LEMON CITY CEMETERY
At the northwest corner of NW 71st Street and NW 3rd Avenue

Designation Report

November 3, 2009
Historic and Environmental Preservation Board

City of Miami
REPORT OF THE CITY OF MIAMI
PRESERVATION OFFICER
TO THE HISTORIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION BOARD
ON THE LOCAL HISTORIC DESIGNATION OF THE
LEMON CITY CEMETERY
AS A HISTORIC RESOURCE

Prepared by: Mrs. Enid Pickney
Edited by: Ellen J. Uguccioni,
Preservation Officer
Passed and
Adopted on
Resolution No.
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1 BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF THIS DOCUMENT, IT IS NOT INCLUDED AS AN APPENDIX TO THIS REPORT. BUST IS ON FILE WITH THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION OF THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT.
Lemon City Cemetery

Designation Report

I. General Information

**Historic Name:**
Lemon City Cemetery

**Current Name:**
YMCA/Village Carver Property

**Location:**
NW 71st Street north to railroad tracks and NW 4th Avenue east to NW 3rd Avenue. Please see Exhibit "A" for a specific boundary description

**Present Owner:**
YMCA of Greater Miami
Miami, Florida

**Present Use:**
Housing Development

**Present Occupant:**
Not applicable, Development remains under construction

**Zoning**
C-2 Liberal Commercial

**Folio No.**
01-3112-112-0010

**Proposed Boundary (Legal) Description**
A parcel of land lying in the SW ¼ of Section 12, Township 53 South, Range 41 East in Miami-Dade County, Florida, being precisely described as follows: Commence at the SE Corner of the SW ¼ of Section 12, Township 53 South, Range 41 East, which is at the intersection of the centerlines of NW 71 Street and NW 2 Avenue in Miami, Florida; thence run West, as a basis for bearings, on the centerline of NW 71 Street for a distance 931.00 feet; thence N. 0°23'23" W., parallel to the centerline of NW 2 Avenue, for 35.00 feet to the northerly right-of-way line of NW 71 Street and the Point of Beginning of the following described as Parcel "A"; thence continue N. 0°23'23" E., on said right-of-way line, for 231 feet; thence S. 0°23'23" E. for 554.60 feet to the northerly right-of-way line of NW 71 Street, thence West, on said right-of-way line, for 231 feet to the Point of Beginning. LESS the North 207 feet of the South 237 feet of the West 54 feet of the East 139 feet thereof.

Note: The proposed legal description contains 2.68 acres, more or less. That area includes only the Lemon City Cemetery as demonstrated through scientific evidence, and does not include the existing structure under construction or any areas west of the recommended boundaries. The 231 feet east-west boundaries are based on a grave with twin babies located 220 feet from the east property line to the west, plus an 11ft
buffer. The north-south boundaries measure 554 feet, more or less, from the Florida East Coast Railroad right-of-way to the NW 71st Street right-of-way.

II. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific Dates
c. 1911 to mid 1930s

Statement of Significance
The Lemon City Cemetery is significant for its association with one of Miami’s oldest pioneer communities. It also serves to illustrate the consequences of the Jim Crow laws enacted in Miami and throughout the United States. These laws set strict boundaries and placed distinguished separations between the black and white races based solely on skin color. This separation, enacted by the city council, included a physical boundary that separated blacks from whites, often referred to as a "color line." The location of that color line is in close proximity of the Lemon City Cemetery.

The cemetery sits on the edge of the old Lemon City pioneer development, which existed between 1858 and the mid 1930s. The existence of the cemetery was rediscovered in April of 2009 when construction crews began to unearth remains during development. The cemetery, which did not appear in plat books, was partially cleared during previous construction activity.

Using a database of Florida death certificates compiled by the Mormon Church, 523 names of people, many of them Bahamian settlers or of Bahamian decent, shows that they have been laid to rest in the Lemon City Cemetery. The earliest listed burial was in 1911 and the last in 1935. The list includes the occupations of many individuals, from farmers to laborers, laundresses to maids, porters to cooks, truckers, and at least one minister. Many, if not all, were the backbone for early development of the City of Miami. The list also indicates a high death rate for infants in the black community at the time.

III. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE
Lemon City was a pioneering community on the shores of Biscayne Bay where many descendants of early Miamians lived. The name Lemon City did not appear until 1889, when John Saunders—the first owner of the "Lemon City" land, began selling parcels of his land. It is unknown where the name Lemon City comes from, although some suggest that it may have come from lemon trees that were present on the land. Until the late 1890s the area had few blacks, most of whom were from the Bahamas. The blacks who settled in Lemon City held jobs performing physical labor for the developing area, as farm laborers, or as domestic workers.

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2 On file in the office of the City of Miami’s Preservation Section, Planning Department
3 Merrick, George. "Pre-Flagler Influences on the Lower Florida East Coast." 1941.
By 1900 there were three black communities in Lemon City, called Nazarene, Knightsville, and Boles Town. Nazarene (called Naz'ree) was located between 2nd and 3rd Avenues, from NW 71st Street on the north to an unknown boundary on the south. This area was platted by Lewis W. Pierce, a local farmer, as an area to provide housing for his workers. Knightsville was located along 68th Street near 2nd Avenue, occupying a mere 5 acres. Located within Knightsville were two churches: St. James A.M.E. Church and the Mount Tabor Baptist Church as well as the Odd Fellows Lodge which was used as both a school and a center for meetings and social events. Boles Town was located just west of present day Miami Avenue and 57th Street and was named for an early black settler, Elijah Boles who had purchased the property. The area consisted of a few shacks and a small store and could only be accessed by sand roads that ran through the pine trees.

