

PH0002356

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida
 COUNTY: Monroe
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE: APR 11 1973



1. NAME
 COMMON: Mercedes Hospital
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Eduardo H. Gato ^{House} Home *use this name*

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER: 1209 Virginia Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Key West
 STATE: Florida
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Twelfth District
 COUNTY: Monroe
 CODE: 12
 STATE CODE: 087

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>apartments</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
 OWNER'S NAME: Richard P. Lisher
 STREET AND NUMBER: 437 Commercial Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Provincetown
 STATE: Massachusetts
 CODE: 25

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Monroe County Courthouse
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Key West
 STATE: Florida
 CODE: 12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1966
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington
 STATE: District of Columbia
 CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Florida
 COUNTY: Monroe
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mercedes Hospital is a large atrium house which is two stories high and square in plan. The overall dimensions are 70 feet by 70 feet. The building has a balloon frame structural system and rests on brick piers. Exterior walls are lapped siding painted white. There are exterior balconies on all four sides of the building. Doorways are high semicircular arched openings with heavy wood paneled doors. Windows are elongated, arched and shuttered. The roof is a peripheral A-shape with four corner cupolas. Roof shingles are of slate. All porches and balconies are bracketed and have spindle-type balustrades.

The interior plan of the building includes an open atrium. The atrium is completely balconied at the second floor level. Balcony columns are of wood and common in design. The floor of the atrium is concrete and covers a large cistern.

The grounds of this building are generally unattended. Large, tropical trees grow in abundance and there is a system of concrete walks.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **c. 1890**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

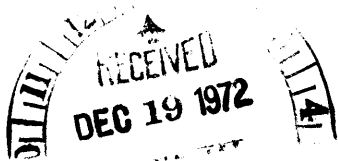
- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in the early 1890's as the home of Edyardo H. Gato, this building is reminiscent of Cuban architecture of the period. Mr. Gato migrated from Cuba, founded the largest cigar factory in Key West in 1876, and made his fortune in the cigar industry. The Gato House was built at the height of his successful career, although he occupied it for only a short time before returning to Cuba.

In 1900, the building was leased to the Woman's Board of Home Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. It was to be used as a school until the Ruth Hargrove Hall was completed in 1901. In 1904, a philanthropic group of Cuban citizens organized the Beneficencia Cubano for the benefit of indigent Cuban nationals. From this beginning, their benevolent work was expanded to include the poor of all nations. Through the combined efforts of the group, Dr. Joseph N. Fogarty, and Eduardo Gato, a hospital was established at the home of the latter. The Mercedes Hospital (Casa del Pobre) was dedicated on October 10, 1911. In recognition of Mr. Gato's generosity in donating the use of his former residence, the group named the hospital after Mrs. Gato.

After the City of Key West purchased the original site on which the building stood, the structure was relocated on Gato property at 1209 Virginia Street, and functioned as a hospital until just prior to World War II. Lack of funds resulted in its being closed, and the property then reverted to the Gato interests. Its present use is as an apartment building.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Browne, Jefferson B. Key West, The Old and The New.
 St. Augustine: The Record Co., 1912.

The Daily Equator-Democrat, Trade Edition. 1889.

Monroe County Courthouse, Key West, Florida. Office
 of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Monroe County
Records. (Subgroup: Deeds).

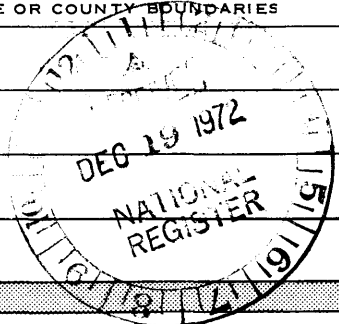
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N24° 33' 19"	W81° 47' 25"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Diane D. Greer & Mary K. Evans, Historic Sites Specialists

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives, History, & Records Mgt. DATE: 3-22-72

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: [Signature]

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: 12/15/72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/11/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4 4 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

