

Photo taken by the Property Appraiser's office c1965; 803 Emma St.; built 1943;
American Legion Post #168 VFW Post #6021; Monroe County Library

Staff Report

- 10 William Weech American Legion Post 168, The American Legion, Inc. Proposed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places -#803
Emma Street- Florida State Historic Preservation Office

The Florida State Historic Preservation Office has submitted copy of a proposed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the William Weech American Legion Post 168, The American Legion, Inc. The Executive Committee of the William Weech American Legion Post 168 authorized the nomination. The Commission reviewed this same document on the meetings on October 11 and November 9 of last year. The Commission also visited the building on a workshop that took place on November 2, 2011. The final outcome of those meetings was that the Commission motioned to recognize the building as a contributing resource and once the building undergoes all the necessary repairs then the nomination to the National Register could be re-submitted. Staff has been in contact with Dr. Barbara Mattick, Florida SHPO Survey and Registration Supervisor, and explained what this Commission had done with this nomination request. The State Department requested a review of the nomination, which this staff report is for.

The building located at #803 Emma Street is a two story reinforce concrete and block structure that was built in 1952. The Executive Committee of the William Weech American Legion Post 168 authorized the nomination. The building was first recorded in the 1976 Historic Survey and was classified as non-contributing. In the 1983 Survey was also classified as non-contributing. In the 1998 and 2004 Surveys the building was not included as a contributing resource. The building was already 50 years old in 2002.

According to the city database there are no outstanding building permits for this property. However a Certificate of Appropriateness, #11-01-93, for the Restoration of the building was approved by this Commission on July 13, 2010. The Planning Board approved the necessary variances for the project on November 10, 2010.

William Weech American Legion Post 168, The American Legion, Inc has received the following TIF grant money;

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 2010- \$50,000- | Inspection and measurement of structure, analysis of existing conditions, engineering testing and investigations; preparation of plans and specifications for construction related renovation and restoration of the historic structure; and limited preparatory bracing of structure. |
| 2011- *\$310,000- | Demolition and construction of building shell (including shoring roof and rebuilding of outside walls and eaves). |

*This amount of money was granted pending receipt of matching funds 1:1.

Key West has two historic districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Key West Historic District (boundaries revised in 1983) and the US Naval Station, which is still under military domain. Twelve structures are individually listed as well as two objects, Japanese Midget Submarine and the Western Union Schooner. The USCG Cutter Ingham is listed as a National Landmark, the highest rank a building, site or object can receive from the Secretary of the Interior.

On October 11, 2011 the Commission postponed the review of the request of the proposed nomination and planned a workshop on site. On that same day Chief Building Official John Woodson notified on a letter to the William Weech American Legion Trust Post 168 of a dangerous and unsafe condition on the building located on #803 Emma Street. In the letter Mr. Woodson gave the organization until October 24, 2011 to contact the department as to how the dangerous and unsafe situation was to be addressed to protect the public and users of the building. The Building Department did not receive any communication from the organization. On October 26, 2011 Mr. Woodson wrote another letter notifying the organization that a hearing will take place on November 9, 2011 for unsafe and dangerous condition exists in the building pursuant to the City of Key West Code of Ordinances. As per today, January 20, 2012 the building has been declared unsafe by the Chief Building Official and is closed. The Building Department has not received any letter or document from the American Legion as requested on several letters.

The Florida State Historic Preservation Office understands that the building is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage: Black*. The significant period that has been stated in the nomination is for a ten year period 1952- 1962. Staff agrees that the history of events and the significance of the organization to the community indeed are eligible for nomination. Nevertheless it is staff's opinion that the integrity of the building is questionable at this point since the existing building is presenting severe structural decay on its reinforced concrete fabric. Reinforcing rebars are corroded and some of them already exposed to the elements. At this point there are no professionals monitoring the state of the structure and no actual findings as to whether this building will need to be reconstructed or restored, and if restored how much historic fabric can be retain? The final question here is how much integrity of the original structure will remain during the necessary repairs.

The National Parks Service has created a publication that is used for evaluating nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. Staff has reviewed this document which clearly states the following:

Understanding Criterion A: Event

To be considered for listing under Criterion A, a property must be associated with one or more events important in the defined historic context. Criterion A recognizes properties associated with single events, such as the founding of a town, or with a pattern of events, repeated activities, or historic trends, such as the gradual rise of a port city's prominence in trade and commerce...Moreover, the property must have an important association with the event or historic trends, and it must retain historic integrity. (See Part V: How to Evaluate a Property Within its Historic Context.)

As mentioned before staff agrees with the State's opinion that the proposed nomination is eligible under Criterion A. Reviewing Part V of the National Register bulletin, How to Evaluate a Property Within Its Historic Context the phrase *and possesses the requisite quality of integrity, then it qualifies for the National Register* is mentioned as a requisite. The bulletin has another part, Part VIII, which deals with how to evaluate integrity of a property. This part states that *the evaluation of integrity is sometimes a subjective judgment, but it must always be grounded in an understanding of a property's physical features and how they relate to its significance.* The document introduces seven aspects of integrity and defines the essential physical features that properties must possess for each particular Criterion. Clearly for nominations to be considered under Criteria A and B must not only retain their essential physical features, but the features must be visible enough to convey their significance. This means that even if a property is physically intact, its integrity is questionable if its significant features are concealed under modern construction.

Staff wants to review the seven aspects of integrity for this particular property;

Location- *The relationship between the property and its location is often important to understanding why the property was created or why something happened.*

The building still stands on its original location.

Design- *A property's design reflects historic functions and technologies as well as aesthetics. It includes such considerations as the structural system; massing; arrangement of spaces; pattern of fenestration; textures and colors of surface materials; type, amount, and style of ornamental detailing; and arrangement and type of plantings in a designed landscape.*

The building has been changed through times, the entrance glass blocks were removed, fenestrations have been blocked, eaves have been altered and interiors have been altered like the installation of acoustic panels. These elements can be restored with an accurate design plan but at this moment original features are missing and the structural system is

compromised but we do not know to what degree. It is staff's opinion that the building, at this moment, fails the design aspect of integrity.

Setting- *Setting refers to the character of the place in which the property played its historical role. It involves how, not just where, the property is situated and its relationship to surrounding features and open space.*

The urban settings and surrounding context in which the property was significant have not been altered. Mature trees in the site can be considered evidence of such character.

Materials- *Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.*

A property must retain the key exterior materials dating from the period of its historic significance. If the property has been rehabilitated, the historic materials and significant features must have been preserved. The property must also be an actual historic resource, not a recreation; a recent structure fabricated to look historic is not eligible. Likewise, a property whose historic features and materials have been lost and then reconstructed is usually not eligible.

Due to the state of decay of the structure and the uncertainty of how much historic fabric can be retained as well as the methodology that will be used during the rehabilitation process it is staff's opinion that the property, at this time, fails the materials aspect of integrity.

Workmanship- *Is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. It is the evidence of artisan's labor and skill in constructing or altering a building, structure, object, or site. It can be expressed in vernacular methods of construction and plain finishes or in high sophisticated configurations and ornamental detailing.*

The building was built using simple and traditional techniques. Again, because of the actual uncertainty of how much historic fabric can be retained as well as the methodology that will be used during the rehabilitation process it is staff's opinion that the property, at this time, fails the workmanship aspect of integrity.

Feeling- *Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. It results from the*

presence of physical features that, taken together, convey the property's historic character.

It is staff's opinion that by reviewing the few available historic photos of the building and comparing them to what we see and experience today the building's exterior and interior features had been changed and the historic sense of the ten year period of significance stated in the nomination, 1952-1962 is not reflected. Staff understands that the property's historic sense can be brought back with accurate plans and methodologies. It is staff's opinion that the property, at this time, fails the feeling aspect of integrity.

Association- *Is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. A property retains association if it is the place where the event or activity occurred and is sufficiently intact to convey that relationship to an observer.*

The uncertainty of how sound the structure is and the need of a rehabilitation of the building creates questions of how much intact the historic fabric will be after the rehabilitation, reconstruction or repairs process. It is staff's opinion that the property, at this time, fails the association aspect of integrity.

A property important associated with an event, historical pattern, or person(s) ideally might retain some features of all seven aspects of integrity; location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Integrity of design and workmanship, however, might not be as important to the significance, and would not be relevant if the property were a site, in which in this case it is a building. In conclusion the property fails five of the seven aspects of integrity as defined by the National Register Bulletin-How To Apply The National Register Criteria for Evaluation.

It is staff's opinion that this is not the correct time to promote a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the building located at #803 Emma Street. Staff understands the need of the owners to raise money in order to stabilize and rehabilitate the building and how if the building is listed in the National Register can qualify them to compete for grants for such an effort. Nevertheless the nomination to the National Register needs to be substantiated by actual and accurate facts; at this point nobody can make a determination of how much of the integrity of the building will be retained during the must needed rehabilitation process, will it be 50%, 79%, 20%? Staff does not have that answer which is critical when making a determination of the integrity aspect of the building.

Staff recommends to the Commission to reiterate their motion of November 9, 2011. Furthermore staff wants to address to the Commission that the Regulations pertaining nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, [36 CFR60], includes a section for Removing properties from the National Register;

Sec. 60.15 Removing properties from the National Register;

(a) Grounds for removing properties from the National Register are as follows:

(1) The property has ceased to meet the criteria for listing in the national Register because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been lost or destroyed, or such qualities were lost subsequent to nomination and prior to listing;

It is staff's opinion that this proposed nomination be postponed until the building undergoes rehabilitation, after the conclusion of the rehabilitation process, then the nomination can be reviewed with the understanding of how much of the integrity of the building was retained.

Florida SHPO Request



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

December 19, 2011

Ms. Enid Torregrosa
Historic Preservation Planner
City of Key West
604 Simonton Street
Post Office Box 1409
Key West, Florida 33041-1419

Re: VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168,
803 Emma Street, Key West, Monroe County, Florida

Dear Ms. Torregrosa:

A Florida National Register Nomination Proposal for the above referenced property has been received by the State Historic Preservation Officer. We solicit your review and recommendation concerning eligibility in accordance with the procedures established by the National Historic Preservation Act [Title I, Section 101 (16 U.S.C. 470a) (c)(2)] which created the basis for the participation of Certified Local Governments in the Florida National Register of Historic Places nomination process.

According to the Act, before a property within the jurisdiction of the certified local government may be considered by the State to be nominated for inclusion on the National Register, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall notify the owner, the applicable chief local elected official, and the local historic preservation commission. The commission, after reasonable opportunity for public comment, shall prepare a report as to whether or not such property meets the eligibility criteria. Within sixty days of the notice from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the chief local elected official shall transmit the report of the commission and his recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Officer. If no such report and recommendation are received within sixty days, the State shall proceed with the nomination process.

If either the preservation agency or the chief local elected official supports the nomination of the property, the proposal will be scheduled for consideration by the Florida National Register Review Board. If both the commission and the chief local

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
850.245.6300 • FAX: 850.245.6435

Archaeological Research
850.245.6444 • FAX: 850.245.6452

Historic Preservation
850.245.6333 • FAX: 850.245.6437



Torregrosa
December 19, 2011
Page Two

elected official recommend that a property not be nominated to the National Register, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall take no further action, unless within thirty days of the receipt of such recommendation by the State Historic Preservation Officer an appeal is filed with the State. Any party may file an appeal with the State Historic Preservation Officer. If the State Historic Preservation Officer, after hearing the appeal, determines that the property is eligible, he shall proceed with the nomination process. The State Historic Preservation Officer shall include any reports and recommendations from any party along with the nomination submitted to the Keeper of the Register.

We look forward to your recommendation and comments regarding this property. If we can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Barbara E. Mattick, PhD.
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
for Survey and Registration

Enclosures

Pc: Mr. Charles L. Major, Sr., Trustee
Ms. Millicent Weech, Auxiliary Member



Nomination
Florida SHPO Edited Version

Florida Department of State
Division of Historical Resources
Bureau of Historic Preservation

Adapted from NPS 10-900
to propose the nomination of
Properties in Florida for listing in
the National Register of Historic
Places

FLORIDA NOMINATION PROPOSAL

Grayed Areas for Use by Staff

1. Name of Property

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

other names _____ FMSF Number _____

2. Location

street & number 803 Emma Street N/A not for publication

city or town Key West N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL countv Monroe code 087 zip code 33040

3. Owner Awareness Statement

As the owner, or official representative of the owner, of the property identified above, I am aware of this proposal for its nomination for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. I have been advised of the procedures for review of the proposal by the State Historic Preservation Office and the Florida National Register Review Board, and for the formal nomination of the property at the discretion of the State Historic Preservation Officer. I understand that I will be notified of the date and place of the public meeting at which the proposal will be considered by the Florida National Register Review Board, and that I will be given an opportunity to submit written comments and to appear in person in support of or opposition to the nomination of the property.

At this time I _____ support _____ oppose _____ reserve opinion on this proposal.

Signature of property owner or representative

Date

4. Legal Description of Property (according to county property appraiser's office)

Please also provide:

Name of USGS Quadrangle: KW

Township, Section and Range: T S6 S 68S R 25E

Tax Parcel #: 00014650-000000-06-68-25



Attach continuation sheet if necessary

SHPO Edited Version

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting 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 CONCRETE

walls STUCCO

roof WOOD

other STEEL

Narrative Description

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



Name of Property

County and State

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 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...
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.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Agriculture, Architecture, Archaeology, Community Planning, Commerce, Education, Early Settlement, Health/Medicine, Industry, Maritime History, Military, Politics/Government, Recreation, Social History, Transportation, Other: Ethnic Heritage

Period of Significance

1952-1962

Significant Dates

1952

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Harvey, CB



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

Key West, Monroe County, FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6,500 SQ FT.

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	4	2	0	8	0	5	2	7	1	5	8	9	9	3												
	Zone		Easting						Northing						Zone		Easting						Northing					
2																4												
	Zone		Easting						Northing						Zone		Easting						Northing					

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title MILLICENT L. WEECH

organization WILLIAM WEECH AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 168 date 12/15/2011

street & number 733 OLIVIA STREET telephone 305-896-3959

city or town KEY WEST state FL zip code 33040

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets (All information on continuation sheets must be typed.)

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) Do not write upon or attach labels to this map.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.
(Do not write upon or attach permanent labels to the photographs.)

Additional items

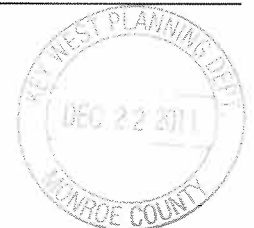
(check with the area Historic Sites Specialist at [850] 487-2333 for any additional items)

Property Owner

name VFW WALTER R. MICKENS POST 6021 AND WILLIAM WEECH AMERICAN LEGION POST 168

street & number 803 EMMA STREET telephone 305-896-3959

city or town KEY WEST state FL zip code 33040



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number	7	Page	1	VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168 Key West, Monroe County, Florida
				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 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 main facade. One of the entrances on the main facade has been infilled and a handicapped access ramped was installed on the northwest elevation of the building.

SETTING

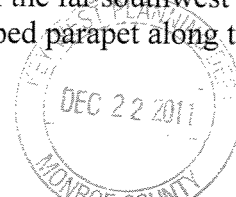
The Walter Mickens and William Weech Post is located in the historically black [District VI] neighborhood in Key West, Florida. Key West, the largest city and county seat of Monroe County, is located amongst the Florida Keys, which are a series of islands extending south from the Florida Peninsula between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. 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 louvered windows with masonry sills underneath.

The main (southwest) facade of the building features two inset entrances topped by decorative coping. 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. A handicapped railing has been installed in this entrance. The other entrance has been infilled and is no longer in use. Fenestration on this elevation includes three smaller louvered vents on the first story and four larger louvered vents on the upper story. All of the vents have masonry sills underneath. 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, exterior lighting flanking the main entrance and on the roofline, and a flagpole on the far southwest corner of this elevation. The most defining architectural feature of this building is the stepped parapet along the roofline.



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2 VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William
Weech American Legion Post 168
Key West, Monroe County, Florida
DESCRIPTION

The stepped parapet has rounded edges, coping along the roofline, and two sets of three scuppers flanking the middle of the building just underneath the lighting.

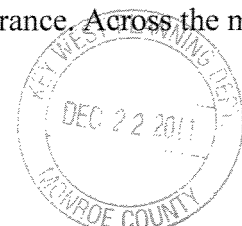
The northwest elevation of the building is plain in design, with louvered vents similar in design to those found throughout the building. There is a handicapped access ramp on this elevation that leads to a side entrance to the building. The side entrance is a simple single metal door. A ventilation pipe juts out near the northwest corner of the building. The roof slightly overhangs the roofline, with wider coping near the roofline 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. Fenestration consists of metal vents similar to those found elsewhere on the building. Much of this elevation is obscured by vegetation and access is very limited.

The southeast elevation (photo #1) features an adjacent one-story, shed-like kitchen addition built with concrete walls and a flat roof. The addition, built ca. [year built], has two entrances, one facing the main façade and other to the side facing the adjacent driveway. This simple addition has little decoration besides a simple raised parapet along the roofline with a visor 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 in 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 a room still used by the American Legion post for their regular meetings.

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 the stage on the far northeast side of the building and the bar on the southeast side of the main floor. 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. The bar, which is situated underneath the mezzanine, consists of a counter and other furnishings necessary for its operation. No walls have been put in place to make room for the bar. 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. Across the main entrance from the women's room is a storage room.



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

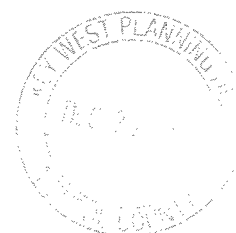
Section number 7 Page 3 VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William
Weech American Legion Post 168
Key West, Monroe County, Florida
DESCRIPTION

The layout of the shed addition is very simple. The ceiling has exposed wood beams with decorative wood molding along the juncture of the ceiling and the wall. Flooring consists of simple tiling. The kitchen was designed to be 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 wood railing extends across the entire mezzanine and a DJ booth is located near the middle of the southwest side.

Alterations

This building has undergone a number of 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. The secondary entrance on the main facade 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 covered over or replaced with air conditioning units. On the interior, the original horseshoe-shaped bar has been replaced, drop ceiling has been added, and a DJ booth was added to the mezzanine.



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



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1 VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168
Key West, Monroe County, Florida
SIGNIFICANCE

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, Military, and Ethnic Heritage: Black. Constructed in 1946, 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 the American takeover of Florida in 1819. In 1822, John Simonton purchased the island from Juan P. Salas with the intention of establishing a port city. The development of the city took off thanks 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 US 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.

