

# **345 Polmer Park Road**



## **DESIGNATION REPORT**

**March 16, 2022**

**Landmark Preservation Commission**

**Palm Beach, Florida**

# **DESIGNATION REPORT**

## **345 Polmer Park Road**

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Report produced by Murphy Stillings, LLC

## **I. General Information**

Location: 345 Polmer Park Road  
Palm Beach, Florida

Date of Construction: 1961 -1962

First Owner: Mr. & Mrs. Howell Tyson Lykes, III

Architect of Dwelling: William "Ames" Bennett

Builder of Dwelling: Robert W. Gottfried, Inc.

Architect of Pool Pavilion: John L. Volk

Date of Pool Pavilion: 1966 (Date of Drawings and Permit)

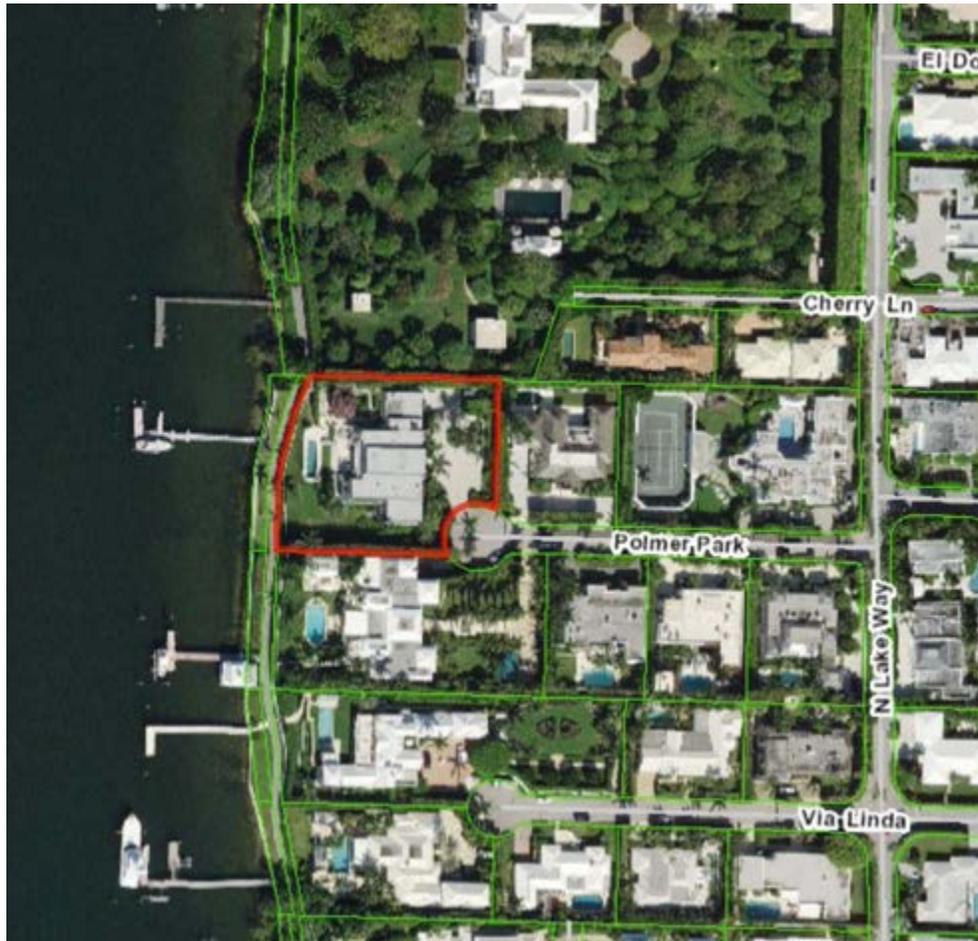
Current Owner: Donna Jo Acquavella

Present Use: Residence and Pool Pavilion

PBC Tax Folio Number: 50-43-43-10-23-000-0041

Current Legal Description: Polmer Park West 55 Feet of Lot 4 & Lots 5 & 5A

## II. Location Map



### III. Architectural Information

Palm Beach architect William “Ames” Bennett designed 345 Polmer Park Road for Mr. & Mrs. Howell Tyson Lykes, III in 1961 in the French-based Mansard style of architecture. The builder was Robert Gottfried, Inc., a very prolific Palm Beach building company that often worked with Ames Bennett. Robert Gottfried and his wife were also developers of the Polmer Park subdivision.<sup>1</sup> The dwelling sits on the west side of Polmer Park Road on a high ridge overlooking Lake Worth in Palm Beach’s north end Polmer Park subdivision. The house is approached from a cul-de-sac on the south through an elegant metal driveway gate and a large motor court in front.



