NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90

OMB No. 1024-0018

RECEIVED 2280
APR 12 2013
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

320

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 any 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. Place 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 NOKOMIS BEACH PAVILION

other names/site number Nokomis Beach Pavilion Complex; FMSF#SO02497

2. Location

street & number 100 Casey Key Road N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Nokomis N/A ☐ vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Sarasota code 115 zip code 34275

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.)

Barbara E. Mattick / DSHPO 4/8/2013
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State or 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
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain)

for Edson W. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 5-28-13

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ buildings
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
4	0	structures
0	0	objects
5	0	total

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

ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES OF THE SARASOTA SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Park

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT/OTHER/Sarasota School

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Concrete
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.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** 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.
- ☐ **D** 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:

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1956

Significant Dates

1956

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: West, Jack
Bldr: Maticka Construction Company

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 36) 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

NOKOMIS BEACH PAVILION
Name of Property

Sarasota Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References
(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	354240	3001060
2			
3			
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 W. Carl Shiver, Historic Preservationist/Lorrie Muldowney, Manager Sarasota County Historical Resources

organization Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation date March 20013

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (850) 245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida 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 Carlovn Mason, Chair, Sarasota Board of County Commissioners

street & number 1660 Ringling Boulevard telephone (941) 861-5482

city or town Sarasota state Florida zip code 34236

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 amend 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.

SUMMARY

The Nokomis Beach Pavilion is a five-part complex consisting of a pavilion used as a shelter from the sun and to display exhibits such as artwork and information on standing panels and a covered walkway connecting the two with the Community Room Building located at the north end of the complex. They rest on a concrete plaza that features a fountain. The property is located at 100 Casey Key Road on Casey Key in Nokomis, Lee County, Florida. The Pavilion was built 1955-1956 to serve as Sarasota County's first beach pavilion. Designed by architect Jack West (1922-2010), a prominent member of the Sarasota School of Architecture, the complex and associated pavedplaza provide a classic example of the minimalist forms associated with mid-century modern architecture. The complex originally consisted of an open pavilion and a building that originally housed restrooms, changing rooms, and showers. The pavilion and building were connected by a covered walkway. In addition the site included an expansive paved plaza with a planting area and fountain. Elements of these structures that are typical of the Sarasota School of Architecture include flat thin roofs on multiple planes, ribbon windows, a design that creates a strong interplay between interior and exterior spaces, and a bathhouse built of stacked Ocala block. After years of neglect and ill-advised renovations, the facility was closed in 2002. When renovated in 2008, the exterior appearance was restored, and the interior of the bathhouse was converted into a community room equipped with a small kitchen, refrigerator, and sink. There are small tables and chairs that can be arranged in a variety of configurations. The pavilion complex occupies a 10,000 square-foot plaza with updated restrooms and a handicap-accessible boardwalk with showers. The renovation work included of the recovery of the fountain on the plaza which had been filled in shortly after the original construction

SETTING

Nokomis is a Gulf Coast town located in unincorporated Sarasota County 15 miles south of Sarasota and just north of the city of Venice. Casey Key is approximately eight miles in length, stretching from Siesta Key on the north to Venice Island at the southern tip. Bridges at the north and south ends of Casey Key provide access to the island. Casey Key features residential areas both on the beach area on the Gulf of Mexico and on Blackburn Bay. Most of the island is less than 300 yards wide, with the beaches along the Gulf on the west and Blackburn Bay[1] on the east. Residential docks and private marinas along the bay provide mooring sites for area residents. At the south end of Casey Key is the Venice Inlet, providing ready access to the Gulf Mexico and Little Sarasota Bay. The historic plaza of the Nokomis Beach Pavilion is located north of the North Jetty on the south end of Casey Key. Once one crosses the bridge on Albee Road, one will be directly in front of the Pavilion Plaza whose large sand dunes separate the Pavilion from the shore of the Gulf of Mexico (Photos 1-3).

[1] Dryman Bay is a cove in the much larger Little Sarasota Bay, a long and narrow waterway that parallels the Gulf of Mexico.

ORIGINAL AND CURRENT APPEARANCE

When the Nokomis Beach Pavilion complex opened to the public in February 1956, it stood directly on the beach (Photo 3) at the high tide line, unprotected by the high vegetation-covered sand dunes that now create a barrier from storm-driven wind and waves. The natural elements assaulted the facility, ultimately leading to its deterioration and temporary abandonment. The complex originally consisted of an open air pavilion and a bathhouse that contained restrooms, changing rooms, and showers. The pavilion and bath house were connected by a covered walkway. In addition, the site included an expansive paved plaza which included planting areas and a fountain (Photo 3). An interesting element of the complex was large murals that were displayed in the pavilion for public viewing (Photo 4). The murals were painted by Hilton Leech, a well known artist who resided in Sarasota and was known for his abstract modern work.[2] The incorporation of art, including paintings and sculptures, became a signature of many of West's buildings.

