

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 Shrine Building DA 1112 Determined eligible
and or common Boulevard Shops 1-3-91. zw 28/21/91

2. Location

street & number 1401-1417 Biscayne Boulevard not for publication
city, town Miami vicinity of
state Florida 33132 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Biscayne Properties, Ltd.
street & number 25 S.E. 2nd Avenue, Suite 300
city, town Miami vicinity of state Florida 33131

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

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 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 1930

Builder/Architect Robert Law Weed

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

See Continuation Sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see Bibliography for Cover Nomination

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Miami

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 1 7 5 8 1 3 0 0 2 8 5 2 3 0 0
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Miami, Lot 11 less street and Lot 12 of Block 1 of the plat of PERSHING COURT (PB 4-147).
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, Florida 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. [Signature]*

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

4

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1 The Shrine Building

DESCRIPTION:

Condition: Good

The Shrine Building is a two-story rectangular structure of masonry construction executed in a local adaptation of the Art Deco style of architecture. The building was a project of the Biscayne Boulevard Company, its original owner, and construction began and was completed in 1930. Fronting to the west, the facade of the building is arranged in a series of setbacks which serve to emphasize the bold massing of its geometric forms. The central portion of the building is comprised of a two-story block whose second story is recessed from the lower perimeter walls, thereby creating an open balcony parallel to the street. On the northern and southern ends of the central block are two-story wings, shorter than the central portion, and slightly recessed behind the principal facade.

The exterior of the two-story wings and the lower story of the central block are constructed of masonry block that is sheathed with a cast stone imitating keystone, a local construction material. The exterior of the second story is covered with stucco. The first story contains a series of glass storefronts with individual entrances from the street. The second story of the central block is accented with 11 multi-light metal windows separated by flat pilasters featuring a vertical reeding pattern and a stylized ornamental capital. The three windows found on the upper story of each wing are also separated by the same stylized pilasters. Below these windows are large bas-relief spandrels decorated with stylized volutes and sunburst designs. The symmetrical and horizontal composition of the building's facade is offset by turrets with multifaceted planes on the upper corners of the central block. The outer corners of the wings are detailed with engaged sculpted figures of Seminole Indians, a tribe indigenous to South Florida.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2 The Shrine Building

The second floor of the building contains a large open space that was originally used for social functions. The ceiling of the open space is decorated with stylized pendentives anchoring the ceiling plane to the wall surfaces. The second floor is accessible by a staircase that is entered through one of the storefronts. The interior of the ground floor stores are virtually free of structural obstructions as the load-bearing walls run the length of the interior in an east-west direction. The building appears to be in good physical condition, and the exterior remains virtually unchanged from the date it was completed.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 The Shrine Building

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Specific Date: 1930

Architect: Robert Law Weed

The Shrine Building is architecturally significant because it is one of the earliest and most representative Art Deco structures in Miami.² Designed by Robert Law Weed, a prominent local architect, the building represents an excellent local adaptation of a prevailing national style. The Shrine Building also possesses significant historical associations with the commercial development of Biscayne Boulevard, one of Miami's early planned thoroughfares and shopping areas during the late 1920s.

The presence of the Seminole Indian figures on the building's facade comprises a local interpretation of the national trend for using native American motifs in Art Deco designs.³ The use of the cast stone imitating South Florida keystone, a local construction material, is also indicative of the prevailing 1930s movement that emphasized "regionalism" in commercial architecture.

The visual composition of the Shrine Building is also significant because it exemplifies the work of Robert Law Weed in South Florida. The building's scale, massing, and stylized decoration make it one of the finest examples of Weed's commercial designs in Miami.

Robert Law Weed was born in Pennsylvania in 1897, studied at the Carnegie Institute, and moved to Miami in 1919.⁴ Weed began his architectural career designing residences in Palm Beach and Miami Beach. He is well known for his important commissions during the 1930s. These included the designs for the Miami Shores Elementary School (1930), the Florida Tropical Home at the Chicago "Century of Progress" Exhibition (1933), and the General Electric Model Home in Miami Beach (1935).