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 US port of entry. The Federal Wrecking Act, passed in 1825, required that all wrecks salvaged from ships that sank in US waters be taken to a US 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.

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

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



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 8 Page 1 VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168 Key West, Monroe County, Florida
SIGNIFICANCE

took place throughout the south, but also 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.

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 who 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, there were 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.

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 possessing of a port considerably deeper than that found in Miami. Its close 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.

Native African Americans of World War I Veteran of Foreign Wars rented a separate building to hold their meetings, while the African Americans of World War II and Korean War Veterans rented the ole Dixie Hall located at 711 Whitehead Street, Key West, Florida, owned by the Samartian Lodge supporting Veterans. The VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 chartered on March 3, 1946, and the William Weech American Legion Post 168 received a Temporary charter on June 27, 1946. Two years later on May 20, 1948 William Weech American Legion Post 168 received their Permanent Charter. Both Posts merged as a Joint Venture to purchase land to build their own Post Home due to segregation in the 1950s. VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech America Legion Post 168 needed a larger facility to support the 10,000 Military Personnel deployed in Key West, Florida during the Cuban Missile Crisis. This is the only structure within this Historic District of Key West, Florida built by the members of both organizations. The City of Key West, Florida gave the white VFW and American Legion organizations their property for 99 years at \$1.00 per year; while the African American Veterans of the VFW and American Legion had to purchase their own land and built their own Post Home as a Joint Venture. Key West Postmaster Fred Dion and (wife) Margaret Dion sold this property to the members for \$10.00 and other valuable goods in consideration of both Posts VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168, located at 803 Emma Street, Key West, Florida, surrounding the Naval Base. Key West is an exceptional community, regardless of the infamous segregation the native (Conchs) were related, therefore everyone knew the standards, but continued to help one

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another. Arthur Sawyer Post #28 in Key West loaned William Weech American Legion Post 168 \$2,000.00 to complete this project. After the completion of the structure on December 10, 1952, Fred and Margaret Dion transferred the Deed to the Posts on January 1, 1953. This is the Southernmost Post in the United States of America.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Freed African slaves migrated to the region to work in the growing cigar industry – along with natives from the various surrounding islands of Bahamas, and Cuba in the late 1840s. During World War I, II and Korean War African Americans and African American Cuban Veterans returned to the Island of Key West, Florida and found themselves excluded by white Veteran organizations. The community supported these Veterans and helped them with the construction of their Post Home.

In 1919, the experiences of World War I Veterans inspired a new veteran's society called the Forty and Eight. At the same time, United States Congress granted a Charter to The American Legion, as a wartime veteran's organization. Membership eligibility was based on any honorable federal active military duty; serving one or more periods of hostilities as designated by the Department of Defense. The ideas behind the Forty and Eight were the thought that Legionnaires needed an opportunity to have some fun and blow off some steam. The Forty and Eight white male membership policy, forced Black Veterans of World War I to hold meetings within their own community.

After the American Legion's Leadership denounced the Forty and Eight as offensive, the Black World War I, World War II and Korean War Veterans in Key West, Florida, known as the William Weech American Legion Post 168 and VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 merged as a Joint Venture.

In 1945, the Black World War I veterans of the community rented the band room located at Angela and Thomas Street, Key West, Florida, where they held their meetings, because of membership denial in the local white organizations of the World War I Veterans.

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. This charter received its named after Walter R. Mickens a native Key Wester, killed during World War II.

On June 27, 1946, William Weech American Legion Post 168 received its "Temporary Charter" from The American Legion National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana. William Weech, another native Key Wester who died on the USS Maine, while it was docked in the Harbor of Havana, Cuba, on February 15, 1898, during 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. The loyalty, dedication and patriotism of these veterans diligently worked together to raise funds to build their own Home Posts under one roof, which was

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uncommon – but not likely. Segregation was still infamous; therefore, these Veterans demonstrated their patriotism and determination to continue serving their community.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

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 located at 803 Emma Street, Key West, Florida.

Comrade Alphonso Dean was the first Commander of the V.F.W. Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and Comrade Earl McGee became the first Commander of William Weech American Legion Post 168.

In the process of the building their new Home Post, together the members secured a five-year lease on the Old Dixie Hall located at 711 Whitehead Street owned by the Samaritan Lodge, a private organization, supporting veterans.

The Posts obtained a club license and operated it as a nightclub, which offered entertainment to the many Black Servicemen 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 performed, local musicians 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 Margaret Dion for \$10.00 and other good and valuable considerations to them in hand.

Alfred A. Allen and Charles L. , Trustees (William Weech American Legion Post 168), Irving J. Carey and Lang B. Milan, as Trustees (Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6021) and their successors in office, all the city of Key West, Monroe County named on the DEED.

Key West Mayor C.B. Harvey provided the Architect plans of an Art Deco style building to the members, “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 the efforts, and donated one hundred (100) blocks towards the construction.

On February 28, 1952, Trustees to conduct business on behalf of the entire joint venture Commander Irving J. Carey and Lang B. Milan, and Joint Committee Chairman Alfred A. Allen, and Judge Advocate Charles L. Major opened a Deposit Account with the Florida National Bank at Key West, Florida, to deposit funds for the construction of the new home Post.

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On June 25, 1952, during a regular meeting under Commander Phillip Sears, Comrade Floyd Hannibal motion to meet with the County Commissioners to seek recreational facilities for the kids in the Colored Park. The Committee consisting of Posts members and Civic organizations which included Charles L. Major, Samuel Kelly, Bernard McGee, Mrs. Rowena Pinder and Mrs. Julia Riou received a unanimous vote to proceed. The Post (s) also sent donations to the Crippled Children's Foundation.

Many local businesses factored into the construction of this joint venture, such as; Strunk Lumber Yard, Charley Toppino & Sons, Overseas Transportation Company, Inc., Woman Civic Club, Key West Venetian Blind Company, Long's Furniture Store, Fausto's Food Palace, Joe's Fish Market, Key West Undertaking Company, Lincoln Theatre, Blue Goose Restaurant, Key West Electrical Repair Company, Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, Willing Workers Guild (St. Peter's Episcopal Church), Geneva Marie's Beauty Parlor, Haskins Machine Works, Blue Marlin Motel, Tropical Trader, American Chemical Company of Key West, Marguerite's House of Glamor, Marcia's Place, Imperial Café, B. Cash Grocery Store, Blue Heaven Billiard parlor, Juan Soriano Grocery Store, Little Gypsy Tea Room, Modern Dry Cleaners, Lindsley Lumber Company, Key West Provision Company, Bernie C. Papy, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hernandez, John M. Spottswood, Key West Floor Covering Company, Mani's Bar, Peach Pool Room, Sinclair Grocery, Southernmost Neon Sign Company, Martinez Refrigeration Company, Lopez Wholesale Liquors, Inc., Gomez Furniture Company, Fly to Havana(Key West-Havana Overseas Tours), Duval Sundries, O.K. Shoe Shop, Key West Inn, Joe Pearlman's Inc., Altman's Furniture Company, Ester and Bill (Men and Children's Wear), Anthony and Ernestine Welters (Florist), Barbecue Inn (Florence Wilson, Prop.), Appel's (fashion for the entire family), Montzelles (beachwear), Oriental Pharmacy, Forbe's Barber Shop, Tropical Hat Cleaners, John Perez Barber Shop. Gene's News Stand, Lucas Electric, Esquinaldo Grocery, Ida Beauty Shop, Clarence (Sonny) Higgs Jr. (Peninsular Life Insurance Company), Appelrouth's Shoe Center, The Beachcomber(Jewelers), Joe Allen (The Key West Press), "33" Restaurant, Padron's Grocery and Home Appliance Company, Inc. (B.C. Moreno and T.O. Bruce). These businesses applauded the members for their feat.

Many members were adept carpenters, electricians, plumbers, masonries and handy men. They worked their full-time employment at the Naval Station and after work hours, they would meet at their new location to start the construction. When the men fell short on funds to complete the Post, they borrowed \$2,000.00 from Arthur Sawyer Post 28 to continue this project. The men worked 24/7 until completion on December 10, 1952. December 13, 1952, two days after completion of the building; the Posts and Auxiliary Members held an official program and dedicated the Post to V.F.W. Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168.

On January 1, 1953, the Post(s) received the Warranty Deed from Fred and Margaret Dion.

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Business flourished in the 50's and 60's, mainly due to over 10,000 military personnel of the U.S. Navy being in full deployment in Key West, Florida. Many military personnel became members of both Posts, which placed their membership well over two-hundred.

Many of the Veterans deployed in Key West during this time married the native 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 at 8:00 pm and William Weech American Legion Post 168 members held their meeting on the first and fourth Wednesday. The Executive House Committee, consisting of six members from each Post met every Sunday at 11:00 am in the establishment and installation of Officers conducted at a local church, voted for at a regular meeting. These men dedicated themselves to the Four Pillars of the American Legion: Veterans, Defend, Youth, and Patriotism.

Both the Ladies Auxiliary of V.F.W. 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.

February 11, 1953 a letter addressed to William Weech American Legion Post 168 and V.F.W. Walter R. Mickens Post 6021, from the Joint House Committee relative to barring an individual from the premises of the Post – Indefinitely. In another instance, a member was relieved from his duties pending trial for misappropriation of Posts funds. The aims and purpose were unwavering; not allowing anyone to interfere with the accomplishments achieved by the Post and the many challenges they hurdled to maintain their dignity and integrity.

In 1954, a letter 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" showing several Posts and Arthur Sawyer Post 28 objection to new Rules and Regulations, demonstrating hardships this new policy would bring on in this particular city. The Post(s) were very aware and involved in all Veteran affairs locally and nationally.

The Post sent many boys and girls from the community yearly to Boys State and Girls State in Tallahassee, Florida, as part of the many activities provided by the Post. Annual Christmas parties for the children of the Veterans and Community received brown bags of fruit, candy and other goodies were distributed.

The organization allowed their Post Home to become a safe place for Douglas High School students for dances, parties and "Senior Night" graduates. Others groups e.g. churches, non-profit organizations and private citizens rented the hall at half-price, while housing hurricane, fire and other disaster victims at "No Charge", when necessary.

March 7, 1955 a letter from William Weech American Legion and VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 addressing the Shore Patrol Headquarters of the Navy regarding a fracas on the sidewalk of the VFW/American Legion Hall between two Sailors and a Civilian. Charles L. Major, and Alfred A. Allen loyalty and

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accomplishments they acquired while fully employed with the Naval Station received high accolades as members of the Post (s).

Mr. Charles Major Sr., one of the Trustees on the Deed, became the Commander of the Tenth Division for fourteen years covering Key West to West Palm Beach, Florida.

William Weech American Legion Post 168, Honor Guards rendered a full military ceremony with Taps and Bugle for their deceased Veterans. The Armory received the rifle 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 Veterans and Auxiliary members of both Posts attained the pledge according to the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Post held the biggest political rally in the history of Key West, when Bernie C. Papy serve as State Representative for twenty-eight years and his opponent Charles Ramos was a first time candidate and won the State Representative seat, defeating Mr. Papy by twenty-eight votes, of which Douglass School help Mr. Ramos to win the election.

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 candidate(s) to present their speech on **"I Speak for Democracy"** at Church, the Post (s), District, and the Department of Florida, before speaking at National.

In 1963, the members of V.F.W. 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 in 1963. Members of the Post, men, and women of the community and other political official 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, shared relatives and that shared history allowed them to have a very relaxed version of segregation.

Commander Chester Conner, who held this position for thirteen (13) years from 1978 – 1991, brought forth many fundraising ideas to help the Post financially such as Raffles, awarding the winner of the first prize

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\$500.00, second prize \$300.00 and third prize \$100.00. . Commander Conner was one of the many Military Personnel stationed in Key West, Florida and married a native woman by the name of Doris Newbold Conner, also affiliated with the William Weech Auxiliary Unit 168. Commander Conner won the Best Historian Award for keeping the Post history during his years in office.

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

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.

Over the next thirteen (13) years from 1997-2010, V.F.W. Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 lost their Charter due to non-membership and William Weech American Legion Post 168, the American Legion. Inc. became the sole Charter of this Joint Venture.

Many of the older members died and became ill, leaving four (4) original members present; two (2) Trustees from William Weech American Legion Post 168, Chairman of the House Committee Alfred A. Allen and Judge Advocate Charles L. Major Sr., Past Post Commander/Chaplain John B. Knowles and Adjutant Samuel D. Leggett. Other members moved out of Key West, died, or just kept their membership with no participation, because of their sickness.

February 2009, Trustee and Chairman of the House Committee died leaving one remaining Trustee Charles L. Major Sr., the only living charter member of William Weech American Legion Post 168 Past Post Commander/Chaplain John B. Knowles, and Adjutant Samuel D. Leggett. The three original members who are in their late 80's and early 90's continue to sustain the pledge to help the younger generation of Veterans to conduct business according to the American Legion Department of Florida Constitution and By-Laws.

The younger generation and a few of the older women of the William Weech American Legion Auxiliary unit 168 continued the purpose in sustaining and assisting the Post constancy. The Auxiliary organized a Key West 2011 Reunion fundraiser on December 24- 31, 2010 toward the restoration/renovation of the building.

The following year on March 31, 2011, first vice Commander Josephus Chaplin Sr. assumed Post Commander Paul Richardson position until the duration of his term. Commander Chaplin has dedicated himself to achieve the same integrity determination as the older members, in helping the Post re-establish it financial status.

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Currently, the Post sponsor 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 purpose and providing entertainment for the community at large.

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 insure the continuation of the Legacy. Today, the Legionaries preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great Wars; safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy and embraces the Preamble of the American Legion while continuing to serve the many Veterans, their families and the community. William Weech American Legion Post 168 organization receives visitors from other Posts and visitors from around the World who admire the Veterans triumphant struggle for survival services. On August 25, 2011, the remaining Post of this Joint Venture will be Celebrating 60 years of continuous service to the Veterans, their families and the Community.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Many of the Veterans of both Post were Freed Masons and City of Key West Mayor C.B. Harvey worked with the men at the Naval Station located in the vicinity of the Post. The rapport with the Navy and City Official were highly recommended; therefore aiding the members with their project to build their own Post Home to continue service under the Veteran of Foreign Wars and the American Legion organization. Mayor C.B. Harvey provided the Architectural plans, but did not know how to construct is design, so the Veterans of both Posts did all of the construction, while Mayor Harvey observed.

Nomination
Applicant's Original Version



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property William Weech American Legion Post 168, the American Legion, Inc

historic name (Historic) VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 803 Emma Street

city or town Key West

state Florida code FL county Monroe code 087 zip code 33040

not for publication

vicinity

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____

Date _____

Title _____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

Antoinette H. ...



THE AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 168
Name of Property

MONROE/FLORIDA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL

COMMERCE

OTHER

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MEETING PLACE – AMERICAN LEGION POST

BAR AND KITCHEN

NIGHT CLUB - ENTERTAINMENT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Stucco Building – Masonry Design

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: SAND, CREMENT AND STEEL

walls: BRICKS AND MORTAR SAND, CRMNT

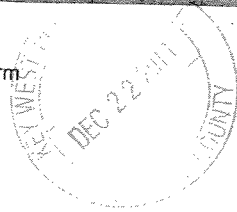
WOOD, DADE COUNTY PINE 4X4,4X6 AND GALVERIZED BOLTS – 1X6 PINE,

roof: 90 LB FELT PPR. NO RAFTERS, TRUSS

other: FLR,SND,CRMNT,RCKS,14X14 CBNTILE

THE AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 168
Name of Property

MONROE/FLORIDA
County and State



Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Description of Land

All that certain piece or parcel of land in Tract Three (3) on the Island of Key West, which is described in a Diagram of part of the said Tract Three (3), made by L. Windsor Smith, recorded Deed Book "E" Page 72, Monroe County, Florida, Records, known as part of Lots one (1) and Five (5), beginning at a point on Emma Street One hundred Eight (108) feet in a Southeasterly direction from the corner of Emma and Petronia Streets, and running thence along Emma Street in a Southeasterly direction Fifteen (15) feet; thence at right angles in a Northeasterly direction One hundred (100) feet; thence at right angles in a Northwesterly direction Fifteen (15) feet; thence at right angles in a Southwesterly direction One hundred (100) feet to the place of beginning on Emma Street.

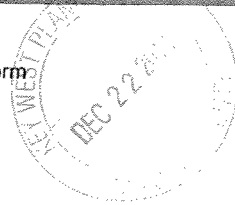
Key West, Florida - Recorded in the Clerk Circuit Court - File # Jan -5 1953- 4:10 p.m.; recorded in Deed Book C-66 page 440/441 and record verified Earl R. Adams Clerk Circuit Court - Deputy Clerk Kathleen Nottage

William Weech American Legion Post 168 and (historic) VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 located at 803 Emma Street, Key West, Florida in District VI Historic area, which lies between an apartment building and a theater. This 6,500 sq. ft one-story building has a masonry design facet finished with cement, bricks, steel, and stucco all around, no cable roof, two (2) main entrances, right entrance with steps accessible and the left entrances with foyer closed-off. Original design called for thirty-six (36) windows, all of the lower level windows are closed-off and the Mezzanine level windows has a jalousie style, still open for ventilation. The Trusses made from Dade County Pine wood remains in excellent condition. In the 80's a drop ceiling installed to accommodate an air conditioning unit. A Stage with two dressing rooms, each dressing room has two (2) entrances, one to stage and one from main floor, open space above dressing rooms to the Truss. There is a narrow platform leading to the stage on both sides from dressing room area. Two (2) bathrooms located in the main hall at the left of main entrance. A storage room located at the right side of main entrance and a horseshoe bar located at the main entrance. Three (3) fire exits, one leaving to handicap ramp located near the front of building and 1 on each side of the building towards the stage, near dressing rooms. The materials used for the floors are cement and sand, finished with Cuban Tile. There is a horseshoe bar with two (2) chest style coolers and one stand-up cooler. There are 6 X 6 wooden poles ten (10) feet apart from the floor to the Truss. There is a two level staircase leading to a horseshoe shape mezzanine with surrounding handrails, an "X" design every ten (10) feet over-looking the stage with a DJ Booth located in the center facing the Stage. There is an entrance to the kitchen next to bar, with two (2) half bathrooms, partitioned off from cooking area towards the rear exit. Two (2) commercial stoves, one with burners and the other with a grill top. There is one deep fryer, one freezer, 2 stoves, a serving window, four ceiling fans, an exhaust fan above stoves, front door entrances with a porch area, a fire exit next to the stoves and a back exit towards the bathrooms located near the sink area, a serving counter, and a air-condition.