Named after its distinctive roofline, the Mansard style is a re-interpretation of the Second Empire style, which was popular a century earlier from approximately 1855-1885. Second Empire architecture grew from the redevelopment of Paris under Napoleon III’s Second French Empire and looked to French Renaissance precedents often characterized by the mansard roof. The mansard roof is a dual pitched hipped roof with dormer windows on the steep lower slope. The newer Mansard style in the

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<sup>1</sup> Palm Beach Building Permit #67561 dated November 6, 1961.

United States emerged from the French Eclectic style of the 1930s and 1940s, with some examples having a distinct French flavor with flared eaves as well as segmented/round topped doors and windows. The style was a more formal style than the Ranch and Contemporary styles being built during the same eras. In the post-World War II era many United States subdivisions utilized deed restrictions and zoning ordinances that dictated one-story structures and/or low roof heights. The Mansard style could follow many of these regulations while still providing for a two-story house.<sup>2</sup> Architect John Elgin Woolf helped popularize the style with his Los Angeles area houses for numerous Hollywood movie stars, with the houses often referred to as “Hollywood Regency.” In Palm Beach, the Mansard style is closely related to the Regency style which was made popular by Clarence Mack and later Robert Gottfried, the builder and developer of this property.

Mansard style buildings of the 1950s - 1970s are typically two stories in height with the second story hidden by the steeply sloped mansard roof that extends down to the top of the first floor. Often the roof is punctuated by dormers or inset balconies. The dormers come in a variety of shapes and sizes, many of which have a segmental or arched roof. Behind the mansard, is a flat or nearly flat roof. Paired front doors are common as are quoins used at the corners of the house or side wings. Window features may extend to ground level or have an ornamental wood panel below the glazed window. In Palm Beach, the Mansard style is represented in single-family residences as well as in multi-family apartments and condominiums.<sup>3</sup>

Architect Ames Bennett’s design of 345 Polmer Park Road exhibits many elements of the Mansard style as well as some French eclectic features. The dwelling is an elongated structure with a tall central block with rooflines that taper down as the house spreads north and south. All of the roof surfaces are covered with character defining dark slate tile. The central block is three bays wide with a very prominent exterior chimney located in the center, which is a characteristic feature of the French Eclectic style. The stucco covered chimney has a decorative band and is topped with a triangular chimney cap.<sup>4</sup> The chimney is flanked by large double-hung windows with panels below, shutters on the side and topped with lintels and keystones. Above this is the mansard roof with flared eaves and arch-topped double-hung sash dormer windows. The bay to the north features the main entry with double metal and glass doors recessed within an entry porch. This porch features Ionic columns and pilasters and a formal entablature over the doors. Over the entry is a mansard roof containing

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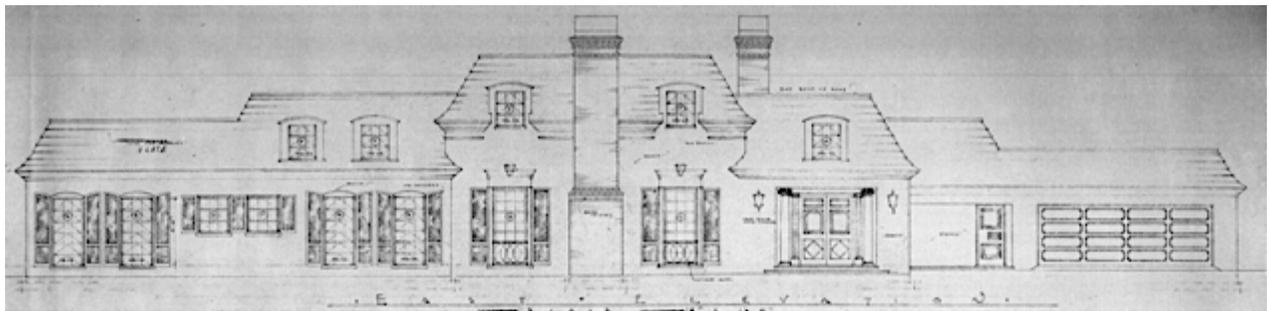
<sup>2</sup> This was also the case with the Second Empire houses in France allowing an extra story that was not taxed because of wording of the tax code.