Lemon City did not have a local government but was a self-sustaining community located just north of Miami's city limits. Lemon City was never incorporated as a town but it was annexed into the City of Miami in 1925. The area is still historically recognized as Lemon City but many of its visible signs of its existence have vanished, including the post office, school and library—all which aided in its early development. As Miami grew, so did the land value, causing new businesses and houses to encroach into the southern edge of Lemon City.

IV. APPLICATION OF CRITERIA
The Lemon City Cemetery is eligible for designation under the following criteria as described in Section 23-4 (a) of the Miami City Code:

Section 23-4(a)(3) Exemplifies the historical, cultural, political, economic, or social trends of the community.

The Lemon City Cemetery is testament to the presence of a forgotten black settlement. The monuments and markings that would have identified the cemetery were lost many years ago. However that loss does not erase the fact that this cemetery exists and is important to the life, contributions, and history of blacks in Miami. It is the only known black cemetery associated with Lemon City.

"Jim Crow" laws were enacted roughly between 1876 and 1965, specifically to maintain the segregation of the Black community. During the Jim Crow era, segregation and racially based discrimination caused the black community to be disenfranchised from many of the inner workings of government. In Miami a wall was actually built to separate the blacks from whites next to the Liberty Square Housing Project, a low Income Housing Development that was opened in the late 1930s. That wall functioned as a barrier, or color line. The fact that blacks were removed from this

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5 Ibid
6 Ibid, 68
7 Ibid
8 The remaining portion of that wall was previously designated as a local historic landmark.
area in the 1940s and 50s because of the color line is one of the reasons why this cemetery was long forgotten and the land allowed to be developed in the 1950s.

The Lemon City Cemetery like the historically designated Liberty City "Wall" is a physical reminder of the Jim Crow era in South Florida. The Lemon City Cemetery remains a black burial ground that was long forgotten by many of its citizens due to the harsh reality of blacks being forced out of their homes and community by laws and customs that did not favor them.

During segregation blacks were separated from white establishments even in death. The cemetery represents this former area known as Lemon City that regardless of laws that were enacted to hinder the growth of blacks, as a race, blacks continued to survive and thrive as a community with self-actualized endeavors and businesses.

Section 23-4(a)(8) Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Mr. Jeff Ransom, the Miami-Dade County Archeologist, was contacted for an interview at the author's request. He has visited the cemetery on an ongoing basis and has been reporting to the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner, who currently has jurisdiction over the human remains. This author asked the County Archeologist a series of questions about what happened initially at the cemetery, how many remains have been found so far, the results of the ground penetrating radar, and current excavation methods and results. What follows is a paraphrased and partially quoted summary of his answers:

On April 22, 2009 the City of Miami’s Historic Preservation Office notified the County Archeologist of the find. Upon arriving at the site, he noticed scattered human remains, planks of Dade County pinewood, and evidence of casket hardware such as nails and handles. He pointed out that the initial trench, where the first human remains were reported to have been found, measured approximately 100 ft in length and that to date, eleven individuals have been identified from that spoil alone. The number is likely to rise, as a third of the spoil pile associated with the trench has yet to be sifted. According to the County Archeologist, several spoil piles were located on the property and most, if not all, contained fragments of human bone. Based on this, it is easy to conclude that the remains were disturbed from the construction of the old YMCA (Figure 2), possibly from construction of the existing structure (Figure 7), and also from grading. Returning to the office after the initial discovery, he obtained a 1925 Hopkins map (Figure 3) from the City of Miami and a 1936 Hopkins map (Figure 4) from the archives at the County’s Office of Historic and Archeological Resources. Both clearly showed a cemetery at the location. He also reviewed 1948 (Figure 5) and 1950 (Figure 6) aerials, which showed an overgrown yet undisturbed cemetery lot.

Referring to the Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) studies, the County Archeologist noted that it is often the only method considered for mapping cemeteries, but that it alone cannot confirm the presence of graves. "The goals of the GPR studies were to document the presence of anomalies that could be associated with graves and to determine the extent of these anomalies", he said. Generally speaking, he noted, the
GPR results were "good" and that "several targets and parallel lines commonly associated with grave plots were identified." Unfortunately, he added, the GPR report did not include "vertical sections, also known as time slices of the GPR transects." If made available, these may have been useful in determining the depth of the anomalies. The next step, he pointed out, was to "ground truth" the larger anomalies through controlled mechanical stripping of the disturbed construction fill and hand excavations of natural soils to locate evidence of grave shafts.

Archeologists from the Archeological and Historical Conservancy (AHC) excavated several trenches on the east and west sides of the existing structure. Evidence of one grave shaft was found on the east side and excavations were then shifted to the west side. The west side was clearly more disturbed as archeologists found large amounts of rubble and construction debris. However, the County Archeologist and several archeologists from AHC noted that natural soils were located only 2-3 feet beneath the disturbed context and within a few feet of the existing structure. Mr. Ransom pointed out that finding natural soil so close to the existing structure meant that the overall disturbances were less than previously thought and that it mostly occurred along the footprint of the old YMCA and the existing structure. What does this mean? "That there is now a higher probability for locating undisturbed graves on the east and the west, not only to the north" he said. He also added that, "the 2-3 feet of construction fill found throughout the cemetery property also contains fragmentary human remains."

