

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



56-1736

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Golden Gate Building

other names/site number MT00405

2. Location

street & number 3225 Southeast Dixie Highway not for publication

city or town Stuart vicinity

state Florida code FL county Martin code 085 zip code 34997

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Alissa Sobane, Deputy SHPO 8/25/17
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

10/12/2017
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- buildings
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, total.

Name of related multiple property listings

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: office building
GOVERNMENT: post office
GOVERNMENT: city hall
RELIGION: religious facility
DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS:
Mission Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls OTHER
STUCCO
roof ASPHALT
other TERRA COTTA

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

GOVERNMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1925-1936

Significant Dates

1925

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Robb Construction Company, Builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository

Golden Gate Building
Name of Property

Martin County, FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	5	7	7	3	7	4	3	0	0	5	0	0	4
	Zone		Easting						Northing						
2															

3															
	Zone		Easting						Northing						
4															

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Julie Preast, Research Volunteer; Andrew Waber, Historic Preservationist, Florida Division of Historical Resources

organization The Friends of the Historic Golden Gate Community, Inc. date July 2017

street & number PO Box 734 telephone (772) 287-4711

city or town Port Salerno state FL zip code 34992

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Martin County

street & number 2401 Southeast Monterey Road telephone (772) 288-5456

city or town Stuart state FL zip code 34996

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 Golden Gate Building
Stuart, Martin County, FL

SUMMARY

The Golden Gate Building is a trapezoidal two-story stuccoed masonry building located along Dixie Highway in Stuart, Martin County, Florida. The walls are made of structural clay tile. The building features a flat roof with an elaborate roofline along the main facade. The most prominent feature along the roofline is a Mission Revival parapet topped with three spindles and containing a small bell. There are clay barrel tiled roof extensions with decorative brackets on the main facade roofline corners and within the parapet. The main façade also features a prominent arched main entrance with a double door topped by a fixed 15-light fanlight and flanked by two pilasters with composite order capitals. These pilasters support a second story wrought iron balconet. Fenestration consists primarily of rectangular 4/1 and 4/4 double hung sash windows and fixed 9/1 arched windows. The interior of the building is simple, with two large open spaces in the first and second floor of the historic core. There is a two-story addition attached onto the north elevation of the building, which was constructed for American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations and for public restrooms. The building underwent extensive renovations, especially to the interior, with walls, flooring, and ceilings either refurbished or replaced. The building also underwent some changes associated with modernization, with the emplacement of drop ceilings for air conditioning units and replacement of windows. Despite the changes, the building retains sufficient integrity to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

SETTING

The Golden Gate Building is located at the intersection of Delmar Street and Southeast Dixie Highway in Stuart, Martin County, Florida. The city of Stuart, which is the county seat of Martin County, is located along the St. Lucie River near the St. Lucie Inlet and the Atlantic Ocean. The population of the city varies from a little over 17,000 people to a little over 21,000 people during the winter season. The town's economy evolves around the tourist industry and seasonal residents drawn to the seaside location, with the largest employers involved in the retail, government, and hospitality sectors. The immediate setting of the Golden Gate Building is a combination of commercial and residential. Southeast Dixie Highway serves as a major commercial corridor for the city of Stuart. To the east of the Golden Gate Building down Southeast Delmar Street are multiple and single residential buildings.¹

¹ City of Stuart, "City of Stuart Details and History," <http://www.cityofstuart.us/index.php/administration/about-the-city>.

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Stuart, Martin County, FL

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The Golden Gate Building is a two-story, flat roof, stuccoed trapezoidal building that rests on concrete foundations. Walls are made of structural clay tile. Fenestration consists primarily of rectangular 4/1, 6/1, and 4/4 double hung sash windows and fixed 9/1 arched windows.

Main (West) Façade

Most of the adornment on the exterior is found on the main façade of the building (Photos 1-2). The main façade features a prominent arched main entrance with a double door topped by a fixed 15-light fanlight and flanked by two pilasters with composite order capitals. These pilasters support a second story wrought iron balconet. On the second story are glazed wood double doors opening into the balconet. On the opposite sides of the main entrance on the first story of this elevation are 4/4 sash windows and decorative plaster work. There is a continuous horizontal molding between the first and second stories that extends around the south elevation. The fenestration on the second floor consists of 9/1 fixed arched windows with prominent sills. Above the second story door are the words "Golden Gate" in raised stucco. Another prominent feature of the main façade is its elaborate roofline. There are clay barrel tiles both on the southwest and northwest corners with decorative brackets. On the center of the roofline is a Mission Style parapet topped with heavy coping and three spindles. Inset within the parapet is a bell and a small portion of clay barrel tiled roof.

South Elevation

The south elevation, which faces Delmar Street, functions as a secondary façade of the building (Photo 3). With the exception of the clay barrel tile roof on the southwest corner of the roof, the horizontal molding between the first and second stories, and the arched window on the west end of the second story, the rest of this elevation is rather plain. Past the clay barrel tiles, the roofline is slightly raised and is flat with simple coping. The rest of the windows are 6/1 double hung sash windows. On the east end of the first story is a simple paneled door with a 6-light fixed transom. There is a non-historic exterior light on this elevation near the door.

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East Elevation

The east elevation is plain in appearance with two infilled windows and an infilled door (Photo 4). The east end of the non-historic addition is visible from this side. There are two gutters visible on this side of the building.

West Elevation

The west elevation is perhaps the most altered elevation on the building (Photo 5). There is a two-story addition on this side with a glazed entry door. The addition houses the elevator and public restrooms installed in the building. There is a red barrel tile clay roof extension on the northwest corner of the addition. The north half of this elevation remains relatively unchanged. Fenestration on this elevation consists of 6/1 sash windows.

Interior

First Floor

The first floor features a large single open space with drop ceilings, wood flooring, and drywalls (Photos 6-7). There are three methods of access to this space: on the west side via the historic main entrance; on the southeast end opening onto Delmar Street, which opens into a small foyer at the base of the stairwell; and on the north end opening into the non-historic addition. On the east end of the floor is a stairwell, which historically provided the main access to the second floor. The historic portion of the first floor currently functions as a reception area and lounge for the community center.

In the first floor of the north addition, there is a small hallway leading into what is now a primary public access point into the building (Photos 8-9). On the west side of the hall is a public restroom while on the east side is the elevator.

Stairwell

The stairwell provides primary access to the second floor of the of the building (Photos 10-12). On the first floor is a small foyer, which opens into two doors, one that opens into the south elevation side entrance and the other that opens into first floor room. The staircase and handrails are replacements. There are two flights of stairs, one that runs along the east wall from the first floor and the other that runs along the north wall leading to the second floor. The staircase was originally open to the ground floor but it was later enclosed to meet fire codes.

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Second Floor

The second floor, much like the first, is a mostly a large single open space with drop ceilings and drywalls (Photos 13-14). The flooring materials on this level are vinyl composition tiles. On the west end of the floor are glazed double doors that open onto the balconet. On the east end of the floor, there is a stairwell and small closet space. Access to the second floor is through two points: the stairwell on the east end and the two-story addition on the north end. This room functions as a meeting space for the community center.

The second floor of the north addition is similar in layout to the first floor, with a central hallway, storage room on the west end, and the elevator on the east (Photo 15).

Alterations

Starting in 2005, the building underwent extensive restoration work as a result of a long period of vacancy that left it in deteriorated condition (Photos 16-20). The doors and windows have been replaced; flooring, ceiling, and walls refurbished; staircase replaced and enclosed; east windows and door infilled; and closet spaces added. The flooring on the second floor has been replaced with vinyl composition tile. The building was modernized with air conditioning and new lighting was added to the interior. In 2015, the two-story north addition was added to provide for ADA accommodations to the building. A new entrance was added onto the north end through the addition. A fish mural, which was painted in the stairwell by artist James Hutchinson in the 1950s, remains but has been covered over with drywall for its protection. The exterior restoration work was largely finished by 2007, while the interior work was finished in 2017. Despite these changes, the building still retains sufficient integrity to qualify for listing in the National Register. These changes were all reviewed and approved by the local county preservation board.

