

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0682349

FOR NPS USE ONLY DATA SHEET	
RECEIVED	AUG 15 1978
DATE ENTERED	SEP 11 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Vinoy Park Hotel

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

501 Beach Drive

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

St. Petersburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

Sixth

STATE

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY

Pinellas

CODE

103 ✓

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER: Vacant

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Vinoy Park Hotel Company

STREET & NUMBER

9 East Huron Street

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

— VICINITY OF Illinois

60611

STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pinellas County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

315 Haven Street

CITY, TOWN

Clearwater

Florida

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site is composed of approximately 15 acres, the majority of which is located in the block bounded by Beach Drive, Bayshore Drive, 5th Avenue Northeast and 6th Avenue Northeast. Immediately to the north of 6th Avenue Northeast is the remaining portion on which is located a three story dormitory for employees. The latter is vacant and has been vandalized.

Included in the site are the hotel proper, the dormitory, and to the east a 9-hole golf course, swimming pool and shuffleboard courts. Presently the golf course and gardens are overgrown and the pool and shuffleboard courts damaged. The hotel is now surrounded by a chain link fence with barbed wire. The dormitory has not been similarly protected.

The site is adjacent to both the yacht basin and Tampa Bay and is within four blocks of the downtown commercial district. To the north and south stretching along the waterfront are city parks. Because of its location within the city-owned green space, the Vinoy Park has maintained its visual prominence, even with recent highrise construction downtown.

As noted in the Statement of Significance, this prominence was an important element of the original design. This design featured a central block of 7 stories with four canted wings. On the northwest, southwest and northeast were five story wings containing bed/sittingrooms; the southeast wing of two stories houses the dining room. Immediately north of the central block and attached to it was the two story ballroom. The main entrance was through an arcade in the south facade of the central block. At the west end of the central block was the observation tower rising several stories above the roof proper.

This tower, the main entrance and the major window of the dining room had baroque detailing in stucco. Around the windows of the top story and on the ballroom facade were scrafitto murals. Visible roof surfacing was clay tile. The structural system was reinforced concrete frame with clay tile infill covered with stucco.

Detailing on the interior was extensive, the major features being the public areas. These included in the lobby and mezzanine decorative tile floors, vaulted ceilings, leather and wrought iron chandeliers and wall sconces and stencilled cypress beams. The dining room featured Pompeiian derived murals and chandeliers, a colonnade and a monumental leaded glass window. The ballroom was Georgian in design with a two story clearspan area of 50 by 125 feet, not counting recessed galleries.

Individual rooms were also sumptuously furnished.

The furniture of the guest rooms is hairwood, which is deep gray in color, and striped with a one-inch band of walnut. Draperies are of striped mohair in shades of rose and green. . . . Blankets are a gray plaid, cut and bound single to match the top blankets. . . . These were brought out in light gray with Grecian key border, the crest being woven in both borders. The bedspreads are tan with rose or green stripes to match the decorations.

(See Continuation Sheet)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1925

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

George A. Miller/Henry L. Taylor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Vinoy Park Hotel was one of the earliest and largest of St. Petersburg's resort hotels of the Florida "Boom". It was designed by Henry L. Taylor of New York who designed several other prominent St. Petersburg buildings.¹ The owner and promoter of the hotel was Aymer Vinoy Laughner, a Pennsylvania millionaire who moved to St. Petersburg in 1920 to carry out his land development plans.²

Along with the Don CeSar (National Register) on the west coast, the Vinoy Park on the east coast of St. Petersburg was intended to appeal to the wealthy tourist of the 1920's. Located adjacent to the marina and within four blocks of downtown, on a prime waterfront site of its own, the Vinoy Park was then and remains today a visual landmark. In addition to the hotel proper, other features of the original complex which are included in this nomination are the adjacent (to the east) 9-hole golf course, swimming pool and shuffleboard courts. Immediately north of the hotel is the three story dormitory building for hotel employees.

In 1926 a promotional brochure was issued which described the hotel and its development at great length. Superlatives notwithstanding, the brochure offers insight to the prominence of the hotel at the time:

Built on a fourteen acre site which is now in the process of design, the ensemble is a fitting part of St. Petersburg's Waterfront Park development. Palms and tropical plants are being used in the scheme of beautification and there will be fountains and flower-bordered walks. . . .

Contemplating the Hotel from Waterfront Park which faces the main entrance loggia, the observer is struck by the sweep and freedom of line derived from adroit massing of the building: one part seems the outgrowth of another and by easy graduations the structure ascends from the low line of the bayfront to the pinnacle of the observation tower. . . .

In studying the various angles of the building one of the first happy facts that presents itself is that every room is an outside room. No room faces a court. Of the three hundred and seventy-five guest rooms each and every one has excellent natural ventilation and each and every one has a wonderful view.³

Expense was not spared on the interior spaces of the Vinoy Park. The entrance arcade stretching the length of the central block was floored in quarry tile. Parallel but interior to the loggia was the vaulted two story lobby with balconied mezzanine.

(See Continuation Sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dunn, Hampton. Yesterday's St. Petersburg. Miami, Florida: E. A. Seemann Publishing, Inc., 1973.

