

Coquina Hotel: A Bygone Ormond Beach Landmark

by Randy Jaye

The original Coquina Hotel was built in 1889 near the ocean front at the southeast corner of present-day East Granada Avenue and A1A Highway. In 1903, John Anderson and Joseph Price, original owners of the Ormond Hotel, purchased the hotel and renamed it to the Bretton Inn. Many famous people spent their winters in the Bretton Inn. In 1923, the structure was demolished. A new 200-room hotel was constructed on the site in 1923 by James P. Vining (former clerk of the original Coquina Hotel). Vining died before the new hotel was completed, and Harrington Mills of the Mills Hotel Chain purchased it and coincidentally named it the Coquina Hotel.

This new Coquina Hotel quickly became an Ormond landmark as many notable people from around the country stayed there (many spending the entire winter as guests). When the structure was painted a striking pink color it gained even more notoriety.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter T. Bovard operated the hotel from 1927 to 1930. The Bovard's then left the hotel business and moved away, but returned in 1945 to purchase the hotel reportedly for \$150,000. In 1957, they invested \$60,000 to add a meeting room that accommodated 300 guests.

The Coquina Hotel's final season of operation was 1968. Edna Bovard sold the property to Jacob A. Fine (owner of the Daytona Plaza Hotel) for \$324,452 in June of 1968. The Coquina Hotel was then scheduled for demolition. The widening and rerouting of A1A at Granada Avenue was the main reason for the demise of the Coquina Hotel.

A January 26, 1969 article in the *Daytona Beach News-Journal* called the demolition of the Coquina Hotel structure an “End of an Era - as some tears were shed when the wreckers went to work...”

Now more than 50 years since the razing of Ormond Beach’s Coquina Hotel, a once nationally recognized landmark, memories of the structure are quickly fading into the annals of history.



**Bretton Inn, Ormond Beach, Florida - ca. 1920.
Source - Public Domain.**



**Hotel Coquina on the Atlantic Ocean, Ormond Beach, Fla. - ca. 1925.
Postcard Image Courtesy of the Ormond Beach Historical Society.**



THE COQUINA HOTEL ~ ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

**The Coquina Hotel, Ormond Beach, Fla. – ca. 1932.
Postcard Image Courtesy of the Ormond Beach Historical Society.**



**Hotel Coquina and Golf Course, Ormond Beach, Fla. - ca. 1957.
Postcard Image Courtesy of the Ormond Beach Historical Society.**