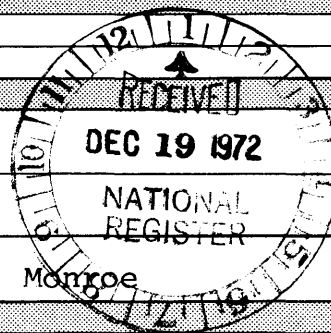
PROPERTY MAP FORM

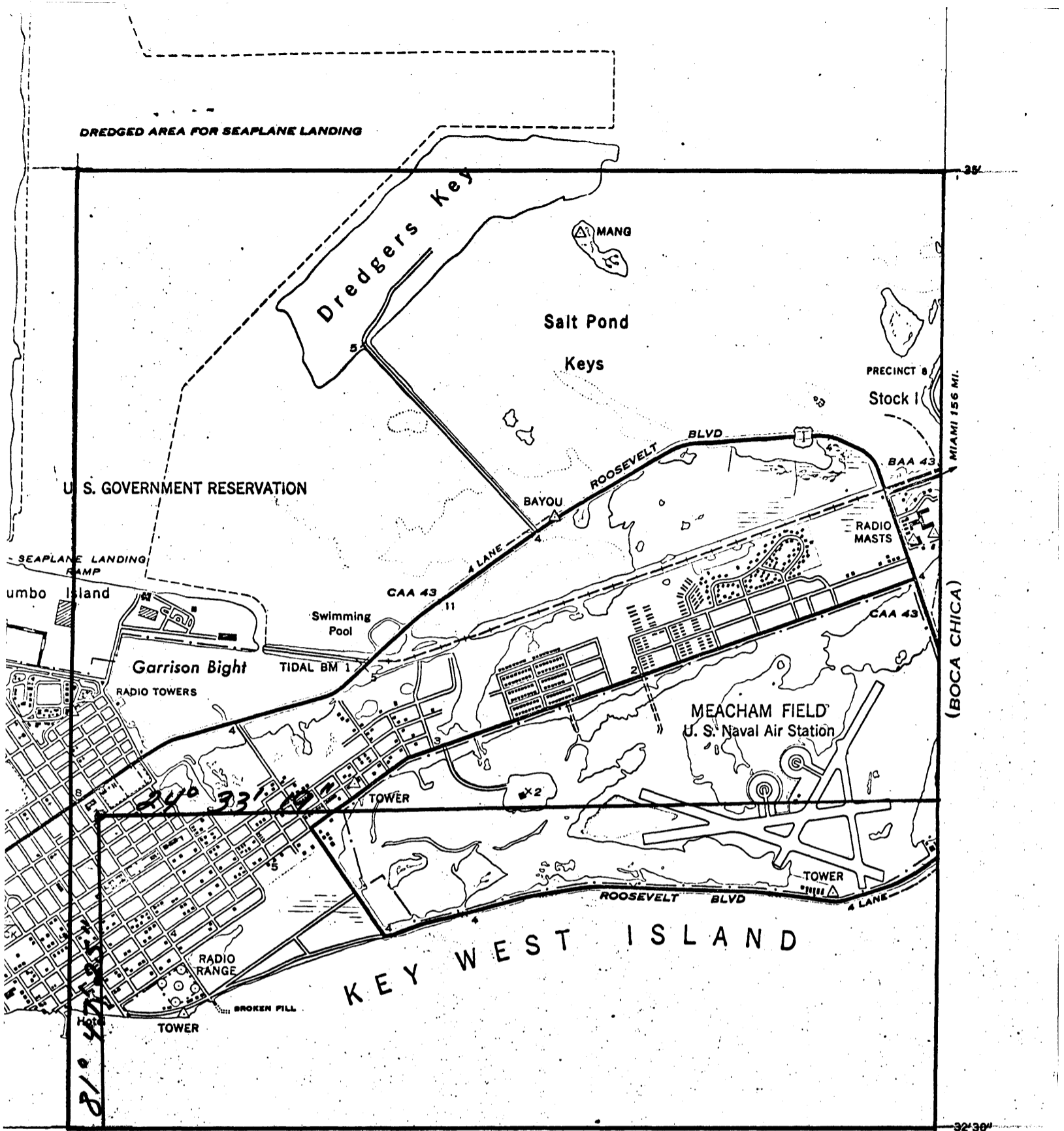
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Monroe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Mercedes Hospital			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Eduardo H. Gato Home			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1209 Virginia St.			
CITY OR TOWN: Key West			
STATE: Florida	CODE 12	COUNTY: Monroe	CODE 087
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: USGS Key West Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1943			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





HAWK



MERCEDES HOSPITAL (GATO HOUSE)
KEY WEST, FLORIDA