

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received  
date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Chaille Block DA 1168 Not on NR but determined

and or common Chaille Block eligible 5/4/18/80. See attached notice.  
(91-3-89)

2. Location

street & number 401-447 North Miami Avenue not for publication

city, town Miami vicinity of

state Florida 33130 code FL county Dade code FL 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Elias and Zelda Bringberg

street & number 1746 Cleveland Road

city, town Miami Beach vicinity of state Florida 33141

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dade County Courthouse

street & number 75 W. Flagler Street

city, town Miami state Florida 33130

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title FMSF-Miami Multiple Resource Historic Preservation Survey has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

date June, 1985 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records Bureau of Historic Preservation

city, town Tallahassee state Florida 32399-0250

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

See Continuation Sheet

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## DESCRIPTION:

Condition: Fair

The Chaille Block is comprised of five masonry structures constructed during the early years of the twentieth century. The five buildings are adjacent to each other and face the east side of North Miami Avenue between N.E. 4th Street and N.E. 5th Street. There are two, two-story structures; two, one-story structures; and one, three-story structure. Proceeding from north to south the five buildings comprising the Chaille Block are described as follows:

Chaille Block and Dennis Apartments  
433-447 North Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida

This building is a two-story masonry structure with a projecting arcade parallel to North Miami Avenue. The "Chaille Block and Dennis Apartments" building was constructed circa 1914 in the Masonry Vernacular style of architecture.<sup>1</sup> The principal elevation is divided into five storefronts at the sidewalk level. The projecting arcade in front of the storefronts provides an open balcony for the second story. The second story elevation is characterized by 11 structural bays containing a combination of single and paired window openings. The openings contain a majority of one-over-one windows set within double-hung wooden frames. The storefront entrances are characterized by recessed central entrances flanked by angled display windows. The projecting arcade wraps around the corner toward the north elevation and is supported by masonry piers. The entire first floor was used for commercial purposes while the second floor was used for residential purposes. Atop the second story is a stylized masonry cornice containing shallow brackets. The building is capped by a masonry parapet containing the inscription "Chaille Block 1914." Although there have been minor modifications to the building's architectural fabric, the original design intent is readily perceived. Some of the storefronts contain architectural elements that would allow the remaining storefronts to be restored to their original appearance.

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Commercial Building  
425-427 North Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida

This commercial building is a one-story structure constructed circa 1914.<sup>2</sup> The building's principal elevation is divided into three evenly spaced storefronts that contain recessed entrances flanked by large glass display windows. Originally, the storefronts were entered through a pair of wood and glass double doors. Although two of the storefronts have had their double doors replaced, one set of doors still remains. The building is plain in appearance and is capped by a low masonry parapet wall. The visual composition of the building is representative of the Masonry Vernacular style of architecture. The interiors of the storefronts contain the original pressed metal ceilings throughout. There are also visible signs of the presence of the overhead monitors which provided for natural ventilation and added light. The interiors are simple rectangular spaces on axis with the storefront entrances and extending in an east-west direction.

George Furniture Company  
419 North Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida

This building was the original home of the George Furniture Company and was constructed in 1919.<sup>3</sup> The visual composition of the building represents an example of the Masonry Vernacular architectural style. The two-story masonry structure is divided into five bays across its principal elevation. The fenestration of the ground floor has been somewhat altered by the placement of a metal overhead door where there was once a storefront. Consequently, there is only one surviving storefront on the ground floor with a recessed entrance flanked by two large glass display windows. The second story contains a single window opening at the center bay and paired window openings within the remaining bays. All the windows of the second floor appear to be original to the building and consist of double-hung, one-over-one sash, set within wooden frames. There is a simple masonry

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cornice above the lintels of the second floor windows. A masonry parapet wall with an arched pediment caps the building. Over the years, modifications to the interior of the building have obliterated any significant interior spaces. Although the overhead door has been installed at the first story level, the original design intent of the building's exterior is readily perceived.

**Commercial Building  
411-415 North Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida**

This commercial building is a one-story structure executed in the Masonry Vernacular style of architecture and constructed circa 1919.4 The building's principal elevation is characterized by two original storefronts that are capped by a fixed projecting canopy suspended by chains from a low masonry parapet. The storefronts contain the original entrances which consist of double wood and glass doors flanked by large glass display windows. The masonry parapet wall is unadorned except for five panels created by a simple masonry band. The interiors of the building contain many original features such as the wooden floors and the original pressed metal ceilings. In all, this is the most unaltered building within the Chaille Block.

**Dade Apartments  
401-405 North Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida**

The "Dade" consists of a three-story masonry structure executed in the Masonry Vernacular style and constructed in 1918. The principal elevation, parallel to North Miami Avenue, is characterized by a two-story projecting masonry arcade supported by square masonry posts. The lower portion of the arcade wraps around the corner toward the south elevation. The first floor contains the original storefronts that are entered through double wood and glass doors flanked by large glass display windows. The second and third floors of the principal elevation are characterized by five bays containing a combination of single and paired window openings and door openings. The two-story projecting arcade provides an open balcony for the third floor.

