



City of Venice
Historic Preservation Board



LOCAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

Please note: Form should be completed by property owner with assistance from Historic Preservation Board members and Manager of Historical Resources

Date application is submitted to Historic Preservation Board:

Section I – Application Information

1. Proposed Resource Name: _____
2. Resource Address: 640 W. Venice Ave.
3. Subdivision: Gulf View Block: 12 Lot: 11
4. Legal Description: Lot 11, Block 12, Gulf View section
of Venice, ORI 2005187130

Obtain legal description of property from Sarasota County Appraiser's Office.

Click on link to obtain information: <http://www.sc-pa.com/propertysearch>

5. Type of Resource to Be Nominated (circle one):

Building

Site

Object



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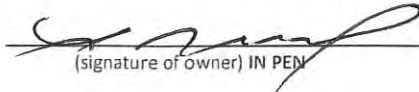
6. Owner(s) information:

Name(s): Robert J Farrell

Address(es): 640 W Venice Ave

Telephone Number(s): 941 408 3681

E-mail: joe.silversmith@verizon.net


(signature of owner) IN PEN

(signature of owner) IN PEN

7. Applicant's information (if different than owner):

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Relationship to owner: _____

(signature of applicant) IN PEN



Section II – Nominating Criteria

Check nomination criteria with Manager of Historical Resources against Venice Code of Ordinances Section 86-28 – Historic Preservation – Part C -2 “Local Register of Historical Resources- Criteria for listing on local register” Link to Venice Code of Ordinances:

https://library.municode.com/fl/venice/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=SPBLADERE_CH86LADEC_O_ARTIIADREAU_S86-28HIPR

1. To qualify for the Local Register of Historic Places, the resource must possess an integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship or association, and must meet at least one of the following criteria (mark all that apply):

- ☒ Association with the cultural, social, political, economic, scientific, religious, or architectural history of the community, state or nation.
- ☐ Associated with the lives of persons significant in past history.
- ☒ Show the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, style, method of construction, or work of a master; possess high artistic value; represent a distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

2. Supporting documentation:

Pursue appropriate supporting documentation with assistance from Venice Museum & Archives-phone them at (941) 486-2487 or email at museum@venicegov.com. Also obtain assistance from Historic Preservation Board members as needed.

Attach as many pages as necessary to discuss significant aspects of the criteria selected above. The information presented should make a convincing argument for listing the resource on the local register. To obtain supporting information begin with the paperwork provided by the bank, mortgage company, title company and previous owner from the most recent sale of the resource. Researching the chain of title through county transfer documents can provide a list of previous owners. If available, blueprints can provide information about the architect and building. Identify major sources and references on a separate sheet of paper.

If structure is individually listed on National Register of Historic Places, copy of nomination form substitutes for above requirements.

Section III – Historical and Architectural Information

This information is important to qualify a structure as representing characteristics of a particular architectural style or period. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

1. Architect (if known): _____
2. Builder (if known): Orbry K Crowley * see attached newspaper article.
3. Construction date: 1948
4. Restoration date(s): no significant changes have been made.
5. Overall style of the structure: 'early' or 'mid-century' ranch
6. Structural system: concrete block; wood floor joists; gable roof
7. Roof (type and surfacing): wood gable; 1" lumber decking; asphalt shingles
8. Exterior material: painted concrete block - no stucco; wood gable ends
9. Foundation (type and material): concrete block; crawl space; floor joists
10. Window type(s): 90% original, crank-operated, wood zoning windows - likely cypress
(double or single hung, casement, awning, jalousie, fixed, etc.)
11. Modification date(s): 1950's ; 1969
 - a. If altered, briefly describe the type and degree of major alterations (new doors, modern windows, aluminum siding, etc.). Please be as specific and objective as possible. Attach additional sheets if necessary.
 - 1950's - breezeway enclosed to create Florida room.
 - 1969 - aluminum sliders added to front porch.
 - 2001 - front door replaced
 - 2015 - impact windows installed in only one opening to replace aluminum zoning windows installed by original owners pre-1967
 - b. Move date: _____
 - c. Original use: single family.