There are two full-grown Coconut Trees located at the northeasterly side of building and a Spanish lime tree behind the building and a huge tree at the Southwesterly direction of the building.

Narrative Description

William Weech American Legion Post 168 and (Historic) VFW Walter R, Mickens Post 6021 members built this Post, construction started on August 25, 1951 and completed on December 10, 1952. This building is fifty-nine (59) years old. All walls and columns are deteriorating, due to aging, repairs needed on the mezzanine, columns on stage need repairs columns are cracking, and dressing rooms need repairs.



THE AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 168
Name of Property

MONROE/FLORIDA
County and State

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

Built in 1952 –an American Legion Post Charter granted by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization.

Significant Dates

1951, 1952, 1958 - 2011

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Entertainers: James Brown, KC and the Sunshine Band, Diana Washington, Joe Tex, Ruth Brown

Cultural Affiliation

African-Americans association during the Great Wars (WWI, WWII and Korean War) provided a Post Home to continue their services to their Fellow Comrades, their families and community.

Architect/Builder

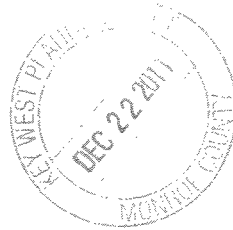
CB Harvey/VFW/American Legion Veterans members built the structure

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.



(Expires 5/31/2012)

THE AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 168
Name of Property

MONROE/FLORIDA
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Period of Significance (justification)

African-American were denied membership after World War I, under the new Veterans Society called the Forty and Eight. In 1919 Congress granted a Charter to the American Legion as a wartime Veteran organization devoted to mutual helpfulness, membership eligibility was based on any honorable federal active military duty; serving one or more periods of hostilities as designated by the Department of Defense.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

In 1946, WWI, WWII and Korean War Veterans joined together to raise funds to purchase a piece of land to build their own Home Post, due to segregation. Key West City Mayor C.B. Harvey provided the Architectural Plans, "Free of Charge" and Key West Postmaster Fred Dion and wife Margaret Dion sold the land located at 803 Emma Street for \$10.00 and other good and valuable considerations to them in hand. Two (2) Trustees named from each Post Alfred A. Allen and Charles. L. Major, William Weech American Legion Post 168 and Irving J. Carey and Lang B. Milian (Historic)VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021, and their successors as a Joint Venture. Uncommon, but not likely, these two organization unified under one roof - due to segregation within the United States of America.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

On August 25, 1951 Key West Postmaster Fred Dion and wife Margaret Dion sold this parcel of land - located at 803 Emma Street Key West, Florida to both Post(s), who appointed two (2) Trustees from each Post William Weech American Legion Post 168 Alfred A. Allen and Charles L. Major; and (Historic) VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 Irving J. Carey and Lang B. Milan to conduct business on behalf of the Post(s) and their successors. Many Key West City Official and businesses within Key West helped these members with the construction - by providing the necessary equipment and materials needed for this project.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Documentation and photos collected came from the William Weech American Legion Post 168 minutes. Living Trustees to the Deed of this property Charles L. Major Sr. John Wilson Smith, son of VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 member. Mrs. Mary L. Weech and Mrs. Julia Campbell, William Weech American Legion Auxiliary oldest members and Millicent Weech Auxiliary member provided documentation and photos.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- DOD Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

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Section number 8 Page 1

William Weech American Legion Post
168

Name of Property

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8. Statement of Significance

History

In 1919, the experiences of World War I Veterans inspired a new veteran's society called the Forty and Eight. At the same time, United States Congress granted a Charter to The American Legion, as a wartime veteran's organization. Membership eligibility was based on any honorable federal active military duty; serving one or more periods of hostilities as designated by the Department of Defense. The ideas behind the Forty and Eight were the thought that Legionnaires needed an opportunity to have some fun and blow off some steam. The Forty and Eight white male membership policy, forced Black Veterans of World War I to hold meetings within their own community.

After the American Legion's Leadership denounced the Forty and Eight as offensive, the Black World War I, World War II and Korean War Veterans in Key West, Florida, known as the William Weech American Legion Post 168 and VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 merged as a Joint Venture.

In 1945, the Black World War I veterans of the community rented the band room located at Angela and Thomas Street, Key West, Florida, where they held their meetings, because of membership denial in the local white organizations of the World War I Veterans.

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. This charter received its name after Walter R. Mickens a native Key Wester, killed during World War II.

On June 27, 1946, William Weech American Legion Post 168 received its "Temporary Charter" from The American Legion National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana. William Weech, another native Key Wester who died on the USS Maine, while it was docked in the Harbor of Havana, Cuba, on February 15, 1898, during 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. The loyalty, dedication and patriotism of these veterans diligently worked together to raise funds to build their own Home Posts under one roof, which was uncommon – but not likely. Segregation was still infamous; therefore, these Veterans demonstrated their patriotism and determination to continue serving their community. 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 located at 803 Emma Street, Key West, Florida. Comrade Alphonso Dean was the first Commander of the V.F.W. Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and Comrade Earl McGee became the first Commander of William Weech American Legion Post 168.

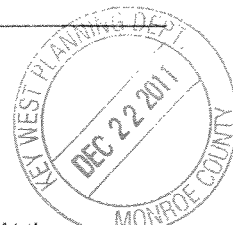
In the process of the building their new Home Post, together the members secured a five-year lease on the Old Dixie Hall located at 711 Whitehead Street owned by the Samaritan Lodge, a private organization, supporting veterans.

The Posts obtained a club license and operated it as a nightclub, which offered entertainment to the many Black Servicemen 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 performed, local musicians entertained many sailors, soldiers and veterans within the community.

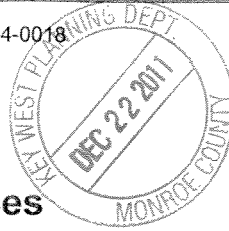
On August 25, 1951, the men purchased the land located at 803 Emma Street, from the Key West Postmaster Fred Dion and Margaret Dion for \$10.00 and other good and valuable considerations to them in hand.

Alfred A. Allen and Charles L. , Trustees (William Weech American Legion Post 168), Irving J. Carey and Lang B. Milan, as Trustees (Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6021) and their successors in office, all the city of Key West, Monroe County named



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William Weech American Legion Post
 168

Name of Property
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Section number 8 Page 2

on the DEED.

Key West Mayor C.B. Harvey provided the Architect plans of an Art Deco style building to the members, "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 the efforts, and donated one hundred (100) blocks towards the construction.

On February 28, 1952, Trustees to conduct business on behalf of the entire joint venture Commander Irving J. Carey and Lang B. Milan, and Joint Committee Chairman Alfred A. Allen, and Judge Advocate Charles L. Major opened a Deposit Account with the Florida National Bank at Key West, Florida, to deposit funds for the construction of the new home Post. On June 25, 1952, during a regular meeting under Commander Phillip Sears, Comrade Floyd Hannibal motion to meet with the County Commissioners to seek recreational facilities for the kids in the Colored Park. The Committee consisting of Posts members and Civic organizations which included Charles L. Major, Samuel Kelly, Bernard McGee, Mrs. Rowena Pinder and Mrs. Julia Riou received a unanimous vote to proceed.

The Post (s) also sent donations to the Crippled Children's Foundation.

Many local businesses factored into the construction of this joint venture, such as; Strunk Lumber Yard, Charley Toppino & Sons, Overseas Transportation Company, Inc., Woman Civic Club, Key West Venetian Blind Company, Long's Furniture Store, Fausto's Food Palace, Joe's Fish Market, Key West Undertaking Company, Lincoln Theatre, Blue Goose Restaurant, Key West Electrical Repair Company, Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, Willing Workers Guild (St. Peter's Episcopal Church), Geneva Marie's Beauty Parlor, Haskins Machine Works, Blue Marlin Motel, Tropical Trader, American Chemical Company of Key West, Marguerite's House of Glamor, Marcia's Place, Imperial Café, B. Cash Grocery Store, Blue Heaven Billiard parlor, Juan Soriano Grocery Store, Little Gypsy Tea Room, Modern Dry Cleaners, Lindsley Lumber Company, Key West Provision Company, Bernie C. Papy, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hernandez, John M. Spottswood, Key West Floor Covering Company, Mani's Bar, Peach Pool Room, Sinclair Grocery, Southernmost Neon Sign Company, Martinez Refrigeration Company, Lopez Wholesale Liquors, Inc., Gomez Furniture Company, Fly to Havana(Key West-Havana Overseas Tours), Duval Sundries, O.K. Shoe Shop, Key West Inn, Joe Pearlman's Inc., Altman's Furniture Company, Ester and Bill (Men and Children's Wear), Anthony and Ernestine Welters (Florist), Barbecue Inn (Florence Wilson, Prop.), Appel's (fashion for the entire family), Montzelles (beachwear), Oriental Pharmacy, Forbe's Barber Shop, Tropical Hat Cleaners, John Perez Barber Shop. Gene's News Stand, Lucas Electric, Esquinaldo Grocery, Ida Beauty Shop, Clarence (Sonny) Higgs Jr. (Peninsular Life Insurance Company), Appelrouth's Shoe Center, The Beachcomber(Jewelers), Joe Allen (The Key West Press), "33" Restaurant, Padron's Grocery and Home Appliance Company, Inc. (B.C. Moreno and T.O. Bruce). These businesses applauded the members for their feat.

Many members were adept carpenters, electricians, plumbers, masonries and handy men. They worked their full-time employment at the Naval Station and after work hours, they would meet at their new location to start the construction. When the men fell short on funds to complete the Post, they borrowed \$2,000.00 from Arthur Sawyer Post 28 to continue this project. The men worked 24/7 until completion on December 10, 1952.

December 13, 1952, two days after completion of the building; the Posts and Auxiliary Members held an official program and dedicated the Post to V.F.W. Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 and William Weech American Legion Post 168.

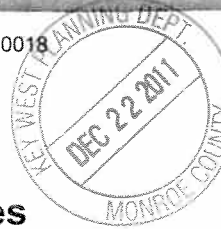
On January 1, 1953, the Post(s) received the Warranty Deed from Fred and Margaret Dion.

Business flourished in the 50's and 60's, mainly due to over 10,000 military personnel of the U.S. Navy being in full deployment in Key West, Florida. Many military personnel became members of both Posts, which placed their membership well over two-hundred.

Many of the Veterans deployed in Key West during this time married the native 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 at 8:00 pm and William Weech American Legion Post 168 members held their meeting on the first and fourth Wednesday. The

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Executive House Committee, consisting of six members from each Post met every Sunday at 11:00 am in the establishment and installation of Officers conducted at a local church, voted for at a regular meeting. These men dedicated themselves to the Four Pillars of the American Legion: Veterans, Defend, Youth, and Patriotism.

Both the Ladies Auxiliary of V.F.W. 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. February 11, 1953 a letter addressed to William Weech American Legion Post 168 and V.F.W. Walter R. Mickens Post 6021, from the Joint House Committee relative to barring an individual from the premises of the Post – Indefinitely. In another instance, a member was relieved from his duties pending trial for misappropriation of Posts funds. The aims and purpose were unwavering; not allowing anyone to interfere with the accomplishments achieved by the Post and the many challenges they hurdled to maintain their dignity and integrity.

In 1954, a letter 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" showing several Posts and Arthur Sawyer Post 28 objection to new Rules and Regulations, demonstrating hardships this new policy would bring on in this particular city. The Post(s) were very aware and involved in all Veteran affairs locally and nationally.

The Post sent many boys and girls from the community yearly to Boys State and Girls State in Tallahassee, Florida, as part of the many activities provided by the Post. Annual Christmas parties for the children of the Veterans and Community received brown bags of fruit, candy and other goodies were distributed.

The organization allowed their Post Home to become a safe place for Douglas High School students for dances, parties and "Senior Night" graduates. Others groups e.g. churches, non-profit organizations and private citizens rented the hall at half-price, while housing hurricane, fire and other disaster victims at "No Charge", when necessary.

March 7, 1955 a letter from William Weech American Legion and VFW Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 addressing the Shore Patrol Headquarters of the Navy regarding a fracas on the sidewalk of the VFW/American Legion Hall between two Sailors and a Civilian. Charles L. Major, and Alfred A. Allen loyalty and accomplishments they acquired while fully employed with the Naval Station received high accolades as members of the Post (s).

Mr. Charles Major Sr., one of the Trustees on the Deed, became the Commander of the Tenth Division for fourteen years covering Key West to West Palm Beach, Florida.

William Weech American Legion Post 168, Honor Guards rendered a full military ceremony with Taps and Bugle for their deceased Veterans. The Armory received the rifle 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 Veterans and Auxiliary members of both Posts attained the pledge according to the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Post held the biggest political rally in the history of Key West, when Bernie C. Papy serve as State Representative for twenty-eight years and his opponent Charles Ramos was a first time candidate and won the State Representative seat, defeating Mr. Papy by twenty-eight votes, of which Douglass School help Mr. Ramos to win the election.

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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 candidate(s) to present their speech on **"I Speak for Democracy"** at Church, the Post (s), District, and the Department of Florida, before speaking at National.

In 1963, the members of V.F.W. 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 in 1963. Members of the Post, men, and women of the community and other political official 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, shared relatives and that shared history allowed them to have a very relaxed version of segregation.

Commander Chester Conner, who held this position for thirteen (13) years from 1978 – 1991, brought forth many fundraising ideas to help the Post financially such as Raffles, awarding the winner of the first prize \$500.00, second prize \$300.00 and third prize \$100.00. Commander Conner was one of the many Military Personnel stationed in Key West, Florida and married a native woman by the name of Doris Newbold Conner, also affiliated with the William Weech Auxiliary Unit 168.

Commander Conner won the Best Historian Award for keeping the Post history during his years in office.

After the era of segregation, in 1968 Arthur Sawyer Unit 28 Auxiliary and William Weech American Legion Auxiliary Unit 168 conducted Installation of Officers at this Post.

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.

Over the next thirteen (13) years from 1997-2010, V.F.W. Walter R. Mickens Post 6021 lost their Charter due to non-membership and William Weech American Legion Post 168, the American Legion. Inc. became the sole Charter of this Joint Venture.

Many of the older members died and became ill, leaving four (4) original members present; two (2) Trustees from William Weech American Legion Post 168, Chairman of the House Committee Alfred A. Allen and Judge Advocate Charles L. Major Sr., Past Post Commander/Chaplain John B. Knowles and Adjutant Samuel D. Leggett. Other members moved out of Key West, died, or just kept their membership with no participation, because of their sickness.

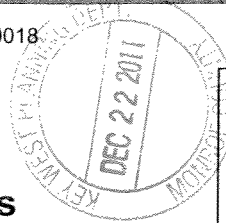
February 2009, Trustee and Chairman of the House Committee died leaving one remaining Trustee Charles L. Major Sr., the only living charter member of William Weech American Legion Post 168 Past Post Commander/Chaplain John B. Knowles, and Adjutant Samuel D. Leggett. The three original members who are in their late 80's and early 90's continue to sustain the pledge to help the younger generation of Veterans to conduct business according to the American Legion Department of Florida Constitution and By-Laws.

The younger generation and a few of the older women of the William Weech American Legion Auxiliary unit 168 continued the purpose in sustaining and assisting the Post constancy. The Auxiliary organized a Key West 2011 Reunion fundraiser on December 24- 31, 2010 toward the restoration/renovation of the building.

The following year on March 31, 2011, first vice Commander Josephus Chaplin Sr. assumed Post Commander Paul Richardson position until the duration of his term. Commander Chaplin has dedicated himself to achieve the same integrity determination as the older members, in helping the Post re-establish it financial status.

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William Weech American Legion Post
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Currently, the Post sponsor 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 purpose and providing entertainment for the community at large.

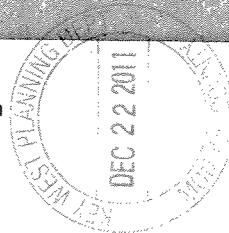
On May 5, 2011 William Weech American Legion Post 168, the American Legion, Inc.; under Post Commander Josephus Chaplin Sr. , submitted the application for the Sons of the American Legion Squadron, and received a "Permanent Charter" on May 15, 2011, to insure the continuation of the Legacy.

Today, the Legionaries preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great Wars; safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy and embraces the Preamble of the American Legion while continuing to serve the many Veterans, their families and the community.

William Weech American Legion Post 168 organization receives visitors from other Posts and visitors from around the World who admire the Veterans triumphant struggle for survival services. On August 25, 2011, the remaining Post of this Joint Venture will be Celebrating 60 years of continuous service to the Veterans, their families and the Community.

We remain diligent to the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble of the American Legion.

