205 Nightingale Trail



DESIGNATION REPORT April 20, 2022 Landmark Preservation Commission Palm Beach, Florida

DESIGNATION REPORT

205 Nightingale Trail

Table of Contents

I.	GENERAL INFORMATION	2
II.	LOCATION MAP	3
III.	ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION	4
IV.	HISTORICAL INFORMATION	10
V.	ARCHITECT BIOGRAPHY	12
VI.	STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	13
VII.	CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION	13
VIII.	SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	15
IX.	FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE FORM	16

Report produced by Murphy Stillings, LLC

I. General Information

Location: 205 Nightingale Trail

Palm Beach, Florida

Date of Construction: 1940

First Owner: John Reginald Woone

Architect: Frederick Seelmann

Present Owner: William B. Meyer Jr. and Eliza S. Meyer

Present Use: Residential

Present Zoning: RB

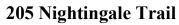
Palm Beach County

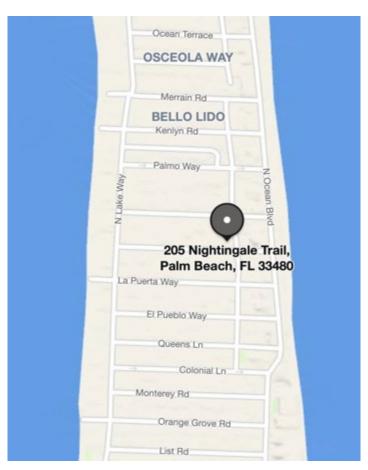
Tax Folio Number: 50-43-43-03-09-000-0390

Current Legal Description: Lot 39, Mocking Bird Trail Tract, according to the

Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 18, Page 7, Public Records of Palm Beach County, Florida.

II. Location Map







III. Architectural Information

The residence at 205 Nightingale Trail is a unique residence located in Palm Beach's north end at the northwest corner of Nightingale Trail and North Ocean Way. The home was designed in 1940 by prominent Palm Beach architect Frederick Seelmann in a Stylized Art Moderne Ranch style for John Reginald Woone.¹

View Towards Entrance, Looking Northwest



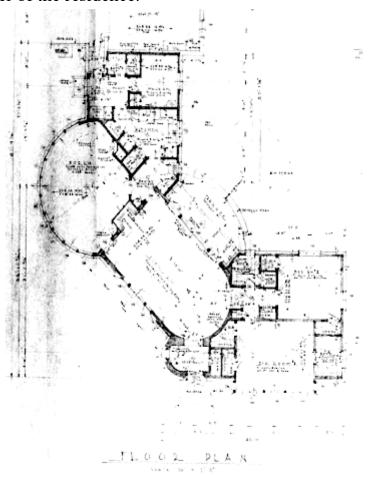
A Styled Ranch is differentiated from a common Ranch residence by the presence of an interconnected and unified set of stylistic details that spell out a distinct style. While French, Spanish, Tudor, Colonial or Neoclassical Styled Ranches were the most common, other styles were also incorporated into the Ranch style, such as the Art Moderne style as seen at 205 Nightingale Trail. Styled Ranch houses were built intermittently during the Ranch-house era that began in 1935, and although they were designed with the familiar Ranch form of one-story, broad floor plans with low-pitched roofs they had strong stylistic details of another architectural style. ² The Art Moderne Stylized Ranch at 205 Nightingale Trail incorporates several elements from the Art Moderne style. The Art Moderne style flourished between 1930 and 1945 and was highlighted at the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago. It was

¹ Town of Palm Beach Building permit #6640 dated April 24, 1940.

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

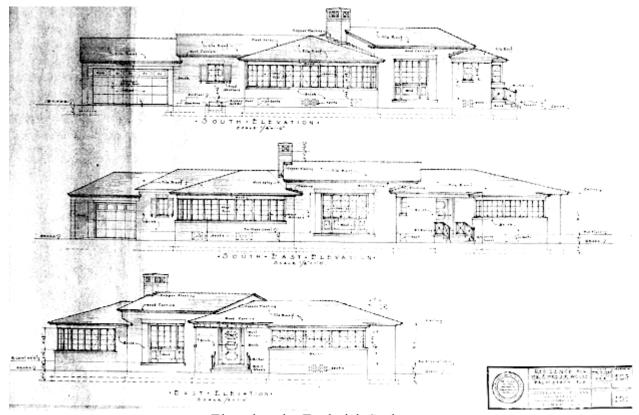
influenced by the technology that followed WWI and followed the "less is more" standard of design. It drew from the streamlined aerodynamic shapes of planes and cars. Art Moderne residences feature simple geometric forms, flat roofs, curved walls, and a simplicity in decorative details. The style was popular at the time the home at 205 Nightingale Trail was design and constructed.

