United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 16000360 Date Listed: 6/13/2016

Property Name: West Palm Beach Fishing Club

County: Palm Beach State: FL

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper

6·13·2016
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Period of Significance

The Period of Significance is hereby changed to 1940-1966.

The Florida State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90

OMB No. 1024-0018

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name WEST PALM BEACH FISHING CLUB

other names/site number N/A; Florida Master Site File # 8PB767

2. Location

street & number 201 Fifth Street N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town West Palm Beach N/A ☐ vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Palm Beach code 099 zip code 33401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Alissa Lotane 4/21/16
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6-13-2016

WEST PALM BEACH FISHING CLUB
Name of Property

Palm Beach Co., FL
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ buildings
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

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

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

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL - Clubhouse, Assembly & Meeting Hall
EDCATION: Research Facility, Lecture Hall
RECREATION & CULTUR:Exhibits Deep Sea Angling
COMMERCE TRADE: Organizational

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL - Clubhouse, Assembly & Meeting Hall
EDUCATION: Lecture & Exhibit Hall
RECREATION & CULTURE:Exhibits Deep Sea Angling
COMMERCE TRADE: Organizational

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Modified Modern Ranch

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD: Weatherboard
roof METAL
other

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
SOCIAL HISTORY
EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1934-1980

Significant Dates

1934

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch:
Blder:

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State Agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of Repository

#

WEST PALM BEACH FISHING CLUB
Name of Property

Palm Beach Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References
(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	594369	2955566
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carl Shiver, Historic Preservationist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date April 2016

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

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

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

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Mark Parks, Director, City of West Palm Beach Finance Department

street & number P.O. Box 3366 5th Floor Finance Department telephone (561) 822-1310

city or town West Palm Beach state Florida zip code 33401

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

SUMMARY

The West Palm Beach Fishing Club (WPBFC) is a one-story wood frame Modern Ranch architectural style building built in 1940. It has a modified front-facing L-shaped plan, two low-pitch side gable roofs, with a small porch in the southwest corner. The walls and porch supports are made of cypress wood. The roof material is metal. An exterior gable wall fireplace chimney is made of masonry with stucco finish. The clubhouse interior reflects its primary use as an assembly and meeting hall and exhibit space. The interiors also reflect the outdoors through the use of Dade County Pine ceiling beams and trusses and cypress wall paneling. The building has a parkland setting within a commercial district. Two major alterations include a partial enclosure of the original full length porch on the main building and a tin roof has replaced the original asphalt shingle style. The property is in good condition and maintains it original integrity.

SETTING

The West Palm Beach Fishing Club is ideally located approximately a half a mile from the city's central commercial core just west of the Intracoastal Waterway. It is a free-standing one-story wood frame building located on the corner of Fifth Street and North Flagler Drive and the Intracoastal Waterway in West Palm Beach. A steep embankment supporting the ramp to the Flagler Memorial Bridge connecting West Palm Beach to the Town of Palm Beach is immediately north of the building. Just beyond is a large multi-story commercial building. The east facade faces North Flagler Drive and the Intracoastal Waterway. The south facade faces Fifth Street and downtown West Palm Beach. A large multi-story office building is located across the street southwest of the property.

The west facade is bound by to a large parking lot with a four-story office building contiguous to the parking lot. Eight mature Royal Palm Trees are sporadically located on the south and east sides of the building enhancing the parkland setting. A large mahogany tree is located on the embankment on the northwest corner of the property. A variety of smaller palm trees are seen at various locations near the building and a Sabal Palm appears to have volunteered on the embankment in the north areas of the property. A low hedge borders most sides of the building.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The West Palm Beach Fishing Club is a one-story wood frame Modern Ranch type building fronting on the west side of North Flagler Drive and the north side of Fifth Street in West Palm Beach. The building is a modified L-shaped structure with a wood frame structural system and continuous concrete foundation. The

exterior walls are constructed of shiplap joint cypress boards and cypress corner boards. The two side gable roofs are covered in metal standing-seam roofing. The main entrance is located under the cutaway porch in the southeast corner of the building. Fenestration includes two sets of multi-pane French Doors and 6/6 or 1/1 double-hung wood sash windows. A semi-circular, louvered vent is in the peak of the lower gable wall. A Sailfish Taxidermy is displayed at the peak of the upper gable wall on south facade. All the windows are protected with metal Bahama shutters (not original to the building). A decorative blue sailfish relief is noted on the cement walk-way leading from the doorway to the parking lot on the west side of the building. Overall, the simplicity of the building reflects the simplistic but functional utilitarian style of the late Depression-Era/War-Era buildings. The WPBFC parkland setting is enhanced by the green span and eight mature Royal Palm trees.

The main (east) facade fronts on Flagler Drive (Photo 1) and features a cutaway porch located on the southeast corner of the facade. Two symmetrically spaced sets of metal frame 6/6-light windows with Bahama shutters are located on the main facade to the right of the cutaway porch area. All windows are shielded with Bahama shutters. One set of multi-pane French doors is sheltered by a porch (Photo 2). One set of wood sash windows are located on the recessed portion of the modified L-shaped plan. A small air condition unit is located left of the windows. The east side of the porch features a striped retractable awning (not original to the building). A sign indicating the West Palm Beach Fishing Club is located on the east side of the double French door main entrance

The south elevation (Photo 3) features two sets of double 6/6-light wood sash windows, one set of French doors located on the main building recessed from the south end, one centrally located single panel unadorned secondary entrance door, and a partial single panel and glaze side door with a letter slot is located in the sheltered porch area of the main building. A semi-circle vent is centrally located on the lower gable wall and a sailfish taxidermy is centered on the upper gable wall.

