

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 5 1980
DATE ENTERED JUL 17 1980

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Casa Coe da Sol

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

510 Park Street North

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

St. Petersburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

5 or 6

STATE

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY

Pinellas

CODE

103

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Petronis, Henry and Edith

STREET & NUMBER

510 Park Street North

CITY, TOWN

St. Petersburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Florida 33710

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pinellas County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Clearwater

STATE

Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

City of St. Petersburg Cultural Resource Survey

DATE

1977-78

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

City of St. Petersburg Planning Dept.

CITY, TOWN

St. Petersburg

STATE

Florida

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Casa Coe da Sol remains virtually unaltered from the date of its construction. This 2-story, stucco-covered hollow tile Mediterranean Revival structure is situated on approximately two acres of bayfront property.

Similar to most of his structures, Casa Coe da Sol has simple, flat facades with a wide variety of window sashes. Windows vary from the Venetian window in the library to the simple casements on the second story. Shallow set backs as found on the east facade are also common in Mizner structures.

The main (east) entrance to the structure is a series of bronze framed sliding plate glass doors (a product of Mizner Industries) which are situated in a three bay arcade. Exits to the west, south and north terraces are also through a series of these arcaded plate glass doors creating a sense of openness in the rotunda area. The second floor is reached by the double free-standing cast coral curved stairways in the rotunda. Entrances to all rooms on the second floor are located in the circular gallery which overlooks the rotunda.

Typical of most Mizner structures, wrought iron and cast stone are used extensively to decorate both the interior and exterior of Casa Coe da Sol. Wrought iron and cast concrete balconies decorate the exterior facade on the west and east elevations respectively. Cast quarrystone busts are located in the semi-circular window pediments on the west elevation.

On the interior, wrought iron forms the railing of the stairway, and the second story gallery. It is also used to decorate the arched entrance into the kitchen from the breakfast room. Cast quarrystone is used for the columns, plinths and entablature of the rotunda and cloister areas.

Each room in Casa Coe da Sol has a unique character. The library with its cross-vaulted muraled ceiling and chamfered corners has oak panelling and a large Venetian window. The coffee room also has a vaulted ceiling but is detailed with bright mosaic tiles and the seating areas are clover leaf in plan. The living room is distinctive with pecky cypress panelled beamed ceiling and cast quarrystone fireplace. The cloister with its cross vaulted ceiling and Mizner blue tile floor provides access to the west terrace.

In some of the second floor bedrooms and bathrooms Mizner made use of art deco fixtures. Black glass is used for a mantel and as wainscoating in a bathroom, and chrome detailing uses art deco forms.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES +1931

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Casa Coe da Sol was the last building designed by Florida architect, Addison Mizner, to be constructed.¹ This Mediterranean Revival structure, completed during the 1930's also has the distinction of being the only Mizner-designed building erected on the West Coast of Florida.²

Considered a "world famous architect" during the 1920's Addison Mizner was known for his significant and distinctive interpretation of Spanish architecture. Brought to Palm Beach from New York in 1918 as the guest of Paris Singer (heir to the Singer Sewing Machine fortune), Mizner felt that the northern architectural styles he found in Palm Beach were out of place in the tropical setting of Florida. He, with the financial support of Singer, introduced the architecture which would eventually become synonymous with the rich of South Florida in the 1920's- the Mediterranean Revival style. Placing emphasis on flat, simple surfaces with rhythmic but random window placement, asymmetrical plans, loggias, and an integration of exterior design and interior decoration, Mizner designed such Palm Beach landmarks as the Everglades Club (1918), Via Mizner (1924) and the Embassy Club (1928) (now the Society of the Four Arts).³

Mizner's acquaintance with Spanish 16th and 17th century design came at the early age of 17 when his father served as a U.S. minister in Central America. Three years later Mizner attended the University of Salamanca in Spain.⁴ The red tile roofs, towers and arcaded entrances and windows incorporated in his architectural designs recreated the atmosphere that Mizner came to know and love during his youth.

