

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95000238 Date Listed: 3/16/95

Florida Keys Memorial
Property Name

Monroe County FL State
County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Rubenstein
Signature of the Keeper

3/15/95
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: Under Criteria Considerations, Criteria Consideration F is added because the Florida Keys Memorial is a commemorative property.

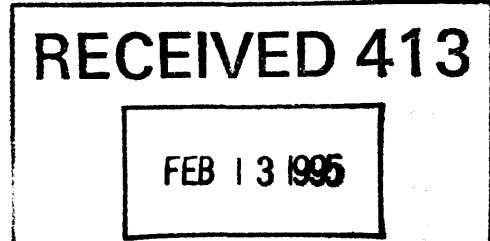
This information was confirmed with Sherry Piland of the Florida State Historic Preservation Office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on the reverse of the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for not applicable. For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name FLORIDA KEYS MEMORIAL

other names/site number Hurricane Monument

2. Location

street & number U.S. Highway 1 at Mile Marker 81.5 not for publication

city or town Islamorada vicinity

state Florida code FL county Monroe code 087 zip code 33036

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Suzanne P. Walker, Deputy SHPO 2/8/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Autonietta Albee 3/16/95

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/ graves/burials

RECREATION AND CULTURE/

Monument/Marker

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/ graves/burials

RECREATION AND CULTURE/

Monument/Marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT/ Moderne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls coral limestone

roof n/a

other ceramic tile

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ART

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1937-1944

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Designer: Harold Lawson

Sculptor: Lampert Bemelmans

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one (1) acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid with values: 1 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 0

UTM grid with empty boxes for Zone, Easting, and Northing.

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jerry Wilkinson/ Sherry Piland, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date January 1995

street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

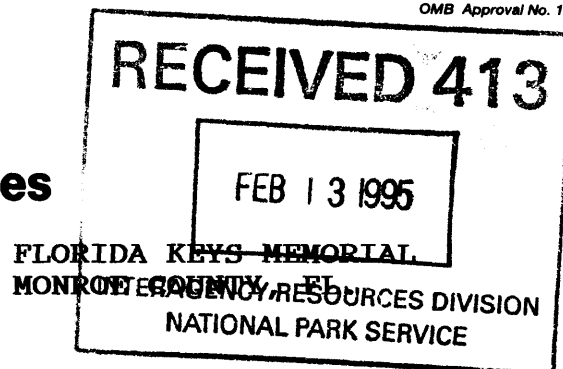
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1



SUMMARY

The Florida Keys Memorial is located in the unincorporated community of Islamorada, in Monroe County, Florida. It was erected in 1937 to memorialize the victims of the 1935 Hurricane. The Memorial is comprised of several elements: a carved shaft, a raised platform, a crypt, and a concrete forecourt. Construction materials include concrete, coral limestone, and ceramic tile. The over-all dimensions of the Memorial are approximately 61 X 61 feet.

SETTING

The Florida Keys are a chain of islands extending southwesterly from the Florida peninsula in an arc from Biscayne Bay to the Dry Tortugas. They separate the Atlantic Ocean on the south and east from the Gulf of Mexico on the north and west. (See Map).

The narrow islands of the Upper and Middle Keys have a central ridge of fossilized coral rock, with a maximum elevation of 12-16 feet above sea level. Hardwood hammocks are located inland, while marshes and mangrove forests are adjacent to the shore.

The Florida Keys Memorial is located in Islamorada, Florida, on an irregular parcel of land where U.S. Highway 1 and Monroe County Highway 905 intersect with Johnson Street (see Site Plan). The monument is 81.5 miles north of Key West. The Helen Wadley Library (formerly the Matecumbe School) is northwest of the monument. To the northeast is the Matecumbe Methodist Church. The grounds around the Memorial are landscaped with palm trees, ficus, sea grape, and bottle brush plants.

DESCRIPTION

The Florida Keys Memorial faces to the southwest. It is approached by a sidewalk leading to a concrete forecourt decorated with two planters and a flag pole (photo 1). Beyond the forecourt is a raised, 61.5 X 20 foot platform, constructed

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

FLORIDA KEYS MEMORIAL
MONROE COUNTY, FL.