The west elevation features three sets of double 6/6-light wood sash windows, and two smaller 1/1 wood sash windows and one unadorned single panel side door. A sign displaying the address is located above the door (Photo 4).

The north elevation features one centrally located exterior gable wall chimney made of masonry with stucco finish and decorative brick accents on the chimney cap and sides. Large air condition units flank the chimney replacing the windows were that were removed in the 1990s due to multiple break-ins. A small air condition unit is also located near the east end of the north elevation (Photo 5).

Interior

Initially the two rooms (now the conference room and storage room) on the south end of the building were occupied by the City Recreational Commission (CRC) to attract tourism to West Palm Beach. Between1980-1990 the same rooms were used as experimental laboratory on sports fisheries sponsored by Florida Natural Resources. The WPB Fishing Club now occupies the entire building. The interior remains largely intact. The large interior space functions as an assembly and meeting room (Photo 6) surrounded by offices, and other functional spaces, except for the north wall with the fireplace. The interiors also features two native species of wood, one of which is extinct. The ceiling features Dade County Pine, a.k.a Florida Pine that once grew between the Everglades and the Atlantic Ocean in south Florida. The walls are plaster over metal lath covered with vertical cypress wood paneling.

West Wall – The west side of the meeting room consists of a kitchen, open bar area, storage rooms, two bathrooms, a passage way to the outside, and a small hallway. The passageway gives access to one of the bathrooms and the parking lot located on the west side of the building. The small hallway is flanked by a bathroom and storage space. A recessed glass-covered exhibit space is located centrally on the west wall (Photo 7).

North Wall - A brick hearth with a wood mantel and tile hearth floor is centrally located on the north wall of the meeting hall. Above the fireplace is a flat screen television. Large glass-enclosed exhibit cabinets are located on the northwest and northeast corners of the north wall. Air conditioning vents flank the fireplace. The wall exhibits multiple taxidermy of large and medium sized fish (Photo 8).

East Wall – The east wall has a large glass-covered exhibit cabinet dedicated to plaques of tournament records sponsored by the WPB Fishing club. Two sets of multi-pane French doors flank the plaque cabinet. The French doors to the north accesses office space resulting from the partial enclosure of the original front porch. The south end French doors is the main entrance from the partially remaining original porch. This wall also exhibits multiple taxidermy (Photo 9).

Conference Room – Initially two rooms now the conference room and storage room (Photo 10) were occupied by the City Recreational Commission (CRC) to attract tourism to West Palm Beach.

All of the original taxidermy mounts are skin-mount, i.e., mounting the skin of a dead fish to make it appear lifelike. This method of taxidermy was been replaced with “blank mount” to protect the fish from becoming extinct from overfishing. These reproductions allow catch and release anglers to display their catch without killing the fish, or fish mounts that can create the mount years after the actual trophy was caught. The blank

reproductions are made of fiberglass that are matched as closely as possible to the measurements and shape of actual fish (within fractions of an inch or pound, depending on the species) then are painted to match the actual fish and can last a lifetime.[1]

ALTERATIONS

Exterior

In the early 50s the porch on the building's east elevation was partially enclosed to create additional office space. The original proposal called for additional office space, however, due to budget concerns the plans were modified. The original porch featured two sets of French doors flanked by a set of three 6/6-wood sash windows. The southernmost set of French doors remains in place. The northernmost doors and set of three windows were removed to accommodate a new office space. The enclosed area features two symmetrically spaced metal frame 1/1-light jalousie windows on the east elevation and a panel and glaze side door and a letter slot on the south elevation. The changes modified the appearance somewhat on the east elevation, however, no further alterations to the exterior were made until the 1990s. At that time the downtown area was going through a transition period. The north elevation fronting on the embankment ramp to the bridge was obscured from view and became susceptible to multiple break-ins. Consequently, the two windows flanking the fireplace were permanently removed with the installation of two air-conditioning units in 1994. Additionally, the devastation of Hurricane Andrew in 1993 required further hurricane protection for the building. A metal roof was added in 1996, which replaced the original asphalt shingles and metal Bahama shutters were added to the windows in 1998. A sailfish taxidermy was exhibited on the upper gable peak. No changes in the overall landscape were noted. Currently Flagler Drive is being altered to accommodate the new Flagler Bridge, which presents a working construction site along the east and south side of the building. (Photos 3-9).

Interior

Except for the added square footage gained from the partial porch enclosure on the east wall, and the loss of two windows flanking the hearth on the north wall, the main interior spaces remains largely intact, including the Dade County Pine beams and Trusses and the cypress wood wall panels. The lounge in the original plans opposite the men's bathroom was altered to accommodate a hallway and storage room. The other storage room on south side of the west wall was converted into a small kitchen and a rectangular opening was cut in the east wall of the kitchen to create a service bar to accommodate the assembly hall which remains intact. The assembly hall continues to serve as a lecture hall and exhibit space (Photos 10-11).

[1] Types of Mounts and Outdoor Memories Taxidermy-Webs. "Outdoor Memories Taxidermy: Providing you with the very best in angling Artistry". http://www.freewebs.com/thefullers/typesofmounts.htm (accessed December 9, 2015).

SUMMARY

The West Palm Beach Fishing Club (WPBFC) is historically significant at the local level under Criterion A, in the area of Entertainment and Recreation associated with tourism development and promoting fishing. In the area of Education it is significant with its continued role in conserving aquatic populations through cooperative game fish tagging, catch and release of all billfish, deploying artificial reef off the coast of Florida and sponsoring educational programs for adults, children and students on resource conservation and angling techniques.