Mizner, unlike most of his contemporaries, went one step further in designing in the Spanish mode in Florida. Due to the World War I shipping embargo and the unacceptable quality of American made roof tile, Mizner decided to manufacture his own roof and floor tiles and also to produce ironwork and furniture. In 1918 with help from Paris Singer, he started the firm "Las Manos" (handcrafted) in West Palm Beach.⁵ Mizner eventually bought out Singer's share in the company and later renamed Las Manos, Mizner Industries, Incorporated.⁶ Over the years and due to its continuous success, his industry expanded-- light fixtures, pottery and stone detailing were also produced. He even created his own "antiques" by purposely cracking stonework and rusting wrought iron.⁷

(See continuation sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See continuation sheet)

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2a

UTM NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE NAME St. Petersburg

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 min.

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 327960 3073620

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of that part and parcel of Lots One and Two, Block H of the Golf Course and Jungle Subdivision, St. Petersburg, Florida.

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Strassburger, Robin, Historic Sites Specialist

5/15/80

ORGANIZATION

Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Mgt.

(904) 487-2333

STREET & NUMBER

The Capitol

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida 32301

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

Phone from Database

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

5/15/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7/17/80

ATTEST:

[Signature]
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

7/15/80

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Designed after the failure of his proposed restricted residential community for the rich (Distrito de Boca Raton), Casa Coe da Sol reflects the style and grandeur of his earlier residences. Shaped in an irregular H-plan, the two-story stucco structure is considered Mizner's smallest residence. Mizner incorporated into his new building a small house which was located on one of the two lots on which his new design was to be sited.⁸ The original owner requested that this house be embodied within the new design to preserve the elaborately domed and muraled bathroom.⁹ Mizner raised this house which then became the second story of the northwest wing of Casa Coe da Sol.

Many of Mizner Industries' products can be seen throughout Casa Coe da Sol. The brass light fixtures in the cloister, livingroom and at various entrances on the exterior were manufactured at the plant. "Mizner blue" floor tiles serve as the floor covering for the rotunda and cloister area. Stonework produced for the house consisted of busts above the window openings on the exterior of the house and the cast quarystone fireplace in the livingroom. Wrought iron detailing is found throughout the house. The most prominent exterior feature created by Mizner is the red barrel tile roof. Several pieces of Mizner's "antique" furniture can be found in the rotunda and cloister areas.

Entrance into Casa Coe da Sol is obtained through a series of bronze sliding sashes. Mizner designed these sashes because of the impracticality (steel and iron sashes rusted, wood rotted in the ocean spray) of wood and metal sashes in Florida. With the openness that Mizner tried to obtain with his heavily fenestrated rooms and cloisters, he decided to create and manufacture a new window framing system which was then, weather resistant and operable. Door and window sashes were designed to slide by overlapping frames or to disappear into the floor or walls when open.¹⁰ Not only is the entrance of Casa Coe da Sol furnished with these sashes, but also the cloister and entrances to the north and south terraces. This provides much natural lighting to the rotunda area, and when the bronze sliding sashes are open, creates an interior courtyard, a feature prominent in all Mizner residences.¹¹

Casa Coe da Sol, was commissioned by a wealthy client. Although it is unclear which of the Williams of the Cincinnati-based Western Southern Life Insurance Company¹² actually contracted Mizner, the house was designed to serve as the winter residence for this family.

(See continuation sheet)

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Subsequent owners of the house were "a Mr. Russell" who was once in charge of the Farragut Academy (located directly on the east side of Park Street from the house); Brigadier General Lacy Van Buren Murrow; a "Mr. Hurlin"; and present owners Mr. and Mrs. Henry Petronis.¹³

Of all the owners, Brigadier General Lacey Morrow is the only one of note. Murrow, brother of famous newscaster, Edward R., was a much decorated Air Force officer of World War II. He bought Casa Coe da Sol in June, 1966 and in October of that year indicated that he planned to "build homes in the \$50,000-up category on the property." He committed suicide on December 16 of that year so the project was never started.¹⁴

Casa Coe da Sol serves as the residence for the Petronis family. Its unaltered state, its uniqueness as the only Mizner-designed residence on Florida's west coast, and Mizner's last completed commission, make this building a noteworthy structure in the City of St. Petersburg.

