

200 Algoma Road



DESIGNATION REPORT

April 20, 2022

Landmark Preservation Commission

Palm Beach, Florida

DESIGNATION REPORT

200 Algoma Road

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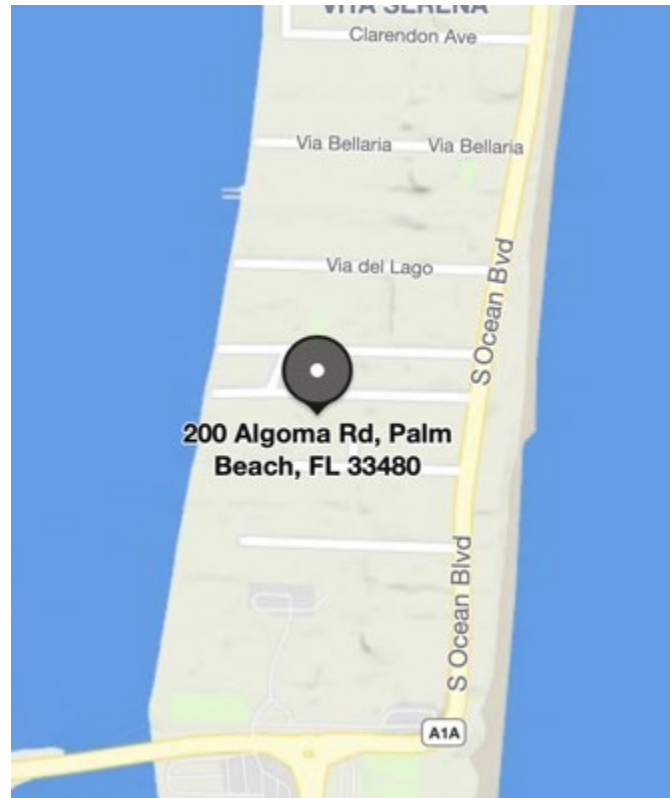
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Report produced by Murphy Stillings, LLC

I. General Information

Location:	200 Algoma Road Palm Beach, Florida
Date of Construction:	1969 - 1970
First Owner:	Bradford A. Whittemore
Architect:	Wyeth, King and Johnson
Builder/Contractor:	Charles R. Wilson Construction Company
Current Owner:	Silene, LLC
Present Use:	Residence
Present Zoning:	R-A
PBC Tax Folio Number:	50-43-43-35-00-002-0330
Current Legal Description:	35-43-43, W 198.46 FT OF ELY 719.98 FT OF NLY 167.49 FT OF S 1935.25 FT OF GOV LT 2 W OF OCEAN BLVD IN DB1010P97

II. Location Map



III. Architectural Information

The Palm Beach architectural firm Wyeth, King and Johnson designed 200 Algoma Road in 1969 in the French Provincial Ranch style of architecture with the construction performed by Charles R. Wilson Construction Company.¹ The dwelling sits on the south side of Algoma Road between the Atlantic Ocean and Lake Worth in Palm Beach's esteemed Estate Section.



A Styled Ranch is set apart from a common Ranch by the presence of a more complete and unified set of stylistic details that spell out a distinct style, such as French, Spanish, Tudor, Colonial or Neoclassical. Styled Ranch houses were built intermittently during the Ranch-house era (1935–1975), but they became increasingly more common by 1970 as buyers had begun to tire of simple Ranch houses and sought a different look. The easiest way to achieve a different look was to continue building the familiar Ranch while adding strong stylistic details to the exterior. Called “French

¹ Palm Beach Building Permit #67561 dated November 6, 1961.

