

OVERVIEW

Shady Banks is a geographically distinct neighborhood located in the southwest part of Fort Lauderdale. It is bounded on the east by and south by the South Fork of the New River. It is bounded on the west by Interstate 95 and on the north by Davie Boulevard. Shady Banks was outside the original city limits and part of unincorporated Broward County. The area was eventually annexed by the growing city of Fort Lauderdale. The last area of Shady Banks to be annexed was an area south of Southwest 14th Court, added in 1953.¹ While other sections of Fort Lauderdale have faced recent redevelopment, Shady Banks retains many original houses with a high degree of integrity. Therefore, the entirety of the neighborhood was identified as a potential historic district.

With the exception of Hortt Park, Bill Keith Preserve Park, and the vacant lot formerly the Summerfield Boat Works, all of the properties in the neighborhood are private residences.

All of the residential buildings are single-family houses. The majority are small freestanding houses on modest lots. These are small transitional ranch houses, ranch houses, or contemporary style houses. Some large two-story houses are located along the eastern waterfront. Most houses in the neighborhood were constructed between 1948 and 1970. Most of the houses are clad with stucco and have low-pitched or flat roofs. Original significant features of the houses in Shady Banks include deep eave overhangs, recessed entries, broad masonry chimneys, wide horizontal fenestration patterns, brick or stone masonry veneer wall accents, integrated carports, and integrated landscaping planters.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Shady Banks neighborhood appears eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of community development as an intact example of post-war development and under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a cohesive neighborhood

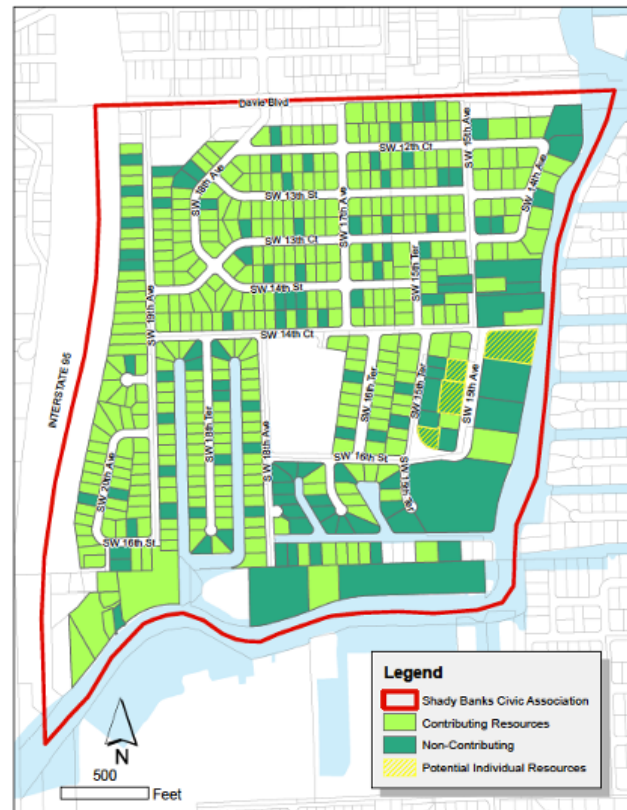


Figure 6G-1: Map of Shady Banks. Map by Rollin Maycumber, City of Fort Lauderdale.

¹ "Galt Land, Southwest Area Sought," *The Miami Herald*. (Miami, FL: 19 May 1953): 19.

of mid-century modern style residences. The district represents the housing boom of the post-war period and the corresponding shifts in method of construction and architectural expression. The structures retain a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The period of significance for the historic district is 1946 through 1970 beginning with the first houses built after World War II and ending at the 50-year age requirement for the National Register.

SHADY BANKS HISTORY

One of the area's first landowners was Commodore Charles Barney Cory. Cory was a Harvard-educated ornithologist from Boston who first appeared in Fort Lauderdale in 1896, along with his boat, "the Wanderer." Cory bought 40 acres in Shady Banks in the early 1900s and gave half interest to Joe Jefferson, an actor best known for playing Rip Van Winkle. He built a five-room bungalow in the area of 1500 Southwest 15th Avenue, which no longer stands. Cory hosted parties and fishing and hunting expeditions aboard the Wanderer, with guests including President Grover Cleveland. The Wanderer was used as a houseboat and eventually brought on land. It eventually deteriorated and is no longer extant.² John M. Browning, the inventor of the Browning machine gun from Ogden, Utah, bought the property in 1917. He named it "Browning Grove" and planted citrus trees. Otis Vaniman of Kansas, took control of property in 1920, renaming it "Vaniman Grove" and put it on the market on February 1, 1926.³ Wheeler and Thompson, the sales agents, placed full-page advertisements in the Fort Lauderdale News. The development was laid out into rounded blocks with streets named after presidents and landscaped with small traffic islands embellishing the rounded intersections. The