Over time, the facility suffered from deferred maintenance and insensitive renovations. The continuous exposure of the pavilion to salt air resulted in the expansion of metal components and failure of a portion of the roof system which in turn resulted in the eventual collapse of a section of the pavilion ceiling. Because of its location directly on the beach, just feet from the Gulf of Mexico, maintenance was a recurring issue. The Hilton Leech murals were lost to vandalism and the harsh climatic conditions that exist on the Gulf of Mexico. In the 1970s, in an effort to cut down on the need for frequent painting, the thin steel Lally columns were boxed in with stuccoed concrete blocks, significantly affecting the design (Photo 5). The Ocala blocks of the bathhouse were painted over, and wild vegetation began to overtake the site. In 1991, a new facility was built a quarter-mile down the beach, and West's complex was slated for demolition. However, about 100 Nokomis residents came forward in favor of saving the whole pavilion complex, and in 1993 county commissioners relented. They provided $80,000 to update the bathrooms and build a boardwalk connecting the 1991 structure with the 1955 Nokomis Beach Pavilion.[3]

However, the complex's structural problems persisted and came to a head in 2002 when a woman was injured by plaster falling from the ceiling in the bathhouse. The complex was fenced off (Photo 6), and hold-ups in receiving permits and a lack of funding delayed the rebuilding of the structure. The complex was shuttered. Thanks to David Baber, the Sarasota County historic preservation officer at the time, and the county Parks and Recreation department, this historic compex was never really at risk. Sarasota County Parks and Recreation Director John McCarthy decided to conduct a feasibility study to determine whether to save it or raze it. The rehabilitation and adaptive use of Sarasota County's Nokomis Beach Pavilion was unique in a number of ways. Most notable was that the project created an opportunity to engage the original architect, Jack West, in the

[2] The Hilton Leech House and art school located in Sarasota was listed in the National Register 6/22/95.
[3] "On a Bigger Venice Beach Pavilion," Sarasota Herald-Tribune, June 19, 1998.

preparation of rehabilitation plans for the complex.[4] Initial funding for the project came from two major sources. The Florida Division of Historical Resources provided $180,000 toward the rehabilitation, and $300,000 came from the Florida Department of Natural Resources.[5] But now it has reopened, after a $1.3 million rehabilitation project that was the brainchild of former Sarasota County History Center general manager Dave Baber, and Jack West, now 86, was again the architect of record for the six-year rehabilitation project. The complex, restored by Howell Construction, looks as good as ever, but there is one important difference in the site. You can not see the Gulf from the pavilions anymore, as sand dunes now obstruct the view. The grassy dunes obstruct some of the Gulf of Mexico vistas that West tried to showcase in his wide-open, horizontal design.

Initially West was engaged to conduct a feasibility study to analyze the opportunities for preserving the entire complex. He found the basic complex to be in good condition, though there were some problems that needed to be remedied. These included replacing the steel Lally columns that had deteriorated from their encapsulation, and reconstruction of the fountain (Photos 7-8) on the plaza, which was filled in shortly after the original construction. Today the project exhibits characteristics typical of the Sarasota School of Architecture, including flat, thin, multi-planed roofs, post and beam structure, and an enclosed space constructed of stacked concrete block shaded in imitation of Ocala Block with high ribbon windows. Another interesting aspect of the rehabilitation was the desire to reinstall art in the pavilion (Photo 9). Unable to recreate the original, abstract mural due to a lack of documentation, an informational graphic display was installed for the short term instead. This display explained the changes made to the complex to accommodate nesting sea turtles and included information on Jack West and the Sarasota School of Architecture movement for the education of the beach-going public. The display was installed in time for the re-dedication of the complex in September of 2008.

In addition, West recommended that the bathhouse be adaptively used by converting a portion of it into a community room, an important 21st century need at this beach park (Photos 10-11). The Community Room (Photos 12-13) is a location for meetings, small parties, staging area for large events, and much more. The room is 850 square feet. It has a small kitchen area with a sink, ice machine and refrigerator. There are square tables (card size) and plenty of chairs. The room is just steps away from the beach, handicapped boardwalk access and restrooms (Photo 14). The restored and rehabilitated complex is very similar to what welcomed

[4] "Nokomis Pavilion Could Get a Facelift," Sarasota Herald-Tribune, May 11, 2002.
[5] "Nokomis Beach Pavilion Dedication"(Youtube video 2008), Herald-Tribune Media Group, http://www.squidoo.com/Nokomis-Florida.

guests to Casey Key in the 1950s. It features a handicap-accessible dune walkover, new landscaping, and a restored water fountain.[6]

Challenges to the project included the need to minimize light from the pavilion to the adjoining beach because of its proximity to nesting turtles. Working with staff from Sarasota County's Department of Natural Resources, this was accomplished by using tinted film on the western side of the building and red lights in the covered walkway and open air pavilion. The long term plan is to reinstall public art at the pavilion through a cooperative agreement with the Sarasota County Arts Council which will select and install abstract art there on a semi-annual basis. Funding and permitting delays put the project on hold for five years. But work eventually got under way in late-2007, and the Nokomis Beach Pavilion was rededicated on September 19, 2008.[7]

[6] "Nokomis Pavilion Made in the Shade," Sarasota Herald-Tribune, August 25, 2008.
[7] Ibid.