<sup>3</sup> There are six multi-family Mansard style buildings on the north end of Ibis Isle.

<sup>4</sup> The original drawings show a second tall chimney, but it does not appear to have been constructed.

an arched dormer window. Adjoining to the north and recessed back is a one bay section with an entrance door which is then attached to the lower two car garage, both topped with mansard roofs.

South of the main block is a section that projects slightly east. This section features two sets of full-height double-hung sash windows with a pair of small double-hung sash windows with shutters in between. Atop this section is a stepped down mansard roof with two arched double-hung sash windows in the arched dormers and another lower mansard roof at the south end. All of these architectural features combine to create an elegant and stately French-influenced lakeside dwelling.



East Elevation by Ames Bennett

In 1966, Mrs. H. Tyson Lykes commissioned John L. Volk to design a Chinois pool pavilion for her lakefront lot.<sup>5</sup> The striking pavilion is situated on the northwest section of the property overlooking the lake trail and Lake Worth to the west and the home's original classic swimming pool to the south.<sup>6</sup> In the book John L. Volk: Palm Beach Architect, the project is described in the chapter on Volk's 1960s designs.<sup>7</sup> In John H. Volk's words:

*"Mrs. H. Tyson Lykes commissioned me to design a pool pavilion to complement her French style residence on her property overlooking the lake in the north end of Palm Beach.*

*Mrs. H. Tyson Lykes, of the Lykes Steamship Company family of New Orleans, built a French style residence, together with a swimming pool, on a high promontory along Lake Worth. It is located in the northern section of Palm Beach. A pool pavilion with dressing rooms was lacking. She requested I design a building to provide this need.*

<sup>5</sup> John Volk Commission # 1794.

<sup>6</sup> John Volk designed the Pavilion Chinois in May of 1966. The drawing is on the Town of Palm Beach microfiche for 345 Palmer Park Road. It can be seen in the photograph "Pool Chez Holder" by Slim Aarons from May 1970.

<sup>7</sup> Although the 1966 Volk drawings of the Pavilion Chinois have it listed as a commission by Mrs. H Tyson Lykes, the book lists it as the Albin Holder Pavilion, Mrs. Lykes future husband. The couple married in 1968.

*The usual concept would be a French pavilion. However, I prevailed upon her to allow me to design a Chinese Pavilion. Many of the French estates have Oriental styled garden pavilions. Mrs. Lykes agreed with enthusiasm at my suggestion. She named it the “Poppy Pavilion.”*

*The pillars and sinuous convolutions of the roof’s edge are lacquered Chinese red. The three walls are bronze sliding glass doors, which imparts an airiness and provides views of the pool, lake, and oriental gardens. The roof is in the shape of an introverted tulip of solid lead. The interior floor is inlaid designs of marble, which echoes the design of the ceiling, also lacquered red with the ovoid curved recess in 23-karat gold leaf.*

*Mrs. Lykes wanted the pavilion to be functional as well as beautiful. It also contains a very compact kitchen and lovely powder and dressing rooms.*

*Mr. Albin Holder married Mrs. Lykes and undertook the interior furnishings. Mr. Holder had lived in the Orient, both in Hong Kong and Tokyo. During and after World War II, he aided and advised the economic revitalization of the Japanese economy. He became highly knowledgeable and appreciative of the subtleties of Oriental art and architecture.*

*Every object within the pavilion has a story; many have a personal significance. One wall is covered with an Oriental story on paper, painstakingly removed from an ancient screen. The chairs, tables, lamps and appointments required painstaking research with the assistance of Prince Kabayama, who was deputized by the Emperor to aid the Holders in their art search.*

*The completed pavilion was featured in the March 1986 issue of Town and Country, and aptly titled an “Oriental Surprise” in the September-October 1971 issue of Palm Beach Life.”<sup>8</sup>*

