

Metro-Dade Historic Preservation Board

RESOLUTION NO. 8304  
Section 7, T. 53 S., R. 42 E.  
Within the Sherwood Forest Subdivision

Metro-Dade Historic Preservation Board

Whereas, the El Portal Archeological Zone was a major prehistoric and historic activity area, and

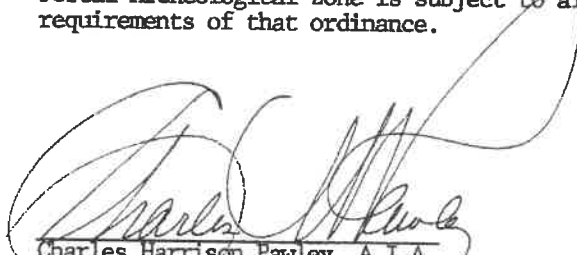
Whereas, data recovered from archeological sites within this zone represents significant historic and scientific information about Indian lifeways and culture, and

Whereas, data collected from within this zone indicates Indians occupied the area for the last 1,800 years, and

Whereas, the designation of archeological zones is in the best interest of Dade County and its citizens, and


Whereas, the El Portal Archeological Zone is located in beginning at a point 510' SLY along the ELY ROW line of NE 2nd Avenue, from the NW corner of Section 7, T. 53 S., R. 42 E., within the Sherwood Forest Subdivision as described in Plat Book 14-30, then, beginning at the POB, 1500' SELY along the north bank of Little River to the western boundary of the Florida East Coast Railroad ROW, then 355.99' NELY along said ROW, then 300' NWLY, then 103' along the NLY ROW of NE 85th Street, then 346.02' WLY along the arc of the NLY boudaries of parcels 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 of Tract 6, then 164.95' NWLY along the ELY boundary of Parcel 9 of Tract 6 to the NLY ROW of NE 86th Street

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Historic Preservation Board on Thursday, February 24, 1983, has designated the El Portal Archeological Zone as an archeological zone pursuant to the Metropolitan Dade County Historic Preservation Ordinance (81-13) and that the El Portal Archeological Zone is subject to all rights, privileges and requirements of that ordinance.

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

3/1/83  
Date  
Maria  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
NOTARY-PUBLIC STATE OF FLORIDA  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JUNE 9 1986  
BONDED THIRD GENERAL INS. UNDERWRITERS

Prepared by:

  
Robert S. Carr  
Staff Archeologist  
Historic Preservation Board

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

RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS #001  
OF DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA.  
RECORD VERIFIED  
RICHARD P. BRINKER  
CLERK CIRCUIT COURT

nc

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

DESIGNATION REPORT - ARCHEOLOGICAL ZONE

Name of Zone El Portal Archeological Zone

Designation No. 8304

Boundaries of Zone See legal description below.

Date of Filing 2/3/83

Date of Designation 2/24/83

Location - Legal description of the zone (attach maps with property lines, roads, municipal boundaries, etc.):

Beginning at a point 150' SLY along the ELY ROW line of NE 2nd Avenue, from the NW corner of Section 7, T. 53 S., R. 42 E. within the Sherwood Forest Subdivision as described in Plat Book 14-30, then, beginning at the POB, 1500' SELY along the north bank of Little River to the western boundary of the Florida East Coast Railroad ROW, then 355.99' NELY along said ROW, then 300' NWLY, then 103' along the NLY ROW of NE 85th Street, then 346.02' WLY along the arc of the NLY boundaries of parcels 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 of Tract 6, then 164.95' NWLY along the ELY boundary of Parcel 9 of Tract 6 to the NLY ROW of NE 86th Street, SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Ownership (attach list with name of owner, address and location of the parcel(s) in the zone). See attached owner list and map.

Dade County Historic Survey Findings - List of known sites in the zone and the survey findings:

A survey was conducted within the proposed zone in April, 1981. Two archeological sites, Da20 and Da3214, are located within the zone. The former site is a prehistoric sand burial mound and the latter is the site of the nineteenth century home of Arva Woods. Wood's coontie mill was also situated within the proposed zone, and undoubtedly, there are other, as yet unknown sites of prehistoric and historic activity within this zone.

