

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

JUN 23 1989

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 Spanish Apartments
other names/site number Villa de Leon Apartments / 8 Hi 721

2. Location

street & number 16 East Davis Boulevard N/A not for publication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	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>0</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.
[Signature] 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.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

[Signature] Entered in the National Register 8/3/89

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 Concretewalls Hollow Clay TileStuccoroof Terra Cottaother Concrete: FrontispieceGlazed Tile: Fountain

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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
Hampton, Martin L.
Cooper, Grayburn H. (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.

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

Acres of property Less than one

UTM References

A

1	7
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3	5	6	3	8	0
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3	0	9	0	7	6	0
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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 27, 28, and Part of 29, Block 5, 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

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Description

Originally known as the Spanish Apartments, 16 E. Davis Boulevard, now the Villa de Leon, is a picturesquely massed Mediterranean Revival style apartment building designed by Martin L. Hampton for developer D.P. Davis in 1925. Located on the northern tip off the main island in the Hyde Park Section of the subdivision, the building is the only "gateway" structure to survive the construction of the present modern bridge. Professional and medical office buildings, parking garages, and modern apartment buildings now surround it. Although primarily a three-story building, the structure includes a one-story wing and two five-story arcaded towers. It is constructed of stuccoed hollow tile on a continuous poured concrete foundation and features gable and hip roofs covered with clay barrel tile. The truncated, diamond shaped plan opens to the north but encloses a simple courtyard with a centrally placed tiled fountain.

References to the vernacular tradition appear in the irregular fenestration, while the entrances carry a more formal treatment. Windows are rustically detailed with pecky cypress lintels and grills of wooden spindles. The double hung sashes and casements are grouped in units of two, three, and four on the courtyard elevation. Round headed arches light the second floor in the main block of the building and at various tower levels. At each of the five entrances Plateresque style frontispieces of cast concrete imitate the stonework of Italian and Spanish building prototypes.

The Villa de Leon includes twenty-two apartments, ranging from studio size to one and two bedroom flats, some of which have tower bedrooms. Most of the units follow simple rectangular plans; however, several incorporate triangular closets and halls, or pentagonal living rooms, to accommodate the unusual exterior plan. Decorative detailing is confined to the cast concrete fireplaces and arches between the rooms. Many of the original fittings, such as built-in ironing boards, Murphy beds, breakfast nook furnishings, and art glass cabinet doors still survive.

Because the apartment complex covers nearly all of its two and a half lots, there are no other structures associated with the site.

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Statement of Significance

In plan, massing, and detail the Villa de Leon is significant as a fine example of the Mediterranean Revival style adapted to a large multi-residential structure in Tampa. By placing the complex at the northern tip of the island, D.P. Davis visually announced the Mediterranean theme of his planned community. The structure is one of the few surviving buildings designed directly by Martin L. Hampton, the Miami architect that Davis hired to supervise construction in the subdivision. In all, Hampton prepared designs for six model homes, two hotels, and several apartment buildings. All were intended to conjure images of "castles in Spain" for the potential buyer.

The Spanish Apartments, as the building was originally named, was one of two "gateway" structures planned by Davis and Hampton. The other was the Venetian Apartments, which were demolished when the present bridge was constructed. Construction of the \$135,000 building began in mid-February of 1925, with Grayburn H. Cooper as the contractor and Franklin O. Adams, Jr. as the supervising architect. In June of that year, while the building was still under construction, the property was sold to Chicago hotel operators Victor Polakow and Henry Bloomfield for \$235,000.

The Chicago entrepreneurs did not hold the property long. Mary West Thatcher and her husband Samuel purchased the building in 1931 and managed the complex until 1941 when it was sold. The apartment building has had a number of owners since that time.

