# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

1 NAME MRNS# 20 HISTORIC L.D. Reagin, Residence

LOCATION STREET & NUMBER	1213 North Palm	1 Avenue		
GTY.TOWN Sarasota		VICINITY OF N/A	Sarasota	
STATE Florida			COUNTY	
CLASSIFIC	ATION	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••	
	OWNERSHIP	STATUS		ENT USE
STRUCTURE STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT	   	UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO	COMMERCIAL COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	PARK XPRIVATE RESIDENCE
<b>OWNER OF</b>	PROPERTY			
NAME A.	. K. Leach			
STREET & NUMBER	.0. Box 1700			
CITY. TOWN B1	radenton	STA VICINITY OF FL	TE	ZIP CODE 33506
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION		
- COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, E	Sarasota County	y Court House Reco	rding Departme	nt
	Room 10, 2000 1	Main Street, P.(	0. Box 3079	
STREET & NUMBER		C74	TE	ZIP CODE 33578
STREET & NUMBER	Sarasota	FL		33370
CITY. TOWN REPRESEN' TITLE Florida	Sarasota TATION IN EXIST Master Site File	FL ING SURVEYS (FMSF) #8So281		•
CITY. TOWN REPRESEN' TITLE Florida and His	TATION IN EXIST	FL ING SURVEYS (FMSF) #8So281	al Survey of S	•
CITY. TOWN REPRESEN' TITLE Florida	TATION IN EXIST Master Site File toric, Architectur	FL ING SURVEYS (FMSF) #8So281 al and Archaelogic	al Survey of S	Sarasota (HAAS

NRHP=STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER = DIVISION OF ARCHIVES, HISTORY AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE = THE CAPITOL = TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA, 32301 (904) 487-\_333

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

\_\_EXCELLENT

\_\_DETERIORATED \_\_RUINS \_\_UNEXPOSED CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

\_\_\_ORIGINAL SITE \_\_\_MOVED. DATE\_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND OHIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

### SUMMARY OF PRESENT AND ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Number 1213 North Palm Avenue is a one and two-story stucco-finished, Mediterranean Revival Style, concrete-block construction building which was designed by architect Thomas Reed Martin for the L. D. Reagin family. Mr. L. D. Reagin was owner and editor of the Sarasota Daily and Weekly Times.<sup>2</sup> In plan and elevation the structure consists of three contiguous one-story blocks located at the south elevation and a two-story rear elevation which intersects the one-story blocks at the north elevation. Each of the three one-story blocks is characterized by the use of flat roofs surrounded by flat parapets. The two-story wing is topped by a gable roof which originally was pierced by a shaped parapet which appeared at the second or central bay of the second story. (The shaped parapet with its foliated, scrolled cartouche was removed (date unknown) and was replaced by a continuous gabled-eave overhang. In massing the onestory blocks are reminiscent of Mr. Martin's "Floridan architecture"<sup>3</sup> as well as several of the design types present at Burns Court (please refer to MRNS #2, Burns Court Historic District). Early photographic documentation is supplied by an aerial photograph of circa 1935, which shows the flat-decked roof surfaces of the three one-story, contiguous blocks, located at the south elevation, as well as the upper story of the two-story block which intersects at the north elevation.<sup>4</sup> The L. D. Reagin Residence is relatively intact with the exception of the entrance porch which is a three-bay, one-story block located at the east corner of the south elevation. The entrance porch has a replacement door (with a nine-light upper half and a crossbraced paneled lower section which is located between the lock and bottom rails. The windows which flank the second or central bay door have replacement jalousie windows. The structure is deceptively small from the North Palm Avenue elevation, yet the three one-story blocks intersect with the two-story wing located at the rear elevation.

