

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

DRAFT

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Palm Springs Unified School District Educational Administrative Center

Other names/site number: Palm Springs Unified School District Administration Building

Name of related multiple property listing:

The Architecture of E. Stewart Williams

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 333 South Farrell Drive

City or town: Palm Springs State: CA County: Riverside

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<p>_____</p> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property <u>meets</u> <u>does not meet</u> the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____</p> <p>Signature of commenting official:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Title :</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/School

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: METAL:steel, aluminum, CONCRETE
BLOCK, GLASS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Palm Springs Unified School District Educational Administrative Center is located on the northeast corner of the Palm Springs High School campus at East Baristo Road and South Farrell Drive. Strongly influenced by the International Style, the building is of steel frame construction. Prominent steel dogleg I-beams on the primary (east) elevation and exterior steel posts on the other elevations frame the building and support the flat roof. Aluminum-framed windows and enamel spandrels are recessed beneath the roof's deep overhangs. Non-structural concrete block walls extend south and east of the building each displaying the name "PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT" in a modern metal typeface. The building is in excellent condition exhibiting sufficient historic and architectural integrity to convey its significance. The noncontributing resource is a small wood-framed temporary building just west of the Center.

Narrative Description

E. Stewart Williams designed this one-story school district administration building in 1960 that is strongly influenced by the International Style. Its design is that of a steel exoskeleton with recessed aluminum-framed in-fills of glass and enamel panels. A thin, flat roof with deep overhangs rests atop the steel frame. The primary (east) elevation is notable for the row of steel

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dogleg I-beams that project from the roof toward the street. This elevation exhibits floor-to-ceiling aluminum framed glazing, the primary entrance, corrugated metal cladding, a short length of concrete block wall, and a small bay of plate glass. Extending dramatically south from the same façade is a non-structural concrete block wall with “PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT” (PSUSD) in a modern metal typeface displayed across its length.

On the north elevation, aluminum-framed windows with white enamel spandrels above and below are recessed behind steel posts. A secondary entrance punctuates this façade. Projecting past the north elevation’s east end is a concrete block wall that is similar to the enormous wall on the primary elevation. In this case, the projecting wall is shorter in length, reaches the roof, and, on its north side, carries the PSUSD name, in a smaller metal typeface.

The rear (west) elevation is steel framed with corrugated metal sheathing in each bay. A rooftop parapet shielding air-handling equipment is substantially recessed such that it is visible only from a distance.

The south elevation mirrors the north elevation and, in this case, is shaded by a flat metal screen that is attached to steel support posts and suspended by metal rods. In contrast, the east end of the south elevation consists of a projecting rectangular bay enclosed by corrugated metal on the west, floor-to-ceiling glazing on the south—recessed beneath the deep roof and shaded by a suspended flat metal screen—and a portion of the concrete block wall that dominates the primary east façade. As is typical with the buildings of E. Stewart Williams, there are no historical references in its design.

Drought resistant desert landscaping surrounds the building having recently replaced a manicured lawn and thirsty flora no longer suitable in increasingly dry Palm Springs. A large asphalt parking lot and driveway are west and south of the building. A freestanding temporary building west of the subject building is a noncontributing resource.

Few exterior modifications are visible since the building was constructed in 1960.¹ Overall, the integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association remains high. As a result, the Palm Springs Unified School District Educational Administrative Center is able to convey its architectural significance because it exhibits key character-defining features associated with the design work of E. Stewart Williams. Corresponding with Williams’ bank building designs of this period, it is strongly influenced by the International Style with its flat roof, deep overhangs, and steel frame construction. It incorporates aluminum-framed plate glass windows, enameled spandrels, and non-structural walls of corrugated metal and concrete block while avoiding applied ornamentation and historical references.

