250 Algoma Road



DESIGNATION REPORT January 19, 2022 Landmark Preservation Commission Palm Beach, Florida

DESIGNATION REPORT

250 Algoma Road

Table of Contents

I.	GENERAL INFORMATION	2
II.	LOCATION MAP	3
III.	ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION	4
IV.	HISTORICAL INFORMATION	7
V.	ARCHITECT'S BIOGRAPHY	11
VI.	STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	12
VII.	CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION	12
VIII.	SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	14
IX.	FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE FORM	15

Report produced by Murphy Stillings, LLC

I. General Information

Location:	250 Algoma Road Palm Beach, Florida		
Date of Construction:	1937		
First Owner:	Mr. and Mrs. William Russell Huntley		
Current Owner:	Cortright Wetherill, Jr. and Janice Wetherill		
Architect:	Treanor & Fatio		
Builder:	Smith & Yetter, Inc.		
Present Use:	Residential		
Present Zoning:	RA		
Palm Beach County Tax Folio Number:	50-43-43-35-00-002-0340		
Current Legal Description:	35-43-43,W 134.80 FT OF ELY 854.78 FT OF NLY 166.6 FT OF S 1935.25 FT OF GOV LT 2 W OF OCEAN BLVD		

II. Location Map



250 Algoma Road



III. Architectural Information

The property located at 250 Algoma Road features a two-story residence designed by one of Palm Beach's most important architects, Maurice Fatio of the architectural firm Treanor and Fatio. The home was constructed by Smith and Yetter, Inc. in 1937 for Mr. and Mrs. William Russell Huntley.¹ Fatio designed the classically inspired residence in the Georgian Revival style.



Main (North) Façade

The Georgian Revival style, a sub-type of the Colonial Revival style, has the classic symmetrical Colonial shape and is one of the long-lived architectural styles in the United States. Originating in the 18th century, the Georgian style dominated the English colonies. Beginning in the late 19th century there was a return to period style designs and from 1880-1955 the Georgian Revival style was popular throughout the country. Based on Georgian and Adam prototypes from the northeastern states, variations on the style were popular throughout the Caribbean and were adapted in revival form in South Florida during the 1930s through the 1950s. Stylistic features include symmetry in building mass as well as window and door placement, accentuated front entries typically with classical details, a cornice with dentils or other details, quoins, and multi-light sash and bay windows often flanked by decorative shutters.

250 Algoma Road, located on the southern side of Algoma Road, is one house east of Lake Worth. Constructed of wood framing surfaced with horizontal drop

¹ Town of Palm Beach Building Permit # 17637 dated August 19, 1937.

siding, the residence features one and two-story masses with multiple steeply pitched hip roofs surfaced with asphalt shingles. A central two-story mass with a central chimney is flanked by one-story wings to the east and west. The residence features a simple cornice at the roofline, neo-classical corner boards, and symmetrically arranged multi-light wood sash windows with louvered shutters. The windows feature several different window configurations some of which are unusual in Palm Beach with smaller top sashes over taller bottom sashes. These windows include three-over-six, six-over-nine, four-over-six, eight-over-twelve, and ten-over-fifteen window configurations.



Northeast Corner Looking Southwest

A focal point of the main (north) façade of the residence is the large centrally located multi-light bay window. The bay window is set in a bow-shaped base and top highlighted with dentils and a rounded copper roof. Several antefixes, which are upright ornaments that hide joints, are located at the roofline of the bay window. To the east of the two-story block, in the eastern one-story wing, is the main entrance to the residence. The entrance features a solid wood paneled door with two glass panels with ornamental wood grilles and a decorative door surround with a neo-classical entablature. The entrance is sheltered by a shed roof with an entablature that is supported by fluted square columns. This entrance canopy was designed by the architectural firm Wyeth, King and Johnson in 1973 and included architectural details from the design of the bay window.²

² Town of Palm Beach Building Permit #17473 dated March 5, 1973.