Just a few feet north of the trench that yielded eleven individuals, archeologists from AHC located a rectangular feature consistent with that of a grave shaft. Measuring 5.5 feet in length and just over 2 feet wide, it is "likely the grave of a child" he said. "This find is significant for many reasons" he noted, "it shows that there are intact graves to the north, but also refutes the information from the 1936 Hopkins map." This map shows that the cemetery measures 150 feet from east to west and the grave shaft is located 50 feet further from the west cemetery boundary shown on the map. Additionally, he clearly remembers that a grave with twin babies was found 70 feet west of the Hopkins map boundaries. Taking this into account, the cemetery would then measure 220 feet from east to west. "Accurate measurements are essential," he added. In cases like this, he said, "there has to be a buffer from the spot of the outermost burial to where construction may continue."

Referring to the most recent document (WPA Veteran's Grave Registration 1940-1941, Appendix A) obtained by independent researcher Larry Wiggins, the County Archeologist stated that, "it unequivocally proves that the cemetery in question is the Lemon City Cemetery." According to the document, two black WWI servicemen, Murray Ferguson and Alexander McCombs, were buried at the Lemon City Cemetery. However, Mr. Wiggins pointed out that Mr. Ferguson was also listed on the City of Miami Cemetery burial records. Newly found documents also show that a black incorporator of the City of Miami in 1896 named William M. English (Appendix D), was laid to rest at the Lemon City Cemetery.

Finally, this author asked the County Archeologist about his thoughts in general. He said, "Historic cemeteries are important cultural and archeological resources. They provide us with information on the history of the community and are places that commemorate
the dead. There is no doubt that the Lemon City Cemetery was an essential part of the cultural landscape of the period and that it represents an area of pioneers who created lives for themselves against tremendous odds.

The database of Florida Death Certificates associated with the Lemon City Cemetery represents important historical information, that when analyzed can provide important insights into the lives of those interred. For example, investigation of the records may reveal the average life expectancy for different occupations, and information about infant mortality rates.

Criteria Exception Section 23-4(8)(b)

The Miami City Code states that ordinarily cemeteries shall not be considered eligible for listing in the Miami Register of Historic Places. However, such properties will qualify for designation if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria, or if they fulfill the intent of an exception.

The Lemon City Cemetery should be exempted as it meets the intent of Section 23-4(8)(b)(3) which explains that a cemetery would qualify for designation if it: derives its primary significance from graves of persons of outstanding importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events.

The cemetery meets the criteria based on age, being among the earliest cemeteries in Miami, from association with historic events such as early development in Miami and Jim Crow laws which mandated that blacks be buried there. As to the graves of persons of outstanding importance, at least one black WWII Veteran, Alexander McCombs (Appendix A), and one of the original incorporators of the City of Miami in 1896, William M. English (Appendix D), were laid to rest in the Lemon City Cemetery.

V. PRESENT CONDITIONS

Currently the site is being developed as an affordable housing project. Since the southern portion of the site has already been disturbed there is no evidence above of a cemetery. It is the desire of the community that the site is regarded as a burial ground of historic importance and that the remains that have been removed be re-interred on the site. Working with the developers, a historic park green space should be constructed at the site commemorating the history of Lemon City and its black pioneers with a permanent marker placed on site recording the names of the pioneers and veterans buried at the site.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Lemon City Cemetery, although it has no monumental landscape or markings, does not suggest that it does not exist. It is still a significant burial ground. A book by Thelma Peters (1976) titled “Lemon City, Pioneering on Biscayne Bay 1850-1925” clearly

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9 Personal interview between Miami-Dade County Archaeologist Jeff Ransom and Mrs. Enid Pinkney, August 10, 2009.
identifies three distinct settlements of blacks on and near Dupont Road (present day NW 71st Street.) Whether or not all the people buried there hold the accolades that some may deem nationally worthy is not of question. The history of a migration of people forced out of a neighborhood that was clearly established, long enough to where a sacred burial ground was forgotten, speaks volumes of our history to date. It is important that this ground be designated as a historic site die to the role that the information lost played during the Jim Crow era. Clearly history dictates and shows the black residents, native African-American and Bahamian born Africans, occupied this land prior to when the Northeast corridor of NW 7th Avenue was stripped of them due to Jim Crow laws. It is not unbelievable that a cemetery could out-live the citizens that remember its existence once they were presumably forced out. This could possibly be the last remaining site in Lemon City to what once were a thriving Bahamain and African American pioneering community.

VII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
It goes without saying that I owe a debt to a great many people. Of special note are Jeff Ransom, Miami-Dade County archaeologist, Leome Culmer, Maud Newbold, Rene Harris, Ketura Vann, and Antolin Garcia Carbonell.
VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY


Works Project Administration (WPA). Florida Department of Military Affairs, Special Archives Publication Number 39, WPA Veteran’s Grave Registration, Broward, Collier, Dade, Lee, Monroe, Palm Beach, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida Digital Collections, Florida and History and Heritage Collections, 1940-1941.
IX. PHOTOS

Figure 1. Expedia map showing cemetery location.

Figure 2. ca. 2006 Google aerial of the YMCA/Lemon City Cemetery.
Figure 3. 1925 G.M. Hopkins Plat Book Map showing "Cemetery."

Figure 4. 1936 G.M. Hopkins Plat Book Map showing "Cemetery."
Figure 5. 1948 Aerial Photograph showing cemetery property.

