

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Harder Hall  
other names/site number 8 HG 91

2. Location

street & number 3300 Golfview Drive n/a not for publication  
city, town Sebring n/a vicinity  
state Florida code FL county Highlands code FL 055 zip code 33870

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Multiple Resources of Sebring, Florida  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register n/a

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature] \_\_\_\_\_ Date May 1, 1990  
Signature of certifying official State Historic Preservation Officer  
Florida Dept. of State-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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Amy Federman 6/20/90  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/hotel

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

SPANISH COLONIAL REVIVAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls OTHER/hollow clay tile

STUCCO

roof COMPOSITION

other WROUGHT IRON

CERAMIC TILE

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1927

Significant Dates

1927

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

King, William Manley

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Please See Cover Nomination

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Specify repository:**

Bureau of Historic Preservation

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of property 13.2 acres

**UTM References**

A	<u>17</u>	<u>453740</u>	<u>3038580</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>17</u>	<u>453760</u>	<u>3038180</u>

B	<u>17</u>	<u>453880</u>	<u>3038360</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<u>17</u>	<u>453550</u>	<u>3038350</u>

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

S-01 35-28 A00-0020.0000 Frac NE 1/4 E of Lake Dr. Blve and N. of Parcel D of Harder Hall Ctry Club I-Less 1.6 acres in NW COR AKA Hotel Grounds  
1-35-28/2 13.2 acres Hotel

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary follows the legal boundary description for the property. This is the last remaining portion of the larger parcel historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Vicki L. Welcher - Historic Sites Specialist  
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date May 1, 1990  
street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333  
city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 Harder Hall

Harder Hall is a large Spanish Colonial Revival style building located at 3300 Golfview Drive near the city limits of Sebring, Florida. The building is situated on 13.2 acres adjacent to a small lake and across the main highway from Lake Jackson. The original property included two gateways at the entrance to the main highway dating from the historic period. Only the hall and its immediate surroundings are included in this nomination. The property includes two contributing structures, one contributing site, one non-contributing structure and one non-contributing site.

## HARDER HALL

The building contains a seven story central block topped by a hip roofed belvedere. Two, five story, one bay wings flank the central block. A three story hip roofed wing at the north elevation and three and one-half story hip roofed wing at the south elevation then flank this central massing. Three story entrance blocks at the east and west elevations each contain two round cartouches, a second story pedimented entranceway above two spiral columns and an arcaded loggia. A two story kitchen wing is reached through a three story gabled wing on the west elevation.

Eaves are boxed and display round arched friezes at various areas on all elevations. Fenestration is irregular with varying sizes of 2/2, 4/4 and 6/6 double hung arched and rectangular wood sashes. Much of the original clay barrel tile roofing has been lost and replaced with rolled composition.

Harder Hall displays many features associated with the Spanish Colonial Revival style. Among them are the rough stuccoed finishes, arcaded loggias at various elevations, clay barrel tile roofing, arched fenestration and entranceways, arched friezes, multipane fenestration with arched lintels and transoms, fanlights, nine light porthole windows, wrought iron balconies and interior iron work, capped chimneys, and unglazed ceramic tile flooring.

Alterations are limited to the use of replacement aluminum windows and a small one story flat roofed addition at the west elevation.

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Section number 7 Page 2 Harder Hall

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### SPA BUILDING

The spa building is a one story hollow clay tile structure with a hip roof and stuccoed exterior. The small building originally housed changing rooms and a steam room. Today, the structure has been altered internally to accommodate offices, but retains its original exterior configuration.

### POOL

The pool was constructed in conjunction with the main hall and the spa in 1927 and retains its original configuration. (Not accessible to photograph.)

### CONCRETE BLOCK STRUCTURE

The small one story gabled structure adjacent to the entrance road was constructed c. 1980 to accommodate a sales office for the Harder Hall Golf and Country Club. The building is constructed of concrete block and has a small shed roofed porch at the west elevation.

### TENNIS COURTS

The property contains twelve tennis courts, eleven of which are contiguous. The courts are located in a flat area to the west of the main hall. It is probable that the courts are located where the original tennis and lawn bowling areas were located during the historic period.

### CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Harder Hall  
Spa Building  
Pool

### NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Concrete Block Building  
Tennis Courts

TOTAL RESOURCES 5

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Harder Hall is significant at the local level under Criterion C as one of the finer hotels constructed in Sebring and South Central Florida prior to 1930 during the Florida Land Boom Era of the 1920s. It is also significant for its association with a prominent Florida architect, William Manley King, and for its embodiment of the Spanish Colonial Revival style found in Sebring during the 1920s. In addition, it also represents a type of building, the resort hotel, which was significant to the development of Sebring.