"FOR GOD AND COUNTRY"



(Expires 5/31/2012)

THE AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 168
Name of Property

MONROE/FLORIDA
County and State

N/A

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6,500 sq. ft.
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>420805.1</u>	<u>2715899.6</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

All that certain piece or parcel of land in Tract Three (3) on the Island of Key West, which is described in a Diagram of part of the said Tract Three (3), made by L. Windsor Smith, recorded Deed Book "E" Page 72, Monroe County, Florida, Records, known as part of Lots one (1) and Five (5), beginning at a point on Emma Street One hundred Eight (108) feet in a Southeasterly direction from the corner of Emma and Petronia Streets, and running thence along Emma Street in a Southeasterly direction Fifteen (15) feet; thence at right angles in a Northeasterly direction One hundred (100) feet; thence at right angles in a Northwesterly direction Fifteen (15) feet; thence at right angles in a Southwesterly direction One hundred (100) feet to the place of beginning on Emma Street.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominating property includes the entire parcel historically associated with District VI

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Millicent Lunette Weech – William Weech American Legion Auxiliary Unit 168 Member
organization William Weech American Legion Post 168 date 08/16/11
street & number 733 Olivia Street telephone 305-896-3959
city or town Key West state FL zip code 33040
e-mail Mil1255@comcast.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
N24 33' 0.3" – W81 48' 14.2"

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



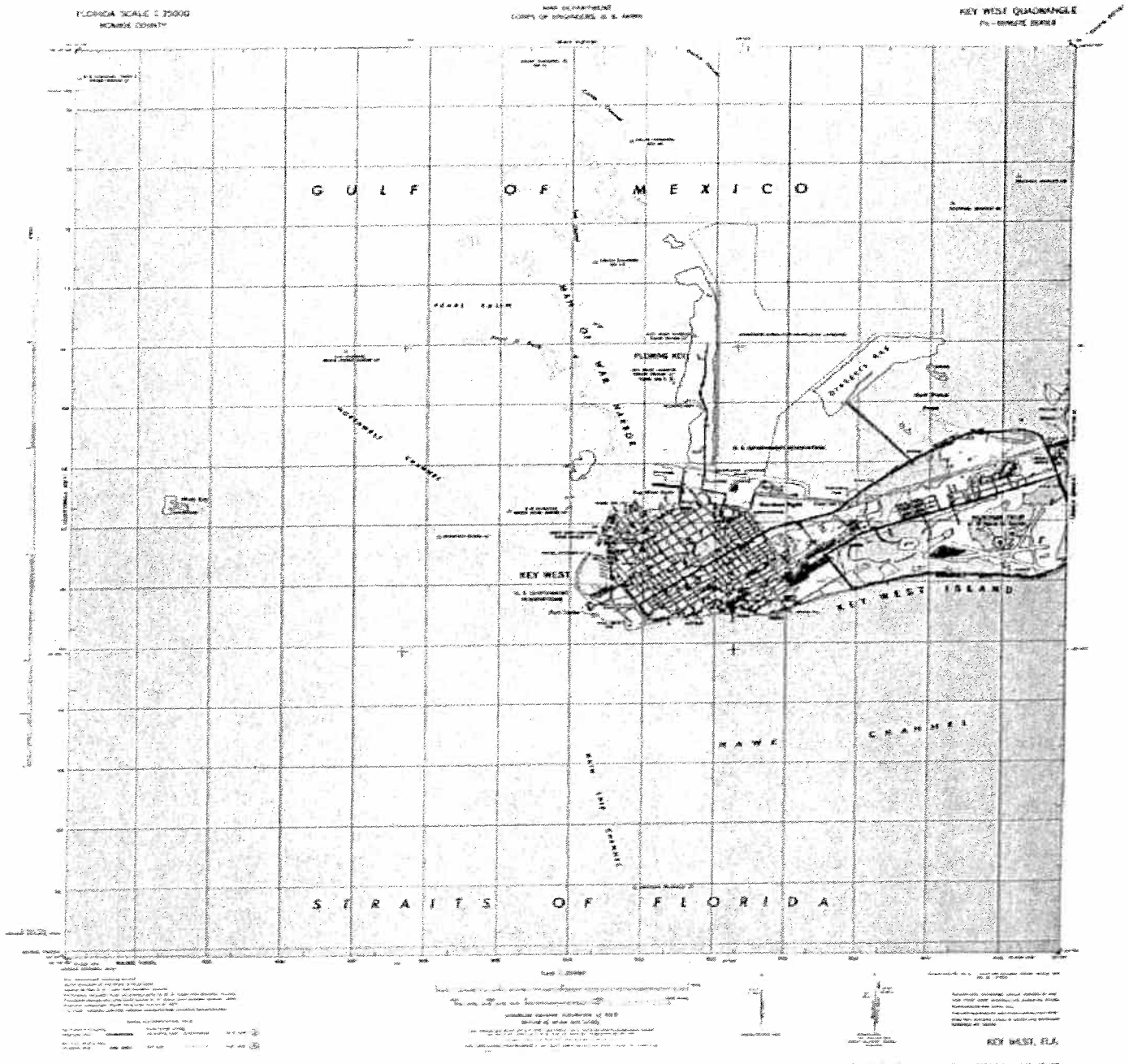
William Weech American Legion Post
168

Name of Property
Monroe – Florida
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

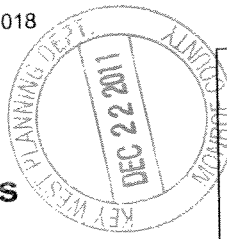
Section number 10 Page 1

10. UTM additional reference



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Photographs

1. William Weech American Legion Post 168
2. Key West, Monroe County, Florida
3. Millicent Weech
4. July 2011
5. 803 Emma St., Key West, Florida 33040
6. American Legion Post 168, façade view, facing north
7. Photo#1

6. American Legion Post 168, detail northeast view, facing north
7. Photo #2

6. American Legion Post 168, northeast view, facing west
7. Photo #3

6. American Legion Post 168, exit door northeast view, and view of northwest exit door, facing west
7. Photo #4

6. American Legion Post 168, northwesterly view, handicap ramp and second front entrance closed-off
7. Photo #5

6. American Legion Post 168, northwesterly view, handicap ramp, exit door, camera facing east
7. Photo #6

6. American Legion Post 168, northwesterly view, exit door rear of bldg, camera facing east
7. Photo #7

6. American Legion Post 168, northwesterly view, rear of bldg, camera facing east
7. Photo #8

6. American Legion Post 168, northwesterly view, rear of bldg, camera facing east
7. Photo #9

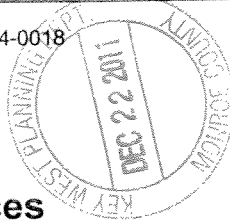
6. American Legion Post 168, northeasterly view, rear of bldg, camera facing west
7. Photo #10

6. American Legion Post 168, northeasterly view, outside electrical panel boxes towards front of bldg, camera facing west
7. Photo #11

6. American Legion Post 168, façade view entrance, camera facing north

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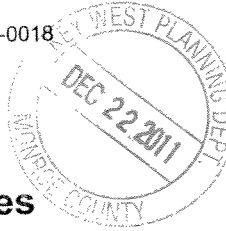
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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6. American Legion Post 168, interior, entrance, camera facing south
7. Photo #13
6. American Legion Post 168, interior, kitchen entrance and storage room, camera facing east
7. Photo #14
6. American Legion Post 168, interior, bar view at entrances, camera facing north
7. Photo #15
6. American Legion Post 168, interior, view of bathroom (second entrance closed-off) near ramp exit, camera facing south
7. Photo #16
6. American Legion Post 168, interior back view of stage, northwest view of dressing room, camera facing north
7. Photo #17
6. American Legion Post 168, interior, view of stage northeast dressing room, space above dressing room, camera facing east
7. Photo #18
6. American Legion Post 168, interior, northwesterly dressing room entrance, camera facing north
7. Photo #19
6. American Legion Post 168, interior, northeasterly view of exit, end view of mezzanine, camera facing east
7. Photo #20
6. American Legion Post 168, interior, northeasterly view of stage, dressing room and exit view, camera facing east
7. Photo #21
6. American Legion Post 168, interior, northwesterly view of stage and dressing room from mezzanine, camera facing west
7. Photo #22
6. American Legion Post 168, interior, northeasterly view of dressing room and exit, camera facing east
7. Photo #23
6. American Legion Post 168, interior, southeasterly view of DJ booth on Mezzanine, camera facing east
7. Photo #24

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6. American Legion Post 168, interior, southwesterly view, jalousie window on Mezzanine, camera facing west

7. Photo #25

6. American Legion Post 168, interior, northwesterly view, jalousie window on Mezzanine, camera facing west

7. Photo # 26

6. American Legion Post 168, interior, northeasterly view, floor on Mezzanine, camera facing east

7. Photo #27

6. American Legion Post 168, interior, southeasterly view, jalousie, camera facing south

7. Photo #28

6. American Legion Post 168, interior, northwesterly view, main hall and stage, dressing room, exit door, camera facing north

7. Photo #29

6. American Legion Post 168, interior, northwesterly view, drop ceiling, end of mezzanine, space above dressing room, camera facing north

7. Photo #30

6. American Legion Post 168, interior, Truss above Mezzanine, camera facing south

7. Photo #31

6. American Legion Post 168, interior, bathroom on main floor, camera facing south

7. Photo #32

6. American Legion Post 168, interior, Northwesterly view of Mezzanine facing dressing room/stage area, camera facing north.

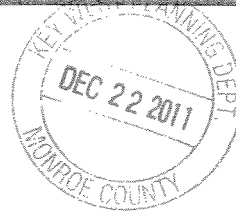
7. Photo #33

6. American Legion Post 168, interior, main floor viewing front entrance, steps to Mezzanine, bar area, seating area, Mezzanine, bathroom, and serving window from kitchen area, camera facing south.

7. Photo #34

6. American Legion Post 168, interior main floor viewing front entrance, steps to Mezzanine, bathrooms, seating area, bar and Mezzanine, camera facing south.

7. Photo #35



(Expires 5/31/2012)

THE AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 168
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A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets 8. Statement of Significance Page 1-5**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: William Weech American Legion Post 168

City or Vicinity: Key West

County: Monroe State: Florida

Photographer: Millicent Weech

Date Photographed: July 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 35

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

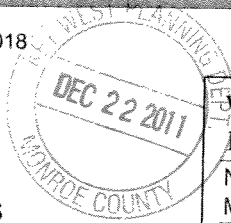
name Trustees American Legion No 168 - Veterans of Foreign Wars No 6021
street & number 803 Emma Street telephone 305-896-3332
city or town Key West state FL zip code 33040

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 to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet



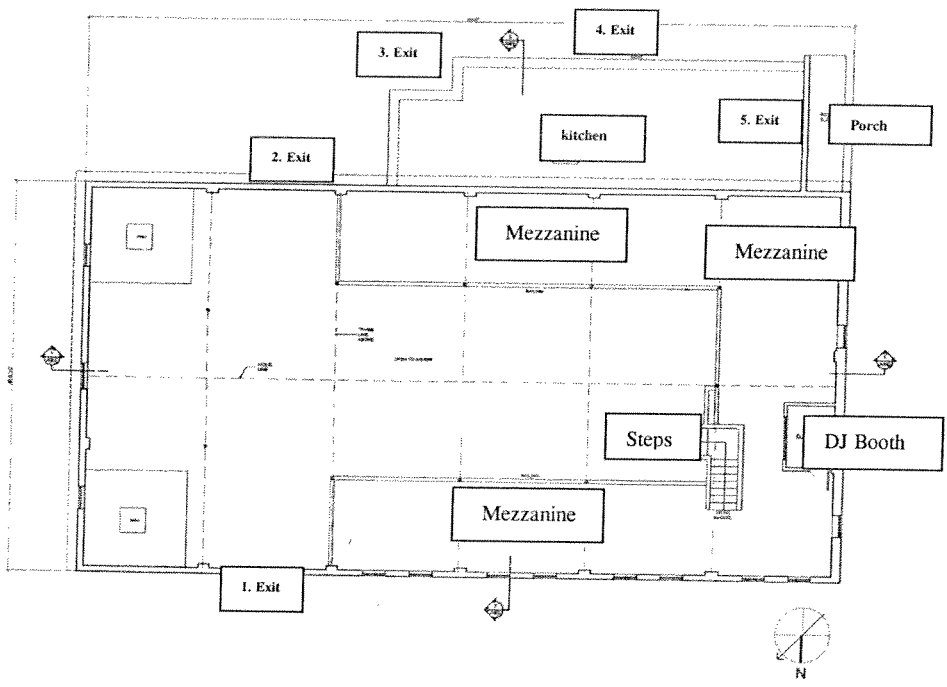
William Weech American Legion Post
168

Name of Property
Monroe -Florida
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____ 1 _____

Additional Documentation
FLOOR PLAN



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

William Weech American Legion Post
168

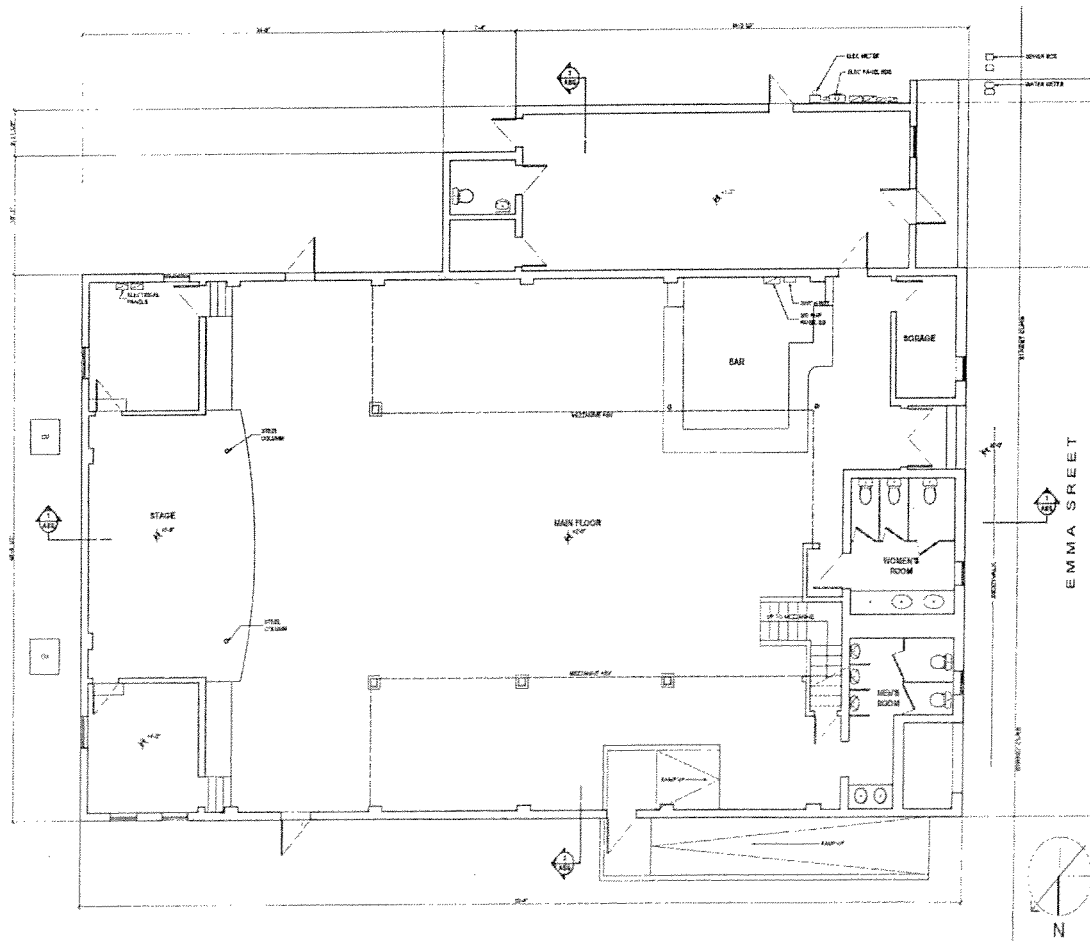
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Monroe – Florida
County and State

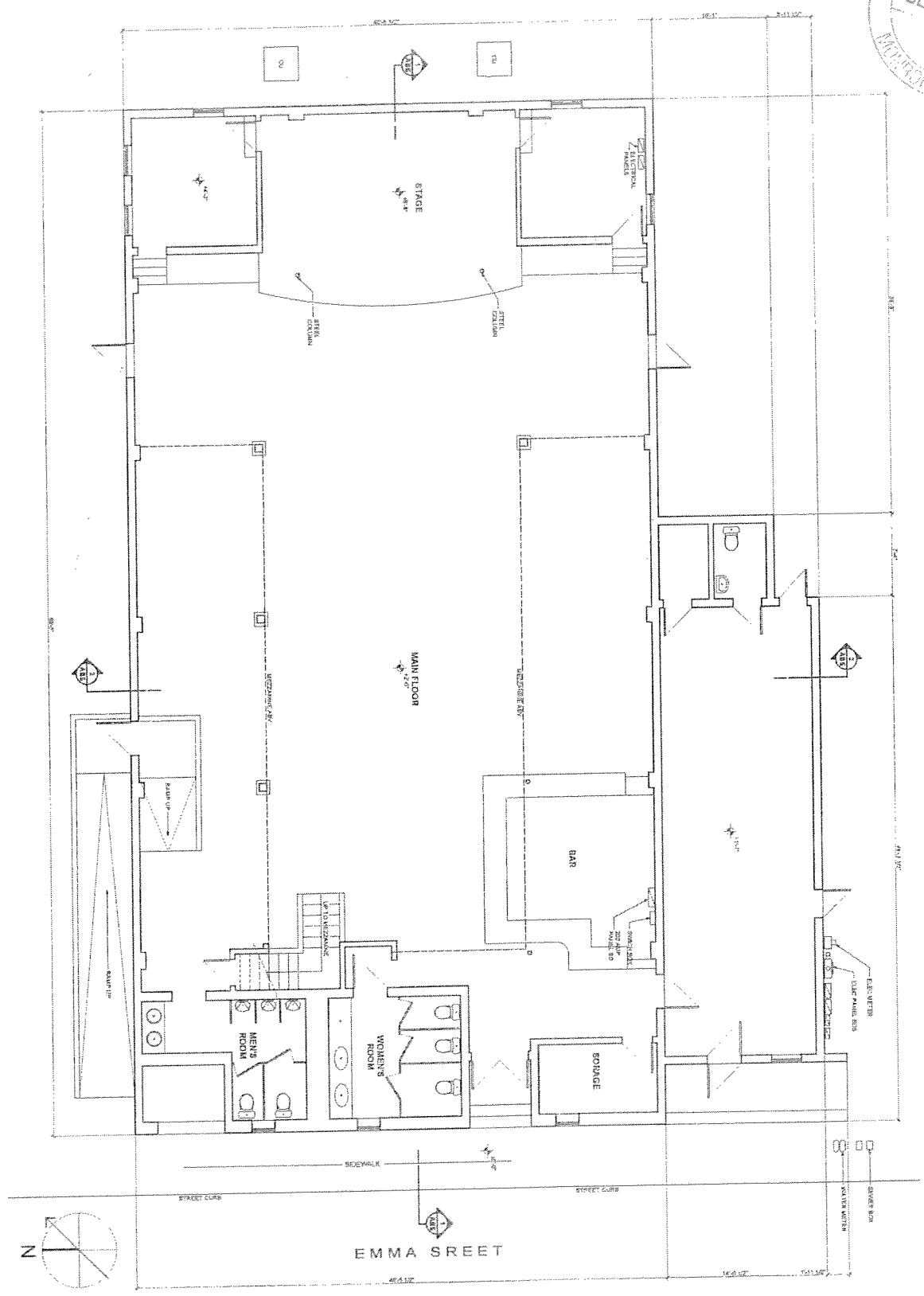
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____ 2 _____

