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Historical News

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HISTORICAL NEWS

Historic American Buildings Survey of Key West

Professor F. Blair Reeves of the University of Florida's College of Architecture and chairman of the American Institute of Architects' Committee on Historic Buildings this summer supervised a program that surveyed and photographed a number of historic homes and buildings in Key West. Co-sponsor of the survey was the Old Island Restoration Foundation of Key West, a group that has dedicated itself since its organization in 1960, to the preservation of the architectural and historical heritage of Key West. Three University of Florida architecture students made up the survey team.

The Historic American Buildings Survey is a long-range program for assembling a national archive of historic American architecture. Begun in 1933, by the National Park Service, the American Institute of Architects, and the Library of Congress, the survey's measured drawings, photographs, and written data are part of a growing archive at the Library of Congress. This archive, one of the world's largest collections of its kind, consists of over 30,000 drawings, 40,000 photographs, and 6,000 pages of architectural and historic data recording 10,000 buildings throughout the United States. Included in the archive are a number of drawings and photographs of Florida homes and buildings from Pensacola, Apalachicola, Quincy, Madison, Tallahassee, Monticello, St. Augustine, St. Marks, Marianna, Old Town, and Fort George Island. Pictures of the historic buildings of St. Augustine were reproduced in the Quadricentennial number (July-October 1965) of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. The Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress, sells copies of the photographs and drawings at moderate prices. There are two geographically arranged guides, an illustrated *Catalogue* (1941), and a *Supplement* (1959).

Included in the survey of Key West is the home of Ernest Hemingway, the Audubon House, Captain Francis Watlington's house (probably the oldest house in Key West), Sand Key Lighthouse, Captain John H. Geiger's home, the Bahama houses of

Richard Roberts and Richard Kemp, the United States Coast Guard headquarters, the Convent of Mary Immaculate, the old post office and customs house, and Fort Jefferson. It is hoped that the Key West survey will serve as a model for other Florida communities, and will provide the beginnings for a "Guide to the Architectural-Historic Buildings of Florida," to be compiled by Professor Reeves and Dr. Samuel Proctor, editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*.

Mar-A-Lago

Mar-A-Lago, the Palm Beach residence of Mrs. Marjorie Merriweather Post, has been documented by photographs and written data for inclusion in the Library of Congress Historical American Buildings Survey archive. Professor Reeves and Dr. Proctor directed this project. Professor Reeves prepared the written data describing the architectural features of Mar-A-Lago, and Dr. Proctor compiled the historic material. Jack E. Boucher, formerly senior photographer of the National Park Service and now associated with the Historical Commission of the State of New Jersey, took the photographs. Mr. Boucher's photographs of St. Augustine have appeared in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*.

Mar-A-Lago, a two-storied, crescent shaped mansion was first opened in 1927. It is considered to be the most magnificent mansion on Florida's east coast. It was designed by Marion Wyeth and Joseph Urban, and the sculpture was by Franz Barwig of Vienna. Mar-A-Lago is an adaptation of the Hispano-Moresque style.

OBITUARIES

ROBERT SPENCER COTTERILL

Robert Spencer Cotterill, an eminent Florida writer, historian, and educator, died in Tallahassee in July 1967. A native of Battle Run, Kentucky, Professor Cotterill was born August 12, 1884. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, and taught at Kentucky Wesleyan, Western Maryland College, and the University of Louisville, before coming to Florida in 1928, to accept a position in the Department of History, Florida State College for Women (now Florida State University). In 1950, he was made research professor of history, and he was named professor emeritus of history when he retired in 1952. Professor Cotterill was a member of the editorial boards of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* and the *Journal of Southern History*, and he was editor of the *Filson Club Quarterly*. He wrote a number of articles and books dealing with southern history. His best known work was *The Southern Indians; the Story of the Civilized Tribes Before Removal* published in 1954.

EDWIN C. McREYNOLDS

Edwin C. McReynolds, author of *The Seminoles*, published by the University of Oklahoma Press in 1957, as one of the volumes in its Civilization of American Indian Series, died in February 1967. A native of Springfield, Missouri, Dr. McReynolds received his degrees from the University of Oklahoma, and he became a member of the history faculty of the university in 1943. In addition to his well-known study of the Seminoles of Florida and Oklahoma, Dr. McReynolds wrote histories of Oklahoma and Missouri and compiled atlases of those states. He was also a contributor to the *Florida Historical Quarterly*.