The rear of the residence faces south and originally featured centrally located recessed porches on both the first and second floors of the two-story block. The porches were highlighted by four square fluted two-story columns. At an unknown date these porches were enclosed with multi-light windows and French doors. The design of the porch enclosure retained the columns and was a sensitive alteration that provided additional enclosed living space to the residence. On the second floor, flanking the enclosed porch, are oval windows with decorative wood muntins that add to the architectural character of the dwelling. An awning structure, installed in 1998, is located off the enclosed porch.



Rear (South) Façade Photo from 2020 Real Estate Listing via Realtor.com website

Two accessory structures, located at the rear of the property, were built concurrently with the home. At the southwest corner is a one-story garage with a garage door that faces north and at the southeast corner is a one-story guest house. Both structures are consistent in architectural design with the residence and feature wood siding, corner boards, hip roofs, multi-light sash windows and French doors. In 1974, the guest house was enlarged with a bedroom addition on the east side of the structure.

Over the eighty-four years since the construction of 250 Algoma Road, there have been alterations and additions to the exterior of the residence. In addition to the changes already noted, a pool was installed in 1972, a bay window was added to the rear façade in 1975, an awning was added over an entrance on the west façade in 1998, and the roofing material was changed from wood shakes to asphalt shingles in 1998. Despite these additions and alterations, the residence continues to retain its historic architectural integrity.



Historic Photo, Date Unknown Courtesy of the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach

IV. Historical Information

The South Florida land and building boom of the 1920s had reached its height in late 1925, and by 1927, the "Boom Times" were ending for much of South Florida as speculation had pushed prices so high that speculators and developers could no longer find buyers and many banks in the state failed. Fortunately, for Palm Beach, the land bust did not drastically affect many of the seasonal residents and real estate development on the island slowed but did not halt.

The residence at 250 Algoma Road was designed by prominent Palm Beach architect Maurice Fatio for William Russell Huntley and his wife Janie Huntley in 1937 during the late Depression/New Deal Era of the mid-1930s. The end of the Boom Time Era and ensuing Depression in Palm Beach had signaled a change in the construction of residences, with many owners seeking mid-size residences in classic designs rather that the ornate Mediterranean Revival style estates built during the 1920s Land Boom. By the mid 1930s, Palm Beach started to experience a post-Depression building boom.

A November 22, 1936, article in the Palm Beach Post-Times titled "Construction Enters Third Era of Design: Majority of Homes Now Being Erected Are of Moderate Sized Type – Showplaces Are Now Things of Former Years" describes the change in building trends:

"With nearly 60 new residences as a permanent addition to the winter colony, Palm Beach passes into the third season of its third architectural era.

For though a few spasmodic instances of the Colonial motif had been noted over a period of several years, it was not until the summer of 1934 that the definite trend away from the Spanish became an accepted fact. As construction has steadily mounted in 1934, 1935 and 1936, the white of the Colonial and the classic has replaced the pastels of the Spanish; simplicity of line and design has succeeded the elaborate.

In brief, Palm Beach houses are becoming homes rather than showplaces. The current cycle of architectural fashion has replaced the Spanish, just as after 1918, Addison Mizner's palatial designs took the place of early barn-like structures of the pioneer era."³

The second half of the 1930s was a busy time in Maurice Fatio's career. From 1931-1933, Fatio had so few commissions he considered closing the Palm Beach office of Treanor and Fatio. However, by the winter of 1934, business had picked up significantly and he remained very active and highly sought after until the start of the War. Building in Palm Beach also on the rise and in a letter dated March 19, 1934, Fatio's wife, Eleanor Chase Fatio explains,

"Looking back on this winter, it hardly seems possible that, in October (1933), Maurice was considering closing the Palm Beach office because there wasn't enough work down here to warrant keeping it going. He has gotten an incredible number of jobs in the last two months. They are none of them mansions, but they are all moderate sized houses and he has, altogether ten contracts signed, with several more good prospects."⁴

Between 1935 and the start of World War II, Fatio designed many houses throughout the Town of Palm Beach. Most of the houses were designed for specific clients, however, others were designed and built as spec homes for developers.

