

PH0822667

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| STATE: Florida | |
| COUNTY: St. Johns | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER 71.2.12.0001 | DATE 2/24/71 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Alcazar Hotel (Lightner Municipal Exposition)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Historic Lightner Museum

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
79 King Street

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Augustine

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|
| STATE Florida | CODE 12 | COUNTY: St. Johns | CODE 109 |
|------------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

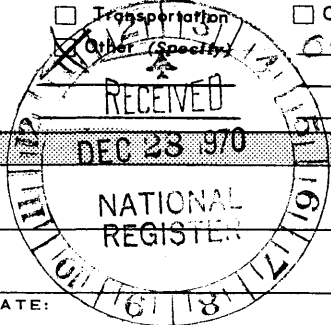
OWNER'S NAME:
City of St. Augustine

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Augustine

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
St. Johns County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
King and Cordova Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Augustine

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Part of St. Augustine Historic District National Register

DATE OF SURVEY: nomination
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Augustine

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Florida

COUNTY: St. Johns

ENTRY NUMBER: 71.2.12.0001

DATE: 2/24/71

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Alcazar Hotel building is an original architectural style composite of Spanish Renaissance mingled with adaptations borrowed from Moorish buildings in Spain. The castles of Seville were copied in some of the decorative design; and the facade bears great resemblance to Seville's famed Alcazar, royal palace of kings.

The building was completed in 1889 after two years of construction at a cost in excess of \$1,000,000. It was first used, in its then unfinished stage, in 1888 to accommodate the overflow patronage of her famed "sister", the illustrious Ponce de Leon, Henry Flagler's first hotel project which had just attained completion. The Alcazar formally came into "her own" the following year.

This distinct and impressive structure, four stories in height, standing on filled-in land, occupies a ground area of 250' by 450'. The over-all property size can best be visualized in terms of city blocks - one in width, three in depth.

composition
The construction of the outer walls was a shell rock formation indigenous to the St. Augustine area. It is known as coquina. The present building is one of the first constructed in the United States of poured concrete.

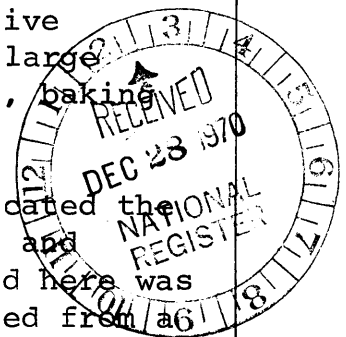
The Alcazar in its original interior design had 300 guest rooms, in an age when private-bath-in-every-room was not accepted requirement. As the pattern changed in hotel accommodations this conversion in the Alcazar left 170 guest rooms. There were, of course, elaborate and expansive writing and lounge rooms, spacious lobbies and two large dining rooms with comparable allowances for kitchen, baking and refrigeration facilities.

In the south section of the building were located the Turkish and Russian baths, Swedish massage services and kindred activities. The natural artesian water used here was presumed to have medicinal benefits. It was obtained from a free-flowing well located on the property.

Adjoining the baths was and still is the magnificent Casino, the then recreation and social center of the Alcazar, Ponce de Leon, and the community as well. Here was in all probability the largest indoor swimming pool in the nation.

Continued...

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| STATE Florida | |
| COUNTY St. Johns | |
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| ENTRY NUMBER 71.2.12.0001 | DATE 2/24/71 |

(Number all entries)

Alcazar Hotel
7. Description
Page 2

*Alcazar Hotel
St. Augustine, Florida
Casino*

On the upper balcony of the Casino were staged dances, entertainments, and other social functions.

The Casino pool, which has since been floored over, was the scene of many memorable sports occasions. The national AAU swimming championship meets were held in this pool, an old program dated February, 1925, listing such nationally famous feminine entries as Gertrude Ederle, Helen Wainwright, Aileen Riggan, Helen Meany, Adelaide Lambert, Sybil Bauer, champions all.

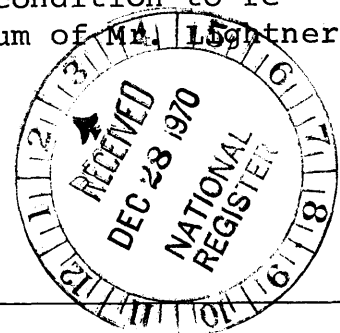
Along with the other events the Casino is now the setting for the annual St. Augustine Antiques Show, established by Mr. Lightner and presented in January of each year.

