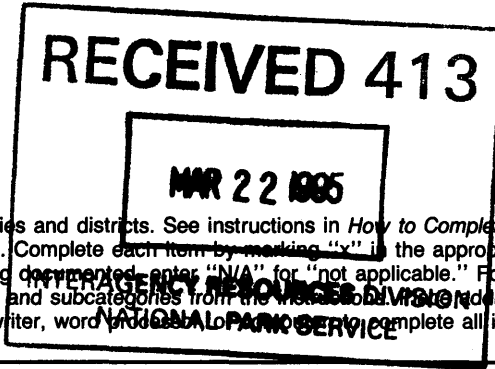


471

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. For additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Milton-Myers American Legion Post No. 65

other names/site number Site File #PB00418

2. Location

street & number 263 N.E. 5th Avenue not for publication

city or town Delray Beach vicinity

state Florida code FL county Palm Beach code 099 zip code 33483-5530

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Suzanne P. Walker / Deputy SHPO 3/17/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall Entered in the National Register Date of Action 4/20/95

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/ Meeting Hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/ Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/

Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stucco

roof Tar and Gravel

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1921-1945

Significant Dates

1921

1945

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Builder: John Thieme

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	5 9 2 9 0 0	2 9 2 7 4 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sandra Ann Thomas/ Sherry Piland, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date March 1995

street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Fl. zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

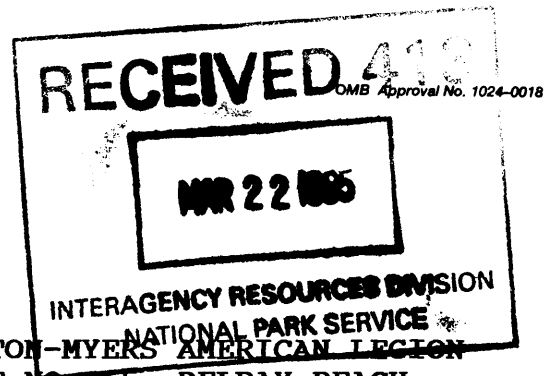
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1



MILTON-MYERS AMERICAN LEGION
POST NO. 65, DELRAY BEACH,
PALM BEACH CO., FL.

SUMMARY

The Milton-Myers American Legion Post No. 65 is located at 263 N.E. 5th Avenue in Delray Beach, Florida. The building was constructed in 1921 in the Mission Revival style and enlarged with a rear addition in 1945. The rectangular masonry building has exterior walls finished in stucco. The combination flat and extremely low-pitched hangar roof is surfaced with tar and gravel and concealed by a parapet. The building rests on a concrete slab foundation.

SETTING

The building is located on the east side of N.E. 5th Avenue, two blocks north of East Atlantic in the downtown area of Delray Beach. N.E. 5th Avenue is a one-way, southbound street, formerly known as Boynton Street. The street was widened in 1959.

A residence is located to the north of the American Legion Building. To the east is a surface parking lot. A vacant lot is to the west and a small commercial building is to the south.

DESCRIPTION

EXTERIOR

The main facade of the American Legion building faces west (photo 1). A small concrete platform in front of the centrally located entrance serves as a small stoop and is flanked by concrete benches, placed perpendicular to the building and facing each other. This primary facade consists of a projecting lower block that contains the entrance door and paired flanking windows. Behind this the building rises in height to terminate in a parapet, curved in the center and stepped at each end.

The double, wood entry doors are recessed in a small foyer. Above the door is the inscription "American Legion" in raised stucco letters. The paired windows flanking the entrance are six-light wood casements with semicircular fanlight transoms. The parapet over each window pair has barrel tile coping.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

MILTON-MYERS AMERICAN LEGION
POST NO. 65, DELRAY BEACH,
PALM BEACH CO., FL.

In the center of the upper parapet is the American Legion insignia, in stucco. A flag pole projects above the insignia. Flanking the curved central portion of the parapet are paired, louvered attic vents, set in small arched openings.

The north and south elevations are basically identical (photos 2 and 3). The lower, projecting front block of the building has a single window on each of these facades, identical to those of the main facade. Just to the east of these windows, is a small projecting screen wall. Beyond the screen wall, on each elevation, is a truncated wall chimney, with barrel tile coping. Flanking the chimneys are 1/1, double hung sash windows. Pier buttresses divide the remainder of both the east and west facades into a series of bays. Two of the bays on each elevation contain large aluminum awning windows. The windows on these elevations, with the exception of those in the projecting block, have security bars. Near the rear of the building, on each elevation is another screen wall. The portion of the building to the east of the screen walls is a 1945 addition. The addition is not as tall as the original portion of the structure and is fenestrated with metal louvers. The parapet on the east and west elevations has barrel tile coping.

The rear (east) elevation has a centrally located, double wood entry door (photo 4). It is flanked by tripartite, metal louvered openings.