205 Nightingale Trail is a unique residence that features several elements of the Art Moderne style integrated into the form of a Ranch style house. The residence was built in a broad one-story shape that wraps the corner lot with multiple low-pitched hip roofs which are characteristics of the Ranch style's form. The house's form is however unique and interesting due to the curvilinear walls that were incorporated into the design. Curved rooms and walls are characteristic of the Art Moderne style and are focal points of this residence. In addition to the curved walls, the use of ribbons of continuous windows around the curves and wall corners adds to the Art Moderne character of the residence.



Floor Plan by Frederick Seelmann, 1940

205 Nightingale Trail was constructed of wood framing and is surfaced with smooth stucco. The residence features multiple hip roofs surfaced with flat concrete tiles. The hip roofs feature overhanging eaves, wood cornices, and a square central chimney, with a chimney cap and decorative x-shaped vents, that projects from the roof line. The fenestration of the home consists of grouped and single casement, awning, and fixed windows many with a multi-light configuration. The residence wraps the south-east corner of the property with a wing that runs north-south, a wing that runs east-west, and a section that projects towards the southeast corner of the property.



Elevations by Frederick Seelmann

The wing of the residence that runs north-south faces east toward North Ocean Way and features the residence's main entrance. The entrance foyer features a curved wall at the southern end and a decorative wood frieze at the roofline. The wood paneled front door features a unique divided light glass panel and is highlighted by quarter-round fluted pilasters. The entrance is sheltered by a semi-circular hip roof that projects to the east and is supported by two columns sitting atop knee walls. This entrance porch was constructed in 2002 and included the frieze design from the roofline at the front entrance. To the north of the entrance on this wing are two

sections, each of which project slightly to the east. The southern of these two sections features a ribbon of multi-light windows that wrap the corners of the projection. The northern section was an addition that was constructed in 1990 and features a single-light fixed window that is flanked by narrow multi-light windows.

East Façade



The east-west wing, the south façade, features a distinguishing feature of Seelmann's design – a unique semi-circular room that projects to the south and features a ribbon of windows that wrap the semi-circular facade.³ To the west of the semi-circular room is a pair of French doors, a pair of casement windows, and a two-car garage at the western end of the south façade. The existing garage wing was an enlargement of the original garage and constructed in 2001.



South Façade

³ Much of the south façade, including the semi-circular room, is screened from view by vegetation.

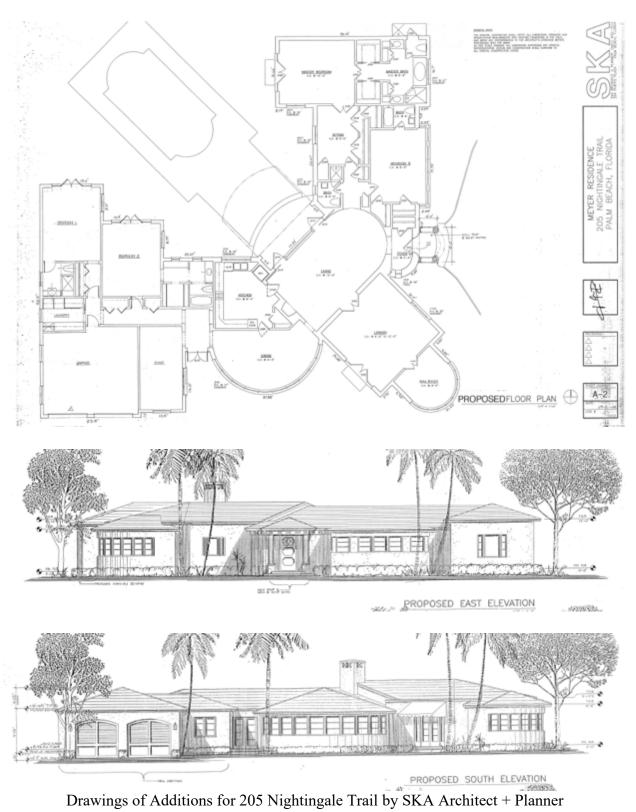
Between the two wings of the residence is a 1990 addition that projects towards the corner of the property. This addition took design cues from the residence's original design by incorporating a semi-circular room encircled with a ribbon of windows at the southeast end. The design of this addition also respected and preserved character defining features of the original design, such as the curved entry foyer and the original semi-circular room.