Integrity

The Golden Gate Building is still in its original location in a mixed use residential and commercial neighborhood. Hence, it retains its integrity of location, setting, and association. Although the two-story addition reroutes the main entrance, led to the removal of some of the historic fabric, and is visible from the main façade, it does not greatly increase the interior floor space. It is built onto a secondary elevation with little to no architectural adornments, does not obscure a corner of the building, and is not visible from the southwest corner, which is the most important view of the building. As a result, the building retains its character defining trapezoidal shape. The addition was also added as a way of making the building ADA accessible without significantly impacting the integrity of the interior. With the exception of the two-story addition, the exterior of the building retains all of its historic fabric and character-defining features such as

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the elaborate main façade with its Mission Style shaped parapet, clay barrel tiled roof, pilasters, arched windows, and balconet. Although the interior has seen some changes as well, it still retains its historic layout of two large open spaces on both floors and stairwell on the east end. The rear entrance on the first floor has been infilled but remains visible. The building's structural clay tile was stabilized and retained as well. The building retains sufficient integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, and materials.

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Stuart, Martin County, Florida

Summary

The Golden Gate Building is being proposed for listing in the National Register at the local level under Criterion A for Community Planning and Development and Government; and Criterion C for Architecture. The period of significance extends from 1925 to 1936, when the building ceased operation as a post office. Built in 1925 by the Robb Construction Company on behalf of the Golden Gate Development Company, the building functioned as the administrative offices for the Golden Gate company. The building was also a showpiece for the entire development of Golden Gate. The Golden Gate Building was featured heavily in promotional materials that were sent out. The building is intricately connected to the communities of Golden Gate and Port Sewall. It functioned as the Port Sewall Post Office from 1925 to 1936. The Golden Gate Building was the location of a number of important community gatherings during this period, including the town hall meeting and subsequent election that resulted in the incorporation of the Town of Port Sewall in 1927. It served as the town hall for the short-lived incorporated town from 1927 to 1933. The Golden Gate Building is an elaborate, locally significant example of Mission Revival architecture. The building's prominent Mission shaped parapet and usage of red clay barrel tiled roofing materials and applications of smooth stucco are all character-defining features of Mission Revival.

Historical Context

Stuart

The settlement of what became Stuart, Florida, started in the 1870s. Originally named Potsdam, after Potsdam, Germany, the hometown of early settler Otto Stypmann, by 1892, the settlement received its own post office. One of the earliest projects undertaken by the settlers in the area was the opening of the St. Lucie Sound. Access to the inlet at the time was hampered by a sea of freshwater grass that made boat travel impossible. After experiencing difficulties in dredging the inlet themselves, they finally hired an engineer to handle the project for them. This provided the community with a permanent inlet. In 1894, the Florida East Coast Railway built a depot on the north side of the St. Lucie River, which it named Stuart. A year later, the company relocated the depot across the river in Potsdam, which was later renamed Stuart.²

Although the arrival of the railroad would prove to be a major boon to the new community, the timing was not great. By now, citrus and pineapple growing had become a major part of the local economy and a disastrous freeze in 1895 virtually destroyed the entire crop from St. Augustine down to the north side of the St. Lucie River.³ The town eventually recovered, however, and by the early 20th century was beginning to grow and expand. When it was formed, the town of Stuart was originally located in Dade County, Florida.

² Sandra Henderson Thurlow, *Stuart on the St. Lucie: A Pictorial History* (Stuart, FL: Sewall's Point Company, 2001), 6-7.

³ Janet Hutchinson, Compiler, *History of Martin County* (Port Salerno, FL: Martin County Historical Society, 1975), 199.

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The county boundaries extended to the south side of the St. Lucie River. In 1909, Palm Beach County was created and Stuart became part of this county. The Stuart Commercial Club, composed of prominent business and civic leaders, was organized in 1911 to promote Stuart and the completion of the cross state canal. By 1911, Stuart had a population of around 500 people, with two churches, a public school, hotel, two general stores, and a bakery among other businesses.⁴ In 1914, the town was formally incorporated but was soon met with a major fire that destroyed a number of businesses and homes in 1916.⁵ There was some subdivisions that had taken place but the town population remained largely unchanged for most of the 1910s. In 1918, the population actually decreased to around 400 people.⁶

Florida Land Boom

In the 1920s, during what became known as the Florida Land Boom, the state experienced explosive growth, especially in south Florida. Aided in large part by the economic prosperity at the time and improvements in infrastructure, there were numerous developments that shot up around the state. The developers were particularly successful in promoting Florida. As a result of the enthusiasm generated by advertisements across the country, Florida soon saw itself in the middle of a massive speculative land bubble. At the epicenter of the Land Boom was the Miami area. In Miami alone, the town's population grew from 30,000 in 1920 to over 47,000 within three years. By 1925, there were roughly 2,000 real estate offices and 25,000 real estate agents operating in the city. During this period, entire cities were founded such as Venice, Opa-Locka, and Hollywood. Although most transactions and developments were legitimate, the system had its flaws. There was widespread corruption in some of the well-known developments (or fraudulent developments) of the era, including Fulford-by-the-Sea in North Miami Beach; Melbourne Gardens in Brevard County; and Manhattan Estates, a non-existent entity "in northern Florida." Even Charles Ponzi, famous for the criminal scheme that bears his name, was involved in a land scheme in Jacksonville known as Charpon. One of the more notorious systems of land speculation was the binder system, which required only five to ten percent deposit to close a real estate transaction. Certain speculators known as binder boys thrived off this system, buying up land and then reselling the property before the first substantial payment was due. It was not uncommon for properties to change hands several times in the span of weeks under this system. Although magazines and newspapers around the country drew massive sums of money in advertising fees, the Land Boom had its detractors in the media, as the title of one piece, "Florida Loafing: An Investigation into the Peculiar State of Affairs which Leads Residents of 47 States to Encourage Spanish Architecture in the 48th," attests.⁷

⁴ R.L. Polk and Company, *Florida Gazetteer and Business Directory 1911-1912* (Jacksonville, FL: R.L. Polk & Co., 1911), 409.

⁵ Ernest F. Lyons, "The Great Fire," *Stuart News*, January 1 and 2, 1986, in Thurlow, *Stuart on the St. Lucie*, 36-42.

⁶ R.L. Polk and Company, *Florida State Gazetteer and Business Directory* (Jacksonville, FL: R.L. Polk & Co., 1918), 549.

⁷ Gregg M. Turner, *The Florida Land Boom of the 1920s* (Jefferson, NC: MacFarland & Co., Inc., 2015), 22, 25, 51, 54-55, 155-158.

