# NOMINATION PROPOSAL - FLORIDA

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

	TYPE ALL ENTRIE	S COMPLETE ALL SECT	IONS	
1 NAME M	RNS# 19			
HISTORIC H	. B. (Williams Reside	SK Brice	-	
AND/OR COMMON	· b. (Williams) neside			
2 LOCATIO	N			
STREET & NUMBER	1509 South Oran	ge Ave <del>nue-</del>		
gry. rown Sarasota		VICINITY OF N/A	Caracata	
Sarasota STATE Florida		VICINITY OF N/A	Sarasota	
			·	
3 CLASSIFI (	CATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X_BUILDING(S)STRUCTURE	X_PRIVATEBOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL	PARK  XPRIVATE RESIDENCE
_SITE	NPUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
_OBJECT	WIN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
· ·	(* )			
·	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	industrial military	_TRANSPORTATION
TOWNERO	T _BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED		_TRANSPORTATION
	F PROPERTY	YES: UNRESTRICTED		_TRANSPORTATION
	T _BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED		_TRANSPORTATION
NAME P	F PROPERTY Chilip E. Skirball	YES: UNRESTRICTED		_TRANSPORTATION
NAME P	F PROPERTY	YES: UNRESTRICTED	MILITARY	TRANSPORTATIONOTHER:
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NAME P STREET & NUMBER 1 CITY, TOWN S	F PROPERTY Philip E. Skirball 509 South Orange Ave	_YES: UNRESTRICTED _NO  enue . stat , vicinity of FL	MILITARY	TRANSPORTATIONOTHER:
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## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

\_EXCELLENT X GOOD \_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_UNEXPOSED

ATED \_\_UNALTERED \_\_XALTERED

X ORIGINAL SITE

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

#### SUMMARY OF PRESENT AND ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The two-story Mediterranean Revival Style structure located at 1509 South Orange Avenue was designed by Thomas Reed Martin for H. B. Williams and was completed by mid-December of 1926. The structure is rectangular (almost square) in plan and is built around a central courtyard or patio. An attached garage is located at the southeast elevation of the building--originally a one-story garage structure with a slate or tin roof surface. 2 A second story was added at a later date. The surface of the main, compressed hipped roof is covered in patinated barrel tiles. Located at the north slope of the hipped roof is a rectangularly-planned chimney which is capped by a barrel-tiled gable and vented by square openings. The chimney reads as a mini-mirador. The main entrance is located at the South Orange Avenue facade; however, in massing and ornamentation the north elevation which faces Floyd Avenue is a mirror image of the west facade (with the exception of differing door enframements). Cast stone and cast tile ornament provide relief to the austere stucco facade surfaces. Ornamentation includes: the use of a cast tile Sullivanesque cornice frieze, cast stone brackets, pilasters, as well as raised quoins which appear at the corners of the facades and several primary window and door enframements. Ornamental wrought iron grilles protect several window openings, plain metal balconies surround slab, cantilevered balconies located at the north, west and south elevations. French multi-lighted doors provide access onto the slab balconies. The primary entrance doors located at the north and west facades are located at the center bays of each facade; however, the entrances are slightly off-axis. The entrance located at the west elevation is characterized by the use of monumental (two-story) frontispiece, while the north or Floyd Avenue entrance is protected by a half-hipped door hood, covered in patinated barrel tiles. The layout of interior provided excellent ventilation, the interior being planned around a central courtyard or patio. The H. B. Williams residence is an early example of a split-level plan.

#### TEXT SUPPORTING SUMMARY OF PRESENT AND ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The two-story Mediterranean Revival Style residence located at 1509 South Orange Avenue was designed by Thomas Reed Martin for H. B. Williams. It was completed by mid-December of 1926. The building was a rectangular, almost square plan residence built around an interior patio, with an attached garage located at the southeast elevation of the building. The main entrance was located on the S. Orange Avenue or western facade of the structure; however, the north elevation, located on Floyd Avenue was also of significant design importance. In massing, design and ornamentation the north elevation resembles the primary entrance facade of the west elevation. The north elevation is indeed a mirror image of design elements which characterize the west facade. The compressed hipped roof is clad in patinated terra-cotta barreled tiles. Located at the north quadrant of the roof, the chimney is rectangular in plan and is characterized by the use of a tinted stucco surfacing, projecting band molding, square vented openings, and a barrel-tiled mini-gabled covering or cap. In form, the chimney reads as a minimirador.

