WARNING

THE LOCATION OF THIS PROPERTY IS RESTRICTED INFORMATION. THIS DOCUMENTATION MAY BE REPRODUCED ONLY WITH THE CHIEF OF REGISTRATION'S PERMISSION.

* WHEN PHOTOCOPYING OR OTHERWISE REPRODUCING THIS DOCUMENT, BE CERTAIN TO COVER ALL LOCATION INFORMATION, INCLUDING THE ADDRESS BLOCKS, VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, UTM COORDINATES, MAPS OR ANY SECTIONS IN THE TEXT DESCRIBING LOCATION.

Property Name: Williams, E. Stewart & Mari, House
State: CALIFORNIA
County: Riverside
Reference Number: 16000894
WARNING

This file may contain material that must be withheld because it is restricted under one or more Federal laws and regulations. All or some of those noted below may apply. Additionally, other federal laws and program requirements may limit public access to information in these files.

1) The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, Section 304[16 U.S.C. 470w-3(a), confidentiality of the location of sensitive historic resources; 16 U.S.C. 470w-3(b), Access Determination; 16 U.S.C. 470w-3(c), Consultation with the Advisory Council];
2) The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended [Public Law 96-95; 16 U.S.C. 470aa-mm; with special attention to Section 9 subsections a and b in their entirety];
3) The National Parks Omnibus Act of 1988, Section 207 (1 and 2);
4) 36 CFR 800.6(5) and 36 CFR800.11(c);
5) Department of the Interior Departmental Manual (519 DM 2);
6) National Park Service Management Policies 2006, Section 5.1.1;
7) Director’s Order 28, Section 5a;

Information in these files that may be restricted can include, but is not limited to, such things as: locations of archeological sites; locations of features within archeological sites; types of artifacts and their recovered locations; the existence of and/or the locations of excavated and unexcavated human remains; photos, maps and text that includes sensitive archeological or cultural information; specific or general information of a sensitive cultural nature such as information about religious ceremonies; rock art or other cultural items; creation stories; or properties associated with such things.

Please note that Section 304 (c), [16 U.S.C. 470w-3(c)], 36 CFR 800.6(5), and 36 CFR 800.11 (c) require consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on reaching determinations of withholding. Further, 36 CFR 800.6(5), and 36 CFR 800.11 (c) specify including the views of the SHPO/THPO, Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations, related to the confidentiality concern in reaching determinations of withholding.
1. Name of Property
Historic name: Williams, E. Stewart & Mari, Residence
Other names/site number: Williams Residence
Name of related multiple property listing: The Architecture of E. Stewart Williams
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location
Street & number:
City or town: 
State: 
County: 
Not For Publication: 
Vicinity: 

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this _x_ nomination _x_ 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 _x_ meets _x_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  _x_ local
Applicable National Register Criteria:

_A  _B  _x_ C  _D

[Signature]
Jenan Saunders/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
California State Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property _meets _does not meet the National Register criteria.

[Signature of commenting official]
Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: __________________________
Date of Action: 12/27/2016

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.)

Building(s) ☒
District
Site
Structure
Object
**Number of Resources within Property**
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

buildings
sites
structures
objects
Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register ____0_____

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: _WOOD, GLASS, CONCRETE, METAL:_steel

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.) Location information redacted at request of property owner.

Summary Paragraph
Like the Edris Residence constructed two years earlier, the goal for the E. Stewart and Mari Williams Residence (Williams Residence) was to integrate as much of the natural environment into the modern design as possible. The 2,380 square foot house is of wood frame, post and beam construction with stucco and board-and-batten sheathing. With his own home Williams was able to fully realize his design philosophy of bringing the natural environment into the living space. To this end, Williams designed a butterfly roof cantilevered out over three rows of side beams. This eliminated walls so that the landscape could flow through floor-to-ceiling glazing in each room. The house is essentially a roof over a garden, a shelter for a very hard climate. The Williams Residence retains a high level of integrity, perfectly exhibiting Williams’ philosophy of architecture as environmental expression.

Narrative Description
The home of Mari and E. Stewart Williams exemplifies the architect’s design philosophy of integrating the natural environment into a modern residential design. He accomplished this by building a minimal shelter over a garden using primarily wood and glass. By placing a shallow butterfly roof with deep eaves atop a post and beam frame, he was able to take full advantage of floor-to-ceiling plate glass and jalousie windows on most elevations. At the north end of the
house, the outside garden continues into the living room where numerous boulders surround an open fire pit. The living room flows into the dining room with the two bedrooms and den located in the southern portion of the house.

The south-facing main entrance is accessed from a U-shaped courtyard formed when the carport was constructed on the east side of this landscaped area. Double entry doors open to a foyer enclosed by board-and-batten wood siding and a pair of floor-to-ceiling plate glass windows. A door on the east end of the foyer leads to the laundry room.

Stewart erected a long pebble encrusted tilt-up concrete wall on the north side of the parcel to block the strong winds common during early spring and late fall. The wall continues beneath the roofline and support beams becoming the north elevation with clerestory windows admitting light. The deep west-facing eaves provide shade for an outdoor patio that flows from the living room through sliding glass doors. On the opposite, east side of the living room is an enclosed courtyard with a grid and slatted wood roof that softens the bright sunlight. A hallway on the west side of the house accesses the two bedrooms and small den.