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12. Current use: single-family, primary residence
13. Condition (circle one):
- Very Good** (no deterioration; well-maintained)
- Good** (minor deterioration; attractive, desirable, and usable)
- Fair** (marked deterioration; renovation/repair required)
- Poor** (unsound; unfit for use in any practical sense)

Section IV – Submission Requirements

1. Return the completed form to the City's Manager of Historical Resources.
2. With the form, include a set of at least 6 images of the outside of the resource, as well as any interior or exterior detail shots that demonstrate the significance of the resource.
3. Also include any line drawings, floor plans, or blueprints of the resource that are available (these will be returned).
4. If the structure is individually listed in the National Register, a copy of that nomination form substitutes for items 2 and 3 of this list.

For Official Use Only

Date of Contact: _____

Additional Information:

3 Venice and Sarasota Groups Seek Charter for Local Building & Loan

Hearings Held In Washington Before HLBB

A three-cornered tug to secure a charter to establish a savings and loan association in Venice is now pending before the Home Loan Bank Board in Washington, D.C.

The contending groups are the First Federal Savings & Loan Assn., of Sarasota, which contemplated erecting a building on the southeast corner of W. Venice Ave. and Nassau St.; the Sarasota Federal Savings & Loan Assn. and a local group. Neither of the second two said where their buildings would be located.

The local group is composed of Robert S. Baynard, president of the Venice-Nokomis Bank; M. A. Braswell, local attorney; Lester B. Baynard, son of Robert S.; W. S. Green, a retired doctor; Orbry K. Crowley, local builder, and O. L. Mahon, co-owner of the Breezeway Suprex Market.

Hearings

Hearings on the applications of the two Sarasota companies were held before the national board in November. They were protested at the sessions by the local group, with Braswell as its attorney. Their application is to be made after the first of the year.

In his protesting brief, Braswell stressed the "local" angle of the statutes of the Home Owner's Loan Act of 1933. He listed three points in his argument that the Sarasota companies' application be denied:

1. The establishment of such a branch of the Sarasota building & loan associations would not be in the best interests of the community to be served.
2. Such a branch, if established, would discourage and retard, if it did not

(Continued on Page Two)

Start 10 - Unit Beach Apartment

Construction of a 10 unit efficiency apartment building was started recently by Frank Walther in the "Higelyville" section of town on Laguna Dr. and the Jetty Rd.

Walther, who is the builder as well as owner of the project, is being assisted by Raymond Higel and Jim McPherron, local building team.

The cement block building is 173 feet long and 18 feet wide and will have about 3,500 feet of floor space. One unit will be a second floor efficiency. It is located on a lagoon with access to the beach in that area. Frank said he intended to have a dock and boats for use of future residents.

Walther is a Kentucky Military Institute graduate and learned of Venice through coming to the school's winter quarters here. He was graduated in the class of 1936 and is the first of the cadet corps, as far as is known, to make this his retirement home.

Mr. and Mrs. Walther have lived in Venice for the past two years, coming from Louisville, Ky. He was engaged in the building industry there, but this is his first local project.

Venetian's Kin Assisting In Armed Force Korea Plan

Sgt. Carl H. Bailey, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. McKinney of Venice, is a member of the 7th Division Artillery, which is in Korea participating in the armed forces assistance to Korea program.

Sergeant Bailey is a mess sergeant in a service battery of the 57th Field Artillery Battalion. With other army units, it has completed new school buildings, grain warehouses and other facilities needed by the Korean civilian population.

Orbry Crowley,
a builder, built
the house as
his personal
residence in
1948. He
built other
houses in
Culpeper
section of
Venice.

My name is Robert Farrell. I have lived in the house at 640 W. Venice Avenue since my parents, Martin and June Farrell, purchased it, in 1967, from Martha Tignor. Martha, who was divorced from Orbry Crowley, had owned the home since she and her then husband built it, in 1948. Crowley was a builder and built this home as his residence. It is the first single-family house built on the north side of West Venice Avenue.



Figure 1 Current image of 640 W. Venice Ave. Front.

If ever a picture was worth a thousand words, the aerial photograph below, of the Gulf View Section of Venice, demonstrates the historical relevance of this property.



Figure 2 1948 Aerial photograph of Gulf View Section of Venice. House clearly visible as the only structure on the north side of the 600 block.

As can be seen in the image, this structure, at the corner of West Venice Avenue and Armada Road, is the only existing home on the north side facing Venice Avenue in all of the 500, 600, and 700 blocks—in fact, it is the only single-family home on all of West Venice Avenue, as the 100, 200, 300 and 400 blocks were commercial and city-owned park property.