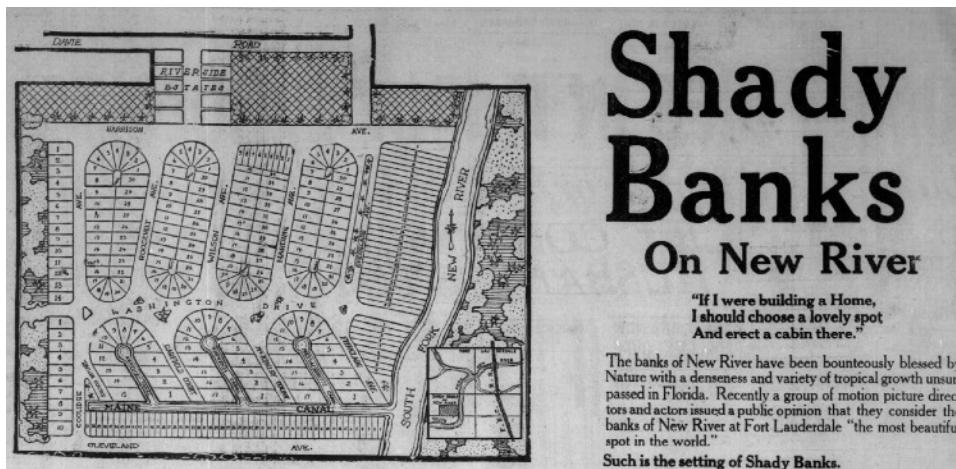


Figure 6G-2: Original subdivision layout of Shady Banks in 1926. Courtesy of Fort Lauderdale News.

advertisements highlighted the neighborhood's water access and yacht-accessible canals, which were named for famous battleships. The development staked out 25-foot-wide lots but would only be sold in widths of 50 feet or more.⁴

² Trisha Logan, "Shady Banks," *Architecture Resources Survey*. (Fort Lauderdale, FL: City of Fort Lauderdale, 2018): 266-268, and Wesley Stout, "The Beachcomber: Mrs. Florence Barrett." *Fort Lauderdale News*. (Fort Lauderdale, FL: 2 December 1959) 6.

³ Trisha Logan, 266-268.

⁴ Trisha Logan, 266-268.

The 1926 hurricane and subsequent depression caused the development to fail, and a notice of foreclosure was printed in April of 1930. The notice listed J.M. and M.S. Browning as the plaintiff and Essie Vaniman, the Shady Banks Corporation, and others as the defendants.⁵ In 1933, C.R. Breckenridge opened the Lauderdale Yacht Basin at the southeast corner of Shady Banks. Henry Summerfield of Toledo, Ohio purchased the Yacht Basin in 1941 and expanded, renaming it the Summerfield Boat Works.⁶

Development of modern-day Shady Banks finally began in 1946. That year, the zoning board recommended approval of a new Shady Banks subdivision known as Hendricks Heights.⁷ The subdivision stretched from Davie Boulevard to SW 14th Court, between SW 15th Avenue and SW 16th Avenue. The subdivision was owned by Elliot M. and Della C. Hendricks and

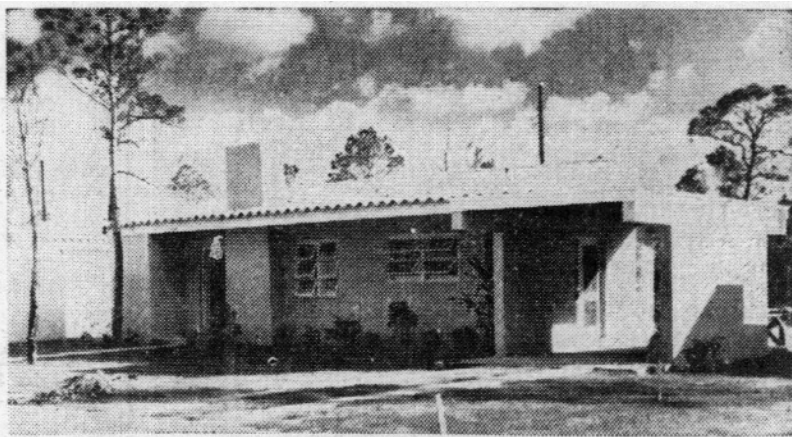


Figure 6G-3: Hendricks Heights model home, possibly 1518 Davie Blvd, built in 1948. Image courtesy of Fort Lauderdale News.

developed by E. H. Barnes & Associates. Elliot Miley Hendricks was a physician, businessman, and civic booster who moved to Fort Lauderdale from Ohio in 1926. He was the chief radiologist at Broward General Hospital before his retirement in 1945. In 1939, Hendricks established the H.A.K Products company in Fort Lauderdale to manufacture munitions under government contract. He also developed another residential area in Fort Lauderdale called Hendricks

Island.⁸ The Hendricks Heights development officially opened in 1948.⁹

Business executive Clifford Charles Catron lived in the development at 1513 SW 12th Court in 1949. He was vice-president of the development company, E. H. Barnes and Associates. He was also vice president of H.A.K. Products, founded by Hendricks, indicating an established relationship between the owner and developer of the subdivision.¹⁰ Hendricks was also a

⁵ Trisha Logan, 266-268.

