
FIRE STATION NO. 2

1401 NORTH MIAMI AVENUE

Designation Report



City of Miami

REPORT OF THE CITY OF MIAMI
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
TO THE HISTORIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION BOARD
ON THE POTENTIAL DESIGNATION OF
FIRE STATION NO. 2
AS A HISTORIC SITE

Prepared by Sarah E. Eaton, Preservation Officer

Passed and
Adopted on _____

Resolution No. _____

CONTENTS

I. General Information	4
II. Significance	7
III. Description	9
IV. Planning Context	11

I. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Historic Name:

Fire Station No. 2

Current Name:

Old Fire Station No. 2

Location:

1401 North Miami Avenue
Miami, Florida

Present Owner:

City of Miami
P.O. Box 330708
Miami, FL 33233-0708

Present Use:

Vacant

Zoning District:

G/I

Tax Folio Number:

01-3136-005-1160

Boundary Description:

The southerly 40 feet of Lot 10, and Lot 11 of Block 16 of the plat of ROBBINS-GRAHAM AND CHILLINGSWORTH, as recorded in Plat Book A at Page 49 of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Classification:

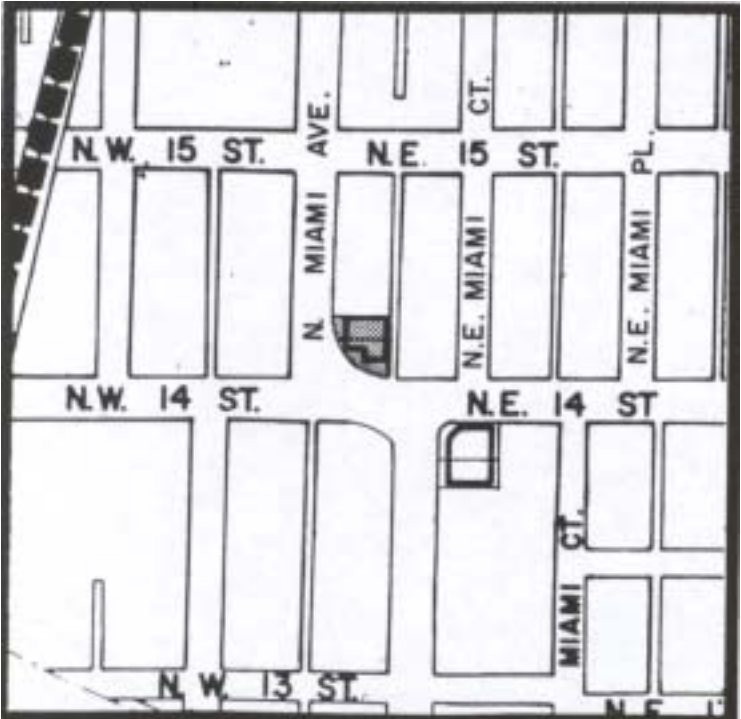
Historic Site

FIRE STATION NO. 2

1401 NORTH MIAMI AVENUE



location



site plan

II, SIGNIFICANCE

Specific Dates:

1926

Architect:

The architect for Fire Station No. 2 was August C. Geiger.

Statement of Significance:

Fire Station No. 2 is significant as a reflection of architectural tastes and urban expansion in Miami during the 1920s. The fire station is architecturally significant as an excellent example of the Mediterranean Revival style. The construction of Fire Station No. 2 reflects the City's response to the growing demand for municipal services during the rapid growth occurring at the height of Miami's Boom in 1925.

Fire Station No. 2 is an excellent example of the Mediterranean Revival style of architecture as evidenced through the articulation of its elevations and the application of decorative ornament. The building is architecturally noteworthy for the use of stylistic features and ornamental details which classify it as a representative structure in the Mediterranean Revival mode. Although there were several fire stations constructed incorporating Mediterranean Revival details, Fire Station No. 2 is one of only two remaining stations.