Figure 3 1948 image of house taken from Armada Rd. Shows open breezeway and porch, as well as crawlspace vent and access



Figure 4 1948 image of house taken from W. Venice Ave. Shows original center window configuration and open porch, as well as existing 5-light door from porch to kitchen.

While 'first on the street' may not in itself be significant, it is also one of the first homes to be built in the Gulf View Section at the dawn of the 'rebirth' of Venice after the devastation of the Depression and the subsequent languishing of the city in the 1930's and 40's. It is only in the late 40's that Venice began to attract new energy and growth, and this home was one of the structures that contributed to its reawakening.

The primary architectural focus in Venice, from a historical perspective, has predominantly been the Mediterranean-influenced original 1920's buildings and the 'Florida Moderne' and Sarasota School of Architecture homes of the late 50's and early 60's.

640 W. Venice Avenue is a pristine example of an architectural style that has received far less attention, and one that falls roughly in the period of the mid-1940's to the mid-1950s—the 'Mid-Century Ranch.'

The Ranch was a less ornate approach than the Mediterranean and embraced a simple floorplan that can be basically described as: entry directly into living room; kitchen and dining rooms on one end of the house and bedrooms grouped on the other end of the house with a shared bathroom.

It was the precursor of the common ranch style of the 1960's and 70's, but considerably better built and with distinctive differences:

- Concrete block foundation with crawlspace, exposed plumbing, and concrete block vents.

- Wood floor beams and joists supporting a wood subfloor and hardwood flooring.

- Working fireplace.

- Large wooden crank-operated awning windows made of rot resistant wood—likely cypress.

- True-dimensional lumber, ie. a 2x4 was actually 2"x4", etc.

- Roofing trusses set on 16" centers as opposed to the common 24" placement on later ranches.

--Exterior trim, ie. gable ends, soffits, fascia, of rot resistant wood. I cannot state with certainty the type of wood on this home.

--Roof decking of true 1" dimensional lumber, not plywood.

--Painted concrete block exterior with horizontal lines accented. No stucco.

While I am not an architecture scholar, nor an architect or builder, the above list is specific to this property, and is evidenced by casual observation of other homes in Venice from this era. Most of those properties, from my observations, appear to have had significant exterior and likely interior alterations.

I believe that what makes this property worthy of particular attention is that both the exterior and interior are virtually intact, as originally constructed. The overall construction is concrete block, with vented raised foundation, true-dimensional lumber floor joists, yellow pine floors in the bedrooms, oak floors in the living and dining room, true-dimensional lumber roof rafters on 16" centers, and tongue and groove cedar or cypress gable ends.

Additionally, the original wood soffits and fascia are intact as well as the original wooden gable vents. There are no exterior components that have been replaced or covered up.

The original owners of the home, sometime in the 1950's made the only two substantial alterations: they replaced the living room windows with aluminum awnings windows, that I have since replaced with impact windows; and they closed-in the original open breezeway connecting the main house to the two-car garage. As that alteration was done so close to the time of the original construction, it maintains the 'look' and construction methods of the period.



Figure 5 Detail showing wood awning windows; painted concrete block; wood gable end with wood attic vent; wood soffit with screen venting; fascia with rounded profile; and lower concrete block crawlspace



Figure 6 Detail of wood fascia, gable end, and soffit construction.



Figure 7 Detail with crawlspace vent and access panel, as well as previously listed structural elements.



Figure 8 Armada Rd. gable end.



Figure 9 Detail of wood awning window showing mechanism.



Figure 10 Rear gable end and wood awning window.



Figure 11 Two car garage built at the same time as the main house. Same architectural details, original garage doors. Faces Armada Rd.



Figure 12 Roof construction detail showing 16" centers; 1" lumber decking; and what appears to be yellow pine true dimension trusses. Exposed during ceiling repair in bedroom



Figure 13 Full bath with original wall and floor tile.



Figure 14 Bathroom detail showing arch over tub enclosure.



Figure 15 Original built-in wood kitchen cabinets with pine doors, and scalloped valance over sink.

