

State of California — The Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
 HRI # _____
 Trinomial _____
 NRHP Status Code _____

Other Listings _____
 Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of 3 Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) *Gummo Marx Residence*

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County *Riverside*

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad

Date:

*c. Address *37-130 Palm View Drive*

City *Rancho Mirage*

Zip *92270*

*e. Other Locational Data: Assessor's Parcel Number Block: Lot:

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries.)

Architect Val Powelson designed the one-story Gummo Marx residence in 1957. The 2,999 square foot west-facing house has three bedrooms and 1.75 bathrooms and is set on .44 acres. The primary (rear) elevation faces the 3rd fairway of the Tamarisk Country Club golf course. The unique design of the house centers around the upswept A-frame that soars dramatically towards the east. A prominent center beam projects from beneath the ridgeline through the living room and continues several feet past the apex at the rear. Exceptionally deep overhangs shade the east elevation from the sun. Exteriors are sheathed in medium-smooth stucco, square concrete block, and narrow vertical plywood. Fenestration consists primarily of fixed and sliding windows. Instead of the typical ceiling to floor plate glass commonly seen in homes of this type, Powelson chose channels of closely spaced vertical windows separated by narrow stacked concrete blocks at the front and thin wood mullions along the rear. The primary entrance is offset to the north of the peak of the A-frame, with bedroom wings radiating north and south of the soaring central living room. Another room has been added at the northeast corner. Bushes along the eastern edge of the property provide privacy for the rear swimming pool area and concrete patio. The grounds are landscaped with gravel and desert foliage along the front, with more greenery and mature trees along the sides and rear of the property. Despite the room addition, the house retains its original character and is in excellent condition.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (list attributes and codes) *HP2. Single-family Property*

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other

P5a. Photo



P5b. Description of Photo: (view and date)

*East elevation
 August 2002*

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and

Sources: historic
1957/ Source: Metroscan

*P7. Owner and Address:

*Ted and Elaine Stein
 37130 Palm View Road
 Rancho Mirage, CA 92270*

*P8. Recorded by:

*P. Moruzzi, T. Grimes, L. Heumann
 Leslie Heumann and Associates
 600 N. Sierra Bonita Ave.
 Los Angeles, CA 90036*

*P9. Date Recorded:

September 23, 2002

*P10. Survey Type:

Intensive Survey .

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none")

None.

*Attachments: None Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (list)

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Page 2 of 3

*NRHP Status Code 5S1

*Resource Name or #: *Gummo Marx Residence*

B1. Historic Name: *Gummo Marx Residence*

B2. Common Name: *Same*

B3. Original Use: *Single-family Residence*

B4. Present Use: *Single-family Residence*

*B5. Architectural Style: *Modern*

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations): *Constructed in 1957.*

Note: No building permits exist prior to incorporation of the City of Rancho Mirage in 1973.

June 1, 1976. Reroof.

November 17, 1982. Lattice arbor.

February 11, 1992. Enclose carport.

April 21, 1997. Reroof.

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: _____ Original Location: _____

*B8. Related Features: *None.*

B9a. Architect: *Val Powelson*

b. Builder: *Marval Construction Company*

*B10. Significance: Theme *Country Club Era*

Area *Rancho Mirage*

Period of Significance: *1951-1973* Property Type: *Single-family Residence* Applicable Criteria: *B, C*

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity)

This property is architecturally significant for its eye-catching Modern design by Val Powelson and for its association with the Marx family. It was built for Gummo Marx, an original member of the Marx Brothers and ultimately the personal manager for the group, in 1957. Gummo was one of the founders of the Tamarisk Country Club, signing the original 1951 incorporation document with Lou Halper and Joe Blumenfeld. His first house was built on Da Vall Drive before Tamarisk opened. His second house was located on Golf Circle within the country club grounds. The Palm View residence was Gummo's third and final desert home. Gummo's son, Robert, was a contractor in partnership with architect Val Powelson, who together formed the Marval Construction Company. Powelson was also the architect for the Indian Wells Country Club clubhouse. In addition

(See Continuation Sheet 3 of 3.)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

*B12. References:

Alan Hess and Andrew Danish, Palm Springs Weekend, Chronicle Books, 2001.

Interview with Dr. Henry L. Jaffe, October 22, 2002.

Interview with Robert Marx, October 30, 2002.

Helene V. Galen, Tamarisk Country Club, The First 50 Years

1952-2002. Creative Continuum Publishing, 2002.

City of Rancho Mirage Building Permits.

B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator: *Peter Moruzzi, Teresa Grimes, Leslie Heumann*

*Date of Evaluation: *September 23, 2002*

(This space reserved for official comments.)

Sketch Map

***B10. Significance (continued):**

to the Gummo Marx Residence, Marval built a number of other homes in Rancho Mirage, including the Maranz Residence (70-551 Tamarisk Lane) and Da Vall Estates (37-800 Da Vall Drive). All three buildings share a steeply pitched gabled roof that projects to a sharp point supported by an exposed beam at the apex.

The Gummo Marx Residence is a good example of an unusual desert house notable for the dramatic, soaring roofline that is oriented towards rear golf course views. Although altered, the house continues to retain its integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, materials and workmanship. The property appears eligible for designation under an existing or proposed local ordinance, but does not appear eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (a "5S1" National Register Status Code).