⁶ Trisha Logan, 266-268.

⁷ "Food Locker Permit Pends In Lauderdale," *The Miami Herald*. (Miami, FL: 4 October 1946): 3.

⁸ "Lauderdale Physician Dead at 53," *The Miami Herald*. (Miami, FL: 1 March 1950): 3.

⁹ "Advertisement: Don't Overlook This One—Just Completed," *Fort Lauderdale News*. (Fort Lauderdale, FL: 12 November 1948): 20, and "Advertisement: We Are Proud to Announce the Formal Opening of the Hendricks Heights Subdivision," *Fort Lauderdale News*. (Fort Lauderdale, FL: 12 November 1948): 20.

¹⁰ "3 Candidates Join Race in Lauderdale," *The Miami Herald*. (Miami, FL: 22 March 1949): 11.

principal in the E. H. Barnes company until 1948. The company entered voluntary bankruptcy in 1950.¹¹

Beginning in 1948, a full-page advertisement from M.A. Hortt listed undeveloped blocks and lots for sale in the Shady Banks neighborhood. The yet undeveloped areas were noted as Riverside Estates, Riverside Park Addition, Marshall's Subdivision and Shady Banks on the New River and prices were listed in blocks as large as 51 lots.¹² Hortt was an early Fort Lauderdale resident, having moved to the city in 1910. He was a real estate mogul and served as mayor from 1934-35. Hortt donated the land for Hortt Elementary School which is now the site of Hortt Park within Shady Banks.¹³

Most other areas of the original Shady Banks neighborhood were re-platted and re-subdivided in the 1950s and early 60s. The Riverside Estates Addition subdivision west of SW 19th Avenue was platted in 1954 under ownership of George J. Collier Inc.¹⁴ The southern section of the plat was revised under the same owner in May of 1955 to include a small cul-de-sac at SW 14th Court.¹⁵ A re-subdivision of blocks 3 and 4 of the Shady Banks on New River subdivision occurred in February of 1954 under ownership of the Broward Development Company. This re-subdivision shows adjacent undeveloped blocks laid out to the original rounded 1926 plan, none of which were actually built to the older scheme.¹⁶ In 1958, Three culs-de-sac were laid out in the southern part of the neighborhood named Bosert Isles.¹⁷ This tract was owned by Louis V. and Gertrude B. Bossert and was a re-subdivision of the Shady Banks development. The area east of Hendrick's Heights, South Fork

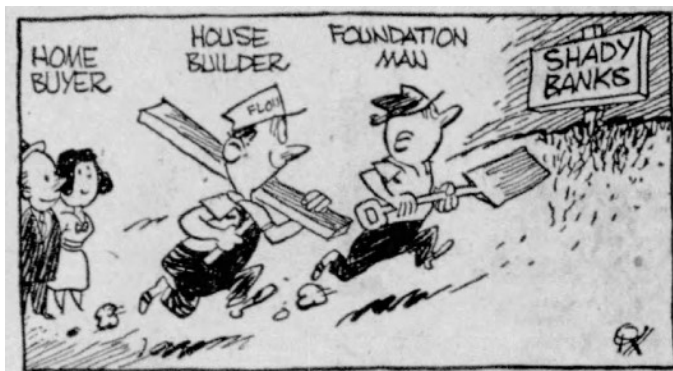


Figure 6G-4: Shady Banks cartoon, 1953. Image courtesy of Miami Herald.

¹¹ "Wrong Officials' Names Reported," *Fort Lauderdale News*. (Fort Lauderdale, FL: 9 Jan 1950): 1.

¹² "Advertisement: M.A. Hortt," *Fort Lauderdale News*. (Fort Lauderdale, FL: 18 December 1948): 9.

¹³ "Al Hott Gets Last Tribute," *Fort Lauderdale News*. (Fort Lauderdale, FL: 18 April 1958): 2.

¹⁴ City of Fort Lauderdale, "Riverside Estates Addition," *Plat Book 33*. (February 1954): 42.

¹⁵ City of Fort Lauderdale, "Revised Plat of Riverside Estates Addition," *Plat Book 37*. (May 1955): 27.

¹⁶ City of Fort Lauderdale, "Resubdivision of West ½, Block 4, Shady Banks on New River," *Plat Book 34*. (February 1954): Page 30 and City of Fort Lauderdale, "Resubdivision of West ½ Block 3, and East ½, Block 4, Shady Banks on New River," *Plat Book 34*. (February 1954): 29.

¹⁷ City of Fort Lauderdale, "Bosert Isles," *Plat Book 46*. (January 1958): 42.

