

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

635

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

RECEIVED 2280

AUG - 9 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Hamrick House

Other names/site number: Class One Historic Site #50 [Palm Springs City Council (2006)]

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 875 West Chino Canyon Road

City or town: Palm Springs State: California County: Riverside

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

		<u>8/21/16</u>
<b>Jenan Saunders, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer</b>		<b>Date</b>
<u>California State Office of Historic Preservation</u>		
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>		

In my opinion, the property <u>___</u> meets <u>___</u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

*For Nelson H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

*9.19.16*  
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.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Spanish Revival/Mediterranean Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

foundation: concrete and stone

walls: concrete adobe brick, stone, plaster, rusticated brick

roof: tile, with wood tongue and groove eaves

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Hamrick House is a one-story residence designed in the Spanish/Mediterranean Revival style and constructed in 1942. Located in an area of Palm Springs called Little Tuscany Estates, the house was designed by two master architects, John Porter Clark and Albert Frey. Hamrick House is constructed of stone and masonry foundation, plaster and masonry walls, with clay tile roof with exposed eaves of wooden tongue and groove. Prominent design elements consist of a stone chimney, stone pilasters, and a stone wall along the property's north and west borders, integral to the original design. The five bedroom, five bathroom home retains the steel casement windows and screens, original roof tile, and the concrete adobe brick exterior, painted in neutral tones to blend with the desert sand. Hamrick House retains all aspects of historic integrity including location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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### Narrative Description

#### Setting

Little Tuscany Estates consists of custom designed homes of varied vintage and styles. The area features a cluster of other Clark and Frey houses, including a National Register-listed Frey house

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designed for industrial designer Raymond Loewy. Palm Springs locally designated Class One Historic Sites in the neighborhood include Kaufmann House designed by master architect Richard Neutra, Edris House designed by master architect E. Stewart Williams, and Max Palevsky's house, designed by master architect Craig Ellwood. The 0.67-acre site is an irregularly shaped lot on a ridge with a dramatic view of Palm Springs, the San Jacinto Mountains, and the Coachella Valley. To the north is undeveloped hillside with many large boulders and natural desert vegetation, as it was in 1942. The placement of the home is near the road, with terrace and landscaped areas minimized, allowing the rugged nature of the site to be preserved. The plantings consist of 80-year old palm trees, cactus, and grapefruit trees, and meandering pathways that lead to multiple sitting areas. The house retains its original noninvasive site plan, sensitive to the low hillside lot, built around boulders, and exploiting the views of natural boulders within the surrounding landscape. The front fieldstone wall has dual vehicular gates to secure a gravel semi-circular driveway that leads to the home.

### **Building**

Hamrick House is a single-family residence designed by architects John Porter Clark and Albert Frey. John and Fannie Hamrick commissioned Clark and Frey as Architect/Builder on April 18, 1941 for their 3,580 square foot vacation home. Clark and Frey's work is recognized to be of major importance in the development of the desert modernist movement.<sup>1</sup> While many of their residential works of this period were comprised of popular revival styles, the designs are quite modern: generous utilization of glass corner casement windows, open floor plan, and flat planar wall surfaces. All are distinctive elements within Hamrick House.

The exterior stonework of the house brings it into harmony with the desert environment, and remains one of its most striking features. The clean, simple lines of the desert rock accentuate the concrete and rock foundation, prominent rock chimney, wooden front door, and rock garage wall. The front door incorporates an original hammered metal knocker in the shape of a fleur de lis, and an original etched glass window with desert plant motif above, both designed by Albert Frey. Original steel sash casement windows remain. In the rear of the house, an original upper sundeck remains. The sundeck is located above the garage. The exterior colors of the house reflect the original paint palette of neutral taupe and gray to blend with the natural boulders and surrounding landscape. An original light fixture remains, allegedly to be used to indicate to neighbors that cocktail hour had begun.

The single story house has an L-shaped plan, with a central living room adjacent to the dining room and kitchen, and garage. The majority of private spaces, bedrooms and bathrooms, are located perpendicular to the main living spaces. The foundation of the house is constructed of concrete and desert rock, and the structural framing is wood. The framing is a combination of post and beam, trusses, and bearing walls. The house consists of double layers of adobe brick horizontal coursing, on all of the exterior and their interior facing walls. Its square edged archways also have double thick walls. The original clay tiled, hip roof has a 5:12 pitch.

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<sup>1</sup> Modernism Week, *The Desert Modernists: The Architects Who Envisioned Midcentury Modern Palm Springs*, (Palm Springs: Modernism Week/Palm Springs Life, 2015).

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The living room retains the original exposed wooden tongue and groove ceiling, and responds to the hip roof structure, accentuating the exposed beams, and rafters. The north wall is dominated by an original fireplace with flanking bookshelves.

The original tile pattern surrounding the fireplace remains; the material was replaced with white Carrera marble, circa 2006. Many of the original colors, including turquoise, remain on the interior. Original wood floors, wood doors, and hardware remain intact throughout the house. The floor plan circulates as originally designed, utilizing the same spaces and functions, with the exception of the additional guest suite, constructed in the early 1980s.

### **Landscape Features**

Nearly a dozen palm trees planted in the 1930s flank the north side of the property. Natural boulders of varying shapes and sizes are abundant throughout the landscaping, as are a variety of native cacti. Other landscape features include mature ocotillo, sumac, olive and citrus trees, lantana, oleander, roses, bougainvillea, and a variety of desert landscape grasses.