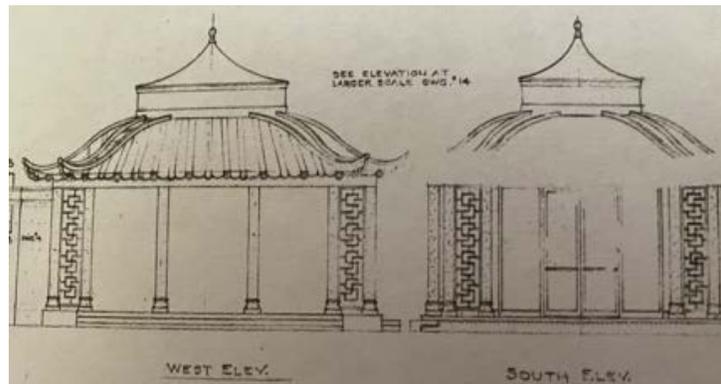
In the September/October 1971 issue of Palm Beach Life, Albin Holder discusses his architectural views and description of the Oriental pool pavilion:

*“While my really serious dedication is to the Empire and Directoire period, I’ve been mixing Oriental touches with the French for years. Empire and Directoire are very strong in form and rhythm; the delicacy of the Oriental complements that. So the*

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<sup>8</sup> John L. Volk: Palm Beach Architect. Palm Beach: John L. Volk Foundation, Inc., 2001. Volk also designed a Oriental style Statue Pavilion for the property in 1967 but it is not known if it was ever constructed or if it exists on the property.

*pavilion really isn't such a far-out idea. But moving from idea to reality too stamina, patience and time. It took longer to build than the whole house – a good three years.*"<sup>9</sup>



Pool Pavilion Elevations by John Volk

No wonder, as the pavilion's components, other than structural steel and plumbing, include Italian marble, teak, ebony, gold, gold leaf, silver, ivory, and lead. Overall, it is 70 feet long, 27 feet wide and 30 feet high.<sup>10</sup>

The Oriental pool pavilion was featured in an article in the March 1986 issue of Town & Country magazine. In that article, Margo Lykes Holder is quoted, "*It was our fantasy to build a Chinese pagoda beside a formal French house. I call it my folly.*" And what an impressive folly it is.



Photograph from Volk archives  
Courtesy of the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach

<sup>9</sup> It also took money: the pavilion was judged, with its furnishings, to have cost over a million dollars.

<sup>10</sup> Palm Beach Life. September-October 1971.

With regards to the property at 345 Polmer Park Road, Palm Beach building permits do not reveal any significant exterior additions or alterations to the Mansard-style dwelling or the Oriental pool pavilion and thereby, the property at 345 Polmer Park Road retains its historic architectural integrity.

#### **IV. Historical Information**

345 Polmer Park Road was built in 1961 in a former Palm Beach fruit grove. Palm Beach Pioneer C.C. Haight was the original owner of the property and in c.1890 he planted groves of orange, tangerine, and grapefruit trees on the land. In 1915, Haight sold the five-and-a-half-acre site to Mrs. Frederick E. Guest, the former Amy Phipps, which she added to her and Frederick's ocean-front estate to make it an ocean to lake estate.<sup>11</sup> On the ocean, the Guest's owned Villa Artemis, an early mansion they commissioned renowned architect Beryl Hoffman to design in 1916, and on the lake they had a large Victorian style house that often was used to accommodate guests and family members.<sup>12</sup> Mrs. Guest's husband, Frederick Edward Guest, was a highly ranked British politician and a member of the British aristocracy. Both the Guest and Phipps families made their fortunes in the iron and steel industries. Amy Phipps Guest was prominent as a women's suffragist, philanthropist, and aviation enthusiast. During World War II, Mrs. Guest offered free use of her Villa Artemis estate to the Navy for use as a convalescent house, at which time she moved to her Victorian style house on the lake.<sup>13</sup>

Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Gottfried and Mr. and Mrs. William H. Burke purchased the former Guest lakefront property and together they planned to develop it as a subdivision with contemporary villas. Robert Gottfried and William Burke gave their wives Merita Gottfried and Polley Burke a large role in developing the subdivision. Merita Gottfried had been associated with her husband in Palm Beach's building business for many years and came from a long line of builders in Alabama. Frances "Polley" Burke was founder and owner of Polley's Inc., one of the country's most highly regarded women's boutique shops.<sup>14</sup> Polmer Park was named after the two women by their husbands who in contraction of the first three letters of their names "Polley" and "Merita" arrived at the title "Polmer."

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<sup>11</sup> "Old Palm Beach Fruit Grove to Become Residential Park." *Palm Beach Post*, April 2, 1961.

<sup>12</sup> The demolished house was a frame dwelling located at what is today 340 Polmer Park Road adjacent to 345 Polmer Park Road.