INTERIOR

The entrance leads to a short hallway, flanked by small reception rooms. Each reception room has a rustic stone fireplace with an interior stone chimney (photo 5). East of the reception rooms, the hallway opens into a large, open meeting room (photo 6). The ceiling is unfinished, with exposed ceiling joists. Most of the pine floors are covered with linoleum, and most of the walls are finished with plaster.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

**MILTON-MYERS AMERICAN LEGION
POST NO. 65, DELRAY BEACH,
PALM BEACH CO., FL.**

ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS

The only significant alterations to the building have been the replacement of wood windows on the east and west elevations with aluminum awning windows. The building was extended approximately 15 feet to the rear with an addition in 1945.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**MILTON-MYERS AMERICAN LEGION
POST NO. 65, DELRAY BEACH,
PALM BEACH CO., FL.**

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Milton-Myers American Legion Post No. 65, at 263 N.W. 5th Avenue, in Delray Beach, Florida, was built in 1921. It is the oldest building in Florida to have been built specifically as an American Legion Building and to have served continuously in that capacity since the time of its construction. The members of Post No. 65 have a long history of community service and have played important roles in many aspects of the development of Delray Beach. The building is being proposed for nomination under Criteria A and C, for its role in the social history of Delray Beach and as a significant local example of Mission style architecture.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Delray Beach traces its history back to 1876 when the United States Government established a life-saving station on the Atlantic coast, just north of the city's present day location. This "House of Refuge," one of a series along the coast, was intended for the aid of shipwreck survivors.

The actual development of a town began in 1896 when a Saginaw, Michigan native, William Linton, filed a plat for the Town of Linton. Linton had purchased 160 acres near the coastal life-saving station which he then advertised for sale in Saginaw newspapers. By the fall of 1895, ten men had purchased five-acre tracts in Linton's Florida development. In 1896, the Florida East Coast Railroad reached the fledgling settlement, providing a means for the early pineapple and winter vegetable farmers to get their produce to market. Linton suffered financial reverses and his involvement with the development was brief. In 1901, the residents voted to change the name of the town to Delray. At that time, there was a population of 150.

In the first decade of the twentieth century, several churches were organized, the Ladies Improvement Association was founded, a Masonic Lodge was formed, and telephone service was obtained. By 1910, the population had grown to 250. The town of Delray was incorporated in 1911. In 1912, the Delray Board of Trade was established. By 1914, the community had a bank, lumber company, newspaper, drugstore, and electric light plant.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

MILTON-MYERS AMERICAN LEGION
POST NO. 65, DELRAY BEACH,
PALM BEACH CO., FL.

Delray continued its steady growth and by the 1920s was widely known as a resort. In 1920, the population reached 1051. During the years of Florida's Land Boom, the mid-1920s, new residential subdivisions were platted and several large hotels and a golf club were built. In 1927, a Seaboard Airline Railway station was erected. That year, the towns of Delray and Delray Beach, an ocean-front community, joined and incorporated as the City of Delray Beach. During the 1930s, because of its popularity as a resort, a number of writers, poets and socialites built winter homes in the community. By 1935, the population had grown to 2,819, and reached 3,661 in 1940.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

The American Legion was founded in Paris in 1919 and subsequently grew into the world's largest veterans' organization, with over 3 million members in approximately 16,000 Legion Posts.

In 1919, a group of Allied Expeditionary Forces staff officers, led by Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., met in Paris to discuss an organization to bolster soldier morale in the postarmistice period and to provide an alternative to other veterans' groups being formed in the United States. The ideas from this Paris Caucus eventually resulted in the formation of the American Legion. A second Caucus was held three months later, in St. Louis, where a constitution for the organization was adopted. A bill to grant a federal charter to the Legion was passed by Congress in 1919. A headquarters building was erected in Indianapolis in 1925.

The Legionnaires dedicated themselves to inspiring civic responsibility, to preserving the history of their participation in the war, to defending law and order, to maintaining military preparedness, to extending veterans' benefits, and to pursuing "one hundred percent Americanism." Through its highly publicized efforts to obtain benefits for all veterans and its promotion of the GI Bill of Rights for World War II veterans, the American Legion has earned the reputation of being one of the nation's most effective interest groups. Some of the Legion's positions have been controversial, such as its attempts to rid school textbooks and public libraries of works with alien, Communist, or anarchist influences.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

**MILTON-MYERS AMERICAN LEGION
POST NO. 65, DELRAY BEACH,
PALM BEACH CO., FL.**

After its inception, the Legion assumed the role of spokesman for all World War I veterans although its 1920 membership of 840,000 represented only about 18.5% of those veterans. Membership fluctuated over the years, from a low of 610,000 in 1925 to a high of 3,325,000 in 1946. This was followed by a general decline, and membership had leveled off to 2,700,000 in 1972.

The Legion is organized into local posts, bound together into departments at the state level. Each state numbers its posts sequentially as they are founded. State representatives attend an annual national convention which sets policy and elects the national commander and executive committee.

