

PH0010987

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Florida
COUNTY:	Hillsborough
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUL 30 1974

217
H S

1. NAME

COMMON:
El Centro Espanol of West Tampa

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2306 ~~NORTH~~ Howard Street

CITY OR TOWN: Tampa CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Sixth

STATE: Florida CODE: 12 COUNTY: Hillsborough CODE: 057

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No Yes:

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Centro Espanol de Tampa

STREET AND NUMBER:
2308 N. Howard St.

CITY OR TOWN: Tampa STATE: Florida CODE: 12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Hillsborough County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Tampa STATE: Florida CODE: 12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
N/A

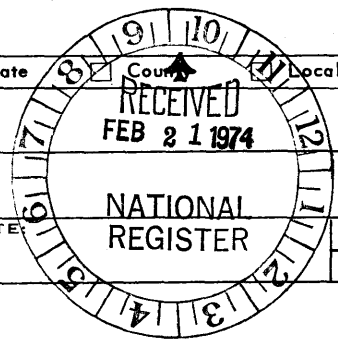
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Florida

COUNTY: Hillsborough

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The exterior of the Centro Espanol is an interesting and unique patterning of the surface with dark red vitrified brick and yellow pressed brick and terra cotta. The main facade is characterized by an elaborate pavilion, centrally placed. At the base of the pavilion are double doors with side panels and lunette, all set into a round stone arch which is now partially obscured by the marquee which bears the "CE" insignia. Immediately above the marquee is an elaborately carved yellow terra cotta panel bearing the words "Centro Espanol." This panel serves as a base for the three sash windows set beneath horseshoe arches, all of which is set within an equilateral arch with drop tracery. This equilateral arch springs from two pilasters, each bearing the crest of the Centro Espanol on its capital. These are the same two pilasters which partially frame the pavilion. The topmost section of the pavilion consists of two stone finials flanking a central section of yellow terra cotta Y-tracery on a background of solid red brick. The north and south sides of the main facade, flanking the pavilion, are symmetrical in both fenestration and decoration. The bottom floor is a series of four round arched sash windows with lunettes--the arches being composed of three rows of yellow header brick. On the second floor is a series of four sets of French doors on either side with lunettes containing small amounts of colored glass. All French doors open onto a reinforced concrete balcony with wrought iron balustrade. The balustrade pattern is similar to others seen in the immediate area and was presumably made locally. This balcony runs the full width of the east facade, to be interrupted only by the pavilion. The north and south sides of the main facade are terminated at the roofline with elaborate red and yellow brick corbelling.

The north side of the building, the short side, repeats the same arched window treatment that is seen on the east. The only visible chimney is located at the midpoint of this side at the roofline and is of red brick with a yellow terra cotta cap.

The south facade serves as a second entrance to the building, principally to the theatre. The balcony which originated on the east side extends down the south wall the distance of six windows, only to be halted by a second pavilion. The lower portion of this pavilion is a recessed entranceway framed by a round arch set into an elaborately carved and molded background. At the top of this entrance beneath a cornice bearing the egg and dart motif are the words "CENTRO ESPANOL." All of this first section is composed of yellow brick and yellow terra cotta. Above the entrance on the south side of the building are two yellow brick pilasters topped with finials flanking a central section of red and yellow

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(cont)

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1912**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Centro Espanol was founded in Tampa on September 7, 1891, making it the oldest of the Latin clubs. The purpose of the organization was to establish a social and civic community of men to assist the influx of cigar workers from Cuba, New York, Key West and Spain. Although a men's club, the Centro Espanol set the standards and goals for later clubs by providing low-cost family medical services, education and citizenship programs and recreation facilities. The organization was greatly promoted by the donation of land and other financial assistance from Vincent Martinez Ybor and Ignacio Haya, and the organizational work of Enrique Pendas and Adalberto Ramirez. The early founders of the club included Modesto Valdes, Adalberto Ramirez, Constantino Campos, Fermin Souto and Manuel Perez. The first meeting was held June 20, 1892, with Haya as the first President and Ramirez as Vice-President.

It was during the presidency of Celestino Vega (1911-1915) that the Club reached its zenith in programs and significance to the city of Tampa. Two magnificent centers were constructed during this period to house the Club's activities, one in Ybor City and one in West Tampa. The West Tampa clubhouse was constructed in 1912 at a cost of \$90,000. The building opened January 11, 1913 with a ball and a visit from Spanish Minister Juan Riano Gayangos. By 1930, the two clubs had jointly serviced over 20,000 people, mostly of Spanish origin.

The West Tampa branch of the Centro Espanol is an architecturally unique and interesting building which combines various motifs of Spanish and Italian origin. The exterior of the structure is characterized by an exciting interplay of color, texture and pattern, reminiscent of the architecture typical of the place of origin of its members.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached sheet.