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The west facade is surprisingly asymmetrical in massing. The entrance, which was originally approached by a set of concrete stairs with heavy concrete or stuccoed stair string and masonry piers, topped by urns. The entrance is located at the center bay of the west facade; however, the entrance bay is off-axis. The entrance is divided into two design elements with a stylized door enframement and frontispiece A segmentally-arched door, lower in scale than the door enframement, is dwarfed by a pair of stylized pilasters located at either side of the door opening. Raised stucco quoins are used as a decorative trim of the door enframement. Twisted finials top the capitals of the stylized pilasters, flanking the shaped frontispiece located at the second story. In addition to providing additional scale, the two-story frontispiece actually serves as a window enframement for a recessed round-arched window with twisted colonnettes from which the arch springs. The southernmost bay division of the west facade includes a ground floor trebeated window opening protected by an ornately scrolled wrought iron window grille. Sigmoid scrolls appear at the top of the ornamental grille. Three round-headed French windows are located at the second story, directly above the single window. These multi-paned wooden casement or French windows provide access to a cantilevered slab balcony which is visually supported by four metal brackets, the balcony being protected by a simple metal railing. northern bay of the west elevation is pierced by a massive shouldered French windowed opening, equal in scale to the entrance enframement and frontispiece. shouldered opening provides access to a ground floor slab balcony which is protected by a simple metal balcony railing and visually carried on a set of three stuccoedconcrete brackets. The shouldered opening is divided into three sections. central wood French door is flanked by a pair of side lights divided into four vertical lights. A four-light transom (which reads as two-over-two) appears above the French door opening and is in turn flanked by a pair of fixed transom lights, set within the shouldered opening. The entire bay opening is surrounded by a raised, stylized quoin molding which extends to the cornice level and intersects a raised architrave band. At the north and southern corners of the west elevation, raised quoins appear which unify the eclectic massing and design motifs. The frieze consists of a stylized cast-tiled geometric pattern. At first glance the frieze resembles a diaper pattern but upon closer inspection, the pattern is vaguely Sullivanesque. The raised pattern on the frieze has been picked out in a dark red with a verdigree-toned ground. Based on evidence provided by a black and white

The north elevation is almost a mirror image of the west or entrance elevation. shouldered monumental windowed opening located at the north corner of the west elevation is repeated at the western corner of the north elevation. These two monumental openings provide light for the interior two-story livingroom (this being an early split-level house). Instead of a frontispiece enframement, the tall, narrow trabeated opening is protected by a massive cantilevered hood or canopy, supported on stylized wood brackets. Stylized raised rosettes or patera decorate the frieze area or fascia of the door hood. The half-hipped slope of this entrance hood or canopy is clad in barrel tiles of considerable patination. Three arched French-windowed openings, identical to those located at the southernmost or third bay of the west elevation, appear at the easternmost bay of the north elevation, providing light and air to the upstairs bedrooms.

newspaper photograph, 4 the frieze appears to have been monochromatic.

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The only major alteration which has occurred to the primary facades of the house is the addition of a ramped incline leading from the parking area located at the north-east parameter of the property and providing access to the center bay door of the north elevation. Number 1509 formerly served as the office of a chiropractor, Dr. A. M. Foreman. The ramp addition, although logical in the case of a doctor's office, detracts from the overall mirrored-image massing of the north and west facades.

The south and eastern facades are of lesser importance in massing and ornamentation. The second-story balcony located at the first bay of the south elevation is similar in handling to the triple windowed opening located at the third bay of the west elevation. The second bay of the south facade consists of a minor entrance door with cantilevered hood which may have been handled in a manner similar to the canopied hood located at the north elevation, but is not today. Wood casement windows once existed in all the windowed openings at the south elevation.

Two of the ground floor windows have recently been altered. The east or service elevation is also relatively unadorned, being pierced by casement windows and small four-light stair windows set within deep recesses and decorated only with a slightly projecting concrete sill. The window heads abut the plain architrave molding.