¹ Neither access to the interior nor related building permits were made available by the PSUSD for this nomination.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1960

Significant Dates

1960

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Williams, E. Stewart

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Palm Springs Unified School District Educational Administrative Center is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance in the area of Architecture. The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of architecture designed for educational institutions as interpreted by E. Stewart Williams in the early 1960s. In addition, the property meets *The Architecture of E. Stewart Williams* Multiple Property Submission registration requirements for educational institutions in association with the historic context “Architecture as environmental expression in the greater Coachella Valley, 1946-1976.” The period of significance corresponds with the building’s date of construction, 1960.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Palm Springs Unified School District Educational Administrative Center exemplifies the distinctive characteristics of E. Stewart Williams’ approach to designing buildings for educational institutions in the early 1960s, and to commercial buildings such as the Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Building², also from 1960. During this period he typically adapted the International Style to such buildings. After that time, Williams embraced the possibilities of New Brutalism for educational institutions.

As is consistent with the International Style, the PSUSD Educational Administrative Center Williams rejects historical references with emphasis placed on form following function. Architectural elements include a flat roof, deep eaves, generous expanses of glass, and steel frame construction.

The PSUSD Educational Administrative Center is significant within the oeuvre of E. Stewart Williams as an example of Williams’ brief foray into designing pure International Style buildings in the early 1960s. The property fits within the historic context presented in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, “Architecture as environmental expression in the greater Coachella Valley, 1946-1976.” As a key example of the educational institution property type that maintains sufficient integrity to be readily identifiable as the work of E. Stewart Williams, the property meets National Register Criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of educational institutions associated with master architect E. Stewart Williams, FAIA prior to 1965.

² 303 South Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

As indicated in *The Architecture of E. Stewart Williams* Multiple Property Documentation Form.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- Other

Name of repository: Palm Springs Art Museum, Architecture and Design Center

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 33.819262

Longitude: -116.518518

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Property is located at 333 South Farrell Drive, Palm Springs, Riverside County. It is within the boundaries of the Palm Springs High School campus, which is a combination of several parcels. The parcel in which the nominated building is located occupies approximately one-

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quarter of the campus: 356 feet fronting Baristo and Ramon roads, and the entire block of South Farrell Drive, 1167 feet, between the two streets. Its APN is 502-230-006. Within this parcel, only the north portion containing the subject building, adjacent parking area, and noncontributing resource are included in this nomination: 356 feet fronting Baristo Road and approximately 225 feet fronting South Farrell Drive.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The subject building, adjacent parking area, and noncontributing resource occupy only approximately 225 feet of the parcel from the corner of Baristo Road south along Farrell Drive. The remainder of the parcel all the way to Ramon Road contains the high school track and field, which is not an E. Stewart Williams design and not part of this nomination. As a result, only the north portion of the parcel containing the Palm Springs Unified School District Educational Administrative Center, its small parking lot, and the noncontributing resource is included in this nomination.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Peter Moruzzi/Architectural Historian
organization: _____
street & number: 2018 Griffith Park Blvd., #114
city or town: Los Angeles state: CA zip code: 90039
e-mail petermoruzzi@gmail.com
telephone: (213) 706-0151
date: March 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Palm Springs Unified School District
Educational Administrative Center

City or Vicinity: Palm Springs

County: Riverside

State: CA

Photographer: Peter Moruzzi

Date Photographed: January 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 13 East elevation, camera facing west
- 2 of 13 East elevation, camera facing northwest
- 3 of 13 North elevation, camera facing southwest
- 4 of 13 North elevation, camera facing southeast
- 5 of 13 East elevation, camera facing southwest
- 6 of 13 East elevation, camera facing northwest
- 7 of 13 South and west elevations, camera facing northeast
- 8 of 13 South elevation, camera facing northwest
- 9 of 13 South elevation, camera facing northeast
- 10 of 13 West elevation, camera facing northeast
- 11 of 13 Detail, east elevation, camera facing northwest
- 12 of 13 Detail, steel post
- 13 of 13 Noncontributing temporary building, east and north elevations, camera facing southwest