Estates, was laid out later in April, 1961 under owners Henry and Bessie E. Robeling. This included a re-plat of Mrs. E. F. Marshall's subdivision.¹⁸

From 1948 through the early 1960s, the entirety of Shady Banks was developed. This development of Shady Banks was well documented in local media through news articles and advertisements. Advertisements for Hendricks Heights in 1948 described small concrete block houses with extra-large bedrooms, insulated ceilings, 3-foot roof overhangs, steel casement windows, jalousie doors, and all-tile baths. The advertisements also note that the development is on a bus line, has paved sidewalks and is near all conveniences. The development is also touted as being "built on high dry ground."¹⁹

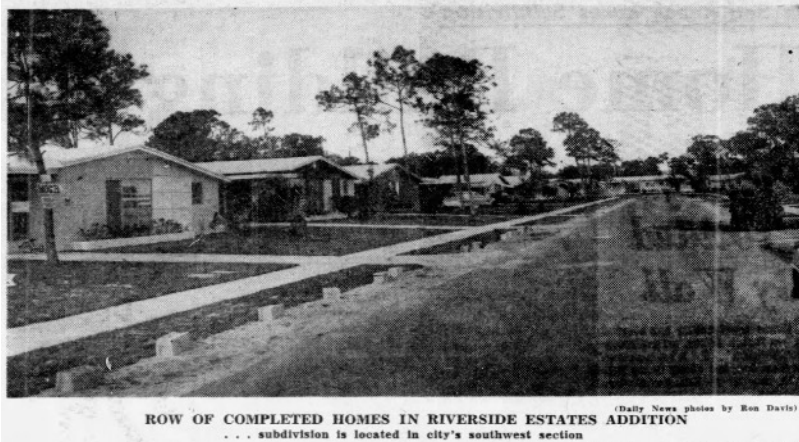


Figure 6G-5: View facing north on SW 20th Avenue in 1956; first house is 1537 SW 20th Avenue. Image courtesy of Fort Lauderdale News.

By 1956, 60 homes had been constructed in the Riverside Estates Addition subdivision. These homes were developed and constructed by Nasrallah Brothers Construction. Between 1952 and 1956 the firm had constructed 300 to 400 homes in Broward County. A model home for the development was priced at \$14,500 for a three-bedroom, two-bathroom house. Selling

points included a "giant-sized" utility room adjacent to the carport and large walk-in closets. A Two-bedroom, one-bathroom house was listed at \$11,200 and another three-bedroom, one-bathroom model at \$10,800. Many existing trees were maintained during construction to give the effect of an

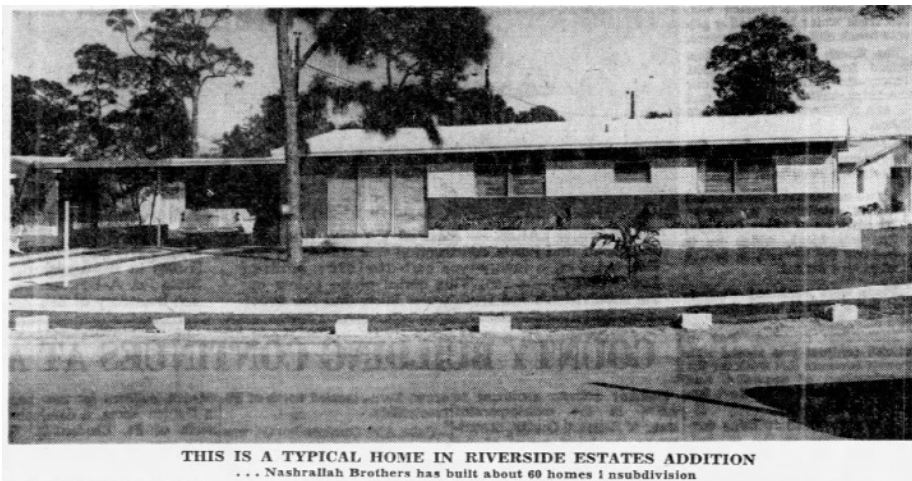


Figure 6G-6: Riverside Estates advertisement in 1956 showing 1544 SW 20 Avenue. Image courtesy of Fort Lauderdale News.

¹⁸ City of Fort Lauderdale, "South Fork Estates," *Plat Book 55*. (April 1961): 2.