Provincial” and “formal” in pattern books, French Ranches were mostly popular during the late 1960s through the 1980s. French Ranches are primarily symmetrical with side wings extending forward or set back from the main façade. In French Provincial examples, generally at least one portion of the house is topped by a high-pitched hipped roof, one or more segmental arches are present on doors, windows or dormers, and windows are usually tall, sometimes full height. In addition, the front entry is typically prominent and features a paneled front door and tall narrow shutters frequently enhance windows and/or entries.²

200 Algoma Road is a distinguished house that features many French Provincial stylistic elements. The symmetrical dwelling is a masonry structure covered with stucco and has side wings extending forward. Both the center three-bay section and the one-bay wings are topped with character-defining steeply pitched roofs covered with cement tile and separated from the one-story base by a prominent cornice. The center section includes the front entry with a projecting rounded surround and a recessed divided-light entry door with a decorative transom above.³ The distinctive projecting wings feature full-height nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows with arched louvered dormers above and flanked by full-height louvered shutters topped with steeply pitched pyramid hipped roofs.

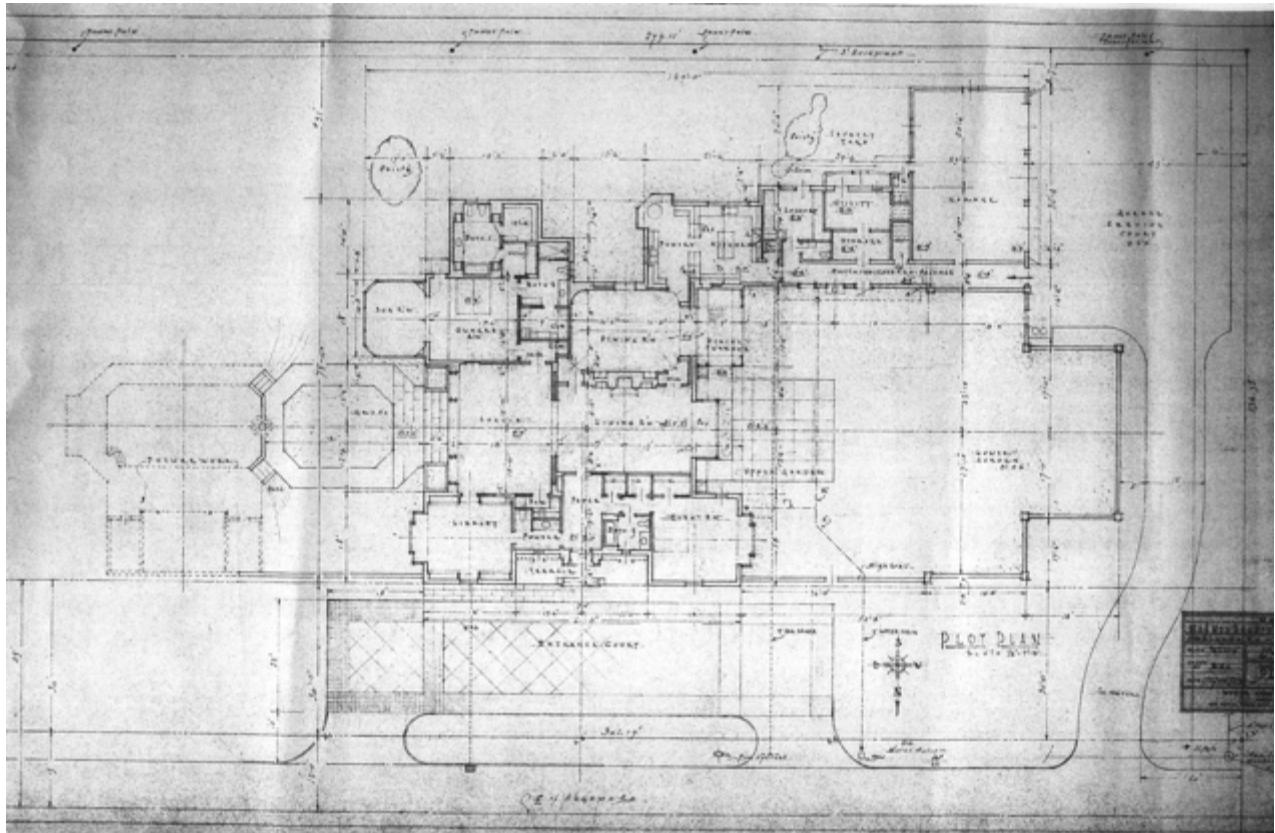


Historic Photo, Date Unknown
Courtesy of the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach

² Virginia Savage McAlester. A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture. Alfred K. Knopf Publisher, 2013. Pages 694-704.