Figure 6. 1950 Aerial Photograph showing cemetery property.
X. APPENDIX A
WPA Veteran’s Grave Registration 1940-1941
Figure 7. April 2009 Village Carver Housing Development. Southwest view.
FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF
MILITARY AFFAIRS

SPECIAL ARCHIVES PUBLICATION
NUMBER
39

WPA
VETERAN'S GRAVE REGISTRATION
1940-1941
REPRINT

BROWARD, COLLIER, DADE, LEE, MONROE,
PALM BEACH.

STATE ARSENAL
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA
PREFACE

The Veterans' Graves Registration Project is a state-wide project in the Research and Records Section, Professional and Service Division, Work Projects Administration. It was organized by, and has operated under the sponsorship of the Military Department of the State of Florida and the co-sponsorship of the American Legion, Department of Florida.

The record compiled consists of a card giving all available data and their sources, concerning the service record and burial place of each veteran whose grave can be located, and place or circumstance in which such grave is to be found. Cards and plates are filed as permanent records in the office of the Adjutant General in the State Arsenal, St. Augustine, Florida.

The project wishes to record here its particular indebtedness to the Adjutant General and his staff for the invaluable assistance they have rendered throughout the survey. Service and patriotic organizations whose cooperation is gratefully acknowledged are The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans of the World War, United Spanish War Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy, United Sons of the Confederacy, Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, The American Red Cross and local units of the Florida National Guard.

It is impossible to enumerate in this volume the various state, county and local officials, as well as the numerous agencies, organizations and individuals who have made valuable contributions to this survey. However, we wish to acknowledge this splendid cooperation, without which the compilation and publication of this survey would not have been possible. We trust that the potential usefulness of this record will justify this cooperation.

MAX DENSON

State Supervisor
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XI. APPENDIX B
Lemon City Cemetery Legal Description
XII. APPENDIX B
Lemon City Cemetery Legal Description
Legal Description

A parcel of land lying in the SW 1/4 of Section 12, Township 53 South, Range 41 East in Miami-Dade County, Florida, being precisely described as follows: Commence at the SE corner of the SW 1/4 of Section 12, Township 53 South, Range 41 East which is the intersection of the centerlines of N.W. 71 Street and N.W. 2 Avenue in Miami, Florida; thence run West, as a basis for bearings, on the centerline of N.W. 71 Street for a distance of 931.00 feet; thence N. 0° 23' 23" W., parallel to the centerline of N.W. 2 Avenue, for 35.00 feet to the northerly right-of-way line of N.W. 71 Street and the Point of Beginning of the following described parcel of land identified as Parcel "A"; thence continue N. 0° 23' 23" W. for 553.21 feet to the southerly right-of-way line of the Florida East Coast Railroad; thence N. 89° 38' 53" E., on said right-of-way line, for 231.00 feet; thence S. 0° 23' 23" E. for 554.60 feet to the northerly right-of-way line of N.W. 71 Street; thence West, on said right-of-way line, for 231.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

LESS the North 201. feet of the South 237. feet of the West 54. feet of the East 139. feet thereof.

For: Lemon City Cemetery Task Force

Order 2230

September 14, 2009

T. L. RIGGS
3081 SHIPPING AVE.
MIAMI, FL 33133
(305) 448-9032

T. L. RIGGS
SURVEYOR AND MAPPER
LS #2349
STATE OF FLORIDA
XII. APPENDIX C
The Community of Nazarene in Lemon City
The Community of Nazarene in Lemon City: North East Miami’s Pioneer African-American Neighborhood and the Lemon City Cemetery

It is not clear when African-Americans first settled in North East Miami. In 1848, Alvah Woods, a white settler, filed a homestead for the 160 acres encompassing today’s El Portal. This is the oldest known document relating to the area. By 1880 most of the Biscayne Bay front as well as the pine lands to west had been homesteaded by white settlers. African-Americans do appear in census the records of that time but since most homesteads were subsistence family farms there was little demand for hired labor.

Shortly after John Saunders platted the community of Lemon City in 1889 at today’s N.E. 61st Street, other area homesteaders sold off their property in smaller parcels which the new owners planted with citrus groves and winter vegetables. In 1892, Dade County built its first road linking Lemon City with Lantana improving access to the entire area. Road building and the new farms created the first demand for African-American workers.

Four years later, when Henry Flagler’s East Coast Railroad came through the area, he built four stations approximately one mile from each other just north of Miami: Buena Vista (N.E. 36th Street); Lemon City (N.E. 59th Street); Little River (N.E. 79th Street) and Biscayne (N.E. 103rd Street). Each of these stations formed the nuclei of separate communities with Lemon City, already possessing a dock on Biscayne Bay, a hotel, and a school, turning into the regional center.

It was likely at this time that Bahamian and African-American railroad workers first built houses in the area that for the next 60 years became known as Nazarene. It is not clear when the name Nazarene was first associated with this settlement, but seems to have come from one of the community’s churches. Houses were concentrated in what became in 1912 Blocks 25 and 26 of Pierce’s Subdivision. This area, just west of the F.B.C. tracks and south of Du Pont Road (N.E. 71st Street), was physically undesirable to white settlers yet very central to the four farming communities where demand for field workers, day laborers, and packers rapidly grew. It was one the few areas in Greater Miami where African-Americans could live.

Nazarene’s cemetery was established a mile to the west in an otherwise undesirable area of high ground between the Humbugus and Pocomoose Prairie at the dead end of DuPont Road. Over time, it became known as the Lemon City Cemetery and served not just African-Americans and Bahamians living in Lemon City and Nazarene but in adjacent North West Miami communities as well.