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2 The Shrine Building

The Shrine Building also represents the efforts undertaken by the Biscayne Boulevard Company to establish a new shopping area for Miami. This type of intensive development, whose goal was to create the "Fifth Avenue of the South," was unparalleled in the city's history. The original 1925 plans for Biscayne Boulevard called for the creation of a complete shopping center, carefully designed for beauty and comfort, away from the downtown bustle.⁵

The Shrine Building serves as a visual reminder of the days when Biscayne Boulevard was being molded into the modern-day concept of a shopping center, with the developers recognizing the increasing impetus of the automobile and planning for it.⁶ The Shrine Building was one of the many commercial structures erected by the Biscayne Boulevard Company during the late 1920s and early 1930s. Throughout its early years, the building's tenants included the Mahi Shrine Temple A. A. O. N. M. S. (Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine) on the second floor, and the Home Drug Store, Piggly Wiggly grocery store, Biscayne-Page Electric Company, and the John Turner Piano Company on the first floor.⁷ The Mahi Shrine Temple leased the entire second floor and a portion of the first floor from the time of the building's completion through 1943, thereby becoming the building's primary tenant.⁸ Consequently, the building has often been referred to as the Shrine Building.⁹

In 1980, the building was renovated and converted to a series of shops. The architectural firm for the renovation, Bouterse, Perez and Fabregas, won an award from the Florida Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for their "sensitive restoration."¹⁰ The developer in charge of the renovation was also given an award by the Dade Heritage Trust.¹¹

NOTES

1. City of Miami, Building and Zoning Department, Plumbing Permit applied for 7 January 1930.
2. Metropolitan Dade County, Office of Community and Economic Development, Historic Preservation Division, From Wilderness to Metropolis: The History and Architecture of Dade County (1825-1940) (Miami, Florida: Metropolitan Dade County, 1982), p. 133.
3. See note 2 above.
4. Metropolitan Dade County, From Wilderness to Metropolis,

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3 The Shrine Building

"Selected List of Architects and Their Work."

5. Along the Boulevard (Office File Copy, Catalog 990, City of Miami Planning Department, 1930).

6. Sarah E. Eaton, "Sears, Roebuck and Co. Designation Report" (prepared for the City of Miami Heritage Conservation Board, 21 January 1984).

7. R. L. Polk, R. L. Polk and Company's Miami City Directory (Jacksonville, Florida: R. L. Polk and Company, 1930-1938).

8. "Furniture Store Will Become Art Deco Galeria," Miami Herald, 15 June 1979, p. 1-D.

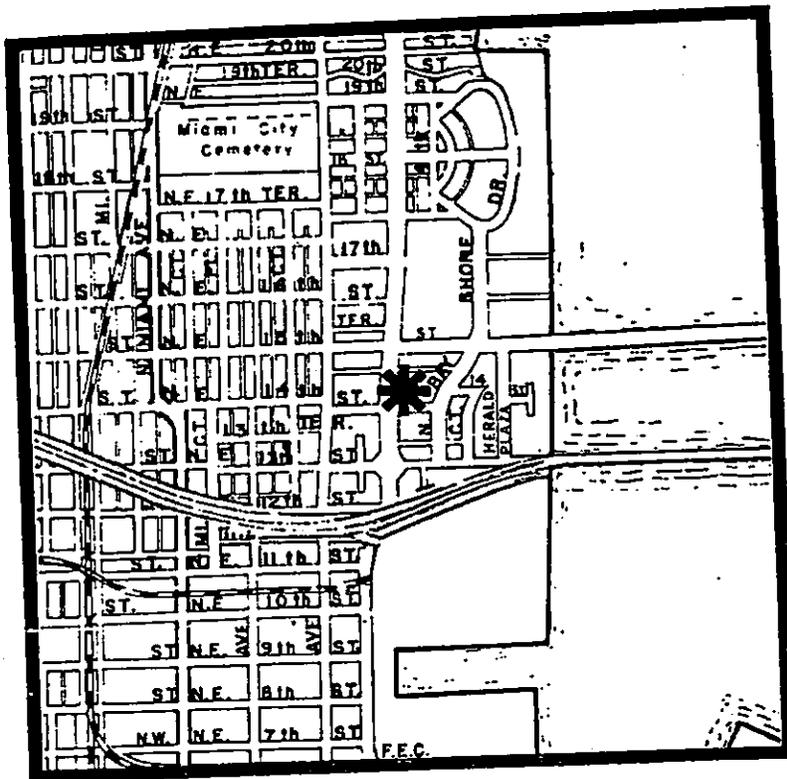
9. "The Story of the Boulevard," Sunday Pictorial, 16 March 1930, p. 3.