³ The original drawings show decorative metal screens flanking the entrance in the center block as well as decorative metal panels at the base of the nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows in the wings, but landscaping hides these elements, and they may no longer exist.

The original Wyeth, King and Johnson drawings indicate that the dwelling extends south into the deep lot with a one-story central portion covered with a flat roof with attached rear projecting wings on the east and west with tall, pitched roofs matching those on the front façade. These wings on the south elevation appear to have large bay windows and are connected by a simple one-story porch with a dormer window above. In the rear, the house is connected to the two-story garage apartment through an elongated wing that includes the laundry, utility, and storage area.⁴ Although this elongated wing and attached garage apartment cannot be seen from the street, it helps to substantiate the dwelling's classification as a Stylized Ranch.



Site Plan, by Wyeth, King and Johnson

The property also includes a swimming pool, terrace, garden, fountains, and cabana in the rear as well as a circular driveway and five large, sculpted trees along the front of the property. As noted previously, all of these features combine to create an attractive and distinctive stylized French Provincial dwelling in Palm Beach's premier Estate Section.

⁴ The drawings indicate that the second floor of the garage was initially intended as a servants' quarters with two bathrooms and a living room.

Palm Beach building permits reveal that there were some additions and alterations to the dwelling at 200 Algoma Road. In 1973, a porch was added to the west elevation of the main house and a porch was enclosed on the garage apartment. The flat part of the roof was resurfaced several times, shutters were replaced, garage doors were replaced to match the existing and there were a number of interior alterations and renovations. These exterior additions and alterations were done in keeping with the original style and scale of the dwelling and thus 200 Algoma Road retains its notable historic architectural significance and integrity.

IV. Historical Information

200 Algoma Road was constructed in 1969-1970 during Palm Beach's Contemporary Period (1960-1979) in the Kahn-Glidden Tract. In 1936, the Phipps family's Palm Beach Company established two new land tracts one on each side of the Donahue's estate, Cielito 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

The first owner, Bradford A. Whittemore and his wife Marjorie Welsh Whittemore, commissioned the prestigious Palm Beach architectural firm Wyeth, King and Johnson to design this residence in 1969 with the original cost listed at \$235,000. Over the years, Wyeth, King and Johnson designed buildings ranging from Mediterranean Revival to classical Georgian, French, and Colonial Revival styles, with this house being one of their accomplished French designs.

A February 29, 1976, Palm Beach Post article featured this house at 200 Algoma Road and stated that the Whittemore's "carried out the French Provincial manor house décor and had the house surrounded by a walled-in garden including many unusual trees and flowers." Marjorie Whittemore was an accomplished gardener, and her property was noted for its impressive landscaping.

Bradford A. Whittemore was a longtime winter resident of Palm Beach and a member of a distinguished Massachusetts family. He graduated from Harvard in 1931 and was a writer, historian, and genealogist. In addition, he was a member of the Society of Cincinnati, the Society of Mayflower Descendants and served as governor of the Society of Colonial Wars in Florida and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach. Marjorie Welsh Whittemore was the

⁵ One of the first residents of Algoma Road was Maurice Fatio and his wife Eleanor, and it has been noted that Fatio named Algoma Road after Algoma Boulevard in Eleanor's hometown of Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

daughter of William Garfield Welsh, a prominent Massachusetts businessman who was also a longtime homeowner in Palm Beach where he was a member of the town's prestigious clubs.⁶ In Palm Beach, Marjorie served as president of the Garden Club and on the Board of Trustees of the Society of the Four Arts. Her daughter and Bradford's stepdaughter, Jean Hurst, married David V. Reese, the son of Palm Beach Mayor and Mrs. Claude D. Reese in 1967.⁷