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

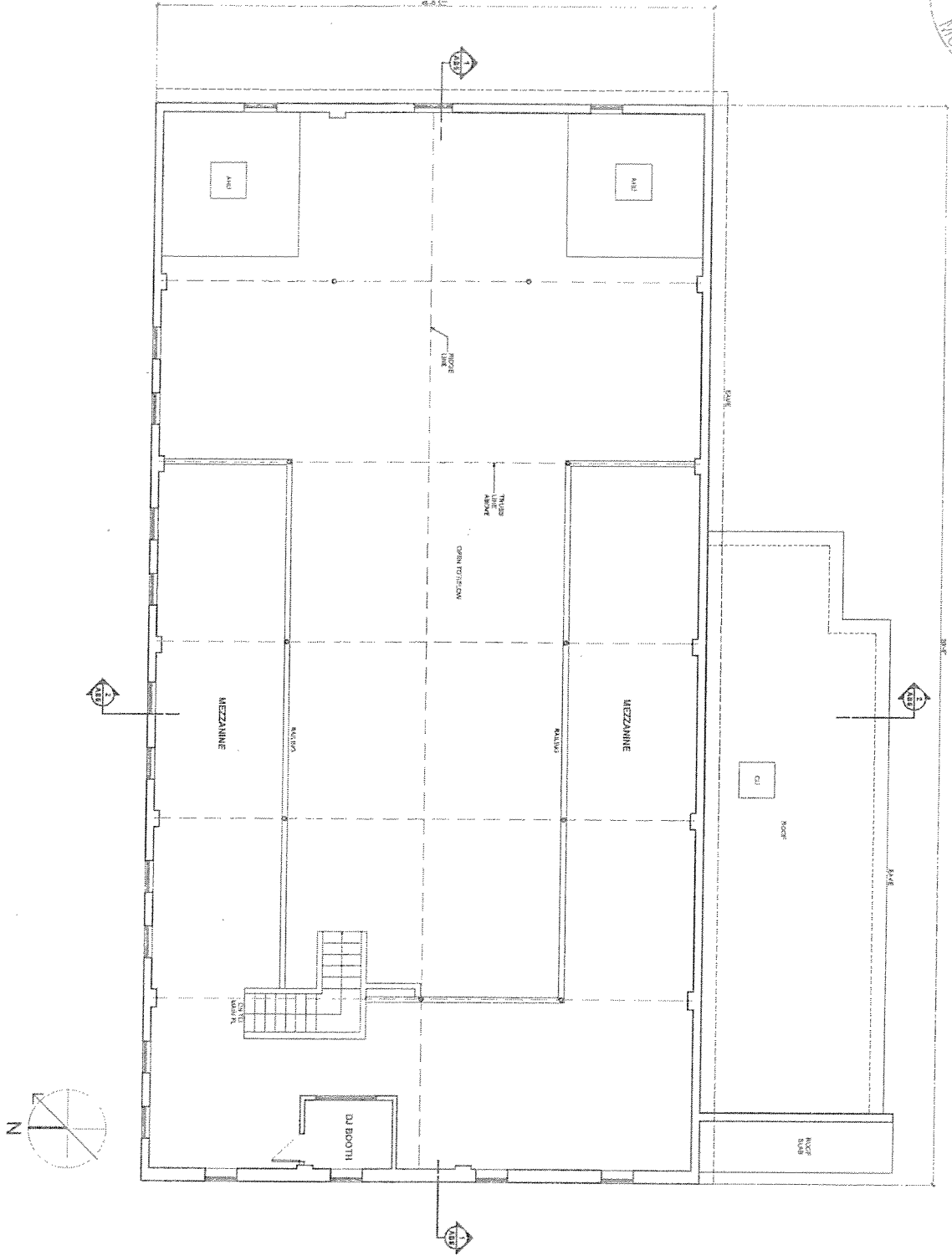
SITE PLAN





EMMA SREET





STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF MONROE) ss

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that on this day there personally came and appeared before me, an officer duly authorized to administer oaths and take acknowledgments, FRED J. DION and MARGARET DION, husband and wife, to me well known to be the individuals described in and who executed the above and foregoing Deed, and they acknowledged before me that they executed the same freely and voluntarily and for the purposes therein expressed.

AND I DO FURTHER CERTIFY, that the said MARGARET DION, to me well known to be the wife of the said FRED J. DION, on a separate and private examination, taken and made by and before me, separately and apart from her said husband, did acknowledge that she made herself a party to said Deed for the purpose of renouncing, relinquishing and conveying all her right, title and interest, whether of dower, of homestead, or of separate property, statutory or equitable, in and to the lands described therein, and that she executed the said Deed freely and voluntarily and without any compulsion, constraint, apprehension or fear of or from her said husband.

WITNESS my hand and official seal at Key West, Monroe County, Florida, this 12th day of January, A. D. 1955.

J. M. Winter
Notary Public, State of Florida,
My commission expires: _____



STATE OF FLORIDA)
County of Monroe)
FILED FOR RECORD
this JAN - 5 1955 at 4:10 p.m.
AND RECORDED IN Deed, BOOK 0-66
PAGES 110/111 AND RECORD VERIFIED
EARL R. ADAMS
CLERK CIRCUIT COURT

307000
WARRANTY DEED

DEC 22 1953

THIS INDENTURE, made this 12th day of January,
A. D. 1953, by and between FRED J. DION and MARGARET DION, husband
and wife, of the City of Key West, the County of Monroe and State
of Florida, parties of the first part, and ALFRED A. ALLEN and
CHARLES L. MAJOR and IRVING J. CAREY and LANG B. WILIAN, as Trustees
respectively of The American Legion No. 168 and Veterans of Foreign
Wars, Post No. 6021, and their successors in office, all of the City
of Key West, Monroe County, Florida, parties of the second part,

WITNESSETH, That the said parties of the first part, for and in
consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) and other good and
valuable considerations to them in hand paid by the said parties of
the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have
granted, bargained and sold unto the said parties of the second part,
as Trustees aforesaid, and their successors in office, the following
described land, situate, lying and being in the County of Monroe and
State of Florida, and more particularly described as follows:

All that certain piece or parcel of land in Tract
Three (3) on the Island of Key West, which is de-
scribed in a Diagram of part of the said Tract
Three (3), made by L. Windsor Smith, recorded in
Deed Book "E," Page 72, Monroe County, Florida,
Records, known as part of Lots One (1) and Five
(5), beginning at a point on Emma Street One
Hundred Eight (108) feet in a Southeasterly
direction from the corner of Emma and Petronia
Streets, and running thence along Emma Street in
a Southeasterly direction Fifteen (15) feet;
thence at right angles in a Northeasterly direc-
tion One Hundred (100) feet; thence at right angles
in a Northwesterly direction Fifteen (15) feet;
thence at right angles in a Southwesterly direc-
tion One Hundred (100) feet to the place of be-
ginning on Emma Street.

And the said parties of the first part do hereby fully warrant
the title to said land and will defend the same against the lawful
claims of all persons whomscever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said parties of the first part have here-
unto set their hands and their seals as of the day and year first above
written.

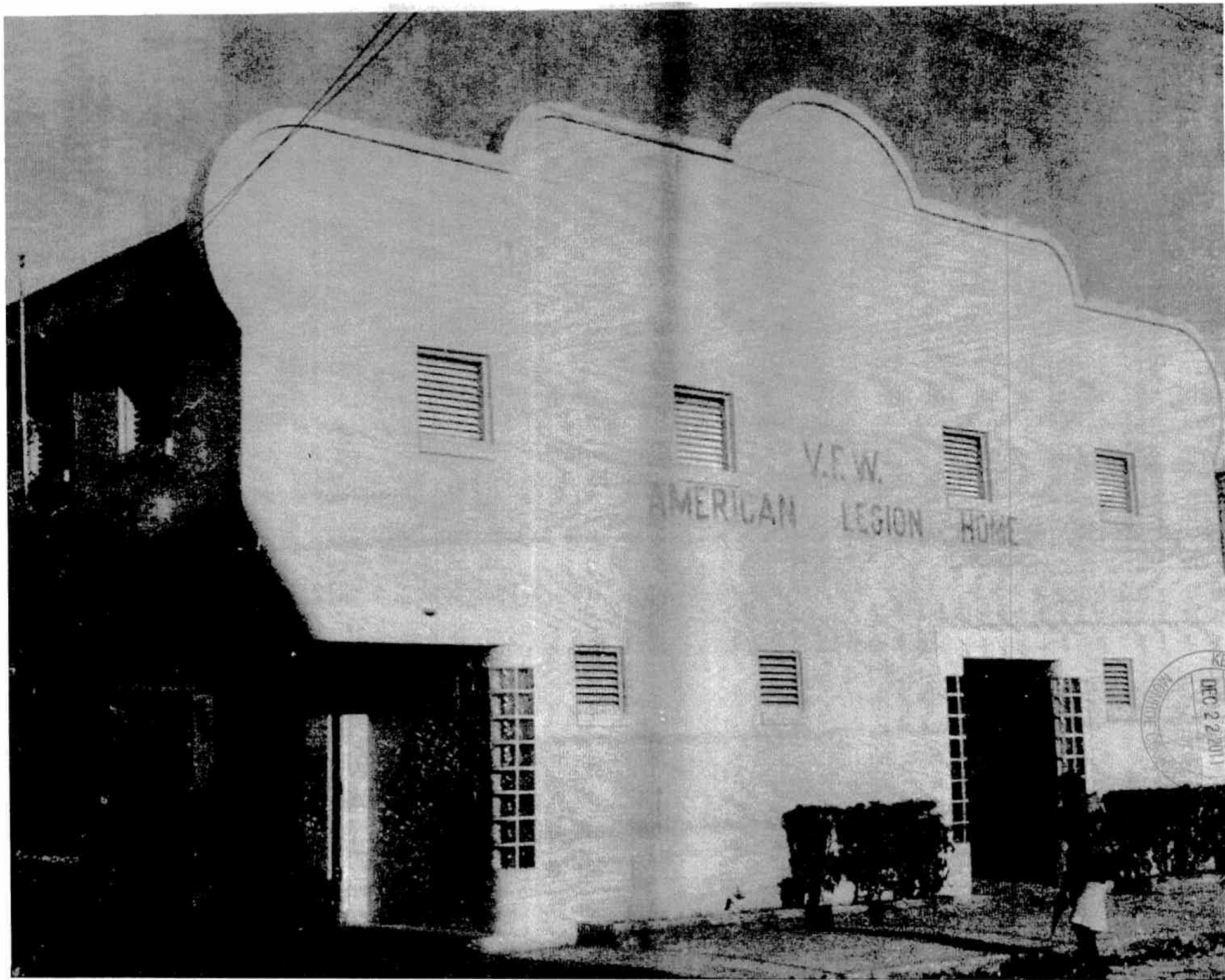
Signed, sealed and delivered
in the presence of:

W. A. Kester
Lang B. Wilian

Fred J. Dion (Seal)
Margaret Dion (Seal)

