

Emil A. Ehmann, Architect, North Beach Log Cabin (1934).

ARCHITECT: EMIL AUGUST EHMANN (1880-1947)

#### E.A. EHMANN - EARLY WORKS – PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLA

West Palm Beach Fire Hall (1905), Emil A. Ehmann, Architect -

One of Emil A. Ehmann's earliest recorded architectural works is the 1905 'Fire Hall' in West Palm Beach. This was the first permanent fire station in all of South Florida and was funded by Henry Flagler along with contributions raised by firefighters.

(Excerpt Palm Beach Post, March 22, 1935) "Ehmann came here several years before construction of the fire hall and became connected with architects working on the East Coast Hotel properties. In recent years he has been a state hotel official with his residence at Tallahassee. He now is an architect at Miami."

(Excerpt Palm Beach Post, March 2, 1921) "A considerable portion of the cost of the building was underwritten by Henry M. Flagler while the remainder largely was made up of subscriptions. Emil A. Ehmann, architect, drew up plans for the building."

When the City of West Palm Beach was formed in November of 1894, a group of concerned citizens came forward to organize the first firefighting force for the city.

This group of concerned citizens was known as the Flagler Alerts. The name for these volunteers was chosen in honor of Henry Flagler who donated the first pieces of firefighting equipment. This firefighting apparatus consisted of a hand-pulled, hand-operated pump. The water for this pump came from Lake Worth in a hose stretched along the sand and shell rock streets. This hose was also carried on a hand-pulled hose reel.

A horse drawn ladder truck would be added later, but the horses to pull this truck had to be borrowed from the sheriff. More times than not, the firefighters themselves pulled this large heavy wooden vehicle. While this truck did not have a mounted aerial ladder, it did hold 235' of heavy wooden ground ladders and an assortment of specialized equipment.

On June 9th of 1903, Mr. Flagler's namesakes would come to his aid. The Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach was in flames on that summer day. Those early firefighters pulled their equipment across the narrow wooden toll bridge spanning Lake Worth towards Palm Beach. The heroic efforts of the firefighters would be delayed, the over zealous bridge tender would not allow the firefighters across the bridge until each of them had paid the nickel toll. After word reached Mr. Flagler of the incident, each firefighter was repaid their five cents. In 1905 the firefighters raised money to build a 'fire hall'. A considerable portion of the building was underwritten by Henry Flagler and the first permanent fire station for West Palm Beach and all of South Florida was built with plans drawn up by architect Emil A. Ehmann.

A parade was held in celebration of the dedication of the fire station on July 5, 1905.

The building still stands on the Northeast corner of South Dixie Highway (formerly Poinsettia Ave.) and Datura Street in West Palm Beach, FL.



(Above) West Palm Beach Fire Hall (1905), Emil A. Ehmann, Architect



(Above) Architect Emil A. Ehmann Letter, 1906, The Tropical Sun, South Florida's first newspaper (first published in 1887)

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Mango Promenade Historic District (1907), Palm Beach County -

In 1907 architect Emil A. Ehmman mapped what is now the Mango Promenade Historic District in West Palm Beach for the Currie Investment Company. The Mango Promenade Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1999 for the historic significance of its architecture, community planning and development. The Mango Promenade Historic District is an approximately 30 acre, primarily residential area with a corridor of commercial buildings on the western edge of the district and contains a variety of residential architectural styles including frame and masonry vernacular, Craftsman bungalow, Colonial Revival, Mediterranean Revival and Monterey.

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E.A. Ehmman was one of 82 architects registered across the state in 1915/1916 with the Florida State Board of Architecture as reported by the Secretary of State.

## LIST OF ARCHITECTS

Registered by Florida State Board of Architecture.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	STATE.
1 Murry S. King....	Orlando .....	Florida.
2 B. C. Bonfoey....	Tampa .....	Florida.
3 E. A. Ehmman....	Jacksonville .....	Florida.
4 Jas. R. Walsh....	Jacksonville .....	Florida.
5 M. Leo Elliott....	Tampa .....	Florida.
6 Agnes Ballard ....	W. Palm Beach..	Florida.
7 F. M. Curtis....	Tampa .....	Florida.
8 F. O. Adams, Jr....	Tampa .....	Florida.
9 F. J. Kennard....	Tampa .....	Florida.
10 August Geiger....	Miami .....	Florida.
11 L. P. Hutton....	Orlando .....	Florida.
12 Jno. W. Biggar....	West Tampa ....	Florida.
13 D. F. Fouquay....	Daytona Beach ..	Florida.
14 G. S. Childs....	Lake Worth .....	Florida.
15 V. Earl Mark....	Jacksonville .....	Florida.
16 A. L. Shaw....	Tampa .....	Florida.
17 W. B. Eckler....	New Smyrna ....	Florida.
18 A. H. Johnson....	Tampa .....	Florida.
19 Geo. MacKay ....	Ocala .....	Florida.
20 W. W. Alfred....	Pensacola .....	Florida.
21 Frank D. Gheen....	Daytona Beach ..	Florida.
22 A. J. MacDonough..	Kissimmee .....	Florida.
23 S. J. Welsh....	Pensacola .....	Florida.
24 W. H. Carr....	Leesburg .....	Florida.
25 Geo. O. Holmes....	Jacksonville .....	Florida.
26 M. C. Greeley....	Jacksonville .....	Florida.
27 H. J. Klutho....	Jacksonville .....	Florida.
28 Rutledge Holmes....	Jacksonville .....	Florida.
29 Shields Warren ....	Gainesville .....	Florida.
30 L. Roy Sheftall....	Jacksonville .....	Florida.
31 R. A. Benjamin....	Jacksonville .....	Florida.
32 Geo. L. Pfeiffer....	Lemon City .....	Florida.
33 H. H. Mundy....	Miami .....	Florida.