<sup>13</sup> Mr. Frederick Guest had passed away in April of 1937 prior to World War II.

<sup>14</sup> There were three locations on Michigan Avenue in Chicago.

The Polmer Park residential subdivision was created in 1961 and the houses originally had North Lake Way addresses. Robert Gottfried was the builder of all seven houses constructed in Polmer Park, five for clients and two on speculation. Three of the dwellings, 320, 331 and 345 Polmer Park Road were designed by Ames Bennett while the other four, 300, 301, 310, and 340 were designed by Henry Harding. They are all in the Palm Beach Regency or Mansard styles and were constructed between 1961 and 1969.<sup>15</sup>

The year 1961 was an early year of Palm Beach's Contemporary Period (1960-1979).<sup>16</sup> Interstate 95 was constructed between 1960 -1973 and migration from the north counted for much of Palm Beach's growth. During this time, Palm Beach began to lose grand landmark estates, including Mizner-designed La Fontana, Playa Riente and a few years earlier El Mirasol. Though the Guest's did not sell off their entire property, they did sell off the west five-and-a-half acres of the lakefront property. And, while the subdivisions created from the grand estates had smaller houses than the Boom Time era mansions, 345 Polmer Park Road is a stately architect-designed house on a lakefront property commissioned by owners who had the means to pay for such a distinguished dwelling.

The first owners, who commissioned Ames Bennett to design the house, were Mr. and Mrs. H. Tyson Lykes, III (Margaret "Margo"). Mr. Lykes was a member of the family which held vast steamship, citrus, cattle, and meat packing businesses. He was a graduate of MIT and was a large stockholder of Lykes Brothers Steamship Company and a member of the board of directors of Lykes Brothers, Inc. He was an ardent deep-sea fisherman and was a founding member and large donor to the International Oceanographic Foundation. The Lykes belonged to many of Palm Beach's prestigious clubs and Mrs. Lykes was prominent in many of the Town's charity organizations. While their house was being constructed in Polmer Park, the Lykes lived close by on North Lake Way and stopped by often to see the progress. A November 1961 Palm Beach Post article made note of this:

*"Mr. and Mrs. H. Tyson Lykes and their Dachshund, "Gretchen" are daily on scene observing brick by brick being placed in the foundation for a new house they are building in Polmer Park. Just to make things more interesting, the builders of this project who are personal friends of the Lykes, provided the couple with "directors' chairs" such as one sees around movie lots in Hollywood. The Lykes use them when*

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<sup>15</sup> Unfortunately, the Guest's lakefront house was demolished to make way for the subdivision. Palm Beach Post, April 2, 1961, Page 32. Mrs. Gottfried stated that Mrs. Frederick Guest's house was a wonderful house, but it will have to go for it is a mere shell and there is no way to preserve it.

<sup>16</sup> Town of Palm Beach Historic Site Survey. Environmental Services, Inc. 2020. Pages 33-35.

*they stop daily to observe progress in construction of their home. Mrs. Lykes' is labeled "director," her husband's denotes "producer," and he, to complete the picture frequently turns up in riding britches, boots and a big, important looking hat."*<sup>17</sup>

Just a few years after being completed, the Lykes estate was featured on the 1964 Annual Palm Beach Home and Garden Tour. Mr. H. Tyson Lykes, III unfortunately passed away in 1964 shortly thereafter from health complications. In 1968, Margo Lykes married well-known Palm Beacher Albin O. Holder and they lived at her house at 345 Polmer Park Road. Holder was a very successful businessman, avid sportsman, patron of the arts and philanthropist. In Palm Beach, he was president and chairman of the board of governors of the Poinciana Club which he helped to found.<sup>18</sup> For many years he served as chairman of the Palm Beach Golf Classic of the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Club which raised funds for the American Cancer Society. Margo Lykes Holder was the longtime chairwoman of Animal Rescue League's Christmas Ball, the Heart and Hospital balls as well as raising funds for the Dreher Park Zoo. Margo Holder lived at 345 Polmer Park Road for twenty-eight years until she passed away in November 1989. The house was sold in 1990 and has had several owners before being purchased by the current owner Donna Jo Acquavella in 2000. Mrs. Acquavella is associated with the Acquavella art galleries in New York and Palm Beach, and she has been an excellent steward of the house and picturesque property including the Chinois pool pavilion.

