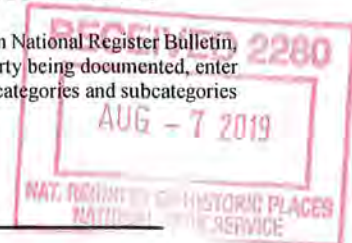


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Smith, Maurice and Dinah Shore, House

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 432 Hermosa Place

City or town: Palm Springs State: CA County: Riverside

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ A ___ B X C ___ D

	<u>8/6/19</u>
Jenan Saunders/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer	Date
<u>California State Office of Historic Preservation</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

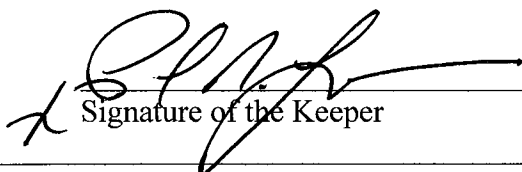
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____


Signature of the Keeper

9/23/2019
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD/Plywood, GLASS, STONE, STEEL,
BRICK, STUCCO

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

One of the largest single-family residences Donald Wexler designed during his long career was for Maurice and Dinah (Shore) Smith in the prestigious Las Palmas neighborhood of Palm Springs. In 1964, on a large north-south lot, Wexler set the one-story, four-bedroom house on the diagonal, which provided each room with a different view, and created a pinwheel floor plan. Modern in style of post-and-beam wood construction, the house was 5,200 square feet in size, later enlarged to just over 7,000 square feet, with a 1,200 square foot carport. Each room opened to the outdoors through sliding glass doors, where the large rectangular pool created a spacious entertaining area with dramatic views of Mount San Jacinto. An adjacent guesthouse—built in 1963 as an art studio for Dinah and a place to stay while the main house was under construction, and swimming pool built in 1964 are contributing resources. A tennis court and 560-square foot tennis pavilion erected post-period of significance in 1976 are noncontributing resources. Alterations are not visible from the public right-of-way, and the property, in excellent condition, retains historic integrity.

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Narrative Description

Maurice and Dinah (Shore) Smith commissioned Donald Wexler to design a new home for them on a large piece of land in Palm Springs' upscale Las Palmas neighborhood in 1963. While their main residence was under construction, the couple lived in a 460 square foot wood frame and stucco guesthouse on the property that Wexler designed first. Later, the guesthouse served as Dinah's art studio.

Setting

In addition to the sprawling irrigated lawn fronting the property, typical of the large properties in the neighborhood, landscaping consists of rare specimen palm trees, common Mexican Fan Palms, flower beds, citrus trees, and shrubs. Tall hedges surround the property on three sides.

House (contributing building)

Exterior

Of post-and-beam construction on a concrete slab, the 5,200 square foot, four bedroom, four bath residence was completed in 1964. The residence is modern in style with a flat roof, intersecting planes, and a generous use of glazing.

A pinwheel in plan, the house is set diagonally on the lot affording different views from the various rooms. Façades differ according to their functions—master bedroom, guest bedrooms, living room, dining room/kitchen, recessed patios, overhangs of various depths—with a mix of fixed glazing or sliding glass doors, and exterior surfaces of stucco, terra cotta-colored brick, native rock, or T1-11 wood panels.

From the street, a concrete path crosses the spacious lawn to the primary (southeast) elevation with its long, covered entrance walkway. In a nod to Wexler's mentor Richard Neutra, the walkway's flat canopy is suspended from a steel post and wood beam frame. A shallow pond and garden are on the west side of the walkway, which together are framed on both sides by terra cotta-colored brick walls.

Continuing clockwise around the house on the southwest elevation is the 1,200 square foot carport, later an enclosed three-car garage, hidden from the street and clad in T1-11 plywood siding. The remainder of the southwest elevation, which continues on the northwest side of the driveway wall, consists of two unsheltered patios with sliding glass doors—one for the master bedroom and one for the master bathroom. A large native rock clad chimney centers the master bedroom's northwest elevation with a sliding glass door and patio on the east side of the chimney.

From there one encounters the glazed and T1-11 clad southwest elevation of the large living room with its deep eaves supported by projecting beams. The living room's northwest elevation is dominated by a rock clad fireplace flanked on both sides by fixed glazing. The living room's

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northeast elevation mirrors its southwest opposite. Another right angle to the northwest elevation presents the sliding glass doors of the dining room and a covered patio for outdoor dining.

The pinwheel projects northeast where the kitchen, laundry, and former maid's quarters, later an office, are located. The southeast leg of the pinwheel has three adjacent guest bedrooms each with fixed and sliding glass doors facing northeast.

Interior

The main entrance is near the center of the house from which all four wings of the pinwheel radiate. Private areas are set apart from public areas. The master bedroom is in the northwest wing, the three adjacent guest bedrooms are in the southwest wing, the dining room and kitchen occupy the southeast wing, and the spacious living room is located in the northeast wing.

