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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

code 12

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic TAMPANIA HOUSE

and/or common Friederich House, Kirkeby House

Location 2.

street & number 4611 North A Street

city, town Tampa N/A vicinity of

state

)

Florida 3. Classification

Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status X_occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X_yes: restricted yes: unrestricted	Present Use agriculture X commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
	N/A	no	military	other:

county

Hillsborough

4. Owner of Property

name	Milo Smith &	Associates	Investment	Company.	Realtors
				C.C.T. CHILL	

street & number 2700

Tampa	vicinity of	S	tate _{Florida}	33607
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egistry of deeds, etc.	Hillsborough County	Courthouse		
per	419 Pierce Street			
	Tampa	S	tate Florida	33602
presentati	on in Existing	Surveys		
	- hae this pr	operty been determine	ed eligible?	yes no
(Revised 1983)		federal	_ state _v cou	unty loca
	cation of L egistry of deeds, etc. per presentati an-made Environme illsborough Count	cation of Legal Descripti egistry of deeds, etc. Hillsborough County per 419 Pierce Street Tampa presentation in Existing lan-made Environment in Tampa has this pro-	egistry of deeds, etc. Hillsborough County Courthouse der 419 Pierce Street Tampa s presentation in Existing Surveys an-made Environment in Tampa illsborough County has this property been determined federal	cation of Legal Description egistry of deeds, etc. Hillsborough County Courthouse per 419 Pierce Street Tampa state Florida presentation in Existing Surveys ian-made Environment in Tampa has this property been determined eligible?

city, town 452 West Kennedy Boulevard, Tampas state Florida 33606

Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Tampania house at 4611 North A Street is a one-story stuccoed masonry building exhibiting some stylistic characteristics of the Prairie Style. The ground plan is approximately square, being 43 feet wide by 46 feet deep in its major dimensions. There is also a 3 foot rectangular bay near the center of the east elevation. The massing of the house on the main (south) facade consists of a raised central block flanked by two shorter projecting pavillions. The space between the central block and the wings is occupied by a stoop or patio approximately 16 feet wide by 10 feet deep. Both the central block and the lower mass of the house, which surrounds it like a horseshoe, are covered with flat roofs with wide eaves. The major windows are wood frame casements with stained glass transoms, and a large stained glass skylight is found over the central block.

The house has suffered no major structural alterations and is now used as an office by a realty firm. It occupies a small lot in a residential neighborhood near the intersection of Westshore Boulevard and Kennedy Boulevard, about three miles west of downtown Tampa. Only a few hundred yards north of the building runs the east-west corridor of U.S. highway I-75 connecting Tampa with the city of St. Petersburg. The subdivision in house is located has been severely eroded by recent residential which the Tampania construction and commercial intrusions such as Westshore retail mall.

Although basically a simple structure with a uniform, rough-textured stucco exterior similar to many low-cost Mediterranean Revival style houses constructed in Tampa during the 1920's, the Tampania house is made more imposing by its unusual massing and imaginative fenestration. The roofs, though flat, are set at different heights, giving the facade a profile which carves into the surrounding space. This is complemented by the advancing and receding masses of the pavillions and central block. A two-band decorative corbel marks the transition from the wide plain soffit of the roof to the almost equally plain exterior wall. Narrow louvers in the center of each block, rather than vents in the soffit, provide air circulation in the shallow attic space.

In place of a porch, the house has a tiled stoop or raised patio on the main facade that separates its three main divisions. Access to the patio is gained by two masonary steps which are tiled like the surface of the patio itself. The tiling consists of black and white tesserae laid in a basketweave pattern and a red terra cotta coping along the edges of the patio and steps. The main entrance to the house lies not in the center of the facade but at the sides of the patio where one finds identical glass panaled doors with narrow sidelights. In front of each door is a single tiled step. A similar doorway is found in the east elevation of the house, immediately opposite the one leading onto the patio. This entrance has had its door removed and replaced with a single pane of plate glass, as it was no longer desirable to have a doorway in that location when the house was converted into an office. All of the original features of the doorway, including the sidelights, fortunately, remain intact.

A final entranceway is found at the rear (north) elevation and leads onto a rear porch which was formerly screened, but the screening has been replaced with glass so that the area can be air conditioned. A small stoop with tranversely oriented steps and a wooden handrail give access to the rear entrance.