## **V. Architects and Builder's Biographies**

### **William Ames Bennett**

William "Ames" Bennett was born in Tallahassee, Florida on February 14, 1921. His family moved to Fort Pierce in 1923, where his father established the first Ford automobile agency there. Ames attended public schools in Fort Pierce, graduating from the then-Fort Pierce High School on Delaware Avenue in 1939. He attended Marion Military Institute in Alabama on a music scholarship for two years. He was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, where he was a member of the class of 1945. As the Academy curriculum was accelerated because of World War II, Mr. Bennett was assigned to the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Memphis Tennessee in 1944, to teach aviation communications. In 1945, he was accepted for pilot training, and was completing Primary Flight training when the War was

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<sup>17</sup> Palm Beach Post, November 19, 1961. Page 20.

<sup>18</sup> The Poinciana Club was in the Royal Poinciana Playhouse building.

terminated in October 1945. He opted for separation from active duty, and transferred to the Naval Reserve and the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps. He attended the University of Florida on the G.I. Bill scholarship program and received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from there in 1950.

Ames Bennett returned to his wife's hometown, West Palm Beach, and worked as a draftsman-designer for several surviving architects from the pre-war Treanor & Fatio organization for his internship. He applied for Florida licensure as an architect from Paul E. Kohler's office at 335 Worth Avenue in Palm Beach and was granted registration license #AR00001912. He opened his own office at 361 South County Road and spent the remainder of his career designing a wide variety of buildings in Palm Beach and in other Florida communities. Although he never had the opportunity to associate directly with colleague Clarence Mack, in 1959 he picked up on the appeal of Mr. Mack's "Regency" motif in residential architecture as being elegant and popular, and as being economical to build in Palm Beach. Over the next 40 years, Ames was commissioned to design numerous Regency style houses in Palm Beach. After designing several public schools around Palm Beach County, he became a partner in the joint-venture professional team that designed the master plan and original buildings of Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. He was also a partner in the joint-venture design team that designed the 1965 Palm Beach International Airport terminal complex. Ames' grasp of geriatric health care expertise, design problems and state regulations, lead him to be commissioned to design State sanctioned nursing homes in Key West, Tavernier, Lake Worth and Okeechobee.

Mr. Bennett was married to Bettye Myers of West Palm Beach. They had seven children and thirteen grandchildren. Mr. Bennett was active in the Palm Beach Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and was designated a Member Emeritus in the late 1980s. An ardent Episcopalian, he served as chief usher at Holy Trinity Church in West Palm Beach for many years. He was a president of the Palm Beach Rotary Club and served as chairman of the Town of Palm Beach's Board of Appeals, continuously since its formation in the 1960s. A prolific draftsman and designer, his architectural office was relatively small, often reduced to only a single assistant and himself. He steadfastly refused to convert his drafting production to Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) assistance, believing that a human designer's trained eye could not be surpassed by a machine.

### **John L. Volk**

John Volk has been called the last of the "original" Palm Beach architects. He was one of an elite group of early 1920s architects that included Addison Mizner, Maurice

Fatio, and Marion Sims Wyeth who developed the architectural style of the island that came to be known as the "Palm Beach Style".

Volk was born in Graz, Austria in 1901. He came to the United States with his parents at the age of nine and grew up in New York. He attended Columbia University School of Architecture and L'Ecole des Beaux Arts. Volk opened his office in Palm Beach in 1925. Volk designed more than 1000 houses, theaters, clubs, shops, and other buildings and lived in Palm Beach from 1925 to his death in 1984. He designed houses for some of the wealthiest and most powerful people in America over his 58-year career in Palm Beach including Colonel Robert McCormack, William Paley, George Vanderbilt, Nicholas DuPont, Henry Ford II, Herbert Pulitzer, Matthew Mellon, George Storer, Horace Dodge II, and John S. Phipps. Included in the designs of John Volk are some of the most prominent commercial and private club buildings in the Palm Beach area including the First National Bank, the Royal Poinciana Plaza and Playhouse, the center section of the Town Hall, the Beach Club, Good Samaritan Hospital, and several shops on Worth Avenue including the Everglades Colonnade. He also extensively modified and rebuilt the Bath and Tennis Club after a major hurricane.

Numerous other buildings are the result of Mr. Volk's labor, and it must be noted that no particular style can be exclusively associated with Mr. Volk. Unlike other talented architects who developed or refined specific styles, John Volk understood and perfected many varying architectural styles from Mediterranean Revival to Contemporary designs.