Captain Frank M. Williams of Tampa, a member of the 82nd Division, was in attendance at the Paris Caucus of 1919 and several Floridians were present at the St. Louis Caucus. The Florida Department of the American Legion was formed following the St. Louis meeting and a corps of officers was elected. A. H. Blanding of Leesburg was named State Commander. The department charter was granted by the National organization in May, 1919. The first state convention was held in Jacksonville in June of 1919 and was attended by 101 veterans from all parts of the state. Charters were issued to 31 local posts at the Jacksonville convention. For the following year, the state department worked to perfect its organization and to build its membership.

The 1920 state convention was held in Tampa. Membership had grown to 4,000 and 68 posts were in operation. By 1928, there were 94 active posts in Florida, with a membership of 11,500. In the 1920s, Florida won several prizes at the national conventions for membership growth. Joseph Y. Cheney, of Orlando, was elected National Vice-Commander in 1925.

The Milton-Myers Post No. 65 of the American Legion, with fifteen founding members, received a temporary charter from the national organization in May of 1920 and was granted full recognition in November of that year. The Post was named in honor of two Delray Beach soldiers, killed in the line of duty during World War I, Marvin W. Milton and Loney Myers. The first commander of the post, serving in 1920 and 1921, was Albert L. Miller. Miller had organized Delray's first Boy Scout troop in 1910, and in 1941 was elected Mayor of Delray Beach..

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

**MILTON-MYERS AMERICAN LEGION
POST NO. 65, DELRAY BEACH,
PALM BEACH CO., FL.**

The property for the Delray Beach American Legion building was purchased in 1921. It was erected by local contractor, John I. Thieme, with the labor voluntarily undertaken completely by members of the post and their friends. The building was dedicated on Armistice Day, at 11 Am on the 11th day of the 11th month, November 11, 1922, to commemorate the day that World War I ended in 1918.

Civic action has been an important element of all American Legion activity. In the 1920s, American Legion posts sponsored baseball teams throughout the state. Prizes were also given for essays in schools on subjects pertaining to Americanism, flag etiquette and similar topics.

The Milton-Meyers Post was involved in the baseball program and began sponsorship of a Boy Scout troop in the 1930s. Since 1934, the post has annually sponsored two outstanding high school junior students for the "Boys State" program which teaches the duties and responsibilities of citizenship. The post also participates annually in Veterans Day and Memorial Day parades and in other patriotic ceremonies. For the past 21 years, the post has honored Delray Beach Fire and Police Department members with plaques at an annual awards banquet.

The local chapters of the American Legion have offered its members not only comradeship with others having common memories of military service, but also the opportunity for involvement in civic activities and a chance to better their communities. Like the membership of other Legion posts, the members of the Milton-Meyers Post have represented a cross-section of the community.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

MILTON-MYERS AMERICAN LEGION
POST NO. 65, DELRAY BEACH,
PALM BEACH CO., FL.

Section number 9 Page 1

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Forshay, David. Lure of the Sun: A Story of Palm Beach County. Lake Worth: First Federal Savings and Loan Association, 1967.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**MILTON-MYERS AMERICAN LEGION
POST NO. 65, DELRAY BEACH,
PALM BEACH CO., FL.**

Section number 9 Page 2

Interviews by Sandra Ann Thomas, 1994:

Babione, Robert, Past Commander, Milton-Myers Post No. 65.

Cone, Elizabeth De Parlier, past District President of
American Legion Auxiliary, Milton-Myers Post No. 65.

Moran, George H., Commander, Milton-Myers Post No. 65

Tallentire, John, Past Commander, Milton-Myers Post No. 65.

Wells, Allan A., Past Commander and Adjutant, Milton-Myers
Post No. 65.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

**MILTON-MYERS AMERICAN LEGION
POST NO. 65, DELRAY BEACH,
PALM BEACH CO., FL.**

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Town of Delray, Lot 5, less west 5 feet rd r/w, Block 106.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Milton-Myers American Legion Post No. 65.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**MILTON-MYERS AMERICAN LEGION
POST NO. 65, DELRAY BEACH,
PALM BEACH CO., FL.**

Section number Photo Page 1

-
1. Milton-Myers American Legion Post No. 65
 2. Delray Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida
 3. Sandra Anne Thomas
 4. February 1995
 5. 955 Indigo Point, Gulf Stream, Fl. 33483-6109
 6. Primary (west) facade, view looking east
 7. Photo 1 of 6

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs

6. South elevation, view looking northeast
7. Photo 2 of 6

6. North elevation, view looking southeast
7. Photo 3 of 6

6. Rear (east) elevation, view looking west
7. Photo 4 of 6

6. Interior detail, fireplace; view looking north
7. Photo 5 of 6

6. Interior detail, view of meeting room; view looking northeast
7. Photo 6 of 6