A comparison with historic photographs reveals that the jalousie windows that once separated the plate glass windows of the west elevation have been replaced with fixed glazing. Most likely this was done for security reasons, as jalousie windows are relatively easy to break or remove for gaining unwanted access to the interior. As such, their replacement with fixed glazing does not materially affect the dwelling’s physical integrity. The kitchen has been updated with new appliances and the original unpainted wood cabinets remain as originally designed by Williams.

The dwelling’s floors are polished concrete stained brown to match the earth. Two shallow concrete steps surround the fire pit in the northwest corner with its suspended metal hood and collection of boulders. A natural rock planter on the west side of the fire pit continues through the glazing so as to physically meld indoors and outdoors.

The living room flows into the dining room with the kitchen separated from the latter by a pass through opening that can be hidden behind folding wood doors. Throughout the house is Williams-designed built-in natural unpainted wood furniture such as cabinets, closets, dressers, and vanities. A previous owner painted the natural wood hallway closets and walls white. The painting of these natural wood surfaces is unfortunate and could be reversed if new wood veneer replaced the painted wood. The same owner removed a built-in credenza/bookcase that divided the living and dining rooms. This loss changes the feeling of separation between the two rooms. It is not significant enough to suggest a substantial reduction in integrity to this portion of the house. In the master bedroom, some of the original built-in furniture was removed or replaced by the previous owner. As with the credenza/bookcase, the loss of these built-in pieces does not materially affect the overall integrity of the dwelling’s interior.

Board-and-batten siding and stucco-sheathed panels separate glazing on all three sides of the south wing. In 1991, Williams designed a 720 square foot carport that was erected on the
southeast portion of the house. Its minimalist wood post and beam construction is consistent with the original design of the residence and does not negatively affect the property’s integrity of design, materials, or workmanship. Unusual for Palm Springs, the Williams family did not have their own swimming pool during the time of their occupancy so it was natural that in the mid-2000s a new owner had one installed. The pool with its concrete deck is located on the west side of the property with access from the living room. Note that the remainder of the broad lawn from the pool area to the main entrance of the walled property is unmodified. As a result, the swimming pool’s existence, location, and associated concrete deck do not materially affect the physical or historical integrity of the highly original house.

In summary, the property retains the essential physical features associated with the residential work of E. Stewart Williams, melding the natural environment with modern design that was the essence of Williams’ architectural philosophy. Despite the noted alterations, the residence retains sufficient integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, location, feeling, and association to fully convey its architectural significance.
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.

X 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.)

☐ 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years
Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
ARCHITECTURE


Period of Significance
1955

Significant Dates
1955

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Williams, E. Stewart
Williams, E. Stewart & Mari, Residence
Riverside, California

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The E. Stewart and Mari Williams Residence is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance in the area of Architecture. The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of mid-century residential architecture as interpreted by E. Stewart Williams. In addition, the property meets The Architecture of E. Stewart Williams Multiple Property Submission registration requirements for residential buildings in association with the historic context “Architecture as environmental expression in the greater Coachella Valley, 1946-1976.” The period of significance corresponds with the building’s date of construction, 1955.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The E. Stewart and Mari Williams Residence exhibits the distinctive characteristics of dwellings Williams designed from 1947 through the 1960s. Specifically, it features a low-slung roof, deep overhangs, large expanses of glazing with sliding glass doors for indoor-outdoor flow, and an open floor plan. As important, natural materials and the desert itself are integrated into the design. Natural rock planters and boulders penetrate the living room through glazing, merging with a fire pit adjacent to the seating area. Glass walls bring the outdoors in throughout the house with views of the nearby mountains and surrounding landscaping.

The Williams Residence is significant within the oeuvre of E. Stewart Williams and fits within the historic context presented in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, “Architecture as environmental expression in the greater Coachella Valley, 1946-1976.” The Williams Residence retains integrity, exemplifying Williams’ philosophy that modern design should express the natural environment in which it is located. As a result it is readily identifiable as the work of E. Stewart Williams, meeting National Register Criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of residential buildings associated with the master architect.
9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

As indicated in The Architecture of E. Stewart Williams Multiple Property Documentation Form.

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 #_________
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_________

Primary location of additional data:

___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University of California, Santa Barbara
   X Other
     Name of repository:  Palm Springs Art Museum, Architecture and Design Center

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _______________

10. Geographical Data [Location information redacted at request of property owner.]
 Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: _____Peter Moruzzi/Architectural Historian ____________________________
organization: ___ ________________________________
street & number: ____2018 Griffith Park Blvd., #114 ____________________________
city or town: __Los Angeles__ __________ state: __CA______ zip code:__ 90039_____
e-mail ___petermoruzzi@gmail.com_____________________________
telephone: ___213-706-0151______________________
date:____April 2016_________________________

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.

[Photographs redacted at request of property owner.]

Photo Log
Name of Property: E. Stewart & Mari Williams Residence
City or Vicinity: Palm Springs
County: Riverside
State: CA
Photographer: Peter Moruzzi
Date Photographed: April 2016
Photographs and photograph log have been removed
1 map has been removed
1 map has been removed