Southeast Corner

The property is bordered by mature vegetation and is accessed by a circular driveway along North Ocean Way and a driveway from Nightingale Trail which leads to the garage. A pool was added to the property in 1985 and is located to the rear of the residence. Since its construction in 1940, there have been modifications to the residence with most of the alterations and additions being done between 1990 and 2002 with the additions previously noted. The additions were designed SKA Architect + Planner and are compatible with the style of the original design and retained the character defining features of the original residence. During the 1990 renovation, the home's brick exterior was surfaced with stucco, which although changing the exterior's appearance the stucco facades are consistent with the Art Moderne elements of the home's original design. The residence has also been reroofed with like materials and the pool area modified. 4

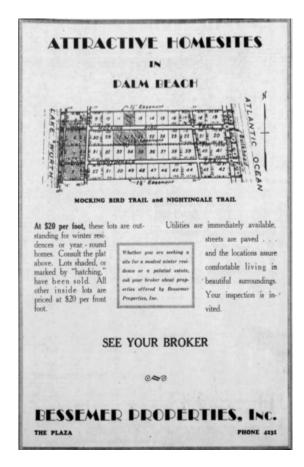
⁴ Town of Palm Beach Building Permits records from 1940-2021.



IV. Historical Information

The residence at 205 Nightingale Trail was designed and constructed in 1940 during Palm Beach's late Depression/New Deal Era. The great expectations of the Florida Land Boom were conclusively ended by the 1929 stock market crash and the depression which followed. Palm Beach had established itself as a leading American resort and its development continued but without some of the magnificent excesses of the earlier era.⁵ The Depression/New Deal Era in Palm Beach saw a change in the development of the island. The largely undeveloped north end of Palm Beach saw the creation of new subdivisions and the design of residences being constructed was changing with many owners seeking smaller, simpler residences rather that the ornate Mediterranean Revival style estates of the 1920's boom time.

205 Nightingale Trail is located in the Mocking Bird Trail Tract which was developed by the Phipps family's Palm Beach Company and platted in 1936.⁶ At the time very little of Palm Beach's north end had been developed and it had been largely considered wilderness. Several new subdivisions, including the Mocking Bird developed during Tract. were Depression/New Deal Era and roads were extended and constructed in the north end. The roads in the Mocking Bird Trail Tract, Mockingbird Trail and Nightingale Trail, were constructed in 1937 and the lots were advertised for sale by Bessemer Properties, Inc., another company owned by the Phipps family. An advertisement placed in the Palm Beach Post on March 24, 1940, showed which lots in the subdivision were available for purchase. At this time, lot 39, which is the location of 205 Nightingale Trail, had not yet been sold.



⁵ Polly Anne Earl, <u>Palm Beach Architecture: An Architectural Legacy</u>, New York: Rizzoli International Publications, p. 18.

⁶ Originally Nightingale Trail was to be named Flamingo Trail which is the name shown on the plat map.

With the onset of World War II in 1939 and continuing through the mid-1940s, new construction slowed and then came to a halt as building materials and much of the labor force was dedicated to fighting the war. Being designed and constructed in 1940, the residence at 205 Nightingale Trail was developed after the start of the war but before the U.S. had entered the fighting and before the halt to nonessential construction that occurred shortly after.

205 Nightingale Trail is the second oldest home remaining in the subdivision and there are only three homes remaining in the subdivision that were constructed prior to the post-World War II Era.⁷ The only structure older than 205 Nightingale Trail is the landmarked residence at 1221 North Lake Way which was designed by Belford Shoumate and built in 1937 in the Art Moderne style. It is possible that the design of 205 Nightingale Trail with its Art Moderne elements was influenced by the Art Moderne style of 1221 North Lake Way.

The residence at 205 Nightingale Trail was designed by Frederick Seelmann. Seelmann began his architecture career with the firm of Treanor and Fatio in New York before moving to Palm Beach in 1925 when they opened their Palm Beach office. He continued to work with Maurice Fatio in Palm Beach for fifteen years before he opened his own architectural office in the Paramount Building at the beginning of 1940. Seelmann was a well-known and respected architect whose practice continued until his death in 1961. Throughout his career he worked in many varying architectural styles through Palm Beach's 1920's Boom Time Era, Depression/New Deal Era, and Post-World War II Era.