Bradford and Marjorie Whittemore lived at 200 Algoma Road for fifteen years before selling the property to Hyman H. Rabin, a longtime resident and Heart Ball benefactor, in 1985. Five years later Mr. Rabin sold the property to Hollis and Betsy Baker. Hollis M. Baker was the grandson of Siebe Baker who founded the world-renowned Baker Furniture company in 1890. Hollis M. Baker became president of the company in 1961 and after twenty-five successful years at the helm he sold the Baker Furniture to the Kohler Company. While living at 200 Algoma Road, Hollis M. Baker served as a vice president of the Society of the Four Arts. Following the Baker's ownership, there were several owners before the property was purchased in 2016 by the current owners, Silene, LLC, who are based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

V. Architects Biographies

Marion Sims Wyeth

Marion Sims Wyeth was as one of Palm Beach's foremost architects in a career that spanned over fifty years. Wyeth was noted for his "quiet, subdued and rational" interpretations of both the Spanish and Italian styles. With Addison Mizner, Maurice Fatio, Joseph Urban and John Volk, he is credited with creating the "Palm Beach Style".

Wyeth was born in 1889 in New York, a son of Florence Nightingale Sims and Dr. John Allan Wyeth. Dr. Wyeth was a Civil War poet, surgical pioneer, and founder of New York's Polyclinic Hospital, the first postgraduate medical school in the United States. Marion's grandfather, Dr. James Marion Sims, founded New York's Women's Hospital, the first woman's hospital in history. Marion Sims Wyeth began his architectural studies at Princeton University and completed his classic training at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris in 1914. At the time, the École was considered the one of the finest schools in the world. It was a style of education based on studying the classics, mostly Roman architecture. Wyeth was one of few Americans studying there who was actually awarded a diploma. After completing school, Wyeth served as

⁶ Bradford and Marjorie Whittemore were also members of the Town's prominent clubs, namely the Everglades and Bath & Tennis clubs.

⁷ Jean Coralyn Hurst and David Vail Reese were married in June of 1967.

secretary to the U.S. Ambassador in Rome. Upon his return to New York, Wyeth became associated with the architectural offices of Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue and later with Carrere and Hastings, the firm that designed Whitehall for Henry Flagler.

Arriving in Palm Beach at the age of 30, Wyeth met with immediate success. From 1920, Wyeth shared a New York office with Frederic Rhineland King, a friend from his student days in Paris, until 1934 when they formalized the relationship with the Wyeth and King partnership. William Royster Johnson joined Wyeth's Palm Beach office as a draftsman in 1924. In 1944 he became a partner and the firm name changed to Wyeth, King and Johnson. Over the years, the firm designed buildings ranging from Mediterranean Revival to classical Georgian, French, and Colonial styles.

The socially popular Wyeth was a prolific craftsman and more than 100 of his designs have graced the Island, including eight built on El Brillo Way. Some of his well-known Palm Beach designs include Qui Si Sana, Casa Juanita, Hogarcito, Casa de Los Arcos, Vita Serena, Southwood, and the Bethesda by the Sea rectory. His largest and most impressive project was Cielito Lindo, a 45,000-square-foot Spanish Moorish-Revival-style mansion built for James Donohue and Jessie Woolworth Donohue in 1927. In 1946-1947, it was sold to developers, who split the property and created five houses. And while Joseph Urban is credited with Mar-a-Lago, Wyeth's association with the project was essential for its original design and completion. Wyeth also had an impressive list of prominent works outside of Palm Beach as he was licensed to practice in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Illinois and Pennsylvania. Some of these include Good Samaritan Hospital and the Norton Gallery of Art in West Palm Beach, the Governor's Mansion in Tallahassee, and Doris Duke's Shangri La in Honolulu.