Section number 7 Page 2

of stone and concrete (photo 2). The tiered platform, resting on bedrock, is accessed by a low flight of five broad steps. The floor of the platform is covered with coral slabs quarried from either Windley Key or Key Largo. The back and ends of the platform are defined by a low wall with a bench around the inside perimeter of the monument (photo 1 and 3).

A eighteen-foot high rectangular shaft of coral limestone with slightly battered sides rises from the center of the rear wall of the platform (photo 2). This shaft is decorated with a carved panel depicting a tidal wave and palm trees bending under the force of strong winds (photo 4). Under the panel is a bronze plaque inscribed:

"DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE CIVILIANS AND WAR
VETERANS WHOSE LIVES WERE LOST IN THE HURRICANE OF
SEPTEMBER SECOND, 1935."

In the center of the platform, in front of the shaft, is a rectangular crypt that extends into the bedrock. The crypt is covered with a slightly elevated, 22 X 10 foot ceramic tile map of the Keys (photo 5). The tiles are in shades of buff, green, and blue, representing the islands, shallow water, and the deep ocean. The crypt is divided into eight cement-lined compartments that can accommodate small caskets. At certain points the tiles are removable to provide access to these compartments.

The Florida Keys Memorial is a unique artistic expression that utilized the skills of stone masons, sculptors, designers, ceramicists, and metal workers. Working together they created a memorial, with characteristics of the Moderne style, in an artistic conception that expresses the power of the natural elements. The Memorial is in good repair and is unaltered.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**FLORIDA KEYS MEMORIAL
MONROE COUNTY, FL.**

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Florida Keys Memorial is located in the unincorporated community of Islamorada, on Upper Matecumbe Key, in Monroe County, Florida. The Memorial is eligible for listing in the National Register under criteria A and C for its significance in the areas of art, politics/government, and social history. The Memorial was erected in 1937 to memorialize the victims of the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane. The monument is a significant representation of the Federal government's public works activity in Florida during the depression years. The Florida Keys Memorial was designed by the Florida Division of the Federal Art Project and constructed by the Works Progress Administration. It is an excellent example of Moderne artistic expression of the 1930s.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Settlement of the Florida Keys progressed slowly during the middle decades of the nineteenth century. The early settlers were primarily fishermen, spongers, wreck salvagers, and later, truck and pineapple farmers. The Russell family in 1882 became the first permanent residents of Islamorada on Upper Matecumbe Key (see Map). The sparsity of settlement can be attributed to several things, but was primarily related to lack of adequate transportation to obtain supplies and to ship products. Poor transportation also resulted in isolation of the area. For many years the only link between the Keys and the mainland were freight and mail schooners. Although railroad transportation was available by 1912, there was no highway through the Keys until the late 1920s. The comforts of modern life were often unavailable. For example, electricity was not generally available in the Keys until the 1940s.

Several of the Keys were sites of World War II military installations. The entire population of Monroe County was only 14,000 in 1940. A population boom followed the war and by 1955 the county had a population of over 45,000. Much of this growth has been attributed to the development of defense activities in Key West and the expansion of tourism in southeast Florida.

The completion of the Florida East Coast Railroad Extension in 1912 was an important transportation development for the Keys.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

FLORIDA KEYS MEMORIAL
MONROE COUNTY, FL.

Section number 8 Page 2

Transportation was further aided by the Overseas Highway, which was begun in the 1920s. Completion of the highway was undertaken in the 1930s, with the labor provided by a number of World War I veterans working under the direction of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA). Many of those veterans lost their lives in the 1935 hurricane that struck the Keys. The hurricane also destroyed much of the railroad through the Keys.

FLORIDA EAST COAST RAILROAD EXTENSION

Construction of a railroad to Key West had been advocated as early as 1835 and was finally realized by Henry Flagler in the early 20th century. Flagler's Florida East Coast (FEC) Railroad extended south from Jacksonville, reaching Miami in 1895. After extensive survey work, the construction of the 156 mile Key West Extension of the FEC Railroad began in 1905. The extension, completed in 1912, necessitated the building of over sixty bridges. This rail line operated for twenty-three years until it was destroyed by the Labor Day Hurricane of 1935.