SUMMARY

The Nokomis Beach Pavilion complex is significant at the local level for listing under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The resource is significant as an example of one of the types of designs collectively categorized as the Sarasota School of Architecture. It was designed in 1954 by architect Jack West (1922-2010). It was his first project as an architect in private practice. The Pavilion embodies many characteristics of the Sarasota School of architecture in planning and design, which was adapted to the climate and geographical setting of Southwest Florida. The Sarasota architects took some principles of the earlier International style and contributed new design and material elements that distinguished their works from earlier precedents. Their aim was to put more emphasis on open planning and to make buildings appear lighter through the extensive use of glass and more attenuated wall features. Like the majority of the buildings designed by the small group of architects that came to form the Sarasota School of Architecture, this building is a highly individual stylistic statement, a one-of-kind design created to suit the desire of a client for a comfortable and visually distinctive creation. The Nokomis Beach Pavilion contributes to the **ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES OF THE SARASOTA SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE Multiple Property Submission** under **The Influence of New Architects, 1953-1959 Historic Context and the F.1 Property Type: Miscellaneous Buildings.**

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Sarasota's barrier islands, or keys, have attracted human habitation for centuries. Archeological sites on Siesta and Casey Key reveal evidence of humans long before white settlers arrived. Current traffic congestion and full parking lots at any of the keys' beaches on a sunny day attests to their continuing popularity as places of habitation and recreation. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, however, these islands were sparsely inhabited, sometimes by fishermen who caught fish for sale in local markets and to passing vessels. Factors that contributed to sparse settlement on the barrier islands were the lack of arable farmland, lack of bridge access from the mainland, and mosquitoes.

From the 1800s to well into the 1900s, Siesta Key was known by a variety of names, including "Little Sarasota Key" and "Sarasota Key." The formation of the Siesta Land Company in 1907 by Harry Higel, Captain Louis Roberts (who had opened Roberts Hotel the previous year) and E.M. Arbogast marked the first attempt to develop the key. On the north end of the key, the Company platted "Siesta on the Gulf,"[8] dredged bayous, and built docks. Harry Higel operated the Siesta Post Office and built the Higelhurst Hotel. Few people moved to the key, however, (the 1910 US census listed thirty-one residents) until the first bridge opened in 1917.[9] Only

[8] Sarasota County Plat Book A, p.37.
[9] Sarasota Times, May 3, 1917.

then did the advertising effort result in increased use of the beaches by Sarasota residents and tourists. The name "Siesta" gradually came to be applied to the whole key, and by 1952 it was officially called Siesta Key.[10]

Farther south on the key, "Uncle Ben" Stickney's homestead gained a community-wide reputation for hospitality in the early 1900s. Stickney made his acreage available for picnic parties before there were any roads or established beaches on the key.[11]

Once the bridge opened and footpaths became primitive roads, the Gulf beaches became more popular. By the early 1920s, I.G. Archibald had built a bathing pavilion on Crescent Beach, the first such facility to provide dressing rooms.[12] In a major road and bridge building effort by the new Sarasota County Government to connect the different parts of the county, a new Siesta Bridge opened in 1927 to replace the 1917 one, and a second bridge crossed at "Uncle Ben" Stickney's.[13] By the end of the decade, Roger Flory advertised Roberts' Casino, the Mira Mar Casino, and the Gulf View Inn on the Gulf side of the island in his "Hotels and Apartments" brochures.[14] Although several subdivisions were platted in the vicinity of Sarasota Beach (between Crescent Beach on the south and the Gulf View Inn and casinos on the north), little development took place until after World War II.

Casey Key, south of Siesta Key, was known in the 1800s as Chaise's Key, and as Treasure Island because of treasure rumored to be buried there. It was named for Captain John Charles Casey, who helped map the area for the first U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey between 1848 and 1851, while he was in the region negotiating with the Seminoles for the US Army. A Florida map dated 1856 shows the name Casey's Pass, and later maps show the name Casey's Key.[15]

Early Venice pioneers and visitors hunted animals such as raccoon, bobcats and panthers on the key, as well as gathered turtle eggs and cut buttonwood, mangrove and cedar. As early as the 1870's, residents complained of too many turtle egg hunters on the beach. Isaac Shumard, a pioneer from Missouri, moved to the northern end of the Key with his family in the early 1900s. They and neighbors developed a bee industry. Zachariah Dryman established a homestead on more than 100 acres south of Blackburn's homestead, along the bay that later became known as Dryman Bay.[16]

---

[10] Lillian Burns and John McCarthy, "Siesta Public Beach Marker Narrative," 1986, p.1, at Sarasota County History Center, Sarasota, FL.
[11] Ann Shank, "Uncle Ben Stickney's," Sarasota Herald-Tribune, April 11, 1995.
[12] Burns and McCarthy, p.1.
[13] Karl H. Grismer, The Story of Sarasota, M. E. Russell, Sarasota, Florida, 1946, p.230.
[14] Roger V. Flory, "Hotels and Apartments in Sarasota, Florida," 1928; Flory, "Hotels and Apartments," 1929.
[15] Janet Snyder Matthews, Edge of Wilderness, Coastal Press, Sarasota, Florida, 1983, pp. 207-208.
[16] Janet Snyder Matthews, Venice: Journey From Horse and Chaise, Pine Level Press, Inc., Sarasota, Florida, 1989, pp. 151-153.

