

PH0015644

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida
COUNTY: Dade
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE OCT 1 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Halissee Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1700 N.W. 10th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Miami

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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 type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Hospital facility

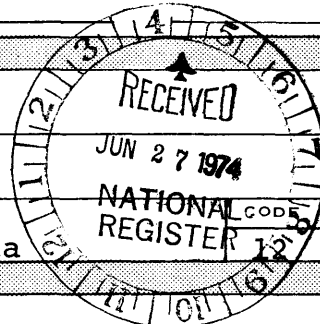
**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
University of Miami School of Medicine

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1600 N.W. 10th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Miami

STATE:  
Florida



**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Dade County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
73 West Flagler Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Miami

STATE:  
Florida

CODE:  
12

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
State of Florida Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Division of Archives, History & Records Management

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN:  
Tallahassee

STATE:  
Florida

CODE:  
12

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Florida

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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

Halissee Hall, built during the years 1912-1918, was the private residence of John Sewell. The mansion was built on 14 acres of the highest land in Miami. The structure is a two and one-half story rectangular shaped building with 18-inch thick natural limestone exterior walls. The irregular limestone blocks were quarried from the site, and hand worked by a Basque stonemason.

The main facade is dominated by a two-story, flat roofed portico with a masonry balustrade defining the deck. Six Corinthian columns rise to a plain entablature and cornice. The order is repeated atop the pilasters located on the back wall of the portico. Fenestration on the main facade is regular, although somewhat unique. On the ground floor two pairs of French doors flank the main entrance, the lower part of a two-story frontispiece. Both French doors and the vertically glazed central doors are topped with lunettes with diamond patterned mullions. Stone voussoirs top the French doors and a wooden voussoir with cornice tops the entry. At the second level double-hung sash windows in plain surrounds flank French doors, treated as below, but with the addition of a small wrought iron balcony. On the sides of the building, fenestration is irregular. Although the windows vary in size and type, there are running labels giving continuity to the whole. Chimneys are defined on the east and west walls by a slight projection in the wall surface, running the full height of the building and terminating in extremely tall, panelled chimney shafts. On the front, or main block of the house, there are three dormers each on the east and west sides of the low hipped roof, each with casement windows and a triangular pediment. On the back wing there is one dormer, similarly treated, on the east and west. A deck at the crest of the roof is defined by the same masonry balustrade seen atop the portico.

The building contains 15 rooms--among them, seven bedrooms, a music room, parlor, library, and a ballroom on the third level. Fireplaces were built in most of the rooms. Heavy, sliding wooden doors separated the library from other first floor rooms. The interior was decorated with cherry and gum wall paneling. Chandeliers were imported from Cuba, and other furnishings and accessories were obtained from foreign countries as well as from this country. Floors are inlaid oak parquet. Ceilings extend 12 feet and feature decorative molding. A massive central staircase extends to all stories.

Gate posts of stone and concrete decorated with elaborate shields mark the entrance to the grounds of Halissee Hall. A carriage house which was located on the estate was recently torn down. The building remains in good condition; however, the formal landscaped setting which originally surrounded it has been replaced by parking lots and modern concrete structures built to within a few yards of Halissee Hall.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1912-1918**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

Halissee Hall (Seminole word for "New Moon") derives its significance from its association with John Sewell, a pioneer Miamian known for his political and public contributions to the city.

Sewell was a labor superintendent for the firm of McGuire and McDonald, the builders of all the Flagler hotels. He and J.S. Oliver, a railroad contractor, laid tracks for Flagler's East Coast Railroad. He also worked at the Disston Sugar Mill and built a road for the company. He came to Miami in 1896 with his brother, E.G. Sewell, with plans for a mercantile business and at the same time to work with Flagler interests in building the city, extending the railroad to Miami, and building the Royal Palm Hotel.