As noted, to the left of the main entrance area is the master bedroom. Turning right (southeast) from the main entrance one enters what is identified as a gallery on the original plans. A set of short steps leads up from the gallery to the living room on the left; straight ahead from the gallery, another set of steps leads to the dining room and kitchen area.

The focal point of the house is the enormous living room with its floor-to-ceiling plate glass windows and sliding glass doors facing the vast backyard on multiple elevations. The adjacent dining room is similarly glazed. A sunken bar occupies the southeast end of the living room with a large fireplace of native stone veneer on the opposite (northwest) side of the room.

Interior surfaces mirror the exterior with native rock, T1-11, brick, and stucco walls throughout. Beautiful paneled wood ceilings enhance public areas while plaster ceilings are used for private spaces.

Sliding glass doors from the living room and dining room open to concrete patios sheltered by extensions of the main roof supported by prominent wood beams. The master bedroom and all three guest bedrooms have access to outdoor patios accessed via sliding glass doors. Bathrooms are lit by domed skylights.

Guesthouse (contributing building)

Rectangular in plan on a concrete pad, the freestanding guesthouse/art studio is 468 square feet in size of wood frame and stucco construction. Wexler designed the building in 1963 to be similar to the main house with its flat roof, intersecting planes, stucco walls, projecting beams, and sliding glass doors. The building contains a single bedroom, a bathroom, and a small living room/kitchen combination.

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Swimming Pool (contributing structure)

A large rectangular swimming pool constructed in 1964 is approximately 20 feet by 45 feet in size. It is positioned adjacent to the guesthouse/art studio near the northeast corner of the property.

Tennis Pavilion (noncontributing building)

A tennis pavilion is located sixty feet west of the living room of the main residence. It is approximately 560 square feet in size, of wood frame construction with a flat roof, and rests on a concrete pad. The main portion of the building consists of a single large room that is square in plan with west, north, and east elevations of steel-framed, floor-to-ceiling plate glass windows or sliding glass doors. A small windowless projecting entrance vestibule on the south elevation is sheathed in stucco.

Tennis Court (noncontributing site)

Located at the far northwest corner of the property, the tennis court is immediately north of the tennis pavilion. The court is approximately 60 feet by 110 feet in size and consists of a painted concrete surface enclosed by a metal fence covered with a dark mesh fabric. Clipped ficus hedges conceal the court on all sides except for the portion near the pavilion. It is unknown what landscaping was removed when the court was constructed in 1976.

Alterations

Building permits indicate the following. At the main residence, a 120 square foot enlargement of the living room occurred in 1967. In 1976, a patio was enclosed for a 320 square foot enlargement of a bedroom; another patio was enclosed to increase the area of the master bedroom by 96 square feet; a bathroom was enlarged; and the kitchen was remodeled. Also in 1976, the tennis court and 560 square foot tennis pavilion were constructed at the northwest corner of the property. A 2003 remodel included window frame and glazing replacements to all of the residence and guesthouse windows; the size of the openings did not change. The addition of a steam room in the master bathroom also occurred during the 2003 remodel. The enlargements increased the square footage to 7,022. Permits suggest that Wexler was not involved in any of the alterations or additions.

The room enlargements, patio enclosures, replacement window frames, and new glazing are consistent with the original construction in design and materials such that it is difficult to distinguish new construction from the original.

Integrity

The main house, guesthouse, and swimming pool have been properly maintained since construction and are in excellent condition. The property retains sufficient integrity to convey its

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significance. The enlargements of the main residence, as well as the noted window frame and glazing replacements, have not measurably affected the dwelling's integrity of *design, materials* and *workmanship* as relates to the property's overall architectural significance. In addition, integrity of *location* and *association* are unchanged as is the *feeling* of a luxurious midcentury modern house in a spectacular natural *setting*.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1963-1964

Significant Dates

1963
1964

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wexler, Donald (architect)
Smith, Maurice (owner-builder)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Maurice and Dinah Shore Smith House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The house is an excellent example of master architect Donald Wexler's work as one of the largest and most elegant modern residences that he designed during his career. The 1963 to 1964 period of significance corresponds with the 1963 construction date of the guesthouse and the 1964 completion of the main residence.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Donald Wexler arrived in Palm Springs in 1952 to join the architectural office of William F. Cody. Within less than a year, he had formed a partnership with Richard (Rick) Harrison, whom he had met in Cody's office. For the next two decades, working initially with Harrison and then on his own, Wexler transitioned from wood-frame to steel-frame construction as he sought design solutions that were flexible, cost efficient, responsive to the extremes of climate, and aesthetically pleasing.

