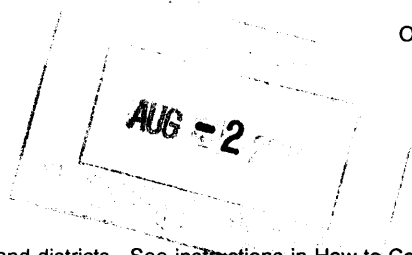


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Stuart Welcome Arch

other names/site number 1926 Welcome Arch, Rio-Jensen Beach Arch, Stuart-Jensen Arch/ FMSF#MT854

2. Location

street & number Between 2369 and 2390 N.E. Dixie Highway n/a not for publication

city or town Jensen Beach n/a vicinity

state Florida code FL county Martin code 085 zip code 34957

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barbara C. Mattick / DSHPO for Survey & Registration 7/2/04
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Office, Division of Historical Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the 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 See continuation sheet.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain) _____

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 9.15.04

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)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

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

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Monument/Marker

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Monument/Marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Mediteranean Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stucco

walls Stucco

roof Stucco

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) 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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development

Politics/Government

Commerce

Period of Significance

1926-1954

Significant Dates

1949

Significant Person

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Architect: Hodgdon, Nat C.

Builder: Doenges, A.L.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository

Stuart Welcome Arch
Name of Property

Martin Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	5	7	7	2	0	0	3	0	1	1	4	6	0
	Zone		Easting					Northing							
2															

3															
	Zone		Easting					Northing							
4															

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Julie Preast, VP of Rio Civic Club & Barbara E. Mattick, DSHPO for Survey & Registration

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date June 2004

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Martin County

street & number 2401 S.W. Monterey Road telephone 772-221-2359

city or town Stuart state FL zip code 34996

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 amend 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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 **STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL**

SUMMARY

The two-story, monumental arch spanning State Road 707 (also known as Dixie Highway and Arch Street) on the south side of the Town of Jensen is an example of Moorish Revival architecture, a variety of the Mediterranean Revival style. The structure has a linear plan with two tapered shafts capped with domical roofs. A horizontal cross member extends between the shafts, across the highway, and stucco serves as the exterior wall fabric. The structure rests on concrete foundations at its original site. As originally designed, the arch exhibited more features that are typical of the Mediterranean Revival Style, such as an elaborate arch capped with barrel tiles, and garden walls extending from each of the towers. Over the years, hurricanes, vehicular accidents, and deterioration have led to the loss of these features. The monument appears essentially as it did in 1954, and still conveys its historic significance at what once was the northern boundary of Stuart, the county seat. Although the city's boundary has changed, the arch continues to reflect the flamboyance and optimism of the Florida Boom and conveys its significance as a symbol of the spirit and pride of the people of Martin County.

Setting

When the Stuart Welcome Arch was built, Dixie Highway carried "a huge amount of traffic" and was ranked as "one of the most traveled roads in the nation."¹ The monument was constructed to span over the 15' wide (oil and rock²) "water bond macadam, Ojus rock with 3-inch penetration top, surface treated with asphalt oil"³ road that connected eastern seaboard states and Canada from Montreal to Miami. It marked the northern boundary of the City of Stuart. Telephone poles lined the west side of Dixie Highway. The Arch crossed over the highway perpendicularly to the road in an east-to-west direction, and two garden walls extended southeast and northwest from each tower. It was surrounded by native vegetation on a sandy hill overlooking the Indian and St. Lucie Rivers. Jensen Beach was established on the north side of the Arch⁴, and the neighborhood of Rio was developing to the southwest. Adjoining the Arch site to the south was, "A new high class [proposed] subdivision, bounded by the beautiful St. Lucie and the romantic Indian rivers and occupying the highest land on the east coast with a view of the turbulent Atlantic ocean . . . Stuart Shores . . . bordering on the Sewall's Point colony, comprising some of the finest estates in Florida."⁵

¹ "State Will Build Dixie Through This County This Year." South Florida Developer January 25, 1926.

² "Road Crew Trying to Keep Dixie Oiled and In Good Shape." South Florida Developer November 27, 1925.

³ "State Asks for Description of County's Roads." South Florida Developer January 15, 1926.

⁴ "New Town of Jensen Embraces Nearly As Much Land As Stuart." The Stuart Daily News December 1, 1925.

⁵ "Stuart Shores' Is New Development on St. Lucie and Indian Rivers to be Placed on Market This Winter." South Florida Developer November 24, 1925.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2 **STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL**

The arch is located in what is now the meeting point of the Town of Jensen Beach and Rio, a neighborhood that dates from the 1890s; a post office existed in Rio from 1893-1897. Rio has never been an incorporated community. In 1926, when the arch was completed, the City of Stuart extended to the Town of Jensen Beach and included Rio. The arch marked the location where Jensen Beach's incorporated boundary met the Rio neighborhood/City of Stuart boundary. During the Depression, however, because of insufficient tax revenues and its resulting inability to provide services, the City of Stuart retracted its boundary to the south and no longer included the Rio neighborhood. Rio is now considered to be part of the Town of Jensen Beach.

The 30' wide asphalt, two-lane road under the Arch's cross beam is called State Road 707 and Dixie Highway. Vacant land surrounds the east tower and the west tower rests next to a sidewalk, a palm tree and Langford Park – all located just south of Arch Street along N.E. Dixie Highway. Neighborhood businesses line State Road 707, and single family homes are situated on small lots along side streets. A new cross beam spans the 30' wide roadway between the two towers (garden walls were removed due to separation from towers and deterioration).

Description of the Stuart Welcome Arch

In 1925 architect Nat C. Hodgdon described his design, as follows (see his line drawing):

The archways are to have towers on either side of the road," said Mr. Hodgdon, "with a heavy beam across the road carrying the name, 'Stuart.'" The letters of the word are to be of metal, and will have electric lights inside of them. They will flood the background with light, so that the word will be silhouetted when the sign is lighted at night. On each side of the road, there will be picturesque garden walls, extending from the back of the tower along the side of the road. In this garden wall there is to be a niche, or panel, containing inscriptions advertising Stuart. The inscription on one side of the road will read: 'The City of Beautiful Waterways,' and the one on the other side will read: 'County Seat of Martin County.' These inscriptions are to be lighted by a flood light concealed in the shrubbery in front of the signs. This will give Stuart and Martin County display advertising at night, as well as in the daytime. Spanish tile is to be used for the roof and top of the archway. The towers and archway are to be finished with Spanish stucco, and decorated accordingly, so that the entire scheme will tell the traveler of the beauties which this part of the country holds in store for him.⁶

⁶ "Road Department Approves Arches Over Dixie Highway." South Florida Developer October 6, 1925: 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 4 **STUART WELCOME ARCH**
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL

made of cypress with bronze trim and letters, according to W. B. Tilton⁷, was supported by decorative brackets providing the silhouette of a soft curve from below. It pierced each tower with an architecturally articulated roofline topped with Spanish tile. On the north side the word, "STUART," was centered near the top of the beam with the description, "ATLANTIC GATEWAY TO THE GULF OF MEXICO," appearing near the base of the cross beam. The South Florida Developer reported: "As Jensen immediately adjoins Stuart on the north, it was decided to place the word 'Jensen' on the south side of the welcome arch now nearing completion across the Dixieon Stuart's northern border. The north side of the arch will blazon the word 'Stuart' in large characters across the truss at the top. Across the base will be the legend: 'The Atlantic Gateway to the Gulf.' It is thought the arch will be completed by February 20."⁸



*1927 - Photo by Charles E. Strachan while on a 1,200 mile bike ride
from Montclair, New Jersey to Miami, Florida*

⁷ Campbell, Dick. "Careening Auto Destroys Famed Jensen Arch." The Jensen Beach Mirror December 1, 1976: 1.

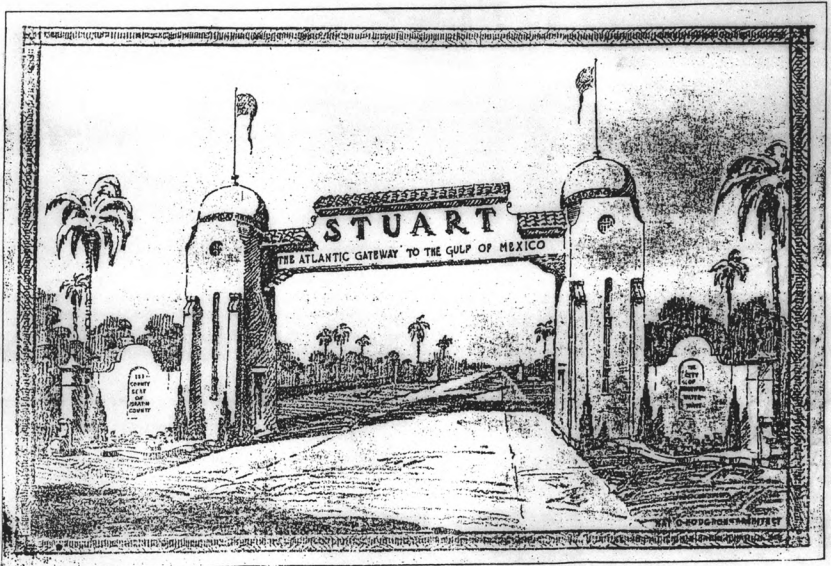
⁸ "Jensen to Have Name on Archway." South Florida Developer February 16, 1926.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 3

STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL



Welcome Archway Now Under Construction Over Dixie Highway on Stuart's North City Line

1925 - Rendering of Stuart Welcome Arch by Nat C. Hodgdon, Architect, Pfeiffer & O'Reilly

The Stuart Welcome Arch was constructed of clay tile brick – a material used at that time. The Leach estate, for example, located at Indian RiverSide Park has walls of clay tile brick (playhouse chimney). Each stucco tower had: stucco chamfered corners below a Moorish style dome topped with a flagpole, a wooden entrance door facing the street, applied stucco framed arch-shaped and circular wood-slat vents centrally located between volutes resting on top of tall angular buttresses (two on the north side and two on the south side of each tower), and two modified arch topped column-flanked garden walls containing arched niches (attached at an angle from the most easterly and westerly sides of each tower) for visibility from the road. The cross beam, originally