10. "Our Buildings Show Variety," Miami Herald, 20 September 1981, p. 6-H.

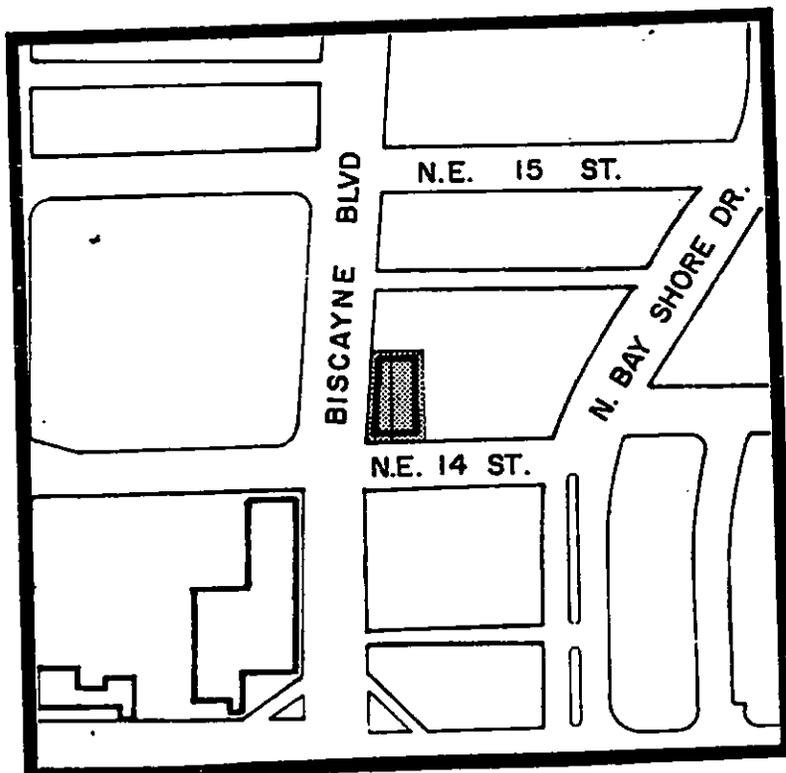
11. "New High-Rise Would Overpower Deco Shops," Miami Herald, 8 October 1981, Architecture Review.

SHRINE BUILDING

1401 BISCAYNE BOULEVARD



location



site plan

FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE
HISTORIC SITE DATA SHEET MULTILIST 8DA5123

