

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **MAY 8 1986**  
date entered JUN 5 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Field Estate (prefered); Wealake

and/or common Field Club of Sarasota

2. Location

street & number Field Road and Camino Real N/A not for publication

city, town N/A x vicinity of Sarasota

state Florida code 12 county Sarasota code 115

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> otherCountry Club

4. Owner of Property

name Field Country Club

street & number Post Office Box 5395

city, town Sarasota N/A vicinity of state Florida

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sarasota County Courthouse

street & number 2000 Main Street

city, town Sarasota state Florida

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Florida Master Site File has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Division of Archives, History and Records Management

city, town Tallahassee state Florida

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>poor</del> <b>YAM</b> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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**

The Field Estate, the former winter residence of Stanley and Sara Field, is located in northern Sarasota County on Little Sarasota Bay approximately one mile south of the corporate limits of the city of Sarasota. Developed between 1925-27, the sixteen-acre estate includes four historic buildings: the main house, presently the clubhouse of the Field Club, a boathouse, a gatehouse and Mrs. Field's art studio, presently a tennis pro shop. The main house and gatehouse reflect the influence of the Mediterranean Revival style in design, while the boat house and art studio are without stylistic reference. A tidal lagoon occupies the central portion of the estate, with the main house located astride the narrows of the lagoon's entry to Little Sarasota Bay. Major alterations to the estate include the addition of a restaurant to the main house, the relocation and conversion of the art studio to a tennis pro shop and the addition of tennis courts, a swimming pool, parking lot, and a yacht basin. The estate is located in a low density residential area between Sarasota Bay to the west and the commercial corridor of Tamiami Trail to the east.

#### The Main House

Designed by David Adler, the main house was constructed between 1926-27. The two-story brick and stucco building consists of three major blocks: a two-story central block astride the narrows of the lagoon and one-story gabled blocks at the north and south ends of the building. The building is irregular in plan with entry formerly through a portico on the northeast portion of the central bay.

The east elevation of the building is viewed across the tidal lagoon which flows out to the bay through an arched tunnel. The tunnel was drawn over a twenty-foot wide channel, cut to rock about four feet below the water level, with sloping clay banks. Above the tunnel, a recessed catwalk traverses in front of three sets of French doors. Wrought iron awning standards outline the walkway. (Photo 6) A raised watermark separates the first and second stories of the central bay. A gabled roof, clad in barrel clay tiles, intersects the hipped tower with its twin chimney and casement windows. The tower provides verticality to an otherwise horizontally oriented building. (Photo 5)

The west elevation featured an elaborate fenestration of casement windows protected by wrought iron grilles. The northern one-story block was accentuated by a five-arched loggia. A shade of rough poles protruding from the loggia added variety and texture of otherwise smooth stuccoed surfaces. The one-story loggia was capped by a cast iron balustrade complete with cast iron urns, in the Beaux Arts fashion for which the architect was known. The central bay was lighted by three sets of French doors set with a sunburst pattern in the arched tympanum. A wrought iron balcony framed the windows. The second floor of the west elevation of the central bay is partially open with a south-facing veranda. Twin elliptical windows pierce this facade with a quatrefoil pattern and iron grillework. (Photo 8) The southern block of the west elevation is the master bedroom suite, opening onto the waterfront views with two sets of French doors and a veranda. A vine-clad pergola, now removed, shaded the northern of the French doors. A low masonry wall defines the veranda.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1925–27

**Builder/Architect** Stevenson and Cameron/David Adler

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Field Estate was developed as the elegant winter residence of Chicago magnate Stanley Field and wife Sara in 1925–27 on land deeded from the vast Palmer holdings of Sarasota County. The Fields retained architect David Adler to design the estate's main house, gatehouse and elaborately landscaped grounds. The New York contracting firm of Stevenson and Cameron conducted the construction work, which involved the import of spanish tiles, extensive custom wrought iron work, and the dredging of a tidal lagoon and channel to flow beneath the villa. The estate became a private country club in 1957 when the property was sold to a group of Sarasotans later to incorporate formally as the Field Country Club. The estate is of historic significance for its association with the philanthropic Field and Palmer families who were important in the early development of Sarasota as a winter resort for America's wealthy establishment. The estate's main house and gatehouse are also important as fine examples of the Mediterranean Revival style as executed by David Adler, a noted designer of "great houses."