Unlike Coconut Grove, where a large number of the descendants of Bahamian and African-American settlers remained for generations, Nazarene had a much larger number of transient residents. Illustrative of this trend was the Platts family, South Carolina farm workers counted in the 1910 Lemon City Census who later moved upstate Indiana, one of the daughters, returned to Miami in the 1920’s as the wife of Herbert Lee Thompson and worked as the cook of aviator and developer Glenn Curtiss and his wife Lena, at their Miami Springs home.

By 1920, there were numerous groves and plantations in the area providing employment opportunities for African-Americans. Among them: the T.V. Moore pineapple
As of 2009 there are only three or four houses surviving in the two blocks where Nazarene once stood. The Lemon City Cemetery, survived as an image on the page of old plat books until recent construction excavations unearthed human remains.

This brief and quickly written overview of the history of the community of Nazarene and the Lemon City Cemetery is only intended as a starting point. It is strongly recommended that a detailed study to document the hundred plus years of the African-American, Bahamian and Haitian presence in North East Miami be undertaken before even more sites disappear and surviving long time residents die.

Antolin Garcia Carbonell, R.A.
Miami, Florida
August 7, 2009
XIII. APPENDIX D
Information on William M. English
Name: William English
Titles:
Titles & Terms - Prefix(standardized):
Death date: 14 Jul 1931
Death place: Miami, Dade, Florida
Gender: Male
Race or color (on document): Negro
Race or color (expanded): Negro
Age at death: 53y
Estimated birth year: 1878
Birthdate:
Birthplace: Fla.
Marital status: Married
Spouse's name: Maggie English
Spouse's titles:
Spouse's Titles & Terms - Prefix(standardized):
Father's name: Peter English
Father's titles:
Father's Titles & Terms - Prefix(standardized):
Father's birthplace: Fla.
Mother's name: Sophie
Mother's titles:
Mother's Titles & Terms - Prefix(standardized):
Mother's birthplace: Fla
Occupation: Porter
Street address: 46 St & 27 Ave
Residence: Dade Co
Cemetery name:
Burial place: Lemon City
Burial date: 18 Jul 1931
Funeral home:
Informant's name:
Additional relatives:
Film number: 2135449
Reference number: cn10733
Collection: Florida Deaths, 1877-1939
DURO Automatic WATER SOFTENERS Kumps of All Kinds Electric Motors
1930 United States Federal Census

Name: William English
Home in 1930: Hialeah, Dade, Florida
Age: 55
Estimated Birth Year: abt 1875
Birthplace: Florida
Relation to Head of House: Head
Spouse's Name: Maggie
Race: Negro (Black)
Household Members:
William English 55
Maggie English 42
Willie English 11

Source Citation: Year: 1930; Census Place: Hialeah, Dade, Florida; Roll: 311; Page: 10B; Enumeration District: 922.

Source Information:

Description:
Containing records for approximately 112 million Americans, the 1930 United States Federal Census is the largest census released to date and is the most recent census available for public access. The census gives us a glimpse into the lives of Americans in 1930, and contains information about a household's family members and occupants including birthplaces, occupations, immigration, citizenship, and military service. The names of those listed in the census are linked to actual images of the 1930 Census.

1920 United States Federal Census

Name: William English
Home in 1920: Miami, Dade, Florida
Age: 40 years
Estimated Birth Year: abt 1880
Birthplace: Florida
Relation to Head of House: Head
Spouse's Name: Maggie
Father's Birth Place: Alabama
Mother's Birth Place: Alabama
Marital Status: Married
Race: Black
Sex: Male
Home owned: Own
Able to read: Yes
Able to Write: Yes
Image: 18

Household Members:
- Name: William English, Age: 40
- Maggie English, Age: 37
- Maggie McCloud, Age: 8

Source Citation: Year: 1920; Census Place: Miami, Dade, Florida; Roll: T625, 247D; Page: 94; Enumeration District: 25; Image: 18.

Source Information:

For details on the contents of the film numbers, visit the following NARA web page:

Note: Enumeration District 25 on roll 325 (Chicago City)

Original data: Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920; (National Archives Microfilm Publication T625, 2076 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Description: This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1920 United States Federal Census, the Fourteenth Census.
The Original Incorporators of the City of Miami in 1896

Miami-Dade Community College
Wolfson Campus

These names appear on the
original charter for the incorporation
of The City of Miami in 1896 (in
alphabetical order):

Aaron, A.
Alcott, D.
Allen, J.
Allison, J.
Allison, S.
Allison, S. W.
Allison, W.
Alden, A.
Aldrich, F. L.
Alston, H. W.
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Ames, J.
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plantation in Biscayne; the Griffing, Winfield and Hart Groves along the bay at Little River, William Ogden’s Groves at the T-House Plantation in Lemon City, and the Charles Deering Estate on the bay in Buena Vista. In addition, a string of packing plants and warehouses built along the tracks just south of the Little River P.E.C. station and within walking distance of Nazarene provided packing jobs during the winter season.

Even before the land boom, George Pfeiffer, a German born Miami architect, had built his house, Villa Florezo at the bay in Lemon City and had many clients in the area. While a lot of the specialty masonry and finish work on the buildings he designed was done by white craftsmen, there was plenty of work for African American workers in local projects like William Ogden’s T-House (1911) and the Agricultural High School (1914) on N.W. 2nd Avenue, which later became Edison High School.

Although most of North East Miami was platted during the Land Boom, very little was actually built except for a few large estates and show houses, almost all of which have been demolished. During the 1920’s and 30’s African-American families served as caretakers at some, like the estate of the President of the Little River Bank and Trust Company on Biscayne Boulevard and at Madam Sherry’s Moorish Castle on N.E. 54th Street.