		FDAHRM	802==
Site No.	<u>8DA1112</u>		1009==
Site Name	<u>1401 Biscayne Blvd.</u>		830==
Other Name(s) for Site			930==
Other Nos. for Site			906==
NR Classification Category:	<u>Building</u>		916==
County	<u>Dade</u>		808==
Instruction for locating (or address)	<u>1401 Biscayne Blvd.</u> <u>Miami, Florida 33132</u>		
			813==
Location:	<u>Pershing Court 4-147</u> / <u>1</u> / <u>11,12</u>		868==
	<small>subdivision name</small>	<small>block no.</small>	<small>lot no.</small>
Owner of Site: Name:	<u>Castro Realty Corp.</u>		
Address:	<u>1990 Jericho Tpke.</u>		902==
	<u>New Hyde Park, New York 11040</u>		902==
Occupant, Tenant, or Manager: Name:			
Address:			
			904==
Reporter (or local contact): Name:	<u>Rodriguez, Ivan A. (Dade County Historic Survey)</u>		
Address:	<u>Dade County Park & Recreation Department</u>		
	<u>50 S. W. 32 Road; Miami, Fl. 33129</u>		816==
Recorder: Name & Title:	<u>Monroe, Elizabeth B. (HSS)</u>		
Address:	<u>FDAHRM</u>		
			818==
Survey Date	<u>7808</u>	820==	Type of Ownership <u>Corporate</u> 848==
Inventory Status			914==
Previous Survey(s): (enter activity/title of survey/name/date/repository)			
	<u>Survey/Dade County Historic Survey/Rodriguez</u>		
	<u>7808</u>		
	<u>/Dade County Park & Recreation</u>		839==
Recording Station			804==
Specimens (Inventory Numbers)			870==
Date of Visit to Site		828==	Recording Date 832==
Photographic Record Numbers	<u>78N079 HPS (FRAMES 10)</u>		
	<u>78N116 HPS (FRAMES 19, 20, 21, 22, 23)</u>		860==

Location of Site (Specific):

Map Reference (incl. scale & date)

809==

Township	Range	Section	¼ Sec.	⅓ ⅓ Sec.	⅓ ⅓ ⅓ Sec.

812==

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A POLYGON LOCATING THE PROPERTY

LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
Point	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
	°	'	"	°	'	"	
	°	'	"	°	'	"	
	°	'	"	°	'	"	
	°	'	"	°	'	"	

OR

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

°	°	°
---	---	---

800==

UTM Coordinates:

17 541300 2852300
Zone Easting Northing

890==

Description of Site:

Site Size (approx. acreage of property)

833==

<p>Condition of Site:</p> <p>Check one</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent 863==</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good 863==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fair 863==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated 863==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ruins 863==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed 863==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Redeposited 863==</p>	<p>Integrity of Site:</p> <p>Check one or more</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Altered 858==</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered 858==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Destroyed 858==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Restored () Date: () 858==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moved () Date: () 858==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Original Site 858==</p>
<p>Condition of Site (Remarks): ()</p> <p style="text-align: right;">() 863==</p>	
<p>Threats to Site:</p> <p>Check one or more</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Zoning () () 878==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Development () () 878==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration () () 878==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Borrowing () () 878==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (See Remarks below): 878==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation () () 878==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fill () () 878==</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dredge () () 878==</p>	
<p>Threats to Site (Remarks):</p> <p style="text-align: right;">879==</p>	

17

ARCHITECTURAL SITE DATA SUPPLEMENT

ARCHITECT _____ 872==

BUILDER _____ 874==

STYLE AND/OR MODE _____ Art Deco 964==

PLAN TYPE _____ Rectangular 966==

EXTERIOR FABRIC(S) _____ Stucco 854==

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM(S) _____ Masonry 856==

FEATURE OF STRUCTURE (942):

FOUNDATION: _____ 942==

ROOF TYPE: _____ Flat 942==

SECONDARY ROOF STRUCTURE(S): _____ Parapet 942==

CHIMNEY LOCATION: _____ 942==

WINDOW TYPE: _____ D.H.S. 1/1; Fixed; sheet; multi-paned 942==

MATERIALS (882):

CHIMNEY: _____ 882==

ROOF SURFACING: _____ 882==

INTERIOR WALLS: _____ 882==

ORNAMENT INTERIOR: _____ 882==

ORNAMENT EXTERIOR: _____ 882==

QUANTITATIVE DATA (950-960):

NO. OF STOREYS _____ 2 _____ 950==

NO. OF CHIMNEYS _____ 952==

OTHER (SPECIFY) _____ 954==

_____ 956==

10

18

OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING (FREE TEXT) (865==):

ROOF STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

865==
865==
865==

MAIN ENTRANCE: West, facade center, metal and glass, double door with large light in recessed glass portico; no elevation.

