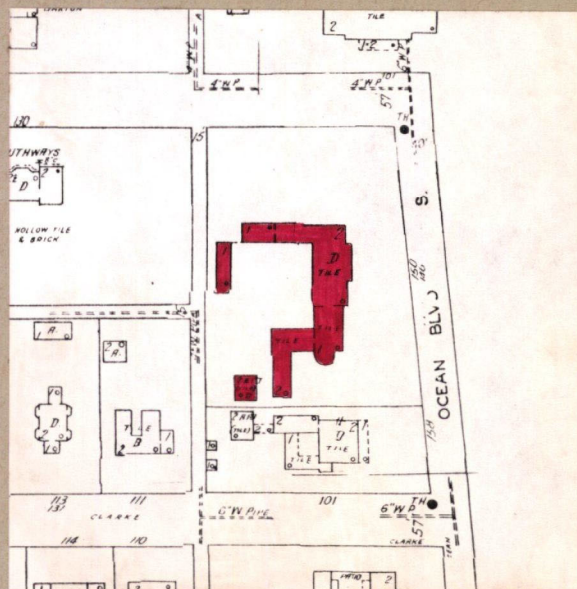
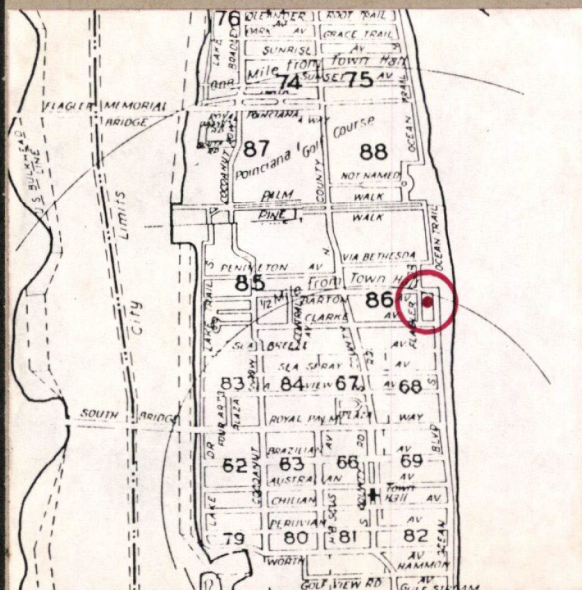
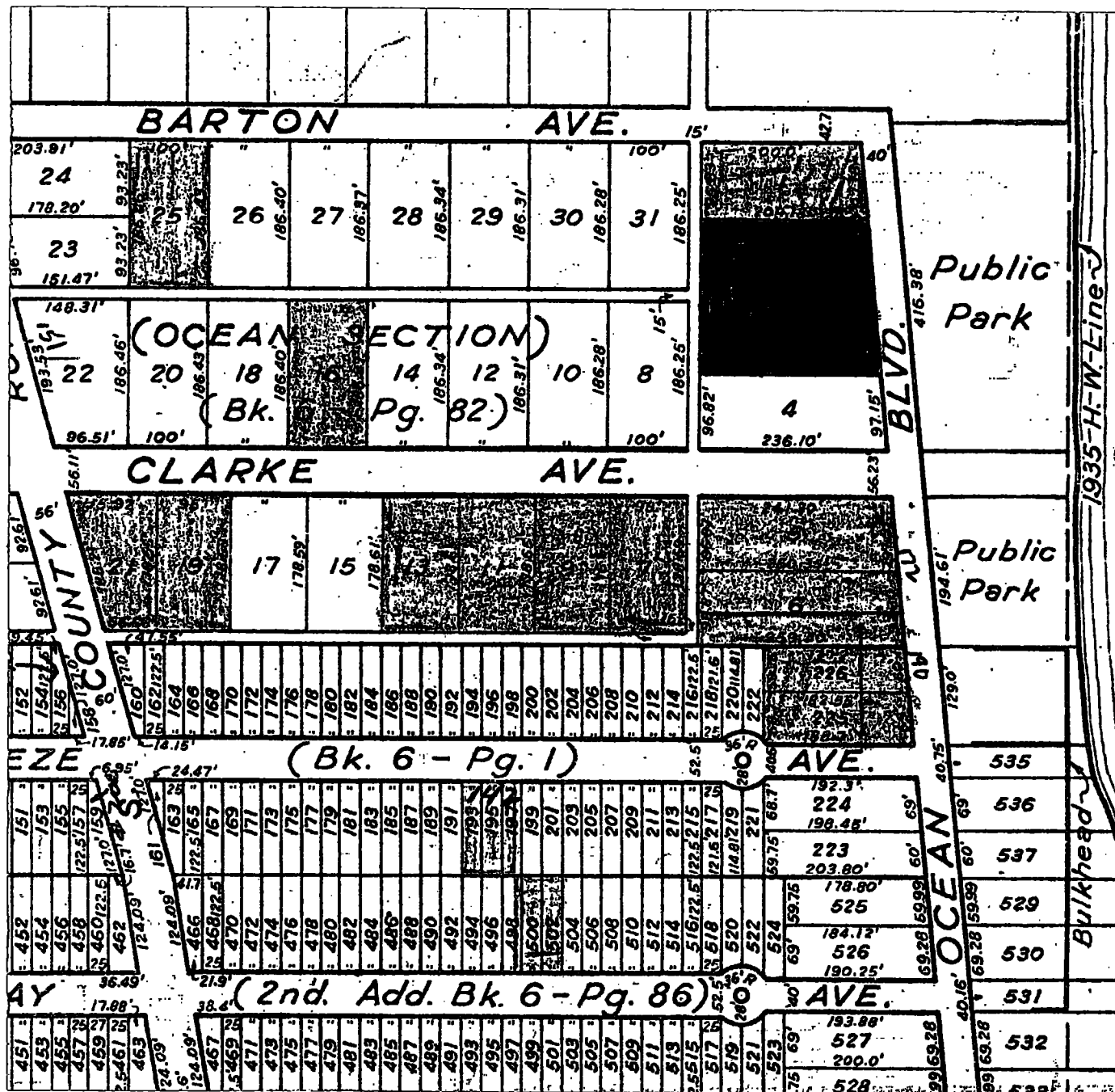