"BONUS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE"

During the Great Depression, unemployed World War I veterans staged hunger marches and demonstrations in several cities, but the most famous protest was that of the "Bonus Expeditionary Force" in Washington, D.C. in the spring of 1932. Veterans gathered to petition Congress for immediate payment of a bonus for veterans that had been approved in 1924 for distribution in 1945. Men who had lost jobs and homes because of the economic reverses of the Great Depression felt an immediate and pressing need for the money and considered 1945 too far in the future.

During June and July of 1932, a huge encampment of 15,000 veterans gathered near the capital. At the time, this was the largest body of protesters to have gathered in Washington. President Hoover wanted to avoid any violent confrontation with the protesting veterans, but on July 28th, his chief of staff, Douglas MacArthur, routed the veterans with bayonets and tear gas. These actions, some believe, helped Franklin D. Roosevelt attain the presidency.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

FLORIDA KEYS MEMORIAL
MONROE COUNTY, FL.

Section number 8 Page 3

Another bonus march, with 3,000 participants, occurred in May, 1933. While the protesters attracted little attention, Roosevelt did authorize the enrollment of 25,000 veterans in the newly formed Civilian Conservation Corps, which had been previously restricted to the 16-25 year old age bracket. Those attending the protest in Washington were to be given priority and 2,657 were enrolled.

A third Bonus March, with only 1,500 participants, took place in May of 1934. Of these, 600 elected to enroll in the CCC. Fearful that the Bonus March would become a regular occurrence, Relief Administrator Harry Hopkins set up a mechanism to ship protesting homeless veterans to one of the decentralized transient camps of the FERA (Federal Emergency Relief Administration, later the WPA). Between late 1934 and early 1936, approximately 10,000 veterans were peacefully removed from Washington by that process. Payment of the bonus was finally approved by Congress in 1936.

OVERSEAS HIGHWAY

The Florida Land Boom of the 1920s and the increasing popularity of the automobile created a demand for an overseas highway through the Florida Keys. Between 1922-1928, Monroe County spent \$4 million on the construction of 40 miles of highway between Key West and No Name Key and 60 miles of highway between Florida City on the mainland and Lower Matecumbe Key. This highway ran parallel to Flagler's overseas railroad, with the exception of a 40-mile gap between Lower Matecumbe and No Name Key that had to be traversed by two ferry connections. In 1930 a 14 mile stretch of highway was completed across Vaca Key with a terminal on each end. This reduced the required ferry time and provided the town of Marathon a road connection to the mainland. In 1933 the Florida legislature established the Overseas Road and Toll Bridge District to complete the highway without the use of ferries. The body was given the power to sell bonds to construct and maintain a toll road. The Army Corp of Engineers had estimated a cost of \$7,500,000 to complete the project. However, in the midst of the Depression, Monroe County was already indebted to its limit. The County submitted a \$10,700,000 request to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC), one of President Roosevelt's programs to pull the nation out of the Depression, for the project. The RFC submitted the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**FLORIDA KEYS MEMORIAL
MONROE COUNTY, FL.Section number 8 Page 4

request to Washington in October 1932, and it was approved. In 1934, FERA began employing World War I veterans, many of whom had been Bonus Army marchers, to aid in construction of the project. The following year the project was taken over by the WPA and FERA. Three camps for the workers were constructed on Windley Key and Lower Matecumbe Key, each with the capacity to house 250 men. The bridge on which the men were working started from Camp No. 3 at the southern end of Lower Matecumbe Key. Although the number varied, at times there were as many as 684 veterans employed on this project.

1935 LABOR DAY HURRICANE

A small, but violent Hurricane hit the Keys on September 2, 1935. It was only 40 miles in width when it crossed the Keys and although it struck no centers of population, it was second only to that of 1928 in the number of lives lost. Approximately 500 residents lived in the path of the storm. The additional 684 WPA and FERA workers living on the Keys greatly increased the fatality figures. Varying figures are found on the number of lives lost, but many accounts number 259 veterans and 167 civilian deaths. Of the seventy-member Russell family of Islamorada, only eleven remained the following day. Most of the veterans killed in the storm were probably enrolled in federal relief programs between 1934-1935 and many had participated in the Bonus Marches. The storm also caused \$11.5 million in property damage.

