

PH0073326

STATE: Florida
COUNTY: Dade
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE DEC 27 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Miami Woman's Club
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

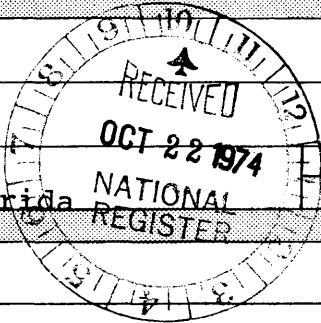
STREET AND NUMBER: 1737 N. Bayshore Drive			
CITY OR TOWN: Miami		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Eleventh	
STATE Florida	CODE 12	COUNTY: Dade	CODE 025

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Community Service Center</u>			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Miami Woman's Club			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1737 N. Bayshore Drive			
CITY OR TOWN: Miami		STATE: Florida	CODE 12



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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dade County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: 73 West Flagler Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Miami		STATE: Florida	CODE 12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Florida Historic Sites Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1940 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Division of Archives, History and Records Management			
STREET AND NUMBER: Department of State, The Capitol			
CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee		STATE: Florida	CODE 12

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Miami Woman's Club is a four and one-half story, U-shaped structure which is located in Miami, Florida and overlooks Biscayne Bay. The building was designed by August Geiger in 1925, and is a typical "boom-time" structure with Renaissance Revival overtones seen particularly in the upper quarter of the building. The flat roof was originally topped by delicate metal cresting, but the effects of the salt sea air caused corrosion and the cresting was removed in 1951. The roof is covered with red Spanish barrel tile, and the exterior walls are buff colored stucco. A garden courtyard is enclosed on three sides by the building, and a screened gate encloses it on the fourth side. A portcochere on the south side of the building marks the entrance to the Woman's Club. This entrance consists of double glass doors with decorative iron grille work. The entry leads to a formal lobby which features elegant decorative fixtures and ornamental chandeliers. The garden court entrance is used by the International Fine Arts College of Fashion, an educational institution which occupies a portion of the club building. The base of the building is scored to resemble stone. Exterior walls are unadorned, with the exception of those facing onto the garden courtyard. Originally, there were open galleries on the upper floors. These were eventually closed to provide additional space for the Woman's Club.

Fenestration at the upper level on the main facade consists of seven semi-circular windows--one pair in the center above the main entry, with three regularly placed on each side. On the east side there are nine, semi-circular windows--one pair at each corner of the building, and five regularly placed windows in between. At the other levels, windows are both casement and sash type, and rectangular in shape. The interior courtyard is surrounded by three semi-circular windows.

The building contains numerous meeting rooms, an auditorium, a formal library, studio rooms, and several banquet rooms of various sizes. On the first and second floors, classroom facilities for the Fashion College are found.

There have been few modifications to this building since its construction in 1926. It has withstood both the effects of the salt air and several hurricanes, including the disastrous storm of 1926. The Miami Woman's Club has maintained the premises through the years, and essential repairs have been made when required. Size of the building and its sound construction make this one of the more significant structures of its type in the city. It is a significant example of "boom time" construction in South Florida, and remains one of Miami's landmark buildings.

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1926**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Miami Woman's Club was organized in 1900, and has maintained an unparalleled record of community service to the city. Both civic and cultural interests have been associated with the club since its founding at the turn of the century. The history of the Miami Woman's Club is really a history of the development of the city of Miami, and the club played a vital role in that development.

The club was first known as "The Married Ladies' Afternoon Club" and was presided over by Mrs. Curtis W. Gardner. Among the charter members are found the names of many notable pioneer families. Included among the membership was Mrs. James M. Jackson, wife of Dr. Jackson, for whom Jackson Memorial Hospital was named.

Organized for both social and literary purposes, the club soon expanded its interests into varied phases of civic work. One of the first projects was the establishment of a small library. The club provided library service to the city of Miami and worked toward the establishment of a municipal library system. The first traveling library was inaugurated in 1928 with a bookmobile operating from the Flagler Memorial Library. Flagler Memorial Library was the main library until 1937 when the Miami Public Library System was created. The club maintained an impressive record of library service to the community for a period of 42 years, and is credited with the founding of the present public library system in Miami.

In 1903, the club joined the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, and in 1905 became affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs. At this same time, the members were beginning to lead in the formation of the Dade County Federation.