Throughout his career, Donald Wexler's pioneering designs were acknowledged and lauded by his peers, architectural journals, and the popular press culminating in his induction as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 2004. Since circa 2000, Donald Wexler's architectural legacy has been widely acclaimed along with the work of such local modernists as Albert Frey, William F. Cody, and E. Stewart Williams. Together, these architects have helped fuel the extraordinary revival of interest in desert modern architecture in Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley. Based upon his important and extensive body of work, and honors received, Donald Wexler is considered a master architect.

Donald Wexler was the subject of a 2009 documentary feature film titled *Journeyman Architect: The Life and Work of Donald Wexler*. In 2011, the Palm Springs Art Museum in collaboration with California State Polytechnic University, Pomona organized a major retrospective exhibition titled "Steel and Shade: The Architecture of Donald Wexler." A substantial catalog with the same title was published in conjunction with the exhibition. The catalog was authored by Lauren Weiss Bricker, PhD, professor of architecture at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and Sidney Williams, curator of architecture and design at the Palm Springs Art Museum.¹ The

¹ Lauren Weiss Bricker, PhD, is also director of the archives and special collections of the College of Environmental Design. She is a past chair of the California State Historical Resources Commission. Dr. Bricker earned a BA from Swarthmore College and an MA and PhD from the Department of the History of Art and Architecture, University of California, Santa Barbara. Sidney Williams is responsible for organizing and coordinating special exhibitions and installations of the permanent collection. Active in the Palm Springs preservation community, she served on the City of Palm Springs Historic Site Preservation Board for six years, three years as chair. She holds a BA in art history from the University of British Columbia, and an MA in art history from the University of California, Los Angeles.

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exhibition and catalog featured drawings, renderings, models, photographs, watercolors, and film clips to provide a comprehensive overview of Wexler's creative output, and a view of his formative role in the development of Modern architecture in Palm Springs, the Coachella Valley, and Southern California.

Palm Springs

The cities of Palm Springs, Cathedral City, and Rancho Mirage are the ancestral home of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians who lived in the greater Coachella Valley for centuries before white people began colonizing the desert in the late nineteenth century. The Agua Caliente Indian Reservation consists of a checkerboard of one-square mile sections of land in the western Coachella Valley. Within these sections, land status can be a mix of tribal, allotted (leased or non-leased), and fee simple.

Palm Springs, initially promoted as a sanatorium for sufferers of lung disease, transformed into a winter resort in the early 1920s due to its proximity to Los Angeles and accessibility to the rest of North America via transcontinental railroad. Sprawling Palm Springs resort hotels were built in the years prior to the Great Depression, with more modest construction projects continuing through the 1930s.

Palm Springs was incorporated in 1938. A few years later, as America entered the war, the Coachella Valley became a training site for desert tank warfare. Palm Springs' El Mirador Hotel was transformed into Torney General Hospital for the war's duration. Following World War II, America's growing prosperity led to a building boom in residential and commercial construction in Palm Springs and the entire Coachella Valley. Celebrities, industrialists, and ordinary visitors in rapidly increasing numbers chose Palm Springs as their winter destination.

Prior to World War II, several prominent modernists completed projects in the Coachella Valley. Rudolph Schindler designed the Popenoe Cabin in 1922 (demolished); Lloyd Wright the Oasis Hotel (1923, only a remnant remaining); William Grey Purcell, a disciple of Louis Sullivan, his own house (1933, extant); Albert Frey, the Kocher-Samson office building (1936, extant, National Register-listed); and Richard Neutra, the Grace Miller House (1937, extant).

In the postwar era, visiting modern architects who received important Coachella Valley commissions include A. Quincy Jones, Paul R. Williams, John Lautner, Rudy Baumfeld of the Victor Gruen office, William Pereira, Welton Becket, Neutra, and Schindler.

Among the prolific Palm Springs-based architects who demonstrated exceptional talent in the postwar years were Albert Frey, John Porter Clark, William Cody, Robson Chambers, E. Stewart Williams, Donald Wexler, Richard Harrison, and Hugh Kaptur. Los Angeles-based William Krisel of the firm Palmer & Krisel designed sleek, modern wood-frame tract houses in the desert for the Alexander Construction Company that numbered in the thousands by the mid-1960s. This is the same company, which, in 1961, commissioned Wexler and Harrison to design experimental steel houses for a new tract development located in the north end of Palm Springs.

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Unlike Krisel, most of the Palm Springs architects did not consider themselves “modernists.” They saw themselves as designers responding to client needs and desert conditions. The functional, elegant buildings they produced were later categorized as Desert Modern.