NOTE: Ms. Christina Orr's research and publication of Addison Mizner Architect of Dreams and Realities was made possible through grants from the Fine Arts Council of Florida and the National Endowment for the Arts. This researcher feels that the book portrays an accurate picture of the Architect and has relied on the information provided by the author.

¹Christina Orr, Addison Mizner Architect of Dreams and Realities (Stuart, Florida: Southeastern Printing Company, Inc., 1977), p. 62.

²Ibid., pp. 60-62.

³Ibid., pp. 60-62.

⁴Orr, p. 52, Mizner, p. 13.

⁵Orr, p. 52.

⁶Addison Mizner, Incomplete Manuscript, ca. 1932, Private Collection, p. 55 from Orr, p. 52.

(See continuation sheet)

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⁷Orr, p. 54.

⁸Oscar J. Steinert, personal communications with Henry and Edith Petronis, 1971.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Orr, p. 56.

¹¹Orr, p. 27.

¹²Letter from one source, Carl E. Tittman to Mr. Petronis, 19 February 1976, Copy on file at the Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Tallahassee stated that the house was "meant to serve as the Winter home of Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Williams, founders of Western Southern Life Insurance Company." Another source, Emma Williams - Burlingham to Robin R. Strassburger, 9 April 1979, on file at Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management, states that the house was built for her father, Frank Caldwell Williams (son of W.J. Williams). House Plans were entitled, "Residence for Mrs. F.C. Williams, St. Petersburg, Florida, Addison Mizner, Architect, Job No. 665, 1931 (copy on file at residence of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Petronis, 510 Park Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida.

¹³William Burlingham to Strassburger, 9 April 1979.

¹⁴St. Petersburg Times, 18 December 1966, p. 6B.

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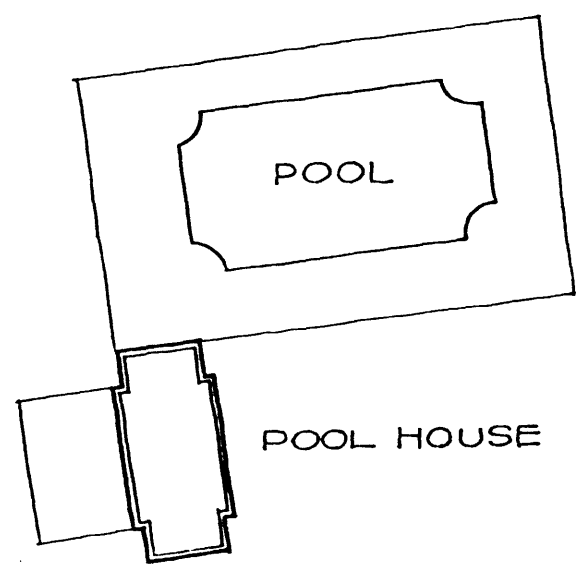
- Federal Writer's Project. Florida: A Guide to the Southernmost State. New York: Oxford University Press, 1939.
- Johnston, Alva. The Legendary Mizners. New York: Farrar, Strauss and Young, 1942.
- Mizner, Addison. Residence for Mrs. F.C. Williams, St. Petersburg, Florida. Job No. 665, Palm Beach, Florida, 1931. In possession of Henry Petronis, St. Petersburg, Florida.
- National Encyclopaedia of American Biography, Volume XXIV. New York: James T. White & Company, 1935.
- Orr, Christina. Addison Mizner Architect of Dreams and Realities. Stuart, Florida: Southeastern Printing Company, Inc., 1977.
- St. Petersburg, City of. Building Permit Record for 510 Park Street North. Permit No. 28535. 15 September 1931.
- St. Petersburg Times. December 18, 1966.
- Simonson, Mrs. Byron. Personal communications with Henry and Edith Petronis. Palm Beach, 4 March 1977.
- Steinert, Oscar J. Personal communications with Henry and Edith Petronis. 1971.
- Tittman, Carl E. to Petronis, Mr. 19 February 1976. Copy on file at the Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Tallahassee, Florida
- _____. "From Zero to Zephyr." Cincinnati Fine Arts Journal, Volume VII, February, 1935.
- Williams, Charles M. to Strassburger, Robin R. 29 March 1979. Copy on file at the Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Tallahassee, Florida.
- Williams-Burlingham, Emma to Strassburger, Robin R. 9 April 1979. Copy on file at the Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Tallahassee, Florida.