According to the Sanborn Insurance Map of 1929, the attached garage located at the southeast corner of the east elevation was formerly a one-story structure. Although an attempt has been made to mirror the cornice molding of the original two-story main structure, the second-story addition added to the original one-story garage door does not have a Sullivan sque tile cornice. The north elevation of the garage retains "ghosts" of the original paired garage-door accesses. The garage openings have been filled in and interior access is now provided by a pair of two-leaved multi-lighted wood doors--a sympathetic solution to a difficult alteration problem. According to the Sanborn Insurance Map of 1929, the rear one-story attached garage was constructed of masonry with a slate or tin roof surface.

At the interior, a central patio or courtyard provides interior light and air for the split level dwelling. In addition to the use of french windows which open on to cantilevered slab balconies, small casement windows at the ground floor level, protected by wrought iron grilles provide light, air and design tension. A dramatic exterior stair exists at the northeast quadrant of the interior courtyard. The patio floor surface is tiled and the focal point is an octagonal fountain located at the central section of the tiled space. Exterior woodwork trim is picked out in a bichromatic scheme of a pale verdigree color (resembling oxidized copper) and a dark red-brick hue--the red and green scheme used at the cast tiled cornice. The color scheme, although pleasing, I presume, is not original to the structure.

1509 S. Orange is remarkably intact. In addition to original metal window grilles and balcony railings, paired light fixtures at the north and east elevation appear to be original. The urn located to the south of the main entrance at the west elevation also appears to be original.

MRNS #19

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ALTERATIONS: A wheelchair ramp incline has been added to the second story was added to the garage located at the rear elevaside of the structure. These alterations were executed at a rand are changes which are potentially reversible. The interior by a screening not original to the house but useful.	tion or the southeast elatively early date
	j

### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
_1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	_ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
_1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION .
<u>X_1900-</u>	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X_OTHER (SPECIFY) Desig
		_INVENTION	by	Thomas Reed Marti.

SPECIFIC DATES Pre-December 1926

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Thomas Reed Martin

#### SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located at 1509 South Orange Avenue the two-story, split-level plan, Mediterranean Revival Style structure was designed by prominent local architect, Thomas Reed Martin. In December 1926 the building received newspaper coverage as the "H. B. Williams' Home," with a photograph of the north and west elevations and caption, "No home in the city attracts more favorable comment than that of H. B. Williams on Orange Avenue in Sarasota Heights."8 The contemporary press praised the interior split-level plan of the house, the modern conveniences provided and described the style as "a unique type of Mediterranean architecture." In style the H. B. Williams Residence is a sophisticated synthesis of historical revival ornamentation, integrated in a residence of modern form and convenience. Mediterranean Revival Styled ornamentation displays an excellence in craftsmanship, particularly the pre-cast door and window enframement the cast tile Sullivanesque frieze, wrought iron "rejas" and balconies, and oranmenta urns. Thomas Reed Martin was an architect who received regional and state recognition; a contemporary newspaper article devoted to Mr. Martin speculated that Sarasota was "destined to become a . . . mecca for students of art and architecture," due in great part to the influence of Mr. Martin. Local Sarasota building material manufacturers benefited from the ornamental elements called for in Mr. Martin's designs, including "ornamental iron, pre-cast stone ornaments, ornamental pottery and woodwork." Thomas Reed Martin and his firm Martin Studios were responsible for many successful documented buildings in Sarasota, including Burns Court (MRNS #2). Harry B. or H. B. Williams was president of the realty firm H. B. Williams, Company, Inc.  $^{12}$ Number 1509 South Orange is prominently located on a large site on South Orange Avenue. Both the site and structure are remarkably intact. Recently the building has been purchased by an architect who is undertaking a sensitive restoration of the former H. B. Williams Residence.

#### TEXT SUPPORTING SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The two-story, split-level rectangular plan, Mediterranean Revival Style structure located at 1509 S. Orange Avenue at the corner of Floyd Avenue was designed by prominent local architect, Thomas Reed Martin on Lot 3 of Block A of the Morton Terrace Subdivision, in Sarasota Heights. The stucco-facade masonry and hollow clay tile construction residence was featured in an article which appeared in the Sarasota Herald in December of 1926. Included in the 1926 article was a photograph of west and north elevations of the house. The Williams' Residence was built at a cost of \$50,000 and was described as "a unique type of Mediterranean architecture, so cleverl designed by Thomas Reed Martin Studios of Sarasota. The article further described the split-level interior plan and pointed out that the "service department has been worked out in a very splendid manner. The garage is accessible from the house." Modern conveniences included, "electric pumping equipment, a water softener, an