## LIST OF ARCHITECTS—Continued.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	STATE.
34 W. M. Marsh....	Jacksonville .....	Florida.
35 F. A. Henderich...	St. Augustine ...	Florida.
36 W. B. Talley....	Jacksonville .....	Florida.
37 E. A. Nolan....	Miami .....	Florida.
38 Geo. Feltham ....	St. Petersburg ..	Florida.
39 W. D. Willis....	Pensacola .....	Florida.
40 S. H. Gove....	Daytona .....	Florida.
41 Wm. N. McDonald..	Jacksonville .....	Florida.
42 W. A. Edwards....	Atlanta .....	Georgia.
43 Wm. J. Sayward....	Atlanta .....	Georgia.
44 H. H. Dupont....	St. Petersburg ..	Florida.
45 W. C. DeGarmo....	Miami .....	Florida.
46 Geo. W. Stewart...	St. Petersburg ..	Florida.
47 Edgar Ferdon ....	St. Petersburg ...	Florida.
48 A. J. Poteet....	Lakeland .....	Florida.
49 L. A. Fort....	Lakeland .....	Florida.
50 W. B. Camp....	Jacksonville .....	Florida.
51 Fred J. James....	Tampa .....	Florida.
52 Francis M. Miller..	DeLand .....	Florida.
53 C. P. Niederhauser.	Jacksonville .....	Florida.
54 Jacob Espedahl ...	Daytona Beach ..	Florida.
55 A. C. Price....	Bradentown ....	Florida.
56 A. E. Lewis....	Miami .....	Florida.
57 J. S. Andrews....	Tampa .....	Florida.
58 Lester Avery ....	Clearwater .....	Florida.
59 H. E. Wendell....	Gulfport .....	Florida.
60 H. F. Saxelbye....	Jacksonville .....	Florida.
61 T. M. Bryan....	Lakeland .....	Florida.
62 J. G. Bonniwell...	St. Petersburg ...	Florida.
63 W. C. Frederic....	Pensacola .....	Florida.
64 F. H. Trimble....	Fellsmere .....	Florida.
65 John Cairns ....	DeLand .....	Florida.
66 M. E. Benjamin....	St. Petersburg ..	Florida.
67 N. D. Mitchell....	Tampa .....	Florida.
68 Dudley Matthews...	Orlando .....	Florida.
69 J. H. W. Hawkins..	Jacksonville .....	Florida.
70 Paul Gasser ....	Tampa .....	Florida.
71 L. M. Mowbray....	New York .....	New York.

## LIST OF ARCHITECTS—Continued.

	NAME.	ADDRESS.	STATE.
72	J. M. Uffinger.....	New York .....	New York.
73	F. D. Parslow.....	Tampa .....	Florida.
74	C. H. Glass.....	Tampa .....	Florida.
75	J. H. Sealthorpe..	Miami .....	Florida.
76	John W. Ingle....	New York .....	New York.
77	Wm. B. Ittner....	St. Louis .....	Missouri.
78	Seth J. Temple....	Davenport .....	Iowa.
79	Parke T. Burrows.	Davenport .....	Iowa.
80	E. J. Moughton...	Sanford .....	Florida.
81	H. G. Perring.....	Jacksonville .....	Florida.
82	M. L. Hampton....	Miami .....	Florida.

(Above) E.A. Ehmann was one of 82 architects registered across the state in 1915/1916 with the Florida State Board of Architecture as reported by the Secretary of State.

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#### HOLMES & EHMANN – JACKSONVILLE, FLA

In 1914, Emil A. Ehmann formed a partnership with George Olaf Holmes (the first president of the Florida Association of Architects) in Jacksonville, Fla. Together they designed:

The 1919 expansion of the 1874, 1901 and 1919 Guaranty Trust and Savings Bank (the first national bank in East Florida) at 101 East Bay Street, Jacksonville, FL (Listed as a contributing structure in the Downtown Jacksonville Historic District on the National Register in 2016)

The Woolworth Building (1917), Holmes & Ehmann, 102 - 110 North Main Street at Forsyth in Jacksonville, FL (Listed as a contributing structure in the Downtown Jacksonville Historic District in the National Register 2016), and

Fire Station # 8 (1923), Holmes & Ehmann, 625 Stockton Street, Jacksonville, FL.





(Above) Guaranty Trust and Savings Bank (1919), Holmes & Ehmann, (the first national bank in East Florida) 101 East Bay Street, Jacksonville, FL (Listed as a contributing structure in the Downtown Jacksonville Historic District in the National Register 2016)



(Above) Guaranty Trust and Savings Bank (1919), Holmes & Ehmann, (the first national bank in East Florida) 101 East Bay Street, Jacksonville, FL (Listed as a contributing structure in the Downtown Jacksonville Historic District in the National Register 2016)



(Above) Woolworth Building (1917), Holmes & Ehmann, 102 - 110 North Main Street at Forsyth, Jacksonville, FL (Listed as a contributing structure in the Downtown Jacksonville Historic District in the National Register 2016)





(Above) Fire Station # 8 (1923), Holmes & Ehmman, 625 Stockton Street in Jacksonville, FL

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#### HAMPTON & EHMANN – MIAMI, FLA

Pancoast Hotel (1923), Hampton & Ehmman, 29th & Collins Ave., Miami Beach, FL

Excerpt from the book “Lost Miami Beach” by Carolyn Klepser:

“As we have seen, Carl Fisher sold his oceanfront land for private estates, and he put his hotels elsewhere. The first grand oceanfront hotel in Miami Beach, even before the Deauville, was the Pancoast, constructed at Twenty-ninth street in 1923. Architects were Martin L. Hampton and Emil A. Ehmman, who had formed a partnership that year. Ehmman had previously worked in Jacksonville and for a time had been Florida’s supervising architect for public buildings. In July 1923, Hampton had gone on a sketching trip to Spain for firsthand study of Mediterranean

architecture. The Pancoast was the project of John Collins' grandson J. Arthur Pancoast. The building permit was issued on May 31, 1923, for this \$248,000 top-class hotel with 161 rooms, and it opened in January 1924. The Pancoast had the sprawling, multi hip and gable roofs of clay tile. Like some Spanish castle, with its courts, arches, mazes of color, window balconies, tower and promenade verandas, the Pancoast, modernized to the nth degree, stands out as the very incarnation of antiquity...No details of Spanish design have been overlooked, yet no modern conveniences have been sacrificed to carry out the exact style. The Pancoast was demolished in 1955 and replaced by Melvin Grossman's Seville Hotel (currently the Edition)."



