1510 North Ocean Boulevard



DESIGNATION REPORT

April 20, 2022

Landmark Preservation Commission

Palm Beach, Florida

DESIGNATION REPORT

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Report produced by Murphy Stillings, LLC

I. General Information

Location:	1510 North Ocean Boulevard Palm Beach, Florida
Date of Construction:	1925
Original Owner:	Harvey C. "H.C." Bartholomew
Current Owner:	James C. Gavigan
Builder/Contractor:	Eugene Bartholomew
Present Use:	Residential
Present Zoning:	RB
Palm Beach County Tax Folio Number:	50-43-42-34-02-000-1000
Current Legal Description:	BOCA RATONE CO INLET SUB LT 100

II. Location Map



1510 North Ocean Boulevard



III. Architectural Information

The residence at 1510 North Ocean Boulevard was designed and constructed in 1925 by Eugene "Gene" Bartholomew for his brother developer Harvey C. "H.C." Bartholomew. Located on the northwest corner of North Ocean Boulevard and Mediterranean Road, 1510 N. Ocean Boulevard is a distinctive example of the Mediterranean Revival style and likely one of the earliest buildings of this style to be built in Palm Beach's far north end.



Mediterranean Revival style architecture is an eclectic design style that was inspired by Spanish, Italian, North African and Moorish structures and became popular in Palm Beach during the 1920 and is still considered the signature style of the Island. The style is found most frequently in states that have a Spanish Colonial heritage, and in Palm Beach, the style was first popularized in 1919 by Addison Mizner's design for the Everglades Club and his later grand estates. The style remained a pervasive influence on building design until World War II. Buildings of this style often feature arched openings, balconies, irregular floor plans, asymmetrical massing and windows of varying sizes and shapes. In addition, stone or stucco facades and clay barrel tile roofs are typical features of Mediterranean Revival style buildings. The Bartholomew brothers were associated with Addison Mizner and other prominent Palm Beach architects, and they were likely influenced by their designs.



The residence at 1510 North Ocean Boulevard is constructed of wood framing surfaced with rough stucco in an irregular plan and with an asymmetrical design. The asymmetrical design is emphasized through its massing on varying levels and irregular fenestration placement. Roof levels at differing heights and varying forms are stacked in an informal pattern which mimics the varied roof forms of Spanish villages.



The home's fenestration is comprised primarily of multi-light casement windows, six-over-six and four-over-four double-hung sash windows, and multi-light doors, with several of these elements grouped in sets of three. Other features of the residence include a cantilevered second story on the north side with a large beam and carved brackets below. This beam appears to wrap a portion of the dwelling to distinguish the separation of the first and second stories. There is a multi-light door opening to a small balcony with carved brackets and a simple metal rail on the second story facing east. The large second-story porch on the south side is covered with an awning. The dwelling also has round vents in gable ends, a cantilevered window box, cast-stone plaques, and an exterior chimney on a south wall with a chimney cap featuring a small, tiled roof.¹

A review of the Town's building permits indicates that there have been only minimal exterior alterations to the residence since it was constructed in 1925 and therefore 1510 North Ocean Boulevard retains its historic architectural significance and integrity.

IV. Historical Information

This residence at 1510 North Ocean Boulevard was one of the earliest residences built in the far north end of Palm Beach. The context of the dwelling's development includes early Palm Beach attractions, platting of north end subdivisions and residential development of the Town's far north end.²

Prior to World War I, Henry Flagler had established Palm Beach as the winter capital of American high society. Most came by rail and stayed for the January to February season at one of Flagler's luxury hotels, the Royal Poinciana or the Breakers. Activities centered around the hotels yet there were other attractions north of the hotels that appealed to the hotel guests. One of the favorite attractions was the Garden of Eden, the 250-acre botanical garden that Frances and Charles Craigin began developing in the late 1880s north of the Royal Poinciana Hotel. To get to the botanical wonderland required an approximate three-mile ride along the lakeside path as there were no roads going north at that time.³ By 1903, the Florida Gun Club had been established two miles north of the Royal Poinciana

¹ This description of the dwelling is what can be seen from the public right of way; there was no access to the property.

² Much of the history for this MurphyStillings Landmark Designation report was first researched and written by MurphyStillings for the 1250 North Ocean Boulevard Landmark Designation report.

³ The Craigin's villa, Reve d'Ete, was one of the show places of Palm Beach and visits to the garden from a social viewpoint helped to make Palm Beach the fashionable center of the country. <u>Palm Beach Post</u>, 8 January 1922, Page 3.