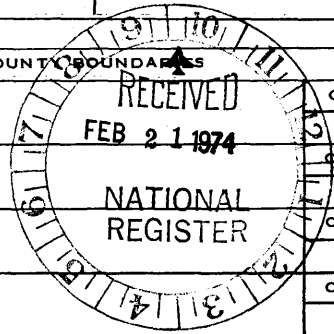
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N27° 57' 41"	W82° 29' 00"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Diane Greer, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION: **Div. of Archives, History & Records Management** DATE: **August, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: **Tallahassee** STATE: **Florida** CODE: **12**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Robert Williams*
Title: Historic Preservation Officer

Date: February 6, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. Montrose
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/30/74

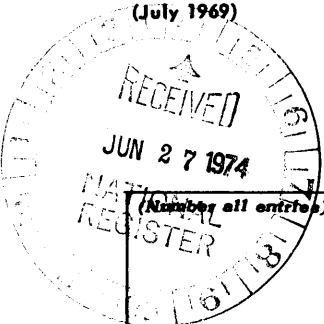
ATTEST:
W. S. ...
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7.26.74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Florida	
COUNTY	Hillsborough	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		AUG 28 1974



Centro Espanol
1536 E. 7th Avenue
Centro Espanol Club, owner

Description

The main facade of this two-story red brick building is a large Moorish arch which frames the entranceway. Paired sash windows flank the arch and have voussoirs with keystones above. The pale color of the granite used in window sills, keystones, medallions and other surface ornamentation creates a sharp contrast to the dark red brick. A decorative iron railing extends across the front of the building enclosing a small balcony. A series of elongated round-arched windows lead out onto the balcony. It is above this row of windows that most of the surface decoration occurs in the form of corbelling, bas relief plaques, circular medallions and corner piers topped with finials.

The main facade of the Centro Espanol constitutes the short side of the building. The long sides, east and west elevations, are treated in a similar manner to the front, that is, with rows of round arched windows and a balcony extending the full length of the sides. The building is presently in an adequate state of preservation probably due to the fact that it is in constant use.

Significance

The Centro Espanol was founded in Tampa on September 7, 1891, the oldest of the Latin clubs. The purpose of the organization was to establish a social and civic community of men to assist the influx of cigar workers from Cuba, Key West, New York and Spain. Although it was a men's club, the Centro Espanol set the standards and goals for later clubs by providing low cost family medical services, recreation and education facilities. The organization was greatly promoted by the donation of land and assistance from Vincente Martinez Ybor and Ignacia Haya. The founders of the club included Modesto Valdes, Adalberto Ramirez, Constantino Campos, Fermin Souto and Manuel Perez. The first meeting in a Spanish club center was held June 20, 1892, with Haya as the first president and Ramirez as vice-president.

The first building to house the Centro Espanol was erected in 1892 on the corner of Seventh Avenue and 16th Street.

(con't.)

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(Number all entries) 7. Description

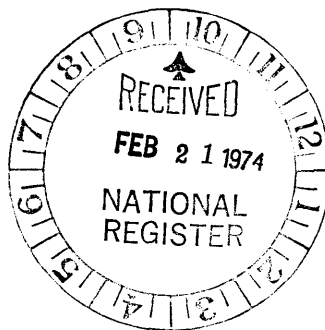
-2-

brickwork patterns consisting of arches and circles, the principal motif used in the decoration, topped by a shield bearing the date 1912 and the E within a C insignia. From this pavilion west, the building is irregularly fenestrated and there is a minimum of decoration. Only the corbelling at the roof-line is continued in red brick.

The roof of the building, which is covered with the original Spanish tiles, is hipped and gabled in combination.

The building fronts 95 feet on Howard Avenue and 172 feet on Cherry Street. The primary motif used on the interior is Moorish. The large ballroom on the second floor measures 95 by 40 feet and has a large Moorish design set into the plastered ceiling. Located off of the ballroom are the rooms originally used as men's and ladies retiring rooms, restrooms and reading rooms. The theatre, located at the rear of the building and having its own entrance, has eight large boxes and a 30 by 60 foot stage.

Completed in 1912 at a cost of \$90,000, the Centro Espanol was designed by the architect, Fred J. James.



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Florida	
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		AUG 28 1974

(Number all entries)

Centro Espanol (con't.)

Significance con't.

The structure was 95 feet by 55 feet and contained a 19 foot entranceway leading to a large cantina, a lounge, a small theatre of 500 seats designed by Chicago's A.H. Andrews and numerous clubrooms including a library. This building was replaced by another structure in 1912, located on the same site. It was during the presidency of Celestino Vega (1911-1915) that the Club reached its zenith in significance to the city of Tampa. Two clubs were built during this period, the West Tampa branch and the new Ybor City club on the site of the 1892 building. The Ybor City building opened November 12, 1912 with a play starring famed Cuban actor Luis Escriba. The building featured a massive 60 by 70 foot lounge and a second floor ballroom surrounded by exterior balconies.

The Centro Espanol was, as previously stated, the first of the Latin clubs to be formed. It was, at the time of its construction, and remains today, a visual ornament and pivotal structure for the whole commercial center of downtown Ybor City. Moreover, it is still an integral part of the ethnic and cultural environment of Ybor City--an active and on-going institution in an age when the old traditions are rapidly dying out.



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Florida
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(Number all entries) 9. Major Bibliographical References

-2-

Bagley, Salatha. "Latin Clubs of Tampa, Florida." Unpublished Master's Thesis, Duke University, January 20, 1948.

Centro Espanol de Tampa 1891-1941. Resena Historica de Cincuenta Anos. Tampa, Florida: Tribune Press, Inc., 1942.

Grismer, Karl. Tampa. St. Petersburg, Florida: St. Petersburg Printing Company, 1956.

Hillsborough County Courthouse, Tampa, Florida. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Hillsborough County Records. (Subgroup: Deed Bk. D-1, p. 597; Bk. 1632, p. 301).

Tampa Tribune, Tampa, Florida. January 12, 1913, p. 3.