John Collins's grandson J. Arthur Pancoast opened the Pancoast Hotel in 1923, on the ocean at Twenty-ninth Street. Postcard courtesy of Larry Wiggins.

There were four to five stories to the main part of the building, and an "Old Spanish Watchtower"<sup>184</sup> that rose to seven. The building faced south onto a circular drive that had a park with a fountain in the center. In addition, an auxiliary three-story building called The Lodge, somewhat more modest but still with a tower and arcade, stood half a block to the west, down Twenty-ninth Street. This may have been the promised accommodations for guests' chauffeurs and servants.

During World War II, the Pancoast served as a military hospital. It was demolished in 1955 and replaced by Melvin Grossman's Seville Hotel. There are many other lost works of Martin Hampton, but the Pancoast was one of his finest.

(Above) The Pancoast Hotel (1923), Hampton & Ehmann, 29th St. & Collins Ave., Miami Beach, FL (Demolished 1955)

Other structures designed by Hampton & Ehmann include:

Arlington Court (1925), Hampton & Ehmann, at 1330 Pennsylvania Ave., Miami Beach, FL



(contributing structure in the Miami Beach, Art Deco, Architectural District in the National Register of Historic Places),  
 City National Bank Building/Langford Building (1925), Hampton & Ehmann, at 121 SE 1st Street, Miami, FL (added to the National Register of Historic Places 1989),  
 Beverly Terrace (1925), Hampton & Ehmann, at 3224 and 3300 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL (Designated as a Historic District by the City of Miami in 2003)  
 Lua Curtiss House II (1926), Hampton & Ehmann, in Miami Springs, FL (added to the National Register of Historic Places 1985)  
 Bathing Casino (1925), Hampton & Ehmann, Hollywood Land & Water Company, Hollywood-by-the-Sea FL,  
 Great Southern Hotel (1924), Hampton & Ehmann, Hollywood Boulevard in Hollywood, FL,  
 Hollywood Country Club (1923), Hampton & Ehmann, Hollywood, FL



*Fig. 17. Symmes Shops & Residence Building on the Broadwalk, Hollywood-by-the-Sea, M. L. Hampton Architect, E. A. Ehmann Assoc. Miami Florida 1924. Also signed "Martin Havri '24". (Courtesy of the Hollywood Historical Society, gift of Patricia Smith, from the Harriett Ransom collection.)*

(Above) Symmes Shops & Residence (1924), Hampton & Ehmann, Hollywood Beach (destroyed by the Great Miami Hurricane 1926)

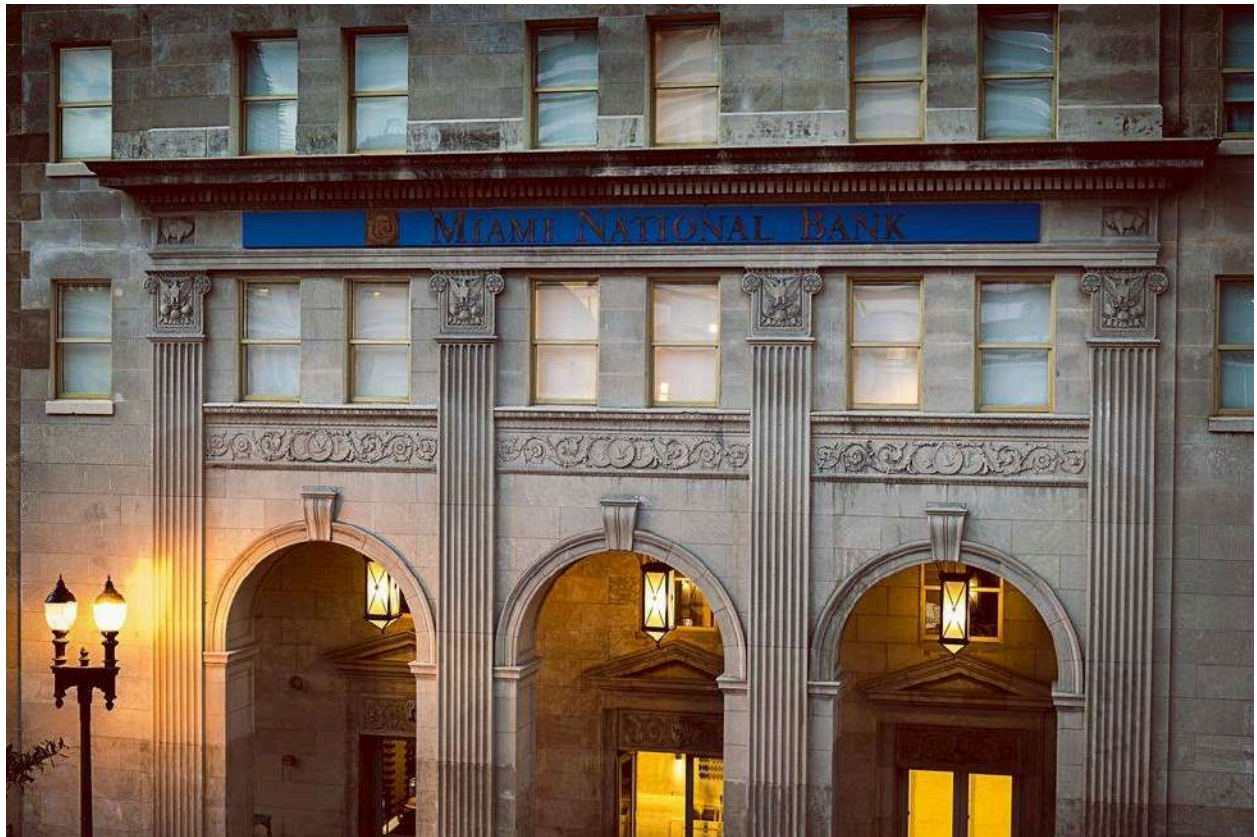


(Above) Arlington Court (1925), Hampton & Ehmann, 1330 Pennsylvania Ave., Miami Beach, FL (contributing structure in the Miami Beach, Art Deco, Architectural District, National Register of Historic Places)



