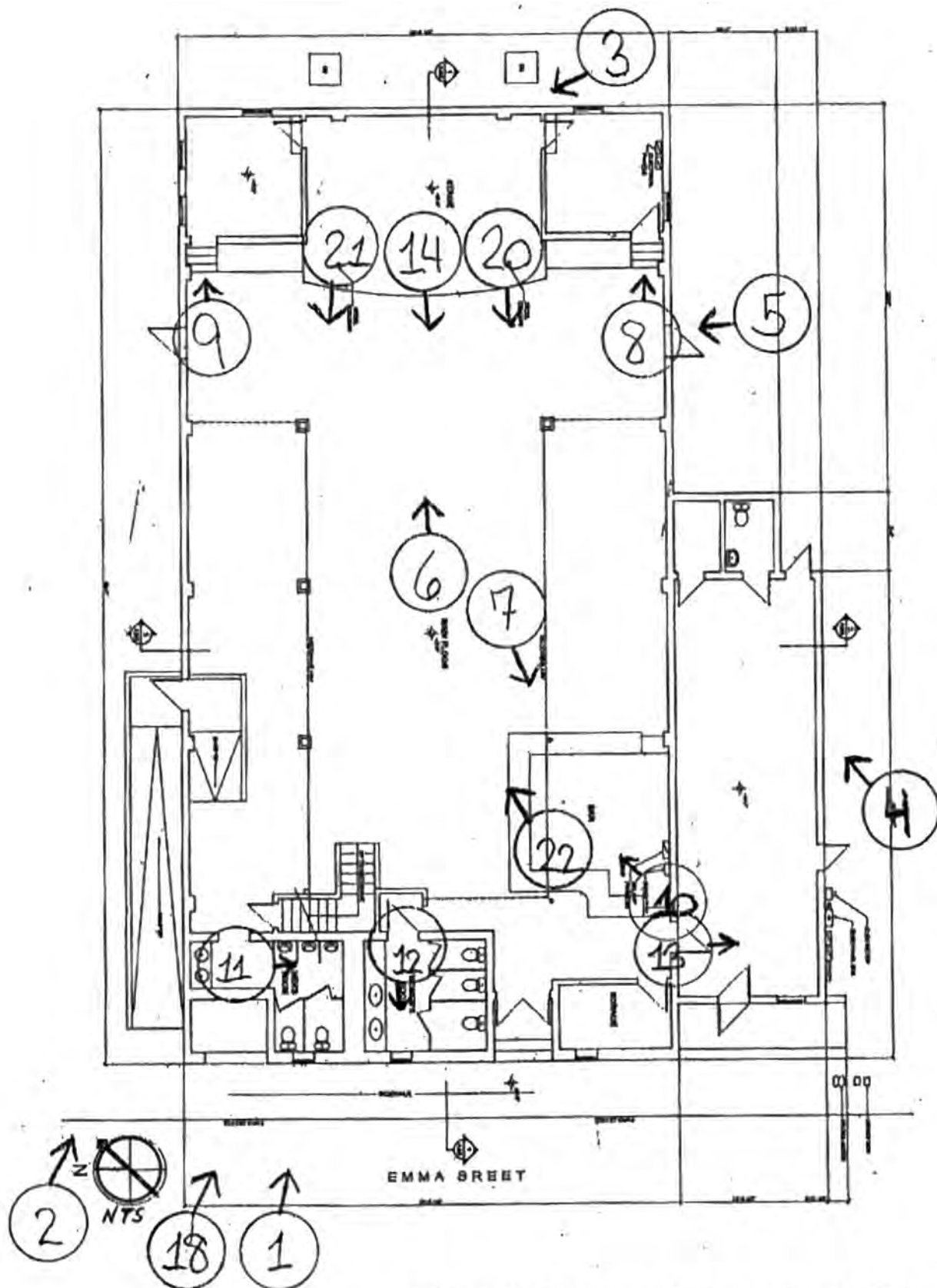
Key West, Monroe County, FL

VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 & William Weech American Legion Post 168
Key West, Monroe County, Florida





VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 &
William Weech American Legion Post 168
Key West, Monroe County, FL



VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 &
William Weech American Legion Post 168
Key West, Monroe County, FL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Veterans of Foreign Wars Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Monroe

DATE RECEIVED: 4/13/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/04/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/24/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/30/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000300

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 5/30/2017 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

~~Handwritten signature~~

A significant building related to Post WWII race relations and the nationwide Veterans' organizations. Segregated facilities like this served important roles in local communities. This modernistic vernacular bldg was built by the vets themselves and was an important part of their community identity.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A

REVIEWER J. Gilbert DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/Y see attached SLR Y/Y

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 1

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Walter R. Mickens Post
6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168
Key West, Monroe Co., FL**

SUPPLEMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHS

-
- 1 1) VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168
 803 Emma Street
 2) Key West, Monroe County, Florida
 3) David Salay, Bender & Associates Architects
 4) June 2012
 5) Digital, Bender & Associates Architects, 410 Angela Street, Key West, FL 33040
 6) Main (west) and south elevations, camera facing NE
 7) Photo 1 of 4

Items 1-5 are the same for the remaining images.

- 2 6) Main (west) and south elevations, camera facing SE
 7) Photo 2 of 4
- 3 6) Main (west) and north elevations, camera facing SE
 7) Photo 3 of 4
- 4 6) Main (west) elevation, camera facing E
 7) Photo 4 of 4

Barbara C. Mattick, DSHPO, 6/26/2012

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Veterans of Foreign Wars Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and Wil
NAME: liam Weech American Legion Post 168

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Monroe

DATE RECEIVED: 6/29/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY:
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/15/12

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000300

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 8.14.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Approved

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

DISCIPLINE

TELEPHONE

DATE

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



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FOREIGN WARE

1/4 VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 &
Supp. William Weech American Legion Post 168
Key West, Monroe Co., FL



AMERICAN
LEGION
1915

803

VETERANS
HALL
1915

2/14 VFW Walter R Mickers Post 6021 &
supp. William Weech American Legion Post 168
Key West, Monroe Co., FL



AMERICAN
LEGION
168

808

3/4 VFW Walter R. Mirkens Post 6021 &
supp. William Weech American Legion Post 168
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

AMERICAN
LEGION
160

803

VETERANS
OF
FOREIGN WARS
160



4/4 VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 &
supp. William Weech American Legion Post 168
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

AMERICAN
LEGION

168

803



VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021

William Weech Am. Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

1 of 22



VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021:

William Weech Am. Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

2 of 22



VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 :
William Weech Am. Legion Post 168
Key West, Monroe Co., FL
3 of 22



VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021
William Weech Am. Legion Post 168
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

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VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021?

William Weech American Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

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VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021?

William Weech Am. Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

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VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 :

William Weech Am. Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

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VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 :

William Weech Am. Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

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VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021

William Weech Am. Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

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VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021;

William Weech Am. Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

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VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021;

William Weech Am. Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

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VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021;

William Weech Am. Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

12 of 22



VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 :

William Weech Am. Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

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VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 ?

William Weech Am. Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

14 of 22



VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021:

William Weech Am. Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

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VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021:

William Weech Am. Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

16 of 22



VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021

William Weech Am. Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

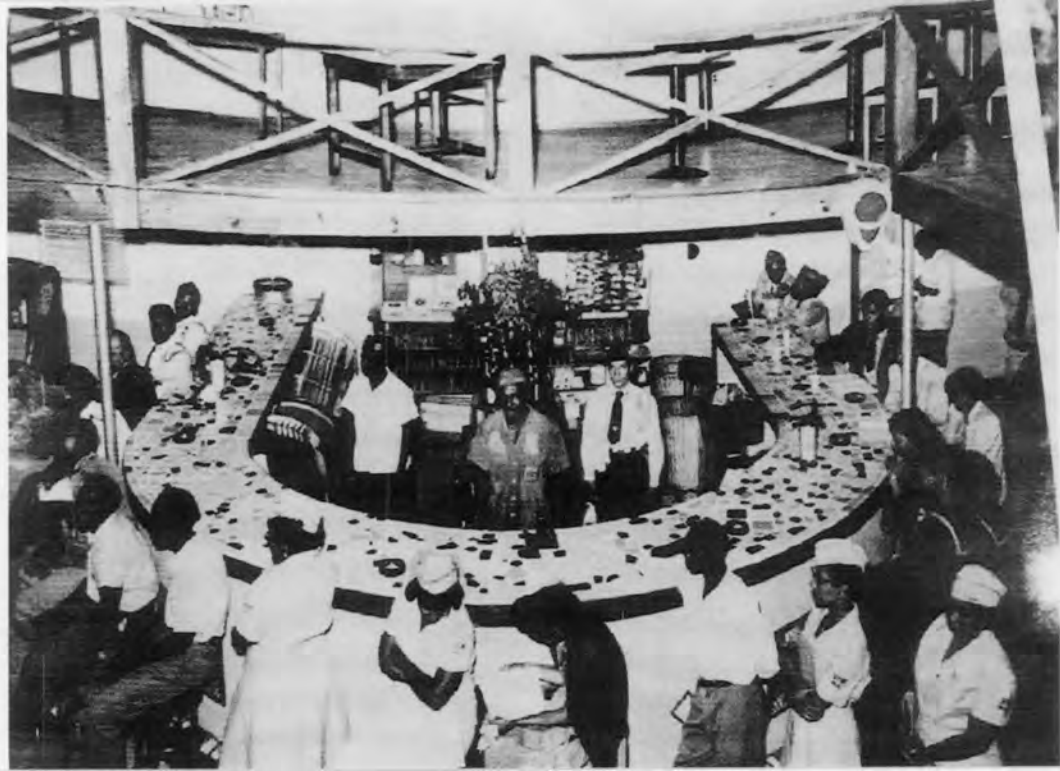
17 of 22



VFW Walter R. Mickerns Post 6021 ?
William Weech Am. Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe County, FL

18 of 22



VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021:

William Weech American Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

19 of 22

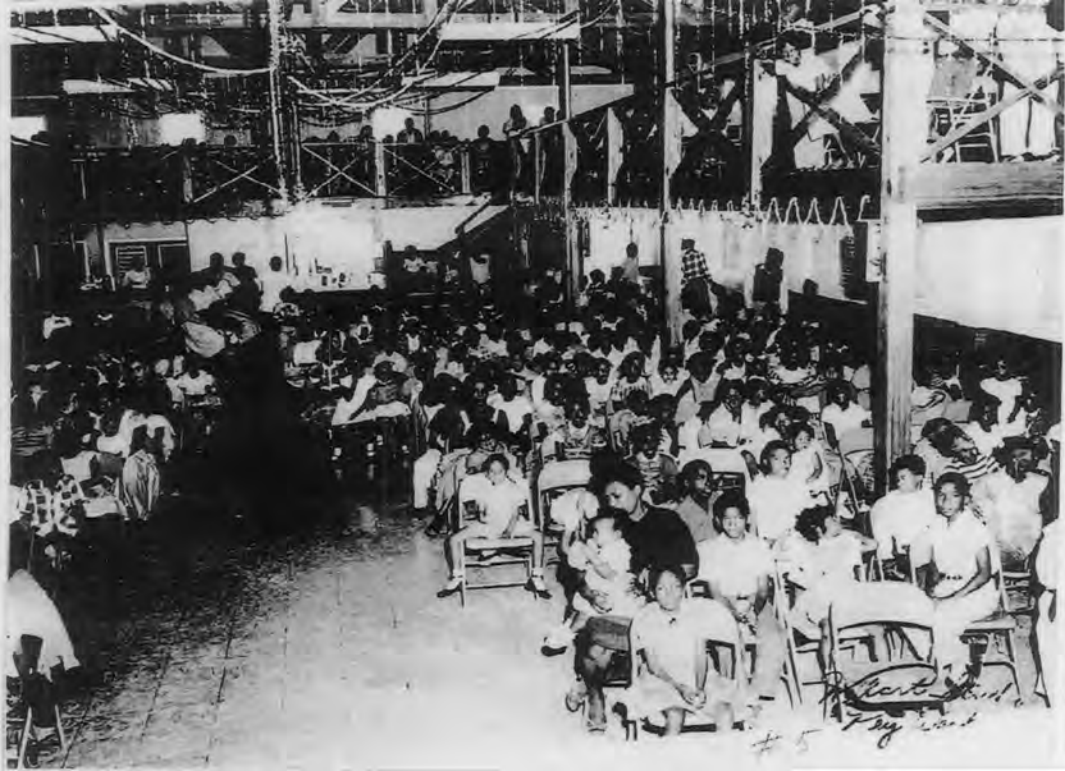


VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021;

William Weech Am. Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

20 of 22



*Robert Street
Pay 1964*

#5

VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021:

William Weech Am. Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

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VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021:

William Weech Am. Legion Post 168

Key West, Monroe Co., FL

22 of 22



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Orthophotomap prepared from aerial photograph taken
April 4, 1970. Topography by planetable surveys 1971
Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1943

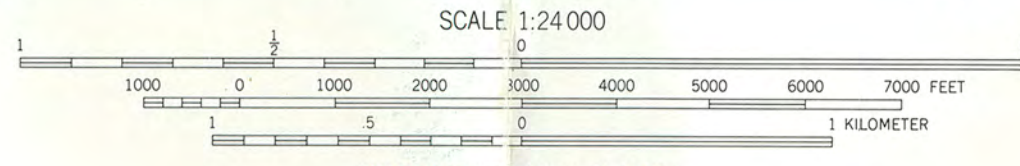
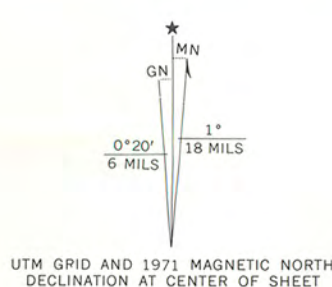
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 576 (1971) and
584 (1970). This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Florida coordinate
system, east zone (transverse Mercator)

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum

Where omitted, land lines have not been established
or are not shown because of insufficient data

Only landmark buildings indicated in urban area



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDES IS APPROXIMATELY 1.3 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface ——— Light-duty road, hard or improved surface ———
Secondary highway, hard surface ——— Unimproved road ———
Trails ———
Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

KEY WEST, FLA.
N2430—W8145/7.5

1971

AMS 4633 III SE—SERIES V847



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor



April 3, 2012

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Department of Interior
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are the nomination and additional materials for the

**VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 & William Weech American Legion Post 168,
Key West, Monroe County, Florida**

N.B. The UTMs were derived using Google Earth, as demonstrated in the National Register webinar, and the nomination is printed on acid free copy paper.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6364 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Barbara E. Mattick, Ph.D.
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
for Survey & Registration

Enclosures



DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
R. A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250
Telephone: 850.245.6300 • Facsimile: 850.245.6436 • www.flheritage.com
Commemorating 500 years of Florida history www.fl500.com





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

RECEIVED 2280
JUN 29 2012
KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

June 26, 2012

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Department of Interior
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are the nomination and additional materials (nomination form, continuation sheets, district map, USGS map, color digital images, and disk) for the

Palmetto Beach Historic District, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida

Also enclosed are 4 supplementary images (and disk) of the façade of the **VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Post 168**, in Key West, Monroe County, Florida, which was listed on May 30, 2012. These images are better representations of the building's main elevation than the images submitted with the nomination.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6364 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Barbara E. Mattick, Ph.D.
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
for Survey & Registration

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DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

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