The Miami Woman's Club was chartered on July 24, 1911, and through their outstanding record of community leadership and service, had attracted the attention and interest of Henry Flagler. In 1912, Flagler's interest in the club and its expanding library program caused him to donate a tract of land on East Flagler Street at Second Avenue as a site for a club house. As specified in the agreement, a clubhouse-library

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Attached Sheet

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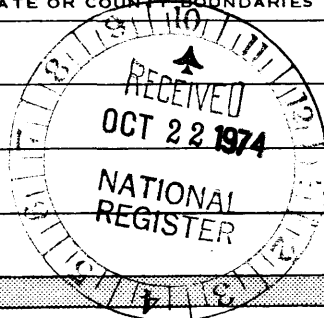
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N25° 47' 30"	W80° 11' 10"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.71 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Mary K. Evans, Historic Sites Specialist**

ORGANIZATION: **Div. of Archives, History & Records Mgt.** DATE: **Sept., 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Department of State, The Capitol**

CITY OR TOWN: **Tallahassee** STATE: **Florida** CODE: **12**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Robert Williams*

Robert Williams

Title: Historic Preservation Officer

Date: October 14, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. A. Wartenburg
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/27/74

ATTEST:

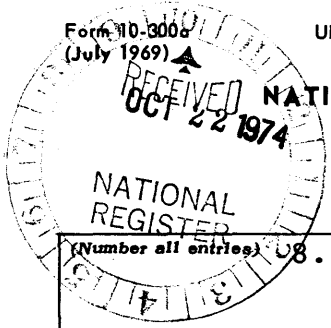
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: DEC 26 1974

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08. Significance

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building valued at not less than \$10,000 was to be erected within a year. No mortgages, liens, or bonds were to be attached to the property. The building was to be designated as a public library, free reading room and as headquarters for club activities. The building, costing \$13,000, most of which was obtained through donations, was completed in 1913, eleven days after Henry Flagler died. Following the conditions of the agreement with Flagler, the club established and maintained what was the only free public library in Miami, and which was the forerunner of the Miami Public Library System that exists today.

As the club's activities expanded, so did the membership. Need for a larger facility became apparent, and the search for new quarters began. A site north of Flagler Street, facing Biscayne Bay, was chosen, and in March, 1925, construction was begun. The building was designed by August Geiger, and constructed by F. H. Foster. Its design followed the popular Spanish style, which prevailed in south Florida during the "boom" period. In March of the following year, the first meeting was held in the new building. This structure, considered one of the largest and most elaborate buildings of its type, was named the Flagler Memorial Library and Club House. It was so masterfully constructed that the disastrous hurricane of 1926 did only minimal damage to the structure.

During the interval between the sale of the original club house on Flagler Street and the move to the present facility, the club temporarily met in the home of Julia Tuttle, one of Miami's most prominent pioneers. Other temporary facilities included the Presbyterian and White Temple Churches in Miami.

The Miami Woman's Club has maintained a long and impressive record of services to the community and the State. An active record of distinguished service in all phases of war work during World Wars I and II was maintained. During World War II, a portion of the club house was turned over to the Dade County Red Cross for their activities in production of medical supplies and materials.

In 1916, the club founded the Travelers Aid Society. The City Curb Market was begun under their direction. In addition, the club established the first library for the black community in 1938. A scholarship program was begun; the Dade County Blood Bank was organized; and the club assisted in rebuilding the Fort Dallas structure when it was relocated in Lummus Park in 1925. The club house was opened for annual school exhibits, and also

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(Number all entries) 8. Significance

provided a meeting place for various civic and social organizations. The Miami Conservatory of Music was housed in the club building for the ten-year period from 1937 to 1947.

Enthusiastic support of community and State projects continues to play a significant role in the activities of the Miami Woman's Club. A permanent art gallery of national and international artists is maintained in the club house.

The numerous awards of recognition bestowed upon the Miami Woman's Club are indicative of the valuable contributions made toward the cultural advancement of the entire south Florida area. The club building continues to function as an important community center, and is one of the city's most significant landmarks. The Miami Woman's Club is a fitting memorial to the generosity and interest of Henry M. Flagler, and to the untiring efforts of the women of Dade County who worked unselfishly over the past seven decades.



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(Continuation Sheet)

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COUNTY Dade	
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(Number all entries) 9. Bibliography

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the Circuit Court. Dade County Records. (Subgroup: deeds).

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and miscellaneous materials, Miami, Florida.

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Woman's Club, Miami, Florida, 1900-1972.

Van Scoyoc, Mrs. D. Knox. Personal Interview (by Mary K. Evans),
Miami Woman's Club, Miami, Florida. August, 1973.



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