Historical Background and Significance

The West Palm Beach Fishing Club was established in 1934 by prominent local businessmen in an effort to resuscitate the local economy after the collapse of the real estate market in 1926 followed by the 1929 Great Depression. The Fishing Club was to be a civic club that primarily catered to tourists. The annual Silver Sailfish Derby, begun in 1935 is the oldest billfish tournament and was documented nationally and recruited participants from all over the world. The Club assisted the local tourism industry to such a great extent that the City of West Palm Beach, in partnership with WPBFC constructed the WPBFC clubhouse. The City built the Frame Vernacular clubhouse in 1940 on city-owned parkland donated to the city in 1921 by Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Railroad Company. In addition to its unique role in promoting tourism, the WPBFC has been integral to aquatic conservation at the local and statewide levels. It was one of the first groups to promote the catch-and-release ethic. As President, Johnny Rybovich, Jr. provided leadership in civic outreach and conservation. During his tenure as president, the WPBFC was the first organization to be officially permitted to create an artificial reef off the coast of Palm Beach County in 1960 consisting of 500 wrecked cars and later created the Ribovich Endowment ship artificial reef (Photos 12-13).

HISTORIC CONTEXT

In 1892, Henry Morrison Flagler visited Palm Beach to evaluate the area's potential for the expansion of his railroad at that time ran from Jacksonville to Daytona, Florida. He purchased land on both sides of Lake Worth Lagoon, part of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway separating the Town of Palm Beach and West Palm Beach. As a railroad tycoon and hotelier, Flagler planned to make Palm Beach a fashionable winter resort and playground for the financial and social elite. West Palm Beach was to serve as its commercial city. He built the 540-bed Royal Poinciana Hotel in Palm Beach, which could accommodate 2,000 guests, had three miles of corridors and advertised it as the largest wooden hotel in the world (Photo 14). West Palm Beach, located on the western shores of the Lake Worth Lagoon soon developed into a city in its own right. In 1893, Flagler's surveyors laid out the forty-eight block town site plan, naming the streets after tropical plants, e.g. Banyan, Clematis, and Hibiscus. The initial fast growth of West Palm Beach can be attributed to the construction of the

Royal Poinciana Hotel, since many of the new homeowners in West Palm Beach were employed by Flagler during the construction of the hotel.[2]

On November 5, 1894, West Palm Beach was incorporated as a town. In 1903, the town was granted a city charter and in 1909 it became the county seat of the newly formed county of Palm Beach, previously part of Dade County. Between 1910 and 1920, its population grew from 1,743 to 8,669 (80% increase in population growth). The city became a popular destination for the middle class. Northerners purchased properties, sight unseen during the real estate boom of South Florida that peaked in 1925. Property values soared to $89 million in 1929 only to crash to $18.2 million by 1935. The devastating 1928 Hurricane and the 1929 Great Depression brought more hard times for the area. West Palm Beach, however, continued to bolster its economy through tourism. The Palm Beach elite did not seem as affected by the real estate bust or the 29 Depression and continued to arrive in droves expanding the "season" from less than two months to six months or more [3]

World War II and the postwar years boosted the local economy as South Florida became identified as an ideal location for military installations. Forty-eight thousand pilots were trained at Morrison Field (now Palm Beach International Airport) in WPB. After WWII ended, the city total property value reached $72 million by 1949. Metropolitan West Palm Beach became the fourth fastest growing area in the country between 1950 and 1960. [4]

West Palm Beach Fishing Club Historic Context

Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway Company donated a parcel of land to the city of West Palm Beach on October 24, 1921 specifying in the deed that the land could be used as offices for the West Palm Beach Recreation Commission, and also as club rooms for organizations engaged in promoting fishing, boating and outdoor sports (the site where the West Palm Beach Fishing Club is located). [5] A group of thirty-five local sports-fishing enthusiasts formed the West Palm Beach Fishing Club on October 9, 1934. It is among the oldest and most successful sports-fishing clubs in the world. It is the most admired institution of its kind with a history of actively contributing to the local economy, education, conservation, and the fishing and boating industry. Its diverse membership includes fishing families, women and children, all with varied levels of angling experience. The youngest members are members from birth, which has become a Club tradition.[6] Its current membership is nearly 1,400. The Club is very egalitarian and always has been. "Check your wallet at the door" is a tradition. Its many wealthy members do not carry any more weight than anyone else. This is unique to the WPBFC, since other fishing clubs cater to the elite.[7]

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[2] Piland, Sherry. West Palm Beach Fishing Club Historic Preservation Designation Report, City of West Palm Beach Archives.(150-152)
[3] ibid
[4] ibid
[5] Quit-Claim Deed, *Deed 616*, 1921, 489.
[6] Twyford, Tom, Interview by Bonnie Dearborn, West Palm Beach Fishing Club, December 8, 2015.
[7] Jolley, John, Interview by Bonnie Dearborn, West Palm Beach Fishing Club, West Palm Beach, November 4, 2015.

Frank Cote, now 90 years old and longtime Club member symbolizes the egalitarian makeup of the WPBFC. Growing up in West Palm he recalled that the Everglades wetlands extended eastward to just west of Clear Lake. North of Okeechobee Boulevard the shores were rocky with lots of mangroves, shallow grasses and sandy shores where fiddler crabs were abundant. The sandy shores are now replaced by sea walls and the fiddler crabs are mostly gone. As a young man he worked at an ice cream concession stand and he would go fishing almost every day. He couldn't afford to buy the $2.00 membership to the West Palm Beach Fishing Club. While working as a mate on a charter boat, the owner bought him a Club membership and he has been a member ever since. Frank fished in lots of tournaments, tagging sharks and sailfish as part of the WPBFC catch-and-release program. He was very involved in pioneering big game fishing techniques and locating good fishing spots. Crews around the world learned and benefited from Cote's skills, and techniques that were, otherwise, basically unknown to them.[8] Frank Cote has been a WPBFC member for 61 years.