The Blackburn Point Bridge linked the north end of Casey Key to the mainland in 1926. Three years earlier, E.C. Warren had constructed a toll bridge linking the mainland with the Treasure Island section of the key at the south end. This bridge was located in the vicinity of the current bridge on Albee Road.[17] The Depression and World War II resulted in stagnant growth throughout much of the county, and the southern area of Casey Key remained essentially undeveloped before World War II.[18]

After the war, Sarasota County experienced a major period of growth, during which its population increased by 80% between 1940 and 1950, and more than 2.5 times in the following decade.[19] With easy access and the use of DDT insecticide and other means to control mosquitoes, the keys became very desirable for development as residential areas. Siesta Key became a "Mecca" for local artists and writers. Authors MacKinlay Kantor and John D. MacDonald, artists such as landscape painter Helen Sawyer and her portrait artist husband, Jerry Farnsworth, are but a few Siesta Key notables.[20] International recognition for the key came when, in 1950, National Geographic Magazine cited Siesta beach as one of the four most beautiful beaches in the world.[21]

Nokomis Beach Pavilion Complex

After World War II, residents of the Nokomis area continued to use the southern end of Casey Key for day picnics and recreation. Not anticipating that the beautiful beach areas might not be available for public use some day, in 1947 they reacted quickly upon seeing a sign advertising that the beach was for sale. Alex Knight, a real estate agent from Bradenton, had purchased the land. Several neighbors formed a Committee and asked the Sarasota Board of County Commission to buy the land. The Commission refused, stating that the county did not have the money, but suggested a joint effort. If the citizens could raise $5200 toward the purchase, the county could match the funds with a left-over war fund.[22] The residents formed the Nokomis Community Beach Club and contacted Alex Knight, who agreed to sell the land to the county for cost, as long as it would remain a public beach. The beach was sold to subscribers who became members of the club for $29.50 per foot. $5200 was collected. Members of the club cleared the land, drilled a well, planted trees, and erected a small shelter. Commissioner Glen Leach, the head of the Beach Committee, facilitated the process whereby the beach was legally turned over to the County, thus insuring that it would remain a public beach.[23]

---

[17] Grismer, p.230.
[18] Matthews, Venice, pp. 200, 313-314.
[19] Allen Morris, The Florida Handbook, (Tallahassee, Florida: Peninsular Publishing Co., 1952), p.341; The Florida Handbook ,1961, p. 378.
[20] Polk's Sarasota and Venice City Directory, Richmond, Virginia: R. L. Polk & Co., 1954-1955.
[21] Del Marth, Yesterday's Sarasota Including Sarasota County, (Miami, Florida: E. A. Seemann Publishing, Inc.,1873), p.148.
[22] "They Saved the Beach," at Venice Archives and Area Historical Collection, Venice, Florida.
[23] Ibid., Venice Gondolier, March 29, 1951.

Sarasota County bought the portion of the beach on which the plaza complex stands in 1953.[24] By July 1954, with additional beach frontage having been acquired, preliminary work had begun on a new pavilion, designed by architect Jack West.[25] The Nokomis pavilion complex was his first public building and his first waterfront effort and it helped launch a successful career for the Yale graduate. West said the design largely was inspired by the waterfront view, which encouraged his modernist tendency to transfer load-bearing responsibilities from walls to steel support columns and make nearly the entire south wall of the main building glass. It was the first public commission for West, who had received his start working for pioneering Sarasota School architects Ralph Twitchell and Paul Rudolph. It was also the first Sarasota School public building. In May of the following year, the Maticka Construction Company was awarded a contract for approximately $28,000 to provide a pavilion and bathhouse, with covered walkway between, benches and tables, and a parking area. West also included in his plan for the fountain with its necessary plumbing connections. Work began on the plaza in mid-1955,[26] and the Nokomis Beach Pavilion, as the entire complex was called, was dedicated on February 12, 1956.[27] The Nokomis Beach Pavilion was built to serve as Sarasota County's first beach pavilion.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Nokomis Beach Pavilion complex, with its associated plaza, provides a classic example of the minimalist forms associated with mid-century modern architecture. The complex originally consisted of an open pavilion and a covered walkway that connected to a bathhouse built of stacked Ocala block that contained restrooms, changing rooms, and showers. In addition, the complex included an expansive paved plaza containing planting areas and fountain. Elements of the design, typical of the Sarasota School of Architecture, include flat thin roofs on multiple planes, and ribbon windows, which create a strong interplay between interior and exterior spaces,.