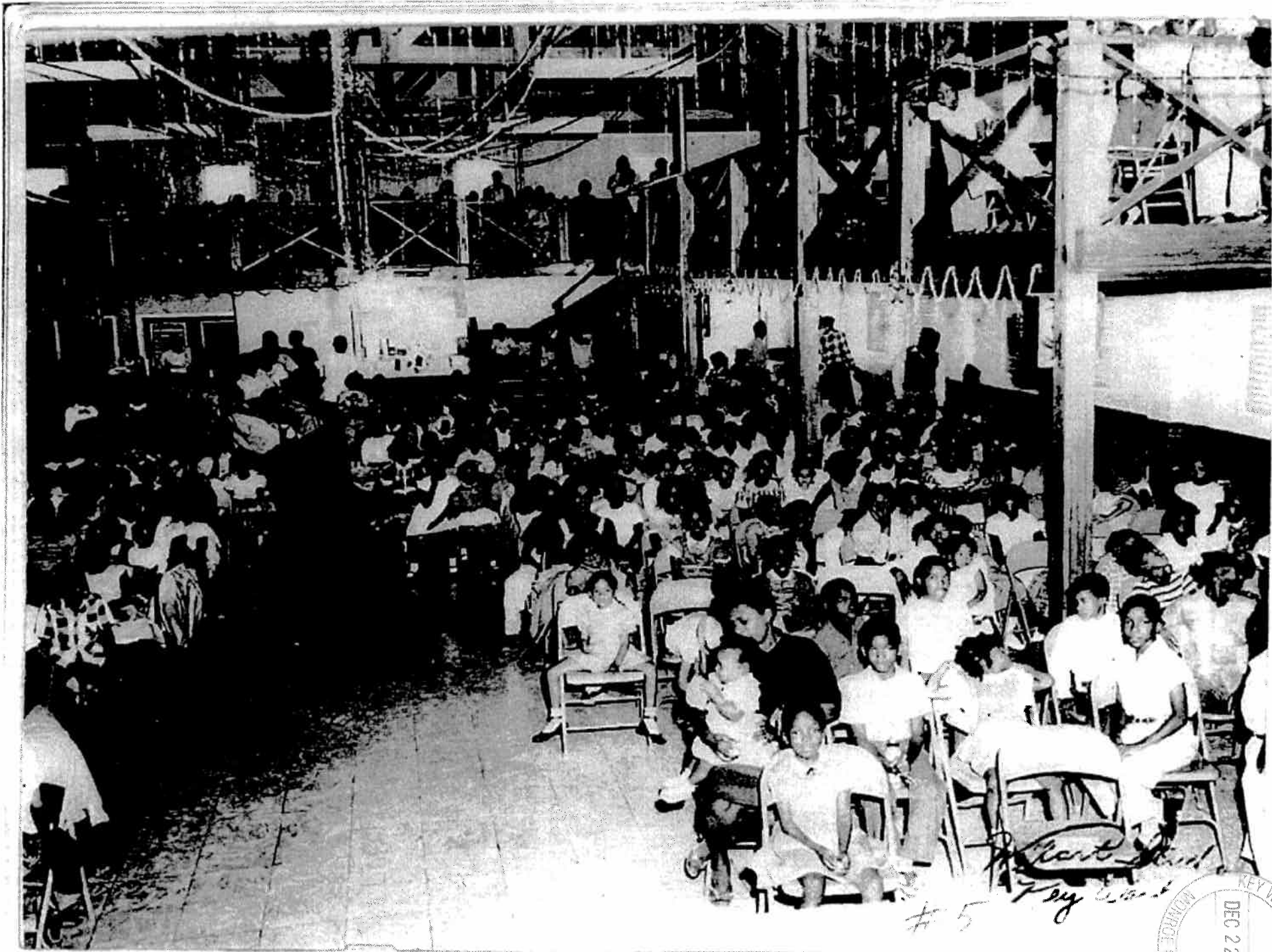






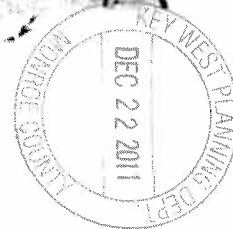
V.E.W.
AMERICAN LEGION HOME

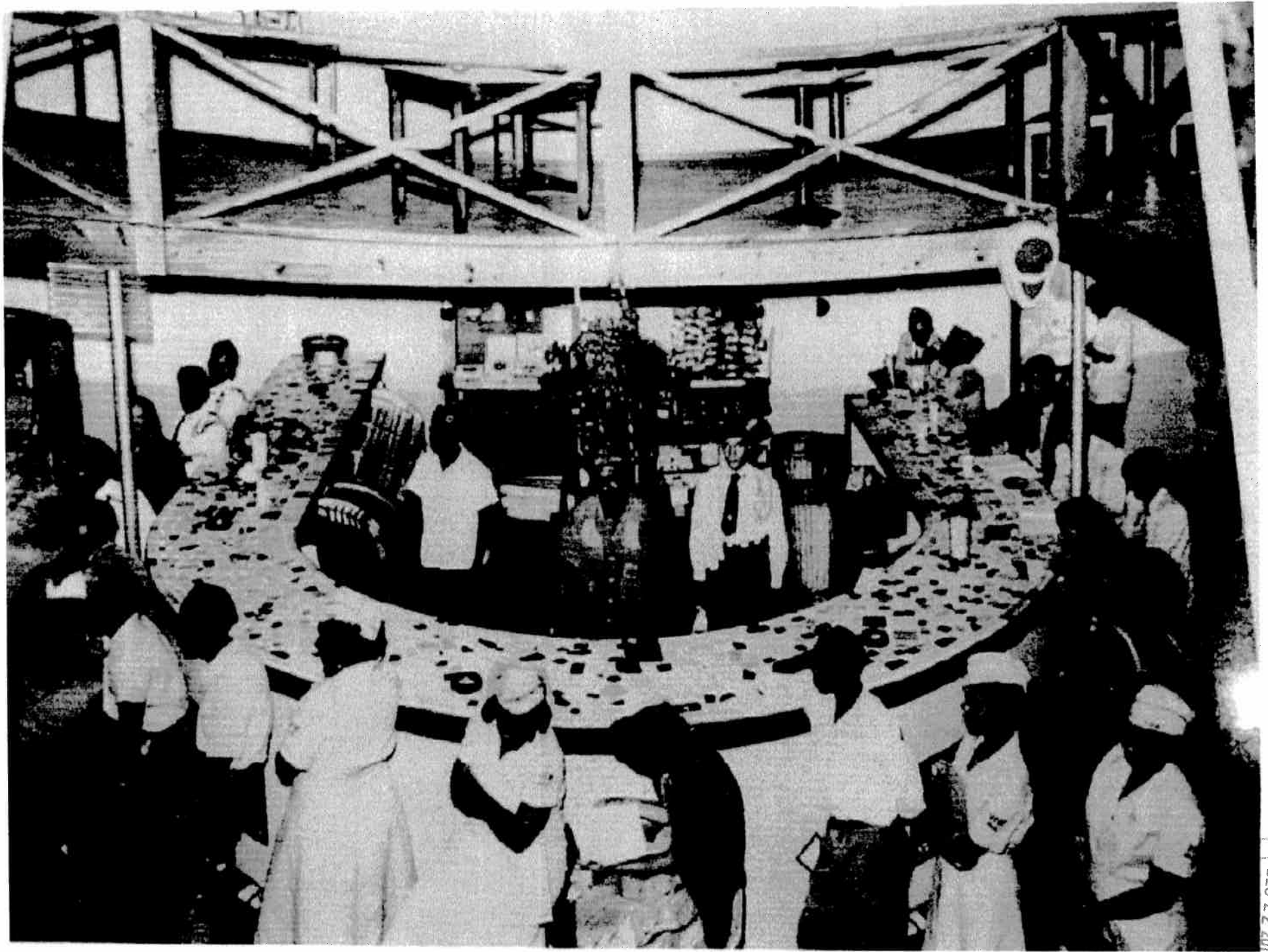
KEY WEST PLANNING
DEC 22 2011



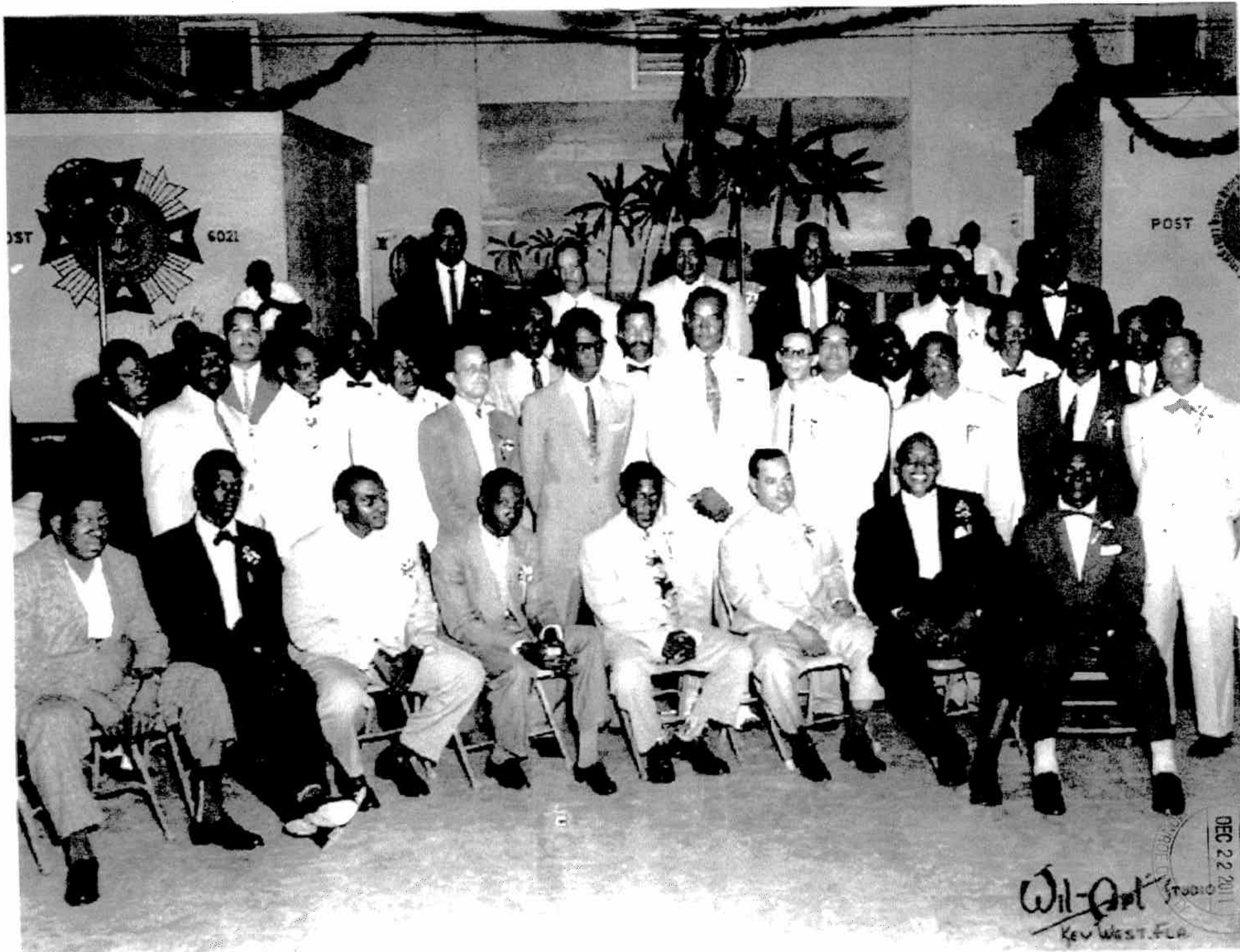
#5

Heart
Key West





KEY WEST
DEC 22 2011
MARINE DEPT



POST

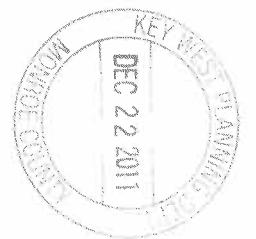
6021

POST

Wil-Port Studio
Key West, FLA.

DEC 22 2011

WEST PLANNING DE



AMERICAN
LEGION

168

VETERANS

803

LAND O' LAKES COUNTY
PLANNING DEPT.
DEC 22 2011

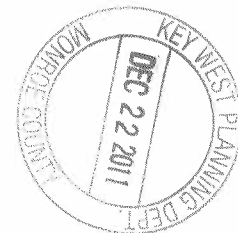


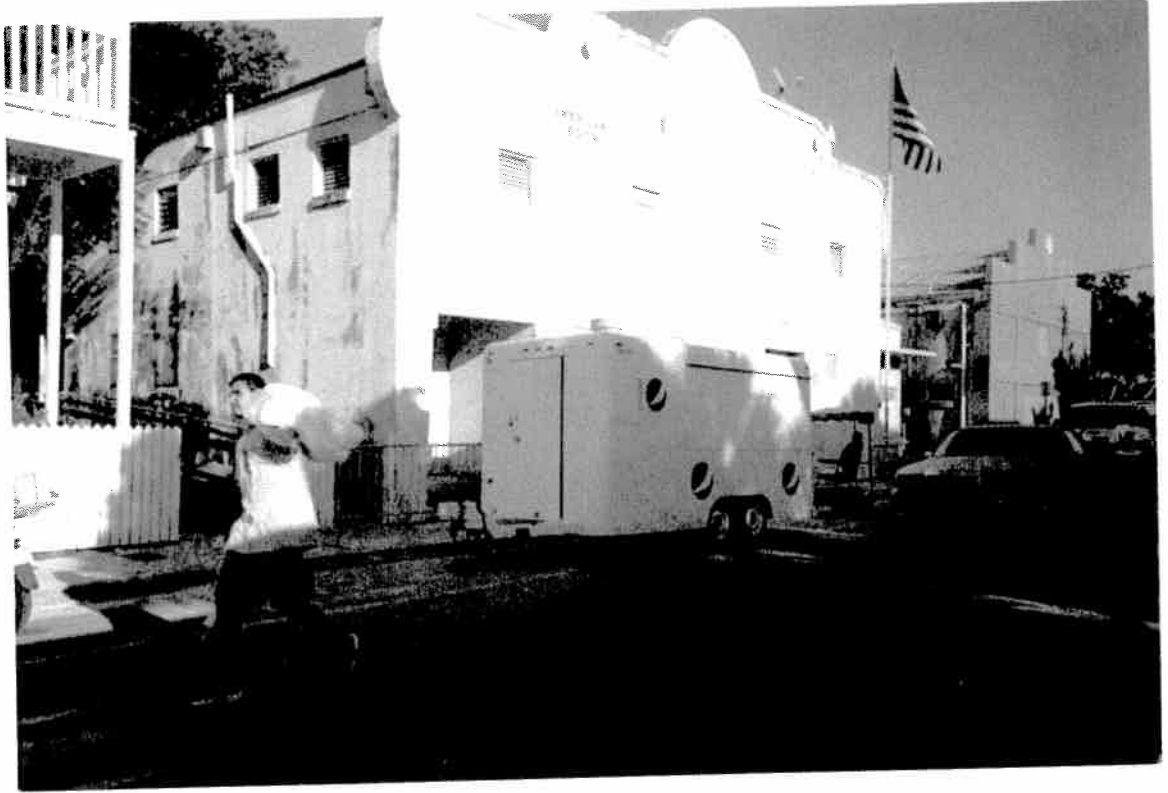
KEY WEST PLANNING DEPT.
DEC 22 2011
MONROE





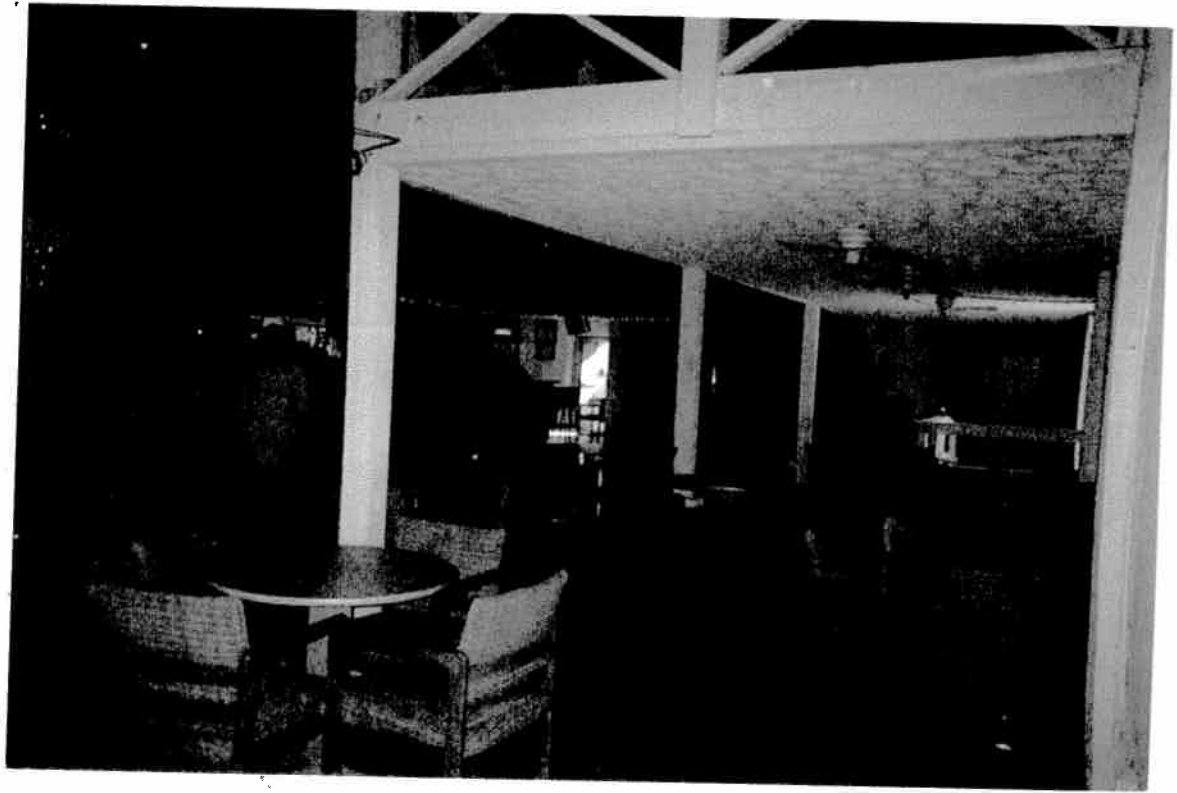
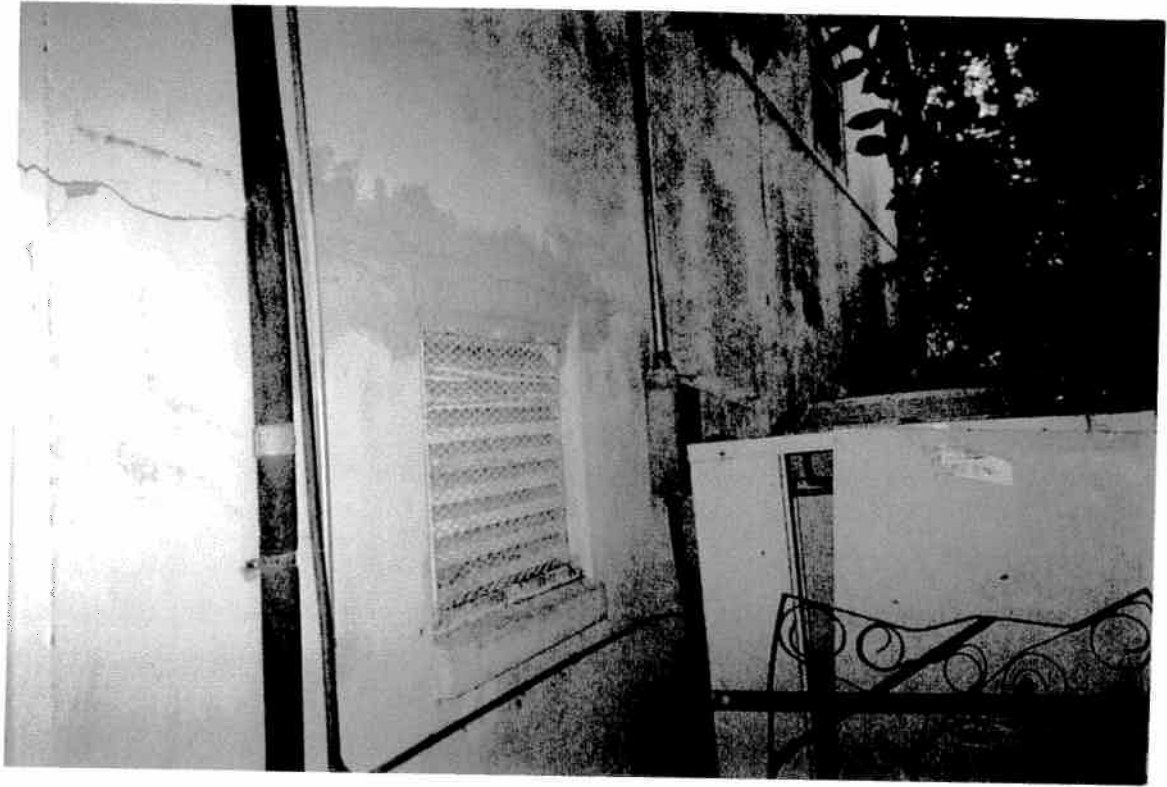
KEY WEST PLANNING DEPT
MONROE COUNTY
DEC 22 2011

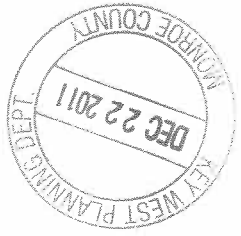


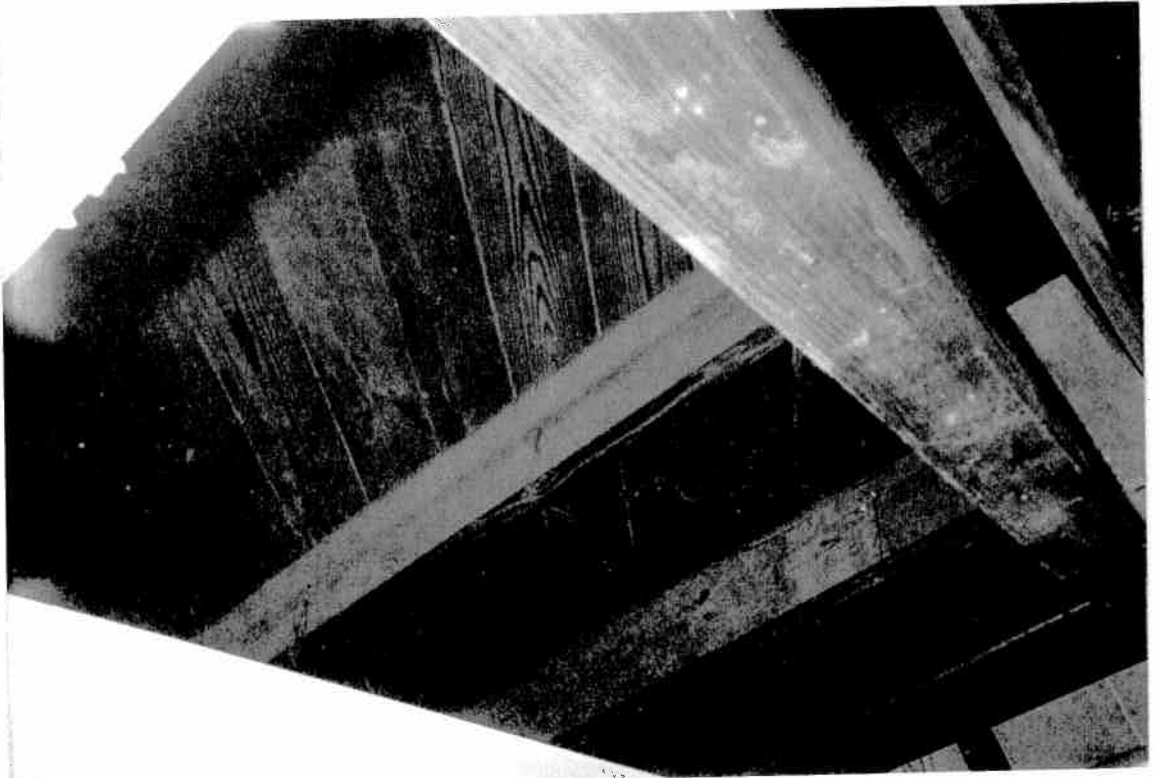
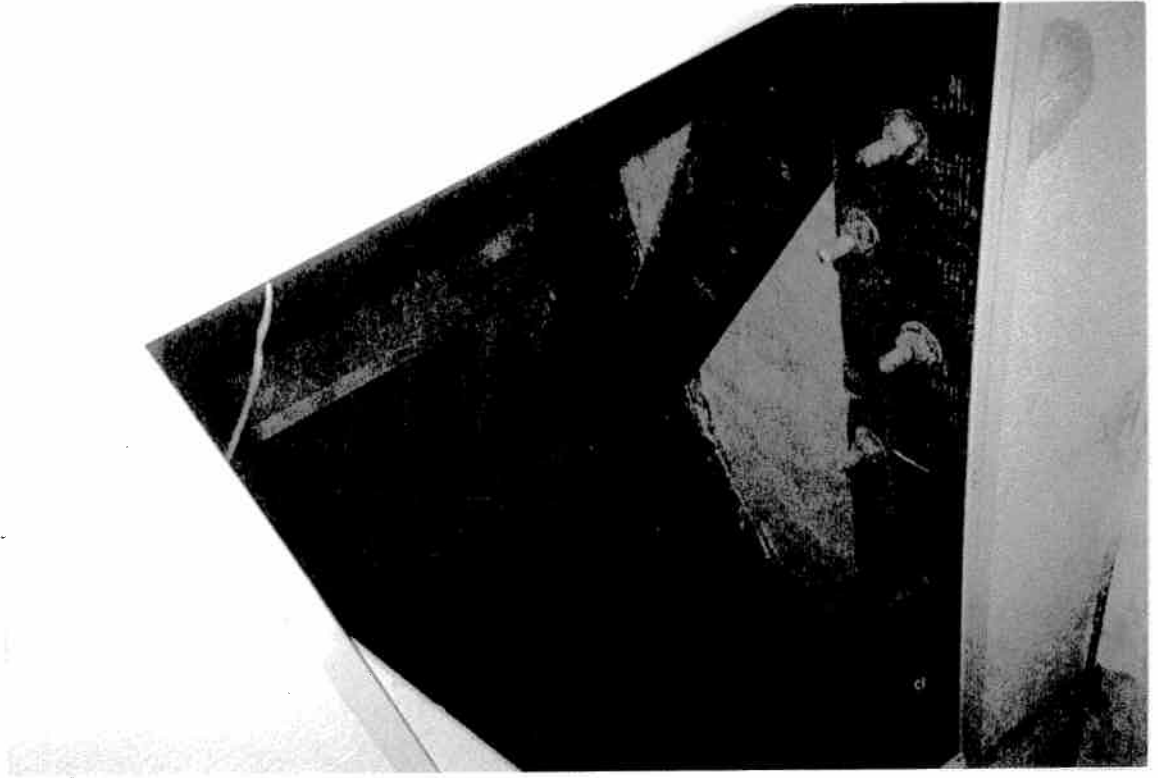
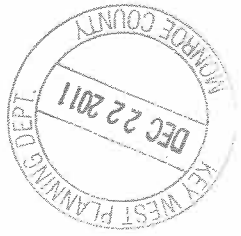