(Use additional sheets if necessary)

Other Surveys:      Natl. Reg.      H.A.E.R.      List state site no.       
Zone includes sites Da3214 and Da20 (FDAHRM).

Current Zoning (summary of the zone and description): R-1

Present Use (summary of the zone and description): The area has been a residential development since its subdivision in the 1920s.

Significance - Based on archeological data from the zone, describe the archeological significance of the zone. Give vicinity locations of the sites.

The zone is located upon the northern bank of the Little River, one of the major fresh tributaries of northern Dade County. The zone encompasses part of an elevated hardwood hammock that was the site of considerable prehistoric and historic settlement and other activities.

The zone encompasses at least four known sites: a prehistoric burial mound, a prehistoric Indian village, a mid-nineteenth century pioneer homesite, and a mid-nineteenth century coontie mill. There is also the possibility of other, as yet unknown, sites being located within the zone.

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.

An important historic site is also located within the zone. Historic documents from the National Archives indicate that Arva Woods filed for ownership of this land under the Armed Occupation Act in 1843 (Peters 1976:6-7). Archeological evidence indicates that the cellar or "cave" as it is known to many local residents, at 376 N.E. 86th Street, is

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

this zone encompasses a major historic and prehistoric activity area that includes the site of a prehistoric Indian cemetery, a prehistoric Indian village, a nineteenth century pioneer homesite and coontie mill, and possibly, as yet, unknown sites.

Impact of the designated zone on proposed public improvements, renewal or private development plans (attach copy of advertisement notifying this designation):

No plans or proposed major improvements or development are known for the proposed archeological zone.

Special Standards for Certificate to Dig - Standards not included in the guidelines.

Draft Resolution Designating the Archeological Zone:

Whereas, the El Portal Archeological Zone was a major prehistoric and historic activity area, and

Whereas, data recovered from archeological sites within this zone represents significant historic and scientific information about Indian lifeways and culture, and

Whereas, data collected from within this zone indicates Indians occupied the area for the last 1,800 years, and

Whereas, the designation of archeological zones is in the best interest of Dade County and its citizens, and

Whereas, the El Portal Archeological Zone is located in beginning at a point 510' SLY along the ELY ROW line of NE 2nd Avenue, from the NW corner of Section 7, T. 53 S., R. 42 E. within the Sherwood Forest Subdivision as described in Plat Book 14-30, then, beginning at the POB, 1500' SELY along the north bank of Little River to the western boundary of the Florida East Coast Railroad ROW, then 355.99' NELY along said ROW, then 300' NWLY, then 103' along the NLY ROW of NE 85th Street, then 346.02' WLY along the arc of the NLY boundaries of parcels 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 of Tract 6, then 164.95' NWLY along the ELY boundary of Parcel 9 of Tract 6 to the NLY ROW of NE 86th Street,

Designation is approved as evidenced by the signature  
of the Historic Preservation Board Chairman.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends designation of the El Portal Archeological Zone.

CONTINUATION SHEET:

Continuation of Significance:

probably associated with the Woods house site. A staircase carved into the oolitic limestone ledge just adjacent to the cellar probably led to the Woods house that must have been located directly upon the ledge. The carved-out cellar, situated only 15 feet from a once powerful spring, was probably used as a cool storage area for food and perishables.

Woods may have operated a coontie mill on the property. A study of 1925 aerial photographs indicate that earthworks, similar to those used for storage ponds for processing coontie, existed in the western portion of the zone. Portions of these earthworks and the mill still exist beneath the homes in that area.

Continuation of Location - Legal Description of the Zone and Draft Resolution:

then 308.13' WLY along the said ROW to the center line of NE 3rd Avenue, then 100' NLY, then 637.34' WLY along the NLY boundaries of parcels 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, continuing across parcel 12 to the ELY ROW of NE 2nd Avenue, then 335' SLY along the said ROW to the POB, the intent of said cut-out parcel being to enclose said archeological zone.

Draft Resolution continues:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Historic Preservation Board on Thursday, February 24, 1983, has designated the El Portal Archeological Zone as an archeological zone pursuant to the Metropolitan Dade County Historic Preservation Ordinance (81-13) and that the El Portal Archeological Zone is subject to all rights, privileges and requirements of that ordinance.