While a large amount of the new development in Palm Beach during the post-Depression/New Deal Era was occurring in the north end of the Island, there was also construction of new residences throughout the Town on both vacant lots and within new subdivisions. In 1936, the Phipps family's Palm Beach Company established two new land tracts one on each side of the Donahue's estate, Cielito

•

³ "Construction Enters Third Era of Design: Majority of Homes Now Being Erected Are of Moderate Sized Type – Showplaces Are Now Things of Former Years." <u>Palm Beach Post-Times</u>. 22 November 1936. The article also noted that some Spanish style houses were being converted into the new British Colonial style.

⁴ Alexandra Fatio. <u>Maurice Fatio, Architect</u>. Stuart, Florida: Southeastern Printing, 1992.

Lindo. The Kahn-Glidden Tract, which included Algoma Road, was located to the north of Cielito Lindo, and the Bingham-Copp Tract was located to the south between Cielito Lindo and Mar-a-Lago.⁵



Palm Beach Atlas, circa 1936 From Palmbeachatlas.com



Palm Beach Atlas, Updated in 1948 with Owner Names, Lot Sizes & House Locations From Palmbeachatlas.com

One of the first residents of Algoma Road was Maurice Fatio and his wife Eleanor. Fatio designed the Georgian Revival home at 270 Algoma Road, along Lake Worth, in 1936 and it was constructed in the beginning of 1937. It has been noted

⁵ "Home Construction Moves Northward as Many Seek Beauty Offered by Resort Near Inlet". <u>Palm Beach Post</u> 22 November 1936.

that Fatio named Algoma Road after Algoma Boulevard in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where his wife was born.⁶

250 Algoma Road was designed by Fatio in 1937 for William Russell Huntley and his wife Janie Speer Huntley. Fatio's Georgian Revival design for the Huntley's home was consistent in architectural style to his own residence located just west of the Huntley's. William Russell Huntley was the president of the Buffalo General Electric Company until he retired in the early 1940s.⁷ The Huntley's began wintering in Palm Beach in the early 1930s. Prior to leaving Palm Beach to return to Buffalo in April of 1937, they purchased the lot on Algoma Road to construct a residence. The home was completed before they returned to Palm Beach later that year in November.



Main (North) Façade Treanor & Fatio, 1937

After William Russell Huntley passed away in 1961, Janie Huntley continued to live at 250 Algoma Road until 1972 when she sold the residence after 35 years to Stacy and Martha Rankin who owned the property for 23 years. In 2020, the residence was purchased by Cortright Wetherill Jr. and Janice Wetherill. The Wetherill's are planning a very sensitive renovation and addition to the 84-year-old home that will update the residence and preserve the home's architectural character and integrity.

⁶ 270 Algoma Road Designation Report, Town of Palm Beach, 1987.

⁷ William R. Huntley Obituary, <u>Palm Beach Post</u>, 7 August 1961.

V. Architects Biography

Maurice Fatio

Maurice Fatio was one of Palm Beach's leading architects from the 1920s to the early 1940s. His firm, Treanor & Fatio was one of the largest architectural firms in Palm Beach and Fatio's distinctive designs can be seen throughout the Island.

Fatio was born in 1897 in Geneva, Switzerland. He studied architecture under Karl Moser at the Zurich Polytechnical. After graduation in 1920, Fatio came to America and apprenticed with Harrie T. Lindeberg, a prominent New York architect of Norman and English style country houses.

In 1921, Fatio formed a partnership with William A. Treanor, another architect in Lindeberg's firm. They quickly achieved a great deal of success, constructing numerous houses, primarily Colonial, on Long Island as well as buildings in Manhattan, including Beekman Tower on the East River. Fatio's association with Florida can be traced to his employment with Lindeberg, when he received the commission for eight small houses in New Symrna, Florida. In October 1923, Treanor and Fatio were asked to be the architects for the Olympia Beach development, now Jupiter Island. The next year Fatio opened an office in Palm Beach.

