

## 1608-1610 EUCLID AVENUE, MIAMI BEACH

This property occupies Lot 3 and the north half of Lot 2 on Block 50A of the Lincoln Subdivision, which was platted in 1924 just south of Lincoln Road. There are two structures here, both two-story CBS apartment houses, built 40 years apart.

The building at 1610 Euclid, on Lot 3, had eight apartments and cost \$31,000 to build in 1926. It is identified as the Canterbury Apartments in the 1932 City Directory and the 1935 City Atlas. Its architect was William Shanklin Jr. (see Bio. following). Four sheets of original plans were found on Microfilm #1959 in the Miami Beach Building Department, including the foundation, first and second floor plans, and the north side elevation. There is no front elevation, but a few exterior features can be seen in the available plans: a small tower on the front parapet, with pointed arches and a barrel-tile roof; a small balconet beneath it; a flat roof with short rows of barrel-tile decorating the parapet wall. The four front windows each consisted of three pairs of casements. Windows on the side elevations were sash type, with sills. The interior had double-loaded corridors with stairways at both ends, and four one-bedroom apartments on each floor.

In 1939 this building was remodeled, at a cost of \$4,000, by L. Murray Dixon, one of Miami Beach's finest Art Deco architects. Two sheets of plans were found on Microfilm #12781, including the front elevation of the original building, the new front elevation, the remodeled south elevation, and a floor plan of a typical apartment, showing Dixon's alterations. He added eight new bathrooms and eight new closets, which enabled the units to be reconfigured as eight apartments and eight efficiencies.

The "existing front elevation" in Dixon's plans gives more information about Shanklin's 1926 building, which was clearly Mediterranean style. It had quoins at the sides, a round-arched entrance flanked by twisted columns, a second-story balconet with a plain railing, casement windows, and the rooftop tower with dentil molding at its base.

Dixon updated this facade in streamlined Art Deco style. Cantilevered eyebrows were put over the front windows, but apparently the casements were left intact. The quoins and tower were removed; the front parapet was stepped-up and decorated with a stucco bas-relief of geometric shapes. Wrapping around the first story were eight thin, horizontal bands of raised stucco. Vertical panels of corrugated stucco flanked the second-story windows. The balconet remained but it got a new decorative railing,

and its original “screened opening” was replaced with what looks like French doors. The front entrance lost its round arch and twisted columns; the new double doors had decorative metalwork and were surrounded by tile and glass block. The front steps were tiled and widened, but “existing planter bins” were left intact. Many of these 1939 features still survive on the building, but some have disappeared, and the front windows are no longer casements.

South of this building, Lot 2 was split when the Evelyn Apartments were built in 1941, facing 16<sup>th</sup> Street, on Lot 1 and the south half of Lot 2. In 1955, a permit (#47621) was issued for a one-story, two-bedroom residence at 1610 Euclid, “on rear of lot.” Its architect was J. F. Budley, about whom no information is available, and no building plans were found on file. The City Directory from 1957 lists the Brighton Hotel Apartments at 1610 Euclid with 17 tenants, and a “rear” unit occupied by Harold and Lola Stein.

In 1966, another permit was issued for a two-story, four-unit apartment building at 1608 Euclid, on the north half of Lot 2, as an “addition to residence.” Apparently by that time there was unity of title for Lot 3 and the north half of Lot 2. Architect for the 1966 building was T. Hunter Henderson (see Bio. following). Four sheets of plans were found on Microfilm #76785, but they are not very legible. They include a lot survey, foundation plan, first and second floor plans, and a small front elevation. This appears to be a long, narrow building that extends along the half-lot and abuts an “existing building” at the rear, forming an overall L-shaped structure. This new addition is Postwar Modern style, with a typical catwalk on the north side, pole columns, and a flat roof with overhangs.

At present, there are two panels of red brick on the front facade, an eyebrow extends over the second-floor balcony, and a bas-relief at the parapet copies the motif on the Art Deco building next door. These features do not seem to be present on the front elevation in the original plans, but the drawing is unclear.

---- Carolyn Klepser, researcher

June 10, 2016

## ARCHITECT BIOGRAPHIES

### **L. Murray Dixon, 1901-1949**

A native of Live Oak, Florida, Dixon was educated at the Georgia Institute of Technology and lived in Miami Beach as a practicing architect for the last 27 years of his life. Together with Henry Hohauser, Dixon can be credited with “inventing” the Tropical Art Deco style of architecture which has become the signature of South Beach. Dixon was the architect of over 100 surviving buildings in the National Register District alone. In his short life he became one of Miami Beach’s most prolific and talented designers.

**Thomas Hunter Henderson Jr.** (1894-1976), from Savannah, Georgia, joined the Curran Ellis firm in Macon and came to Miami to open a branch office for them in 1925. After the 1926 hurricane, he left the firm and became a building adviser for the Red Cross. In 1927 he was assistant superintendent for Peters & Co., of Chicago, who built the Miami Beach City Hall on Washington Avenue. He opened his own practice in Miami Beach in 1929.<sup>1</sup> Working here through 1964, he designed stores, hotels, theaters and homes, including:

Moseley’s store	738-744 Lincoln Road
Astor Hotel	953 Washington Avenue (1936)
Kress Building	1201-1257 Washington Avenue
York Towers Apts.	440 15th Street (1947)
Monroe Towers	3010 Collins Avenue
Santa Barbara Apts.	1245 Euclid Avenue (1936)

**William Shanklin** (b. circa 1904) was a native of Mississippi who had his office in Coral Gables.<sup>2</sup> Besides the Canterbury Apartments in 1926, he designed a few small buildings in Miami Beach in the 1930s and 1940s, including:

2908 Flamingo Drive  
309 East San Marino Dr.  
1160 71<sup>st</sup> Street  
7628 Abbott Avenue

---

<sup>1</sup> Obituary, *Miami Herald*, May 28, 1976.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census, 1930; Florida Census 1945; Polk’s City Directory 1937.