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 5 **STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL**

Alterations

W. B. Tilton, a leader in the fight to create Martin County⁹, said that the “bronze [trim and letters were] stolen during the early part of World War II. On August 26, 1949, the originally installed cross beam was blown down by the 162 m.p.h. hurricane winds.¹⁰ (Photo [courtesy of Sandra Thurlow and Floretta Bartlett] shows cross beam resting on the ground and splintered fragments remain on each tower.) Through the efforts of the Jensen Beach Women’s Association in cooperation with Martin County a new rectangular cross beam was installed on April 19, 1954. “The legend on the west side [north side] says, ‘Welcome to Jensen Beach’ while the east side [south side] repeats the boomtime slogan which indicated waterway connections with Florida’s west coast via St. Lucie Canal.” (Photo: crossbeam wording, “ATLANTIC GATEWAY TO GULF OF MEXICO.”)¹¹ John L. Taylor was awarded the “restoration contract” by Martin County.¹² A line drawing by Pat Sawusch in 1962 depicts the Arch with its doors, slatted vents, flag poles and garden walls in place.¹³ Sometime between 1962 and 1971 the slatted vents had been covered with stucco. In addition, the wording on the cross beam changed to, “JENSEN BEACH Healthy Healthful Living and Playing” and the garden walls were separating from the towers due to shifting foundations in the sugar sand. (Photos provided by Jon Chicky, former Arch Committee Chairman for the Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce.) The original wooden doors and vent slats were deteriorating. Circa 1972 another photo shows that the doors, stucco covered slatted vents, garden walls and west tower flag pole were completely eliminated. Sometime between 1972 and 1976 the door apertures were enclosed with alternating block for security and ventilation, and the vent openings were filled with stucco and form recessed areas on the towers.

When a fatal vehicle accident destroyed the east tower on November 24, 1976, the hanging cross beam “suspended by the west tower” and the remnants of the east tower were removed out of the way of traffic by firemen.¹⁴ Warner B. Tilton, another Martin County founding father, was most disappointed with the need to

⁹ “Some of the Principal Leaders In the Fight to Create Martin County.” South Florida Developer May 28, 1925: Extra Edition.

¹⁰ “Worst’ Storm Hits County; Congressmen Plan Quick Aid.” The Stuart News September 1, 1949: 1.

¹¹ “Famous Landmark Restored Near Jensen Beach.” The Stuart News April 22, 1954.

¹² “Historic Archway.” The Miami Herald, April 23, 1954: 7-C.

¹³ “Gateway to Fun.” The Jensen Beach Mirror June 28, 1962.

¹⁴ Campbell, Dick. “Careening Auto Destroys Famed Jensen Arch – Ethel Walker Is Victim.” The Jensen Beach Mirror December 1, 1976: 1.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 6 **STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL**

remove the remaining section of that tower for safety purposes, saying, ‘They shouldn’t have knocked the whole tower down. It could have been saved. That tower means a lot to people.’¹⁵

The restoration after the auto accident was begun in 1977 by Diversified Construction and completed in 1979 by Bols Construction according to the Minutes of the Martin County Board of Commissioners. District Commissioner Frank Wacha made certain that the rebuilt east tower was an exact match to the original tower and was built over the same footprint. The east tower was constructed of cement block because clay tile brick were no longer available, and the rectangular cross beam was replaced between the towers. That particular cross beam was struck by the arm of a garbage truck on June 20th, 1998.¹⁶ The most recent cross beam was installed in December of 1998 and is composed of a 36’ rectangular steel tube with ½” thick walls, 32” high by 14” wide. It is stucco coated and weighs approximately 6000 lbs.¹⁷ The wording reads, “Welcome to Rio” on the south side of the cross beam and “Welcome to Jensen Beach” on the north side.

The Welcome Arch is currently in good condition thanks to the efforts of so many caring citizens through the past 77 years. Hurricane and vehicular damages have been repaired with careful planning and execution. This community will continue to preserve the Welcome Arch and plans to restore it to Mr. Hodgdon’s “artistic” 1925 design.¹⁸ The preservation of historical structures, particularly the 1926 Welcome Arch, is a priority in the Rio Community Redevelopment Plan adopted by Martin County in April, 2001. The Martin County Board of Commissioners adopted the county’s Historic Preservation Ordinance No. 620 on August 6, 2002.

¹⁵ “Careening Auto Destroys Famed Jensen Arch.” The Jensen Beach Mirror December 1, 1976.

¹⁶ Cech, Scott. “Jensen Arch Falls Victim to Trash Truck.” The Palm Beach Post June 21, 1998.

¹⁷ Silver, Deborah. “Arch Back In Business.” The Stuart News December 10, 1998.
“Getty Engineering Services Insurance Damage Report” August 8, 1998: 3.

¹⁸ “Cresap Says Arch At Stuart Is Most Artistic In Florida.” South Florida Developer November 13, 1925.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 7

STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL



2003 – Local exhibit display features Stuart Welcome Arch

Historic Court House Cultural Center

September 8 - October 17, 2003

Preserving Memories: America's Monumental Legacy

Celebration and ceremony, triumph and tragedy, classic and outsider art – sculptures embody America's history. Sculptures with intriguing stories will engage a visitor's curiosity; explanations of who and what achieves "monumental status" will replace a veil of mystery with insight and appreciation. The national touring exhibition talks about the history of sculpture-making, raises questions about why and how monuments are erected and reveals secret stories.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1 STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL

SUMMARY

The Stuart Welcome Arch is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** at the **local level** in the areas of **Community Planning and Development, Politics/Government, and Commerce**. The arch has spanned over Martin County's Dixie Highway (currently also known as SR 707 and Arch Street) in its original location for over three-quarters of a century. When it was completed on February 20, 1926, this two-story masonry gateway marked the northern boundary of the City of Stuart. The Archway Committee of the Stuart Chamber of Commerce collected donations from community citizens and businesses in order to build welcome structures for the northern and southern boundaries of Stuart with the best materials available (the southern gateway was not constructed due to lack of funding). Vehicles traveling north and south along the east coast of Florida through Martin County on Dixie Highway passed under the Stuart Welcome Arch. Prominent community leaders, most of whom participated in the effort leading up to the creation of Martin County in 1925, asked architect Nat C. Hodgdon, to design a gateway that would celebrate the newly designated Martin County, Stuart as the new county seat, and surrounding waterways. A.L. Doenges, an established local builder, constructed the Mediterranean Revival monument composed of two stucco Moorish style domed towers connected by the articulated barrel tile roofed "archway" beam, and with garden walls extending from each of the towers. The growing popularity of travel by automobile, the desire to promote Stuart to prospective residents and businesses, and the interest in increasing shipping via the cross-state waterway – all associated with the Great Florida Boom – were factors in the conception, design and construction of the Stuart Welcome Arch. The arch was and remains a distinctive landmark built in the Mediterranean Revival architectural style representative of the best, high-profile, 1920s structures in the community. It was built and maintained at its original Dixie Highway location by local organizations and governments. The image of the Welcome Arch has always reflected its relationship with the creation and heritage of Martin County, and the exuberant ethos of Floridians during the 1920s Florida Land Boom.

HISTORIC CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE

Florida Land Boom

The onset of the First World War in Europe forced wealthy Americans to curtail their overseas travel and look to domestic lands for travel and vacation destinations. Florida tourist trade prospered as many of those who would have traveled to Europe headed to Florida for summer vacation and winter residences.

After the War, reports of large profits in real estate brought thousands of speculators to Florida. Huge tracts of land were bought and sold overnight at enormous profits. Adding to the furor for new land was the staggering undertaking of draining the Everglades to produce marketable lands for cities, towns, subdivisions, cattle ranches, citrus groves, and agricultural farmland. The State further encouraged an influx of newcomers when in 1924 the state disallowed state income and inheritance taxes.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2 STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL

The state was soon inundated with speculators, winter residents and retirement communities. Between 1920 and 1925, the population of Florida increased four times faster than any other state in the nation. As real estate demands increased, so did demands upon the state. Lumber was a precious commodity, particularly in South Florida; because Florida had very few manufacturing centers in the 1920s, the majority of all building materials had to be imported from other parts of the nation or from overseas. Railroad, land and water transportation networks were unable to keep up with the great demand on the systems. By 1926 the City of Miami was so pressed to control the flow of ships in their bay, they limited ships' cargoes to agricultural materials and food supplies.

Added to these transportation problems were economic and financial difficulties caused by bad press. The practice of buying on margin, causing financial problems across the nation, was rampant in Florida. Reports of over-speculation in Florida land were reported in the press in graphic detail. The Florida Boom was having serious financial problems. In 1926, the sinking of a cargo ship in Miami's Biscayne Bay forced the closing of the port to all water traffic. The resulting blow to Miami's economy heralded the beginning of the end of the Florida Land Boom in South Florida. Compounding the strain caused by the closing of the port was the overextension of the railroad lines. Railroads, already taxed by the excessive demands of a boom economy, were forced to issue their own shipping embargoes, creating more hardship on industries already overextended.

Two devastating hurricanes in 1926 and 1928 added further problems to the already financially strained state. A mid-September 1926 hurricane swept across the state destroying houses, businesses and in some cases, entire communities. A second hurricane in September 1928 killed 1800 people and left the same number injured. Damage estimates were in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Unable to recover, many communities went bankrupt, and the Florida Land Boom came to an end.