Of Palm Springs’ remarkable design legacy, architect, author, and historian Alan Hess wrote:

Is Palm Springs architecture unique? The history of midcentury Modernism has a dozen unwritten chapters of regions that developed a strong individual style: San Diego, Oregon and Washington, Hawaii, Florida. Yet the character of the collection of buildings in Palm Springs is certainly special. Together they reflect a rare confluence of forces: Hollywood, tourism, the desert, populism, elitism, all heightened by the influx of inordinate wealth that allowed new designs to be plumbed. Similar forces existed in Los Angeles, but in Palm Springs they were concentrated in a small, isolated area. [...] The concentration of extraordinary homegrown talent in such a small town is rare; some of the best designers in organic, commercial and minimalist Modernism worked here. From city hall to banks to shops to motels to custom homes to country clubs to tract homes, the full and varied impact of Modernism can be seen here as clearly as anywhere.²

In the mid-1990s, Palm Springs was rediscovered by the interior design and fashion industries, using the city’s modern architecture as the location for numerous photo shoots. In 1998, Kurt Andersen wrote a lengthy photo essay for the *New Yorker* magazine on the renewed appreciation of Palm Springs’ midcentury vibe.³ This was followed by a cover story in the June 1999 issue of *Vanity Fair* about the rediscovery of Palm Springs by a younger generation.⁴ Since that time, Palm Springs has been acknowledged for its concentration of midcentury modern architecture with events such as Modernism Week—a fourteen-day celebration featuring lectures, exhibitions, documentary films, home tours, double-decker bus tours, a vintage furnishings show, and numerous parties in historic modern venues—and the professional architectural bus and walking tours occurring throughout the year.

Donald Wexler, Architect⁵

Donald Wexler was born in 1926 and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He joined the Navy in 1944. After discharge in 1946, he enrolled in the University of Minnesota’s School of Architecture with support from the GI Bill. Wexler was a member of the first generation of American architects trained along modern lines after World War II.

² Michael Stern and Alan Hess, *Julius Shulman: Palm Springs* (New York: Rizzoli International Publications, 2008), 20-21.

³ Kurt Andersen, “Desert Cool,” *New Yorker*, February 23, 1998, 128-137.

⁴ Bob Colacello, “Palm Springs Weekend,” *Vanity Fair*, June 1999, 192-211.

⁵ Excerpted from Lauren Weiss Bricker, PhD and Sidney Williams, *Steel and Shade: The Architecture of Donald Wexler* (Palm Springs: Palm Springs Art Museum, 2011).

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Draftsmanship and freehand drawing were emphasized at the School of Architecture, in the tradition of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, as a means of training the students to “recognize fine proportion and good color, which are the attributes of good taste ... the first requisites in the architect’s capabilities.”⁶ Drawing remained an important part of the curriculum through Wexler’s tenure there and after his graduation under the leadership of modern architect Ralph Rapson who held the position of Head of School from 1954 until 1984.

Drawing remained [Wexler’s] primary means of communicating his architecture. His archive is filled with many beautiful sketches that convey his love of the pencil, wielded with a sure hand to capture the effects of light and shadow on the form and material qualities of his architecture. Rarely were models used in his projects—usually at the request of a client to represent a completed project.⁷

Having graduated from architecture school in 1950, Wexler visited Los Angeles. During his trip, Wexler decided that he wanted to meet the renowned modernist Richard Neutra with whom Wexler was quite familiar as a student in Minnesota. Under the pretense of applying for a job with Neutra’s office, Wexler was granted an interview. Clearly impressed, Neutra offered the recent graduate a position in his firm—which functioned as a studio for young designers, both locals and recent arrivals to Los Angeles. “Wexler, revealing his characteristic modesty and restraint, and perhaps in reaction to the magnitude of the opportunity, requested a day to consider the offer; by that afternoon he knew that Neutra had presented him with the chance of a lifetime and he immediately joined the Neutra office.”⁸

Wexler stayed in Neutra’s office for nine months. While there, Wexler worked on the Elysian Park Heights public housing project that was to have been built in Chavez Ravine near downtown Los Angeles. Although the project was abandoned after becoming embroiled in the McCarthy-era politics of 1950s Los Angeles (with Chavez Ravine later becoming the site of Dodger Stadium), Wexler was exposed to the impressive work ethic of Neutra. In particular, how this and other projects being designed at the practice responded to the local climate by embracing the outdoors and views, and illustrated the adaptability of modernism to different architectural programs.

From 1953 to 1961, Donald Wexler and Richard Harrison were partners in their architectural practice of Wexler and Harrison. Starting in 1957, Harrison and especially Wexler became interested in the possibilities of building with steel. An opportunity to experiment with steel houses arose in 1961 when the Alexander Construction Company commissioned Wexler and Harrison to design thirty-five single-family steel dwellings in Palm Springs. The idea for commissioning prefabricated steel houses was predicated on finding a less expensive, easily

⁶ “Beginnings,” SALALibre, A Journal Commemorating the 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration, May 27 and 28, 1988. The University of Minnesota School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (Minneapolis: Minnesota Society American Institute of Architects, 1992), 12. As referenced in *Steel and Shade: The Architecture of Donald Wexler*, 13.

⁷ *Steel and Shade*, 14.

⁸ *Steel and Shade*, 11.

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constructed, and durable alternative to the wood frame and stucco houses the company had been building to that point.