Photographs

1. Spanish Apartments, 16 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. North Elevation, Looking South
7. Photo No. 1 of 3

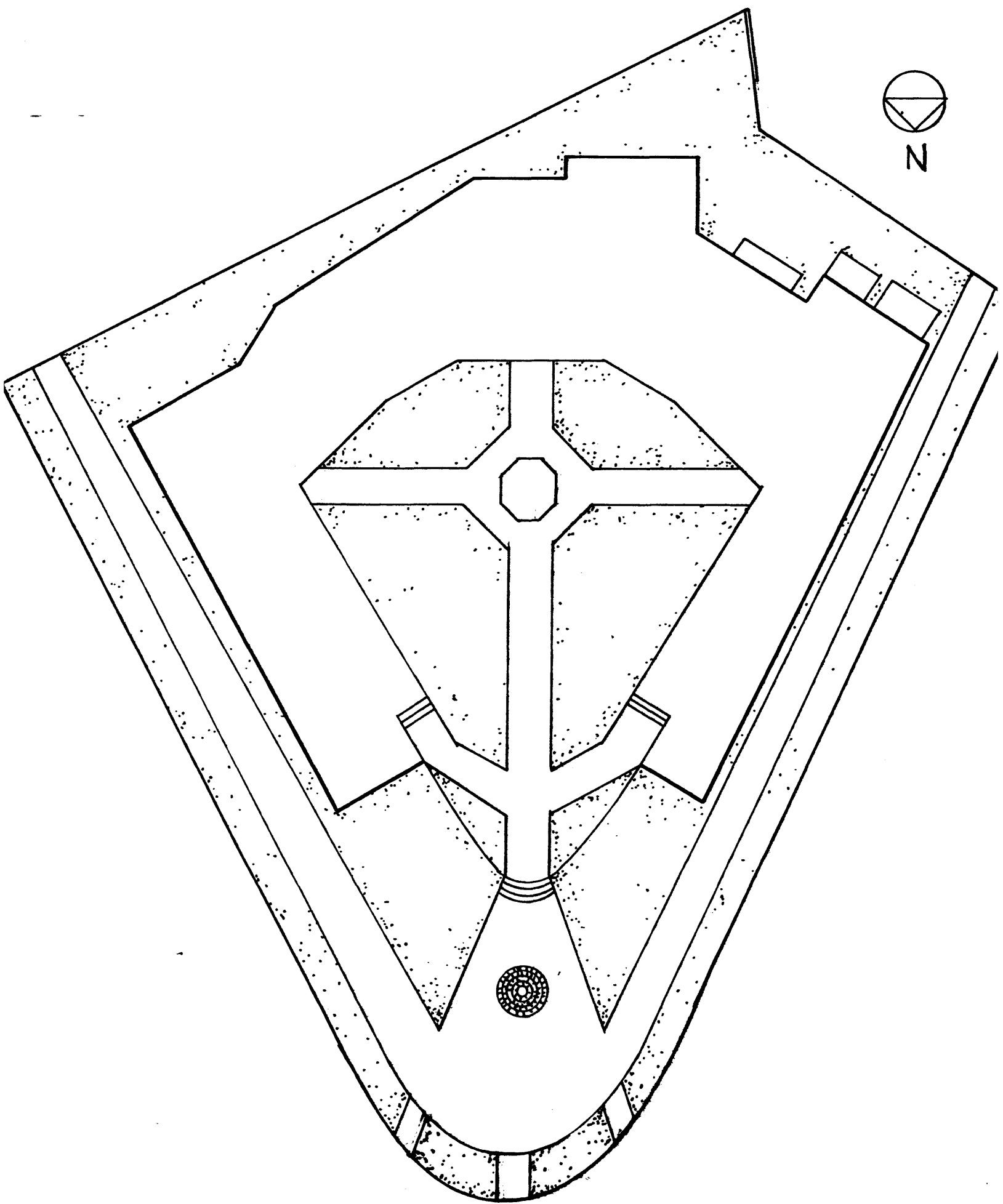
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Photographs (cont.)

1. Spanish Apartments, 16 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. Courtyard and Entrance, North Elevation, Looking South
 7. Photo No. 2 of 3
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1. Spanish Apartments, 16 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. Detail, Courtyard Fountain, Looking North
 7. Photo No. 3 of 3



16 EAST DAVIS BOULEVARD
NOT TO SCALE

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