Wyeth served as a trustee of the Society of the Four Arts (1936-1969) and as its president (1956-1961). He became the first Palm Beach architect to be elected a fellow of the American Institute of Architecture in 1954 and received the Test of Time Award from its Palm Beach Chapter in 1981. Marion Sims Wyeth passed away in 1982 at the age of 93.⁸

Frederic Rhineland King

Frederic Rhineland King was born in New York City on April 13, 1887. He was educated at St. George's School in Newport, Rhode Island and received a cum laude AB degree from Harvard in 1908. He studied architecture at Columbia University

⁸ Since this biography was written, the book [From Palm Beach to Shangri La: The Architecture of Marion Sims Wyeth](#) was written by Jane Day and published in 2021 and can be referred to for additional biographical information.

from 1908 to 1911, and at the École des Beaux Artes in Paris from 1911 to 1914, where he befriended Marion Sims Wyeth. King worked as a draftsman and designer for McKim, Mead & White in New York City from 1914 to 1917. He worked for Marion Sims Wyeth in Wyeth's New York office from 1920 – 1934. King applied for Florida Architectural licensure on March 24, 1933 and was granted Certificate #AR0000977 on June 17, 1933. In 1934, the Wyeth & King partnership was formed, with King running the New York office at 18 East 48th Street and Wyeth running the Palm Beach office. Frederic King rarely came to Palm Beach, except on vacation. Quite social and civic-minded, Frederic fulfilled his side of the partnership by designing significant church and institutional buildings in the New York area, while “feeding” client contacts to the Palm Beach office for their clients' winter home mansion designs. Frederic King was very active in the American Institute of Architects in the New York area and was named a Fellow (FAIA) for his design excellence. Frederic King was Edith Wharton's cousin and the executor of her American estate. He passed away in March of 1972.

William Royster Johnson

William Royster Johnson was born in Raleigh, North Carolina on August 18, 1901. He attended Hampden-Sidney College and studied architecture at the University of Virginia. He came to Palm Beach in 1925 to work as a draftsman for Marion Sims Wyeth. On January 13, 1944, he successfully sat for the Florida State Board's architectural licensure examination and was awarded license #AR0001402. Johnson remained with Wyeth for 57 years, becoming a full partner with Wyeth & King in 1944, and the firm name was changed to Wyeth, King & Johnson. Although a relatively small organization, the Wyeth firm became one of the most prestigious in Florida due largely to Wyeth's contacts and design popularity. However, Bill Johnson's drafting expertise, management of the firm's drafting production and his eye for scale and proportion greatly helped with the firm's success. Johnson was active in the Town of Palm Beach civic and cultural activities, serving as a charter member of Architectural Review Commission (ARCOM) in the early 1970s.

VI. Statement of Significance

200 Algoma Road is significant as a distinguished Stylized French Provincial Ranch house designed by the renowned Palm Beach architectural firm Wyeth, King and Johnson in Palm Beach's Estate Section. The distinctiveness of its architectural design in Palm Beach adds to the significance of the dwelling.

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, which 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.”

200 Algoma Road reflects the broad cultural, economic, and social history of the Town of Palm Beach. Distinguished Palm Beach residents Bradford and Marjorie Whittemore commissioned the foremost architectural firm Wyeth, King & Johnson to design a contemporary yet classical French Provincial style residence, a style that was not prevalent in Palm Beach. Both Bradford and Marjorie Whittemore had spent many winter seasons in Palm Beach prior to commissioning this dwelling and were members and officers at a number of prestigious cultural and social organizations. At the time of its construction in 1969-1970, it was considered a high-priced dwelling on a premier inland lot in Palm Beach’s esteemed Estate Section.

(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.”

200 Algoma Road is a very good example of the French Provincial Ranch style of architecture. French Provincial stylistic elements of the dwelling include the symmetrical design with side wings extending forward and both the center three-bay section and the one-bay wings topped with character-defining steeply pitched roofs. The projecting wings feature distinctive full-height nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows with arched louvered dormers above and flanked by full-height louvered shutters. The stylized French Provincial Ranch design by the notable architectural firm Wyeth, King and Johnson is not common in Palm Beach and is valuable for study.

(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.

200 Algoma Road is a notable representation of the design work of the distinguished architectural firm Wyeth, King & Johnson. All three partners were classically trained

architects who were adept at designing structures in many different styles, including varying interpretations of French architecture. Wyeth and King met studying architecture at the Ecole des Beaux Artes in Paris, where they would have been immersed in French architecture.⁹ This design is also a good representation of the firm's work during Palm Beach's contemporary period involving a contemporary design.