The Alexander steel house project was to be built in stages. Between 1961 and 1962, seven houses were constructed. By the time these houses were completed in 1962, the price of steel had risen to where it was no longer competitive with wood-frame construction and the experiment was suspended.

In 1961, when Wexler and Harrison recognized that their architectural interests diverged—Harrison seeking commissions with developers and Wexler vying for more civic projects—they dissolved their partnership amicably, each operating his own firm as sole proprietor. A complete project list of Wexler and Harrison's work as partners, and Wexler's work as sole proprietor, was compiled by the Palm Springs Art Museum in its 2011 exhibition catalog *Steel and Shade: The Architecture of Donald Wexler*.⁹

Maurice and Dinah Shore Smith House

Maurice Smith was a successful Palm Springs contractor who married television star Dinah Shore in 1963. Given his acquaintance with Donald Wexler, it was most likely Smith who made the decision to commission the architect for his and Dinah's new Las Palmas home. With a generous \$110,000 budget, Wexler designed an elegant, sophisticated, modern dwelling providing complete privacy from the street while opening the spacious interior to the vast landscaped areas of the enormous property. It was the largest single-family residence that Wexler designed in his career. The Smiths sold the house in 1967.

Stylistically, the modern residence beautifully reflects its 1963 to 1964 period of significance with its horizontality, flat roof, lack of applied ornamentation, open floor plan, walls of glass, indoor-outdoor flow, and honest expression of materials. Within the Las Palmas neighborhood, which is known for its many fine Spanish Colonial Revival style homes, the house stands out as a unique, prominent and outstanding example of midcentury modern design by one of Palm Springs' most innovative and respected architects.

Donald Wexler's enormous contribution to architecture and the lasting significance of his work were recognized in 2004. In that year, he was inducted as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. In the same year, the University of Minnesota recognized him as an outstanding alumnus. These awards recognized Wexler's remarkable body of work and his contribution to the profession as a master architect.

Wexler passed away in 2015.

⁹ *Steel and Shade*, 122-129.

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- Other

Name of repository: Archives and Special Collections of the College of Environmental Design. California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Smith, Maurice and Dinah Shore, House
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.34 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 33.836838

Longitude: -116.551826

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

432 Hermosa Drive, Palm Springs, Riverside County, California. Legal description is 1.34 ACRES M/L IN POR PAR 1 AND PAR 2 PM 033/052 PM 8336. APN 505-252-033

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Maurice and Dinah Shore Smith House.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Peter Moruzzi, Architectural Historian

organization: _____

street & number: 1056 East San Lorenzo Road

city or town: Palm Springs state: CA zip code: 92264

e-mail: petermoruzzi@gmail.com

telephone: (213) 706-0151

date: March 2019; Revised April, May 2019

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Smith, Maurice and Dinah Shore, House
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Smith, Maurice and Dinah Shore, House
City or Vicinity: Palm Springs
County: Riverside
State: California
Photographer: Peter Moruzzi
Date Photographed: May 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 16 Southwest elevation, street view, camera facing northeast
- 2 of 16 Southeast elevation, camera facing northwest
- 3 of 16 Southeast elevation, camera facing northwest
- 4 of 16 Northwest entrance walkway, camera facing southeast
- 5 of 16 Southwest elevation, camera facing northeast
- 6 of 16 Southwest elevation, camera facing north
- 7 of 16 Northwest and northeast elevations, camera facing south
- 8 of 16 Southwest elevation garage, camera facing northeast
- 9 of 16 Northwest elevation, camera facing southeast
- 10 of 16 Northeast elevation, camera facing southwest
- 11 of 16 Living room, camera facing northeast
- 12 of 16 Living room, camera facing southeast

Smith, Maurice and Dinah Shore, House
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

- 13 of 16 Dining room, camera facing northwest
- 14 of 16 Guest bedrooms northeast elevation, camera facing south
- 15 of 16 Guest bedroom, camera facing east
- 16 of 16 Guesthouse/art studio southwest elevation, camera facing northeast