The Nokomis Beach Pavilion appears almost more like a minimalist work of sculpture than an example of Midcentury Modern architecture. Although it does not quite hark back to sculptor Constantin Brancusi's Bird in Space sculpture, created in 1923, the structural units of the pavilion are reduced to a minimum and seem to function as a single visual unit. The term minimalism is also used to describe a trend in design and architecture where in the subject is reduced to only its necessary elements. Minimalist design has been highly influenced by Japanese traditional design and architecture. In addition, the work of De Stijl artists is a major source of reference for this kind of work. De Stijl, a Dutch modern movement founded in 1917, expanded the ideas that could be expressed by using basic elements such as lines and planes organized in very particular manners.[28]

[24] "Purchase of Nokomis Beach Property Started by County," Sarasota Journal. August 6, 1953.
[25] Sarasota County Deed Book 272, p. 590; Venice Gondolier, August 20, 1953 and December 12, 1954.
[26] "Nokomis Beach Pavilion Work Starts Tomorrow," St. Petersburg Times, May 31, 1955.
[27] Sarasota Herald-Tribune, February 13, 1956.
[28] Minimalism, Christopher Want, Oxford University Press from Grove Want Online.

The Nokomis Beach Pavilion is notable for its modest scale, elegant simplicity of form, and sophisticated use of materials. Emerging originally from a bare landscape on the water's edge of the Gulf of Mexico, the pavilion deferred to its surroundings. Today's sand dunes were not taken into account in West's calculations. The deceptively simple open pavilion and walkway provide the necessary shade and unobstructed views that unfold like a series of picture frames. The pavilion also seems to reflect the vision of American sculptor Alexander Calder's "stabiles," the fixed versions of his "mobiles," painted sheet metal and metal rods, minimalist creations suspended from the ceilings and that moved freely with air currents.

Aesthetically, the outside of the pavilion and plaza is identical to the original. It consists of two rectangular units—one enclosed with walls, one not—connected by a long covered walkway. Beige concrete block helps the enclosed structure blend with the sandy beach. The new block is an imitation of the Ocala block used in many Sarasota School buildings. Big sand dunes have built up on Nokomis Beach since Jack West first designed his sleek, low-slung, modernist pavilion as a gateway to the beach. West said the design largely was inspired by the waterfront view, which encouraged his modernist tendency to transfer load-bearing responsibilities from walls to steel support columns. The deceptively simple open pavilion and walkway provide the necessary shade and unobstructed views that unfold like a series of picture frames. The horizontal design pulls the building into its surroundings. Prominent Sarasota modernist architect Guy Peterson described the design as "incredibly pure with floating planes and thin columns."[29]

[29] "Nokomis Pavilion Made in the Shade," Sarasota Herald-Tribune, August 25, 2008.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Advertising Brochures

Roger V. Flory, "Hotels and Apartments in Sarasota, Florida," Advertising Brochure,1928;

_____, "Hotels and Apartments," Advertising Brochure,1929.

Books

Grismer, Karl H. The Story of Sarasota, M. E. Russell, Sarasota, Florida, 1946.

Howie, John. The Sarasota School of Architecture. Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1995.

Kaufmann, Edgar, Jr. What is Modern Design? New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 1953.

Matthews, Janet Snyder. Edge of Wilderness, Coastal Press, Sarasota, Florida, 1983, pp. 207-208.

Matthews, Janet Snyder. Venice: Journey From Horse and Chaise, Pine Level Press, Inc., Sarasota, Florida, 1989.

Morris, Allen. The Florida Handbook. Tallahassee, Florida: Peninsular Publishing Co., 1952

_____. The Florida Handbook Tallahassee, Florida: Peninsular Publishing Co. 1961.

Marth, Del. Yesterday's Sarasota Including Sarasota County. Miami, Florida: E. A. Seemann Publishing, Inc., 1973.

Polk's Sarasota and Venice City Directory, Richmond, Virginia: R. L. Polk & Co., 1954-1955.

Newspapers

Ann Shank, "Uncle Ben Stickney's," Sarasota Herald-Tribune, April 11, 1995.

"Jack West and Those Left Behind at the River," Sarasota Herald-Tribune, November 21, 2010.

"Architect to Help Restore Historic Beach Pavilion," Sarasota Herald-Tribune, July 21, 2003.

"Commission Gets Siesta Beach Plans," Sarasota Journal, May 5, 1959.

"Nokomis Pavilion Made in the Shade," Sarasota Herald-Tribune, August 25, 2008.

"Nokomis Beach Pavilion Reopens in Front of Big Crowd," Sarasota Herald-Tribune, September 20, 2008.

"Nokomis Beach Renovations Planned," Sarasota Herald-Tribune, July 26, 1994.

Sarasota Herald-Tribune, February 13, 1956.

Sarasota Times, May 3, 1917.

"Siesta Key Pavilion Set for Dedication," Sarasota Journal, March 24, 1960.

Venice Gondolier, March 29, 1951.

Venice Gondolier, August 20, 1953.

Venice Gondolier, December 12, 1954.

Public Records

Sarasota County Deed Book 272, p. 590.

Sarasota County Plat Book A, p.37.

Unpublished Documents

Lillian Burns and John McCarthy, "Siesta Public Beach Marker Narrative," 1986, p.1, at Sarasota County History Center, Sarasota.