Stuart and Martin County

Early pioneers began settlements along both sides of the St. Lucie River beginning in 1879. Brevard County was on the north side of the river, and Dade County composed the south side of the St. Lucie River. The first post office in Potsdam, Florida, located on the bank of the St. Lucie River, was established on March 12, 1892. After the local railroad depot was moved to the south side of the St. Lucie River, the Potsdam Post Office name was officially changed to "Stuart" in 1895. St. Lucie County was created in 1905 on the north side of the river, followed by the creation of Palm Beach County in 1909 on the south side of the river. The Stuart Commercial Club (later named the Stuart Chamber of Commerce) was organized to promote and improve Stuart in 1911, and encourage the completion of the cross state canal. In 1918 "the first [concrete] bridge built for vehicles" to cross the St. Lucie River replaced the ferry that had operated from 1913. It was "one of the last links in the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3 STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL

famed "Montreal to Miami" Dixie Highway."¹ Building construction in Stuart increased over 260% during 1923. Stuart's location was considered ideal for a thriving city.² According to a sign outside of Jacksonville, Stuart had "15,000 populations in 1925" [includes winter residents]. The community promoted: the St. Lucie Inlet and a "splendid harbor," deep water fishing, pineapple plantations and tropical fruit farms, good roads and "modern garages," good hotels, low taxes, churches, clubs, schools and river front homes.³ By 1926 75% of the pineapples of Florida were grown in Stuart, and "the quality of the fruit" was "superior to that of Cuba."⁴

The movement for the creation of a new county had been under way "spasmodically for 10 years."⁵ Out of frustration with the lack of improvements being made in Stuart by Palm Beach and St. Lucie Counties, a County Division Committee of prominent citizens was organized by the Chamber of Commerce in 1925 to lobby for a new county. They faced powerful opposition from both Palm Beach and Fort Pierce. The County Division Committee members included: Edwin A. Menninger, Gerald J. O'Reilly, Henry Newton Gaines, Warner B. Tilton, Harry Lyons, Edward Alfred Fuge, John E. Taylor, Edwin Brobston, George J. Backus and others. A petition favoring the creation of a new county with Stuart as the county seat was circulated house to house with the assistance of the Stuart Woman's Club, and almost "every registered voter in this territory had signed the petition."⁶ The first lobbying attempts in Tallahassee by local citizens proved unsuccessful until the Division Committee decided to name the new county after Florida's Governor, John Wellborn Martin.⁷

Enthusiasm ran high for Martin County's future. New York banker Sydnor J. Tucker predicted that Stuart would be "bigger than Miami in 10 years" because of its great harbor and good back country.⁸ The famous statistician and businessman, Roger Ward Babson, believed that because both the automobile and winter vacations in Florida provided pleasure and increased efficiency to the point where one's life expectancy would increase by "five to ten years, it can be seen that there is a real basis for Florida's boom."⁹ The expansion of the

¹ Thurlow, Sandra Henderson. Stuart on the St. Lucie – A Pictorial History. (Stuart, Florida: Sewall's Point Company, 2001) 5-9, 19.

² "Stuart Building \$541,400 Last Year; Increase of 260 Percent Over 1923." South Florida Developer February 27, 1925. Annual Booster Edition. Sec., 1.

³ Thurlow, Sandra Henderson. Stuart on the St. Lucie – A Pictorial History. (Stuart, Florida: Sewall's Point Company, 2001) ix.

⁴ Agasiz, Garnault. "Martin County Facts." The Stuart Daily News January 29, 1926.

⁵ "Martin County Was In Center of Early History of Florida." Stuart Daily News January 29, 1926. 5.

⁶ "New County Bill Finding Many Friends." South Florida Developer April 24, 1925. 1.

⁷ "Martin County Wins." South Florida Developer May 28, 1925. Extra ed., 1.

⁸ "Stuart Bigger than Miami In 10 Years a Banker Predicts." South Florida Developer August 14, 1925. 1.

⁹ "Babson Predicts Great Future for All South Florida." South Florida Developer September 8, 1925. 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 4 STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL

Stuart city limits further north (to the then future site of the Welcome Arch near Stuart Shores) was under consideration for a vote in August of 1925, and the new boundary became official in November.¹⁰ In September the U.S. government had approved the dredging plan for the St. Lucie Inlet in order to provide adequate transportation for resources such as timber, fish, citrus, pineapples, sugar, bananas, coconuts, livestock, and vegetables. The federal government wished to break the carrier monopoly of the rail system in order to move local commodities at reasonable rates to the general public in the eastern states.¹¹ Embargoes and increasing “demurrage rates” were creating congestion at Florida railroad and shipping terminals due to high wages being paid to unskilled labor by builders and contractors, the scarcity of labor in Miami and the lack of temporary storage space for all the furnishings, materials and baggage shipments sent in advance for winter tourists.¹² Even the construction of the Welcome Arch was delayed by the embargo on heavy building materials.

The Welcome Arch

As a means of promoting Stuart and Martin County, members of the Stuart Chamber of Commerce originally decided to build arches on Dixie Highway at the northern and southern boundaries of Stuart, but a lack of funds prevented the construction a southern arch. The Archway Committee of the Stuart Chamber of Commerce was chaired by attorney Clarence. E. Pitts. Scott Atkin, Philip Bruneau, Riley Christiansen, Nathan Hickey, Nat C. Hodgdon, Don. R. Innes, John S. Sherman, Harry Veghte, and C. L. Williams served on the committee. By January of 1926, Don R. Innes was the Chairman of the Archway Committee.¹³ The Archway Campaign Committee, responsible for raising the funds for construction, was composed of George Williams, Chairman, with members Riley Christensen, Harry Veighte, Phil Breneau, Don Innes and Nathan Hickey. The State of Florida Road Department approved the request by the Archway Committee for authorization to place monuments at Dixie Highway (gateways for both the northern and southern City boundaries were planned).¹⁴ The Campaign Committee worked “night and day” during the final weeks in October of 1925 raising funds for the project – citizens served “at the neglect of their personal business and at a great sacrifice.”¹⁵

¹⁰ “Stuart’s Boundary Being Changed to Include Golden Gate Park on South and Ogle Property on North.” South Florida Developer November 20, 1925. 1. The arch stands at what then was the boundary between Stuart and Jensen Beach. At that time, Stuart included the Rio neighborhood, an area that has never been incorporated but did have its own post office from 1893-1897. After the Stuart boundary was contracted during the Depression, the Rio neighborhood became part of Jensen Beach.

¹¹ “U.S. Government Puts O.K. on Plan to Open St. Lucie Inlet; Work Starts Soon.” South Florida Developer September 4, 1925. 1.

¹² “Florida Freight Problem Grows Steadily Worse.” South Florida Developer September 18, 1925. 1.

¹³ “Building of Arch Over Dixie Started on North City Line.” South Florida Developer January 5, 1926.

¹⁴ “Road Department Approves Arches Over Dixie Highway.” South Florida Developer October 6, 1925. 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 5 STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL

The list of the prominent local leaders and early settlers who served in numerous simultaneous capacities and supported this community gateway project through personal and business contributions of time and money show how widespread the support was for the construction of the arch:

Gerald J. O'Reilly, the junior partner of the distinguished and well-established architectural firm,¹⁶ Pfeiffer and O'Reilly headquartered in Miami, opened a branch office in Stuart. The senior partner of Pfeiffer and O'Reilly, George L. Pfeiffer, was "one of Miami's pioneer architects." Pfeiffer's official and membership association with various professional organizations is indicative of the high esteem in which he is held by the architectural circles of the nation. He was the organizer of the Florida Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.¹⁷

O'Reilly was a founding father of Martin County and the Stuart City Planner. His extensive library on city planning was made available for local reference. He also sat on the design review committee for St. Lucie Estates – a residential community surrounding downtown Stuart marketed by Harry Lyons, Scott Atkin and Don Innes. According to the St. Lucie Estates promotional booklet of 1926, O'Reilly was "an architect of national reputation who has had long experience in Florida construction at Miami."¹⁸ Gerald O'Reilly studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1922 he had worked on the writing of the Miami Building Code. Pfeiffer & O'Reilly designed the 1925 Dade Federal Building at 120 N.E. 1st Street in Miami, the Hotel Leonard at 54 Ocean Drive in Miami Beach, the Hahn Building at 140 N.E. 1st Avenue in Miami and the 1925 Roosevelt Hotel (Lindsey Hopkins Vocational School) at 1410 N.E. 2nd Avenue in Miami.¹⁹ "The Mediterranean Revival style Post Office Arcade on Osceola Street in downtown Stuart, designed by Gerald J. O'Reilly and built by Sam Matthews, opened its doors in April 1925."²⁰ Edward Alfred Fuge, also a founding father of Martin County, was "a major investor in the Post Office Arcade. He was also the president of the Stuart Bank and Trust Company²¹ that donated \$100 towards the construction of the Welcome Arch."²²

¹⁵ "Committee Urges Arch Contributions." The Stuart Daily News and The Stuart Messenger October 26, 1925.

¹⁶ Shutts, Frank B. Florida 'The East Coast' Its Builders, Resources, Industries and Towns (The Miami Herald, 1924.) 146-147.

¹⁷ Ibid p. 147.

¹⁸ "St. Lucie Estates." St. Lucie Estates, Inc. (Stuart, Florida: 1926)

¹⁹ Metropolitan Dade County. From Wilderness to Metropolis. (Florida: Metropolitan Dade County. 1982) app. II, III.

²⁰ American Association of University Woman, Stuart Area Branch. "Stuart Florida Historical Walking Tour." 1999.

²¹ Thurlow, Sandra Henderson. Stuart on the St. Lucie – A Pictorial History. (Stuart, Florida: Sewall's Point Company, 2001) 124.