Hotel on the lakefront. Guests of the hotel could travel there by boat or by wheelchair along the Lake Trail as roads were still not constructed going that far north. The Palm Beach Country Club, which was originally used by guests of the Breakers and Royal Poinciana Hotels, was built in 1916 on the oceanfront grounds of the Florida Gun Club, and by this time could be accessed by North County Road.⁴

Following World War I, the season became longer and many of Palm Beach's wealthy residents built grand mansions along the ocean and the lake. The Stotesbury's started this trend in 1919 when they hired Addison Mizner to design El Mirasol, a magnificent Mediterranean Revival style lake to ocean estate approximately one mile north of the Royal Poinciana Hotel. That same year, just north of El Mirasol, Mizner designed Louwana and Amado, two adjoining Mediterranean Revival style estates along the ocean for brothers Gurnee and Charles Munn.⁵ The 1920s land and building boom in Palm Beach followed featuring numerous Mediterranean Revival style dwellings in town and large estates along the ocean and the lake. The two most northern estates were Playa Riente, the largest Mizner-designed house constructed in 1923 for Joseph Cosden stretching between the lake and the ocean just north of the Palm Beach Country Club golf course and the Rodman Wannamaker Mizner designed estate, La Querida, built in 1923 just north of Plava Riente at what is now 1095 North Ocean Boulevard.⁶ This was likely the northernmost dwelling in Palm Beach in 1923.⁷

In 1925, H.C. Bartholomew and his development company platted the Alto Lido, Bello Lido, and Inlet subdivisions in Palm Beach's far north end.⁸ Though some lots were sold, the only two dwellings known to be built in these subdivisions during the 1920s were 1510 North Ocean Boulevard in the Inlet subdivision and 1250 North Ocean Boulevard in the Alto Lido subdivision. Both of these dwellings were developed by H.C. Bartholomew and designed by Gene Bartholomew in the Mediterranean Revival style. Though the area remained virtually undeveloped, the inlet dock on the northern tip of Palm Beach was built in 1929 by the Town of Palm Beach and the Port of Palm Beach for use by port

⁴ Later North County Road turned into North Ocean Boulevard at the Palm Beach Country Club. President Warren G. Harding was known to have golfed at the club in both 1922 and 1923.

⁵ Louwana was built for Gurnee Munn at what is today 475 N. County Road and Amado was built for Charles Munn at what is today 455 N. County Road. Both are Town of Palm Beach landmarked buildings.

⁶ Playa Riente was located at 947 N. Ocean Boulevard and demolished in 1957.

⁷ In 1924-1925, Pierre Lorillard Barbey, an early member of the Palm Beach Colony, built a Spanish style estate along the ocean between Playa Riente and La Querida. He left his earlier house on North Ocean Boulevard in 1924 because it was inadequate for his needs.

⁸ The full name of the Inlet subdivision is the Boca Ratone Company Inlet Subdivision and was platted as one of the Phipps' family development companies with H.C. Bartholomew in the position of vice president.

pilots and town residents. Surprisingly, the dock became a popular meeting place for residents and visitors, and despite the long drive, a popular destination for people taking drives along oceanfront roads from the south. In 1932, the Sailfish Club established their presence at 1338 North Lake Way, bringing members to the far north end. Another popular attraction established in the early 1930s was the Parke Marine Museum run by Fred C.N. Parke next to the Inlet dock. The Parke Marine Museum displayed 160 varieties of mounted fish found in waters off Palm Beach and displayed to simulate their appearance in the water. In addition to the fish exhibits, there were interesting collections of shells, coral and stuffed animal life. Interest in local marine life was attested by the fact that the free museum attracted many visitors daily and was also popular for school field trips.

Though the1920s land and housing boom was flourishing in Palm Beach from the near north end through the Estate Section with the addition of large estates along the ocean and lake, the far north end of the Island where 1510 North Ocean Boulevard is located did not witness much residential development until the post-Depression era of the mid to late 1930s.⁹ A <u>Palm Beach Post</u> article from February 1937, provides information about this development:

"Announcement Saturday of the purchase by the firm of Carlberg & Cook of a number of lots in the Inlet Subdivision at the extreme north end of Palm Beach brought out the interesting fact that more than 40 lots have been sold in that section since October 1, 1936, following a lapse of activity in that property since late 1925. The Palm Beach Company, owners of the Subdivision, constructed several new streets in that section last summer, which was followed by sudden interest being shown in the property by many well-known resort visitors and residents."¹⁰