On Sunday, September 1, 1935, the Weather Bureau issued advisories that a hurricane was expected to hit the Florida peninsula within 24 hours. By Monday morning the skies had turned dark, wet, and windy. Winds continued to increase during the day, but until noon, it was assumed that the storm would pass south of the Keys. The holiday absence of top army and railroad officials hampered communications. At 2:35 P.M. a rescue train was finally dispatched by the FEC from Miami. However, repairs to one of the cars delayed the actual departure until almost 4:30 P.M.. At Homestead, the last mainland stop, the train was further delayed when the engineer decided to move the locomotive from the front to the rear of the train, so that the train could pull out of, rather than back out of, the storm. The train finally arrived at Snake Creek, on Windley Key, at almost 7 P.M. Debris on the track then had to be cleared before the train could

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**FLORIDA KEYS MEMORIAL
MONROE COUNTY, FL.**

Section number 8 Page 5

proceed any further. The train picked up veterans at Snake Creek, then went on to Islamorada, arriving at 8:15 P.M., an hour before the eye of the storm passed. Hundreds were loaded on to the train for the return trip to the mainland when a tidal wave, pushed by 200 mile per hour winds, knocked it off the track and killed most of those aboard.

Among the first to respond to the rescue needs of the isolated survivors was the Harvey Seeds Post of the American Legion in Miami. Past commander S. S. McCahill, and acting commander Louis T. McCarthy directed hundreds of volunteers in various capacities to speed help from the Dade County areas. The first rescue party across Snake Creek consisted of ten Legionnaires with gas lanterns. Boats soon arrived, bringing food and searching for and removing the injured. The National Guard was not called out until noon the day following the hurricane, September 3rd. In the days following the hurricane, bodies were found faster than they could be buried. Gov. David Sholtz ordered the bodies cremated. After the hurricane, a Congressional inquiry was held to ascertain why so many lives were lost in spite of an evacuation plan.

In addition to the loss of life, the hurricane also swept away 41 miles of FEC tracks and trestles. Already in debt, the FEC abandoned the Key West Extension and sold its bridges and right of way to the State of Florida. Eventually, the railroad tracks and bridges were converted into highway spans and roads.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Federal relief programs continued to provide aid to the Keys following the 1935 Hurricane. Shortly after the storm, a parcel of land in Islamorada was donated by Hugh and Liguori Matheson for the construction of a school that would also serve as a hurricane evacuation shelter. The Matecumbe School is presently used as the Islamorada Library.

The identity of the person who suggested a memorial to victims of the 1935 hurricane is unknown. However, permission was obtained from the Monroe County Board of Public Instruction to use an isolated section of the Matecumbe School property for the erection of a memorial.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

FLORIDA KEYS MEMORIAL
MONROE COUNTY, FL.

Section number 8 Page 6

During the Depression years of the 1930s, even successful artists were having a difficult time. Thousands of artists were able to continue work, however, through the patronage of the Federal government in a variety of programs. The WPA and the Federal Arts Project (FAP) were the most far-reaching of the programs and sponsored major visual art forms and activities on a national basis. Over 13,000 pieces of sculpture were produced by the WPA program, with the local sponsoring agency paying a large part of the cost of materials on each project.

The Florida Keys Memorial was officially sponsored by the Monroe County Commission, but its economic impact was felt by the artists employed in the design of the project, the administrators of the federal relief projects at the state and local level, and the forty workmen who were responsible for the actual construction. Of the Memorial's final cost of over \$12,000, the Harvey Seeds Post of the American Legion in Miami donated \$3,700. Members of this Post had been actively involved in the hurricane rescue efforts. The WPA provided almost \$9,000 for the project.

Construction of the Keys Memorial, WPA Project No. 2217, began in July of 1937 and was completed the following November. The monument was designed by artists of the Federal Art Project under the supervision of William S. Wood, Field Supervisor of District 3. State Director of the FAP was Eve Alsmann Fuller. A journalist, Fuller had a long-standing interest in art. From 1926-1930 she served as the chairman of the Department of Fine Arts for the Florida Federations of Women's Clubs. From 1930-1934 she was president of the Florida Federation of Art and in 1933 she was the art director for the Florida Commission of the Century of Progress Exposition. In 1934 Fuller was named state director for Public Works of Art in the Federal Art Project.