²² "Campaign for Stuart Arches Is Nearing End." The Stuart Daily News and The Stuart Messenger October 23, 1925. 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 6 STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL

Gerald O'Reilly placed Nat Hodgdon, the architect of the Welcome Arch, "in charge of the Stuart office," and his personal assistant, J.S. Sherman, was "to spend most of his time" in Stuart.²³ Nat Hodgdon, "who designed the Peacock Arcade [was] one of Stuart's most prominent architects," separated from Pfeiffer and O'Reilly and opened his own architectural business in 1926. Hodgdon had ten years of experience as an architect and was licensed by the State of Florida. He was praised for his "thorough knowledge of building design. Complete in every respect and modern to the most minute detail, [the Peacock Arcade in downtown Stuart] might well take its place in a city ten times the size of Stuart."²⁴ In 1926 it became the Peacock Arcade-Hotel with guest rooms on the second floor and retail-office space below. This building "was destroyed by a spectacular fire in January 1959 in spite of being located next to the Stuart Fire Department."²⁵

Edwin A. Menninger, Chairman of the County Division Committee, owned the South Florida Developer, the Stuart Daily News, Southeastern Printing Company, Stuart Office Supply, a nursery, and a horticultural book mail-order business. As president of the Commercial Club (forerunner of the Stuart Chamber of Commerce) during the crucial months before the formation of Martin County, Edwin Menninger coordinated fund-raising committees and circulated petitions. He collected data and published it in graphic form to convince others of the necessity for a new county. Florida State University awarded Edwin Menninger an honorary Doctor of Science in 1965, and his alma mater, Washburn University in Topeka, honored him with a second Doctor of Science in 1981. He wrote hundreds of articles on horticulture and authored nine books. He was a businessman, author and horticulturist, and as the latter, gained a worldwide reputation as the 'Flowering Tree Man.'²⁶ Edwin Menninger demonstrated his support for the Welcome Arch endeavor by donating \$50 towards construction costs and publishing numerous articles about the Welcome Arch enterprise in his South Florida Developer newspaper.²⁷

Stanley Kitching, "founded the Stuart Commercial Club that evolved into the Chamber of Commerce. He served two terms as Mayor of Stuart and was in office when Martin County was created in 1925. He had been among those who went to Tallahassee to work for county division. He was an original commissioner of the Florida Inland Navigation District, created by an act of the Florida Legislature in 1927, and served on the Florida Island Navigation District Board for thirty years, and twenty years as its chairman. He also helped found the Women's Club of Stuart. When Stanley Kitching died in 1961 at the age of 87, he was Stuart's oldest

²³ "Miami Architects Open Branch Office In Osceola Bldg." South Florida Developer April 14, 1925. 1.

²⁴ "Nat C. Hodgdon Is Designer of Plans." Stuart Daily News May 11, 1926. 1.

²⁵ Thurlow, Sandra Henderson. Stuart on the St. Lucie - A Pictorial History. (Stuart, Florida: Sewall's Point Company, 2001) 158.

²⁶ Thurlow, Sandra Henderson. Stuart on the St. Lucie - A Pictorial History. (Stuart, Florida: Sewall's Point Company, 2001) 30-31.

²⁷ "Campaign for Stuart Arches Is Nearing End." The Stuart Daily News and The Stuart Messenger October 23, 1925. 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 7 STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL

and most beloved pioneer citizen.”²⁸ It was Stanley Kitching who made the motion at the Chamber of Commerce meeting to accept “the archway committee’s site for the northern arch.”²⁹ His store, Kitching & Eckess Department Store, supported the Welcome Arch construction with a \$100 donation.³⁰

Harry Lyons, also a Martin County founding father and participant “in the development of St. Lucie Estates,”³¹ showed his support for construction of the Welcome Arch through the company’s large donation of \$333.33.³² His association with the Sarita Realty Company brought in another \$100 donation.³³ The Lyons, Atkin & Innes Company³⁴ also donated \$100. St. Lucie Estates surrounded downtown Stuart, and many of the homes in 1926 were Mediterranean Revival in style.

John E. Taylor, a founding father of Martin County, opened the Seminole Bank in 1923. He served as Mayor of Stuart from 1925 to 1928.³⁵ Fred Walton, the Welcome Arch’s stucco contractor, built the deluxe 57 unit, 3-floor El Bit-Lor apartment house for John E. Taylor in 1926.³⁶ The Archway Campaign Committee received a \$100 donation from the Seminole Bank. Edwin Brobston, another founding father, donated \$50 from his businesses, Brobston-Hollenbaugh.³⁷

George J. Backus of the Backus Realty Company donated \$100 to the Welcome Arch campaign fund.³⁸ He and his wife Catherine “are credited with founding what became a huge gladiolus industry in South Florida.” They

²⁸ Thurlow, Sandra Henderson. Stuart on the St. Lucie -- A Pictorial History. (Stuart, Florida: Sewall’s Point Company, 2001) 101-102.

²⁹ “Work on Archway North of Stuart Starts This Week.” South Florida Developer December 8, 1925. 1.

³⁰ “Campaign for Stuart Arches Is Nearing End.” The Stuart Daily News and The Stuart Messenger October 23, 1925. 1.

³¹ Thurlow, Sandra Henderson. Stuart on the St. Lucie – A Pictorial History. (Stuart, Florida: Sewall’s Point Company, 2001) 33.

³² \$1,000 More Donate to Archway Fund; Construction Begins.” South Florida Developer December 15, 1925

³³ “St. Lucie Estates.” St. Lucie Estates, Inc., 1926.

³⁴ Menninger, Edwin A. “Enthusiastic Stuart Booster Busy Telling Chicago About Martin County.” South Florida Developer April 27, 1926.

³⁵ Thurlow, Sandra Henderson. Stuart on the St. Lucie – A Pictorial History. (Stuart, Florida: Sewall’s Point Company, 2001) 94, 191.

³⁶ “The El Bit-Lor, Stuart’s Largest Apartment Hotel.” The Stuart Daily News May 15, 1926.

³⁷ “Campaign for Stuart Arches Is Nearing End.” Stuart Daily News and The Stuart Messenger October 23, 1925. 1.

³⁸ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 8 STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL

experimented with growing flowers under lights, “thereby launching Martin County’s cut-flower industry that grew to huge proportions in the 1960’s.”³⁹

Henry Newton Gaines, the original Chairman of the County Division Committee, was a Palm Beach County commissioner representing Stuart;⁴⁰ and supported the construction of the Welcome Arch with his \$26 donation.⁴¹ While a Palm Beach County commissioner, Gaines announced that Palm Beach County would erect a “fine arch . . . to mark the entrance to Palm Beach County just north of the Stuart bridge.”⁴² Three months later, on May 28, 1925, a bill creating Martin County from St. Lucie and Palm Beach counties passed. A referendum was held, and Martin County became official on August 5, 1925.⁴³ In 1926 Gaines was Chairman of the Martin County Board of Commissioners.⁴⁴

The President of the Chamber of Commerce broke ground “for the north arch” on October 29, 1925.⁴⁵ J. L. Cresap, State Highway Engineer, said of Nat Hodgdon’s design, “This arch, if constructed according to your plan, will be a credit to your town, and I believe, I can truthfully say, it is the most artistic one which I have observed in this State.”⁴⁶ The Honorable Fons A. Hathaway, Chairman of the State Road Department and a participant at the governor’s signing of the resolution creating Martin County, also liked the design.⁴⁷ A. L. Doenges accepted the construction contract for the Welcome Arch in early December of 1925.⁴⁸ “C.E. Pitts, Chairman of the Archway Committee, reported \$5,447 pledged, of which \$4,051.97 [was] in cash and the balance in material. Cash already raised \$2,514.”⁴⁹ In addition to resolving related funding and freight

³⁹ Thurlow, Sandra Henderson. Stuart on the St. Lucie – A Pictorial History. (Stuart, Florida: Sewall’s Point Company, 2001) 118.

⁴⁰ Ibid. 23-24.

⁴¹ “Campaign for Stuart Arches Is Nearing End.” Stuart Daily News and The Stuart Messenger October 23, 1925. 1.

⁴² “Gaines Outlines Roads and Bridge Projects for 1925 In North End of Palm Beach County.” South Florida Developer February 27, 1925. Annual Booster Edition. Sec. 6, 1.

⁴³ Thurlow, Sandra Henderson. Stuart on the St. Lucie – A Pictorial History. (Stuart, Florida: Sewall’s Point Company, 2001) 24.

⁴⁴ “Many Citizens Are Guests At Dinner by Real Estate Firm.” The Stuart Daily News February 16, 1926. 1.

⁴⁵ “Campaign for Stuart Arches Is Nearing End.” The Stuart Daily News and The Stuart Messenger October 23, 1925. 1.

⁴⁶ “Dixie Highway Is Praised By State Officer.” The Stuart Daily News and The Stuart Messenger November 12, 1925. 1.

⁴⁷ “Cresap Says Arch At Stuart Is Most Artistic In Florida.” South Florida Developer November 13, 1925.

⁴⁸ “Work On Archway North of Stuart Starts This Week.” South Florida Developer December 8, 1925. 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 9 STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL

problems, the most important cause for delaying construction was the slow decision by the City to permit the archway to be built on the Stuart Shores, Inc. property near the proposed new northern boundary.

On December 5th, 1925, Archway Committee Chairman, C.E. Pitts, and contractor, A. L. Doenges, agreed as follows: "The committee will supply and pay for all material used in the construction of the archway, and have it delivered at the site of erection. The contractor will supply and furnish labor at the actual cost to him. He receives no pay of any kind for his service, but gives it as his contribution toward the upbuilding of Stuart."⁵⁰

Actual work on the Welcome Arch began on December 14, 1925.⁵¹ By January 15, 1926, the forms for the arch were in place; all contracts were awarded; and brick, cement and roof tile were delivered to the site after overcoming major shipping obstacles. The lumber came from Fort Myers by truck. Seven thousand pounds of lime necessary to build the structure was finally found in Jacksonville (after searching for lime in Orlando, Sanford, Ocala and other destinations within 150 miles).⁵²

On January 25th Mr. Doenges said that the masonry work was finished. The stucco work could begin in two days and would take a week to complete. The painting would only take three additional days.⁵³ Unfortunately, the Stuart Welcome Arch was not completed in time for the Martin County Birthday Festival held on January 28th-29th and attended by Governor John W. Martin.⁵⁴

Morris Walton, grandson to Fred M. Walton, a stucco and general contractor, stated that his grandfather did the stucco work on the Stuart Welcome Arch. He also said that his grandfather worked on the Lyric Theatre, the Pelican Hotel, the France and El Bit-Lor.⁵⁵ Fred M. Walton's son-in-law, Howard Earl Smith, moved to Stuart from Miami "as an artist in stucco work . . . his artistic cornice work and stucco ornaments has attracted attention wherever it appears."⁵⁶ The Stuart Welcome Arch's existing volutes as pediments on top of the angle

⁴⁹ "Dehon Is Elected President Stuart Commerce Chamber." South Florida Developer December 8, 1925. 1.

⁵⁰ "Work On Archway North of Stuart Starts This Week." South Florida Developer December 8, 1925. 1.

⁵¹ "\$1,000 More Donated to Archway Fund; Construction Begins." South Florida Developer December 15, 1925. 1.

⁵² "Work on Archway North of Stuart Starts This Week." South Florida Developer December 8, 1925. 1.