In 1923, the Florida East Coast Railway started construction on a spur just north of Nazarene, heading west to Hialeah and from there to continue in two directions: to the north west to Lake Okeechobee and south to Larkins. This south spur was called the Miami Belt Line and allowed trains from south Dade and the Keys to by-pass downtown Miami. This spur also passed north of the Lemon City Cemetery, further degrading its desirability for other purposes. Although the Okeechobee spur was never built, the Belt Line was in very heavy use until much of the freight traffic was diverted further west to the CSX tracks.

Starting in 1934, the build out of the failed North East Miami 1920’s subdivisions resumed, providing construction work for residents of Nazarene. Parallel with residential construction, hotels, restaurants and other commercial structures sprang up along Biscayne Boulevard and other through streets providing additional opportunities for construction and later service jobs.

Around this time, the construction of the Liberty Square Housing project, about a mile west of the Lemon City Cemetery, offered a more attractive housing option for dwellers of shotgun houses in Nazarene, setting in motion trends that would ultimately lead to the community’s demise. At the same time, the Lemon City Cemetery’s proximity to Liberty Square probably led many residents of that project to select it as the final resting place for their loved ones.

By the 1950’s much of the former farmland adjacent to both Nazarene and the Lemon City Cemetery had been built out for industrial uses. While initially providing some employment opportunities for Nazarene residents, the resulting noisy and congested environment along with the many options that gradually became available with the success of the Civil Rights Movement led to an exodus of the African-American from the area. Most of Nazarene’s shotgun houses were demolished and replaced with warehouses. The Lemon City Cemetery fell into disuse and other facilities were built on its footprint. Starting in the 1970’s, Haitian immigrants settled in the area.
Sketch to accompany Legal Description

Note: This Sketch does not represent a Land Survey.

Lemon City Cemetery
W-13; P-10
FLAGLER MEMORIAL CEMETERY
SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 64, S., RANGE 42, W.
From the court house in Miami, go west on W. Flagler Street for 3 miles to
W. W. 23rd Avenue and cemetery entrance.

W-12; P-11
LEWIS CITY (COLORED) CEMETERY
SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 62, S., RANGE 41, W.
From the court house in Miami, go west on W. Flagler Street to N. W. 2nd
Avenue. Turn north on N. W. 2nd Avenue and go 4 and 6/10 mile, then west
on N. W. 7th Street 1 1/10 mile to cemetery which lies on the right, between
N. W. 7th Street and Florida East Coast railroad.

W-16; P-12
DADE COUNTY CEMETERY
SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 64, S., RANGE 40, W.
From the city of Miami, go south on S. Highway A1 for 11 miles to cemetery
located in the town of Kendall.

W-18; P-18
ST. JOSEPH'S MARINE SITE OF FLAGLER CEMETERY
SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 64, S., RANGE 41, W.
From the court house in Miami, go west on W. Flagler Street to intersection
of N. W. 22nd Avenue and N. W. 93rd Avenue Road. Turn northeast on N. W.
93rd Avenue Road to cemetery which lies on the left side of the road.

NO RULERS OF VETERANS REQUAIED
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**Explanation of Symbols and Abbreviations**

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<td>Honorable Rebellion</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>Indian Wars</td>
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<td>Mexican War</td>
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<td>Students Army Training Corps</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>1812</td>
<td>War of 1812</td>
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<tr>
<td>CL</td>
<td>Colored Veteran</td>
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<tr>
<td>V*</td>
<td>Variation in Name Spelling</td>
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*Note: Other abbreviations used in this compilation are those listed in Army Regulations No. 850-150, and Navy-Naval Register for 1930.*
During the Depression years of the 1930's, the federal government sponsored many programs to help alleviate national unemployment. One of these projects, operated under the Works Progress Administration, was a state by state veterans' grave location and registration program, including one in Florida. Began on the eve of the Second World War, the project was aborted before completion by America's pre-war national mobilization.

The premature ending of the graves registration project left 15 of Florida's counties excluded from the final published results. Inquiries have been pursued in Washington, D.C. and in Florida but no information can be found on the missing counties. There are old references to maps and biographical information cards accompanying the survey. No maps or cards have been located to date.

The county lists included in this booklet are as originally published in 1941 with some condensation and re-arranging for ease of distribution. Each list is relatively self-explanatory. To identify the cemetery in which a listed veteran rests, use the number under "pt." in the alphabetical list and locate the corresponding number in the list of county cemeteries.

(Some biographical and military/naval career information on listed Florida veterans of the Civil and First World Wars is available from the Florida Department of Military Affairs)

The narrative descriptions of cemetery locations included in these publications is often less than helpful. Many geographical and landmark features used to describe cemetery locations in 1941 no longer exist and many of the cemeteries, especially the older ones in rural counties, are now "lost." Old county property records maps and U.S. Geological Survey maps may be of assistance in locating these long-abandoned old cemeteries.

http://128.227.54.53/gsdl/collect/image_files/UF/07/00/07/43/00009/00003.jpg
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENTAL AND PRESERVATION BOARD
FACT SHEET
for the meeting of November 3, 2009

FILE ID#: LHD 2009-06
LOCATION / ADDRESS: Lemon City Cemetery at the intersection of NW 71st Street and NW 3rd Avenue
FOLIO NUMBER / LEGAL DESCRIPTION: 0131121120010
Generally:
A PORTION OF THE LAND IDENTIFIED AS YMCA CARVER, TRACT A, IN PLAT BOOK 167, PAGE 47 THAT WILL INCLUDE THE AREA WHICH CONTAINS HUMAN REMAINS, AND WHICH EXCLUDES THAT PART OF THE PROJECT ALREADY BUILT ON THE SITE (SEE SURVEY EXHIBIT "A")

