



PALM SPRINGS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

March 21, 2012

Dr. Christine J. Anderson, Superintendent
Palm Springs Unified School District
980 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite 101
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Dear Dr. Anderson,

After additional research in recent days, we have determined that the Palm Springs High School Administration Building (1957) is actually the design of the architectural firm of Wexler & Harrison. The building was originally attributed to Williams, Williams & Williams and Clark, Frey & Chambers due to the building's stylistic similarity to the adjacent (and well-documented) auditorium building.

We have since discussed the history of the PSHS Administration Building with architect Don Wexler at length and he remembers this building well. (According to Mr. Wexler our initial misattribution was understandable as "similar concrete block was used on buildings of that era throughout the campus including some Wexler & Harrison-designed buildings that have since been demolished").

As you probably know, the architectural work of Don Wexler was showcased in a major Palm Springs Art Museum exhibition in 2011. Additionally, in 2010 the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation published a tribute journal entitled *Donald Wexler: Architect*.

This architectural "detective story" only underscores the need for a systematic architectural survey of the Palm Springs High School campus as it is now obvious that multiple, highly-regarded, architectural firms were involved in creating the "built environment" of the Palm Springs High School campus.

We look forward to meeting with you in the near future to discuss this issue. The foundation can be contacted at (760) 837-7117 or info@pspreservationfoundation.org.

Respectfully,

Ron Marshall
President

Copy to:

Executive Director of Facilities Planning, PSUSD (Ms. Julie Arthur)
Palm Springs High School (Mr. Ricky Wright)
Historic Site Preservation Board, City of Palm Springs (Attn: Mr. John Gilmer)
Desert Sun (Attn: Ms. Mariecar Mendoza)