(Above) City National Bank Building/Langford Building (1925), Hampton & Ehmann, 121 SE 1st Street in Miami, FL (added to the National Register of Historic Places 1989)





(Above) City National Bank Building/Langford Building (1925), Hampton & Ehmann, 121 SE 1st Street in Miami, FL (added to the National Register of Historic Places 1989)



(Above) City National Bank Building/Langford Building (1925), Hampton & Ehmann, 121 SE 1st Street in Miami, FL (added to the National Register of Historic Places 1989)





(Above) Beverly Terrace (1925), Hampton & Ehmann, 3224 and 3300 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL (Designated a Local Historic District by the City of Miami in 2003)



(Above) Beverly Terrace (1925), Hampton & Ehmann, 3224 and 3300 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL (Designated a Local Historic District by the City of Miami in 2003)





(Above) Lua Curtiss House II (1926), Hampton & Ehmann, Miami Springs, FL (added to the National Register of Historic Places 1985)



*Fig. 20. Bathing Casino, Hollywood Land & Water Company, Hollywood-by-the-Sea Florida, by Martin L. Hampton, Architect, E. A. Ehmann Associate, Miami. Begun 1924, opened May, 1925. (Drawing from a Young Company salesman's book, courtesy of the Hollywood Historical Society.)*

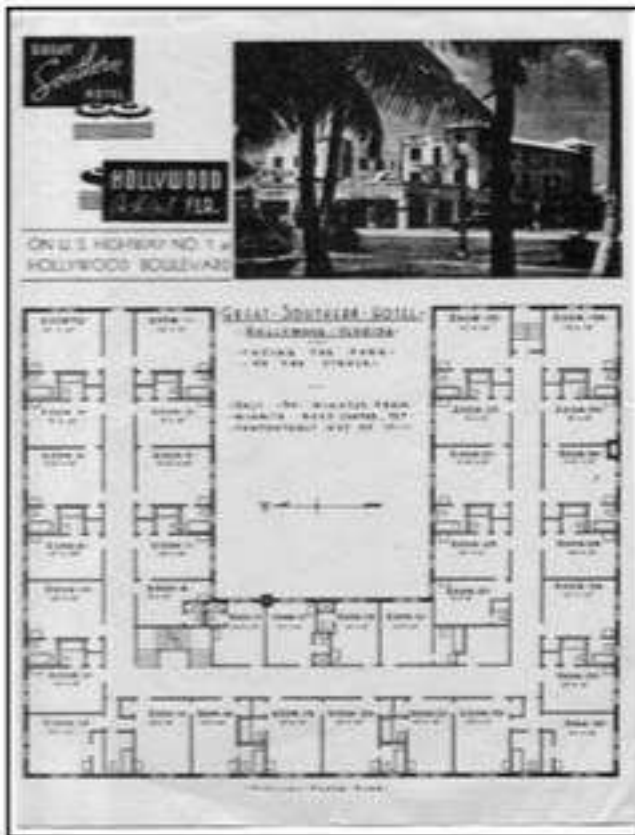
(Above) Hollywood Bathing Casino (1925), Hampton & Ehmann, Hollywood Land & Water Company, Hollywood-by-the-Sea, Florida





Great Southern Hotel, Hollywood, Florida.

(Above) Great Southern Hotel (1924), Hampton & Ehmann, Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, FL



*Fig 15. Advertisement for Great Southern Hotel, c. 1950, showing east and northern facades from Young Circle Park, and a typical floor plan. The low building enclosing the U here is a later addition. (Courtesy of the Hollywood Historical Society.)*

(Above) Great Southern Hotel (1924), Hampton & Ehmann, Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, FL







(Above) Hollywood Country Club (1923), Hampton & Ehmann, Hollywood, FL



(Above) Hollywood Country Club (1923), Hampton & Ehmann, Hollywood, FL



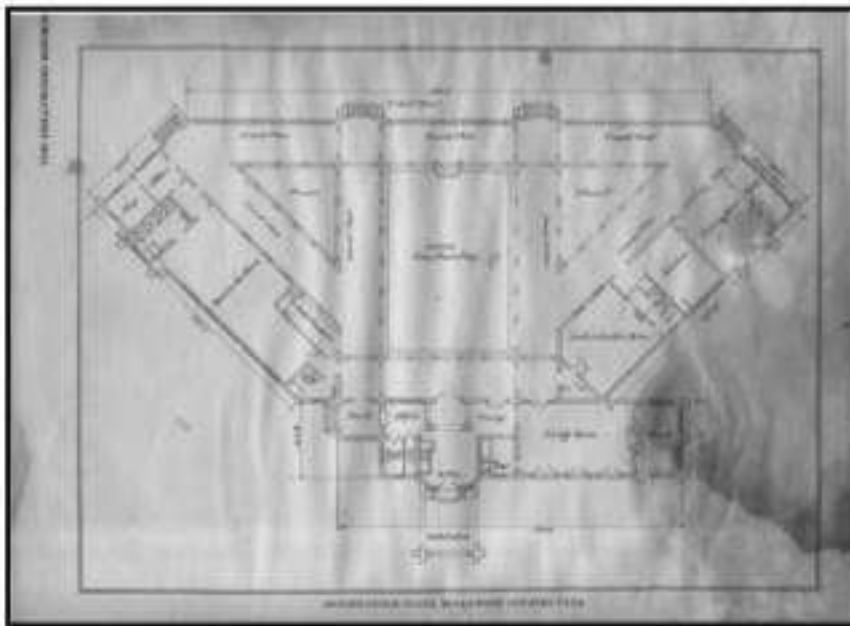


Fig. 11. Hollywood Golf and Country Club entrance, 1925. (Courtesy of the Broward County Historical Commission, Joseph Mackay Collection.)