YACHT BASIN

GARAGE

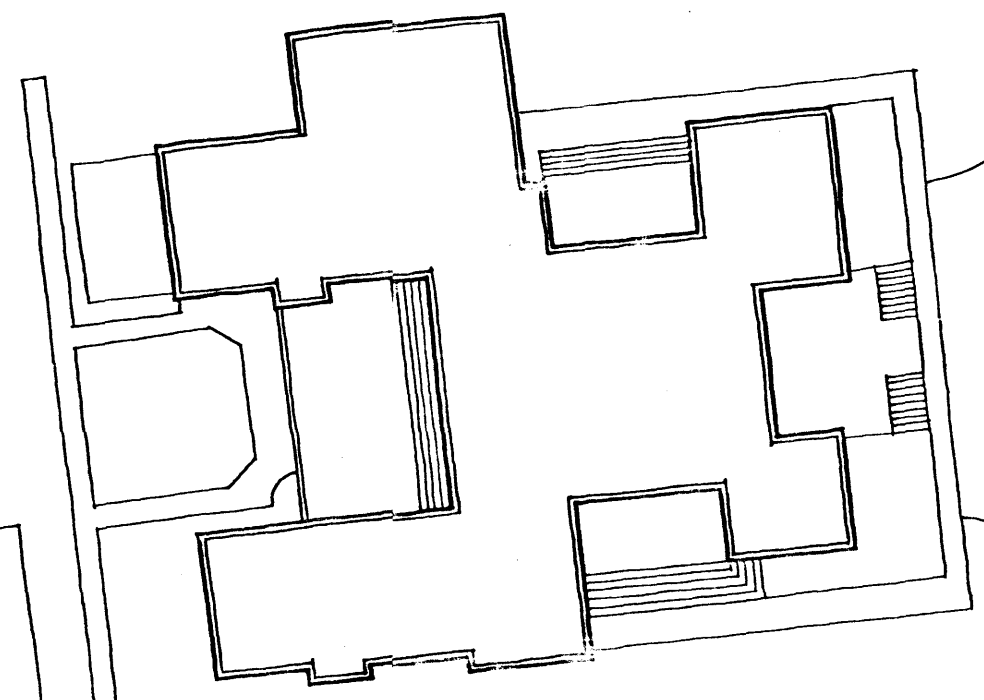
BOCA CIEGA BAY

PARK STREET NORTH

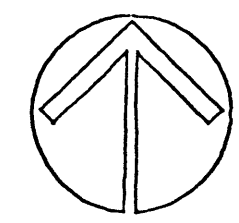
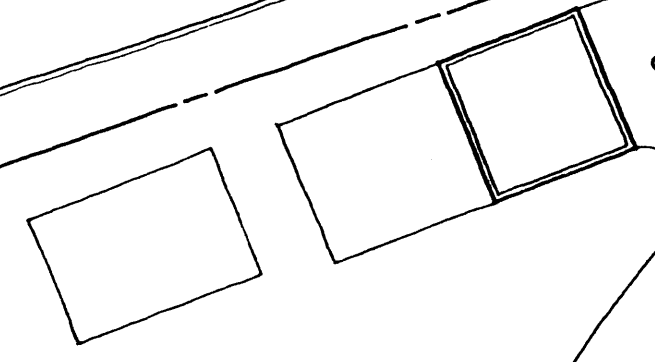


POOL

POOL HOUSE



RESIDENCE



CASA COE DA SOL , ST. PETERSBURG , FLORIDA