### **Alterations & Integrity**

In 1947, to further enjoy the expansive view of the desert at the rear of the house, John and Fannie Hamrick commissioned Clark and Frey to design a sunroom. Located on the property's south side, the octagonal enclosed sunroom utilized industrial materials for the window frames and roof; an associated style of Frey's, in later, more renowned projects. The addition reflects the transition of the architects from a traditional style, to a more modern minimalist style. Here, large panes of glass were articulated by thin tubular corner columns and capped by a flat roof plane, thus achieving the modernist concept of blurring the boundaries between interior and exterior space. A glass wall was removed between the living room and the sunroom, to allow for a seamless flow of interior space. The sunroom's ceiling consists of a grid pattern of beams, squares, and rectangles. These were designed for flexibility of design to add future skylights.<sup>2</sup> Frey's National Register listed-Tramway Gas Station (1965, listed 2015) shares similar grid patterns in the ceiling.

In the early 1980s, an addition was constructed on the east side of the home, consisting of an additional bedroom and bathroom. The roof form of the addition is gabled, unlike the hip roof on the original construction. The addition incorporates materials and design details consistent and sympathetic with the architecture of the original house. The addition responds to the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation. It does not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The work has been differentiated from the old and is compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment. The addition has been undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

A swimming pool was designed by Clark and Frey as part of the original landscape. Due to the onset of World War II, the Hamricks felt that it was in poor taste to indulge in such a luxury. In

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<sup>2</sup> Clark and Frey, floor plan and details (**Figure 9**), Clark and Frey archives.

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2006, a pool was built in the same dimensions and orientation of the original design of 1941. The pool and terrace are sympathetic to the house in location and size, and also respect the original Clark and Frey site plan in its placement at a slightly lower elevation than the floor elevation of the house.

The house retains nearly all its original exterior features, elements, and materials, including masonry walls, clay tile roof, and steel sash casement windows. An exception to this is a window in the kitchen which was moved from the corner and relocated four feet west along the south elevation. Another modification to the original house is the interior fireplace. Marble was added to the fireplace façade to respond to the pattern of the original brick that had been removed by a previous owner.

In spite of the minor changes that include the kitchen window and the fireplace tile replacement, and the additions designed by the original master architects that include the 1947 Sunroom and the 2006 swimming pool, the building still retains integrity. The major addition of the guest suite in the early 1980s responds to the Secretary of the Interiors Standards, and the property retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, workmanship, and association to convey that it is as worthy of recognition as when it was originally designed by Clark and Frey.

The house's location remains the same. The floor plan, integration into the natural landscape, and natural materials of adobe brick, stone, and clay tile reflect its original, simple design. Organic stone patterns remain from 1942. Artisan workmanship of the concrete and stone, adobe bricks, and clay tile remain. The property evokes the sense of past time and place, nestled into the desert landscape perched upon the desert rock with views of the desert floor below.

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## 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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years



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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1942

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Clark, John Porter

Frey, Albert

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Hamrick House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance in the area of Architecture. It is an excellent example of the Spanish/Mediterranean Revival style within the pre-Modern Movement, and representative of master architects John Porter Clark and Albert Frey's residential work in Palm Springs during that period. The house exemplifies the rational design approach associated with Clark and Frey's work, with thoughtful clarity of the emergence of the desert modern architecture. As an intact and outstanding modern interpretation of Spanish/Mediterranean Revival style of architecture by two master architects, Hamrick House is a superb contributor to the architectural heritage of the City of Palm Springs. Palm Springs holds the distinction of having the greatest concentration of modern architecture in the western United States, largely in part by the influence of these two men who hold the distinction of being the first licensed architects in the city. The property's period of significance is 1942, the year construction was completed.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

In 1941, John Porter Clark and Albert Frey were commissioned by John and Fannie Hamrick to design their vacation home in Palm Springs, CA. John Hamrick (1876-1956) was an American entrepreneur in the theater business. He leased and owned a large number of vaudeville and movie theaters in the northwest from the early 1920s until the late 1940s. He is credited as the first west coast theater owner to show talking pictures, largely due to his relationship with Harry M. Warner. John Hamrick introduced the Vitaphone, providing sound to his motion pictures, beginning in March, 1927 at the Blue Mouse Theater in Seattle, WA.<sup>3</sup> Harry M. Warner, one of the three founding members of Warner Brothers, also resided in Palm Springs.

The Hamrick family had been coming to Palm Springs to vacation and play golf since the 1930s. Around 1940, they purchased three lots in Little Tuscan Estates, including one for their vacation home, for which they hired John Porter Clark and Albert Frey, architects. It was one of Clark and Frey's first commissions in Palm Springs. One of the three lots was sold to defray the costs of their vacation home. The third lot was for their daughter, a future home that was never built. According to family members, Mr. Hamrick wanted "the best site in Palm Springs" to build his winter residence.

John Hamrick's motion picture theaters in Seattle, Tacoma, and Portland became known as the Hamrick Evergreen theaters, and he was known as a prominent entrepreneur in these regions.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, March 18, 1927m, 11; *The Seattle Times*, March 18, 1927; "Motion Picture Technology," Britannica CD 2000 Deluxe Edition; "Vitaphone Wins Praise From Highest Expert," *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, March 6, 1927, D-3. "Vitaphone is Triumph at Blue Mouse," Ibid, Everhardt Armstrong, March 19, 1927.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

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Palm Springs had become known as a playground for Hollywood royalty. Mr. and Mrs. Hamrick were avid and accomplished golfers and hit the links with many silver screen stars. Harry M. Warner, Bing Crosby, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnez, Frank Sinatra, Dolores and Bob Hope were frequent guests and golfing partners of the Hamricks.