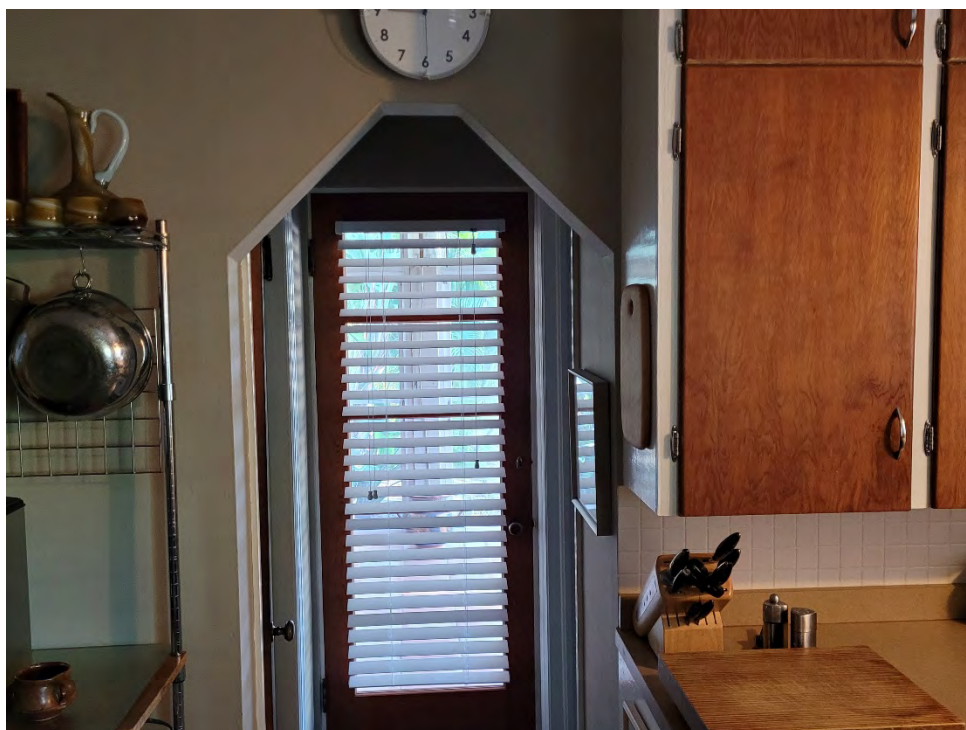


Figure 16 Kitchen detail with arch leading to pantry on left, powder room on right, and porch with original 5-light door.



Figure 17 Living room detail showing original fireplace, hearth and mantle; original baseboards and unrestored oak floors.

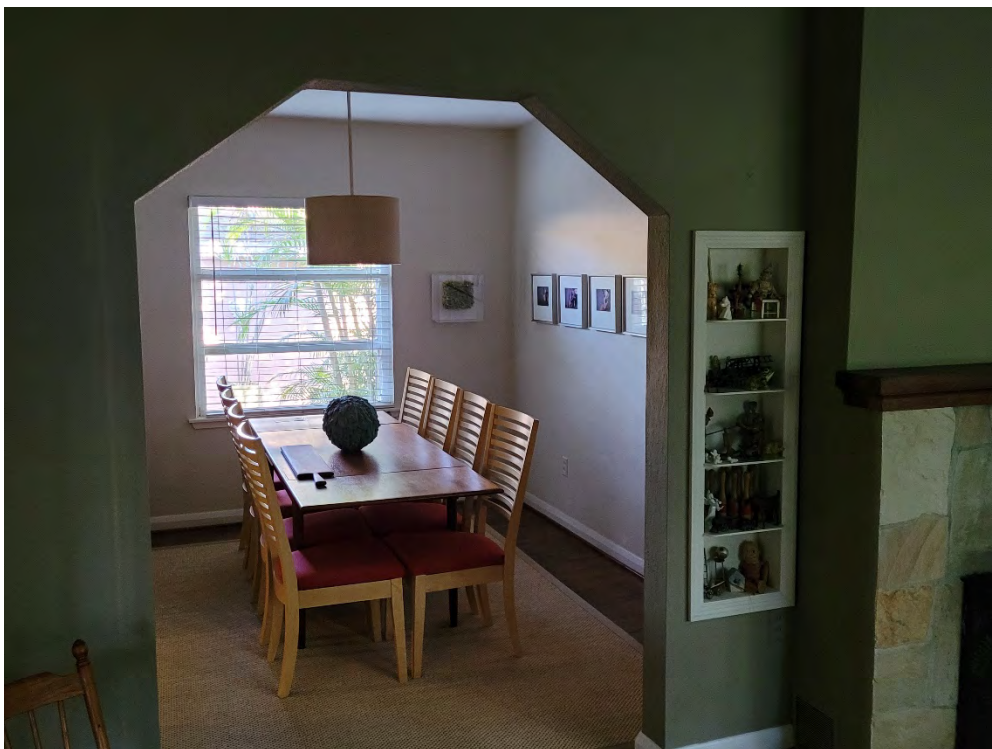


Figure 18 Living room looking into dining room showing arch and original wood trim.