The design of the Florida Keys Monument, depicting the fury of the storm and its accompanying tidal way, was developed by Harold Lawson. His design was executed by sculptor Lampert Bemelmans (alternate spellings of his name as Bemlemans are also found). Bemelmans was born in Germany in 1871. Nothing is currently known of his education or career. He is listed in the Miami City Directories as a painter in 1930, and between 1932 and 1947 as a sculptor. Bemelmans was assisted on the project by John Miedema.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**FLORIDA KEYS MEMORIAL
MONROE COUNTY, FL.**

Section number 8 Page 7

The ceramic tile panel of the crypt was designed and crafted by members of the Federal Art Project and included ceramicist Adela Gisbet, craftsman William C. Shaw, and designers Allie Mae Kitchens and Emigdio Reyes. The bronze plaque was designed by John Klinkenberg.

The WPA field representative of Zone 2 was Oscar A. Sandquist. Between 1911 and 1914, Sandquist had served as assistant engineer for the FEC Railroad Key West Extension. During World War I he supervised construction of the Key West navy yard, barracks, and air station. In 1921 he was one of the founders of the Miami engineering firm of Sandquist and Snow. Sandquist was in charge of the committee responsible for dedication of the monument. He wanted the dedication to be "inclusive and representative of all Veterans organizations and the interested communities." His goal was realized at the dedication ceremonies on November 14, 1937 (photo 6). Music was provided by the Harvey Seeds Post Drum and Bugle Corp and by the WPA Symphony Orchestra. A burial service was conducted by Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish clergy. The body of a Philadelphia veteran and storm victim, Herman Sauter, was placed in the crypt. Sauter's body had been found the previous January. The highlight of the ceremonies, witnessed by 5,000 and heard on radio transmission by countless others, was the unveiling of the memorial by nine year-old Fay Marie Parker, one of the survivors of the hurricane. A telegram from President Roosevelt was read at the ceremonies. The principle address was delivered by Dr. John J. Tigert, President of the University of Florida. Tigert expressed the hope that the tragedy would be a "stratagem in the Divine plan for greater things." After the ceremonies, the monument was covered with wreaths from various organizations and the relatives of victims.

The monument is a significant example of the intervention of the Federal government in providing economic relief to Florida during the years of the Great Depression. It also recalls, indirectly, the historical importance of adequate transportation routes to the keys and the impact of weather on life in the Keys.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**FLORIDA KEYS MEMORIAL
MONROE COUNTY, FL.**

Section number 8 Page 8

ARTISTIC SIGNIFICANCE

The stylistic expression known as Art Moderne had its roots in twentieth-century industrialism, with machinery often providing the inspiration for its designs. The design motifs were simplified, verging on the abstract. Rather than expression through a profusion of realistic detail, the Moderne artists favored a more symbolic approach utilizing strong linear elements and contrasts between solid and void, light and shadow. In the Florida Keys Memorial, the force of the hurricane is expressed through the stylized, churning waves, the curves of the straining tree trunks, and the striated treatment of the palm fronds, blown horizontal by the strength of the wind.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

FLORIDA KEYS MEMORIAL
MONROE COUNTY, FL.

Section number 9 Page 1

-
- Artman, L. P., Jr. Key West History. Privately printed, 1969.
- Beare, Nikki. Pirates, Pineapples and People: Tales and Legends of the Upper Florida Keys. Miami Beach: Atlantic Printers, 1961.
- "Ceremony Planned at Keys Unveiling." Miami Daily News, 8 October 1937.
- Daniels, Roger. The Bonus March. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Publishing Corporation, 1971.
- Douglas, Marjory Stoneman. Hurricane. New York: Rinehart and Company, 1958.
- Dunn, Hampton. "A City Remembers Storm Victims." Tallahassee Democrat, 5 February 1967.
- "The Florida Keys." Miami Economic Research 7 (October 1954): 1-5.
- Gray, Richard W. Florida Hurricanes. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Commerce, 1949.
- "Honorary Monument Committee is Named." Miami Herald, 13 October 1937.
- Kendrick, Baynard. Florida Trails to Turnpikes, 1914-1964. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1964.
- "Keys Memorial to be Unveiled." New York Times, 17 October 1937.
- "Legion Will Aid With Dedication." Lake Worth Herald, 12 November 1937.
- Lisio, Donald J. The President and Protest: Hoover, Conspiracy, and the Bonus Riot. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1974.
- "Local Legion to Take Part in Dedication." Coral Gables Riviera, 12 November 1937.
- Mallett, Daniel T. Mallett's Index of Artists, Supplement. New York: Peter Smith, 1948.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