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

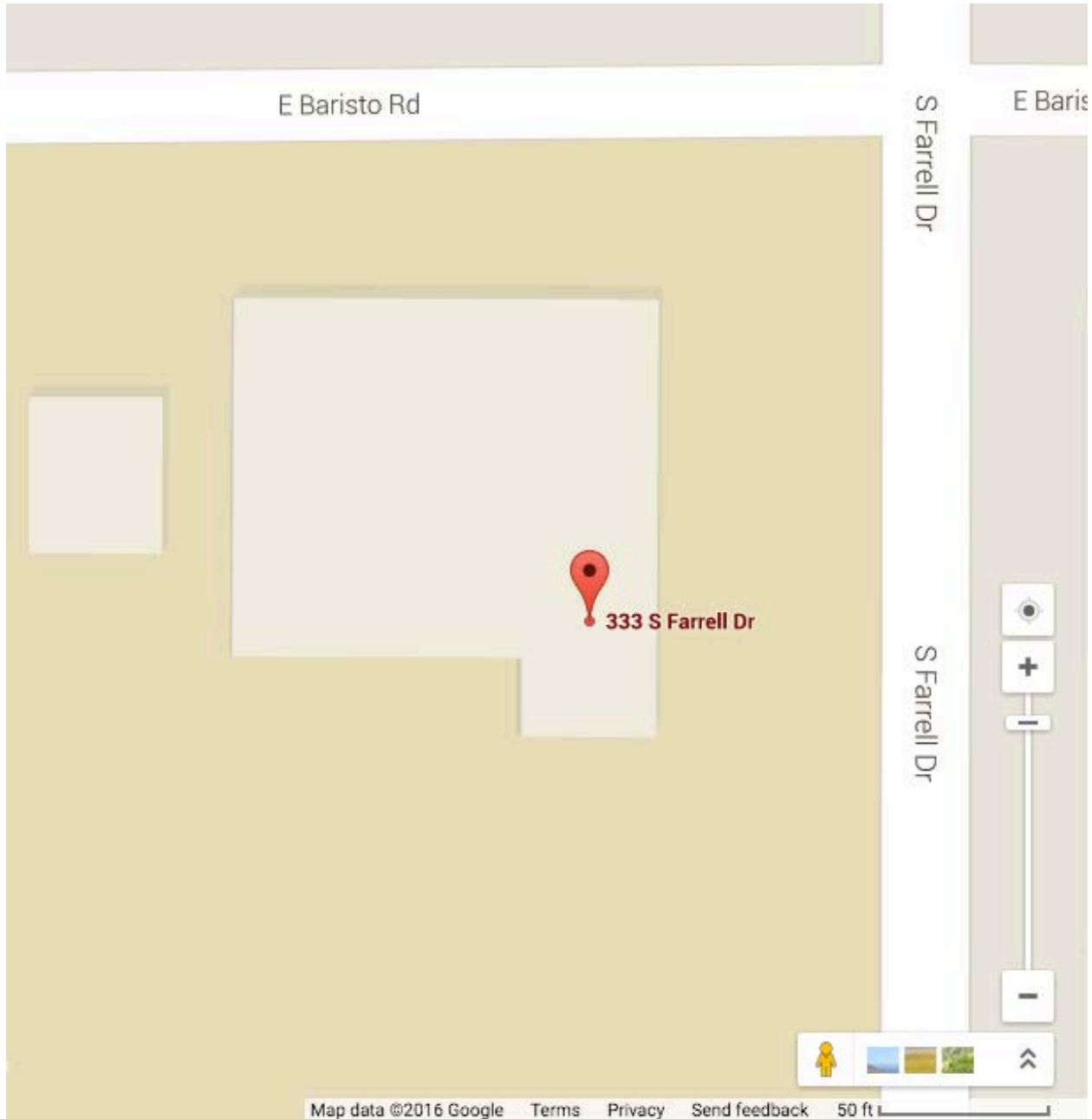
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Location Map

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Sketch Map/Photo Key