Prior to this, much of the far north end was considered wilderness with few dwellings constructed. When Mr. & Mrs. Harold Sweatt began building their winter retreat Windandsea in 1937 at what is today 1545 North Ocean Way it was often referred to as Sweatt's Folly due to its location on the Island's distant north end. Though residential development was not robust in the far north end until after World War II, there were scattered clusters of development along Queens

⁹ The near north end at this time would end at Wells Road as the Stotesbury estate was just north of Wells Road and there was little development north of this area except for early dwellings and estates along the lake and the ocean; the south end of the Estate section is approximately Woodbridge Road.

¹⁰ <u>The Palm Beach Post</u>. "Many Resorters Plan to Build Homes At Inlet." 15 February 1937.

Lane, Orange Grove Road, Monterey Road, El Pueblo Way and along the lake and ocean.¹¹

The first owner/developer of 1510 North Ocean Boulevard, H.C. Bartholomew, was an early resident who had been living and working in Palm Beach since 1911 and visiting the Town even earlier with his family. In the 1916 Palm Beach City Directory he is listed as an architect, contractor, builder and craftsman. During the 1920s land and housing boom, Bartholomew devoted his attention to the developments of subdivisions and ocean front properties of distinction in Palm Beach. Among the most notable subdivisions H.C. Bartholomew platted and later developed were Palm Beach's Bello Lido, Alto Lido, and Inlet subdivisions. It is likely that he had his brother Gene Bartholomew design and build 1510 North Ocean Boulevard in 1925 as a speculative house with the intent to attract other developers and potential buyers to the far north end's newly platted subdivisions. H.C. Bartholomew was one of the largest stockholders in the Mizner development at Boca Raton and was vice-president of the Boca Ratone Company that owned several miles of Palm Beach county's ocean front property. He was also a director in the First Bank and Trust Company of Palm Beach and contributed his time and experience to civic growth and betterment projects in Palm Beach. Prior to becoming a real estate developer, H.C. Bartholomew was a trained city planner.

From 1925 through 1941, 1510 North Ocean Boulevard was listed as vacant except for a few years in the 1930s when it was occupied by H.C. Bartholomew.¹² In 1942, James W. Sullivan was listed as occupying the house and then from 1944 - 1952 the house was occupied by Albert E. and Marguerite C. Idell.¹³ Albert "Bert" Idell was a noted American novelist best known for his historical narratives.¹⁴ His wife, the former Marguerite Cadwalader, was an artist and the couple were involved in Palm Beach artistic organizations and often gave lectures in town. From 1953 to the mid-1960s the house was owned and occupied by Mrs. Robert (Dorothy) Heist and from the mid-1960s through 1978 by Mr. John A. Rupe. The current owner, James C. Gavigan, purchased the dwelling in 1978. In the 1990s, Mr. Gavigan, a former Georgetown University varsity baseball pitcher, was often noted in the *Palm Beach Daily News* for his dedication as coach for the

¹¹ Much of this was likely speculative development like on Queens Lane where Arnold Construction Company hired prominent Palm Beach architects to design houses that they built on speculation.

¹² The address in the City Directory was initially listed as 2000 North Ocean Boulevard. It became 1510 North Ocean Boulevard by 1950.

¹³ It appears that the house was owned by Edwin O. Bussey but occupied at least part of the winter seasons by Albert and Marguerite Idell, as they are listed as occupants in the City Directories.

¹⁴ Albert Idell's first book was entitled "Pug" and took him from a position as accountant to that of a recognized writer. He was best known for his trilogy depicting the life and times of Philadelphians and New Yorkers in the late 1880s.

Palm Beach Little League team. He was also noted in the newspaper to participate in mock trials with local students to teach them about law, as well as serving on the Town's Seaview Park Commission. James Gavigan has lived at 1510 North Ocean Boulevard for over 40 years and has been an excellent steward of the property.

V. Builder's Biography

Eugene H. "Gene" Bartholomew was born in 1885 in Chicago, Illinois. He and his family spent time in Pittsburgh before moving to Palm Beach in 1919. A July 9, 1919 <u>Palm Beach Post</u> article "E. H. Bartholomew Associated with Brother H.C. Bartholomew in Contracting Business" states:

"E. H. Bartholomew of Pittsburgh, PA, has come to Palm Beach to go into Partnership with his brother H. C. Bartholomew, in the real estate and contracting business. They will open offices on the West Palm Beach side as well as maintaining a Palm Beach office. Under the firm name of Bartholomew Brothers, they will have charge of the Sidney Maddock properties on both sides of the lake."