The sixteen acres comprising the grounds of today's Field Club were once part of the land holdings of Mrs. Potter Palmer, a wealthy Chicago socialite and developer of early Sarasota. The Palmer and Field histories intertwine throughout the second half of the Nineteenth century in Chicago and in Sarasota. In 1867 Marshall Field purchased Potter Palmer's successful retail store in Chicago. Later known as Marshall Field & Co., the enterprise became an internationally important retail concern. Stanley Field, born in Manchester, England, worked in the London office of the firm and came to the United States in 1893 to work for his uncle, Marshall Field. Stanley was close to his uncle, often playing golf together.<sup>1</sup> When Marshall Field died in 1906, Stanley assumed management of the company. He also served as president of the Field Columbian Museum of Chicago, created by a one million dollar endowment from Marshall Field. The museum, now known as the Chicago Museum of Natural History, has sponsored research and exploration, catalogued thousands of species, and continues to be a museum of world class distinction.<sup>2</sup>

During World War I, Stanley was in charge of all purchases made by the American Red Cross in France. Stanley and Sara Field were married in 1900 and had three children.<sup>3</sup> Sara Carroll Brown was one of three sisters known in society circles as "the three beautiful Brown sisters of Baltimore." Sister Grace wed Honore Palmer, son of Mrs. Potter Palmer. Their Sarasota estate, known as Immokalee, took in the land that would become the Field Estate. Sister Fanny married Walter Keith and built a mansion south of Immokalee on Philippi Creek. A niece of the Browns, Harriet Wentworth, built a mansion on Sarasota Bay just south of the Field Estate called "Kimlira." A niece of the Keiths, Katherine, was married to architect David Adler, who designed the Field Estate. Mrs. Potter Palmer's estate was further south in Osprey, and is now the historical and archeological research center Spanish Point at the Oaks.<sup>4</sup>

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 16 acres approx.

Quadrangle name Sarasota

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

17	347	510	310	19	110
Zone	Easting		Northing		

B 

17	347	850	310	19	100
Zone	Easting		Northing		

C 

17	347	810	310	18	820
Zone	Easting		Northing		

D 

17	347	570	310	18	820
Zone	Easting		Northing		

E 

17	347	580	310	18	940
Zone	Easting		Northing		

F 

17	347	500	310	18	940
Zone	Easting		Northing		

G 

Zone	Easting		Northing		

H 

Zone	Easting		Northing		

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gladys Cook; Michael Zimny/Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation

date April, 1986

street & number The Capitol

telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee

state Florida

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  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 George W. Perry

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/25/86

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

Keeper of the National Register Army Schlager

date 6/5/86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The south elevation was simple in design and served as a one-story gabled guest bedroom suite. Four sets of casement windows provided light and air to the two guest rooms. Today this elevation is the main entrance of the Club, housing the Club offices. (Photo 9) The north elevation, according to the drawings, was largely utilitarian, serving as the entrance to the kitchens and servants quarters. The north elevation of the second floor shows elliptical windows similar to those found on the west elevation.

