
CITY OF MIAMI CEMETERY

1800 N.E. 2 AVENUE

Designation Report



City of Miami

REPORT OF THE CITY OF MIAMI PLANNING DEPARTMENT
TO THE HERITAGE CONSERVATION BOARD
ON THE POTENTIAL DESIGNATION OF
CITY OF MIAMI CEMETERY
1800 N.E. 2nd AVENUE
AS A HERITAGE CONSERVATION ZONING DISTRICT

Prepared by Sarah E. Eaton 3/1/83
Historic Preservation Date
Planner

Accepted by Charles Edwin Chase 4/26/83
Chairman, Heritage Date
Conservation Board

Designated by Miami City Commission
Ordinance No. 9660
Date 7/28/83

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Historic Name:

City of Miami Cemetery

Current Name:

City of Miami Cemetery

Location:

1800 N.E. 2nd Avenue
Miami, Florida 33132

Present Owner:

City of Miami
3500 Pan American Drive
Miami, Florida 33133

Present Occupant:

City of Miami Parks Department
2600 South Bayshore Drive
Miami, Florida 33133

Present Use:

Cemetery

Present Zoning District:

R-4

HC Zoning Overlay District:

HC-1

Tax Folio Number:

01-3136-00-0030

Boundary Description:

The N ½ of the S ½ of the NE ¼ of the NE ¼ as recorded in Deed Book M at Page 188, and the northerly 0.6 feet of Lots 1 and 2 and the northerly 0.6 feet of land adjacent to Seitters Addition; also described as the southerly ½ of the plat of THE OFFICIAL MAP OF THE CITY CEMETERY, as recorded in Plat Book 2 at Page 16, of the Public Records of Dade County, Florida.

HC Zoning Classification:

Historic Site

Dade County Historic Survey Rating:

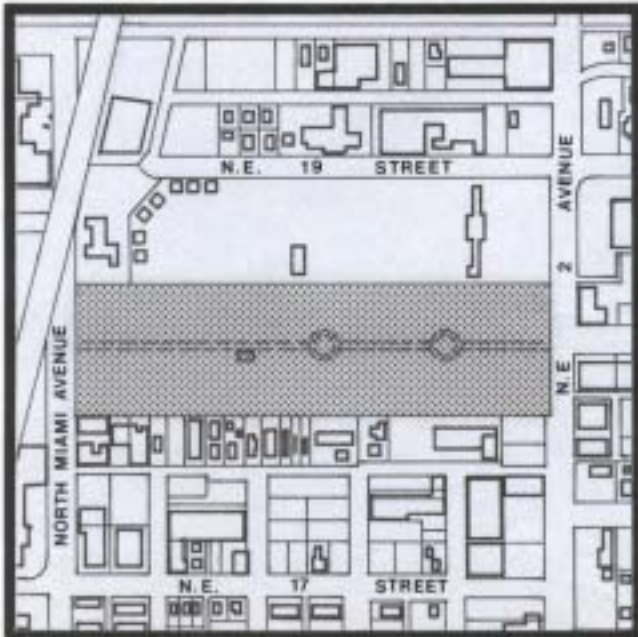
Architectural Significance - -
Historical Significance - 1
Contextural Significance - 1

CITY OF MIAMI CEMETERY

1800 N.E. 2 AVENUE



location



site plan

II. SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Significance:

The City of Miami Cemetery is significant for its association with Miami's pioneer era and for its visual importance to northeast Miami.

The City of Miami Cemetery is Miami's oldest cemetery and is the first and only municipal cemetery in Dade County. The cemetery is the resting ground for members of every important pioneer family in the City and is therefore a unique reminder of Miami's early days. Some of the pioneers interred here have no remaining buildings associated with their lives. As a result, the intricately carved headstones and classical mausoleums embellish the only site associated with many of these individuals. The cemetery itself is the site which most vividly reflects the pioneer era of the City's development.

The park-like setting of the cemetery in the midst of a commercial area provides a strong visual focus to northeast Miami. The cemetery is an easily identifiable visual feature of this neighborhood and contributes to its identity.

Relationship to Criteria for Designation:

The City of Miami Cemetery is eligible for designation under the following criteria:

3. Exemplifies the historical, cultural, political, economic, or social trends of the community.

The City of Miami Cemetery is Dade County's first and only municipal cemetery. This cemetery is the resting ground for members of every important pioneer family in Miami and, as such, is a vivid reflection of the City's pioneer era.

9. Because of its prominence or spatial location, contrasts of siting, age, or scale, is an easily identifiable visual feature of neighborhood or the City and contributes to the distinctive quality or identity of such neighborhood or the City.

