

NOMINATION PROPOSAL - FLORIDA

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DIVISION OF ARCHIVES, HISTORY AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT • FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Baird House

AND/OR COMMON

Edmunds House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

401 Dunad Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Opa-Locka

VICINITY OF

STATE

Florida

COUNTY

Dade

3 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Rodney and Phyllis Edmunds

STREET & NUMBER

7431 Northwest 33 Street

CITY, TOWN

Lauderhill

VICINITY OF

STATE

Florida

ZIP CODE

33319

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dade County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

73 West Flagler Street

CITY, TOWN

Miami

STATE

Florida

ZIP CODE

33131

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Dade County Historic Survey

DATE

1981

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Historical Resources

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☒ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED: DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

H. W. Baird House (OLTR #1)

ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The front facade of the Baird House was divided into four parts, consisting of the porte cochere, the entrance, and double pairs of windows flanking the chimney lending a view of the living room, and enclosed porch. The entrance featured three pointed arches, placed flush on the facade, with French doors enclosing the openings, as well as tile vents placed over the central arch at the ceiling line. The porte cochere was flanked on its open two sides by exposed pillars of oolitic limestone capped by concrete lintels. The west wall of the facade ended in an angled line. The roof surmounting the porte cochere was covered by antique Cuban tiles in a shed configuration abutting the parapet of the body of the house. The opposite end of the house featured a porch constructed of exposed oolitic limestone on its three open sides, matching the design of the porte cochere. The porch had angled openings capped by a rectangular parapet with undulating raised stucco corners. A stucco panel formed a decorative relief between the lintel and the roof line. Contrasting with the openness of the other facade elements, the remaining elevation employed a three-part composition with the central portion being formed by an exterior chimney with rusticated elements of oolitic limestone which, at its base, created a raised band to unify it with the porch. The rectangular chimney was capped by an oolitic limestone dome with keyhole openings at both ends. Flanking the chimney were two pairs of matching casement windows. The north wing of the house was a single bay offset from the porch with a double casement window centrally placed on the facade. The wall rose to meet an arched parapet surmounted by a dome resting on a raised octagonal base.

PRESENT PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Modern changes to the house include the addition of a two-story apartment attached to the rear of the porte cochere. The addition, designed by Bernhardt E. Muller in May 1927, follows the original design of the house. Other contemporary additions include the enclosure of both the porte cochere and the porch with windows. The arched porch windows match the arched openings of the central entrance arches and have outer jambs ornamented with oolitic limestone.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1926

BUILDER/ARCHITECT H. W. Baird/B. E. Muller

SIGNIFICANCE

Photographs from February 1926 indicate that the Baird House was one of the first residences constructed in Opa-locka. Accounts state that Muller originally designed a two-bedroom, one bath house for Mrs. Myrna A. McCarter, secretary of the Opa-locka Archery Club. Shortly after the Bairds purchased the property in 1927, Muller was again retained to design a matching two-story, three bedroom, two bath addition, separated from the existing structure by an enclosed patio and breezeway. The addition's outside stair to the second floor is typical of Muller's architecture in Opa-locka; this feature also occurs on the Tooker and Long homes, as well as the Opa-locka Company's Administration Building. The original construction and the addition together form an 1800 square foot, five bedroom house, one of the largest surviving Moorish Revival residences in Opa-locka.

The Bairds owned the house until January 1951, and named it "The House of the Three Arches." They were avid gardeners, turning their property into a showplace of rare plants and trees. Eventually they acquired four acres adjacent to the house, where they planted extensive tropical gardens, featuring a waterfall, pool, and English gardens using Australian pine as box hedges. Major Baird distinguished himself in the United States Army by attaining the rank of General. He later became the eighth mayor of Opa-locka, serving from April 1946 to November 1948. As mayor, Baird worked to restore the domes of the city hall that had been removed in the early 1940s. His wife, Elizabeth, was an active member of the South Florid Garden Club.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Cover Nomination

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Site Size (Approx. Acreage of Property):

.19 acre

UTM Coordinates:

117	574500	2865000
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

Township	Range	Section
52 S	41 W	21

LOCATION SKETCH OR MAP

N

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 101, Lot 7

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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N/A

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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N/A

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael Maxwell, ATCP

ORGANIZATION

Michael Maxwell Associates

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 140906

CITY OR TOWN

Coral Gables

DATE

February, 1987

TELEPHONE

(305) 446-2206

STATE

Florida

ZIP CODE

33146