In May, 1925, a Sebring newspaper reported that a major hotel and resort community development, financed by the Biltmore interests, was planned for Sebring. Under the name of Lakewood Terrace, a development company headed by Vincent Hall of West Palm Beach began construction of a 1.5 million dollar facility on the western shore of Lake Jackson. The entire project, which the newspapers advertised as Sebring's "\$30,000,000 development," included construction of a golf course, other recreational facilities and, at minimum, forty houses surrounding the hotel facility. Construction began in November, 1925.

Harder Hall, which the facility was eventually named, stands as a prototypical Boom development. Grandiose in conception, Spanish in design, and almost wholly out of scale with reality and commercial possibility, the building raised local expectations to new heights but soon fell victim to the real estate bust of 1926 in Florida. The company went bankrupt and, although the hotel itself sputtered to completion, few if any of the promised houses appeared. Empty roads and platted lots around Harder Hall stood as testimonials to the great Boom of the 1920s.

Harder Hall and other Boom period construction projects stimulated an intense demand for the talents of architects and builders. The architect of Harder Hall was William Manley King of West Palm Beach. King was born at Macon, Mississippi and studied architecture and engineering at the Georgia School of Technology, Atlanta. His first professional position was with Harry B. Wheelock at Birmingham, Alabama. He quickly advanced in the firm from chief draughtsman to full partner. Wheelock and he were responsible for the design of a variety of buildings in Birmingham during their ten year association.

King came to South Florida in 1920 and the following year established his practice in West Palm Beach. In addition to

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Harder Hall, King designed a number of the finer residences in Palm Beach and West Palm Beach. Among his other commissions were the West Palm Beach High School; the Royal Danelli Hotel, Palm Beach; the Billows Hotel, Palm Beach; and the Hibiscus Apartments, West Palm Beach, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. He also designed a number of the public school buildings in Palm Beach County. King's work can be found in every section of Florida. He designed the city halls at Belle Glade and Pahokee, an addition to the Florida State Sanitarium, and several buildings at Florida State University.

In addition to its association with William Manley King, Harder Hall has further architectural significance for the type of building it represents. During its period of significance it was one of south central Florida's finest hotels. It was a natural successor to the Ponce de Leon and Alcazar in St. Augustine and the Tampa Bay in Tampa among the state's finest resort hotels. It and other buildings of its type were essential to the development of Florida's tourist industry, now the lifeblood of the state.

Harder Hall is also significant for its Spanish Colonial Revival style. Resort hotels were places to escape. As a result their designers were allowed a certain poetic licence. Many were designed based on regional stylistic trends which often evoked historical and exotic settings. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Spanish influenced hotel design was particularly common in California, the southwest and Florida. Harder Hall is associated with the history of American resort architecture in Florida during the 1920s Land Boom Era.



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Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photos Page 1 Harder Hall

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1. Harder Hall
2. Sebring, Florida
3. unknown
4. August, 1989
5. Sebring, Florida
6. Front elevation with tennis courts facing east
7. Photo 1

Items 1-5 are identical for photos 1-13

6. Front elevation showing one story addition and tennis court facing east
7. Photo 2
6. Kitchen wing facing east
7. Photo 3
6. Rear of kitchen wing facing north
7. Photo 4
6. Rear elevation facing west
7. Photo 5
6. Rear and side elevations facing southwest
7. Photo 6
6. Side elevation facing south
7. Photo 7
6. Interior shot of "dining room" at southeast end of building facing southeast
7. Photo 8
6. Interior shot of "dining room" at southeast end of building facing southwest
7. Photo 9
6. Interior shot of central Great Hall on east elevation facing southeast
7. Photo 10
6. Entrance Hall at west elevation facing east
7. Photo 11

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photos Page 2

Harder Hall

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6. Interior detail of fireplace at northern end of Great Hall facing north

