

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 SJT 4

HISTORIC
San Jose Hotel

AND/OR COMMON
The Bolles School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
7400 San Jose Boulevard

CITY, TOWN
Jacksonville N/A VICINITY OF

STATE Florida COUNTY Duval

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
The Bolles School, Norman Young

STREET & NUMBER
7400 San Jose Boulevard

CITY, TOWN STATE ZIP CODE
Jacksonville N/A VICINITY OF Florida 32217

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Duval County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
330 East Bay Street

CITY, TOWN STATE ZIP CODE
Jacksonville Florida 32202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Thematic Survey, San Jose Estates Subdivision

DATE 1983 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS San Jose Estates Preservation

CITY, TOWN STATE
Jacksonville Florida

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SUMMARY OF PRESENT AND ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

7400 San Jose Boulevard is a large, multi-story Spanish styled building constructed of stucco over hollow tile. It is set on a bluff overlooking the eastern shore of St. Johns River at one of its widest points and faces on San Jose Boulevard (Dixie Highway). A three-story rectangular transverse wing runs north and south parallel to the river. Similar rectangular wings stretch diagonally toward the river. The building has six four-story towers: one at the end of each wing and two which rise on both sides of a central parapet at the center of the main wing. An arcaded covered walkway joins the two front towers. Another stretches east to west from the center of the main wing to an hexagonal gazebo which overlooks the river. A one-story porch with shed roof stretches between this walkway and the main wing. The towers are hip-roofed. The other roofs are flat with pents between built-up portions. On the courtyard side running the length of the lateral wings at the second story is a shed roof which covers an enclosed porch. All

TEXT SUPPORTING SUMMARY OF PRESENT AND ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

roof surfaces are clay barrel tile. The whole complex is perfectly symmetrical except for the northwest wing which has a glass-enclosed dining porch with shed roof on the river side and a flat roofed kitchen wing on the east side.

Windows in the transverse wings, except where otherwise noted, are double hung sash, six over six and four over four, set over cast stone sills at the first and second story level. At the third story, the six over six windows are round-headed. The four over four remain rectangular. The six over six windows are grouped in double pairs divided by a single four over four. There is a wrought iron balcony set on iron brackets at the first and second bays on the second story and the third and fourth bays at the third story on the river side. On the east (front) facade the second bay advances slightly. There are single four over four windows at the intereseect and a pair of five-lite french doors with a wrought iron balcony flanked by pairs of six over sixes.

A four-story tower advances slightly at the end of each wing and divides two six over six windows. Three blind niches set one over the other are pierced by three narrow window openings of fixed opaque glass over a metal fire door. Triple arches are divided by two plain columns with Corinthian capitals set on a wide stone sill on the fourth story. The tower is capped with a hip roof of clay barrel tile.

On the river side of the north wing there is a one-story dining porch with a barrel tile shed roof. It has five arched bays along the face and one at each end over a concrete capped stucco railing divided by thick stucco covered pillars with concrete impost points. It has been enclosed with concrete and glass blocks and metal casement windows. A painted wood door with a fanlite occupies the northern bay of the wing. On the front (east) face of the north wing is a one-story wing with flat roof and pents of barrel tile which slope between built-up parapets. The roof line is marked with a moulded string course. There are canales at intervals beneath it. Five pairs of four-lite wood casements with round-headed transoms are divided by Salamancan columns with Corinthian capitals. The spandrel area between the arches is set in a blind arch with a circle dividing two triangles.

-Continued-

7. DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

The river (west) face of the transverse wing includes a scalloped parapet identical to that of the courtyard side. There is a moulded wood cornice line and square canalle over each window bay. On the first story is a single-story porch with a gable on shed roof. The central gable portion is the beginning point of an arcade. There are triple arches divided by two Corinthian columns on each side of the gable. The porch has been enclosed with stucco and metal windows and serves as major administrative offices for the school.