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By the mid-1920s, the news of the fraudulent schemes and questions regarding the practices of developers in the state began receiving national press coverage. Despite the efforts of Florida governor John Martin, who sought to assure potential investors of Florida, the negative press began to affect land sales by the end of 1925. The real death knell of the Land Boom occurred shortly afterwards with the Hurricane of 1926. The storm destroyed numerous developments and cities, killing over 400 people. This was followed a couple years later by the Hurricane of 1928, which killed over 2,500 people. After the hurricanes, particularly the 1926 hurricane, demand for Florida land plummeted and with it land prices. The resulting failure of the Florida Land Boom has been seen by many as a harbinger for the collapse of the U.S. stock market and the onset of the Great Depression which followed.⁸

Land Boom in Stuart

Like many communities in Florida at the time, the community of Stuart saw major development during the Florida Land Boom. Between 1923 and 1924 alone, there was a 260% increase in construction in the city.⁹ The population of Stuart, including winter residents, grew from an estimated 1,200 people in 1920 to roughly 15,000 by 1925.¹⁰ As a result of the great increase in development, Martin County was created in 1925. Palm Beach and Martin counties ranked third in the state for growth.¹¹ Stuart was voted the permanent county seat of Martin County in 1927.¹²

This period was also marked by several important infrastructure improvements that proved important to the development of the community. In 1918, a concrete bridge was constructed across the St. Lucie River. It was the last completed link in the Dixie Highway, which connected Miami to Montreal.¹³ In 1927, following two major bond issues, the St. Lucie Inlet jetty was completed.¹⁴ On November 30, 1926, the State Highway Department announced that “Florida [would] spend more than \$12,000 on its Dixie Highway construction projects” that connected coastal communities from Georgia to Miami.¹⁵ A local bond issue was proposed for the second time to fund the road system in 1927 that included upgrades for the section of road between Stuart and Port Sewall that was “somewhat marred by the unsatisfactory condition of the . . . narrow road in many places.”¹⁶ The first referendum for an expenditure of \$1,700,000 for “good roads throughout Martin

⁸ Turner, *The Florida Land Boom of the 1920s*, 158-166.

⁹ *South Florida Developer*, “Stuart Building \$541,400 Last Year, Increase of 260 Percent Over 1923,” February 27, 1925.

¹⁰ *South Florida Developer*, “How Well Will Your Town Be In 1930?” February 27, 1925.

¹¹ *The Stuart Daily News*, “Census Estimate Shows Enormous Florida Increase,” February 3, 1927.

¹² Thurlow, *Stuart on the St. Lucie – A Pictorial History*, 24.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 5-9, 19.

¹⁴ *The Stuart Daily News*, “Work on Inlet Shows Progress – Eight Hundred Feet Out Into Sea Jetty Now Awaits New Derrick,” October 30, 1926.

¹⁵ *The Stuart Daily News*, “New Dixie Highway Cost \$12,000,000,” November 30, 1926.

¹⁶ *South Florida Developer*, “Martin County Has Complete Network of Good Highways,” September 9, 1927.

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County”¹⁷ took place on February 15, 1927, and did not yield a sufficient number of votes for or against issuing the bond. ¹⁸ The St. Lucie Inlet District bought a piece of land from the Golden Gate Development Company in 1928, this land being located at the southernmost boundary of Golden Gate and Port Sewall. Next, the district commissioners [St. Lucie Inlet District and Port Authority] planned to build a railroad spur from the Florida East Coast Railway tracks, with a hard-surfaced road to parallel. This would meet the loading docks at a certain point on the western shores of the St. Lucie River.¹⁹

Historical Significance Golden Gate 1924-1940

Golden Gate Development Company and Community of Golden Gate

The Golden Gate Development Company was incorporated on November 24, 1924. The officers and directors were located in West Palm Beach, Florida.²⁰ The following description appeared in the *Stuart Messenger* on December 11, 1924:

Golden Gate, the new subdivision south of Stuart which has been placed on the market this week, report pre-opening sales of approximately one quarter of a million dollars. A high class improvement, restricted in every sense, with the most modern improvements, will be made on this seven hundred acre tract. Paved streets, sidewalks, curbs, shrubbery, lights and water are among the improvements planned, and on which a large force of men have already started work. Three buildings of tile and stucco construction are underway, which will be used for sales offices, a filling station and a retailer’s establishment.

Backing the development are G.W. Bingham, president of the company and an active real estate operator of West Palm Beach; Arthur L. Noble, former owner of the Anartic Ice Company of West Palm Beach, secretary and treasurer of the company; F.A. Franck, vice-president, also of West Palm Beach; and F.V. Faunce of Chicago. J.S. Maurer, who for seventeen years was in Wall Street and came to Florida four years ago on a short vacation and never could pull himself away from this region is sales manager for the development.²¹

In early January of 1925 the Golden Gate Development Company purchased another 340 acres adjoining its site and the golf course near Stuart. The Port Sewall Land Company was paid \$500 per acre for the balance

¹⁷ *The Stuart Daily News*, [Advertisement], February 14, 1927.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ Document Number 014598. Florida Profit Corporation: Golden Gate Development Company. Florida Department of State Division of Corporations.

²¹ *The Stuart Messenger*, “47 Acres of Land Sell for \$125,000 – Ricou Pays Record Price for Close In Tract – Golden Gate Sales Reach Big Figure – Two Business Sites in Stuart Change Hands – Acreage Active,” December 11, 1924.

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Stuart, Martin County, Florida

of the unsold lots in the north half of Port Sewall including much of the property adjacent to and fronting on the St. Lucie River Country Club's new golf course that opened on January 10th.²²

By February 1925, the Golden Gate Development Company hired Fairbanks Morse and Company to install ten miles of water mains made of pre-caulked cast iron pipe.²³ The daily water supply, from deep-rock wells providing 172-180 gallons through six inch mains, was capable of servicing 700 homes and fire hydrants.²⁴

Six buildings, including the Golden Gate Building, were being constructed simultaneously.²⁵ In addition to the Golden Gate Building, a filling station, a restaurant with upstairs apartments, a two-story mixed-use retail store, a hotel building, and a temporary public utilities facility were also under construction on Dixie Highway. A "Spanish style stucco bungalow of five rooms" built for Francis R. Cole on Jefferson Avenue²⁶ was "nearly completed" and would be occupied in April 1925.²⁷ By March 1925, a home for Frank Phillips on Jefferson Avenue was "progressing rapidly." The Robb Construction Company was contracted to "erect a building for the new water plant," while completing construction on the Golden Gate Building.²⁸ DeBerry and Goodson began constructing the Golden Gate Lumber Company facility in April 1925. The facility, which was located along the railroad and Dixie Highway, contained two large sawmills which were moved to this location. F. L. Goodson moved his family to Golden Gate from Fort Lauderdale into the home that was already under construction. C.C. DeBerry of Okeechobee also planned to move his family to Golden Gate, and he had leased the mixed-use retail/hotel building from John Cobb. A store selling "a complete line of staple and fancy groceries" would be operated by DeBerry's son, Glen, on the first floor of the Cobb building.²⁹

In May 1925, John L. Rosbury of Stuart purchased 600 feet of railroad frontage to "start work at once on a high class tourist camp." Mr. and Mrs. C.C. DeBerry converted one of the retail spaces on the first floor of the Cobb Building into a dining hall, while handling the rental of the 15 rooms on the second floor. Their son Glen converted the remaining space on the first floor into a grocery store and meat market. John Cobb also

²² *The Stuart Messenger*, "Golden Gate Co. Makes Big Purchase – North Half of Port Sewall Tract Sold to Development Co. Headed by Bingham," January 15, 1925.

²³ *South Florida Developer*, "Ten Miles of Water Mains Purchased for Golden Gate – Elaborate Water Supply System for New Subdivision Being Worked Out," February 13, 1925.

²⁴ *The Stuart Messenger*, "Golden Gate Developing," February 19, 1925.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ *The Stuart Messenger*, "Activity At Golden Gate," March 26, 1925.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ *South Florida Developer*, "New Lumber Yard At Golden Gate Open This Summer – DeBerry Comes Here From Okeechobee to Start New Plant," April 7, 1925.

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constructed a stucco building.³⁰ In July 1925, the Golden Gate Development Company announced that the building program was “progressing nicely with a half dozen business buildings completed and occupied and a number of beautiful residences under construction.”³¹



This brochure, dated March 1925, contains the earliest known photograph of the Golden Gate Building³²

The Golden Gate Development Company planned on installing seawalls at the water front and dredging of a yacht harbor.³³ Home building began in Golden Gate before the streets were made and public utilities provided. This evidenced confidence in the owners of home plots there. By this time, most of the water mains have been laid and hydrants set. The company installed ornamental lighting posts along the Dixie Highway at Golden Gate and Golden Gate Park.³⁴

³⁰ *South Florida Developer*, “Building Activity At Golden Gate,” May 1, 1925.