EL SARIMENTO





GENERAL
INFORMATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

NAME OF STRUCTURE

"El Sarimento"

Residence for Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, Esq.

ADDRESS OF STRUCTURE

150 South Ocean Boulevard
Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida
33480

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Primavera Estates, Ocean Section, Lots 2 and 3 (as in Plat
Book 20, p. 24, 23-43-43)

PRESENT OWNER

Orr Felt Company
750 South Main Street
Piqua, Ohio, 45356

ARCHITECT

Addison Mizner

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

1924

FUNCTION

Private Residence

ZONING

R-B Low Density Residential

PREVIOUS SURVEYS

NRHP Inventory 1972

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

150 South Ocean

Architectural Description

This Spanish/Mediterranean style residence built in 1924 and designed by Architect Addison Mizner exemplifies many of the architectural characteristics common to Palm Beach. The rambling plan is somewhat "U" shaped focusing around a courtyard and pool. An attached guest house and detached garage are also located on site. In recent years the property immediately north of the structure was sold and subsequently built upon thus crowding the larger existing structure to a certain degree.

The two story tan stucco with dark brown trim structure has barrel tile hipped roofs with exposed pecky cypress roof rafters and soffit. At the front (east) elevation the entry is accentuated by its forward positioning relative to the general massing of the structure as well with the use of decorative engaged columns, balconies, brackets and figures, all of which add ornament to an otherwise straightforward architectural expression. As the mass of the building steps back ornament is again used to emphasize the central portions at each side, this time as arched glass windows with french doors below that open to a patio area enclosed by a balustrade; a very definite separation between the structure and the landscape on site.

The arched fixed glass windows over french doors is typical at the first level and is repeated at a smaller scale at the second level where the fixed glass arches are over casement windows. This rhythm is broken by the second level over the entry where the casement windows are rectangular, thus emphasizing the entry arch at the main doors below. Here, as in several of Mizner's houses, some of his window locations and scale are carelessly designed, thus detracting somewhat from the overall sophistication of the building. However, in this case, these are serious errors. At the second level, interior spaces are extended by the use of

Architectural Description (cont'd)

balconies with wrought iron railings resting on a series of brackets. At the balconies there is a slight amount of stucco ornamentation in the form of a crest, which is consistent with the ornament at the main entry.

The chimney's of the structure are stucco to match the remainder of the building, but they do not play a prominent part in the massing or composition of the whole. The main chimney does have, however, a barrel tile cap which does give it a certain amount of prominence above the roof level.

The roof forms are clean and simple and are not interrupted by added on or foreign elements.

As was mentioned, the building is straight forward in its architectural statement with its interest being derived from well placed simple ornamentation used as emphasis at key locations in elevation and its fine detailing throughout. An added attraction is the balustrade at the second level terrace which echoes the balustrade below at grade, thus adding another visual unifying element to the whole.

The structure is located on a main street and its principle facade addresses this fact with a circular drive and relatively formal entry. A low wall matching the stucco of the structure is located along the street with a slightly higher hedge behind. The remainder of the setting consists of a well manicured lawn with plantings with a crisp edge where landscape and structure meet.

The exterior fabric of the structure and property is in excellent condition in a neighborhood which is also well kept.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

150 South Ocean Boulevard

Architectural Significance

"El Sarimento", originally the Anthony Drexel-Biddle residence at 150 South Ocean Boulevard, was designed by architect Addison Mizner and constructed in 1924.

The front facade of the structure, facing the ocean, is characterized by a bold volumetric massing punctuated by arched window and door openings. The feeling given is massive and formal. The structure, however, is not a massive rectangle as the front elevation indicates. Rather, the rear elevation wraps itself around a much smaller scaled courtyard with swimming pool, giving the overall structure a "U" shape. Mizner maintained his consistency of design type and developed both monumental and intimate scales and spaces.

The structure is more richly ornamented than the majority of Mizner's work, and the ornament is consistent throughout. There is successful repetition of forms, elements and details, even though many of them are not totally consistent with the "Spanish Style."

The significance of this structure is derived from the obvious quality of both design and construction, from the physical relationship and associations which the structure shares with the fabric of Palm Beach, and from the position the structure holds on the lineal parade of prestigious homes of South Ocean Blvd. This thread of architecturally significant buildings spaces, vistas and views along South Ocean Blvd. should be viewed as a major element of urban design, and each element should be recognized for the role it plays as a part of the whole. "El Sarimento" is an integral part of this whole and thus is significant as an individual architectural statement as well as an element within the town of Palm Beach.

150 South Ocean Boulevard

In contrast to many other major structures in Palm Beach, "El Sarimento" is a show piece, designed to be seen although the clearing and very private court on the west side is clearly for family use. This is one of Palm Beach's great houses.

PHOTOGRAPHY