The Fish & Wildlife satellite research laboratory at the WPBFC administered by John Jolley was the first to do ultrasonic tags that could be used to track released sailfish for hours to determine survival rates. It also was the first to use the bony structure of the dorsal fin spine of a sailfish to successfully determine age and growth. The laboratory study also resolved the speculation about sailfish availability and the status of stocks in the Western North Atlantic. Its study demonstrated that winter is the peak season for sailfish and warmer winters bring fewer sailfish, concluding that variation in weather conditions was the main reason for the fluctuating sailfish population from year to year. Results of Jolley's study were published in various scientific and sport fishing publications, some as recently as March 2011. This was a major contribution to recreational fishing and the Club's role in Conservation. The WPBFC continues to advocate billfish conservation promoting the newer type of taxidermy, known as blank mount, whereby mounting fish involves no parts of the real fish, versus the old method where the actual skin is used. The new technology saves at least 15,000 sailfish each year.[9] Through research, Jolley's study showed that, unlike humans, the bigger older fish shed more eggs than the younger fish, and by not killing the bigger older fish is also saving millions of eggs giving evidence that the older fish are far more important to sustain a population.[10] In 1980 the research laboratory was relocated to the Jupiter area when John Jolley moved on to other endeavors. John Jolley served as President for a total of 25 years and Club member for 46 years. Today, He remains an active board member and also serves on the WPBFC's Scientific Advisor.

Education/Conservation Context

Except for the earlier efforts of Teddy Roosevelt who placed emphasis on preserving the environment, conservation was given little thought until the early 1960s. President John F. Kennedy, a frequent seasonal visitor to Palm Beach made natural resource conservation a primary focus of his administration. He released an

[8] Cote, Frank. Interview by Bonnie Dearborn, West Palm Beach Fishing Club, West Palm Beach, November 4,2015.
[9] Ibid.
[10] Ibid.

environmental manifesto that reaffirmed his commitment to Conservation. He called for a "full scale attack" on water pollution and pushed the development of outdoor recreational resources, such as fishing.[11]

Environmental conservation advocacy became a central theme of the WPBFC. The Club played a leadership role in recreation and conservation as early as the 30s. In 1934 it held its first Sailfish Derby that was so successful it became an annual event. In 1937 The Club formed the conservation committee realizing that more sailfish were being removed from the sea than could be eaten and mounted. This lead to a new Club mandate and the famed red release pennant was adopted. Johnny Rybovich advocated conservation throughout his multiple presidential terms. He created the first artificial reef off the coast of Palm Beach County. The West Palm Beach Fishing Club from its earliest days promoted education and conservation through its speakers program and by providing opportunities for children to learn about proper angling techniques and the importance of conservation to sustain aquatic species. Today, the WPBFC continues to advocate Conservation as an important part of its program**.**

EDUCATION/CONSERVATIONCRITERION A

The West Palm Beach Fishing Club is historically significant for association with its leadership role in conservation from the Club's inception in the 30s. Issues pertinent to conservation were frequently discussed in its widely circulated annual publication of Let's Go Fishin' guide. A copy was even sent to the White House for President Roosevelt per the request of the Secret Service. [12] In 1936, the Club successfully lobbied the Florida legislature to add more protection for black bass and sailfish (two species that were being increasingly exploited for commercial purposes). The WPBFC brought attention to and successfully advocated against destructive net seining in inland freshwater lakes and canals. It purchased 7,000 fingerling bass to offset the damage already done to local lakes. It endorsed a law prohibiting individuals from boating more than two sailfish catches per day and successfully lobbied the state legislature to give sailfish game fish status. These laws prevented commercial exploitation and overfishing of the species. [13]

Fish flags are signal flags with a great deal of historical significance. In 1938, the Club was the first to develop and promote the use of red release pennants as an alternative to bringing sailfish back to the dock, prior to that it was basically unheard of. The pennants flying from the charter boat signals the number of sailfish caught and released back into the waters that day, thus conserving the species, and at the same time giving anglers the ability to publically display their outing success (Photo15).[14] The original design of the pennant has been expanded to various colors and configurations to cover a variety of fish species. Prior to the red release pennant, sailfish were frequently left to rot on the city docks as an advertisement for charter boats. All member boats and

[11] Rivkin, Mike. West Palm Beach Fishing Club: A 75 Year History. 183.
[12] Ibid. 37
[13] Ibid. 184-185
[14] www.marlinmag.com. Flag Protocol for Fishermen, Fish Flags. (accessed December 12, 2015).

charters participating in the Club's contests were required to feature a notice reading "If your sailfish is not a prize fish or not wanted for trophy or any special purpose, be a sportsman and release it!! This phrase was shortened to "Be a sportsman and release it!"[15] In January 2006 at the 69th Annual Palm Beach Sailfish Derby a record of 958 sailfish were released.[16] It's was considered a world record for Atlantic sailfish stated Tom Twyford, Executive Directors of the fishing Club.[17] Today, the pennant is a universally recognized symbol of the catch-and-release ethic.