³¹ *The Stuart Daily News*, “Golden Gate Improvements – Development Company Announces Early Start on Big Improvement Campaign and Increase in List Prices,” July 23, 1925.

³² Golden Gate Development Company, “Compliments of the Golden Gate Development Company” (West Palm Beach, FL: Tropical Sun Press, March 1925).

³³ *Ibid.*

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After all the lots surrounding the Golden Gate Building in the first phase of the development were sold, the Golden Gate Development Company expanded Golden Gate by opening the second phase, named Golden Gate Park, on October 12, 1925.³⁵ The combined areas were anticipated to accommodate 30,000 people. Golden Gate Park was to be a highly restricted exclusive residential addition adjoining Golden Gate on the north. . . and buying activities in Golden Gate Park would exceed even the highest sales records made by the original Golden Gate. According to sales manager J.S. Mauer, “many of the original buyers of Golden Gate had realized profits in excess of 300 percent and predicted similar profits and greater for purchasers of Golden Gate Park.”³⁶

The Hall Michael Investment Company was selling 50 foot lots at a cost of \$3,750 that were two blocks from Dixie Highway with a southerly exposure on Indian Avenue, now called Indian Street.³⁷ Cole and Brown became the exclusive agents for the Golden Gate Development Company. The October 24, 1925, advertisement for Golden Gate Park was the first time that the Dixie Highway contact location appeared, confirming that the real estate sales office in the Golden Gate Building was officially open for business.³⁸

However, by the time the Golden Gate Building opened its doors in 1925, the town of Stuart and the Golden Gate company started to feel the effects of the imminent collapse of the Land Boom. The Florida East Coast Railway had placed an embargo on shipments in Florida because supply cars were not being unloaded fast enough at destinations, causing congestion in the southern part of the state. On October 16, 1925, the superintendent for transportation for the Florida East Coast Railroad told the Association of East Coast Chambers of Commerce that was meeting in Daytona that there “was no hope of lifting the embargo for at least thirty days. A total of 7,163 [cars] are awaiting transportation to the south in the yards of Jacksonville. At present the Florida East Coast [Railway] is moving 500 cars a day. Three hundred of these are not affected by the embargo.” An inland waterway was proposed by Major J.M Braxton and Major General Harry Taylor.³⁹

Some contractors traveled vast distances via trucks for materials, which increased the cost of construction. Shortages in window casing, trim and doors and builders’ hardware was a serious problem to most builders. All work was more or less dormant, due to the uncertainty of material arriving.⁴⁰ The Stuart Chamber of

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ *The Stuart Daily News*, “Announcing Golden Gate Park” Advertisement. October 13, 1925.

³⁶ *South Florida Developer*, “Golden Gate Development Faces St. Lucie Inlet,” August 13, 1926

³⁷ *The Stuart Daily News*, “Exclusive Listings Golden Gate” Advertisement, October 13, 1925.

³⁸ *The Stuart Daily News*, “Golden Gate Park” Advertisement, October 24, 1925.

³⁹ *The Stuart Daily News*, “Embargo on Freight to Last 30 Days More – Being Overcome Gradually, Official Tells Commerce Chambers,” October 17, 1925.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

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Commerce called a special meeting to appropriately address the railroad embargo.⁴¹ Theodore Dehon and Stanley Kitching planned a trip to St. Augustine to meet with the Florida East Coast Railway.⁴² In addition to recommending to the Florida East Coast Railway that the special permits for supply cars to Stuart be approved, they would ask for increased passenger train service since business was sufficient enough for two more trains to Stuart.⁴³

Local builders and contractors claimed that 2,500 men would be without work due to the lack of building materials. An organization of builders and contractors was formed to purchase trainloads in almost unlimited quantities in order to take advantage of the Florida East Coast Railway's special permit that allowed shipments to come from points north of Jacksonville. In addition, the Halifax Realty Board appointed Roy Gridley as chairman of a special committee to recruit volunteers to unload the trains quickly. Mr. Gridley secured 100 businessmen.⁴⁴

The next day there was a report in the newspaper about a new shipping business that would begin operations immediately. A 70-foot-long dock was being constructed for the "lighters and tow boat." They would bypass Jacksonville's backlog by working with Brunswick, Georgia. The Stuart Forwarding and Supply Company would put an end to unfinished "dwellings, apartments and commercial buildings" because of lack of building materials.⁴⁵

Although the construction of the Golden Gate Building had been completed earlier in the year, there were other buildings in Golden Gate and at other new Land Boom developments that needed materials. Completion of the St. Lucie River Inlet and the widening of the St. Lucie River became even more important, as a result of the railroad embargo. A harbor at Golden Gate would have accommodated the exports of agricultural items from local farms and the arrival of building materials. P. R. McCrary made the case on October 8, 1925, for the development of the Port of Stuart. He said that water transportation was the "hope of South Florida."⁴⁶

⁴¹ *The Stuart Daily News*, "Chamber Calls Meeting About Embargo Crisis," October 27, 1925.

⁴² *The Stuart Daily News*, "Chamber of Commerce to Get Behind Move to Relieve Stuart Embargo – Endorses Actions of Citizens' Committee and Absorbs Work: Theodore Dehon and Stanley Kitching to Interview Road Head," October 30, 1925.

⁴³ *The Stuart Daily News*, "Local Men to Visit Railroad Officials Today," November 9, 1925.

⁴⁴ *The Stuart Daily News*, "Many Cities Get Building Needs: Stuart Suffers – Permit for 300 Carloads to Come Through for Daytona Granted," October 28, 1925.

⁴⁵ *The Stuart Daily News*, "New Concern Ready for Large Transportation to Start At Once – Will Ply Between Here and Brunswick, Ga.; Work Starts on Docks Here Tomorrow; Is Local Concern," November 10, 1926.

⁴⁶ *The Stuart Daily News*, "Local Man Makes Great Plea for Development of the Port of Stuart," October 8, 1925.

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County offices moved into the “old Stuart school” in October, 1925.⁴⁷ It was reported on February 2, 1926, that the Board of County Commissioners received an offer for the construction of a new county courthouse at Golden Gate. The City of Stuart officials countered that move by the Golden Gate Development Company with an offer for \$100,000 towards the costs of construction.⁴⁸ The discussion regarding the location of the new court house drew a crowd.⁴⁹

In addition to the offers made by Golden Gate and the City of Stuart, another offer was presented for a five-acre tract located between Golden Gate and Golfview (another new development) by Frank Crego. Mr. Kitching [City Commissioner] told the Board of County Commissioners that the City “was willing to start improvements on the place tomorrow, if the Ricou property was accepted.” Mayor Taylor said it was the “city’s idea to some day build a beautiful new city hall on the property in front of the Ricou property and have a beautiful group of public buildings at the spot. He said that if the county accepted the site and the city’s offer the city would start to pave the streets in that section in the morning.”⁵⁰

The next day, County Commissioners H.N. Gaines and Carroll Dunscombe appeared before the Board of City Commissioners and requested a “detailed statement and plans covering the City’s offer” regarding the new courthouse.⁵¹ Just a few days prior, on January 30, 1926, the Golden Gate Development Company’s advertisement boasted that they were “Laying the Foundations of a Great City at Golden Gate.” By this time, they had already prepared and presented their offer to the Board of County Commissioners to have the court house in Golden Gate.⁵²

After much consideration, the county selected the old school building in Stuart as the new Martin County Courthouse. An addition was built in front of the old school house as a WPA courthouse project. The addition currently functions as a cultural arts center that was preserved in 1989, when the old school house section was demolished.⁵³ This building was listed on the National Register in 1997.