⁹ Although the Ecole des Beaux programs focused on classical arts and architecture from Ancient Greek and Roman culture, living in France would have immersed the architects to French architecture.

VIII. Selected Bibliography

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Day, Jane S. From Palm Beach to Shangri La: The Architecture of Marion Sims Wyeth. New York, NY: Rizzoli International Publications, Inc., 2021.

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Palm Beach Daily News and Palm Beach Post. Archived Articles 1965 – 2022.

Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach. 200 Algoma Road File

Town of Palm Beach. Building Permits and Microfiche Records 1969– 2022.

IX. Florida Master Site File Form

Page 1

☒ Original
☐ Update



HISTORICAL STRUCTURE FORM FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE Version 5.0 3/19

Shaded Fields represent the minimum acceptable level of documentation.
Consult the Guide to Historical Structure Forms for detailed instructions.

Clear Form Values

Site# **PB19293**
Field Date **11-20-2019**
Form Date **9-29-2020**
Recorder # **MSC**

Site Name(s) (address if none) **200 Algoma Rd** Multiple Listing (DHR only) _____
Survey Project Name **Palm Beach Historical Site Survey** Survey # (DHR only) _____
National Register Category (please check one) ☒ building ☐ structure ☐ district ☐ site ☐ object
Ownership: ☐ private-profit ☐ private-nonprofit ☒ private-individual ☐ private-nonspecific ☐ city ☐ county ☐ state ☐ federal ☐ Native American ☐ foreign ☐ unknown

LOCATION & MAPPING

Clear Location Values

Street Number **200** Direction _____ Street Name **Algoma** Street Type **Road** Suffix Direction _____
Cross Streets (nearest / between) _____
USGS 7.5 Map Name **PAIM BEACH** USGS Date **2061** Plat or Other Map _____
City / Town (within 3 miles) **Palm Beach** In City Limits? ☒ yes ☐ no ☐ unknown County **Palm Beach**
Township **43S** Range **43E** Section **35** 1/4 section: ☐ NW ☐ SW ☐ SE ☐ NE Irregular-name: _____
Tax Parcel # **50434335000020330** Landgrant _____
Subdivision Name _____ Block **002** Lot **0330**
UTM Coordinates: Zone ☐ 16 ☐ 17 Easting _____ Northing _____
Other Coordinates: X: _____ Y: _____ Coordinate System & Datum _____
Name of Public Tract (e.g., park) _____

HISTORY

Clear History Values

Construction Year: **1970** ☐ approximately ☐ year listed or earlier ☐ year listed or later
Original Use **Private Residence (House/Cottage/Ca** From (year): **1970** To (year): **2020**
Current Use **Private Residence (House/Cottage/Ca** From (year): **1970** To (year): **2020**
Other Use _____ From (year): _____ To (year): _____
Moves: ☐ yes ☒ no ☐ unknown Date: _____ Original address _____
Alterations: ☒ yes ☐ no ☐ unknown Date: _____ Nature **windows**
Additions: ☐ yes ☐ no ☒ unknown Date: _____ Nature _____
Architect (last name first): _____ Builder (last name first): _____
Ownership History (especially original owner, dates, profession, etc.)
SILENE LLC

Is the Resource Affected by a Local Preservation Ordinance? ☐ yes ☒ no ☐ unknown Describe _____

DESCRIPTION

Clear Description Values

Style **Ranch** Exterior Plan **Irregular** Number of Stories **1**
Exterior Fabric(s) **1. Stucco** 2. _____ 3. _____
Roof Type(s) **1. Mansard** 2. **Hip** 3. **hip**
Roof Material(s) **1. Tile unspecified** 2. _____ 3. _____
Roof secondary strucs. (dormers etc.) **1. Eyebrow dormer** 2. _____
Windows (types, materials, etc.)
replacement 9/9 sash, large with shutters
Distinguishing Architectural Features (exterior or interior ornaments)
recessed entry bay, eyebrow dormers on high pitched hip, minimal overhang, stylized French Ranch
Ancillary Features / Outbuildings (record outbuildings, major landscape features; use continuation sheet if needed.)
semi circular paver drive, mature vegetation, privacy hedge