"They Saved the Beach," at Venice Archives and Area Historical Collection, Venice, Florida.

Verbal Boundary Description

Parcel 0169-15-0001

N 400.5 FT OF S 500.5 FT OF US LOT 4 AS PER DB 323/90 & DB 241/ 202 & THAT PART OF S 100 FT OF US LOT 4 W OF COUNTY RD, less that section of the property east of Casey Key Road,

The eastern boundary is Casey Key Road, and the north and south boundary lines are defined by the private property parcels found outside the expansive vehicle parking areas that are part of the public recreational site. The western boundary is the high tide line of the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

Boundary Justification

The above described boundaries encompass all of the significant historic resources associated with the Nokomis Beach Pavilion.

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Nokomis Beach Pavilion
2. 101 Casey Key Road, Nokomis (Sarasota County), Florida
3. Unknown
4. 2012
5. Google Earth
6. Aerial View Showing Pavilion at Albee Road and Casey Key Road.
7. Photo 1 of 19

Items 1-25 are the same for the remaining photographs unless otherwise indicated.

3. Unknown
4. 2012
5. Google Earth
6. Bird's Eye View, Looking West
7. Photo 2 of 19

3. Unknown
4. c. 1958
5. Vintage Florida Postcards Internet Site
6. Postcard Showing Walkway and Bathhouse, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 3 of 19

3. Unknown
4. c. 1958
5. Sarasota History Center
6. Historic Photo, South Pavilion Looking North
7. Photo 4 of 19

3. Lorrie Muldowney
4. 2002
5. Sarasota History Center
6. Covered Walkway and Bathhouse, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 5 of 19

3. Lorrie Muldowney
4. 2002
5. Sarasota History Center
6. Covered Walkway and Bathhouse, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 5 of 19

3. Lorrie Muldowney
4. 2002
5. Sarasota History Center
6. Covered Walkway and Bathhouse, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 6 of 19

3. Lorrie Muldowney
4. 2002
5. Sarasota History Center
6. Bathhouse, North Facade, with New Shelter Area, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 7 of 19

3. Lorrie Muldowney
4. 2002
5. Sarasota History Center
6. Bathhouse, South Elevation
7. Photo 8 of 19

3. Lorrie Muldowney
4. 2008
5. Sarasota History Center
6. Covered Walkway and Community Building, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 9 of 19

3. Lorrie Muldowney
4. 2008
5. Sarasota History Center
6. Fountain and Community Building, Looking West
7. Photo 10 of 19

3. Lorrie Muldowney
4. 2008
5. Sarasota History Center
6. Main (South) Facade and East Elevation of Former Bathhouse, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 11 of 19

3. Lorrie Muldowney
4. 2008
5. Sarasota History Center
6. East Elevation of Former Bathhouse, Looking West
7. Photo 12 of 19

3. Lorrie Muldowney
4. 2008
5. Sarasota History Center
6. North (Rear) Elevation of Former Bathhouse, Looking South
7. Photo 13 of 19

3. Lorrie Muldowney
4. 2008
5. Sarasota History Center
6. South Pavilion, with Art Panel Looking South
7. Photo 14 of 19

3. Lorrie Muldowney
4. 2008
5. Sarasota History Center
6. South Pavilion, with Art Panels Looking Southwest
7. Photo 15 of 19

3. Jack West
4. 2004
5. Sarasota History Center
6. Floor Plan of ,Community Building
7. Photo 16 of 19

3. Lorrie Muldowney
4. 2008
5. Sarasota History Center
6. Community Building, Interior, Looking North
7. Photo 17 of 19

3. Lorrie Muldowney
4. 2008
5. Sarasota History Center
6. View of the Nokomis Beach Pavilion from Life Guard's Chair on Beach, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 18 of 19