He was elected to the county commission and served as third mayor of the city from 1903 to 1907. He is credited with the discovery of use of crushed "Miami Stone" (native limestone) as a road building material, and also built his home, Halissee Hall, from the same material. The mansion was built in 1912, in celebration of his 45th birthday. The 18-inch thick stone walls were hand cut by a Basque stonecutter, and the house required six years to complete. Sewell's house was said to have been among the most elaborate of the early residences in the city. It was from Halissee Hall that Sewell wrote his Memoirs in 1921.

The home was sold to the City of Miami in 1945 for \$65,000. It was used as the first police academy in the city. Ownership of the building was transferred to Dade County, and later owned by the National Children's Cardiac Hospital. It now is a part of the Jackson Memorial Hospital Complex, serving as administrative offices for the University of Miami Medical facility. The building at one time housed resident doctors and interns of Jackson Memorial Hospital. A carriage house, later torn down, also served as living quarters.

Sewell founded and presided over the Miami Pioneers, Inc. His efforts toward the development of the City of Miami and his sincere interest in the public welfare gained for him the respect

(con't.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See Attached Sheet

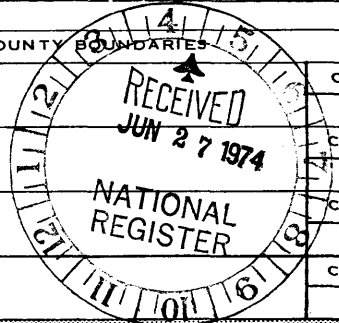
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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° 47' 18"	W80° 12' 53"	
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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

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

ORGANIZATION: Div. of Archives, History & Records Management DATE: Feb. 25, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE:

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Robert Williams</u> Title: <u>Historic Preservation Officer</u> Date: <u>June 11, 1974</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>A. R. Neate</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>10/1/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Charles A. Perry</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>9.20.74</u></p>
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

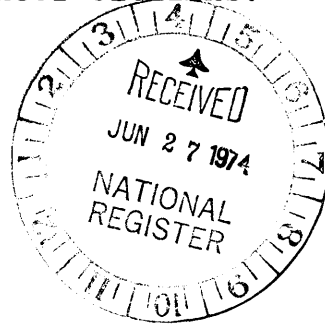
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Dade	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 0071	DATE 1974

(Number all entries) 8. Significance

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and admiration of Miamians. He is remembered today as a progressive and far-sighted businessman and politician, and one of the city's most honored pioneer citizens.



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Florida	
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		OCT 1 1974

(Number all entries)

Bibliography.

Bellamy, Jeanne, "John Sewell, Pioneer, Dies," The Herald, December 2, 1938.

Blackman, E. V. Miami and Dade County, Florida. Its Settlement, Progress and Achievement. Washington: Victor Rainbolt, 1921.

Bohne, Grace Wing, "Miami's Elegant 'Dowagers' Still Hanging On," Miami Herald, June 23, 1967.

Cohen, Isidor. Historical Sketches and Sidelights of Miami, Florida. Cambridge: University Press, 1925.

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

Florida Collection. Documents, photographs, articles, news clippings. Miami Public Library, Miami, Florida.

Historical Museum of Southern Florida and the Caribbean. Special collection including photographs, documents, newspaper articles, and miscellaneous materials relating to John and E. G. Sewell.

Miami Herald, February 13, 1966; July 23, 1968.

Muir, Helen. Miami, U.S.A. Coconut Grove: Hurricane House Publishers, Inc., 1953.

Sewell, John. John Sewell's Memoirs and History of Miami. 1933.

Smiley, Nixon. Yesterday's Miami. Miami: E. A. Seemann Publishing, Inc., 1973.



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

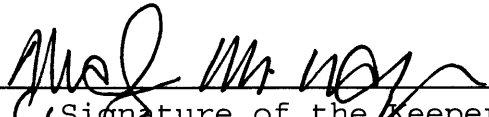
**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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**Halissee Hall  
Dade County, FLORIDA**

I hereby certify that the move proposed for this building is approved.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
for Signature of the Keeper

5/28/99  
Date of Action