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

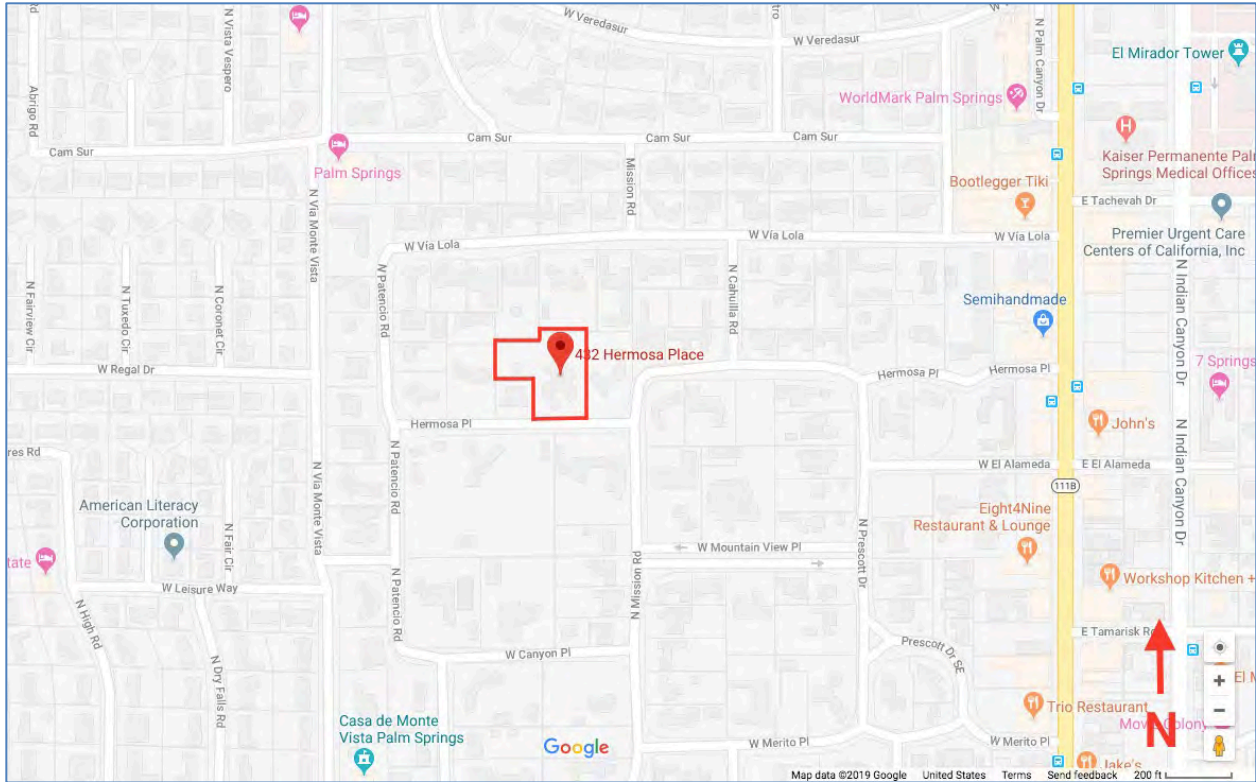
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Smith, Maurice and Dinah Shore, House
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Location Map