As Clark and Frey developed the design for the Hamrick house in 1941, its clean, straightforward lines, and generous use of glass, hint at the evolution in architectural vocabulary that would follow in Clark and Frey's work as their architecture evolved into the modern idiom. As one of Clark and Frey's first collaborative residential commissions, the property is a true testament to exceptional architecture by Palm Springs pioneering licensed architects, and one of its longest residing residents, the Hamrick family.<sup>5</sup>

### **John Porter Clark**

John Porter Clark (1905-1991) studied architecture at Cornell University, and graduated in 1928. While working in Pasadena, Clark was invited to relocate to Palm Springs, where he became the first important regionalist Modernist to open an office. By 1934 Albert Frey had also arrived to supervise the construction of the Kocher Samson Office Building. He traveled back and forth from New York, and eventually moved to Palm Springs in 1939.<sup>6</sup> Based upon a shared compatibility and aesthetic, Clark and Frey established their partnership. Of the two, John Porter Clark was the more conventional, rarely seen without a tie. It was he who handled client relations and sat as a member of the Planning Commission, from the time Palm Springs was incorporated.

Clark's architectural training evolved into a more traditional style, Spanish /Mediterranean or Mission style. As practice and collaboration evolved, he responded to the environment and context of the desert, thus making the design of houses more compatible with the design of automobiles, mostly by utilizing the ranch style on a large lot. He also responded to the desert heat by designing minimal insulation in roofs and walls, not unlike primitive structures. Instead of trapping cool air in the building and then keeping it from escaping, he used a common evaporative unit to change the air frequently, making insulation of little use in retaining cold air. The use of masonry walls also assists with the cooling of the home. These concepts are clearly expressed in the Hamrick House.

### **Albert Frey**

Albert Frey ((1903-1998) was born in Switzerland, and studied architecture there. Prior to receiving his diploma, Frey apprenticed with the architect A.J. Arter in Zurich and worked in construction during his school vacations. It was around this time that Frey became aware of the Dutch DeStijl movement, German Bauhaus, and the modernism movement developing in Brussels. All would influence Frey's later work. After graduation, he moved to Paris, and

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<sup>5</sup> Prickly Pears oral history project, Palm Springs Public Library, videotaped interview with John Porter Clark and Albert Frey, 1986.

<sup>6</sup> Joseph Rosa, *Albert Frey, Architect* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999. originally published; New York, NY. Rizzoli International, 1990).

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worked in the atelier of visionary modernist architect Le Corbusier, detailing one of Corbusier's masterworks, the Villa Savoy.<sup>7</sup>

In 1930, Frey moved to the United States, convinced that it was the land of opportunity for modernist design. Frey began working with the American architect A. Lawrence Kocher, who was also the managing editor of *Architectural Record*. Their collaboration lasted until 1935, and they reunited for a brief collaboration in 1938. Although the pair built only four buildings, they contributed significantly to the American modernist movement through their numerous articles in *Architectural Record* on urban planning, the modernist aesthetic, and technology. One such collaboration was Aluminaire House (1931) in New York. Frey worked for several prominent architects in New York, then moved permanently to Palm Springs in 1939 and formalized a professional relationship with John Porter Clark.

At the time Frey came to America, advances were being made in American technology that allowed him to take ideas from Europe's modern movement and expand on them by using new materials. Frey became quite versed in this regard using metal sheathing on exterior, tubular columns as displayed in the 1947 sunroom addition of the Hamrick House. Albert Frey's transition from New York to Palm Springs produced a body of work that blended his modernist obsession with the machine and mass production techniques with a deep sensitivity to natural surroundings, clearly evident in the architecture of Hamrick House.

### **The Firm of Clark & Frey**

At the end of World War II, Palm Springs' population almost tripled, and the city experienced a building boom. Known as an escape for the entertainment elite such as the Hamricks, Palm Springs emerged postwar as a resort community for a broader segment of the populace with more leisure time than any other generation. Clark & Frey were well positioned to capitalize on this, and both the city and their firm benefited from an unprecedented period of construction.

Smoke Tree Ranch, a private resort community in Palm Springs known for its equestrian lifestyle, was the site of many Clark & Frey houses, often utilizing the same language as the Hamrick House, using natural materials of stone, and steel casement windows in a traditional ranch style home. These houses illustrate that proportion and simplicity, within a traditional language, can create an elegant modern ranch house.

During the post war boom, Clark & Frey transitioned from primarily residential projects to more lucrative and career defining public commissions. Some of these included schools in the Palm Springs Unified School District, Palm Springs City Hall, and the Police Department. They went on to design the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Station, the cable car that travels in 14 minutes from the desert floor, over five enormous pylons, on to the 8,500 foot-ascent to snow and pine

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<sup>7</sup> Rosa. Joseph Rosa is director of the University of Michigan Museum of Art. Previously, he was the chief curator of architecture and design at the Art Institute of Chicago. Prior to that, Rosa was the Helen Hilton Raiser Curator of Architecture and Design at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, curator of architecture at the Heinz Architectural Center at the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, chief curator at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., and director of the Columbia Architecture Galleries in New York.

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trees of San Jacinto. The Aerial Tramway still stands the test of great architectural design and has attracted more than 16 million visitors since it opened. Other Palm Springs projects of significance, either collectively or independently, include the Palm Springs Woman's Club Building, The Welwood Murray Library, Loewy House, and Tramway Gas Station that became the iconic Visitor Center located at the northern gateway to the City of Palm Springs. Several elementary schools and private residences are also included in their significant work.