Fig. 12. Interior, Hollywood Golf and Country Club, c. 1925. (Courtesy of the Hollywood Historical Society, Sherron collection.)

(Above) Hollywood Country Club (1923), Hampton & Ehmann, Hollywood, FL



*Fig. 8. Hampton and Ehmann, ground floor plan of Hollywood Country Club. (Drawing from the Hollywood Reporter, November 1923, p. 7, courtesy of the Hollywood Historical Society.)*

(Above) Hollywood Country Club (1923), Hampton & Ehmann, Hollywood, FL

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In 1936 Ehmann served as associate architect (Ehmann, Zimmerman, Saxe & MacBride) for the Walgreen Drug Store (1936), Ehmann, Zimmerman, Saxe & MacBride, 200 E. Flagler St., Miami, FL constructed in the Streamline Moderne style (nominated for the National Register of Historic Places in 1988).





(Above) Walgreen Drug Store (1936), Ehmann, Zimmerman, Saxe & MacBride, 200 E. Flagler St., Miami, FL constructed in the Streamline Moderne style (nominated for the National Register of Historic Places in 1988)



(Above) Walgreen Drug Store (1936), Ehmann, Zimmerman, Saxe & MacBride, 200 E. Flagler St., Miami, FL constructed in the Streamline Moderne style (nominated for the National Register of Historic Places in 1988)

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Ehmann's work demonstrates a significant contribution to South Florida's architectural heritage as well as a rich variety of architectural designs and styles across formative periods in Florida's history. This speaks to his stature as an important historical figure and master builder.

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#### THE NORTH BEACH LOG CABIN

According to respected Miami Beach historian, Carolyn Klepser, the Log Cabin was constructed in 1934 by architect Emil Ehmann as a private residence.

In July 1934, Austin T. Drew took out a permit for a log cabin home, with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, for \$4,000, at 8128 Collins Avenue.

The home was designed by local architect Emil A. Ehmann, and was built by general contractor F.F. Roderick.

In 1936, Drew sold the home to Dr Amos M. Judd.

In later years, the Wagner, Crockett, Cranford and Watson families lived in the home.

The City of Miami Beach acquired the home for \$146,492.50 in 1972 using eminent domain proceedings.

In 1975, the city established the Miami Beach Activity Center for adults at the location. Then in 1983, the building became the Log Cabin Plant Nursery and Life Training Center, housing a job-training program for special needs adults. This program closed in July 2011.



(\*Major Charles Cranford of New York and Daytona Beach is referenced on several occasions within the Palm Beach Society and News Happenings pages of the Palm Beach Post including entries from April 5, 1929 and another from January 14, 1936 in which Dr. Judd of Miami Beach and Major Charles Cranford are referenced in accompaniment.)



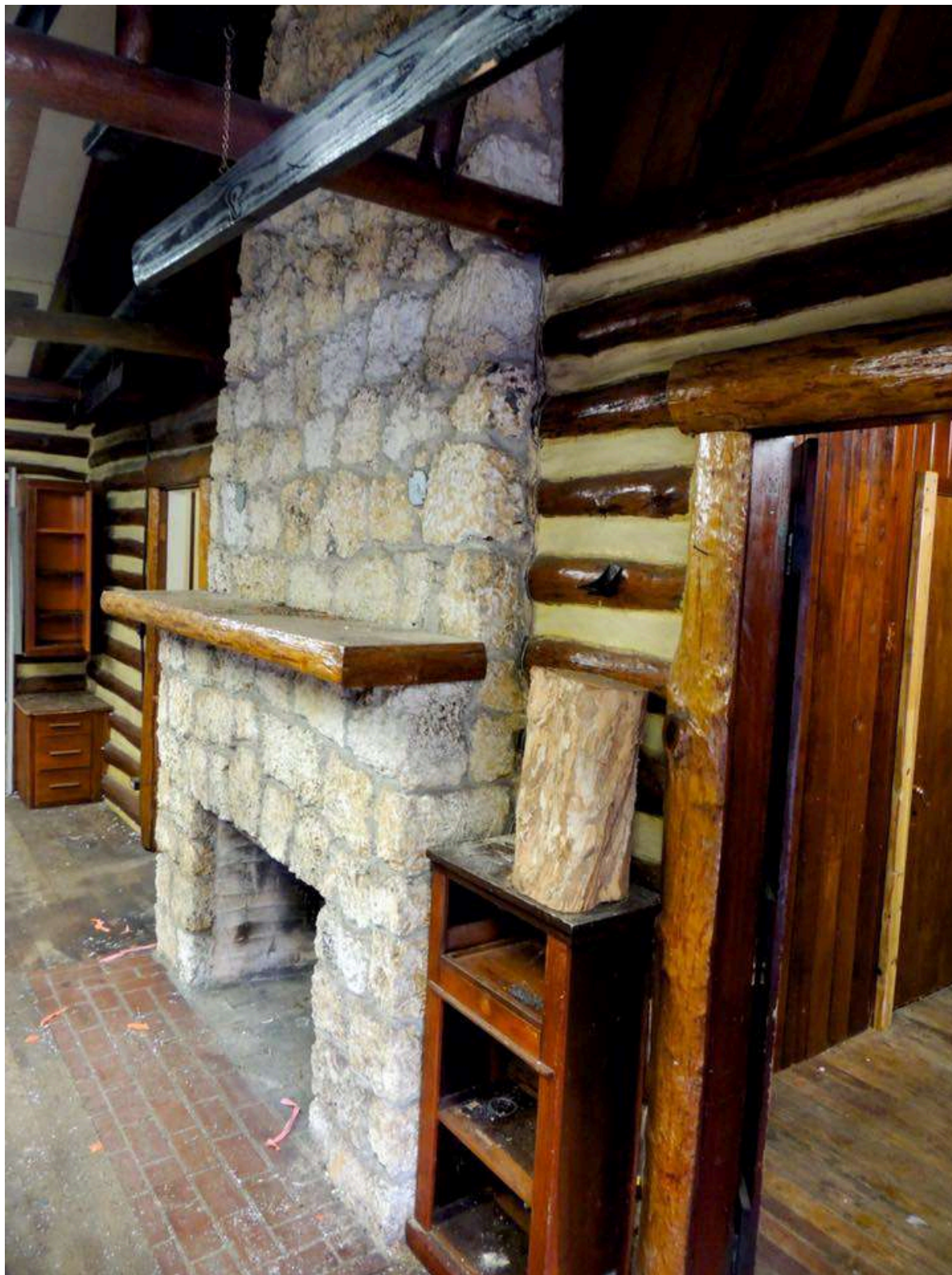
(Above) 8128 Collins Avenue (1934), Architect: Emil A. Ehmann, North Beach Depression era log cabin