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iceless refrigerator, and an electrically equipped laundry. Kitchen features have been developed to the latest science.  $^{17}$ 

Thomas Reed Martin, the architect who designed the H. B. Williams' Residence, was born in Wisconsin on April 28, 1866, practiced architecture in Chicago and came to Sarasota in 1910. 18 Mr. Martin's first local commission was the development of "The Oaks" for Mrs. Potter Palmer of Chicago. 19 By 1924 Mr. Martin had established the Martin's Studios with an office located at 308 Main Street. 20 The Martin's Studio offered "blueprints, landscape architects, lighting fixtures, pottery, interior decorating and designers," and Mr. Martin further specialized as "designer and builder of original 'Floridan Homes'." In addition to his architectural services and practice, he was president of the Martin Building and Mercantile Company, General Merchandising and was Postmaster of Nokomis, Florida. 22 article devoted to the work of Thomas Reed Martin appeared in the Sarasota Herald on September 9, 1926. Entitled, "City Architect Attrats (sic) Statewide Attention," the newspaper article speculated that Sarasota was "designed to become a . . . mecca for students of art and architecture," due in large part to the successful influence of Thomas Reed Martin.  $^{23}$  It was also noted that the Martin Studios employed "a dozen skilled artists, designers and draftsmen" and that "Mr. Martin has succeeded in turning much business to local manufacturers who are fast attracting attention as workers in art subjects including ornamental iron, pre-cast stone ornaments, ornamental pottery and woodwork--elements very much in evidence in the executed design of 1509 South Orange Avenue. 24 Mr. Martin and Martin's Studios were responsible for many of the most architecturally significant structures built in Sarasota. Included in the Multiple Resource nomination are several of his successful documented designs, including the Burns Court Historic District (MRNS #2) and the L. D. Reagin Residence (MRNS #20). In addition to his successful Mediterranean Revivial and Spanish Colonial Revival Style designs, Mr. Martin, in partnership with his son, Frank C. Martin, who joined the firm after World War I, designed residences which were built with modernistic materials including glass brick, concrete flooring and joints, and Spanish Deco designs which were remarkably sophisticated, including the E. A. Beattie Residence, located at 1156 First Street in Sarasota.  $^{25}$ 

Thomas Reed Martin was a master of the integration of historical revival ornamentation in structures of modern form and convenience. The H. B. Williams Residence is remarkable in the use of stylized Mediterranean Revival ornamentation, elements which were thoroughly integrated in the facade design. Pre-cast stone elements, wrought iron window grilles or rejas and balcony railings, and ornamental urns contribute to the success of 1509 South Orange Avenue. Other contemporary architects applied elements of Spanish and Mediterranean Revival Style to structures in a pastiche fashion; Martin's designs displayed an understanding of materials and an integrated design scheme, in conjunction with innovative interior plans and materials. Of particular note is the interior split-level plan which is reflected in the exterior fenestration, with monumental two-story windows located at the northwest corner of the building to provide light and ventilation for the two-story corner living rooms and balconied casement openings provided for second floor rooms. Further light and ventilation were provided in the design and the use of an interior courtyard or atrium located in the core of the structure.

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H. B. or Harry B. Williams was president of the H. B. Williams Company, Inc., "Realtors, and Real Estate Investments," located at 201 Main Street." According to the advertising blurb which appeared in the 1926 Polk's Directory, H. B. Williams was president of the H. B. Williams, Co., Inc., which was established in 1923 and specialized in "city property, suburban, and acreage." Although H. B. Williams home address was listed as Laurel Avenue in the 1926 Directory, the 1927-28 Directory listed the Williams' residence as 1506 S. Orange Avenue. By 1920, 1509 is listed as vacant structure in the Street Index; 9 subsequently, Number 1509 was occupied for a long period of time by the Welsh family and later served as the office of Dr. A. M. Forman.

Located on a prominent site on Orange Avenue, the former H. B. Williams Residence is a structure significant in design, craftsmanship and association with prominent local architect Thomas Reed Martin. The building is also noteworthy for the integrity of site and structure which have been restored by its owner/restoration architect.

