

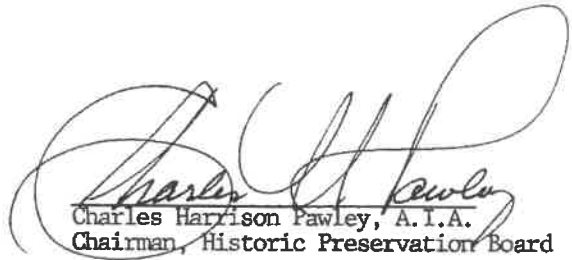
Metro-Dade Historic Preservation Board

RESOLUTION NO. 8302
El Portal Burial Mound
Section 7, T. 53 S., R. 42 E.

Metro-Dade Historic Preservation Board


Whereas, the El Portal Burial Mound is a prehistoric Indian burial mound that contains important scientific information, and
Whereas, the preservation of archeological sites is in the best interest of Dade County and its citizens, and
Whereas, the data collected at this site indicates a chronology of almost 1,800 years of Indian habitation is preserved here, and
Whereas, the El Portal Burial Mound is located in Section 7, T. 53 S., R. 42 E., parcel indicated as "Indian Mound" within PB 14-30, enclosing 6,377 sq.ft.,

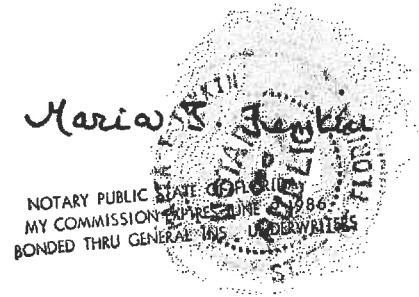
Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Historic Preservation Board on Thursday, January 27, 1983, has designated the El Portal Burial Mound as an individual historic site pursuant to the Metropolitan Dade County Historic Preservation Ordinance (81-13) and that the El Portal Burial Mound is subject to all rights, privileges, and requirements of that ordinance.


Charles Harrison Pawley, A.I.A.
Chairman, Historic Preservation Board

2/2/83
Date

Prepared by:


Robert S. Carr
Staff Archeologist
Historic Preservation Board


Maria S. Jenkins
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF FLORIDA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JUNE 1986
BONDED THRU GENERAL INS. UNDERWRITERS

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Charles Harrison Pawley	Aye
William F. Wescott	Aye
Ted Baker	Aye
Dov Dumaevsky	Aye
Dorothy Fields	Aye
Marilyn Hoder-Salmon	Aye
Marielenne McGregor Lucas	Aye
Donald D. Slesnick II	Aye
Laurinda H. Spear	Aye

RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK
OF DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
RECORD VERIFIED
RICHARD P. BRINKER,
CLERK CIRCUIT COURT

nk

DESIGNATION REPORT - INDIVIDUAL SITE

Site Name El Portal Burial Mound Designation No. 8302
 Site Address Section 7, T. 53 S., R. 42 E. Date of Filing 1/6/83
 Date of Designation 1/27/83
 Owner and Address El Portal Village, 500 N.E. 87th Street, El Portal, FL. 33138

Site Location - Legal description or district boundaries (see attached map):

Parcel indicated as "Indian Mound" within PB 14-30, enclosing 6,377 sq. ft., within the Sherwood Forest Subdivision.

Dade County Historic Survey Findings: .
 Preservation Quality - 3. The site has suffered moderate to severe disturbances, but still retains sufficient integrity to be scientifically significant.

Other Surveys: H.A.B.S.
 Natl. Reg. H.A.E.R.
 Other: Da20 (FDAHRM)

Title Verification (attach copy): Book Page No. Deed Type

Current Zoning (describe): R-1

Current Use (describe): Dedicated as municipal park.

Current Condition (describe): The site is well maintained as a public green space with a well-kept grass lawn and a number of oak trees. No further site damage from artifact collectors or vandals has occurred in recent years, as the site is now well protected.

Physical Description of Site (attach 1 or 2 photos):

The site is an oval sand mound about 50' in diameter and no more than 4' in height. The original form of the mound was probably one of higher elevation at the center, possibly another several feet, but continual disturbances and digging during the past century have dispersed the sand and lowered the mound's height.

A circular road circumvents the mound and residential homes occupy all of the adjacent lots that face the mound. A hardwood hammock occupies the site vicinity, and the area retains much of the original natural character that made this property attractive to the prehistoric Indians. Situated upon an elevated ridge of Miami oolitic limestone, the site would have been free from most storm flooding. It was close to several natural springs and the Little River. Access to Biscayne Bay and the everglades would have been easy for the Tequesta Indians by canoe on the river. Prehistoric village sites existed on both sides of the river.

Significance - Brief summary including documentary evidence that indicates the historical, architectural or archeological significance of the site.

Dedicated as a public park in the 1920s, the El Portal Burial Mound is the first archeological site to be publicly recognized and preserved in Dade County. At present, it is among the last burial mounds that remain in the county, the others having been destroyed by development. Unfortunately, most of the El Portal mound has been disturbed by digging by artifact collectors, vandals, and the curious during the past fifty years. Probably at least 50% of the mound, particularly the upper levels, have been altered. A test pit excavated on the eastern side of the mound by the Metro-Dade Historic Preservation Division in April, 1981, uncovered scattered, badly fragmented human bones and teeth. An undisturbed level of habitation was found beneath the burial mound. Radiocarbon dates for the charcoal recovered from the lowest levels suggest that the burial mound may have been constructed in ca. 600 A.D., and that the prehistoric village site beneath the mound dates from ca. 200 A.D. It is apparent that despite previous disturbances to the mound there are still sufficient archeological remains to provide information to scientists about the prehistoric population and the mortuary customs that were associated with this mound.