In the 1940s the WPBFC successfully lobbied the state legislature to establish game fish status for largemouth bass in Florida. In the 1950s the Club, under Johnny Rybovich leadership supported the, then radical concept of a saltwater fishing license that created a funding source for resource management protection. In 1955 the University of Miami asked the Club to help develop a tagging device for billfish to study their migratory behavior. [18] The WPBFC also worked with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts to expand their game fish tagging program to include Atlantic sailfish**.**

Throughout its history the WPBFC has worked closely with state and county leaders to protect and enhance coastal habitat in Palm Beach County, especially the Lake Worth Lagoon. Along with its charitable affiliate, the Palm Beach County Fishing Foundation, the Club has helped reestablish sea grasses, mangroves and oysters throughout the lagoon increasing its biological carrying capacity (Photo 16). We like to say, "More Habitat, More Fish," a message we teach during our annual Kids Fishing Days program. According to one past fishery specialist with the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, this outreach program is the most highly regarded event of its kind and serves as a template for other youth fishing programs in the rest of the United States. To date, over 13,000 kids have benefited from the Club's community based environmental education and fishing adventure program.[19] The WPBFC's extensive and diverse taxidermy exhibit serves as a classroom for teaching. The Palm Beach Atlantic University teaches ichthyology classes at the clubhouse.

As a multi-term President of the WPBFC Johnny Rybovich, Jr. initiated the first permitted artificial reef in Palm Beach County, and spearheaded multiple conservation initiatives. He served as WPB Fishing Club president, 1951-1952; 1960-1962; 1966-1977 for a total of 13 years and was a Club member for over 40 years. Although the Club's involvement in conservation-related efforts began in the 1930s, it was Johnny's leadership as President of the WPBFC that focused the Fishing Club to become an ardent champion of resource conservation and study. He was enormously influential in environmental circles. This was reflected in his honor at the International Game Fish Association, the Billfish Foundation and the Palm Beach County Historical Society.[20]

[15] Twyford, Tom. Tight Lines. 2013, 14.
[16] Howard, Willie. Florida Fishing Weekly. Vol. 1 Issue 3. January 20, 2006, 1.
[17] Howard, Willie Howard. Palm Beach Post. "Ideal conditions record results." January 12, 2006.
[18] Rivkin, Mike. West Palm Beach Fishing Club: a 75-year History. 184-185
[19] Twyford, Tom. Tight Lines. 2013, 16-17
[20] Rivkin, Mike. 204-205.

In 1970 as president Rybovich convinced the State Department of Natural Resources to bring a satellite research laboratory to the WPBFC facility. Marine Biologist, John Jolley was the West Palm Beach supervisor of the Maritime Laboratory from 1970 -1980. In addition to providing space for the lab in the clubhouse, the Club solicited office and furniture including a stainless steel dissecting table sink, and more than 30 boats were made available by members for plankton sampling. This saved a lot of time to do research at little cost. Through Jolley's efforts, taxidermist along the east coast sent fish to the lab to do biological sampling and research. Its research on the Atlantic sailfish was the first of its kind.[21] The Club Secretary, Frances Doucet (whose salary was paid by the City) assisted in reports, communications and publication drafts sent to world science community. Rybovich convinced the Department of Natural Resources to support the study of sailfish stocks in the western North Atlantic.[22] He lured fisherman to the Club through advertising its close proximity to the Gulf Stream where good fishing was almost immediate. He authored a popular column in the *Boating Magazine* on Conservation. He was posthumously awarded the WPBFC's first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award in 1992. In his honor The Rybovich Endowment were supported by numerous major donors.[23] Johnny's wife Kay Rybovich (an original founder of the International Women's Fishing Association) now in her 90s remains a lifetime member of the WPBFC. She has been a member for 71 years.[24]

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION CONTEXT

The tourism industry was initially ushered in South Florida by way of the Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway. While transporting the perishable goods to the north was the sustainable element in the operation of the railroad, it also provided a comfortable mode of travel for tourists to visit Southeast Florida by land for the first time. Later, it was the automobile that became the main mode of travel from the North that boosted tourism as the primary industry in Southeast Florida. There were few activities tourists could participate in prior to the WPBFC's fishing tournaments aside from going to the beach, playing tennis and attending social events. The West Palm Beach Fishing Club became central to outdoor recreation activities for tourists in the area.

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION –CRITERION A

The West Palm Beach Fishing Club is historically significant in the area of Entertainment/Recreation with its enormous success in luring tourists to West Palm Beach. The city's Conservation Recreation Commission (CRC) sponsored the first West Palm Beach Fishing Contest in the spring of 1934 and its success resulted in the founding of the WPBFC in the October of that year. The Club's annual Silver Sailfish Derby began in 1935 replacing the West Palm Beach Fishing Contest and is the oldest continually running billfish release tournament

[21] Jolley, John. Interview, by Bonnie Dearborn, WPB Fishing Club November 4, 2015
[22] Ibid.
[23] Ibid.
[24] Ibid

in the world. The month-long Silver Sailfish Derby was limited to fishing only for sailfish. As the Silver Sailfish Derby became more popular and tourism increased, the CRC and WPBFC outgrew their shared space at the Hotel Royal Worth. Consequently, the single-story Frame Vernacular clubhouse was built in 1940 in a parkland setting. In addition to allowing the clubhouse to be built on city-owned parkland donated by Henry Flagler, the City underwrote and managed its construction. The Club raised money partially through membership dues to pay back the city for construction of the building. The clubhouse accommodated tourists interested in participating in one of the five tournaments as well as those who were simply seeking advice from a local fisherman. [25] The month-long Silver Sailfish Tournament was shortened to three weeks, then three day, and now is a 2-day tournament. The changes reflect variables that occurred overtime; e.g., fishermen not being available for a whole month to fish in the tournament.