Latitude: 33.836838 Longitude: -116.551826

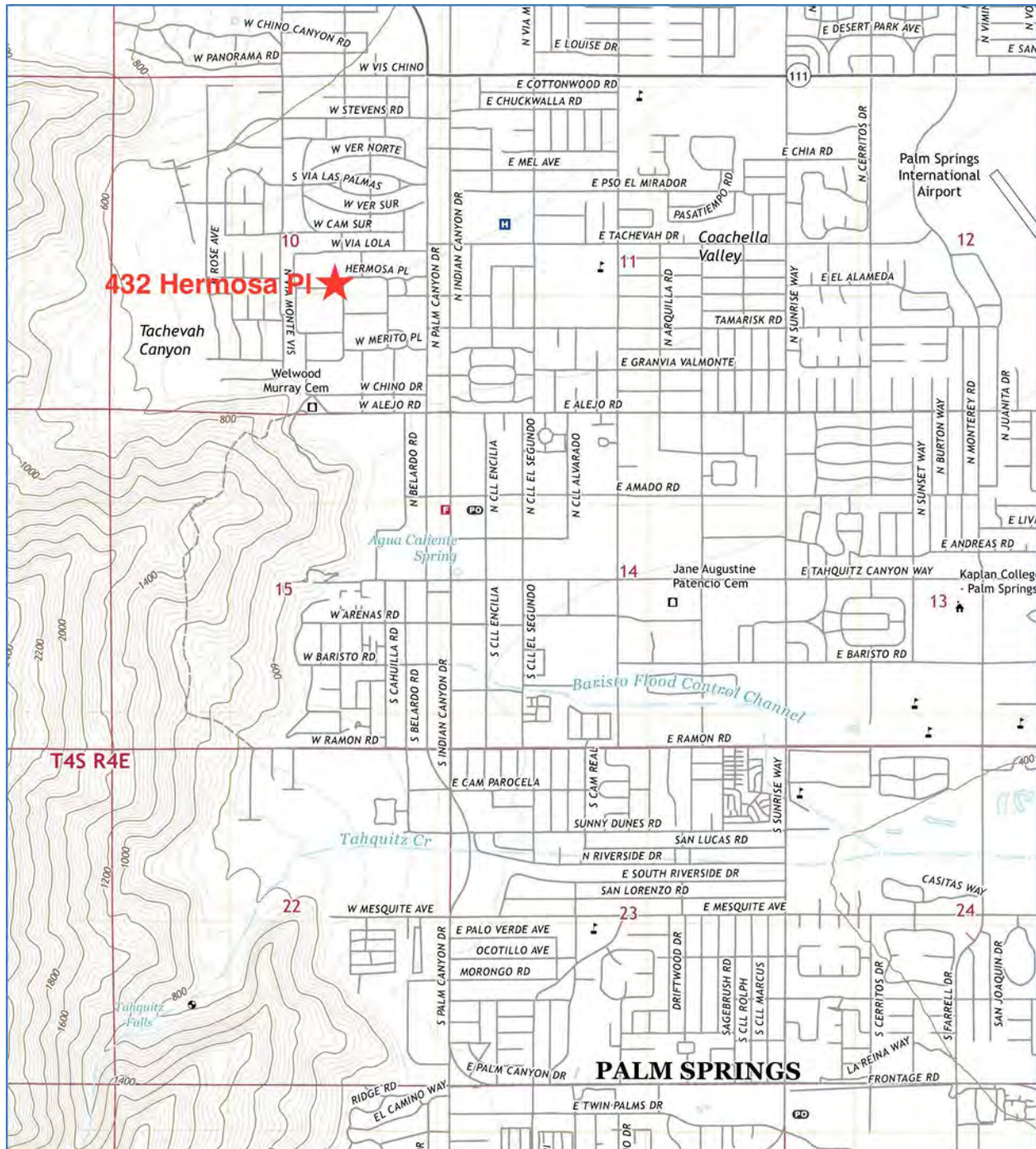


Smith, Maurice and Dinah Shore, House
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Vicinity Map

USGS Topo, Palm Springs Quadrangle, 2018, Scale 1:24 000



Smith, Maurice and Dinah Shore, House
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Sketch Map/Photo Key



Smith, Maurice and Dinah Shore, House
Name of Property

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Figure 1. Aerial view, 2019
Courtesy Google Maps



Smith, Maurice and Dinah Shore, House
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

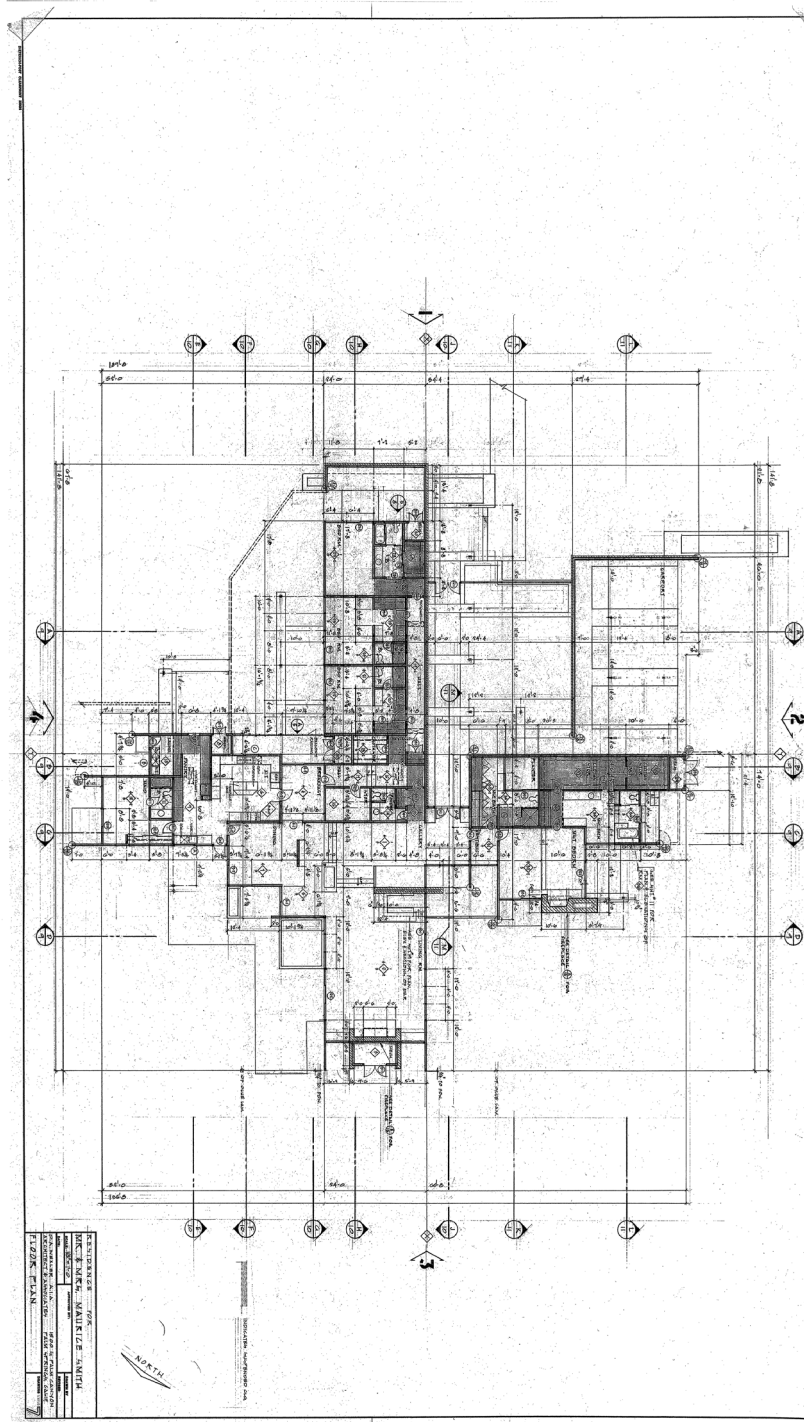
Figure 2. Rendering, primary (south) elevation, 1963
Courtesy Donald A. Wexler Collection, Palm Springs Art Museum