¹⁹ "Advertisement: Don't Overlook This One—Just Completed," 20. and "Advertisement: We Are Proud to Announce the Formal Opening of the Hendricks Heights Subdivision," 20.

established neighborhood.²⁰

Construction of the Bossert Islands subdivision, located in culs-de-sacs along the canals south of SW 16th Street, began in 1958. The land was owned and developed by Louis V. Bossert, president of Bossert Building Corp. Bossert was educated at Phillips Exeter Academy and Yale University and obtained the rank of major by the end of World War II. Between 1946 and 1958, he built over \$11 million in homes in New Jersey.²¹ Bossert came to Fort Lauderdale in 1957 to look for development opportunities when a friend, Albert F. Dykes of the real estate firm of L. C. Judd & Co., Inc., suggested the 12-acre tract in Shady Banks.²² The first phase of the development opened in February 1958 and by March, eight additional homes had begun construction. Of these eight homes, four were described as the “Broward design” and the other four as “Lauderdale” homes. The Broward had four bedrooms and two bathrooms while the Lauderdale homes were three-bedroom, two-bathroom split-level houses. This phase was located on the English Basin, part of the canal system within the neighborhood. The eight homes were projected to be suitable for occupancy within 60 days.²³

DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

The initial planning of the Shady Banks development corresponded with an explosive land boom in South Florida in the 1920s, however the construction of the current Shady Banks development was delayed until after World War II. As described in the Fort Lauderdale history section of this report, additional areas adjacent to Fort Lauderdale were annexed during the 1950s and 1960s. The southern part of Shady Banks was one of these annexed areas, added in 1953, but had no residential development at the time.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The houses built in Shady Banks were ultimately different from the houses that would have been built on the original subdivision prior to World War II. The houses built in Fort Lauderdale in the land boom of the 1920s were built of light wood framing. Bungalow-style houses clad in wood were common, but even the stuccoed simulated masonry of Spanish-colonial and Mediterranean-revival houses were often constructed of wood. Wooden framing was clad with tar paper and wire lath to which stucco was applied. This method of construction proved woefully inadequate when the hurricane of 1926 struck Fort Lauderdale. The light, often shoddy, construction led to severe destruction in the face of high winds. When intense housing construction resumed after World War II, hurricane resiliency was a major priority. In 1944, *Architectural Record* published an article entitled “Inexpensive Hurricane-Proof House.” The article featured a home designed for Mr. P. V. Burns to be built in Fort Lauderdale. The house, designed by prominent South Florida modernist Igor B. Polvitzky, was constructed of reinforced

²⁰ “Subdivision Has 60 Homes,” *Fort Lauderdale News*. (Fort Lauderdale, FL: 15 December 1956): 28.

²¹ “Doing What Comes Naturally... That’s Building to Bossert,” *Fort Lauderdale News*. (Fort Lauderdale, FL: 15 February 1958): 33.

²² “Friendship Behind Move Here,” *Fort Lauderdale News*. (Fort Lauderdale, FL: 15 February 1958): 33.

²³ “Work Begun on 8 More Bossert Isles Homes,” *Fort Lauderdale News*. (Fort Lauderdale, FL: 2 March 1958): 29.

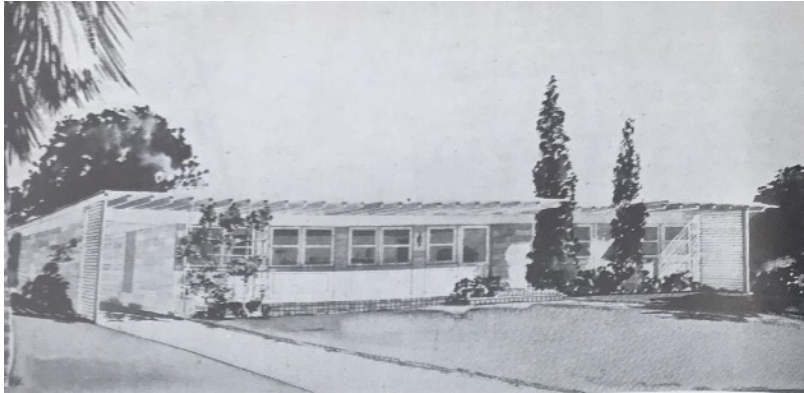


Figure 6G-7: "Inexpensive Hurricane-Proof House" in Fort Lauderdale by Igor Plevitzky, 1944. Image courtesy of *Architectural Record*.

concrete masonry units (CMU, commonly called concrete block or cinder block) set on a poured concrete slab foundation. The walls were constructed with the 8-inch hollow block and columns were formed by fully grouting the vertically aligned voids at specified intervals. A concrete tie beam was poured at the top of the walls above the window and door heads. The roof was

constructed of precast concrete joists spaced 2-feet on center supporting 2-foot by 2-foot precast concrete slabs.²⁴

The earliest houses in Shady Banks, those constructed in 1948 in Henricks Heights, and subsequent subdivisions through the 1950s and prominently advertised the concrete block construction. Along with the modern construction methods, the architectural style of homes also shifted away from the historicist styles of the 1920s toward modernist aesthetics influenced by the International style.