Clark & Frey's buildings contributed significantly to establishing Palm Springs as a progressive desert mecca for innovative modern architecture from the 1940s through the 1970s. Clark & Frey produced a large spectrum of architecture, from custom homes to institutional and public buildings, most of which are still in use. Their collective work became a great influence to subsequent modern architects, and established the vocabulary of desert modernism. Hamrick House was one of their most enduring residential designs that foreshadowed much of their latter work.

Hamrick House has had three owners, and remained in the Hamrick family until 2003. In 2015, after a decade of ownership, the owners were gifted by the Hamrick family Clark & Frey's 1941 penciled architectural drawings that include the floor plan and exterior elevations, along with a sales map of Little Tuscany Estates.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Architectural Resources Group. *City of Palm Springs Citywide Historic Resources Survey*. 2004.

*California Pictorial Magazine*, VOL. XVII, Spring 1942.

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Kolpelk, William. *Past President, Palm Springs Preservation Foundation*, Interview.

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Rosa, Joseph. *Albert Frey Architect*. New York: Rizzoli International Publications, 1989.

Ruark, Katie. *The Desert Sun*, May 4, 2007, page 3.

*Seattle Post Intelligencer*. March 6, 18, and 19, 1927.

*Seattle Times, The*. March 18, 1927.

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Williams, Sidney. *Curator, Palm Springs Art Museum*. Interview.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: Palm Springs Historic Society

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** #50, City of Palm Springs

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** less than one acre

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 33.846272                      Longitude: -116.558272

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property boundaries are all of Lot 1 and that portion of Lot 10 of Little Tuscany No.2, in the city of Palm Springs, County of Riverside, State of California, as per map recorded in Book 19, Page 28 of Maps, in the office of the County Recorder.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are those of the 0.67 acre parcel acquired by John and Fannie Hamrick in Palm Springs in 1941.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Susan Secoy Jensen, Architect, AIA, M.Arch  
organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number: 160 South Cypress Street  
city or town: Orange state: CA zip code: 92866  
e-mail secoyarch@sbcglobal.net  
telephone: (714) 639-4367  
date: March 15, 2016

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Hamrick House  
City or Vicinity: Palm Springs  
County: Riverside  
State: California  
Photographer: Susan Secoy Jensen  
Date Photographed: January 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 10. Looking west, interior living room.
- 2 of 10. Looking northwest, interior sun room.
- 3 of 10. Looking south, exterior front elevation.



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- 4 of 10. Looking southwest, exterior window and eave detail.
- 5 of 10. Looking southwest, exterior front elevation of garage and house.
- 6 of 10. Looking west, exterior stone wall of garage.
- 7 of 10. Looking northwest, exterior of sun room.
- 8 of 10. Looking west, exterior of 1980s addition.
- 9 of 10. Looking north, exterior of 1980s addition.
- 10 of 10. Looking southeast, exterior corner window and eave detail.

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City or Vicinity: Palm Springs  
County: Riverside  
State: California

Photographer: Maynard L. Parker  
Date and Source: 1943, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA  
Figure 1: View looking northwest.  
Figure 2: View looking southwest.  
Figure 3: View looking southeast.  
Figure 4: View looking northwest.  
Figure 5: Interior view looking west.  
Figure 6: Interior view looking northwest.

Architects: Albert Frey and John Porter Clark  
Date and Source: 1942, Courtesy Darle (niece of John Hamrick) and Patrick Mavetty  
Figure 7: Floor plans  
Figure 8: Exterior elevations  
Figure 9: Details

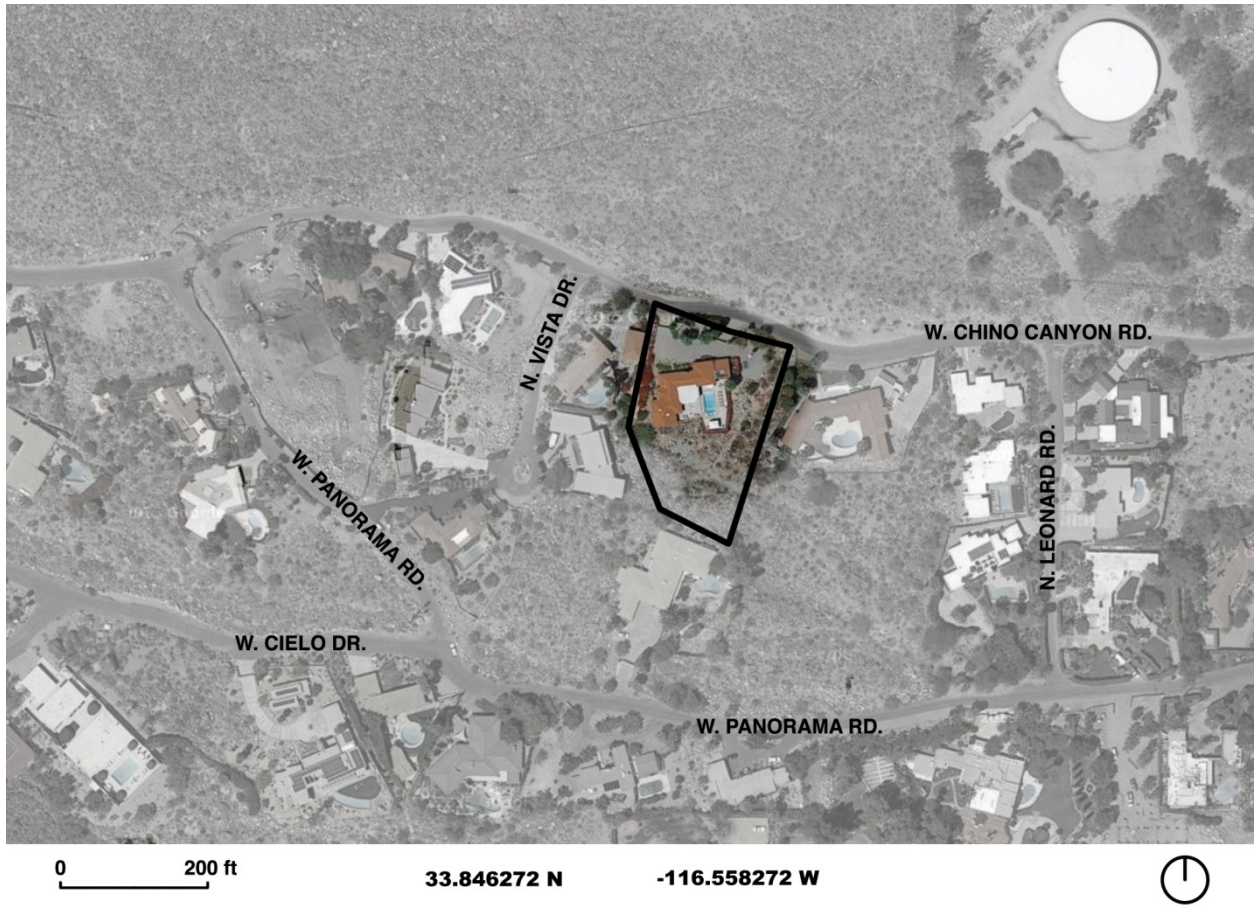
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Hamrick House  
Name of Property

