

REPORT OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT
TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD
ON THE DESIGNATION OF
THE RESIDENCE AT
1910 COUNTRY CLUB PRADO

c. 1945 Photograph

LHD 2000-01

**DESIGNATION REPORT
RESIDENCE, 1910 COUNTRY CLUB PRADO**

Date of Construction: 1923

Architect: Kiehnel and Elliot

Legal Description: Lots 3 and 4, Block 26, Coral Gables Section "E"

Original Permit Number: 607

Built for: George E. Merrick

Present Owner: Craig A. and Marianela Werley

Present Use: Residence

Zoning Classification: R-14

Site Characteristics: The residence is located on two lots and faces east onto Country Club Prado.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The residence at 1910 Country Club Prado was permitted in 1923 along with ten other home which where designed by Architects Kiehnel and Elliott and is significant as a classic example of Mediterranean Revival style architecture and exemplifies the type of building that was generated in Coral Gables during the 1920's. The historic integrity of this home has been maintained and contributes to the character of the City.

CRITERIA FOR SIGNIFICANCE

I. *Embodies those distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style, or period, or method of construction. (Coral Gables City Code, Chapter 11, Section 11-29(2)(b))*

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The residence at 1910 Country Club Prado is an excellent example of the Mediterranean Revival architectural styled home built in the 1920's. This two story home features a two story section, stucco exterior walls, clay barrel-tiled roof, prominent chimney, a second story balcony with cast detailing, wood casement windows, and a garage. Compared to the 1940's photograph, the integrity of the home has been maintained, sustaining the historic nature of the home and thus it contributes to the collection of quality residences found within the City.

ARCHITECT

The original building permit (#607) indicates the architect of 1910 Country Club Prado to be the architectural firm of Kiehnel and Elliott. In 1923, George E. Merrick commissioned Kiehnel and Elliott to design several buildings. A series of ten were designed and permitted sequentially on the Country Club Prado.

Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the firm organized in 1906 by John M. Elliott and Richard Kiehnel came to Florida in 1917 to design the residence "El Jardin" (now the Carrollton School) in Coconut Grove for John Bindley of the Pittsburgh Steel Company. Three years later, Richard Kiehnel left Pittsburgh and opened a branch of the firm in Miami. The firm also opened offices in St. Petersburg and Miami Beach.

Born in Germany in 1870, Richard Keihnel was educated at the University of Breslau, Germany and the Ecole Nationale des Beaux Arts, Paris. His name was associated with the City and was commissioned to construct many of the first residences. Other buildings designed for Coral Gables are the Coral Gables Congregational Church (1923) and the Coral Gables Elementary School (1926). They were the first of both building types for the City of Coral Gables.

From 1935 to 1942, Richard Kiehnel was the editor of **Florida Architecture and Allied Arts Magazine**. While in South Florida, he became a leader within the architectural community. His designs included hotels, public buildings, residences, the Scottish Rite Temple, and the Master Plan for Rollins College in Winter Park.

OWNER/BUILDER

The original plans indicate that Coral Gables House Number 607 was designed for Mr. George E. Merrick. Although this house, like many others were associated with George Merrick, there is no evidence he ever lived there.

ADDITIONS / ALTERATIONS

Alterations to this residence have been minimal. They include the replacement of windows and doors, the enclosure of the screen porch and breezeway. These changes are considered to have a minor impact on the overall character of the residence and its architectural integrity.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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The residence at 1910 Country Club Prado has retained its integrity as an example of the Mediterranean Revival style architecture that was popular in the Coral Gables area during the 1920's. Because of its association with George Merrick, the Architectural firm of Kiehnel and Elliott, and as one of a collection of houses on Country Club Prado, the staff finds the property at 1910 Country Club Prado eligible for listing in the Coral Gables Register of Historic Places.

Respectfully submitted,

Dona M. Lubin
Acting Historic Preservation Director

Report written by Simone Chin

Bibliography

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Building Microfilm Records for 1910 Country Club Prado, Building and Zoning Department,
Microfilm Division, Coral Gables, Florida.

Coral Gables Use& Area Map, City of Coral Gables, June 1997, Plate No.2

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REVIEW GUIDE

Definition: The Review Guide lists some of the more prominent features which contribute to the overall character of a structure and/or district. It is not intended to be all-inclusive, as photographic documentation fully illustrates the present physical character of the property.

Use: The Review Guide may be used to address the impact of new construction, additions/modifications/alterations and/or renovations which may become the subject of some future Certificate of Appropriateness consideration....and

The Review Guide by describing EXISTING physical characteristics may be used to determine whether or not elements which create the character of the structure and/or district is present and/or whether or not later additions or alterations have so changed that character so as to cause the property(ies) to become ineligible for listing.

Residence Address: 1910 Country Club Prado

Date of Construction: 1923

Construction Material: concrete block covered with stucco, barrel tile

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porch

Front elevation
decorative
door surround
wood
french doors

predominant chimney

Detail
wood casement window

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\hat{O} varied roof heights

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