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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUN 23 1989

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 Palace of Florence Apartments
other names/site number N/A / 8 Hi 720

2. Location

street & number 45 East Davis Boulevard N/A not for publication
city, town Tampa N/A vicinity
state Florida code FL county Hillsborough code 057 zip code 33606

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>3</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Mediterranean Revival Style Buildings of Davis Islands Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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.

Joseph A. Perry June 16, 1989
Signature of certifying official Date
State Historic Preservation Officer
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. Entered in the National Register 8/3/89
 See continuation sheet. *Andrew Byers*
 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/Multiple Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Mediterranean Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Hollow Clay Tile

Stucco

roof Composite

other Hollow Clay Tile: Tower

Concrete: Reliefwork

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheet

See continuation sheet

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

1925-1932

Significant Dates

1925

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Menaboni, Athos & Elliot M. Leo
Wishart, R.W. (Contractor)

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

See Continuation Sheet

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

City of Tampa. Division of Inspectional Services. Building Permit Ledgers, 1925-1932, Permit #(?).

Polk's Tampa City Directory. New York, R.L. Polk Publishing Co., 1925-1986.

Sanborn Insurance Maps of Tampa, Florida. New York, Sanborn Map Co., 1915-1931.

Tampa Tribune 8 May 1926; 4 September 1926.

N/A See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one

UTM References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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N/A See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 22 & 23, Block 2, Hyde Park Section of Davis Islands

N/A See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

All of the historic elements of this property are confined to the above described boundaries.

N/A See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date June 16, 1989
street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333
city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Description

This distinctive apartment building is located on the north end of Davis Islands, less than a mile from the bridge to the mainland. Along with the Villa de Leon, it evokes the romantic Mediterranean streetscape that D.P. Davis intended for his island community. The design of the apartment complex is loosely based on that of the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence, Italy and features a distinctive four-story, battlemented tower with exterior staircase on the northwest corner of the building. The two and three-story complex is a picturesquely massed structure with a U-plan, having north and south sections separated by a tile paved courtyard. Constructed of stuccoed hollow tile on a foundation of concrete, the building at first appears to be divided into formal and symmetrically balanced bays, which on closer inspection proves to be a somewhat eccentric assemblage of windows, doors, balconies and bay divisions. The large flat roofs of the three main section of the building are surrounded by a crenelated parapet above a blind arcade cornice.

The not quite symmetrical fenestration includes windows with plain, flat head and others with round fanlights. Still others have blind lancet arches. The windows are found singly, paired, and groups of three. All of them have plain concrete sills. Nearly all of the original wood casements have been replaced with metal awning windows. On the second story a few wood frame French doors survive and open onto wrought iron balconies. Recessed concrete stairs lead directly from the sidewalk to the building's north and south wings.

In addition to the machicolated tower, the central courtyard is this building's most distinctive feature. A central terraced stairs with Gothic arches on each side leads to a Tuscan column arcade sheltered by a tile covered mansard. Original lanterns flanking the stairs, street entrances, and building corners still survive, as does the iron rib canopy frame on the tower and the concrete fountain in the courtyard.

Public and private spaces on the interior continue the Mediterranean Revival theme. Imitation travertine covers the walls and wrought iron chandeliers hang from stucco ceiling panels. Additional illumination was provided by indirect lighting units concealed behind wall cornices. Each of the twenty-eight furnished apartments was divided into a combination living room/dining room,

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bedroom, kitchen, and bathroom. The tower and roof terraces were designed as communal spaces for the early tenants.

Contributing to the site are the original utility shed and carport, which were constructed of the same materials as the main building. There are also some recent metal car port that does not contribute to the site.

Photographs

1. Palace of Florence Apartment, 45 E. Davis Blvd., Mediterranean Revival Style Buildings of Davis Islands
2. Tampa (Hillsborough County), Florida
3. Donna Hole
4. 1988
5. Historic Tampa/Hillsborough County Preservation Board
6. West Facade, Looking East
7. Photo No. 1 of 1

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Statement of Significance

The Palace of Florence Apartments is significant for its picturesque and monumental expression of the Mediterranean Revival theme. It combines medieval and classical elements to produce a romantic vision of a grand scale Italian palazzo or public building. The picturesque combination of period details and features such as the tower link the apartment building to its residential neighbor at 36 Columbia Drive. This dwelling also has a large tower and combines medieval and classical Mediterranean Revival details.

The Palace of Florence was designed by artist Athos Menaboni, who was hired by a group of Italian businessmen in Tampa. These men were active in banking and shipping in Ybor City and were also members of the Italian Club, a local mutual aid society and social club concerned with the welfare of Tampa residents of Italian heritage. The building was constructed at a cost of \$350,000 by contractor R.W. Wishart. The architectural firm of M. Leo Elliott provided the working drawings based on Menaboni's renderings. In addition to using the Palazzo Vecchio as a design source, the artist incorporated elements from Florence's palace of the Palazzo del Podesta, also known as the Bargello. Begun in September, 1925, the building was complete and ready for occupancy by May of the following year.

