



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

October 7, 2016

Ms. Marion Almy
Archaeological Consultants, Inc.
8110 Blaikie Court, Suite A
Sarasota, Florida 34240

Re: National Register Eligibility for the Warm Mineral Springs Spa (SO6928) and Cyclorama (SO6929)

Dear Ms. Almy:

The report submitted by Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (ACI) concerning the above referenced properties has been reviewed by our Historic Preservationist Carl Shiver. Despite some alterations to the buildings, our office feels that they are historically significant and are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The proximity of the two buildings lends them to be nominated as an individual property with two related resources. Together, the Spa and Cyclorama comprise the Warm Mineral Springs Building Complex Resource Group (8SO7026). This resource group is considered potentially eligible for the NRHP at the local and state level under Criterion A in the areas of social history and entertainment/recreation, and at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture.

Jack West, a notable member of the Sarasota School of Architecture, designed the Spa and Cyclorama and referenced the shape of the Warm Mineral Springs pool in his design and layout. The two buildings were originally constructed to house exhibits for the Quadricentennial, a statewide celebration of the 400th anniversary of St. Augustine's founding. The Cyclorama featured paintings, statues, and a narration that told the story of Spaniard Juan Ponce de Leon's 16th century explorations of Florida and his rumored quest for the Fountain of Youth. It is notable that only an estimated 30 other cycloramas now exist in the world. Our searches found only two cycloramas located in the United States, which depict the Civil War battles of Atlanta and Gettysburg, and are located in their respective cities.

In summary, our office concurs with ACI's opinion that the Warm Mineral Springs Building Complex Resource Group (8SO7026), comprised of the Spa and the Cyclorama, is potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as one individual property of two related resources rather than as a historic district. If you have specific questions about this determination, please contact Carl Shiver at 850.245.6347 or Carl.Shiver@DOS.MyFlorida.com.

Sincerely,

Alissa Slade Lotane
Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation &
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Division of Historical Resources
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