APPLICANT: MS. ENID PICKNEY
4990 NW 31 AVE MIAMI FL 33142-3417
OWNER: YMCA OF GREATER MIAMI
1200 NW 78 AVE #200 MIAMI FL 33126-1817
NET: Little Haiti
COMMISSION DISTRICT: [Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones - District 5]
ZONING DESIGNATION: C-2 Liberal Commercial

The property is:
- Individually Designated Historic Resource: Yes ☑ No ☑
- Contributing Resource in Historic District: Yes ☑ No ☑
- Non contributing Resource in Historic District: Yes ☑ No ☑

The property is located in:
- Archaeological Conservation Area: Yes ☑ No ☑
- Environmental Preservation District: Yes ☑ No ☑
- Scenic Transportation Corridor: Yes ☑ No ☑

PETITION: Consideration of approval of historic resource designation and an amendment to the Official Historic and Environmental Preservation Atlas of the City of Miami, Florida, pursuant to Chapter 23 of the Miami City Code.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of designation
RESOLUTION NO. HEPB-2009-76

A RESOLUTION OF THE HISTORIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION BOARD ("HEPB") OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA, GRANTING OR DENYING DESIGNATION OF THE LEMON CITY CEMETERY, LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF NW 71ST STREET AND NW 3RD AVENUE (FOR EXACT BOUNDARIES, SEE EXHIBIT A, LOCATED IN THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION OF THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT FILES), AS A HISTORIC RESOURCE AND LISTING IT IN THE MIAMI REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, AFTER FINDING THAT IT MEET CRITERIA (1) AND (2) AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 23-4(a) OF THE MIAMI CITY CODE, AND CRITERIA EXCEPTION (3) AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 23-4(b) AND THAT THE OFFICIAL HISTORIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION ATLAS OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA BE AMENDED TO REFLECT ITS DESIGNATION.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 3RD DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2009.

ITEM NO. 1
VOTE:

ATTEST:

ELLEN J. UGUCCIONI
PRESERVATION OFFICER

WILLIAM E. HOPPER, PH. D
CHAIRMAN
LOCATION / ADDRESS  
Lemon City Cemetery at the intersection of NW 71st Street and NW 3rd Avenue

FOLIO NUMBER / LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
0131121120010  
Generally:  
A PORTION OF THE LAND IDENTIFIED AS YMCA CARVER, TRACT A, IN PLAT BOOK 167, PAGE 47 THAT WILL INCLUDE THE AREA WHICH CONTAINS HUMAN REMAINS, AND WHICH EXCLUDES THAT PART OF THE PROJECT ALREADY BUILT ON THE SITE (SEE SURVEY EXHIBIT "A"

APPLICANT  
MS. ENID PICKNEY  
4990 NW 31 AVE MIAMI FL 33142-3417

OWNER  
YMCA OF GREATER MIAMI  
1200 NW 78 AVE #200 MIAMI FL 33126-1817

NET  
Little Haiti

COMMISION DISTRICT  
[Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones - District 5]

ZONING DESIGNATION  
C-2 Liberal Commercial

The property is:

- Individually Designated Historic Resource: Yes☐ No☒
- Contributing Resource in Historic District: Yes☐ No☒
- Non contributing Resource in Historic District: Yes☐ No☒

The property is located in:

- Archaeological Conservation Area: Yes☐ No☒
- Environmental Preservation District: Yes☐ No☒
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PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 3RD DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2009.

ITEM NO. 1

VOTE:

ATTEST:

ELLEN J. UGUCCIONI
PRESERVATION OFFICER

WILLIAM E. HOPPER, PH. D
CHAIRMAN
**My Home**

Show Me:
- Property Information

Search By:
- Select Item

- Text only
- Property Appraiser Tax Estimator
- Property Appraiser Tax Comparison

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Summary Details:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Property: 485 NW 71 ST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mailing Address: THE YOUNG MENS CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MIAMI INC 1200 NW 78 AVE #220 MIAMI FL 33122-1817</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Information:</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Beds/Baths: 0/0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Floors: 0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Year: 2009</td>
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Additional Information:

http://gisims2.miamidade.gov/myhome/ronman.asp

10/21/2009
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Legal Description</strong></td>
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**Zones & Districts**

**Export Mailing List**

[Image: map of Miami]
ITEM 6

HISTORIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION BOARD
FACT SHEET

NAME

Lemon City Cemetery

ADDRESS

Approximately 401 NW 71st Street
LHD-2009-06

PROJECT

DESCRIPTION

Preliminary evaluation of a proposal for designation
for conformance with the criteria for designation as a
historic resource.

BACKGROUND

Construction of the affordable housing development called "Village Carver"
began in January, 2009. The discovery of human remains occurred on April 21,
2009 during the initial construction phase. The City of Miami Historic
Preservation office was notified and on April 22, 2009 Jeff Ransom, the Miami-
Dade County Archeologist, arrived to investigate the site. Human bones and
parts of caskets were found in the earth that the bulldozer disturbed. The human
remains were taken to the county coroner, pending further investigation.