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The upper floors of the building were entered by a door on the south elevation, which provided stairway access to central corridors above. The upper floors contained apartments that were accessible through the central corridors. A large portion of the window openings retain the original double-hung, one-over-one sash, windows set within wooden frames. A simple masonry cornice wraps around the building and above it is a low parapet wall embellished with a raised arched pediment containing the inscription "1918 Dade Apartments."

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1938	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1914-1919 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

See Continuation Sheet

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Specific Dates: 1914-1919

Architects(s): Unknown

The Chaille Block is architecturally significant as the only intact commercial streetscape in downtown Miami dating from the second decade of the twentieth century. The visual composition of the five buildings comprising the streetscape represents a fine example of the Masonry Vernacular style of architecture. The buildings comprising the Chaille Block also possess important historical associations with the early commercial development of downtown Miami.

The appearance of the Chaille Block serves to characterize a popular stylistic trend of the pre-1920s in South Florida. The design of the buildings is particularly noteworthy for the adaptation to the area's climate through the utilization of projecting arcades, canopies, and open balconies. The external appearance of the Chaille Block provides a unique record of commercial design in Miami as evidenced through the scale, proportion, and masonry detailing of the building elevations. The construction of the buildings between 1914 and 1919 reflects the commercial expansion of downtown Miami in a northerly direction during the second decade of the twentieth century. The mixed usage of the buildings reflects a time when residential units and commercial establishments were sheltered under the same structure. The block is also associated with the productive life of William H. Chaille, a pioneer who arrived in Miami from Ocala in 1900. Chaille was active in various civic affairs and served one term on the Miami City Council. He operated the Racket Store, known as the city's first "dimestore," from which he sold tinware, crockery, lace, souvenirs, bathtubs, machinery, and clothing. The two northernmost buildings of the Chaille Block were developed by Chaille, who lived just behind the building in a house facing N. E. 5th Street (demolished).

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NOTES

1. State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Archives, History and Records Management, "Florida Master Site File: Historic Site Data Sheet" for 433-443 N. Miami Avenue, "Statement of Significance."
2. Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of Miami, Dade County, Florida (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1914).
3. R. L. Polk, R. L. Polk and Company's Miami City Directory (Jacksonville, Florida: R. L. Polk and Company, 1919).
4. City of Miami, Building and Zoning Department, Plumbing Permit applied for 10 October 1919.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see Bibliography for Cover Nomination

# 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Miami

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 117 581081310 2851220  
Zone Easting Northing

B           
Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

Verbal boundary description and justification

Miami, Lots 9, 10, 11, and 12, less the easterly 10 feet of the southerly 50 feet of Lot 9, of Block 78 of the plat of MIAMI NORTH (PB B-41). Boundary follows historic and legal boundary.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Eaton/Vicki L. Welcher, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date October, 1988

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida 32399-0250

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *George W. ...*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date October 17, 1988

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

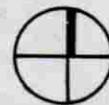
Attest:

date

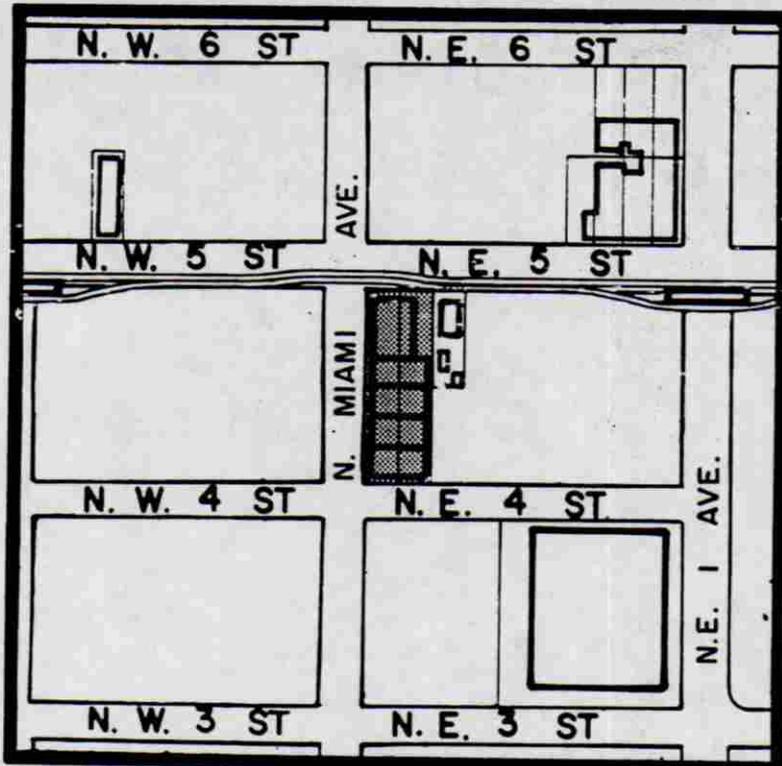
Chief of Registration

# CHAILLE BLOCK

401-47 NORTH MIAMI AVENUE



location



site plan