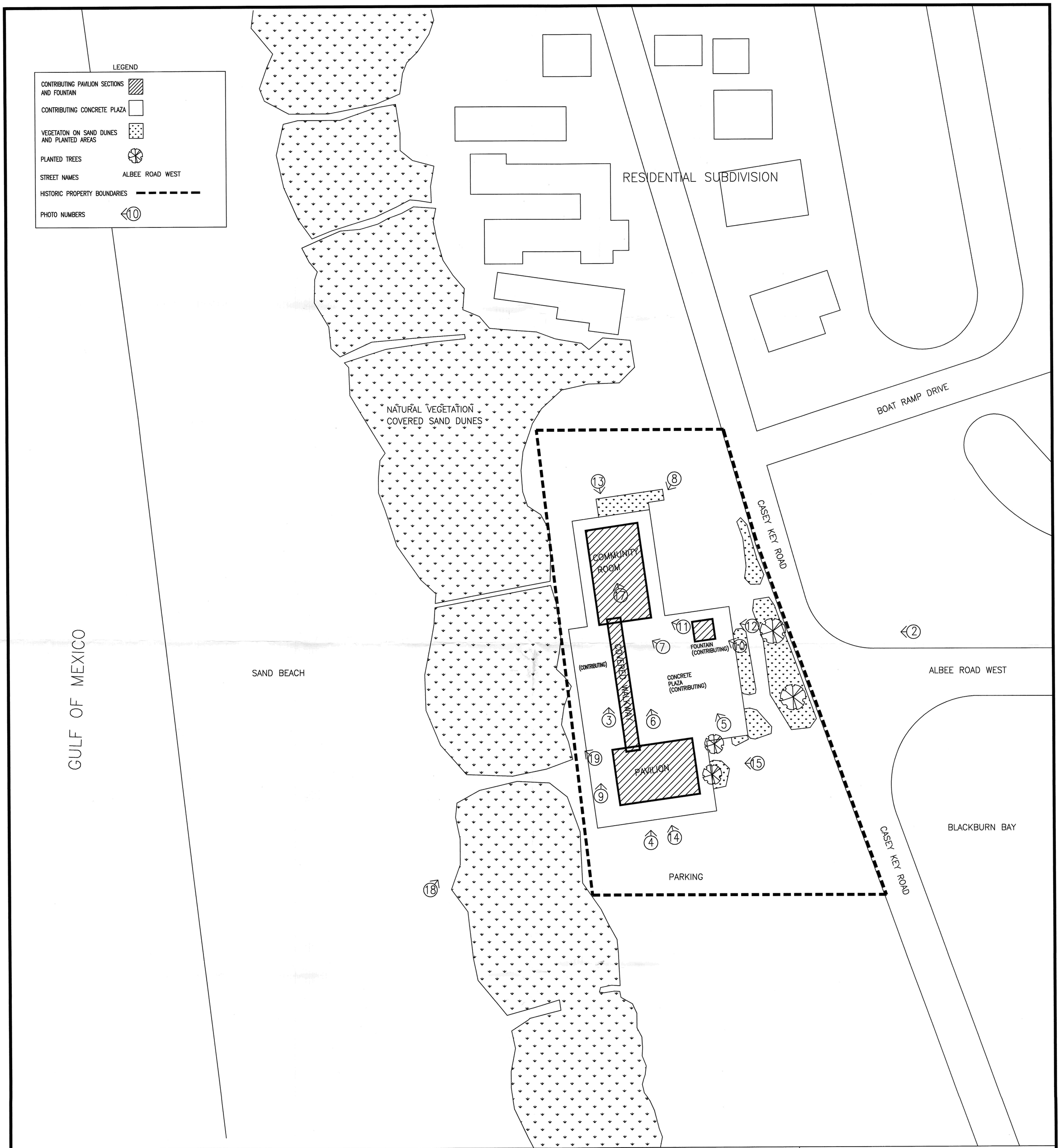
3. Lorrie Muldowney
4. 2008
5. Sarasota History Center
6. View of Life Guard's Chair from Boardwalk Looking Northwest
7. Photo 19 of 19

Nokomis Beach Pavilion

Nokomis Beach Pavilion
100 Casey Key Road, Nokomis
Sarasota County, Florida

N

UTM Coordinates: Zone 17 Easting 354240 Northing 3001060
Latitude: 27° 7'28.02"N Longitude 82°28'12.59"W