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Except for the windows on the rear porch, and two similar single paned lights which illuminate the kitchen next to it, all of the major fenestration visible from the exterior consists of wood casement groupings with fixed stained glass transoms. Each casement contains a simple pane of clear glass. The groupings vary. Thouse found in the street facade of the pavilion consist of four easements (the outer two are narrower than the inner two) with three transom lights above. One long narrow panel surmounts the two inner lights, while each of the outer lights has its own stained cap. The central block has a triple grouping of larger casements, all the same size, each of which is surmounted bt two stained transom lights. This complex is distinguished by heavy mullions and muntins, and the stained panels are recessed, increasing the impression of monumentality.

Item number

7

Another triple grouping--smaller than in the center of the facade--is found in the shallow bay on the east elevation of the house. The bay is an extension of the dining room. The three casements are of equal size, and each has its own square transom. The rear (north) elevation offers two groupings, one of four segments near the center of the wall, and one of three about six feet farther west. The basic pattern of both repeats the grouping already described on the east elevation. The larger of the two illuminates a small drawing room or study at the rear of the house, while the smaller provides both light and ventilation to the rear bedroom. This bedroom has a second triple grouping on the west elevation. The front bedroom (located in the soutwest pavilion) is, however, lighted only by the windows on the facade and the glass paneled patio door.

The most significant "window" in the house is the approximately 5 foot by 12 foot stained glass skylight found over the central block of the house which contains the principal living room. Like the other stained glass in the house, this large panel offers an abstracted organic or floral motif more reminiscent of Art Nouveau patterns of the 1890's rather than the angular more "modern" designs preferred by Prairie Style architects who more closely followed the lead of Frank Lloyd Wright in the 1900-1914 Period. The colors of the glass in the Tampania house are muted greens, yellows, and reds complemented by deep blues and purples highlighted by touches of clear glass.

In addition to the major assemblages of glass already described, there are also some small stained panels, a few of which turn up in unexpected places. The bathroom, which lies on the west side of the house between the two bedrooms, has two modest sized stained panels rather than clear casement windows. Also, each of the bedroom closets flanking the bathroom has its own single narrow vertical panel of colored glass. Four small horizontal panels are found in the living room, two in the east wall and two in the west, just beneath the coved ceiling molding. Finally, there are two more tiny vertical panels in the dining room, each being located in the shallow wall space formed by the bay on the east elevation of the house.

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The original interior floor plan consisted of six rooms, a kitchen (now an office), a bathroom, and a screened rear porch arranged in a modified open plan. The 25 foot by 16 foot living room occupies the entire central block of the house and is approximately 18 feet from floor to ceiling. All of the other rooms are the more usual 10 feet in height. The only fireplace is located on the west wall of the living room and has an exposed chimney which, like the walls, has been stuccoed. The exterior of the shallow fireplace and the hearth are surfaced with dark grey glazed tiles which the present owner used to replace the original white and black tiles which were set in a checkerboard pattern. There is a plain, narrow mantlepiece above the fireplace. This feature of the house was more decorative than practical, since central heating was installed in 1927. Today the house has a modern air conditioning unit.

Immediately north of the living room is a small drawing room or study 16 feet wide by 11 feet deep. It has an 10 foot wide entranceway with two square posts or columns which once supported three mullioned glass doors that gave this area a semblance of privacy. The doors were removed at some time before the present owners acquired the property, but indications of where the hinges were once attached to the posts are still faintly evident. To the east of the living room separated by an 11 foot entranceway is the dining area which measures 14 feet by 13 feet. No doors ever separated these two areas, and the entranœway has decorative boxed and tapered Tuscan columns near the jambs which visually support the lintel. A significant feature of the dining room is a built-in recessed sideboard having overhead cabinets with leaded glass doors. Connecting both the dining room and living room on the south, and having normal size entranceways without doors, is a morning room or "music" room measuring 12 feet by 12 feet.

The front bedroom is located to the southwest, found at the junction of the living room and the narrow hall connecting the front and rear bedrooms. As mentioned earlier, this 14 foot by 12 foot space has windows only on the front, perhaps affording it slightly more privacy in spite of its location near the street. The door leading onto the patio also allowed the occupant to come and go without entering any of the more public areas of the house. The rear bedroom has the same dimensions as the front one, and both are adjacent to the single bathroom.