The original entry hall was located at the northeast bay of the two-story central block. Drawings show a covered portico with an arched plank door with a stone block surround. The hall provided access to the great room, with its east and west walls pierced by French doors and grilled casement windows. Coved vaulted ceilings and massive classical columns separate the east and west portions of the room. The east portion was a formal living room and the west a dining and sitting area. Massive fireplaces on the north and south ends of the room are defined by elaborate wood and masonry mantels. The floors are polished tile. (Photos 10-11)

The southern block of guest and master bedrooms encloses a formal sunken courtyard. The courtyard is encircled by a covered arcade of stone and concrete columns, steps, and niches. Ceramic tiles and cut stone provide elaborate finishes, along with wrought iron railings. A small bricked garden is found to the east of the courtyard on the lagoon. A partially enclosed staircase on the western wall of the courtyard leads to the veranda of the second floor. Covered by an arched roof, the staircase adds texture and depth to the courtyard. (Photo 12)

The interior of the master bedroom suite was a long, rectangular section separated into sleeping quarters and a wardrobe. Fireplaces at the ends of the room remain. The second story of the central block was used for trunk storage and servants quarters. The quarters were finished with built-in cabinetry and a tiled bath. The storage rooms were unfinished with low ceilings. This area is used for storage and remains unaltered.

The house remained in an as-built condition throughout its use as the winter residence of the Fields. When purchased in 1957 by the Field Club, plans were made for accommodating its use as a clubhouse. The first major alterations in 1957-58 were the conversions of certain areas for public or office uses. Architect William Zimmerman designed the alterations and contractor T. T. Watson was responsible for the construction. The main entry hall was moved to the southern elevation, where a linen closet was replaced with an entry hall. Paved parking was provided at this new entry and the driveway relocated to this entry with the old becoming the service drive. The original kitchens were expanded through the removal of dividing walls and stairs, and combining the butlers pantry, cooks pantry and servants quarters. The arches of the western loggia were closed to accommodate more interior space. The master bedroom suite was converted to a private dining area, yet retains its original pecky cypress paneling and windows. The guest bedrooms have been converted

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to offices, with windows, pecky cypress doors and paneling and ceramic tilework preserved. The floor plan has been minimally altered. A new restaurant has also been added to the northeastern end of the building as designed by architect Edward J. Siebert and built by contractor Frank Thyne. The restaurant is a contemporary glass structure stepping from the main floor level onto lagoon-side dining areas.

The Gatehouse

The gatehouse was constructed in 1925 following to the design of architect David Adler, prior to the completion of the full set of architectural drawings and plans for the main house. The gatehouse was built as servants quarters and a six-car garage in the Mediterranean Revival Style. The two-story brick structure is asymmetrical in plan with an arched carriage passage in its central bay. The passageway is topped by a hipped tower with bracketed eaves. The one-story portion of the building is an ell-shaped vehicle storage area, open on the west elevation. It is accessed by large wooden sliding doors and a small walled courtyard. A potting shed is formed on the southern exposure of the garage by a lean-to roof protruding from the masonry garage. All roof surfaces are clad in barrel clay tiles which were part of a shipment from Spain containing the materials for the Sarasota County Courthouse and the Presbyterian Church. The shipping of the tiles was handled through the builder, Stevenson and Cameron.

The north elevation of the gatehouse is now the site of a relocated driveway. This, the gabled end of the two-story block, features a massive stuccoed brick chimney with a solid wood door and three casement windows of six and four lights. A one-story portico on the west elevation forms a cross gable with two six-light casement windows. An exterior masonry stairway on the north side of the carriage way provides access to the tower and roof. A wrought iron balcony over the carriage way is detailed with iron flower pot holders. The tower has double ten-light French doors opening onto the balcony. (Photos 1-4)

The gatehouse served as the living quarters of the estate's servants and gardeners. Its original floor plan, doors, moldings, fireplace mantle and other finishes remain intact. Most of the gatehouse is used for storage with the potting shed and garage sections in active use.