Seelmann was commissioned to design the residence at 205 Nightingale Trail in 1940 for John Reginald (J.R.) Woone and Barbara Woone. The Woone's were from New York and began spending winters in Palm Beach as early as 1925. J.R. Woone was the president of Charvet et Fils, Inc. a fine men's clothing store which was originally located in the Fashion Beaux Arts Building and later Worth Avenue. Prior to building the residence on Nightingale Trail, the Woone's would spend the winter season at hotels. After J.R. Woone passed away in 1951, Barbara Woone continued to spend the winter season at the residence until 1970 when it was sold to Anthony J. and Eileen C. Liebler.

Anthony Liebler had been an accomplished trial attorney and prosecutor in New York City working as Assistant District Attorney and Bureau Chief before retiring

⁷ The three residences built before the post-WWII era are 1221 North Lake Way (1937), 205 Nightingale Trail (1940) and 260 Nightingale Trail (1941).

in 1960. In 1979, he passed away and Eileen Liebler sold the residence in 1980 to Andrea D. Whitcraft who owned the residence for ten years.

In 1990, William Blair Meyer, Jr. and Eliza Stephenson Meyer purchased the residence. Over the thirty years that the Meyer's have owned the home they have made additions and renovations that both respected the home's architectural style and integrity while updating the residence for their needs. The Meyer's have been excellent stewards of the residence.

IV. Architect Biography

Frederick George Seelmann

Frederick Seelmann was born in Nurnberg, Germany on December 9, 1889. His family came to the United States at the turn of the century and settled in Brooklyn, New York where his father was a cabinet maker and instilled in his son his knowledge and respect of Bavarian craftsmanship. After high school, he attended and graduated from the Columbia College Atelier in 1916 while working as a draftsman for the architectural firm of Treanor and Fatio in New York.

After serving in the military during World War I and a period of travel afterwards, he returned to the firm of Treanor and Fatio and in 1925 came to Palm Beach when Treanor and Fatio opened their Palm Beach office. Seelmann received his Florida architectural license in 1926 and continued working for Maurice Fatio as an associate until 1940. After 15 years with Treanor and Fatio's Palm Beach office, in 1940, Seelmann opened his own architectural practice which was located in the Paramount Building on North County Road.⁸ With the onset of World War II, Seelmann closed his office and went to work for the U. S. Corps of Engineers until the war ended.

In 1945, Seelmann reopened his office in the Paramount Building. In 1951, he received an appointment from the Florida governor as a district supervising architect for the State Hotel and Restaurant Commission to review and approve plans for hotels, restaurants, and apartments. He continued to practice architecture until his death on September 5, 1961.

⁸ Palm Beach Post "Seelmann to Open Own Office in Resort", January 31, 1940.

While practicing in Palm Beach his work included many Palm Beach residences, churches, and institutional buildings. He received several design awards for his commissions over the years and was active within the architectural profession and the community. He served as president of the Florida Architectural Association (FAA) from 1936-1937, before the FAA's affiliation with the American Institute of Architects (AIA). He was a member of the AIA, a member of the Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce, a charter member of the Palm Beach Rotary Club, and member and Commodore of the Palm Beach Yacht Club. Frederick Seelmann was a well-known and respected architect whose practice continued until his death in 1961. Throughout his career he worked in many varying architectural styles through Palm Beach's 1920's Boom Time Era, Depression/New Deal Era, and Post-World War II Era.⁹

V. Statement of Significance

205 Nightingale Trail is significant as a unique example of a Stylized Art Moderne Ranch residence designed by notable Palm Beach architect Frederick Seelmann in 1940 during the late Depression/New Deal Era as Palm Beach's north end was seeing an increase in residential development.

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 located at 205 Nightingale Trail was constructed in 1940 during the late Depression/New Deal Era in Palm Beach for John Reginald and Barbara Woone. The residence is a very good example of the changing times in the Town. The Depression/New Deal Era in Palm Beach signaled a change in development and construction of residences in Palm Beach with new development moving northward to Palm Beach's north end and owners seeking mid-size residences with livable designs.

13

_

⁹ Palm Beach Post, Obituary for Frederick G. Seelmann, Sr. September 8, 1961.

(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."

205 Nightingale Trail is a good example of an Art Moderne Ranch style residence. Art Moderne stylistic elements represented in the dwelling include the curved walls, ribbons of windows and windows that wrap the corners of the dwelling. These Art Moderne features have been united with the essential form of the Ranch style, in its broad one-story plan with low-pitched hipped roofs, to create an interesting Stylized Ranch residence. At the time the residence was designed, both the Art Moderne style and the Ranch style were being used for residential architecture, and Frederick Seelmann's combination of the styles created a unique residence that 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 has influenced his age."