Riverside County, CA  
County and State

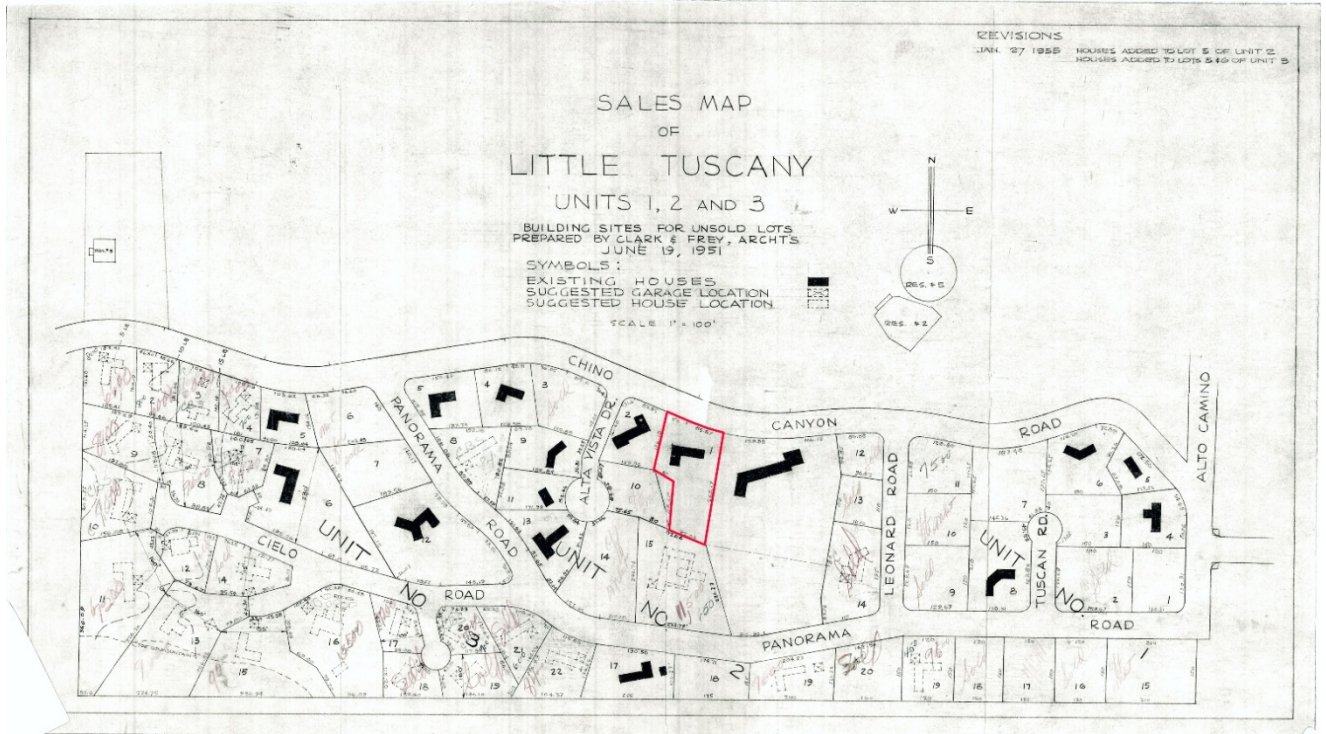
### Location Map



Hamrick House  
Name of Property

Riverside County, CA  
County and State

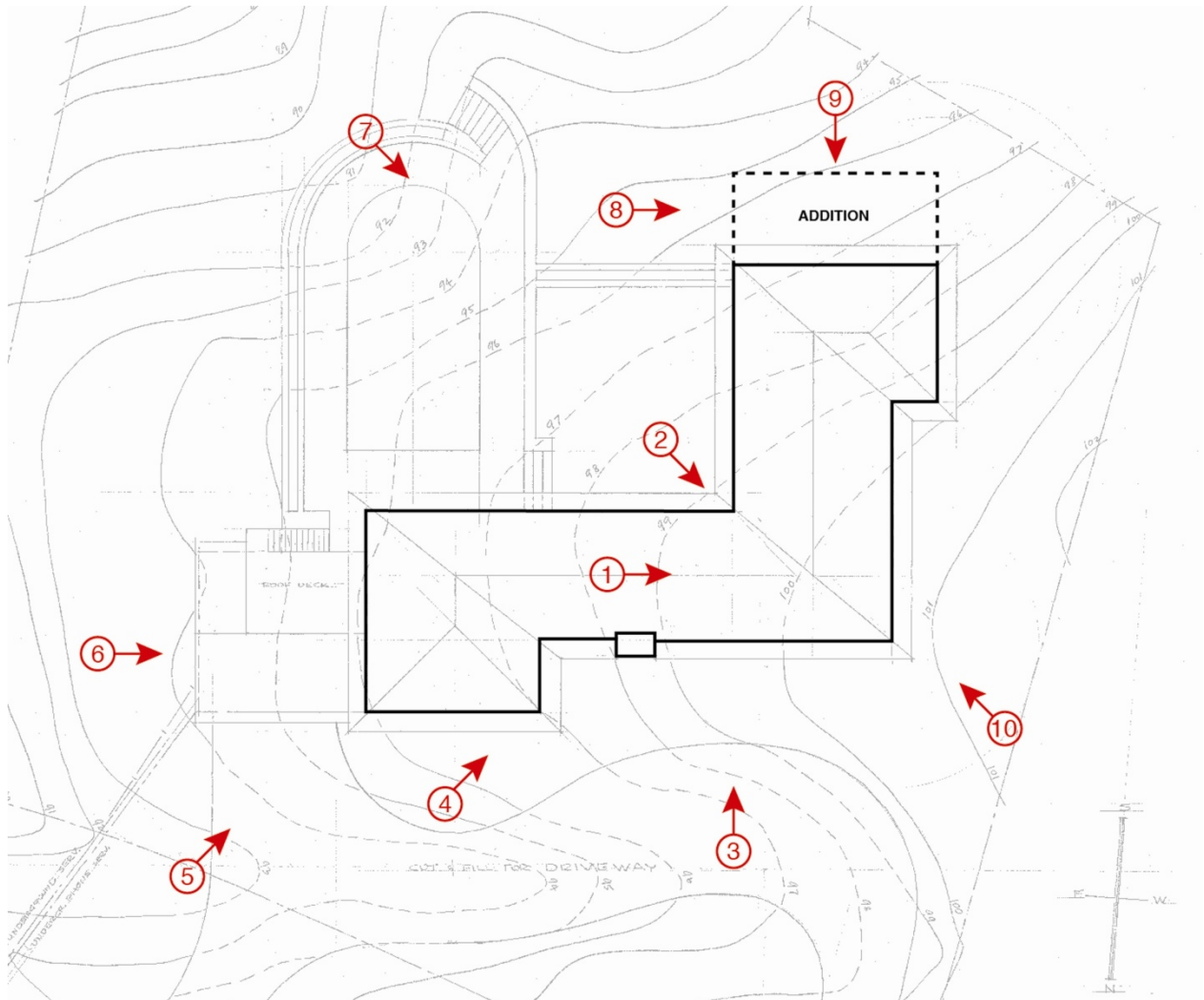
Site Map



Hamrick House  
Name of Property

Riverside County, CA  
County and State