There have been no major structural changes in the <u>Tampania</u> house either by the present owner or former ones. Activities by the present owner have been mainly restorative steps such as repairing minor damage and deterioration of the stucco (being careful to match the original texture), repainting the house according to its apparently original color scheme, and refinishing the floors. With the exception of the fireplace tiles, no original building materials that significantly contributed to the architectural character of the house were removed or seriously modified. With the exception of the bathroom sink, all the original bathroom (tub

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and toilet) and kitchen appliances were discarded. Those in the kitchen had to be removed to convert that space into an office, and the bathroom was provided with a new commode. Also, the stained glass windows were fitted on the exterior with clear plexiglass shields to protect them from vandalism. The skylight was fitted with a protective transparent canopy not readily visible from the street.

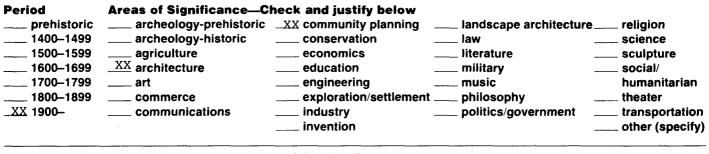
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Contributing resources: 1 1 Building (Tampania House)

Noncontributing resources: 0

8. Significance



Specific dates 1927

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Tampania house, located at 4611 North A Street ¹ in Tampa, Florida is significant for its architecture, its association with the Florida real estate boom of the 1920's, the suburban development of the city of Tampa, and its connection with Arnold S. Kirkeby, one of America's important financiers and hoteliers, who played an important role in developing "Tampania", one of Tampa's early subdivisions. The house is further important for being one of only three surviving structures in the city to exhibit characteristics of the Prarie Style. Besides being one of the few original structures remaining in the Tampania development, the house also displays an unusual and distinctive use of stained glass that sets it apart from other small, modest-priced houses dating from that period.

"Tampania" had its beginnings in January 1924 when Issac M. Hanan bought a tract of undeveloped land three miles west of downtown Tampa on which to develop a residential subdivision." A member of a shoe manufacturing family with business interests, both in the United States and Europe,³ Hanan had originally bought some citrus grove property in Hillsborough County and became interested in residential property through William F. Miller, a local realtor. In 1924, Tampa was one of the largest cities in Florida with a population of nearly 150,000 and still growing.⁵ The city had come a long way since 1824 when Fort Brooke was founded at the mouth of the Hillsborough River on Tampa Bay and "Tampa" had been the civilian settlement, consisting of a trading post, and a scattering of houses, which grew up nearby. For the next 60 years Tampa remained a frontier backwater, cut off from other population centers by the lack of transportation facilities and without any apparent local impetus for growth. In 1880 the population numbered only 720 inhabitants.⁶

In 1882, however, Fort Brooke was abandoned by the military and 16 square miles of land was opened to civilian settlement, ⁷ and just two years later the South Florida Railroad was completed between Jacksonville, Florida, on the eastern seaboard and Tampa, providing the transportation link with the outside world needed to encourage local commercial development.⁸ The community was rewarded in 1885 when Vincente Martinez Ybor, the founder of the cigar industry in Key West, Florida, decided to move his operations to Tampa. Ybor also encouraged other manufacturers to join him and Tampa soon eclipsed Key West, which had been one of the largest cigar manufacturing centers in the United States, employing about 7,000 workers in 1885. ⁹ Ybor City (as the new settlement was called) was soon followed by new cigar manufacturing centers in nearly Palmetto Beach and West Tampa. Shipping facilities in Port Tampa provided not only for the importation of raw tobacco, but also for the shipment of phosphate, which had recently been discovered in the area. ¹⁰ By 1890 the population had risen to 5,500 and it continued to nearly double every five years over the next several decades.¹¹

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The end of World War I brought about widespread interest in settlement and tourism in Florida. This was assisted by increasing automobile ownership by ordinary Americans and a concurrent increase in the number and quality of roads and highways. Thousands of Americans began to spend their vacations in southern Florida, many of them so-called "tin canners" who gathered in tourist camps where they cooked their own food and provided their own (inexpensive) entertainment. Those better off stayed in the new resort hotels near the seashore, and still others, drawn by the prospect of citrus farming or making a living from the new tourist trade, came to stay. Some entrepreneurs, like Isaac Hanan and his brother James, saw their big opportunity in providing living space for the newcomers, acquiring tracts of undeveloped land for little more than the downpayment, hoping to pay the balance--and make a profit--by subdividing the property and finding sufficient financial backing to improve it. Nor were the Hanans alone in Tampa. D. P. Davis, William F. Miller, Charles Glover, the Hamner brothers, and D. C. Gillett were among others who constructed competing developments such as Davis Islands, Beach Park, Sunset Park, and Temple Terrace.