FLORIDA KEYS MEMORIAL
MONROE COUNTY, FL.

Section number 9 Page 2

- "Matecumbe Memorial Ceremonies Are Set." Miami Herald, 10
October 1937.
- "Memorial Dedication Committee Expanded." Miami Herald, 20
October 1937.
- "Memorial Dedication on Keys Set Sunday," Miami Herald, 9
November 1937.
- "Memorial for Soldier Dead is Dedicated." Florida Veteran, 15
November 1937.
- "Memorial Unveiled Sunday for Key 1935 Storm Dead." Miami Sun,
19 November 1937.
- Miami City Directory. Jacksonville: R. L. Polk and Co., 1930-
1947.
- "Monument Erected to Hurricane Dead on Matecumbe Key." Jackson-
ville Times-Union, 8 October 1937.
- "Monument on Key to Show Storm's Fury." Homestead Leader, 9
October 1937.
- O'Connor, Francis V., ed. The New Deal Art Projects: An
Anthology of Memoirs. Washington, D. C.: Smithsonian
Institution Press, 1972.
- "Plan Complete for Dedication of Keys Crypt." Miami Daily News,
1 November 1937.
- Stevenson, George B. Keyguide. Privately printed, 1970.
- Tebeau, Charlton. A Florida History. Coral Gables: University
Of Miami Press, 1971.
- "Veterans Due to Start on Bridge Work Soon." Palm Beach Post, 26
October 1934.
- "Veterans Will Work on Road." Florida Times-Union
[Jacksonville], 19 October 1934.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

FLORIDA KEYS MEMORIAL
MONROE COUNTY, FL.

Section number 9 Page 3

Windhorn, Stan and Langley, Wright. Yesterday's Florida Keys.
Miami: E. A. Seemann Publishing Company, 1974.

"Work to be Begun on Keys Memorial." Miami Herald, 18 July 1937.

"Work to Get Under Way on Bridging of Gap in the Overseas
Highway." Fort Pierce News Tribune, 26 October 1934.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

**FLORIDA KEYS MEMORIAL
MONROE COUNTY, FL.**

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Parcel No. 00095080-000000, Monroe County Property
Appraiser, described as: 32/33 63 37 E 63732-04 Upper Matecumbe
P-81-41, PT GOV Lot 1-2, Sec 32 PT GOV Lot 2, Sec 33 G-4-189, G-6
86.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the entire parcel
historically associated with the Florida Keys Memorial.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**FLORIDA KEYS MEMORIAL
MONROE COUNTY, FL.**

Section number Photo Page 1

1. Florida Keys Memorial
2. Monroe County, Florida
3. Jerry Wilkinson
4. April, 1994
5. Jerry Wilkinson, 38 East Beach Road, Tavernier, Florida, 33070
6. Aerial view, looking northeast
7. Photo 1 of 6

Number 1-5 are the same for photographs 2 through 5

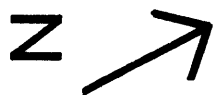
6. Primary (south) elevation, view looking north
7. Photo 2 of 6