**Sketch Map/Photo Key**



Hamrick House  
Name of Property

Riverside County, CA  
County and State

**Figure 1.**



Hamrick House  
Name of Property

Riverside County, CA  
County and State

**Figure 2.**



Hamrick House  
Name of Property

Riverside County, CA  
County and State

**Figure 3.**



**Figure 4.**



Hamrick House  
Name of Property

Riverside County, CA  
County and State

**Figure 5.**



**Figure 6.**



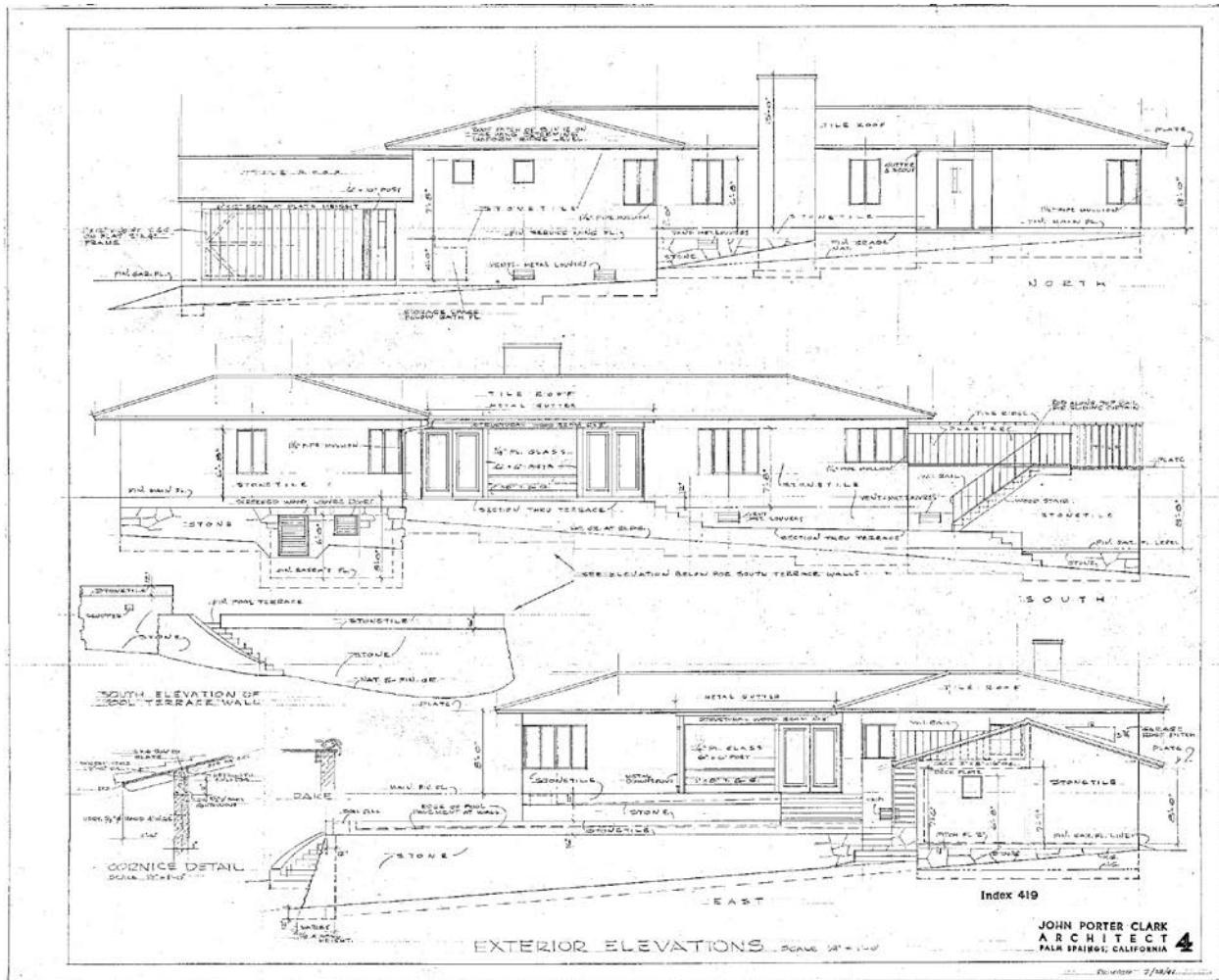




Hamrick House  
Name of Property

Riverside County, CA  
County and State

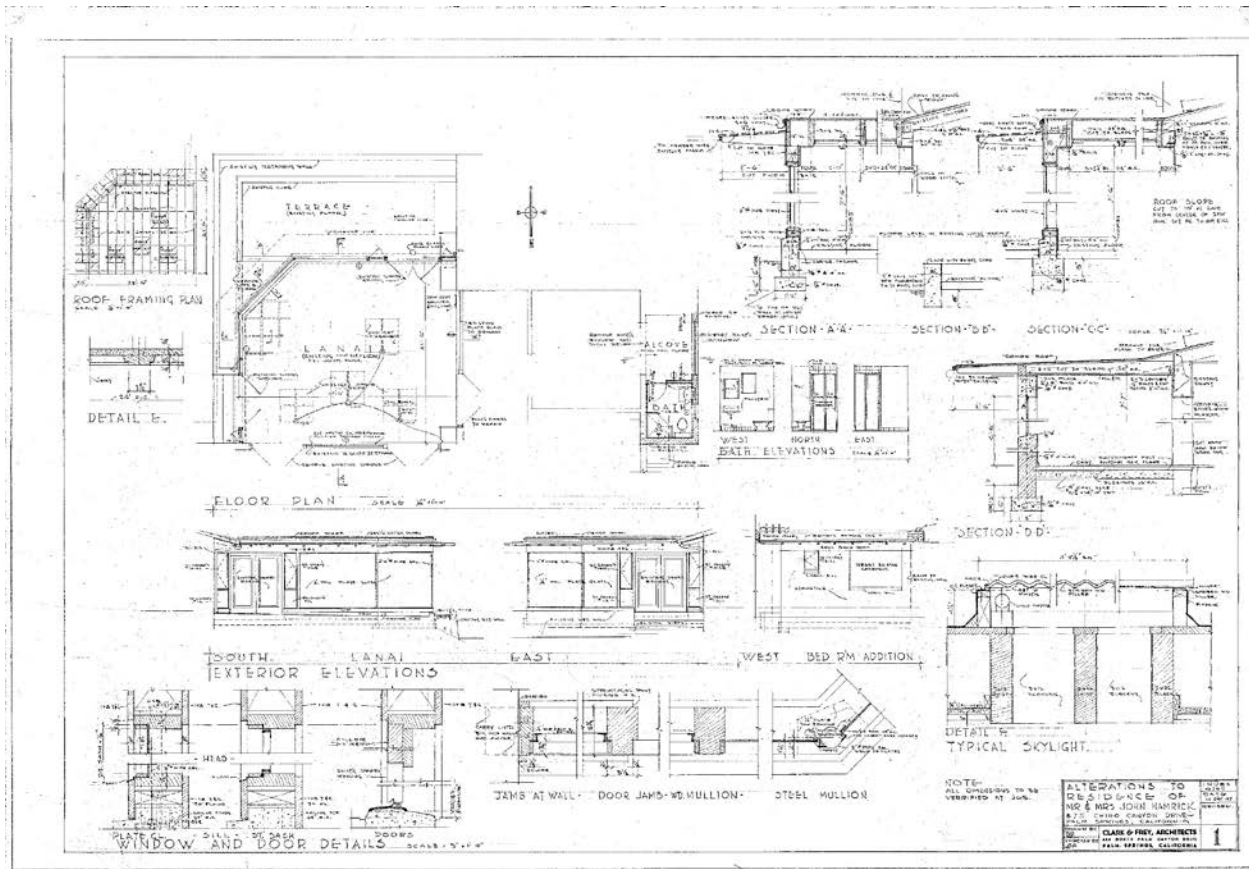
Figure 8.



