

Historically Significant Building Designation Form

211 Park Avenue



Historic Conservation District:

Address:

Date of Construction:

Current Owner:

Present Use:

Present Zoning:

Palm Beach County Parcel Control Number:

Legal Description:

Flagler Conservation District

211 Park Avenue

1919

Barbarito, Gerald M DD JCL Bishop of
Diocese of Palm Beach

Residential

R-C – Medium Density Residential

50-43-43-15-06-000-0032

East 47 Feet of Lot 3, Bungalow Park
Addition, and the South 17 Feet of Lot 3
Jeanette Court Addition

Town of Palm Beach Historic Conservation District Ordinance No. 02-2020 outlines the criteria for designation of a historically significant building and states that the building must be at least 50 years old and meet at least one criterion to justify the designation. Listed below are criteria that relate to this property and the justification for designation:

(1) “Exemplifies or reflects the broad cultural, political, economic or social history of the nation, state, county or town.”

The residence located at 211 Park Avenue reflects the broad cultural, economic, and social history of the Town of Palm Beach. The 1919 frame vernacular home was one of the first constructed in the Bungalow Park subdivision, one of Palm Beach’s early subdivisions which is a part of the Flagler Conservation District. The Flagler Conservation District, which was the Town’s early commercial center, included nearby residential development which provided convenient housing for seasonal visitors, store owners and employees. The Bungalow Park Addition was platted in 1918 by Peter J. Mack. Mack also platted the nearby Ocean Park H.W. Robbins Addition which includes Seminole Avenue and Everglade Avenue in 1917 and the Grace Trail Addition in 1918. All three of these subdivisions were conveniently located between two of Palm Beach’s main shopping areas in the 1920s – Main Street (now Royal Poinciana Way) and the Fashion Beaux Arts Building. Main Street was an area for congregating in restaurants, dancing, shopping, and banking, and the Fashion Beaux Arts Building, constructed in 1916-1917, on North Lake Trail

between Seminole and Everglades Avenues, was an innovative shopping center for its time housing exclusive shops and a movie theater.

211 Park Avenue was one of the earliest homes built in the Bungalow Park subdivision and is one of three structures in the Bungalow Park subdivision that was shown on the 1919 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. The residence was constructed for and was the longtime home of Cecil G. Donnelly and his wife Nora Donnelly. Cecil Donnelly arrived in Palm Beach in 1903 from Palatka, Florida and became the Town's first Superintendent of Public Works in 1918. He continued in this role for almost thirty years until his retirement in 1947. Nora Donnelly came to Palm Beach in 1912 from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1919, shortly after the Bungalow Park subdivision was platted and Cecil Donnelly became the Superintendent of Public Works, the Donnelly's purchased the property at 211 Park Avenue and built the home where they lived until their deaths. Cecil Donnelly passed away in 1973 and Nora Donnelly in 1979, after which the property was sold by the Donnelly family in 1980 to Dorothy Baldwin. Dorothy Baldwin and her husband John Baldwin owned the property until 1997 when it was purchased by the Bishop of the Diocese of Palm Beach County. The home is conveniently located across Park Avenue from St. Edward Catholic Church.

(3) “Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or is a specimen inherently valuable for the study of a period, style, method of construction or use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship.”

211 Park Avenue is a good example of a two-story, wood frame vernacular residence with an American Four-Square form. The two-story structure is surfaced with stucco and has low pitched hipped roofs with overhanging boxed eaves. The roofs are surfaced with asphalt shingles that wrap the edge. The front of the home features an off-center one-story room that may have been an open front porch that was later enclosed. The main entrance to the home is located on the west façade through an arched opening that leads to a recessed door. While many of the windows in the home have been replaced, there are some original nine-over-one wood sash windows remaining. Replacement windows include six-over-one and four-over-one sash windows as well as awning windows. A garage structure is located at the rear of the property. The garage is surfaced with stucco and has an asphalt shingle hipped roof with an overhead garage door facing Park Avenue. The residence at 211 Park Avenue is representative of the style and scale of the structures originally constructed on Park Avenue and helps to maintain the character of the street and the Flagler Conservation District.