## **Builder's Biography**

### **Robert W. Gottfried**

Robert W. Gottfried was American home builder, developer and real estate entrepreneur who was best known for his Regency style residences. He created more than 500 luxury houses, with about 400 located in Palm Beach.

The son of Florence and William Gottfried, Robert was born in Queens, New York. His father operated a residential construction business creating homes and vacation cottages on Long Island. In 1954, at the age of 28, Gottfried moved to Palm Beach to work with an uncle. The first house he built was in the 200 block of Wells Road for his client Chicago industrialist Rudolph W. Glasner. Glasner and Gottfried formed a partnership and purchased an entire block on the island's North End. Their \$90,000 investment led to the creation of 16 houses on what would become El Dorado

Lane. Gottfried had already opened a design center in West Palm Beach and branched out adding a marble factory, mirror factory and a company to produce specialty moldings. Aiming to expand further, he formed a development company, and Robert W. Gottfried, Inc. was incorporated in 1955.

Heeding architect Clarence Mack's observation about the advantages of having a specialty, Gottfried recalled the elegant lines of buildings he had seen in Paris, and thus chose Regency to dress up the vernacular of architecture in Palm Beach. Gottfried intuited the market correctly, as "Gottfried Regency" became a recognized brand with buyers drawn to high ceilings and clean classical lines. He incorporated desirable extras in his houses including the library, gallery, butler pantry, silver closet, and built-in media and security systems. Several streets in Palm Beach are synonymous with his Regency interpretations, as he built several streets of "French Gottfried" – Casa Bendita, Chapel Hill, Chateau Drive, El Dorado Lane, El Mirasol, Polmer Park Road, and Via Los Incas.

In 1970, Gottfried married Martha Heines, and in 1974 the couple launched a real estate brokerage, Martha A. Gottfried, Inc., with transactions reaching the \$100 million mark by the mid-1980s and a flagship office on Worth Avenue. Gottfried built houses on speculation as well as for clients, and he served clients interested in the Regency style as well other styles including Georgian, Tuscan and Modern. In 1984, he acquired a lakefront parcel and built a mansion for himself and Martha at 748 Hi-Mount Road, with custom features found nowhere else on the island. Martha passed away in 1991, and after Gottfried's death in 2007, Martha Gottfried, Inc. was acquired by New York-based brokerage Douglas Elliman.

Robert Gottfried's legacy extends beyond the houses he built across Palm Beach. His innovative bent spilled over to related fields including landscaping and construction materials. His companies controlled almost every aspect of the house's construction, having established Palm Beach Marble & Tile, Classic Moulders, Imports Unlimited, Classic Polyroof Company, and the PaverLock Driveway Company. Gottfried was a supporter of local children's charities and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

## **VI. Statement of Significance**

345 Polmer Park Road is significant as a stately French influenced Mansard style house designed by leading architect William "Ames" Bennett and developed and constructed by Robert W. Gottfried, Inc. a prolific building company whose principal Robert W. Gottfried was also a primary developer of the Polmer Park Subdivision. The originality of its architectural design adds to the significance of the dwelling. In

addition, Volk's Chinois pool pavilion is a significant and captivating addition to the lakefront property.

## **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.”**

345 Polmer Park Road reflects the broad cultural, economic, and social history of the Town of Palm Beach. This dwelling was constructed in 1961-1962 during the Island's Contemporary Period when the population of Palm Beach was growing, and a number of subdivisions were created from former large estates. The Polmer Park Subdivision was created from the lakefront acres of the Guest's ocean to lake estate and the Lykes were fortunate to buy one of the premier lakefront lots and had the means to build a substantial and high-quality dwelling in the premier location. In addition, the Lykes and Holders philanthropic endeavors played significant roles in a number of Palm Beach's charitable organizations.

**(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.”**

345 Polmer Park Road is a very good example of the French inspired Mansard style of architecture that was popular in the United States from the 1950s through the 1970s. Named after its distinctive roofline, the Mansard style is a re-interpretation of the Second Empire style developed in Paris and was popular a century earlier from approximately 1855-1885. The mansard roof is a dual pitched hipped roof with dormer windows on the steep lower slope. The newer Mansard style emerged from the French Eclectic style of the 1930s and 1940s, with some examples such as this dwelling having a distinct French flavor with flared eaves as well as segmented/round topped doors and windows. The dwellings slate covered mansard roofs, arched dormer windows, full height divided light windows, double front doors, quoins, and classic lintels and entablatures are all distinguishing features of the Mansard style. The John L. Volk designed Chinois pool pavilion is a unique and historically and architecturally important folly still existing on the lakefront lot.