Most of these developments, not only in Tampa but also in the rest of south Florida, were similar in character, particularly in the use of Mediterranean Revival architecture for the "ideal" Florida home. Other particulars included winding street plans, "tropical" landscaping, artificial lakes, golf courses, and other amenities. The Hanans' subdivision was more modest in scope than Davis Islands (which involved the creation of several small islands in Tampa Bay), Beach Park, or Temple Terrace. The 130 acre Hanan Park and Hanan Estates featured only the usual grid pattern streets and was architecturally less ambitious than the other major developments mentioned above, but was still intended to attract clients who could afford a medium⁷ priced house. The first lots were put on sale in June of 1925,¹² but in spite of the fact that the Tampa real estate market was enjoying one of its best periods in history, sales in the Hanan development remained sluggish.^{I3} By September property sales for all of Tampa declined sharply, and by October they dropped into a slump from which they did not recover for the remainder of the 1920's.¹⁴ The same situation was being experienced throughout southern Florida. The great "boom" was over.

In 1926, Isaac Hanan sold his remaining interests in Hanan Park/Estates to Arnold S. Kirkeby, a stock and bond broker from Chicago who had been one of the original financers of the project.¹⁵ Arnold Sigurd Kirkeby was born in Chicago in 1901. As a youth, he worked in his father's wholesale seed and produce business after school. At the age of 17 he went to work as a messenger for a stock and bond brokerage firm, and three years later opened his own brokerage house, Kirkeby, Watt & Company.¹⁶ Upon arriving in Tampa, Kirkeby not only set about promoting the subdivision which had brought Hanan so little success, but also became involved with other business ventures as well. He purchased the recently constructed Mylevaron apartment hotel--one of his first ventures into the hotel business--and founded the Utility Battery Manufacturing Company.¹⁷ He also had a palatial home constructed for himself in Beach Park and in 1928 married Carlotta Cuesta, the daughter of A. L. Cuesta, one of the founders of the Cuesta-Rey Cigar Company.¹⁸

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One of Kirkeby's first actions was to change the name of the subdivision from Hanan Park/Estates to Tampania. Eleven houses and an equal number of apartment buildings had already been completed, as had most of the streets and major utilities, but most of the structures remained vacant. Kirkeby began to construct new buildings, improve the landscaping, and added tennis courts and a riding academy.¹⁹ As a focal point to the entrance of the subdivision on Westshore Boulevard, he erected a large stuccoed masonry arch. This Mediterranean Revival style structure was larger than those typically found at the entrances of 1920's subdivisions in Florida and contained the offices of Kirkeby's local real estate company, the Chicago-Tampa Development Company. ²⁰ The structure was demolished in the 1960's.

Construction of the house at 4611 North A Street began early in 1927 and was completed in April. A photograph of the building appeared in the <u>Tampa</u> <u>Morning Tribune</u> on April 24, 1927 as one of several featured by the newspaper during "Better Homes Week," sponsored by the <u>Tribune</u> and the local association of realtors. The house was described as having a living room, dining room, two bedrooms, music room, kitchen, and a screened porch. The grounds were said to be "artistically decorated with palms and tropical plants." ^{AT} Curiously, no mention was made about the extensive use of stained glass, nor was there any mention of the style of the structure. The <u>Tribune's</u> principal rival, the <u>Tampa Daily Times</u>, was less reticent and quoted an unnamed source as saying the style was "Spanish in the Cuban mode." ²²

Both newspapers could perhaps be forgiven for being unfamiliar with the characteristics of the "Prairie" style. Only the Henry Leiman house in Tampa, erected in 1916, could claim characteristics of that style associated with Frank Lloyd Wright and a number of other Chicago architects which flourished between 1900 and 1914. The term Prairie style (or "Prairie School" after the close-knit group of midwestern architects who worked in this short-lived idiom) probably derives from a design published by Wright in the Ladies Home Journal in 1901 as "A Home in a Prairie Town." Indeed, it was in the Midwest where the best examples of the style were built. By the beginning of World War I, the United States saw a resurgence of the preference for revivalist designs in architecture over "experimental" productions. Moreover, the architects that had formed the Prairie School had drifted apart and the creative force of the movement was spent.²⁴