The Golden Gate Development Company had invested in the St. Lucie River Country Club and Golf Course that was located next to Golden Gate. Hugh L. Willoughby, Jr., was a Director on the Board and the “master of the greens.”⁵⁴ His father, Captain Hugh L. Willoughby, was “one of the pioneers of aviation in this

⁴⁷ *The Stuart Daily News*, “County Offices Are Moving In To Old School,” October 17, 1925.

⁴⁸ *The Stuart Daily News*, “City Offer Court House Money To County,” February 2, 1926.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ *Ibid.*

⁵² *The Stuart Daily News*, “Laying the Foundations of a Great City,” Advertisement, January 30, 1926.

⁵³ Stuart Heritage, Inc., *Stuart Heritage Commemorative Photo Album* (Stuart Heritage, Inc. May 1989).

⁵⁴ *The Stuart Messenger*, “Golf Course Ready for Play Jan. 10,” January 1, 1925.

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country.”⁵⁵ Both men were actively involved with the advancement of the golf course. On October 30, 1925, Willoughby, Jr., announced that they had secured professional golfer Raymond Conover for the St. Lucie River Country Club and Golf Course. Conover’s arrival was a big boon to local golfing.⁵⁶



Image of Golden Gate Building from March 19, 1925 edition of the *Stuart Messenger*

⁵⁵ *The Stuart Daily News*, “Capt. Willoughby Given Aero Honor,” November 11, 1927.

⁵⁶ *The Stuart Daily News*, “Professional for Local Golf Club Secured,” October 30, 1925.

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Construction of the Golden Gate Building

The Golden Gate Building, sales office for the Golden Gate Development Company, was one of the first three buildings of clay tile and stucco under construction on December 11, 1924 on the 700 acre tract.⁵⁷ The Robb Construction Company of Stuart was “in charge of all building” for the Golden Gate Development Company.⁵⁸ From the beginning, the building was intended to serve as an important advertising piece for the development and a center for the community. It was prominently featured in a number of advertisements the company sent out. It was also from this building that the company conducted its business in planning the development.

Port Sewall Post Office

In 1926, the post office for the neighboring Port Sewall was moved into the Golden Gate Building. This post office actually originally started as a winter post office in 1914.⁵⁹ Theodore C. Saul was the first postmaster of the Port Sewall Post Office, which operated out of his grocery store.⁶⁰ Following the post office’s move into the Golden Gate Building in 1926, it was open year-round. Francis Cole served as the postmaster following its relocation. The Port Sewall Post Office served both Port Sewall and Golden Gate.⁶¹ Cole resigned three years later, and Laura Chester became the postmaster in the Golden Gate Building till it closed in 1936.⁶² It is not known how exactly the building was altered to function as a post office, although it is likely it had mail counters, post offices boxes, and other items needed for the functioning of a post office.

Incorporation of Port Sewall

On March 7, 1927, an article appeared in the newspaper that reported the desire for Port Sewall and Golden Gate to incorporate. The effort had been under consideration for one year by Hugh L. Willoughby, Jr., and Raymond L. Whitman, both wealthy property owners and prominent residents of Port Sewall. The Golden Gate Development Company was strongly in favor of the move to incorporate the town. Port Sewall and Golden Gate were concerned that they would lose their identities “in the growth and subsequent expansion of

⁵⁷ *The Stuart Messenger*, “47 Acres of Land Sell for \$125,000 – Ricou Pays Record Price for Close In Tract – Golden Gate Sales Reach Big Figure – Two Business Sites In Stuart Change Hands – Acreage Active,” December 11, 1924.

⁵⁸ *The Stuart Messenger*, “Golden Gate Developing,” February 19, 1925.

⁵⁹ Alford G. Bradbury and E. Story Hallock, *A Chronology of Florida Post Offices* (The Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs, 1962), 69.

⁶⁰ Janet Hutchinson and Emeline K. Paige, *History of Martin County* (Historical Society of Martin County, 1975), 236, 427.

⁶¹ *The Stuart Daily News*, “Cole Postmaster At Port Sewall,” December 13, 1926.

⁶² *The Stuart Daily News*, “Frame Building Once Held Port Sewall Post Office,” August 28, 1947.

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Stuart and other bordering communities. The new town was adjacent to the city of Stuart and included about 5,000 acres of the Hanson grant.⁶³

The meeting for incorporation was held in the Golden Gate Building, and while there were about 35 citizens present, the number of registered voters was insufficient for the legal election. After this meeting, a petition to incorporate was signed by every property owner in the proposed town site and the Martin County Board of Commissioners. It was sent to the legislature for approval.⁶⁴ They anticipated that their petition “before the legislature [would] be acted on within the [following] few weeks.” In the meantime, they needed to elect officers.⁶⁵ On May 25, 1927, the town of Port Sewall was formally incorporated.⁶⁶

Following incorporation, a municipal election was held in November 1927 to fill the positions of mayor, vice-mayor, marshal, town clerk, and town council.⁶⁷ The second election was held in April of the following year, when the regular elections of the town would be held. In the first election, there was only one candidate for each office. Voting for both elections took place in the Golden Gate Building. Hugh L. Willoughby was elected as the town’s first mayor.⁶⁸

The incorporated town of Port Sewall proved short-lived, however. On April 18, 1933, the state legislature of the State of Florida enacted House Bill No. 167, which dissolved the town. All records and books had to be turned over to the Martin County Board of Commissioners within 15 days. The charter had been previously amended on May 24, 1929 and on May 21, 1931.⁶⁹

By the time town of Port Sewall was incorporated, the Golden Gate company was already encountering difficulties as the Land Boom began to decline. A backlog of resales occurred in November 1925, when the Golden Gate Development Company announced that they would dedicate their entire sales staff to the resales of Golden Gate lots. By this time, the warning signs that the Florida Land Boom had reached its zenith and was beginning to go in the opposite direction were becoming evident.⁷⁰ Real estate sales slowed down through the summer of 1926. In an effort to spur sales, the company began advertising the reputable nature of their business, but this ultimately failed. The company eventually dissolved on August 31, 1940.⁷¹

⁶³ *The Stuart Daily News*, “Port Sewall May Incorporate as Separate Town,” March 7, 1927.

⁶⁴ *South Florida Developer*, “Port Sewall to Incorporate,” April 8, 1927.

⁶⁵ *The Stuart Daily News*, “Pt. Sewall Meet Discusses Town,” April 9, 1927.

⁶⁶ “Chapter 13326 – No. 1520” *Laws of Florida – Acts (1927)* 3784 – 3826.

⁶⁷ *The Stuart Daily News*, “Port Sewall to Elect on June 25,” June 7, 1927.

⁶⁸ *The Stuart Daily News*, “Pt. Sewall Name Officials Today,” November 30, 1927.

⁶⁹ “Chapter 16640—No. 783, House Bill No. 167.” *Laws of Florida*. 1044-1046.

⁷⁰ *The Stuart Daily News*, “Resales of Golden Gate” Advertisement. November 3, 1925.

⁷¹ *South Florida Developer*, “Golden Gate Buyers Told of Progress In Martin County – Development Company Assures Its Lot Owners of Steady Growth,” August 17, 1926.