KEY WEST PLANNING DEPT
DEC 22 2011
MONROE COUNTY

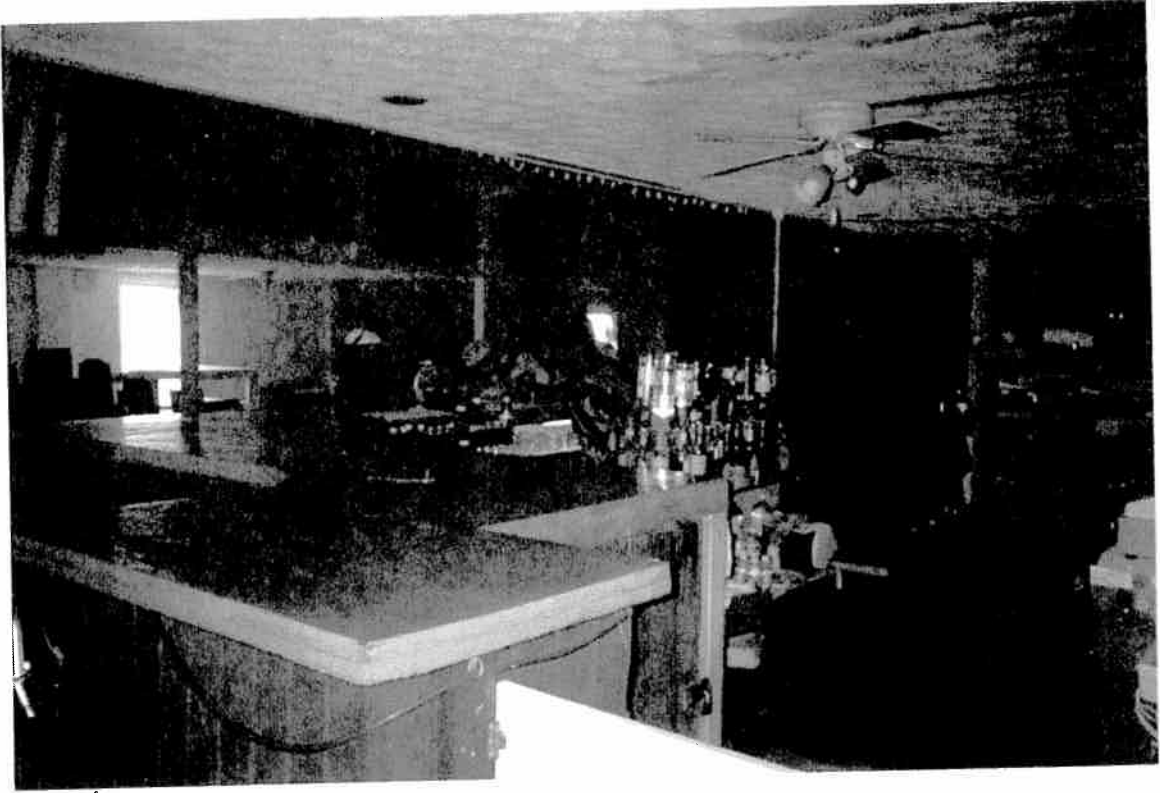
WEST PLANNING DEPT
DEC 22 2011
MADISON COUNTY



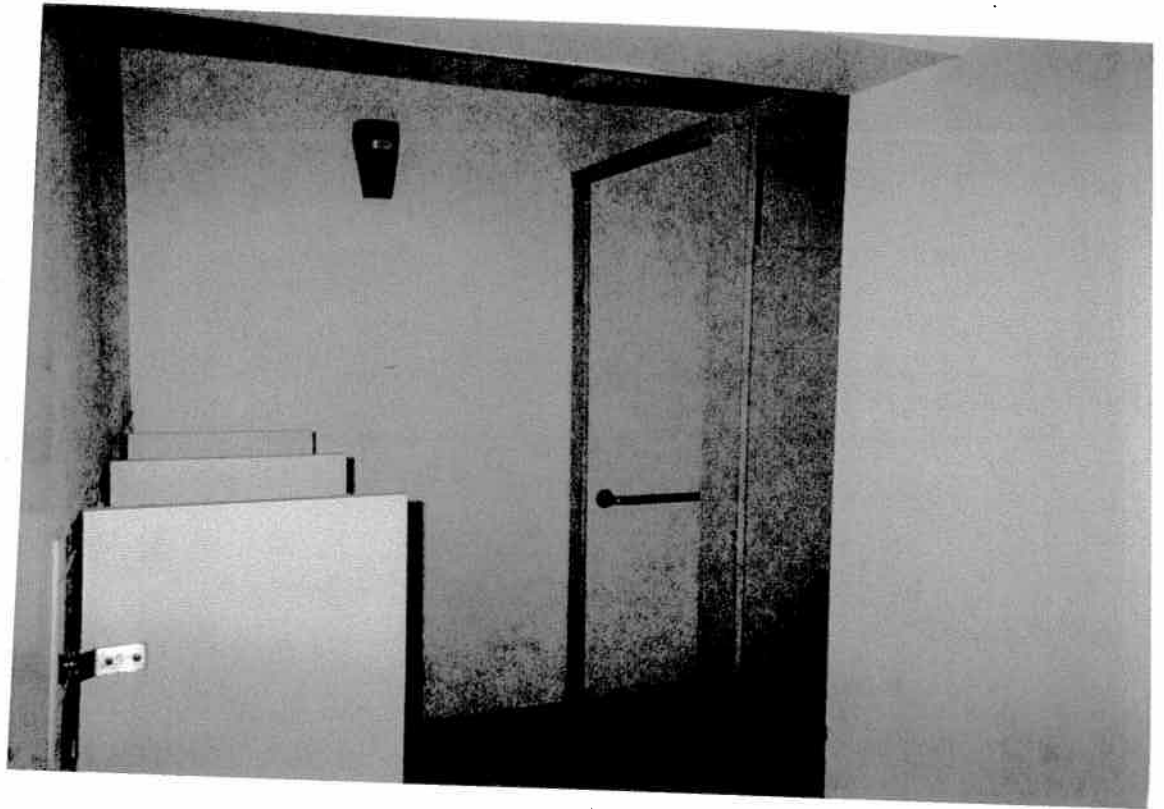
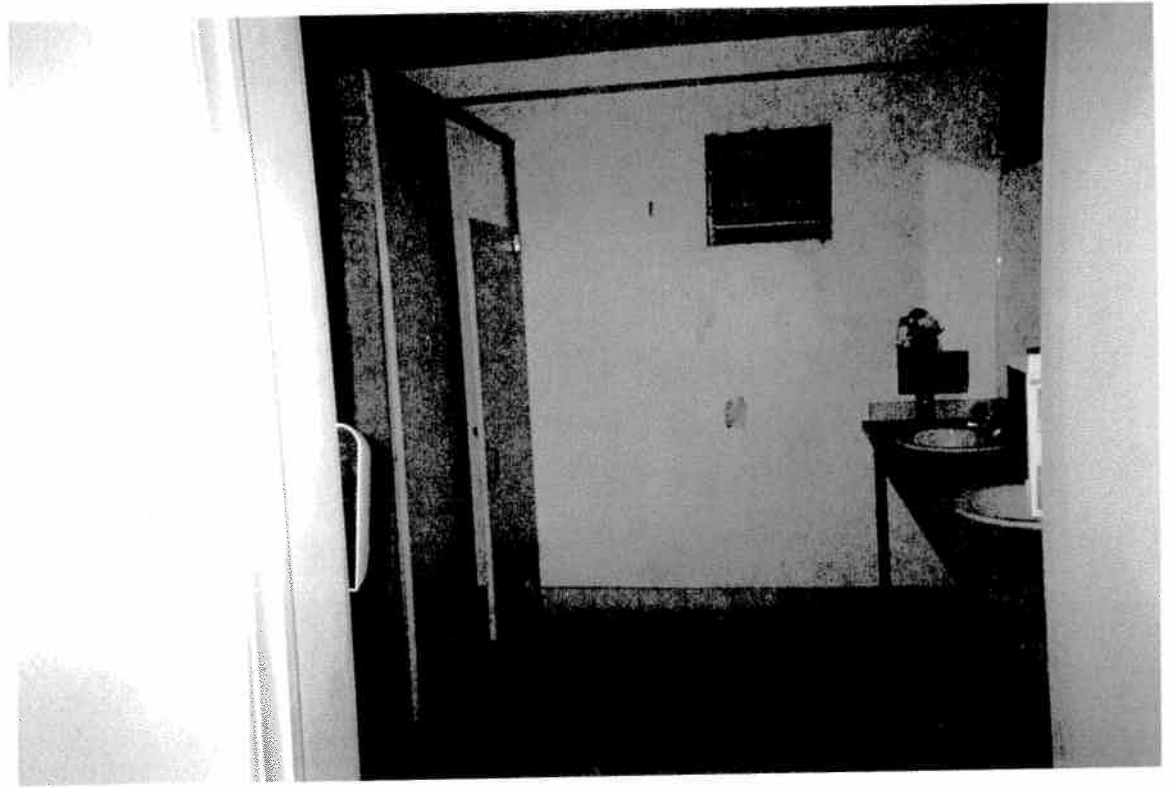




WEST PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP
DEPT. OF PLANNING
DEC 22 2011
MORRIS COUNTY

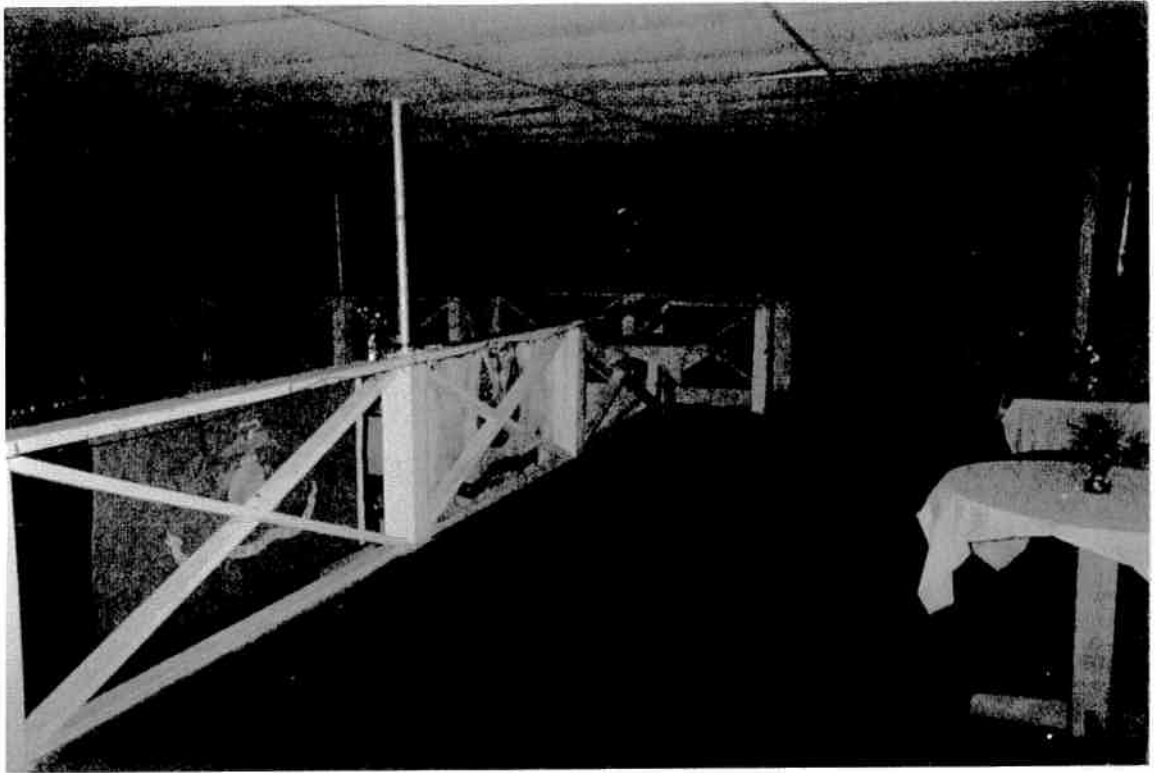


WEST PLAIN
DEC 22 2011
WARRIOR COUNTY



WEST PLANNING DEPT
MONROE COUNTY
DEC 22 2011



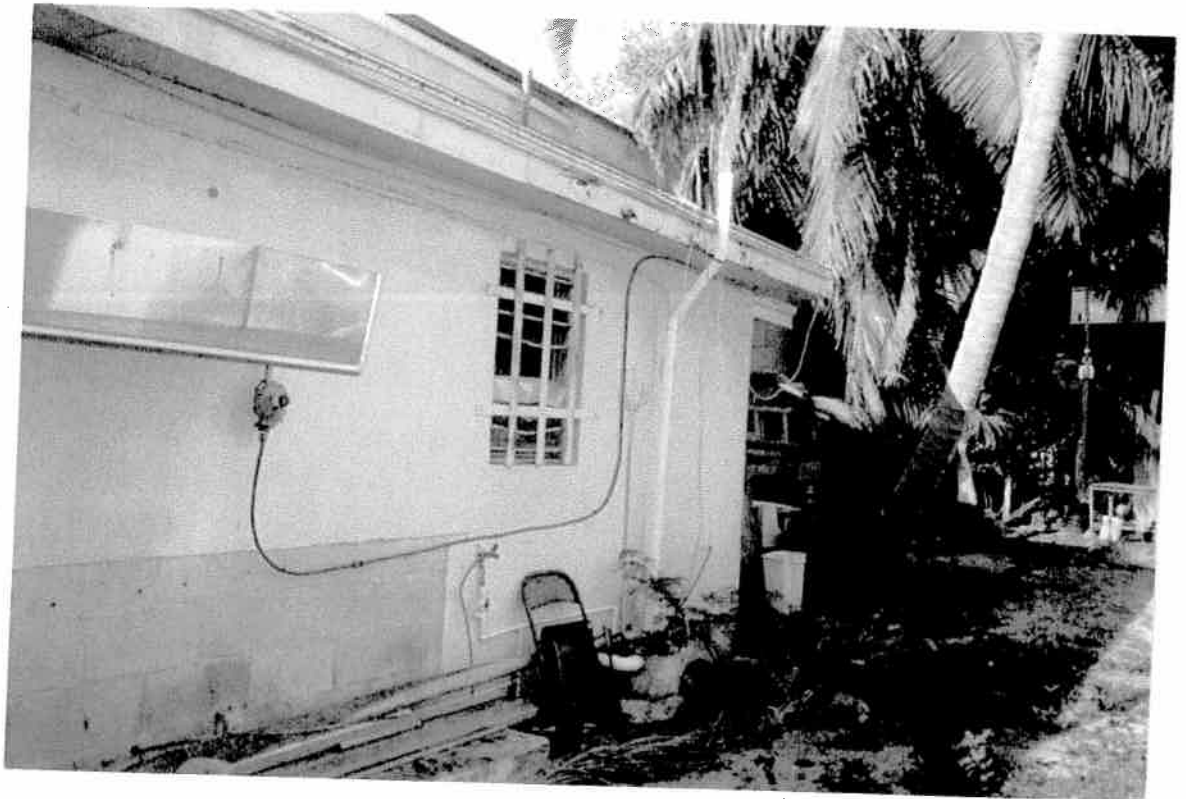


PLANNING DEPT.
DEC 22 2011



MONROE COUNTY
KEY WEST PLANNING DEPT.
DEC 22 2011





INSPECTION DEPT
DEC 22 2011
COUNTY

Minutes
October 11, 2011 and November 9, 2011

Minutes of the Key West Historical Architectural Review Commission

October 11, 2011

APPROVED – October 26, 2011

Page 2 of 11

New Business	
13	<p>William Weech Ms. Torregrosa stated. the American Legion, Inc. - Proposed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places- #803 Emma Street- Millicent Lunette Weech</p> <p>Commander Josephus Chapman introduced Millicent Weech who has been the driving force behind the work to request the building be placed on the National Register. Ms. Weech presented the history of the William Weech American Legion Post 168. Commander Chapman and Ms. Weech responded to the Commissioners questions.</p> <p>Public Comments: Charles Majors spoke of the history of the building and in support of the application to be added to the National Register.</p> <p>Staff Report: Enid Torregrosa presented her staff report. Ms. Torregrosa stated the building located at #803 Emma Street is a two story reinforce concrete and block structure that was built in 1952. The Executive Committee of the William Weech American Legion Post 168 authorized the nomination. The building was built more than 50 years ago.</p> <p>Ms. Torregrosa added the building was first recorded in the 1976 Historic Survey and was classified as non-contributing. In the 1983 Survey was also classified as non-contributing. In the 1998 and 2004 Surveys the building was not included as a contributing resource. The building was already 50 years old when the 2004 Survey was in place.</p> <p>Ms. Torregrosa stated that according to the city database there are no outstanding building permits for this property. However a Certificate of Appropriateness, #11-01-93, for the Restoration of the building was approved by this Commission on July 13, 2010.</p> <p>Ms. Torregrosa stated the William Weech American Legion Post 168 has received the TIFF grant money over the past couple of years for repairs.</p> <p>Ms. Torregrosa stated Key West currently has two historic districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Key West Historic District (boundaries revised in 1983) and the US Naval Station, which is still under military domain. Twelve structures are individually listed as well as two objects, Japanese Midget Submarine and the Western Union Schooner. The USCG Cutter Ingham is listed as a National Landmark, the highest rank a building, site or object can receive from the Secretary of the Interior.</p> <p>Commission Discussion: Chairman Molinet stated that of the approximately 3000 structures only twelve (12) properties in Key West that are currently on the National Register.</p> <p>The Commissioners had an extensive discussion concerning the applicant's reasons for wanting to be nominated for the National Register. Commander Chapman stated that their main concern is preserving the building for future</p>