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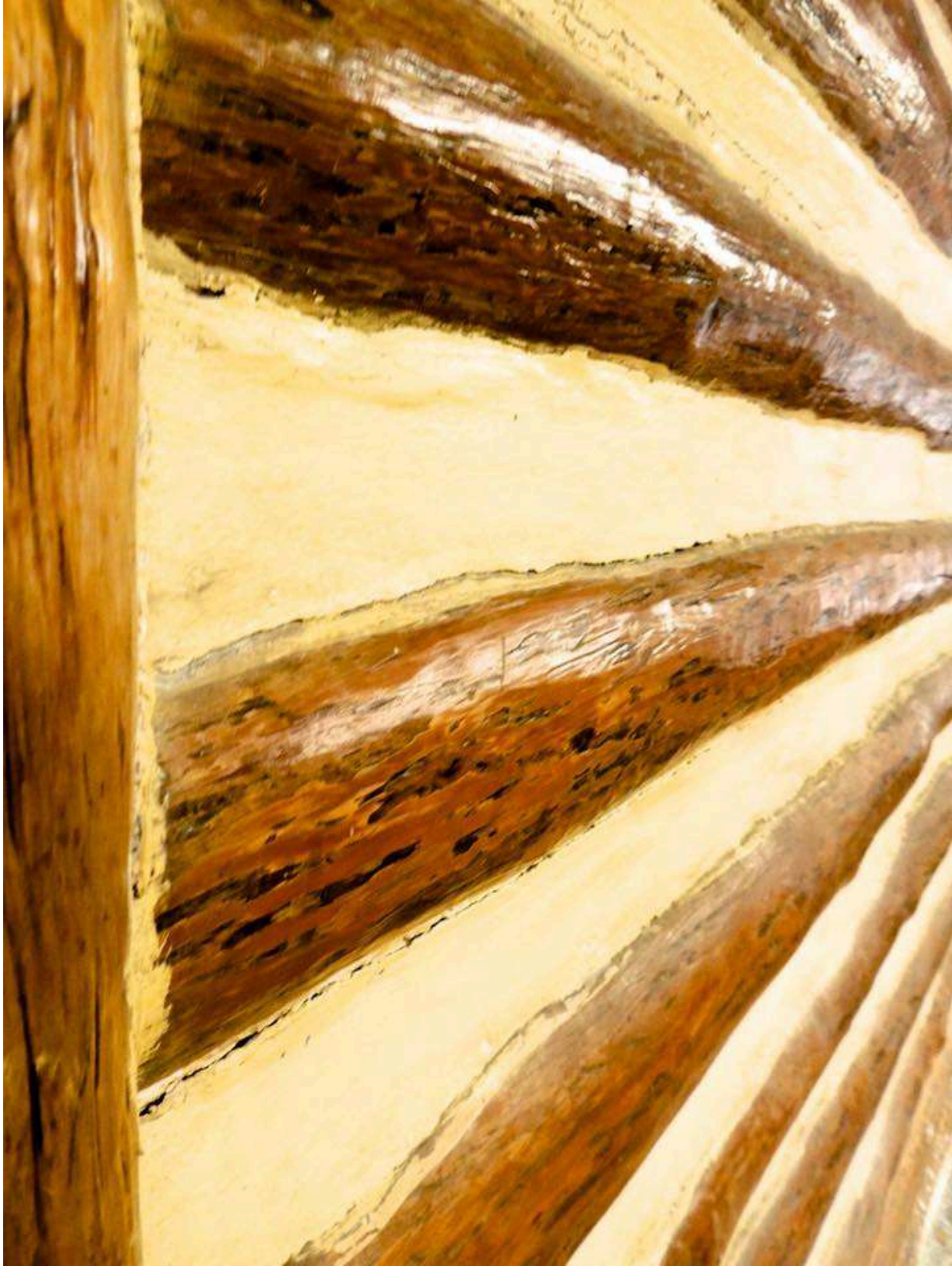


(Above) 8128 Collins Avenue (1934), Architect: Emil A. Ehmann, North Beach Depression era log cabin





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(Above) 8128 Collins Avenue (1934), Architect: Emil A. Ehmann, North Beach Depression era log cabin

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## THE LOG CABIN AND THE NORTH SHORE DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

Property records indicate the North Beach log cabin (1934) to be the earliest structure currently in existence from 79th Street to 87th Terrace - the northernmost sector of Miami Beach's present day city limits. There appear to be only three existing structures that pre-date the log cabin in the entire North Shore neighborhood from 73rd Street to 87th Terrace and the Atlantic Ocean to what is now the Tatum Waterway. Each of these are located within the Altos del Mar residential enclave east of Collins Avenue:

7729 Collins Ave. (1930),  
7823 Collins Ave. (1927),  
7837 Atlantic Way (1925).

Based on this info, the North Beach log cabin and 7729 Collins Ave. referenced above, would be the only two existing structures to have been built in the North Shore neighborhood between 1928 and 1934 during the Florida land bust and at the height of the Great Depression. (A wood frame residence, the only such type of structure listed within the Altos del Mar Historic District, was also constructed by Carlos Schoepl on Atlantic Way in 1932 that appears to no longer exist.)

The two-year time span that immediately followed included five wood frame vernacular and clapboard structures built between 1935 and 1936 that were also included in the North Shore National Register District. 1936 also saw the introduction of the moderne architectural styles that would have marked a transition toward Post-War Modern and Miami Modern that would characterize the North Shore in the years following WWII.