865==
865==
865==

WINDOW PLACEMENT: 7 bays 1st storey; 19 2nd storey.

865==
865==
865==

WINDOW SURROUNDS AND DECORATION: Windows 2nd storey in 2 tiers with Deco ornament between; vertical deco reeding flanking sides; moulded deco reeding flanking sides; moulded deco ornamentation, below windows at mezzanine, facade ends

865==
865==
865==

PORCHES, VERANDAS, GALLERIES, AND BALCONIES:

865==
865==
865==

EXTERIOR ORNAMENT AND COLOR: White; large deco finials at main facade ends at top on parapet wall; terms and gables flanking ends of wing projections facade right and left ends hexagonal protruding bays with vertical channeling flanking main facade ends; vertical reeded massing flanking main entrance bay, 1st storey; parapet wall flanking end wings of building. periodic entrances on 1st storey symmetrically placed in rectangular recess; ornamentation wraps ends of building

865==
865==
865==

OTHER (SPECIFY):

865==
865==
865==

MAJOR ALTERATIONS (FREE TEXT) (857==): Fixed sheet, 1st storey

865==
865==
865==

OUTBUILDINGS (FEATURES OF SITE) (876==): Vacant lot on north side; at N.E.

865==
865==
865==

corner Biscayne Blvd. and 14 Street.

857=
857=
857=

SURROUNDINGS (CLASSIFICATION) Commercial

864==

RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDINGS (FREE TEXT) (859==): at N.E. corner Biscayne

876=
876=
876=

Blvd. and N.E. 14 Street.

876=
876=
876=

859=
859=
859=

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary)

This masonry construction commercial building represents an outstanding example of Art Deco architecture in Dade County in the 1920's and 1930's. It is architecturally noteworthy for its stylistic features, details such as the bas-relief deco panels and the female busts at the corners of the building and cohesiveness within the neighborhood.

It was built in 1930. The original owner or agent was the Biscayne Blvd. Company, a Real Estate Company. The builder was the Harrison Construction Company. In the early 1930's, the building was used by the Home Drug Store.

Major Bibliographic References:

Unpublished sources

Miami. Building and Zoning Department. Plumbing Permits, 1919 to present.

Published sources

Polk, R.L. R.L. Polk and Company's Miami City Directory, Jacksonville, Florida: R.L. Polk and Company, 1930, 1931, 1932.



[Send To Printer](#) [Back to Map](#)