Tennis courts were at the rear of the building and on them trod the feet of champions, Tilden, Richards, Doeg, and others of that era.

The Alcazar was closed in 1930 due to the national economic depression. It remained closed and uninhabited until purchased by Otto C. Lightner, in 1947.

The interior of the building had suffered quite some deterioration during the 17 years it had been uncared for. An expensive program of rehabilitation was necessary before the property would be habitable. Mr. Lightner allotted \$150,000 of his personal funds for this purpose; and work in the area of the first two floors and the Casino was commenced and completed to its present appearance. In the latter part of 1947 the facility was in condition to receive the exhibits from the Chicago Museum of Mr. Lightner.

*Alcazar Hotel
St. Augustine, Florida*



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1887-1889

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Alcazar Hotel was constructed in 1887-1889 by Henry Flagler as a part of a complex of three buildings of Moorish-Spanish Architecture, in his quest to create a "Riviera" on the eastern seaboard of the United States.

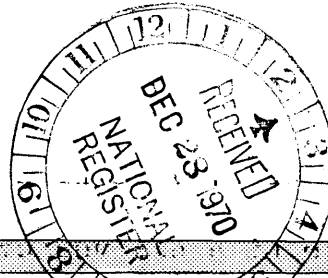
The Alcazar Hotel, the name being Arabic (Al-kasr) for "royal castle", was the second of the luxurious hostelrys erected in St. Augustine by Henry M. Flagler, known first in the nation's financial marts as an associate of John D. Rockefeller in the creation of the parent Standard Oil Company.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Houses of St. Augustine. St. Augustine: The St. Augustine Historical Society, 1962.



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|---------|---------|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | Alcazar Hotel | | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW | | | 29° | 53' | 25" |
| NE | | | 81° | 18' | 54" |
| S | | | | | |
| SW | | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: J. P. Schuck, Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation

ORGANIZATION: Department of State DATE: 8/3/70

STREET AND NUMBER: The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Robert Williams

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: December 18, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