1935 North Shore National Register District:

There are only two contributing entires in the North Shore National Register District from 1935: 7945 Harding Avenue (1935), Wood Frame Vernacular residence, 330 76th Street (1935), Victor Nellenbogen, Minimal Traditional Clapboard residence (demolished in 2014).

1935 Altos del Mar local historic district:

There were three contributing entries in the Altos del Mar local historic district from 1935 (and none from 1936):

7737 Atlantic Way (1935), Alexander Lewis, Mediterranean Revival  
7735 Collins Ave. (1935), August Geiger, Early Ranch Style  
75 78th Street (1935), Schoepl & Southwell, Mediterranean Revival

1936 North Shore National Register District:

7611 Abbott Ave. (1936), Victor Nellenbogen, Wood Frame Vernacular Clapboard apartments  
7729 Carlyle Ave. (1936), Wood Frame Vernacular residence  
7835 Harding Ave. (1936), Wood Frame Vernacular apartments  
241 77th Street (1936), Moderne apartments  
7625 Abbott Ave. (1936), Moderne apartments  
7625 Abbott Ave. (1936), Masonry Vernacular  
7628 Abbott Ave.(1936), Moderne residence  
7628 Abbott Ave. (1936), Masonry Vernacular garage





(Above) 7945 Harding Avenue (1935), North Shore, Depression era wood frame vernacular/Colonial Revival



(Above) 7611 Abbott Avenue (1936), Victor Nellenbogen, North Shore, Depression era wood frame vernacular

### THE LOG CABIN AND THE BOOM AND BUST ECONOMY

There are a handful of log cabins currently in existence within the northeastern section of the greater Miami area. Each of these were constructed between 1933 and 1936.

This period is significant because it followed:

The end of the Florida land boom (Florida's first real estate bubble) that crashed in the mid-1920s.

The Great Miami Hurricane (1926),

The Okeechobee Hurricane (1928),

The Great Depression (1929),

The Florida Medfly (Mediterranean Fruit Fly) invasion (1929)

These series of events collectively decimated Florida's real estate, tourism and citrus industries.

South Florida was still recovering into the early 1940s when the US entered World War II. 1945-1950 sparked what is considered to be the postwar boom.

Having been built at the height of the bust and Depression, each of these log cabin structures is a clear and distinct reference to that time, as well as to the simplicity of the American frontier days. They include:

640 NE 114 Street (constructed 1933) Biscayne Park log cabin, Depression era WPA

8128 Collins Avenue (constructed 1934), North Beach log cabin, Emil A. Ehmann

650 NE 121st Street (constructed 1933)

640 NE 121st Street (constructed 1936)

The North Beach log cabin is the only such structure in Miami Beach.

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT (Research in this section is ongoing and further exploration is warranted)\*

In America during the early years of the Great Depression, the construction industry collapsed. Housing starts were down more than 90%, going from approximately one million new homes each year in the late 1920s, to only 84,000 new homes in 1933. Total spending on construction was reported at \$6.6 Billion in 1928, versus \$1.3 Billion in 1933.

In Florida, this period is also significant because it followed:

The end of the Florida land boom (Florida's first real estate bubble) that crashed in the mid-1920s.

The Great Miami Hurricane (1926),

The Okeechobee Hurricane (1928),

The Florida Medfly (Mediterranean Fruit Fly) invasion (1929) which decimated Florida's citrus industry

By 1932 US unemployment reached 13,000,000, eventually to reach 25% of the workforce, and the US economy was operating at less than half its pre-crash volume. The number of architectural firms in the US declined by 40% between 1928 and 1932 and the firms that remained open were forced to drastically reduce their staffs. By 1932, 85% of architects and architectural drafters were unemployed. Even eminent architects like Frank Lloyd Wright, considered by many to have been the greatest architect of the 20th century, faced hard times.

Early years of the Great Depression were Wright's "longest fallow period" with only two buildings built from 1928 to 1935.

ARCHITECTURE AND THE GREAT DEPRESSION (Research in this section is ongoing and further exploration is warranted)\*

It is stated that the buildings of the Great Depression were not just diminished versions of the architecture that had preceded it. A special climate existed during the Great Depression, and this special climate produced certain types of buildings. With the Great Depression, the nature of what was built was fundamentally altered. The built environment as well as the publications of public agencies during the period demonstrate that government projects had a great effect on American architecture during the Depression.

Cecil D. Elliott's, *The American Architect from the Colonial Era to the Present*, acknowledges that radical changes took place in architecture during the Depression, and that most architects had to try to adapt to a world where people were not building much. He recognized that people in that uncertain time were demanding architecture and design that conveyed security.

The modest Depression era vernacular Colonial Revival residences by Victor Nellenbogen (cited above) in the North Shore are possible examples.

DEPRESSION ERA RUSTIC ARCHITECTURAL STYLE A/K/A DEPRESSION ERA PARK RUSTIC, GOVERNMENT RUSTIC (Research in this section is ongoing and further sources and exploration is warranted)\*

Images:

Works Progress Administration Depression era log cabin in Biscayne Park, FL (1933)  
Depression era log cabin residences in North Miami (1933)  
Palmetto trunk log cabins at Myakka State Park near Sarasota, FL (1934)  
Depression era log cabin community space in Seminole, FL (1935),  
Depression era Civilian Conservation Corps coral rock structures, (1933-1942), at Matheson Hammock Park, FL  
O'Leno State Park Civilian Conservation Corps log cabin under construction (1936)

The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration were particularly active in these Rustic Style projects. Often working under the direction of National Park and Forest Service planners, the Rustic style became a hallmark of their projects. The Rustic style carried over to projects outside of parks, and often miles away. Many private Rustic buildings were the product of their owners, both in design and construction. A number of private architects created Rustic style designs for public and private projects.

