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ARCHITECT BIOGRAPHIES FOR DORSEY RIVERBEND AND CITY VIEW

Robert E. Hansen (1913-2006), was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin and moved to Fort Lauderdale with his family in 1926 at the age of 13. He attended Fort Lauderdale High School and studied architecture at the University of Miami. He apprenticed with art deco architects Henry Maloney and Robert Little. His practice was opened in 1941 on Las Olas Blvd. in the back of his brother's real estate office. Hansen, together with the modern architects, Charles McKirahan and Igor Plevitzky were the most important architects responsible for the South Florida Tropical Modern Style. A style based on the aesthetics borrowed from Frank Lloyd Wright and adapted to southern Florida's lifestyles. Hansen designed many post World War II homes, motels and office buildings in the area. He was also a preservationist and directed the restoration of the New River Inn and the moving of the King-Cromartie House to the H-1 historic district on SW 2nd Ave.

Robert Jahelka (1906-1981), 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.

Courtney Stewart, Jr. (1879-1964) Stewart graduated from the University of Florida in 1929. He was the youngest and first Florida trained architect in Broward County and opened an office in Fort Lauderdale in 1934. Stewart's early work contains many Mediterranean style buildings. He worked as a draftsman for the City of Fort Lauderdale on maps and drawings for the Schermerhorn 1926-27 City plan. He also has a property listed on the National Register, the Coca Cola Bottling Plant in Ocala, Marion County (identical to the one located in Fort Lauderdale).

Theodore A. Meyer was born in New York City and worked there for 52 years before coming to Fort Lauderdale. Among some of the buildings designed during his 20 year residence in Fort Lauderdale were the Fort Lauderdale Elks Club, churches, residences and beach hotels, several of which are in the Central Beach Birch Estates, the most famous being the Escape/Tiffany House, and Harbor Drive Historic Districts.

Clinton Gamble (1911-1994), besides his work on the Sunrise Mall, Clinton 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.

Joseph Phillips Jr. Architect Joseph Phillips Jr. is notably working during the 1960s and 1970s in the fast-growing Broward County suburbs in the areas surrounding Fort Lauderdale. His work included institutional, multi-family, commercial and ecclesiastical buildings.

In May, 1964, a Phillips'-designed residential/commercial project for 'Negroes' valued at \$1 million dollars and believed to be the first of its kind, was nearing completion at NW 24th and West Sunrise Avenues in Fort Lauderdale. Comprised of 58 'town and country' style homes centered around a 'greenbelt' recreational area, the project included a commercial shopping center facing Sunrise Boulevard.¹

Sunrise Golf Village, an expansive residential and recreational development encompassed some 2,650 acres in an L-shaped area running five and one-half miles along the northern boundary of the City of Plantation and extending two miles northward from Sunrise Boulevard on land purchased in 1960. It was envisioned to include some 10,000 homes and its success is reflected by its incorporation as its own city on June 22, 1961.² It later became the City of Sunrise in 1971.

Phillips designed a new church building for Northwest Baptist Church, in the 6800 block of Sunrise Strip in Sunrise Golf Village. The "T"-shaped sanctuary under construction in March, 1963 would be built in three stages with the first to accommodate some 600 parishioners, and by its third stage would double in size. The church featured a fifty-foot free-standing Carillion.³

The Broward County Association for Retarded Children in 1967 announced a plan to replace the existing Sun Dial School (605 SE 20th Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida) for both day and residential students with plans already completed by Joseph Phillips Jr. AIA. The 10-acre site (which had not yet been selected) with its facilities, was estimated to cost \$658 thousand dollars and would be partially subsidized with Federal funds.

In December 1969, Young was the architect featured in two newspaper articles, one was for Sunrise Breakers, a 17-story condominium adjoining the Birch Estate in Fort Lauderdale.⁴ Sited on one-and-one-half acres, the article described the ground-breaking with the expectation that construction would be completed in October, 1970. The "high-rise" afforded views of both the Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean. Three new condominium apartments built for the Burkhard Development Corporation had recently been completed. They were: Winston House (2-bedrooms/ 2 bathrooms) condominiums at 3050 NE 47th Court; Wilshire East (2-bedroom/ 2 bathrooms) condominiums at 3101 NE 47th Court, and Bay Island Villas (3 bedroom/ 3-bathroom) condominium at 3112 NE 27th Street, all in Fort Lauderdale.

In Pompano Beach, working for the Cardinal Construction Company, Young was tasked to create a 22-story condominium apartment on the beach at 1340 South Ocean Boulevard. The commission required Young to capitalize on open-space with an eye not only towards unobstructed views, but also to allow for the planting of

a lush landscape. Called “The Claridge,” the building contained 198 units with some 330 feet of beachfront, included a 9-hole “executive golf course” and occupied just 15% of the site’s area.⁵

In a collaborative effort for developer Florida Southern Industries, Young joined Joe Kovach of Southfield, Michigan in the design for the 1972 “Hillsboro Landings” in Deerfield Beach. The 8-story, 64-unit condominium was the first of a 158-unit complex on the south bank of the Hillsboro River. The design for the building was described as a ‘modern Mediterranean concept.’⁶

Colony Club in Tamarac is one of the largest commissions Young received. Valued at over \$16.5 million dollars, when fully realized, the complex would contain six hundred condominium and rental units within the fairways of the Colony West Golf Course. The first phase, begun in March, 1973, called for fourteen, two-and three-story rental buildings, while simultaneously the second phase containing some 108 one-bedroom and 162 two-bedroom condominium apartments were being built. The developer, Bradbery-Kono, had considerable experience in Broward County and were responsible for the Cross Fox rental development in Fort Lauderdale among others in the county. Architect Joseph Phillips Jr. designed the quarter of a million-dollar clubhouse, then under construction, and all of the residential units in both phases.⁷

In August, 1973, a newspaper article updating the progress of the development names the designers of the project as Joseph Phillips Jr. and G. Palmer Rice.⁸

FOOTNOTES

- 1 “Modern Negro Residential Development is Scheduled.” Fort Lauderdale News. May 24, 1964. Page 17C.
- 2 “10,000 Homes in A “Village.” Fort Lauderdale News. August 26, 1961. Page 14D.
- 3 “Cornerstone Rites Held for Church.” Fort Lauderdale News and Sun-Sentinel. March 23, 1963. Page 22.
- 4 “New 17-Story Sunrise Breakers ‘On the Way.’ Fort Lauderdale News and Sun Sentinel. December 13, 1969. Page 90.
- 5 “Claridge Condominium Stresses Open Space.” Fort Lauderdale News and Sun-Sentinel. October 9, 1971. Page 66 (2E).
- 6 “Hillsboro Condo Now Under Way.” Fort Lauderdale News and Sun-Sentinel. Page 73 (5D).
- 7 “Colony Club Gets Under Way.” Fort Lauderdale News and Sun-Sentinel. March 31, 1973. Page 111 (31D).
- 8 “From Swampland to Golf Courses—Fate of Florida.” Fort Lauderdale News and Sun-Sentinel. August 25, 1973. Page 107 (43D).