Nearly all of the properties within the survey area are residential. The residential buildings generally consist of free-standing single-family houses, clad in stucco with modern design details. Most were constructed during the period of significance between 1948 and 1970 and reflect the design trends of the time. These properties are designed in styles that fall under the Mid-Century Modern styles, including Ranch, Transitional Ranch, Contemporary, and Split-Level. A small number of the buildings are Minimal Traditional and Styled Ranch. The Styled Ranch style includes Spanish, Neoclassical, and Colonial Revival subtypes. These styles within Shady Banks are defined as:

²⁴"Inexpensive Hurricane-Proof House," *Architectural Record*. v.96 (November 1944): 71-73



Figure 6G-8: The house at 1500 SW 13th Court, constructed in 1948, is an example of the Minimal Traditional style. Photo by Vagabond Consulting Group.



Figure 6G-9: The house at 1709 SW 13th Street, constructed in 1952, is an example of the Transitional Ranch style. Photo by Vagabond Consulting Group.

Minimal Traditional: The Minimal Traditional style exemplified the Depression-era and Post-World War II ‘instant communities.’²⁵ During the 1930s and 1940s, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) limited the maximum sales price of houses they would insure. The houses, defined by simplicity, needed to maximize floor plans and minimize ornamentation, as both of these impacted costs. The style often featured a small house, typically one-story, with minimal architectural details, and often featured a gabled roof and was popularized by a flood of house plans and pattern books published between 1935 and 1950.²⁶

Transitional Ranch: The Transitional Ranch (sometimes “minimal Ranch”) style is represented by the earlier houses in the neighborhood built in the late 1940s and early 1950s. They bridge the gap between the small Minimal Traditional style of the 1930s and 1940s and the sprawling Ranch homes of the 1950s and 1960s. Their small scale is a vestige of the planning and financing guidelines developed by the FHA during the Great Depression and World War II, but incorporate modern design elements of the Ranch style. The Transitional Ranch is one-story high with a low-pitched or flat roof and typically features moderate or wide eave overhangs, large picture windows, and sheltered entrances. The type does not typically have a garage, but is often accompanied by a carport which is frequently integrated into the roofline of the house. Other features found on examples

within Shady Banks include awning and jalousie windows, masonry and brick veneer wall texture variation, exposed rafter tails, broad low masonry chimneys, integrated planters, and screening fences.

²⁵ Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses, 2nd Ed.* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2017), 588.

²⁶ McAlester, 589.



Figure 6G-10: The house at 1260 SW 14th Avenue, constructed in 1962, is an example of the Ranch style. Photo by Vagabond Consulting Group.

component of the facade. Other features found on examples within Shady Banks include awning and jalousie windows, masonry and brick veneer wall texture variation, and integrated planters.



Figure 6G-11: The house at 1415 SW 12th Court, constructed in 1965, is an example of the Split-Level style. Photo by Vagabond Consulting Group.



Figure 6G-12: 1517 SW 13th Street, constructed in 1957, is an example of the Contemporary style. Photo by Vagabond Consulting Group.

Ranch: The Ranch style first developed in the 1930s in California, and was embraced by builders and homeowners in the 1950s and 1960s. The type took hold as FHA financing was revised to allow for larger loans and large house sizes compared with depression- and wartime-era guidelines.²⁷ The Ranch style is defined by its broad one-story shape, and low-pitched roof. It typically features moderate or wide eave overhangs, large picture windows, and off-centered sheltered entrance. It often incorporates an attached garage that is a visible

Split-Level: The Split-Level style is defined by its form, and can feature architectural elements of the Ranch, Styled Ranch, and Contemporary styles. The style is contemporaneous with these other popular styles. The Split-Level house has multiple levels of living offset by less than a full story. Popular variants include the tri-level split, which has three levels each separated by a half-story, and the bi-level split (split-entry) house, which contains two floors accessed by a mid-level entrance foyer with stairs leading up and down. Shady Banks has only one example, a tri-level split with a garage on the lowest level.²⁸

Contemporary: The contemporary style was inspired by the modern movement and Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian house paradigm. The Contemporary style is defined by its widely overhanging eaves, exposed post-and-beam construction, and windows located in gable ends or tucked under the eaves. The style has many variants in plan and roof forms. Window placement is generally dictated by intentional views or light access, rather than symmetry or traditional convention. Typical features of the

²⁷ McAlester, 597-603.

²⁸ McAlester, 614-615.

style as found in Shady Banks are a broad dominating front gable form, widely overhanging eaves, obscured or recessed entrances, expanses of blank or textured wall surfaces, gable-end or trapezoidal windows, broad low masonry chimneys, carports, integrated planters, and screening fences.²⁹

Styled Ranch: The Styled Ranch was a popular variation of the Ranch house form, but with the application of design elements of historical styles. The Styled Ranch was constructed between 1935 and 1985, although their prevalence was most concentrated in the 1970s and 1980s. Subtypes of the Styled Ranch style include Spanish, Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, French, and Tudor. The character of the stylistic design elements define the subtype.³⁰



Figure 6G-13: The house at 1420 SW 13th Street, constructed in 1964, is an example of the Spanish Styled Ranch style. Photo by Vagabond Consulting Group.