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As a result of litigation between Albert C. Fordham and the Golden Gate Development Company, Sheriff C.E. Christensen seized the Golden Gate Building and sold it to Frank L. Noble “at a public auction in front of the Court House in Stuart” on May 1st, 1934. Noble paid Sheriff Christensen \$196.31 for the Golden Gate Building.⁷²

Additional Historic Context: Golden Gate 1940 to present

Church of God of Port Sewall

The Church of God purchased the Golden Gate Building from Frank L. and Florence Noble on March 19, 1943 for \$1,650.00. “The said Local Board of Trustees shall hold title to, manage and control the said real estate for the general use and benefit of the Church of God, having its general headquarters in Cleveland, Tennessee, and for the particular use and benefit of the local congregation of the said Church at Port Sewall, Florida.”⁷³

Reverend D. B. Price, Pastor of the Church of God of Port Sewall, held services and functions in the Golden Gate Building on Sundays and Thursdays.⁷⁴ Starting January, 1947, Reverend W. F. Brews, Pastor, held morning, Sunday and Friday worship.⁷⁵ Reverend H. H. Beasley became Pastor in December, 1948, and he also offered Sunday and Friday services.⁷⁶ He began offering Sunday, 10:00 a.m., “Church School” in January, 1949.⁷⁷ In October, 1949, the Church of God location was changed from Port Sewall to “Golden Gate” in the newspaper’s “Church Directory.” Reverend Henry B. Brumley, Pastor, and church school, Monday and evening worship, and Friday night YPE were scheduled.⁷⁸ The same schedule of services was posted in the newspaper through February 8, 1951.⁷⁹

The Church of God at Port Sewall sold the Golden Gate Building on September 27, 1952, to Milton Q. and Wanda Friedman, of Long Island, New York.⁸⁰ In addition, on July 27, 1952, V.E. Howard, Sr., Secretary of the Church of God, certified that the local Board of Trustees of the Church of God at Port Sewall, were authorized to sell and convey the property described herein below to Milton Q. Friedman for the

⁷² “Sheriff’s Deed.” Sheriff C.D. Christensen, Martin County Public Records, May 1, 1934. Page 238

⁷³ “Warranty Deed – File No. 22022.” Martin County Public Records, March 19, 1943. Page 587.

⁷⁴ *The Stuart News*, “Church Directory,” January 4, 1945.

⁷⁵ *The Stuart News*, “Church Directory,” January 2, 1947.

⁷⁶ *The Stuart News*, “Church Directory,” December 2, 1948.

⁷⁷ *The Stuart News*, “Church Directory,” January 6, 1949.

⁷⁸ *The Stuart News*, “Church Directory,” October 13, 1949.

⁷⁹ *The Stuart News*, “Church Directory,” February 8, 1951.

⁸⁰ “Warranty Deed.” Martin County Public Records. September 27, 1952. Book 59, Page 3.

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consideration of \$2,000.00. Such sale was approved unanimously by all members of the said congregation present and voting.⁸¹

The locally significant artists James and Joan Hutchinson rented the Golden Gate Building between June 1956 and June 1958 for \$35 a month from the Friedmans.⁸² They resided on the second floor and shared the building with James Hutchinson's father, who resided downstairs. Prior to their arrival, the building had been vacant, and Golden Gate community had a few scattered small homes. James and Joan Hutchinson offered art classes in the Golden Gate Building. They also supported themselves through commission work and painting murals in stores, offices, and homes in the area. James Hutchinson painted fish on the walls at the landing and base of the staircase, some of which has been preserved. After leaving Stuart, James Hutchinson later achieved recognition for his paintings of the Seminole people, work for which he is perhaps best known.⁸³ He was later voted into the Florida Artist Hall of Fame in 2011.



Photo of Golden Gate Building dated March 1959 (source unknown).

⁸¹ V. E. Howard, Sr. "Certificate." Martin County Public Records, September 27, 1952. Book 59, Pages 6, 7.

⁸² Joan Hutchinson E-mail to Julie Preast, June 9, 2004.

⁸³ Ernest Lyons, *My Florida* (New Jersey: A.S. Barnes and Co., Inc., 1969), 15.

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No information was found regarding the use of the Golden Gate Building from 1952 to 1955 or after 1958. The city directories for Stuart and Jensen Beach City shows that the Golden Gate Building on Dixie Highway remained mostly vacant, after James and Joan Hutchinson moved out. There may have been a paint store there during part of the 1960s. Don M. Rutledge of Naples, Florida, purchased the Golden Gate Building on May 31, 1972.⁸⁴

Jane Davis Doggett of New Canaan, Connecticut, purchased the Golden Gate Building on April 17, 1979.⁸⁵ An accomplished graphic artist, Doggett pioneered the field of architectural and environmental graphic design with wayfinding signage.⁸⁶ She originally purchased the building with the intention of saving it. Vagrants had been run out of the Golden Gate Building by a deputy sheriff earlier on the day that a fire caused minor damage in 1988.⁸⁷ The building was vacant during the years that it was under Jane Davis Doggett's ownership. After turning down several purchase offers and faced with potential demolition, Doggett decided to deed the Golden Gate Building in December 1994 to any not-for-profit organization that would renovate it.⁸⁸

Restoration Efforts of the Golden Gate Building

The Golden Gate Building caught William C. Ely's eye whenever he drove down Dixie Highway. Ely was aware of the Mark Hastings Foundation, a foundation that was formed in 1990 in memory of Mark Hastings, a Ft. Pierce resident and humanitarian who had been killed after assisting a stranded motorist. The foundation planned on making the Golden Gate Building "a place where artists [could] teach children in a studio atmosphere." The group scheduled a "community working day May 20 to remove debris from the site."⁸⁹ In April 1995 the Martin County Commission extended the deadline for demolishing the Golden Gate Building to allow its transfer to the Mark Hastings Foundation. The commission later granted a 60-day extension of the demolition deadline.⁹⁰

The Golden Gate Neighborhood Advisory Committee, composed of residents and business representatives in Golden Gate, began meeting in December 2001 to discuss ways to revitalize the community. At these meetings, several members of the neighborhood committee proposed that the county purchase the Golden

⁸⁴ "Warranty Deed." Martin County Public Records, May 31, 1972. Book 340, Page 1550-1951.

⁸⁵ "Warranty Deed." Martin County Public Records, April 17, 1979. Book 468, Page 1490.

⁸⁶ "Clicking In Forum – What Do Women Want?" Event On Art, On Writing. www.clickingin.org. November 11, 2010.

⁸⁷ "Fire Damages Stuart Building." (Newspaper unknown, circa 1988)

⁸⁸ *The Stuart News*, "Historic Building Offered as Gift – But Renovations are Part of Deal," December 11, 1994.

⁸⁹ *The Stuart News*, "Golden Gate Building Given to Foundation," April 20, 1995.

⁹⁰ *The Stuart News*, "Demolition Deadline Extended for Building," April 26, 1995.

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Gate Building for use as a community center.⁹¹ The Golden Gate Building and lots were purchased by Martin County on July 25, 2002.⁹²

The structural evaluation and stabilization of the Golden Gate Building were next in the effort to preserve the building. Bender & Associates Architects of Key West, Florida, prepared the "Historic Structure Report" initially completed on February 20, 2004 and revised on July 26, 2004.⁹³ The restoration of the Golden Gate Building was the "first brick-and-mortar redevelopment project in one of Martin's most diverse neighborhoods." A preview of the restoration plans, that were estimated to cost approximately \$700,000, was held at the Elliott Museum on August 26, 2004.⁹⁴

Lindell Construction began work on the stabilization of the Golden Gate Building in 2004 and completed Phase I in 2005. The walls were supported from the interior with metal studs; the first and second floors, trusses and roof were installed to make the building strong and weather tight. Phase II, windows and doors replacement/stucco repairs/exterior paint, was initiated and completed in 2007 by Lindell Construction.

In 2008, Saadia Tsafarides, resident of Golden Gate and long-time advocates for the preservation of the Golden Gate Building organized The Friends of the Historic Golden Gate Community, Inc. to support the restoration of the building.⁹⁵

The building remained vacant and the interior unfinished until 2015. At this time, a local non-profit known as the House of Hope, Inc. arranged for a 15-year lease of the building from Martin County. The House of Hope is a community service organization that provides programs aimed at addressing basic human needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, and economic stability. It was founded as a collaborative effort between several other local non-profits and government agencies. As part of converting the building to fulfill human service needs, the two-story north addition was added and the interior of the historic core of the building finished. Work was finished on the building and a certificate of occupancy was issued in May 2017.