⁵³ "Welcome Archway to Be Done Soon." South Florida Developer January 29, 1926.

⁵⁴ "History In the Making." Stuart Daily News January 21, 1926.

⁵⁵ Personal Account by Morris Walton (Stuart, Florida) January 14, 2001.

⁵⁶ "Walton-Smith." South Florida Developer November 24, 1925.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 10 STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL

buttresses and the chamfered corners of each tower's entablature in the base below the dome reflect Smith's talents.

E. P. Smith and Sons, skilled painters of the Lyric Theater and El Bit-Lor structures, also painted the Stuart Welcome Arch.⁵⁷ Six thousand dollars was spent on the construction of the Stuart Welcome Arch.⁵⁸ It was completed on February 20, 1926.⁵⁹ Then in March of 1926 Mr. Dehon, President of the Chamber of Commerce, approached the City of Stuart asking them "to make up half of a deficit of \$1,000" from the construction of the Stuart Welcome Arch. Since the newly incorporated town of Jensen had donated \$500, he asks for and received \$500 from the City of Stuart.⁶⁰

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE

Mediterranean Revival/Moorish Revival Style

A hallmark of the Florida Land Boom was the common use of Mediterranean Revival Style architecture, derived from building features used in countries around the Mediterranean Sea. Moorish Revival, a subtype of the Mediterranean Revival, is an exotic style with Middle-Eastern precedents. Buildings erected in the style are almost solely found in those states with a Spanish colonial heritage. Although many nineteenth-century houses had fashionable "Turkish corners," the use of Near East architectural motifs was rare. The Moorish style was popular for garden structures and pleasure palaces such as clubs, hotels, and theaters. A descendent of the Spanish Mission style, Moorish Revival was most popular during the first three decades of the twentieth century in the Southwest and Florida. The style shares a common thread with the expansive Mediterranean Revival style, which was the product of a detailed study in 1915 of Latin American architecture made by Bertram Goodhue as part of the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego. Encouraged by the publicity afforded the exposition, other architects began to look directly to Spain and the Middle East where they found still more interesting building traditions, one of those being Moorish Revival.

In Florida, the Moorish Revival style was limited in its application, primarily during the decade before the collapse of the Florida Land Boom in 1926. It was adapted primarily for large, landmark buildings and structures that served a commercial or public function. Identifying features of the style include curvilinear

⁵⁷ "Smith & Sons Did Paintwork on El Bit-Lor." The Stuart Daily News May 15, 1926. El Bit-Lor Section. 1.

⁵⁸ "\$6,000 Stuart Gateway Arch At Seminole Heights." South Florida Developer June 18, 1926.

⁵⁹ "Jensen to Have Name on Archway." South Florida Developer February 16, 1926.

⁶⁰ "City Donates \$500 to Welcome Arch." South Florida Developer March 26, 1926. 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 11 STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL

parapets adorned with minarets and spires; stuccoed facades; intricate surface ornamentation; domes; horseshoe arches; and small entrance porches, commonly with arched openings supported by square columns. Fenestration typically consisted of casement and double-hung sash windows, and wall surfaces were often adorned with ceramic tile decorations.

The broader Mediterranean Revival style was just as popular in Stuart as in the rest of South Florida. For example, Clarence E. Pitts and Don R. Innes served as chairmen of the Archway Committee and lived in Mediterranean Revival style homes in St. Lucie Estates.⁶¹ The Pelican Hotel and Lyric Theater, constructed in 1925 and 1926 in downtown Stuart, still display the enduring qualities of the Mediterranean Revival style. The elegant France Apartments building overlooking Frazier Creek was constructed in 1926. Gerald O'Reilly designed the Mediterranean Revival style Post Office Arcade that opened for business in April of 1925 (same architectural firm that designed the Stuart Welcome Arch).

The Mediterranean Revival style looked its best on large structures. Nat C. Hodgdon, inspired by Stuart's existing use and appreciation for Mediterranean Revival for its most prestigious and large buildings (such as those noted above), designed the Stuart Welcome Arch accordingly. The 2-story high towers of the Stuart Welcome Arch supporting the articulated beam created an impressive silhouette against the sky. A newspaper photo of the Welcome Arch, dated May 28, 1926, shows that even the arched garden walls were about 2 to 3 feet taller than the men standing in the foreground.⁶²

Arches in Florida

Soon after the Florida Senate and Governor Martin passed and signed the bill creating Martin County, with Stuart as the new county seat in 1925,⁶³ Stuart's community leaders commissioned architect Nat C. Hodgdon to design the gateway that was approved by the State Road Department.⁶⁴ Local entrepreneurs and civic leaders, sponsored by the Stuart Chamber of Commerce, raised the funds from the community for gateways to be constructed at the northern and southern "ends of the city."⁶⁵ The Great Florida Boom,⁶⁶ the opening of the St.

⁶¹ "St. Lucie Estates." St. Lucie Estates, Inc. (Stuart, Florida. 1926)

⁶² "6,000 Stuart Gateway Arch at Seminole Heights." South Florida Developer June 18, 1926. 1

⁶³ "Martin County Wins." South Florida Developer May 28, 1925.

⁶⁴ "Road Department Approves Arches Over Dixie Highway." South Florida Developer October 6, 1925.

⁶⁵ "Campaign for Stuart Arches Is Nearing End." The Stuart Daily News and The Stuart Messenger October 23, 1925. 1.

⁶⁶ "The Boom Is On At Stuart." South Florida Developer February 27, 1925. Annual Booster Edition.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 12 STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL

Lucie Inlet to commerce,⁶⁷ separation from St. Lucie and Palm Beach counties for the formation of Martin County⁶⁸ and the railway freight embargo⁶⁹ were driving factors behind the urgency to build a structure that expressed, through a combination of architecture and signage, the sentiments and feelings of this proud community.

Such structures were not uncommon in Florida at that time. The Florida Master Site File records the existence of about a dozen arches in state. Most date from the 1920s and are associated with new developments and subdivisions, private enterprises undertaken during the Florida Land Boom. A few were built as entrances to facilities, such as campuses, cemeteries, or grounds of organizations. Of the arches recorded in the Site File, only the Stuart Welcome Arch, which remains on its original site spanning a highway, was built as a result of the hopes and dreams of an entire community, the then newly formed Martin County, and its county seat, the City of Stuart. Furthermore, of the other arches in the state, some have been moved from their original sites, or are only half of the original construction (e.g., San Jose Estates Gate House in Jacksonville, Duval County, NR 1988), or were built for developments that never came to be (e.g., Entrance to Central Miami in Dade County, NR 1988). Although the Stuart Welcome Arch has been altered, the changes have been gradual over the years and the result of natural forces or the hazards of being a highway structure. Even so, the arch appears much as it has for the past fifty years, since 1954. More significant, however, is the fact that the decision to build an arch and the choice of the original Mediterranean Revival/Moorish Revival design of the Stuart Welcome Arch demonstrate how much the arch was a product of the spirit of the times in Boomtime Florida. The Stuart Welcome Arch represented then and continues to speak to the feelings, desires, struggles, goals, and accomplishments of Martin County.

⁶⁷ "U.S. Government Ready to Cooperate In Opening St. Lucie Inlet to Commerce." South Florida Developer February 27, 1925. Annual Booster Edition.

⁶⁸ "Drive Started to Create New County; to Slice St. Lucie and Palm Beach." South Florida Developer April 23, 1925. 1.

⁶⁹ "Florida Freight Problem Grows Steadily Worse." South Florida Developer September 18, 1925.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1 **STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS:

Hutchinson, Janet. History of Martin County. Port Salerno, FL: Florida Classics Library, 1987.

Metropolitan Dade County Office of Community and Economic Development Historic Preservation Division. From Wilderness to Metropolis – The History and Architecture of Dade County (1825-1940). Florida: Franklin Press, Inc. 1982.

Shutts, Frank B. Florida 'The East Coast' Its Builders, Resources, Industries and Towns. Florida: The Miami Herald. 1927.

Thurlow, Sandra Henderson. Stuart on the St. Lucie – A Pictorial History. Florida: Sewall's Point Company. 2001.

UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS:

American Association of University Women, Stuart Area Branch. "Stuart Florida Historic Walking Tour." Stuart, Florida. 1999.

"Getty Engineer Services Insurance Damage Report." August 8, 1998.

Historic Property Associates, Inc. "Historic Architectural Survey of Martin County, Florida." St. Augustine, Florida. June 1997.

St. Lucie Estates, Inc. "St Lucie Estates." Stuart, Florida. 1926.

INTERVIEWS:

Chicky, Jon. Personal interviews. Stuart, Florida. March – June, 2002.

De Britta, Helene. Jensen Beach, Florida. January 5, 2001.

Lyons Williams, Isabel. Personal interview. Stuart, Florida. September 29, 2003.

Thomason, Jacqueline. Personal interview. Port Salerno, Florida. February 15, 2001.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 2 **STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL**

Tilton, Norris. Personal interview. Jensen Beach, Florida. January, 2001.

Walton, Morris. Personal interview. Stuart, Florida. January 14, 2001.

Walton, Rose. Personal interview. Stuart, Florida. January 22, 2001.

JOURNALS AND PERIODICALS:

“\$1,000 More Donate to Archway Fund; Construction Begins.” South Florida Developer.
December 14, 1925.

“\$6,000 Stuart Gateway Arch At Seminole Heights.” South Florida Developer. June 18, 1926.

“\$7,076,573 In Riviera Plots Sold from June 1 to 15 – Coral Gables.” South Florida Developer.
June 19, 1925.

Agasiz, Garnault. “Martin County Facts.” The Stuart Daily News. January 29, 1926.

“Babson Predicts Great Future for All South Florida.” South Florida Developer. September 8,
1925.

“Building of Arch Over Dixie Started on North City Line.” South Florida Developer. January 5,
1926.

Campbell, Dick. “Careening Auto Destroys famed Jensen Arch – Ethel Walker Is Victim.” The
Jensen Beach Mirror. December 1, 1976.

“Campaign for Stuart Arches Is Nearing End.” The Stuart Daily News and The Stuart
Messenger. October 23, 1925.

Cech, Scott. “Jensen Arch Falls Victim to Trash Truck.” The Palm Beach Post. June 21, 1998.