The City of Miami Cemetery is Miami's oldest cemetery and is an important visual feature of northeast Miami. In its park-like setting, enclosed by a stone wall and iron fence and gate, the cemetery provides a sharp contrast to the commercial activity in this section of the City.

III. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Date of Erection:

The City of Miami Cemetery was first laid out in 1897.

Historical Context:

In 1897, William and Mary Brickell sold ten acres of land to the City of Miami for use as a municipal cemetery. The cemetery was laid out and divided into plots in 1897 and 1898.

Julia Tuttle, known as the "Mother of Miami", was the twelfth person to be buried in the cemetery. Other pioneer families include the Belchers, Burdines, Seybolds, Peacocks, and Sewells. Dr. James Jackson, Miami's pioneer physician, and Clifford Reeder, an early major, are also buried here. War veterans, including 86 Confederate Civil War veterans and 200 Spanish American War veterans, are also represented.

More than 8,000 people have been buried here, and the cemetery is still in active use today.

III. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Description of Site:

The City of Miami Cemetery comprises a ten acre tract of land and is divided into eight sections. The cemetery is enclosed by a masonry wall and iron fence and is entered through iron gates with the words "City of Miami Cemetery" on N.E. 2nd Avenue. A second entrance is located on N. Miami Avenue.

A driveway splits the cemetery north and south and is punctuated by two traffic circles on its eastern half. The easternmost circle, where Julia Tuttle and her family are buried, honors the "mother of Miami" with a monument. The second circle, located near the center of the cemetery, is reserved for the United Daughters of the Confederacy and also contains a monument.

The cemetery was originally divided by race and religion, with whites occupying the eastern section and blacks occupying the western. A walled Jewish section is located in the northwestern area of the cemetery.

A wide variety of headstones is found in the cemetery, reflecting the development of headstone design from the late nineteenth century to the present. The cemetery also includes a number of mausoleums, designed in a variety of styles.

The entire cemetery is covered with lush tropical growth, and several rare examples of tropical trees and foliage are present. These exotic plants were introduced into the cemetery in the 1920's from the neighboring City nursery and from the U.S. Experimental Garden at Cutler.

Located in the southeast area of the cemetery is a small building which contains an office and restrooms. This one story Mediterranean Revival style structure is rectangular in plan and is covered with textured stucco. It is topped with a hipped roof covered with Mission tiles and is decorated with exposed rafters under the eaves. The center portion of the building is open and is supported by four Composite columns.

Also located in the cemetery to the west of the Jewish section is a small utilitarian shed.



City of Miami Cemetery
1800 N.E. 2 Avenue



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V. PLANNING CONTEXT

Present Trends and Conditions:

The City of Miami Cemetery is managed by the City of Miami Parks Department and is staffed by a full-time caretaker. Maintenance and upkeep are also furnished by the Parks Department.

The cemetery is currently in active use, and several thousand gravesites are still available. These sites are owned by descendents of the original lot owners.

Conservation Objectives:

The City of Miami Cemetery should continue to be actively used as a cemetery and should continue to receive adequate funding from the Parks Department for maintenance. Public awareness of the importance of the cemetery in Miami's history should be increased, and previous tours of the cemetery should be repeated.

Although careful records of the cemetery are maintained by the Parks Department, all headstones should be photographed and their inscription and locations recorded. Some headstones are becoming increasingly difficult to read, and such a record would serve as a means of preservation.

These conservation objectives can best be achieved by maintaining the present zoning of the property. An HC-1 zoning overlay district will maintain the existing zoning, requiring only the review of physical changes to the property.

VI. HC ZONING ELEMENTS

Boundaries:

The boundaries of the HC zoning district have been drawn to include the entire tract of land owned by the City of Miami and known as the City of Miami Cemetery.

Major Exterior Surfaces Subject to Review:

It is not the intent of this designation to require a Certificate of Appropriateness for headstone or mausoleum design or for the location of future graves. Only alterations, additions, or new construction of walls, driveways, or buildings shall require a Certificate of Appropriateness. Therefore, all four facades of the office building and all surfaces of existing improvements on the site (wall, gates, driveways) shall be considered major exterior surfaces subject to review.

Major Landscape Features Subject to Review:

The major landscape features subject to review shall include all existing landscape features on the site.

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dade County, Florida. Community and Economic Development, Historic Preservation Division. Dade County Historic Survey, Site Inventory File for City of Miami Cemetery, Miami, Florida.

"Miami City Cemetery, Miami, Florida". Unpublished Tree Survey, Miami, Florida, 1965.

Peters, Thelma by Sarah Eaton. Interview, Miami, Florida, March 9, 1983.