

TOWN OF PALM BEACH



**Historically Significant Building Designation
255 El Pueblo Way
January 2022**

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| Historic Conservation District: | North Beach Conservation District |
| Address: | 255 El Pueblo Way, Palm Beach, Florida |
| Date of Construction: | 1939 |
| Original Owners: | Edward Ehinger |
| Current Owner: | 255 El Pueblo LLC |
| Architect: | Belford Shoumate |
| Present Use: | Residential |
| Present Zoning: | RB |
| Palm Beach County Tax Folio Number: | 50-43-43-02-01-000-0190 |
| Current Legal Description: | El Encanto Lot 19 |

Town of Palm Beach Historic Conservation District Ordinance No. 02-2020 outlines the criteria for designation of a historically significant building and states that the building must be at least 50 years old and meet at least one criterion of the Historic Conservation District Ordinance to justify the designation.

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

The house at 255 El Pueblo Way was designed by Belford Shoumate in 1939 during the late Depression and New Deal era. Prior to this time, little in the far North End of Palm Beach was developed, however, in the late 1930s, the Palm Beach Company built and extended roads into the area, leading to gradual development both on the waterfront and inland. By 1939, building in Palm Beach had significantly picked up including construction in the El Encanto subdivision where 255 El Pueblo Way is located. The first owner of the house and builder of record, Edward Ehinger, was the longtime Town of Palm Beach Building Inspector and held this position at the time the dwelling was constructed.¹

(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.”

Noted Palm Beach architect Belford Shoumate designed 255 El Pueblo Way in the British Colonial style of architecture. A subtype of the Colonial Revival style, British Colonial structures represent a modification of British architecture to the warmer climates of Bermuda and India. In Palm Beach, the style was introduced in the winter of 1933-1934 as “Tropical Colonial” and popularized by John Volk and Howard Major, though Belford Shoumate is also recognized for designing in this style. British Colonial features found on the dwelling at 255 El Pueblo Way include multiple hip and gable roofs covered in concrete tile, wide overhanging eaves, a prominent chimney, shutters flanking the windows, and dentil detailing separating the first and second stories.

¹ Edward Ehinger was the Town of Palm Beach Building Inspector for approximately twenty years from ca. 1930 to ca. 1950. After his retirement in the 1950s, his son, Edward Ehinger, Jr., took over and also became a longtime Palm Beach Building Inspector.