Fatio's many commissions for houses and commercial buildings in Palm Beach were based on his reputation in New York as well as his charm, good looks, and European manner. During his career in Florida, Fatio designed in many diverse styles. Mediterranean Revival, more specifically, Italianate houses incorporating tower blocks, were designed for William McAneeny (195 Via Del Mar), the Coopers (801 South County Road), Mortimer Schiff (920 South Ocean Boulevard), and Daniel McCarthy (550 South Ocean Boulevard). More horizontal, symmetrical, and formal Florentine houses were designed for Otto Kahn (690 North County Road) and Joseph Widner (1500 South Ocean Boulevard). In 1928, he designed a French Normandy style house for his future mother-in-law Mrs. Charles Curry Chase (Via Del Mar). In the mid-30s, Fatio began designing in the Georgian and British Colonial styles. Large commissions for Albert Worswick (1860 South Ocean Boulevard), E. F. Hutton (1768 South Ocean Boulevard), and Wolcott Blair (1960 South Ocean Boulevard) with their simple materials and uncluttered lines reflected the sober, economic climate and set the pace for the smaller Colonial and Regency commissions that followed them.

During this time, Fatio also worked in the modern style, producing such modern masterpieces as "The Reef" built for Mr. and Mrs. Vadim Makaroff. The design of this house won Fatio the Gold Medal at the 1936 French Exposition Internationale des Arte et Techniques dans la vie Moderne as the "Best Modern House In America." Other modern houses were designed for Messmore Kendall, aviator pioneer Grover Loening, and Prince and Princess Zalstem-Zalessky (Evangeline Johnson Merrill).

World War II brought a halt to construction in Palm Beach. Fatio had many international connections and entered the Office of Strategic Services in Washington, D.C. in June of 1943. He sadly died of cancer later that same year, on December 2, 1943, at the young age of 46.

VI. Statement of Significance

250 Algoma Road is significant as an excellent example of a Georgian Revival style residence as skillfully interpreted by prominent Palm Beach architect Maurice Fatio of Treanor and Fatio. Constructed in 1937, during the post-Depression/New Deal Era in Palm Beach, it is also representative of the architectural, cultural and social changes occurring in Palm Beach during the mid 1930s.

VII. Criteria For Designation

Section 54-161 of the Town of Palm Beach Landmarks Preservation Ordinance outlines the criteria for designation of a landmark or landmark site and suggests that at least one criterion must be met to justify the designation. Listed below are criteria that relate to this property and justification for designation:

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

250 Algoma Road reflects the broad cultural, economic and social history of the Town of Palm Beach. Designed and built in 1937 during the late Depression/New Deal Era for Mr. and Mrs. William Russell Huntley, the residence is a very good example of the changing times in the Town. The end of the Boom Time Era in Palm Beach had signaled a change in development and construction of residences with many owners seeking mid-size residences with restrained designs. (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."

The house at 250 Algoma Road is an excellent example of the Georgian Revival style of architecture as interpreted by prominent Palm Beach architect Maurice Fatio. The residence features symmetrical form and fenestration, steeply pitched hipped roofs with a central chimney, an entryway with unbroken pediment and entablature, corner boards, bay windows, and multilight sash windows with louvered shutters all of which are characteristic features of the Georgian Revival style.

(4) "Is representative of the notable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual ability has been recognized or who influenced his age."

250 Algoma Road is an excellent representation of the design work of the architect Maurice Fatio of the architectural firm Treanor and Fatio. Maurice Fatio was one of Palm Beach's leading and most sought-after architects from the 1920s to the early 1940s. He was an eclectic architect who took pride in his ability to work in different architectural styles. 250 Algoma Road is a very good example of Fatio's ability to adapt to the changing economic climate and shifts in architectural trends.

VIII. Selected Bibliography

Curl, Donald W. <u>Palm Beach County: An Illustrated History</u>. Northridge, California: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1987.