- (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 345 Polmer Park Road is a very good representation of the design work of architect William “Ames” Bennett. Ames Bennett designed hundreds of houses during a career that spanned six decades. Although he designed houses in a range of styles, he did some of his best work with builder and developer Robert Gottfried, designing residences with classically inspired architecture and formal, balanced layouts, like the dwelling at 345 Polmer Park Road. Bennett also designed two other houses for Gottfried in the Polmer Park subdivision.

The residence at 345 Polmer Park Road is also a very good example of the construction work by Robert Gottfried, Inc. a leading design and building company that was known to build high-end residences in Palm Beach. The construction of this dwelling appears to be of very high quality and the lack of significant documented additions, alterations or repairs speaks to the quality of its original design and construction.

The Chinois pool pavilion at 345 Polmer Park Road is a very good representation of the design work of architect John L. Volk. John Volk has been recognized as one of most important architects to practice in Palm Beach and was known to be able to design in a large variety of styles, including the Chinoiserie.

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# 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# **PB19052**  
Field Date 11-25-2019  
Form Date 8-20-2020  
Recorder # MAD

Site Name(s) (address if none) 345 Polmer Park 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-non-specific  city  county  state  federal  Native American  foreign  unknown

### LOCATION & MAPPING

Clear Location Values

Address: Street Number 345 Direction \_\_\_\_\_ Street Name Polmer Park Street Type \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix Direction \_\_\_\_\_  
Cross Streets (nearest / between) \_\_\_\_\_  
USGS 7.5 Map Name PALM BEACH USGS Date 1986 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 10 1/4 section:  NW  SW  SE  NE Irregular-name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tax Parcel # 50434310230000041 Landgrant \_\_\_\_\_  
Subdivision Name DOLMER PARK IN Block 000 Lot 0041  
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: 1961  approximately  year listed or earlier  year listed or later  
Original Use Private Residence (House/Cottage/Ca From (year): 1961 To (year): 2020  
Current Use Private Residence (House/Cottage/Ca From (year): 1961 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 possible elevation addns  
Architect (last name first): \_\_\_\_\_ Builder (last name first): \_\_\_\_\_  
Ownership History (especially original owner, dates, profession, etc.)  
ACQUAVELLA DONNA JO

Is the Resource Affected by a Local Preservation Ordinance?  yes  no  unknown Describe \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIPTION

Clear Description Values

Style Second Empire Exterior Plan Irregular Number of Stories 3  
Exterior Fabric(s) 1. Stucco 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Roof Type(s) 1. Mansard 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Roof Material(s) 1. Slate shingles 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Roof secondary STRUC. (domers etc.) 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
WINDOWS (types, materials, etc.)  
multi light fixed & casement, 6/6 replacement wash, operable louvered shutters  
Distinguishing Architectural Features (exterior or interior ornaments)  
mansard roof w flared skirt at different heights, large front chimney  
Ancillary Features / Outbuildings (record outbuildings, major landscape features; use continuation sheet if needed.)  
large lot, privacy hedge, gate w urns, vegetation

DHR USE ONLY	OFFICIAL EVALUATION	DHR USE ONLY
NR List Date _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Owner Objection	SHPO - Appears to meet criteria for NR listing: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> insufficient info Date _____ Init _____ KEEPER - Determined eligible: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <a href="#">clear check boxes</a> Date _____ NR Criteria for Evaluation: <input type="checkbox"/> a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/> c <input type="checkbox"/> d (see National Register Bulletin 15, p. 2)	

## DESCRIPTION (continued)

Clear Description Values

Chimney: No. 1 Chimney Material(s): 1. Masonry 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Structural System(s): 1. Masonry - General 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Foundation Type(s): 1. Unknown 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Foundation Material(s): 1. Obscured 2. \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Main Entrance (stylistic details)

off center recessed entry under main roof

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

off center recessed broad entry under main roof, rounded columns

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

## Narrative Description of Resource

This 1961 Mansard style building is in good condition.

## Archaeological Remains

 Check if Archaeological 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 information

Appears 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 meets district criteria based on its architectural 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 &amp; development', etc.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 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.