Another article published January 29, 1925 in the <u>Palm Beach Post</u> provided additional information about Eugene Bartholomew:

"E.H. Bartholomew, familiarly known as "Gene" is a well-known person in Palm Beach and West Palm Beach. For the past seven years he has been a builder of exclusive houses and his work will be seen with frequency on the main streets and avenues of Palm Beach as well as West Palm Beach. His building operations cover a wide and large scope of clientele among the best. Mr. Bartholomew was born in Chicago where he spent his early life. When quite young, he moved to Pittsburgh where he was engaged in architectural work and from there coming to Palm Beach."¹⁵

According to newspaper articles and lists of his projects, Gene Bartholomew designed and constructed mostly Spanish style houses from 1919-1926 in Palm Beach and West Palm Beach. In 1923, he was the contractor and builder for the Pine Ridge Hospital in West Palm Beach designed by prominent architects Harvey

¹⁵ "Bartholomew-Harman-Seward Company Made Up of Men Who Know Field." 29 January 1925. <u>Palm Beach Post.</u> Eugene Bartholomew may have been an architect in Pittsburgh but there is no proof of architectural licensure in Florida. In Florida in the 1920s, many builders also designed buildings.

& Clarke. That same year he was also the builder and contractor for a number of Palm Beach houses in the prominent Estate Section. His two existing designs in the far north end of Palm Beach, 1250 North Ocean Boulevard and 1510 North Ocean Boulevard both constructed in 1925, are important as the earliest Mediterranean Revival style buildings constructed in the then undeveloped far north end of Palm Beach. Gene Bartholomew, like many others in the building industry, also became involved in real estate sales and development during the 1920s land and housing boom. In 1924, he teamed up with Harman and Seward to create the firm of Bartholomew-Harman-Seward that became a successful real estate brokerage firm in the mid-1920s.

An obituary of Eugene's mother, Mrs. Rita Tryon Bartholomew, published March 19, 1929, sheds more light on the Bartholomew family in Palm Beach:

"Rita Tyron Bartholomew had been coming to Palm Beach each winter since 1893, her father Owen Laubach, being a pioneer plantation owner at Lantana. Throughout a busy lifetime her love of Florida was exemplified in her work as an artist and a writer. She was the author of a number of articles on Florida in magazines and newspapers, and her work as an artist was well known in Palm Beach as she was a member of the Art League. She was also active in the Women's Club. Surviving are two sons, Gene and H. C. Bartholomew. She was married in 1884 to H. E. Bartholomew who died a number of years ago and they had traveled much of Europe in their late years."

Mae E. Bartholomew, Gene's wife, was a pioneer resident having lived in Palm Beach since 1913. They had two children, Elrita and Eugene, Jr. Elrita married John Terrell and continued to live in Palm Beach, though also spent years in Stockton, New Jersey. In Palm Beach, Elrita returned to her roots and opened Bartholomew Realty. After a career in real estate in Palm Beach, Eugene Bartholomew, Jr. moved to Fort Myers in 1950 where he continued to work in real estate sales and development.

VI. Statement of Significance

The residence at 1510 North Ocean Boulevard is a very good example of a Mediterranean Revival style residence built at the height of the land and housing boom and a very good representation of the design work of Eugene Bartholomew, a prolific builder who was responsible for many residential and commercial buildings in Palm Beach and the surrounding areas. It is also significant as being

one of the first dwelling's built in Palm Beach's far north end before this area was developed.

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 the 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."

The residence at 1510 North Ocean Boulevard reflects the broad cultural, economic, and social history of the Town of Palm Beach. The house was developed in 1925 by Harvey C. Bartholomew in the Inlet Subdivision the same year that the Inlet subdivision was platted by the Boca Ratone Company. It was likely built on speculation to promote the new subdivision and potential for properties to be developed in the far north end during the 1920s land and housing boom. Although much of Palm Beach from the near north end to the Estate Section flourished during the 1920's boom time era, the far north end of the Island remained mostly undeveloped until the late 1930s post-Depression Era followed by the post-World War II second Palm Beach boom when the far north end thrived with new development. The Bartholomew brothers were important early residents, builders, and real estate developers of Palm Beach.

(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."