6. Rear elevation, view looking southwest
7. Photo 3 of 6

6. Detail, relief sculpture of obelisk; view looking north
7. Photo 4 of 6

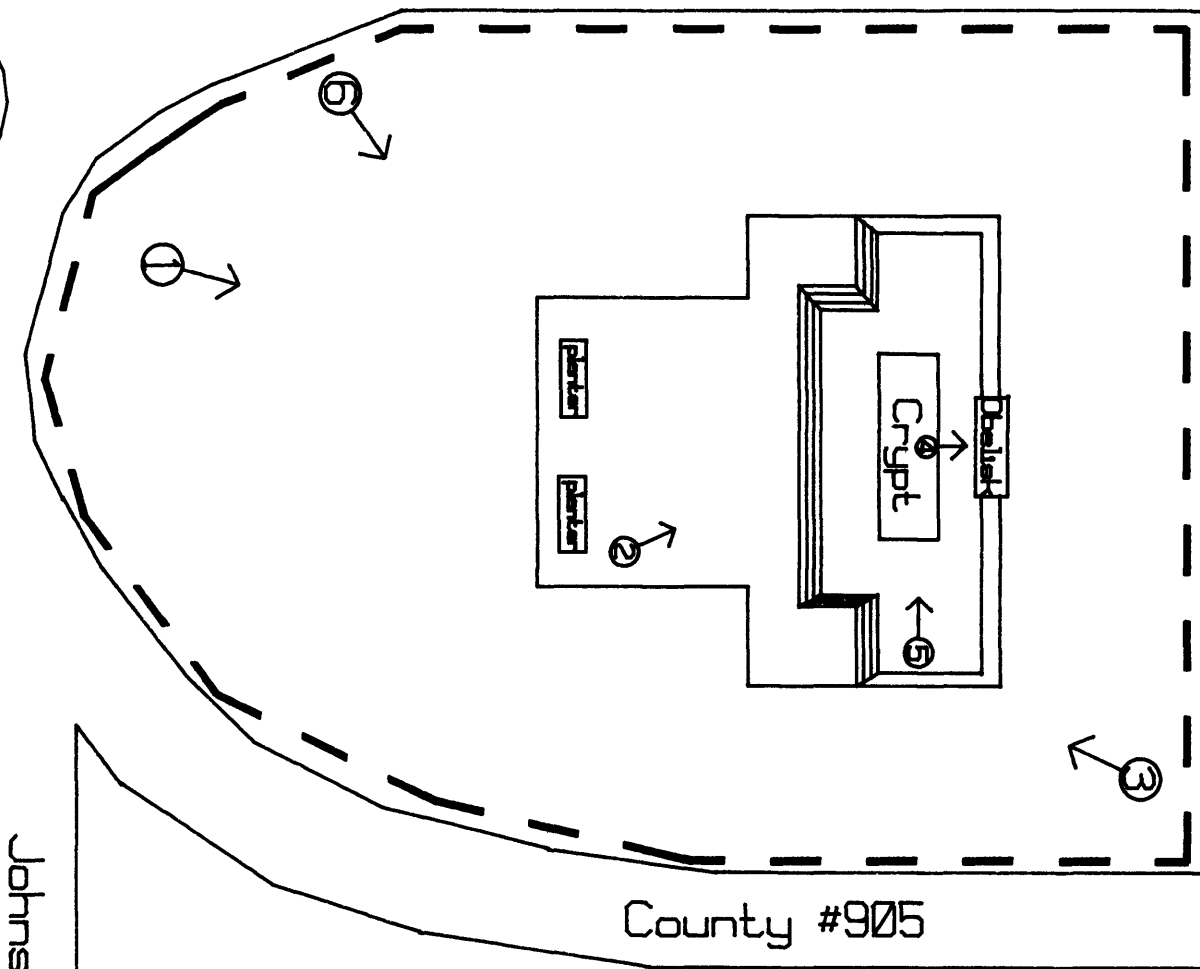
6. Detail, floor of Memorial, showing ceramic tiles over crypt; view looking west
7. Photo 5 of 6

1. Florida Keys Memorial
2. Monroe County, Fl.
3. Unknown
4. November 14, 1937
5. Monroe County Library, Key West, Florida
6. Historic photo of Florida Keys Memorial dedication ceremony
7. Photo 6 of 6



U.S. #1

County #905



Johnson St.

FLORIDA KEYS MEMORIAL
Monroe County, FL.
SITE PLAN

Boundary — — — — —
Photo Direction ○ →
Approx. Scale: 1" = 24'

FLORIDA KEYS