Minutes of the Key West Historical Architectural Review Commission
October 11, 2011
APPROVED – October 26, 2011

	<p>generations.</p> <p>The Commissioners also had a discussion with the applicant concerning the state of decay of the building and the needed repairs. Commander Chapman maintained that the building had been deemed safe by John Woodson of the City Building Department as well as an outside consultant. Ms. Torregrosa stated that there was a meeting with the City Chief Building Official about a year ago and there was a letter written to the Trustees of the Post which gave Post 168 a period of two years to improve the conditions of the building.</p> <p>Actions/Motions: A motion was made by Mr. Bryan Green, seconded by Ms. Barbara Bowers, that the item be Postponed until a site visit attended by all of the HARC Commissioners could take place, with plans to be on the first HARC Meeting agenda in November. The motion Passed by the following vote: Absent: 1 - Mr. Metzler Yes: 5 - Mr. Green, Mr. Rojas, Ms. Bowers, Mr. Galvan, Chairman Molinet</p>
Old Business	
<p>3</p>	<p>Revision of HARC meetings schedule for Wednesdays afternoons, starting at 6:00pm</p> <p>Mr. Rudy Molinet stated the change in meeting timing is the Commission's attempt to make the HARC meetings more available to the general public by moving them to after normal business hours.</p> <p>Enid Torregrosa reminded the Commission that the new start time would be at 6:00 pm on the second (2nd) and forth (4th) Wednesdays each month.</p> <p>Public Comments: There were no public comments.</p> <p>Commission Discussion: The Commissioners had no additional comments or discussion.</p> <p>Actions/Motions: A motion was made by Mr. Bryan Green, seconded by Mr. George Galvan, that the item be Approved. The motion Passed by the following vote: Absent: 1 - Mr. Metzler Yes: 5 - Mr. Green, Mr. Rojas, Ms. Bowers, Mr. Galvan, Chairman Molinet</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Demolition of back shed- #617 Mickens Lane- Michael Skoglund (H11-01-855) Second Reading</p> <p>Michael Skoglund the architect for the project inquired if the Commissioners had received the photos of the shed which had been requested. Mr. Skoglund had no additional input for the Commissioners.</p> <p>Public Comments:</p>

Minutes of the Key West Historical Architectural Review Commission
November 09, 2011
APPROVED – November 23, 2011

Page 1 of 14

Call Meeting To Order

Chairman Rudy Molinet called the Key West Historical Architectural Review Commission (HARC) Meeting of November 09, 2011 to order at **6:00 pm** at Old City Hall, in the antechamber at 510 Greene Street, Key West.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Roll Call

Commissioners present include Carlos Rojas, Barbara Bowers, Daniel Metzler, Vice Chairman Bryan Green, and Chairman Rudy Molinet.

Also, present from City staff: Assistant City Attorney Ron Ramsingh, Historic Perseveration Planner Enid Torregrosa, IT Director Patti McLauchlin, and Recording Secretary Jo Bennett.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Rudy Molinet inquired as to any changes to the agenda. Enid Torregrosa stated there were no changes.

Actions/Motions:

A motion was made by Mr. Carlos Rojas, seconded by Mr. Daniel Metzler, that the Agenda with no changes be **Approved**. The motion **Passed** by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

1 October 26, 2011

Actions/Motions:

A motion was made by Mr. Bryan Green, seconded by Ms. Barbara Bowers, that the Minutes be **Approved**. The motion **Passed** by a unanimous voice vote.

Old Business

2 William Weech American Legion Post 168. the American Legion, Inc. - Proposed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places- #803 Emma Street- Millicent Lunette Weech

Ms. Millicent Weech who has been the driving force behind the work to request the building be placed on the National Register stated that during the HARC Workshop it was discussed that due to the building being in disrepair it would be better to request the building be placed on the City's contributing resource list and then once repairs are in place the application for the National Register could be re-submitted. Ms. Weech thanked the HARC commission for their help and understanding of the importance of the building.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Staff Report:

Enid Torregrosa presented her staff report. Ms. Torregrosa stated the building located at #803 Emma Street is a two story reinforce concrete and block structure that was built in 1952. The Executive Committee of the William Weech American Legion Post 168

Minutes of the Key West Historical Architectural Review Commission
November 09, 2011
APPROVED – November 23, 2011

Page 2 of 14

authorized the nomination. The building was built 50 years ago.

The building was first recorded in the 1976 Historic Survey as was classified as non-contributing. In the 1983 Survey was also classified as non-contributing. In the 1998 and 2004 Surveys the building was not included as a contributing resource. The building was already 50 years old in 2002.

Ms. Torregrosa stated that according to the city database there are no outstanding building permits for this property. However a Certificate of Appropriateness, #11-01-93, for the Restoration of the building was approved by this Commission on July 13, 2010. The Planning Board approved the necessary variances for the project on November 10, 2010.

Ms. Torregrosa continued by stating that Key West has two historic districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Key West Historic District (boundaries revised in 1983) and the US Naval Station, which is still under military domain. Twelve structures are individually listed as well as two objects, Japanese Midget Submarine and the Western Union Schooner. The USCG Cutter Ingham is listed as a National Landmark, the highest rank a building, site or object can receive from the Secretary of the Interior.

Commission Discussion:

The Commissioners had no additional comments or discussion.

Actions/Motions:

A motion was made by Mr. Carlos Rojas, seconded by Mr. Daniel Metzler, that the building at 803 Emma Street be added to the City's contributing resource list.

The motion **Passed** by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mr. Rojas, Mr. Metzler, Ms. Bowers, Mr. Green, Chairman Molinet

- 3** Demolition of part of rear wall to create a temporary 8' by 8' opening for removal of interior material, infill with concrete blocks and install a new single service door- **#211 Duval Street- Donald Laukka- William Horn (H11-01-1363) -Second Reading**

Bill Horn presented the project stating that he did not have anything to add from the last meeting and the application. Mr. Horn remained available to respond to the Commissioners questions.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Staff Report:

Enid Torregrosa presented her staff report. Ms. Torregrosa stated this staff report is for the second reading of an after the fact partial demolition of a back wall. The building located on #211 Duval Street is not listed in the surveys. The partial demolition was done in order to remove interior material. A previous Certificate of Appropriateness was approved for the remodeling of the front façade. On October 26, 2011 the Commission approved the after the fact demolition since the building is not historic.

Ms. Torregrosa stated this is an after the fact application therefore staff does not make recommendations.

Commission Discussion:

The Commissioners had no additional comments or discussion.

Correspondence



Enid Torregrosa <etorregr@keywestcity.com>

Wm Weech American Legion & Walter Mickens VFW Post

11 messages

Waber, Andrew J. <Andrew.Waber@dos.myflorida.com>
To: etorregr@keywestcity.com

Fri, Dec 9, 2011 at 1:16 PM

Dear Ms. Torregrossa:

I am wondering if you might have the William Weech American Legion Post & Walter Mickens VFW Post (803 Emma Street) locally listed in Key West? We are currently working to get this building listed on the NR. Any help you could provide with my inquiry would be most appreciated. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Andrew Waber

Survey & Registration Section



The Department of State is leading the commemoration of Florida's 500th anniversary in 2013. For more information, please go to www.fl500.com.

Secretary of State Kurt Browning is committed to maintaining a high level of service in all areas of the Department of State. If you have feedback on your service, please take the department's Customer Satisfaction Survey. Thank you in advance for your participation.
[DOS Customer Satisfaction Survey](#)

Enid Torregrosa <etorregr@keywestcity.com>
To: "Waber, Andrew J." <Andrew.Waber@dos.myflorida.com>

Fri, Dec 9, 2011 at 2:43 PM

Dear Andrew:

The building is not locally designated as a contributing resource. We are doing a new survey with State grant money and the building will be included in the new survey. I had an extensive phone conversation with Barbara Mattick and Phil Wisely about a month ago, November 3rd, to be precise. The building will need to undergo into major structural repairs. Our Building Chief Officer posted the structure as an unsafe building. The group had contacted a third architect to help them moving forward the repairs needed. The Key West City Historic Architectural Review Commission reviewed their proposed nomination and decided, with Mrs. Weech and the American legion representative's consent that they wanted to postpone the nomination to the NRHP until repairs took place.

Enid Torregrosa
Historic Preservation Planner
City of Key West
3140 Flagler Avenue
Key West, Florida 33040
[305.809.3973](tel:305.809.3973) Direct
[305.808.3978](tel:305.808.3978) Fax

[Quoted text hidden]

Fri, Dec 9, 2011 at 3:47 PM

Waber, Andrew J. <Andrew.Waber@dos.myflorida.com>

To: Enid Torregrosa <etorregr@keywestcity.com>

Dear Ms. Torregrosa:

I am wondering if you are referring to the local designation or the National Register nomination? Mrs. Weech has already indicated to our office that she was interested in pursuing National Register listing for this building.

Sincerely,

Andrew Waber

Survey & Registration Section



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[DOS Customer Satisfaction Survey](#)

From: Enid Torregrosa [<mailto:etorregr@keywestcity.com>]
Sent: Friday, December 09, 2011 2:43 PM
To: Waber, Andrew J.
Subject: Re: Wm Weech American Legion & Walter Mickens VFW Post

Dear Andrew:

The building is not locally designated as a contributing resource. We are doing a new survey with State grant money and the building will be included in the new survey. I had an extensive phone conversation with Barbara Mattick and Phil Wisely about a month ago, November 3rd, to be precise. The building will need to undergo into major structural repairs. Our Building Chief Officer posted the structure as an unsafe building. The group had contacted a third architect to help them moving forward the repairs needed. The Key West City Historic Architectural Review Commission reviewed their proposed nomination and decided, with Mrs. Weech and the American legion representative's consent that they wanted to postpone the nomination to the NRHP until repairs took place.

Enid Torregrosa

Historic Preservation Planner

City of Key West

3140 Flagler Avenue

Key West, Florida 33040

305.809.3973 Direct

305.808.3978 Fax

On Fri, Dec 9, 2011 at 1:16 PM, Waber, Andrew J. <Andrew.Waber@dos.myflorida.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Torregrossa:

I am wondering if you might have the William Weech American Legion Post & Walter Mickens VFW Post (803 Emma Street) locally listed in Key West? We are currently working to get this building listed on the NR. Any help you could provide with my inquiry would be most appreciated. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Andrew Waber

Survey & Registration Section

Error! Filename not specified. The Department of State is leading the commemoration of Florida's 500th anniversary in 2013. For more information, please go to www.fl500.com.

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[DOS Customer Satisfaction Survey](#)

Enid Torregrosa <etorregr@keywestcity.com>

Mon, Dec 12, 2011 at 9:20 AM

To: "Waber, Andrew J." <Andrew.Waber@dos.myflorida.com>

Dear Andrew:

I am referring to the proposed nomination to the National Register. She submitted a draft of a nomination to the National Register to our Historic Architectural Review Commission. There was a first public meeting, a workshop for a visit to the site and a second public meeting when Mrs. Weech requested to withdraw the NR nomination. The Commission then recommended the inclusion of the building as a contributing resource in our local register.

Hope this clarifies.

Enid

[Quoted text hidden]

Waber, Andrew J. <Andrew.Waber@dos.myflorida.com>

Mon, Dec 12, 2011 at 5:05 PM

To: Enid Torregrosa <etorregr@keywestcity.com>

I have forwarded your email on to Barbara Mattick and she should be getting back with you in regards to this pretty soon. I was told that this property was already on one of your local registers and was under the impression that this already cleared your office. As the property now stands does your office believe it is eligible?



The Department of State is leading the commemoration of Florida's 500th anniversary in 2013. For more information, please go to www.fl500.com.

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[DOS Customer Satisfaction Survey](#)

From: Enid Torregrosa [mailto:etorregr@keywestcity.com]**Sent:** Monday, December 12, 2011 9:20 AM**To:** Waber, Andrew J.**Subject:** Re: Wm Weech American Legion & Walter Mickens VFW Post

Dear Andrew:

I am referring to the proposed nomination to the National Register. She submitted a draft of a nomination to the National Register to our Historic Architectural Review Commission. There was a first public meeting, a workshop for a visit to the site and a second public meeting when Mrs. Weech requested to withdraw the NR nomination. The Commission then recommended the inclusion of the building as a contributing resource in our local register.

Hope this clarifies.

Enid

On Fri, Dec 9, 2011 at 3:47 PM, Waber, Andrew J. <Andrew.Waber@dos.myflorida.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Torregrosa:

I am wondering if you are referring to the local designation or the National Register nomination? Mrs. Weech has already indicated to our office that she was interested in pursuing National Register listing for this building.

Sincerely,

Andrew Waber

Survey & Registration Section

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Enid Torregrosa <etorregr@keywestcity.com>

Tue, Dec 13, 2011 at 12:09 PM

To: "Waber, Andrew J." <Andrew.Waber@dos.myflorida.com>

Cc: "Mattick, Barbara" <barbara.mattick@dos.myflorida.com>, Don Craig <drcraig@keywestcity.com>, John Woodson <jwoodson@keywestcity.com>

Dear Andrew:

Thank you for your email. The HARC members understood that at this point they preferred to add the structure in the local list. Right now the building has major structural problems and we do not know how much of the historic fabric can be retained. It is clear that the history of the American Legion and the VFW post are significant to the community and to Florida. But the issue here is the architectural integrity due to the state of decay and the many alterations the building had gone through time. Two architects and two engineers have given the alert that the structural integrity of the four reinforced concrete walls are questionable. The only sound structural element is the roof. The front facade had been altered; the two main entrances that used to have glass blocks were altered at some point in time. The glass blocks were character defining elements to the structure. Side elevations had been altered by blocking original fenestrations, the north facade upper frieze was also removed at some point in time. The interior of the structure had also been altered. The

exposed wood trusses can be found behind acoustic ceiling panels.

We know that many of the changes can be reversible. The City of Key West, thought the TIF program had granted \$360,000 for architectural services and preservation efforts. The building had been deemed unsafe by the Building Chief Officer and he had not received a requested letter from a structural engineer stating that the building is sound and can be used nor any schedule for the correction of unsafe issues the building possesses up today.

I am including copy of the minutes from the HARC commission public meeting when Ms. Weech stated that they were going to re-submit the NRHP nomination once repairs take place.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a great day!

Enid

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129K

Mattick, Barbara <Barbara.Mattick@dos.myflorida.com>

Tue, Dec 13, 2011 at 5:14 PM

To: Enid Torregrosa <etorregr@keywestcity.com>
Cc: "Waber, Andrew J." <Andrew.Waber@dos.myflorida.com>

Hi Enid,

After looking at the nomination proposal, it appears to us, based on the information we have in hand, that the Weech American Legion & Walter Mickens VFW Post would be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage: Black (not under Criterion C for Architecture). The integrity question for us is "Does the property visually convey its significance, i.e., does it retain its historic character, reflecting its appearance from 1952-1962?" The structural stability of the building is not a factor in that evaluation, and we do not consider the alterations (e.g., removed glass blocks at the entrances and acoustical ceiling tiles) significant enough to render the property ineligible. (I can see how this might be an issue for a review at the local level).

We can continue with the nomination process, and then send the proposal to you as the Certified Local Government for your comments. As you know, the HARC would be given the opportunity to comment on the eligibility, as would the Mayor of Key West. Under the CLG guidelines, if both HARC and Mayor do not think it is eligible, we would not be able to present the property's nomination for review by the Florida National Register Review Board. The owners of the property, however, would be able to appeal to the SHPO, and if approved, the nomination process could go forward.

What would be the best way to coordinate this with you? Perhaps it would be better to discuss on the phone, especially if there are other matters that need to be considered???

Thanks,

Barbara



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[DOS Customer Satisfaction Survey](#)

From: Enid Torregrosa [<mailto:etorregr@keywestcity.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 12:10 PM
To: Waber, Andrew J.
Cc: Mattick, Barbara; Don Craig; John Woodson
Subject: Re: Wm Weech American Legion & Walter Mickens VFW Post

Dear Andrew:

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I am including copy of the minutes from the HARC commission public meeting when Ms. Weech stated that they were going to re-submit the NRHP nomination once repairs take place.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a great day!

Enid

On Mon, Dec 12, 2011 at 5:05 PM, Waber, Andrew J. <Andrew.Waber@dos.myflorida.com> wrote:

I have forwarded your email on to Barbara Mattick and she should be getting back with you in regards to this pretty soon. I was told that this property was already on one of your local registers and was under the impression that this already cleared your office. As the property now stands does your office believe it is eligible?

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Enid Torregrosa <etorregr@keywestcity.com>
To: Don Craig <dcraig@keywestcity.com>

Tue, Dec 13, 2011 at 5:19 PM

FYI. Before I send my reply I want to talk to you.

Enid

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Enid Torregrosa <etorregr@keywestcity.com>
To: "Mattick, Barbara" <Barbara.Mattick@dos.myflorida.com>

Thu, Dec 15, 2011 at 5:48 PM

Dear Barbara:

Thank you for your email and voicemail. Yesterday's meeting went until 10:30pm and the day after meetings is crazy!

Will you be available tomorrow's morning, before 10:00pm for a phone conversation? I am planing to leave during the afternoon to Miami. If the time does not work, when it will be a good time to talk on Monday?

Hope you are doing well!!

Take care;

Enid

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Thu, Dec 15, 2011 at 7:33 PM

Mattick, Barbara <Barbara.Mattick@dos.myflorida.com>

To: Enid Torregrosa <etorregr@keywestcity.com>

I'll call you about 9:00, OK?

Barbara



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[DOS Customer Satisfaction Survey](#)

From: Enid Torregrosa [mailto:etorregr@keywestcity.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2011 5:49 PM
To: Mattick, Barbara
Subject: Re: Wm Weech American Legion & Walter Mickens VFW Post

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Enid Torregrosa <etorregr@keywestcity.com>
To: "Mattick, Barbara" <Barbara.Mattick@dos.myflorida.com>

Fri, Dec 16, 2011 at 8:22 AM

Dear Barbara:

Thanks for your email. Let me give you Don Craig's phone number [305.809.3728](tel:305.809.3728). Don is our Planning Director and want to be part of the conversation.

Will talk to you at 9:00am.

Happy Holidays!!!!Take care;

Enid

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