1510 North Ocean Boulevard is a distinctive example of the Mediterranean Revival style of architecture. The residence embodies distinctive Mediterranean Revival characteristics including an irregular plan, asymmetrical massing, caststone decorations, carved brackets, irregular fenestration, a decorative chimney, balconies and stacked multi-leveled barrel tile covered roofs resembling the varied rooflines of villages along the Mediterranean Sea.

(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."

The residence at 1510 North Ocean Boulevard is a very good representation of the design and construction work of Eugene Bartholomew. The residence is an example of Bartholomew's abilities as both a designer and a builder. He was a prominent builder in the Palm Beach area during the 1920s constructing both residences and commercial buildings by the area's most prominent architects, as well as constructing many of his own designs.

VIII. Selected Bibliography

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IX. Florida Master Site File Form



HRSE048R0319, effective 05/2016 Rule 1A-48.001, F.A.C. Florida Manter Site File / Div. of Historical Resources / R. A. Gray Bidg / 500 S Bronough 92, Tallahasses, FL 32395-0250 Phone 850.245.6440 / Fax 850.245.6439 / E-mail SiteFile@dos.myflorida.com

HISTORICAL STRUCTURE FORM Site #8 PB06587

	DESCRIPTIO	N (continued)	Clear Description Values				
Chimney: No1_ Chimney Material(s): 18	Stucco	2					
Structural System(s): 1. Wood frame	2	3.					
Foundation Type(s): 1. Continuous	2		Note: you may use the last box in each field to type in				
Foundation Material(s): 1. Obscured	2		an answer that does not appear in the list provided				
Main Entrance (stylistic details)							
obscured from ROW							
Porch Descriptions (types, locations, roof types, etc.)							
obscured from ROW							
Condition (overall resource condition): excellent I good fair deteriorated ruinous Narrative Description of Resource							
This 1925 Mediterranean Revival building is in good condition.							
Archaeological Remains			Check If Archaeological Form Completed				
•	CEADOUA (CTRO)						
RE	SEARCH METHO	DS (select all that apply)					
EFMSF record search (sites/surveys)	Dibrary research	building permits	Sanborn maps				
FL State Archives/photo collection	city directory	occupant/owner interview	Explat maps				
Eproperty appraiser / tax records	newspaper files	neighbor interview	Public Lands Survey (DEP)				
Ecultural resource survey (CRA5)	Ethistoric photos	interior inspection	HAB5/HAER record search				
Nother methods (describe) City Staff	· · · · ·						
Bibliographic References (give FMSF manuscript #	If relevant, use continuation sheet	l'needed)					
"Landmark Architecture of Palm	Beach, " Barbara Ho	ffstot, 4th ed.					
OPI	NION OF RESOUR	RCE SIGNIFICANCE	Clear Significance Values				
Appears to meet the criteria for National Regis	ter listing individually?	⊠yes ⊡no ⊡insuffic	ient information				
Appears to meet the criteria for National Regis			ient information				
Explanation of Evaluation (required, whether signif							
This is a fine example of the M			rict eligibility base				
on its architectural features,							
Area(s) of Historical Significance (see National Re	egistor Bulletin 15, p. 8 for categori	es: e.g. forchitecture ¹ , fethnic heritage ¹ , for	ommunity planning & development ^e , etc.)				
1. Community planning & developm	3 Local						
2. Architecture	4	6					
	DOCUMEN	TATION	Clear Documentation Values				
Accessible Documentation Not Filed with the S	Site File - Including field notes, ar	alysis notes, photos, plans and other impo	rtant documents				
1) Documenttype							
Document description	FI	ie or accession #s					
2) Documenttype	Ma	intaining organization					
2) Document description		ie or accession #5					
	RECORDER IN	FORMATION					
Percenter Name Data da a Davennest	Tacaba	A Dilation - Endormantal Services In					
Recorder Name Datricia Davanport-Jacobs Affiliation Environmental Services, Inc.							
Recorder Contact Information 7220 Financial Way, Suite 100, Jacksonville, FL 32256/9044702200/pdavenport@ (address/phone/fax/e-mail)							
provide a printing a reason with the							
USGS 7.5' MAP WITH STRUCTURE LOCATION CLEARLY INDICATED							
		AT OR PARCEL MAP (sveileble	from most property appraiser web sites)				
Attachments							
When submitting an image, it must be included in digital AND hard copy format (phin paper grayacele ecceptede).							
		1200 pixels, 24-bit color, jpeg or t					

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