**1. NAME**

- **COMMON:** The Ralph M. Munroe House
- **HISTORIC:** "The Barnacle"

**2. LOCATION**

- **STREET AND NUMBER:** 3485 Main Highway
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Miami (Coconut Grove)
- **STATE:** Florida
- **CODE:** 12
- **COUNTY:** Dade
- **CODE:** 025

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District Building</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Yes: Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Structure</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Preservation work in progress</td>
<td>No</td>
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**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):**
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)
- Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

- **OWNERS NAME:** Mrs. Wirth M. Munroe
- **STREET AND NUMBER:** 3485 Main Highway
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Miami
- **STATE:** Florida
- **CODE:** 12

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

- **COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:** Dade County Courthouse
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Miami
- **STATE:** Florida
- **CODE:** 12

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

- **TITLE OF SURVEY:** Historic American Buildings Survey
- **DATE OF SURVEY:**
- **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:** U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service
- **ADDRESS:** 801 19th Street, N. W.
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Washington
- **STATE:** District of Columbia
- **CODE:** 11
"The Barnacle" today, 1972, is an irregularly shaped two-story residence with buff-colored stucco exterior walls, and a red Ludowici tiled hip roof. There is a two-story wood piazza, open on the first floor and screened on the second floor, facing a deep grassy lawn and Biscayne Bay on the east. The overall dimensions are 59'-0" X 66'-6".

Originally when it was built in 1891, "The Barnacle" was a one-story wood framed and sheathed residence, built approximately 6'-0" above grade on pitch pine foundations, surrounded by a wood piazza under a broken hipped roof with wood shingles. It was equipped with cisterns, still in place, and pumps. Natural ventilation of the interior was achieved by the chimney-stack principle of a square cupola at the crown of the hip centered above the central octagonal room. This central octagon, open to a balustraded attic, was flanked by four corner rooms. An arrangement of pulleys operated the top-hinged windows in the cupola.

Minor alterations of the piazza and stoop occurred between 1891 and 1908. At this latter date, the house was jacked up and a new first floor with moulded faceted concrete block was installed.

Later a flat-roofed library wing was added on the southeast. This room was extended to northeast, and a hipped tiled roof was installed. This probably occurred after the 1928 hurricane when the rough-troweled stucco finish was applied on the exterior of both floors. At an undetermined date the piazzas at the north and south were enclosed and the visible form as we see "The Barnacle" today was established. In addition to the ventilation provided by the central cupola, other natural ventilating principles occur in the kitchen and library wings with screened louvers and transoms placed high in the exterior walls above the windows, operated by ropes and pulleys. In addition a dry-cellar is dug into the coral rock below the pantry.
"The Barnacle" is without a doubt the most significant private residence standing in Dade County today. The historical association of its builder, "Commodore" Ralph M. Munroe, one of the earliest pioneers of Coconut Grove warrant its importance in the history of Dade County. It is one of the few remaining structures of the earliest period of Coconut Grove, with its original architecture practically intact on the now second floor.

It is an excellent example of architecture, indigenously designed for the climate and the site. As such, it displays a sensitivity to physical environment which probably only a designer of sailing ships understood in that period.

As a pioneer of Coconut Grove, Commodore Munroe has taken his place as a benefactor of the culture of the Grove, contributing tracts of land to the Housekeeper's Club, the oldest Women's Club in Florida, the Coconut Grove Library and a community church and cemetery presently the site of the Coconut Grove American Legion Hall.
See attached sheet.

### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>SE</td>
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<td>SW</td>
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**APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:** 6 acres

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<th>STATE:</th>
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<th>COUNTY:</th>
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### 11. FORM PREPARED BY

**NAME AND TITLE:** Woodrow W. Wilkins, A.I.A.

**ORGANIZATION:** Department of Architecture - Univ. of Miami

**STREET AND NUMBER:** P. O. Box 8294

**CITY OR TOWN:** Coral Gables

**STATE:** Florida

**DATE:** 5-1-72

### 12. STATE LIASON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

- National [ ]
- State [X]
- Local [ ]

**Name:**

**Title:** State Liaison Officer

**Date:**

### NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

**Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation**

**DATE:**

**ATTTEST:**

**Keeper of The National Register**

**DATE:**
9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Catlow, Mrs. Patty. (Commodore Munroe's daughter.)
Personal Interview. Miami, Florida.


Munroe, Mrs. Wirth M. (Commodore's daughter-in-law.)
Personal Interview, Miami, Florida.

Munroe family photographs and records. Miami, Florida.