



December 29, 2010
– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

Frank Sinatra's Twin Palms Estate on Path to Historic Status

NEWS RELEASE

The Palm Springs Preservation Foundation announced today that it is pursuing the historic site designation of singer/actor Frank Sinatra's "Twin Palms" residence on behalf of homeowners Tom and Marianne O'Connell. Built in 1947 and designed by architect E. Stewart Williams, the Twin Palms residence is one of the finest examples of modernist architecture in Palm Springs, California. The historic designation of Frank Sinatra's former home will ensure that future changes to the property are approved by the city's Historic Site Preservation Board.

Local lore recounts that Frank Sinatra walked into architect E. Stewart Williams' office in late spring of 1947 eating an ice cream cone, snapping his fingers, and saying, "I want to build a house and I want it done by Christmas." With this important commission, Williams was allowed to put his own unique stamp on modern architecture. Among its many features, the house curls around a large pool in a pinwheel fashion revealing spectacular views of the San Jacinto Mountains from the master bedroom. The Sinatra residence remains remarkably intact and has been only slightly modified over the years (the entrance configuration was reoriented in the late 1990s).

Unlike many so-called "celebrity homes" having tenuous connections to their namesakes, Frank Sinatra lived in his Twin Palms residence for ten years starting in 1947, a significant time in both his personal and professional career, including the period of his tumultuous marriage to actress Ava Gardner. The enduring interest in both Frank Sinatra and modern architecture has allowed the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation to hold popular tours of the home every February during Modernism Week.



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(continued)**

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The Palm Springs Preservation Foundation selected Mr. Patrick McGrew, an architect, author and authority on California's architectural history, to write the historic site nomination. According to McGrew, the Sinatra house meets many of the criteria required for historic designation.

The underwriting of the Twin Palms historic site nomination was made possible through donations from Palm Springs Preservation Foundation members Joe and Kim Zakowski and Ron and Barbara Marshall.

For additional information see www.pspreservationfoundation.org.

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