1401 Biscayne Blvd
Miami FL
33132-1453 US

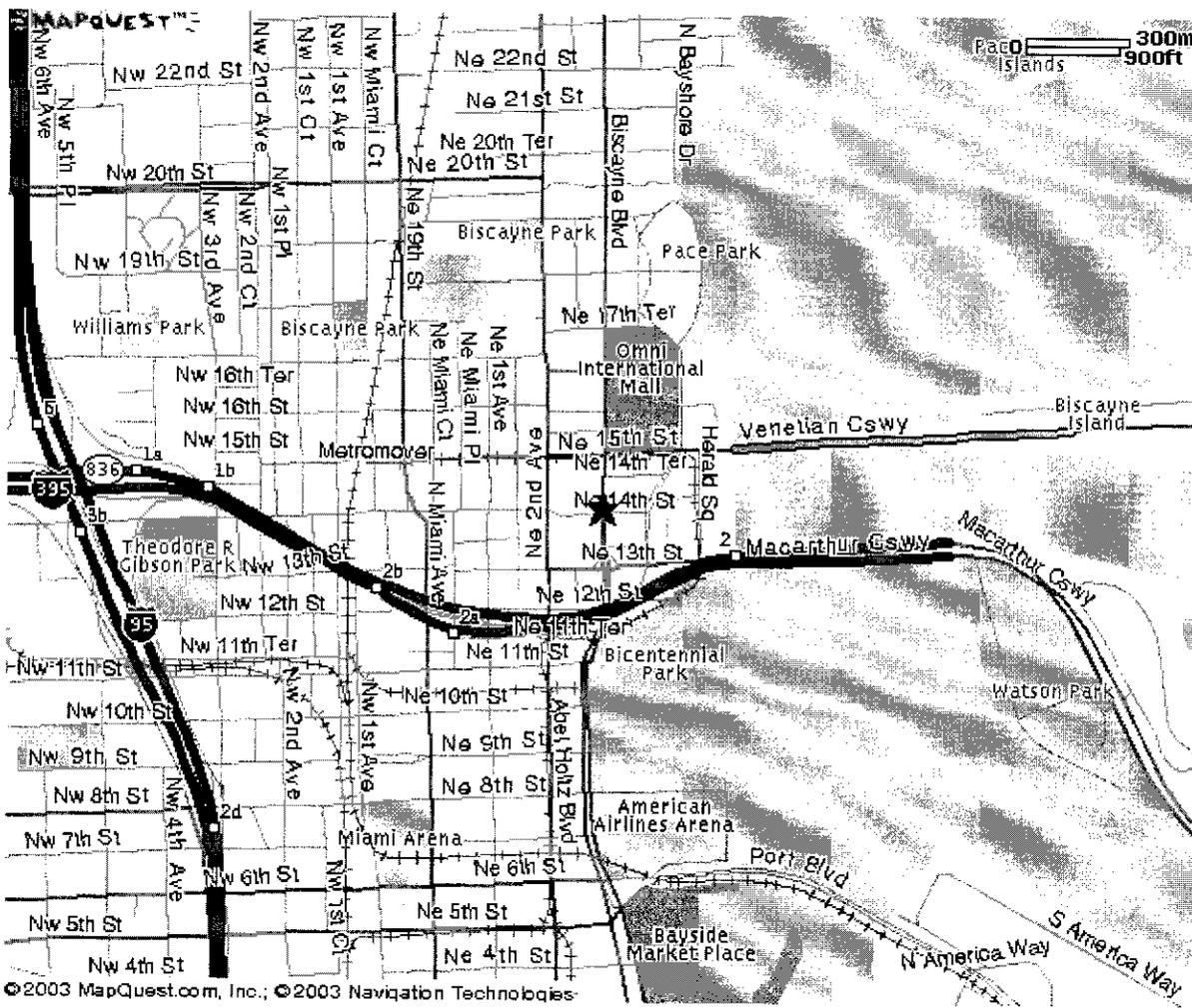
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Notes:

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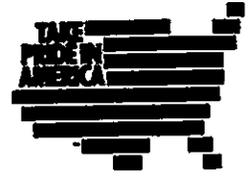


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United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 37127

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO: 413

DOE

To:

Division of Historical Resources
Department of State
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32301-8020

8DA 111Z

The Department of the Interior is pleased to inform you that the historic property on the enclosed sheet has been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The property was nominated for listing in the National Register by the State Historic Preservation Officer but cannot be listed at this time. The National Historic Preservation Act and Federal regulations 36 CFR 60 provide that owners of private properties nominated to the National Register must be given an opportunity to concur in or object to listing. If the owner of an individually nominated property, or the majority of owners in the case of a nomination which includes multiple ownership, object to the listing, the nomination cannot be entered in the National Register. Such objection has occurred in this case. Federal agencies are required to allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment before the agency may fund, license, or assist a project which will affect properties determined eligible for the National Register.

JAN 20 1989

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION
SERVICES

DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE FLORIDA

DATE DETERMINED 1/3/89

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
First Church of Christ, Scientist (Downtown Miami MRA)	Dade County
Shrine Building (Downtown Miami MRA)	Dade County 8 DA 1112
Citizens Bank (Downtown Miami MRA)	Dade County
Burkhardt, Wilford H., House and Office (Downtown Miami MRA)	Dade County
Chaille Block (Downtown Miami MRA)	Dade County
Temple Israel (Downtown Miami MRA)	Dade County

Also Notified

Florida Division of Historical Resources

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, DC

National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)272-3504.