The North Beach Log Cabin has many attributes that would seem to reflect this style as a testament to its historical context during the Great Depression: Rustic designs were intended to blend into their surrounding environments in both a natural and cultural sense. Buildings were simple in design and small in scale and intended to be practical and efficient. The construction was to be straightforward with "no faking." Colors such as warm browns were employed to subordinate buildings in their settings. Horizontal lines and low silhouettes were emphasized. Construction timbers and stone were obtained locally and were worked in a rough form reflecting native hewing, sawing, and dressing techniques. Rustic style cabins differ from pioneer log structures which were generally built during initial settlement periods and often exhibited crude construction. Rustic cabins generally have stone chimneys while pioneer



log cabins utilized metal flues attached to iron stoves. Rustic buildings have more commercially manufactured hardware and materials, such as wood window frames, doors, and interior paneling. Rustic buildings may also employ hip roofs, a form virtually never found on pioneer log structures.

Toward the end of the 1930s rustic architecture was falling out of favor in park spaces. New materials and building techniques, and the cleaner lines of the International Style beckoned the architects who felt that most rustic buildings had too much of a Hansel-and-Gretel feeling to them. Funding for the work-relief programs diminished as the nation drew closer to World War II, and consequently the abundant supply of men to peel logs and haul boulders decreased. The labor-intensive aspects of rustic construction were all the more reason to look toward cheaper methods of building in the future. When the war came the design ethic of rustic architecture had seen its heyday.

\*Further research and permits and building records exploration is suggested and warranted to properly explore and identify Emil Ehmann's other works between 1926 and 1936. Given the architect's prior service as a state official in Tallahassee as Florida supervising architect for public buildings, it is worthy of exploration to identify, if possible, the public projects that he supervised as a State Official as well as any possible connection to Civilian Conservation Corps, Works Progress Administration, Federal Emergency Relief Act and Public Works Administration projects and/or any of the other rustic/log cabin style structures that were constructed in Florida between 1933 – 1942.

Select Cited Resources in this section:

<http://www.cmhpf.org/CharlotteArchInGreatDepression.htm>,

<http://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/doc/egp.arc.016>,

[http://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/files/OAHP/crforms\\_edumat/pdfs/1642.pdf](http://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/files/OAHP/crforms_edumat/pdfs/1642.pdf))

The National Park Service

[https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\\_books/harrison/harrison0.htm](https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/harrison/harrison0.htm)

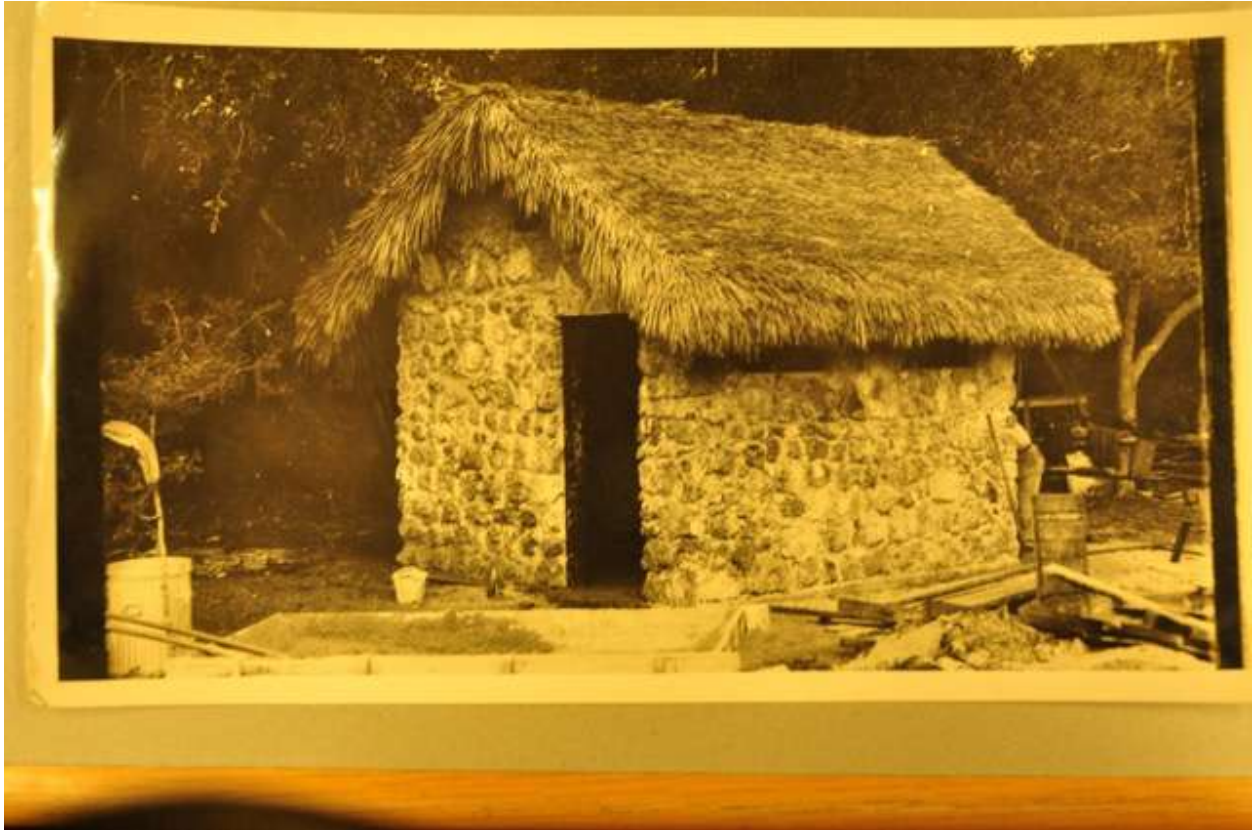


(Above) 640 NE 114 Street (1933), Biscayne Park, Depression era WPA log cabin



(Above) 650 NE 121st Street (1933), North Miami, Depression era log cabin residence





(Above) Civilian Conservation Corps., Matheson Hammock Park, Miami, FL, Bathroom Structure (1933)



(Above) WPA Community Log Cabin, Seminole, FL (1935)



(Above) Myakka State Park, FL, Civilian Conservation Corp, Palmetto Log Cabin (1934)



(Above) Civilian Conservation Corp Log Cabin Under Construction (1936), O'Leno State Park, FL