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<sup>1</sup>Sarasota Herald, December 15, 1926, p. 3, col. 1.
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Sanborn Map Company, Maps of Sarasota, 1929. New York, Sheet 15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Sarasota Herald, December 15, 1926, p. 3, col. 1.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Sanborn Map Company. Maps of Sarasota. 1929. New York, Sheet 15.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Sarasota Herald, December 15, 1926, section 2, p. 3.

<sup>8&</sup>lt;sub>Ibid</sub>.

<sup>9&</sup>lt;sub>Ibid</sub>.

<sup>10</sup>Sarasota Herald, September 9, 1926, pp. 1-2.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup>Polk's Sarasota City Directory, 1926, p. 324.

 $<sup>^{13}</sup>$ Sarasota County, <u>Deeds</u>, Liber 19, p. 364. January 22, 1925. Transaction refers to the site.

<sup>14</sup>Sarasota Herald, January 15, 1926, section 2, p. 3.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16&</sup>lt;sub>Ibid</sub>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup>Sarasota Herald, December 15, 1926, Section 2, p. 3.

<sup>18</sup> Higel Obituary File, October 21, 1949. On file Sarasota Historical Archives. Sarasota, Florida.

<sup>19&</sup>lt;sub>Ibid</sub>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup>Polk's Sarasota City Directory, 1924, p. 155.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup>Ibid, p. 131.

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- <sup>22</sup>Ibid., p. 155.
- 23 Sarasota Herald, September 9, 1926, front page.
- 24 Ibid.
- Higel Scrapbook, N.S., circa 1938. Located at Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.
  - <sup>26</sup>Polk's Sarasota City Directory, 1926. p. 288.
  - <sup>27</sup>Ibid., p. 324.
  - Sarasota, Florida City Directory, 1927-1928, p. 296.
  - <sup>29</sup>Ibid., 1930, p. 264.
  - $^{30}$  Personal correspondence, Mrs. Welsh by Sarah Kearns, May, 1983.

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9 (Bibliographical References)

- Higel Obituary File. "T. R. Martin, 83, Pioneer Local Architect, Dies."

  N.S. October 21, 1949. On file Sarasota County Historical Archives,
  Sarasota, Florida.
- Higel Scrapbook. N.S., circa 1938. Located at Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.
- Polk's Sarasota City Directory. 1924. 1926. Located at Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.
- Sanborn Map Company. Maps of Sarasota. 1929. New York: Sanborn Map Company.
- Sarasota City Directory. 1927-1928. 1930. Located at Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.
- Sarasota County. <u>Deeds</u>. Liber 19, p. 364. January 22, 1925. Located at Sarasota County Courthouse, Sarasota, Florida.
- Sarasota Herald. September 9, 1926. December 15, 1926. Located at Sarasota County Courthouse, Sarasota, Florida.
- Mrs. Welsh. Personal Correspondence. May, 1983.

# 9 BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

#### SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Site Size (Approx. Acreage of Property):

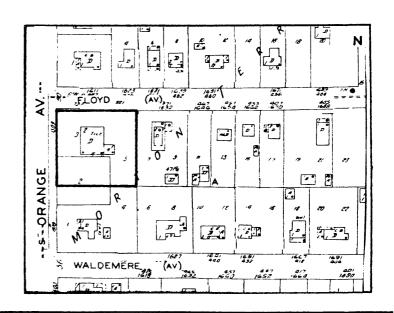
Less than 1

UTM Coordinates:

1, 7, 13 14, 7 18, 6, 0, 13, 0, 2, 2, 6, 0, 0

USGS Sarasota 7.5 1973

Township	Range	Section
T36S	R18E	30



#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Morton Terrace Subdivision / Block No, A / Lot No. 3

STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
	. =				
	atham Kearns /	Preservation Con	nsultant, City		
Sarah L	atham Kearns /		sultant, City	of Sarasota	
Sarah L ORGANIZA C/O P1 STREET & N	atham Kearns / non anning Departme umser	ent	nsultant, City		
Sarah L ORGANIZA C/O Pl STREET & N	atham Kearns / non anning Departme	ent	nsultant, City	DATE	
Sarah L ORGANIZA C/O P1 STREET & N	atham Kearns / mion anning Departme ummer 11 P.O. Box 10	ent	nsultant, City	DATE	ZIP CODE