Fatio, Alexandra. <u>Maurice Fatio: Architect.</u> Stuart, Florida: Southeastern Printing, 1992.

The Historical Society of Palm Beach County. Historical and Architectural Files; Palm Beach County History Online

McAlester, Virginia Savage. <u>A Field Guide to American Houses</u>. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 2015. Revised and expanded from the original edition written by Virginia and Lee McAlester.

Mayhew, Augustus. Palm Beach: A Greater Grandeur. East Side Press, 2016.

The Palm Beach Daily News. Archived Articles Online

The Palm Beach Post. Archived Articles Online

The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach. 250 Algoma Road file.

Sanborn Insurance Map of Palm Beach. New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1924 updated to 1952. City of West Palm Beach Public Library, Florida Room.

Town of Palm Beach. Building Permits, 1937–2021.

Town of Palm Beach. 270 Algoma Road Designation File.

Valier, George. "Palm Beach Atlas Sheet 26 - Mar-a-Lago - Marjorie Post Davies Estate - Donald Trump - Hutton - Bessemer Properties - Jessie Donahue - Kahn-Glidden Tract - Bingham-Copp Tract - via Del Lago -Trump National Golf Club - Keva Inc.." 2017-2021, http://www.palmbeachatlas.com/Palm%20Beach%20Atlas%20Sheet%2026.h tml.

<u>West Palm Beach City Directories</u>. Asheville, NC: Florida-Piedmont Directory Company, 19436-1986. These city directories included Town of Palm Beach directories and information on Palm Beach residents.

X. Florida Master Site File Form

Original Update Shed	TORICAL STRUCTURE FORM FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE Version 5.0 3/19 El Fields represent the minimum acceptable level of documentation. sult the Guido to Historical Structure Forms for detailed instructions.	Site#6 PB04078 Field Date 11-20-2019 Form Date 9-29-2020 Recorder # MAS				
Site Name(5) (address if none) 250 Algoma RD Multiple Listing (DHR only) Survey Project Name Palm Beach Historical Site Survey Survey # (DHR only) National Register Category (please check one) Dukling Istudare Iste object Ownership: private-nonproft private-individual private-nonspectic Iste releval Native American Isteign uninnown LOCATION & MAPPING Clear Location Values Clear Location Values Clear Location Values						
Township 438 Range 438 Section 3 Tax Parcel # 50434335000020340 Subdivision Name 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 3 3 3 3 4 3 3 3 3 3 4 3 4 3 4 3 4 3 4 3 4 3 4 3 4 3 4 3 4 <td>LandgrantBlockBloc</td> <td>ap Palm Beach lar-name: Lot0340</td>	LandgrantBlockBloc	ap Palm Beach lar-name: Lot0340				
Name of Public Tract (e.g., park)	HISTORY	Clear History Values				
Original Use Private Residence (House Current Use Private Residence (House Other Use Moves: Moves: Jyes [No] unknown Alterations: Jyes [no] Sunknown Additions: Jyes [no] Sunknown	/Cottage/Ca From (year): 1937 To (ye /Cottage/Ca From (year): 1937 To (ye From (year): To (ye Original address Nature	aar): aar):				
	rdinance?yes [2]nounknown Describe					
Style_Colonial Revival	DESCRIPTION Exterior Plan Irregular	Number of Stories 1-2				
Exterior Fabric(s) 1. Drop siding 2. 3. Roof Type(s) 1. Hip 2. Hip 3. Hip Roof Material(s) 1. Asphalt shingles 2. 3. Roof Secondary Strucs. (domersetc.) 1. Shed extension 2. 3. Windows (types, materials, etc.) wood 6/6, wood frames, operable shutters, large divided wood bay w round top						
Distinguishing Architectural Features (exterior or interior orments) symmetric facade, neoclassical cornerboards, hip roofs w/o overhang, center chimney Ancillary Features / Outbuildings (record outbuildings, major landscape features; use continuation sheet if needed.)						
brick semicircular drive, landscaping, detached rear garage, weathervane						
KEEPER - Determined eligible		DHR USE ONLY de Init 2)				