Ultimately, the Sailfish Tournament was an event supported by all the major players in the city. Local merchants contributed hundreds of dollars in prizes, which were displayed at the prominent downtown merchant Halsey & Griffith on Clematis Street. Through Rybovich leadership the WPBFC successfully lured tourists from other Florida destinations, with equally favorable weather, by advertising the close proximity to the Gulf Stream and excellent fishing opportunities. From this new headquarters, the WPBFC ran a concerted media effort whose effectiveness could be seen around the country. The Chicago Daily, the New Jersey Star Ledger and the New York Times and other newspapers posted daily updates on the Sailfish Derby contests. Photographs of Derby participants and their catches were distributed to angler's hometown newspapers.[26] The press releases and photos generated tremendous interest in sports fishing off the Palm Beaches as a destination. The Club's success in drawing tourists to the area is documented by record catches recorded between 1938 and 1948. Twenty-three out of 30 record holders were from out of state. [27]

In the mid-1930s, the Annual Winter Fishing Contest tournament was started, which ran for six months and was open to anyone interested in fishing in the tournament. There was no cost to the fishermen to participate in the tournament if the fisherman chartered a boat, typically owned by an individual who had already registered the boat with the Fishing Club to participate in the tournament. It was a great incentive for fishermen from up North to come to the West Palm Beach area in the winter and go fishing, thus increasing tourism to the area. At approximately the same time, The Summer Fishing Contest was also started. For a number of years only WPBFC Members could participate in the Summer Fishing Tournament. After WWII, due to high costs associated with owning a boat, the charter boats that had been previously owned by individuals were now mostly owned by corporations. Also, technology advances made it easier for smaller fishing boats to reach the fishing grounds. These and other variables opened up the Summer Fishing Tournament to allow both members and non-members to participate.

[25] Howard, Willie. Palm Beach Post. "Local fishing history coming to the surface." December 23, 2007, 6.
[26] Twyford, Tom, Jolley, e-mail to Bonnie Dearborn. December 16, 2015.
[27] Piland, Sherry. 152.

The Club's popularity also attracted noted personalities including Golfer Sam Sneed, as well as baseball great Ted Williams who was a member for many years. The CRC findings stated that the WPBFC generated more than $200,000 of revenue a year for the city. A statewide study released in 1955 indicated that sports fishermen spent $200 million annually in Florida. The city's belief in the abilities of the WPBFC was demonstrated by paying the salary of the Club director, Frances Doucet, up until 1964. [28]Frances worked at the clubhouse as a city employee and later as a volunteer for a total of 56 years. [29] The WPBFC became the center of fishing activity from the time it was built in 1940 up until early 1970s. At that time other fishing clubs began to open up, the Major League winter training facilities and PGA Golf came to the area, thus giving tourists and residents other recreational outlets.

Johnny Rybovich, Jr. (1913-1933)

Johnny Rybovich, Jr. was one of three brothers whose father emigrated from Yugoslavia in 1902 and started the family boat repair business in West Palm Beach in 1919. The business also supercharged boats for rum-runners. When the Feds realized their boats couldn't keep up with the rum-runners, they too began to buy the Rybovich boats. The influence of John Rybovich & Son's Boat Works continue to resonate to this day. The Rybovich boating business is currently located at 2175 Idlewild Rd in Palm Beach Gardens. Now known as Michael Rybovich & Sons Boat Works, as the fourth generation preserving "A legacy of innovation, uncompromising quality and unmatched performance since 1919" [30]

Johnny Rybovich, Jr. became the family leader and dominant personality. It was his conceptual design carried out by his brothers that resulted in the Rybovich breakthrough boat the Miss Chevy II (Photo 17). This revolutionary design later became the famous the Sail Ahoy, queen of the Palm Beach charter boat fleet. The Rybovich boat design, with its iconic raised deck profile and meticulous fit and finish were unmistakably recognized wherever it went. Additionally, its innovative tuna transom doors, aluminum outriggers and towers were functional designs that remain popular to this day. [31] Rybovich brought many new members to the WPBFC through his social contacts, civic activities, and family boat business. It was often said that when you bought a Rybovich boat you were expected to become a member of the West Palm Beach Fishing Club. His contribution to angling and the West Palm Beach Fishing Club cannot be overstated. He was a vital part of virtually every Club initiative for decades playing a prominent and often leading roles in events including the invitational Gold Cup, Masters, and the Tournament of champions.

The friendship between Johnny Rybovich and Ernest Hemingway began in 1940 when Hemingway brought his boat Pilar to Rybovich Bros. to have it converted from a pleasure cruiser to a sports fisherman. Hemingway,

[28] Rivkin, Mike. 111.
[29] Twyford, Tom, e-mail December 16, 2015.
[30] www.michaelrybovichandsons.com (accessed February 3, 2016)
[31] Twyford, Tom, Jolley, e-mail. December 16, 2015.

being an avid big game angler was very interested in the latest and greatest boats and big game fishing innovations of the day.[32] At the request of then President, Johnny Rybovich, Ernest Hemmingway sponsored the Old Man and the Sea Trophy for five years.[33] The trophy was inaugurated in 1956 for the Silver Sailfish Derby. Hemingway also gave a signed copy of his famous Old Man and the Sea to the trophy winner (Photo 18).[34]

In 1963 Johnny started a new sailfish tournament based out of the Sailfish Club in Palm Beach called the Masters Angling Sailfish Tournament, shortened to Masters with the main focus on "skill." He relocated the Old Man & The Sea trophy to that event as the Master's top award.[35] It was the very first trophy awarded to Master Angler James French Baldwin (a WPB Fishing Club member) who donated it back to the WPBFC where it remains on public display at the clubhouse.

[32] www.rybovichbook.clm/articles/rybovichmasters.The Sports fishing Magazine for the Professional Masters. "Sports fishing History Returns to Palm Beach.:24
[33] Howard, Willie. Palm Beach Post "Hemingway autograph copy of Old Man and the Sea." 2007.
[34] Twyford, Tom, Jolley, John. ttwyford@westpalmbeachfishingclub.org. to Bonnie Dearborn. December 11, 2015.
[35] Ibid.