### TEXT SUPPORTING SUMMARY OF PRESENT AND ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The one and two-story stucco-finished concrete-block construction Mediterranean Revival Style building located at 1213 North Palm Avenue was designed by prominent local architect Thomas Reed Martin for L. D. Reagin, owner and editor of the Sarasota Daily Times. Photographic documentation is supplied by an aerial photograph circa 1935 which includes a view of the south and east elevations of Number 1213 North Palm Avenue.<sup>6</sup> The aerial photograph (attached) clearly shows the flat-roofed surfaces of the three one-story blocks located at the south elevation. Partitioned roof parapets divided each of the roof areas of the blocks--each flat-roofed surface may well have served as sunning decks. Rising above the flat-roofed surfaces, the upper story of the two-story wing located at the north elevation of the structure is also visible in the early aerial photograph. The gable roofed two-story wing included French doored openings located at the first and third bays of the second story--the French doors presumably opened on to the roof decks. The second or center bay was formerly topped by a shaped parapet, with a scrolled foliated cartouche located at the crest of the shaped parapet. The ornamental cartouche was similar in design to the cartouche present at the shaped parape located at the southwest elevation. At an unknown date the shaped parapet was removed and the gabled roof line extends along the area formerly occupied by the masonry pedim Currently, the stucco facade is painted a pink hue which is alleged to have been Mrs. L. D. Reagin's favorite color and therefore similar to the original facade tint. $^7$ 

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The entrance facade is located at the south elevation with a facade divided into two design units which are similar in massing and ornamentation to several of the design types executed by Thomas Reed Martin at Burns Court (please refer to MRNS #2, Burns Court Historic District). Massing is also reminiscent of the "Floridan Architecture" designs also designed by Mr. Martin. The entrance porch is located at the southeast corner of the entrance or south elevation. The one-story entrance porch is lower in scale than the adjoining southwest block and is divided into three bays which consist of a door flanked by windows located at the first and third bays. The door is approached by a simple stoop protected by stock metal railing, and the entire entrance porch is protected by an awning projection.

The western division of the south elevation is characterized by the use of massive masonry piers which project above the flat roof line and form capped post parapets. Each pier flanks a shaped pedimented parapet which is crested by a stylized cartouche located at the apex of the shaped parapet. A pair of shallow cartouches also appear as applied ornamentation to the stylized masonry piers. Connected by a continuous sill, a set of three windows appears within a round arched enframement located at the area bounded by the stylized masonry piers. This round arched window is currently protected by a semi-circular canvas awning.

At the west elevation of 1213 North Palm Avenue, vertical angled bays are applied to the otherwise one-story horizontal structure. Beginning at the southernmost corner which is marked by a stylized masonry pier, the next vertical projection is an exterior chimney which is higher in elevation than the stylized pier projections. The second stylized masonry pier flanks the fourth bay. Two of the recessed facade plans are pierced by a round arched casement window with projecting sill.

The north elevation is primarily the two-story block previously discussed. Roundheaded window openings with arched transoms appear at the east and west elevations of the two-story block. A one-story rear or service porch is provided at the north elevation. Exterior chimneys are located at the west elevation and a two-story exterior chimney is located at the northeast corner of the two-story wing. Window types include French doored casement openings, and several jalousied windows.

An original one-story, one-car concrete block construction stucco-finished garage located at the northwest corner of the Reagin property appears in the Sanborn Insurance Map of 1929. The original auto out-building exists today with the minor alteration of a replacement garage door.

ALTERATIONS: The entrance porch located at the southeast corner of the south or main entrance elevation has been altered by the removal of original windows and substitution of jalousie glass windows, a pair of which flank the entrance door. This entrance door also is not original; the replacement consists of a multi-paned glazed upper half and crossed-style wood paneled lower. Jalousie windows have also replaced what I would assume to have been wood casement windows which appear within the round arched triple-windowed enframement located at the west side of the south elevation. The shaped parapet which formerly was located above the central bay of the south elevation of the two-story rear wing has been removed as well (date unknown).