A double panel door leads to a gabled ceiling passage with cypress beams supported by a king's truss. The truss ends are supported on ogee brackets. An ogee arch which springs from stone pillow impost points leads to a ten-bay arcade which stretches west to an octagonal gazebo. Round-headed arches spring from cast stone pillow impost points which cap rectangular pillars. There is a truss, lantern and ceiling configuration identical to that of the passageway at each pillar and one at either end. The gable roof is of barrel tile with a wood cornice. The gazebo is covered with clay barrel tile roof. At the center of the areas between the gazebo arcade and the northwest and southwest wings is a fountain set in an octagonal basin of polychrome Spanish tiles. The fountain is of terracotta.

The entire first floor of the main (transverse) wing originally compromised the lobby of the hotel. The floor is of square glazed tiles. The room is divided into nine bays by square pillars with pilasters. Each is capped with a Corinthian capital of plaster painted to resemble the wood ceiling. The cornice is also plaster painted to match the wood ceiling. The ceiling is divided by box beams of cypress, encircled with a variety of polychrome stencilings. Walls are of heavy plaster (as are pillars and pilasters) scored to resemble stone blocks. Five arched doorways lead to the enclosed porch on the river (west) side. Access to the porch is through paneled doors with fanlite transoms.

A dining room occupies the first story of the south diagonal wing. The floor is polychrome Spanish tile. Walls are heavy plaster above a wood rail. Square pillars and pilasters support boxed ceiling beams with ogee end brackets. Built of pecky cypress, they are enriched with polychrome stenciling. An arched doorway leads to the enclosed dining porch.

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 1925

BUILDER/ARCHITECT O. P. Woodcock/Marsh and Saxelby

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The San Jose Hotel, presently the Bolles School, is one of the 25 remaining structures of the San Jose Estates development. The San Jose Hotel was begun in July 1925 and was ready to receive guests by December of the same year. It contains 65,332 square feet of space. According to brochures published by the San Jose Hotel Corporation, it was meant to offer deluxe accommodations for those who were touring Florida and to serve as headquarters for those investors bent on becoming part of the Florida Real Estate Boom, available to all in San Jose Estates. The building is unquestionably the most architecturally distinguished structure associated with the early development of the San Jose Estates subdivision.

TEXT SUPPORTING SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1907, Governor Napoleon Broward asked Richard I. Bolles, who had made a fortune in Colorado mining, especially as owner of the famous Molly Gibson Silver Mine, to come to Florida to help drain Florida's swamps. He went first to Miami and then in 1908 came to Jacksonville. He was accompanied by his secretary, Agnes W. Cain. When Bolles died in 1917, care of his estate went to three executors, one of whom was Agnes Cain.

Cain met Roger Painter in 1916 when the latter became an office boy for Richard Bolles. They married in 1923. In 1928 Agnes Cain Painter bought the bankrupt hotel and adjacent buildings. The Florida Military Academy was then searching for a new building to replace its overcrowded facility and they became the first institution to occupy the former hotel facility. In 1932, Florida Military Academy was forced to leave because it could not pay its bills.

Encouraged by local residents who saw a need for a continuing school facility in that area south of Jacksonville, the Painters formed the Bolles School Corporation in January of 1933. Architecturally the most distinguished of the San Jose Estates buildings, the hotel did not suffer the same fate as the other building of the San Jose Estates, that of being abandoned and left to deteriorate, but rather was in continuous service as hotel and then later as a school. The present Bolles School contains numerous buildings which have been added to the Bolles campus as the school expanded over the course of its history. They have been excluded from the nominated property.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See cover nomination bibliography.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Site Size (Approx. Acreage of Property):

Less than one acre.

UTM Coordinates:

17	439420	3345550
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

Township	Range	Section
3 S	27 E	43

LOCATION SKETCH OR MAP	N
See attached map.	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Section A San Jose Pt. of the Prado Plaza Del Ray, Parks, Carlos, Santa Rosa Sts., Bks. 76 1925 San Jose Hotel, 77, 78, 82 to 86, Closed Alleys within said Bks. as Reed D Bks. 741-365, 541-455, 1076-206, 1123-405, 1182-118, 1548-175

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carol Truman, Sally Austin/Michael Zimny, Historical Site Specialist

ORGANIZATION

San Jose Estates Preservation, Inc.

DATE

1984

STREET & NUMBER

7246 St. Augustine Road

TELEPHONE

(904) 737-4085

CITY OR TOWN

Jacksonville

STATE

Florida

ZIP CODE

32217