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Twyford, Tom, John Jolley. ttwyford@westpalmbeachfishingclub.org

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

North Boundary is Ramp to Flagler Memorial Bridge (70')
East Boundary is Flagler Drive (115')
South Boundary is Fifth Street (110')
West Boundary is Parking Lot (115')

22-43-43, TH PT OF GOV LT 4 LYG S OF LOFTIN ST, W OF NORTH FLAGLER DR, N OF FIFTH ST & E OF BLK 2 OF RAILWAY ADD

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

All of the historic resources for this historic property are contained within the above described boundaries

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. West Palm Beach Fishing Club
2. 201 Fifth Street, West Palm Beach (Palm Beach County), Florida
3. Bonnie Dearborn
4. December 1915
5. Bonnie Dearborn, 2870 Clearbrook Circle, Delray Beach, Florida
6. Main (East) Facade, Looking West
7. Photo 1 of 18

Items 1-5 are the same for the following photographs unless otherwise noted.

6. South Elevation, Porch, Double French Doors, and Single Panel Door, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 2 of 18

6. South Elevation and Main Facade, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 3 of 18

6 Rear (West) Elevations, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 4 of 18

6. Rear (North) Elevation with Chimney, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 5 of 18

6. Assembly Hall, Looking North toward Fireplace
7. Photo 6 of 18

6. North Wall, Fireplace, taxidermy, exhibit cabinets, Looking North
7. Photos 7 of 18

6. West Wall, Recessed Glass Enclosed Artifact Display, Taxidermy, Fish Flags Looking West
7. Photo 8 of 18

6. East Wall, glass Enclosed Exhibit of Tournament Record Plaques, Looking East
7. Photo 9 of 18

6. Conference Room, Looking East
7. Photo 10 of 18

6. Kids Fishing Day, Kids and Rods on Fishing Boat
7. Photo 11 of 18

6. Dumping of Old Autos to Create Artificial Reefs
7. Photo 12 of 18

6. Rybovich Endowment Ship Sinking for Artificial Reef
7. Photo 13 of 18

4. Circa 1913
5. 215 Fifth Street, West Palm Beach, Florida
6. Henry Flagler's Royal Poinciana Hotel in background Looking East
7. Photo 14 of 18

6. Catch and Release Ship's Flag
7. Photo 15 of 18

6. WPBF Club Members Planting Mangroves to Stabilize Shoreline
7. Photo 16 of 18

3. West Palm Beach Archives
4. Circa Late 1950s
6. Photo 29A - Johnny Rybovich, Aboard Revolutionary Chevy IV
7. Photo 17 of 18

3. West Palm Beach Archives
4. 1956
5. 215 Fifth Street, West Palm Beach, Florida
6. Ernest Hemingway and Johnny Rybovich with *Old Man and the Sea* Trophy Sponsored by Ernest Hemingway for Silverfish Derby
7. Photo 18 of 18

West Palm Beach Fishing Club, 201 Fifth Street, West Palm Beach (Palm Beach County), Florida

Latitude: 26.718156º
Longitude: -80.051211º

UTM References

Zone	Easting	Northing
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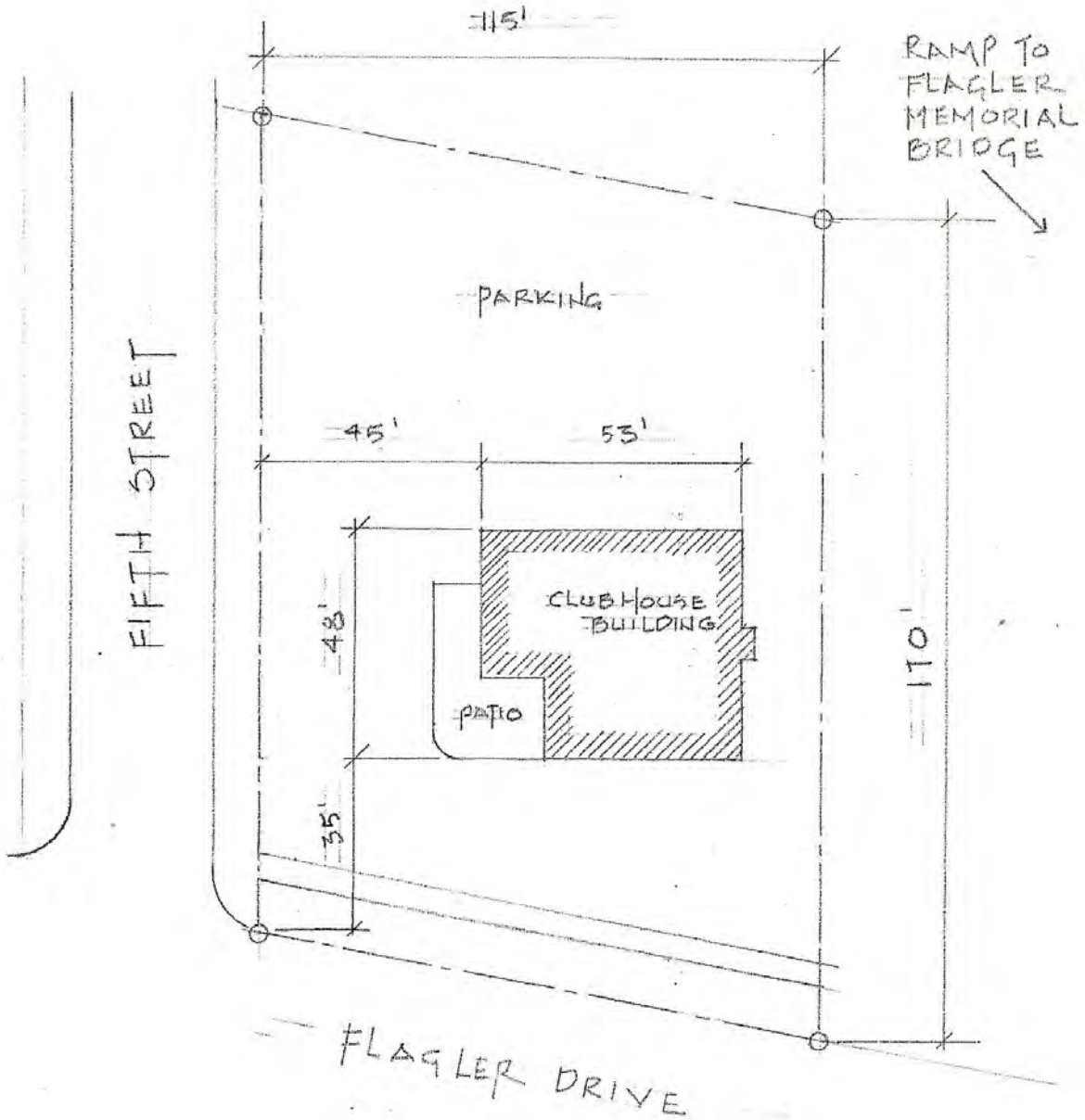