The Boathouse

A thirty-foot boathouse constructed on the east shore of the lagoon remains unaltered. The simple stucco over frame building is constructed over the water and is open at each gable end for the passage and mooring for a launch. The structure is in good condition. (Photo 13)

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Art Studio/Pro Shop

Mrs. Field's studio was a small cypress frame vernacular building located at the end of the avenue of Royal Palms extending from the master bedroom suite. The gabled cottage was relocated fifty yards to the east by the club to serve as the tennis pro shop. Wood framed casement windows provide light to the building. The interior remains unaltered with unpainted pecky cypress paneling. A small addition was made to the west for a game room. The pro shop is shaded by a massive ficus tree (Photo 14)

New construction on the estate includes a snack bar on the lagoon adjacent to a swimming pool. Nine tennis courts complete the landbased facilities of the club. Parking is provided on the southwestern portion of the property, adjacent to the bay, on the site of the former Royal Palm avenue. The yacht basin is located in a protected area south of the channel entering the lagoon. Approximately fifty boats may be accommodated in the boat slips. The most visually intrusive of these alterations, the parking lot and yacht basin, have been excluded from the nominated property.

Resources Inventory

Contributing Resources: 4

4 Buildings (Main House, Gatehouse, Boathouse and Art Studio)

Non-contributing Resources: 2

2 Buildings

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The architect of the Field Estate, David Adler, graduated from the Ecole des Beaux Arts in 1911. Adler associated with Henry Corwith Dangier in 1912 and later with Robert Work until 1928. Adler was known as the "house architect for the Chicago establishment."<sup>5</sup> Biographer John Bayley wrote that Adler built nothing but town and country houses mainly from 1912 to 1934, his work falling entirely within the bounds of architecture described in The Decoration of Houses written in 1897 by Edith Wharton and Ogden Codman.<sup>6</sup> Adler designs for wealthy Chicagoans included the homes of William McCormick Blair, Albert Lasker, Marshall and Stanley Field, Potter Palmer, and Cyrus McCormick. During his career Adler completed 43 great houses. While most were located in Chicago, fourteen were in locations including New York, Honolulu, Jekyll Island, San Mateo, California, and Sarasota.<sup>7</sup>

The complete architectural drawings for the main house dated October, 1926, have survived and are preserved in the Field Club offices. These plans show all elevations, interior floor plans, door and window schedules, and a site plan. The Gatehouse is not included on the drawings. It appears that material for the construction of the main house and the gatehouse were being gathered as much as a year prior to the completion of the plans, as noted in a Sarasota Herald Tribune article dated November 20, 1925.<sup>8</sup> The article reported on the arrival of Spanish tiles by barge to be used for the Field residence, the Sarasota County Courthouse, and the Presbyterian Church. The article promised that the tiles would be "part of three of the most beautiful edifices of old spanish design ever to be erected in this city." Stevenson and Cameron, the contractors for all three buildings, were responsible for the shipment, which involved elaborate transport and import exchanges first through Miami and then Tampa.

It is known that Stevenson and Cameron contracted with wrought iron designer of national reputation Samuel Yellin to produce the railings and grilles of the Sarasota County Courthouse. While not verified by research conducted to date, it is hypothesized that Yellin was responsible for the Field house wrought iron work in the form of balustrades, railings, window grilles, awning standards and finials. The association of the builders and the artist, the quality and quantity of wrought iron details, and the timing lend to the importance of further research.

While the Field house was the only known work completed in Sarasota by Adler, other great houses were under construction simultaneously by the Ringling Brothers. Ca d'Zan, John Ringling's Venetian palace fantasy, and the Beaux Arts mansion of Charles Ringling are today listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Ralph Caples Mediterranean Revival estate is also listed, for its architectural and historical merits. The traditions formed by these millionaires in their discovery of Sarasota have endured today as the city continues to be a winter resort for the very wealthy.<sup>10</sup>

The Fields wintered in Sarasota until 1956 when Mr. Field resolved to sell the property. Sarasota was rapidly developing and it was highly likely that, when purchased, the property would be subdivided and the building razed. Desiring to preserve the estate intact, Field offered the property through a local realtor to "any Club who would use it for Club purposes." The long-established Sarasota Yacht



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Club was offered the property, but declined. Soon after, a group of yacht club members organized and raised the \$175,000 price for the estate, with the creation of a new, family-oriented tennis and yacht club in mind. At the first organizational meeting on June 13, 1957, approximately one hundred persons attended, indicating the growing interest in the proposed club. The name "Field Club" was adopted at that meeting.<sup>11</sup>

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Stephen Becker, Marshall Field III: A Biography. (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1964), pp. 20, 49, 58-59, 85, 115.