⁹¹ *The Stuart News*, "Community Planning, Golden Gate to Discuss Visions for Future," March 17, 2002.

⁹² *The Stuart News*, "Support Sought to Preserve Golden Gate Building," May 19, 2004.

⁹³ Bender & Associates Architects. "The Golden Gate Building Historic Structure Report." February 20, July 26, 2004.

⁹⁴ *The Stuart News*, "Change is in Store for Historic Golden Gate Building," August 26, 2004.

⁹⁵ *The Stuart News*, "Group Seeks to Restore Golden Gate Community," February 14, 2008.

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Architectural Context

Mission Revival

Like a number of other 20th century Spanish-inspired architectural movements in the United States, the Mission Revival Style has its origins in California. The style first received attention in the California Building of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. It was later popularized by the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific Railways, who used the style for their stations and hotels. With a few exceptions, the style was not a true copy of the original Spanish missions in California, but rather used design elements from the missions and applied them to more contemporary building types. The Mission Revival Style faded in popularity by the beginning of World War I, as it was replaced by the Mediterranean Revival and Monterey styles. Despite this, Mission Revival Style buildings continued to be constructed throughout the 1920s in areas under former Spanish control such as Florida.⁹⁶

Architectural Significance

The Golden Gate Building is an elaborate locally significant example of Mission Revival architecture. The building displays some elements of Neoclassical Revival, most notably in the pilasters that flank the historic main entrance. However, the building's prominent Mission shaped parapet and usage of red clay barrel tiled roofing materials along the main façade and the applications of smooth stucco are all character-defining features of Mission Revival. The building is one of the few still-standing buildings from the original Golden Gate development and remains as the best surviving example of the Mission Revival Style in this area of Stuart.

⁹⁶ Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2015), 511-512, 518.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Section number 9 Page 2 Golden Gate Building
Stuart, Martin County, Florida

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Stuart, Martin County, Florida

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Section number 9 Page 4 Golden Gate Building
Stuart, Martin County, Florida

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Section number 9 Page 5 Golden Gate Building
Stuart, Martin County, Florida

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Section number 9 Page 6 Golden Gate Building
Stuart, Martin County, Florida

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Section number 9 Page 7 Golden Gate Building
Stuart, Martin County, Florida

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Section number 9 Page 8 Golden Gate Building
Stuart, Martin County, Florida

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National Park Service**

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Section number 9 Page 9 Golden Gate Building
Stuart, Martin County, Florida

_____. "Tell the World," November, 1924.

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Section number 10 Page 1 Golden Gate Building
Stuart, Martin County, Florida

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary encompasses all of parcel number 3738410070640009060000 in the Martin County Property Appraiser's records.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the property historically associated with the Golden Gate Building.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 1 Golden Gate Building
Stuart, Martin County, Florida

Photograph List

1. Golden Gate Building
2. 3225 Southeast Dixie Highway, Stuart, Martin County, Florida
3. Julie Preast
4. June 2017
5. Julie Preast
6. View of main (west) façade, facing
7. Photo 1 of 20

Note: Numbers 1-5 are the same for the following photographs, except where noted:

6. View of main (west) façade, facing
7. Photo 2 of 20

6. View of south elevation, facing north
7. Photo 3 of 20

6. View of east (rear) elevation, facing west
7. Photo 4 of 20

6. View of north elevation, facing south
7. Photo 5 of 20

6. Interior view of east side of first floor, facing east
7. Photo 6 of 20

6. Interior view of west side of first floor, facing west
7. Photo 7 of 20

6. Interior view of first floor north addition hallway, facing north
7. Photo 8 of 20

6. View of elevator, facing east
7. Photo 9 of 20

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National Park Service**

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 2 Golden Gate Building
Stuart, Martin County, Florida

- 6. View of staircase and south entrance, facing south
- 7. Photo 10 of 20

- 6. View of staircase from first floor, facing north
- 7. Photo 11 of 20

- 6. View of staircase, facing west
- 7. Photo 12 of 20

- 6. Interior view of east side of second floor, facing
- 7. Photo 13 of 20

- 6. Interior view of west side of second floor, facing west
- 7. Photo 14 of 20

- 6. View of second floor hallway of north addition, facing north
- 7. Photo 15 of 20

- 4. November 2004
- 6. Interior view of east side of first floor prior to restoration work, facing east
- 7. Photo 16 of 20

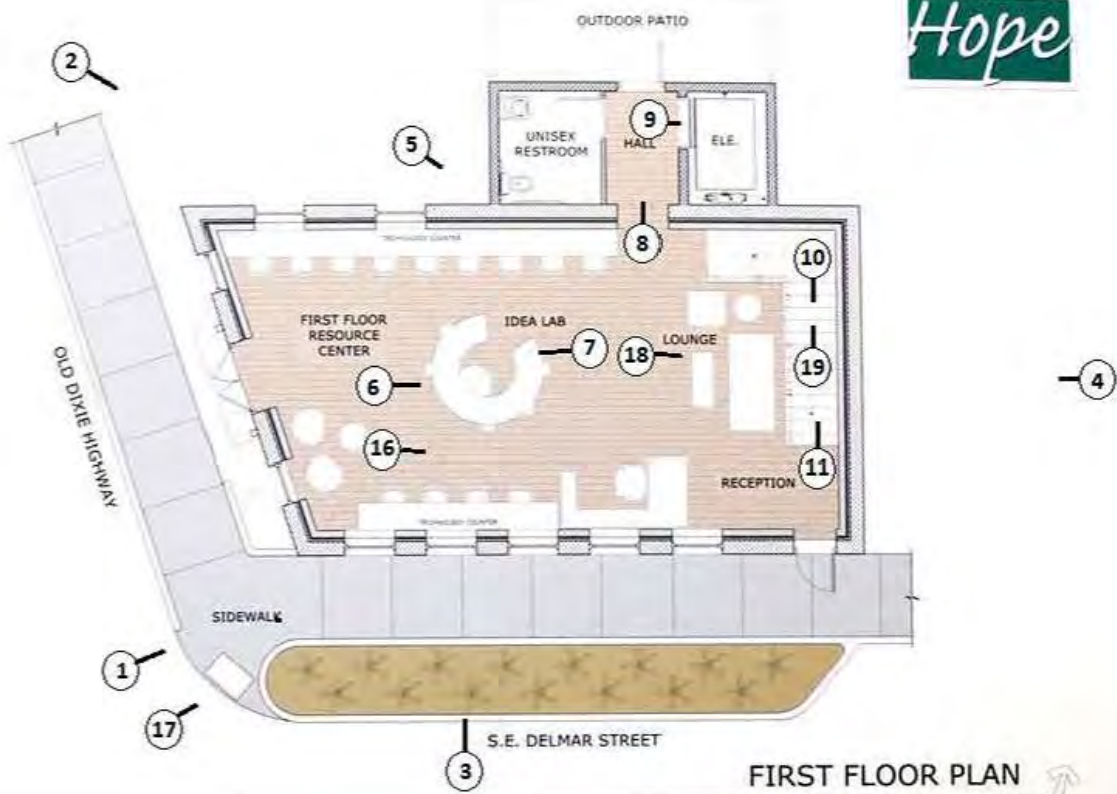
- 4. May 2008
- 6. View of exterior restoration work, facing
- 7. Photo 17 of 20

- 4. November 2008
- 6. View of east side of first floor under restoration, facing east
- 7. Photo 18 of 20

- 4. November 2008
- 6. View of staircase and fish mural while under restoration, facing north
- 7. Photo 19 of 20

- 4. November 2008
- 6. View of east side of second floor, facing southeast
- 7. Photo 20 of 20