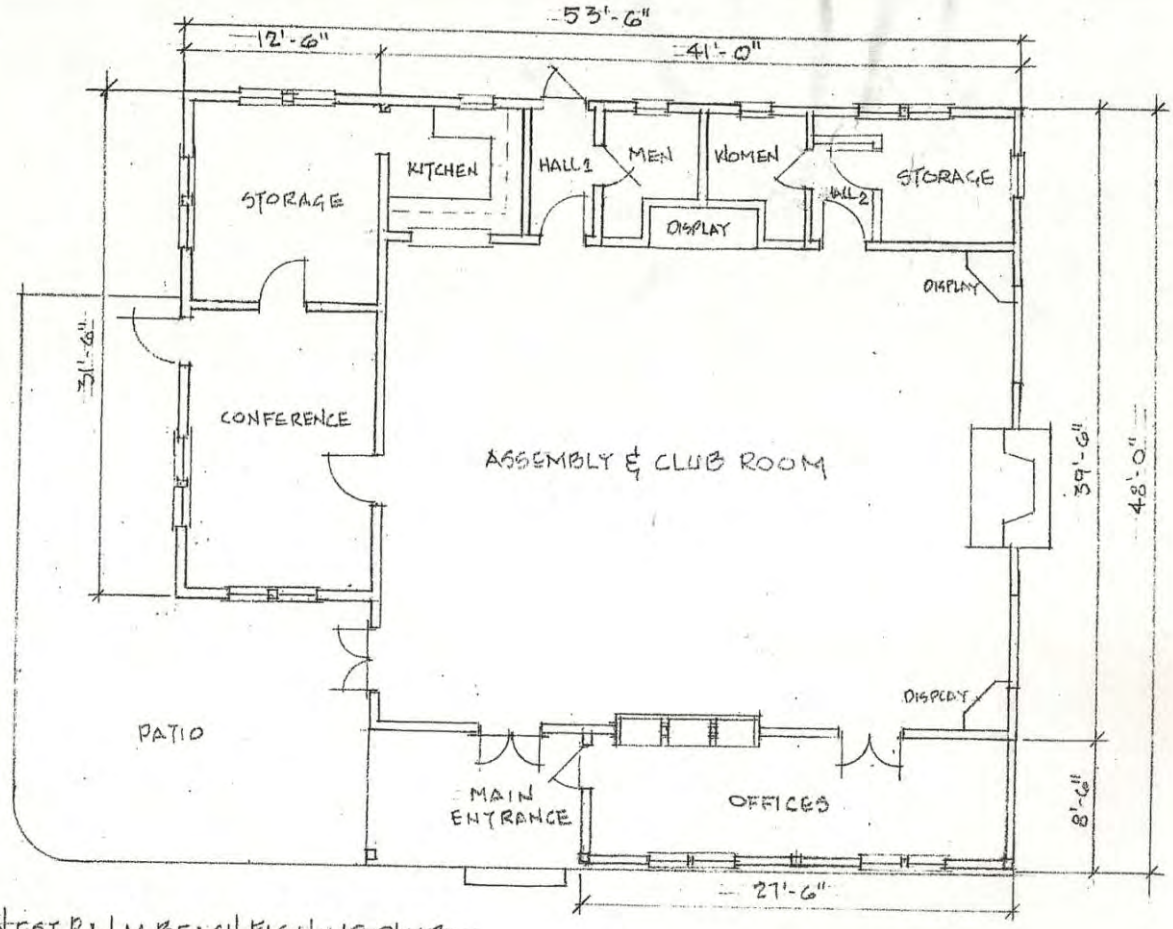
WEST PLAM BEACH FISHING CLUB
201 FIFTH STREET
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33401

SITE PLAN

12-10-2015

N

SCALE 1" = 30'



WEST PALM BEACH FISHING CLUB
201 FIFTH STREET
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33401

FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0" 12-10-2015

N

WEST PALM BEACH
FISHING CLUB

FISHING
KITE
Coca-Cola

HOME
SALMON
SEAT

WPBFC ALL TIME CLUB RECORDS

LADIVA

10174 THE ROYAL POINCIANA FROM ACROSS LAKE WORTH, PALM BEACH, FLA.

WEST PALM BEACH
FISHING CLUB
"Birthplace of the red release pennant"

Miss Chevy-II