DHR USE ONLY

OFFICIAL EVALUATION

DHR USE ONLY

NR List Date _____ SHPO - Appears to meet criteria for NR listing: ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ insufficient info Date _____ Init. _____
☐ Owner Objection _____ KEEPER - Determined eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ insufficient info Date _____
NR Criteria for Evaluation: ☐ a ☐ b ☐ c ☐ d (see National Register Bulletin 15, p. 2)

DESCRIPTION (continued)

Clear Description Values

Chimney: No. 0 Chimney Material(s): 1. _____ 2. _____Structural System(s): 1. Masonry - General 2. _____ 3. _____Foundation Type(s): 1. Continuous 2. _____Foundation Material(s): 1. Concrete, Generic 2. _____

Note: you may use the list box in each field to type in an answer that does not appear in the list provided

Main Entrance (stylistic details)

centered on symetric facade with recessed replacement multi light door with transom

Porch Descriptions (types, locations, roof types, etc.)

small projecting porch on engaged masonry piers

Condition (overall resource condition): ☐ excellent ☒ good ☐ fair ☐ deteriorated ☐ ruinous

Narrative Description of Resource

This 1970 stylized French Ranch style building is in good condition.

Archaeological Remains _____ ☐ Check if Archeological Form Completed

RESEARCH METHODS (select all that apply)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FMSF record search (sites/surveys) | <input type="checkbox"/> library research | <input type="checkbox"/> building permits | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanborn maps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FL State Archives/photo collection | <input type="checkbox"/> city directory | <input type="checkbox"/> occupant/owner interview | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plat maps |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> property appraiser / tax records | <input type="checkbox"/> newspaper files | <input type="checkbox"/> neighbor interview | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Lands Survey (DEP) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cultural resource survey (CRAS) | <input type="checkbox"/> historic photos | <input type="checkbox"/> interior inspection | <input type="checkbox"/> HABS/HAER record search |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other methods (describe) <u>Town Staff</u> | | | |

Bibliographic References (give FMSF manuscript # if relevant, use continuation sheet if needed)

OPINION OF RESOURCE SIGNIFICANCE

Clear Significance Values

Appears to meet the criteria for National Register listing individually? ☐ yes ☐ no ☒ insufficient informationAppears to meet the criteria for National Register listing as part of a district? ☒ yes ☐ no ☐ insufficient information

Explanation of Evaluation (required, whether significant or not; use separate sheet if needed)

This building may meet criteria for individual listing, but more research regarding any alterations would be needed to determine individual eligibility. It does meet district criteria based on its features and association within the Town.

Area(s) of Historical Significance (see National Register Bulletin 15, p. 8 for categories: e.g. "architecture", "ethnic heritage", "community planning & development", etc.)

1. Community planning & development 3. _____ 5. _____2. Architecture 4. _____ 6. _____

DOCUMENTATION

Clear Documentation Values

Accessible Documentation Not Filed with the Site File - including field notes, analysis notes, photos, plans and other important documents

1) Document type _____ Maintaining organization _____

Document description _____ File or accession #s _____

2) Document type _____ Maintaining organization _____

Document description _____ File or accession #s _____

RECORDER INFORMATION

Recorder Name Patricia Davenport-Jacobs Affiliation Environmental Services, Inc.Recorder Contact Information 7220 Financial Way, Suite 100, Jacksonville, FL 32256/9044702200/pdavenport@
(address / phone / fax / e-mail)

Required Attachments

① USGS 7.5' MAP WITH STRUCTURE LOCATION CLEARLY INDICATED

② LARGE SCALE STREET, PLAT OR PARCEL MAP (available from most property appraiser web sites)

③ PHOTO OF MAIN FACADE, DIGITAL IMAGE FILE

When submitting an image, it must be included in digital AND hard copy format (plain paper grayscale acceptable).

Digital image must be at least 1600 x 1200 pixels, 24-bit color, jpeg or tiff.