Figure 19 Living room showing fireplace, view through dining room into kitchen, oak floors, and original 5-light door onto porch.



Figure 20 Interior of porch showing painted concrete block and original 5-light doors.



Figure 21 View from hallway showing one of the original interior doors, looking into a bedroom with unrestored yellow pine floors.

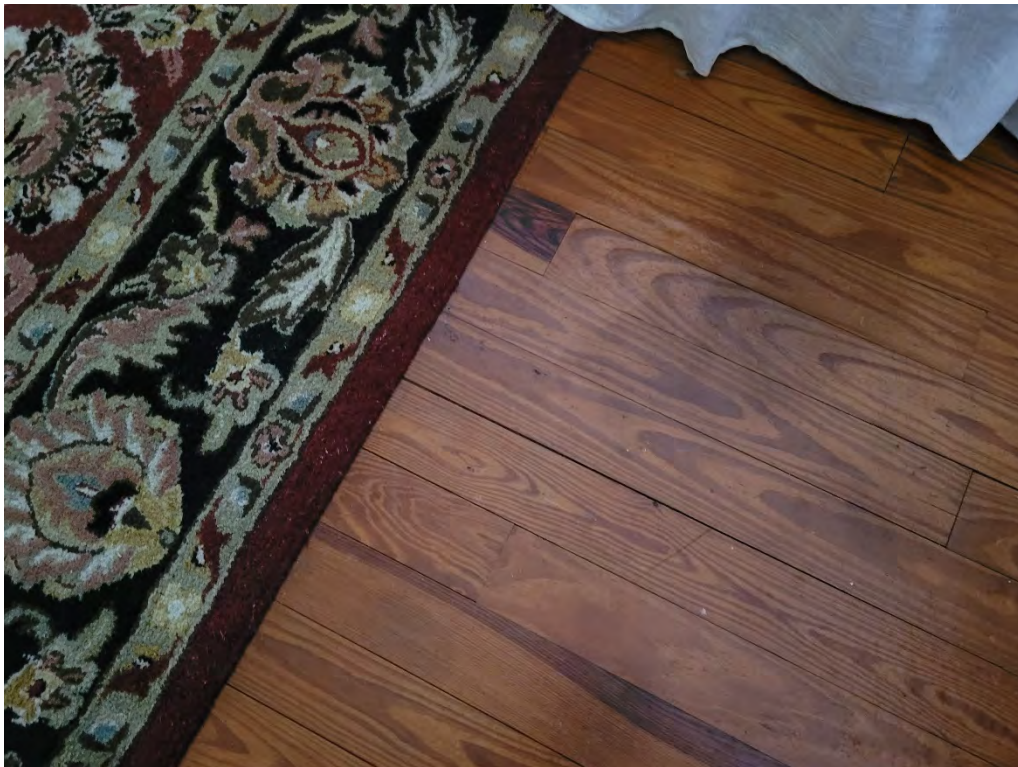


Figure 22 Detail of unrestored yellow pine bedroom flooring.



Figure 23 Detail of unrestored oak flooring in living room.



Figure 24 Florida room looking toward and through kitchen. Note the ceiling, which is the same on the front porch. This was the original open breezeway.

This property is, in short, a time-capsule. It is an untouched example of a short-lived architectural style and method of construction. The interior is unaltered and is as modern and welcoming today as it was when it was built—right down to the original and intact plaster walls and ceilings. There may be other houses in the Gulf View Section of Venice that were built in the same period, but I suspect none that have remained as true to their origins.

I believe that the property is worthy of recognition on the Local Register, in the hopes that it may dissuade a future owner from demolishing it. Its prominent location—on Venice's primary boulevard, adds to the importance of hoping to preserve it for future generations.