<sup>2</sup>Becker, pp. 129, 133, 491, 494.

<sup>3</sup>Who Was Who in America, Vol. 1. (Chicago: Marquis, 1944), p. 395.

<sup>4</sup>"The Fields and Their Great House," p. 9.

<sup>5</sup>Richard Pratt, David Adler, The Architect and His Work. (New York: Art Institute of Chicago, Lippincott, 1970), p. 94.

<sup>6</sup>Macmillan Encyclopedia of American Architects. (New York: Macmillan and Free Press, 1982), p. 34.

<sup>7</sup>Pratt, n. p.

<sup>8</sup>Sarasota Herald Tribune, November 20, 1925, n. p.

<sup>9</sup>Smithsonian, V. 12, No. 12 (March 1928), p. 66.

<sup>10</sup>Caples'-Ringlings' Estates Historic District, National Register nomination.

<sup>11</sup>"Dreams Do Come True," Field Club brochure, no date.

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- Grismer, Karl. The Story of Sarasota. Sarasota: M. E. Russell, 1940.
- Harris, Cyril. Historic Architecture Sourcebook. New York, 1977.
- The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography. New York: James T. White & Co. 1948.
- Pratt, Richard. David Adler, The Architect and His Work. New York: Art Institute of Chicago, Lippincott. 1970.
- Who Was Who in America, Vol. 1. Chicago: Marquis, 1944.

Newspapers and Periodicals

- Sarasota Herald Tribune. November 20, 1925.
- Smithsonian. Volume 12, Number 12 (March, 1928).

Private Records

- "Dreams Do Come True," Field Club Brochure. No date.
- Field Club Newsletters, "Commodore's Newsletter"; "The Burgee"; "The Green Burgee."
- Field Club Scrapbooks, 1957-1962.
- "The Field Club, Sarasota, Florida, 1957-1982."

Public Records

- Caples'-Ringlings' Estates Historic District, National Register nomination.
- Property Appraiser's Maps.
- Property Appraiser's Records.
- Sarasota County Courthouse, National Register nomination.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the Northwest corner of Lot 33 Block B, Oyster Bay Estates, Plat Book 5, Page 79, Sarasota County Records, thence South along the East line of the Field Club property 901.3 feet to the Southeast corner of said Field Club, thence West 600 feet, thence North 400 feet, thence West to the seawall, thence Northerly along the seawall and waters of Little Sarasota Bay to a point West of the Point of Beginning, thence East to the Point of Beginning.

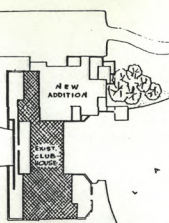
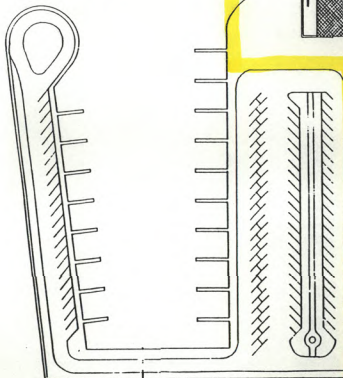
Justification

The Northern, Eastern and Southern boundaries of the nominated property coincide with the boundaries of the Field Estate; the Western boundaries have been drawn to exclude the contemporary parking lot and yacht basin of the present day Field Club.

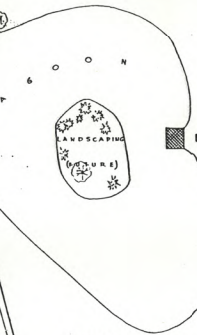
FIELD CLUB  
SITE PLAN

LITTLE SARASOTA BAY

Nominated property



JR. CLUBHOUSE (MOVED)



BOATHOUSE



Historic Drive

TENNIS COURTS

ROADWAY

Not to Scale