St. Petersburg Evening Independent, January 27, 1965, December 21, 1968, December 30, 1974, February 28, 1978.

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 15 Acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	3 3 9 3 0 0	3 0 7 3 5 8 0	B	1 7	3 3 9 7 3 0	3 0 7 3 5 8 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 7	3 3 9 7 0 0	3 0 7 3 4 6 0	D	1 7	3 3 9 2 6 0	3 0 7 3 4 6 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of that part and parcel described as lots J, K, L, M, and N of the Bayshore Subdivision.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Elizabeth B. Monroe, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management June 7, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Department of State, The Capitol (904) 487-2333

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Tallahassee

Florida

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Handwritten Signature] 8/6/78

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Handwritten Signature: Robert B. Rettig]

DATE

9/11/78

ATTEST: *[Handwritten Signature: William Labovitch]*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/11/78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Vinoy Park Hotel
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

All guest rooms are large and the walls are finished in sienna and have carpetings of taupe velvet. Each room is furnished with twin beds, dresser, chiffonier, desk and chairs. Each room has a closet -- a roomy closet -- that is a feature much enjoyed.

The bathroom adjoining each guest room is finished in white. Bath towels, face towels and bath mats are the famous Cannon Mill's product and are woven with the hotel name through the center.

Connecting doors between guest rooms make it possible to rent rooms en suite and whole guest wings can be thrown together for the convenience of groups of friends.¹

With the exception of the moveable fixtures the Vinoy Park Hotel was never significantly altered and remains intact today. The site has been vacant since 1975 and there has been damage to the main building which includes both vandalism and water damage. The present long-term leasee plans to rehabilitate the main structure.

¹The Vinoy Park Hotel: History of the Building and Its Furnishings, (a promotional pamphlet, n.p., n.d. [1926 ca.]), pp. 16-17.

Item Number 8 -- continued

These public areas were noted for decorative tile floors, stencilled cypress beams and renaissance-derived light fixtures. The Georgian ballroom of 50' by 125' clearspan was immediately north of the lobby area and was noted for its sumptuous detailing, while to the southeast the dining room wing was remarkable for its Pompeian murals.

Throughout the 1920's and 1930's the Vinoy Park Hotel remained one of the most important hotels of the St. Petersburg area. During World War II it was used by the U. S. Army Air Corps as barracks and by the Maritime Commission for offices.⁴ After the war it returned to its original use which was maintained until 1975 when the hotel was closed. It is now vacant. The present long-term leasee plans to rehabilitate the main structure.

(For footnotes, see Continuation Sheet)

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Vinoy Park Hotel

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

¹Including St. Mary's Church, Fuller's Jungle Hotel and Comfort Station #1.

²The Vinoy Park Hotel: History of the Building and Its Furnishings, (A promotional pamphlet, n.p., n.d. [1926 ca.]), pp. 2-3.

³Ibid., pp. 12-13.

⁴St. Petersburg Evening Independent, February 28, 1973, p. 149.

Item Number 9 -- continued

The Vinoy Park Hotel: History of the Building and Its Furnishings. (A promotional pamphlet.) n.p., n.d. [1926 ca.].

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Vinoy Park Hotel

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Pinellas

DATE RECEIVED: 11/06/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/21/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 78000955

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Accepted

RECOM. / CRITERIA *Accept*

REVIEWER *Osca Beall*

TELEPHONE _____

DISCIPLINE *History*

DATE *11/13/02*

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

DIVISIONS OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Secretary
Office of International Relations
Division of Elections
Division of Corporations
Division of Cultural Affairs
Division of Historical Resources
Division of Library and Information Services
Division of Licensing
Division of Administrative Services

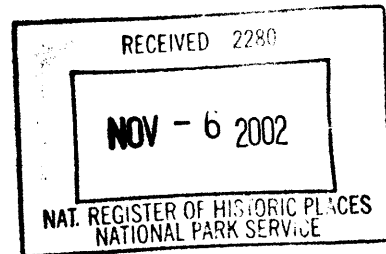


MEMBER OF THE FLORIDA CABINET
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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Jim Smith
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

October 7, 2002

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005



Re: Vinoy Park Hotel, St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida

Dear Ms. Shull:

The Vinoy Park Hotel was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 11, 1978. We would like to request the following changes to the listing information in your files and in the National Register Information System:

- 1) Please add the current name of the property, Renaissance Vinoy Resort and Golf Club, as another name.
- 2) Please also add the number by which the property is listed in the Florida Master Site File: Pi202.
- 3) Please change the address from 501 Beach Drive to 501 Fifth Avenue N.E., St. Petersburg, Florida 33701; the address as currently given in the National Register documentation belongs to another property.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Barbara Mattick at (850) 245-6364.

Sincerely,


Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D.
State Historic Preservation Officer

pc.: Barbara Spofford

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6435

Archaeological Research
(850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6436

Historic Preservation
(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

Historical Museums
(850) 245-6400 • FAX: 245-6433

Palm Beach Regional Office
(561) 279-1475 • FAX: 279-1476

St. Augustine Regional Office
(904) 825-5045 • FAX: 825-5044

Tampa Regional Office
(813) 272-3843 • FAX: 272-2340