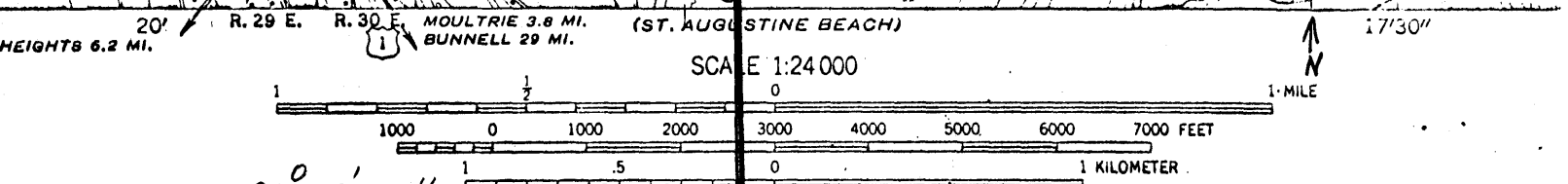
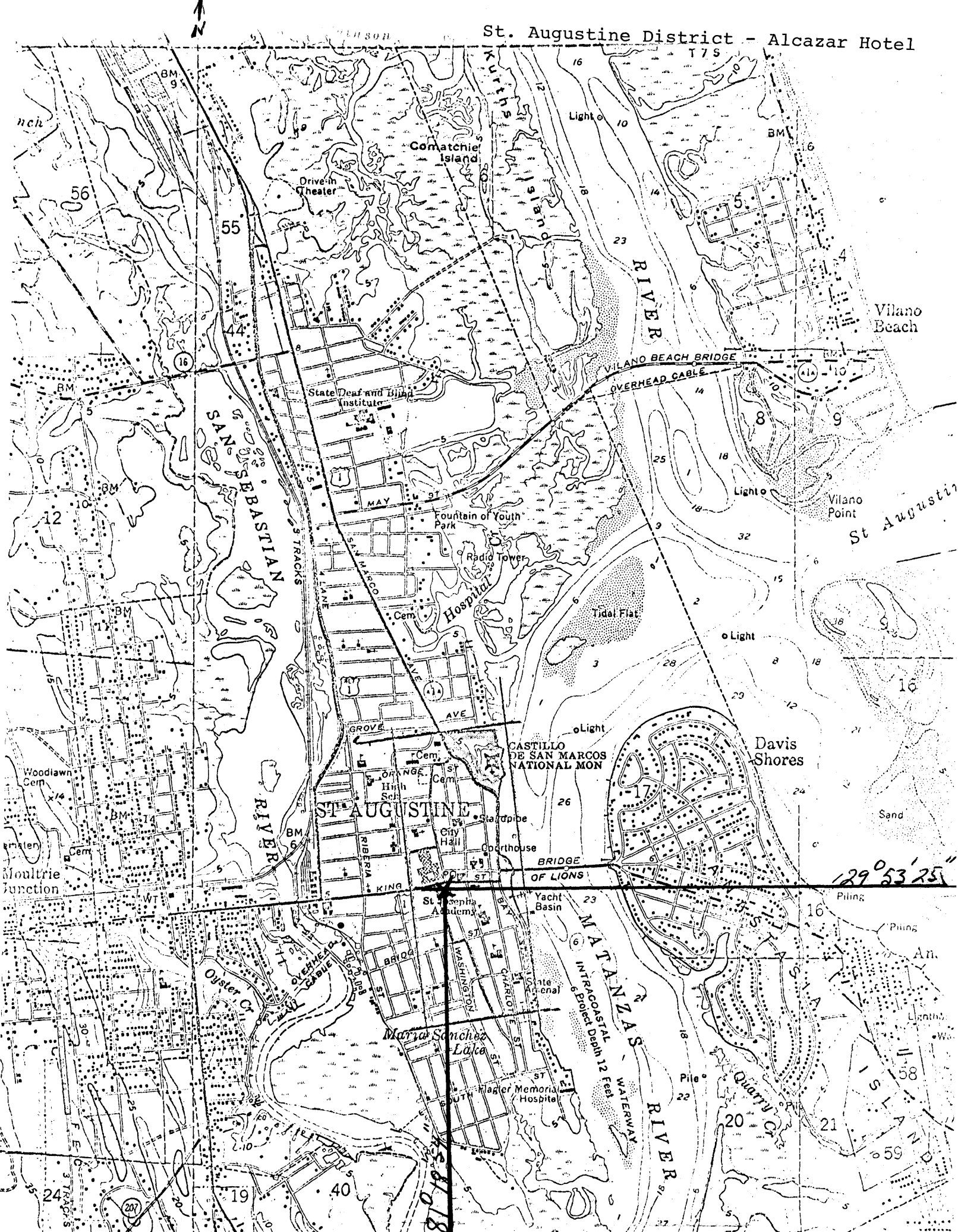
RECEIVED FEB 24 1971
Date: _____

ATTEST:
William J. Huntley
Keeper of The National Register

Date: JAN 21 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

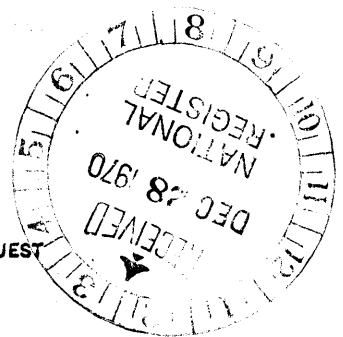
St. Augustine District - Alcazar Hotel



LONG. 81° 18' 54"
 LAT. 29° 53' 25"

CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
 SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
 THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 4.5 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| STATE Florida | |
| COUNTY St. Johns FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER 71.2.12.0001 | DATE 2/24/71 |

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|---|------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 1. NAME | | | |
| COMMON: Alcazar Hotel (Lightner Municipal Exposition) | | | |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: Historic Lightner Museum | | | |
| 2. LOCATION | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: 79 King Street | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: St. Augustine | | | |
| STATE: Florida | CODE 12 | COUNTY: St. Johns | CODE 109 |
| 3. MAP REFERENCE | | | |
| SOURCE: U.S. Geological Survey | | | |
| SCALE: 1:24,000 | | | |
| DATE: 1956 | | | |
| 4. REQUIREMENTS | | | |
| TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS | | | |
| 1. Property boundaries where required. | | | |
| 2. North arrow. | | | |
| 3. Latitude and longitude reference. | | | |