NOKOMIS BEACH PAVILION

100 CASEY KEY ROAD

NOKOMIS (SARASOTA COUNTY), FLORIDA

0 20 40 60 80

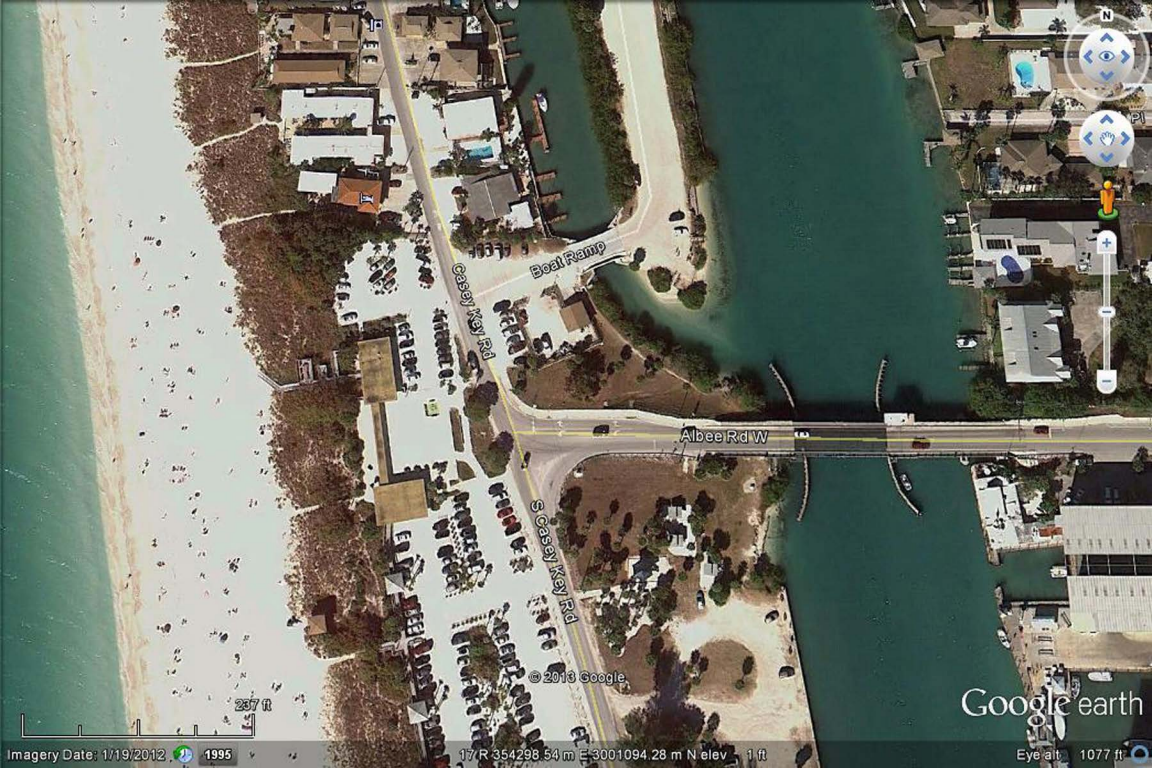
scale feet

THE NOKOMIS BEACH PAVILION WAS DRAWN IN AUTOCAD USING THE SARASOTA COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER'S GIS AERIAL AND GOOGLE EARTH AERIAL VIEWS WHICH WERE DOWNLOADED AS TIFFS AND IMPORTED AS RASTERS INTO THE AUTOCAD PROGRAM. STREETS, WATER VIEWS, AND SPECIAL FEATURES SUCH AS SAND DUNES WERE ALSO SHOWN. THE PLAN WAS DRAWN TO APPROXIMATE SCALE BASED ON THE THOSE SHOWN ON THE AERIAL PHOTOS.

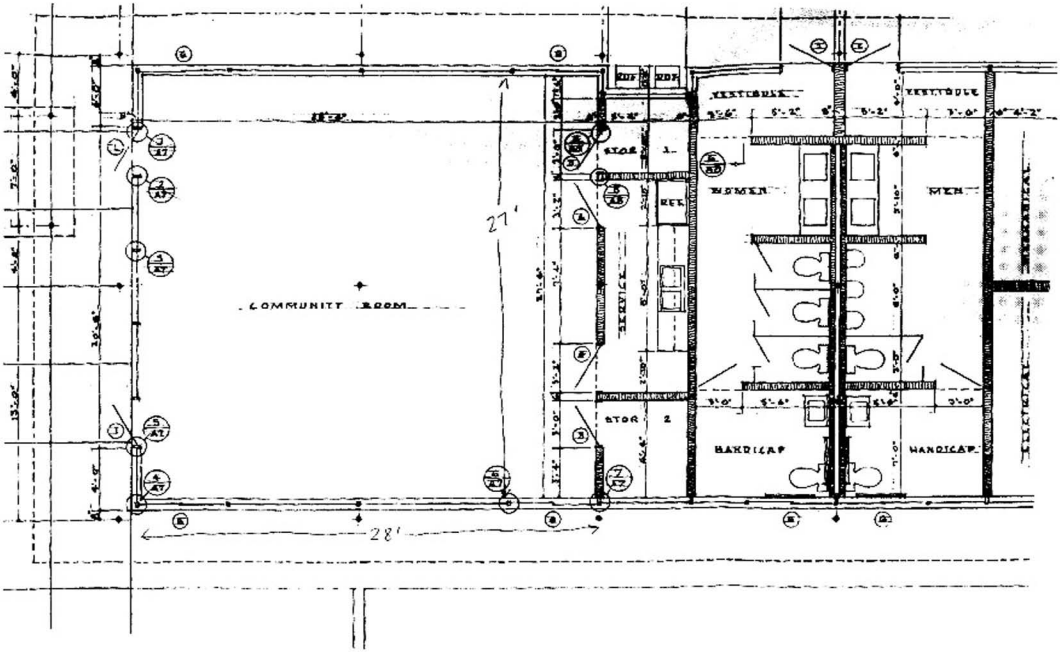
DRAWN BY: W. CARL SHIVER

DRAWING DATE: APRIL 2013

MAP REVIEWED BY: CARL SHIVER
FLORIDA BUREAU OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
R.A. GRAY BUILDING
500 SOUTH BRONOUGH STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0250
PHONE NUMBER (850) 245-6333
TOLL FREE NUMBER 1-800-7278
FAX NUMBER (850) 245-6439


Boat Ramp
Casey Key Rd
Albee Rd W
S Casey Key Rd
© 2013 Google
237 ft
Google earth
Imagery Date: 1/19/2012
1995
17 R 354298.54 m E 3001094.28 m N elev 1 ft
Eye alt 1077 ft

WARNING
NO SALVAGE


COMMUNITY ROOM
27'
28'
STOR 1
STOR 2
REF
ELEVATOR
VESTIBULE
VESTIBULE
WOMEN
MEN
HANDICAP
HANDICAP
ELECTRICAL
ELECTRICAL