The residence at 205 Nightingale Trail is a good representation of the notable work of architect Frederick Seelmann. Seelmann began his architecture career with the firm of Treanor and Fatio in New York before moving to Palm Beach in 1925 when Treanor and Fatio opened their Palm Beach office. He continued to work with Maurice Fatio in Palm Beach for fifteen years designing homes for many of Palm Beach's prominent residents. In February 1940, he opened his own architectural office in the Paramount Building. Seelmann was a well-known and respected architect whose architectural practice continued until his death in 1961. Throughout his career he worked in varying architectural styles during Palm Beach's 1920's Boom Time Era, Depression/New Deal Era, and the Post-World War II Era.

VIII. Selected Bibliography

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

Environmental Services, Inc. <u>Town of Palm Beach Historic Site Survey</u>. 2020.

Historical Society of Palm Beach County. Archives and PBC History Online.

Marconi, Richard and the Historical Society of Palm Beach County. <u>Palm Beach Then & Now</u>. Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2013.

Mayhew, Augustus. <u>Lost in Wonderland: Reflections on Palm Beach.</u> West Palm Beach, FL: Palm Beach Editorial Services, 2012.

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

McAlester, Virginia Savage. <u>A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture</u>. Alfred K. Knopf Publisher, 2015.

O'Sullivan, Maureen. <u>Palm Beach: Then and Now</u>. West Palm Beach, FL: Lickle Publishing Inc. in association with the Historical Society of Palm Beach County, 2004.

<u>Palm Beach Daily News</u> and <u>Palm Beach Post</u>. Archived Articles 1940 – 2021.

Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach. 205 Nightingale Trail File and Frederick Seelmann File.

Sanborn Insurance Maps. 1924 updated to 1952.

Town of Palm Beach. Building Permits and Microfiche Records 1940–2021.

<u>West Palm Beach City Directories</u>. Palm Beach Section, Asheville, NC: Florida-Piedmont Directory Company, 1940-1975.

IX. Florida Master Site File Form

Page 1

☐ Original ☑ Update



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

 Site#8
 PB09380

 Field Date
 11-12-2019

 Form Date
 9-14-2020

 Recorder #
 MAD

Clear Form Values

Shaded Fields represent the minimum acceptable level of documentation.

Consult the Guida to Historical Structure Forms the detailed instructions.

		Consult the Gu	de to Historical S	tructure Forms to	r detailed instru	actions.			
Site Name(s) (address if none)205									
Ownership: private-p								foreign	unknown
		LOC	CATION	& MAPPI	NG			Clear Location	Values
Street Num	ber <u>Direction</u>	Street Name		81	reet Type	Suffix	Direction		
Address: 205		Nightingal	.e	T	rail				
Cross Streets (nearest	/ between)		IIS	CS Date 100	c Distor/	Other Man			
USGS 7.5 Map Name City / Town (within 3 ml	es) Palm Beach	ı İn	City Limits?	Rives ⊓no r	Junknown	County P	alm Beach		
Township 438	Range 43E S	antina 03 M	andre De		Tee Dive	Inches de la constant			
Tax Parcel # 5043	4303090000390)		Landgr	ant				
Subdivision Name M		MAIL TRACT		Landgr Block		000	_ Lot	0390	
UTM Coordinates: Zo		Lasung	MOTUTE	<u> </u>	\Box				
Other Coordinates:)			C	ordinate Syst	em & Datun	n			
Name of Public Tract	(e.g., pank)								
			HIST	ORY				Clear History V	falues
Construction Year:	1940 🗆	movimatoly Duo	ar listed or on	elice Dunc	u licted or la	to a			
Original Use Priv	ate Residence	(House/Cotta	oribleuorea ore/Ca Fw	nu (near).	1940	To (vear):	2020		
Current Use Priv	ate Residence	(House/Cotta	ge/Ca Fr	om (year):	1940	To (year):	2020	-	
Other Use Moves: yes	no unknown	Date:	Original ad	ddress					
Alterations: yes	no X unknown	Date:	Nature						
Additions:yes _	no 🛭 unknown	Date:	Nature						
Architect (last name first	t):			Builder (last no	eme first):				
OWNERShip History (especially original owner, dates, profession, etc.) MEYER WILLIAM B JR &									
Is the Resource Affect	cted by a Local Pre	servation Ordinance	?	no _unknow	Describe				
				PTION					
Style Ranch	7h		Exterior Plan	Irrequla	r		Number o	of Stories	1
Exterior Fabric(s) 1.	Stucco		2			_ 3			
Roof Type(s) 1. Roof Material(s) 1.	Congrete til		2			- 3			
Roof secondary	STRUCS. (domers etc.)	1			2				
Windows (types, materi									
grouped & sing	gle 3 light a	wning windows,	single p	ane fixed	flanked	by 3 11	ght casem	ent	
Distinguishing Archite	ectural Features (e	terior or interior ornamen	(S)						
Moderne and de	_	fluted surrou	ınds, roun	ded facad	es, smoo	th stuce	o, semi d	etached	
multi car gara	-								
Ancillary Features / 0					eet if needed.)				
corner lot, ma	ture vegetat	ion, semiciro	ılar drive	1					
DHR	USE ONLY	0	FFICIAL EV	ALUATION	1		DHR USE (ONLY	
NR List Date	SHPO - Appens	to meet criteria for NR	listing: Thes	Ппо Пins	ufficient info	Date		Init.	
Owner Objection		to meet criteria for NR nined eligible:		no Char	Check Buses	Date			
lowner objection	NR Criteria for Ev	aluation: 🛮 a 🔝 b		(see National F				_	