The Prairie influence on the Tampania house can be seen in the raised central block with flanking wings, flat roof with sharply projecting eaves, and the distinctive use of casement and fixed window glazed with leaded and stained glass. Particularly notable is the large stained glass skylight over the living room (found in the central block). Every room except the kitchen has its complement of stained glass in frieze panels over the principal windows. Even the closets have small stained glass lights. Perhaps what led the <u>Daily Times</u> to call the house "Spanish" was the fact that the exterior was stuccoed and the roofs of the wings featured small balustrades (now absent). However, even some of Wright's houses were not immune to anachronistic touches such as the half-timber motif found on the Warren Hickox house designed in 1900. It is not surprising, therefore, that such a modest structure as the

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Tampania house might employ a stock decorative element such as a balustrade. Another curious fact is that the stained glass uses floral and organic motifs reminicient of Art Nouveau (1890-1910) rather than the non-objective, angular patterns favored by the Prairie architects or the exuberant abstractions of Art Deco which had recently come into vogue.

Surprisingly, a house almost identical to the Tampania house was completed on Davis Islands in August of 1927. The architect was undoubtedly the same as that for the house in Tampania, but no record of his identity has been found. It is unlikely that either house was designed by M. Leo Elliot, who was responsible for the Leiman house, as all of his other known productions follow traditional and conservative fashion. The house at 35 Aegean Avenue on Davis Islands, is not an exact copy of the house on North A Street, however, for the design of the stained glass is different and the skylight is much smaller. There are other minor features of a different character as well. Unfortunately, the house has been extensively altered by its various occupants, one of whom added a second floor within the space provided by the high living room and enclosed (but fortunately did not destroy) all of the stained glass windows. This house is now under restoration by the present owner, but the work is not complete.²⁵

Although completed in 1927, the Tampania house remained unsold until 1935. The Tampania subdivision was never successful, and Kirkeby sold his Tampa holdings to local realtors in 1931 and returned to Chicago. Three years later he moved to California where he maintained his residence until his death in 1962. His principal interests over the intervening years appear to have been the stock market, the insurance business, and hotel management. His frequent practice was to take over financially distressed hotels and make them profitable once again, then find a new buyer for them. During his lifetime, Kirkeby was associated with at least 25 hotels, including the Waldorf Astoria and Savoy Plaza in New York City. Five of the hotels were located in Florida, including the Foontainbleau in Miami and the Belleview-Biltmore in Belleair, Florida. The latter is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

From 1927 to 1935 the house at 4611 North A Street had a variety of occupants, none of whom owned the property. ²⁷ In the latter year it was purchased by Lambert Friederich, an employee of the People's Gas Company in Tampa, and his wife, Nellie. Friederich lived in the house until his death in 1968, and his widow continued to occupy the structure until her death in 1982.²⁸ In December of 1983, the house was purchased by Milo Smith & Associates, an investment realty company, and was converted into a branch office.

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FOOTNOTES

- 1. The name of the street actually is North A Street. The "north" does not indicate direction since the street runs east-west. There is also a North B Street. The rationale for this naming has not been uncovered.
- 2. Hillsborough County. Deed Records. Box 154, Page 340, January 2, 1924.
- 3. <u>National Cyclopedia of American Biography</u>. Vol. XXXII. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 546-547.
- 4. Tampa Morning Tribune. May 3, 1927.
- 5. Tampa City Directory, 1924.
- 6. Durward Long. "Making of Modern Tampa: A City of the New South," Florida Historical Quarterly. XLIX (April, 1971), 334-335.
- 7. ibid.
- 8. Dudley S. Johnson. "Henry Bradley Plant and Florida," Florida Historical Quarterly. XLV (October, 1966), 118-131.
- 9. Durward Long. "The Historical Beginnings of Ybor City and Modern Tampa," <u>Florida Historical Quarterly</u>. XLV (July, 1966), 31-44; <u>Tobacco Leaf</u>. Vol XXII, No. 2 (February 7, 1885).
- 10. Long. "The Making of Modern Tampa," 333-345
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FOOT	FOOTNOTES:					
17.	ibid.					
18.	Ibid.					
19.	Tampa Morning Tribune. January 22,	, 1928.				
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25.	Interview with Marilyn Ong, August l	.984.				
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