Smith, Maurice and Dinah Shore, House
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Figure 3. Floor plan, 1963
Courtesy Donald A. Wexler Collection, Palm Springs Art Museum









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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Smith, Maurice, and Dinah Shore House

Multiple Name:

State & County: CALIFORNIA, Riverside

Date Received: 8/7/2019 Date of Pending List: 8/28/2019 Date of 16th Day: 9/12/2019 Date of 45th Day: 9/23/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100004405

Nominator: Other Agency, SHPO

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

Accept Return Reject 9/23/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Maurice Smith and Dinah Shore House is locally significant under National Register Criterion C (Architecture). The substantial home is a fine local example of mid-century Modernist design featuring floor to ceiling windows, deep roof overhangs with prominent exposed structural beams and varied siding. Completed in 1964, the one-story, wood post and beam house was designed by noted Southern California architect Donald Wexler and is one of his more sizable Palm Spring designs. The house represents the mature design work of Wexler, widely recognized for his significant contributions to the region's Desert Modernism architecture.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept NR Criterion C

Reviewer: Paul Lusignan Discipline: Historian

Telephone: (202)354-2229 Date: 9/23/2019

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

**Smith, Maurice and Dinah Shore, House
Palm Springs, Riverside County
Staff Report**

One of the largest single-family residences Donald Wexler designed during his long career was for Maurice and Dinah (Shore) Smith in the prestigious Las Palmas neighborhood of Palm Springs. In 1964, on a large north-south lot, Wexler set the one-story, four-bedroom house on the diagonal, which provided each room with a different view, and created a pinwheel floor plan. Modern in style of post-and-beam wood construction, the house was 5,200 square feet in size, later increased to just over 7,000 square feet through multiple room enlargements and patio enclosures, with a 1,200 square foot carport. Each room opened to the outdoors through sliding glass doors, where the large rectangular pool created a spacious entertaining area with dramatic views of Mount San Jacinto. An adjacent guesthouse—built in 1963 as an art studio for Dinah and a place to stay while the main house was under construction, and swimming pool built in 1964 are contributing resources. A tennis court and 560-square foot tennis pavilion erected post-period of significance in 1976 are noncontributing resources. Alterations are not visible from the public right-of-way, and the property, in excellent condition, retains historic integrity.

The Maurice and Dinah Shore Smith House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The house is an excellent example of master architect Donald Wexler's work as one of the largest and most elegant modern residences that he designed during his career. The 1963 to 1964 period of significance corresponds with the 1963 construction date of the guesthouse and the 1964 completion of the main residence.

The property is nominated by the Palm Springs Modern Committee, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the appreciation and preservation of Desert Modern architecture and design. In its role as representative of the City of Palm Springs, a Certified Local Government, the Historic Site Preservation Board received a copy of the nomination. No letters have been received. Staff supports the nomination as written and recommends the State Historical Resources Commission determine the Maurice and Dinah Shore Smith House is eligible under National Register Criterion C at the local level of significance with a 1963 to 1964 period of significance. Staff recommends the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing on the National Register.

Amy H. Crain
State Historian II
July 29, 2019



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Director

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100
Telephone: (916) 445-7000 FAX: (916) 445-7053
calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



August 6, 2019

Joy Beasley, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Mail Stop 7228, 1849 C Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20240

Subject: **Smith, Maurice and Dinah Shore, House
Riverside County, California
National Register of Historic Places Nomination**

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the SMITH, MAURICE AND DINAH SHORE, HOUSE to the National Register of Historic Places. On August 1, 2019 in Sacramento, California, the California State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible for the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, with a 1963-1964 period of significance.

An excellent example of master architect Donald Wexler's work, the property is nominated by the Palm Springs Modern Committee, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the appreciation and preservation of Desert Modern architecture and design. In its role as representative of the City of Palm Springs, a Certified Local Government, the Historic Site Preservation Board received a copy of the nomination. No comment from the CLG or any other letters have been received.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact Amy Crain of my staff at (916) 445-7009.

Sincerely,

Jenan Saunders
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure