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

JUL 03 1989

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sebring, H. Orvel, House
other names/site number 8 HG 137

2. Location

street & number 483 South Lake View Drive N/A not for publication
city, town Sebring N/A vicinity
state Florida code FL county Highlands code FL 055 zip code 33870

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Multiple Resources of Sebring, FL

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 6/21/89
Signature of certifying official State Historic Preservation Officer Date
FL Dept. of State - Bureau of Historic Preservation

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

[Signature] 8/14/89

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls wood

stucco

roof tile, clay

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1919

Significant Dates

1919

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Elliot, M. Leo

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please See Cover Nomination for Multiple Resources of Sebring, FL

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

_____ Bureau of Historic Preservation _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately two acres

UTM References

A

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

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Town of Sebring, Trans Book PG 6- S1/2 of Lot 4, Block 92.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary follows the legal boundary description historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Vicki L. Welcher - Historic Sites Specialist
 organization FL Dept. of State-Bureau of His. Preservation date June 21, 1989
 street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333
 city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399-0250

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

H. Orvel Sebring House

The H. Orvel Sebring House is two story, stuccoed, wood framed residence located on a lake front lot at 483 South Lake View Drive in Sebring, Florida. It represents the Spanish Colonial Revival style in its classically symmetrical composition; smooth stucco finishing; red, clay barrel tile roofing, numerous archways and arched winged walls resembling port cochres.

The massing and fenestration of the building is regular and symmetrical. The main block contains a moderately sloped hip roof with enclosed eaves. A shed roofed five bay porch has round arches on piers under projecting pediments in the first and fifth bays, and staggered square openings in the second, third and fourth bays. The third, or central bay, contains the main entrance flanked by sculpted lions on pedestals. Arcaded wing walls at the first story complete the composition. The first story has four double hung, wood sash windows with 15/1 panes and a centered entrance with sidelights. The second story contains 12/1 double hung wood sash and a centered triple casement sash.

The H. Orvel Sebring house is unaltered since the time of its construction. However, while it would appear that a servants quarters/garage should have been constructed with the house, one does not appear on aerial photographs; access to the rear of the property is restricted.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

H. Orvel Sebring House

The H. Orvel Sebring House is significant at the local level under Criterion C as an excellent example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style in Sebring, and for its association with an architect of statewide significance, M. Leo Elliot. The H. Orvel Sebring House was designed and built for H. O. Sebring in 1919 by M. Lee Elliot of Tampa, Florida. It is associated with H. Orvel Sebring, son of the town's founder, and a significant force in the development of the town.

H. ORVEL SEBRING

H. Orvel Sebring was born the son of George Sebring in Liverpool, Ohio in 1881. He graduated from Harvard in 1904 and married Elsa Roderus in that same year. It is surmised that he conceptualized the circular town plan of Sebring, Florida, using his studies at Harvard as references. He also aided his father in attracting settlers to the new town by promoting it in Ohio and the Northeast.

H. O. Sebring served on the City Council from 1913 to 1919, and then again from 1926 until 1928. In this capacity he was a leader in promoting the need for better roads, agricultural and citrus development, during the early planning and development of the town. He became a pivotal figure in the fight for county division which resulted, in 1921, in the splitting of old DeSoto Counties into five counties. Additionally, he was instrumental in the selection of Sebring as the county seat. His business activities included involvement in various family real estate brokerages, developments, and investment concerns, an insurance firm, and the management of the now demolished Sebring Hotel.

M. LEO ELLIOT

The H. O. Sebring House is significant architecturally for its style and its architect, M. Leo Elliot, perhaps the most significant architect whose work is represented in Sebring. Elliot was born at Woodstock, New York April 4, 1886, the son of Irish immigrants. While barely a teenager, he moved to New York City and secured a job as an office boy in the architectural and engineering firm of Welch, Smith, and Provot. He worked at the firm from 1901 until 1906. During those years he completed his high school education and studied at Cooper Institute and Don Barber's Atelier. After a serious illness, he moved to Norfolk, Virginia, where he helped design the Jamestown Exposition. After the opening of the Exposition, he left Norfolk and relocated to Tampa in 1907.

Elliot's first work in Tampa consisted of designs for the Centro Asturiano Club, and the Y.M.C.A. building. In September, 1907 he formed a partnership with B.C. Bonfoey; one of the firm's most important commissions

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H. Orvel Sebring House

was the Tampa City Hall, which was won through competitive design. Another of their commissions was the DeSoto County Courthouse, constructed at Arcadia in 1912 and 1913.

At the outset of World War I, Elliot and Bonfoey dissolved their partnership. Elliot became a government contractor, serving as an engineer in the construction of concrete oil tankers at Jacksonville and assisting in the construction of the first concrete ship at Brunswick, Georgia. In 1920, he returned to Tampa and resumed his architectural practice under the name M. Leo Elliot, Inc., Architects and Engineers. At its peak, the firm employed 46 draftsmen, 6 structural engineers, 17 inspectors, and a secretarial staff making it one of the largest architectural firms in the South. During the height of the Florida Land Boom, Elliot formed a partnership in Miami named Kienell and Elliot, and designed many structures in the area that have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Although a few of these are residential structures, they were part of a package for Miami Shores Development and were contracted with a high commission. The majority of Elliot's work through the early 1940s was commercial and municipal structures.

During World War II, Elliot opened an office in Atlanta and planned and designed millions of dollars of war time housing. When the war ended, he returned to Tampa and became a partner in M. Leo Elliot and Eliot C. Fletcher, Architects Associated.

Throughout his professional life Leo Elliot was among the leading architects in Florida. He was one of the organizers and temporary chairman of the organizational meeting of the Florida Association of Architects held at Jacksonville in 1914. He was active in the passage of the state licensing law the following year. He was the fifth architect registered in the state and was a member of the American Institute of Architects.

Elliot and his associates designed a number of highly significant buildings throughout the state. Among the buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places are the Tampa City Hall, the Centro Asturiano, the Italian Club, and Hillsborough Lodge #25. Other significant buildings designed by Elliot were the Scottish Rites Temple, the First National Bank, Sarasota; Sarasota High School; the Tampa Municipal Hospital, Davis Island; the Palace of Florence Apartments, Davis Islands; Seaborn Academy, Davis Islands; Lafayette Arcade, Tampa; City Hall, Frostproof; the Peninsula Telephone Building, Tampa; the B.C. Graham School, Tampa; the Tampa Gas Company Building; the YWCA Building, Tampa; and the Dade City Elementary School.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

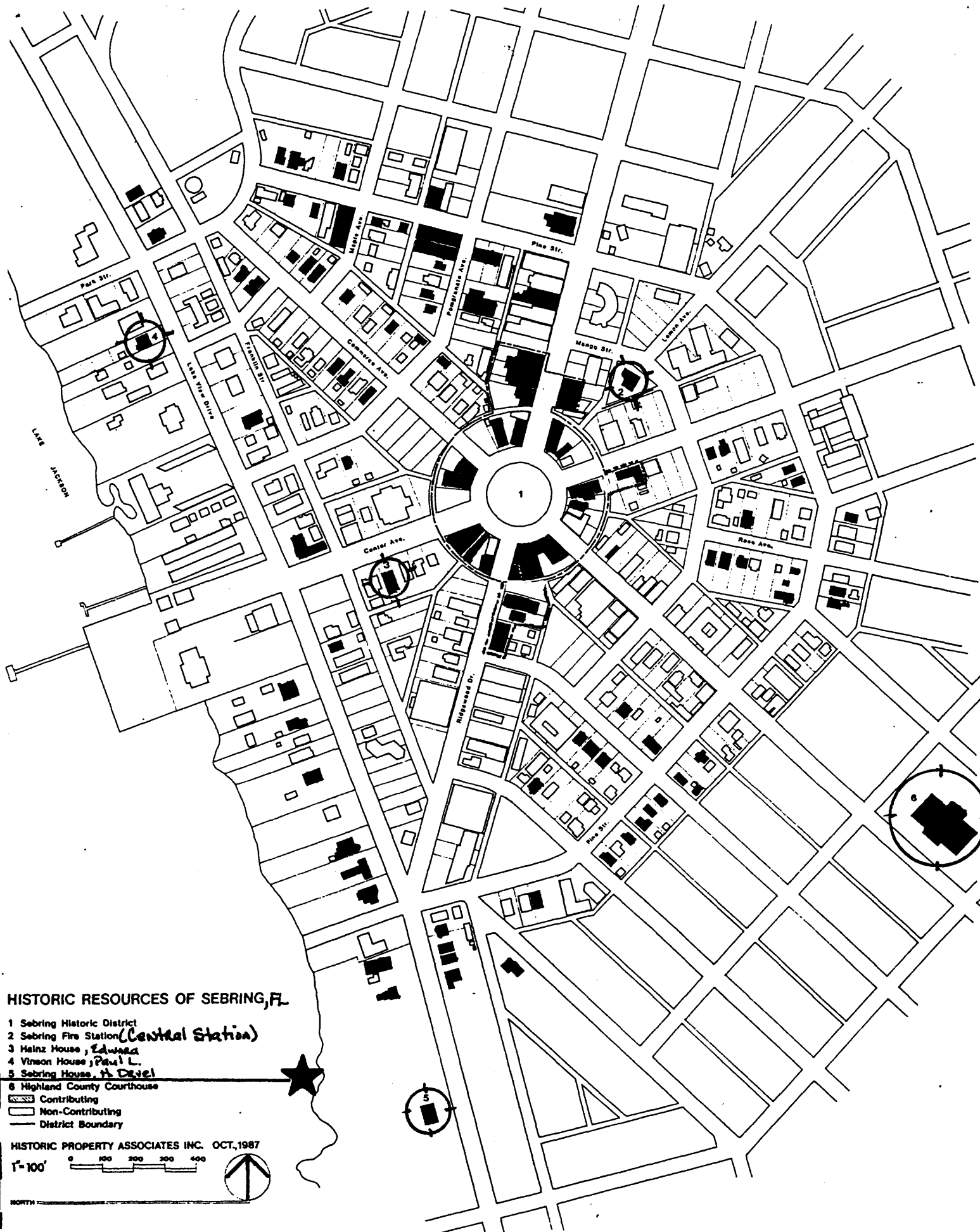
Section number 8 Page 3

H. Orvel Sebring House

The H. O. Sebring House is a rare example of an Elliot design for a private residence. It is surmised that Elliot designed the house either as a personal favor to the Sebring Family, or at a very high commission.




SPANISH COLONIAL REVIVAL STYLE

The house is an excellent example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style as applied to residences in Sebring, Florida. Constructed by an architect skilled in the classical styles, it retains the symmetry associated with the Classical Revival styles. The style of the structure, with its use of both the Classical Revival style elements, and elements associated with the Spanish Colonial Revival style, reflects the input of both the owner and the architect. Elliot worked almost exclusively with municipal structures and, therefore, was most comfortable with the classic style. However, the Sebrings were intent on creating a distinctive feeling and association with the Spanish Colonial Revival styles in the formation of the Town of Sebring. Elliot combined classical elements such as the sidelights, multipane fenestration, classical posts, with the clay barrel tile roofing and numerous arches and arcades of the Spanish Colonial Revival style to create an exclusive residence that sufficiently expressed the significance of the original owner, without being flashy, or pompous.



HISTORIC RESOURCES OF SEBRING, FL.

- 1 Sebring Historic District
- 2 Sebring Fire Station (Central Station)
- 3 Mainz House, Edward
- 4 Vinson House, Paul L.
- 5 Sebring House, H. Devel
- 6 Highland County Courthouse

 Contributing
 Non-Contributing
 District Boundary

HISTORIC PROPERTY ASSOCIATES INC. OCT. 1987

1" = 100'