7. Photo 12

6. Interior detail of typical hallway in north wing

7. Photo 13

1. Harder Hall

2. Sebring Florida

3. Steve Olausen

4. 1987

5. Historic Property Associates

6. Closeup shot of front elevation facing southeast

7. Photo 14

1. Harder Hall

2. Sebring, Florida

3. Vicki Welcher

4. 1990

5. Bureau of Historic Preservation

6. Southern boundary of property showing spa building facing east

7. Photo 15

Items 1-5 are identical for photos 15-19

6. Southwest corner of property showing tennis courts facing north

7. Photo 16

6. Front elevation of hall with tennis courts and non-contributing structure facing southeast

7. Photo 17

6. Non-contributing building facing southeast

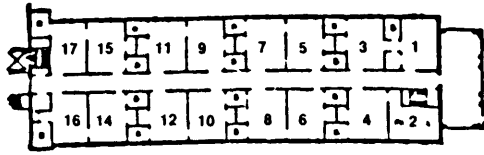
7. Photo 18

6. Northern corner of property facing south

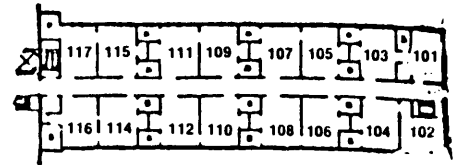
7. Photo 19

Harder Hall, Sebring, Florida, Highlands County

# PLAN OF ROOMS—HARDER HALL

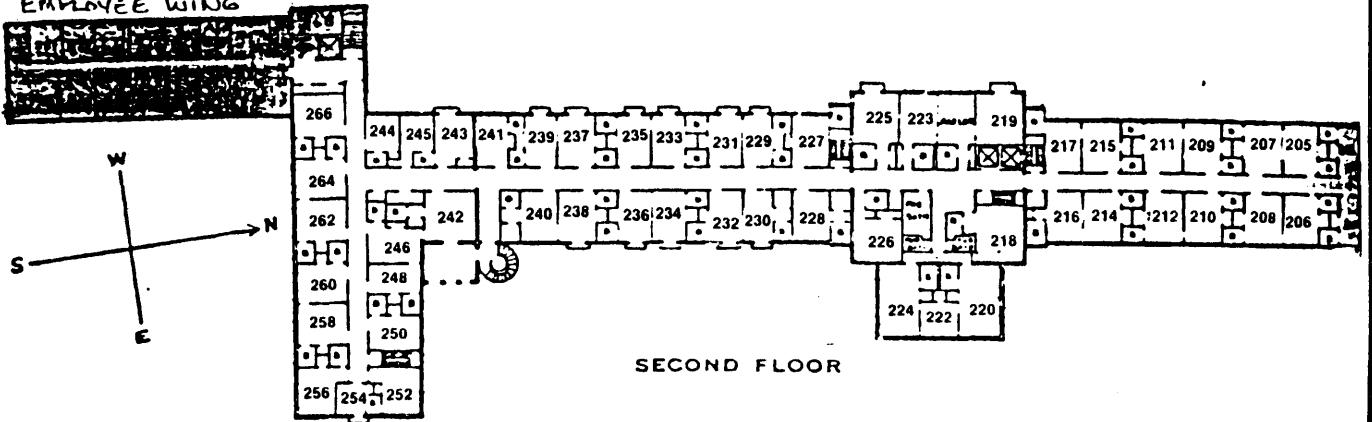


FIRST FLOOR

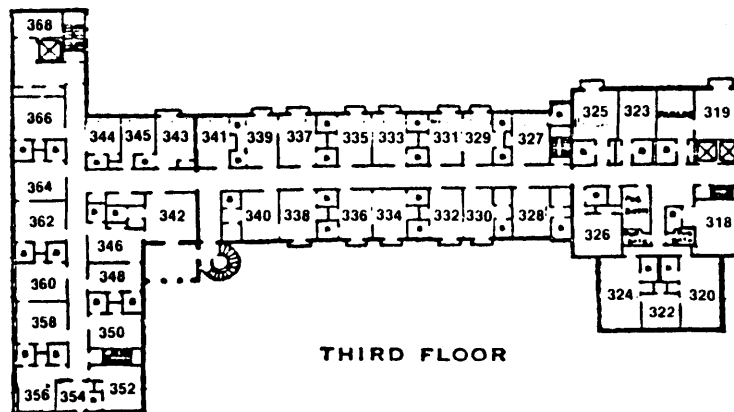


MEZZANINE FLOOR

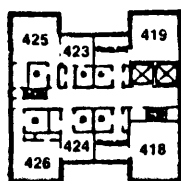
EMPLOYEE WING



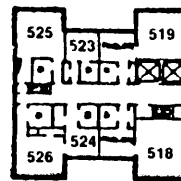
SECOND FLOOR



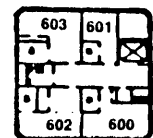
THIRD FLOOR



FOURTH FLOOR TOWER



FIFTH FLOOR TOWER



SIXTH FLOOR TOWER