HRSE046R0319, effective 05/2016 Rule 1A-46.001, F.A.C. Florida Master Site File / Div. of Historical Resources / R. A. Gray Bidg / 500 S Bronough St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-3250 Phone 950.345.6440 / Fax 950.345.6430 / E-mail SiteFile@dos.myflorida.com

HISTORICAL STRUCTURE FORM Site #8 PB09380

	DESCRIPTIO	N (continued)	Clear Description Values						
Chimney: No1_ Chimney Material(s): 1. Structural System(s): 1. Masonry - Ge Foundation Type(s): 1. Continuous Foundation Material(s): 1. Concrete Blo	Stucco eneral 2 2	2 3.	Note you may use the last box in each field to tgo in an answer hall does not appear in the list provided						
Main Entrance (stylistic details)									
off center main entry with geom	metric panels under	rounded roof							
Porch Descriptions (types, locations, roof types, etc.)									
stucco knee wall, rounded colum			facade						
Condition (overall resource condition): excellent Narrative Description of Resource	⊠good □fair □detr	eriorated ruinous							
This 1940 Ranch building is in	good condition.								
Archaeological Remains			Check if Archaeological Form Completed						
RE	SEARCH METHO	DS (select all that apply)							
☑FMSF record search (sites/surveys) □FL State Archives/photo collection ☑property appraiser / tax records ☑cultural resource survey (CRAS) ☑other methods (desorbe) <u>Town</u> Staff Bibliographic References (give FMSF memusoript#	□library research □city directory ☑newspaper files □historic photos	□ building permits □occupant/owner interview □neighbor interview □interior inspection	⊠Sanborn maps ⊠plat maps □Public Lands Survey (DEP) □HABS/HAER record search						
OPINION OF RESOURCE SIGNIFICANCE Appears to meet the criteria for National Register listing individually? yes no									
This building may meet criteria for individual listing, but more research regarding any alterations would be needed to determine individual eligibility. It meets district criteria based on its architectural features and association within the Town of Pal									
Area(s) of Historical Significance (see National A) 1. Community planning & developm	ngister Bulletin 15, p. 8 for categori 3	5	immunity planning & development*, etc.)						
2. Architecture	. 4	6							
	DOCUMEN		Clear Documentation Values						
Accessible Documentation Not Filed with the S	5ite File - including field notes, or Mr	nalysis notes, photos, plans and other impo- sintaining organization	ritant documents						
Document description	FI	File or accession #'s							
	2)								
Document description	_	File or accession #'s							
Recorder Name Patricia Davenport- Recorder Contact Information 7220 Finan (address/phone/fex/e-mell)		Affiliation Environmental Services, Inc.	c 56/9044702200/pdavenport@						
Required @ LARGE Attachments @ PHOTO When su	E SCALE STREET, PLA O OF MAIN FACADE, I ubmitting an image, it must be	CTURE LOCATION CLEARL AT OR PARCEL MAP (melable) DIGITAL IMAGE FILE the included in digital AND hard copy at 1900 pixels 24 bit color incomes	e from most property appraiser web sites) y fOFMat (plain paper grayocale acceptable).						