

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: Kenaston Residence

Other names/site number: _____

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: 39767 Desert Sun Drive

City or town: Rancho Mirage 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Not For Publication: Vicinity: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>	

Kenaston Residence
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

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

Kenaston Residence
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</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>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Kenaston Residence
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE, GLASS, STUCCO, METAL: steel

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 Kenaston Residence is located near the Thunderbird Country Club in the Coachella Valley city of Rancho Mirage. U-shaped in plan, the dwelling's most striking feature is a swimming pool within the "U" where a natural rock wall (the west elevation of the living room) continues below the pool surface to several feet beneath the water level. The pool is visible from most of the interior rooms and hallways. This same natural rock, which clads a portion of the exterior north elevation, softens the strict rectilinear geometry of the flat-roofed house. Consistent with Williams' architectural philosophy, the Kenaston Residence adeptly demonstrates how he integrates natural materials expressing the local environment into his modern architectural designs. The Kenaston Residence retains integrity despite additions to the east end of the dwelling.

Narrative Description

The Kenaston Residence exhibits many elements common to Williams' residential commissions throughout his career: broad horizontality, flat roof, deep overhangs, large expanses of fixed glazing, sliding glass doors, and, most importantly, the integration of natural materials such as natural rock into his modern designs. Situated on a large flat parcel with a view of the distant San Jacinto Mountains, the dwelling's primary elevation faces north. On this elevation the dominant feature of the low-slung house is the natural rock veneer covering much of the façade. Recessed

Kenaston Residence
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

beneath the flat roof is the main entrance that is adjacent to a perpendicular stucco-finished wall that extends toward the street. A length of opaque glass between this wall and the rock wall encloses courtyard space shared by the guest bedrooms.

On the opposite south elevation, the house opens to the swimming pool that centers the “U.” Floor-to-ceiling plate glass windows and sliding doors access the pool area from the living room and master bedroom. Deep overhangs provide welcome shade. In providing additional shelter, a flat corrugated metal roof supported by slender steel posts covers the patio on the south side of the living room.

The dwelling’s most noteworthy architectural feature is the natural rock wall that continues several feet below the surface of the swimming pool. This wall also forms the west elevation of the living room. Other surfaces, such as the building’s west and south elevations, and the east wall of the living room and patio, are clad in corrugated metal.

On the interior, natural wood paneling covers numerous walls in hallways and bedrooms. Especially compelling is the south elevation of the master bedroom where Williams installed randomly offset wood strips that catch light and shadow from the east-facing windows. Separating the dining room and living room is a low Williams-designed built-in credenza. Other built-in furnishings by the architect appear throughout the house. In 2002, the sculptural metal exhaust hood to the terrazzo fireplace was restored in the living room. The fireplace is adjacent to a built-in terrazzo planter.

In 1991, building permits document a 449 square foot addition to the east end of the house along with a new 890 square foot two-car garage adjacent to the added room. Clearly identifying the new construction is the heaviness of the design with deeply recessed doors and windows penetrating thick stucco walls. Due to the location of these alterations—the east end of the house past the original historic fabric—and the clear differentiation with E. Stewart Williams’ original design—the physical integrity of the overall composition has not been compromised. In addition, the property retains integrity of setting, location, association (the building remains a single-family residence), and feeling.

Kenaston Residence
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

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

Kenaston Residence
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1956

Significant Dates
1956

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Williams, E. Stewart

Kenaston Residence
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

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 Kenaston Residence 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 mid-century residential architecture as interpreted by E. Stewart Williams. In addition, the property meets *The Architecture of E. Stewart Williams* Multiple Property Submission registration requirements for residential buildings 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, 1956.

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

The Kenaston Residence exhibits the distinctive characteristics of dwellings Williams designed from 1947 through the 1960s. Specifically, a flat roof, deep overhangs, and large expanses of glazing with sliding glass doors for indoor-outdoor flow. As important, natural materials are integrated into the design with native rock used for exterior and interior walls, and wood finishes for interior cabinets, doors, and walls.

The Kenaston Residence is significant within the oeuvre of E. Stewart Williams and fits within the historic context presented in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, “Architecture as environmental expression in the greater Coachella Valley, 1946-1976.” Overall, the Kenaston Residence retains a high level of integrity, exemplifying Williams’ philosophy that modern design should express the natural environment in which it is located. As a result it is readily identifiable as the work of E. Stewart Williams, meeting National Register Criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of residential buildings associated with the master architect.

Kenaston Residence
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

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

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 33.759500 Longitude: -116.418483

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

Property is located at 39767 Desert Sun Drive, Rancho Mirage, Riverside County, California. The property, consisting of two parcels, fronts a portion (75 feet) of Desert Sun Drive, a portion (75 feet) of Keenan Drive, and a portion (100 feet) of Kay Ballard Lane. Its legal description is LOTS 3 & 4 MB 028/028 DESERT SUN RANCH E. APN 688-252-007

Kenaston Residence
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Property includes the entire property historically associated with the Kenaston Residence.

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: April 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.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Kenaston Residence
City or Vicinity: Palm Springs
County: Riverside
State: CA
Photographer: Peter Moruzzi
Date Photographed: February 2016

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

1 of 14 North elevation, camera facing southwest

Kenaston Residence
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

- 2 of 14 North elevation, camera facing southeast
- 3 of 14 East elevation, camera facing northwest
- 4 of 14 Main entrance, north elevation, camera facing southwest
- 5 of 14 South and east elevations, camera facing northwest
- 6 of 14 West elevation, camera facing southeast
- 7 of 14 Rear, west elevation, camera facing east
- 8 of 14 North elevation, bedroom wing, camera facing east
- 9 of 14 East elevation, camera facing northwest
- 10 of 14 Living room, camera facing west
- 11 of 14 Main entrance, camera facing north
- 12 of 14 Master bedroom, camera facing southwest
- 13 of 14 Guest bedroom, camera facing northwest
- 14 of 14 Master bathroom, camera facing south

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.

Kenaston Residence
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Location Map

Latitude: 33.759500

Longitude: -116.418483



Kenaston Residence
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Sketch Map/Photo Key