“City Donates \$500 to Welcome Arch.” South Florida Developer. March 26, 1926.

“Committee Urges Arch Contributions.” The Stuart Daily News and The Stuart Messenger.
October 26, 1925.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 3 **STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL**

“Cresap Says Arch At Stuart Is Most Artistic In Florida.” South Florida Developer. November, 13, 1925.

“Dehon Is Elected President Stuart Commerce Chamber.” South Florida Developer. December 8, 1925.

“Dixie Highway Is Praised By State Officer.” The Stuart Daily News and The Stuart Messenger. November 12, 1925.

“Drive Started to Create New County; to Slice St. Lucie and Palm Beach.” South Florida Developer. April 23, 1925.

“Driver Killed When Car Hits Jensen Beach Arch.” The Stuart News. Martin County Edition. November 25, 1976.

“Famous Landmark Restored Near Jensen Beach.” The Stuart News. April 22, 1954.

“Florida Freight Problem Grows Steadily Worse.” South Florida Developer. September 18, 1925.

“Gaines Outlines Roads and Bridge Projects for 1925 In North End of Palm Beach County.” Stuart Daily News and The Stuart Messenger. October 23, 1925.

“Gateway to Fun.” The Jensen Beach Mirror. June 28, 1962.

“Historic Archway.” The Miami Herald. April 23, 1954.

“History In the Making.” Stuart Daily News. January 21, 1926.

“Jensen to Have Name on Archway.” South Florida Developer. February 16, 1926.

“Many Citizens Are Guests At Dinner by Real Estate Firm.” The Stuart Daily News. February 16, 1926.

“Martin County Was In Center of Early History of Florida.” Stuart Daily News. January 29, 1926.

“Martin County Wins.” South Florida Developer. May 28, 1925.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 4 **STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL**

Menninger, Edwin A. "Enthusiastic Stuart Booster Busy Telling Chicago About Martin County." South Florida Developer. April 27, 1926.

"Miami Architects Open Branch Office In Osceola Bldg." South Florida Developer. April 14, 1925.

"Mizner's House to be Built As Spanish Castle." South Florida Developer. September 1, 1925.

"Mizner to 'Leave Out all that Is Ugly' In His City." South Florida Developer. August 4, 1925.

"Nat C. Hodgdon Is Designer of Plans." Stuart Daily News. May 11, 1926.

"New County Bill Finding Many Friends." South Florida Developer. April 24, 1925.

"New Town of Jensen Embraces Nearly As Much Land As Stuart." The Stuart Daily News. December 1, 1925.

"Road Crew Trying to Keep Dixie Oiled and In Good Shape." South Florida Developer. November 27, 1925.

"Road Department Approves Arches Over Dixie Highway." South Florida Developer. October 6, 1925.

Silver, Deborah. "Arch Black In Business." The Stuart News. December 10, 1998.

"Smith & Sons Did Paintwork on El Bit-Lor." The Stuart Daily News. May 15, 1926.

"Some of the Principal Leaders In the Fight to Create Martin County." South Florida Developer. May 28, 1925.

"State Asks for Description of County's Roads." South Florida Developer. January 15, 1926.

"State Will Build Dixie Through This County This Year." South Florida Developer. January 25, 1926.

"Stuart Bigger than Miami In 10 Years a Banker Predicts." South Florida Developer. August 14, 1925.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 5 **STUART WELCOME ARCH
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL**

“Stuart Building \$541,400 Last Year; Increase of 260 Percent Over 1923.” South Florida Developer. February 27, 1925.

“Stuart’s Boundary Being Changed to Include Golden Gate Park on South and Ogle Property on North.” South Florida Developer. November 20, 1925

“‘Stuart Shores’ Is New Development on St. Lucie and Indian Rivers to be Placed on Market This Winter.” South Florida Developer. November 24, 1925.

“The Boom Is On At Stuart.” South Florida Developer. February 27, 1925.

“The El Bit-Lor, Stuart’s Largest Apartment Hotel.” The Stuart Daily News. May 15, 1926.

“U.S. Government Puts O.K. on Plan to Open St. Lucie Inlet; Work Starts Soon.” South Florida Developer. September 4, 1925.

U.S. Government Ready to Cooperate In Opening St. Lucie Inlet to Commerce.” South Florida Developer. April 23, 1925.

“Walton-Smith.” South Florida Developer. November 24, 1925.

“Welcome Archway to Be Done Soon.” South Florida Developer. January 29, 1926.

“Work on Archway North of Stuart Starts This Week.” South Florida Developer. December 8, 1925.

“‘Worst’ Storm Hits County; Congressmen Plan Quick Aid.” The Stuart News. September 1, 1949.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1 **STUART WELCOME ARCH**
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

WEST TOWER:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 26 AND 27, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 41 EAST, MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA. BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT "E", 1ST ADDITION TO SOUTH JENSEN HEIGHTS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 68 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE SOUTH 01'31'39" WEST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT 'E' FOR A DISTANCE OF 23.60 FEET (ALSO BEING AT STATION 222+63.70, 15 FEET RIGHT AS SHOWN ON FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MAINTENANCE MAP FOR STATE ROAD 707 SECTION #89030-MAINT-2, PLAT BOOK 12, PAGE 83, MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA) TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTH 88'49'24" WEST TO A POINT ON THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF STATE ROAD 707 FROM SAID PLAT FOR A DISTANCE OF 30.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 01'31'39" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 8.84 FEET; THENCE NORTH 87'53'30" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 13.13 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 01'21'47" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 20.08 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89'03'16" EAST TO A POINT ON SAID WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 13.08 FEET; THENCE NORTH 01'31'39" EAST ALONG SAID WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 8.87 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 88'49'24" EAST TO A POINT ON SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 30.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 01'31'39" EAST ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 2.50 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING 261.39 SQUARE FEET OR 0.006 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

EAST TOWER:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN LOT 'E', 1ST ADDITION TO SOUTH JENSEN HEIGHTS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 68 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA. BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 'E'; THENCE SOUTH 01'31'39" WEST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT 'E' FOR A DISTANCE OF 14.72 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PARCEL; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 01'31'39" WEST ALONG SAID WEST LINE OF LOT 'E' FOR A DISTANCE OF 20.10 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89'06'25" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 12.89 FEET; THENCE NORTH 01'09'26" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 19.88 FEET; THENCE NORTH 88'06'09" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 12.76 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING: 256.38 SQUARE FEET OR .006 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses the area that has been historically associated with the Stuart Welcome Arch.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 1 **STUART WELCOME ARCH**
Jensen Beach, Martin Co., FL

- 1
 - 1) Stuart Welcome Arch
 - 2) Martin County, Florida
 - 3) Julie Preast, Vice President, Rio Civic Club, P.O. Box 1001, Jensen Beach, Florida
 - 4) September 2003
 - 5) Negative held by photographer
 - 6) South elevation "Welcome to Jensen Beach;" camera facing north
 - 7) Photo 1 of 2

- 2 Items 1-5 are the same as above.
 - 6) Northwest elevation, "Welcome to Rio;" camera facing southeast
 - 7) Photo 2 of 2



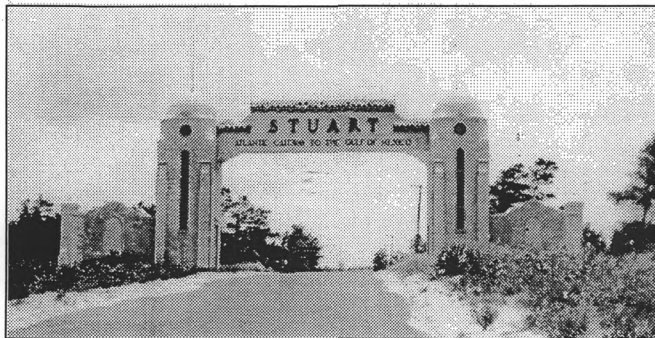
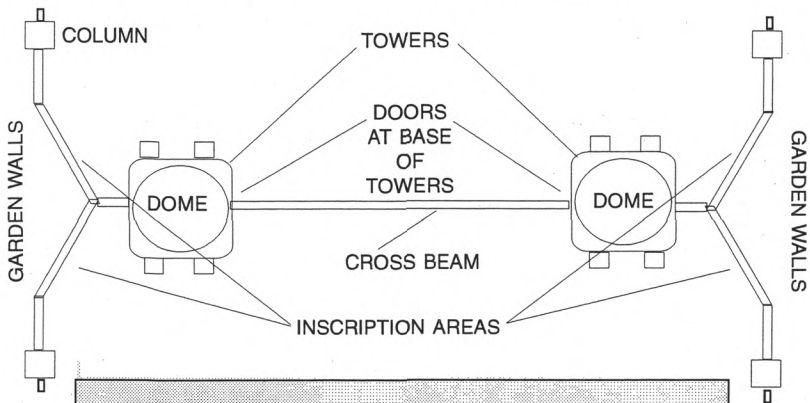
**1926
WELCOME
ARCH**