The press devoted considerable attention to the project when the apartments became available for tenants and described the public spaces and the furnished apartments in detail. According to the first general manager, Alvin Bragadin, the apartments were "furnished luxuriously with period furniture and expensive tapestries." Supplied by Tampa's own Maas Brothers department store, standard furnishings included a walnut table, chairs, cabinets and benches, a settee, sofa bed, and a lacquered wood bedroom set.

The investment group sold the property the following year to the Palace of Florence, Inc. The firm owned and managed the apartments until the early 1950s. Lee F. Noel, a Tennessee investor with extensive holdings in Tampa, including other properties on Davis Islands, purchased the complex in 1979.

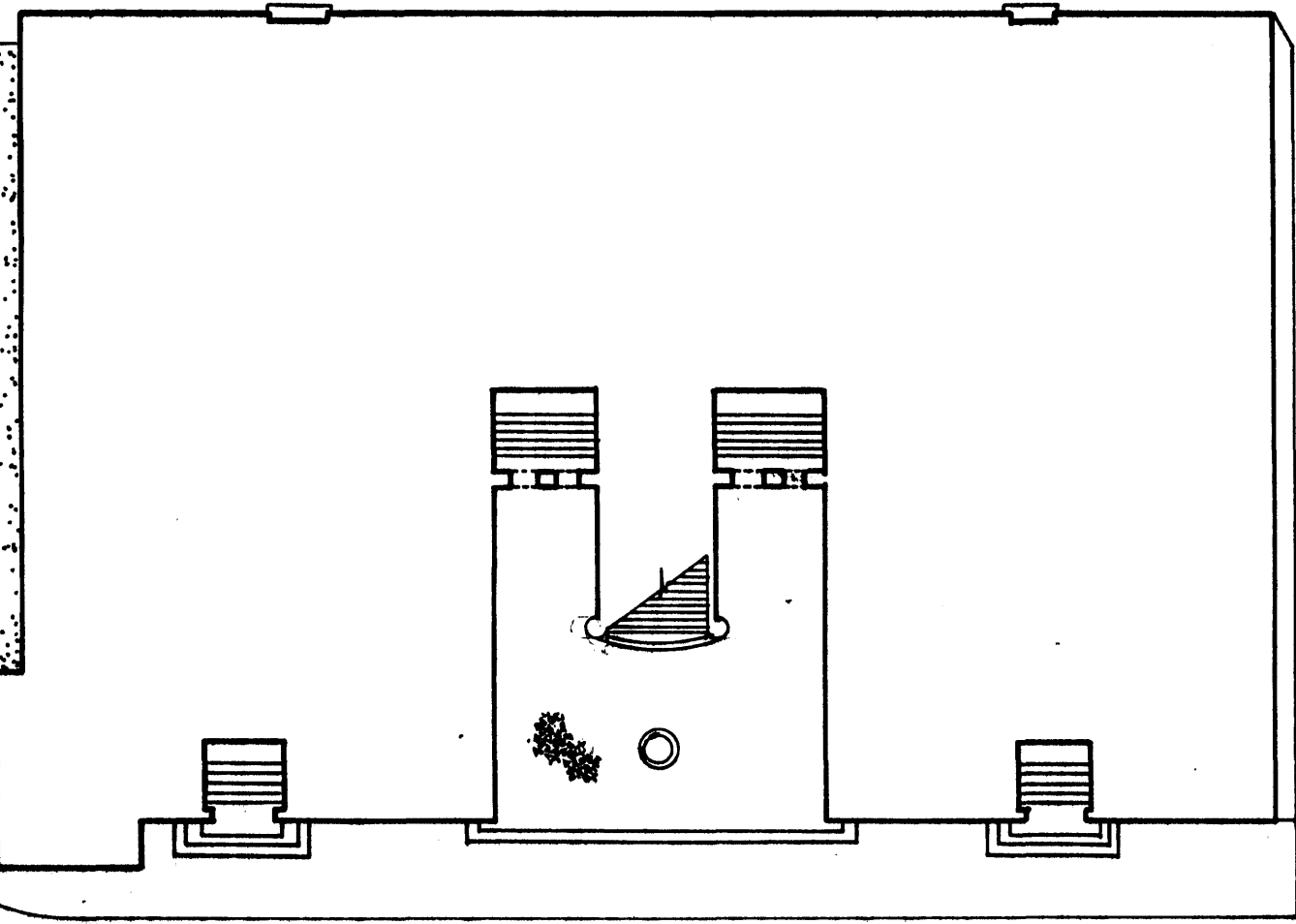


CARPORT
(CONTRIBUTING)

OUT BUILDING
(CONTRIBUTING)

CARPORT
(NONCONTRIBUTING)

6444



45 EAST DAVIS BOULEVARD
NOT TO SCALE