

Historically Significant Building Designation Form

10 Tarpon Island



Historic Conservation District:	Estate Conservation District
Address:	10 Tarpon Island, Palm Beach, Florida
Date of Construction:	1939
Original Owner:	Steuart Davis
Current Owner:	William Toll
Architect:	Howard Major
Builder:	Charles J. Trevail
Present Use:	Residential
Present Zoning:	RA – Estate Residential
Palm Beach County Tax Folio Number:	50-43-43-27-05-000-0380
Current Legal Description:	El Bravo Park Lot 38 & Land Surrounding Same IN DB587P481 & DB772PGS28, 32 & 51

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 to justify the designation. Listed below are criteria that relate to this property and the justification for designation:

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

10 Tarpon Island is a unique property that reflects the cultural, economic and social history of the Town of Palm Beach. The house was constructed in 1939 during the post-Depression era prior to the start of WWII. Tarpon Island, originally known as Clement Island, was a small natural island that the Palm Beach Company filled in, bulkheaded and landscaped creating an approximately 2 ½ acre island. This development was part of the Everglades Island development that began in 1937 when Island Road Development Company created a bulkhead around the island (formerly Lone

Cabbage Island) filled it in to create house lots and designated the east-west road along the golf course Island Road and the north-south road along the lake Island Drive. Clement Island was accessed by a road leading south off of Island Road. Steuart Davis purchased the Clement Island property from the Palm Beach Company in 1939, had a picturesque bridge built connecting his island to the mainland and hired esteemed architect Howard Major to design a British West Indies style house for the extensive property. The Davis's house was just the second house built in the Everglades Island development. By 1942 Clement Island had been renamed Tarpon Island and in 1948 Mr. and Mrs. Wiley R. Reynolds, Jr. purchased the island property which they owned for thirty years. Also in 1948, Wiley R. Reynolds, Jr. was elected to succeed his father as president of the First National Bank in Palm Beach, a very prestigious appointment for such a young man, having started his career in the banking field after graduating from Yale in 1940 though taking off several years while serving in the Air Forces during WWII. The Reynolds hired distinguished architect John Volk to do several additions and alterations to their house for 10 years from 1953-1963. The house had further additions and alterations in 1979 under the ownership of Thomas Dittmer and these revisions along with the original Howard Major design and the John Volk modifications are what is evident in the dwelling's current design. The unique location, development history and prominent ownership of the island and dwelling make this an important property in Palm Beach.