Golden Gate Building Stuart, Martin Co., FL



Golden Gate Building


3225 Southeast Dixie Highway
Stuart, Martin Co., FL

UTM:
17R 577374 3005004

Latitude: 27.16581
Longitude: -80.219012

Datum: WGS84

Legend

 Proposed National Register Boundary

Date: 7/20/2017

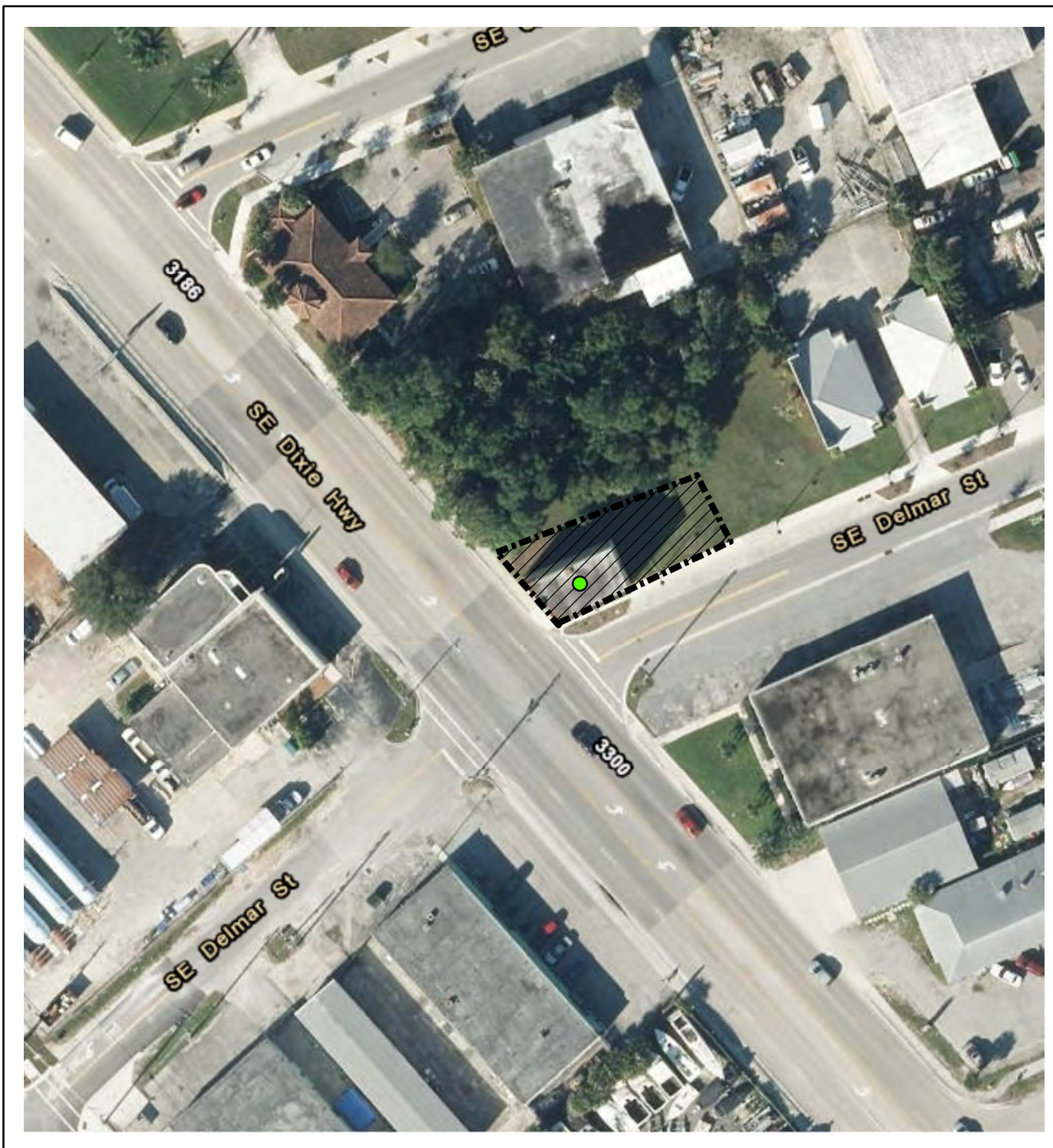
N

1:1,000

0 40 80 160 Feet

0 10 20 40 Meters

Basemap Source: Source: Esri,
DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar
Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS,
USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping,
Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo,
and the GIS User Community



Golden Gate Building


3225 Southeast Dixie Highway
Stuart, Martin Co., FL

UTM:
17R 577374 3005004

Latitude: 27.16581
Longitude: -80.219012

Datum: WGS84

Legend

 Proposed National Register Boundary

Date: 7/20/2017

1:10,000



0 425 850 1,700
Feet

0 105 210 420
Meters

Basemap Source: Source: Esri,
DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar
Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS,
USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping,
Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo,
and the GIS User Community





GOLDEN GATE

DIXIE

773-230-4433

KODOCK

KODOCK

KODOCK



GOLDEN GATE

W. 10th St

NO PARKING
ANY TIME

10th St



SE DELMAR ST

STOP

3251

3251 SE. Clear Highway



W 10th St

STOP







EXIT

EXIT



FLORIDA
LIFTS

CAUTION
automatic
door

savaria
NO FREIGHT

savaria
CAPACITY
750 lb/341 kg
1 PERSON AND
WHEELCHAIR

In Case Of Fire
Do Not Use Lift



savaria



















COOL BATHING AREA

DEL MAR
DIXIE



FROM OUR PAST
EVOLVES
OUR FUTURE

Former Home
of Temporary Home
of West Point
Football Coach
JIM HUTCHINSON
& Family





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 8/31/2017 Date of Pending List: 9/22/2017 Date of 16th Day: 10/10/2017 Date of 45th Day: 10/16/2017 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 10/12/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



MARTIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 2401 S.E. MONTEREY ROAD • STUART, FL 34996

Telephone: 772-288-5939
 Fax: 772-88-5432
 Email: tkryzda@martin.fl.us

DOUG SMITH
 Commissioner, District 1

ED FIELDING
 Commissioner, District 2

HAROLD E. JENKINS II
 Commissioner, District 3

SARAH HEARD
 Commissioner, District 4

EDWARD V. CIAMPI
 Commissioner, District 5

TARYN KRYZDA, CPM
 County Administrator

SARAH W. WOODS
 County Attorney

May 1, 2017

Ms. Alissa Slade Lotane
 Bureau Chief
 Bureau of Historic Preservation
 Division of Historic Resources
 500 S. Bronough Street
 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Re: Golden Gate Building

Dear Ms. Lotane:

On behalf of the Martin County Board of County Commissioners, I am again reaching out to the Bureau of Historic Preservation to request inclusion of the Golden Gate Building in Stuart, Florida, as a site on the National Registry of Historic Places.

It has been more than six years since our original application. Our 2010 application is on file, but if it would be at all helpful, we can certainly provide current information and photos of the enhancements to the structure. County staff has been incredibly dedicated to the preservation and recognition of this local landmark.

Your favorable review and approval of our application would be greatly appreciated. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taryn Kryzda
 County Administrator

TK/tp

cc: Martin County Board of County Commissioners
 Mr. Ruben Acosta, Survey & Registration Supervisor

2017 MAY -4 P 1:44
 TERRY L. ...
 ...

TELEPHONE
 772-288-5400

WEB ADDRESS
<http://www.martin.fl.us>



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

August 30, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief,
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Golden Gate Building (FMSF#: 8MA00405), in Martin County**, to the National Register of Historic Places. The related materials (digital images, maps, and site plan) are included.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6364 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruben A. Acosta".

Ruben A. Acosta
Supervisor, Survey & Registration
Bureau of Historic Preservation

RAA/raa

Enclosures