**State Road 707
Dixie Highway**

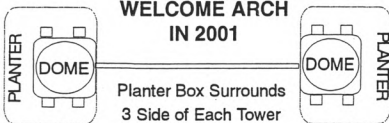


**Rio
Jensen Beach
Indian River
Aerial Views**

1926 Welcome Arch - Footprint Sketch by Julie Preast



**WELCOME ARCH
IN 2001**



Planter Box Surrounds
3 Side of Each Tower

1926 WELCOME ARCH

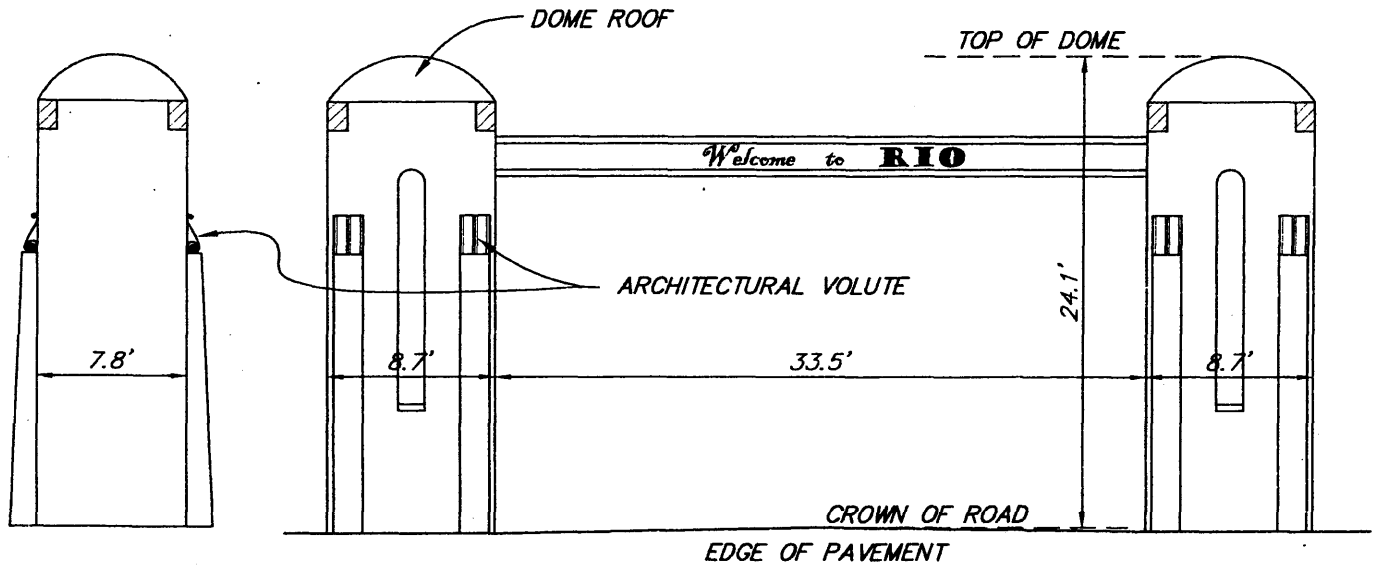
Photo taken by
Charles E. Strachan
in 1927

during a
1,200 mile bike ride
from

Montclair, N.J. to Miami, FL,
and forwarded
by Raymond Neveil (NJ)
to Nancy Sailer

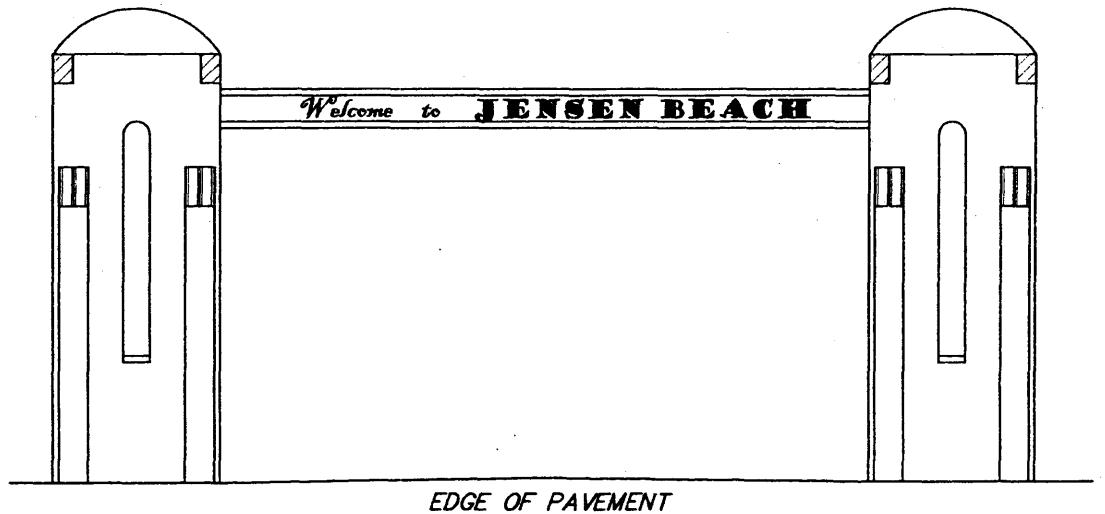
(Stuart/Martin Chamber of Commerce)

SPECIFIC PURPOSE SURVEY FOR RIO / JENSEN BEACH ARCH

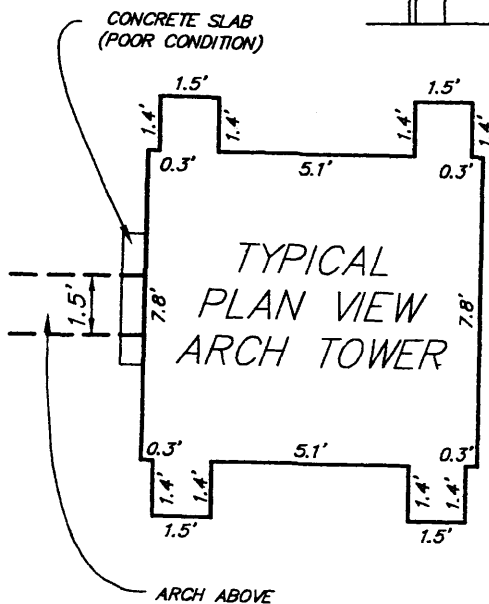


WEST ELEVATION

SOUTH ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION



NOT VALID WITHOUT SHEET 1 OF 2

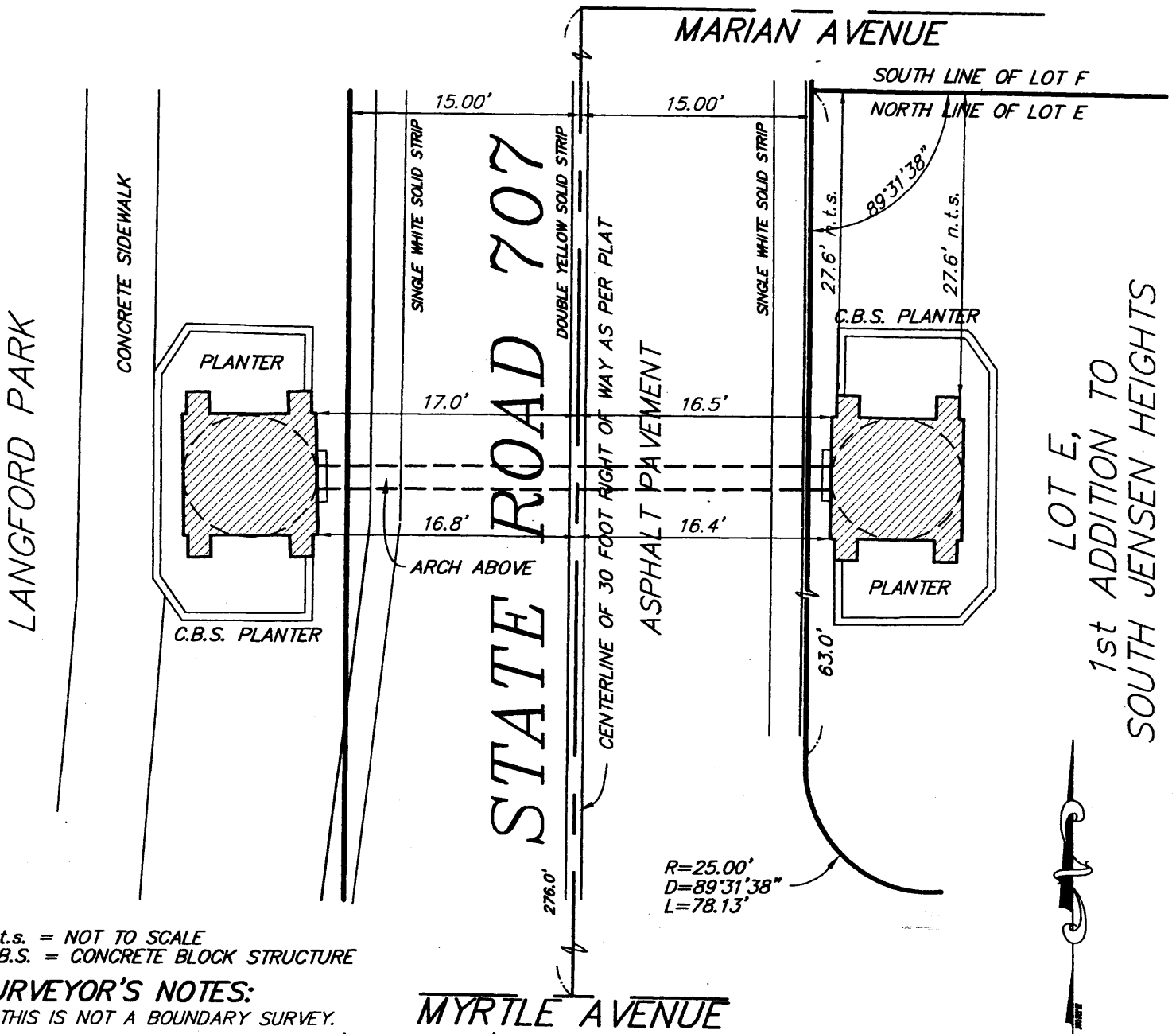
BLOOMSTER
PROFESSIONAL LAND
SURVEYORS, INC.
FLORIDA L.B. # 6018

791 NORTHEAST DIXIE HIGHWAY
JENSEN BEACH, FLORIDA 34957
PHONE 561-334-0868

SHEET 2 OF 2
SCALE: 1" = 10'
DATE: 02-07-01
F.B. A48/84
JOB NO. RIOARCH
REVISIONS

SKETCH TO ACCOMPANY LEGAL DESCRIPTION
PREPARED FOR: RIO CIVIC CLUB
SITE LOCATED:
RIO, MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

SPECIFIC PURPOSE SURVEY FOR RIO / JENSEN BEACH ARCH



n.t.s. = NOT TO SCALE
C.B.S. = CONCRETE BLOCK STRUCTURE

SURVEYOR'S NOTES:

1. THIS IS NOT A BOUNDARY SURVEY.
2. THIS SURVEY WAS PREPARED FOR 'RIO CIVIC CLUB'
3. THE PURPOSE OF THIS SURVEY IS TO SHOW THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ARCHES OF RIO AND STATE ROAD 707.

SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATION:

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE "SPECIFIC PURPOSE SURVEY" WAS PREPARED UNDER MY RESPONSIBLE CHARGE AND MEETS THE MINIMUM TECHNICAL STANDARDS AS SET FORTH BY THE FLORIDA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS AND MAPPERS IN CHAPTER 61G17-6, FLORIDA STATUTES, AND THAT IT IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF. NOT VALID WITHOUT THE SIGNATURE AND THE ORIGINAL RAISED SEAL OF A FLORIDA LICENSED SURVEYOR AND MAPPER.

Robert Bloomster Jr.

ROBERT BLOOMSTER JR.
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR
STATE OF FLORIDA, No. 4134

NOT VALID WITHOUT SHEET 2 OF 2

BLOOMSTER
PROFESSIONAL LAND
SURVEYORS, INC.

FLORIDA L.B. # 6018

791 NORTHEAST DIXIE HIGHWAY
JENSEN BEACH, FLORIDA 34957
PHONE 561-334-0868

SHEET 1 OF 2
SCALE: 1" = 10'
DATE: 02-07-01
F.B. A48/04
JOB NO. RIOARCH
REVISIONS

SKETCH TO ACCOMPANY LEGAL DESCRIPTION

PREPARED FOR: RIO CIVIC CLUB

SITE LOCATED:
RIO, MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION
FOR
RIO / JENSEN BEACH ARCH**

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 26 AND 27, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 41 EAST, MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA.

BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 'E', 1st ADDITION TO SOUTH JENSEN HEIGHTS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 68 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE SOUTH 01°31'39" WEST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT 'E' FOR A DISTANCE OF 23.60 FEET (ALSO BEING AT STATION 222+63.70, 15 FEET RIGHT AS SHOWN ON FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MAINTENANCE MAP FOR STATE ROAD 707 SECTION #89030-MAINT-2, PLAT BOOK 12, PAGE 83, MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA) TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTH 88°49'24" WEST TO A POINT ON THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF STATE ROAD 707 FROM SAID PLAT FOR A DISTANCE OF 30.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 01°31'39" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 8.84 FEET; THENCE NORTH 87°53'30" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 13.13 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 01°21'47" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 20.08 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89°03'16" EAST TO A POINT ON SAID WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 13.08 FEET; THENCE NORTH 01°31'39" EAST ALONG SAID WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 8.87 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 88°49'24" EAST TO A POINT ON SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 30.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 01°31'39" EAST ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 2.50 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

CONTAINING: 261.39 SQUARE FEET OR 0.006 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

SURVEYOR'S NOTES:

1. THIS IS NOT A BOUNDARY SURVEY.
2. BEARING SHOWN HEREON REFER TO AN ASSUMED MERIDIAN OF S.01°31'39"W. ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF STATE ROAD 707 AS PER FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MAINTENANCE MAP SECTION #89030-MAINT-2, PLAT BOOK 12, PAGE 83, MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA.
3. LANDS SHOWN HEREON WERE SURVEYED WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF A TITLE SEARCH.
4. ALL REFERENCES TO F.D.O.T. REFER TO FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MAINTENANCE MAP FOR STATE ROAD NO. 707 SECTION #89030-MAINT-2 PLAT BOOK 12, PAGE 83, MARTIN COUNTY RECORDS

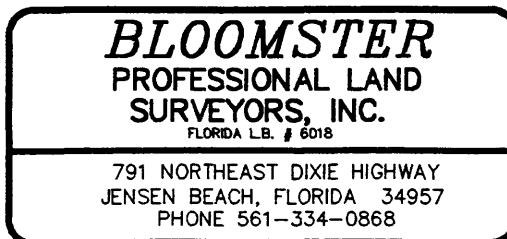
SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATION:

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE "SPECIFIC PURPOSE SURVEY" WAS PREPARED UNDER MY RESPONSIBLE CHARGE AND MEETS THE MINIMUM TECHNICAL STANDARDS AS SET FORTH BY THE FLORIDA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS AND MAPPERS IN CHAPTER 61G17-6, FLORIDA STATUTES, AND THAT IT IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF. NOT VALID WITHOUT THE SIGNATURE AND THE ORIGINAL RAISED SEAL OF A FLORIDA LICENSED SURVEYOR AND MAPPER.

NOT VALID WITHOUT SHEET 2 OF 2



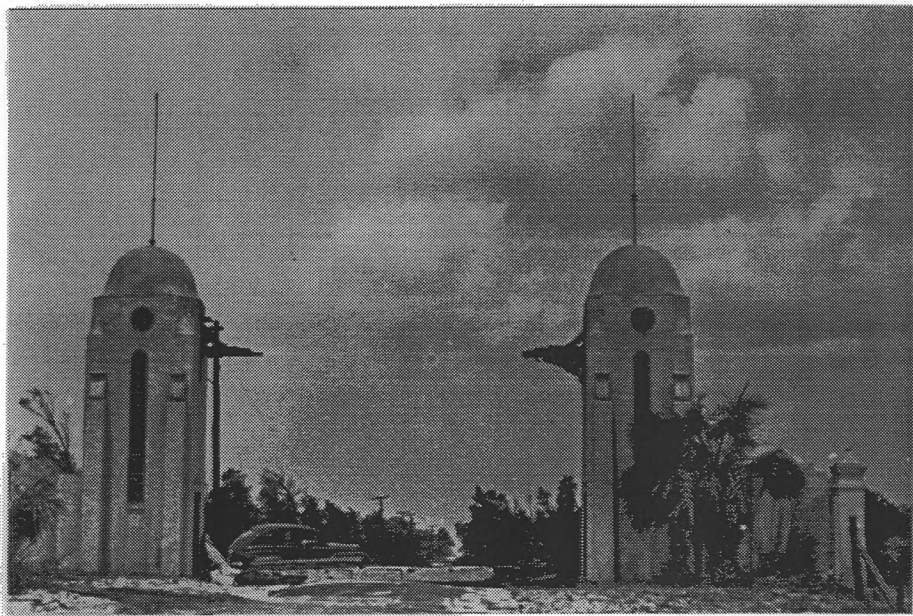
ROBERT BLOOMSTER JR.
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR
STATE OF FLORIDA, No. 4134



SHEET 1 OF 2	
SCALE:	1" = 10'
DATE:	5-1-01
F.B.	SKETCH
JOB NO.	RIOARCH
REVISIONS	

SKETCH TO ACCOMPANY LEGAL DESCRIPTION
PREPARED FOR: RIO CIVIC CLUB
SITE LOCATED:
RIO, MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

After hurricane of 1949. It appears that the original cross section is laying on the ground beside the automobile.





HISTORIC ARCHWAY located at the southern entrance of Jensen Beach over A1A is being restored. Originally built during the boom days by Martin county, the Town of Jensen and Stuart at a cost of \$5,000, the gate took a beating from storms. The restoration was accomplished through efforts of the Jensen

Beach Women's Association. One side of the sign reads, "Welcome to Jensen Beach," the other, "The Atlantic Gateway to the Gulf of Mexico." The Martin county commission awarded the restoration contract to John L. Taylor a few months ago.

—Herald Photo by Earl D. Rice

Jensen Beach Florida Fishing Guide
1956 Edition
Distributed Free by Jensen Beach Area
Chamber of Commerce



This arch welcomes the visitor to Jensen Beach on Highway R1A.

Earl Dyer Ricou Photo

Jensen Beach Florida Fishing Guide
1960 Edition
Distributed Freed by the Jensen Beach
Chamber of Commerce

The Martin County Board of
Commissioners used this photo in
an advertisement.

The garden walls were attached to
towers and there used to be a Sabel
Palm in front of east tower.



Welcome Arch

Circa 1971:

Photo taken by JENSEN
BEACH MIRROR and
provided by Jon Chicky,
former Arch Committee
Chairman of the Jensen
Beach Chamber of
Commerce.

Deterioration:

Garden walls had broken
away from towers; circular
and rectangular vents had
been previously plastered
over and stucco was falling
off.

Garden Walls Configuration:

Two curved walls extended
out from each tower in a
southerly and northerly
direction.



Jon Chicky, Jr. examining hole in west tower
between garden walls. Vandals had entered
the tower. Notice the location and separation
of the garden wall.

South side of east tower: wooden slats
composed original vents. Jon Chicky, Jr.,
standing next to opposite wall vent.

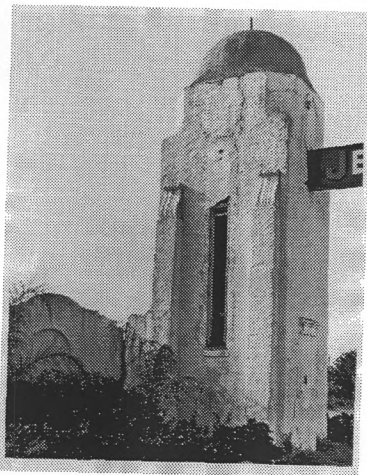


Welcome Arch
Circa 1971 - West Tower:
Photo taken by JENSEN BEACH
MIRROR and provided by Jon
Chicky, former Arch Committee
Chairman of the Jensen Beach
Chamber of Commerce.

Garden Walls: each one curving
towards north or south attached to
west side of tower.

Door: Jon Chicky remembers that it
had been sealed and plastered
previously.

Cross Beam: Wording was the
same on both sides, "JENSEN
BEACH Happy, Healthful Living
and Playing"



North Side of East Tower

Notice that the plaster has begun to fall off of the
rectangular vent and garden wall is separating from
tower.

Garden wall contains the original recessed area.

Welcome Arch Circa 1972:

South side of Arch with automobile headed north.

Photo by JENSEN BEACH

MIRROR provided by Jon

Chicky, former Arch Committee

Chairman of the Jensen Beach

Chamber of Commerce.

Garden walls, vents and doors removed in preparation for new stucco necessary due to natural deterioration and vandalism.



West Tower of Welcome Arch Circa 1977: Photo provided by Jon Chicky, former chairman of Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce Arch Committee. After the fatal automobile accident in 1976 the cross beam was removed for repair. WEST TOWER IS STILL THE ORIGINAL TILE BRICK STRUCTURE.

Welcome Arch Circa 1977: East Tower rebuilt in cement block after auto accident.