Figure 6G-14: The house at 1271 SW 14th Avenue, constructed in 1964, is an example of the Neoclassical Styled Ranch style. Photo by Vagabond Consulting Group.

ARCHITECTS³¹

Lester Avery (1891-1973)

Avery was born in Montana and graduated from St. John's Academy in British Honduras where he studied architecture. His career began in Clearwater, Florida, but later moved to South Florida, actively designing in building types within various modern styles. He is primarily known for single-family residences in the modern vernacular and minimal traditional styles, and later in his career, he designed several mid-century modern and modern vernacular motels, hotels, and apartment buildings, including the Carmen Apartments located in the Birch Estates survey area.

²⁹McAlester, 629-646.

³⁰ McAlester, 695-704.

³¹ Unless otherwise noted, architect biographies are directly excerpted from: Ellen Ugucconi, *Central Beach Architectural Resource Survey*. (City of Fort Lauderdale: 2017): 8-12.

William F. Bigoney, Jr. (Unknown)

Bigoney received his education and architectural training at the Pratt Institute and Harvard. Bigoney is noted as working in Fort Lauderdale in the city directory of 1952. One of his homes, the Bonnie Heath House built on Fort Lauderdale beach in 1955, was for years an icon of South Florida's mid-century modern design; in 2005 it was gutted and redesigned by owners that destroyed the original of the house. Another of Bigoney's designs, that of a "three level" (e.g., "split level") "solar home" to be built for Mr. H. T. Hollwedel on Pelican Isle, Fort Lauderdale, was featured in the Fort Lauderdale Daily News in 1955. The design for his home in Sailboat Bend (1969) on 14th Way and the New River was the masterpiece of his career in home design. In 1957 he designed the International Style Police Station, also located in the Sailboat Bend Historic District.

Paul M. Bradley Jr. (Unknown-2014)

Born in Philadelphia, in 1950 Bradley came to Broward County and set up his architectural practice. His practice included designs for hotels and subdivisions across Florida. In 1957 he designed the Wilton Manors City Hall, for which he used precast concrete slabs and reinforced columns. The design reflects a Modern approach where the massing and geometry make the statement, rather than more traditional styles that rely greatly on surface ornament. Sited on a downtown corner, Bradley takes full advantage of the location to create the piece de resistance of his composition. The semi-circular entrance bay (which has the prominence of a rotunda cut in half) spans three stories and is punctuated with geometrically placed windows. The semi-circular grand entrance on the corner gives way to the horizontally configured bays of the sides. They too are spaced precisely and continue the fenestration of the grand entrance. For the City Hall, Bradley used color effectively to separate different parts of the building.

Bradley was fascinated by lighthouses and started an organization for their protection. As an artist Bradley achieved national prominence for his lighthouse paintings. The U.S. Post Office even issued a stamp based on a painting of a lighthouse by Mr. Bradley. Bradley passed away in 2014.

Clinton Gamble (1911-1994)

Besides his work on the Sunrise Mall, Gamble had a thriving practice, and clearly understood the new language of Modernism. His All Saints Episcopal Church has none of the elements one would usually associate with a religious building, e.g. steeple, bell tower, etc. The church was completed in 1958. Gamble was also a prolific designer of residential units. Clinton was featured in the magazine "Official Journal of the Florida Association of Architects" in the August 1959 edition. In 1987, Gamble partnered with Rey Pezeshkan and the firm evolved into Architectural Network, Inc.

William Gilroy (1919-1988)

Gilroy was born in Elizabeth, N.J. and earned his bachelor's degree in architecture from Princeton University in 1940. Following graduation Gilroy joined the U.S. Navy Civil Engineers. During World War II he met Clinton Gamble and James Pownall who were also serving in the Navy. Following the War Gilroy returned to Princeton and earned a master's degree in fine arts. He then moved to Fort Lauderdale to form the prolific local firm of Gamble, Pownall and

Gilroy in 1948. Gilroy was the principal architect for the Sunrise Mall (later remodeled and the name changed to the Galleria).

Robert Jahelka (1906-1981)

Jahelka was born in New York City and graduated from Columbia University in 1934. He moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1935. Jahelka designed the Church-By-The-sea on Mayan Drive in southeast Fort Lauderdale but was also notable for his architectural contributions in Deerfield Beach. He was chairman of Fort Lauderdale's Housing Codes Committee and also served on the Deerfield Beach Planning and Zoning Board.

Guy Platt Johnson (1888-1958)

Johnson was born in Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida. When he was about 12, he is known to have lived for a time with his paternal grandparents in Michigan. He is later noted as working as an "engineering architect" for the "General Baking Co." in Tampa on his draft registration form in 1917. In 1920 Johnson was living with his wife and son in Cleveland, Ohio, where he is listed as working as a "structural engineer". By 1930, he was working as an "architect" for a rubber mill (Goodyear) in Akron, Ohio. Johnson is first mentioned as working as an architect in Fort Lauderdale in 1938. He is noted as the architect for the Maxwell Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, in an article in the *Fort Lauderdale Times* in 1940. Johnson died in Fort Lauderdale.