## **8** SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 X1900-	-ARCHEOLUGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC ARCHEOLUTURE ARCHITECTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION X_OTHER (SPECIFY) architect Thomas Reed Martin
SPECIFIC DAT	ES Completed by Septer 1926	ember, BUILDER/ARCI	HITECT Thomas Reed Ma	rtin

### SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The one and two-story Mediterranean Revival structure located at 1213 North Palm Avenue was built by Thomas Reed Martin and occupied by the family of L. D. Reagin by September of 1926.<sup>10</sup> L. D. Reagin was the owner and editor of the <u>Sarasota Times</u> newspaper, having purchased the newspaper in March of 1924.<sup>11</sup> The Reagin residence was located at the south side of the block on which the new plant and offices of the <u>Sarasota Times</u> were subsequently erected. Mr. Reagin continued to operate the newspaper until it went into receivership in December of 1929.<sup>12</sup> In massing and architectural design number 1213 North Palm Avenue resembles several of the entrance facades present at Burns Cout, which were also designed by Thomas Reed Martin (please refer to MRNS #32, Burns Court Historic District). The three, one-story entrance block facades which Mr. Martin designed at 1213 North Palm Avenue are reminiscent of his "Floridan architecture" bungalows.<sup>13-14</sup> The design and site orientation of t<sup>1</sup> Reagin residence were well-suited for the Florida climate with casement windows, entrance porches and thick stucco-surfaced exterior facades.

### TEXT SUPPORTING SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Number 1213 North Palm Avenue is located on a site which was purchased by L. D. Reagin from the Burns Realty Company in April of 1925.<sup>15</sup> The L. D. Reagin Residence site abutted the First Street property site which became the home of the Sarasota Times newspaper of which Reagin was at that time owner and editor.<sup>16</sup> By 1927-28 City Directory, Leslie D. Reagin was listed as the "Vice President of the Morris Plan Company of Sarasota, President of Sarasota Publishing Company, and owner, Sarasota Daily and Weekly Times with his home at 350 North Palm Avenue."<sup>17</sup> The <u>Sarasota Times</u> newspaper, which was owned and edited for the first quarter of the twentieth century by Mr. and subsequently, Mrs. C. V. S. Wilson, was sold in 1923 to T. J. Campbell and J. H. Lord, who in turn sold the newspaper on 3/27/24 to L. D. Reagin.<sup>18</sup> In addition to the purchase of the Sarasota Times, Leslie D. Reagin commissioned the prominent architect, Dwight James Baum, to construct a new office and press building for the Sarasota Times on what was then Seventh Street, near Broadway. (For further discussion of the Sarasota Times Building, please refer to MRNS #36, location 1214-1216 First Street,) The Sarasota Times newspaper went into receivership on Monday, December 9, After the folding of the Sarasota Times, Leslie D. Reagin served as Postmaster 1929. of the City of Sarasota beginning in 1933 until his retirement July 31, 1945.

Ironically, the architectural attribution of the L. D. Reagin residence is supplied by an article entitled, "City Architect Attrats (sic) Statewide Attention"--which appeared in the <u>Sarasota Herald</u> newspaper.<sup>21</sup> The residence was mentioned in the <u>Herald</u> article which was devoted to the work of the architect Thomas Reed Martin--the L. D. Reagin residence was singled out as one of Mr. Martin's architectural achievements. Based on the newspaper article, the L. D. Reagin residence was completed by

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September of 1926.<sup>22</sup> [Please also refer to MRNS #19, H. B. Williams Residence.] The massing of number 1213 North Palm Avenue resembles Mr. Martin's earlier work in Burns Court. Several of the entrance blocks of the fifteen Burns Court bungalows resemble the flat-roofed and shaped parapet roof-line of the south elevation of 1213 North Palm Avenue. The design of the one-story south elevation is also reminiscent of Mr. Martin's "Floridan Architecture." Thomas Reed Martin popularized "Floridan architecture," with advertisements which appeared in the Sarasota Times in the 1920's. Advertising copy included: "Floridan architecture, a home design to suit our climate and environment . . . All work is personally designed by myself. I build no duplicates."<sup>23</sup> His one-story Spanish bungalow houses were particularly suited to the Florida climate and were advertised in, among other sources, the 1923-24 Sarasota City and County Directory.<sup>24</sup> The massing of the one-story or entrance pavilions generated monumentality. The presence of porches and casement windows provided needed cross-ventilation. The flat deck surfaces of the one-story entrance pavilion of 1213 afforded, one would suspect, sundecks, sunning having become popular in the 1920's, while the two story elevation provided a view of Sarasota Bay overlooking the Owen Burns' property located just south of the Reagin house. The second story elevation, in addition to providing a view, would have also allowed additional bay breezes from the west and south elevations for the living quarters.

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Sarasota Herald, September 9, 1926, on file Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.

<sup>2</sup>Sarasota, Florida City Directory, 1927-1928, p. 246. Located at Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.

<sup>3</sup>Sarasota Times, May 24, 1923, p. 12.

<sup>4</sup>Sarasota County Historical Commission. Photograph #35262/3, circa 1935. On file Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.

<sup>5</sup>Sarasota Herald, September 9, 1926.

<sup>6</sup>Sarasota County Historical Commission. Photograph #35262/3, circa 1935. On file Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.

<sup>7</sup>Miss Lillian Burns, Personal Correspondence, May, 1983.

<sup>8</sup>Sarasota Times, May 24, 1923, p. 12.

<sup>9</sup>Sanborn Insurance Company, Maps of Sarasota, 1929.

<sup>10</sup>Sarasota Herald, September 9, 1926, p. 12.

<sup>11</sup>Grismer, The Story of Sarasota, p. 241.

12 Ibid.

<sup>13</sup>Sarasota Times, May 24, 1923, p. 12.

<sup>14</sup>Sarasota City and County Directory, 1923-1924, p. 131. Located at Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.

<sup>15</sup>Sarasota County. Deeds. Liber 19, p. 589, April 3, 1925.

<sup>16</sup>Sarasota County. Deeds. Liber 22, p. 502, December 1, 1924.

<sup>17</sup>Sarasota, Florida City Directory, 1927-1928, p. 246.

<sup>18</sup>Grismer, The Story of Sarasota, p. 241.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup>Ibid., p. 268.

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<sup>21</sup>Sarasota Herald, September 9, 1926, p. 12

<sup>22</sup>Ibid.

<sup>23</sup>Sarasota Times, May 24, 1923, p. 12, cols. 5 & 6.

<sup>24</sup>Sarasota City & County Directory, 1923-1924, p. 131.

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Grismer, Karl. The Story of Sarasota. Sarasota: M. E. Russell, 1946.

Polk's Sarasota City Directory, 1923-24, 1926, 1927-28. Located at Sarasota County HIstorical archives, Sarasota, Florida.

Sanborn Map Company. Maps of Sarasota. 1929. New York: Sanborn Map Company.

Sarasota County. <u>Deeds</u>. Liber 19, p. 589. April 3, 1925. Liber 22, p. 502, December 1, 1924.

Sarasota County Historical Commission. Photograph Collection. <u>#35262</u>. On file Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.

Sarasota Times. May 24, 1923. Microfilm on file, Sarasota County Historical Archives, Sarasota, Florida.

# **9** BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

# **10**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Site Size (Approx. Acreage of Property):

Less than l

UTM Coordinates:

1, 7 3 4 7 0 0 0 3 0 2 4 4 8 0 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

USGS Sarasota 7.5 1973

Township	Range	Section
T36S	R18E	19



### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Owen Burns Subdivision Lot 38, 40 & 42, Block B POS 1/19

Block No. B / Lot No. 2

STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY	<u> </u>	CODE
		Preservation Cor	nsultant, City	of Sarasota	
arah L	e atham Kearns / NON	Preservation Cor	sultant, City	of Sarasota DATE	
arah L	e atham Kearns /	Preservation Cor	nsultant, City		
arah L Organizat /o Pl	e atham Kearns / non anning Departme	Preservation Cor	nsultant, City		
arah L DRGANIZAT /O P1 STREET & N	e atham Kearns / non anning Departme	Preservation Cor	nsultant, City	DATE	
ORGANIZAT :/O P1 STREET & N	LE atham Kearns / MON anning Departme UMBER 11 P.O. Box 10	Preservation Cor	nsultant, City	DATE	ZIP CODE