The design of Fire Station No. 2 represents the work of August C. Geiger in South Florida. Geiger was born in 1888 and came to Miami from New Haven, Connecticut in 1905. He was the architect for the Dade County School Board and designed many of the most imposing municipal and institutional buildings in Miami and Miami Beach. August C. Geiger was the tenth registered architect in the State of Florida and one of the most active and prominent in South Florida.

The Miami Fire Department was organized in 1899 but did not have its first fire station until 1907. The first motorized fire fighting equipment appeared in 1910 and consisted of a "Webb" combination chemical engine and hose cart. Several fire stations were built during the first two decades of the twentieth century, but it was not until Miami's Boom that the City responded to the rapid suburban expansion by embarking on a massive construction project. Several fire stations, including the original No. 2 that had been constructed in 1915, were replaced with new buildings at this time.

Fire Station No. 2 is significant both historically and architecturally within the context of the City as a whole, but is particularly important within the context of its surrounding neighborhood

Relationship to Criteria for Designation:

Fire Station No. 2 has significance in the historical and architectural heritage of the City of Miami; possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association; and is eligible for designation under the following criteria:

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

Fire Station No. 2 reflects the city's response to the growing demand for municipal services during the rapid growth occurring at the height of Miami's Boom in 1925.

5. Embodies those distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style, or period, or method of construction.

Fire Station No. 2 is an excellent example of the application of the Mediterranean Revival style to a utilitarian building.

6. Is an outstanding work of a prominent designer or builder.

Fire Station No. 2 represents the work of August C. Geiger, one of South Florida's most prominent early architects.

7. Contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship of outstanding quality or which represent a significant innovation or adaptation to the South Florida environment.

Fire Station No. 2 is particularly noteworthy for the articulation of its elevations and for its application of decorative ornament.

III. DESCRIPTION

Present and Original Appearance:

Fire Station No. 2 is a two-story structure executed in the Mediterranean Revival style of architecture. The building is a masonry structure completed according to plans provided by the architect August C. Geiger. The fire station was constructed in 1926 and is prominently placed at the northeast corner of North Miami Avenue and NW 14 Street.

The exterior of Fire Station No. 2 is characterized by a square tower flanked by lower wings which contain arched entrances providing vehicular access to the building. The tower is capped by a hipped pyramidal roof sheathed with Mission tiles. The pedestrian entrance to the building is situated next to the tower at the southwest corner of the building. The wings of the building are capped by gable roofs which are contained with masonry coping at the gable ends.

The elevations of Fire Station No. 2 are embellished with detailing characteristic of the Mediterranean Revival architectural style. Masonry quoins serve to highlight the corners of the second story, and window openings are recessed within the planar stuccoed elevations. Over the vehicular entrances are two projecting balconies embellished with a decorative twisted column.

The fenestration of the building is comprised of the original wood casement type windows set within wooden frames and double-hung windows also set within wooden frames. A small number of the window openings contain recent replacements of awning-type windows set within metal frames.

Over the years, a number of alterations have modified the appearance of the building, but its original design intent is visible and readily perceived. Later metal overhead garage doors have replaced the original wooden swinging doors that provided vehicular access to the building.

Contributing Structures and/or Landscape Features:

The subject structure is a contributing structure. Contributing landscape features include all specimen trees on the property.



Fire Station No. 2

1401 North Miami Avenue

IV. PLANNING CONTEXT

Present Trends and Conditions:

Fire Station No. 2 is owned by the City of Miami but has not been used as a fire station for many years. The building was last used as a combination day care and community center but has been vacant since the mid 1980s. The City has recently declared the building to be surplus property and will be requesting bids on the property.

The sale of Fire Station No. 2 with restrictive covenants should be encouraged as the best available means of encouraging its preservation. The adaptive use of this property would not only lead to the rehabilitation of one of the City's historic structures, but also would be an important project in the revitalization of the West Omni area.

Fire Station No. 2 is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Preservation Incentives:

The only available incentive for preservation at the present time is the property tax abatement program currently available in Dade County.