Charles F. McKirahan of Wilmer & McKirahan (1919-1964)

Charles Foster McKirahan was a prominent Fort Lauderdale-based architect who left an astounding architectural legacy in South Florida and beyond. McKirahan was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1919, educated at Oklahoma State University and University of Illinois (B.S. Arch. 1947), and served during World War II, spending three years as a captain with the US Army Corps of Engineers. He was sent to the Pacific theater where he spent time in Australia, Hawaii, Guam, Japan, and the South Pacific. He moved to Fort Lauderdale soon after graduation.³²

McKirahan worked briefly as chief draftsman at the office of Gamble, Pownall & Gilroy before forming a partnership, Wilmer & McKirahan, in 1951. He soon launched his own firm in 1953. An early project of McKirahan was the Mai Kai Restaurant in Fort Lauderdale. The renowned Polynesian-themed restaurant drew on McKirahan's experience in the Pacific.³³ McKirahan's notable projects include Manhattan Tower, Coral Ridge Yacht Club, Breakwater Beach Surf Club Homes, Breakwater Towers, and Everglades House; all in Fort Lauderdale. He also designed the Playboy Club in Miami and the Gill Sheraton Hotel.³⁴

McKirahan's international work included buildings in the Bahamas, Ecuador, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, and Brazil. He designed residences for actor Raymond Burr and artist Alexander Calder. He also designed six residences that are the anchor of the Mid-Century

³² "Architects Biographies," MiMo on the Beach. City of Miami Beach. Accessed April 2020. www.mimoonthebeach.com

³³ "Architects Biographies" and "Uncovering McKirahan," *Tropic Magazine*. (April 2015): 18-25.

³⁴ "McKirahan Dies in Pike Auto Wreck," *Fort Lauderdale News*. (13 February 1964): 13.

Modern Historic District in Norwich, Vermont.³⁵ At its height, McKirahan's firm employed over 100 people and he had satellite offices in the Bahamas, Brazil, and Chicago.³⁶ His prolific career was cut short when he was tragically killed in a car accident in West Palm Beach on February 12, 1964 at the age of 44.³⁷

Gerard Pitt (1885-1971)

Pitt was born in New Rochelle, New York, and graduated from Columbia University in 1907. In his early career he worked in New York City and Detroit. He moved to Miami in 1930 and was in partnership with George L. Pfeiffer. Pitt served as supervising architect for the southeast district of the Florida Hotel Commission from 1935 to 1957. When he designed the buildings on Harbor Drive in the Central Beach area of Fort Lauderdale he had a practice in Miami Shores. His novel modern design for the Villa Madrid Coop (with v-shaped canted roofs) in 1955 and the three-story Mar vista Club (with fanciful swirling exterior staircases) in 1956 are important contributions to Fort Lauderdale mid-century modern architecture. In Miami Beach, he designed dozens of mostly small-scale apartment buildings in the Art Deco and Postwar Modern styles from 1940 to the late 1960s, when he was in his 80s.

J. K. Pownall (1916-1988)

Pownall moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1946 and became part of the team to form the prolific firm of Gamble, Pownall and Gilroy in 1948. The firm designed the International Swimming Hall of fame on Central Beach in 1965.

Richard C. Reilly, AIA (c.1926-July 2000)

Reilly received his degree from the University of Virginia.

Tony Sherman (1910-Unknown)

Sherman was born in Atlantic City, NJ, in 1910 and earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1933. He did post graduate work in design at NYU (1933-36) and also attended the Polytechnic Institute in Brooklyn. From 1938 to 1942 he had his own firm: M. Tony Sherman & Associates (Florida). After WWII he joined several firms including Shreve, Lamb and Harmon in 1945. In 1947 he reactivated his original firm of M. Tony Sherman & Associates in Florida. Sherman is best known for his modernistic, flamboyant and creative resort architecture. In the Central Beach area, the Jolly Roger Hotel (1954) and the Yankee Clipper (1955) are outstanding examples. Other famous designs include his Tropicana Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas (1959) and the non-extant Castaways Hotel (1952) in Miami Beach. Both his architectural office and residence were in Miami.

William T. Vaughn, AIA (Unknown)

Vaughn is noted as having opened an architecture office in Fort Lauderdale in 1940.

³⁵ "Architects Biographies," MiMo on the Beach. City of Miami Beach. Accessed April 2020. www.mimoonthebeach.com

³⁶ "Uncovering McKirahan," *Tropic Magazine*. (April 2015): 18-25.

³⁷ "McKirahan Dies in Pike Auto Wreck," *Fort Lauderdale News*. (13 February 1964): 13.