Hamrick House  
Name of Property

Riverside County, CA  
County and State

Figure 9.



Hamrick House  
Name of Property

Riverside County, CA  
County and State

**Photo 1.**



**Photo 2.**



Hamrick House  
Name of Property

Riverside County, CA  
County and State

**Photo 3.**



Hamrick House  
Name of Property

Riverside County, CA  
County and State

**Photo 4.**



Hamrick House  
Name of Property

Riverside County, CA  
County and State

**Photo 5.**



**Photo 6.**



Hamrick House  
Name of Property

Riverside County, CA  
County and State

**Photo 7.**



**Photo 8.**





Hamrick House  
Name of Property

Riverside County, CA  
County and State

**Photo 9.**



Hamrick House  
Name of Property

Riverside County, CA  
County and State

**Photo 10.**

























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Hamrick House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Riverside

DATE RECEIVED: 8/05/16      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/02/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/19/16      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/20/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000635

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    9.19.16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100  
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053  
calshpo@parks.ca.gov  
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

RECEIVED 2280



AUG - 5 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

August 2, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief  
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.  
Washington D.C. 20005

Subject: **Hamrick House**  
**Riverside County, California**  
**National Register of Historic Places Nomination**

Dear Mr. Loether:

**The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for HAMRICK HOUSE to the National Register of Historic Places.** On July 29, 2016 in Woodland, California, the California State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture with a 1942 period of significance.

Hamrick House is a one-story residence designed in the Spanish/Mediterranean Revival style, constructed in 1942. Located in an area of Palm Springs called Little Tuscan Estates, the house was designed by two master architects, John Porter Clark and Albert Frey. An excellent example of the Spanish/Mediterranean Revival style within the pre-Modern Movement, the house is representative of the architects' residential work in Palm Springs during that period.

The property is nominated on behalf of the owner. In its role as representative of the City of Palm Springs, a Certified Local Government, the Historic Site Preservation Board was advised of the nomination. One letter of support has been received. If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact Amy Crain of my staff at (916) 445-7009.

Sincerely,

Jenan Saunders  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

**Hamrick House**  
**Palm Springs, Riverside County**  
**Staff Report**

Hamrick House is a one-story residence designed in the Spanish/Mediterranean Revival style and constructed in 1942. Located in an area of Palm Springs called Little Tuscany Estates, the house was designed by two master architects, John Porter Clark and Albert Frey. Hamrick House is constructed of stone and masonry foundation, plaster and masonry walls, with clay tile roof with exposed eaves of wooden tongue and groove. Prominent design elements consist of a stone chimney, stone pilasters, and a stone wall along the property's north and west borders, integral to the original design. The five bedroom, five bathroom home retains the steel casement windows and screens, original roof tile, and the concrete adobe brick exterior, painted in neutral tones to blend with the desert sand. Hamrick House retains all aspects of historic integrity including location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Hamrick House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance in the area of Architecture. It is an excellent example of the Spanish/Mediterranean Revival style within the pre-Modern Movement, and representative of master architects John Porter Clark and Albert Frey's residential work in Palm Springs during that period. The house exemplifies the rational design approach associated with Clark and Frey's work, with thoughtful clarity of the emergence of the desert modern architecture. As an intact and outstanding modern interpretation of Spanish/Mediterranean Revival style of architecture by two master architects, Hamrick House is a superb contributor to the architectural heritage of the City of Palm Springs. Palm Springs holds the distinction of having the greatest concentration of modern architecture in the western United States, largely in part by the influence of these two men who hold the distinction of being the first licensed architects in the city. The property's period of significance is 1942, the year construction was completed.

The property is nominated on behalf of the owner. In its role as representative of the City of Palm Springs, a Certified Local Government, the Historic Site Preservation Board was advised of the nomination. One letter of support has been received. Staff supports the nomination as written and recommends the State Historical Resources Commission determine that Hamrick House meets National Register Criterion C at the local level of significance with a 1942 period of significance. Staff recommends the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing on the National Register.

Amy H. Crain  
State Historian II  
July 1, 2016



June 20, 2016

California State Historic Resources Commission  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Subject: National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Hamrick Residence

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to express our unequivocal support for the National Register nomination of the Hamrick Residence (1942, Clark & Frey) located at 875 West Chino Canyon Road in Palm Springs. The Hamrick Residence is a treasured local historic resource and was formally designated a Class 1 Historic Site by the city of Palm Springs in 2006.

We have read the nomination submitted by architect Susan Secoy-Jensen and find it a compelling and scholarly assessment of the architectural and historical importance of this residence.

It is appropriate that the Hamrick Residence be recognized and celebrated at both the state and national levels.

The Palm Springs Preservation Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is "to educate and promote public awareness of the importance of preserving the historical resources and architecture of the city of Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley area." We have over 2,400 members throughout California and the nation.

If you have any questions, please contact the foundation at (760) 837-7117.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik Rosenow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Erik Rosenow  
President