

STATE: Florida
 COUNTY: Dade
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: JUL 24 1974

P40022209

HZ
 E 573240
 Z 17 N 2847000

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Coral Gables City Hall
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
405 Biltmore Way
 CITY OR TOWN: Coral Gables CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Eleventh
 STATE: Florida CODE: 12 COUNTY: Dade CODE: 025

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City of Coral Gables
 STREET AND NUMBER: 405 Biltmore Way
 CITY OR TOWN: Coral Gables STATE: Florida CODE: 12

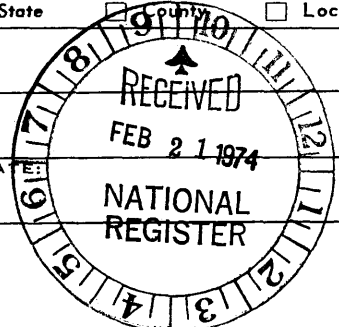
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dade County Courthouse
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Miami STATE: Florida CODE: 12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: N/A
 DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Coral Gables City Hall building is a three-story, apsidal shaped structure constructed primarily of Florida key limestone with stucco exterior walls. The low hip roof is covered with Spanish barrel tile. The City Hall was built in 1927 at a cost of \$250,000, and was designed by architects Phineas Paist and Denman Fink whose other works appear throughout the City of Coral Gables. The curving apse is perhaps the most notable feature of this landmark building which follows the Spanish Renaissance style of architecture. There are two entrances to the building, each located on the north and south facades. The south facade has engaged pilasters supporting an entablature and two molded panels forming the surround which rises through the second story and forms the surround for the window above this entrance. This entry is completed by a cast stone shield.

The north entrance is flanked by engaged columns, supporting a narrow balcony. The balustrade on the balcony contains a panel with the words "City Hall" inscribed. The balcony doors have a surround of engaged pilasters supporting an entablature and an ornate shield. The west facade entrance and the balcony above are located in a two-story niche. The surround is simple having engaged columns on the first story and the top of the niche crowned with a shield. The balcony overlooks the garden courtyard which is enclosed by walls on the west and north, the west facade and a loggia on the south.

The apsidal end is semicircular in plan with a smooth rectangular stone block base pierced by casement windows at regular intervals. The center of the base contains a panel with a stone relief face over a half basin which sits in a semicircular pool. Water runs from the mouth of the sculpture into the basin and the pool. The upper portion of the apse has two-story composite order columns around the perimeter. The walls are recessed behind the columns. The roof line is completed with a stone balustrade interrupted at the center by an ornate relief panel.

The city hall is crowned by a three stage tower. Each stage is square and smaller than the one below. The tower has an ornamental metal roof. The second stage has a louvered panel in each face; the third stage has a clock in each face. The tower is reputed to be a replica of the tower on the city hall of Sevilla, Spain.

The walls of the square block also have a smooth base on the first story. The north and west facades have engaged pilasters from the base to the lower edge of the third-story windows. The pilasters are stone, the walls are painted stucco. The building has an entablature over the second story and over the third story as well.

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(Number all entries) 7. Description

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The interior features a mural by John St. John, American muralist, covering the wall of the stair well at the third floor level. Entitled "Landmarks of the Twenties," it depicts early Coral Gables scenes and structures.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1927**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

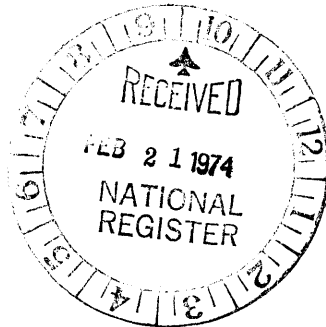
- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Coral Gables City Hall building is an impressive municipal structure designed in a style reminiscent of Mediterranean architecture. The structure was built of Florida limestone in 1927 at a cost of \$250,000. The building was the creation of Denman Fink and Phineas Paist, whose other works are found throughout Coral Gables.

The building location, at the head of prestigious Miracle Mile, is the focal point as one enters the City of Coral Gables, and is one of the City's most stately buildings. As a municipal building, it is certainly one of the most outstanding architectural examples to be found in the State of Florida.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached sheet.

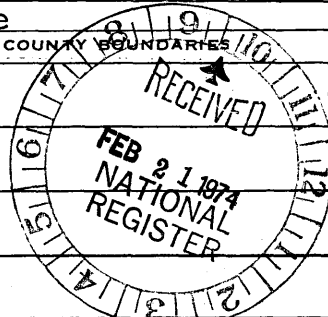
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N25° 44' 55"	W80° 15' 49"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mary K. Evans, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Div. of Archives, History & Records Mgt. DATE: 9-13-72

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name: *Robert Williams*
Title: Historic Preservation Officer

Date: February 6, 1974

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

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

Date: 7/24/74

ATTEST:
Conrad M. ...
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 2-19-74

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(Number all entries) 9. Major Bibliographical References

Community Development Department, City of Coral Gables, Florida. (Booklet), City Hall, Coral Gables, Florida.

Coral Gables Public Library. Vertical File: newspaper articles, photographs, documents. Coral Gables, Florida.

Dade County Courthouse, Miami, Florida. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Dade County Records. (Subgroup: deeds).

Highlights of Greater Miami, Miami, Florida: Mills Publications, Inc., 1972.

Historical Museum of Southern Florida and the Caribbean. Documents, photographs, newspaper articles. Miami, Florida.

LeBrun, Don. Personal Interview (by Mary K. Evans), July, 1972. Coral Gables City Hall, Coral Gables, Florida.

