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The Palm Beach Post

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Boynton moves to name two homes historic

By Eliot Kleinberg

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

The city has taken the first step toward placing two more houses on its nascent historic designation list, approving the moves on first reading at Tuesday's meeting. A final vote is set for next year.

The Sophie Amichai House at 229 S.W. 1st Ave., a two-story complex built about 1922, "is a fine example of the Mission style of architecture constructed in Boynton Beach during the Florida Boom Period (1919-1929)," city historic planner Warren Adams wrote in a memo.

"A number of Mission-style buildings have been demolished in recent years," Adams wrote, adding, " ... this site is one of the few remaining in the city."

The 1,736-square-foot Oscar Magnuson house at 211 E. Ocean Ave. was built about 1910 by Swedish immigrant and farmer Oscar Sten Magnuson. His wife, Eunice Benson Magnuson, was one of the first town clerks.

The city's Community Redevelopment Agency is listing the property. The agency took a hit in 2007 when it bought the property for \$850,000; it was appraised at \$180,000. Its value is currently down to \$70,294. The CRA has said it will offer a buyer up to \$185,000 to renovate the building. Pitches would have to be in by Feb. 15, with the board voting March 12.

The agency has said the building could host a restaurant, gourmet food market, bakery, clothing boutique, home furnishing store or art gallery, small specialty store or a fitness or yoga studio.

The two new properties join the first complex placed on the list: the home owned by Audrey Gerger at 331 N.W. 1st Ave. It was named in October. The 1926 duplex with detached garage is believed to be the only such configuration still in existence in the city. Its owners included Margaret Garnett Harris, the last surviving child of an original Barefoot Mailman.

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