Clear Form Values

HP6E046R0319, effective 05/2018 Rule 1A-46.001, F.A.C. Piorida Master Ste File / Div. of Historical Resources / R. A. Gray Bidg / 500 S Bronough St., Tallahassee, FL 32398-0250 Phone 550.245.6440 / Fax: 850.245.6430 / E-mail Sha/File@dox.nyfforida.com

HISTORICAL STRUCTURE FORM Site #8 PB04078

Page 2

	DESCRIP	TION (continued)	Clear Description Values			
Chimney: No. 1 Chimney Mate	erial(s): 1. Studeo	2				
Structural System(s): 1. Nooc	1 frame 2.	3				
Foundation Type(s): 1. Cont	tinuous 2.		Note: you may use the last box in each field to type in			
Foundation Material(s): 1. Conc			an answer that does not appear in the list provided			
Main Entrance (stylistic details)						
solid core w divided 1:	ight, adjacent to 2 sto:	ry facade, neoclassical su	rround			
Porch Descriptions (types, locations, r	roof types, etc.)					
shed ext, dentils						
Narrative Description of Resource						
This 1937 Georgian Rev	ival style building is :	in excellent condition.				
Archaeological Remains			Check If Archaeological Form Completed			
	RESEARCH MET	HODS (select all that apply)				
SFM5F record search (sites/surv		Duiking permits	Sanborn maps			
IFL State Archives/photo collect		Occupant/owner interview	2 plat maps			
Deproperty appraiser / tax records		Ineighbor interview	Public Lands Survey (DEP)			
Cultural resource survey (CRAS		Dinterior inspection	HABS/HAER record search			
Sother methods (describe) Town						
	F manuscript # If relevant, use continuation	n sheet if needed)				
	OPINION OF RES	OURCE SIGNIFICANCE	Clear Significance Values			
Appears to meet the criteria for National Register listing individually?						
Appears to meet the criteria for National Register listing as part of a district?						
Explanation of Evaluation (required, whether significant or not, use separate sheet if needed)						
		1 listing, but more resear				
	eeded to determine indi and association within	vidual eligibility. It doe	s meet district criteria			
		ategories: e.g. farchitecture", fethnic heritage", f	community planning & developmentil atr.)			
1	3	5	contrarily participa accorption, etc.)			
2. Architecture	4	6				
	DOCUM	MENTATION	Clear Documentation Values			
Accessible Documentation Not Fil	of with the Site File - includes felds	olar analysis polar choice class and other im-	notest documents			
Accessible Documentation Not Filed with the Site File - including feld notes, analysis notes, photos, plans and other important documents as Document type						
1) Document description		File or accession #s				
		Maintaining organization				
2) Document description		File or accession #s				
	RECORDER	RINFORMATION				
Presedenting and Data in the						
Recorder Name <u>Patricia</u> Da Recorder Contact Information <u>7</u>		Affiliation <u>Environmental Services</u> , a 100, Jacksonville, FL 32	nc. 256/9044702200/pdavenport@			
(address / phone / fax / e-mail)	and Pinancial May, Durch	a roo, oacasontira, to se	200/ Fore roll of participation			
,						
	USGS 7.5' MAP WITH ST	TRUCTURE LOCATION CLEAR	RLY INDICATED			
		TRUCTURE LOCATION CLEAP				
Required	O LARGE SCALE STREET	, PLAT OR PARCEL MAP (melled				
Required	O LARGE SCALE STREET O PHOTO OF MAIN FACA	, PLAT OR PARCEL MAP (mained DE, DIGITAL IMAGE FILE	Sie from most property appraiser web sites)			
Required	 LARGE SCALE STREET PHOTO OF MAIN FACA When submitting an image, it n 	, PLAT OR PARCEL MAP (melled	sie from most property appraiser web sites) py formatt (plain paper greyscale acceptable).			