Carver Village I (the development that was slated to be built on the land where
the bones were discovered), was the subject of a Major Use Special Permit
(MUSP) which is required for major development and addresses issues such as
traffic, compatibility with the neighborhood, and infrastructure improvements. The
developer, Village Carver I and Carlisle Development, were awarded the MUSP
by action of the Miami City Commission on July 24, 2008.

All construction stopped after the discovery of the human remains and the
developer promptly employed the firm of Archaeological Conservancy to act on
their behalf in navigating through this very sensitive set of circumstances. Spoil
piles from the site were sifted through by the developer's archeological
consultant, and any findings were collected and cataloged.

Meanwhile a growing concern was voiced by citizens who understood the site to
be an abandoned African-American cemetery. Mrs. Enid Pinckney, former
president of Dade Heritage Trust and present chairman of the DHT's African-
American Committee, met with the developer's representatives to learn more
about the site, and to ask the developers to safeguard the site as sacred ground
where it appeared that hundreds of African-American citizens were buried.

AT THAT TIME, THE INVESTIGATION AND PROFESSIONAL EVALUATION
OF THE SITE HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETED. Later, largely through the efforts
of historian Larry Wiggins, a repository of some 500 death certificates was
discovered, which named LEMON CITY CEMETERY as a final resting place.

October 6, 2009
ITEM 6

The death records are problematic as not all of them verify that the person was actually buried in the cemetery. The notation "Lemon City" is also given for those persons who were born there, and for some that actually died there (without conclusive evidence of their place of burial).

On July 7, 2009, the board adopted a resolution (2009-51) that supported the efforts to preserve the cemetery in principle. At the time of the July HEP Board’s meeting, the evidence of the cemetery’s boundaries, interments, and age were not known. Since that time, ground penetrating radar was used to evaluate the site, and information was also found that proved the location and intent of the Lemon City Cemetery. Mr. Wiggins also found a Works Progress Administration pamphlet entitled: WPA Veteran’s Graves 1940-41. The table of contents lists: “Lemon City Cemetery (Colored)”

CRITERIA FOR SIGNIFICANCE

Having read the materials presented in the report provided by Mrs. Pinckney, the HEP Board staff agree that, while additional information should be provided, the boundaries addressed more specifically, the cemetery would qualify for local historic designation, in its tangible expression of the horrendous inequities inflicted on the African-American race; and its association with Miami’s pioneering community. Without the talent of the African-American community during Miami’s formative years (and later) the city could not have succeeded.

The applicable criteria as identified in Chapter 23 of the Miami City Code:

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

The Lemon City Cemetery is the only known African-American cemetery in what was once known as Lemon City.\(^1\) The struggle for equality has been a long one, and the history of Miami (in the Old South) sadly includes the perpetuation of “Jim Crow” laws, designed to keep Blacks in a subservient, and less-than-equal position in society. The entire state of Florida held on to the “Jim Crow” laws which disenfranchised blacks from the white community, well into the 1960s. In Lemon City, one of the first communities in the Miami area, migrating African-Americans from the Bahamas and Key West took residence in several small segregated enclaves in the Lemon City area.

In death, as in life, African-Americans were marginalized so much so, that they were denied burial in white cemeteries. What appears to be the largest of these African-American cemeteries is the one located in Lemon City. While at this time, the extent and actual boundaries of the cemetery are unknown, what has been discovered is sufficient to conclude its cultural, historical, and social trends of a segregated Miami.

\(^1\) Lemon City was located north of NE/ NW 61\(^{st}\) Street (61\(^{st}\) street was originally called "Lemon Street")

October 6, 2009
(8) Have yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in pre-history or history.

As the archaeological investigation continues, more and more evidence will be found that has the potential of illuminating our understanding of the Black experience in Miami.

CRITERIA EXCEPTIONS

Section 23-4(8)(b) states that:
"Ordinarily cemeteries, birth places, or graves of historical figures...shall not be considered eligible for listing in the Miami Register of Historic Places". The ordinance goes on to say that they may be eligible for listing if it is:

A cemetery that derives its primary significance from graves of persons of outstanding importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or association with historic events (emphasis added).

The Lemon City cemetery does meet this exception, as it recalls the social realities of segregation, and the impact of that segregation on distinguished African-Americans.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Having found that the preliminary designation of the Lemon City Cemetery meets at least one of the criteria for significance, the Historic and Environmental Preservations Board directs the planning department to prepare a designation report.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/ CLARIFICATION

Before the designation report can be considered adequately documented and insure that the context of this neighborhood is fully described, the following should be provided:

- Boundaries of the cemetery
- An expanded history of Lemon City and its role before the incorporation of Miami.
- A map (or an approximation) that describes the area where the three African-American settlements in Lemon City were located.

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- An expanded version of the “Jim Crow” area, noting important dates such as the Plessy vs. Ferguson Supreme Court decision (1896) and Brown vs. Board of Education (1954).

- A summary of the contents of the notebook of death records in order to characterize the community and its residents (e.g. occupations) and any other information that helps to document the cemetery.

A DEVELOPMENT IN PROGRESS

Throughout this process, the developer has been sensitive to the issues and the overarching significance of the cemetery. The Carlisle Group (the developer) has plans for the construction of three buildings/garages on the site, and building permits were issued for that construction. Phase I construction has begun, and is continuing. There is no further ground disturbing activity because the tower is vertical, and the foundation/footings already poured.

It is our understanding that the Carlisle Group will present a proposal to the board that will not only safeguard the cemetery but also build the sorely needed affordable housing. They have also spoken about providing a suitable monument on the site that will memorialize those within the cemetery.

That proposal will be presented to the board at its October 6, 2009 hearing.